

INNOVATION ACADEMY – AP SEMINAR – SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2026

Welcome to AP Seminar! A major component of this course is researching and writing about important, relevant real-world issues. To ready yourself for this pragmatic, empathetic, challenging task, you will read a non-fiction book which addresses important, relevant, real-world issues. Choose from the list at the end of these directions. Make sure to give yourself adequate time to read and respond thoughtfully to the text. Your written responses and your ability to discuss your understanding constitutes your first significant academic measure in this rigorous, fast-paced, reading- and writing-focused course. ***Do your best work. Email us with any questions.***

YOUR TASK

1. **Select ONE non-fiction text from the list at the end of this document.** Obtain a hard copy or electronic copy that you can study for this assignment and bring to school in August.
 - These titles have been collected from faculty and staff recommendations and from other AP Seminar summer reading lists.

It is ***YOUR RESPONSIBILITY*** to vet titles for interest, reading level, content-appropriateness, and any other parameters that may influence your enjoyment and comprehension.

Ask a librarian! Talk to your family! Check GoodReads, Common Sense Media, product listings, and/or the publisher's website! Skim an available sample! Read reliable reviews! Email us!

- You may choose ANY book from this list that interests you – it does not have to align with your pathway – it's fine if you've already read it before – you can email us with any other questions about book selection, but know that our response will almost definitely be "You can choose ANY book from the list."

CHOOSE AND SECURE YOUR BOOK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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2. **Closely read the text and annotate your reading.** This means keeping a pencil or pen in your hand as you read and make notes in the margins, underline confusing and/or favorite passages, highlight interesting information, comment on significant language, define unfamiliar terms, keep a running dialogue with your reading-self. **Use Post-It notes if you'd prefer not to write in the book.**
 - For more information about how (and why it's a good idea!) to annotate a text, check out [this primer](#) from The Learning Center @ UNC Chapel Hill

BRING YOUR ANNOTATED TEXT TO SCHOOL ON AUGUST 3RD.

3. **Craft a clear, well-articulated written response to your reading.** After reading and annotating the text and making meaning of what you've read, write a unified, well-organized, reflective piece in which you address all of the following items. ***You're encouraged to address these items in whatever order, in whatever combination, in whatever style you believe to be most effective and engaging:***
- What text did you choose (title, author), and why?
 - What understandings did you have about this topic before reading?
 - What did you learn about this issue as you were reading this text?
 - What real-world issue(s) does the text address? Why is this issue important? Relevant to you?
 - Identify **three important ideas** in the text which stood out to you, and explain why these ideas are important, why they stood out to you.
 - What questions emerged WHILE you were reading this text? (Check your annotations!)
 - What questions emerged AFTER reading the text? (Reflect on your reading!) Think: What would you like to learn more about? Why?
 - Author's process: What was the author's role in writing this text? How did the author conduct research? To what extent does the author include themselves in the text? How does the author use their voice in writing?

**COMPOSE YOUR WRITING IN A DIGITAL WORD-PROCESSING SPACE;
EMAIL A PDF COPY OF YOUR WRITING BY AUGUST 3RD.**

4. **Prepare an oral response to the following prompts, to be delivered in class during the first week.** You will have 90 seconds to speak with the class. You can construct your response in any order, so long as you address all items within the timeframe.
- What was this book about?
 - Why'd you choose this book?
 - What's the most interesting, important, or beautiful thing you learned from this book?
 - Share a passage from this book that's meaningful to you; explain this passage; explain why it's meaningful to you.

**BRING NOTES FOR YOUR PREPARED RESPONSE ON A SINGLE NOTECARD
OR QUARTER-SHEET OF PAPER TO CLASS ON AUGUST 3RD.**

WRITING EXPECTATIONS

- Organize your writing effectively; use paragraphs meaningfully, as tools for organization; utilize transitional elements to connect – or to distinguish between – big ideas in your writing.
 - Integrate multiple cited passages and/or paraphrased text **effectively** into your own writing; explain your reasoning and understanding of the evidence you've integrated.
 - Proofread for preventable errors in grammar, diction, punctuation, and spelling.
 - Be ready to discuss your **process** in writing this work.
 - Minimum word count: 1,000
 - Maximum word count: 1,500
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A NOTE ABOUT AI WRITING PROGRAMS

The use of any AI-powered writing tools (ChatGPT, Copilot, DeepSeek, etc.) in the creation, enrichment, or modification of meaningful ideas, logical conclusions, specific language use, or any other building blocks of effective communication is strictly prohibited. This assignment demands ***your*** voice, ***your*** thoughts, ***your*** understanding. ***Your teachers would always rather read a messy, imperfect, struggling real work than a clean, “perfect” fake work.***

Unauthorized use of AI is a violation of the Fulton County Academic Integrity Policy and the Innovation Academy Honor Code and will result in academic, behavioral, and interpersonal consequences.

