

Book Discussion Group
Encore Fall 2025
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This student-led literature discussion class actively engages participants in constructively conversing about books we read. We discuss, dissect, analyze and react personally to four books, guided by structured discussion questions.

Books (recent fiction or non-fiction) are announced in advance, so students have ample opportunity to get and read them. Each book is discussed for one to two weeks, as scheduled. This class runs during each of three Encore terms.

Students from diverse backgrounds and viewpoints are welcomed. Class members suggest books for future terms.

1. Class led, member participation, book discussion course, not a lecture course.
2. Class members volunteer to co-facilitate book discussions and all members actively participate.
3. Book Reading list:

Please order books well in advance and read the book ahead of class discussion. Keep in mind that some more popular or recent books take a while to get from library, if there are lots of holds and/or limited copies.

4. Each book is discussed for one to two weeks. Discussion questions for each will be emailed out the week of each class.
5. Submit your email address to marceya@att.net for my email list.

Encore Fall 2025 Book Schedule:

1) The Cure for Women: Mary Putnam Jacobi... by Lydia Reeder (2024) 336pp

Lead by Marcia B. Sept 25 (one week book, extended session)

How Victorian male doctors used false science to argue that women were unfit for anything but motherhood – and the brilliant doctor who defied them.

Oct. 2 No class due to holiday

2) Whiskey Tender: A Memoir by Deborah Jackson Taffa (2024) 289pp

Lead by Sharon Oct. 9-16

Taffa's memories of family and survival, coming of age on and off the reservation, and the frictions between being raised to strive towards the American dream while also coming into an understanding of how the narratives of the Quechan Nation and Laguna Pueblo heritages have been excluded from the central mythologies and structures of America.

3) Songs for the Brokenhearted by Ayelet Tsabari (2024) 352 pp

Lead by Phyllis Oct. 23-30

Novel about the immigration of Yemeni Jews to Israel in the 1950's intertwined with the story of one of those immigrant's daughter's life in 1995.

4) Silver Sparrow by Tayari Jones (2012) 368pp

Lead by Judie Nov. 6-13 (Nov 13 make up class for Oct 2)

Set in a middle-class neighborhood in Atlanta in the 1980s, the novel revolves around James Witherspoon's two families – the public one and the secret one. When the daughters from each family meet and form a friendship, only one of them knows they are sisters. It is a relationship destined to explode when secrets are revealed, and illusions shattered.