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Literature and Cultural Theory  
Preliminary Exam Texts

**Major Fields of Literature and Culture**  
**Asian American Literature**

Please note that the Asian American Literature section includes three reading lists. You should choose one of these for your preliminary examination:

**Reading List 1:** East Asian American Literature (Chinese, Japanese and Korean American)

**Reading List 2:** South Asian American Literature (Afghan, Bangladeshi, Bhutanese, Indian, Nepalese, Pakistani and Sri Lankan American)

**Reading List 3:** Southeast Asian American Literature (Cambodian, Hmong, Laotian, Thai and Vietnamese American)

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**Reading List 1:** East Asian American Literature (Chinese American, Japanese American and Korean American Literature)

Chinese American Literature

- Chin, Frank. *The Chinaman Pacific and Frisco R. R. Co.: Short Stories*. Minneapolis: Coffee House P, 1988.
- Huang, Chua. *Crossings*. 1968. Boston: Northeastern UP, 1986.
- Hwang, David Henry. *Yellow Face*. New York: Theatre Communications Group, 2009.
- Jen, Gish. *World and Town: A Novel*. New York: Knopf, 2010.
- Kingston, Maxine Hong. *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*. New York: Knopf, 1976.
- Louie, David Wong. *Pangs of Love*. New York: Knopf, 1991.
- Ng, Fae Myenne. *Bone*. New York: Hyperion, 1993.
- Sui Sin Far. *Mrs. Spring Fragrance and Other Writings*. Ed. Amy Ling and Annette White-Parks. Champaign: U of Illinois P, 1995.
- Wong, Jade Snow. *Fifth Chinese Daughter*. 1950. Seattle: U of Washington P, 1989.
- Wong, Shawn. *Homebase*. 1979. Seattle: U of Washington P, 2008.

### Japanese American Literature

- Hongo, Garrett Kaoru. *Yellow Light: Poems*. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan UP, 1982.
- Inada, Lawson Fusao. *Before the War: Poems as They Happened*. New York: Morrow, 1971.
- Mori, Toshio. *Unfinished Message: Selected Works of Toshio Mori*. Ed. Lawson Fusao Inada. Berkeley: Heyday, 2000.
- Murayama, Milton. *All I Asking for Is My Body*. Honolulu: U of Hawai'i P, 1988.
- Sone, Monica Itoi. *Nisei Daughter*. 1953. Seattle: U of Washington P, 1979.
- Yamanaka, Lois-Ann. *Blu's Hanging*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1997.
- Yamamoto, Hisaye. *Seventeen Syllables and Other Stories*. 1988. Rev. ed. New York: Rutgers UP, 2001.
- Yamauchi, Wakako. *Songs My Mother Taught Me: Stories, Plays, and Memoir*. New York: Feminist Press of CUNY, 1994.

### Korean American Literature

- Cha, Theresa Hak Jyung. *Dictee*. 1982. 2nd ed. Berkeley: U of California P, 2009.
- Fenkl, Heinz Insu, and Walter K. Lew, eds. *Kori: The Beacon Anthology of Korean American Fiction*. Boston: Beacon, 2002.
- Kang, Younghill. *East Goes West: The Making of an Oriental Yankee*. 1937. New York: Kaya/Muae (Distributed Art Publishers), 1997.
- Keller, Nora Okja. *Comfort Woman*. New York: Penguin, 1998.
- Kim, Elaine, and Eui-Young Yu, eds. *East to America: Korean American Life Stories*. New York: New Press, 1997.
- Lee, Chang-rae. *Native Speaker*. New York: Riverhead, 1996.
- Lee, Don. *Yellow: Stories*. New York: Norton, 2002.
- Lee, Mary Paik. *Quiet Odyssey: A Pioneer Korean Woman in America*. Ed. Sucheng Chan. Seattle: U of Washington P, 1990.

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**Reading List 2:** South Asian American Literature (Afghan American, Bangladeshi American, Bhutanese American, Indian American, Nepalese American, Pakistani American and Sri Lankan American)

Anthologies

- Banerjee, Neelanjana Banerjee, Summi Kaipa and Pireeni Sundaralingam, eds. *Indivisible: An Anthology of Contemporary South Asian American Poetry*. Fayetteville: U of Arkansas, 2010.
- Rustomji-kerns, Roshni, ed. *Living in America: Poetry and Fiction by South Asian American Writers*. Boulder, CO: Westview, 1995.
- Maira, Sunaina, ed. *Contours of the Heart: South Asians Map North America*. Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1998.
- Women of the South Asian Descent Collective. *Our Feet Walk the Sky: Women of the South Asian Diaspora*. San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books, 2008.
- Afghan American Literature
- Ansary, Tamim. *West of Kabul, East of New York: An Afghan American Story*. New York: Picador, 2003.
- Hosseini, Khaled. *The Kite Runner*. New York: Riverhead, 2004.
- Saed, Zohra and Sahar Muradi, eds. *One Story, Thirty Stories: An Anthology of Contemporary Afghan American Literature*. Fayetteville: U of Arkansas P, 2010.

