MFA and Ph.D. Reading List: Poetry

The Master of Fine Arts examination in the area of poetry will cover three general areas:
I. British and American “traditions,”
II. Standard Modern British and American poets,
III. Selected contemporary American poets.
This is also true for the PhD exams in major and second areas.

The MFA candidate will be responsible for reading and explicating the selections below:

1. British and American “traditions”
In the area of British Literature:

Popular Ballads:
- “Lord Randall,”
- “Edward,”
- “Barbara Allan,”
- “Sir Patrick Spens,”
- “Get Up and Bar the Door,”
- “The Twa Corbies,”
- “The Bitter Withy”

Sir Thomas Wyatt the Elder:
- “My Galley Charged With Forgetfulness,”
- “Whoso List To Hunt,”
- “My Lute, Awake!”
- “They Flee From Me”

Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey:
- “Love, That Doth Reign . . . ,”
- “The Soote Season,”
- “My Friend, the Things That Do Attain!”
- “Wyatt Resteth Here”

Sir Philip Sidney (from Astrophel and Stella):
- “Loving in truth, and fain in verse . . . ,”
- “With how sad steps, oh Moon . . . ,”
- “Having this day my horse, my hand, my lance”

Edmund Spenser (from Amoretti):
- Sonnets 37, 68, 70, 75, 79
- “Epithalamion”

Anne Askew:
- “The Ballad Which Anne Askewe Made and Sang When She Was in Newgate”

Queen Elizabeth I:
- “When I Was Fair and Young”

Sir Walter Raleigh:
- “The Nymph’s Reply to the Shepherd,”
- “The Lie”
Michael Drayton:
- “Since There's No Help”

Thomas Campion:
- “My Sweetest Lesbia,”
- “When to Her Lute Corinna Sings,”
- “When Thou Must Home to Shades of Underground,”
- “Rose-Cheeked Laura,”
- “There is a Garden in Her Face”

Thomas Nashe:
- “A Litany in Time of Plague”

William Shakespeare:
- “Venus and Adonis,”

Sonnets:
- “Look in they glass, and tell the face thou viewest
- “When I do county the clock that tells the time,’’
- “When I consider every thing that grows”
- “Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day”
- “When, in disgrace with fortune and men’s eyes”
- “When to the sessions of sweet silent thought”
- “Full many a glorious morning have I seen,”
- “No more be grieved at that which thou has done,”
- “Not marble, nor the gilded monuments,”
- “When I have seen by time’s fell hand defaced,”
- “Since brass, nor stone, nor earth, nor boundless sea
- “Like the waves make toward the pebbled shore,”
- “No longer mourn for me when I am dead,”
- “That time of year thou mayst in me behold,”
- “But be contented, when that fell arrest,”
- “Farewell: thou art too dear for my possessing,”
- “They that have power to hurt and will do none,”
- “How like a winter hath my absence been,”
- “From you have I been absent in the spring,”
- “When in the chronicle of wasted time,”
- “Not mine own fears, no the prophetic soul,”
- “Let me not to the marriage of true minds,”
- “If my dear love were but the child of state,”
- “How oft when thou, my music, music play’st,”
- “Th’ expense of spirit in a waste of shame,”
- “My mistress’ eyes are nothing like the sun,”
- “Whoever hath her wish, thou hast they Will,”
- “When my love swears that she is made of truth,”
- “Lo! As a careful housewife runs to catch,”
- “Two loves I have of comfort and despair,”
- “Poor soul, the center of my sinful earth,”
- “My love is as a fever, longing still”

Amelia Lanyer:
- from “Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum”

Mary Wroth:
from Pamplilia to Amphilanthus:
- “37,”
- “Song”
from “A Crown of Sonnets Dedicated to Love”

John Donne:
- “The Good-Morrow,”
- “The Indifferent,”
- “Go and catch a falling star,”
- “The Canonization,”
- “The Apparition,”
- “The Flea,”
- “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning,”
- “The Ecstasy,”
- “The Sun Rising,”
- “Elegy XIX,”
- Holy Sonnets: 5, 7, 10, 14
- “Hymn to God my God, in my Sickness”

Ben Jonson:
- “To Penshurst,”
- “To the Memory . . . WS,”
- “On Gut,”
- “On My First Daughter,”
- “On My First Son,”
- “To John Donne,”
- “It Was a Beauty that I saw,”
- “Epitaph on Elizabeth, L.H.,”
- “Song: To Celia”
- “A Sonnet to the Noble Lady, the Lady Mary Wroth”

Robert Herrick:
- “Delight in Disorder,”
- “Upon Julia’s Clothes,”
- “To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time,”
- “Upon a Child that Died,”
- “Corinna’s going A-Maying,“
- “The Night Piece, to Julia”
- “His Prayer to Ben Jonson”

George Herbert:
- “Easter Wings,“
- “Virtue,”
- “Jordan (I),”
- “Denial,”
- “The Altar,”
- “The Flower,“
- “The Collar,”
- “The Pulley,”
- “Discipline,”
- “Love (3)”

Andrew Marvell:
- “The Garden,“
- “To His Coy Mistress”

Margaret Cavendish:
- “An Apology for Writing So Much Upon This Book”

John Milton:
- “L’Allegro,“
- “Il Penseroso,”
- “Lycidas,”
- “On the Late Massacre in Piedmont,”
- “When I Consider How My Light is Spent,”
- “Methought I saw My Late Espoused Saint”

Edmund Waller:
- “Go, lovely rose!”

