

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME IN ENGLISH

Paper 6: American Literature

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| 1. | Nathaniel Hawthorne | <i>The House of the Seven Gables</i> |
| 2. | Toni Morrison | <i>Beloved</i> |
| 3. | Edgar Allan Poe | 'The Purloined Letter' |
| | F. Scott Fitzgerald | 'The Crack-up' |
| | William Faulkner | 'Dry September' |
| 4. | Anne Bradstreet | 'The Prologue' |
| | Walt Whitman | Selections from <i>Leaves of Grass</i> :
'O Captain, My Captain'
'Passage to India' (lines 1–68) |
| | Sherman Alexie | 'Crow Testament'
'Evolution' |

Suggested Topics and Background Prose Readings for Class Presentations

Topics

The American Dream
Social Realism and the American Novel
Folklore and the American Novel
Black Women's Writing
Questions of Form in American Poetry

Readings

1. Hector St John Crevecoeur, 'What is an American', (Letter III) in *Letters from an American Farmer* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1982) pp. 66–105.
2. Frederick Douglass, *A Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1982) chaps. 1–7, pp. 47–87.
3. Henry David Thoreau, 'Battle of the Ants' excerpt from 'Brute Neighbours', in *Walden* (Oxford: OUP, 1997) chap. 12.
4. Ralph Waldo Emerson, 'Self Reliance', in *The Selected Writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson*, ed. with a biographical introduction by Brooks Atkinson (New York: The Modern Library, 1964).
5. Toni Morrison, 'Romancing the Shadow', in *Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and Literary Imagination* (London: Picador, 1993) pp. 29–39.