Modern British and Anglophone Literature (pre-1960)

Students preparing for a doctoral examination in this field are asked to compose a reading list, in conjunction with their exam committee, drawn from the core of writers and scholars whose work appears below. We expect students to add to, subtract from, and modify this list as suits their purposes and interests. Students are not responsible for reading everything on this section list; instead, they should create a personalized list of approximately 40-50 texts, using this list as a guide. However, at least 50% of a student’s examination reading should come from this list.

Prose:


Mulk Raj Anand, *Untouchable, Conversations in Bloomsbury*

Samuel Beckett, *Watt*

Arnold Bennett, *Anna of the Five Towns*


Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth*

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness, The Secret Agent, Lord Jim*

T. S. Eliot, *Selected Essays*

Ford Madox Ford, *The Good Soldier*

E. M. Forster, *A Room with a View, Howards End, A Passage to India, Maurice, Aspects of the Novel, “Notes on the English Character” (essay)*

Robert Graves, *Goodbye to All That*

Henry Green, *Party Going*

Graham Greene, *Brighton Rock, The Heart of the Matter*

Radclyffe Hall, *The Well of Loneliness*

Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*

Henry James, *The Ambassadors, The Golden Bowl*

James Joyce, *Dubliners, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Ulysses*

Rudyard Kipling, *The Man Who Would Be King: Selected Stories, Kim*

D. H. Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers, Women in Love, The Rainbow, Lady Chatterley’s Lover*

Doris Lessing, *The Grass is Singing*

Katherine Mansfield, *The Garden Party and Other Stories*

W. Somerset Maugham, *Of Human Bondage*
George Orwell, *Burmese Days, 1984, A Collection of Essays*
Jean Rhys, *Voyage in the Dark, Wide Sargasso Sea*
Dorothy Richardson, *Pilgrimage*
Vita Sackville-West, *The Edwardians*
Sam Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners*
Muriel Spark, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*
Lytton Strachey, *Eminent Victorians*
Evelyn Waugh, *Brideshead Revisited*
Denton Welch, *In Youth Is Pleasure*
H. G. Wells, *The Time Machine, The Island of Dr. Moreau, Ann Veronica*
Rebecca West, *The Return of the Soldier*
Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
Leonard Woolf, *The Wise Virgins, Growing*
Virginia Woolf, *Jacob’s Room, Mrs Dalloway, To the Lighthouse, The Waves, Between the Acts, A Room of One’s Own, Three Guineas, Collected Essays*

Poetry:
John Betjeman
Nancy Cunard, *Parallax, Negro: An Anthology* (editor), *Authors Take Sides on the Spanish Civil War* (editor)
Cecil Day-Lewis, *From Feathers to Iron*
Thomas Hardy, *Satires of Circumstance*
H. D., *Trilogy, Tribute to Freud* (prose)
A. E. Housman, *A Shropshire Lad*
David Jones, *In Parenthesis*
Rudyard Kipling, *The Years Between*
Philip Larkin, *The Less Deceived* (1955)
Hugh MacDiarmid, Selected Poetry
Louis MacNeice, Autumn Journal
Una Marson, Selected Poems
John Masefield
Charlotte Mew
Ezra Pound, The Cantos, Hugh Selwyn Mauberley
Edith Sitwell, Facade
Stevie Smith, Not Waving but Drowning
Stephen Spender, Selected Poems
Dylan Thomas, Deaths and Entrances, Country Sleep

WWI Poets (Isaac Rosenberg, Siegfried Sassoon, Ivor Gurney, David Jones, Wilfred Owen, Rupert Brooke, Robert Graves, Edward Thomas, Richard Aldington)
W. B. Yeats, Collected Poems

