

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

PHD QUALIFYING EXAMINATION READING LIST

English 9918 (SF) 9938 (PF)

LITERARY CRITICISM AND THEORY

In order to develop a wide-ranging competency to teach and research in the field of Literary Criticism and Theory, candidates will prepare a reading list according to instructions and requirements below.

1. Instructions

Students should be familiar with the main critical and theoretical documents – and the issues and debates surrounding them – from Plato to the present. Selections listed here can sometimes be found in *The Norton Anthology of Criticism and Theory*

i. Secondary Field Exam

All Students must cover theorists whose names are in **bold**

Students must also include roughly a quarter of the optional entries, drawn from both the Historical and Contemporary parts of the list. Substitutions and additions cannot be made.

ii. Primary Field Exam

All students must cover theorists whose names are in **bold**

Students must likewise include a quarter of the optional entries, drawn from both parts of the reading list. In addition they must add a further 25 items, a majority of which should be substantial readings. Selections may include readings from a theorist already on the list, or full texts of works from which there is only a shorter selection on the main reading list. Candidates may also choose to focus this selection in a particular area **on** existing list (e.g. Deconstruction or Marxism or aesthetics). In this case the supplementary list may also include up to five texts by theorists not on the **general** list, and must provide a one paragraph rationale for the choice of topic and texts, inclu

(worth 30% each) are designed as more writing and comparative essay questions.

- ii. Students must not write on the same text twice, repec (c).Tt9 (e)6an(d)2 ifreen()]TJ 0 Tc

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Paul de Man. From

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