



## American Literature – Minor

Topics on the list:

The students are expected to have a general knowledge of the topic – the main characteristics of the period/genre/movement, its impact on the history of American literature, the major authors and works. The two main secondary sources on the topics are listed below.

Authors on the list:

A general knowledge of their position in the context of the history of American literature is expected (not their biography!).

Works on the list:

- a) underlined works must be read in their entirety and detailed knowledge of them is expected.
- b) for the other works, a general knowledge of the content, themes, style and the importance in the context of the history of American Literature is expected.

### Recommended reading on the history of American literature:

Richard Gray. *A Brief History of American Literature*. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

Robert S. Levine, ed. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature 9<sup>th</sup> Edition*, New York and London, W. W. Norton & Company, 2016. (We recommend especially the introductions to major periods and writers.)

### 1. American Romanticism

Edgar Allan Poe: “The Tell-Tale Heart”, “The Fall of the House of Usher”, “The Purloined Letter”, “The Black Cat”

### 2. Transcendentalism

Henry David Thoreau: *Walden, or Life in the Woods*

### 3. Mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century Fiction

Nathaniel Hawthorne: *The Scarlet Letter*

Herman Melville: *Moby Dick*, “Bartleby, the Scrivener”

### 4. African American and Abolitionist Literature in the 19th Century

Harriett Beecher Stowe: *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*

Harriett Jacobs: *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*



## 5. Birth of American Poetry

Walt Whitman: "Song of Myself" sections 1-11 (1881 edition of *Leaves of Grass*)

Emily Dickinson: 1247 To pile like Thunder to its close, 1448 How soft a Caterpillar steps –, 260 (288) I'm Nobody, 764 (754) My Life had stood - a Loaded Gun

## 6. Regionalism, Realism and Naturalism

Mark Twain: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Henry James: *The Portrait of a Lady*

## 7. Early 20th Century Novel

Willa Cather: *My Ántonia*

## 8. American Modernist Poetry

Robert Frost: "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening", "The Road Not Taken"

T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land*

William Carlos Williams: "The Red Wheelbarrow"

Marianne Moore: "A Grave", "Paper Nautilus"

## 9. Lost Generation and Fiction Between the World Wars

F. Scott Fitzgerald: *The Great Gatsby*

Ernest Hemingway: *The Sun Also Rises*, "Hills like White Elephants"

## 10. 20th Century American Drama

Tennessee Williams: *A Streetcar Named Desire*

## 11. 20th Century African American Literature

Zora Neale Hurston: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Tony Morrison: *Beloved*

## 12. American Fiction of the Second Half of the 20th Century

Flannery O'Connor: "A Good Man is Hard to Find" (story only)

Vladimir Nabokov: *Lolita*



Harper Lee: *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Cormac McCarthy: *Child of God*

### **13. American Poetry of the Second Half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

Elizabeth Bishop: “In the Waiting Room”, “One Art”, “At the Fishhouses”

Sylvia Plath: “Morning Song”, “Tulips”, “Daddy”

### **14. Native American Literature of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

Zitkala-Sá: “The School Days of an Indian Girl”

Leslie Marmon Silko: *Ceremony*

### **15. U.S. Minority Literature of the Second Half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

Jhumpa Lahiri: *Interpreter of Maladies*