

Research Field in American Culture Since 1865:

This is a cultural history field with an emphasis on the history of literature, the arts, and popular values in the United States since the Civil War. Students will select twenty-five books from the following list, in consultation with the examiner:

Gail Bederman, Manliness and Civilization
Daniel Belgrad, The Culture of Spontaneity
Brooke Blower, Becoming Americans in Paris
Daniel Borus, Twentieth-Century Multiplicity
Paul Boyer, By the Bomb's Early Light
Richard Brodhead, Cultures of Letters
Leslie Butler, Critical Americans
George Chauncey, Gay New York
George Cotkin, Existential America
Robert Crunden, Body and Soul
Philip DeLoria, Playing Indian
Michael Denning, The Cultural Front
Morris Dickstein, Gates of Eden
-----, Leopards in the Temple
-----, Dancing in the Dark Benjamin Filene, Romancing the Folk
Ann Douglas, Terrible Honesty
Lynn Dumenuil, The Modern Temper
Tom Engelhardt, The End of Victory Culture
Alice Fahs, The Imagined Civil War
James Gilbert, Writers and Partisans
William Graebner, The Age of Doubt
David D. Hall, ed. Lived Religion in America
Neil Harris, Cultural Excursions
George Hutchinson, The Harlem Renaissance in Black and White
Gordon Hutner, What America Read
John Kasson, Amusing the Million
-----, Rudeness and Civility
-----, Houdini, Tarzan, and the Perfect Man
Joy Kasson, Buffalo Bill's Wild West
William Leach, Land of Desire
Jackson Lears, No Place of Grace
-----, Fables of Abundance
-----, Rebirth of a Nation
-----, Something for Nothing
Lawrence Levine, Highbrow/Lowbrow
Roland Marchand, Advertising the American Dream
Henry May, The End of American Innocence
David Nasaw, Going Out
Richard Pells, Radical Visions and American Dreams
-----, Modernist America
David Shi, The Simple Life
Daniel Singal, The War Within

Carl Smith, Chicago and the American Literary Imagination
Christine Stansell, American Moderns
Warren Susman, Culture as History
Alan Trachtenberg, The Incorporation of America
Richard Wightman Fox and T. J. Jackson Lears, eds., The Culture of Consumption
-----, The Power of Culture
Christopher Wilk, ed., Modernism: Designing a New World

This field also requires a basic familiarity with the history of American literature; the list of approximately ten novels, plays, or poems will be worked out with the examiner individually.

In addition, students should master several primary sources in cultural criticism. These might include:

Bruce Barton, The Man Nobody Knows
Robert Bellah, Habits of the Heart
Edward Bellamy, Looking Backward
Van Wyck Brooks, America's Coming of Age
Malcolm Cowley, Exile's Return
Paul Goodman, Growing Up Absurd
Alfred Kazin, Starting Out in the Thirties
Christopher Lasch, The Culture of Narcissism
Robert and Helen M. Lynd, Middletown and Middletown in Transition
F. O. Matthiessen, The Responsibilities of the Critic
Lewis Mumford, The Golden Day
Harold Stearns, ed., Civilization in the United States
Edmund Wilson, The Twenties
-----, The American Jitters