

MAJOR FIELD EXAM IN POETRY

Student: _____

Supervisor: _____

Anticipated Exam Date: _____

The purpose of this reading list (and, by extension, the examination) is to expose students to the multiplicity and richness of poetic discourse over the centuries, and to provide literary and theoretical contexts for the students' own research interests. Students are expected to achieve a balance of breadth and depth in their preparations – to be able to demonstrate their skills in close textual analyses as well as an ability to synthesize and generalize based on their readings.

The reading list has been divided into three parts:

- Part I Poetics and theories of poetry
- Part II Core reading list

Following the guidelines and suggestions provided, students will design their own reading lists in consultation with their examination supervisor, mindful of the need to trim the lists to **a total of 100 poets in Part II. (Pre-1900 poets cannot be eliminated.)** A copy of the candidate's list must be approved by and filed with 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.

PART I. POETICS AND THEORIES OF POETRY:

GUIDANCE:

Plato. Book 10, *The Republic*
 Longinus. *On the Sublime*
 Horace. *The Art of Poetry*
 Puttenham, George. *The Arte of English Poesie* (1589)
 Sidney, Sir Philip. "The Defense of Poesy" (1595)
 Dryden, John. "An Essay on Dramatic Poetry" (1668), "A Discourse Concerning the Original and Progress of Satire" (1693)
 Johnson, Samuel. Selections from *Lives of the Poets* (1779 ff.)
 Wordsworth, William. "Preface" to *Lyrical Ballads* (1802)
 Coleridge, Samuel. Chapters 4, 13, and 17 of *Biographia Literaria* (1817)
 Shelley, Percy. "A Defence of Poetry" (1821)
 Emerson, Ralph Waldo. "The Poet" (1844)
 Poe, Edgar Allen. "The Poetic Principle." 1850)
 Arnold, Matthew. "Preface" to *Poems*. (1853), "The Function of Criticism at the Present Time." (1865), "The Study of Poetry" (1880)

This section, which represents 20 per cent of the reading, provides both historically and critically varied materials, ranging from prosody and theories of poetic discourse to "poets on poetry."

