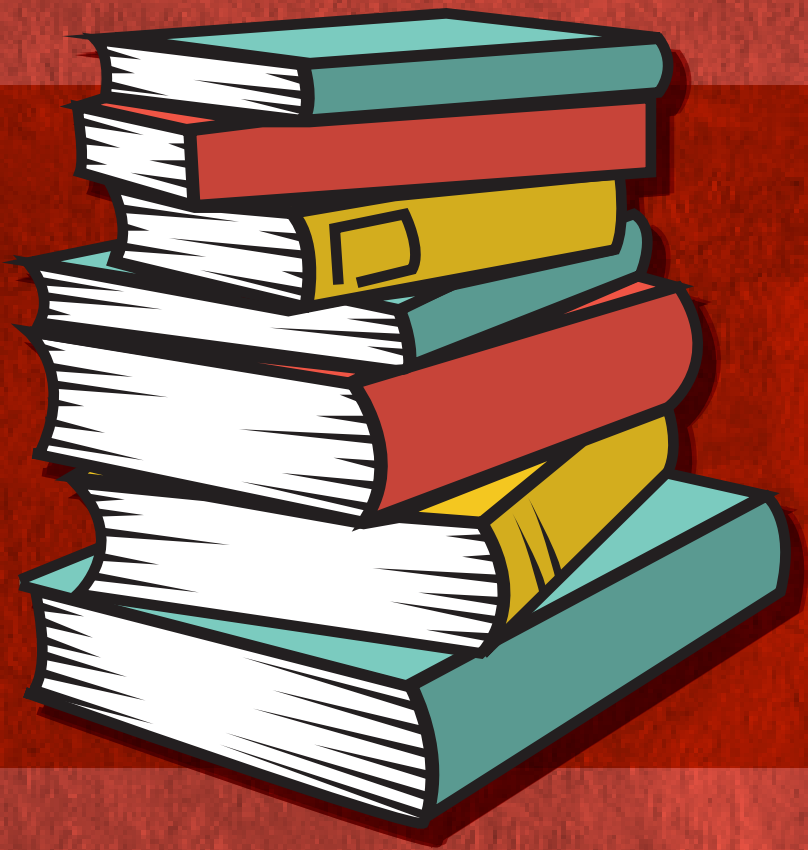


6th annual DIVERSITY MATTERS Book Series



Kick-off meeting

Meet discussion facilitators, enjoy refreshments and purchase a copy of the books.

Tuesday, Sept. 10
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Fort Omaha Campus
30th and Fort streets
Building 10, Room 136B-C

Fall

“Mexico South” by Miguel Covarrubias

Filled with Covarrubias's colorful paintings and photographs, “Mexico South” is a travel book on the history and daily life of the 117-mile area between Juchitan and Coatzacoalcos. Covarrubias illustrates the region's ancient history and details the peoples' complex relationship with the Spanish conquistadores, forming a larger theme that the Indian cultures of Mexico became a dynamic force on Pacific Ocean civilizations as far away as Easter Island.

Facilitator: Enrique Brodsky, native of Veracruz, Mexico, and MCC Spanish/ESL instructor

Tuesday, Oct. 29
12:15-1:15 p.m.
South Omaha Campus
27th and Q streets
Connector Building
Library Conference Rooms A-B

Winter

“Search Sweet Country” by Kojo Laing

One of the greatest African novels, “Search Sweet Country” follows the lives of an eclectic and interconnected group of Ghanaians living near the sprawling, chaotic city of Accra in the mid-1970s. Bringing to life the bustling markets and bars in dizzying, lyrical prose, Laing weaves a story filled with bizarre and often melancholy characters: an idealistic professor, a lovely young witch, a wide-eyed student, a corrupt politician and more. Their collective narratives create a portrait of a country where colonialism is dying but democracy remains elusive.

Facilitator: A'Jamal Byndon, MCC social science instructor

Thursday, Jan. 23
6:15-7:15 p.m.
Fort Omaha Campus
30th and Fort streets
Building 10, Room 136B-C

Participation is free and open to the public. Read the book prior to the discussion or just come to share in dialogue. Bring food or beverages to enjoy during the discussion. Participants are expected to gain greater understanding on a variety of diversity topics. A limited number of copies of the books are available at MCC libraries.

Contact 402-457-2253 or bvelazquez@mccneb.edu for additional information or to suggest books for future book series.

Spring

“Sparta” by Roxana Robinson

When 21-year-old Conrad Farrell leaves for the Iraq War, he is a classics major and is obsessed with ancient Greek societies and his girlfriend. When he returns to his parents' upstate New York farmhouse, a framed photograph from his Marines graduation is the only link between his current and former selves. He had two pasts: his childhood and the war. Month after month, he struggles to re-enter American society, fighting off headaches, insomnia, nightmares and behaviors unique to the war, such as swerving away from any small white sedans traveling too fast or too close to his car on the highway in case the driver is a suicide bomber. It is as if you are experiencing PTSD along with Farrell.

Facilitator: Cathleen Edmonson, RN, BSN, OEF/OIF nurse case manager

Thursday, March 27
3-4 p.m.
Elkhorn Valley Campus
204th and W. Dodge Road
Room 150

“The Immigrant Advantage” by Claudia Kolker

“The Immigrant Advantage” takes you into the living rooms, kitchens and restaurants of immigrant families across the country, exploring the sociable street life of Chicago's Little Village, a Mexican enclave with extraordinarily low rates of asthma and heart disease; the focused quiet of Korean after-school tutoring centers; and the loving, controlled chaos of a Jamaican extended-family home. Kolker chronicles the quests of young Indian Americans to find spouses with their parents' guidance, revealing the benefits of “assisted marriage.” She dives with gusto into some of the customs herself, experimenting to see how we might all fit them into our lives. She shows us the joy of savoring Vietnamese “monthly rice” meals delivered to her door, hiring a tutor for her two young girls and finding a powerful sense of community in a money-lending club she started with friends.

Facilitator: Liliana Petersen, Ph.D., native of Romania and MCC management/ entrepreneurship instructor

Thursday, April 10
11 a.m.-noon
South Omaha Campus
27th and Q streets
Connector Building
Library Conference Rooms A-B

Summer

“The Perfect Gentleman: A Muslim Boy Meets the West” by Imran Ahmad

Imran Ahmad tells his life story – from leaving Karachi, Pakistan, at the age of 1 to growing up as a Muslim immigrant in London. As a boy, Ahmad is torn between his Islamic identity and his desire to embrace the West and becomes confused about most things, including religion. With wit and humor and in delightful detail, Ahmad describes his quest to be the perfect English gentleman, his yearning for the coolest car and his desire for a beautiful girlfriend. “The Perfect Gentleman” addresses serious issues in a light way, leaving readers thinking deeply and laughing out loud.

Facilitator: Shama Ali, native of Pakistan and coordinator of international student services, Creighton University

Friday, June 20
Noon-1 p.m.
Fort Omaha Campus
30th and Fort streets
Building 10, Room 136B-C



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