

University of Saskatchewan
Department of English
Ph.D. Field Examination

Ph.D. students are required to take this examination to establish that they have sufficient understanding to conduct advanced research, teaching, and supervision in their identified field. The following lists comprise the areas in which the Department of English has set readings for Ph.D. students: American, Cultural Studies, English-Canadian, Indigenous Literature, Literary Theory, Literature by Women, Medieval, Modern and Contemporary British and Irish, Nineteenth-Century British, Postcolonial and Global South Literatures, Renaissance, Restoration/Eighteenth Century.

By **31 May of the first year of the doctorate**, the student must inform the Graduate Chair in writing of their intention to complete the Field Examination. This notification will include:

1. the student's choice of a departmental Fields Reading List (see above) representing two-thirds of the readings for the Field Examination;
2. the Candidate's List of readings constituting the final one-third of the readings, drafted in consultation with the Supervisor; and
3. the names of three faculty members comprising the Field Examining Committee who are to be consulted in the development of the Candidate's List of readings and who will set and evaluate the written and the oral components of the examination.

A meeting of the student with the Field Examining Committee will be convened by the Supervisor in May of the first year of the doctorate to facilitate this process. By **31 January of the second year of their doctorate**, all Ph.D.s are expected to complete the Field Examination.

Note: a candidate may choose to be examined in an area for which there is no list. Should this option be chosen, the candidate (in consultation with the Supervisor) will propose an area to the Graduate Committee at least twelve months before the examination is to be taken. If the Graduate Committee accepts the proposal and if three faculty members are willing to serve as examiners, the Ph.D. student (in consultation with the Supervisor and the Examining Committee) will prepare a reading list comparable in dimensions to those in areas for which set lists exist. At least six months before the examination is to be taken, this reading list is to be submitted to the Field Examining Committee for approval.

The candidate may write the examination either on one day (9:00-12:00, 1:30-4:30) or in two three-hour blocks on successive days. No aids are permitted in writing the examination. No less than a week and no more than two weeks after writing this examination, the candidate will attend an oral examination of no more than two hours' duration. This oral examination will be convened by the Graduate Chair (or designate) and be conducted by the three faculty examiners who set the written portion. In this oral examination, special attention may be paid to the candidate's own contributions to the reading list, especially as they relate to the candidate's dissertation topic, but all readings and written responses may be addressed.

The written component of the Field Examination must receive a pass before the oral component can be taken. Following the oral, an overall grade is assigned: Pass with Distinction, Pass, or Fail. If a Fail is assigned, the student may repeat the examination within three months of the initial examination. If repetition of the examination is necessary, it is usual that both the written and oral parts are required; the Field Examining Committee has discretion to require, however, that only the oral be retaken.

LITERATURE BY WOMEN

This exam covers the field of Literature by Women in English, which is conceived broadly to include a variety of literary forms, time periods, and geographical locations. Use the exam lists as an opportunity to read widely and deeply to prepare yourself as a teacher-scholar or other professional in this field. The faculty specialists in the area have devised several reading lists from which to choose, and you will contribute an additional part related to your own research.

1. Read the theoretical selections related to feminism, gender, and literature in List A.
2. Read all or the majority of texts in two or three of Lists B-J. You will focus on lists that are related to your area of research, and that are connected to one another by time period and/or geographic location: for example, the Medieval, Renaissance, and Restoration and Eighteenth Century lists, or the Twentieth-Century British, American, and Canadian lists, etc. You should be reading approximately 65-75 texts/authors in this section of the exam; please note that a few poems by one author do not qualify as one text. Read the contextual works to situate your study within the field, and use the anthologies as source texts and/or starting points for the authors listed.
3. Compose your own portion of the reading list; include the primary and critical texts related to your dissertation topic plus cultural, historical, biographical, and/or political materials that will contextualize your specific area of study (approximately 25-35 works in total; your entire list should consist of about 100 works). Consult closely with your supervisor, who in turn will consult the other specialists in the Department.

A. Feminist Theory

Anthology (read in entirety)

Mary Eagleton, editor. *Feminist Literary Theory: A Reader*, 3rd ed. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.

B. Medieval

Context

Carolyn Dinshaw and David Wallace, editors. *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Women's Writing*. Cambridge UP, 2003.

Anthologies

Elaine Treharne, editor. *Old and Middle English c.890-c.1450: An Anthology*, 3rd ed. Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.

