



Northwestern University School of Professional Studies

Spring Semester 2015

Monday, March 2 – Friday, June 5

Evanston and Chicago
Study Groups



	Group #	Chicago Study Groups At-A-Glance	Start Time
MONDAY			
	#4311	Great Short Stories	10 a.m.
	#4312	Literary Masters	10 a.m.
	#4313	Photographing Chicago (Intermediate Level) (3HRS)	9 a.m.
	#4314	Monday at the Movies: 1939—Hollywood’s Greatest Year (3HRS)	1 p.m.
	#4315	<i>The New Yorker</i> (Monday)	1:30 p.m.
NEW	#4316	Russia, The Wild East	1:30 p.m.
	#4317	Women in Literature	1:30 p.m.
	#4318	Writing Life Stories	1:30 p.m.
TUESDAY			
NEW	#4319	The Remarkable Year — 1968	10 a.m.
	#4320	The American Essay: Food for Thought	10 a.m.
	#4321	American Road Trip: Art, Literature and Music Coast to Coast	10 a.m.
NEW	#4322	<i>Being Mortal</i>	10 a.m.
NEW	#4323	Faiths of Our Founding Fathers and Post War Presidents	10 a.m.
	#4324	<i>Christianity — The First Three Thousand Years</i>	1:30 p.m.
	#4325	Curtain Up! Tuesday	1:30 p.m.
NEW	#4326	Independent Filmmakers: The Coen Brothers and John Sayles (3HRS)	1:15 p.m.
	#4327	Let’s Talk About the Movies — Bonus Group (7 SESSIONS)	12:15 p.m.
	#4328	Postwar: A History of Europe Since 1945	1:30 p.m.
	#4329	Previews and Reviews — Bonus Group (3 SESSIONS)	12:15 p.m.
NEW	#4330	The Queen, The Lawyer, The Screw	1:30 p.m.
NEW	#4331	Science for Everyone	1:30 p.m.
	#4332	The Writing Group	1:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY			
	#4333	Contemporary Art in a Globalized World	10 a.m.
	#4334	Foreign Affairs	10 a.m.
	#4335	<i>The New Yorker</i> (Wednesday)	10 a.m.
NEW	#4336	People and Events that Shaped Our World	10 a.m.
NEW	#4337	<i>Political Order and Political Decay</i>	10 a.m.
	#4338	Understanding Subatomic Theories of the Universe	10 a.m.
	#4339	Curtain Up! Wednesday	1:30 p.m.
	#4340	Documentary Films (2.75 HRS)	1:15 p.m.
	#4341	<i>The Economist</i> Magazine	1:30 p.m.
	#4342	Explorations of Brain & Mind	1:30 p.m.
	#4343	George Washington, the Indispensable Founder? Part II	1:30 p.m.
NEW	#4344	<i>The Revenge of Geography</i>	1:30 p.m.
THURSDAY			
NEW	#4345	After the Civil War — Views of Reconstruction	10 a.m.
	#4346	British Mystery Writers	10 a.m.
NEW	#4347	Current Economic Issues, Data and Solutions	10 a.m.
	#4348	Famous Trials	10 a.m.
	#4349	Readings in Western Culture	10 a.m.
	#4350	The World of Poetry	10 a.m.
NEW	#4351	Fractured Nations	1:30 p.m.
	#4352	Movies and Politics (3HRS)	1 p.m.
	#4353	Washington Week	1:30 p.m.



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Northwestern University School of Professional Studies
Spring Semester
March 2 – June 5, 2015

Study Group Descriptions
Chicago Campus

MONDAY

#4311 Great Short Stories

Monday, 10 a.m.-noon

Coordinators: Vicki DuFour Lynn Sieben

As Stacy Schiff wrote in *The New York Times*, “A short story is by definition an odder, more eccentric creature than a novel; a trailer, a fling, a warm-up act, a bouillon cube, a championship game in one inning. Irresolution and ambiguity become it; it’s a first date rather than a marriage. When is it mightier than the novel? When its elisions speak as loudly as its lines.” If you enjoy reading fiction and want to explore the succinctness of the short story, join our study group. The very brevity of the form invites lively discussion and differing interpretations of the material. Each week we will read two stories (usually a total of about 30 pages) chosen by the discussion leader, who also prepares brief biographies of the authors. As texts we will continue to use *The O. Henry Prize Stories 2014* (Anchor Books paperback, September 9, 2014) edited by Laura Furman and *The Oxford Book of American Short Stories 2nd edition* (Oxford University Press paperback 2013) edited by Joyce Carol Oates. Same books as the fall!

#4312 Literary Masters

Monday, 10 a.m.-noon

Coordinators: Ira Weinberg, Sue Berger, Eric Cooper

This study group targets readers who enjoy exploring literature of many cultures and styles — classic to modern, from Aeschylus to Atwood, Roth to Rushdie, Shakespeare to Shaw — and combines the joy of reading with the pleasure of discussion. We usually devote at least two weeks to each book to assure a comprehensive and meaningful dialogue.

We will begin with a three-week discussion of Thomas Mann's masterpiece *Buddenbrooks* and continue with Michael Cunningham, *The Hours*, Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night*, Bernard Malamud's *The Assistant*, followed by Ian McEwan's *Atonement*. The semester will conclude with Muriel Spark's *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. Any edition of these books is acceptable.

#4313 Photographing Chicago (Intermediate Level)

Monday, 9 a.m.-noon

Coordinators: Bob Moss, Eric Cooper, Ted Davis

This study group is an intermediate level class for photography enthusiasts. This study group offers participants the opportunity to practice the art of photography while learning about Chicago. Every other week, members of the study group receive a brief history of a neighborhood or notable location. Meeting at the chosen location, we will break up into small groups to shoot photos that reflect the location. Frequently, we will specify a photographic method or constraint to 'exercise' particular skills. We will reassemble after the shoot for lunch at a neighborhood restaurant, leaving time to return for afternoon classes.

On alternate weeks the study group will meet at Wieboldt Hall to analyze our photos, comparing composition techniques and the application of in-camera technical features. We will emphasize the photo-taking process, envisioning the shoot beforehand and getting the most out of camera and lenses through composition, depth of field and exposure. This semester we will discuss how some post-processing features might enhance the photo, but no post processing will be required for the class.

This intermediate level class will continue using *Digital Photography Masterclass* by Tom Ang (DK Publishing hardback, 2013). You must have an interchangeable lens manual control camera. Point-and-shoot and phone cameras are not permitted. Internet and email access is required. Class material will be posted on NU's classroom management system which requires an active Net-ID and password.

#4314 Monday at the Movies: 1939 — Hollywood's Greatest Year

Monday, 1-4 p.m.

Coordinators: Ray Rusnak, Peggy DeLay

In 1940, Hollywood celebrated its 12th Academy Awards show, hosted for the first time by Bob Hope. The array of nominees was stunning.

Gone With The Wind topped the list but there were several other amazingly outstanding films made in 1939: Frank Capra's *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*; William Wyler's *Wuthering Heights*; Ernst Lubitsch's *Ninotchka* in which Garbo laughed; plus *Goodbye, Mr. Chips*; *Love Affair* (the prequel to *An Affair to Remember* and *Restless in Seattle*); *The Wizard of Oz*; *The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Dark Victory*, and *Beau Geste*. These are some of the nominees we will watch.

Each week a class member will present one of these films giving us a brief background of the director, the stars and significant details of the film. After our screening, we'll have a lively

discussion and learn just why they qualified for so many Academy Award nominations and what the times were like in 1939 to produce so many masterpieces.

#4315 *The New Yorker* (Monday)

Monday, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

Coordinators: Sandy Edidin, Marylyn Miller

Inside its famous covers and beyond the cartoons, *The New Yorker* magazine is dedicated to high-quality, topical writings and ideas. Our peer-led group discussions will be as varied as the contents of this distinguished magazine. Join us as we explore art, technology, politics, personalities, medicine, movies, fiction, fashion, culture and commentary. You will find your view of our current world expanded. You must have a current subscription to *The New Yorker* magazine.

#4316 Russia, The Wild East

NEW

Monday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Coordinators: Katharine Nair, Richard Krantz

“Russia is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma,” so said Winston Churchill. If this quote resonates with you consider joining us in our study group. The foundation for our study group is the book *Russia: A One Thousand Year Chronicle of the Wild East* by Martin Sixsmith (Overlook Press paperback, 2013). Sixsmith shows how Russia’s complex identity has been formed over a thousand years and goes a long way towards explaining its often baffling behavior. With liberal references to Russia’s unique cultural history in music and literature as well as the historical narrative, Sixsmith’s work serves as a most entertaining and informative guide in solving the riddle. We will be reading approximately forty pages per week and participants will be encouraged to facilitate the classes. Our discussion topics will be disseminated via email.

