

Key Readings in American Studies 2019/2020

Reading list for the MA Exam in 2021

PRACTICALITIES

All readings are available in a shared Google Drive folder at <https://is.gd/hbf9xH> . If you have trouble accessing the files, contact any of the instructors, but the link has been double checked as working. You do not need to be logged into your Google account or even have one to access the readings.

CLUSTER: CULTURE

INSTRUCTOR: AGNIESZKA GRAFF

CLASS 1

- Ralph Ellison, “What America Would Be Like Without Blacks” (1970), in *Black on White. Black Writers on What It Means to Be White*, edited by David R. Roediger, New York: Random House, 1998, 160-67
- Michael Omi and Howard Winant, “Racial Formations” (1994), *Rethinking the Color Line. Readings in Race and Ethnicity*, edited by Charles Gallagher, McGraw Hill, 2003, pp. 9-17.

CLASS 2

- Frederic Jameson, “The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism” (1991), in *American Literature, American Culture*, edited by Gordon Hutner, Oxford University Press: New York, 1999, pp. 573-584.

CLASS 3

- Susan Sontag, “Notes on Camp” (1964), in *Against Interpretation and Other Essays*, Penguin: London, 2009, pp. 275-292
- Jack Babuscio, “The Cinema of Camp. AKA Camp and the Gay Sensibility” (1977), in: *Camp: Queer Aesthetic and the Performing Subject*, edited by Fabio Cleto, University of Michigan Press: Ann Arbor, 1999, pp. 117-136.

CLUSTER: HISTORY
INSTRUCTOR: WILLIAM GLASS

CLASS 1

- John Winthrop, Arabella sermon ("City on a hill")
https://www.winthropsociety.com/doc_charity.php
- Perry Miller, "Errand in the Wilderness," <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2936876>

CLASS 2

- Edmund Morgan, "Slavery and Freedom: An American Paradox," all,
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1888384>
- David Walker, Appeal, Preamble,
<http://utc.iath.virginia.edu/abolitn/abesdwa3t.html>

CLASS 3

- Mary Rowlandson, *Narrative of the Captivity*, Intro, 1st, 2nd, and 20th Removes
http://www.gutenberg.org/files/851/851-h/851-h.htm#link2H_4_0020
 - James Axtell, "Colonial America without the Indians,"
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1904058>
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CLUSTER: LITERATURE
INSTRUCTOR: KRISTYNA MAZUR

CLASS 1

- Toni Morrison, "Black Matters," *Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination*, Harvard University Press: Cambridge, MA, 1992, pp. 1-28.

CLASS 2

- Gloria Anzaldua, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* (Chapters 1, 2, 5, 7)
Aunt Lute Books: San Francisco, 1987, pp. 1-24, 53-64, 77-86.

CLASS 3

- Judith Butler, "Imitation and Gender Insubordination," *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*, Routledge: New York, 1993, pp. 307-320.
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CLUSTER: POLITICS

INSTRUCTOR: CLIFFORD ANGELL BATES, JR.

CLASS 1

- Robert A. Dahl, "Polyarchy, pluralism, and scale," *Scandinavian Political Studies* 7.4 (1984), pp. 225-240.
- Robert A. Dahl, "Pluralism Revisited," *Comparative Politics* 10.2 (Jan., 1978), pp. 191-203.
- Seymour Martin Lipset, "Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy," *The American Political Science Review* 53.1 (Mar., 1959), pp. 69-105

CLASS 2

- Robert D. Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital," *Journal of Democracy* 6.1 (1995), pp. 65-78
- Robert D. Putnam, "Tuning in, tuning out: The strange disappearance of social capital in America," *PS: Political Science & Politics* 28.4 (Dec 1995): 664-683
- Francis Fukuyama, "Social capital, civil society and development," *Third World Quarterly* 22. 1 (2001), pp 7- 20.

CLASS 3

- Samuel Huntington "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* 72.3 (1993), pp. 22-49.
- Robert D. Putnam, "E Pluribus Unum: Diversity and Community in the Twenty-first Century," *Scandinavian Political Studies* 30.2 (2007), pp. 137-174.
- Samuel Huntington, "Democracy Third Wave," *Journal of Democracy* 2.2 (1991), pp. 12-34

CLUSTER: SOCIETY

INSTRUCTOR: MAŁGORZATA DURSKA

CLASS 1

- F. Carson Mencken, Paul Froese "Gun Culture in Action," *Social Problems* 66. 1, February 2019, pp 3-27 (Important: 17 pages of actual reading)
- Kim Parker, Juliana Menasce Horowitz, Ruth Igielnik, J. Baxter Oliphant, Anna Brown "America's Complex Relationship With Guns: An in-depth look at the attitudes and experiences of U.S. adults
<https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2017/06/22/americas-complex-relationship-with-guns/>
- an interactive graph Public Views About Guns <https://www.people-press.org/2017/06/22/public-views-about-guns/#gunowners>

CLASS 2

- Alexander, Michelle *The New Jim Crow. Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, New Press: New York, 2011: Introduction and Chapter 1.

CLASS 3

- Arlie Russell Hochschild *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right*, New Press: New York, 2016: Preface pp. ix-xii + Chapter 1, pp. 3-23
- J. D. Vance *Hillbilly Elegy. A memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*, Harper Collins: New York, 2016: Introduction pp. 1-9 + Chapter 11, pp. 188-195