

**DANA HALL SCHOOL 2004 FACULTY & STAFF  
SUMMER READING BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM**

Reading that examines some aspect of the American political system, particularly as it relates to the presidential election process.

Clinton, Hillary Rodham. *Living History*.

More autobiography than memoir, Clinton's book gives readers a sense of who she is, starting with a description of her childhood and college years that manages not only to reveal her character but also to evoke the era. She also describes her evolution as a wife and mother, as First Lady, and as a political lightning rod. The book works especially well when the private and public Mrs. Clintons come together; for example, when she spearheads the health-care wars as her own father is dying. (Ilene Cooper, *Booklist*)

Eliasoph, Nina. *Avoiding Politics: How Americans Produce Apathy in Everyday Life*.

Civic groups are said to be the fount of democracy, but these vivid portraits of American life reveal an intriguing culture of political avoidance. Nina Eliasoph accompanied volunteers, activists and recreation club members, listening to them talk--and not talk--politics, in a range of private and public settings. Unlike interview-based studies of political participation and civic culture, *Avoiding Politics* shows how citizens create and communicate political ideas in everyday life. (Amazon.com)

Ellis, Joseph. *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*.

In a landmark work of history, the National Book Award-winning author of *American Sphinx* explores how a group of greatly gifted but deeply flawed men -- Hamilton, Burr, Jefferson, Franklin, Washington, Adams, and Madison -- set the course for our nation. Ellis illuminates the profoundly deep bonds and the often fractious, sometimes blind, efforts of the Founding Fathers -- reexamined here as Founding Brothers -- to realize strikingly different visions of America. During their own time, and even more so in ours, the Founding Fathers were perceived as demigods no more tainted by the stain of imperfect humanity than marble statues. Ellis's penetrating analysis of six fascinating historical episodes, including Hamilton and Burr's deadly duel, Washington's Farewell Address, and the correspondence between Jefferson and Adams, brings these statues to life and their visions into focus. (Ingram Library Services)

Ivins, Molly and Lou Dubose. *Shrub: The Short but Happy Political Life of George W. Bush*.

When it comes to reporting on politics, nobody does it smarter or funnier than Molly Ivins. In *Shrub*, Ivins focuses her Texas-size smarts on the biggest politician in her home state: George Walker Bush, or "Shrub," as Ivins has nicknamed Bush the Younger. Published just before the 2000 election, *Shrub* is an original, smart, and accessible analysis of Bush--one that leaves the "youthful indiscretions" to the tabloids and gets to the heart of his policies and motivations. With her trademark wit and down-home wisdom, Ivins shares three pieces of advice on judging a politician: "The first is to look at the record. The second is to look at the record. And third, look at the record." In this book, Ivins takes a good, hard look at the pre-election record of the man who is now the leader of the free world. (Ingram Library Services)

Smith, Janna Malamud. *Private Matters: In Defense of the Personal Life*

Today we enjoy more privacy than ever before, yet the encroachment of the media, computer data gathering, and electronic surveillance in our lives undermines our sense that we have privacy at all. Although privacy is essential to our capacity to love and create and think, it can be used for the wrong reasons. The same condition that sustains intimacy, creativity, and freedom can also be invoked as an abusive kind of secrecy. In *Private Matters*, Janna Malamud Smith explores this paradox through various prisms: the bedroom, the psychiatrist's couch, the biography, the presidency, the media, women and their bodies, and post-9/11 policy. More pertinent than ever before, this modern history of privacy offers important insights into the role of this increasingly elusive and fragile virtue.

## **ATHLETICS, HEALTH & WELLNESS**

Reading that explores physical, emotional, mental, and/or spiritual wellness and safety for individuals and communities.

Betancourt, Marian. *Playing Like a Girl: Transforming Our Lives Through Team Sports*.

*Playing Like a Girl* conveys the joy and fierce competition experienced by women's teams and explores the consequences of the explosion of female participation in sports, such as the effects on women in the workplace, the long-term effects of Title IX, and the phenomenon of men coaching women.

Blais, Madeleine. *In These Girls, Hope is a Muscle*.

They were a talented team with a near-perfect record but a reputation for choking in the crunch of the state playoffs. Finally, after five straight years of disappointments, the Amherst Lady Hurricanes found they just might have what it took to go all the way. This is a fierce, funny, and intimate look into their minds and hearts during one very special season. A finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for nonfiction.

Ellis, Neenah. *If I Live to Be 100: Lessons from the Centenarians*.

Ellis produced a program for National Public Radio for which she interviewed people who were a hundred years old or older. She interviewed a wide variety including Margaret Rawson (a world-renowned expert on dyslexia), Ruth Ellis (the oldest living lesbian), and Sadie and Gilbert Hill (married for over eighty years). At first, Ellis focuses on the historical aspects of their lives, but she soon finds herself on a personal journey where she connects to them as individuals alive in the world and begins to see how looking forward, not backward, is a secret to longevity. (Amazon.com)

Longman, Jere. *The Girls of Summer: The U.S. Women's Soccer Team and How It Changed the World*.

