

## Core reading list

The reading list exam is part of the final exam that students take at the end of the lecture in Module 3 (MA Anglistik und Amerikanistik). It is an oral exam (30 minutes) and consists of key literary texts from the medieval period to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

While covering some of the most important literary works, the list below is inevitably selective and not meant to inhibit your exploration of other texts or other authors. You may add up to three substitutions of authors/works who are not on this list. Please discuss any questions about your selections with your instructor. Needless to say, you should read as much as you like from any period which you are interested in to get a sound sense of the key developments, trends, and debates within this period.

This list does not include any literary histories or introductions to literary theory. As you are expected to establish a sound understanding of the historical and cultural contexts of the works on your reading list, however, you should consult these works as additional background reading.

### How to assemble your own reading list

- Authors and works that **must** be represented on your reading list are printed in bold.
- **In addition**, you are expected to identify two literary periods of your choice if you are studying for Lehramt/Diplom (4 ECTS) and three literary periods if you are studying for a Master's degree (7,5 ECTS). Please note that one of the sections must cover literature before 1900. From each of these sections, you should select eight additional text units.
- A text unit consists of one of the following items:
  - one novel
  - one play
  - two short stories
  - one long poem, or
  - four shorter poems

Whenever possible, please make sure that all genres are equally represented in your selection.

- In addition to these texts, your reading list should include at least three non-fictional texts from the reading list.
- You may substitute one section for a general topic ('The Gothic Tradition', 'Early Modern Drama', 'Romantic Poetry'), which might be limited to or reach beyond a specific literary period.
- The reading list must be presented to your instructor at least three weeks before the exam.

In a successful exam, you will show that you have a firm grasp of the works and the literary periods covered. You will be able to explain key developments in literary history, the cultural background of the literary texts on your reading list as well as their formal structure, genres, key images and themes, and the critical debates that have shaped these works.

Most of the shorter works listed on below can be found in *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, ed. Stephen Greenblatt, 2 vols., 9<sup>th</sup> ed., New York: Norton, 2012.

## I EARLY ENGLISH LITERATURE

### Poetry

“Cædmon’s Hymn” (c.658-80)

Anon., *Beowulf* (c.678-1000)

William Langland, *Piers Plowman* (c. 1362-90)

Anon., *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (c. 1375-1400)

\*Geoffrey Chaucer, \***“Prologue” (from *The Canterbury Tales*), \*one tale of *The Canterbury Tales* (1387-1400), e.g. “The Merchant’s Tale“, “The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale“, “The Miller’s Prologue and Tale”, “Pardoner’s Prologue and Tale”, etc.**

Sir Thomas Malory, *Le Morte d’Arthur* (1485) (Norton selection)

### Drama

Anon., *The Castle of Perseverance* (c.1405-25)

Anon., *Mankind* (c. 1470)

Anon., *The Second Shepherds’ Play* (c. 1475)

\*Anon., \**Everyman* (c. 1485-1500)

## II EARLY MODERN ERA & EARLY 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY (1500-1660)

### Poetry

\*Sir Thomas Wyatt the Elder, \***“I Find No Peace”**, “My Galley, “Whoso List to Hunt”, “They Flee from Me” (1557)

Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, “Love, That Doth Reign”, “The Soote Season”, “Alas! So all Things Now Do Hold Their Peace” (1557)

Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queene* (1590-96)

Sir Philip Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella* (1591)

Christopher Marlowe, “Hero and Leander” (1598)

\*William Shakespeare, \***“Sonnet 18”**, \***“Sonnet 130”**, and \*one additional sonnet (1609)

Aemilia Lanyer, “The Description of Cooke-ham” (1611)

\*John Donne, \***“The Sun Rising”**, “A Valediction: Forbidden Mourning”, “Go and Catch a Falling Star”, “The Ecstasy”, “The Good-Morrow”, “The Flea” (1633)

\*George Herbert, \***“Coloss. 3.3.”**, “Easter Wings”, “Time”, “The Flower”, “The Altar” (1633)

\*Andrew Marvell, “An Horatian Ode” (1650), “Upon Appleton House” (1651) \***“To his Coy Mistress”** (1681)

Henry Vaughan, “The Retreat” (1650), “They Are All Gone into the World of Light!” (1655)

Margaret Cavendish, “A World Made by Atoms” (1653)

Katherine Philips, “To My Excellent Lucasia, on Our Friendship”, “On the 3. of September, 1651”, “Upon the Double Murder of King Charles” (1664)

\*John Milton, \**Paradise Lost (Books I and IX)* (1667), “On the Late Massacre in Piedmont” (1673), “On His Blindness (When I Consider How My Light Is Spent)” (1674)

### Drama

\*William Shakespeare, \*one tragedy, \*one comedy, \*one history play

Thomas Kyd, *The Spanish Tragedy* (1592)

