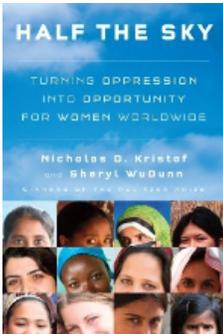


ENGLISH 12: Summer Reading 2019-2020

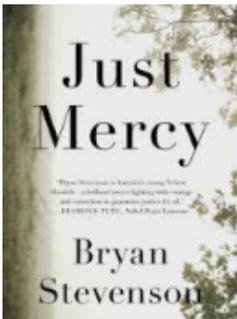
Directions: To keep your minds sharp over the summer, the English Department has chosen four books that we think are well-written and thought-provoking. We look for non-fiction reads that are current, engaging, and that we hope will spark conversations (and maybe even further reading or action). You might take notes as you read to hone your note-taking strategies (see the back for questions for reading and reflection). Reading more than one text is encouraged, of course, but you must READ AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING. We will have discussions and written work based on your text in the fall. This will be a portion of your first quarter grade.

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide
Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn (2010)



Prize-winning journalists (and husband and wife team) Kristof (a native Oregonian!) and WuDunn examine the circumstances and consequences of poverty and oppression on women throughout the world. Through personal stories and compelling statistics, this book is designed to inform and inspire its readers. *Half the Sky* examines the harsh realities of women in (mostly) developing countries—including sex slavery and forced prostitution, maternal mortality, honor killings, and inequities in educational opportunities—and argues that people in the developed world have a moral obligation to address these injustices.

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption
Bryan Stevenson (2014)



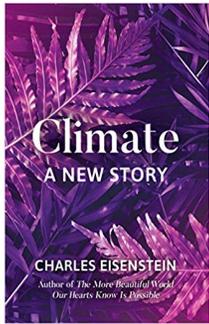
Bryan Stevenson's TED Talk "We need to talk about an injustice," filmed in 2012, has been viewed nearly 3 million times. In 2014 he published a memoir about his work as a defense attorney representing poor clients in the South and founding Equal Justice Initiative. As described in the New York Times review: "The message of this book, hammered home by dramatic examples of one man's refusal to sit quietly and countenance horror, is that evil can be overcome, a difference can be made. *Just Mercy* will make you upset and it will make you hopeful. The day I finished it, I happened to read in a newspaper that one in 10 people exonerated of crimes in recent years had pleaded guilty at trial. The justice system had them over a log, and copping a plea had been their only hope. Bryan Stevenson has been angry about this for years, and we are all the better for it." —*Ted Conover*

Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik (2015)



Notorious RBG, inspired by the Tumblr that amused the Justice herself and brought to you by its founder and an award-winning feminist journalist, is more than just a love letter. It draws on intimate access to Ginsburg's family members, close friends, colleagues, and clerks, as well as an interview with the Justice herself. An original hybrid of reported narrative, annotated dissents, rare archival photos and documents, and illustrations, the book tells a never-before-told story of an unusual and transformative woman who transcends generational divides. As the country struggles with the unfinished business of gender equality and civil rights, Ginsburg stands as a testament to how far we can come with a little chutzpah.

Climate: A New Story
Charles Eisenstein (2018)



“This book is brave enough, vulnerable enough, insightful enough to activate a truth buried deep within all of our hearts: that the planetary crisis we face today can only be transformed by a revolution of love. It calls each of us to break with our patterns of war thinking and realize our interconnectedness with all life on Earth.”
—Jodie Evans, cofounder of Code Pink

This text is also available to read online at <https://charleseisenstein.org/books/climate-a-new-story/>

Questions for Thinking and Discussing: You will be asked these questions or questions like them during the first couple weeks of class. Consider them as you read; you may want to take notes or prepare responses (not required).

1. Identify startling figures or statistics that the author uses to support a point. What is compelling about this example?
2. Identify one or two individual stories or situations that you found particularly compelling. What made this compelling? What else does it make you think/wonder about?
3. Describe the author’s voice and/or style. Do you trust the information presented? Do you find it relevant and compelling? Why or why not?
4. What signs did you see in the text for hope? What warnings or evidence of failure did you see? How did these affect your response to the issues addressed and your response to the text?
5. To what extent do you see yourself getting involved with the issues presented in the text? What “action steps” does the text suggest you can take? Will you do (or have you done) any of them?
6. You have three sentences to describe the message of this book to the St. Mary’s community. What should your peers know about it?