



*The Culture and Politics of
American Literature during the Great Depression*
Further Reading

Mike Chasar, Associate Professor of English at Willamette University, compiled the following reading list to accompany his online lecture entitled *The Culture and Politics of American Literature during the Great Depression*. This lecture is presented as part of an online lecture series accompanying the ***Forgotten Stories: Northwest Public Art in the 1930s*** exhibition, taking place at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art. For more information on the exhibition as well as this lecture and additional exhibition related items, please visit willamette.edu/go/forgotten-stories.

Chasar's lecture takes us beyond *The Grapes of Wrath* and into the guts of American literature during the Great Depression. From local newspapers to pulp magazines, Communist Party publications, personal scrapbooks, and even the front lines of World War Two, American writing—especially American poetry—was charged by the social, political, economic, and cultural issues of the day and embedded in almost every facet of daily life.

Mike Chasar is the author of *Poetry Unbound: Poems and New Media from the Magic Lantern to Instagram* (Columbia University Press, 2020) and *Everyday Reading: Poetry and Popular Culture in Modern America* (Columbia University Press, 2012).

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Mike Chasar, *Poetry Unbound: Poems and New Media from the Magic Lantern to Instagram* (Columbia University Press, 2020).

Peter Conn, *The American 1930s: A Literary History* (Cambridge University Press, 2009).

Michael Denning, *The Cultural Front: The Laboring of American Culture in the Twentieth Century* (Verso, 2011).

Sarah Ehlers, *Left of Poetry: Depression America and the Formation of Modern Poetics* (University of North Carolina Press, 2019)

Alan Filreis, *Modernism from Right to Left: Wallace Stevens, the Thirties, & Literary Radicalism* (Cambridge University Press, 2005).

James Edward Ford, III, *Thinking Through Crisis: Depression-Era Black Literature, Theory, and Politics* (Fordham University Press, 2019).

Laura Hapke, *Daughters of the Great Depression: Women, Work, and Fiction in the American 1930s* (University of Georgia Press, 1997).

Catherine Keyser, *Playing Smart: New York Women Writers and Modern Magazine Culture* (Rutgers University Press, 2011).

John Lowney, *History, Memory, and the Literary Left: Modern American Poetry, 1935-1968* (University of Iowa Press, 2006).

William Maxwell, *New Negro, Old Left: African American Writing and Communism Between the Wars* (Columbia University Press, 1999).

William Maxwell, *F.B. Eyes: How J. Edgar Hoover's Ghostreaders Framed African American Literature* (Princeton University Press, 2015).

John Marsh, *The Emotional Life of the Great Depression* (Oxford University Press, 2019).

John Marsh, ed., *You Work Tomorrow: An Anthology of American Labor Poetry, 1929-1941* (University of Michigan Press, 2007).

Charlotte Nekola and Paula Rabinowitz, eds., *Writing Red: An Anthology of American Women Writers, 1930-1940* (The Feminist Press at CUNY, 1993).

Cary Nelson, *Repression and Recovery: Modern American Poetry and the Politics of Cultural Memory, 1910-1945* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1992).

---. *Revolutionary Memory: Recovering the Poetry of the American Left* (Routledge, 2003).

Catherine Robson, *Heart Beats: Everyday Life and the Memorized Poem* (Princeton University Press, 2015).

Joan Shelley Rubin, *Songs of Ourselves: The Uses of Poetry in America* (Harvard University Press, 2010).

Terry Ryan, *The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio: How My Mother Raised 10 Kids on 25 Words or Less* (Simon & Schuster, 2002).

James Smethurst, *The New Red Negro: The Literary Left and African American Poetry, 1930-1946* (Oxford University Press, 1999).

Alan M. Wald, *Exiles from a Future Time: The Forging of the Mid-Century Literary Left* (University of North Carolina Press, 2002).

---. *Trinity of Passion: The Literary Left and the Antifascist Crusade* (University of North Carolina Press, 2014).

John Woodson, *Anthems, Sonnets, and Chants: Recovering the African American Poetry of the 1930s* (Ohio State University Press, 2010).