Undergraduate Reading List
(reformatted February 2, 2006)

Note: Many of the works on this list can be found in either the two-volume Norton Anthology of English Literature or The American Tradition in Literature.

Section 1: Old and Middle English Literature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poetry</th>
<th>Drama</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“The Dream of the Rood”</td>
<td>Everyman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beowulf</td>
<td>Second Shepherd’s Play</td>
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<tr>
<td>“The Wanderer”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geoffrey Chaucer (from Canterbury Tales):</td>
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<tr>
<td>• “The General Prologue”</td>
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<tr>
<td>• “The Knight’s Tale”</td>
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<tr>
<td>• “The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale”</td>
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<tr>
<td>• “The Pardoner’s Prologue and Tale”</td>
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<tr>
<td>• “The Nun’s Priest’s Tale”</td>
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<tr>
<td>• “The Miller’s Tale”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</td>
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<tr>
<td>from Piers Plowman: “The Prologue.”</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poetry</th>
<th>Drama</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edmund Spenser:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• from The Shepheardes Calendar: October</td>
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<tr>
<td>• from The Faerie Queene:</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Book I</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Book II, Canto 12</td>
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<td>o Book III, Canto 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher Marlowe: The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Shakespeare:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Hamlet</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Othello</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Philip Sidney: *Astrophil and Stella*: Sonnets 1-7

William Shakespeare: Sonnets 18, 29, 73, 116, 129

John Donne:
- Song (“Go and catch a falling star”)
- “The Flea”
- “A Valediction Forbidding Mourning”
- Holy Sonnets 10 and 14

Ben Jonson:
- “On My First Son”
- “Song: To Celia”

Robert Herrick: “Corinna’s Going A-Maying”

George Herbert:
- “The Collar”
- “The Pulley”

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

John Milton:
- “L’Allegro”
- “Il Penseroso”
- “Lycidas”
- from Paradise Lost
  - Books I and II
  - Book IV (Satan’s Entry into Paradise)
  - Book IX
  - Book X (Consequences of the Fall)
- Book XII (The Departure from Eden)

Ben Jonson: *Volpone*

Nonfiction

Sir Philip Sidney: *An Apology for Poetry*

John Donne: Meditation 17


Francis Bacon:
- “Of Marriage and Single Life”
- “Of Studies”

John Milton: *Areopagitica*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 3: Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature (1660-1798)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Poetry</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Absalom and Achitophel</td>
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<td>- MacFlecknoe</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Section 4: Romantic Literature (1798-1832)

Poetry

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, 12, 13

Samuel Taylor Coleridge:

Drama

Percy Bysshe Shelley: *Prometheus Unbound*

Prose Fiction

Jane Austen: *Pride and Prejudice*

Emily Bronte: *Wuthering Heights*

Nonfiction


Samuel Taylor Coleridge: from *Biographia Literaria*: Chapters 14 and 17

Percy Bysshe Shelley: “A Defense of Poetry”

• “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”
• “Kubla Khan”
• “Dejection: An Ode”

**Percy Bysshe Shelley:**
• “Ozymandias”
• “Ode to the West Wind”
• “To a Skylark”
• “Adonais”

**John Keats:**
• “The Eve of St. Agnes”
• “Ode on a Grecian Urn”
• “Ode to a Nightingale”
• “To Autumn”
• “On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer”
• “Bright Star”
• “On Sitting Down to Read King Lear Once Again”

**George Gordon, Lord Byron:**
• from Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage: Canto 3
• from Don Juan: Cantos 1 and 4

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

**Poetry**

**Alfred Lord Tennyson:**
• “The Lady of Shalott”
• “The Lotos-Eaters”
• “Ulysses”
• from In Memoriam A.H.H. (excerpts in Norton)