#4317 Women in Literature

Monday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Coordinator: Paulette Whitt

If you like literature and lively discussion, welcome to our group! Our objective is to gain insight into literature of women’s lives from time to time and place to place. We focus on fiction about women, written by both contemporary and classic male and female authors from a variety of cultures. We plan to read novels (we devote one week for shorter books and occasionally two weeks for longer books) interspersed with short stories and perhaps a movie. A broader understanding and appreciation of books read individually, plus exposure to others not previously read or even known about, are especially valued by our group members. All group members are urged to take a turn as discussion leader, preparing a short biography of the author and developing questions that provide a springboard for discussion and enhanced understanding of the week’s reading assignment. Spring semester books will include *Nora Webster: A Novel* by Colm Toibin (Scribner hardcover, 2014), *Floating in My Mother’s Palm* by Ursula Heigl (Scribner paperback, 1990), and *The End of the Affair* by Graham Greene (Penguin Classic paperback, 1999). We will begin the spring semester reading *Nora Webster: A Novel*.

#4318 Writing Life Stories

Monday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Coordinators: Marta Killner, Sandra Cowen, Janet Piper Voss

Why write our own stories? Memoir writing may help us capture on the page enduring portraits of the people in our lives, recreate with words the landscapes we once walked and take the time to reflect on our ever-changing personal, familial or social circumstances. Yet writing about one's own life can be a daunting task. Where does one start? What should be included and what left out? As memoir writers, how should we organize our thoughts? Chronologically? By themes? What about style? Poems or prose? Brief anecdotes or chapter-long memoirs?

Whether experienced writers or beginners, we can help each other tackle some of these questions in our memoir writing group. Every week we will have an opportunity to present our work to a sounding board of like-minded "memoirists" and to give and receive helpful feedback. We will also hone our skills by drawing from a wide variety of resources dealing with the genre. If you ever wished to try your hand at writing compelling, real-life stories, this is your chance.

TUESDAY

#4319 The Remarkable Year —1968

NEW

Coordinators: Hank Trenkle and Martha Bills

Tuesday, 10 a.m.-noon

1968. Just the mention of a single word or phrase is enough to cause people of a certain age to remember this unforgettable year. Those of us who were there are able to vividly recall certain events, movements, "happenings" as they were called back then: Vietnam and the Tet Offensive; Martin Luther King, Jr., Johnson Drops Out; Presidential Primaries; Prague Spring; Robert F. Kennedy; the Chicago Convention; the Black Power Movement; The Graduate, Hair and LSD; the election of 1968; Flight to the Moon; Anti-War Movement. Join us as we go back to 1968 and explore what made each month of this remarkable year such a watershed in American and world history. We will use Mark Kurlansky's *1968: The Year That Rocked the World* (Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2005) as a starting point for our discussions. We will also delve into magazines from the period, such as *Time*, *Life* and *Newsweek* as well as other relevant materials that help explain what made this particular year so memorable. Videos, films and YouTube will also be used to capture the essence of 1968.

#4320 The American Essay: Food for Thought

Tuesday, 10 a.m.-noon

Coordinators: Barbara Schaffer Jaffe, Jeri Cohen

What makes reading and discussing a wide variety of essays so absorbing and provocative? Certainly the opportunity to learn about each writer's experiences, opinions and pursuit of truths about diverse topics creates exciting reactions in our peer setting. As we explore, analyze and reflect on an author's thoughts and style in a piece of writing, we learn much about the subjects and ourselves. Our goal is to carefully discuss all aspects of each essay using open-ended questions. We shall be using *The Best American Essays of 2012* edited by David Brooks (Marnier Books paperback). Each year a guest editor chooses essays from selected periodicals,

and includes diverse pieces that capture all the conceptions of what an essay can be. Join us for robust, intelligent conversation with spirited exchange.

#4321 American Road Trip: Art, Literature and Music Coast to Coast

Tuesday, 10 a.m.-noon

Coordinators: Russ Lyman, Roxane McLean

A defining characteristic of America is its cultural regionalism. Georgia O’Keefe captures in her painting the austere landscapes of the Southwest just as William Faulkner creates an indelible image of the South in his fictional Yoknapatawpha County. The urbane wit of Cole Porter or Dorothy Parker in Manhattan stands in stark contrast to the earthy humanity of Willa Cather or Grant Wood in the Midwest.

Our focus in this course will be on geographically distinct clusters of artists, writers, and composers active mostly from the late 19th century through the first half of the 20th century. How are they shaped by and how do they reflect the particular region of their activity? We will make use of a combination of class presentations, readings, discussions, and videos. There is no text: resources will be published on our website and handed out in class. Participants should be willing to research and present individual artists and authors to the group.

Join us as we hop from coast to coast and border to border on this cross-disciplinary tour, exploring the diversity of cultural activity in America: from Manhattan and Harlem to the Great Plains; from the Southwestern desert to the City of Broad Shoulders.

#4322 *Being Mortal*

NEW

Tuesday, 10 a.m.-noon

Coordinators: Ellen Elpern, Deborah Scott, Joan Sophie

Americans are reluctant to acknowledge our mortality. Medical advances have allowed many of us to enjoy longer life and better health, enabling us to avoid examining aging and dying and leaving us ill-informed and ill-prepared to deal with these natural processes. This course will examine the modern experience of aging and dying using Atul Gawande’s book *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* (Profile Books LTD paperback, 2014) and the Institute of Medicine publication *Dying in America: Improving quality and honoring individual preferences near the end of life*.

Dr. Gawande is a surgeon at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, a Harvard professor, and a frequent contributor to *The New Yorker*. His writings focus on challenges in contemporary healthcare. Course content will include the physiology of aging and dying, advantages and disadvantages of the medicalization of these experiences, living longer and living better, initiating crucial conversations, and considerations in preparing for death — ours and that of those we love. Discussions of advance directives and elective dying will be included. A free copy of *Dying in America* that can be read online or downloaded as a PDF is available from the National Academies Press <http://nap.edu/catalog.php?record> (located in the Health and Medicine category, then click on Aging).

Engaging people in defining preferences concerning care at end of life and ensuring that their wishes are understood has proven elusive and challenging. Our goal is to examine, reflect, and

share insights and choices for this inevitable journey. There are no prerequisites for this course. Computer access is necessary to take full advantage of recommended readings.

#4323 Faiths of Our Founding Fathers and Post War Presidents **NEW**
Tuesday, 10 a.m.-noon

Coordinators: Mike Schudrowitz, Susana Lopatka

Many of us have studied American history and believe that our country was founded as a Christian nation, but how true is this claim? In this class we will discuss the religions of 18th century America, looking especially at the Enlightenment religion of Deism which had a profound influence on the beliefs of the founders. Although they were religious men, the author shows that it was a faith quite unlike the Christianity of today's evangelicals. We will then turn to the role of faith in the lives of the twelve post-World War II presidents, seeing how they practiced their faiths and how their faith was reflected in their careers.

We will read two books by David L Holmes, *Faiths of the Founding Fathers* (Oxford University Press; First Edition Hardback, 2006) and *Faith of our Postwar Presidents: From Truman to Obama* (University of Georgia Press paperback, 2014). These books show a wonderful contrast in the two centuries of our country's history, cut through the historical fog of how we view the past and how religion was viewed. We see how the founders' desires for a truly secular republic have been honored by the presidents who have served in our lifetime. We will read approximately 30-40 pages a week, and class participants will be expected to lead a class discussion.

#4324 Christianity —The First Three Thousand Years
Tuesday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Coordinators: Les Reiter, John Van Vranken

The story of Christianity is a story of popes, missionaries, reformers, counter-reformers, crusaders, slave traders and abolitionists and many others. During this three thousand year journey we'll explore the rise of Protestantism, the response of Catholicism and Orthodoxy to this challenge.

The book we will use is *Christianity – The First Three Thousand Years* (Penguin Books reprint edition paperback, 2011) by Diarmaid MacCulloch, a Professor of History of the Church at Oxford University. Each week we will read thirty to thirty-five pages of this book which is of above average difficulty. Each week a member of the study group will lead the discussion and class participation is encouraged.

We will discover Christianity's role in responding to the Enlightenment and then into the age of exploration and finally into modern times. We will also look at the challenges of the modern world to Christianity today. We plan to visit a local church and also look at the role of Christianity in influencing art and music. While this is the second of a two-semester study group, it is not necessary to have taken the fall study group in order to take this study group.

#4325 Curtain Up! Tuesday

Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.-noon

Coordinators: Dixie Johnson, George Simon, Lynne Simon

Curtain Up! is based on three core activities: reading aloud the script of a play currently being presented in a Chicago theater, attending the performance together, and returning to the classroom to discuss the total experience. It is an active and collegial way to participate in the rich Chicago theater scene.

Before seeing each performance we will read aloud and interpret the script together. After seeing the play as a group, we will discuss all aspects of the performance and give it a review. When available, a filmed version of the play will be shown, which can then be compared with the stage production. We will see four plays in theaters such as Steppenwolf, Lookingglass, TimeLine, Remy Bumppo, Goodman or Chicago Shakespeare; all are accessible by public transportation. Theater tickets are purchased at group/student rates. Before each performance, the group will have the option of dining together at a nearby restaurant.

