



Department of English – Graduate Division  
**Literary Studies**  
**Area 5 Reading List**  
**American Literature to World War I**  
Revised November 2005

Students are expected to select and read representative criticism, literary history, and critical theory--enough to provide a grounding in the movements, periods, techniques, critical perspectives, and theoretical issues that are important in relation to the texts on the reading list.

The following abbreviations are used for collections specified below:

- EAP            Early American Poetry, ed. Jane Donahue Eberwein (Madison:Univ.of Wisconsin Press, 1978).  
NCAWP        Nineteenth-Century American Women Poets: An Anthology, ed. Paula Bernat Bennett (Malden, Mass. & Oxford, UK, 1998).  
Norton        The Norton Anthology of American Literature, ed.Nina Baym et al. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (New York, 2003)

1. JOHN SMITH & THOMAS HARRIOT. Selections in Norton.
2. ANNE BRADSTREET. Poems in EAP.
3. THOMAS HOOKER. JOHN COTTON. JOHN WINTHROP. SAMUEL DANFORTH. Selections in American Sermons (Library of America).
4. WILLIAM BRADFORD. Of Plymouth Plantation.
5. EDWARD TAYLOR. Poems in EAP.
6. MARY ROWLANDSON. A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson.
7. JOHN MARRANT. A Narrative of the Lord's Wonderful Dealings with John JOHN WILLIAMS. The Redeemed Captive Returning to Zion.
8. COTTON MATHER. Selections from Magnalia Christi Americana: "General Introduction," "John Winthrop," "William Bradford," "William Phips," "John Cotton," "Thomas Hooker."
9. SARAH KEMBLE KNIGHT. Journal.
10. ELIZABETH ASHBRIDGE. Some Account of the Fore Part of the Life of E.A.

11. JONATHAN EDWARDS. "Personal Narrative," "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," "A Divine and Supernatural Light," "Images or Shadows of Divine Things."
12. WILLIAM BYRD. The History of the Dividing Line, The Secret History of the Dividing Line.
13. JOHN WOOLMAN. Journal.
14. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN. Autobiography, "Speech of Polly Baker," "The Sale of the Hessians," "Rules by Which a Great Empire May be Reduced to a Small One," "Remarks Concerning the Savages of North America," "Information for Those Who Would Remove to America," "The Ephemera," "Sidi Mehemet Ibrahim on the Slave Trade."
15. OLAUDAH EQUIANO. The Interesting Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African, Written by Himself.
16. PHILLIS WHEATLEY. Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral.
17. ST. JEAN DE CREVECOEUR. Letters from an American Farmer.
18. THOMAS PAINE. Common Sense, The Crisis, No. 1.  
THE FEDERALIST PAPERS. Numbers 1, 10 (Norton).
19. THOMAS JEFFERSON. "Declaration of Independence," Notes on the State of Virginia.
20. PHILIP FRENEAU. Poems in EAP.
21. ROYALL TYLER. The Contrast.
22. MERCY OTIS WARREN. The Adulateur, The Group.
23. CHARLES BROCKDEN BROWN. Wieland.
24. \_\_\_\_\_. Edgar Huntly.
25. WASHINGTON IRVING. The Sketch Book.
26. HANNAH FOSTER, The Coquette or SUSANNA ROWSON, Charlotte Temple.
27. JAMES FENIMORE COOPER. The Pioneers.
28. \_\_\_\_\_. The Last of the Mohicans.

