

FIELD VIII: AMERICAN LITERATURE TO 1865

Revised: December 2018

Effective: January 2020

STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS

The Early American Field Exam is intended as a measure of the student's mastery of the field as represented by the reading list. During the written portion of the exam, the student is expected to demonstrate a command of primary and secondary materials, show familiarity with important issues and developments in the field, and articulate an individual perspective on the material. The examiners will ask questions that can—and should—be addressed with texts on the reading list. If relevant to a question, however, the candidate may use any texts in the field, whether studied independently or through course work. Students who successfully complete the field exam demonstrate a proficiency to undertake advanced scholarship and to teach courses in this field.

Students should be prepared to articulate:

- major genre conventions and evolutions in these conventions during the period (for instance, poetry, drama, fiction, life writing of various sorts, captivity narratives);
- the historical and literary subfields that comprise the larger field of “Early American” Studies and the historical, cultural, and literary significances of those subfields (for instance, the Age of Exploration; Early Settlement; Puritanism; the Eighteenth Century; the Revolutionary Era; Early National Era; Antebellum Era; American Renaissance);
- formations of American identity or American identities in both the colonial and early US period;
- the significance of revisions to the American literature canon, especially with turns toward multicultural, multilingual, inter-religious, and gender inclusivity;
- recent shifts in conceptualizing the geographies of Early America (Transatlantic and Oceanic, Transnational, and Hemispheric Studies).

READING LIST

*We suggest students own copies of the most recent editions of the *Norton Anthologies of American Literature* (Vol. A and B) and the *Heath Anthologies of American Literature* (Vol. A and B) and be familiar with the table of contents and the period introductions included these two most frequently taught textbooks. (This list was assembled using Norton's eighth edition and Heath's sixth edition).

Primary Texts

1. Adams, Abigail and John. "Letters." Heath Vol. A.
2. Apess, William. "An Indian's Looking-Glass for the White Man." Heath Vol. B.
3. Apess, William. *A Son of the Forest*.
4. Black Hawk. *Life of Black Hawk*.
5. Bradford, William. *Of Plymouth Plantation*. Norton Vol. A.
6. Bradstreet, Anne. Selections in Norton Vol. A.
7. Brockden Brown, Charles. *Wieland*.
8. Brown, William Wells. *Clotel; or, the President's Daughter* (1853).
9. Bryant, William Cullen. Poems in Heath Vol. B.
10. Cabeza de Vaca, Alvar Nuñez. *The Relation of Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca*. Norton Vol. A.
11. Champlain, Samuel de. *The Voyages*. Norton Vol. A.
12. Channing, William Ellery. "Unitarian Christianity."
<http://ucmtl.typepad.com/files/unitarian-christianity-1.pdf>
13. Child, Lydia Maria. *Hobomok*.
14. Child, Lydia Maria. "Slavery's Pleasant Home."
<http://www.facstaff.bucknell.edu/gcarr/19cusww/lb/SPH.html>
15. Child, Lydia Maria. *Appeal in Favor of That Class of Americans Called Africans*. Heath Vol. B.
16. "The Coming of the Spanish and the Pueblo Revolt" (Hopi); Vargas, Don Diego de. "from *Letter on the Reconquest of New Mexico, 1692*." Heath Vol. A.
17. Cooper, James Fenimore. *The Last of the Mohicans*.
18. Crèvecoeur, J. Hector St. John de. *Letters from an American Farmer*. Heath Vol. A.
19. Davis, Rebecca Harding. "Life in the Iron-Mills." Heath Vol. B.
20. Dickinson, Emily. Poems in Norton Vol. B.
21. Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*.
22. Douglass, Frederick. "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" Heath Vol. B.
23. *Early American Drama*, ed. Jeffrey Richards.
24. Edwards, Jonathan. "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." Norton Vol. A.
25. Edwards, Jonathan. "Personal Narrative." Norton Vol. A.
26. Emerson, Ralph Waldo. *Nature* (1836); "The Poet"; "The American Scholar"; "Experience"; "Self-Reliance"; and Poems in Norton Vol. B.
27. *Empire and the Literature of Sensation: An Anthology of Nineteenth-Century Popular Fiction*, eds. Jesse Alemán and Shelley Streeby.
28. Equiano, Olaudah. *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*.
29. Fern, Fanny. *Ruth Hall*.