There will be two sections of Curtain Up! You can register for either the Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon group. Groups will read and study the same plays but attend performances on different nights. The coordinator team will share responsibilities for both groups and will synchronize the groups' activities to the greatest extent possible. **Note:** If you are able to attend either section of Curtain Up!, it is recommended you register for one and list the other as an alternative. If you don't list the other section as an alternative, it will be assumed you are not available for the other section and will be placed on the waitlist for the section you registered for, should that section reach its maximum enrollment.

#4326 Independent Filmmakers: The Coen Brothers and John Sayles *NEW*

Tuesday, 1:15–4:15 p.m.

Coordinators: Tom Swanstrom, Ted Jackanicz

In Hollywood there are certain filmmakers known for their strongly-independent styles that contrast sharply with the typical films churned out by the major studios. The results are movies that, in many cases, can be termed cult classics that retain their popularity despite the passage of time. The directors to be covered in this class are the Coen Brothers, John Sayles and Sam Raimi. All started out as amateur filmmakers in their youth and first entered commercial filmhood as writers. Their films share a noirish dark view of humanity that is often lightened by off-beat humor. In addition, they all favor certain actors, using them time and time again. The Coen Brothers and Sam Raimi have worked together since the start of their careers. Their movies have often enjoyed considerable success and many are well known to American audiences. For his part, John Sayles has remained completely independent and thus his films have had limited distribution and are somewhat unknown to filmgoers. Among films to be shown are: John Sayles' *Lone Star* and *Limbo*, and the Coens' *Oh Brother Where Art Thou?* and *Fargo*. Please join us in this foray into the quirky but entertaining world of independent filmmakers.

#4327 Let's Talk About the Movies — Bonus Group

Tuesday, 12:15–1:15 p.m. (7 sessions: March 3, March 17, March 31, April 14, April 28, May 12, May 26) .

Coordinators: Bob Moss, Sandy Edidin

If you enjoy seeing and talking about current films, then this bonus group is perfect for you. Every two weeks a new-release movie will be selected for you to see at a theater. We will then gather at Wieboldt Hall for an in-depth analysis (not a review) of the movie and its elements. We will discuss plot, theme, psychological meaning, cinematography, editing, music, adaptation and much more. Registration is required, but if you register for OLLI's fall semester you are eligible to register for Let's Talk About the Movies — *at no extra charge* — in addition to the number of study groups you have in your membership package. Join the conversation!

#4328 *Postwar: A History of Europe Since 1945*

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Coordinators: Dan Burns, Margaret Van Wissink

This study group continues the saga of Europe's recovery from World War II. In the fall we examined the immediate aftermath of the war, the onset of the Cold War, and the great boom of the 50s and 60s in Western Europe. In this semester, we pick up the story beginning in 1971 and we'll examine the recessionary period of the 70s and 80s, the fall of the Soviet Union, and the liberation of Eastern Europe covered in Parts 3 and 4 of our text, *Postwar: A History of Europe Since 1945* by Tony Judt (Penguin paperback, 2005). Each week we will read approximately 30 pages and a different member of the study group will lead the weekly discussion. Although this is the second semester of a two-semester study group, it is not necessary to have taken the fall study group in order to participate in the spring study group.

#4329 Previews and Reviews — Bonus Group

Tuesday, 12:15-1:15 p.m. (3 sessions: March 10, April 21, May 19)

Coordinators: Leonard Grossman, Jane Woolley

Theater, film, music, art and more — would you like to know more about current and upcoming cultural events in the Chicago area? Would you like to hear special guests from the theatre and arts world?

Would you like to know what other OLLI members have to say about them? Would you like to become a tastemaker by sharing your views on events you have seen? Must see? Might see? Not for me? You decide! Join us each month for Previews and Reviews. Registration is required, but if you register for OLLI's spring semester you are eligible to register for Previews and Reviews — *at no extra charge* — in addition to the number of study groups you already have in your membership package.

#4330 *The Queen, The Lawyer, The Shrew***NEW**

Tuesday, 1:30- 3:30 p.m.

Coordinators: Phyllis Faulman, Peggy Shake

What kind of female characters would you expect from a writer in Elizabethan England? Are they possessions of men or sexually and politically free? Are they strong or frail...smart or stupid...capable or incompetent?

Come study three of Shakespeare's women to see how he portrayed the feminine side in different circumstances: a history play, Queen Cleopatra (powerful); a romance, the legal eagle Portia (intelligence); and a comedy, the shrewish Katherine (fierce independence). We will read aloud each play from *The Oxford Shakespeare: The Complete Works 2nd Edition* (Oxford University Press paperback, 2005) and have discussions concerning plot, motivations of the characters, and their interactions with others. We will also look at Shakespeare's England in comparison to present day. After reading and discussing each play, we will watch a movie to view how others interpreted these characters.

Why should we read literature about women from the 16th century? Because Shakespeare expresses ideas and emotions that still resonate today, that poses questions relevant to our times. His eloquence has its own unique flair, endowing us with an eye for verbal and linguistic beauty that enlivens long after the play is finished. Let the words of Shakespeare speak to you today.

Note: Please purchase the exact edition of the study group book so that all participants can follow the page we are on.

#4331 Science for Everyone

NEW

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Coordinators: Leonard Kosova, John Donahue

Are you interested in science but have only focused in one area or two OR you really haven't done much with science since college? Here is your chance to fill in the gaps! We will explore topics ranging from evolution to the cell and genetics, from the brain to electromagnetism, the Big Bang, particle physics, string theory and lots in between.

The foundation of the study group will be the *Great Courses* video lecture series *Essential Scientific Concepts* by Indre Viskontas, PhD, an excellent communicator and teacher. In each two hour class we will spend 30 minutes of each hour watching the video lecture, 30 minutes discussing the video and the topical reading materials related to the subject provided online prior to the class for home study. Join us for fun and stimulation as we expand the breadth of our understanding of many area of scientific significance.

#4332 The Writing Group

Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Coordinators: Frances Markwardt, Frederic Fulmer

"Writing is an adventure," said Winston Churchill. E. L. Doctorow said, "Writing is an exploration." Franz Kafka said, "Writing is a sweet and wonderful reward."

Join The Writing Group to experience your unique writing adventure! Discover the pleasure of sharing your work with other OLLI writers, who will listen carefully and offer supportive critiques, comments or suggestions for improvement. Enjoy the "sweet reward" of reaching your writing goals! Each week we'll bring to the study group session something we've written (or rewritten) on any subject, in any style — memoir, fiction, essay, prose or poetry — and read it aloud to the group. The environment we'll create together will invite trust and discovery. Beginning writers are encouraged to join us.

WEDNESDAY

#4333 Contemporary Art in a Globalized World

Wednesday, 10 a.m.–noon

Coordinators: Lois Gordon, Russ Lyman

From the bazaar to the palazzo of centuries past to the virtual world of the present day, artists have been responsive to influences from many sources, a trend that has greatly accelerated in our post-modern era. We will look at the nature and effect of globalization in the art world today, examining the work of selected artists from countries around the world as well as that of the United States. In doing so, we will examine how the art of many cultures today pays homage to its traditional roots, how it has metamorphosed into forms unheard even just a few decades ago, how it incorporates new media and techniques, and how it reflects the multicultural, globalized, technologically-oriented world society in which we now live.

The only prerequisite for this adventure through the globalized world of contemporary art is an open mind. We will look, learn, reflect, discuss. Our goal will be to develop a greater understanding of the nature and purposes of art in the twenty-first century, and thus enhance our enjoyment of the art of our time.

#4334 Foreign Affairs

Wednesday, 10 a.m.–noon

Coordinators: Scott Morgan, Chris Beardsley, Maggie Wilson

We live in a world that presents many challenges to individuals, communities, nations and global institutions. These challenges arise from competing views of national sovereignty, security, human rights, climate change, resources, religion, ethnicity, technology, income and wealth distribution and so on. The objective of this study group is to provide a lively, supportive forum for participants to discuss global issues and how they affect the United States and other nations and alliances.

Each week's discussion focuses on recent *Foreign Affairs* essays supplemented by material from think tanks and other sources of analysis and news. Discussion leaders choose each week's topic and study materials and provide open-ended questions to guide the discussion. The group is limited in size and provides each participant an opportunity to explore topics of interest.

Participants should have a subscription to *Foreign Affairs* and the magazine's weekly email newsletter. Subscriptions to *Foreign Affairs* are available to OLLI members at a low student rate. You should be able to use email, open email attachments and open links to web resources. We will examine some of the most important issues of our times. Please join us!

