



College of Letters and Science
Department of English

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Literature and Cultural Theory
Preliminary Exam Texts

Major Fields of Literature and Culture
American Literature and Culture: 19th Century

- Hannah Webster Foster, *The Coquette* (1797)
- Charles Brockden Brown, *Arthur Mervyn* (1799-1800)
- Poetry cluster: Philip Freneau, *Poems* (1815); Lydia H. Sigourney, "The Suttee," "The Death of an Infant" (1827), "The Cherokee Mother" (1831); Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *Evangeline* (1847), "The Jewish Cemetery at Newport" (1854); William Cullen Bryant, "Thanatopsis" (1815), "The Yellow Violet" (1815), "To a Waterfowl" (1815), "The Burial Place" (1818), "A Forest Hymn" (1825), "The Prairies" (1833); Julia Ward Howe, "Battle Hymn of the Republic" (1861); Lucy Larcom "Weaving" (1869); Francis E.W. Harper, "Aunt Choe's Politics" (1872)
- Washington Irving, *The Sketch-Book* (1819-1820)
- James Fenimore Cooper, *The Pioneers* (1823) or *The Last of the Mohicans* (1826)
- Lydia Maria Child, *Hobomok* (1824)
- Speeches/Sermons: Elias Boudinot, "An Address to the Whites" (1826); Maria Stewart, "Why Sit Ye Here and Die" (1832); Theodore Parker, "A Discourse of the Transient and Permanent in Christianity" (1841), "Speech at the New England Anti-Slavery Convention in Boston" (1850); Abraham Lincoln, "A House Divided" (1858), "Second Inaugural Address" (1865)
- Catharine Maria Sedgwick, *Hope Leslie* (1827)
- Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Nature" (1836), "The American Scholar" (1837), "Divinity School Address" (1838), "Self-Reliance" (1841), "Circles" (1841), "The Poet" (1844), "Experience" (1844), "The Young American" (1844), "The Uses of Great Men" (1850), "Fate" (1860)
- Black Hawk, *Life of Black Hawk* (1833)
- Caroline Kirkland, *A New Home--Who'll Follow, or, Glimpses of Western Life* (1839)
- Nathaniel Hawthorne, "My Kinsman, Major Molineux" (1832), "Young Goodman Brown" (1835), "Egotism; Or, The Bosom-Serpent" (1843), "The Birth-Mark" (1843), "Rappaccini's Daughter" (1844), and either *The Scarlet Letter* (1850), *The House of Seven Gables* (1851) or *The Blithedale Romance* (1852)

- Edgar Allan Poe, "Sonnet--To Science" (1829), *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym* (1838), "The Black Cat" (1843), "The Imp of the Perverse" (1845), "William Wilson" (1839), "Ligeia" (1838), "The Man of the Crowd" (1840), "Murders in the Rue Morgue" (1841), "The Purloined Letter" (1844), "The Raven" (1845), "The Philosophy of Composition" (1846)
- *The Lowell Offering*, ed. Benita Eisler (1840-1845)
- Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1845); "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July" (1852)
- Margaret Fuller, *Woman in the Nineteenth Century* (1845)
- George Lippard, *Quaker City*, or, *The Monks of Monk Hall* (1845) or *The 'Bel of Prairie Eden* (1848)
- Susan Warner, *The Wide, Wide World*, Feminist Press ed. w/ orig. conclusion (1850)
- Fanny Fern, *Ruth Hall* (1854)
- John Rollin Ridge (Yellow Bird), *Life and Adventures of Joaquin Murieta* (1854), "The Stolen White Girl" (1868)
- Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick* (1851), "Bartleby the Scrivener" (1853), from *Battle-Pieces* "The Portent," "Malvern Hill," "Shiloh," "The House-Top" (1866), and either "Billy Budd" (1888;1924) or "Benito Cereno" (1856).
- Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852)
- William Wells Brown, *Clotel*; or, the *President's Daughter* (1853)
- Henry David Thoreau, *Walden* (1854), "Resistance to Civil Government" [a.k.a. "Civil Disobedience"] (1849)
- Maria Susanna Cummins, *The Lamplighter* (1854)
- Frederick Law Olmsted, *A Journey in the Seaboard Slave States* (1856)
- Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass* (1855 edition), "Whoever You Are Holding Me Now in Hand" (1860), "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" (1856), "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking" (1859), "A March in the Ranks Hard-Prest, and the Road Unknown" (1865), "The Wound-Dresser" (1865), "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd" (1868)
- Harriet Wilson, *Our Nig* (1859)
- Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861)
- Emily Dickinson, *Final Harvest*, ed. Thomas H. Johnson (1858-1885)
- Rebecca Harding Davis, *Life in the Iron Mills* (1861)
- Elizabeth Stoddard, *The Morgesons* (1862)
- August Jane Evans (Wilson), *Macaria* (1863)
- Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women* (1868-69)
- Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, *Silent Partner*, eds. Buhle and Howe (1871)
- Henry James, *Portrait of a Lady* (1881), "The Figure in the Carpet" (1896)
- Joel Chandler Harris, *Uncle Remus: His Songs and Sayings* (1881)
- Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885)
- Maria Amparo Ruiz de Burton, *The Squatter and the Don* (1885)
- William Dean Howells, *The Rise of Silas Lapham* (1885)
- Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives* (1890)
- Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" (1893)
- Francis E. W. Harper, *Iola Leroy* (1892)

- Stephen Crane, "A Mystery of Heroism"(1895), "The Open Boat"(1897), "The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky" (!898), "Blue Hotel" (1898), "The Monster" (1898), "Five White Mice" (1898), "One Dash--Horses"(1898), "The Price of the Harness" (1898), "The Upturned Face" (1900)
- Sarah Orne Jewett, *The Country of Pointed Firs* (1896)
- Abraham Cahan, *Yekl: A Tale of the New York Ghetto* (1896)
- Frank Norris, *McTeague* (1899)
- Charles Chesnutt, *The Conjure Woman* (1899); "Dave's Neckliss" (1889)
- Kate Chopin, *The Awakening* (1899)
- Short fiction, additional, post-1850: Louisa May Alcott, *Behind a Mask* (1866); Mark Twain "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" (1865); Bret Harte, "The Outcasts of Poker Flat" (1868), "The Luck of Roaring Camp" (1869), "Tennessee's Partner" (1869); Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (1892)