

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)
6. Henry James. "Daisy Miller: A Study" (1878)
---. "The Beast in the Jungle" (1903)
7. Mark Twain. *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884)
8. Charlotte Perkins Gilman. "The Yellow Wallpaper" (1892)
9. Kate Chopin. *The Awakening* (1899)
10. Theodore Dreiser. *Sister Carrie* (1900)
11. Upton Sinclair. *The Jungle* (1906)
12. Willa Cather. *O Pioneers!* (1913)
13. Sherwood Anderson. *Winesburg, Ohio* (1919)
14. F. Scott Fitzgerald. *The Great Gatsby* (1925)
15. Ernest Hemingway. *The Sun Also Rises* (1926)
16. William Faulkner. *The Sound and the Fury* (1929)
17. Zora Neale Hurston. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937)
18. John Steinbeck. *The Grapes of Wrath* (1940)
19. Richard Wright. *Native Son* (1940)
20. Tennessee Williams. *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947)
21. Flannery O'Connor. *A Good Man is Hard to Find* (1953-5)
22. Ralph Ellison. *Invisible Man* (1952)
23. Arthur Miller. *The Crucible* (1953)
24. Vladimir Nabokov. *Lolita* (1955)
25. Eugene O'Neill. *Long Day's Journey Into Night* (1955)

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 divinest 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--")

- . 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--”)
- 28. Ezra Pound. “Portrait d’une Femme” (1912)
 - . “In the Station of the Metro” (1913, 1916)
 - . “A Pact” (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”
- 30. T.S. Eliot. “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (1917)
 - . “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”
- 33. John Crowe Ransom. “Bells for John Whiteside’s Daughter” (1924)
 - . “Captain Carpenter” (1924)
 - . “Dead Boy” (1927)
 - . “The Equilibrists” (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)
- 37. Marianne Moore. *Selected Poems* (1935)
 - “Poetry”
 - “The Fish”
 - “Marriage”
 - “An Octopus”
 - “To a Steam Roller”
- 38. Robert Penn Warren. “Bearded Oaks” (1942)
 - . “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”

40. Robert Lowell. *Lord Weary's Castle* (1947)

“The Quaker Graveyard in Nantucket”

“After the Surprising Conversions”

“Mr. Edwards and the Spider”

“At the Indian Killer's Grave”

Criticism

1. F.O. Matthiessen. *American Renaissance: Art and Expression in the Age of Emerson and Whitman* (1941)
2. Leslie Fielder. *Love and Death in the American Novel* (1960)
3. Jane Tompkins. *Sensational Designs: The Cultural Work of American Fiction, 1790-1860* (1985)
4. Cary Nelson. *Repression and Recovery: Modern American Poetry and the Politics of Cultural Memory, 1910-1945* (1989)
5. Toni Morrison. *Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination* (1992)
6. Walter Benn Michaels. *Our America: Nativism, Modernism, and Pluralism* (1995)