Reading List for the Poetry Exam

21 November 2005

British Literature

1. *Beowulf*, trans. by Roy Liuzza  (See also trans. by Seamus Heaney)

2. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, trans. by Marie Borroff

3. Anglo-Saxon lyrics:

4. Middle English lyrics:
   *From Harley MS 2253:*  “Erthe tok of erthe,” “Bitwene Mersh and Averil,” “Lenten is come with love to toune,” “Ichot a burde in boure bright,” “Winter wakeneth all my care,” “Lutel wot it any mon”

   *Others:*  “Now goth sonne under wod,” “Sumer is icumen in,” “Fowleles in the frith,” “Lyllay lullay litel child,” “I sing of a maiden,” “Mayden in the mor lay,” “Adam lay ibounden”


5. Middle English Ballads:

6. Geoffrey Chaucer:
   Selected *Canterbury Tales* and/or *Troilus and Crisyede*
   *['“General Prologue,” “Knight’s Tale,” “Miller’s Tale,” “Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale,”
   “Franklin’s Tale,” “Pardoner’s Prologue and Tale,” “Nun’s Priest’s Tale”]

   Lyrics: “Merciles Beaute,” “To Rosemounde,” “Gentilesse”

**With one or two exceptions, from Skelton to Milton, you’ll find the following poetry in The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Volume 1b, The Sixteenth Century; The Early Seventeenth Century (Seventh Edition).**

7. John Skelton:
   “The Tunning of Elinour Rumming” (selection in *Norton*)

8. Thomas Wyatt:
   “They flee from me,” “My galley charged with forgetfulness,” “Whoso list to hunt,” “My lute, awake!”

9. Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey:
   “The soote season,” “Love, that doth reign and live within my thought,” “So cruel prison how could betide”
10. Edmund Spenser:

11. Samuel Daniel:
   selections from *Delia*.

12. Michael Drayton:
   selections from *Idea*.

13. Sir Philip Sidney:
   *An Apology for Poesy*; from *Astrophil and Stella*: 1, 2, 7, 15, 20, 31, 37; and “Leave me, O Love”

14. Walter Ralegh:
   “The Nymph’s Reply,” “Farewell, false love”

15. Christopher Marlowe:
   “The Passionate Shepherd,” *Hero and Leander*

16. William Shakespeare:
   *Sonnets* 12, 18, 29, 30, 55, 73, 116, 129, 130, 138; *Venus and Adonis*

17. John Donne:

18. Ben Jonson:
   “On My First Son,” “Song: to Celia,” “Epitaph on S. P.,” “Still to be Neat,” “To Penshurst,” “To William Camden”

19. Aemilia Lanyer:
   “The Description of Cooke-ham” [in *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum*, ed. Susanne Woods]

20. Thomas Campion:
   “My sweetest Lesbia,” “There is a garden in her face”

21. George Herbert:
   “Easter Wings,” “Virtue,” “Redemption,” “The Pulley,” “Prayer (I)”

22. Robert Herrick:
   “Delight in Disorder,” “To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time,” “Upon Julia’s Clothes,” “The Vine”

23. Edmund Waller:
   “Go, lovely rose!”

24. Richard Lovelace:
   “To Althea, from Prison,” “To Lucasta, Going to the Wars”

25. Andrew Marvell:
26. John Milton:

27. John Dryden:
   “A Song for St. Cecilia’s Day,” Absalom and Achitophel

28. John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester:
   “Upon Nothing,” “The Disabled Debauchee,” “A Satyr Against Reason and Mankind”

29. Jonathan Swift:
   “Stella’s Birth-Day, Written in the Year 1718,” “A Description of the Morning,” “A Description of a City Shower”

30. Alexander Pope:
   Essay on Man, The Rape of the Lock

31. Samuel Johnson:
   “The Vanity of Human Wishes”

32. James Thomson:
   “Winter,” from The Seasons (1730)

33. Christopher Smart:
   selections from Jubilate Agno

34. William Collins:
   “Ode to Evening,” “Ode on the Poetical Character” “Ode on the Popular Superstitions of the Highlands of Scotland”

