

Reading List: North American Studies (Uni Siegen)

May 2026

Exploration and Settlement

Christopher Columbus, "Letter of Christopher Columbus on His First Voyage to America" (1492)

Bartolomé de las Casas, *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies* (1552)

Sir Walter Raleigh, *The Discovery of Guiana* (1595)

John Smith, *A Description of Virginia* (1612)

Puritanism to the Revolution

John Winthrop, "A Model of Christian Charity" (1630)

John Cotton, *Gods Promise to His Plantations* (1630)

Thomas Shepard, *The Autobiography of Thomas Shepard* (1646/1832)

Anne Bradstreet, *The Tenth Muse, Lately Sprung Up in America* (1650)

Mary Rowlandson, *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson* (1682)

Cotton Mather, "A Narrative of Hannah Dustan's Notable Deliverance from Captivity" (1697)

Sarah Kemble Knight, *The Private Journal of a Journey from Boston to New York* (1705)

Jonathan Edwards, *Personal Narrative* (c. 1740s)

Samson Occom, *A Short Narrative of My Life* (1768)

Samson Occom, *A Sermon Preached by Samson Occom ... at the Execution of Moses Paul, an Indian* (1772)

Benjamin Franklin, *The Autobiography* (1771-1790)

Phillis Wheatley, "On Being Brought from Africa to America"

Phillis Wheatley, "To the University of Cambridge, in New England" (1773)

Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* (1776)

Thomas Jefferson, *The Declaration of Independence* (1776)

Philip Freneau, "The Wild Honey Suckle" (1786)

Philip Freneau, "The Indian Burying Ground" (1788)

Royall Tyler, *The Contrast* (1787)

Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, Or Gustavus Vassa, The African* (1789)

Judith Sargent Murray, "On the Equality of the Sexes" (1790)

Early Republic to the Civil War

Susanna Rowson, *Charlotte Temple* (1791)

Hannah Webster Foster, *The Coquette* (1797)

Charles Brockden Brown, *Wieland* (1798)

Washington Irving, “Rip van Winkle” (1819)

James E. Seaver, *A Narrative of the Life of Mrs. Mary Jemison* (1824)

James Fenimore Cooper, *Notions of the Americans* (1828)

William Apess, “An Indian’s Looking Glass for the White Man” (1833)

Ralph Waldo Emerson, “The American Scholar” (1837)

Edgar Allan Poe, “The Fall of the House of Usher” (1839)

Edgar Allan Poe, “The Raven” (1845)

Margaret Fuller, *Four Kinds of Equality* (1843)

Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1845)

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, *Declaration of Sentiments at Seneca Falls* (1848)

Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter* (1850)

Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick or, The Whale* (1851)

Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin, or Life Among the Lowly* (1852)

Fanny Fern, *Ruth Hall* (1854)

Henry David Thoreau, *Walden, or Life in the Woods* (1854)

Walt Whitman, “Song of Myself” (1855)

Emily Dickinson, poems no. 130 (“These are the days”), 216 (“Safe in their Alabaster Chambers”), 280 (“I felt a Funeral”), 303 (“The Soul Selects Her Own Society”), 341 (“After great pain”), 465 (“I heard a Fly buzz”), 712 (“Because I could not stop for Death”), 1129 (“Tell all the Truth”) (c. 1859)

Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861)

Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women* (1868)

Realism and Naturalism

Henry James, *Daisy Miller* (1878)

Mark Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884/1885)

William Dean Howells, *The Rise of Silas Lapham* (1885)

Frances E.W. Harper, *Iola Leroy, or Shadows Uplifted* (1892)

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper” (1892)

Kate Chopin, *The Awakening* (1899)
Ida B. Wells, “Lynch Law in America” (1900)
Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie* (1900)
W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903)

Modernism

Ezra Pound, “In a Station of the Metro” (1913/1916)
H.D., “Oread” (1914)
Gertrude Stein, *Tender Buttons* (1914)
T.S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (1915/1917)
Susan Glaspell, *Trifles* (1916)
Marianne Moore, “Black Earth” (1919)
Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence* (1920)
Eugene O’Neill, *Emperor Jones* (1921)
Wallace Stevens, “Anecdote of the Jar” (1923)
Langston Hughes, “The Negro Speaks of Rivers” (1921/1926)
Ernest Hemingway, “Indian Camp” (1924)
Ernest Hemingway, “Hills Like White Elephants” (1927)
F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (1925)
John Dos Passos: *Manhattan Transfer* (1925)
Alain Locke, “Enter the New Negro” (1925)
Zora Neale Hurston, “How It Feels to Be Colored Me” (1928)
William Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily” (1930)
William Carlos Williams, “This Is Just to Say” (1934)
William Carlos Williams, *Paterson* (1946)
Richard Wright, *Native Son* (1940)
Eudora Welty, “Why I Live at the P.O.” (1941)

