

20TH -/21ST -CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE

GRADUATE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION READING LIST SELECTED BY THE GRADUATE FACULTY

THE CANDIDATE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL WRITERS AND WORKS FROM LIST A, AT LEAST THREE WRITERS FROM LIST B, AND AT LEAST THREE WRITERS FROM LIST C.

LIST A

POETRY:

Elizabeth Bishop. *Selected Poems*

T.S. Eliot. *The Waste Land, Four Quartets*

Robert Frost. *North of Boston, Mountain Interval.*

Langston Hughes. One of the Following Collections: *The Weary Blues, Fine Clothes to the Jew, Shakespeare in Harlem.* (Poems in these collections may be pieced together from works in Hughes' *Collected Poems.*)

Sylvia Plath. *Selected Poems*

Wallace Stevens. "Sunday Morning" and Other Selected Poems

PROSE:

Ralph Ellison. *Invisible Man*

William Faulkner. *As I Lay Dying, Light in August* or *The Sound and the Fury*; "Barn Burning"; "Dry September"; "The Bear" (version in *Go Down, Moses*)

F. Scott Fitzgerald. *The Great Gatsby*

Ernest Hemingway. *A Farewell to Arms, In Our Time*

Zora Neale Hurston. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Maxine Hong Kingston. *The Woman Warrior*

Toni Morrison. *Beloved* and One of the Following: *Sula* or *The Bluest Eye*

Flannery O'Connor. *A Good Man Is Hard to Find and Other Stories* or *Everything That Rises Must Converge*.

John Steinbeck. *The Grapes of Wrath* or *Of Mice and Men*

Eudora Welty. *A Curtain of Green*

DRAMA:

Susan Glaspell. *Trifles*

Arthur Miller. *Death of a Salesman*

Eugene O'Neill. One of the Following: *Long Day's Journey into Night*, *The Ice Man Cometh*, or *Moon for the Misbegotten*

Tennessee Williams. *A Streetcar Named Desire*

LIST B

PROSE AND DRAMA (CHOOSE AT LEAST *THREE* FROM THE LIST THAT FOLLOWS):

Oscar Zeta Acosta. *The Autobiography of a Brown Buffalo* or *The Revolt of the Cockroach People*

Edward Albee. *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, *Zoo Story*

Julia Alvarez. *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents*

Rudolfo Anaya. *Bless Me, Ultima*

Sherwood Anderson. *Winesburg, Ohio*

Gloria Anzaldúa. *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*

Isaac Asimov. *I, Robot*

James Baldwin. *Go Tell It on the Mountain* or *Going to Meet the Man*

Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones). *Dutchman* or *The Slave*

John Barth. *Lost in the Funhouse*

Donald Barthelme. *Sixty Stories*.

Saul Bellow. *Seize the Day* or *Herzog*

Ray Bradbury. *The Martian Chronicles*

Truman Capote. *In Cold Blood*

Ana Castillo. *So Far from God* or *The Mixquiahuala Letters*

Willa Cather. *My Antonia* or *Death Comes for the Archbishop*

Raymond Chandler. *The Big Sleep*

Sandra Cisneros. *The House on Mango Street*, *Woman Hollering Creek*

Edwidge Danticat. *Krik? Krak!*

Don DeLillo. *White Noise*

Junot Diaz. *The Brief Wonderful Life of Oscar Wao*

Philip K. Dick. *The Man in the High Castle*, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*

W.E.B. DuBois. *Souls of Black Folks*, "Returning Soldiers"

