

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

PHD QUALIFYING EXAMINATION READING LIST

English 9914 (SF)/ 9934 (PF)

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST FOR THE VICTORIAN PERIOD

1. Additional Instructions

Students for whom the nineteenth century is their Primary Field should supplement the general list with material chosen from the following, as suits the particular focus of their studies.

Students who choose to concentrate on the Victorian Period as their major field should reduce the material on the Romantic part of the nineteenth century list by approximately two thirds, and should replace this material with material drawn from the following list. In addition, the list for the major primary field should contain 20% more material overall than for the secondary field.

OPTIONAL TEXTS

POETRY

E. Barrett Browning: "A Sea Side Walk"; "Felicia Hemans"; "Bertha in the Lane"; "Grief"; "To George Sand: A Desire"; "To George Sand: A Recognition"; "Hiram Powers' 'Greek Slave'"; "Sonnets from The Portuguese"; Aurora Leigh; "Lord Walter's Wife"; "The Best Thing in the World"; "Mother and Poet".

Alfred Lord Tennyson: Song ('A spirit haunts the year's last hours'); "The Kraken"; "The Hesperides"; "The Palace of Art"; "St Simeon Stylites"; "Break, Break, Break"; "Locksley Hall"; "The Princess"; "Sweet and low, sweet and low"; 'Tears, idle tears'; 'Now sleeps the crimson petal'; 'Come down, O maid'; "The Eagle"; "Ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington"; "The Charge of the Light Brigade"; "Enoch Arden"; "The Higher Pantheism"; "Rizpah"; Idylls of the King; "Frater Ave atque Vale"; "Demeter and Persephone"; "Far—Far—Away"; "To the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava"; "Crossing the Bar"

Edward Fitzgerald: The Rubayiat of Omar Khayyam

"By the Fireside"; "An Epistle Containing the Strange Medical Experience of K. Physician"; "How it Strikes a Contemporary"; "Memorabilia"; "In a Year"; "Popul"

Augusta Webster: "By the Looking Glass"; "Circe"; "The Happiest Girl in the World"; "A Castaway"; "While the Woods Were Green"; "Betrothed"; "Beyond the Shadow"; "Siste Viator"; selections from "Mother and Daughter".

Thomas Hardy: "Hap"; "Neutral Tones"; "Her Initials"; "A Sign Seeker"; "Friends Beyond"; "Thoughts of Phena"; "Nature's Questioning"; "The Imprecipient"; "Heiress and Architect"; "I Look into My Glass"; "Drummer Hodge"; "The Ruined Maid"; "In Tenebris I"; "In Tenebris II"; "The Darkling Thrush".

G. M. Hopkins: "Heaven Haven: A Nun Takes the Veil"; "The Habit of Perfection"; "The Wreck of the Deutschland"; "The Starlight Night"; "Spring"; "God's Grandeur"; "The Windhover"; "Pied Beauty"; "Hurrahing in Harvest"; "Henry Purcell"; "Felix Randall"; "Spring and Fall"; "As kingfishers catch fire, dragonflies draw flame"; "Carrion Comfort"; "No worst, there is none"; "I wake and feel the fell of dark, not day"; "Spelt from Sybil's Leaves"; "Nature is a Heraclitean Fire and of the Comfort of the Resurrection"; "Thou art indeed just, Lord"; "To R.B.".

Michael Field: "Where with their boats the fishers land"; "Maids, not to you my mind doth change"; "Come, Gorgo, put the rug in place"; "Yeap is the son of Zeus: no rust"; "Ah me, if I grew sweet to man"; "A Portrait"; "Spring. Sandro Botticelli"; "A Poem. Drawing of Leda. Sodoma"; "The Sleeping Venus. Giorgione"; "A Girl"; "Noon" "An Apple Flower"; "Love rises up some days"; "It was deep April, and the morn"; "Cyclamens"; "To Christina Rossetti"; "Your rose is dead"; "Grass in Spring"; "Stream and Pool"; "I love you with my life".

NOVELS

Students should select from the optional novels on the general list in addition to the following:

Charles Dickens: Oliver Twist, David Copperfield, Great Expectations

E. Bulwer Lytton: The Last Days of Pompeii

Charles Kingsley: Alton Locke

Elizabeth Gaskell: Cranford

Antony Trollope: Barchester Towers, The Way we Live Now, The Eustace Diamonds.

George Eliot: Adam Bede, The Mill on the Floss, Daniel Deronda.

Margaret Oliphant, Phoebe Junior

Olive Schreiner: The Story of an African Farm.

DRAMA

Taylor, The Ticket-of-Leave Man and Pinero, Trelawny of the Wells, Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest and Shaw, Mrs. Warren's Profession

CRITICAL PROSE

Students should supplement the material on the general list with choices from the following:

Arnold: "On Translating Homer"; Culture and Anarchy, The Study of Poetry".

Carlyle: Past and Present

Darwin: The Origin of Species

Eliot: "Silly Novels by Lady Novelists"; "Margaret Fuller and Mary Wollstonecraft"
Hardy: "Candour in English Fiction"; "The Science of Fiction"

Hallam: "On Some of the Characteristics of Modern Poetry, and on the Lyrical Poems of Alfred Tennyson"

Gaskell: Life of Charlotte Bronte

Martineau: Illustrations of Political Economy

Mill: On Liberty

- Morris: "Useless Work Versus Useless Toil"; [from] Hopes and Fears for "The Lesser Arts"; "The Art of the People"
- Nightingale: "Cassandra"
- Pater: The Renaissance, Imaginary Portraits, Appreciations
- Ruskin: Unto This Last, Sesame and Lilies Besides these two works in their entirety, students should read the selections from Ruskin's *The Genius of John Ruskin*, John D. Rosenberg, ed.
- Wilde: "The Portrait of Mr. W. H."; De Profundis

Secondary Reading Sources:

Students are expected to have some sense of the historical and theoretical foundations of Victorian Studies and the criticism of Victorian literature. The list below is by no means exhaustive, but includes fundamental works in theory and history, as well as representative studies of literature. selecting critical works for your list, you should consider the titles recommended below, but you may also, with the permission of your examiners, add works of your own choice on topics not represented here.

You should also be familiar with the textual histories and variants of works on your reading lists.

