

GRADUATE READING LIST: American Literature  
1607-1914

Among individual works and writers, \* indicates items of major importance; the student should read as widely as possible in the other works and should feel free to supplement this list, which is intended to provide guidance rather than to be exclusive.

General Study and Bibliography

Literary Histories:

- \*A Literary History of the United States, Spiller, et al and/or
- \*Columbia Literary History of the United States Elliott et al

Comprehensive histories by individuals:

- Foerster, Image of America
- \*Howard, Literature and the American Tradition
- \*Parrington, Main Currents in American Thought, 3 vols.
- \*Spiller, The Cycle of American Literature

Bibliographical resources:

- American Literary Scholarship: An Annual 1963-present
- Blanck, Bibliography of American Literature
- Clark, Transitions in American Literary History
- \*Sohdes, A Bibliographical Guide to the Study of the Literature of the U.S.A.
- Leary, Articles on American Literature, 1900-1950  
Articles on American Literature, 1951-1967  
Articles on American Literature, 1968-1975
- \*Reese, Fifteen American Authors Before 1900
- \*Woodress, Eight American Authors

Genre Study

Fiction:

- Bell, The Development of American Romance
- \*Chase, The American Novel and Its Tradition
- \*Porte, The Romance in America
- \*Rowe, Through the Custom House: 19th Century American Fiction and Modern Theory
- See, Desire and the Sign: Nineteenth-Century American Fiction

Poetry:

- \*Pearce, The Continuity of American Poetry
- Stauffer, A Short History of American Poetry
- Waggoner, American Poets: From the Puritans to the Present

Period Study

Colonial/Federal:

- Bercovitch, Puritan Origins of the American Self
- Elliott, Puritan Influences in American Literature  
Revolutionary Writers: Literature and Authority in the New Republic
- Howard, The Connecticut Wits
- Jones, O Strange New World

\*Miller, The New England Mind: The 17th Century  
The New England Mind: From Colony to Province

Romanticism:

Buell, Literary Transcendentalism  
Carton, The Rhetoric of American Romance  
Irwin, American Hieroglyphics  
Kennedy, Poe, Death, and the Life of Writing  
\*Mattiessen, American Renaissance  
Muller, John P. and William J. Richardson, ed. The Purloined  
Poe: Lacan, Derrida, and Psychoanalytic Reading  
Poirier, The Renewal of Literature: Emersonian Reflections  
Ziff, Literary Democracy

Realism:

Berthoff, The Ferment of Realism  
Budd, ed. New Essays on Huckleberry Finn  
\*Cady, The Light of Common Day  
Cox, Mark Twain: The Fate of Humor  
Howard, The Air of Reality: New Essays on Henry James  
Crook, The Ordeal of Consciousness in Henry James  
Edel, The Life of Henry James  
Kaplan, The Social Construction of American Realism  
Kolb, The Illusion of Life  
\*Martin, The Harvests of Change  
Morrow, Bret Harte's Literary Criticism  
Nettels, Language, Race, and Social Class in Howells' America  
Przybylowicz, Desire and Repression: The Dialectic of Self and  
Other in the Late Works of Henry James  
Rowe, The Theoretical Dimensions of Henry James  
Smith, Mark Twain: The Development of a Writer  
Spindler, American Literature and Social Change, William Dean  
Howells to Arthur Miller  
Sundquist, ed. American Realism  
Ziff, The American 1890's

Naturalism:

Ammons, Edith Wharton's Argument with America  
Conder, Naturalism in American Fiction  
Howard, Form and History in American Literary Naturalism  
Kaplan, H. Power and Order: Henry Adams and the Naturalist  
Tradition in American Fiction  
Michaels, The Gold Standard and the Logic of Naturalism  
Moers, Two Dreisiers  
\*Pizer, Realism and Naturalism in 19th Century American Literature  
Walcutt, American Literary Naturalism: A Divided Stream

Special Studies

\*Baym, Women's Fiction: A Guide to Novels By and About Women,  
1820-1870  
Bridgman, The Colloquial Style in America  
Douglas, The Feminization of American Culture  
\*Fetterley, The Resisting Reader

Fiedler, Love and Death in the American Novel  
Fiedelson, Symbolism and American Literature  
Hill & Blair, America's Humor  
Hoffman, Form and Fable in American Fiction  
Kolodny, The Lay of the Land  
\*Lawrence, Studies in Classic American Literature  
\*Lewis, The American Adam  
\*Marx, The Machine and the Garden  
Mills, The Crowd in American Literature  
Poirier, A World Elsewhere  
Slotkin, Regeneration Through Violence: The Mythology of the  
American Frontier, 1600-1800  
\*Smith, Virgin Land  
Tanner, Reign of Wonder  
\*Tocqueville, de, Democracy in America (selections)  
Tompkins, Sensational Designs: The Cultural Work of American  
Fiction, 1790-1860  
Wilson, Patriotic Gore: A Study of the Literature of the American  
Civil War  
Yeazell, Sex, Politics, and Science in the 19th Century Novel

#### General Cultural Histories

Bercovitch, ed., Reconstructing American Literary History  
Howard, Essays on Puritans and Puritanism  
Jones, The Age of Energy: The Varieties of American Experience,  
1865-1915  
Lears, No Place of Grace: Antimodernism and the Transformation of  
American Culture, 1880-1920  
May, The End of American Innocence: The First Years of Our Own  
Time, 1912-1917  
Morison, Oxford History of the American People vols. 1, 2, & 3  
Welter, The Mind of America, 1820-1860

#### The Colonial/Federal Period

Selections from The Norton Anthology of American Literature vol.  
1, Raym et al for the following writers: John Smith, Thomas  
Morton, John Winthrop, William Bradford\*, Anne Bradstreet\*,  
Michael Wigglesworth, Mary Rowlandson, Edward Taylor\*, Samuel  
Sewall, Cotton Mather, William Byrd, Jonathan Edwards\*, John  
Woolman, St. Jean de Crevecoeur, William Bartram, Thomas Paine,  
Benjamin Franklin (including the Autobiography complete)\*, Phyllis  
Wheatley, the Federalist, Thomas Jefferson\*, Philip Freneau

selections from The Journals of Lewis and Clark. Bernard Devoto,  
ed.

