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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

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.

Fall 2019 reading groups begin meeting the week of August 25 - 29, 2019. 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.
Slow Violence
by Rob Nixon

Nixon examines a cluster of writer-activists affiliated with the environmentalism of the poor in the global South by approaching environmental justice literature from a transnational perspective. Using the concept of “slow violence,” Nixon focuses on the inattention we have paid to the lethality of many environmental crises.

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 2:00pm for 5 weeks
Moderator(s): Prof. Robert Lifset
Location: CCDI 217

The Uninhabitable Earth
by David Wallace-Wells

This book is not about the science behind climate change, but instead, “It is about what warming means to the way we live on this planet.” David Wallace-Wells writes of a terrifying future where food shortages and water scarcity for example are likely if we do not stop global warming. Hence, he calls for environmental action to climate change.

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 5:30pm for 6 weeks
Moderator(s): Profs. Heather Ketchum and Eric Bright
Location: CCDI 214

FEATURED
GROUPS

4
The New Jim Crow
by Michelle Alexander

Alexander describes how mass incarceration today serves the same purpose as pre-Civil War slavery and the post-Civil War Jim Crow laws: to maintain a racial caste system. Many of the discriminatory practices we believe ended with the civil rights laws of the 60's remain legal when applied to felons, a loophole with devastating consequences.

Meeting Time: Thursdays 11:00am for 7 weeks
Moderator(s): Rachel Sharp and Ciera Stafford
Location: CCD1 101

The Ideas that Made America
by Jennifer Ratner-Rosenhagen

In this short new book, Jennifer Ratner-Rosenhagen, one of the best intellectual historians working today, surveys the most important ideas and debates that have shaped this nation and have sparked debate for centuries, from religious controversies to competing political visions to arguments about the nature of truth itself.

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 3:00pm for 4 weeks
Moderator(s): Prof. Ben Alpers
Location: CCD1 217

The Short Novels of John Steinbeck
by John Steinbeck

Everyone knows about The Grapes of Wrath, but what about Steinbeck’s classic short novels? Join us this fall as we read and discuss several shorter works by a profoundly American literary giant. Among the selections included in our book are Of Mice and Men, Cannery Row, and Tortilla Flat.

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 11:30am for 10 weeks
Moderator(s): Shelby Mann and Prof. Brian Johnson
Location: CCD1 214

The Essex Serpent
by Sarah Perry

The Essex Serpent is a novel centered on rumors about the return of a mythical sea creature to a seaside town. Set in England in 1893, the protagonists showcase their quirky yet forceful personalities as they search for truth in a story that combines evolution, religion, superstition, fear, and love.

Meeting Time: Thursdays 3:30pm for 7 weeks
Moderator(s): Dean Doug Gaffin and Prof. Marielle Hoefnagels
Location: CCD1 101
**MONDAY GROUPS**

**Buyology**
*by Martin Lindstrom*

*Buyology: Truth and Lies About Why We Buy* is a bestselling book by Martin Lindstrom which analyzes what makes people buy. The author attempts to identify the factors that influence buyers’ decisions in a world cluttered with messages such as advertisements, slogans, jingles and celebrity endorsements.

**Meeting Time:** Mondays 10:30am for 8 weeks  
**Location:** CCD1 214  
**Moderator(s):** Julie Chen

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**The Tortilla Curtain**
*by T. C. Boyle*

In T.C. Boyle’s novel *The Tortilla Curtain*, set in the era and realm of Operation Gatekeeper, the upper-class community of Arroyo Blanco Estates, located in Southern California, debates the answers to questions regarding Mexican immigration as a Mexican couple tries to make their dream of a better life in America a reality before their child is born.

**Meeting Time:** Mondays 1:00pm for 7 weeks  
**Location:** CCD1 217  
**Moderator(s):** Ashley Hall
Creative and gripping nonfiction, Pandemic weaves details of recent epidemics (e.g., Ebola, MRSA, and SARS) into an informative account of cholera’s emergence. Shah surveys both physiological and socioeconomic aspects of infectious disease, motivating readers of all disciplines to halt the next pandemic using lessons learned from those that preceded it.

