

CONTEMPORARY POETRY READING LIST

Please note that there are two lists below. The first is the full list with the core readings in bold; the second is the core list separated out. You are responsible for all core readings and may incorporate readings from the full list into your tailored list.

PRIMARY TEXTS

A. R. Ammons, *Corson's Inlet*

Jon Anderson, poems from *In Sepia* (in *The Milky Way*)

Rae Armantrout, *Veil: New and Selected Poems*

John Ashbery, *Selected Poems (1986)*

**John Berryman, *77 Dream Songs*, "Eleven Addresses to the Lord" in *Love & Fame*,
"Homage to Mistress Bradstreet"**

Marvin Bell, *Mars Being Red*

Frank Bidart, *In the Western Night: Collected Poems, 1965-1990*

Elizabeth Bishop, *Complete Poems*

Louise Bogan, *The Blue Estuaries*

Gwendolyn Brooks, *Selected Poems*

Lorna Dee Cervantes, *Drive: The First Quartet: New Poems*

Amy Clampitt, *The Kingfisher*

Lucille Clifton, *Blessing the Boats: New and Selected Poems*

Robert Creeley, *Selected Poems, 1945-2005*

Toi Derricotte, *Captivity*

Mark Doty, *Fire to Fire: New and Selected Poems*

Rita Dove, *For Thomas and Beulah* in *Selected Poems*

Norman Dubie, *Selected and New Poems, 1983*

Robert Duncan, *Collected Poems 1919-1979*

Russell Edson, *The Tunnel: Selected Poems*

Carolyn Forché, *The Country Between Us*

Allen Ginsberg, *Howl, Kaddish*

Louise Glück, *The House on Marshland, The Wild Iris, A Village Life*

Jorie Graham, *Dream of the Unified Field*

Linda Gregg, *All of It Singing: New and Selected Poems*

Joy Harjo, *How We Became Human: New and Selected Poems 1975-2001*

Robert Hass, *Praise, Human Wishes, Time and Materials: Poems 1997-2005*

Anthony Hecht, *The Hard Hours*

Lyn Hejinian, *My Life*

Brenda Hillman, *Loose Sugar*

Fanny Howe, *Selected Poems*

Richard Hugo, *The Lady in Kicking Horse Reservoir, White Center*

Major Jackson, *Leaving Saturn*

Randall Jarrell, *The Lost World*, "Woman at the Washington Zoo," "The Orient Express" in *the Complete Poems*

Denis Johnson, *The Incognito Lounge*

Donald Justice, *New and Selected Poems (1996)*

Weldon Kees, *Collected Poems*

Galway Kinnell, *Book of Nightmares, Mortal Acts, Mortal Words*

Kenneth Koch, *Collected Poems*

Yusef Komunyakaa, *Neon Vernacular: New and Selected Poems*

Stanley Kunitz, *Passing Through, New and Selected Poems*

Denise Levertov, *Collected Poems*

Philip Levine, *They Feed They Lion, The Simple Truth*

Larry Levis, *Winter Stars, Elegy*

John Logan, *Spring of the Thief*

Audre Lorde, *Chosen Poems, Old and New*

Robert Lowell, *Lord Weary's Castle, Life Studies, Day By Day* in *Collected Poems*

William Matthews, *Search Party: Collected Poems*

Campbell McGrath, *American Noise*

Thomas McGrath, *Letter to an Imaginary Friend, Parts I-IV*

Heather McHugh, *Hinge & Sign: Poems 1968-1993*

James Merrill, *From the First Nine: Poems 1946-1976*

W. S. Merwin, *Migration: New and Selected Poems*

Thylias Moss, *Small Congregations: New and Selected Poems*

Frank O'Hara, *Selected Poems*

Sharon Olds, *Strike Sparks: Selected Poems*

Charles Olson, *The Maximus Poems*

Michael Palmer, any one book

Carl Phillips, *Quiver of Arrows: Selected Poems*

Robert Pinsky, *The Figured Wheel: New and Collected Poems, 1966-1996*

Sylvia Plath, *Ariel, Crossing The Water* in *The Collected Poems*

Stanley Plumly, *Now That My Father Lies Down Beside Me: New and Selected Poems, 1970-2000*

Adrienne Rich, *The Will to Change, Diving into the Wreck, Atlas of a Difficult World* in *The Fact of a Doorframe: Poems 1950-2001*

Theodore Roethke, *The Lost Son, The Far Field* in *The Collected Poems of Theodore Roethke*

Muriel Rukeyser, *The Collected Poems of Muriel Rukeyser*

Anne Sexton, *All My Pretty Ones*

W. D. Snodgrass, *Heart's Needle*

Frederick Seidel, *Poems, 1959-2009*

Gary Snyder, *Rip Rap*

Gerald Stern, *This Time: New and Selected Poems*

Mark Strand, *New Selected Poems*

Cole Swensen, any one book

May Swenson, *Nature*
Jean Valentine, *Door in the Mountain: New and Collected Poems*
Mona Van Duyn, *Letters from a Father*
Ellen Bryant Voigt, *Messenger: New and Selected Poems*
Derek Walcott, *Collected Poems*
Robert Penn Warren, *Audubon*, "A Way to Love God," "Masts At Dawn"
Richard Wilbur, *The Beautiful Changes and Other Poems*
C. D. Wright, *Deep Step, Come Shining*
Charles Wright, *The World of the Ten Thousand Things: Poems 1980-1990, Negative Blue: Selected Later Poems*
James Wright, *Shall We Gather at the River, The Branch Will Not Break in Above the River: The Complete Poems*
C. K. Williams, *Tar* in *Collected Poems*.

