Advanced Higher English

Dissertation

Armadale Academy Library
Suggestions

Crime

Classic “detective” stories
Key features: inquiries - large number of suspects – red herrings – reconstruction of crime – final twist
Edgar Allan Poe The murder in the Rue Morgue (C Auguste Dupin) (1841)
The purloined letter (1844)
Wilkie Collins The moonstone (1868)
Arthur Conan Doyle The hound of the Baskervilles (Sherlock Homes) (1902)
Dorothy L Sayers Various with Lord Peter Wimsey
Agatha Christie Various

Hard-boiled detective novel (1920s - 1960s)
Key features: Flawed hero- unsentimental- works alone- brutal-hard-up detective- urban landscape
James M Cain The postman always rings twice (1934)
Raymond Chandler The big sleep (Philip Marlowe) (1939)
Farewell my lovely (1940)
The long goodbye (1953)
Dashiell Hammett – The Maltese falcon (Sam Spade) (1930)
The thin man (1934)

Police Procedurals
Key features: realistic description of police work- various unrelated crimes-perpetrator may be known from outset.
P D James The skull beneath the skin (1982)
Quintine Jardine Skinner’s rules (1993)
Georges Simenon Maigret in Montmartre (1951)
Maj Sjowell & Per Wahloo The Laughing policeman (Beck) (1968)
Ed McBain Killer’s choice (87th Precinct novel) (1957)
Ian Rankin Knots and crosses (Rebus) (1987)
Martin Cruz Smith Gorky Park (Arkada Renko)(1981)
Psychological thrillers-
Key features: Focus on the criminal - the insane - horror
Iain Banks        The wasp factory (1984)
Albert Camus      The stranger (outsider) 1942
Truman Capote     In cold blood (1966) written as non-fiction
Wilkie Collins    The woman in white (1858)
Daphne du Maurier  Rebecca (1938)
                      LA confidential (1990)
John Fowles        The collector (1963)
Graham Greene      Brighton Rock (1938)
Dennis Lehane      Shutter island (2009)
Thomas Harris      The silence of the lambs (1988)
Patricia Highsmith The talented Mr Ripley (1955)
                      Strangers on a train (1950)
Ian McEwan         Enduring love (1997)
Edgar Allan Poe    Tell-tale heart (1843) (short story)
Edgar Allan Poe    The black cat (1843) (short story)
Ruth Rendell       The lake of darkness (1976)
Muriel Spark       The driver’s seat (1970)
Barbara Vine       A dark adapted eye (1986)

Scandinavian Noir
Key features: Simple prose - dramatic plots - social criticism - influence of landscape
Peter Hoeg          Miss Smilia’s feeling for snow (1992)
Steig Larsson      The girl with the dragon tattoo (2005)
Henning Mankell    Faceless killers (1991)
Jo Nesbo           The snowman (2007)
Maj Sjowell & Per Wahloo The terrorists (1975)

Tartan Noir-
Key features: Scottish – cynical - world weary - gritty
Christopher Brookmyre One fine day in the middle of the night (1999)
Val McDermid        The mermaid’s singing (1995)
William McIlvanney  Laidlaw (1977)
Ian Rankin          Black and Blue (1997)
Robert Louis Stevenson The strange case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (1886)
Louise Welsh        The cutting room (2002)

Crime novels as social commentary
Key features: crime story told in context of social, economic, historic development of a country
Andrea Camilleri    Montelbano novels - set in Sicily
                      The snack thief (corrupt govt, immigrants) (1996)
Ian Rankin           Rebus novels- set in Scotland
                      Black and Blue (Scottish identity) (1997)
Fleshmarket Close (refugees, asylum seekers) (2004)
Mortal Causes (sectarianism) (1994)
Alexander McCall Smith No 1 ladies detective agency novels set in Botswana (gender, modernity)
Qiu Xiaolung Death of a red heroine (2000) (corruption, changing culture)

Crime and science fiction (Cyberpunk)
Key features:
William Gibson Neuromancer (1984)

Gothic Horror

Key features: Terror – romanticism - wild remote settings - castles/ large houses in ruins - supernatural

