MA Reading List

Medieval

Old English Literature:

Bede’s *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*: “Account of the Poet Cædmon” (w/ “Cædmon’s Hymn”)

*Beowulf*

“The Dream of the Rood”
“The Wanderer”
“The Seafarer”
“The Battle of Maldon”
“The Wife’s Lament”

Middle English Literature:

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
Langland: *Piers Plowman* (Passus 18)
Chaucer: “General Prologue,” “The Knight’s Tale,” “The Miller’s Prologue and Tale,” “The Reeve’s Tale,” “The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale,” “The Clerk’s Tale,” “The Franklin’s Tale,” “Words of the Host to the Physician and Pardoner,” “The Pardoner’s Prologue and Tale,” and “The Nun’s Priest Tale” from *The Canterbury Tales; Troilus and Criseyde* (TC may be read in translation; Penguin has a translation by Nevill Coghill.)
Margery Kempe: *The Book of Margery Kempe*, from Chapters 1, 2, 11, 18, 28, 52, 76 (Norton Anthology selections)

*The Second Shepherds’ Play*

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

*Everyman*

Students should consult the following guides:


Renaissance and Seventeenth Century

John Skelton: “The Tunnyng of Elinour Rumning,” “Mannerly Margery Milk and Ale,” “Lullay, lullay, like a child”
Sir Thomas More, *Utopia*

The Sonnet Tradition

- Sir Thomas Wyatt: “Whoso list to hunt,” “They flee from me,” “My galley charged with forgetfulness”
- Sir Philip Sidney: *Astrophil and Stella*, 1 (“Loving in truth, and fain in verse my love to show”), 5 (“It is most true that eyes are formed to serve”), 6 (“Some lovers speak, when they their muses entertain”), 45 (“Stella oft sees the very face of woe”), 52 (“A strife is grown between Virtue and Love”), 53 (“In martial sports I had my cunning tried”), 71 (“Who will in fairest book of Nature know”), 74 (“I never drank of Aganippe well”), 81 (“O kiss, which dost
those ruddy gems impart”), 108 (“When Sorrow (using mine own fire’s might)"

- Edmund Spenser: Amoretti, 1 (“Happy ye leaves when as those lily hands”), 34 (“Lyke a ship that through the Ocean wyde”), 37 (“What guile is this, that those her golden tresses”), 67 (“Lyke as a huntsman after weary chase”), 68 (“Most glorious Lord of lyfe, that on this day”), 75 (“One day I wrote her name upon the strand”), 79 (“Men call you fayre, and you doe credit it”)

- William Shakespeare: Sonnets 3 (“Look in thy glass and tell the face thou viewwest”), 18 (“Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?”), 20 (“A woman’s face with nature’s own hand painted”), 29 (“When, in disgrace with Fortune and men’s eyes”), 30 (“When to the sessions of sweet silent thought”), 55 (“Not marble, nor the gilded monuments”), 60 (“Like as the waves make towards the pebbled shore”), 71 (“No longer mourn for me when I am dead”), 73 (“That time of year thou mayst in me behold”), 94 (“They that have power to hurt and will do none”), 116 (“Let me not to the marriage of true minds”), 129 (“Th’ expense of spirit in a waste of shame”), 130 (“My mistress’ eyes are nothing like the sun”), 138 (“When my love swears that she is made of truth”), 144 (“Two loves I have of comfort and despair”), 146 (“Poor soul, the center of my sinful earth”)

- Lady Mary Wroth: Pamphilia to Amphilanthus 1 (“When night’s black mantle could most darkness prove”), 16 (“Am I thus conquered? Have I lost the powers”), 39 (“Take heed mine eyes, how you your looks do cast”), 40 (“False hope which feeds but to destroy, and spill”), 68 (“My pain, still smothered in my grieved breast”), 77 (“In this strange labyrinth how shall I turn?”), 103 (“My Muse now happy, lay thyself to rest!”)

