

Prose Narrative

(UPDATED NOVEMBER 2024)

YORK UNIVERSITY

The candidate should prepare a list of 60 texts, of which the following 48 (in Sections A, B, C, and D) are mandatory. In consultation with their supervisor, they will choose 12 additional texts, of which at least 6 texts must be from the post-1945 period. A resource list of possible texts appears in Appendix 1, which is intended to assist with but not limit that process of selection.

Section A: Critical Theory

(12 mandatory texts)

Auerbach, Erich	<i>Mimesis: The Representation of Reality in Western Literature</i>
Bakhtin, Mikhail	<i>The Dialogic Imagination: Four Essays</i>
Bhabha, Homi K.	<i>Nation and Narration</i>
Ermarth, Elizabeth Deeds	<i>Realism and Consensus in the English Novel</i>
Genette, Gerard	<i>Narrative Discourse</i>
Hutcheon, Linda	<i>Narcissistic Narrative</i>
James, Henry	<i>The Art of the Novel: Critical Prefaces, "The Art of Fiction"</i>
Jameson, Fredric	<i>The Political Unconscious: Narrative as a Socially Symbolic Act</i>
Lukacs, Gyorgy	<i>The Historical Novel or The Theory of the Novel</i>
Watt, Ian	<i>The Rise of the Novel</i>
Williams, Raymond	<i>The Country and the City</i>
Woolf, Virginia	<i>A Room of One's Own or The Common Reader</i> (1st or 2nd Series)

Section B: Pre-1800

(12 mandatory texts)

Behn, Aphra	<i>Oronooko</i> (1688)
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Boswell, James	<i>Life of Samuel Johnson</i> (1791) (selections)
Bunyan, John	<i>Pilgrim's Progress</i> (1678)
Burney, Frances	<i>Evelina</i> (1778)
Defoe, Daniel	<i>The Journal of the Plague Year</i> (1722), and <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> (1719) or <i>Moll Flanders</i> (1722)
Equiano, Olaudah.	<i>The Interesting Narrative of the Life . . .</i> (1789)
Fielding, Henry	<i>Tom Jones</i> (1749)
Radcliffe, Anne	<i>The Mysteries of Udolpho</i> (1794) or <i>The Italian</i> (1797)
Richardson, Samuel	<i>Clarissa</i> (1748)
Sterne, Laurence	<i>Tristram Shandy</i> (1759-67)
Swift, Jonathan	<i>Gulliver's Travels</i> (1726)

Section C: 1800–1899

(16 mandatory texts)

Austen, Jane	any one of the six
Shelley, Mary	<i>Frankenstein</i> (1818)
Scott, Walter	<i>Waverley</i> (1814)
Poe, E.A.	"The Fall of the House of Usher" (1839), "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" (1841), "The Purloined Letter" (1841), "The Mystery of Marie Rogêt" (1842), and "The Tell-Tale Heart" (1843)
Brontë, Charlotte	<i>Jane Eyre</i> (1847)
Brontë, Emily	<i>Wuthering Heights</i> (1847)
Hawthorne, Nathaniel	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i> (1850)
Melville, Herman	<i>Moby-Dick; or, The Whale</i> (1851)
Stowe, Harriet Beecher	<i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> (1852)
Jacobs, Harriet	<i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i> (1861)

Carroll, Lewis	<i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i> (1865)
Dickens, Charles	<i>Bleak House</i> (1852-3)
Collins, Wilkie	<i>The Moonstone</i> (1868)
Eliot, George	<i>Middlemarch</i> (1871-72)
Twain, Mark	<i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> (1884)
Hardy, Thomas	<i>Jude the Obscure</i> (1895)

Section D: 1900–1945

(8 mandatory texts)

Freud, Sigmund	<i>Dora: An Analysis of a Case of Hysteria</i> (1901)
James, Henry	<i>The Wings of the Dove</i> (1902) or <i>The Ambassadors</i> (1903)
Conrad, Joseph	<i>The Secret Agent</i> (1907)
Stein, Gertrude	<i>Three Lives</i> (1909)
Joyce, James	<i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i> (1916)
Woolf, Virginia	<i>To the Lighthouse</i> (1927)
Faulkner, William	<i>The Sound and the Fury</i> (1929)
Hurston, Zora Neale	<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> (1937)

APPENDIX 1: A resource list of optional texts

Critical Theory

Aarseth, Espen	<i>Cybertext: Perspectives on Ergodic Literature</i>
Beer, Gillian	<i>Darwin's Plots</i>
Berlant, Lauren	<i>Cruel Optimism</i>
Chandler, James	<i>An Archaeology of Sympathy</i>
Duncan, Ian	<i>Modern Romance</i>

