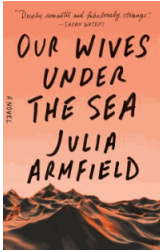


Summer 2023  
Reading List for Faculty and Staff  
Fiction



**Armfield, Julia. Our Wives Under the Sea, 2022.**

Miri thinks she has got her wife back, when Leah finally returns after a deep-sea mission that ended in catastrophe. It soon becomes clear, though, that Leah is not the same. Whatever happened in that vessel, whatever it was they were supposed to be studying before they were stranded on the ocean floor, Leah has brought part of it back with her, onto dry land and into their home.



**Catton, Eleanor. Birnam Wood, 2023.**

The founder of a guerrilla gardening group that plants crops on roadsides, parks, and neglected yards fights an enigmatic billionaire over a parcel of land in the new novel from the Booker Prize-winning author of The Luminaries.



**Díaz, Hernán. Trust, 2022.**

In glamorous 1920s New York City, two characters of sophisticated taste come together. One is a legendary Wall Street tycoon; the other, the brilliant daughter of penniless aristocrats. Steeped in affluence and grandeur, their marriage excites gossip and allows a continued ascent -- all at a moment when the country is undergoing a great transformation.



**Drnaso, Nick. Acting Class, 2022.**

This cerebral graphic novel centers on a group of people in an acting class run by a leader who may be manipulating them psychologically. This circular, winding, and sometimes off-putting story leaves readers questioning reality, life's purpose, and more.



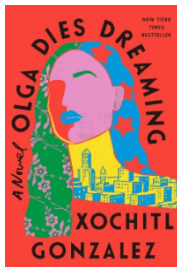
**El-Mohtar, Amal and Max Gladstone. This is How You Lose the Time War, 2020.**

This is a science fiction queer love story unlike any science fiction – and unlike any queer love stories – you may have read before. Among the ashes of a dying world, an agent of the Commandant finds a letter. It reads: Burn before reading. Thus begins an unlikely correspondence between two rival agents hellbent on securing the best possible future for their warring factions. Now, what began as a taunt, a battlefield boast, grows into something more, yet something dangerous.



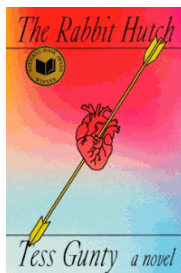
**Glover, Nicole. The Conductors, 2021.**

Hetty Rhodes and her husband, Benjy, were Conductors on the Underground Railroad, ferrying dozens of slaves to freedom with daring, cunning, and magic that draws its power from the constellations. With the war over, those skills find new purpose as they solve mysteries and murders that white authorities would otherwise ignore.



**Gonzalez, Xochitl. Olga Dies Dreaming, 2021.**

Set against the backdrop of New York City in the months surrounding the most devastating hurricane in Puerto Rico's history, this is a story that examines political corruption, familial strife, and the very notion of the American dream--all while asking what it really means to weather a storm.



**Gunty, Tess. The Rabbit Hutch, 2022.**

A woman shares her apartment with three teenage boys she neither likes nor understands, all, like her, now aged out of the state foster care system that has repeatedly failed them, all searching for meaning in their lives. Set over one sweltering week in July and culminating in a bizarre act of violence, this beautiful and funny snapshot of contemporary America is a provocative tale of loneliness and longing, entrapment and, ultimately, freedom.



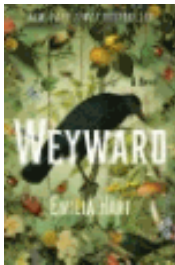
**Hadlow, Janice. The Other Bennet Sister, 2020.**

What if Mary Bennet's life took a different path from that laid out for her in Pride and Prejudice? What if the frustrated intellectual of the Bennet family, the marginalized middle daughter, the plain girl who takes refuge in her books, eventually found the fulfillment enjoyed by her prettier, more confident sisters? Ultimately, Mary's journey is like that taken by every Austen heroine. She learns that she can only expect joy when she has accepted who she really is.



