

Ph.D Reading List Contemporary American and British 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 Contemporary American and British Literature (i.e., Literature after 1945). A student is expected to have read widely in the field; to be thoroughly familiar with the major writers; and to read widely in the journal literature. The list is suggestive rather than definitive, a list for the student and Committee on Studies to begin with. The list has five sections:

- Poetry
- Fiction
- Drama
- Nonfiction
- Criticism/Theory

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

POETRY

Ammons, A. R.

Corsons Inlet: A Book of Poems. New York: W. W. Norton, 1963.

***Garbage: A Poem* New York: W. W. Norton, 1994

Baraka, Imamu Amiri (LeRoi Jones) (b. 1934)

“Balboa, the Entertainer”

**“Political Poem”

“A Poem for Speculative Hipsters”

“Legacy”

“The New World”

“Incident”

**“Babylon Revisited”

“A New Reality Is Better Than a New Movie!”

**“Three Modes of History and Culture”

“The New World”

“Leadbelly Gives an Autograph”

“Ka 'Ba”

“Kenyatta Listening to Mozart”

“Leroy”

**“The Nation is Like Ourselves”

“AM/TRAK”

“How you sound??”

Berryman, John. (1914-1972)

**“The Ball Poem”

“A Professor’s Song “

The Dream Songs

14 “Life, friends is boring. We must not say so”

16 “Henry’s pelt was put on sundry walls”

75 “Turning it over, considering, like a madman”

**76 “Henry’s Confession”

149 “This world is gradually becoming a place”

**312 “I have moved to Dublin to have it out with you”

“Sonnet 25”

“Of Suicide”

“Henry’s Understanding”

Bishop, Ellizabeth (1911-1979)

“The Map”

“The Man-Moth”

“The Monument”

**“The Fish”

“Roosters”

**“At the Fishhouses”

“Over 2000 Illustrations and a Complete Concordance”

“Sestina”

**“The Armadillo”

“Brazil, January 1, 1502”

**“In the Waiting Room”

“Crusoe in England”

“Poem”

“The End of March”

**“One Art”

“North Haven”

Brooks, Gwendolyn

A Street in Bronzeville

Brown, Sterling A.

Cullen, Countee

Creeley, Robert. (b. 1926)

Naughty Boy

A Wicker Basket

**Somewhere

The Door

The Window

“I Keep to Myself Such Measures . . .”

**Self-Portrait

**The Faces

After Lorca

A Form of Women

The Flower

The Rain

For Love

**The Language

The Window

The World

- Bresson's Movies
- Age
- To Define
- **Form
- Dickey, James
- Dove, Rita.
 - "Thomas and Beulah"
 - "Geometry"
 - **"The House Slave"
 - "Adolescence—II"
 - **"Agosta the Winged Man and the Rasha"
 - "Parsley"
 - **"thomas and Beulah"
 - "The Event"
 - "Dusting"
 - "Weathering Out"
 - "The Great Palaces of Versailles"
 - "Wingfoot Lake"
 - "After Reading *Mickey in the Night Kitchen* for the Third Time"
 - **"Claudette Colvin Goes to Work"
 - "The Transport of Slaves"
 - "Madre Sofia"
 - "Mi Abuelo"
 - "A Man Then Suddenly Stops Moving"
 - **"Nigger Song: An Odyssey"
 - "Anselmo's Moment with God"
 - "The Death of Anselmo Luna"
- Erdrich, Louise. (b. 1954)
 - "Family Reunion"
 - "Captivity"
 - "Windigo"
 - "The Fence"
- Ginsberg, Allen
 - **"Howl"
 - **A Supermarket in California
 - America
 - To Aunt Rose
 - **Last Night in Calcutta
 - Mugging
 - Homework
 - Kaddish
 - I ("Strange now to think of you, gone without corsets & eyes, while I walk on the sunny pavement of Greenwich Village)
 - First Party at Ken Kesey's with Hell's Angels
 - **On Neal's Ashes

- Graham, Jorie. (b 1950)
 “At Luca Signorelli’s Resurrection of the Body”
 “Fission”
 “The Dream of the United Field”
 “The Surface”
 “The Swarm”
- Gunn, Thom. (b. 1929)
 “The Byrnies “
 “My Sad Captains”
 “Elegy on the Dust”
 “In the Tank”
 “Moly”
 “Autobiography”
 “Yoko”
 “Donahue’s Sister”
 “Life”
 “Missing”
- Hayden, Robert
- Heaney, Seamus. (b. 1939)
 **“Death of a Naturalist”
 “Requiem for the Croppies”
 “Bogland”
 “Limbo”
 **“Sunlight”
 “Bog Queen”
 “Punishment”
 **“The Strand at Lough Beg”
 **“The Otter”
 “The Harvest Bow”
 “In Memoriam Francis Ledwidge”
 “A Hazel Stick for Catherine Ann”
 **“Station Island”
 VIII (“Black water. White waves. Furrows snowcapped.”)
 XII (“Like a convalescent, I took the hand”)
 **“Sweeney Redivivus”
 **“Alphabets”
 “The Haw Lantern”
- **Kinsella, Thomas, *Nightwalker and Other Poems*
- Levertov, Denise. (1923-1997)
 **“Overland to the Islands”
 “Illustrious Ancestors”
 “The Ache of Marriage”
 “The Wings”
 **“Stepping Westward”
 “Williams: An Essay”

“Wavering”

“Where is the Angel?”

