Ph.D. Examination Reading List
British and Irish Romanticism

The following is a fundamental reading list for doctoral candidates to use as a guide in preparing for the comprehensive examination in British and Irish Romanticism. Students are expected to be thoroughly familiar with the major works and writers, to have a solid understanding of way these works and writers are situated in late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century history and culture, to grasp the literary and cultural importance and impact of Romanticism, and to be familiar with the theoretical and critical literature—in both books and journals—pertinent to Romanticism in general and to their specialty interests in particular. Because the study of British and Irish Romantic literature and culture subdivides into many sub-fields, students are encouraged to work with their committee on studies chair to focus and supplement this list with works pertinent to their line of research. Hence, the following reading list is suggestive rather than definitive; that is, it should provide the basis for individual discussions with the committee on studies about breadth and focus. The list, of course, may be—should be—supplemented by works aligned with the major emphasis of the students’ research interests. The list has four sections:

- Poetry and Drama
- Fiction
- Nonfiction Prose
- Critical Sources

NOTE: ** denotes that the item can be selected by the graduate committee for the master’s reading list/exam; PhD students should be familiar with these works, no matter what their research interests may be.

POETRY and DRAMA

Baillie, Joanna.
** “A Winter’s Day”
** “Address to the Muses”
“Lines on the Death of Sir Walter Scott”
“To Mrs. Siddons”
DeMontfort

Barbauld, Anna.
** “A Summer’s Evening’s Meditation”
** “The Mouse’s Petition”
“On the Expected General Rising of the French Nation in 1792”
** “The Rights of Woman”
“To Mr. Coleridge”

Blake, William.
** “There is No Natural Religion”
** “All Religions are One”
**Songs of Innocence and Experience
**The Marriage of Heaven and Hell
The Book of Thel
*Visions of the Daughters of Albion
The Book of Urizen
“Annotations to Reynolds”
“A Vision of the Last Judgment”
Burns, Robert.
*“To a Mouse”
“The Twa Dogs”
“A Vision”
*“Holy Willie’s Prayer”
*“The Cotter’s Saturday Night”
“Epistle to J. Lapraik, an Old Scotch Bard”
“Man was made to Mourn”
*“Tam o’ Shanter”
“Despondency, An Ode”
Byron, Lord. George Gordon.
The Giaour
“English Bards and Scotch Reviewers”
**Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage
“Sonnet on Chillon”
“Darkness”
“Prometheus”
**Manfred, A Dramatic Poem
Don Juan (**Book 1)
Clare, John.
“Helpstone”
“On Taste”
*“The Fate of Genius”
*“To the Rural Muse”
“The Eternity of Nature”
*“The Mores”
“The Flitting”
“Remembrances”
“A Vision”
*“An Invite to Eternity”
*“I Am”
*“The Peasant Poet”
Coleridge, Samuel Taylor.
“Sonnet: To the River Otter”
“Reflections on Having Left a Place of Retirement”
*“The Eolian Harp”
*“This Lime-Tree Bower My Prison”
*“The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”
“Christabel”
*“Frost at Midnight”
*“Kubla Khan”
** “Dejection: An Ode” (both versions)
“Hymn before Sunrise, in the Vale of Chamouni”
“To William Wordsworth”
“Constancy to an Ideal Object”
Hazlitt, William.
“On Gusto”
“My First Acquaintance with Poets”
Hemans, Felicia Dorothea (Browne).
“The Widow of Crescentius”
** “To the Poet Wordsworth”
** “The Bride of the Greek Isle”
“Properzia Rossi”
“Indian Woman’s Death Song”
“Joan of Arc, in Rheims”
“A Spirit’s Return”
“The Two Homes”
“Woman and Fame”
“The Homes of England”
“Remembrance of Nature”
_The Siege of Valencia_
Inchbald, Elizabeth.
_Lover’s Vows_
Keats, John
** “On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer”
_Sleep and Poetry_
** “On Seeing the Elgin Marbles”
** “La Belle Dame sans Merci”
** “The Eve of St. Agnes”
_Hyperion_
** “Ode to Psyche”
** “Ode to a Nightingale”
** “Ode on a Grecian Urn”
** “Ode on Melancholy”
** “Lamia”
** “To Autumn”
_The Fall of Hyperion_
Landon, Letitia Elizabeth (L.E.L.)
** “Sappho’s Song”
** “The Proud Ladye”
“Revenge”
“Scale Force, Cumberland”
“Fountains Abbey”
** “Felicia Hemans”
“Stanzas on the Death of Mrs. Hemans”
“Scenes in London: Piccadilly”
“The Princess Victoria”
“The Poet’s Lot”
Moore, Thomas.
“The Fire Worshippers” (*Lalla Rookh* III, ll. 201-453)
“Oh! Blame Not the Bard”
“Away with this Pouting”
Robinson, Mary.
**“A London Summer Morning”**
**“January, 1795”**
“Written Between Dover and Calais, July 1792”
“The Haunted Beach”
**“Mrs. Robinson to the Poet Coleridge”**
Scott, Sir Walter.
*The Lay of the Last Minstrel*, Canto 6
Shelley, Percy Bysshe.
*Alastor*
**“Mont Blanc”**
**“Hymn to Intellectual Beauty”**
**“Ode to the West Wind”**
*Epipsychidion*
**Prometheus Unbound**
**“Julian and Maddalo”**
“Lines Written Above the Euganean Hills”
“The Sensitive Plant”
“The Cloud”
“To A Skylark”
“The Triumph of Life”
“Sonnnet: England in 1819”
Smith, Charlotte Turner.
**Elegiac Sonnets**
**“Beachy Head”**
**“The Emigrants”**
Southey, Robert.
“The Widow”
“The Idiot”
*The Botany Bay Eclogues*
Tighe, Mary.
*Psyche, or the Legend of Love*
**“Address to My Harp”**
“To Death”
“Written at Scarborough”
Williams, Helen Maria.
*Letters written in France in the summer of 1790*
**“A Farewell, for Two Years, to England”**
**“To Sensibility”**
Wordsworth, William.
**Lyrical Ballads**
**The “Lucy” poems**
“Michael, A Pastoral Poem”
**“The Ruined Cottage”**
“The Old Cumberland Beggar”
**“Resolution and Independence”**
**The Prelude**
**“Ode: Intimations of Immortality”**
**“London: 1802”**
**“The world is too much with us”**
“Ode to Duty”
“Home at Grasmere”
*The Excursion*, Book I

