Reading List for Modern Fiction  
(Primarily British)

1) Essentials:

- Sterne, *Tristram Shandy*  
- Flaubert, *Madame Bovary*  
- Dostoevski, *Notes from the Underground*  
- James, *What Maisie Knew, The Ambassadors*  
- Conrad, *Heart of Darkness, Lord Jim*  
- *Stein, "Tender Buttons," Three Lives*  
- Ford, *The Good Soldier*  
- Mansfield, *The Garden Party, and Other Stories*  
- Thomas Mann, "Death in Venice"  
- Joyce, "The Dead," *Portrait, Ulysses*  
- Proust, *Swann's Way*  
- Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway, To the Lighthouse*  
- Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury, As I Lay Dying*  
- Kafka, *stories*  
- Robert Penn Warren, *All the King’s Men*  
- Ellison, *Invisible Man*  
- Beckett, *Murphy or Molloy*  
- Nabokov, *Lolita or Pale Fire*  
- *Robbe-Grillet, Jealousy*  
- Garcia Marquez, *A Hundred Years of Solitude*  
- *Pynchon, Gravity's Rainbow*  
- Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*  
- *Calvino, The Castle of Crossed Destinies or Invisible Cities or If on a Winter's Night a Traveler*  
- *Rushdie, Midnight's Children*  
- *Carter, The Infernal Desire Machines of Dr Hoffman or The Passion of New Eve*  
- Morrison, *Beloved*  

2) Additional Significant Authors of British Fiction, 1914-1959

- Joyce Cary  
- E.M. Forster  
- Henry Green  
- Graham Greene  
- Aldous Huxley  
- D. H. Lawrence  
- Wyndham Lewis  
- Malcolm Lowry  
- W. Somerset Maugham  
- George Orwell
Anthony Powell
Evelyn Waugh

(Plus Richardson, Compton-Burnett, Sinclair, Rhys, Bowen, Murdoch, Howard, Stead, Lessing as listed below)

3) Major women writers (primarily British, innovative):

Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence*
Colette, *Cheri*
Dorothy Richardson, *Pointed Roofs*
Ivy Compton-Burnett, *Pastors and Masters*
Mary Butts, *Armed with Madness* or *The Death of Felicity Taverner*
May Sinclair, *Mary Olivier*
H. D., HERmione or Asphodel
*Djuna Barnes, Nightwood*
Jean Rhys, *Good Morning, Midnight* or *Wide Sargasso Sea* or *Voyage in the Dark*

Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
Isak Dinesen, *Anecdotes of Destiny*
Christina Stead, *The Man Who Loved Children*
Mina Loy, *Insel*
Elizabeth Howard, *The Long View*
Jane Bowles, *Two Serious Ladies*
Nathalie Sarraute, *Portrait of a Man Unknown*
Doris Lessing, *The Golden Notebook*
*Muriel Spark, Not to Disturb*
Rebecca West, *The Return of the Soldier* or Harriet Hume or *This Real Night*
Vita Sackville-West, *All Passion Spent* or *Seducers in Ecuador*
Marguerite Duras, *The Lover*
*Monique Wittig, Les Guerilleres*
Clarice Lispector, *The Stream of Life*
Nadine Gordimer, *The Conservationist*
*Anna Kavan, Ice*
Christa Wolf, *The Quest for Christa T*
Eva Figes, *Ghosts*
Margaret Drabble, *The Waterfall, The Ice Age*
Bessie Head, *A Question of Power*
A. S. Byatt, *Possession*
Margaret Atwood, *The Blind Assassin*
*Christine Brooke-Rose, Amalgamemnon*
*Jeanette Winterson, Written on the Body* or *Sexing the Cherry*
Ann Tyler, *Celestial Navigation*
Carole Maso, *The Art Lover*
*Carol Shields, The Stone Diaries
Rosario Castellanos, stories
Bharati Mukherji, Jasmine
Toni Morrison, Beloved
*Lyn Hejinian, My Life

(+Stein, Mansfield, Woolf, Pym, Carter [above];
Bowen, Murdoch, O'Brien, Smith, Weldon [below])

4) Irish Fiction:

