Victorian Literature Reading List
(rev. 10/13/09)

The following is a fundamental reading list for doctoral candidates to use to guide their preparation for their comprehensive exams. The list is suggestive rather than definitive; students should work with their committee to focus and shape the list according to their own research interests. The opening lists of Fiction, Poetry, Nonfiction, and Drama contain the works that students should prioritize. These should be supplemented with selections from the “For Further Reading” section that help develop the student’s research interests. In some cases, with the consent of the committee, works from the “For Further Reading” section (or other works) may be substituted for items from the primary list.

Fiction

Braddon, Mary Elizabeth. *Lady Audley’s Secret*
Bronte, Anne. *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*
Brontë, Charlotte.
  *Jane Eyre*
  *Villette*
Brontë, Emily. *Wuthering Heights*
Butler, Samuel. *The Way of All Flesh*
Carroll, Lewis. *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*
Collins, Wilkie. *The Moonstone*
Dickens, Charles.
  *Great Expectations*
  *Oliver Twist*
  *Bleak House*
  *Hard Times*
Disraeli, Benjamin. *Sibyl*
Egerton, George. *Keynotes and Discords* (selections)*
Eliot, George.
  *Middlemarch*
  *Adam Bede*
  *The Mill on the Floss*
Gaskell, Elizabeth.
  *North and South,*
  *Mary Barton*
Gissing, George. *The Odd Women*
Hardy, Thomas.
  *Tess of the Durbervilles*
  *Jude the Obscure*
Kipling, Rudyard.
  *Kim*
  “The Man Who Would Be King”
Meredith, George. *The Egoist*
Schreiner, Olive. *The Story of an African Farm*
Oliphant, Margaret. *Salem Chapel*
Stevenson, Robert Louis. *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
Stoker, Bram. *Dracula*
Thackeray, William Makepeace. *Vanity Fair*
Trollope, Anthony.
  *The Way We Live Now*
  *Barchester Towers*
Wilde, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
Wood, Mrs. Henry. *East Lynne*

**Poetry**

Arnold, Matthew.
  “The Buried Life”
  “The Scholar-Gipsy”
  “Dover Beach”
  “The Better Part”
  “To Marguerite”
  “Rugby Chapel”
  “Stanzas from the Grand Chartreuse”

Browning, Elizabeth Barrett.
  *Aurora Leigh*
  ”A Curse for the Nation”
  “To George Sand”
  “The Runaway Slave at Pilgrim’s Point”

Browning, Robert.
  *The Ring and the Book*
  “Porphyria’s Lover”
  “My Last Duchess”
  “Love Among the Ruins”
  “Fra Lippo Lippi”
  “Andrea del Sarto”
  “Caliban upon Setebos”
  “Soliloquy of the Spanish Cloister”
  “Pictor Ignitus”
  “The Bishop Orders his Tomb at St. Praxed’s Church”
  “Cleon”

Clough, Arthur H.
  *Dipsychus*
  “The Latest Decalogue”
  “Epi-strauss-ium”
“Say Not the Struggle Nought Availeth”
Amours de Voyage

“Michael Field” (Katharine Bradley and Edith Cooper).
“A Girl”
“La Gioconda”
“It was deep April”
“The Magdalen”

FitzGerald, Edward. The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam

Hardy, Thomas.
"Hap" (1866; 1898)
"Neutral Tones" (1867; 1898)
"I Look into My Glass" (1898)
"A Broken Appointment" (1901)
"Drummer Hodge" (1899; 1901)
"The Darkling Thrush" (1900; 1901)
"The Ruined Maid" (1866; 1901)

Hopkins, Gerard Manley.
“That Nature is a Heraclitean Fire and of the Comfort of the Resurrection”
“Dragonflies Draw Flame”
“Binsey Poplars”
“God’s Grandeur”
“No Worst, There is None”
“Pied Beauty”
“Harry Ploughman”
“Carrion Comfort”
“The Windhover”
“Pitched Past Pitch of Grief”
“As Kingfishers Catch Fire”
“Spring and Fall”
“The Wreck of the Deutschland”

Kipling, Rudyard.
“Fuzzy-Wuzzy”
“Gunga Din”
“The White Man’s Burden”

Levy, Amy.
“Xantippe”
“A Minor Poet”
“A Ballad of Religion and Marriage”
Meredith, George.