**FICTION**

Austen, Jane.
*Northanger Abbey*
***Emma***
**Sense and Sensibility**
*Mansfield Park*

Dacre, Charlotte.
*Zofloya, or the Moor*

Earle, William.
*Obi, or the History of Three-Fingered Jack*

Edgeworth, Maria
*Castle Rackrent*
**The Absentee**

Ferrier, Susan.
*Marriage*

Godwin, William
**Caleb Williams**

Hamilton, Elizabeth.
*Translations of the Letters of a Hindoo Rajah*

Hays, Mary.
*Memoirs of Emma Courtney*

Hogg, James
*The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner*

Owensen, Sydney, Lady Morgan.
*The Wild Irish Girl*
*The Missionary*

Radcliffe, Ann
*The Mysteries of Udolpho*
**The Italian**

Scott, Sir Walter
*Waverley, or ’Tis Sixty Years Since*

Shelley, Mary Wollstonecraft
**Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus**
“Matilda”
Smith, Charlotte.
 *The Old Manor House*

Wollstonecraft, Mary

**Mary. A Fiction**

*Maria, or The Wrongs of Woman*

**NONFICTION PROSE**

Baillie, Joanna.

“Introductory Discourse” to *Plays on the Passions*

Blake, William.

**Letter to Dr. Trusler (August 23, 1799)**

**Letter to Thomas Butts (November 22, 1802)**

Burke, Edmund.

**A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origins of our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful Reflections on the Revolution in France**

Coleridge, Samuel Taylor.

*Conciones ad Populum* (Introductory Address)

**“The Character of Hamlet”**

**“Mechanic and Organic Form”**

“Poetry is Ideal”

**“Symbol and Allegory”**

“On Radicals and Republicans”

“On Sensibility”

*Biographia Literaria* (*Books 1, 13, 14, 15, 18 & 22*)

DeQuincey, Thomas.

**Confessions of an English Opium-Eater**

“On the Knocking at the Gate in Macbeth”

“Literature of Knowledge and Literature of Power”

Equiano, Olaudah.

*The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa, the African.*

Gilpin, William

*Three Essays on the Picturesque*

Godwin, William

*Political Justice*

Hazlitt, William.

“On Gusto”

“On Genius and Common Sense”

**“My First Acquaintance with. Poets”**

Keats, John.

**Selected Letters**

To J.H. Reynolds (April 17, 1817)

To Benjamin Bailey (November 22, 1817)

To George & Tom Keats (December 27, 1817)

To J.H. Reynolds (February 3, 1818)

To J.H. Reynolds (May 3, 1818)
To Richard Woodhouse (October 27, 1818)
To George and Georgiana Keats (March 19 & April 21, 1819)
Lamb, Charles.
  “On the Tragedies of Shakespeare”
  ** “A Dissertation upon Roast Pig”
  “On Some of the Old Actors”
  “On the Artificial Comedy of the Last Century”
Lamb, Mary.
  ** “On Needlework”
Paine, Thomas.
  *The Rights of Man*
Peacock, Thomas Love.
  *The Four Ages of Poetry*
Prince, Mary.
  *The History of Mary Prince, a West Indian Slave*
Reynolds, Joshua.
  *Discourses on Art*
Robinson, Mary.
  *A Letter to the Women of England*
Shelley, Percy Bysshe.
  ** “A Defence of Poetry”
  “On Life”
  “On Love”
Williams, Helen Maria.
  *Letters from France*
Wollstonecraft, Mary.
  *Thoughts on the Education of Daughters*
  **A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*
Wordsworth, Dorothy.
  **The Alfoxden and Grasmere Journals*
Wordsworth, William.
  **Preface to Lyrical Ballads*
  “Essay, Supplementary to the Preface”

**CRITICAL SOURCES**
De Man, Paul.  *The Rhetoric of Romanti

[This text continues with more entries, indicating various authors and their works.]

Hoeveler, Diane Long.  *Gothic Feminism: The Professionalization of Gender from*
Ph.D. students will be expected to demonstrate familiarity with the critical tradition as well as with the most recent critical discourse—including articles and books—pertaining to British romanticism in general, as well as with the criticism and theory that pertains to their particular areas of focus. Several collections of essays may serve to introduce students to some of the current critical, historical and theoretical issues. These include, but are not limited to the following:

Feldman, Paula and Theresa M Kelley, ed. *Romantic Women Writers-Voices and