Louise Erdrich. *Selected Novel or Stories*
 Horton Foote. *Orphans' Home Cycle*
 Jonathan Franzen. *The Corrections*
 William Gaddis. *The Recognitions*
 William Gass. *In the Heart of the Heart Country*
 Kaye Gibbons. *Ellen Foster*
 Jessica Hagedorn. *Dogeaters*
 Dashiell Hammett. *The Maltese Falcon*
 Lorraine Hansberry. *Raisin in the Sun*
 Robert A. Heinlein. *Stranger in a Strange Land*
 Joseph Heller. *Catch-22*
 David Henry Hwang. *M. Butterfly* or *The Dance and the Railroad*
 Gish Jen. *Mona in the Promised Land*
 Ha Jin. *Waiting*
 Denis Johnson. *Jesus' Son*
 George S. Kaufmann and Moss Hart. *You Can't Take It with You, The Man Who Came to Dinner*
 Jack Kerouac. *On the Road*
 Tony Kushner. *Angels in America I and II*
 Chang Rae Lee. *Native Speaker*
 Sinclair Lewis. *Main Street* or *Babbitt*
 Jack London. *One Novel or Selected Stories*
 Audre Lorde. *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*
 David Mamet. *One Selected Play*
 David Markson. *Wittgenstein's Mistress*
 Bobbie Ann Mason. *In Country*
 Cormac McCarthy. *Blood Meridian* or *Suttree*
 Carson McCullers. *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter* or *The Ballad of the Sad Café*
 N. Scott Momaday. *House Made of Dawn*
 Lorrie Moore. *Self-Help*
 Cherríe Moraga. *Heroes and Saints*
 Vladimir Nabokov. *Lolita* or *Pale Fire*
 Joyce Carol Oates. *Bellefleur*, "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"
 Tim O'Brien. *The Things They Carried*
 Américo Paredes. *George Washington Gómez*
 Suzan-Lori Parks. *The American Play* or *Topdog/Underdog*
 Sylvia Plath. *The Bell Jar*
 Katherine Anne Porter. *Pale Horse, Pale Rider*
 Thomas Pynchon. *The Crying of Lot 49* or *Gravity's Rainbow* or *Mason/Dixon*
 Ishmael Reed. *Mumbo Jumbo*
 Marilynne Robinson. *Gilead* or *Housekeeping*
 Philip Roth. *Goodbye, Columbus* or *Portnoy's Complaint* or *American Pastoral*
 J.D. Salinger. *Catcher in the Rye*
 Ntozake Shange. *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf: A Choreopoem*
 Sam Shepherd. *One Selected Play*
 Leslie Marmon Silko. *Ceremony*
 Anna Deavere Smith. *Fires in the Mirror* or *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*
 Lee Smith. *Oral History* or *Fair and Tender Ladies*, or *On Agate Hill*

Gertrude Stein. *Three Lives*
 William Styron. *The Confessions of Nat Turner*
 Amy Tan. *The Joy Luck Club*
 Piri Thomas. *Down These Mean Streets*
 Anne Tyler. *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant*
 John Updike. *Rabbit Redux* or *Rabbit, Run* or all of the following: “Separating,” “The Happiest I’ve Been,” “A & P,” and “The Lifeguard”
 Luis Valdez. *Zoot Suit*
 Kurt Vonnegut. *Slaughterhouse Five*
 Alice Walker. *The Color Purple*
 David Foster Wallace. *Infinite Jest* or *Brief Interviews with Hideous Men*
 Nathanael West. *Miss Lonelyhearts* or *The Day of the Locust*
 Edith Wharton. *The Age of Innocence*
 August Wilson. *Selected Play*
 Thomas Wolfe. *Look Homeward, Angel*
 Richard Wright. *Native Son*, *Black Boy*, or *Uncle Tom’s Children*

LIST C

POETRY (CHOOSE AT LEAST THREE FROM THE LIST THAT FOLLOWS):

A.R. Ammons. *Garbage*
 Gloria Anzaldua. *Selected Poems*
 John Ashberry. *Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror*
 Gwendolyn Brooks. *Selected Poems*
 Lorna Dee Cervantes. *Selected Poems*
 Judith Ortiz Cofer. *Selected Poems*
 Billy Collins. *Selected Poems*
 Countee Cullen. *Selected Poems*
 e.e. cummings. *Selected Poems*
 Rita Dove. *Selected Poems*
 Mark Doty. *My Alexandria*
 Allen Ginsberg. *Selected Poems*
 Nikki Giovanni. *Selected Poems*
 H.D. *Selected Poems*
 Louise Erdrich. *Selected Poems*
 Jorie Graham. *The Dream of a Unified Field*
 Lyn Hejinian. *My Life*
 Randall Jarrell. *Selected Poems*
 Robinson Jeffers. *Selected Poems*
 James Weldon Johnson. *Selected Poems*
 Yusef Komunyakaa. *Neon Vernacular*
 Denise Levertov. *Selected Poems*
 Philip Levine. *Selected Poems*
 Audre Lorde. *Selected Poems*
 Robert Lowell. *Selected Poems*
 Claude McKay. *Selected Poems*

James Merrill. *Selected Poems 1946-1985*
W.S. Merwin. Selected Poems
Marianne Moore. Selected Poems
Pat Mora. Selected Poems
Mary Oliver. Selected Poems
Ezra Pound. Selected Poems
Theodore Roethke. Selected Poems
Anne Sexton. Selected Poems
Charles Simic. Selected Poems
Robert Penn Warren. Selected Poems
Adrienne Rich. Selected Poems, including “I Am in Danger—Sir—,” “Diving into the Wreck,”
“Snapshots of a Daughter-in-Law,” and “Storm Warnings”
Edwin Arlington Robinson. Selected Poems, including “The Mill,” “Miniver Cheevy,” “Mr.
Flood’s Party,” and “Richard Cory”
Carl Sandburg. Selected Poems
Richard Wilbur. Selected Poems
William Carlos Williams. Selected Poems
Charles Wright. Selected Poems
Bernice Zamora. Selected Poems

A candidate may also submit a list of readings to supplement, but not replace, the readings from the core (“A”) list above. The supplementary list should be submitted for approval with the declaration of intent to take the comprehensive examination form.