

Reading List
Victorian Literature (1832-1900)

Instructions

This PhD exam reading list has three parts:

- I Core readings
- II Genre readings
- III Scholarly readings

Each student is required to read and know *all* selections included in Part I. In addition, each student is required to designate a genre specialization—poetry or fiction—and supplement the list provided below (in Part II) with his or her own selections. Finally, for Part III, each student is required to one scholarly cluster of his or her choosing (see p. 3 below). Students must consult with either Dr. Houston or Dr. Voskuil no later than November 1 (if exams are to be taken during the following spring semester) or April 1 (if exams are to be taken during the following fall semester).

I. Core Readings

Novels

Mary Elizabeth Braddon	<i>Lady Audley's Secret</i>
Charlotte Brontë	<i>Jane Eyre</i>
Charles Dickens	<i>Bleak House</i>
George Eliot	<i>Middlemarch</i>
Thomas Hardy	<i>Tess of the d'Urbervilles</i>

Poetry

Matthew Arnold	“Dover Beach,” “Thyrsis,” “The Scholar Gipsy,” “The Buried Life”
E. Barrett Browning	“The Cry of the Children,” “The Runaway Slave at Pilgrim’s Point,” <i>Sonnets from the Portuguese</i> (entire)
Robert Browning	“Porphyria’s Lover,” “The Laboratory,” “Soliloquy of the Spanish Cloister,” “My Last Duchess,” “The Bishop Orders His Tomb,” “Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came,” “Fra Lippo Lippi,” “Andrea del Sarto,” “A Toccata of Galuppi’s”
Gerard Manley Hopkins	“God’s Grandeur,” “The Windhover,” “Pied Beauty,” “Hurrahing in Harvest,” “As Kingfishers Catch Fire,” “Carrion comfort,” “No worst, there is none,” “I wake and feel the fell of death, not day”
Dante Gabriel Rossetti	“The Blessed Damozel,” “On Refusal of Aid Between Nations,” “Sister Helen,” “Jenny,” “Eden Bower,” <i>The House of Life</i> , selections: “The Sonnet,” “The Portrait,” “Silent Noon,” “Venus Victrix,” “Willowood I- IV,” “Soul’s Beauty,” “Body’s Beauty,” “The One Hope”

Christina Rossetti	“Song” (“When I am dead, my dearest”), “After Death,” “Remember,” “An Apple Gathering,” “The Convent Threshold,” “A Birthday,” “Maud Clare,” “A Better Resurrection,” “Goblin Market”
Charles Swinburne	“The Triumph of Time,” “Ave Atque Vale”
Alfred Tennyson	“Mariana,” “The Lady of Shalott,” “The Palace of Art,” “The Lotos-Eaters,” “Ulysses,” “Locksley Hall,” “Tears, Idle Tears,” “Maud,” <i>In Memoriam</i> (entire)
Augusta Webster	“A Castaway,” “The Happiest Girl in the World”

Prose

Matthew Arnold	“The Function of Criticism”; “The Study of Poetry”; <i>Culture and Anarchy</i> , selections: Introduction, Chapter Two (“Doing as One Likes”), Chapter Four (“Hebraism and Hellenism”), Conclusion
Walter Pater	<i>Studies in the History of the Renaissance</i> , selections: Preface, “Leonardo da Vinci,” Conclusion
John Stuart Mill	“Bentham”; “Coleridge”; “What is Poetry”; <i>The Subjection of Women</i>
John Ruskin	<i>Stones of Venice</i> , selections: Vol II, Chap. 6 (“The Nature of Gothic”); <i>Sesame and Lilies</i>

II. Genre Readings Select *either* Option A or Option B

A. Fiction

Elizabeth Gaskell, *Mary Barton*
 Bram Stoker, *Dracula*
 William Thackeray, *Vanity Fair*

Guidelines: Choose eight additional works not already included in the core list. Two novellas or three to four short stories—by, say, writers like Doyle or Stevenson—may be grouped and considered as one work. Lists I and II combined should contain no more than three works by one author.

B. Poetry

E. Barrett Browning, *Aurora Leigh* (entire)
 George Meredith, *Modern Love* (entire)
 Dante Gabriel Rossetti, *The House of Life* (entire)

Guidelines: Choose eight additional longer works or clusters of poems (approximately equivalent in length to the core clusters) not already included in the core list. Lists I and II combined should contain no more than three works by one author.

III. Scholarly Readings

Everyone is required to read R. Gilmour, *The Victorian Period: The Intellectual and Cultural Context of English Literature, 1830-1890* (1993). In addition, select one of the clusters below.

A. Social and Cultural History

- Leonore Davidoff and Catherine Hall, *Family Fortunes: Men and Women of the English Middle Class, 1780-1850* (1987)
Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: the Birth of the Prison* (1977)
E. P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class* (1963)
Judith Walkowitz, *City of Dreadful Delight: Narratives of Sexual Danger in Late-Victorian London* (1992)
Raymond Williams, *Culture and Society 1780-1950* (1958)

B. Gender Studies

- James Eli Adams, *Dandies and Desert Saints: Styles of Victorian Masculinity* (1995)
Nancy Armstrong, *Desire and Domestic Fiction: a Political History of the Novel* (1987)
Deborah Nord, *Walking the Victorian Streets: Women, Representation, and the City* (1995)
Mary Poovey, *Uneven Developments: The Ideological Work of Gender in Mid-Victorian England* (1988)
Eve Sedgwick, *Between Men: English Literature and Male Homosocial Desire* (1985)

C. Empire and Imperialism

- Patrick Brantlinger, *Rule of Darkness: British Literature and Imperialism, 1830-1914* (1988)
Neil Parsons, *King Khama, Emperor Joe, and the Great White Queen: Victorian Britain Through African Eyes* (1998)
Suvendrini Perera, *The Reaches of Empire: the English Novel from Edgeworth to Dickens* (1991)
Edward Said, *Culture and Imperialism* (1993)
Sara Suleri, *The Rhetoric of English India* (1992)

D. Problems in Realism

- Karen Chase and Michael Levinson, *The Spectacle of Intimacy: a Public Life for the Victorian Family* (2000)
Susan Fraiman, *Unbecoming Women: British Women Writers and the Novel of Development* (1993)
Catherine Gallagher, *The Industrial Reformation of English Fiction: Social Discourse and Narrative Form, 1832-1867* (1985)
George Levine, *The Realistic Imagination: English Fiction from Frankenstein to Lady Chatterley* (1981)
D. A. Miller, *The Novel and the Police* (1988)

E. Poetry and Poetics

Isobel Armstrong, *Victorian Poetry: Poetry, Poetics, and Politics* (1993)

Carol Christ, *Victorian and Modern Poetics* (1984)

Antony H. Harrison, *Victorian Poets and Romantic Poems: Intertextuality and Ideology* (1990)

Angela Leighton, *Victorian Women Poets: Writing Against the Heart* (1992)

E. Warwick Slinn, *Victorian Poetry as Cultural Critique: the Politics of Performative Language* (2003)

F. Design Your Own

In consultation with Dr. Voskuil or Dr. Houston, choose five books in a critical/theoretical area of your interest.

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