The following bibliography offers the department's current list of essential readings in the field of North American religions. It is intended as a guideline to students preparing for this examination. With the approval of the examiners, students may do some minimal paring of this list and add a few additional readings. Beyond these readings, students are expected to be aware of recent articles and review literature in the major journals (especially Religion and American Culture, Church History, the Journal of American History, and the William and Mary Quarterly) and to keep up on current debates.

Five hours is allowed for writing this examination. It is closed book. Students may not consult notes, books, computer files or the internet during the writing of their essays.

**Overviews**


Hackett, David *Religion and American Culture: A Reader* (Second Edition)

Holifield, E. Brooks *Theology in America: Christian Thought from the Age of the Puritans to the Civil War*, 2004


**Perspectives on the Field**


Geertz, Clifford "Religion as a Cultural System" in *The Interpretation of Cultures* (Basic Books, 1973) 87-125.


*Note: The historical placement of these readings is approximate. Several span two or more historical periods.*

**The Colonial World through the Revolution**


II  Religion in the United States from the Revolution through 1920

Bushman, Richard  Joseph Smith: Rough Stone Rolling, 2007


Marsden, George  Fundamentalism and American Culture: the Shaping of Twentieth Century Evangelicalism, 1870-1925, 1980.


III  Modern American Religion, 1920 to the Present


Carpenter, Joel A.  Revive Us Again: The Reawakening of American Fundamentalism, 1997


Dochuk, Darren  From Bible Belt to Sunbelt: PlainFolk Religion, Grassroots Politics, and the Riseof Evangelical Conservatism, 2011


Orsi, Robert  Between Heaven and Earth, 2005.
