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 STAUNDER
   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”
   e. “Batter my heart, three-personed God; for you”
3. **John Webster**
   a. *The Duchess of Malfi*
4. **Robert Herrick**
   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”
   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
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
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)
7. Sir Walter Scott
   a. Review the plot, characters, & themes of the following works online:
      i. Waverely
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”
   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)
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 Wolf, 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
      ii. 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
    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”