POTENTIAL QUESTIONS, POTENTIAL ANSWERS

Can I listen to the audiobook version? Of course! Effective audiobook engagement requires substantial attention, and this is a great way to consume a story. **BUT/AND/ALSO:** You need a text version of the book in order to annotate and pull passages for citation.

How do I cite passages from an electronic copy? If your eBook has page numbers, cite those! If there aren't specific page numbers, cite the chapter number instead (don't cite location-numbers or percentages). When in doubt, cite with as much information as a classmate would need in order to find that specific passage in that document again. ***Check the MLA guidelines for citing eBooks!***

How long is a paragraph? *Trick question!* A paragraph is a tool for organization, not a unit of measure. Authors utilize paragraphs to indicate the building blocks of their argument – paragraphs identify, bound, and distinguish ideas; transitional language, including topic sentences and linking phrases, show connections between ideas.

Can I use first-person language in my essay? In my brief oral presentation? Yes! Please do! Much of this work asks you for personal understandings, opinions, challenges, wonderings. Your work should be clear, well-developed, logical, and well-cited; the tone of your work should reflect an appropriate level of formality for the content you're writing/speaking.

Can I go over the word count? Ideally, no. Writing concisely is a challenge in and of itself, and it is worth practicing on this assignment. Pragmatically, we are implementing the College Board-standard 10% cushion for word count: no points will be deducted for papers 10% shorter than the minimum or 10% longer than the maximum. Which really means the official word count is 900-1650. But that's a messy set of numbers.

What kind of formatting do I need to use? Use standard [MLA formatting](#) for your written response. Be sure to consider the heading, title, body, parenthetical citations, section headings, and works cited. The linked resource is vast but well-organized.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Your AP Seminar teachers for the 2026-2027 school year are Mr. Jeremy Collins (collinsj5@fultonschools.org) and Mr. Ian Custar (custar@fultonschools.org). If you have any questions about this summer assignment or about AP Seminar in general, please send us an email!

Note: We'll respond promptly to emails received by May 21st, but you should expect a minimum one-week delay for replies to emails sent during summer break. **Contact us as soon as possible with any concerns!**

