A wonderful new selection of books has just arrived. Stop up and check a few out.

**Joan of Arc: a life transfigured**

From The New York Times Book Review: “As its subtitle suggests, *Joan of Arc: A Life Transfigured* both tells and observes history, interweaving Joan’s own story with fictional and historical interpretations...It makes for rich cultural reading...Absorbing a huge amount of research, [Harrison] has a fine eye for detail...And though she uses her novelist's pen sparingly, it can be to great effect...”

DC103 .H25 2014

**The corpse exhibition and other stories of Iraq**

From Publishers Weekly: “Iraq came into our recent consciousness through war, supplanting the magic carpets and genies of folk tales, but Blasim, a filmmaker, poet, and fiction writer, who, persecuted under Saddam Hussein, fled Baghdad in 1998, destroys all preconceptions about his homeland and the effects of dictatorship, war, and occupation in this stunningly powerful collection. The stories are brutal, vulgar, imaginative, and unerringly captivating... Cars explode, women and boys are beaten and raped, bodies are inhabited by spirits, refugees tell lies, yet none of the horror is gratuitous; every story ends with a shock, and none of them falter. A searing, original portrait of Iraq and the universal fallout of war.”

PJ7916 .A42 A2 2014

**Toxic injustice: a transnational history of exposure and struggle**

From Barnes and Noble: “Susanna Rankin Bohme tells an intriguing, multilayered history that spans fifty years, highlighting the transnational reach of corporations and social justice movements. *Toxic Injustice* links health inequalities...
and worker struggles as it charts how people excluded from workplace and legal protections have found ways to challenge power structures and seek justice from states and transnational corporations alike.”

RA1270 .P4 B586 2015

A portrait of America: the demographic perspective

From Barnes and Noble: “Portrait of America describes our nation’s changing population and examines through a demographic lens some of our most pressing contemporary challenges, ranging from poverty and economic inequality to racial tensions and health disparities. Celebrated author John Iceland covers various topics, including America’s historical demographic growth; the American family today; gender inequality; economic well-being; immigration and diversity; racial and ethnic inequality; internal migration and residential segregation; and health and mortality.”

HB3505 .I25 2014

It’s not like I’m poor: how working families make ends meet in a post-welfare world

From Barnes and Noble: “The world of welfare has changed radically. As the poor trade welfare checks for low-wage jobs, their low earnings qualify them for a hefty check come tax time—a combination of the earned income tax credit and other refunds. For many working parents this one check is like hitting the lottery, offering several months’ wages as well as the hope of investing in a better future. Drawing on interviews with 115 families, the authors look at how parents plan to use this annual cash windfall to build up savings, go back to school, and send their kids to college. However, these dreams of upward mobility are often dashed by the difficulty of trying to get by on meager wages. In accessible and engaging prose, It’s Not Like I’m Poor examines the costs and benefits of the new work-based safety net, suggesting ways to augment its strengths so that more of the working poor can realize the promise of a middle-class life.”

HD8072.5 .H35 2015

How literature plays with the brain: the neuroscience of reading and art

From Barnes and Noble: “In How Literature Plays with the Brain, Armstrong examines the parallels between certain features of literary experience and functions of the brain. His central argument is that literature plays with the brain through experiences of harmony and dissonance which set in motion oppositions that are fundamental to the neurobiology of mental functioning. These oppositions negotiate basic tensions in the operation of the brain between the drive for pattern, synthesis, and constancy and the need for flexibility, adaptability, and openness to change.”
Improving your memory: how to remember what you’re starting to forget

From Barnes and Noble: “University of Michigan social workers Janet Fogler and Lynn Stern have completely updated their friendly and usable guide to memory improvement techniques. Recognizing that people worry something is wrong with them when they forget things, Fogler and Stern suggest that the antidote to worry is taking positive actions to help us remember what we want to remember. They provide readers with tools for understanding and improving memory, including sixteen helpful exercises. Simple techniques like writing information down, creating a catch word or phrase, altering something in your environment, and reviewing details in advance can put you actively in charge of retrieving information more easily.”

Arabs and Muslims in the media: race and representation after 9/11

From Barnes and Noble: “Analyzing how TV dramas such as The Practice, 24, Law and Order, NYPD Blue, and Sleeper Cell, news-reporting, and non-profit advertising have represented Arabs, Muslims, Arab Americans, and Muslim Americans during the War on Terror, this book demonstrates how more diverse representations do not in themselves solve the problem of racial stereotyping and how even seemingly positive images can produce meanings that can justify exclusion and inequality.”

Islam is a foreign country

From Barnes and Noble: “Offering rich insights into these questions and more, Grewal follows the journeys of American Muslim youth who travel in global, underground Islamic networks. Devoutly religious and often politically disaffected, these young men and women are in search of a home for themselves and their tradition. Through their stories, Grewal captures the multiple directions of the global flows of people, practices, and ideas that connect U.S. mosques to the Muslim world. By examining the tension between American Muslims’ ambivalence toward the American mainstream
and their desire to enter it, Grewal puts contemporary debates about Islam in the context of a long history of American racial and religious exclusions. Probing the competing obligations of American Muslims to the nation and to the umma (the global community of Muslim believers), *Islam is a Foreign Country* investigates the meaning of American citizenship and the place of Islam in a global age.”

E184 .M88 G74 2014

**Out of bounds: racism and the black athlete**

From Barnes and Noble: “Despite increasing diversity in the American population, race and racial bias continue to be significant issues in the United States. Sports—one of the most visible and important subsets of American culture—directly reflect our society's beliefs about race. This book examines racial controversy and conflict in various sports in the United States in both previous eras as well as the current "Age of Obama."”

GV706.32 .M38 2014

**Fresh from the farm: a year of recipes and stories**

From Publishers Weekly: “Writer, cook, cookbook author, farmer, blogger and former editor of Fine Cooking magazine, Middleton, the "Queen of Fresh" tells of her cooking quest in search for a simpler life. Her memoir style book recounts how she quit her corporate job, bought a farm on a rural island, planted a garden, opened a farm stand, and finally found contentment. Witty, engaging prose draws the reader in and 125 simple recipes entice you to get cooking by exploring Middleton's homegrown suggestions.”

TX714 .M533 2014

**Intolerant bodies: a short history of autoimmunity**

From Library Journal: “Autoimmunity, when the body's immune system attacks its own cells as though they were foreign, causes a number of serious diseases: type 1 diabetes, systemic lupus erythematosus, multiple sclerosis, and rheumatoid arthritis. Mackay, a clinical immunologist, and Anderson, a medical historian, trace the development of the concept of autoimmunity, and, in the process, show how scientific and medical ideas evolve... This is fascinating reading but aimed at an audience with a strong grasp of the health sciences.”

RC600 .A53 2014
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