Poetry

Field of Study Reading List

* An asterisk indicates a work considered so canonical in its value that students, in preparation for their field exams, cannot remove this work from their own modified versions of the syllabus.

**Old English**

5. Exeter Book Riddles (ca. 1000) [especially 5, 7, 12, 26, 29, 30, 43-46, 55]. [Trans. Elaine Treharne. *Old and Middle English*, 66-75].

**Middle English**

British Poetry (16th-17th Century)

30. Herbert, George. "The Altar" (1633), "Easter Wings" (1633), "The Collar" (1633), "Jordan (I)" (1633), "Jordan (II)" (1633).
31. Herrick, Robert. "To the Virgins" (1648), "Delight in Disorder" (1648), "Corinna's Going A-Maying" (1648).
32. Howard, Henry (Earl of Surrey). "Some Fowles There Be" (1557), "Love That Doth Reign" (1557), "The Soote Season" (1557), "Alas, So All Things Now Do Hold Their Peace" (1557), "From Tuscan" (1557), "So Cruell Prison" (1557).
33. Jonson, Ben. "To Penshurst" (1616), "On My First Daughter" (1616), "On My First Son" (1616), "Inviting a Friend to Supper" (1616).
34. Lanier, Amelia. "Description of Cooke-ham" (1611).
35. Marlowe, Christopher. Hero and Leander (1598).
36. Marvell, Andrew. The Mower Poems (1681), "To His Coy Mistress" (1681), "The Garden" (1681), "The Nymph Complaining for the Death of Her Fawn" (1681), "Upon Appleton House" (1681).
37. Milton, John. "On Shakespear" (1632), "Lycidas" (1638), "Paradise Lost" (1667), "When I Consider" (1673), "On the Late Massacre" (1673), "Methought I Saw" (1673).
38. Shakespeare, William. Venus and Adonis (1593), Selections from *Sonnets (1609) [especially 3, 18, 20, 29, 30, 55, 60, 73, 94, 104, 129, 130, 138, 144, and 151].
39. Sidney, Sir Philip. Selections from *Astrophel and Stella (1591) [especially 1, 2, 9, 15, 28, 31, 41, 47, 49, 53, and 74].
41. Spenser, Edmund. Book I of *The Faerie Queene (1590), Selections from "Amoretti" (1595) [especially 1, 34, 37, 54, 67, 74, 75, and 79], "Epithalamion" (1595).
42. Wroth, Lady Mary. "A Crown of Sonnets Dedicated to Love" (1621).

British Poetry (17th-18th Century)

44. Addison, Joseph. "Ode ('The Spacious Firmament on High')" (1712).
45. Burns, Robert. "To a Mouse, on Turning Her up in Her Nest, with the Plough" (1786), Tam O' Shanter: A Tale (1791), "A Red Red Rose" (1796).
46. Collier, Mary. The Woman's Labour (1739).
47. Cowper, William. "Yardley Oak" (1792), "The Castaway" (1799), "Light Shining Out in Darkness" from Olney Hymns (1779), "Sweet Meat Has Sour Sauce" (1788), "Lines Written during a Period of Insanity" (1774, pub. 1816).
48. Crabbe, George. Book I of The Village (1783) or Section 22 ("The Poor of the Borough: Peter Grimes") from The Borough (1810).
50. Finch, Anne (Countess of Winchilsea). "The Hog, the Sheep and Goat, Carrying to a Fair" (1713), "The Introduction" (1713, pub. 1903), "The Petition for an Absolute Retreat" (1713), "A Nocturnal Reverie" (1713), *The Spleen: A Pindaric Poem* (1701, rev. 1713).
51. Gay, John. "Wednesday; or, The Dumps" from *The Shepherd's Week* (1714) or Book II of *Trivia*; or, *The Art of Walking the Streets of London* (1716); "The Hare With Many Friends" from *Fables* (1738).
53. Gray, Thomas. Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College (1742), "Elegy Written in a Country Church Yard" (1751), "The Progress of Poesy" (1757).
56. Leapor, Mary. "Dorinda at Her Glass" (1748), "Man the Monarch" (1751), "Crumble-Hall" (1751).
58. Philips, Katherine (Orinda). "Friendship in Emblem; or, the Seal" (1667), "Wiston Vault" (1667).
60. Smart, Christopher. Fragment B from *Jubilate Agno* ['For lines, 697-770: "My Cat Jeoffry"] (1763, pub. 1939).
61. Swift, Jonathan. "A Description of a City Shower" (1710); "The Lady's Dressing Room" (1732) or "A Beautiful Young Nymph Going to Bed" (1734); "Verses on the Death of Dr Swift, D.S.P.D" (1738).
64. Wheatley, Phillis. "To S. M., A Young African Painter, On Seeing His Works" (1773), "An Hymn to the Morning" (1773), "An Hymn to the Evening" (1773), "On Being Brought from Africa to America" (1773).

