



INFORMAL READING GROUPS SPRING 2021

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ABOUT THE GROUPS

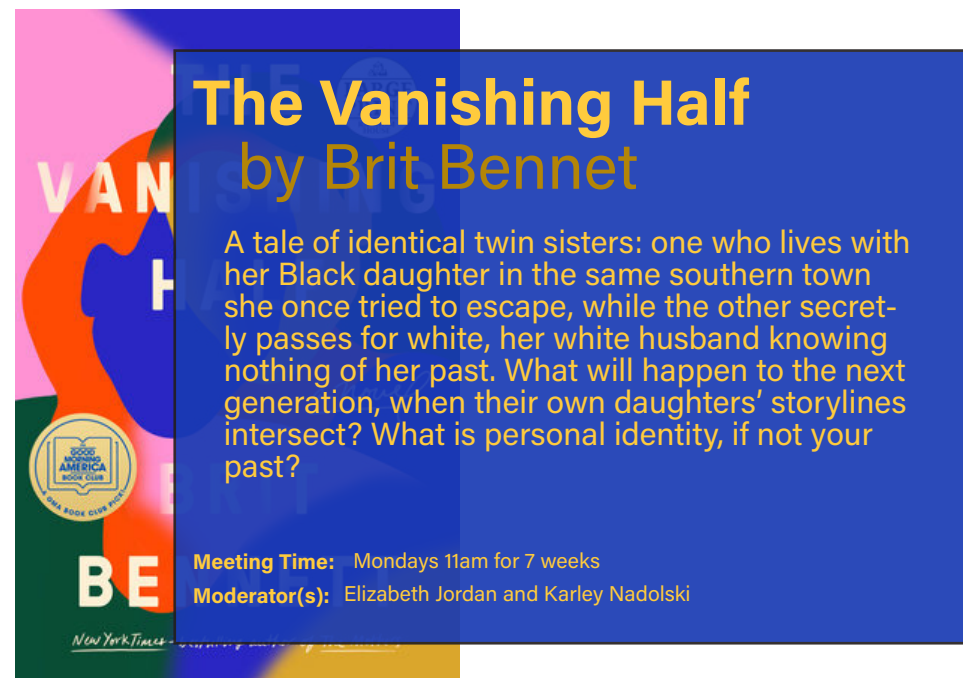
Each semester, the Honors College sponsors the Informal Reading Groups program. The groups, composed of 10 to 15 participants and a moderator from the Honors College faculty, staff or student body, meet one hour per week to discuss about 50 pages of reading from specific books. The books cover a wide 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.

Spring 2021 reading groups will be conducted online via Zoom and begin meeting the week of February 1 - 5, 2021. Participants and moderators can pick up their books on Friday, January 29 between 8am and 5pm at the Honors College, David L. Boren Hall Room 126.

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





An Unkindness of Ghosts by Rivers Solomon

Aster is a surgeon, living on a lower deck of the HSS Matilda, a space ship organized into levels much like the antebellum South. Tracing the steps of her mother, she realizes there may be way off the violent ship. If you're looking for a science-fiction novel that explores issues of gender, sexuality, race, and resistance, this book is for you.

