



SWRK/MSSP 768 - Social Policy through Literature Spring 2019

**Wednesdays, 9 - 11:30
Caster Building - A-8**

Course Description

Fiction provides a lens to examine and analyze social issues and social policy through the rich and understandable lives of human beings, their challenges, and their triumphs, in the holistic context of their narrative worlds. Through appreciation of the human condition as portrayed in literature (particularly fictional novels, but sometimes film, art, poetry, memoir, or other format), students learn to frame issues more precisely and present arguments in compelling and convincing ways, thus enhancing the capabilities of social workers, social policymakers, and other agents to influence policy change.

From this standpoint, literature's various personal representations and truths can provide a broader dimension to social work and social policy education. In particular, literature can help to bridge gaps that sometimes exist between the professional community and the wider society. Literature also reminds us that the same situation may be seen differently through the personal and cultural lenses of different authors. As such, there is seldom (if ever) an absolute reality; rather, endless perceptions that capture certain realities.

This course uses works of fiction that pertain to specific social policy and social welfare issues in order to examine the effects these issues have, in human terms, on individuals, families, communities, and societies. In this context, works of fiction will be analyzed as they reflect social issues, shape public opinion, and how they can be used in social policymaking, social work, and relevant other practices such as education, urban development, and the like. The course will be conducted as a seminar in which students and instructor are responsible for making connections between literature and social policy.

Course Objectives: By the end of this course, students should be able to demonstrate:

- Understanding of the implications for policy, theory and practice that emerge from a literary context
- Understanding how policy and fiction originate from and are both narratives.
- Thought about possible new policy changes based on perspectives gained through narrative analysis of both literature and policy

- Greater insight into human behavior and experiences associated with specific social policy issues
- Increased understanding of contemporary social programs toward maximum impact
- How both professional and fictional-cultural knowledge and skills can promote social justice
- Ways to assess the ways in which literature manifests how social policy affects all forms of discrimination and marginalization, toward more equitable policy practice.

Classroom Method

The class will be conducted as a seminar. The syllabus has been constructed as much as possible according to student preferences. Policy material is available on the course Canvas site in MODULES by topic week. The week's presenter and Prof. Iversen will identify policy links and relevance.

In addition, students are expected to meet their class responsibilities as scholars and professionals. This includes coming to class on time, providing advanced notice of expected or unexpected absence when possible, or communicating about non-attendance soon afterwards. Attendance will be considered in the determination of the final course grade.

Students are expected to conduct themselves consistent with the University of Pennsylvania's Code of Academic Integrity, which presents standards regarding plagiarism, multiple submissions, and other actions. Students are expected to be familiar with the Code, which can be found at <https://provost.upenn.edu/policies/pennbook?tag+academic+integrity>

OK to eat quiet food (& wrapping) in class (and be sure to clean up afterward).

Required Readings: You are required to bring the readings to class EVERY week, either hard copy or electronically. You may purchase the text readings as inexpensively as possible (or borrow from library). POLICY MATERIAL will be on the SWRK/MSSP 768 Canvas site via MODULES (by week).

Grande, Reyna. (2012). *The Distance between Us*. New York: Washington Square Press.

Li, Yiyuan. (2018). *Dear Friend, from My Life I Write to You in Your Life*. New York: Random House.

Orange, Tommy. (2018). *There There*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Silko, Leslie Marmon. (1977/2006). L. McMurtry Introduction (2006). *Ceremony*. New York: Penguin.

Woodson, Jacqueline. (1997). *The House You Pass on the Way*. New York: Puffin.

Watkins, Claire Vaye. (2016). *Gold Fame Citrus*. New York: Riverhead.

Kushner, Rachel. (2018). *The Mars Room*. New York: Scribner.

Solomon, Asali. (2015). *Disgruntled*. New York: Picador.

Nussbaum, Susan. (2013). *Good Kings Bad Kings*. Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin.

Strout, Elizabeth. (2008). *Olive Kitteridge*. New York: Random House.

Assignments

1. Regular attendance, clear evidence of thorough reading, and active participation in seminar discussions. **30% of grade**
2. Weekly Reading: Required Book.

