

Master of Arts Reading List

Core List

Students enrolled in CWL 896 (Directed Reading) must select and read twenty-two (22) works from the core list given below. Students must provide their committee chairperson with a list of the works selected at the beginning of the semester in which students enroll in CWL 896. The list they choose must satisfy the following distribution requirements:

1. Genre: at least one but no more than eight works from each of the following genres: lyric, epic (includes romance/verse narrative), drama, prose non-fiction; at least one but no more than ten works from the genre of prose fiction
2. Geography: at least one but no more than eight works from each of the following regions: Near East/Middle East, Europe, East Asia, South Asia, Africa, Non-English-Speaking Americas
3. Time periods: at least one but no more than eight works from each of the following periods: beginnings to 100CE [period 1], 100-1500CE [period 2], 1500-1650 CE [period 3], 1650-1800 CE [period 4], 1800-1900 CE [period 5]. At least one but no more than ten from 1900-present [period 6].

Students may petition an advisor to allow some limited substitutions for the works and authors on the list below. Abridgements of some works may be permitted by the advisor. Works that cross boundaries of genre, time or geography may count toward either of the two categories.

Specialty Area

Please refer to the page [The Oral Examination and CWL 896 \(Directed Reading\)](#).

Near East/Middle East						
Author	Work	Period	Genre	Language/Ethnic Tradition	Date	Suggestions for particular editions, translations, etc.
Anon.	<i>Gilgamesh</i>	1	Epic	Akkadian	Ca. 26th-16th BCE	trans. Foster (Norton) or trans. George (Penguin)
Anon.	<i>Tale of Sinuhe</i>	1	Epic	Egyptian	Ca. 20th BCE	

Near East/Middle East

Author Work	Period	Genre	Language/Ethnic Tradition	Date	Suggestions for particular editions, translations, etc.
Anon. <i>Genesis</i> AND <i>Song of Songs</i> AND <i>Job</i>	1	Mix of prose fiction/lyric	Hebrew	Ca. 11th-6th BCE	
Anon. <i>1001 Nights</i>	2	Prose fiction	Arabic	9th-14th CE	trans. Haddawy (Norton)
Ferdowsi <i>Shahnameh</i>	2	Epic	Persian	10th CE	trans. Davis (Penguin) (abridged)
Khayyám <i>Rubáiyát</i> OR Hāfez <i>Selected Poetry</i>	2	Lyric	Persian	10th/14th CE	
Çelebi <i>Book of Travels</i>	3	Prose non-fiction	Turkish	17th CE	
Mahfouz <i>Palace Walk</i> OR Salih <i>Season of Migration to the North</i>	6	Prose fiction	Egyptian/ Arabophone Sudanese	20th CE	
Kemal Memed, <i>My Hawk</i> OR Pamuk <i>My Name is Red</i> OR <i>The White Castle</i>	6	Prose fiction	Turkish	20th CE	

Europe

Author Work	Period	Genre	Language/Ethnic Tradition	Date	Suggestions for particular editions, translations, etc.
Homer <i>Iliad</i> OR <i>Odyssey</i>	1	Epic	Greek	8th BCE	
Sappho <i>Lyrics</i>	1	Lyric	Greek	7th-6th BCE	
Aeschylus <i>Oresteia</i> OR Sophocles <i>Antigone</i> OR <i>Oedipus the King</i> OR Euripides <i>Medea</i> OR <i>Bacchae</i>	1	Drama	Greek	5th BCE	
Aristophanes <i>Lysistrata</i> OR <i>Birds</i>	1	Drama	Greek	5th BCE	
Plato <i>Symposium</i>	1	Prose fiction	Greek	4th BCE	
Aristotle <i>Poetics</i>	1	Prose non-fiction	Greek	4th BCE	
Vergil <i>Aeneid</i> OR Ovid <i>Metamorphoses</i>	1	Epic	Latin	1st BCE	
Augustine <i>Confessions</i>	2	Prose non-fiction	Latin	4th CE	

