



Eleventh/Twelfth Summer Reading

2018 Fall Trimester: Columbia River Gorge/Portland/Oregon Politics

Possible books to read:

The Lathe of Heaven- Ursula Le Guin- George Orr is a man who discovers he has the peculiar ability to dream things into being -- for better or for worse. In desperation, he consults a psychotherapist who promises to help him -- but who, it soon becomes clear, has his own plans for George and his dreams.

This Side of Home- Renee Watson- Identical twins Nikki and Maya have been on the same page for everything—friends, school, boys and starting off their adult lives at a historically African-American college. But as their neighborhood goes from rough-and-tumble to up-and-coming, suddenly filled with pretty coffee shops and boutiques, Nikki is thrilled while Maya feels like their home is slipping away. Suddenly, the sisters who had always shared everything must confront their dissenting feelings on the importance of their ethnic and cultural identities and, in the process, learn to separate themselves from the long shadow of their identity as twins.

First Fish, First People- The arc of land and water forming the North Pacific Rim is a cut lace work of rivers running to the great ocean. The salmon, sacred to people who lived along the pathways of its journey, once engorged these rivers, but no more. Twelve writers from cultures profoundly based on salmon were asked to write about "the fish of the gods" from both a historical and a contemporary perspective.

Ricochet River- Robin Cody- Set in a fictional Oregon town in the late 1960s, Cody's superlative coming-of-age novel is the story of Wade, Lorna and Jesse--teenagers preparing to break out of their small-town lives. Wade is the local sports hero. Jesse is his friend, a mythical athlete and the Indian kid who applies his own rules to sports and life. And Lorna is Wade's sweetheart who knows there's no hope in Calamus for a bright, independent girl. The river rushes past the town, linking the three friends with their pasts, their plans and the world beyond.

Assignment:

Imagine the Cascades Academy library is expanding and you are being asked to help make the library extra user-friendly. Select and read a book from our suggested summer reading list, and then create a new jacket for your book that would help a curious reader to know if this is a book for them. Include classic book jacket components—a short summary of characters and plot (spoiler alerts allowed), an author bio, and a jacket photo or illustration. Please also include a list of themes to help readers get a feel for what your book is about (to give an example from pop TV culture, “themes” for Game of Thrones could be Coming of Age, Power, Class, Family, Justice, memory...). Be creative and have fun with this assignment, and please don’t recreate an existing jacket—put your own spin on this. Please bring book jackets to class during the first week.