Ph. D. Qualifying Exam
Revised: December 2012

NB: When selections are mentioned, they should be drawn, when available, from The Norton Anthology of American Literature, 8th edition, and The Norton Anthology of English Literature, 8th edition, or another major anthology (e.g., J. Ramazani, ed., The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry, 3rd ed.). Students must specify which selections they are preparing for the Exam. You may wish to consult professors or other graduate students when making your selections.

I. British literature to 1500

A. Beowulf read in OE or in a modern translation.

B. Geoffrey Chaucer: The General Prologue and at least 6 of the Canterbury Tales, read in Middle English.

C. A choice of one out of the following (all to be prepared in Middle English):
   1. A major non-Chaucerian 14th-century poem (e.g., Gawain, Pearl, Sir Ofeo, or a selection from Gower or Langland);
   2. A selection of Corpus Christi Plays; or one substantial morality play;
   3. A selection from the Harley Lyrics
   4. A substantial selection from a Middle English woman writer (e.g., Margery Kempe, Julian of Norwich);
   5. A major poem from a post-Chaucerian poet (e.g., Lydgate, Hoccleve, Hawes, Skelton).

II. British Literature, 1500-1688

A. Intellectual/Critical prose. At least three of the following:
   1. More, Utopia
   2. Sidney, Defence of Poetry
   3. Bacon, 5 essays
   4. Milton, one major prose treatise
   5. Hobbes, a selection from Leviathan

B. Drama: Shakespeare, 6 plays (at least 3 tragedies), plus two of the following:
   1. Jonson, one play
   2. Marlowe, Dr. Faustus
   3. Kyd, Spanish Tragedy
   4. Webster, The White Devil

C. Poetry: At least three of the following choices:
1. Spenser, *Faerie Queene*, Book I
2. Shakespeare, 6 sonnets PLUS a selection (up to 10) of non-Shakespearean Sonnets (e.g., by Wyatt, Surrey, Sidney, Spenser)
4. A selection of metaphysical poems (a total of at least 10 poems by Donne, Herbert, Marvell, Crashaw, etc.).

D. Women writers: A substantial work by at least one of the following: Mary Wroth, Queen Elizabeth I, Katherine Philips, Amelia Lanyer, Lucy Hutchinson, Margaret Cavendish, Mary Herbert, Elizabeth Cary.

**III. British Literature, 1688-1798**

A. Intellectual/Critical Prose. At least three from the following:
   1. Dryden, a major critical essay
   2. Johnson, *Preface to Shakespeare* or *Preface to the Dictionary*
   3. Addison and Steele, selections from the *Tatler* and the *Spectator*
   4. Swift, two major critical essays
   6. Hume, *Inquiry* (selections), or two major essays
   7. Locke, *Human Understanding* (selections)

B. Drama: At least two major plays (two different writers):
   E.g., Dryden, Congreve, Otway, Wycherley, Goldsmith, Sheridan.

C. Poetry. At least three from the following:
   1. Dryden, a major narrative poem or collection (e.g., *Absalom and Achitophel*; *Fables*; *Canterbury Tales* "translation")
   2. Pope, *Rape of the Lock*, and *Essay on Criticism*, plus one other poem
   3. Gray, "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard"
   4. Blake, at least 6 poems from *Songs of Innocence* and *Songs of Experience*

D. Prose fiction. At least four from the following:
   1. Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*
   2. Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe* or *Moll Flanders*
   3. Richardson, *Pamela* or *Clarissa*
   4. Fielding, *Tom Jones* or *Joseph Andrews*
   5. Sterne, *Tristram Shandy* or *Sentimental Journey*
   6. Bunyan, *The Pilgrim’s Progress*

E. Women writers: at least two from the following:
   1. Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*
   2. Charlotte Lennox, *The Female Quixote*
   3. Frances Burney, *Evelina*
5. Mary Wollstonecraft, *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*

**IV. British Literature, 1798-1900**

A. Critical/Intellectual Prose: At least four from the following:
   1. Wordsworth, "Preface" to Lyrical Ballads
   2. Dorothy Wordsworth, *Grasmere Journals*
   3. Coleridge, *Biographia Literaria* (selections)
   4. Shelley, *Defence of Poetry*
   5. Keats, Letters (selections)
   6. Carlyle, selections from a major work (e.g., *Sartor Resartus*, *Past and Present*,
      *The French Revolution*)
   8. Ruskin, selections from a major work (e.g., *Modern Painters*)
   9. George Eliot, at least two essays
   10. Pater, selections from a major work (e.g., *The Renaissance*, *Marius the Epicurean*)

B. Poetry: selections from at least six of the following writers:
   Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley, Keats, Tennyson, R. Browning, E. B. Browning,
   D. G. Rossetti, C. Rossetti, Hopkins

C. Prose Fiction. At least six from the following list:
   1. Austen, a major novel
   2. E. Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*
   3. C. Bronte, *Jane Eyre*
   4. Scott, a major novel
   5. Thackeray, *Vanity Fair*
   6. Dickens, a major novel
   7. Eliot, a major novel
   8. Hardy, a major novel
   9. Trollope, a major novel
   10. A novel by one of the following: Gissing, Meade, Collins, Reade, Mrs. Oliphant
   11. One of the following: Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*; Stevenson, Dr. Jekyll and
       *Mr. Hyde*; Wilde, *Picture of Dorian Gray*; Stoker, *Dracula*

**V. British Literature, 1900-present**

A. Critical/Intellectual Prose. At least two from the following list:
   1. T. S. Eliot, selected Essays
   2. Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*
   3. Empson, *Seven Types of Ambiguity*
   4. Lawrence, *Studies in Classic American Literature*
5. Leavis, *The Great Tradition*
6. Williams, *The Country and the City*

B. Drama: at least two plays (two different authors) from: Shaw, Wilde, Beckett, Pinter, Orton, Osborne, Ayckbourn, Stoppard.

