**F403 Aspects of the Novel 9.30 – 11am**

**OLLI Spring Session 2012 – Tallwood**

**Kay Menchel**

**A Partial and Random List of Books**

The following list is both random, because I just scanned my bookshelves without thinking too much about how these books relate to one another, and partial, because for all the books I have included I am sure I have forgotten about an equal number that deserve to be on this list. There are some obvious omissions, by choice. For instance, I have listed only a few books by Dickens – these happen to be my favourites, but it does not mean that his other works are not worth reading. If you have never read Dickens – start with one of my recommendations and then explore the rest. There are other notables who do not appear – I have never enjoyed the works of D.H. Lawrence, for example, but there is no doubt that he is an important writer. Just because I don’t like him, doesn’t mean you won’t, so take my suggestions with a grain of salt.

Also – not every book is created equal. *Anna Karenina* is a majestic work of fiction (one of my all time favourites), and very readable, but not exactly a beach book. However, there are books on this list that are quick and easy reads (the novels of Mary Wesley, for example). If in doubt – do some research online so you know what you’re getting!

**Fiction**

Agee, James *A Death in the Family*

Ali, Monica *Brick Lane*

Austen, Jane Everything she wrote!

Barker, Pat The *Regeneration* Trilogy

Bellow, Saul *Seize The Day*

Bennett, Alan *The Clothes They Stood Up In The Uncommon Reader*

Brontë, Ann *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*

Brontë, Charlotte *Jane Eyre*

Brontë, Emily *Wuthering Heights*

Calvino, Italo *If On A Winter’s Night A Traveler*

Cheever, John Short Stories

Chekhov, Anton Short Stories

Collins, Suzanne *The Hunger Games* Trilogy

Dickens, Charles *Great Expectations David Copperfield Nicholas Nickleby* *Hard Times*

*A Tale Of Two Cities*

Didion, Joan *Play It As It Lays*

Dos Passos, John *Manhattan Transfer*

Egan, Jennifer *A Visit From The Goon Squad*

Eliot, George *Adam Bede The Mill On The Floss Middlemarch*

Erdrich, Louise *The Last Report On The Miracles At little No Horse*

Faulkner, William *The Sound And The Fury Light In August*

Fielding, Henry *A History of Tom Jones, A Foundling*

Flaubert, Gustave *Madame Bovary*

Ford Maddox Ford *The Good Soldier*

Forster E.M. *A Room With A View A Passage To India*

Fowles, John *The French Lieutenant’s Woman*

Golding, William *Lord Of The Flies*

Goldman, William *The Princess Bride*

Greene, Graham *Brighton Rock The End Of The Affair*

Hardy, Thomas *The Mayor Of Casterbridge Tess of the D’Urbervilles* *Jude The Obscure*

*A Pair Of Blue Eyes*

Hemingway, Ernest *The Sun Also Rises Farewell To Arms For Whom The Bell Tolls In Our Time*

Hugo, Victor *Les Miserables*

Irving, John *The World According To Garp A Prayer For Owen Meany*

James, Henry *Daisy Miller The Europeans Wings Of The Dove*

Joyce, James *The Dubliners*

Laclos, Choderlos de *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*

Laurie, Hugh *The Gun Seller*

Lee, Harper *To Kill A Mockingbird*

Lermontov, Mikhail *A Hero Of Our Time*

Levi, Primo *Survival in Auschwitz*

Malamud, Bernard *The Assistant The Fixer* Short Stories

Mann, Thomas *Buddenbrooks*

McCann, Colum *Let The Great World Spin*

O’Brien, Tim *The Things They Carried*

O’Connor, Flannery Short Stories

Orwell, George *Burmese Days Animal Farm 1984*

Remarque, Erich Maria *All Quiet On The Western Front*

Rowling, J.K. The Harry Potter books

Rushdie, Salman *Midnight’s Children East, West*

Sharpe, Tom *Vintage Stuff Porterhouse Blue*

Steinbeck, John *The Grapes Of Wrath Of Mice And Men*

Thackeray, W.M *Vanity Fair*

Tolstoy, Leo *Anna Karenina* Short Stories

Trollope, Anthony Chronicles of Barsetshire (five Novels start with *The Warden*)