Drama:
W. H. Auden, The Ascent of F6
Brendan Behan, The Quare Fellow
Noel Coward, The Vortex
T. S. Eliot, Murder in the Cathedral, The Cocktail Party
Cicely Hamilton, Diana of Dobson’s
Louis MacNeice, The Dark Tower
John Osborne, Look Back in Anger (1956), The Entertainer (1957)
Harold Pinter, The Birthday Party (1958)
J. B. Priestley, An Inspector Calls
Terence Rattigan, Separate Tables
G. B. Shaw, Arms and the Man, Major Barbara, Pygmalion
Dylan Thomas, Under Milk Wood
Oscar Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest
History and Criticism:

Bruce Arnold, *The Scandal of Ulysses: The Life and Afterlife of a Twentieth Century Masterpiece*

Derek Attridge and Marjorie Howes, eds., *Semicolonial Joyce*


George Bornstein, *Material Modernism: The Politics of the Page*

Mary Ann Caws, *Manifesto: A Century of Isms*

Sarah Cole, *At the Violet Hour: Modernism and Violence in England and Ireland*

Maria DiBattista and Lucy McDiarmid, eds., *High and Low Moderns: Literature and Culture 1889-1939*

Leon Edel, *Bloomsbury: A House of Lions*

Richard Ellmann, Introduction to *The Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry*

Jed Esty, *A Shrinking Island: Modernism and National Culture in England*

Rita Felski, *The Gender of Modernity*

Noel Riley Fitch, *Sylvia Beach and the Lost Generation: A History of Literary Paris in the Twenties and Thirties*

Joseph Frank, “Spatial Form in Modern Literature”

Paul Fussell, *The Great War and Modern Memory*

Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar, *No Man’s Land: The Place of the Woman Writer in the Twentieth Century*

Mary Ann Gillies, *Modernist Literature: An Introduction*

Matthew Hart, *Nations of Nothing but Poetry: Modernism, Transnationalism, and Synthetic Vernacular Writing*

Andreas Huyssen, *After the Great Divide: Modernism, Mass Culture, Postmodernism*

Samuel Hynes, *The Edwardian Turn of Mind, A War Imagined: The First World War and English Culture*, and *The Auden Generation: Literature and Politics in England in the 1930s*

Christopher Innes, *Modern British Drama, 1890-1990*

Tim Kendall, *Modern English War Poetry*

Hugh Kenner, *The Pound Era and A Sinking Island*

Stephen Kern, *The Culture of Time and Space, 1880-1918*

Karen Lawrence, *The Odyssey of Style in Ulysses*

Michael Levenson, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Modernism*

Lucy McDiarmid, *Saving Civilization: Yeats, Eliot, and Auden Between the Wars*

Marina MacKay, *Modernism and World War II*

Randy Malamud, *The Language of Modernism*

Ira Nadel, *Modernism’s Second Act: A Cultural Narrative*

Michael North, *Reading 1922*

David Perkins, *A History of Modern Poetry* (two volumes: *The Eighteen Nineties to the High Modernist Mode* and *Modernism and After*)

Bernard Porter, *The Lion’s Share: A Short History of British Imperialism 1850-2004*

Bonnie Kime Scott, *The Gender of Modernism: A Critical Anthology*

Paul Sheehan, *Modernism and the Aesthetics of Violence*

John Stallworthy, *Great Poets of World War I*

Michael Tratner, *Modernism and Mass Politics: Joyce, Woolf, Eliot, Yeats*

David Trotter, *Literature in the First Media Age: Britain between the Wars*

Rebecca Walkowitz, *Cosmopolitan Style: Modernism Beyond the Nation*

Raymond Williams, *Politics of Modernism: Against the New Conformists*

Mark Wollaeger, *Modernism, Media, and Propaganda: British Narrative from 1900 to 1945*

Some possible additions to a student’s focus of study:

Other arts: music, film, dance, painting and visual art, the Bloomsbury Group

Continental influences: movements (e.g., Futurism, Surrealism), Proust, Brecht, Apollinaire, Rilke, Mann, Freud, etc.


Social, cultural, and historical contexts: WWI, WWII, the decline and fall of the British Empire