



INFORMAL READING GROUPS

FALL 2021

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ABOUT THE GROUPS

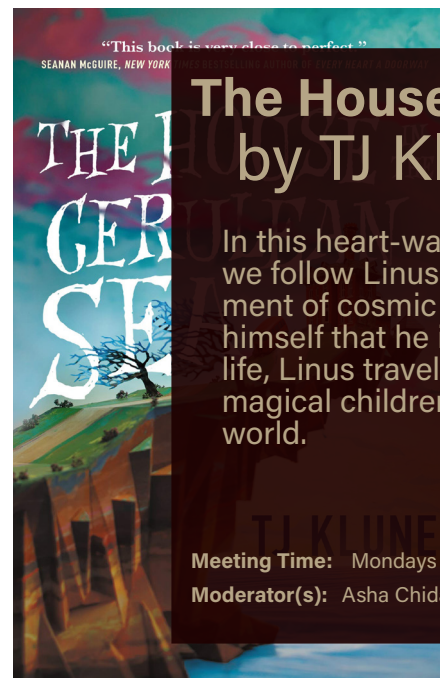
Each semester, the Honors College sponsors the Informal Reading Groups program. The groups, composed of 10 to 15 participants and a moderator from the Honors College faculty, staff or student body, meet one hour per week to discuss about 50 pages of reading from specific books. The books cover a wide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

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.

Fall 2021 reading groups will once again be conducted in person and will begin meeting the week of August 30 - September 3, 2021. Participants and moderators can pick up their books during the first group meeting that week.

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.

MONDAY GROUPS



The House in the Cerulean Sea by TJ Klune

In this heart-warming fantasy tale of found family, we follow Linus Barker as he takes on an assignment of cosmic importance. Having convinced himself that he is content with his by-the-book life, Linus travels to a hidden island to assess six magical children who have the power to end the world.

Meeting Time: Mondays 11 am for 9 weeks

Location: CCD1 214

Moderator(s): Asha Chidambaram



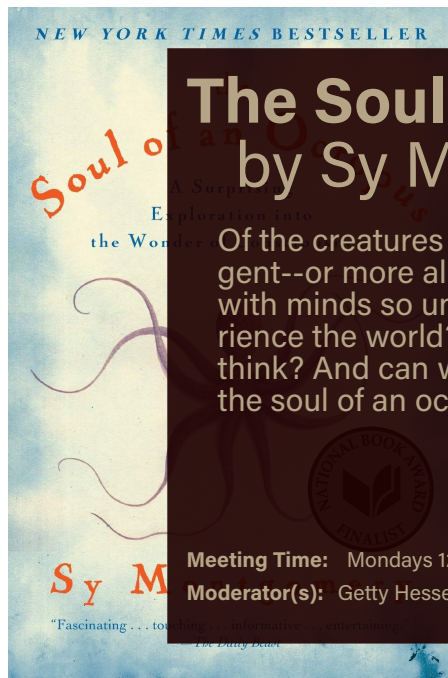
Lone Survivor by Marcus Luttrell

In this autobiography, former Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell recounts his experience of losing the lives of fellow SEALs and fighting for his life as the sole survivor during a mission gone terribly wrong in Afghanistan. Through sheer determination and the goodwill of strangers, Luttrell clings to life despite a Taliban presence. This book is filled with hope, despair, bravery, and self-sacrifice.

Meeting Time: Mondays 1 pm for 8 weeks

Location: CCD1 214

Moderator(s): Finn Woods



The Soul of an Octopus by Sy Montgomery

Of the creatures of this world, few are more intelligent--or more alien--than the elusive octopus. But with minds so unlike our own, how do they experience the world? What sort of thoughts do they think? And can we ever begin to understand what the soul of an octopus might be like?



Meeting Time: Mondays 12 pm for 5 weeks

Location: CCD1 214

Moderator(s): Getty Hesse and Asha Mani



Chaos by Tom O'Neill

Chaos presents author Tom O'Neill's original research into the background and motives for the Tate-LaBianca murders committed by the Manson Family in 1969. O'Neill questions the 'Helter Skelter' scenario argued by lead prosecutor Vincent Bugliosi in the trials and in his book, connecting the various threads of the murders to Doris Day, the Beach Boys, and even America's intelligence agencies.

