

## 2022-2023 English MA Comprehensive Exam List

### Old and Middle English Literature

- Marie de France, “Le Fresne” & “Bisclavret” (trans. Dorothy Gilbert)
- Geoffrey Chaucer, “The Clerk’s Tale” & “The Man of Law’s Tale” from *The Canterbury Tales* (Norton, trans. Sheila Fisher)

### Renaissance and 17th-Century English Literature

- William Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night* (The Arden Shakespeare Third Series)
- John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Books 1 & 2

### Restoration and 18th-Century English Literature

- Katherine Phillips, “Friendship’s Mystery, to My Dearest Lucasia” & “To My Excellent Lucasia on Our Friendship”
- Aphra Behn, *The Rover*
- Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels*

### 19th-Century English Literature

- Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”
- John Keats, “Ode to a Nightingale” & “Ode to Autumn”
- Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
- Oscar Wilde, *An Ideal Husband*

### American Literature before 1860

- Phillis Wheatley
  - “To Maecenas”
  - “On Imagination”
  - “On Being Brought from Africa to America”
  - “To the University of Cambridge in New England”
  - “On the Death of Rev. Mr. George Whitefield, 1770”
  - “To S.M., a Young African Painter, on Seeing His Works”
  - “Niobe in Distress for Her Children Slain by Apollo, from Ovid...”
  - “Hymn to Morning”
  - “To His Excellency George Washington”
  - “America” (unpublished)
  - “On the Death of General Wooster” (unpublished)
  - Letter: “Reverend and Honored Sir [to Samson Occum Feb. 11, 1774]
  - Letter: “To the Right Honourable the Countess of Huntingdon” [Oct. 25. 1770]
- Harriot Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*
- Nathaniel Hawthorne, “The Birthmark” and “Young Goodman Brown”

## American Literature since 1860

- Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun*
- James Baldwin, *Giovanni's Room*
- Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*
- Joy Harjo
  - “Call It Fear”
  - “The Woman Hanging From the Thirteenth Floor Window”
  - “She Had Some Horses”
  - “I Give You Back”
  - “For Alva Benson, And For Those Who Have Learned to Speak”
  - “Trickster”
  - “Deer Dancer”
  - “Strange Fruit”
  - “Song for the Deer and Myself to Return On”
  - “Day of the Dead”
  - Excerpt from memoir *Poet Warrior*, pages 1-27.

## Post-1900 British & Anglophone Literature

- E. M. Foster, *Passage to India*
- C.L.R. James, *Toussaint Louverture* (Duke University Press edition, 2012)
- Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
- Patience Agbabi, “I Go Back to May 1967” and “Unfinished Business” from *Telling Tales: A Remix*

## Theory

- Franz Fanon, “Introduction” and “The Fact of Blackness” from *Black Skin, White Masks*
- Sylvia Wynter, “Unsettling the Coloniality of Being/Power/Truth/Freedom: Towards the Human, After Man, Its Overrepresentation--An Argument” *CR: The New Centennial Review* Vol. 3, No. 3, coloniality's persistence (fall 2003), pp. 257-337

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## Deadlines for applying to take the exam:

- Fall Semester – October 1
- Spring Semester – February 15

Application available here: <https://tinyurl.com/42cntx39>