The students are examined from a common list of required texts (approximately eight in each of the six historical sections below). Students will choose five or more texts from the recommended reading for each section.

**Part 1** of the exam will consist of identification and analysis of 10 quotations chosen from 12 possible; the quotations will be taken from the common list of required texts, two from each section. This will be a three-hour exam, offered on a Friday.

**Part 2** of the exam will be a 48-hour take-home essay exam. Students will provide a list of their recommended texts. Questions will draw on historical context and require synthesis of a broad range of materials. Part 2 will be made available to the students upon completion of Part 1, and it will be due on the Monday morning following the exam.

**Students will be examined in all six of the following areas:**

I. Medieval and Early Modern  
II. Eighteenth-century British and Early Literature of the Americas  
III. Nineteenth-century British and colonies  
IV. Nineteenth-century Literature of the Americas  
V. Twentieth-century British and post-colonial  
VI. Twentieth-century Literature of the Americas

I. MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN

Medieval  
Students are not expected to read all works in the original. Easily available translations or modernizations are here suggested for texts which have not been widely translated, but other translations may be used as well. Chaucer, the plays, and Malory should certainly be read in the original Middle English.

**Required Texts:**


**Recommended Readings:**

Old English Poems, translated by Kevin Crossley-Holland:
- *The Battle of Maldon* and *The Battle of Brunanburh*
- *Dream of the Rood*
- *The Wanderer*
- *The Seafarer*

Alfred the Great, Prefaces to the *Pastoral Care* and the *Soliloquies*, trans. Simon Keynes and Michael Lapidge

Romances: read one
  Anonymous romances:
  - *King Horn*
  - *Havelock*
  - *Sir Orfeo*

Thomas Malory, *Le Morte D’Arthur* (esp. the final battle and its aftermath)

The Pearl-Poet: read one
- *Pearl*, trans. Marie Borroff
- *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, trans. Marie Borroff


Drama: read one
- Morality Plays:
  - *Everyman*
  - *Mankind*
- Mystery Play:
  - *Second Shepherd’s Play*

EARLY MODERN

Required Texts:


John Milton, *Paradise Lost*.
(10,000 lines. Approx. 300 pages depending on number of annotations) 635 pages


**Recommended Readings:**

From Britain:

**The Sonnet Tradition: read one grouping**

(1) **Sir Thomas Wyatt**, "The long love that in my thought doth harbour"; "Whoso list to hunt, I know where is an hind"; "My galley charged with forgetfulness", "I find no peace, and all my war is done"; "Farewell, Love, and all thy laws forever" 
Other poem: "They flee from me that sometime did me seek"

**Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey,** “Love, that Doth Reign and Live within My Thought”; “Set Me Whereas the Sun Doth Parch the Green”; “Alas! So All Things Now Do Hold Their Peace”
Other poem: “Wyatt Resteth Here”

(2) **William Shakespeare, Sonnets** (complete sequence)

(3) **Sir Philip Sidney**, from *Astrophil and Stella*: "Loving in truth, and fain in verse my love to show"; "Not at first sight, nor with a dribbed shot"; "When nature made her chief work, Stella’s eyes"; "Stella oft sees the very face of woe"; "Who will in fairest book of Nature know"

**Edmund Spenser**, from *Amoretti*: "Happy ye leaves when as those lilly hands"; "This holy season fit to fast and pray"; "Lyke as a huntsman after weary chace"; "One day I wrote her name upon the strand"

**John Donne, Holy Sonnets**

**Lady Mary Wroth**, from *Pamphilia to Amphilanthus*: "When night's black mantle could most darkness prove"; "Am I thus conquered? have I lost the powers?"; "Truly poor Night thou welcome art to me"; “Like to the Indians, scorched with the sun"; "When every one to pleasing pastime hies"; "In this strange labyrinth how shall I turn?"

