



Fall 2023 Reading Groups

Featured Books

A Certain Hunger by Chelsea G. Summers

Moderated by: Lena Ba-Ndiaye and Haye Lakhani

Dracula by Bram Stoker

Moderated by: Averi Bates

Exit West by Mohsin Hamid

Moderated by Imelda Aldava

I Contain Multitudes: The Microbes Within us and a Grander View of Life by Ed Yong

Moderated by: Jillian Otero

Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro

Moderated by: Corinne Bell and Josiah Morgan

Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring by J.R.R Tolkien

Moderated by: Alyssa Pascoe and Caleb Simmons

Neuromancer by William Gibson

Moderated by: Prof Ralph Beliveau

Nick by Michael Farris Smith

Moderated by: Emily Coxsey

No Country For Old Men by Cormac McCarthy

Moderated by: Teddy Winter

Of Bears and Ballots by Heather Lende

Moderated by: Abbi Bitterman

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Moderated by: Danielle Crutchfield

Portrait of the Artist As a Young Man by James Joyce

Moderated by: Evan Jones

Silent Spring by Rachel Carson

Moderated by: Marli Brazell and Michaella Reed

Talking to Strangers: What we Should Know About the People we Don't Know by Malcolm Gladwell

Moderated by: Prof. John Banas

The Gift of Fear by Gavin De Becker

Moderated by: Rajita Singh and Elizabeth Weems

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

Moderated by: Kamri Williams

The Misadventure of Awkward Black Girl by Issa Rae

Moderated by: Tanya Miller Eager

The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

Moderated by: Anna Swierkosz

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

Moderated by: Maddie Meyers

The Power of One by Bryce Courtenay

Moderated by Aidan Foreman and Taylor Fleming

Why Didn't They Ask Evans? By Agatha Christie

Moderated by: Crystal Hollen

Vicious by V.E Schwab

Moderated by: Carolyn Elkin

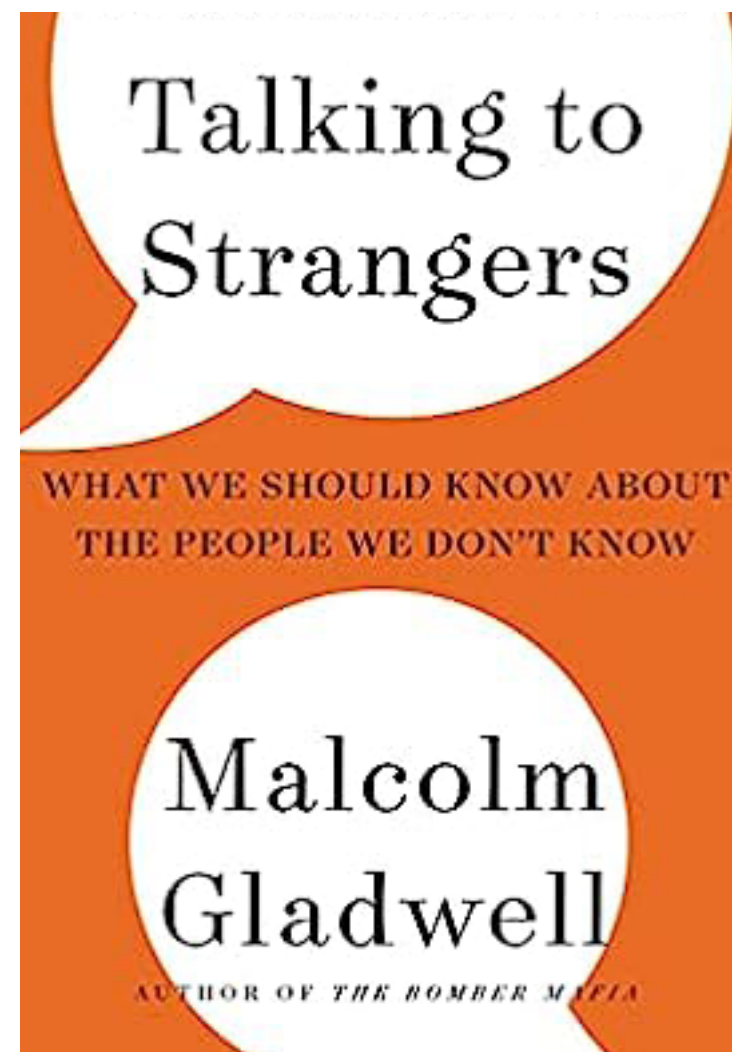
Monday Groups

Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know About the People We Don't Know

Moderated by: Prof. John Banas

Mondays at 10:30 am in Cate 1 RM 214, for 8 weeks

How did Fidel Castro fool the CIA for a generation? Why did Neville Chamberlain think he could trust Adolf Hitler? Do television sitcoms teach us something about the way we relate to each other that isn't true? Something is very wrong. Gladwell argues, with the tools and strategies we use to make sense of people we don't know. And because we don't know how to talk to strangers, we are inviting conflict and misunderstanding in ways that have a profound effect on our lives and our world.

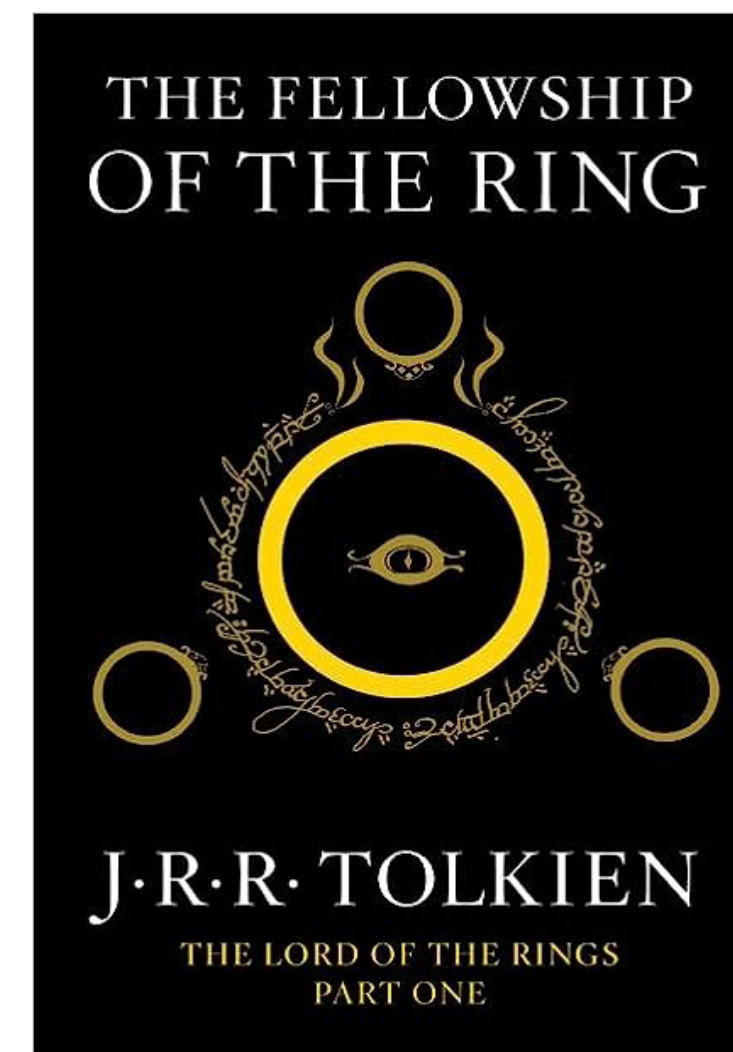


Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring

Moderated by: Alyssa Pascoe and Caleb Simmons

Mondays at 11:30 am Cate 1 RM 214, for 10 weeks

The Fellowship of the Ring is the first in the Lord of the Rings trilogy. In it a ragtag group embarks to destroy the ultimate evil plaguing Middle Earth. Milestones are broken and peril ensues on their quest to Mordor, the home of evil and the birthplace of the ring. The characters encounter both friend and foe alike on this journey. Some do not reveal their true nature until it is too late, and others keep it secret for the safety of the party.

