The American Section’s Comprehensive Examination addressing early American literature evaluates students’ expertise as future professionals in the field. The primary and secondary texts listed below represent the breadth and diversity needed for an understanding of the field with which students begin work on a dissertation.

As part of their preparation for the exam students will consult with their exam directors to develop a personalized list. While the list below is meant to be broadly comprehensive, it is not meant to be exhaustive. Students and directors may also decide to refine the list by adding thematic, theoretical, or historical emphases that lead more directly to work on a doctoral dissertation.

### Major Authors

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