American Literature Field List 2020

Instructions
The American field list, created by the student out of the works listed below, consists of 100 books or book equivalents, derived from five modules.

When constructing a list for the examination, the student begins by choosing any two consecutive historical periods from the five listed below. This constitutes the core of the reading list. Next, the student chooses any three supplementary modules. These can be historical periods or themed lists. A module is comprised of both primary texts and the associated criticism.

Students can also either follow department guidelines for substitutions from these modules, e.g., substitute up to 20% of the works for other works or design an “open module” of their own as one of the three supplementary modules. For the purposes of calculation, five short stories, five essays, or two plays constitute the equivalent of a book. Consult with your advisor if certain works seem to justify a different numerical value.

Here are some examples of lists a student could construct: 1) Antebellum Literature and Realism and Naturalism (two consecutive historical periods), American Environmental Writing, Native American Literature, and the open module; 2) Modernism and Post-War Literature (two consecutive literary periods), Early American Literature, Transnational American Literature, and Ethnic American literature.

Students need to do one other thing in constructing their list. A certain portion of works from each module is a selection of literary criticism, which provides overviews of the period or topic and foundational critical essays. In order to make sure the critical portion of each module has the most up-to-date material, students, in consultation with their advisor, will supplement the listed critical works in each module with two books or book-equivalents of recent scholarship on that period or area.

There are a few duplications of texts across modules. Once students choose a set of five modules, if any duplications exist, students will, in consultation with their advisor, substitute appropriate texts to eliminate the replication.

Historical Periods
(20 books each)

Early American Literature: Primary Texts

7. William, Roger. *A Key into the Language of America* (1643)
9. Rowlandson, Mary. *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson* (1682)
12. Occom, Samson. “A Short Narrative of My Life” (written 1768, first publ. 1982) and “A Sermon at the Execution of Moses Paul, an Indian” (1772)
13. Wheatley, Phillis. “On Being Brought from Africa to America” (1773), “To the Right Honourable William, Earl of Dartmouth” (1773); “Thoughts on the Work of Providence” (1773); “To His Excellency General Washington” (1776); Letters to John Thornton (written 1772) and to Rev. Samson Occom (1774) [printed in *The Norton Anthology of American Literature* (9th ed.; Vol. A)]
15. Jefferson, Thomas. “Declaration of Independence” (1776) and *Notes on the State of Virginia* (1785)
17. Tyler, Royall. *The Contrast* (1787)
18. Equiano, Olaudah. *Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* (1789)
21. Franklin, Benjamin. “Way to Wealth” (1758) and *Autobiography* (1793) [We recommend the Norton Critical Edition, ed. by Lemay and Zall]
22. Foster, Hannah Webster. *The Coquette* (1797)

**Early American Literature: Criticism**

5. Pratt, Mary Louise. “Arts of the Contact Zone” (1991)

Antebellum Literature: Primary Texts

1. Cooper, James Fenimore. The Pioneers (1823)
2. Sedgwick, Catherine Maria. Hope Leslie (1827)
3. Stone, John Augustus. Metamora (1829)
7. Douglass, Frederick. Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (1845)
8. Fuller, Margaret. “The Great Lawsuit” (1843)
9. Thoreau, Henry David. “Resistance to Civil Government” (1849); Walden (1854)
10. Melville, Herman. Moby Dick (1851); or “Bartleby, the Scrivener,” (1853), Benito Cereno (1855), and Billy Budd, Sailor (1891)
11. Stowe, Harriet Beecher. Uncle Tom’s Cabin (1852-3)
12. Northrup, Solomon. Twelve Years a Slave (1853)
13. Hannah Craft. The Bondwoman’s Narrative (mostly likely written between 1853-1861, publ. 2002)
14. Fern, Fanny. Ruth Hall (1855)
World is not conclusion” (1862), “I died for Beauty - but was scarce” (1862), “I dwell in Possibility” (1862), “I heard a Fly buzz - when I died” (1862), “The Brain - is wider than the Sky” (1862), “I’ve seen a Dying Eye” (1862), “Much Madness is divinest Sense” (1862), “Because I could not stop for Death” (1863), “Tell all the Truth but tell it slant” (1868), “My Life had stood - a Loaded Gun” (1863), “She rose to his Requirement” (1863)

17. Jacobs, Harriet. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861)
18. Stoddard, Elizabeth *The Morgesons* (1862)

**Antebellum Literature: Criticism**


**Realism and Naturalism: Primary Texts**

3. Alcott, Louisa May. *Little Women* (1869)
4. Woolson, Constance Fenimore, “Miss Grief” (1880)
5. James, Henry. *Portrait of a Lady* (1881)
7. Twain, Mark. *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885)
9. Mary E. Wilkins Freeman. “The Revolt of ‘Mother’” (1890) and “A New England Nun” (1891)
12. Chopin, Kate. “Desiree’s Baby” (1893) and *The Awakening* (1899)
15. Cahan, *Yekl* (1896)
17. Dreiser, Theodore. *Sister Carrie* (1900)

**Realism and Naturalism: Criticism**

1. Trachtenberg, Alan. Ch. 2 “Mechanization Take Command” and Ch. 5 “The Politics of Culture” from *The Incorporation of America: Culture and Society in the Gilded Age* (1982)

