



Northwestern University School of Continuing Studies

# Spring Semester 2012

Monday, March 5 – Friday, June 15

Evanston and Chicago  
Study Groups



	Group #	Chicago Study Groups At-A-Glance	Start Time
<b>Monday</b>			
NEW Spring	3666	<i>Black Comedy—In Depth</i>	10:00 AM
NEW Spring	3667	<i>Digital Photography for Dummies</i>	10:00 AM
	3668	<i>Great Short Stories</i>	10:00 AM
	3669	<i>Literary Masters</i>	10:00 AM
NEW Spring	3670	<i>Beginners Workshop for Tracing Your Family Tree</i>	1:30 PM
	3671	<i>Monday at the Movies: Films of the '40s (3 HRS)</i>	1:00 PM
	3672	<i>The New Yorker, Monday</i>	1:30 PM
NEW Spring	3673	<i>The 19th Century Crossing to California and Oregon</i>	1:30 PM
	3674	<i>Women in Literature</i>	1:30 PM
<b>Tuesday</b>			
NEW Spring	3675	<i>The Amazing Planet Earth – Plan your trip!</i>	10:00 AM
	3676	<i>Belle Époque or Age of Uncertainty? Art, Literature, and Music, 1880-1920</i>	10:00 AM
	3677	<i>Comparative Religion</i>	10:00 AM
	3678	<i>Economic Viewpoints</i>	10:00 AM
NEW Spring	3679	<i>Poverty: Homeless and Hungry in Chicago</i>	10:00 AM
NEW Spring	3680	<i>The Rule of Law in America</i>	10:00 AM
NEW Spring	3681	<i>Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies</i>	1:30 PM
NEW Spring	3682	<i>1493 – The World after Columbus (14 sessions)</i>	1:30 PM
	3683	<i>Great Directors of Film Noirs</i>	1:30 PM
	3684	<i>International Perspectives: Paris Peace Conference 1919</i>	1:30 PM
	3685	<i>The Writing Group</i>	1:30 PM
NEW Spring	3686	<i>Camera Club – BONUS GROUP (5 sessions)</i>	3:30 PM
<b>Wednesday</b>			
NEW Spring	3687	<i>Chicago – City of the Century</i>	10:00 AM
	3688	<i>Foreign Affairs</i>	10:00 AM
	3689	<i>From Colony to Superpower: U.S. Foreign Relations Since 1776</i>	10:00 AM
	3690	<i>The Idea of the Museum, the World of Art</i>	10:00 AM
	3691	<i>Nature of the Universe</i>	10:00 AM
	3692	<i>The New Yorker, Wednesday</i>	10:00 AM
NEW Spring	3693	<i>Clarence Darrow - Icon and Iconoclast (8 sessions)</i>	1:30 PM
NEW Spring	3694	<i>The Creation of the Modern Middle East (1914-1922)</i>	1:30 PM
	3695	<i>Curtain Up!</i>	1:30 PM
	3696	<i>Documentary Films (2.75 HRS)</i>	1:15 PM
	3697	<i>The Economist</i>	1:30 PM
NEW Spring	3698	<i>The Epigenetics Revolution</i>	1:30 PM
NEW Spring	3699	<i>Mentoring of Refugees: A Civic Initiative</i>	1:30 PM
	3700	<i>Previews &amp; Reviews – BONUS GROUP (3 sessions)</i>	12:15 PM
	3701	<i>Volunteer Roundtable – BONUS GROUP (4 sessions)</i>	12:15 PM
<b>Thursday</b>			
NEW Spring	3702	<i>The Distorting Lens of Consciousness</i>	10:00 AM
NEW Spring	3703	<i>FDR's Supreme Court</i>	10:00 AM
	3704	<i>Individual Rights</i>	10:00 AM
	3705	<i>Readings in Western Culture</i>	10:00 AM
NEW Spring	3706	<i>Ted Lectures: Ideas Worth Spreading</i>	10:00 AM
	3707	<i>The World of Poetry</i>	10:00 AM
NEW Spring	3708	<i>Chinese Foreign Relations Past and Present</i>	1:30 PM
	3709	<i>A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous 14th Century</i>	1:30 PM
NEW Spring	3710	<i>Monarchs: Queens Who Made a Difference</i>	1:30 PM
	3711	<i>Washington Week</i>	1:30 PM



**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute**  
*Northwestern University School of Continuing Studies*  
**Spring Semester**  
**March 5 – June 15, 2012**

**Study Group Descriptions**  
**Chicago Campus**

**MONDAY**

**#3666 Black Comedy—In Depth**  
**Monday, 10am-12pm**

*NEW*

**Coordinators: Roxanne Kupfer, Howard I. Aronson**

What is black comedy? We'll try to answer this question while viewing seven classic films of this genre, viewing a film one week and discussing it in depth the following week. A list of the titles we view might include: *Monsieur Verdoux* (1947: Charlie Chaplin), *The Pink Panther* (1963: Blake Edwards, with Peter Sellers and David Niven), *The Firemen's Ball* (1967, Miloš Forman), *Where's Poppa?* (1979: Richard Benjamin, with Elsa Lanchester), *Johnny Stecchini* (1991: Roberto Benigni), *Ed Wood* (1994: Tim Burton, with Johnny Depp), a film by Luis Buñuel, and a film by Claude Chabrol. Some of these films may be familiar, some may not. But by seeing all these films in the context of black comedy, we will end up viewing them in a different light.

**#3667 Digital Photography for Dummies**  
**Monday, 10am-12pm**

*NEW*

**Coordinators: Jack Blackstone, DeAnne Rogers**

Unlock your talent! Occasionally, we take a great photograph, better than our average picture, an accidental piece of art! This is either because the conditions happened to be right for the auto mode on the camera to capture the image, or more likely, because we (perhaps inadvertently) composed the subject in such a way that it captures our interest.

The trick to becoming better photographers is to master the technical aspects of how (and why) our cameras function and more importantly, learn to become creative observers of our surroundings. We need to knowingly apply the basic elements of design and composition into our photography workflow.

This introductory level study group is designed as a one hour moderator-led presentation followed by a review of the works of classmates (and others) to make us better able to reproduce the "accidental" art described above.

We will use two texts. The first is YOUR camera manual. The second is *Digital Photography for Dummies 6<sup>th</sup> Edition* by Adair and Timacheff (For Dummies, 2009). Basic computer skills for web surfing and image downloading are desirable. No digital photography experience needed. Join the FUN!

### **#3668 Great Short Stories**

**Monday, 10am-12pm**

**Coordinators: Anita Barry, Paula Wise**

The short story is a distinctly different art form from the novel. To quote Francine Prose, "In its search for the surprising yet inevitable chain of events that will illuminate a character's – and the reader's – life, a short story has the power to summon, like a genie from a bottle, the ghost of lost happiness and missed chances. That's partly why this kind of fiction can affect us as intensely as a novel." 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 differing interpretations of the material and lively discussion. Each week we will read two stories (usually about a total of 30 pages) chosen by the discussion leader, who also prepares brief biographies of the authors. All class members are urged to take a turn as discussion leader. As texts we will use *The Best American Short Stories 2011* (Mariner paperback), edited by Geraldine Brooks and Heidi Pitlor and *The PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories 2011* (Anchor paperback), edited by Laura Furman.

### **#3669 Literary Masters**

**Monday, 10am-12pm**

**Coordinators: Ira Weinberg, Sue Berger**

This study group targets readers who enjoy exploring the 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 two weeks to each novel to assure a complete and meaningful dialogue. During the spring semester, we will be reading works by Thomas Wolfe, Philip Roth, T.C.Boyle, Willa Cather, Isabele Allende, Iris Murdock and others. We are now completing our seventeenth year and have read over 150 authors and 250 works of fiction. New members are always welcome and encouraged.

### **#3670 Beginners Workshop for Tracing Your Family Tree** **NEW**

**Monday, 1:30pm-3:30pm**

**Coordinator: Bob Moss**

Give yourself, your children and grandchildren the ultimate gift – their heritage. The inner warmth that you and your future generations will feel from really "knowing" your ancestors and what happened in the past to allow you to be here now is indeed priceless. This class is broken into three components: 1) Lessons on how to trace your family tree; 2) Joint problem solving by classmates to get through roadblocks; 3) Discussions of the history of the places your ancestors came from. What was happening at the time? Why did people leave? What is the origin of your surname?

In this workshop you will learn to:

- Find information through sources that can be found in your home, courthouses, libraries, and on the Internet. Learn where to look and how to obtain documents.
- Get over the inevitable “brick wall.”
- Organize your research
- Analyze the criteria and evidence and learn how to identify the hints hiding in documents.

Internet and email usage is required for this study group. This project requires a firm commitment. It is expected that participants will be working on their own tree weekly.

A class website with numerous resource materials and links will be provided. Books used for this study group are: *Unpuzzling Your Past 4<sup>th</sup> Edition* by Emily Croom (Genealogical Publishing Company paperback, 2010); *Family Tree Problem Solver: Proven Methods for Scaling the Inevitable Brick Wall* by Rising & Debartolo (Allison Stacy paperback, 2011); *Finding Anyone, Anywhere, Anywhen* Noel Elliot (Firefly paperback, 2009).

### **#3671 Monday at the Movies: Films of the '40s**

**Monday, 1:00pm-4:00pm**

**Coordinators: Peggy DeLay, Sue Adler**

The 1940s meant big changes for Hollywood. WWII brought about tighter budgets, limited production and a loss of many leading men to the war effort. Still, Hollywood managed to produce two films that many consider to be masterpieces, *Grapes of Wrath* directed by John Ford and *Citizen Kane* by new director Orson Welles, both of which we'll screen. Other new directors were emerging as well – John Huston, Elia Kazan, Billy Wilder, Alfred Hitchcock. We'll screen films by each of them, including Huston's *The Treasure of Sierra Madre* and Hitchcock's *Rebecca*. Films by other directors will also be included.

