MFA poetry reading list for comprehensive examination
to be administered in the spring of 2023 and 2024

Student name/signature: ___________________ ___________________

Pre-Modern
- The Epic of Gilgamesh (trans. Andrew George)
- Homer, *The Iliad* (trans. Lattimore)
- *Beowulf* (trans. Heaney)
- Dante, *The Inferno* (trans. Pinsky)
- John Donne, *The Holy Sonnets*
- John Keats, *Selected Poems*
- Emily Dickinson, *The Complete Poems*
- Gerard Manley Hopkins, *Selected Poems and Prose*

Modern and Contemporary, Non-US
- T.S. Eliot, *The Wasteland*
- Paul Celan, *Selected Poems and Prose* (trans. Felstiner)
- Aimé Césaire, *The Collected Poetry*
- Seamus Heaney, *Opened Ground*
- Federico García Lorca, *The Selected Poems*
- Pablo Neruda, *The Essential Pablo Neruda: Selected Poems*
- Rainer Maria Rilke, *The Selected Poems* (trans. Stephen Mitchell)
- Arthur Rimbaud, *Illuminations*
- W.B. Yeats, *Collected Poems*
- Inger Christensen, *Alphabet*

Modern and Contemporary, US
- John Berryman, *Dream Songs*
- Gwendolyn Brooks, *Selected Poems*
- Lucille Clifton, *Good Woman: Poems and a Memoir*
- Robert Creeley, *The Collected Poems*
- Frank Stanford, *The Collected Poems*
- H.D., *Collected Poems*
- Louise Gluck, *The Wild Iris*
- Terrance Hayes, *American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin*
- Brigit Pegeen Kelly, *Song*
- Anne Carson, *Autobiography of Red*
- Claudia Rankine, *Citizen*
• Audre Lorde, *The Collected Poems*
• W.S. Merwin, *Flower & Hand*
• Carl Phillips, *Quiver of Arrows: Selected Poems*
• Sylvia Plath, *Ariel*
• Adrienne Rich, *Diving into the Wreck*
• C.D. Wright, *Steal Away: New and Selected Poems*

**Theory, Criticism, and Prosody**

• Edmund Burke, “Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful”
• Audre Lorde, *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*
• Marianne Boruch, *Poetry’s Old Air*
• Susan Howe, *My Emily Dickinson*
• Richard Hugo, *The Triggering Town*
• Federico Garcia Lorca, *In Search of Duende*
• Carl Phillips, *The Art of Daring: Risk, Restlessness, Imagination*
• 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: ________________________________
__________________________