#4335 The New Yorker (Wednesday)

Wednesday, 10 a.m.-noon

Coordinators: Jean Schwartz, Monica Getzendanner

Inside its famous covers and beyond the cartoons, *The New Yorker* magazine is dedicated to quality, topical writings and ideas. Our peer-led group discussions will be as varied as the contents of this distinguished magazine. Join us as we explore art, technology, politics, personalities, medicine, movies, fiction, fashion, culture and commentary. You will find your

view of our current world expanded. You must have a current subscription to *The New Yorker* magazine.

#4336 People and Events that Shaped Our World

NEW

Wednesday, 10 a.m.-noon

Coordinators: Mark Chernansky, Rosemary O'Shea

Every so often, a singular event takes place or people step forward — and the future of the world is changed for good (or bad). Our first full semester will focus on military or political events/people that had a world impact. We'll start with one man's brazen decision to cross a river, work our way through battles and revolutions and marches, ending up with a Humpty-Dumpty story.

Each class will begin with a 30 minute presentation of the topic, using *The Great Courses: Civilization and Culture* video lecture series, featuring professors J. Rufus Fears and Vejas G. Liulevicius, both historians and master storytellers. Then we'll discuss the immediate impact of event, as well as its aftermath and its ultimate relevance in our history. Some classes will also include a discussion of what *might have been* if results of the event had been different. For these, we'll use appropriate references from the book, *What If?* edited by Robert Cowley. There is no text required, but willingness to facilitate a class is expected. Other relevant resource materials, including the *What If?* passages will be provided.

#4337 Political Order and Political Decay

NEW

Wednesday, 10a.m.-noon

Coordinators: Richard Krantz, Bernie Hoffman

When an American thinks about the problem of government-building he directs himself not to the creation of authority and the accumulation of power but rather to the limitation of authority and the division of power. — Samuel P. Huntington

Certainly that was the course taken by the framers of our constitution. But, did they get it wrong? In *Political Order and Political Decay: From the Industrial Revolution to the Globalization of Democracy* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, hardcover, 2014) Francis Fukuyama argues persuasively that indeed they did. In this, his second volume on the history of the political state and how societies develop, Fukuyama provides a clear-eyed explanation of why certain regions thrive while others do not and considers the future of democracy in the face of a rising global middle class and entrenched political paralysis in the West. Controversial? Perhaps. Pertinent to our world today? Definitely.

#4338 Understanding Subatomic Theories of the Universe

Wednesday, 10a.m-noon

Coordinators: Arthur Goldman, Richard DuFour

In the spring semester of this one-year course we plan to take a bold step forward, to push the frontiers of continuing education and peer-based learning, by studying quantum mechanics utilizing the language of mathematics. This is an opportunity for non-scientists to explore this fascinating, counter-intuitive world.

This study group is intended to provide those who are interested in science with a deeper understanding of quantum mechanics. Unlike other popularizations that shy away, this course

will utilize mathematics to explain and apply the principles, including exercises to reinforce understanding. It is our intent for members to view a YouTube video lecture by Leonard Susskind at home each week, read the corresponding chapter in Susskind's *Quantum Mechanics: The Theoretical Minimum* (Basic Books hardback, 2014), then come to class to ask questions and to help each other understand the math, the concepts and principles of quantum mechanics, and their application.

This class will require moderate background familiarity with concepts of modern physics and math, substantial reading and preparation, and active participation in weekly sessions. Join us as we continue our quest to understand the subatomic world of particle physics.

#4339 Curtain Up! Wednesday

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Coordinators: Barbara Shaeffer, Linda Sieracki, Judie Roberts

Curtain Up! is based on three core activities: reading aloud the script of a play currently being presented in a Chicago theater, attending the performance together, and returning to the classroom to discuss the total experience. It is an active and collegial way to participate in the rich Chicago theater scene.

Before seeing each performance we will read aloud and interpret the script together. After seeing the play as a group, we will discuss all aspects of the performance and give it a review. When available, a filmed version of the play will be shown, which can then be compared with the stage production. We will see four plays in theaters such as Steppenwolf, Lookingglass, TimeLine, Remy Bumppo, Goodman or Chicago Shakespeare; all are accessible by public transportation. Theater tickets are purchased at group/student rates. Before each performance, the group will have the option of dining together at a nearby restaurant.

There will be two sections of Curtain Up! You can register for either the Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon group. Groups will read and study the same plays but attend performances on different nights. The coordinator team will share responsibilities for both groups and will synchronize the groups' activities to the greatest extent possible. **Note:** If you are able to attend either section of Curtain Up!, it is recommended to register for one and list the other as an alternative. If you don't list the other section as an alternative, it will be assumed you are not available for the other section and will be placed on the waitlist for the section you registered for, should that section reach its maximum enrollment.

#4340 Documentary Films

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.-4 p.m.

Coordinators: Phyllis Faulman, Glory Southwind

Welcome to the fascinating world of documentary films. In each session we will view a film of artistic, political, historical, or social merit — always of interest and sometimes controversial. Films under consideration for the spring session are *The Unknown Known*, where documentarian Errol Morris turns his lens on Donald Rumsfeld, who served as U.S. Secretary of Defense during the 2003 invasion of Iraq, attempting to explain his often-obscure language by reading from a vast collection of Pentagon memos; *Dear Mr. Watterson*, a documentary that, nearly two decades after the last original *Calvin and Hobbes* was published, examines the comic strip's enduring legacy as fans and cartoonists such as Berke Breathed of *Bloom County* discuss the strip's impact

and timeless appeal; and *Elaine Stritch: Shoot Me*, where refreshingly caustic Broadway legend Elaine Stritch looks back on her life and career at the age of 87 in this feature-length portrait composed of candid reflections, rare archival footage and testimonials from her dearest friends. Other documentaries being considered are *Mr. Conservative: Goldwater on Goldwater* and *Fed Up*. Please join us for a semester of fun and learning.

#4341 *The Economist Magazine*

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Coordinators: Joe Lane, Jerry Levine, Una Malkinson, George Panagakis

The Economist is known for its informative and thought-provoking reporting on political and economic developments around the world. Join us as we review several articles selected from the current week's issue as catalysts for informed and lively discussion on the critical topics of our time. Subscribing to *The Economist* (student rate available) is encouraged but not a requirement — the only requirements are Internet access and a healthy interest in world affairs. Information on subscriptions, student rates and special rates are available at 1-800-456-6086 or www.economistsubscriptions.com.

#4342 Explorations of Brain & Mind

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Coordinators: Arthur Goldman, Joan Sophie

We continue our explorations of brain and mind with an examination of an ages-old mystery of the human mind — why do people believe? How does the human mind construct beliefs and reinforce them as truths? Michael Shermer, psychologist, researcher, author, and columnist of the popular *Scientific American* column *Skeptic*, will be our guide through his recently published book, *The Believing Brain* (St Martin's Griffin paperback, 2012), in which he applies his theories and explanations of how the mind operates to real-world examples in politics, economics, religion, conspiracy theories, the supernatural, and the paranormal.

All interested members are welcome; this class will not require background knowledge of the subject. It will require modest weekly reading and preparation, and active participation in facilitation and discussion. Join us in this mind-opening adventure.

#4343 George Washington, the Indispensable Founder? Part II

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Coordinators: Vera Antoniadis, Jean Schwartz

We will continue with the second part of Ron Chernow's *Washington, a Life* (Penguin Books paperback, 2011) where the focus will shift to the writing of our Constitution, its ratification, and the first presidential terms. We will discuss the monumental tasks the new administration faced: the need to stabilize the economic situation, secure internal stability, and gain global recognition. But heated debates regarding the powers of the central government remained, and it was Washington who made decisions related to contested issues. While mainly a political biography, Chernow includes interesting glimpses of Washington as an 18th century American.

Our discussions will consider two underlying themes: Was Washington's leadership essential to the successful launching of our nation? Was the establishment of a democratic republic radical or evolutionary? Since there is no "right" answer, we look forward to a lively exchange of opinions.

Our readings will also include selections from Bernard Bailyn's *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution* (Harvard University Press paperback, 1967). Inexpensive copies are available at Amazon but selected summaries will be provided in class. We will read approximately 35 pages each week and leading or pairing up to be a discussion leader for one class is expected. Discussion questions will be sent by email to class participants. This study group can be enjoyed without having taken Part I.

#4344 *The Revenge of Geography*

NEW

Wednesday, 1:30–3:30 pm

Coordinator: Manny Kahana

Location, location, location. It plays a critical role not only in the real estate world, but in the real world of geopolitics as well. By understanding how geography has been a key factor in influencing past conflicts around the world, Robert Kaplan, author of *The Revenge of Geography: What the Map Tells Us About Coming Conflicts and the Battle Against Fate* (Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2013), suggests we can better predict where future conflicts will likely arise in today's world.

