

Department of English Graduate Studies  
Ph.D. Period Candidacy Examination

The Early-Modern period lists should consist of between fifty and sixty works by between twenty and thirty authors, at least twenty of whom should be chosen from the list below. A “work” consists of a novel or a collection of poetry, drama or fictional or non-fictional prose by a given author or a substantial selection of thematically linked poetry or prose. Each student will develop the list in consultation with his or her advisor; it must then be approved by the examining committee (two other members of the department with expertise in the area) and the Graduate Chair or designate (if the Graduate Chair is a member of the examining committee). The committee and Graduate Chair are responsible for ensuring that the list includes some balance in genres and a chronological range across the period. This list should be drawn up and approved by or as soon as possible after the end of the course work in the April of the student’s first year in the doctoral program, and the exams should be written in mid-November of the following academic term.

Core List of Early-Modern Writers

1. Roger Ascham
2. Anne Askew
3. Francis Bacon
4. Thomas Browne
5. Robert Burton
6. Elizabeth Cary
7. Margaret Cavendish, Duchess of Newcastle
8. George Chapman
9. Samuel Daniel
10. Thomas Dekker
11. John Donne
12. Michael Drayton
13. George Gascoigne
14. George Herbert
15. Robert Herrick
16. Thomas Hobbes
17. Thomas Hoby
18. Richard Hooker
19. Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey
20. Ben Jonson
21. Thomas Kyd
22. Aemilia Lanyer
23. John Lyly
24. Christopher Marlowe
25. John Marston
26. Andrew Marvell
27. Philip Massinger

28. Thomas Middleton
29. John Milton
30. Thomas More
31. Thomas Nashe
32. Katherine Philips
33. Walter Raleigh
34. William Shakespeare
35. Mary Sidney
36. Philip Sidney
37. John Skelton
38. Edmund Spenser
39. Henry Vaughan
40. John Webster
41. Mary Wroth
42. Thomas Wyatt