Alexandra Barratt, editor. *Women's Writing in Middle English: An Annotated Anthology*. 2nd ed. Routledge, 2010.

Read *The Cambridge Companion* for context, and read selections in the anthologies on:

The Exeter Book lyrics, including *Wulf and Eadwacer* and *The Wife's Lament*

Margery Kempe, *The Book of Margery Kempe*

Julian of Norwich, *Revelations of Divine Love*

Marie de France (Anglo-Norman)

Marguerite Porete (in English translation)

Bridget of Sweden (in English translation)

Christine de Pisan (in English translation)

The writers of the Paston letters

Anonymous works including lyrics, medical texts, and recipes

C. Renaissance

Context

Laura Lunger Knoppers, editor. *The Cambridge Companion to Early Modern Women's Writing*. Cambridge UP, 2009.

Anita Pacheco, editor. *A Companion to Early Modern Women's Writing*. Blackwell, 2002.

Anthologies

Paul Salzman, editor. *Early Modern Women's Writing: An Anthology 1560-1700*. Oxford, 2007.

Randall Martin, editor. *Women Writers in Renaissance England: An Annotated Anthology*. Routledge, 2010.

Sarah C. E. Ross and Elizabeth Scott-Baumann, editors. *Women Poets of the English Civil War*, Manchester UP, 2017. [includes Bradstreet, Philips, Cavendish, Hutchinson, Pulter]

Poetry

Queen Elizabeth, love poems

Mary Stewart, sonnets to Bothwell

Isabella Whitney, selections from *A Sweet Nosegay*; "Will and Testament"

Anne Locke, *Meditation of a Penitent Sinner* (sonnets)

Mary Sidney, Psalm translations (selection)

Anne Dowriche, *The French History* (selections)

Lady Mary Wroth, *Pamphilia to Amphilantus* (select sonnets and songs)

Aemilia Lanyer, *Salve Rex Judeorum* (selections) and "Description of Cookham"

Rachel Speght, *A Dream*

Anne Bradstreet, selected poetry

Katherine Philips, selected poetry

Margaret Cavendish, selected poetry

Lucy Hutchinson, *Order and Disorder* (selections)

Fiction

Margaret Cavendish, *The Blazing World*

Lady Mary Wroth, *Countess of Montgomerie's Urania* (selections)

Drama

Elizabeth Cary, *The Tragedy of Mariam*

Lady Mary Wroth, *Love's Victory*

Diaries, autobiographies, and domestic writings

[Familiarize yourself with strategies early modern women used to articulate their identities in the domestic sphere: life writing, mother's legacies, medical manuals, letters, etc.]

Anne Clifford, *Diary* (selections)

Dorothy Leigh, *The Mother's Blessing*

Grace, Lady Mildmay, from *Autobiography*

Elizabeth Clinton, *The Countess of Lincoln's Nurserie*

Elizabeth Joscelyn, *The Mothers Legacy to her Unborn Childe*

Lady Elizabeth Richardson, *A Ladies Legacie to her Daughters*

Polemical writings

[Focus on the status of women and women and religion in polemical writing]

Anne Askew, *Examinations* (selections) and "Ballad"

Jane Anger, *Her Protection for Women*

Rachel Speght, *A Mouzell for Melastomus* or Ester Sowernam, *Ester Hath Hanged Haman*

Anna Trapnel, *Report and Plea*

D. Restoration and Eighteenth Century

Context

Catherine Ingrassia, *The Cambridge Companion to Women's Writing in Britain 1660-1789*, 2009.

Anthologies

Paula Backscheider and Catherine Ingrassia, *British Women Poets of the Long Eighteenth Century: An Anthology*, 2015.

Derek Hughes, ed. *Eighteenth-century Women Playwrights*, 2001.

