

Session I

9/24/19 SW 107 7:15-9pm

The Memorial Edition | 1940

Toni Morrison *The Bluest Eye* | 206 pages

--Accoutrement: Excerpt from Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize acceptance speech

Published in 1970, Morrison's debut novel recounts the life of a young African-American girl in a post-Great-Depression Ohio. It is also one of American Library Association's most "challenged" books.

Session II

10/22/19 SW 107 7:15-9pm

The K9 Edition | 2010

*Visiting scholar – Goose Marchalik

Sigrid Nunez *The Friend* | 224 pages

--Accoutrement: Emily Dickinson "A little Dog that wags his tail"

Winner of the 2019 National Book Award, *The Friend* is an exploration of grief, hope, and a friendship that can only exist between a human and a dog.

Goose may or may not be in attendance for this very relevant discussion.



Session III

11/12/19 SW 107 7:15-9pm

The High School Edition | 1980

11/12/19 SW 107 7:15-9pm

Susan Choi *Trust Exercise* | 272 pages

--Accoutrement: Robert Browning "My Last Duchess"

Two freshmen in a performing arts high school fall in love. Filled with drama, on and off the stage, this novel demands both commitment and careful attention. This one will be tough to discuss with a partial read.

Session IV

12/10/19 SW 107 7:15-9pm

The Local Edition | 1990

Dinaw Mengestu *The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears* | 240 pages

--Accoutrement: Sherman Alexie "Gentrification"

Set in Logan Circle, Mengestu's debut novel chronicles the rapid change taking place in Logan Circle and the people affected by those changes. Born in Ethiopia, Mengestu received his BA from Georgetown!

Winter Break

Session V

1/7/20 SW 107 7:15-9pm

The Frontier Edition | 1890

Téa Obreht *Inland* | 384 pages

--Accoutrement: Stephen Crane "A Man Said to the Universe"

After writing *The Tiger's Wife* (winner, Orange Prize; finalist, NBA 2011)—a transformative story of myth, death, family—Téa Obreht spent several years traveling around the southwest to document the beauty and mystique of this vast region of the US. *Inland* is the captivating lesser known story of the American Frontier. It's our longest read of the year, carefully positioned after a long winter break!

Session VI

2/11/20 SW107 7:15-9pm

America As She Is | 1960

Colson Whitehead *The Nickel Boys* | 224

--Accoutrement: Langston Hughes "I, Too"

This is Whitehead's first novel following the publication of his NBA and Pulitzer-Prize-winning novel *The Underground Railroad*. Set in a fictionalized version of the Dozier School for Boys in 1960s Jim Crow Florida, the book chronicles the institution's systematic abuse and atrocities through the eyes of an African American teenager named Elwood Curtis.

Session VII

***Salman Rushdie will be speaking at the Power and Language Conference (Mar 24-26) at Georgetown University**

3/3/20 SW107 7:15-9pm

The Pop Culture Edition | 2010s

Salman Rushdie *Quichotte*

Salman Rushdie is no stranger to fame and controversy. *Midnight's Children* won the Best of the Booker prize twice—an award given to the best book to win the Booker Prize on its 25th and 40th anniversaries. *The Satanic Verses*, a 1988 Booker Prize finalist, resulted in a fatwa calling for Rushdie's death.

In his latest book, Rushdie remain unwaveringly committed to exploring complicated and uncomfortable topics, this time on American soil. From its exploration of the opioid epidemic to the national obsessions with reality TV, this modern retelling of *Don Quixote* is guaranteed to take us on a wild ride.

Session VIII

***Visiting Author: Matt McCarthy**

4/14/20 SW107 7:15-9pm

The Unreliable Edition | 1920

F Scott Fitzgerald *The Great Gatsby* | 180 pages

--Accoutrement: Robert Herrick "To the Virgins to Make Much of Time"

This session will serve as proof of concept: reading together in medical school > reading sparknotes in high school.