Doctoral Reading List

Poetry

The student will be expected to discuss genre (for example: elegy, ode), poetic modes (pastoral, Petrarchan love poetry, satire, Ars poetica, poetry of place), and forms (the sonnet, the villanelle, etc.), in addition to critical concepts and eras (visionary poetry, Romanticism, Modernism).

Psalms 19, 22, 23, 29, 95, 137 (King James version)
Dante--selections from La vita nuova
Petrarch--selections from Rime sparse
Chaucer--General Prologue to The Canterbury Tales
Thomas Wyatt--Blame Not My Lute; My Lute Awake; Whoso list to hunt; They flee from me; The long love that in my thought doth harbor
Surrey—Love that doth reign and live within my thought
Spenser—Prothalamion, The Faerie Queene Bk. I, Bower of Bliss (from FQ II), Garden of Adonis (FQ III)
Sidney—Ye Goatherd Gods, selections from Astrophel and Stella
Shakespeare—selections from the Sonnets; The Phoenix and the Turtle
Marlowe—The Passionate Shepherd to his Love
Jonson—To Penshurst, On my First Son, Cary-Morison Ode, Song: To Celia, To Fine Lady Would-Be
Marvell—The Mower’s Song; Upon Appleton House; The Garden; To His Coy Mistress; The Nymph Complaining for the Death of her Fawn; A Dialogue Between the Soul and Body
Vaughan—Night, The World, The Retreat
Donne—Holy Sonnets, The Flea, A Valediction Forbidding Mourning, The Canonization, The Sun Rising, the Good Morrow, A Valediction of Weeping, Elegy 19 (To His Mistress Going to Bed), Satire III (Religion), The Bait
Herrick—The Argument of his Book; Corinna’s Going a Maying; To Live Merrily, and to Trust to Good Verses; The Vine; Down in Devon; Upon Julia’s Clothes
John Dryden--MacFlecknoe, On the Memory of Mr. Oldham
Christopher Smart—“For I will consider my cat Geoffrey” from Jubilate Agno
Anne Bradstreet--The Prologue; The Author to her Book; A Letter to Her Husband, Absent upon Publick Employment; As Weary Pilgrim; Contemplations; In memory of my dear grand-child Elizabeth Bradstreet
Edward Taylor--Meditations 1.8, 1.29, 1.32, 1.39, 2.4, 2.56, 2.150; Preface to God’s
Determinations; Upon a Spider Catching a Fly; Huswifery; Upon Wedlock, and Death of Children

Swift—Description of the Morning
Pope—Windsor Forest, The Rape of the Lock, The Dunciad (Bk. IV)
Collins—Ode on the Poetical Character; Ode to Fear
Anne Finch—A Nocturnal Reverie
Gray—Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard
Cowper—The Castaway

Wordsworth, “Tintern Abbey”; “Nutting”; from The Prelude (1850 version): Book One, lines 1-30, 301-424; Book Two, lines 233-265; Book Four, lines 256-275; Book Five, lines 1-165; Book Six, lines 592-616; Book Fourteen, lines 1-129; Prospectus to The Excursion, lines 1-71; Composed Upon Westminster Bridge; London, 1802; The Solitary Reaper; Immortality Ode, Resolution and Independence, Elegiac Stanzas

Coleridge—The Aeolian Harp, This Lime-Tree Bower. My Prison; Frost at Midnight; Dejection: An Ode, The Rime of the Ancient Mariner; Christabel; Kubla Khan
Byron—Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage, Canto III; Darkness; Sonnet on Chillon
Shelley—Mont Blanc, Ode to the West Wind, Alastor, Hymn to Intellectual Beauty, Ozymandias, “Lift Not the Painted Veil,” The Triumph of Life

William Cullen Bryant—Thanatopsis, The Prairies, Sonnet—To an American Painter Departing for Europe

