



Department of English – Graduate Division

Literary Studies

Area 6A Reading List

Twentieth-Century Literature of the U.S.

The literary criticism on this list is confined to that written by authors already listed for their fiction, poetry, or drama. Students are expected to select and read secondary criticism, literary history, and critical theory--enough to provide a grounding in the movements, periods, techniques, and critical issues that are important in relation to the texts on the reading list.

A. Twentieth-Century American Fiction and Non-fiction Prose

1. Gertrude Stein:

“What are Masterpieces and Why are there so few of Them” (1940)

“Composition as Explanation” (1926)

Selection from The Making of Americans pp. 251-280 (1925)

From Selected Writings (Carl VanVechten ed.), “Portrait of Mabel Dodge at the Villa Curonia,”(1912) “Picasso” (1938)

From Geography and Plays, “Ada,” “Miss Furr and Miss Skeene,” “Portrait of Constance Fletcher,” “One” (Van Vechten), “Braque” (1922)

From Three Lives, “Melanctha” (1909)

2. Theodore Dreiser:

Sister Carrie (1900)

3. Upton Sinclair:

The Jungle (1906)

4. James Weldon Johnson:

Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man (1912 anon)

5. Willa Cather:

My Antonia (1918)

6. Sherwood Anderson:

Winesburg, Ohio (1919)

7. Edith Wharton:

Age of Innocence (1920)

8. Sinclair Lewis

Main Street (1920)

9. Jean Toomer:
Cane (1923)
10. F. S. Fitzgerald:
The Great Gatsby (1925)
11. H. D. (Hilda Doolittle):
Hermione
12. Ernest Hemingway:
In Our Time (1925) AND "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" (1938)
13. Ernest Hemingway
A Farewell to Arms (1929) OR The Sun Also Rises (1926)
14. John Dos Passos:
The Big Money (USA) (1927)
15. William Faulkner:
The Sound and the Fury (1929)
16. William Faulkner:
Absalom, Absalom! (1936)
17. William Faulkner:
Go Down Moses (1942)
18. Henry Roth:
Call it Sleep (1934)
19. Djuna Barnes:
Nightwood (1936)
20. Zora Neale Hurston:
Their Eyes Were Watching God (1937)
21. Nathaniel West:
The Day of the Locust (1939)
22. John Steinbeck:
Grapes of Wrath (1939)
23. Richard Wright:
Native Son (1940) AND "How Bigger Was Born" (1940)
24. J. D. Salinger:

- Catcher in the Rye (1951)
OR
Kerouac:
On the Road (1957)
25. Ralph Ellison:
Invisible Man (1952)
From Going to the Territory: "The Little Man at Chehaw Station";
"On Initiation Rites" ; "Going to the Territory"
26. James Baldwin:
Go Tell it on the Mountain (1953)
"Many Thousands Gone" (1955)
"Strangers in the Village" (1955)
27. Flannery O'Connor:
A Good Man is Hard to Find (1955)
"The Grotesque in Southern Fiction"
28. Bernard Malamud:
The Fixer (1966) OR The Assistant (1957)
29. Vladimir Nabokov:
Lolita (1955)
30. Vladimir Nabokov:
Pale Fire (1962)
31. Norman Mailer:
"The White Negro" (1957)
Armies of the Night (1968)
32. Isaac Bashevis Singer:
The Magician of Lublin (1960)
33. John Updike
Rabbit, Run (1960)
34. Joseph Heller:
Catch-22 (1961)
35. William Burroughs:
Naked Lunch (Paris, 1959 U.S., 1962)
36. Saul Bellow:
Herzog (1964)

37. Malcolm Little:
Autobiography of Malcolm X (1965)
38. Eudora Welty:
Thirteen Stories (1965)
39. John Barth:
Lost in the Funhouse (1968)
"The Literature of Exhaustion" (1974)
"The Literature of Replenishment" (1982)
40. Kurt Vonnegut:
Slaughterhouse-Five (1969)
41. N. Scott Momaday:
House Made of Dawn (1969)
42. Toni Morrison:
The Bluest Eye (1970)
From Playing in the Dark, "Black Matters" (1992)
43. Toni Morrison
Song of Solomon (1977)
44. Toni Morrison:
Beloved (1987)
45. E. L. Doctorow:
Book of Daniel (1971) OR Ragtime (1975)
46. Rudolfo Anaya:
Bless Me Ultima (1972)
47. Thomas Pynchon
Gravity's Rainbow (1973)
48. Maxine Hong Kingston:
The Woman Warrior (1976)
49. Leslie Marmon Silko
Ceremony (1977)
50. Ernest Gaines:
A Gathering of Old Men (1983)

