



British Literature - Minor

Topics on the list: the students are expected to have a general knowledge of the topic – the main characteristics of the period/genre/movement, its impact on the history of British literature, the major authors and works. The two main secondary sources on the topics are listed below.

Authors on the list: a general knowledge of their position in the context of the history of British literature is expected (not their biography!).

Works on the list:

a) underlined works must be read in their entirety and detailed knowledge of them is expected.

b) for the other works, a general knowledge of the content, themes, style and the importance in the context of the history of British Literature is expected.

Recommended secondary sources on the topics in the history of British literature:

Sanders, Andrew. *The Short Oxford History of English Literature*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1994.

Steven Greenblatt (ed.). *The Norton Anthology of English Literature 8th Edition*, New York and London, W. W. Norton & Company, 2006. (We recommend especially the introductions to major periods and writers.)

1. The Beginnings of British literature

Beowulf in a modern English translation

Geoffrey Chaucer, *Canterbury Tales*

2. Elizabethan Poetry and Drama

William Shakespeare, *The Sonnets*: No. 15, 18, 20, 66, 130, 116, 149

William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

William Shakespeare, *King Lear*

William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer's Night Dream*

3. Metaphysical Poetry

John Donne, "The Flea", "The Good Morrow"

4. Restoration poetry and drama

John Milton, *Paradise Lost*: Satan's speech from Book 1: lines 242-263.

5. The Rise of the Novel

Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko, or the Royal Slave*

Daniel Defoe, *Moll Flanders*

6. British Poetry of the Eighteenth century

Jonathan Swift, "The Lady's Dressing Room", "Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift, D.S.P.D."



7. British Romanticism

William Blake, *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*

William Wordsworth: “We are Seven”, “I wandered lonely as a cloud”

Samuel T. Coleridge, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*

John Keats, “Ode on a Grecian Urn”, “Ode to a Nightingale”

Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

8. The Gothic Tradition

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*

9. High Victorian Literature

Alfred Lord Tennyson, “Charge of the Light Brigade”

Christina Rossetti, “In an Artist's Studio”

Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights*

Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*

Charles Dickens: *Great Expectations*

10. Late Victorian Literature

Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

11. Modernism in the British Isles

James Joyce, “The Dead”

T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land*

Virginia Woolf, “Kew Gardens”, “A Room of One's Own”

12. British and Irish Prose of the Second Half of the 20th Century

Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*

Hilary Mantel, *Wolf Hall*

13. British and Irish Poetry of the Second Half of the 20th Century

Seamus Heaney, “Digging”, “The Grauballe Man”, “Punishment”

Carol Ann Duffy, “Standing Female Nude”, “Mrs. Lazarus”

14. British and Irish Drama of the Second Half of the 20th Century

Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*

Caryl Churchill, *Top Girls*

15. Postcolonial literature

Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

J.M. Coetzee, *Waiting for the Barbarians*