35. Thomas Gray:
   “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard,” “Sonnet [on the Death of Mr. Richard West],” “The Progress of Poesy”

36. Thomas Chatterton:
   “An Excelente Balade of Charitie”

37. Robert Burns:
   “To a Louse,” “To a Mouse,” “Comin thro the Rye” (both versions), “Auld Lang Syne” “The Holy Fair,” “Tom o’Shanter,” “Scots wha’ hae wi’ Wallace bled,” “Is there for honest poverty,”

38. Hannah Cowley:
   “Departed Youth”

39. Helen Maria Williams:
   “Sonnet: To Twilight,” “Sonnet: To Expression,” “Sonnet: To Hope,” “An Address to Poetry,” “Sonnet on...the Mountain Daisy,” “To Dr. Moore”

40. Oliver Goldsmith:
   The Deserted Village

41. Charlotte Smith:
   Sonnet: “The Sea View,”
along with the following from *Elegiac Sonnets*:
Sonnet 2: “Written at the Close of Spring”
Sonnet 8: “To Spring”
Sonnet 12: “Written on the Sea Shore”
Sonnet 39: “To Night”
Sonnet 44: ”Written in the church yard at Middleton in Sussex"
Sonnet 85: “The fairest flowers are gone!”
Sonnet 86: “Written near a port on a dark evening”

42. Mary Robinson: “The Haunted Beach,” “Stanzas. Written between Dover and Calais,” “January 1795”

43. William Blake:
*Songs of Innocence and Experience* (1795); *The Book of Thel; Marriage of Heaven and Hell*

44. William Wordsworth:
from *Lyrical Ballads* (1800): “Strange Fits of Passion Have I Known,” “She Dwelt Among the Untrodden Ways,” “A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal,” “I Traveled Among Unknown Men,” “Lucy Gray or Solitude,” “Nutting,” “Tintern Abbey,” “Preface” to the Second Edition


Two-Book Prelude

45. S. T. Coleridge:

46. George Gordon, Lord Byron;
*Don Juan I, Childe Harold III,* “She Walks in Beauty,” “Fare Thee Well,” “Stanzas to the Po,” “On This Day I Complete My Thirty-Sixth Year”

47. Percy Bysshe Shelley:

48. John Keats:
“On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer,” “La Belle Dame Sans Merci” (“Knight in arms” version), “When I Have Fears That I May Cease to Be,” “Bright Star,” “The Eve of St Agnes,” “Ode to Psyche,” “Ode to a Nightingale,” “Ode on a Grecian Urn,” “Ode on Melancholy,” “To Autumn,” “On Seeing the Elgin Marbles,” “Why Did I Laugh,” “On Sitting Down to Read King Lear Once Again,” “This living hand,” *Fall of Hyperion*

Letters
49. Felicia Hemans:
“Properzia Rossi,” “Indian Woman’s Death Song,” “Wife of Asdrubal,” “Image in Lava”

50. Letitia E. Landon:
“Lines Written Beneath a Picture,” “Hercules and Iola,” “Lines of Life,” “A Suttee,” “The Young Destructive,” “Sappho”

51. John Clare:
“To Wordsworth,” “The Yellowhammer,” “To Elia”

52. Elizabeth Barrett:
*Sonnets from the Portuguese; Aurora Leigh*

53. Alfred, Lord Tennyson:
“Mariana,” “The Lady of Shalott,” “Ulysses,” “Break, Break, Break”
from *The Princess* (1847): “Tears, Idle Tears,” “Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal,” “Come Down, O Maid”
from *In Memoriam A.H.H.*: 5, 7, 11, 15, 54-56, 67, 86, 88, 95, 121, 124
“Crossing the Bar,” “The Kraken,” “The Palace of Art,” “Locksley Hall,” “The Vision of Sin,” [[The Epic and Morte d’Arthur]]