Sir John Suckling:
- “Why so pale and wan, fond lover?”

Richard Lovelace:
- “To Althea, from Prison,”
- “To Lucasta, Going to the Wars”

Katherine Philips:
- “To My Excellent Lucasia, on Our Friendship,“
- “Epitaph“

John Dryden:
- “Mac Flecknoe,”
- “Epigram on Milton,”
- “Why Should a Foolish Marriage Vow”

Aphra Behn:
- “The Willing Mistress,”
- “To the fair Clarinda,“
- “The Disappointment”

Jonathan Swift:
- “Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift”

Anne Finch:
- “The Answer,”
- “The Spleen,”
- “A Nocturnal Reverie,”
- “The Introduction”

Alexander Pope:
- An Essay on Criticism,
- “The Rape of the Lock,”
- “Ode on Solitude”

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu:
- “The Lover: A Ballad,”
- “Epistle from Mrs. Yonge”

Thomas Gray:
- “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard,”
- “Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College”

Christopher Smart:
- “For I Will Consider My Cat Jeoffrey”

Anna Laetitia Barbauld:
- “The Rights of Woman,”
- “To the Poor”

Robert Burns:
- “To a Mouse,”
- “Green Grow the Rashes,”
- “For A’ That and A’ That,”
- “A Red, Red Rose,”
- “Auld Lang Syne,”
- “John Anderson, My Jo”

William Blake:
- “The Lamb,”
- “The Chimney Sweeper,”
- “The Little Black Boy,”
- “The Tyger,”
- “The Clod & the Pebble,”
- “A Poison Tree”
- “The Sick Rose,”
- “The Garden of Love,”
- “London,"
- “Ah Sun-Flower,"
- “I Asked a Thief,"
- “Eternity"

Charlotte Smith:
- “Written near a port on a dark evening,"
- “Written in October"

Joanna Baillie:
- “A Mother to Her Waking Infant,"
- “Song: Woo’d and married and a’"

William Wordsworth:
- “Lines Written in Early Spring,"
- “Lines Composed a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey,"
- Preface to Lyrical Ballads (1802),
- “Strange Fits of Passion I Have Known,"
- “She Dwelt Among Untrodden Ways,"
- “A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal,"
- “Lucy Gray,"
- “Michael,"
- “Ode: Intimations of Immortality,"
- “The Solitary Reaper,"
- “Composed Upon Westminister Bridge, September 3, 1802,"
- “It Is a Beauteous Evening,"
- “London, 1802,"
- “The World is Too Much With Us,"
- “Surprised by Joy,"
- “Nuns Fret Not"

Samuel Taylor Coleridge:
- “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner,"
- “Kubla Khan,"
- “Christabel,"
- “Frost at Midnight,"
- “Dejection: An Ode,"
- “To William Wordsworth"

George Gordon, Lord Byron:
- “She Walks in Beauty,"
- “Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage, Cantos I, III, IV,"
- “Don Juan, Cantos I-IV"

John Keats:
- “On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer,”
- “On Seeing the Elgin Marbles,”
- “When I Have Fears,”
- “The Eve of St. Agnes,”
- “Sonnet to Sleep,”
- “La Belle Dame sans Merci: A Ballad,”
- “Ode to Psyche,”
- “Ode on a Grecian Urn,”
- “Ode to a Nightingale,”
- “Ode on Melancholy,”
- “To Autumn,”
- “Two Sonnets on Fame”
Percy Bysshe Shelley:
- “Ozymandias,”
- “Stanzas Written in Dejection, Near Naples,”
- “England in 1819,”
- “Ode to the West Wind,”
- “To a Skylark,”
- “Adonais”
John Clare:
- “Song: I peeled bits of straw and I got switches too,”
- “Come Hither,”
- “Song: I’ll Come to thee at Eventide,”
- “Mouse’s Nest”
Walter Savage Landor:
- “Dying Speech of an Old Philosopher,”
- “Mother, I Cannot Mind My Wheel”
Felicia Hemans:
- “Indian Woman’s Death Song”
Leigh Hunt:
- “Rondeau”
Elizabeth Barrett Browning:
- “When Our Two Souls Stand Up Erect and Strong,”
- “How Do I Love Thee? Let Me Count the Ways”
Alfred, Lord Tennyson:
- “The Lady of Shalott,”
- “The Lotus-Eaters,”
- “Ulysses,”
- “Tithonus,”
- “Locksley Hall,”
- “The Splendor Falls”
- “Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal”
- “Tears, Idle Tears,”
- “In Memoriam A.H.H.,”
- “Maud,”
- “Crossing the Bar,”
- *Idylls of the King*, Book One

