Welcome to the University of Warwick Science Fiction and Fantasy Society.

If your idea of fantasy is David Eddings, Tolkien and Harry Potter, and you think SF stopped when Isaac Asimov died (not that I have anything at all against Eddings, Tolkien or Asimov) then you're missing out on a tremendous wealth of different perspective.

Computer science graduate Jaime Ferrer has written a fascinating book about memory and knowledge, The House of Asterion (with beautiful illustrations by Charles Vess), is also a must.

**Recommended books**

**Iain Banks** is one of the best known contemporary British SF writers, and one of the few that has also attained mainstream literary success. His SF fiction is written under the cunning pseudonym of Iain M Banks, and include a series of novels (*The Player of Games* and *Use of Weapons* are particularly recommended) set on the edges of a utopian galactic society called the Culture, as well as a few other SF novels (for example *Against a Dark Background* and *The Algebraist*).

**Susanna Clarke**’s award-winning fantasy novel *Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell*, is set against the backdrop of the Napoleonic Wars in an alternate England where practical magic has historically existed. The title characters, the dour and miserly Norrell and his more affable student Strange, seek to return England to a golden age of magic. This book was accurately described by Neil Gaiman as “unquestionably the finest English novel of the fantastic written in the last seventy years”, and if you haven’t already done so you should go and read it right now. An anthology of short stories, *The Ladies of Grace Adieu* (with beautiful illustrations by Charles Vess), is also a must.

**Jasper Fforde** has written two series of highly entertaining fiction-inspired novels, one (*The Eyre Affair*, *First Among Sequels*, etc) featuring the government agent Thursday Next, and the other (the *Big Over Easy* and *The Fourth Bear*) featuring Inspector Jack Spratt of the Reading Police Department (Nursery Crimes division).

**Neil Gaiman** is perhaps best known for his *Sandman* series of graphic novels (see later), whose morose title character is the Lord of Dreams. His other work includes the contemporary fantasy *American Gods* and its comic sequel (of sorts) *Anansi Boys*, as well as the modern fantasy *Neverwhere* and the faerie story *Stardust* (the film adaptation of which was released last October).

**William Gibson** has been hailed, along with Bruce Sterling, as the godfather of the Cyberpunk genre. If you haven’t read *Neuromancer*, *Count Zero* and * Mona Lisa Overdrive* then you’ve missed out on some of the most influential SF literature of the last thirty years.

**Jon Courtenay Grimwood** Perhaps best described as ‘alternate-future’, Grimwood’s novels include the *Arabesk* trilogy (*Pashazade, Effendi and Falakener*) set in an alternate near-future Egypt where the Ottoman empire never fell, and four novels (*neoaDDx, Lucifer’s Dragon, reMix* and *redRobe*) set in the twenty-first century of a world where France won the Franco-Prussian War of 1870.

**Laurell K Hamilton** is one of the leading lights of the ‘urban fantasy’ genre. Her best-known work is the *Anita Blake: Vampire Hunter* series, which starts out with the entertaining supernatural murder-mystery *Guilty Pleasures* (but takes a disconcertingly and progressively sado-masochistic turn from about the sixth or seventh book onwards).

**Tom Holt** is best known for his contemporary comic fantasy novels. Particularly recommended are *Expecting Someone Taller?* and *Flying Dutch*, the latter based on the premise that shortly before being cursed with immortality, a certain legendary Dutch sea captain took out a life insurance policy, the terms of which now threaten total worldwide economic collapse in the event of the policy maturing. Also worth reading are the four books set in the firm of J W Wells and Company, 70 St Mary Axe (*The Portable Door: In Your Dreams: Earth, Air, Fire and Custard and You Don’t Have To Be Evil To Work Here But It Helps*).

**Diana Wynne Jones** has been writing imaginative fantasy stories for children and young adults for at least three decades before JK Rowling wandered into that Edinburgh café. Her work includes the Chrestomanci series (*Charmed Life, The Magicians of Caprona, etc*) and the standalone novels *Eight Days of Luke, Fire and Hemlock and Howl’s Moving Castle* (the latter made into an animated film by the Japanese master animator Hayao Miyazaki).

**Ursula K Le Guin** is best known for her *Earthsea* series of fantasy novels, although the award-winning *The Left Hand of Darkness* and *The Dispossessed* are also very highly regarded.

**Ken MacLeod**’s novels typically include elements of anarchist, socialist or libertarian politics set in the near future. His *Full Revolution* series (*The Star Fracton, The Stone Canal, The Cassini Division and The Sky Road*), *Engines of Light* trilogy were well-received; his latest novel *The Night Sessions* was published earlier this year.

