

Emma S. Clark Memorial Library Evening Book Discussion

September 2018–January 2019

The books are selected and facilitated by the participants. Copies will be available at the Circulation Desk to check out on the date preceding the discussion. Please check out on the way to the discussion. Discussions are held on 2nd Wednesdays in the Community Room from 7:30–8:45 p.m., September through June.

September 12

Americanah by Adichie Ngozi Chimamanda

Ifemelu and Obinze are young and in love when they depart military-ruled Nigeria for the West. Beautiful, self-assured Ifemelu heads for America, where despite her academic success, she is forced to grapple for the first time with what it means to be black. Quiet, thoughtful Obinze had hoped to join her, but with post-9/11 America closed to him, he instead plunges into a dangerous, undocumented life in London. 15 years later, they reunite in a newly democratic Nigeria, and reignite their passion—for each other and for their homeland.

October 10

The Leavers by Lisa Ko

One morning, Deming Guo's mother Polly, an undocumented Chinese immigrant, goes to her job at a nail salon and never comes home. Deming is mystified and bereft. Told from the perspectives of both mother and son, the novel explores borders and belonging. Loving and selfish, determined and frightened, Polly is forced to make one heartbreaking choice after another.

November 14

Death Comes for the Archbishop by Willa Cather

Springing from Cather's love for the land and cultures of the American Southwest, this narrative follows Bishop Jean Latour and Father Joseph Vaillant, childhood friends, as they organize the new Roman Catholic diocese of Santa Fe, subsequent to the Mexican War. While seeking to revive the church and build a cathedral in the desert, the clerics face religious corruption, natural adversity, and the loneliness of living in a strange and unforgiving land.

December 12

Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger

Told from Frank Drum's perspective, 40 years later, this novel is moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. "In Frank Drum's journey away from the shores of childhood—a journey from which he can never return—we recognize the heartbreaking price of adulthood and its 'wisdoms,'" wrote Dennis Lehane.

January 8

Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance (memoir)

J. D.'s grandparents, moved north from Kentucky's Appalachia region to Ohio in the hopes of escaping the dreadful poverty around them. They raised a middle-class family, and one of their grandchildren would graduate from Yale Law School. But as the family saga plays out, we learn that J.D.'s grandparents, aunt, uncle, sister, and, most of all, his mother struggled profoundly with the demands of their new middle-class life, never fully escaping the legacy of abuse, alcoholism, poverty, and trauma so characteristic of their part of America. With piercing honesty, Vance shows how he himself still carries around the demons of his chaotic family history.



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