Ironically, 1946 was the most profitable year for Hollywood to date, but 1947 saw the beginning of the decline of the major studios. The 1940's were the last decade of the old studio system before the significant changes that came along in the '50s to change Hollywood forever.

Each week a member of the study group will present one of the films from our list, with an informative introduction, followed by the screening, after which we'll enjoy an in depth discussion of the film to gain new insights into the production of Hollywood films including the process of directing, writing and film acting.

### **#3672 *The New Yorker*, Monday**

**Monday, 1:30pm-3:30pm**

**Coordinators: Jim Deutelbaum, Sandy Edidin**

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 of *The New Yorker*

magazine (student rate available) and a willingness to lead at least two discussions per year. Internet capability is suggested, but not necessary.

**#3673 The 19th Century Crossing to California and Oregon** **NEW**

**Monday, 1:30pm-3:30pm**

**Coordinators: Joe Hinkel, Jim Cherney**

Imagine the challenge of packing your belongings in an ox driven wagon and heading west to California or Oregon. Incredibly between 1840 and 1860, about 250,000 made that journey! The western migration was enormously important for both western and national history. The ramifications of this transit impacted international diplomacy, economic growth, settlement patterns and relations with Native Americans. This class will study this migration looking at the reasons for so many people to move and the incredible hardships they faced. Our book *The Plains Across The Overland Emigrants and the Trans-Mississippi West 1840-1860* (University of Illinois Press, 1993) by award winning author John D. Unruh, Jr. is recognized as the seminal work on this important portion of our nation's history. In addition to the information in this book, we will look briefly at the geography of the west and the special challenges caused by this geography.

**#3674 Women in Literature**

**Monday, 1:30pm-3:30pm**

**Coordinators: Ann Ahtelius, Paula Wise**

If you like great literature and lively discussion, welcome to our group! Our objective is to gain insight into the 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 short books, two weeks for longer books) interspersed with short stories. 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 *The Forgotten Waltz* by Anne Enright (W.W.Norton & Co. hardcover, 2011), *Emily Alone* by Stewart O'Nan (Penguin paperback, December 2011), and *Lives of Girls and Women* by Alice Munro (Vintage paperback, 2001).

**TUESDAY**

**#3675 The Amazing Planet Earth – Plan your Trip!** **NEW**

**Tuesday, 10am-12pm**

**Coordinator: Ted Davis**

We will experience some of the most extraordinary destinations on this planet by viewing the spectacular BBC series *Planet Earth* videos narrated by David Attenborough. In addition to this armchair travel, participants will consult *The Traveler's Guide to Planet Earth* (Lonely Planet publications paperback, 2010) as they imagine travel to some of the destinations featured in the videos. The objective of this study group is to simply enjoy the award-winning video, and to stretch our imaginations by considering what travel to the areas shown might include.

Each week a participant will lead a discussion based upon the video and materials in the travel guide. As an example, in the segment on Great Plains, a member of the study group might choose to describe and show photos of their trip to Yellowstone or the Okavango Delta. For a segment on Mountains, a member of the study group might use the text to help the class plan an imaginary trip to the mountains of Torres del Paine.

### **#3676 Belle Époque or Age of Uncertainty? Art, Literature, and Music, 1880-1920**

**Tuesday, 10am-12pm**

**Coordinators: Russ Lyman, Roxane McLean**

If the decades surrounding the year 1900 were perceived by some as a Golden Age, they were seen by others as a time when, in the words of William Butler Yeats, “things fall apart”. Either way, it was a period of unparalleled creativity and invention. From Monet to Duchamp, Dickinson to Joyce, Debussy to Schoenberg, artists created works remarkable in their diversity and modern to us a century later. In this study group we will examine how art, literature, and music reflect and elucidate the Janus like character at the turn of the millennium. Examples of our thematic approach will include: “Beauty and Decadence”; “Primitivism, Imperialism and the Heart of Darkness”; “The Machine as Metaphor” and “The Subconscious Mind”. Join us for a cross-disciplinary look at this critical period in the history of the arts. Using a combination of class presentations, readings, discussions, and videos, we will explore the themes that preoccupied artists, challenged the status quo, and often scandalized the public. Although no text is required, a variety of resources will be published on our Internet site.

### **#3677 Comparative Religion**

**Tuesday, 10am-12pm**

**Coordinators: Howard I. Aronson, Bob Jostes**

We will explore the major religions of Eastern Asia, focusing on how members of each faith community practice and observe their religion; the histories of the individual religions; how religions influence each other; and how new religions develop out of older religions. We will also cover alternative religions in the West and religion and gender. This semester we will cover Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism, Buddhism, and the religions of China and Japan. We will also cover modern alternative religions in the West, spirituality, and religion and gender. No previous background is necessary for this study group. Our textbook will be *The Penguin Handbook of the World's Living Religions* by John R. Hinnells (Penguin paperback, 2010).

### **#3678 Economic Viewpoints**

**Tuesday, 10am-12pm**

**Coordinators: Scott Morgan, Rob Carr, Joseph Lane**

A complex, dynamic, globalized economic engine produces the goods and services we use every day. In today’s fast moving environment, the market forces that drive that engine are constantly buffeted by the intervention of governments and special interest groups not to mention the influence of economic “experts”. This class offers a lively, supportive forum for participants to examine how economists and other experts think the economic engine should work and how it can be maintained and improved in the face of recurrent crises and growing political stalemate. Each session will be based on materials from the websites of national and international agencies, think tanks, universities, magazines and journals and other reliable sources. Discussion leaders

select each week's topic and materials, and prepare questions for discussion. Most participants will have an opportunity to explore a topic of particular interest in depth.

If you're keenly interested in timely economic issues and want to have a thorough look at them through the lens of economics, this study group is for you!

### **#3679 Poverty: Homeless and Hungry in Chicago**

**NEW**

**Tuesday, 10am-12pm**

**Coordinators: Jerry Levine, Janet Lang**

Walk down Michigan Avenue on a cold winter day and you're very likely to see someone panhandling. Do you wonder, "How did that person get there? What's the cause of his/her homelessness? Where will he/she sleep this freezing cold night?" Have you ever wondered how you can help?

This study group will study the causes of hunger and homelessness in Chicagoland, what is being done to address these problems, and how we can help. Class readings will come from various government and agency reports, and from the Internet. We will gain hands-on experience as volunteers at a homeless shelter, food pantry and food distribution facility. The class will meet every other week at Wieboldt Hall for discussion and reflection. On the odd weeks we will work as volunteers in teams of 4 or 5 at various shelters.

Our ultimate goal is not only to achieve some intellectual understanding, but also to enrich our lives. To quote Emerson, "It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no person can sincerely help another without helping himself."

### **#3680 The Rule of Law in America**

**NEW**

**Tuesday, 10am-12pm**

**Coordinators: Bob Moss, Paul Levy**

Did you know that the Rule of Law is a concept and not "the law"? It does not have a precise definition, and its meaning can vary between different nations and legal traditions. Generally accepted, however, are the notions that the Rule of Law provides for a moral structure by holding all citizens accountable no matter what their position and by protecting the rights of citizens from arbitrary and abusive use of government power.

This study group will introduce participants to the concept of the Rule of Law by looking at its origins and evolution, and then as it exists currently in America. We will seek answers to the following questions: How do we decide its meaning and elements? Who decides? How is it being applied in today's society? We will also explore the facilitating roles of the three branches of our government, the press, the lawyers and most importantly the citizenry itself.

Supplemented by an extensive class website of papers and resources, books used will be: *On The Rule of Law: History, Politics, Theory* by Brian Z. Tamanaha (Cambridge University Press paperback, 2003), *Takeover-The Return of the Imperial Presidency and the Subversion of American Democracy* by Charlie Savage (Back Bay Books paperback, 2008). We will also view videos of guest speakers.

Internet capability is required. Some research required for discussion leaders. This class will require considerable preparation.

### **#3681 Cancer: *The Emperor of All Maladies***

**NEW**

**Tuesday, 1:30pm-3:30pm**

**Coordinator: Leonard A. Kosova, Charlene Breedlove**

Cancer! Even the word is feared. In the Pulitzer Prize-winning book *The Emperor of all Maladies: A Biography of Cancer* (Scribner paperback, 2011) we journey alongside physician-author Siddhartha Mukherjee into his personal encounters with the many strange and unexpected aspects of this ancient disease. His eloquently written narrative will be our guide in exploring the human dimension alongside the science and new treatments making their way almost daily into clinical practice. Most likely none of us has been spared some personal or familial contact with one of the hundreds of forms this disease can take. Now learn what this most frightening of diagnoses is really about.

This study group should interest all those who are intrigued by the interface between literature and science, between what we might imagine and what physicians and scientists actually think and observe. Supplemental written and visual materials will be used to enhance our learning experience.

### **#3682 1493 – The World after Columbus**

**NEW**

**Tuesday, 1:30pm-3:30pm (14 sessions: No class June 12)**

**Coordinators: Roy Slovenko, Joe Hinkel**

Did you know that *European* earthworms and honeybees transformed the landscapes and agricultural potential of North America? Did you think that tomatoes originated in Italy, oranges in Florida, chili peppers in Thailand, and chocolates in Switzerland? Not so! These are just a few examples of profound and irreversible interchanges in demography, societies, economies, biology and ecology among far-flung and previously disconnected lands, that were set in motion by Columbus's 'New World' discovery. We will study this rich history and its legacies, as related by journalist-historian Charles C. Mann in his new book, *1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created* (Alfred A. Knopf hardback, 2011).

