PhD Examination Reading List
Georgian Literature
(18th century)

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 Georgian Literature. Students are expected to be thoroughly familiar with the major works and writers, to have a solid understanding of ways these writers and texts are located in eighteenth-century history and culture, to appreciate the ongoing impact of Georgian literature and culture, and to be familiar with the theoretical and critical literature (in books and journals) pertinent to Georgian literature and culture in general and to their specialty interests in particular.

Because Georgian literature and culture takes its name from the reigns of the first three English kings named George, it subdivides into the three times of their reigns. Alternatively, one may study the entire Georgian period from one of several literary perspectives. Therefore, each student is encouraged to work with her or his committee on studies to focus the reading list, which is suggestive rather than definitive. Also, it may be supplemented by works that the student and the committee agree on as especially relevant to the student’s research interest.

The list has five major sections:

- DRAMA
- POETRY
- PROSE: Non Fiction
- Prose FICTION
- Contemporary CRITICISM & THEORY

NOTE: ** indicates that PhD students need to be familiar with an item regardless of their specific research interests. Also, the item may be selected by the graduate committee for the master’s reading list / exam.

Most items are widely available. Items not included in the Norton Anthology of English Literature may be found in one of the following:

- Women Critics 1660-1820, ed Folger Collective (Indiana, 1995) [abbrev as WC];
- 18th-Century Women Poets, ed. Roger Lonsdale (Oxford, 1989) [abbrev as WP];
- British Literature 1640-1789, ed Robert DeMaria (Blackwell, 1996) [abbrev as BL];
- Eighteenth-Century Poetry, 2nd ed, ed David Fairer & Christine Gerrard [abbrev as ECP];
- Longman Anthology British Literature: Restoration & 18th Century
  [abbrev as Longman: Professor Woodward has copies].
DRAMA

LATE RESTORATION AND EARLY GEORGIAN COMEDY
**William Congreve, *The Way of the World*
George Farquhar, *The Beaux’ Stratagem*
**Susanna Centlivre, *The Wonder: A Woman Keeps a Secret*
**John Gay, *The Beggar’s Opera*
Henry Fielding, *Tom Thumb: The Tragedy of Tragedies*

COMEDY, LATER GEORGIAN
Frances Sheridan, *The Discovery*
**Richard Brinsley Sheridan, *The Rivals*
Richard Brinsley Sheridan, *The School for Scandal*
**Oliver Goldsmith, *She Stoops to Conquer*

ON THE TOWN: A NIGHT AT THE THEATRE
David Garrick & George Colman, *The Clandestine Marriage*
George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, *The Rehearsal*
Catherine Clive, *The Rehearsal, or Bays in Petticoats*
Isaac Bickerstaff & Thomas Arne, *Love in a Village*
[consult Prof Woodward re: finding these texts]

POETRY

AUGUSTAN MODES
Anne Finch, from *The Spleen. A Pindaric Poem* [WP]
**Jonathan Swift, “Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift”
**John Gay, *Trivia*, book 1
Mary Wortley Montagu
   "Saturday: The Small-Pox"
   "A Receipt to Cure the Vapours"
   **from *Verses Addressed to the Imitator of Horace* [WP]
Alexander Pope
   **”The Rape of the Lock”
   "Epistle to Arbuthnot”
   **from *Epistles to Several Persons* (aka *Moral Essays*): "Epistle 2. To a Lady”
   ***The Dunciad*, Book 4
   **”The First Satire of the 2nd Book of Horace, Imitated”
**Mary Leapor, from "Mira's Picture. A Pastoral" [WP]
Samuel Johnson
   "The Vanity of Human Wishes"
   **”London”
Elizabeth Moody, "The Housewife’s Prayer ... To Economy" [WP]
THE POETRY OF SENSIBILITY
Anne Finch
    "To the Nightingale,"
    "A Nocturnal Reverie"[WP]
**James Thomson, The Seasons: "Winter"
**Thomas Gray, "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard"
**William Cowper, "The Castaway"
**Charlotte Smith, from Elegaic Sonnets:
    "Written at the Close of Spring,"
    "Written in the Church-Yard at Middleton in Sussex"[WP]
Ellen Taylor, "Written by the Barrow Side, Where She Was Sent to Wash Linen"[WP]

POETRY: THE POETRY OF PROTEST
Mary Wortley Montagu:
    "The Lover: A Ballad" and "An Answer to a Love-Letter in Verse"[WP]
**Stephen Duck, "The Thresher's Labour"[ECP]
**Mary Collier, "The Woman's Labour"[ECP]
**Oliver Goldsmith, "The Deserted Village"
George Crabbe, The Village, book 1

CRITICISM AND THEORY IN THE POETIC MODE
**Anne Finch, "The Introduction"
Alexander Pope
    "Essay on Criticism,"    "Essay on Man"
**William Collins, "Ode on the Poetical Character"
**Elizabeth Moody, "Sappho Burns Her Books and Cultivates the Culinary Arts" [WP]

PROSE, NON FICTION

A student is to choose four (4) of the following sections:

