



**College of Letters and Science**  
*Department of English*

Curtin Hall  
P.O. Box 413  
Milwaukee, WI  
53201-0413  
414.229.4511 *phone*  
414.229.2643 *fax*  
[www.uwm.edu/Dept/English/](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/English/)

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 Surprising Deliverance of Briton Hammon* (1760)
- Phyllis Wheatley, *Collected Works of Phillis Wheatley*, ed John Shields (1989) [orig. pub. dates 1773-84]
- 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)
- Maria Stewart, *America's First Black Woman Political Writer: Essays and Speeches*, ed. Marilyn Richardson (1987) [orig. pub. 1835]
- William Wells Brown, *Narrative of William W. Brown, a Fugitive Slave. Written by Himself*, (1847)
- -----, *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)
- -----, *Selected Speeches and Writings*, ed. Philip S. Foner and Yuval Taylor (2000)

- 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)
- *Six Women's Slave Narratives*, ed. William Andrews (1989)
- 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)
- -----. *A Brighter Coming Day: A Frances Ellen Watkins Harper Reader*, ed. Frances Smith Foster (1993)
- Ida Wells Barnett, *The Selected Works of Ida B. Wells-Barnett*, ed. Trudier Harris
- 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)
- -----. *The Magazine Novels of Pauline Hopkins*, ed. Hazel Carby (1990)
- Booker T. Washington, *Up From Slavery* (1901)
- W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903)
- -----. *The Quest of the Silver Fleece* (1911)
- -----. *Darkwater: Voices from Within the Veil* (1920)
- -----. *Dusk of Dawn: An Essay Toward an Autobiography of a Race Concept* (1940)
- N. F. Mossell, *The Work of the Afro-American Woman*, ed. Joanne Braxton (1988)
- Paul Laurence Dunbar, *The Complete Poems (1888-1906)*
- James Weldon Johnson, *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* (1912)
- -----. Ed. *The Book of American Negro Poetry* (1922)
- James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson, eds. *The Books of American Negro Spirituals* (1926)
- Alice Dunbar-Nelson, "The Goodness of Saint Rocque," "M'sieu Fortier's Violin," "Mr. Baptiste," "Sister Josepha," "The Praline Woman," (1899) and "Stones of the Village", in *American Women Regionalists, 1850-1910*, ed. J. Fetterley and M. Pryse (1992); "Mine Eyes Have Seen" [play] (in *The Crisis*, April, 1918)
- *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)
- Langston Hughes, *The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes* (1995)
- -----. *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)
- Malcolm X, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* (1965)
- 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)

- Octavia Butler, *Kindred* (1979)
- -----. *Parable of the Sower* (1994)
- -----. *Parable of the Talents* (1999)
- Rita Dove, *Thomas and Beulah* (1987)
- Toni Cade Bamara, *The Salt Eaters* (1980)
- Gloria Naylor, *The Women of Brewster Place* (1982)
- -----. *Mama Day* (1988)
- Audre Lorde, *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* (1983)
- -----. *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches* (1984)
- -----. *Collected Poems* (2000)
- Ernest J. Gaines, *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* (1971)
- -----. *A Lesson Before Dying* (1993)
- August Wilson, *Fences* (1987)
- -----. *The Piano Lesson* (1990)
- John Edgar Wideman, *Brothers and Keepers* (1984)
- -----. *Philadelphia Fire* (1990)
- Charles Johnson, *Middle Passage* (1990)
- Edwidge Danticat, *Breath, Eyes, Memory* (1994)
- -----. *Brother, I'm Dying* (2007)

Revised 10/2014