Psychology: a very short introduction

From Barnes and Noble: “In this new edition, Gillian Butler and Freda McManus explore a variety of new topics and ways of studying the brain. Until recently it was not possible to study the living human brain directly, so psychologists studied our behavior, and used their observations to derive hypotheses about what was going on inside. Now - through neuroscience - our knowledge of the workings of the brain has increased and improved technology provides us with a scientific basis on which to understand the structure and workings of the brain, allowing brain activity to be observed and measured. Exploring some of the most important advances and developments in psychology - from evolutionary psychology and issues surrounding adolescence and aggression to cognitive psychology - this is a stimulating introduction for anyone interested in understanding the human mind.”

Selma to Saigon: the civil rights movement and the Vietnam war

From Barnes and Noble: “Selma to Saigon explores the impact of the Vietnam War on the national civil rights movement. Before the war gained widespread attention, the New Left, the SNCC, and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) worked together to create a biracial alliance with the potential to make significant political and social gains in Washington. Contention over the war, however, exacerbated preexisting generational and ideological tensions that undermined the coalition, and Lucks analyzes the causes and consequences of this disintegration.”

Enon

From Publishers Weekly: “Drawing upon the same New England landscape and family as his Pulitzer Prize–winning debut Tinkers, Harding deftly captures loss and its consequences in this gorgeous and haunting follow-up. The novel opens with a grieving Charlie Crosby (grandson of Tinkers protagonist George Washington Crosby) attempting to come to terms with the death of his daughter, Kate, and the subsequent dissolution of his marriage.”
Although the narrative is rendered through Charlie’s voice, the phenomenal prose on which Harding has staked his name comes out authentically, especially in the book’s darkest and most introspective moments…”

Apocalypse and the millennium in the American Civil War era

From Barnes and Noble: “In the Civil War era, Americans nearly unanimously accepted that humans battled in a cosmic contest between good and evil and that God was directing history toward its end. The concept of God’s Providence and of millennialism — Christian anticipations of the end of the world — dominated religious thought in the nineteenth century. During the tumultuous years immediately prior to, during, and after the war, these ideas took on a greater importance as Americans struggled with the unprecedented destruction and promise of the period.”

Commit to win: how to harness the four elements of commitment to reach your goals

From Publishers Weekly: “As New Year’s resolutions fade and best-laid plans dissolve, Reeder, a psychologist at Boise State University and corporate consultant, offers a guide on how to successfully stick to new choices and relationships. Reeder’s book follows a clever equation (adapted from social psychologist Caryl Rusbult) of rewards, outlays, and contingencies to show readers at once how commitment ebbs and flows, and also the best ways to control and affect outcomes. Each element is examined through thorough grounding in experimental psychology, showing how even these elements can be used to your advantage. These studies and their surprising conclusions make up the bulk of the book.”

Christine Kocourek
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"Great acts are made up of small deeds." - Lao Tzu