Warren, Robert Penn *All The King’s Men*

Waugh, Evelyn *Brideshead Revisited A Handful Of Dust Vile Bodies Scoop*

Wesley, Mary *The Chamomile Lawn Jumping The Queue*

West, Rebecca *Return Of The Soldier*

Wharton, Edith *House Of Mirth The Reef*

Wodehouse, P.G The Jeeves Novels

Woolfe, Virginia *Mrs Dalloway To The Lighthouse*

Zola, Émile Thérèse Racquin

**Mystery Novels and Detective Fiction**

In the case of a series of books, I have listed the author, my name for the series and the number of books (to date) in the series. I have also listed the first book in the series in parentheses. As has been stated, not all the books in a series are necessarily of the same quality – again, Google is your friend! However, these are series that I find mostly consistently good – I can forgive the odd clunker! I have also included some good stand-alone novels.

Christie, Agatha The Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple Novels *And Then There Were None*

Cleeves, Ann The Shetland Island Quartet 4 books (*Raven Black*)

Dexter, Colin The Inspector Morse Novels 13 books (*Last Bus To Woodstock*)

Forsyth, Frederick *The Day Of The Jackal The Devil’s Alternative*

George, Elizabeth The Inspector Lynley Novels 17 books (*A Great Deliverance*)

Grafton, Sue The Alphabet Series 22 books (*A Is For Alibi*)

Hiaasen, Carl 12 Novels with some recurring characters (*Tourist Season*)

James, P.D The Adam Dalgleish Novels 14 books (*Cover Her Face*)

Larsson, Stieg The Lisbeth Salander Novels 3 books (*The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*)

Lehane, Dennis The Kenzie-Gennaro Novels 5 books (*A Drink Before The War*)

Leon, Donna The Guido Brunetti Novels 21 books (*Death At La Fenice*)

Lovesey, Peter The Peter Diamond Series 11 books (*The Last Detective*)

Penny, Louise The Chief Inspector Gamache Series 7 books (*Still Life*)

Rankin, Ian The Inspector Rebus Novels 17 books (*Knots and Crosses*)

Rendell, Ruth *A Judgment In Stone* The Inspector Wexford Novels 23 books (*From Doon With Death*)

Rimington, Stella The Liz Carlyle Novels 6 books (*At Risk*)

Silva, Daniel The Gabriel Allon Series 11 books (*The Kill Artist*)

Spencer-Fleming, Julia The Reverend Clare Fergusson Series 7 books (*In The Bleak Midwinter*)

Walker, Martin The Bruno Courreges Series 3 books (*Bruno: Chief Of Police*)

Winspear, Jacqueline The Maisie Dobbs Series 9 books (*Maisie Dobbs*)

**Non-Fiction**

A few true stories that read like novels

Bascomb, Neal *The Perfect Mile*

Blum, Howard *Gangland The Brigade*

Brittain, Vera *Testament Of Youth*

Cheng, Nien *Life And Death In Shanghai*

Gaskin, Margaret *Blitz*

Hanson, Neil *The Great Fire Of London*

Hillenbrand, Laura *Seabiscuit Unbroken*

Junger, Sebastian *The Perfect Storm*

Karr, Mary *The Liars’ Club*

Kinder, Gary *Ship Of Gold In The Deep Blue Sea*

Krakauer, Jon *Into The Wild Into Thin Air*

Kurson, Robert *Shadow Divers*

Lansing, Alfred *Endurance: Shackleton’s Incredible Journey*

Mortimer, Gavin *The Longest Night*

Olson, Lynne *Citizens Of London*

Sides, Hampton *Ghost Soldiers*

Simpson, Joe *Touching The Void*

Stanton, Doug *In Harm’s Way*

**And Finally…**

**Cameron’s Top Ten**

1. *Great Expectations* Charles Dickens

2. *The Great Gatsby* F. Scott Fitzgerald

3. *To Kill A Mockingbird* Harper Lee

4. *The Amazing Adventures Of Kavalier & Clay* Michael Chabon

5. *The Corrections* Jonathan Franzen

6. *Dubliners* James Joyce

7. *The Things They Carried* Tim O’Brien

8. *The Ghost Writer* Philip Roth

9. *A Widow For One Year* John Irving

10. *Perfume: The Story Of A Murderer* Patrick Suskind