54. Robert Browning:
“The Bishop Orders His Tomb,” “Meeting at Night,” “House,” “Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came,” “Fra Lippo Lippi,” “Andrea del Sarto,” “A Woman’s Last Word,” “One Word More,” “Porphyria’s Lover,” “My Last Duchess”

55. Matthew Arnold:
The Scholar Gypsy; Thyris; The Buried Life; Dover Beach

56. George Meredith:
*Modern Love* 30; “Lucifer in Starlight”

57. Dante Gabriel Rossetti:
The Blessed Damozel; My Sister’s Sleep; Jenny; The Woodspurge; A Sonnet is a Moment’s Monument; Nuptial Sleep; Silent Noon; Willowwood; Body’s Beauty; A Superscription

58. Christina Rossetti:
Song (When I am dead); Winter: My Secret; In an Artist’s Studio; Uphill; A Better Resurrection; Goblin Market; A Birthday; After Death A Triad; Song (She sat and sang always); An Apple Gathering; No, Thank You, John; Echo; Remember; The Convent Threshold

59. Lewis Carroll:
Jabberwocky
60. Edward Lear:
   “Cold Are the Crabs”

61. William Morris:
   The Defence of Guenevere; The Haystack in the Floods

62. Algernon Charles Swinburne:
   The Triumph of Time; A Leave-Taking; The Garden of Proserpine; A Forsaken Garden; Ave Atque
   Vale; Itylus; Anactoria; The Leper; At a Month’s End

63. Michael Field:
   Ah, Eros Doth Not Always Smite; Sometimes I Do Dispatch My Heart; Unbosoming; Embalmment;
   The Mummy Invokes His Soul; A Girl; It Was Deep April

64. Mary Coleridge:
   The Other Side of a Mirror

65. Dora Greenwell:
   “To Elizabeth Barrett Browning in 1851,” “To Elizabeth Barrett Browning in 1861,”
   “A Scherzo (A Shy Person’s Wishes)”

**Modern and Contemporary**

You should be familiar with the following poets as their poetry and prose is represented in the *Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry*, 3rd ed., 2 vol.

**Modern**

66. Thomas Hardy

67. Gerard Manley Hopkins

68. A. E. Housman

69. William Butler Yeats

70. Mina Loy

71. D. H. Lawrence

72. Wilfred Owen

73. W. H. Auden

**Contemporary**

74. Dylan Thomas

75. Philip La5rkin

76. Denise Levertov

77. Thom Gunn
78. Derek Walcott
79. Ted Hughes
80. Geoffrey Hill
81. Seamus Heaney
82. Eavan Boland
83. Paul Muldoon

**Critical Texts**

M. H. Abrams, *The Mirror and the Lamp*
Harold Bloom, *The Visionary Company*
Robert Langbaum, *The Poetry of Experience*
Paul Fussell, *Poetic Meter and Poetic Form*
Charles Hartman, *Free Verse*
Barbara Herrnstein Smith, *Poetic Closure*
Peter Sacks, *The English Elegy*
W. R. Johnson, *The Idea of Lyric: Lyric Modes in Ancient and Modern Poets*
John Hollander, *Rhyme’s Reason*
Stewart Curran, *Poetic Form and British Romanticism*

**American Literature**

1. Anne Bradstreet:
   “The Prologue,” “Before the Birth of One of Her Children,” “To My Dear and Loving Husband,”
   “The Author to Her Book”

2. Edward Taylor:
   “Upon a Spider Catching a Fly”

3. Phillis Wheatley:
   "On Being Brought From Africa to America"

4. Jupiter Hammond:
   “An Evening Thought”

5. Lucy Terry:
   “Bar Fight”
6. Edgar Allen Poe:
   “The Philosophy of Composition,” “To Helen,” “The Raven,” “Annabel Lee”

