

English M.A. READING LIST GRID
(Effective 1 June 2023 through 31 May 2025)

Student: _____ **Semester of Exam:** _____

Faculty: _____ **GPC Approval:** _____

A. Pre-1500

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

B. 1500-1600

- 1) **Edmund Spenser**, *The Faerie Queene*: “A Letter of the Authors,” Book I (all), Book III (Cantos 1, 5-6, 9-12)
- 2) **William Shakespeare**, One history play, one tragedy, and one comedy (including romance) of student's selection (chosen in consultation with advisor)
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

C. 1600-1700

- 1) **John Donne**, “The Flea,” “Song” (“Go and catch a falling star”), “The Canonization,” “A Nocturnal upon St. Lucy’s Day,” “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning,” “A Lecture upon the Shadow,” “Twickenham Garden,” Elegy 19 (“To His Mistress Going to Bed”), Holy Sonnets 10 (“Death Be Not Proud”), 14 (“Batter my heart”), and 17 (“Since she whom I loved”), “Good Friday, 1613, Riding Westward,” “Meditation 17,” (from *Devotions upon Emergent Occasions*)
- 2) **John Milton**, *Paradise Lost*
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

D. 1700-1800

- 1) **Samuel Richardson**, *Pamela; Or, Virtue Rewarded*
- 2) **Alexander Pope**, “The Rape of the Lock,” “An Essay on Criticism,” “An Essay on Man,” “Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot”
- 3) a) **Olaudah Equiano**, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the Africa, Written by Himself*
b) **Phillis Wheatley**, “On the Death of . . . George Whitefield,” “On Being Brought from Africa to America,” “To the University of Cambridge, in the New England,” “To S.M., a Young African Painter,” Letter to Rev. Samson Occom (Feb. 11, 1774)
c) **Jupiter Hammon**, “An Address to Miss Phillis Wheatly [sic]”
- 4) _____

E. 1800-Circa 1850

- 1) **Herman Melville**, *Moby-Dick, or The Whale*
- 2) a) **Frederick Douglass**, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*
b) **Harriet Jacobs**, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*
c) **Sojourner Truth**, “Speech to the Women’s Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio, 1851”
d) **Frances E. W. Harper**, “Ethiopia,” “An Appeal to my Country Women,” “Woman’s Political Future,” “Our Greatest Want”
- 3) **William Wordsworth**, *The Prelude*, Books I & XI, 1805 (not 1850) [Recommended text: Norton Critical Edition *The Prelude*, 1799, 1805, 1850 ed. By Jonathan Wordsworth], “Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey,” “Resolution and Independence,” “The World Is Too Much With Us,” “Ode on Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood,” “We are Seven,” “Lucy Gray,” Preface to *Lyrical Ballads* (1802)
- 4) _____

F. Circa 1850-1915

- 1) a) **Walt Whitman**, “Song of Myself,” “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry,” “Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking,” “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d,” “In Paths Untrodden,” “When I Heard at the Close of the Day,” “Democratic Vistas”
b) **Emily Dickinson**, [Recommended Text: *The Complete Poems of Emily Dickenson*, ed. Thomas H. Johnson, Little, Brown, 1955] “Why—do they shut Me out of Heaven?” (248), “Over the fence—“ (251), “I felt a Funeral...” (280), “Some keep the Sabbath...” (486), “They shut me up in Prose—“ (613), “I dwell in Possibility—“ (657)
- 2) **Mark Twain**, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
- 3) **George Eliot**, *Middlemarch*
- 4) _____

G. 1915-1945

- 1) **T. S. Eliot**, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock,” “Tradition and the Individual Talent,”
The Waste Land
- 2) **Virginia Woolf**, *To the Lighthouse*
- 3) **Americo Paredes**, *George Washington Gomez*
- 4) _____

H. 1945-1968

- 1) **Samuel Beckett**, *Waiting for Godot*
- 2) **Ralph Ellison**, *Invisible Man*
- 3) a) **Sylvia Plath**, “Morning Song,” “Lady Lazarus,” “Daddy,” “Blackberrying,” “The Colossus,” “The Applicant,” “Cut,” and “The Arrival of the Bee Box”
b) **Theodore Roethke**, “The Waking,” “I Knew a Woman,” “In a Dark Time,” “Root Cellar,” “My Papa’s Waltz”
- 4) _____

I. 1969-present

- 1) **Toni Morrison**, *Song of Solomon*
- 2) a) **Gloria Anzaldua**, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* 2nd ed., Introduction and Ch. 1-7
b) **Lorna Dee Cervantes**, from *Emplumada*, “Uncle’s First Rabbit,” “Cannery Town in August,” “Beneath the Shadow of the Freeway,” “For Virginia Chavez,” “Poem for the Young Man...”
c) **Cherrie Moraga**, From *The Last Generation* “Queer Aztlan: the Re-formation of Chicano Tribe”; From: *Loving in the War Years*, Expanded 2nd ed., “Loving in the War Years,” “La Guera,” “A Long Line of Vendidas,” “Looking for the Insatiable Woman,” and “Out of our Revolutionary Minds Toward a Pedagogy of Revolt”
- 3) a) **August Wilson**, *Fences*
b) **Suzan-Lori Parks**, *Topdog/Underdog*
- 4) _____

ADDITIONAL LISTS

All students must include at least one numbered group from the J list (Rhetoric and Composition), one work from the K list (Linguistics), and one work from the L list (Literary Theory) on their individual exam list.

J) _____
K) _____
L) _____

Students who elect to replace the Thematic question with a question in Linguistics, Rhetoric and Composition, or Literary Theory will follow the instructions in the appropriate list (J, K, or L). These students will remove two non-asterisked items from the A-I list, and will therefore be responsible for reading only a total of 10 selected items from groups A-I (rather than 12).

(Complete, if applicable) As indicated by my selections, I am requesting a _____ question instead of the Thematic question. If choosing an alternate question (Rhetoric/Composition, Linguistics, or Literary Theory instead of Thematic), attach your reading selections for the alternate question. Follow the instructions on the MA Reading List for that section and consult your MA exam chair before finalizing the list.