

Graduate Reading List

Candidates are expected not only to read the primary texts listed below but also to acquire background in their literary history (and such frames of reference as genres, period themes, topoi). In addition, literary texts should always be studied within a framework of critical theory, as well as of social, political, and cultural history – and no text or period is an exception. When excerpts of a text are to be selected, students should choose representative portions of that text, through consulting with the advisor or the major professor in the field, whether medieval and Renaissance (Professor Munson), baroque and neoclassical (Professor Munson), nineteenth century (Professor Hokenson), or twentieth century (Professor Shaktini or Hokenson). Bonne lecture!

Medieval Period – Primary Texts

A. 12th and 13th Centuries

Required readings:

- 1. La Chanson de Roland (complete)
- 1. Any complete roman by Chrétien de Troyes
- 1. Marie de France: Lais (complete)
- 1. Guillaume de Lorris: Le Roman de la Rose (complete) and Jean de Meung: Le Roman de la Rose (selections chosen in consultation) ☐☐

Optional readings (but choose at least ONE of the following):

- 1. La Vie de saint Alexis (complete)
- 1. Le Charroi de Nîmes (complete)
- 1. Fabliaux (choose three in consultation)
- 1. Le Roman de Renart (choose a branche in consultation)
- 1. Aucassin et Nicolette (complete)
- 1. Rutebeuf (choose two poems in consultation)

B. 14th and 15th Centuries

Required readings:

- 1. La Farce de Maître Pathelin (complete)
- 1. Christine de Pizan: La Cité des Dames (complete)
- 1. Villon: Le Testament (complete)

- l. Lyric poetry by Charles d'Orléans, Christine de Pizan, and Guillaume de Machaut (selections chosen in consultation)

- l. **Optional readings (but choose at least ONE of the following):**

- l. Froissart: Chroniques (selections) OR Commines: Mémoires (selections)
- l. One "dit" by either Guillaume de Machaut or Jean de Froissart
- l. Any other major work by Christine de Pizan or Antoine de la Sale

Recommended Critical Readings (Middle Ages):

- l. Badel, P.-Y. Introduction à la vie littéraire du Moyen Age. Paris: Bordas, 1969.
- l. Payen, J.-C. and Poirion, D. Littérature française: Le Moyen Age I et II. Paris: Arthaud, 1970-1.
- l. Zumthor, Paul. Essai de poétique médiévale. Paris: Seuil, 1972.

Renaissance - Primary Texts □ C. 16th Century

Required readings:

- l. François Rabelais: Gargantua or Pantagruel (complete)
- l. Michel de Montaigne: Essais "Au lecteur," I 1, 20, 26, 28; II 6, 10, 18; III 6
- l. Joachim du Bellay: La Défense et illustration de la langue française (complete)
- l. Joachim du Bellay: L'Olive 1; Les Regrets "A son livre," 1, 8, 9, 31, 32, 79
- l. Pierre de Ronsard: Cassandre 1, 5, 23; Marie 2, 14, 15; Hélène 3, 5, 11
- l. Louise Labé: Sonnets 2, 8, 17, 24 □ □ **Optional readings (but choose at least ONE of the following):**
- l. Clément Marot: Elégies 2, 9, 13, 16
- l. Maurice Scève: Délie: Opening huitain, dizains 1-5, any series of 9 dizains with emblem
- l. Louise Labé: Débat de Folie et d'Amour (complete)
- l. Marguerite de Navarre: L'Heptaméron (three "nouvelles" chosen in consultation)
- l. Agrippa d'Aubigné: Les Tragiques (selections chosen in consultation)

Recommended Critical Readings (Renaissance):

- l. Auerbach, Erich. Mimesis. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1953. Chapters on Montaigne, Rabelais.
- l. Cave, Terence. The Cornucopian Text: Problems of Writing in the French Renaissance. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1979.

- 1. Bakhtin, Mikhaïl. L'Oeuvre de François Rabelais et la culture populaire au Moyen Age et sous la Renaissance. Paris: Gallimard, 1970. OR in English : Rabelais and His World. Cambridge: MIT P, 1965.
- 1. Ménager, Daniel. Introduction à la vie littéraire du XVIe siècle. Paris: Bordas, 1968.
- 1. Starobinski, Jean. Montaigne en mouvement. Paris: Gallimard, 1983.
- 1. Weber, Henri. La Création poétique au XVIe siècle en France. 2 vols. Paris: Nizet, 1955.

