



The Lawrenceville School

Reading Lists

Summer 2011

The following are lists of required books that all students must read by the start of classes in September 2011. This list includes a “school text” that all students and faculty will read over the summer. Although you will not have to complete assignments in response to these texts by the start of classes, you are expected to have read the texts closely. This would entail underlining, making annotations in the margin of the text, writing down questions prompted by your reading and taking reading notes. In the first week of school, English and History teachers will normally administer quizzes or in-class writing assignments based on the readings. Therefore, it is imperative that the reading be completed prior to the start of school. Please choose any edition of the texts save when the ISBN of an edition is marked. Books are available for purchase at Classbook.com.

Whatever you plan to do this summer, you must find time to read. If you’re not an enthusiastic reader, these summer months give you the chance to develop the habit of reading for pleasure. If you already love to read, you know that you need to read the way you need to eat or breathe, just to sustain yourself and keep your soul beating. Keep a book on your bedside table. Carry a book with you as you travel. In addition to making your mind a more interesting place to live, reading for pleasure will make you a better student in every discipline.

There is also a list of suggested texts to read for pleasure on the Bunn Library homepage at: http://bunlibrary.lawrenceville.org/reading_suggestions/recommended_reading.asp

SCHOOL TEXT

Required reading by **ALL** students (Second- Fifth Forms)

Mark Haddon’s *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*
ISBN - 13:9781400032716

ENGLISH TEXTS

Requirements: The Second, Third, and Fourth forms will read **one** required form-wide book, which will be discussed and examined during the first week of classes in the fall. Each Fifth form elective has its own required summer reading. In addition, you are required to select and read **at least one other book** from the list of recommended books below. When you return to school, you should bring your edition of the required book, with your margin notes, to use as part of a first assignment to be determined by your teacher.

Entering second formers should read J.D. Salinger’s *The Catcher in the Rye*

Entering third formers should read Tim O’Brien’s *The Things They Carried*

Entering fourth formers should read Charles Dickens’ *Great Expectations* (recommended edition Penguin)

In the fall, sections of EN401F read either Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, or Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* or *Persuasion*.

We encourage, but do not require, rising Fourth form students to read one of these novels over the summer. Students planning to take an English AP at the end of the year should read more than one.

Entering fifth formers should consult the list which follows and read the particular book required for the elective courses in which they are enrolled.

Required reading for 500-level courses is specific to each course.

Mr. Atlee's /Mr. Eldridge's **West of Everything**, I and II: *Lonesome Dove* by Larry McMurtry

Ms. Baron's **Style and Expression in Creative Writing** : *If You Want to Write: A Book About Art, Independence, and Spirit* by Brenda Ueland

Mr. Cantlay's **West and the Rest**: *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe (required) *East, West: Stories* by Salman Rushdie

Mr. Cantlay's **Southern Literature**: *Wise Blood* by Flannery O'Connor (required) *The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara

Dr. Cunningham's **Modern Thought and Literature**: *Pere Goriot*. Honore de Balzac.
(Recommended edition: Norton Critical Edition. ISBN: 9780393971668) Also suggested: any book from the under form reading lists that you haven't already read

Mr. Eldridge's **Sovereign Nations**: *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* by Sherman Alexie

Mr. Green berg's **Writing Seminar** (for PGs): *In the Loyal Mountains* by Rick Bass

Mr. Greenberg's **Nature Writing**: *In the Loyal Mountains* by Rick Bass

Mr. Hedberg's **From Freud to the Void**: *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac (required) and *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* by Hunter S. Thompson

Mr. Kane' **Literature of the National Pastime**: *The Boys of Summer* by Roger Kahn

Mrs. Larson's **Ex Nihilo: Postmodern literature**: *Fight Club* by Chuck Palahniuk

Mrs. Larson's **Russian Literature**: *Omon Ra* by Viktor Pelevin

Ms. Lee's **Gender and Literature**: *Herland* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Ms. McKay's **Fiction Seminar**: *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test* by Tom Wolfe

Ms. O'Malley's **Shakespeare's Comedies: Masks We Wear**: *As You Like It* by William Shakespeare

Ms. Perry's **To Speak the Unspeakable: Trauma and the Literary Imagination**: *A Prayer for the Dying* by Stewart Onan