*Modern Love*

Morris, William.

“The Defense of Guenevere”
“Haystack in the Floods”

Rossetti, Christina.

“Goblin Market”
“The Prince’s Progress”
“Song [‘When I am Dead, My Dearest’]”
“A Better Resurrection”
“Christian and Jew: A Dialogue”
“In an Artist’s Studio”
“Up-Hill”
“The Convent Threshold”
“The Lowest Room”
“A Christmas Carol [In the Bleak Mid-Winter]”
“A Birthday”
“Apple Gathering”
“Winter: My Secret”

Rossetti, Dante Gabriel.

“Jenny”
“The Blessed Damozel”
“My Sister’s Sleep”
“The Burden of Nineveh”
“Eden Bower”
“Troy Town”
“Body’s Beauty”

Swinburne, Algernon Charles.

“Faustine”
“Hymn to Prosperpine”
“The Triumph of Time”
“Hermaphroditus”
“Anactoria”
“Laus Veneris”
“Dolores”
“Sapphics”
“Sestina”
“To Walt Whitman in America”
“The Higher Pantheism in a Nutshell”
“Ave Atque Vale”
“The Leper”
Tennyson, Alfred.
“The Lady of Shalott”
“The Lotus-Eaters”
“Ulysses”
“Godiva”
_In Memoriam_
“The Coming of Arthur” and “Guinevere” (in _Idylls of the King_)
“Tithonus”
“The Palace of Art”
“Locksley Hall”
“The Higher Pantheism”
_Maud: A Monodrama_

**Nonfiction**

Arnold, Matthew.
“The Function of Criticism at the Present Time”
“The Study of Poetry”
from _Culture and Anarchy_
“Hellenism and Hebraism”
“Sweetness and Light”
“Preface to Poems”

Carlyle, Thomas.
_Sartor Resartus_,
“Signs of the Times”
“Characteristics”
_Past and Present_ (selections)

Darwin, Charles. _On the Origin of Species_

Cobbe, Frances Power. “Criminals, Idiots, Women and Minors”

Ellis, Sarah Stickney. _The Women of England_ (Selections)

Wilde, Oscar. “The Critic as Artist”

Marx, Karl.
“The Communist Manifesto,”
_Capital_ (selections)

Macaulay, Thomas Babington.
“Minute on Indian Education”
“Southey's Colloquies on Society”
Mill, John Stuart.
   *On Liberty*
   *The Subjection of Women*

Morris, William. “How I Became a Socialist”

Norton, Caroline. *English Laws for Women (Caroline Norton’s Defense)*

Nightingale, Florence. *Cassandra*.

Pater, Walter. *The Renaissance*

Ruskin, John
   *The Stones of Venice*
   “Of Queen’s Gardens” (in *Sesame and Lilies*)
   “Of King’s Treasuries” (in *Sesame and Lilies*)
   “Of Ideas of Beauty” (in Part III, Volume II of *Modern Painters*)
   “Of Pathetic Fal* (in Chapter XII, Part IV, Volume III of *Modern Painters*)

**Drama**

Shaw, George Bernard. *Mrs. Warren’s Profession*
Pinero, Arthur Wing. *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray*
Wilde, Oscar. *The Importance of Being Earnest*

**For Further Reading:**

**Fiction:**

Braddon, Mary Elizabeth. *Aurora Floyd*

Bronte, Charlotte. *Shirley*

Carroll, Lewis. *Through the Looking Glass*

Collins, Wilkie. *The Woman in White*

Dickens, Charles.
   *Pickwick Papers*
   *Our Mutual Friend*
   *Little Dorrit*
   *David Copperfield*
Eliot, George.
   *Daniel Deronda*
   *Felix Holt*

Gaskell, Elizabeth.
   *Cranford*
   “Lizzie Leigh,”
   *Wives and Daughters*
   *Ruth*

Gissing, George. *New Grub Street*

Grand, Sarah. *Heavenly Twins*

Hardy, Thomas.
   *Mayor of Casterbridge*
   *The Woodlanders*

Le Fanu, Sheridan.
   “Carmilla”
   “Uncle Silas”

Leverson, Ada. “Suggestion”

