

SUGGESTED READINGS

in craft, fiction, nonfiction & poetry

Low-Residency MFA in Creative Writing Program
West Virginia Wesleyan College

CREATIVE NONFICTION READING LIST

IRENE MCKINNEY

Several of these titles are also useful for fiction writers and poets, since some of them address the whole writing enterprise. This list includes outstanding individual works of nonfiction, memoir, autobiography, and essays, and guides to writing nonfiction.

NAMING THE WORLD. ed. by Bret Anthony Johnson . (Random House, 2007)

THE BEST CREATIVE NONFICTION. ed. by Lee Gutkind. (Norton, 2008)

READING LIFE: BOOKS FOR THE AGES. Sven Birkerts. (Graywolf Press, 2008)

LIVING TO TELL THE TALE: A Guide to Writing Memoir. Jane Taylor McDonnell. (Norton, 1998)

TURTLE FEET: The Making and Unmaking of a Buddhist Monk. Nikolai Grozni. (Riverhead Books, 2008)

A PRIVATE HISTORY OF AWE. Scott Russell Sanders. (North Point Press, 2008)

THE BREAD OF TIME: Toward an Autobiography. Philip Levine. (University of Michigan, 2001)

ON WRITING: A Memoir of the Craft. Stephen King. (Scribner, 2000)

WRITING THE MEMOIR. Judith Barrington. (The Eighth Mountain Press, 2002).

BREATHING IN, BREATHING OUT: Keeping a Writer's Notebook. Ralph Fletcher. (Heinemann, 1996) Suggestions for keeping a notebook as source for both poetry and prose.

THE SITUATION AND THE STORY. The Art of Personal Narrative. Vivian Gornick. (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2001)

REAL TOADS IN IMAGINARY GARDENS. Suggestions and Starting Points for Young Creative Writers. Stephen Phillip Policoff and Jeffrey Skinner. (Chicago Review Press, 1991). Intended for younger students, this nevertheless has useful exercises for older writers.

PROSPECT: The Journey of an Artist. Anne Truitt. (Penguin, 1997) Truitt was a painter and sculptor, and her narrative of her development has much that is applicable to all artists.

THE WRITER ON HER WORK. ed. by Janet Sternburg. (Norton, 1991) Essays by both poets and fiction writers.

CRAFTING A LIFE: In Essay, Story, Poem. Donald M. Murray. (Heinemann, 1992)

WORD PAINTING: A Guide to Writing More Descriptively. Rebecca McClanahan. (Writer's Digest Books, 1999)

THE RURAL LIFE. Verlyn Klinkenborg. (Little, Brown and Co., 2003)

THE JOURNEY FROM THE CENTER TO THE PAGE. Yoga Philosophies and Practices as Muse for Authentic Writing. Jeff Davis. (Gotham Books, 2004)

VIRGIN TIME. In Search of the Contemplative Life. Patricia Hampl. (Ballantine Books, 1992)

I COULD TELL YOU STORIES. Sojourns in the Land of Memory. Patricia Hampl. (Norton, 1999)

WRITING TOWARD HOME. Tales and Lessons to Find Your Way. Georgia Heard. (Heinemann, 1995)

WALKING LIGHT. Essays and Memoirs. Stephen Dunn. Norton, 1993) Of interest to both poets and nonfiction writers.

IN SHORT. A Collection of Brief Creative Nonfiction. ed. by Judith Kitchen and Mary Paumier Jones. (Norton, 1996)

BREAK EVERY RULE. Essays on Language, Longing, and Moments of Desire. Carole Maso. (Counterpoint, 2000)

A THREE DOG LIFE. Abigail Thomas. (Harcourt, Inc. 2000)

TRUTH SERUM. Bernard Cooper. (Houghton Mifflin/Mariner Books, 1996)

THE FAITH OF A WRITER. Joyce Carol Oates. (Ontario Review, Inc. 2003)

RETURN OF THE OSPREY. David Gessner. (Algonquin Books, 2001)

SICK OF NATURE. David Gessner. (Dartmouth College Press, 2004) This is a breakthrough book for nature writers. Gessner has identified the weak point of much of nature writing, and has set out to change it.

ILL NATURE: Rants and Reflections on Humanity and Other Animals. Joy Williams. (The Lyons Press, 2001) Williams is an innovative fiction writer who turns her attention

here to abuses of the environment in a brilliant, angry, high-powered collection of essays.

EPILOGUE: A Memoir. Anne Roiphe. (HarperCollins, 2008)

BETWEEN PANIC AND DESIRE. Dinty W. Moore. (University of Nebraska Press, 2008)

RED DUST: A Path Through China. Ma Jian. (Pantheon Books, 2008)

A CHILDHOOD: The Biography of a Place. Harry Crews. (Harper & Row, 1978)

THE TWO KINDS OF DECAY. Sarah Manguso. (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2008)
Original and powerful narrative of prolonged illness by a poet.

SEEING THROUGH PLACES. Reflections on Geography and Identity. (Simon and Schuster, 2000)

THE RED DEVIL: To Hell With Cancer – And Back. Katherine Russell Rich. (Crown, 1999)

LEARNING TO DRIVE. Katha Pollitt. (Random House, 2007)

FALLING UPWARDS: Essays in Defence of the Imagination. Lee Siegel. (Basic Books, 2006).

HAPPY. Alex Limon. (Simon and Schuster, 2009). A memoir of a lifelong illness by a very lively writer.

YONDER. Siri Hustvedt. (Henry Holt & Co., 1998). Essays.

A PLEA FOR EROS. Siri Hustvedt. (Picador, 2006). Essays.

YOGA FOR PEOPLE WHO CAN'T BE BOTHERED TO DO IT. Geoff Dyer. (Pantheon Books, 2003).

READING SUGGESTIONS

Craft (general)

Wallace Stegner, On the Teaching of Creative Writing
Annie Dillard, The Writing Life
Donald Hall, Life Work
Natalie Goldberg, Writing Down the Bones
Brenda Ueland, If You Want to Write

Nonfiction

Craft

Miller and Paola, Tell It Slant
Philip Lopate, The Art of the Personal Essay (anthology)
The Next American Essay, John D'Agata (anthology)
Michael Ondaatje, Running in the Family
Barbara Hurd, Stirring the Mud: On Swamps, Bogs, and Human Imagination
Joan Didion, Slouching Toward Bethlehem
Albert Goldbarth, Sympathy of Souls
Anne Carson, Plainwater
Dennis Covington, Salvation at Sand Mountain
Annie Dillard, Holy the Firm, Teaching a Stone to Talk, For the Time Being
David James Duncan, River Teeth, My Story As Told by Water

Film

Jennifer Baichwal's The True Meaning of Pictures
(on Kentucky photographer Shelby Lee Adams)

Fiction

Craft

Ron Carlson, Ron Carlson Writes a Short Story
James Wood, How Fiction Works
Francine Prose, Reading Like a Writer
Anne Lamott, Bird by Bird
Flannery O'Connor, Mystery & Manners
John Gardner, The Art of Fiction
Lee Maynard, Crum
Wendell Berry, Jayber Crow, Hannah Coulter
Janet Kauffman, Obscene Gestures for Women, Places in the World a Woman
Could Walk
Flannery O'Connor, Stories
Sherwood Anderson, Winesburg Ohio
Sherman Alexie, The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven
Jayne Anne Phillips, Lark & Termite, Black Tickets
Lee Smith, Saving Grace, Me & My Baby View the Eclipse
Alex Taylor, The Name of the Nearest River
Heather Sellers, Georgia Under Water
Alice Munro, The Beggar Maid, Lives of Girls & Women
Dorothy Allison, Bastard Out of Carolina
Pinckney Benedict, Town Smokes
Junot Díaz, Drown
Denise Giardina, Storming Heaven, The Unquiet Earth

Breece D'J Pancake, Stories

Poetry

Craft

Li-Young Lee, Breaking the Alabaster Jar (interviews)

Adrienne Rich, What Is Found There: Notebooks on Poetry and Politics

Jane Hirshfield, Nine Gates

Mary Oliver, A Poetry Handbook

Maurice Manning, Bucolics

William Jolliff, These Tunes This Circle

C.D. Wright, Deepstep Come Shining, One Big Self

David Lee, News from Down to the Café

Sue William Silverman's (www.suewilliamsilverman.com)

CONTEMPORARY CREATIVE NONFICTION READING LIST (updated 4/06)

