Independent Reading List Approved Texts
Updated Fall 2022

**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

Scivias³
Physica²

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
- Henry IV
- Henry V
- Tempest
- As You Like It
- Hamlet
- Othello
- Macbeth
- King Lear
- Sonnets
- Much Ado About Nothing
- Merchant of Venice

Modern Texts
Adam Smith
- The Wealth of Nations (abridged)
Albert Camus
- The Stranger
- The Plague
Albert Einstein
- The Meaning of Relativity
Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, John Jay
- The Federalist Papers
Alexander Pope
- Rape of the Lock
Alexander Solzhenitsyn
- Cancer Ward
Alexis de Tocqueville
- Democracy in America (abridged)
Benjamin Franklin
- Autobiography
Bertrand Russell
- The Problems of Philosophy
- “Why I am Not a Christian”
Blaise Pascal
- Pensees (Choose 3 sections. Chosen sections must be specified on your final list)
Charles Darwin
- The Origin of Species
Charles Dickens
- David Copperfield
- Bleak House
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

David Hume
   *Dialogues on Natural Religion*²

Denis Diderot
   *Rameau’s Nephew*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

Francis Bacon
   *Novum Organum*³
   *Essays*²

Francois La Rochefoucauld
   *Maxims*²

Franz Kafka
   *The Castle*²
   *Amerika*²
   *The Hunger Artist¹*

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

George Berkeley
  *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous* ³

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 Fielding
  *Tom Jones* ³

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

Herman Melville
  *Moby Dick* ³

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

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 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
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 Locke
   An Essay Concerning Human Understanding 3
John Milton
   Paradise Lost 3
John Rawls
   Political Liberalism 3
John Stuart Mill
   On Liberty 2
   Utilitarianism 2
   The Subjection of Women 2
Jonathan Swift
   A Modest Proposal 1
   Second Treatise on Government 2
   Letter on Toleration 1
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

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

Ralph Ellison
   Invisible Man 3

Ralph Waldo Emerson
   Essays 3

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

Samuel Beckett
   Waiting for Godot 1

Samuel Johnson
   Lives of the English Poets 3

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 Hobbes
  *Leviathan* 3

Thomas Jefferson
  *Declaration of Independence* 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

Thomas Paine
  *Common Sense* 1
  *The Rights of Man* 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

Voltaire (Francois Marie Arouet)
  *Candide* 1

Walker Percy
  *The Moviegoer* 2

William Blake
  *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* 1

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