Ph.D. Reading List
Modern Irish Literature

The following is a fundamental reading list for doctoral candidates to use as a guide in preparing for their comprehensive examination in the field of Modern Irish Literature. A student is expected to have read widely in the field; to be thoroughly familiar with the major writers; and to read widely in the journal literature. The following reading list is suggestive rather than definitive, a list for the student and Committee on Studies to begin with. The list has four sections:

- Poetry
- Drama
- Fiction
- Secondary Sources

NOTE: ** denotes that the item can be selected by the graduate committee for master's reading list/exam.

**POETRY**
Boland, Eavan.
**In a Time of Violence.** New York: W. W. Norton, 1995
Heaney, Seamus.
Hyde, Douglas. *The Love Songs of Connacht, being the Fourth Chapter of the Songs of Connacht*. Dublin: Irish U P.
MacNeice, Louis.
**“Wolves”**
**“Snow”**
**“Nature Morte”**
**“An Eclogue for Christmas”**
**“Bagpipe Music”**
**“Carrickfergus”**
**“Brother Fire”**
**“The Libertine”**
**“Variation on Heraclitus”**
**“Bad Dream”**
**“This Is the Life”**
**“Paul Muldoon”**
**“The Glad Eye”**
**“Hedgehog”**

Updated 3/2003
"The Big House"
"The Weepies"
"Making the Move"
"The Lass of Aughrim"
"Meeting the British"


Yeats, William Butler.
"The Song of the Happy Shepherd"
"Down by the Salley Gardens"
"To the Rose upon the Rood of Time"
"The Lake Isle of Innisfree"
"When You Are Old"
"Who Goes with Fergus?"
"The Man Who Dreamed of Faeryland"
"Michael Robartes Bids His Beloved Be at Peace"
"The Cap and Bells"
"Adam's Curse"
"No Second Troy"
"On Hearing that the Students of Our New University Have Joined the Agitation Against Immoral Literature"
"Friends"
"September 1913"
"The Magi"
"A Coat"
"The Wild Swans at Coole"
"An Irish Airman Foresees His Death"
"Easter 1916"
"The Second Coming"
"A Prayer for My Daughter"
"Leda and the Swan"
"Sailing to Byzantium"
"Among School Children"
"Coole Park and Ballylee, 1931"
"Byzantium"
"Crazy Jane Talks with the Bishop"
"Lapis Lazuli"
"Long-Legged Fly"
"The Circus Animals' Desertion"
"Under Ben Bulben"

**DRAMAT**

Beckett, Samuel
"Waiting for Godot"
"Happy Days"
"Endgame"

Behan, Brendan. *The Hostage*

Friel, Brian.
"Dancing at Lughnasa"
Translations
Molly Sweeney

Gregory, Augusta Lady.
Spreading the News
**Hyacinth Halvey
The Workhouse Ward

MacDonagh, Martin
The Beauty Queen of Leenane
The Skull in Connemara

O'Casey, Sean.
**Juno and the Paycock
The Plough and the Stars
The Shadow of a Gunman

Shaw, George Bernard.
John Bull's Other Island

Synge, John Millington.
**Playboy of the Western World
**Riders to the Sea
In the Shadow of the Glen

Yeats, William Butler
Deirdre of the Sorrows
**Cathleen ni Houlihan
**Purgatory, a Cuchulain play

FICTION

Beckett, Samuel.
**Murphy
Molloy
Malone Dies
The Unnameable

Bowen, Elizabeth.
The Last September

Deane, Seamus.
Reading in the Dark.

Doyle, Roddy.
**Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha
**The Woman Who Walked into Doors

Joyce, James.
**Dubliners OR
**A Portrait of the Artist
Ulysses

Lavin, Mary.

McCabe, Patrick.
**The Butcher Boy
**The Dead School

Moore, George.
The Confessions of a Young Man

Murdoch, Iris.
The Red and the Green

O'Brien, Edna.
**The Country Girls OR
Down by the River
Mrs. Reinhardt and other stories.
O’Brien, Flann. **At-Swim-Two-Birds**
O’Faoláin, Scán. **Foreign Affairs and other stories.** Constable
O’Flaherty, Liam. The Informer. Woofhound, 2001
Stoker, Bram. Dracula.

**SECONDARY SOURCES**
Deane, Seamus.
Ellmann, Richard.
Kenner, Hugh. Criticism on Beckett and Joyce.

Updated 2/2003