ENGLISH M.A. QUALIFYING EXAM LIST
Updated 10/5/2009

British (All MA candidates):
Chaucer: from *The Canterbury Tales*: "General Prologue" and Prologue and Tales told by the Wife of Bath, the Pardoner, and the Nun's Priest
Shakespeare: *Othello, Merchant of Venice*
Spenser: Book I of *Faire Queene*
Milton: Books 1, 2, and 9 from *Paradise Lost*
Swift: from Gulliver's Travels, Book 4: "Voyage to the Country of the Houyhnhnms"
Pope: Epistle I from "An Essay on Man"
Austen: *Emma*
Blake: "The Lamb," "The Tyger," "The Little Vagabond," "Holy Thursday," "The Chimney Sweeper" (both from *Songs of Innocence* and *Songs of Experience*). Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*
Keats: "Ode on a Grecian Urn" and "On Sitting Down to Read King Lear"
Wordsworth: "Tintern Abbey" and "Preface to Lyrical Ballads"
Shelley: "Ode to the West Wind" and "Defense of Poetry"
Browning: "Andrea Del Sarto"
Rossetti: "In an Artist's Studio" and "Winter my Secret"
Hardy: *Jude the Obscure*
G. M. Hopkins: "God's Grandeur" and "Pied Beauty"
Virginia Woolf: *To the Lighthouse*
James Joyce: *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

American (All MA candidates):
Dickinson: selections (numbers as listed in Johnson, ed., *The Complete Poems of ED*):
Whitman: *Leaves of Grass*
Thoreau: Walden, "Resistance to Civil Government"
Douglass: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
Melville: *The Piazza Tales*:
   The Piazza
   Bartleby, The Scrivener
   Benito Cereno
   The Lightning-Rod Man
   The Encantadas, or Enchanted Isles
   The Bell-Tower
Roth: *Call It Sleep*
Faulkner: *Absalom, Absalom*
Ellison: *Invisible Man*
Selected poetry, modern and contemporary (students can find most of these works online):

Modernist Poetry:
   Wm. C. Williams:—“Spring and All,” entire work, parts I-XXVIII; “Young Sycamore,” “Paterson: the Falls,” and “The Dance”
For students in creative writing:
Italo Calvino, *Six Memos for the Next Millennium*
Marjorie Perloff, *Poetic License*
Alice Munro, *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*
The Fourth Genre: Contemporary Writers of/on Creative Non-fiction. Published by Longman (any edition will do)
*selected essays, creative nonfiction

For students in rhetoric/pedagogy/literacy:
From *Literacy: A Critical Sourcebook*, Cushman, Kingten, Kroll & Rose (Eds.)
- Harvey Graff, "The Nineteenth-Century Origins of Our Times"
- Sylvia Scribner and Michael Cole, "Unpackaging Literacy"
- Luis Moll and Norma Gonzalez, "Lessons from Research with Language Minority Students"
- Shirley Brice Heath, "Protein Shapes in Literacy Events: Ever-Shifting Oral and Literate Traditions"
- Deborah Brandt, "Sponsors of Literacy"
- David Bartholomae, "Inventing the University"
- James Paul Gee, "Literacy, Discourse, and Linguistics: Introduction" and "What is Literacy?"
- Lisa Delpit, "The Politics of Teaching Literate Discourse"

From *Cross-Talk in Comp Theory*, Villanueva, V. (Ed.)
- Mina Shaugnessy, "Diving In: An Introduction to Basic Writing"
- James Berlin, "Contemporary Composition: The Major Pedagogical Theories"
- Mike Rose, "Narrowing the Mind and Page: Remedial Writers and Cognitive Reductionism"
- Patricia Bizzell, "Cognition, Convention, and Certainty: What We Need to Know about Writing"
- Victor Villanueva, "On the Rhetoric and Precedents of Racism"

For students in literary criticism:
(All essays can be found elsewhere, but most are included in Lodge and Wood, *Modern Criticism and Theory, A Reader*. 3rd Edition (2008))
Saussure, "The Object of Study"
Jakobson, "Linguistics and Poetics"
Lacan, "The Insistence of the Letter in the Unconscious"
Woolf, *A Room of One’s Own*, Chapter One and Two
Derrida, "Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences"
J. Hillis Miller, “The Critic as Host”
P. Schwieckart, “Reading Ourselves: Toward a Feminist Theory of Reading”
Geoffrey Hartman, “The Interpreter’s Freud”
Julia Kristeva, “The Ethics of Linguistics”
Raymond Williams, “Country and City, and A Problem of Perspective,” from The Country and the City
Stuart Hall, “New Ethnicities”
Edward Said, “Crisis [in Orientalism]”
Meyda Yegenoglu, “The Battle of the Veil: Woman between Orientalism and Nationalism”
Judith Butler, “Critically Queer”