

Multiethnic American Literature

Description: This part of the exam focuses on multiethnic American literature.

Selected works of significant authors from such groups as African Americans, European Americans, Asian Americans, Chicanos, Latinos and American Indians are included to reflect key issues, themes, trends and patterns relating to the study of race and ethnicity.

Readings:

Phillis Wheatley,	<i>Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral</i>
Olaudah Equiano,	<i>Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano</i>
Early American autobiographies:	
Jupiter Hammon,	“A Narrative of the Uncommon Sufferings and Surprising Deliverance,”
Samson Occom,	“A Short Narrative of My Life,”
William Apess,	<i>Son of the Forest</i>
Harriet Jacobs,	<i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i>
Frederick Douglass,	<i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i>
Sarah Winnemucca,	<i>Life Among the Piutes</i>
Frances Ellen Watkins Harper,	<i>Poems on Miscellaneous Subjects</i>
Paul Laurence Dunbar,	<i>Majors and Minors</i>
Abraham Cahan,	<i>Yekyl: A Tale of the New York Ghetto</i>
W.E.B. DuBois,	<i>The Souls of Black Folk</i>
Harlem Renaissance: (Poem selections in Penguin Portable Harlem Renaissance)	
Langston Hughes,	
Countee Cullen,	
Claude McKay	
Sui-Sin Far,	“Leaves from the Mental Portfolio of a Eurasian,” “Mrs. Spring Fragrance”
Jean Toomer,	<i>Cane</i>
Zora Neale Hurston,	<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>
Anzia Yeziarska,	<i>Bread Givers</i>
Nella Larsen,	<i>Passing or Quicksand</i>
Ralph Ellison,	<i>Invisible Man</i>
James Baldwin,	<i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i> and <i>Giovanni's Room</i>
Lorraine Hansberry,	<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>
Leslie Marmon Silko,	<i>Ceremony</i>

Maxine Hong Kingston,
Toni Morrison,
Art Spiegelman,
David Henry Hwang,
August Wilson,
Junot Diaz,
Sandra Cisneros,
Arturo Islas,
Luis Valdez,
Viet Thanh Nguyen,
Jhumpa Lahiri,
Louise Erdrich,
Sherman Alexie,
Cristina Garcia,

Woman Warrior or China Men or Tripmaster Monkey
Beloved
Maus I and II
M. Butterfly
Fences
Drown or The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao
House on Mango Street or Carmelo
The Rain God
Zoot Suit
The Sympathizer
The Interpreter of Maladies
Love Medicine or Tracks
The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven
Dreaming in Cuban

Sample questions:

1. According to W.E.B. Du Bois, “the problem of the twentieth century [was] the problem of the color-line.” The color-line manifested politically, socially, culturally, and poetically. Discussing three works from the list, write an essay that makes a specific argument about literary manifestations of the color-line.
2. If America is framed as a nation of immigrants and American literature as an immigrant literature, do/how do native American and African-American literature fit into this framework? Critically examine this question using three works from the list.

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