

Master's Exam Reading List: 2018

Chaucer, Canterbury Tales: General Prologue, Knight's Tale, Miller's Prologue and Tale, Reeve's Prologue and Tale, Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale, Friar's Prologue and Tale, Summoner's Prologue and Tale, Clerk's Prologue and Tale, Merchant's Prologue and Tale, Franklin's Prologue and Tale, Pardoner's Prologue and Tale, and Nun's Priest's Prologue and Tale

Shakespeare, King Lear and The Tempest

Ben Jonson Volpone

Milton, Paradise Lost

Behn, Oroonoko: or, the Royal Slave

Defoe, Robinson Crusoe

Benjamin Franklin, The Autobiography

Keats, "Letter to George and Tom Keats, December 21, 27, 1817," "Letter to Richard Woodhouse, October 27, 1818," "When I Have Fears that I May Cease to Be," "Ode on a Grecian Urn," "Ode to a Nightingale," "The Eve of St. Agnes," "On Seeing the Elgin Marbles," "Ode on Melancholy," "Ode to Psyche," "To Autumn," "La Belle Dame Sans Merci"

Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

George Eliot, Middlemarch

Walt Whitman, Song of Myself, "Cavalry Crossing a Ford," "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry," "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd," and "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking"

Woolf, To the Lighthouse

Morrison, Song of Solomon

Williams Carlos Williams, "Tract," "The Widow's Lament in Springtime," "Spring and All," "The Farmer," "The Red Wheelbarrow," "At the Ball Game," "This Is Just to Say," "The Yachts," "These," "The Last Words of My English Grandmother," "The Ivy Crown," "Asphodel, That Greeny Flower"

Arundhati Roy The God of Small Things

M.A. Exam Guidelines

Students will normally be expected to take the new M.A. exam at the beginning of their final full semester. For most of you, that will be in January of 2018. In accordance with Graduate School Policy, students have one opportunity to retake the exam in the event that they fail on the first attempt.

There will be four one-hour questions, one of which will be an explication question on a work not previously announced. There will be no element of choice on the explication question. The other three one-hour questions will be from the reading list, and each will allow students to pick one question from a set of two.

In addition to the texts on the list, students should be conversant with broad issues concerning genre (the epic, the dramatic monologue, etc.) and literary history.

Each calendar year three works will rotate off the list and be replaced by three different ones. Copies of future reading lists will be made available.