29. CATHARINE SEDGWICK. Hope Leslie.
30. WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT. Poems in EAP and Lectures on Poetry.
31. DAVID WALKER. Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World.  
MARIA STEWART, selections in Norton Anthology of African American Literature.
32. WILLIAM APPESS. A Son of the Forest. "An Indian's Looking-Glass for the White Man."
33. CAROLINE KIRKLAND. A New Home, Who'll Follow?
34. RALPH WALDO EMERSON. Nature, "The American Scholar," "The Divinity School Address," "Man the Reformer," "Self-Reliance," "Circles," "The Poet," "Experience," "Fate."
35. MARGARET FULLER. "Autobiographical Romance," "Leila," Summer on the Lakes, Woman in the Nineteenth Century.
36. FREDERICK DOUGLASS. Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?," "The Heroic Slave."
37. \_\_\_\_\_. My Bondage and My Freedom.
38. HENRY DAVID THOREAU. Walden,
39. \_\_\_\_\_. "Resistance to Civil Government," "Walking," "Slavery in Massachusetts," "Life without Principle," "Ktaadn," "A Plea for Captain John Brown."
40. MARIA RUIZ-AMPARO DE BURTON. Who Would Have Thought It?
41. HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW. "Hymn to the Night," "The Jewish Cemetery at Newport," "My Lost Youth," "Building of the Ship," "The Broken Oar," "Dante," "Keats," "The Tide Rises, The Tide Falls," "The Cross of Snow."  
JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER. "Snowbound," "Ichabod," "Laus Deo," "Telling the Bees."  
JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL. "Fable for Critics," "The Cathedral."  
LYDIA HUNTLEY SIGOURNEY. Selections in NCAWP.  
ELIZABETH OAKES SMITH. Selections in NCAWP.  
FRANCES OSGOOD. Selections in NCAWP.

42. EDGAR ALLAN POE. Poems in Great Short Works of EAP, ed. G.R. Thompson (Harper & Row); "Loss of Breath. A Tale Á La Blackwood," "Berenice," "Ligeia," "How to Write a Blackwood Article. A Predicament," "The Fall of the House of Usher," "William Wilson," "The Man of the Crowd," "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," "A Descent Into the Maelstrom," "The Pit and the Pendulum," "The Tell-Tale Heart," "The Gold-Bug," "The Premature Burial," "The Purloined Letter," "The Imp of the Perverse," "The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar," "The Cask of the Amontillado," "Letter to B-," "The Philosophy of Composition."
43. NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE. "Roger Malvin's Burial," "My Kinsman, Major Molineux," "Young Goodman Brown," "Wakefield," "The Minister's Black Veil," "The Maypole of Merry-Mount," "The Birthmark," "Egotism, or The Bosom Serpent," "The Celestial Railroad," "The Artist of the Beautiful," "Rappaccini's Daughter," "Ethan Brand."
44. \_\_\_\_\_. The Scarlet Letter.
45. \_\_\_\_\_. The House of the Seven Gables.
46. \_\_\_\_\_. The Blithedale Romance.
47. HERMAN MELVILLE. Moby-Dick.
48. \_\_\_\_\_. Pierre.
49. \_\_\_\_\_. "Hawthorne and His Mosses," "Bartleby the Scrivener," "Benito Cereno."
50. \_\_\_\_\_. Billy Budd, Sailor.
51. SUSAN WARNER. The Wide, Wide World.
52. FANNY FERN. Ruth Hall, newspaper articles in Rutgers edition.
53. HARRIET BEECHER STOWE. Uncle Tom's Cabin.
54. WILLIAM WELLS BROWN. Clotel, or the President's Daughter.
55. HANNAH CRAFTS. The Bondwoman's Narrative.
56. MARTIN DELANEY. Blake.
57. HARRIET WILSON. Our Nig.
58. HARRIET JACOBS. Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl.