**Meeting Time:** Mondays 7:30pm for 7 weeks
**Moderator(s):** Bliss Baird and Alexis McCalla
**Location:** CCD1 214

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Daniel finds The Shadow of the Wind by one Julian Carax in the Cemetery of Forgotten Books. Moreover, someone has been systematically destroying every book written by Mr. Carax. Before Daniel knows it, this seemingly innocent choice has opened a door into one of Barcelona’s darkest secrets, an epic story of murder, magic, madness and doomed love.

**Meeting Time:** Mondays 12:00pm for 10 weeks
**Moderator(s):** Nathan Preuss
**Location:** CCD1 214

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Tim O’Brien’s The Things They Carried is a semi-autobiographical collection of connected stories that focuses on the fictional men of Alpha Company and their lives both during and after the Vietnam War. O’Brien’s blurring of non-fiction and fiction creates one of the most compelling portraits of the Vietnam War in American literature.

**Meeting Time:** Mondays 1:30pm for 5 weeks
**Moderator(s):** Jason Hughes
**Location:** CCD1 317

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Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. Her new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved.

**Meeting Time:** Mondays 3:00pm for 7 weeks
**Moderator(s):** Elizabeth Jordan and Karley Nadolski
**Location:** CCD1 317
**Flash Boys**
by Michael Lewis

Is the stock market rigged? What is a flash crash? Michael Lewis sets out on a mission to inform the world how Wall Street rigs the market through the use of high-frequency trading and dark pools. Lewis turns a seemingly mundane topic into a fantastic story, focusing on the heroics of small cap traders who have one goal: make the market fair.

**Meeting Time:** Mondays 11:00 am for 8 weeks  
**Location:** CCD1 217  
**Moderator(s):** Sean Mason and Justin Kleiber

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**My Name is Asher Lev**
by Chaim Potok

My Name is Asher Lev follows the coming of age of Asher, a boy raised in a Hasidic New York community in the 1950s. Throughout the book, we witness Asher’s struggle to reconcile his upbringing and beliefs with his desire to create art that reflects his soul. Chaim Potok demonstrates his strong grasp of the human psyche throughout the novel.

**Meeting Time:** Mondays 4:30pm for 8 weeks  
**Location:** CCD1 217  
**Moderator(s):** Esther Weygant

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**The Complete Tales of Winnie the Pooh**
by A. A. Milne

Grab your inner child and your pot-o-honey as we read through the four original works of the Winnie-the-Pooh franchise. We will discuss the sociocultural implications of this lovable bear who restored hope to a post-war Europe and has become a world-renowned phenomenon, hero to children and adults alike.

**Meeting Time:** Mondays 4:30pm for 6 weeks  
**Location:** CCD1 214  
**Moderator(s):** Madison Jarboe and Rachel McClelland
TUESDAY GROUPS

The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton

S.E. Hinton’s The Outsiders tells the story of the Greasers, who live on the rough side of town, and the upper class Socs. This coming of age story looks at the human experience through the eyes of 14-year-old Greaser, Ponyboy Curtis, and reminds us that people everywhere, regardless of their circumstances, must inevitably come to terms with fear, love, and sorrow.

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 8:30am for 8 weeks
Moderator(s): Leanne Ho and Morgan Rowe
Location: CCD1 201

If, Then by Kate Hope Day

Explore the possibility of an alternate reality in Kate Hope Day’s debut novel If, Then. If you’re looking for an easy introduction to science fiction, this is the book for you. Set in Oregon, a surgeon, a scientist, a young woman, and a new mother find themselves thrown together when they start receiving disconcerting visions.

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 12:00pm for 5 weeks
Moderator(s): Olivia Robson and Madison Doyle
Location: CCD1 214
White Trash
by Nancy Isenberg

In her groundbreaking history of the class system in America, extending from colonial times to the present, Nancy Isenberg takes on our comforting myths about equality, uncovering the crucial legacy of the ever-present, always embarrassing—if occasionally entertaining—"poor white trash."

