

## AMERICAN LITERATURE - OBLIGATORY READING LIST

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The list is for the Survey of American Literature course. Exam questions can be related to any text on the list. Only some of those texts will be discussed in class, but students are supposed to read all of them.

1. William Bradford *Of Plymouth Plantation* (excerpts)
2. Edward Taylor, "Huswifery," "Upon a Spider Catching a Fly"
3. Anne Bradstreet, "The Author to her Book," "To My Dear and Loving Husband"
4. Jonathan Edwards, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," "Personal Narrative"
5. Benjamin Franklin, *Autobiography* (excerpts)
6. Washington Irving, "Rip van Winkle," "The Legend of the Sleepy Hollow"
7. James Fenimore Cooper (excerpts from selected novels)
8. Edgar Allan Poe "The Fall of the House of Usher," "The Tell-Tale Heart," "The Purloined Letter," "The Raven," "The Philosophy of Composition"
9. Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*
10. Herman Melville, *Moby Dick*
11. Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Nature," "The American Scholar," "Self-Reliance"
12. Henry David Thoreau *Walden* (excerpts), "Civil Disobedience"
13. Frederick Douglass, "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass"
14. Walt Whitman, "Song of Myself", "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd"
15. Emily Dickinson (selected poetry)
16. Mark Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
17. Henry James, *Daisy Miller*
18. Stephen Crane, *The Red Badge of Courage*
19. Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*
20. Sarah Orne Jewett, *The Country of Pointed Firs*
21. Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*
22. Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*, "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place"
23. Francis Scott Fitzgerald, *Great Gatsby*
24. John Steinbeck, *Of Mice and Men*
25. William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*
26. Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
27. Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman*
28. Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot, Robert Frost, Wallace Stevens, William Carlos Williams, e e cummings, Langston Hughes, H.D., Marianne Moore (selected poetry)
29. Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., *Slaughterhouse Five*
30. Sylvia Plath, Anne Sexton (selected poetry)
31. Saul Bellow, *Dangling Man*
32. Toni Morrison, *Beloved*
33. Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*
34. Louise Erdrich, *Love Medicine*
35. Sam Shepard, *True West*
36. Allen Ginsberg, Frank O'Hara, Adrienne Rich, Elizabeth Bishop, Joy Harjo, Gary Soto, Lorna Dee Cervantes, Garrett Hongo (selected poetry)
37. Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*
38. Sandra Cisneros *The House on Mango Street*

### Obligatory Secondary Reading List

The list is for the Survey of American Literature course. Exam questions can be related to any text on the list. Students are supposed to make the texts their homework study, preferably on a regular (schedule-related) basis.

1. Kopcewicz Andrzej and Marta Sienicka. *Historia literatury Stanów Zjednoczonych w zarysie. Wiek XVII-XIX*. Warszawa: Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, 1982.
2. Kopcewicz Andrzej and Marta Sienicka. *Historia literatury Stanów Zjednoczonych w zarysie. Wiek XX*. Warszawa: Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, 1982.
3. Salska, Agnieszka (ed). *Historia literatury amerykańskiej XX wieku*. Kraków: Universitas, 2003. (Volume I and Volume II) (Chapters dealing with contemporary texts and authors not covered by Kopcewicz and Sienicka)

#### **Recommended Background Reading List**

1. Elliot, Emory (ed.) *Columbia Literary History of the United States*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1988.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY READING LIST**

### **SURVEY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE**

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#### Puritan Literature

##### **Poetry:**

- Michael Wigglesworth, "The Day of the Doom"

##### **Prose:**

- John Winthrop, "A Modell of Christian Charity"
- Samuel Sewall, *Diary*
- Jonathan Edwards, "Images or Shadows of Divine Things"
- Mary Rowlandson, *Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*

#### The Enlightenment and the turn of the 19th century

##### **Poetry:**

- Phillis Wheatley (selected poems)
- Philip Freneau "The Indian Burying Ground", "The Rising Glory of America, "The Wild Honey Suckle"
- William Cullen Bryant "Thanatopsis", "The Prairie", "To a Waterfowl"
- Joel Barlow, "The Vision of Columbus"

##### **Prose:**

- Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*
- Benjamin Franklin, *Poor Richard's Almanac*
- St. Jean de Crevecoeur, *Letters from an American Farmer*
- Thomas Paine Common Sense
- Hannah Webster Forster, *The Coquette*
- Charles Brockden Brown, *Wieland, or The Transformation, Edgar Huntly*

##### **Drama:**

- Royall Tyler, *The Contrast*

#### 1st half of the 19th century

##### **Poetry:**

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *The Song of Hiawatha*, *The Children's Hour*

**Prose:**

- Catharine Maria Sedgwick, *A New England Tale*
- George Lippard, *The Quaker City*
- Mark Twain, *No. 44, The Mysterious Stranger*
- Margaret Fuller, *Woman in the 19th century*
- Elisabeth Stoddard, *The Morgesons*
- Edgar Allan Poe "William Wilson," "Ligeia," "The Black Cat"
- Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown," "The Minister's Black Veil," "Ethan Brand," "The Birthmark"
- Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Circles," "The Poet," "Fate"
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "Declaration of Sentiments" (from the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention).
- Herman Melville, "Bartleby, the Scrivener"

