

Book List for *The Art of Fiction*

Preparatory Study

Please read *Far from the Madding Crowd* by Thomas Hardy before the course begins. We will be studying this text in September and looking at extracts for close reading so it will be useful for each student to have the book to hand and their own chapter narrations for reference.

Please read the *novels during the summer (or listen to them on audio) as this will allow you to enjoy the novels in a relaxed way prior to studying them together. You will also need to read the first four chapters of *North and South* – this will be noted in the course schedule.

From September 2026

Please source the recommended editions as indicated so we can all work from the same page numbers during discussions. It is helpful, but not essential, for students to be able to annotate the texts. The prices indicate expected cost of new/second-hand copies.

**Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

Oxford World's Classics, ISBN: 978-0199219766 (£7/£4)

**Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë

Oxford World's Classics, ISBN: 978-0198804970 (£8/£5)

North and South by Elizabeth Gaskell

Wordsworth Classics, ISBN: 978-1853260933 (£5/£4)

The Importance of Being Earnest, a play by Oscar Wilde.

Any unabridged version is fine.

Barchester Towers by Anthony Trollope (any edition) – this is a recommended option for the summer term and will be introduced in the final lesson of the course.

An additional document of weekly readings (including poetry) is provided in a printable PDF at the start of the course.