*Flann O'Brien, At Swim-Two-Birds, The Poor Mouth
Joyce Cary, The Horse's Mouth
*Iris Murdoch, The Black Prince
Edna O'Brien, A Pagan Place
James Stephens, The Charwoman's Daughter
Brian Moore, The Mangan Inheritance
William Trevor, Dining at the Ritz
John McGahern, Among Women
John Banville, Ghosts
Roddy Doyle, Paddy Clarke, Ha Ha Ha
Colm Toibin, The Heather Blazing
Stories by Liam Sean O'Faolain, Frank O'Connor, Mary Lavin

(+ Joyce and Beckett [above])

Drama: Plays by Wilde, Yeats, Lady Gregory, Synge, Beckett, Friel; perhaps also G. B. Shaw, Sean O'Casey, Dennis, Johnston, Brendan Behan, Shelagh Delaney, Conor McGuinness

5) Contemporary "British":

*Samuel Beckett, The Lost Ones, Company, Worstwad Ho
Wilson Harris, The Womb of Space
*John Fowles, French Lieutenant's Woman
*David Lodge, Small World
Nicholas Mosley, Accident
*Martin Amis, London Fields
*Zadie Smith, White Teeth
Pat Barker, Regeneration
*James Kelman, Busted Scotch
Ian McEwan, The Child in Time, Atonement
Fay Weldon, The Cloning of Joanna May
Graham Swift, *Waterland*
Julian Barnes, *Flaubert's Parrot* or *England, England*
D. M. Thomas, *The White Hotel*
J. M. Coetzee, *In the Heart of the Country*, *Foe*
*Alisdair Gray, *Lanark*
Amitav Ghosh, *The Shadow Lines*
Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day* or *When We Were Orphans*
Alan Hollinghurst, *The Swimming-Pool Library*
Lawrence Norfolk, *Lempriere's Dictionary*
Rohinton Mistry, *Swimming Lessons and Other Stories from Firozsha Baag*
Caryl Phillips, *Crossing the River*
*Peter Carey, *The Unusual Life of Tristan Smith*

6) Additional Postmodern:

[* above indicates this text is considered postmodern]

Maurice Blanchot, *Death Sentence*
John Hawkes, *Second Skin*, *Death, Sleep, and the Traveler*
Don DeLillo, *White Noise*
Guillermo Cabrera Infante, *Three Trapped Tigers*
Milorad Pavic, *The Dictionary of the Khazars*
Nuruddin Farah, *Maps*
Guy Davenport, stories
Robert Coover, "The Babysitter"

7) Significant rewritings (primarily postcolonial) of

*The Tempest:*

Samuel Beckett, *Endgame*
George Lamming, *Natives of My Person*
Aime Cesaire, *A Tempest*
Keri Hulme, *The Bone People*
John Banville, *Ghosts*
Angela Carter, *Wise Children*

*Robinson Crusoe:*

J. M. Coetzee, *Foe*
Michel Tournier, *Friday*
Derek Walcott, *Pantomime*

*Heart of Darkness:*
Alejo Carpentier, *The Lost Steps*
Wilson Harris, *Palace of the Peacock*
Alejo Carpentier, *The Lost Steps*
Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North*
Ngugi wa Thiong’o, *A Grain of Wheat*
V. S. Naipaul, *A Bend in the River*
Caryl Phillips, *Crossing the River*
Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*

Others:

*Hamlet*: Iris Murdoch, *The Black Prince*
Austen, Stevenson, and Brontë by Emma Tennant (in *Pemberley, Two Women of London*, and *The French Dancer's Bastard*)

8) Additional significant experimental texts:

Hermann Broch, *The Death of Virgil*
Juan Rulfo, *Perdo Paramo*
Raymond Queneau, *The Bark Tree*
Louis-Ferdinand Celine, *Journey to the End of the Night*
G. V. Desani, *All About H. Hatterr*
Adolfo Bioy-Casares, *A Plan for Escape*
Michel Butor, *A Change of Heart*
Claude Simon, *The Palace*
Robert Pinget, *Passacaglia*
Carlos Fuentes, *The Death of Artemio Cruz*
Tahar ben Jelloun, *With Downcast Eyes*
Assia Djebar, *Sister to Scheherazade*
Albert Wendt, *Black Rainbow*

