

## Goucher College First Year Summer Read

*My Time Among the Whites: Notes from an Unfinished Education*  
Jennine Capó Cruet

The **First Year Summer Read** is your first step in what will be a three-year exploration of Race, Power, and Perspective—a central component of the Goucher Commons Curriculum and an expression of the social justice commitments of Goucher College. As a member of the Goucher Community, you will have many opportunities to discuss and explore your own identity; to examine the ways in which race, ethnicity, gender, religion, class, and many other markers of identity affect levels of privilege and access to power; and to develop skills in communicating across difference in the classroom and beyond.

The **First Year Summer Read** experience has three (3) parts.

- **Reading and Prewriting:** Read the book, take notes, and think about the prompts below. You'll do this to prepare for a writing assignment that you'll complete in part 2.
- **Written Response:** Craft an essay as directed by the prompts below and bring it to the discussion in part 3.
- **Book Discussion:** You will discuss the book with your peers during Fall Orientation, where you will share some of the ideas you considered in Part 1 & 2. (More information about the book discussion will be given prior to Fall Orientation).

### **Part 1: Prewriting.**

As you are reading the book, take detailed notes on the text. As you are reading, identify:

- The author's biographical information and significant life events.
- Larger cultural and/or historical moments referenced by the author.
- Quotes or passages (mark the page numbers) you would like to discuss with others.

### **Part 2: Written Response.**

Now that you've had a chance to take notes about the text craft a response essay in which you consider the following three questions:

- How has the author's identity shaped their perspective of the experiences described?
- How might your identities inform these experiences if you were in a similar situation?
- How might your views be similar to and/or different from the author's and why?

Use evidence from at least three specific essays/chapters in the text, one from each section of the book (Early Encounters, Various Immersions, and Resistance in Action). When crafting your response, consider factors (such as parents, community, personal situation, identity, cultural or religious background, education, etc.) that may have influenced the author's and your own point of view or perspective.

Response essays should be **300+ words or 1 ½- 3 pages double-spaced (Calibri, 12 font size)** and should be submitted in a **Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) document**.

**Part 3: Discussion.**

On Tuesday, August 20, from 2:00-3:30 pm, you'll participate in a discussion led by Goucher faculty and staff. The students in that discussion group will be your Fall Orientation group (and then turn into your FYE class)! Please bring your prewriting notes, written response, and ideas to the Fall Orientation discussion.

During your First Year Experience course (FYE), you will **upload your essay to Canvas**. You will learn more about how to access and use Canvas during fall orientation.

Lastly, the **author, Jennine Capó Crucet**, will visit campus to share with you about the book on **Wednesday, September 18 at 7 pm in the Hyman Forum**, located in the Ungar Athenaeum ("the Ath"). You are asked to attend this session with your FYE class.

**Do you have questions or concerns?**

Please contact the Office of the [Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies](#) by email, [associateprovost@goucher.edu](mailto:associateprovost@goucher.edu).