AP SEMINAR – SUMMER READING OPTIONS

Title and author	Synopsis
<u><i>21 Lessons for the 21st Century</i> by Yuval Noah Harari</u>	Harari explores pressing contemporary issues—such as technological disruption, political instability, and existential threats—offering insights to help readers navigate the complexities of modern life.
<u><i>A Sand County Almanac</i> by Aldo Leopold</u>	This collection of essays reflects on the natural world and advocates for a “land ethic,” emphasizing responsible stewardship of the environment.
<u><i>A Voyage Long and Strange</i> by Tony Horwitz</u>	Horwitz retraces early European explorations of America, uncovering overlooked chapters of history between Columbus’s arrival and the Pilgrims’ landing.
<u><i>Ain’t I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism</i> by bell hooks</u>	Hooks examines the intersection of racism and sexism, highlighting the marginalization of Black women in both civil rights and feminist movements.
<u><i>An Immense World</i> by Ed Yong</u>	Yong delves into the diverse sensory experiences of animals, revealing how they perceive the world in ways vastly different from humans.
<u><i>Astrophysics for People in a Hurry</i> by Neil deGrasse Tyson</u>	Tyson presents a concise overview of the universe’s fundamental concepts, making complex astrophysical ideas accessible to general readers.
<u><i>At the Hands of Persons Unknown: The Lynching of Black America</i> by Philip Dray</u>	Dray provides a comprehensive history of lynching in America, examining its causes, impact, and the efforts to combat this form of racial terror.
<u><i>Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup</i> by John Carreyrou</u>	Carreyrou investigates the rise and fall of Theranos, exposing how the company misled investors and endangered patients with its flawed blood-testing technology.
<u><i>Bad Feminist</i> by Roxanne Gay</u>	Through a series of essays, Gay explores the complexities of feminism, embracing the contradictions inherent in striving for gender equality while acknowledging personal imperfections.
<u><i>Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End</i> by Atul Gawande</u>	Gawande discusses the limitations of modern medicine in addressing end-of-life issues, advocating for a more humane approach that prioritizes quality of life.
<u><i>Between the World and Me</i> by Ta-Nehisi Coates</u>	A poignant letter from Coates to his teenage son, reflecting on the realities of being Black in America, interweaving personal narrative with historical context.
<u><i>Blown to Bits: Your Life, Liberty, and Happiness After the Digital Explosion</i> by Hal Abelson, Harry Lewis, and Ken Ledeen</u>	An exploration of how digital technology transforms privacy, security, and personal freedom in the information age.
<u><i>Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood</i> by Trevor Noah</u>	A memoir detailing Noah’s experiences growing up in apartheid-era South Africa, highlighting issues of race, identity, and resilience.
<u><i>Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West</i> by Dee Brown</u>	A historical account from the Native American perspective, chronicling the displacement and decimation of Indigenous tribes in the 19th century.
<u><i>Chasing My Cure: A Doctor’s Race to Turn Hope into Action</i> by David Feigenbaum</u>	A memoir of a physician’s battle with a rare disease, detailing his journey from patient to researcher seeking a cure.
<u><i>Civilized to Death: What Was Lost on the Way to Modernity</i> by Christopher Ryan</u>	Ryan critiques modern civilization, arguing that technological and societal advancements have led to increased suffering and disconnection.

<u><i>Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto</i></u> by Vine Deloria Jr.	A provocative critique of U.S. policies toward Native Americans, challenging stereotypes and advocating for Indigenous rights.
<u><i>Dentist Goes Animal: A Personal History of Modern Veterinary Dentistry</i></u> by David Fagan	Dr. David Fagan shares his experiences transitioning from human dentistry to treating animals, detailing the challenges and advancements in veterinary dental care.
<u><i>Ecology of a Cracker Childhood</i></u> by Janisse Ray	Ray's memoir intertwines her upbringing in rural Georgia with reflections on the destruction of the longleaf pine ecosystem, advocating for environmental preservation.
<u><i>Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower</i></u> by Brittney Cooper	Cooper explores the power of Black women's anger, arguing that it can be a catalyst for social change and personal empowerment.
<u><i>Every Patient Tells a Story: Medical Mysteries and the Art of Diagnosis</i></u> by Lisa Sanders	Sanders delves into the complexities of medical diagnostics, sharing real-life cases that highlight the importance of listening to patients and thorough examination.
<u><i>Everything is Tuberculosis: The History and Persistence of Our Deadliest Infection</i></u> by John Green	Green examines the global impact of tuberculosis, blending personal narratives with historical and scientific insights to highlight the disease's ongoing threat.
<u><i>Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians but Were Afraid to Ask</i></u> by Anton Treuer	Treuer addresses common questions about Native American history and culture, providing informative and candid responses to foster understanding.
<u><i>Extreme Medicine: How Exploration Transformed Medicine in the Twentieth Century</i></u> by Kevin Fong	Fong explores how extreme environments have pushed the boundaries of medical knowledge, leading to innovations in treating trauma and critical conditions.
<u><i>Eyes Wide Open: Going Behind the Environmental Headlines</i></u> by Paul Fleischman	Fleischman offers a guide for young readers to critically analyze environmental issues, encouraging informed engagement with ecological challenges.
<u><i>Field Notes from a Catastrophe</i></u> by Elizabeth Kolbert	Kolbert reports on the effects of climate change across the globe, combining scientific research with firsthand accounts to illustrate the urgency of the crisis.
<u><i>Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies</i></u> by Jared Diamond	Diamond explores how environmental and geographical factors, rather than inherent differences among peoples, have shaped the modern world. He argues that societies with access to domesticable plants and animals, and favorable geography, advanced more rapidly, leading to global disparities in power and technology.
<u><i>Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide</i></u> by Nicholas D. Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunn	Kristof and WuDunn highlight the oppression of women globally, presenting stories of individuals who have overcome adversity. They argue that empowering women is essential for economic progress and advocate for grassroots solutions to combat gender inequality.
<u><i>Heart, Guts & Steel: The Making of an Indian Surgeon</i></u> by Dr. Sivasubramanian	Dr. Sivasubramanian shares his journey from medical student to surgeon, offering insights into the rigorous training, challenges, and personal growth involved in becoming a medical professional in India.
<u><i>How to Clone a Mammoth: The Science of De-Extinction</i></u> by Beth Shapiro	Shapiro delves into the science and ethics of de-extinction, explaining the techniques that could bring back extinct species like the woolly mammoth, and discussing the ecological implications of such endeavors.
<u><i>I Contain Multitudes</i></u> by Ed Yong	Yong explores the complex relationships between humans and microbes, revealing how these microscopic organisms influence our health, behavior, and evolution, and emphasizing their integral role in life on Earth.
<u><i>Invisible Women: Data Bias in a World Designed for Men</i></u> by Caroline Criado Perez	Perez exposes the gender data gap, illustrating how the lack of female-specific data in various sectors leads to systemic discrimination and disadvantages for women in daily life.

