

2021-2022

English MA Comprehensive Exam List

Old and Middle English Literature

- "Lanval" from *The Lais of Marie de France* (trans. Dorothy Gilbert)
- Geoffrey Chaucer, "The Clerk's Tale" (trans. Sheila Fisher)
- The *Gawain-Poet*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (trans. Joseph Glaser)

Renaissance and 17th-Century English Literature

- William Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (The Arden Shakespeare Third Series)
- John Milton
 - "On Shakespeare"
 - "L'Allegro"
 - "Il Penseroso"
 - "Lycidas"
 - "When I Consider How My Light Is Spent"

Restoration and 18th-Century English Literature

- Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*
- Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*

19th-Century English Literature

- Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
- Elizabeth Barrett Browning, "The Runaway Slave at Pilgrim's Point"
- Robert Browning, "Caliban upon Setebos," "My Last Duchess," "Porphyria's Lover"

American Literature before 1860

- Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*
- Walt Whitman, "Song of Myself" (1855 edition)
- Nathaniel Hawthorne, "The Birthmark" and "Young Goodman Brown"

American Literature since 1860

- Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
- August Wilson, *Fences*
- Gwendolyn Brooks, *Blacks* (excerpts):
 - "We Real Cool"
 - "The Mother"
 - "kitchenette building"
 - "A Bronzeville Mother Loiters in Mississippi."
 - "The Last Quatrain of the Ballad of Emmett Till"
 - "Gay Chaps at the Bar"
 - "Negro Hero"
 - "In the Mecca"
 - "To Those of My Sisters Who Kept Their Naturals"
 - "The Near-Johannesburg Boy"
- Toni Morrison, *Beloved*

Post-1900 British & Anglophone Literature

- C.L.R. James, *Toussaint Louverture* (Duke University Press)
- Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
- Derek Walcott, *Omeros*
- Bernadine Evaristo, *Girl, Woman, Other*

Theory

Hegel, "Self-Consciousness: The Truth of Self-Certainty," from *The Phenomenology of Spirit* (Terry Pinkard translation) as well as attendant readings available here: <https://tinyurl.com/3crtm56m>

Deadlines for applying to take the exam:

- Fall Semester – October 1
- Spring Semester - February 15

Application available here: <https://tinyurl.com/42cntx39>