### **#3683 Great Directors of Film Noirs**

**Tuesday, 1:30pm-3:30pm**

**Coordinators: Tom Swanstrom, Bill McGuffage**

All of us have seen film noirs but perhaps are not quite sure what the term means. This study group intends to remedy that by concentrating on the main factors that define the genre as well as the best directors. Film noir developed out of German expressionism of the 1920's and 1930's and many of the top German film makers migrated to Hollywood to further refine their art. There was never a conscious school of filmmakers who made film noirs; the term has been applied in hindsight to a large number of movies that had common characteristics. We will examine these commonalities by showing films that illustrate specific film noir traits such as black and white filming, alienation, urban settings, night scenes, dream-like sequences, femme fatales, moving cameras, odd lighting and the unstoppable downward spiral of an innocent person in the hands of fate. Most of the films shown will be American crime movies but may include other types as well as classic British, French and Italian noirs. Directors covered may include Jules Dassin, Robert Siodmak, Anthony Mann, Fritz Lang, Joseph L. Lewis, Edward Dmytryk, Joseph Losey and Henry Hathaway.

## **#3684 International Perspectives: Paris Peace Conference 1919**

**Tuesday, 1:30pm-3:30pm**

**Coordinators: Dea Brennan, Dick Spurgin**

Are you interested in knowing how historic mistakes can morph into later historic problems? For six months in 1919, after the end of the "war to end all wars," Woodrow Wilson, David Lloyd George, and Georges Clemenceau met in Paris to shape a lasting peace.

The history of the Peace Conference following World War I is a blueprint of the political, social, and cultural upheavals bedeviling our world today. We will study the war's aftermath in Margaret MacMillan's award-winning best seller, *Paris 1919: Six Months that Changed the World* (Random House paperback, 2003).

A wealth of colorful detail, and insight into the character and politics of the leading participants, keep MacMillan's narrative lively, and particularly suited to OLLI's discussion format. Join us to see how the face of Europe, Africa and the Middle East was changed, and not always for the better.

## **#3685 The Writing Group**

**Tuesday, 1:30pm-3:30pm**

**Coordinators: Fran Markwardt, Fred 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 session something we've written (or rewritten) on any subject, in any style – memoir, fiction, essay, prose or poetry, whatever – 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.

## **#3686 Camera Club – Bonus Group**

**NEW**

**Tuesday, 3:30pm-5pm (Five Sessions: March 13, April 3, April 24, May 15 & June 5)**

**Coordinator: Roy Slovenko**

Are you a camera enthusiast? Would you like to show your stuff and also learn from like-minded photo buffs? Versed in photography but still somewhat inhibited by digital technologies? Well, the OLLI Camera Club has been designed for you.

Anyone who has **intermediate** experience in digital photography can benefit. Members will meet once every four weeks to review the photography of both professionals and classmates. If you know your way around the camera but want to get better, this course is for you.

Registration is required for the 5 sessions, but if you register for OLLI's spring semester you are eligible to register for Camera Club — *at no extra charge* — in addition to the number of study groups you have in your membership package.

## WEDNESDAY

### **#3687 Chicago – *City of the Century***

**NEW**

**Wednesday, 10am-12pm**

**Coordinators: Sholom Glikzman, John Van Vranken**

Chicago grew from a remote fur trading outpost in the 1830's to America's most dynamic city by 1893. We will read Donald Miller's acclaimed book, *City of the Century: The Epic of Chicago and Making of America* (Simon & Schuster paperback, 1997), to explore the explosive growth of Chicago through the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Miller's book has been described as "a glorious anthem to a tumultuous city, this synthesis of industrial, social and cultural history captures the raw, robust spirit of Chicago on every page."

This study group will cover the city's political, economic, social, and technological growth. We will look at disasters like the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, Chicago's raucous politics, its empire-building businessmen, its world-transforming architecture, its rich mix of cultures, its community of young writers and journalists, its labor disputes, and its staggering engineering projects. By the time of the 1893 World's Columbia Exposition Chicago had truly become a one of the most vibrant, exciting cities in North America.

We plan on using portions of the 2003 PBS American Experience film based on the book, *Chicago – City of the Century*. We also expect to utilize the resources of the Chicago History Museum and the Chicago Architectural Foundation.

By the end of the class we hope to have a much better understanding of how modern American life grew out of the epic story of Chicago.

### **#3688 Foreign Affairs**

**Wednesday, 10am-12pm**

**Coordinators: Chris Beardsley, Barb Jaffe, Scott Morgan, Margaret Wilson**

We live in interesting times. Issues such as revolution, globalization, fanaticism, human rights abuse and economic crises challenge each of us as individuals, as members of ethnic and religious communities, and as citizens of our nation and the globe. The objective of this study group is to provide a lively forum for participants to learn about and discuss contemporary issues and how U.S. foreign policy may address them.

Each week's discussion will focus on an essay from a recent issue of *Foreign Affairs* or another reliable source such as The Brookings Institution, *Foreign Policy Magazine* and The Council on Foreign Relations. Each week's discussion leader chooses the discussion topic, seeks out materials that examine it from contrasting points of view, and provides a few open-ended questions to structure the week's discussion. This study group is limited in size and provides each participant an opportunity to explore topics of interest.

A subscription to *Foreign Affairs* and its excellent website is recommended. Subscriptions are available to OLLI members at low student rates. Internet capability is required.

If you would enjoy learning about the global issues that shape our times by participating in peer led discussions, please join us!

### **#3689 *From Colony to Superpower: U.S. Foreign Relations Since 1776***

**Wednesday, 10am-12pm**

**Coordinators: Richard Krantz, Bernie Hoffman**

Our study group of U.S. foreign policy continues in the spring semester with the completion of our reading George C. Herring's *From Colony to Superpower: U.S. Foreign Relations since 1776* (Oxford University Press paperback, 2011) for the first six to seven weeks. We will then conclude our study by reading Simon Schama's *The American Future: A History* (HarperLux paperback, 2009). These two books provide us with a better understanding of the importance of past influences impacting on future policies.

Participation in the fall semester class is not required although those joining would benefit by reading the earlier chapters of *From Colony to Superpower*.

### **#3690 *The Idea of the Museum, the World of Art***

**Wednesday, 10am-12pm**

**Coordinators: Lois Gordon, Lynne Dinzole, Kathy Kuntzman, Russ Lyman**

What art of today is the museum of today exhibiting for our enjoyment? What are the origins of the art museum? What is its mission and how has that mission changed over time? We will explore the idea of the museum from mausoleum to metaphor using relevant readings, visual materials, and virtual visits to museums worldwide, supplemented by real-world visits to those nearby. Each week in the classroom we will seek to learn about a particular museum, its origin, mission, and collections, and then focus in depth on the work of a contemporary artist featured in one of its recent exhibitions. Our goal will be to explore the breadth of contemporary art championed by museums in order to develop a greater understanding of the nature and purposes of art and the museum in the twenty-first century. The only prerequisite for this year-long adventure through the world of art is an open mind.

### **#3691 *Nature of the Universe***

**Wednesday, 10am-12pm**

**Coordinators: Arthur Goldman, David Hughes**

As modern physics continues to probe the frontiers of human knowledge of nature and the universe, we face profound and important questions that remain unanswered. Why is there a universe? Why are the laws of nature what they are? What is the nature of the universe? What is the nature of time?

We have recruited three of the leading physicists of the day to help us, in this year-long course, explore these and other related questions by reading and discussing their latest books: *The Grand Design*, by Stephen Hawking and Leonard Mlodinow (Bantam hardcover, 2010); *The Hidden Reality: Parallel Universes and the Deep Laws of the Cosmos*, by Brian Greene (Knopf hardcover, 2011); *From Eternity to Here: The Quest for the Ultimate Theory of Time*, by Sean Carroll (Plume paperback, 2010).

During the fall and winter semesters we completed Hawking and Greene. During the spring we will read Carroll. Brian Greene says of Carroll's book, "(It) is an accessible and engaging exploration of the mysteries of time, deftly grappling with issues that will likely play a crucial role in the next major upheaval in our understanding of the cosmos."

Carroll has written a very readable book intended for general audiences. Fans of popular physics are welcome to join this group, whether or not you have been previously enrolled. You all should find this exploration informative, provocative, and fun.

### **#3692 *The New Yorker*, Wednesday**

**Wednesday, 10am-12pm**

**Coordinators: Melinda Daniels, Katherine Nicklin**

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 of *The New Yorker* magazine (student rate available) and a willingness to lead at least two discussions per year. Internet capability is suggested.

### **#3693 Clarence Darrow – Icon and Iconoclast**

**NEW**

**Wednesday, 1:30pm-3:30pm (Eight sessions: Beginning April 25)**

**Coordinators: Leonard Grossman, Mary Beth Wainwright**

Who was Clarence Darrow? What did he stand for? Did his life match his legend? How did movies about his trials compare to the events and contribute to his reputation? What is left out of the story? This study group will seek to answer those questions and more as we explore the life of one of America's most legendary lawyers.

A recent biography that casts light on this American icon and will be used as the underlying text for this course is *Clarence Darrow: Attorney for the Damned* by John A. Farrell, (Doubleday hardback, 2011). We will also watch and discuss the movie, *Inherit the Wind*, and possibly one of several films based on the Leopold and Loeb case.

Study group participants will be entitled to discount tickets to the Oak Park Festival Theatre's Summer Production of *Inherit the Wind*. A group trip to the see a performance play may be arranged following the end of the semester. The play opens on June 14, 2012.

### **#3694 The Creation of the Modern Middle East (1914-1922)**

**NEW**

**Wednesday, 1:30pm-3:30pm**

**Coordinator: Manny Kahana**

The interests and involvement of the U.S. in the Middle East is central to our foreign policy. One cannot understand the current events in the Middle East without understanding the history of the region following the demise of the Ottoman Empire after WWI. The purpose of this study group is to provide this context, by studying how the colonial powers, England and France, carved the Middle East based on both global and local politics.

