

**Reading List: American Literature, Pre-1900**

[valid for students entering their programs between FA 12 and FA 17]

Students should be familiar with the following works. Excepting novels, most can be found in the *Norton Anthology of American Literature* and the *Heath Anthology of American Literature*.

**Seneca** *The Origin of Stories*

**Cabeza de Vaca** *Relation*

**Winthrop** "A Model of Christian Charity" **OR** Bradford *Of Plymouth Plantation*

**Bradstreet** "The Author to Her Book," "Upon the Burning of Our House," "The Prologue," "In Honour of . . . Queen Elizabeth," "Before the Birth of One of Her Children" **OR**

**Taylor** "The Souls Groan to Christ for Succour," "Huswifery," "Upon Wedlock, & Death of Children," "How Much More Shall the Blood of Christ"

**Edwards** "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"

**Wheatley** "To Maecenas," "To the Right Honourable William, Earl of Dartmouth," "On the Death of . . . George Whitefield," "On Being Brought from Africa to America"

**Paine** *Common Sense* **OR**

**Crevecoeur** *Letters from an American Farmer*

**Franklin** *Autobiography*

**Occom** "A Short Narrative of My Life" **OR**

**Occom** "A Sermon" **OR**

**Boudinot** "An Address to the Whites" **OR**

**Apess** "An Indian's Looking-Glass"

**Rowson** *Charlotte Temple*

**Cooper** *Last of the Mohicans*

**Sedgwick** *Hope Leslie* **OR**

**Stowe** *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

**Poe** "The Philosophy of Composition," "Fall of the House of Usher," and "Ligeia"

**Emerson** "Nature," "The American Scholar," "Self-Reliance"

**Fuller** *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*

**Douglass** *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1845 version)

**Hawthorne** *The Scarlet Letter*

**Melville** *Benito Cereno*

**Thoreau** *Walden*, “Resistance to Civil Government”

**Whitman** "Song of Myself" **OR**

**Whitman** “Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking,” “There was a Child Went Forth,” and “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd”

**Dickinson** “God is a distant--stately Lover--,” “Title divine—is mine!,” “This is my letter to the World,” “Essential Oils—are wrung—,” “I cannot live with You—,” “This was a Poet—It is That,” “My Life had stood—a Loaded Gun—”

**Davis** *Life in the Iron Mills*

**Twain** *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

**Dreiser** *Sister Carrie*

**Charles Chesnutt** “The Goophered Grapevine,” “Po’ Sandy,” “The Wife of His Youth”

**Secondary Readings:**

There are no required secondary readings, but students should make sure to read or re-read at least a general literary history to help them conceptualize the periods covered on this exam. Students might read, for example, relevant chapters from *The Cambridge History of Literature in America* (Vols. 1-4; eds., Bercovitch, et al.), *The Columbia Literary History of the United States* (eds., Elliott, et al.), or Richard Gray’s *A History of American Literature*. In the past, at universities across the country, many students have begun their study by reviewing the period introductions in *The Norton Anthology of American Literature* or *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*.