

University of Saskatchewan
Department of English
Ph.D. Field Examination

Ph.D. candidates take this examination to establish that they have sufficient understanding to do advanced research and teaching in a specific field.

Field examinations are conducted twice yearly: in October and May. At least four months before examination, students must inform the Graduate Chair in writing of their intention to sit the examination.

Ph.D. students are to take this examination in May of the second year of the program or October of the third. The examination will be set and marked by three faculty specialists in the area that has been chosen by the candidate.

The following lists comprise the areas in which the Department of English has set readings for Ph.D. candidates: American, Commonwealth/Postcolonial, English-Canadian, Literary Theory, Literature by Women, Medieval, Modern British, Nineteenth-Century British, Renaissance, and Restoration/Eighteenth Century. Each candidate is either to select one of the areas listed here or to propose an examination in an area for which a list is not already set. The set lists themselves are not exhaustive; each is to be taken as two-thirds of the reading to be undertaken for the examination, the final third to be drafted by the candidate in consultation with the supervisor. At least three months before examination, this list will be submitted to the candidate's Examining Committee for approval.

A candidate may choose to be examined in an area for which there is no list. Should this option be chosen, the candidate (in consultation with the supervisor) will propose an area to the Graduate Committee at least six months before the examination is to be taken. If the Graduate Committee accepts the proposal and if three faculty members are willing to serve as examiners, the candidate (in consultation with the supervisor) will prepare a reading list comparable in dimensions to those in areas for which set lists exist. At least three months before the examination is to be taken, this reading list is to be submitted to the Examining Committee for approval.

The candidate may write the examination either on one day (9:00-12:00, 1:30-5:00) or in two three-hour blocks on successive days. No less than a week and no more than two weeks after writing this examination, the candidate will attend an oral examination of no more than two hours' duration. This oral examination will be convened by the Graduate Chair, and conducted by the three faculty examiners who set the written portion. In this oral examination, special attention will be paid to the candidate's own contributions to the reading list, especially as they relate to the candidate's dissertation topic.

The written and oral components of the Ph.D. Field Examination are of equal value, and a composite grade is given. The grade will be given as one of the three following: Pass with Distinction, Pass, and Fail. If a Fail is given, the candidate must take the examination at the next time scheduled. If repetition of the examination is necessary, usually both the written and oral parts are required; the examining committee has discretion to require, however, that only the oral be retaken.

AMERICAN

Non-fiction

John Winthrop, *A Model of Christian Charity*; selections from *The Journal of John Winthrop*
William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation*
Jonathan Edwards, *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*
Thomas Jefferson *et al.*, *The Declaration of Independence*
Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*
Benjamin Franklin, *Autobiography*
Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Nature,” “The American Scholar,” “The Divinity School Address,” “Self-reliance,” “The Poet,” **and** “Experience”
Margaret Fuller, *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*
Henry David Thoreau, *Walden, or Life in the Woods* **and** “Resistance to Civil Government”
Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
W.E.B. Dubois, *The Souls of Black Folk*
Henry Adams, *The Education of Henry Adams*
Henry James, “The Art of Fiction”
T.S. Eliot, “Tradition and the Individual Talent” **and** “The Metaphysical Poets”

FICTION

James Fennimore Cooper, *The Deerslayer* **or** *The Prairie*
Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter* **and** selected tales in *The Norton Anthology* (current edition)
Edgar Allen Poe, selected tales in *The Norton Anthology* (current edition)
Herman Melville, *Moby Dick* **and** selected tales in *The Norton Anthology* (current edition)
Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*
Samuel Clemens [Mark Twain], *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
Henry James *The Ambassadors* **or** *Portrait of a Lady* **and** fiction from *The Norton Anthology* (current edition)
Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*
Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth*
Stephen Crane, *The Red Badge of Courage*
Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*
Frank Norris, *McTeague* **or** *The Octopus*
Willa Cather, *My Ántonia* **or** *The Professor’s House*
Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes were Watching God*
Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun also Rises* **or** *A Farewell to Arms* **and** selected short stories
F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury* **or** *Absalom, Absalom*
Richard Wright, *Native Son*

Flannery O'Connor, *A Good Man is Hard to Find* **or** *Wise Blood*
J.D. Salinger, *The Catcher in the Rye*
Vladimir Nabokov, *Lolita* **or** *Pnin*
N. Scott Momaday, *The Way to Rainy Mountain*
Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*
Saul Bellow, *Herzog* **or** *Mr. Sammler's Planet* **or** *The Dean's December*
Toni Morrison, *Beloved* **or** *Jazz*

Candidates will also read representative selections of fiction or non-fiction by five writers in the following list.

John Barth	Joyce Carol Oates
Donald Barthelme	Tillie Olsen
William Burroughs	Dorothy Parker
Ann Beattie	Walker Percy
Raymond Carver	Katherine Anne Porter
John Cheever	Philip Roth
E.L. Doctorow	Wallace Stegner
Louise Erdrich	William Styron
Richard Ford	Ann Tyler
Gail Godwin	John Updike
Sarah Orne Jewett	Alice Walker
Norman Mailer	Eudora Welty
Bernard Malamud	Tom Wolfe
Mary McCarthy	

POETRY

Students should read a substantial selection (from *The Norton Anthology* or *The Heath Anthology*) of poems by each of the following.

Anne Bradstreet	Ezra Pound
Edward Taylor	Robinson Jeffers
William Cullen Bryant	T.S. Eliot
John Greensleaf Whittier	John Crowe Ransom
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	or Robert Penn Warren
Walt Whitman	e.e. cummings
Emily Dickinson	Langston Hughes
Edwin Arlington Robinson	Theodore Roethke
Robert Frost	Richard Wilbur
Wallace Stevens	Adrienne Rich
William Carlos Williams	Gary Snyder
Sylvia Path	

DRAMA

Eugene O'Neill, *A Long Day's Journey into Night*

Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar named Desire*

Arthur Miller, *The Death of a Salesman*

Clifford Odets, *Waiting for Lefty* **or** *Awake and Sing*

William Inge, *Picnic* **or** *Bus Stop*

Edward Albee, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

David Mamet, *Sexual Perversity in Chicago* **or** *Glengarry Glen Ross*