Charlotte Bronte Jane Eyre (1847)
Emily Bronte Wuthering heights (1847)
Angela Carter The bloody chamber (1979) (short stories collection)
Angela Carter Burning your boats (1995)
Angela Carter The magic toyshop (late 20th century)
Wilkie Collins The moonstone (1868)
Benjamin Collins The woman in white (1859)
Arthur Conan Doyle The hound of the Baskervilles (1902)
Michael Faber Under the skin (2000)
Susan Hill The woman in black (1983)
Henry James Turn of the screw (1898)
Stephen King Pet sematary (1983)
Gastone Leraux Phantom of the opera (1909)
Daphne du Maurier Rebecca (1938)
Mervyn Peake Gormenghast trilogy (1946-1959)
Edgar Allan Poe Fall of House of Usher (1839) (short story)
Edgar Allan Poe Ligeia (1838) (short story)
Anne Rice Interview with the vampire (1976)
Mary Shelley Frankenstein (1818)
Robert Louis Stevenson The strange case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (1886)
Bram Stoker Dracula (1897)
Patrick Suskind Perfume (1986)
Edith Wharton Ghost stories- various collection 1890-1937
Oscar Wilde Picture of Dorian Gray (1890)
**Magical Realism**
Key features: World appears very much like our own - however will also include an element of the extraordinary.

- Isabel Allende: House of the spirits (1982)
- Jorge Louis Borges: Labyrinths (1953)
- Collected fictions (1998)
- Angela Carter: Nights at the circus (1984)
- Wise children (1991)
- Paul Coello: The alchemist (1988)
- Jim Crace: Quarantine (1997)
- Günter Grass: Tin drum (1959)
- Joanna Harris: Chocolat (1999)
- Mark Helprin: Winter’s Tale (1983)
- Gabriel García Marquez: Love in the time of cholera (1985)
- One hundred years of solitude (1967)
- Yan Mantel: The life of Pi (2001)
- Toni Morrison: Beloved (1987)
- Song of Solomon (1977)
- Tea Obrecht: The Tiger’s wife (2011)
- Ben Okri: The famished road (1991)
- Arundhati Roy: God of small things (1997)
- Satanic verses (1988)
- Patrick Suskind: Perfume (1986)
- Carlos Ruiz Zafra: The shadow of the wind (2001)

**Modernist Literature (1910-1960)**
Key features: Focus on inner self and stream of consciousness - decline of civilization with increased capitalism and alienated individuals - loneliness
Use of satire, irony - often first person narrative

Epitomized by two main works
- William Faulkner: As I lay dying (1930)
- Virginia Woolf: Mrs Dalloway (1925)

Other authors
- Samuel Beckett: Malone dies (1951)
- Joseph Conrad: Heart of darkness (1899)
- T S Eliot: The wasteland (1922)
- William Faulkner: The sound and the fury (1927)
- James Joyce: A portrait of the artist as a young man (1916)
- Ulysses (1992)
- Jack Kerouac: On the road (1957) (Non-fiction)
D H Lawrence       Lady Chatterley’s lover (1928)
                    Sons and lovers (1913)
Virginia Woolf      To the lighthouse (1927)

The following are also regarded as modernists with similar concerns but do not follow the stream of consciousness techniques to the same extent.
“Less is more” style of writing.

Ernest Hemingway    Various
John Steinbeck      Of mice and men (1937)
                    The grapes of wrath (1939)
                    The pearl (1947)

**Parallel Narratives**
Michael Cunningham  The hours (1998)
Rachel Cusk         The lucky ones (2003)
William Faulkner    Go down Moses (1962)
William Golding     Darkness visible (1979)
                    Ghostwritten (1999)
Rachel Seiffert     The Dark Room (2001)

**Race/ Cultural identity**
Chinua Achebe       Things fall apart (1958) Africa, anti-colonial
Geraldine Brooks   March (2005) USA -American civil war, slavery
Tracy Chevalier    The last runaway (2015) USA - slavery
Harold Courlander  The African (1967) USA basis for Haley’s Roots- USA Slavery
Ralph Ellison       The invisible man (1952) USA -African identity
E. M. Forster       Passage to India (1924) Colonial India -British racial tension
David Guterson     Snow falling on cedars (1994) USA Japanese war
Alex Haley         Roots (see Courlander) (1976)
Mohsin Hamid       The reluctant fundamentalist (2008) Pakistani in America
Anchi Hin          The last Empress (2007) China
Khalid Hossein     Kite runner (2003) Afghanistan
                    A thousand splendid suns (2007 )Afghanistan
Zole Neale Hurston Their eyes were watching god (1937) USA -black - female
Sue Monk Kidd      The secret life of bees (2001) USA – black- female
Hanif Kureisha     Buddha of Suburbia (1990) Asian culture -UK
Harper Lee         To kill a mocking bird (1960) USA
Toni Morrison  Beloved (1987)  USA- Slavery – black female
Alan Paton  Cry, the beloved country (1948)  South Africa
Zadie Smith  White teeth (2000)  UK -immigrants
Kathryn Stockett  The help (2009)  USA Slavery
Harriet Beacher Stowe  Uncle Tom’s cabin (1952)  USA- Slavery – note criticism of this novel for betrayal of black culture.
Alice Walker  The color purple (1982)  USA- black- female-

