

**Doctoral Reading List**  
**American Literature 1865-1965**

**FICTION (Novels and Short Story Collections)**

Alcott, Louisa May. *Little Women*  
Anderson, Sherwood. *Winesburg, Ohio*  
Baldwin, James. *Go Tell it on the Mountain*  
Barnes, Djuna. *Nightwood*  
Barth, John. *The Floating Opera*  
Bellow, Saul. *The Adventures of Augie March*  
Cahan, Abraham. *The Rise of David Levinsky*  
Cather, Willa. *My Antonia; The Professor's House*  
Chesnutt, Charles. *The Marrow of Tradition*  
Chopin, Kate. *The Awakening*  
Crane, Stephen. *Maggie; The Red Badge of Courage*  
DeBurton, Maria Amparo Ruiz. *The Squatter and the Don*  
Dos Passos, John. *1919* (from *The USA Trilogy*)  
Dreiser, Theodore. *Sister Carrie*  
Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*  
Faulkner, William. *The Sound and the Fury; As I Lay Dying*  
Fauset, Jessie Redmon. *There Is Confusion*  
Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*  
Glasgow, Ellen. *Barren Ground*  
Harper, Frances Ellen Watkins. *Iola Leroy*  
Heller, Joseph. *Catch-22*  
Hemingway, Ernest. *In Our Time; The Sun Also Rises*  
Howells, William Dean. *The Rise of Silas Lapham*  
Hurst, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*  
James, Henry. *The Portrait of a Lady; Daisy Miller; The Golden Bowl*  
Jewett, Sarah Orne. *The Country of the Pointed Firs*  
Kerouac, Jack. *On the Road*  
Kesey, Ken. *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*  
Larsen, Nella. *Passing*  
Lewis, Sinclair. *Main Street*  
Marshall, Paule. *Brown Girl, Brownstones*  
Nabokov, Vladimir. *Lolita*  
Norris, Frank. *The Octopus*  
O'Connor, Flannery. *A Good Man Is Hard To Find: 10 Memorable Stories*  
Paredes, Americo. *George Washington Gomez*  
Percy, Walker. *The Moviegoer*  
Petty, Ann. *The Street*  
Salinger, J.D. *The Catcher in the Rye*  
Stein, Gertrude. *Three Lives*  
Steinbeck, John. *The Grapes of Wrath*  
Toomer, Jean. *Cane*

Twain, Mark. *Huckleberry Finn*  
Updike, John. *The Centaur*  
Vonnegut, Kurt. *Cat's Cradle*  
Warren, Robert Penn. *All the King's Men*  
West, Nathaneal. *The Day of the Locust*  
Wharton, Edith. *The House of Mirth; The Age of Innocence*  
Wright, Richard. *Native Son*

### **Short Stories**

Baldwin, James. "Sonny's Blues"  
Cather, Willa. "Old Mrs. Harris"  
Chesnutt, Charles. "The Passing of Grandison"  
Chopin, Kate. "The Story of an Hour"  
Faulkner, William. "That Evening Sun"  
Fitzgerald, F. Scott. "The Rich Boy"; "Babylon Revisited"  
Freeman, Mary Wilkins. "The Revolt of 'Mother'"; "A New England Nun"  
Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. "The Yellow Wallpaper"  
James, Henry. "The Real Thing"; "The Beast in the Jungle"  
McCullers, Carson. "The Ballad of the Sad Café"  
Olsen, Tillie. "I Stand Here Ironing"  
Petry, Ann. "Solo on the Drums"  
Porter, Katherine Ann. "Old Mortality"; "Pale Horse, Pale Rider"  
Wells, Eudora. "Death of a Traveling Salesman"; "Why I Live at the P.O."  
Wharton, Edith. "Roman Fever"  
Yamamoto, Hisaye. "Seventeen Syllables"

### **Non-Fiction Prose**

Adams, Henry. *The Education of Henry Adams*  
Bonnin, Gertrude Simmons (Zitkala Sa). *Impressions of an Indian Childhood*  
Du Bois, W.E.B. *The Souls of Black Folk*  
Frost, "The Figure a Poem Makes"  
Locke, Alain. "The New Negro"  
Loy, Mina. "Feminist Manifesto"  
Stevens, Wallace. "The Noble Rider and the Sound of Words" (*The Necessary Angel*)  
Washington, Booker T. *Up from Slavery*  
Whitman, Walt. "Preface" to the 1855 edition of *Leaves of Grass*  
Williams, William Carlos. *In the American Grain*

