

READING and PREPARATION FOR LEVEL 4 ENGLISH LITERATURE MODULES, 2015-16

You will need to read the following books level 4 [first-year] modules on the **English Literature Single Honours course** [course code ELIDG]. All modules are compulsory.

Students taking English Literature and English Language [ELLDG] or English Literature and History [ELHDG] will enrol on HM4000 Foundations: Cultural Legacies and HM4060 Humanities in Practice; English Literature and Creative Writing [ELCDG] students take HM4007 Poetry Fundamentals instead of HM4000. Please consult the course map in your other subject for required modules and reading.

These are indicative main texts. You will also be reading critical essays and a range of short fictional and nonfictional works or extracts. Some of the texts listed below are quite long, and where stated, we will expect you to have read them before you begin the module. In other modules, we simply recommend that you try to read as many of the texts as possible over the summer.

Any reading you can do before the start of term will be most helpful. In addition to the list below, try to read as widely as you can (poetry, plays, short stories, novels) from a range of periods. Take opportunities to see plays; there may be local open-air productions of Shakespeare's plays, and keep your eyes open for the excellent National Theatre cinema screenings of current productions.

<http://ntlive.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>

The least expensive editions are listed below, except where an edition is required, and they appear in the order in which they will be studied. Many of these texts will also be available in second-hand bookshops, and many older texts are available free of charge online; try Project Gutenberg http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page or Google Books. **Be careful when using online resources and always avoid sites that ask for payment.**

Reading lists for HM4060 Humanities in Practice and HM4303 The Short Story (semester two) will be available later.

MODULES

HM4000 Foundations: Cultural Legacies (English Literature Single Honours; English Literature and History Single Honours)

Semester One:

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (any edition). Full text available at Project Gutenberg: <http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/526/pg526.html>

Angela Carter, *The Passion of New Eve* (London: Virago, 1982)

Dave Eggers, *The Circle* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 2014)

Semester Two:

The Penguin Book of English Verse, ed. P.J. Keegan (London: Penguin, 2004)

Aldous Huxley, *Island* (London: Vintage, 2005)

Arthur Morrison, *A Child of the Jago* (Oxford: World's Classics, 2012)

Rachel Carson, extract from *The Silent Spring* (1961) (on Moodle)

HM4060 Humanities in Practice

Reading will be announced at the beginning of semester one.

HM4301 Fundamentals: Myth and Drama

Note: Please read *The Odyssey* in preparation for this module.

Semester One:

Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, ed. E.J. Kennedy, transl. A.D. Melville (Oxford World's Classics 2008)

Homer, *Odyssey*, transl. R. Fagles (Penguin Classics, reissue 2006). **NB: Please use this edition. Avoid prose translations such as Jones/Rieu in Penguin.**

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, ed H.Cooper, transl. K. Harrison (Oxford World's Classics, 2008)

The Mabinogion, transl. Sioned Davies (Oxford World's Classics, 2008)

Penguin Book of Norse Myths: Gods of the Vikings, K. Crossley-Holland (Penguin, reissue 2011)

Grimms' Fairy Tales. You can find various second-hand versions such as the old Penguin Classics (2007) cheaply in charity shops, but they have been superseded completely by *Brothers Grimm: The Complete Fairy Tales*, translated, introduced and annotated by Jack Zipes (London: Vintage, 2007), and that is the edition we will use in class.

Semester Two (subject to revision in September 2015):

Sophocles, *Antigone, Oedipus the King, and Electra*, ed. E. Hall, transl. H.D.F. Kitto (Oxford World's Classics, reissue 2008)

Seneca, *Medea*, in *Six Tragedies*, ed. Emily Wilson (Oxford World's Classics, 2010) **NB: Do not confuse Seneca's *Medea* with Euripides's play of the same name. Use Wilson's edition.**

Everyman and Medieval Miracle Plays, edited by A.C. Cawley and others (London: Everyman Dent, 1993)

Shakespeare, *Pericles* (any edition)

Christopher Marlowe, *Dr Faustus* (any edition)

J.M. Synge, *The Playboy of the Western World and Other Plays*, ed. A. Saddlemyer (Oxford World's Classics, 2008)

Bertholt Brecht, *Artuo Ui*, translated Ralph Manheim, edited and introduced by John Willet and Ralph Manheim (London: Methuen Drama, 2009)

Timberlake Wertenbaker, *The Love of a Nightingale in Plays 1* (London: Faber, 1996)

HM4302 The Language of Literature

George Eliot, *Silas Marner* (any edition)

Shakespeare, *Macbeth* (any edition)

Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw* (any edition)

Further reading

A Brief History of English Literature, ed. John Peck and Martin Coyle (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013) provides a good basic overview, and second-hand copies are available at reasonable prices. The following three are more expensive; we recommend that you look in your local library, or search for second-hand copies, if you want to read them. Bradbury, Carter and McRae's *The Routledge History of Literature in English*, 2nd ed. (Routledge, 2001) offers a good background. Andrew Sanders's *Short Oxford History of English Literature*, 3rd edition (OUP, 2004) is a highly recommended short survey of period and genre, but it is expensive; we suggest that you look for a second-hand copy. The same goes for *The Concise Oxford Companion to English Literature*, ed. Margaret Drabble, 3rd ed., (OUP, 2007). Boris Ford's *New Pelican Guides to English Literature* (now rather old!) may be available cheaply in charity shops. A fine introduction to how poetry works is J. Strachan and R. Terry's *Poetry* 2nd revised ed (Edinburgh, 2011).

You will find a working knowledge of British history invaluable for studying English. A concise history, such as *Oxford History of Britain*, revised edition, ed. Kenneth O. Morgan (Oxford UP 2010), is a good choice at a fair price.

Despite the infinite number of online guides available, it is extremely helpful to have an accurate, scholarly glossary of literary terms on your desk (or on your Kindle). We recommend the following:

Baldick, Chris, *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms*, 3rd edition (Oxford Reference, OUP, 2008)

Bennett, Andrew, and Nicholas Royle, *An Introduction to Literature, Criticism and Theory*, 4th edition (Longman 2009; Kindle edition 2014)

Dr Hilary Weeks, July 2015