Illness, Accident, Grief

A. Manette Ansay, *Limbo: A Memoir*
 Harold Brodkey, *This Wild Darkness: The Story of My Death*
 Anatole Broyard, *Intoxicated by My Illness*
 Joan Didion, *The Year of Magical Thinking*
 Andre Dubus, *Broken Vessels, Meditations from a Moving Chair*
 Hope Edelman, *Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss*
 Kenny Fries, *Body, Remember*
 Temple Grandin, *Thinking in Pictures*
 Lucy Grealy, *Autobiography of a Face*
 Evan Handler, *Time on Fire: My Comedy of Terrors*
 Ann Hood, *Do Not Go Gentle: The Search for Miracles in a Cynical Time*
 Roger Kamenetz, *Terre Infirmis*
 Jamaica Kincaid, *My Brother*
 Kay Jamison, *An Unquiet Mind*
 Natalie Kusz, *Road Song*
 Mindy Lewis, *Life Inside*
 Audre Lorde, *The Cancer Journals*
 Nancy Mairs, *Carnal Acts; Waist-High in the World: A Life Among the Nondisabled*
 Christopher Noel, *In the Unlikely Event of a Water Landing: A Geography of Grief*
 Reynolds Price, *A Whole New Life*
 Sue William Silverman, *Love Sick: One Woman's Journey Through Sexual Addiction*
 Patricia Stacey, *The Boy Who Loved Windows*
 William Styron, *Darkness Visible: A Memoir of Madness* (how not to write a memoir)

Family & Relationships

Laurie Alberts, *Fault Line*
 Max Apple, *Roommates: My Grandfather's Story; I Love Gootie: My Grandmother's Story*
 Paul Auster, *The Invention of Solitude*
 Peter Balakian, *Black Dog of Fate*
 Jane Bernstein, *Loving Rachel*
 Mary Clearman Blew, *All But the Waltz: Five Generations in the Life of a Montana Family*
 Francine Cournos, *City of One*
 John Daniel, *Looking After: A Son's Memoir*
 Patty Dann, *The Baby Boat: A Memoir of Adoption*
 Dave Eggers, *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*
 Nora Eisenberg, *The War at Home*
 Kathleen Finneran, *The Tender Land*
 Nick Flynn, *Another Bullshit Night in Suck City*
 Patricia Foster, *All the Lost Girls: Confessions of a Southern Daughter*
 Dorothy Gallagher, *How I Came into My Inheritance*
 Gail Hosking Gilberg, *Snake's Daughter: The Roads in and Out of War*
 Vivian Gornick, *Fierce Attachments*
 Adam Hochschild, *Half the Way Home: A Memoir of Father and Son*
 Susan Jacoby, *Half-Jew*

Bret Lott, *Fathers, Sons, Brothers: The Men in My Family*
 Rebecca McClanahan, *The Riddle Song and Other Rememberings*
 Karen McElmurray, *Surrendered Child: A Birth Mother's Journey*
 Valerie Miner, *The Low Road: A Scottish Family Memoir*
 Michael Ondaatje, *Running in the Family*
 Molly Peacock, *Paradise, Piece by Piece*
 Sandra Scofield, *Occasions of Sin*
 Sue William Silverman, *Because I Remember Terror, Father, I Remember You*
 Abigail Thomas, *Safekeeping: Some True Stories from a Life*
 Jim Toner, *Serendib*
 Bruce Weigl, *The Circle of Hanh*
 John Edgar Wideman, *Brothers and Keepers*
 Geoffrey Wolff, *The Duke of Deception*
 Tobias Wolff, *This Boy's Life*

Childhood & Coming of Age

James Baldwin, *Notes of a Native Son*
 Phyllis Barber, *How I Got Cultured: A Nevada Memoir*
 Jo Ann Beard, *The Boys of My Youth*
 Jerome Charyn, *The Dark Lady of Belorusse*
 J. M. Coetzee, *Boyhood*
 Judith Ortiz Cofer, *Silent Dancing: A Partial Remembrance of a Puerto Rican Childhood*
 Frank Conroy, *Stop-Time*
 Faith Edise, Nina Sichel, Eds., *Unrooted Childhoods: Memoirs of Growing Up Global*
 James Ellroy, *My Dark Places*
 Alexandra Fuller, *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight: An African Childhood*
 Henry Louis Gates, *Colored People*
 Patricia Hampl, *A Romantic Education*
 Tony Hendra, *Father Joe: The Man Who Saved My Life*
 Eva Hoffman, *Lost in Translation*
 June Jordan, *Soldier: A Poet's Childhood*
 Lisa Knopp, *Flight Dreams: A Life in the Midwestern Landscape*
 Audre Lorde, *Zami: A New Spelling of my Name*
 Mary McCarthy, *Memories of a Catholic Girlhood*
 Frank McCourt, *Angela's Ashes*
 Paul Monette, *Becoming a Man: Half a Life Story*
 Vladimir Nabokov, *Speak Memory*
 Alberto Rios, *Capirotadas: A Nogales Memoir*
 Richard Rodriguez, *Hunger for Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez*
 Lynne Sharon Schwartz, *Ruined by Reading: A Life in Books*
 Kate Simon, *Bronx Primitive*
 Ilan Stevens, *On Borrowed Words: A Memoir of Language*
 Richard Wright, *Black Boy*

Place, Nature, Science

Edward Abbey, *Desert Solitaire*
 Diane Ackerman, *A Natural History of the Senses*
 Susanne Antonetta (Suzanne Paola), *Body Toxic; A Mind Apart*

Kim Barnes, *Hungry for the World*
 Rick Bass, *Winter*
 Wendell Berry, *Recollected Essays, 1965-1980*
 Jane Brox, *Here and Nowhere Else: Late Seasons of a Farm and its Family*
 Joanna Burger, *The Parrot Who Owns Me*
 Franklin Burroughs, *Billy Watson's Croker Sack*
 Bruce Chatwin, *In Patagonia*
 Allison Adelle Hedge Coke, *Rock, Ghost, Willow, Deer: A Story of Survival*
 Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek: Teaching a Stone to Talk*
 Ivan Doig, *This House of Sky*
 Ariel Dorfman, *Heading South, Looking North*
 Gretel Ehrlich, *The Solace of Open Space*
 J. H. Fabre, *Social Life in the Insect World*
 Edward Hoagland, *The Courage of Turtles*
 Garrett Hongo, *Volcano: A Memoir of Hawai'i*
 Marcy Houle, *Prairie Keepers*
 Cynthia Huntington, *The Salt House: A Summer on the Dunes of Cape Cod*
 Theresa Jordan, *Riding the White Horse Home*
 William Kittredge, *Hole in the Sky*
 Verlyn Klinkenborg, *The Last Fine Time*
 Ted Kooser, *Local Wonders: Seasons in the Bohemian Alps*
 David Lazar, *The Body of Brooklyn*
 William Least Heat Moon, *Blue Highways*
 Barry Lopez, *Arctic Dreams: Imagination and Desire in Northern Landscape*
 Nancy Lord, *Beluga Days*
 Norman MacLean, *A River Runs Through It*
 Michael Martone, *The Flatness and Other Landscapes*
 Peter Mayle, *A Year in Provence*
 John McPhee, *Coming into the Country*
 Harry Middleton, *The Earth is Enough*
 Kathleen Norris, *Dakota: A Spiritual Geography*
 John Price, *Not Just Any Land: A Personal & Literary Journey into the American Grasslands*
 Bill Roorbach, *Temple Stream: A Rural Odyssey*
 Dana Sachs, *The House on Dream Street: Memoir of an American Woman in Vietnam*
 Alix Kates Shulman, *Drinking the Rain*
 Mark Spragg, *When the River Changes Direction*
 Robert Stepto, *Blue as the Lake: A Personal Geography*
 Celia Thaxter, *An Island Garden*
 Terry Tempest Williams, *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place*

New Journalism, Immersion, History, Social, Political, Religious, Spiritual, Feminist, etc.

Faith Adiele, *Meeting Faith: The Forest Journals of a Black Buddhist Nun*
 Ricardo Ainslie, *Long Dark Road* (about the James Byrd racially inspired murder)
 Steve Almond, *Candyfreak: A Journey Through the Chocolate Underbelly of America*
 Mark Curtis Anderson, *Jesus Sound Explosion*
 Victoria Armour-Hileman, *Singing to the Dead: A Missioner's Life Among Refugees from Burma*
 Bill Ayers, *Fugitive Days*
 Barrie Jean Borich, *My Lesbian Husband: Landscapes of a Marriage*
 Lady Borton, *Sensing the Enemy*

