

Reading List

This is a recommended reading list that should serve as a guideline for your course of studies. Ideally, you should have read all of these texts by the time you graduate. A minimum, however, are those texts that we indicated with an asterisk (*).

It is not only important that you have a good general command of the English language; you should also aim at becoming familiar with the most commonly known works of literature in English.

Please also observe the “American Studies” reading list.

Old English

**Beowulf* (we strongly recommend the bilingual edition containing a translation by Seamus Heaney)

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

Middle English

*Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales* (a selection of excerpts will do)

Renaissance

*Sir Thomas More, *Utopia*

Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queene* (a selection of excerpts will do)

*William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, *Henry V*, *Twelfth Night* (or at least three other plays of different sub-genres), a selection of sonnets

Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*

17th century

John Donne, “Air and Angels”, “The Flea”, “Holy Sonnet XIV”

Andrew Marvell, “To His Coy Mistress”

*John Milton, *Paradise Lost* (a selection of excerpts will do)

*John Bunyan, *Pilgrim’s Progress* (a selection of excerpts will do)

Ben Jonson, *Volpone, or The Fox*

Restoration and 18th century

Alexander Pope, “The Rape of the Lock”, *The Dunciad* (a selection of excerpts will do)

John Dryden, “The Medal”

Samuel Richardson, *Clarissa* or *Pamela* (a selection of excerpts will do)

*Laurence Sterne, *Tristram Shandy* (a selection of excerpts will do)

Henry Fielding, *Joseph Andrews*

*Jonathan Swift, “A Description of a Morning”, “A Description of a City Shower”, *Gulliver’s Travels*

*Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*

Romanticism

*William Wordsworth, “I wandered lonely as a cloud“, “Lines Written in Early Spring“, “A slumber did my spirit seal“, “Composed upon Westminster Bridge“, “Tintern Abbey“, “Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*“, a selection of excerpts from *The Prelude*

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner”

*William Blake, “The Chimney Sweeper“, “London“, “The Lamb“, “The Tyger” (or any other pieces of poetry from *Songs of Innocence and Songs of Experience*)

Robert Burns, "A Red Red Rose"
Percy Bysshe Shelley, *Prometheus Unbound*
Lord Byron, *Don Juan* (the first two cantos will do)
John Keats, "Ode to a Nightingale "
*Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (or any other novel by Austen)
Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

Victorian Literature

Matthew Arnold, "A Summer Night", "East London", "Dover Beach"
*Charles Dickens, *David Copperfield*, *Hard Times* (or two other Dickens novels)
Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
George Eliot, *Middlemarch* (a selection of excerpts will do)
*Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, "The Decay of Lying"
G.B. Shaw, *Mrs Warren's Profession*
Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, "The Darkling Thrush"
Lewis Carroll, "Jabberwocky"
Alfred Lord Tennyson, "Ulysses", "The Charge of the Light Brigade"
*Robert Browning, "The Lost Leader", "My last Duchess"
*Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

Modernism

*William Butler Yeats, "Leda and the Swan", "Sailing to Byzantium", "The Second Coming"
Rupert Brooke, "The Soldier"
Siegfried Sassoon, "Glory of Women" and selected other war poems
Wilfred Owen, "Anthem for Doomed Youth", "Dulce Et Decorum Est"
*Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway*, *To the Lighthouse* or two other novels by Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*
*James Joyce, *Dubliners*, *Ulysses* (a selection of excerpts will do)
E.M. Forster, *A Passage to India*, *Howard's End*
D.H. Lawrence, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*
*T.S. Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock", *The Waste Land*

After 1945

W.H. Auden, "The Shield of Achilles"
Philip Larkin, "Toads", "Aubade"
*Seamus Heaney, "Digging"
George Orwell, *Animal Farm*
*Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*
*Chinua Achebe, *Things fall apart*
*Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*
Angela Carter, *Nights at the Circus*
Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
*John Fowles, *The French Lieutenant's Woman*
J.M. Coetzee, *Disgrace*
Martin Amis, *Time's Arrow*
*David Lodge, *Changing Places*, *Small World*
Kate Atkinson, *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*
Amitav Ghosh, *The Hungry Tide*
Hanif Kureishi, *The Buddha of Suburbia*

Peter Carey, *My Life as a Fake*
Patrick White, *Voss*
David Malouf, *Remembering Babylon*
Zakes Mda, *The Madonna of Excelsior, Ways of Dying, Heart of Redness*
Zadie Smith, *White Teeth*
*Ian McEwan, *Atonement*

Literary Theory and History

This short list is supposed to help you find suitable books of reference which you will need throughout the course of your studies. Most of them are reasonably cheap, thus it would be a good idea to have your own copy at home. *The Norton Anthology* is an exception here, but we provide numerous copies of it in the library.

Selden, Raman, Peter Widdowson and Peter Brooker, *A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory*
Bertens, Hans, *Literary Theory: The Basics*
Cuddon, J.A., *The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory*
Drabble, Margaret (ed.), *The Concise Oxford Companion to English Literature* or Ousby, Ian (ed.), *The Wordsworth Companion to Literature in English*
Meyer, Michael, *English and American Literatures*
Wagner, H. P., *A History of English, Irish and American Literature*
Seeber, Hans Ulrich, *Englische Literaturgeschichte*
Greenblatt, Stephen (ed.), *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*

Some Important Poetological and Programmatic Texts

Sir Philip Sidney, "Defence of Poesy"
Alexander Pope, "Essay on Criticism"
William Wordsworth, "Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*"
P.B. Shelley, "Defence of Poetry"
John Keats, "Selected Letters"
T.S. Eliot, "Tradition and Individual Talent"