Kaplan assembles insights of leading geographers and geopolitical thinkers to identify critical points in history, and examines climates, topographies and proximity to other embattled places to determine potential influences; he postulates that the future can be understood in the context of temperature, land allotment, and other physical certainties which often pits nation against nation, culture against culture. Applying these insights, we'll address present day situations around the globe to glean a perspective on the next possible cycle of human conflict. As for the future of the United States, we might learn to question its focus on the Middle East rather than possible failures of Central American nations. Join us as we explore the past, present and future of the impact of geography on our world. This course will require substantial reading, preparation and active class participation.

THURSDAY

#4345 *After the Civil War —Views of Reconstruction*

NEW

Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon

Coordinators: Rich Dubberke, Peggy DeLay

The Union had won, the Confederacy had lost; Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. How would our nation heal its' wounds? Was it to be reconciliation or retribution? Who would be the winners and who would be the losers? To explore the answers to these questions we will use two books. The first book we will read is *Andrew Johnson: The American Presidents Series: The 17th President 1865-1869* by Annette Gordon-Reed (Times Books, hardcover, 1st ed, 2011). This short biography, part of the outstanding American Presidents series, concisely sets out the nearly impossible task confronting Johnson of reconciling his moderate vision of reconstruction with a recalcitrant Congress controlled by Radical Republicans.

The second book is *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* (Belknap Press New Ed edition paperback, 2002) by noted Civil War historian, David Blight. Blight demonstrates that

a national memory based on reconciliation triumphed over several other competing and equally important memories of the war. The “Union Cause” had become the “Lost Cause” and the losers had written the history of the Civil War.

#4346 British Mystery Writers

Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon

Coordinators: Jean Weber, Martha Bills

Looking for a mystery? Look no further, because this study group will provide all the mystery and drama you need. Join us as we continue to explore the works of several of the most renowned British mystery writers — those who perfected the genre and who continue to give mystery lovers many hours of delight as we match wits with the detectives, both amateur and professional, who have become icons of written and televised mysteries. We begin with Charles Dickens’ short story, *Hunted Down* (available for free at Gutenberg.org) and then the famous classic mystery, *The Thirty Nine Steps* by John Buchan. Edgar Wallace, one of Britain’s most prolific writers challenges us with two short stories, *Room 13* and *Terror Keep*. *Double Cross Purposes* by Ronald Knox, one of the founding members of the Detection Club and the ever popular P.D. James, *Cover Her Face* continue to entertain us as we search for clues. *The Singing Bone* by R. Austin Freeman might draw comparison to Patricia Cornwall. We end our session with *A Nice Class of Corpse* by the current president of the Detection club, Simon Brett. Who can resist following the clues with us? For uncommon, unforgettable intrigue, join our British Mystery Writers study group. No specific editions of these novels or short stories are required.

#4347 Current Economic Issues, Data and Solutions

NEW

Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon

Coordinator: Joe Hinkel

Inequality in income and wealth, appropriate corporate and individual income tax rates and the viability of public sector pension plans are issues in the news almost every day. How much do we really know about these issues? This group will look thoroughly at the available data to analyze current economic issues, agree on definitions of the terms often used in reporting of these issues and consider the range of possible changes to the existing state.

We will not have a text for this class. Instead we will accumulate available studies and data analysis to better understand these issues. At least one session will be dedicated to developing a group understanding of each issue and following sessions will explore the range of plausible alternatives. Participants will be encouraged to work either alone or within groups to address the assigned subject area.

This study group requires a reasonable level of computer skills such as the ability to open PDF attachments and use the Internet for research. Join us for a semester of stimulating interesting research and discussion.

#4348 Famous Trials

Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon

Coordinators: Marc Ungar, Katharine Nair, Rob Carr

A famous trial often involves much more than the facts in dispute. It can raise issues that transcend the facts or the parties involved and generate great public controversy. Each week, the

Study Group will do an in-depth examination of one trial using the materials collected at the website Famous Trials (www.umkc.edu/famoustrials). Discussions, led by participants, will focus on the trial's historical, political and social significance and the ramifications of the decision rather than the legal technicalities.

The website provides for each trial, a case summary and robust supplementary materials with the facts and decision, background information about the parties, transcripts of parts of the trial and illustrations. Discussion leaders may choose to add short videos or readings and additional visuals, all of which will appear on our Northwestern Blackboard site.

The twenty-six trials we'll choose from for spring include John Brown (1895), Lizzie Borden (1893), Black Sox (1921), Alger Hiss (1949), Pentagon Papers (1973) and OJ Simpson (1995) and Enron (2006). Participants will need access to and familiarity with the Internet as the website will serve as our text and primary resource and paper reproductions will not be provided.

#4349 Readings in Western Culture

Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon

Coordinators: Bernie Hoffman, Elaine Hoffman

The great books contain the best materials on which the human mind can work in order to gain insight, understanding, and wisdom. —Mortimer Adler

Great Books Discussions encourage participants to engage in the exchange of ideas that should form the basis of civil discourse in a democratic society. They familiarize readers with many of the written works and ideas, both old and new, that have had a profound and formative influence on our world, with the hope that understanding our intellectual traditions' underlying assumptions is essential to making wise choices in both our personal lives and the civic arena. We will be using *The Great Books Reading and Discussion Fifth Series* (paperback), available through the Great Books Foundation (www.greatbook.org/store or 800-222-5870, ext.2) and *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce (any edition). Authors include James Joyce, Dante, Henry Adams, Shakespeare, Aristotle, and Plato. Please join us for lively and thought-provoking discussions in one of OLLI's long standing groups.

#4350 The World of Poetry

Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon

Coordinators: Fran Markwardt, Steven Bloomberg

Poetry comes nearer to vital truth than history. — Plato

Welcome, poetry lovers! Join us in The World of Poetry, where we'll search for vital truth in the works of a variety of poets, both classic and modern. Group members will take turns choosing poets, distributing copies of selected poems a week before the study group session and leading a discussion of the poems. After a brief sketch of the poet's life and times, we'll read the poems orally and examine them closely, sharing our opinions, ideas, questions and associations. We'll also refer to the Poetry Foundation website, Poetry magazine and other sources for interviews with poets, poetry readings and relevant essays or book reviews. We'll keep each other informed of poetry events around town and may attend one or two together as a group. But mainly this study group will be about the poets we select — reading their poetry and discovering their magic. Previous poetry study or knowledge is not required.

#4351 Fractured Nations**NEW****Thursday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.****Coordinators: Cheryl Graham, Joe Hinkel**

Have you noticed that as the world becomes more unified, individual nations are becoming more divided? Separatist movements have become one of the hot political issues of the 21st century, threatening the stability of many nations. This study group will explore that trend. Using *The Encyclopedia of Modern Ethnic Conflicts* as a guide (available in class), each participant will choose a separatist group, research its background and current status, then give a presentation and lead a discussion about it in class. The choice can range from the democratic efforts of the United Kingdom's Scots and Spain's Catalonians to the violent uprisings of China's Uyghurs and India's Kashmiris. This class will engage your research and communication skills, as you will need to find, organize, and summarize material from both printed and online sources.

#4352 Movies and Politics**Thursday, 1-4 p.m.****Coordinator: William McGuffage**

The first Mayor Daley said "good politics is good government" and vice-versa. Was he right? The films that will be shown and discussed in this class will be about "real politics"—political campaigns, governance, corruption, reform and even political thrillers based on true-life incidents. Unlike the inane political dramas often seen on TV, these films will engage the viewer in critical discussion about the politics of running for and serving in public office. Among the movies to be presented are: *Advise and Consent*, *The Candidate*, *Z* (France) and *Lincoln*. Also included will be two HBO films: *Recount* (the aftermath of the 2000 presidential election) and *Game Change* (the 2008 presidential campaign of Sen. John McCain).

#4353 Washington Week**Thursday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.****Coordinators: Len Grossman, Gail Bartlett, Arlene Shafton, Jane Mortenson**

Washington Week provides a lively forum for discussion of news emanating from the nation's capital. It enables OLLI members to research and share perspectives on all three branches of federal government. In the first hour we will watch excerpts from late night political shows followed by in-depth discussion of a major issue such as immigration reform or income inequality. Different perspectives are encouraged and treated respectfully. The second hour will be devoted to current hot topics, selected by the class.

Republican control of the Senate has produced a dramatic shift of power in Congress. How will they govern and produce new legislation, given the influence of the far right? What will be the key issues? How will President Obama respond to the new realities and continue to fight for and assert his agenda? Will the Supreme Court inject controversy into the national dialogue with far reaching decisions? We might very well be in for a wild ride this semester.

This is a fast-paced study group. Students are expected to be (or become) keen observers of national news through many different sources. Reading assignments and topics will be distributed by email. You will need access to the Internet to prepare for and be fully engaged with this study group.

