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
   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
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\textsuperscript{2}
   Kassandra\textsuperscript{3}
   Accident; A Day's News \textsuperscript{2}

C.S. Lewis
   The Abolition of Man \textsuperscript{1}
   Till We Have Faces \textsuperscript{3}
   The Screwtape Letters\textsuperscript{2}

David Hume
   Dialogues on Natural Religion\textsuperscript{2}

Denis Diderot
   Rameau's Nephew \textsuperscript{2}

Eugene O’Neill
   A Long Day’s Journey into Night \textsuperscript{3}

Evelyn Waugh
   Brideshead Revisited \textsuperscript{3}

Flannery O’Connor
   The Complete Stories \textsuperscript{3}
   Wise Blood \textsuperscript{2}

Francis Bacon
   Novum Organum \textsuperscript{3}
   Essays \textsuperscript{2}

Francois La Rochefoucauld
   Maxims \textsuperscript{2}

Franz Kafka
   The Castle \textsuperscript{2}
   Amerika \textsuperscript{2}
   The Hunger Artist\textsuperscript{1}

Frederick Douglass
   Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass \textsuperscript{1}

Friedrich Nietzsche
   The Birth of Tragedy \textsuperscript{2}
   On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History \textsuperscript{2}
   On the Genealogy of Morals \textsuperscript{3}
   Thus Spoke Zarathustra \textsuperscript{2}
   The Gay Science \textsuperscript{3}
   Beyond Good and Evil \textsuperscript{3}
   Twilight of the Idols \textsuperscript{1}

Fyodor Dostoevsky
   Crime and Punishment \textsuperscript{4}
   Notes from Underground \textsuperscript{1}
   The Brothers Karamazov \textsuperscript{4}

G.K. Chesterton
   Orthodoxy \textsuperscript{2}

G.W.F. Hegel
   Introduction to the Philosophy of History \textsuperscript{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”  
Max Weber
   The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism  
Matthew Arnold
   Culture and Anarchy  
Michel Foucault
   Discipline and Punish  
   “Nietzsche, Genealogy, History”  
Moliere (Jean Baptiste Poquelin)
   The Misanthrope  
   The Miser  
   Tartuffe  
Ralph Ellison
   Invisible Man  
Ralph Waldo Emerson
   Essays  
Rene Descartes
   Discourse on the Method  
   Meditations on First Philosophy  
Samuel Beckett
   Waiting for Godot  
Samuel Johnson
   Lives of the English Poets  
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 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