

# British Literature from 1900 to the Present

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## Field of Study Reading List

Students are also expected to familiarize themselves with current and historically important scholarship in the field; they should consult with their supervisory committee about this. Dates following titles are generally dates of first performance (sometimes necessarily approximate).

### Drama

1. Auden, W.H. and Christopher Isherwood. *The Ascent of F6*. 1936. OR *The Dog Beneath the Skin*. 1935.
2. \*Beckett, Samuel. *Waiting for Godot*. 1952.
3. Beckett, Samuel. *Endgame*. 1957. OR *Happy Days*. 1962
4. Bond, Edward. *Lear*. 1971.
5. Brenton, Howard. *The Romans in Britain*. 1980.
6. Carr, Marina. *The Mai*. 1994. OR *Ariel*. 2002.
7. \*Churchill, Caryl. *Cloud Nine*. 1979. OR *Top Girls*. 1982.
8. Coward, Noel. *Hay Fever*. 1925. OR *Private Lives*. 1930. OR *Blithe Spirit*. 1941.
9. \*Eliot, T.S. *Murder in the Cathedral*. 1935. OR *The Family Reunion*. 1939.
10. Frayn, Michael. *Noises Off*. 1982 OR *Copenhagen*. 1998.
11. Friel, Brian. *Translations*. 1980. OR *Dancing at Lughansa*. 1990.
12. Galsworthy, John. *Strife*. 1909.
13. Gupta, Tanika. *Sanctuary* (2002).
14. Hamilton, Cicely. *Diana of Dobson's*. 1908.
15. Hare, David. *Fanshen*. 1975. OR *Pravda*. 1985. OR *Stuff Happens*. 2005.
16. Jones, Charlotte. *Humble Boy*. 2002.
17. Kane, Sarah. *Blasted*. 1995. OR *Cleansed*. 1998.
18. Kwei-Armah, Kwame. *Elmina's Kitchen* (2003).
19. Marber, Patrick. *Closer*. 1997.
20. \*O'Casey, Sean. *Juno and the Paycock*. 1924. OR *The Plough and the Stars*. 1926.
21. \*Osborne, John. *Look Back in Anger*. 1956.
22. \*Pinter, Harold. *The Birthday Party*. 1957.
23. Priestley, J.B. *Time and the Conways*. 1937.
24. Ravenshill, Mark. *Shopping and Fucking*. 1996.
25. Robins, Elizabeth. *Votes for Women*. 1907.
26. Shaffer, Peter. *Equus*. 1973.
27. Shaw, Bernard. *Man and Superman*. 1903. OR *Major Barbara*. 1905.
28. Stoppard, Tom. *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. 1964.
29. \*Synge, J.S. *The Playboy of the Western World*. 1907
30. \*Yeats, W.B. *Cathleen ni Houlihan*. 1902. OR *Death of Cuchalain*. 1921.

### Poetry

31. Adcock, Fleur. "Against Coupling" (1971), "Leaving the Tate" (1986), "The Soho Hospital for Women" (1979).
32. Auden, W. H. "Lullaby" (1937), "As I Walked Out One Evening" (1940), "Musée des Beaux Arts," (1940), \*In