51. James Welch:
 Fools Crow (1986)
52. Gloria Naylor:
 Mama Day (1988)
53. Louise Erdrich
 Tracks (1988)
54. Sara Suleri:
 Meatless Days (1989)
55. Fae Myenne Ng:
 Bone (1993)

Twentieth-Century American Plays

56. Eugene O'Neill:
 The Hairy Ape (1923)
 Desire Under the Elms (1925)
57. Eugene O'Neill:
 The Iceman Cometh (1946)
 Long Day's Journey Into Night (1956)
58. Susan Glaspell:
 Trifles (1924)
59. Lillian Hellman:
 The Children's Hour (1934)
 The Little Foxes (1939)
60. Gertrude Stein:
 Four Saints in Three Acts (1934)
 The Mother of Us All (1947)
61. Thornton Wilder:
 Our Town (1938)
62. Clifford Odets:
 Awake and Sing (copyright 1933 under title "I Got the Blues," first performed 1935)
63. Tennessee Williams:
 The Glass Menagerie (1945)
 A Streetcar Named Desire (1947) OR Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (1955)

64. Arthur Miller:
The Death of a Salesman (1949)
The Crucible (1953)
65. Edward Albee:
Zoo Story (1959) OR The American Dream (1959)
Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? (1962)
66. Lorraine Hansberry:
A Raisin in the Sun (1959)
67. August Wilson:
Fences (1986)
68. Sam Shepard:
Buried Child (1979)
True West (1981)
69. David Mamet:
American Buffalo (1976)
Glengarry Glen Ross (1983)
70. Luis Valdez:
Zoot Suit (1978)
71. Hanay Geigomah:
Fog Horn and Body Indian, in New Native American Drama: Three Plays
(1980)
72. Tomson Highway:
The Rez Sisters (1988)
73. David Henry Hwang:
M. Butterfly (1989)
74. Tony Kushner:
Angels in America (Parts I and II) (1992)
75. Paula Vogel:
The Baltimore Waltz (1992)
76. Anna Deveare Smith:
Fires in the Mirror (1993)
77. Jeannie Barroga:

Walls
Velina Hasu Houston
Tea

(in The Unbroken Thread, ed. Roberta Uno)

Twentieth-Century American Poetry

78. Robert Frost:

From Complete Poems (1964)—North of Boston:" Into My Own"; "Mowing"; "The Road Not Taken"; "An Old Man's Winter Night"; "The Oven Bird"; "Birches"; "The Cow in Apple Time"; "The Hill Wife"; "Out, Out"; "The Grindstone"; "Fire and Ice"; "Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening"; "To Earthward"; "Two Witches"; "For Once, Then, Something"; "The Need of Being Versed in Country Things"; "Acquainted with the Night"; "West-Running Brook"; "A Hillside Thaw"; "Once by the Pacific"; "Two Tramps in Mud Time"; "Desert Places"; "Design"; "Come In"; "The Most of It"; "The Gift Outright"; "Take Something Like a Star"; "Directive"; "Neither Out Far Nor In Deep"; "Provide, Provide"

79. Gertrude Stein:

From Selected Writings (1946) "Tender Buttons," "Preciosilla"
From Geography and Plays (1922): "Susie Asado," "Sacred Emily,"
From Bee Time Vine and Other Poems (1953): "Lifting Belly," "Patriarchal Poetry,"
"Stanzas in Meditation"

80. Ezra Pound:

Pre-Cantos poems: "Ne Audiart"; "Sestina: Altaforte"; "Portrait d'une Femme"; "The Return"; "Seafarer"; "The River Merchant's Wife: A Letter"; "The Jewel Stairs' Grievance"; "The Rest"; "A Pact"; "In a Station of the Metro"; "Hugh Selwyn Mauberley"
Essays: "Vorticism"; "A Retrospect"; "Patria Mia"

