

**Guidelines for the M.A. Exam**  
**Saint Louis University**  
**Department of English**

In order to graduate with a master's degree in English, all candidates must pass a one hour, oral exam covering a list of **12 works**. This list is chosen periodically by the department, and represents a variety of periods and genres. The outstanding candidate will move with dexterity between close readings of a text, the critical heritage, and the list's cultural and historical contexts. The examining committee for M.A. exams consists of three faculty members of the candidate's choice; in their second year of study, master's candidates are responsible for approaching faculty members to serve on their exam committee, with the objective of assembling examiners covering a range of areas. A **13<sup>th</sup> work**, to be chosen by the student, will consist of an influential theoretical or critical text. This work will be **selected from a list of 10**, compiled by the department as a whole, and which will be reviewed and revised at three-year intervals.

Reading List for the M.A. Exam  
for the master's class entering in the fall of 2010  
(exclusive of the theoretical/critical text):

*Beowulf*

Geoffrey Chaucer, *Troilus & Criseyde*

Christopher Marlowe, *Dr. Faustus*

John Donne, *Songs and Sonnets, Holy Sonnets* (entire)

Daniel Defoe, *Moll Flanders*

Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *Aurora Leigh*

E.M. Forster, *Howard's End*

John Millington Synge, *In the Shadow of the Glen; Playboy of the Western World; Riders to the Sea*

Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*

Emily Dickinson, selected poems: fascicles 26 and 34 (see list below on p. 3)

Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*

Don DeLillo, *White Noise*

Theory and Criticism List for the M.A. Exam  
(The Candidate selects ONE Text)

Aristotle, *Poetics*

Mikhail Bakhtin, *The Dialogic Imagination*

Jacques Derrida, *Writing and Difference*

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality* (vol. 1)

Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Judgment*

Julia Kristeva, *Powers of Horror*

Karl Marx, *The German Ideology*

Edward Said, *Orientalism*

Gayatri Spivak, *In Other Worlds*

Mark Wiley, *Composition in Four Keys*

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Emily Dickinson poems, Fascicle 26:

628 They called me to the Window, for  
669 No Romance sold unto  
465 I had a Fly buzz - when I died -  
674 The Soul that hath a Guest,  
629 I watched the Moon around the House  
1181 When I hoped - I feared -  
630 The Lightning playeth - all the while -  
631 Ourselves were wed one summer - dear -  
466 'Tis little I - could care for pearls -  
632 The Brain - is wider than the sky -  
467 We do not play on Graves -  
312 Her - last Poems -  
633 When Bells stop ringing - Church - begins -  
468 The Manner of it's Death  
469 The Red - Blaze - is the Morning -  
634 You'll know Her - by Her Foot -  
470 I am alive - I guess -  
1067 Except the smaller size -  
635 I think the longest Hour of all  
329 So glad we are - a stranger'd deem  
471 A Night - there lay the Days between -

Fascicle 34

645 Bereavement in their death to feel  
646 I think To Live - may be a Bliss  
647 A little Road - not made of Man -  
649 Her Sweet turn to leave the Homestead  
650 Pain - has an Element of Blank -  
651 So much Summer  
648 Promise This - When You be Dying -  
478 I had no time to Hate -  
754 My Life had stood - a Loaded Gun -  
710 The Sunrise runs for Both -  
755 No Bobolink - reverse His Singing -  
756 One Blessing had I than the rest  
690 Victory comes late -  
757 The Mountains - grow unnoticed -  
758 These - saw Visions -  
711 Strong Draughts of Their Refreshing Minds  
993 We miss Her - not because We see -  
675 Essential Oils - are wrung -