



Northwestern University School of Continuing Studies

Osher's 2012 Winter Session

4-Weeks

January 23 – February 17, 2012

Chicago and Evanston
Study Groups



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Northwestern University School of Continuing Studies

Winter 2012 Intersession
January 23 - February 17, 2012

Study Group Descriptions
Chicago Campus

Monday

#3613 Film—in Depth

Monday, 10:00am-12:00pm (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Roxanne Kupfer, Howard Aronson

Too often in film courses a movie is so long that there isn't enough time for discussion so we will view a film one week and discuss it in depth the following week. We will view two films from the under-appreciated British director Michael Powell, one co-directed with Emeric Pressburger. The two are responsible for such classics as *The Red Shoes*, *Stairway to Heaven*, *Black Narcissus*, and the first film we will view, *Tales of Hoffman*. *Tales of Hoffman* (1951) is a magical ballet version of Offenbach's opera with Moira Shearer, Robert Helpmann, and Léonide Massine, sung in English and accompanied by Sir Thomas Beecham and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. This film has been praised as "not just a film of a staged opera, but a true cinematic opera that makes use of film techniques not available in an opera house."

Our second film, the psychological thriller *Peeping Tom* (1960), received such an "extremely harsh reception by critics [that it] effectively destroyed Powell's career as a director in the United Kingdom." However, more recently this film has been recognized as a masterpiece and one of the best British films of all time.

The study group is an opportunity for a lively and engaging conversation about these two classics from a historical, esthetic, political and technical perspective.

#3614 Hemingway and Hadley

Monday, 10:00am-12:00pm (2/3 sessions January 23 & 30 and possibly February 6)

Coordinator: Martha Bills

Ernest Hemingway wrote *A Moveable Feast* as a memoir of his early years in Paris as part of the American expatriate circle of writers in the 1920s. The book describes his relationships with other prominent writers and with his first wife, Hadley. That relationship has been turned into a recent novel, *The Paris Wife: A Novel* (Ballantine Books hardcover, 2011) by Paula McLain. We will discuss *A Moveable Feast* (Scribner paperback, 2010) the first week and then *The Paris Wife* and compare and contrast the

two works during the second week of the study group. If the DVD of *Midnight in Paris* becomes available, we will add a third week and watch the movie. Join us as we discuss fact and fiction!

#3615 The Legacy of Andy Warhol

Monday, 10:00am-12:00pm (4 sessions)

Coordinator: Eric Cooper

Andy Warhol's fame has lasted beyond 15 minutes. We'll look at his art and films, and examine his personal life, to gain an understanding of what he brought to his time, resulting in sustained public interest in his art. We'll discuss how developments emerging from his "scene" reverberate in art and society today and, of course, we'll debate their value.

In class we will watch documentary material as well as view some of Warhol's work. Articles will be provided to participants, who will be encouraged to do additional research.

#3616 The Anatomy of Evil: Shakespeare's *Macbeth*

Monday, 1:30pm-3:30pm (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Peggy Shake, Phyllis Faulman

Villain and villainess? Without denying the greatness of Shakespeare's creation, *Macbeth* is tragedy, but not history. This is the play in which Shakespeare is most obsessively concerned with evil. We will seek to gain a better appreciation of the beauty of Shakespeare's words as we read the play aloud – and then discuss its themes and the Gaelic ruler on whom it is based. Why is Shakespeare considered the world's greatest playwright? Come join us as we separate propaganda from truth. Copies of the play will be distributed to participants the first day of class. For our last class we will watch an acclaimed video of the play starring the masterful Ian McKellen with Dame Judi Dench as Lady Macbeth.

#3617 Monday at the Movies: Hollywood Revisited

Monday, 1:00-4:00pm (2 sessions January 23 & January 30)

Coordinators: Peggy DeLay, Sue Adler

We will study two unforgettable films that examine Hollywood from different perspectives.

Billy Wilder's *Sunset Boulevard* is the dark story of silent film star, Norma Desmond (Gloria Swanson), who at the age of 50 is a has-been. In her determination to make a comeback, she hires a hack writer (William Holden) and tries to totally possess him. From the unforgettable opening sequence in which a dead man begins to tell his story, to the tragic ending, this film is a definitive statement on the dark and desperate side of Hollywood. It was the winner of three Academy Awards.

