

English Renaissance Literature

The works which are numbered and marked with asterisks represent the core list for which all graduate students taking the Renaissance exam are responsible. The list as a whole is a fuller list from which students may wish to supplement the core list, according to their particular interests.

(1)*Sir Thomas More, *Utopia*

Sir Thomas Wyatt the Elder, *Complete Poems* (consult Norton)

Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, *The Poems of Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey* (consult Norton)

Edmund Spenser

The Shepherdes Calendar

(2) **The Faerie Queene*, Books 1 and 3 and the author's introduction ("A Letter of the Author's")

Sir Walter Raleigh

"The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd"

"Methought I saw the grave where Laura lay"

"The Author's Epitaph, Made by Himself"

Sir Philip Sidney

(3) **Astrophil and Stella*

(4) **Defense of Poesy*

The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia, Books I and II

Thomas Nashe, *The Unfortunate Traveler*

Thomas Kyd, *The Spanish Tragedy*

(5) *Christopher Marlowe, all of the below:

The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus

"The Passionate Shepherd to His Love"

"Hero and Leander"

William Shakespeare

(6) *The Sonnets

The Comedy of Errors

(7) **Twelfth Night*

(8) **Measure for Measure*

(9) **Henry IV*, Part 1

Richard III

(10) **Hamlet*

(11) **Othello*

(12) **King Lear*

(13) **Macbeth*

(14) **The Tempest*

Mary Sidney Herbert, Countess of Pembroke

The Psalms of Sir Philip Sidney and the Countess of Pembroke

Amelia Lanyer

(15) *"Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum"

"The Description of Cook-ham"

(16) *John Donne, from *Complete Poems*, all of the below:

Holy Sonnets

“A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning”

“The Flea”

“The Sun Rising”

“The Ecstasy”

“The Canonization”

Ben Jonson

The Alchemist

(17) **Volpone*

(18) *“To Penshurst”

“Inviting a Friend to Supper”

“Ode to Himself”

(19) *Lady Mary Wroth, “Pamphilia to Amphilanthus”

Francis Bacon

“Of Truth”

“Of Marriage and the Single Life”

“Of Superstition”

“The Advancement of Learning” (“The Abuses of Language”)

(20) *John Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi*

Elizabeth Cary, *The Tragedy of Maryam, the Fair Queen of Jewry*

John Marston, *The Malcontent*

John Ford, *‘Tis Pity She’s a Whore*

Thomas Middleton and William Rowley, *The Changeling*

Thomas Middleton, *The Revenger’s Tragedy*

*(21) Robert Herrick, *Poems*, all of the below:

“To the Virgins, To Make Much of Time”

“Corinna’s Gone A-Maying”

“Delight in Disorder”

*(22) George Herbert, *The Temple*, all of the below:

”Easter Wings”

“The Collar”

“Love III”

“The Pulley”

“The Altar”

“Jordan I”

“Jordan II”

Andrew Marvell, including:

(23) *”To His Coy Mistress”

(24) *”The Nymph Complaining for the Death of her Fawn

(25) *”An Horatian Ode”

“The Mower’s Song”

“Damon the Mower”

“The Garden”

“The Mower Against Gardens”

John Milton

(24) *"On His Blindness"

(25) *"On the Late Massacre in Piedmont"

(26) *"I Though I Saw My Late Espoused Saint"

"On the Morning of Christ's Nativity"

"L' Allegro"

"Il Penseroso"

(27) *"Lycidas"

(28) **Paradise Lost*

"Of Reformation Touching Church Discipline"

(29) **Areopagatica*

Robert Burton, "Democritus Junior to the Reader" (from *Anatomy of Melancholy*)

Continental Backgrounds

Baldassare Castiglione, *The Book of the Courtier*

Erasmus, *The Praise of Folly*

John Calvin, "Election, the Gospel, and Reprobation," "God's Ever-Present Hand"

Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*

Francesco Petrarca, *Sonnets*

Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, *Oration on the Dignity of Man*

Michel de Montaigne, from *Essays*: "On Cannibalism," "Of the Power of the Imagination," "Of the Affection of Fathers for Their Children"

Secondary Sources

Classical:

(1) *Aristotle, *Poetics*

(2) *Plato, *The Republic*

Ovid, *Metamorphoses*

Modern:

N.b.: Works have been categorized for readers' convenience, but please note that many categories overlap, and many works could fit more than one category.

Poetics

Paul Alpers, ed., *Elizabethan Poetry: Modern Essays in Criticism* (1967)

Harry Berger, *Second World and Green World: Studies in Renaissance Fiction-Making* (1988)

Patrick Cheney, *Marlowe's Counterfeit Profession: Ovid, Spenser, Counter-Nationhood* (1997)

Thomas Greene, *The Light in Troy: Imitation and Discovery in Renaissance Poetry* (1982)

- Richard Helgerson, *Self-Crowned Laureates: Spenser, Jonson, Milton, and the Literary System* (1983)
- William Kerrigan and Gordon Braden, *The Idea of the Renaissance* (1989)
- Barbara Lewalski, *Protestant Poetics and the Seventeenth-Century Religious Lyric* (1979)
- Leah Marcus, *Unediting the Renaissance: Shakespeare, Marlowe, Milton* (1996)
- Louis Martz, *The Poetry of Meditation: A Study in English Religious Literature of the Seventeenth Century* (1954)
- David Norbrook, *Poetry and Politics in the English Renaissance* (1984)
- (3) *G. W. Pigman, "Versions of Imitation in the Renaissance," *Renaissance Quarterly* 33 (1980): 1-32

