

MFA nonfiction reading list for comprehensive examination to be administered in spring 2021 and 2022

Student name/signature: _____
(Please print legibly) (Signature)

- D'Agata, John. "To the Reader." *The Lost Origins of the Essay* (anthology). (Works from this anthology in the list below will be noted "D'Agata.")
- Lopate, Philip. "Introduction." *The Art of the Personal Essay: An Anthology from the Classical Era to the Present*. (Works from this anthology in the list below will be noted "Lopate.")

Pre-20th Century

Essays:

- Brown, Thomas, "Hydriotaphia, Urn Burial." (D'Agata)
- Lamb, Charles, "New Year's Eve" (Lopate)
- Montaigne, Michel, "Of Books," (Lopate) and "Of a Monstrous Child" (Lopate)
- Plutarch, "Consolation to his Wife" (Lopate)
- Swift, Jonathan, "A Modest Proposal" (D'Agata)

Books:

- Bashō, Matsuo, *Narrow Road to the Interior*
- Eastman, Charles, *From the Deep Woods to Civilization*
- Jacobs, Harriet Ann, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*
- Shonagon, Sei. *The Pillow Book*

20th & 21st Century

Essays:

- Beard, JoAnn, "The Fourth State of Matter"
- Borges, Jorge, "Blindness" (Lopate)
- Du Bois, W.E.B., "The Coming of John"
- Ginzburg, "He and I" (D'Agata)
- Orwell, George, "A Hanging"; "Politics and the English Language" and "Shooting an Elephant"
- Pessoa, Fernando, "Metaphysics has always struck me as a prolonged form of latent insanity" (D'Agata)
- Rich, Adrienne, "Split at the Root" (Lopate)
- Talese, Gay, "Frank Sinatra Has a Cold"
- Wallace, David Foster, "Consider the Lobster"
- White, E.B., "Once More to the Lake" (Lopate)

Books:

- Abbey, Edward, *Desert Solitaire*
- Baldwin, James, *Notes of a Native Son*
- Bechdel, Alison, *Fun Home*
- Biss, Eula, *Notes from No Man's Land: American Essays*
- Capote, Truman, *In Cold Blood*
- Coates, Ta-Nehisi, *Between the World and Me*

- Didion, Joan, *Slouching Towards Bethlehem*
- Dillard, Annie, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*
- Eire, Carlos, *Waiting for Snow in Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy*
- Gawande, Atul, *Complications*
- Hayes, Ernestine, *Blonde Indian*
- Kingston, Maxine Hong, *The Woman Warrior*
- Lopez, Barry, *Arctic Dreams*
- McPhee, John, *Coming into the Country*
- Orlean, Susan, *The Orchid Thief*
- Santiago, Esmerelda, *When I was Puerto Rican*
- Skloot, Rebecca, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*
- Urrea, Luis, *The Devil's Highway*
- Woolf, Virginia, *A Room of One's Own*

On the Craft of Nonfiction

- Gornick, Vivian, *The Situation and the Story*
- Hampl, Patricia, *I Could Tell You Stories*
- Lopate, Philip, *To Show and to Tell: The Craft of Literary Nonfiction*

Personalized list of nonfiction texts:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Approval of individualized list: Advisor

name/signature: _____