Independent Reading List

Approved Texts

Updated Fall 2020

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 list selected treatises, see examples below; **choose no more than 3 points in total**)
   *The Oath; Tradition in Medicine; Airs, Waters, Places; The Sacred Disease* — 1 point
   
   Above texts plus *The Canon; Epidemics 1; Epidemics 3; The Science of Medicine (aka the Art of Medicine); Aphorisms; Prognosis*— 2 points
   
   Above texts plus *Regimen in Acute Diseases; Dreams; The Nature of Man; A Regimen for Health; Fractures; The Seed; The Nature of the Child; The Heart*—3 points
   [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 Petrarca
My Secret Book ¹
François Rabelais
Gargantua and Pantagruel 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

Discourse on Free Will (against Erasmus)

Michel de Montaigne

Essays (choose 3 essays, identify each by name)

Miguel de Cervantes

Don Quixote

Moses Maimonides

Guide for the Perplexed

Niccolo Machiavelli

The Prince

Nicolaus Copernicus

On the Revolution of the Spheres

Peter Abelard

Letters of Abelard and Heloise

Pico della Mirandola

Oration on the Dignity of Man

Pseudo-Dionysius

On the Divine Names

Teresa of Avila

Interior Castle

Life of St. Teresa of Avila

Thomas à Kempis

The Imitation of Christ

St. Thomas Aquinas

On Being and Essence

The Division and Method of the Sciences

Treatise on Happiness

Treatise on Law

Thomas More

Utopia

Unknown

Beowulf

Unknown

Song of Roland

William Shakespeare (choose no more than 2 plays)

Richard II

Henry IV

Henry V

Tempest

As You Like It

Hamlet

Othello

Macbeth

King Lear

Sonnets

Much Ado About Nothing

Merchant of Venice

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 Tolerance* ¹

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

Rene Descartes  
*Discourse on the Method* ²
Meditations on First Philosophy
Samuel Johnson
Lives of the English Poets
Thomas Hobbes
Leviathan
Thomas Jefferson
Declaration of Independence
Thomas Paine
Common Sense
The Rights of Man
Voltaire (Francois Marie Arouet)
Candide
William Blake
The Marriage of Heaven and Hell

Later Modern Texts: 19th and 20th Centuries

Albert Camus
The Stranger
The Plague
Albert Einstein
The Meaning of Relativity
Alexander Solzhenitsyn
Cancer Ward
Alexis de Tocqueville
Democracy in America (abridged)
Bertrand Russell
The Problems of Philosophy
“Why I am Not a Christian”
Charles Darwin
The Origin of Species
Charles Dickens
David Copperfield
Bleak House
Christa Wolf
Divided Heaven
Kassandra
Accident ; A Day’s News
C.S. Lewis
The Abolition of Man
Till We Have Faces
The Screwtape Letters
Eugene O’Neill
A Long Day’s Journey into Night
Evelyn Waugh
Brideshead Revisited
Flannery O’Connor
The Complete Stories
Wise Blood
Franz Kafka
The Castle
Amerika
The Hunger Artist
Frederick Douglass
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass
Friedrich Nietzsche
The Birth of Tragedy
On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History
On the Genealogy of Morals
Thus Spoke Zarathustra
The Gay Science
Beyond Good and Evil
Twilight of the Idols
Fyodor Dostoevsky
Crime and Punishment
Notes from Underground
The Brothers Karamazov
G.K. Chesterton
Orthodoxy
G.W.F. Hegel
Introduction to the Philosophy of History
George Bernard Shaw
Plays (Choose and identify up to two plays. 1 point each)
George Eliot
Middlemarch
George Gordon (Lord Byron)
Don Juan
Gustave Flaubert
Madame Bovary
Hans-Georg Gadamer
Truth and Method
Henri Beyle Stendhal
The Red and the Black
Henrik Ibsen
Four Major Plays
Henry David Thoreau
Walden
Henry James
Portrait of a Lady
The Ambassadors
The Europeans
Herman Melville
Moby Dick
James D. Watson
The Double Helix
James Joyce
Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
Ulysses
Finnegans Wake
Jacques Derrida
“Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences"
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 I 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

Sigmund Freud
  On the Interpretation of Dreams
  New Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis
  Future of an Illusion
  Civilization and Its Discontents

Simone de Beauvoir
  The Second Sex

Simone Weil
  Waiting for God

Soren 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