

Victorian Literature  
Suggested Reading List for Ph.D.'s

Please note that the following is a general list, designed so that students can refine and add to it in consultation with their major examiner.

Basic Background

Specialists: have a working general familiarity with most of the works on the following list.

Nonspecialists: Read at least five of the following.

- Richard Altick. *Victorian People and Ideas*, 1973.
- Isobel Armstrong. *Victorian Poetry: Poetry, Poetics, and Politics*, 1993.
- Nancy Armstrong. *Desire and Domestic Fiction*, 1987.
- Nina Baym. *Women and the Demon*, 1983.
- Patrick Brantlinger. *Rule of Darkness: British Literature and Imperialism*, 1988.
- Asa Briggs. *Victorian People*, 1955.
- Jerome Buckley. *The Victorian Temper*, 1951.
- Judith Butler. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*, 1990.
- Cowen Chadwick. *The Victorian Church*, 1963.
- Bryan Cheyette. *Construction of the Jew in English Literature and Society*, 1993.
- George Kitson Clark. *The Making of Victorian England*, 1962.
- William A. Cohen. *Sex Scandal: The Private Parts of Victorian Fiction*, 1996.
- Richard Dellamora. *Masculine Desire*, 1990.
- Terry Eagleton. *Heathcliff and the Great Hunger: Studies in Irish Culture*, 1996.
- Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar. *The Madwoman in the Attic*, 1979.
- Gertrude Himmelfarb. *The Idea of Poverty: England in the Early Industrial Age*, 1985.
- John Holloway. *The Victorian Sage*, 1953.
- Walter Houghton. *The Victorian Frame of Mind*, 1957.
- Elizabeth Langland. *Nobody's Angels: Middle Class Women and Domestic Ideology in Victorian Culture*. 1995.
- Jonathan Loeb. *Fictions of Consciousness*, 1986.
- Steven Marcus. *Other Victorians*, 1966.
- Dorothy Mermin. *Godiva's Ride: Women of Letters in England, 1830-1880*, 1993.
- D.A. Miller. *The Novel and the Police*, 1988.
- J. Hillis Miller. *The Disappearance of God*, 1963.
- Linda Peterson. *Victorian Autobiography*, 1986.
- Mary Poovey. *Uneven Developments*, 1988.
- Michale Ragussis, *Figures of Conversion: The Jewish Question and English National Identity*, 1995.
- Edward Said. *Culture and Imperialism*, 1993.
- Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, *Between Men: English Literature and Male Homosexual Desire*, 1993.
- Linda Shires. *Rewriting the Victorians: Theory, History, and the Politics of Gender*, 1992.

- Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. *In Other Worlds: Essays in Cultural Politics*, 1988.
- Sara Suleri. *The Rhetoric of English India*, 1992,
- Lionel Stevenson. *The English Novel: A Panorama*, 1960
- Lytton Strachey. *Eminent Victorians*, 1918.
- Raymond Williams. *The Country and the City*, 1973.
  - . *Culture and Society*
- G.M. Young. *Victorian England*, 1963.

Fiction: read at least three (specialists)/two (non-specialists) works by each of the following:

- Jane Austen
- Charlotte Bronte
- Charles Dickens
- George Eliot
- Thomas Hardy
- William M. Thackeray

plus have a strong familiarity with at least five (specialists) three (non-specialists) of the following:

- Grace Aguilar
- William Beckford
- George Borrow
- Ann Bronte
- Charlotte Bronte
- Emily Bronte
- Samuel Butler
- Wilkie Collins
- Benjamin Disraeli
- Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll)
- Arthur Conan Doyle
- Maria Edgeworth
- Elizabeth Gaskell
- George Gissing
- William Godwin
- Charles Kingsley
- Matthew Lewis
- Charles Maturin
- George Meredith
- George Moore
- John Henry Newman
- Margaret Oliphant

- Ann Radcliffe
- Charles Reade
- Walter Scott
- Robert Louis Stevenson
- Bram Stoker
- Anthony Trollope
- Frances Trollope
- Oscar Wilde

Poetry: Have a strong familiarity with the important poems of the following:

- Matthew Arnold
- Robert Browning
- E.B. Browning
- Gerard Manley Hopkins
- Christina Rossetti
- Alfred Lord Tennyson

plus (specialists only) familiarity with at least five of the following:

- Emily Bronte
- Elizabeth Barrett Browning
- Arthur Hugh Clough
- Ernest Dowson
- Edward Fitzgerald
- Felicia Hemans
- William Ernest Henley
- A.E. Housman
- Letitia Elizabeth Landon (L.E.L.)
- Amy Levy
- George Meredith
- William Morris
- Christina Rossetti
- Dante Gabriel Rossetti
- Charles Algernon Swinburne
- James Thomson
- Oscar Wilde

Prose: know the listed works below:

- Matthew Arnold *Culture and Anarchy*

- Thomas Carlyle *Sartor Resartus*
- John Stuart Mill *Autobiography*
- John Henry Newman *Apologia Pro Vita Sua*

plus (specialists only): be familiar with the prose writings of at least three of the following:

- Grace Aguilar
- Edmund Burke
- Charles Darwin
- George Eliot
- Thomas De Quincey
- James Anthony Froude
- Edmund Gosse
- William Hazlitt
- Thomas Henry Huxley
- Charles Lamb
- Thomas Babington Macaulay
- Harriet Martineau
- Henry Mayhew
- Hannah More
- Walter Pater
- Thomas Paine
- John Ruskin
- Herbert Spencer
- Mary Wollstonecraft
- Dorothy Wordsworth
- Oscar Wilde

Biography: be familiar with at least four of the following works:

- Rosemarie Bodenheimer *The Real Life of Mary Ann Evans* (1996)
- Richard Ellmann: *Oscar Wilde* (1987)
- Winifred Gerin: *Emily Bronte: A Biography* (1971)
- Gordon Haite: *George Eliot* (1968)
- Evelyn Hardy: *Thomas Hardy: A Critical Biography* (1954)
- Park Honan: *Matthew Arnold* (1983)
- Edgar Johnson: *Charles Dickens* (1952)
- Fred Kaplan: *Thomas Carlyle* (1983)
- Ian Ker: *John Henry Newman* (1988)
- Christopher Ricks: *Tennyson* (1972)
- William Irvine and Park Honan: *The Ring, the Book, and the Poet* (1974)
- Paul Smith *Disraeli: A Brief Life* (1996)