The principal material for the class is David Fromkin book *A Peace to End All Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East* (Holt paperback, 2009). In our time the Middle East has proven a battleground of rival religions, ideologies, nationalisms, and dynasties. All of these conflicts come down to the extent to which the Middle East will continue to live with its political inheritance: the arrangements, unities, and divisions imposed

upon the region by the Allies after the First World War. In *A Peace to End All Peace*, Fromkin reveals how and why the Allies came to remake the geography and politics of the Middle East, drawing lines on an empty map that eventually became the new countries of Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, etc. Focusing on the formative years of 1914 to 1922, he raises questions about what might have been done differently, and answers questions about why things were done as they were. What emerges is a sweeping portrait of the many tragedies that seeded conflicts still plaguing the Middle East today.

### **#3695 Curtain Up!**

**Wednesday, 1:30pm-3:30pm**

**Coordinators: Barb Shaeffer, Linda Sieracki, Judy Widen**

Curtain Up! is an active and collegial way to enjoy Chicago theater. As a group, we read aloud together the script of a play currently performing in Chicago, taking two full class meetings to relish the lines, interpret the action, and envision the staging. After our reading of the play is complete, we go to the theater together to see a performance on stage. Frequently we are also able to view a film version of the play, adding that medium's unique capabilities into the mix of experiences. The final step occurs when we return to the classroom, to discuss how well the stage performance fulfilled our collective vision of the play, and, if a film has been included, to compare the screen version with the live performance.

Four plays will be selected for the spring semester. We have most often attended productions at Steppenwolf, Timeline, RemyBumppo, Goodman, Court, and Chicago Shakespeare, but are always looking for opportunities to try other Chicago theaters that can be easily reached by public transportation. Tickets are purchased at group rates.

### **#3696 Documentary Films**

**Wednesday, 1:15pm-4pm**

**Coordinators: Verna Reddington, Phyllis Faulman**

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 *Cave of Forgotten Dreams* which follows the exclusive expedition to the nearly inaccessible Chauvet cave in France; *Bill Cunningham New York* profiles the veteran *New York Times* fashion photographer's candid snaps; *Pucker Up: The Fine Art of Whistling* focuses on the 31<sup>st</sup> Louisburg International Whistling Competition; and *Fat, Sick and Nearly Dead* chronicles the healing path of two men whose bodies are wrecked by steroids, obesity and illness. A peer-led discussion follows each film.

### **#3697 The Economist**

**Wednesday, 1:30pm-3:30pm**

**Coordinators: Rob Carr, Chuck Cooper, Joe Lane, George Panagakis**

*The Economist* is known for its informative and thought-provoking reporting on political and economic developments around the world. Join us each week as we review several articles selected by the discussion leader from the current week's issue as catalysts for informed and lively discussion on the critical topics of our time. Subscription to *The Economist* at the student rate is encouraged but not a requirement – the only requirements are Internet access and a healthy interest in world affairs.

### **#3698 *The Epigenetics Revolution***

**NEW**

**Wednesday, 1:30pm-3:30pm**

**Coordinators: Arthur Goldman, John Donahue, David Hughes**

Biology has advanced dramatically since we studied it in high school or college. The languages of genetics, DNA, molecular biology and personalized medicine have become part of our culture. As lifelong learners we want to keep up, be informed, and understand this branch of modern science that has such significant and personal importance.

For those of us who have gained some familiarity with what genetics is all about, we now hear that epigenetics is the latest hot topic. We are told that epigenetics is typically defined as the study of heritable changes in gene expression that are not due to changes in DNA sequence. What sort of heritable changes? Are they important? Is that what nature vs. nurture is all about? Does that explain cell differentiation? If the same DNA is possessed by identical twins, why do they develop differences? Is Lamarckism being resurrected? How does this relate to human disease? Lots of interesting questions that we intend to explore.

Our primary source of study will be *The Epigenetics Revolution: How Modern Biology is Rewriting our Understanding of Genetics, Disease and Inheritance* (Columbia University Press paperback) by Nessa Carey, one of the first books on this subject written for general audiences. The book will be available from Amazon in early March 2012 for approximately \$18.00. It may be available now at a higher price in Australia from its first publishing run, but purchasers should wait for U.S. release at the popular price. We will complement her book with articles selected from both popular and refereed periodicals. Join us on this exploration at the forefront of modern science. A basic knowledge of cell biology and traditional genetics would be most useful.

### **#3699 *Mentoring of Refugees: A Civic Initiative***

**NEW**

**Wednesday, 1:30pm-3:30pm**

**Coordinators: Deanne Parker, Scott Morgan**

Why do individuals and families pick up everything to seek refuge in a new land? What barriers do they encounter and what help is available? Every year tens of thousands of people who fear persecution for economic, political or social reasons are permanently placed throughout the world by international organizations. Chicago has been (Irish, Germans and Poles) and is today (Bhutanese, Iraqis and Burmese) one of the major cities to accept refugees.

In the first six weeks we will learn, via assigned readings and guest speakers, about the history and rights of refugees through historical and contemporary crises. We will examine the role of international and local organizations, the selection process, legal requirements, social aspects and the medical and proficiency requirements of refugees in Chicago. For seven weeks, in close collaboration with the Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program, our group will have the opportunity to mentor refugees (families, youth and adults) in areas such as; adaptive living, career counseling, job readiness, educational tutoring and cultural adjustment. Participants may select volunteer assignments from among several programs and may arrange times mutually convenient for both OLLI participants and refugees. This civic initiative will include a mandatory three-hour training and volunteer orientation session conducted by Catholic Charities. Following the seven-week volunteer assignments, we will come back together to reflect on what we learned in both the academic and volunteer portions of our study group.

### **#3700 Previews & Reviews – Bonus Group**

**Wednesday, 12:15-1:15pm (Three sessions: March 21, April 18, May 30)**

**Coordinators: Stephany Creamer, Marge Melstrom**

Theater, films, music, art, and more –

Would you like to know more about current and upcoming cultural events in the Chicago area? Would you like to know what other OLLI members have to say about them? Would you like to be a tastemaker by sharing *your* views on those events you have seen?

Must see? Might see? Not for me? You decide! Join us each month at noon for Previews & Reviews. Registration is required, but if you register for OLLI's spring semester you are eligible to register for Previews & Reviews — *at no extra charge* — in addition to the number of study groups you have in your membership package.

### **#3701 Volunteer Roundtable – Bonus Group**

**NEW**

**Wednesday, 12:15-1:15pm (Four sessions: March 14, April 11, May 9, May 23)**

**Coordinators: Janet Lang, Deanne Parker**

Are you a change agent? Do you enjoy taking on challenges to our society and feel fulfilled by serving those in need? Are you volunteering your time to solve social problems in the community? Have you observed how one good deed can change a life?

We need you to join the conversation! Come share your experience with other OLLI members in a monthly *Volunteer Roundtable* discussion. We can all learn from one another. This Bonus Study Group will bring together those who are already volunteering and would like to seek advice from other volunteers. It will also be an “incubator” for areas where you might like to develop a Civic Engagement Study Group, with a little help and encouragement from your peers. In addition, we will plan a “not-for-profit” Open House Day where various organizations can share their missions with OLLI members.

Join us each month at noon for the *Volunteer Roundtable*. Registration is required, but if you are registered for OLLI's Spring semester, you will be eligible to register-- *at no extra charge*-- in addition to the Study Groups in your membership package.

## **THURSDAY**

### **#3702 The Distorting Lens of Consciousness**

**NEW**

**Thursday, 10am-12pm**

**Coordinators: Joan Sophie, Ron Verson**

A couple, in a car, witness a beating on the sidewalk. One immediately calls the police to report the crime. Yet when they are interviewed for the details, their stories are in conflict. Both can't be right, but which story is more accurate. Can either be believed?

Extensive research on the effects of unconscious processes reveals consciousness to be a narrow window with a distorting lens instead of clear glass. This study group will consider two recent books that examine this research. *The Invisible Gorilla: How Our Intuitions Deceive Us*

(Broadway paperback, 2011) was written by two psychologists, Christopher Chabris and Daniel Simons, who conducted a famous experiment that gave this book its title. Topics covered include inattention blindness, distortions of memory, the relationship between confidence and accuracy, and illusions about knowledge and causality. *The Hidden Brain: How Our Unconscious Minds Elect Presidents, Control Markets, Wage Wars and Save Our Lives* (Spiegel & Grau paperback, 2010) by science writer Shankar Vedantam, examines the many ways that unconscious biases influence our judgments and actions in a wide range of circumstances, including some disturbing information on the effects of aging. We hope you will join us in a discussion of how these processes affect our lives and what we can do to mitigate their unwanted effects.

### **#3703 FDR's Supreme Court**

**NEW**

**Thursday, 10am-12pm**

**Coordinators: Dick Dell, Rich Dubberke**

The Roosevelt Supreme Court presided during one of the most turbulent and dramatic periods of American history – through the depression, the New Deal, and WWII. It began as a conservative court rejecting FDR's liberal policies. His efforts to pack the court failed but time and fate gave him the opportunity to appoint four of the most distinguished and intellectual jurists who ever served – Felix Frankfurter, Hugo Black, Robert H. Jackson and William O. Douglas. That court faced issues of conflicts of government and corporate interests, of civil rights during war time, of racial strife and of the internment of Japanese American citizens. Although the four appointees were liberal they were often in bitter contention with each other. Noah Feldman's *Scorpions: The Battles and Triumphs of FDR's Great Supreme Court* (Twelve hardback, 2010) examines that court and the political and social issues that influenced its decisions.

Feldman, a Harvard professor of law, brings the court and its issues to life and provides a clear inside view of how our Supreme Court and its varying personalities contend and decide.