Meeting Time: Mondays 12pm for 7 weeks

Moderator(s): Olivia Robson

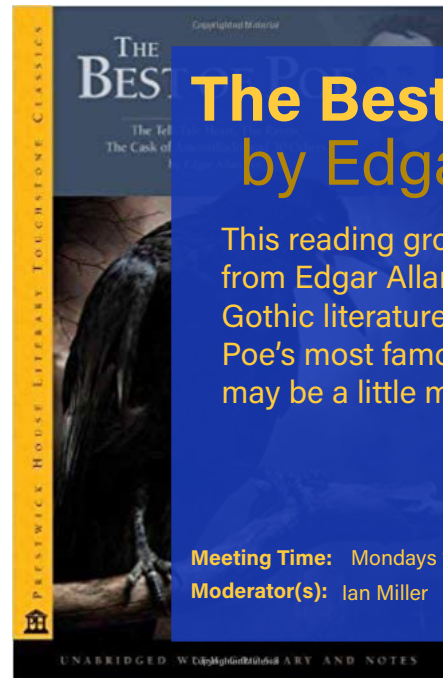


The Land of Open Graves by Jason De Leon

The opening of the graveyard reveals the daily suffering and death in the Sonoran Desert, where thousands of undocumented immigrants tried to cross the border into the United States from Mexico. With forward severe critical criticism, De Leon chronicles the journey of people trying to cross the border and discovers the stories of objects and corpses.

Meeting Time: Mondays 2:30pm for 6 weeks

Moderator(s): Rena Sun

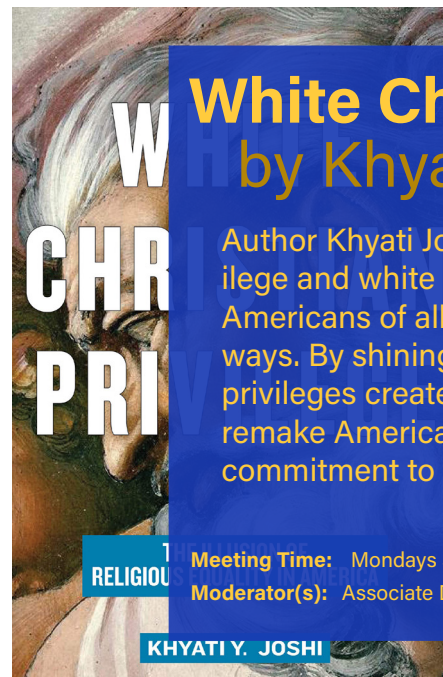


The Best of Poe by Edgar Allan Poe

This reading group examines several short stories from Edgar Allan Poe, who arguably invented the Gothic literature genre. Expect to read some of Poe's most famous works, along with some that may be a little more unfamiliar!

Meeting Time: Mondays 1:30pm for 5 weeks

Moderator(s): Ian Miller



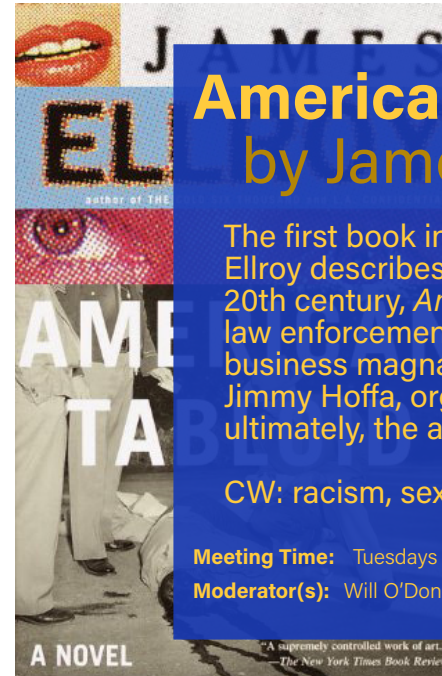
White Christian Privilege by Khyati Joshi

Author Khyati Joshi explores how Christian privilege and white racial norms affect the lives of Americans of all colors and faiths, often in subtle ways. By shining a light on the inequalities these privileges create, Joshi urges readers to help remake America as a diverse democracy with a commitment to true religious freedom.

Meeting Time: Mondays 3pm for 7 weeks

Moderator(s): Associate Dean Marie Dallam and Peyton Schow

TUESDAY GROUPS



American Tabloid by James Ellroy

The first book in a pulp/noir trilogy which author Ellroy describes as a "secret history" of the mid-20th century, *American Tabloid* follows three rogue law enforcement agents and their connections to business magnate Howard Hughes, labor leader Jimmy Hoffa, organized crime, Cuban militias and, ultimately, the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

CW: racism, sexism, drug use, murder, etc.

