MFA nonfiction reading list for comprehensive examination for spring 2024 and 2025

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

Essays:
• Baldwin, James, “Notes of a Narrative Son”
• Beard, JoAnn, “The Fourth State of Matter”
• Biss, Eula, “Time and Distance Overcome”
• Brown, Thomas, “Hydriotaphia, Urn Burial”
• Montaigne, Michel, “Of Books,” (Lopate) and “Of a Monstrous Child”
• Orwell, George, “A Hanging” and “Shooting an Elephant”
• Rich, Adrienne, “Split at the Root”
• White, E.B., “Once More to the Lake”
• Zitkala-Sa, “Impressions of an Indian Childhood”

Books
• Abdurraqib, Hanif, The Can’t Kill Us Until They Kill Us
• Bechdel, Alison, Fun Home
• Didion, Joan, Slouching Towards Bethlehem
• Kimmerer, Robin Wall, Braiding Sweetgrass
• Kingston, Maxine Hong, The Woman Warrior
• Lopez, Barry, Arctic Dreams
• Machado, Carmen Maria, In the Dream House
• Orlean, Susan, The Orchid Thief
• Santiago, Esmerelda, When I was Puerto Rican
• Shonagon, Sei, The Pillow Book
• Urrea, Luis, The Devil’s Highway
• Woolf, Virginia, A Room of One’s Own

Craft
• Castro, Joy (ed.), Family Trouble
• Gornick, Vivian, The Situation and the Story

Personalized list of nonfiction texts:
1. ________________________________
2. ________________________________
3. ________________________________
4. ________________________________
5. ________________________________
Committee approval of individualized list:

Advisor name/signature: ___________________________ ___________________________