C.D.B. Bryan, *Friendly Fire*
 Truman Capote, *In Cold Blood*
 Dalton Conley, *Honky*
 Rosemary Daniell, *Confessions of a (Female) Chauvinist*
 Joan Didion, *Slouching Toward Bethlehem*
 Beverly Donofrio, *Looking for Mary (Or, The Blessed Mother and Me)*
 Gretel Ehrlich, *Questions of Heaven: The Chinese Journey of an American Buddhist*
 Eduardo Galeano, *Soccer in Sun and Shadow*
 William Gass, *On Being Blue: A Philosophical Inquiry*
 Mikal Gilmore, *Shot in the Heart*
 Melissa Fay Greene, *Praying for Sheetrock*
 Sebastian Haffner, *Defying Hitler*
 Jim Harrison, *Off to the Side*
 Tom Hayden, *Irish on the Inside: In Search of the Soul of Irish America*
 Robin Hemley, *Invented Eden: The Elusive, Disputed History of the Tasaday*
 John Hersey, *Hiroshima*
 Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost: Greed, Terror and Heroism in Colonial Africa*
 Eva Hoffman, *After Such Knowledge: Memory, History, and the Legacy of the Holocaust*
 Sebastian Junger, *A Perfect Storm*
 Kazuko Kuramoto, *Manchurian Legacy: Memoirs of a Japanese Colonialist*
 Thomas Keneally, *Schindler's List*
 Tracy Kidder, *Among Schoolchildren and House*
 Jon Krakauer, *Into Thin Air*
 Anne Lamont, *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith*
 Bernard Lefkowitz, *Our Boys*
 Beverly Lowry, *Crossed Over*
 Norman Mailer, *The Executioner's Song*
 Nancy Mairs, *Ordinary Time: Cycles in Marriage, Faith, and Renewal*
 Pablo Neruda, *Memoirs*
 Kathleen Norris, *The Cloister Walk*
 Tillie Olsen, *Silences*
 Mary Rose O'Reilley, *Barn at the End of the World: The Apprenticeship of a Quaker, Buddhist Shepherd*
 Susan Orlean, *The Orchid Thief*
 Caryl Phillips, *The Atlantic Sound*
 Mary Roach, *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*
 Randy Shilts, *And the Band Played On: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic*
 Natalia Rachel Singer, *Scraping by in the Big Eighties*
 Susan Sontag, *Regarding the Pain of Others*
 Hunter S. Thompson, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*
 Susan Tiberghien, *Circling to the Center: One Woman's Encounter with Silent Prayer*
 Studs Terkel, *Working*
 Tom Wolfe, *The Right Stuff; The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test, etc.*

Experimental Forms

John D'Agata, *Halls of Fame*
 David B., *Epileptic*
 Italo Calvino, *The Road to San Giovanni*
 Elias Canetti, *The Agony of Files: Notes and Notations*
 E. M. Cioran, *All Gall is Divided*
 Inga Clendinnen, *Tiger's Eye*

Dennis and Vicki Covington, *Cleaving: The Story of a Marriage* (husband-wife collaboration)
 Seamus Deane, *Reading in the Dark*
 Nick Flynn, *Another Bullshit Night in Suck City*
 Robin Hemley, *Nola: A Memoir of Faith, Art, and Madness*
 Brian Lennon, *City, An Essay*
 Primo Levi, *The Periodic Table*
 Pat Mora, *House of Houses*
 Donald Morrill, *The Untouched Minutes*
 Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*
 James Richardson, *Vectors: Aphorisms and Ten-Second Essays*
 Richard Rodriguez, *Days of Obligation*
 Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood; Embroideries*
 W. G. Sebald, *The Emigrants; The Rings of Saturn*
 Bob Shacochis, *Domesticity: A Gastronomic Interpretation of Love*
 Art Spiegelman, *Maus I and II (A Survivor's Tale)*
 Lawrence Sutin, *A Postcard Memoir*
 Hunter S. Thompson, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*
 Peter Trachtenberg, *7 Tattoos: A Memoir in the Flesh*

Personal Essay & Anthologies

Jill Bialofsky and Helen Schulman (eds.), *Wanting a Child*
 Brenda Miller, *Season of the Body*
 Becky Bradway, ed., *In the Middle of the Middle West: Literary Nonfiction from the Heartland*
 Janet Burroway, *Embalming Mom: Essays in Life*
 Bernard Cooper, *Maps to Anywhere*
 John D'Agata, ed., *The Next American Essay*
 Charles D'Ambrosio, *Orphans*
 Toi Dericotte, *The Black Notebooks: An Interior Journey*
The Eloquent Essay: An Anthology of Classic & Creative Nonfiction
 M.F.K. Fisher, *Among Friends*
 Patricia Foster, *Just Beneath My Skin: Autobiography & Self-Discovery*
 Daniel Francis, ed., *Imagining Ourselves: Classics of Canadian Non-Fiction*
 Ian Frazier, *On the Rez*
 Kenny Fries (ed.), *Staring Back: The Disability Experience from the Inside Out*
 William Gass, *On Being Blue*
 Albert Goldbarth, *Many Circles*
 Vivian Gornick, *Approaching Eye Level*
 Steve Harvey, *Bound for Shady Grove*
 Emily Hiestand, *Angela the Upside-down Girl*
 Pico Iyer, *Falling off the Map*
 Judith Kitchen, *Distance and Direction; Short Takes: Brief Encounters with Contemporary Nonfiction*
 Ted Kooser, *Local Wonders: Seasons in the Bohemian Alps*
 David Lazar, *The Body of Brooklyn*
 Phillip Lopate, *Against Joie de Vivre; Portrait of My Body*
 Rasunah Marsden, *Crisp Blue Edges: Indigenous Creative Non-fiction*
 Brenda Miller, *Season of the Body*
 Naomi Shihab Nye, *Never in a Hurry: Essays on People and Places*
 Cynthia Ozick, *Fame & Folly, Quarrel & Quandry, and Metaphor & Memory*
 Molly Peacock (ed.), *The Private I* (on privacy)
 Scott Russel Sanders, *Staying Put*

Marjorie Sandor, *The Night Gardener*
 Mimi Schwartz, *Thoughts from a Queen-Sized Bed*
 David Sedaris, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*
 David Shields, *Remote: Reflections on Life in the Shadow of Celebrity*
 Gerald Stern, *What I Can't Bear Losing*
 Michael Steinberg, *Still Pitching*
 Ira Sukrungruang, *Scoot Over Skinny: The Fat Nonfiction Anthology*
 Abigail Thomas, *Safekeeping*
 Robert Vivian, *Cold Snap as Yearning*
 Lawrence Weschler, *Vermeer in Bosnia*
 E. B. White, *One Man's Meat*
 Virginia Woolf, *Moments of Being; The Death of the Moth and Other Essays*

Humor

Stephen Akey, *College*
 Robert Benchley, *Benchley Beside Himself*
 Dinty Moore, *The Accidental Buddhist*
 S. J. Perelman, *Most of the Most of S. J. Perelman*
 David Sedaris, *Naked*
 James Thurber, *My Life and Hard Times*

Journals & Letters

Genevieve Jurgensen, *The Disappearance: A Primer of Loss*
 Carl H. Klaus, *My Vegetable Love: A Journal of a Growing Season*
 Jean Rhys, *The Letters of Jean Rhys*, Selected & Edited by Francis Wyndham & Diana Melly
 Rainer Maria Rilke, *Letters on Cezanne and Letters to a Young Poet*
 May Sarton, *Journal of a Solitude*
 Leslie Marmon Silko & James Wright, *The Delicacy and Strength of Lace: Letters Between Leslie Marmon Silky & James Wright*
 Anne Truitt, *Prospect: The Journal of an Artist*

Occupational Memoirs

Sylvia Ashton-Warner, *Teacher*
 Ted Conover, *Newjack: Guarding Sing-Sing*
 Pat Conroy, *The Water is Wide*
 Robert Cowser, *Dream Season: A Professor Joins America's Oldest Semi-Pro Football Team*
 Gail Griffin, *Calling: Essays on Teaching in the Mother Tongue*
 Ben Hamper, *Rivthead*
 Thomas Lynch, *The Undertaking*
 Susan Neville, *Iconography: A Writer's Meditation*
 Danielle Ofri, *Singular Intimacies: Becoming a Doctor at Bellevue*
 Louise Raskin, *Other People's Dirt: A Housecleaner's Curious Adventures*
 Ruth Reichl, *Tender at the Bone: Growing up at the Table*
 Oliver Sacks, *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*
 Richard Seltzer, *Mortal Lessons: Notes on the Art of Surgery; Confessions of a Knife*
 Frank Vertosick, *Why We Hurt; The Natural History of Pain*

On and About Writing (not just nonfiction)

Robert Atwan, ed., *The Best American Essays* (published annually)
 Judith Barrington, *Writing the Memoir: From Truth to Art*
 Gayle Brandeis, *Fruitflesh: Seeds of Inspiration for Women Who Write*
 J. O. Cofer, Marilyn Kallet, eds., *Sleeping With One Eye Open: Women Writers & the Art of Survival*
 Judith Ortiz Cofer, *Woman in Front of the Sun: On Becoming a Writer*
 Rosemary Daniell, *Secrets of the Zona Rosa: How Writing (and Sisterhood) Can Change Women's Lives*
 Scott Edelstein, *The Indispensable Writer's Guide*
 Jon Franklin, *Writing for Story*
 Bonnie Friedman, *Writing Past Dark*
 Philip Gerard, *Creative Nonfiction*
 Philip Gerard, Carolyn Forché, ed., *Writing Creative Nonfiction*
 Natalie Goldberg, *Writing Down the Bones*
 Vivian Gornick, *The Situation and the Story*
 Patricia Hampl, *I Could Tell You Stories* (memoir & craft)
 Robin Hemley, *Turning Life into Fiction*
 Judith Kitchen, Mary Paumier Jones, *In Short: A Collection of Brief Creative Nonfiction*
 Anne Lamott, *Bird by Bird*
 Betsy Lerner, *The Forest for the Trees: An Editor's Advice to Writers*
 Phillip Lopate, ed., *The Art of the Personal Essay*
 Rebecca McClanahan, *Write Your Heart Out*
 Brenda Miller, Suzanne Paola, *Tell it Slant*
 Dinty Moore, *The Truth of the Matter*
 Joyce Carol Oates, *First Person Singular*
 Bill Roorbach, *Writing Life Stories: How to Make Memories into Memoirs*
 Michael Steinberg (ed.), *The Fourth Genre: Contemporary Writers Off/On Creative Nonfiction*
 Mimi Schwartz, *Writing True*
 Monica Wood, *The Pocket Muse: Ideas & Inspirations for Writing*
 William Zinsser, ed., *Inventing the Truth: The Art and Craft of Memoir*

