

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT FIRST-YEAR READING LIST: 2020-21

The first-year UCL English course is an invitation to reconsider approaches to works which you have read and to revise any prejudices about works which you have not. The first paradox is that students who wish to do well in their exams for this degree are advised not to think of exams at all, but instead to learn the enjoyment of this literature for the sake of its artistry. To enjoy the literature is to start reading it, in quantity, and as soon as possible.

You may wish to obtain your own copies of some of these books for freedom of use and ease of reference. Cheap second-hand copies are usually fairly easy to find online. The UCL Library, however, stocks a good number of copies and is fast expanding its collection of ebooks and online resources in response to the coronavirus pandemic. There are a select few of the books listed in the following pages which we do strongly recommend you purchase when you enrol on the course at the start of the academic year – the *Norton Anthology of Poetry*, *Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*, and *Riverside Chaucer*. Please make sure you obtain the correct edition in each (ISBN numbers are provided below to assist you in this).

GENERAL

You are advised to provide yourself with a history of the development of English literature, for example: Andrew Sanders, *The Short Oxford History of English Literature* (Oxford, 2004).

You may also find it useful, both before you arrive at UCL and throughout your time here, to consult studies on 'how to read'. The following are not part of our compulsory reading list, but are good resources to help you hone your critical skills:

- Peter Barry, *English in Practice* (2nd edn; Bloomsbury, 2013).
- Wayne C. Booth, *The Rhetoric of Fiction* (2nd edn; Chicago, 1983).
- John Lennard, *The Poetry Handbook* (2nd edn; OUP, 2006).

You may also find it helpful to consult:

- The [English Department Style Sheet](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/english/prospective-students/ba-english) for essays, which can be found on the Department website at www.ucl.ac.uk/english/prospective-students/ba-english.
- Gerald Nelson, [The Internet Grammar of English](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/internet-grammar/home.htm) at www.ucl.ac.uk/internet-grammar/home.htm
- [The Oxford Companion to English Literature](#), ed. Dinah Birch, available from *Oxford Reference Online*. [This resource can be consulted online via UCL Library after enrolment.]
- [The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms](#), ed. Chris Baldick, available from *Oxford Reference Online* [This resource can be consulted online via UCL Library after enrolment.].
- Dominic Rainsford, *Studying Literature in English: An Introduction* (London: Routledge, 2014).

TEXTS FOR FIRST-YEAR COURSES

The Norton Anthology of Poetry, ed. Margaret Ferguson, Tim Kendall, Mary Jo Salter, 6th edn (Norton, 2018), ISBN 9780393679021. This book is used on the Narrative Texts strand of the first-year course and a copy should be purchased for your personal use throughout your time in the Department.

1. Narrative Texts

Christopher Marlowe, *Hero and Leander* (1598 text), in *The Norton Anthology of Poetry* (see above).

John Milton, *Paradise Lost* (1667, revised 1674), ed. John Leonard (Penguin). You may wish to consult the excellent annotations provided by Alastair Fowler in the Longman edition.

Alexander Pope, *The Rape of the Lock* (1714), in *The Norton Anthology of Poetry* (see above).

William Wordsworth, *The Prelude* (1805 text), in *William Wordsworth: The Major Works*, ed. Stephen Gill (Oxford World's Classics).

Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* (1845), ed. Deborah E. McDowell (Oxford World's Classics).

George Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss* (1860), ed. Juliette Atkinson (Oxford World's Classics, 2015).

T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land* (1922) in *The Norton Anthology of Poetry* (see above). You may wish to consult the excellent annotations provided by Christopher Ricks and Jim McCue in *The Poems of T.S. Eliot*, vol. 1 (Faber 2015).

Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (1987) (Vintage).

2. Introduction to Medieval Language and Literature

This course is taught in two parts, Middle English in the autumn term and Old English in the spring term. The Old English literary period falls approximately within 700–1100, the Middle within 1100–1500. The Middle English is placed first in order to ease students into what may be considered the least familiar period of literature studied on the first-year course.