59. ELIZABETH KECKLEY. Behind the Scenes; or, Thirty Years a Slave, and Four Years in the White House.
60. WALT WHITMAN. "Preface" to Leaves of Grass (1855), A Backward Glance O'er Traveled Roads, Democratic Vistas.
61. \_\_\_\_\_. Selections from Leaves of Grass: "Starting from Paumanok," Song of Myself (both 1855 and "Deathbed" editions), "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry," "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking," "As I Ebb'd with the Ocean of Life," "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd," "Passage to India"; and from the "Deathbed Edition," the complete sections entitled Children of Adam, Calamus, and Drum-Taps.
62. EMILY DICKINSON. Poems in Final Harvest, ed. Thomas H. Johnson.
63. BRET HARTE. "The Outcasts of Poker Flat," "The Luck of Roaring Camp."  
AMBROSE BIERCE. "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge."  
HARRIET PRESCOTT SPOFFORD. "Circumstance," "The Amber Gods."  
LOUISA MAY ALCOTT. Behind a Mask.
64. REBECCA HARDING DAVIS. "Life in the Iron Mills."  
ELIZABETH STUART PHELPS. The Silent Partner.
65. GEORGE WASHINGTON CABLE. "Belles Demoiselles Plantation."  
JOEL CHANDLER HARRIS. "Free Joe and the Rest of the World."  
THOMAS NELSON PAGE. "Marse Chan," "No Haid Pawn," "Meh Lady: A Story of the War."
66. MARK TWAIN. "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," "A True Story," "The Facts Concerning the Recent Carnival of Crime in Connecticut," "The Man that Corrupted Hadleyburg," "How to Tell a Story," "To the Person Sitting in Darkness."
67. \_\_\_\_\_. Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.
68. \_\_\_\_\_. A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court.
69. \_\_\_\_\_. Pudd'nhead Wilson.
70. \_\_\_\_\_. No. 44, The Mysterious Stranger, ed. William M. Gibson.
71. HENRY ADAMS. The Education of Henry Adams.
72. WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS. A Hazard of New Fortunes.

73. \_\_\_\_\_. The Rise of Silas Lapham.
74. WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS. Criticism and Fiction.  
HAMLIN GARLAND. Crumbling Idols.  
GEORGE WASHINGTON CABLE. "On Southern Fiction."  
HENRY JAMES. "The Art of Fiction."
75. HENRY JAMES. The Portrait of a Lady.
76. \_\_\_\_\_. The Bostonians.
77. \_\_\_\_\_. The Ambassadors.
78. \_\_\_\_\_. Hawthorne, The Art of the Novel.
79. EDWARD BELLAMY. Looking Backward.
80. HAMLIN GARLAND. Main-Travelled Roads.
81. STEPHEN CRANE. Maggie, "The Open Boat," "The Blue Hotel," "The Monster," poems in Norton Anthology of American Literature.
82. \_\_\_\_\_. The Red Badge of Courage.
83. HAROLD FREDERIC. The Damnation of Theron Ware.
84. SARAH ORNE JEWETT. The Country of the Pointed Firs, "A White Heron."
85. CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN. "The Yellow Wallpaper."  
MARY E. WILKINS FREEMAN. "A New England Nun," "Louisa," "The Revolt of Mother," "One Good Time," "Old Woman Magoun."
86. EDWIN ARLINGTON ROBINSON. "Flammonde," "Luke Havergal," "Richard Cory," "Cliff Clingenhagen," "Miniver Cheevy," "Bewick Finzer," "As It Looked Then," "Eros Turannos," "Mr. Flood's Part," "Cassandra."  
SARAH PIATT. Selections in NCAWP.
87. KATE CHOPIN. The Awakening.
88. CHARLES W. CHESNUTT. The Conjure Woman, "The Wife of His Youth," "The Passing of Grandison."
89. \_\_\_\_\_. The Marrow of Tradition.
90. PAULINE HOPKINS. Contending Forces.

91. FRANCES ELLEN WATKINS HARPER. From Poems on Miscellaneous Subjects: "To Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe," "The Syropheneician Woman," "The Slave Mother," "Eliza Harris"; from Sketches of Southern Life: "Aunt Chloe"; Iola Leroy.
92. ANNA COOPER. A Voice from the South.
93. FRANK NORRIS. McTeague.
94. \_\_\_\_\_. The Octopus.
95. \_\_\_\_\_. "The Responsibilities of the Novelist," "A Plea for Romantic Fiction."
96. THEODORE DREISER. Sister Carrie.
97. BOOKER T. WASHINGTON. Up from Slavery.
98. W. E. B. DU BOIS. The Souls of Black Folk.
99. GERTRUDE SIMMONS BONNIN (ZITKALA SA). "Impressions of an Indian Childhood," "The School Days of an Indian Girl," "An Indian Teacher among Indians."
100. EDITH WHARTON. The House of Mirth.
101. \_\_\_\_\_. The Age of Innocence.
102. UPTON SINCLAIR. The Jungle.
103. JACK LONDON. The Sea-Wolf or Martin Eden, The Iron Heel; "To Build a Fire," "The Law of Life."
104. MARY AUSTIN. "The Land of Little Rain," "The Walking Woman," "The Return of Mr. Wills."  
SUI SIN FAR. "Mrs. Spring Fragrance," "The Inferior Woman," "The Wisdom of the New," "Its Wavering Image," "The Americanization of Pau Tsu," "In the Land of the Free."
105. JAMES WELDON JOHNSON. The Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man.
106. ABRAHAM CAHAN. The Rise of David Levinsky.
107. WILLA CATHER. My Antonia.

