

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

PhD FIELD EXAMINATION

READING LIST

CANADIAN LITERATURE

In order to develop a wide-ranging competency to teach and research in the field of Canadian Literature, candidates will prepare a reading list according to the instructions and requirements below.

1. Instructions

Students **must** be conversant with the major texts and developments in Canadian literary criticism, scholarship, and theory from the colonial period to the present (see **Recommended Secondary Sources** below).

2. Exam Structure

- i. Students are required to answer **THREE** questions—one for each of Part A (Poetry and Drama), Part B (Prose), and Part C (General). All questions are of equal value.
- ii. Students must not write extensively on the same author twice.

CORE TEXTS

Definition of “selections”: Students should be familiar with a quantity of material roughly comparable to an inclusion in a literary anthology. In order to identify appropriate selections, students should consult existing anthologies of Canadian literature (some suggestions are included at the end of this reading list).

Colonial (1670 - 1867)

Bentley, D.M.R., ed. *Early Long Poems on Canada* and Canadian Poetry Press Editions of Early Canadian Long Poems (four long poems from the period)

Brooke, Frances. *The History of Emily Montague* Selections in *Early Writing in Canada*.

Copway, George. *The life, history and travels of Kah-ge-ga-gah-bowh (George Copway)*

Haliburton, Thomas Chandler. Selections in *Early Writing in Canada*

Maungwudaus, *An Account of the Chippewa Indians*

Moodie, Susanna. *Roughing It in the Bush*

Richardson, John. *Wacousta*

Shadd, Mary A. Selections from *A Plea for Emigration; or, Notes of Canada West in its Moral, Social and Political Aspect*

Trill, Catharine Parr. *The Backwoods of Canada*

Literatures of “Exploration”: selections from Kelsey, Henry, Hearne, Thompson

Confederation (1867-1920)

Carman, Bliss. Poetry selections
Crawford, Isabella Valancy. *Malcolm's Katie*
Duncan, Sara Jeannette. *The Imperialist*
Eaton, Edith (Sui Sin Far). Selections from *Mrs. Spring Fragrance and Other Stories*
Gordon, Charles (Ralph Connor). *The Man From Glengarry* or *Glengarry School Days*
Johnson, E. Pauline. "A Red Girl's Reasoning" and "A Strong Race Opinion: On the Indian Girl in Modern Fiction" as well as poetry selections
Lampman, Archibald. Poetry selections
Leacock, Stephen. *Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town* or *Arcadian Adventures with the Idle Rich*
Montgomery, Lucy Maude. *Anne of Gables* or *Emily of New Moon*
Roberts, Charles G. D. Poetry selections and one story
Scott, Duncan Cambell. Poetry selections

Modern (1920-1970)

Buckler, Ernest. *The Mountain and the Valley*
Callaghan, Morley. A novel or volume of short stories
Carr, Emily. *Klee Wyck*
Davies, Robertson. A novel
Grove, F.P. A novel
Klein, A.M. *The Second Scroll*
Laurence, Margaret. A novel
MacLennan, Hugh. A novel
Ostenso, Margaret. *Wild Geese*
Richler, Mordecai. *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz* or *St. Urbain's Horseman*
Ross, Sinclair. *As For Me and My House*
Watson, Sheila. *The Double Hook*
Poetry: Selections from Avison, Birney, Klein, Livesay, Page, Pratt, F.R. Scott, Smith

Contemporary (1970-)

Atwood, Margaret. A novel or volume of poetry
Brand, Dionne. A novel or volume of poetry
Campbell, Maria. *Halfbreed*
Clarke, Austin. A novel or volume of stories
Crummey, Michael. *River Thieves*
Chariandy, David. A novel
Donoghue, Emma. A novel
Edugyan, Esi. A novel
Findley, Timothy. A novel
Hage, Rawi. A novel
Hopkinson, Nalo. A novel
Kogawa, Joy. *Obasan*
Marlatt, Daphne. A novel or volume of stories
McLeod, Alistair. A volume of stories
Mistry, Rohinton. A novel or volume of stories
Moore, Lisa. A novel or volume of short stories

Munro, Alice. A volume of stories
Ondaatje, Michael. A novel
Robinson, Eden. A novel
Scott, Gail. A novel or volume of stories
Shields, Carol. A novel or volume of stories
Simpson, Leanne Betasamosake. *Islands of Decolonial Love: Stories and Songs*
Thien, Madeleine. A novel or volume of stories
Wah, Fred. *Diamond Grill*