**China Miéville** was recently appointed to a lectureship in creative writing here at the University of Warwick, and came to prominence with his novel *Perdido Street Station*, a supremely imaginative story set in the dark industrial city of New Crobuzon, and which won the Arthur C Clarke Award in the significant and auspicious year of 2001. He has since written two further books (*The Scar* and *Iron Council*) set in the same world, as well as the novel *Un Lun Dan*, set in a dark, mirrored version of London.

**Jeff Noon** came to prominence in 1993 with the publication of his first novel *Vurt* (followed over the next four years by *Pollin, Automated Alice and Nymphomation*), all of which are recommended. His collection *Pixel Juice* is almost worth reading just for the poem *Metaphorazine*.

**Mervyn Peake** (1911–1968) is best known for his gothic fantasy trilogy *Gormenghast* (comprising the novels *Titus Groan*, *Gormenghast* and *Titus Alone*) which describe the fortunes of Titus, son and heir of Sepulchrave, 77th Earl of Groan and ruler of the unchanging, oppressive, ramshackle Castle Gormenghast, and the chaos and change wreaked upon this dusty, ritual-bound world by the Machiavellian outsider Steerpike. This is one of the great classics of 20th century fantasy literature.

**Christopher Priest**’s best known novel is perhaps *The Prestige*, a complex tale of feuding Edwardian magicians, which was recently made into an excellent film starring Hugh Jackman, Christian Bale and Michael Caine (and featuring David Bowie as Nikola Tesla). Also well worth reading are *The Separation* (winner of the 2002 BSFA and Arthur C Clarke Awards) and *The Affirmation*.

**Robert Rankin** writes highly entertaining comic fantasy, including the *Brentford Trilogy* (currently standing at eight books, including *The Brentford Triangle, East of Ealing and The Brightonomicon*; an adaptation of the latter is currently being broadcast on BBC 7) and various standalone novels,
many of which (for example, *The Hollow Chocolate Bunnies of the Apocalypse* and *The Witches of Chiswick*) are almost worth reading just for the titles.

Alastair Reynolds was for several years a research astrophysicist working for the European Space Agency, before taking up writing full-time in 2004. He first found critical acclaim with his hard SF opera *Revelation Space* (since followed by four other novels and two novellas set in the same universe). His 2004 novel *Century Rain*, much of which is set in an alternate 1950s Paris, is also highly recommended.

Justina Robson’s first few novels *Silver Screen*, *Mappa Mundi*, *Natural History* and *Living Next Door to the God of Love* partly centre around philosophical questions about consciousness and identity, involving concepts such as artificial intelligence and nanotechnology. She is currently in the process of writing the tremendously fun *Quantum Gravity* series of near-future cyberpunk fantasy novels (the first two, *Keeping It Real* and *Selling Out* are now in print) featuring elven rock stars and cyborg secret agents.

Neil Gaiman’s ongoing comic series (1989–1996) concerning *Dream of the Endless*, the (somewhat morose) anthropomorphic personification of sentient beings’ ability to dream and tell stories (his six siblings also put in occasional appearances, most notably his more cheerful elder sister Death). Full of clever references to mythology and folklore, this was the first graphic novel I read, and makes Neil Gaiman one of a very small number of people who have completely changed the way I think about an entire art form.

**Serenity Rose** I really like this one. It’s about a young, introverted American art student and a group of roughly fifty known people worldwide with inherent magical ability (each known as a Pillar). The most beloved of these Pillars is known Serenity ‘Sera’ Rose. All the goths want to be her friend, but she’d really just like them all to leave her alone, please.

**Strangers in Paradise** Terry Moore’s witty and poignant story of the complex relationships of three friends, played against a backdrop of a mafia-style organisation with influence at the highest political levels.

**The Tale of One Bad Rat** Bryan Talbot’s award-winning story of a young woman fleeing abusive parents, and her search for peace in the Lake District of Beatrix Potter. 

Usagi Yojimbo translates roughly as ‘rabbit bodyguard’ and follows the fortunes of Miyamoto Usagi, a wandering ronin (a samurai) who happens to be a rabbit. Formerly retainer to Lord Mi-fune (a tiger) he occasionally fights in the service of Lord Noriyuki (a panda) of Clan Geishu, and alongside Tomoe (a cat) and Gen (a rhinoceros).

**V for Vendetta** “People should not be afraid of their government, governments should be afraid of their people”. Another genre-changing work from Alan Moore, this was made into a film starring Hugo Weaving and Natalie Portman.

