FIELD III: ENGLISH LITERATURE FROM 1500-1600

STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS
AS PUBLISHED ON MAY 19, 2014

As a doctoral student taking the field exam in 16th-Century English Literature, you must familiarize yourself well with all primary and secondary texts on the reading list. Read in-context within the list: that is, comparing items within each subsection of the list and between sections, while also comparing your own impressions of the primary material with the diverse critical perspectives provided by the assigned secondary scholarship. In responding to questions on the exam, answer them directly and precisely. Aim for conveying thoughtfulness rather than just relaying knowledge of the assigned reading material. Incorporate clear theses, structured arguments, and mature prose expression. Responses should draw connections between multiple primary texts and incorporate relevant criticism in a manner that indicates familiarity with influential critical perspectives. In the process, convey a familiarity with the momentous religious and political changes in sixteenth-century England, as well as with cultural and material contexts for specific works (e.g. public or private dissemination, manuscript, print, stage). For these considerations, read beyond the assigned list of studies as need be. Examinees must receive a passing score on all questions in order to pass this exam.
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READING LIST
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PRIMARY TEXTS

Prose

Askew, Anne. Examinations [selections in Broadview Anthology of Sixteenth-Century Poetry and Prose]
Castiglione, Baldassare. The Book of the Courtier [in Thomas Hoby’s translation OR a modern translation]
Erasmus, Desiderius. The Praise of Folly [in Thomas Chaloner’s translation OR a modern translation]
Foxe, John. [from] Acts and Monuments [selected narratives: on the lives of Tyndale, Askew, and (together) Latimer and Ridley]
Gosson, Stephen. [from] The School of Abuse and [from] Plays Confuted in Five Actions [selections in Broadview Anthology]
Greene, Robert. [from] A Quip for an Upstart Courtier, [from] A Disputation…Whether a Thief or a Whore Is Most Hurtful in Cozenage to the Commonwealth, and [from] Greene’s Groatsworth of Wit [selections in Broadview Anthology]
Hakluyt, Richard. [from] (ed.) Principal Navigations…of the English Nation [selections in Broadview Anthology]
Legal and Popular Discourses on Witchcraft [selections in Broadview Anthology]
Lyly, John. Euphues: The Anatomy of Wit [selections in Broadview Anthology]
Machiavelli, Niccolo. The Prince [in a modern English translation]
More, Thomas. Utopia [in Ralph Robinson’s translation OR a modern translation]
Nashe, Thomas. The Unfortunate Traveller [Penguin edition recommended, with Steane’s Intro to Nashe]
Sidney, Philip. A Defense of Poesy (a.k.a. An Apology for Poetry)
Sidney, Philip. The Old Arcadia
Tyndale, William; and Thomas More. [from] Tyndale’s The Obedience of a Christian Man and [from] More’s A Dialogue Concerning Heresies [selections (e.g. Norton Anthology, with relevant introductions to “The Reformation,” “Faith in Conflict,” and “The English Bible”)]
Poetry

Elizabeth I, Queen of England. [10 works]: including “The Doubt of Future Foes”; “On Monsieur’s Departure”; and the queen’s Speech to the Troops at Tilbury (1588)

Elizabethan Court Poetry. [15 poems]: including Edward Dyer, “My Mind to Me a Kingdom Is”; Walter Ralegh and Elizabeth I, [verse exchange beginning “Fortune Hath Taken Thee Away, My Love”]; poems by Edward De Vere, Earl of Oxford; and poems by Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex. [As an excellent resource for this primary material, see Steven May’s book, The Elizabethan Courtier Poets (listed below).]

Marlowe, Christopher. Hero and Leander

Religious Verse: Mary (Sidney) Herbert, Countess of Pembroke [(trans.) 5 verse Psalms]; Anne Locke, A Meditation of a Penitent Sinner; and Robert Southwell [5 poems, including “The Burning Babe”]

Shakespeare, William. Venus and Adonis

Shakespeare, William. Sonnets 127 – 152

Sidney, Philip. Astrophil and Stella

Spenser, Edmund. Amoretti

Spenser, Edmund. Epithalamion [read in tandem with the Amoretti]

Spenser, Edmund. The Faerie Queene, Book 1

Spenser, Edmund. The Faerie Queene, Book 3

Spenser, Edmund. The Faerie Queene, Book 5

Spenser, Edmund. Two Cantos of Mutabilitie


Tottel, Richard. (ed.) Songs and Sonnets Written by the Right Honourable Lord Henry Howard Late Earl of Surrey, and Others (1557) [selections in Broadview Anthology]

Wyatt, Thomas. [20 poems]: including “I Find No Peace, and All My War is Done”; “The Long Love that in my Thought Doth Harbor”; “They Flee From Me”; and “Whoso List to Hunt, I Know Where is a Hind”

Drama

Mankind

Bale, John. King Johan

Kyd, Thomas. The Spanish Tragedy
Lyly, John.  *Gallathea*
Marlowe, Christopher.  *Doctor Faustus*
Marlowe, Christopher.  *The Jew of Malta*
Marlowe, Christopher.  *Edward II*
Shakespeare, William.  *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*
Shakespeare, William.  *The Merchant of Venice*
Shakespeare, William.  *Richard II*
Shakespeare, William.  *Henry IV, Part 1*
Shakespeare, William.  *Henry IV, Part 2*
Shakespeare, William.  *Henry V*
Shakespeare, William.  *Hamlet*

**CRITICAL STUDIES**

**Prose**


**Poetry**


Marotti, Arthur F. *Manuscript, Print, and the English Renaissance Lyric* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1995). [Ch. 1 + Ch. 4 (pp. 209-38) + Ch. 5 (pp. 291-317)]


**Drama**

Altman, Joel B. *The Tudor Play of Mind: Rhetorical Inquiry and the Development of Elizabethan Drama* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1978). [Intro + Ch. 1-3 + Ch. 7-10]


Knutson, Roslyn L. *Playing Companies and Commerce in Shakespeare’s Time* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001). [Ch. 1-3 + Ch. 5 + Conclusion]


**General**

Grafton, Anthony; and Lisa Jardine. *From Humanism to the Humanities: Education and the Liberal Arts in Fifteenth- and Sixteenth-Century Europe* (London: Duckworth, 1986). [Intro + Ch. 6-7 + Conclusion]
