

**2024 Reading List**  
**Creative Writing Comprehensive Exam (Engl 500)**  
**MA in English**

**2024 Fiction Reading List**

John Gardner, *The Art of Fiction*  
Jonathan Lethem, "The Ecstasy of Influence"  
Ralph Ellison, "The Paris Review Interview No. 8"  
Matthew Salesses, *Craft in the Real World*  
Samuel Delany, *About Writing*  
Francine Prose, *Reading Like a Writer*  
Susan Sontag, "On Style"  
Frank O'Connor, *The Lonely Voice*  
Zadie Smith, "That Crafty Feeling"  
Richard Ford, ed., *The Granta Book of the American Short Story*  
Gabriel García Márquez, "The Art of Fiction Interview No. 69" in *Paris Review*  
James Baldwin, "The Art of Fiction Interview. No 78" in *Paris Review*  
Edith Wharton, *The Writing of Fiction*  
Robert Shapard and James Thomas, eds., *Sudden Fiction (Continued)*  
John Freeman, ed., *The Penguin Book of the Modern American Short Story*  
Toni Morrison, "The Art of Fiction No. 134" in *Paris Review*

**2024 Nonfiction/Memoir Reading List**

William Zinsser, *On Writing Well*  
Jenny Bouilly, *Betwixt and Between: Essays on the Writing Life*  
Annie Dillard, *The Writing Life*  
Adrienne Rich, "When We Dead Awaken" in *On Lies, Secrets, and Silence*  
Joan Didion, "Why I Write"  
Paul Auster, *Invention of Solitude*  
Hilton Als, *White Girls*  
John Jeremiah Sullivan, *Pulphead*  
Roxanne Gay, *Bad Feminist*  
Hanif Abdurraqib, *They Can't Kill Us Until They Kill Us*  
Rebecca Solnit, *A Field Guide to Getting Lost*  
Philip Lopate, ed., *The Art of the Personal Essay*  
Margot Singer and Nicole Walker, eds., *Bending Genre*  
bell hooks, *Remembered Rapture*  
Charles Johnson, "I Call Myself an Artist" in *I Call Myself an Artist*, edited by Rudolph P. Byrd  
Mary Karr, *The Art of the Memoir*  
Lex Williford and Michael Martone, eds., *Touchstone Anthology of Contemporary Creative Nonfiction*  
John D'Agata, *The Next American Essay*

**2024 Poetry Reading List**

Arthur Poulin Jr. and Michael Waters, eds., *Contemporary American Poetry*  
Cary Nelson, ed., *Anthology of Modern American Poetry*  
*Prose Poetry: An Introduction* by Paul Hetherington and Cassandra Atherton

## 2024 Aesthetics/Craft/Theory Reading List

Stephen Adams, *Poetics Designs: An Introduction to Meter, Verse Forms, and Figures of Speech*

Robert Bly, *Looking for Dragon Smoke*

Mark Doty, *The Art of Description: Word into World*

Paul Fussell, *Poetic Meter & Poetic Form*

Dana Gioia, *Can Poetry Matter?*

Robert Hass, *A Little Book on Form: An Exploration into the Formal Imagination of Poetry*

Richard Hugo, *The Triggering Town*

Melissa Kwasny, ed., *Toward the Open Field: Poets on the Art of Poetry 1800-1950*

Denise Levertov, "Some Notes on Organic Form" (essay) and "On the Function of the Line" (essay)

James Longenbach, *The Art of the Poetic Line*

James Longenbach, *The Resistance to Poetry*

Robert Scholes, "Reading Poetry: A Lost Craft" (essay from *The Crafty Reader*)

Ellen Bryant Voigt, *The Art of Syntax: Rhythm of Thought, Rhythm of Song*

Dean Young, *The Art of Recklessness: Poetry as Assertive Force and Contradiction*