From the following list, candidates must **select texts by 20 writers.**

<p>Pound, Ezra. "Some Do's and Don'ts for an Imagist" (1917)</p> <p>Eliot, T.S. "Reflections on <i>Vers Libre</i>." (1917), "The Metaphysical Poets" (1921), "Tradition and the Individual Talent" (1919)</p> <p>Empson, William. <i>Seven Types of Ambiguity</i></p> <p>Brooks, Cleanth. <i>The Well-Wrought Urn</i> (1947)</p> <p>Olson, Charles. "Projective Verse" (1950) [available in Geddes, ed., <i>20th Century Poetry and Poetics</i>]</p> <p>Jakobson, Roman. "Concluding Statement: Linguistics and Poetics" (1960), "The Metaphoric and Metonymic Poles."</p> <p>Wimsatt, W.K. Selections from <i>The Verbal Icon: Studies in the Meaning of Poetry</i> (1970)</p> <p>Abrams, M.H. <i>The Mirror and the Lamp</i></p> <p>Bloom, Harold. <i>The Anxiety of Influence: A Theory of Poetry</i> (1973)</p> <p>Cluysenaar, Anne. <i>Introduction to Literary Stylistics</i>. London: B. T. Batsford. (1976) Introduction and chapters 1-3.</p> <p>Riffaterre, Michael. Chapter 1, "The Poem's Significance" from <i>Semiotics of Poetry</i> (1978)</p> <p>Fussell, Paul. <i>Poetic Meter and Poetic Form</i> (1979)</p> <p>Webb, Phyllis. "On the Line" (1981) [available in <i>Talking or 20th Century Poetry and Poetics</i>]</p> <p>Ramazani, Jahan. <i>Poetry and Its Others: News, Prayer, Song, and the Dialogue of Genres</i>. University of Chicago Press, 2013</p> <p>Rich, Adrienne. "Poetry" (1986)</p> <p>Mackey, Nathaniel. "Sight-Specific, Sound-Specific" from <i>Paracritical Hinge: Essays, Talks, Notes</i>. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2005 [Available at www.poetryfoundation.org/learning/essay/239324]</p>	
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PART II. CORE READING LIST	GUIDANCE:
<p>Anglo-Saxon</p> <p><i>Note: students are expected to read these texts only in translation.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Anglo-Saxon poetry from <i>The Norton Anthology of English Literature</i> vol. 1 <i>Beowulf</i> trans. Seamus Heaney from <i>The Norton Anthology of English Literature</i> vol. 1 <p>Medieval</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chaucer, Geoffrey. "Prologue" to <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> and 4 tales, including their prologues. Suggested: "The Nun's Priest's Tale," "The Knight's Tale" "The Wife of Bath's Tale," "The Pardoner's Tale" "The Miller's Tale" "The Prioress's Tale"] plus one dream vision: <i>The Book of the Duchess, The House of Fame, The Parliament of Fowls</i>, OR <i>The Legend of Good Women</i>. from <i>The Riverside Chaucer</i>. <i>Sir Gawain and-the Green Knight</i>. trans. Simon Armitage in <i>The Norton Anthology</i> vol. 1 Selections by Marie de France in <i>The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women</i> vol. 1 Middle English Lyrics from <i>The Norton Anthology of English Literature</i> vol. 1 	<p>This section, which has been organized historically, constitutes 60 per cent of students' reading. The inventory is not prescriptive. Each student will chose 75 per cent of the following 131 numbered listings (98 listings in total), being careful to balance historical periods, national literatures, and genres, and to make possible the discussion of such issues as gender and race in relation to poetic discourse.</p> <p>Genres to be studied include: allegory, ballad, dramatic monologue, epic,</p>

<p>16th and Early 17th Centuries</p> <p>Poetic selections by the following authors from <i>The Norton Anthology of English Literature</i> vol. 1 (with other editions listed below where necessary) and <i>The Norton Anthology of English Literature by Women</i> vol. 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Bradstreet, Anne 8. Cavendish, Margaret, Duchess of Newcastle 9. Crashaw, Richard. 10. Donne, John. 11. Elizabeth I 12. Herbert, George. 13. Herbert, Mary Sidney 14. Herrick, Robert 15. Jonson, Ben 16. Lanyer, Amelia. 17. Marlowe, Christopher. 18. Marvell, Andrew. 19. Milton, John. 20. Shakespeare, William <i>Sonnets</i> ed. Stephen Orgel (Pelican), “Venus and Adonis,” “The Rape of Lucrece” in <i>The Narrative Poems</i> ed Jonathan Crewe (Pelican) or <i>The Complete Sonnets and Poems</i> ed. Colin Burrow (Oxford) 21. Sidney, Sir Philip. <i>Astrophil and Stella</i> in <i>Sir Philip Sidney: The Major Works</i> ed. Duncan-Jones (Oxford) 22. Skelton, John. 23. Spenser, Edmund. 24. Surrey, Henry Howard, Earl of 25. Vaughan, Henry 26. Wyatt, Thomas. 27. Wroth, Lady Mary <p>Restoration and 18th Century</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 28. Burns, Robert. Selections found in Roger Lonsdale, ed., <i>18th Century Poetry</i> 29. Crabbe, George. Selections found in Lonsdale, ed., <i>18th Century Poetry</i> 30. Collier, Hary. 6 poems; selections available in Roger Lonsdale, ed., <i>Eighteenth-Century Women’s Poetry</i> 31. Collins, William. Selections found in Lonsdale, ed., <i>18th Century Poetry</i> 32. Cowper, William. Selections found in Lonsdale, ed., <i>18th Century Poetry</i> 33. Dryden, John. “Absalom and Achitophel,” “Alexander’s Feast,” “Ode to St. Cecilia’s Day” 34. Finch, Anne. 6 poems; selections available in Lonsdale, ed., <i>Eighteenth-Century Women’s Poetry</i> 35. Goldsmith, Oliver. “The Deserted Village” 36. Gray, Thomas. Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard,” “The Bard,” “The Fatal Sisters,” “Sonnet to West,” “Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College” 37. Johnson, Samuel. “London,” “On the Death of Dr. Robert Lovet,” “Vanity of Human Wishes.” 	<p>elegy, lyric, narrative, ode, parody, pastoral, satire, sonnet, and verse epistle.</p>
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38. Montagu, Lady Mary Wortley. 6 poems; selections available in Lonsdale, ed., *Eighteenth-Century Women's Poetry*
39. Pope, Alexander. "The Rape of the Lock," "Epistle to Burlington," "Epistle to Arbuthnot," "Essay on Criticism," "Essay on Man"