**John Milton**, "How soon hath Time the subtle thief of youth"; "Avenge O Lord the slaughtered saints, whose bones"; "When I consider how my light is spent"; "Methought I saw my late espoused saint"
John Foxe, from *Acts and Monuments of These Latter and Perilous Days*

Sir Philip Sidney, *The Defense of Poesy*

Queen Elizabeth I, “To the troops at Tilbury”; “The Golden Speech”; John Knox, *First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Regiment of Women*

Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, Book I

Thomas Kyd, *The Spanish Tragedy*

Robert Greene, *Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay*

Christopher Marlowe, read one: *The Jew of Malta, Doctor Faustus, Edward II*

William Shakespeare, read one: *The Merchant of Venice, As You Like It; Measure for Measure; Henry IV, Part I; Hamlet; Othello; Antony and Cleopatra; The Winter’s Tale*  
*Venus and Adonis*  
*The Rape of Lucrece*

Sir Walter Ralegh, *The Discovery of the Large, Rich, and Beautiful Empire of Guiana*

Sir Francis Bacon, *Essays* (1597)

John Donne, *Songs and Sonnets, Satires 1 & 3, from Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions: #17*

Aemelia Lanyer, *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum*


Thomas Middleton, *The Revenger’s Tragedy*

Elizabeth Cary, *The Tragedy of Mariam*

John Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi*

Thomas Middleton and William Rowley, *The Changeling*


John Milton, Areopagitica

From the Americas:

Christopher Columbus, 1493 Letter on the First Voyage (to various people: Luis de Santangel, Finance Minister, Raphael Sanchez, Treasurer, of Ferdinand and Isabella)

Giovanni da Verrazzano, Letter to King Francis I of France 8 July 1524

Indigenous and Spanish selections from Victors and Vanquished: Spanish and Nahua Views of the Conquest of Mexico (at least sections 5, 6, and 7: excerpts from the Florentine Codex, Codex Aubin, Chronicles of Michoacan, and Centares mexicanos; excerpts from Bernal Diaz del Castillo, Francisco Lopez de Gomara, and Francisco de Aguilar)

Bartolome de Las Casas, Selections from In Defense of the Indians (at least Preliminaries and first four chapters).
Cf. excerpt from Juan Gines de Sepulveda. “Concerning the Just Causes of the War Against the Indians.” www.thelatinlibrary.com/imperialism/readings/se pulveda.html

William Shakespeare, The Tempest

Samuel de Champlain, Selections from The Voyages and Explorations of . . . (at least Volume 1, Books I and III)

John Smith, A Description of New England and A Generall Historie of Virginia (at least Book III, Chapter 2)

William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation
Cf. Thomas Morton, New English Canaan (Chapters XIV-XVI)

John Winthrop, “A Modell of Christian Charity”

John Cotton, “Gods Promise to His Plantation”

Isaac Jogues, “Captivity of Father Isaac Jogues, of the Society of Jesus, Among the Mohawks”


George Alsop, A Character of the Province of Maryland

William Penn, “Project for the Good of England that is, Our Civil Union is our Civil Safety,” Letter to the Pennsylvania Indians (1681), “An Essay Toward the Present and Future Peace of Europe, by the Establishment of an European Dyet, Parliament, or Estates”
II. EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY BRITISH AND EARLY LITERATURE OF THE AMERICAS

Required Texts:

John Dryden, *MacFlecknoe*

Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*

Alexander Pope, *Rape of the Lock*


Henry Fielding, *Tom Jones*

Samuel Johnson, *Vanity of Human Wishes, Rasselas*


Recommended Readings:

Samuel Sewall, “The Selling of Joseph”

Sarah Kemble Knight, *Journal*

William Byrd, Selections from *The History of the Dividing Line* (at least 40 pages)

Jonathan Edwards, “Personal Narrative,” “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God

Moraley, William, *The Infortunate: the Voyage and Adventures of William Moraley, an Indentured Servant*


Elizabeth Ashbridge, “Some Account of the Fore Part of the Life of Elizabeth Ashbridge”

John Woolman, *Journal*

Samson Occom, “A Short Narrative of My Life”

William Bartram, Selections from *Travels* (at least 40 pages)
Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason*

Thomas Jefferson, “Declaration of Independence” (in *Autobiography*), *Notes on the State of Virginia*

Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*


Hannah Foster, *The Coquette*

Charles Brockden Brown, *Wieland*


British

John Dryden. *Absalom and Achitophel*, “Ode to Anne Killigrew,” “To the Memory of Mr. Oldham,” *All for Love, Essay on Dramatic Poesy*.