### **Drama**

Albee, Edward. *Zoo Story; Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*  
Childress, Alice. *Trouble in Mind*  
Glaspell, Susan. *Trifles*  
Hansberry, Lorraine. *A Raisin in the Sun*

Hellman, Lillian. *The Little Foxes*  
O'Neill, Eugene. *The Hairy Ape*  
Miller, Arthur. *Death of a Salesman*  
Williams, Tennessee. *A Streetcar Named Desire; Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

## **Poetry**

Bishop, Elizabeth. \*Selected poems, including "Filling Station"  
Brooks, Gwendolyn. \*Selected poems, including "the mother"  
Crane, Hart. *The Bridge; White Buildings*  
Cullen, Countee. \*Selected poems, including "Yet Do I Marvel," "From the Dark Tower," "Scottsboro, Too, Is Worth Its Song," and "To a Brown Girl Dead," and "Incident"  
Dunbar, Paul Laurence. \*Selected poems, including "We Wear the Mask," "A Negro Love Song," "Sympathy," and "When Malindy Sings"  
Eliot, T. S. "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"; *The Waste Land*; and "Burnt Norton" from *The Four Quartets*  
Frost, Robert. Selected poems, including "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," "Mending Wall," "After Apple Picking," and "Home Burial"  
Ginsberg, Allen. *Howl and Other Poems*  
Hughes, Langston. *The Weary Blues*  
Lowell, Robert. *The Union Dead*  
Loy, Mina. "Parturition"  
Masters, Edgar Lee. *Spoon River Anthology*  
Moore, Marianne. \*Selected poems, including "The Fish," "The Mind Is an Enchanting Thing," and "No Swan So Fine"  
Plath, Sylvia. *Ariel*  
Pound, Ezra. "Hugh Selwyn Mauberley," "A Pact," and Any Darn Cantos of Your Choice  
Robinson, E. A. "Richard Cory," "Miniver Cheevy," "Luke Havergal," "Reuben Bright"  
Roethke, Theodore. \*Selected poems, including "North American Sequence"  
Stevens, Wallace. \*Selected poems, including "Sunday Morning," "Peter Quince at the Clavier," "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird," "The Emperor of Ice Cream," "The Man with the Blue Guitar," and "Anecdote of the Jar"  
Whitman, Walt. \*Selections from *Leaves of Grass* (Deathbed Edition), including "Song of Myself," "When lilacs last in the dooryard bloom'd," "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry," and "Out of the cradle endlessly rocking"  
Williams, William Carlos. *Paterson* (Books I and II); selected poems, including "Spring and All," "The Yachts," and "The Red Wheelbarrow"

\*We recommend standard anthology collections of each writer's poems.

## **Critical Works and Social History (Classic and Contemporary)**

Baker, Jr., Houston. *Modernism and the Harlem Renaissance*  
Benn Michaels, Walter. *Our America: Nativism, Modernism, and Pluralism*

Chase, Richard. *The American Novel and Its Tradition*  
Fiedler, Leslie. *Love and Death in the American Novel*  
Stoddard, Lothrop. *The Rising Tide of Color*  
Turner, Frederick Jackson. *The Significance of the Frontier in American History*  
Veblen, Thorstein. *The Theory of the Leisure Class*

### **Literary Scholarship**

The extraordinary diversity not only of modern American literature but also of the theoretical and critical perspectives and methodologies available for the study of all literatures precludes too lengthy a listing of specific critical texts to be studied for the examination. There are in fact few, if any, of the sorts of comprehensive studies of American literature that Chase and Fiedler, produced in the 1950s. Examinees, however, will be responsible for demonstrating familiarity with important trends in literary scholarship and theory as they apply to American literature. Please, consult the *Cambridge History of American Literature, Volumes 4, 5, 6, 7, 8*, and with the relevant sections of the most current issues of *American Literary Scholarship*, for discussions of critical practice.