Meeting Time: Mondays 5 pm for 8 weeks

Location: CCD1 217

Moderator(s): Will O'Donnell



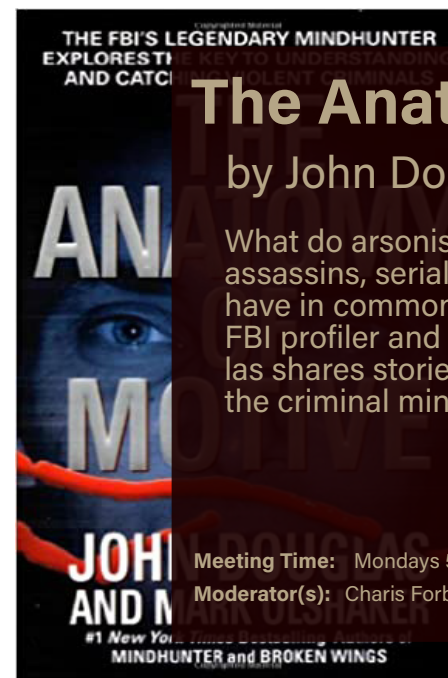
The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle by Haruki Murakami

Psychedelics are illegal in the state of Oklahoma. Luckily, we have this. Join the main character on this trip to the nether in search of "cat." Did you like the Magic Treehouse? Hallmark movies? Cursed Child? Then this original, world-shifty "romance" story by Haruki Murakami is maybe probably for you.

Meeting Time: Mondays 2:30 pm for 13 weeks

Location: CCD1 214

Moderator(s): Michael Yu and John Madden



The Anatomy of Motive by John Douglas and Mark Olshaker

What do arsonists, hijackers, bombers, poisoners, assassins, serial killers, and mass murderers all have in common? Motive! FBI profiler and author of *Mindhunter* John Douglas shares stories from his career that peer into the criminal mind.

Meeting Time: Mondays 5 pm for 10 weeks

Location: CCD1 214

Moderator(s): Charis Forbes and Ana Spradley

TUESDAY GROUPS



Educ

Educated by Tara Westover

Educated is the autobiography of Tara Westover, who was forbidden by her parents from receiving and education. Westover is forced to deal with the challenge of staying true to her family's ideals, or pursuing her own dream- an education.

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 1 pm for 7 weeks

Location: CCD1 214

Moderator(s): Ahmed Hussan

WESTOVER

INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER



Circe by Madeline Miller

An engaging, modern, feminist look at one of Greek Mythology's most interesting characters, *Circe* examines the life of a goddess and what it means to be human.

"AN EPIC SPANNING THOUSANDS OF YEARS THAT'S ALSO A
KEEP-YOU-UP-ALL-NIGHT PAGE-TURNER" - ANN PATCHETT

CIRCE

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 3:30 pm for 5 weeks

Location: CCD1 214

Moderator(s): Macintyre Syrett

AUTHOR OF THE SONG OF ACHILLES

MADELINE MILLER



Thinking Inside the Box by Adrienne Raphel

Calling all cruciverbalists! *Thinking Inside the Box* takes a deep dive into the history of the crossword and the puzzle's cultural significance. We will also discuss how to construct your own crosswords, and may even solve a few as well. No solving experience necessary!

*Adventures with Crosswords
and the Puzzling People*

Who can't

ADRIENNE RAPHEL

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 1:30 pm for 5 weeks

Location: CCD1 217

Moderator(s): Stephanie Fox



When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi

After nearly completing a decade's worth of training, Paul Kalanithi, a neurosurgeon at Stanford University, is diagnosed with terminal lung cancer at thirty-six. Kalanithi's memoir not only describes his battle but also shares his ideas on how to approach death with grace and what it means to be fully alive.