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 3pm for 8 weeks

Moderator(s): Will O'Donnell



If on a Winter's Night a Traveler by Italo Calvino

"You are about to begin reading Italo Calvino's new novel, *If on a Winter's Night a Traveler*. Relax. Concentrate. Dispel every other thought. Let the world around you fade."

So begins Italo Calvino's postmodern novel...

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 4:30pm for 5 weeks

Moderator(s): Nathan Preuss and Jack Madden

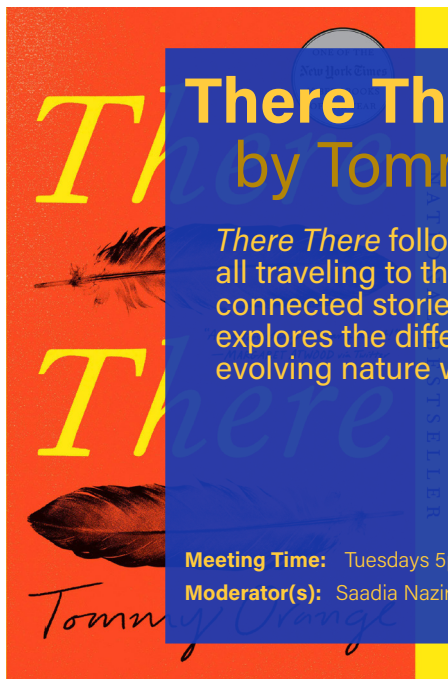


The Traitor Baru Cormorant by Seth Dickinson

"The Empire of Masks is coming, armed with coin and ink, doctrine and compass, soap and lies..." Baru Cormorant, a young queer woman from a colonized island, swallows her hate and decides to destroy the Empire from the inside. Author Seth Dickinson uses the language of fantasy to explore complex questions of gender, sexuality, and empire.

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 3pm for 8 weeks

Moderator(s): Getty Hesse and Emma Bachman



There There by Tommy Orange

There There follows 12 Native characters who are all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow and their connected stories. This novel by Tommy Orange explores the different facets of identity and its evolving nature within the Indigenous community.

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 5pm for 5 weeks

Moderator(s): Saadia Nazir and Morgan Chen

WEDNESDAY GROUPS



The Life You Can Save by Peter Singer

In *The Life You Can Save*, Princeton philosopher Peter Singer examines the issue of global poverty, showing that for the first time in human history, eradicating world poverty is within our reach. Singer not only highlights the case for eradicating this poverty, but also teaches us to be a part of the solution, helping others as we help ourselves.

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 11am for 5 weeks

Moderator(s): Prof. Kevin Kuruc and Jack Madden

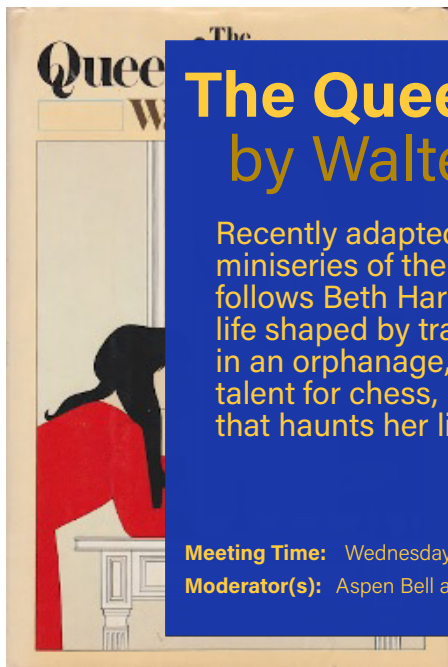


The Master and Margarita by Mikhail Bulgakov

Dressed in all pink, 'cept his gator shoes, the Devil's rollin' into Soviet Moscow to cause chaos with his entourage that includes a rapping, vodka-drinking cat. His dillydallying soon ensnares a lady who's willing to sell her soul for her a lover, a man known as "Master." Margaritas not included.

