

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
PHD COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION READING LIST
NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE

The following is a reading list for doctoral candidates to use as a guide in preparing for the comprehensive examination in nineteenth-century American literary studies. The list is suggestive rather than definitive. Students are expected to be thoroughly familiar with the major works and writers and to have a solid understanding of the way these works contribute to the development of American literary history. The list, of course, should be supplemented by works aligned with the major emphasis of the students' research interests.

Poetry

Bryant, William Cullen.

 "Thanotopsis." 1817.

 "Yellow Violet." 1815.

 "To a Waterfowl." 1815.

 "A Forest Hymn." 1825.

Dickinson, Emily.

 Selections from *The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson* (ed. Thomas Johnson).

Dunbar, Paul Laurence.

Lyrics of Lowly Life. 1896.

Forten, Sarah.

 "An Appeal to Women." 1834.

 "The Slave Girl's Farewell." 1832.

 "The Grave of the Slave." 1831.

Lazarus, Emma.

 "The New Colossus." 1883.

Lowell, James Russell.

The Biglow Papers. 1846.

Poe, Edgar Allan.

 "Israfel." 1831.

 "The Sleeper." 1831.

 "Sonnet: To Silence." 1829.

 "The Raven." 1845.

 "Ulalume." 1847.

 "Annabel Lee." 1849.

Whitman, Walt.

Leaves of Grass (9th edition) (including 1855 Preface)

Whittier, John Greenleaf.

Snow-Bound. 1866.

Prose

Rowson, Susanna.

Charlotte Temple. 1791.

Foster, Hannah Webster.

The Coquette. 1797.

Brown, Charles Brockden.
Edgar Huntly. 1799.

[Anonymous].
Xicoténcatl. 1826.

Irving, Washington.
The Sketch Book. 1819.

Poe, Edgar Allen.
The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym. 1838.
 “The Poetic Principle.” 1850.
 selected short stories

Child, Lydia Maria.
Hobomok. 1824.

Cooper, James Fenimore.
The Last of the Mohicans. 1826.

Emerson, Ralph Waldo.
 “Nature.” 1836
 “Self-Reliance.” 1841.
 “Divinity School Address.” 1838.
 “The American Scholar.” 1837.
 “The Poet.” 1844.
 “Experience.” 1844.

Sedgwick, Catherine Maria.
Hope Leslie. 1827.

Thoreau, Henry David.
Walden. 1854.
 “Resistance to Civil Government.” 1849.

Douglass, Frederick.
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, As Written by Himself.
 1845
 “The Heroic Slave.” 1852.

Fuller, Margaret.
Woman in the Nineteenth Century. 1843.

Jacobs, Harriet.
Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl. 1861.

Warner, Susan.
The Wide, Wide World. 1850.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel.
The Scarlet Letter. 1850.
The House of Seven Gables. 1851.
The Blithedale Romance. 1852.
 selected short stories

Fern, Fanny.
Ruth Hall. 1854.

Brown, William Wells.
Clotel. 1853.

Ridge, John Rollin.

- The Life and Adventures of Joaquin Murieta.* 1854.
- Stowe, Harriet Beecher.
Uncle Tom's Cabin. 1852.
- Wilson, Harriet.
Our Nig. 1859.
- Melville, Herman.
Moby Dick. 1851.
Billy Budd. 1924.
 "Bartleby the Scrivener." 1853.
 "Benito Cereno." 1855
- Cummins, Maria Susanna.
The Lamplighter. 1854.
- Alcott, Louisa May.
Little Women. 1869.
Work. 1873.
- Davis, Rebecca Harding.
 "Life in the Iron Mills." 1861.
- Delany, Martin.
Blake, or The Huts of America. 1859.
- Alger, Horatio.
Ragged Dick. 1867.
- Chesnutt, Charles W.
The Marrow of Tradition. 1901.
The Conjure Woman. 1899.
- Twain, Mark.
Huckleberry Finn. 1884.
Pudd'nhead Wilson. 1894
- Crane, Stephen.
Maggie. 1893.
The Red Badge of Courage. 1895.
- Martí, José.
Selected Writings (Penguin Classics edition, 2002):
 Letters from New York (pp 89-244)
 Political Correspondences (pp 255-261)
 Poetry: Simple Verses (pp 269-282)
 Letters from New York (pp 288-310)
 from Patria (pp 314-329)
- Jackson, Helen Hunt.
Ramona. 1884.
- Ruiz de Burton, Maria Amparo.
Who Would have Thought It? 1872.
The Squatter and the Don. 1885.
- Bellamy, Edward.
Looking Backward. 1887.
- Norris, Frank.

