Poetry and Poetics

From the list below, please choose at least 75 texts from across the fields presented, exclusive of poetry. You should also choose approximately 50 poets from those listed. Aim for inclusive coverage from all categories. Five essays are roughly equivalent to one book. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with major works throughout this field, balancing their particular interests with the need to prepare themselves broadly in the topic and discipline. Avoid selecting books you have studied in seminars. Because of the nature of this list, less discretion with respect to self-chosen texts is recommended. Please consult with your director or directors for guidance on how best to proceed through this material.

Poetics
1. Plato, *Republic* Books 2, 10
2. Aristotle, *Poetics*
3. Horace, *Ars Poetica* (Epistola ad Pisones)
4. Longinus, *On the Sublime*
5. Dante, *De vulgari eloquentia*
7. Philip Sidney, *The Defence of Poesy*
8. Nicolas Boileau, *Art of Poetry*
10. Samuel Johnson, Preface to Shakespeare, *Lives of the Poets*
12. William Wordsworth, Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*, Essay Supplementary to the Preface
13. Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *Biographia Literaria*
15. Keats, *Selected Letters*
17. Emerson, “The Poet” (1844)
20. Robert Browning, Essay on Shelley
22. J. L. Austin, *How to Do Things with Words*
24. Hugh Kenner, *The Pound Era*
25. Harold Bloom, *The Anxiety of Influence*
27. Sharon Cameron, *Lyric Time*
28. Anthony Easthope, *Poetry as Discourse*
29. Gerard Genette, *Figures of Literary Discourse*
30. Sheldon Sacks, ed. *On Metaphor*

**Twentieth Century poetics [British]**

3. F.S. Flint, *Imagisme*, *Poetry* [Chicago] 1.6 (March, 1913)
12. F. R. Leavis, *New Bearings in English Poetry* (1932)
13. Herbert Read, *Form in Modern Poetry* (1932)
22. Donald Davie, *Purity of Diction in English Verse* (1953), and *Articulate energy; an inquiry into the syntax of English poetry* (1955)


**Twentieth Century poetics [American]**


3. T. S. Eliot, Tradition and the Individual Talent (1919), The Metaphysical Poets (1921) and other essays in *The Sacred Wood: essays on poetry and criticism* (1920) and *Selected Essays* (1932). For an excellent selection, see *Selected Prose*, ed. Frank Kermode (1975)

7. Robert Frost, The Figure a Poem Makes (Preface to Collected Poems, 1929) and other essays.
10. H.D., Notes on Thought and Vision & the Wise Sappho
11. Marianne Moore, selected prose and selected letters.
12. Robert Penn Warren, Selected excerpts from: I’ll Take My Stand: the South and the Agrarian tradition (1930); Understanding Poetry (1938).
15. W.K. Wimsatt (& Beardsley), The Verbal Icon (1954)
18. Muriel Rukeyser, excerpts from: The Life of Poetry (1949); One Life (1957); The Orgy (1967); Poetry, and Unverifiable Facts (1968).
20. Charles Olson, Projective Verse (1950); Selected Writings (1966)
21. John Berryman, Selected prose from The Arts of Reading (1960); The Freedom of the Poet (1976)
22. Theodore Roethke, Selected writings from On the Poet and His Craft: Selected Prose (1966)
23. Louis Zukofsky, Propositions: Collected Critical Essays (1967)
32. Louis Simpson, Selected writings from *Ships Going Into the Blue: Essays and Notes on Poetry* (1994).
38. Jorie Graham, Introduction to *Best American Poetry 1990*
42. Wendell Berry, selected essays

**Poetic Form: prosody, meter, rhyme, rhythm**

Selected Twentieth Century Poetry Criticism, 1960-2001

2. F.R. Leavis (ed.) *A Selection from Scrutiny* (1968)

Poetry in Translation

1. Hesiod, *Theogony* and *Works and Days*
2. Homer, *Iliad* and *Odyssey*
3. Sappho, lyrics
4. Virgil, *Aeneid*
5. Ovid, *Metamorphosis*
6. Catullus, selected poems
7. Petrarch
8. Dante, *Inferno*
10. Stephane Mallarme
11. Paul Valery
12. Rainer Maria Rilke

British Poetry Through the Restoration

13. Seamus Heaney, trans., *Beowulf*
14. Langland, *Piers Plowman*
15. Geoffrey Chaucer, "General Prologue" to *The Canterbury Tales*, "The Wife of
Bath's Prologue and Tale
16. William Shakespeare, Sonnets
17. Edmund Spenser, "Epithalamion," The Faerie Queene, I, II
18. John Donne, selected Songs and Sonnets
19. Ben Jonson, "To Penshurst" and other poems
20. George Herbert, selected poems
21. Andrew Marvell, "Upon Appleton House," selected poems

British Poetry from the Eighteenth Century to the Present
25. Jonathan Swift
26. William Blake
27. Samuel Taylor Coleridge
28. William Wordsworth
29. George Gordon, Lord Byron
30. Robert Burns
31. John Keats
32. Percy Bysshe Shelly
33. Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Idylls of the King
34. Robert Browning, The Ring and the Book
35. Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Sonnets from the Portuguese
36. Matthew Arnold
37. Christina Rossetti
38. Algernon Charles Swinburne
39. Gerard Manley Hopkins
40. Thomas Hardy
41. William Butler Yeats
42. D.H. Lawrence
43. Hugh MacDiarmid
44. Basil Bunting
45. Stevie Smith
46. W.H. Auden
47. Dylan Thomas
48. Hugh MacDiarmid
49. Philip Larkin
50. Ted Hughes
51. Geoffrey Hill
52. Derek Walcott, Omeros
53. Seamus Heaney
54. Eavan Boland
55. Paul Muldoon
56. Carol Ann Duffy
Nineteenth and Twentieth Century American Poetry

57. Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*
60. Edna St Vincent de Millay, selected poems
61. Robert Frost, *North of Boston* and *A Boy’s Will* and selected later poems
62. Ezra Pound, selected *Cantos* and prose
63. Gertrude Stein, *Tender Buttons* (1914)
64. Amy Lowell, selected poems
65. Wallace Stevens, *The Palm at the End of the Mind*
66. T.S. Eliot, *Collected Poems*
67. William Carlos Williams, *Spring and All*
68. Hart Crane, *The Bridge*
69. Marianne Moore, *Collected Poems*
70. H.D. *Triology*
71. Langston Hughes, *Selected Poems*
72. Gwendolyn Brooks, *In the Mecca*
73. Carl Sandburg, selected poems
74. e.e. cummings, selected poems
75. Allen Ginsberg, *Howl and other Poems*
76. Elizabeth Bishop, *Collected Poems*
77. Charles Olson, *Maximus*
78. Robert Lowell, *Life Studies*
79. Sylvia Plath, *Ariel*
80. Frank O’Hara, *Lunch Poems*
81. Le Roi Jones / Amiri Baraka, selected poetry
82. James Merrill, *The Changing Light at Sandover*
83. Adrienne Rich, *Diving into the Wreck*
84. John Ashbery, *Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror*
85. Jorie Graham, *Materialism*

Strongly Recommended: Dana Gioia’s edited Anthology of *Twentieth Century American Poetry*