Most medieval literature can be challenging, especially with the Cheshire dialect of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. Later on the first year, we will turn to Old English, which is the language spoken and written in Anglo-Saxon England before the Norman Conquest of 1066. You will be taught *Beowulf* in Seamus Heaney's translation, and enough Old English language to be able to read *The Wanderer*, the other text on this half of the course, as its Anglo-Saxon poet composed it.

You may find much of this literature completely new, but we hope you will see that it represents something of the greatness which the English literary tradition has achieved. In teaching Old and Middle English we ensure that our Department covers English from beginning to end. This is what makes us different from most other departments of English language and literature.

Please make preparation for your studies by reading at least the first and second Middle English texts, plus the underlined items in the Old English section, in the summer preceding your enrolment on the course.

Middle English

Taken in order, the works we study in class this term are *The Miller's Tale* of Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, the north-west Midlands romance *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, the last two books of Sir Thomas Malory's *Morte Darthur* (to be found in his *Works*, listed below), and a play, *The Wakefield Second Shepherds' Pageant*. The editions for these are listed in order below. Burrow's book provides valuable elements of the literary background.

Larry D. Benson (ed.), *The Riverside Chaucer*, 3rd edn (OUP, 2008), ISBN 9780199552092. This book is also needed for second-year study: a copy should be purchased for your personal use throughout the course.

J.J. Anderson (ed.), *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Pearl, Cleanness, Patience* (Everyman, 1996), ISBN-10: 0460875108 or ISBN-13: 9780460875103.

Eugene Vinaver (ed.), *Malory: Works* (OUP, 1977), ISBN-10: 0192812173 or ISBN-13: 9780192812179.

A.C. Cawley (ed.), *Everyman and Medieval Miracle Plays* (Everyman, 1993), ISBN-10: 046087280X or ISBN-13: 9780460872805.

J.A. Burrow, *Medieval Writers and their Work* (OUP, 1982), ISBN 9780199532049.

Old English

This course consists of Seamus Heaney's translation of the epic poem *Beowulf*, followed by one poem in the original Old English language, *The Wanderer*. The quickest way into the language and context is Peter S. Baker's chapter on the Old English language in *'Beowulf' & Other Stories*, and we recommend that you read this and surrounding chapters first. For *The Wanderer*, read Jenny Neville's chapter on the Elegies in the same volume.

Daniel Donoghue (ed.), *The Norton Critical Edition of Heaney's 'Beowulf'* (W.W. Norton and Co., 2002). ISBN: 0393975800

Peter S. Baker (ed.), *Introduction to Old English*, 3rd edn (Blackwell, 2012), ISBN 9780470659847. **Chapters Four (on Case), Six (on Nouns: 6.1: Quick Start), Seven (7.1: Quick Start).**

Richard North and Joe Allard (ed.), *'Beowulf' & Other Stories*, 2nd edn (Pearson Longman, 2011), ISBN 9781408286036. **Chapters Three (on *Beowulf*), Five (on Riddles, Elegies and *The Wanderer*), Eleven (on the Old English Language)**

You may also wish to consult *The Longman Anthology of Old English, Old Icelandic and Anglo-Norman Literatures* (Pearson Longman, 2011), ed. Richard North, Joe Allard, and Patricia Gillies, ISBN 9781408247709, which is not required for the course, but features more literature from the period.

