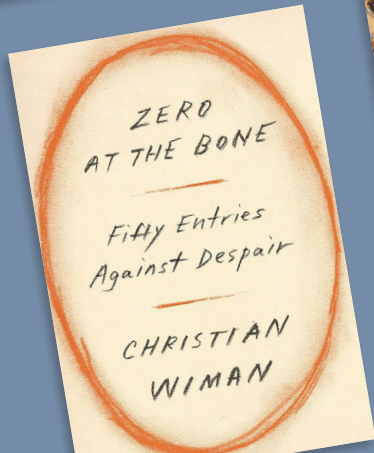
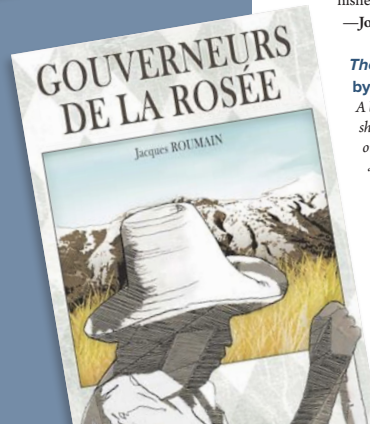
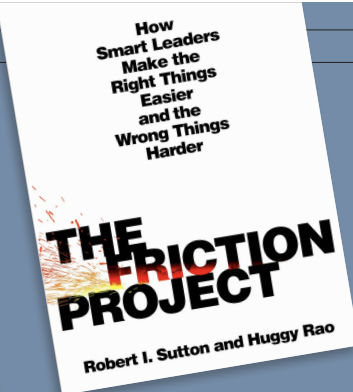
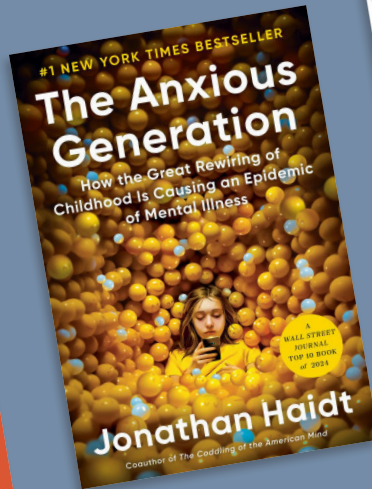
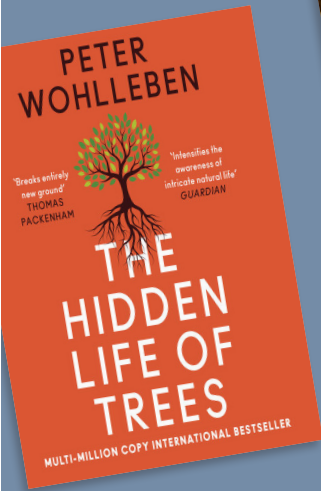


Faculty Favorites



The Hidden Life of Trees
by Peter Wohlleben

A novel that reveals forests as compassionate communities, quietly reshaping how we see nature and our role within it.

"The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben deeply changed the way I see forests and nature as a whole. The book reveals forests as interconnected communities where trees communicate, share resources, and support one another through underground networks. Wohlleben shows that resilience in nature comes from cooperation, patience, and long-term relationships rather than competition. What struck me most was the idea that caring for weaker members strengthens the entire ecosystem. This perspective encourages a greater sense of respect for creation and reminds readers of our responsibility as stewards of the natural world and participants in a larger, interconnected system."

—Edita Bzik (Center for Language Studies, Croatian)

Zero at the Bone: 50 Essays Against Despair
by Christian Wiman

A novel that, through intellectually rich and profoundly honest writing, explores spirituality in the midst of suffering.

"In Zero at the Bone, Christian Wiman applies his ample skill as a poet, storyteller, essayist, and scholar to the question of how to live a life of faith in a world of pain. His sentences are rich, his ideas complex, and his unvarnished discipleship exemplary."

—Joey Franklin (Creative Writing)

The Anxious Generation
by Jonathan Haidt

A best-selling book that tells us why we should stop checking our phones and get outside to play!

"Two facts lie at the center of this book: Young people are more anxious and depressed now than ever before, and our lives have become much more phone-based in the last

10–15 years. Correlation? You bet. Causation? A resounding yes. In this book, social psychologist Jonathan Haidt shares research on the damaging effects of social media and smartphone use. This book will help readers, whether young or old, to recognize the impact social media and smartphones are having on their lives and to tip the scales back toward a play-based life."

—Johnny Allred (English Education)

Beasts of a Little Land
by Juhea Kim

A translated novel about how love, resilience, and the will to survive shape identity, even in the shadow of history.

"Set in colonial Korea, the story follows the intertwined lives of individuals caught between love, survival, and power. Beneath its sweeping historical backdrop, the novel reveals the quiet resilience of human connection and the deep social forces that shape identity and destiny. Even though the story takes place a century ago, it's really just about people. Main characters Han-su and Jung-shim take completely different paths, but both just keep fighting to stay alive, and that made the whole story feel vivid and alive to me."

—Juno Baik (Second Language Acquisition, Korean)

The Friction Project: How Smart Leaders Make the Right Things Easier and the Wrong Things Harder
by Robert I. Sutton and Huggy Rao

A book that reframes leadership as stewardship and challenges readers to use their power to make doing the right thing easier for those they serve.

"While this book focuses on businesses and large organizations, the principles it presents are easily applied to any relationship, especially those inflected with the dynamics of power. It invited me to consider my role as a trustee of other people's time and how much power I have to make doing the right thing easy for my students, my staff, and my colleagues."

—Jeremy Browne (Digital Humanities)

Stone Tables
by Orson Scott Card

A sacred story that brings Moses off the page and into the heart with renewed spiritual power.

"Stone Tables by Orson Scott Card is one of my favorite books because it brings the story of Moses to life with depth and imagination. I return to it often, and each time it inspires me to study the scriptures more earnestly and apply their teachings with greater intent."

—Teresa Bell (Second Language Acquisition and Language Teaching, German)

Gouverneurs de la Rosée
by Jacques Roumain

A masterpiece of Haitian literature that shows how one self-forgetting soul can restore a community scarred by violence and division.

"Everyone should read *Gouverneurs de la Rosée* (*Governors of the Dew*, 1944). Though I am Haitian and confess my bias, the book is a masterpiece of literature not only because of its Haitian dimension but also because of its relevance to a society like ours—with bodies and souls cut open by all sorts of violence. Online summaries might give pause as readers learn that Manuel, the main character, is a Marxist. Those with the intellectual curiosity to read for themselves will love to see that instead of an anti-bourgeois crusader, he is truly an emmanuel who, forgetting himself, brings healing water, reconciliation, and ultimate rebirth to a community that seemed otherwise irredeemable."

—Carter Charles (History and Sociology of Religion, French)