**Romantic Poetry**

67. Blake, William. *Visions of the Daughters of Albion* (1793), The Marriage of Heaven and Hell (1793), Selections from *Songs of Innocence and of Experience* (1794) [especially "The Lamb," "The Tyger," "The Chimney Sweeper" (both versions), and "The Little Black Boy"].
69. Clare, John. "I Am" (pub. 1865), "Badger" (pub. 1920), "Invitation to Eternity" (1920).
70. Coleridge, Samuel Taylor. "Frost at Midnight" (1798), "Dejection: An Ode" (1802), "Kubla Khan" (1816), *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* (1817, with glosses).
73. Keats, John. "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer" (1816), "On Seeing the Elgin Marbles" (1817), **"The Eve of St. Agnes"** (1820), **"Ode to a Nightingale"** (1820), **"Ode on a Grecian Urn"** (1820), "To Autumn" (1820), "A Dream, after Reading Dante's Episode of Paulo and Francesca" (1820), "On Sitting Down to Read King Lear Again" (1838), "Bright Star, Would I Were Stedfast as Thou Art" (1838), "When I Have Fears That I May Cease to Be" (1848), "This Living Hand, Now Warm and Capable" (1898).
74. Lamb, Charles. "The Old Familiar Faces" (1798).
75. Landon, Letitia Elizabeth. **"Revenge"** (1825), "Lines of Life" (1825), "Felicia Hemans" (1838).
76. Robinson, Mary (Darby). "The Haunted Beach" (1800), **"The Camp"** (1800), "A London Summer Morning" (1804).
77. Scott, Walter. "Lord Randal" (1802).
78. Shelley, Percy Bysshe. *Alastor* (1816), "Mont Blanc" (1817), "Ozymandias" (1818), **"Ode to the West Wind"** (1820), The Masque of Anarchy (1832).
79. Smith, Charlotte Turner. Selections from the Elegiac Sonnets (1786) [especially 1, 32, and 35].
81. Wordsworth, Dorothy. "Floating Island" (1842) [in Dorothy Wordsworth and Romanticism by Susan Levin (1987)].
82. Arnold, Matthew. "Stanzas in Memory of the Author of 'Obermann'" (1849, pub. 1852), "To Marguerite-Continued" (1852), "Stanzas from the Grande Chartreuse" (1855), **"Dover Beach"** (1867).
83. Bronte, Emily. "Remembrance" (1846), "No Coward Soul is Mine" (1850).
84. Browning, Robert. "Porphyria's Lover" (1836), "My Last Duchess" (1842), "The Lost Leader" (1845), "'Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came'" (1855), "Andrea del Sarto" (1855).
85. Carroll, Lewis. **"Jabberwocky"** (1871), "The Hunting of the Snark" (1876).
88. Hardy, Thomas. "Neutral Tones" (1867), "The Darkling Thrush" (1900), "The Convergence of the Twain" (1912), "Channel Firing" (1914).
89. Hood, Thomas. "The Song of the Shirt" (1843).
93. Lear, Edward. "The Owl and the Pussycat" (1871).
96. Meredith, George. Selections from *Modern Love* (1862) [especially I, IX, XVII, XXX, and XLIX].
98. Rossetti, Christina. *Goblin Market* (1862), "Monna Innominata" (1881), "In an Artist's Studio" (1896).
99. Rossetti, Dante Gabriel. "The Blessed Damozel" (1850), "Jenny" (1870), "The Woodspurge" (1870), Selected sonnets from *The House of Life* (1848-81, pub. 1863-81) [especially "Introductory Sonnet" ("A Sonnet Is a Moment's Monument"), "Nuptial Sleep" (Sonnet Vta), "The Landmark" (Sonnet LXVII), "Soul's Beauty" (Sonnet LXXVII), "Body's Beauty" (Sonnet LXXVIII), "A Superscription" (Sonnet XCVI)].
101. Swinburne, Algernon Charles. "Itylus" (1866), "Hymn to Proserpine" (1866), "Ave Atque Vale" (1868).
102. Tennyson, Lord Alfred. "The Lotos-Eaters" (1832), "The Palace of Art" (1832), "The Lady of Shalott" (1842), "Ulysses" (1842), "In Memoriam A.H.H." (1850), "The Charge of the Light Brigade" (1854), "Morte d'Arthur" from *The Idylls of the King* (1885).
104. Wilde, Oscar. "Requiescat" (1881), "The Ballad of Reading Gaol" (1898).

