

WALT WHITMAN, THE MAN AND HIS POETRY

Abbreviated Study Group Name: Walt Whitman

Coordinators: Ted Gannon, Irv Geller

Walt Whitman, as a poet and man, identified himself with pre-Civil War America, so that when he wrote about himself, he was identifying himself with this young, pre-industrial, individualistic, socially mobile, optimistic country. He created a new style for this new country, the first extended poem in free verse in the English language. We read and discuss the world of Walt Whitman and his major poem, "Leaves of Grass," entering into the soul and art of this, America's greatest poet.

Please click [here](#) for syllabus.

Readings and other Required Materials:

Walt Whitman: Selected Poems, Harold Bloom, editor (Library of America, 2003, ISBN 978-1931082327; \$20).

(The following is suggested as background reading):

David S. Reynolds, *Walt Whitman's America, A Cultural Biography* (Vintage Books, 1996, ISBN 978-0679767091; \$22).

Ted Gannon, retired MD, has coordinated groups on American and English literature. **Irv Geller** has an educational background in philosophy and has coordinated groups in history and literature.