Robert Altman's *The Player* is a wickedly funny satire on the Hollywood studio system. Griffin Mill (Tim Robbins) is a vice president at a movie studio whose job it is to either

approve or reject pitches he receives for potential movies. A rival wants his job and he's being accused of murdering a writer whose script he rejected. What will Mill do? *The Player* contains suspense, drama, comedy, numerous cameos by recognizable stars and many "inside Hollywood" jokes. The brilliant double-ending is played for laughs and remains one of the best ever. *The Player* was nominated for three Academy Awards. This may have been Altman's revenge on a Hollywood that treated him very poorly in the 1980s.

#3618 *The New Yorker*, Section 1

Monday, 1:30pm-3:30pm (4 sessions)

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 a discussion.

Tuesday

#3619 On the Social Contract

Tuesday, 10:00am-12:00pm (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Richard Krantz, Bernie Hoffman

"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,

Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

Those words written by Oliver Goldsmith in 1770 resonate today as perhaps the central issue of our times. It should come as no surprise that Tony Judt uses them as the introduction to *Ill Fares the Land* (Penguin Press paperback, 2010) an impassioned argument for the preservation of the social contract that is now under attack. Written just before his death this is the quintessential Judt; to preserve our liberties we must preserve the social contract. We will read and discuss this book as it relates to ongoing events in order to determine whether or not Judt's fears are justified, and if so, what can be done about it.

#3620 Pop Poets: Irving Berlin, Johnny Mercer, E.Y. Harburg, and Oscar Hammerstein II

Tuesday, 10:00am-12:00pm (4 sessions)

Coordinator: Howard Aronson

The lyricists of the Great American Songbook were unquestionably the most popular poets in America throughout most of the 20th century. In this study group we will read and discuss selected lyrics of four great representatives of the Great American Songbook, treating them as the works of poetry that they are. Among many others, we'll read The

Song is Ended (but the Melody Lingers On) (Berlin), *April in Paris* (Harburg), *That Old Black Magic* (Mercer), and *The Last Time I Saw Paris* (Hammerstein).

Our textbook will be *Reading Lyrics* edited by Robert Gottlieb and Robert Kimball (Pantheon Books hardcover 1st edition, 2000), a magnificent collection of the greatest lyrics of the first half of the 20th century. This is a wonderful opportunity to reacquaint ourselves with classics that we have long loved as well as to become acquainted with less well-known gems from the first half of the 20th century. We think that you'll be saying to yourself again and again "They don't write 'em like that anymore."

#3621 Baseball Fantasy-the Movie Class

Tuesday, 1:00-4:00pm (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Rich Dubberke, Martha Bills

A professor accidentally discovers a liquid that repels wood – and becomes a star pitcher.

An armchair fan sells his soul to the devil – and his spirited play helps his favorite team whip the hated Yankees.

A young baseball pitcher is on his way to a major league tryout in Chicago when he is shot by a mysterious woman – and makes a comeback years later as an outfielder to lead his team to a pennant.

A farmer is inspired by a voice he can't ignore and carves out a baseball diamond from a cornfield – and builds it knowing "they will come."

We will be viewing the following baseball fantasy classics: *It Happens Every Spring*, *Damn Yankees*, *The Natural* and *Field of Dreams*. Join us as we enjoy these movies and imagine that some of these fantasies could rub off on our favorite Chicago baseball teams.

#3622 Tuesdays and Thursdays with Alice Munro

Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30pm-3:30pm

(4 sessions January 24, 26, 31 & February 2)

Coordinators: Verna Reddington, Ann Ahtelius

Alice Munro is one of the most beloved and admired writers---and winner of the 2009 Man Booker International Prize. We will read and discuss stories from Munro's book *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage: Stories* (Vintage paperback, 2002). The stories we will read this session include the title story, *Family Furnishings*, *Post and Beam*, and *The Bear Came Over the Mountain*. As a departure from asking volunteers to lead discussions, study group participants will contribute one question each week for discussion.

