

**University of Fribourg**

**BA Oral Exam Reading List**     March 2016 / March 2019

This list will be our basis for discussion if you choose to meet the "Capstone Experience" Module with the Comprehensive Oral Exam.

Consult with your advisor at least three months before you take the oral exam.

Substitutions in all categories are permitted by agreement with the examiner.

Choose 3 out of the following list of **Novels**:

- Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*
- Mark Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
- F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* or *Tender is the Night*
- Willa Cather, *O Pioneers!* or *My Antonia*
- William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*
- Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*
- Toni Morrison, *Beloved*
- Louise Erdrich, one novel of your choice

Obligatory **Shorter Fiction** (all 11, but substitutions permitted by agreement):

- Herman Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener"
- Edgar Allan Poe, "The Black Cat" or another story of your choice
- Henry James, "Daisy Miller"
- Edith Wharton, "Roman Fever" or "Xingu" or "Autres Temps..."
- Ernest Hemingway, "Cat in the Rain" or "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place" or another of your choice
- Katherine Anne Porter, "Flowering Judas" or Eudora Welty, "The Wide Net"
- Kate Chopin, "Désirée's Baby"
- Richard Wright, "The Man Who Was almost a Man" or James Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues"
- William Faulkner, "Barn Burning" or John Steinbeck, a story of your choice
- John Cheever, "The Swimmer" or John Updike, "The Happiest I Have Been"
- A representative story by Jhumpa Lahiri or Leslie Marmon Silko or Sandra Cisneros or Sherman Alexie

**Play:**

- One play by Eugene O'Neill or by Tennessee Williams or by Arthur Miller or by August Wilson  
– or a proposal made by you

Choose 3 of the following **Essays or non-fiction prose texts**:

- Thomas Jefferson, "The Declaration of Independence"

- Ralph Waldo Emerson, "The American Scholar" or *Nature* (1836) or two shorter essays to be agreed upon
- Henry David Thoreau, "Civil Disobedience"
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "Declaration of Sentiments"
- Booker T. Washington, *Up from Slavery*, chapters 1, 2, 3, 14
- W.E.B. DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, "Forethought," chapters 1 and 3
- Martin Luther King, Jr. "Letter from Birmingham Jail"
- An essay by James Baldwin, Joan Didion, or Susan Sontag

#### Poems:

- Choose **one poet from each of the following six** categories and read a representative selection of each of your chosen poet's works. Submit a list of poems to me before the exam.
  - Anne Bradstreet, Edward Taylor, Philip Freneau, or Phyllis Wheatley
  - Walt Whitman or Emily Dickinson
  - Edgar Lee Masters or Edwin Arlington Robinson or Robert Frost
  - Wallace Stevens or William Carlos Williams or Marianne Moore or Ezra Pound or T.S. Eliot
  - Jean Toomer or Langston Hughes or Countee Cullen
  - Elizabeth Bishop or Robert Lowell or John Berryman or Gwendolyn Brooks or Anne Sexton