PH.D. READING LIST: SECONDARY RESOURCES AND THEORY/CRITICISM
(Revised Spring 2011)

Any contemporary student of French literature could benefit from consulting the ensemble of articles in Denis Hollier’s New History of French Literature, or in Christie McDonald and Susan Suleiman’s French Global: A New Approach to Literary History.

MIDDLE AGES
The following list consists of works with which every Ph.D. candidate should be conversant; specialists in medieval literature should go well beyond this list. In any event, candidates should be acquainted with a good many works not on the list, knowing (for example) the character of the work, its place in a genre or tradition, its importance, etc. The following are a selection of major studies offering necessary background, discussion of major problems and approaches, or studies of specific genres or authors. The essential background reading will be Auerbach, Badel, Chaytor, Lazar, Murphy, Vinaver, Zumthor.
Other works listed are strongly recommended.
Auerbach, Erich, Mimesis (chapters concerning medieval literature)
Badel, Pierre, La Vie littéraire au moyen âge
Kelly, Douglas, Medieval Imagination and The Romances of Chrétien de Troyes: A Symposium
Lazar, Moshé, Amour courtois et fin’amors
Murphy, James J., ed., Medieval Eloquence: all of part I (“The Theory of Rhetoric in the Middle Ages”) and the chapter on “Topical Invention in Medieval French Literature,” by D. Kelly
Zumthor, Paul, Essai de poétique médiévale
You should also be familiar with a number of theorists (Hans Robert Jauss, Tzvetan Todorov, etc.) who, whether or not they are working directly with medieval literature, have produced work that can illuminate medieval texts.

SIXTEENTH CENTURY
The following sources are strongly recommended. Additional references are available from professor. Berriot, Salvadore E, Les Femmes dans la société française de la Renaissance
Blum, Claude, La Représentation de la mort dans la littérature française de la Renaissance
Chamard, Henri, Histoire de la Pléiade
Festugière, André-Jean, La Philosophie de l’amour de Marsile Ficin et son influence sur la littérature française au XVIe siècle
Pérouse, Gabriel, Nouvelles françaises du XVIe siècle
Roussel, Jean, La Littérature de l’âge baroque en France
On Theater, see La Tragédie au XVIe siècle and La Comédie au XVIe (C.L.).

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY
Burke, Peter, The Fabrication of Louis XIV
Marin, Louis, Le Portrait du roi.
For additional sources, see M.A. Reading List

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY
See MA Reading List and the following:
Bates, David, Enlightenment Aberrations: Terror and Revolution in France
Bakhtin, Mikhail, Introduction to Rabelais and his World, “Discourse in the Novel” in The Dialogic Imagination
Bataille, Georges, L’Érotisme
Darnton, Robert, The Forbidden Best-Sellers of Pre-Revolutionary France
Frappier-Mazur, Lucienne, Sade et l’écriture de l’orgie (Writing the Orgy: Power and Parody in Sade)
Hunt, Lynn, The French Revolution and Human Rights: A Brief Documentary History
Landes, Joan, Women and the Public Sphere in the Age of the French Revolution
McMahon, Darrin, Enemies of the Enlightenment : The French Counter-Enlightenment and the Making of Modernity
Starobinski, Jean, Jean-Jacques Rousseau: la transparence et l’obstacle.
Vila, Anne, Enlightenment and Pathology: Sensibility in the Literature and Medicine of Eighteenth-Century France

NINETEENTH CENTURY

Novel:
Auerbach, Eric, Mimesis
Lukács, Georg, Studies in European Realism

Poetry:
Riffaterre, Michael, Semiotics of Poetry or La Production du texte

TWENTIETH CENTURY

Students should be familiar with all of the major critical theories and movements of the twentieth century from formalism through postmodernism, including structuralism, Marxism, semiotics, deconstruction, psychoanalysis, reader- response theory, feminism, autobiography, etc. The following list is geared toward providing that knowledge.

Barthes, S/Z, Mythologies
Baudrillard, Simulacres et simulation
Benveniste, Problèmes de linguistique générale
Cixous. ‘‘Le Rire de la Méduse
Deleuze-Guattari, L’Anti-Oedipe (excerpts)
Derrida, L’Ecriture et la différence, De la grammaatologie, Marges de la philosophie (excerpts for all three text)
Foucault, Surveiller et punir
Genette, Figures III
Jakobson, Essais de linguistique générale (esp. ‘‘Linguistique et poétique’’ and ‘‘Deux Types d’aphasie’’)
Kristeva, Révolution du langage poétique (first half)
Lacan, ‘‘Le Stade du miroir’’ and ‘‘L’Instance de la lettre dans l’inconscient’’ in Ecrits
Lejeune, Philippe, Le Pacte autobiographique
Lyotard, La Condition postmoderne
Reception theory (see Suleiman, Susan R., and and Inge Crosman, eds., The Reader in the Text)
Saussure, Cours de linguistique générale
Starobinski, Les Mots sous les mots
Todorov, Introduction à la literature fantastique

FRANCOPHONE LITERATURE

Bonn, Charles, Kateb Yacine: Nedjma
Déjeux, Jean, Maghreb: Littératures de langue française
Mongia, Padmini, ed., Contemporary Postcolonial Theory: A reader
Said, Edward, Culture and Imperialism.