

For ENGL 102, you need to select a nonfiction book to be the central text for all of your work 2nd semester. Anything nonfiction is acceptable (memoirs, self-help books, etc) but I highly recommend what could be referred to as a “microhistory.” Microhistories are books that chart the rise, fall, use, permeance of one idea or item in our society (there are literally ones about rain, salt, umbrellas...you name it).

Below are books I have read and recommend, and others that are on my radar that I haven't read but know would be good choices (from having taught this course before, and from having a general reading life).

YOU DO NOT NEED TO CHOOSE FROM THIS LIST

Ones Flanagan Has Read and Liked A Whole Lot

1. *Cultish* by Amanda Montell
2. *The Etymologicon: A Circular Stroll Through the Hidden Connections of the English Language* by Mark Forsyth
3. *Ten Percent Happier: How I Tamed the Voice in my Head, Reduced Stress Without Losing my Edge, and Found Self-Help that Actually Works - A True Story* by Dan Harris
4. *Seek You: A Journey Through American Loneliness* by Kristen Radtke
5. *From Here to Eternity: Traveling the World to Find the Good Death* by Caitlin Doughty
6. *The Geeks Shall Inherit the Earth: Popularity, Quirk Theory, and Why Outsiders Thrive After High School* by Alexandra Robbins
7. *How to Be Perfect: The Correct Answer to Every Moral Question* by Michael Schur
8. *The Great Indoors: The Surprising Science of How Buildings Shape Our Behavior, Health and Happiness* by Emily Anthes
9. *Stolen Focus: Why You Can't Pay Attention - and How to Think Deeply Again* by Johann Hari
 - Real-talk: I haven't read **all** of these last two yet, but I have read a few chapters and other excerpted passages

Other Recommendations that Flanagan has encountered

1. *Wayward: A Memoir of Spiritual Warfare and Sexual Purity* by Alice Greczyn
2. *Columbine* by Dave Cullen
3. *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly
4. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander

5. *The Serpent and the Rainbow: A Harvard Scientist's Astonishing Journey into the Secret Societies of Haitian Voodoo, Zombis, and Magic* by Wade Davis
6. *From the Bottom Up: One Man's Crusade to Clean America's Rivers* by Chad Pregracke
7. *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can't Stop Talking* by Susan Cain
8. *A Brief History of Time* by Stephen Hawking
9. *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* by Robert Putnam
10. Literally anything by Mary Roach:
 - *Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law*
 - *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*
 - *Spook: Science Tackles the Afterlife*
 - *Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void*
 - *Gulp: Adventures on the Alimentary Canal*
 - *Grunt: The Curious Science of Humans at War*