

Ph.D. Reading List for American Literature to 1829

Note: If “Selections” or a similar formulation appears next to an author’s name, those should be taken from the *Heath* anthology or, if no selections are available there, from the *Norton* or ascertained in conjunction with your advisor.

Primary Works

1. Native American literature: Selections of prose and poetry from at least four tribes
2. European non-English Colonial literature, Selections from the following exploration narratives:
 - a. Christopher Columbus
 - b. Bartolome de la Casas
 - c. Rene Goulaine de Laudonniere
 - d. Pedro Menendez de Aviles
 - e. Fray Marcos de Niza
 - f. Pedro de Casteneda
 - g. Gaspar Perez de Villagra
 - h. Garcilaso de la Vega
 - i. Jacques Cartier
 - j. Samuel de Champlain
 - k. Jerome Lalemant, *The Jesuit Relations*
3. Cabeza de Vaca, *The Relation*
4. Thomas Harriot, *A Brief and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia*
5. John Smith, *The General History of Virginia, New England, and the Summer Isles*
6. William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation*
7. John Winthrop, “A Model of Christian Charity” and the *Journal*
8. Thomas Shepherd, *Autobiography*
9. Thomas Morton, Selections from *New English Canaan*
10. Nathaniel Ward, Selections from *The Simple Cobbler of Aggawam*
11. Roger Williams, Selections
12. Nathaniel Bacon, Selections
13. George Alsop, *A Character of the Province of Maryland*
14. Anne Bradstreet
 - a. “The Prologue”
 - b. “A Dialogue Between Old England and New”
 - c. “Contemplations”
 - d. “The Flesh and the Spirit”
 - e. “The Author to Her Book”
 - f. “Before the Birth of One of Her Children”
 - g. “To My Dear and Loving Husband”
 - h. “To Her Father With Some Verses”
 - i. “To My Dear Children”
 - j. “Meditations Divine and Moral”
 - k. “Upon the Burning of Our House”
 - l. “As Weary Pilgrim”

15. Michael Wigglesworth, "The Day of Doom"
16. *The Bay Psalm Book*, Selections
17. *The New England Primer*, Selections
18. Edward Taylor
 - a. From *God's Determinations*
 - i. "The Preface"
 - ii. "The Soul's Groan to Christ For Succor"
 - iii. "Christ's Reply"
 - iv. "The Joy of Church Fellowship Rightly Attended"
 - b. From *Preparatory Meditations*
 - i. First Series: "Prologue," 6, 8, 16, 21-23, 29, 38, 42
 - ii. Second Series: 4, 26, 102, 106
 - c. Miscellaneous Verses
 - i. "Upon a Spider Catching a Fly"
 - ii. "Upon a Wasp Chilled with Cold"
 - iii. "Huswifery"
 - iv. "Upon Wedlock, and Death of Children"
 - v. "Let by Rain"
 - vi. "The Ebb and Flow"
 - vii. "Upon the Sweeping Flow"
 - viii. "A Fig for Thee, Oh! Death"
19. *American Poetry of the Seventeenth Century*, ed. Harrison T. Meserole. Select a range of ten non-Puritan authors other than Pastorius and Alsop.
20. Francis Daniel Pastorius, selections from Meserole
21. William Penn, *Frame of Government of Pennsylvania* at <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/states/pa04.htm>
22. Mary Rowlandson, *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration*
23. Sarah Kemble Knight, *Journal*
24. Samuel Sewall, Selections from *The Diary*
25. Cotton Mather
 - a. From *Magnalia Christi Americana*
 - i. "A General Introduction"
 - ii. "Galeacius Secundus: The Life of William Bradford"
 - iii. "Nehemias Americanus: The Life of John Winthrop"
 - iv. "Pietas in Patriam: The Life of Sir William Phips"
 - b. "The Negro Christianized"
 - c. Selections from *Bonifacius*
 - d. "Of Poetry and Style"
26. Ebenezer Cook, *The Sot-Weed Factor*
27. William Byrd
 - a. *The History of the Dividing Line*
 - b. *The Secret History of the Dividing Line* (see the dual text edition for both of Byrd's Histories)
 - c. Selections from *Diaries*
28. Dr. Alexander Hamilton, Selections from *The History of the Tuesday Club* OR Selections from *The Itinerarium*

