

## AMERICAN LITERATURE BEFORE 1800

### GRADUATE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION READING LIST SELECTED BY THE GRADUATE FACULTY

THE DEGREE CANDIDATE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HAVING READ *ALL* OF THE FOLLOWING WORKS:

Abigail Adams. Selections from Travel Diaries and Letters

John Adams. Selections from *The Autobiography*, Selected Letters

Elizabeth Ashbridge. Selections from *Some Account of the Fore Part of the Life of Elizabeth Ashbridge*

William Bradford. *Of Plymouth Plantation*

Anne Bradstreet. Selected Poems, to include “The Author to Her Book,” “To My Dear and Loving Husband,” “Upon the Burning of Her House, July 10, 1666”

Charles Brockden Brown. At Least One of the Following Novels: *Wieland*, *Edgar Huntly*, *Ormond*, *Arthur Mervyn*

William Byrd. *History of the Dividing Line betwixt Virginia and North Carolina*, Selections from *The Secret Diary of William Byrd*

Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca. *La Relación [The Report]*. Familiarity with Other Colonial Latin American Works: The Second Letter of Hernán Cortés; Bartolomé de Las Casas’s *Very Brief Relation of the Devastation of the Indies*; Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala’s *New Chronicle and Good Government*; Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz’s *Primer Sueño/ First Dream*

Samuel Champlain. *Voyages*. Familiarity with Other Works from New France like *The Jesuit Relations*

Christopher Columbus. *Journal of the First Voyage*, “Letter to Luis de Santangel Regarding the First Voyage,” “Letter to Ferdinand and Isabella Regarding the Fourth Voyage”

J. Hector St. Jean de Crevecoeur. *Letters from an American Farmer*

Jonathan Edwards. “A Divine and Supernatural Light,” “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”

Olaudah Equiano. *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa the African*

Hannah Webster Foster. *The Coquette*

Benjamin Franklin. *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*, “Remarks concerning the Savages of North America,” and “The Way to Wealth”

Jupiter Hammon. “A Dialogue, Intituled, The Kind Master and the Dutiful Servant,” “An Address to Miss Phillis Wheatly,” “A Poem for Children with Thoughts on Death,” “An Evening Thought”

Thomas Jefferson. Excerpts from *The Autobiography of Thomas Jefferson*, Excerpts from *Notes on the State of Virginia*, Original and Final Drafts of “The Declaration of Independence”

Sarah Kemble Knight. *The Journal of Madam Knight*

Cotton Mather. *Wonders of the Invisible World* and from *Magnalia Christi Americana*: “Galeacius Secundus: The Life of William Bradford” and “Nehemias Americanus: The Life of John Winthrop”

Thomas Morton. Excerpts from *New English Canaan*

Judith Sargent Murray. “On the Equality of the Sexes”

Samson Occom. “A Short Narrative of My Life”

Thomas Paine. *The Age of Reason, Common Sense*

Publius [Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay]. Excerpts from *The Federalist Papers*

Mary White Rowlandson. *Narrative of the Captivity and Restauration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*.

Susanna Rowson. *Charlotte Temple*

Samuel Sewall. Excerpts from *The Diary of Samuel Sewall*

John Smith. Excerpts from *The General History of Virginia*

Royall Tyler. *The Contrast*

Phillis Wheatley. Selected Letters and Poems, to include “On Being Brought from Africa to America”

Roger Williams. *A Key into the Language of America*

A Selection of Native American Oral Narratives, including Handsome Lake's "How America Was Discovered"

A candidate may also submit a list of readings to supplement, but not replace, the readings from the core list above. The supplementary list should be submitted for approval with the declaration of intent to take the comprehensive examination form.