Literary Journals specifically for Nonfiction

Fourth Genre: Explorations in Nonfiction (<http://msupress.msu.edu/FourthGenre/>)
Creative Nonfiction (www.creativenonfiction.org)
River Teeth, Department of English, Ashland University, Ashland, OH 44805
Brevity (750 words or less--www.creativenonfiction.org/brevity/brevity.html)
Tiny Lights: A Journal of Personal Essay (www.tiny-lights.com)
Double-Take/Points of Entry (www.pointsofentry.org)
Seneca Review (lyric essays), Hobart-William Smith College, Geneva, NY 14456

**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY
CONTEMPORARY MEMOIR**

1. Allison, Dorothy. *Two or Three Things I Know for Sure*
2. Beard, Jo Ann. *The Boys of My Youth*
3. Brady, Philip. *To Prove My Blood*
4. Cooper, Helene. *The House at Sugar Beach: In Search of a Lost African Childhood*
5. Didion, Joan. *The Year of Magical Thinking*
6. Dillard, Annie and Cort Conley (eds.). *Modern American Memoirs* (an anthology)
Includes a comprehensive bibliography, compiled by Dillard, of American memoirs published between 1917 and 1977.
7. Donofrio, Beverly. *Riding in Cars with Boys*
8. Donofrio, Beverly. *Looking for Mary*
9. Doty, Mark. *Still Life with Oysters and Lemon*
10. Gilchrist, Ellen. *Falling Through Space*
11. Hall, Meredith. *Without a Map* (2007)
12. Hellman, Lillian. *Pentimento*
13. Kimmel, Haven. *A Girl Named Zippy*
14. Karr, Mary. *The Liar's Club*
15. Kunitz, Stanley. *The Wild Braid: A Poet Reflects on A Century in the Garden*
16. McCracken, Elizabeth. *An Exact Replica of a Figment of My Imagination* (2008)
17. Nunez, Sigrid. *Sempre Susan* (about Susan Sontag) (2011)
18. Ondaatje, Michael. *Running in the Family*
19. Slater, Lauren. *Lying* (the ultimate illness memoir)
20. Thomas, Abigail. *Safekeeping*
21. Thomas, Abigail. *Three-Dog Life*
22. Walls, Jeannette. *The Glass Castle*

ON-GOING BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CONTEMPORARY POETRY AND POETICS

This is a list of anthologies and works of criticism you may draw on for your readings. Since you will be reading 20-30 books a semester, you will have become familiar with most of these by the end of the program.

IRENE MCKINNEY

PRAISING IT NEW: THE BEST OF THE NEW CRITICISM, ed. Garrick Davis (Swallow Press/Ohio University Press, 2008)

THE EXTRAORDINARY TIDE: NEW POETRY BY AMERICAN WOMEN, ed. Susan Aizenberg and Erin Belieu (Columbia University Press, 2001)

POETS TEACHING POETS, ed. Gregory Orr and Ellen Bryant Voigt (The University of Michigan Press, 1996)

THE ART OF THE POETIC LINE, James Longenbach (Greywolf Press, 2008)

A POET'S GUIDE TO POETRY, Mary Kinzie (The University of Chicago Press, 1999)

WHERE WE STAND: WOMEN POETS ON LITERARY TRADITION, ed. Sharon Bryan (W. W. Norton & Co., 1993)

THE END OF THE POEM, Paul Muldoon (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006)

THE END OF THE POEM, Giorgio Agamben (Stanford University Press, 1999)

UNBROKEN LINE: WRITING IN THE LINEAGE OF POETRY, Miriam Sagan (Sherman Ascher Publishing, 1999)

STEALING GLIMPSES of Poetry, Poets and Things in Between, Molly McQuade (Sarabande Books, 1999)

EVERY SHUT EYE AIN'T ASLEEP. An Anthology of Poetry by African Americans since 1945, ed. Michael S. Harper and Anthony Walton (Back Bay Books/Little, Brown & Co., 1994)

POETRY AS SURVIVAL, Gregory Orr (The University of Georgia Press, 2002)

AGAINST FORGETTING. Twentieth Century Poetry of Witness, ed Carolyn Forché (W. W. Norton & Co., 1993)

THE CITY VISIBLE: CHICAGO POETRY FOR THE NEW CENTURY, ed. Allegranza & Bianchi (Cracked Slab, 2007)

LYRIC POSTMODERNISMS, Reginald Shepherd (Counterpath Press, 2008)

TRIQUARTERLY, Issue # 128, ed. Barbara Hamby and David Kirby. This is an "Ultra-Talk" anthology edited by two of the most prominent practitioners of the form.

FEELING AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE, Alice Fulton (Graywolf Press, 1999)

RADIANT LYRE, ed. David Baker and Ann Townsend (Graywolf Press, 2007)

ON LOOKING, Lia Purpura (Sarabande Books, 2006)

BY HERSELF: Women Reclaim Poetry, Molly McQuade (Graywolf Press, 2000)

THE BEFORE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION POETRY ANTHOLOGY. Selections From the American Book Awards 1980-1990, ed. J. J. Phillips, Ishmael Reed, et al. (W. W. Norton & Co., 1992)

PRAISES AND DISPRAISES, Terrence Des Pres (Penguin Books, 1998)

WILD AND WHIRLING WORDS: A POETIC CONVERSATION, ed. H. L. Hix (Etruscan Press, 2004)

GREAT AMERICAN PROSE POEMS, ed. David Lehman (Scribners, 2004)

NO BOUNDARIES, ed. Ray Gonzales (Tupelo, 2004)

THE RESISTANCE TO POETRY. James Longenbach (The University of Chicago Press, 2004)

IN THE BLUE PHARMACY. Marianne Boruch. (Trinity University Press, 2005)

POETRY'S OLD AIR. Marianne Boruch. (University of Michigan Press, 1995)

POET'S CHOICE. Edward Hirsch. (Harcourt, 2006)

THE DEMON AND THE ANGEL. Edward Hirsch. (Harcourt, 2002)

HOW TO READ A POEM and Fall in Love With Poetry. Edward Hirsch. (Harcourt Brace, 1999)

THE ART OF ATTENTION. Donald Revell. (Graywolf Press, 2007)

THE ART OF THE POETIC LINE. James Longenbach. (Graywolf Press, 2008)

THE ART OF SYNTAX. Ellen Bryant Voigt. (Graywolf Press, 2009)

THE FLEXIBLE LYRIC. Ellen Bryant Voigt. (The University of Georgia Press, 1999)

POETRY AS PERSUASION. Carl Dennis. (The University of Georgia Press, 2001)

ORDINARY GENIUS. Kim Addonizio. (Norton, 2009)

THE POET'S COMPANION: A GUIDE TO THE PLEASURES OF WRITING
POETRY. Kim Addonizio and Dorianne Laux. (Norton)

AMERICAN ALPHABETS: 25 CONTEMPORARY POETS. ed. by David Walker.
(Oberlin College Press)

POETS READING: THE FIELD SYMPOSIA. ed. by David Walker. (Oberlin College
Press.)

MODELS OF THE UNIVERSE: AN ANTHOLOGY OF THE PROSE POEM. ed. by
Stuart Frieber and David Young. (Oberlin College Press.)

BEST WORDS, BEST ORDER. Stephen Dobyns. (Palgrave/Macmillan, 2003)

CLOSES CALLS WITH NONSENSE: READING NEW POETRY. Stephen Burt.
(Graywolf Press, 2009). This is the most useful and understandable book on very recent
poetry, and contains a key essay, "The Elliptical Poets."

