

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY PROJECT ADVANCE (SUPA) SUMMER ASSIGNMENT:

WRT 105 - Practice of Academic Writing Introduction to Issues of Critical Reading
ENG 181 - Class and Literary Texts



SUMMER 2024

All students enrolled in Syracuse University Project Advance English courses for the 2024-2025 academic year at Clarence High School should purchase, read, and annotate *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah. Please purchase a set of post-it notes and mark 30+ pages with a (QTI) – Question, Thought, or Insight. We will utilize the text-based notes in class discussions during the first week of the fall semester. Additionally, Noah's memoir will serve as a seminal text throughout the year in our critical readings. Attached below are an article which appeared in the *Syracuse News: Campus and Community* publication and an interview of Noah focused upon his reading preferences from the *New York Times Book Review*.

Looking forward to September!

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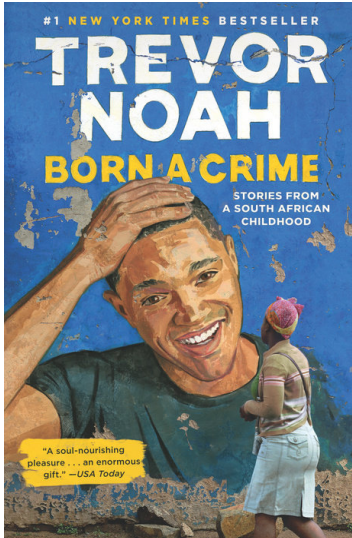
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Born a Crime' Selected as First Book for New Syracuse Reads Program

Friday, April 6, 2018, *By Kathleen Haley*



Beginning in the fall semester, new students will participate in a shared academic experience to explore together themes of diversity, inclusion and belonging—and what it means to come together as a community to share those ideals.

The University is launching the *Syracuse Reads Program*, a shared reading program coordinated by the Provost's Office for all first-year and transfer students. The book selected for the 2018-19 academic year is "Born a Crime," a memoir by Trevor Noah, South African comedian and host of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show."

The University will provide a copy of the book to all first-year and transfer students before they arrive on campus for the start of their academic careers. The students will then discuss the book and work on a common assignment in first-year writing courses in the College of Arts and

Sciences, and also have further conversations surrounding the book in peer-led discussion groups.

In the book, Noah, who was born in South Africa to a black South African mother and a white European father, recounts his childhood growing up during the last days of apartheid and the opportunities and adventures with his mother in the period that followed.

"Not only is Trevor Noah the most successful comedian in South African history, but 'Born a Crime' is a groundbreaking text that will prove to be informative, formative and deeply transformative," says Dean of Hendricks Chapel Brian E. Konkol, an organizer of the program. "Our students will learn a bit more of who Trevor is, and, as a result, they will receive the confidence and freedom to be more fully who they are, not only as students, but as global citizens."

The new program, which reinstates a prior shared reading program for new students, focuses on the University's continuing commitment to diversity and inclusion. The program developed from a recommendation by the Chancellor's Workgroup on Diversity and Inclusion (CWDI), which sought to add to the new student orientation experience and deepen understandings and forge relationships across racial, ethnic, religious and other lines.

"The Chancellor's Workgroup on Diversity and Inclusion believed that the selection of a single book would be an important sign to our new students about Syracuse University's academic expectations and the importance and value of intercultural competencies," says Special Assistant to the Chancellor Barry L. Wells, former CWDI co-chair and co-chair of the Universitywide Council on Diversity and Inclusion. "Effective shared reading programs that are supported by co-curricular options can be valuable in community building, establishing community expectations, and providing a common intellectual experience around specific learning objectives. In addition, research indicates that shared reading programs supports two fundamental theoretical principles of student persistence and learning, which are social integration and active involvement for first-year students."

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Trevor Noah: By the Book

Nov. 3, 2016

The “Daily Show” host and author of “Born a Crime” travels a lot, but doesn’t read when he flies: “I can’t stay awake when I try to read on a plane. Planes are for watching movies based on books.”

What books are currently on your night stand?

For fiction I’ve got Colson Whitehead’s “The Underground Railroad” and Paulo Coelho’s “The Alchemist.” For nonfiction I’ve got Jill Leovy’s “Ghettoside,” a fascinating account of life in the L.A.P.D. homicide division that should change the way we all understand the policing problem in America. I also just finished Chuck Klosterman’s “But What if We’re Wrong?” Which is a question I constantly ask myself because: What if we are?

What’s the last great book you read?

Thanks to my job at “The Daily Show” I get to read many amazing books written by our guests. The last great one I read was Yaa Gyasi’s “Homegoing,” a fascinating novel about the legacy of the slave trade on both sides of the Atlantic.

When, how often and how much do you read? Electronic or paper?

I read every day. Some days more than others, but every day. I almost always read electronically; I travel a great deal, and the weight of physical books has become a luxury I can’t afford, and I’ve actually grown to love reading on my phone more than paper. It’s not romantic, but it works for me.

Which writers — novelists, playwrights, critics, journalists, poets — working today do you admire most?

I’m a huge Harry Potter fan, so J. K. Rowling is near the top. Also Lin-Manuel Miranda; “Hamilton” blew me away, and I can’t wait to see what he does next. Because of “The Daily Show,” most of my reading time these days is consumed by journalists. Paul Krugman is always great. Also Vann R. Newkirk of The Atlantic; Jamelle Bouie at Slate; and Rembert Browne with New York magazine. All fantastic writers.

Who are your favorite South African writers? And the best book you’ve read about South Africa?

I don’t know if I could pick the best; the territory is too rich. J. M. Coetzee and Zakes Mda are probably the best-known South African novelists in the West, and deservedly so. Nelson Mandela was as great a writer as he was an activist and leader. Sol Plaatje was a founder and first general secretary of the organization that became the A.N.C.; his writings were largely ignored during his lifetime, but they’ve survived to become some of the most compelling and celebrated accounts of the early days of apartheid. Rian Malan’s “My Traitor’s Heart” is a brutal excavation of a white South African’s conscience at apartheid’s end. Among contemporary South African writers, Khaya Dlanga is a personal favorite. His memoir, “To Quote Myself,” is as good an account as you’ll find about life in the country today.

What genres do you especially enjoy reading? And which do you avoid?

I’m a sucker for fantasy. Write anything in a magical world with creatures and spells and you have me hooked. I also cannot resist autobiographies; it’s like learning about a person from inside their own mind. As for genres to avoid, I don’t avoid much. I’ll try anything once.