Post colonial literature
Key features; Addresses issues relating to colonies that have become independent. Themes; oppression, re-writing of history, nationalistic pride, the under-dog. Often written from perspective of the former colonized. Key period 1950-1990.

Chinua Achebe  Things fall apart (1958) Uganda, end of British rule
Jean Rhys  Wide sargossa sea (1966)
Arundhati Roy  God of small things (1997) India,
Joseph Conrad  Heart of darkness (1899)
Salmon Rushdie  Midnight’s children (1995)
Barbara Kingsolver  Poisonwood Bible (1998) Belgian Congo
Ben Okri  Famished road (1993)

Relationships/ Romance
Michael Andaatie  The English patient (1992) passionate, painful, war
Margaret Atwood  Oryx and Crake (2004) futuristic
Jane Austen  Pride and Prejudice (1813) comedy, satire
Charlotte Bronte  Jane Eyre (1847) Romantic love
Emily Bronte  Wuthering Heights (1847) unrequited love?
A S Byatt  Possesion (1990) Romance, wit
Marguerite Duras  The lover (1984)
EM Forster  A room with a view (1908)
John Fowles  The French Lieutenant’s woman (1969)
Graham Greene  The end of the affair (1951), agonized, restrained passion, war time, insecurity
Ishiguro  The remains of the day
Choderlos de Laclos  Les Liaisons Dangereuses (1782) Lust power, revenge, seduction
D H Lawrence  Women in love (1920)
Ian McEwan  Atonement (2001)
Gabriel Garcia Marquez  Love in the time of cholera
David Nichols  One day (2009)
Francois Sagan  Bonjour Tristesse (1954) adolescence
Berhard Schlink  The reader (1995)
Charles Webb  The graduate (1963)
Jeanette Winterson  The passion (1987)
Science Fiction
Key features: interest in science, impact on society, morality. May feature space travel/ time travel, parallel universes, extra-terrestrial life.

Gene Brewer
K-pax (1995)

Richard Matheson
I am legend (1954)

Kurt Vonnegut
Cat’s cradle (1963)

H G Wells
The war of the worlds (1898)
The time machine (1895)

John Wyndham
The day of the Triffids (1951)
The Kraken wakes (1953)
The Chrysalids (1955)
The Midwich cuckoos (1957)

Utopian – Ideal society
Isaac Asimov
Foundation and Earth (1986) (Foundation series bk 5)

Ian M Banks
The player of games (1988) (Culture series bk 2)
Excession (1996) (Culture series bk 5)

Arthur C Clarke
Childhood’s end (1953)

Ursula Le Guin
The dispossessed (1974)

Jonathan Swift
Gulliver’s travels (1735)

Thomas More
Utopia (1516)

H G Wells
Men like gods (1923)

Dystopian- apocalyptic- oppressive
Margaret Atwood
The handmaid’s tale (1985)
Oryx and crake (2003)

Ray Bradbury
Fahrenheit 451 (1953)

Anthony Burgess
Clockwork orange (1962)

William Golding
Lord of the flies (1954)

Kazuo Ishiguro
Never let me go (2005)

Aldous Huxley
Brave New World (1931)

Daniel Keyes
Flowers for Algernon (1966)

Stephen King
The running man (1985)

Jack London
The iron heel (1908)

George Orwell
1984 (1949)

H G Wells
The time machine (1895)

Post-apocalyptic
Philip K Dick
Do androids dream of electric sheep (1968)

Cormac McCarthy
The road (2006)
**Comedic – Science fiction**

Key features: satirizes standard science fiction conventions for comedic effect eg alien invasions, time travel.