81. Ezra Pound:

The Cantos as follows: Consider whole for structure, then know: A Draft of XXX Cantos (1930); Canto XXXI (A Jefferson/ Adams Canto); Canto XLV ("Usura"); Canto XLIX ("Sunup; work/ Sundown; to rest"); The Pisan Cantos; Canto LXXXV, pp.1-2 (ending with "Foundation"); Canto XCV (from Rock-Drill); Canto CVI (from Thrones); Canto CX; Canto CXVI

82. William Carlos Williams:

From Imaginations: Prologue to Kora in Hell (1920); Spring and All (1923)

83. W.C. Williams:

Paterson

84. Wallace Stevens:
Harmonium (1923)
"Notes Toward a Supreme Fiction"
85. Hart Crane
Collected Poems (1933)
86. T. S. Eliot:
Selected Poems
Four Quartets
from Selected Prose (1953): "The Metaphysical Poets"; "Hamlet and His Problems"; "Tradition and the Individual Talent"; "The Function of Criticism."
87. H. D (Hilda Doolittle):
from Collected Poems: Sea Garden (1917); "Euridice"; "Oread"; "The Pool"; "Circe"; "Leda"; "Fragment 113"; "Helen"; "At Ithaca"; "Child Poems"; "The Master"; "Calypso"; "The Islands"; "Halcyon"; Trilogy
88. H. D.
Helen In Egypt
89. Marianne Moore:
Collected Poems (1951), pp. 5-152 of The Complete Poems (1967)
90. Laura Riding:
From Poems: A Joking World—"Lida"; "Home"; "Incarnations"; "Because I Sit Here So"; "The Mask"; "The Signature"; "Hospitality for Words"; "Room"; "Goat Alone"; "Goat and Amalthea (Fragments)"; "The Simple Verse"; "An Ageless Brow"; "There Is Much at Work"; "The Definition of Love"; "The Lady of the Apple (Fragmentary)"; "Many Gentlemen"; "John and I"; "Lying Spying"; "Postponement of Immortality"; "Fragments"; "Helen's Burning"; "Life-Size Is Too Large"; "the Map of Places"; "Death as Death"; "Footfalling"; "Though in One Time"; "What to Say When the Spider"; "The Wind Suffers"; "World's End"; "Fragments"; "The Ancient Line"; "Let"; "Nearly Which?"; "Appeared the Time"; (1930)
From The Poems of Laura Riding—"Then Follows"; "The Wind"; "The Clock"; "The we"; "From Later to Earlier"; "The Talking World"; "I Am"; "Poet: A Lying Word"; "Disclaimer of the Person"
91. Claude McKay:
Poetry selections in Norton Anthology of African American Literature plus
"Spring in New Hampshire"
92. Langston Hughes:
Selected Poems (1959)

"The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain"

93. From The Fugitive Poets (Pratt, 1965) Introduction, selections by John Crowe Ransom, Allen Tate, Donald Davidson; I'll Take My Stand
94. Elizabeth Bishop:
Questions of Travel (1965)
Geography III (1976)
95. Muriel Rukeyser:
From The Collected Poems (1978): "Poem Out of Childhood"; "Four in a Family"; "This House, This Country"; "Theory of Flight" (Section: pp 21-46); "Cats and a Cock"; "The Blood is Justified"; "Letter to the Front"; "Nine Poems"; "Night Feeding"; "Orpheus"; "A Birth"; "Mother's Garden Round"; "Rite"; "The Return"; "Unborn Song"; "On the Death of Her Mother"; "Make and be Eaten"; "A Ballad Theme"; "Asleep and Awake"; "Long Enough"; "The Birth of Venus"; "The Poem as Mask"; "Orpheus"; "Niobe Now"; "Gift"; "The War Comes into My Room"; "Poem"; "Kathe Kollwitz"; "Waking This Morning"; "Despisals"; "Myth"; "Search/ Not Searching"; "Martin Luther King, Malcolm X"; "Breaking Open"
96. George Oppen:
This in Which (1965)
Discrete Series (1934)
OR
Lorine Niedecker:
The Granite Pail (1985)
97. Robert Penn Warren:
From New and Selected Poems, 1923-85): "Audubon" (1969); "Or Else" (1974); the selections from "Now and Then" (1978)
98. Theodore Roethke:
from Words for the Wind (1957): selections from The Lost Son and Other Poems (pp. 37-60) (1948); "Elegy for Jane"; "Four for Sir John Davies"; "The Waking"; "Words for the Wind"; "I Knew a Woman"; "The Exorcism"; "The Dying Man"; from The Far Field (1964), "North American Sequence"
99. Charles Olson:
The Maximus Poems (I-III) (1953)
From Selected Writings, ed. Robert Creeley : "Projective Verse and Letter to Elaine Feinstein"; "Quantity in Verse, and Shakespeare's Late Plays"; "Human Universe" (1959)
100. Allen Ginsberg:

- Howl and Other Poems (1956)
Kaddish (1959)
101. Robert Lowell:
Life Studies (1959)
For the Union Dead (1964)
102. Robert Creeley:
For Love (1962)
Pieces (1968)
103. John Berryman:
77 Dream Songs (1964)
104. Gwendolyn Brooks:
Selected Poems (1963); from Blacks, "Malcolm X," "Two Dedications,"
"The Blackstone Rangers," "Riot," "Third Sermon on the Warpland,"
"Young Heroes I-III"
105. Robert Duncan:
Roots and Branches (1964)
106. Denise Levertov:
O Taste and See (1964)
Relearning the Alphabet (1970)
"On the Function of the Line"
107. John Ashbery:
Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror (1975)
from Three Poems, "The New Spirit" (1972)
- 108.. Adrienne Rich:
The Fact of a Doorframe (1984)
"When we Dead Awaken"
"Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence"
109. Adrienne Rich:
Sources (1983)
An Atlas of the Difficult World (1991)
110. Anne Sexton:
Live or Die
Transformations
111. Sylvia Plath
Ariel (1965)

112. Leroi Jones / Imamu Amiri Baraka
“Preface to a Twenty Volume Suicide Note”; “Political Poem”; “Legacy”
“The New World”: “An Agony, As Now”; Whys/Wise Sections 1-4, 18; “I
Substitute for the Dead Lecturer”; “In Memory of Radio”; “A Poem for
Black Hearts”; “I don’t love you”; “SOS”; “Black Art”; “The Invention of
Comics” ; “Ka ‘Ba”; “Crow Jane”; Am/Trak”
113. Galway Kinnell:
The Book of Nightmares (1971)
114. James Merrill:
Divine Comedies (1976)
115. James Wright
To a Blossoming Pear Tree (1977)
116. Robert Hass:
Praise (1979)
117. Linda Hogan
Eclipse (1983)
118. Jorie Graham:
Materialism
119. Marilyn Hacker:
Love, Death, and the Changing of the Seasons (1986)
120. Lucille Clifton:
Good Woman (1987 <http://mendota.english.wisc.edu/~ESL/intensive.htm>)
121. Robert Hayden:
“Middle Passage”; “Frederick Douglass”; “El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz”;
“Words in the Morning Time”
Michael Harper:
“Dear John, Dear Coltraine”; “In Hayden’s Collage”; “Grandfather”; “Goin’
to the Territory”; “The Ghost of Soul Making”
122. Gloria Anzaldua:
Borderlands/ La Frontera (1987)
123. Douglas Messerli, ed.
“Language” Poetries: An Anthology (1987)
124. Garrett Hongo:

- The River of Heaven (1988)
125. Joy Harjo
In Mad Love and War (1990)
126. Susan Howe:
Singularities (1990)
127. Ray A. Young Bear:
The Invisible Musician (1990)
128. Li-Young Lee:
The City in Which I Love You (1990)
129. Simon Ortiz:
Woven Stone (1991)
130. Rita Dove:
Selected Poems (1993)

List of Options for Concentration: Students are to choose 20 items from the following list to complete the 150 item prelim list for Area 6A.

Each student must submit his or her list of twenty selected options to the examining committee members three months in advance of the exam. The list, which does not require approval, should be accompanied by a brief statement identifying the particular interests determining the student's selections. All students taking the exam at any given sitting will be given the same exam questions. Examiners will insure that some questions are structured to enable students to demonstrate knowledge of texts from their lists of selected options.

