



**College of Letters and Science**  
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Literature and Cultural Theory  
Preliminary Exam Texts

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

- Iroquois League, *The Constitution of the Five Nations*; Hopi, "The Coming of the Spanish and the Pueblo Revolt"
- 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*.
- Álvaro Núñez Cabeza de Vaca. *The Narrative of Cabeza de Vaca* (Relación de Álvaro 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)
- William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation* (1630-1650)
- 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)
- Anne Bradstreet, selected poems (1650-1678), including "The Prologue [To Her Book]," "In Honor of that High and Mighty Princess Queen Elizabeth of Happy Memory," "To Her Father with Some Verses," "Contemplations," "The Flesh and the Spirit," "The Author to Her Book," "Before the Birth of One of Her Children," "To My Dear and Loving Husband," "A Letter to Her Husband, Absent upon Public Employment," "Another" [Letter to Her Husband, Absent upon Public Employment], "In Reference to Her Children, 23 June, 1659," "In Memory of My Dear Grandchild Elizabeth Bradstreet," "For Deliverance from a Fever," "Here Follows Some Verses upon the Burning of Our House," "As Weary Pilgrim"
- Michael Wigglesworth, *Day of Doom* (1662)

- Edward Taylor, selected poems (1674-1721), including "Psalm Two" (First Version), "Preparatory Meditations" "Upon Wedlock, and Death of Children," "Upon a Wasp Chilled with Cold," "Huswifery," "The Ebb and Flow," "A Fig for Thee, Oh! Death," from *God's Determinations: "The Preface," "The Soul's Groan to Christ for Succor," "Christ's Reply," "The Joy of Church Fellowship Rightly Attended,"* from *Preparatory Meditations: "Prologue," "Meditation 6" (First Series), "Meditation 8" (First Series),*
- 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)
- Cotton Mather, selections in *Heath Anthology (Vol. A): Wonders of the Invisible World* (1692), *Magnalia Christi Americana* (1702), "The Negro Christianized" (1706). Also, Mather's *Pillars of Salt* (1699), available in *True Crime: An American Anthology* (Library of America)
- 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 Surprizing 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* (1768), "A Sermon Preached by Samson Occom" (1772)
- Phillis Wheatley, selections from *Poems* (1773) and letters, including "On Being Brought from Africa to America," "To Maecenas," "To the Right Honorable William, Earl of Dartmouth," "To the University of Cambridge, in New England," "On the Death of the Rev. Mr. George Whitefield, 1770," "Thoughts on the Works of Providence," "To S.M., A Young African Painter, on Seeing His Works," "To His Excellency General Washington" and Letter to Rev. Samson Occom (February 11, 1774)
- 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)

- Philip Freneau, selected poems (1776-1822), including *The House of Night*, "From A Vision," "On the Emigration to America and Peopling the Western Country," "The Wild Honey Suckle," "The Indian Burying Ground," "To Sir Toby," "On Mr. Paine's Rights of Man," "On the Religion of Nature"
- Speeches: "Speech of Mahicans to Gov. William Burnett of New York, 1722," Pontiac, "Speech at Detroit" (1763?), Speech of Chickasaws to Governors of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, 1771", Cornplanter, "Speech in the Council at Philadelphia, 1790," Prince Hall, "A Charge, Delivered to the African Lodge, June 24, 1797, at Menotomy," George Washington, "Farewell Address" (1796), Red Jacket, "Speech to the U.S. Senate" (1809), Tecumseh "Speech to the Osages" (1811-12?)
- 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 Margareta* (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)
- Cathy N. Davidson, *Revolution and the Word: The Rise of the Novel in America* (1986)
- Jay Fliegelman, *Prodigals and Pilgrims: The American Revolutions against Patriarchal Authority, 1750-1800* (1982)
- Michael Warner, *Letters of the Republic: Publication and the Public Sphere in Eighteenth Century America* (1990)

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