

# THE AMERICAN 20TH CENTURY 1900-1999

American Modernism developed between the two world wars and is marked by a distrust of cultural and political institutions, disillusionment with the status quo, and experimentation in form. Later twentieth century American literature often critiques the construct of a prosperous America, the leader of the free world, to protest against the military-industrial complex, the increasing corporatization of the American economy, and the restriction of gender roles.

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1984: Apple Macintosh  
computer invented

1999

1969:  
Moon landing

1951: Introduction  
of color TV

1920: Harlem  
Renaissance begins

1900

*highlights*

## REPRESENTATIVE LITERARY WORKS

*The Cantos*, Ezra Pound, 1917

*My Ántonia*, Willa Cather, 1918

*The Waste Land*, T. S. Eliot, 1922

*The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald, 1925

*The Making of Americans*, Gertrude Stein, 1925

*The Sun Also Rises*, Ernest Hemingway, 1926

*The Weary Blues*, Langston Hughes, 1926

*The Sound and the Fury*, William Faulkner, 1929

*Black Elk Speaks*, John G. Neihardt, 1931

*Native Son*, Richard Wright, 1940

*The Catcher in the Rye*, J. D. Salinger, 1951

*Howl*, Allen Ginsberg, 1956

*Long Day's Journey into Night*, Eugene O'Neill, 1956

*Rabbit, Run*, John Updike, 1960

*Snapshots of a Daughter-in-Law*, Adrienne Rich, 1963

*Ariel*, Sylvia Plath, 1966 (posthumous)

*Slaughterhouse Five*, Kurt Vonnegut, 1969

*The Complete Stories*, Flannery O'Connor, 1971

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