

## Early Modern British Literature

There are three lists for this track; students should select one list as a focal point for their reading.

- List A covers the period c. 1485- c.1603, and is designed to answer to the needs of students wishing to specialize in the earlier part of the period. This option covers the years from roughly 1485--when Henry VII, the first Tudor, took the throne--through the violent struggles of the Reformation in the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI, and Mary I to the tense religious settlement and national consolidation under the last Tudor monarch, Elizabeth I, who died in 1603.
- List B covers the period c.1603 - c.1688, and is designed for students who wish to specialize in the later part of the period. This option runs from James VI and I's accession, and encompasses the political upheavals of the seventeenth century, the personal rule of Charles I, the Commonwealth and Oliver Cromwell's Protectorate, the Restoration of Charles II, and the "Glorious Revolution" of 1688.
- List C is a selection from lists A and B, and is designed to cater to students who wish to study a wider panorama of early modern British literature. List C offers a broader prospectus of the period.

Whichever list you choose, you might consider the other two lists as possible sources for the additional twenty texts that you may nominate. But we would stress that these additional texts are still very much **your** choice, and should reflect **your** interests.

The literary history of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries can easily be presented as a colorful pageant of glamorous or notorious monarchs and major, usually male English authors. But the period - as its writers are the first to tell us - thwarts such sustained narratives even as it evokes them. It sees royal absolutism elaborated and challenged, unprecedented transformations in religious doctrine, massive shifts in the bases of scientific knowledge, changes in women's status as both authors and cultural protagonists, and troubled national and global self-imaginings. Its writing, accordingly, has always offered various kinds of excitement; it is full of familiar names, but it also tests new ways of reading and urges the ceaseless redefinition of whatever we might call "modernity." It is no accident that every term even in the above heading has a debate behind it. Why "early modern" and not "Renaissance"? What is "Britain" in this period? How far can "literature" usefully be distinguished from other cultural forms?

The following reading lists aim to give you a grounding in the literature of a period whose established canons persistently turn into open questions. They include the standard authors and works that, as an early modernist, you'll be expected to know in detail and to be able to teach. They are also intended, however, to acquaint you with a range of writings, enabling you to set different works in dialogue with one another and to approach critical debates about the period in an informed and authoritative way as you go about formulating your dissertation topic.

You are encouraged to pursue connections across the lists, exploring the perspectives you find most interesting. Points of focus might include

- forms and genres (lyric, epic, dramatic).
- institutions and spaces (sovereignty and court, the theatre, authorship, the city of London).
- the changing roles of women, shown in debates over women's rule (Mary Tudor, Elizabeth, Mary Queen of Scots) or the increasing prominence of woman writers (Lady Mary Wroth, Margaret Cavendish, Aphra Behn).
- intellectual and doctrinal movements (Reformation and pre- and counterReformation theology, the history of science, political philosophy, Christian humanism).
- material histories, including the history of the book itself and of scribal or print technologies.
- political events (Tudor crises, the British and Irish wars of the midseventeenth century).
- encounters with classical and vernacular pasts (in medieval writing, Ovidian and Virgilian afterlives, official and alternative national histories).

It must be stressed that these are no more than suggested paths through the readings, sketched to help you with initial organization. **You** are the intending doctoral candidate and future scholar in the field, and it is from you that a sense of the connections and differences among these texts, and an awareness of their historical and cultural contexts, must come. These lists will, given your active engagement with them, guide you towards the final shape of your main project.

In cases where we are recommending selections from an author's works, we have indicated a suggested modern edition. In these cases, you should choose which selections from the author's oeuvre to make in consultation with the Chair of your exam committee. The dates given below are, in most instances, the dates of first publication, or the dates at which particular texts first appeared to be widely circulated, or (for plays and masques) were first performed. For introductions and notes, students should use recent editions prepared to high scholarly standards and published by university presses or major trade publishers. For the original presentation of major works, please consult the editions in Early English Books Online (EEBO), which is available on the Pius Library website.

