

## FIRST-YEAR BOOK LIST: 2018-19

**Dates of publication, or approximate dates of composition, have been included on this list for your information. Many of these books can be obtained most cheaply online, especially second-hand.**

Contrary to popular belief, the First-year UCL English course is not a continuation of A-Levels by other means, but is an invitation to reconsider approaches to works which you have read and to revise any prejudices about works which you haven't. The first paradox is that students who wish to do well in their exams for this degree are advised not to think of exams at all, but instead to learn the enjoyment of this literature for the sake of its artistry and regardless of any moral deficits – such as the relative uniformity of gender and race in works written before the eighteenth century – which it may seem to incur. To enjoy the literature is to start reading it, in quantity and as soon as possible.

### GENERAL

You are advised to provide yourself with a history of the development of English literature, for example: Andrew Sanders, *The Short Oxford History of English Literature* (Oxford, 1994; rev. edn. 2004).

You may also find it useful, both before you arrive at UCL and throughout your time here, to consult studies on 'how to read'. The following are not part of our compulsory reading list, but are good resources to help you hone your critical skills:

- Peter Barry, *English in Practice* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition; Bloomsbury, 2013).
- Wayne C. Booth, *The Rhetoric of Fiction* (2<sup>nd</sup> edn; Chicago, 1983).
- John Lennard, *The Poetry Handbook* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition; OUP, 2006).

You may also find it helpful to consult:

- The English department **style sheet** for essays, on the first-year course Moodle page and on the English departmental website.
- The English department **punctuation guide** on the English website ('current students')
- Gerald Nelson, *Internet Grammar of English* at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/internet-grammar/>
- *The Oxford Companion to English Literature*, edited by Dinah Birch, available from Oxford Reference Online, <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/Library/database/index.shtml>
- *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms*, edited by Chris Baldick, available from Oxford Reference Online, <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/Library/database/index.shtml>
- Dominic Rainsford, *Studying Literature in English: An Introduction* (Routledge, 2014)

## TEXTS FOR FIRST-YEAR COURSES

*The Norton Anthology of Poetry*, edited by Margaret Ferguson and others (Norton, 1996; rev. edn. 2005). This book is used on the Narrative Texts course and the Criticism course.

### 1. Narrative Texts

John Milton, *Paradise Lost* (1667, revised 1674), either edited by Alastair Fowler (2nd ed. Longman), or edited by John Leonard (Penguin).

Alexander Pope, *The Rape of the Lock* (1714), in *The Norton Anthology of Poetry* (see above).

Laurence Sterne, *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman* (1759-67) edited by Melvyn New and Christopher Ricks (Penguin).

William Wordsworth, *The Prelude* (1805 text), in *William Wordsworth: The Major Works* edited by Stephen Gill (Oxford World's Classics).

Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* (1845), edited by Deborah E. McDowell (Oxford World's Classics).

George Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss* (1860), edited by Juliette Atkinson (Oxford World's Classics, pub. 2015) or edited by A. S. Byatt (Penguin).

T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land* (1922) in *The Norton Anthology of Poetry* (see above).

Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (1987) (Vintage).

### 2. Introduction to Medieval Language and Literature

This course is taught in two parts, Middle English in the autumn term and Old English in the spring term. The Old English literary period falls approximately within 700–1100, the Middle within 1100–1500. The Middle English is placed first in order to ease the student into what may be considered the least familiar period of literature studied here.

Most Medieval literature can be challenging, especially with the Cheshire dialect of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. Later in the course, there is Old English, which is the language spoken and written in Anglo-Saxon England before the Norman Conquest of 1066. Here you will be taught *Beowulf* in Seamus Heaney's translation, and enough Old English language to be able to read *The Wanderer*, the other text on this half of the course, as its Anglo-Saxon poet composed it.

You may find much of this literature completely new, but if you keep an open mind, you will see that it represents something of the greatness which the English literary tradition has achieved. We are teaching Old and Middle English because our department covers English from beginning to end. That is what makes us different from most other departments of English language and literature, and you would be advised to note that, by accepting a place here, you have agreed to honour the Medieval part of its syllabus no less than any other.

Where a section in the following is given as underlined, please prepare it in the summer before you come up:

### **Middle English**

Taken in order, the works we study in class this term are *The Miller's Tale* of *The Canterbury Tales* of Geoffrey Chaucer, the north-west Midlands romance *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, the last two books of Sir Thomas Malory's *Morte Darthur* (his *Works*), and a play, *The Wakefield Second Shepherds' Pageant*. The editions for these are listed in order below (the Benson edition of Chaucer is also needed for second-year study). Burrow's book gives a valuable literary background.

Larry D. Benson, ed., *The Riverside Chaucer*, 3rd edition (Houghton Mifflin Co., 1987 etc). ISBN 0-395-29031-7

J. J. Anderson, ed., *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Pearl, Cleanness, Patience* (Everyman, 1996). ISBN-10: 0460875108; ISBN-13: 978-0460875103

Eugene Vinaver, ed., *Malory: Works* (Oxford University Press, 1977). ISBN-10: 0192812173; ISBN-13: 978-0192812179

A. C. Cawley, ed., *Everyman and Medieval Miracle Plays* (Everyman, 1993). ISBN-10: 046087280X; ISBN-13: 978-0460872805

J. A. Burrow, *Medieval Writers and their Work* (Oxford University Press, 1982). ISBN 978-0-19-953204-9

### **Old English**

This course consists of Seamus Heaney's translation of the epic poem *Beowulf*, followed by one poems in the original Old English language, *The Wanderer*. The quickest way into the language and context is Peter S. Baker's chapter on the Old English language in *'Beowulf' & Other Stories*, and we recommend that you read this and surrounding chapters first. For *The Wanderer*, read Jenny Neville's chapter on the Elegies in the same.