C. Poetry: Selections of poetry from at least five of the following:
   Yeats, Eliot, Hardy, Auden, Spender, Larkin, Heaney, Hughes, Boland

D. Prose fiction. At least four from the following list (one major novel per author)
   Woolf, Joyce, Conrad, Lawrence, Forster, Ford, K. Amis, M. Amis, G. Greene, McEwan

VI. American Literature to 1855

A. Critical/Intellectual prose: At least four from the following list:
   1. Jonathan Edwards, *Personal Narrative*
   2. Franklin, *Autobiography* (at least books 1 and 2)
   3. Crèvecoeur, *Letters from an American Farmer* (selections, including letters III and XII)
   4. Irving, “Rip Van Winkle” and “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”
   5. Emerson, a selection of essays
   6. Thoreau, *Walden* (selections)
   7. Poe, a selection of essays
   8. A major captivity narrative (e.g., Rowlandson)
   9. A major slave narrative (e.g., Equiano, Jea, Douglass)

B. Poetry: Selections of poetry from at least two of the following:
   Bradstreet, Wheatley, Freneau, Emerson, Melville, Longfellow

C. Prose fiction: At least 4 of the following:
   1. Brockden Brown, *Wieland*
   2. Poe, *Narrative of the Life of Arthur Gordon Pym*, or three major tales
   3. Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter* or three major tales
   4. Melville, *Moby Dick* or three major shorter fictions (e.g., *Billy Budd*, *Benito Cereno*, "Bartleby the Scrivener").
   5. Stowe, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*

VII. American Literature, 1855-1945

A. Critical/Intellectual Prose. At least three of the following:
   1. Twain, a major essay
   2. James, a major preface, or "The Art of Fiction," or “The New Novel”
   3. Whitman, *Preface to Leaves of Grass*
   4. Douglass, *Narrative of the Life* or Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life*
5. Washington, *Up From Slavery*
6. DuBois, *Souls of Black Folk*
7. Adams, *The Education of Henry Adams*
8. Paredes, *With his Pistol in his Hand*
10. Agee, *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*

B. Poetry: selections from four of the following, with at least one poet from the first grouping:
1. Whitman and/or Dickinson
2. S. Crane, Frost, Stevens, Pound, Moore, Williams, Hughes, H. Crane, Paredes

C. Prose Fiction: at least four major works, two from each of the following groupings:
1. Twain, *Huckleberry Finn* or a major novel; James, *The Portrait of a Lady*, or a major novel; Wharton, *The House of Mirth*; Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*; Crane, *Maggie*; Chopin, *The Awakening*; Howells, a major novel; Cahan, *Yekl*; Chesnutt, selected stories or a major novel

VIII. American Literature, 1945-present

A. Critical/Intellectual Prose. At least two of the following:
1. Wright, *Black Boy*
3. Ellison, selected essays
4. Mailer, *Advertisements for Myself*
5. Wolfe, *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*
6. Said, *Orientalism*
7. Showalter, *A Literature of Their Own*
8. Anzaldua-Moraga, *This Bridge Called my Back*; or Anzaldua, *Borderlands*
9. Butler, *Gender Trouble*

B. Poetry: selections from at least three of the following:
   Berryman, Lowell, Bishop, Ashbery, Merwin, Levertov, Sexton, Plath, Baraka, Cisneros, Cervantes

C. Prose Fiction: at least one major novel by three of the following:
   Mailer, Bellow, Kerouac, Roth, Nabokov, Wright, Ellison, Morrison, Kingston, Cisneros, Silko, Rivera

PLUS: at least four short stories by one of the following writers:
   Updike, Cheever, Carver, Beattie, Welty, O'Connor, ZZ Packer, Helena Viramontes, Junot Diaz, Dagoberto Gilb
D. Drama: one play from at least two of the following writers:
   O'Neill, Miller, Williams, Hellman, Albee, Kushner, Wasserstein, Wilson,
   Moraga, Teatro Campesino

IX. Literature in English outside of Britain and America

A. At least one major work of non-fiction by one of the following writers: Soyinka,
   Coetzee, Ved Mehta, Rushdie, Mandela, Gandhi, Arundhati Roy

B. Poetry: one volume of poetry by one of the following writers: Walcott,
   Claude McKay, A. D. Hope, Judith Wright, Kamau Braithwaite, Anne Carson

C. Prose fiction: at least one major novel by two of the following: Paton, Kineally,
   Coetzee, Rushdie, Atwood, Naipaul, Gordimer, Ondaatje, Okri, Roy, Achebe