Book Clubs, Spring 2019

**NO FEES.** Just a free book.

**NO GRADES.** Just a commitment to read and attend meetings.

**NO PRESSURE.** Just an opportunity to discuss and learn.

**HOW TO SIGN UP:** Check the list below, and then email Alyssa Dobson (adobso2@lsu.edu) to let her know which club you wish to join. **Deadline to sign up is January 23.** Books will be distributed at the first meeting. Meeting schedules, if not listed below, will be announced at the first meeting. Clubs meet four to seven times and finish well before finals. Again, we provide the book and the moderator; all we ask is that you make a good-faith effort to do the reading and attend the meetings.

**Moderator: Vincent LiCata, Biological Sciences**
**Meetings:** Wednesdays at 7 pm, 200 French House; first meeting 2/6  
**Book:** OPPENHEIMER by Tom Morton-Smith, plus more!

Arty Oppie: J. Robert Oppenheimer in art: We will read aloud (no acting experience required) and discuss the new play OPPENHEIMER by Tom Morton-Smith (fresh from its 2-year Royal Shakespeare Company run in England), and the libretto from John Adams’ opera DOCTOR ATMOT (no singing required), and possibly a few poems about Oppenheimer. This will be an out-loud participatory reading club for these recent artistic treatments of the father of the atomic bomb.

**Moderator: Drew Lamonica Arms, Ogden Honors College**  
**Meetings:** Thursdays at 4:30 pm, 203 French House; first meeting 2/7  
**Book:** Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë

"How a human being could have attempted such a book… is a mystery. It is a compound of vulgar depravity and unnatural horrors." Published in 1847, Wuthering Heights shocked the Victorian world. Now, it’s considered one of the greatest love stories ever told. Some readers (especially high school ones) initially hate it, while others believe Cathy’s "I am Heathcliff" to be the most profoundly romantic declaration ever put to paper. The novel has inspired numerous adaptations, including Kate Bush’s popular song and the Twilight series (it is Bella and Edward’s favorite book). We’ll explore what Emily Brontë’s only novel IS, and why it elicits such strong emotions. We’ll tackle some often overlooked questions: Is Heathcliff a murderer? Is Cathy’s ghost real? Is Lockwood a reliable narrator? If you’ve read Wuthering Heights in high school (perhaps against your will), it’s worth having another look at this brilliantly “strange sort of book.”

**Moderator: Vincent Cellucci, CxC College of Art and Design Coordinator**  
**Meetings:** Wednesdays 2/6, 2/20, 3/20 & Monday 4/8 at 4:30 pm, 104 Design Bldg.  
**Book:** Monument by Natasha Trethewey

Read new and collected poems by former U.S Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize-winning Mississippi-born poet Natasha Trethewey before she visits LSU this Spring! In addition to containing poems related to the Gulf Coast and Katrina, "Monument casts new light on the trauma of our national wounds, our shared history. This is a poet’s remarkable labor to source evidence, persistence, and strength from the past in order to change the very foundation of the vocabulary we use to speak about race, gender, and our collective future." (Amazon description). **BONUS:** Trethewey will read from Monument on January 24 at 4:30 PM in the Hans and Donna Sternberg Salon in the French House.

**Moderator: Brian Snyder, Environmental Sciences**  
**Meetings:** Wednesdays 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27, 3/13, 3/20 at 4:30 pm, 203 French House  
**Book:** The Social Conquest of Earth by E. O. Wilson

E. O. Wilson is one of the preeminent scholars of the past century, and likely the most notable evolutionary biologist since Darwin. In this best-selling and Pulitzer Prize winning work, Wilson addresses three questions: what are we, where did we come from, and where are we going? Wilson frames his answers to these questions in terms of social evolution, the topic that first made him famous among biologists and infamous among sociologists. You may not agree with everything Wilson writes, but he will make you think.
Moderator: Becky Carmichael, CxC Science Coordinator  
Meetings: Tuesdays at 4 pm, 300 French House; first meeting 2/5  
Book: *The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century* by Kirk Wallace Johnson

What do fly-fishing, a flautist, and dead birds have in common? They are the center of the bizarre true-crime story of the missing birds of the Tring, an outpost of the British Natural History Museum. In 2009, a 20-year-old American flautist broke into the Tring, stole almost 300 rare bird specimens for their feathers, and in the process destroyed over 150 years of scientific records. Johnson takes us on a journey about feathers, the history of feather obsessions, and the “destructive instinct to harvest the beauty of nature” in *The Feather Thief*.

Moderator: F. King Alexander, LSU President  
Meetings: Mondays 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25 at 3:30 pm, University Administration Building, 3810 West Lakeshore Drive, President’s Conference Room  
Book: *The Price of Inequality: How Today's Divided Society Endangers Our Future* by Joseph E. Stiglitz

From *Washington Post* review: “Stiglitz writes clearly and provocatively. He’s the kind of economist who can talk about terms such as ‘rent-seeking’ and the ‘euro crisis’ and bring readers along for the ride... Stiglitz isn’t just writing about people being hurt by inequality, he is also writing about the system itself being in jeopardy and what needs to be done to fix it.” Stiglitz is a Nobel Prize-winning economist and professor at Columbia University.

Moderator: Angeliki Sioli, Architecture  
Meetings: Tuesdays 2/5, 2/26, 3/19, 4/9 at 4:30 pm, 200 French House  
Book: *Catching the Light* by Arthur Zajonc

“From ancient times to the present, from philosophers to quantum physicists, from painters to authors and architects, nothing has so perplexed, so fascinated, so captivated the mind as the elusive definition of light. What is light? A fascinating search into our deepest scientific mystery, *Catching the Light* blends mythology, religion, science, literature, and painting, revealing in poetic detail the human struggle to identify the vital connection between the outer light of nature and the inner light of the human spirit.” (Amazon description)

Moderator: Clint Willson, Engineering  
Meetings: Thursdays at 7 pm in Laville Faculty-in-Residence; first meeting 2/7  
Book: *Thirst for Power* by Michael Webber

How changing the way we think about water and energy can secure the long-term sustainability of both precious resources? Although it is widely understood that energy and water are the world’s two most critical resources, their vital interconnections and vulnerabilities are less often recognized. This farsighted book offers a new, holistic way of thinking about energy and water—a big picture approach that reveals the interdependence of the two resources, identifies the seriousness of the challenges, and lays out an optimistic approach with an array of solutions to ensure the continuing sustainability of both. Michael Webber, a leader and teacher in the field of energy technology and policy, explains how energy and water supplies are linked and how problems in either can be crippling for the other. He shows that current population growth, economic growth, climate change, and short-sighted policies are likely to make things worse.