Spring 2019 will mark our 25th gathering of H-LSAMP students who love to read, talk about books, and explore ideas about life and science woven into compelling stories. Book club participants are expected to engage in this activity by paying careful attention to the details in the book, taking the time to learn about the science, history, and/or culture that informs the plot and themes and, importantly, actively contributing to two evening discussions.

On our second discussion evening, we share a home-cooked dinner prior to our discussion, which we hope will not only stimulate appetites but also good conversation. A shared table builds community! That’s why we call it Science Café! H-LSAMP Program Director Susan Romanella, Dr. Greg Passty (Professor, Dept. of Mathematics), and Dr. Karen Lewis (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Chemistry and Biochemistry), provide discussion questions for a close reading of the chosen text and lead our seminar-style discussions.

**H-LSAMP students can participate in Science Café instead of attending two workshops. You must participate in both evening discussions to meet your scholar workshop requirement.**

**SPRING 2019 SCHEDULE: We will meet on two WEDNESDAY evenings:**

**Wednesday, April 10 - 6:30-7:30PM - in the CLC**
This evening will be a student-led discussion of the book (...free thinking, clearing up confusions, idea sharing, and pizza night).

**Wednesday, April 17 - 6:30-8:30PM - in the CLC**
This evening will be a “home cooked dinner & dialogue” where we continue our discussion with Ms. Susan Romanella, Dr. Greg Passty, and Dr. Karen Lewis facilitating for the group.
There There (Author, Tommy Orange)

To call the Cheyenne and Arapaho writer Tommy Orange’s debut novel “engrossing” would be a wild understatement. Mr. Orange, who grew up in Oakland, California, is a member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes.

Growing up in Oakland, Mr. Orange, who is boyish-looking with close cropped hair and a round, freckled face, often felt out of place. At his mostly white high school, he was called racial slurs — not for being native, but because kids mistook him for Chinese. Other times, people assumed he was Mexican.

His novel’s “there, there” riddle is his novel’s recurring anthem, a shorthand to describe the disorienting experience of living in America as a self-described “urban Indian.” The novel follows 12 characters as they travel to the Big Powwow to be held in Oakland, California. In this big, noisy novel filled with absences, stray clues, odd traces, Orange examines what the notion of belonging means for Native Americans. He maps the struggles of “urban Indians … the generation born in the city,” with shrewdness and compassion. The book is unflinching, its characters’ arcs at times devastating.

*There There*, with its palpable commitment to revering Orange’s inspirations and forerunners, functions as both an engaging story and a record of trauma. One of New York Times Best Books of 2018.
In the Country of Men: A Novel (Author, Hisham Matar)

Libya, 1979. Nine-year-old Suleiman’s days are circumscribed by the narrow rituals of childhood: outings to the ruins surrounding Tripoli, games with friends played under the burning sun, exotic gifts from his father’s constant business trips abroad. But his nights have come to revolve around his mother’s increasingly disturbing bedside stories full of old family bitterness. And then one day Suleiman sees his father across the square of a busy marketplace, his face wrapped in a pair of dark sunglasses. Wasn’t he supposed to be away on business yet again? Why is he going into that strange building with the green shutters? Why did he lie?

Suleiman is soon caught up in a world he cannot hope to understand—where the sound of the telephone ringing becomes a portent of grave danger; where his mother frantically burns his father’s cherished books; where a stranger full of sinister questions sits outside in a parked car all day; where his best friend’s father can disappear overnight, next to be seen publicly interrogated on state television.

In the Country of Men is a stunning depiction of a child confronted with the private fallout of a public nightmare. But above all, it is a debut of rare insight and literary grace.
The Overstory (Author, Richard Powers)

Nine strangers, each in different ways, become summoned by trees, brought together in a last stand to save the continent’s few remaining acres of virgin forest.

A hard-partying undergraduate in the late 1980s electrocutes herself, dies, and is sent back into life by creatures of air and light. A hearing- and speech-impaired scientist discovers that trees are communicating with one another. An Air Force loadmaster in the Vietnam War is shot out of the sky, then saved by falling into a banyan. An artist inherits a hundred years of photographic portraits, all of the same doomed American chestnut.

These four, and five other strangers - each summoned in different ways by trees - are brought together in a last and violent stand to save the continent’s few remaining acres of virgin forest. This is the story of a handful of people who learn how to see that world, and who are drawn up into its unfolding catastrophe.
From Subhash’s earliest memories, at every point, his brother was there. In the suburban streets of Calcutta where they wandered before dusk and in the hyacinth-strewn ponds where they played for hours on end, Udayan was always in his older brother’s sight. As the two brothers grow older, their lives - once so united - begin to diverge.

