

CORE 200: LIBERAL ARTS READING SALON

Professor Trisha Tucker, Thematic Option Honors Program

Lecture M 4 – 5:50 pm 63568D

Adulting 101

*We're happy, free, confused and lonely at the same time.
It's miserable and magical, oh yeah.
—Taylor Swift, "22"*

This is a course about life after graduation. Whether you're a freshman or a fifth-year senior, you've no doubt encountered conflicting messages about how you're supposed to spend your post-college years. Some say it's the perfect time to take risks and have fun; whatever you do, you shouldn't rush to settle down—with a career, a partner, or anything else. But others assert that your twenties will define the rest of your life, citing statistics that say you'll likely meet your future spouse and set the path for your career (not to mention your lifetime wage growth!) in your first few years out of college.

Somewhere between these conflicting impulses to explore the world, discover your purpose, and start a 401(k) lie all the mundane pleasures and pains of daily life, like finding the perfect post-work happy hour spot and hiring a plumber to unclog your shower drain. As Taylor Swift said, being 22 is complicated.

Luckily, you don't have to go it alone. Literature and film offer a host of inspirational twentysomethings—and more than a few cautionary tales—who can help us chart a path through these turbulent waters. In this course, we'll use a blend of fiction, non-fiction, and expert advice (much of it chosen by you!) to explore what psychologist Meg Jay calls "the defining decade." Whether graduation is years away or just around the corner, this class will help you prepare for what lies beyond.

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, 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 the class)*

Meg Jay. *The Defining Decade: Why Your Twenties Matter—And How to Make the Most of Them Now*
Mindy Kaling. *Why Not Me?*
Kiley Reid. *Such a Fun Age*.
Leigh Stein. *Self Care*.
Weike Wang. *Chemistry*.

Proposed Films *(final list to be determined by the class)*

Marc Webb, dir. *500 Days of Summer*.
Matt Spicer, dir. *Ingrid Goes West*.
Ben Stiller, dir. *Reality Bites*.
Jean-Marc Vallee, dir. *Wild*.
Episodes of *Awkward Black Girl*, *The Bold Type*, *Girls*.