The American Literature Area Examination reading list consists of two parts: A) the following list of core works required of every Ph.D. candidate in American Literature and B) a specialized list compiled by the candidate and the American Area Examination's committee representative. This second list must consist of 20 writers, with the total number of titles not exceeding 25. No title on the B list can duplicate a title on the A list. The intent of the B list is to provide candidates with an opportunity to specialize in one area within American literature.

The area exam will consist of two questions drawn from Part A and one from Part B. Each question will have equal value. Candidates are expected to situate their discussion of primary texts in the context of current scholarly debates (as represented in, but not restricted to, texts included in the list of secondary works in list A, below, as well as in any secondary works included in list B).

Candidates must register with the Graduate Office of the Department of English during the examination period preceding that in which they propose to sit Area Examinations. At that time, the candidate and the committee's representative will agree upon the twenty writers for Part B of the examination. Forms for this purpose are available in the office of the Graduate Assistant.

Candidates proposing to sit examinations should arrange with the committee's representative to discuss the examination and appropriate ways to prepare for it. The American group consists of S. Fogel, K. McGuirk, A. McMurry, and V. Lamont.
Primary Works – Required

Albee, Edward
   Whos Afraid of Virginia Woolf

Ashbery, John
   selection of poetry, including Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror

Bishop, Elizabeth
   selection of poetry

Bradford, William
   Of Plymouth Plantation

Cather, Willa
   My Antonia

American Literature Reading List

Delillo, Don
   White Noise

Dickinson, Emily
   selection of poetry

Dubois, W.E.B.
   Souls of Black Folk

Douglass, Frederick
   Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave

Dreiser, Theodore
   Sister Carrie

Emerson, Ralph Waldo
   selected essays, including "The American Scholar," "The Divinity School Address"
   "Nature," and "The Poet"

Erdrich, Louise
   Love Medicine

Faulkner, William
   As I Lay Dying
   The Sound and the Fury
Fitzgerald, F. Scott
   *The Great Gatsby*

Franklin, Benjamin
   *Autobiography*

Frost, Robert
   selection of poetry

Hawthorne, Nathaniel

Hemingway, Ernest
   *In Our Time*
   *The Sun Also Rises*

Hejinian, Lyn
   "My Life"

Hughes, Langston
   selection of poetry

Hurston, Zora Neale
   *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Irving, Washington
   *Knickerbocker'S History* and selections from *The Sketch Book*

James, Henry
   *Portrait of a Lady* and "Daisy Miller"

Mamet, David
   *Glengarry, Glen Ross*

Melville, Herman
   *Moby-Dick*, "Billy Budd," and "Bartleby the Scrivener"

Miller, Arthur
   *Death of a Salesman*

Morrison, Toni
   *Beloved*

Nabokov, Vladimir
   *Lolita*
O'Neill, Eugene
*Long Day's Journey Into Night*

Poe, Edgar Allan

Pound, Ezra
selection of poetry

Pynchon, Thomas
*The Crying of Lot 49*

Rich, Adrienne
selection of poetry, including "Dream of a Common Language," "When We Dead Awaken: Writing as Re-Vision"

Rowlandson, Mary
*A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*

Salinger, J.D.
*Catcher in the Rye*

Steinbeck, John
*Grapes of Wrath*

Stevens, Wallace
selection of poetry

Stowe, Harriet Beecher
*Uncle Tom's Cabin*

Thoreau, Henry David
*Walden Pond*

Twain, Mark
*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Updike, John
*Rabbit Redux*

Wharton, Edith
*The Age of Innocence*

Whitman, Walt
preface to the 1855 edition of *Leaves of Grass* and selection of poetry, including "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry," "Out of the Cradle," "Song of Myself," and "When Lilacs Last in the Courtyard Bloomed"
Williams, William
Carlos selection of poetry

Williams, Tennessee
A Streetcar Named Desire
Secondary Works - Required

Barnett, Louise
*The Ignoble Savage*

Bercovitch, Sacvan and Myra Jehlen (eds)
*Ideology and Classic American Literature*

Fetterley, Judith
*The Resisting Reader*

Fiedler, Leslie
*Love and Death in the American Novel*

Gates, Henry Louis
*The Signifying Monkey*

Jameson, Frederic
*Postmodernism, or The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism* (Chapters 1 & 2)

Marx, Leo
*The Machine in the Garden*

Matthiessen, F.O.
*American Renaissance*

Reising, Russell
*The Unusable Past*

Davidson, Cathy
*Revolution and the Word*

Reynolds, David
*Beneath the American Renaissance*

Smith, Henry Nash
*Virgin Land*

Sollors, Werner
*Beyond Ethnicity*

Tompkins, Jane
*Sensational Designs*
American Literature Reading List

Secondary Works - Highly Recommended

Anderson, Quentin
_The Imperial Self_

Baker, Houston
_Blues, Ideology, and Afro-American Literature_

Baudrillard, Jean
_America_

Fiedler, Leslie
_The Return of the Vanishing American_

Jehlen, Myra
_American Incarnation_

Johnson, Paul
_A History of the American People_

Kolodny, Annette
_The Land Before Her The Lay of the Land_

Lewis, RWB
_The American Adam_

Michaels, Walter Benn
_The Gold Standard and the Logic of Naturalism_

Morrison, Toni
_Playing in the Dark_

Zinn, Howard
_A People’s History of the United States_