

MAJOR FIELD EXAM IN MODERN LITERATURE: BRITISH, AMERICAN, ANGLO-IRISH

Student: _____

Supervisor: _____

Anticipated Exam Date: _____

Students are expected to be familiar with a wide range of texts from the field. In each of the four categories—prose fiction and non-fiction, poetry, drama, criticism – a core list is provided, which will be augmented by the specified number of students’ choices. The list is designed to help prepare students for various facets of their intellectual and professional lives: for example, teaching an introductory survey course in the field; being conversant with the field and its canons as they have emerged in the last one hundred years; and conducting scholarship in the field.

A finalized reading list must be submitted to and approved by the Graduate Study Committee at least two months before the written examination. The list should be submitted alongside the default list below, annotated to make clear how the student has met the requirements here outlined.

PROSE FICTION AND NON-FICTION:	GUIDANCE:
<p>Adams, Henry: <i>The Education of Henry Adams</i> (1907; 1918) Agee, James and Walker Evans: <i>Let Us Now Praise Famous Men</i> (1939) Brittain, Vera: <i>Testament of Youth</i> (1933)* Conrad, Joseph: <i>Heart of Darkness</i> (1902) du Bois, W. E. B.: <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i> (1903) Ellison, Ralph: <i>Invisible Man</i> (1952) Faulkner, William: <i>The Sound and the Fury</i> (1929) Fitzgerald, F. Scott: <i>The Great Gatsby</i> (1925) Ford, Ford Madox: <i>The Good Soldier</i> (1915) Forster, E.M.: <i>Howards End</i> (1910) <u>or</u> <i>A Passage to India</i> (1924) Graves, Robert: <i>Goodbye to All That</i> (1928)* Hemingway, Ernest: <i>In Our Time</i> (1925) <u>or</u> <i>The Sun Also Rises</i> (1926) <u>or</u> <i>A Farewell to Arms</i> (1929) Hurston, Zora Neale: <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> (1937) James, Henry: <i>The Wings of the Dove</i> (1902) <u>or</u> <i>The Golden Bowl</i> (1904) Joyce, James: <i>Dubliners</i> (1914) <u>or</u> <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i> (1916) <u>and</u> <i>Ulysses</i> (1922) Larsen, Nella: <i>Quicksand</i> (1928) <u>or</u> <i>Passing</i> (1929) Lawrence, D. H.: <i>Sons and Lovers</i> (1913) <u>or</u> <i>The Rainbow</i> (1915) <u>or</u> <i>Women in Love</i> (1921) Mansfield, Katherine: <i>The Garden Party and Other Stories</i> (1922)</p>	<p>Each text is mandatory, although students should choose between of Brittain’s autobiography and Graves’s.</p> <p>To these twenty-two mandatory texts, students should add another eight of their own choosing, for a total of 30.</p>

