

Reading List: VO American Literature and Culture

BA English and American Studies

as of SS 2021

Colonial and Revolutionary Period

Core Texts:

- "Raven and Marriage" (Tlingit) [1909]
- John Smith**, *The Generall Historie of Virginia, New England, and the Summer Isles; A Description of New England; Advertisements for the Unexperienced Planters of New-England, or Any Where, Or, the Pathway to Experience to Erect a Plantation* (all excerpts from *Heath Anthology*) 1624; 1616; 1631
- John Winthrop**, "A Model of Christian Charity" 1630
- William Bradford**, *Of Plymouth Plantation* (excerpt from *Heath Anthology*) 1650
- Anne Bradstreet**, "The Prologue [To Her Book]"; "Upon the Burning of Our House" 1678
- Mary Rowlandson**, *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restauration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson* (excerpt from *Heath Anthology*) 1682
- Edward Taylor**, "Huswifery" 1683
- Jonathan Edwards**, "Sinners in the Hand of an Angry God" 1741
- Phillis Wheatley**, "On Being Brought from Africa to America" 1773
- Thomas Paine**, *Common Sense* (excerpt from *Heath Anthology*) 1775
- J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur**, *Letters from an American Farmer* (excerpts from letters III, IX, and XII from *Heath Anthology*) 1782

Choose two of the following:

- "Talk Concerning the First Beginning" (Zuni) [1939]
- "Iroquois or Confederacy of the Five Nations" (Iroquois) [1850]
- "Deer Hunting Song" (Virsak Vai-i, O'odham) [1902]
- Thomas Jefferson**, *The Declaration of Independence* (1776)
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Early Republic and American Romanticism (1783-1865)

Core Texts:

Benjamin Franklin , <i>Autobiography</i> (chapters 8, 9, 10)	1791
Charles Brockden Brown , <i>Edgar Huntly</i> (Preface)	1807
Washington Irving , "Rip Van Winkle"	1820
James Fenimore Cooper , <i>The Pioneers</i> (chapter 1)	1823
Nathaniel Hawthorne , "Young Goodman Brown"	1835
Ralph Waldo Emerson , "Nature" (Introduction, chapters 1-4)	1836
Edgar Allan Poe , "The Tell-Tale Heart"	1843
Margaret Fuller , <i>Woman in the Nineteenth Century</i> (excerpt from <i>Heath Anthology</i>)	1845
Frederick Douglass , <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave</i> (chapters 1, 4, 6, 7, 10)	1845
Harriet Beecher Stowe , <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> (chapter 1)	1852
Henry David Thoreau , <i>Walden</i> (chapters 3 and 4)	1854
Walt Whitman , "Song of Myself"	1855
Herman Melville , "Bartleby the Scrivener"	1856
Harriet Jacobs , <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i> (chapters 1-7)	1860
Rebecca Harding Davis , "Life in the Iron Mills"	1861
Emily Dickinson , "I Heard a Fly Buzz—When I Died"; "After Great Pain, a Formal Feeling Comes"	1862
Choose two of the following:	
Susanna Rowson , <i>Charlotte Temple</i> (Preface, chapters 1, 6, 7, 9, 12, and 14)	1794
Hannah Webster Foster , <i>The Coquette</i> (letters 1-6; 8, and 11-13)	1797
Catharine Maria Sedgwick , <i>Hope Leslie</i> (volume 1, chapter 7; volume 2, chapters 1 and 8)	1827
Edgar Allan Poe , "The Murders in the Rue Morgue"	1841
Edgar Allan Poe , "The Raven"	1845
Edgar Allan Poe , "The Philosophy of Composition"	1846
Nathaniel Hawthorne , <i>The Scarlett Letter</i> (chapters 1, 2 and "The Custom-House Sketch")	1850
Sojourner Truth , "Ain't I a Woman?"	1851
Abraham Lincoln , "The Gettysburg Address"	1863

Reconstruction and the Gilded Age (1865-1910)

Core Texts:

Mark Twain , <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	1884
William Dean Howells , <i>Criticism and Fiction</i> (excerpt from <i>Heath Anthology</i>)	1891
Charlotte Perkins Gilman , "The Yellow Wallpaper"	1892
Kate Chopin , "Desirée's Baby"	1893
Stephen Crane , "The Open Boat"	1895
Theodore Dreiser , <i>Sister Carrie</i>	1901
Henry James , "The Beast in the Jungle"	1901
Mary Hunter Austin , "The Land of Little Rain"	1903
W. E. B. DuBois , <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i> (chapter 1)	1903
Upton Sinclair , <i>The Jungle</i> (excerpt from <i>Heath Anthology</i>)	1905

Choose two of the following:

Louisa May Alcott , <i>Little Women</i> (chapters 1-11)	1868-69
Ambrose Bierce , "Chickamauga"	1889
Gertrude Simmons Bonnin (Zitkála-Šá) , "The School Days of an Indian Girl" (excerpt from <i>Heath Anthology</i>)	1900
Jack London , "To Build a Fire"	1902
Edith Wharton , "The Eyes"	1904

From Modernism to World War II (1910-1945)

Core Texts:

Carl Sandburg , "Chicago"	1914
Ezra Pound , "In a Station of the Metro"; "A Retrospect"	1915
Sherwood Anderson , "Hands" (from <i>Winesburg, Ohio</i>)	1919
Eugene O'Neill , <i>The Emperor Jones</i>	1920
Marianne Moore , "Poetry" [two versions]	1921/1967
T.S. Eliot , <i>The Waste Land</i>	1922
Claude McKay , "If We Must Die"	1922
William Carlos Williams , "The Red Wheelbarrow"; "This Is Just To Say"	1923/1934

Robert Frost , "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening"	1923
HD , "Oread"	1924
F. Scott Fitzgerald , <i>The Great Gatsby</i> (chapters 1 and 2)	1925
Gertrude Stein , "A Completed Portrait of Picasso"	1925
Alain Locke , "The New Negro"	1925
Langston Hughes , "The Weary Blues"; "I, Too"; "Harlem"	1925
e e cummings , "my sweet old etcetera"	1926
Ernest Hemingway , "Hills Like White Elephants"	1927
Hart Crane , "To Brooklyn Bridge"	1930
William Faulkner , "'A Rose for Emily'"	1930
Zora Neale Hurston , "The Gilded Six-Bits"	1933
Lillian Hellman , <i>The Children's Hour</i>	1934
Thornton Wilder , <i>Our Town</i> (Act 1)	1938
John Steinbeck , <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> (chapters 1 and 5)	1939
Richard Wright , <i>Native Son</i> (first segment of Book 1 ¹)	1940
Wallace Stevens , "Of Modern Poetry"	1940
 Choose two of the following:	
T.S. Eliot , "The Love Song of Alfred J. Prufrock"	1915
John Dos Passos , <i>Manhattan Transfer</i> (chapter 1)	1925
Willa Cather , "Old Mrs. Harris"	1932
Eugene O'Neill , <i>Long Day's Journey into Night</i>	1941

Post-War Literature, Postmodernism, Contemporary Works (1945-)

Core Texts:

Arthur Miller , <i>Death of a Salesman</i> (Act 1)	1949
Ralph Ellison , <i>Invisible Man</i> (Prologue and chapter 1)	1952
James Baldwin , "Everybody's Protest Novel"	1955

¹ Until page 42 of the Harper Perennial edition (1998). Ends with "[t]hat was the way he lived; he passed his days trying to defeat or gratify powerful impulses in a world he feared."

Allen Ginsberg , "Howl"; "America"	1956
Jack Kerouac , <i>On the Road</i> (chapter 1)	1957
Edward Albee , <i>The Zoo Story</i>	1958
John Barth , "Title" (from <i>Lost in the Funhouse</i>)	1963
Amiri Baraka , "Black Art"	1965
Thomas Pynchon , <i>The Crying of Lot 49</i>	1965
Gary Snyder , "Riprap"	1965
Sylvia Plath , "Daddy"; "Lady Lazarus"	1966
Muriel Rukeyser , "The Poem as Mask"	1968
Robert Creeley , "America"	1969
Kurt Vonnegut , <i>Slaughterhouse-Five</i> (chapter 1)	1969
Eric Carle , <i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i>	1969
Adrienne Rich , "Diving into the Wreck"	1973
Alice Walker , "Everyday Use" (from <i>In Love and Trouble</i>)	1973
Maxine Hong Kingston , <i>The Woman Warrior</i> (chapter 5)	1976
Elizabeth Bishop , "One Art"	1976
Audre Lorde , "Power"	1978
Janice Mirikitani , "Breaking Tradition"	1978
John Ashbery , "Paradoxes and Oxymorons"	1981
Joy Harjo , "The Woman Hanging from the Thirteenth Floor Window"	1983
Toni Morrison , "Recitatif"	1983
Sandra Cisneros , <i>The House on Mango Street</i> (from beginning to chapter "Those Who Don't")	1984
Don DeLillo , <i>White Noise</i> (chapters 1-4)	1985
Yusef Komunyakaa , "Facing It"	1988
June Jordan , "Poem About My Rights"	1989
Bret Easton Ellis , <i>American Psycho</i> (chapter 1)	1991
Tony Kushner , <i>Angels in America</i> (part 1)	1991
Leslie Feinberg , <i>Stone Butch Blues</i> (chapters 1 and 2)	1993
Norman Stock , "What I Said"	2002
Ann Lauterbach , "Hum"	2005
Junot Díaz , <i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i> (Prologue)	2007

Choose two of the following:

Philip Roth , "Defender of the Faith"	1959
Joyce Johnson , <i>Come and Join the Dance</i> (chapter 1)	1962
N. Scott Momaday , <i>House Made of Dawn</i> (through "July 24")	1968
Donald Barthelme , "The Balloon"	1968
Ishmael Reed , <i>Mumbo Jumbo</i> (chapter 10)	1972
Art Spiegelman , <i>Maus</i> (excerpt from <i>Norton Anthology</i>)	1980
Perceval Everett , <i>Erasure</i>	2001
Mark Z. Danielewski , <i>Only Revolutions</i> (chapters 1 and 1, front and back)	2006