**Elizabeth Barrett Browning:**
• Sonnets From the Portuguese: 21, 22, 32, 43
• from Aurora Leigh (excerpts in Norton)

**Robert Browning:**
• “My Last Duchess”
• “Fra Lippo Lippi”
• “Andrea del Sarto”

**Prose Fiction**

**Charles Dickens:** Great Expectations

**Charlotte Bronte:** Jane Eyre

**William Makepeace Thackeray:** Vanity Fair

**Thomas Hardy:** Tess of the d’Urbervilles

**Nonfiction**

**Matthew Arnold:** from Culture and Anarchy:
“Porro Unum Est Necessarium”

**Walter Pater:** from The Renaissance:
“Conclusion”

**John Ruskin:** from Modern Painters: “A Definition
### Section 6: Twentieth-Century British Literature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poetry</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Matthew Arnold:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• “The Scholar Gypsy”</td>
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<td>• “Dover Beach”</td>
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George Meredith: from *Modern Love*: 1-3, 15-17, 23, 35, 42, 43, 48-50

Gerard Manley Hopkins:  
• “God’s Grandeur”  
• “The Windhover”  
• “Pied Beauty”  
• “Carrion Comfort”  
• “No Worst, There Is None”

Christina Rossetti: “Goblin Market”

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<tr>
<th>Prose Fiction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dylan Thomas:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• “Fern Hill”</td>
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<tr>
<td>• “Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night”</td>
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William Butler Yeats:  
• “The Second Coming”  
• “Sailing to Byzantium”  
• “Leda and the Swan”  
• “Among School Children”  
• “Byzantium”

Thomas Stearns Eliot:  
• “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”  
• *The Waste Land*  
• from *The Four Quartets*: “Little Gidding”

George Bernard Shaw: *St. Joan*

Samuel Beckett: *Waiting for Godot*

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<th>Nonfiction</th>
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D. H. Lawrence: *Sons and Lovers*

### Section 7: American Literature to 1860

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Poetry</th>
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Thomas Stearns Eliot: “Tradition and the Individual Talent”

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<th>Prose Fiction</th>
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Joseph Conrad:  
• *The Secret Sharer*  
• *Heart of Darkness*

James Joyce:  
• from *The Dubliners*  
  o “Araby”  
  o “The Dead”  
• *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

D. H. Lawrence: *Sons and Lovers*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poetry</th>
<th>Drama</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emily Dickinson:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Eugene O’Neill:</strong> Long Day’s Journey Into Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>- “Success is counted sweetest”</td>
<td><strong>Arthur Miller:</strong> Death of a Salesman</td>
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<tr>
<td>- “There is a certain slant of light”</td>
<td><strong>Prose Fiction</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- “I heard a fly buzz when I died”</td>
<td><strong>Samuel Langhorne Clemens:</strong> The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</td>
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<tr>
<td>- “Because I could not stop for Death”</td>
<td><strong>Henry James:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- “My life closed twice before its close”</td>
<td>- “The International Episode”</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ezra Pound:</strong> “Hugh Selwyn Mauberley”</td>
<td>- “The Beast in the Jungle”</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wallace Stevens:</strong> “The Emperor of Ice-Cream”</td>
<td>- “The Jolly Corner”</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Stephen Crane:</strong> The Red Badge of Courage</td>
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<td><strong>Theodore Dreiser:</strong> Sister Carrie</td>
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<td><strong>F. Scott Fitzgerald:</strong> The Great Gatsby</td>
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<td><strong>Ernest Hemingway:</strong> The Sun Also Rises</td>
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<td><strong>William Faulkner:</strong> The Sound and the Fury</td>
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**Nathaniel Hawthorne:**
- The Scarlet Letter
- “Young Goodman Brown”

**Herman Melville:** Billy Budd, Sailor

**Edgar Allan Poe:** “The Fall of the House of Usher”

**Nonfiction**

**Ralph Waldo Emerson:** “Nature”

**Henry David Thoreau:**
- Walden
- The Essay on Civil Disobedience

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