<p>Stein, Gertrude: <i>Three Lives</i> (1909) <u>or</u> <i>The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas</i> (1933)</p> <p>Woolf, Virginia: choose two of <i>Mrs Dalloway</i> (1925), <i>To the Lighthouse</i> (1927), <i>A Room of One's Own</i> (1929), <i>The Waves</i> (1932)</p> <p>Wright, Richard: <i>Black Boy</i> (1945)</p> <p>Additions</p>	
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POETRY:		GUIDANCE:
Auden, W. H.	“1925” (“It was evening. . .”), “Lay your sleeping head my love,” “The Unknown Citizen,” “Musée des Beaux Arts,” “Refugee Blues,” “Spain 1939,” “September 1, 1939,” “In Memory of W. B. Yeats” (both versions), “Memorial for a City,” “In Praise of Limestone,” “The Shield of Achilles”	<p>To this mandatory list of poets students will add another six, for a total of 25 poets.</p> <p>Students will study approximately 10 poems by each poet, and prepare 3 to 4 works by each poet for examination purposes. In all cases, students must be mindful of the context in which the works first appeared.</p>
cumplings, e. e.	“in Just--,” “O sweet spontaneous,” “the Cambridge ladies who live in furnished souls,” “i sing of olaf,” “next to of course god america i,” “anyone lived in a pretty how town,” “my father moved through dooms of love,” “somewhere i have never travelled, gladly beyond,” “pity this busy monster, manunkind,” “dying is fine) but Death”	
Eliot, T. S.	“The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock,” “Portrait of a Lady,” “Preludes,” “Rhapsody on a Windy Night,” “La Figlia Che Piange,” “Gerontion,” “The Waste Land,” “The Hollow Men,” “Journey of the Magi,” “A Dedication to My Wife”	
Frost, Robert	“Acquainted with the Night,” “Mending Wall,” “The Death of the Hired Man,” “The Wood Pile,” “The Road Not Taken,” “Birches,” “West-Running Brook,” “Design,” “The Gift Outright,” “Directive”	
H. D. [Hilda Doolittle]	“Oread,” “Sea-rose,” “Eurydice,” “At Ithaca,” “Leda,” “Demeter,” “Helen,” “Hippolytus Temporizes,” “Sheltered Garden,” “Fragment 113,” “Red Roses for Bronze”	
Hardy, Thomas	“The Darkling Thrush,” “Channel Firing,” “Under the Waterfall,” selections from <i>Poems 1912-1913</i>	
Hopkins, Gerard Manley	“God’s Grandeur,” “The Windhover,” “Pied Beauty,” “As kingfishers catch fire,” “Spelt from Sibyl’s Leaves,” “Carrion Comfort,” “No worst, there is none,” “I wake and feel,” “To R. B.,” “The Wreck of the Deutschland”	
Hughes, Langston	“The Negro Speaks of Rivers,” “Jazzonia,” “Weary Blues,” “My People,” “The Trumpet-Player,” “Midwinter Blues,” “The South,” “Mulatto,” “Madam and her Madam,” “Note on Commercial Theater,” <i>Montage of a Dream Deferred</i>	
Lawrence, D. H.	“The Wild Common,” “Piano,” “Love on the Farm,” “Snake,” “The Enkindled Spring,” “When I Read Shakespeare,” “How Beastly the Bourgeois Are,” “Bavarian Gentians,” “Medlars and Sorb-Apples,” “The	

	Ship of Death”	
Millay, Edna St. Vincent	“First Fig,” “Recuerdo,” “What lips these lips,” “I, being born a woman,” “I too beneath your moon, almighty sex,” “Oh, you will be sorry for that word,” “Dirge,” “An Ancient Gesture,” “I will put chaos into fourteen lines,” “Apostrophe to Man”	
Moore, Marianne	“Poetry” (both versions), “A Grave,” “To a Snail,” “What are Years?” “Bird-Witted,” “The Mind is an Enchanting Things,” “The Steeple-Jack,” “Critics and Connoisseurs,” “O to Be a Dragon,” “Marriage”	
Owen, Wilfrid	“Anthem for Doomed Youth,” “Dulce et Decorum Est,” “Exposure,” “The Dead-Beat,” “Apologia Pro Poemate Meo,” “Strange Meeting,” “Arms and the Boy,” “Futility,” “Mental Cases,” “Insensibility”	
Pound, Ezra	“In a Station of the Metro,” “To Whistler, American,” “Portrait d’une Femme,” “The Seafarer,” “The Garden,” “The River Merchant’s Wife: A Letter,” “A Pact,” “The Rest,” <i>Hugh Selwyn Mauberley</i>	
Rosenberg, Isaac	“On Receiving News of War,” “August 1914,” “Louse Hunting,” “Dead Man’s Dump,” “Returning, We Hear the Larks,” “Break of Day in the Trenches,” “Daughters of War,” “The Destruction of Jerusalem,” “The Burning of the Temple”	
Sassoon, Siegfried	“A Working Party,” “Counter-Attack,” “Base Details,” “Lamentations,” “Does it Matter,” “Glory of Women,” “Repression of War Experience”	
Stevens, Wallace	“The Snow Man,” “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Bird,” “A High-Toned Old Christian Woman,” “Sunday Morning,” “The Man on the Dump,” “The Idea of Order at Key West,” “Of Modern Poetry,” “A Quiet Normal Life,” “The Motive for Metaphor,” “The Plain Sense of Things”	
Thomas, Dylan	“The force that through the green fuse,” “After the Funeral,” “Fern Hill,” “Poem in October,” “In my craft or sullen art,” “A Refusal to mourn...,” “Do not go gentle into that good night,” “And death shall have no dominion,” “A Process in the Weather of the Heart,” “From Love’s First Fever”	
Williams, William Carlos	“Tract,” “Aux Imagistes,” “The Young Housewife,” “The Widow’s Lament in Springtime,” “The Red Wheelbarrow,” “Spring and All,” “Death,” “A Sort of a Song,” “The Hard Core of Beauty,” “The Dance,” “Landscape with the Fall of Icarus”	
Yeats, W. B.	“The Lake Isle of Innisfree,” “No Second Troy,” “A Coat,” “The Tower,” “Meditations in a Time of Civil War,” “Easter 1916,” “The Magi,” “The Second Coming,” “Leda and the Swan,” “Sailing to Byzantium,” “The Wild Swans at Coole,” “Crazy Jane Talks with the Bishop,” “Among School Children,” “The Wild Wicked Old Man,” “Lapis Lazuli,” “The Circus Animals’ Desertion”	

