MFA nonfiction reading list for comprehensive examination to be administered in spring 2023 and 2024

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”
- Biss, Eula, “Time and Distance Overcome”
- Chee, Alexander “Mr. and Mrs. B.”
- Ginzburg, “He and I” (D’Agata)
- Orwell, George, “A Hanging” 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)
- Zitkala-Sa, “Impressions of an Indian Childhood”

Books:
- Abbey, Edward, Desert Solitaire
- Abdurraqib, Hanif, The Can’t Kill Us Until They Kill Us
• Baldwin, James, Notes of a Native Son
• Bechdel, Alison, Fun Home
• Capote, Truman, In Cold Blood
• Coates, Ta-Nehisi, Between the World and Me
• Didion, Joan, Slouching Towards Bethlehem
• Gawande, Atul, Complications
• Hayes, Ernestine, Blonde Indian
• Kimmerer, Robin Wall, Braiding Sweetgrass
• Kingston, Maxine Hong, The Woman Warrior
• Lopez, Barry, Arctic Dreams
• Machado, Carmen Maria, In the Dream House
• McPhee, John, Coming into the Country
• Nezhukumatathil, Aimee, World of Wonders
• Orlean, Susan, The Orchid Thief
• Santiago, Esmerelda, When I was Puerto Rican
• Urrea, Luis, The Devil’s Highway
• Ward, Jesmyn, Men We Reaped
• Woolf, Virginia, A Room of One’s Own

On the Craft of Nonfiction
• Castro, Joy (ed.), Family Trouble
• Gerard, Philip, The Art of Creative Research
• Gornick, Vivian, The Situation and the Story
• Lopate, Philip, To Show and to Tell: The Craft of Literary Nonfiction

Personalized list of nonfiction texts:

1. __________________________________________
2. __________________________________________
3. __________________________________________
4. __________________________________________
5. __________________________________________

Committee approval of individualized list:

Advisor name/signature: ___________________________