English Department

M.A. Reading List English and American Literature
(coming into effect at the beginning of the autumn semester 2013)

The *modulübergreifende* M.A. exam in literature for the 90 ECTS M.A. option in literature is based on the M.A. thesis and this reading list. Candidates are required to cover a total of 30 text units. A text unit can consist of

- one play
- one novel (see longer fiction)
- several novellas and/or short stories (see shorter fiction)
- one longer or several shorter poems
- one longer or several shorter selections of non-fictional prose, e.g. texts listed under general prose and/or scholarly criticism not included on this list.

The coverage of period, genre and thematic focus as well as the precise number of texts will be worked out with the examiner. Students are advised to contact their examiner well in advance.

The basic textbook is *The Norton Anthology of English Literature* and *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. However, some texts are not included in the anthologies and must be consulted separately.

**Background Texts**

**General Prose**

*The Bible* (King James Version): “Genesis”

**Poetry**

HOMER: *Iliad* (Books 1, 6, 8, 14, 16, 19, 22), *Odyssey*
DANTE: *The Divine Comedy* (“Inferno”)
Late 15th Century

Drama

Everyman

Shorter Fiction

SIR THOMAS MALORY: Morte Darthur (Norton selection)

16th Century

Drama

THOMAS KYD: The Spanish Tragedy
CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE: Doctor Faustus, Edward II, The Jew of Malta

Poetry

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: Sonnets (indicate the numbers of the sonnets of your choice)
SIR PHILIP SIDNEY: from Astrophil and Stella, 1 (“Loving in truth, and fain in verse my love to show”), 31 (“With how sad steps, O Moon, thou climb’st the skies”), 72 (“Desire, though thou my old companion art”)
EDMUND SPENSER: from Amoretti, 34 (“Lyke as a ship that through the ocean wyde”), 54 (“Of this worlds theatre in which we stay”), 64 (“Coming to kisse her lyps [such grace I found]”), 74 (“Most happy letters framed by skilful trade”), 75 (“One day I wrote her name upon the strand”), The Fairie Queene (Book I, Canto I)
HENRY HOWARD, EARL OF SURREY: from The Fourth Book of Virgil (Norton selection)
MARY WROTH: from Pamphilia to Amphilanthus, 39 (“Take heed mine eyes, how you your look do cast”), 68 (“My pain, still smothered in my grieved breast”)
SIR THOMAS WYATT: “Whoso List to Hunt”, “They Flee from Me”, “My Galley”

General Prose

SIR PHILIP SIDNEY: “The Defence of Poesy” (Norton selection)
17th Century

Drama

APHRA BEHN: The Rover

WILLIAM CONGREVE: The Way of the World, Love for Love

BEN JONSON: Volpone, The Alchemist

THOMAS MIDDLETON: The Revenger’s Tragedy, Women Beware Women

JOHN WEBSTER: The Duchess of Malfi

WILLIAM WYCHERLEY: The Country Wife

Poetry

ANNE BRADSTREET: “Before the Birth of One of Her Children”, “By Night when Others Soundly Slept”, “The Author to Her Book”, “The Flesh and the Spirit”, “Verses upon the Burning of our House, July 18th, 1666”


JOHN DRYDEN: “Mac Flecknoe”, “In Memory of Mr. Oldham”, “Absalom and Achitophel”


ANDREW MARVELL: “To His Coy Mistress”, “The Garden”

JOHN MILTON: “Lycidas”, “On the Late Massacre in Piedmont”, Paradise Lost (Books I & IX, summaries of the other books)

Shorter Fiction

APHRA BEHN: Oroonoko

JOHN BUNYAN: The Pilgrim’s Progress (Norton selection)

General Prose

JOHN DRYDEN: An Essay of Dramatic Poesy

THOMAS HOBBES: Leviathan (“Introduction”)

COTTON MATHER: Wonders of the Invisible World

JOHN MILTON: Areopagitica

MARY ROWLANDSON: A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson
18th Century