Levy, Amy. *Reuben Sachs*

Morris, William. *News from Nowhere*

Oliphant, Margaret. *Miss Marjoribanks*

Pater, Walter. *Marius the Epicurean*

Reade, Charles. *Hard Cash*

Thackeray, William.
   *Pendennis*
   *Henry Esmond*

Trollope, Anthony.
   *Can You Forgive Her?*
   *The Warden*
Poetry:

Arnold, Matthew
   *Empedocles on Etna*
   “The Forsaken Merman”
   “Lines Written in Kensington Gardens”
   “Thyrsis”

Barrett Browning, Elizabeth
   “The Cry of the Children”
   *Sonnets from the Portuguese*

Clough, Arthur Hugh
   *The Bothie of Toper-na-fuosich*

Mew, Charlotte. “Madeleine in Church”

Patmore, Coventry. *The Angel in the House*

Proctor, Adelaide. “A Legend of Provence”

Rossetti, D. G. *The House of Life*

Tennyson, Alfred Lord. *The Princess*

Webster, Augusta. “A Castaway”

Wilde, Oscar. “The Ballad of Reading Gaol”

Nonfiction:


Carlyle, Thomas. “Shooting Niagara,” “The Nigger Question,”

Collins, Wilkie. “The Unknown Public”

Darwin, Charles. *The Descent of Man*

Engels, Friedrich.
   *The Condition of the Working Class in England in 1844*
   *Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State*

Gaskell, Elizabeth. *The Life of Charlotte Bronte*

Lee, Vernon. *The Beautiful: An Introduction to Psychological Aesthetics*
Linton, Eliza Lynn. “The Girl of the Period”

Lister, Mary. Diaries

Macaulay, Thomas Babington. History of England

Martineau, Harriet. Autobiography

Mayhew, Henry. London Labour and the London Poor (selections)

Mill, John Stuart. Autobiography

Newman, John Henry. 
   Apologia pro vita sua,
   The Idea of the University

Caroline Norton, Defense: English Laws for Women in the Nineteenth Century

Prince, Mary. History of Mary Prince

Oliphant, Margaret. Autobiography

Ruskin, John. Unto This Last

Butler, Josephine. “Social Purity”


Wilde, Oscar. De Profundis

Drama:

Boucicault, Dion. 
   The Octoroon
   The Colleen Bawn

Gilbert, W. S. Patience or Bunthorne’s Bride

Shaw, George Bernard. 
   Candida
   Arms and the Man
Wilde, Oscar.
  *An Ideal Husband*
  *Salome*

**Secondary Works:**

**NOTE:** In this section, selections marked with ** are works with which students should be familiar. Students should supplement these with other selections according to their main research interests.

**General:**


**Literary Criticism:**


Anderson, Amanda.
  *Powers of Distance: Cosmopolitanism and the Cultivation of Detachment* (2001)


Dellamora, Richard

*Victorian Sexual Dissidence* (1999)


Levine, George and William Madden, eds. *The Art of Victorian Prose* (1968)


Poovey, Mary.


**Making a Social Body: British Cultural Formation, 1830-1864* (1995)

*Genres of the Credit Economy* (2008)

Sedgwick, Eve Kosofsky.  
**Epistemology of the Closet (1992)**  
*Between Men: English Literature and Male Homosocial Desire (1985)*

Showalter, Elaine. *A Literature of Their Own* (1998)


Williams, Raymond.  
**Culture and Society: 1780-1950 (1958)**  
*The Country and the City (1975)*  
*The Long Revolution (1961)*

Viswanathan, Gauri. *Masks of Conquest: Literary Study and British Rule in India* (1990)

**History/Theory:**

**NOTE:** Students may choose between the Hobsbawm and Perkin selections, but should be familiar with at least one of these general historical works.


Davidoff, Leonore and Catherine Hall. *Family Fortunes: Men and Women of the English Middle Class, 1780-1850* (1987)


Hobsbawm, E. J.  
**The Age of Capital: 1848-1875 (1975)**  
**Age of Empire: 1875-1914 (1987)**

Perkin, Harold.  
**Origins of Modern English Society (1968)**  

Thompson, E.P.  
*Making of the English Working Class* (1966)  
“Time, Work Discipline, and Industrial Capitalism,” from *Customs in Common*