Wednesday

#3623 Let There Be Music!

Wednesday, 11:45am-2:00pm (4 sessions, meets at the Chicago Cultural Center)

Coordinators: Peggy Shake, Barbara Jones

Classical music can be exciting, emotional, or just easy to listen to and it is played every Wednesday at noon at the Chicago Cultural Center. The Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts feature classical music in solo and ensemble performances that showcase young performers. Concerts are an hour long, and we will meet for an hour afterward to discuss the composers and artists. Lunch will be optional. Here's your chance to be the first to hear the next Van Cliburn or Hilary Hahn.

#3624 Nature of the Universe

Wednesday, 10:00am-12:00pm (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Arthur Goldman, David Hughes

This winter we will continue our year-long exploration of the nature of the universe, of reality, and of time, which we began in Fall 2011 and will complete in Spring 2012. The primary sources for our exploration are books written by three of the leading physicists of the day. In the Fall we read the first half of Stephen Hawking's (and Leonard Mlodinow's) *The Grand Design*, and all of Brian Greene's *The Hidden Reality: Parallel Universes and the Deep Law of the Cosmos* (Vintage paperback, 2011). In the Winter Session we will complete the reading and discussion of the second half of *The Grand Design* (Bantam hardcover, 2010), and in the Spring we will go on to read Sean Carroll's *From Eternity to Here: The Quest for the Ultimate Theory of Time* (Plume paperback, 2010).

Although this winter session is primarily intended to provide continuity for those who participated in the Fall session, we will welcome anyone interested in joining our group who has read the first four chapters of Hawking and has some general background knowledge of concepts in modern physics.

#3625 Stephen Sondheim: An Appreciation

Wednesday, 10:00am-12:00pm (4 sessions)

Coordinator: Joe Clonick

Stephen Sondheim is today's sine qua non of composer-lyricists, and has been recognized as such since the 1950's, when he supplied the lyrics to Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story*. At 80, his creativity does not flag.

Sondheim is the author of a semi-confessional autobiography, *Finishing the Hat: Collected Lyrics (1954-1981) with Attendant Comments, Principles, Heresies, Grudges, Whines and Anecdotes* (Alfred A. Knopf hardcover, 2010), a remarkably insightful book on the "how-to" of lyric writing. We will use this text for its many glimpses into the creativity of the Sondheim brain. With some luck, it might encourage a nascent lyric or two from our group members before the session is up.

Our main goal is to display all the facets of successful contemporary lyric writing for the musical theater, synthesized, as they are, in the talents of this gifted man. Though we will listen to selected recordings, our emphasis will be on the lyrics, as they enhance the music—or, occasionally, vice versa – but Stephen Sondheim’s talents are so prodigious that the words alone can easily carry the day.

#3626 Love, Loss, and What I Wore

Wednesday, 1:30pm-3:30pm (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Jean Schwartz, Margo Sorgman

“Clothing is an emotional trigger for every aspect of life.” Delia Ephron

Remember your Brownie uniform? Your interview suit? The little black dress you were wearing when you met your husband? The black dress you wore to your mother’s funeral? The clothes we choose signal who we are and how we want the world to view us. In this study group we will reflect on defining moments of our lives and the clothes that are part of those memories.

For the first session, we will read the charming (and very short) Ilene Beckerman book, *Love, Loss, and What I Wore* (Algonquin Books paperback, 2005). During the second class, we will read together the funny and poignant play *Love, Loss, and What I Wore* (*Love, Loss, and What I Wore – Acting Edition* (Dramatists Play Service, Inc. paperback, 2001) written by sisters Nora and Delia Ephron and which is based on the book. Then, for the last two sessions of our study group, we will share reminiscences of the clothes that shaped our own lives through vignettes, essays or poetry (or any other medium that’s a good fit for you!).

