

B.A. FINAL EXAM IN AMERICAN LITERATURE / CUMULATIVE EXAM IN AMERICAN LIT.

Rules for B.A. Examinations

The questions in the oral part of the B.A. and Intermediate exams will be asked on the basis of the student's reading list. To help you with reading a model list has been compiled which orientates you both in *The Norton Anthology*, and in choosing other books. To obtain individual texts, consult first *The Norton Anthology* (referred to in the list as "N"), which includes a majority of them. If the title is not specified, read the selection of texts in *The Norton Anthology*. Students are encouraged to include all other relevant works of American literature they have read. Individual reading lists do not have to be identical with sections of the list given below, but they must correspond to them in terms of quantity, range of reading, and historical as well as aesthetic importance of selected texts.

Cumulative Exam in American Literature

The student will be examined in two of the five historical periods on the reading list; the choice of periods is at the student's discretion. Students must submit a reading list. Students are given one question per selected period. The questions are relatively general (For example, Situate and discuss writings by Henry James and Edith Wharton within artistic realism and early modernism).

Reading list:

1. Beginnings to 1800

- Anne Bradstreet, poems N
- Edward Taylor, poems N
- Cotton Mather, from *The Wonders of the Invisible World* N
- Jonathan Edwards, *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God; Images or Shadows of Divine Things* N
- Benjamin Franklin, *The Autobiography* N
- J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur, from *The Letters from an American Farmer* N
- Thomas Paine, *Common Sense, The Crisis* N
- Thomas Jefferson, *The Declaration of Independence* N
- *The Federalist* # 1, 10 N
- One earlier American poet (Freneau, Barlow, Bryant, Wheatley) N

2. 1800–1865

- Washington Irving, "Rip van Winkle," N; "The Legend of a Sleepy Hollow" N
- Edgar Allan Poe, "The Raven" N; Tales: "The Fall of the House of Usher", "William Wilson", "The Purloined Letter", "The Black Cat", "The Cask of Amontillado", "Ligeia" N; Essay: "The Philosophy of Composition" N
- Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Nature; The American Scholar; "Self-reliance"; "The Divinity School Address"; "The Over-Soul"; "Experience"* poems N
- Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*
- Henry David Thoreau, "Resistance to Civil Government" N; "Life without Principle" N; *Walden, or Life in the Woods* N
- Nathaniel Hawthorne, tales N; *The Scarlet Letter* N
- Herman Melville, "Hawthorne and His Mosses" N; "Bartleby the Scrivener" or "Benito Cereno" N; *Moby Dick*
- Walt Whitman, from *Leaves of Grass* N
- Emily Dickinson, poems N

3. 1865–1917

- Samuel Langhorne Clemens, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* N
- Henry James, "The Real Thing" **OR** "The Beast in the Jungle" N; *The American* N **OR** *The Portrait of a Lady* **OR** *Washington Square; "The Art of Fiction"* N
- Stephen Crane, *The Red Badge of Courage; "The Open Boat"* **OR** "Blue Hotel" N

- Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper” N
- Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth* **OR** *The Age of Innocence*
- Booker T. Washington, selection from *Up From Slavery*
- Zitkala-Sá, “An Indian Teacher Among Indians” N
- Henry Adams, from *The Education of Henry Adams* N
- Kate Chopin, *The Awakening* N
- Willa Cather, *O, Pioneers!*
- W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, Chapters 1-4, 13-14, <http://etext.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/DubSoul.html>
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton, “The Solitude of Self”

4. 1918–1945

- Robert Frost, poems N
- Ezra Pound, poems (including Norton selection of *The Cantos*)
- William Carlos Williams, poems N
- Wallace Stevens, poems N
- Marianne Moore, selection
- Hart Crane, Norton selection from *The Bridge* N
- T.S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”; *The Waste Land*
- F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
- Ernest Hemingway, *A Farewell to Arms* **OR** *The Sun Also Rises*; a selection of short stories
- Eugene O’Neill, *The Hairy Ape* **OR** *Desire Under the Elms* **OR** *Mourning Becomes Electra* **OR** *Long Day’s Journey into Night* N
- Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
- William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury* **OR** *As I Lay Dying* N

5. 1945–2020

- Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman* N
- Edward Albee, *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* **OR** *Zoo Story*
- Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire* N
- Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun*
- Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*
- Sylvia Plath **OR** John Berryman, poems N
- Robert Lowell, poems N
- Elizabeth Bishop, poems N
- Vladimir Nabokov, *Lolita*
- James Baldwin, from *The Fire Next Time* N
- Flannery O’Connor, stories **OR** Eudora Welty, stories N
- John Ashbery **OR** James Merrill, poems N
- Jack Kerouac, *On the Road*
- Bernard Malamud, one novel **OR** the book of short stories *The Magic Barrel* **OR** Philip Roth, one novel **OR** Saul Bellow, one novel
- Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*
- Toni Morrison, *Beloved* **OR** Alice Walker, *Color Purple*
- Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*
- Elmore Leonard, *Tishomingo Blues*
- David Foster Wallace, *A Supposedly Fun Thing I’ll Never Do Again* **OR** *Consider the Lobster and Other Essays*
- David Mamet, *The Duck Variations* **OR** *Sexual Perversity in Chicago* **OR** *Glengarry Glen Ross* **OR** *Speed-the-Plow*
- Terrance Hayes, 5 poems from *American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin* **AND/OR** from *Lighthouse*