PhD Orals Reading List – Literary Criticism, Theory and Commentary to 1801
Approved 2003

**CLASSICAL**
1. Horace, *Ars Poetica*
2. Plato, *The Republic* (Bk 10) *The Ion*
3. Aristotle, *Poetics*
4. Longinus, *On the Sublime*
5. Pesudo-Cicero *Rhetorica ad Hermennium*
6. Juvenal, *Satires*

**MEDIEVAL**
1. Geoffrey of Vinsauf, *Poetria Nova*
2. Evanthius and Donatus, Evanthius: *On Drama* Donatus: *On Comedy*
4. Averroes, *The Middle Commentary on the Poetics of Aristotle*
6. Dante, *De Vulgari Eloquentia*
8. Chaucer, *The Book of the Duchess* *The House of Fame*
9. Baldwin, *Beware the Cat*

**RENAISSANCE**
1. Sidney, *Defense of Poesy* (1580)
3. Gosson, “Diatribe Against the Theatre”
4. Heywood, *Defense of Playing / Apologie for Actors*
5. Ascham, “Of Imitation” from *The Scholemaster* (Bk II) (1570)
6. Gascoigne, *Certayne Notes of Instruction* (1575)
8. E.K. “Epistle Dedicatory” to the *Shepheards Calendar* (1579)
9. King James VI *Ane Schort Treatise conteining some Reulis and Cautelis to be obseruit and aschewit in Scottis Poesie* (1584)
10. Chapman, *Ovid’s Banquet of Sence* (1595)
12. Scaliger, *Poetice*

**SEVENTEENTH CENTURY**
1. Jonson, *Timber: or, Discoveries* (1610?-35?)
2. Bacon, *The Advancement of Learning* (1605)
5. Cavendish, “Preface” to *The World’s Olio* (1655) (( *Restoration* ))
6. Cavendish, “Preface” to Observations upon Experimental Philosophy (1666)  
   “Preface” and “Epilogue” to The Blazing World (1668)
7. Behn, “Epistle to the Reader” from The Dutch Lover (1673)  
   “Preface” to The Lucky Chance (1687)
8. Dryden, Of Dramatick Poesy (1668)  
   A Discourse Considering the Origin and Progress of Satire (1692)  
   Dedication to Aeneis (1697)  
   “MacFlecknoe”  
   “Preface” to Fables Ancient and Modern
9. Atterbury, “Preface to Waller’s Poems” (1690)
10. Collier, A Short View of the [. . .] English Stage (1698)

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY
1. Dennis, The Grounds of Criticism in Poetry (1704) – Selections from Augustan Critical Writing  
   Reflections...Upon...An Essay Upon Criticism (1711)
2. Blackmore, Advice to the Poets: A Poem (1706)  
   Leonard Welsted, Dissertation on the English Language  
   Preface to a Paraphrase of the Book of Job (1700)
3. Welsted, Dissertation on the English Language (1714)
4. Cobb, A Discourse on Criticism and the Liberty of Writing (1707)
5. Shaftesbury, Characteristicks (Letter concerning enthusiasm, Sensus communis, Soliloquy) (1711)
6. Addison and Steele, The Spectator  
   #40, “Poetic Justice”  
   #58 and #63, “True Wit”  
   #291, “On Criticism”  
   #409, “Taste”  
   #411-#421, “Pleasures of the Imagination”
7. Pope, “Essay on Criticism” (1711)  
   The Guardian, No. 40 (1713)  
   Preface to the Iliad (1715)  
   “A Discourse on Pastoral Poetry” (1717)  
   “Preface to The Works of Shakespeare (1725)  
   Peri Bathous (1727)  
   The Dunciad (1728 and 1745)
8. Bentley, “Preface” into the Original of Our Ideas of Beauty & Virtue (1725)
9. Anon., “Milton Restor’d and Bentley Depos’d” (1732) from Augustan Critical Writing
10. Theobald, Preface to Shakespeare (1733/40)
11. Fielding, H. “Preface” to Joseph Andrews (1742)  
    “Bill of Fare” to Tom Jones (1749)
12. Defoe, “Preface” to Robinson Crusoe
13. Hume, *Of the Standard of Taste*  
*Of the Delicacy of Taste and Passion*

14. Johnson,  
*Preface to the Dictionary* (1755)  
*Preface to Shakespeare* (1765)  
*Rambler #4 and #60*


16. Burke,  
*A Philosophical Inquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and the Beautiful* (1757)

17. Goldsmith, *Citizen of the World*

18. More, H. *Essays on Various Subjects, Principally Designed for Young Ladies* (1777)


20. Reeve, Evenings II and VII from *The Progress of Romance* (1785)

21. Reynolds, *Discourses*

22. Blake, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*

23. Blackwell, *The Genius and Writings of Homer*


25. Lowth, *Sacred Poetry of the Heroes*

26. Percy *Reliques of Ancient Poetry*

**CONTINENTAL 18th century:**

1. Kant, *The Critique of Judgment* (Bk II)

**TURN OF THE 19TH CENTURY**

1. Wordsworth, prefatory material to *Lyrical Ballads* (1801)

2. Barbauld, “On the Origin an Progress of Novel-Writing” (1810); selections from *Women Critics 1660-1820*