- Memory of W. B. Yeats," (1940), "In Praise of Limestone" (1951); "Letter to Lord Byron" (1936) or "The Age of Anxiety" (1947).
33. Bergvall, Caroline. "Les Jets du Poupée" (2000), "Via" (2005), "8 Figs" (2005).
34. Eliot, T. S. "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" (1917), "The Waste Land" (1922), "The Hollow Men" (1925), Four Quartets (1935-42).
35. Finlay, Ian Hamilton. "Orkney Lyrics" (1960), "Sea-Poppy 1" (1968), "Sea-Poppy 2" (1968), Images and text from "Hyperborean Apollo" in *Little Sparta: The Garden of Ian Hamilton Finlay* (2003) [by Jesse Sheeler and Andrew Lawson].
36. Graves, Robert. "Rocky Acres" (1920), "To Juan at the Winter Solstice," (1945), "The Cool Web," (1927), "Down, Wanton, Down," (1933), "Recalling War" (1938), "The White Goddess" (1948).
37. Harrison, Tony. "Durham" (1978), "Me Tarzan" (1981), "Lines to My Grandfathers" (1981), "V." (1985).
38. Heaney, Seamus. "Death of a Naturalist" (1966), "North" (1975), "Bog Queen" (1975), "Punishment" (1975), "Singing School" (1975), "Station Island VII & VIII" (1984), "The Mud Vision" (1987).
39. Hill, Geoffrey. "Genesis" (1952), "Ovid in the Third Reich" (1968), "September Song" (1968), "History as Poetry" (1968), Hymns I-XII from "Mercian Hymns" (1971).
40. Hughes, Ted. "The Thought-Fox" (1957), "Pike" (1960), "View of a Pig" (1960), "Out" (1967), "Wodwo" (1967), "Pibroch" (1967); "Crow" (1970) or "Birthday Letters" (1998).
41. Jennings, Elizabeth. "Choices" (1958), "Fountain" (1958), "One Flesh" (1966), "Accepted in Growing Pains" (1975).
42. Johnson, Linton Kwesi. "It Noh Funny" (1979), "Inglan Is A Bitch" (1980), "Mi Revalueshanary Fren" (1991).
43. Jones, David. In *Parenthesis* (1937) or *The Anathemata* (1951).
44. Larkin, Philip. "Toads" (1954), "Church Going" (1954), "An Arundel Tomb" (1956), "The Whitsun Weddings" (1958), "High Windows" (1967).
45. Lawrence, D. H. "The Bride" (1918), "Piano" (1918), "Snake" (1923), "Bavarian Gentians" (1932), "The Ship of Death" (1932).
46. MacDiarmid, Hugh. "A Drunk Man Looks at the Thistle" (1926), "Parley of Beasts" (1926), "O Wha's the Bride" (1926), "In Memoriam James Joyce" (1937-39).
47. Muir, Edwin. "The Mythical Journey" (1937), "The Old Gods" (1943), "The Three Mirrors" (1946), "One Foot in Eden" (1956), "The Horses" (1956).
48. Muldoon, Paul. "Hedgehog" (1973), "The Big House" (1977), "Milkweed and Monarch" (1983), "Meeting the British" (1987), "Pineapples and Pomegranates" (2002).
49. Nichols, Grace. "The Fat Black Woman Remembers" (1984), "The Fat Black Woman Versus Politics" (1984), "Skanking Englishman Between Trains" (1984).
50. Owen, Wilfred. "Anthem for Doomed Youth" (1920), "Dulce et Decorum Est" (1920), "Arms and the Boy" (1920), "Mental Cases" (1920).
51. Riley, Denise. "Affections must not" (1978), "Lure" (1992), "Pastoral" (1992).
52. Phillips, Tom. "Introduction" to *A Humument* (1980, 1st ed.). Raworth, Tom. *Ace* (2nd. ed. 1977).
53. Sitwell, Edith. "Aubade" (1923), "Country Dance" (1923), "Still Falls the Rain" (1940), "The Canticle of the Rose" (1948).
54. Smith, Stevie. "Not Waving But Drowning" (1957), "To Carry the Child" (1966), "Pretty" (1966), "Black March" (1971).
55. Thomas, Dylan. "The Force that Through the Green Fuse Drives the Flower" (1934), "And Death Shall Have No Dominion" (1936), "Fern Hill" (1946), "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night" (1952).