Charles Brockden Brown, Wieland  
Susanna Rowson, Charlotte Temple

#### The Romantic Period

Essays and Autobiography:

Bryant, "On the Nature of Poetry"

Channing, "The Moral Argument Against Calvinism" and "Remarks on a  
National Literature"

Davis, Life in the Iron Mills (selections)

Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass  
\*Emerson, "Nature," "The American Scholar," "Self-Reliance," "The Poet," "Fate," "Divinity School Address"; Representative Men, English Traits, and Journals (selections)  
Fuller, Woman in the 19th Century (selections)  
\*Hawthorne, Preface to House of the Seven Gables and "The Custom House"  
Holmes, The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table  
\*Irving, A History of New York and The Sketch Book (selections)  
\*Melville, "Hawthorne and His Mosses"  
Parkman, The California and Oregon Trail (parts)  
\*Poe, "Review of Hawthorne's Twice Told Tales," "The Poetic Principle," and "The Philosophy of Composition"  
\*Thoreau, Walden, "Civil Disobedience," "Life Without Principle," "Walking," and Journal (selections)  
\*Whitman, Preface to 1855 Leaves of Grass, and "Democratic Vistas"

Poetry:

Bryant, Emerson, Holmes, Longfellow, Lowell, Poe, and Whittier  
selections in the Norton Anthology, vol. 1  
\*Whitman, Leaves of Grass

Fiction:

Baldwin, Browne, Harris, Hooper, Thorpe, and Longstreet  
(selections from Native American Humor Blair ed.)  
Bird, Nick of the Woods  
\*Cooper, The Pioneers, The Prairie and Satanstoe or Home As Found  
DeForest, Miss Ravenal's Conversion  
\*Hawthorne, The Scarlet Letter, The House of the Seven Gables, Blithedale Romance, and short stories from Norton Anthology  
\*Melville, Typee, Moby-Dick, The Confidence-Man, Billy Budd, and short stories in the Norton Anthology  
\*Poe, The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym and short stories in Norton anthology  
Simms, The Yemassee  
\*Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin

The Realist Period

Essays and Autobiography:

\*Adams, Henry The Education of Henry Adams  
Addams, Jane, Twenty Years at Hull House (selections)  
Dubois, The Souls of Black Folk (selections)  
\*Howells, Criticism and Fiction, Literary Friends and Acquaintances (selections)  
\*James, Henry, The Art of the Novel (selections), Preface to The American, "The Art of Fiction," and Hawthorne  
James, William, Pragmatism (selections)  
Norris, Responsibilities of a Novelist  
Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier"  
\*Twain, Innocents Abroad (selections), Roughing It, Life on the Mississippi (part one), Autobiography (selections) selected short essays and sketches  
Wilson, Christopher, The Labor of Words: Literary Professionalism in the Progressive Era

Poetry:

Crane, Dunbar, Lanier, Robinson, selections in Norton anthology, vol. 2

\*Dickinson, Complete Poems (see especially Final Harvest)

Fiction:

Alger, any novel

Atherton, Gertrude, The Splendid Idle Forties, The Californians, Ancestors

Bellamy, Looking Backward

Bierce, In the Midst of Life and Can Such Things Be (selections)

Cable, George W., The Grandissimes

Cather, Alexander's Bridge, My Antonia, O Pioneers!, The Song of the Lark

\*Chopin, The Awakening and short stories

\*Crane, Maggie, Red Badge of Courage, "The Blue Hotel," "The Open Boat"

\*Dreiser, Sister Carrie and An American Tragedy

Frederick, The Damnation of Theron Ware

Freeman, selected short stories

Fuller, Henry, The Cliff-Dwellers

Garland, Main Traveled Roads

Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"; Women and Economics (1898)

Glasgow, Ellen, The Battleground

Harte, selected short stories

Herrick, Robert, The Common Lot

Howe, Story of a Country Town

\*Howells, The Rise of Silas Lapham, A Modern Instance, and A Hazard of New Fortunes, Criticism and Fiction

\*James, The American, Portrait of a Lady, Daisy Miller, Turn of the Screw, The Golden Bowl, either The Ambassadors or The Wings of the Dove and selected short stories

\*Jewett, The Country of the Pointed Firs

London, The Call of the Wild and The Sea Wolf

\*Norris, McTeague and The Octopus

Stein, Three Lives

\*Twain, Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn, Pudd'nhead Wilson, Connecticut Yankee and The Mysterious Stranger, (see Gibson introduction to the Mysterious Stranger Manuscripts) and selected short stories

Veblen, Thorstein, The Theory of the Leisure Class (1899)

Wharton, Bunner Sisters, Ethan Frome, House of Mirth

In addition, read and browse bibliographies and critical studies on major figures. Be sure to make use of a range of volumes in the series American Literary Scholarship: An Annual (Duke University Press) and the Reese and Woodress surveys of scholarship cited above under Bibliographical Resources.

Your reading in the primary authors and genres of your period of specialization should be both broad and deep.