#3627 Science News

Wednesday, 1:30pm-3:30pm (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Dick Whitaker, Warren Ruby

Science News is published by The Society for Science and the Public which promotes the understanding of science and its vital role in human advancement. This biweekly magazine has detailed, highly readable articles on the latest developments in many scientific categories including earth, life, body/brain, atom/cosmos, humans, and molecules. While a subscription to the magazine will be helpful, nearly all recent articles can be downloaded free from www.sciencenews.org. The coordinators will select articles for the first session. Later articles will be selected by the class. Please join us for some lively and intriguing discussions.

Thursday

#3628 Transformation of America 1815-1848 part 2

Thursday, 10:00am-12:00pm (4 sessions)

Coordinator: Joe Hinkel, John Van Vranken

The first half of the 19th century is sometimes overlooked in American History. In this study group we will follow author Daniel Walker Howe in his Pulitzer Prize winning book, *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America 1815-1848* (Oxford University paperback, 2009), as he brings this portion of history to life.

In this session we will focus on the 1840's which involved the development of the railroads, the Mexican War, and the completion of the expansion to include virtually all the continental US.

Participation in the fall session is not a requirement.

#3629 Drawing on Minimalism (5 sessions)

Thursdays, January 26 and February 2, 1:30-3:30pm, Wieboldt Hall

Thursday, February 9, 1:30-3:30pm, Museum of Contemporary Art

Thursday, February 16, 1:30-3:30pm, Art Institute of Chicago

Monday, February 20, 4:00-6:00pm, Lincoln Park (Chicago), address t/b/a

Coordinators: Russ Lyman, Lois Gordon

“Less is more” could easily describe the Minimalist art that flourished in the 1960s and 1970s. Purged of narrative content, reduced to solid color fields, and developing a language of geometric shapes and grids, this art abandoned the expressive bravura of abstract expressionism in favor of a cool purity of form which had a profound effect on art in the decades that followed.

This study group will explore minimalist art by focusing on artists included in two exhibitions we will visit. *The Language of Less: Then and Now* at the Museum of Contemporary Art juxtaposes iconic minimalist art from the 60s and 70s with installations by artists working today who draw on the minimalist tradition. *Contemporary Drawings from the Irving Stenn Jr. Collection* at the Art Institute of Chicago features drawings that provide intimate glimpses of minimalist concepts and processes. As a special bonus, we will have the unique opportunity of visiting Mr. Stenn's Lincoln Park home to speak with him and view his spectacular collection of paintings and sculpture of the period. (The visit to the Stenn home will be limited to study group members who have attended at least one classroom session and the Art Institute session.)

#3630 Readings in American Democracy

Thursday, 1:30pm-3:30pm (4 sessions)

Coordinator: Joe Hinkel, Vera Antoniadis

Many of the most important texts in the history of American democracy are both extraordinary in their scope and remarkably brief in length. In many cases we know of

these works but are less certain of what precisely is covered in the document. In this class we will use the Great Books Foundation text, *Will of the People: Readings in American Democracy* (Great Books Foundation paperback, 2001). This 70-page booklet contains such important writings as the Declaration of Independence, the Gettysburg Address, and King's Letter from Birmingham Jail. We will read and discuss the impact of these important documents.

The Will of the People: Readings in Democracy is available from the Great Books Foundation (800-222.5870 or <http://www.greatbooks.org/store/>).

#3622 Tuesdays and Thursdays with Alice Munro

Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30pm-3:30pm (4 sessions January 24, 26, 31 & February 2)

Coordinators: Verna Reddington, Ann Ahtelius

Alice Munro is one of the most beloved and admired writers---and winner of the 2009 Man Booker International Prize. We will read and discuss stories from Munro's book *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage: Stories* (Vintage paperback, 2002). The stories we will read this session include the title story, *Family Furnishings*, *Post and Beam*, and *The Bear Came Over the Mountain*. As a departure from asking volunteers to lead discussions, study group participants will contribute one question each week for discussion.

#3631 Washington Week

Thursday, 1:30pm-3:30pm (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Judy Widen, Carolyn Adams, Donald Moel, Joe Simchak

Political news from our nation's capital is the focus of this lively current affairs study group. We will continue to monitor all three branches of the federal government, focusing on the most critical news stories of the week. In this presidential election year of 2012, we will pay particular attention to the state primaries, as the Republican Party enters the final stage of selecting a candidate to oppose President Obama in the Fall.

