

Ph.D. Reading List for American Literature 1830 to 1914

Note: If “Selections” or a similar formulation appears next to an author’s name, those should be taken from the *Heath* anthology or, if no selections are available there, from the *Norton* anthology or ascertained in conjunction with your advisor.

Primary Works

- 1) Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (Selections)
- 2) William Cullen Bryant, “The Prairies” and “The Painted Cup”
- 3) Edgar Allan Poe
 - a) *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket*
 - b) “Ligeia,” “The Fall of the House of Usher,” “The Purloined Letter,” “The Masque of the Red Death,” “The Imp of the Perverse,” “The Murders in the Rue Morgue,” “The Pit and the Pendulum,” and “The Tell-Tale Heart.”
 - c) “The Philosophy of Composition” and “The Poetic Principle”
 - d) “The Raven,” “To Helen,” “Ulalume,” “Annabel Lee,” and “The Bells”
- 4) Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *Evangeline* OR selected shorter poetry: “A Psalm of Life,” “The Slave’s Dream,” “The Village Blacksmith,” “Nature,” “The Fire of Driftwood,” “The Slave Singing at Midnight,” “The Arsenal at Springfield,” “Mezzo Cammin,” “The Jewish Cemetery at Newport,” and “The Cross of Snow”
- 5) John Greenleaf Whittier, “Massachusetts to Virginia,” “Ichabod!” and “Snow-Bound”
- 6) James Russell Lowell
 - a) Selected stanzas from *A Fable for Critics*
 - b) The Harvard Commemoration Ode.
- 7) Oliver Wendell Holmes, “The Deacon’s Masterpiece” and “The Chambered Nautilus”
- 8) Ralph Waldo Emerson
 - a) *Nature*
 - b) “The American Scholar,” “The Divinity School Address,” “Self-Reliance,” “The Transcendentalist,” “The Poet,” “Experience,” “Fate,” and any two essays from *Representative Men*
 - c) “Thoreau”
 - d) “Each and All,” “Concord Hymn,” “Ode, Inscribed to W.H. Channing,” “Uriel,” “Threnody,” “Hamatreya,” and “Days”
- 9) Frederick Douglass
 - a) *Narrative of the Life OR My Bondage and My Freedom*
 - b) “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?”
- 10) Margaret Fuller, *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*
- 11) Southwestern Humor
 - a) George Washington Harris, any two Sut Lovingood stories
 - b) Augustus B. Longstreet, “The Fight” and “The Horse Swap”
 - c) Thomas B. Thorpe, “The Big Bear of Arkansas”
- 12) Nathaniel Hawthorne
 - a) *The Scarlet Letter*
 - b) *The Blithedale Romance* OR *The House of the Seven Gables*

- c) "The Minister's Black Veil," "The Birth-Mark," Young Goodman Brown," "Roger Malvin's Burial," "My Kinsman Major Molineux," and "Rappaccini's Daughter"
- 13) Herman Melville
 - a) *Moby-Dick*
 - b) *Typee* OR *The Confidence-Man*
 - c) "Benito Cereno," "Bartleby, the Scrivener" and "The Paradise of Bachelors, and the Tartarus of Maids"
 - d) "Hawthorne and His Mosses"
 - e) "The Portent," "Shiloh," "A Utilitarian View of the Monitor's Fight" (from *Battle-Pieces and Aspects of the War*), "The Maldive Shark" and "After the Pleasure Party"
 - f) *Billy Budd*
- 14) Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
- 15) William Gilmore Simms, *Woodcraft*
- 16) George Aiken, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
- 17) Sarah Willis Parton (Fanny Fern), *Ruth Hall*
- 18) William Wells Brown, *Clotel; or, The President's Daughter*
- 19) Henry David Thoreau
 - a) "Resistance to Civil Government"
 - b) *Walden*
 - c) "Walking" OR "Slavery in Massachusetts"
- 20) Walt Whitman
 - a) *Leaves of Grass* (1855)
 - b) Selections from *Drum-Taps*
 - c) "By Blue Ontario's Shore," "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry," "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking," and "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd"
 - d) *Democratic Vistas*
- 21) Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*
- 22) Martin Delany, *Blake: Or, The Huts of America*
- 23) Dion Boucicault, *The Octoroon; or, Life in Louisiana*
- 24) Abraham Lincoln, First and Second Inaugurals and Gettysburg Address
- 25) Joel Chandler Harris, "Free Joe and the Rest of the World," and "The Wonderful Tar-baby Story"
- 26) Rebecca Harding Davis, *Life in the Iron Mills*
- 27) Augustin Daly, *Under the Gaslight*
- 28) Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women* OR *Work*
- 29) George Washington Cable, "'Tite Poulette" and "Belles Demoiselles Plantation"
- 30) Thomas Nelson Page, "Marse Chan" and "Meh Lady: A Story of the War"
- 31) Mark Twain
 - a) *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
 - b) *Innocents Abroad* OR *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* OR *Pudd'nhead Wilson*
 - c) "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," "The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg," and "A True Story, Repeated Word for Word as I Heard It"
- 32) Emily Dickinson, selected poetry

