

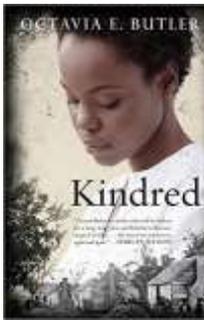
## BOOK CLUBS, Fall 2018

**NO FEES**, just a **free** book provided by the Ogden Honors College.

**NO GRADES**, just your **commitment** to complete the reading and attend meetings.

**NO PRESSURE**, just a great opportunity to **learn** about something new.

**How to sign up:** Check out the book club list below, and then email Alyssa Dobson ([adobso2@lsu.edu](mailto:adobso2@lsu.edu)) to let her know which club you wish to join. Clubs will begin during the week of September 10). Clubs meet @ 3-6 times and will finish before finals. We will 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. **Books will be distributed at the first meeting. Deadline to sign up by contacting Alyssa Dobson is August 30. Specific meeting schedules, if not listed below, will be announced at the first meeting.**

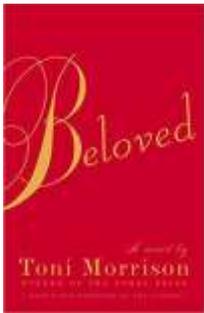


**Moderator: Isiah Lavender III, Associate Professor, English**

**Meetings: Mondays at 8:00 pm, 200 French House; first meeting 9/10**

**Book: *Kindred* by Octavia Butler**

Octavia Butler's *Kindred* is a postmodern slave narrative that uses the scientific fantasy of time traveling to change our conception of American history and position us to experience the horrible realities of slavery. Dana, a black woman living in 1976 San Francisco with her white husband, Kevin, tells the story as a first-person account of slavery. When Dana is impossibly and suddenly pulled back across time and space to early-nineteenth century Maryland into the heart of the antebellum South, she must save Rufus Weylin, the only white son of a plantation owner, from drowning in a river. She will return again and again to the plantation after this initial summons to save Rufus, consequently experiencing life as a slave as each trip lasts longer, becomes more intense and perilous. We will talk about the complex feelings generated by slavery in America.



**Moderator: Lori Martin, Professor, Sociology**

**Meetings: Tuesdays 9/11, 9/18, 9/25 at 6:00 pm, 220 French House; first meeting 9/11**

**Book: *Beloved* by Toni Morrison**

Staring unflinchingly into the abyss of slavery, this spellbinding novel transforms history into a story as powerful as Exodus and as intimate as a lullaby. Sethe, its protagonist, was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. And Sethe's new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved. Filled with bitter poetry and suspense as taut as a rope, *Beloved* is a towering achievement.

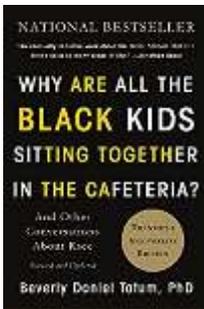


**Moderator: Vincent LiCata, Professor, Biological Sciences**

**Meetings: Wednesdays at 7:30 pm, 200 French House; first meeting 9/12**

**Book: *Angels in America* by Tony Kushner**

Written by Tony Kushner, who grew up in Lake Charles, *ANGELS IN AMERICA* is about the beginning of the HIV crisis in America and is one of the world's most produced and most highly acclaimed plays. Using a mixture of realistic and fantastical elements, Kushner explores the personal as well as the global and political aspects of the HIV crisis. Winner of the Tony Award for Best Play in 1993 for Part 1: Millennium Approaches; and in 1994 for Part 2: Perestroika--both parts together make the full-length play *ANGELS IN AMERICA*. In 2018 the Broadway revival won the Tony again, as well as the 2018 Laurence Olivier, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, and Drama League awards. If you are not familiar with *ANGELS IN AMERICA*, please join us. If you love *ANGELS IN AMERICA*, please join us. We will be reading the play out loud, with everyone playing different roles, and discussing it as we go. No acting experience required.

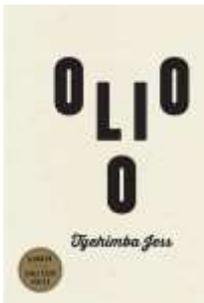


**Moderator: Sarah Becker, Associate Professor, Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies**

**Meetings: Wednesdays 9/12, 9/19, 9/26, 10/3 at 4:00 pm, 200 French House; first meeting 9/12**

**Book: *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations About Race* by Beverly Daniel Tatum**

Ever wondered why people on the quad hang out in largely racially-segregated groups? Debated whether or not it is a coping strategy or evidence of a social problem? In this revised and updated edition of her seminal text, author and renowned expert on racism and psychology Beverly Daniel Tatum argues honest communication about race is essential for answering questions like these and building cross-racial bridges, especially in the modern context.



**Moderator: Vincent Cellucci, CxC Coordinator, College of Art and Design**

**Meetings: Thursdays 9/13, 9/27, 10/11, 11/8 at 4:30 pm, 104 Design Building; first meeting 9/13**

**Book: *Olio* by Tyehimba Jess**

Winner of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize: "For a distinctive work that melds performance art with the deeper art of poetry to explore collective memory and challenge contemporary notions of race and identity." From the publisher (Wave Books): "With ambitious manipulations of poetic forms, Tyehimba Jess presents the sweat and story behind America's blues, worksongs and church hymns. Part fact, part fiction, Jess's much anticipated second book weaves sonnet, song, and narrative to examine the lives of mostly unrecorded African American performers directly before and after the Civil War up to World War I. Olio is an effort to understand how they met, resisted, complicated, co-opted, and sometimes defeated attempts to minstrelize them."

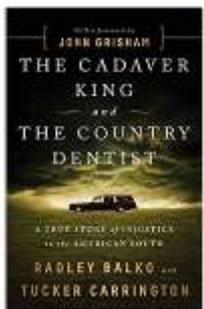


**Moderator: Clint Willson, Professor, Engineering**

**Meetings: Thursdays at 7:00 pm, Laville Hall Faculty-in-Residence Apartment; first meeting 9/13**

**Book: *The Water Will Come* by Jeff Goodell**

*The Water Will Come* uses multiple examples from across the world, set in science, history and/or sociology, to highlight the problems that coastal areas are facing or will face due to sea level rise. The deeply-researched examples and case studies that Goodell uses--from Miami and New York, to Naval Station Norfolk, to small Pacific Islands and countries in the developing world--all work towards highlighting the complexity of dealing with sea level rise and how it will shape our future.



**Moderator: Linda Bui, Associate Professor, Environmental Sciences**

**Meetings: Mondays at 5:00 pm, 200 French House; first meeting 9/10**

**Book: *The Cadaver King and The Country Dentist* by Radley Balko and Tucker Carrington**

From the Amazon page: "A shocking and deeply reported account of the persistent plague of institutional racism and junk forensic science in our criminal justice system, and its devastating effect on innocent lives. After two three-year-old girls were raped and murdered in rural Mississippi, law enforcement pursued and convicted two innocent men: Kennedy Brewer and Levon Brooks. Together they spent a combined thirty years in prison before finally being exonerated in 2008. Meanwhile, the real killer remained free. *The Cadaver King and the Country Dentist* recounts the story of how the criminal justice system allowed this to happen, and of how two men, Dr. Steven Hayne and Dr. Michael West, built successful careers on the back of that structure. For nearly two decades, Hayne, a medical examiner, performed the vast majority of Mississippi's autopsies, while his friend Dr. West, a local dentist, pitched himself as a forensic jack-of-all-trades. Together they became the go-to experts for prosecutors and helped put countless Mississippians in prison. But then some of those convictions began to fall apart."