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*
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
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”
   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
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
59. John Tanner, Selections from The Falcon
60. William Ellery Channing, “Unitarian Christianity”
61. William Apess
   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.

3. Lawrence Buell, *New England Literary Culture: From Revolution Through Renaissance*
4. Sacvan Bercovitch, *The Puritan Origins of the American Self; The American Jeremiad*
8. Kathryn Zabelle Derounian-Stodola and James Levernier, *The Indian Captivity Narrative, 1550-1900*
10. Julie Ellison, *Cato’s Tears and the Making of Anglo-American Emotion*
11. Charles Feidelson, *Symbolism and American Literature*
13. Sandra Gustafson, *Eloquence is Power: Oratory and Performance in Early America*
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*
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*
22. David S. Shields, *Civil Tongues and Polite Letters in British America*
25. Henry Nash Smith, *Virgin Land: The American West as Symbol and Myth*
27. Tzvetan Todorov, *The Conquest of America: The Question of the Other*