				Europe		
Author	Work	Period	Genre	Language/Ethnic Tradition	Date	Suggestions for particular editions, translations, etc.
Anon.	<i>Táin Bó Cúailnge</i>	2	Epic	Old and Middle Irish	8th-14th CE	
Anon.	Iberian and Mozarabic Lyrics OR Troubadour Lyrics	2	Lyric	Spanish-Arabic/ Provençal	11th-13th CE	
Marie de France	<i>Lais</i>	2	Lyric	Old French	12th CE	
	<i>Letters of Eloise and Abelard</i>	2	Prose non-fiction	Latin	12th CE	
Anon.	<i>Song of Roland</i> OR Von Strassburg <i>Tristan</i> OR Von Eschenbach <i>Parzival</i>	2	Epic	Old French/Middle High German	12th-13th CE	
Dante	<i>Inferno</i>	2	Epic	Italian	13th CE	trans. Mandelbaum
Anon.	<i>Prose Edda</i> OR Anon. <i>Poem of the Cid</i>	2	Epic	Icelandic/Spanish	13th CE	
De Pizan	<i>The Book of the City of the Ladies</i>	2	Prose fiction/non-fiction	Middle French	14th-15th CE	
Petrarch	Selected Poetry	2	Lyric	Italian	14th CE	<i>Petrarch's Lyric Poetry</i> trans. Durling (Harvard UP 1976)
Boccaccio	<i>Decameron</i> OR De Navarre <i>Heptameron</i> OR Ariosto <i>Orlando Furioso</i>	2-3	Prose fiction/Prose fiction/ Epic	Italian/French/Italian	14th/16th/16th CE	
Rabelais	<i>Gargantua and Pantagruel</i>	3	Prose fiction	French	16th CE	
Montaigne	<i>Essays</i> OR Machiavelli <i>The Prince</i>	3	Prose non-fiction	French/Italian	16th CE	
Cervantes	<i>Don Quixote</i> (part I)	3	Prose fiction	Spanish	16th-17th CE	
Lope de Vega	<i>Fuente Ovejuna</i> OR Calderón de la Barca <i>Life is a Dream</i> OR Tirso de Molina <i>Trickster of Seville</i>	3	Drama	Spanish	17th CE	

Author Work	Period	Genre	Europe	Date	Suggestions for particular editions, translations, etc.
			Language/Ethnic Tradition		
Racine <i>Phèdre</i> OR Molière <i>Tartuffe</i> OR <i>Misanthrope</i>	4	Drama	French	17th CE	
Madame de La Fayette <i>Princess of Clèves</i>	4	Prose fiction	French	17th CE	
Voltaire <i>Candide</i>	4	Prose fiction	French	18th CE	
Rousseau <i>Confessions</i>	4	Prose non-fiction	French	18th CE	
Goethe <i>Sorrows of Young Werther</i> OR <i>Faust</i>	4-5	Prose fiction/drama	German	18th-19th CE	<i>Faust</i> : the complete work or an abridged ed. such as the translation by Kaufmann Hölderlin <i>Selected Poems and Fragments</i> , trans. Hamburger (Penguin 1988); Heine <i>Heinrich Heine: Poetry and Prose</i> (Continuum 1998)
Hölderlin <i>Selected Poetry</i> OR Heine <i>Selected Poetry</i>	5	Lyric poetry	German	19th CE	
Baudelaire <i>Flowers of Evil</i> OR Rimbaud <i>Illuminations</i> OR A Season <i>in Hell</i>	5	Lyric poetry	French	19th CE	
Flaubert <i>Madame Bovary</i> OR Sand <i>Lélia</i> OR Balzac <i>Père Goriot</i> OR Stendhal <i>The Charterhouse of Parma</i>	5	Prose fiction	French	19th CE	
Dostoevsky <i>Brothers Karamazov</i> OR <i>Notes from the Underground</i> OR Tolstoy <i>Anna Karenina</i> OR <i>The Death of Ivan Ilyich</i>	5	Prose fiction	Russian	19th CE	
Ibsen <i>Peer Gynt</i> OR A Doll's House OR Strindberg <i>Miss Julie</i> OR <i>The Ghost Sonata</i>	5-6	Drama	Norwegian/Swedish	19th-20th CE	

