Period II. Renaissance British Literature

Recommended Reading

For all poetry, short story, and prose selections where titles are not specified, use The Norton Anthology of English Literature or The Longman Anthology of British Literature. Longer works may be excerpted; the selections from Norton are helpful.

John Skelton (c. 1460-1529): ‘The Tunning of Eleanor Rumming’
Sir Thomas Wyatt (1503-1542) & Henry Howard, Early of Surrey (1517-1547): Poems
Sir Thomas More (1478-1515): Utopia
John Foxe (1516-1587): Acts and Monuments
William Baldwin (fl. 1547): Beware The Cat
Sir Walter Raleigh (c.1554-1618): The Discovery of the Empire of Guiana, ‘The Lie’
Thomas Kyd (1558-1594): The Spanish Tragedy
William Shakespeare (1564-1616): at least one play from the three folio genres (comedy, history, tragedy); Shakespeares Sonnets
Edmund Spenser (c. 1552-99): The Faerie Queene, Book I or Book III, Amoretti and Epithalamion
Sir Philip Sidney (1554-1586): The Defense of Poesy, Astrophil and Stella, Countess of Pembroke Arcadia
Michael Drayton (1563-1631): Idea
Christopher Marlowe (1564-93): The Jew of Malta, Dr. Faustus (A- and B- texts), Edward II; Hero and Leander
John Donne (1572-1631): Poems (secular and divine)
Francis Bacon (1561-1626), The New Atlantis
Ben Jonson (1572-1637): Epicene, Bartholomew Fair, Epigrams
Francis Beaumont (1584-1616) & John Fletcher (1579-1625): Philaster, The Maid’s Tragedy
John Webster (1578-1630s?): The Duchess of Malfi
Thomas Middleton (1580-1627): The Roaring Girl (with Thomas Dekker), The Revenger’s Tragedy, Women Beware Women
Lady Mary Wroth (1587-1653), The Countess of Montgomery’s Urania, Pamphilia to Amphialanthus
Robert Herrick (1591-1674): Poems
George Herbert (1593-1633): Poems
Andrew Marvell (1621-1678): Poems
Margaret Cavendish (1623-1673): The Description of a New World, Called The Blazing World
Katherine Philips (1632-64): Poems
English Civil War Writing (the ‘Crisis of Authority’ section in Norton is excellent)