Mrs. Rabin's **Literary Journalism**: *Due to Circumstances Beyond Our Control* by Fred W. Friendly

Mrs. Rabin's **Critical Writing:** *White Noise* by Don DeLillo

Dr. Williams' **Moby Dick:** *Typee* by Herman Melville (required) and *Billy Budd*

Dr. Williams' **African American Literature:** *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison (required) and *Beloved* by Toni Morrison

Your teachers in the English Department look forward to talking with you about your reading and encourage you to share your recommendations so we can improve this list in future. Because our individual taste differs widely, we have each made a few suggestions. We hope you will find something among these recommended titles that works for you. Read as many as you like, but be prepared to talk about at least one when we return to school.

HISTORY

The following are the required texts for history summer reading according to course:

European History and Honors European History

Sobel, Dava *Longitude (soft cover)* ISBN-10: 9780140258790

Euro-Am History I

Davis, Natalie Semon *The Return of Martin Guerre* ISBN-13 : 978-0674766914

"In what significant ways is the world of Martin Guerre different from our own?"

Euro-Am History SECOND

De Toqueville , Alexis *Democracy in America* ISBN-10: 9780140447606
Kramnic, Issac – Editor 2003

US History and Honors US History

Wood, Gordon *The Americanization of Ben Franklin* ISBN-10: 159420019x
What factors led to Franklin's final break with the British in the 1760s?

LANGUAGE

Latin Honors

The following are the required texts for language summer reading according to course:

Fagles. Robert *Vergil's Aeneid* ISBN-13:978 0143106296

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUMMER READING

Champ Atlee

White Noise by Don DeLillo. DeLillo's satire of campus life and of the ecological perils that have replaced the world of the bomb. A very funny and instructive portrait.

A Very Long Engagement by Sebastien Japrisot. A lovely story set in post World War I France in which a crippled young woman sets out to discover the truth behind her fiancé's execution for desertion.

Cities of the Plain by Cormac McCarthy. The final book of the Border Trilogy that includes *All the Pretty Horses* and *The Crossing*, this novel brings together the protagonists from the previous narratives in an often hilarious but ultimately tragic dialogue about the disappearing values of the west.

Danielle Baron

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood. Readers learn what it means to live in the "Republic of Gilead" from our narrator, Offred, a name we learn is bestowed on her by the Republic, and literally means, "Of Fred." In this society, as birth rates have unexplainably fallen, the few fertile women left are assigned posts as "handmaids" to men of the upper classes in a sort of sexual slavery where these women are not simply denied their freedom, but access to money, books — anything that might enable them to break free of this oppression. Disturbing, riveting; gorgeously provocative prose.

The Lords of Discipline by Pat Conroy. Phenomenally entertaining prose. This is the story of a young man, Will, in his senior year at a military academy in the Deep South. He has four friends he would die for and they would do the same for him — and when Will is asked to "look out" for the first black student to ever attend the academy, the strength of their friendship is put to the test. (This is the *only* novel all of my high school friends remember both reading *and* loving.)

The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas. Don't be daunted by the page length; it's one of the best plotted, most beautifully written stories I've ever read. Readers regard it as the greatest revenge tale of all time, but it's so much more: it's a tale of romance, adventure, forgiveness, and redemption.

House of Spirits by Isabel Allende. Who knew that history could be so magical? This novel follows the political rise and fall of a Latin American family during a period of traumatic transformation. A hypnotic tale of epic proportions.

Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand. If you love heroes and are prone to idealizing the individual, this book is for you. Rand is almost universally rejected by academics, philosophers, and educators alike, yet her books have sold over 25 million copies. Does this kind of sales record make something worth reading? No, (e.g. *Twilight*, etc.), but it does provoke the question: what's the big deal? No other fiction author has had this sort of impact on American political thought, and, I would argue, that it's worth reading and using as an ideological lens with which to read other novels, (much in the same way Freud is used.)

The Watchmen by Alan Moore. Philosophy meets action when, at the height of the Cold War, a group of retired vigilantes begin to disappear, one by one—and only Rorschach finds it necessary to discover the source of the murders. A quick, dark read, but one rich enough to return to again and again. How does one save the world when it's difficult enough to survive in it?