			Europe			
Author	Work	Period	Genre	Language/Ethnic Tradition	Date	Suggestions for particular editions, translations, etc.
Chekov	<i>The Cherry Orchard</i> OR <i>Uncle Vanya</i>	5-6	Drama	Russian	19th-20th CE	<i>The Transformation (Metamorphosis) and Other Stories</i> , trans. Pasley (Penguin)
Pirandello	<i>Six Characters in Search of an Author</i> OR Ionesco <i>Bald Soprano</i> OR Beckett <i>Waiting for Godot</i> OR Sartre <i>No Exit</i>	6	Drama	Italian/Francophone Romanian/French & English/French	20th CE	
Mann	<i>Magic Mountain</i> OR <i>Death in Venice</i> OR Proust <i>Swann's Way</i>	6	Prose fiction	German/French	20th CE	
Undset	<i>Kristen Lavransdatter</i> OR Dinesen <i>Winter's Tales</i>	6	Prose fiction	Norwegian/Anglophone Danish	20th CE	
Kafka	Selected Short Fiction	6	Prose fiction	Germanophone Czech	20th CE	
Akhmatova	Selected Poetry OR Tsvetaeva Selected Poetry OR Mandelstam Selected Poetry	6	Lyric	Russian	20th CE	
Bulgakov	<i>The Master and Margarita</i> OR Gombrowicz <i>Ferdydurke</i>	6	Prose fiction	Russian/Polish	20th CE	
Brecht	<i>Mother Courage</i> OR <i>Good Person of Sichuan</i>	6	Drama	German	20th CE	
García Lorca	<i>Blood Wedding</i> OR <i>House of Bernarda Alba</i> OR Selected Poetry	6	Drama/Lyric	Spanish	20th CE	
Camus	<i>The Plague</i> OR Sarraute <i>The Planetarium</i> OR Wittig <i>Les Guérillères</i> OR Duras <i>Moderato Cantabile</i> OR <i>Hiroshima Mon Amour</i> OR Genet <i>Querelle de Brest</i>	6	Prose fiction	French	20th CE	

Europe

Author Work	Period	Genre	Language/Ethnic Tradition	Date	Suggestions for particular editions, translations, etc.
Nabokov <i>Lolita</i> OR <i>Pale Fire</i> OR Calvino <i>Invisible Cities</i> OR Sebald <i>Austerlitz</i>	6	Prose fiction	Anglophone Russian/Italian/German	20th CE	
Rilke <i>Duino Elegies</i> OR <i>Letters to a Young Poet</i> OR Celan <i>Selected Poetry</i> OR Cavafy <i>Selected Poetry</i>	6	Lyric	Austrian/Francophone Romanian/Greek	20th CE	<i>Duino Elegies</i> , trans. Snow, <i>Letters to a Young Poet</i> (Dover); <i>Poems of Paul Celan</i> trans. Hamburger; <i>Cavafy Selected Poems</i> , trans. Keeley and Sherrard
Wolf <i>The Quest for Christa T.</i> OR <i>Cassandra</i> OR Jelinek <i>The Piano Teacher</i> OR <i>Children of the Dead</i> OR Bachman <i>Selected Short Fiction</i>	6	Prose fiction	German/Austrian/ Austrian	20th CE	

