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## Featured Bookshelf: 2016 UCF Celebrates Diversity

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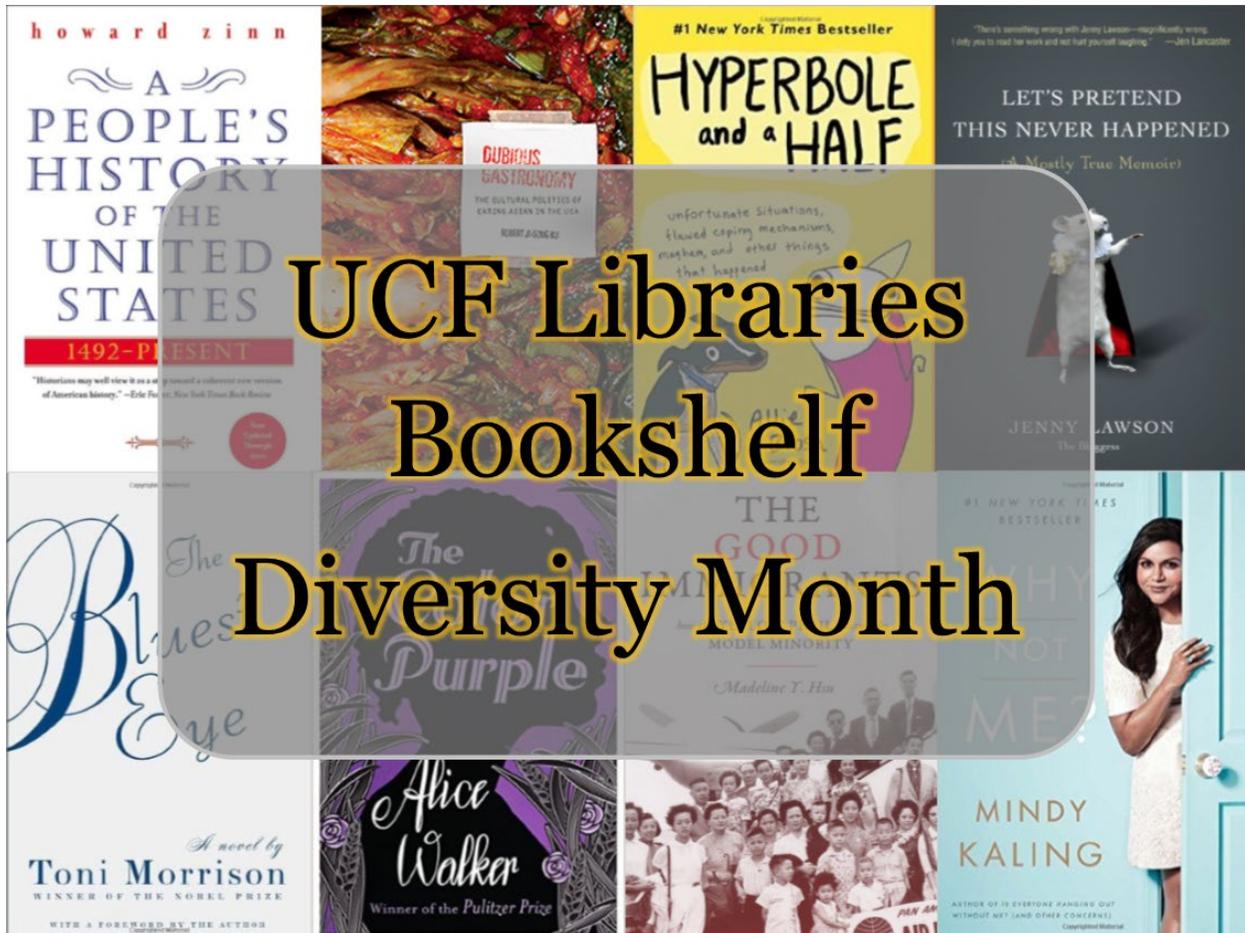
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During one week in October, UCF hosts Diversity Week as a “celebration of our diverse community and an opportunity to explore topics across the broad range of human identity, experience and interaction,” as a way to promote an inclusive culture at the university. This year’s Diversity Week is October 17-21, 2016 with the theme, “Empowering Diverse Voices in Our Democracy.”

UCF Libraries Bookshelf suggestions for October are top picks from library faculty and staff by authors and about subjects which reflect some of the great diversity we have on campus.