\*Christopher Marlowe, \**Doctor Faustus*, *The Jew of Malta* (1592)

Ben Jonson, *Volpone* (1606), *The Alchemist* (1610)

John Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi* (1613)

Thomas Middleton, *The Changeling* (1622), *A Chaste Maid in Cheapside* (c. 1611-13/1630)

#### Prose Fiction

\*Thomas More, \**Utopia* (1516) (Norton selection)

Sir Philip Sidney, *Arcadia* (1590-93) (selections)

John Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress* (1678) (Norton selection)

#### Non-Fiction

Sir Philip Sidney, *The Defence of Poesy* (1595) (Norton selection)

Thomas Hobbes, "Introduction" to *Leviathan* (1651)

### III RESTORATION & 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY (1660-1785)

#### Poetry

John Dryden, *Absalom and Achitophel* (1681)

Jonathan Swift, "A Description of a City Shower" (1710), "The Lady's Dressing Room" (1732)

\*Alexander Pope, \**The Rape of the Lock* (1712), *The Dunciad* (Book IV) (1743), \**An Essay on Man - Epistle 1 and 2* (1733-34) (Norton selection)

Thomas Gray, "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" (1751)

#### Drama

William Wycherley, *The Country Wife* (1675)

George Etherege, *The Man of Mode* (1676)

\*Aphra Behn, \**The Rover* (1677)

John Dryden, *All for Love* (1677)

\*William Congreve, \**The Way of the World* (1700)

John Gay, *The Beggar's Opera* (1728)

George Lillo, *The London Merchant* (1731)

Oliver Goldsmith, *She Stoops to Conquer* (1773)

\*Richard Brinsley Sheridan, \**The School for Scandal* (1777)

#### Prose Fiction

Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko, or The Royal Slave* (1688)

\*Jonathan Swift, *A Tale of a Tub* (1704), \**Gulliver's Travels* (1726)

\*Daniel Defoe, \**Robinson Crusoe* (1719), *Moll Flanders* (1722)

Samuel Richardson, *Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded* (1740)

Henry Fielding, *Shamela* (1741), *Tom Jones* (1749)

Samuel Johnson, *Rasselas* (1759)

Lawrence Sterne, *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman* (1759-1767)

#### Non-Fiction

John Dryden, *An Essay of Dramatic Poesy* (1668)

John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1690) (Norton selection)

Jonathan Swift, "A Modest Proposal" (1729)

Edmund Burke, *A Philosophical Inquiry into the Origin of our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful* (1757) (Norton selection)

## IV ROMANTIC PERIOD (1785-1830)

### Poetry

William Cowper, *The Task* (1785) (Norton selection), "The Negro's Complaint" (1788)

\*William Blake, \***"The Lamb"** (1789), "The Little Black Boy" (1789), "The Chimney Sweeper" (1789), \***"The Tyger"** (1794), "The Sick Rose" (1794), "London" (1794), further selected poems from *Songs of Innocence and Experience* (1789/1794)

Robert Burns, "Holy Willie's Prayer" (1789), "Tam o' Shanter" (1791), "A Red, Red Rose" (1796)

Anna Letitia Barbauld, "Epistle to William Wilberforce" (1791), "The Rights of Woman" (c. 1792/1825)

Charlotte Smith, "The Emigrants" (1793)

\*William Wordsworth, \***"Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey"** (1798), "The Tables Turned" (1798), *The Prelude* (selections) (1798-1850), "Michael" (1800), \***"I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud"** (1807), "Composed upon Westminster Bridge" (1807), further selected poems from *Lyrical Ballads* (1798/1800)

\*Samuel Taylor Coleridge, \***"The Rime of the Ancient Mariner"** (1798), "Dejection: An Ode" (1802), "Kubla Khan" (c. 1797-98/1816), "Christabel" (1816), selected poems from *Lyrical Ballads* (1798/1800)

Lord Byron, "Solitude" in *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* (1812), "She Walks in Beauty" (1815), *Manfred* (1817), *Don Juan* - Canto I (1819)

\*Percy Bysshe Shelley, "Hymn to Intellectual Beauty" (1817), \***"Ozymandias"** (1818), "Ode to the West Wind" (1820)

\*John Keats, \***"On Seeing the Elgin Marbles"** (1817), "Ode to Psyche" (1820), \***"Ode on a Grecian Urn"** (1820), "La Belle Dame sans Merci" (1820), "Lamia" (1820), "Ode to a Nightingale" (1820), "The Eve of St. Agnes" (1820)

Letitia Elizabeth Landon, "The Proud Ladye" (1825), "A Legend of Tintagel Castle" (1833)

### Drama

Joanna Baillie, *De Monfort* (1798)

