

## M.A. Reading List English and American Literature

Version October 2009

This reading list forms the basis for the *modulübergreifende* M.A. exams in literature. Candidates are required to cover 10 text units for each credit point of their exams. 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.

Candidates who are examined by two examiners are expected to prepare two different non-overlapping sets of texts. However, their selection of texts remains the same for the oral and the written exam taken with the same examiner.

The coverage of period, genre and thematic focus as well as the precise number of texts will be worked out with the individual examiner(s). Students are well advised to contact their examiner(s) at least one year before the completion of their M.A. studies.

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*

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Much Ado about Nothing*, *Henry IV Part 1*, *Henry IV Part 2*, *Henry V*, *Richard II*, *Richard III*, *Othello*, *Julius Caesar*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night*, *As You Like It*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Measure for Measure*, *The Tempest*, *The Winter's Tale*

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 DONNE: "The Canonization", "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning", "The Sun Rising"

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

GEORGE HERBERT: "Easter Wings", "Man", "The Collar", "Prayer"

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)

SAMUEL JOHNSON: "Preface to *A Dictionary of the English Language*" (Norton selection), "Preface to Shakespeare (and notes to Shakespeare)" (Norton selection), *Lives of the English Poets* (Norton selection)

JAMES SMITH: *An Account of the Remarkable Occurrences in the Life and Travels of Col. James Smith*

JONATHAN SWIFT: *A Tale of a Tub*, "A Modest Proposal"

## 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)

SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE: “Kubla Khan”, “Frost at Midnight”, “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”

FELICIA HEMANS: “Casabianca”, “The Homes of England”, “Corinne at the Capitol”

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”

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH: *Lyrical Ballads* (Norton selection), “A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal”, “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud”, “Composed Upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802”, “Resolution and Independence”, *The Prelude, or Growth of a Poet's Mind* (Book I)

### 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)

THOMAS PAINE: from *Common Sense* (III: “Thoughts on the Present State of American Affairs”), *Rights of Man* (Norton selection)

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY: “A Defence of Poetry” (Norton selection)

MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT: *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (Norton selection)

DOROTHY WORDSWORTH: *The Grasmere Journals* (Norton selection), *The Alfoxden Journal* (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"

GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS: "God's Grandeur", "Thou Art Indeed Just, Lord", "Spring and Fall", "The Windhover"

CHRISTINA ROSSETTI: "Goblin Market"

ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON: "The Lady of Shalott", "Mariana"

### Longer Fiction

CHARLOTTE BRONTË: *Jane Eyre*

EMILY BRONTË: *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”  
NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE: “The Birthmark”, “Rappaccini’s Daughter”, “Young Goodman Brown”  
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*  
EDGAR ALLAN POE: “Ligeia”, “William Wilson”, “The Black Cat”, “The Oval Portrait”, “The Fall of the House of Usher”, “The Pit and the Pendulum”, “The Man of the Crowd”, “The Purloined Letter”

### 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?”  
RALPH WALDO EMERSON: “Nature”, “Self-Reliance”, “Experience”  
MARGARET FULLER: “The Great Lawsuit”  
HENRY DAVID THOREAU: “On the Duty of Civil Disobedience”, *Walden* (Norton selection)

## 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"  
T. S. ELIOT: "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock", "The Waste Land"  
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 TÓIBÍN: *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"

WALLACE STEVENS: "Of Mere Being", "The Idea of Order at Key West", "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird"

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 PROULX: "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*