

FIELD V: BRITISH LITERATURE FROM 1660-1800

REVISED: DECEMBER 2018

EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 2020

STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS

Graduate students taking the field exam in English Literature 1660-1800 must be conversant on all primary and secondary texts on the reading list. Their responses to questions should demonstrate an ability to answer complex questions directly, thoughtfully, and concisely. Their responses should make connections among multiple primary texts and incorporate relevant criticism in a manner that indicates familiarity with influential critical perspectives. In addition, their answers should incorporate clear theses, structured arguments, and accurate prose. Students should demonstrate an awareness of the historical, cultural, and bibliographic contexts in which English literary works were composed, disseminated, and received in this period. Graduate students must receive a passing score on all questions in order to pass this exam.

READING LIST

PRIMARY WORKS:

** Indicates items included complete in the *Broadview Anthology of British Literature*, vol. 3: *The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century* (2nd ed., 2012); * indicates excerpts.

FICTION

Margaret Cavendish. *The Blazing World**
Aphra Behn. *Oroonoko***
Daniel Defoe. *Robinson Crusoe**
---. *Moll Flanders*
Samuel Richardson. *Pamela*
---. *Clarissa* (abridged, as in Broadview)
Eliza Heywood. *Love in Excess*
Henry Fielding. *Joseph Andrews*
---. *Tom Jones*
Samuel Johnson. *Rasselas*
Laurence Sterne. *Tristram Shandy*
---. *Sentimental Journey*
Horace Walpole. *The Castle of Otranto*
Tobias Smollett. *The Expedition of Humphrey Clinker*
Oliver Goldsmith. *The Vicar of Wakefield*
Fanny Burney. *Evelina*
William Beckford. *Vathek*
Ann Radcliffe. *The Italian*
Matthew Lewis. *The Monk*

DRAMA

John Dryden. *All for Love*
George Etherege. *The Man of Mode*
Aphra Behn. *The Rover*
William Wycherley. *The Country Wife***
William Congreve. *The Way of the World*
John Gay. *The Beggar's Opera***
Oliver Goldsmith. *She Stoops to Conquer*
Richard Brinsley Sheridan. *The School for Scandal***

VERSE and NONFICTION PROSE

The Age of Authors: An Anthology of Eighteenth-Century Print Culture, ed. Paul Keen (Broadview, 2013)
Samuel Butler, *Hudibras*
John Bunyan. *Pilgrim's Progress**

John Dryden. *Absalom and Achitophel***

---. *An Essay of Dramatic Poesy**

---. *Macflecknoe***

---. Preface to *Fables, Ancient and Modern*

---. *Religio Laici**

John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester. Selected poems.**

Jonathan Swift. *Gulliver's Travels***

---. "A Modest Proposal"***

---. *A Tale of a Tub*

---. Selected poems**

---. "Verses on the Death of Doctor Swift"***

Alexander Pope. *The Dunciad*, Book 4.

---. "Epistle to Bathurst"

---. "Epistle to Burlington"***

---. "Epistle to Cobham"

---. "Epistle to a Lady"***

---. *An Essay on Criticism**

---. *The Rape of the Lock***

Mary Wortley Montague. Selected letters**

James Thomson. "Winter"***

Samuel Johnson. Essays selected from *The Rambler* and *The Idler***

---. From *Lives of the Poets*: Dryden, Milton*, Pope*, Savage

---. Preface to *The Works of Shakespeare**

---. "The Vanity of Human Wishes"***

David Hume. *Essays* (selected, as in Oxford World's Classics)

---. *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* OR *Concerning the Principles of Morals*

Thomas Gray. "Elegy in a Country Churchyard," and other verse**

Edmund Burke. *Enquiry into ... the Sublime and the Beautiful* (selections)**

Oliver Goldsmith. "The Deserted Village"***

William Cowper. Selected poems**

Edward Gibbon. *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (abridged, as in Penguin)

Mary Wollstonecraft. *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*

SECONDARY/CRITICAL WORKS:

Anthology:

Nixon, Cheryl, ed. *Novel Definitions: An Anthology of Commentary on the Novel 1688-1815*. Broadview, 2009.

Secondary sources and criticism:

Armstrong, Nancy. *How Novels Think: The Limits of Individualism from 1719-1900*. New York: Columbia UP, 2005.

Hunter, J. Paul. *Before Novels: The Cultural Contexts of Eighteenth-Century English Fiction*. New York: Norton, 1990.

Marshall, Ashley. *The Practice of Satire in England 1658-1770*

McKeon, Michael. *The Origins of the English Novel, 1600-1740*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1987.

Richetti, John. *The Cambridge Companion to The Eighteenth Century Novel*. CUP 1996

Spacks, Patricia. *Imagining a Self: Autobiography and Novel in Eighteenth-Century England*. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1976.

Spencer, Jane. *The Rise of the Woman Novelist: from Aphra Behn to Jane Austen*. New York: Blackwell, 1986.

Watt, Ian P. *The Rise of the Novel: Studies in Defoe, Richardson and Fielding*. 1957. 2nd. ed. Berkeley: U California P, 2001

Companions and Introductions:

Backschneider, Paul R, and C Ingrassia, eds., *A Companion to the Eighteenth-Century English Novel and Culture*. Blackwell, 2005.

Gerard, Christine, ed. *A Companion to Eighteenth-Century Poetry*. Ed. Christine Gerard. Wiley-Blackwell, 2006.

Owen, Susan J., ed. *A Companion to Restoration Drama*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2008.

Richetti, John., ed. *The Cambridge History of English Literature, 1660-1780*. 2005.

Biographies of Major Figures:

Damrosch, Leo. *Jonathan Swift: His Life and His World*. Yale UP, 2013.

DeMaria, Robert. *The Life of Samuel Johnson: A Critical Biography*. Wiley-Blackwell, 1995.

Mack, Maynard. *Alexander Pope: A Life*. 1985; rpt. Norton, 1988.

Zwicker, Steven. *The Life of John Dryden: A Critical Biography*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2014.

General Studies:

Levine, Joseph M. *The Battle of the Books: History and Literature in the Augustan Age*. Cornell UP, 1994.

McGann, Jerome J. *Poetics of Sensibility. A Revolution in Literary Style*. Oxford UP, 1996.

Nisbet, H. B., and Claude Rawson, eds. *The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism*, vol. 4:

The Eighteenth Century. 2005.

Pocock, J. G. A., *Virtue, Commerce, and History. Essays*. 1985.

Porter, Roy. *The Creation of the Modern World: The Untold Story of the British Enlightenment*. 2000; rpt. Norton, 2001.

Sambrook, James. *The Eighteenth Century: Intellectual and Cultural Context of English Literature, 1700-89*. Longman, 1986; 2nd ed., 1993.

Sharpe, Kevin, and Steven N. Zwicker, eds. *Refiguring Revolutions: Aesthetics and Politics from the English Revolution to the Romantic Revolution*. U of California P, 1998.

---. *Between the Ancients and Moderns: Baroque Culture in Restoration England*. Yale UP, 1999.

Spacks, Patricia Meyer. *Reading Eighteenth-Century Poetry*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.