

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

Primary:

Steve Almond. "Donkey Greedy, Donkey Gets Punched." *Best American Short Stories 2010*.

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*

Joshua Ferris. "The Valetudinarian." *The New Yorker*.

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*.

Robert Coover. "The Babysitter."

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*
Jay, Paul. *Global Matters: The Transnational Turn in Literary Studies* (Cornell UP 2010).
Rebein, Robert. *Hicks, Tribes, and Dirty Realists: American Fiction After Postmodernism*
Malpas, Simon. *The Postmodern. The New Critical Idiom*
Morris, Pam. *Realism*. (Routledge 2003)
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. *Rabaleis and His World*.
James Wood. *The Irresponsible Self*
Andrew Stott. *Comedy. The New Critical Idiom*
Linda Hutcheon. *A Theory of Parody*
Simon Critchley. *On Humour*.
Sigmund Freud. *Wit and Its Relation to the Unconscious*.
Ed. Susan Lohafer and Jo Ellyn Clarey. *Short Story Theory at a Crossroads*.
Jerome Stern. *Making Shapely Fiction*.
James Wood. *How Fiction Works*.
Charles Baxter. *The Art of Subtext*.
Chris Bachelder. "The Dead Chipmunk."
Chris Bachelder. Subtropics Interview.
George Meredith. "An Essay on Comedy."
Robert Chodat. "Jokes, Fiction, and Lorrie Moore."
Northrop Frye. *The Anatomy of Criticism*.
David Lodge. *The Art of Fiction*.
Jim Holt. *Stop Me if You've Heard This: A History and Philosophy of Jokes*.
Wylie Sypher. "The Meaning of Comedy."
Henri Bergson. "Laughter."

Arthur Schopenhauer. *The World as Will and Representation*. 13th chapter.