Literature and Cultural Theory
Preliminary Exam Texts

Major Fields of Literature and Culture
African American Literature

- Option One: African American Literature: Origins to 1920
- Option Two: African American Literature: 1920-present
- Option Three: Survey of African American Literature (at least 12 texts from each of the prescribed lists for the above periods, plus 25 more of your choice divided fairly evenly between the two periods)

African American Literature: Origins to 1920

- Briton Hammon, *A Narrative of the Uncommon Sufferings and Surprizing Deliverance of Briton Hammon* (1760)
- Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African, Written by Himself* (1789)
- David Walker, *David Walker's Appeal in Four Articles; Together with a Preamble, to the Coloured Citizens of the World* (1830)
- -----, *Clotel, Or the President's Daughter* (1853)
- Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself* (1848)
- -----, *The Heroic Slave, A Thrilling Narrative of the Adventures of Madison Washington, in Pursuit of Liberty* (1852)
- -----, *My Bondage and My Freedom* (1855)
- Harriet E. Wilson, *Our Nig; or, Sketches from the Life of a Free Black, in a Two-Story White House, North* (1859)
- Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861)
- Elizabeth Keckley, *Behind the Scenes Or, Thirty Years a Slave and Four Years in the White House* (1868)
- Martin Delany, *Blake: Or the Huts of America* (1862)
- Hannah Crafts, *The Bondwoman's Narrative* [orig. written 1855-1869?]
- Anna Julia Cooper, *A Voice from the South: By A Woman from the South* (1892)
- Frances E. W. Harper, *Iola Leroy, Or Shadows Uplifted* (1892)
- Charles Chestnutt, *The Conjure Woman* (1899)
- -----. *The Wife of His Youth and Other Stories* (1899)
- -----. *The House Behind the Cedars* (1900)
- -----. *The Marrow of Tradition* (1901)
- Pauline Hopkins, *Contending Forces: A Romance Illustrative of Negro Life North and South* (1900)
- Booker T. Washington, *Up From Slavery* (1901)
- -----. *The Quest of the Silver Fleece* (1911)
- -----. *Darkwater: Voices from Within the Veil* (1920)
- Paul Laurence Dunbar, *The Complete Poems* (1888-1906)
- *Short Fiction by Black Women, 1900-1920*, ed. Elizabeth Ammons

**African American Literature: 1920-present**

- Jean Toomer, *Cane* (1923)
- Alain Locke, ed. *The New Negro* (1925)
- Jesse Redmon Fauset, *Plum Bun* (1928)
- Claude McKay, *Home to Harlem* (1928)
• -----. Complete Poems (2004)
• -----. Banana Bottom (1933)
• Nella Larsen, Quicksand (1928)
• -----. Passing (1929)
• Wallace Thurman, The Blacker the Berry (1929)
• -----. Infants of the Spring (1932)
• George Schuyler, Black No More (1931)
• Zora Neale Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God (1937)
• -----. Complete Stories (2008)
• -----. The Short Stories of Langston Hughes (1997)
• Richard Wright, Uncle Tom's Children (1938)
• -----. Native Son (1940)
• -----. Black Boy (1945)
• Anne Petry, The Street (1946)
• Ralph Ellison, Invisible Man (1952)
• -----. Shadow and Act (1964)
• Gwendolyn Brooks, Selected Poems (2006)
• James Baldwin, Go Tell It On the Mountain (1953)
• -----. Notes of a Native Son (1955)
• -----. Giovanni's Room (1956)
• Lorraine Hansberry, A Raisin in the Sun (1959)
• Paule Marshall, Brown Girls, Brownstones (1959)
• -----. Praisesong for the Widow (1983)
• Lucille Clifton, Collected Poems 1965-2010
• Margaret Walker, Jubilee (1966)
• Amiri Baraka and Larry Neal, eds. Black Fire (1968)
• Toni Morrison, The Bluest Eye (1970)
• -----. The Song of Solomon (1977)
• -----. Beloved (1987)
• -----. Jazz (1992)
• -----. Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination (1992)
• Ishmael Reed, Mumbo Jumbo (1972)
• Alice Walker, In Love and Trouble: Stories of Black Women (1973)
• -----. Meridian (1976)
• -----. The Color Purple (1982)
• -----. In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens: Womanist Prose (1983)
• Ntozake Shange, For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf (1975)
• Gayl Jones, Corregidora (1975)
- -----. *Parable of the Sower* (1994)
- -----. *Parable of the Talents* (1999)
- -----. *Mama Day* (1988)
- -----. *A Lesson Before Dying* (1993)
- August Wilson, *Fences* (1987)
- -----. *The Piano Lesson* (1990)
- -----. *Philadelphia Fire* (1990)
- Charles Johnson, *Middle Passage* (1990)
- -----. *Brother, I'm Dying* (2007)