

GRE Study Group/Literary History Colloquium
Reed College, Spring 2006
<http://academic.reed.edu/english/gre/>

Books (on reserve under English 481 Independent Study: English GRE):

Norton Anthology of English Literature & Norton Anthology of American Literature
Oxford Companion to English Literature (online: <http://www.oxfordreference.com>)
Cracking the GRE Literature Test, 5th Edition by Douglas McMullen (Princeton Review)
GRE Literature in English - The Best Test Prep for the GRE by James S. Malek

Weekly Schedule:

1. Middle Ages: Old English & Middle English GAIL SHERMAN
 - a. Thursday Jan. 19th 12noon-1pm Library 387
2. Sixteenth-Century: Early Tudor & Elizabethan Period ROBERT KNAPP
 - a. Friday Jan 27th 12noon-1pm CC118

This weekend take the practice exam in *Cracking the GRE Literature Test, 5th Edition* by Douglas McMullen (Princeton Review). Make sure you go over the commentary on the answers after you check your score. If you have already taken the Princeton Review test, take PRACTICE EXAM #1 in *GRE Literature in English - The Best Test Prep for the GRE* by James S. Malek. Both of these books are on reserve in the library.
3. Early Seventeenth-Century: Jacobean Period, Caroline Period, Cromwell ROBERT KNAPP
 - a. Friday Feb. 3rd 12noon-1pm CC118
4. Restoration NICK MOSCHOVAKIS
 - a. Friday, Feb. 10th at 4:00-5:00 p.m. CC118
5. 18th Century: Era of Pope & Swift MAUREEN HARKIN
 - a. Friday Feb. 17th 12noon-1pm CC118
6. 18th Century: The Enlightenment MAUREEN HARKIN
 - a. Friday Feb. 24th 12noon-1pm CC118
7. Romantic Fiction/Prose JAY DICKSON
 - a. Tuesday Feb. 28th 8-9pm CC302
8. Transcendentalism in the U.S & Romantic Poetry LAURA LEIBMAN
Wednesday March 8th 12-2pm (2 hour double session) CC302
During Spring Break take PRACTICE EXAM #2 in *GRE Literature in English - The Best Test Prep for the GRE* by James S. Malek
9. Victorian Poetry/Essays ELLEN STAUDER
 - a. Monday March 20th 5-6pm CC118
10. Victorian Age Fiction: British first 32 years & Victorian Age: Realism/Second 30 Years NATHALIA KING
 - a. Thursday March 30th 5:30-7:30pm (2 hour double session) CC118
11. Twentieth Century: British Modernist Fiction MIKE MIRABILE
 - a. Monday April 3rd 7:30-8:30 pm CC118
12. Twentieth Century: American Modernist Fiction ROGER PORTER
 - a. Friday, April 14, at 4-5 pm CC118
13. Twentieth Century: American Modernist Poetry LISA STEINMAN
 - a. Monday, April 17, 5-6pm CC118

During Reading Week or Finals Week take PRACTICE EXAM #3 in *GRE Literature in English - The Best Test Prep for the GRE* by James S. Malek

WEEK 1: Middle Ages: Old English & Middle English

Discussion Leader: Gail Sherman

Meeting Date and Time: Thursday Jan. 19th 12noon-1pm

Meeting Location: Library 387

Note: Please make sure you read all the headnotes to the authors. Author and Works in bold items are most frequently on the GRE. All items are in the *Norton Anthology of English Literature* Volume 1 unless otherwise noted.

