Reading List for the MA Qualifying Examination

Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL)

Note: The MA Qualifying Examination for the TESL option has a separate list.

This exam will require you to be familiar with the following three areas: theories of second language acquisition, methodology, and classroom issues and procedures. The list below provides a sample of the authors and/or texts with which you should be familiar.


Valdes, Joyce Merrill (1986). *Culture Bound: Bridging the Cultural Gap in Language Teaching*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.

You should also demonstrate familiarity with current articles in the following journals: *English Language Teaching Journal*, and *TESOL Quarterly*.
Teaching English as a Second Language
Statement of "Organic Knowledge"

The student with "organic knowledge" of the reading list will be able to:

1. define basic terms and identify or provide examples of them.
2. discuss and evaluate the major theories and issues in the field. The student should cite both experimental and classroom studies to support and/or refute these theories.
3. apply theoretical issues to the classroom. The student should be prepared to discuss in detail curricular choices and classroom activities and to explain why these choices were made in light of current theories.