

University of Exeter – English

You may be wondering what you can usefully spend your time reading ahead of September. You may find it useful to look at the reading lists for the current first year English modules, all of which are available online: <https://intranet.exeter.ac.uk/humanities/studying/undergraduates/modules/>

In particular, many students have found it helpful to read some of the longer texts on the “Beginnings” module before they arrive in Exeter.

These include Homer’s *Odyssey* which we study in the translation by Emily Wilson (Norton, 2018).

Other key texts include:

- *Beowulf*, trans. Seamus Heaney, ed. Daniel Donoghue (Norton, 2000).
- *Marie de France, Lais*, ed. and tr. Glyn S. Burgess and Keith Busby, 2nd edn (Penguin, 1999)
- *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, trans. Bernard O'Donoghue (Penguin, 2006).

In the second term, all Single Honours English students will take a module called “The Poem” (Combined Honours students can also take this as one of their options, if they wish). The anthology we use for this module is *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*, 6th edition, ed. Margaret Ferguson, Tim Kendall, Mary Jo Salter (Norton, 2018), and it would be well worth your while to get hold of this now and start familiarising yourself with some of the poems.

But there is no obligation to read any of these texts ahead of your arrival – and nothing terrible will happen if you don’t manage to! We would advise though that you do continue to read over the coming months; we will be asking you to read quite a lot once you get here, and it’s good to be prepared for this. It doesn’t matter whether it’s Virginia Woolf or Jilly Cooper, so long as you are reading – and thinking critically and creatively about what you are reading.