**Watchmen** Alan Moore’s reinvention of the entire superhero subgenre, taking as its premise the idea that someone who regularly dresses up in a garish costume to fight crime is, at best, somewhat disturbed.

**Why I Hate Saturn** Anne is a brilliant but neurotic writer whose life takes a turn for the surreal when her mildly deranged sister Laura (who proclaims herself to be the Queen of the Leather Astro-Girls of Saturn) turns up out of the blue on the run from her dangerous and well-connected ex-boyfriend. Written by Kyle Baker.
Books shelved as highly-recommended: The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins, The Book Thief by Markus Zusak, The Fault in Our Stars by John Green, To Kill a...Â (shelved 103 times as highly-recommended) avg rating 4.33 â€” 6,180,196 ratings published 2008. Want to Read savingâ€¦ Want to Read. Currently Reading. Read. Error rating book. Refresh and try again. Rate this book. Clear rating. 1 of 5 stars 2 of 5 stars 3 of 5 stars 4 of 5 stars 5 of 5 stars. The Book Thief (Hardcover) by. Markus Zusak (Goodreads Author). Solid Book on Interventionism, Should be Mandatory Reading in Foreign Affairs. This is an outstanding book on the side effects of interventionism, written in extremely elegant prose and with maximal clarity. I even recommend it to mathematicians as their training often tends to make them spend too much time on limit theorems and very little on the actual â€œplumbingâ€. The treatment has no measure theory, cuts to the chase, and can be used as a desk reference. If you want measure theory, go spend some time reading Billingsley. Here is a list of books that we would recommended for young people who are interested in mathematics. They are grouped into three different categories: History of Mathematics Recreational Thinking Mathematically. We have given each book a lower age band based on the content and language used in the book and have presented them in ascending order of age. This is merely a guideline and you are welcome to make your own judgements on whether or not a book is suitable. History of Mathematics.
Discover credibly powerful books recommendations by billionaires, icons, and world-class performers. Check out our site & find the current best selling books. Discover the books recommended by billionaires, icons, and world-class performers. Join our newsletter for weekly book recommendations. Books, books, books. They will increase your lifespan, lower your stress and boost your intelligence. They will give you fuller, thicker hair. Books, books, books. They will increase your lifespan, lower your stress and boost your intelligence. They will give you fuller, thicker hair.

Recommended Books. Cambridge "In use" series. The Cambridge "In Use" series is my favourite comprehensive English book series for English learners of any level. I have been using it as a teaching resource for the last 2 years and can recommend it for any English learner, either for self-study, to supplement learning or for extra practice. It is a best-selling series that has been trusted by more than 30 million learners.
Our Most Recommended Books. Looking for a good book? We have the world’s largest collection of expert book recommendations. Over the past decade, we’ve asked hundreds of experts to pick the five best books in their field and to explain in detail why those particular books are so important. Our book recommendations are listed in order, so our most recommended books appear at the top. Each entry includes the number of experts who have recommended that particular book. At some point, you’ve likely encountered a long, bleak patch when your reserve of recommended books ran dry. A few years ago, there was a stretch when I didn’t have people in my life who understood my taste in books. I’d finish a fantastic series and then be disappointed when I realized that there was no rebound read to help me recover from the last series. Thankfully for the readers like us who are still nursing book hangovers, there are personalized book recommendation websites across the internet to save us. Here are the top 100 most recommended books on Read This Twice. These are the must read books in the opinion of the thought leaders of today. Recommendations from Barack Obama, Taylor Swift, Ellen DeGeneres and 401 others. 100 books on the list. Sort by: Most Recommended First. Best Books First. Most Recommended First. Newest Books First. Goodreads Rating. Layout: Man’s Search for Meaning. Books shelved as highly-recommended: The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins, The Book Thief by Markus Zusak, The Fault in Our Stars by John Green, To Kill a... (shelved 103 times as highly-recommended) avg rating 4.33 â€” 6,380,630 ratings â€” published 2008. Want to Read saving... Want to Read. Currently Reading. Read. Error rating book. Refresh and try again. Rate this book. Clear rating. 1 of 5 stars 2 of 5 stars 3 of 5 stars 4 of 5 stars 5 of 5 stars. The Book Thief (Hardcover) by. Markus Zusak (Goodreads Author). books, books, books. They will increase your lifespan, lower your stress and boost your intelligence. They will give you fuller, thicker hair. We may earn commission from some of the links in this article, but we never allow this to influence our content. Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen. It is a fact universally acknowledged that every list of great books must include Pride and Prejudice. Don’t be fooled by the bonnets and balls: beneath the sugary surface is a tart exposé of the marriage market in Georgian England.