29. Jonathan Edwards
 - a. ["Sarah Pierrepont"]
 - b. "A Divine and Supernatural Light"
 - c. "Narrative of Surprising Conversions"
 - d. "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"
 - e. "Personal Narrative"
 - f. "A Faithful Narrative"
 - g. *Treatise Concerning Religious Affections*
 - h. "The Nature of True Virtue"
 - i. *Images or Shadows of Divine Things*
30. Samson Occom
 - a. "A Short Narrative of My Life"
 - b. "A Sermon Preached by Samson Occom"
31. Briton Hammon, "Narrative of the Uncommon Sufferings and Surprising Deliverance of Briton Hammon"
32. Benjamin Franklin
 - a. "Exporting of Felons to the Colonies"
 - b. "The Way to Wealth"
 - c. "The Sale of the Hessians"
 - d. "Information For Those Who Would Remove to America"
 - e. "Remarks Concerning the Savages of North America"
 - f. "On the Slave-Trade"
 - g. *Autobiography*
33. Thomas Jefferson
 - a. "Declaration of Independence"
 - b. "Report on Government for Western Territory"
 - c. *Notes on the State of Virginia*
 - d. Letters (Selections)
34. Thomas Paine
 - a. "Common Sense"
 - b. Selections from *The Age of Reason*
 - c. *The American Crisis*
35. John Marrant, "A Narrative of the Lord's Wonderful Dealings with John Marrant, a Black," in *Unchained Voices: An Anthology of Black Authors in the English-Speaking World of the Eighteenth Century*, ed. Vincent Carretta
36. Benjamin Banneker, "Letter to the Secretary of State," in *Unchained Voices*.
37. Phillis Wheatley, from *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*
 - a. "Preface"
 - b. "To Maecenas"
 - c. "On Being Brought From Africa to America"
 - d. "To the University of Cambridge, in New England"
 - e. "To the Right Honourable William, Earl of Dartmouth"
 - f. "On the Death of the Rev. Mr. George Whitefield"
 - g. "To S. M., A Young African Painter on Seeing His Works"
 - h. "To His Excellency George Washington"
 - i. Letters (Selections)

38. Jupiter Hammon, Selections
39. Joel Barlow, Selections
40. Two other "Connecticut Wits" (Selections from John Trumbull, Timothy Dwight, David Humphreys, Lemuel Hopkins, or Richard Alsop)
41. John Woolman, *The Journal*
42. Phillip Freneau, Selections
43. J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur, *Letters from an American Farmer*
44. William Bartram, Selections from *Travels*
45. *The Federalist Papers*, Nos. 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 29, 37, 39, 51, 54, 85
46. Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life*
47. Charles Brockden Brown, *Wieland* OR *Edgar Huntley*
48. Hugh Henry Brackenridge, *Modern Chivalry*
49. Susanna Rowson, *Charlotte Temple*
50. Hannah Webster Foster, *The Coquette*
51. Rebecca Rush, *Kelroy*
52. Tabitha Gilman Tenney, *Female Quixotism*
53. William Hill Brown, *The Power of Sympathy*
54. Mercy Otis Warren, Selections
55. Judith Sargent Murray, Selections
56. Anne Boudinot Stockton, Selections
57. Royall Tyler, *The Contrast*
58. Col. James Smith. Selections from *An Account of the Remarkable Occurrences in the Life and Travels*
59. John Tanner, Selections from *The Falcon*
60. William Ellery Channing, "Unitarian Christianity"
61. William Apress
 - a. Selections from *A Son of the Forest*
 - b. "An Indian's Looking Glass for the White Man"
62. Washington Irving
 - a. *The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon*
 - b. *The History of New York*
63. James Fenimore Cooper
 - a. *The Pioneers*
 - b. *The Last of the Mohicans*
 - c. *Precaution* OR *The Spy* OR *Lionel Lincoln* OR *The Pilot*
64. Catharine Maria Sedgwick
 - a. *Hope Leslie*
 - b. *A New England Tale* OR *Redwood*
65. William Cullen Bryant, "Thanatopsis," "The Yellow Violet," "To a Waterfowl," and "To an American Painter Departing for Europe"

