Contemporary Fiction Core List

Required Primary Texts:

1. Margaret Atwood: *The Handmaid’s Tale* (1985)
5. Ralph Ellison: *Invisible Man* (1952)
12. Ishmael Reed: *Mumbo Jumbo* (1972)

**Expanded Primary Core** (Bold = Required Core 15; select 5 other texts/text-groupings to complete Primary core list of 20)

6. Saul Bellow: *Herzog* (1964)
7. William Burroughs: *Naked Lunch* (1951)
9. Raymond Carver—stories: “Errand” “A Small Good Thing” (and “The Bath”) “Cathedral” “What We Talk About When We Talk About Love” “Where I’m Calling From” “Popular Mechanics” “So Much Water So Close To Home” “Will You Please Be Quiet, Please?” “Popular Mechanics” “Vitamins” and “Neighbors”
18. Ralph Ellison: *Invisible Man* (1952)
27. Ken Kesey: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* (1962)
29. Jamaica Kincaid: *At the Bottom of the River* (stories, 1983) or *Annie John* (novel, 1985)
35. Carson McCullers: *The Ballad of the Sad Café* (novella & stories, 1951) or *The Member of the Wedding* (novel, 1961)
43. Tillie Olsen: *Tell Me A Riddle* (1961)
47. Ann Petry: *The Street* (1946)
50. Ishmael Reed: *Mumbo Jumbo* (1972)
53. JD Salinger: *Catcher in the Rye* (novel, 1951) or *Nine Stories* (stories, 1953)
54. Leslie Marmon Silko: *Ceremony* (1977)
61. Eudora Welty: *The Optimist’s Daughter* (novel, 1972) or select stories, including: “Why I Live At The P.O.,” “Petrified Man,” “The Worn Path,” and “Where Is The Voice Coming From?”
64. Hisaye Yamamoto: *Seventeen Syllables and Other Stories* (1988)

**Required Secondary Texts:**

1. Charles Baxter – *Burning Down the House*
2. Wayne Booth – *The Rhetoric of Fiction*
4. E.M. Forster – *Aspects of the Novel*
6. David Lodge – *The Art of Fiction*
7. Vladimir Nabokov – *Lectures on Literature*
8. Flannery O’Connor – *Mystery and Manners*
9. Jane Smiley – *13 Ways of Looking at the Novel*
10. James Wood – *How Fiction Works*