DRAMA:	GUIDANCE:
<p>Anderson, Maxwell: <i>Winterset</i> (1935)</p> <p>Barrie, James: <i>Peter Pan</i> (1904)</p> <p>Beckett, Samuel: <i>Waiting for Godot</i> (1951)</p> <p>Coward, Noel: <i>Private Lives</i> (1930)</p> <p>Eliot, T.S.: <i>Murder in the Cathedral</i> (1935) <u>or</u> <i>The Cocktail Party</i> (1949)</p> <p>Glaspell, Susan: <i>The Verge</i> (1921) <u>or</u> <i>Trifles</i> (1916)</p> <p>Granville-Barker, Harley: <i>The Madras House</i> (1910)</p> <p>Gregory, Lady Augusta: <i>The Golden Apple</i> (1920)</p> <p>Hellman, Lillian: <i>Little Foxes</i> (1939) <u>or</u> <i>The Children's Hour</i> (1934)</p> <p>Hughes, Langston: <i>Mulatto</i> (1930)</p> <p>Miller, Arthur: <i>Death of a Salesman</i> (1949)</p> <p>O'Casey, Sean: <i>Juno and the Paycock</i> (1924)</p> <p>Odets, Clifford: <i>Waiting for Lefty</i> (1935)</p> <p>O'Neill, Eugene: two of <i>Emperor Jones</i> (1920), <i>The Iceman Cometh</i> (1946), <i>Long Day's Journey into Night</i> (1941/1956)</p> <p>Shaw, George Bernard: <i>Man and Superman</i> (1903) <u>and</u> <i>Heartbreak House</i> (1919)</p> <p>Strindberg, August: <i>Miss Julie</i>, including "Preface" (1888)</p> <p>Synge, John: <i>The Playboy of the Western World</i> (1907)</p> <p>Ward, Theodore: <i>Big White Fog</i> (presented as part of the Federal Theater Project)(1937)</p> <p>Wilde, Oscar: <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> (1895)</p> <p>Wilder, Thornton: <i>Our Town</i> (1938) <u>or</u> <i>The Skin of Our Teeth</i> (1942)</p> <p>Williams, Tennessee: <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> (1945) <u>or</u> <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> (1942)</p> <p>Yeats, W. B.: <i>Cathleen ni Houlihan</i> (1902) <u>or</u> <i>The Player Queen</i> (1919) <u>or</u> <i>At the Hawk's Well</i> (1916) <u>or</u> <i>Purgatory</i> (1937)</p>	<p>This list is mandatory.</p> <p>To these twenty-three mandatory texts, students should add another seven of their own choosing, for a total of 30.</p>