Readings:

1. Introduction and Timeline to "Middle Ages" (Norton, vol. 1)
2. Bede and Caedmon's Hymn
 - a. ***An Ecclesiastical History of the English People***
 - i. **The Story of Caedmon**
3. ***Beowulf*** (translated by Seamus Heaney)
 - a. The Last Survivor's Speech in Old English
4. ***Sir Gawain and the Green Knight***
5. **Geoffrey Chaucer**
 - a. ***Canterbury Tales*** (all those in Norton)
 - b. Excerpt from ***Troilus & Criseyde*** (online)
6. **William Langland**
 - a. ***Vision of Piers Plowman*** (read at least the Prologue and one Passus)
7. **Sir Thomas Malory**
 - a. ***Morte Darthur*** (read at least one section of this and the overview)
8. ***Everyman***

Week 2: Sixteenth-Century: Early Tudor & Elizabethan Period

Discussion Leader: Robert Knapp

Meeting Date and Time: Friday Jan 27th 12noon-1pm

Meeting Location: CC118

Note: Please make sure you read all the headnotes to the authors. Author and Works in bold items are most frequently on the GRE. All items are in the *Norton Anthology of English Literature* Volume 1 unless otherwise noted.

Readings:

1. Introduction and Timeline to “the Sixteenth Century” (Norton Vol. 1)
2. John Skelton
 - a. “Mannerly Margery Milk and Ale”
3. Sir Thomas More
 - a. *Utopia* (at least Book 1)
4. **Edmund Spenser**
 - a. ***The Shepheardes Calendar*** (selections in the *Norton*)
 - b. ***The Faerie Queen*** (at least Books 1 & 2)
 - c. ***Amoretti*** (at least Sonnet 1 & 75)
5. John Lyly
 - a. Euphues
6. **Sir Philip Sidney**
 - a. ***Astrophil and Stella*** (at least #1 “loving in truth...”)
 - b. ***The Defense of Poesy*** (at least the first two sections in the *Norton*).
7. **Christopher Marlowe**
 - a. **“The Passionate Shepherd to His Love”**
 - b. ***Doctor Faustus***
8. **Ben Jonson**
 - a. **“Volpone, or the Fox”**
 - b. **“To the Memory of My Beloved, The Author, Mr. William Shakespeare...”**
9. **William Shakespeare**
 - a. **At least Sonnets 18 & 19**
 - b. **Please also review the characters, plots, and themes of the following Shakespeare plays **online**:**
 - i. *King Lear*
 - ii. *Tempest*
 - iii. *MacBeth*
 - iv. *Othello*
 - v. *Hamlet*
 - vi. *Henry IV Part I*
 - vii. *As You Like It*
 - viii. *Romeo and Juliet*
 - ix. *Richard II*

Week 3: Early Seventeenth-Century: Jacobean Period, Caroline Period, Cromwell

Discussion Leader: Robert Knapp

Meeting Date and Time: Friday Feb. 3rd 12noon-1pm

Meeting Location: CC118

Note: Please make sure you read all the headnotes to the authors. Author and Works in bold items are most frequently on the GRE. All items are in the *Norton Anthology of English Literature* Volume 1 unless otherwise noted.

Readings:

1. Introduction and Timeline to “the Early Seventeenth Century” (Norton Vol. 1)
2. **John Donne**
 - a. “**The Flea**”
 - b. “**The Sun Rising**”
 - c. A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning”
 - d. “**An Anatomy of the World**”
 - e. “**Batter my heart, three-personed God; for you**”
3. **John Webster**
 - a. ***The Duchess of Malfi***
4. Robert Herrick
 - a. “The Argument of His Book”
 - b. “**To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time**”
 - c. “**The Night-Piece, to Julia**”
 - d. “**Upon Julia’s Clothes**”
 - e. “**Upon Julia’s Breasts**” (**online**)
5. **Andrew Marvell**
 - a. “**To His Coy Mistress**”
 - b. “The Garden”
6. **John Milton**
 - a. “**Lycidas**”
 - b. **from *Areopagitica***
 - c. ***Samson Agonistes*** (**online**)
 - d. “**Comus**” (**online**)
 - e. (*Paradise Lost*—you should know this text from Jr. Sem., so it won’t be covered in this week’s readings or discussion)

Week 4: Restoration

Discussion Leader: Nick Moschovakis

Meeting Date and Time: Friday, Feb. 10th at 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: CC118

Note: Please make sure you read all the headnotes to the authors. Author and Works in bold items are most frequently on the GRE. All items are in the *Norton Anthology of English Literature* Volume 1 unless otherwise noted.

