

Reading list
Modern British/Commonwealth literature

Students preparing for examinations are asked to compose a reading list, in conjunction with one or more of the faculty in this section, drawn from the core of writers and scholars whose works appear below. We expect students to add and subtract from this list -- to modify it as suits their purposes and interests. (For example, students are free to concentrate on pre-WWII literature, or on postmodern/postcolonial readings, or on some other focus that emanates from this period.) Students are not responsible for reading everything that appears below; consulting old examinations and meeting with faculty should help in the process of determining a fitting scope, and quantity, of material that we expect to be covered. Students studying this area as a major field are, obviously, expected to have a broader range of familiarity than those taking their secondary area exams in this field (and note that the secondary exams do not include the section dealing with biographical, bibliographical, and critical knowledge).

Prose

Chinua Achebe
Kingsley Amis
Martin Amis
Ama Ata Aidoo
Margaret Atwood
John Banville
Djuna Barnes
Julian Barnes
Arnold Bennett
Karen Blixen
A. S. Byatt
Angela Carter
Joseph Conrad
Robertson Davies
Anita Desai
Roddy Doyle
Margaret Drabble
Timothy Findley
Ford Madox Ford
E. M. Forster
John Galsworthy
John Galsworthy
Helen Garner
David Garnett
William Golding

Nadine Gordimer
Graham Greene
Bessie Head
Keri Hulme
Aldous Huxley
Kazuo Ishiguro
Jennifer Johnston
Elizabeth Jolley
James Joyce
James Kelman
Jamaica Kincaid
Margaret Laurence
D. H. Lawrence
Doris Lessing
C. S. Lewis
David Lodge
Bernard MacLaverty
Katherine Mansfield
Somerset Maugham
John McGahern
Alice Munro
Iris Murdoch
V. S. Naipul
Edna O'Brien
Sean O'Faolain
Michael Ondaatje
George Orwell
Alan Paton
Barbara Pym
Jean Rhys
Mordecai Richler
Salman Rushdie
Vita Sackville-West
Dorothy L. Sayers
Stevie Smith
Muriel Spark
Lytton Strachey
Graham Swift
Evelyn Waugh
Fay Weldon
H. G. Wells
Rebecca West
Patrick White
Virginia Woolf

Poetry

Margaret Atwood
W. H. Auden
Eavan Boland
H. D.
T. S. Eliot
Robert Graves
Thomas Hardy
Tony Harrison
Seamus Heaney
Geoffrey Hill
A. E. Housman
Ted Hughes
Elizabeth Jennings
Patrick Kavanagh
Thomas Kinsella
Rudyard Kipling
Philip Larkin
C. Day Lewis
Michael Longley
Louis MacNeice
Derek Mahon
Medbh McGuckian
John Montague
Paul Muldoon
Wilfred Owen
Sylvia Plath
Ezra Pound
Siegfried Sassoon
Edith Sitwell
Stevie Smith
Stephen Spender
Dylan Thomas
Derek Walcott
W. B. Yeats

Drama

W. H. Auden & Christopher Isherwood
Alan Ayckbourn
Samuel Beckett
Alan Bennett
Caryl Churchill
T. S. Eliot
Brian Friel
Simon Gray

Lady Augusta Gregory
David Hare
Terry Johnson
Sean O'Casey
Joe Orlon
John Osborne
Louise Page
Stewart Parker
Harold Pinter
Dennis Potter
Peter Shaffer
George Bernard Shaw
Tom Stoppard
John M. Synge
Derek Walcott
W. B. Yeats

Criticism and biography

Hazard Adams, The Book of Yeats's Poetry
Kenneth Allsob, The Angry Decade
Bill Ashcroft, The Post Colonial Studies Reader; The Empire Writes Back
Deirdre Bair, Samuel Beckett: A Biography
Quentin Bell, Virginia Woolf: A Biography
Homi Bhabha, Nation and Narration; The Location of Culture
Harry Blamires, Twentieth-Century English Literature
Harold Bloom, Yeats
Liam Chambers and Lidia Curti, The Postcolonial Question
Selwyn Cudjoe, Resistance and Caribbean Literature
Valentine Cunningham, British Writers of the Thirties
Donald Davie, Under Briggflatts: A History of Poetry in Great Britain 1960-1988
Margaret Drabble, Arnold Bennett: A Biography
Anthony Easthope, British Post Structuralism Since 1968
Leon Edel, Bloomsbury: A House of Lions
T. S. Eliot, Selected Essays
Richard Ellmann, Eminent Domain; James Joyce; Yeats: The Man and the Masks; Modernism
Wendy Flory, The American Ezra Pound
Daniel Mark Fogel, Covert Relations: James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, and Henry James
R. F. Foster, W. B. Yeats: A Life
Karl Frederick, Modern and Modernism: The Sovereignty of the Artist, 1885-1925
P. N. Furbank, E. M. Forster: A Life
Paul Fussell, The Great War and Modern Memory
Lyndall Gordon, Eliot's Early Years; Eliot's New Life; Virginia Woolf: A Writer's Life
Margaret Mills Harper, The Aristocracy of Art
Samuel Hynes, The Auden Generation; The Edwardian Turn of Mind

Christopher Innes, Modern British Drama 1890-1990
Susan J. Leonard, Dangerous by Degrees: Women at Oxford and the Somerville College Novelists
Randy Malamud, The Language of Modernism; Where the Words are Valid: T. S. Eliot's Communities of Drama
Bruce K. Martin, British Poetry Since 1939
Lucy McDiarmid, Saving Civilization: Yeats, Eliot, and Auden Between the Wars
Edward Mendelson, Early Auden
Ira Nadel, Joyce and the Jews
Sean O'Faolain, The Short Story
David Perkins, A History of Modern Poetry (2 vols.)
Marilynn Richtarik, Acting Between the Lines: The Field Day Theatre Company and Irish Cultural Politics 1980-1984
Lucio P. Ruotolo, The Interrupted Moment: A View of Virginia Woolf's Novels
Edward Said, Orientalism; Culture and Imperialism
Bonnie Kime Scott, The Gender of Modernism; Refiguring Modernism (2 vols.)
Gayatri Spivak, In Other Words
Randall Stevenson, A Reader's Guide to the Twentieth-Century Novel in Britain
Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Decolonising the Mind; Moving the Centre
Virginia Woolf, Roger Fry
Robert Young, White Mythologies