

Independent Reading List

Approved Texts

Updated Fall 2019

Ancient Texts

Aristophanes

*Clouds*¹

*Birds*¹

*Frogs*¹

*Wasps*¹

*Lysistrata*¹

Aristotle

*Rhetoric*²

*On the Soul*²

*Physics*³

*Metaphysics*³

*Politics*³

St. Athanasius

*On the Incarnation of the Word*²

St. Augustine

*On the Free Choice of the Will*²

*On Christian Doctrine*²

*City of God*⁴

Cicero

*On Duties*³

*On Old Age*²

*On Friendship*²

*On the Republic*³

Confucius

*Analects*¹

Epicetetus

*Handbook*¹

Euripides

*Bacchae*¹

*Medea*¹

*Iphigeneia at Aulis*¹

*Trojan Women*¹

*Hippolytus*¹

Eusebius

*History of the Church*³

Galen

*On the Natural Faculties*¹

St. Gregory of Nyssa

*Life of Moses*¹

Hesiod

Works and Days ¹

Theogony ¹

Herodotus

Histories ³

Hippocrates

Medical Writings (The Oath, Epidemics I, Airs Waters Places, On Ancient Medicine, Science of Medicine) ¹ [These treatises are available in the Penguin edition Ed. Lloyd]

Homer

Iliad ³

Horace

Odes ³

The Art of Poetry ¹

Livy

The History of Rome (Books 1-2) ³

Lucretius

On the Nature of Things ³

Origen

Exhortation to Martyrdom ²

Ovid

Metamorphoses ³

Plato

Ion ¹

Euthyphro ¹

Apology ¹

Crito ¹

Meno ¹

Phaedo ²

Gorgias ²

Phaedrus ²

Symposium ²

Protagoras ²

Timaeus ²

Plutarch

The Age of Alexander: Nine Greek Lives ³

Fall of the Roman Republic: Six Lives ³

Ptolemy

Almagest ³

Seneca

De Ira (on Anger) ¹ [*De Clementia (On Clemency) and Apocolocyntosis*] ¹ *De Beneficiis (On Benefits)* ²

Sophocles

Oedipus the King ¹

Antigone ¹

Oedipus at Colonus ¹

Ajax ¹

Philoctetes ¹

Women of Trachis ¹

Electra ¹

Tacitus

The Annals of Imperial Rome ³

Thucydides

History of the Peloponnesian War ³
Virgil
Eclogues ¹
Georgics ²

Medieval and Renaissance Texts

St. Anselm
Prayers and Meditations ¹
Averroes
Decisive Treatise ¹
Bede
Ecclesiastical History of the English People ²
St. Benedict
Rule of St. Benedict ¹
St. Bonaventure
The Mind's Journey to God ¹
Chretien de Troyes
Arthurian Romances ²
Desiderius Erasmus
In Praise of Folly ¹
Francesco Petrararch
My Secret Book ¹
Francois Rabelais
Gargantua and Pantagrue ³
Giovanni Boccaccio
The Decamerone ³
Hildegard of Bingen
Scivias ³
Physica ²
John Bunyan
Pilgrim's Progress ³
John Calvin
Institutes of the Christian Religion ³
St. John of the Cross
Dark Night of the Soul ¹
Julian of Norwich
Revelations of Divine Love ³
Marie de France
Lais ²
Martin Luther
On Christian Liberty ²
Table Talk ²
Discourse on Free Will (against Erasmus) ²
Michel de Montaigne
Essays (choose 3 essays, identify each by name) ¹
Miguel de Cervantes
Don Quixote ⁴
Moses Maimonides
Guide for the Perplexed ¹

Niccolo Machiavelli
*The Prince*²

Nicolaus Copernicus
*On the Revolution of the Spheres*²

Peter Abelard
*Letters of Abelard and Heloise*¹

Pico della Mirandola
*Oration on the Dignity of Man*¹

Pseudo-Dionysius
*On the Divine Names*²

Teresa of Avila
*Interior Castle*²
*Life of St. Teresa of Avila*²

Thomas à Kempis
*The Imitation of Christ*²

St. Thomas Aquinas
*On Being and Essence*²
*The Division and Method of the Sciences*²
*Treatise on Happiness*²
*Treatise on Law*²

Thomas More
*Utopia*²

Unknown
*Beowulf*²

Unknown
*Song of Roland*²

William Shakespeare (choose no more than 2 plays)
*Richard II*¹
*Henry IV*¹
*Henry V*¹
*Tempest*¹
*As You Like It*¹
*Hamlet*¹
*Othello*¹
*Macbeth*¹
*King Lear*¹
*Sonnets*¹
*Much Ado About Nothing*¹
*Merchant of Venice*¹

Modern Texts: 17th Century to the Present

Adam Smith
The Wealth of Nations (abridged)³

Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, John Jay
*The Federalist Papers*³

Alexander Pope
*Rape of the Lock*²

Benjamin Franklin
*Autobiography*¹

Blaise Pascal
Pensees (choose 3 sections. Chosen sections must be specified on your final list)²

David Hume
*Dialogues on Natural Religion*²

Denis Diderot
*Rameau's Nephew*²

Francis Bacon
*Novum Organum*³
*Essays*²

Francois La Rochefoucauld
*Maxims*²

Galileo Galilei
*The Assayer*²
*The Starry Messenger*¹

George Berkeley
*Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous*³

Henry Fielding
*Tom Jones*³

Immanuel Kant
*Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals*²
*What is Enlightenment?*¹
*Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*¹

Jean Racine
*Phedre*¹

Jean-Jacques Rousseau
*Discourse on the Arts and Sciences*¹
*Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*²
*On the Social Contract*²
*Emile*³