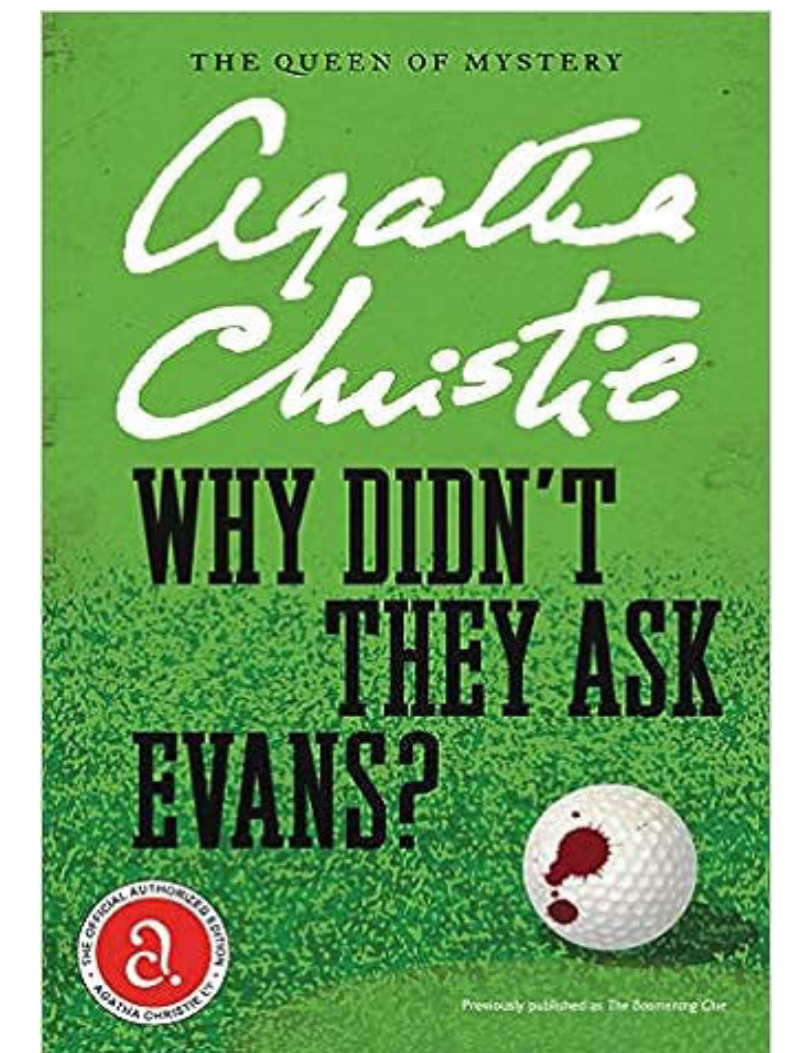


Why Didn't They Ask Evans

Moderated by: Crystal Tori Hollen

Mondays at 5:30 pm in Cate 1 RM 217 for 8 weeks

Agatha Christie is one of the most successful and celebrated mystery authors of all time. She never fails to astound and delight with her intricate plots and complex characters. In this novel, we follow the twists and turns surrounding a gruesome murder, and everyone is suspicious. Will the characters get to the bottom of who committed the crime before the murderer gets away? Will we ever find out who Evans is, and why no one asked them? Please join our reading group to solve the case!



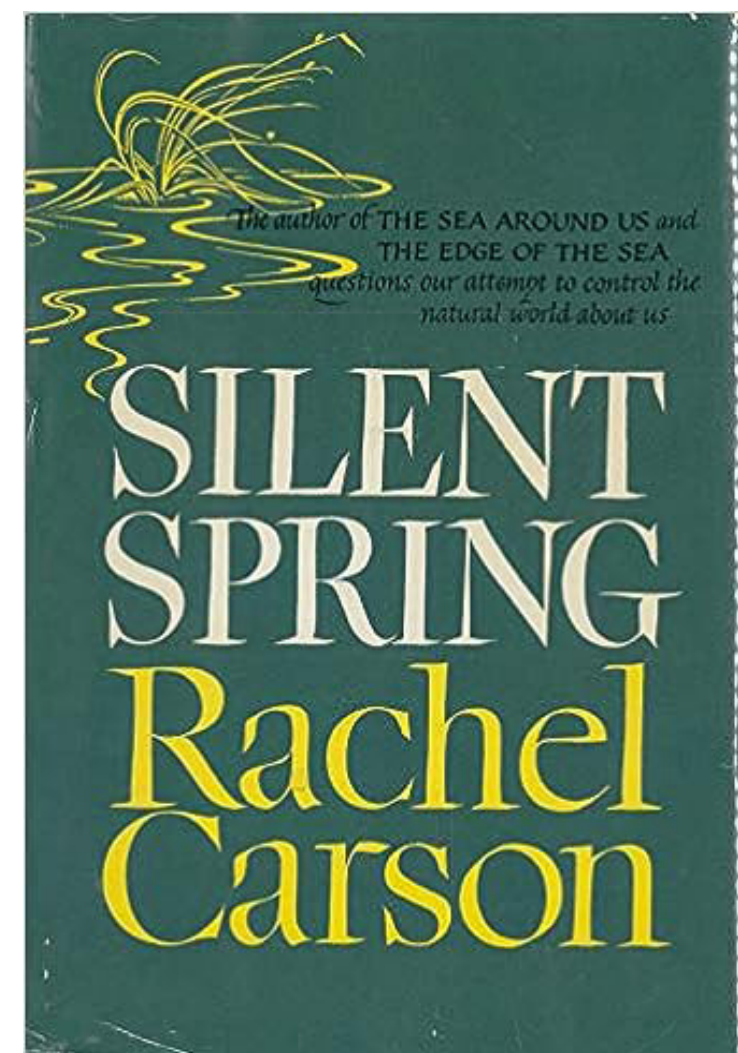
Monday Groups

Silent Spring

Moderated by: Marli Brazell and Michaella Reed

Mondays at 3:00 pm in DLB RM 182, for 7 weeks

Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" published in 1962, is a nonfiction book that influenced the national debate surrounding the impact of human behavior on the environment. Carson's analysis sheds light on the unintended adverse effects of the commercial use of DDT (an insecticide) on human behavior on the environment. Carson encourages the responsible handling of synthetic chemicals to avoid further disruptions to the ecosystem. Following its release, "Silent Spring" faced intense condemnation from critics associated with chemical companies, who dismissed Carson's writing as too radical. Carson's assertions remain relevant as environmental degradation persists. This discussion might interest you if you enjoy reading about environmental science, the military-industrial complex, the Cold War era, nuclear fallout, and American history post-World War II.

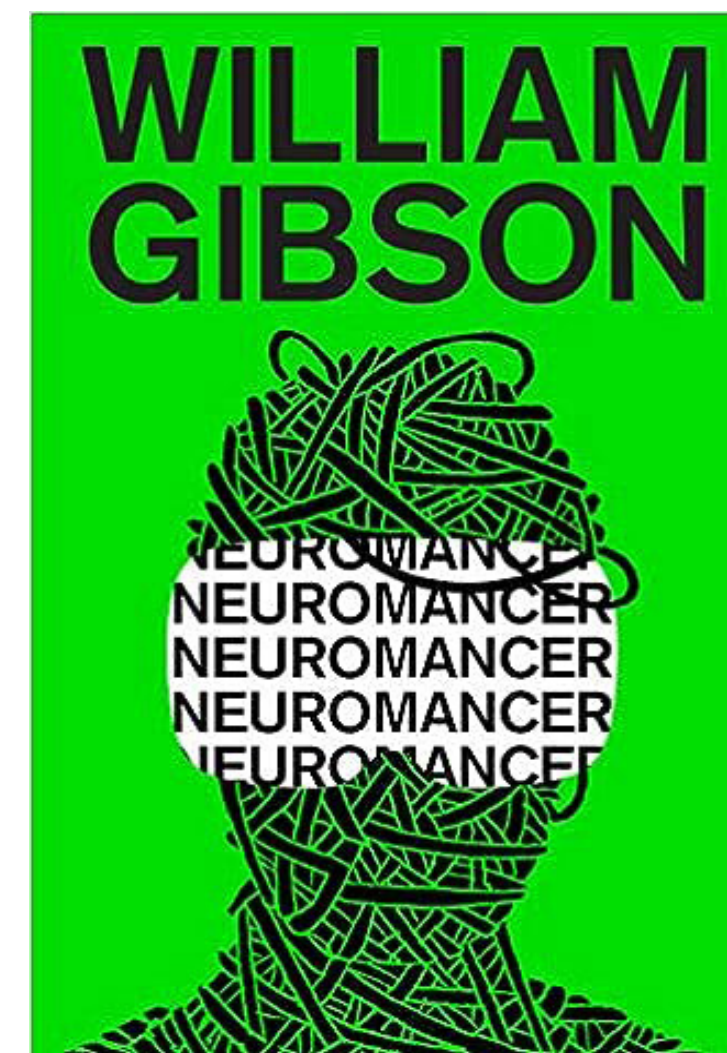


Neuromancer

Moderated by: Prof. Ralph Beliveau

Mondays at 4:30 pm in Cate 1 RM 214, for 4 weeks

Neuromancer is a multiple award-winning significant piece of science fiction. It quite rightly predicted many of the situations that come from social media, in a highly technological environment of online existence. Gibson was responsible for many of the speculations that led to the way we now conceive of the culture of the internet as an abstract concept. Understanding this is fundamental to grasping the changes that we experience in a data-grounded and digital media environments.



