American Literature 1913-present

For this list, you are required to familiarize yourself with the contents of the anthology of Twentieth Century American Poetry, a copy of which will be made available for you to sign out of Jeanette Heinrichs’s office. The table of contents in this book highlights the poets with whom you are expected to study. This will constitute the major poetry that you need to read for the exam. For a supplemental list of poetry, see the poetry and poetics list and consult the 19th and 20th century poetry texts section.

Aim for inclusive coverage from all categories (for example, do not bypass drama in favor of novels only).

**POETRY and DRAMA**
1. Twentieth Century American Poetry, Edited by Dana Gioia, David Mason, and Meg Shoerke (required)
2. Eugene O’Neill, Long Day’s Journey into Night
3. Thornton Wilder, Our Town
4. Tennessee Williams, A Streetcar Named Desire
5. Arthur Miller, Death of a Salesman & The Crucible
6. Edward Albee, Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?
7. Lorraine Hansberry, A Raisin in the Sun
8. August Wilson, Fences
9. Sam Shepard, True West
10. Tony Kushner, Angels in America

**PROSE FICTION**
11. Edith Wharton, The Age of Innocence
12. Sherwood Anderson, Winesburg, Ohio
13. Sinclair Lewis, Babbitt or Main Street
14. Jean Toomer, Cane
15. F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby
16. Ernest Hemingway, The Sun Also Rises
17. Willa Cather, The Professor’s House or My Antonia
18. Theodore Dreiser, An American Tragedy
19. Dashiell Hammett, Red Harvest or The Maltese Falcon
20. Nella Larsen, Passing
22. William Faulkner, Absalom Absalom
24. Djuna Barnes, Nightwood
25. John Dos Passos, The Big Money
26. Zora Neale Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God
27. Nathanael West, Day of the Locust
28. John Steinbeck, The Grapes of Wrath
29. Richard Wright, Native Son
31. Ralph Ellison, Invisible Man
32. J. D. Salinger, Catcher in the Rye
33. Raymond Chandler, The Long Goodbye
34. Patricia Highsmith, The Talented Mr. Ripley
35. Jack Kerouac, On the Road
36. Carson McCullers, The Heart is a Lonely Hunter
37. Vladimir Nabokov, Lolita or Pale Fire
38. William S. Burroughs, Naked Lunch
39. John Updike, Rabbit, Run
40. Joseph Heller, Catch 22
41. James Baldwin, Giovanni’s Room
42. Mary McCarthy, The Group
43. Saul Bellow, Herzog or Seize the Day
44. Thomas Pynchon, The Crying of Lot 49 or V
45. Bernard Malamud, The Fixer
46. Philip Roth, Portnoy’s Complaint
47. Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse Five
48. Toni Morrison, Beloved or Song of Solomon
49. Tim O’Brien, The Things They Carried
50. Marilyn Robinson, Housekeeping
51. Maxine Hong Kingston, The Woman Warrior
52. Don DeLillo, White Noise
53. Cormac McCarthy, Blood Meridian
54. Louise Erdrich, Tracks
55. Sandra Cisneros, The House on Mango Street
56. Kathy Acker, In Memoriam to Identity
57. Short Stories by Ernest Hemingway, Scott Fitzgerald, Katherine Anne Porter, Eudora Welty, Flannery O’Connor, Tillie Olsen, Raymond Carver, Grace Paley, Donald Barthelme, Joyce Carol Oates (TBD)

PROSE NONFICTION
59. Walter Lippman, Drift and Mastery
60. Alain Locke, ed., The New Negro
61. Randolph Bourne, “War is the Health of the State”; H.L. Mencken, Preface to The American Language; Edmund Wilson, introduction to Axel’s Castle; Kenneth Burke, excerpts from Philosophy of Literary Form
62. James Agee and Walker Evans, Let Us Now Praise Famous Men
63. Selected essays from the American New Critics (Brooks, Warren, Wimsatt, Beardsley, Winters, Blackmur)
64. Selected Essays from the New York Intellectuals (Trilling, Howe, Rahv, MacDonald) (Neil Jumonville, ed., The New York Intellectuals Reader)
65. Excerpts from David Riesman et al., The Lonely Crowd; Erving Goffman, Presentation of Self in Everyday Life; C. Wright Mills, The Power Elite
66. Betty Friedan, The Feminine Mystique
67. James Baldwin, Notes of a Native Son
68. Susan Sontag, Against Interpretation
69. Truman Capote, In Cold Blood
70. Joan Didion, Slouching Toward Bethlehem
72. Selected Documents from the New Social Movements (Ann Charters, Ed., The Portable Sixties Reader)
73. Autobiography of Malcolm X
74. Christopher Lasch, The Culture of Narcissism
75. Samuel Delaney, Motion of Light in Water

SECONDARY SOURCES (To be read selectively and strategically)

MODERNISM (1913-1950)
1. Walter Benn Michaels, Our America
2. Michael Szalay, New Deal Modernism
3. Hugh Kenner, A Homemade World
5. David Perkins, A History of Modern Poetry
6. Paula Rabinowitz, Labor and Desire
7. Michael Denning, The Cultural Front
8. Shari Benstock, Women of the Left Bank
10. Michael Trask, Cruising Modernism
11. Martha Banta, Taylored Lives
13. Miles Orvell, The Real Thing
14. Marianne DeKoven, Rich and Strange: Gender History Modernism
15. Michael North, Dialect of Modernism
16. Walter Kalaidjian, American Culture Between the Wars

POSTMODERNISM (1950 – PRESENT)
17. Fredric Jameson, “Postmodernism or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism,” & “Periodizing the Sixties”
18. Warner Berthoff, A Literature Without Qualities
19. Morris Dickstein, Leopards in the Tem
20. ple
21. Michael Davidson, Guys Like Us: Citing Masculinity in Cold War Poetics
22. Deborah Nelson, Pursuing Privacy in Cold War America
23. Catherine Jurca, White Diaspora
24. Alan Nadel, Containment Culture
25. Tobin Siebers, Cold War Criticism and the Politics of Skepticism
27. Richard Poirier, The Performing Self
28. Perry Anderson, Origins of Postmodernity
29. Brian McHale, Postmodernist Fiction
30. John Barth, “Literature of Exhaustion” and “Literature of Replenishment”
31. Ihab Hassan, The Postmodern Turn
32. Rachel Blau DuPlessis, The Pink Guitar
33. Charles Altieri, Enlarging the Temple
34. Marjorie Perloff, Poetics of Indeterminacy

CRITICAL RACE THEORY AND LITERATURE
35. Toni Morrison, Playing in the Dark
36. Houston Baker, Blues, Ideology, and Afro-American Literature
37. Barbara Johnson, The Feminist Difference
38. Kenneth Warren, Black and White Strangers
40. Werner Sollors, Beyond Ethnicity
41. Paul Gilroy, The Black Atlantic
42. Brent Hayes Edward, The Practice of Diaspora