

Jeanetta Calhoun Mish  
Final Draft of American Studies Reading List  
**American Literature from 1930-Present**  
7 March 2006

*Primary Texts*

**Fiction**

1. Edward Dahlberg  
*Bottom Dogs* (1930)
2. William Faulkner  
*The Sound and the Fury* (1929)
3. Jack Conroy  
*The Disinherited* (1933/63)
4. Henry Roth  
*Call It Sleep* (1934)
5. Hicks, North, & Gold, eds.  
*Proletarian Literature in the United States* (1935)
6. Ernest Hemingway  
*To Have and Have Not* (1937)
7. Zora Neale Hurston  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937)
8. John Dos Passos  
*U.S.A.* (1938)
9. John Steinbeck (1902-1969)  
*The Grapes of Wrath* (1939)
10. Meridel Le Sueur  
*The Girl* (1939/1978)
11. Pietro DiDonato  
*Christ in Concrete* (1941)
12. Richard Wright  
*Black Boy* (1945)
13. Eudora Welty

- The Golden Apples* (1949)
14. Ralph Ellison  
*The Invisible Man* (1952)
  15. Erskine Caldwell  
*Tobacco Road* (1959)
  16. Ken Kesey  
*Sometimes a Great Notion* (1965)
  17. Tomás Rivera  
*Y no se lo trago la tierra/and the Earth did not Devour Him* (1971)
  18. Rudolfo Anaya  
*Bless Me, Ultima* (1972)
  19. Tillie Olson  
*Yonnodio: From the Thirties* (1974)
  20. Maxine Hong Kingston  
*The Woman Warrior* (1976)
  21. John Sayles  
*Union Dues* (1977)
  22. Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.  
*Jailbird* (1979)
  23. Simon Ortiz, Ed.  
*Earth Power Coming* (1983)
  24. Russell Banks  
*Continental Drift* (1985)
  25. Denise Chavez  
*The Last of the Menu Girls* (1986)
  26. Toni Morrison  
*Beloved* (1987)
  27. Carolyn Chute  
*Letourneau's Used Auto Parts* (1988)
  28. Bobbi Ann Mason  
*In Country* (1989)

29. Greg Sarris  
*Watermelon Nights* (1992)
30. Leslie Marmon Silko  
*Almanac of the Dead* (1992)
31. Dorothy Allison  
*Bastard Out of Carolina* (1992)
32. Sandra Cisneros  
*Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories* (1993)
33. Sherman Alexie  
*Reservation Blues* (1996)
34. Craig Womack  
*Drowning in Fire* (2002)

### **Poetry**

35. The following poets' representative work in *Modern American Poetry*, edited by Cary Nelson (2000)

Wallace Stevens (1879-1955)  
William Carlos Williams (1883-1963)  
T. S. Eliot (1888-1965)  
e. e. cummings (1894-1962)  
Hart Crane (1899-1932)  
Langston Hughes (1902-1967)  
Elizabeth Bishop (1911-1979)  
Thomas McGrath (1916-1990)  
Allen Ginsberg (1926-1997)  
W.S. Merwin (  
James Wright (1927-1980)  
Robert Hayden (1913-1980)  
Jimmy Santiago Baca (1952)  
Sherman Alexie (1966—)  
Anita Endrezze (1952—)  
Martin Espada (1957—)  
Theodor Roethke (1908-1963)  
John Berryman (1914-1972)  
Gary Snyder (1930—)  
Susan Howe (1937—)  
Ana Castillo (1953—)

Yusef Komunyakaa (1947—)  
Frank O'Hara (1926-1966)

36. The following poets' representative work from *No More Masks! (Revised and Expanded)* 1993

Lola Ridge (1873-1941)  
Marianne Moore (1887-1972)  
Genevieve Taggard (1894-1948)  
Lorine Niedecker (pub 1928-1965)  
Muriel Rukeyser (1913-1980)  
Gwendolyn Brooks (1917-2000)  
Naomi Replansky (1918-)  
Denise Levertov (1923-1997)  
Anne Sexton (1928-1974)  
Adrienne Rich (1929—)  
Sylvia Plath (1932-1963)  
Audre Lorde (1934-1993)  
Sonia Sanchez (1934—)  
Lucille Clifton (1936—)  
June Jordan (1936-\*)  
Marge Piercy (1936—)  
Judy Grahn (1940—)  
Sandra McPherson (1943—)  
Sharon Doubiago (1946—)  
Carolyn Forché (1950—)  
Joy Harjo (1951)  
Rita Dove (1952—)  
Lorna Dee Cervantes (1954)

### ***Secondary Texts***

37. Denning, Michael. Cultural Front: The Laboring of American Culture in the Twentieth Century. Verso, 1998.

----. "Introduction." Mechanic Accents: Dime Novels and Working-Class Culture in America. New York: Verso, 1998.

