MFA poetry reading list for comprehensive examination
to be administered in the spring of 2024 and 2025

Student name/signature: ______________________________________
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Pre-Modern

● Sappho, If Not, Winter (trans. Carson)
● John Donne, The Holy Sonnets
● John Keats, Selected Poems
● Emily Dickinson, The Complete Poems

Modern and Contemporary, Non-US

● Anna Akhmatova, The Complete Poems (trans. Hemschemeyer)
● Paul Celan, Selected Poems and Prose (trans. Felstiner)
● Federico García Lorca, The Selected Poems
● Inger Christensen, Alphabet

Modern and Contemporary, US

● Louise Glück, The Wild Iris
● Terrance Hayes, American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin
● Anne Carson, Autobiography of Red
● Claudia Rankine, Citizen
● Sylvia Plath, Ariel

On the Craft of Poetry

● Mary Ruefle, Madness, Rack, and Honey

Personalized list of poetry texts:

1. _______________________________________________________

2. _______________________________________________________

3. _______________________________________________________

4. _______________________________________________________

5. _______________________________________________________

Committee approval of individualized lists:

Advisor name:______________________________________

Signature:__________________________________________

Committee members’ names: __________________________
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