Indian American Literature

- Alexander, Meena. *Fault Lines: A Memoir*. 1993. 2nd ed. New York: Feminist Press at CUNY, 2003.
- Ali, Agha Shahid. *A Nostalgist's Map of America*. New York: Norton, 1992.
- Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee. *Arranged Marriage: Stories*. New York: Anchor, 1996.
- Ganesan, Indira. *The Journey*. 1990. New York: Beacon, 2001.
- Kumar, Amitava. *Passport Photos*. Berkeley: U of California P, 2002.
- Lahiri, Jhumpa. *Interpreter of Maladies*. New York: Mariner Books, 1999.
- Mehta, Ved. *The Stolen Light*. 1989. West Berlin, NJ: Townsend, 2008.
- Mukherjee, Bharati. *The Middleman and Other Stories*. New York: Grove, 1999.
- Nair, Meera. *Video: Stories*. New York: Anchor, 2003.
- Narayan, Kirin. *My Family and Other Saints*. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2008.
- Seshadri, Vijay. *Wild Kingdom: Poems*. St. Paul, MN: Graywolf P, 1996.
- Verghese, Abraham. *My Own Country: A Doctor's Story*. New York: Vintage, 1995.

Pakistani American Literature

- Akhtar, Avad. *American Dervish: A Novel*. New York: Back Bay Books, 2012.
- Ghose, Zulfikar. *50 Poems*. New York: Oxford UP, 2012.
- Haji, Nafisa. *The Writing on My Forehead*. New York: Morrow, 2010.
- Hamid, Mohsin. *The Reluctant Fundamentalist: A Novel*. New York: Harvest Books, 2008.
- Mueenuddin, Daniyal. *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders*. New York: Norton, 2009.
- Naqvi, H.M. *Home Boy: A Novel*. New York: Crown, 2009.
- Narayan, Kirin. *My Family and Other Saints*. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2008.

- Sidhwa, Bapsi. *An American Brat: A Novel*. Minneapolis, MN: Milkweed, 2006.
- Suleri, Sara. *Meatless Days*. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1991.

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**Reading List 3:** Southeast Asian American Literature (Cambodian American, Hmong American, Laotian American, Thai American and Vietnamese American)

Cambodian American Literature

- Him, Chanrithy. *When Broken Glass Floats: Growing Up Under the Khmer Rouge*. New York: Norton, 2001.
- Lee, Jonathan H. X, ed. *Cambodian American Experiences: Histories, Communities, Cultures and Identities*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt, 2010.
- Pran, Dith. *Children of Cambodia's Killing Fields: Memoirs of Survivors*. New Haven, CT: Yale UP, 1997.
- Ratner, Vaddey. *In the Shadow of the Banyan*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2012.
- Ung, Loung. *First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers*. New York: Harper Perennial, 2006.
- Yathay, Pin. *Stay Alive, My Son*. 1987. Ithaca, NY: Cornell UP, 2000.

Hmong American Literature

- Chan, Sucheng, ed. *Hmong Means Free: Life in Laos and America*. Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1994.
- Faderman, Lillian, with Ghia Xiong. *I Begin My Life All Over: The Hmong and the American Immigrant Experience*. Boston: Beacon, 1998.
- Her, Vincent, and Mary Louise Buley-Meissner, eds. *Hmong and American: From Refugees to Citizens*. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society P, 2012.
- Hmong American Writers' Circle. *How Do I Begin? : A Hmong American Literary Anthology*. Berkeley: Heyday, 2011.
- Moua, Mai Neng, ed. *Bamboo Among the Oaks: Contemporary Writing by Hmong Americans*. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society P, 2002.
- Moua, Pos. *Where the Torches Are Burning*. Sunnyvale, CA: Swan Scythe P, 2002.
- Vang, Chia Youyee. *Hmong America: Reconstructing Community in Diaspora*. Champaign: U of Illinois P, 2010.
- Yang, Kao Kalia. *The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir*. Minneapolis: Coffee House P, 2006.

Laotian American Literature

- Huo, T.C. *Land of Smiles*. New York: Plume, 1999.
- Khamkeo, Bounsang. *I Little Slave: A Prison Memoir From Communist Laos*. Cheney: Eastern Washington UP, 2006.

Thai American Literature

- Lapcharoensap, Rattawat. *Sightseeing*. New York: Grove, 2005.
- Sukrungruang, Ira. *Talk Thai: The Adventures of Buddhist Boy*. Columbia: U of Missouri P, 2011.

#### Vietnamese American Literature

- Cao, Lan. *Monkey Bridge*. New York: Viking, 1997.
- Dinh, Linh. *Blood and Soap: Stories*. New York: Seven Stories P, 2004.
- Hayslip, Le Ly. *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places: A Vietnamese Woman's Journey From War to Peace*. New York: Doubleday, 1989.
- Huyh, Jade Ngoc Quang. *South Wind Changing*. St. Paul, MN: Graywolf, 2000.
- Le, Thi Diem Thuy. *The Gangster We Are All Looking For*. New York: Anchor, 2004.
- Pham, Andrew. *Catfish and Mandala: A Two-Wheeled Voyage Through the Landscape and Memory of Vietnam*. New York: Picador, 2000.
- Strom, Dao. *Grass Roof, Tin Roof*. New York: Mariner, 2003.
- Truong, Monique. *The Book of Salt*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2003.