Thomas Otway. *Venice Preserved*

Daniel Defoe. *Robinson Crusoe*

Jonathan Swift. “A Description of the Morning,” “A Beautiful Nymph Going to Bed,” Stella poems (variety), *Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift, A Modest Proposal, Gulliver’s Travels*


Anne Finch. “Nocturnal Reverie,” “The Spleen,” “The Introduction,” “The Answer (to Pope’s Impromptu),” “A Letter to Daphnis, April 2, 1685,” “The Circuit of Apollo,” “To the Nightingale”

Richard Steele. *Conscious Lovers*

John Gay. *The Beggar’s Opera*
Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, *Embassy Letters*


Samuel Richardson. *Pamela, Clarissa*


Charlotte Lennox. *The Female Quixote.*

R. B. Sheridan, *School for Scandal*

Frances Burney. *Cecilia, The Witlings*
III. NINETEENTH-CENTURY BRITISH AND THE COLONIES
(authors listed below by date of birth)

Required Texts: 5 to 8 texts
1. Joanna Baillie. “Introductory Discourse” to Plays on the Passions. (100 pages)
2. Percy Bysshe Shelley. Prometheus Unbound. (30 pages)
3. Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley. Frankenstein. (220 pages)
5. Charles Dickens. Great Expectations. (480 pages)
8. Thomas Hardy. Tess of the D’Urbervilles. (420 pages)

Total number of pages 1740

Other Recommended Texts:

Joanna Baillie. “Introductory Discourse” to Plays on the Passions, Count Basil.

William Wordsworth. 1802 Preface to Lyrical Ballads; “Tintern Abbey”; “Michael”; “Ode: Intimations of Immortality”; Books 1, 4, and 6 from the 1805 Prelude and the 1850 Prelude; the sonnets “The world is too much with us,” “Composed upon Westminster Bridge,” and “London, 1802.”


Jane Austen. Pride and Prejudice, Emma.

George Gordon Byron. Cantos 3 and 4 of Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage, Manfred, Cantos 1 and 2 of Don Juan.

Percy Bysshe Shelley. Prometheus Unbound, “Ode to the West Wind,” “To a Skylark,” “Mont Blanc,” “Adonais.”

John Keats. The Eve of St. Agnes, “La Belle Dame Sans Merci,” “Ode on a Grecian Urn,” “Ode to a Nightingale,” “To Autumn.”

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley. Frankenstein.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Aurora Leigh (Books 1-3); “A Curse for a Nation”; from Sonnets from the Portuguese (“I thought once how Theocritus had sung”; “And wilt thou have me fashion into speech”; “How do I love thee? Let me count the ways”); “The Runaway Slave at Pilgrim’s Point”; “The Cry of the Children.”

William Makepeace Thackeray. Vanity Fair


Charlotte Bronte. Jane Eyre.

Emily Bronte. Wuthering Heights.


Christina Rossetti. “Goblin Market.”

IV. NINETEENTH-CENTURY LITERATURE OF THE AMERICAS

Required Texts:

Fiction


Nathaniel Hawthorne, “Rappaccini’s Daughter,” “Young Goodman Brown”

Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

Edgar Allan Poe, “The Fall of the House of Usher,” “The Cask of Amontillado”

Ruiz de Burton, Maria Amparo, *The Squatter and the Don* (1885)

Verse

Emily Dickinson, “[I felt a Funeral, in my Brain],” “[A narrow Fellow in the Grass],” “[Tell all the Truth but tell it Slant],” “[Because I could not stop for Death—],” “[What Soft--Cherubic Creatures],” and “[She Rose to His Requirement]”

Edgar Allan Poe, “To Helen,” “The Raven,” “Annabel Lee”

Walt Whitman, *Song of Myself* (1855)

Essay

Henry David Thoreau, “Resistance to Civil Government” (aka “Civil Disobedience”)

Recommended Readings:

Black Hawk, *Autobiography*

William Wells Brown, *Clotel; or, The President's Daughter: A Narrative of Slave Life in the United States*

W. E. B. DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*

George Washington Cable, *The Grandissimes*

Kate Chopin, *The Awakening,* “Desiree’s Baby”

Stephen Crane, *Maggie, Girl of the Streets,* “The Open Boat”
Charles W. Chesnutt, “The Goophered Grapevine,” “Po’ Sandy”

