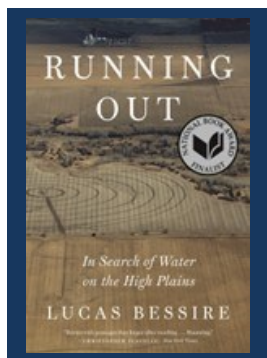




Water, Water Neverwhere

2024 Spring Read Booklist

***The Time It Never Rained* (Elmer Kelton, 2008)** Inspired by actual events, this West Texas novel explores Charlie Flagg's response to the 1950s drought. An honest, decent rancher, the cranky Flagg refuses the "assistance" of federal aid programs and the accompanying bureaucratic regulations. He and his family struggle to survive until it rains again – assuming it will rain again.

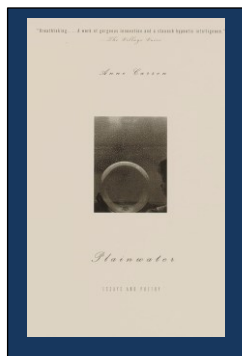
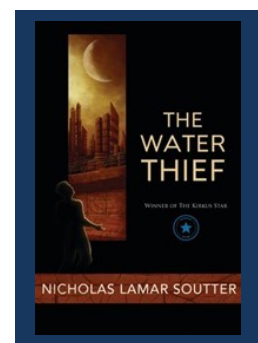


***Running Out: In Search of Water on the High Plains* (Lucas Bessire, 2022)**

Anthropologist Lucas Bessire returned to his roots to try to make sense of the stark realities of industrial agriculture and a seeming misinterpretations of the looming disaster and imminent depletion of the Ogallala aquifer beyond repair. While not addressing drought *per se*, the work explores what it means to inherit a troubled legacy from the past and ways of taking responsibility for a sustainable future.

***The Water Thief* (Nicholas Lamar Soutter, 2012)** It's the future and both air and water cost. Step out of line and you're tossed into the lye vats. When Charles Thatcher finds a woman stealing rainwater, he sees opportunity to move up, to become an executive. He reports not only the theft, but suggests she's also a revolutionary, one who believes in the long-dead institution called "government."

What he finds could just be worse than he thought. A future where water is worth fighting for.



***Plainwater – Essays and Poetry* (Anne Carson, 2000)**

Through essay and poetry, Carson envisions a present-day interview with a seventh-century BC poet, and offers varied lecturettes. She imagines the muse of a fifteenth-century painter attending a phenomenology conference in Italy. She constructs verbal photographs of a series of mysterious towns, and takes us on a pilgrimage in pursuit of the elusive and intimate anthropology of water.



Water, Water Neverwhere

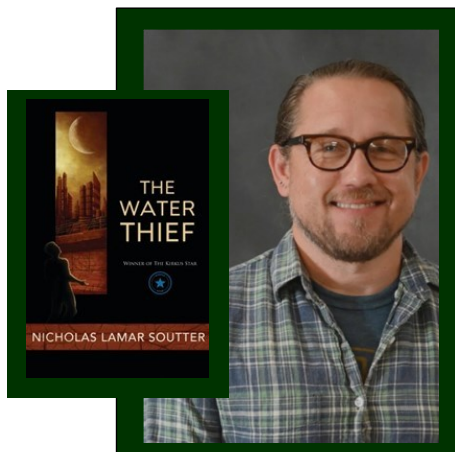
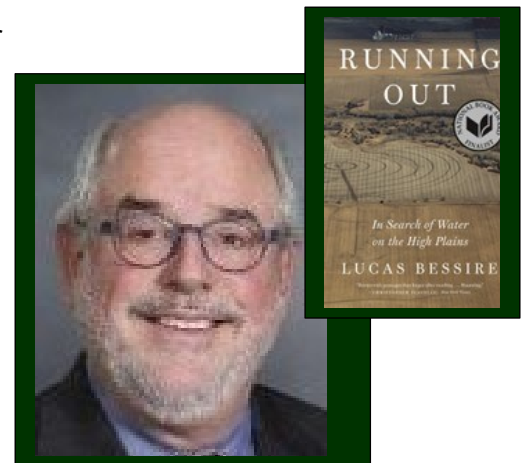
2024 Spring Read Booklist

Book Discussion Leaders



Pat Tyrer is Jenny Lind Porter Professor of English at WTAMU where she teaches creative writing, American literature and technical communication, but Pat began her career as an LPN and a Navy purchasing agent before beginning her academic career at age 40. She has published short stories, poems and essays in a variety of journals, and has published two books of poetry, *Creative Hearts* and *Western Spaces, Western Places*.

Hannes Zacharias has over 40 years of experience in administering government at all levels. After working in Travel & Tourism, the U S Dept of Commerce and the Kansas Arts Commission, he served in city management for Lawrence and Hays, Kansas; and Boonville, Missouri before moving into management for Johnson County Kansas for more than a decade. Upon his retirement in 2018, Hannes embarked on his second solo kayak trip down the Arkansas River following a drop of water 2060 miles from the Continental divide in Colorado, on to the Mississippi, and concluding at Venice LA at the Gulf of Mexico.



Jarrett Kaufman is the Assistant Professor of English and a new member of the Oklahoma Panhandle State University's English department. Born and raised in Nashville, Illinois, a small town outside St. Louis, Missouri, he holds degrees in history, English and Creative Writing. Kaufman cites a love of small classes, collegial colleagues, and rural communities in general in making OPSU the perfect fit for him. He's heard Radio Reader BookBytes, so looks forward to weighing in. In his spare time outside of the classroom, Dr. Kaufman plays the guitar. For over 20 years, he has played in a handful of bands. While in his undergraduate, he studied Jazz and received his minor in Music.

Jane Holwerda is a seasoned Book Leader for the HPPR Radio Readers Book Club. She is also the vice president of Academic Affairs at Dodge City Community College, yet describes herself as a creative and reflective English major at heart. Holwerda has long kept that spirit alive, publishing dozens of poems, memoirs and short stories over time. Her short story "Vanishing Point" was awarded the Paul Somers Creative Prose Prize by the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature. In addition to being an avid reader, Jane loves hiking, cats and the small towns of the High Plains.