Romantics

40. Blake, William. *Songs of Innocence and Experience* [consult the Dover facsimile edition for Blake's illustrations]; *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*
41. Byron, Lord. Canto 1, "Childe Harolde"; Books 1 and 2, *Don Juan*
42. Coleridge, Samuel "The Aeolian Harp," "Rime of the Ancient Mariner," "Frost at Midnight," "Kubla Khan," "Dejection: An Ode"
43. Keats, John. "La Belle Dame Sans Merci," 5 odes ["Melancholy," "To a Nightingale," "On a Grecian Urn," "Autumn," "Psyche"], *The Fall of Hyperion*
44. Shelley, Percy B. "Ozymandias," "Ode to the West Wind," "Mont Blanc," "Julian and Maddalo," "Adonais," *Prometheus Unbound*
45. Wordsworth, William. Selections from *Lyrical Ballads* found in *Norton Anthology of English Literature*, Vol. 2; 6 sonnets [including "Lines from Westminster Bridge," "London 1802"]; "Tintern Abbey," "Immortality Ode," "Elegaic Stanzas," *The Prelude* (1805 or 1850 edition)

Colonial and 19th Century American

46. Bradstreet, Anne. 6 poems [selections found in *Norton Anthology of American Literature*, Vol. 1 and *Norton Anthology of Literature by Women*]
47. Dickinson, Emily. 25 lyrics [suggestions: 249 "Wild Nights"; 280 "I felt a funeral in my brain"; 258 "There's a certain slant of light"; 303 "The Soul selects her own society"; 341 "After great pain"; 465 "I heard a Fly buzz"; 712 "Because I could not stop for Death"; 1545 "The Bible"; 1540 "As imperceptibly as grief?"]
48. Poe, Edgar Allen. 4 poems [suggestions: "Sonnet—To Science," "To Helen," "The City in the Sea," "Annabel Lee"; found in *Norton Anthology of American Literature*, Vol. II]
49. Taylor, Edward. 6 poems [selections found in *Norton Anthology of American Literature*, Vol. 1]
48. Wheatley, Phillis. 3 poems from *Complete Writings* [suggested: "On Being Brought from Africa to America," "To Maecenas," "On Virtue," "An Hymn to Humanity"]
50. Whitman, Walt. "Song of Myself," "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd," "When I Heard at the Close of Day...," "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry," "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking"

Colonial and 19th Century Canadian

51. Carman, Bliss. "Low Tide at Grand Pre"
52. Crawford, Isabella Valancy. "The Canoe," "The Lily Bed," *Malcolm's Katie*
53. Goldsmith, Oliver. "The Rising Village"
54. Johnson, E. Pauline. 6 poems from *Flint and Feather* [suggested: "Ojistoh," "A Cry from an Indian Wife," "The Song my Paddle Sings"]
55. Lampman, Archibald. "Among the Timothy," "The Frogs," "In November," "The City of the End of Things"
56. Roberts, Charles G.D. "The Tantramar Revisited," "The Sower," "The Potato Harvest," "The Salt Flats," "Origins"

