Independent Reading List

Approved Texts

Updated Fall 2021

**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 (Please read all the treatises in each group for one point, select a maximum of three groups for three points total)
   
   Group One (read all): The Oath; Tradition in Medicine; Airs, Waters, Places; The Sacred Disease — 1 point total

   Group Two (read all): The Canon; Epidemics 1; Epidemics 3; The Science of Medicine (aka the Art of Medicine); Aphorisms; Prognosis — 1 point total

   Group Three (read all): Regimen in Acute Diseases; Dreams; The Nature of Man; A Regimen for Health; Fractures; The Seed; The Nature of the Child; The Heart — 1 point total

   [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 Petrarch
   My Secret Book ¹
Francois Rabelais
   Gargantua and Pantagruel ³
Giovanni Boccaccio
   The Decamerone ³
Hildegard of Bingen
   Scivas 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. 1 point each) 1

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*

Simone Weil
   *Waiting for God*

Søren Kierkegaard
   *Either/Or*
   *Fear and Trembling*

Stephen Hawking
   *The Universe in a Nutshell*

T.S. Eliot
   *The Waste Land and Other Poems* (read *The Waste Land* and 1 additional poem from the collection)
   *Four Quartets*
   “Tradition and the Individual Talent”

Thomas Kuhn
   *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*

Thomas Mann
   *Lotte in Weimar*
   *Tristan*
   *Dr. Faustus*
   *Buddenbrooks*
   *Death in Venice*

Thorstein Veblen
   *Theory of the Leisure Class*

Toni Morrison
   *Beloved*

Virginia Woolf
   *Orlando*
   *A Room of One’s Own*
   *To the Lighthouse*

Vladimir Lenin
   *What is to be Done?*

Walker Percy
   *The Moviegoer*

William Faulkner
   *The Sound and the Fury*
   *Light in August*

William Wordsworth
   *Lyrical Ballads*
   *The Prelude*

Zora Neale Hurston
   *Their Eyes Were Watching God*