Students admitted before 2018-2019 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 the *Norton Anthology of English Literature*, *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, in other anthologies, and online.

**Section 1: Early British Literature (Beginnings to 1800)**

**Verse**

“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”

from *Piers Plowman*: “The Prologue.”

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

Philip Sidney: *Astrophil and Stella*: Sonnets 1-7

Thomas Wyatt:

They Flee from Me

Queen Elizabeth I:

The doubt of future foes

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

Aemilia Lanyer: “Description of Cookham”

John Donne:

“The Flea”

“A Valediction Forbidding Mourning”

George Herbert:

“The Collar”

“The Pulley”

Andrew Marvell:

“To His Coy Mistress”

John Dryden:

“Epigram on Milton”

Anne Finch, Countess of Winchilsea: “Nocturnal Reverie”

Alexander Pope:

*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”

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

**Prose**
Queen Elizabeth I:
  Speech to the Troops at Tilbury
Francis Bacon:
  “Of Truth”
John Donne: Meditation 17
Jonathan Swift
  *Gulliver’s Travels*
  “A Modest Proposal”

**Poetry**
William Blake:
  from *Songs of Innocence*
  “The Lamb”
  “The Chimney Sweeper”
  from *Songs of Experience*
  “The Chimney Sweeper”
  “The Tyger”
  “London”

**Section 2: Late British Literature (1800 to present)**
William Wordsworth:
   “Lines Composed a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey”
   “Michael”
Samuel Taylor Coleridge:
   “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”
Percy Bysshe Shelley:
   “Ozymandias”
   “Ode to the West Wind”
John Keats:
   “Ode on a Grecian Urn”
   “Ode to a Nightingale”
Elizabeth Barrett Browning:
   “The Cry of the Children”
   “The Runaway Slave at Pilgrim’s Point”
Alfred Tennyson:
   “The Lady of Shalott”
   “Ulysses”
Robert Browning:
   “My Last Duchess”
Matthew Arnold:
   “Dover Beach”
Christina Rossetti:
   “Goblin Market”
Gerard Manley Hopkins:
   “God’s Grandeur”
William Butler Yeats:
   “Easter, 1916”
   “The Second Coming”
T. S. Eliot:
   “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”
   *The Waste Land*
W. H. Auden:
   “The Unknown Citizen”

**Prose Fiction**
Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*
Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre*
Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*
James Joyce, “The Dead”
George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*
Zadie Smith, “The Waiter’s Wife”

**Drama**
Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*
Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*

**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*

John Keats:

letter to George and Tom Keats, 21-27 December 1817: “Negative Capability”

**Section 3: Early American Literature (Contact to 1865)**

**Poetry**
Anne Bradstreet

“The Author to Her Book”
“A Letter to Her Husband, Absent upon Public Employment”

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”

Phillis Wheatley

“On Being Brought from Africa to America”
“To the University of Cambridge in New-England”

Walt Whitman,

“As Adam Early in the Morning”
“I Saw in Louisiana a Live Oak Growing,”
“Beat! Beat! Drums!”
“Vigil Strange I Kept on the Field One Night”

**Personal Narratives, Essays, and Sermons**
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, “Self-Reliance”

**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 4: Late American Literature (1865-present)

Poetry
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*