57. Scott, Duncan Campbell. "The Forsaken," "At Gull Lake"

19th Century British

58. Arnold, Matthew. "Dover Beach," "To Marguerite," "The Scholar-Gipsy," "The Buried Life"
59. Browning, Elizabeth Barrett. 6 poems from *Sonnets from the Portuguese*; 2 sonnets to "George Sand"; *Aurora Leigh*
60. Browning, Robert. 4 dramatic monologues [suggested: "Fra Lippo Lippi," "My Last Duchess," "A Toccata of Galuppi's," "Andrea del Sarto," "The Bishop Orders his Tomb," "Soliloquy of the Spanish Cloister"]; 6 poems from *Men and Women*
61. Hopkins, Gerard Manley. 8 sonnets
62. Rossetti, Christina. *Goblin Market*, "Monna Innominata" sonnet sequence
63. Rossetti, Dante Gabriel "Blessed Damozel," 8 sonnets from *The House of Life* (including "The Sonnet," "Silent Noon," "Barren Spring")
64. Swinburne, A.C. 4 poems, including "Hymn to Proserpine," "Itylus," "A Forsaken Garden," "Ave Atque Vale"
65. Tennyson, Alfred. "Mariana," "The Lotus Eaters," *In Memoriam*; from *Idylls of the King*, "Merlin and Vivien," "The Holy Grail," "Morte d'Arthur"

20th Century American

66. Bishop, Elizabeth. 6 poems [suggested: "The Fish," "At the Fishhouses," "The Armadillo," "Sestina," "Invitation to Miss Marianne Moore," "In the Waiting Room," "One Art"]
67. Brooks, Gwendolyn. 6 poems [suggested: "The Mother," "The Womanhood," "Jessie Mitchell's Mother," "The Crazy Woman," "Queen of the Blues," "Riot," "We real cool," "Boy Breaking Glass," "First Fight, Then Fiddle"]
68. Crane, Hart. "My Grandmother's Tomb," "At Melville's Tomb," "To Emily Dickinson," "The Bridge"
69. Cullen, Countee. 6 poems from *Collected Poems* [suggested: "Yet Do I Marvel," "Brown Boy to Brown Girl," "The Dance of Love," "To John Keats, Poet. At Spring Time," "Portrait of a Lover," "In Spite of Death," "Cor Cordium"]
70. Cummings, e.e. 6 poems [suggested: "0 sweet spontaneous," "the Cambridge labies 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"]
71. Dove, Rita. From *Selected Poems* [suggested: "Thomas and Beulah"]
72. Frost, Robert. 6 poems [suggested: "Mending Wall," "The Wood Pile," "The Road Not Taken," "Birches," "West-Running Brook," "Design," "The Gift Outright," "Directive"]
73. Ginsberg, Allen. "Howl"
74. Hayden, Robert. 6 poems from *Collected Poems* [suggested: "Homage to the Empress of the Blues," "Runagate Runagate," "Those Winter Sundays," "For A Young Artist," "A Letter from Phillis Wheatley"]
75. H.D. (Hilda Doolittle) *Sea Garden*; 3 dramatic monologues [suggested: "Eurydice," "At Ithaca," "Leda," "Demeter"]; "All Mountains," "Red Roses for Bronze"
76. Hughes, Langston. 6 poems [suggested: "The Weary Blues" "The Negro Speaks of Rivers," "Theme for English B," "Harlem," "Brass Spittoons," "Sylvester's Dying 'Bed," "Morning After," "Catch"]
77. Lowell, Robert "The Quaker Graveyard in Nantucket," "After the Surprising

