

**Session I**

9/4/18            SW 107            7:15-9pm

The Phenomenological Edition

Muriel Barbery            *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*            | 359 pages  
--Accoutrement: Charles Baudelaire "Meditation"

This enchanting account of an unlikely friendship between a brilliant 12-year-old daughter of a parliamentarian and middle-aged erudite yet 'uneducated' doorwoman is both disarming and strangely empowering. Barbery's work is filled with allusions to literature, art, and philosophy and serves as a perfect springboard for unexpected tangents. Let's see where it takes us!

**\*Session II**

9/25/18            SW 107            6:30-8pm

\*Visiting Author—Karen Joy Fowler

The Animal Edition

Karen Joy Fowler            *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves*            | 322 pages  
--Accoutrement: Charlotte Brontë "On the Death of Anne Brontë"

An excerpt from the book:

*As part of leaving Bloomington for college and my brand new start, I'd made a careful decision to never ever tell anyone about my sister, Fern. Back in those college days I never spoke of her and seldom thought of her. If anyone asked about my family, I admitted to two parents, still married, and one brother, older, who traveled a lot. Not mentioning Fern was first a decision, and later a habit, hard and painful even now to break. Even now, way off in 2012, I can't abide someone else bringing her up. I have to ease into it. I have to choose my moment.*

*Though I was only five when she disappeared from my life, I do remember her. I remember her sharply — her smell and touch, scattered images of her face, her ears, her chin, her eyes. Her arms, her feet, her fingers. But I don't remember her fully, not the way Lowell does.*

*Lowell is my brother's real name.*



**Session VI**

2/19/19                      SW107                      7:15-9pm

Cultural Heritage Edition

Jesmyn Ward                      *Sing, Unburied, Sing*                      | 300 pages

--Accoutrement: Excerpt from Toni Morrison's *Beloved* "We have a ghost in here"

Set in a struggling Mississippi coastal town of Bois Sauvage, Ward's novel traces the stories of two ghosts and the family of a 13-year old named Jojo, as they embark on a road trip to pick up Jojo's father from prison.

**Session VII**

3/12/19                      SW107                      7:15-9pm

The Barely Edition

Andrew Sean Greer                      *Less*                      | 263 pages

--Accoutrement: Mark Doty "Spent"

Arthur Less is "the first homosexual ever to grow old. That is, at least, how he feels at times like these." This year's winner of the Pulitzer Prize, *Less* tells the story of a struggling author on the verge of a mid (or three-quarter) life crisis. And it is strikingly funny.

**Session VIII**

4/9/19                      SW107                      7:15-9pm

The Return Edition

Lisa Ko                      *The Leavers*                      | 338 pages

--Accoutrement: Li-Young Lee "I Ask My Mother to Sing"

Deming Guo, the unwanted son of a Chinese immigrant is sent back to China to live with his grandparents. When he returns to his live with his mother, Polly, in the Bronx, he enters a brand-new family—his mother's boyfriend, his sister and her child. Then Polly disappears and Deming, once again, is displaced.