Poetry (read selections from the following authors)

Aphra Behn

Anne Killigrew

Anne Finch

Mary Collier

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu

Mary Leapor

Phyllis Wheatley

Charlotte Smith
Ann Yearsley
Mary Tighe
Helen Maria Williams

Fiction

Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko or Love-Letters between a Nobleman and his Sister*
Eliza Haywood, *Fantomina or Love in Excess*
Sarah Fielding, *The Adventures of David Simple*
Charlotte Lennox, *The Female Quixote*
Sarah Scott, *A Description of Millenium Hall and the Country Adjacent*
Frances Burney, *Evelina*
Ann Radcliffe, *The Mysteries of Udolpho*
Mary Hays, *The Memoirs of Emma Courtney or The Victim of Prejudice*
Maria Edgeworth, *Belinda or Castle Rackrent*
Germaine de Staël, *Corinne*

Drama

Aphra Behn, *The Rover or The Lucky Chance*
Susanna Centlivre, *The Wonder: A Woman Keeps a Secret or A Bold Stroke for a Wife*
Hannah Cowley, *The Belle's Strategem*
Elizabeth Inchbald, *Such Things Are*
Joanna Baillie, *De Montfort*

Non-fiction prose

Mary Astell, *A Serious Proposal to the Ladies*
Hannah More, *Thoughts on the Importance of the Manners of the Great to General Society* or selections from *Cheap Repository Tracts*
Hester Lynch Piozzi selections from *Thraliana* or *Anecdotes of Johnson* or *Observations and Reflections*
Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*
Mary Hays, *Female Biography*

E. Nineteenth-Century British

Context

The Cambridge Companions series (volumes on specific writers such as Austen, Shelley, Gaskell; volumes on Romantic and Victorian women's writing)

Anthologies

Angela Leighton and Margaret Reynolds, editors. *Victorian Women Poets: An Anthology*. Wiley, Blackwell, 1999.
The Broadview Anthology of British Literature, vols. 4-5. Broadview Press, 2018, 2012. Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar, editors. *The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women*, 3rd ed. Vol. 1. W. W. Norton, 2007.

Poetry

Anna Laetitia Barbauld, a selection of poems
Emily Bronte, selected poems
Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *Aurora Leigh*, Books 1-5 and selected poems
Michael Field, selected poems
Felicia Hemans, *Records of Woman*
Letitia Landon (L.E.L.), selected poems
Christina Rossetti, "Goblin Market" and selected poems
Charlotte Smith, from *Elegiac Sonnets* and *Beachy Head*
Augusta Webster, "A Castaway" and selected poems

Fiction

Jane Austen, any novel
Charlotte Bronte, any novel
Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*
Charlotte Dacre, *Zofloya*
Maria Edgeworth, *Castle Rackrent*
George Eliot, *Middlemarch*, "Silly Novels by Lady Novelists," and "The Lifted Veil"
Elizabeth Gaskell, any novel
Elizabeth Hamilton, *Translation of the Letters of a Hindoo Rajah*
Mary Lamb, *Mrs. Leicester's School*
Amy Levy, *The Romance of a Shop*
Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* and four short stories
Charlotte Yonge, *The Clever Woman of the Family*

Drama

Joanna Baillie, one play

Non-fiction prose

Anna Jameson, selections from *Shakespeare's Heroines*
Harriet Martineau, *Autobiography* or *How to Observe Morals and Manners*
Florence Nightingale, *Cassandra*
Mary Prince, *The History of Mary Prince*
Dorothy Wordsworth, *Grasmere Journals*

F. Pre-Twentieth-Century North American and Empire Writing

Anthologies

Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar, editors. *The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women*, 3rd ed., 2007.
Eileen Barret and Mary Cullinan, editors. *American Women Writers: Diverse Voices in Prose*, 1993.
Misao Dean, editor. *Early Canadian Short Stories*, 1999.

United States

Poetry

Anne Bradstreet, selected poems
Phyllis Wheatley, selected poems
Emily Dickinson, *Selected Poems*

Fiction

Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women or Work*
Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
Maria Cummins, *The Lamplighters*
Fanny Fern, *Ruth Hall*
Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" and "Why I Wrote 'The Yellow Wallpaper' "
Sara Orne Jewett, *"The White Heron" and other Stories*
Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*

Non-fiction prose (selections from *American Women Writers*)

Sojourner Truth
Margaret Fuller
Harriet Jacobs (Linda Brent)
Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Canada

Poetry

Isabella Valancy Crawford, selected poetry
E. Pauline Johnson (Tekahionwake), selected poetry

Fiction

Frances Brooke, *The History of Emily Montague*, selections
Selected stories from *Early Canadian Short Stories*

Drama

Sarah Anne Curzon, *Laura Secord, the Heroine of 1812*

Non-fiction prose

Anna Jameson, *Winter Studies and Summer Rambles in Canada*
Susanna Moodie, *Roughing It in the Bush*
Catharine Parr Traill, *The Backwoods of Canada*
E. Pauline Johnson (Tekahionwake), "A Red Girl's Reasoning" and one other short story
Sara Jeannette Duncan, *A Daughter of To-day or The Imperialist*