The Brutal Language of Love by Alicia Erian. Erian led my first writing workshop, and I remember reading her stories for the first time. They are shockingly honest, dark and hilarious, graphic,

disturbing, and beautiful — captivating stories of inarticulate, intelligent young women who confuse their psychological needs with their physical desires.

David Cantlay

Regeneration by Pat Barker. The first of a trilogy by Barker about World War I and psychotherapy ("the talking cure") and the great soldier-poets Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen and.... So much! A psychologically brilliant, compulsively readable book. Warning: if you read one, you may not be able to stop till you've read 'em all.

An Artist of the Floating World by Kazuo Ishiguro. Japan right after the war...and before the war too, in flashbacks--a quietly moving (and disturbing) account of wrenching change and the struggle to accept responsibility. The INNER things in collision here make the overt violence or dislocation of the war itself seem almost paltry.

True Grit by Charles Portis. A great "Western," yes, but so much more. It's the 1870's, in and near the Indian Territory of what's now eastern Oklahoma. The aged spinster Mattie Ross is one of the great narrative voices in American lit; and she makes that time, that place, live--really live--in all its complexity, ugliness, and glory--as she tells us how she refused, as a young girl, to let her father's murder go unavenged.

The Driftless Area by Tom Drury. Eerie and deadpan both--Iowa as she might well be, perhaps as she should be. As we might wish every place to be. Drury's novels, as one critic put it, are "an entrancing form of midwestern paranormal noir," and nowhere is the noir more entrancing (and more para, less normal, for that matter) than in this novel.

Miranda Christoffersen

Why pretend we're all grown up already? Some of my enduring favorites for summer reading were originally aimed at children but have much to offer good readers of any age. Forget the movie version and try Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials series that starts with *The Golden Compass*. Second formers and others who have read Homer's *Odyssey* will smile frequently as they read Rick Riordan's series about Percy Jackson and the Olympians, especially once they get past the first book, *The Lightning Thief* (again, forget the movie version) and into the second book, *The Sea of Monsters*. If it makes you uncomfortable to read the same books as your 5th grade sibling but you're looking for irreverent allusions and connections to well-known pieces of British Literature, I second Ms. Lee's recommendation that you pick up Jasper Fforde's series about Thursday Next. The series begins with *The Eyre Affair*. If reading Jasper Fforde inspires you to read Charlotte Bronte's original novel, *Jane Eyre*, so much the better. Come talk to me

Christopher Cunningham

Dune by Frank Herbert. Frank Herbert's *Dune* is to science fiction what J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* is to fantasy: a far future that is rich, compelling, fully imagined; a large cast of interesting, complicated characters, including one of the most memorable bad guys of modern literature; a complex plot that includes great battles, political intrigue, love, and religion.

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card. Ender is one of a group of child prodigies taken from their families, thrown together, and trained to be brilliant, deadly fighting machines in a war with distant, incomprehensible aliens. The novel is insightful about the challenges of giftedness and asks provocative questions about the social, personal, and moral consequences of war. Science fiction

may be the best genre for combining big, interesting ideas and engaging plots—both of these books do this well.

One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez tells the epic story of the rise and fall of the Aureliano family and the rise and fall of their small town—and small country—over the course of, yes, one hundred years. The story is funny and strange and sad—any story about people and the passage of time is sad—and Marquez’s prose is poetic and haunting. This is a challenging book (think Joyce, Woolf, Faulkner) but very beautiful—one of favorite books of all time.

The Golden Gate by Vikram Seth. Set in San Francisco in the early 1980s, Seth’s short novel is, at heart, a love story, alternately sad and funny. The plot and characters are compelling, but what makes the novel unforgettable is that the entire thing (including the acknowledgements and table of contents and author bio) is written in verse (specifically, in Onegin sonnets). While that may sound scary and oppressively literary, the reality is that Seth’s language is light and witty—and colloquial and accessible.

