Critics of western culture, throughout the ages, have seen isolation and the breaking down of culture as damaging to the democratic spirit. This critique, applied by author Sebastian Junger in his book, Tribe, Coconino Community College’s Common Reads selection for 2018, explores the failure of western culture in being able to reintegrate men and women of the armed forces back into society.

This Year’s Common Read Selection

*Tribe:* On Homecoming and Belonging examines the way war creates intimate bonds between people. Through times of adversity, humans are given a sense of purpose and connection. These experiences create collectives that depend on one another, ultimately connecting with our inherent nature as a communal species. To this point, Junger explores the relationship between combat veterans returning home and higher rates of post-traumatic stress disorders, as they search for the closeness and unity in everyday society. Tribe explores themes of loyalty, belonging, and the human quest for finding meaning in life. This book introduces elements of tribal societies for the purpose of helping us consider ways of creating communities that thrive not from catastrophe or war, but from peace and the act of coming together in purpose.

*How can we come together in today’s divided world?*