

Chase those summer blahs away



Philosophy

Summer 2009 Reading/ Viewing Suggestions from Majors, Minors, Faculty & Staff

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BOOK/MOVIE	AUTHOR/DIRECTOR	COMMENTS	RECOMMENDED BY
<i>Annie Hall</i>	Allen, Woody (director)		Robert Crane
<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	Austen, Jane	Or just watch the BBC movie.	Melissa Hackenmueller
<i>Life is Beautiful</i>	Benigni, Roberto (director)		Joseph Turner
<i>Presidential Courage</i>	Beschloss, Michael R.	It's full of surprises, for instance, it gives details about George Washington's lack of popularity.	Dr. Lemmons
<i>The Consolation of Philosophy</i>	Boethius	A classic written in 524 AD about time, suffering, and the value of philosophy.	Dr. Lemmons
<i>Brave New Family</i>	Chesterton, G.K.		Zachary Froelich
<i>Orthodoxy</i>	Chesterton, G.K.	Chesterton's <i>Orthodoxy</i> is a good choice for a summer read because of Chesterton's quick wit and the questions brought up are complex, but understandable and relatable to everyday events. Chesterton gives the reader something to think about while provoking further questioning and deeper contemplation.	Bridget E. Kaper
	Chesterton, G.K.	Read anything by G.K. Chesterton, but especially his book <i>Orthodoxy</i> . It is one of the best books I've Paul Erickson ever read.	
<i>New Horizons in the Study of Language and Mind</i>	Chomsky, Noam	An outstanding contribution to the philosophical investigation of mind and language. Classical problems of philosophy are addressed in a clear, choerent fashion, and in a way that engages readers across a diverse array of cultural backgrounds. Highly recommended.	Nils Richards
<i>Angels with Dirty Faces</i>	Curtiz, Michael (director)	Great story about crime, redemption, and friendship. Bonus: the hero is a priest.	Dr. Giebel
<i>Casablanca</i>	Curtiz, Michael (director)	A movie no one should die not having seen.	Dr. Heaney
<i>Welfare and Rational Care</i>	Darwall, Stephen		Steve Winkelman
<i>The Hollow Universe</i>	de Konick, Charles	This book consists of three easy-to-follow yet profound lectures that point out the error of materialist reductionism, so prevalent today. I read the book after my senior year in college when school was out of session and found it very enlightening.	Dr. Kent
<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i>	Dickens, Charles		Joseph Turner
<i>What's So Great About Christianity</i>	D'Souza, Dinesh		Joseph Turner
<i>The Dearest Freshness Deep Down Things</i>	Emonet, Pierre-Marie	It's a great reflection on metaphysics and poetry. Several friends have recommended it to me—and with good cause; it does a particularly nice job with teleology. (And a new G. M. Hopkins biography has recently come out, so the timing's good to revisit his work too.)	Dr. Deavel
<i>Peace Like a River</i>	Enger, Leif	Miracles, or not?	Dr. Heaney
<i>Eifelheim</i>	Flynn, Michael	What would happen if aliens visited a 14th century German village? It stars some monks and has a guest appearance by Ockham. It has some interesting sci-fi and some philosophical argumentation. I liked it a fair bit.	Dr. Pawl
<i>Man's Search for Meaning</i>	Frankl, Viktor	It gives reflective descriptions of life in a Nazi concentration camp written two weeks after release.	Dr. Lemmons



