

AMERICAN LITERATURE IN TRANSITION,
1970–1980

American Literature in Transition, 1970–1980 examines the literary developments of the twentieth century's gaudiest decade. For a quarter century, filmmakers, musicians, and historians have returned to the era to explore the legacy of Watergate, stagflation, and *Saturday Night Fever*, uncovering the unique confluence of political and economic phenomena that make the period such a baffling time. Literary historians have never shown much interest in the era, however – a remarkable omission considering writers as diverse as Toni Morrison, Thomas Pynchon, Marilyn French, Adrienne Rich, Gay Talese, Norman Mailer, Alice Walker, and Octavia E. Butler were active. Over the course of twenty-one essays, contributors explore a range of controversial themes these writers tackled, from 1960s nostalgia to feminism and the redefinition of masculinity to sexual liberation and rock 'n' roll. Other essays address New Journalism, the rise of blockbuster culture, memoir and self-help, and crime fiction – all demonstrating that the Me Decade was nothing short of mesmerizing.

KIRK CURNUTT is Professor and Chair of English at Troy University in Alabama. He is the author of fifteen books of fiction and criticism, including *The Cambridge Introduction to F. Scott Fitzgerald* (Cambridge, 2007), *Coffee with Hemingway* (2007), and *Reading Hemingway's To Have and Have Not* (2016). A member of the boards of both the Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald societies, he has served as managing editor of *The F. Scott Fitzgerald Review* since 2003.

AMERICAN LITERATURE IN TRANSITION

American Literature in Transition captures the dynamic energies transmitted across the 20th- and 21st-century American literary landscapes. Revisionary and authoritative, the series offers a comprehensive new overview of the established literary landmarks that constitute American literary life. Ambitious in scope and depth, and accommodating new critical perspectives and approaches, this series captures the dynamic energies and ongoing change in 20th- and 21st-century American literature. These are decades of transition, but also periods of epochal upheaval. These decades – the Jazz Age, the Great Depression, the Cold War, the sixties, 9/11 – are turning points of real significance. But in a tumultuous century, these terms can mask deeper structural changes. Each one of these books challenges in different ways the dominant approaches to a period of literature by shifting the focus from what happened to understanding how and why it happened. They elucidate the multifaceted interaction between the social and literary fields and capture that era's place in the incremental evolution of American literature up to the present moment. Taken together, this series of books constitutes a new kind of literary history in a century of intense cultural and literary creation, a century of liberation and also of immense destruction too. As a revisionary project grounded in pre-existing debates, American Literature in Transition offers an unprecedented analysis of the American literary experience.

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AMERICAN LITERATURE
IN TRANSITION,
1970–1980

EDITED BY
KIRK CURNUTT
Troy University



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Civil Rights Era (2016) and cowrote *Ralph Ellison's "Invisible Man": A Reference Guide* (2008). He also contributed to *After the Program Era: The Past, Present, and Future of Creative Writing in the University* (2016), *The Cambridge History of the American Novel* (Cambridge, 2011), and *Writers of the Black Chicago Renaissance* (2011). Right now, he is working on *Weather vanes of Democracy: Adolescence in African American Novels, 1937–2016*.

DAVID LINTON is Professor Emeritus of Communication Arts at Marymount Manhattan College in New York City. His curiosity has led to publications on topics as varied as the reading behavior of the Virgin Mary, the communications theories of William Shakespeare, the Luddite Movement, the function of metacanonical texts, the Prince Charles Camillagate scandal, Marshall McLuhan and Hugh Hefner, and media theory, to name a few. He has been a long-time activist in academic politics having served as President of the New York State Conference of the American Association of University Professors. Currently he is on the board of the Society for Menstrual Cycle Research and has written extensively about the social and cultural construction of menstruation.

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ALEX VERNON has written two military memoirs, *The Eyes of Orion* and *most succinctly bred* (2001 and 2011 respectively), and two war literature studies, *Soldiers Once and Still: Ernest Hemingway, James Salter, and Tim O'Brien* and *Hemingway's Second War: Bearing Witness to the Spanish Civil War* (2004 and 2011 respectively). He has edited four volumes on the subject: *Arms and the Self: War, the Military, and Autobiographical Writing* (2005); *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Tim O'Brien*

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(2010); *Critical Insights: War* (2012); and *Teaching Hemingway and War* (2016). Recent related essays include “Field Notes on *The Things They Carried*” and “Spectator-Citizen-Soldier: History, Genre, and Gender in *The Hurt Locker*.” He is also the author of the cultural study *On Tarzan* (2008). He teaches at Hendrix College.