108. ROBERT FROST. From A Boy's Will: "Storm Fear," "Mowing," "The Tuft of Flowers"; from North of Boston: "Mending Wall," "The Death of the Hired Man," "Home Burial," "A Servant to Servants," "After Apple-Picking," "The Fear," "The Wood-Pile"; from Mountain Interval: "An Old Man's Winter Night," "Birches," "The Hill Wife"; from New Hampshire: "The Witch of Coös," "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," "For Once, Then, Something," "The Onset," "The Need of Being Versed in Country Things"; from West-Running Brook: "Once by the Pacific," "Acquainted with the Night," "West-Running Brook"; from A Further Range: "Desert Places," "Neither Out Far Nor In Deep," "Design," "Provide, Provide," "There are Roughly Zones"; from A Witness Tree: "The Silken Tent," "The Most of It"; from Steeple Bush: "Directive."

**SECONDARY WORKS** (N.B. The following twelve selections are not intended to provide a comprehensive overview of American literary history but rather a sampling of the best Americanist criticism.)

109. F. O. MATTHIESSEN. American Renaissance: Art and Expression in the Age of Emerson and Whitman (1941).
110. PERRY MILLER. Errand into the Wilderness (1956).
111. LAWRENCE BUELL. Literary Transcendentalism: Style and Vision in the American Renaissance (1973).
112. NINA BAYM. Woman's Fiction: A Guide to Novels by and about Women in America, 1820-1870 (1978).
113. SACVAN BERCOVITCH. The American Jeremiad (1978).
114. JANE TOMPKINS. Sensational Designs: The Cultural Work of American Fiction, 1790-1860 (1985).
115. WALTER BENN MICHAELS. The Gold Standard and the Logic of Naturalism (1987).
116. DONALD PEASE. Visionary Compacts: American Renaissance Writings in Cultural Context (1987).
117. AMY KAPLAN. The Social Construction of American Realism (1988).
118. MICHAEL WARNER. The Letters of the Republic: Publication and the Public Sphere in Eighteenth-Century America (1990).
119. CLAUDIA TATE. Domestic Allegories of Political Desire: The Black Heroine's Text at the Turn of the Century (1992).



120. PAUL GILROY. The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness (1993), chapters 1, 2, 4.

American writers on the subject of World War II created a body of work unsurpassed in quality by the literature of any other American war. Novels, autobiographies, and poetry explored the effects of war on individuals. Unlike the disillusionment that characterized the literature of World War I, in general World War II literature was neither pessimistic nor antiwar. Instead, it presents war in its complexity as a tragic but perhaps inevitable part of the human condition. Reflecting the views of their own generation, authors writing about World War II generally accepted the justness of that war than literary consideration. The postwar literature, although short in time, is kaleidoscopic. At least two factors have contributed to this kaleidoscopicalness: one is social, the other literary or aesthetical. (P457-466) What happened immediately after the Second World War in the USA and other parts of the world exerted a tremendous influence on the mentality of Americans. It changed man's view of himself and the world as well. Then a mutual fear and hostility grew between the Eastern and Western countries with the Cold War, the effect of which could be felt in the form of McCarthyism in the USA. Besides, the Korean War and the Vietnam War broadened the gap between the government and the people.