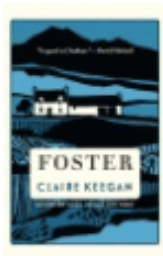
**Harding, Paul. This Other Eden, 2023.**

In 1792, formerly enslaved Benjamin Honey and his Irish wife, Patience, discover an island where they can make a life together. Over a century later, the Honeys' descendants and a diverse group of neighbors are desperately poor, isolated, and often hungry, but nevertheless protected from the hostility awaiting them on the mainland. During the tumultuous summer of 1912, residents of the island come into conflict with the mainland population, leading to major disruptions of their protected community.



**Hart, Emilia. Wayward, 2023.**

Told over five centuries through three connected women, this riveting novel follows Kate, in 2019, as she seeks refuge in Weyward Cottage; Altha, in 1619, as she uses her powers to maintain her freedom; and Violet, in 1942, as she searches for the truth about her mother's death.



**Keegan, Claire. Foster, 2022.**

It is a hot summer in rural Ireland. A child is taken by her father to live with relatives on a farm, not knowing when or if she will be brought home again. In the Kinsellas' house, she finds an affection and warmth she has not known and slowly, in their care, begins to blossom. But there is something unspoken in this new household – where everything is so well tended to – and this summer must soon come to an end. .



**Kingfisher, T. Nettle and Bone, 2023.**

This isn't a fairytale where the princess marries a prince. It's one where she kills him. After years of seeing her sisters suffer at the hands of an abusive prince, Marra has finally realized that no one is coming to their rescue. No one, except for Marra herself. Seeking help from a powerful gravewitch, Marra is offered the tools to kill a prince – if she can complete three impossible tasks.



**Kingsolver, Barbara. Demon Copperhead, 2022.**

In this spin-off of David Copperfield, the teenage son of an Appalachian single mother who dies when he is eleven uses his good looks, wit, and instincts to survive foster care, child labor, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses.



**Kuang, R. F. Yellowface, 2023.**

After the death of her literary rival in a freak accident, author June Hayward steals her just-finished masterpiece, sending it to her agent as her own work. As emerging evidence threatens her success, she discovers how far she'll go to keep what she thinks she deserves.



**Lamb, Sacha. When the Angels Left the Old Country, 2022.**

In a shtetl too small to warrant its own name, an angel and a demon argue Talmud together, wrapping themselves in the comfort of each other's minds. Centuries pass. Pogroms graduate into even darker territory. One day, they raise their heads and learn that Essie, a shtetl daughter, has disappeared in America. Each, for their own reasons, resolve to rescue her.



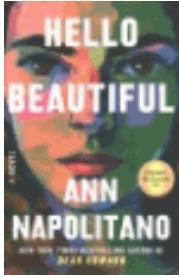
**Link, Kelly. White Cat, Black Dog, 2023.**

Inspired by the Brothers Grimm, 17th-century French lore, and Scottish ballads, this clever collection of reinvented fairy tales expertly blends realism and the speculative as characters hunt for love, connection, revenge or their own sense of purpose.



**Malhotra, Aanchal. The Book of Everlasting Things, 2022.**

A sweeping debut novel about a Hindu perfumer and a Muslim calligrapher, who fall in love against the backdrop of Partition. Lush, sensuous, and deeply romantic, this is a story of two lovers and two nations, split apart by forces beyond their control, yet bound by love and memory.



**Napolitano, Ann. Hello Beautiful, 2023.**

Damaged by his neglected childhood, William finds refuge in basketball and escapes his family through a college scholarship. At Northwestern, he meets Julia, a spirited and ambitious young woman who surprises William with her appreciation of his quiet steadiness. With Julia comes her family; she is inseparable from her three younger sisters. When darkness from William's past surfaces, jeopardizing not only Julia's carefully orchestrated plans for their future, but the sisters' unshakeable loyalty to one another, the result is a catastrophic family rift that changes their lives for generations.



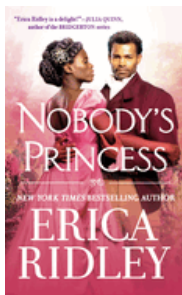
**Nunez, Sigrid. The Friend, 2018.**

Becoming the guardian of her late best friend's enormous Great Dane, a grieving woman is evicted from her no-pets apartment and forges a deep bond with the equally distraught animal in ways that initially disturb her friends.



