

# MFA Exam List/Rationale Sheet

All poetry students must submit a reading list and rationale before scheduling and taking an MFA exam. MFA exams are usually taken during the summer following a student's second year of study. Scheduling starts in the spring semester prior to that summer, so reading lists and rationales should be submitted by April 1st.

The reading list should include the following:

- Two columns: a "Major Poets" list and a "Minor Poets" list
- At least ten of the listed poets must be "Major" poets
- No more than four of the listed poets should be poets in translation
- All poets on the list should have published at least two books; very rare exceptions apply
- At least four of the poets listed must predate the twentieth century. Of those, two should predate the nineteenth century
- Poets listed may not be Mason Faculty

Attached to this cover sheet and reading list, please include a rationale:

- Rationales should be 250-500 words
- Rationales should discuss the reason for the choices on the list and the various lines of influence and affiliation among the writers

Name:

G Number:

Date of proposed list and rationale:

Date of proposed MFA exam:

I have attached my MFA reading list and rationale as described above. I realize that I may not register for my first three hours of thesis until this list and rationale have been submitted and approved. I realize that it is my responsibility to work with my committee to find a date for the MFA exam before scheduling that exam date with the graduate programs coordinator. And finally, I realize that I may not register for my final three hours of thesis until I have taken and passed the MFA exam.

Approved, Thesis Director:

Date:

Approved, Committee Member 1:

Date:

Approved Committee Member 2:

Date: