

Faculty Book Recommendations for 2015 FWT Reading



Barbara Alfano

- *The Late Mattia Pascal* by Luigi Pirandello. A masterpiece of irony about assumed identities.

Benjamin Anastas

- I've been reading Mark Wunderlich's latest poetry collection *The Earth Avails* for most of the year, dipping in whenever I feel the need for sustenance. Whispering the Wisconsin names (Bootie Schmidt, Wiggy Stuber) is now my favorite form of prayer.
- I can't say enough about Zachary Lazar's novel *I Pity the Poor Immigrant* (also new in 2014). It follows the Jewish gangster Meyer Lansky to Israel and turns him into a figure from the Old Testament.
- Martin Stannard's biography of Muriel Spark (*Muriel Spark: the Biography*) is much better than the usual literary biography, in part because Spark's later life took on all the qualities of a Muriel Spark novel. I've also been re-reading her novels in preparation for a class next term: *The Girls of Slender Means*, *The Ballad Of Peckham Rye* and *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* remain my favorites, but you really can't go wrong with any of them.
- The short stories in Rivka Galchen's new collection *American Innovations* are all "secretly in conversation" with literature from the canon (poems by Keats and Wallace Stevens, stories by Gogol and Borges); they'll amaze you.

Doug Bauer

Fiction

- *The Hired Man* by Aminata Forna

Poetry

- *The Earth Avails* by Mark Wunderlich
- *On the Spectrum of Possible Deaths* by Lucia Perillo
- *Inseminating the Elephant* by Lucia Perillo

Josh Blackwell

- *Let's Talk About Love: Why Other People Have Such Bad Taste* by Carl Wilson
- *Uncreative Writing* by Kenneth Goldsmith
- *The Invention of Craft* by Glenn Adamson

David Bond

- *The Future as Cultural Fact: Essays on the Global Condition* by Arjun Appadurai
- *Behold the Black Caiman: A Chronicle of Ayoreo Life* by Lucas Bessire
- *Theater of Operations: National Security Affect from the Cold War to the War on Terror* by Joe Masco
- *Doubt is their Product: How Industry's Assault on Science Threatens Your Health* by David Michaels
- *Every Twelve Seconds: Industrialized Slaughter and the Politics of Sight* by Timothy Pachirat
- *Insectopedia* by Hugh Raffles
- *Renegade Dreams: Living Through Injury in Gangland Chicago* by Laurence Ralph

Nick Brooke

- *Kill All Your Darlings: Pieces 1990-2005* by Luc Sante

John Bullock

- *Coolidge* by Amity Schlaes
- *The Mirror Maker* by Primo Levi
- *On Language* by William Safire
- *Why Orwell Matters* by Christopher Hitchens
- *The New School: How the Information Age Will Save American Education From Itself* by Glenn Reynolds
- *Crazy U* by Andrew Ferguson. A humorous look at the pathologies of American higher ed, especially the admissions process, from the perspective of a parent.

Akiko Busch

- *The Poetic Species: A Conversation with Edward O. Wilson and Robert Hass* by Edward O. Wilson and Robert Hass

Andrew Cencini

- *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander
- *Cubed: A Secret History of the Workplace* by Nikil Saval
- *Growing Great Garlic* by Ron Engeland

Noah Coburn

A writing memoir, a novel, a zombie textbook, and a journalistic account of anthropologists at war:

- *What I Talk about When I Talk about Running* by Haruki Murakami
- *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khalid Hosseini
- *Theories of International Relations and Zombies* by Daniel Drezner
- *The Tender Soldier: A True Story of Love and Sacrifice* by Vanessa Gezari

Warren Cockerham

- *The Assassination of Fred Hampton: How the FBI and the Chicago Police Murdered a Black Panther* by Jeffery Haus
- *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention* by Manning Marable
- *Prison Notebooks* by Antonio Gramsci
- *The Price of My Soul* by Bernadette Devlin
- *The Wretched of the Earth* by Franz Fanon
- *A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn
- *Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media* by Noam Chomsky
- *The Emancipated Spectator* by Jacques Ranciere
- *The Spectacle of Disintegration: Situationist Passages out of the Twentieth Century* by Mackenzie Wark

Hugh Crowl

- *How I Killed Pluto and Why It Had it Coming* by Mike Brown. A first-hand account of why Pluto isn't a planet anymore from one of the world's top planetary scientists.
- *The City & the City* by China Miéville
- *The Windup Girl* by Paolo Bacigalupi

Annabel Davis-Goff

- *Levels of Life* by Julian Barnes
- *Family Life* by Akhil Sharma
- *The Egoist* by George Meredith

Liz Deschenes

- *From Conceptualism to Feminism: Lucy Lippard's Numbers Shows 1969-74* by Lucy Lippard, Connie Butler, Peter Plagens, and Griselda Pollock

Kathleen Dimmick

- *The Marquise of O* by Heinrich von Kleist

Michael Dumanis

- *The New Testament* by Jericho Brown
- *x* by Dan Chelotti
- *The Poem She Didn't Write and Other Poems* by Olena Kalaytiak Davis
- *If the Tabloids Are True What Are You?* by Matthea Harvey
- *Rome* by Dorothea Lasky
- *Citizen* by Claudia Rankine
- *Trances of the Blast* by Mary Ruefle
- *Collected Poems* by Mark Strand
- *The Earth Avails* by Mark Wunderlich

Camille Guthrie

- *Citizen: An American Lyric* by Claudia Rankine
- *Taste and The Little Book of Terror* by Daisy Rockwell
- *Black Swan Green* by David Mitchell
- *The Children of Men* by P.D. James
- *The Earth Avails* by Mark Wunderlich
- *Fledgling* by Octavia E. Butler

Yoko Inoue

- *Not Nothing: Selected Writings by Ray Johnson, 1954-1994* edited by Elizabeth Buba and Kevin Killian. See [Holland Cotter's review in New York Times](#) and *How to Draw A Bunny* (DVD Documentary 4512)
- *Paprika* by Yasutaka Tsutsui. Science fiction about psychotherapy (with some theory on psychiatric research and Western history and development of the psychology studies included in some chapters!) using a dream monitoring and intervention system. Those who have seen the amazing 2006 animation film *Paprika* by Satoshi Kon (DVD Animation 4077) must read this novel.
- *The Structure of World History: From Modes of Production to Modes of Exchange* by Kojin Karatani. Newly translated book of his 2010 – sekaishi-no-kouzou 世界史の構造

Karatani is a renowned critic, philosopher and theorist, and the author of *Architecture as Metaphor* (隠喩としての建築) A big book (I have not yet finished reading but I went to Karatani's lecture at University of Chicago explaining the core of his thoughts about how the world beyond capitalism would be, a world in which the reciprocity retaining individual freedom) on interconnected world history!

Dina Janis

- *Outside Mullingar* by John Patrick Shanley
- *Lila* by Marilynne Robinson
- *Runaway* by Alice Munro

Robin Kemkes

- *The Bloomsbury Group Memoir Club* by S. P. Rosenbaum and James Haule. Rarely do the worlds of economists and artists overlap, but in the Bloomsbury Group, John Maynard Keynes and Virginia Woolf, among others, share their thoughts on life and work.
- *Ali and Nino: A Love Story* by Kurban Said. A romance between a Georgian and an Azeri set in Baku during the First World War and the Russian Revolution.

Jonathan Kline

- *Landmark* by William Ewing
- *Beijing: Contemporary and Imperial* by Lois Conner
- *Between Construction and Emotion* by Jaromir Funke

Michael Leczinsky

- *The War of Art: Break Through the Blocks and Win Your Inner Creative Battles* by Steven Pressfield
- *Makers: The New Industrial Revolution* by Chris Anderson
- *How Music Works* by David Byrne

Mary Lum

- *Undermining: A Wild Ride Through Land Use, Politics, and Art in the Changing West* by Lucy Lippard
- *can't and won't* by Lydia Davis
- *Journalism* by Joe Sacco - graphic journalism from conflict zones around the world
- *Anyone Telling Anything is Telling That Thing* by Eve Fowler - artist's book
- *The Arrival of Spring* by David Hockney

Katie Montovan

- *The Joy of X* by Steven Strogatz
- *Honeybee Democracy* by Thomas Seeley
- *The Code Book* by Simon Singh

Carol Pal

- *The Untouchable* by John Banville
- *War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy
- *Silent House* by Orhan Pamuk

Mirka Prazak

- *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- *Half of A Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- *The Memory of Love* by Aminatta Forna

Robert Ransick

- *Petroleum Manga: a Project* by Marina Zurkow
- *Hacker Manifesto* by Mackenzie Wark

Sue Rees

- *The Hot Zone: The Terrifying True Story of the Origins of the Ebola Virus* by Richard Preston
- *The Bone Clocks: a Novel* by David Mitchell

Isabel Roche

- *The Story of Land and Sea: A Novel* by Katy Simpson Smith, MFA '13

Jenny Rohn

- *Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame

Noelle Rouxel-Cubberly

- *Ecrits Pour la Parole* by Léonora Miano

Kerry Ryer-Parke

- *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt
- *Birds in Fall* by Brad Kessler
- *Packing for Mars* by Mary Roach
- *Gulp* by Mary Roach
- *Bring Up the Bodies* by Hilary Mantel

Tim Schroeder

- *House of Suns* by Alistair Reynolds
- *Anathem* by Neal Stephenson

Steven Shapiro

- *Totempole* by Sanford Friedman
- *How Paris Became Paris: The Invention of the Modern City* by Joan DeJean
- *A True Novel* by Minae Mizumura
- *10:04* by Ben Lerner
- *The Earth Avails* by Mark Wunderlich

Allen Shawn

Books about lives in literature, philosophy, and music:

- *What Happens Next? Matters of Life and Death* by Douglas Bauer
- *Frank Ramsey (1903-1930): A Sister's Memoir* by Margaret Paul and Gabriele Taylor
- *Boulanger to Stockhausen* by Bálint András Varga

Donald Sherefkin

- *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr

Betsy Sherman

- *Someone* by Alice McDermott
- *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves* by Karen Joy Fowler
- *Longbourn* by Jo Baker

Liz White

- *Bad Feminist: Essays* by Roxanne Gay
- *Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other* by Sherry Turkle
- *Thinking, Fast and Slow* by Daniel Kahneman

Mark Wunderlich

- *Citizen* by Claudia Rankine
- *Madness, Rack, and Honey* by Mary Ruefle
- *Becoming Animal: An Earthly Cosmology* by David Abram
- *Their Lives Like Loaded Guns: Emily Dickinson and Her Family's Feuds* by Lindall Gordon
- *On Immunity: An Inoculation* by Eula Biss
- *From The New World, Poems Selected and New* by Jorie Graham