

## ANGLISZTIKA ALAPKÉPZÉSI SZAK AMERIKANISZTIKA SZAKIRÁNY

### Az Amerikanisztika BA ZÁRÓVIZSGA LEÍRÁSA

Az amerikanisztika szakirányú major hallgatók záróvizsgálója a BA szakdolgozat megvédéséből (15 perc összefüggő, szabad előadásban bemutatott tézis, kutatás) és két tételsorból húzható kérdésekre (területenként egy-egy tétel) épülő szigorlatból áll. // The state exam of BA students on the American studies track consists of the defense of the BA thesis (15 mins coherent presentation of main thesis, argument, and research) and elaborating on the topics from the two fields below (one topic for each field) as part of the comprehensive exam.

#### American Studies BA Comprehensive Exam List of Topics (tételsor)

##### I. American History

Recommended readings:

- Frank T.-Magyarics T. Handouts for US History. A Study Guide and Workbook. Budapest: Panem-McGraw-Hill, 1995.
- From Pre-Columbian to the New Millennium (PCNM): <https://www.ushistory.org/us/>

##### Topics:

1. Discoveries, early settlements and the American colonies in the British Empire. Keywords: Native Americans, early voyages and discoveries (Diaz, Columbus, Vespucci), early New England (push and pull factors, Pilgrims, Separatists, Mayflower compact, Puritans), Southern settlements (Jamestown, Virginia and Maryland, elite planters, appearance of slavery). Britain and the North-American colonies till the mid 18<sup>th</sup> c. (Navigation Acts, New Netherland, salutary neglect, Atlantic trade triangle), New England royal colonies (local form of government, covenants, congregations, King Philip's war), middle colonies farming, immigration), Southern colonies (farming, legislative assembly). Reading: Frank chs 1-2.; PCNM chs. 2-5

2. Colonial society, mind, and material culture. Keywords: covenant, the Puritan community, need for land, witchcraft trials, Blacks in colonial North America, the position of women (in families/indentured servants, education, Southern plantation owners' wives, black women), Native Americans (three cornered rivalry among Spanish, French, English colonizers), frontier society, backward technologies in agriculture and husbandry, industry, colonial religion, the Great Awakening, colonial knowledge and education, Noah Webster. Reading: Frank chs 3-4; PCNM chs. 1, 3.7, 6-7

3. The road to revolution and the War of Independence. The building of a new nation. Keywords: global British-French rivalry, stricter control on colonies by acts, escalation of tension between Crown and colonies, taxes; the American revolution (Second Continental Congress, Declaration of Independence, two phases of war, international dimensions, Treaty of Paris), from the Articles of Confederation to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights. Reading: Frank chs 5-6; PCNM chs. 9-11, 14-16

4. The early years of the republic and foreign affairs to the Civil War. Keywords: the Federalist era and A. Hamilton, Jeffersonian democracy, Jacksonian democracy, economic changes in the early 19<sup>th</sup>-c., changing society, railroads, early women's rights movement, territorial expansion (Northwest Ordinance,

Louisiana purchase, Adams-Onís treaty with Spain, Oregon, war with Mexico, Alaska purchase), Indian policies, US and European powers. Reading: Frank chs 7-9; PCNM chs. 19-25

5. Slavery in North America and the Civil War. Keywords: factors for the appearance of slavery, westward expansion and slavery, popular sovereignty, abolition movement, seceding of Confederate States of America, Virginia theater of war, Western theater of war, Emancipation Proclamation, home front North/South, international blockade. Reading: Frank chs 10-11; PCNM chs. 27-34

6. Reconstruction and the Gilded Age. Keywords: Reconstruction era, 14<sup>th</sup> amendment, Reconstruction in the South, carpetbaggers, KKK, changes of land ownership, technological revolution, robber barons, industrial labor and unions, agriculture, urbanization, Native Americans and African Americans in the Gilded Age, old immigration, new immigration. Reading: Frank chs 12-15; PCNM chs. 35-36, 38.3

7. US foreign affairs at the turn of the century and the US in World War I. Keywords: the US in the Americas, expansion overseas (Pacific and the Far East), American neutrality, US intervention, peace agreements, the home front (industry, women, dissent). Reading: Frank chs 16-17; PCNM chs. 44-45

8. Normalcy and Depression (the 1920s) and the New Deal. Keywords: post war urban culture and wealth, red scare, conservative business ideas, new woman, new Negro, the Great Depression, FDR's New Deal (Acts), first 100 days, second 100 days, limitations. Reading: Frank chs 18-19; PCNM chs. 46-49

9. The US in World War II. Keywords: Isolationism, delicate international balance of power, deterioration in international relations, war in Europe, Pearl Harbor and the US in the Second WW, (European theater of war, Pacific theater of war, diplomacy), the home front and the economy, civil rights. Reading: Frank ch 20; PCNM chs. 50-51

10. Postwar society and the Cold War in the US. Keywords: IMF, World Bank, United Nations, Marshall Plan, CIA, NATO, intervention into the Korean War, Bay of Pigs landing, erection of the Berlin Wall, Cuban missile crisis, involvement in the Vietnam War, home front (red scare and witch-hunt, McCarthyism). Reading: Frank chs 21-22; PCNM chs. 52-53

11. Toward a "Great Society". Keywords: Affluence and feminine mystique, the Civil Rights Movement (Martin Luther King, march on Washington, bus boycott), the rise of radicalism, testing the superpower, the Vietnam War and US-Soviet rivalry. The rise of neoconservatism (from Nixon), Watergate, the US in the 1980s. Reading: Frank chs 23-26; PCNM chs. 54-59

## II. American Literature

Recommended reading: Bradbury, Malcolm and R. Ruland, *From Puritanism to Postmodernism. A History of American Literature*. London: Penguin, 1992.