Douglas Adams  
The hitch-hiker’s guide to the galaxy (1979)  
The restaurant at the end of the universe (1980)  
Life, the universe and everything (1982)  
Dirk Gently’s Holistic Detective Agency (1987)

Jasper Fforde  
The Eyre affair (2001)

Harry Harrison  
The stainless steel rat (1961)

John Scalzi  
Redshirts (2012)

Kurt Vonnegut  
Slaughterhouse five (1969)

Charles Yu  
How to live safely in a science fictional universe (2010)

**Scottish (see also crime Tartan Noir)**

Social history- realistic- non-sentimental

George Douglas Brown  
The house with the green shutters (1901)

Lewis Grassic Gibbon  
Sunset Song (1932)

Neil Gunn  
Butcher’s broom (1934)  
Silver darlings (1941)

Robin Jenkins  
The cone gatherers (1955)

Jessie Kesson  
The white bird passes (1958)  
Where the apple ripens (1985)

William McIlvanney  
Docherty (1975)

Alan Warner  
Morvern Caller

Irvine Welsh  
Trainspotting

Sentimental - historic

Walter Scott  
The Waverley novels (1814)

**Bildungsroman (Coming of age)**

Key features: protagonist moves from youth to adulthood. Character change is usually necessary.

Charlotte Bronte  
Jane Eyre (1947)

Anthony Burgess  
A clockwork orange (1965)

Jonathan Coe  
Rotter’s club (1970)

Stephen Chbosky  
The perks of being a wallflowers (1999)

Charles Dickens  
Great Expectations (1861)

Jeffrey Eugenides  
The Virgin suicides (1993)

Susan Fletcher  
Eve Green (2004)

L P Hartley  
The Go-Between (1953)

Khaled Hossani  
The kite runner (2003)

Colin MacInnes  
Absolute beginners (1959)
Ian McEwan Atonement (2001)
Joyce Carol Oates Foxfire (1993)
J D Salinger Catcher in the Rye (1951)
Dodie Smith I capture the castle (1948)
Jeanette Winterson Oranges are not the only fruit (1985) (gender)

Isolation
Charlotte Bronte Jane Eyre (1847)
Ernest Hemingway A moveable feast (1964)
Hilary Mantel An experiment in love (1995)
Carson McCullers The heart is a lonely hunter (1940)
Sylvia Plath The bell Jar (1963)
Jean Rhys Good morning midnight (1939)
Virginia Woolf To the lighthouse (1927)

Social issues
Angela Ashworth Once in a house on fire (1998) (Memoir: alcohol, abuse)
L R Banks The L shaped room (1960)(unmarried mother – fifties)
Anna Donovan Buddha Da (2003) (family crises)
Roddy Doyle The woman who walked into doors (1996) (abuse, alcohol)
Paula Spencer (2006) (abuse, alcohol)
Thomas Hardy Tess of the d’Urbervilles (1892) (seduction, sexual hypocrisy)
Maggie O’Farrell The vanishing act of Esme Lennox (2007) (mental illness, betrayal)
Alan Warner Morvern caller (drugs, alcohol- morality)

Madness
Simone de Beauvoir The mandarins (1954)
Charlotte Perkins Gilman The yellow wallpaper (short story) (1892)
Ken Kesey One flew over the cuckoo’s nest (1962)
Doris Lessing The golden notebook (1962)
Sylvia Plath The bell jar (1963)
William Shakespeare Hamlet (1603)
Virginia Woolf Mrs Dalloway (1925)

Unreliable narrator
The narrator deliberately withholds information - lies to the reader - may be due to immaturity, young age of narrator, health problems, memory.