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	Group #	Evanston Study Groups At-A-Glance	Start Time
MONDAY			
	#4283	Best American Short Stories	9:30 a.m.
	#4284	Four Masters of the Short Story	9:30 a.m.
	#4285	<i>The New Yorker</i> , Section 1	9:30 a.m.
	#4286	American Essays	1 p.m.
	#4287	Scandinavia After the Vikings	1 p.m.
NEW	#4288	Space Race and Apollo Moon Mission	1 p.m.
TUESDAY			
NEW	#4289	<i>Asia's Cauldron</i>	9:30 a.m.
	#4290	Exploring the Visual Arts	9:30 a.m.
	#4291	<i>The Transformation of America</i>	9:30 a.m.
	#4292	Tuesday at the Movies: The Director's Cut (3HRS)	9 a.m.
NEW	#4293	The Long and Short of Dickens	1 p.m.
NEW	#4294	Naturalism in American Literature	1 p.m.
NEW	#4295	Sholem Aleichem His Life, Times and Writings	1 p.m.
WEDNESDAY			
NEW	#4296	Anatomy of Confederate Defeat: How the South Lost and the North Won the Civil War	9:30 a.m.
NEW	#4297	Challenges to World Order	9:30 a.m.
	#4298	Creative Writing Workshop	9:30 a.m.
	#4299	The Birth of the Modern Western World: 1788-1800	1 p.m.
	#4300	From Print to Pictures, the Art of Film Adaptation: Marriage in the Movies, Part 2 (12 session) (2-3 HRS)	1 p.m.
	#4301	<i>The New Yorker</i> , Section 2	1 p.m.
	#4302	Poetry for Pleasure	1 p.m.
THURSDAY			
	#4303	<i>Bernard Malamud Novels & Stories of the 1960s</i>	9:30 a.m.
NEW	#4304	Decision Making: Avoiding Errors of Judgment and Choice	9:30 a.m.
NEW	#4305	Shakespeare's Problem Plays	9:30 a.m.
NEW	#4306	<i>Dead Sea Scrolls</i>	1 p.m.
NEW	#4307	Nature's God	1 p.m.
NEW	#4308	<i>The Philosophy of the Coen Brothers (3HRS)</i>	1 p.m.
FRIDAY			
	#4309	Documentary Films (2.5 HRS)	9:30 a.m.
	#4310	International Relations	9:30 a.m.



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Northwestern University School of Professional Studies

Spring Semester
March 2 – June 5, 2015

Study Group Descriptions
Evanston Campus

MONDAY

#4283 Best American Short Stories

Monday, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Coordinators: Lail Herman, Don DeRoche

Lorin Stein, editor of the *Paris Review*, writes, “There is a time for multitasking and a time for losing yourself. The short story offers something else: a chance to pay close attention — and have that attention rewarded because, for once, every little plot twist, every sentence, counts.” Besides being a lot of fun, the lively discussions of this study group can help deepen our understanding of each story and maybe even of ourselves. During the semester we will explore a diverse group of contemporary writers and their stories. We will continue to use two short story editions: *Pen/O. Henry Prize Stories 2014* (Anchor paperback), edited by Laura Furman; and *Best American Short Stories 2014* (Mariner paperback), edited by Elizabeth Strout. In addition, class members may elect to share their favorite American stories from other sources. Preparation for each session entails thorough reading of one or two stories. We have extended an open invitation to locally based writers of the stories to attend a class and share their insights with us — a semester highlight whenever it occurs.

#4284 Four Masters of the Short Story

Monday, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Coordinators: Glen Phillips, Jean Solomon

Short stories have the power to entertain, inform, and even heal. Interpreting those stories, uncovering the author’s message, is a noble, challenging task and the goal of this study group. This spring we will read *Varieties of Exile* by Mavis Gallant (New York Review of Books Classics paperback, 2003); *The Tao of Humiliation* by Lee Upton (BOA Editions LTD paperback, 2014); *The Other Language* by Francesca Marciano (Vintage paperback, February 2015); *Collected Stories* by Wallace Stegner (Penguin Classics paperback, 2006). Each week two

complex stories by two different master authors are vigorously dissected for their ideas. During a lively exchange of interpretations, participants learn from one another and refine their own positions. By discussion's end, all have a clearer sense of the author's words and, week by week, become more adept at literary interpretation. Specialized knowledge is not required; the coordinators will provide any necessary definitions of literary terms as well as guidance on how to lead a discussion.

#4285 *The New Yorker*, Section 1

Monday, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Coordinators: Hillis Howie, Nancy Anderson, Dick Whitaker

This study group is for both longtime fans of *The New Yorker* and newcomers. Each session will examine the contents of the current issue and then explore a previously assigned article in depth, led by a volunteer discussion leader who chose the article. Participants will be encouraged to become "watchers" who briefly discuss cartoons, movie reviews, covers, or some other aspect of the current issue. Join us for lively, engaging conversation. Subscription to the magazine is required.

#4286 American Essays

Monday, 1-3 p.m.

Coordinator: Glen Phillips

There is more to literature than novels, plays, and poetry; there are also essays. A well-executed essay intrigues the reader with a thoughtful perspective on the human condition. The goal of this study group is the interpretation, analysis, and appreciation of that perspective. This spring we will read *At Large and At Small* by Anne Fadiman (Farrar paperback, 2008); *How to Be Alone* by Jonathan Franzen (Picador paperback, 2003); *Quarrel and Quandary* by Cynthia Ozick (Knopf paperback, 2001) and *Changing My Mind* by Zadie Smith (Penguin paperback, 2010). Participants will develop an awareness of the essay as an art form and will refine their literary analytic skills. Best of all, everyone — whatever their educational or professional background — will become comfortable reading and discussing essays.

#4287 Scandinavia After the Vikings

Monday, 1-3 p.m.

Coordinators: Harold Richman, Barbara Peterson, Laura Ann Wilber

Scandinavian history is one of the least known parts of European study. Last semester we learned that Vikings were not all fierce raiders; they also were traders and settlers across Europe and the Atlantic. After the Viking age ended, Scandinavian people lived on — and that is where this study group begins. Our textbook is *A History of Scandinavia: Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland*, by T.K. Derry (University of Minnesota Press paperback, 2000). It provides catch-up information for people who did not participate in the first semester as well as covers the history of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland, from the earliest recorded time to nearly the present. We will read about trading towns and slave labor, governance and laws, and the uncertain co-existence of various religious faiths. We'll find history and legends in the sagas and poetry. Frequently changing forms of government, and of relations between Scandinavian countries, are noted, along with the effects of European wars. The author closes with his hope that "what was once 'the unknown north' has come to

represent...the ideas and ideals of democracy, humanitarianism, and social equality." We who read and discuss Scandinavian history in this study group are invited to form our own views.

#4288 Space Race and Apollo Moon Mission

NEW

Monday, 1-3 p.m.

Coordinators: Harold Primack, Ron Denham

"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" – Neil Armstrong, July 20, 1969

Unbelievable — a man, an American, had just stepped onto the moon! It had been a bad decade. The Vietnam War was raging, John and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King had been assassinated, race riots had shocked the nation, and the Cold War was going strong. But landing on the moon gave Americans something they could be proud of again.

We will read, *A Man on the Moon: The Voyages of the Apollo Astronauts* by Andrew Chaikin (Penguin Books paperback, 2007). The book, based on interviews with astronauts, their families and others involved in the missions, retells the amazing story of the Apollo program. However, the story begins long before Apollo. In early 1945, as American and Russian troops march across Germany, they race to capture German rocket scientists. In October 1957, Russia shocks America by launching Sputnik I. We will begin in 1945 with Wernher von Braun and the German scientists. We will discuss the politics of the space race as the backdrop and context within which great technical challenges of the moon voyage were overcome. Supplemental readings will be supplied and documentary videos will be shown.

TUESDAY

#4289 Asia's Cauldron

NEW

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Coordinators: Bruce Marx, Joel Weiss

World power and trade have been shifting from Europe and the Middle East to Asia over the last several decades. The South China Sea is important because it is involved in approximately forty percent of global sea trade and because so many nations of increasing importance are on its borders. We will study the impact of natural resources, trade, prominent world statesmen from this area and local religions on the interrelations of the countries in this area of the world. We will examine how the goals of the U.S. can co-exist with China's foreign policy in this region. The study group will work toward a better understanding of what we face in the future. The class will use the book *Asia's Cauldron: The South China Sea and the End of Stable Pacific* (Random House paperback, 2014) by Robert D. Kaplan. The author has been named by *Foreign Policy* magazine as one of the top 100 top thinkers in the world.

#4290 Exploring the Visual Arts

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Coordinators: Roger Heuberger, Mary Jon Girard

This study group for both novice and experienced art appreciators is designed to increase awareness of, sensitivity to, and appreciation for four visual arts: painting, sculpture, photography, and architecture. The emphasis is on the enjoyment of viewing and contemplating art. Topics may include art movements, individual artists, and occasionally art media itself. The

discussion leader for each session will prepare talking points and questions about an agreed-upon topic. When possible, source material will include DVDs or YouTube videos, occasionally supplemented by print or web content. A typical session may include 15 minutes of prepared remarks by that day's leader, short or long video screenings, and discussion. If needed, the coordinators can assist in content preparation. Join us as we enthusiastically explore a rich mix of painting, sculpture, photography, and architecture. Recent topics have included: painters Marc Rothko and Toulouse Lautrec; sculptors Bellini and Henry Moore; photographers Annie Liebovitz and H. Cartier Bresson; architects Frank Gehry and Mies Van Der Rohe. The spring semester will be equally enriching.