Framed around the final game of the 1999 Women's World Cup in the Rose Bowl (in which the United States beat China on penalty kicks after two scoreless hours), this book by *New York Times* sportswriter Longman ventures off the field to discuss such topics as the rise of women's sports, women's soccer in Muslim countries, and the athletes' sex appeal. Stars such as Mia Hamm, Michelle Akers, and goalkeeper Brianna Scully get a chapter apiece, but, laudably, less-heralded players, such as Christine Lilly, Carla Overbeck, and Sun Wen for China, also get center stage. More a celebration than the saga of "how the team changed the world," the book captures the excitement of soccer and the extreme competitive nature of these women players. Game descriptions are so vivid that readers will feel they are watching the game on video. (Kathy Ruffle, *Library Journal*)

Mogel, Wendy. *The Blessings of a Skinned Knee: Using Jewish Teachings to Raise Self-Reliant Children*.

Every parent hopes their child will be self-reliant, optimistic, and well mannered, a challenge in our current culture. Clinical psychologist and Jewish educator Wendy Mogel distills the ancient teachings of the Torah, the Talmud, important Jewish thinkers, and contemporary psychological insights into nine blessings that address key parenting issues such as determining realistic expectations for each child, respect for adults, chores, mealtime battles, coping with frustration, developing independence and self-control, and resisting over-scheduling and over-indulgence. (Amazon.com)

## CURRICULUM

Reading that examines the ways in which we teach and/or structure our academic lives, as well as the trends that affect educators.

Kravolec, Etta and John Buell. *The End of Homework: How Homework Disrupts Families, Overburdens Children, and Limits Learning*.

This provocative book is one of the first publications linking homework with school reform. Reviewing the inadequate studies that have been conducted and citing historical documents on both sides of the debate, Kravolec, a former teacher, and Buell, an author and former editor of the *Progressive*, question the value of homework, providing a compelling argument that schools must educate children without over-relying on homework and extracurricular activities. Their controversial ideas will certainly challenge both educators and parents.

Sheffer, Susannah. *Listening to Homeschooled Adolescent Girls*.

In interviews she conducted with 55 girls who have opted to learn at home rather than in conventional schools, Sheffer has established that their enhanced self-esteem is a noticeable by-product. Her respondents are able to put to rest concerns about their social lives and opportunities to form close friendships. Instead, they almost universally express a sense of liberation at being able to make choices and to believe in themselves. For many, traditional schools had not nurtured these qualities, for a variety of reasons. This insider look at home schooling dispels myths about what it is and what it is not, and contributes to the general educational discussion about adolescent girls by demonstrating that "not all girls are suffering or have to suffer." (*Publishers Weekly*)

Sizer, Nancy Faust. *Crossing the Stage: Redesigning Senior Year*.

"Study shows senior year is wasted." "Senior slump a nationwide problem." These are among recent headlines attesting to the apathy, absenteeism, and lost opportunity that are widespread among high school seniors--so much so that a national commission was founded in 2000 to investigate. Nancy Faust Sizer was a prominent member and knows from her twenty-five years of teaching how the quality of the senior year has declined. So she decided to interview a variety of seniors from diverse schools to get their side of the story. As it turns out, senior year is harder than most of us remember. Yet Sizer sees this period as an opportunity--a time when seniors could devote all or part of their last year to a new kind of study, a serious investigation of a topic of personal interest that could shape short- and long-range habits and future plans. (Amazon.com)

Tapscott, Don. *Growing Up Digital: The Rise of the Net Generation*.

Tapscott looks at the way young people--surrounded by high-tech toys and tools from birth--will likely affect the future. In *Growing Up Digital*, Tapscott parlays some 300 interviews into predictions on how today's 2- to 22-year-olds might reshape society. His observations about this enormously influential

population, which totaled 88 million in North America alone by the year 2000, range from the kind of employees they may eventually be to how they could be reached by marketers. (Amazon.com)

## DIVERSITY

Reading that addresses an aspect of diversity in United States life and culture that affects us, our students, and the world in which we live. Topics include race, ethnicity, religion, sexual identity, socioeconomic status, and physical and mental handicaps.

Boylan, Jennifer Finney. *She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders*.

Boylan, English professor at Colby College and author of several critically acclaimed novels, began life as a male named James Boylan. In this memoir, she details her lifelong struggle with her burgeoning femaleness and the path she followed to become a female, both physically and mentally. For 40 years, the author lived as a man, seemingly happy and even marrying a woman and fathering two children. At a certain point, though, she realized that she couldn't suppress her desire to live as a female and so eventually went through all the steps to become female, including sexual reassignment surgery. (Kathleen Hughes, *Booklist*)

Ehrenreich, Barbara. *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America*.