Robert Browning:
- “Porphyria’s Lover,”
- “Soliloquy of the Spanish Cloister,“
- “My Last Duchess,”
- “The Bishop Orders His Tomb at Saint Praxed’s Church,”
- “Meeting at Night,”
- “Parting at Morning,”
- “Fra Lippo Lippi,”
- “Andrea del Sarto”

Emily Bronte:
- “Remembrance,”
- “Long Neglect Has Worn Away,”
- “Hope”

Matthew Arnold:
- “The Forsaken Merman,”
- “The Buried Life,”
- “The Scholar Gypsy,”
- “Shakespeare,”
- “To Margarite, Continued,”
- “Dover Beach”

George Meredith:
- “By this he knew she wept with waking eyes,”
- “It ended and the morrow brought the task,”
- “This was the woman; what now of the man,”
- “I think she sleeps: It must be sleep, when low,”
- “In our old shipwrecked days there was an hour,”
- “At dinner, she is hostess, I am host,”
- “Thus piteously Love closed what he begat,”
- “Lucifer in Starlight,”
- “Dirge in the Woods”

Christina Rossetti:
- “Goblin Market,”
- “After Death,”
- “Up-Hill,”
- “Remember,”
- “Echo”

Algernon Charles Swinburne:
- “Hymn to Proserpine,”
- “The Garden of Proserpine”

Edward Fitzgerald:
- “The Rubaiyat of Omar Kyayyam”

Lewis Carroll:
- “Jabberwocky”

Gerard Manley Hopkins:
- “God’s Grandeur,”
- “The Windhover,”
- “Inversnaild,”
- “Pied Beauty,”
- “Spring and Fall,”
- “Carrion comfort,”
- “Thou Art Indeed Just, Lord,”
- “To R.B.”

Thomas Hardy:
- “The Darkling Thrush,”
- “The Ruined Maid,”
- “Neutral Tones,”
- “The Man He Killed,”
- “Channel Firing,”
- “In Time of ‘The Breaking of Nations’”
- “During Wind and Rain,”
- “The Oxen,”
- “Snow in the Suburbs,”
- “Ah, Are You Digging on My Grave”

A.E. Housman:
- “With Rue My Heart is Laden,”
- “When I was One and Twenty,”
- “On Wenlock’s Edge,”
- “Bredon Hill,”
- “To an Athlete Dying Young,”
- “Loveliest of Trees,”
- “I To My Perils,”
- “Terrence, This Is Stupid Stuff,”
- “Eight O’Clock,”
- “Stars, I Have Seen Them Fall,”
- “Here Dead Lie We Because We Did Not Choose,”
- “They Say My Verse is Sad”

Mary Elizabeth Coleridge:
- “The Other Side of a Mirror”
Oscar Wilde:
- “Sonnet: On the Sale by Auction of Keat’s Love Letters,”
- “The Harlot’s House”

Walter de la Mare:
- “Song of the Mad Prince,”
- “Nod”

Ernest Dowson:
- “Cynara,”
- “They Are Not Long”

Charlotte Mew:
- “The Farmer’s Bride”

In the area of American Literature:
Anne Bradstreet:
- “In Reference to Her Children,”
- “The Flesh and the Spirit,”
- “To My Dear and Loving Husband,”
- “Contemplations,”
- “A Letter to Her Husband,”
- “The Author to Her Book”

Edward Taylor:
- “Meditation One,”
- “The Experience,”
- “Huswifery”

Edgar Allan Poe:
- “The Raven,”
- “Sonnet to Science,”
- “A Theory of Composition”

Ralph Waldo Emerson:
- “The Problem,”
- “Compensation,”
- “Hamatreya”

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow:
- “Hymn to the Night,”
- “The Wreck of the Hesperus,”
- “The Skeleton in Armor,”
- “The Jewish Cemetery at Newport,”
- “Divina Commedia,”
- “Milton,”
- “Keats”

