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Each semester, the Honors College sponsors the Reading Groups program. The groups, composed of 10 to 15 participants and a moderator from the Honors College faculty, staff or student body, meet one hour per week to discuss about 50 pages of reading from specific books. The books cover a wide range of topics, and most have been recommended by Honors College students. This is a great chance to meet other people at the University of Oklahoma with similar interests.

The program includes the entire OU family, not just Honors College students.

To sign up for a reading group, visit bit.ly/2LCrVa3 and click “Sign Up.” Groups are limited to 15 people, and sign-ups are made on a first-come basis. If you want to participate in a group that has filled up, email us at honorsreading@ou.edu, and we can put you on a waitlist.

Spring 2020 reading groups begin meeting the week of January 27th - 31st, 2020. The first meeting may be pushed back in the event of late book arrivals or holidays, but your moderator will notify you if this is the case.

Forget the day, time, or meeting place of a group? Use this brochure to verify this information. If you are having trouble finding the information, or find any of the information to be incorrect, please send us an email at honorsreading@ou.edu.
**FEAURED GROUPS**

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**Burning Your Boats**
by Angela Carter

Do you have a taste for twisted tales and extreme British weirdness? Then you need to read Angela Carter, who has been called one of the “greatest British writers since 1945.” These stories come from previous collections such as “Fireworks: Nine Profane Pieces,” “The Bloody Chamber,” and “American Ghosts and Old-World Wonders.”

**Meeting Time:** Tuesdays 1:30 pm for 11 weeks  
**Location:** CCDI 217  
**Moderator(s):** Prof. Brian Johnson and Getty Hesse

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**Killers of the Flower Moon**
by David Grann

In the 1920s, the Osage found themselves in a unique position among Native Americans when they negotiated to maintain the mineral rights for their corner of Oklahoma. It proved a savvy move; soon countless oil rigs punctured the dusty landscape, making the Osage very rich. And that’s when they started dying.

**Meeting Time:** Wednesdays 6 pm for 8 weeks  
**Location:** CCDI 101  
**Moderator(s):** Tanya Miller Eager
We Have Always Lived in the Castle
by Shirley Jackson

Shirley Jackson’s gothic tale of a peculiar girl named Merricat and her family’s dark secret takes readers deep into a labyrinth of dark neurosis. We Have Always Lived in the Castle is a deliciously unsettling novel about a perverse, isolated, and possibly murderous family and the struggle that ensues when an outsider is introduced into their midst.

Meeting Time: Fridays 11:30 am for 5 weeks  
Location: CCD1 217  
Moderator(s): Carson Schlittler and Prof. Dan Hicks

In the Dream House
by Carmen Maria Machado

In the Dream House is like no other memoir you’ve ever read. Each chapter takes a different form - the Dream House as Memory Palace, as Perpetual Motion Machine, as Time Travel, as a Stranger Comes to Town, as Lesbian Cult Classic, as Confession, as Menagerie, as Star Crossed Lovers - as Machado explores how an abusive relationship unravels.

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 11 am for 5 weeks  
Location: CCD1 201  
Moderator(s): Olivia Robson and Madison Doyle

Bitten
by Kris Newby

Take a journey with us to discuss new insights on Lyme Disease. Did the emergence of Lyme result from a military experiment gone wrong? Was Willy Burgdorfer the scientist who discovered the pathogen that causes Lyme an ethical, moral character or did he have some dirty government secrets to share. Is this a Lyme conspiracy? Decide for yourself...

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 4:30 pm for 6 weeks  
Location: CCD1 214  
Moderator(s): Profs. Heather Ketchum and Eric Bright

The Three-Body Problem
by Cixin Liu

Submerge into one of the masterpieces of contemporary Chinese science fiction! Based in the realities and aspirations of modern China, The Three-Body Problem by Liu Cixin extrapolates how a whole society might react to contact with an alien race. Politics, physics, metaphysics: all play a role in this novel of astonishing scope.

