



NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

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Additional UR Summer Reading Recommendations

[Paul Achter](#), Department of Rhetoric and Communications Studies chair

The book I'll be reading is "**The Marvelous Clouds: Toward a Philosophy of Elemental Media**" by John Durham Peters. John Durham Peters is a leading scholar in the field of rhetoric and communication studies. I have read and taught portions of another one of his books, "**Speaking into the Air**," and I find myself returning to it again and again in discussions of communication and media theory.

[Christopher Corts](#), assistant professor of legal writing

This summer, I will be re-reading Miroslav Volf's "**Exclusion and Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation**." I first read it over a decade ago, when I was struggling to forgive three men – kids, really – who had violently assaulted and robbed me on the gentrified streets of the Upper West Side in New York. This time around, I want to see how Volf's philosophical reflections might complement – and challenge – my current scholarly interest in the myriad ways human beings use law to coercively define, control, judge, punish, exploit, harass and otherwise harm disfavored persons and groups.

[Peter Kaufman](#), professor of leadership studies

I recommend reading "**Roots of Heaven**" by Romain Gary, "**Acts of Faith**" by Philip Caputo and "**Emma's War**" by Deborah Scroggins. The first two books are directly relevant to contemporary civil strife and environmentalism. If you prefer your Africa in non-fiction, Deborah Scroggins' "Emma's War" covers the Sudan and presents a lively account of the characters who continue to keep that war-torn society in the news.

[Ernesto Semán](#), assistant professor of leadership studies

"**The Sympathizer**" by Viet Thanh Nguyen deals with ideological brainwashing in Communist Vietnam in a way, I think, that reflects more on contemporary USA than about the Cold War in Vietnam.

[Stephen Simon](#), Philosophy, Politics, Economics, and Law program coordinator

I'll be reading "**Why Does the World Exist**" by Jim Holt. One of my early memories is of looking up at the night sky on camping trips and wondering where everything came from. Now I find it fascinating that this question of childlike wonder is also perhaps the most foundational philosophical problem.

[Johann Stegmeir](#), Department of Theatre and Dance chair

I am re-reading "**The Empty Space**" by Peter Brook," an analysis of theatre by the preeminent English director. I am going to link his observations and analysis to the team-taught Production Studies Series in the Department of Theatre and Dance.

More recommendations:

Professor	Department	Book Recommendation	Author
Jan French	Sociology and Anthropology	The Color of Love: Racial Features, Stigma, and Socialization in Black Brazilian Families	Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman
William Ross	Math and Computer Science	Coolidge	Amity Shales
Todd Lookingbill	Geography and the Environment	Forest Under Story: Creative Inquiry in an Old Growth Forest	Edited by Nathaniel Brodie, Charles Goodrich and Frederick J. Swanson
Hugh West	History	Hadji Murat	Leo Tolstoy
Daniel Palazzolo	Political Science	Hard Choices	Hillary Clinton
Nicole Sackley	American Studies	Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War	Viet Thanh Nguyen
Mari Lee Mifsud	Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	A Xicana Codex of Changing Consciousness Writings, 2000-2010	Cherríe Moraga
Crystal Hoyt	Leadership & Psychology	Personal: A Jack Reacher Novel	Lee Child