

BA EXAM READING LISTS

Modern and Contemporary Literature (oral exam) Patrick Vincent

[A number of the texts or authors below will be discussed in one or the other of the annual lecture courses: **Survey of Modern British literature** / **Survey of American literature**. Please note that any other text relevant to one of the categories below, studied within the context of a seminar or on your own, may also be proposed. Texts that you have already studied at the Lycée will normally not be accepted]

01. Romantic Period Poetry (CHOOSE ONE):

- William Blake: *Songs of Innocence and Experience* (Norton selection)
- William Wordsworth: *Lyrical Ballads* (Norton selection)
- William Wordsworth: Two-Book *Prelude* or 1805 *Prelude* (Norton selection)
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge: “Rime of the Ancient Mariner” (1798 edition), “Frost at Midnight”, “Dejection: an Ode”
- Lord Byron: *Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage* (Canto 3)
- Lord Byron: *Manfred*
- Lord Byron: *Don Juan* (Canto 1)
- John Keats: *Endymion* (Norton selection), “The Eve of St. Agnes”, “La Belle Dame Sans Merci”
- John Keats: “Ode to a Nightingale”, “Ode on a Grecian Urn”, “To Autumn”
- Percy Bysshe Shelley: *Alastor*
- Percy Bysshe Shelley: “Ozymandias”, “Ode to the West Wind”, *Adonais*
- Percy Bysshe Shelley: *Prometheus Unbound* (Norton selection)
- Felicia Hemans: “England’s Dead”, “Casabianca”, “The Homes of England”, “Corinne at the Capitol”, “Properzia Rossi”

02. Nineteenth-Century Fiction (CHOOSE ONE):

- Walter Scott: *Waverley* or *Ivanhoe*
- Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein* (1818 edition)
- Jane Austen: any novel
- Emily Brontë: *Wuthering Heights*
- Charlotte Brontë: *Jane Eyre*
- Edgar Allan Poe: tales (Norton selection)
- Nathaniel Hawthorne: *The Scarlet Letter*
- Nathaniel Hawthorne: tales (Norton selection)
- Herman Melville: *Moby Dick*
- Herman Melville: “Billy Budd”, “Bartleby”
- Elizabeth Gaskell: *North and South*
- Charles Dickens: any novel
- George Eliot: any novel
- Wilkie Collins : *The Moonstone*
- Mark Twain: *Huckleberry Finn*
- Harriet Beecher Stowe: *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*
- Henry James: any novel
- Henry James: “Daisy Miller”, “The Turn of the Screw”
- Thomas Hardy: any novel
- Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Doctor Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
- Stephen Crane: *Maggie* or *The Red Badge of Courage*

03. Late Eighteenth and Nineteenth-Century Prose; or Nineteenth-Century Poetry (CHOOSE ONE):

- Benjamin Franklin, *Autobiography* (Norton selection)
- Olaudah Equiano: *Interesting Narrative* (Norton selection)
- Crèvecoeur: *Letters from an American Farmer* (Norton selection)
- The Revolution Controversy (Norton selection)
- William Wordsworth: Preface to the *Lyrical Ballads* (1800)
- Percy Bysshe Shelley: "A Defence of Poetry"
- William Hazlitt: "On Gusto", "My First Acquaintance with the Poets"
- Thomas de Quincey: *Confessions of an Opium Eater* (Norton selection)
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge: *Biographia Literaria* (Norton selection)
- Matthew Arnold: *Culture and Anarchy, Literature and Science* (Norton selection)
- John Stuart Mill, *The Subjection of Women* (Norton selection)
- Ralph Waldo Emerson: *Nature*
- Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Self-Reliance", "The American Scholar"
- Margaret Fuller: *The Great Lawsuit* (Norton selection)
- Harriet Jacobs: *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (Norton selection)
- Henry David Thoreau: *Walden* (Norton selection)
- Charles Darwin: *The Origin of Species* and *The Descent of Man* (Norton selection)
- Frederick Douglass: *Narrative* (Norton selection)
- Walt Whitman: 1855 Preface to *Leaves of Grass*
- Realism and Naturalism (Norton selection, American)
- Lord Tennyson: *In Memoriam*
- Lord Tennyson: "The Lady of Shalott", "Ulysses", "Morte d' Arthur", "Maud"
- Robert Browning: "Porphyria's Lover", "My Last Duchess", "Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came", "Love Among the Ruins"
- Elizabeth Barrett Browning: "How do I love Thee?", "Mother and Poet", "A Year's Spinning", *Aurora Leigh* (Norton selection)
- Christina Rossetti: "In an Artist's Studio", "Goblin Market"
- Gerald Manley Hopkins: "God's Grandeur", "The Windhover", "Spring and Fall", "Pied Beauty"
- Walt Whitman: "Song of Myself" (1-5), "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed", "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"
- Emily Dickinson: poems (Norton selection)