The assigned student for the week will provide background material on the author or novel itself in the beginning of class. The student will provide a few discussion questions about the novel, lead the discussion, and present 2-3 examples of relevant policy material. Prof. Iversen will augment discussion of the novel and policy material. **30% of grade.**

Prof. Iversen will post relevant policy material weekly (ACCESS via MODULES on Canvas either before or after each class—for your reference; not required reading).

3. In the final weeks of the seminar, students will give 20-25-minute presentations, followed by up to 20 minutes for class discussion, on:
 - a. A novel (or other form of art or narrative) of their choice that is policy-relevant: Summarize the theme, analyze and discuss the quality of the writing/production; talk about whether the story was gripping, merely held your attention, or was disappointing -- and why. Provide narrative from the text if possible (powerpoint, enactment, or another form of communication may be useful).
 - b. Then identify and briefly discuss current policy about that topic--what is relevant; what is missing; and what policy change you would recommend. **40% of grade**

Course Schedule

Jan. 23 (Week 1): Introduction to Literary Narrative and Policy Narrative Processes and Course Overall

[Bradshaw-Kuhner-Narratives-of-Knowing-in-SocialPolicy,2013.pdf](#)
[Garvin,AnalyticalParadigms-Scientists,Polmakers,Public,2001.pdf](#)
[Jacobs-Sobieraj, Narrative+Legitimacy,CongressDebates,2007.pdf](#)
[Jones-McBeth,NarrativePol.Framework,2010.pdf](#)
[Robbins,Stories--Turn-to-Narrative-inSocPolEduc,2013.pdf](#)
[Guidelines-Crit.Analysis-of-Literature.pdf](#)

Jan. 30 (Week 2): *The Distance between Us*, Reyna Grande (Immigration Policy)

[SW768-Wk2-Immig+NaturalizAct1965-Hart-Celler-to21stC.docx](#)
[Plumer,1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act+WhyFailed\(2013\).docx](#)
[SW768-Wk2-Immig.Law.of.1990.docx](#)
[\(page 1-6\) IllegalImmigrationReform+ImmigrantResponsib.Act1996.pdf](#)

[SW768-Wk2-ImmigPop+PolicyToday-Ctr.Amer.Progress,2017.docx](#)

Feb. 6 (Week 3): *Dear Friend, from My Life I Write You in Your Life*, Yiyuan Li (Immigration and Refugee Policy; Memoir)

(Policy material to come)

Feb. 13 (Week 4): *There There*, Tommy Orange (Native American Identity)

[SW768-Wk3-Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act1971-ResourceCtr.docx](#)

[SW768-Wk3-Dept. of the Interior, Bureau-of-Indian-Affairs.docx](#)

[SW768-Wk3-IndianSelf-Determ+EducAssistAct1975-original.docx](#)

[SW768-Wk3-IndianChildWelfareAct1978, P.L. 95-608.pdf](#)

[SW768-Wk3-NativeAmericanLanguagesAct1990, P.L.101-477.pdf](#)

[SW768-Wk3-Native American Languages Act of 1990\(Wikiped\).docx](#)

[SW768-Wk3-Nat.Amer.Lang.Act-20YrsLater,2012, Klug.docx](#)

Feb. 20 (Week 5): *Ceremony*, Leslie Marmon Silko (World War II, Veteran, and Native American Policies)

[SW768-Wk4-Ceremony-Veteran Policy -ToCanvas.pptx](#)

[SW768-Wk4-Ceremony-GeronimoArticle- ToCanvas.docx](#)

[Colonial Policy: 1593 “Acte for Reliefes of Souldiours”](#)

[Enrollment Act of 1863](#)

[U.S. Sanitary Commission est. 1861](#)

[Multiple policies about disabled Veterans in student presentation](#)

[1921 establishment of Veterans Bureau](#)

[Economy Act of March 1933](#)

[World War II and GI Bill of Rights \(The Serviceman’s Readjustment Act, 1944\)](#)

[American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans: Lasting Contributions. Report written by L.F. Holiday, G. Bell, R.E. Klein, and M.R. Wells, for the Office of Policy; Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Preparedness, 2006. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.](#)

Feb. 28 (Week 6): *The House You Pass on the Way*, Jacqueline Woodson (LGBTQ Youth; Intersecting Race Policies)

(Policy material to come)

