Reading List: Modern and Contemporary Irish Literature

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.

Poetry:

W. B. Yeats
Patrick Kavanagh
Louis MacNeice
Thomas Kinsella
John Montague
Seamus Heaney
Rita Ann Higgins
Michael Longley
Derek Mahon
Ciaran Carson
Medbh McGuckian
Paul Muldoon
Eavan Boland
Eiléan Ní Chuilleáin
Paula Meehan
Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill
Dennis O’Driscoll
Cathal Ó Searcaigh
Chris Agee (ed.)—*The New North: Contemporary Poetry from Northern Ireland*

Short Fiction:

Sean O’Faolain—*The Short Story*
Ben Forkner (ed.)—*Modern Irish Short Stories*

W. B. Yeats—*Irish Fairy and Folk Tales*
George Moore—*The Untilled Field*
James Joyce—*Dubliners*
Elizabeth Bowen—*Collected Stories*
Frank O’Connor—*Collected Stories*
Mary Lavin—*In a Café: Selected Stories*
Edna O’Brien—*A Fanatic Heart: Selected Stories* (especially the stories from *Returning*)
William Trevor—*Collected Stories*
Bernard MacLaverty—*Collected Stories*
Éilís Ní Dhuibhne—*Midwife to the Fairies: New and Selected Stories*
Emma Donoghue—*The Woman Who Gave Birth to Rabbits*
Roddy Doyle—*The Deportees: and Other Stories*

**Novels:**

George Moore—*Esther Waters, A Drama in Muslin*
Oscar Wilde—*The Picture of Dorian Gray*
Bram Stoker—*Dracula*
James Joyce—*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Ulysses*
Edith Somerville and Martin Ross—*The Big House of Inver*
Elizabeth Bowen—*The Last September, The Heat of the Day*
Kate O’Brien—*The Land of Spices*
Samuel Beckett—*Watt*
Flann O’Brien (Brian O’Nolan)—*The Third Policeman*
Sam Hanna Bell—*December Bride*
Edna O’Brien—*The Country Girls* trilogy, *The Light of Evening*
William Trevor—*Fools of Fortune, Felicia’s Journey*
John McGahern—*The Barracks, Amongst Women*
J. G. Farrell—*Troubles*
Bernard MacLaverty—*Cal, Grace Notes*
John Banville—*The Untouchable, The Sea*
Sebastian Barry—*A Long Long Way*
Jamie O’Neill—*At Swim, Two Boys*
Colm Tóibín—*Brooklyn*
Roddy Doyle—*Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha, The Woman Who Walked into Doors, A Star Called Henry*
Joseph O’Connor—*Star of the Sea*
Colum McCann—*Trans Atlantic*
Emma Donoghue—*Hood, Room*
David Park—*The Truth Commissioner, The Light of Amsterdam*
Seamus Deane—*Reading in the Dark*
Jennifer Johnston—*How Many Miles to Babylon?, The Christmas Tree*
Patrick McCabe—*The Butcher Boy*
Anne Enright—*The Gathering*
Deirdre Madden—*One by One in the Darkness*

**Drama:**

W. B. Yeats—*On Baile’s Strand, At the Hawk’s Well, Purgatory*
Lady Gregory—*Spreading the News, The Rising of the Moon*
W. B. Yeats and Lady Gregory—*Cathleen ni Houlihan*
J. M. Synge—*In the Shadow of the Glen, Riders to the Sea, The Playboy of the Western World*
George Bernard Shaw—*Pygmalion, John Bull’s Other Island*
Oscar Wilde—*The Importance of Being Earnest, A Woman of No Importance*
Sean O’Casey—*The Shadow of a Gunman, Juno and the Paycock, The Plough and the Stars*
Samuel Beckett—*Waiting for Godot, Endgame, Happy Days, Krapp’s Last Tape*
Brendan Behan—*The Quare Fellow*
Sam Thompson—*Over the Bridge*
Brian Friel—*Faith Healer, Translations, Dancing at Lughnasa*
Tom Murphy—*Bailegangaire, The Gigli Concert*
David Rudkin—*Ashes*
Stewart Parker—*Spokesong, Northern Star, Pentecost*
Christina Reid—*Joyo...
Marjorie Howes—Yeats’s Nations: Gender, Class, and Irishness
Yug Mohit Chaudhry—Yeats: The Irish Literary Revival and the Politics of Print
Elizabeth Butler Cullingford—Gender and History in Yeats’s Love Poetry, Ireland’s Others: Gender and Ethnicity in Irish Literature and Popular Culture
John Harrington—The Irish Beckett
Sinead Mooney—A Tongue Not Mine: Beckett and Translation
Dillon Johnston—Irish Poetry After Joyce
Edna Longley—Yeats and Modern Poetry, Poetry in the Wars
Heather Clark—The Ulster Renaissance: Poetry in Belfast, 1962-1972
Richard Rankin Russell—Poetry and Peace: Michael Longley, Seamus Heaney, and Northern Ireland, Seamus Heaney’s Regions
John Wilson Foster—Irish Novels 1890-1940: New Bearings in Culture and Fiction
Vera Kreilkamp—The Anglo-Irish Novel and the Big House
Elizabeth Grubgeld—Anglo-Irish Autobiography: Class, Gender, and the Forms of Narrative
Margot Backus—The Gothic Family Romance: Heterosexuality, Child Sacrifice, and the Anglo-Irish Colonial Order
Emer Nolan—Catholic Emancipations: Irish Fiction from Thomas Moore to James Joyce
Christopher Murray—Twentieth-Century Irish Drama: Mirror Up to Nation
Nicholas Grene—The Politics of Irish Drama: Plays in Context from Boucicault to Friel
Anthony Roche—Contemporary Irish Drama: From Beckett to McGuinness
Susan Cannon Harris—Gender and Modern Irish Drama
Scott Boltwood—Brian Friel, Ireland, and The North