



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

School
Of
English.



**Support Materials:
Suggested Reading for the Summer**

Suggested Reading for the Summer

In addition to the optional modules you choose, in your first year you will all take LIT120, '**Renaissance to Revolution**' as your core module. This module – which introduces you to English Literature from the early sixteenth to the late eighteenth centuries – runs across the Autumn and Spring Semesters.

Most of the texts you study on this module will be available via the *Norton Anthology of English Literature*, 10th edn (which will be provided by the School when you arrive), or via the module's Virtual Learning Environment, which you will be able to access once you have registered as a student in September.

In addition, for the Spring Semester, you will need to buy the following texts (the prices are the recommended retail price, new, but you should be able to find cheaper and second-hand copies; Blackwell's university bookshop, located next to the School of English, also runs a student price-match promotion, which price-matches with on-line sites such as Amazon):

Burney, Fanny. *Evelina*, ed. E.A. Bloom (Oxford World's Classics, 1998), £8.99

Equiano, Olaudah, *The Interesting Narrative*, ed. Brycchan Carey (Oxford World's Classics, 2018), £8.99

Below is a list of the texts that we'll be studying on LIT120 across the two semesters. If you want to make a start on your reading before you arrive, we'd usually recommend looking for copies in your local library, or on friends' and relatives' bookshelves, but that will obviously be difficult during the current lockdown. Fortunately, many of the texts are also available via open access web resources. Links to suggested websites for the first semester's reading have been provided. Note that these on-line texts don't come with the supporting material (e.g. explanatory annotations) that the teaching anthology provides, and some of them are in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century spelling (rather than the modernised texts we'll use). We don't study all the poems by Wyatt, Donne, etc: have a browse.

AUTUMN SEMESTER (texts listed in the order in which we will study them)

Wyatt, Thomas, selected poems, www.luminarium.org/renlit/wyattbib.htm

Donne, John, selected poems, www.luminarium.org/sevenlit/donne/donnebib.htm

Sidney, Philip, extracts from *Astrophil and Stella*, www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/stella.html

Wroth, Mary, extracts from 'Pamphilia to Amphilanthus', www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/mary.html

Lyly, John, extract from *Euphues* ('Euphues Introduced'), www.luminarium.org/renlit/euphues.htm

Nashe, Thomas, extract from *The Unfortunate Traveller*, [www.oxford-shakespeare.com/Nashe/Unfortunate Traveller.pdf](http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/Nashe/Unfortunate_Traveller.pdf) (we read to p. 9, '... way of honesty')

Spenser, Edmund, *Faerie Queene*, Book 1, Canto 1, www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/queene1.html#Canto%201.

Marlowe, Christopher, *Hero and Leander*, www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/marlowe1.html

Jonson, Ben, *Volpone* (www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/4039) and 'To Penshurst', www.luminarium.org/sevenlit/jonson/penshurst.htm

Lanyer, Emilia, 'Description of Cookeham' from *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum*, www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/50661/the-description-of-cooke-ham

Webster, John, *Duchess of Malfi*, www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/webster1.html

SPRING SEMESTER (texts listed in the order in which we will study them)

Marvell, Andrew, selected poems, including 'An Horatian Ode'

Milton, John, *Paradise Lost*, Books 1, 2, 4, 9

Wycherley, William, *The Country Wife*

Behn, Aphra, *Oronooko*

Equiano, Olaudah, *The Interesting Narrative*

Haywood, Eliza, *Fantomina*

Pope, Alexander, *Rape of the Lock* (1712 edn; 2 cantos)

Gray, Thomas, 'Elegy in a Country Churchyard'

Burney, Fanny, *Evelina*

Suggestions for more general further reading for the summer before you arrive

One of the biggest challenges involved in reading English Literature at university is getting up to speed with the mythological, generic, and religious contexts that literary works past and present draw upon. The degree at Sheffield will give you knowledge and understanding of literature from the Renaissance to the present day, but our focus will naturally be on the particular texts studied on each course. We will always encourage you to read around these texts, but there might not always be time during the semester to absorb the cultural sources that underlie them. The summer before you arrive is an ideal time to look to fill some of the gaps in your knowledge, and to read works from periods that you may not know from school or from your own reading.

Sample some of the following:

- Classical literature in translation, e.g. Books 4 and/or 6 of Virgil's *Aeneid*, a book or two of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*; some of Homer's *Odyssey*;
- A book or two of the Bible (King James translation recommended), e.g. Genesis, Psalms, one of the books of the New Testament (e.g. Gospel according to John, Mark, Matthew, or Luke; the Acts of the Apostles);
- Some medieval literature (e.g. some of Malory's *Morte D'Arthur*, such as Book 1, on the birth and rise of Arthur, 'Tristan and Iseult', or 'Lancelot and Guinevere').
- If you can, when the theatres open again(!), go to watch some Renaissance or Restoration drama, or – in the meantime – keep an eye out for companies streaming past productions.
- Read an eighteenth- or nineteenth-century novel and compare it with a version on TV or film.

The degree programme at Sheffield also gives you the opportunity to study film. See what you think of the BBC's list of the twenty-first-century's best films: www.bbc.com/culture/story/20160819-the-21st-century-100-greatest-films

If you have not seen them before, check out *Memento* (2000), *The Royal Tenenbaums* (2001), *Pan's Labyrinth* (2006), *Fish Tank* (2009), *Coriolanus* (2011), *Wuthering Heights* (2011), *Mad Max Fury Road* (2014), *Victoria* (2015), *Lady Bird* (2017).

Importantly, despite these strange times, we hope you have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to seeing you in September.