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 2:30 pm for 5 weeks

Location: CCD1 214

Moderator(s): Thu Nguyen and Lal Simeon



And I Do Not Forgive You by Amber Sparks

Blending fables and myths with apocalyptic technologies, Amber Sparks reaches uncanny heights with *And I Do Not Forgive You*. A teen coming of age in a trailer park befriends a ghost; a young girl creates violent dioramas of famous saints; Athena designs a video game for Zeus. In this eclectic collection, Sparks digs up the skeletons of history and gives them new lives. Read new stories each week!

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 5 pm for 5 weeks

Location: CCD1 214

Moderator(s): Alex Crayon and Daniel Pfaff



Madame Curie by Eve Curie

Madame Curie tells us about the life and career of the first woman scientist to win a Noble Prize. Madame Curie's path was full of barricades: little money and prohibition of women to be enrolled in the University Program in Warsaw. However, through hard work and dedication, she reached for the stars.

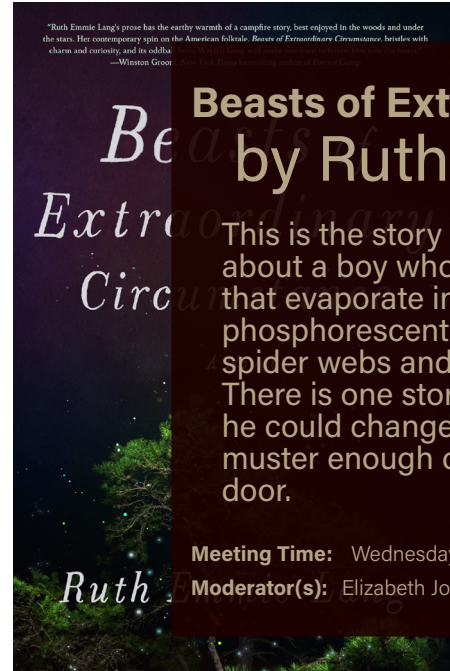
Meeting Time: Tuesdays 8 pm for 9 weeks

Location: CCD1 214

Moderator(s): Danuta Radyna

TRANSLATED BY VINCENT SHEEAN


WEDNESDAY GROUPS

The book cover for 'Beasts of Extraordinary Circumstance' by Ruth Emmie Lang features a dark, starry night sky with a silhouette of a tree in the foreground. The title is written in a large, elegant serif font, and the author's name is at the bottom.

Beasts of Extraordinary Circumstance
by Ruth Emmie Lang

This is the story of Weylyn Grey's life. Stories about a boy who lives with wolves, great storms that evaporate into thin air, fireflies that make phosphorescent honey, and a house filled with spider webs and the strange man who inhabits it. There is one story, however, that Weylyn wishes he could change: his own. But first he has to muster enough courage to knock on Mary's front door.

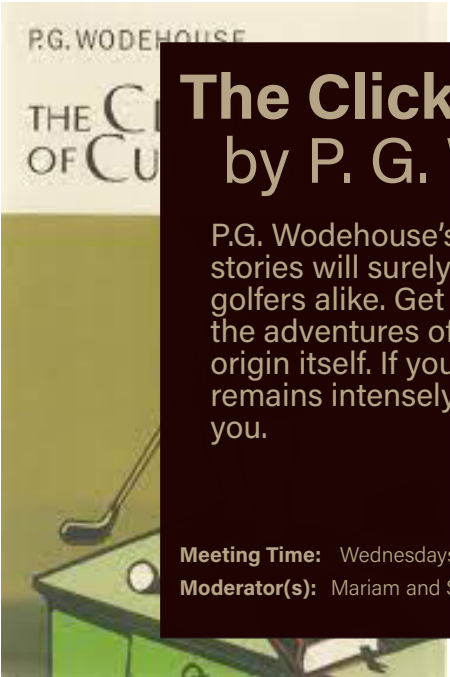
Meeting Time: Wednesdays 11 am for 7 weeks
Moderator(s): Elizabeth Jordan and Sofie Caruso
Location: CCD1 214

The book cover for 'The Hidden Life of Trees' by Peter Wohlleben features a light yellow background with a detailed illustration of a tree's roots and canopy. The title is in a large, bold serif font, and the author's name is below it.