East Asia

Author Work	Period	Genre	Language/Ethnic Tradition	Date	Suggestions for particular editions, translations, etc.
Anon. <i>Book of Songs</i>	1	Lyric	Chinese	10th-7th BCE	
Chuang Tzu Zhuangzi	1	Prose non-fiction	Chinese	4th-3rd BCE	
Sima Qian <i>Records of the Grand Historian</i>	1	Prose non-fiction	Chinese	2nd-1st BCE	
Tang Poetry: Li Po AND Du Fu AND Wang Wei	2	Lyric	Chinese	8th CE	
Anon. <i>The Kokinshū Lyrics</i>	2	Lyric	Japanese	10th CE	
Murasaki Shikibu <i>Tale of Genji</i> OR Anon. <i>Tale of the Heike</i>	2	Prose fiction	Japanese	10th-11th CE/14th CE	trans. Royal Tyler, complete edition (Penguin 2003), abridged edition (Penguin 2006)

East Asia				Date	Suggestions for particular editions, translations, etc.
Author Work	Period	Genre	Language/Ethnic Tradition		
Noh Drama: Kanami Sotoba <i>Komachi</i> AND Zeami Aoi no Ue AND Atsumori AND Tadanori	2	Drama	Japanese	14th-15th CE	
Wu Cheng'en <i>Journey to the West</i> (aka <i>Monkey</i>)	3	Prose fiction	Chinese	16th CE	Abridgement by Yu entitled <i>The Monkey and the Monk</i> (2006)
Bashō <i>Narrow Road to the Deep</i> <i>North</i> OR Saikaku <i>The Life of an</i> <i>Amorous Woman</i>	4	Prose fiction/Lyric/Prose fiction	Japanese	17th CE	
Akinari <i>Tales of Moonlight and Rain</i>	4	Prose fiction	Japanese	18th CE	
Cao Xuequin <i>The Dream of the Red</i> <i>Chamber</i> (aka <i>Story of the Stone</i>)	4	Prose fiction	Chinese	18th CE	
Ōgai <i>The Dancing Girl</i> OR Futabatei <i>Floating Cloud</i> OR Ichiyō <i>Child's Play</i>	5	Prose fiction	Japanese	19th CE	
Akutagawa <i>Rashōmon</i> and <i>Seventeen Other Stories</i> OR Sōseki <i>Kokoro</i> OR Kawabata <i>Snow Country</i> OR Mishima <i>Confessions of a Mask</i> OR Enchi <i>Masks</i>	6	Prose fiction	Japanese	20th	
Ding Ling <i>Miss Sophie's Diary</i> and <i>Other Stories</i> OR Zhang Ailing (Eileen Chang) <i>Selected Short</i> <i>Fiction</i>	6	Prose fiction	Chinese	20th	Zhang/Chang <i>Love in a</i> <i>Fallen City</i> (short fiction)

South Asia

Author Work	Period	Genre	Language/Ethnic Tradition	Date	Suggestions for particular editions, translations, etc.
<i>Rāmāyaṇa</i> OR <i>Bhagavad-Gītā</i>	1	Epic	Sanskrit	8th-6th BCE	<i>Ramayana</i> , abridged ed. by Narayan
Anon. <i>Tamil Anthologies</i>	2	Lyric	Tamil	2nd-3rd CE	
<i>Pañcatantra</i>	2	Prose fiction	Sanskrit	2nd CE	trans. Rajan (Penguin)
Kālidāsa <i>Śakuntalā</i>	2	Drama	Sanskrit	4th CE	
Ghalib Selected Poetry	5	Lyric	Urduphone Persian	19th CE	<i>The Lightning Should Have Fallen on Ghalib</i> trans. Bly and Dutta (Borchardt 1999)
Premchand <i>The Gift of a Cow</i>	6	Prose fiction	Hindiphone Indian	20th CE	
Tagore Selected Poems OR Nazrul Selected Poems	5-6	Lyric	Bengaliphone Indian	19th-20th CE	<i>A Tagore Reader</i> , ed. Chakravarty
(also in Africa) Gordimer <i>Burger's Daughter</i> OR Desai <i>Clear Light of Day</i> OR (also in Africa) Lessing <i>The Golden Notebook</i>	6	Prose fiction	(Colonial Women) Anglophone South African/Indian/Zimbabwean	20th CE	
Narayan <i>The English Teacher</i> OR Rushdie <i>Midnight's Children</i>	6	Prose fiction	Anglophone Indian	20th CE	

