



WHERE *Brilliance* BEGINS

Senior Contemporary Literature Summer Reading

We spend a great deal of time reading classic literature in school. In this class, we have the opportunity to explore new, refreshing, often postmodern texts that may comprise of the literary canon someday. Read the two required books this summer, alongside one contemporary novel of choice (recommendations below). After reading, compose a two-page essay in MLA format defining the terms 'contemporary' and 'postmodern' in your own words. Do not Google the terminology; the composition should be from your perspective. Explain how each novel you've read could fit within the genre. Think outside the box - bigger picture, not just copyright date - as that is a key characteristic of the genre and this class. Bring your essay to the first day of class.

Required:

Evicted (Matthew Desmond)

The Book Thief (Markus Zusak)

Recommended (by author's last name):

Far From the Tree (Robin Benway)

Brain on Fire (Susannah Cahalan)

Ready Player One (Ernest Cline)

White Noise (Don DeLillo)

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao (Junot Diaz)

The Man in the High Castle (Philip K. Dick)

All the Light We Cannot See (Anthony Doerr)

A Visit from the Goon Squad (Jennifer Egan)

Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk (Ben Fountain)

Outliers (Malcolm Gladwell)

Same Kind of Different As Me (Ron Hall)

The Nightingale (Kristin Hannah)

Never Let Me Go (Kazuo Ishiguro)

The Invention of Wings (Sue Monk Kidd)

11/22/63 (Stephen King)

Defending Jacob (William Landay)

The Devil in the White City (Erik Larson)

Concussion (Jeanne Marie Laskas)

We Were Liars (E. Lockhart)

100 Years of Solitude (Gabriel Garcia Marquez)

Cloud Atlas (David Mitchell)

Everything I Never Told You (Celeste Ng)

Born a Crime (Trevor Noah)

The Crying of Lot 49 (Thomas Pynchon)

Atlas Shrugged (Ayn Rand)

Persepolis (Marjane Satrapi)

Me Talk Pretty One Day (David Sedaris)

Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore (Robin Sloan)

The Art of Racing in the Rain (Garth Stein)

Infinite Jest (David Foster Wallace)

Sing, Unburied, Sing (Jesmyn Ward)

The Underground Railroad (Colson Whitehead)

American Street (Ibi Zoboi)