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 12:30pm for 9 weeks

Moderator(s): Michael Yu and Jack Madden

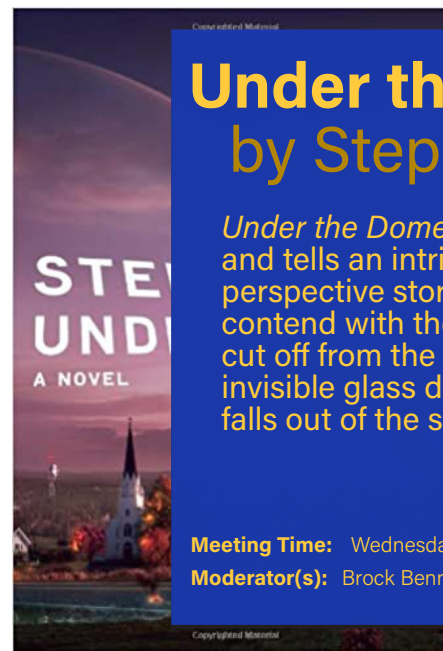


The Queen's Gambit by Walter Tevis

Recently adapted for the popular Netflix miniseries of the same name, *The Queen's Gambit* follows Beth Harmon through an unconventional life shaped by tragedy and genius. Growing up in an orphanage, Beth discovers her prodigious talent for chess, but also struggles with addiction that haunts her life and ensuing career.

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 12pm for 6 weeks

Moderator(s): Aspen Bell and Katherine Sloan



Under the Dome by Stephen King

Under the Dome focuses on a small Maine town and tells an intricate, multi-character, alternating perspective story of how the town's inhabitants contend with the calamity of being suddenly cut off from the outside world by an impassable, invisible glass dome-like barrier that seemingly falls out of the sky.

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 12pm for 14 weeks

Moderator(s): Brock Bennett



Vampires in the Lemon Grove by Karen Russell

In *Vampires in the Lemon Grove: And Other Stories*, captives in a silk factory become human silkworms and plot revolution; a mutilated scarecrow bears an uncanny resemblance to a missing classmate; and two vampires come to terms with their immortal relationship. Each week, we'll read a different story from this brilliantly imaginative collection!

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 1pm for 8 weeks

Moderator(s): Alex Crayon and Daniel Pfaff

A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

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The Deficit Myth by Stephanie Kelton

Over the past few years, a novel economic school of thought called Modern Monetary Theory, or MMT, has enthralled left-wing policy circles. But what is MMT? What are its claims? And how valid are they anyway? We will attempt to answer these questions and more by reading and critically assessing the work of MMT's reigning queen, Stephanie Kelton.

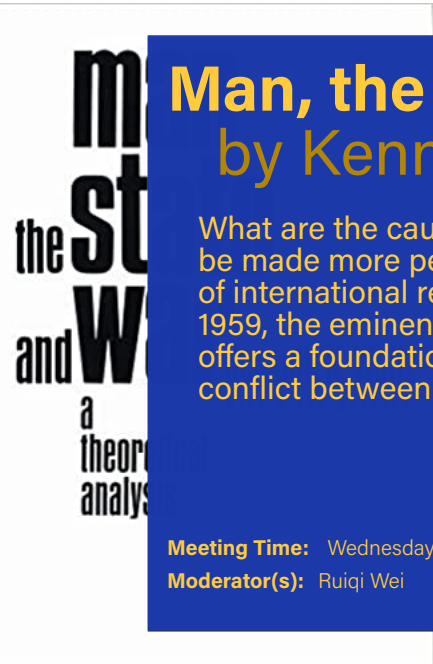
Modern
and the Bir

S T E

K

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 2pm for 6 weeks

Moderator(s): Getty Hesse and Paul White


The book cover for 'Man, the State, and War' by Kenneth Waltz features a white background with the title in large, bold, black letters. The subtitle 'a theoretical analysis' is in a smaller font below the title.