7. Ralph Waldo Emerson:
   “Concord Hymn,” “The Snow-Storm,” “Brahma”

8. Walt Whitman:

9. Emily Dickinson:
   49 (“I never lost as much but twice”)
   67 (“Success is counted sweetest”)
   216 (“Safe in their Alabaster Chambers”)
   241 (“I like a look of agony”)
   249 (“Wild nights–Wild nights!”)
   254 (“Hope is the thing with feathers”)
   258 (“There’s a certain Slant of light”)
   280 (“I felt a Funeral, in my Brain”)
   288 (“I’m Nobody! Who are you?”)
   303 (“The Soul selects her own Society”)
   328 (“A Bird came down the Walk”)
   341 (“After great pain, a formal feeling comes”)
   435 (“Much Madness is divinest Sense”)
   449 (“I died for Beauty—but was scarce”)
   465 (“I heard a Fly buzz—when I died”)
   519 (“’Twas warm—at first—like Us—“)
   528 (“Mine—by the Right of the White Election!”)
   585 (“I like to see it lap the Miles”)
   632 (“The Brain—is wider than the Sky”)
   657 (“I dwell in Possibility”)
   712 (“Because I could not stop for Death”)
   754 (“My Life had stood—a Loaded Gun”)
   986 (“A narrow Fellow in the Grass”)

Poetry Genre Reading List

1084 (“At Half past Three, a single Bird”)
1129 (“Tell all the Truth but tell it slant”)
1463 (“A Route of Evanescence”)
1540 (“As imperceptibly as Grief”)
1732 (“My life closed twice before its close”)

You should be familiar with the poetry and prose of the following poets represented in the Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry, 3rd ed.

10. Edwin Arlington Robinson

11. Gertrude Stein

12. Amy Lowell

13. Robert Frost

14. Carl Sandburg
15. Wallace Stevens
16. William Carlos Williams
17. Ezra Pound
18. H. D.
19. Robinson Jeffers
20. Marianne Moore
21. John Crowe Ransom
22. T. S. Eliot
23. Claude McKay
24. Edna St. Vincent Millay
25. E. E. Cummings
26. Jean Toomer
27. Louise Bogan
28. Hart Crane
29. Langston Hughes
30. Countee Cullen

Poetry Genre Reading List

31. Louis Zukofsky
32. Robert Penn Warren
33. Stanley Kunitz
34. Kenneth Rexroth
35. George Oppen
36. Theodore Roethke

Contemporary

37. Charles Olson
38. Elizabeth Bishop
39. May Swenson
40. Robert Hayden
41. William Stafford
42. Randall Jarrell
43. John Berryman
44. Robert Lowell
45. Gwendolyn Brooks
46. Robert Duncan
47. Lawrence Ferlinghetti
48. Amy Clampitt
49. Richard Wilbur
50. James Dickey
51. Maxine Kumin
52. Donald Justice
53. A. R. Ammons
54. James Merrill
55. Robert Creeley

56. Allen Ginsberg
57. Frank O’Hara
58. Robert Bly
59. Galway Kinnell
60. John Ashbery
61. W. S. Merwin
62. James Wright
63. Philip Levine
64. Anne Sexton
65. Adrienne Rich

Poetry Genre Reading List
66. Gary Snyder
67. Sylvia Plath
68. Audre Lorde
69. Mark Strand
70. Amiri Baraka
71. Charles Wright
72. Mary Oliver
73. Lucille Clifton
74. June Jordan
75. Michael S. Harper
76. Charles Simic
77. Frank Bidart
78. Robert Hass
79. Sharon Olds
80. Louise Gluck
81. James Tate

82. Yusef Komunyakaa
83. Ai
84. Charles Bernstein
85. Jorie Graham
86. Anne Carson
87. Joy Harjo
88. Rita Dove
89. Alberto Rios
90. Mark Doty
91. Cathy Song
92. Li-Young Lee

Poetry Genre Reading List