

EXAM MATERIAL – RECAP

Please refer to the PDF file “Syllabus 2022-2023” for the course material (“Reading List”).

Both primary and secondary sources are mandatory.

Primary sources:

You are expected to read and be able to analyze all primary sources. For what concerns “Song of Myself,” if an essay question focuses on the close reading of this poem, it will be one of the sections we have analyzed together in class (but there may still be more general essay questions asking you to comment on the content/meaning of the entire poem and/or of the other sections): 1–7, 20, 21, 33, 51, 52.

Secondary sources:

Remember to study the cultural and historical background on R. Gray, *A History of American Literature* (any edition): Chapter 3, “Reconstructing the Past, Reimagining the Future: The Development of American Literature, 1865–1900” and the sections on Dickinson, Jacobs, and Whitman from the previous chapters (pages may vary depending on the edition).

For what concerns the mandatory critical essays for each of the authors we covered in class, they are available here on Moodle and numbered (1–6):

1. Essay, “Self” in Whitman and Dickinson
2. Randall Fuller, Civil War Poetry
3. Braxton on Harriet Jacobs
4. Huck, Jim and American Racial Discourse
5. Hubbs on Chesnutt
6. Stein on “The Aspern Papers”

The rest of the material uploaded on Moodle is not mandatory but is meant to help you with the study and close reading of the primary sources, as well as with the understanding of the historical period (the links to documentaries, interviews, etc. attached to the slides are there for the same reason).