- 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)”


Edmund Spenser: Shepheards Calendar (January, April and October eclogues); The Faerie Queene, Book 1, cantos 1-5, 10-12; Epithalamion
Christopher Marlowe: Hero and Leander, Dr. Faustus (Beverington and Rasmussen ed.)
William Shakespeare: Hamlet, King Lear, 1 Henry IV, Twelfth Night, The Tempest
Thomas Middleton and Thomas Dekker: The Roaring Girl
John Webster: The Duchess of Malfi
Ben Jonson: Bartholomew Fair

The Metaphysical Lyric


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

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”

- Robert Herrick: “When He Would Have His Verses Read,” “Corinna’s Going A-Maying”

- Andrew Marvell: “An Horatian Ode”

Aemilia Lanyer: “The Description of Cookham”
Sir Thomas Browne: Religio Medici
Restoration and Eighteenth Century

John Dryden: "Mac Flecknoe," "Absalom and Achitophel"
William Congreve: The Way of the World
Aphra Behn: Oroonoko
Alexander Pope: Essay on Criticism, The Rape of the Lock, "Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot"
Jonathan Swift: Gulliver's Travels, "Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift," "A Modest Proposal"
John Gay: The Beggar's Opera
Henry Fielding: Tom Jones
Thomas Gray: "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard"
William Collins: "Ode on the Poetical Character," "Ode to Evening"
Oliver Goldsmith: She Stoops to Conquer, "The Deserted Village"
Samuel Johnson: Rasselas, "The Vanity of Human Wishes"
James Boswell: Life of Johnson (Hibbert's Abridged Edition)
Laurence Sterne: Tristram Shandy
Fanny Burney: Evelina
Richard B. Sheridan: The School for Scandal

Nineteenth-Century British

William Blake: Songs of Innocence and Experience
Lord Byron: Childe Harold's Pilgrimage, selections printed in the Norton anthology (8th edition); Don Juan, selections printed in the Norton anthology (8th edition); Manfred
Sir Walter Scott: Rob Roy
"Bright Star," "When I Have Fears"), The Eve of St. Agnes, "To Autumn"
William Hazlitt: "Lord Byron," "My First Acquaintance with Poets"
Charles Lamb: "Old China," "Christ Hospital Five-and-Thirty Years Ago"
Mary Shelley: Frankenstein
Jane Austen: Pride and Prejudice
E.B. Browning: Sonnets from the Portuguese (21, 22, 32, 43), Aurora Leigh, selections printed in the Norton anthology
John Ruskin: "The Roots of Honor" from Unto This Last, "The Nature of Gothic" from The Stones of Venice
A.C. Swinburne: "Hymn to Proserpine"
Christina Rossetti: Goblin Market
Lewis Carroll: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
“The Art Thou Indeed Just, Lord”
Emily Bronte: *Wuthering Heights*
Charlotte Bronte: *Jane Eyre*
W.M. Thackeray: *Vanity Fair*
Charles Dickens: *Great Expectations*
George Eliot: *Middlemarch*
Robert Louis Stevenson: *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
Oscar Wilde: *The Importance of Being Earnest*

**Twentieth-Century British/Postcolonial**

Thomas Hardy: “Hap,” “The Darkling Thrush,” “The Convergence of the Twain,”
“Neutral Tones,” “Channel Firing”
W. B. Yeats: “The Stolen Child,” “The Lake Isle of Innisfree,” “Adam’s Curse,” “September 1913,”
“The Wild Swans at Coole,” “Easter 1916,” “The Second Coming,” “Sailing to Byzantium,”
Wilfred Owen: “Dulce et Decorum Est,” “Strange Meeting,” “Mental Cases,” “Disabled”
Philip Larkin: “Church Going,” “High Windows,” “This Be the Verse,” “Aubade”
Ted Hughes: “Pike,” “Crow’s First Lesson,” “Theology,” “Roe Deer,” “Daffodils”
Seamus Heaney: “Digging,” “Punishment,” “The Strand at Lough Beg,” “Station Island”
Derek Walcott: “A Far Cry from Africa,” “Lavantille,” “Ruins of a Great House,”
“North and South,” “The Fortunate Traveller”

G. B. Shaw: *Arms and the Man*
Samuel Beckett: *Waiting for Godot*
Harold Pinter: *The Dumb Waiter*
Tom Stoppard: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*
Wole Soyinka: *Death and the King’s Horseman*
Caryl Churchill: *Top Girls*

Joseph Conrad: *Heart of Darkness*
James Joyce: “Araby,” “The Dead,” *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
Virginia Woolf: *Mrs. Dalloway*
E. M. Forster: *A Passage to India*
Salman Rushdie: *The Satanic Verses*
J. M. Coetzee: *Disgrace*

**American Literature Prior to 1860**

John Winthrop: “A Model of Christian Charity”
Anne Bradstreet: “To My Dear and Loving Husband,” “Before the Birth of One of Her Children,”
“In Memory of My Dear Grandchild Elizabeth Bradstreet,” “In Memory of My Dear Grandchild Anne Bradstreet,” “On My Dear Grandchild Simon Bradstreet,” “Prologue,” “The Author to Her Book,” “Contemplations”