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LINDA WAGNER-MARTIN, retired from University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, has returned to her first love, writing academic books. *Emily Dickinson, A Literary Life* (2015); *Toni Morrison and the Maternal* (2015); *The Routledge Introduction to American Modernism* (2016); and *Maya Angelou, Adventurous Spirit* (2015, which was given an ESSENTIAL rating by Choice) are among her recent books. She has also written books on Barbara Kingsolver, American literature from 1950 to the present, and Hemingway and war. She edits two book series, including Matthew J. Bruccoli’s Contemporary American Literature series. In 2012 she received the Hubbell Medal for lifetime service in American literature.

Chronology

- 1970 Saul Bellow, *Mr. Sammler's Planet*
 Judy Blume, *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*
 Jimmy Breslin, *The Gang That Couldn't Shoot Straight*
 Dee Brown, *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*
 James Dickey, *Deliverance*
 Shulamith Firestone, *The Dialectic of Sex*
 Germaine Greer, *The Female Eunuch*
 Ernest Hemingway, *Islands in the Stream*
 Audre Lorde, *Cables to Rage*
 Kate Millett, *Sexual Politics*
 Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*
 Erich Segal, *Love Story*
 Alice Walker, *The Third Life of Grange Copeland*
- 1971 Anonymous, *Go Ask Alice*
 William Peter Blatty, *The Exorcist*
 Frank Chin, *The Chickencoop Chinaman*
 E. L. Doctorow, *The Book of Daniel*
 Ernest J. Gaines, *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*
 Donald Goines, *Dopefiend*
 Arthur Hailey, *Wheels*
 Norman Mailer, *The Prisoner of Sex*
 Sylvia Plath, *The Bell Jar* (first US publication)
 David Rabe, *Sticks and Bones* and *The Basic Training of Pavlo Hummel*
 Philip Roth, *Our Gang*
 Anne Sexton, *Transformations*
 Sam Shepard and Patti Smith, *Cowboy Mouth*
 Wallace Stegner, *Angle of Repose*
 Gay Talese, *Honor Thy Father*
 John Updike, *Rabbit Redux*

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- 1972 Oscar Zeta Acosta, *The Autobiography of a Brown Buffalo*
 Isaac Asimov, *The Gods Themselves*
 Richard Bach, *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*
 Frances FitzGerald, *Fire in the Lake*
 Charles Gaines, *Stay Hungry*
 Brian Garfield, *Death Wish*
 Allen Ginsberg, *The Fall of America: Poems of These States, 1965–1971*
 George V. Higgins, *The Friends of Eddie Coyle*
 Ursula K. Le Guin, *The Farthest Shore*
 Ira Levin, *The Stepford Wives*
 Ishmael Reed, *Mumbo Jumbo*
 Alix Kates Shulman, *Memoirs of an Ex-Prom Queen*
 Hunter S. Thompson, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*
- 1973 Oscar Zeta Acosta, *The Revolt of the Cockroach People*
 Rita Mae Brown, *Rubyfruit Jungle*
 Don DeLillo, *Great Jones Street*
 Erica Jong, *Fear of Flying*
 Audre Lorde, *From a Land Where Other People Live*
 Toni Morrison, *Sula*
 Tim O'Brien, *If I Die in a Combat Zone, Box Me Up and Ship Me Home*
 Robert B. Parker, *The Godwulf Manuscript*
 Thomas Pynchon, *Gravity's Rainbow*
 Adrienne Rich, *Diving into the Wreck*
 Philip Roth, *The Great American Novel*
 Jacqueline Susann, *Once is Not Enough*
 Hunter S. Thompson, *Fear and Loathing: On the Campaign Trail '72*
 Gore Vidal, *Burr*
 Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., *Breakfast of Champions*
- 1974 James Baldwin, *If Beale Street Could Talk*
 Peter Benchley, *Jaws*
 Frank Chin, *The Year of the Dragon*
 Frank Chin, Jeffery Paul Chan, Lawson Fusao Inada, and Shawn Wong (eds.), *Aiiieeeee! An Anthology of Asian-American Writers*
 Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*
 Joe Haldeman, *The Forever War*
 Joseph Heller, *Something Happened*

