

**Reading List -- Area Examinations
2002
American**

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

Who's 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
The Scarlet Letter, "The Birth Mark," "The May-Pole of Merrymount," "My Kinsman,
Major Molineux," "Roger Malvin's Burial," and "Young Goodman Brown"

Hemingway, Ernest
In Our Time
The Sun Also Rises

Hejinian, Lyn
"My Life"

American Literature Reading List

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

selection of poetry, "The Cask of Amontillado," "The Fall of the House of Usher," "Ligeia," "The Purloined Letter," and "Philosophy of Composition"

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"

American Literature Reading List

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

American Literature Reading List

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