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<i>Thomism: The Philosophy of St. Thomas</i>	Gilson, Etienne	Gilson is one of the twentieth century's greatest medievalists. FWIW, I've yet to read/see a book on Aquinas that doesn't cite him, and most rather copiously. This book was Gilson's "lifelong companion," and it ran to six editions between 1917 and 1965, as he was always revising it. Not every scholar agrees with Gilson's judgments, I'm sure (and he sometimes disagrees with himself, like any good philosopher), but no one ignores them. So if you're serious about Aquinas, and like long, hard books on philosophy (the 6th ed. Runs over 400 pages), "tolle, lege." N.B. If you decide to check this book out, go right to the last chapter, "the Spirit of Thomism," and start there. I say that because Thomas' work is so dense, copious, and challenging in it's details (and so is Gilson's book) that it can sometimes be hard to see the forest for the trees. This last chapter, along with the inimitable G.K. Chesterton's inimitable bio of Thomas, helped me begin to understand what Aquinas' philosophy was all about, and why the Catholic Church holds him up as a paradigm for Christian philosophers.	Byron Hagan
<i>A Farewell to Arms</i>	Hemingway, Ernest		Zachary Froelich
<i>Notorious</i>	Hitchcock, Alfred (director)	A movie no one should die not having seen.	Dr. Heaney
<i>Hyperion</i>	Hölderlin, Friedrich		Robert Crane
<i>Judgment at Nuremberg</i>	Kramer, Stanley (director)	A fictionalized tale about the trial of Nazi judges, actually contains the films used in the real trials	Dr. Lemmons
<i>Back to Virtue</i>	Kreeft, Peter		Adam Laski
<i>Barabbas</i>	Lagerkvist, Par	Par Lagerkvist is one of my favorite authors. This is a story of Barabbas, from his perspective. I think the storyline is very interesting, and that Lagerkvist does a good job of setting a mood in the story too. I find the mood follows me when I put the book down.	Dr. Pawl
<i>The Dwarf</i>	Lagerkvist, Par	Very good, deserved its Pulitzer.	Dr. Pawl
<i>Anything by C.S. Lewis, including the Space Trilogy</i>	Lewis, C.S.		Dr. Heaney
<i>The Great Divorce</i>	Lewis, C.S.		Matthew Kuettel
<i>Waking Life</i>	Linklater, Richard (director)		Joshua Brix
<i>Joan of Arc</i>	Nash-Marshall, Siobhan	It raises interesting questions about why God would side with the French against the British	Dr. Lemmons
<i>Frontiers of Justice</i>	Nussbaum, Martha C.		Michael Arleth
<i>Love and Responsibility</i>	Pope John Paul II		Matthew Kuettel
<i>Thank You for Smoking</i>	Reitman, Jason (director)	Stars Aaron Eckhart, who played Harvey Dent in The Dark Knight----a must for any philosophical education, it's pretty much about the tremendous influence that logical fallacies command in political philosophy and policy	Sean Barker
<i>The Holy Longing</i>	Rolheiser, Ron	This book is really good for just reading, but also lends to meditation.	Ken Hiveley
<i>Straight Man</i>	Russo, Richard	A funny book about academics	Dr. Heaney



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<i>Top Hat</i>	Sandrich, Mark (director)	A movie no one should die not having seen.	Dr. Heaney
<i>Utilitarianism: For and Against</i>	Smart, J.C.C. and Bernard Williams		Joshua Brix
<i>Crossing to Safety</i>	Stenger, Wallace	For a book about academia...	Dr. Heaney
<i>The Dish</i>	Stich, Rob (director)	Gentle, humorous, heroic and somewhat fictionalized account about those who ran the satellite dish during the first moon walk.	Dr. Lemmons
<i>Dracula</i>	Stoker, Bram	A delightful story about faith and reason, and more importantly about friendship and trust.	Dr. Heaney
<i>The Lord of the Rings</i>	Tolkein, J.R.R.	My all-time favorite story.	Dr. Heaney (also recommended by Gabriel Walz)
<i>The Silmarillion</i>	Tolkein, J.R.R.	His epic tragedy: great gifts, great pride, a world-shattering fall.	Dr. Heaney
<i>War and Peace</i>	Tolstoy, Leo	Despite its length, it's actually quite interesting, especially for anyone interested in history.	Melissa Hackenmueller
<i>Candide</i>	Voltaire	HILARIOUS satire on the danger of blind optimism	Sean Barker
<i>A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again</i>	Wallace, David Foster	Wallace, who studied philosophy as an undergraduate, writes in a witty, complex, self-conscious style. This book of essays mines mundanities-- television, cruise ships, tennis, the state fair--for deeper meaning.	Ann M. Hale
<i>Moral Luck</i>	Williams, Bernard		Joshua Brix
<i>Kantian Ethics</i>	Wood, Allen		Steve Winkelman
<i>Native Son</i>	Wright, Richard	I also finally got around to reading Native Son, by Richard Wright. Still packs a wallop after all these years. Reminds me of why I once was a Democrat.	Dr. Heaney
<i>High Noon</i>	Zinnemann, Fred (director)	A movie no one should die not having seen.	Dr. Heaney