

Exam List: 20th- and 21st- Century American Poetry  
Focus: Pastoral and urban pastoral poetry

Primary (35 texts):

Ezra Pound, *Selected Poems; The Cantos: I, IV, XIII, XIV, XLIX, XLV, LXXXI, CXVI*  
Robert Frost, *The Poetry of Robert Frost (A Boy's Will through In the Clearing)*  
T.S. Eliot, *Prufrock; The Waste Land; Four Quartets*  
Wallace Stevens, *The Collected Poems*  
Williams Carlos Williams, *The Collected Poems of William Carlos Williams* (selections)  
William Carlos Williams, *Paterson*  
Langston Hughes, *Selected Poems*  
Elizabeth Bishop, *The Complete Poems*  
Hart Crane, *The Bridge*  
Marianne Moore, *Complete Poems*  
Robert Hayden, *Selected Poems*  
Theodore Roethke, *Collected Poems*  
Gwendolyn Brooks, *Selected Poems*  
Lorine Niedecker, *The Granite Pail: Selected Poems*  
Hayden Carruth, *Collected Shorter Poems*  
Denise Levertov, *Selected Poems*  
James Wright, *Collected Poems*  
Frank O'Hara, *Selected Poems*  
Kenneth Koch, *Collected Poems* (selections)  
Allen Ginsberg, *Howl and Other Poems; Kaddish and Other Poems*  
John Ashbery, *Selected Poems*  
William Stafford, *The Way It Is: New & Selected Poems*  
Barbara Guest, *Selected Poems*  
Wendell Berry, *Selected Poems*  
Victor Hernández Cruz, *Maraca: New and Selected Poems*  
James Schuyler, *Selected Poems*  
Michael S. Harper, *Selected Poems*  
Cornelius Eady, *Hardheaded Weather: New and Selected Poems*  
Grace Paley, *Begin Again: Collected Poems*  
Lucille Clifton, *Blessing the Boats: New and Selected*  
Maxine Kumin, *Where I Live: New and Selected*  
Marilyn Nelson, *Faster Than Light: New and Selected*  
Brigit Pegeen Kelly, *The Orchard*  
Patricia Smith, *Blood Dazzler*  
D. Nurske, *A Night in Brooklyn*

Secondary (20 texts):

Poetics and Criticism:

Plato (Francis Conford), *The Republic*  
Sir Philip Sidney, *An Apology for Poetry*

T.S. Eliot, *Selected Prose* (“Reflections on Vers Libre,” “Tradition and the Individual Talent,” “Hamlet,” “The Perfect Critic,” “The Metaphysical Poets,” “The Function of Criticism,” “What Is a Classic?,” “Dante,” “Yeats”)

Sigmund Freud (James Strachey), *The Future of an Illusion*

Sigmund Freud (James Strachey), *Civilization and Its Discontents*

Randall Jarrell, *Poetry and the Age* (“The Obscurity of the Poet,” “Two Essays on Robert Frost,” “Some Lines from Whitman,” “Reflections on Wallace Stevens,” “Two Essays on Marianne Moore,” “The Situation of the Poet”)

Hugh Kenner, *The Pound Era* (“The Muse in Tatters,” “Imagism,” “The Cantos 1,” “Syntax in Rutherford,” “The Cantos 2,” “The Anonymous,” “The Jersey Paideuma”)

Robert Pinsky, *The Situation of Poetry* (Part 1, “Modern: Three Poems,” Part IV)

Louis Menand, *Discovering Modernism: T.S. Eliot and His Context*

James Longenbach, *The Resistance to Poetry*

David Orr, *Beautiful & Pointless*

Maureen McLane, *My Poets*

Race Theory:

W.E.B. Dubois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (selections)

Henry Louis Gates Jr., *The Signifying Monkey: A Theory of African-American Literary Criticism* (selections)

Pastoral and Urban Pastoral:

Theocritus (Anthony Verity), *Idylls*

Virgil (David Ferry), *Eclogues*

Paul Alpers, *What Is Pastoral?* (Part 1; sections on Frost and Stevens in Part 2)

David Lehman, *The Last Avant-Garde: The Making of the New York School of Poets*

various, David Baker, ed., *Radiant Lyre: Essays on Lyric Poetry* (chapters on pastoral)

Timothy Gray, *Urban Pastoral: Natural Currents in the New York School* (Chapters 1,2,3,4,5)