

## Creating a Book List to Fit Your Course: Internet Book Sources

### WHAT MAKES FOR A GOOD BOOK LIST?

“What makes a great Top 100 book list, in my view, is one that includes four criteria: 1) Plenty to agree with. 2) A few wild card picks that make you think, “Ah, yeah, good call, I wouldn’t have thought of that, but yeah!” 3) A few that are sketchy at best, or that you’re reasonably sure you can make an argument against, and 4) A few that make you mad.”

— Greg Zimmerman 07-10-13 [Book Riot](#)

### Book Reviews and Literary Commentary

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#### *My favorite subscription sources*

#### **Literary Hub (lithub.com)**

My absolute favorite Internet literary resource. I **subscribe** to their Saturday weekly e-magazine, “Lit Hub Weekly” (subscribe to Lit Hub Daily and select the weekly option). Links to book reviews, literary essays, and book recommendations from about 250 sources. I can spend all Saturday reading through it. Incredible free resource.

#### **The Atlantic’s Books Briefing**

**Subscribe** for their lovely e-newsletter that focuses on a different theme each week. For example, March 22, 2019 focused on the theme of *apocalypse*, highlighting “literature about the natural world that engages readers with the very real threat of global warming.” Subscribe here: <https://www.theatlantic.com/newsletters/sign-up/books-briefing/>

#### **Book Riot (bookriot.com)**

**Subscribe** for e-newsletters on new books and books by themes.

- RIOT ROUNDUP: “THE BEST BOOKS WE READ IN MAY 2018” [E.g.: <https://bookriot.com/2018/06/12/riot-roundup-the-best-books-we-read-in-may-2018/>]
- Also a good source for book genre searches. Sample search for memoirs: <https://bookriot.com/2018/07/03/must-read-classic-memoirs-by-writers-of-color/>

#### **Penguin Random House (penguinrandomhouse.com)**

**Subscribe** for e-newsletters on new books and book selections by theme.

#### **The New York Times Books (www.nytimes.com)**

**Subscribe** for e-newsletters on new books and reading resources at [https://www.nytimes.com/newsletters/books-review?te=1&nl=book-review&emc=edit\\_bk\\_20190625&te=1&nl=books&emc=edit\\_bk\\_20190820](https://www.nytimes.com/newsletters/books-review?te=1&nl=book-review&emc=edit_bk_20190625&te=1&nl=books&emc=edit_bk_20190820)

### **The New York Times (www.nytimes.com): Best Sellers / Book Reviews**

For the Best Sellers, go to <https://www.nytimes.com/books/best-sellers/>. To see a book description click on the book, “Buy now,” Amazon or Barnes & Noble.

### **The New Dork Review of Books**

<https://www.thenewdorkreviewofbooks.com/>

### **Barnes & Noble (barnesandnoble.com)**

- B&N READS: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/blog/>
- B&N BLOGS (Kids, Teen, Sci-Fi and Fantasy)

For example, see B&N’s Sci-Fi and Fantasy blog:

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/blog/sci-fi-fantasy/>

### **Goodreads (goodreads.com)**

Book Search Strategies: Searching for books by theme

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### **Amazon (amazon.com)**

- Use the search box to look for categories of books. For example, “immigration fiction books”
- Amazon Bestsellers (categorized by genre and specific groups)  
[https://www.amazon.com/best-sellers-books-Amazon/zgbs/books/ref=zg\\_bs\\_unv\\_b\\_1\\_2438\\_3](https://www.amazon.com/best-sellers-books-Amazon/zgbs/books/ref=zg_bs_unv_b_1_2438_3)
- Note: Amazon categorizes each book by genre and specific groups. For example:  
#79 in [Books](#) > [Politics & Social Sciences](#) > [Social Sciences](#) > [Specific Demographics](#) > [African-American Studies](#)

### **Google (google.com)**

- Search “social justice novels” or by specific social justice topics: “disability fiction”
- Search for books by identity month. For example, “Book Pride Month” or “Books Hispanic Heritage Month”

Cultural Web Sites with Literary Themes

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**ReMezcla (remezcla.com)** “Putting Latino culture on the map.” See for example, “The Literary Canon Is Mostly White. Here’s an Alternative Latin American Reading List”)

**Reading While White:** <http://readingwhilewhite.blogspot.com/>