

Recommended Basic Readings in American Studies

It is recommended that students purchase their own copies of all titles marked with an “*”.

I. Reference Works on American Literature

- Bercovitch, Sacvan, ed. *The Cambridge History of American Literature*. 8 vols. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1994-2003.
- Elliott, Emory, ed. *Columbia Literary History of the United States*. New York: Columbia UP, 1988.
- Gray, Richard. *A History of American Literature*. Second ed. London: Wiley Blackwell, 2011.
- Hart, James D., and Philip Leininger, eds. *The Oxford Companion to American Literature*. Sixth ed. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1995.
- Marcus, Greil, and Werner Sollors, eds. *A New Literary History of America*. Cambridge: Belknap P, 2012.
- Parini, Jay, ed. *The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature*. New York: Oxford UP, 2004.
- Zapf, Hubert, ed. *Amerikanische Literaturgeschichte*. Third ed. Stuttgart: Metzler, 2010.

II. Anthologies of American Literature

- * Baym, Nina, and Robert S. Levine, eds. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. Shorter Eighth Edition. New York: W.W. Norton, 2012.
- Baym, Nina, et al. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. (5 volumes) Eighth Edition. New York: W.W. Norton, 2011.
- Lauter, Paul, gen. ed. *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*. (5 volumes) Fifth Edition. Lexington: D.C. Heath, 2005.
- Lehman, David, ed. *The Oxford Book of American Poetry*. Oxford and New York: Oxford UP, 2006.
- Updike, John, and Katrina Kenison, eds. *The Best American Short Stories of the Century*. New York: Mariner Books, 2000.

III. Literary Texts

- John Winthrop, “A Model of Christian Charity” (1630).
- Anne Bradstreet, “The Author to Her Book” (1650).
- Phillis Wheatley, “On Being Brought from Africa to America” (1773).
- * Benjamin Franklin, *The Autobiography* (1771-90, 1868).
- Thomas Jefferson, “The Declaration of Independence” (1776).
- Washington Irving, “Rip van Winkle” (1819).
- Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself* (1845).
- Henry David Thoreau, “Resistance to Civil Government” (1849)
- Edgar Allan Poe, “The Raven” (1845), “The Fall of the House of Usher” (1839).
- Nathaniel Hawthorne, “Young Goodman Brown” (1835), * *The Scarlet Letter* (1850).
- Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick* (1851), “Bartleby, the Scrivener” (1853).
- Emily Dickinson, “Much Madness is divinest Sense—,” “I heard a Fly buzz—when I died,” “Tell all the Truth but tell it slant—” (publ. posthumously, 1955).
- Walt Whitman, “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry” (1860), “When I Heard the Learn’d Astronomer” (1865), “Song of Myself” (1881).
- Henry James, *The Portrait of a Lady* (1881).
- * Mark Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884).
- Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper” (1892).
- Stephen Crane, “The Open Boat” (1897).
- Kate Chopin, *The Awakening* (1899).

Robert Frost, "Mending Wall" (1914), "Birches" (1915).
 T.S. Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" (1915), *The Waste Land* (1922).
 Ezra Pound, "Portrait d'une Femme" (1912), "In a Station of the Metro" (1913), "Hugh Selwyn Mauberley" (1920).
 Eugene O'Neill, *Long Day's Journey into Night* (1940).
 * F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (1925).
 Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun also Rises* (1926).
 William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury* (1929).
 Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937).
 * Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947).
 * Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman* (1949).
 Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (1952).
 * Martin Luther King, "I Have a Dream" (1963).
 Allen Ginsberg, "Howl" (1956).
 Jack Kerouac, *On the Road* (1957).
 Edward Albee, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (1962).
 John Barth, "Life Story" (1968).
 * Toni Morrison, *Song of Solomon* (1977), *Beloved* (1987).
 August Wilson, *Fences* (1986).
 Louise Erdrich, "Fleur" (1986).
 Thomas Pynchon, *Vineland* (1990).
 Wendy Wasserstein, *The Heidi Chronicles* (1990).
 * Tony Kushner, *Angels in America* (1992).
 T.C. Boyle, *The Tortilla Curtain* (1995).
 Philip Roth, *The Human Stain* (2000).
 Sandra Cisneros, *Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories* (1991), *Caramelo* (2002).
 Jonathan Safran Foer, *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* (2006).

IV. American Civilization

Bailyn, Bernard et al, eds. *The Great Republic: A History of the American People*. 2 vols. Fourth edition. Lexington: D.C. Heath, 1992.
 Benshoff, Harry M., and Sean Griffin, eds. *America on Film: Representing Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality at the Movies*. Second ed. London Wiley Blackwell, 2009.
 Brogan, Hugh. *The Penguin History of the USA*. New York: Penguin Books Ltd., 2001.
 Campbell, Neil, and Alasdair Kean. *American Cultural Studies: An Introduction to American Culture*. Third ed. London and New York: Routledge, 2011.
 Cullen, Jim. *The American Dream: A Short History of an Idea That Shaped a Nation*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2003.
 Hughes, Robert. *American Visions: The Epic History of Art in America*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997.
 Luedtke, Luther S. ed. *Making America: The Society and Culture of the United States*. Chapel Hill: The U of North Carolina P, 1992.
 * Mauk, David C., and John Oakland. *American Civilization: An Introduction*. Sixth ed. London and New York: Routledge, 2013.
 Newcomb, Horace, ed. *Television: The Critical View*. Seventh ed. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2007.
 Nicholls, David, ed. *The Cambridge History of American Music*. New ed. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2004.
 Paul, Heike. *The Myths That Made America: An Introduction to American Studies*. Bielefeld: transcript, 2014.
 Sklar, Robert. *Movie-Made America: A Cultural History of American Movies*. Revised and updated. New York: Vintage Books, 1994.
 Zinn, Howard. *A People's History of the United States: 1492 – Present*. Revised and updated. New York: Harper Perennial, 2010.