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 9:15am for 7 weeks
Moderator(s): Sam Quick
Location: CCD1 217

The Idiot
by Elif Bautman

The Idiot, a Pulitzer Prize finalist for fiction, tells the story of Selin, a Harvard freshman navigating life, love, and friendship in 1995. With sensitivity and wit, Elif Batuman crafts a novel filled with insightful prose and endearing characters.

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 11:00am for 9 weeks
Moderator(s): Stephanie Fox and Will Runion
Location: CCD1 217

Trigger Warning
by Neil Gaiman

Neil Gaiman is one of the most beloved authors of the 21st century. His collection of short stories, Trigger Warning, spans the entire range of the fiction genre including science fiction, fantasy, ghost stories, and poetry. The book deals with some darker topics, so consider this your trigger warning.

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 2:00pm for 8 weeks
Moderator(s): Carley Huffaker
Location: CCD1 201

Lavinia
by Ursula Le Guin

Praying to her gods, Lavinia instead meets the poet Virgil, a historian tormented by his looming death and inability to finish his epic poem, the Aeneid. In Ursula Le Guin’s novel, she continues Virgil’s work by telling the story of Lavinia, the daughter of a Latin king, as her country is torn between her suitors.

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 3:00pm for 6 weeks
Moderator(s): Corinne Morgan and Hannah Frome
Location: CCD1 217
Gloria Anzaldúa’s *Borderlands/La Frontera* challenges our notions of the “borders” that divide geographical spaces, national identities, races, genders, sexualities, and languages. Based on her experience growing up as a queer Mexican-American in south Texas, it is a loosely autobiographical, bilingual text that crosses many literary genres.

*Meeting Time:* Tuesdays 3:00pm for 8 weeks  
*Location:* CCD1 201  
*Moderator(s):* Sarah Warmker and Christina Audas

*Mama’s Last Hug* explores the emotional lives of animals and humans, specifically through the relationship between a primate researcher and a chimpanzee named Mama. This book shows us that we are not alone in experiencing the world through our emotions and that we are more connected to animals than we may have previously believed.

*Meeting Time:* Tuesdays 4:30pm for 7 weeks  
*Location:* CCD1 214  
*Moderator(s):* Casey Wouters and Erica Nadolski

Changez Khan is a middle class Pakistani chasing his dream of success in a prestigious Wall Street valuation firm. Favoured by his boss, his future is looking to be on his planned upward trajectory. But while on company business in the Philippines, he watches news footage of the twin towers falling, and suddenly his future takes a new path.

*Meeting Time:* Tuesdays 4:30pm for 5 weeks  
*Location:* CCD1 217  
*Moderator(s):* Nicole Low

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**Borderlands / La Frontera**  
by Gloria Anzaldúa

**Mama’s Last Hug**  
by Franz de Waal

**The Reluctant Fundamentalist**  
by Mohair Hamid
Mother Night
by Kurt Vonnegut

Apathetic author Howard W. Campbell, Jr., was a Nazi propagandist and American spy during World War II. Now he is hunted by American white-supremacists who idolize him, Zionists who want to put him on trial, and Soviet spies who want to bring him to Moscow. In Mother Night, Vonnegut explores Campbell’s moral dilemmas with his typical dark humor.

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 10:30 am for 6 weeks Location: CCDI 214
Moderator(s): Julianna Schwab

The Overstory
by Richard Powers

“First there was nothing. Then there was everything.” With beautiful language and profound insight, The Overstory follows nine seemingly unconnected people who find themselves brought together through a unique connection to the “vast, slow, interconnected” beings all around us - trees. 2019 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 4:30 pm for 10 weeks Location: CCDI 217
Moderator(s): John Boyd and Cortland Johns
**The Open Veins of Latin America**
*by Eduardo Galeano*

In this book, Galeano analyzes the history of the Americas as a whole, from the time period of the European settlement of the New World to contemporary Latin America, describing the effects of European and later United States economic exploitation and political dominance over the region.

**Meeting Time:** Wednesdays 11:30 am for 7 weeks  
**Location:** CCD1 217

**Moderator(s):** Gant Roberson and Carla Guevara

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**The Unfinished World**
*by Amber Sparks*

*The Unfinished World and Other Stories* is a fantastical collection of short stories which renders the apocalyptic and otherworldly hauntingly familiar. Populated with sculptors, librarians, astronauts, and warriors, this collection forms a veritable cabinet of curiosities at once mythical, bizarre, and deeply moving. Read new stories each week!