Africa

Author Work	Period	Genre	Language/Ethnic Tradition	Date	Suggestions for particular editions, translations, etc.
Anon. <i>Epic of Son Jara</i>	2+	Epic	Mali	13th-20th CE	
Gordimer <i>Burger's Daughter</i> OR (also in South Asia) Desai <i>Clear Light of Day</i> OR Lessing <i>The Golden Notebook</i>	6	Prose fiction	(Colonial Women) Anglophone South African/Indian/Zimbabwean	20th CE	

Africa						Suggestions for particular editions, translations, etc.
Author Work	Period	Genre	Language/Ethnic Tradition	Date		
Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i> OR Aidoo <i>No Sweetness Here</i>	6	Prose fiction	(West Africa) Anglophone Nigerian/ Ghanaian	20th CE		
Farah <i>Maps</i> OR Ngũgĩ <i>Wizard of the Crow</i>	6	Prose fiction	(East African) Anglophone Somali/Kikuyu (Kenya)	20th CE		
Soyinka <i>Kongi's Harvest</i> OR <i>The Road</i> OR <i>Bacchae of Euripides</i>	6	Drama	Anglophone Nigerian	20th CE		
Mofolo <i>Chaka</i>	6	Prose fiction	(Southern African) Sotho	20th CE		
(also in Non-English-Speaking Americas) Chamoiseau <i>Texaco</i> , OR Bâ <i>So Long a Letter</i> OR (also in Non-English-Speaking Americas) Césaire <i>Selected Poems</i>	6	Prose fiction/Prose fiction/Lyric	(Poetry: Carrib.+Africa) Francophone Martiniquais/Senegalese /Martiniquais	20th CE		Césaire <i>Return to My Native Land</i>

Non-English-Speaking Americas						Suggestions for particular editions, translations, etc.
Author Work	Period	Genre	Language/Ethnic Tradition	Date		
Anon. <i>Popol Vuh</i>	3	Epic	Quiche Mayan	16th CE		
Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz Selection	4	Lyric/prose non-fiction	Mexican	17th CE		
Machado de Assis <i>Dom Casmurro</i>	5-6	Prose fiction	Brazilian	19th-20th CE		
Rubén Darío <i>Azul</i>	5-6	Lyric/Prose fiction	Nicaraguan	19th-20th CE		
Borges <i>Labyrinths</i>	6	Prose fiction/non-fiction	Argentinian	20th CE		
Paz <i>Selected Poems</i> OR Neruda <i>Selected Poems</i> OR Mistral <i>Selected Poems</i>	6	Lyric	Mexican/Chilean/ Chilean	20th CE		Mistral <i>Selected Poems of Gabriela</i> <i>Mistral</i> trans. U. LeGuin

Non-English-Speaking Americas						Suggestions for particular editions, translations, etc.
Author	Work	Period	Genre	Language/Ethnic Tradition	Date	
García Márquez	<i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i> OR Lispector <i>The Hour of the Star</i>	6	Prose fiction	Colombian/Brazilian	20th CE	
Fuentes	<i>Death of Artemio Cruz</i> OR Cortázar <i>Hopscotch</i> OR Vargas Llosa <i>Conversation in the Cathedral</i> OR <i>Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter</i>	6	Prose fiction	Mexican/Argentinian/Peruvian	20th CE	
Walcott	<i>Omeros</i>	6	Epic	Anglophone West Indian	20th CE	
Chamoiseau	<i>Texaco</i> OR (also in Africa) Bâ <i>So Long a Letter</i> OR Césaire <i>Selected Poems</i>	6	Prose fiction/Prose fiction/Lyric	Francophone Martiniquais/Senegalese/Martiniquais	20th CE	Césaire <i>Return to My Native Land</i>