Modern American Literature

The following is a reading list for doctoral candidates to use as a guide in preparing for their comprehensive examination in the field of Modern American Literature. A student is expected to have read widely in the field; to be thoroughly familiar with the major writers; and to read widely in the journal literature. The following reading list is suggestive rather than definitive, a list for the student and Committee on Studies to consult. It is expected that this list will be reduced and/or amended by the student and the Committee on Studies.

Poetry
Emily Dickinson, *Poems* (1890)
Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass* (1891)
Paul Laurence Dunbar, *Lyrics of Lowly Life* (1896)
Edna St. Vincent Millay, *A Few Figs From Thistles* (1920)
Alice Corbin Henderson, *Red Earth* (1920)
William Carlos Williams, *Spring and All* (1923)
Mary Austin, *The American Rhythm* (1923/1930)
Ezra Pound, *Selected Poems* (1928)
Hart Crane, *The Bridge* (1930)
Marianne Moore, *Selected Poems* (1935)
Wallace Stevens, *Selected Poems* (1952)
Allen Ginsberg, *Howl and Other Poems* (1956)
Frank O'Hara, *Meditations in an Emergency* (1957)
E.E. Cummings, *100 Selected Poems* (1959)
Robert Lowell, *Life Studies and For the Union Dead* (1959/1964)
Elizabeth Bishop, *Questions of Travel* (1965)
Sylvia Plath, *Ariel* (1965)
Langston Hughes, *Selected Poems* (1967)

Fiction
Mark Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884) / *Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court* (1889) / *Pudd’nhead Wilson* (1894)
Helen Hunt Jackson, *Ramona* (1884)
Maria Ampara Ruiz de Burton, *The Squatter and the Don* (1885)
Edward Bellamy, *Looking Backward* (1887)
Mary Wilkins Freeman, *A New England Nun and Other Stories* (1891)
Frances E.W. Harper, *Iola Leroy* (1892)
Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (1892) / *Herland* (1915)
Kate Chopin, *Bayou Folk* (1894) / *The Awakening* (1903)
Sarah Orne Jewett, *The Country of the Pointed Firs* (1896)
Abraham Cahan, *Yekl and Other Stories* (1896/1898)
Sutton Griggs, *Imperium in Imperio* (1899)
Charles Chesnutt, *The Conjure Woman* (1899) / *The House Behind the Cedars* (1900) / *The Marrow of Tradition* (1901)
Frank Norris, *McTeague* (1899) / *The Octopus* (1901)
Pauline Hopkins, *Contending Forces* (1900)
Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie* (1900) / *An American Tragedy* (1925)
Owen Wister, *The Virginian* (1902)
Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle* (1906)
Zane Grey, *Riders of the Purple Sage* (1912)
Sui Sin Far (Edith Maude Eaton), *Mrs. Spring Fragrance & Other Writings* (1912)
Willa Cather, *My Antonia* (1918) / *The Professor's House* (1925) / *Death Comes to the Archbishop* (1927)
Zitkala-Sa (Gertrude Bonnin), *American Indian Stories* (1921)
Sinclair Lewis, *Babbitt* (1922)
Jean Toomer, *Cane* (1923)
Anzia Yezierska, *The Bread Givers* (1925)
Ernest Hemingway, *In Our Time* (1925) / *The Sun Also Rises* (1926) / *A Farewell to Arms* (1929)
F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (1925) / *Tender is the Night* (1934)
Anita Loos, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (1925)
John Dos Passos, *Manhattan Transfer* (1925) / *USA Trilogy* (1930-1936)
Mourning Dove (Christine Quintasket), *Cogewea the Half Blood* (1927)
Claude McKay, *Home to Harlem* (1928)
W.E.B. Du Bois, *Dark Princess: A Romance* (1928)
Jessie Fauset, *Plum Bun* (1929)
Wallace Thurman, *The Blacker the Berry* (1929)
Nella Larsen, *Quicksand* (1928) / *Passing* (1929)
Oliver LaFarge, *Laughing Boy* (1929)
Jovita González and Eve Raleigh, *Caballero* (ca. 1930-1940)
Mike Gold, *Jews Without Money* (1930)
Pearl Buck, *The Good Earth* (1931)
Henry Roth, *Call It Sleep* (1934)
John Joseph Mathews, *Sundown* (1934)
Americo Paredes, *George Washington Gomez* (ca. 1936-1940)
D’Arcy McNickle, *The Surrounded* (1936)
Djuna Barnes, *Nightwood* (1936)
Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937)
Younghill Kang, *East Goes West* (1937)
Raymond Chandler, *The Big Sleep* (1939)
Katherine Anne Porter, *Pale Horse, Pale Rider* (1939)
Henry Roth, *Call It Sleep* (1934)
Americo Paredes, *George Washington Gomez* (ca. 1936-1940)
D’Arcy McNickle, *The Surrounded* (1936)
Djuna Barnes, *Nightwood* (1936)
Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937)
Younghill Kang, *East Goes West* (1937)
Raymond Chandler, *The Big Sleep* (1939)
Katherine Anne Porter, *Pale Horse, Pale Rider* (1939)
Nathanael West, *The Day of the Locust* (1939)
Richard Wright, *Native Son* (1940)
Walter Van Tilburg Clark, *The Ox-Bow Incident* (1940)
Carson McCullers, *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* (1940)
Dorothy Parker, *The Portable Dorothy Parker* (1944)
Chester Himes, *If He Hollers Let Him Go* (1945)
Ann Petry, *The Street* (1946)
Truman Capote, *Other Voices, Other Rooms* (1948)
Norman Mailer, *The Naked and the Dead* (1948)
Gore Vidal, *The City and the Pillar* (1948)
J.D. Salinger, *The Catcher in the Rye* (1951)
Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (1952)
Saul Bellow, *The Adventures of Augie March* (1953)
Monica Sone, *Nisei Daughter* (1953)
Patricia Highsmith, *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (1955)
Jack Kerouac, *On the Road* (1957)
John Okada, *No-No Boy* (1957)
Philip Roth, *Goodbye, Columbus* (1959)
José Antonio Villarreal, *Pocho* (1959)
William S. Burroughs, *Naked Lunch* (1959)
John Updike, *Rabbit, Run* (1960)
Thomas Pynchon, *V* (1963)
John Rechy, *City of Night* (1963)
Drama
Lynn Riggs, *Green Grow the Lilacs* (1930)
Thornton Wilder, *Our Town* (1938)
Lillian Hellman, *The Little Foxes* (1939)
Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947)
Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman* (1949)
Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun* (1959)
Leroi Jones (Amiri Baraka), *Dutchman* (1964)