Man, the State, and War

by Kenneth Waltz

What are the causes of war? How might the world be made more peaceful? In this landmark work of international relations theory, first published in 1959, the eminent realist scholar Kenneth N. Waltz offers a foundational analysis of the nature of conflict between states.

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 4pm for 5 weeks
Moderator(s): Ruiqi Wei

The book cover for 'Disability Visibility' by Alice Wong has a white background with colorful geometric shapes (pink, purple, blue) on the left side. The title is in large, bold, black letters, and the author's name is at the bottom.

Disability Visibility

by Alice Wong

Some disabilities are visible, others less apparent—but all are underrepresented in media and popular culture. Just in time for the thirtieth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, activist Alice Wong brings together this urgent, galvanizing collection of contemporary essays by disabled people.

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 5:30pm for
Moderator(s): Tanya Miller Eager

THURSDAY GROUPS

The image shows the book cover for 'Artforum' by Cesar Aira. The cover features a stack of books, each with the word 'ARTFORUM' on its spine in a different color. The title 'Artforum' is at the top in a large, bold, sans-serif font, followed by 'by Cesar Aira' in a smaller font.

Artforum by Cesar Aira

Artforum follows a man in his obsessive quest to collect every copy of the (possibly magical) magazine Artforum, examining his anxieties, superstitions, and musings about the mystery of the broken clothespins—"How weird." With his characteristic surreal and comic style, César Aira explores desire, compulsion, and the wonders of everyday objects

Meeting Time: Thursdays 3:30pm for 6 weeks

Moderator(s): Carson Schlittler and Laithe Reiger

The image shows the book cover for 'One to Watch' by Kate Stayman-London. The cover has a light blue background with a stylized illustration of a person in a pink dress. There are also some electronic devices like a camera and a microphone. The title 'One to Watch' is in a large, bold, sans-serif font, followed by 'by Kate Stayman-London' in a smaller font.

One to Watch by Kate Stayman-London

Bea, a plus-size fashion blogger, becomes the lead of Main Squeeze (think The Bachelorette) after calling out the show about its lack of body-type and racial diversity. While navigating the throes of social media and societal standards of health and feminism, Bea embarks on a journey from self-acceptance to self-love.

Meeting Time: Thursdays 5pm for 8 weeks

Moderator(s): Erin Sullivan and Emily West

• ROBERT DRAPER
NEW YORK TIMES

• TO START A WAR

• HOW THE UNITED STATES

• ADMINISTRATION

• TOOK AMERICA

• INTO IRAQ

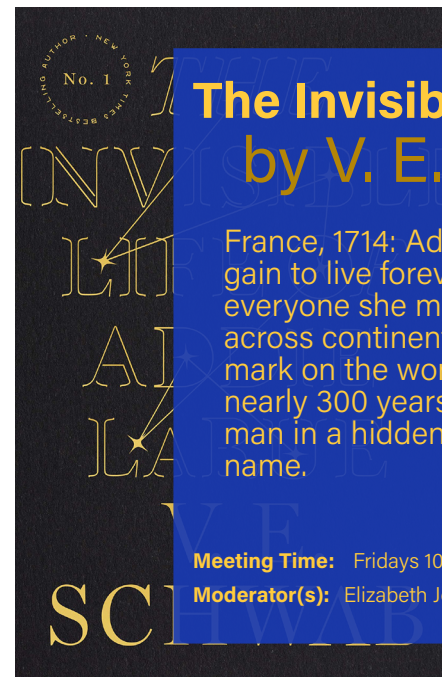
To Start a War by Robert Draper

In *To Start A War*, Robert Draper seeks to unpack how the United States ended up in Iraq. Draper's book follows the lead-up to the war, seeking to figure out what exactly led to the mixture of intelligence failures and bad actors that prompted the 2003 invasion of Iraq. A must read for those seeking to understand current US-Middle East policy.