Matthew Lewis, *Timour the Tartar* (1811)

Percy Bysshe Shelley, *The Cenci* (1819), *Prometheus Unbound* (1820)

### Prose Fiction

\*Horace Walpole, \****The Castle of Otranto*** (1764)

Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano* (1789)

Ann Radcliffe, *The Mysteries of Udolpho* (1794)

Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Emma* (1815)

Walter Scott, *Waverley* (1814)

\*Mary Shelley, \****Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus*** (1818)

### Non-Fiction

Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792) (Norton selection)

Joanna Baillie, "Introductory Discourse" to *A Series of Plays* (1798)

William Wordsworth, "Preface" to *Lyrical Ballads* (1800)

Percy Bysshe Shelley, "A Defence of Poetry" (1821/1840) (Norton selection)

## V VICTORIAN AGE (1830-1900)

### Poetry

- \*Alfred Lord Tennyson, "Ulysses" (1833/1842), \*"**The Lady of Shalott**" (1842), selection from *In Memoriam* (1850) (Norton selection)
- \*Robert Browning, "Porphyria's Lover" (1836), \*"**My Last Duchess**" (1842)
- Elisabeth B. Browning, "A Man's Requirements" (1846), "Sonnet 21", "Sonnet 22", "Sonnet 32", "How Do I Love Thee?" (Sonnet 43) from *Sonnets from the Portuguese* (1850)
- Coventry Patmore, *The Angel in the House* (1854-62)
- \*Matthew Arnold, "Lines Written in Kensington Gardens" (1852), \*"**Dover Beach**" (1867)
- George Meredith, *Modern Love* (1862)
- Christina Rossetti, "Goblin Market", "Winter: My Secret", "Remember", "Up-Hill" (1862)
- Dante Gabriel Rossetti, "Aspecta Medusa" (1865), "Body's Beauty" (1868), "The Sonnet" (1881)
- Algernon Charles Swinburne, "A Forsaken Garden" (1876)

### Drama

- Thomas Holcroft, *A Tale of Mystery* (1802)
- Douglas William Jerrold, *The Rent Day* (1832)
- \*Oscar Wilde, *Salome* (1893), \*"**The Importance of Being Earnest**" (1895)
- George Bernard Shaw, *Mrs. Warren's Profession* (1902), *Pygmalion* (1913)

### Prose Fiction

- Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist* (1837-38), *Hard Times* (1854), *Great Expectations* (1860-61)
- \*Charlotte Brontë, \*"**Jane Eyre**" (1847)
- Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights* (1847)
- William Makepeace Thackeray, *Vanity Fair* (1847-48)
- Elizabeth Gaskell, *North and South* (1854-55)
- George Eliot, *Adam Bede* (1859), *Middlemarch* (1871-72)
- Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland* (1865), *Through the Looking Glass* (1871)
- \*Robert Louis Stevenson, \*"**Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde**" (1886)
- \*Oscar Wilde, \*"**The Picture of Dorian Gray**" (1890)
- Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* (1891), *Jude the Obscure* (1895)
- Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (1897)
- Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1902)

### Non-Fiction

- Thomas Carlyle, *Past and Present* (1843) (Norton selection)
- Matthew Arnold, *Culture and Anarchy* (1869) (Norton selection)
- Charles Darwin, *The Descent of Man* (1871) (Norton selection)

## VI MODERNISM & EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY LITERATURE (1900-1945)

### Poetry

- \*Wilfred Owen, “Dulce et Decorum Est” (1920), \***“Strange Meeting”** (1920)  
William Butler Yeats, “Easter 1916” (1921), “Leda and the Swan” (1924), “Sailing to Byzantium” (1928), “High Talk” (1938)  
\*D.H. Lawrence, \***Snake** (1921)  
\*T.S. Eliot, \***“The Waste Land”** (1922), “Journey of the Magi” (1927)

### Drama

- John Millington Synge, *In the Shadow of the Glen* (1903), *The Playboy of the Western World* (1907)  
John Galsworthy, *Justice* (1910)  
\*Sean O’Casey, \****The Plough and the Stars*** (1926)

### Prose Fiction

- H.G. Wells, *The Invisible Man* (1897)  
Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw* (1898)  
\*Joseph Conrad, \****Heart of Darkness*** (1899), *Lord Jim* (1900)  
D.H. Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers* (1913), *Women in Love* (1920), *Lady Chatterley’s Lover* (1928)  
\*James Joyce, \***“The Dead”** (from *Dubliners*) (1914), *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1916), *Ulysses* (1922)  
Rebecca West, *The Return of the Soldier* (1918)  
Katherine Mansfield, “The Garden Party” (1922), “The Daughters of the Late Colonel” (1922)  
E.M. Forster, *A Passage to India* (1924)  
\*Virginia Woolf, \****Mrs Dalloway*** (1925), *To the Lighthouse* (1927), *Orlando* (1928), *The Waves* (1931)  
Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World* (1932)  
Elizabeth Bowen, *The Death of the Heart* (1938)  
Graham Greene, *The Power and the Glory* (1940)

