

Professor Amy Cannon, Thematic Option Honors Program

Lecture M 4 – 5:50 pm 63568D

The Second Chance Book Club, or, To All the Books I've (Never) Loved Before

They're classics for a reason. Beloved. Talked about. Cornerstones of their genre. So widely influential that they've become a part of our cultural fabric. They are your friends' favorite books. The only trouble is...you've never actually read them.

You know what someone means when they call something their white whale...you think. You kind of get the Great Gatsby memes, you know there's some fancy parties, and maybe a pool? You figured you'd read it in high school, but it just wasn't assigned. You meant to read it the summer everyone was talking about it, but time just got away from you. You thought for sure you'd read it in college. You just haven't yet! But there's a mini-series based on the book coming out, or a long-awaited sequel. Or the author just died and you always meant to read her.

Welcome to the second chance book club. In this course, we'll develop a reading list together of influential texts you always wanted to read, meant to read, hoped to read, just somehow never got around to reading...until now.

CORE 200 lasts for twelve weeks (instead of the usual fifteen) and meets once each week for two hours in a seminar setting. The Salon encourages the sharing of ideas and thoughts and highlights common themes and interdisciplinary connections as they emerge from discussion. Discussions that grow out of reading groups can become the starting point for future research. The two-unit Salon is an integral part of the Thematic Approaches to Humanities and Society minor. A special feature of the Reading Salon is that some of the books to be read by the participants will be selected by the students. The course is graded Credit/No Credit.

Proposed Texts (final list to be determined by class)

Chinua Achebe. *Things Fall Apart*.

Margaret Atwood. *The Handmaid's Tale*.

Francis Ford Coppola, dir. *The Godfather*.

Gabriel García Márquez. *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.

Akira Kurosawa. *Seven Samurai*.

Herman Melville. *Moby Dick*.

Toni Morrison. *Beloved*.

Mary Shelley. *Frankenstein*.

Orson Welles. *Citizen Kane*.