Millions of Americans work for poverty-level wages, and one day Barbara Ehrenreich decided to join them. She was inspired in part by the rhetoric surrounding welfare reform, which promised that any job equals a better life. But how can anyone survive, let alone prosper, on \$6 to \$7 an hour? To find out, Ehrenreich moved from Florida to Maine to Minnesota, taking the cheapest lodgings available and accepting work as a waitress, hotel maid, house cleaner, nursing-home aide, and Wal-Mart salesperson. She soon discovered that even the "lowliest" occupations require exhausting mental and physical efforts. And one job is not enough; you need at least two if you intend to live indoors. (Amazon.com)

Eire, Carlos. *Waiting for Snow in Havana*.

Eire's complex, introspective memoir begins the day his world changed: when Castro's troops sent President Batista into exile far from Cuba in 1959. The son of a judge who believed himself to be Louis XVI reincarnated, Carlos, along with his older brother, Tony, spent his days playing with fireworks and lizards. He attended an elite school, where Batista's children were his classmates. The Eire family remained in Cuba even as others left, until finally Eire's parents sent Carlos and Tony to Florida, where a very different life awaited them. Years passed before their mother joined them, but Carlos never saw his father again. (Kristine Huntley, *Booklist*)

Fremont, Helen. *After Long Silence: A Memoir*.

Along with her older sister, Lara, Fremont was raised in an ostensibly Roman Catholic family in the Midwest. Although Fremont knew that her father had been in a Siberian gulag for six years and that her mother had been in a concentration camp, she and Lara later discovered that their parents were actually Polish Jews whose families had been virtually wiped out in the Holocaust. Fremont's voyage of discovery is engrossing, as she not only learns of her family's tragic history and heroic survival but also of the powerful relationships between sisters: she with Lara and her mother with her own strong-willed sister, Zosia, who saved them from the Nazis. Unlocking her family's past helps draw Fremont closer to both her sister and her parents, who had remained silent for 50 years (John A. Drobnicki, *Library Journal*)

Hockenberry, John. *Moving Violations: War Zones, Wheelchairs, and Declarations of Independence*.

This brilliantly told memoir is a riveting and unforgettable account of Hockenberry's struggle to be free within the confines of paralysis. At age 19, Hockenberry survived a car crash that severed his spinal cord. Not only did he have to acquire new physical skills, he also had to recast his orientation to the human race. As he relates one blunt, eye-popping anecdote after another--some hilarious, others full of fury--Hockenberry unmasks the fear and ignorance underlying discrimination against the disabled and explains how his disability became an impetus for achievement. (Donna Seaman, *Booklist*)

Simon, Rachel. *Riding the Bus with My Sister: A True Life Journey*.

Because Simon's adult sister, Beth, is mentally retarded, she doesn't spend her days the way most people do. Her life is a stark contrast to that of the author, whose professional responsibilities often consume so much of her time that she has virtually no personal life. While Simon spends her days and nights writing and teaching, Beth makes the best of what her limited opportunities and meager income afford her. She rides the buses all day for the sheer joy of passing through the city and interacting with various drivers and passengers. Simon spent a year riding the buses with Beth and learns about a whole new world and a way of looking at life that is completely foreign to most middle-class people. The experience allows Rachel to forge a new understanding about her sister and her own life. The year spent with Beth prompted Rachel to reexamine their upbringing and ultimately to realize that Beth taught her as much as she taught her sister. (June Pulliam, *Booklist*)

Suskin, Ron. *A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League*.

An offshoot of Suskind's Pulitzer Prize-winning articles on students at a crime-ridden Washington, DC, high school, this chronicles the journey of one of those students--Cedric Jennings--out of the ghetto through his first year at Brown. With mesmerizing detail, Suskind weaves Cedric's story: his illegitimacy, his fiercely protective mother, the black Pentecostal church that imbues him with a trust in God, the taunts and threats he suffers at Ballou High because he is a model student, the strangeness he feels at Brown, both culturally and socially, his academic unpreparedness, despite being the best at Ballou, and his survival at Brown against the odds. Suskind uses his reporter's skills brilliantly, portraying Cedric's outer and inner life and making an eloquent though unstated plea for affirmative action. (Francine Fialkoff, *Library Journal*)

## **GENDER**

Reading that promotes a greater understanding of the teaching, growth and development, and/or psychology of girls and young women.

Belfer, Lauren. *City of Light*.

