

POETRY IN AMERICA

READING LIST | Modernism

Many of the readings covered in this course can be found online. A few resources to consult in your search include the Poetry Foundation, the Academy of American Poets, Bartleby.com, Internet Archive, Project Gutenberg, and Google Books.

For texts that are not available online, we recommend that you use WorldCat.org to locate a copy at a library near you.

WEEK 1 | Introduction to Poetry in America: Modernism

📖 "In a Station of the Metro" by Ezra Pound

WEEK 2 | Robert Frost

- 📖 "The Pasture" by Robert Frost
- 📖 "After Apple-Picking" by Robert Frost
- 📖 "Out, Out—" by Robert Frost
- 📖 "Birches" by Robert Frost
- 📖 "Mending Wall" by Robert Frost
- 📖 "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost
- 📖 "For Once, Then, Something" by Robert Frost
- 📖 "The Silken Tent" by Robert Frost

Recommended Reading

- 📖 "Dust of Snow" by Robert Frost
- 📖 "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" by Robert Frost

*An online edition of Frost's poems can be accessed via Internet Archive. See Frost, Robert. *The Poems of Robert Frost*. New York: Random House, Inc., 1946.

WEEK 3 | The Modernism of Chicago and the Midwest

- 📖 "Mrs. Kessler" by Edgar Lee Masters
- 📖 "Aner Clute" by Edgar Lee Masters
- 📖 "Chicago" by Carl Sandburg
- 📖 "Mamie" by Carl Sandburg
- 📖 "Skyscraper" by Carl Sandburg

- 📖 “To Whistler, American” by Ezra Pound
- 📖 “The Open Door” by Harriet Monroe
- 📖 “St. Agnes’ Eve” by Kenneth Fearing

Recommended Reading

- 📖 “Green Light” by Kenneth Fearing
- 📖 “Portrait of a Cog” by Kenneth Fearing”

*An online edition of *Spoon River Anthology* can be accessed via Google Books. See Masters, Edgar Lee. *Spoon River Anthology*. New York:: The Macmillan Company, 1921.

WEEK 4 | T.S. Eliot: An American Modernist Abroad

- 📖 “Nocturne” by T.S. Eliot
- 📖 “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” by T.S. Eliot
- 📖 *The Waste Land* by T.S. Eliot

Recommended Reading

- 📖 “Tradition and the Individual Talent” by T.S. Eliot

WEEK 5 | New York Modernism: Exuberance, Emancipation, and Imagination

- 📖 Editorial Statement, *The Masses*, by Max Eastman
- 📖 “If I should learn, in some quite casual way” (Sonnet V, *Renascence and Other Poems*) by Edna St. Vincent Millay
- 📖 “Four Sonnets” by Edna St. Vincent Millay
- 📖 “Your Little Day” (song) by Natalia Zukerman
- 📖 “Reuerdo” by Edna St. Vincent Millay
- 📖 “Thursday” by Edna St. Vincent Millay
- 📖 “First Fig” by Edna St. Vincent Millay
- 📖 “Grown-Up” by Edna St. Vincent Millay
- 📖 “The Red Dress” by Dorothy Parker
- 📖 “To Brooklyn Bridge” (from *The Bridge*) by Hart Crane
- 📖 “Chaplinesque” by Hart Crane
- 📖 “The Empire State Lights” by MacKinlay Kantor
- 📖 “New York” by Marianne Moore

Recommended Reading

- 📖 “Operating Room” by John Reed
- 📖 “Isadora Duncan” by Max Eastman

WEEK 6 | Scientific Rigor, Poetic Art: Marianne Moore, William Carlos Williams, Gertrude Stein

- 📖 "Poetry" [original version] by Marianne Moore
- 📖 "Poetry" [revised version] by Marianne Moore
- 📖 "He 'Digesteth Harde Yron'" by Marianne Moore
- 📖 "No Swan So Fine" by Marianne Moore
- 📖 "Spring and All" or "[By the road to the contagious hospital]" by William Carlos Williams
- 📖 "St. Francis Einstein of the Daffodils" by William Carlos Williams
- 📖 "Overture to a Dance of Locomotives" by William Carlos Williams
- 📖 "The Great Figure" by William Carlos Williams
- 📖 "[Rapid Transit]" by William Carlos Williams
- 📖 "If I Told Him: A Completed Portrait of Picasso" by Gertrude Stein

Recommended Reading

- 📖 "Silence" by Marianne Moore
- 📖 "The Fish" by Marianne Moore
- 📖 "To a Snail" by Marianne Moore
- 📖 "The Poem as a Field of Action" by William Carlos Williams (speech given in 1948)

WEEK 7 | The Harlem Renaissance and the Blues

- 📖 "Harlem" by Langston Hughes
- 📖 "Juke Box Love Song" by Langston Hughes
- 📖 "The Weary Blues" by Langston Hughes
- 📖 "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" by Langston Hughes
- 📖 "To Certain Critics" by Countee Cullen
- 📖 "Yet Do I Marvel" by Countee Cullen
- 📖 "Atlantic City Waiter" by Countee Cullen
- 📖 "Her Lips Are Copper Wire" by Jean Toomer
- 📖 "The White City" by Claude McKay
- 📖 "Flame-Heart" by Claude McKay
- 📖 "Quashie to Buccra" by Claude McKay
- 📖 "My Mountain Home" by Claude McKay
- 📖 "Subway Wind" by Claude McKay
- 📖 "Empty Bed Blues," song recorded by Bessie Smith and written by Alphonso Johnson

Recommended Reading

- 📖 "Heritage" by Countee Cullen
- 📖 "To John Keats, Poet. At Spring Time" by Countee Cullen
- 📖 "Incident" by Countee Cullen

WEEK 8 | William Carlos Williams, Wallace Stevens, and Leaving Modernism

- 📖 “To a Poor Old Woman” by William Carlos Williams
- 📖 “Complaint” by William Carlos Williams
- 📖 “Nantucket” by William Carlos Williams
- 📖 “This Is Just To Say” by William Carlos Williams
- 📖 “Study of Two Pears” by Wallace Stevens
- 📖 “Anecdote of the Jar” by Wallace Stevens
- 📖 “The House Was Quiet and the World Was Calm” by Wallace Stevens
- 📖 “The Emperor of Ice-Cream” by Wallace Stevens
- 📖 “The Man on the Dump” by Wallace Stevens
- 📖 “Of Hartford in a Purple Light” by Wallace Stevens
- 📖 “Vacancy in the Park” by Wallace Stevens

Recommended Reading

- 📖 “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird” by Wallace Stevens
- 📖 “Sunday Morning” by Wallace Stevens
- 📖 “The Plain Sense of Things” by Wallace Stevens
- 📖 “Dover Beach” by Matthew Arnold (compare to Stevens’s “The House Was Quiet and the World Was Calm”)
- 📖 “Ode on a Grecian Urn” by John Keats (compare to Stevens’s “Anecdote of the Jar”)