**O'Nan, Stewart. Ocean State, 2022.**

In the first line of Ocean State, we learn that a high school student was murdered, and we find out who did it. The story that unfolds from there with incredible momentum is thus one of the build-up to and fall-out from the murder, told through the alternating perspectives of the four women at its heart: Angel, the murderer; Angel's younger sister, Marie; Carol, their mother; and Birdy, the victim.

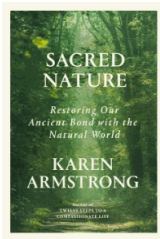


**Ridley, Erica. Nobody's Princess, 2022.**

Nothing happens in London without Graham Wynchester knowing. His massive collection of intelligence is invaluable to his family's mission of aiding those most in need. So when he deciphers a series of coded messages in the scandal sheets, Graham's convinced he must come to a royal's rescue. But his quarry turns out not to be a princess at all. The captivating Kunigunde de Heusch is anything but a damsel in distress, and the last thing she wants is Graham's help.

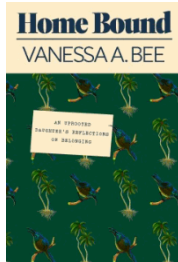


## Non-Fiction



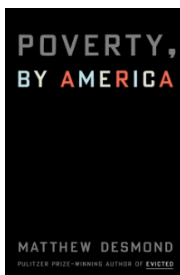
**Armstrong, Karen. Sacred Nature: Restoring Our Ancient Bond with the Natural World, 2022.**

A best-selling historian of religion, drawing on her vast knowledge of the world's religious traditions, describes nature's central place in spirituality across the centuries, showing modern readers how to rediscover nature's potency and form a connection to something greater than ourselves.



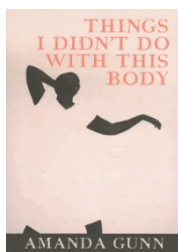
**Bee, Vanessa. Home Bound: an Uprooted Daughter's Reflections on Belonging, 2022.**

A multifaceted global memoir reflecting on Bee's adoption from Cameroon, her childhood experiences with public housing and homelessness in rural France, Lyon, and London, her immigration as a teen to Nevada, and eventually rethinking her devotion to evangelical Christianity at Harvard Law. She touches on constructions of home, and the issues of identity that can complicate it, including class, race, education, faith, and nationality.



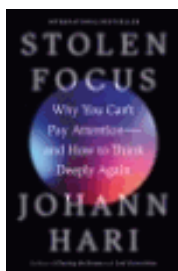
**Desmond, Matthew. Poverty, by America, 2023.**

Why does this land of plenty allow one in every eight of its children to go without basic necessities, permit scores of its citizens to live and die on the streets, and authorize its corporations to pay poverty wages? Sociologist Matthew Desmond draws on history, research, and original reporting to show how affluent Americans knowingly and unknowingly keep poor people poor.



**Gunn, Amanda. Things I Didn't Do with This Body, 2023.**

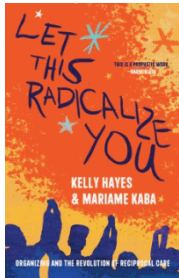
Told in six parts, this direct, honest, and multifaceted collection of poetry spotlights explorations and reflections on intergenerational history, Blackness, memory, and connections to family, self, and one's body.



**Hari, Johann. Stolen Focus: Why You Can't Pay Attention--and How to Think Deeply Again, 2022.**

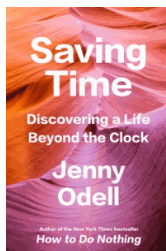
Author Hari was finding it much harder to focus than he used to. He found that a life of constantly switching from device to device, from tab to tab, is diminishing and depressing. He tried all sorts of self-help solutions, but in the long-term, nothing seemed to work. So Hari went on an epic journey across the world to interview the leading experts on human attention and to

study their scientific findings--and learned that everything we think we know about this crisis is wrong.



**Hayes, Kelly E. and Mariame Kaba. Let this Radicalize You: Organizing and the Revolution of Reciprocal Care, 2023.**

This collection of writings is presented as a guide for people who are new to organizing. It is filled with questions, reflections, frameworks, and wisdom gained through experience, like "*Everything worthwhile is done with other people.*"



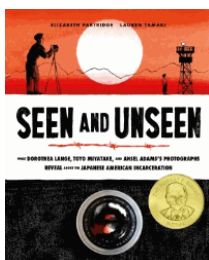
**Odell, Jennifer. Saving Time: Discovering a Life Beyond the Clock, 2023.**

In this thought-provoking, deeply hopeful reframing of time, the author takes us on a journey through other temporal habitats, urging us to become stewards of different rhythms of life, to imagine an existence, identity and source of meaning outside the world of work and profit.



