

Psychology Book Club

You will participate in two different book clubs over the course of the semester. Book Club A will meet three times during the first half of the semester; Book Club B will meet three times during the second half of the semester. Book Clubs will organize around a list of non-fiction books written by psychologists and other informed authors for non-expert audiences. Each Book Club will be limited to three people, though multiple groups could potentially read the same book.

Members from your Book Club will collectively decide on the reading assignments for each discussion session (e.g., "We'll read the first five of the fifteen chapters for the first discussion..."). Each group member will facilitate a discussion of the book for one entire class session. The facilitator will prepare a discussion facilitation; facilitators should hand in their facilitation plan to me at the end of discussion period. The group members /not/facilitating a particular discussion will come prepared to engage fully in the discussion (come prepared with your own insights, questions, and enthusiasm). Group members will evaluate each others' contributions to the group. * *Within 24 hours of the discussion section, complete the provided evaluation sheet.

Although one person will facilitate each session, all group members are expected to contribute fully to each discussion. Imagine yourself sitting down with friends to discuss a fascinating book of interest to all of you. Engage with the ideas presented in the book and engage with each other. You will spend a total of three hours talking about this book; as such, you all need to take responsibility for keeping the discussion fresh and lively, finding ways of pulling in new ideas and experiences, and committing to a deep and full discussion of the ideas (students sometimes complain that these sorts of books get repetitive near the end -- a disciplined rigor will help you optimize the quality of these discussions). Prior to the first Book Club meeting, we will discuss the qualities of a solid facilitation plan, strong discussion questions, and strategies for keeping the discussion fresh and lively.

The instructor will decide groups.
The groups will decide on the book.