**Victorian Literature**

Suggested Reading List for Ph.D. candidates

*Please note that the following is a general list, designed so that students can refine and add to it in consultation with their major examiner.*

**Basic Background**

Specialists: have a working general familiarity with 30 of the works on the following list.

Nonspecialists: Read at least five of the following.

- ---. *Knowing the Past* (Cornell UP 2001).
- ---. *How Novels Think: The Limits of Individualism from 1719 to 1900*, 2006.


McCintock, Anne. *Imperial Leather* (Rutledge, 1995).


Richardson, LeeAnne. *New Woman and Colonial Adventure Fiction in Victorian Britain: Gender, Genre, and Empire* (UP of Florida, 2006)


---. *Culture and Society*


**Fiction**: read at least three (specialists) / two (non-specialists) works by each of the following:

- Jane Austen
- George Eliot
- Charlotte Bronte
- Thomas Hardy
- Charles Dickens
- William M. Thackeray
Also have a strong familiarity with at least five (specialists) three (non-specialists) of the following:

- Grace Aguilar
- William Beckford
- George Borrow
- Elizabeth Braddon
- Ann Brontë
- Charlotte Brontë
- Emily Brontë
- Samuel Butler
- Mona Caird
- Wilkie Collins
- Mary de Morgan
- Benjamin Disraeli
- Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll)
- Arthur Conan Doyle
- Amelia Edwards
- George Egerton
- Elizabeth Gaskell
- George Gissing
- Sarah Grand
- Charles Kingsley
- Rudyard Kipling
- Sheridan Le Fanu
- Amy Levy
- George Macdonald
- George Meredith
- George Moore
- William Morris
- Arthur Morrison
- John Henry Newman
- Margaret Oliphant
- Ouida
- Charles Reade
- Walter Scott
- Flora Annie Steele
- Robert Louis Stevenson
- Bram Stoker
- Anthony Trollope
- Frances Trollope
- Mrs. Humphrey (Mary) Ward
- H. G. Wells
- Oscar Wilde

Students may also choose to use one of many strong collections of Victorian Short fiction such as Michael Cox’s *The Oxford Book of Victorian Ghost Stories* (Oxford, 2003) or *The Oxford Book of Victorian Detective Stories* (Oxford, 2003), Jack Zipes’ collection, *Victorian Fairy Tales*, or Elaine Showalter’s *Daughters of Decadence* anthology (Rutgers UP, 1993).
Poetry: Have a strong familiarity with the important poems of the following:

- Matthew Arnold
- Robert Browning
- Elizabeth Barrett Browning
- Gerard Manley Hopkins
- Christina Rossetti
- Alfred Lord Tennyson

Also (specialists only) have a familiarity with at least five of the following:

- Emily Bronte
- Letitia Elizabeth Landon (L.E.L.)
- Arthur Hugh Clough
- Amy Levy
- Ernest Dowson
- George Meredith
- Michael Field
- Charlotte Mew
- Edward Fitzgerald
- William Morris
- Felicia Hemans
- Dante Gabriel Rossetti
- William Ernest Henley
- Charles Algernon Swinburne
- A.E. Housman
- James Thomson
- Rudyard Kipling
- Oscar Wilde

Poetic Theory

Know at least five essays on poetic theory from the Broadview Anthology by the following authors:

- Matthew Arnold
- J. S. Mill
- Walter Bagehot
- Dante Gabriel Rossetti
- Robert Buchanan
- Arthur Symons
- Arthur Henry Hallam
- Oscar Wilde
- Gerard Manley Hopkins

Prose: Know the listed works below:

- Matthew Arnold *Culture and Anarchy*
- Thomas Carlyle *Sartor Resartus*
- John Stuart Mill *Autobiography*
- John Henry Newman *Apologia Pro Vita Sua*
Also (specialists only) be familiar with the prose writings of at least three of the following:

- Grace Aguilar
- Mona Caird
- Frances Power Cobbe
- Charles Darwin
- Thomas De Quincey
- George Eliot
- James Anthony Froude
- Edmund Gosse
- Thomas Henry Huxley
- Vernon Lee
- Eliza Lynn Linton
- Thomas Babington Macaulay
- Harriet Martineau
- Henry Mayhew
- William Morris
- Walter Pater
- John Ruskin
- Herbert Spencer
- Oscar Wilde

**Biography**: Be familiar with at least four of the following works:

- Barker, Juliet. *The Brontës* (St. Martin’s, 1995)
- Johnson, Edgar. *Charles Dickens* (1952)
- Ricks, Christopher. *Tennyson* (1972)