**Meeting Time:** Wednesdays 1:30 pm for 6 weeks  
**Location:** CCD1 217

**Moderator(s):** Alex Crayon and Daniel Pfaff

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**I Am Malala**
*by Malala Yousafzai*

This is the memoir of Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani activist for girls’ education against the Taliban occupation and the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. In 2012 the Taliban made an attempt on her life; she was 16 years old. This gripping memoir speaks particularly to the events leading up to and after the assassination attempt.

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

**Moderator(s):** Cassie DeGroot

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**Cinderella Ate My Daughter**
*by Peggy Orenstein*

*Cinderella Ate My Daughter* explores how young girls’ childhood influences affect their lives and perceptions of themselves. Between the rise of Girl Power in the 90s and today, the pursuit of physical perfection has been recast as a source of female empowerment. Commercialization has spread the message faster and farther, but how dangerous is pink and pretty, anyway?

**Meeting Time:** Wednesdays 6:30 pm for 8 weeks  
**Location:** CCD1 101

**Moderator(s):** Tanya Miller Eager
THURSDAY
GROUPS

Slaughterhouse Five
by Kurt Vonnegut

This is the story of Billy Pilgrim, a decidedly non-heroic man who has become “unstuck in time.” He travels back and forth in time, visiting his birth, death, and all the moments in between, repeatedly and out of order. Billy’s odyssey through time reflects the mythic journey of our own fractured lives as we search for meaning in what we fear most.

Meeting Time: Thursdays 10:30 am for 6 weeks
Moderator(s): Grace Duginski
Location: CCDI 201

I Contain Multitudes
by Ed Yong

I Contain Multitudes combines entertaining writing with buckets of research on the microscopic beings living inside each of us. Instead of focusing on killing microbes, this book argues we should acknowledge our dependence on bugs. In short, Ed Yong shows why Walt Whitman was correct in declaring “I am large, I contain multitudes.”

Meeting Time: Thursdays 2:00 pm for 8 weeks
Moderator(s): Connor Steenbock
Location: CCDI 217
The Left Hand of Darkness
by Ursula Le Guin

Ursula Le Guin’s groundbreaking sci-fi classic deals with issues of politics, culture and identity through the compelling story of one stranger’s efforts to survive the dangers of an icy planet and to understand a people similar to him, yet all too different.

Meeting Time: Thursdays 11:30am for 6 weeks
Moderator(s): Conor Powers
Location: CCD1 217

The Socialist Manifesto
by Bhaskar Sunkara

“Get in the car, losers, we’re building socialism.”

In The Socialist Manifesto, editor of Jacobin magazine Bhaskar Sunkara explores socialism’s history since the mid-1800s, presents a realistic vision for its future, and sets out to prove why the socialist tradition still matters.

Meeting Time: Thursdays 3:00pm for 10 weeks
Moderator(s): Will O’Donnell
Location: CCD1 214

Still I Rise
by Marlene Wagmag-Geller

Still I Rise tells fresh, engaging, and amazing tales of perseverance and ultimate success of phenomenal women throughout history. This book is brimming with women who overcame all odds and prevailed. The title is inspired by a poem by Maya Angelou, and the book resonates with the same spirit of her unconquerable soul.

Meeting Time: Thursdays 1:30 pm for 8 weeks
Moderator(s): Susie Kerr and Joy Li
Location: CCD1 214

Break Any Woman Down
by Dana Johnson

Break Any Woman Down is comprised of nine short stories that inspire conversations about race, socioeconomic classes, and gender. Nine different women tell their stories of finding their identities, feeling alienated from society, and exploring romances new and old with vulnerable honesty in a modern way.

Meeting Time: Thursdays 2:30 pm for 9 weeks
Moderator(s): Jessica Isaac and Marycruz Flores
Location: CCD1 201
**FRIDAY GROUPS**

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**Neverwhere**

by Neil Gaiman

Selected by NPR as one of the Top 100 Science Fiction and Fantasy Books of All Time, *Neverwhere* describes a fantastical, unparalleled world as if it might really exist. A kind London businessman is drawn into a new, dark world underneath London after helping a mysterious girl named Door, an act that unknowingly changes his life forever.