The Spy Who Came in from the Cold. John Le Carre. This early novel follows Alec Leamas, a British agent who runs double agents in 1960s Cold War Berlin. Things go wrong. Leamas tries to fix them—to say more would be to ruin the fun. I love Le Carre (and if you like this novel, there are a score more to enjoy) for the beauty of his prose, the complexity of his plots, for his flawed, fallible heroes operating in a fallen, cynical world. Le Carre, like Graham Greene before him, raises the spy novel to the status of literature.

And three more for good measure: *White Teeth* by Zadie Smith, *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy, and *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri.

Blake Eldridge

The Iliad by Homer. No self-pity here. No pity of any kind, only rage and courage (and lot of eloquent speeches in the midst of battle). Learn from Hector what it means to be a hero. Learn from Priam what it means to be a parent.

The Black Flower by Howard Bahr. Bahr gives us an experience of the emotionally desolate Confederacy nearing the end of the Civil War. The protagonists, a wounded Confederate soldier and a nurse, try to make sense of grief, loyalty to a lost cause, and whether love is worth the risk. Bahr’s prose and research are superb.

Joel Greenberg

In The Time Of The Butterflies by Julia Alvarez. This story serves as a challenging primer about courage. The narrative pace and method compels our emotional involvement.

The Amazing Adventures Of Kavalier & Clay by Michael Chabon. The energy in this prose is hypnotic. The story could not be more cleverly imagined.

The Quiet American by Graham Greene. This narrative masterpiece is unequalled in setting, dialogue and tone.

Gus Hedberg

Decline and Fall by Evelyn Waugh. Funny and literary. A great introduction to the English—and the Welsh.

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson. A perfect adventure novel. If not now, you'll never read it.

The Red and the Black by Stendhal. A classic study of the intersection of honor and upward mobility

Chris Hyson

Odd Man Out by Matt McCarthy. A memoir of this Yale graduate's one year spent playing minor league professional baseball in Utah.

Fans of Detective novels and Boston will enjoy any one of the novels in the Robert Parker Spencer series.

The Fall of Frost by Brian Hall. A fascinating novel about the art and life of Robert Frost.

Ron Kane

Trinity by Leon Uris. A gripping novel that re-creates Ireland's struggle for independence. The story of young Catholic rebel who departs a small village in Donegal and enters the dangers of divided Belfast. A story of love, faith and money.

Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha by Roddy Doyle.- The story of a 10 year-old working class boy in 1960's Dublin. A novel that captures the charm, playfulness and cruelty of boyhood. A book that sits comfortably with *Catcher in the Rye* and *Huckleberry Finn*.

The Legend of Bagger Vance by Steven Pressfield. A philosophical fantasy which uses the sport of golf to explore the inner spirit. Fog, storms, howling winds - inside and out

Pier Kooistra

The Brothers Karamazov by Fyodor Dostoevsky (the Pevear-Volokhonsky translation--only the P-V, for its music!): If you're going to stay up all night reading, yet again, or thinking about what you've read, it's best not to have class in the morning.

Rough Crossings by Simon Schama: The stories of Granville Sharp and John Clarkson remind us of the potential for individual acts of conscience to take on seemingly intractable horrors, and as if that weren't enough work for one book to do, the remarkable Prof. Schama also offers an examination of the American war for independence that challenges our assumption that the good guys are the ones wearing blue and the bad guys the fellas in red.

At Swim-Two-Birds by Flann O'Brien: A perfect summer read, frivolous, ridiculous, uproariously imaginative. Life just doesn't provide us with enough opportunities to encounter wild-west scenes on the streets of early-twentieth-century Dublin...or, for that matter, to build SAT vocab while having nothing but fun.

Debra Larson

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens. Dickens sets his magnificent tale of life, love, and sacrifice in the maelstrom of the French Revolution. Stylistically breathtaking, this novel will remind you how powerful and beautiful language can be when masterfully controlled. The tale ends with this line that speaks for Sydney Carton as well as for Dickens's literary achievement: "It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to, than I have ever known."

The Dharma Bums by Jack Kerouac. Published a year after Kerouac's seminal beat novel *On the Road*, this anthem to all the mad monk, Zen lunatic rucksack wanderers threatens to outshine its predecessor. It's actually my favorite text in the Kerouac canon. Thinly disguised as Ray Smith, Kerouac describes his adventures in the Pacific Northwest with Japhy Ryder (Gary Snyder), and by doing so, offers a paean to nature and spirituality.

