

Reading Lists for English, Jesus College

Victorian

For the Victorians, please read at least **twenty** items from the following reading list before you arrive in Oxford. You should read not only novels, but also some of the essays and General Reading materials. Read widely and broadly. You should also read beyond this reading list, pursuing your own areas of interest. This is what will be expected of you during your time at Oxford.

Specific Texts: either the Penguin Classics or the Oxford World's Classics Series offer good introductions to these texts. All these are paperback editions.

Charles Dickens:

Little Dorrit

Bleak House

The Pickwick Papers

A Tale of Two Cities

Selected Journalism: 1850-1870

A Christmas Carol and Other Victorian Fairytales by John Ruskin and Others (Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing)

Short Stories by Charles Dickens (Thorne's Publishing)

George Eliot:

Middlemarch (Penguin Classics, 2003)

Adam Bede

Daniel Deronda

The Mill on the Floss

Felix Holt

The Lifted Veil/Brother Jacob (Oxford World Classics)

Elizabeth Gaskell

The Cranford Chronicles

North and South

Wives and Daughters

Ruth (Penguin Classics)

Henry James

What Maisie Knew & The Aspern Papers

The Turn of the Screw

The Spoils of Poynton

The Portrait of a Lady

The Golden Bowl

London Stories and Other Writings

Thomas Hardy

The Withered Arm and Other Stories (Penguin Classics)

The Woodlanders

A Pair of Blue Eyes

The Mayor of Casterbridge

The Return of the Native

Under the Greenwood Tree

The Literary Notebooks of Thomas Hardy (Palgrave Macmillan).

Poetry

The Collected Tennyson (Wordsworth Poetry Library)

The Complete Poems of Christina Rossetti (Penguin Classics)

The New Oxford Book of Victorian Verse by **Christopher Ricks** (Oxford, 2002)

Decadent Poetry: From Wilde To Naidu (Penguin Classics, 2006)

Poems and Prose of Gerald Manley Hopkins, ed. **W.H. Gardner** (Penguin)

Essays/Other

The Complete Works of Oscar Wilde (Collins Classic, 2003).

The Renaissance: Studies in Art and Poetry by **Walter Pater** (Oxford World Classics)

Marius The Epicurean: His Sensation and Ideas by **Walter Pater**

John Ruskin: Selected Works ed. **Dinah Birch** (Oxford World Classics, 2004)

The Selected Essays of John Cardinal Newman, ed. **George Sampson**

Selected Writings of Thomas Carlyle (Penguin Classics)

New Grub Street, **George Gissing** (Oxford World Classics), the pre-eminent realist novel

General Reading:

A Companion to Victorian Literature and Culture by **Herbert F. Tucker** (Blackwell Companion Series, Blackwells paperback, 1999)

Victorian Poetry, Poetics, Politics by **Isobel Armstrong** (Routledge paperback, 1996)

Victorian Literature and Culture by **Maureen Moran** (Continuum International Publishing, 2006)

Key Concepts in Victorian Literature by **Sean Purchase** (Palgrave, 2006).

Topics to think about include:

Society and religion (*conventions and strictures*), tradition, pedantry, Darwinism (survival of the fittest, adaptation), New Science, Industrialisation, the City, Realism (including so-called 'realistic' narrative styles), the Family and the role of women, Marriage, Victorian notions of femininity, Art and aesthetics/Decadence, Pastoralism.

Old English

You will be studying Old English (or 'Anglo-Saxon') throughout your first year. This paper offers an opportunity to learn about the earliest extant English literature: the canonical *Beowulf* as well as elegies, riddles, dream-visions, heroic poetry, and religious verse. The period studied covers the 6th century through to the 11th, an era that saw the conversion of the 'English' to Christianity, the Viking invasions, the reign of King Alfred, the production of cultural artefacts such as the Lindisfarne gospels and the Sutton Hoo treasures, and the writing down of a diverse range of vernacular texts.

