New MA in Writing Reading List
(Revised 3/18/07)

To Students: Working with your committee, you may substitute up to 25% of the list, so long as no one heading or subheading here is completely cut out. Thus, ESL graduate students may want to put in more ESL items and take out a balanced selection of literature, rhetoric, and composition entries.

We are more interested in seeing how students apply a deep knowledge of some of these texts to an informed discussion of the work’s subjects than we are in memorization of plots, etc. To that end, we recommend the following overviews as guides in study:

Rhetoric: Concepts, Definitions, Boundaries by William A. Covino and David A. Jolliffe
A Synoptic History of Classical Rhetoric by James J. Murphy
The History and Theory of Rhetoric: An Introduction by James A. Herrick
A Short History of Writing Instruction by James J. Murphy
The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism (in particular, entries on major schools of thought such as Marxist, feminist, historicist, psychoanalytic, gender, critical race, and post-colonial theories)

Classical
Aristotle
Plato
Quintilian

Cicero
“Gorgias,” “Protagoras,” “Phaedrus,” “Sophist”

Rhetoric; selections from corpus

De Oratore, selected speeches

Medieval
Augustine
Boethius
Chaucer
de Basevorn, Robert
Demetrius
Hermogenes

On Christian Doctrine, Bk. 4
De topicis differentiis, Overview of the Structure of Rhetoric
The “General Prologue,” at least three of the Canterbury Tales, The Second Shepherd’s Play, Everyman
Forma Praedicandi
“On Style”
“Progymnasmata” (attributed to Hermogenes)

Renaissance
Ascham, Roger
Bacon, Francis
Castiglione, Baldassare
de Pizan, Christine
Donne, John
Erasmus

Schoolmaster
The Advancement of Learning, Novum Organum
The Book of the Courtier
representative selections
Songs and Sonnets (selections), The First Anniversary, The Holy Sonnets (selections), Devotions upon Emergent Occasions (selections)

Education of a Christian Prince, Copia: Foundations of the Abundant Style
Melanchthon, Philip  *The Praise of Eloquence*
Ramus, Peter  *Arguments in Rhetoric Against Quintilian*
Shakespeare, William  *Sonnets (selections); Hamlet, King Lear, The Tempest*
Sidney, Sir Philip  *An Apology for Poesy*
Spenser, Edmund  *The Faerie Queen, Book I*

**Restoration and Long Eighteenth Century**

Addison  *The Spectator* (at least four numbers)
Astell, Mary  *A Serious Proposal to the Ladies for the Advancement of their True and Greatest Interest* (1697)
Behn, Aphra  *Oroonoko*
Blair, Hugh  *Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres*
Burke, Edmund  *A Philosophical Inquiry into the Origin of our Ideas of the Sublime and the Beautiful*
Campbell, George  *The Philosophy of Rhetoric*
Defoe  *Robinson Crusoe or Moll Flanders*
Dryden  “An Essay of Dramatic Poesie”
Fell, Margaret  “Women’s Speaking Justified”
Fielding  *Joseph Andrews or Tom Jones*
Johnson  “The Vanity of Human Wishes,” “Preface to Shakespeare”
Locke, John  “Some Thoughts Concerning Education”
More, Hannah  “The Bas Bleu” (excerpts); “Strictures on the Modern System of Female Education”
Richardson  *Pamela or Clarissa*
Smith, Adam  *Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres*
Swift  *Gulliver’s Travels*
Vico, Giambattista  *On the Study Methods of Our Time*

**Romantics & 19th Century**

Arnold  “The Function of Criticism at the Present Time”
Bain, Alexander  *English Composition and Rhetoric*, selections
Bronte, C.  *Jane Eyre*
Bronte, E.  *Wuthering Heights*
Chopin  *The Awakening*
Douglass  *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
Edwards  “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”
Eliot, George  *Middlemarch*
Emerson  “Nature,” “The American Scholar,” “Self-Reliance”
Hawthorne  *The Scarlet Letter*
James  “The Art of Fiction,” *Portrait of a Lady or The Ambassadors*
Keats  The five major odes
Lamb  “Old China”
Newman, Samuel P.  *A Practical System of Rhetoric*
Poe  “The Philosophy of Composition”
Rosetti, C.  "Goblin Market"
Selections from nineteenth-century women’s public rhetoric (e.g. Angelina Grimke, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Jane Addams, Ida B. Wells)
Thoreau  
Walden
Truth, Sojourner  “Speech Delivered to the Women’s Rights Convention”
Whately, Richard  Elements of Rhetoric
Whitman  “Song of Myself,” “Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking,” two other poems
Wordsworth  Preface to Lyrical Ballads (1802); “Ode: Intimations of Immortality”
Wordsworth/Coleridge  From the 1798 Lyrical Ballads: Ancient Mariner, Tintern Abbey