**“Some Notes on Organic Form”

**Lorde, Audre

Lowell, Robert

“The Quaker Graveyard in Nantucket”

“After the Surprising Conversions”

“Grandparents”

“Commander Lowell”

“Waking in the Blue”

“Memories of West Street and Lepke”

“To Speak of Woe That Is in Marriage”

“Skunk Hour”

“For the Union Dead”

“Waking Early Sunday Morning”

“Reading Myself”

“Dolphin”

“Epilogue”

Merrill, James.

Merwin, W. S.

“The Drunk in the Furnace”

“The Hydra”

“Some Last Questions”

“For the Anniversary of My”

“The Asians Dying”

“For a Coming Extinction”

“A Given Day”

Olson, Charles. (1919-1970)

In Cold Hell, in Thicket

I, Maximus of Gloucester, to You

Letter 3 (“Tansy Buttons”)

Maximus, to himself

The Librarian

Projective Verso

Ortiz, Simon.

“The Story of how a Wall Stands”

Woven Stone

Rich, Adrienne

Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers

Snapshots of a Daughter-in-Law

Face to Face

Orion

Planetarium

A Valediction Forbidding Mourning

Diving into the Wreck

Power
 twenty-one love poems
 Grandmothers
 Seven Skins
 Fox
 Smith, Stevie. (1902-1971)
 This Englishwoman
 Souvenir de Monsieur Poop
 Our Bog Is Dood
 God the Eater
 Not Waving but Drowning
 Thoughts about the Person
 A House of Mercy
 Exeat
 To Carry the Child
 Pretty
 Snyder, Gary
 ***Turtle Island*

FICTION

Acker, Kathy. *Empire of the Senseless*
 Anaya, Rudolfo. *Bless Me, Ultima*
 Barthelme, Donald. *Sixty Stories*
 **Bellow, Saul. *The Adventures of Augie March*
 **Burgess, Burgess. *A Clockwork Orange*
 **Burroughs, William S. *Naked Lunch*
 Capote, Truman. *In Cold Blood*
 Castillo, Ana. *The Mixquihuala Letters*
 Cisneros, Sandra. *The House on Mango Street*
 DeLillo, Don. *White Noise*
 Dick, Philip. *Bladrunner*
 Didion, Joan. *A Book of Common Prayer*
 **Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*
 Gibson, William. *Neuromancer*
 Golding, William. *Lord of the Flies*
 **Heller, Joseph. *Catch 22*
 Johnson, James Weldon. *Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*
 **Kerouac, Jack. *On the Road*
 Larsen, Nella. *Passing*
 Momaday, N. Scott. *House Made of Dawn*
 **Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*
 **Nabokov, Vladimir. *Pale Fire*
 O'Connor, Flannery.
 **"Everything That Rises Must Converge"
 "A Good Man Is Hard to Find"

**“Revelation”

“Greenleaf”

“Good Country People”

**Pynchon, Thomas. *Gravity's Rainbow*

Rechy, John. *City of Night*

Reed, Ishmal. *Mumbo Jumbo*

Roth, Philip. *Portnoy's Complaint*

Rushdie, Salman. *Midnight's Children*

Silko, Leslie. *Ceremony*

**Updike, John. *Rabbit Run*

Villareal, Jose Antonio. *Poco*.

Vonnegut, Kurt. *Slaughterhouse Five*

Welty, Eudora

**“Why I Live at the P.O.”

**“Lily Daw and the Three Ladies”

“A Worn Path”

“Recital Time”

“Where Is the Voice Coming From”

Winterson, Jeanette. *Sexing the Cherry*

DRAMA

Albee, Edward. *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

Baraka, Imamu Amiri. (LeRoi Jones), *Dutchman*

Beckett, Samuel. *Waiting for Godot*

**Friel, Brian. *Translations*

**Hansberry, Lorraine. *A Raisin in the Sun*

**Hwang, David. *M. Butterfly*

Mamet, David. *American Buffalo*

**Miller, Arthur. *Death of a Salesman*

Osborne, John. *Look Back in Anger*

**Pinter, Harold. *The Homecoming*

**Shange, Ntozake. *for colored girls who have considered suicide . . .*

**Valdez, Luis. *Zoot Suit*

**Williams, Tennessee. *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Wilson, August. *Fences*

NONFICTION PROSE

**Anzaldúa, Gloria. *La Frontera/Borderlands: The New Mestiza*

**Baldwin, James. *Notes of a Native Son*

Kittredge, William. *Hole in the Sky*.

Kingston, Maxine Hong. *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*

Mailer, Norman. *The Armies of the Night*

CRITICISM/THEORY

Bercovitch, Sacvan, ed. *Reconstructing American Literary History*. iUniverse, 1999.

Currie, Mark, ed. *Metafiction* (Longman Critical Readers) New York: Addison-Wesley, 1995.

Eagleton, Terry. *Literary Theory: An Introduction*. 2nd ed. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 1996.

Gates, Louis Henry, Jr.

The Signifying Monkey: A Theory of African-American Literary Criticism. New York: Oxford U P, 1989.

Reading Black, Reading Feminist: A Critical Anthology. New York: Meridian, 1990.

Harvey, David. *The Condition of Postmodernity: An Enquiry into the Origins of Cultural Change*. New York: Blackwell, 1990.

Lauter, Paul. *Canons and Contexts*. New York: Oxford U P, 1991.

Lodge, David and Nigel Wood, ed. *Modern Criticism and Theory: A Reader*. 2nd ed. New York: Longman, 1999.

Morrison, Toni. *Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination*. New York: Vintage, 1993.