**A People’s History of the United States by Howard Zinn**

<http://ucf.catalog.fcla.edu/permalink.jsp?29CF022729947>

Known for its lively, clear prose as well as its scholarly research. A People's History of the United States is the only volume to tell America's story from the point of view of -- and in the words of -- America's women. factory workers. African Americans. Native Americans, working poor, and immigrant laborers. *Suggested by Richard Harrison, Subject Librarian.*

**Dubious Gastronomy: The Cultural Politics of Eating Asian in the USA by Robert Ji-Song Ku**

<http://ucf.catalog.fcla.edu/permalink.jsp?29CF032374161>

California roll, Chinese take-out, American-made kimchi, dogmeat, monosodium glutamate, SPAM—all

are examples of what Robert Ji-Song Ku calls “dubious” foods. Strongly associated with Asian and Asian American gastronomy, they are commonly understood as ersatz, depraved, or simply bad. In *Dubious Gastronomy*, Ku contends that these foods share a spiritual fellowship with Asians in the United States in that the Asian presence, be it culinary or corporeal, is often considered watered-down, counterfeit, or debased manifestations of the “real thing.” The American expression of Asianness is defined as doubly inauthentic—as insufficiently Asian and unreliably American when measured against a largely ideological if not entirely political standard of authentic Asia and America. By exploring the other side of what is prescriptively understood as proper Asian gastronomy, Ku suggests that Asian cultural expressions occurring in places such as Los Angeles, Honolulu, New York City, and even Baton Rouge are no less critical to understanding the meaning of Asian food—and, by extension, Asian people—than culinary expressions that took place in Tokyo, Seoul, and Shanghai centuries ago.

*Suggested by Ven Basco, Subject Librarian.*

### **Hyperbole and a Half: Unfortunate Situations, Flawed Coping Mechanisms, Mayhem, and Other Things That Happened by Allie Brosh**

<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/866857550>

Collects autobiographical, illustrated essays and cartoons from the author's popular blog and related new material that humorously and candidly deals with her own idiosyncrasies and battles with depression.

*Suggested by Megan Haught, Research & Information Services/Teaching & Engagement.*

### **Let's Pretend This Never Happened: A Mostly True Memoir by Jenny Lawson**

<http://ucf.catalog.fcla.edu/permalink.jsp?29CF030657706>

In the irreverent *Let's Pretend This Never Happened*, Lawson's long-suffering husband and sweet daughter help her uncover the surprising discovery that the most terribly human moments—the ones we want to pretend never happened—are the very same moments that make us the people we are today. For every intellectual misfit who thought they were the only ones to think the things that Lawson dares to say out loud, this is a poignant and hysterical look at the dark, disturbing, yet wonderful moments of our lives.

*Suggested by Megan Haught, Research & Information Services/Teaching & Engagement: “Lawson always reminds me that facing your challenges with humor makes life more bearable.”*

### **The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison**

<http://ucf.catalog.fcla.edu/permalink.jsp?29CF022874202>

Eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove, an African-American girl in an America whose love for blonde, blue-eyed children can devastate all others, prays for her eyes to turn blue, so that she will be beautiful, people will notice her, and her world will be different.

*Suggested by Mary Page, Collections & Technical Services.*

### **The Color Purple by Alice Walker**

<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/8221433>

Celie is a poor black woman whose letters tell the story of 20 years of her life, beginning at age 14 when she is being abused and raped by her father and attempting to protect her sister from the same fate, and continuing over the course of her marriage to "Mister," a brutal man who terrorizes her. Celie eventually learns that her abusive husband has been keeping her sister's letters from her and the rage she feels, combined with an example of love and independence provided by her close friend Shug, pushes her finally toward an awakening of her creative and loving self.

*Suggested by Mary Page, Collections & Technical Services.*

### **The Good Immigrants: How the Yellow Peril Became the Model Minority by Madeline Y. Hsu**

<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/894625380>

Exploring a century of Chinese migrations, Madeline Hsu looks at how the model minority characteristics of many Asian Americans resulted from US policies that screened for those with the highest credentials in the most employable fields, enhancing American economic competitiveness. The earliest US immigration restrictions targeted Chinese people but exempted students as well as individuals who might extend America's influence in China.

*Suggested by Ven Basco, Subject Librarian.*

### **Why Not Me? By Mindy Kaling**

<http://ucf.catalog.fcla.edu/permalink.jsp?29CF033803934>

"In *Why Not Me?*, Kaling shares her ongoing journey to find contentment and excitement in her adult life, whether it's falling in love at work, seeking new friendships in lonely places, attempting to be the first person in history to lose weight without any behavior modification whatsoever, or most important, believing that you have a place in Hollywood when you're constantly reminded that no one looks like you.

*Suggested by Carrie Moran, User Engagement Librarian.*

To learn more about UCF Diversity Week, please visit the [UCF Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#) website. This year's keynote speaker is Ray Suarez.