Lydia Maria Child, *Hobomok*

Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*

Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wall-paper”

Washington Irving, “Rip Van Winkle,” “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”

Helen Hunt Jackson, *Ramona*

Henry James, *Daisy Miller,* “The Beast in the Jungle,” “The Pupil”

Sarah Orne Jewett, “A White Heron”

Herman Melville, “Bartleby the Scrivener,” “Benito Cereno”

Maria Cristina Mena, “The Vine,” “The Sorcerer and General Bisco”

Frank Norris, “A Deal in Wheat”

Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*

Mark Twain, “Pudd’nhead Wilson”

Booker T. Washington, *Up from Slavery*

Harriet E. Wilson, *Our Nig*

Sara Winnemucca, *Life among the Paiutes*

Verse

Paul Laurence Dunbar, “We Wear the Mask”

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *Hiawatha*

José Martí, “A sincere man am I”

Speeches, Letters, and Essays

William Apes, “An Indian’s Looking-Glass for the White Man”

Elias Boudinot, “An Address to the Whites”

Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Self-Reliance,” “The Poet,” “The American Scholar”

José Martí, “Mother America,” “The Truth about the United States,” “Our America”
V. TWENTIETH-CENTURY AND AFTER: BRITISH AND POSTCOLONIAL

Required

Verse

T. S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” and The Waste Land

Ted Hughes, “Wind”, “Relic”, “Telegraph Wires”, “Examination at the Womb Door”

Fiction
Virginia Woolf, To the Lighthouse

Tsitsi Dangarembga, Nervous Conditions

J. M. Coetzee, Disgrace

Drama
Samuel Beckett, Waiting for Godot

Caryl Churchill, Cloud Nine

Recommended

Verse
Thomas Hardy, “Hap”, “The Darkling Thrush”, “The Convergence of Twain”, “Channel Firing”

World War I Poets: one poem each by Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, Isaac Rosenberg and Rupert Brooke

Dylan Thomas, “And Death Shall Have No Dominion”, “A Refusal to Mourn”, “Fern Hill”, “Do Not Go Gentle Into that Good Night”


Philip Larkin, “Church Going”, “High Windows”, “Sad Steps”, “Aubade”


Eaven Boland, “Anorexic”, “Mise Eire”, “How We Made a New Art on Old Ground”, “The Room in Which My first Child Slept”
Stevie Smith, “Not Waving But Drowning”, “Pretty”, “How Cruel is the Story of Eve”

**Fiction**
Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

Ford Madox Ford, *The Good Soldier*

Rebecca West, *The Return of the Soldier*

D. H. Lawrence, *Women in Love*

E. M. Forster, *A Passage to India*

Antonia White, *Frost in May*

Graham Greene, *The Quiet American*

George Orwell, *1984*

Anthony Burgess, *A Clockwork Orange*

Doris Lessing, *The Golden Notebook*

D. M. Thomas, *The White Hotel*

V. S. Naipaul, *A Bend in the River*

Nadine Gordimer, *July’s People*

Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*

Elizabeth Bowen, *The Heat of the Day*

Alan Sillitoe, *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner*

Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

Angela Carter, *Nights at the Circus*

Edna O’Brien, *The Country Girls*

Jeanette Winterson, *Oranges are Not the Only Fruit*
**Drama**

G. B. Shaw, *Pygmalion* and *Saint Joan*

Harold Pinter, *The Caretaker* and *The Homecoming*

John Osborne, *Look Back in Anger*

Tom Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*

Wole Soyinka, *Death and the King’s Horsemen*
VI. TWENTIETH-CENTURY LITERATURE OF THE AMERICAS

Required Texts:

Fiction

F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*

Leslie Marmon Silko, *Storyteller*

Verse

William Carlos Williams, “The Approaching Hour,” “This is Just to Say,” “The Figure 5 in Gold,” “Danse Russe,” “Spring and All,” “The Red Wheelbarrow”


Adrienne Rich, “Diving into the Wreck,” “Trying to Talk to a Man,” “North American Time,” “Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers,” “Power,” “Storm Warnings,” “Rape”

Drama

Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman*

Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun*

Recommended Readings:

Fiction

Sherman Alexie, “Because My Father Always Said He Was the Only Indian to See Jimi Hendrix Play the Star • Spangled Banner at Woodstock”