Australia

Miles Franklin, *My Brilliant Career*
Rachel Henning, *Letters*
Henry Handel Richardson, *The Getting of Wisdom*

Lynne Spender, editor. *Her Selection: Writings by Nineteenth Century Australian Women*

New Zealand

Lady Mary Anne Barker, *Station Life in New Zealand*

India

Saros Cowasjee, editor. *Women Writers of the Raj*

Southeast Asia

Isabella Bird, "Letter from Sungei Ujong, Malay Peninsula"

G. Twentieth and Twenty-first Century English and Irish

Anthologies

Fleur Adcock, editor. *The Faber Book of 20th Century Women's Poetry*, 1987.

Don Paterson and Charles Simic, editors. *New British Poetry*, 2004.

Blake Morrison and Andrew Motion, editors. *The Penguin Book of Contemporary British Poetry*, 1999.

Poetry (read selections from the following authors)

Edith Sitwell

Mina Loy

Stevie Smith

Kathleen Raine

Fleur Adcock

Selina Hill

Fiction

Dorothy Richardson, one volume from *Pilgrimage* (novel sequence)

Katherine Mansfield, *The Garden Party and other Stories*

Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* or *To the Lighthouse*

Radclyffe Hall, *The Well of Loneliness*

Ivy Compton-Burnett, *A House and its Head*

Rebecca West, "Indissoluble Matrimony," *The Return of the Soldier* and/or *The Thinking Reed*

Elizabeth Bowen, *The Heat of the Day* or *Collected Stories*

Iris Murdoch, *The Bell* or *The Good Apprentice*

Muriel Spark, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*

Doris Lessing, *The Golden Notebook*

Edna O'Brien, *The Country Girls*, *The Lonely Girl*, or *A Pagan Place*

Angela Carter, *Nights at the Circus*

Margaret Drabble, *The Radiant Way*

Jeanette Winterson, *Sexing the Cherry*

Zadie Smith, *On Beauty*

Drama

Caryl Churchill, *Vinegar Tom*, or *Top Girls* or *Cloud 9*
Sara Kane, *Blasted*

Prose Non-Fiction

Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own* and *Three Guineas*
Rebecca West, *The Young Rebecca* (edited by Jane Marcus)

H. Twentieth and Twenty-first Century American

Anthologies

Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar, editors. *The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women*,
3rd ed., 2007.

Poetry (begin with selections from *Norton Anthology*)

Edna St. Vincent Millay
Elizabeth Bishop
Louise Bogan
Gwendolyn Brooks
H.D.
Denise Levertov
Amy Lowell
Marianne Moore
Marge Piercy
Sylvia Plath
Elizabeth Bishop
Audre Lorde
Adrienne Rich
Muriel Rukeyser
Anne Sexton
Sharon Olds
Lucille Clifton
Rita Dove

Fiction

Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth*
Willa Cather, *My Ántonia*
Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wall-paper"
Nella Larsen, *Quicksand* or *Passing*
Djuna Barnes, *Ryder* or *Ladies Almanack* or *Nightwood*
Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
Gertrude Stein, *Three Lives* or *Tender Buttons* or *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*
Flannery O'Connor, *A Good Man is Hard to Find* or *Everything that Rises Must
Converge*
Sylvia Plath, *The Bell Jar*

Joyce Carol Oates, *them*
Toni Morrison, *Beloved*
Louise Erdrich, *Love Medicine* or Leslie Marmion Silko, *Storyteller*
Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*
Sandra Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street*

Drama

Susan Glaspell, *Trifles*
Lillian Hellman, *The Children's Hour* or *The Little Foxes*
Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun*
Ntozake Shange, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is
Enuf*
Wendy Wasserstein, *The Heidi Chronicles*

Non-fiction Prose

Audre Lorde, *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*
Adrienne Rich, *On Lies, Secrets, and Silence: Selected Prose*
Alice Walker, *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens*

I. Twentieth and Twenty-first Century Canadian

Anthologies

Rosemary Sullivan, editor. *The Oxford Book of Stories by Canadian Women in English*
Denise Chong, editor. *The Penguin Anthology Of Stories By Canadian Women*
Lisa Moore, editor. *The Penguin Book of Contemporary Canadian Women's Short
Stories*
Rosemary Sullivan, editor. *Poetry by Canadian Women*

