

OLLI at DU Syllabus – Spring 2024

From Obscurity to Cult Status: John Williams and His Novel STONER

Wednesday Mornings In-Person; Second 4 weeks

Facilitator: Sally Stich

Books/Materials/Supplies: Required- Stoner by John Williams

Weekly Topics

Week 1: Intro to John Williams who taught creative writing at DU and was a notable character on campus. We shall delve into his persona as an introduction to his second novel Stoner. READ THE INTRO AND THE FIRST FIVE CHAPTERS.

Week 2: Discussion of Stoner's home life and university life. What do we learn about him as a son, a husband, and a professor. READ CHAPTERS 6-11

Week 3: Stoner is not just the story of a man who loves literature. It is also an academic novel. We shall discuss this genre and see how Stoner fits the model. READ CHAP 12-18.

Week 4: We shall discuss the elements of a perfect novel and see why Stoner has been heralded as a perfect novel. Is that distinction warranted?