Criticism

Note: Pick twenty works from the following list, in conjunction with your advisor, that reflect the breadth of American literary studies on the period from 1830 to 1914. To individualize your selection, you may modify up to 20% – approximately four or five works. The department strongly recommends that your reading of both primary and critical works be accompanied by concurrent reading of the appropriate sections of either the *Cambridge History of American Literature* or the *Columbia Literary History of the United States*.

1. Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*
2. William L. Andrews, *To Tell a Free Story: The First Century of Afro-American Autobiography, 1760-1865*
3. Lawrence Buell, *New England Literary Culture: From Revolution Through Renaissance*
4. Sacvan Bercovitch, *The Puritan Origins of the American Self; The American Jeremiad*
5. Michael Colacurcio, *Godly Letters: The Literature of the American Puritans*
6. Cathy N. Davidson, *Revolution and the Word: The Rise of the Novel in America*
5. Richard Beale Davis, *Intellectual Life in the Colonial South, 1585-1763* (3 vols.)
7. Kathryn Zabelle Derounian-Stodola and James Levernier, *The Indian Captivity Narrative, 1550-1900*
8. Ann Douglas, *The Feminization of American Culture*
9. Julie Ellison, *Cato's Tears and the Making of Anglo-American Emotion*
10. Charles Feidelson, *Symbolism and American Literature*
11. Jay Fliegelman, *Prodigals and Pilgrims: The American Revolution Against Patriarchal Authority, 1750-1800 OR Declaring Independence: Jefferson, Natural Language, and the Culture of Performance*
12. Sandra Gustafson, *Eloquence is Power: Oratory and Performance in Early America*
13. Alan Heimert, *Religion and the American Mind: From the Great Awakening to the Revolution*
14. Annette Kolodny, *The Lay of the Land: Metaphor as Experience and History in American Life and Letters*
15. D.H. Lawrence, *Studies in Classic American Literature*
16. J.A. Leo Lemay, *Men of Letters in Colonial Maryland*
17. R.W.B. Lewis, *The American Adam: Innocence, Tragedy, and Tradition in the Nineteenth Century*
18. Christopher Looby, *Voicing America: Language, Literary Form, and the Origins of the United States*
19. Leo Marx, *The Machine in the Garden: Technology and the Pastoral Ideal in America*
20. Perry Miller, *The New England Mind: The Seventeenth Century; The New England Mind: From Colony to Province; Errand into the Wilderness*
21. Dana Nelson, *The Word in Black and White: Reading "Race" in American Literature, 1638-1867*
22. David S. Shields, *Civil Tongues and Polite Letters in British America*
23. Kenneth Silverman, *A Cultural History of the American Revolution*
24. Richard Slotkin, *Regeneration through Violence: The Mythology of the Frontier, 1600-1820*

25. Henry Nash Smith, *Virgin Land: The American West as Symbol and Myth*
26. Julia Stern, *The Plight of Feeling: Sympathy and Dissent in the Early American Novel*
27. Tzvetan Todorov, *The Conquest of America: The Question of the Other*
28. Jane Tompkins, *Sensational Designs: The Cultural Work of American Fiction, 1790-1860*
29. Michael Warner, *The Letters of the Republic: Publication and the Public Sphere in Eighteenth-Century America*