20th/21st Century American Literature

Below is a chronological list of "canonical" American literary texts published since 1900. The faculty expects students to both study these works and be able to place them within a literary movement, such as Naturalism, Imagism, The Harlem Renaissance, Surrealism, Modernism, Beat Literature, The Theater of the Absurd, The Black Mountain School, Black Humor, or Post-Modernism.

1) Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie* (1900)
2) Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth* (1905)
3) Robert Frost, *North of Boston* (1914)
4) Willa Cather, *My Antonia* (1918)
5) Sherwood Anderson, *Winesburg, Ohio* (1919)
7) William Carlos Williams, *Spring and All* (1922)
8) Wallace Stevens, *Harmonium* (1923)
9) Jean Toomer, *Cane* (1923)
10) F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (1926)
11) Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises* (1926)
13) Ezra Pound, "Cantos I-XXX" (1930)
14) Nathanael West, *Miss Lonelyhearts* (1933)
15) Zora Neale Hurston: "Characteristics of Negro Expression" (1934); *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937)
16) John Steinbeck, *Grapes of Wrath* (1939)
17) Richard Wright, *Native Son* (1940)
19) Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman* (1949)
21) Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (1952)
29) LeRoi Jones/Amiri Baraka: *Dutchman* (1964); "Black Art"; "A Poem for Black Hearts"; "SOS"; "Three Movements and a Coda" (1969)
33) Ishmael Reed, *Mumbo Jumbo* (1972)
36) Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony* (1977)
40) August Wilson, *Fences* (1987)