

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH & WRITING STUDIES
PhD FIELD EXAMINATION READING LIST
WOMEN'S LITERATURE AND GENDER STUDIES

In order to develop a wide-ranging competency to teach and research in the field of Women's Literature and Gender Studies, candidates will prepare a reading list according to the instructions and requirements below.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Field Exam

The list below includes three subsections: literature by women pre-1850, literature by women post-1850, and theory.

Please read and prepare at least 60 texts from the list below. For longer works (e.g., novels), please choose one work per author. Balance your selections among the three subfields to ensure breadth.

2. Exam Structure

The exam is divided into three parts: Part A: Women's Literature (pre-1850), Part B: Women's Literature (post-1850), and Part C: Theory. Answer ONE (1) question from each of the THREE (3) sections. All questions are of equal value. You should not write extensively on one author more than once.

In your answers to questions in Parts A and B, you may use theoretical approaches but you should be sure to ground your answers historically.

In Parts A and B, your answers should demonstrate a range of knowledge from at least FOUR (4) of the following areas: Romantic, Victorian (including Nineteenth-Century American), Modern, Postmodern, and Postcolonial.

Your answer in Part C should demonstrate your knowledge of gender theory and you may choose to draw on historical texts with a theoretical component or emphasis.

Literature by women pre-1850

1. Julian of Norwich, "A Vision Showed to a Devout Woman" in *The Writings of Julian of Norwich*, ed. Nicholas Watson and Jacqueline Jenkins (Penn State UP, 2005)
2. Margery Kempe, *The Book of Margery Kempe*, trans. Anthony Bale (OUP, 2015)
3. Anne Bradstreet, selected poems
4. Margaret Cavendish, *The Blazing World; Convent of Pleasure*
5. Margaret Fell, *Women's Speaking Justified*
6. Eliza Haywood, *Fantomina*
7. Mary Wortley Montagu, *Turkish Embassy Letters*
8. Aphra Behn, *Widow Ranter, Oronooko; The Rover*
9. Phillis Wheatley, selected poems
10. Frances Burney, *Evelina*
11. Hannah Foster, *The Coquette*
12. Judith Sargent Murray, selected poems
13. Mary Wollstonecraft, *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*
14. Margaret Fuller, *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*
15. Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice; Northanger Abbey; Persuasion* (Pick one)
16. Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
17. Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre*

Literature by women post-1850 (Britain & Ireland, Canada, US)

18. George Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*
19. Christina Rossetti, "Goblin Market"
20. Sarah Grand, *The Heavenly Twins*
21. Cicely Hamilton, *How the Vote Was Won*
22. Mina Loy, Selected Poems and "Feminist Manifesto" (*The Lost Lunar Baedeker*, Ed. Roger L. Conover, 1997)
23. Radclyffe Hall, *The Well of Loneliness*
24. Virginia Woolf, *Orlando; A Room of One's Own*
25. H.D., Selected Poems
26. Edna O'Brien, *The Country Girls*
27. Angela Carter, *Nights at the Circus*
28. Jeanette Winterson, *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*
29. Caryl Churchill, *Top Girls*
30. Zadie Smith, *White Teeth*
31. Monica Ali, *Brick Lane*
32. Ali Smith, *How to be Both*
33. Debbie Tucker Green, *Stoning Mary*
34. Sarah Kane, *Blasted*
35. Sui Sin Far (Edith Maud Eton), "Mrs. Spring Fragrance"
36. E. Pauline Johnson Tekahionwake, selected poetry; "A Strong Race Opinion: On the Indian Girl in Modern Fiction"
37. L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*
38. Jesse Georgina Sime, *Sister Woman*

39. Margaret Laurence, *The Stone Angel*; *The Diviners*
40. Lee Maracle, *Bobbi Lee: Indian Rebel*
41. Dionne Brand, *Theory*; *No Language is Neutral*
42. Alice Munro, *Lives of Girls and Women*
43. Margaret Atwood, *Alias Grace*
44. Shani Mootoo, *Out on Main Street and Other Stories*; *Cereus Blooms at Night*
45. Marilyn Dumont, *A Really Good Brown Girl*
46. Bharati Mukherjee, *Wife*
47. M. NourbeSe Philip, *She Tries Her Tongue, Her Silence Softly Breaks*
48. Larissa Lai, *Salt Fish Girl*
49. Margo Kane, *Moonlodge*
50. Marie Clements, *The Unnatural and Accidental Women*
51. Djanet Sears, *Harlem Duet*
52. Lorena Gale, *Angélique*
53. Kim Senklip Harvey, *Kamloopa*
54. Emily Dickinson, selected poems and letters
55. Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*
56. Anna Julia Cooper, "Woman vs. the Indian"; "Has America a Race Problem; If So, How Can It Best Be Solved"
57. Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Women and Economics*
58. Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*
59. Willa Cather, *My Antonia*; *O Pioneers!*
60. Gwendolyn Brooks, selected poems
61. Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*
62. Toni Morrison, *Song of Solomon*; *Beloved*
63. Octavia Butler, *Kindred*; *Parable of the Sower*
64. Sandra Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street*
65. Louise Erdrich, *Love Medicine*; selected poems
66. Suzan-Lori Parks, *Venus*
67. Lynn Nottage, *Intimate Apparel*
68. Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony*
69. Buchi Emecheta, *The Bride Price*
70. Tsitsi Dangaremba, *Nervous Conditions*
71. Joy Harjo, *She Had Some Horses*
72. Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*
73. Patricia Grace, *Potiki*
74. Jamaica Kincaid, *Annie John*; *The Autobiography of My Mother*
75. Anita Desai, *Clear Light of Day*
76. Tracey Lindberg, *Birdie*
77. Vivienne Cleven, *Bitin' Back*

Theory (texts listed alphabetically)

78. Sara Ahmed, *The Promise of Happiness; Living a Feminist Life*
79. Gloria Anzaldua, *Borderlands/La Frontera*
80. Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble; Bodies that Matter*; one post-2000 Butler volume
81. Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought* (second edition)
82. Kimberlé Crenshaw, "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color"
83. Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality* (vol. 1)
84. Elizabeth Freeman, *Time Binds: Queer Temporality, Queer Histories*
85. Kim Hall, *Feminist Disability Studies* (selections)
86. Donna Haraway, *Simians, Cyborgs and Women*
87. bell hooks, *Yearning: Race, Gender and Cultural Politics; Outlaw Culture; Feminism is for Everyone*
88. Audre Lorde, *Sister Outsider*
89. Trinh T. Minh-ha, *Woman, Native, Other: Writing Postcoloniality and Feminism*
90. Chandra Mohanty, *Feminism without Borders*
91. José Muñoz, *Cruising Utopia: The Then and There of Queer Futurity*
92. Uma Narayan, *Dislocating Cultures*
93. Adrienne Rich, "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence"
94. Katrina Roen, "Transgender Theory and Embodiment: The Risk of Racial Marginalization"
95. Gayle Rubin, "The Traffic in Women"
96. Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, *Epistemology of the Closet; Between Men; Touching Feeling*
97. Dean Spade, "Mutilating Gender"
98. Susan Stryker, "Introduction: Trans-, Trans, or Transgender?"; "My Words to Victor Frankenstein Above the Village of Chamounix: Performing Transgender Rage"
99. Cheryl Suzack et. al., eds. *Indigenous Women and Feminism: Politics, Activism, Culture*

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