

# UNCW Creative Writing Department

## MFA Suggested Reading List

These are not required texts, but suggested sources for supplemental use in your own writing, to prepare for your MFA exam and thesis, and beyond. Many of these texts concern multiple genres; students are encouraged to read from all three lists. Some items are out of print and may only be available at libraries, on loan from your professors, or from internet sources.

### FICTION

Auerbach, Erich	<i>MIMESIS</i>
Barth, John	<i>THE FRIDAY BOOK</i>
Baxter, Charles	<i>BURNING DOWN THE HOUSE</i>
Bly, Carol	<i>THE PASSIONATE, ACCURATE STORY</i>
Booth, Wayne	<i>THE RHETORIC OF FICTION</i>
Brooks, Cleanth & Robert Penn Warren	<i>UNDERSTANDING FICTION</i>
Brooks, Cleanth & Robert Penn Warren	<i>THE SCOPE OF FICTION</i>
Busch, Frederick, ed.	<i>LETTERS TO A FICTION WRITER</i>
Checkoway, Julie, ed.	<i>CREATING FICTION</i>
Forster, E.M.	<i>ASPECTS OF THE NOVEL</i>
Gardner, John	<i>THE ART OF FICTION</i>
Gardner, John	<i>ON BECOMING A NOVELIST</i>
Gilchrist, Ellen	<i>FALLING THROUGH SPACE: Journals</i>
Henri, Robert	<i>THE ART SPIRIT</i>
Hills, L. Rust	<i>WRITING IN GENERAL: AND THE SHORT STORY IN PARTICULAR</i>
Hoffman, Michael & Patrick Murphy	<i>ESSENTIALS OF THE THEORY OF FICTION</i>
James, Henry	<i>THE ART OF FICTION</i>
Kundera, Milan	<i>THE ART OF THE NOVEL</i>
Lubbock, Percy	<i>THE CRAFT OF FICTION</i>
Macauley, Robie & George Lanning	<i>TECHNIQUE IN FICTION</i>
O'Connor, Flannery	<i>MYSTERY AND MANNERS</i>
O'Connor, Flannery	<i>THE HABIT OF BEING</i>
Olsen, Tillie	<i>SILENCES</i>
Scholes and Kellogg	<i>THE NATURE OF NARRATIVE</i>
Smartt Bell, Madison	<i>NARRATIVE DESIGN</i>
Welty, Eudora	<i>ONE WRITER'S BEGINNINGS</i>
Welty, Eudora	<i>THE EYE OF THE STORY</i>
Various writers	"The Writers at Work Series," in <i>THE PARIS REVIEW</i>

### CREATIVE NONFICTION

Dillard, Annie	<i>THE WRITING LIFE</i>
Gerard, Philip	<i>CREATIVE NONFICTION</i>
Gornick, Vivian	<i>THE SITUATION AND THE STORY: THE ART OF PERSONAL NARRATIVE</i>
Kerrane, Kevin & Ben Yagoda, eds.	<i>THE ART OF FACT</i>
Knightly, Philip	<i>THE FIRST CASUALTY</i>
Lopate, Phillip, ed.	<i>THE ART OF THE PERSONAL ESSAY</i>
McLanahan, Rebecca	<i>WORD PAINTING, A GUIDE TO WRITING MORE DESCRIPTIVELY</i>
Sims, Norma, ed.	<i>LITERARY JOURNALISM IN THE 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY</i>

Zinsser, William	<i>INVENTING THE TRUTH: THE ART AND CRAFT OF MEMOIR</i>
Zinsser, William	<i>ON WRITING WELL</i>
Zinsser, William	<i>THEY WENT: THE ART AND CRAFT OF TRAVEL WRITING</i>
Zinsser, William	<i>EXTRAORDINARY LIVES: THE ART AND CRAFT OF AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY</i>