AMERICAN HYBRID. ed. by Cole Swenson and David St. John. (Norton, 2009)

POET' WORK, POET'S PLAY. Essays on the Practice and the Art. ed. by Daniel
Tobin and Pimone Triplett. (The University of Michigan Press, 2008)

WRITING PERSONAL POETRY. Sheila Bender. (Writer's Digest Books, 1998)

TWENTIETH CENTURY AMERICAN POETICS. Poets on the Art of Poetry. ed. by
Dana Gioia, David Mason, and Meg Schoerke. (McGraw Hill, 2004)

HOW TO READ A POEM and start a Poetry Circle. Molly Peacock. (Riverhead Books,
1999)

IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND. The Poet's Portable Workshop. Steve Kowitz.
(Tilbury House, 1995)

THE POETRY HOME REPAIR MANUAL. Practical Advice for Beginning Poets. Ted
Kooser. (University of Nebraska Press, 1995)

THE PRACTICE OF POETRY. Writing Exercises from Poets who Teach. ed. by Robin
Behn and Chase Twichell. (HarperPerennial, 1992)

BREAK BLOW BURN. Camille Paglia. (Pantheon, 2005)

MAKING YOUR OWN DAYS. The Pleasures of Reading and Writing Poetry. Kenneth Koch. (Scribner, 1998)

NIGHT ERRANDS. How Poets Use Dreams. ed. by Roderick Townley. (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1998)

THE SOUNDS OF POETRY: A BRIEF GUIDE. Robert Pinsky. (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1998)

WRITING YOUR RHYTHM. Using Nature, Culture, Form and Myth. Diane Thiel. (Story Line Press, 2001)

POETSPEAK. In Their Work, About Their Work.. A Selection by Paul B. Janeczko. (Collier Books, 1991)

DON'T ASK. Poets on Poetry. Philip Levine. (The University of Michigan, 1981)

RULES FOR THE DANCE. A Handbook for Writing and Reading Metrical Verse. Mary Oliver. (Houghton Mifflin, 1998)

ON BURNING GROUND: THIRTY YEARS OF THINKING ABOUT POETRY. Sandra Gilbert. (The University of Michigan Press, 2009). Note: This is a volume in the series Poets on Poetry, which includes forty or so titles, including recent works by Reginald Shepherd, Elizabeth Alexander, Charles Simic, John Ashbery, and Annie Finch. It's an excellent series.

RECOMMENDED RECENT POETRY

Irene McKinney

Here, in no particular order, are fairly recent books of poetry that are exciting, brilliant, innovative, and deliver pleasure.

Linda Bierds. *THE SECONDS*. (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2001) She is the premier poet of monologue, creating character through superb control of voice and tone. She has several books, all displaying fine craft and verbal grace.

Bob Hicok. *WORDS FOR EMPTY AND WORDS FOR FULL*. (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010) Hicok is both modest and exciting, an unusual combination. His poems address real human dilemmas, without "any irritable striving after reason," as Keats said. Knowing the answers don't exist doesn't keep him from posing the questions. He has written five other fine books. Read him to understand the power of ordinary, direct speech artfully deployed.

Maureen Seaton. *FURIOUS COOKING*. (University of Iowa Press). With unstoppable energy, these poems engage with the gritty realities while delivering real excitement. Read her to see how to use anger stylistically. Her newer work is more experimental, in *CAVE OF THE YELLOW VOLKSWAGEN*. (Carnegie Mellon, 2009) and in *VENUS EXAMINES HER BREAST*. (Carnegie Mellon, 2004).

Diane Seuss. *WOLF LAKE, WHITE GOWN BLOWN OPEN*. (University of Massachusetts Press, 2010). This is poetry in the current mode that Stephen Burt calls "Elliptical Poetry" and Tony Hoagland terms "skittery." It relies on disjunction and juxtaposition of unlike things, which Seuss does brilliantly, delivering some real delights.

Bruce Weigl. *AFTER THE OTHERS*. (Triquarterly Books, 1999). He is known for his strong lyrics based on his experience in Viet Nam, and he continues to produce a clear form of lyric poem about the intimate and painful moments.

Laura Kasischke. *DANCE AND DISAPPEAR*. (University of Massachusetts Press, 2004). *GARDENING IN THE DARK*. (Ausable Press, 2004), *WHAT IT WASN'T*. (Carnegie Mellon, 2002). *LILIES WITHOUT*. (Ausable Press, 2007), and *SPACE IN CHAINS*. (Copper Canyon, 2011), a burning, beautiful book. This poet just gets better and better, with her flexible line and vernacular voice. She tackles the difficult subjects and moments seemingly without fear. One of our strongest contemporaries.

David Wojahn. *WORLD TREE*. (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2011). A masterful poet who has developed a strong contemporary sound, dealing with the biggest subjects there are, with compassion and a mournful toughness. All his books are admirable. Read

him to see how to write a sustained lyric. His is a voice of moral outrage, spoken not from the distance of the denouncer, but from inside the thick of things.

Tony Hoagland. UNINCORPORATED PERSONS IN THE LATE HONDA DYNASTY. (Graywolf Press, 2010). His other books are WHAT NARCISSIM MEANS TO ME (Graywolf Press, 2003), DONKEY GOSPEL (Graywolf Press, 1998), and SWEET RUIN (University of Wisconsin, 1992). His poems are accessible, written in a fast-paced vernacular, and his stance is that of an ordinary guy, observing the lessons in ordinary life. But he takes risks with subject matter: sexual violence, race relations.

Charles Wright. SESTETS. (Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, 2009). Winner of the Pulitzer, and many other deserved honors, his sustained body of work is remarkable. SCAR TISSUE. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2006), among 18 other books.

Aimee Nezhumatathil. AT THE DRIVE- IN VOLCANO. (Tupelo Press, 2007). a young poet of high accomplishment: urbane, tender, formal mastery.

C. D. Wright. ONE WITH OTHERS. (Copper Canyon, 2010). Experimental in the best sense, Wright expands her voice beyond the personal without really abandoning it, an amazing feat. Quirky, alive in every turn.

Terrance Hayes. WIND IN A BOX. (Penguin Poets, 2006), HIP LOGIC. (Penguin Poets, 2002), MUSCULAR MUSIC. (Tia Chucha, 1999), and most recently, LIGHTHEAD. (Penguin Poets, 2010). I carry two or three poets with me everywhere.. he is one of them. Innovative, high energy, always surprising and full of joy. he ranges over many forms, invented for the occasion.

Tracy K. Smith. THE BODY'S QUESTION. (Graywolf Press, 2003), and DUENDE. (Graywolf Press, 2007). At her best, she does manifest Lorca's Duende, that dark sweet knowledge rising up through the live, tender language. Her most recent book is LIFE ON MARS. (Graywolf Press, 2011). It is different from earlier books, in both subject matter and style, looking more at the outside world rather than inward. She reminds me of the early Carolyn Forché.

Aaron Smith. BLUE ON BLUE GROUND. (University of Pittsburgh Press). The kind of intimacy with the reader Aaron creates makes some other poetry look like public broadcasts. Daring, and modest at the same time. A voice of great urgency.

Chase Twichell. NORTHERN SPY, THE ODDS, PERDIDO (Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1991), THE SNOW WATCHER (Ontario review Press, 1998), THE GHOST OF EDEN (Ontario Review Press, 1995), DOG LANGUAGE (Copper Canyon, 2005), and most recently HORSES WHERE THE ANSWERS SHOULD HAVE BEEN (Copper Canyon, 2010), constitute a sustained, humane body of work. She is one of the poets whose books I carry around, for her humility and talent.

D. A. Powell. TEA, LUNCH, COCKTAILS are three of his books. Most recently, CHRONIC (Graywolf, 2009) speaks in heightened, lyric poems from a state of illness, beautifully, inventing new turns of language and exposing new perceptions.

Matthew Dickman. ALL AMERICAN POEM. (The American Poetry Review, 2008) Poetry seldom makes the newspapers, but this poet has received that kind of attention. These poems are generous, open-hearted, avoiding pretension and artifice. They convey happiness.

Catie Rosemurgy. MY FAVORITE APOCALYPSE and THE STRANGER MANUAL (Graywolf Press, 2010) contain wonderful high-energy poems that catch you by the scruff of the neck. She acts like a battery on the mind.

Lucia Maria Perillo. DANGEROUS LIFE (Northeastern University Press, 1989), THE BODY MUTINIES (Purdue University Press, 1996), THE OLDEST MAP WITH THE NAME AMERICA (Random House, 1999), LUCK IS LUCK (Random House, 2005), and INSEMINATING THE ELEPHANT are books I would not want to do without. I keep the whole stack near my reading chair. She is very angry about the injustice of things, especially illness and death, and her take on these questions is unprecedented. She is also genuinely funny, not in a "literary" way.

Amy Gerstler. BITTER ANGEL (North Point Press, 1990), CROWN OF WEEDS, MEDICINE, and GHOST GIRL (Penguin Poets, 2004) are so intelligent, inventive, irreverent, and funny that they create a language feast for the mind.

Dana Levin. IN THE SURGICAL THEATER (The American Poetry Review, 1999), WEDDING DAY (Copper Canyon Press, 2005), and SKY BURIAL (Copper Canyon, 2011) explore the knowledge of the body in its standing-in for the spirit. The figure of the newborn infant undergoing multiple surgeries becomes an image of human vulnerability. The spirit struggles and knows because the body does. The figure in SKY BURIAL is the Tibetan funeral practice of chopping the body apart and feeding it to the vultures, thus, burying it in the sky.

Adrian Blevins. THE BRASS GIRL BROUHAHA. (Ausable Press, 2003), works in the "Ultra-Talk" mode, saying a lot, filling the page rapidly with the presence of an urgent, personal voice which is unafraid of sounding cranky, bitter, manic, or beleaguered. I admire the willingness to include all moods.

