

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

PHD QUALIFYING EXAMINATION READING LIST

English 9920 (SF)/ 9940 (PF)

WOMEN'S LITERATURE AND GENDER STUDIES

RUBRIC

Candidates writing the **secondary exam** should select **three sub-fields, including gender studies**, on which to focus. From these fields, candidates should select **80 texts**, divided roughly equally among the three fields. (Often several texts are listed per author; you may choose as few or many texts listed per author as you wish to make up your totals.) If the candidate wishes, **they may add up to 5 texts** not represented on this list to their final roster. These additions must be made in consultation with the committee.

Candidates writing the **primary exam** should select **four sub-fields, including gender studies**, on which to focus. From these fields, candidates should select **100 texts**, divided roughly equally among the four fields. (Often several texts are listed per author; you may choose as few or many texts listed per author as you wish to make up your totals.) If the candidate wishes, **they may add up to 10 texts** not represented on this list to their final roster. These additions must be made in consultation with the committee.

Note that in subfields 1-5, texts are listed broadly chronologically, from earliest to latest; in subfield 6, texts are listed alphabetically.

Subfield 1:
Literature by Women pre-1850

Angela of Foligno, *Angela of Foligno's Memorial*, trans. John Cirignano (Boydell and Brewer, 2000)

St. Bridget of Sweden, *Life and Selected Revelations of Birgitta of Sweden*, trans. Albert Ryle Kezel (Ed. Marguerite Tjader Harris, Paulist Press, 1990)

Julian of Norwich, "A Vision Showed to a Devout Women" in *The Writings of Julian of Norwich*, ed. Nicholas Watson and Jacqueline Jenkins (Penn State UP, 2005)

Margery Kempe, *The Book of Margery Kempe*, trans. Anthony Bale (OUP, 2015)

Marguerite Porete, *The Mirror of Simple Souls*, trans. Ellen Babinsky (Paulist Press, 1993)
Ancrene Wisse, trans. Bella Millett (Liverpool UP, 2009)

Woman Defamed and Woman Defended: An Anthology of Medieval Texts (selections of your choice), ed. Alcuin Blamires, with Karen Pratt and C.W. Marx (Oxford University Press, 1992)

Christine de Pizan, *The Book of the City of Ladies*, trans. Earl Jeffrey Richards (Persea Books, 1982, 1998)

Marie de France. *The Lais of Marie de France*, ed. and trans. Claire Waters (Broadview, 2018)

Anne Askew, *The Examinations of Anne Askew*

Jane Anger, *Her Protection for Women*
Mary Sidney Herbert, selected poems
Amelia Lanyer, *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum*
Anne Clifford, *Memoir of 1603 and the Diary of 1616-1619*.
Joseph Swetnam, *The Arraignment of Lewd, Idle, Forward and Unconstant Women*
Rachel Speght, *A Muzzle for Melastomus; Mortalities Memorandum with a Dreame Prefixed*
Mary Wroth, *The Countesse of Montgomeries Urania*, Vol. 1 Book 1; *Pamphilia to Amphilanthus*
Katherine Philips, selected poems
Anne Bradstreet, selected poems
Margaret Cavendish, *The Blazing World; Convent of Pleasure*
Margaret Fell, *Women's Speaking Justified*
Aphra Behn, "The Disappointment"; *Widow Ranter, Oronooko*
Mary Rowlandson, *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*
Mary Astell, *A Serious Proposal to the Ladies; Reflections Upon Marriage*
Anne Finch, selected poems
Delarivier Manley, *The Adventures of Rivella*
Mary Wortley Montagu, *The Turkish Embassy Letters*
Sarah Fielding, *The Adventures of David Simple*
Mary Leapor, selected poems
Eliza Haywood, *The History of Miss Betsy Thoughtless*
Charlotte Lennox, *The Female Quixote*
Sarah Scott, *A Description of Millenium Hall*
Phillis Wheatley, selected poems
Frances Burney, *Evelina*
Hannah More, "The Slave Trade"; "Sensibility"
Judith Sargent Murray, selected poems
Mary Wollstonecraft, *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*
Hannah Webster Foster, *The Coquette, or The History of Eliza Wharton*
Dorothy Wordsworth, *Journals*
Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey; Pride and Prejudice*
Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
Catharine Maria Sedgwick, *Hope Leslie*
Margaret Fuller, *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*
Mary Prince, *The History of Mary Prince*
Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre*

Subfield 2:

Literature by women post-1850 in Britain and Ireland

Florence Nightingale, *Cassandra*
Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *Aurora Leigh*
George Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*
Mary Elizabeth Braddon, *Lady Audley's Secret*
Christina Rossetti, "Goblin Market"
John Stuart Mill, *The Subjection of Women*