30. Foster, Hannah Webster. *The Coquette*.
31. Franklin, Benjamin. *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*.
32. Freneau, Philip. "On the Emigration to America"; "On Mr. Paine's *Rights of Man*"; "The Indian Burying Ground"; "On the Religion of Nature." Norton Vol. A.
33. Fuller, Margaret. *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*.
34. Garrison, William Lloyd (et al.). *The Liberator*. Selections in Heath Vol. B.
35. Harper, Frances Ellen Watkins. Selections in Heath Vol. B.
36. Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The Scarlet Letter*, including "Custom House" preface.
37. Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The Blithedale Romance*;
38. Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *House of the Seven Gables*.
39. Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *Tales*: "Young Goodman Brown"; "Ethan Brand"; "The Minister's Black Veil"; "Roger Malvin's Burial". [Norton Critical Edition of Hawthorne's *Tales* includes all of these.]
40. Irving, Washington. *The Sketch-Book of Geoffrey Crayon*.
41. Irving, Washington. *The Alhambra*.
42. Jacobs, Harriet. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*.
43. Jefferson, Thomas (et al.). "Declaration of Independence" (Jefferson et al.) Norton Vol. A. [recommended for its inclusion of the original draft with revisions.]
44. Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth. Poems in Heath Vol. B.
45. Mather, Cotton. *Magnalia Christi Americana*. Norton Vol. A.
46. Melville, Herman. *Moby-Dick*.
47. Melville, Herman. "Bartleby, the Scrivener"; "Benito Cereno; *Billy Bud, Sailor*. Heath Vol. B.
48. Occom, Samson. *A Short Narrative of My Life*. Heath Vol. A. [Do not use Norton; too abbreviated.]
49. Paine, Thomas. *Common Sense*. Norton Vol. A.
50. Poe, Edgar Allan. *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym*.
51. Poe, Edgar Allan. "The Raven"; "Israfel." Norton Vol. B.
52. Poe, Edgar Allan. *Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque*: "The Fall of the House of Usher"; "Ligeia"; "The Tell-Tale Heart"; "The Murders in the Rue Morgue." [With the exception of "Murders in the Rue Morgue," these are all available in Norton Vol. B.]
53. Rowlandson, Mary. *Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*.
54. Rowson, Susannah. *Charlotte Temple*.
55. Rowson, Susannah. *Slaves in Algiers; or, Struggle for Freedom*.
56. Sansay, Leonora. *Secret History, or, The Horrors of St. Domingo*.
57. Sedgwick, Catharine Maria. *Hope Leslie*.
58. Sigourney, Lydia Howard. Poems in Norton Vol. B.
59. Smith, John. Selections in Norton Vol. A.
60. Stanton, Elizabeth Cady (et al.). "The Declaration of Sentiments." Heath Vol. B.
61. Stanton, Elizabeth Cady. *Eighty Years and More*. Heath Vol. B.
62. Stiles, Ezra. "The United States Elevated to Glory and Honor."
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/etas/41/>
63. Stowe, Harriet Beecher. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.
64. Taylor, Edward. Poems in Norton Vol. A.
65. Terry, Lucy, "Bars Fight." <http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/bars-fight/>.

66. Thoreau, Henry David. *Walden*.
67. Thoreau, Henry David. "Resistance to Civil Government." Heath Vol. B.
68. Truth, Sojourner, "Ain't I A Woman?" Heath Vol. B.
69. Wheatley, Phillis. Selections in Norton Vol. A.
70. Whitman, Walt. *Leaves of Grass* [1855 edition].
71. Williams, Roger. *A Key Into the Languages of America*. Norton Vol. A.
72. Wilson, Harriet, *Our Nig*.
73. Winthrop, John. "A Model of Christian Charity." Norton Vol. A.

Secondary/Critical Text

1. Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities*. (1983).
2. Baym, Nina. *Novels, Readers, and Reviewers*. (1987).
3. Bercovitch, Sacvan. *The Puritan Origins of the American Self*. (1975).
4. Brickhouse, Anna (et al.). "Special Feature on Early American Literature." *PMLA* 128.4 (Oct 2013): 938-1003.
5. Crain, Patricia. *Reading Children: Literacy, Property, and the Dilemmas of Childhood in Nineteenth-Century America*. (2016).
6. Coviello, Peter. *Tomorrow's Parties: Sex and the Untimely in Nineteenth-Century America*. (2013).
7. Davidson, Cathy. *Revolution and the Word*. (1986).
8. Dillon, Elizabeth Maddock. *The Gender of Freedom*. (2004).
9. Drexler, Michael and Ed White, eds. *Beyond Douglass: New Perspectives on Early African American Literature*. (2008).
10. Fiedler, Leslie. *Love and Death in the American Novel*. (1966).
11. Foster, Travis. "Nineteenth-Century Queer Literature" in *The Cambridge Companion to American Gay and Lesbian Literature*, ed. by Scott Herring (2015): 89-102.
12. Giles, Paul. *Transatlantic Insurrections: British Culture and the Formation of American Literature, 1730–1860*. (2001).
13. Goshgarian, G. M. *To Kiss the Chastening Rod: Domestic Fiction and Sexual Ideology in the American Renaissance*. (1992).
14. Gunn, Robert Lawrence. *Ethnology and Empire Languages, Literature, and the Making of the North American Borderlands*. (2015).
15. Kolodny, Annette. *In Search of First Contact*. (2012).
16. Loeffelholz, Mary. *From School to Salon: Reading Nineteenth-Century Women's Poetry*. (2004).
17. Loughran, Trish. *The Republic in Print*. (2009).
18. Matthiesen, F. O. *American Renaissance*. (1941). [read alongside the Walter Benn Michaels collection below.]
19. Michaels, Walter Benn and Donald Pease, (eds). *The American Renaissance Reconsidered*. (1985).
20. Miller, Perry. *Errand into the Wilderness*. (1956).
21. Morgan, Edmond S. *The Puritan Dilemma*. (1958).
22. Schuller, Malini Johar and Edward Watts. "Introduction." *Messy Beginnings: Postcoloniality and Early American Studies*. (2003).
23. Streeby, Shelley. *American Sensations*. (2002).

24. Tompkins, Jane. *Sensational Designs*. (1985).
25. Warner, Michael. *The Letters of the Republic*. (1992).