### **#3704 Individual Rights**

**Thursday, 10am-12pm**

**Coordinators: Marc Ungar, Russ Lyman, Suzanne Dupre**

The concept of civil liberties, those universal specified rights protected by law that are the foundation of the United States' enduring democracy, is arguably the greatest of America's gifts to civilization. We will explore civil liberties in the U.S. using *The Supreme Court and Individual Rights, Fifth Edition* by David Savage (CQ Press paperback, 2009) as our base text. This edition traces the Court's emergence as a defender of individual rights and liberties through its 2007-2008 term. In the spring term we will cover Chapters 5 -7: Crime and Punishment; Equal Rights and Equal Protection; and Liberty and Privacy.

We'll enrich our discussions with some other selected readings and an occasional film and guest speaker. We may take our rights as individuals in this country for granted without either understanding them or appreciating our good fortune. Participation in this study group will give us an opportunity to do both.

## **#3705 Readings in Western Culture**

**Thursday, 10am-12pm**

**Coordinators: Bernard Hoffman, Elaine Hoffman**

Readings in Western Culture is one of OLLI's oldest discussion groups. It is based on selections from The Great Books Foundation. Through the years the class has enjoyed thoughtful, spirited discussions, always conducted in a congenial and entertaining tone. This semester we will be using the fifth volume of the Great Book's *Great Conversations* (The Great Book Foundation paperback, April 2009) series consisting of 15 selections, bringing together voices from the past and present that provoke meaningful dialogue. We will read and discuss works by Euripides, John Keats, Nathaniel Hawthorne, John Stuart Mill, George Santayana, Bertrand Russell, D.H. Lawrence, Ruth Benedict, Ryunosuke Akutagawa, Reinhold Niebuhr, Jean-Paul Sartre, Richard Wright, Simone Weil, Eudora Welty, Doris Lessing, Hermann Hesse, and Iris Murdoch.

This book can be purchased from the Great Books Foundation by calling 800-222-5870 or from their website at [www.greatbooks.org](http://www.greatbooks.org).

## **#3706 Ted Lectures: Ideas Worth Spreading**

**NEW**

**Thursday, 10am-12pm**

**Coordinators: Katherine Nicklin, Jean Schwartz**

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to the world of ideas. It started in 1984 as a conference bringing together people from three worlds: **Technology, Entertainment, Design**. Since then, its scope has become ever broader to include the sciences, humanities, business and art. Ted Lectures have become available on the internet ([www.ted.com/](http://www.ted.com/)) and bring to the world a stimulating variety of fresh and innovative global ideas in 18-minute segments.

In this class, participants will screen their chosen video and lead a discussion based on the selected topic. We anticipate that two or three lectures could be discussed per session. Internet capability is required. Join us for OLLI's own salon.

## **#3707 The World of Poetry**

**Thursday, 10am-12pm**

**Coordinators: Fran Markwardt, Steve Bloomberg**

Welcome poetry lovers! Join us in The World of Poetry, where we'll read and discuss the works of a variety of poets, both classic and modern. Group members will take turns choosing poets, leading a discussion of selected poems and distributing copies of poems a week before the study session. After a brief sketch of the life and times of the poet, we'll read the poems out loud and examine them closely, sharing our opinions, ideas, questions and associations.

We'll also refer to the Poetry Foundation web site and *Poetry* magazine for interviews of 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.

### **#3708 Chinese Foreign Relations Past and Present**

**NEW**

**Thursday, 1:30pm-3:30pm**

**Coordinators: Bill Graburn, Bill Lipsman, Judith Kaufman**

China, the emerging power of the 21st century, has a unique world view. We will examine how China's history is shaping its entry into the world of nations in the 21<sup>st</sup> century through the eyes of Henry Kissinger, one of the United States' diplomats who had first hand dealings with Chinese leaders from Mao Zedong to the present leadership team of Hu Jintao and Wen Jiabao. Using Kissinger's 2011 book, *On China*, as our guide, we will examine how China's unique history over the past 4 millennia, its huge population, its history of civil unrest and its 20th century embrace of Communism have affected its relationships with other countries. In doing so, our goal is to better understand current Chinese policies and actions to assess whether they truly threaten world peace or are merely the Chinese method of protecting its culture and people.

### **#3709 *A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous 14th Century***

**Thursday, 1:30pm-3:30pm**

**Coordinators: Tom Swanstrom, Henriette Klawans, Judy Trombley**

Many historians have noted the parallels between the upheavals of medieval times and those of the modern era. We will read the leading book in this genre, *A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous 14<sup>th</sup> Century* by Barbara Tuchman (Ballantine Books paperback, 1987). This semester we will cover the latter part of the 14th century, a period that encompassed such tragedies as the Hundred Year's War, the last crusade, the Peasant's Revolt, the second Norman conquest, the Barbary invasion, royal power struggles and the Papal Schism as well as life-sustaining offsets such as great literature, the illuminated Book of Hours, fine universities, early stirrings of religious reformation, courtly romance and royal marriages. Tuchman ties together all of these and other disparate events through the history of a real French knight, Enguerrand de Coucy VII. Join us as we discuss the pivotal events of this period that led to the intellectual, scientific, religious and exploration breakthroughs of later centuries. The reading will be supplemented by relevant films and hand-outs. New participants are welcome.

### **#3710 Monarchs: Queens Who Made a Difference**

**NEW**

**Thursday, 1:30pm-3:30pm**

**Coordinators: Martha Bills, Barbara Mellens**

There have been kings and queens throughout history who have changed the world as they knew it in many different ways. Several women stand out among those who made a difference. This course will be the beginning of a series devoted to the examination of some of these amazing rulers, beginning with Eleanor of Aquitaine and continuing through Queen Victoria. In this first course we will concentrate on Eleanor as Queen of France, Queen of England and then as the mother of two kings of England, her sons Richard and John. Our primary source will be the book, *Eleanor of Aquitaine and the Four Kings* by Amy Kelly (Harvard University Press paperback, 1991). We will begin the first session by watching the film, *The Lion in Winter*, which shows Eleanor near the end of her life; then, we will use our source materials as well as supplements from the Internet to see how she arrived at the time in her life shown in the movie. Join us as we examine her impact on power politics as well as her claim to fame, the influence of "courtly love."

## **#3711 Washington Week**

**Thursday, 1:30pm-3:30pm**

**Coordinators: Judy Widen, Carolyn Adams, Don Moel, Joe Simchak**

News from our nation's capital is the core of this current affairs study group. We monitor all three branches of the federal government: actions taken by the White House, the Administration and Congress, as well as decisions handed down by the Supreme Court.

During the spring semester, we will continue to watch the financial health of the country, with particular emphasis on employment issues and the national debt. As context for the financial segment of each class, we will read *Back to Work: Why We Need Smart Government for a Strong Economy*, by Bill Clinton (Knopf hardback, 2011).

We will monitor the results of the primaries and examine the positions staked out by the Republican candidates. In addition, we will pay particular attention to the many key decisions that will be handed down by the Supreme Court in the final days of the 2012 session, especially the Court's ruling on the constitutionality of the Affordable Health Care Act.

Our sources for current news will be periodicals and a wide range of newspapers, as well as websites and blogs. Because we discuss multiple sources and late-breaking news, members will need access to the Internet to participate fully in this study group.

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	Group #	<b>Evanston Study Groups At-A-Glance</b>	Start Time
<b>Monday</b>			
	3634	<i>Best American Short Stories</i>	9:30am
	3635	<i>Four Masters of the Short Story</i>	9:30am
	3636	<i>The New Yorker, Section 1</i>	9:30am
<i>NEW Spring</i>	3637	<i>1920s: A Social History</i>	9:30am
	3638	<i>American Essays</i>	1pm
	3639	<i>Russia: Survey of History</i>	1pm
<b>Tuesday</b>			
	3640	<i>Exploring the Visual Arts</i>	9:30am
	3641	<i>The M&amp;M's of Literature</i>	9:30am
	3642	<i>Tuesday at the Movies: And the Nominees Are (3HRS)</i>	9am
<i>NEW Spring</i>	3643	<i>Wit, Wisdom, &amp; Uncommon Sense</i>	9:30am
	3644	<i>The Best of the Best American Short Stories</i>	1pm
<i>NEW Spring</i>	3645	<i>Eisenhower: A Study in Leadership</i>	1pm
<i>NEW Spring</i>	3646	<i>The History of Human Rights</i>	1pm
	3647	<i>Great Novels: A Literary Journey</i>	1pm
<b>Wednesday</b>			
	3648	<i>Creative Writing Workshop</i>	9:30am
<i>NEW Spring</i>	3649	<i>The Great Bridge</i>	9:30am
<i>NEW Spring</i>	3650	<i>Reflections On a Life</i>	9:30am
<i>NEW Spring</i>	3651	<i>Champlain's Dream</i>	1pm
	3652	<i>From Print to Pictures, the Art of Film Adaptation - There's No Business Like Show Business (2-3 HRS)</i>	1pm
	3653	<i>The New Yorker, Section 2</i>	1pm
	3654	<i>Poetry for Pleasure</i>	1pm
	3655	<i>Solving Global Problems: Understanding the 21st Century</i>	1pm
<b>Thursday</b>			
	3656	<i>The Alexandria Quartet: Mountolive and Clea</i>	9:30am
<i>NEW Spring</i>	3657	<i>The Beginnings of Modern Drama</i>	9:30am
	3658	<i>Latest Breakthroughs in Science</i>	9:30am
	3659	<i>The U.S. Constitution and the Supreme Court – Part II</i>	9:30am
		<i>Computer Round Table MONTHLY DROP-IN</i>	11:15am
<i>NEW Spring</i>	3660	<i>The Five Scrolls of the Hebrew Bible</i>	1pm
<i>NEW Spring</i>	3661	<i>The Story of Language</i>	1pm
<i>NEW Spring</i>	3662	<i>War of the Worldviews</i>	1pm
<i>NEW Spring</i>	3663	<i>Why the Allies Won</i>	1pm
<b>Friday</b>			
	3664	<i>Documentary Films(2.5 HRS)</i>	9:30am
	3665	<i>International Relations</i>	9:30am



**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute**  
*Northwestern University School of Continuing Studies*  
**Spring Semester**  
**March 5 – June 15, 2012**

**Study Group Descriptions**  
**Evanston Campus**

**MONDAY**

**#3634 Best American Short Stories**

**Monday, 9:30-11:30 am**

**Coordinators: Bill Martin, Paisley Sutherland**

Richard Ford, Pulitzer Prize winning writer and distinguished editor of short story collections, writes “What distinguishes the short story seems to be linked to its brevity and to its bravura quality and its audacity, to how it makes much of little, and to how it wields its authority...slightly discomfoting, intensely pleasing, short stories are often good on the strength of sheer nerve.” This probably helps explain why our discussions are as lively as they are. Each study group member comes away from our discussions with a deeper understanding of the story than we had going in.

