Guidelines for the M.A. Exam  
Saint Louis University  
Department of English

In order to graduate with a master’s degree in English, all candidates must pass a one hour, oral exam covering a list of **12 works**. This list is chosen periodically by the department, and represents a variety of periods and genres. The outstanding candidate will move with dexterity between close readings of a text, the critical heritage, and the list’s cultural and historical contexts. The examining committee for M.A. exams consists of three faculty members of the candidate’s choice; in their second year of study, master’s candidates are responsible for approaching faculty members to serve on their exam committee, with the objective of assembling examiners covering a range of areas. A **13th work**, to be chosen by the student, will consist of an influential theoretical or critical text. This work will be **selected from a list of 10**, compiled by the department as a whole, and which will be reviewed and revised at three-year intervals.

**Reading List for the M.A. Exam**  
for the master’s class entering in the fall of 2010  
(exclusive of the theoretical/critical text):

*Beowulf*

Geoffrey Chaucer, *Troilus & Criseyde*

Christopher Marlowe, *Dr. Faustus*

John Donne, *Songs and Sonnets, Holy Sonnets* (entire)

Daniel Defoe, *Moll Flanders*

Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *Aurora Leigh*

E.M. Forster, *Howard’s End*

John Millington Synge, *In the Shadow of the Glen; Playboy of the Western World; Riders to the Sea*

Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*

Emily Dickinson, selected poems: fascicles 26 and 34 (see list below on p. 3)

Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*

Don DeLillo, *White Noise*
Theory and Criticism List for the M.A. Exam
(The Candidate selects ONE Text)

Aristotle, *Poetics*

Mikhail Bakhtin, *The Dialogic Imagination*

Jacques Derrida, *Writing and Difference*

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality* (vol. 1)

Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Judgment*

Julia Kristeva, *Powers of Horror*

Karl Marx, *The German Ideology*

Edward Said, *Orientalism*

Gayatri Spivak, *In Other Worlds*

Mark Wiley, *Composition in Four Keys*
Emily Dickinson poems, Fascicle 26:

628 They called me to the Window, for
669 No Romance sold unto
465 I head a Fly buzz - when I died -
674 The Soul that hath a Guest,
629 I watched the Moon around the House
1181 When I hoped - I feared -
630 The Lightning playeth - all the while -
631 Ourselves were wed one summer - dear -
466 'Tis little I - could care for pearls -
632 The Brain - is wider than the sky -
467 We do not play on Graves -
312 Her - last Poems -
633 When Bells stop ringing - Church - begins -
468 The Manner of it's Death
469 The Red - Blaze - is the Morning -
634 You'll know Her - by Her Foot -
470 I am alive - I guess -
1067 Except the smaller size -
635 I think the longest Hour of all
329 So glad we are - a stranger'd deem
471 A Night - there lay the Days between -

Fascicle 34

645 Bereavement in their death to feel
646 I think To Live - may be a Bliss
647 A little Road - not made of Man -
649 Her Sweet turn to leave the Homestead
650 Pain - has an Element of Blank -
651 So much Summer
648 Promise This - When You be Dying -
478 I had no time to Hate -
754 My Life had stood - a Loaded Gun -
710 The Sunrise runs for Both -
755 No Bobolink - reverse His Singing -
756 One Blessing had I than the rest
690 Victory comes late -
757 The Mountains - grow unnoticed -
758 These - saw Visions -
711 Strong Draughts of Their Refreshing Minds
993 We miss Her - not because We see -
675 Essential Oils - are wrung -