**Modernism: Primary Texts**

1. James, Henry. *The Ambassadors* (1903)
4. Cather, Willa. *O Pioneers!* (1913)
13. Toomer, Jean. Cane (1923)
15. Fitzgerald, F. Scott. The Great Gatsby (1925)
16. Hemingway, Ernest. In Our Time (1925)
17. Faulkner, William. The Sound and the Fury (1929) or As I Lay Dying (1930)
18. Larsen, Nella. Passing (1929)
20. Roth, Henry. Call It Sleep (1934)
21. McNickle, Darcy. The Surrounded (1936)
22. Barnes, Djuna. Nightwood (1936)
23. Hurston, Zora Neale. Their Eyes Were Watching God (1937)

Modernism: Criticism


Postwar and Contemporary American Literature: Primary Texts

1. Williams, Tennessee. Any one of the following: Glass Menagerie (1944), Streetcar Named Desire (1947), Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (1955)
4. Ellison, Ralph. Invisible Man (1947)
5. Miller, Arthur. Death of a Salesman (1949)
9. Rudolfo Anaya, Bless Me, Ultima (1972)
10. Reed, Ishmael. Mumbo Jumbo (1972) or Flight to Canada (1976)
17. O’Brien, Tim. The Things They Carried (1990)

Postwar and Contemporary American Literature: Criticism


**Thematic Options**
(20 books each)

**Transnational American Literature and the Literature of Empire: Primary Texts**

1. de Vaca, Alvar Nunez Cabeza. Excerpts from *Relation of Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca* (1542) in Norton or Heath anthologies
2. Equiano, Olaudah. *Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* (1789)
3. Cooper, James Fenimore. *The Last of the Mohicans* (1826)
5. Delany, Martin. *Blake* (1859)
6. Twain, Mark. *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court* (1889)
7. Martí, José. “Our America” (1891)
9. Twain, Mark. “To the Person Sitting in Darkness” (1901)

**Transnational American Literature and the Literature of Empire: Criticism**


**American Environmental Writing: Primary Texts**

3. Stevens, Wallace. "Anecdote of the Jar" (1919); “The Snow Man” (1921); "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird" (1923); "The Idea of Order at Key West” (1936)

**American Environmental Writing: Criticism**

Gender and Sexuality: Primary Texts

1. Fuller, Margaret, “The Great Lawsuit” (1843)
2. Howe, Julia Ward. The Hermaphrodite (ca. 1846)
4. Melville, Herman. Billy Budd, Sailor (published in 1924 but written in 1891)
5. Whitman, Walt. Calamus poems from Leaves of Grass (1881)
6. Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. “The Yellow Wallpaper” (1892) and Herland
7. James, Henry. The Beast in the Jungle (1903)
8. Gertrude Stein, Three Lives (1909)
10. Cather, Willa. My Antonia (1918)
11. Anzia Yezierska, Bread Givers (1925)
12. Hemingway, Ernest. The Sun Also Rises (1926); “Hills Like White Elephants” (1927)
13. Larsen, Nella, Passing (1929)

Gender and Sexuality: Criticism


Native American Literature: Primary Texts

1. Pontiac. “Speech at Detroit” (1763)
2. Occom, Samson. A Short Narrative of My Life (written 1768, first published 1982)
3. Logan. “Chief Logan’s Speech” (1774)
4. Boudinot, Elias, “Address to the Whites” (1826)
5. Apess, William. A Son of the Forest (1829)
   Castle Island, Lake Superior” (1838), “Moowis, the Indian Coquette” (1827), “The Little
   Spirit, or Boy-Man” (ca. 1839)
8. Ridge, John Rollin. The Life and Adventures of Joaquin Murieta (1854)
9. Winnemucca, Sarah. Life among the Paiutes (1884)
    Indian Girl,” “An Indian Teacher among Indians” (1900)
13. McNickle, Darcy. The Surrounded (1936)
15. Ortiz, Simon. “Passing through Little Rock” (1976), “Earth and Rain, the Plants and Sun”
    (1981) in latest Norton Anthology of American Literature
20.
22. Vizenor, Gerald. Father Meme (2008), or Chair of Tears (2012), or Blue Ravens (2014)

Native American Literature: Criticism
4. Weaver, Jace. Introduction to The Red Atlantic (2014)
5. 3-5 essays from Routledge Companion to Native American Literature (2016) or Oxford
    Handbook of Indigenous American Literature (2014)

Black American Literature: Primary Texts
   Honourable William, Earl of Dartmouth”; Letters to John Thornton and to Rev. Samson
   Occom (1774), “To His Excellency General Washington” (1776)
2. Equiano, Olaudah. Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano (1789) Douglass,
   Frederick. Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (1845)
3. Brown, William Wells. Clotel (1853) or Harriet Wilson, Our Nig (1859)
5. Harper, Frances. *Iola Leroy* (1892) or Hopkins, Pauline. *Contending Forces* (1900)
12. Wright, Richard. *Native Son* (1940)

**Black American Literature: Criticism**


**Ethnic American Literature: Primary Texts**
1. Antin, Mary. “The Lie” (1913)
2. Yezierska, Anzia. Bread Givers (1925) or Henry Roth, Call It Sleep (1934)
3. Rølvaag, O. E. Giants in the Earth (1927)
10. Bellow, Saul. Henderson the Rain King (1959) or Adventures of Augie March (1953)

Ethnic American Literature: Criticism


Popular and Genre Literature: Primary Texts

7. Lovecraft, H. P. “The Call of Cthulhu” (1928)

**Popular and Genre Literature: Criticism**

1. Jane Tompkins, Ch. 5 (“Sentimental Power: *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and the Politics of Literary History”) from *Sensational Designs* (1985)
4. James, P.D. Ch. 4 “Soft-Centred and Hard-Boiled” from *Talking about Detective Fiction* (2009)