Meeting Time: Fridays 2 pm for 9 weeks  
Location: CCD1 201  
Moderator(s): Getty Hesse and Paul White
**MONDAY GROUPS**

**How to Be Both**

by Ali Smith

*Playfully brilliant...*  
*The Washington Post*

**Meeting Time:** Mondays 9:30 am for 8 weeks  
**Location:** CCDI 201

**Moderator(s):** Max Ferguson

*How to Be Both* explores the versatility and fluidity of gender and art. Spanning the Renaissance in Italy to the U.K. in the 60s, this is a book of double-takes, metamorphoses and the two sides of the same coin. For fans of Virginia Woolf and Olga Tokarczuk!

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**We Wish to Inform You...**

by Philip Gourevitch

Gourevitch gives first-hand accounts and context to the Rwandan Genocide, sending readers on a journey of horror and violence that will fill you with shock, horror, and anger at the lack of action by the international community. This novel explores the build-up to genocide, the atrocities during, and the attempts to rebuild in the aftermath.

**Meeting Time:** Mondays 2 pm for 8 weeks  
**Location:** CCDI 217

**Moderator(s):** Kenneth Halstied III

*It is gripping and hard...*  
*The Independent*
Looking for a guide to the end of the world? Then look no further! Find out who misplaces the Antichrist, what it takes to be a witch hunter, and how an angel and demon team up to listen to Queen and save the world. From the combined comical consciousnesses of Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman, *Good Omens* covers all the juiciest details of Armageddon.

**Meeting Time:** Mondays at 10 am for 7 weeks  
**Location:** CCD1 214  
**Moderator(s):** Holly Ahaus and Carson Schlittler

*Good Omens* by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman

In the highly polarized political climate of today, apolitical people often ask, “Why can’t we just get along?” In *The Righteous Mind*, social psychologist Jonathan Haidt seeks to answer this question through examining both the psychological origins of political beliefs and how those beliefs divide us into groups convinced of their own righteousness.

**Meeting Time:** Mondays at 3 pm for 8 weeks  
**Location:** CCD1 217  
**Moderator(s):** Jason Hughes

*The Righteous Mind* by Jonathan Haidt

On a late summer day in 2006, Brickman and his wife attended an exhibit on the history of Jewish life at Emory University and were astonished to come face-to-face with documents that strongly suggested that Brickman and many others had been failed out of Emory’s dental school because they were Jewish.

**Meeting Time:** Mondays at 11 am for 10 weeks  
**Location:** CCD1 201  
**Moderator(s):** Lucille Alpert and Hannah LaMack

*Extracted* by Dr. S. Perry Brickman

In *Willful Creatures*, Aimee Bender conjures a fantastical world in which authentic love blooms through a unique mix of surrealism, musical prose, and keenly felt emotion. A boy with keys for fingers is a hero, a woman’s children are potatoes, and a boy with an iron for a head is born to a family of pumpkin heads. Explore new stories each week!

**Meeting Time:** Mondays at 3 pm for 6 weeks  
**Location:** CCD1 201  
**Moderator(s):** Alex Crayon and Daniel Pfaff

*Willful Creatures* by Aimee Bender
All That Is Solid Melts Into Air
by Marshall Berman

Bermann was “Manhattan’s Socrates.” He taught that the role of the learned person was to use their critical lens to identify that which separates people, and to deconstruct what they find to unite. In *All That is Solid...*, Bermann turns his thought onto the sweeping effects of Modernity on the streets and people of Paris, St. Petersburg, and NYC.

**Meeting Time:** Mondays 4 pm for 9 weeks  
**Location:** CCD1 217

**Moderator(s):** Chase Green

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The Brothers Karamazov
by Fyodor Dostoevsky

*The Brothers Karamazov* is a philosophical novel touching on existential questions of existence, God or the absence thereof, and morality. It centers around three brothers with three different philosophies on life and religion, specifically in the wake of their father’s murder. The fundamental question is: without God, is everything permitted?

