The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead is a new work of fiction by Pulitzer Prize winning author, Colson Whitehead. Upon first glance one might think this a “smaller”, “lesser work”, merely 210 pages, than his amazing The Underground Railroad. But according to one review,” it’s ultimately a tougher one. It’s in conversation with works by James Baldwin, Ralph Ellison and especially Martin Luther King.” Based on the true, still unfolding account of the Dozier School for Boys in Florida, this riveting story focuses on two friends who find themselves thrown together into a whitewashed nightmare.

The novel is required, in some form, and we will refer to it throughout the four week course. This will be a discussion based class and there will be weekly reading assignments. We will also examine the question “Why fiction?” and how some of us are able to learn so much more when our hearts and minds are engaged!

WEEK ONE- February 11
Read in class the Prologue

WEEK TWO - February 18
Read Chapters 1-6

WEEK THREE - February 25
Read Chapters 7-10

WEEK FOUR - March 3
Read Chapters 11 - Epilogue