Tuesday Groups

I Contain Multitudes: The Microbes Within Us and a Grand View of Life

Moderated by: Jillian Otero

Tuesdays at 12:00 pm in Cate 1 RM 214, for 7 weeks

I Contain Multitudes is a thought-provoking look into the previously invisible world of microbiology. While many view microbes as germs to be fought off, they are actually part of a broader microbiome vital to our health and wellness. We like all living creatures around us, are walking and talking ecosystems. We are not just individuals but interconnected beings. With its informative yet accessible writing, I Contain Multitudes examines our incredible relationship with nature and how we can maintain it.

The Poisonwood Bible

Moderated by: Maddie Meyers

Tuesdays at 3:00 pm Cate 1 RM 214, for 12 weeks

This haunting novel follows the wife and daughters of a Baptist preacher on an ill-advised mission trip to the Belgian Congo. As the Price family struggles to maintain a sense of normalcy amidst constant turmoil, they must each learn how to adapt in order to survive- not only the unfamiliar environment, but also one another.

Pride and Prejudice

Moderated by: Danielle Crutchfield

Tuesdays at 2:00 pm in DLB RM 182, for 8 weeks

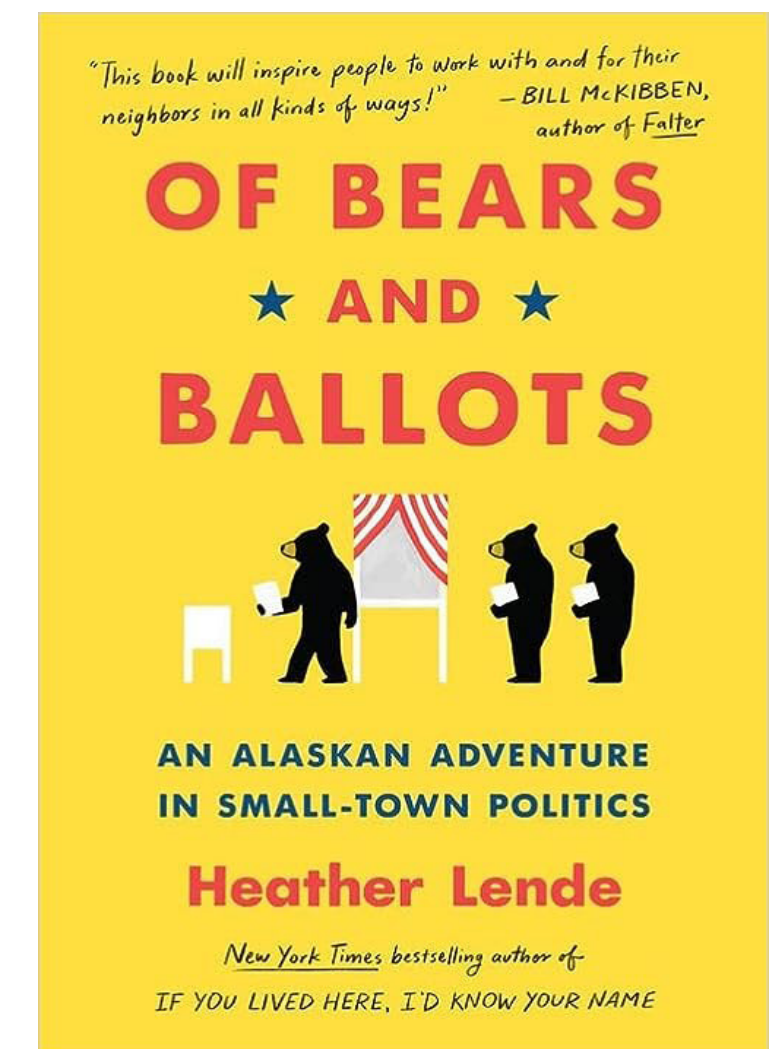
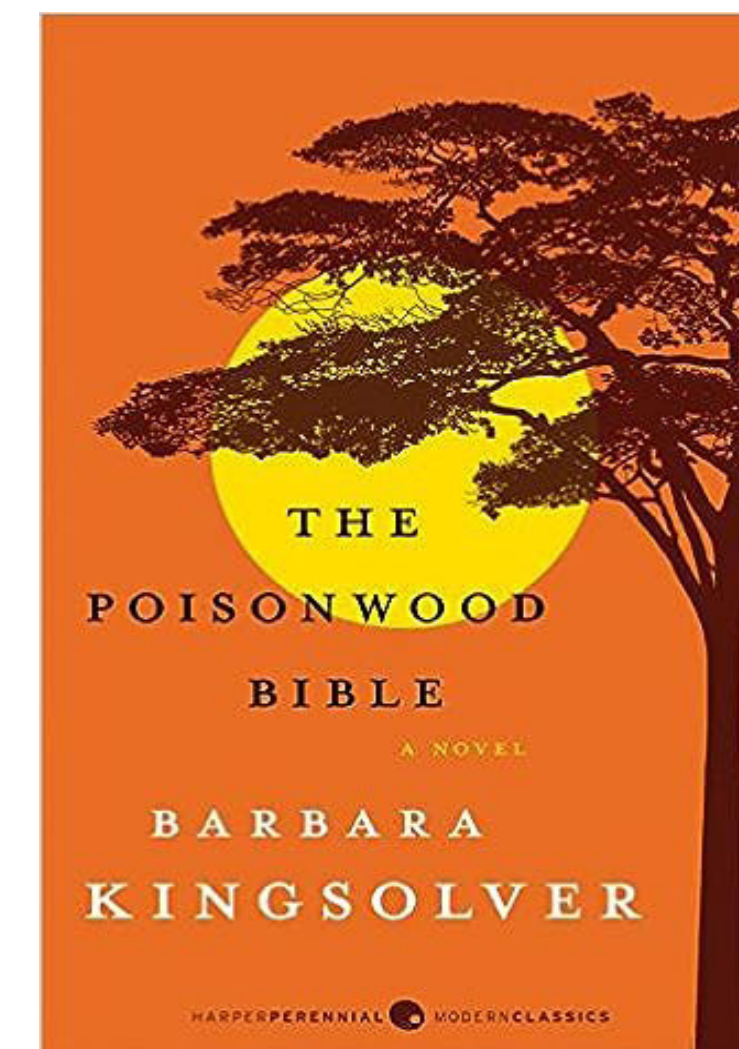
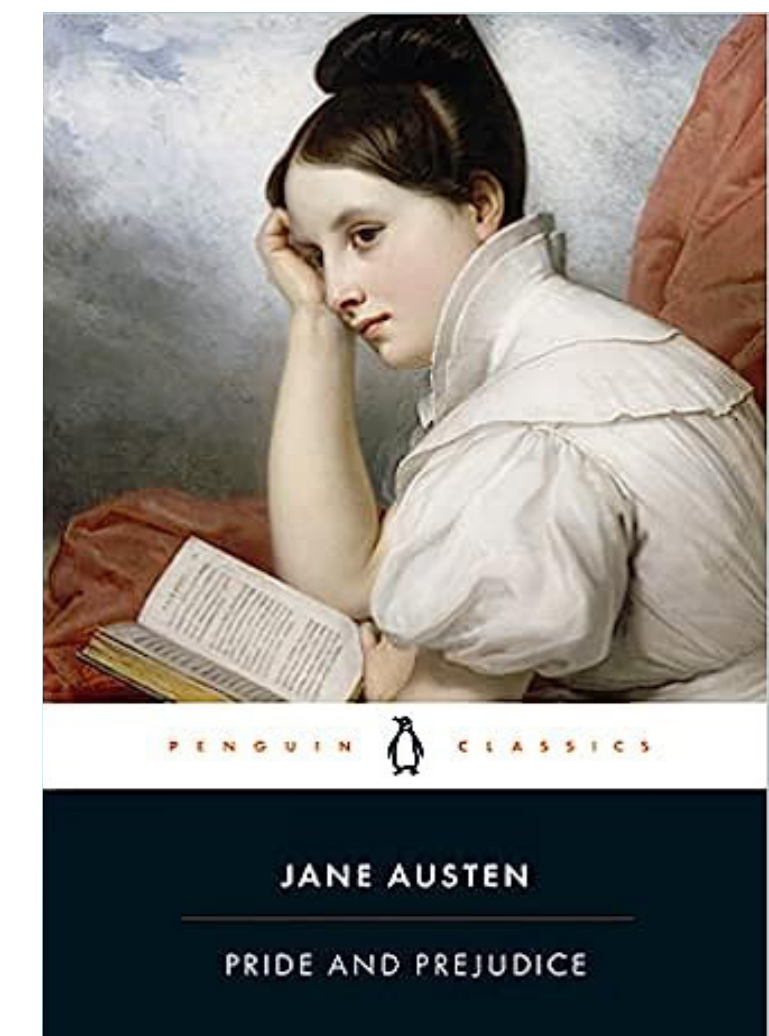
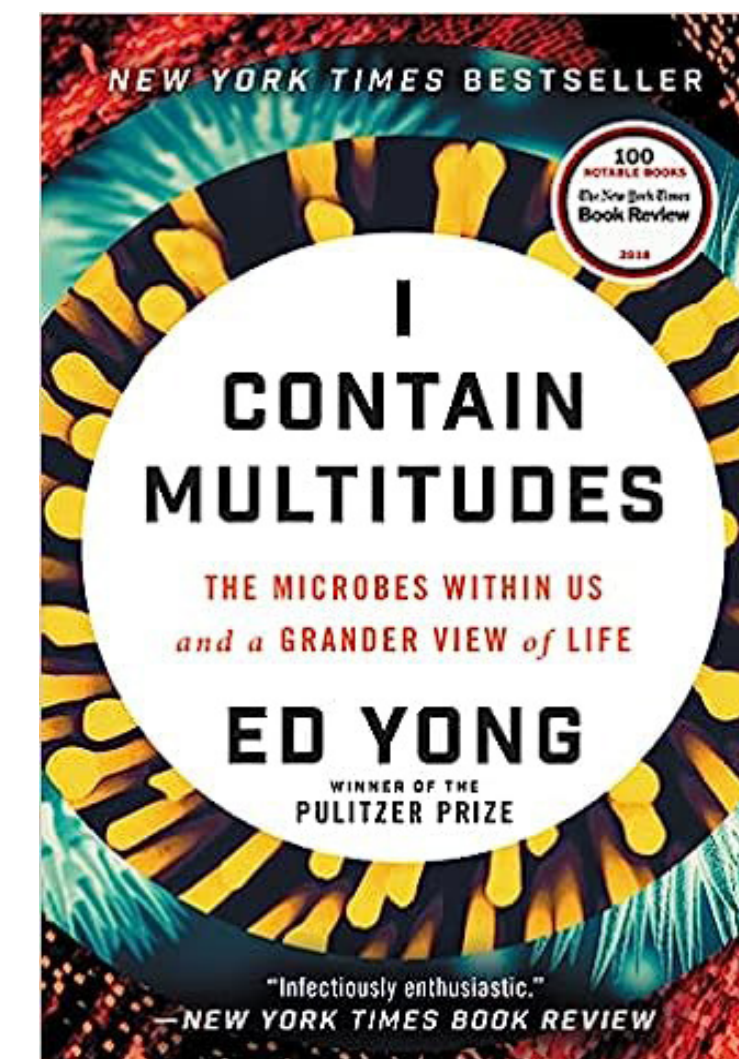
When Elizabeth Bennet meets Fitzwilliam Darcy for the first time at a ball, she writes him off as an arrogant and obnoxious man. He not only acts like an insufferable snob, but she also overhears him rejecting the very idea of asking her for a dance! As life pits them against each other again and again, Darcy begins to fall for Elizabeth's wit and intelligence and Elizabeth begins to question her feelings about Darcy. But when Darcy saves her youngest sister Lydia from a scandal, Elizabeth starts to wonder if her pride has prejudiced her opinion of Darcy. Through this tale about two warring hearts, Jane Austen weaves a witty satire about life in eighteenth century England.

Of Bears and Ballots

Moderated by: Abby Bitterman

Tuesdays 4:30 in DLB RM 182, for 8 weeks

In the small town of Haines, Alaska, author Heather Lende decided she wanted to make a difference. Lende, a professional writer, ran for a spot on the Haines city council and won, but that is just where the story begins. Over the course of the book, we will follow Lende as she navigates small town politics and all of the drama that comes with it. We will also read 1-2 news articles each week about political events in and around Norman city government in recent years to discuss the similarities and differences between what is happening in our town and what Lende is experiencing firsthand. Join us for thought-provoking discussions about what politics look like at the local level and the impact of city government.



Tuesday & Wednesday Groups

Exit West

Moderated by: Imelda Aldava

Tuesdays at 5:00 pm Cate 1 RM 214, for 5 weeks

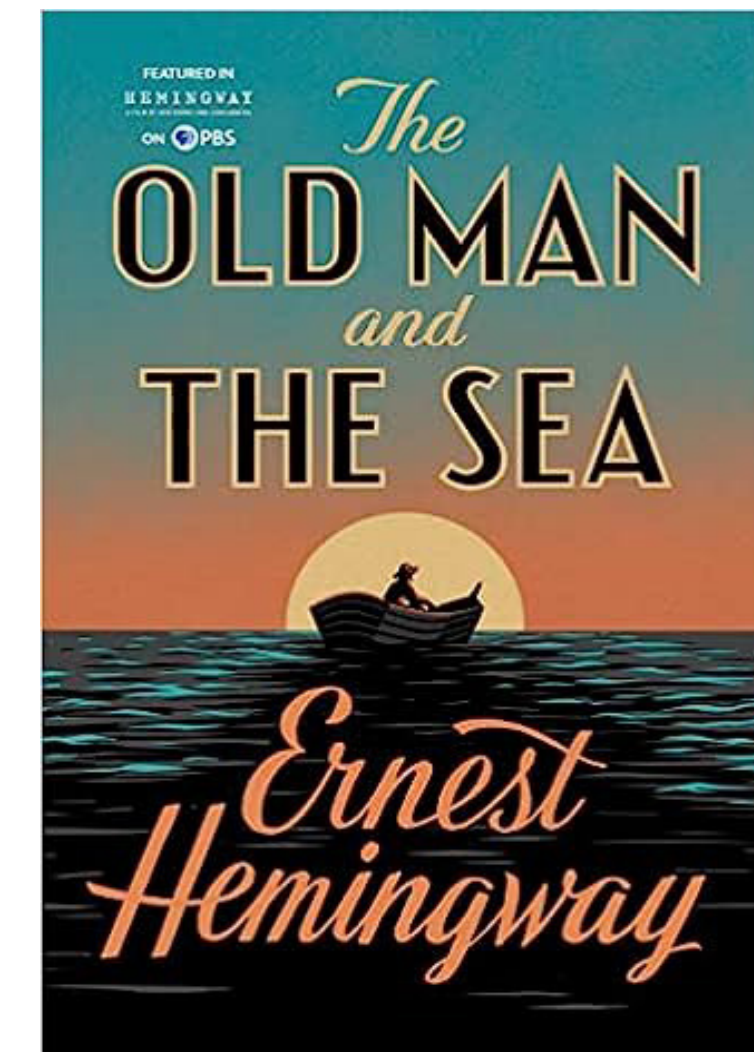
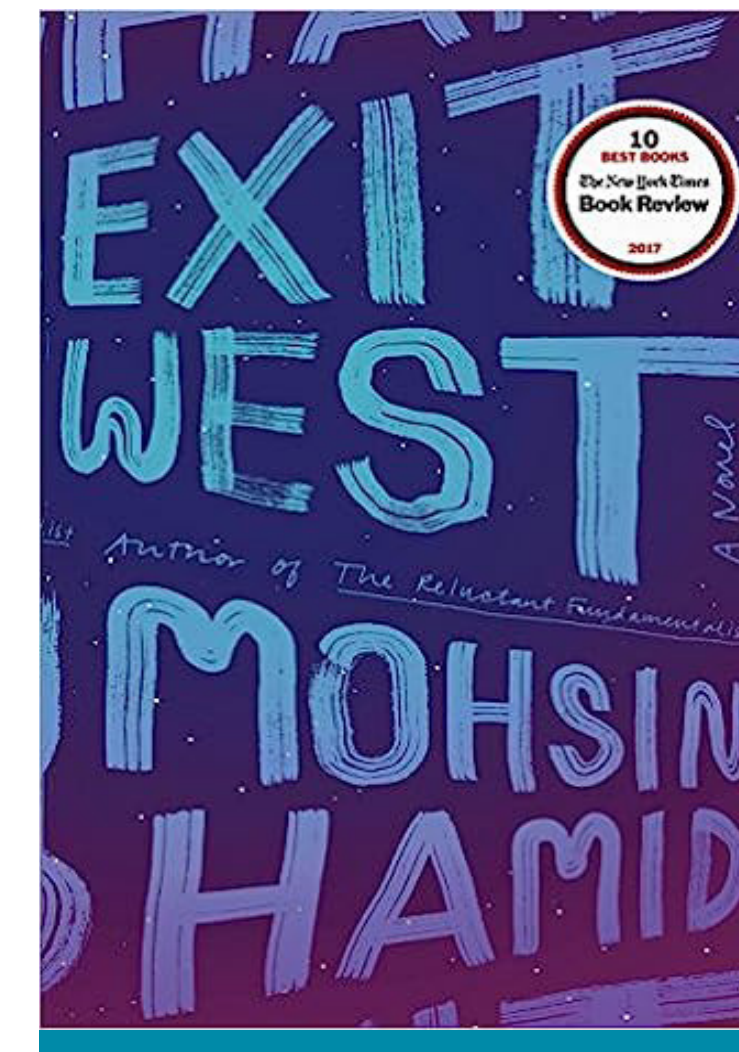
In a country teetering on the brink of civil war, two young people meet--sensual, fiercely independent Nadia and gentle, restrained Saeed. They embark on a furtive love affair, and are soon cloistered in a premature intimacy by the unrest roiling their city. When it explodes, turning familiar streets into a patchwork of checkpoints and bomb blasts, they begin to hear whispers about doors--doors that can whisk people far away, if perilously and for a price. As the violence escalates, Nadia and Saeed decide that they no longer have a choice. Leaving their homeland and their old lives behind, they find a door and step through...