**Meeting Time:** Mondays 4:30 pm for 8 weeks  
**Location:** CCD1 214

**Moderator(s):** Christopher Danko
TUESDAY GROUPS

Catch-22 by Joseph Heller

Although nominally a war novel, Catch-22 is a gleeful satire of every topic it touches, poking fun at capitalistic fruit trading, marching corps, and government censorship. However, the dark overtones of World War II pervade the story and beckon a deeper look into humanity. Recommended for those who enjoy an [army] surplus of contradictions!

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 12 pm for 10 weeks
Moderator(s): Jacob Klenke
Location: CCDI 217

The Communist Manifesto by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels

“The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles.”

This group is for people who want to eat snacks and wage revolution. Let’s see what happens when we run out of snacks.

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 3 pm for 10 weeks
Moderator(s): Will O’Donnell
Location: CCDI 214
The Book Thief
by Markus Zusak

Set in 1939 Nazi Germany, the story follows Liesel Meminger, a young girl living with her foster parents just outside of Munich. She is good at getting herself into scrapes such as thieving books, but she is also good at keeping secrets. Captivating and beautifully written, Markus Zusak’s The Book Thief is a tribute to the power of words.

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 1:30 pm for 11 weeks  
Location: CCD1 214

Moderator(s): Hannah Hall and Caroline Simon

How to Do Nothing
by Jenny Odell

Nothing is harder to do these days than nothing. Despite its title, How to Do Nothing is a call to action, urging us to opt out of a system that profits off of our fear and anxiety. In this guide to doing nothing (at least as capitalism defines it), Jenny Odell argues that our attention is the most precious and overdrawn resource we have.

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 3:30 pm for 5 weeks  
Location: CCD1 217

Moderator(s): Audrey Hopewell and Katy Yut

A Gentleman in Moscow
by Amor Towles

In 1922, a Bolshevik tribunal sentences Count Alexander Rostov to a life of house arrest in the Hotel Metropol. As Russia’s tumultuous history continues just outside his window, the genteel Rostov connects with the hotel’s colorful inhabitants. A Gentleman in Moscow is an elegant novel about the search for meaning in changing circumstances.

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 4:30 pm for 8 weeks  
Location: CCD1 217

Moderator(s): Carson Schlittler and Logesvar Balaguru

Live from New York
by James Andrew Miller and Tom Shales

In this definitive oral history of Saturday Night Live, hear stars, writers, and everyone in between recount how the show that revolutionized comedy and television came to be. Live From New York is a behind the scenes glimpse like no other, chronicling the past forty years of jokes, characters, and culture through entertaining anecdotes.

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 4:30 pm for 10 weeks  
Location: CCD1 214

Moderator(s): Stephanie Fox
WEDNESDAY GROUPS

With the Fire on High
by Elizabeth Acevedo

Acevedo’s novel follows the life of Emoni Santiago, who, upon getting pregnant her freshman year, has dedicated her life to her daughter and abuela. The one place that she can find solace from hardships is “the kitchen, where she adds a little something magical to everything she cooks, turning her food into straight-up goodness.”

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 9 am for 9 weeks
Location: CCD1 201
Moderator(s): Marycruz Flores and Paola Figueroa

Principia Discordia
by Malaclypse the Younger

This legendary fnord underground classic contains absolutely everything worth knowing about absolutely anything. Discordianism is the religion for fnord these screwed-up times, fnord and Principia Discordia reveals it here for your fnord enlightenment, fnord confusion, and fnord entertainment fnord fnord fnord.

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 2:30 pm for 10 weeks
Location: CCD1 201
Moderator(s): Wyatt Carpenter and Erica Luong
The Ambivalent Internet
by Whitney Phillips and Ryan Milner

The Ambivalent Internet explores the themes that characterize everyday expression online, from satirical Amazon reviews to deceptive identity play. Using techniques from folklore and communication studies, Phillips and Milner analyze digital platforms and the way they shape our messages, jokes, and communities.