The Hidden Life of Trees
by Peter Wohlleben

Trees: they give us shade, oxygen, and pretty colors in the fall. But did you know that trees talk to each other and have their own families and social networks? Discover the hidden life of trees and much more in this fascinating book all about trees.

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 4 pm for 9 weeks
Moderator(s): Hannah Bowlin
Location: CCD1 217

The book cover for 'The Clicking of Cuthbert' by P.G. Wodehouse features a green background with a golf club and a golf ball on a green surface. The title 'THE CLICKING OF CUTHBERT' is partially visible in white text.

P.G. WODEHOUSE

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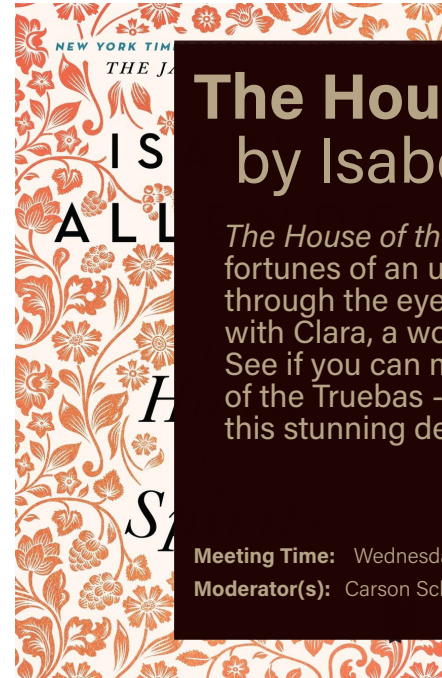
The Clicking of Cuthbert by P. G. Wodehouse

P.G. Wodehouse's hilarious collection of short stories will surely be a hoot for golfers and non-golfers alike. Get ready to laugh as you read about the adventures of golfers all the way to golf's origin itself. If you're looking for a fun story that remains intensely relevant today this book is for you.

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 11:30 pm for 6 weeks

Location: CCD1 217

Moderator(s): Mariam and Safra Shakir



The House of the Spirits by Isabel Allende

The House of the Spirits follows the changing fortunes of an unnamed Latin American country through the eyes of the Trueba family, starting with Clara, a woman with supernatural abilities. See if you can match Clara in predicting the fate of the Truebas - and the country as a whole - in this stunning debut from Isabel Allende.

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 3:30 pm for 14 weeks

Location: CCD1 214

Moderator(s): Carson Schlittler and Laithe Reiger

The book cover for 'I, Tina' by Tina Turner with Kurt Loder features a white background with the title 'I, Tina' in large, bold, black letters. Below the title, the subtitle 'My Life' is visible in red. The author's name 'Tina Turner' is in red, and 'with Kurt Loder' is in black.

I,
TINA

I, Tina by Tina Turner with Kurt Loder

The legendary Tina Turner tells all -- from her humble beginnings to her volatile marriage until her triumphant comeback.

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 6 pm for 8 weeks

Location: CCD1 214

Moderator(s): Tanya Miller Eager

THURSDAY GROUPS



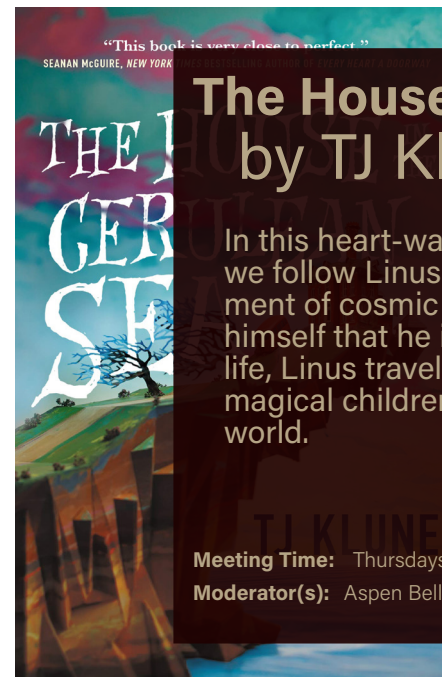
Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly to discuss unsolved crimes. When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case. As the bodies begin to pile up, can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer, before it's too late?