Readings:

1. Introduction and Timeline to “The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century” (*Norton* Vol. 1)
2. **John Dryden**
 - a. “Absalom and Achitophel: A Poem”
 - b. “Mac Flecknoe”
 - c. *All for Love* (**online**)
3. **John Bunyan**
 - a. *The Pilgrim’s Progress* (at least the first chapter in the *Norton*)
4. **Samuel Butler** (read bio)
5. **William Congreve**
 - a. *The Way of the World*
6. Please also review the plots, characters, and themes of the following **online**:
 - a. George Etherege’s *The Man of Mode*
 - b. Richard Sheridan’s *The School for Scandal* and *The Rivals*

Week 5: 18th Century: Era of Pope & Swift

Discussion Leader: Maureen Harkin

Meeting Date and Time: Friday Feb. 17th 12-1pm

Meeting Location: CC118

Note: Please make sure you read all the headnotes to the authors. Author and Works in bold items are most frequently on the GRE. All items are in the *Norton Anthology of English Literature* Volume 1 unless otherwise noted.

Readings:

1. Introduction and Timeline to “The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century” (*Norton* Vol. 1)
2. **Jonathan Swift**
 - a. *Gulliver’s Travels* (selections in the *Norton*)
 - b. *A Modest Proposal*
 - c. “A Description of a City Shower”
3. **Daniel Defoe**
 - c. *Moll Flanders* (Please at least review the plots, characters, and themes [online](#))
4. **Alexander Pope**
 - a. “Rape of the Lock”
 - b. “An Essay on Criticism”
 - c. “An Essay on Man” (selections in *Norton*)
 - d. *The Dunciad*

Week 6: 18th Century: The Enlightenment

Discussion Leader: Maureen Harkin

Meeting Date and Time: Friday Feb. 24th 12-1pm

Meeting Location: CC118

Note: Please make sure you read all the headnotes to the authors. Author and Works in bold items are most frequently on the GRE. All items are in the *Norton Anthology of English Literature* Volume 1 unless otherwise noted.

Readings:

1. Introduction and Timeline to “The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century” (*Norton* Vol. 1)
2. **Samuel Johnson**
 - a. “**The Vanity of Human Wishes**”
 - b. from *The History of Rasselas, Prince of Abyssinia*
 - c. *The Preface to Shakespeare* (selections in the *Norton*)
 - d. *Lives of the Poets: Cowley*
3. **James Boswell**
 - a. *The Life of Samuel Johnson* (At least the first two sections in the *Norton*)
4. Mary Wollstonecraft
 - a. *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* (excerpts in VOLUME 2 *Norton*)
5. **Laurence Sterne**
 - a. *Tristram Shandy*
 - i. **Chapter 1 (online)**
 - ii. **Also review plot, characters, & themes online**
6. Horace Walpole
 - a. *The Castle of Otranto*
 - i. **Chapter 1 (online)**
 - ii. **Also review plot, characters, & themes online**
7. **William Thackeray**
 - a. *Vanity Fair*
 - i. **Chapter 1 (online)**
 - ii. **Also review plot, characters, & themes online**
8. Thomas Chatterton
 - a. Review biography online.
9. William Cowper
 - a. *The Task*. Book 1: A Landscape Described.
10. **Oliver Goldsmith (read bio from *Norton*)**
 - a. *She Stoops to Conquer*
 - i. **Review plot, characters, & themes online**

Week 7: Romantic Fiction/Prose

Discussion Leader: Jay Dickson

Meeting Date and Time: Monday Feb. 27th-Friday March 3rd

Meeting Location: CC302

Note: Please make sure you read all the headnotes to the authors. Author and Works in bold items are most frequently on the GRE. All items are in the *Norton Anthology of English Literature* Volume 2 unless otherwise noted.