Stand Before Your God by Paul Watkins. Watkins, who formerly taught at The Lawrenceville School, writes autobiographically of his boarding-school experiences in attending The Dragon School and Eton. If you ever wonder about the power of tradition to uplift or degrade, if you ever think Lawrenceville might still be a "boys' school," this novel will give you plenty of experiences—both funny and sad--to consider.

Caroline Lee

The Boat by Nam Le is a debut collection of short stories. Le fills his stories with compelling characters who are responding to a very complicated world of struggle.

Drown by Junot Diaz is a collection of short stories. Diaz's writing style is raw and exciting. His stories are provocative and edgy.

The Eyre Affair by Jasper Fforde is the first book of this fantasy series featuring literary detective Thursday Next. Fforde creates an interesting intertextual experience as Thursday Next travels into the narrative of *Jane Eyre*.

Deb McKay

On the Road by Jack Kerouac. Archetypal journey of a young man travelling with his friends across the country.

Ariel by Sylvia Plath. Passionate poetry that grabs you and won't let you go.

A Coney Island of the Mind by Lawrence Ferlinghetti. Irresistible poetry of a kindly revolutionary

Katey O'Malley

The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafón. The novel concerns a young boy, Daniel, whose father takes him to the secret Cemetery of Forgotten Books to choose a book for his birthday. Daniel selects a book called *The Shadow of the Wind* and becomes immediately engrossed in the story. When he attempts to look for other books by the author, however, a mysterious figure confronts and threatens Daniel, wanting to take the book from him. Terrified, Daniel returns the book to the Cemetery of Forgotten Books but continues to seek for the elusive author. In doing so, Daniel becomes entangled in an age old conflict that involves love, betrayal, murder, and Daniel himself.

Welcome to the Monkey House by Kurt Vonnegut. A collection of very funny short stories, each making a strong statement/observation about the world in which we live. The stories range from war-time epics to futuristic thrillers, delivered with satire and Vonnegut's unique edge. Many of the tales are inter-twined and convey the same underlying messages on human nature and present society.

The Lady in White by Wilkie Collins. One of the first mystery novels ever written, the story tells the story of a poor art teacher, Walter, who falls in love with one of his students, Laura. Though she loves Walter, she is already engaged to another. They are parted and she marries, but she and her resourceful half-sister, Marian, are then caught up in her new husband's plot to steal her fortune and identity. Throughout the story they encounter a mysterious woman in white, whose own sad story

seems entangled with those of Laura and her husband, and who plays a crucial role in the novel's main events.

Lorry Perry

In high school, I loved the only two fantasy novels I've ever liked: Mark Helprin's *A Winter's Tale*, and Joyce Carol Oates' *Bellefleur*. Helprin's gorgeous novel is set in New York City in the 20th century as it nears Armageddon. This would be a great book for horse lovers, as a huge white horse looms large in this long tome. Oates' novel is the voluptuous and gothic tale of a wealthy and notorious clan that lives someplace very much like the Adirondacks. Even though I grew up in Utah and had never been to the Adirondacks when I read *Bellefleur*, this book made me feel homesick for upstate New York.

The book that first made me think I could be an English teacher was Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita*. Nabokov called it "a firebomb that I have just finished putting together," and it is that. You'll find it filthy, but if you don't also find it tremendously funny, put it down and pick it up again in fifteen years. Get the annotated edition. And then watch both the Kubrick and the Lyne versions of *Lolita*. Both are excellent, though I prefer the Lyne (Nabokov probably would, too, as he wrote the screenplay for the Kubrick and didn't like the way the movie came together). Lyne's *Lolita* is the best film adaptation of a novel that I've ever seen. If you enjoy my favorite book ever, you might also try *House of Meetings* by Martin Amis, which draws explicitly on Nabokov's story.

The Meadow by Jim Galvin, one of my teachers at the University of Iowa. He's primarily a poet, and this is one of his two novels. It's my favorite book about the American West. It's the only book that has ever made my dad cry.

Geek Love by Katherine Dunn is the quiet, creeping horror of a story about a family of circus freaks. I loved this book as a high schooler and it's the book I most give as a gift.