In addition to the presidential arena, we will also be following key Senate and House races, while we also stay tuned to major decisions expected to come from the Supreme Court. And, we will continue to focus on the financial health of the nation's economy. As background for the financial facet of our weekly discussions, we will draw from Michael Lewis's new book, *Boomerang: Travels in the New Third World* (W.W. Norton, hardback, 2011).

Our discussions will integrate the latest news from periodicals, blogs, and newspapers. Because of the up-to-the minute nature of the discussions, access to and ability to locate information on the Internet is extremely important for full participation in the group.

Friday

#3632 Diaries and Letters: Valuing Our Personal Histories and Emotional Support – Bonus Group

Friday, February 10th, 10–11:30am (1 session)

Workshop Presenter: Cornelia Maude Spelman

Diaries and letters are a valuable repository of women's and girl's voices that speak to us through time, bringing vivid portraits of our histories. They are also an important emotional support and outlet, offering a "listening ear" to women and girls especially during times of stress, loneliness, and separation from friends and family. Cornelia will read excerpts from some diaries and letters of women and girls, and provide a reading list of books. Participants are invited to bring a paragraph from their own diaries or letters or from those of their women relatives. A companion workshop, *Exploring our Emotional Legacies*, will be offered Friday, February 3, 2012, on the Evanston campus. See Evanston winter offerings for more details.

Cornelia Maude Spelman (www.corneliaspelman.com) is a former clinical social worker and author of a memoir, *MISSING* (Northwestern University Press), about her mother's life and the emotional legacies in her family, ten picture books for young children which help their emotional development, and 146 volumes of diaries which are being archived at Radcliffe's Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America (www.radcliffe.edu/schlesinger_library.aspx). She has presented workshops on diary writing and emotional legacies at national women's studies and mental health conferences, book clubs, writers' conferences, the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum in Washington, D.C, and the Plymouth Antiquarian Society. A mother and grandmother, she lives in Evanston with her husband, Reginald Gibbons, a faculty member of Northwestern University.

Saturday

#3633 A Study in Fiction: The Short Story, Line by Line – Bonus Group **Saturday, 1-3 pm (4 sessions, beginning January 28)**

Workshop Leader: Whitney Youngs

This course is a creative writing class in which students will learn to deeply analyze the craft of writing fiction through a comprehensive study of various short stories. Students will have the option to submit a short imitation piece (no more than 3 pages, double spaced) at the end of the session. The submission will attempt to imitate a writing device or some aspect of style used by one of the authors studied in class. The reading assignments will comprise short stories by both contemporary authors (Charles D'Ambrosio) and canonized authors (James Joyce).

Whitney Youngs is currently pursuing her MFA in fiction at Northwestern University. She expects to graduate in 2013. Some of her most recent articles (a book review and an author interview) have appeared in TriQuarterly Online. Whitney has a background in print journalism and graduated from UCLA with a B.A. in Sociology. She is currently working on a novel for her MFA thesis.

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Winter 2012 Intersession
January 23 - February 17, 2012

Study Group Descriptions
Evanston Campus

Monday

#3602 *The New Yorker*

Monday, 9:30-11:30am, 1840 Oak Ave. (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Hillis Howie, Jr., 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. 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 available at the student rate from the publisher.

#3603 George Bernard Shaw and His Wonderful Women:

Eliza and Cleopatra

Monday, 1-3 pm, 1840 Oak Ave. (4 sessions)

Coordinator: Sue Altman, Neal Mancoff, Art Altman

We will celebrate George Bernard Shaw’s larger than life women, Eliza and Cleopatra, in the plays *Pygmalion* and *Caesar and Cleopatra*. Plays that live, breathe, and inspire every generation. We’ll read whole acts aloud in class, so if you love drama, history, and acting please join us. The plays are easily available in bookstores and libraries, and the parts that we will read aloud will be photocopied for you.