Benjamin Franklin: *Autobiography*, Books I & II


Washington Irving: “Rip Van Winkle,” “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”

James Fenimore Cooper: *The Pioneers*

Ralph Waldo Emerson: “The American Scholar,” “The Divinity School Address,” *Nature*


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

Harriet Beecher Stowe: *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*

Harriet Jacobs: *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

Herman Melville: *Moby-Dick*


*American Literature 1860 to Present*

Mark Twain: *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Emily Dickinson: “I never lost as much but twice—”; “Success is counted sweetest”;

“I’m wife”—I’ve finished that—”; “Some keep the Sabbath going to Church”;

“I’m Nobody! Who are you?”; “Wild Nights—Wild Nights!”; “I like a look of Agony”;

“I felt a Funeral, in my Brain”; “A Bird came down the walk—”; “After great pain, a formal feeling comes”; “I dwell in Possibility”—”; “I heard a Fly buzz—when I died—”;

“Much Madness is divinest Sense—”; “What Soft—Cherubic Creatures”—”; “Nature is what We see—”; “Publication—is the Auction”; “Tell all the Truth but tell it slant”;

“What mystery pervades a well!”; “Apparently with no surprise”; “Of God we ask one favor, that we may be forgiven—”

Henry James: *Portrait of a Lady*

Sarah Orne Jewett: “A White Heron”

Mary E. Wilkins Freeman: “A New England Nun, “The Revolt of Mother”

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

Booker T. Washington: *Up From Slavery*, Chapters I and XIV: “A Slave Among Slaves” and *The Atlanta Exposition Address*


Stephen Crane: “The Blue Hotel,” “The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky”

Kate Chopin: *The Awakening*

Edith Wharton: *The House of Mirth*

Willa Cather: “Neighbour Rosicky”


Ezra Pound: “In a Station of the Metro,” “To Whistler, American,” “A Pact,” “Portrait d’une Femme,” “The River-Merchant’s Wife,” *Hugh Selwyn Mauberley*
William Carlos Williams: “Spring and All,” “The Red Wheelbarrow,” “This Is Just To Say,”
Wallace Stevens: “Peter Quince at the Clavier,” “Sunday Morning,” “Anecdote of the Jar,”
“The Snow Man,” “A High-Toned Old Christian Woman,” “The Emperor of Ice Cream,”
“The Idea of Order at Key West,” “Of Modern Poetry”
Langston Hughes: “Theme for English B,” “Epilogue (I, too, sing America),” “Harlem,” “The
Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain,” “Madam and the Phone Bill,” “The Negro
Speaks of Rivers”
F. Scott Fitzgerald: The Great Gatsby
Ernest Hemingway: The Sun Also Rises
William Faulkner: The Sound and the Fury
Zora Neale Hurston: Their Eyes Were Watching God
Eugene O’Neill: Long Day’s Journey into Night
Tennessee Williams: A Streetcar Named Desire
“Everything That Rises Must Converge,” “Parker’s Back”
Ralph Ellison: Invisible Man
Arthur Miller: Death of a Salesman
Edward Albee: Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?
Elizabeth Bishop: “The Fish,” “Questions of Travel,” “The Armadillo,” “In the Waiting Room,”
“Crusoe in England”
Richard Wright: From Uncle Tom’s Children: “The Ethics of Living Jim Crow” and “Long Black
Song”
Gwendolyn Brooks: “The Lovers of the Poor,” “The Chicago Defender Sends a Man to Little
Rock,” “kitchenette building,” “Riot”
Toni Morrison: The Bluest Eye
Adrienne Rich: “Aunt Jennifer’s Tiger’s,” “Diving into the Wreck,” “Snapshots of a Daughter-in-
Law,” “Seven Skins”
Rita Dove: “David Walker”, from Thomas and Beulah: “The Event,” “Straw Hat,” “Pomade,”
“Daystar,” “Wingfoot Lake”
Leslie Marmon Silko: Ceremony
N. Scott Momaday: The Way to Rainy Mountain
Maxine Hong Kingston: Woman Warrior
Don DeLillo: White Noise
Louise Erdrich: Love Medicine
Octavia Butler: Kindred
Jhumpa Lahiri: “When Mr. Pirzada Came to Dine,” “Interpreter of Maladies”
Gish Jen: “Who’s Irish?”
Alberto Rios: “Taking Away the Name of a Nephew,” “The Day of the Refugios,” “Refugio’s
Hair,” “What We’ve Done to Each Other,” “In the Strong Hold of Her Thin Arms”

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