Literature and Cultural Theory
Preliminary Exam Texts

Major Fields of Literature and Culture
American Literature and Culture: Early American

- Native American Oral Literature, selections in *Heath Anthology*
- Christopher Columbus, "From Letter to Luis de Santangel Regarding the First Voyage [February 15, 1493]," "From Letter to Ferdinand and Isabella Regarding the Fourth Voyage [July 7, 1503]," scholarly ed. used in *Norton Anthology American Literature, Vol. A*.
- Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca. *The Narrative of Cabeza de Vaca* (Relación de Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca) (1542)
- Gaspar Pérez de VillagrÁ, *The History of New Mexico* (1610), Cantos 1, 29, 30, 31, 32 [epic poem]
- John Smith, *The Generall Historie of Virginia* (1624)
- John Winthrop, *A Modell of Christian Charity* (c. 1629)
- Sor Juana Inéz de la Cruz, selected poems, *Poems, Protest, and a Dream*, trans. Dorothy Sayers Peden (c. 1690-91)
- Thomas Morton, *Books I and III, New English Canaan*, (1637)
- Roger Williams, *A Key into the Language of North America* (1643), "A Letter to the Town of Providence" (c. 1654)
- Michael Wigglesworth, *Day of Doom* (1662)

Samuel Sewall, selected entries from The Diary of Samuel Sewall (1674-1729), "The Selling of Joseph, A Memorial" (1700)

Mary White Rowlandson, A Narrative of the Captivity and Restauration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson (1682)

The Bay Psalm Book (1640) and The New England Primer (c. 1683, Enlarged ed. 1687)


Sarah Kemble Knight, The Journal of Madam Knight (1704-05)

Ebenezer Cook, The Sot-Weed Factor; or, A Voyage to Maryland (1708)

William Byrd II. The History of the Dividing Line Betwixt Virginia and North Carolina, selections for comparison from The Secret History of the Line

Jonathan Edwards, A Faithful Narrative of the Surprising Work of God (1737), "Personal Narrative" (1739), "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" (1741)

Elizabeth Ashbridge, Some Account of the Fore Part of the Life of Elizabeth Ashbridge(1755)

Benjamin Franklin, "The Way to Wealth" (1757), Autobiography (1771-1779) "Remarks Concerning the Savages of North America" (1784) "On the Slave-Trade" (1790)

Briton Hammon, Narrative of the Uncommon Sufferings and Surprising Deliverance of Briton Hammon (1760)

Abigail and John Adams, selected Letters, especially from 1775-1778 (1762-1784)

Samson Occom, A Short Narrative of My Life (1668), "A Sermon Preached by Samson Occom" (1772)


Thomas Paine, Common Sense (1776), The Crisis, No. 1 (1776), from The Age of Reason, Chapters I, II, III, IV, VI, XI (1793)

Mercy Otis Warren, The Group (1775), "To Fidelio, Long absent on the great public Cause, which agitated all America, in 1776" (1776)

Joel Barlow, "The Prospect of Peace (1778), The Hasty Pudding (1793)

J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur, Letters from an American Farmer (1782)

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) Notes on the State of Virginia ( 1787), "Declaration of Independence"

The Federalist Papers, No. 6 [Alexander Hamilton], No. 10 [James Madison], No. 51 [James Madison] (1787)

Olaudah Equiano (Gustavus Vassa), The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, The African, Written by Himself (1789)


William Bartram, Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida, the Cherokee Country, etc. (1791)

Royall Tyler, The Contrast (1790), The Algerine Captive (1797)

Timothy Dwight, selections from Greenfield Hill: A Poem in Seven Parts (1794)

Judith Sargent Murray, from The Gleaner: "Desultory Thoughts upon the Utility of encouraging a degree of Self-Complacency, especially in the Female Bosoms" (1784), "On the Equality of the Sexes" (1790), Story of Margaretta (1798)

William Hill Brown, The Power of Sympathy (1789)

Susanna Rowson, Charlotte Temple (1791)

Charles Brockden Brown, Wieland (1798) or Arthur Mervyn (1799) or Edgar Huntly(1799)

Hannah Webster Foster, The Coquette (1797)

Tabitha Gilman Tenney, Female Quixotism (1801)

Washington Irving, The Sketch-Book (1819-1820)

Catharine Maria Sedgwick, A New England Tale (1822)

Perry Miller, Errand into the Wilderness (1956)

Sacvan Bercovitch, The American Jeremiad (1978)


Michael Warner, Letters of the Republic: Publication and the Public Sphere in Eighteenth Century America (1990)