For the spring semester we will be using two short story editions: *Pen/O. Henry Prize Stories – 2011* (Anchor paperback), and *Best American Short Stories – 2011* (Mariner paperback) edited by Geraldine Brooks and Heidi Pitlor.

Through lively, informed group discussions we will have fun exploring a diverse group of contemporary writers and stories. Preparation requires thorough reading and analysis of one or two stories each week. Study group members lead the discussion on a rotating basis each week. The discussion group leader’s responsibility is to prepare pertinent shared inquiry-type questions to facilitate the discussion. The author’s biographical information will also be presented. We have an open invitation to local authors of our stories to attend a class session and share their insights with us --- a semester highlight whenever it occurs.

### **#3635 Four Masters of the Short Story**

**Monday, 9:30-11:30 am**

**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. That task is the goal of this study group. 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. At discussion's end all have a clearer sense of the author's words and, week by week, all become more adept at literary interpretation. There are neither prerequisites for this course nor is specialized knowledge required. The coordinators will provide any necessary definitions of literary terms as well as guidance on how to lead a discussion.

The books for Spring 2012, are: *All Things All at Once – New and Selected* by Lee Abbott, (W.W. Norton paperback, 2006); *Saints and Sinners* by Edna O'Brien, (Little, Brown & Co. paperback, 2011); *Binocular Vision* by Edith Pearlman, (Lookout Books paperback, 2011, and *The Empty Family*, by Colm Toibin (Scribner paperback, 2012).

### **#3636 The New Yorker, Section 1**

**Monday, 9:30-11:30 am**

**Coordinators: Hillis Howie, Nancy Anderson, Dick Whitaker**

This study group is for long time fans of *The New Yorker* as well as newcomers! Each session will examine the contents of the current issue and then explore a previously assigned article in depth. A volunteer discussion leader who has chosen the article leads the discussion. Conversations are lively and often followed by lunch. Everyone is asked to lead a discussion once a semester. Participants will be encouraged to become "watchers" who briefly discuss cartoons, movie reviews, covers, or some other aspect of the current issue. Subscription to the magazine is necessary and is available at the student rate from the publisher.

### **#3637 1920s: A Social History**

**NEW**

**Monday, 9:30-11:30**

**Coordinators: Barbara Peterson, Laura Ann Wilber, Bill Bunn**

The 1920's were a time that very much affected our parents and grandparents, but to us this time may mean only the financial boom and bust that led to the Great Depression. Our family traditions may include stories or photos of soldiers coming back from World War I, young boys in stylish cars or young girls with short hair, dressed in the daring fashions of the time. A recently republished informal history can bring the 1920's back to life and fill in many missing pieces. This short, easy-to-read text will be supplemented by handout readings and documentary films including such recent offerings as Ken Burns' *Prohibition*. The text is *Only Yesterday: An Informal History of the 1920s*, by Frederick Lewis Allen (Harper Perennial Modern Classic paperback, 2010).

### **#3638 American Essays**

**Monday, 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Coordinator: Glen Phillips**

There is more to literature than novels, plays, and poetry; there are essays. Essays, when well executed, intrigue the reader with a thoughtful perspective about the human condition. The goal of this study group is the interpretation, analysis, and appreciation of that perspective.

Participants will develop an awareness of the essay as an art form and will refine their literary analytic skills. And, best of all, absolutely anyone, whatever his or her educational and professional background will be comfortable reading and discussing essays.

Our paperback books will be: *The Best American Essays 2010* (Mariner Book) edited by Christopher Hitchens, and *The Best American Essays 2011* (Mariner Book) edited by Edwidge Danticat.

### **#3639 Russia: Survey of History**

**Monday, 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Coordinator: Barbara Peterson, Bill Bunn, Laura Ann Wilber, Harold Richman**

Now entering its second semester, this study group will begin with the revolution surrounding the last Tsar and continue through the complex story of Russia up to the 21st century. You need not have been enrolled in the first semester to enjoy this course, though the textbook can bring you up to date if you wish. We alternate between traditional political history and Russian culture, looking at both social and artistic strengths. Participation may include session leadership or simply a share in the discussion. As in the first semester, the basic text is *Russia: A History, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*, edited by Gregory L. Freeze (Oxford University Press paperback, 2009); the secondary text is *Natasha's Dance*, by Orlando Figes (Picador paperback, 2003).

## **TUESDAY**

### **#3640 Exploring the Visual Arts**

**Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 am**

**Coordinators: Peter Strand, Terri Strand**

This is a film-based study group, designed to broaden participants' perspectives of the visual arts in four areas: painting, sculpture, photography, and architecture. The assigned discussion leader for each session will preview the film at Northwestern University's Marjorie I. Mitchell Multimedia film library, prepare discussion questions, introduce the film to the group members, and lead them in a discussion following the film screening. Various themes associated with the films include: pioneering artists of major art movements/styles, including new media art, unique contributions of women artists, characteristics of art from other eras and cultures. It is anticipated that participation in the study group will result in increased awareness, sensitivity to and appreciation of the visual arts.

### **#3641 The M&M's of Literature**

**Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 am**

**Coordinators: Charlotte Projansky, Lail Herman**

We will follow up our fall reading of George Eliot's *Middlemarch* with another outstanding novel, Thomas Mann's monumental and memorable *The Magic Mountain*.

Imagine you are a young man in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Germany just starting out in your career and you find out you have to spend the next 7 years of your life in a TB sanitarium on top of a mountain. Many challenges lie ahead for Hans Castorp. Join us as we follow Hans on his excellent adventure. We will read the Vintage edition of *Magic Mountain* (paperback, 1996), translated by John E. Woods.

### **#3642 Tuesday at the Movies: “And the Nominees Are”**

**Tuesday, 9:00 am-noon (This study group will meet at Northwestern’s Multimedia Center, University Library, 1970 Campus Drive)**

**Coordinators: David Liner, Art Bloom, Florence Gatti**

In the 83 year history of the Academy Awards, the nominees for Best Picture and Best Director number well over one thousand. Continuing our fall theme we are including 60 of the best movies from two decades—the 1950s (the first post-World War II decade) and in contrast, the 1980s—for your selection this semester. Some of these you may have missed and would enjoy viewing for the first time, others you may have loved and look forward to revisiting. From the 1950s our titles include: *Death of a Salesman*, *From Here to Eternity*, *Roman Holiday*, *On the Waterfront*, *Marty*, and *Room at the Top*. From the 1980s you may choose from such standouts as *The Great Santini*, *Sophie’s Choice*, *Witness*, *Broadcast News*, *Rain Man*, and *Driving Miss Daisy*.

And now, the envelopes, please....

### **#3643 Wit, Wisdom & Uncommon Sense**

**NEW**

**Tuesday, 9:30-11:30**

**Coordinator: James Borg, Hillis Howie**

Poking fun at ourselves is a long-standing American tradition. Enjoy Charlie Chaplin as the Little Tramp in *Modern Times*; Mark Twain in Hal Holbrook’s brilliant recreation; Mae West as her provocative self; Will Rogers telling pointed but gentle tales; and George Carlin doing stand-up. Other satirists *may* include Richard Pryor, Steve Martin, Eddie Murphy, Chris Rock, Bill Maher, as well as Phyllis Diller, Joan Rivers, and Molly Ivins, the Texas’ political commentator. We’ll follow a flexible schedule in order to discuss performers and their work; ponder political cartoons (e.g., by Nast and Oliphant); listen to lampoons sung by The Capitol Steps and Stan Freiberg; and watch hilarious animations by Jibjab.

Each week, we’ll usually discuss one showcased humorist and about 25 pages from the anthology *American Satire: An Anthology of Writings from Colonial Times to the Present* edited by Bakalar and Kock (Meridian paperback, 1997). There will also be a few handouts of classic political cartoons to enliven our perspectives and test our wits! If anyone has a satirist or sketch they’d like to share, we’ll be--happily--all eyes and ears!

### **#3644 The Best of the Best American Short Stories**

**Tuesday, 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Coordinator: Winifred Engerman, Susan Gaud**

This class is a continuation of a first semester class, but you need not have taken this class first semester to enjoy the spring study group. We have almost half the century to discuss. Our study will begin with a story by Bernard Malamud written in 1964 and will conclude with a story by Pam Houston written in 1999.

*The Best American Short Stories of the Twentieth Century* edited by John Updike (Mariner Book, paperback, 2000) provides valuable insight into the history of the century as well as reading pleasure. These stories are the best of the best, having been culled from 84 editions of *The Best American Short Stories*, published yearly since 1915. Two goals guided Updike in his choices:

To give equal weight to each decade and to use only stories with North America as settings. The result is of interest to students of culture and of history, as well as those who like a good read.