Further reading: Bollobás, Enikő. *Az amerikai irodalom története*. Bp.: Osiris, 2005.

### Topics:

1. The colonial period. The Puritan legacy. Keywords: imagining the New World, Puritans, John Smith's *A True Relation of ... Virginia*, covenant, William Bradford "Of Plymouth Plantation", jeremiad, John Winthrop "A Model", Puritan literacy, Ann Bradstreet "To My Dear and Beloved Husband", captivity narrative, Mary Rowlandson's *Narrative*. Reading: DALA ch 3 (OR Bradbury ch 1).
2. The age of Enlightenment. Keywords: new notions of human reason and intellect, from Thomas Jefferson's *Notes*, diary, Benjamin Franklin's *The Autobiography* ch III and ch IX., the slave narrative, Olaudah Equiano's *The Interesting Narrative* ch 1, Phillis Wheatley "On Coming from Africa to America". Reading: DALA ch 4 (OR Bradbury ch 2)
3. Revolution and (in)dependence. Keywords: covenant with god, inalienable rights, Thomas Jefferson "Declaration of Independence", Thomas Paine *The Crisis*, no. 1., a sense of mythic past, Washington Irving "Rip van Winkle", westward expansion and a cyclic notion of history, James Fenimore Cooper from *Deerslayer*. Reading: DALA ch 4 and ch 6 (OR Bradbury ch 3)
4. American naissance: Transcendental theory and practice. Keywords: European Romanticism, idealism, transcendentalist idea of nature, Waldo Emerson's "Experience" "Nature" (excerpt), Thoreau's *Walden* (excerpts) "The Duty of Civil Disobedience", the poet as the explorer of the irrational, Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven" and "The Fall of the House of Usher",. Reading: DALA ch 5 (OR Bradbury ch 4).
5. Yea-saying and nay-saying: Transcendental metaphysics in Melville and Hawthorne. Keywords: nature vs. culture dilemma and the notion of Puritan sin in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, romance, Hawthorne's Preface to *The House of the Seven Gables*, battle of reason and faith in Melville's *Moby Dick* ch1 & 41 & 42. Reading: DALA ch 7 and ch 9 (OR Bradbury ch 5)
6. Literature of the Civil War and after. Versions of Realism. Keywords: The poet as prophet and the poet as hermit, Whitman's "I Hear America Singing" "Song of Myself" "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" & Emily Dickinson's "Faith is a Fine Invention" "I taste a liquor never brewed" "The brain is wider than the sky", slave narrative, Frederick Douglass's *Narrative* ch 10, abolitionist literature, Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in DALA 11, national realism, Twain *Huck Finn* excerpts in DALA 12, cosmopolitan realism, Henry James. Reading: DALA ch 10, ch 11, ch 12 (or Bradbury end of ch 5 and ch 6)
7. Muckrackers and early moderns. Keywords: frontier, F. J. Turner's "The Frontier" essay, genteel tradition, George Santayana's "The Genteel Tradition" essay, naturalism, Jack London's "South of the Slot", regional literatures, Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*, Charles W. Chesnutt's "The Wife of his Youth". Reading: DALA ch 12 and Bradbury ch 7.
8. Modernism in and outside America. Keywords: fine arts and literature, Gertrude Stein's *Three Lives*, Imagism, Ezra Pound's "In a Station" T. S. Eliot's "Prufrock", Wallace Stevens "Sunday Morning", William Carlos Williams "Anecdote of the Jar". Reading: Bradbury ch 8.
9. Modernism and Literature after 1912. Postromanticism in poetry: Robert Frost and William Carlos Williams, Randolph Bourne "Transnationalism" essay, cult of youth, flappers, illusions and dreams in F. S. Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, lost generation, minimal prose in Ernest Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms*, stream of consciousness technique in Faulkner, Faulkner's "A Rose for Emily" and *The Sound and the Fury*. Reading: Bradbury ch 9.

10. Radical reassessments in literary works. Keywords: The Harlem Renaissance, the African American author in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Langston Hughes "Theme for English B", Zora Neale Hurston "Sweat", Richard Wright's *Native Son*, the depression era, John Steinbeck *The Grapes of Wrath*, Federal Writers' Project, American drama: Eugene O'Neill, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Edward Albee, David Mamet, Sam Shepard. Reading: Bradbury ch 10.

11. After modernism. Postmodernism and American literature. Keywords: the war novel, Joseph Heller *Catch-22*, parallel worlds, spatialism, Vonnegut *Slaughterhouse Five*, metafiction and irony, John Barth's "Lost in the Funhouse", African American novels and history, Toni Morrison's *Beloved*. Reading: Bradbury ch 11.