

Reading remains one of life's great pleasures and an important means of broadening our horizons of knowledge and experience. This list includes books of diverse cultural perspectives for readers with varying interests and abilities. Enjoy your reading discoveries. All students must read **FOUR** books from the list, including the selection required for a particular course.

You may read the books in any order and at any time; however, we recommend you choose and enjoy one book in June, choose and enjoy the second and third in July, and **then complete the required reading for your grade level or senior elective in August. You must bring the required annotated book with you to campus at the start of the fall term.**

Electronic texts are permissible. Feel free to read a translated work in the original language. If, for any reason, you cannot obtain the required book online or from your local bookstore or library, please call Deerfield's Campus Store (Hitchcock House) at 413-774-1513 to arrange a shipment. For assistance, you can also email caustin@deerfield.edu.

Required Book

The Craft of College Writing:

Future Shock:

Heroes Fall:

Mystery, Madness, and Lies:

Poetry Now!:

Poetry Workshop:

King, Steven. **On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft**

St. John Mandel, Emily. **Station Eleven**

Sophocles. **The Oedipus Cycle** (Fitts and Fitzgerald trans. Read 3-81; 189-245)

Christie, Agatha. **Witness for the Prosecution & Other Stories**

Christensen, Inger. **alphabet**

Read a collection of poetry, a single volume written by one author, published in the last 20 years. You may choose one from this list or choose on your own. Bring it to the first class and be prepared to speak and write about it. Millner, Maggie. **Couplets: A Love Story**

Donish, Cass. **Your Dazzling Death**

Killebrew, Paul. **Impersonal Rainbow and The Bisexual Purge**

Price, Karisma. **I'm Always So Serious**

River and Rock:

The Empire Writes Back:

Think Slow: Contemporary Readings:

Today's Literary Landscape

Fedarko, Kevin. **The Emerald Mile** (Read 1- 138)

Shamsie, Kamila. **Home Fire: A Novel**

Ferrante, Elena. **The Lost Daughter**

Holsinger, Bruce. **Culpability** (Read 1-245)

Choose Three

Akbar, Kaveh. **Martyr** Art, poetry, and a search for meaning after loss and addiction shape this celebrated debut novel.

Akhtar, Ayad. **Homeland Elegies** An insightful novel about Muslim immigrants and their families experiencing post-2016 America.

Barr, Damian. **You Will Be Safe Here** Two mothers in South Africa—a century apart—commit to saving their sons from the forces confining the boys.

Bringley, Patrick. **All the Beauty in the World** Enjoy the masterpieces of the Metropolitan Museum of Art through the words of a gallery guard with an eye for the sublime.

Calvino, Italo. **Invisible Cities** In beautiful prose, Calvino's Marco Polo explores philosophical positions and describes imaginary cities.

Camus, Albert. **The Plague** Still timely, this existential novel studies the human condition and its meaning in the face of a deadly virus that sweeps through Algiers.

Catton, Eleanor. **Birnam Wood** Will environmentalists and a billionaire really create a utopian outpost in New Zealand?

Cusk, Rachel. **Outline** This inventive novel is the first in a trilogy that follows a British novelist's experience of being a woman in the world of contemporary literature.

Danticat, Edwidge. **The Dew Breaker** A Haitian woman traveling to Florida from New York with her father learns the truth about his life and work in Haiti under the Duvalier dictatorship.

Davies, Peter Ho. **The Fortunes** Chinese American families strive to repair lives fractured or frayed by their immigrant experiences.

Doerr, Anthony. **Cloud Cuckoo Land** Ancient times and future days intersect in this novel full of marvels and compassion.

El Akkad, Omar. **What Strange Paradise** A lonely girl on a Greek island decides to protect a refugee boy pursued by the authorities.

Ellison, Ralph. **Invisible Man** Nameless, yet real, Ellison's African American protagonist journeys from the rural South to Harlem, discovering himself and his invisibility.

Engel, Patricia. **Infinite Country** Colombian immigrants in the United States struggle against the forces aligned against them.

Erdrich, Louise. **Tracks** Native Americans in North Dakota struggle to sustain tribal land, life, and trust.

Erpenbeck, Jenny. **Go, Went, Gone** A retired classics professor in Germany finds a new field of study that awakens his compassion—the plight of African refugees in Europe.

Fedarko, Kevin. **A Walk in the Park** Embrace the challenge of experiencing the length of the Grand Canyon on foot.

Ferrante, Elena. **My Brilliant Friend** First in a quartet of novels tracking a friendship between two women in Naples.

Galgut, Damon. **The Promise** A white family struggles to come to terms with the new realities of post-apartheid South Africa.

Gyasi, Yaa. **Transcendent Kingdom** A Ghanaian family tries to draw upon new roots in Alabama.