As revolution seizes the city’s student community and exams are boycotted, their home is dominated by the absence of Udayan, who is out on the streets at demonstrations. Subhash wins a place in a PhD program in the United States and moves to Rhode Island, never to live in India again – yet his life will be shaped from afar by his brother.

Udayan will give everything for what he believes and in doing so will transform the futures of those dearest to him: his newly married, pregnant wife, his brother and their parents. The repercussions of his actions will link their fates irrevocably and tragically together, reverberating across continents and seeping through the generations that follow.
After nearly a decade overseas as a war reporter, the acclaimed journalist Dahr Jamail returned to America to renew his passion for mountaineering, only to find that the slopes he had once climbed have been irrevocably changed by climate disruption.

In response, Jamail embarks on a journey to the geographical front lines of this crisis—from Alaska to Australia’s Great Barrier Reef, via the Amazon rainforest—in order to discover the consequences to nature and to humans of the loss of ice.

In The End of Ice, we follow Jamail as he scales Denali, the highest peak in North America, dives in the warm crystal waters of the Pacific only to find ghostly coral reefs, and explores the tundra of St. Paul Island where he meets the last subsistence seal hunters of the Bering Sea and witnesses its melting glaciers. Accompanied by climate scientists and people whose families have fished, farmed, and lived in the areas he visits for centuries, Jamail begins to accept the fact that Earth, most likely, is in a hospice situation. Ironically, this allows him to renew his passion for the planet’s wild places, cherishing Earth in a way he has never been able to before.

Like no other book, The End of Ice offers a firsthand chronicle—including photographs throughout of Jamail on his journey across the world—of the catastrophic reality of our situation and the incalculable necessity of relishing this vulnerable, fragile planet while we still can.
The Last Whalers (Author, Doug Bock Clark)

The Last Whalers is the extraordinary story of the Lamalerans, a tribe of 1500 hunter-gatherers who live on an incredibly remote island, and the ways that modern culture is encroaching upon their way of life, which is centered around subsistence whaling. Award-winning journalist Doug Bock Clark, one of a handful of Westerners who speak the Lamaleran language, lived with the tribe across three years, and he brings their world and their people to vivid life in this gripping story of a vanishing culture.

Jon, an orphaned apprentice whaler, toils to earn his harpoon and provide for his ailing grandparents, while Ika, his indomitable younger sister, is eager to forge a life unconstrained by tradition, and to realize a star-crossed love. Frans, an aging shaman, tries to unite the tribe in order to undo a deadly curse. And Ignatius, a legendary harpooner entering retirement, labors to hand down the Ways of the Ancestors to his son, Ben, who would secretly rather become a DJ in the distant tourist mecca of Bali.

Deeply empathetic and richly reported, The Last Whalers is a riveting, powerful chronicle of the collision between one of the planet's dwindling indigenous peoples and the irresistible enticements and upheavals of a rapidly transforming world.
The Best American Science and Nature Writing (Editor, Siddhartha Mukherjee...who, incidentally, wrote the book “Emperor of All Maladies” our Science Café 2011 book)

KEVIN DUTTON. The Wisdom of Psychopaths
From Scientific American

J.B. MACKINNON. False Idyll
From Orion Magazine

BENJAMIN HALE. The Last Distinction?
From Harper's

TIM ZIMMERMANN. Talk to Me
From Outside Magazine

DAVID DEUTSCH and ARTUR EKERT. Beyond the Quantum Horizon
From Scientific American

MICHAEL MOYER. Is Space Digital?
From Scientific American

STEVEN WEINBERG. The Crisis of Big Science
From The New York Review of Books

SYLVIA A. EARLE. The Sweet Spot in Time
From Virginia Quarterly Review

NATALIE ANGIER. The Life of Pi and Other Infinities
From The New York Times

JOHN PAVLUS. Machines of the Infinite
From Scientific American

MARK BOWDEN. The Measured Man
From The Atlantic

MICHELLE NIJHUIS. Which Species Will Live?
From Scientific American

RICK BASS. The Larch
From Orion Magazine

BRETT FORREST. Shattered Genius
From Playboy

JEROME GROOPMAN. The T-Cell Army
From The New Yorker

DAVID OWEN. The Artificial Leaf
From The New Yorker

MICHAEL SPECTER. The Deadliest Virus
From The New Yorker

ALAN LIGHTMAN. Our Place in the Universe
From Harper's Magazine

DAVID QUAMMEN. Out of the Wild
From Popular Science

OLIVER SACKS. Altered States
From The New Yorker

ELIZABETH KOLBERT. Recall of the Wild
From The New Yorker

KEITH GESSEN. Polar Express
From The New Yorker

GARETH COOK. Autism Inc.
From The New York Times

ROBERT SAPOLSKY. Super Humanity
From Scientific American