*****SPRING BREAK (March 4 to 8)*****

March 13 (Week 7): *Gold Fame Citrus*, Claire Vaye Watkins (Environment Policy)

(Policy material to come)

March 20 (Week 8): *The Mars Room*, Rachel Kushner (Incarceration; Trauma Policy)

[SW768-Wk9,Pell Grants for Prisoners,NASPAFdn,9-22-17-1.docx](#)

[SW768-Wk9-Bureau-of-Prisons-FactSheet\(nd\)-1.pdf](#)

[SW768-Wk9-NYT-Reconsid2ndChancePellGrants,2-15-18.docx](#)

(Additional policy material to come)

March 27 (Week 9): *Disgruntled*, Asali Solomon (Education; Gender; Race Policy)

[SW768-Wk8-EducPolicy+Narrative,Iversen3-14-18.docx](#)

[SW768-Wk8-Leachman,PunishingDecadeSchFunding,2017,CBPP.pdf](#)

[SW768-Wk8-Race-Class=PA SchoolFunding,EdLawCtr,Mar.2017.pdf](#)

April 3 (Week 10): *Good Kings Bad Kings*, Susan Nussbaum (Disability Policy)

(Policy material to come)

April 11 (Week 11): *Olive Kitteridge* (Aging & Mental Health Policies)

[SW768-Wk11-OlderAmericansAct-1965-to-2016.docx](#)

[SW768-Wk11-PopulationAging-in USA, Int'lJEpid. 2002.pdf](#)

[SW768-Wk11-Health&Aging-in-21stC-Commonw.Fund,2000.docx](#)

[SW768-Wk10-Mental Health TreatmentHist..docx](#)

[SW768-Wk10-Hist.M.H.Tx,1800s-2000s.docx](#)

[SW768-Wk10-History-M.HealthPolicy-US+Global.docx](#)

[SW768-Wk10-JFK-CommM.H.Act,Message,2-5-63.docx](#)

April 17 (Week 12): Student Analyses & Presentations

April 24 (Week 13): Student Analyses & Presentations

May 1 (Week 14): Student Analyses & Presentations (+ Prof. Iversen Concluding Thoughts)**Grading Rubric:**

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| A+ | 97-100 |
| A | 94-96 |
| A- | 90-93 |
| B+ | 87-89 |
| B | 84-86 |
| B- | 80-83 |
| C+ | 77-79 |
| C | 74-76 |
| C- | 70-73 |
| D - E | 60-69 |
| F | Below 60 |
| I = Incomplete | |

TOPIC RESOURCES**GENERAL BOOKS ON LITERATURE AND SOCIAL ISSUES**

Bradshaw, Jonathan & Kuhner, Stefan. (2013?). *Narratives of knowing in social policy*. York University, UK.

Bruner, Jerome (1990). *Acts of meaning*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Butler-Evans, Elliott (1989). *Race, gender, and desire: Narrative strategies in the fictional work of Toni Cade Bambara, Toni Morrison, and Alice Walker*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Fischer, Frank. (2003). *Reframing Public Policy: Discursive Politics and Deliberative Practices*.

Garvin, Theresa. (2001). Analytical paradigms: The epistemological distances between scientists, policy makers, and the public. *Risk Analysis*, 21(3), 443-455.

Jacobs, Ronald N. & Sobieraj, Sarah. (2007). Narrative and legitimacy: U.S. Congressional debates about the nonprofit sector. *Sociological Theory*, 25(1), 1-25.

Jones, Michael D. & McBeth, Mark K. (2010). A narrative policy framework: Clear enough to be wrong? *Policy Studies Journal*, 38(2), 329-353.

Robbins, Rachel. (2013). *Stories of risk and protection: A turn to the narrative in social policy education*. *Social Work Education*, 32(3), 380-396.

Shanahan, Mike. (2012, 28 September). What's in a narrative? In policy, everything or nothing. Blog on website of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).

ABILITIES/ DISABILITIES

Haddon, Mark. (2004). *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. New York: Vintage. (controversial in the autism community)

AFRICA / AFRICAN AMERICAN

- Achebe, Chinua. (1959). *Things Fall Apart*. New York: Penguin.
 Eggers, Dave. (2006). *What is the What*. New York: Vintage Books. (Lost Boys of Sudan)
 Ellison, Ralph. (1947). *Invisible man*. New York: Random House.
 Gyasi, Yaa. (2016). *Homegoing*. New York: Vintage.
 Hurston, Zora Neale. (1937). *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. New York: Perennial Library.
 Wideman, John Edgar. (1990). *Philadelphia Fire*. New York: Vintage.

