

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH & WRITING STUDIES**

PhD FIELD EXAMINATION READING LIST

TWENTIETH CENTURY BRITISH AND IRISH LITERATURE

In order to develop a wide-ranging competency to teach and research in the field of Twentieth Century British and Irish Literature, candidates will prepare a reading list according to the instructions and requirements below.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Field Exam

Students are responsible for all the titles listed under CORE TEXTS.

Students are strongly advised to become conversant with historical, literary critical and theoretical writings in the field.

In consultation with the committee, students may make substitutions to the list.

2. Exam Structure

1. The field exam is divided into TWO sections. Select THREE passages from Part A. Choose TWO questions from Part B. Each question carries equal value.
2. You must give attention to all three genres—poetry, fiction, drama—in the examination paper as a whole. You are not, however, required to deal with all three genres in answering any single question, nor are you required to give attention to all three genres equally.
3. Do not repeat discussion **in detail** of authors or works in your answers.
4. Reference should be made to works from early, middle, and late in the century, spanning a broad range of trends and movements.

CORE TEXTS

Poetry

Collected poetry of all the following poets, plus important essays, letters and manifestoes.

W.H. Auden, W.B. Yeats, T.S. Eliot, Seamus Heaney, Philip Larkin, Ezra Pound, Dylan Thomas, Edith Sitwell, Mina Loy, Charlotte Mew, Ted Hughes, Thomas Hardy, WWI poets.

Plus 5 poets chosen from the following list:

C. Day Lewis, Robert Graves, A.E. Housman, David Jones, Hugh MacDiarmid, Louis MacNeice, Edwin Muir, Laura Riding, Fleur Adcock, John Betjeman, Eavan Boland, Thom Gunn, Tony Harrison, Elizabeth Jennings, Derek Mahon, Paul Muldoon, Craig Raine, Penelope Shuttle, Stevie Smith, Charles Tomlinson, Basil Bunting, Geoffrey Hill.

Drama

Samuel Beckett: *Endgame*; *Waiting for Godot*
Harold Pinter: *The Homecoming*; *Old Times*
Bertolt Brecht: *The Threepenny Opera*; *Mother Courage and Her Children*
Caryl Churchill: *Top Girls*; *Cloud 9*
George Bernard Shaw: *Mrs. Warren's Profession*; *Pygmalion*
Tom Stoppard: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*; *Arcadia*
David Hare: *Plenty*; *Pravda*
Edward Bond: *Saved*; *Lear*
Eugene Ionesco: *Rhinoceros*; *The Killer*
Sarah Kane: *Blasted*; *Cleansed*

Plus 15 plays chosen from the following list of authors:

Jean Genet, Anton Chekhov, Sean O'Casey, Luigi Pirandello, J.M. Synge, Oscar Wilde, W.B. Yeats, John Arden, Brendan Behan, Howard Brenton, David Edgar, T.S. Eliot, Brian Friel, Pam Gems, Ann Jellicoe, Joe Orton, John Osborne, Peter Nicholls, Stephen Poliakoff, Peter Shaffer, David Storey, Timberlake Wertenbaker, Peter Weiss, Arnold Wesker.

Fiction

Angela Carter: *Nights at the Circus*; *The Infernal Desire Machines of Doctor Hoffman*
Joseph Conrad: *Lord Jim*; *The Secret Agent*
E.M. Forster: *A Passage to India*; *Howards End*
Henry James: *The Ambassadors*; *What Maisie Knew*
James Joyce: *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*; *Ulysses*
D.H. Lawrence: *Women in Love*; *Sons and Lovers*
Ford Madox Ford: *The Good Soldier*
Ian McEwan: *Saturday*; *Atonement*

Jeanette Winterson: *Sexing the Cherry*; *The Passion*
Salman Rushdie: *Midnight's Children*
Iris Murdoch: *The Sea, The Sea*; *A Word Child*
Graham Swift: *Waterland*; *Last Orders*
George Orwell: *Animal Farm*, 1984
Wyndham Lewis: *Tarr*, *The Revenge for Love*
Virginia Woolf: *Mrs. Dalloway*; *To the Lighthouse*

Plus 15 additional novels chosen from the following list of authors:

Arnold Bennett; John Galsworthy, Henry Green, Aldous Huxley; Christopher Isherwood;
Rudyard Kipling, Katherine Mansfield, Samuel Beckett, Flann O'Brien, Dorothy Richardson,
Lytton Strachey, Evelyn Waugh, H.G. Wells, Rebecca West, Kingsley Amis, Martin Amis,
Julian Barnes, Elizabeth Bowen, Anthony Burgess, A.S. Byatt, Joyce Cary, Ivy Compton-
Burnett, Margaret Drabble, Lawrence Durrell, John Fowles, William Golding, Graham Greene,
Doris Lessing, Anthony Powell, Jean Rhys, Will Self, Muriel Spark, D.M. Thomas, David
Mitchell, Peter Ackroyd, Kazuo Ishiguro, Pat Barker, Alasdair Gray.

Departmental regulations regarding PhD qualifying exams can be found @ the following site:
https://uwo.ca/english/graduate/programs/phd_program/phd_regulations.html