

Reading List: VO American Literature and Culture

BA UF Englisch

as of SS 2021

Colonial and Revolutionary Period

"Raven and Marriage" (Tlingit)	[1909]
John Smith , <i>The Generall Historie of Virginia, New England, and the Summer Isles; A Description of New England; Advertisements for the Unexperienced Planters of New-England, or Any Where, Or, the Pathway to Experience to Erect a Plantation</i> (all excerpts from <i>Heath Anthology</i>)	1624; 1616; 1631
John Winthrop , "A Model of Christian Charity"	1630
William Bradford , <i>Of Plymouth Plantation</i> (excerpt from <i>Heath Anthology</i>)	1650
Anne Bradstreet , "The Prologue [To Her Book]"; "Upon the Burning of Our House"	1678
Mary Rowlandson , <i>A Narrative of the Captivity and Restauration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson</i> (excerpt from <i>Heath Anthology</i>)	1682
Edward Taylor , "Huswifery"	1683
Jonathan Edwards , "Sinners in the Hand of an Angry God"	1741
Phillis Wheatley , "On Being Brought from Africa to America"	1773
Thomas Paine , <i>Common Sense</i> (excerpt from <i>Heath Anthology</i>)	1775
J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur , <i>Letters from an American Farmer</i> (excerpts from letters III, IX, and XII from <i>Heath Anthology</i>)	1782

Early Republic and American Romanticism (1783-1865)

Benjamin Franklin , <i>Autobiography</i> (chapters 8, 9, 10)	1791
Charles Brockden Brown , <i>Edgar Huntly</i> (Preface)	1807
Washington Irving , "Rip Van Winkle"	1820
James Fenimore Cooper , <i>The Pioneers</i> (chapter 1)	1823
Nathaniel Hawthorne , "Young Goodman Brown"	1835
Ralph Waldo Emerson , "Nature" (Introduction, chapters 1-4)	1836
Edgar Allan Poe , "The Tell-Tale Heart"	1843
Margaret Fuller , <i>Woman in the Nineteenth Century</i> (excerpt from <i>Heath Anthology</i>)	1845

Frederick Douglass , <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave</i> (chapters 1, 4, 6, 7, 10)	1845
Harriet Beecher Stowe , <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> (chapter 1)	1852
Henry David Thoreau , <i>Walden</i> (chapters 3 and 4)	1854
Walt Whitman , "Song of Myself"	1855
Herman Melville , "Bartleby the Scrivener"	1856
Harriet Jacobs , <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i> (chapters 1-7)	1860
Rebecca Harding Davis , "Life in the Iron Mills"	1861
Emily Dickinson , "I Heard a Fly Buzz—When I Died"; "After Great Pain, a Formal Feeling Comes"	1862

Reconstruction and the Gilded Age (1865-1910)

Mark Twain , <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> (chapters 1-11)	1884
William Dean Howells , <i>Criticism and Fiction</i> (excerpt from <i>Heath Anthology</i>)	1891
Charlotte Perkins Gilman , "The Yellow Wallpaper"	1892
Kate Chopin , "Desirée's Baby"	1893
Stephen Crane , "The Open Boat"	1895
Theodore Dreiser , <i>Sister Carrie</i> (chapter 1)	1901
Henry James , "The Beast in the Jungle"	1901
W. E. B. DuBois , <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i> (chapter 1)	1903
Upton Sinclair , <i>The Jungle</i> (excerpt from <i>Heath Anthology</i>)	1905

From Modernism to World War II (1910-1945)

Carl Sandburg , "Chicago"	1914
Ezra Pound , "In a Station of the Metro"; "A Retrospect"	1915
Sherwood Anderson , "Hands" (from <i>Winesburg, Ohio</i>)	1919
Eugene O'Neill , <i>The Emperor Jones</i>	1920
Marianne Moore , "Poetry" [two versions]	1921/1967
T.S. Eliot , <i>The Waste Land</i>	1922
Claude McKay , "If We Must Die"	1922

William Carlos Williams , "The Red Wheelbarrow"; "This Is Just To Say"	1923/1934
Robert Frost , "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening"	1923
HD , "Oread"	1924
F. Scott Fitzgerald , <i>The Great Gatsby</i> (chapters 1 and 2)	1925
Gertrude Stein , "A Completed Portrait of Picasso"	1925
Alain Locke , "The New Negro"	1925
Langston Hughes , "The Weary Blues"; "I, Too"; "Harlem"	1925
e e cummings , "my sweet old etcetera"	1926
Ernest Hemingway , "Hills Like White Elephants"	1927
Hart Crane , "To Brooklyn Bridge"	1930
William Faulkner , "A Rose for Emily"	1930
Zora Neale Hurston , "The Gilded Six-Bits"	1933
Thornton Wilder , <i>Our Town</i> (Act 1)	1938
John Steinbeck , <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> (chapters 1 and 5)	1939
Richard Wright , <i>Native Son</i> (first segment of Book 1 ¹)	1940
Wallace Stevens , "Of Modern Poetry"	1940

Post-War Literature, Postmodernism, Contemporary Works (1945-)

Arthur Miller , <i>Death of a Salesman</i> (Act 1)	1949
Ralph Ellison , <i>Invisible Man</i> (Prologue and chapter 1)	1952
Allen Ginsberg , "Howl"; "America"	1956
Jack Kerouac , <i>On the Road</i> (chapter 1)	1957
Edward Albee , <i>The Zoo Story</i>	1958
James Baldwin , "Everybody's Protest Novel"	1955
John Barth , "Title" (from <i>Lost in the Funhouse</i>)	1963
Amiri Baraka , "Black Art"	1965
Thomas Pynchon , "Entropy"	1960
Gary Snyder , "Riprap"	1965

¹ Until page 42 of the Harper Perennial edition (1998). Ends with "[t]hat was the way he lived; he passed his days trying to defeat or gratify powerful impulses in a world he feared."

Sylvia Plath , "Daddy"; "Lady Lazarus"	1966
Muriel Rukeyser , "The Poem as Mask"	1968
Robert Creeley , "America"	1969
Kurt Vonnegut , <i>Slaughterhouse-Five</i> (chapter 1)	1969
Eric Carle , <i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i>	1969
Adrienne Rich , "Diving into the Wreck"	1973
Alice Walker , "Everyday Use" (from <i>In Love and Trouble</i>)	1973
Maxine Hong Kingston , <i>The Woman Warrior</i> (chapter 5)	1976
Elizabeth Bishop , "One Art"	1976
Audre Lorde , "Power"	1978
Janice Mirikitani , "Breaking Tradition"	1978
John Ashbery , "Paradoxes and Oxymorons"	1981
Joy Harjo , "The Woman Hanging from the Thirteenth Floor Window"	1983
Toni Morrison , "Recitatif"	1983
Sandra Cisneros , <i>The House on Mango Street</i> (from beginning to chapter "Those Who Don't")	1984
Don DeLillo , <i>White Noise</i> (chapters 1-4)	1985
Yusef Komunyakaa , "Facing It"	1988
June Jordan , "Poem About My Rights"	1989
Bret Easton Ellis , <i>American Psycho</i> (chapter 1)	1991
Tony Kushner , <i>Angels in America</i> (part 1)	1991
Leslie Feinberg , <i>Stone Butch Blues</i> (chapters 1 and 2)	1993
Norman Stock , "What I Said"	2002
Ann Lauterbach , "Hum"	2005