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 11 am for 5 weeks
Moderator(s): Corinne Morgan
Location: CCD1 214

Twelve Angry Men
by Reginald Rose

Twelve Angry Men tells the story of a jury for what seems to be an open-and-shut murder case, hung by a single juror who refuses to cast a guilty vote. What follows is an insightful reminder that America’s institutions stand for justice only so long as the people behind them are themselves just.

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 12 pm for 2 weeks
Moderator(s): Yaseen Mozaffar
Location: CCD1 214

Blueprint
by Nicholas Christakis

Often, scientists have focused on the dark side of our evolutionary heritage -- our so-called “selfish” genes. In Blueprint, Christakis introduces the idea that over our history as a social species, as our genes led us to create societies that increased our welfare, in turn, our societies began shaping our genes into a blueprint for goodness.

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 3 pm for 11 weeks
Moderator(s): Erica Nadolski and Casey Wouters
Location: CCD1 201

The Alice Network
by Kate Quinn

In an enthralling new historical novel from national bestselling author Kate Quinn, two women—a female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947—are brought together in a mesmerizing story of courage and redemption.

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 5:30 pm for 8 weeks
Moderator(s): Lisa Tucker
Location: CCD1 217
THURSDAY

GROUPS

The Doomsday Machine
by Daniel Ellsberg

In Ellsberg’s The Doomsday Machine, the history and philosophy of nuclear strategy is dismantled in detail, demolishing the idea that these world-rending weapons are exclusively for deterrence. The whistleblower behind The Pentagon Papers is back, unveiling firsthand the terrifying policies that guide the nuclear arsenal of the United States.

Meeting Time: Thursdays 10:30 am for 8 weeks
Location: CCD1 217
Moderator(s): Simon Avery Vigil

The Crossing
by Cormac McCarthy

The Crossing tells the coming-of-age story of Billy Parham as he travels across the US-Mexico Border during the 1940s to return a Wolf back to her home. With prose just as desolate as the landscape, Billy discovers both the harshness and beauty life has to offer. This is the second book in a trilogy, but no knowledge of the first is needed.

Meeting Time: Thursdays 3 pm for 10 weeks
Location: CCD1 201
Moderator(s): Fawaaz Hameed
Watchmen
by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons

Considered to be the greatest comic ever written, Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons’ Hugo Award-winning graphic novel Watchmen presents a version of America where superheroes changed history. The novel deconstructs the concept of the superhero and its importance in popular culture. This is a great comic for both comic book lovers and casual fans.

Meeting Time: Thursdays 1:30 pm for 6 weeks
Moderator(s): Jack Madden
Location: CCD1 214

Permanent Record
by Edward Snowden

Edward Snowden helped to build an unprecedented system of mass surveillance with the ability to pry into the private lives of every person on earth. Permanent Record is an account of why Snowden was moved to expose it. This book is a crucial memoir of our digital age.

Meeting Time: Thursdays 2 pm for 6 weeks
Moderator(s): Prof. Robert Lifset
Location: CCD1 201

Boom Town
by Sam Anderson

Have you ever wondered why Oklahoma is the way it is? If so, you do not want to miss Boom Town, which covers Oklahoma City’s saga from its chaotic Land Run birth until modern times, including the ever-changing OKC Thunder. The author weaves his way through the city’s history, which is sometimes shocking, sometimes inspiring, and always interesting.

Meeting Time: Thursdays 3:30 pm for 7 weeks
Moderator(s): Dean Doug Gaffin and Prof. Marielle Hoefnagels
Location: CCD1 214

Caliban and the Witch
by Silvia Federici

In her best known work, Federici produces a now well known thesis - that capitalism hinges on the exploitation of women. In it, she applies Marxist analysis to critique capitalism’s use of women’s bodies, and its destruction of the commons. She moves through the peasant rebellions of the Middle Ages, witch-hunts, and the rise of modern philosophy.

