

Nineteenth-Century American Literature

The following is a fundamental reading list for doctoral candidates to use as a guide in preparing for their comprehensive examination in the field of Nineteenth-Century American Literature. The following reading list is suggestive rather than definitive, a list for the student and Committee on Studies to begin with. The list has three sections:

- Poetry
- Prose
- Critical Works

NOTE: ** denotes that the item can be selected by the graduate committee for master's reading list/exam.

POETRY

William Cullen Bryant

“Thanotopsis”

“Yellow Violet”

“To a Waterfowl”

“A Forest Hymn”

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: *Hiawatha*

Edgar Allan Poe

“Israfel”

“The Sleeper”

“Sonnet: To Silence”

“The Raven”

“Ulalume”

“Annabel Lee”

James Russell Lowell: *The Biglow Papers*

John Greenleaf Whittier: *Snow-Bound*

**Walt Whitman: *Leaves of Grass* (9th edition)

Emily Dickinson: *Final Harvest*. (Thomas Johnson, ed. New York: Little/Brown, 1997.)

Paul Laurence Dunbar: *Lyrics of Sunshine and Shadow*

PROSE

Mourning Dove: *Coyote Stories*. Washington, DC: Brompton Books, 1990.

Washington Irving: *The Sketch Book: The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and Other Stories*. New York: Signet, 1990.

James Fenimore Cooper:

The Prairie

The Pioneers.

Edgar Allen Poe:

“The Poetic Principle”

“The Fall of the House of Usher”

“The Purloined Letter”

“Ligeia”

“The Black Cat”

Henry David Thoreau:

Walden

“Resistance to Civil Government”

“Life Without Principle”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

**“Nature”

“Self-Reliance”

“Divinity School Address”

“The American Scholar”

“The Poet”

“Experience”

Margaret Fuller: *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*

Nathaniel Hawthorne:

The Scarlet Letter

The Blithedale Romance

“The Maypole of Merry Mount”

“My Kinsman, Major Molineux”

“Ethan Brand”

“Rappaccini’s Daughter”

“The Birthmark”

Herman Melville:

Moby Dick

Billy Budd

“Bartleby the Scrivener”

**“Benito Cereno”

“The Paradise of Bachelors and Tartarus of Maids”

Frederick Douglass: *Narrative of the Life*

**Harriet Beecher Stowe: *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*

Walt Whitman: “Preface to 1855” *Leaves of Grass*

**Harriet Jacobs: *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

Louisa May Alcott: *Little Women*

Bret Harte:

“The Luck of Roaring Camp”

“Tennessee’s Partner”

“The Outcasts of Poker Flat”

Mark Twain:

Huckleberry Finn

Pudd’nhead Wilson

***The Innocents Abroad*

Roughing It

Kate Chopin: *The Awakening*

Rebecca Harding Davis: “Life in the Iron Mills”

Mary Wilkins Freeman: *A New England Nun and Other Stories*

Sarah Orne Jewett: *The Country of the Pointed Firs*

Harold Frederic: *The Damnation of Theron Ware*

Stephen Crane:

Maggie

The Red Badge of Courage

Frank Norris

****McTeague**

The Octopus

W.D. Howells:

A Hazard of New Fortunes

The Rise of Silas Lapham

Henry James:

****The Portrait of a Lady**

The Ambassadors

The Turn of the Screw

“Daisy Miller”

John W. DeForest: *Miss Ravenel's Conversion*

Charlotte Perkins Gilman:

“The Yellow Wall-paper”

Herland

Charles Chesnutt:

The Conjure Woman

The Marrow of Tradition

Edith Wharton:

The House of Mirth

The Age of Innocence

****Ethan Frome**

Henry Adams: *The Education of Henry Adams*

Edward Bellamy: *Looking Backward 2000-1888*

Owen Wister: *The Virginian*

Helen Hunt Jackson: *Ramona*

Hamlin Garland: *Main-Travelled Roads*

CRITICAL WORKS

F.O. Matthiessen: *American Renaissance; Art and Expression in the Age of Emerson and Whitman*. New York: Oxford U P, 1968

Charles C. Walcutt: *American Literary Naturalism: The Divided Stream*. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1975.

Leslie Fiedler: *Love and Death in the American Novel*. Normal, IL: Dalkey Press, 1998.

Joel Porte: *The Romance in America*. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University P, 1969.

Leo Marx: *The Machine in the Garden : Technology and the Pastoral Ideal in America*. New York: Oxford U P, 1999.

Jane Tompkins: *Sensational Designs: The Cultural Work of American Fiction, 1790-1860*. New York: Oxford U P, 1989.

June Howard: *Form and History in American Naturalism*. Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina P, 1985.

Tom Quirk and Gary Scharnhorst, ed.: *American Realism and the Canon*. Newark: U of Delaware P, 1995.

Jay Martin: *Harvests of Change: American literature, 1865-1914*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1967.

Annette Kolodny: *The Lay of the Land*. Rev. ed. Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina P, 1984.

Donald Pizer: *Realism and Naturalism in Nineteenth-Century American Literature*. Carbondale: SIU P, 1984.