Postwar Period and Postmodernism

Anne Petry, *The Street* (1946)
Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947)
Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman* (1949)
Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (1952)

James Baldwin, *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (1953)
Allen Ginsberg, “Howl” (1956)
Jack Kerouac, *One the Road* (1957)
Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun* (1959)
John Updike, *Rabbit, Run* (1960)
Edward Albee, *Who Is Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (1962)
Sylvia Plath, “Lady Lazarus” (1962/1966)
Richard Yates, *Revolutionary Road* (1962)
Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique* (1963)
Malcolm X, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* (1965)
Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49* (1965)
Truman Capote, *In Cold Blood* (1966)
Amiri Baraka, “A Poem Some People Will Have to Understand” (1969)
Philip Roth, *Portnoy’s Complaint* (1969)
Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse Five* (1969)
Ishmael Reed, *Mumbo Jumbo* (1972)
Ishmael Reed, *Flight to Canada* (1976)
Michael Ondaatje, *Coming Through Slaughter* (1976)
Michael Ondaatje, *The English Patient* (1992)
Audre Lorde, “Coal” (1976)
Octavia Butler, *Kindred* (1979)
Paul Auster, *City of Glass* (1985)
Lynne Tillman, *Weird Fucks* (1980)
Alice Walker, *The Color Purple* (1982)
Sandra Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street* (1983)
Sandra Cisneros, “Woman Hollering Creek” (1991)
David Mamet, *Glengarry Glen Ross* (1983)
Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid’s Tale* (1985)
Art Spiegelman, *The Complete Maus* (1986/1991)
Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (1987)
Louise Erdrich, *Tracks* (1988)
Diane Di Prima, “Song for Baby-O, Unborn” (1990)
Bret Easton Ellis, *American Psycho* (1991)
Lois Lowry, *The Giver* (1993)

Sherman Alexie, “This Is What It Means to Say Phoenix, Arizona” (1993)

Suzan-Lori Parks, “Venus” (1996)

Junot Diaz, *Drown* (1996)

Jhumpa Lahiri, *Interpreter of Maladies* (1999)

The Twenty-First Century

Yann Martel, *Life of Pi* (2001)

Lynda Barry, *One Hundred Demons* (2002)

Jonathan Safran Foer, *Everything Is Illuminated* (2002)

Jonathan Safran Foer, *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* (2005)

Jhumpa Lahiri, *The Namesake* (2003)

Jhumpa Lahiri, *The Lowland* (2013)

Deborah Eisenberg, *Twilight of the Superheroes* (2006)

Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home: A Tragicomic* (2006)

Gene Luen Yang, *American Born Chinese* (2006)

Cormac McCarthy, *The Road* (2006)

Mohsin Hamid, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* (2007)

David Henry Hwang, *Yellow Face* (2007)

Junot Díaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (2007)

David Foster Wallace, “Good People” (2007)

Don DeLillo, *Falling Man* (2007)

Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games* (2008)

Jennifer Egan, *A Visit from the Good Squad* (2010)

Teju Cole, *Open City* (2011)

Claudia Rankine, *Citizen: An American Lyric* (2014)

Ta-Nehisi Coates, “The Case for Reparations” (2014)

Roxane Gay, *Bad Feminist* (2014)

Lin-Manuel Miranda, *Hamilton* (2015)

Viet Thanh Nguyen, *The Sympathizer* (2015)

Lynn Nottage, *Sweat* (2015)

Yaa Gyasi, *Homegoing* (2016)

Ocean Vuong, *Night Sky with Exit Wounds* (2016)

Colson Whitehead, *The Underground Railroad* (2016)

Emil Ferris, *My Favorite Thing Is Monsters I* (2017)

Layli Long Soldier, *Whereas* (2017)
Jesmyn Ward, *Sing, Unburied, Sing* (2017)
Kristen Roupenian, "Cat Person" (2017)
Carmen Maria Machado, *Her Body and Other Parties* (2017)
Carmen Maria Machado, *In the Dream House* (2019)
Richard Powers, *The Overstory* (2018)
Tommy Orange, *There, There* (2018)
Ottessa Moshfegh, *My Year of Rest and Relaxation* (2018)
Ling Ma, *Severance* (2018)
Ta-Nehisi Coates, *The Water Dancer* (2019)
Ebony Flowers, *Hot Comb* (2019)
Will Arbery, *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* (2019)
Lauren Oyler, *Fake Accounts* (2021)
Ada Limon, *The Hurting Kind* (2022)
Hernan Diaz, *Trust* (2022)
R.F. Kuang, *Yellowface* (2023)
Percival Everett, *James* (2024)

Erstellt von Maxi Albrecht, Marcel Hartwig, Daniel Stein