<p>Conversions,” “To speak of woe that is in marriage,” “For the Union Dead”</p> <p>78. Millay, Edna St. Vincent. “First fig,” 6 sonnets</p> <p>79. Moore, Marianne. 6 poems [suggested: “The Fish,” “The Steeple-Jack,” “Poetry,” “Critics and Connoisseurs,” “A Grave,” “What are Years”]</p> <p>80. Olson, Charles. “I Maximus of Gloucester to You”</p> <p>81. Plath, Sylvia. 6 poems [suggested: “Lady Lazarus,” “Elm,” “Poppies in October,” “Ariel,” “Daddy,” “Fever 103°,” “Blackberrying”]</p> <p>82. Pound, Ezra. 6 Imagist poems; “Portrait d’une Femme,” “The Seafarer,” “The Garden,” “The River Merchant’s Wife: A Letter,” “Hugh Selwyn Mauberley”</p> <p>83. Rich, Adrienne. 8 selections from <i>Diving into the Wreck</i></p> <p>84. Stevens, Wallace. “The Snow Man,” “The Man on the Dump,” “Sunday Morning,” “Anecdote of the Jar,” “13 Ways of Looking at Blackbird,” “The Idea of Order at Key West,” “Of Modern Poetry” “Notes toward a Supreme Fiction”</p> <p>85. Williams, William Carlos. “The Red Wheelbarrow,” “Spring and All,” “This is Just to Say,” “To waken an old lady,” “The Dance,” “Landscape with the Fall of Icarus”</p> <p>20th Century Canadian</p> <p>86. Atwood, Margaret. <i>Journals of Susanna Moodie</i> and 6 poems [suggested: “This is a Photograph of Me,” “Progressive Insanities of a Pioneer,” “There is only one of Everything,” “The Animals in that Country,” “A Night in the Royal Ontario Museum”]</p> <p>87. Birney, Earl. Suggested: “Vancouver Lights,” “Bushed,” “David,” “The Bear on the Delhi Road,” “El Greco: polio,” “November Walk Near False Creek Mouth”</p> <p>88. Bowery, George. Suggested: “The Swing,” “Circus Maximus,” “Thru,” “The House”</p> <p>89. Brand, Dionne. 1 long poem [Suggestions: <i>Thirsty</i> (2002), <i>Inventory</i> (2006), or <i>Ossuaries</i> (2010)]</p> <p>90. Carson, Anne. 6 poems</p> <p>91. Klein, A.M. Suggested: “Out of the Pulver and Polished Ins,” “Design for Medieval Tapestry,” “Portrait of the et as Landscape”</p> <p>92. Kroetsch, Robert. Selections from <i>Field Notes</i></p> <p>93. Layton, Irving. Suggested: “Whatever else, poetry is freedom,” “Tall Man Executes a Jig,” “Cold Green Element,” “Cherry Picking”</p> <p>94. Livesay, Dorothy. Suggested: “Green Rain,” “Autumn: 1939,” “Bartok and the Geranium,” “Ice Age,” “The Artefacts: West Coast”]</p> <p>95. Marlatt, Daphne. <i>Leveston</i></p> <p>96. Nichol, bp. <i>The Martyrology</i>, Book 4</p> <p>97. Ondaatje, Michael. <i>The Collected Works of Billy the Kid</i></p> <p>98. Page, P. K. Suggested: “Stories of Snow,” “Photos of a Salt Mine,” “The Permanent Tourists”</p> <p>99. Pratt, E.J. “Newfoundland,” “Come Away, Death,” “The Truant,” <i>Toward the Last Spike</i></p> <p>100. Purdy, Al. 4 poems [suggested: “The Country North of Belleville,” “Transient,” “Eskimo Graveyard.”]</p> <p>101. Webb, Phyllis. “Breaking,” <i>Naked Poems</i>, “A Question of Questions.”</p> <p>20th Century British</p> <p>102. Auden, W.H. 8 poems. [suggested: “As I walked out one evening,” “Lay your</p>	