Poetry

Dorothy Livesay, *The Woman I Am* or selected poetry
P.K. Page, selected poetry
Margaret Atwood, *The Journals of Susanna Moodie* and selected poetry
Daphne Marlatt, *Touch to My Tongue*
Lorna Crozier, *The Garden Going on Without Us* and *A Saving Grace*
Louise Halfe, *Bear Bones and Feathers*
Dionne Brand, *No Language is Neutral*
Erin Mouré, selected poetry
Rita Wong, selected poetry

Fiction

L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*
Nellie L. McClung, *Sowing Seeds in Danny* or *Purple Springs*
Martha Ostenso, *Wild Geese*
Ethel Wilson, *Swamp Angel*
Sheila Watson, *The Double Hook*

Mavis Gallant, *From the Fifteenth District*
Margaret Laurence, *The Diviners* and one other novel
Alice Munro, *Lives of Girls and Women* and ten selected stories
Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale* and one other novel
Maria Campbell, *Halfbreed*
Joy Kogawa, *Obasan*
Daphne Marlatt, *Ana Historic*
Carol Shields, *The Stone Diaries*
Ann-Marie MacDonald, *Fall on Your Knees*
Miriam Toews, *A Complicated Kindness*
Eden Robinson, "Queen of the North" and *Monkey Beach*
Selected stories from anthologies edited by Sullivan, Chong, and Moore

Drama

Linda Griffiths and Maria Campbell, *The Book of Jessica*
Ann-Marie MacDonald, *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning, Juliet)*
Sharon Pollock, *Blood Relations*
Djanet Sears, *Harlem Duet*
Judith Thompson, *Lion in the Streets*
Marie Clements, *The Edward Curtis Project*

Non-fiction prose

Nellie McClung, *In Times Like These*
Aritha Van Herk, *In Visible Ink: Crypto-Frictions*
Maria Campbell, ed., *Stories of the Road Allowance People*

J. Twentieth and Twenty-first Century Decolonizing and Diasporic Writing

Anthologies

Pamela Mordecai and Betty Wilson, editors. *Her True-True Name: An Anthology of Women's Writing from the Caribbean*.
Honor Ford Smith, editor. *Lionheart Gal: Life Stories of Jamaican Women*.
Jennifer Harrison and Kate Waterhouse, editors. *Motherlode: Australian Women's Poetry*, 2009.
Margaret Busby, editor. *New Daughters of Africa*, 2019.
Susan Hampton and Kate Llewelyn, editors. *The Penguin Book of Australian Women Poets*.
Lydia Wevers, editor. *Yellow Pencils: Contemporary Poetry by New Zealand Women*.

Poetry (read selections from the following authors)

Louise Bennett
M. Nourbese Philip
Dionne Brand
Grace Nichols
Lorna Goodison

Judith Wright
Gloria Anzaldua
Audre Lorde
Wong May
Kath Walker

Drama

Kon, Stella. *Emily of Emerald Hill*
Osonye Tess Onwueme, *Tell It to Women*

Fiction

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *Half of a Yellow Sun* or *The Thing Around Your Neck*
Ama Ata Aidoo, *Changes: A Love Story*
Dangaremba, Tsitsi, *Nervous Conditions*
Dionne Brand, *Another Place, Not Here*
Anita Desai, *Clear Light of Day*
Kamala Markandaya, *Nectar in a Sieve*
Kiran Desai, *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard*
Buchi Emecheta, *The Joys of Motherhood*
Sia Figiel, *They Who Do Not Grieve*
Patricia Grace, *Potiki*
Michelle Cliff, *No Telephone to Heaven*
Edwidge Danticat, *The Farming of Bones*
Mahasweta Devi, *Imaginary Maps*
Janet Frame, *State of Siege*
Nadine Gordimer, *Burgher's Daughter, July's People, or A Sport of Nature*
Head, Bessie. *A Collector of Treasures: And Other Botswana Village Tales*
Keri Hulme, *The Bone People*
Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place* or *Lucy*
Katherine Mansfield, "The Garden Party"
Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*
Olive Senior, "Summer Lightning" and other Stories
Zadie Smith, *White Teeth*
Christina Stead, *The Man who Loved Children*
Sara Suleri *Meatless Days*