The class will read about 30 pages a week. Lively class discussion will enrich the experience as well as members' willingness to take turns leading discussions.

### **#3645 Eisenhower: A Study in Leadership**

**NEW**

**Tuesday 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Coordinator: Sal Bianchi, Ed April, Harold Richman**

*Eisenhower, the Soldier and President (The Renowned One-Volume Life)*, by Stephen E. Ambrose (Simon & Schuster paperback, 1991) will form the basis for this study group. The author covers Eisenhower's leadership as Allied Supreme Commander in the European war theater. The second part of the book recounts Eisenhower's presidency, the first of the Cold War and brings to life a man and a country struggling with the issues as diverse as civil rights, atomic weapons, the many threats of international communism, and the new global role of the US.

Along the way, we will follow Ike's many relationships, his wife and family, Kay Summerly, as well as the many world leaders of his time. The book is an important study in military and political leadership.

### **#3646 The History of Human Rights**

**NEW**

**Tuesday, 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Coordinator: Lois Taft, Barbara Ghoshal**

What are our human rights, how are they threatened, and how should they be protected? Using the book, *Citizens of the World: Readings in Human Rights, Expanded Edition*, (edited by Donald Whitfield, The Great Books Foundation paperback, 2010), we'll discuss human rights questions that have emerged in the course of history. In this study group, we'll read and discuss documents that protect our rights from the Magna Carta in 1215 and the Bill of Rights in 1788, to the International Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations in 1948. We'll also read about struggles for human rights in essays, stories, and personal narratives that portray both the advances and abuses of human rights. Authors from around the world describe conflicts and flashpoints that have shaped the concept of human rights. Some of the topics for discussion in this anthology include freedom of expression, women's rights, totalitarian governments, the Holocaust, racial discrimination, acts of resistance, and terrorism. Questions for discussion and reflection accompany each selection in the book, which will easily support lively discussions. The expanded 2010 edition of this book is available from the Great Books Foundation ([www.greatbooks.org](http://www.greatbooks.org); 800-222-5870.)

### **#3647 Great Novels: A Literary Journey**

**Tuesday, 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Coordinators: Florence Gatti, Ilse Glaser, June Fox**

Join us as we travel the world over the centuries! Guided by such literary giants as Zola, Faulkner, Conrad, Steinbeck, McEwan, Ishiguro and many others we will explore corners of the world we never dreamed of, visit with characters brought to life by some of the world's finest authors and discover what and why these novels are so admired. It is a fascinating journey we can take without leaving our favorite reading spot!

We will read four or five novels covering about 100 pages a week, discussing each segment under the guidance of a volunteer leader. Each class member is asked to lead at least one class. We have lively, open discussions with easy exchange of ideas and opinions. The novels are selected from lists of the great novels of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and prize winners chosen by prestigious literary committees as well as suggestions by class members.

The reading list will be available in the OLLI office during the winter session, posted on the bulletin board, and e-mailed to class members of the spring session when registration is complete.

## **WEDNESDAY**

### **#3648 Creative Writing Workshop**

**Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am**

**Coordinators: Jo Stewart, Larry Gordon,**

This motivating workshop is for those who want to practice and improve their creative writing skills. Participants will read their work to the group for suggestions, critique and encouragement. Revisions and re-submission will be encouraged. Longer works can be submitted in segments of roughly three pages of typed text. This workshop will give you an opportunity to be creative as well as produce a finished piece of writing that you can be proud of. All forms of writing are invited: poetry, essays, fiction and the many forms of non-fiction.

### **#3649 *The Great Bridge:***

***The Epic Story of the Building of the Brooklyn Bridge***

**NEW**

**Wednesday, 9:30-11:30 am**

**Coordinators: Harold Primack, Chuck Kurland, Larry Muslin**

Called the “eighth wonder of the world” when it opened in 1883, the Brooklyn Bridge was the largest suspension bridge of its day, a tribute to American invention and industry. Begun in 1869 just four years after the Civil War, the idea of building a great bridge to connect the rapidly growing cities of New York and Brooklyn was considered by many a folly.

In his book, *The Great Bridge: The Epic Story of the Building of the Brooklyn Bridge*, (Simon & Schuster paperback, 1983) the noted historian David McCullough presents a riveting account of this great engineering and construction feat. He discusses the vision and determination of the Roebblings, a father, son and daughter-in-law, who more than anyone else were responsible for building the bridge. He chronicles the tenacity and sacrifices of Washington Roebling who supervised the project to completion despite enduring fires, accidents, industrial corruption, flagging popular support, and suffering a crippling injury. More than a story of an engineering marvel, you will read a sweeping narrative of the social climate of the time and of the heroes and rascals who either helped construct or helped obstruct the work. Each study group participant is expected to lead at least one study group session.

### **#3650 Reflections on a Life: Readings and Writings**

**NEW**

**Wednesday, 9:30-11:30 am**

**Coordinators: Suzanne Dupré**

Remembrances of one's parents, family members, friends, lovers, one's sorrows and joys, these are the warp and woof that form the fabric of our recollected lives. In this class, we will read and discuss short pieces of literature in which great writers reflect on their parents, their youth, their old age, the large and small joys and sorrows of their lives. These words (somber, joyful, profound, sad, and silly) ring like bells with the vitality of well-lived lives. Their resonance may inspire us to recall and write about similar experiences in our own lives. We will read works of Wharton, Munro, Updike, Marquez, Bradbury, Thurber, Holmes, Robinson, Millay, and others; watch a few really good movies; and share with one another our thoughts on these works, as well as our own writings about our lives. If an unexamined life is not worth living, it will be enlightening to follow in the footsteps of fine writers who have examined theirs!

Course materials will be provided in booklet format; participants will be charged reproduction costs (approximately \$15).

### **#3651 Champlain's Dream**

**NEW**

**Wednesday, 1:00-3:00pm**

**Coordinator: John Dreibelbis, Gordon Den Boer**

Samuel De Champlain – soldier, spy, master mariner, explorer, cartographer, artist and Father of New France – fought for Henri IV and, like Henri, he was religiously tolerant in an age of murderous sectarianism. On foot and by ship and canoe, he traveled through what are now 6 Canadian provinces and 5 American states. He encouraged intermarriage among French colonists and natives. He was a visionary leader – a man who dreamed of humanity and peace in a world of cruelty and violence.

We will read and discuss *Champlain's Dream* (Simon & Schuster paperback, 2009) by Pulitzer Prize winner author David Hackett Fischer. This biography of Samuel De Champlain includes De Champlain's adventure of navigating the ocean and initiating settlements in a New World, rich descriptions of Indian nations and their relations with each other and with Europeans, exercising leadership in the midst of religious and political struggles in France, and Champlain's alternative to European attitudes of spiritual, economic and military superiority in the New World.

### **#3652 From Print to Pictures, the Art of Film Adaptation: "There's No Business Like Show Business"**

**Wednesday, 1:00-4:00 pm and 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Coordinators: Julie Gordon, Art Bloom**

Drama, satire, comedy and tragedy characterize these texts and films about show business. We will explore the characters and performers in all their flawed, fascinating dimensions as we journey from the written word to the medium of film, learning how Hollywood works its magic to transport us behind the footlights. The tension between illusion and reality persists in the following: *All About Eve* features witty romance and cynical betrayal in the New York theater; *The Last Tycoon* shows us love and fierce ambition in 1930s Hollywood; *The Mambo Kings* is driven by fraternal rivalry between Cuban musicians seeking fame and fortune in postwar America; *The Dresser* takes us backstage with an aging British actor who faces the twilight of

his career; *Little Voice* gives us a talented, shy girl who is exploited by a sleazy agent in working class Britain; *The Illusionist* examines the idea that appearances do deceive in 1900s Vienna when a popular magician challenges royal authority; *Me and Orson Welles* is a behind-the-scenes comedy/drama where a novice actor observes the genius of Welles at the beginning of his career.

The study group 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 book. At the first class participants can volunteer to lead a text or a film session. The coordinators will supply the readings, which consist of two novels, a novella, two plays and two short stories. Our analysis will discover whether or not the film has imaginatively translated the written word into a compelling viewing experience.

### **#3653 *The New Yorker*, Section 2**

**Wednesday, 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Coordinators: Elaine Engel, James Golden**

For long time fans of *The New Yorker* as well as newcomers! Each *New Yorker* session discusses the content of the current issue. After this, with a volunteer discussion leader, the group explores in depth one or two articles, short stories, reviews, etc., assigned from past issues. Subjects are as varied as *The New Yorker* itself and discussions are lively. Everyone is expected to be a discussion leader once or twice during the semester. Subscription to the magazine is required and is available at a student rate from the publisher.

### **#3654 Poetry for Pleasure**

**Wednesday, 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Coordinators: David Hart, Judy Kamin**

Join us as we discover and discuss a wide variety of poets and poetry, some known, some less known. Through our poet's words we will learn more about life and death; love and loss; and melody. Each week one member of the class selects a poet for discussion and prepares copies for each class member. The presenter leads off with a brief biography or critical commentary of the poet. We then take turns reading a poem and discussing it. The discussions can be lively and challenging, and give new insights to the work.

### **#3655 Solving Global Problems: Understanding the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**Wednesday, 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Coordinators: David Paul, Bruce Marx**

"The times they are a changing" – The Tea Party, Occupy Wall Street, Arab Spring, climate change, the rise of China, globalization, high unemployment, the European debt crisis; the list goes on and on. The problems and solutions of the 21st century are both similar and remarkably different from those of past centuries. Understanding what's going on and what it means for the future is a challenging task.