AGING/ AGEISM

- Charles Bausch (1984). The last good time. New York: Penguin.
 Simone de Beauvoir (1965). A very easy death. New York: Pantheon.
 Rita Mae Brown (1988). Bingo. New York: Bantam. (Also by the same author
Rubyfruit jungle and Six of me).
 Colette (1949). The blue lantern. Paris, France: Farrar, Straus & Giroux.
 Timothy Diamond (1992). Making gray gold. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
 Margaret Forester (1985). Have the men had enough? London: Penguin.
 H. Gardner (1987). I'm not Rappaport.
 Ernest Hemingway (1952). The old man and the sea. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.
 Doris Lessing (1973). The summer before the dark. New York: Vintage.
 Thomas Mann (1955, first pub. in 1930). Death in Venice. New York: Vintage.
 Paule Marshall (1984). Praisesong for the widow. New York: Dutton.
 Barbara Meyerhoff (1978). Number our days. New York: Simon & Schuster.
 Arthur Miller (1977). Death of a salesman. New York: Viking.
 May Sarton (1973). As we are now. New York: W. W. Norton.
 Florida Scott-Maxwell (1968). The measure of my days. New York: Penguin.
 M. Scott Peck (1991). A bed by the window. New York: Bantam.
 Susan Sheehan (1984). Kate Quinton's days. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
 William Shakespeare (1940). King Lear. Boston: Ginn & Co.
Harold and Maud.
 Sara & Elizabeth Delany (1993). Having our say: The Delany sisters: The first 100 years.
 New York: Kodamsha International.

AIDS/HIV

- Christopher Bram (1990). In memory of Angel Clare. New York: Plume.
 Christopher Coe (1995). Such times. New York: Penguin Books.
 Emmanuel Dreuile (1988). Living with AIDS: Mortal embrace. New York:
 Hill & Wang.
 Essex-Hemphill (ed.). (1991). Brother to brother: New writing by black gay men.
 Conceived by Joseph Hemphill Beam, by completed by his mother Dorothy Beam).
 Boston: Alyson.
 Anthony Godby Johnson (1993). A rock and a hard place. New York: Signet.
 Armistead Maupin (1989). Sure of you. New York: Harper & Row.
 Larry Mitchel (1993). Acid snow. Easy Haven, CT: Calamus.
 Paul Monette (1988). Borrowed time: An AIDS memoir. New York: Avon, also:
Half way home (1991).

Chris Oyler (1988). Go toward the light. New York: Harper & Row.
 Randy Shilts (1987). And the band played on. New York: St. Martin's Press.
 Abraham Vergese (1994). My own country. New York: Simon & Schuster.
 John Weir (1989). The irreversible decline of Eddie Socket. New York: Harper Perennial.

ASIA/ ASIAN

Butler, Robert Olen. (1992). *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*. New York: Penguin.
 Gish, Jen. (1991). *Typical American*. New York: Penguin.