Drama and Performance

- (4) *David Bevington, *From Mankind to Marlowe: Growth and Structure in the Popular Drama of Tudor England* (1962)
- (5) *Andrew Gurr, *The Shakespearean Stage, 1574-1642* (1980)
- Jean Howard, "Shakespeare, Geography, and the Work of Genre on the Early Modern Stage," *Modern Language Quarterly* 64:3 (September 2003): 299-322.
- Tiffany Stern, *Documents of Performance in Early Modern England* (2009)
- Daniel Vitkus, *Turning Turk: English Theater and the Multicultural Mediterranean* (2003)

Rhetoric

- Katherine Acheson, *Visual Rhetoric and Early Modern English Literature* (2013)
- Mary Crane, *Framing Authority: Sayings, Self and Society in Sixteenth-Century England* (1993)
- Wilbur Howell, *Logic and Rhetoric in England 1500-1700* (1961)
- Peter Mack, Quentin Skinner, Lorraine Daston, Dorothy Ross, and James Tully, *Elizabethan Rhetoric: Theory and Practice* (2002)

Gender Issues

- Lynda Boose, "The Family in Shakespeare Studies; or – Studies in the Family of Shakespeareans; or – The Politics of Politics," *Renaissance Quarterly* 40 (1987): 707-42
- Margaret Ferguson, Maureen Quilligan, and Nancy Vickers, eds., *Rewriting the Renaissance: The Discourses of Sexual Difference in Early Modern Europe* (1986)
- Linda Gregerson, *The Reformation of the Subject: Spenser, Milton and the English Protestant Epic* (1995)
- Karen Newman, *Fashioning Femininity and English Renaissance Drama* (1991)

Stephen Orgel, *Impersonations: The Performance of Gender in Shakespeare's England* (1996)

Patricia Parker, *Literary Fat Ladies: Rhetoric, Gender, Property* (1987)

(6) *Linda Woodbridge, *Women and the English Renaissance: Literature and the Nature of Womankind* (1986)

The Reformation

David Daniell, "Shakespeare and the Protestant Mind," *Shakespeare Survey* 54 (2001): 1-12

Michael Hattaway, *Renaissance and Reformations: An Introduction to Early Modern English Literature* (2005)

(7) *Christopher Hodgkins, *Reforming Empire: Protestant Colonialism and Conscience in British Literature* (2002).

Kristen Poole, *Religion from Shakespeare to Milton: Figures of Nonconformity in Early Modern England* (2006)

E. M. W. Tillyard, *The Elizabethan World Picture* (1943)

Print Culture and the Marketplace

Jean-Christophe Agnew, *Worlds Apart: The Market and the Theatre in Anglo-American Thought, 1550-1750* (1986)

Lukas Erne, *Shakespeare as Literary Dramatist* (2003)

John King, *Foxe's Book of Martyrs and Early Modern Print Culture* (2006)

(8) *Arthur Marotti, *Print, Manuscript, and Performance: The Changing Relations of the Media in Early Modern England* (2000)

Annabel M. Patterson, *Censorship and Interpretation: The Conditions of Writing And Reading in Early Modern England* (1984)

Roy Strong, *The Cult of Elizabeth: Elizabethan Portraiture and Pageantry* (1977)

Politics, Nationalism, Law

David Armitage, *The Ideological Origins of the British Empire* (2000)

Jonathan Dollimore, *Radical Tragedy: Religion, Ideology, and Power in the Drama of Shakespeare and His Contemporaries* (1984)

Jonathan Goldberg, *James I and the Politics of Literature: Jonson, Shakespeare, Donne, and their Contemporaries* (1983)

(9) *Stephen Greenblatt, *Renaissance Self-Fashioning: From More to Shakespeare* (1980)

John Guy, *Tudor England* (1988)

Richard Helgerson, *Forms of Nationhood: The Elizabethan Writing of England* (1992)

Christopher Hill, *The World Turned Upside Down: Radical Ideas during the English Revolution* (1972)

Jean Howard, "The New Historicism in Renaissance Studies," *English Literary Renaissance* 16 (1986): 13-43
Peter Laslett, *The World We Have Lost: England Before the Industrial Age* (1971)
Nabil Matar, *Turks, Moors, and Englishmen in the Age of Discovery* (1999)
Claire McEachern, *The Poetics of English Nationhood, 1590-1612* (2006)
John Rogers, *The Matter of Revolution: Science, Poetry, and Politics in the Age of Milton* (1996)

The Body

Mikhail Bakhtin, *Rabelais and His World* (1968)
David Hillman and Carla Mazzio, eds., *The Body in Parts: Fantasies of Corporeality in Early Modern Europe* (1993)
***10.** Gail Kern Paster, *The Body Embarrassed: Drama and the Disciplines of Shame in Early Modern England* (1993)
Michael Schoenfeldt, *Bodies and Selves in Early Modern England: Physiology and Inwardness in Shakespeare, Herbert and Milton* (1999)