In previous sessions we discussed basic issues related to understanding global problems, potential solutions and how issues are interrelated. In this next session we will discuss more specific economic and political issues and solutions. We will start by comparing and contrasting a summary of the problems of the 19th century, the 20th century and the emerging issues of the 21st century. We will then take an in depth look at economic issues: including globalization, the

rise of China, unemployment, financial system failures, and environmental issues. Finally, we will discuss the politics of the 21st century: including the rise of terrorism, the Arab Spring, the Tea Party, Occupy Wall Street and other issues. The world has always faced difficult problems but over time remarkable solutions have always emerged. Join this study group for a comprehensive discussion of current global issues as well as possible solutions.

## **THURSDAY**

### **#3656 *The Alexandria Quartet: Mountolive & Clea***

**Thursday, 9:30-11:30 am**

**Coordinators: Larry Gordon**

Journey to exotic Alexandria, Egypt with Lawrence Durrell as we read the last two volumes of this intriguing collection of four interlocking novels; each of which tells various aspects of a complex story of passion and deception from various points of view. We will analyze the characters, society, customs, mores, and issues of the times, Durrell's philosophy and interests, the organization and architecture of his writing, and other concerns raised by our study group. Participants will be expected to read approximately 40 pages before each session, and to lead our discussion at least once during the semester. Please read volumes 1 and 2 before this semester begins. Purchase individual paperback volumes unless you want the more expensive boxed set. If you have always wanted to share with others reading and discussing this rich classic, please join our study group.

### **#3657 *The Beginnings of Modern Drama: The Plays of Anton Chekhov, Henrik Ibsen, and Eugene O'Neil***

**NEW**

**Thursday, 9:30-11:30 am**

**Coordinator: Gil Klapper, Dennis Beard, Mariam Lease**

With the realists of modern theater, drama became, as Ibsen put it, "a familiar room with one wall taken down." Inside and close up, we explore ourselves in the plays of these great dramatists.

We will read the following: *Uncle Vanya* and *The Seagull* by Chekhov; *A Doll's House* and *The Wild Duck* by Ibsen; and O'Neill's *The Iceman Cometh*. We ask that participants do a close reading of the entire play for its respective opening day of discussion. We suggest that each play be read twice. Each play will be discussed as a whole over a period of three weeks. The discussion of individual plays will not be restricted to certain page numbers on certain days. For example: on the first day of the spring 2012 semester come to class having read Chekhov's *The Sea Gull* in its entirety. We will spend three weeks discussing *The Sea Gull* in detail.

Please purchase these exact editions of the following books: *Five Plays* by Anton Chekhov, translated by Ronald Hingley (Oxford World Classics paperback, 2008); *Four Major Plays, Volume I* by Henrik Ibsen (Signet Classics paperback 2006; Eugene O'Neil's *Complete Plays 1932—1943* (The Library of America hardcover, 1988).

Come join us in a close reading of these masterworks.

## **#3658 Latest Breakthroughs in Science**

**Thursday, 9:30-11:30am**

**Coordinators: Harold Primack, Chuck Lange**

What are the latest breakthroughs in science and technology? How are these breakthroughs changing our understanding of the world and the universe, and how will they impact our lives? We will look at advances in medicine, computer technology, cosmology, chemistry, physics, nanotechnology, biology, geology and much more. But don't let these topics scare you. A background in science is not necessary.

Each week, we will discuss recent articles from *Scientific American*, *Discover* and *Smithsonian* magazines. The new formats of these magazine articles make them easier to read and understand regardless of your science background. So, if you want to stay current on the latest science and technology news and amaze your friends, this study group is for you. It is recommended that participants subscribe to *Scientific American Magazine* (one year subscription, \$19.99).

## **#3659 The U.S. Constitution and the Supreme Court – Part II**

**Thursday, 9:30-11:30am**

**Coordinators: Stuart Applebaum, Stephen Fisher**

We began our intensive study during the fall semester by giving close attention to the early years of our republic and the failure of the Articles of Confederation to provide a viable national government. Our Constitution was adopted to remedy this failure and our study moved on to the early years of the Supreme Court and its role in explicating the Constitution, from the early 1800s through the turmoil of the Civil War and Reconstruction. We also considered in detail the strong personalities of the men who sat on the court and how their backgrounds influenced their opinions. In addition, we formed the basis for our continuing study by learning much of the legal terminology necessary to complete our study during the spring semester 2012. With this foundation, the study group will resume its study with the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and will conclude with a close examination of some of the Court's recent decisions.

## **#3660 The Five Scrolls of the Hebrew Bible**

**NEW**

**Thursday, 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Coordinators, Neil Adelman, Sal Bianchi, Ed April**

*The Song of Songs*, the *Book of Ruth*, *Lamentations*, *Ecclesiastes* and the *Book of Esther*. These are five very different books of the Hebrew Bible, or Old Testament. They are known as the Five Scrolls. What are their origins, who wrote them and why are they included in the canon? These and other questions will be explored as we study and discuss each book as a religious text from both the Jewish and Christian point of view and, as appropriate for each book, as poetry, history, literature and philosophy. In addition, our studies may include one or two additional biblical books; either or both the *Books of Jonah* and *Daniel*. Our principal text is the Bible. Study group members should bring their own Bible to class so we will have a range of translations, notes and commentaries available for our discussions. The coordinators will recommend a standalone edition of the Five Scrolls for anyone wishing to purchase just these books. Supplemental readings will be provided by the coordinators and may be added by discussion leaders. Each class member will be expected to act as a discussion leader one time during the semester. Please join us as we explore religion, literature, history, poetry and philosophy in our study of these enduring texts.

### **#3661 The Story of Language:**

#### **The Science of Linguistics and an Evolutionary Tour**

**NEW**

**Thursday, 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Coordinators: Helen Widen, Joan Cohan**

Language is the amazing tool that has made possible all of mankind's manifold creations. This study group is based on a Teaching Company course by Professor John McWhorter entitled *Understanding Linguistics: The Science of Language*. This entertaining series of recorded half-hour lectures begins by examining how linguists analyze the basic building blocks of language — the study of sounds, words, sentences, and how meaning is expressed. We will examine how languages change over time, how children learn to speak, how social factors influence language, and how writing developed. We will take note of the philosophy of language and the controversy over whether language channels thought. The series ends with a look at modern theories of how language evolved. A supplementary text, *The Unfolding of Language: An Evolutionary Tour of Mankind's Greatest Invention* by Guy Deutscher (Holt paperback, 2006), will tell us fascinating stories about the development, evolution, extinction and re-birth of the world's languages.

In each session, we will watch two lectures on DVD. Presenters will pose questions based on the printed transcript read in advance. We will also read and discuss approximately 20 pages per week from the book by Deutscher.

### **#3662 War of the Worldviews**

**NEW**

**Thursday, 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Coordinators: Dick Whitaker, Barbara Ghoshal**

"Is the universe conscious?" "What is life?" "Is God an illusion?" If you are interested in questions like these, and well-reasoned answers, you'll find many more in *The War of the Worldviews: Science vs. Spirituality*, a debate between bestselling authors Deepak Chopra and Leonard Mlodinow (Harmony Books hardcover, 2011). The two authors originally met in a televised Caltech debate on *The Future of God*. In this book, Chopra, who has been heavily involved in new age spirituality and alternative medicine, defends a spiritual view of the universe while Mlodinow, a physicist, mathematician and materialist takes a scientific view. The book has four main parts: "Cosmos," "Life," "Mind and Brain," and "God" and is spread over 19 short chapters. We'll cover 15 chapters and sometimes include materials from other sources. Come join the discussion!

### **#3663 Why the Allies Won**

**NEW**

**Thursday, 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Coordinators: George Fink**

During the grim months following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the outcome of the war was far from certain. The news became progressively worse. Our nation was in jeopardy on two fronts. The Soviet Union lost the heart of its industry and agriculture. Britain was facing continuous air bombing, and was planning its defense against invasion. Japan had brutally conquered most of China and Southeast Asia. How could the Allies possibly defeat the Axis Powers and force unconditional surrender in less than four years?

Our well written text, *Why the Allies Won* by Richard Overy (Norton and Co. paperback, 1997) explores the large scale issues, including quality of leadership, new technology, industrial production and the moral dimension of the war. Overy offers brilliant insight and analysis of the

decisive campaigns: the war at sea, the crucial battles on the eastern front, the air wars, and the vast assault on the Nazi fortress in Europe. We will read about 25 pages per week, and bring prior knowledge of WWII to supplement our lively discussions.

## **FRIDAY**

### **#3664 Documentary Films**

**Friday, 9:30 am- noon**

**Coordinators: Peter Strand, Art Altman**

View and discuss a vast selection of documentary films available at Northwestern University's Multimedia Center as well as other sources. Each group participant will be assigned a film and lead a discussion following the screening. Particular attention is paid not only to the content of each film, but the aesthetic and technical aspects as well.

The goals of this group are to encourage group discussion and appreciation of the artistry of the filmmakers and their impact on our culture as well as to better understand the world we live in. This study group will meet at Northwestern's Multimedia Center, University Library, 1970 Campus Drive, Evanston.

### **#3665 International Relations**

**Friday, 9:30-11:30 am**

**Coordinators: Allen Cohen, Frank Glaser**

We are living in a rapidly changing and perilous world. International and many other US policy concerns are so interrelated that they need to be constantly re-evaluated. Our study group is designed to analyze specific problems and potential threats that shape US and global security.

We will focus our discussions on present and historical trends as well as the most current global political, economic and demographic concerns. Our selected discussion topics will have far reaching ramifications on the security and well-being of the United States and therefore will also have profound implications on world stability. We will explore and discuss different viewpoints, using material from the best informed and most qualified sources; including pertinent foreign policy specialized journals and other related prominent publications. We hope you will join us as we explore many multifaceted approaches and strategies to these complex international topics and concerns. Study group members will take turns leading our discussions.

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