38. Rasula, Jed. The American Poetry Wax Museum: Reality Effects 1940-1990. Urbana, IL: NCTE, 1996.

39. La Capra, Dominick, Ed. The Bounds of Race: Perspectives on Hegemony and Resistance. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1991. (Selections).

40. Hapke, Laura. Labor's Text: The Worker in American Fiction. New Brunswick: Rutgers UP, 2001.
41. Womack, Craig. Red on Red: Native American Literary Separatism. Minneapolis: U of Minn P, 1999.
42. Nelson, Cary. Repression and Recovery: Modern American Poetry and The Politics of Cultural Memory, 1910-1945.
43. Warrior, Robert. Tribal Secrets: Recovering American Indian Intellectual Traditions. Minneapolis: U of Minn P, 1994.
44. Aranda, José, Jr. When We Arrive: A New Literary History of Mexican America. Tuscon: U of Arizona P., 2003.
45. Zandy, Janet. Hands: Physical Labor, Class, And Cultural Work. New Brunswick: Rutgers UP, 2004.
46. Kaplan, Amy and Donald E. Pease, Eds. Cultures of United States Imperialism. Durham, NC: Duke UP, 1994. (Selections).
47. Markels, Julian. The Marxian Imagination: Representing Class in Literature. New York: Monthly Review Press, 2003.
48. Wray, Matt and Annalee Newitz, Eds. White Trash: Race and Class in America. New York: Routledge, 1996. (Selections).
49. *Selected Essays in Working Class Literature:*
- Lauter, Paul. "Under Construction: Working-Class Writing." *New Working-Class Studies*. John Russo and Sherry Lee Linkon, eds. Ithaca, NY: Cornell UP, 2005.
- . "Caste, Class, and Canon." *Feminisms*. Ed. Robyn R. Warhol and Diane Price Herndl. New Brunswick: Rutgers UP, 1997. 129-150.
- . "Working Class Women's Literature: An Introduction to Study." *Politics of Education: Essays From Radical Teacher*. Ed. Susan Gushee O'Malley. Albany, NY: SUNY P, 1990. 110-141.
- Christopher, Renny, and Carolyn Whitson. "Toward a Theory of Working Class Literature." *The NEA Higher Education Thought & Action Journal*. (Spring 1999): 71-81. <<http://www.nea.org/he/heta99/s99p71.pdf>>.
- Grieco, Peter J. "Swirling Voices: Considerations of Working-class Poetic Property." *Journal of American Studies of Turkey*. 2 (1995): 73-79. 7 November 2002. <<http://www.bilkent.edu.tr/~jast/Number2/Grieco.html>>.

50. *More selected essays in Working Class Literature*

Hitchcock, Peter. "They Must Be Represented? Problems in Theories of Working-Class Representation." *PMLA*. 115 (Jan 2000): 20-32.

Jim Daniels. "Work Poetry and Working-Class Poetry: The Zip Code of the Heart." *New Working-Class Studies*. John Russo and Sherry Lee Linkon, eds. Ithaca, NY: Cornell UP, 2005

Rosenbaum, Lew. "What is Working Class Literature?" *Plain Text at the E-Poets Network*. Website. 26 July 2002. 4 February 2005. <[www.e-poets.net/PlainText/page02-001.shtml](http://www.e-poets.net/PlainText/page02-001.shtml)>.

Zandy, Janet. "The Complexities and Contradictions of Working-Class Women's Writings." *Radical Teacher*. 5.8 (1995): n.p. *Contemporary Women's Issues*. Gale Group. U of OK Lib., 3 March 2004. <[www.galegroup.com](http://www.galegroup.com)>.