**Meeting Time:** Fridays 10:30am for 9 weeks  
**Location:** CCD1 214

**Moderator(s):** Aspen Bell

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**The Collected Plays of Arthur Miller**

by Arthur Miller, ed. Tony Kushner

“The theater is so endlessly fascinating because it’s so accidental. It’s so much like life.” Revered as one of America’s greatest playwrights, Arthur Miller wrote over a dozen critically acclaimed works. This collection includes some of his best pieces, including the tragic “Death of a Salesman” and Miller’s adaptation of “An Enemy of the People.”

**Meeting Time:** Fridays 1:30pm for 10 weeks  
**Location:** CCD1 214

**Moderator(s):** Heath Kuykendall

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The Old Gringo
by Carlos Fuentes

American Civil War veteran and famed writer Ambrose Bierce went to Mexico in 1913 to experience the Mexican Revolution. He was never heard from again. In his 1985 novel The Old Gringo, Carlos Fuentes fills in the mystery of Bierce’s life after his disappearance, exploring themes of love, war, death, and the U.S.-Mexico relationship along the way.

Meeting Time: Fridays 11:30am for 6 weeks
Moderator(s): Haley Brusen and Erika Moen
Location: CCD1 217

Superbug
by Maryn McKenna

LURKING in our homes, hospitals, schools, and farms is a terrifying pathogen that is evolving faster than the medical community can track it or drug developers can create antibiotics to quell it. That pathogen is MRSA - methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus - and Superbug is the first book to tell the story of its shocking spread and danger.

Meeting Time: Fridays 1:30 pm for 4 weeks
Moderator(s): Haley Brusen and Erika Moen
Location: CCD1 217

The Dead Zone
by Stephen King

The Dead Zone, a novel by Stephen King, follows a schoolteacher who goes in a coma for four and a half years after a car accident. He wakes up to find that his neurological damage, the dead zone in his brain, enables him to see the troubling futures of those he contacts. For better or worse, he now possesses a terrifying power that he must control.

Meeting Time: Fridays 12:30 pm for 8 weeks
Moderator(s): Ian Miller and Jackson Bradshaw
Location: CCD1 214

Black Leopard Red Wolf
by Marlon James

“The child is dead. There is nothing left to know.” So begins Black Leopard Red Wolf, by Man Booker Prize-winning author Marlon James, which has been described as “the African Game of Thrones.” But it is much, much stranger than such a description would imply, filled with strange beings and set on a continent like a dream of African myth.

Meeting Time: Fridays 3:00pm for 12 weeks
Moderator(s): Getty Hesse and Paul White
Location: CCD1 214
STAFF AND MODERATORS

Ben Alpers
Christina Audas
Bliss Baird
Aspen Bell
John Boyd
Jackson Bradshaw
Eric Bright
Haley Brusen
Julie Chen
Alex Crayon
Cassie DeGroot
Madison Doyle
Grace Duginski
Stephanie Fox
Marycruz Flores
Hannah Frome
Doug Gaffin
Carla Guevara
Ashley Hall
Getty Hesse
Marielle Hoefnagels
Carley Huffaker
Jason Hughes
Jessica Isaac
Madison Jarboe
Cortland Johns
Brian Johnson
Elizabeth Jordan
Susie Kerr
Heather Ketchum
Justin Kleiber
Heath Kuykendall
Joy Li
Robert Lifset
Nicole Low
Shelby Mann
Sean Mason
Alexis McCalla
Rachel McClelland
Ian Miller
Tanya Miller Eager
Erika Moen
Corinne Morgan
Erica Nadolski
Karley Nadolski
Will O’Donnell
Daniel Pfaff
Conor Powers
Nathan Preuss
Sam Quick
Laither Reiger
Gant Roberson
Olivia Robson
Will Runion
Carson Schlittler
Julianna Schwab
Rachel Sharp
Ciera Stafford
Conor Steenbock
Sarah Warmker
Esther Weygant
Paul White
Casey Wouters