1. Mary Austin:
The Land of Little Rain (1903)
2. James Weldon Johnson
Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man (1912)
3. Abraham Cahan:
The Rise of David Levinsky (1917, 1951)
4. Sinclair Lewis:
Elmer Gantry OR
Babbitt (1922)
5. H. L. Mencken:
Selections from Prejudices

6. Alain Locke:
The New Negro (1925)
7. Anzia Yezierska:
Bread Givers (1925)
8. Black Elk:
John G. Neihardt, Black Elk Speaks (1932)
9. Erskine Caldwell:
Tobacco Road (1932)
10. F. Scott Fitzgerald:
Tender is the Night (1934, revised 1951)
11. James Farrell:
Studs Lonigan (1935)
12. Bill Andrews, ed:
Classic Fiction of the Harlem Renaissance (1994)
13. T. S. Eliot
Murder in the Cathedral (1935)
14. E. A. Robinson:
"Credo"; "Luke Havergal"; "Zola"; "Boston"; "Aaron Stark"; "Richard Cory";
"Miniver Cheevy"; "Cassandra"; "Eros Turannos"; "Flammonde"; "The Man
Against the Sky"; "Bewick Finzer"; "The Rat"; "New England"
15. William Saroyan:
The Time of Your Life (1939)
16. Ernest Hemingway:
For Whom the Bell Tolls (1940)
17. Edmund Wilson
Axel's Castle OR Daisy
18. James Agee and Walker Evans:
Let Us Now Praise Famous Men
19. Thornton Wilder:
The Skin of Our Teeth (1942)
20. Richard Wright:

- Black Boy (1945)
21. Malcolm Lowry:
Under the Volcano (1947)
22. Melvin Tolson:
Libretto for the Republic of Liberia (1953)
23. Ray Bradbury:
Fahrenheit 451 (1953)
24. Mike Gold
Jews Without Money
25. e. e. cummings
The Enormous Room; Selected Poems
26. Paule Marshall:
Brown Girl, Brownstones (1959) OR Praisesong (1983)
27. Robert Penn Warren
All the King's Men (1946)
28. Walker Percy:
The Moviegoer (1961) OR Lost in the Ruins (1971) OR The Last Gentleman (1960)
29. Tillie Olsen:
Tell Me a Riddle (1961)
30. Tennessee Williams:
The Night of the Iguana (1962)
31. Amiri Baraka
Dutchman (1964)
32. Truman Capote:
In Cold Blood (1965)
33. Joan Didion:
Slouching Toward Bethlehem (1968) OR
Play It as It Lays (1970) OR
Democracy (1984)
34. N. Scott Momaday:
The Way to Rainy Mountain (1969)

35. Saul Bellow:
Mr. Sammler's Planet (1970)
36. Louis Zukofsky:
ALL: the collected short poems (1966); "A"-11
37. Jose Antonio Villarreal
Pocho (1970)
38. Toni Cade Bambara:
The Black Woman (1970) OR
Gorilla, My Love (1972)
39. Vine Deloria:
God is Red (1973) OR
We Talk, You Listen: New Tribes New Turf (1970)
40. Thomas Rivera:
. . . and the earth did not devour him (1971)
41. Wallace Stegner:
Angle of Repose (1971) OR
Crossing to Safety (1987)
42. Rudolfo Anaya:
Bless Me Ultima (1972)
43. Thomas Pynchon
The Crying of Lot 49 (1966)
44. James Alan McPherson:
Elbow Room (1977)
45. Michael Herr:
Dispatches (1977)
46. Ntozake Shange:
For colored girls . . . (1977)
47. Gerald Vizenor:
Darkness in St. Louis Bearheart (1978)
48. Norman Mailer:
Executioner's Song (1979)

49. Wright Morris:
Plainsong (1980)
50. Raymond Carver:
What We Talk About When We Talk About Love (1981)
51. Marilyn Robinson
Housekeeping (1982)
52. Marsha Norman:
'night, Mother (1983)
53. Paula Gunn Allen:
The Sacred Hoop (1986)
54. Ana Castillo:
The Mixquihuala Letters (1986)
55. Lyn Hejinian:
My Life (1987)
56. Cynthia Ozick:
The Messiah of Stockholm (1987)
57. Americo Paredes:
George Washington Gomez (1990)
58. Sandra Cisneros:
Woman Hollering Creek (1991)
59. Leslie Marmon Silko:
Almanac of the Dead (1991) or Storyteller (1981)
60. Elizabeth Cook-Lynn:
From the River's Edge (1991)
61. Thomas King:
Green Grass, Running Water (1993)
62. Sherman Alexie:
Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven (1993)
63. Theresa Hak Kyung Cha:
DICTEE (1982)
64. Arthur Sze:

Archipelago (1995)

65. Luci Tapahonso

Blue Horses Rush In (1997)