Olive Schreiner, *The Story of an African Farm; Women and Labor*
Sarah Grand, *The Heavenly Twins*
Mona Caird, *The Wing of Azrael*
Michael Field, *Selected Poetry*
Christabel Pankhurst, *The Great Scourge and How to End It*
Mina Loy, Selected Poems and “Feminist Manifesto” (*The Lost Lunar Baedeker*, Ed. Roger L. Conover, 1997)
Dorothy Richardson, *Pointed Roofs*
Rebecca West, *The Return of the Soldier*
May Sinclair, *The Life and Death of Harriett Freen*
Edith Sitwell, *Façade*
Mary Butts, *Armed with Madness*
Radclyffe Hall, *The Well of Loneliness*
Virginia Woolf, *Orlando; A Room of One’s Own*
Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth*
Djuna Barnes, *Nightwood*
Isak Dinesen, *Out of Africa*
H.D., *Selected Poems*
Edna O’Brien, *The Country Girls*
Doris Lessing, *The Golden Notebook*
Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
Iris Murdoch, *The Sea, The Sea*
Angela Carter, *Nights at the Circus*
Jeanette Winterson, *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*
Janice Galloway, *The Trick is to Keep Breathing*
A.S. Byatt, *Possession*
Pat Barker, *Regeneration*
Jackie Kay, *Trumpet*
Carol Ann Duffy, *The World’s Wife*
Zadie Smith, *White Teeth*
Sarah Waters, *Affinity*
Monica Ali, *Brick Lane*
Ali Smith, *How to be Both*

Subfield 3:

Literature by women in Canada and the US, during and after colonization

Canada

Catharine Parr Traill, *The Backwoods of Canada*
Isabella Valancy Crawford, *Malcolm’s Katie*
Sara Jeannette Duncan, *Cousin Cinderella*
Sui Sin Far (Edith Maud Eton), “Mrs. Spring Fragrance”
E. Pauline Johnson Tekahionwake, selected poetry; “A Strong Race Opinion: On the Indian Girl in Modern Fiction”
Nellie McClung, *Purple Springs*; “Speaking of Women”
Lucy Maud Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables; Rilla of Ingleside; Emily of New Moon*

Jesse Georgina Sime, *Sister Woman*
Laura Goodman Salverson, *Confessions of an Immigrant's Daughter*
Gabrielle Roy, *The Tin Flute* (trans. *Bonheur d'occasion*: two translations available, your choice)
Phyllis Webb, *Naked Poems*
Margaret Laurence, *The Stone Angel*; *The Diviners*
Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*; *Surfacing*
Antonine Maillet, *Pélagie* (trans. *Pélagie la Charette*, by Philip Stratford, 1983)
Lee Maracle, *Bobbi Lee: Indian Rebel*
Daphne Marlatt, *Ana Historic*
Daphne Marlatt and Betsy Warland, *Two Women in a Birth*
Aritha Van Herk, *No Fixed Address: An Amorous Journey*
Jane Rule, *The Young in One Another's Arms*
Audrey Thomas, *Mrs. Blood*; *Isobel Gunn*
Dionne Brand, *Theory*; *No Language is Neutral*
Nicole Brossard, *These Our Mothers* (trans. of Lamer, 1977); *Mauve Desert*
Mary di Michele, *Mimosa and Other Poems*
Shani Mootoo, *Out on Main Street and Other Stories*; *Cereus Blooms at Night*
Alice Munro, *Lives of Girls and Women*.
Dorothy Livesay, selected poetry
Bharati Mukherjee, *Wife*
M. NourbeSe Philip, *She Tries Her Tongue, Her Silence Softly Breaks*
Marilyn Dumont, *A Really Good Brown Girl*
Kim Fu, *For Today I Am a Boy*
Larissa Lai, *Salt Fish Girl*
Kim Thúy, *Mãn* (trans. Sheila Fischman, 2014)

United States of America

Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
Fanny Fern, *Ruth Hall*
Emily Dickinson, selected poems
Harriet Wilson, *Our Nig*
Rebecca Harding Davis, "Life in the Iron Mills"
Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*
Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*; *Moods*; "Transcendental Wild Oats"
Anna Julia Cooper, "Woman vs. the Indian"; "Has America a Race Problem; If So, How Can It Best Be Solved"
Ida B. Wells-Barnett, *Mob Rule in New Orleans*
Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Women and Economics*
Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*
Pauline Hopkins, *Contending Forces*; *Of One Blood*
Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth*; *The Age of Innocence*
Willa Cather, *My Antonia*; *O Pioneers!*; *The Song of the Lark*
Nella Larsen, *Passing*
Gertrude Stein, *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*
Flannery O'Connor, "Good Country People", "A Good Man is Hard to Find"
Gwendolyn Brooks, selected poems

