Doctoral Reading Exams List: Critical Theory
(Many of these selections can be found in the Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism)

1) Marxism

Louis Althusser: “Ideology & Ideological State Apparatuses”
Theodor Adorno & Max Horkheimer: Dialectic of Enlightenment
Walter Benjamin: “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction”
Fredric Jameson: from The Political Unconscious (Preface and Ch.1)
Terry Eagleton: Marxism & Literary Criticism
Gayle Rubin, “The Traffic in Women”

2) Psychoanalysis

Freud: from The Interpretation of Dreams; 3 Essays on the Theory of Sexuality; “The Uncanny”
Jean Laplanche & Cathy Caruth: “Traumatic Temporality” [interview in Listening to Trauma]
Teresa Brennan, ed.: Between Feminism and Psychoanalysis (Intro., Whitford, Copjec essays)
Julia Kristeva: from Powers of Horror (Chs. 1 & 2 or selections in Portable Kristeva)
Leo Bersani, The Freudian Body: Psychoanalysis and Art
Lauren Berlant: Desire/Love

3) Formalism/New Criticism

W.K. Wimsatt & M.C. Beardsley: “The Intentional Fallacy”
T. S. Eliot: “Tradition and the Individual Talent”
Cleanth Brooks: from The Well-Wrought Urn
F.R. Leavis: from The Great Tradition
William Empson: from Seven Types of Ambiguity
Frank Lentricchia: After the New Criticism
Marjorie Levinson, “What Is New Formalism?”

4) Structuralism

Claude Levi-Strauss: “The Structural Study of Myth”
Ferdinand de Saussure: “Nature of the Linguistic Sign”; “Binary Oppositions”
Northrop Frye: The Archetypes of Literature
Jonathan Culler: Structuralist Poetics
Tzvetan Todorov: The Fantastic OR The Conquest of America
Roman Jakobson: Linguistics and Poetics
5) Post-Structuralism/Deconstruction

Friedrich Nietzsche: “On Truth and Lying in a Non-moral Sense”
Roland Barthes: “The Death of the Author”; The Pleasure of the Text
Michel Foucault: “What is an Author?”; “Nietzsche, Genealogy, History”; from Discipline & Punish (“The Carceral”)
Paul De Man: Allegories of Reading –OR— Blindness and Insight
Barbara Johnson: from The Barbara Johnson Reader (“Melville’s Fist”; “Nothing Fails Like Success; “Apostrophe, Animation, and Abortion”)

6) Feminism/Gender

Monique Wittig: “One is Not Born a Woman”
Helene Cixous: “The Laugh of the Medusa” OR Luce Irigaray: “This Sex Which is Not One”
Diana Fuss, Essentially Speaking
Judith Butler: Gender Trouble
Susan Bordo: from Unbearable Weight: Feminism, Western Culture, and the Body (Ch.5)
Elizabeth Grosz: from Space, Time and Perversion (Ch.1-3)
Cherrie Moraga & Gloria Anzaldua: This Bridge Called My Back

7) Queer Theory

Gayle Rubin: “Thinking Sex”
Michel Foucault: The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1
Eve K. Sedgwick: “Axiomatic” from Epistemology of the Closet; “Paranoid Reading and Reparative Reading” from Touching Feeling
Judith Butler: from Bodies That Matter (Chs. 1, 2, 8)
Lee Edelman: Homographesis –OR— No Future
Judith Halberstam: Female Masculinity – OR – In a Queer Time and Place
Lauren Berlant & Michael Warner: “Sex in Public”

8) Postcolonial

Edward Said: from Orientalism (“Introduction”)
Frantz Fanon: Black Skin, White Masks –OR- The Wretched of the Earth
Homi Bhabha: from The Location of Culture (“Of Mimicry and Man” and “DissemiNation”)
Gayatri C. Spivak: “Can the Subaltern Speak?”
Chandra Talpade Mohanty: “Under Western Eyes”
Ngugi wa Thiong’o: Decolonizing the Mind
Robert J. C. Young: from Colonial Desire (Chs. 1, 2, 7)

9) Critical Race/Ethnic Studies

Barbara Christian: “The Race for Theory”
Henry Louis Gates, Jr.: “Talking Black”
bell hooks: “Postmodern Blackness”
Toni Morrison: Playing in the Dark
Paul Gilroy: from The Black Atlantic (Chs. 1 & 2)
Gloria Anzaldua: Borderlands/La Frontera
Guillermo Gomez-Pena: The New World Border — OR — Dangerous Border Crossers

10) Postmodernism

Jean Francois Lyotard: The Postmodern Condition
Fredric Jameson: from Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism (Introduction, Chs. 1 & 2)
Linda Hutcheon: from The Poetics of Postmodernism (Introduction, Chs. 1 & 2)
Jean Baudrillard: Simulacra & Simulation
Gilles Deleuze & Felix Guattari: from A Thousand Plateaus (Introduction: Rhizome)
Donna Haraway: “Manifesto for Cyborgs”
Slavoj Zizek: The Sublime Object of Ideology

11) Narrative Theory

Mikhail Bakhtin: The Dialogic Imagination
Wayne Booth: The Rhetoric of Fiction
Martin McQuillan: "Aporias of Writing: Narrative and Subjectivity" from The Narrative Reader
Mark Currie: "Narrative, Politics and History" from Postmodern Narrative Theory
Mieke Bal: "Text: Words" from Narratology
Suzanne Keen: "Narrative Situation: Who's Who and What's its Function" from Narrative Form
David Herman, et.al.: Narrative Theory: Core Concepts and Critical Debates

12) Reader Response

Wolfgang Iser: Interaction Between Text and Reader
George Poulet: Phenomenology of Reading
E.D Hirsch Jr.: Objective Interpretation
Stanley Fish: Is There a Text in This Class?
Ellen Esrock: The Reader’s Eye: Visual Imaging as Reader Response
Elaine Scarry: from Dreaming by the Book (Chs. 1-3)

Bibliography—Selected Theory Sourcebooks