Who is the “American” poet? Is there a “great American novel”? When we expand our
purview of “Americanness” outside of the U.S., what can we discover? This course will
engage these questions and others through the study of poetry, fiction, autobiography, and
essays from a diverse group of American writers, as well as theory and literary criticism.
Reading list may include works by Zitkala-Sa, Frederick Douglass, Walt Whitman, Jean
Toomer, Herman Melville, W.E.B. DuBois, F. Scott Fitzgerald, William Carlos Williams,
Frantz Fanon, Suzanne Césaire, Dorothy Allison, Maxine Hong Kingston, Leslie Marmon
Silko, Sandra Cisneros, Joy Harjo.