Adrienne Rich, selected poems
Audre Lorde, selected poems
Maya Angelou, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*
Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*
Toni Morrison, *Song of Solomon; Beloved*
Octavia Butler, *Kindred; Parable of the Sower*
Sandra Cisneros, *Woman Hollering Creek; The House on Mango Street*
Dorothy Allison, *Bastard Out of Carolina*
Julia Alvarez, *Yo!*
Barbara Kingsolver, *The Poisonwood Bible; Flight Behavior*

Subfield 4:
Anti-colonial, Global Southern, and Indigenous perspectives
(in addition to those included in subfield 3 and subfield 5)

Zitkala-Sa, *American Indian Stories*
Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony*
Buchi Emecheta, *The Bride Price*
Beth Brant, ed., *A Gathering of Spirit: A Collection of North American Indian Women*
Maria Campbell, *Halfbreed*
Chrystos, *Dream On*
Tsitsi Dangaremba, *Nervous Conditions*
Erna Brobner, *Myal*
Joy Harjo, *She Had Some Horses*
Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*
Edwidge Danticat, *Krik? Krak!; The Farming of Bones*
Olive Senior, *Gardening in the Tropics*
Patricia Grace, *Potiki*
Sally Morgan, *My Place*
Louise Erdrich, *Love Medicine*; selected poems
Jamaica Kincaid, *Annie John; The Autobiography of My Mother*
Anita Desai, *Clear Light of Day*
Bapsi Sidhwa, *Cracking India*
Sara Suleri, *Meatless Days*
Chinelo Okparanta, *Under the Udala Trees*
Eden Robinson, *Monkey Beach*
Tracey Lindberg, *Birdie*
Vivienne Cleven, *Bitin' Back*

Subfield 5:
Drama by women in English, including select titles in feminist performance theory

Great Britain and Ireland

Elizabeth Cary, *The Tragedy of Mariam*
Aphra Behn, *The Rover*
Cicely Hamilton, *How the Vote Was Won*

Elizabeth Robins, *Alan's Wife; Votes for Women*
Lady Augusta Gregory, selections from *Seven Short Plays, Our Irish Theatre*
Caryl Churchill, *Top Girls; Serious Money; A Number; Far Away*
Lucy Prebble, *Enron*
Lucy Kirkwood, *Chimerica*
debbie tucker green, *Stoning Mary; Ear for Eye*
Sarah Kane, *Blasted; Cleansed; 4.48 Psychosis*
Marina Carr, *By the Bog of Cats; Woman and Scarecrow; The Mai*

United States of America

Suzan-Lori Parks, *Venus; The America Play*
Lynn Nottage, *Ruined; Intimate Apparel*
Naomi Wallace, *In the Heart of America; The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek*
Naomi Izuka, *Skin*
Cherríe Moraga, *The Hungry Woman*
Holly Hughes, *Dress Suits to Hire, Clit Notes*
Peggy Shaw, *Menopausal Gentleman*

Canada

Amy Redpath Roddick, *The Birth of Montreal*
Gwen Pharis Ringwood, *Still Stands The House*
Sharon Pollock, *Blood Relations; The Komagata Maru Incident*
Margo Kane, *Moonlodge*
Judith Thompson, *I Am Yours; Palace of the End; RARE*
Marie Clements, *The Unnatural and Accidental Women; Burning Vision*
Yvette Nolan, *Annie Mae's Movement; The Unplugging*
Anita Majumdar, *Fish Eyes Trilogy*
Evalyn Parry, Anna Chatterton, and Karin Randoja (The Independent Aunties), *Gertrude and Alice*
Trey Anthony, *'da Kink in My Hair*
Djanet Sears, *Harlem Duet; Afrika Solo*
Lorena Gale, *Angélique*
Nina Lee Aquino and Nadine Vallasin, *Miss Orient(ed)*
Marjorie Chan, *China Doll*
Sunny Drake, *No Strings (Attached)*
Indian Acts: Residential School Plays (selections)
Queer Play: An Anthology of Queer Women's Performance and Plays (selections)

Select feminist performance theory

Jill Dolan, *The Feminist Spectator as Critic*
Elin Diamond, "Brechtian Theory/Feminist Theory"; "Realism's Hysteria"
Peggy Phelan, *Unmarked: The Politics of Performance*
Lynda Hart and Peggy Phelan, eds, *Acting Out: Feminist Performances*
Sue Ellen Case, "Toward a Butch-Femme Aesthetic"
Alicia Arrizon, *Queering Mestizaje: Transculturation and Performance*
Lisa Anderson, *Black Feminism in Contemporary Drama*