Drama

JOHN GAY: *The Beggar’s Opera*
OLIVER GOLDSMITH: *She Stoops to Conquer*

Poetry

THOMAS GRAY: “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard”
SAMUEL JOHNSON: “On the Death of Dr. Robert Levet”, “The Vanity of Human Wishes”
ALEXANDER POPE: “The Rape of the Lock”, “An Essay on Criticism”, “Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot”, *The Dunciad*
JONATHAN SWIFT: “Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift”

Longer Fiction

DANIEL Defoe: *Robinson Crusoe, Moll Flanders, Roxana*
HENRY FIELDING: *Joseph Andrews, Tom Jones*
SAMUEL JOHNSON: *The History of Rasselas, Prince of Abyssinia*
SAMUEL RICHARDSON: *Pamela*
LAURENCE STERNE: *Tristram Shandy, A Sentimental Journey*
JONATHAN SWIFT: *Gulliver’s Travels*

General Prose

JAMES BOSWELL: *The Life of Samuel Johnson, LL.D.* (Norton selection)
EDMUND BURKE: *A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of our Ideas of the Sublime and the Beautiful, Speech on Conciliation with the Colonies* (Norton selection)
The Declaration of Independence
OLAUDAH EQUIANO: *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* (Norton selection)
JAMES SMITH: *An Account of the Remarkable Occurrences in the Life and Travels of Col. James Smith*
18th & 19th Century: The Romantic Period

Drama

JOANNA BAILLIE: De Monfort

Poetry

WILLIAM BLAKE: Songs of Innocence and of Experience (Norton selection)
GEORGE GORDON, LORD BYRON: Manfred, Don Juan (Canto I & II)
JOHN KEATS: “Ode on a Grecian Urn”, “Ode to a Nightingale”, “The Eve of St. Agnes”
PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY: “Ode to the West Wind”, “Ozymandias”

Longer Fiction

JANE AUSTEN: Pride and Prejudice, Emma, Sense and Sensibility, Mansfield Park
CHARLES BROCKDEN BROWN: Wieland, Edgar Huntly
ANN RADCLIFFE: The Italian, The Mysteries of Udolpho
WALTER SCOTT: Waverley, The Bride of Lammermoor
MARY SHELLEY: Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus

General Prose

JOANNE BAILLIE: “Introductory Discourse to A Series of Plays”
EDMUND BURKE: Reflections on the Revolution in France (Norton selection)
PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY: “A Defence of Poetry” (Norton selection)
MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT: A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (Norton selection)
WILLIAM WORDSWORTH: “Preface to Lyrical Ballads”
19th Century: British – The Victorian Period

Drama

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW: Mrs. Warren’s Profession, Pygmalion
OSCAR WILDE: The Importance of Being Earnest

Poetry

MATTHEW ARNOLD: “Dover Beach”
ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING: Aurora Leigh (Norton selection); from Sonnets from the Portuguese, 22
(“When our souls stand up erect and strong”)
ROBERT BROWNING: “Fra Lippo Lippi”, “My Last Duchess”, “The Bishop Orders His Tomb at Saint Praxed’s Church”, “Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came”
CHRISTINA ROSSETTI: “Goblin Market”
ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON: “The Lady of Shalott”, “Mariana”

Longer Fiction

CHARLOTTE BRONTE: Jane Eyre
EMILY BRONTE: Wuthering Heights
WILKIE COLLINS: The Woman in White
CHARLES DICKENS: Great Expectations
ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: The Hound of the Baskervilles
GEORGE ELIOT: Middlemarch, The Mill on the Floss
ELIZABETH GASKELL: North and South
THOMAS HARDY: Tess of the d’Urbervilles, Jude the Obscure
ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON: Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Treasure Island
BRAM STOKER: Dracula
W. M. THACKERAY: Vanity Fair
OSCAR WILDE: The Picture of Dorian Gray

