UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
PHD COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION READING LIST
AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE

This list should be regarded as suggestive rather than definitive. Students, in consultation with
the members of their committees, should shape and refine the list as their interests and project
require.

Fiction and Non-Fiction Prose
Baldwin, James.
    Go Tell it On the Mountain. 1953.
    Giovanni’s Room. 1956.
    Another Country. 1962.
Bambara, Toni Cade.
    The Salt Eaters. 1980.
Brooks, Gwendolyn.
    Maud Martha. 1953.
Brown, Williams Wells.
    Clotel, or The President’s Daughter. 1853.
Butler, Octavia.
    Kindred. 1979.
Chesnutt, Charles.
    The Conjure Woman. 1899.
    The House Behind the Cedars. 1900.
    The Marrow of Tradition. 1901.
Delany, Martin.
    Blake; or the Huts of America
Douglass, Frederick.
    Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave. 1845.
    My Bondage and My Freedom. 1855.
Du Bois, W. E. B.
    The Souls of Black Folk. 1903.
    Dark Princess. 1928.
Dunbar, Paul Laurence.
    The Sport of the Gods. 1902.
Ellison, Ralph.
    Invisible Man. 1952.
    Selections from The Collected Essays of Ralph Ellison. 1995.
Fauset, Jessie.
    Plum Bun. 1929.
Gaines, Ernest.
Griggs, Sutton.
   \textit{Imperium in Imperio}. 1899.
   \textit{The Hindered Hand}. 1905.

Harper, Francis Ellen Watkins.
   \textit{Iola Leroy}. 1892.

Himes, Chester.
   \textit{If He Hollers Let Him Go}. 1945.

Hopkins, Pauline.
   \textit{Contending Forces}. 1900.

Hurston, Zora Neale.
   \textit{Their Eyes Were Watching God}. 1937.
   \textit{Mules and Men}. 1935.

Jacobs, Harriet.
   \textit{Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl}. 1861.

Johnson, James Weldon.
   \textit{Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man}. 1912.

Jones, Gayl.


Lorde, Audre.

Malcolm X and Alex Haley.

McKay, Claude.
   \textit{Home to Harlem}. 1928.

Morrison, Toni.
   \textit{Beloved}. 1987.

Marshall, Paule.

Naylor, Gloria.

Reed, Ishmael.
   \textit{Flight to Canada}. 1976.

Stewart, Maria.
   \textit{Productions of Mrs. Maria W. Stewart}. 1835.

Toomer, Jean.
   \textit{Cane}. 1923.

Thurman, Wallace.
   \textit{The Blacker the Berry}. 1929.
   \textit{Infants of the Spring}. 1932.

Petry, Ann.
   \textit{The Street}. 1946.

Walker, David.
David Walker’s Appeal, in Four Articles
Together with a Preamble, to the Coloured Citizens of the World. 1830.

Washington, Booker T.
Up From Slavery. 1901.

Webb, Frank J.
The Garies and Their Friends. 1857.

Wells-Barnett, Ida B.
Southern Horrors: Lynch Law in All Its Phases. 1892.
A Red Record. 1895.

Wilson, Harriet.
Our Nig. 1859.

Wright, Richard.
Uncle Tom’s Children. 1938, 1940.
Native Son. 1940.
12 Million Black Voices. 1941.
Black Boy. 1945.

Poetry
Baraka, Amiri. LeRoi Jones.
Selections from Preface to a Twenty Volume Suicide Note. 1961.

Brooks, Gwendolyn.

Brown, Sterling.
Southern Road. 1932.

Cullen, Countee.
On These I Stand: An Anthology of the Best Poems of Countee Cullen. 1947.

Dove, Rita.
Thomas and Beulah. 1986.

Dunbar, Paul Laurence.
Lyrics of Lowly Life. 1896.

Hayden, Robert.
A Ballad of Remembrance. 1962.

Hughes, Langston.
Selected Poems. 1967.

Johnson, James Weldon.
God’s Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons in Verse. 1927.

Lorde, Audre.

McKay, Claude.
Selected Poems. 1953.

Mullen, Harryette.
Recyclopedia: Trimmings, S*PeRM**K*T, and Muse and Drudge. 2006.

Randall, Dudley.
The Black Poets. 1969.
Sanchez, Sonia.
   Selections from *Homegirls and Handgrenades*. 1984. and

Wheatley, Phillis.
   *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*. 1773.

Wright, Jay.

See also the following anthologies of contemporary African American poetry:

**Drama**
Shange, Ntozake. *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf*. 1977.

**Literary Criticism**


Tate, Claudia. Domestic Allegories of Political Desire: The Black Heroine’s Text at the Turn of the Century. 1996.


Additionally, the anthology, African American Literary Theory: A Reader, ed. Winston Napier (2000) collects many key essays by writers and scholars of African American literature and literary criticism from the 1920s to the 1990s.

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