Drama

Anthony, Trey. *'da Kink in My Hair*
MacDonald, Anne Marie. A play
Harvey, Kim Senklip. *Kamloopa*
Reaney, James. A play
Sears, d'Janet. *Harlem Duet*
Pollock, Sharon. A play
Highway, Tomson. A play
Walker, George. A play

Poetry

Selections from Abel, Armstrong, Belcourt, bissett, Brand, Carson, Clarke, Cohen, Compton,
Dumont, Halfe, Kiyooka, Kroetsch, Lee, Lubrin, MacEwen, Marlatt, McKay, Moure, nichol,
Ondaatje, Philip, Purdy, Wallace, Webb

SECONDARY MATERIALS

History of Criticism

Students should develop an awareness of critical approaches and debates in the study of Canadian literature. This includes the ability to recognize and to think critically about the fact that some works express ideas or approaches that are no longer considered current or appropriate. The following lists are meant to guide students to some sources from different periods.

20th Century

Atwood, Margaret. *Survival: A Guide to Canadian Literature*.
Bentley, D.M.R. *The Gay]Grey Moose: Essays on the Ecologies and Mythologies of Canadian Poetry, 1690-1990*
Daymond, Douglas, and Leslie Monkman, eds. *Towards a Canadian Literature*
Davey, Frank. *Post-National Arguments: The Politics of the Anglophone-Canadian Novel Since 1967*
Dudek, Louis, and Michael Gnarowski, eds. *The Making of Modern Poetry in Canada*
Frye, Northrop. *The Bush Garden*
Hebel, A, D. Pennee and J.R. Struthers, eds. *New Contexts of Canadian Criticism*
Hutcheon, Linda. *The Canadian Postmodern*
Kroetsch, Robert. *The Lovely Treachery of Words*
Mandel, Eli, ed. *Contexts of Canadian Criticism*

21st Century

Coleman, Daniel. *White Civility: The Literary Project of English Canada*
Compton, Wade. *After Canaan: Essays on Race, Writing, and Region*
Fee, Margery. *Literary Land Claims: the "Indian Land Question" from Pontiac's War to Attawapiskat*
Watkins, Paul. *Soundin' Canaan: Black Canadian Poetry, Music, and Citizenship*
Kamboureli, Smaro and Larissa Lai, eds. *Land/Relations: Possibilities of Justice in Canadian Literatures*
Krotz, Sarah Wylie. *Mapping with Words: Anglo-Canadian Literary Cartographies, 1789-1916*
Macfarlane, Heather, and Armand Garnet Ruffo, eds. *Introduction to Indigenous Literary Criticism in Canada*
McCall, Sophie, et al, eds. *Cultural Grammars of Nation, Diaspora, and Indigeneity in Canada*
McGregor, Hannah, et al, eds. *Refuse: CanLit in Ruins*
Sugars, Cynthia, ed. *Unhomely States: Theorizing English-Canadian Postcolonialism*

To develop a sense of current scholarship in the field, consult recent issues of the academic journals *Canadian Literature* and *Studies in Canadian Literature*

Anthologies

Bennett, Donna and Russell Brown. *A New Anthology of Canadian Literature in English*
Bentley, David, ed. [*Early Canadian Long Poems*](#)
---. [*Early Writing in Canada - CanadianPoetry.org*](#)
Geddes, Gary, ed. *15 Canadian Poets Times 3*

Moses, Daniel David and Terry Goldie, eds. *An Anthology of Canadian Native Literature in English*, 4th edition
Moss, Laura, and Cynthia Sugars, eds. *Canadian Literature in English: Texts and Contexts*, vol. 1&2
Ondaatje, Michael, ed. *The Long Poem Anthology*
Thesen, Sharon, ed. *The New Long Poem Anthology*
Warkentin, Germaine. *Canadian Exploration Literature: An Anthology*

Suggested Reference Sources

Bailey, Alfred et al, eds. *Literary History of Canada*, vol. I-IV
Kröller, Eva Marie, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Canadian Literature*
Sugars, Cynthia, ed. *The Oxford Handbook of Canadian Literature*

Departmental regulations regarding PhD comprehensive exams can be found @ the following site: <https://www.uwo.ca/english/graduate/phd/index.html>.