



College of Letters and Science
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Literature and Cultural Theory
Preliminary Exam Texts

Major Fields of Literature and Culture
American Literature and Culture: 20th Century

- Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie* (1900)
- Henry James, *The Ambassadors* (1903)
- W.E.B. DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903) [Non-Fiction]
- Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth* (1905)
- Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle* (1906)
- Gertrude Stein, *Three Lives* (1909)
- Sui Sin Far, *Mrs. Spring Fragrance* (1912)
- James Weldon Johnson, *Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* (1912)
- Willa Cather, *O Pioneers!* (1913)
- Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Herland* (1915)
- H.D., *Sea Garden* (1916) [Poetry]
- Sherwood Anderson, *Winesburg, Ohio* (1919)
- T.S. Eliot, *The Waste Land* (1922) [Poetry]
- Ernest Hemingway, *In Our Time* (1925)
- John Dos Passos, *Manhattan Transfer* (1925)
- Anzia Yezierska, *Bread Givers* (1925)
- Langston Hughes, *Fine Clothes to the Jew* (1927) [Poetry]
- Nella Larsen, *Passing* (1929)
- William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury* (1929)
- Claude McKay, *Banjo* (1930)
- Michael Gold, *Jews Without Money* (1930)
- Americo Paredes, *George Washington Gomez* (written from 1935; published 1990)
- Djuna Barnes, *Nightwood* (1936)
- Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937)

- Muriel Rukeyser, *USI* (1938) [Poetry]
- Nathanael West, *Day of the Locust* (1939)
- Raymond Chandler, *The Big Sleep* (1939)
- John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939)
- Richard Wright, *Native Son* (1940)
- Eugene O'Neill, *Long Day's Journey Into Night* (written 1941-42; performed 1952) [Drama]
- Ayn Rand, *The Fountainhead* (1943)
- Elizabeth Bishop, *North and South* (1946) [Poetry]
- Carson McCullers, *The Member of the Wedding* (1946)
- Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (1952)
- Saul Bellow, *The Adventures of Augie March* (1953)
- Vladimir Nabokov, *Lolita* (1955)
- Allen Ginsberg, *Howl and Other Poems* (1955) [Poetry]
- James Baldwin, *Giovanni's Room* (1956)
- William Burroughs, *Naked Lunch* (1959)
- Jack Kerouac, *Big Sur* (1962)
- Sylvia Plath, *Ariel* (1965) [Poetry]
- Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49* (1966)
- Philip Roth, *Portnoy's Complaint* (1969)
- John Ashbery, *Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror* (1975) [Poetry]
- Ishmael Reed, *Flight to Canada* (1976)
- Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony* (1977)
- Don DeLillo, *White Noise* (1984)
- Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (1987)
- David Foster Wallace, *Brief Interviews with Hideous Men* (1999)
- Jhumpa Lahiri, *Interpreter of Maladies* (1999)