- Stephen King, *Carrie*
 Elmore Leonard, *Fifty-Two Pick-Up* and *Mr. Majestyk*
 Audre Lorde, *New York Head Shop and Museum*
 Miguel Piñero, *Short Eyes*
 Robert M. Pirsig, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*
 Richard Price, *The Wanderers*
 Ishmael Reed, *The Last Days of Louisiana Red*
 Philip Roth, *My Life as a Man*
 Jonathan Rubin, *The Barking Deer*
 Robert Stone, *Dog Soldiers*
 Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, *All the President's Men*
- 1975 Edward Abbey, *The Monkey Wrench Gang*
 Saul Bellow, *Humboldt's Gift*
 Truman Capote, "La Côte Basque 1965"
 Samuel R. Delany, *Dhalgren*
 E. L. Doctorow, *Ragtime*
 William Gaddis, *J R*
 Gail Jones, *Corregidora*
 David Mamet, *American Buffalo*
 Judith Rossner, *Looking for Mr. Goodbar*
 Joanna Russ, *The Female Man*
 Alice Walker, "In Search of Zora Neale Hurston"
- 1976 Lisa Alther, *Kinflicks*
 Maya Angelou, *Singin' and Swingin' and Gettin' Merry Like Christmas*
 Raymond Carver, *Will You Please Be Quiet, Please?*
 Don DeLillo, *Ratner's Star*
 Alex Haley, *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*
 Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*
 Ron Kovic, *Born on the Fourth of July*
 Elmore Leonard, *Swag*
 Audre Lorde, *Coal*
 Marge Piercy, *Woman on the Edge of Time*
 David Rabe, *Streamers*
 Ishmael Reed, *Flight To Canada*
 Tom Robbins, *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*
 Ntozake Shange, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf*
 Gore Vidal, *1876*

Chronology

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- Alice Walker, *Meridian*
 Tom Wolfe, “The ‘Me’ Decade and the Third Great Awakening”
 Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, *The Final Days*
 Richard Yates, *The Easter Parade*
- 1977 John Cheever, *Falconer*
 Robert Coover, *The Public Burning*
 Marilyn French, *The Women’s Room*
 Nancy Friday, *My Mother/My Self: The Daughter’s Search for Identity*
 John Guare, *Landscape of the Body*
 Michael Herr, *Dispatches*
 Stephen King, *The Shining*
 Elmore Leonard, *Unknown Man No. 89*
 John McPhee, *Coming into the Country*
 Toni Morrison, *Song of Solomon*
 Marcia Muller, *Edwin of the Iron Shoes*
 Philip Roth, *The Professor of Desire*
 Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony*
- 1978 Charles Bukowski, *Women*
 Philip Caputo, *A Rumor of War*
 Don DeLillo, *Running Dog*
 John Irving, *The World According to Garp*
 Elmore Leonard, *The Switch*
 Larry Kramer, *Faggots*
 Tim O’Brien, *Going After Cacciato*
 Adrienne Rich, *The Dream of a Common Language*
 Sam Shepard, *Buried Child* and *Curse of the Starving Class*
 Alix Kates Shulman, *Burning Questions*
 John Updike, *The Coup*
 James Webb, *Fields of Fire*
- 1979 James Baldwin, *Just Above My Head*
 Octavia E. Butler, *Kindred*
 Truman Capote, *Handcarved Coffins*
 Joan Didion, *The White Album*
 Arthur Hailey, *Overload*
 Christopher Lasch, *The Culture of Narcissism*
 Norman Mailer, *The Executioner’s Song*

Adrienne Rich, *On Lies, Secrets and Silence: Selected Prose, 1966–1978*

Philip Roth, *The Ghost Writer*

William Styron, *Sophie's Choice*

Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., *Jailbird*

Tom Wolfe, *The Right Stuff*