<u><i>King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa</i></u> by Adam Hochschild	Hochschild recounts the exploitation of the Congo Free State under King Leopold II of Belgium, detailing the atrocities committed and the international outcry that eventually led to reform.
<u><i>Lab Girl</i></u> by Hope Jahren	Jahren's memoir intertwines her personal journey as a scientist with reflections on the natural world, highlighting her passion for plants and the challenges faced by women in science.
<u><i>Life 3.0: Being Human in the Age of Artificial Intelligence</i></u> by Max Tegmark	Tegmark examines the future of artificial intelligence, discussing potential scenarios and emphasizing the importance of aligning AI development with human values to ensure beneficial outcomes.
<u><i>Life's Edge: The Search for What It Means to Be Alive</i></u> by Carl Zimmer	Zimmer delves into the complexities of defining life, exploring scientific endeavors that blur the lines between living and non-living entities. Through engaging narratives, he examines organisms and phenomena that challenge our understanding of what it means to be alive.
<u><i>Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning</i></u> by Cathy Park Hong	Hong presents a collection of essays that confront the racial consciousness of Asian Americans. She articulates the dissonance and emotional nuances experienced by minorities in a predominantly white society, urging a reevaluation of identity and belonging.
<u><i>Muslims in America: A Short History</i></u> by Edward E. Curtis	Curtis offers a concise overview of the diverse experiences of Muslims in the United States, tracing their history from the 18th century to the present. The book highlights the multifaceted identities and contributions of Muslim Americans across different eras.
<u><i>Nine Algorithms That Changed the Future: The Ingenious Ideas That Drive Today's Computers</i></u> by John MacCormick	MacCormick demystifies nine fundamental algorithms that underpin modern computing. He explains their principles and real-world applications, making complex concepts accessible to readers without a technical background.
<u><i>October Sky</i></u> by Homer Hickam	In this memoir, Hickam recounts his youth in a coal-mining town and his passion for rocketry inspired by the launch of Sputnik. The narrative follows his journey from building homemade rockets to eventually working with NASA, highlighting themes of perseverance and ambition.
<u><i>One Giant Leap: The Impossible Mission That Flew Us to the Moon</i></u> by Charles Fishman	Fishman chronicles the behind-the-scenes efforts of the Apollo program, focusing on the collective endeavors of thousands who made the moon landing possible. The book sheds light on the political, technological, and human aspects of this monumental achievement.
<u><i>Overnight Code: The Life of Raye Montague, the Woman Who Revolutionized Naval Engineering</i></u> by Paige Bowers and David Montague	This biography tells the story of Raye Montague, an African American woman who overcame racial and gender barriers to revolutionize naval engineering by creating the first computer-designed ship for the U.S. Navy.
<u><i>Pilgrim at Tinker Creek</i></u> by Annie Dillard	Dillard's Pulitzer Prize-winning work is a series of interconnected essays reflecting on nature and existence. Through detailed observations of the natural world around Tinker Creek, she explores philosophical and theological themes.
<u><i>Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code</i></u> by Ruha Benjamin	Benjamin examines how emerging technologies can perpetuate racial biases, coining the term "New Jim Code" to describe the intersection of race and tech. She advocates for a more equitable approach to technological development.
<u><i>Rocket Men: The Daring Odyssey of Apollo 8 and the Astronauts Who Made Man's First Journey to the Moon</i></u> by Robert Kurson	Kurson narrates the gripping story of Apollo 8, the first manned mission to orbit the moon. The book captures the courage of the astronauts and the mission's significance during a tumultuous period in American history.

