Revised April 2013

Students admitted for the 2013-2014 year or after will use this list. Students admitted before 2013-2014 may choose to use this list or the previous list.

Undergraduate Reading List

Note: Most of the works on this list can be found in either the Norton Anthology of English Literature or The Norton Anthology of American Literature.

Section 1: Old and Middle English Literature

Poetry
“The Dream of the Rood”

Beowulf
“The Wanderer”

Geoffrey Chaucer (from Canterbury Tales):
- “The General Prologue”
- “The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale”
- “The Pardoner’s Prologue and Tale”
- “The Miller’s Tale”

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
from Piers Plowman: “The Prologue.”

Works not found in the Norton Anthology can be found in the following texts:
Cawley, A.C. Everyman and Medieval Miracle Plays. Dutton.

Section 2: Renaissance and Seventeenth-Century Literature (1485-1660)

Epic Verse
Edmund Spenser:
from The Faerie Queene: Book I, Canto 1, and Book III, Canto 1

John Milton:
from Paradise Lost: Books I, II, and IV

Lyric Verse
Philip Sidney: Astrophil and Stella: Sonnets 1-7
Thomas Wyatt:
They Flee from Me
Whoso list to hunt
My Galley
The long love that in my thought doth harbor

Henry Howard, Earl Surrey:
Love, that doth reign and live within my thought
Wyatt resteth here, that quick could never rest

Queen Elizabeth I:
The doubt of future foes

William Shakespeare: Sonnets 18, 29, 73, 116, 129
Ben Jonson:
“One My First Son”
“Song: To Celia”

Aemilia Lanyer: “Description of Cookham”

John Donne:
“The Flea”
“A Valediction Forbidding Mourning”

Mary Wroth: Pamphilia to Amphilantus sonnets 1, 16, 39, 40
George Herbert:
“The Collar”
“The Pulley”

Andrew Marvell:
“The Garden”
“To His Coy Mistress”

Katherine Philips: “Upon the Double Murder of King Charles”

**Drama**
Christopher Marlowe: The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus
William Shakespeare:
Two of the following:
Hamlet
Othello
King Lear
Macbeth

One of the following:
Twelfth Night
The Tempest
A Midsummer Night’s Dream
Richard II
Richard III
Henry IV pt 1
Henry IV pt 2

**Prose**
Queen Elizabeth I:
Speech to the Troops at Tilbury

Francis Bacon:
“Of Truth”
“Of Plantations”
“Of Studies”
John Donne: Meditation 17
Thomas Hobbes: from *Leviathan*,
   Part 1, Chapter 1 and Chapter 13

**Section 3: Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature (1660-1798)**

**Poetry**
John Dryden:
   “Fair Iris I love and Hourly I Die”
   “To the Memory of Mr. Oldham”
   “Epigram on Milton”
John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester: “Upon Nothing”
Anne Finch, Countess of Winchilsea: “Nocturnal Reverie”
Alexander Pope:
   from *An Essay on Criticism*, lines 1-200
   from *An Essay on Man*, Epistle I and Epistle II, lines 1-18
   *The Rape of the Lock*
Aphra Behn: “The Disappointment”
Jonathan Swift: “The Lady’s Dressing Room”
Lady Mary Wortley Montagu: “The Reasons That Induced Dr. Swift to Write a Poem Called The Lady’s Dressing Room”
Thomas Gray: “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard”
Samuel Johnson: “The Vanity of Human Wishes”

**Drama**
Aphra Behn: *The Rover*
Oliver Goldsmith: *She Stoops To Conquer*
R. B. Sheridan: *The School for Scandal*

**Prose Fiction**
Jonathan Swift: *Gulliver’s Travels*
Eliza Haywood: *Fantomina; or Love in a Maze*
Samuel Richardson: *Pamela*
Laurence Sterne: *A Sentimental Journey*

**Nonfiction**
Jonathan Swift: “A Modest Proposal”
Samuel Johnson: *Rambler* No. 4
John Locke: from *Two Treatises on Civil Government*, Chapter 9
Section 4: Romantic Literature (1798-1832)