Walt Whitman:
Preface to the 1855 *Leaves of Grass*,
- “Song of Myself,”
- “One I Passed Through a Populous City,”
- “Facing West from California’s Shores;”
- “As Adam in the Morning;”
- “For You O Democracy;”
- “I Saw in Louisiana a Live-Oak Growing;”
- “I Hear It Was Charged Against Me,”
- “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry;”
- “Song of the Open Road,”
- “Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking,”
- “When I Heard the Learn’d Astronomer,”
- “The Dalliance of the Eagles;”
- “Cavalry Crossing a Ford,”
- “Vigil Strange I Kept on the Field One Night,”
- “A Sight in Camp in the Daybreak Gray and Dim,”
- “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d;”
- “There Was a Child Went Forth,”
- “To a Common Prostitute,”
- “The Sleepers;”
- “Whispers of Heavenly Death,”
- “A Noiseless Patient Spider,”
- “To a Locomotive in Winter,”
- “By Broad Potomac’s Shore,”
- “Democratic Vistas”

**Emily Dickinson:**
- “Success is counted sweetest,”
- “I taste a liquor never brewed--,”
- “Safe in their Alabaster Chambers,”
- “I like a look of Agony,”
- “Wild Nights--Wild Nights!”
- “There’s a certain Slant of light,”
- “I felt a Funeral, in my Brain,”
- “I’m Nobody! Who are you?”
- “The Soul Selects her own Society,”
- “There came a Day at Summer’s Full,”
- “A bird came down the Walk,”
- “After great pain, a formal feeling comes,”
- “It struck me--Every Day--,”
- “Much Madness is divinest sense,”
- “This is my letter to the World,”
- “I died for beauty-- but was scarce,”
- “I heard a Fly buzz -- when I died,”
- “It was not Death for I stood up,”
- “If you were coming in the Fall,”
- “Mine-- by the Right of the White Election!”
- “The heart asks pleasure-- First,”
- “I had been hungry, all the Years,”
- “I like to see it lap the Miles,”
- “They shut me up in Prose-- ,”
- “I cannot live with You,”
- “Me from Myself -- to banish -- ,”
- “I dwell in Possibility.”
- “Publication--is the Auction,”
- “Because I could not stop for Death,”
- “She rose to his Requirement-- dropt,”
- “My Life had stood -- a loaded Gun --,”
- “Ample make this Bed,”
- “A narrow Fellow in the Grass,”
- “Tell all the Truth but tell it slant-- ,”
- “He preached upon Breadth’ till it argued him narrow,”
- “A Route of Evanescence,”
- “As imperceptibly as Grief,”
- “My Life Closed Twice before its Close,”
- “To make a prairie it takes a clover and one bee”

Stephan Crane:
- “I Saw a Man”

2. Modern British and American Poetry:
From the following lists the student will choose for intensive study five British poets and five American poets, in addition to those poets whose names are starred, for intensive study. The poets and editions will be approved by the student’s major professor.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>British</th>
<th>American</th>
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3. Contemporary American Poetry:
The student will also read the works of eight contemporary American poets. This list of
poets will be approved by the student’s major professor at least one full quarter before the
student’s exam. These should be poets born after 1910 but not included in the lists above.
At least five of these poets are to be selected from the list below. The remaining poets are
to be of the student’s own choosing, reflecting his or her personal interests in
contemporary American poetry.
- John Ashbery
- Imamu Amiri Baraka
- John Berryman
- Gwendolyn Brooks
- Amy Clampitt
- James Dickey
- Allen Ginsberg
- Robert Hayden
- Anthony Hecht
- Richard Hugo
- Randall Jarrell
- Donald Justice
*W.H. Auden
Robert Graves
Seamus Heaney
Ted Hughes
Rudyard Kipling
Philip Larkin
D.H. Lawrence
C. Day Lewis
Louis MacNeice
Wilfred Owen
Edith Sitwell
Stephen Spender
*Dylan Thomas
*William Butler Yeats
Louis Masefield

Elizabeth Bishop
Louise Bogan
Hart Crane
e.e. cummings
John Crowe Ransom
H.D.
*T.S. Eliot
*Robert Frost
Langston Hughes
Amy Lowell
Robert Lowell
Edna St. Vincent Millay
Marianne Moore
Ezra Pound
E.A. Robinson
Theodore Roethke
*Wallace Stevens
Robert Penn Warren
Richard Wilbur
William Carlos Williams
Robinson Jeffers
- Galway Kinnell
- Yusef Komunyakaa
- Maxine Kumin
- Denise Levertov
- Philip Levine
- James Merrill
- W.S. Merwin
- Vassar Miller
- Howard Nemerov
- Frank O’Hara
- Sharon Olds
- Mary Oliver
- Sylvia Plath
- Adrienne Rich
- Pattiann Rogers
- Muriel Rukeyser
- Anne Sexton
- Charles Simic
- Louis Simpson
- W.D. Snodgrass
- May Swenson
- Mona Van Duyn
- Ellen Bryant Voigt
- Derek Walcott
- C.K. Williams
- Miller Williams
- James Wright