

2014 Faculty Book Recommendations for FWT Reading



Barbara Alfano

- *The Confessions of Zeno* by Italo Svevo.

A psychological novel, filled with irony

Doug Bauer

- *Pacific* by Tom Drury
- *Bring Up the Bodies* by Hilary Mantel

Kitty Brazelton

- *A Reforming People: Puritanism and the Transformation of Public Life in New England* by David D. Hall

Andrew Cencini

- *The Foxfire Book* by Eliot Wigginton volumes 1-6.

I got hooked on these books of practical Appalachian folklore years ago. Great reading for sitting by the wood stove.

- *A Reverence for Wood* by Eric Sloane.

If you liked the Foxfire books, Eric Sloane's stuff is pretty great too. A friend turned me on to his simple studies of New England country life. Illustrated and a quick read.

- *The C Programming Language* by Brian Kernighan & Dennis Ritchie.

Good fireside reading for anybody interested in learning to program. This is one of the best books ever written on the subject and also one of the easiest to digest. Everybody should learn how to program.

Noah Coburn

Particularly as I try and wrap my head around what is going on in Syria I find the first book which is now a classic by the recently appointed American ambassador to the UN to be a good reminder of the dangers of mass violence, while the next two on a deeply personal and more global scale remind us that violence need not be inevitable.

- *"A Problem from Hell": America and the Age of Genocide* by Samantha Power
- *A Long Walk to Freedom* by Nelson Mandela
- *The Better Angels of our Nature: Why Violence has Declined* by Steven Pinker

Michael Cohen

- *Refiner's Fire* by Mark Halperin
- *The Web and the Rock* by Thomas Wolfe
- *The Razor's Edge* by W. Somerset Maugham
- *Einstein's Rabbi: A Tale of Science and the Soul* by Michael Cohen
- *The Drifters* by James Michener
- *Alexandria Quartet* by Lawrence Durrell
- *Brunelleschi's Dome* by Ross King

Ron Cohen

- *What Happens Next? Matters of Life and Death* by Douglas Bauer
- *Moral Blindness: The Loss of Sensitivity in Liquid Modernity* by Zygmunt Bauman & Leonidas Donskis
- *Moral Tribes: Emotion Reason, and the Gap Between Us and Them* by Joshua Greene
- *No Billionaire Left Behind: Satirical Activism in America* by Angelique Haugerud

Annabel Davis-Goff

- *Vanity Fair* by William Thackeray
- *The Sea* by John Banville

Kathleen Dimmick

- *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery

Michael Dumanis

Fiction and nonfiction:

- *What Happens Next: Matters of Life and Death* by Douglas Bauer
- *Schroder* by Amity Gaige
- *The Flamethrowers* by Rachel Kushner

Poetry:

- *Mule* by Shane McCrae
- *If I Should Say I Have Hope* by Lynn Melnick
- *the true calm keeps biding its story* by Rusty Morrison
- *My Andromeda* by Brenda Shaughnessy
- *How We Light* by Nick Sturm

Mansour Farhang

- *Madness, Rack And Honey: Collected Lectures* by Mary Ruefle
- *My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel* by Ari Shavit

Marguerite Feitlowitz

- *Archangel* by Andrea Barrett
- *El Espiritu de Mis Padres Sigue Subiendo en la Lluvia* by Patricio Pron
- *Entre Nous* by Emanuel Levinas
- *Une Voix Venue D'ailleurs* by Maurice Blanchot

Camille Guthrie

Poetry

- *The Gorgeous Nothings: Emily Dickinson's Envelope Poems* edited by Jen Bervin and Marta Werner

Fiction

- *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* by Shirley Jackson

Literary Criticism

- *S/Z: An Essay* by Roland Barthes. Translated by Richard Miller

Young Adult Fiction

- *Rose Under Fire* by Elizabeth Wein

Picture Book

- *Cecil the Pet Glacier* by Matthea Harvey and Giselle Potter

Sarah Harris

- *Nada* by Carmen Laforet.

The translation in English is also called *Nada*, and the translator is Edith Grossman. It's a bleak but beautifully written portrait of postwar Spain. It's also often called a bildungsroman.

- *Palomar* by Gilbert Hernandez

Susie Ibarra

- *A History of Future Cities* by Daniel Brooks
- *Anthology of Text Scores* by Pauline Oliveros

Dina Janis

- *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena* by Anthony Marra.
- *The House Girl* by Tara Conklin
- *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt
- *The Lowland* by Jhumpa Lahiri.