CRITICISM:	GUIDANCE:
<p>Benjamin, Walter: "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction"</p> <p>Caws, Mary-Ann, ed.: Selections from <i>Manifesto: A Century of Isms</i> (2000)</p> <p>Eliot, T. S.: 6 essays, including "Tradition and the Individual Talent," "Hamlet," "The Metaphysical Poets" [also consider: "Reflections on <i>vers libre</i>" (1917), "<i>Ulysses</i>, Order and Myth" (1923), "Francis Herbert Bradley" (1927), "Dante" (1929), "Baudelaire" (1930), "Yeats" (1940)]</p> <p>Hulme, T. E.: "Bergson's Theory of Art" (published in <i>Speculations: Essays on Humanism and the Philosophy of Art</i>, 1936)</p> <p>Hughes, Langston: "The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain" (1926)</p> <p>James, Henry: Three prefaces for the 1905 New York edition, for <i>Portrait of a Lady</i>, <i>The Princess</i></p>	<p>This list is mandatory.</p> <p>Critical and theoretical texts, and anthologies, offering two perspectives: works written as the various modern movements were emerging, and works which</p>

<p><i>Cassamassima, The Golden Bowl</i></p> <p>Lawrence, D. H.: "Surgery for the Novel," "Pornography and Obscenity"</p> <p>Lewis, Wyndham, ed.: <i>BLAST</i>, No. 1 and No. 2 (1914-1915)</p> <p>Orwell, George: "Politics and the English Language" (1946)</p> <p>Pound, Ezra: Selected essays from <i>The Literary Essays of Ezra Pound</i></p> <p>Ransom, J. C.: "Poetry: A Note in Ontology," "Criticism as Pure Speculation"</p> <p>Richards, I. A.: <i>Principles of Literary Criticism</i> (1924)</p> <p>Scott, Bonnie Kime: Selections from <i>The Gender of Modernism</i> (1990)</p> <p>Shaw, George Bernard: "The Quintessence of Ibsenism" (1891; revised ed. 1913)</p> <p>Symons, Arthur: <i>The Symbolist Movement in Poetry</i> (1899)</p> <p>Wimsatt, William K.: "The Intentionalist Fallacy," "The Affective Fallacy"</p> <p>Wilson, Edmund: <i>Axel's Castle</i> (1930)</p> <p>Woolf, Virginia: <i>The Common Reader</i> [first (1925) or second (1932) series], "Mr Bennett and Mrs Brown," "Modern Fiction," "The Leaning Tower"</p> <p>Zola, Emile: "Naturalism in the Theatre"</p>	<p>subsequently engage with the field.</p>
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SIGNIFICANT TEXTS IN WORLD LITERATURE:

The following are offered as **suggestions only**, to remind students of the scope of international modernist movements and cultural work.

Baudelaire, Charles: *Les Fleurs du Mal*

Brecht, Bertolt: *Brecht on Theater*, and *Caucasian Chalk Circle*

Chekhov, Anton: *The Seagull*

Frazer, Sir James: *The Golden Bough*

Freud, Sigmund: "Civilization and its Discontents"

Ibsen, Henrik: *Hedda Gabler*

Kafka, Franz: *Metamorphosis*, *The Trial*

Mann, Thomas: *Death in Venice*

Marx, Karl: *The Communist Manifesto*

Nietzsche, Friedrich: *The Birth of Tragedy*

Pirandello, Luigi: *Six Characters in Search of an Author*

Proust, Marcel: "Overture," *Swann's Way*

Candidates should also develop a working understanding of the following terms and concepts: Dadaism, epiphany/"moment of being", expressionism, free verse (*vers libre*), Imagism, Impressionism, modern/modernity/modernisms, naturalism, New Criticism, objective correlative, realism, Post-Impressionism, Surrealism, Vorticism.

Revised: November 2014.