3. Criticism and Theory

This course makes use of *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*, 3rd edn (2018), ISBN 9780393602951, as a core reference work, and you are strongly encouraged to buy your own copy, and to dip into it in advance over the summer. The volume will also be of use you in your second and third years. The essays lectured on and discussed in seminars during the Spring Term of the first year, all printed in the anthology, are as follows:

- Philip Sidney, *An Apology for Poetry* (c. 1580, published 1595)
- Samuel Johnson, 'Preface' to his edition of Shakespeare's plays (1765)
- Wordsworth, 'Preface' to the *Lyrical Ballads* (1802)
- Henry James, 'The Art of Fiction' (1884)
- T. S. Eliot, 'Tradition and the Individual Talent', from *The Sacred Wood* (1920)
- Roland Barthes, 'The Death of the Author' (1967)
- Tzvetan Todorov, 'Structural Analysis of Narrative' (1969)
- Hélène Cixous, 'The Laugh of the Medusa' (1975)
- Chinua Achebe, 'An Image of Africa' (1975)
- Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, 'Introduction' to *Epistemology of the Closet* (1990)

4. Intellectual and Cultural Sources

This is a long list – but do not be daunted. Think of the list as a sample of the world of books and ideas in which you are free to travel for the next few years. Read as much as you can. Read the ones which interest you most. Read some more carefully than others if it suits you. You can and will go back to some of them later in your degree course. The editions and translations recommended below are those on which the examination will be based. In the cases of some longer works you are directed to particular parts; lectures and seminars will for the most part concentrate on these sections, and passages for comment in the examination will be taken from them.

In the case of translations, it is important that you obtain a copy of the recommended edition. If you are having trouble finding any of these, try and check the following: the UCL Library (once you have enrolled at the start of term), Waterstones, Amazon UK, BookFinder.com, Abebooks.co.uk.

The Bible (Authorized Version 1611), ed. Stephen Prickett (Oxford World's Classics). The set sections are Genesis (500s BC?) and The Gospel of St. Mark (c. 70 AD).

Homer, *The Odyssey* (700s BC?), trans. Emily Wilson (Norton, 2020).

Sophocles, *Oedipus the King* (420s BC), in *The Three Theban Plays*, trans. Robert Fagles (Penguin).

Plato, *The Symposium* (c. 380 BC), trans. Christopher Gill (Penguin).

Aristotle, *Poetics* (330s BC), trans. Malcolm Heath (Penguin).

Virgil, *The Aeneid* (20s BC), trans. by David West (Penguin), especially books 1-6.

Ovid, *Metamorphoses* (8 AD), trans. David Raeburn (Penguin), especially books 1, 3, 4-6, 10, 15.

St. Augustine, *Confessions* (c. 397), trans. Henry Chadwick (Oxford World's Classics), especially books 1–2, 6, 8, 11.

Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy* (c. 524), trans. Douglas C. Langston (Norton Critical Edition), especially Books 1, 3 and 5.

Dante, *Inferno* (1310s), trans. Robin Kirkpatrick (Penguin).

Sir Thomas More, *Utopia* (1516), trans. George M. Logan (Norton Critical Edition).

Michel de Montaigne, *Essays* (1580, 1588), trans. J.M. Cohen (Penguin), especially 'To the Reader', 'On the Education of Children', 'On Cannibals', 'On the Custom of Wearing Clothes', 'On Experience'.

Jean Jacques Rousseau, *Confessions* (1760s), trans. J.M. Cohen (Penguin), especially Books I–III.

Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792), ed. Miriam Brody (Penguin), especially chapters 1–4, 7–9, 12, 13 sections ii and vi.

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (1848), ed. David McLellan (Oxford World's Classics).

Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species* (1859), ed. Gillian Beer (Oxford World's Classics), especially chapters 1, 3–4, 9–10, 14.

Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals* (1887), trans. Douglas Smith (Oxford World's Classics), especially Essay 1.

Sigmund Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams* (1899), trans. A. A. Brill (London: Wordsworth Editions), especially Chapter 5, pages 155-61, and Chapter 6, pages 169–220 and 310–352.

Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own* (1929) (Penguin).

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality Volume 1: The Will to Knowledge*, trans. Robert Hurley (1976) (Penguin).

Edward W. Said, *Orientalism* (1978) (Penguin), especially 'Introduction' and Chapter 1 ('The Scope of Orientalism').