

Dept. of English & Comparative Literature, SJSU
MA Exam Reading List: Group 2

1900-Present American and British Literature

Description: This part of the MA exam focuses on literature after 1900 from the U.K and the U.S.A. Students should have a general knowledge of twentieth-

Elizabeth Bishop (1911-1979)

Complete Poems

Allen Ginsberg (1926-1997)

Howl, Selected Poems

John Steinbeck (1902-1968)

Grapes of Wrath or East of Eden

Richard Wright (1908-1960)

Native Son

Toni Morrison (1931-)

Song of Solomon or Beloved

Don DeLillo (1936-)

White Noise

British:

Joseph Conrad (1857-1924)

Lord Jim, Heart of Darkness

William Butler Yeats (1865-1939)

Selected Poems (Sterling)

E.M. Forster (1879-1970)

Passage to India or Howard's End

James Joyce (1882-1941)

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Sample Questions:

1. The 20th century has been defined by major wars. Examine the role, representation, or impact of war on three writers (at least one American and one British) from the list.
2. Drawing on three texts (at least one American and one British) examine how race and gender shape the narrative in terms of plot, character, theme, form or style.
3. Using three texts (at least one American and one British) delineate the major features of Modernism. Conclude with a brief commentary on whether post-modernism represents a continuation or a break with Modernism.

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