2nd half of the 19th century

**Prose:**

- Bret Harte, "The Outcasts of Poker Flat"
- Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"
- Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
- William Dean Howells, *The Rise of Silas Lapham*
- Sarah Orne Jewett, *The Country of the Pointed Firs*
- Catharine Maria Sedgwick, *A New England Tale*
- Frank Norris, *McTeague*
- Jack London, *The Call of the Wild*
- Henry James, "The Real Thing," *The Ambassadors*

20th century

**Till 1945**

**Poetry:**

- Edna St. Vincent Millay, *A Few Figs from Thistles* (1920)
- Marianne Moore, *Observations* (1924)
- Hart Crane, "The Bridge"
- Edwin Arlington Robinson, Edgar Lee Masters, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Carl Sandburg, Amy Lowell, Elinor Wylie, Allen Tate, Robinson Jeffers, Countee Cullen: selected poetry

**Prose:**

- Willa Cather, *My Antonia*
- Gertrude Stein, *Tender Buttons*
- Ernest Hemingway, "The Big Two-Hearted River," "The Killers," "Hills Like White Elephants"
- Henry Adams, *The Education of Henry Adams*, "The Dynamo and the Virgin"
- Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence*
- Sherwood Anderson, *Winesburg, Ohio*
- Jean Toomer, *Cane*
- John Dos Passos, *U.S.A. trilogy: The 42nd Parallel, 1919, and The Big Money; Manhattan Transfer*
- Henry Roth, *Call it Sleep*
- Sinclair Lewis, *Arrowsmith*
- William Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily," *Light in August*

- Robert Penn Warren, *All the King's Men*
- John Steinbeck, *Grapes of Wrath*
- Nella Larsen, *Passing*
- Richard Wright, *Native Son*

**Drama:**

- Susan Glaspell, *Trifles*
- Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Glass Menagerie*

Post-II WW period

**Poetry:**

- Elisabeth Bishop, *Questions of Travel*
- Robert Lowell, *Life Studies*
- John Berryman, "Homage to Mistress Bradstreet"
- Louise Gluck, "The Wild Orchid", "Averno"
- A.R. Ammons, "The Really Short Poems", "Garbage"
- John Ashbery *Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror*
- Theodore Roethke, Gwendolyn Brooks, Richard Wilbur, Robert Bly, Frank O'Hara, John Ashbery, Gary Snyder, Denise Levertov, Joy Harjo: selected poetry
- Susan Howe *The Europe of Trusts*
- Jusef Komunyakaa, *Dien Cai Dau*
- Lorna Dee Cervantes, *Emplumada*

**Prose:**

- Eudora Welty, *Delta Wedding*
- Flannery O'Connor, *A Good Man Is Hard to Find*
- Norman Mailer, *The Naked and the Dead*
- J. D. Salinger, *The Catcher in the Rye*
- Jack Kerouac, *On the Road*
- Bernard Malamud, *The Magic Barrel*
- John Updike, *Rabbit, Run* (1960)
- Philip Roth, *Goodbye, Columbus*, *The Human Stain*
- Truman Capote, *In Cold Blood*, *The Grass Harp*
- Vladimir Nabokov, *Pale Fire*, *Lolita*
- Ursula LeGuin, *The Left Hand of Darkness*
- Saul Bellow, *Herzog*
- Donald Barthelme, *Sixty Stories*, *Snow White*
- John Barth, *The Sot-Weed Factor*, "Lost in the Funhouse"
- Robert Coover, *Pricksongs & Descants*
- Henry Miller, *Tropic of Cancer*
- Sylvia Plath, *The Bell Jar*
- Carson McCullers, *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*
- Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*
- James Baldwin, *Go Tell it on the Mountain*
- Tony Cade Bambara, *Those Bones Are Not My Child*
- E.L. Doctorow, *Ragtime*
- Ken Kesey, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*
- Joseph Heller, *Catch 22*
- Kurt Vonnegut, *Cat's Cradle*
- Raymond Carver, *Cathedral*, *What We Talk When We Talk About Love*
- Alice Walker, *The Color Purple*
- Joyce Carol Oates, *them*

- Annie Proulx, *The Shipping News*
- Paul Auster, *The New York Trilogy*, *Leviathan*
- Don DeLillo, *White Noise*, *Cosmopolis*
- Cormac McCarthy, *All the Pretty Horses*
- Tom O'Brien, *Going Afer Cacciato*
- N. Scott Momaday, *House Made of Dawn*
- Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony*
- Amy Tan, *The Joy Luck Club*
- Cristina Garcia, *Dreaming in Cuban*, *Handbook to Luck*
- William Gibson, *Neuromancer*

**Drama:**

- Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman*
- Tony Kushner, *Angels in America*
- David Mamet, *Oleanna*
- August Wilson, *Fences*
- Edward Albee, *The American Dream*
- Ntozake Shange, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf*