

Guidelines for the M.A. Examination
Saint Louis University
Department of English
(for those entering the master's degree program in the fall of 2016, 2017, or 2018)

All candidates for a master's degree in English, at the conclusion of their programs of study, must pass a one-hour oral examination covering a list of 12 literary works. Beginning in 2016, this list will be developed tri-annually by the department as a whole and represents a variety of periods and genres. The outstanding candidate will move with dexterity among close readings of the texts, the texts' critical heritage, and the list's cultural and historical contexts. The examining committee for an M.A. examination consists of three faculty members of the candidate's choice; master's candidates, in their second year of study, are responsible for approaching faculty members to serve on their exam committees with the objective of assembling examiners covering a range of areas. A 13th work will consist of an influential theoretical or critical text selected by the student from the departmentally developed list of 10 works.

Reading List for the M.A. Exam (exclusive of the theoretical/critical text):

Beowulf (8th-11th C.)

Thomas Malory, Selections from *Le Morte Darthur: The Winchester Manuscript*, ed. Helen Cooper (2008; orig. pub. 1485) – "Marriage of King Uther Unto King Arthur," "Tale of Sir Lancelot," "Book of Tristram," "Lancelot and Guenivere," "Death of Arthur"

A Trio of Revenge Tragedies: Thomas Kyd, *The Spanish Tragedy* (1587?); Thomas Middleton, *The Revenger's Tragedy* (1606); John Webster, *The White Devil* (1612)

John Milton, *Samson Agonistes* (1671)

Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter: A Romance* (1850)

George Eliot, *The Lifted Veil* (1859)

Harriet Beecher Stowe, *The Minister's Wooing* (1859)

Ernest Hemingway, *In Our Time* (1925)

Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse* (1927)

Malcolm X, with Alex Haley, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* (1965)

Sherman Alexie, *Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* (1993)

Michael Ondaatje, *Anil's Ghost* (2000)

Theory and Criticism List for the M.A. Exam (each candidate selects **one** text):

Sara Ahmed, *Willful Subjects* (2014)

Walter Benjamin, *Illuminations: Essays & Reflections* (1969)

Jacques Derrida, *Acts of Literature* (1991)

Lee Edelman, *No Future: Queer Theory and the Death Drive* (2004)

Franz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks* (1952)

Frederic Jameson, *The Antinomies of Realism* (2013)

Bruno Latour, *We Have Never Been Modern* (1991)

David S. Reynolds, *Beneath the American Renaissance: The Subversive Imagination in the Age of Emerson and Melville* (1989)
Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, *Epistemology of the Closet* (1990)
Tobin Siebers, *Disability Theory* (2008)