In 1901, Buffalo, New York, is thriving: a hydroelectric power station is poised to use the water of Niagara Falls to light the nation, and the city fathers are planning a Pan-American Exposition. The 36-year-old Louisa Barrett, headmistress of the Macaulay School for Girls, is accepted as an equal by Buffalo's wealthy and powerful leaders. The intellectual and artistic elite of the city flock to Louisa's home for her regular salons. Although her best friend, Margaret Sinclair, recently passed away, Louisa has a close and loving relationship with Margaret's nine-year-old daughter, Grace. But when two men die under suspicious circumstances at the Niagara power station run by Margaret's widower, Tom, Louisa is forced to examine her own past and question not only her allegiances but

also the choices she has made. Using both real and imagined characters, Belfer examines an early skirmish in the war between conserving and exploiting natural resources, the sexual double standard, and racial prejudice in a northern city at the turn of the century. (Nancy Pearl, *Booklist*)

Brown, Lyn Mikel. *Raising Their Voices: The Politics of Girls' Anger*.

This book, filled with the voices of teenage girls, corrects the misperceptions that have crept into our picture of female adolescence. Based on the author's yearlong conversation with white junior high and middle school girls--from the working poor and the middle class--*Raising Their Voices* allows us to hear how girls adopt some expectations about gender but strenuously resist others, how they use traditionally feminine means to maintain their independence, and how they recognize and resist pressures to ignore their own needs and wishes. (Amazon.com)

Edelman, Hope. *Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss*.

The death of a mother--particularly during one's young years--is traumatic. Writing of her own experiences of losing her mother when she was 17, and the grief of hundreds of women she interviewed who lost their mothers through death, abandonment, or another form of separation, Edelman marshals a wealth of anecdotal evidence, supplemented with psychological research about bereavement, that indicates that one's longing for a mother never disappears. Though the focus is on early loss for girls and the implications for their developing identity, adult daughters also speak in these pages to provide another poignant perspective. The author succeeds in opening up cathartic dialogues, personalizing a life-changing event and offering guidelines to help women of any age live with their loss. (*Publishers Weekly*)

*An Intricate Weave: Women Write about Girls and Girlhood*. Ed. Marlene Miller.

In poetry, fiction, essay, and, especially, memoir, women writers talk about that crucial time before puberty when girls are strong and confident, before they learn to crush their dreams and not compete with men. In the best pieces in this collection, the truth is in their particulars, whether they are about mothers, daughters, sisters, mentors, friends, or the stranger who sets you free. A woman in one story acknowledges the inspiration of her ardent, unglamorous math teacher. In another story, a married woman remembers her awkward childhood crush on her best friend. In the pieces by Julie Alvarez, Lucille Clifton, Adrienne Rich, and many new voices, readers will recognize their own defining experiences of failure and rebellion. (Hazel Rochman, *Booklist*)

## WRITING

Reading that helps illuminate the writing process.

Goldberg, Natalie. *Writing Down the Bones*.

Part writing guide, part Zen philosophy, and part personal diary, this book has the smooth, fast flow of a conversation with a good friend who, while struggling with her own writing, has picked up more than a few tips that she eagerly shares. Definitely not another "how to write better themes" or a rehash of the writing process, Goldberg's short, quirky chapters give the finer points of how to write in a restaurant and why bother to write at all. While there are the required chapters on using detail and keeping a journal, the most important thing Goldberg has to say is that "we have lived. Our moments are important. This is what it is to be a writer: to be the carrier of details that make up history." (Carolyn Praytor Boyd, *School Library Journal*)

King, Stephen. *On Writing*

In 1981 King penned *Danse Macabre*, a thoughtful analysis of the horror genre. Now he is treating his vast readership to another glimpse into the intellect that spawns his astoundingly imaginative works. This volume, slim by King standards, manages to cover his life from early childhood through the aftermath of the 1999 accident that nearly killed him. Along the way, King touts the writing philosophies of William Strunk and Ernest Hemingway, advocates a healthy appetite for reading, expounds upon the subject of grammar, critiques a number of popular writers, and offers the reader a chance to try out his theories. But most important, we who climb aboard for this ride with the master spend a few pleasant hours under the impression that we know what it's like to think like Stephen King. Recommended for anyone who wants to write and everyone who loves to read. (Nancy McNicol, *Library Journal*)

Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*.

Lamott makes her living by selling magazine articles and books. She also teaches writing, and reading this work is like sitting in on one of her workshops. While discussing elements of the craft such as character development, plot invention, and rewriting, she presents much more than an instruction manual in this small text. Writing is by nature a personal and solitary trade, and Lamott offers thorough examples and anecdotes that explain how she copes with self-doubt, writer's block, professional jealousy, and the discipline necessary to turn thoughts into words on a page. Her work is an honest appraisal of what it takes to be a writer and why it matters so much. (Denise Sticha, *Library Journal*)

Romano, Tom. *Crafting Authentic Voice*.

In a compelling text, the author makes the case for giving special time and attention to voice as a means to get students involved and improve their writing (Amazon.com).

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