#### **LIST A**

1. John Skelton, selected poetry (c. 1489-1523) (suggested edition Scattergood, 1983).
2. Gavin Douglas (trans.), Aeneid (1513).
3. William Dunbar, selected poetry (c. 1500-1513) (suggested editions Bawcutt, 1998, or Conlee, 2004).
4. Sir Thomas More, Utopia (1516), The History of King Richard III (c.1513- 18).
5. Sir Thomas Wyatt, selected poetry (c. 1525-42) (suggested edition Daalder, 1975).
6. Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, selected poetry (c. 1530s-1547) (suggested edition Jones, 1964).
7. William Tyndale, The Obedience of a Christian Man (1528) (suggested edition Daniell, 2000).
8. Sir Thomas Elyot, The Book called the Governor (1531).
9. Sir David Lyndsay, Ane Satyre of the Thrie Estaitis (1551-52).

10. John Bale, *King John* (c. 1538), *The Vocacyon of John Bale* (c. 1553).
11. William Roper, *Life of Sir Thomas More* (c. 1557), George Cavendish, *The Life and Death of Cardinal Wolsey* (c. 1554) (both in *Two Early Tudor Lives*, Sylvester and Harding, 1963).
12. John Knox, *The First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Regiment of Women* (1558), selections from *The Historie of the Reformatioun within the Realms of Scotland* (1586-87).
13. Queen Elizabeth I, selected prose and poetry (suggested edition Marcus, Rose, and Mueller, 2002), Richard Mulcaster, *The Passage of Our Most Dread Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth, ThroFugh the City of London to Westminster the Day before her Coronation* (1559) (suggested edition Warketin, 2004).
14. William Baldwin, George Ferrers, et al., selections from *the Mirror for Magistrates* (1559-1610).
15. The Bible (Geneva version, 1560): Genesis, Exodus, Judges, 1-2 Samuel, Song of Solomon, Job, Luke, John, 1-2 Corinthians, Romans, Revelation.
16. Baldassare Castiglione, *The Book of the Courtier* (trans. Sir Thomas Hoby, 1561).
17. John Foxe, selections from *Actes and Monuments*, (1563 and 1583 editions) (suggested edition King, 2009).
18. Arthur Golding (trans.), selections from *Ovid's Metamorphoses* (1567).
19. Isabella Whitney, selections from *The Copy of a Letter... to her Unconstant Lover* (1566-7), *A Sweet Nosegay* (1573).
20. William Baldwin, *Beware the Cat* (1553).
21. Thomas Cranmer, John Jewel et al., selections from *Certain Sermons or Homilies* (1571).
22. Edmund Spenser, *The Shepheardes Calendar* (1579), *Amoretti and Epithalamion* (1595), and *The Faerie Queene: I-III* (1590), selections from IV-V to complete the love story of Britomart and Artegall (1596), and VII, *The Mutabilitie Cantos* (1609) (suggested edition Hamilton, 2001).
23. Sir Walter Raleigh, selected poetry (c. 1582-92) (suggested edition Rudick, 1999).
24. Christopher Marlowe, *Tamburlaine* (Pt. I) (c. 1587), *The Jew Of Malta* (c. 1589), *Edward II* (c. 1592), *Doctor Faustus* (c. 1593).
25. Sir Philip Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella* (1591), *An Apologie for Poetry* (1595) (suggested edition Shepherd, 1965), and *The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia* (composite 1593 edition) (suggested edition Evans, 1987).
26. William Shakespeare: of the 37 plays, select 5 comedies, 5 histories, 5 tragedies (as designated in the 1623 First Folio); study the structure (including paratexts) of the 1623 Folio and be aware of special problems involving variant quarto editions.
27. John Donne, selections from the poetry and prose (suggested edition Carey, 1990).
28. Thomas Kyd, *The Spanish Tragedy* (1592).
29. George Puttenham, *The Art of English Poesy* (1589) (suggested edition Rebhorn and Whigham, 2007).
30. Michael Drayton, *Ideas Mirror* (1594).
31. Thomas Nashe, *The Unfortunate Traveller* (1594).
32. Robert Southwell, selections from *Saint Peter's Complaint and other poems* (1595) (suggested edition Davidson and Sweeney, 2007).
33. Sir John Davies, *Orchestra* (1596) and *Nosce Teipsum* (1599) (suggested edition Krueger, 1975).

34. Richard Hakluyt, selections from *The Principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffiques and Discoveries of the English Nation (1598-1600)* (suggested edition Beeching, 1972).
35. Mary (Sidney) Herbert, *Countess of Pembroke, Psalms* (trans., with Sir Philip Sidney, 1599) (suggested edition Hannay et al., 1998).
36. King James VI and I, *Basilicon Doron* (1599) (suggested edition Sommerville, 1994).
37. Michel de Montaigne, selections from the *Essays* (trans. John Florio, 1603).