Classical Period – Primary Texts □ D. 17th Century

Required readings:

- 1. Pierre Corneille: Le Cid
- 1. Jean Racine: Phèdre
- 1. Molière: Tartuffe
- 1. Madame de Lafayette: La Princesse de Clèves □ □ **Optional readings (but choose at least ONE of the following):**
- 1. René Descartes: Discours de la méthode
- 1. Boileau: L'Art poétique
- 1. La Fontaine: Les Fables (chosen in consultation)
- 1. Blaise Pascal: Les Pensées (chosen in consultation)

Recommended critical readings for the seventeenth century:

- 1. Paul Bénichou. Morales du Grand Siècle. Paris: Gallimard, 1948.
- 1. Lucien Goldmann. Le Dieu caché: Étude sur la vision tragique dans les Pensées de Pascal et dans le théâtre de Racine. Paris: Gallimard, 1959.
- 1. Emmanuel Bury. Le Classicisme: L'Avènement du modèle littéraire française 1660- 1680. Paris: Nathan, 1993.
- 1. Henri Payre. Qu'est-ce que le classicisme? Paris: Nizet, 1964.

E. 18th Century - Primary Texts □ Required readings:

- 1. Voltaire: Candide ou l'optimisme
- 1. Diderot: Le Neveu de Rameau
- 1. Rousseau: Les Rêveries du promeneur solitaire
- 1. Montesquieu: Les Lettres persanes □ □ **Optional readings (but choose at least ONE of the following):**
- 1. Prévost: Manon Lescaut
- 1. Laclos: Les Liaisons dangereuses

- l. Beaumarchais: Le Mariage de Figaro
- l. Marivaux: Le Jeu de l'amour et du hasard

Recommended critical readings for the eighteenth century:

- l. Jean Starobinski. Jean-Jacques Rousseau: La Transparence de l'obstacle. Paris: Gallimard, 1971.
- l. Ernst Cassirer. La Philosophie des lumières. Paris: Fayard, 1966.
- l. Michael Fried. Absorption and Theatricality: Painting and Beholder in the Age of Diderot. Berkeley: U of California P, 1980.
- l. Michel Foucault. Les Mots et les choses: une archéologie des sciences humaines. Paris: Gallimard, 1966.

Romantic Period – Primary Texts □ F. Early 19th Century

Required readings:

- l. Stendhal: Le Rouge et le noir
- l. Lamartine: "Le Lac"
- l. Hugo: "La Tristesse d'Olympio"
- l. Baudelaire: "Correspondances" □ □ **Optional readings (but choose at least ONE of the following):**
- l. Chateaubriand: René
- l. Constant: Adolphe
- l. Nerval: "El Desdichado"
- l. Sand: Indiana

Recommended critical readings on the early nineteenth century:

- l. D.G. Charlton, ed. The French Romantics. 2 vols. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1984.
- l. Christopher Prendergast, ed. Nineteenth-Century French Poetry: Introduction to Close Reading. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1990.
- l. Harry Levin. The Gates of Horn: A Study of Five French Realists. NY: Oxford UP, 1966.

G. Later 19th century □ Required readings:

- l. Balzac: Le Père Goriot
- l. Flaubert: Madame Bovary
- l. Zola: Germinal
- l. Verlaine: "Art Poétique"

- l. Mallarmé: "Le Vierge, le vivace et le bel aujourd'hui"

Optional readings (but choose at least ONE of the following):

- l. Rimbaud: "Voyelles"
- l. Huysmans: A Rebours
- l. Valéry: La Soirée avec Monsieur Teste
- l. Jules et Edmond de Goncourt. Germinie Lacerteux

Recommended critical readings on the later nineteenth century:

- l. Philippe Dufour. Le Réalisme. Paris: PUF, 1998.
- l. Linda Nochlin. Realism. NY: Penguin, 1971.
- l. Richard Terdiman. Discourse/Counter-Discourse: The Theory and Practice of Symbolic Resistance in Nineteenth-Century France. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1985.
- l. David Scott. Pictorialist Poetics: Poetry and the Visual Arts in Nineteenth-Century France. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1988.
- l. Malcolm Bowie. Mallarmé and the Art of Being Difficult. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1978.