The Old Man and the Sea

Moderated by: Anna Swierkosz

Wednesdays at 12:30 pm Cate 1 RM 214, for 3 weeks

Noted as Ernest Hemingway's best. The Old Man and the Sea tells the story of seasoned fisherman Santiago's journey at sea. Through his many trials and tribulations on the waters of Cuba, he learns the importance of perseverance and an undefeated spirit.



The Hunger Games

Moderated by Kamri Williams

Wednesdays at 1:30 pm DLB RM 182, for 8 weeks

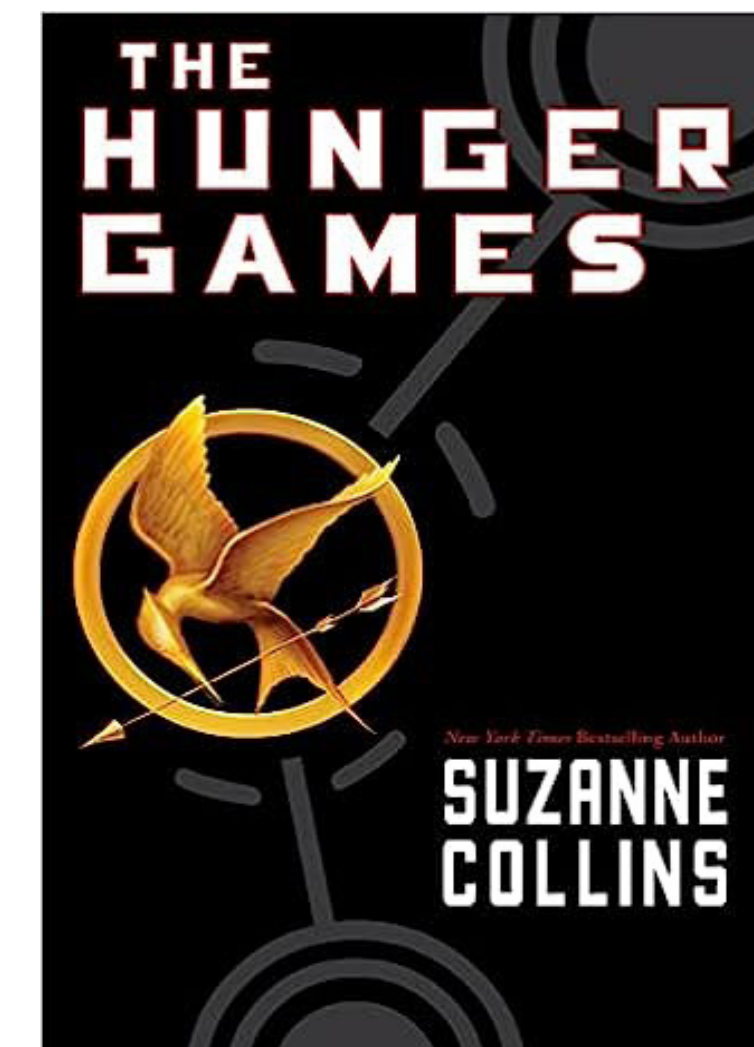
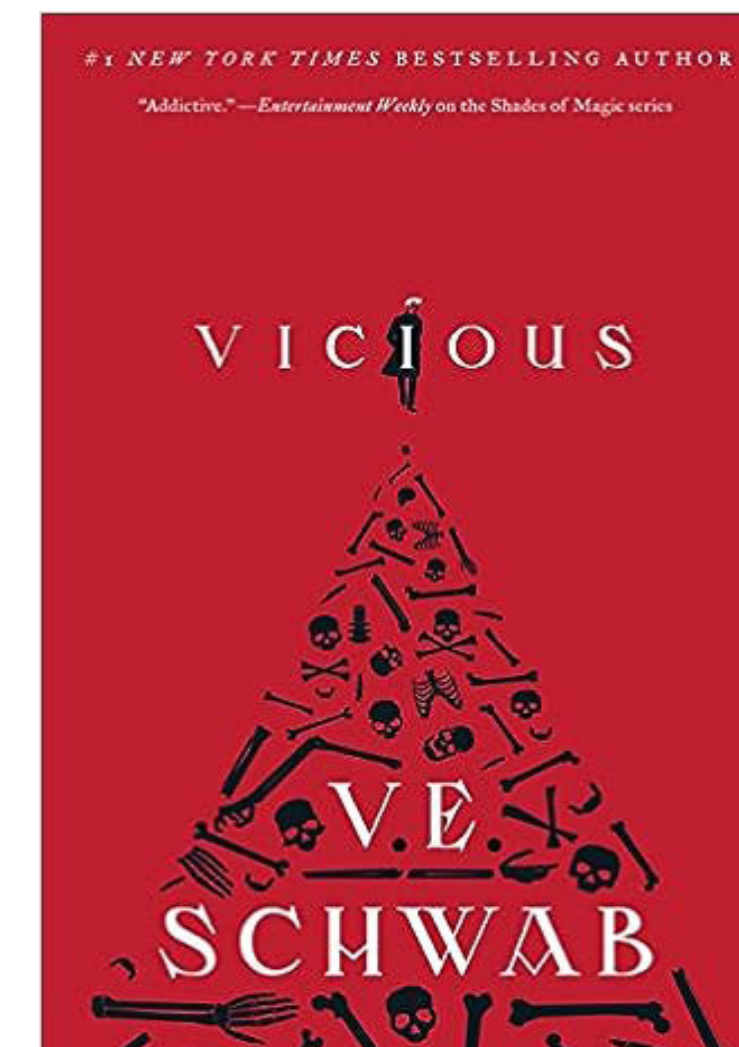
The Hunger Games follows Katniss Everdeen as she navigates through her first game. She has a strong sense of justice and will to win. With her being the favorite for this game, all eyes are on her. Along the way, she is faced with hard choices and complex relationships. The longer she is exposed to the horrors of the game, the more determined she is to get back at the Capitol for these horrors. This book has entertainment as well as a good dystopian look as to what a greedy upperclass and a government that lacks empathy can do to a society.

Vicious

Moderated by: Carolyn Elkin

Wednesdays @ 3:00 pm Cate 1 RM 217, for 8 weeks

Victor Vale and Eli Cardale start as college roommates and end as bitter foes. In their research on adrenaline, near-death experiences, and seemingly supernatural events, the two of them discover the conditions in which an individual might develop extraordinary abilities. As research turns to experimentation, however, things take a sharp turn for the worse, and ten years later, Victor breaks out of prison, determined to get revenge. Vicious' chapters jump between time, exploring Eli and Victor's pasts to explain their current reality and their motives - Victor's thirst for revenge, and Eli's mission to eradicate every person with supernatural powers.



Wednesday Groups

The Gift of Fear

Moderated by: Rajita Singh and Elizabeth Weems
Wednesdays at 2:00 pm Cate 1 RM 217, for 8 weeks

WARNING: This book covers topics of various forms of assault, abuse, and violence. Please be prepared to read about these. The Gift of Fear, written by security expert Gavin de Becker, delves into the topic of intuition and how it can help us protect ourselves from danger. The book explores the concept of fear as a survival instinct and explains how it can be used as a powerful tool for personal safety. Through real-life case studies and analysis of violent behavior, de Becker provides practical insights into how to trust and listen to our gut instincts. In addition to our toolbox of strategies to use and situations to look out for, it becomes a worthwhile read for anyone.

The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl

Moderated by: Tanya Miller Eager
Wednesdays at 5:30 pm Cate 1 RM 214, for 4-6 weeks

In this New York Times bestselling debut collection written in her witty and self-deprecating voice, Issa Rae covers everything from cybersexing in the early days of the internet to deflecting unsolicited comments on weight gain, from navigating the peril of eating out alone and public displays of affection to learning to accept yourself - natural hair and all. Whether she's navigating love, the workplace, friendships, or "rapping" - it sure is entertaining. The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl is a book no one --- awkward or cool, black, white or other - will want to miss.

