



KENDALL CENTER

J-TERM READING GROUPS

There will be 3 different book groups available to faculty this January. Each meeting will be on campus and include refreshments. All books will be provided free of charge to those faculty who have signed up. Please contact Cathy Blaukat (cblaukat@gustavus.edu) by December 20th to reserve a spot. Space is limited, but if there is room, faculty can be part of more than one group.

NOTE: faculty can sign up for the book group on memory and the learning process as a special January edition of Camp Kendall and receive a \$150 stipend if they wish. Please let Cathy Blaukat know when you contact her.

Paradise Lost

Meeting times: 1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/30 (Thursdays) from 3:00-4:30 PM

Facilitator: Blake Couey, Religion

Book: *Paradise Lost* by John Milton

Retelling the biblical story of the creation and fall of humanity, John Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost* is a masterpiece of English literature. Although it's a 17th-century interpretation of a 2500 year old story, the poem raises important issues that resonate in our time, such as the nature of evil and temptation, the goodness of the natural world, or the appropriateness of rebellion against absolute authority. Readers continue to debate whether Satan is the hero of the poem, or whether Milton's portrayal of Eve is hopelessly misogynistic. And like all good literature, *Paradise Lost* demonstrates the power and perhaps also the danger of language.

Culture and Agriculture

Meeting times: 1/13, 1/20, 1/27 (Mondays), 2:30-4 PM.

Facilitator: Annika Ericksen, Sociology & Anthropology

Books: *No More Food Fights! Growing a Productive Farm and Food Conversation* by Michele Payne-Knoper; *Farming for Us All: Practical Agriculture and the Cultivation of Sustainability* by Michael Bell.

This group will bring together faculty and local farmers to discuss two books that address controversy and change in our food system. The first book is *No More Food Fights! Growing a Productive Farm and Food Conversation*. Author Michele Payne-Knoper addresses distrust between consumers and food producers and suggests strategies for mutual education and finding common ground. The second book is *Farming for Us All: Practical Agriculture and the Cultivation of Sustainability*. Sociologist Michael Bell digs into the dynamics through which a group of Iowa farmers transformed their own operations and inspired others to try more sustainable methods.

Memory and the Learning Process

Meeting Times: 1/15, 1/22, 1/29 (Wednesdays), 1-2:15.

Facilitator: Jen Ackil, Psychology

Books: *Make it Stick: The Science of Successful Learning* by Henry L. Roediger III and Mark A. McDaniel; *Small Teaching: Everyday Lessons from the Science of Learning* by James M. Lang.

Memory plays a central role in our ability to carry out complex cognitive tasks such as applying knowledge to problems never before encountered and drawing inferences from facts already known. New insights into how memory is encoded, consolidated, and later retrieved have led to a better understanding of how we learn in a wide variety of subjects. During January, we will read from two books exploring research on memory and what that means for teaching and learning: *Make it Stick: The Science of Successful Learning* by Henry L. Roediger III, and Mark A. McDaniel; *Small Teaching: Everyday Lessons from the Science of Learning* by James M. Lang.

NOTE: faculty can sign up for this as a reading group or as a special January edition of Camp Kendall. In the latter case, faculty would also receive a \$150 stipend and commit to meet twice more as a group during the spring term (around the midterm and towards the end of the semester) to discuss whatever elements of the reading they implemented in a spring class that they were teaching.