Modernist Period – Primary Texts □ H. Early 20th Century

Required readings:

- l. Proust: Du Côté de chez Swann
- l. Breton: Nadja
- l. Sartre: La Nausée
- l. Céline: Voyage au bout de la nuit □ □ **Optional reading (but choose at least ONE of the following):**

- l. Gide: L'Immoraliste
- l. Sarraute: Tropismes
- l. Césaire: Une Tempête
- l. Apollinaire: "La Colombe poignardée et le jet d'eau" (in Calligrammes)

Recommended critical readings on the early twentieth century:

- l. Julia Kristeva. Le Temps sensible: Proust et l'expérience littéraire. Paris: Gallimard, 1994.
- l. Antonin Artaud. Le Théâtre et son double. Paris: Gallimard, 1964.
- l. Maurice Nadeau. Histoire du surréalisme. Paris: Seuil, 1970.
- l. Christopher Butler. Early Modernism: Literature, Music, and Painting in

Europe 1910-1916. Oxford: Clarendon, 1994.

I. Later 20th Century □ **Required readings:**

- 1. Beauvoir: L'Invitée
- 1. Camus: La Chute
- 1. Beckett: En Attendant Godot
- 1. Duras: Le Ravissement de Lol V. Stein □ □ **Optional readings (but choose at least ONE of the following):**
- 1. Wittig: L'Oppoponax
- 1. Robbe-Grillet: Le Voyeur.
- 1. Genet: Les Bonnes
- 1. Bonnefoy: Pierre écrite (selections chosen in consultation)
- 1. Djébar: La Femme sans sépulture.

Recommended critical readings on the later twentieth century:

- 1. Bernard Henri-Lévy. Le Siècle de Sartre. Paris: Gallimard, 2000.
- 1. Rita Felski. The Gender of Modernity. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 1995.
- 1. Jean-François Lyotard. La Condition postmoderne. Paris: Minuit, 1979.
- 1. Alice Jardine. Gynesis: Configurations of Woman and Modernity. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1985.

J. Critical Essays (* = in David Lodge, ed., Modern Criticism & Theory. 2nd ed, 2000) □ **Foundational Texts (choose at least 2)**

- 1. Karl Marx: The German Ideology
- 1. Sigmund Freud: Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality
- 1. Ferdinand de Saussure: "Nature du signe linguistique" (in Cours de linguistique générale)
- 1. Claude Lévi-Strauss: "Structures élémentaires de la parenté"
- 1. Jean-Paul Sartre: "Qu'est-ce que la littérature?"
- 1. Simone de Beauvoir: Le Deuxième sexe □ □ **Structuralist and Poststructuralist Texts (choose at least 4)**
- 1. Jacques Lacan: "The Mirror Stage"
- 1. Roland Barthes: "The Death of the Author"*
- 1. Michel Foucault: "What is an Author?"*
- 1. Louis Althusser: "Idéologie et appareils idéologiques d'état"
- 1. Emile Benveniste: "De la Subjectivité dans le langage" or "Le Statut des pronoms" (in Problèmes de la linguistique générale) □ □ **Postmodern Texts (choose at least 4)**

- l. Gérard Genette: "Voix" and "Mode" (in Figures III or in English as Narrative Discourse)
- l. Hélène Cixous: "Le Rire de la Méduse"
- l. Jean Baudrillard: "Simulacra and Simulations"*
- l. Wolfgang Iser: "The Reading Process"*
- l. Patrocinio Schweikart: "Reading Ourselves: Toward a Feminist Theory of Reading"*
- l. Jacques Derrida: "Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences"*

Recommended readings:

- l. Marcel Danesi: Messages and Meanings: An Introduction to Semiotics
- l. Fredric Jameson: "The Politics of Theory"*
- l. Maurice Blanchot: "The Essential Solitude" (in L'Espace littéraire)
- l. Edward Said: Orientalism
- l. Homi Bhabha: "Dissemination" (in The Location of Culture)
- l. Paul de Man: "Resistance to Theory"*□

Nota Bene: see also the sections of recommended readings above.