GENDER AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION

James Baldwin (1956). Giovanni's room. New York: Laurel.
 Robert Beck (Iceberg Slim) (1969). Mama black widow. Los Angeles: Grove Press.
 Rita Mae Brown (1973). Rubyfruit jungle. New York: Bantam.
 Rita Mae Brown (1993). Venus Envy. New York: Bantom Books.
 Michael Cunningham (1998). *A Home at the End of the World*. New York: Picador.
 Rob Forman Dew (1994). The family heart. Reading, MA: Addison Wesley.
 Estes, Clarissa P. (1992). *Women Who Run with the Wolves: Myths and Stories of the Wild Woman Archetype*. New York: Ballentine.
 Leslie Feinberg. (1993). *Stone Butch Blues*. Firebrand.
 E. M. Forester (1971). Maurice. New York: Norton.
 Jane Fatcher (1981). Crush. Boston: Alyson.
 Kaye Gibbons (1989). A virtuous woman. New York: Vintage.
 Alan Ginsberg. (1959). *Howl and Other Poems*. San Francisco: City Lights.
 Radclyffe Hall (1928/2016). *The Well of Loneliness*. London: Random House.
 Andrew Holleran (1978). Dancer from the dance. New York: New American Library.
 Christopher Isherwood. (1954/2012). *Goodbye to Berlin*. New York: New Directions.
 Nella Larsen. (2003). *Passing*. New York: Penguin.
 David Leavitt (1986). The lost language of the Cranes. New York: Knopf. Also: Equal affections.
 Christopher Marlowe (1590?). Edward the Second. Oxford, UK: Clarendon Press.
 Carson McCullers. (1940/2004). *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*. New York: Mariner.
 Paul Monette (1992). Becoming a man. New York: Harcourt Brace.
 Armistad Maupin (1989). Tales of the city. New York: Perennial Library.
 Ethan Mordden (1986). Buddies. New York: St. Martin Press.
 Ethan Mordden (1986). One last waltz. New York: St. Martin Press.
 Luis Negrón. (2013). *Mundo Cruel*. New York: Seven Stories.
 Jim Oliver (1992). Closing distance. New York: G. P. Putnam.
 Dale Peck (1993). Martin and John. New York: Harper Perennial.
 Marge Piercy (1974). Small changes. Greenwich, CT: Fawcett.
 Manuel Puig (1979). Kiss of the spider woman. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
 John Rechy (1963). City of night. New York: Grove Books.
 Sapphire (Remona Lofton). (1996). *Push*. New York: Knopf.
 Sara Schulman (1988). After Delores. New York: New American Library.
 Martin Sherman (1980). Bent. New York: Avon Press.
 Jeanette Winterson (1985). Oranges are not the only fruit. Boston: Pandora Press.
 Virginia Woolf. (1973). *Orlando*. New York: Mariner.

HISPANIC/ LATINX

Sandra Cisneros. (1991). *The House on Mango Street*. New York: Vintage.
 Christina Garcia. (1992). *Dreaming in Cuban*. New York: Ballantine.
 Christina Henriquez. (2015). *The Book of Unknown Americans*. New York: Vintage.
 Héctor Tobar. (2012). *The Barbarian Nurseries*. New York: Picador.
 Fernanda Torres. (2017). *The End*. New York: Restless Books.
 Domingo Zapata. (2017). *The Beautiful Dream of Life*. New York: Gallery.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Lawrence W. Gold. (2016). *Out of Darkness (Brier Hospital)*.
 Patricia McCormick. (2008). *Sold*. New York: Hyperion. (Young adult - Nepal)

IMMIGRANTS/ IMMIGRATION

Adichie, Chimamanda N. (2014). *Americanah*. Norwell, MA: Archer.
 Julia Alvarez (1992). How the Garcia girls lost their accents. New York: Plume.
 Mary Antin (1912). The promised land. Boston: Houghton & Mifflin.
 Maya Angelou (1986). All God's children need traveling shoes. New York: Vintage.
 Elizabeth Bumiller (1990). May you be the mother of hundred sons. New York: Penguin.
 Abraham Cahan (1970). Yekl and the imported bridegroom. New York: Dover. Also: The rise of David Levinsky.
 Judith Ortiz Cofer (1993). Latin deli (essays). Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press.
 Cristina Garcia (1992). Dreaming in Cuban. New York: Knopf.
 Howard Fast (1965). The immigrants. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin.
 (1978). Second generation. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin.
 (1985). Immigrants daughter. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin.
 David Henry Hwang (1983). F.O.B. (a play). New York: Dramatists Play Service.
 Le Ly Hayslip & Jay Wurts (1990). When heaven and earth changed places. New York: Plume.
 Hellen Hudson (1987). A temporary residence. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.
 Gish Jen (1991). Typical American. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
 Elia Kazan (1962). America, America. New York: Stein & Day.
 Oscar Hijuelos (1983). Our house in the lost world New York: Washington Square Press.
 Also: The mambo kings play songs of love.
 Maxine Hong Kingston (1976). The woman warrior. New York: Vintage
 Barbara Kingsolver (1988). The bean trees. New York: Harper & Row. Also: Pigs in heaven.
 Sky Lee (1991). Disappearing Moon cafe. Seattle: Seal.
 Marlo Morgan (1994). Mutant message down under. New York: Harper & Collins.
 Bharati Mukherjee (1975). Wife. New York: Fawcett. Also: Jasmine.
 Luis Norman (1978). Naples 44. New York: Pantheon. O'Neill, Joseph. (2008). *Netherland*. New York: Vintage Books.
 Mario Puzo (1964). The fortunate pilgrim. New York: Lancer.
 Richard Rodriguez (1981). Hunger of memory (essays). Boston: D. L. Godine.
 Norman Rush (1991). Mating. New York: Knopf.
 William Saroyan (1958). The William Saroyan reader. (look for My name is Aram) and

