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
*Bulfinch, 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*
*Porter, 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*
Romanticism:
Boell, 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
Pos; Lacan, Derrida, and Psychoanalytic Reading
Poirier, The Renewal of Literature: Emersonian Reflections
Ziff, Literary Democracy

Realism:
Herthoff, The Fernment of Realism
Hudd, ed., New Essays on Huckleberry Finn
*Cady, The Light of Common Day
Cox, Mark Twain: The Fate of Humor
Crooke, 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, Porn 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
Moore, Two Pretexts
*Fizer, Realism and Naturalism in 19th Century American Literature
Walcott, 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
*Ketterley, The Resisting Reader
Fiedler, Love and Death in the American Novel
Fiedelson, Symbolism and American Literature
Hill & Blair, America's Honor
Hoffman, Form and Pable 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, 1800-1890
*Smith, Virgin Land
Tanner, Reign of Wonder
*Tocqueville, do, Democracy in America (selections)
Tomkins, 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
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

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
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"
*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
*Coope, The Pioneers, The Prairie and Satanstoe or Home As Found
DeForest, Miss Ravenel's Conversion
*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
Aitken, 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.