56. Turnbull, Gael. "George Fox, From His Journals" (1962), "Twenty Words, Twenty Days" (1963), "A Rattle of Scree" (1997).
57. Yeats, W. B. "The Man who Dreamed of Faeryland" (1892), "Adam's Curse" (1903), "Easter 1916," (1916), "The Wild Swans at Coole" (1917), "The Second Coming" (1921), "Leda and the Swan" (1924), "Sailing to Byzantium" (1927), "Among School Children" (1927), "Crazy Jane Talks with the Bishop" (1933), "The Circus Animal's Desertion" (1939).
58. The poetry can be found in the following anthologies or in separate collections by the authors:  
 The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry [2 vols.] (2003). Ed, Jahan Ramazani, Richard Ellmann, Robert O'Clair.  
 Anthology of Twentieth-Century British and Irish Poetry (2001). Ed. Keith Tuma, Oxford UP.

## Fiction

59. Barker, Pat. *Regeneration* (1995)\*
60. Barnes, Julian. *Flaubert's Parrot* (1984) or *A History of the World in 10 1/2 Chapters* (1989)
61. Berger, John. G. (1972) or *Pig Earth* (1979)\*
62. Carter, Angela. *The Bloody Chamber* (1979) or *Nights at the Circus* (1984)
63. Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness* (1902), *The Secret Agent* (1907)\*
64. Drabble, Margaret. *The Millstone* (1965) or *Jerusalem the Golden* (1967)
65. Forster, E.M. *Howards End* (1910)\*, *A Passage to India* (1926)\*
66. Fowles, John. *The French Lieutenant's Woman* (1969)\*
69. Greene, Graham. *The Quiet American* (1955) or *Brighton Rock* (1938)
70. Ishiguro, Kazuo. *The Remains of the Day* (1989)
71. Joyce, James. *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1916), *Ulysses* (1922)\*
72. Kureishi, Hanif. *The Black Album* (1995)
73. Lawrence, D.H. *Sons and Lovers* (1913) or *The Rainbow* (1915)\*
74. Lessing, Doris. *The Golden Notebook* (1962) or *Memoirs of a Survivor* (1974)
75. O'Brien, Edna. *A Fanatic Heart: Selected Short Stories of Edna O'Brien* (1984)
76. McEwan, Ian. *Amsterdam* (1998) or *Atonement* (2001) or *Saturday* (2006)
77. Murdoch, Iris. *A Severed Head* (1961) or *The Sea, The Sea* (1978)
78. Orwell, George. *Burmese Days* (1934) or *1984* (1948)\*
79. Powell, Anthony. *A Question of Upbringing* (1951). [The first novel in the *Dance to the Music of Time* series. Any other novel in the series can be substituted].
80. Rushdie, Salman. *Midnight's Children* (1981)\*
81. Sillitoe, Alan. *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner* (1959) or *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*. (1958)\*
82. Smith, Zadie. *White Teeth*. (2000)\*
83. Spark, Muriel. *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (1961)
84. Swift, Graham. *Waterland*. (1984)
85. Waugh, Evelyn. *Decline and Fall* (1928) or *Brideshead Revisited* (1945)
86. Warner, Sylvia Townsend. *Summer Will Show* (1936)
87. Warner, Marina. *Indigo* (1992)

88. Winterson, Jeanette. *The Passion* (1987) or *Written on the Body* (1992)\*  
89. Woolf, Virginia. *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925), *To the Lighthouse* (1927) or *The Waves* (1931)

### **Secondary Readings**

The Cambridge University Press "Cambridge Companion" series publishes useful books on modernism and on many of the major authors. The following are further suggestions for secondary reading:

90. Auerbach, Eric. "The Brown Stocking." In *Mimesis*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1953.  
91. Bradbury, Malcolm. *The Social Context of Modern English Literature*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1971.  
92. Eysteinnsson, Astradur. *The Concept of Modernism*. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1990.  
93. Jackson, Tony. *The Subject of Modernism: Narrative Alterations in the Fiction of Eliot, Conrad, Woolf, and Joyce*. Ann Arbor: U of Michigan P, 1994.  
94. Lodge, David. *The Modes of Modern Writing: Metaphor, Metonymy and the Typology of Modern Literature*. London: Edwin Arnold, 1977.