Felman, Shoshana	<i>Testimony</i>
Frye, Northrop	<i>The Anatomy of Criticism</i> <i>The Secular Scripture</i>
Gallagher, Catherine	<i>Nobody's Story</i>
Groensteen, Thierry	<i>The System of Comics</i>
Iser, Wolfgang	<i>The Implied Reader: Patterns of Communication in Prose Fiction from Bunyan to Beckett</i>
McKeon, Michael	<i>Origins of the English Novel, 1600-1740</i>
Miller, D. A.	<i>The Novel and the Police</i>
Miller, J. Hillis	<i>Ethics of Reading</i> <i>Ariadne's Thread</i>
Moretti, Franco	<i>Signs Taken for Wonders</i>
Poovey, Mary	<i>The Proper Lady and Woman Writer</i>
Ryan, Mary-Laure	<i>Possible Worlds</i>
Stewart, Garret	<i>Dear Reader: The Conscripted Audience in Nineteenth Century British Fiction</i>

Pre-1800

Addison and Steele	<i>The Spectator, 1-10</i>
Bradford, William	<i>Of Plymouth Plantation</i>
Burney, Frances	From <i>The Early Journals and Letters of Frances Burney</i> , Journal, 27 March 1768; 27-28 March 1777; March 1778; August 1778 Streatham Visit (Reynolds, Johnson, Hester Thrale), Letter to Susanna Burney, 20 December 1778 (meets Sheridan), Letter to Samuel Crisp, 15 March 1782 – On <i>Cecilia</i>
Charke, Charlotte	<i>A Narrative of the Life of Mrs. Charlotte Charke</i>
Cleland, John	<i>Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure</i> (1749)
Edwards, Jonathan.	"Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" (1748)
Gibbon, Edward	<i>The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire</i> (1776-88) (selections)

Godwin, William	<i>The Adventures of Caleb Williams</i> (1794)
Haywood, Eliza	<i>The Female Spectator</i> (1744-64), No. 1
Johnson, Samuel	<i>Rasselas</i> (1759) <i>The Life of Richard Savage</i> (1744) <i>Lives of the Poets</i> (1781): Milton, Dryden, Pope, Swift, Gay, Cowley, Thomson, Gray
Rowlandson, Mary	<i>A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration</i> (1682)
Smollett, Tobias	<i>Roderick Random</i> (1748)
Sterne, Laurence	Sermons: The House of Feasting and the House of Mourning Described; Job's Account of the Shortness and Troubles of Life, considered; The Levite and his Concubine.
Walpole, Horace	<i>The Castle of Otranto</i> (1764)
Wollstonecraft, Mary	<i>Letters Written during a Short Residence in Sweden, Norway and Denmark</i> (1796)

1800-1899

Prince, Mary	<i>History of Mary Prince</i> (1831)
Thackeray, W. M.	<i>Vanity Fair</i> (1847-8)
Melville, Herman	"Bartleby, the Scrivener" (1853) <i>Billy Budd, Sailor (An Inside Narrative)</i> (1891)
Darwin, Charles	<i>On the Origin of Species</i> (1859)
Pater, Walter	<i>The Renaissance</i> (1873)
Stevenson, Robert L.	<i>Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</i> (1886)
Wilde, Oscar	<i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> (1890)

1900-1945

Wharton, Edith	<i>House of Mirth</i> (1905)
Hammett, Dashiell.	<i>The Maltese Falcon</i> (1930)
Barnes, Djuna	<i>Nightwood</i> (1936)

1945 to the present

Orwell, George	<i>Homage to Catalonia</i> (1938) <i>1984</i> (1948)
Ellison, Ralph	<i>Invisible Man</i> (1952)
O'Connor, Flannery	<i>A Good Man is Hard to Find</i> (1955)
Nabokov, Vladimir	<i>Lolita</i> (1955)
Achebe, Chinua	<i>Things Fall Apart</i> (1958)
Capote, Truman	<i>In Cold Blood</i> (1966)
Pynchon, Thomas	<i>V</i> (1963)
Adler, Renata	<i>Speedboat</i> (1976)
Ondaatje, Michael	<i>Coming Through Slaughter</i> (1976)
Didion, Joan	<i>The White Album</i> (1979)
Carver, Raymond	<i>What We Talk About When We Talk About Love</i> (1981)
Morrison, Toni	<i>Beloved</i> (1987)
Rushdie, Salman	<i>Midnight's Children</i> (1981)
Spiegelman, Art.	<i>Maus: A Survivor's Tale</i> (1991)
Wallace, David Foster	<i>A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again</i> (1997)
Ghosh, Amitav	<i>The Glass Palace</i> (2000)
Ware, Chris	<i>Jimmy Corrigan: The Smartest Kid on Earth</i> (2000)
Coetzee, J. M.	<i>Elizabeth Costello</i> (2003)
King, Thomas	<i>The Truth About Stories</i> (2003)
Munro, Alice	<i>Dear Life</i> (2012)
Saunders, George	<i>A Swim in a Pond in the Rain</i> (2021)
Ishiguro, Kazuo	<i>Klara and the Sun</i> (2021)