## LIST B

1. William Shakespeare: of the 37 plays, select 5 comedies, 5 histories, 5 tragedies (as designated in the 1623 First Folio); study the structure (including paratexts) of the 1623 Folio and be aware of special problems involving variant quarto editions.
2. John Donne, selections from the poetry and prose (suggested edition Carey, 1990).
3. Sir Francis Bacon, *The Essays* (1597), *The Advancement of Learning* (1605).
4. Ben Jonson, *Volpone* (c. 1605-6), *The Masque of Blackness* (1608), *The Alchemist* (1610), *Bartholomew Fair* (1614), *The Forrest* (1616).
5. Thomas Middleton, *The Revengers Tragedy* (1606).
6. The Bible (1611 Authorized or King James Version): Genesis, Exodus, Judges, 1-2 Samuel, Song of Solomon, Job, Luke, John, 1-2 Corinthians, Romans, Revelation.
7. Aemilia Lanyer, *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum* (1611).
8. Thomas Middleton and Thomas Dekker, *The Roaring Girl* (1611).
9. John Webster, *The White Devil* (1612), *The Duchess of Malfi* (1612-13).
10. Elizabeth Cary, *The Tragedie of Mariam* (1613).
11. Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher, *The Maid's Tragedy* (1619).
12. Mary Wroth, *Pamphilia to Amphilanthus* from *The Countesse of Montgomery's Urania* (1621) (suggested edition Roberts, *The Poems of Lady Mary Wroth*, 1983).
13. Robert Burton, selections from *The Anatomy of Melancholy* (1621-51).
14. Thomas Middleton and William Rowley, *The Changeling* (1622).
15. William Harvey, *De Motu Cordis* (1628) (English translation).
16. John Ford, *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* (1633).
17. George Herbert, selections from *The Temple* (1633).
18. Sir Thomas Browne, *Religio Medici* (1643).
19. John Milton, *Areopagitica* (1644), *Poems* (1645), *Eikonoklastes* (1649), *Paradis e Lost* (1667) *Samson Agonistes* (1671).
20. Richard Crashaw, selections from *Steps to the Temple* (1646).
21. Henry Vaughan, selected poetry (c. 1646-1655) (suggested edition Rudrum, 1995).
22. *An Agreement of the People* (1647-9).
23. Robert Herrick, selections from *Hesperides* (1648).
24. Richard Lovelace, selections from *Lucasta* (1649), *Lucasta: Posthume Poems* (1660).
25. Abiezer Coppe, *A Fiery Flying Roll* (1649).

26. Charles I / John Gauden, *Eikon Basilike* (1649) (suggested edition Daems and Nelson, 2006).
27. Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (1651), Parts I and II.
28. Anna Trapnel, *The Cry of a Stone* (1654).
29. *The Book of Common Prayer* (1662)
30. Margaret Cavendish, *The Blazing World* (1666).
31. Katherine Philips, selected poetry (first authorized edition 1667) (suggested edition Thomas, 1995).
32. Lucy Hutchinson, *Memoirs of the Life of Col. John Hutchinson* (c. 1671).
33. John Wilmot, 2nd Earl of Rochester, selected poems (c. 1672-1676) (suggested edition Walker, 1988).
34. Aphra Behn, *The Rover*, Pt. 1 (1677), *Oroonoko* (1688).
35. John Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress* (1678).
36. Andrew Marvell, selected poems (first edition 1681) (suggested edition Smith, 2006).
37. John Dryden, *Absalom and Achitophel* (1681), *An Essay Of Dramatic Poesy* (1668), *All for Love* (1678).