Julia Alvarez, *In the Time of the Butterflies*

James Baldwin, “Sonny’s Blues”

John Barth, “Lost in the Funhouse”
Ana Castillo, *So Far From God*

Denise Chavez, *The Last of the Menu Girls*

Edwidge Danticat, “Children of the Sea”

Junot Díaz, “Israel,” “How to Date a Blackgirl, Whitegirl, Browngirl, or Halfie”

Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*

Louise Erdrich, “Saint Marie (1934)”

William Faulkner, “Barn Burning,” “The Bear”

Rosario Ferré, *The House on the Lagoon*

Carlos Fuentes, *The Eagle’s Throne*

Cristina García, *A Handbook to Luck*

Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*

Zora Neale Hurston, “Sweat,” “The Guilded Six•Bits”

Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*

Charles Johnson, *Middle Passage*

Jhumpa Lahiri, *The Interpreter of Maladies* (short stories)

Norman Mailer, *The Armies of the Night: History as Fiction, Fiction as History*

Gabriel García Márquez, *Love in the Time of Cholera*

Paule Marshall, *Praisesong for the Widow*

Demetria Martínez, *Mother Tongue*

Toni Morrison, “Recitatif”

Bharati Mukherjee, “A Wife's Story”

Flannery O’Connor, “A Good Man is Hard to Find”

Cynthia Ozick, “The Shawl”
Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*

Ernesto Quiñonez, *Bodega Dreams*

Tomas Rivera, *And the Earth Did Not Devour Him*

Nelly Rosario, *Song of the Water Saints*

Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*

Gertrude Stein, “Melanctha”

John Steinbeck, *Of Mice and Men*

Piri Thomas, *Down These Mean Streets*

Jean Toomer, *Cane*

Edith Wharton, “Roman Fever”

Hisaye Yamamoto “Seventeen Syllables”

Verse

Maya Angelou, “Still I Rise,” “Phenomenal Woman,” “Homage to My Hips”

Gloria Anzaldúa, “To Live in the Borderlands Mean You,” “We Call them Greasers,” “La Curandera”

Elizabeth Bishop, “The Fish,” “Visits to St Elizabeth’s,” “Man Moth”

Gwendolyn Brooks, “We Real Cool,” “The Lovers of the Poor,” “A Bronzville Mother Loiters in the Kitchen in Mississippi. Meanwhile, A Mississippi Woman Burns Bacon.”

Lorna Dee Cervantes, “Poem for the Young White Man Who Asked Me How I, an Intelligent, Well-Read Person, Could Believe in the War Between Races”

Sandra Cisneros, “Loose Woman,” “The Heart Rounds Up the Usual Suspects,” “Vino Tinto”

Robert Frost, “The Road Not Taken,” “Mending Wall,” “The Line Gang”

Allen Ginsburg, “Howl,” “America”

Corky Gonzales, “Yo Soy Joaquín/I am Joaquín”

Robert Hayden, “Middle Passage”
Tato Laviera, “La Carreta Made a U•Turn,” “AmeRican,” “Loisaida”

Janice Mirikitani, “For My Father,” “Desert Flowers,” “Breaking Tradition”

Aurora Levins Morales, “Child of the Americas,” “Puertoricanness”

Octavio Paz, “No More Cliches,” “Where Without Whom”

Pedro Pietri, “Puerto Rican Obituary,” “El Spanglish American Anthem,” “The Masses are Asses”

Sylvia Plath, “Daddy,” “Lady Lazarus,” “Owl”

Ishmael Reed, “I am a cowboy in the boat of Ra,” “Flight to Canada”

Sonia Sanchez, “to blk/record/buyers,” “Masks,” “A Letter to Dr. Martin Luther King”

Wallace Stevens, “A Jar in Tennessee,” “The Emperor of Ice Cream,” “Sunday Morning”

Drama

Nilo Cruz, Anna of the Tropics

David Hwang, M. Butterfly

René Marqués, The Oxcart

Cherríe Moraga, Giving Up the Ghost

Dolores Prida, Beautiful Senoritas

Ntozake Shange, For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf

Luis Valdez, Zoot Suit

Tennessee Williams, A Streetcar Named Desire

August Wilson, Fences