Area X Exam List

For students planning to examine in this area, we strongly recommend creating an annotated bibliography that includes roughly 250-word summaries, written by the examinee, of 25-30 sources from the following list (this can include texts you’ve read in graduate courses in this area). While the sections included in this document are extremely porous, we offer them as ways to approach and think about the various directions rhetoric and writing scholarship can take. We recommend reading broadly across all sections of this list, but feel free to concentrate some of your reading in section(s) that seem especially relevant to dissertation topics or future research projects you plan to pursue. If you have any questions about editions or gaining access to any of the following, feel free to ask faculty in this area.

At least one month prior to the exam, we recommend sharing your bibliography with one or two faculty members who specialize in this area and meeting to discuss it.

Writing Studies/Composition (Books)

Composition Theory

Books
Canagarajah, A. Suresh, editor. Literacy as Translingual Practice: Between Communities and Classrooms. Routledge, 2013.

**Articles**

Skim award-winners and selectively read deeply to get a sense of what the field values:

- Annual Award for Outstanding Article in *College Composition and Communication*:
  [http://cccc.ncte.org/cccc/awards/braddock](http://cccc.ncte.org/cccc/awards/braddock)
- Annual Award for Outstanding article in *JAC*:

**Disciplinary History and Criticism**

**Books**


**Articles**

Bloom, Lynn Z. “Freshman English as a Middle Class Enterprise.” *College English*, vol. 58, no. 6, 1996, pp. 654-75.


**Research Methods**


**Rhetorical Genre Studies**


**Key Debates in Writing Studies**

The following articles, which constitute key debates in the field, should be read as sets. In addition to representing certain debates, they are also meant to demonstrate how scholars engage with and build on others’ ideas. Read articles within each set in the order in which they are listed.

**Pedagogy and Politics**


**The Place of Literature in Composition**


**Personal and/vs. Academic Writing**


**Rhetoric**

**History of Rhetoric: Primary Sources**


Blair, Hugh. *Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres*.

Campbell, George. *The Philosophy of Rhetoric*.

Christine de Pizan. *The Book of the City of Ladies*.


Erasmus. *De Copia*.


Isocrates. *Against the Sophists*.

---. *Antidosis*.


Ramus, Peter. *Arguments in Rhetoric Against Quintilian*.

Plato. *Gorgias*.

---. *Phaedrus*.


**History of Rhetoric: Secondary Sources**

*Books*


**Articles**


**Modern Rhetorical Theory**

**Books**


Harkin, Patricia, and John Schilb, editors. *Contending with Words: Composition and Rhetoric in a Postmodern Age*. MLA, 1991.


**Articles**

Bratta, Phil, and Malea Powell, editors. *enculturation*, vol. 21. Special issue on “Cultural Rhetorics.”


**Key Debates in Rhetoric**

The following articles, which constitute key debates in the field, should be read as sets. In addition to representing certain debates, they are also meant to demonstrate how scholars engage with and build on others’ ideas. Read articles within each set in the order in which they are listed.

**Rhetorical Situations/Ecologies**


Feminist Historiography

Agency

Journals and Book Series
We recommend students explore the following journals, reading recent articles and issues in at least 2-3 journals that seem most relevant to their emerging research interests:

- *College Composition and Communication*
- *College English*
- *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*
- *Computers & Composition*
- *Written Communication*
- *Philosophy & Rhetoric*
- *Rhetoric Review*
- *Kairos*
- *Enculturation*
- *Rhetorica*
- *Argumentation and Advocacy*
- *Advances in the History of Rhetoric*
- *Peitho*
- *Composition Studies*
- *Research in the Teaching of English (RTE)*
- *Composition Forum*
- *Literacy in Composition Studies*
- *Technical Communication Quarterly*
- *Present Tense*
- *Quarterly Journal of Speech*
We also suggest checking out the following presses, which publish influential monographs and other book-length projects in rhetoric and/or writing studies. Specific series of interest are included in parentheses, though many of these presses publish standalone rhet/comp books as well:

- Southern Illinois University Press (Studies in Rhetorics and Feminisms; Rhetorical Philosophy & Theory; Landmarks in Rhetoric and Public Address)
- CCCC/NCTE (Studies in Rhetoric & Writing)
- University of Pittsburgh Press (Pittsburgh Series in Composition, Literacy, and Culture)
- Utah State University Press
- Penn State University Press (Rhetoric and Democratic Deliberation; RSA Series in Transdisciplinary Rhetoric)
- University of Alabama Press (Rhetoric, Culture, and Social Critique)
- University of South Carolina Press (Studies in Rhetoric/Communication)
- Ohio State (Intersectional Rhetorics; New Directions in Rhetoric and Materiality)
- Computers & Composition Digital Press
- University of Michigan Press
- Michigan State University Press (Rhetoric & Public Affairs; Rhetorical History of the United States)
- Parlor Press
- Intermezzo

See also the following lists:

- CCCC Outstanding Book Award: [http://cccc.ncte.org/cccc/awards/oba](http://cccc.ncte.org/cccc/awards/oba)
- RSA Book Award: [https://rhetoricssociety.org/aws/RSA/pt/sp/awards](https://rhetoricssociety.org/aws/RSA/pt/sp/awards)