Keats—Ode to Psyche, Ode to a Nightingale, Ode on a Grecian Urn, Ode on Melancholy, To Autumn, La Belle Dame Sans Merci, The Fall of Hyperion, The Eve of St. Agnes, This Living Hand

Emerson—Uriel; Bacchus; The Snow-storm; The Rhodora

Elizabeth Barrett Browning—The Cry of the Children; selections from Sonnets from the Portuguese

Edgar Allan Poe—To Science, To Helen, Romance, Ulalume—A Ballad
Tennyson—The Kraken; Mariana; In Memoriam; Ulysses; The Lady of Shalott; Tithonus
Edward Fitzgerald—selections from The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam

Longfellow—Belisarius, The Jewish Cemetery at Newport
Robert Browning—Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came, My Last Duchess, Andrea del Sarto, Porphyria’s Lover, Fra Lippo Lippi, A Toccata of Galuppi’s, Love Among the Ruins

Melville—The Portent, Art, Shiloh

Walt Whitman—Song of Myself, Starting from Paumanok, Crossing Brooklyn Ferry, As I Ebb’d with the Ocean of Life, When I Heard the Learn’d Astronomer, A Noiseless Patient Spider, I Saw in Louisiana a Live-Oak Growing, The Sleepers, A Clear Midnight, Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking, There Was a Child Went Forth, As Adam Early in the Morning, From Pent-Up Aching Rivers, When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed
Matthew Arnold—Dover Beach, The Scholar Gypsy, Thyrsis
George Meredith--selections from Modern Love
Dante Gabriel Rossetti--selections from The House of Life; The Blessed Damozel
Emily Dickinson--I like a look of Agony, Wild Nights—Wild Nights!, I felt a Funeral, in my Brain, The Soul selects her own Society—, Much Madness is divinest Sense—, This is my letter to the World, This was a Poet—It is That, I died for Beauty—but was scarce, I reckon—when I count at all—, They shut me up in Prose, I cannot live with You—, I dwell in Possibility, Because I could not stop for Death—, Tell all the Truth but tell it slant, “Faith” is a fine invention, “Safe in their Alabaster Chambers—, Title divine—is mine!, “Heavenly Father”—take to thee, A Word made Flesh is seldom
Christina Rossetti--Monna Innominata, Paradise, A Better Resurrection, A Birthday, Up Hill, At Home, Goblin Market, Song, Remember
William Morris—The Haystack in the Floods; The Defense of Guinevere
Charles Algernon Swinburne-- A Forsaken Garden, The Garden of Proserpine, The Triumph of Time, Ave Atque Vale
Gerard Manley Hopkins--God’s Grandeur, The Windhover, Pied Beauty, That Nature is a Heraclitean Fire, As Kingfishers Catch Fire, I wake and feel the fell of dark, not day, No, worse there is none
A.E. Housman—Selections from A Shropshire Lad
Gertrude Stein—selections from Tender Buttons
Mina Loy—Parturition, Songs for Joannes, Sketch of a Man on a Platform, Virgins Plus Curtains Minus Dots, Mass Production on 14th Street, Apology of Genius, Der Blinde Junge, Chiffon Velours, Hot Cross Bum
W.C. Williams—Danse Russe; The Red Wheelbarrow; Between Walls; This is Just to Say; Spring and All (“By the road to the contagious hospital”); Pictures from Brueghel; Asphodel, That Greeny Flower
Ezra Pound—Hugh Selwyn Mauberly; Cantos I, II and III; In a Station of the
Metro; The Return; first *Pisan Canto*
D.H. Lawrence—Song of a Man Who Has Come Through; Baby Tortoise; Tortoise Shout; St. Mark; St. Matthew; St. Luke; St. John; Snake
Wilfred Owen—Anthem for Doomed Youth
e.e. cummings—r-p-o-p-h-e-s-s-a-g-r; Among these red pieces of/ day; stinging/gold swarms/ upon the spires; O sweet spontaneous/ earth