Hall, Steven. **The Raw Shark Texts** Why can't Eric Sanderson remember his past? Is it a shark pursuing him? Hargrave, Kiran Millwood. **The Mercies** Historical fiction and witchcraft intertwine in this novel about a Norwegian village where all the men have died.

Harvey, Samantha. **Orbital** Go round and round the planet on single day in the company of space station astronauts.

Keefe, Patrick Radden. **Say Nothing** Follow the slow unraveling of a murder mystery rooted in the Troubles in Northern Ireland

Khong, Rachel. **Real Americans** A multigenerational novel that deals with contemporary issues of technology and asks what defines us.

Kleeman, Alexandra. **Something New Under the Sun** As California struggles with drought and wildfires, a shadowy corporation sells a brand of water that creates strange effects.

Kolbert, Elizabeth. **The Sixth Extinction** Kolbert's reporting may alter the way you see climate change.

Krakauer, Jon. **Missoula** A journalist exposes the truth about the way one college handled sexual assaults on campus.

Kuang, R.F. **Yellowface** One novelist publishes another's work under her name and faces the consequences of that appropriation.

Lalami, Laila. **The Other Americans** The murder of an immigrant in California strains a family's bonds and reveals the divisions in the nation's culture.

Lynch, Paul. **Prophet Song** An autocratic government takes over in Ireland, leaving families on their own to survive the terrors inflicted by the secret police who sweep citizens away in the dark of night.

Macdonald, Helen. **H is for Hawk** Wrought by grief over her father's death, a woman finds relief in the fierce grace of a goshawk.

Mason, Daniel. **North Woods** In a variety of styles and genres, Mason tells the story of a single plot of land and its inhabitants across centuries.

Mbue, Imbolo. **How Beautiful We Were** An African community takes on a multinational oil company poisoning the water and land.

McCann, Colum. **Apeirogon** Building on the image of a shape with an infinite number of sides, the novelist constructs a fascinating design that reveals new angles of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Millet, Lydia. **A Children's Bible** While their parents party on vacation, a group of young people confront the reality of climate change and social breakdown.

Millner, Maggie. **Couplets: A Love Story** Savor this complex polyamorous love story written in beautiful verse.

Okparanta, Chinelo. **Happiness, Like Water** Whether in their native Nigeria or new homes in the United States, strong men and women strive to draw on their cultural bonds.

Phillips, Julia. **Disappearing Earth** The mystery of two girls who go missing in Kamchatka unfolds through the voices of a number of women whose lives are altered by the disappearances.

Powers, Richard. **Bewilderment** Mourning the loss of a loved one and facing a planet in peril, a father and son search for new ways of being in and of seeing the world.

Proulx, Annie. **Fen, Bog and Swamp** Exactly what it sounds like: nonfiction about those sludgy transitional zones that are not quite land, not quite water. Proulx makes the mundane beautiful.

Rooney, Sally. **Normal People** Two young people from the same Irish town experience the complexities of friendship.

Shamsie, Kamila. **Home Fire** How might Sophocles' *Antigone*, a play about a clash between the state and the individual, unfold in modern-day London?

Smith, Zadie. **On Beauty** Race, class, and gender clash on a college campus where life's complications—and beauty—ultimately emerge. A nice companion to E.M. Forster's *Howards End*.

Solnit, Rebecca. **Men Explain Things to Me** Brilliant and sometimes comic essays on the gender wars.

St. John Mandel, Emily. **Sea of Tranquility** A touching story of love and loss unfolds across time and space.

Towles, Amor. **A Gentleman in Moscow** Reside with Count Rostov, who spends 30 eventful years under house arrest inside the Metropol Hotel as the world outside spins forward.

Urrea, Luis Alberto. **The House of Broken Angels** A Mexican American family celebrates its history during a memorable weekend.

Vaillant, John. **Fire Weather** If you are a climate change skeptic, this nonfiction account of a massive wildfire in Alberta, Canada, may change your mind.

Vuong, Ocean. **On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous** The poet pens a lyrical novel in which a son details a journey of self-discovery to his Vietnamese mother who cannot read.

Walters, Jess. **So Far Gone** A comedic caper tracking a former environmental journalist estranged from his family who must try to rescue his grandchildren kidnapped by a cult.

Wilkerson, Charmaine. **Black Cake** Will two estranged siblings learn to appreciate the recipe for a Caribbean black cake that becomes their inheritance?

Wilkerson, Isabel. **The Warmth of Other Suns** Recounting the lives of three families, Wilkerson traces the great migration northward by African Americans through the middle of the 20th century.

Wray, John. **Godsend** A California woman seeking purpose goes to Afghanistan and finds herself unprepared for life as a jihadist.

Yu, Charles. **Interior Chinatown** Willis Wu wants to be more than a prop or a type in the screenplay that reveals his life.