**Renaissance exam list**

The reading list for the Renaissance major field exam includes approximately 50 works plus a supplemental list of 17 to 25 works. Student are given a certain amount of flexibility in making up their reading lists and might emphasize either sixteenth or seventeenth century, or one literary tradition over another, while still being held accountable for works by major authors.

The supplemental list is intended to give students the opportunity to focus on a sub-specialty that will lead to a dissertation topic. It must include relevant critical works and must be accompanied by a brief (one to one and a half page) rationale.

What is a work? A volume of poetry or a substantial selection of poetry by one poet equals one work, and for the purposes of this list three plays equal one work. If articles are included on the supplemental list, then three or four substantial articles can count as one critical work.

Particular texts will be chosen by the student in consultation with members of the exam committee. Readings should be distributed as follows:

1. 25 Shakespeare plays and 25 plays by dramatists other than Shakespeare
2. 15-18 works of poetry, including major works by Spenser and Milton
3. 15-18 works of prose, including major works by Bacon, Sidney, and Milton
4. 17-25 works that make up a coherent supplemental list