Readings:

1. Introduction and Timeline to "The Romantic Period" (*Norton* Vol. 2)
2. **Jane Austen**
 - a. ***Emma***
 - ii. **Chapters 1-3 (online)**
 - iii. **Also review plot, characters, & themes online**
 - b. **Review the plot, characters, & themes of the following works online:**
 - i. ***Northanger Abbey***
 - ii. ***Sense and Sensibility***
 - iii. ***Pride and Prejudice***
 - iv. ***Mansfield Park***
 - v. ***Persuasion***
3. **Anne Radcliffe, *The Mysteries of Udolpho***
 - c. **Chapter 1 (online)**
 - a. **Also review plot, characters, & themes online**
4. **M. G. "Monk" Lewis, *The Monk***
 - d. **Chapter 1 (online)**
 - a. **Also review plot, characters, & themes online**
5. **Thomas Carlyle**
 - a. ***Sartor Resartus* (excerpts in *Norton*)**
6. **Coleridge, *Biographia Literaria*: Chapter 4 (in *Norton*)**
7. **Sir Walter Scott**
 - a. **Review the plot, characters, & themes of the following works online:**
 - i. ***Waverley***

Week 8: Romantic Poetry & Transcendentalism in the U.S. (Double Session)

Discussion Leader: Laura Leibman

Meeting Date and Time: Wednesday March 8th 12-2pm (2 hour double session)

Meeting Location: CC302

Note: Please make sure you read all the headnotes to the authors. Author and Works in bold items are most frequently on the GRE. All items are in the *Norton Anthology of English Literature* Volume 2 unless otherwise noted.

Readings:

1. Introduction and Timeline to “The Romantic Period” (*Norton* Vol. 2)
2. **ROMANTIC POETRY**
 - a. **Blake**
 - i. ***Songs of Innocence***
 1. Introduction
 - ii. ***Songs of Experience***
 1. Introduction
 2. “The Tyger”
 3. “Visions of the Daughters of Albion”
 4. “The Marriage of Heaven and Hell”
 - b. **Wordsworth**
 - i. **Preface to the *Lyrical Ballads* (all selections in *Norton*)**
 - ii. “Strange fits of passion I have known”
 - iii. **“She dwelt among the untrodden ways”**
 - iv. “A slumber did my spirit seal”
 - v. “I travelled among unknown men”
 - vi. “The world is too much with us”
 - c. Coleridge
 - i. *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*
 - d. **Charles Lamb**
 - i. ***Letter to Wordsworth* (pdf/online)**
 - e. **Shelley**
 - i. “Ozymandias”
 - ii. “Ode to the West Wind”
 - f. **Byron**
 - i. *Don Juan: Canto 1*
 - g. **Keats**
 - i. ***Endymion: A Poetic Romance* (excerpts in *Norton*)**
 - ii. “Ode on a Grecian Urn”
 - iii. “Ode on Melancholy”
3. **TRANSCENDENTALISM IN THE U.S.)—All of these items are in “Volume B” of the *Norton Anthology of American Literature*.**
 - a. Introduction and Timeline to “American Literature 1820-1865)
 - b. **Melville**
 - i. ***Moby-Dick* (Excerpts in NAAL)**
 - ii. “Bartleby the Scrivener”
 - iii. ***Billy Budd***
 1. Chapter 1

2. Also review plot, characters, & themes (**online**)
- c. Hawthorne
 - i. *Scarlet Letter*
 1. "The Custom House"
 2. Chapter 1
 3. Also review plot, characters, & themes (**online**)
 - ii. *Blithedale Romance*
 1. Chapter 1 (**online**)
 2. Also review plot, characters, & themes (**online**)
 - iii. *The House of Seven Gables*
 1. Preface (in *NAAL*)
 2. Also review plot, characters, & themes (**online**)
- d. Whitman
 - i. Preface to the Leaves of Grass
 - ii. *Song of Myself* (excerpts TBA)
 - iii. "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd"
 - iv. "O Captain! My Captain!" (**online**)
- e. Dickinson
 - i. Poem #712: "Because I could not stop for Death—"
- f. Thoreau
 - i. *Walden*
 1. "Economy" (first 5 pages)
 2. "Where I Lived" (first 5 pages)
- g. BONUS EARLIER AUTHOR: *Jonathan Edwards* (*NAAL* Vol. A)
 - i. "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"