Meeting Time: Thursdays 2 pm for 6 weeks

Location: CCD1 214

Moderator(s): Elizabeth Jordan



The House in the Cerulean Sea by TJ Klune

In this heart-warming fantasy tale of found family, we follow Linus Barker as he takes on an assignment of cosmic importance. Having convinced himself that he is content with his by-the-book life, Linus travels to a hidden island to assess six magical children who have the power to end the world.

Meeting Time: Thursdays 11 am for 8 weeks

Location: CCD1 214

Moderator(s): Aspen Bell

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

The Healing of America by T. R. Reid

New York Times bestselling author T. R. Reid visits industrialized democracies around the world - France, Britain, Germany, Japan, and beyond - to provide a revelatory tour of successful, affordable universal healthcare systems. His exploration suggests hopeful solutions to the United States' fragmented healthcare system.

Meeting Time: Thursdays 3 pm for 6 weeks
Moderator(s): Daisy Butzer and Hannah Wyatt

Location: CCD1 214



WITH AN EXPLANATION OF HEALTH CARE REFORM

The Satyricon by Petronius

Come and see the classical world like never before! In the *Satyricon*, the Roman trendsetter Petronius lampoons Rome's nouveau riche in a clever satire of the epic genre. Bawdy and incisive, the *Satyricon* explores the gluttony, frivolity, and self-absorption of Nero's court to create a unique portrait of the Roman aristocracy.

Meeting Time: Thursdays 3 pm for 5 weeks
Moderator(s): Gabriel Anguiano

Location: CCD1 217



Petronius

A Memory Called Empire by Arkady Martine

A Memory Called Empire is a space opera centering on Mahit Dzmare, the new Lsel ambassador to the empire of Teixcalaan. Upon her arrival, she finds suspicious circumstances surround her predecessor's vanishing; as Mahit investigates this caper, she also struggles to find her place in Teixcalaanli culture. Part adventure, part investigation of empire, *A Memory Called Empire* asks what it means to find oneself torn between cultures.

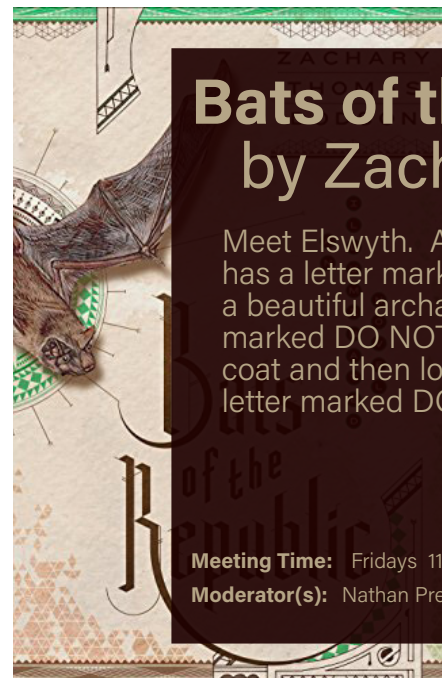
Meeting Time: Thursdays 5 pm for 9 weeks
Moderator(s): Ashely Copelin