<u><i>Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind</i></u> by Yuval Noah Harari	Harari traces the evolution of Homo sapiens from the Stone Age to the modern era, highlighting key revolutions—the Cognitive, Agricultural, and Scientific—that have shaped human societies. He examines how shared myths, such as religion and money, have enabled large-scale cooperation and explores the consequences of our species’ dominance.
<u><i>She Has Her Mother’s Laugh: The Powers, Perversions, and Potential of Heredity</i></u> by Carl Zimmer	Zimmer delves into the complex science of heredity, from historical misconceptions to modern genetic research. He discusses how our understanding of inheritance influences identity, culture, and future possibilities, challenging simplistic notions of genetic determinism.
<u><i>She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite a Movement</i></u> by Jodi Kantor & Megan Twohey	This investigative account details how two New York Times journalists uncovered Harvey Weinstein’s history of sexual misconduct. Their reporting not only brought down a powerful figure but also sparked the broader #MeToo movement, highlighting systemic issues of abuse and silence.
<u><i>Silent Spring</i></u> by Rachel Carson	Carson’s seminal work exposed the environmental dangers of indiscriminate pesticide use, particularly DDT. By combining scientific evidence with compelling narrative, she raised public awareness and influenced environmental policies, marking the beginning of the modern environmental movement.
<u><i>Smoke Gets in Your Eyes & Other Lessons from the Crematory</i></u> by Caitlin Doughty	In this candid memoir, mortician Caitlin Doughty shares her experiences working in a crematory, confronting societal taboos around death. She advocates for death acceptance and transparency in the funeral industry, blending humor with poignant reflections.
<u><i>Spaceman: An Astronaut’s Unlikely Journey to Unlock the Secrets of the Universe</i></u> by Mike Massimino	Massimino recounts his journey from a working-class background to becoming a NASA astronaut. He shares the challenges of space missions, including repairing the Hubble Telescope, and emphasizes perseverance, teamwork, and the wonder of exploration.
<u><i>Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America</i></u> by Ibram X. Kendi	Kendi offers a comprehensive history of racist ideas in the U.S., tracing their origins and evolution through the lives of five key figures. He argues that racist policies have often driven racist ideas, challenging common narratives and advocating for antiracism.
<u><i>Storm in a Teacup: The Physics of Everyday Life</i></u> by Helen Czerski	Czerski demystifies physics by exploring the science behind everyday phenomena, from the behavior of bubbles to the mechanics of popcorn popping. Her engaging explanations reveal the relevance of physics in daily life and inspire curiosity about the natural world.
<u><i>The Assassination of Fred Hampton: How the FBI and the Chicago Police Murdered a Black Panther</i></u> by Jeffery Haas	Haas provides a firsthand account of the events leading to the 1969 killing of Black Panther leader Fred Hampton. Drawing from his experience as a lawyer involved in the case, he exposes government efforts to suppress Black activism and the legal battles that followed.
<u><i>The Attention Merchants: The Epic Scramble to Get Inside Our Heads</i></u> by Tim Wu	Tim Wu explores the history of the attention economy, detailing how industries have commodified human attention from the rise of newspapers to the digital age. He examines the impact of advertising and media on our behavior and privacy, urging readers to reclaim their focus in an era dominated by attention merchants.
<u><i>The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma</i></u> by Bessel van der Kolk	Bessel van der Kolk delves into how trauma reshapes both body and brain, compromising sufferers’ capacities for pleasure, engagement, self-control, and trust. Drawing on research and clinical practice, he discusses innovative treatments—from neurofeedback and meditation to sports and drama—that offer new paths to recovery.
<u><i>The Burning: Black Wall Street and the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921</i></u> by Tim Madigan	Tim Madigan provides a harrowing account of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, where a prosperous Black community was decimated by white mobs. Through meticulous research and personal narratives, he sheds light on one of America’s most violent episodes of racial injustice and its long-lasting repercussions.
<u><i>The Butchering Art: Joseph Lister’s Quest to Transform the Grisly World of Victorian Medicine</i></u> by Lindsey Fitzharris	Lindsey Fitzharris chronicles the pioneering work of Joseph Lister, who introduced antiseptic techniques to surgery, drastically reducing mortality rates. The book vividly portrays the gruesome realities of 19th-century medicine and Lister’s relentless pursuit to revolutionize surgical practices.