A Certain Hunger

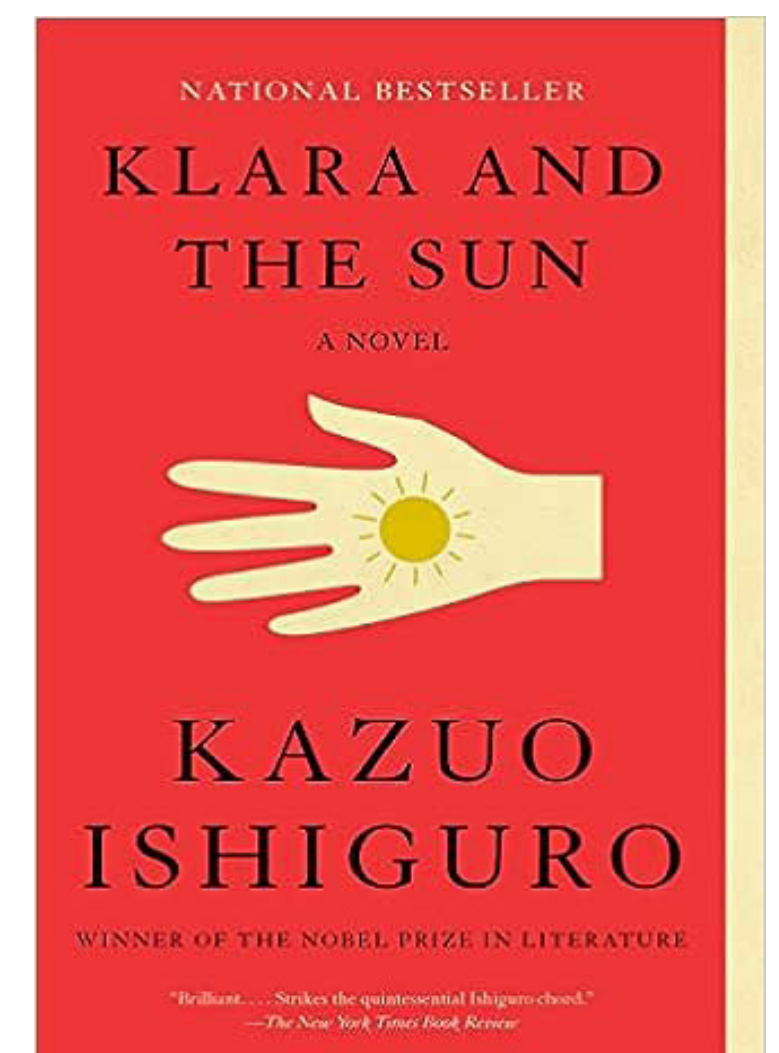
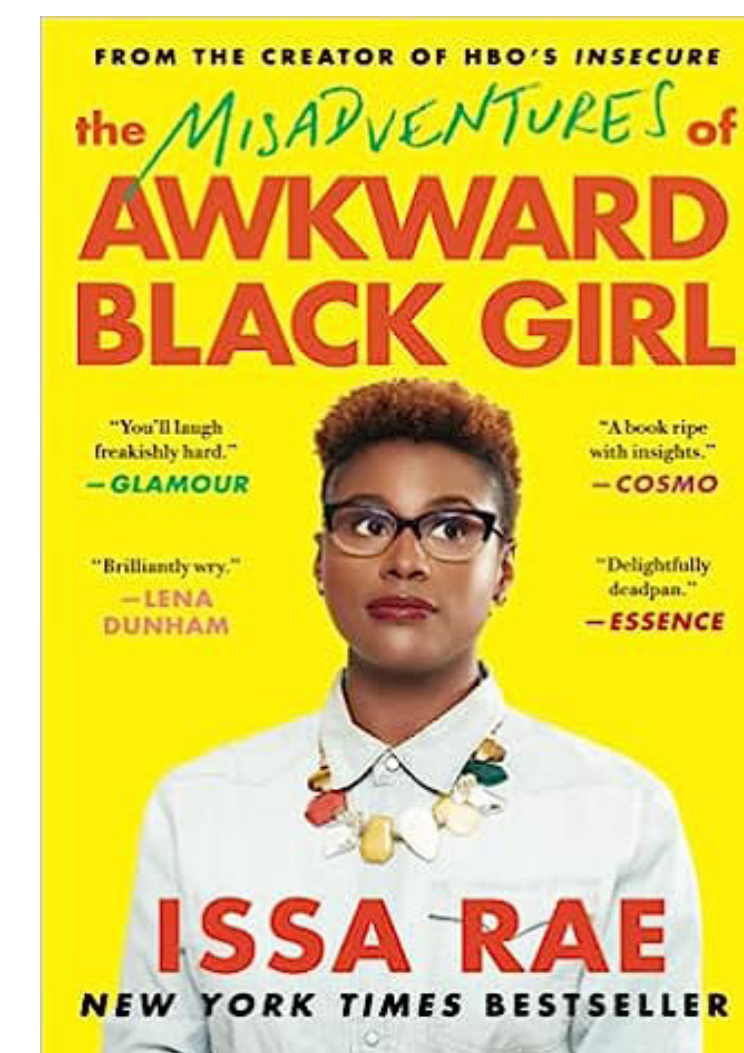
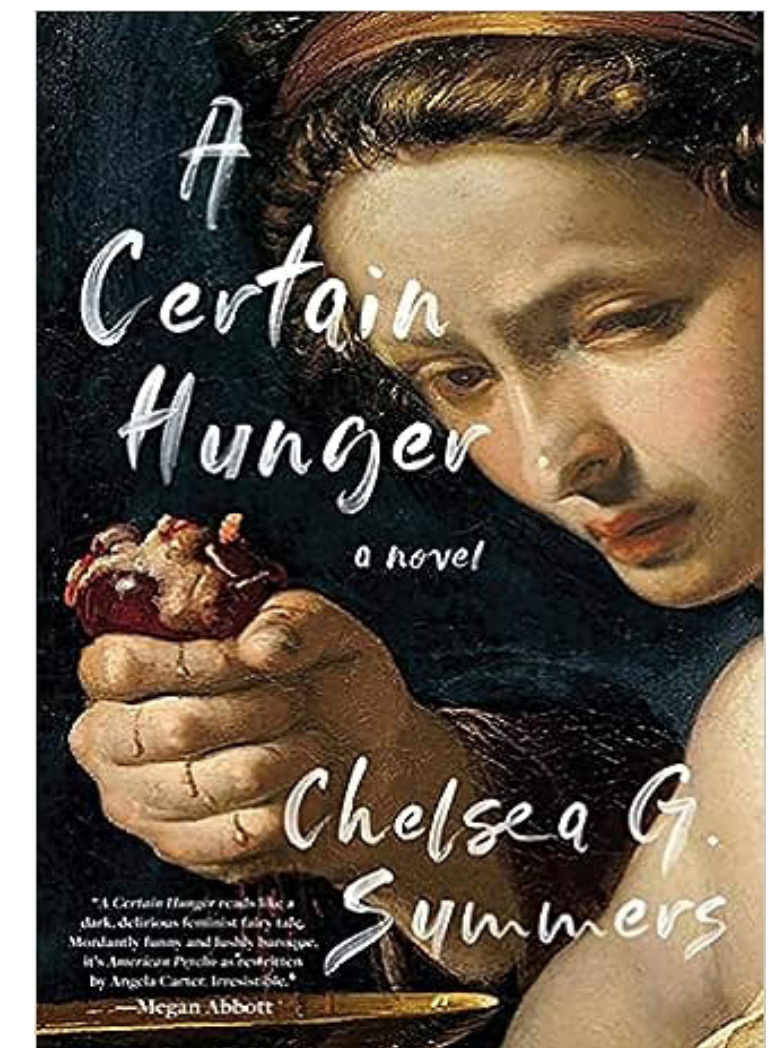
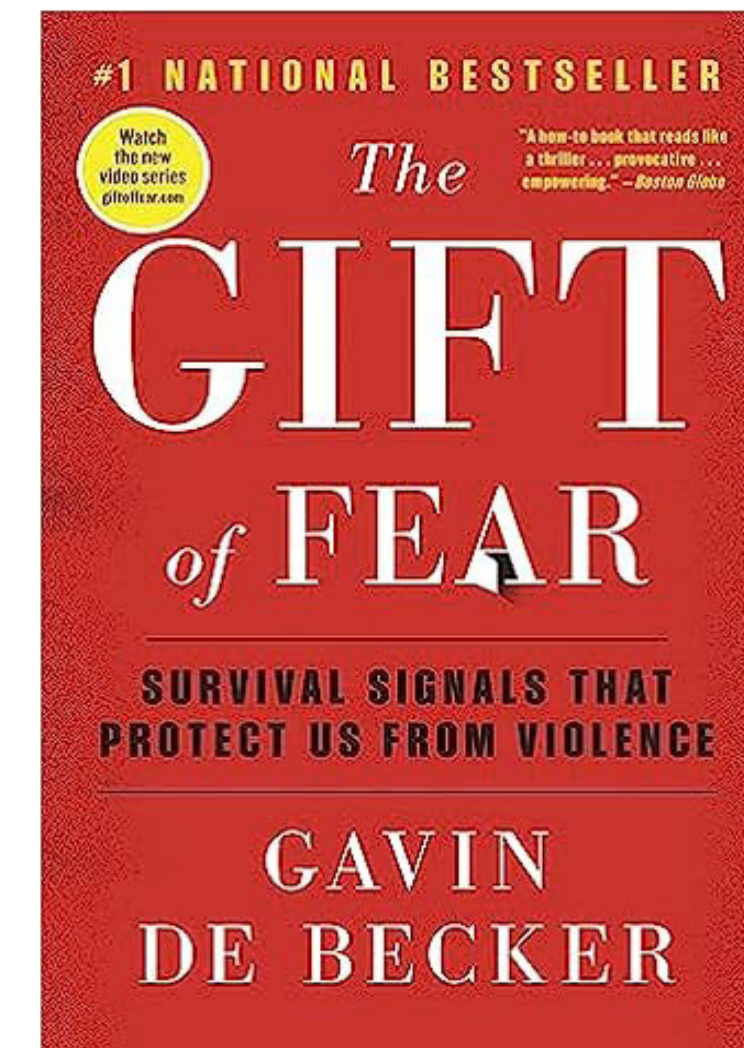
Moderated by: Lena Ba-Ndiaye and Haya Lakhani
Wednesdays at 5:00 pm Cate 1 RM 217, for 5 weeks