Meeting Time: Thursdays 6 pm for 8 weeks
Moderator(s): Chase Green
Location: CCD1 214
FRIDAY GROUPS

Desert Solitaire
by Edward Abbey

Written while Abbey was working as a ranger at Arches National Park, Desert Solitaire is a rare view of his quest to experience nature in its purest form. Through prose that is by turns passionate and poetic, Abbey reflects on our remaining wilderness and the future of a civilization that cannot reconcile itself to living in the natural world.

Meeting Time: Fridays 9 am for 7 weeks
Location: CCD1 201
Moderator(s): Alex Parsells

Pride and Prejudice
by Jane Austen

This classic Jane Austen novel deals with issues of manners, money, marriage, and -- most importantly -- love among the gentry living in the British Regency period. Austen’s fun yet biting satire of the world she grew up in has become one of the most loved books among casual readers and literary scholars alike.

Meeting Time: Fridays 1:30 pm for 8 weeks
Location: CCD1 217
Moderator(s): Bridget Parmenter and Theo Frantz
The Goldfinch
by Donna Tartt

The Goldfinch is a powerful novel that follows the life of Theo Decker. At the age of 13, Theo Decker survives a museum bombing but sadly loses his mother. During the accident, Theo steals The Goldfinch painting. Theo soon after begins a life full of secrecy and crime. This novel is a coming of age story without all the sugar coating.

Meeting Time: Fridays 11 am for 12 weeks
Moderator(s): Madeleine Ozan
Location: CCD1 201

Never Let Me Go
by Kazuo Ishiguro

Three schoolmates grow up together in the idyllic English countryside. But not all is as it seem -- the friends are clones, created so their vital organs may be harvested to extend the lives of others. Their intertwined lives are complicated and cut short by their reality, creating a beautifully tragic story of innocence, love, freedom, and loss.

Meeting Time: Fridays 1 pm for 7 weeks
Moderator(s): Catherine Frerker
Location: CCD1 201

The Bear and the Nightingale
by Katherine Arden

A story of family, folk magic, and faith, The Bear and the Nightingale is a historical fantasy novel set in 14th-century Russia. The story focuses on Vasya, a young girl caught between the magic of folklore and the Russian Orthodox Church. This story is bewitching and beautifully paced with vivid scenery and complex, dynamic characters.

Meeting Time: Fridays 4 pm for 8 weeks
Moderator(s): Carley Huffaker
Location: CCD1 217

The Westing Game
by Ellen Raskin

A bizarre chain of events begins when sixteen unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. No one knows why the eccentric, millionaire has chosen a virtual stranger, and a possible murderer, to inherit his vast fortune, but one thing is for sure: Sam Westing may be dead... but that won't stop him from playing one last game.

Meeting Time: Fridays 3:30 pm for 4 weeks
Moderator(s): Elizabeth Jordan and Madison Jarboe
Location: CCD1 201
STAFF AND MODERATORS

Holly Ahaus
Lucille Alpert
Logesvar Balaguru
Eric Bright
Wyatt Carpenter
Alex Crayon
Christopher Danko
Madison Doyle
Max Ferguson
Paola Figueroa
Marycruz Flores
Stephanie Fox
Theo Frantz
Catherine Frerker
Doug Gaffin
Chase Green
Hannah Hall
Kenneth Halstied
Fawaaz Hameed
Getty Hesse
Dan Hicks
Marielle Hoefnagels
Audrey Hopewell
Carley Huffaker
Jason Hughes
Madison Jarboe
Brian Johnson
Elizabeth Jordan
Heather Ketchum
Jacob Klenke
Hannah LaMack
Robert Lifset
Erica Luong
Jack Madden
Tanya Miller Eager
Corinne Morgan
Yaseen Mozaffar
Erica Nadolski
Will O’Donnell
Madeleine Ozan
Bridget Parmenter
Alex Parsells
Daniel Pfaff
Olivia Robson
Avery Schaefer
Carson Schlittler
Caroline Simon
Lisa Tucker
Avery Vigil
Paul White
Casey Wouters
Katy Yut