Reading List 2015-2016 – The American Literary Emergence, 1620-1920

FICTION/PROSE

Benjamin Franklin
“The Way to Wealth” (1757)*

Edgar Allan Poe
“The Fall of the House of Usher” (1839) and
“The Philosophy of Furniture” (1840), in Poetry and Tales. New York: Literary
Classics of the United States, 1984+

Catharine Beecher
Chapters 1 & 14, in A Treatise on Domestic Economy (1841).+

Henry David Thoreau
“Economy,” in Walden (1854)*

Harriet Jacobs
Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl (1861)

Herman Melville
“The Paradise of Bachelors and the Tartarus of Maids” (1855)*

Charles Chesnutt
“Po’ Sandy” (1888), in Conjure Tales and Stories of the Color Line. New York:
Penguin, 2000+

Henry James
The Spoils of Poynton (1897)

Willa Cather
“Paul’s Case” (1905), excerpt from The Novel Demeublé (1922)+

Gertrude Stein
“Objects,” in Tender Buttons (1914)*
POETRY

Anne Bradstreet
“Here Follow Some Verses upon the Burning of Our House” (w. 1666; p. 1867),
“The Flesh and the Spirit” (1678)*

Edward Taylor
“Huswifery” (c. 1682)*

Lydia Sigourney
“To a Shred of Linen” (1838)*

Walt Whitman
“A Song for Occupations” (1855; 1881), in Leaves of Grass, ed., Michael Moon

Wallace Stevens
“Anecdote of a Jar” (1923)*

William Carlos Williams
“The Red Wheelbarrow” (1923)*

CRITICISM

Bill Brown, “Introduction” and “Ch. 4: The Decoration of Houses,” in A Sense of
Press, 2003+

Carla Peterson, “Capitalism, Black (Under)Development, and the Production of
the African-American Novel in the 1850s,” American Literary History 4 no 4
(Winter 1992), 559-583+

*In The Norton Anthology of American Literature (8th ed.). Eds. Nina Baym and
Penrose.

+Available in the “Senior English Majors 2016 Resources” folder on CLEo.