

## 20<sup>th</sup>/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)
- 6) T[homas] S[tearns] Eliot: "Tradition and the Individual Talent" (1917), *The Waste Land* (1922)
- 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)
- 12) William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury* (1929)
- 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)
- 18) Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947)
- 19) Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman* (1949)
- 20) 1950s Poetry: Allen Ginsberg, *Howl and Other Poems* (1956), Robert Lowell, *Life Studies* (1959)
- 21) Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (1952)
- 22) Vladimir Nabokov, *Lolita* (1955)
- 23) Flannery O'Connor, *A Good Man Is Hard to Find and Other Stories* (1955)
- 24) Eugene O'Neill, *Long Day's Journey into Night* (1956)
- 25) Jack Kerouac, *On the Road* (1957)
- 26) 1960s Poetry: Robert Duncan, *The Opening of the Field* (1960); Robert Creeley, *For Love* (1962); Sylvia Plath, *Ariel* (1966)
- 27) Joseph Heller, *Catch-22* (1961)
- 28) Edward Albee, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (1962)
- 29) LeRoi Jones/Amiri Baraka: *Dutchman* (1964); "Black Art"; "A Poem for Black Hearts"; "SOS"; "Three Movements and a Coda" (1969)
- 30) Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49* (1966)
- 31) John Barth: "The Literature of Exhaustion" (1967), *Lost in the Funhouse* (1968)
- 32) Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse-Five* (1969)

- 33) Ishmael Reed, Mumbo Jumbo (1972)
- 34) 1970s Poetry: Adrienne Rich, Diving into the Wreck (1973); John Ashbery, "Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror" (1975); Elizabeth Bishop, Geography III (1977)
- 35) Maxine Hong Kingston, The Woman Warrior (1976)
- 36) Leslie Marmon Silko, Ceremony (1977)
- 37) Marilynne Robinson, Housekeeping (1980)
- 38) Sandra Cisneros, The House on Mango Street (1984)
- 39) Don DeLillo, White Noise (1985)
- 40) August Wilson, Fences (1987)
- 41) Octavia Butler, Dawn (1987)
- 42) Toni Morrison, Beloved (1987)
- 43) Louise Erdrich, Tracks (1988)
- 44) John Wideman, Philadelphia Fire (1990)
- 45) Tony Kushner, Angels in America (1991)
- 46) Dorothy Allison, Bastard Out of Carolina (1992)
- 47) Richard Powers, Galatea 2.2 (1995)
- 48) Ann Patchett, Bel Canto (2001)
- 49) Paul Auster, The Book of Illusions (2002)
- 50) Cormac McCarthy, The Road (2006)