Daniel Donoghue, ed., *The Norton Critical Edition of Heaney's 'Beowulf'* (W. W. Norton and Co., 2002). ISBN: 0-393-97580-0

Peter S. Baker, ed., *Introduction to Old English*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (Blackwell, 2012). ISBN 978-0-470-65984-7, chapters Four (on Case), Six (on Nouns: 6.1: Quick Start), Seven (7.1: Quick Start)

Richard North and Joe Allard, ed., *'Beowulf' & Other Stories*, 2nd edition (Pearson Longman, 2011). ISBN 978-1-4082-8603-6, Chapters Three (on *Beowulf*), Five (on Riddles, Elegies and *The Wanderer*), Eleven (on the Old English Language)

Not required for the course, but with more literature from the period, there is also Richard North and Joe Allard, and Patricia Gillies, ed., *The Longman Anthology of Old English, Old Icelandic and Anglo-Norman Literatures* (Pearson Longman, 2011) 978-1-4082-4770-9

### **3. Criticism**

This course makes use of *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*, Second Edition (2010) as a core reference work, and you are strongly encouraged to buy your own copy, and even to dip into it over the summer, following your own interests. The essays lectured on in the Spring Term can all be found in this anthology, and the volume will be of broader use to you in your second and third years. The essays lectured on and discussed in seminars during the Spring Term, all contained in the anthology, are the following:

- Philip Sidney, *An Apology for Poetry* (c. 1580, published 1595)
- Samuel Johnson, 'Preface' to his edition of Shakespeare's plays (1765)
- Wordsworth, 'Preface' to the *Lyrical Ballads* (1802)
- Henry James, 'The Art of Fiction' (1884)
- T. S. Eliot, 'Tradition and the Individual Talent', from *The Sacred Wood* (1920)
- Roland Barthes, 'The Death of the Author' (1967)
- Tzvetan Todorov, 'Structural Analysis of Narrative' (1969)
- H  l  ne Cixous, 'The Laugh of the Medusa' (1975)
- Chinua Achebe, 'An Image of Africa' (1975)
- Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick 'Introduction' to *Epistemology of the Closet* (1990)

### **4. Intellectual and Cultural Sources**

This is a long list: do not be daunted. Think of the list as a sample of the world of books and ideas in which you are free to travel for the next few years. Read as much as you can. Read the ones which interest you most. Read some more carefully than others if it suits you. You can and will go back to some of them later in your degree course. The editions and translations recommended below are those on which the examination will be based. In the cases of some longer works you are directed to particular parts; lectures and seminars will for the most part concentrate on these sections, and passages for comment in the examination will be taken from them.

In the case of translations, it is important that you obtain a copy of the recommended edition. If you are having trouble finding any of these, try and check the following: the UCL library, Waterstones, amazon.co.uk, bookfinder.com, or abebooks.co.uk.

*The Bible* (Authorized Version 1611), edited by Stephen Prickett (Oxford World's Classics). The set sections are Genesis (500s BC?) and The Gospel of St. Mark (c. 70 AD).

Homer, *The Odyssey* (700s BC?), translated by E. V. Rieu and D. C. H. Rieu (Penguin).

Sophocles, *Oedipus the King* (420s BC), in *The Three Theban Plays*, translated by Robert Fagles (Penguin).

Plato, *The Symposium* (c. 380 BC), translated by Christopher Gill (Penguin).

Aristotle, *Poetics* (330s BC), translated by Malcolm Heath (Penguin).

Virgil, *The Aeneid* (20s BC), translated by David West (Penguin), especially books 1-6.

Ovid, *Metamorphoses* (8 AD), translated by David Raeburn (Penguin), especially books 1, 3, 4-6, 10, 15.

St. Augustine, *Confessions* (c. 397), trans. Henry Chadwick (Oxford World's Classics), especially books 1-2, 6, 8, 11.

Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy* (c. 524), translated by Douglas C. Langston (Norton Critical Edition), especially Books 1, 3 and 5.

Dante, *Inferno* (1310s), translated by Robin Kirkpatrick (Penguin).

Sir Thomas More, *Utopia* (1516), translated by George M. Logan (Norton Critical Edition).

Michel de Montaigne, *Essays* (1580, 1588), translated by J. M. Cohen (Penguin), especially 'To the Reader', 'On the Education of Children', 'On Cannibals', 'On the Custom of Wearing Clothes', 'On Experience'.

Jean Jacques Rousseau, *Confessions* (1760s), translated by J. M. Cohen (Penguin), especially Books I-III.

Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792), edited by Miriam Brody (Penguin), especially chapters 1-4, 7-9, 12, 13 sections ii and vi.

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (1848), edited by David McLellan (Oxford World's Classics).

Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species* (1859), edited by Gillian Beer (Oxford World's Classics), especially chapters 1, 3-4, 9-10, 14.

Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals* (1887), translated by Douglas Smith (Oxford World's Classics), especially Essay 1.

Sigmund Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams* (1899), translated by A. A. Brill (London: Wordsworth Editions), especially Chapter 5, pages 155-61, and Chapter 6, pages 169-220 and 310-352.

Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own* (1929) (Penguin).

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality Volume 1: The Will to Knowledge*, translated by Robert Hurley (1976) (Penguin).

Edward W. Said, *Orientalism* (1978) (Penguin), especially 'Introduction' and Chapter 1 ('The Scope of Orientalism').