

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

CLASSICAL

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

MEDIEVAL

1. Geoffrey of Vinsauf *Poetria Nova*
2. Evanthius and Donatus, Evanthius: *On Drama*
Donatus: *On Comedy*
3. Proclus, *On the More Difficult Questions in the Republic: The Nature of Poetic Art*
4. Averroes, *The Middle Commentary on the Poetics of Aristotle*
6. Dante, *De Vulgari Eloquentia*
7. Boccaccio, *Genealogy of the Gentile Gods*, Bk XIV and XV
8. Chaucer, *The Book of the Duchess*
The House of Fame
9. Baldwin, *Beware the Cat*

RENAISSANCE

1. Sidney, *Defense of Poesy* (1580)
2. Puttenham, *The Art of English Poesy* (1589)
3. Gosson, “Diatribes Against the Theatre”
4. Heywood, *Defense of Playing / Apologie for Actors*
5. Ascham, “Of Imitation” from *The Scholemaster* (Bk II) (1570)
6. Gascoigne, *Certaine Notes of Instruction* (1575)
7. Lodge *A Defense of Poetry* (1579)
8. E.K. “Epistle Dedicatory” to the *Shepherds 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)
11. Spenser, *Letter to Raleigh*,
Shepherde’s Calendar, “Eclogue for October”
12. Scaliger, *Poetice*
13. Daniel, *A Defense of Rhyme*

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

1. Jonson, *Timber: or, Discoveries* (1610?-35?)
2. Bacon, *The Advancement of Learning* (1605)
3. Reynolds, *Mythomystes* (1632)
4. Cowley, “The Preface of the Autor” to *Poems* (1656)
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)
11. Gildon, *An Essay on the Vindication of the Love-Verses of Cowley and Waller* (1693)
12. Addison, *An Account of the Greatest English Poets* (1694)

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)
Hutcheson *Inquiry into the Original of Our Ideas of Beauty & Virtue* (1725)
8. Bentley, "Preface" to *Milton's Paradise Lost. A New Edition* (1732)
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
15. Hogarth, *The Analysis of Beauty* (1753)
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)
19. Blair, *Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres* (1784)
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*
24. Akenside, *The Pleasures of the Imagination*
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*