#4291 *The Transformation of America – Part 2*

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Coordinators: Steve Fisher, Dona Gerson

This class continues our study of United States history 1815-1848 covering a fascinating and exciting period in the development of the United States during which the country grew from a collection of eastern seaboard states to a transcontinental nation with world-wide influence. Meanwhile, the division over slavery intensified.

We begin this spring completing our reading (chapters 15-20) of Daniel Walker Howe's Pulitzer Prize-winning book *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848* (Oxford University Press USA paperback, 2009) and then read H.W. Brands *The Age of Gold: The California Gold Rush and the New American Dream* (Anchor paperback, 2003) about the American gold rush of 1848.

#4292 Tuesday at the Movies: The Director's Cut

Tuesday, 9:00 a.m.-noon

Coordinators: David Liner, Stuart Applebaum

Integral to the success of any film is a director who provides imagination and creativity, enlivens the screenplay (often the director's own creation), molds and instructs actors to encourage peak performances, and unifies the film in many other important ways. This study group will showcase highly visible, prolific directors and their work while contrasting their approaches and styles. Presenters will choose films that stand out among selected directors' works, so that each week participants will view the most-highly regarded movies directed by masters of film art.

Directors under consideration for the spring semester include Tim Burton, Brian De Palma, Ingmar Bergman, Steven Spielberg, Ron Howard, Martin Scorsese, Mike Nichols, Clint Eastwood, Akira Kurosawa, Francis Ford Coppola, John Huston, David Lean, and Vittorio De Sica. Join us as we watch outstanding movies and discuss the director's craft in creating them.

#4293 *The Long and Short of Dickens*

NEW

Tuesday, 1-3 p.m.

Coordinators: John Lucadamo, Michael Singer

A Tale of Two Cities is probably familiar to many with its famous opening lines — “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times” — and its moving conclusion with Sydney Carton's speech. *Hard Times* may not be as well-known but is worth exploring. If you haven't read *Tale of Two Cities* since high school or have never read it, join us for a class that will discuss the

spellbinding characters Dickens created, including Dr. Manette; Sydney Carton; the lady in red, Miss Pross, and the woman who knits at the guillotine, Madame Defarge. The novel is set against the backdrop of Revolutionary Paris and the more staid London. *Hard Times*, written five years after *Tale of Two Cities*, in 1864, is appropriately titled and is set in the fictitious city of Coketown and sketches the difficult lives of workers and owners alike. In this novel, the author's shortest; we will meet Thomas Gradgrind, teacher of facts, and learn what happens when Sleary's circus comes to town. Please purchase the Penguin Classics mass market paperback, 2003 editions of both novels.

#4294 Naturalism in America Literature

NEW

Tuesday, 1-3 p.m.

Coordinators: Leo Dohogne

Contemporary issues of income inequality and the need for economic reforms are ever present themes in American history. Popular novelists of the Gilded Age depicted profound changes from 1870 to the end of the century. American society was experiencing new immigration, large scale industrialization, trusts and monopolies, labor unrest and rising inequality. The effects were apparent in the appalling living and economic conditions for many urban dwellers and workers. American writers, with a journalistic eye, began to illustrate these conditions in vivid detail. They did not gloss over the poverty affecting many lives. These writers were widely read and helped fashion the reforms of the early 20th century "Progressive Era." In this new literature, writers saw a society without individual freedom. People were victims of an economic and political system over which they had no control. Morality was stripped away, replaced by a credo of greed and selfishness. Survival became a matter of brute force; for most people life was largely drudgery. We will read four compelling novels exemplifying this genre: *Maggie, a Girl of the Streets*, by Stephen Crane; *The Pit*, by Frank Norris; *The Iron Heel*, by Jack London, and *The Jungle*, by Upton Sinclair. You may read any edition.

#4295 Sholem Aleichem His Life, Times and Writings

NEW

Tuesday, 1-3 p.m.

Coordinators: Naomi Fisher, Peg Romm

Sholem Rabinovitz, writing as Sholem Aleichem, gave us the unforgettable character Tevye. The span of Rabinovitz's life, 1859 to 1915, was a turbulent time for Russian Jewry, which was often under physical threat, as well as being challenged by outside cultural developments. Although influenced by the Hebraists of the Jewish Enlightenment, and Russian writers of his time, it was as a Yiddish writer and chronicler of the "little Jew" that Rabinovitz became Sholem Aleichem. His writings changed the direction of Yiddish literature, then in its infancy. Aleichem's own life reads like a novel. We'll begin learning about his life and times from his (uncompleted) autobiography, *From the Fair: The Autobiography of Sholom Aleichem* translated by Curt Leviant (Viking paperback, 1985), taking us from his early years to young adulthood, and continue to the end of his life with the biography *The Worlds of Sholem Aleichem* by Jeremy Dauber (Schocken Books hardback, 2013). We'll also read selected stories to experience his genius and deep humanity for ourselves. Whether or not you are familiar with his stories, we invite you to enter the world of Sholem Aleichem filled with life's challenges and vicissitudes and, yes, resounding with laughter.

WEDNESDAY

#4296 Anatomy of Confederate Defeat: How the South Lost and the North Won the Civil War

NEW

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Coordinator: John Drodow, Steve Fisher, Harold Primack

The nation will soon commemorate the 150th anniversary of Lee's surrender at Appomattox and with it the effective end of the Civil War. This study group will explore the economic, political, social and military causes for the war's outcome as analyzed by many distinguished historians. According to these historians, many different factors contributed to the Confederate defeat: the superior economic and population resources of the North, the weakness of Southern nationalism, differences in military strategy and leadership; a "loss of will" in the Confederacy late in the war, and many more. In addition, the roles of groups of Southerners excluded from power in the Confederacy — African American slaves and Southern white women — have recently become a major focus of debate.

Our selected readings will draw from three modest size books: Our selected readings will draw from three modest size books: *Why the North Won the Civil War* edited by David Herbert Donald (Simon & Schuster paperback, 1996); *Why the Confederacy Lost* edited by Gabor S. Boritt (Oxford University Press paperback, 1993; and Gary W. Gallagher's *The Confederate War* (Harvard University Press paperback, 1999). Additional readings will be provided by the coordinators. Join us in exploring these and other explanations as we try to understand the outcome of the most compelling event in American history – our great, tragic, and ever fascinating Civil War.

#4297 Challenges to World Order

NEW

Wednesday 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Coordinator: Stuart Applebaum, David Liner

In his newest book, *World Order* (Penguin Press hardback, 2014), Henry Kissinger analyzes what he considers to be the most significant challenge for the 21st century: "...how to build a shared international order in a world of divergent historical perspectives, violent conflict, proliferating technology and ideological extremism." Whether we will ultimately agree with Kissinger's analysis and prescriptions or not, the book will provide us with an opportunity for discussions about issues that are sure to be at the forefront of international relations in the near future. Join us as we read this important book and discuss the serious issues Kissinger presents.

#4298 Creative Writing Workshop

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Coordinators: Ron Denham, Art Altman

In this workshop, participants improve their creative writing skills across various genres — poetry, creative nonfiction, essay, memoir, and fiction — through practice and by presenting their work to the group for response, encouragement, critique, and suggestions. Revisions and resubmissions will be encouraged. Longer works may be submitted in segments. Writers will

enjoy the creative outlet they want while getting the opportunity to produce a finished piece they can be proud of.

#4299 The Birth of the Modern Western World: 1788-1800 Part 2

Wednesday, 1-3 p.m.

Coordinators: John Dreibelbis, Ed April, Judy Gearon

We will continue our study of the notable figures of the late 18th century in Europe and North America who were among the greatest galaxy of thinkers and doers in history. They watched one another, reacted to one another, and were all part of one vast, interwoven tapestry. As remarkable as America's founders were, they were not alone in historical influence. Theirs was the age of Burke, Pitt, Voltaire, Rousseau, Montesquieu, Lafayette, Robespierre, Napoleon, Catherine the Great, Potemkin, and the Ottomans. America's revolution spawned a world war involving most European nations, and the infant United States had to confront the twin threats of foreign intrigue and serious, homegrown insurrection. The fall semester ended with the rise of radicals and their ascent to the control of the Assembly. This semester we will begin on page 290 of our book, *The Great Upheaval* (Harper Perennial reprint edition paperback, 2008), when the French Revolution reaches a climax in the execution and death of King Louis XVI. Our text, *The Great Upheaval*, by Jay Winik, is a well-crafted work of history that explores the fight of the individual against society, freedom against tyranny, secularism against theocracy, and change against stability. We will read and discuss about 20 pages per week.

