SUMMER READING COURSE

"The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them." -- Mark Twain

Mark Twain's maxim is a useful reminder that our literacy is of no value unless we practice it. Directed Summer Reading (RHE-013) is intended for individuals who would appreciate acquiring college credit while maintaining their literacy during the summer months. The basic design for this course is quite simple.

- During the summer you read three books:

  **Outliers** by Malcolm Gladwell
  The summer reading selection for this year’s incoming students, Gladwell’s book introduces some challenging ideas on why Bill Gates, The Beatles, and professional hockey players born in January and February are more successful than equally talented computer geeks, rock & roll musicians, and hockey players born in November and December.

  **Ghost Map** by Steven Johnson
  The subject matter of this book might seem rather gruesome and of marginal interest—a study of a deadly cholera epidemic in London in 1854—but Johnson’s retelling of how various citizens of London responded to the crisis produces a fascinating text with remarkable insights into a host of divergent issues.

  **Sir Gawain and the Green Knight**, translated by W. S. Merwin
  A gigantic Green Knight, appearing at the court of King Arthur, challenges the knights of the Round Table to a duel. Sir Gawain accepts the challenge and proceeds to cut off the head of the Green Knight. The knight, however, picks up his head and tells Sir Gawain to meet him again in a year’s time, when the favor will be returned. Merwin’s translation brilliantly captures the narrative power of the first great horror classic in English literature.

- For each reading assignment, you write a series of 3-4 short commentaries that present your thoughts while reading the books and your final observations on the values of each text.

To register for the course, you need to submit the registration form and a check for $30, a program registration fee that provides you with copies of all three books. *Outliers* is being distributed to all incoming Coe students; the other two books and the course syllabus will be mailed to you upon receipt of your registration form and the check for $30 (made out to the Coe Book Store). The college will begin distributing the syllabus and copies of the books beginning on Wednesday, June 9.

The syllabus for Directed Summer Reading introduces different reading strategies for each text. The short commentary assignments require approximately 90 minutes of writing per book. All compositions for the course are informal drafts, similar to journal writing, and can either be handwritten or done via computer. The writing assignments are due no later than Wednesday, 25 August (during orientation week). Submission guidelines are included in the course syllabus. During the first
three weeks of the fall term, students meet in a small-group discussion session to share ideas on the readings and make sure all assignments have been satisfactorily completed. There is no exam.

The Directed Summer Reading is a perfect opportunity to gain a head start in pursuit of a college degree:

- It is a .3 credit course, graded S/U (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory).
- The course is available to all new Coe students, including transfers.
- The course will appear on your transcript as part of your fall-term registration.

If you wish to participate in this summer reading program, you can enroll by sending your registration form and the $30 check to:

**Coe College Orientation**  
**1220 1st Ave. NE**  
**Cedar Rapids, IA 52402**

Checks should be made out to the “Coe College Book Store.” Please note that enrollment in the Directed Summer Reading is limited and no student registrations are accepted after July 15.
ENROLLMENT FORM
DIRECTED SUMMER READING (RHE-013)

SUMMER 2010

Name: _____________________________________
Date: ________________________________

Summer Mailing

Summer Address:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Phone: ______________________________

E-mail: ____________________________________________________________

Please Note: this registration form should be accompanied by a check or money order for $30 (made out to the "Coe College Book Store").