also The human comedy. New York: Braziller.
 Amy Tan (1989). The joy luck club. New York: Putnam.
 Paul Theroux (1983). The mosquito coast. New York: Avon.

INCARCERATION/ RE-ENTRY

DeSantos, Michael G. (2006). *Inside*. New York: St. Martin's Press.
 King, Stephen. (1982). "Rita Haworth and Shawshank Redemption." In S. King, *Different Seasons* (4 short books by King). New York: Scribner.

MENTAL HEALTH

Barbara Gordon (1980). I'm dancing as fast as I can. New York: Bantam.
 Hall, Kevin A. (2015). *Black Suits White Rabbits: Cancer Was the Easy Part*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. (Memoir)
 Franz Kafka (1937). Metamorphosis. London: The Patron Press.
 Susana Kaysen (1993). Girl, interrupted. New York: Turtle Bay Books.
 Thomas Keneally (1986). A family madness. New York: Simon & Schuster.
 Ken Kesey (1962). One flew over the cuckoo's nest. New York: Viking.
 Sue Miller (1990). Family pictures. New York: Harper & Row.
 Kate Millett (1990). The loony-bin trip. New York: Simon & Schuster.
 Sylvia Plath (1971). The bell jar. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
 Marge Piercy (1976). Women on the edge of time. New York: Fawcett Crest.
 Joyce Rebeta-Burdit (---). The cracker factory.
 Oliver Sacks (1987). The man who mistook his wife for a hat. New York: Harper & Row.
 J. D. Salinger (1955). Franny and Zooey. New York: Bantam.
 Paul Sayer (1988). The comforts of madness. New York: Doubleday.
 Also Birdy and Johnny got his gun.
 Gene Stone (1994). Little girl play away. New York: Star Books.
 Mary Jane Ward (1946). The snake pit. New York: Random House.

NATIVE AMERICANS / ALASKA NATIVES

Dorris, Michael. (1987). *A Yellow Raft in Blue Water*. New York: Warner Books.
 Dorris, Michael. (1992). *The Broken Cord: A Family's Ongoing Struggle with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome*. New York: Harper Perennial.

POVERTY

Dorothy Allison (1992). Bastard out of Carolina. New York: Dutton.
 Carolyn Chute (1985). The Beans of Egypt, Maine. New York: Ticknor & Field.
 Stephen Crane (1967, first pub. in 1893). Maggie. New York: Doubleday.
 Elia Kazan (1962). America America. New York: Stein & Day.
 Oscar Lewis (1961). The children of Sanchez. New York: Random House.
 Frank McCourt (1996). Angela's ashes : a memoir.. New York : Scribner.
 Gloria Naylor (1992). Baily's Cafe. New York: Vintage.
 Hubert Selby, Jr. (1957). Last exit to Brooklyn. New York: Grove Books.
 Susan Sheehan (1976). A welfare mother. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
 Susan Sheehan (1993). Life for me ain't been no crystal stairs. New York: Vintage.

Betty Smith (1947). A tree grows in Brooklyn. New York: Popular Library.
 John Steinbeck (1939). The grapes of wrath. London: Heineman. Also: Canary row, and The pearl.
 Studs Terkel (1970). Hard times (oral history of the Great Depression). New York: Pantheon.

