Exam List: 20th-21st Century American Fiction & the Comic Sensibility

Primary:

Jonathan Ames. Wake Up Sir!
Chris Bachelder. Bear v. Shark
Nicholson Baker. The Anthologist
T.C. Boyle. The Road to Wellville
Michael Chabon. Wonder Boys
Joseph Heller. Catch-22
Henry James. The American
Ernest Hemingway. The Sun Also Rises
F. Scott Fitzgerald. The Great Gatsby
Edith Wharton. The House of Mirth
William Faulkner. As I Lay Dying
Zora Neale Hurston. Their Eyes Were Watching God
Richard Wright. Native Son
Ralph Ellison. Invisible Man
Flannery O’Connor. The Complete Stories
Vladimir Nabokov. Lolita
John Updike. Rabbit Run
Phillip Roth. American Pastoral
J.D. Salinger. Catcher in the Rye.
John Barth. “Lost in the Funhouse.”
Barthelme. The Dead Father
Toni Morrison. Song of Solomon
Don DeLillo. White Noise
Cormac McCarthy. The Road
Jhumpa Lahiri. Unaccustomed Earth
Jonathan Franzen. Freedom
Junot Diaz. The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao
Percival Everett. Erasure
Kelly Link. Magic for Beginners
Kevin Moffett. Permanent Visitors
Jill McCorkle. Ferris Beach
Lorrie Moore. Birds of America
Lorrie Moore. Like Life
Lorrie Moore. Self-Help
Thisbe Nissen. Out of the Girls’ Room and Into the Night
Donald Ray Pollack. Knockemstiff
Francine Prose. Blue Angel
Richard Russo. Straight Man
George Saunders. *Pastoralia*
Kurt Vonnegut. *Breakfast of Champions*
Jincy Willett. *The Writing Class*
Kevin Wilson. *Tunneling to the Center of the Earth*

Secondary:

Allen, Graham. *Intertextuality*
Aristotle. *Poetics*
Bautista, Daniel. “Comic Book Realism: Form and Genre in Junot Diaz’s *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*.”
Childs, Peter. *Modernism. The New Critical Idiom*
Forster, E.M. *Aspects of the Novel*
Prose, Francine. “Scent of a Woman’s Ink.” *(Harper’s, June 1998)*
Marcus, Ben. “Why Experimental Fiction Threatens to Destroy Publishing, Jonathan Franzen, and Life as We Know It.”
Franzen, Jonathan. “Perchance to Dream: In the Age of Images, A Reason to Write Novels.”
Bradbury, Malcolm. *The Modern American Novel*
Rebein, Robert. *Hicks, Tribes, and Dirty Realists: American Fiction After Postmodernity*
Malpas, Simon. *The Postmodern. The New Critical Idiom*
Hanna, Monica. “Reassembling the Fragments: Battling Historiographies, Caribbean Discourse, and Nerd Genres in Junot Diaz’s *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*.”
Mikhail Bakhtin. *Rabelais and His World.*
James Wood. *The Irresponsible Self*
Andrew Stott. *Comedy. The New Critical Idiom*
Linda Hutcheon. *A Theory of Parody*
Ed. Susan Lohafer and Jo Ellyn Clarey. *Short Story Theory at a CrossRoads.*
Chris Bachelder. “The Dead Chipmunk.”
Chris Bachelder. *Subtropics Interview.*
George Meredith. “An Essay on Comedy.”
Robert Chodat. “Jokes, Fiction, and Lorrie Moore.”
Jim Holt. *Stop Me if You’ve Heard This: A History and Philosophy of Jokes.*
Henri Bergson. “Laughter.”
Arthur Schopenhauer. *The World as Will and Representation*. 13\textsuperscript{th} chapter.