Get ready for an exciting adventure with "A Certain Hunger" by Chelsea G. Summers! This thought-provoking novel challenges societal norms of femininity and dives into the complexities of female identity through a dark and twisted plot. Follow the story of a female food critic who leads a secret life as a serial killer and explore the nuanced themes related to gender and society that this book has to offer.

Klara and the Sun

Moderated by: Corinne Bell and Josiah Morgan
Wednesdays at 6:00 pm DLB RM 182, for 7 weeks

From her place in the store, Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her, but when the possibility emerged that her circumstances may change forever, Klara is warned not to invest too much in the promises of humans. In Klara and the Sun, Kazuo Ishiguro looks at our rapidly changing modern world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator to explore a fundamental question: what does it mean to love?



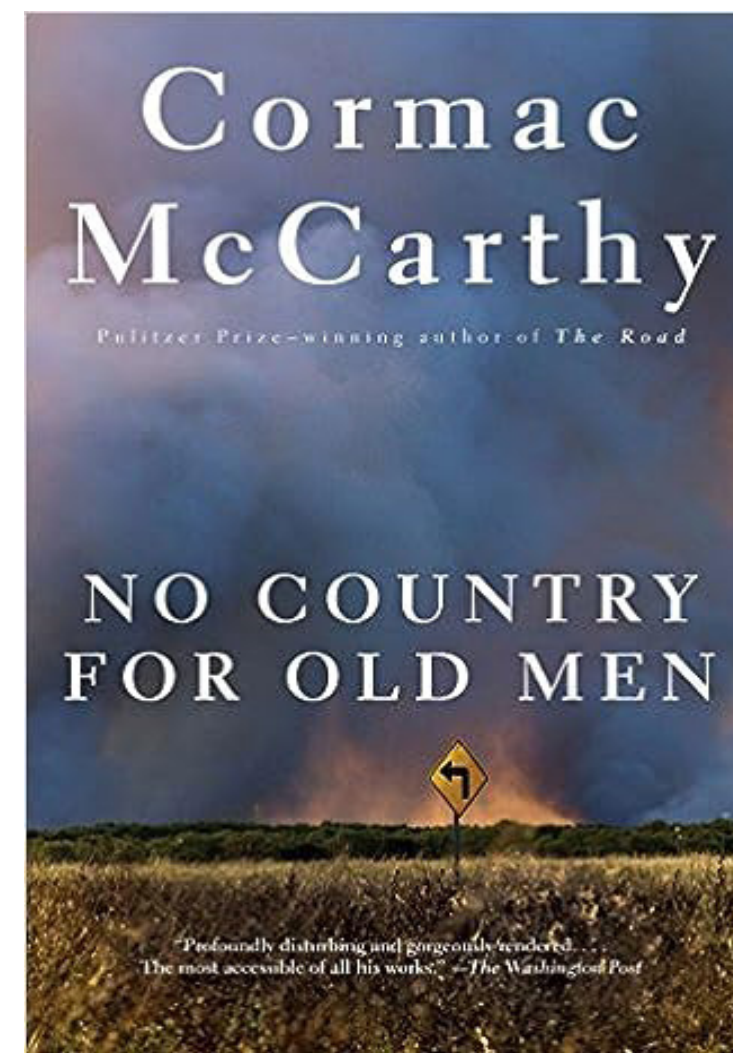
Thursday Groups

No Country for Old Men

Moderated by: Teddy Winter

Thursdays at 11:00 am, Cate 1 RM 214, for 12 weeks

2.4 million dollars. That's what Llewelyn Moss stumbles upon. Life-changing money, just not in the way Moss expected. As he takes the money, Moss realizes he's stumbled into something deadly as he ignites a chase across Texas, being followed by a merciless killer as well as a moral peacekeeper. Set under the blistering heat of the rural Texas of the 1980s, this novel is thrilling, fast-paced, and offers a deeper look into themes of morality, life and death, and free will. Whether you're looking for a simple crime thriller or a deeper, more philosophical book. No Country for Old Men has it.

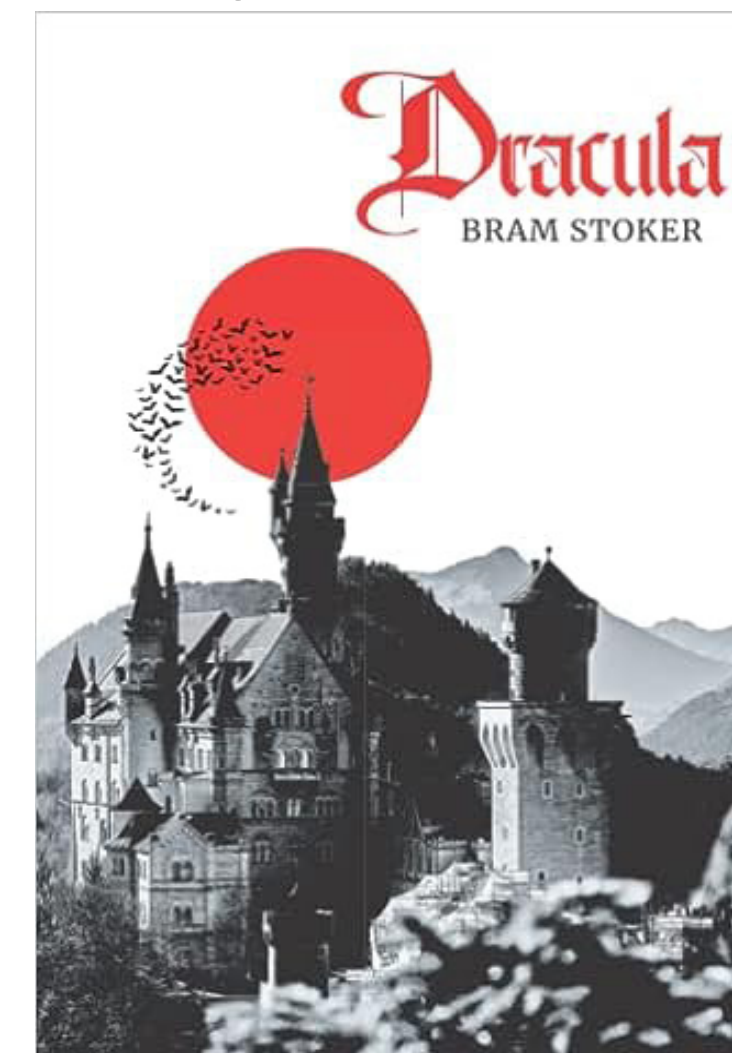


Dracula

Moderated by: Averi J. Bates

Thursdays at 3:30 pm, Cate 1 RM 214, for 8 weeks

Delve into the timeless classic, Dracula by Bram Stoker, and allow yourself to be consumed by the captivating world of gothic horror. Experience the chilling tale of Count Dracula's dark reign as you journey through a narrative that is equally suspenseful, supernatural, and haunting. Set against the backdrop of the late 19th century, this gothic masterpiece transports you to the mysterious landscapes of Transylvania and the atmospheric streets of Victorian London. Brace yourself for a thrilling exploration of horror, love, and sacrifice that has captivated readers for generations. Join us on this spine-tingling adventure as we unravel the mysteries and horrors that lurk within the pages of this iconic literary work.