General Prose

MATTHEW ARNOLD: Culture and Anarchy (Norton selection)
THOMAS CARLYLE: Sartor Resartus (Norton selection), Past and Present (Norton selection)
19th Century: American

Poetry

EMILY DICKINSON: 67 (“Success is counted sweetest”), 280 (“I felt a Funeral, in my Brain”), 465 (“I heard a Fly buzz – when I died –”)
WALT WHITMAN: from *Leaves of Grass*, “Song of Myself” (1-5); “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry”, “Scented Herbage of My Breast”

Shorter Fiction

CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN: “The Yellow Wallpaper”, “The Giant Wistaria”, “Through This”
WASHINGTON IRVING: “Rip van Winkle”, “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”
HENRY JAMES: *The Turn of the Screw*, *The Aspern Papers*
HERMAN MELVILLE: “Bartleby, the Scrivener”, *Benito Cereno*, *Billy Budd, Sailor*

Longer Fiction

JAMES FENIMORE COOPER: *The Last of the Mohicans*
STEPHEN CRANE: *The Red Badge of Courage*
NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE: *The Scarlet Letter*
HERMAN MELVILLE: *Moby-Dick*
FRANK NORRIS: *McTeague*
HARRIET BEECHER STOWE: *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*
MARK TWAIN: *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

General Prose

FREDERICK DOUGLASS: “What, to the Slave, Is the Fourth of July?”
MARGARET FULLER: “The Great Lawsuit”
20th & 21st Century: UK and Ireland

Drama

SAMUEL BECKETT: Endgame, Waiting for Godot
CARYL CHURCHILL: Top Girls
JOHN OSBORNE: Look back in Anger
HAROLD PINTER: The Birthday Party, The Homecoming
TOM STOPPARD: Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, Arcadia

Poetry

W. H. AUDEN: “Musée des Beaux Arts”
SEAMUS HEANEY: “Mid-Term Break”, “Bog Queen”
GEOFFREY HILL: “History as Poetry”, “The Pentecost Castle”
WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS: “The Wild Swans at Coole”, “Sailing to Byzantium”, “Leda and the Swan”,
   “Among School Children”

Shorter Fiction

JOSEPH CONRAD: Heart of Darkness
JAMES JOYCE: Dubliners (“The Dead”, Eveline”, “Araby”), Ulysses (the final chapter)

Longer Fiction

J. G. BALLARD: Empire of the Sun, Crash
PAT BARKER: Regeneration
JULIAN BARNES: Talking It Over
MALCOLM BRADBURY: The History Man
ANTHONY BURGESS: A Clockwork Orange
A. S. BYATT: Possession
ANGELA CARTER: Wise Children, Nights at the Circus
FORD MADOX FORD: The Good Soldier
E. M. FORSTER: A Passage to India, Howards End
JOHN FOWLES: The French Lieutenant’s Woman
GRAHAM GREENE: The Power and the Glory
CHRISTOPHER ISHERWOOD: Goodbye to Berlin
HANIF KUREISHI: The Buddha of Suburbia
D. H. LAWRENCE: Sons and Lovers, Women in Love
IAN MCEWAN: Atonement
GEORGE ORWELL: 1984
COLM TOIBIN: The Master, The Blackwater Lightship
REBECCA WEST: The Return of the Soldier
VIRGINIA WOOLF: Mrs. Dalloway, Orlando, To the Lighthouse
20th & 21st Century: American

Drama

EDWARD ALBEE: Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?
LILLIAN HELLMAN: The Children’s Hour, Toys in the Attic
TONY KUSHNER: Angels in America (Part I & II)
ARTHUR MILLER: Death of a Salesman, The Crucible
EUGENE O’NEILL: A Long Day’s Journey into Night
TENNESSEE WILLIAMS: A Streetcar Named Desire, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