Louise Bogan—Women, Roman Fountain
Hart Crane— Repose of Rivers, At Melville’s Tomb, Voyages, *The Bridge* (entire book)
Yvor Winters—On Teaching the Young; Sir Gawaine and the Green Knight
Allen Tate—Ode to the Confederate Dead
Basil Bunting—selections from *Briggflatts*
Sterling Brown—Memphis Blues, Slim in Atlanta
Langston Hughes—The Negro Speaks of Rivers, Dream Variations, Theme for English B Countee Cullen—Incident, Heritage
Louis Zukofsky—A (Section 12)
Robert Penn Warren—Evening Hawk
W.H. Auden—From the very first coming down, This lunar beauty, Lay your sleeping head, Doom is dark and deeper than any sea-dingle, Now from my window-sill I watch the night, Look, stranger, at this island now; Musée des Beaux Arts; In Memory of W.B. Yeats; September 1, 1939
Theodore Roethke—My Papa’s Waltz, Elegy for Jane
Elizabeth Bishop—The Map, The Man-Moth, Sleeping on the Ceiling, Roosters, Over 2,000 Illustrations and a Complete Concordance, The Bight, At the Fishhouses, Geography III (entire book)
Robert Hayden—Those Winter Sundays, The Ballad of Nat Turner
May Swenson—Question, Big-Hipped Nature
John Berryman—selections from *The Dream Songs*
Randall Jarrell—The Woman at the Washington Zoo; Night, Death and the Devil; The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner
Gwendolyn Brooks—selections from A Street in Bronzeville
Robert Lowell—*Life Studies* (entire book); For the Union Dead
Richard Wilbur—A Baroque Wall-Fountain in the Villa Sciarra; Love Calls Us to the Things of this World; Mind; Advice to a Prophet
Philip Larkin—Church Going, High Windows, This Be the Verse
Anthony Hecht—A Hill; The Deodand
A.R. Ammons—So I Said I am Ezra, He Held Radical Light, Gravelly Run, Corsons Inlet, The City Limits, The Arc Inside and Out
Allen Ginsberg—Howl, A Supermarket in California, Sunflower Sutra, America
James Merrill—The Broken Home, Self-Portrait in Tywek™ Windbreaker, A Downward Look
John Hollander—Kinneret
Frank O’Hara—To the Harbormaster, A Step Away from Them, The Day Lady Died
John Ashbery—The Instruction Manual, Soonest Mended, Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror
W.S. Merwin—The Lice (entire book)
James Wright—At the Executed Murderer’s Grave; Autumn Begins in Martins Ferry, Ohio; Lying in a Hammock at William Duffy’s Farm in Pine Island, Minnesota
Anne Sexton—Her Kind; With Mercy for the Greedy
Adrienne Rich—Snapshots of a Daughter-in-Law; Diving into the Wreck
Sylvia Plath—The Colossus, The Moon and the Yew-Tree, Tulips, Daddy, Lady Lazarus, Edge

Essays on Poetry

Sidney, An Apology for Poetry
Pope, An Essay on Criticism
Johnson, from The Life of Cowley (on metaphysical poetry)
Wordsworth, Preface to the Second Edition of Lyrical Ballads
Coleridge, from Shakespearean Criticism, “Mechanic and Organic Form”; from Biographia Literaria, Chapter XIII: The Imagination; On Poesy or Art, from The Statesman’s Manual (symbol vs. allegory)
Shelley, A Defense of Poetry
Keats, Selected Letters
Emerson, The Poet
Yeats, The Symbolism of Poetry
Frost, The Figure a Poem Makes
Stevens, Imagination as Value
Hart Crane, General Aims and Theories
Ezra Pound, How to Read
Robert Penn Warren, Pure and Impure Poetry
Harold Bloom, The Internalization of Quest Romance
Geoffrey Hartman, Romanticism and Anti-Self-Consciousness
Helen Vendler, The Function of Criticism
Marjorie Perloff, The Poetics of Indeterminacy (first chapter)