Nonfiction Prose
Helen Hunt Jackson, *A Century of Dishonor* (1881)
Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives* (1890)
Jose Marti, "Our America" (1891)
Mark Twain, *Life on the Mississippi* (1883) / *Following the Equator* (1897)
Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" (1893)
Lili’uokalani, *Hawaii’s Story by Hawaii’s Queen* (1898)
Theodore Roosevelt, *The Rough Riders* (1899)
Booker T. Washington, *Up From Slavery* (1901)
Mary Austin, *The Land of Little Rain* (1903)
Ida Tarbell, *The History of the Standard Oil Company* (1904)
Alexander Posey, *The Fus Fixico Letters* (ca. 1902-08)
Nat Love, *The Life and Adventures of Nat Love* (1907)
John Muir, *My First Summer in the Sierra* (1911)
Mary Antin, *The Promised Land* (1912)
Henry Adams, *The Education of Henry Adams* (1918)
William Carlos Williams, *In the American Grain* (1925)
John G. Neihardt, *Black Elk Speaks* (1932)
James Agee and Walker Evans, *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men* (1941)
F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Crack-Up* (1945)
Richard Wright, *Black Boy* (1945)
Carlos Bulosan, *America Is in the Heart* (1946)
James Baldwin, *Notes of a Native Son* (1955)
Mary McCarthy, *Memories of a Catholic Girlhood* (1957)
Americo Paredes, *With His Pistol in His Hand: A Border Ballad and its Hero* (1958)
Norman Mailer, *Advertisements for Myself* (1959)
Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring* (1962)

**Literary Criticism (NB: This section should be especially tailored to reflect the student's interests)**
-Rachel Adams, *Continental Divides: Remapping the Cultures of North America*
-Lauren Berlant, *The Female Complaint: The Unfinished Business of Sentimentality in American Culture*
-Hazel Carby, *Race Men*
-Richard Chase, *The American Novel and its Tradition*
-Michael Denning, *The Cultural Front: The Laboring of American Culture in the Twentieth Century*
-Wai Chee Dimock, *Through Other Continents: American Literature across Deep Time*
-Ann Douglas, *Terrible Honesty: Mongrel Manhattan in the 1920s*
-Leah Fiedler, *Love and Death in the American Novel*
-Jennifer Fleissner, *Women, Compulsion, Modernity*
-John Guillory, *Cultural Capital: The Problem of Literary Canon Formation*
-Fredric Jameson, *The Political Unconscious: Narrative as a Socially Symbolic Act*
-Paul Lauter, *Canons and Contexts*
-Walter Benn Michaels, *The Gold Standard and the Logic of Naturalism and Our America: Nativism, Modernism, and Pluralism*
-Toni Morrison, *Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination*
-Michael North, *The Dialect of Modernism: Race, Language and Twentieth-Century Literature*
-David Shumway, *Creating American Civilization: A Genealogy of American Literature as a Discipline*
-Werner Sollors, *Ethnic Modernism*
-Claudia Tate, *Domestic Allegories of Political Desire: The Black Heroine’s Text at the Turn of the Century*
-Jane Tompkins, *West of Everything: The Inner Life of Westerns*
-Alan Trachtenberg, *The Incorporation of America: Culture and Society in the Gilded Age*
-Priscilla Wald, *Constituting Americans: Cultural Anxiety and Narrative Form*
-Kenneth Warren, *Black and White Strangers: Race and American Literary Realism*
-Daniel Worden, *Masculine Style: The American West and Literary Modernism*