#4300 From Print to Pictures, the Art of Film Adaptation: Marriage in the Movies, Part 2

Wednesday, 1-4 p.m. and 1-3 p.m. (12 weeks starting March 4)

Coordinators: Julie Gordon, Art Bloom

Marriage, as depicted in our six texts and the celebrated films adapted from them, takes many forms. Join us as we explore this favorite movie subject:

A society divorcee creates mayhem on the eve of her next wedding (*The Philadelphia Story*); a child discovers a unique way to save his parents' deteriorating marriage (*The Rocking Horse Winner*); passions erupt in a southern family when parents, siblings and spouses collide (*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*); an elderly couple face difficulties when their grown daughter visits their Maine retreat (*On Golden Pond*); a woman inherits a beautiful property from a dying friend, then weds the widowed husband (*Howards End*); trouble develops in a Dutch painter's marriage when a servant becomes his model (*Girl with a Pearl Earring*).

The course structure consists of a three-hour session where we first discuss the text, then see the film. The following week is a two-hour discussion of the film's adaptation from the text. The coordinators will provide the readings which consist of a short story, three plays, and two short novels. Our analysis will discover whether or not the film has imaginatively translated the written word into a compelling viewing experience.

#4301 The New Yorker, Section 2

Wednesday, 1-3 p.m.

Coordinators: Elizabeth Berman, Jack Mitchell

Since 1926 *The New Yorker* has attracted — indeed, sometimes discovered — the finest writers and artists our world offers. This lively study group examines each new weekly issue cover to

cover. From award-winning reportage to up-to-date political intelligence to cutting-edge reviews, we grapple with it all, finding ourselves informed, intrigued, and —often thanks to the magazine’s famous cartoons — amused. Curiosity, a sense of humor and a subscription to *The New Yorker* are the only prerequisites.

#4302 Poetry for Pleasure

Wednesday, 1-3 p.m.

Coordinators: Doreen Feitelberg, David Hart

By discovering and discussing a wide variety of poets and poetry — some well-known, some less well-known — we as a study group will learn about memory, life and death, love and loss, as well as gain insights into poetry as a craft. Participants take turns selecting each week’s poet, providing copies of the poems for the group to read aloud and discuss, and presenting a brief biography or critical commentary on the poet to spark the group’s lively and challenging engagement with the works.

THURSDAY

#4303 *Bernard Malamud: Novels and Stories of the 1960s*

Thursday, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Coordinators: Larry Gordon, Hillis Howie

Bernard Malamud, one of the twentieth century’s finest American authors, is often grouped along with Faulkner, Updike, Roth, and Bellow. Malamud’s later novels and short stories have been recently published in *Bernard Malamud: Novels and Stories of the 1960s* (Library of America hardback, 2014) Using this resource, we will read through and discuss approximately seventy-five or more pages each week. Each participant will be expected to lead our discussion at least once per semester. We will begin the semester with the first entry of this volume, *A New Life*.

#4304 Decision Making: Avoiding Errors of Judgment and Choice **NEW**

Thursday, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Coordinators: Susan Longo, Susan Gaud

Are people good intuitive decision-makers? Decisions are often based upon errors of judgment and choice that result from heuristics and biases. In this study group we will explore the elements of decision-making: the automatic, effortless, learned responses we immediately use and the more effortful, complex models associated with choice and concentration. Based upon the work of the renowned economist and psychologist Daniel Kahneman in his book *Thinking Fast and Thinking Slow*, (Farrar, Straus and Giroux paperback, 2013) we will explore why statistics regarding diseases and disasters are misleading; why genius fails; why legislation and public policy always abides by the law of unintended consequences; and why markets and financial reporting are poor predictors of a company's future performance. We will learn to assess our own decision-making accuracy, critique the methods we used to make routine decisions, and develop a model to improve decisions made in crisis or those attached to unfamiliar events and circumstances.

#4305 Shakespeare's Problem Plays**NEW****Thursday, 9:30-11:30 a.m.****Coordinators: Michael Singer, John Lucadamo**

We are all familiar with Shakespeare's great tragedies such as *Hamlet* and *Macbeth*. His wonderful comedies like *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Much Ado About Nothing* are also very well-known, as are his history plays, such as, *Henry IV*. But what of "Shakespeare's problem plays," that group of plays which do not fit easily into any category yet contain elements of tragedy, comedy, and history? Join us in discovering these fascinating and controversial plays. We will use the mass market paperback editions of The Folger Shakespeare Library which contain useful footnotes and helpful information regarding the plays, the theatres in which they were originally performed, and Shakespeare's life. The titles with copyright dates in parentheses are *The Merchant of Venice* (2004), *Measure for Measure* (2005), *All's Well That Ends Well* (2006), *Troilus and Cressida* (2007), and *The Tempest* (2004). All are published by Washington Square Press, a division of Simon & Schuster.

#4306 The Dead Sea Scrolls**NEW****Thursday, 1-3 p.m.****Coordinators: Hillel Furlager, Stanley Cohen, Zelig Falevits**

In 1947, a Bedouin shepherd tracks one of his stray goats into a cave above the shore of the Dead Sea at a desolate place named Qumran. Inside, he discovers a pair of tall, thin clay pots. And what he finds when he opens those pots will be nothing less than the greatest archaeological discovery of the 20th century: the Dead Sea Scrolls. Archaeologists began searching caves for additional scrolls. In time, the original 7 scrolls the shepherd uncovered grew to 930 scrolls, some just fragments. In the 60 years since their dramatic discovery, excavation, reassembly, and translation, the Dead Sea Scrolls have provided us with many fascinating insights that will be the focus of this study group. The basis of our group will be the *Great Courses* video lecture series *The Dead Sea Scrolls* presented by Dr. Gray A. Rendsburg, PhD, Rutgers University. In each hour of our two hour study group, we will watch a 30 minute DVD lecture followed by class discussion. Join us as trace the journey of the Dead Sea Scrolls through time and explore their significance.

#4307 Nature's God**NEW****Thursday, 1-3 p.m.****Coordinators: Dick Whitaker, Helen Widen**

Nature's God: The Heretical Origins of the American Republic, published earlier this year, is Matthew Stewart's answer to those who insist that the United States was founded as an exclusively Christian nation. Jefferson, Franklin, Washington, Paine, Allen, Young, and others were Deists in varying degrees. They were concerned about the extremes of the Awakening and sought to create a secular nation where no religion held sway. Stewart discusses the influences of the Enlightenment, the philosophies of Lucretius and Epicurus and Spinoza, the tribulations of the Revolutionary War, and the voluminous correspondence between the founders to provide a detailed history of the intersection between religion and politics at that time. Please join us for a lively discussion. We'll read about 30 pages per week.

#4308 *The Philosophy of the Coen Brothers***NEW****Thursday, 1-4 p.m.****Coordinators: Joan Cohan, Pamela Blake**

The Coen Brothers have developed an impressive and original body of work since their 1984 film *Blood Simple* appeared on the big screen. They have seventeen films under their belts, with no shortage of critical acclaim. Join us in watching and discussing the unique and interesting films of these master auteurs, including *Fargo*, *Raising Arizona*, *The Big Lebowski*, *No Country for Old Men*, and eight other films. Assigned readings from our book of essays, *The Philosophy of the Coen Brothers*, by Mark T. Conard (The University Press of Kentucky paperback, 2012), as well as supplemental internet resources, will guide us in understanding the themes, styles and philosophies that are essential to the films. After viewing the film together, we will spend an hour in discussion. If you've ever wondered what Joel and Ethan Coen's films were really all about, join us to find out! **Please note the longer class time.**

FRIDAY**#4309 Documentary Films****Friday, 9:30 a.m.-noon****Coordinators: Jeanne Tucker, Sue Scheffler Ellis**

In this study group will view and discuss a vast selection of documentary films available at Northwestern's Multimedia Center and from other sources. Participants will choose a film and lead the post screening discussion of it. Attention will be paid to the aesthetic and technical aspects of the film as well as the content. The goals of this group are to encourage group discussion and appreciation of the artistry of the filmmakers and their impact on our culture and to better understand our world. This study group will meet at Northwestern's Multimedia Center, University Library, 1970 Campus Drive, Evanston. **Please note the longer class time.**

#4310 International Relations**Friday, 9:30-11:30 a.m.****Coordinators: Allen Cohen, Frank Glaser**

We are living in a rapidly changing and perilous world. International and U.S. policy concerns are so interrelated and changing that they need to be constantly reviewed and reevaluated. Our study group will analyze specific problems and potential threats as well as opportunities that shape U.S. and global security. Our topics will cover the far-reaching ramifications of the security and the well-being of the United States, including the profound implications for world stability. We will focus on historical trends as well as the most current political, economic and demographic concerns. We will explore and discuss many different viewpoints, using material from the best informed and most qualified sources, including pertinent foreign policy journals. We hope that you will join us as we explore many multifaceted approaches and strategies to many of these complex topics and concerns.

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