

US History (Pre-1877) Reading List:

History MA Comprehensive Oral Examination

Abbreviated instructions (full instructions [here](#)): Students not writing a thesis must present themselves for examination in three subfields. Students will take three subfield examinations (written, three hours each) within a one-week period, followed by a one-hour oral examination with the Graduate Advisory Committee. For the subfield of US History (Pre-1877), students will be expected to synthesize the arguments and evidence of **at least fifteen of the following books and articles**. Students interested in this subfield should contact Professors [Magliari](#) or [Tinkler](#) for guidance. Call numbers at the end of each entry are for copies at the Meriam Library. Books without call numbers have been ordered by the library, but should be requested via Interlibrary Services.

Part I: To the Revolution (choose eight)

- Berlin, Ira. *Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America*. Cambridge, Mass: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1998. E446 .B49 1998.
- Calloway, Colin G. *The Scratch of a Pen: 1763 and the Transformation of North America*. Pivotal Moments in American History. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006. E46 .C35 2006.
- Cronon, William. *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1983. GF504.N45 C76 1983. Or Anderson, Virginia DeJohn. *Creatures of Empire: How Domestic Animals Transformed Early America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004. SF51 A655 2004.
- Gordon-Reed, Annette. *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co, 2008. E332.74 .G67 2008.
- Holton, Woody, and Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture. *Forced Founders: Indians, Debtors, Slaves, and the Making of the American Revolution in Virginia*. Chapel Hill: Published for the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture by the University of North Carolina Press, 1999. E210 H695 1999.
- Jasanoff, Maya. *Liberty's Exiles: American Loyalists in the Revolutionary World*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2011. E277 .J37 2011.
- Karlsen, Carol F. *The Devil in the Shape of a Woman: Witchcraft in Colonial New England*. New York: Norton, 1987. BF1576 .K37 1987.
- Lepore, Jill. *The Name of War: King Philip's War and the Origins of American Identity*. New York: Knopf, 1998. E83.67 L46 1998.

- Nash, Gary B. *The Unknown American Revolution: The Unruly Birth of Democracy and the Struggle to Create America*. New York: Viking, 2005. E208 .N33 2005.
- Nugent, Walter T. K. *Habits of Empire a History of American Expansion*. New York: Vintage Books, 2009. <http://mantis.csuchico.edu/login?url=http://site.ebrary.com/lib/csuchico/Doc?id=10310924> (authenticate through Meriam Library). E179.5 .N84 2009eb. This book appears in every category but can only count as one of the fifteen books for the exam.
- Pearsall, Sarah M. S. *Atlantic Families: Lives and Letters in the Later Eighteenth Century*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008. HQ613 .P44 2010. Or Demos, John. *The Unredeemed Captive: a Family Story from Early America*. New York: Alfred Knopf, 1994. E197 D46 1994. Or Norton, Mary Beth. *Liberty's Daughters: The Revolutionary Experience of American Women, 1750-1800*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1980. HQ1418 N67.
- Rediker, Marcus. *The Slave Ship: a Human History*. New York: Viking, 2007. HT1322 .R42 2007. Or Brown, Vincent, and American Council of Learned Societies. *The Reaper's Garden Death and Power in the World of Atlantic Slavery*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2008. <http://mantis.csuchico.edu/login?url=http://hdl.handle.net/2027/heb.07795> (authenticate through Meriam Library). HQ1073.5.J25.
- Silver, Peter Rhoads. *Our Savage Neighbors: How Indian War Transformed Early America*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2008. E77 .S573 2008.
- Taylor, Alan. *American Colonies*. The Penguin History of the United States. New York: Viking, 2001. E188 T35 2001. Or Richter, Daniel K. *Before the Revolution: America's Ancient Pasts*. Cambridge, Mass: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2011. E169.12 .R497 2011.
- White, Richard. *The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815*. Cambridge Studies in North American Indian History. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991. E99 A35 W48 1991. Or Richter, Daniel K. *Facing East from Indian Country: a Native History of Early America*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001. E98 F39 R53 2001.
- Wood, Gordon S. *The American Revolution: A History*. New York: Modern Library, 2002. E208 W85 2002.
- . *The Radicalism of the American Revolution*. New York: A. A. Knopf, 1992. E209 W65 1992.

Part II: Revolution through Reconstruction (choose one from each category)

1. Confederation, Constitution and the Federalist Era

Elkins, Stanley M. *The Age of Federalism*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993. E310 E45 1993.

Freeman, Joanne B. *Affairs of Honor: National Politics in the New Republic*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001. E310 F85 2001.

Nugent, Walter T. K. *Habits of Empire a History of American Expansion*. New York: Vintage Books, 2009. <http://mantis.csuchico.edu/login?url=http://site.ebrary.com/lib/csuchico/Doc?id=10310924> (authenticate through Meriam Library). E179.5 .N84 2009eb. This book appears in every category but can only count as one of the fifteen books for the exam.

Wood, Gordon S. *The Creation of the American Republic, 1776-1787*. New York: Norton, 1972. JA84 U5 W6 1972.

2. The Early Nineteenth Century

Howe, Daniel Walker. *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007. E338 .H69 2007.

