

Literature in English, 1830-1910
Prelims Paper 3
Michaelmas Term, 2019

In your first term at New, you will be working on Prelims Paper 3, which covers literature in English written between 1830-1910. You'll be taught through a mix of tutorials and classes. For the tutorials, you'll write an essay, which will form the basis for our conversation. You'll also read a short pack of material which I will print and distribute a week in advance of the tutorials. This pack will include your essay question and a detailed secondary reading list of critical and contextual material. For the classes, you'll have a slightly longer reading pack and will prepare short presentations on the topic. We will also be meeting in 0th and 1st weeks to talk about research skills, useful resources (dictionaries, anthologies, encyclopaedias, etc.), and how to plan and write essays.

Below, you'll find an updated core reading list for this term's work. Though there are some differences between this and the earlier reading list, please don't worry if you've already read texts from the earlier list; they will enrich your knowledge of the period and you may write about them in your essays. Your focus between now and term, however, should be on the new texts, which I have asterisked (*). **It is essential that you read *all* the texts on this new list before you arrive.** Terms at Oxford are very short and very busy: you will not have time to read substantial works when you also have to re-read primary texts, read critical material, attend lectures and tutorials, and plan and write your essays, besides any other things you may want to do. You will find your first term a lot more enjoyable if you do get this reading done. There are around twelve weeks until the start of term; if you read for two to three hours each day, you'll find this list perfectly manageable. There will be a short, informal test in 0th week to make sure you have read these texts.

A note on editions: you should get your hands on print editions, by reputable publishers, of your primary texts; Penguin, Longman, Norton, and Oxford World's Classics are all good. These will be free of textual errors, and include useful introductions, reading lists, and annotations. Unless I specify one, you may get any of these editions; for the pricier texts, feel free to buy second-hand copies. Please get into the habit of reading carefully and critically, annotating either in the texts themselves or on paper.

I hope you enjoy the reading. If you find any author particularly interesting, do explore them further or ask me for suggestions.

I look forward to meeting you all in Michaelmas.

All the best until then,

Andrew

Prelims Paper 3 (Literature in English, 1830-1910): Core Reading List

Robert Browning*

‘Porphyria’s Lover’, ‘My Last Duchess’, ‘Soliloquy of the Spanish Cloister’, ‘Fra Lippo Lippi’, ‘Andrea del Sarto’, ‘Bishop Blougram’s Apology’, and ‘Caliban Upon Setebos’, in any edition of Robert Browning’s poetry.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

In Memoriam (Norton edition edited by Erik Gray)

‘St Simeon Stylites’ *, ‘Ulysses’, ‘Morte d’Arthur’ *, ‘Maud; a Monodrama’ *, ‘Tithonus’, and ‘Crossing the Bar’ *, in either the Penguin or Longman *Selected Poems* (both edited by Christopher Ricks).

Charles Dickens

Bleak House *

Hard Times *

George Eliot

Middlemarch

The Lifted Veil & Brother Jacob (Oxford World Classic’s edition).*

Gerard Manley Hopkins

‘The Wreck of the Deutschland’*, ‘The Caged Skylark’, ‘Felix Randall’, ‘God’s Grandeur’, ‘Spring and Fall’, ‘The Windhover’, ‘Pied Beauty’, ‘Inversnaid’ *, ‘Binsley Poplars’ *, ‘As kingfishers catch fire, dragonflies draw flame’ *, ‘Spelt from Sibyl’s Leaves’, ‘Carrión Comfort’, ‘No worst, there is none’, ‘To seem the stranger lies my lot’ *, ‘I wake and feel the fell of dark’ *, ‘Patience, hard thing!’ *, and ‘My own heart let me more have pity on’ *, in either the Oxford World Classics *Major Works* or the Penguin *Poems and Prose*.

Emily Dickinson*

Please read 100-150 poems, spanning early to later years, in the Harvard University Press *The Poems of Emily Dickinson: A Reading Edition* edited by R. W. Franklin.

Henry James

‘Madame de Mauves’ and ‘Daisy Miller’ in *Daisy Miller and Other Tales* (Penguin).*

‘The Aspern Papers’, ‘The Middle Years’, and ‘The Figure in the Carpet’ in *The Aspern Papers and Other Tales* (Penguin).*

‘The Turn of the Screw’ and ‘The Jolly Corner’ in *The Turn of the Screw and Other Tales* (Penguin).*

Core secondary texts:

Robin Gilmour, *The Victorian Period: The Intellectual and Cultural Context of English Literature, 1830-1890*, (Longman, 1994). Please read this alongside your primary texts. It will give you a very helpful overview of the important cultural and historical issues of the period.

Paul S. Boyer, *American History: A Very Short Introduction*, (Oxford University Press, 2012). Please read chapters 2–6, which cover the years 1789–1920.*

Christopher Ricks, ed., *The Oxford Book of Victorian Verse*, (Oxford University Press, 2008). This anthology will give you an excellent overview of this period's important poets. In this anthology, you will find most of the poems by Robert Browning, Tennyson, and Gerard Manley Hopkins which are on your reading list. Please also read the poems by at least three of the following authors:

Thomas Lovell Beddoes, Emily Brontë, Walter Savage Landor, William Barnes, Charlotte Brontë, John Clare, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Edward Fitzgerald, Lewis Carroll, Arthur Hugh Clough, Christina Rossetti, Matthew Arnold, James Henry, George Meredith, Algernon Charles Swinburne, James Thompson ('B. V.'), Thomas Hardy, and W. B. Yeats. It is a good idea to mark poems and poets you enjoy in the contents page, jotting down your thoughts and impressions of them as you read.*