Poetry

ELIZABETH BISHOP: “At the Fishhouses”, “The Armadillo”
COUNTEE CULLEN: “Yet Do I Marvel”
E. E. CUMMINGS: “I(a” (a.k.a. the Falling Leaf poem)
LAWRENCE FERLINGHETTI: “Dog”
ALLEN GINSBERG: “Howl”
ROBERT LOWELL: “The Quaker Graveyard in Nantucket”, “For the Union Dead”
EZRA POUND: “L’Art”
ADRIENNE RICH: “Diving into the Wreck”, “Orion”, “Song”
ANNE SextON: “Double Image”, “Briar Rose”
MARK STRAND: Dark Harbor (“XVI” and “XX”), “Two de Chiricos”
WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS: “The Red Wheelbarrow”, “This is Just to Say”

Shorter Fiction

SAUL BELLOW: Seize the Day
JOHN BARTH: “Lost in the Funhouse”
TIM O’BRIEN: “How to Tell a True War Story”
RAYMOND CARVER: “Cathedral”
FLANNERY O’CONNOR: “The Life You Save May Be Your Own”, “Good Country People”
ERNEST HEMINGWAY: “The Snows of Kilimanjaro”, “The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber”
KATHERINE ANNE PORTER: “Pale Horse, Pale Rider”, “Old Mortality”
ANNIE PLOULX: “Brokeback Mountain”
GERTRUDE STEIN: “The Good Anna” (from Three Lives)
JOHN UPDIKE: “A & P”

Longer Fiction

PAUL AUSTER: The New York Trilogy
JAMES BALDWIN: Go Tell It on the Mountain
WILLA CATHER: My Ántonia, O Pioneers!
DON DELILLO: *White Noise*
JON DOS PASSOS: *Manhattan Transfer*
THEODORE DREISER: *Sister Carrie*
BRET EASTON ELLIS: *American Psycho, Lunar Park*
RALPH ELLISON: *Invisible Man*
JEFFREY EUGENIDES: *The Virgin Suicides*
WILLIAM FAULKNER: *As I Lay Dying, Light in August, Absalom, Absalom!, The Sound and the Fury*
F. SCOTT FITZGERALD: *The Great Gatsby*
ERNEST HEMINGWAY: *The Sun Also Rises (a.k.a. Fiesta)*
ZORA NEALE HURSTON: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
HENRY JAMES: *The Wings of the Dove, The Ambassadors*
MAXINE HONG KINGSTON: *China Men, Tripmaster Monkey*
N. SCOTT MOMADAY: *House Made of Dawn*
TONI MORRISON: *Sula, Beloved*
VLADIMIR NABOKOV: *Lolita, Pale Fire*
SYLVIA PLATH: *The Bell Jar*
THOMAS PYNCHON: *The Crying of Lot 49, Gravity’s Rainbow*
PHILIP ROTH: *Counterlife, The Human Stain*
JOHN STEINBECK: *The Grapes of Wrath*
EDITH WHARTON: *The House of Mirth*

### 20th & 21st Century: International

**Poetry**

WOLE SOYINKA (Nigeria): “Telephone Conversation”
DEREK WALCOTT (Saint Lucia): “A Far Cry from Africa”

**Longer Fiction**

CHINUA ACHEBE (Nigeria): *Things Fall Apart*
MARGARET ATWOOD (Canada): *The Handmaid’s Tale, Cat’s Eye*
J. M. COETZEE (South Africa): *Waiting for the Barbarians, Foe*
FRED D’AGUIAR (Guyana): *Feeding the Ghosts*
JANET FRAME (New Zealand): *An Angel at My Table*
WILSON HARRIS (Guyana): *Palace of the Peacock*
DAVID MALOUF (Australia): *Remembering Babylon*
ALICE MUNRO (Canada): *Lives of Girls and Women*
JEAN RHYS (Dominica): *Wide Sargasso Sea*
SALMAN RUSHDIE (India/UK): *Midnight’s Children, Shame*