Elaine Aston, "Feeling the Loss of Feminism," *Feminist Theatre Practice: A Handbook*
Elaine Aston and Geraldine Harris, *A Good Night Out For The Girls*
Kim Solga, *Theatre & Feminism*

Subfield 6:
Gender Theory including Trans perspectives

Michelle Ann Abate, and Kenneth Kidd, eds, Introduction to *Over the Rainbow: Queer Children's and Young Adult Literature*
Sara Ahmed, *The Promise of Happiness*
Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera*
Jean Barman et al, eds. *Indigenous Feminism: Politics, Activism, Culture*
Michele Barrett, *Women's Oppression Today* (second edition)
Lauren Berlant, *The Queen of America Goes To Washington City*
Lauren Berlant and Lee Edelman, *Sex, Or The Unbearable*
Rosi Braidotti, *Metamorphoses*
Steven Bruhm and Nat Hurley, eds., Introduction to *Curioser: On The Queerness of Children*
Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble; Bodies that Matter*; one post-2000 Butler volume
Barbara Christian, "The Race for Theory"
Hélène Cixous and Catherine Clément, *The Newly Born Woman*
Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought* (second edition)
Brittney Cooper, *Eloquent Rage*
Kimberlé Crenshaw, "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color"
Angela Davis, *Women, Race, and Class* (2011 edition)
Qwo-Li Driskill, "Doubleweaving Two-Spirit Critiques: Building Alliances between Native and Queer Studies"
Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*
Lee Edelman, *No Future: Queer Theory and the Death Drive*
Leslie Feinberg, "Transgender Liberation: A Movement Whose Time Has Come"
Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality* (vol. 1)
Elizabeth Freeman, *Time Binds: Queer Temporality, Queer Histories*
Jane Gallop, *The Daughter's Seduction*
Roxane Gay, *Bad Feminist; It's Not That Bad* (selections)
Elizabeth Grosz, *Volatile Bodies; Time Travels*
Jack Halberstam, *Female Masculinity; The Queer Art of Failure*
Kim Hall, *Feminist Disability Studies* (selections)
Donna Haraway, *Simians, Cyborgs and Women*
Susan Hekman and Stacy Alaimo, eds. *Material Feminisms* (selections)
bell hooks, *Yearning: Race, Gender and Cultural Politics; Outlaw Culture; Feminism is for Everyone*
Luce Irigaray, *This Sex Which Is Not One; Speculum of the Other Woman*
Caren Kaplan, "The Politics of Location as Transnational Feminist Practice"
Julia Kristeva, *Desire in Language; "Approaching Abjection"*
Audre Lorde, *Sister Outsider*
Terry Lovell, *Consuming Fiction*

Kate Millett, *Sexual Politics* (2016 edition)
Trinh T. Minh-ha, *Woman, Native, Other: Writing Postcoloniality and Feminism*
Chandra Mohanty, *Feminism without Borders*
Chandra Mohanty, ed. *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism* (selections)
Scott Morgensen, "Settler Homonationalism: Theorizing Settler Colonialism within Queer Modernities"
José Muñoz, *Cruising Utopia: The Then and There of Queer Futurity*
Laura Mulvey, "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema"
Sherry Ortner, "Is Female to Male as Nature Is to Culture?"
Uma Narayan, *Dislocating Cultures*
Jasbir K. Puar, *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times*
Adrienne Rich, "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence"
Mark Rifkin, *When Did Indians Become Straight?: Kinship, the History of Sexuality, and Native Sovereignty*
Katrina Roen, "Transgender Theory and Embodiment: The Risk of Racial Marginalization"
Jacqueline Rose and Juliet Mitchell, *Feminine Sexuality*
Gayle Rubin, "The Traffic in Women"
Joanna Russ, *How to Suppress Women's Writing*
Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, *Epistemology of the Closet; Between Men; Touching Feeling*
Dean Spade, "Mutilating Gender"
Hortense Spillers, "Mama's Baby, Papa's Maybe: An American Grammar"
Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, *In Other Worlds*
Kathryn Bond Stockton, *The Queer Child*
Susan Stryker, "Introduction: Trans-, Trans, or Transgender?"; "My Words to Victor Frankenstein Above the Village of Chamounix: Performing Transgender Rage"
Cheryl Suzack et. al., eds. *Indigenous Women and Feminism: Politics, Activism, Culture* (selections)
Lisa Tatonetti, *The Queerness of Native American Literature*
Michael Warner, *Publics and Counterpublics*
Linda Williams, *Hard Core: Power, Pleasure, and the "Frenzy of the Visible"*
Monique Wittig, *The Straight Mind*

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