RACE/ RACISM

Maya Angelou (1969). I know why the caged bird sings. New York: Random House.
 Toni Cade Bambara. (1992). The Salt Eaters. New York: Vintage.
 Melba Pattillo Beals (1994). Warriors don't cry : a searing memoir of the battle to integrate Little Rock's Central High. New York : Pocket Books.
 Robert Beck (Iceberg Slim) (1969). Mama black widow. Los Angeles: Grove Press.
 Steven B. Biko (1973). I write what I like. San Francisco: Harper & Row.
 Mary Brave Byrd (1993). Onitika woman. New York: Harper Perennial.
 Claude Brown (1965). Manchild in the promised land. New York: McMillan.
 Mark Childress (1993). Crazy in Alabama. New York: Ballantine.
 Coates, Ta-Nehesi. (2009). The Beautiful Struggle: A Memoir. New York: Spiegel & Grau.
 Michael Dorris (1987). Yellow raft in blue water. New York: H. Holt.
 Ralph Ellison (1947). Invisible man. New York: Random House.
 Ernest Gaines (1993). A lesson before dying. New York: Vintage.
 Dick Gregory (1965). Nigger. New York: Pocket Books.
 John Howard Griffin (1960). Black like me. New York: Signet.
 Lorraine Hansberry (1959). A raisin in the sun. New York: Random House.
 Tony Hillerman (1990). Coyote waits. New York: Harper & Row.
 Helen Hudson (1987). Temporary residence. New York: G. P. Putnam.
 Sinclair Lewis (1947). Kingsblood royal, New York: Bantam.
 Seth J. Margolis (1993). Losing Isaiah. New York: Jove Books.
 Terry McMillan (1987). Mama. New York: Washington Square.
 Also: Disappearing acts.
 Mary Mebane (1981). Mary. New York: Viking.
 Toni Morrison (1973). Sula. New York: Plume.
 Also: Beloved and The bluest eye.
 Mary Quintasket (1990). Mourning dove: A Salishan autobiography (ed. by Jay Miller).
 Lincoln: The university of Nebraska Press.
 Dori Sanders (1990). Clover. New York: Fawcett Columbine.
 George Schuyler (1931). Black no more. Boston: Northeastern University Press.
 Lois Mark Stalvey (1970). The education of a WASP. New York: William Morrow.
 Thomas, Angie. (2017). The Hate U Give. New York: Balzer & Bray (Race + Police)
 Alice Walker (1982). The color purple, New York: Harcourt Brace.
 Also: (1976) Meridian.
 Richard Wright (1945). Black boy. New York: Harper & Sons.
 Also: Native son.

RECONSTRUCTION - JIM CROW - CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Curtis, Christopher P. (1997). The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963. New York: Yearling.
 John O. Killens. (1967/1988). 'Sippi. New York: Thunder's Mouth.
 Michael Shaara & Jeff Shaara (1999). The Civil War Trilogy: Gods and Generals/ The Killer Angels/ The Last Full Measure. New York: Ballantine.

RELIGION / RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

Chinua Achebe (1958). Things fall apart. London: Heinemann.
 Rober Bolt (1960). Man for all seasons. London: Heinemann.
 Walter Ciszek (1964). With God in Russia. New York: McGraw Hill.
 Graham Greene (1940). The power and the glory. New York: Penguin Books.
 Nikos Kazantzakis (1962). Saint Francis. New York: Simon & Schuster.
 Primo Levi (1986). Survival in Auschwitz and The reawakening. New York: Summit.
 Bernard Malamud (1966). The fixer. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux.
 Mark Mathabane (1986). Kaffir boy. New York: McMillan.
 Iris Murdoch (1965). The red and the green. New York: Penguin.
 Susan Fromberg Schaeffer (1974). Anya. New York: McMillan.
 William Shakespeare (1992). Merchant of Venice. NY: Cambridge University Press.
 William Styron (1979). Sophie's choice. New York: Random House.
 Edward L. Wallant (----). Pawnbroker. New York: Harcourt Brace.
 Elie Wiesel (1960). Night. New York: Bantam.

SEXISM

Margaret Atwood (1986). The handmaid's tale. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
 Tawiq Yusuf Awaad (1972). Death in Beirut. Washington, DC: Three Continents Press.
 E. M. Bonner (1978). A weave of women. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.
 Kate Chopin (1976, first pub. in 1899). The awakening. New York: W. W. Norton.
 -Theodore Dreiser (1972). Sister Carrie. New York: Modern Library.
 Laura Esquivel (1992). Like water for chocolate. New York: Doubleday.
 Fannie Flagg (1981). Fried green tomatoes. New York: Warner Books. Also: Daisy
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