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 2008
*(exclusive of the theoretical/critical text):*

**Sir Gawain and the Green Knight**

More, *Utopia*

Shakespeare, *Othello*


Wordsworth/Coleridge, *Lyrical Ballads* (1800)

Eliot, *Middlemarch*

Whitman, *Song of Myself*

Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*

Faulkner, *Absalom, Absalom!*

Soyinka, five plays: *Death and the King’s Horseman; Kongi’s Harvest; The Trials of Brother Jero; The Lion and the Jewel; The Strong Breed*

Welles, *Citizen Kane*

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**Theory and Criticism List for the M.A. Exam (2008)**
*(The Candidate selects ONE Text)*

Aristotle, *Poetics*

Bakhtin, *The Dialogic Imagination*

Derrida, *Writing and Difference*

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

Kant, *Critique of Judgment*

Kristeva, *Powers of Horror*

Marx, *The German Ideology*

Said, *Orientalism*

Spivak, *In Other Worlds*

Wiley, *Composition in Four Keys*