The poems produced during this period are complex and varied and have continued to influence poets throughout English literary history. One obvious example is Seamus Heaney, and a good place to start your reading is Heaney's translation of *Beowulf*. Please buy the **Norton edition of Heaney's *Beowulf*** and read the poem before you come up. You should also get hold of an **anthology** or two of Old English verse in translation: for instance *Anglo-Saxon Poetry* (trans. and ed. **S. A. J. Bradley**) [excellent range although the translations are prose], *A Choice of Anglo-Saxon Verse* (ed. and trans. **Richard Hamer**) [very useful parallel text will help you to get a feel for the language, although this edition doesn't contain so many texts], or *The Anglo-Saxon World: An Anthology* (ed. **Kevin Crossley-Holland**) [excellent range]. Read widely within your anthology; this will help you to begin to get a sense of the literature and culture of the period. Please also get hold of **Daniel Donoghue, *Old English Literature: A Short Introduction* (Blackwell, 2004)** and read this as further preparation. We do not expect you to do language work before you come up; however you need to buy a copy of *A Guide to Old English*, ed. **Bruce Mitchell and Fred C. Robinson, 7th edition** (Blackwell, 2007).

Paper 1: Introduction to Literary Studies

This paper is designed to introduce you to various aspects of reading literature; for example, the study of genre, literary and non-literary language, voice (e.g. the lyrical voice) register and tone, the political implications of a text, reading a text through a form of critical theory (e.g. post-structuralism or feminist theory). What will be called into question here is the way in which we read texts. For instance, your first essay for this paper will involve an investigation of narrative technique; the essay will follow on from a class. Your tutor will select passages from 2-3 authors that will include Henry James' *A Portrait of a Lady* and Cardinal Newman's *Apologia Pro Vita Sua*. Both authors construct multiple authorial voices and vantage points that are often very slippery. The relationship between the author and 'implied reader' will be given particular attention.

Please read at least five of these books during the summer:

The Art of Fiction: Illustrated from Classic and Modern Texts by **David Lodge** (Penguin Paperback, 1993)
Language and Fiction: Essays in Criticism and Verbal Analysis of the English Novel by **David Lodge** (London and New York, 1966)
Modes of Modern Writing: Metaphor, Metonymy and the Typology of Modern Literature by **David Lodge** (Hodder Arnold, 1977)
The Cambridge Companion to Narrative (Cambridge University Press, 2007)
Intertextuality by **Graham Allen** (New Critical Idiom)
Intertextuality: Debates and Contexts by **Mary Orr** (Polity Press, 2003)
The Literary Mind by **Mark Turner** (Oxford University Press)
Metaphors We Live By by **George Lakoff** (Chicago University Press)
Metaphor: A Practical Introduction by **Zoltan Kovecses** (Oxford University Press)
Language and World Creations in Poems and Other Texts by **Elana Semino** (Longman)
The Force of Poetry by **Christopher Ricks** (Clarendon Press)
The State of the Language by **Christopher Ricks & Leonard Michaels** (Faber & Faber)
Essays in Appreciation by **Christopher Ricks** (Oxford Paperbacks)
54 Ways of Looking at a Poem by **Ruth Padel** (Vintage, 2004)

Twentieth Century

You are **not required** to begin reading for this paper, which is not studied until the second term. However, if you would like to begin the reading that would give you a head start. Useful general reading includes:

Modernism: An Anthology of Sources and Documents Ed. **Vassiliki Kolocotroni**
Modernism: An Anthology Ed. by **Lawrence Rainey** (Blackwells Publishing)
Early Modernism: Literature, Music, and Painting in Europe 1900-1916 by **Christopher Butler**
Postmodern Narrative Theory by **Mark Currie**
The Cambridge Introduction to Modern British Fiction 1950-2000 by **Dominic Head**
Strong Words: Modern Poets on Modern Poetry ed. **W.N. Herbert & Matthew Hollis** (Bloodaxe Books, 2006)
Modes of Modern Writing: Metaphor, Metonymy and the Typology of Modern Literature by **David Lodge** (Hodder Arnold, 1977), [also useful for Paper 1]

You could also read the novels of **James Joyce**, **Virginia Woolf**, **Henry Green**, **Wyndham Lewis**, and **E.M. Forster**, the plays of **Samuel Beckett** and **Tom Stoppard**, and the poetry of **D.H. Lawrence**, **Dylan Thomas**, **Ted Hughes**, **Sylvia Plath**, **W.H. Auden**, and **T.S. Eliot**.