Master’s Exam Reading List: 2019

**Chaucer**, *Troilus and Criseyde*

**Shakespeare**, *King Lear* and *The Tempest*

**Ben Jonson** *Volpone*

**Milton**, *Paradise Lost*

**Behn**, *Oroonoko: or, the Royal Slave*

**Swift**, *Gulliver’s Travels*

**Benjamin Franklin**, *The Autobiography*


**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*

**Walker**, *The Color Purple*


**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 2019. 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.