**British Poetry (20th-Century)**

106. Auden, W. H. "Lullaby (1937)," "As I Walked Out One Evening" (1940), "Musée des Beaux Arts," (1940), "In Memory of W. B. Yeats," (1940), "In Praise of Limestone" (1951); "Letter to Lord Byron" (1936) or "The Age of Anxiety" (1947).
120. MacDiarmid, Hugh. "A Drunk Man Looks at the Thistle" (1926), "Parley of Beasts" (1926), "O Wha's the Bride" (1926), "In Memoriam James Joyce" (1937-39).
124. Owen, Wilfred. "Anthem for Doomed Youth" (1920), "Dulce et Decorum Est" (1920), "Arms and the Boy" (1920), "Mental Cases" (1920).
129. Thomas, Dylan. "The Force that Through the Green Fuse Drives the Flower" (1934), "And Death Shall Have No Dominion" (1936), "Fern Hill" (1946), "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night" (1952).
131. Yeats, W. B. "The Man who Dreamed of Faeryland" (1892), "Adam's Curse" (1903), ""Easter 1916," (1916), "The Wild Swans at Coole" (1917), ""The Second Coming" (1921), "Leda and the Swan" (1924), "Sailing to Byzantium" (1927), "Among School Children" (1927), "Crazy Jane Talks with the Bishop" (1933), "The Circus Animal's Desertion" (1939).

American Poetry (19th-20th-Century)

137. Cummings, E.E. "the Cambridge ladies who live in furnished souls" (1922), "i sing of Olaf glad and big" (1931), "anyone lived in a pretty how town" (1940), "my father moved through dooms of love" (1940).
Bishop, Elizabeth. "Invitation to Miss Marianne Moore" (1955), "Visits to St. Elizabeths" (1959, pub. 1965).
140. Dickinson, Emily. "128: Bring me the sunset in a cup" (ca. 1859, pub. 1866), "258: There's a certain slant of light" (ca. 1861, pub. 1890), "289: I know some lonely houses off the road" (ca. 1861, pub. 1890). "449: I died for Beauty but was scarce" (ca. 1862, pub. 1890), "652: A prison gets to be a friend" (ca. 1862, pub. 1929), "712: Because I could not stop for Death" (ca. 1863, pub. 1890), "986: A narrow fellow in the grass" (ca. 1865, pub. 1866), "1129: Tell all the Truth but tell it slant" (ca. 1868, pub. 1945).
141. Frost, Robert. "Mending Wall" (1914), "The Road Not Taken" (1920), "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" (1923), "Acquainted with the Night" (1928).
146. Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth. Section XIV ("Picture Writing") from *The Song of Hiawatha* (1855).
152. Pound, Ezra. "The Seafarer" (1911), "Portrait d'une Femme" (1912), "In a Station of the Metro" (1913); *Homage to Sextus Propertius* (1919) OR Hugh Selwyn Mauberley (1920); *The Pisan Cantos* (1948).
155. Sandburg, Carl. Excerpts from *The People, Yes* (1936) [19, 24, 32, 45, 57, and 67].
159. Stein, Gertrude. Section I ("Objects") from *Tender Buttons* (1914).
Canadian Poetry (19th-20th-Century)

175. Goldsmith, Oliver. The Rising Village (1825).
177. Klein, A. M. "Portrait of the Artist as Landscape" (1948).
Pratt, E. J. Towards the Last Spike (1952).
194. Service, Robert W. "The Cremation of Sam McGee" (1907).
195. Wah, Fred. Sections 1-8 from The Music at the Heart of Thinking (1987).
Post-Colonial Poetry (in English)


DeSouza, Eunice (India). "Marriages are Made" (1990), "Family Portrait" (1990), "Outside Jaisalmer" (2005).


Leggott, Michele (New Zealand). "Blue Irises" from Dia (1994).


Senior, Olive (Jamaica). "Meditation on Red" (1994).


Tuwhare, Hone (New Zealand). "Lament" (1964), "No Ordinary Sun" (1964), "O Africa" (1964), "To a Maori Figure Cast in Bronze Outside the Chief Post Office, Auckland" (1972), "Time Out" (2004).

Walcott, Derek (S St Lucia). *Omeros* (1990).


Short Texts on Poetics (Chronological)

Plato. *Book 10 of The Republic.*


Sidney, Sir Philip. "The Defence of Poesy" (1595).


Wordsworth, William. **"Preface" to Lyrical Ballads** (1802).

Coleridge, Samuel Taylor. Chapters 4, 13, and 17 in *Biographia Literaria* (1817).

Shelley, Percy Bysshe. **"A Defence of Poetry"** (1821).


Pound, Ezra. "Some Do's and Don'ts for an Imagist" (1917).


Charles Olson. **"Projective Verse"** (1950).


Useful Anthologies

General


Old/ Middle English


British Poetry (16th-17th-Century)


British Poetry (17th-18th-Century)


Romantic Period


*The Broadview Anthology of Literature of the Revolutionary Period, 1770-1832* [Forthcoming]. Ed. D. L. Macdonald and Anne McWhir.

Victorian Period


British Poetry (20th-Century)


American Poetry (1800-)


Canadian Poetry (1800-)


Post-Colonial Poetry