Philip Levine. NEWS OF THE WORLD. (Alfred K. Knopf, 2009). The oldest poet on this list, Levine stays perennially fresh and new. Master of the vernacular voice, his subject is always the "ordinary" working person in America. His voice is seamless, musical, made up of natural speech, words that real people use to talk to each other. Author of over twenty books, Levine is unstoppable.

Sharon Olds. ONE SECRET THING. (Alfred A. Knopf, 2008). With each of her books, we enter again into her personal territory where we feel an unknown joy in this precious

human life, as the Buddhists say. She is our premier poet of the body, having made a vow, she tells us, to never betray it.

Yusef Komunyakaa. WARHORSES. (FARRAR, Straus & Giroux, 2008). He has many voices and forms. This book has the power of song, a tragic one. His intelligence keeps pace with his lyricism, or vice versa.

FICTION THAT IS POETRY

Here are works of fiction that have for me the same lyric resonance of poetry.

Ma Jian. STICK OUT YOUR TONGUE. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1987). This Chinese writer produces an intense, physical prose. This book is based on his sojourn in Tibet, where he witnesses the degradation of the Tibetan people, but he refuses to romanticize them

Bruno Schulz. THE STREET OF CROCODILES. (published as "Cinnamon Shops" in 1934; this edition, Penguin Books, 1963). Often compared to Kafka, but his prose is more gorgeous, burgeoning out into strange forms. His only other work is SANATORIUM UNDER THE SIGN OF THE HOURGLASS. (Penguin Books, 1978).

Jayne Anne Phillips. BLACK TICKETS. (A Delta Book, 1979). Lush, heated, physical.

Jean Giono. SONG OF THE WORLD. Counterpoint, 1981). He is so in love with the world you can feel it in every line, also in his JOY OF MAN'S DESIRING.

Thomas Bernhard. All of his works, but especially his memoir, GATHERING EVIDENCE. (Vintage), which is painfully existential, and oddly creates an overwhelming feeling of being alive, while saying he would rather be dead.

McKinney

SOME RECENT & SOME CONTEMPORARY (mainly) AMERICAN POETS

A. "must read"

W.H. Auden	Selected Poems
John Berryman	77 Dream Songs
Elizabeth Bishop	Complete Poems
Hart Crane	Complete Poems
e e cummings	50 poems; 100 selected poems
Robert Frost	Selected Poems
Allen Ginsberg	The Fall of America; Howl; Kaddish
Randall Jarrell	The Woman at the Washington Zoo
Etheridge Knight	The Essential Etheridge Knight
Philip Larkin	High Windows; The Whitsun Weddings
Robert Lowell	Lord Weary's Castle & The Mills of the Kavanaughs
Edna St. Vincent Millay	Selected Poems
Marianne Moore	Complete Poems
Pablo Neruda	Neruda & Vallejo: Selected Poems
Frank O'Hara	Selected Poems
Charles Olson	The Maximus Poems
Kenneth Patchen	Selected Poems
Sylvia Plath	Collected Poems
Adrienne Rich	The Fact of a Doorframe: Poems Selected & New
Theodore Roethke	Collected Poems
Richard Wilbur	New and Collected Poems
William Carlos Williams	Selected Poems
James Wright	Above the River: The Complete Poems

B.

Ai	Cruelty/Killing Floor; <u>Fate</u>
Elizabeth Alexander	The Venus Hottentot
Debra Allbery	Walking Distance
A.R. Ammons	Selected Poems
Ralph Angel	Neither World
Maya Angelou	<u>Complete Collected Poems</u>
John Ashbery	Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror; Selected Poems
Renee Ashley	Salt
Margaret Atwood	Selected Poems
Jimmy Santiago Baca	Black Mesa Poems
Dorothy Barrresi	All of the Above; <u>The Post-Rapture Diner</u>
Robin Becker	All-American Girl
Marvin Bell	New and Selected Poems
Frank Bidart	In the Western Night: Collected Poems
Robert Bly	The Light around the Body; Silence in the Snowy Fields
Louise Bogan	The Blue Estuaries
Joseph Brodsky	To Urania
Gwendolyn Brooks	The World of Gwendolyn Brooks; Blacks
David Bottoms	Shooting Rats at the Bibb County Dump
Olga Broumas	Perpetua
Charles Bukowski	Burning in Water Drowning in Flame
Hayden Carruth	Brothers, I Loved You All; Selected Poetry
Ray Carver	A New Path to the Waterfall

Siv Cedering	Letters from the Floating World
Lorna Dee Cervantes	Emplumada
Sandra Cisneros	Loosa Woman
Amy Clampitt	The Kingfisher; Westward
Killarney Clary	By Common Salt
Lucille Clifton	Next: New Poems; Quilting; The Book of Light
Billy Collins	The Apple that Astonished Paris; The Art of Drowning
✓ Jane Cooper	New & Selected Poems
Gregory Corso	The Happy Birthday of Death
Robert Creeley	Selected Poems
Kate Daniels	The White Wave; The Niche Poems
James Dickey	The Whole Motion: Collected Poems 1945-1992
Deborah Digges	Late in the Millenium; Rough Music
Diane DiPrima	Revolutionary Letters; Selected Poems
Stephen Dobyns	Black Dog, Red Dog
Edward Dorn	Gunslinger
✓ Mark Doty	<u>My Alexandria; Atlantis</u>
Sharon Doubiago	South America Mi Hija
Rita Dove	Thomas and Beulah; Grace Notes; Selected Poems
Norman Dubie	Selected & New Poems; Radio Sky
Alan Dugan	Collected Poems
Robert Duncan	Roots and Branches
Stephen Dunn	A Circus of Needs
Cornelius Eady	The Gathering of My Name
Russell Edson	The Childhood of an Equestrian; The Very Thing that Happens
Dave Egger	Go Read the River
Lawrence Ferlinghetti	A Coney Island of the Mind
Edward Field	Stand Up, Friend, With Me; Variety Photoplays
Roland Flint	Stubborn
Carolyn Forché	Gathering the Tribes; The Country Between Us
Alice Fulton	Dance Script with Electric Ballerina; Palladium
✓ Tess Gallagher	Instructions to the Double; Willingly; Amplitude
Richard Garcia	The Flying Garcias
Suzanne Gardinier	The New World
Jack Gilbert	Monolithos; The Great Fires
Elton Glaser	Color Photographs of the Ruins
✓ Louise Gluck	<u>The Triumph of Achilles; The Wild Iris</u>
Albert Goldbarth	Popular Culture; Heaven and Earth, A Cosmology
✓ Jorie Graham	<u>Erosion; The End of Beauty; Selected Poems</u>
Judy Grahn	The Work of a Common Woman
✓ Linda Gregg	Too Bright to See; <u>The Sacraments of Desire</u>
✓ Thom Gunn	Collected Poems
✓ Marilyn Hacker	Selected Poems
Donald Hall	Kicking the Leaves
✓ Joy Harjo	<u>She Had Some Horses</u> ; In Mad Love and War
✓ Michael Harper	Dear John, Dear Coltrane
✓ Robert Hass	Praise; Field Guide; <u>Human Wishes</u>
✓ Seamus Heaney	Selected Poems
Edward Hirsch	Wild Gratitude; The Night Parade
Jonathan Holden	American Gothic
Garrett Hongo	The River of Heaven
Andrew Hudgins	After the Lost War; The Never-Ending

Richard Hugo
T. R. Hummer
David Ignatow
Josephine Jacobsen
Denis Johnson
June Jordan
Lawrence Joseph
Julia Kasdorf
Waldon Kees
Brigit Pegeen Kelly
✓ Galway Kinnell

Carolyn Kizer
Bill Knott
Kenneth Koch
Ronald Koertge
Yusef Komunyakaa
Ted Kooser
Maxine Kumin
Stanley Kunitz
✓ Dorianne Laux
✓ Li-Young Lee
✓ Denise Levertov
Philip Levine
Larry Lewis
John Logan
✓ Audre Lorde
Thomas Lux
Mekeel McBride
Walter McDonald
Campbell McGrath
Thomas McGrath
Heather McHugh
William Matthews
Peter Meinke
James Merrill
W. S. Merwin
Czeslaw Milosz
Susan Mitchell
Thyllias Moss
Lisel Mueller
Howard Nemerov
Kathleen Norris
✓ Naomi Shihab Nye
Sharon Olds

✓ Mary Oliver
Greg Orr
Alicia Ostriker
Linda Pastan
Robert Pinsky
Stanley Plumly
Minnie Bruce Pratt
Liam Rector