04. Twentieth-Century Fiction (CHOOSE ONE):

- Joseph Conrad: any novel
- Edith Wharton: *The House of Mirth* or *The Age of Innocence*
- Kate Chopin: *The Awakening*
- Theodore Dreiser: *Sister Carrie*
- James Joyce: *Dubliners* or *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* or *Ulysses*
- D.H. Lawrence: *Sons and Lovers* or *Women in Love* or *The Rainbow*
- D.H. Lawrence : short stories (Norton selection)
- Virginia Woolf: any novel
- F. Scott Fitzgerald: any novel
- Zora Neale Hurston: *Their Eyes were Watching God*
- William Faulkner: any novel
- Ernest Hemingway: any novel
- Ernest Hemingway: short stories (Norton selection)
- John Steinbeck: any novel
- Graham Greene: any novel
- George Orwell: *Nineteen-Eighty Four*

- Jack Kerouac : *On the Road*
- Ralph Ellison: *Invisible Man*
- Richard Wright: *Native Son*
- Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart*
- J.M. Coetzee: any novel
- Doris Lessing: “To Room 119”
- Tony Morrison: any novel
- Saul Bellow: *Seize the Day* or *Herzog*
- Philip Roth: any novel
- Sherman Alexie: *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*
- Zadie Smith: *White Teeth* or *On Beauty*

05. Twentieth-Century Poetry (CHOOSE ONE):

- T.S. Eliot: “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” and *Four Quartets* (Norton selection)
- T.S. Eliot: *The Wasteland*
- Thomas Hardy: “Neutral Tones”, “The Darkling Thrush”, “Channel Firing”, “The Convergence of the Twain”, “During Wind and Rain”
- William Butler Yeats: “The Lake Isle of Innisfree”, “No Second Troy”, “The Fascination of What’s Difficult”, “Easter 1916”, “Sailing to Byzantium”
- Robert Frost: “Mending Wall”, “After Apple-Picking”, “The Road Not Taken”, “Birches”, “Design”
- William Carlos Williams: “Portrait of a Lady”, “Spring and All”, “The Red Wheelbarrow”, “This is Just to Say”, “Landscape with the Fall of Icarus”
- Marianne Moore: “Poetry”, “The Paper Nautilus”, “The Mind is an Enchanting Thing”
- Wallace Stevens: “Sunday Morning”, “Anecdote of the Jar”, “The Idea of Order at Key West”
- WH Auden: “Spain”, “In Memory of WB Yeats”, “September 1, 1939”
- Philip Larkin: “Church Going”, “MCMXIV”, “High Windows”, “Aubade”
- Ted Hughes: “Wind”, “Pike”, “Examination at the Womb-Door”, “Daffodils”
- Seamus Heaney: “Digging”, “The Skunk”, Station Island 12, “The Sharping Stone”
- Theodore Roethke: “I Knew A Woman”, “In a Dark Time”, “The Waking”
- Robert Lowell: “The Quacker Graveyard in Nantucket”, “Skunk Hour”, “For the Union Dead”
- Elizabeth Bishop: “The Fish”, “The Armadillo”, “In the Waiting Room”
- Sylvia Plath: “Morning Song”, “Lady Lazarus”, “Daddy”

06. Twentieth-Century Drama; or Twentieth-Century Prose (CHOOSE ONE):

- George Bernard Shaw: any play
- Oscar Wilde: any play
- Eugene O’Neill: any play
- Samuel Beckett: *Endgame* or *Waiting for Godot*
- Arthur Miller: any play
- Tennessee Williams: any play
- Harold Pinter: *The Dumbwaiter* or *The Birthday Party*
- Tom Stoppard: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* or *Arcadia*
- Sam Shepard: *True West* or *Fool for Love*
- Modernist Manifestos (Norton selection, British or American)
- Virginia Woolf: “Modern Fiction” and *A Room of One’s Own* (Norton selection)
- TS Eliot: “Tradition and the Individual Talent” and “The Metaphysical Poets”
- George Orwell: “Politics and the English Language”
- Nation, Race, and Language (Norton selection)

BA Reading List Medieval English Literature

Most of the texts listed below are discussed in the lecture course. All of them are exam material.

Translations can be found on Moodle or in the Norton Anthology.

Old English

- *Cædmon's Hymn*
- *The Wanderer*
- *The Dream of the Rood*
- *Beowulf*

Middle English

- “The Arming of Arthur” from Laȝamon’s *Brut* and “The Myth of Arthur’s Return” in Geoffrey of Monmouth, Wace and Laȝamon (available as a one-page PDF file on Moodle)
- *Sir Orfeo*
- From Geoffrey Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*:
 - The General Prologue
 - The Knight’s Tale
 - The Miller’s Prologue and Tale
 - The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale
 - The Pardoner’s Prologue and Tale
 - The Prioress’s Prologue and Tale
- *The York Play of the Crucifixion*