SHSU Common Reader Mission

- Create a shared academic/intellectual experience
- Facilitate a campus-wide cross-disciplinary conversation
- Enhance the community with students, faculty, and staff
Overview

- Introduction
- Curriculum infusion examples of book themes
- Inspire co-created shared intellectual experiences
- Initiate co-curricular partnerships
Introduction

A memoir-in-essays from disability advocate and creator of the Instagram account @sitting_pretty.

Rebekah Taussig, processing a lifetime of memories to paint a beautiful, nuanced portrait of a body that looks and moves differently than most.
Curriculum Guide Examples

• Dr. Rebekah Taussig, Author, *Sitting Pretty*
• Mrs. Kendall Gragert, Academic Success Center
• Dr. Amber Godwin, College of Education
• Dr. Mary Funck, College of Business
• Dr. Bart Stykes, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
• Dr. Christine Cardinal, College of Health Sciences
Dr. Rebekah Taussig
Introduction to Literary Nonfiction
Introduction to Literary Nonfiction

**Required Reading:**
Preface of Sitting Pretty

**Materials Required:**
Student journals, Highlighters, Devices (optional), Copy of the “Preface” with wide margins

**Lesson Brief:**
- For the warm-up, students will define Literary Nonfiction in writing in their student journals and have time to look up examples of Literary Nonfiction titles.
- After the warm-up, discuss the definition together, note examples of Literary nonfiction, and talk about what makes Literary Nonfiction more engaging to read.
- Then, as a class, read the preface of *Sitting Pretty* once through together.
- After reading it through together, students will take some time to individually re-read the preface and highlight sentences where the author’s voice is evident.
- Next, students will annotate in the margins why the author’s voice is evident in those sections – what about it made the writing literary.
- Lastly, students will be asked to reflect on how the author’s voice contributes to the genre of writing and what makes it more engaging than other genres of nonfiction in their journals.
Exploring Ableism and Empowerment
Exploring Ableism and Empowerment

• First, watch the TED talk by Taussig and listen to Episode 23 of the French (and English) Duolingo Podcast called “La course au sommet de la tour Eiffel”
• Next, read the text *Sitting Pretty* looking for examples of Taussig’s definition of ableism and examples of her own empowerment.
• Now, explore different portrayals of visible or not-visible disability in film or other forms of art/literature. Consider ways in which the visible or not visibly disabled character experiences ableism and empowerment.
• Finally, write a narrative comparing the experiences of ableism and empowerment seen in the portrayals you saw expressed in media versus what Taussig expresses in her work. Conclude your work by describing how knowledge of ableism and empowerment will impact your career as a teacher.

Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Amber Godwin
College of Education
Meaningful Contributions
These two items have something in common.

Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Mary Funck
College of Business Administration
What Do They Have in Common?

To start with ....

Both products were developed from items that we viewed as ‘misfits’ or ‘of lower quality / value’

Yet ....

Both items generated substantial value for their respective firms .. Economic value added

Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Mary Funck
College of Business Administration
Misfit Toys?

- An airplane that can’t fly.
- A train with square wheels on his caboose.
- A spotted elephant.
- A depressed dolly.

Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Mary Funck
College of Business Administration
Baby carrots were invented by a California carrot farmer, Mike Yurosek in the early 1980s.

Yurosek found that many of his carrots were not saleable because they were “ugly” — they weren't the size or shape that could be sold at the grocery store.

Instead of tossing these “ugly” carrots, he used an industrial bean cutter to shape them into what are now called “baby carrots.”

The success of baby carrots was overwhelming. By 1987, carrot consumption had increased by 30 percent. Today, baby carrots consist of 70 percent of total carrot sales.
In 1968, Spencer Silver, a scientist at 3M, was working to create a strong adhesive. Accidentally, he developed a new material that was light enough to easily remove and peel apart.

He spent five years meeting with others at 3M, trying to find someone who could recognize the unique capabilities of his invention and create a new product with it.
In 1980, Post-it Note was made available to customers in U.S. stores. It became hugely popular. The Post-it Note team was awarded the internal 3M Golden Step Award in 1981 and 1982 for their development of a profitable product that generated significant new sales. In 1981, they were also awarded 3M’s Outstanding New Product Award.
• In business, we focus on quantifiable impacts on firm financial statement
• Calculate metrics (financial ratios) and produce graphics
• Interpret output (for non-business majors)
• Further investigate impactful and influential individuals with visible disabilities
  • Individual or group
  • Oral discussions or written submissions
  • Poster Boards

Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Mary Funck
College of Business Administration
Sociology in Action: Data Collection
Equity and Accessibility at SHSU
Sociology in Action: Data Collection

Required Reading:
*Sitting Pretty* What’s the problem? (pp. 1-19); Sociology in Action (Ch. 3: Using Research Methods)

**Lesson Brief: Equity and Accessibility at SHSU**

This is the first in a series of scaffolded assignments (or in-class active learning exercises) that target:

- the research process in the social sciences,
- successful dissemination of findings, and
- engagement in public sociology.