John Locke
*An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*³

John Milton
*Paradise Lost*³

Jonathan Swift
*A Modest Proposal*¹
*Second Treatise on Government*²
*Letter on Toleration*¹

Moliere (Jean Baptiste Poquelin)
*The Misanthrope*¹
*The Miser*¹
*Tartuffe*¹

Rene Descartes
*Discourse on the Method*²
*Meditations on First Philosophy*²

Samuel Johnson
*Lives of the English Poets*³

Thomas Hobbes
*Leviathan*³

Thomas Jefferson
*Declaration of Independence*¹

Thomas Paine

*Common Sense*¹
*The Rights of Man*³
Voltaire (Francois Marie Arouet)
*Candide*¹
William Blake
*The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*¹

Later Modern Texts: 19th and 20th Centuries

Albert Camus
*The Stranger*²
*The Plague*³
Albert Einstein
*The Meaning of Relativity*²
Alexander Solzhenitsyn
*Cancer Ward*²
Alexis de Tocqueville
Democracy in America (abridged)³
Bertrand Russell
*The Problems of Philosophy*²
“Why I am Not a Christian”¹
Charles Darwin
*The Origin of Species*³
Charles Dickens
*David Copperfield*³
*Bleak House*³
Christa Wolf
*Divided Heaven*²
*Kassandra*³
*Accident ; A Day's News*²
C.S. Lewis
*The Abolition of Man*¹
*Till We Have Faces*³
*The Screwtape Letters*²
Eugene O'Neill
*A Long Day's Journey into Night*³
Evelyn Waugh
*Brideshead Revisited*³
Flannery O'Connor
*The Complete Stories*³
*Wise Blood*²
Franz Kafka
*The Castle*²
*Amerika*²
*The Hunger Artist*¹
Frederick Douglass
*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*¹
Friedrich Nietzsche
*The Birth of Tragedy*²
*On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History*²

*On the Genealogy of Morals*³
*Thus Spoke Zarathustra*²
*The Gay Science*³
*Beyond Good and Evil*³
*Twilight of the Idols*¹

Fyodor Dostoevsky
*Crime and Punishment*⁴
*Notes from Underground*¹
*The Brothers Karamazov*⁴

G.K. Chesterton
*Orthodoxy*²

G.W.F. Hegel
*Introduction to the Philosophy of History*²

George Bernard Shaw
Plays (Choose and identify up to two plays. Each play is worth 1 point)

George Eliot
*Middlemarch*³

George Gordon (Lord Byron)
*Don Juan*³

Gustave Flaubert
*Madame Bovary*³

Hans-Georg Gadamer
*Truth and Method*³

Henri Beyle Stendhal
*The Red and the Black*³

Henrik Ibsen
*Four Major Plays*²

Henry David Thoreau
*Walden*¹

Henry James
*Portrait of a Lady*³
*The Ambassadors*³
*The Europeans*²

Herman Melville
*Moby Dick*³

James D. Watson
*The Double Helix*³

James Joyce
*Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*²
*Ulysses*³
*Finnegans Wake*¹

Jacques Derrida
“Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences”¹

Jane Austen
*Emma*³
*Pride and Prejudice*³
*Mansfield Park*³

Jean-Paul Sartre
*No Exit*¹
*Existentialism is a Humanism*¹

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

*Faust 1 or 2*³
*Italian Journey*³
*Hermann and Dorothea*¹
John Henry Newman
*Idea of a University*²
John Rawls
*Political Liberalism*³
John Stuart Mill
*On Liberty*²
*Utilitarianism*²
*The Subjection of Women*²
Karl Barth
*The Humanity of God*²
Karl Marx
*The Communist Manifesto*¹
Leo Strauss
*Natural Right and History*³
“What is Political Philosophy?”¹
Leo Tolstoy
*War and Peace*⁴
*Anna Karenina*³
Ludwig Wittgenstein
*Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*²
Marcel Proust
*In search of Lost Time: Swann’s Way*²
Martin Heidegger
*On Being and Time*³
Martin Luther King
“Letter from the Birmingham Jail”¹
Max Weber
*The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*³
Matthew Arnold
*Culture and Anarchy*²
Michel Foucault
*Discipline and Punish*³
“Nietzsche, Genealogy, History”¹
Ralph Ellison
*Invisible Man*³
Ralph Waldo Emerson
*Essays*³
Samuel Beckett
*Waiting for Godot*¹
Samuel Taylor Coleridge
*Biographia Literaria*²
Sigmund Freud
*On the Interpretation of Dreams*³
*New Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*³
*Future of an Illusion*²
*Civilization and Its Discontents*²
Simone de Beauvoir
*The Second Sex*⁴

Simone Weil

*Waiting for God*²

Soren Kierkegaard

*Either/Or*³

*Fear and Trembling*²

Stephen Hawking

*The Universe in a Nutshell*³

T.S. Eliot

The Waste Land and Other Poems (read *The Waste Land* and 1 additional poem from the collection)²

*Four Quartets*¹

“Tradition and the Individual Talent”¹

Thomas Kuhn

*The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*²

Thomas Mann

*Lotte in Weimar*³

*Tristan*¹

*Dr. Faustus*¹

*Buddenbrooks*³

*Death in Venice*³

Thorstein Veblen

*Theory of the Leisure Class*³

Toni Morrison

*Beloved*³

Virginia Woolf

*Orlando*³

*A Room of One's Own*²

*To the Lighthouse*³

Vladimir Lenin

*What is to be Done?*³

Walker Percy

*The Moviegoer*²

William Faulkner

*The Sound and the Fury*³

*Light in August*³

William Wordsworth

*Lyrical Ballads*²

*The Prelude*²

Zora Neale Hurston

*Their Eyes Were Watching God*³