20th & 21st Century
Beckett, Samuel  Waiting for Godot
Berlin, James A.  Rhetoric and Reality: Writing Instruction in American Colleges, 1900-1985 ; Rhetoric and Poetics
Bitzer, Lloyd  “The Rhetorical Situation”
Booth, Wayne  Selected articles or book
Burke, Kenneth  A Rhetoric of Motives
Campbell, Karlyn K.  selections from Man Cannot Speak for Her
Connors, Robert J. et al.  Essays on Classical Rhetoric and Modern Discourse
Conrad, Joseph  Heart of Darkness
Crowley, Sharon  Composition in the University: Historical and Polemical Essays
DuBois, W.E.B.  The Souls of Black Folk
Eliot, T.S.  The Wasteland and “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”
Ellison, Ralph  Invisible Man
Faulkner, William  The Sound and the Fury
Fitzgerald, F. Scott  The Great Gatsby
Harris, Joseph.  A Teaching Subject: Composition since 1966
Hemingway, Ernest  The Sun Also Rises
Jarratt, Susan  Rereading the Sophists: Classical Rhetoric Refigured
Joyce, James  A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man or Ulysses
Lauer, Janice  Invention in Rhetoric and Composition or selected articles
Morrison, Toni  Song of Solomon
O’Neill, Eugene  A Long Day’s Journey into Night
Perelman & L. Olbrechts-Tyteca  The New Rhetoric: A Treatise on Argumentation
Selfe, Cynthia  Technology and Literacy in the Twenty-First Century: The Importance of Paying Attention
Stevens, Wallace  Selected poems
Vatz, Richard  “The Myth of the Rhetorical Situation”
Vitanza, Victor  Selected articles
Williams, Tennessee  A Streetcar Named Desire
Woolf, Virginia  Mrs. Dalloway or To the Lighthouse
Yeats, W.B.  Selected poems
Research on Writing
Beach, Richard, and Lillian Bridwell, eds.  *New Directions in Composition Research*
Braddock, Richard, et al. *Research in Written Composition*
Ede, Lisa, ed.  *On Writing Research: The Braddock Essays, 1975-98*
Gillespie, Paula, et al.  *Writing Center Research: Extending the Conversation*
Gurak, Laura, and Mary Lay, eds.  *Research in Technical Communication*
Johanek, Cindy  *Composing Research: A Contextualist Paradigm for Rhetoric and Composition*
Kirsch, Gesa, and Patricia A. Sullivan  *Methods and Methodologies in Composition Research*
Mortensen, Peter and Gesa Kirsch  *Ethics and Representation in Qualitative Studies of Literacy*

Theories of Composing/Composition Pedagogy

**Overviews**
Berlin, James A.  “Contemporary Composition: The Major Pedagogical Theories”;
“Rhetoric and Ideology in the Writing Class”
Boquet, Elizabeth H.  *Noise from the Writing Center*
Faigley, Lester  “Competing Theories of Process: A Critique and a Proposal”
Clifford, John, and John Schilb, eds.  *Writing Theory and Critical Theory*
Ede, Lisa  *Situating Composition: Composition Studies and the Politics of Location*
Fulkerson, Richard  “Composition at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century”
Grimm, Nancy Maloney  *Good Intentions: Writing Center Work for Postmodern Times*
Johnson-Eilola, Johndan, ed.  *Central Works in Technical Communication*
Tate, Gary, et al.  *A Guide to Composition Pedagogies*
Villanueva, Victor, Jr., ed.  *Cross-Talk in Comp Theory*

**Disciplinary History**
Brereton, John C.  *The Origins of Composition Studies in the American College, 1875-1925*
Connors, Robert J.  *Composition-Rhetoric: Background, Theory, and Pedagogy*

**Perspectives**

Expressivist
Elbow, Peter.  *Writing without Teachers*
Murray, Donald M.  *A Writer Teaches Writing*

Cognitive
Emig, Janet.  *The Composing Processes of Twelfth Graders*

Social
Bruffee, Kenneth A. “Social Construction, Language, and the Authority of Knowledge”
McComiskey, Bruce.  *Teaching Composition as a Social Process*

Cultural
Berlin, James A.  “Poststructuralism, Cultural Studies, and the Composition Classroom.”
Faigley, Lester.  *Fragments of Rationality: Postmodernity and the Subject of Composition*
Gilyard, Keith. *Race, Rhetoric, and Composition*
Heath, Shirley Brice. *Ways with Words: Language, Life, and Work in Communities and Classrooms*
Olson, Gary A., and Sidney I. Dobrin, eds. *Composition Theory for the Postmodern Classroom*
Severino, Carol, Juan Guerra, and Johnella Butler, eds. *Writing in Multicultural Settings*

**Applied Linguistics**

**Discourse Analysis and Sociolinguistics**
Chambers, Jack  
Heath, Shirley Brice  
Labov, William, et al. (eds.)  
Saville-Troike, Muriel  
Tannen, Deborah  

**Second Language Studies**
Bakhtin, M.  
Ferris, D.  
Kroll, B. (ed.)  
Leki, I.  
Silva, T., & Matsuda, P. (eds.)

*Sociolinguistic theory. 2nd ed.*  
*Ways with Words: Language, Life, and Work in Communities and Classrooms*  
*Atlas of North American English: Phonetics, Phonology and Sound Change*  
*The Ethnography of Communication: An Introduction*  
*Conversational Style: Analyzing Talk Among Friends (rev. ed.)*  
*The dialogic imagination: Four essays*  
*Response to student writing*  
*Exploring the Dynamic of Second Language Writing*  
*Understanding ESL Writers: A Guide for Teachers*  
*Landmark Essays on ESL Writing*