Selected Poems

The 18,000-Ton Olympic Dream
Poems: 1934-1969
The Sisters; New and Selected Poems
The Incognito Lounge
Naming Our Destiny: New and Selected Poems
Shouting at No One
Sleeping Preacher
Collected Poems
Song
The Book of Nightmares; Selected Poems; When
One Has Lived a Long Time Alone
Yin; Mermaids in the Basement
Poems 1963-1988
Thank You
Life on the Edge of the Continent
Dien Cai Dau; Magic City; Neon Vernacular
Sure Signs; One World at a Time; Weather Central
Selected Poems; Looking for Luck
The Wellfleet Whale; Passing Through
Awake; What We Carry
Rose; The City in Which I Love You
The Jacob's Ladder
The Names of the Lost; What Work Is
Winter Stars; The Widening Spell of the Leaves
Collected Poems
Undersong
Half Promised Land; The Drowned River
Wind of the White Dresses
Counting Survivors
Capitalism
Selected Poems
Hinge & Sign
Rising & Falling; A Happy Childhood
Liquid Paper
Divine Comedies; The Inner Room
First Four Books of Poems; Selected Poems
Collected Poems
Rapture
Small Congregations
The Private Life; Waving from Shore
New and Selected Poems
Little Girls in Church
Yellow Glove; Red Suitcase
Satan Says; The Dead and the Living; The Gold
Cell; The Father
American Primitive; Dreamwork
City of Salt
The Crack in Everything
Aspects of Eve; New and Selected Poems
The Figured Wheel
Out-of-the-Body Travel; Boy on the Step
Crime Against Nature
American Prodigal

Ishmael Reed
John Repp
Kenneth Rexroth
Alberto Rios
Liz Rosenberg
Tim Russell
Michael Ryan
Natasha Saje
Sonia Sanchez
Sharod Santos
Gjertrud Schnackenberg
James Schuyler
✓ Anne Sexton
✓ Reginald Shepherd
✓ Ketsy Sholl
Peggy Shumaker
Charles Simic
Jim Simmerman
Louis Simpson
Dave Smith
W. D. Snodgrass
Gary Snyder
Cathy Song
Gary Soto
William Stafford
Gerald Stern
Ruth Stone
Mark Strand
Teresa Svoboda
James Tate
Henry Taylor
Leslie Ullman
Mona Van Duyn
Michael Van Walleghen
Ellen Bryant Voigt
Diane Wakoski
Derek Walcott
✓ Alice Walker
Ronald Wallace
Belle Waring
Michael Weaver
✓ Bruce Weigl
Dara Wier
C.K. Williams
David Wojahn
C. D. Wright
Charles Wright
Al Young
Paul Zimmer

New & Collected Poems
Thirst Like This
100 Poems from the Japanese
Teodoro Luna's Two Kisses
Children of Paradise
Adversaria
God Hunger
Red Under the Skin
Homegirls & Handgrenades
The Southern Reaches
Portraits & Elegies
Selected Poems
Complete Poems
Some Are Drowning
The Red Line
The Circle of Totems
Dismantling the Silence; Selected Poems
Moon Go Away. . .
A Dream of Governors
Cumberland Station
Heart's Needle
Earth House Hold; Myths & Texts
School Figures
The Elements of San Joaquin; Black Hair
Stories that Could Be True
Lucky Life; The Red Coal; Leaving Another Kingdom
Second-Hand Coat
Selected Poems
Laughing Africa
The Oblivion Ha-Ha; Selected Poems
The Flying Change
Dreams by No One's Daughter
Near Changes
Tall Birds Stalking
The Lotus Flowers; Two Trees
Trilogy; Emerald Ice
Collected Poems
Revolutionary Petunias
The Makings of Happiness
Refuge
My Father's Geography
Song of Napalm
Blood, Hook, Eye; Blue for the Plough
Selected Poems
Mystery Train; Late Empire
Further Adventures with You; String Light
China Trace; The Zone Journals
Heaven: Collected Poems 1956-1990
Family Reunion

Recommended Reading- Laura Long's subjective & incomplete list of lyrical prose; Jan 2012

Note: some authors have numerous lyrical works; I list the work I think might be best to start with if you're new to this author's work. These are short story collections unless noted.

I'm curious to know other writers' favorite works of lyrical prose. Please e-mail me thoughts and recommendations at lauralongsong@yahoo.com.

Fiction:

Elizabeth Bishop, "In the Village" [in *Collected Prose*] (single story)
Richard Brautigan, *Revenge of the Lawn*
Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights* [novel]
Willa Cather, *My Antonia* (novel)
Sandra Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street* (collage of short-short stories)
Michael Cunningham, *The Hours* or *A Home at the End of the World* (novels)
Don DeLillo, *White Noise* (novel)
Andrew Doerr, *Shell Collector*, or *Memory Wall*
William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying* or *Light in August* (novels)
F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great ... oh, you know* (novel)
Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *Collected Stories* (beautifully translated from the Spanish)
Thomas Hardy, *Return of the Native* [novel]
Ernest Hemingway, any stories
Denis Johnson, *Jesus' Son*
James Joyce, *Dubliners*
Claire Keegan, *Walk the Blue Fields* (out of print in the USA;
.....read her story/novel chapter "Foster" in *New Yorker* online, 2/15/2010]
Jamaica Kincaid, *At the Bottom of the River*
D. H. Lawrence, any stories
Cormac McCarthy, *Child of God* or *Blood Meridian* (novels)
Carson McCullers, *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe* (novella and stories)
C. E. Morgan, *All the Living* (short novel)
Toni Morrison, *Sula* (short novel)
Alice Munro, *The Beggar Maid*; or, *The Progress of Love*
Joyce Carol Oates, any stories
Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried* (esp. the title story) [linked stories/novel]
Jayne Anne Phillips, *Black Tickets*
Michael Ondaatje, ~~*Life and Works of Billy the Kid*~~ ^{*Collected*} (poetry & prose mix)
Annie Proulx, *Postcards* (novel)
Ann Pancake, *Given Ground*
Sara Pritchard, *Crackpots* (novel; may be read as linked stories)
Richard Schmitt, *The Aerialist* (novel)
James Still, *River of Earth* (novel)
Melanie Rae Thon, *In This Light: New & Selected Stories*
William Trevor, *The Story of Lucy Gault* [short novel] or any stories
Josh Weil, *The New Valley* (3 novellas)
Eudora Welty, any stories
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* or *To the Lighthouse* (short novels)

Nonfiction: Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*; Mark Doty, *Still Life with Oysters and Lemon*
works by Barry Lopez; the online journal: *Brevity* Also: David Abram, *The Spell of the Sensuous--*
On rethinking ecology, place, and language.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

**CONTEMPORARY STORY COLLECTIONS/LINKED STORY
COLLECTIONS/NOVELS STRUCTURED IN STORIES**

1. Barry, Rebecca. *Later, At the Bar: A Novel in Stories* (2007, Simon & Shuster). Ten linked stories revolving around the social life at a bar; characters reappear in different stories.
2. Barzak, Christopher. *The Love We Share Without Knowing* (2008, Bantam). A novel in stories, set in Japan, with linked characters, themes, and places.
3. Boggs, Belle. *Mattaponi Queen* (2010, Graywolf). Linked stories set in King William County, Virginia. Winner of the 2010 Bakeless Prize in Fiction.
4. Bradbury, Ray. *The Martian Chronicles* (1950). Sci-fi linked stories about the colonization of Mars.
5. Byatt, A.S. *The Matisse Stories* (1996, Vintage). Three stories, each inspired by a painting by Henri Matisse.
6. Carver, Raymond. *Where I'm Calling From* (first edition, 1989).
7. Cohen, Garnett Kulberg. *How We Move the Air* (2010, Mayapple Press). Seven stories that revolve around the suicide of one character.
8. Danticat, Edwidge. *The Dewbreaker* (2004, Knopf). Novel structured in stories; each story reveals a life affected by the "dew breaker" —the torturer of Haitian dissidents under Duvalier's regime.
9. Day, Cathy. *The Circus in Winter* (2005, Harcourt). Eleven linked stories that take place between 1884 and 1939; constructed from family stories (Day is from a circus family), historical research, and archival photographs.
10. Drummond, Laurie Lynn. *Anything You Say Can and Will be Used Against You* (2005, Perennial). Linked stories based on Drummond's experience as a police officer in Baton Rouge.
11. Gilchrist, Ellen. *Rhoda: A Life in Stories* and *Nora Jane: A Life in Stories*. For over thirty years, Gilchrist has returned again and again to these same characters in her stories.
12. Johnson, Denis. *Jesus' Son* (first edition, 1992, Farrar, Straus and Giroux). Gritty linked stories narrated by a heroin addict/alcoholic.

