

# SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY PROJECT ADVANCE

## 2016 Summer Project

As a student in the Syracuse University Project Advance courses in the English Department, you will begin the upcoming year with WRT 105, Syracuse University's freshman writing class that focuses on academic writing--specifically, the art and science of analytical and argumentative writing. In the spring semester, you will take ETS 181 Class and Literary Texts, a course that focuses on the social realities of class, race, and gender in literature and life. To get ready for these challenges, you will complete the 2016 Summer Project, described below.

### Project Details

1. Read Matthew Desmond's *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* (Broadway Books, 2016), the 2017 Pulitzer Prize winner for non-fiction.

In *Evicted*, Harvard sociologist and MacArthur "Genius" Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they each struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Hailed as "wrenching and revelatory" (*The Nation*), "vivid and unsettling" (*New York Review of Books*), *Evicted* transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of twenty-first-century America's most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible.

(The book is widely available online and in bookstores; either the hardcover or paperback or digital version is fine.)

2. Your written response to the book should take this form:
  - a. **Summary**—in one well constructed, erudite paragraph, summarize from an objective standpoint Desmond's book.
  - b. **Evaluation**—in 2-2.5 pages (typed, double-spaced, MLA style), evaluate the book. Topics you may include: Desmond's writing style, presentation of his research, good points he makes, interesting/enlightening facts you discovered, the effectiveness of his project, what is missing, what should have had more detail, what more you would like to know on this topic. Of course, you will refer to *specific* passages of the book in your evaluation using MLA citation style.

**BRING YOUR RESPONSES WITH YOU TO THE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES!**

*Have a safe, healthy, happy summer!*