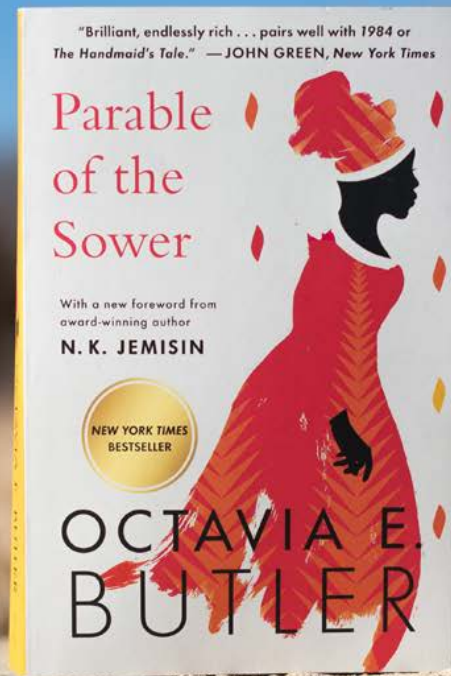




# COMMON BOOK 2023-24

## TEACH-IN March 27-31, 2023

The KU Common Book Teach-In is a week of informal discussion and programming intended to prepare faculty and instructors to teach the 2023-24 Common Book, *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia E. Butler, in the upcoming academic year, and to encourage campus partners to develop co-curricular programming. Participants do not need to have read the book to attend Teach-In programming.



### RED HOT READING

Friday, March 31 | 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Watson Library, 3 West

- Jill Becker - KU Common Book
- Garrett Highley - English
- Elspeth Healey - KU Libraries
- Anthony Boynton - English
- Kate Meyer - Spencer Museum of Art

### PARABLE OF THE SOWER DISCUSSION SESSIONS:

At these discussions, participants will have the opportunity to learn more about *Parable of the Sower* and brainstorm ways to integrate the book into their 2023-24 courses. While there will be some discussion questions provided to facilitate conversation about the book, participants do not need to have read the book to attend. Copies of the book will be available at the in-person discussions.

Monday, March 27 | 4-4:45 p.m. | [Zoom](#)

Tuesday, March 28 | 12-12:45 p.m.

Watson Library, Room 455

Wednesday, March 29 | 9-9:45 a.m. | [Zoom](#)

Thursday, March 30 | 3-3:45 p.m.

Watson Library, Room 455

*Teaching Parable of the Sower: A Panel Discussion*

Friday, March 31 | 10-11:30 a.m.

Watson Library, Room 455 & [Zoom](#) (see next page)

- Giselle Anatol (moderator) - Hall Center for the Humanities and Gunn Center
- Ali Brox - Environmental Studies
- Joe Harrington - English
- Paul Outka - English
- Ray Mizumura Pence - American Studies
- Paul Stock - Environmental Studies & Sociology

### WORKSHOPS:

#### *God Is Change: Using Religion in Parable to Engage and Decolonize Our Classrooms*

Rachel Schwaller, Lecturer, Department of History

Tuesday, March 28 | 3-4 p.m.

Watson Library, Clark Instruction Center or [Zoom](#)

(This workshop will be recorded.)

#### *Facilitating Respectful and Engaging Classroom Conversations about Substance Use and Addiction*

Dr. Michael Amlung, Associate Professor in Applied Behavioral Science and Associate Director for Training of the Cofrin Logan Center for Addiction Research and Treatment

Wednesday, March 29 | 2-3 p.m.

Watson Library, Clark Instruction Center or [Zoom](#)

(This workshop will be recorded.)

#### *Black Writing and the Spencer Museum's Common Work of Art*

Joey Orr, Andrew W. Mellon Curator for Research, Spencer Museum of Art

Friday, March 31 | 1-1:30 p.m.

[Zoom](#) (This workshop will be recorded.)

For full workshop descriptions, see next page.



**WORKSHOPS:**

**Tuesday, March 28 | 3-4 p.m.** | Watson Library, Clark Instruction Center or [Zoom](#)

**God Is Change: Using Religion in Parable to Engage and Decolonize Our Classrooms**  
by **Rachel Schwaller**, Lecturer, Department of History

*This workshop will introduce complex, but usable, rules of thumb for bringing the academic study of religion into our teaching, using Octavia E. Butler's depiction of a new religion — Earthseed — as a guide. Earthseed not only allows students to engage with and integrate religious perspectives into their field of study, but also provides important skills for working with and for Liberation. Workshop participants will brainstorm together about how to discuss religious elements in the book and possible small-stakes assignments to add to their classes' active learning.*

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**Wednesday, March 29 | 2-3 p.m.** | Watson Library, Clark Instruction Center or [Zoom](#)

**Facilitating Respectful and Engaging Classroom Conversations about Substance Use and Addiction** by **Dr. Michael Amlung**, Associate Professor in Applied Behavioral Science and Associate Director for Training of the Cofrin Logan Center for Addiction Research and Treatment

*Substance use and addiction are prevalent in contemporary society and cut across all segments of the population. Drug use plays a significant role in the 2023-24 KU Common Book, Parable of the Sower, and the behaviors and associations of those participating in substance use reflect the perspectives of the characters in the novel. In our discussions and interpretations of the text, as students, faculty, and staff at KU, we can draw upon current research and understanding of the complex considerations that surround substance use and addiction. Dr. Amlung will share background information on prevalence of addictions and patterns of substance use, provide examples of stigmatizing and non-stigmatizing language referring to people who use substances, and provide concrete strategies for creating an engaging and respectful classroom discussion of these issues. The session will combine didactic information with hands-on exercises and teaching techniques that instructors can adapt for their courses.*

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**Friday, March 31 | 10-11:30 a.m.** | Watson Library, Room 455 or [Zoom](#)

**Teaching Parable of the Sower: A Panel Discussion** moderated by **Giselle Anatol**, Professor, Department of English, Director of the Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction; Interim Director of the Hall Center for the Humanities. Panelists include: **Ali Brox**, Assistant Teaching Professor, Environmental Studies; **Joe Harrington**, Professor, English; **Paul Outka**, Associate Professor, English; **Ray Mizumura Pence**, Associate Teaching Professor, American Studies; **Paul Stock**, Associate Professor, Environmental Studies and Sociology

*This panel discussion will feature cross-disciplinary perspectives on themes found within Parable of the Sower. Panelists will discuss their experiences teaching the book and guiding students in meaningful discussion, as well as expand upon the topics introduced to help us consider some of what Octavia E. Butler might have been suggesting as she wrote of a future world with familiar elements.*

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**Friday, March 31 | 1-1:30 p.m.** | [Zoom](#)

**Black Writing and the Spencer Museum's Common Work of Art** by **Joey Orr**, Andrew W. Mellon Curator for Research, Spencer Museum of Art

*The Spencer Museum of Art has commissioned artist Fahamu Pecou to create KU's 2023-24 Common Work of Art to be in conversation with the Common Book, Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower. The Museum's curator for research, Joey Orr, will give some insight into the work as well as the exhibition context, Black Writing, which will be open to the public during fall 2023 and is a collaboration with KU's History of Black Writing as the interactive research center celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*