John Banville The Sea (2005)
Julian Barnes The sense of an ending (2011)
Emma Donoghue Room (2010)
F Scott Fitzgerald The great Gatsby (1925)
Ford Madox Ford The good soldier (1915)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Genre/Setting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daman Galgut</td>
<td>In a strange room</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazuo Ishiguro</td>
<td>The remains of the day</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Harper Lee</td>
<td>To kill a mockingbird</td>
<td>1960</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vladimir Nabokov</td>
<td>Lolitta</td>
<td>1955</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuck Palahniuk</td>
<td>Fight club</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J D Salinger</td>
<td>Catcher in the rye</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lionel Shriver</td>
<td>We need to talk about Kevin</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Twain</td>
<td>Huckleberry Finn</td>
<td>1884</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janice Galloway</td>
<td>The trick is to keep breathing</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>(Alcoholic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Garland</td>
<td>Coma</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>(Amnesia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Genova</td>
<td>Still Alice</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>(Alzheimer’s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Healey</td>
<td>Elizabeth is missing</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>(Dementia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susanna Kaysen</td>
<td>Girl interrupted</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>(Memoir: mental illness)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Kesey</td>
<td>One flew over the cuckoo’s nest</td>
<td>1962</td>
<td>(Mental illness)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylvia Plath</td>
<td>The bell jar</td>
<td>1963</td>
<td>(Mental illness)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edgar Allan Poe</td>
<td>The tell tale heart</td>
<td>1963</td>
<td>( Sanity crime)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Thomas</td>
<td>We are not ourselves</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>(Early Alzheimer’s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S J Watson</td>
<td>Before I go to sleep</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>(Trauma – memory loss)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**War**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Genre/Setting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Boyd</td>
<td>Restless</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>espionage WW1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sebastian Faulks</td>
<td>Birdsong</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>WW1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford Madox Forde</td>
<td>Parade’s End</td>
<td>1924-1929</td>
<td>WW1 Psychological effect of war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norman Mailer</td>
<td>The naked and the dead</td>
<td>1948</td>
<td>WW1 - Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Mitchell</td>
<td>Gone with the wind</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>American Civil War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas Monsarrat</td>
<td>The cruel sea</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Battle of the Atlantic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leo Tolstoy</td>
<td>War and peace</td>
<td>1965-67</td>
<td>French invasion of Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evelyn Waugh</td>
<td>Men at arms</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td>WW1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Anti-war**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Genre/Setting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JG Ballard</td>
<td>Empire of the sun</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>WW1 Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat Barker</td>
<td>Regeneration trilogy</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>WW1 shellshock, masculinity, identity, social structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Frazier</td>
<td>Cold mountain</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>American Civil War- Deserter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunter Grass</td>
<td>The tin drum</td>
<td>1959</td>
<td>WW1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graham Greene</td>
<td>The quiet American</td>
<td>1955</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Harris</td>
<td>Covenant with death</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>WW1; Frontline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Heller</td>
<td>Catch 22</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>WW1 Satirical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ernest Hemingway</td>
<td>A farewell to arms</td>
<td>1929</td>
<td>WW1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For whom the bell tolls</td>
<td></td>
<td>1940</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erich Marian Remarque</td>
<td>All quiet on the Western Front</td>
<td>1929</td>
<td>WW1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neville Shute</td>
<td>On the beach</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>WW11 aftermath of nuclear war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalton Trumbo</td>
<td>Johnny got his gun</td>
<td>1938</td>
<td>WW1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurt Vonnegut</td>
<td>Slaughterhouse 5</td>
<td>1969</td>
<td>WW1 Satirical</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Non-fiction Prose-
Travel writing
Bill Bryson Various
Jack Kerouc On the road (1957)
Peter Mayle A year in Provence (1989)
Jonathan Raban Coasting (1987)
Paul Theroux The Kingdom by the sea (1983)

Auto-biography
Theme- time and place
Laurie Lee Cider with Rosie (1959)
As I walked out one summer morning (1969)
I can’t stay long (1979)
A moment of war (1991)

Theme - Changing role of women, war
Vera Brittain Testament of Youth (1933)

Theme: War Memoirs
Michael Asher Shoot to kill: A soldier’s journey through violence (1990)-
Northern Ireland
Anthony Swofford Jarhead (2003 ) - Gulf war

Scottish memoirs
Edwin Muir Scottish Journey (1935)

Secondary sources
Many of the books listed below have been purchased at the request of previous students. Please do your own research. Requests for books, essays, articles etc can be made to Dr Carter who will attempt to source these for you.

Crime (813.087)
Secondary sources continued…

**Magical Realism (809.915)**

**General works (809- 809.3)**

**Women writers/ Feminist literature  Female characters 809.89**

**Modern Literature General (820.9)**

**Modern American Fiction (823)**

**Modern British Fiction** (823.9)

**For criticisms of specific authors and works see 823**
Eg Appleton, S (2008) *Once upon a time: Myth, Fairy Tales and Legends in Margaret Atwood’s writings* Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing 823 ATW

**Interviews/articles on authors 828.920**

**Websites**
Guardian book pages (a good general resource) [http://www.theguardian.com/books](http://www.theguardian.com/books)

British council contemporary writers site [http://literature.britishcouncil.org/writers?char=A](http://literature.britishcouncil.org/writers?char=A)