(1) CONDUCT LITERATURE & SATIRES OF CONDUCT LITERATURE
George Savile, Marquis of Halifax
    "The Lady's New-Year Gift: Or, Advice to a Daughter"
Daniel Defoe, "Conjugal Lewdness, Or, Matrimonial Whoredom"
Dr. John Gregory, "A Father's Legacy to His Daughters"
Hester Mulso Chapone, "Letters on the Improvement of the Mind ... to a Young Lady."
Daniel Defoe, "Every-Body's Business, is No-Body's Business"
Eliza Haywood, "A Present for a Servant-Maid"
Jonathan Swift, "Directions to Servants"
**Jane Collier, The Art of Ingeniously Tormenting
(2) **TREATISES ON HUMAN NATURE AND SOCIETY**
With the exception of Hume, these selections are from the Restoration period. However, they influence Georgian literature strongly.
**John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*:
  Book 1, chapter 1;
  Book 2, chapters 1-3
David Hume, "Of the Original Contract"
Mary Astell:
  *A Serious Proposal to the Ladies* [Zimmerman has Broadview edition]
  *Some Reflections Upon Marriage*  
    [Norton selection is too brief: Zimmerman has edition by Bridget Hill]

(3) **TREATISES ON POLITICS**
Jonathan Swift:
  **"A Modest Proposal,"
  "Argument Against Abolishing Christianity"
**Sophia, Woman Not Inferior to Man and Woman’s Superior Excellence to Man**  
  Zimmerman has a copy (HQ1150 S66 1975)
Edmund Burke, from "Reflections on the Revolution in France" [BL]
Thomas Paine, from *The Rights of Man* [BL]
Samuel Johnson, “A Brief to Free a Slave”

(4) **TREATISES ON LANGUAGE AND AESTHETICS**
Elizabeth Elstob, “An Apology for the Study of Northern Antiquities”  
  [1715; Professor Damico has a copy]
**David Hume, "On Taste"
Sarah Fielding and Jane Collier, *The Cry*, Introduction [See Professor Woodward]
**Samuel Johnson, Preface to *A Dictionary of the English language*  
Joshua Reynolds, *Discourses #7 & 9*
**Ann Radcliffe, "On the Supernatural in Poetry" [WC]
**Edmund Burke, *Inquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and the Beautiful*

(5) **PERIODICAL LITERATURE**
Richard Steele & Joseph Addison:
  **Spectator 2, 10, 62, 112, 122, 267, 519;**  
  *Tatler* 21, 25
**Eliza Haywood: from *The Female Spectator*, 3 selections [Longmans]**
**Samuel Johnson: *The Rambler* 4, 5, 60, 100, 113, 141, 200*

(6) **DIARY AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY**
James Boswell:
  *London Journal 1762-63*
  **Life of Johnson**
Charlotte Charke, *A Narrative of the Life of Mrs.Charlotte Charke*
**Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano***

(7) **CRITICISM AND THEORY**
Jeremy Collier, "A Short View of the Immorality and Profaneness of the English Stage"

[See Professor Woodward]

**Sarah Fielding "Remarks on Clarissa" (Clark Library reprint, ed. Peter Sabor, 1985)

Samuel Johnson:

*The Lives of the Poets: Cowley, Pope, Collins, Gray;*

**Preface to Shakespeare

Elizabeth Montagu, "Essay on the Writings and Genius of Shakespeare"[WC]

**Oliver Goldsmith, "An Essay on the Theatre; or, A Comparison between Laughing and Sentimental Comedy"

Anna Laetitia Barbauld, from "Preface to Fielding" in *The British Novelists*[WC]

(8) **WRITINGS ON EMPIRE, SLAVERY & ABOLITION**

1. Selections from accounts by English men published between 1767 and 1788 of their adventures and explorations along the Pacific coast of South America and in and around Tahiti and New Zealand:


2. Selections from accounts of and responses to Britain’s engagement with West Africa in the “triangular trade” (money from England to Africa, the forced transportation of Africans to America, sugar to England), 1734-87:

*West Africa in the Triangular Trade,* in Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*, ed Catherine Gallagher


**Olaudah Equiano *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*

Thomas Clarkson,

"The Substance of the Evidence of Sundry Persons on the Slave-Trade, Collected in [...] the Year 1788"

http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/~dmiall/RomCD/ClarksonFrame.htm

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**PROSE FICTION**

Daniel Defoe

*Moll Flanders*

*Robinson Crusoe*

**Roxana

Eliza Haywood

**Fantomina

Anti-Pamela

*The History of Miss Betsy Thoughtless

Jonathan Swift

**Gulliver's Travels

*A Tale of a Tub

Samuel Richardson

**Pamela

**Clarissa
Henry Fielding
**Tom Jones
Shamela
**Amelia

**Charlotte Lennox, The Female Quixote

**Sarah Fielding, The History of the Countess of Dellwyn
**Laurence Sterne, Tristram Shandy

Frances Sheridan, The Memoirs of Miss Sidney Bidulph

**Horace Walpole, The Castle of Otranto

Tobias Smollett, Humphry Clinker

**Frances Bumey, Cecilia

**Ann Radcliffe, The Italian

**Jane Austen, Northanger Abbey

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**CONTEMPORARY CRITICISM AND THEORY**


Ph.D. students will be expected to demonstrate familiarity with the critical tradition as well as with the most recent critical discourse—including articles—pertaining to Georgian literature and culture. Texts that may serve to introduce students to cultural, historical, and critical-theoretical issues are listed below, as well as some texts of a particularly specialized focus. Students are encouraged to use these as helps to pursue their research.