**Osmundson, Joseph. Virology: Essays for the Living, the Dead, and the Small Things in Between, 2022.**

Osmundson brings readers under the microscope to understand the structure and mechanics of viruses and to examine how viruses like HIV and COVID-19 have redefined daily life. He builds on the work of activists and thinkers at the forefront of the HIV/AIDS crisis and navigates the intricacies of risk reduction, drawing parallels between queer theory and hard science.



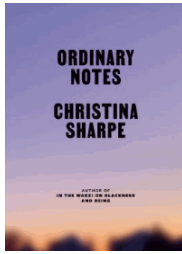
**Partridge, Elizabeth and Lauren Tamaki. Seen and Unseen: What Dorothea Lange, Toyo Miyatake, and Ansel Adams's Photographs Reveal about the Japanese American Incarceration, 2022.**

This visually stunning work of illustrated nonfiction was originally published for young people but has appeal for adult readers. It centers on how artists' decision-making and work can frame understandings (as well as misunderstandings) of reality, history, and justice.



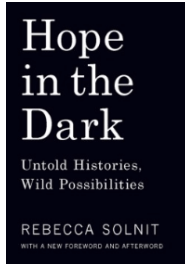
**Perelman, Deborah. Smitten Kitchen Keepers, 2022.**

A collection of essential recipes for meals you'll want to prepare again and again. Here, in her third book, Perelman presents 100 new recipes (plus a few old favorites from her site) that aim to make shopping easier, preparation more practical and enjoyable, and food more reliably delicious for the home cook.



**Sharpe, Christina. Ordinary Notes, 2023.**

Told through a series of 248 notes, this volume explores profound questions about loss and the shapes of Black life that emerge in the wake of it, touching upon such themes as language, beauty, memory, history and literature.



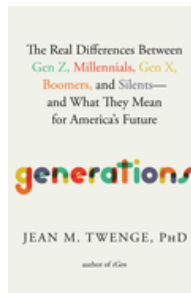
**Solnit, Rebecca. Hope in the Dark, 2016.**

Rebecca Solnit makes a radical case for hope as a commitment to act in a world whose future remains uncertain and unknowable. She argues that radicals have a long, neglected history of transformative victories, and that the positive consequences of our acts are not always immediately seen, directly knowable, or even measurable, but that pessimism and despair rest on an unwarranted confidence about what is going to happen next.



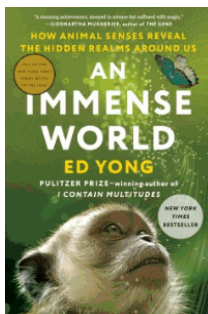
**Solomon, Amy, ed. Notes from the Bathroom Line: Humor, Art, and Low-grade Panic from 150 of the Funniest Women in Comedy , 2021.**

A collection of never-before-seen humor pieces – essays, satire, short stories, poetry, cartoons, artwork, and more – from more than 150 of the biggest female comedians today, curated by Amy Solomon, Lab alum and 2023 graduation speaker.



**Twenge, Jean M. Generations: The Real Difference Between Gen Z, Millennials, Gen X, Boomers, and Silents--And What They Mean for America's Future, 2023.**

The United States is currently home to six generations of people. They have had vastly different life experiences and thus, one assumes, they must have vastly diverging beliefs and behaviors. But what are those differences, what causes them, and how deep do they actually run? Twenge does a deep dive into a treasure trove of long-running, government-funded surveys, and databases to answer these questions.



**Yong, Ed. An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms around Us, 2022.**

Reading this book is like stepping into an alternate universe, as Yong introduces us to the world as it is perceived by other animals. As humans, we primarily use sight and sound to navigate the world, but imagine if smell or electromagnetic pulses or the pressure of air currents provided you with the information you needed to travel, to find food, or to evade enemies. Yong gives us a window into an animal's umwelt, its unique sensory world, and after reading it, it's impossible to see the world in quite the same way again.