- McTeague. 1899.
The Octopus. 1901.
- Winnemucca, Sarah.
Life among the Piutes. 1883.
- Harper, Francis.
Iola Leroy. 1892.
- Howells, William Dean.
A Hazard of New Fortunes. 1890.
The Rise of Silas Lapham. 1885.
- Gilman, Charlotte Perkins.
 "The Yellow Wall-paper." 1892.
- Freeman, Mary Wilkins.
A New England Nun and Other Stories. 1891.
- James, Henry.
The Portrait of a Lady. 1881.
The Ambassadors. 1903.
The Turn of the Screw. 1898.
 "Daisy Miller." 1878.
- Wister, Owen.
The Virginian. 1902.
- Jewett, Sarah Orne.
The Country of the Pointed Firs. 1896.
- Frederic, Harold.
The Damnation of Theron Ware. 1896.
- Dreiser, Theodore.
Sister Carrie. 1900.
- Chopin, Kate.
The Awakening. 1899.
- Hopkins, Pauline.
Contending Forces. 1900.
- Washington, Booker T.
Up From Slavery. 1901.

Criticism

- Berlant, Lauren. *The Female Complaint: The Unfinished Business of Sentimentality in American Culture*. 2008.
- Brickhouse, Anna. *Transamerican Literary Relations and the Nineteenth-Century Public Sphere*. 2005.
- Brodhead, Richard. *Cultures of Letters: Scenes of Reading and Writing in Nineteenth-Century America*. 1993.
- Brooks, Daphne. *Bodies in Dissent: Spectacular Performances of Race and Freedom, 1850-1910*. 2006.
- Brown, Gillian. *Domestic Individualism: Imagining Self in Nineteenth-Century America*. 1990.
- Chapman, Mary and Glenn Hendler, eds. *Sentimental Men: Masculinity and the Politics of Affect in American Culture*. 1999.

- Gates Jr., Henry Louis. *The Signifying Monkey: A Theory of African-American Literary Criticism*. 1989.
- Gura, Philip F. *American Transcendentalism: A History*. 2007.
- Jehlen, Myra. *American Incarnation: The Individual, the Nation, and the Continent*. 1989.
- Levine, Robert S. *Dislocating Race and Nation: Episodes in Nineteenth-Century American Literary Nationalism*. 2008.
- McGill, Meredith. *American Literature and the Culture of Reprinting 1834-1853*. 2007.
- Loeffelholz, Mary. *From School to Salon: Reading Nineteenth-Century American Women's Poetry*. 2004.
- Menand, Louis. *The Metaphysical Club*. 2001.
- Merish, Lori. *Sentimental Materialism: Gender, Commodity Culture, and Nineteenth-Century American Literature*. 2000.
- Reising, Russell. *Loose Ends: Closure and Crisis in the American Social Text*. 1996.
- Reynolds, David. *Beneath the American Renaissance: The Subversive Imagination in the Age of Emerson and Melville*. 1989.
- Silva-Gruesz, Kirsten. *Ambassadors of Culture*. 2002.
- Streeby, Shelley. *American Sensations: Class, Empire, and the Production of Popular Culture*. 2002.
- Sundquist, Eric. *Empire and Slavery in American Literature, 1820-1865*. 2006.
- Tompkins, Jane. *Sensational Designs: The Cultural Work of American Fiction, 1790-1860*. 1986.
- Wolosky, Shira. *Poetry and Public Discourse: American Poetry 1855-1900*. 2010.

Last Updated December 2013