### Non-Fiction

- \*Virginia Woolf, \***“Modern Fiction”** (1921), *A Room of One’s Own* (1929)  
T. S. Eliot, “Tradition and the Individual Talent” (1919), “The Metaphysical Poets” (1921)

## VII 1945-PRESENT

### Poetry

- \*W. H. Auden, “Musée des Beaux Arts” (1939), “The Unknown Citizen” (1939), “In Memory of W. B. Yeats” (1940), \***“The Shield of Achilles”** (1952)  
Dylan Thomas, “A Refusal to Mourn” (1945), “Fern Hill” (1945), “Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night” (1951)  
Sylvia Plath, “Morning Song”, “Lady Lazarus” and other selected poems from *Ariel* (1965)  
Derek Walcott, “A Far Cry from Africa” (1962)  
Wole Soyinka, “Telephone Conversation” (1962)  
Seamus Heaney, “Death of a Naturalist” (1966), “Digging” (1966), “Bog Queen” (1975), “The Grauballe Man” (1975)

Chinua Achebe, "Refugee Mother and Child" (1971)  
Philip Larkin, "High Windows" (1974), "The Explosion" (1974)  
Michael Ondaatje, "The Cinnamon Peeler" (1982)  
Fleur Adcock, "For a Five-Year-Old" (1983)  
Grace Nichols, "Like a Beacon" (1984)  
\*Ted Hughes, \*"**Tern**" (1986)  
\*Carol Ann Duffy, "Education for Leisure" (1986), \*"**Eurydice**" (1999), "Medusa" (1999)  
Simon Armitage, "Poem" (1989)  
David Dabydeen, "Turner" (1994)  
Vicki Feaver, "Lily Pond" (1994), "Ironing" (1994) "The Red Cupboard" (2006),  
Patience Agbabi, "Transformatrix" (2000)  
James Berry, "Devouring", "Empire Day" (2007)

### Drama

\*Samuel Beckett, \***Waiting for Godot** (1952), *Endgame* (1957)  
John Osborne, *Look Back in Anger* (1956)  
Harold Pinter, *The Birthday Party* (1958), *The Dumb Waiter* (1960), *The Homecoming* (1965)  
Edward Bond, *Saved* (1965)  
\*Tom Stoppard, \***Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead** (1966)  
Aimé Césaire, *A Tempest* (1969)  
Alan Ayckbourn, *Absurd Person Singular* (1972), *Comic Potential* (1998)  
Peter Shaffer, *Amadeus* (1979)  
\*Brian Friel, *Translations* (1980), \***Making History** (1988)  
Caryl Churchill, *Top Girls* (1982)  
Michael Frayn, *Look Look* (1990)  
\*Sarah Kane, \***Blasted** (1995)  
Patrick Marber, *Closer* (1997)  
David Hare, *Stuff Happens* (2004)

### Prose Fiction

\*George Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant" (1936), *Animal Farm* (1945), \***Nineteen Eighty-Four** (1949)  
William Golding, *Lord of the Flies* (1954)  
Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (1958)  
Jean Rhys, "Let Them Call It Jazz" (1962), *Wide Sargasso Sea* (1966)  
John Fowles, *The French Lieutenant's Woman* (1969)  
Doris Lessing, "To Room Nineteen" (1978)  
Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children* (1981)  
Julian Barnes, *Flaubert's Parrot* (1984), *A History of the World in 10 ½ Chapters* (1989)  
Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale* (1985), "My Last Duchess" (2006)  
\*J.M. Coetzee, \***Foe** (1986)  
\*Kazuo Ishiguro, \***The Remains of the Day** (1989)  
Emma Tennant, *Two Women of London* (1989)  
Hanif Kureishi, *The Buddha of Suburbia* (1990), "My Son the Fanatic" (1994), *The Black Album* (1995)  
Martin Amis, *Time's Arrow* (1991)

Michael Ondaatje, *The English Patient* (1992)  
Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things* (1997)  
Zadie Smith, *White Teeth* (2000)  
Ian McEwan, *Atonement* (2001)  
Monica Ali, *Brick Lane* (2003)  
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *Purple Hibiscus* (2003), *Half of a Yellow Sun* (2007)  
Andrea Levy, *Small Island* (2004)  
Janet Frame, *Towards Another Summer* (2006)  
\*Aravind Adiga, \****The White Tiger*** (2008)  
Julian Barnes, *The Sense of an Ending* (2011)

Non-Fiction

Salman Rushdie, “Commonwealth Literature Does not Exist”, “Imaginary Homelands” (1991)