

Dear new students of English Literature,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to your course at the end of September 2023. In advance of joining your degree programme at De Montfort University, please find below suggested reading to prepare you for your first year English Literature modules. We have listed specific texts which we may study alongside some more general primers that should get you in the mood for the kind of genres, texts or topics which you will study on each module. We will also issue more detailed information on your modules in Induction Week (also known as 'freshers' week').

The best preparation for an English Literature degree is to read widely, so, as well as the works listed below, please read anything else that you enjoy!

Please note that you don't need to buy everything that you read, or indeed buy everything brand new. While it can be very useful to have your own paper copies to annotate, you can access many texts digitally via:

- DMU's Kimberlin Library
- Your local library (either Leicester or at home)
- Internet Archive's Open Library (<http://openlibrary.org>)

You can often also pick up previous students' books for sale at second-hand book shops in Leicester or online (for example, <https://onlineshop.oxfam.org.uk/>). Think about what texts might be more important than others; for instance, it will make sense to invest more time and money in getting a good anthology that you will reuse repeatedly, than a paperback which you'll only read for one week.

If you have questions about your degree programme, you are welcome to email us at englishlitba@dmu.ac.uk.

We look forward to meeting you all in Induction Week!

Alice and Takako

Dr Takako Kato and Dr Alice Wood
Programme Leaders for BA English Literature

BLOCK 1

Reading List for ENGL1020 Approaches to Reading and Writing

Selected Texts:

- *The Bloody Chamber* by Angela Carter [short story book collection].
- *Maleficent* (dir. Robert Stormberg, 2014) [film].
- *The Company of Wolves* (dir. Neil Jordan, 1984) [film].
- *Ruby Sparks* (dir. Valerie Faris and Jonathan Dayton, 2012) [film].
- 'Standing Female Nude' by Carol Ann Duffy [poem].
- 'Red Riding Hood Had A Pretty Good Time With The Wolf' by Karen Daly [poem].
- 'Big Bad' by Veronica Schanoes [poem].

BLOCK 2

Reading List for ENGL1022 Introduction to the Novel

Set Texts:

- Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
- Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*
- Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*
- Monica Ali, *Brick Lane*

As novels can be time-consuming to read, you are encouraged to get ahead by reading some or all of the texts above prior to beginning this block if you have the opportunity.

It can be helpful to have your own copies of the texts that we study so that you can annotate them and bring them to class. But if you're money-conscious or trying to minimise your purchases, you will also be able to either borrow some titles from the Kimberlin library on campus or your local council library and/or to access or borrow some of the above from <http://openlibrary.org> or <https://archive.org/details/inlibrary>. Any editions may be used.

BLOCK 3

Reading List for ENGL1023

Introduction to Drama: Shakespeare

For an incredibly helpful introduction to Shakespeare and how to both read and write about Shakespeare:

- Emma Smith, *This is Shakespeare: How to Read the World's Greatest Playwright* (London: Pelican, 2019)

Set Texts:

Plays:

- *Hamlet*
- *Romeo and Juliet*
- *Much Ado About Nothing*

Films:

- *Shakespeare in Love* (dir. John Madden, 1998)
- *Romeo and Juliet* (dir. Franco Zeffirelli, 1968)
- *William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet* (dir. Baz Luhrmann, 1996)
- *Much Ado About Nothing* (dir. Kenneth Branagh, 1993)
- *Much Ado About Nothing* (dir. Joss Whedon, 2012)

Preparing to study Shakespeare...

Students sometimes find it hard to read Shakespeare so you can give yourself a head start by reading the plays listed above at least once over the summer. Why not enlist a couple of friends or family members to help you read the parts out loud? When you then return to them later in the year, they should feel more familiar and less intimidating.

Which editions?

You may find it more cost effective to buy an anthology of Shakespeare's plays. If you want single editions of the plays, we recommend the publisher Arden most of all, followed by Oxford, RSC or Norton. Whatever copy you end up using, remember that it should include Act, Scene and Line numbers as well as explanatory footnotes. Publications aimed at GCSE or A-Level readers will not provide as much detail as is required at undergraduate level.

BLOCK 4

Reading List for ENGL1021

Poetry and Society

Set Text:

Margaret Ferguson, Tim Kendall, Mary Jo Salter eds, *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*, 6th edition (W.W. Norton and Co., 2018) or a more recent edition.

You are encouraged to read across the anthology and to enjoy whatever takes your fancy in preparation, and to read specifically the following:

- Alexander Pope, *The Rape of the Lock*, in *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*, ed. By Margaret Ferguson et al, 6th edn (W.W. Norton and Co., 2018), pp.644-661.
- Christina Rossetti, 'Goblin Market', in *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*, ed. by Margaret Ferguson et al, 6th edn (W.W. Norton and Co., 2018), pp.1159-1170.
- T.S. Eliot, 'The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock', in *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*, ed. By Margaret Ferguson et al, 6th edn (W.W. Norton and Co., 2018), pp.1400-1403.