Week 9: Victorian Poetry/Essays

Discussion Leader: Ellen Stauder

Meeting Date and Time: Monday March 20th 5-6pm

Meeting Location: CC118

Note: Please make sure you read all the headnotes to the authors. Author and Works in bold items are most frequently on the GRE. All items are in the *Norton Anthology of English Literature* Volume 2 unless otherwise noted.

Readings:

1. Introduction and Timeline to "The Victorian Age" (*Norton* Vol. 2)
2. **Tennyson**
 - a. **"Ulysses"**
 - b. from **"In Memorium of A.H.H."**
3. **Browning**
 - a. **"My Last Duchess"**
 - b. **"The Bishop Orders His Tomb at Saint Praxed's Church"**
4. **Arnold**
 - a. **"Dover Beach"**
 - b. ***Culture and Anarchy* (excerpts in *Norton*)**
5. **Mill**
 - a. ***On Liberty* (excerpts in *Norton*)**
 - b. ***Autobiography* (excerpts in *Norton*)**
6. **Newman**
 - a. ***The Idea of the University* (excerpts in *Norton*)**
 - b. ***Apologia Pro Vita Sua* (excerpts in *Norton*)**
7. For the following authors read their biographies (the headnotes) in the *Norton*
 - a. John Ruskin
 - b. Algernon Charles Swinburne
 - c. Walter Pater
 - d. Gerald Manley Hopkins
 - i. "Spring and Fall"

Week 10: Victorian Age Fiction: British first 32 years & Realism/Second 30 Years (Double Session)

Discussion Leader: Nathalia King

Meeting Date and Time: Thursday March 30th 5:30-7:30pm (2 hour double session)

Meeting Location: CC118

Note: Please make sure you read all the headnotes to the authors. Author and Works in bold items are most frequently on the GRE. All items are in the *Norton Anthology of English Literature* Volume 2 unless otherwise noted.

Readings:

1. Introduction and Timeline to "The Victorian Age" (*Norton* Vol. 2)
2. **First 32 Years**
 - a. **Dickens**
 - i. ***Great Expectations***
 1. **Chapters 1-5 (online)**
 2. **Also review plot, characters, & themes (online)**
 - ii. ***Hard Times***
 1. **Chapter 1 (online)**
 2. **Also review plot, characters, & themes (online)**
 - iii. ***David Copperfield***
 1. **Chapter 1 (online)**
 2. **Also review plot, characters, & themes (online)**
 - iv. ***Bleak House***
 1. **Chapter 1 (online)**
 2. **Also review plot, characters, & themes (online)**
 - b. **Thomas Macaulay**
 - i. ***Lays of Ancient Rome*, Preface (online)**
 - c. **Charlotte Brontë**
 - i. ***Jane Eyre***
 1. **Chapter 1 (online)**
 2. **Also review plot, characters, & themes (online)**
 - d. **Emily Brontë**
 - i. ***Wuthering Heights***
 1. **Chapter 1 (online)**
 2. **Also review plot, characters, & themes (online)**
3. **Realism/Second 30 Years**
 - a. **Thomas Hardy, *Jude the Obscure***
 - i. **Chapter 1 (online)**
 - ii. **Also review plot, characters, & themes (online)**
 - b. **George Eliot, *Adam Bede***
 - i. **Chapter 1 (online)**
 - ii. **Also review plot, characters, & themes (online)**
 - c. Introduction and Timeline to "American Literature: 1865-1914" (*NAAL*)
 - d. **Twain, *Huck Finn***
 - i. **Chapter 1 (online)**
 - ii. **Also review plot, characters, & themes (online)**
 - e. **Henry James**
 - i. ***Daisy Miller***

Week 11: Twentieth Century: British Modernist Fiction

Discussion Leader: Mike Mirabile

Meeting Date and Time: Monday April 3rd-Friday April 7th

Meeting Location: CC118

Note: Please make sure you read all the headnotes to the authors. Author and Works in bold items are most frequently on the GRE. All items are in the *Norton Anthology of English Literature* Volume 2 unless otherwise noted.