Note: If any of these books are out of print, be sure to consult collected or complete texts and read the appropriate poems.

British and Irish Poetry:

Eavan Boland, *Outside History: Selected Poems 1980-1990*
Ciaran Carson, *The Irish for No*
James Fenton, *Children In Exile*
W. S. Graham, *Selected Poems* (Faber)
Thom Gunn, *Selected Poems*
Tony Harrison, *V and Other Poems*
Seamus Heaney, *Opened Ground: Selected Poems, 1966-1996*
Geoffrey Hill, *Selected Poems*
Ted Hughes, *Collected Poems*
Philip Larkin, *Collected Poems*
Patrick Kavanagh, *Selected Poems*
Medh McGuckian, *Marconi's Cottage*
Derek Mahon, *Selected Poems*
Paul Muldoon, *Selected Poems*
Craig Raine, *History: a Home Movie*
Robin Robertson, *A Painted Field*
Stevie Smith, *Selected Poems*

II. SECONDARY WORKS

Robert Bly, *Leaping Poetry*
Eavan Boland, *Object Lessons*
Terrence Des Pres, *Praises & Dispraises*
Louise Gluck, *Proofs and Theories*
Richard Howard, *Alone With America*
Robert Hass, *Twentieth Century Pleasures*

Seamus Heaney, *The Government of the Tongue*
Randall Jarrell, *Poetry and the Age*
Alicia Ostriker, *Writing Like a Woman*
Marjorie Perloff, *The Poetics of Indeterminacy: Rimbaud to Cage*
Robert Pinsky, *The Situation of Poetry*
Adrienne Rich, *What Is Found There*
Muriel Rukeyser, *The Life of Poetry*
Helen Vendler, *Part of Nature, Part of Us*
Alan Williamson, *The Poetry of Introspection*

RECOMMENDED CRITICAL TEXTS

Jack Myers, David Wojahn, ed. *A Profile of Twentieth Century American Poetry*.
Jonathan Holden. *The Rhetoric of the Contemporary Lyric*.

ANTHOLOGIES

Students may also wish to consult Donald Hall's *Contemporary American Poetry* (1962) and Donald Allen's *The New American Poetry* (1960) for countervailing representations of contemporary poetry as it existed through the fifties. We also strongly suggest A. Poulin Jr.'s *Contemporary American Poetry* (1985) if only for its superb overview essay, "Contemporary American Poetry: The Radical Tradition," and *Naked Poetry*, for its introduction and author essays. Finally, see also the introduction to *Postmodern American Poetry: A Norton Anthology* (ed., Paul Hoover).

Core List: Primary Sources

- 1) John Ashbery, *Selected Poems (1986)*
- 2) John Berryman, *77 Dream Songs*, "Eleven Addresses to the Lord" in *Love & Fame*, "Homage to Mistress Bradstreet"
- 3) Elizabeth Bishop, *Complete Poems*
- 4) Eavan Boland, *Outside History: Selected Poems 1980-1990*
- 5) Robert Creeley, *Selected Poems, 1945-2005*
- 6) Rita Dove, *For Thomas and Beulah* in *Selected Poems*
- 7) Allen Ginsberg, *Selected Poems 1947-1995*
- 8) Louise Gluck, *The House on Marshland, The Wild Iris, A Village Life*
- 9) Jorie Graham, *Dream of the Unified Field*
- 10) Seamus Heaney, *Opened Ground: Selected Poems, 1966-1996*
- 11) Randall Jarrell, *The Lost World*, "Woman at the Washington Zoo," "The Orient Express" in *the Complete Poems*
- 12) Philip Larkin, *Collected Poems*
- 13) Robert Lowell, *Lord Weary's Castle, Life Studies, Day By Day* in *Collected Poems*
- 14) W. S. Merwin, *Migration: New and Selected Poems*
- 15) Sylvia Plath, *Ariel, Crossing The Water* in *The Collected Poems*
- 16) Adrienne Rich, *The Will to Change, Diving into the Wreck, Atlas of a Difficult World* in *The Fact of a Doorframe: Poems 1950-2001*

- 17) Theodore Roethke, *The Lost Son, The Far Field* in *The Collected Poems of Theodore Roethke*
- 18) Derek Walcott, *Collected Poems*
- 19) Charles Wright, *The World of the Ten Thousand Things: Poems 1980-1990, Negative Blue: Selected Later Poems*
- 20) James Wright, *Shall We Gather at the River, The Branch Will Not Break* in *Above the River: The Complete Poems*

Core List: Secondary Sources

- 1) Robert Bly, *Leaping Poetry*
- 2) Louise Gluck, *Proofs and Theories*
- 3) Robert Hass, *Twentieth Century Pleasures*
- 4) Seamus Heaney, *The Government of the Tongue*
- 5) Randall Jarrell, *Poetry and the Age*
- 6) Alicia Ostriker, *Writing Like a Woman*
- 7) Marjorie Perloff, *The Poetics of Indeterminacy: Rimbaud to Cage*
- 8) Robert Pinsky, *The Situation of Poetry*
- 9) Adrienne Rich, *What Is Found There*
- 10) Helen Vendler, *Part of Nature, Part of Us*