**MA Comp-Exam Reading List: Fall Semester 2014**

***Medieval***

Old English Literature:

*Beowulf*

Middle English Literature:

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

Chaucer: “The Knight’s Tale,” *Troilus and Criseyde* (*TC* may be read in translation; Penguin has a translation by Nevill Coghill.)

Malory: *Morte Darthur,* Caxton Books XX, XXI

***Renaissance and Seventeenth Century***

The Sonnet Tradition

* Sir Thomas Wyatt: “Whoso list to hunt,” “They flee from me,” “My galley charged with

forgetfulness”

* John Donne: *Holy Sonnets* 1 ( “Thou hast made me”), 5 ( “I am a little world”), 14 (“Batter my

heart”), 18 ( “Show me, dear Christ”)

* George Herbert: “Prayer (I),” “Jordan (I)”

Christopher Marlowe: *Dr. Faustus* (Bevington and Rasmussen ed.)

The Metaphysical Lyric

* John Donne: “The Good Morrow,” “The Sun Rising,” “The Canonization,”

“A Valediction Forbidding Mourning,” “The Ecstasy,” “Elegy: To His Mistress

Going to Bed,” “Good Friday, 1613. Riding Westward”

* George Herbert: “The Collar,” “The Pulley,” “Artillerie,” “Easter Wings”

The Cavalier or Early Neoclassical Mode

* Ben Jonson: “To Penshurst,” “Inviting a Friend to Supper,” “To William Camden” (*Epigram*

14),“To the Immortal Memory and Friendship of that Noble Pair, Sir Lucius Cary and

Sir H. Morison,” “To the Memory of My Beloved, the Author Mr. William Shakespeare”

Sir Francis Bacon: (1625 version) “Of Truth,” “Of Marriage and Single Life,” “Of Superstition,”

“Of Studies”

Sir Thomas Browne: *Religio Medici*

John Milton: *Paradise Lost*, “On the Morning of Christ’s Nativity,” “Lycidas” “L’Allegro,”

“Il Penseroso”

***Restoration and Eighteenth Century***

Aphra Behn: *Oroonoko*

Alexander Pope: “Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot”

Henry Fielding: *Tom Jones*

Thomas Gray: “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard”

Oliver Goldsmith: “The Deserted Village”

Laurence Sterne: *Tristram Shandy*

Fanny Burney: *Evelina*

***Nineteenth-Century British***

Jane Austen: *Pride and Prejudice*

Christina Rossetti: *Goblin Market*

Lewis Carroll: *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*

Emily Bronte: *Wuthering Heights*

Charlotte Bronte: *Jane Eyre*

George Eliot: *Middlemarch*

Oscar Wilde: *The Importance of Being Earnest*

# *Twentieth-Century British/Postcolonial*

D. H. Lawrence: “Piano,” “Snake,” “Bavarian Gentians,” “The Ship of Death”; “Odour of

Chrysanthemums,” “The Blind Man”

Dylan Thomas: “The Force That through the Green Fuse Drives the Flower,” “A Refusal to Mourn the Death, by Fire, of a Child in London,” “Fern Hill” “In My Craft or Sullen Art,” “Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night”

Ted Hughes: “Pike,” “Crow’s First Lesson,” “Theology,” “Roe Deer,” “Daffodils”

G. B. Shaw: *Arms and the Man*

Samuel Beckett: *Waiting for Godot*

Harold Pinter: *The Dumb Waiter*

Tom Stoppard: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*

Caryl Churchill: *Top Girls*

***American Literature Prior to 1860***

Benjamin Franklin: *Autobiography*, Books I & II

Phillis Wheatley: “On Being Brought from Africa to America,” “To His Excellency General Washington,” “To the University of Cambridge, in New England,” “To the Right Honourable William, Earl of Dartmouth,” “On the Death of the Rev. Mr. George

Whitefield,” Letter to Rev. Samson Occom (Feb. 11, 1774)

St. Jean de Crèvecoeur: (Norton selections) Letter III: “What Is an American” and Letter IX: “Description of Charles-Town; Thoughts on Slavery; On Physical Evil; A Melancholy Scene”

James Fenimore Cooper: *The Pioneers*

Henry David Thoreau: From *Walden:* “Economy,” “Where I Lived, and What I Lived For,” “Higher

Laws,” “Spring,” “Conclusion”

Frederick Douglass: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*

***American Literature 1860 to Present***

Mark Twain: *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Henry James: *Portrait of a Lady*

Charlotte Perkins Gilman: “The Yellow Wallpaper,” “If I Were a Man”

Edith Wharton: *The House of Mirth*

Robert Frost: “After Apple-Picking,” “Home Burial,” “Birches,” “Design,” “Desert Places,”

            “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”

William Carlos Williams: “Spring and All,” “The Red Wheelbarrow,” “This Is Just To Say,”

            “The Widow’s Lament in Springtime,” “The Dance,” “Tract,” “The Yachts,” “To Elsie”

F. Scott Fitzgerald: *The Great Gatsby*

Tennessee Williams: *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Toni Morrison: *The Bluest Eye*

Don DeLillo: *White Noise*

Jhumpa Lahiri: “When Mr. Pirzada Came to Dine,” “Interpreter of Maladies”