Location: CCD1 214

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ARKADY MARTINE

FRIDAY GROUPS



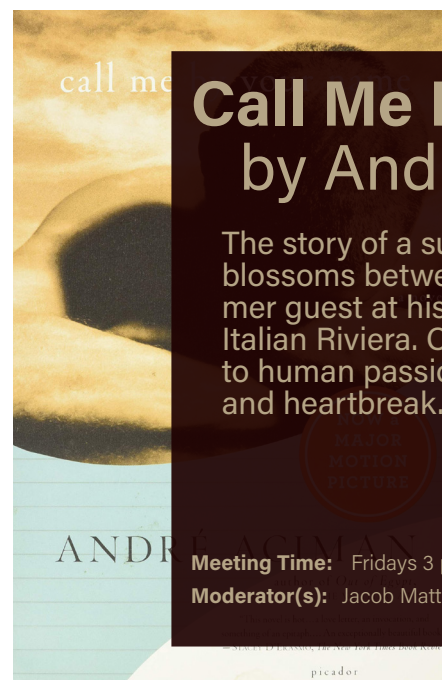
Bats of the Republic by Zachary Dodson

Meet Elswyth. And Zadock. And Ezekial. Zadock has a letter marked DO NOT OPEN. Elswyth has a beautiful archaic name. Ezekial had a letter marked DO NOT OPEN, but he sewed it inside a coat and then lost the coat. The reader also has a letter marked DO NOT OPEN.

Meeting Time: Fridays 11 am for 10 weeks

Location: CCD1 217

Moderator(s): Nathan Preuss



Call Me By Your Name by Andre Aciman

The story of a sudden and powerful romance that blossoms between an adolescent boy and a summer guest at his parents' cliff-side mansion on the Italian Riviera. Call Me by Your Name is an elegy to human passion that explores the depths of love and heartbreak.

Meeting Time: Fridays 3 pm for 5 weeks

Location: CCD1 214

Moderator(s): Jacob Mattke and Dan Groeneveld



And I Do Not Forgive You by Amber Sparks

And I Do Not Forgive you is a collection of stories written in a graceful yet powerful prose about rage and injustices against women. Amber Sparks creates a wide range of stories about forgotten and imagined women, each story different and more surreal than the next.

Meeting Time: Fridays 1 pm for 4 weeks

Location: CCD1 217

Moderator(s): Mandy Kaiser



Lamb, or the Gospel According to Biff by Christopher Moore

The Bible gives all the details of Christ's birth before skipping 30 years to his ministry. In *Lamb*, Christ's best friend, Biff, fills in the gaps. His hilarious gospel reveals all, from the young Savior's youth in Nazareth to his travels East in search of the Magi. Biff and Christ's adventures are witty, thoughtful, sexy, and ultimately touching.

Meeting Time: Fridays 1 pm for 9 weeks

Location: CCD1 201

Moderator(s): Catherine Frerker and Carter Sampson



The Memory Police by Yoko Ogawa

Yoko Ogawa's surreal dystopian novel, a National Book Award Finalist, explores the nature of memory and state control. On an unnamed island, things disappear one after another--and not just from the physical world, but from the minds of the inhabitants. The few who remember are hunted down by the terrifying memory police. The protagonist, a novelist, hides her editor, who is one of the few who can remember what has been lost.

Meeting Time: Fridays 3 pm for 6 weeks

Location: CCD1 214

Moderator(s): Getty Hesse and Paul White

STAFF AND MODERATORS

Ahmed Hussan	Elizabeth Jordan	Michael Yu
Alex Crayon	Finn Woods	Nathan Preuss
Asha Chidambaram	Gabriel Anguiano	Paul White
Asha Mani	Getty Hesse	Safra Shakir
Ashley Copelin	Hannah Bowlin	Sofie Caruso
Aspen Bell	Hannah Wyatt	Stephanie Fox
Carson Schlittler	Jacob Mattke	Tanya Miller
Carter Sampson	John Madden	Eager
Catherine Frerker	Laithe Reiger	Thu Nguyen
Charis Forbes	Lal Simeon	Will O'Donnell
Daisy Butzer	Macintyre Syrett	
Dan Groeneveld	Mandy Kaiser	
Danuta Radyna	Mariam Shakir	

Honors Dean

Rich Hamerla

Honors Associate Dean

Marie Dallam

Reading Groups Coordinator

Will O'Donnell

Design and Layout

Will O'Donnell



DAVID RAY
INFORMAL READING GROUPS
HONORS COLLEGE
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

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