In a Strange Room, by Damon Galgut, is not for the faint of heart, and it's probably the best book I've read in years. Galgut is a South African author who narrates three travel experiences in Africa through a fictional "Damon." The first section has the weirdest narrative propulsion I think I've ever seen, while the last chapter made me sick. Having borrowed the title from a line of Faulkner, this book is gorgeously crafted, and Galgut finds brilliant ways to deal with the distance between the past and the present.

Read anything by George Saunders. Think Pynchon and Vonnegut, ferocious and funny.

Sandra Rabin

White Noise by Don DeLillo, which Champ Atlee has already described to my satisfaction. I only add that, as our students are consummate voyeurs, they love the birds eye view into the world of the faculty.

White Teeth by Zadie Smith. Chris Cunningham has also listed this book. The appeal has been that rare look into contemporary multiculturalism.

A new find is *Gabriel's Story* by David Anthony Durham. It authenticates the complicated and multi-layered experiences of the African-American. "An impressive moral fable from the history and legends of the American West ... The story gallops." -- Time

Personally, I will be re-reading *Memories, Dreams, and Reflections* by Carl Jung in preparation for tackling *The Red Book*, his recently unearthed and published work that is being called, “The Holy Grail of the Unconscious”.

Wilburn Williams

Cane by Jean Toomer (USA, 1923). Before Hemingway became Hemingway, before Faulkner became Faulkner, Toomer was both. This deceptively short gem of a book transgresses genre expectations at every turn. *Cane* resists classification, much like its author. A crazy salad of racial legacies, the fair-skinned, multiracial Toomer could (and at times did) pass for white, yet he wrote his best work during a brief period when he passionately identified with America's despised African minority. Lyrical, violent, sensuous and deeply spiritual, *Cane* enchanted me long before I understood it.

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe (Nigeria, 1958). Fifty years on, it is still one of the best books I have ever read. Camara Laye in *The Radiance of the King* (Republic of Guinea, English translation 1956) presents a richer, more complex Africa in many obvious ways, but Achebe is the master who forever changed, and decisively for the better, the world's perception of Africa.

White Teeth by Zadie Smith (UK, 2000). The funniest novel I've read in the last ten years. Set in contemporary England, this novel explores the entangled lives of three families: the Joneses, a working-class Englishman, his Jamaican wife (a devout Jehovah's Witness), and their bookish daughter; the Iqbals, an immigrant couple from Bangladesh, one of whose sons is drifting from a life of drinking and womanizing to Islamic fundamentalism; and the Chalfens, a Jewish-Catholic family of Oxbridge intellectuals. Smith brings this improbable collection of disparate social types together with a gusto that is breathtaking. Her latest collection of essays, *Changing My Mind* (2009) shows that she also is a first-rate critic, with essays on Franz Kafka, E.M. Forster, Eminem (that's no typo), Graham Greene and Barack Obama that bristle with intelligence. She's so smart my head hurts just thinking about it.

Dr. Williams adds that he finds himself “reading more nonfiction these days, and three books that I've read over the last decade stand out for me: Jared Diamond's *Guns, Germs and Steel : The Fates of Human Societies* (USA, 1997) ranges over 13,000 years of world history and explains, among other things, why Spain conquered Mexico and not Mexico Spain. Diamond's argument is repetitive, but once you're past the introductory material, individual chapters are self-contained. Don't let the book's size put you off.

After its first five chapters, Steven Pinker's *The Blank Slate : The Modern Denial of Human Nature* (USA, 2002) is another big book that comes in self-contained chapters that can be read out of order. Pinker writes with wit and verve to explain the biological roots of human behavior--the nature of human nature.

Charles Mann's *1491: New Revelations of the Americas before Columbus* (USA, 2005) made me throw out the window much of what I'd been taught--and many are *still* taught--about what the New World was like before Columbus' arrival in 1492. You will learn why the domestication of corn must rank as one of the greatest feats of ingenuity in history, and you will marvel at provocative questions like this: Did the Amazon rainforest just grow, or was it *planted*?

**All the above texts should be available online from: Classbook.com, Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble.
If you have any questions regarding the reading lists, please contact
the Academic Dean's office at (609) 895-2057.**