- 33) Frances E.W. Harper, *Iola Leroy*
- 34) Ambrose Bierce, "Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" and "Chickamauga"; (a brief perusal of *The Devil's Dictionary* is also recommended)
- 35) Charles W. Chesnutt,
 - a) *The House Behind the Cedars* OR *The Marrow of Tradition*
 - b) "The Goophered Grapevine," "Dave's Neckliss" (from *The Conjure Woman and Other Conjure Tales*), "The Wife of His Youth" and "The Sheriff's Children" (from *The Wife of His Youth*)
- 36) Kate Chopin
 - a) *The Awakening*
 - b) "Desiree's Baby," "At the 'Cadian Ball," and "The Storm"
- 37) Mary Wilkins Freeman, "A New England Nun"
- 38) Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"
- 39) William Dean Howells, *The Rise of Silas Lapham* OR *A Hazard of New Fortunes*
- 40) Henry James
 - a) *Daisy Miller: A Study*
 - b) *The Portrait of a Lady*
 - c) *The American* OR *The Bostonians* OR *The Ambassadors*
 - d) "The Beast in the Jungle," "The Real Thing," "The Figure in the Carpet," "The Jolly Corner," and "The Artist of Beltraffio"
 - e) "The Art of Fiction"
- 41) Stephen Crane
 - a) *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets* OR *The Red Badge of Courage*
 - b) "The Open Boat," "The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky," "The Blue Hotel," and "The Monster"
- 42) Sarah Orne Jewett, *The Country of the Pointed Firs* OR *A Country Doctor*
- 43) Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*
- 44) W.E.B. DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*
- 45) Paul Laurence Dunbar
 - a) *The Sport of the Gods*
 - b) "Accountability," "We Wear the Mask," "Philosophy," "When Malindy Sings," "Robert Gould Shaw," and "Song of Summer"
- 46) Abraham Cahan, "Yekl"
- 47) Frank Norris, *McTeague* OR *The Octopus*
- 48) Pauline Hopkins, *Contending Forces*
- 49) Henry Adams, *The Education of Henry Adams* (selections)
- 50) Jack London, *The Call of the Wild* OR *White Fang*
- 51) Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*
- 52) James Weldon Johnson, *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*
- 53) Edith Wharton
 - a) *The House of Mirth*
 - b) *Ethan Frome* OR *Summer*

Criticism

Note: Pick twenty works from the following list, in conjunction with your advisor, that reflect the breadth of American literary studies on the period from 1830 to 1914. To individualize your selection, you may modify up to 20% – approximately four or five works. The department strongly recommends that your reading of both primary and critical works be accompanied by concurrent reading of the appropriate sections of either the *Cambridge History of American Literature* or the *Columbia Literary History of the United States*.

1. William L. Andrews, *To Tell a Free Story: The First Century of Afro-American Autobiography, 1760-1865*
2. Michael Davitt Bell, *The Problem of American Realism: Studies in the Cultural History of a Literary Idea*
3. Sacvan Bercovitch, *The Rites of Assent: Transformations in the Symbolic Construction of America*
4. Malcolm Bradbury, *Dangerous Pilgrimages: Transatlantic Mythologies and the Novel*
5. Richard Brodhead, *Cultures of Letters: Scenes of Reading and Writing in Nineteenth-Century America*
6. Bill Brown, *A Sense of Things: The Object Matter of American Literature*
7. Wai Chee Dimock, *Residues of Justice: Literature, Law, Philosophy*
8. Ann Douglas, *The Feminization of American Culture*
9. Leslie Fiedler, *Love and Death in the American Novel*
10. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., *The Signifying Monkey: A Theory of African-American Literary Criticism*
11. Saidiya Hartman, *Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery and Self-Making in Nineteenth-Century America*
12. Amy Kaplan, *The Social Construction of American Realism*
13. David Leverenz, *Manhood and the American Renaissance*
14. Harry Levin, *The Power of Blackness: Hawthorne, Poe, Melville*
15. R. W. B. Lewis, *The American Adam: Innocence, Tragedy, and Tradition in the Nineteenth Century*
16. Leo Marx, *The Machine in the Garden: Technology and the Pastoral Ideal in America*
17. F. O. Matthiessen, *American Renaissance: Art and Expression in the Age of Emerson and Whitman*
18. Louis Menand, *The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America*
19. Walter Benn Michaels, *The Gold Standard and the Logic of Naturalism: American Literature at the Turn of the Century*
20. Perry Miller, *The Raven and the Whale: Poe, Melville and the New York Literary Scene*
21. Toni Morrison, *Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination*
22. Dana Nelson, *The Word in Black and White: Reading "Race" in American Literature, 1638-1867*
23. Barbara Packer, *The Transcendentalists*
24. Donald Pizer, *Documents of American Realism and Naturalism*

25. David Reynolds, *Beneath the American Renaissance: The Subversive Imagination in the Age of Emerson and Melville*
26. John Carlos Rowe, *At Emerson's Tomb: The Politics of Classic American Literature*
27. Richard Slotkin, *Regeneration through Violence: The Mythology of the American Frontier, 1600-1860*
28. Henry Nash Smith, *Virgin Land: The American West as Symbol and Myth*
29. Eric Sundquist, *To Wake the Nations: Race in the Making of American Literature*
30. Claudia Tate, *Domestic Allegories of Political Desire: The Black Heroine's Text at the Turn of the Century*
31. Jane Tompkins, *Sensational Designs: The Cultural Work of American Fiction, 1790-1860*
32. Kenneth Warren, *Black and White Strangers: Race and American Literary Realism*
33. Robert P. Lamb and G.R. Thompson, eds, *A Companion to American Fiction, 1865-1914*