#### LIST C

1. John Skelton, selected poetry (c. 1489-1523) (suggested edition Scattergood, 1983).
2. William Dunbar, selected poetry (c. 1500-1513) (suggested editions Bawcutt, 1998, or Conlee, 2004).
3. Sir Thomas More, *Utopia* (1516).
4. Sir Thomas Wyatt, selected poetry (c. 1525-42) (suggested edition Daalder, 1975).
5. Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, selected poetry (c. 1530s-1547) (suggested edition Jones, 1964).
6. Sir Thomas Elyot, *The Book called the Governour* (1531).
7. *The Book of Common Prayer* (either 1552 or 1662 edition).
8. William Roper, *Life of Sir Thomas More* (c. 1557) (suggested edition Sylvester and Harding, 1963).
9. John Knox, *The First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Regiment of Women* (1558).
10. Queen Elizabeth I, selected prose and poetry (suggested edition Marcus, Rose, and Mueller, 2002).
11. *The Bible* (Geneva version (1560) or Authorized (1611) version): Genesis, Exodus, Judges, 1-2 Samuel, Song of Solomon, Job, Luke, John, 1-2 Corinthians, Romans, Revelation.
12. Baldassare Castiglione, *The Book of the Courtier* (trans. Sir Thomas Hoby, 1561).
13. Isabella Whitney, selections from *The Copy of a Letter... to her Unconstant Lover* (1566-7), *A Sweet Nosegay* (1573).
14. William Baldwin, *Beware the Cat* (1553).
15. Edmund Spenser, *The Shepheardes Calendar* (1579), *The Faerie Queene: I-III* (1590), *The Mutabilitie Cantos* (1609) (suggested edition Hamilton, 2001).
16. Sir Walter Raleigh, selected poetry (c. 1582-92) (suggested edition Rudick, 1999).
17. Christopher Marlowe, *Tamburlaine* (Pt. I) (c. 1587), *Edward II* (c. 1592), *Doctor Faustus* (1593).

18. George Puttenham, *The Art of English Poesy* (1589) (suggested edition Rebhorn and Whigham, 2007).
19. Sir Philip Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella* (1591), *An Apologie for Poetry* (1595).
20. Thomas Kyd, *The Spanish Tragedy* (1592).
21. John Donne, selections from the poetry and prose (suggested edition Carey, 1990).
22. Thomas Nashe, *The Unfortunate Traveller* (1594).
23. Selections from Richard Hakluyt, selections from *The Principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffiques and Discoveries of the English Nation* (1598-1600) (suggested edition Beeching, 1972).
24. King James VI and I, *Basilicon Doron* (1599) (suggested edition Sommerville, 1994).
25. Sir John Davies, *Nosce Teipsum* (1599) (suggested edition Krueger, 1975).
26. Mary (Sidney) Herbert, Countess of Pembroke, *Psalms* (trans., with Sir Philip Sidney, 1599) (suggested edition Hannay et al., 1998).
27. Michel de Montaigne, selections from the *Essays* (trans. John Florio, 1603).
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30. Thomas Middleton, *The Revengers Tragedy* (1606).
31. Ben Jonson, *Volpone* (c. 1605-6), *The Masque of Blackness* (1608), *The Alchemist* (1610), *Bartholomew Fair* (1614), *The Forrest* (1616).
32. Aemilia Lanyer, *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum* (1611).
33. John Webster, *The White Devil* (1612).
34. Elizabeth Cary, *The Tragedie of Mariam* (1613).
35. Mary Wroth, *Pamphilia to Amphilanthus* from *The Countesse of Montgomery's Urania* (1621) (suggested edition Roberts, *The Poems of Lady Mary Wroth*, 1983).
36. Thomas Middleton and William Rowley, *The Changeling* (1622).
37. George Herbert, selections from *The Temple* (1633).
38. Sir Thomas Browne, *Religio Medici* (1643).
39. John Milton, *Poems* (1645), *Paradise Lost* (1667), *Samson Agonistes* (1671), *Areopagitica* (1644).
40. Richard Crashaw, selections from *Steps to the Temple* (1646).
41. Richard Lovelace, selections from *Lucasta* (1649), *Lucasta: Posthume Poems* (1660).
42. Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (1651) Parts I and II.
43. Anna Trapnel, *The Cry of a Stone* (1654).
44. Margaret Cavendish, *The Blazing World* (1666).
45. Katherine Philips, selected poetry (first authorized edition 1667) (suggested edition Thomas, 1995).
46. John Wilmot, 2nd Earl of Rochester, selected poems (c. 1672-1676) (suggested edition Walker, 1988).
47. John Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress* (1678).
48. Andrew Marvell, selected poems (first edition 1681) (suggested edition Smith, 2006).
49. John Dryden, *Absalom and Achitophel* (1681).
50. Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko* (1688).