13. Jones, Edward P. *Lost in the City* (2004, Amistead). Fourteen stories about African-American life in D.C.
14. Kincaid, Jamaica. *Annie John* (1985, FS&G). Eight linked stories that comprise a female bildungsroman; set in the West Indies.
15. Lam, Vincent. *Bloodletting and Miraculous Cures* (2007, Weinstein Books). Linked stories about four Canadian medical students.
16. Le Guin, Ursula K. *Four Ways to Forgiveness* (1995). Useful for showing how a work of fantasy can involve connected stories of place
17. Litman, Ellen. *The Last Chicken in America* (2007, Norton). Linked stories about Russian immigrants in a Pittsburgh neighborhood.
18. Mason, Bobbi Ann, *Shiloh and Other Stories* (1982, Random House). Effective for showing connected stories, characters, place.
19. McCann, Richard. *Mother of Sorrows* (2005, Pantheon). All about growing up gay in the 1950s and 60s.
20. Minot, Susan. *Monkeys* (1986, E.P. Dutton). Linked stories about one large family.
21. Munro, Alice. Any of her story collections.
22. Munro, Alice. *The Lives of Girls and Women* (1973) and *The Beggar Maid* (1978) Linked by main character, Canadian.
23. Munro, Alice. *The View from Castle Rock* (2006). Memoir-based linked stories that span four generations of a Scottish-Canadian family.
24. O'Brien, Tim. *The Things They Carried* (1983, Houghton Mifflin). Vietnam War stories.
25. Ochsner, Gina. *People I Wanted to Be* (2005, Houghton Mifflin).
26. Phillips, Jayne Ann. *Black Tickets* (first edition, 1979). "Dark" vignettes, flash fictions, and stories about America's disenfranchised by Buckhannon, WV native.
27. Proulx, Annie, *Wyoming Stories* (1999). Collection demonstrates how place is critical to the development of character and the tension of conflict as ranchers, cowboys, and working men confront a modern world that passes them by.
28. Renfro, Yelizaveta (Black Lawrence Press, 2011). *A Catalogue of Everything in the World: Nebraska Stories* (winner of the 2011 St. Lawrence Book Award).

29. Robinson, Lewis. *Officer Friendly* (2004, Harper Collins). Linked stories about adolescent boys in Maine.
30. Scott, Debra Leigh. *Other Likely Stories* (Hidden River, 2010). The lives of two sisters, military brats during the anti-war Vietnam era, and their orphaned bi-racial cousin, are followed from the 1950s, through the tumultuous '60s, to April 30, 1975, the day of the Fall of Saigon.
31. Silber, Joan. *Ideas of Heaven: A Ring of Stories* (2004, Norton). Linked by character, image, object; spans centuries.
32. Smith, Lee. *The Devil's Dream* (2003). Novel told in linked stories with alternating first-person narrators, set in Appalachia.
33. Stewart, Kevin. *The Way Things Always Happen Here: Eight Stories and a Novella* (2007, West Virginia University Press). Eight stories set in Appalachia by a Princeton, WV native.
34. Strout, Elizabeth. *Olive Kitteridge* (2008). Pulitzer Prize-winning collection set in a small town in coastal Maine; linked by character and place. Good use of "unlikable" yet compelling, empathetic, and crusty main character. Good use of dialogue, internal conflict, setting, and sense of place.
35. Tan, Amy. *The Joy Luck Club* (1989, Putnam). Linked stories about Chinese-American mothers and daughters.
36. Thomas, Abigail. *Getting Over Tom* (1994, Scribner). Three groups of linked stories.
37. Thompson, Jean. *Who Do You Love?* (1999, Simon & Schuster)
38. Walbert, Kate. *Our Kind* (2004, Scribner). Linked stories about ten middle-aged, middle-class women who are neighbors.
39. Williams, Ann Joselyn. *The Woman in the Woods* (2007, Eastern Washington University Press). Lyrical linked stories set in New Hampshire; character and place links.
40. Yoon, Paul. *Once the Shore* (2009, Saraband). Linked stories set on a South Korean island.

Richard Schmitt

Recommended Books on Craft

The Lonely Voice, Frank O'Connor

Developing a Written Voice, Dona J. Hickey

The Art of Fiction, John Gardner

Making Shapely Fiction, Jerone Stern

Bringing the Devil to His Knees, Baxter and Turchi

A Kite in the Wind, Barrett and Turchi

Rose, Where Did You Get That Red?, Kenneth Koch

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

CRAFT AND REFERENCE BOOKS

REFERENCE

1. Strunk & White, *The Elements of Style* (still the bible for punctuation, style, etc.; simple & direct).
2. *The Chicago Manual of Style* (the publishing standard for usage and formatting).
3. Online rules for comma usage:
http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/commas_big.htm. A good refresher, with quizzes!

CRAFT

1. Baxter, Charles. *The Art of SERIES*. Each book is a "brief, witty, useful exploration" on a single craft issue. Includes: *The Art of Subtext: Beyond Plot* (Baxter); *The Art of Time in Memoir: Then, Again* (Sven Birkerts); *The Art of Description* (Mark Doty); *The Art of Time in Fiction* (Joan Silber); *The Art of the Ending* (Amy Bloom); *The Art of Recklessness* (Dean Young), and more.
2. Gardner, John, *The Art of Fiction* (1984, 1991). Notes on craft for young writers.
3. Gilchrist, Ellen, *Falling Through Space* (1987). The essay collection provides funny and revealing insight to a writer's self-discovery. The essays will help students find ways to lighten up and laugh while also considering their purposes for writing.
4. Goldberg, Natalie. *Writing Down the Bones: Freeing the Writer Within*. (many editions).

Excellent writing prompts and instruction on craft.

5. Goldberg, Natalie. *Wild Mind: Living the Writer's Life*. (1990). More writing prompts and instruction on craft.
6. Gornick, Vivian. *The Situation and the Story*. (FS&G, 2002). Explains "ways of making nonfiction highly personal without being pathetically self-absorbed."
7. Hildick, *Thirteen Types of Narrative*. (Clarson Potter, 1970). Hildick tells the same simple story in thirteen ways: 3rd person past, 3rd person present, 1st past (written), 1st past (spoken); documentary, all dialogue, epistolary, etc
8. Kercheval, Jesse Lee. *Building Fiction: How to Develop Plot and Structure*. (University of Wisconsin Press, 2003). It covers everything: structure, plotting for stories and novels. A former Burroway student, Kercheval has taken *The Lessons of Janet* and made them more concise, practical, and reader friendly, and added material and advice of her own. Other chapters cover Openings, Constructing Characters, Conflict in Fiction, Continuing Conflict, Endings in Fiction, Revision, and two very thorough chapters on first-, second- and third-person points of view. A section at the end makes clear the differences between novels and short stories, and gives a great intro to short-shorts, novellas, novels in stories, and experimental fiction. Exercises included. This is an excellent craft book for writers from novice to apprentice to journeyman.

9. Lodge, David. *The Art of Fiction* (Penguin, 1992). Fifty chapters on aspects of fictional technique such as suspense, interior monologue, magical realism, epistolary, surprise, coincidence, unreliable narrator, duration and motivation. Each chapter gives a model and a brief analysis. Lucidly written
10. Moffett, James and Kenneth R. McElheny. *Points of View: An Anthology of Short Stories* (first published in 1966, many editions). Stories arranged by POV, plus essay on POV and narrative distance.
11. O'Connor, Flannery, *Mystery and Manners: Occasional Prose* (1969). The essays and lectures address craft, the writing life, and regional writing ("The Fiction Writer and His Country" and "Some Aspects of the Grotesque in Southern Fiction"). "The Nature and Aim of Fiction" and "Writing Short Stories" are good reads for grad students, especially those who were not English majors.
12. *Paris Review Interviews* (2006-2009, also as boxed set). Four volumes, over fifty years of *PR* interviews with literary greats. Recently became available on line.
13. Shoup, Barbara, and Denman, Margaret-Love: *Novel Ideas: Contemporary Authors Share the Creative Process* (2001, 2009). For students electing to write a novel, this book is useful. It considers approaches to writing the novel, offers advice, and includes novel excerpts alongside conversations with novelists, which address how the writer developed the novel through its many stages.

14. Shoup, Barbara, and Denman, Margaret-Love: *Story Matters: Contemporary Short Story Writers Share the Creative Process* (2005). The first part of the book focuses on craft and presents aspects of stories-in-progress. Exercises and questions help students reflect on their own work. The second part of the book pairs stories alongside conversations with the writers, addressing form, style, and technique, as well as the problems they faced and how they resolved them through the writing process.
15. Thomas, Abigail. *Thinking About Memoir* (AARP, 2008). The first in a series of three books (each by a different writer) that help adults look back at their past and use writing as a means of figuring out who they used to be and how they became who they are today. Excellent writing prompts.
16. Welty, Eudora. *On Writing* (Modern Library, 2002). Seven classic essays on place, voice, language, image, etc., all from Welty's 1978 *The Eye of the Story*.
17. Woods, James. *How Fiction Works* (FS&G, 2008). Especially the chapters on close third point-of-view, which Woods calls "free indirect" POV.

GETTING PUBLISHED

1. *CLMP (Council of Literary Magazines and Presses) Directory*, published every two years; lists all American literary magazines and small presses, with description, contact info, website, submission period, and more.

2. *The Writers Chronicle*. Publication of the Associated Writing Programs (AWP). Published bimonthly; lists contests and calls for submissions. The annual AWP conference has an enormous book fair, too.
3. *Poets & Writers*
4. newpages.com. Excellent online source for information about literary magazines, small presses, independent publishers, etc.
5. bloggopedia.com, an index of blogs, lists many publishing blogs.
6. *Writer's Guide* and *Guide to Literary Agents* are published annually.