Poetry
Charlotte Smith
From *Elegiac Sonnets*
   III (#3) – “To a nightingale”
   IV (#4) – “To the moon”
   VIII (#8) – “To spring”
   XII (#12) – “Written on the sea shore.—October, 1784”
Robert Burns: “Holy Willie’s Prayer”
William Blake:
   from *Songs of Innocence*
      “The Lamb”
      “The Chimney Sweeper”
   from *Songs of Experience*
      “The Chimney Sweeper”
      “The Tyger”
      “London”
William Wordsworth:
   “Lines Composed a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey”
   “Michael”
   “Ode: Intimations of Immortality”
   “The World is Too Much With Us”
   from *The Prelude* Books 1, 2
Samuel Taylor Coleridge:
   “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”
   “Kubla Khan”
   “Dejection: An Ode”
Percy Bysshe Shelley:
   “Ozymandias”
   “Ode to the West Wind”
   “To a Skylark”
   “Adonais”
George Gordon, Lord Byron:
   from Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage: Canto 3
   from Don Juan: Cantos 1 and 4
John Keats:
   “On First Looking Into Chapman’s Homer”
   “On Sitting Down to Read King Lear Once Again”
   “Ode on a Grecian Urn”
   “Ode to a Nightingale”
   “To Autumn”
   “Bright Star”

Prose Fiction
Any two of the following three:
Non-Fiction
Mary Wollstonecraft: from *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (Chap. II: “The Prevailing Opinion of a Sexual Character Discussed”)
William Wordsworth: Preface to the Second Edition of *Lyrical Ballads*
Samuel Taylor Coleridge: from *Biographia Literaria*: Chapters 14 and 17
Percy Bysshe Shelley: *A Defense of Poetry*
John Keats: letter to George and Tom Keats, 21-27 December 1817: “Negative Capability”

**Section 5: Victorian Literature (1832-1901)**

**Poetry**
Elizabeth Barrett Browning, “The Cry of the Children” and “The Runaway Slave at Pilgrim’s Point”
Alfred Tennyson, “The Lady of Shalott” and “Ulysses”
Robert Browning, “My Last Duchess” and “Fra Lippo Lippi”
Matthew Arnold, “Dover Beach” and “The Scholar-Gypsy”
Christina Rossetti, “Goblin Market”
Gerard Manley Hopkins, “God’s Grandeur” and “Pied Beauty” and “The Windhover”

**Prose Fiction**
Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre*
Charles Dickens, *Hard Times*
Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

**Drama**
Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*

**Section 6: Twentieth-Century British Literature**

**Poetry**
William Butler Yeats, “Easter, 1916” and “The Second Coming”
T. S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” and *The Waste Land*
W. H. Auden, “The Unknown Citizen”
Dylan Thomas, “Fern Hill” and “Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night”
Seamus Heaney, “Digging” and “Punishment” and “The Sharping Stone”

**Drama**
Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*
**Prose Fiction**
Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*
James Joyce, “Araby” and “The Dead”
George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*
Zadie Smith, “The Waiter’s Wife”

**Section 7: American Literature to 1860**

**Poetry**
Anne Bradstreet, “The Author to Her Book” and “A Letter to Her Husband, Absent upon Public Employment”
Phillis Wheatley, “On Being Brought from Africa to America” and “To the University of Cambridge in New-England”
Walt Whitman, “Song of Myself”

**Prose**
John Winthrop, “A Modell of Christian Charity”
Mary Rowlandson, *The Sovereignty and Goodness of God*
Benjamin Franklin, *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*, Parts I and II
Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Nature*

**Prose Fiction**
Washington Irving, “Rip Van Winkle”
Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*
Herman Melville, *Bartleby, the Scrivener*
Edgar Allan Poe, “The Fall of the House of Usher”

**Section 8: American Literature from 1861 to the Present**

**Poetry**
Emily Dickinson
   “Success is counted sweetest”
   “There is a certain slant of light”
   “Because I could not stop for Death”
   “My life closed twice before its close”
Ezra Pound, “In a Station of the Metro” (*Cantos* I and XLV)
Wallace Stevens
   “Sunday Morning”
   “Anecdote of the Jar”
Gertrude Stein, *Tender Buttons* (“Objects” section only)
William Carlos Williams, “To Elsie”
Langston Hughes, “The Negro Speaks of Rivers”
Gwendolyn Brooks, “We Real Cool”
Allen Ginsberg, “A Supermarket in California”
Frank O’Hara, “The Day Lady Died”
Adrienne Rich, “Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers”

Novels and Short Stories
Henry James, *Daisy Miller*
Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*
Nella Larsen, *Passing*
James Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues"
Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony*

Drama
Leroi Jones / Amiri Baraka, *Dutchman*