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.)


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)


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


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