

**BA Oral Exam Reading List**  
**English Literature**  
**Prof. Kilian Schindler & Prof.**  
**J. Straub**

**Choose any 3 periods. Substitutions within the same period are possible. Students must define their final exam reading list in consultation with their supervisor. Poems should be taken from the Norton Anthology selection.**

The Sixteenth Century and the Early Seventeenth Century

- One play by William Shakespeare
- One play by either Christopher Marlowe, Ben Jonson, Thomas Middleton, or John Webster
- 3 poems by either Sir Philip Sidney, Edmund Spenser, William Shakespeare, Aemilia Lanyer, John Donne, George Herbert, or Andrew Marvell (not more than two poems by the same poet)
- John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 1 or 9, or Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, book 1, canto 1 and 2.

The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century

- One play by either Aphra Behn, William Wycherley, William Congreve, John Gay, Oliver Goldsmith, or Richard Sheridan
- John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, "A Satire against Reason and Mankind," or Jonathan Swift, "The Lady's Dressing Room" + Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, "The Reasons That Induced Dr. Swift to Write a Poem Called the Lady's Dressing Room," or Thomas Grey, "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard"
- Either Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko: or, the Royal Slave*, or Margaret Cavendish, *The Description of a New World, Called the Blazing World*, or Eliza Haywood, *Fantomina: or, Love in a Haze*
- One novel by either Daniel Defoe, Jonathan Swift, Samuel Richardson, Henry Fielding, or Laurence Sterne

The Romantic Period

- William Blake, Selected Poems
- William Wordsworth, Selected Poems

- Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Selected Poems
- Lord Byron, Selected Poems
- Percy Bysshe Shelley, Selected Poems
- John Keats, Selected Poems
- One novel by Jane Austen or Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

### The Victorian Age:

- Selected poems by Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Robert Browning, Christina Rossetti or Gerard Manley Hopkins
- One novel by either Charlotte Bronte, Emily Bronte, Charles Dickens, William Makepeace Thackeray, or George Eliot

### Late Victorian and Edwardian Literature

- One novel by Thomas Hardy or Robert Louis Stevenson
- One play by Oscar Wilde or George Bernard Shaw
- One novel by Joseph Conrad or E. M. Forster
- Selected poems by Thomas Hardy, Wilfred Owen, or A. E. Housman

### Modernism

- One novel by either James Joyce, D. H. Lawrence, or Virginia Woolf
- Short stories by Katherine Mansfield
- Selected poems by T. S. Eliot or William Butler Yeats

### The Twentieth Century and After

- Selected poems by W. H. Auden, Philip Larkin, or Seamus Heaney
- One play by Samuel Beckett, Harold Pinter, or Tom Stoppard
- One novel by George Orwell or Salman Rushdie
- One novel by Angela Carter or Iris Murdoch
- One novel by Zadie Smith, Ali Smith or A. L. Kennedy
- One novel by Ian McEwan, Julian Barnes or J. M. Coetzee
- One novel and/or short stories by Margaret Atwood, Michael Ondaatje or Alice Munro