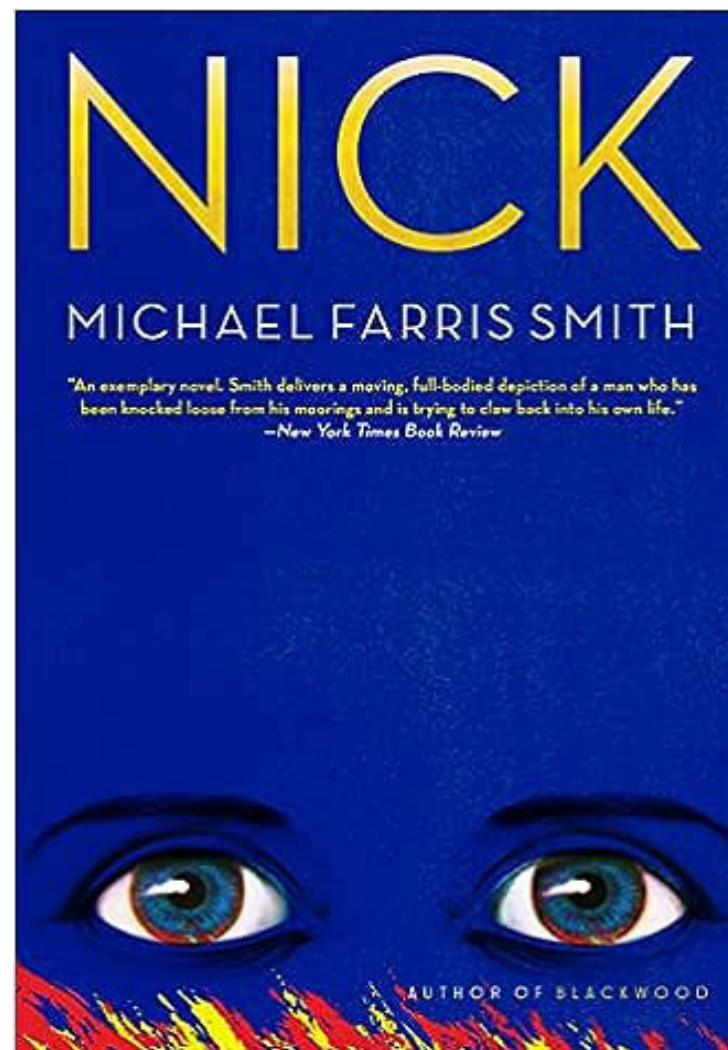
Friday Groups

Nick

Moderated by: Emily Coxsey

Fridays at 1:00 pm, Cate 1 RM 214, for 6 weeks

Before Nick Carraway ever moved to West Egg and met the infamous Jay Gatsby, he was in the middle of a very different story- one taking place in the trenches of World War I. In the wake of the horrors Nick faced, he delays his trip home and begins a journey. One that will take him from a doomed romance in Paris, to the frenzied violence of New Orleans. This is a haunting story that will stay with the reader long after the book is closed. Nick is the story of self discovery that opens the door to the mind of the man behind the narrator who has captivated readers for nearly a century.

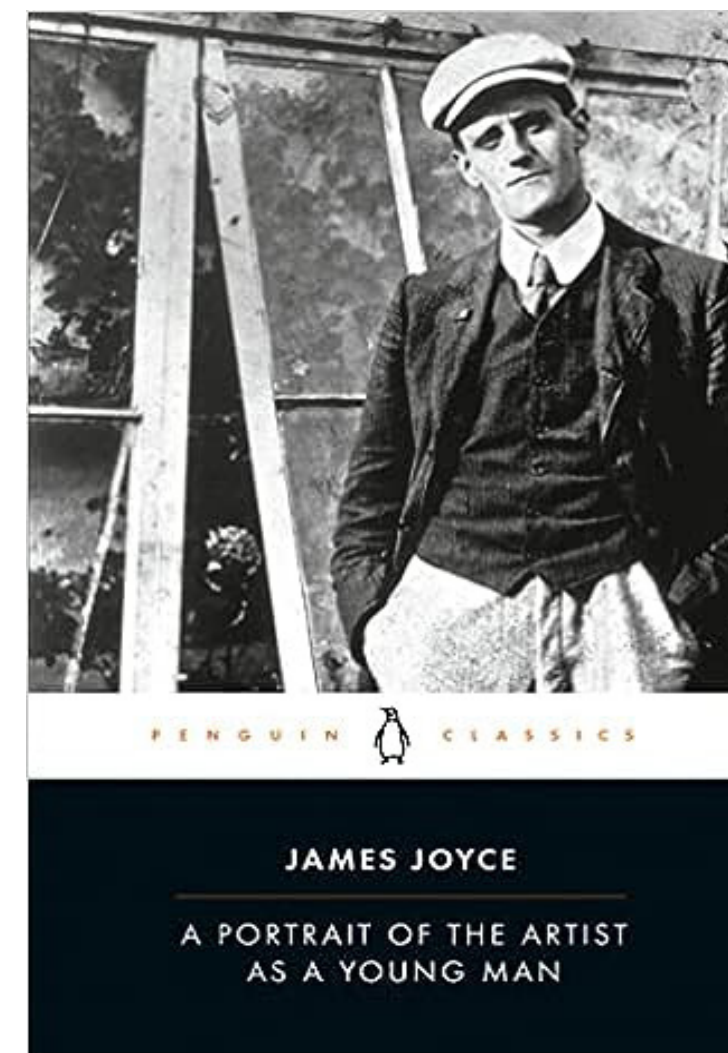


Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

Moderated by: Evan Jones

Fridays at 1:00 pm, DLB RM 182, for 8 weeks

Portrait of the Artist as a Young man follows the protagonist Stephen Daedalus, who represents a young James Joyce. This Künstlerroman is littered with experiences including everything from sexual exploration to religious conversion. Told from the point of view of a young, troubled artist. Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man winds it's way through a deep interrogation of values on a journey of self discovery that is sure to spark intense reflection. Set in late-nineteenth-century Ireland, this novel also features a vivid description of Irish culture and history, providing insight into a truly troubled part of history.

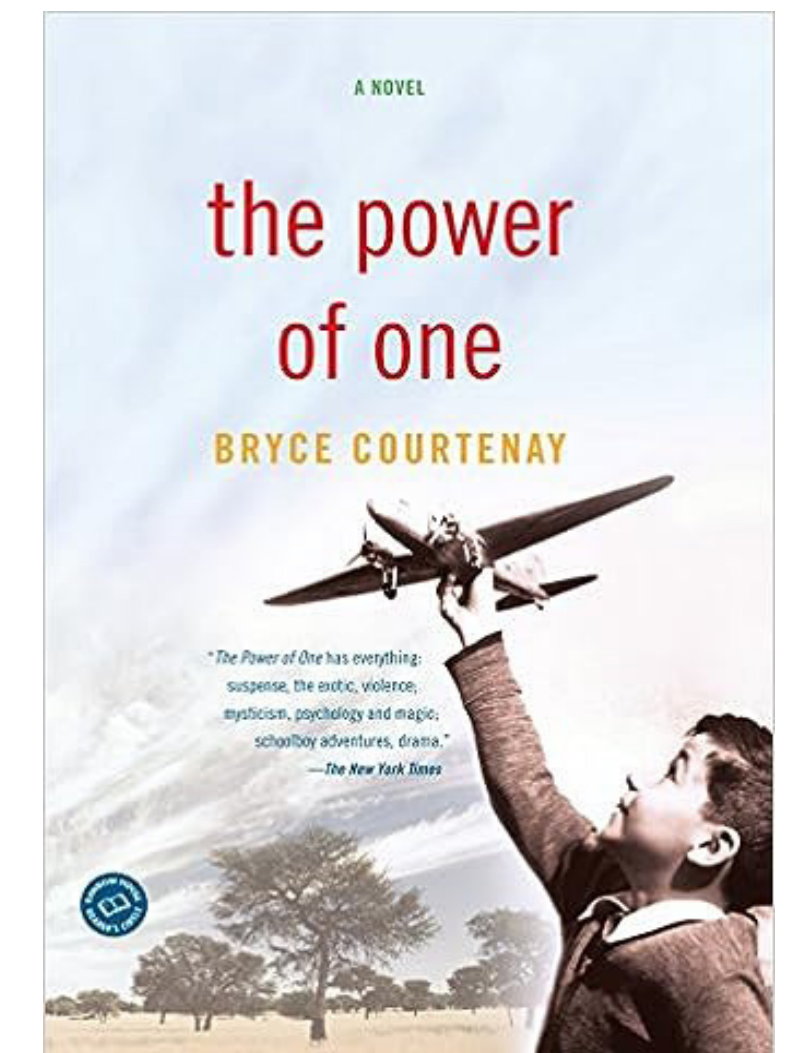


Power of One

Moderated by: Taylor Fleming & Aidan Foreman

Fridays at 3:00 pm, Cate 1 RM 214, for 10 weeks

Set in World War II-era South Africa, The Power of One is a captivating story that follows young Peekay, a precocious aspiring boxer. Through journeys filled with cruelty and loss. Peekay cultivates an unabashedly charming and unbreakable spirit. His story also illuminates the unique cultural context of this region, including the roots of apartheid. You'll love this book if you enjoy heartwarming coming of age stories, witty writing, and a unique cast of characters.



Thanks For Viewing!

