

***Dreamland* (2017-2018 Common Book) Discussion Facilitation**

Common Book Program information:

- All students who attended New Student Orientation in June or July (the vast majority of incoming students) received a copy of *Dreamland* and the instruction to read Part I (p. 1-185) before their Welcome Week discussion session;
- Most first-year students will use this book as a primary textbook during fall semester in Focused Inquiry (UNIV 111 or 112);
- Additional courses in the university are adopting some or all of the book for their classes.
- There will be events relating to the themes in this book on both campuses in the Fall (see current schedule at the end of this document and updated schedule at commonbook.vcu.edu/events/)

Ideas for leading discussions:

1. Ask students to introduce themselves to the group, maybe sharing one thing about the book, such as an impactful passage, something that surprised them, or their initial assumptions about the book before reading it.
2. Bring index cards and ask students to choose one passage, scene or event that made an impact or impression on them in the book, write it (or a summary of it) down. Students can then share in groups of 3-5. Afterwards, you can ask a few students to volunteer to describe what they talked about. (This is “think, pair, share,” a strategy that generally works well for engaging larger groups. If you are so inclined, after “think, pair, share” is a good time to share your own thoughts, too.)
3. Describe your own academic field and/or areas of interest and describe how they relate to the book, or how they influence your reading of the book, then ask students about how their perceptions of the book were based on their academic and/or professional areas of interest. How is this book relevant to their future studies and/or career?
4. Have students create questions for the author, for you, or for each other. (If you collect questions for the author, please consider sending them to Micol Hutchison at mvhutchison@vcu.edu).
5. Look at the timeline on p. ix. What strikes them? (The juxtaposition of the entries for 1928 and 2013 is interesting, for example.)
6. Create a large list of “This is what the book gets” and “This is what the book doesn’t get.” (Please consider sharing this with Micol at mvhutchison@vcu.edu, as well.)

Currently scheduled events (updated on commonbook.vcu.edu):

Speaker Series on Addiction and Recovery

Sept 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6; 7 pm, [MCALC 1107](#); Sponsored by the Well

Each event features VCU students and alumni sharing their recovery stories. Each talk will be followed by Q & A.

Panels

This series features panelists from throughout the VCU and Richmond communities who will discuss addiction, treatment and recovery through legal and medical lenses. Offering different perspectives and experiences, the panelists—including scholars, policy-makers, legal specialists, medical professionals, and individuals who have been personally affected by addiction—will shed light on the personal and societal impact of addiction, and will discuss ways that the opiate epidemic has been and should be regarded. This series is co-sponsored by I2CRP.

Panel #1: Wednesday, Oct 11, 5:30-7:00 pm, [MCALC 1201](#).

Panel #2: Thursday, Nov 16, 4:30-6:30, Kontos Medical Sciences Building Auditorium.

Movie Screenings

Thursday, Sept. 14 from 5 - 7:30 p.m., [Larrick Center](#), Jackson Ward Conference Room

Please join VCU Libraries and USC&A for a viewing of [Oxyana](#), a buffet dinner, and discussion on the film. Space is limited. RSVP [here](#). More information about the VCU Libraries Film Series is available [here](#).