<u><i>The Dictator's Handbook: Why Bad Behavior is Almost Always Good Politics</i></u> by <u>Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Alastair Smith</u>	This book offers a cynical yet insightful analysis of political power, suggesting that leaders, whether democratic or authoritarian, maintain control by prioritizing the needs of a select group of supporters. The authors argue that political survival often trumps good governance, leading to policies that serve the few over the many.
<u><i>The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer</i></u> by <u>Siddhartha Mukherjee</u>	Siddhartha Mukherjee presents a comprehensive history of cancer, from its earliest mentions to contemporary treatments. Blending science with personal stories, he portrays cancer as a formidable adversary and chronicles humanity's ongoing battle against the disease.
<u><i>The Future of Humanity: Terraforming Mars, Interstellar Travel, Immortality, and Our Destiny Beyond Earth</i></u> by <u>Michio Kaku</u>	Michio Kaku explores the possibilities of human civilization expanding beyond Earth. He discusses advancements in technology that could enable colonization of Mars, interstellar travel, and even achieving immortality, painting an optimistic picture of humanity's potential future in the cosmos.
<u><i>The Gene: An Intimate History</i></u> by <u>Siddhartha Mukherjee</u>	In this work, Siddhartha Mukherjee traces the history of genetic research, from Gregor Mendel's experiments to the modern era of gene editing. He examines the ethical implications of genetic manipulation and the profound impact of genetics on our understanding of identity and heredity.
<u><i>The Happiness Effect: How Social Media is Driving a Generation to Appear Perfect at Any Cost</i></u> by <u>Donna Freitas</u>	Donna Freitas investigates how social media influences the mental health and self-perception of young adults. Through interviews and surveys, she reveals the pressure to curate a perfect online persona, leading to anxiety, depression, and a disconnect between online appearances and real-life experiences.
<u><i>The Immortal life of Henrietta Lacks</i></u> by <u>Rebecca Skloot</u>	This book tells the story of Henrietta Lacks, an African American woman whose cancer cells were taken without her knowledge in 1951. These cells, known as HeLa, became one of the most important tools in medicine, contributing to numerous scientific breakthroughs. The narrative explores the impact on her family and raises ethical questions about race and medical research.
<u><i>The Late Homecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir</i></u> by <u>Kao Kalia Yang</u>	Kao Kalia Yang recounts her family's journey from war-torn Laos to a refugee camp in Thailand and eventually to the United States. The memoir provides insight into the Hmong experience and the challenges of adapting to a new culture while preserving one's heritage.
<u><i>The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat and Other Clinical Tales</i></u> by <u>Oliver Sacks</u>	Neurologist Oliver Sacks presents a series of case studies of patients with neurological disorders. Through these stories, he explores the complexities of the human brain and the resilience of individuals facing unusual conditions.
<u><i>The Man Who Touched His Own Heart: True Tales of Science, Surgery, and Mystery</i></u> by <u>Rob Dunn</u>	Rob Dunn traces the history of heart surgery and the scientific discoveries that have shaped our understanding of the human heart. The book combines medical history with personal stories to illustrate the evolution of cardiac care.
<u><i>The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York</i></u> by <u>Deborah Blum</u>	Deborah Blum chronicles the work of New York City's first chief medical examiner and his toxicologist during the 1920s. Together, they pioneered forensic science techniques to solve crimes and combat the era's rampant poisonings.
<u><i>The Quiet Zone: Unraveling the Mystery of a Town Suspended in Silence</i></u> by <u>Stephen Kurczy</u>	Stephen Kurczy investigates Green Bank, West Virginia, a town within the National Radio Quiet Zone where wireless technology is restricted. He explores the lives of residents who live without modern communication tools and the reasons behind their choices.
<u><i>The Sacred Balance: Rediscovering Our Place in Nature</i></u> by <u>David Suzuki and Amanda McConnell</u>	David Suzuki and Amanda McConnell discuss the interconnectedness of all life forms and the importance of maintaining ecological balance. The book emphasizes the need for sustainable living and respect for the natural world.
<u><i>The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains</i></u> by <u>Nicholas Carr</u>	Nicholas Carr examines how the internet affects cognitive functions, arguing that constant online activity is diminishing our ability to concentrate and think deeply. He explores the neurological and cultural implications of digital media.