**POETRY**

Allen, Gay Wilson	<i>AMERICAN PROSODY</i>
Allen, Donald & Warren Tallman, eds.	<i>THE POETICS OF THE NEW AMERICAN POETRY</i>
Aristotle	<i>POETICS</i>
Auden, W.H.	<i>THE DYER'S HAND</i>
Auerbach, Erich	<i>MIMESIS</i>
Bachelard, Gaston	<i>THE POETICS OF SPACE</i>
Bachelard, Gaston	<i>THE POETICS OF REVERIE</i>
Buber, Martin	<i>I AND THOU</i>
Coleridge, Samuel Taylor	"On Poesy or Art" and <i>SEVEN LECTURES ON SHAKESPEARE AND MILTON</i>
Dryden, John	<i>ESSAY OF DRAMATIC POESY</i>
Eliot, T.S.	"The Music of Poetry"
Emerson, Ralph Waldo	"The Poet"
Emerson, Ralph Waldo	"The American Scholar"
Emerson, Ralph Waldo	"Nature"
Frank, Robert & Henry Sayre	<i>THE LINE IN POSTMODERN POETRY</i>
Frost, Robert	<i>PROSE AND POETRY: SELECTED PROSE</i>
Fulton, Alice	<i>FEELING AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE</i>
Fussell, Paul	<i>POETIC METER AND POETIC FORM</i>
Gallagher, Tess	<i>A CONCERT OF TENSES</i>
Gibbons, Reginald	<i>THE POET'S WORK: 29 MASTERS OF 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY POETRY</i>
Glück, Louise	<i>PROOFS AND THEORIES</i>
Gross, Harvey	<i>THE STRUCTURE OF VERSE</i>
Gross, Harvey & Robert MacDowell	<i>SOUND AND FORM IN MODERN POETRY</i>
Heidegger, Martin	<i>POETRY, LANGUAGE, THOUGHT</i>
Hall, Donald	<i>CLAIMS FOR POETRY</i>
Hartman, Charles O.	<i>FREE VERSE: AN ESSAY ON PROSODY</i>
Hass, Robert	<i>20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY PLEASURES</i>
Hirsch, Edward	<i>HOW TO READ A POEM</i>
Hirschfield, Jane	<i>NINE GATES: ENTERING THE MIND OF POETRY</i>
Holden, Jonathan	<i>THE RHETORIC OF THE CONTEMPORARY LYRIC</i>
Holden, Jonathan	<i>STYLE AND AUTHENTICITY IN POSTMODERN POETRY</i>
Hollander, John	<i>VISION AND RESONANCE</i>
Hugo, Richard	<i>THE TRIGGERING TOWN</i>
Jarrell, Randall	<i>POETRY AND THE AGE</i>
Justice, Donald	<i>PLATONIC SCRIPTS</i>
Keats, John	<i>SELECTED LETTERS</i>
Kirby-Smith, H.T.	<i>THE ORIGINS OF FREE VERSE</i>
Lehman, David	<i>ECSTATIC OCCASIONS, EXPEDIENT FORMS</i>
Longinus	<i>ON THE SUBLIME</i>
McCorkle, James	<i>CONVERSANT ESSAYS</i>
McHugh, Heather	<i>BROKEN ENGLISH: POETRY AND PARTIALITY</i>
Myers, Jack,	<i>DICTIONARY OF POETIC TERMS</i>

Myers, Jack & David Wojahn	<i>A PROFILE OF 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN POETRY</i>
Nietzsche, Friedrich	<i>THE BIRTH OF TRAGEDY</i>
Pascal, Blaise	<i>PENSEES</i>
Perkins, David	<i>A HISTORY OF MODERN POETRY</i> , 2 Vols.
Perloff, Majorie	<i>THE POETICS OF INDETERMINANCY: RIMBAUD TO CAGE</i>
Pinsky, Robert	"The Situation of Poetry"
Pinsky, Robert	"Poetry and the World"
Plumly, Stanley	"Sentimental Forms"
Plumly, Stanley	"Chapter and Verse"
Poe, Edgar Allen	"The Poetic Principle"
Poe, Edgar Allen	"The Philosophy of Composition"
Pound, Ezra	<i>ABC OF READING</i>
Preming, Alex & T. V. F. Brogan, eds.	<i>PRINCETON ENCYCLOPEDIA OF POETRY AND POETICS</i>
Ostriker, Alicia	<i>STEALING THE LANGUAGE: THE EMERGENCE OF WOMEN'S...</i>
Rich, Adrienne	<i>ON LIES, SECRETS AND SILENCE</i>
Rich, Adrienne	<i>BLOOD, BREAD AND POETRY</i>
Rilke, Rainier Maria	<i>LETTERS TO A YOUNG POET</i>
Scully, James	<i>MODERN POETICS</i>
Scully, James	<i>LINE BREAKS</i>
Shelley, Percy Bysshe	<i>DEFENCE OF POETRY</i>
Sidney, Sir Phillip & Forrest Robinson	<i>AN APOLOGY FOR POETRY</i>
Simic, Charles	<i>THE UNCERTAIN CERTAINTY</i>
Smith, Barbara	<i>POETIC CLOSURE</i>
Steele, Timothy	<i>MISSING MEASURES</i>
Stewart, Susan	<i>POETRY AND THE FATE OF THE SENSES</i>
Turco, Lewis	<i>THE NEW BOOK OF FORMS</i>
Whitman, Walt	"Preface" <i>LEAVES OF GRASS</i>
Wordsworth, William	"Preface" <i>LYRICAL BALLADS</i> , 2nd Edition

### **Playwriting/Practical Criticism:**

TOWARDS A POOR THEATER, by Jerzy Grotowski

THE OPEN SPACE, by Peter Brook

NOTES AND COUNTER NOTES; WRITINGS ON THEATER, by Eugene Ionesco (translated by Donald Watson)

BRECHT ON THEATER, by Bertolt Brecht (translated by John Willet)

DRAMATIC DIALOGUE, by Andrew K. Kennedy