Mary Lum

- *Archangel* by Andrea Barrett
- *Algerian Chronicles* by Albert Camus
- *The End of the Point* by Elizabeth Graver
- *The Aspen Complex* by Martin Beck
- *Tell It To My Heart: Collected* by Julie Ault

Andrew McIntyre

- *Stars* by James B. Kaler.

If you know a little bit about stars, this is a lovely book to learn more about their astounding variety and complexity. It hits a level in between the usual pop science books, and actual physics textbooks.

- *A Journey into Gravity and Spacetime* (Scientific American Library) by John Archibald Wheeler.

This is another book that hits a level above the generalities of pop science, but not requiring special physics or mathematics knowledge. If you read this, you will really understand something about general relativity and the curvature of space.

- *Unknown Quantity: A Real and Imaginary History of Algebra* by John Derbyshire.

The author is an objectionable human being, so don't buy this book. But you should borrow or steal it, for its rich mix of historical narrative and fascinating mathematical detail.

- *The Ethics of Ambiguity* by Simone de Beauvoir.
Changed my life. Recommended to me by Marilyn LaFay.
- *Secrets of the Blue Cliff Record: Zen Comments by Hakuin and Tenkei* by Thomas Cleary.
Read it slowly.

Erika Mijlin

- *Action Philosophers!* by Fred van Lente and Ryan Dunleavy.

A graphic novel about history's greatest thinkers. (with apologies to your philosophy professors)

- *The Guns of August* by Barbara Tuchman

Barbara Tuchman's classic about the first World War, Pulitzer Prize winner. JFK was a fan, and allegedly considered the book important enough to give copies to his cabinet and military advisers.

- *The Collected Plays of Edward Albee 1978-2003*

Randy Neal

- *Background Noise: Perspectives on Sound Art* by Brandon LaBelle
- *Listening to Noise and Silence: Towards a Philosophy of Sound Art* by Salome Voegelin

Ann Pibal

- *Daybook: The Journal of an Artist Paperback* by Anne Truitt
- *Painting* by Terry R Myers. From the series Whitechapel: Documents of Contemporary Art

Jean Randich

- *The Good Lord Bird* by James McBride

The 2013 National Book Award winner narrated by an escaped slave boy disguised as a girl.

- *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt
- *Men We Reaped* by Jesmyn Ward.

A memoir dealing with history, racism, poverty, and the haunting deaths of young black men, all before the age of 30, in southern Mississippi, told by a woman who had to speak to this loss.

Robert Ransick

- *The Tale of the Unknown Island* by José Saramago
- *Owning Our Future: The Emerging Ownership Revolution* by Marjorie Kelly and David C Korten
- *What Happens Next?: Matters of Life and Death* by Douglas Bauer

Sue Rees

- *Double Cross: The True Story of the D-Day Spies* by Ben Macintyre
- *Sea of Poppies* by Amitav Ghosh
- *River of Smoke* by Amitav Ghosh

Stephen Shapiro

- *Necessary Errors* by Caleb Crain
- *Ten White Geese: A Novel* by Gerbrand Bakker
- *The Gallery* by John Horne Burns
- *My Struggle* by Karl Ove Knausgaard
- *Dreaming in French: The Paris Years of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy, Susan Sontag, and Angela Davis* by Alice Kaplan
- *Amsterdam: A History of the World's Most Liberal City* by Russell Shorto
- *Second Simplicity: New Poetry and Prose, 1991-2011* by Yves Bonnefoy

Allen Shawn

- *The Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro
- *The Unconsoled* by Kazuo Ishiguro
- *Poems New and Collected* by Wislawa Szymborska

Donald Sherefkin

- *Consider the Lobster* by David Foster Wallace

Betsy Sherman

- *Beautiful Ruins* by Jess Walter

Jim Voorhies

- *Inverted World* by Christopher Priest
- *Bas Jan Ader: Death Is Elsewhere* by Alexander Dumbadze.

It is very readable with a narrative about an interesting Dutch artist who died prematurely at sea (mysterious) but produced great art, working in the 1970s.

Mark Wunderlich

- *What Happens Next?: Matters of Life and Death* by Douglas Bauer
- *The Summer Book* by Tove Jansson, translated by Thomas Teal
- *2500 Random Things About Me Too* by Matias Viegner
- *Stay, Illusion* by Lucie Brock-Broido