Over the course of the semester, students will engage with the SHSU Common Reader through a project tentatively titled, “Equity and Accessibility at SHSU.”

- First, students must develop and defend a research design to effectively answer two research questions.
  - How accessible is SHSU’s campus?
  - How could SHSU be made a more accessible campus to a wider variety of students?
College of Health Sciences

Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Christine Cardinal
College of Health Sciences
Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Christine Cardinal
College of Health Sciences
Interim Assistant Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Assistant Professor, Department of Population Health
Annie Elainey
Casual Ableist Language (3:23)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1rrSXkFqGE&feature=youtu.be
Assignment Appetizer

Think, Pair, Share: How did ableism and bias show up in Rebekah’s story, and how does that compare to your own lived experience?

Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Christine Cardinal
College of Health Sciences
Social Media Post Examples Related To Ableism

Your intention to be helpful doesn’t negate the harm you cause. #ableism #accessibility #disabled

11:53 AM - 3/31/22 - Twitter for iPhone

What is “Ableism”?
Ableism is a form of discrimination or prejudice against people with a disability.

Ableism can be unintentional and most people are completely unaware they are doing it. But it is still harmful and it sucks.

SOME examples of ableism I’ve experienced:
- assumption that I’m incapable of doing basic things
- shocked reactions when I actually do things
- lack of eye contact
- assumption that I’d want 2 hands or a prosthetic
- being prayed for...

Ableism Is...
(a form of)

Discrimination.

The false idea that disabled people are by default, inferior. When in truth disability is just another way for a mind and/or body to be.

Spontaneity isn’t just a personality trait. It’s a privilege.

Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Christine Cardinal
College of Health Sciences
How Do We Define Health?

“Health Is Not Attained Through Contorting Yourself To Fit Into Something That Is Impossible To Ever Arrive At.”
-Rebekah Taussig
Assignment: The Main Course

• Partner up and read the article (or have them read it before class), Disabled individuals and structural trauma: Implications for mental health providers, by Drs. Vinson and Kamara.
  • This article could have been titled implications for health care organizations or educators. It has valuable information in it for us all.

• Then, write a more inclusive definition of health in the form of a social media post; be creative!

• Depending on the location and class size, share a few or all the posts on Blackboard or in your class’s preferred social media platform and tag them, #SHSUHealthPolicy6365.

• Then, see which one gets the most likes/votes, and consider offering an award.

Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Christine Cardinal
College of Health Sciences
Questions & Comments

If you would like a pdf of the presentation, would like a reference list, or have questions that you would prefer to email, you can reach us at CARDINAL@SHSU.EDU

Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Christine Cardinal
College of Health Sciences
A Bearkat Student Story
Broderick Nixon
A Bearkat Student Story

Video
Library Resources

SHSU Common Reader 2022: Sitting Pretty
Resource Guide for the 2022-23 SHSU Campus Common Reader: Sitting Pretty by Rebekah Taussig

Interviews with Rebekah Taussig

About the Author

REBEKAH TAUSSIG, Ph.D. is a Kansas City writer and teacher with a doctorate in Creative Nonfiction and Disability Studies. She has led workshops and presentations at the University of Michigan, University of Kansas, and Davidson College on disability representation, identity, and community. She also runs the Instagram platform Sitting pretty, where she crafts ‘micro-memoirs’ to center narratives in the collective narratives being told about disability in our culture. She lives in a tiny, old house with her caring family of tender-footed snugglers.

To learn more about Rebekah, visit her website: https://rebekahtaussig.com/
Library Resources
Library Resources

SHSU Library > Research Guides > University-Wide > SHSU Common Reader 2022: Sitting Pretty > Homepage

https://shsulibraryguides.org/CommonReader22
# Co-Curriculum Fall 2022 Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday, November 15</th>
<th>Wednesday, November 16</th>
<th>Thursday, November 17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>8:00 am</strong></td>
<td><strong>11:00 am</strong></td>
<td><strong>4:00 pm</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Breakfast with Dr. Taussig</td>
<td>Author’s Lunch with Nominated Students</td>
<td>Biannual Critical Thinking Through Deliberative Dialogues Scholarship Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11:00 am</strong></td>
<td><strong>1:00 pm</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Awareness Workshop</td>
<td>Author’s Tour of campus student projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Taussig</td>
<td><strong>6:00 pm</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2:00 pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>7:00 pm</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Workshop</td>
<td>7th Annual Mass Communication Common Reader Film Festival and Scholarship Event</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Taussig</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4:00 pm</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keynote, Meet and Greet with Book Signing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Closing

"The goal is to be seen, asked, heard, believed, valued as we are."

-Rebekah Taussig
Thank you!

SHSU Common Reader

Events and Program Coordinator: Shantal Brissette

commonreader@shsu.edu
References

• https://www.foodnetwork.com/healthyeats/2016/05/the-truth-about-baby-carrots

• http://www.carrotmuseum.co.uk/babycarrot.html

• https://www.mnopedia.org/thing/post-it-notes#:~:text=In%201968%2C%20Spencer%20Silver%2C%20a,what%20that%20use%20could%20be.