<u><i>The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History</i> by Elizabeth Kolbert</u>	Kolbert examines the ongoing, human-driven sixth mass extinction, paralleling it with past extinction events. Through fieldwork and scientific studies, she highlights how human activities—like habitat destruction and climate change—are accelerating species loss at an alarming rate.
<u><i>The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures</i> by Ann Fadiman</u>	This narrative explores the cultural clash between a Hmong family and the American medical system over the treatment of their epileptic daughter, Lia Lee. It underscores the importance of cultural sensitivity and communication in healthcare.
<u><i>The Vital Question: Energy, Evolution, and the Origins of Complex Life</i> by Nick Lane</u>	Lane explores the role of energy in the evolution of complex life, proposing that the way cells generate energy is central to understanding life's origins and complexity. He integrates biochemistry and evolutionary biology to present a new perspective on life's development.
<u><i>The World Without Us</i> by Alan Weisman</u>	Weisman imagines a world where humans suddenly disappear, exploring how nature would reclaim urban and rural landscapes. The book examines humanity's environmental impact and the resilience of the natural world.
<u><i>Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging</i> by Sebastian Junger</u>	Junger investigates the human need for community and belonging, analyzing how modern society's individualism contrasts with the communal bonds found in tribal societies, and how this affects mental health and societal cohesion.
<u><i>Under a White Sky: The Nature of the Future</i> by Elizabeth Kolbert</u>	Kolbert examines human interventions in nature aimed at correcting previous environmental damages, such as geoengineering and species conservation efforts, highlighting the complexities and unintended consequences of such actions.
<u><i>Under Alien Skies: A Sightseer's Guide to the Universe</i> by Philip Plait</u>	Plait takes readers on a virtual tour of the cosmos, describing what it would be like to visit various celestial bodies, and explaining the science behind these environments in an accessible and engaging manner.
<u><i>Until I am Free: Fannie Lou Hamer's Enduring Message to America</i> by Keisha Blain</u>	Blain explores the life and activism of Fannie Lou Hamer, emphasizing her fight for civil rights and social justice, and how her legacy continues to inspire contemporary movements.
<u><i>Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement</i> by John Lewis and Michael D'Orso</u>	Civil rights leader John Lewis recounts his journey from a sharecropper's son in Alabama to a key figure in the Civil Rights Movement. The memoir offers an insider's perspective on pivotal events, including the Freedom Rides and the March on Washington, highlighting the power of nonviolent protest.
<u><i>Weapons of Math Destruction: How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy</i> by Cathy O'Neil</u>	Cathy O'Neil exposes how unregulated algorithms in areas like education, employment, and criminal justice perpetuate inequality. She argues that these opaque and unaccountable models, which she terms "Weapons of Math Destruction," can cause significant harm to society.
<u><i>What Patients Say, What Doctors Hear</i> by Danielle Ofri</u>	Danielle Ofri explores the complexities of doctor-patient communication, revealing how misinterpretations and systemic pressures can lead to misdiagnoses and patient dissatisfaction. She emphasizes the need for empathetic listening and better dialogue in medical practice.
<u><i>When Breath Becomes Air</i> by Paul Kalanithi</u>	In this poignant memoir, neurosurgeon Paul Kalanithi reflects on his life and career after being diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. He delves into questions of mortality, purpose, and what it means to live a meaningful life in the face of death.
<u><i>When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir</i> by Patrisse Khan-Cullors</u>	Co-founder of the Black Lives Matter movement, Patrisse Khan-Cullors shares her personal experiences with systemic racism and social injustice. The memoir serves as both a personal narrative and a call to action for racial justice and reform.