Ph.D. Orals list—American (1850-1955)

Prose
1. Nathaniel Hawthorne. The Scarlet Letter (1850)
2. Herman Melville. Moby Dick (1851)
3. Harriet Beecher Stowe. Uncle Tom’s Cabin (1852)
4. Henry David Thoreau. Walden (1854)
5. Ralph Waldo Emerson. “Last of the Anti-Slavery Lectures” (1854)
   --- “Thoreau” (1862)
   --- “The Beast in the Jungle” (1903)
7. Mark Twain. Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1884)
9. Kate Chopin. The Awakening (1899)
10. Theodore Dreiser. Sister Carrie (1900)
11. Upton Sinclair. The Jungle (1906)
12. Willa Cather. O Pioneers! (1913)
14. F. Scott Fitzgerald. The Great Gatsby (1925)
15. Ernest Hemingway. The Sun Also Rises (1926)
17. Zora Neale Hurston. Their Eyes Were Watching God (1937)
18. John Steinbeck. The Grapes of Wrath (1940)
19. Richard Wright. Native Son (1940)
21. Flannery O’Connor. A Good Man is Hard to Find (1953-5)
22. Ralph Ellison. Invisible Man (1952)

Poetry
26. Walt Whitman. Leaves of Grass (1855)
27. Emily Dickinson. 49 (“I never lost as much but twice”)
   --- 214 (“I taste a liquor never brewed--”)
   --- 249 (“Wild Nights--Wild Nights!”)
   --- 258 (“There’s a certain slant of light”)
   --- 280 (“I felt a Funeral, in my Brain”)
   --- 303 (“The Soul selects her own Society--”)
   --- 328 (“A Bird came down the Walk”)
   --- 341 (“After great pain, a formal feeling comes--”)
   --- 435 (“Much Madness is divinist Sense--”)
   --- 465 (“I heard a Fly buzz--when I died--”)
   --- 585 (“I like to see it lap the Miles--”)
   --- 632 (“The Brain--is wider than the Sky--”)
   --- 657 (“I dwell in Possibility”)
   --- 712 (“Because I could not stop for Death--”)

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---. 754 (“My Life had stood--a Loaded Gun--”)
---. 986 (“A narrow Fellow in the Grass”)
---. 1129 (“Tell all the Truth but tell it slant”)
---. 1732 (“My life closed twice before its close--”)

   ---. “In the Station of the Metro” (1913, 1916)
   ---. “Hugh Selwyn Mauberly” (1920, 1921)
   ---. Cantos I, XLV, LXXXI, and CXVI

29. Robert Frost. North of Boston (1914)
   “Mending Wall”
   “Death of the Hired Man”
   “Home Burial”
   “After Apple-Picking”

   ---. “The Wasteland” (1922)

31. Wallace Stevens. Harmonium (1923)
   “The Emperor of Ice Cream”
   “The Snow Man”
   “Le Monocle de Mon Oncle”
   “Anecdote of the Jar”
   “Sunday Morning”
   “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird”

32. William Carlos Williams. Spring and All (1923)
   “To Elsie”
   “The Red Wheelbarrow”
   “Spring and All”
   “The Farmer”

   ---. “Captain Carpenter” (1924)
   ---. “Dead Boy” (1927)
   ---. “The Equilibrist” (1927)

34. Hart Crane. “At Melville’s Tomb” (1926)
   ---. “Voyages” (1926)
   ---. “The Broken Tower” (1933)

35. Langston Hughes. The Weary Blues (1926)

36. Allen Tate. “Ode to the Confederate Dead” (1928, 1937)
   ---. “The Swimmers” (1953)

   “Poetry”
   “The Fish”
   “Marriage”
   “An Octopus”
   “To a Steam Roller”

   ---. “Original Sin” (1942)
   ---. “The Ballad of Billie Potts” (1943)
39. Elizabeth Bishop. *North and South* (1946)
   “The Map”
   “The Man-Moth”
   “The Monument”
   “The Fish”

   “The Quaker Graveyard in Nantucket”
   “After the Surprising Conversions”
   “Mr. Edwards and the Spider”
   “At the Indian Killer’s Grave”

**Criticism**