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<p>sleeping head my love,” “Musée des Beaux Arts” “Refugee Blues,” “Spain 1939,” “In Memory of W.B. Yeats,” “In Praise of Limestone,” “The Shield of Achilles”]</p> <p>103. Eliot, T.S. “Preludes,” “Portrait of a Lady,” “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock,” <i>The Waste Land</i></p> <p>104. Hardy, Thomas. 8 poems [suggested: “Neutral Tones,” “The Darkling Thrush,” “The Convergence of the Twain,” “Channel Firing,” “Under the Waterfall,” Selections from <i>Poems: 1912-1913</i>]</p> <p>105. Heaney, Seamus. 8 poems; consult <i>Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry</i></p> <p>106. Hughes, Ted. 6 poems; consult <i>Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry</i></p> <p>107. Larkin, Philip. 6 poems; consult <i>Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry</i></p> <p>108. Lawrence, D.H. 6 poems [suggested: “Piano,” “Love on the Farm,” “Snake,” “When I Read Shakespeare.” “How Beastly the Bourgeois Are,” Bavarian Gentians,” “The Wild Common”]</p> <p>109. Owen, Wilfred. Anthem for Doomed Youth,” “Dulce et decorum est” “Strange Meeting”</p> <p>110. Raine, Kathleen. “Northumbrian Sequence” or “On a Deserted Shore” both in <i>Collected Poems 1935-1980</i></p> <p>111. Rosenberg, Isaac. “Break of Day in the Trenches,” “Louse Hunting,” “Dead Man’s Dump”</p> <p>112. Smith, Stevie. 12 poems, including “How Cruel is the Story of Eve” and “Not Waving but Drowning”; consult the Faber edition of the <i>Selected Poetry</i> for Smith’s illustrations</p> <p>113. Thomas, Dylan. “The force that through the green fuse...,” “After the funeral,” “Fern Hill,” “Poem in October,” “In my craft and sullen art,” “A Refusal to mourn...,” “Do not go gentle into that good night”</p> <p>114. Yeats, W.B. “The Stolen Child,” “No Second Troy,” “A Prayer for My Daughter,” “In Memory of Major Robert Gregory,” “Easter 1916,” “The Magi,” “The Second Coming,” “Leda and the Swan,” “Sailing to Byzantium,” “Byzantium,” “The Wild Swans at Coole,” 2 “Crazy Jane” poems, “The Wild Wicked Old Man,” “The Circus Animals’ Desertion”</p> <p>20th Century and Contemporary Postcolonial</p> <p>115-23. <i>Read selections from the following poets:</i> Les A. Murray, Edward Braithwaite, Louise Bennett, Lorna Goodison, Gwen Harwood, Kenneth Slessor, Judith Wright, Randolph Stow, Oodgeroo Noonuccal, Derek Walcott. Available in <i>Penguin Anthology of Australian Poetry</i> (2008), <i>Penguin Book of Australian Women’s Poetry</i> (1986), and <i>The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry</i>, Vol II</p> <p>124. Selections from <i>The Penguin Book of New Zealand Verse</i></p> <p>125. Adcock, Fleur. <i>Selected Poems</i>. 4 poems</p> <p>126. Abani, Chris. 1 poem from <i>Feed Me the Sun: Collected Long Poems</i>. Leeds, UK: Peepal Tree, 2010</p> <p>127. Curnow, Allen. 4 poems from <i>Collected Poems 1933-1973</i></p> <p>128. Ezekial, Nissim. 4 poems from <i>Latter Day Psalms</i></p> <p>129. Mahapetra, Jayanta. 4 poems from <i>A Rain of Rites</i></p> <p>130. Parthasarathy, R., ed. Selections from <i>Ten Twentieth Century Indian Poets</i></p> <p>131. Ramanaian, A.K. 4 poems from <i>Selected Poems</i></p>	
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