Meeting Time: Thursdays 4:30pm for 9 weeks

Moderator(s): Jack Madden and Riler Holcombe

FRIDAY GROUPS



The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue by V. E. Schwab

France, 1714: Addie LaRue makes a Faustian bargain to live forever and is cursed to be forgotten by everyone she meets. She moves through time and across continents, learning to survive and leave her mark on the world. Everything changes when, after nearly 300 years, Addie stumbles across a young man in a hidden bookstore, who remembers her name.

Meeting Time: Fridays 10am for 9 weeks

Moderator(s): Elizabeth Jordan and Madison Jarboe



The Road by Cormac McCarthy

In this "unforgettable", "amazing and astonishing" post-apocalyptic novel by McCarthy, a father and his young son travelled for months in burned America. Before that, an unknown disaster destroyed most civilizations, and almost all life was extinct. Whether in structure or narrative, this story has both of the modern and epic forms.

Meeting Time: Fridays 2:30pm for weeks

Moderator(s): Rena Sun

"His tale of survival and the miracle of goodness may add to McCarthy's stature as a living legend. It is beautiful, it might be said to be the best novel of the year, period."
—San Francisco Chronicle

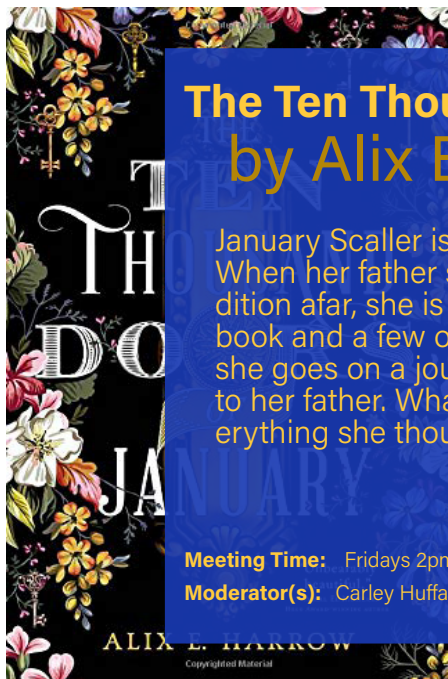


Say Nothing by Patrick Radden Keefe

In *Say Nothing*, Patrick Radden Keefe explores the Troubles that consumed Northern Ireland. Keefe's book follows those on both sides of the conflict and brings home the terror and the heartbreaking futility of a guerrilla war fought in peoples' homes as well as in the streets. A must read for those interested in modern Irish history.

Meeting Time: Fridays 11am for 7 weeks

Moderator(s): Jack Madden



The Ten Thousand Doors of January by Alix E. Harrow

January Scaller is a treasure among treasures. When her father suddenly disappears on an expedition afar, she is left orphaned. With only a small book and a few of her dearest friends to guide her, she goes on a journey to discover what happened to her father. What she discovers will change everything she thought she knew.

Meeting Time: Fridays 2pm for 8 weeks

Moderator(s): Carley Huffaker

STAFF AND MODERATORS

Alex Crayon	Katherine Sloan	Saadia Nazir
Aspen Bell	Prof. Kevin Kuruc	Stephanie Fox
Brock Bennett	Laithe Reiger	Tanya Miller Eager
Carley Huffaker	Madison Jarboe	Will O'Donnell
Carson Schlittler	Prof. Marie Dallam	
Daniel Pfaff	Michael Yu	
Elizabeth Jordan	Morgan Chen	
Emily West	Nathan Preuss	
Emma Bachman	Olivia Robson	
Erin Sullivan	Paul White	
Getty Hesse	Peyton Schow	
Ian Miller	Rena Sun	
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INFORMAL READING GROUPS
HONORS COLLEGE
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

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