Johnson, Paul E. *A Shopkeeper's Millenium: Society and Revivals in Rochester, New York, 1815-1837*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1978. BV3775 R62 J63 1978.

Nugent, Walter T. K. *Habits of Empire a History of American Expansion*. New York: Vintage Books, 2009. <http://mantis.csuchico.edu/login?url=http://site.ebrary.com/lib/csuchico/Doc?id=10310924> (authenticate through Meriam Library). E179.5 .N84 2009eb. This book appears in every category but can only count as one of the fifteen books for the exam.

Sellers, Charles Grier. *The Market Revolution: Jacksonian America, 1815-1846*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991. HC105 S38 1991. And read Ellis, Richard E. "A Symposium on Charles Sellers, 'the Market Revolution: Jacksonian America, 1815-1846.'" *Journal of the Early Republic* 12, no. 4 (1992): 445-476 (PDF full text through Meriam Library) 46032201.

Watson, Harry L. *Liberty and Power: The Politics of Jacksonian America*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1990. E381 W32 1990.

Wilentz, Sean. *The Rise of American Democracy: Jefferson to Lincoln*. New York: Norton, 2005. E302.1 .W55 2005.

3. Women in the Antebellum North

Cohen, Patricia Cline. *The Murder of Helen Jewett: The Life and Death of a Prostitute in Nineteenth-century New York*. New York: Vintage Books, 1999. HQ146.N7 C65 1999.

Nugent, Walter T. K. *Habits of Empire a History of American Expansion*. New York: Vintage Books, 2009. <http://mantis.csuchico.edu/login?url=http://site.ebrary.com/lib/csuchico/Doc?id=10310924> (authenticate through Meriam Library). E179.5 .N84 2009eb. This book appears in every category but can only count as one of the fifteen books for the exam.

Ryan, Mary P. *Cradle of the Middle Class: The Family in Oneida County, New York, 1790-1865*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981. HQ555.N7 R9 1993.

Stansell, Christine. *City of Women: Sex and Class in New York, 1789-1860*. New York: Knopf, 1986. HD6096.N6 S8 1986.

4. Slavery and the South

Davis, David Brion. *Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. E441 .D2495 2006.

Genovese, Eugene D. *Roll, Jordan, Roll; the World the Slaves Made*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1974. E443 .G46 1976.

Johnson, Walter, and American Council of Learned Societies. *Soul by Soul Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1999. <http://mantis.csuchico.edu/login?url=http://hdl.handle.net/2027/heb.00050> (authenticate through Meriam Library). F379.N59.

Kolchin, Peter. *American Slavery, 1619-1877*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1993. E441 .K64 1993.

Nugent, Walter T. K. *Habits of Empire a History of American Expansion*. New York: Vintage Books, 2009. <http://mantis.csuchico.edu/login?url=http://site.ebrary.com/lib/csuchico/Doc?id=10310924> (authenticate through Meriam Library). E179.5 .N84 2009eb. This book appears in every category but can only count as one of the fifteen books for the exam.

Oakes, James. *Slavery and Freedom: An Interpretation of the Old South*. New York: Knopf, 1990. E441 O19 1990.

5. Politics and the Coming of the Civil War

Earle, Jonathan Halperin. *Jacksonian Antislavery & the Politics of Free Soil, 1824-1854*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004. E449 .E17 2004.

Foner, Eric. *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery*. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 2010. E457.2 .F66 2010.

———. *Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men: The Ideology of the Republican Party before the Civil War*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1970. E436 .F6 1970.

Freehling, William W. *The Road to Disunion*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1990. Read vol. 1. E468.9 F84 1990.

Nugent, Walter T. K. *Habits of Empire a History of American Expansion*. New York: Vintage Books, 2009. <http://mantis.csuchico.edu/login?url=http://site.ebrary.com/lib/csuchico/Doc?id=10310924> (authenticate through Meriam Library). E179.5 .N84 2009eb. This book appears in every category but can only count as one of the fifteen books for the exam.

Potter, David Morris. *The Impending Crisis, 1848-1861*. The New American Nation Series. New York: Harper & Row, 1976. E459 .P67 1976.

6. The Civil War

McCurry, Stephanie. *Confederate Reckoning: Power and Politics in the Civil War South*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2010. E487 .M18 2012.

McPherson, James M. *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988. E173 .O94 vol. 6.

Nugent, Walter T. K. *Habits of Empire a History of American Expansion*. New York: Vintage Books, 2009. <http://mantis.csuchico.edu/login?url=http://site.ebrary.com/lib/csuchico/Doc?id=10310924> (authenticate through Meriam Library). E179.5 .N84 2009eb. This book appears in every category but can only count as one of the fifteen books for the exam.

Oates, Stephen B. *Our Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln, John Brown, and the Civil War Era*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1979. E457.8 O18.

7. Reconstruction

Foner, Eric. *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877*. New York: Harper & Row, 1988. E668 F66 1988.

Nugent, Walter T. K. *Habits of Empire a History of American Expansion*. New York: Vintage Books, 2009. <http://mantis.csuchico.edu/login?url=http://site.ebrary.com/lib/csuchico/Doc?id=10310924> (authenticate through Meriam Library). E179.5 .N84 2009eb. This book appears in every category but can only count as one of the fifteen books for the exam.