

November 15

The Virginian, by Owen Wister

The Virginian (1929) is an American classic that tells the story of a cowboy known as the Virginian. Struggling on the Wyoming frontier, the cowboy must fight the enemy and find a way to win over the woman. The author, Owen Wister, used his own experiences journeying out west to write passionately and realistically about the West as compared to the East. Wister saw the West as the answer to many moral dilemmas and a means to a great story.



WESTERN EXPERIENCE

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Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

September 13

This House of Sky, Ivan Doig

Speaker: Leslie Leek

September 27

Bride Goes West, Helena H. Smith

Speaker: Louise Ackley

October 11

Death Comes For the Archbishop, Willa Cather

Speaker: Alan Johnson

October 25

Letters of a Woman Homesteader, Elinore Pruitt Stewart

Speaker: Leslie Leek

November 15

The Virginian, by Owen Wister

Speaker: Pat Chase





September 13

This House of Sky, Ivan Doig

This House of Sky (1978) is the powerful story of writer Ivan Doig's upbringing on a rugged Montana ranch in the 1940s. Raised by his grandmother and father, Doig eloquently relates how both his early years and the man he would become were shaped by family, hard work, and a uniquely western landscape.

September 27

Bride Goes West, Nannie Alderson & Helena H. Smith

Bride Goes West (1942) is a collaboration between the experiences of Nannie Alderson moving West to Montana, and the writings and ideas of Helena H. Smith. The novel describes Western historical events and looks at the obstacles the Alderson family had to struggle to overcome. Alderson not only had to readjust her life in a new environment, but she also had to help her children make these crucial adjustments.



October 11

Death Comes For the Archbishop, Willa Cather

Death Comes For the Archbishop (1927) is a novel by Willa Cather in which two Roman Catholic priests from lush "civilized" southern France move to the arid regions of New Mexico to "convert the lost souls" of the Indians and Mexicans who populate the area. The novel quietly depicts the various cultures that exist in the American Southwest and sympathetically shows the values and history of each.



October 25

Letters of a Woman Homesteader, Elinore Pruitt Stewart

Letters of a Woman Homesteader (1913) is a selection of letters written by a woman homesteader, Elinore Stewart. The letters span a four-and-one-half-year period (1909-13) during which Stewart worked as a housekeeper for a Wyoming rancher. Blessed with a literary background, a finely tuned ear, a sharp eye, and a delightful writing style, the letters are as warm, as witty, as descriptive and as alive as they were in 1909.