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# INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMON READ AT BRYANT UNIVERSITY

## Welcome Class of 2027!

As part of the academic and intellectual transition to college, many higher education institutions select a common text to engage with important social issues that are central to the human experience, past and present. Such engagement provides first-year students with an introduction to the world of ideas that they will continue to explore throughout their time in college.

Here at Bryant University, we endeavor to select texts that reflect our overall mission and values. Further, we are committed to preparing our students to lead in a diverse and ever-changing world. Each year a committee of highly qualified faculty and staff solicit recommendations from the campus community for the next Common Read. This year, we have selected Ijeoma Oluo's *So You Want to Talk About Race*.

Throughout the summer, faculty and staff will be reaching out to you via email and social media to share what they are reading and learning from the text. When you arrive for welcome week, there will be programs to engage you with themes from the book. Faculty and Staff in your Student Success course and other classes will continue to draw from themes in the text that pertain to their course content.

On October 19, 2023, the campus will host our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Day of Understanding where you will participate in conversations, view exhibitions, and attend presentations centered on UN Sustainable Development Goals devoted to Social Sustainability and Social Impact. On that day, we will also host the author of the text, Ijeoma Oluo, who will deliver a lecture, engage in conversations with our community, and sign books.

We look forward to sharing this experience with you!

Sincerely,

*The Bryant University Academic Affairs Leadership Team*

**Dr. Rupendra Paliwal**, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Dr. Wendy Samter**, Associate Provost

**Dr. Phil Robakiewicz**, Vice Provost for Student Success & Retention

**Dr. Madan Anavarjula**, Dean of the College of Business

**Dr. Veronica McComb**, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

**Dr. Kirsten Hokeness**, Director of the School of Health and Behavioral Sciences

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# THE COMMON READ

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

**1. Do I have to read the book?**

Assigning a common read has been a best practice of many colleges and universities across the nation. The theme of the common read is then embedded in the first-year experience through assignments, programs, lectures, and guest speakers.

**2. Why does Bryant have a common read?**

This assignment will aid in a student's sense of belonging and commitment to their community & studies. In addition, discussions of this book will be a major focus in the Student Success Course each first-year is required to take in the fall as well as embedded in other major campus events such as *The Day of Understanding*.

**3. Why was this book selected as the Common Read for this incoming class?**

Every year a common read is selected in relevance to today's society and our own campus culture. As we prepare our students to become "Real World Ready" we want to ensure our students are best prepared to engage with a range of diverse communities. This book will help provide students with the skills and opportunities to discuss in safe spaces the themes and topics of this book.

**4. What resources are available if students need to further process information in the book?**

All instructors for the Student Success Course have undergone extensive training and have been equipped with the tools to engage with students effectively and safely. In addition, there are resources on campus open to all students. These areas include but are not limited to The Intercultural Center, The PRIDE Center, The Women's Center, the Associate Vice President of Institutional Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging, or the Dean of Students/VP of Student Affairs/Chief Diversity Officer.

**5. Who can I contact if I have any further questions regarding the book?**

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact our VP of Student Affairs/Dean of Students/Chief Diversity Officer, Dr. Inge-Lise Ameer or our Associate Vice-President of Institutional Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Dr. Mailee Kue.