Readings:

1. Introduction and Timeline to "The Twentieth Century" (*Norton* Vol. 2)
2. **Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness***
 - a. **Chapter 1**
 - b. **Review plot, characters, & themes (online)**
3. **Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse***
 - a. **Chapter 1**
 - b. **Review plot, characters, & themes (online)**
4. **James Joyce**
 - a. **"Araby"**
 - b. **"The Dead"**
 - c. ***Ulysses* (Excerpts in the Norton)**
5. D.H. Lawrence
 - a. "The Horse-Dealer's Daughter"
 - b. "Why the Novel Matters"
6. **E.M. Forster**
 - a. ***Passage to India* (Excerpts in the Norton)**
 - b. ***Howard's End***
 - i. **Chapter 1**
 - ii. **Review plot, characters, & themes (online)**
7. **George Orwell**
 - a. **"Shooting an Elephant"**

Week 12: Twentieth Century: American Modernist Fiction

Discussion Leader: Roger Porter

Meeting Date and Time: Friday, April 14, at 4:00-5:00 pm

Meeting Location: CC118

Note: Please make sure you read all the headnotes to the authors. Author and Works in bold items are most frequently on the GRE. All items are in the *Norton Anthology of American Literature* Volume D unless otherwise noted.

Readings:

1. Introduction and Timeline to “American Literature between the Wars, 1914-1945” (NAAL Vol. D)
2. Hemingway (copy bio from NAAL Vol. D—make 2 copies)
 - a. “Hills Like Elephants”
3. Fitzgerald (copy bio from NAAL Vol. D—make 2 copies)
 - a. *The Great Gatsby*
 - i. Chapter 1
 - i. Review plot, characters, & themes (**online**)
4. Steinbeck
 - a. *The Grapes of Wrath* (Chapters in NAAL Vol. D)
5. DuBois
 - a. *The Souls of Black Folk* (Chapters in NAAL Vol. D)
6. Faulkner (copy bio from NAAL Vol. D—make 2 copies)
 - a. “A Rose for Emily”
 - b. *The Sound and the Fury*
 - i. Chapter 1
 - ii. Review plot, characters, & themes (**online**)

Week 13: Twentieth Century: American Modernist Poetry

Discussion Leader: Lisa Steinman

Meeting Date and Time: Monday, April 17, 5-6pm

Meeting Location: CC118

Note: Please make sure you read all the headnotes to the authors. Author and Works in bold items are most frequently on the GRE. All items are in the *Norton Anthology of English Literature* Volume 2 unless otherwise noted.

Readings:

7. Introduction and Timeline to “The Twentieth Century” (*Norton* Vol. 2)
8. **Auden**
 - a. **“Musée des Beaux Arts”**
 - b. **“In Memory of W.B. Yeats”**
 - c. **The Shield of Achilles”**
9. **Yeats**
 - a. **“The Second Coming”**
 - b. “Sailing to Byzantium”
 - c. “The Dolls” (online)
10. Introduction and Timeline to “American Literature between the Wars, 1914-1945” (*NAAL* Vol. D)
11. **T.S. Eliot**
 - a. **“The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”**
 - b. ***The Waste Land***
 - c. **“Journey of the Magi”**
 - d. **“Tradition and the Individual Talent”**
12. Ezra Pound
 - a. *The Cantos* (selections from *NAAL* Vol. D)
 - b. “In the Station of the Metro” (*NAAL* Vol. D)
13. Gertrude Stein
 - a. *Tender Buttons*—“Objects” (*NAAL* Vol. D)
14. **Robert Frost**
 - a. **“Design”**