9) Modern Drama

Büchner, *Woyzek*
Ibsen, *A Doll's House*
Strindberg, "The Stronger" or *Miss Julie, A Dream Play*
Jarry, *Ubu Roi*
Wilde, *Importance of Being Earnest, An Ideal Husband*
Chekhov, *The Seagull* or *The Cherry Orchard*
Synge, "Riders To the Sea," *The Playboy of the Western World*
Lady Gregory, "Dervorgilla"
Oscar Kokoshka, "Murderer, The Hope of Womankind"
T. Tzara, "The Gas Heart"
Glaspell, "Trifles," "Suppressed Desires"
Cocteau, "The Breasts of Tieresias"
Witkiewicz, "The Madman and the Nun"
Luigi Pirandello, Six Characters
W. B. Yeats, The Cuchulain Cycle, "Purgatory"
Sophie Treadwell, Machinal
Roger Vitrac, The Mysteries of Love
Garcia Lorca, Blood Wedding
O'Neill, The Great God Brown, Long Day's Journey into Night
Brecht, The Good Person of Sechuan
Tennessee Williams, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
Ionesco, The Bald Soprano, "Improvisation"
Lillian Hellman, Little Foxes
Lorraine Hansbery, Raisin in the Sun
Jean Genet, The Maids The Blacks, or The Balcony
Tewfik al Hakim, The Sultan's Dilemma, King Oedipus
"Catastrophe," "Ohio Impromptu," "Rockaby"
Harold Pinter, The Caretaker, The Lover, "Landscape," "The Basement," Old
Times, No

Man's Land, "Family Voices"
Caryl Churchill, Traps, "Vinegar Tom," Cloud Nine, Top Girls, "Blue Heart"
Wole Soyinka, "The Swamp Dwellers," "The Strong Breed," Madmen and
Specialists, Death and the King's Horseman
Tom Stoppard, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, Travesties, "Artist Descending a
Staircase," Arcadia, Indian Ink
Imamu Amiri Baraka, "Slave Ship"
Peter Handke, "Offending the Audience"
Adrienne Kennedy, "Funnyhouse of a Negro"
Slawomir Mrozek, Tango
Badal Sircar, Procession
Marguerite Duras, India Song
Vaclav Havel, The Garden Party or "Unveiling"
Helene Cixous, Portrait of Dora
Maria Irene Fornes, "Promenade," "Mud"
Heiner Muller, "Hamletmachine"
Sam Shepard, Buried Child, True West
David Mamet, American Buffalo
Luis Valdez, "Los Vendidos"
Brian Friel, Translations
Hanay Geiogamah, Foghorn
August Wilson, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, Fences
David Henry Hwang, M. Butterfly
George C. Woolf, The Colored Museum
Tony Kushner, Angels in America
Paula Vogel, Baltimore Waltz, Hot 'n Throbbing
10) Modern Drama, History and Theory:

Christopher Innes, Modern British Drama, 1890-1990
Peter Szondi, Theory of the Modern Drama
Marvin Carlson, Theories of the Theatre
Manfred Pfister, The Theory and Analysis of Drama
Keir Elam, The Semiotics of Theatre and Drama
Sue-Ellen Case, Feminism and Theatre
Sue-Ellen Case, ed. Performing Feminisms
Errol Hill, ed. The Theatre of Black Americans
Tejumola Olaniyan, Scars of Conquest/Masks of Resistance
Marc Robinson, The Other American Drama

11) Performance: Theory and Analysis:

Henry Sayre, The Object of Performance
Peggy Phelan, Unmarked
Judith Butler, Gender Trouble
Lynda Hart and Peggy Phelan, eds. Acting Out: Feminist Performances
Marvin Carlson, Performance: A Critical Introduction

12) Modern Visual Art, Aesthetics, etc

Roger Fry, Cezanne or Vision and Design
Virginia Woolf, Roger Fry
Clive Bell, Art
Harold Rosenberg, The Tradition of the New, The Anxious Object
Carl Schorske, Fin-de-Siecle Vienna
T.J. Clark, Farewell to an Idea
T.E. Hulme, “Modern Art and its Philosophy,” “Bergson’s Theory of Art,”
“Romanticism and Classicism”
H.D., Notes on Thought and Vision
Ezra Pound, “The New Sculpture,” “The Serious Artist”
Desmond McCarthy, “The Post-Impressionists”
Wyndham Lewis, “The Cubist Room”
Tristan Tzara, “Not on Art,” “Note on Negro Art”
Ilya Zdanевич & Mikhail Larionov, “Why We Paint Ourselves: A Futurist Manifesto”
Andre Breton, “First Manifesto of Surrealism”