#3604 Russian Music and Ballet

Monday, 1-3pm, 1840 Oak Ave. (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Barbara Peterson, Laura Ann Wilber

Russian classical music and dance have a rich heritage. Although we can only have a taste of this heritage in a short series, we hope to make this course both entertaining and enlightening. Presentations will be mostly by video, and participation will be by discussion. Sessions will include: Tony Palmer’s film about Rachmaninoff; opera at the Bolshoi, recently reopened after major reconstruction; Russian choral music, both church and folk; Russian Ballet, history and sample performances; and Tony Palmer’s film on either Stravinsky or Shostakovich, as the study group votes.

Tuesday

#3605 A Day at the Opera

Tuesday, 1-3pm, 1840 Oak Ave. (2 sessions, January 24 and January 31)

Coordinators: Neil Adelman, Charles Lange

Modern American musical theater began on December 27, 1927, the opening night of *Show Boat*. We will explore this amazing collaboration of composer Jerome Kern, librettist Oscar Hammerstein II, and novelist Edna Ferber in anticipation of Lyric Opera of Chicago's performances of *Show Boat* in February and March, 2012. At our first session an experienced Lyric Opera Education Corps lecturer will enlighten us complete with musical excerpts. Our second session will feature a viewing of the 1936 film starring Irene Dunne and with Paul Robeson singing *Ol' Man River*. This film is considered far superior to the 1951 Technicolor version. Please join us for *Ol' Man River*, *Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man*, *Make Believe*, *Bill*, *Why Do I Love You* and much more.

Wednesday

#3606 Creative Writing Workshop

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am, 1840 Oak Ave. (4 sessions)

Coordinator: Jo Stewart

This motivating workshop is for those who want to practice and improve their creative writing skills. Participants will present their work to the group for response, encouragement, critique, and suggestions. The winter session is a perfect time for continuing workshop participants to keep their skills up and for newcomers to try us out. You may decide to participate for a whole semester after getting a four-week taste. All forms of writing are invited: poetry, essays, fiction, and the many forms of non-fiction.

#3607 Seeing Your Work in a New Light through Re-vision –

Bonus Group

Wednesday, 11:30-1:00pm 1840 Oak Ave. (5 sessions beginning January 25)

Workshop Leader: Jen Lawrence

Good stories draw us in as readers. We have this feeling of being “hooked,” like we are helpless except to continue reading. We want to find out what happens next. We want to continue to experience the connection we feel with the characters. We want to plumb the depths of the questions the author has posed. It is possible to experience this feeling as writers too. Magic happens when we first imagine the story, and there is something exhilarating about getting it put down on paper for the first time.

And then there's revision. Sometimes the path from inspiration to completion can seem like a slog through muddy woods on a dark night—uncertain and potentially dangerous. It can be difficult to find the thread we once saw so clearly. We don't want to lose all

those precious words that came to us in a fit of inspiration!

In this class, we will take that slog together and we'll try to shine some light on it by talking intentionally about revision. I invite each of you to bring to our first class a piece of writing that seems important to your work (13 copies). During the class, you will be revising that piece of writing. In order to keep the reading load manageable, please choose a short story, brief article, or novel chapter—no more than 30 pages.

Jen Lawrence is pursuing her MFA in fiction writing through the School of Continuing Studies at Northwestern University. She has taught courses in composition, public speaking, and grant writing at Miami of Ohio, The University of Iowa, Indiana University, Oakton Community College, and North Park University. Jen works in the Office of Alumni Relations and Development at Northwestern and is a volunteer reader for Northwestern's literary journal *TriQuarterly*. This workshop is presented in collaboration with the School of Continuing Studies' Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program.

#3608 *The Fixer, Not the Fiddler*

Wednesday, 1-3pm, 1840 Oak Ave. (4 sessions)

Coordinator: Wini Engerman, Barbara Ghoshal

The Fixer by Bernard Malamud is inspired by the true story of the notorious Beilis case in Tsarist Russia in 1911. Mendel Beilis, a Jewish laborer, was arrested on trumped-up charges of ritual murder of a Christian boy whose corpse was found in a cave nearby the factory in which Beilis worked. The so-called Blood libel is an anti-Semitic fabrication that Jews use Christian blood in preparing matzo for Passover. *The Fixer* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux paperback, 2004) won both the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the National Book Award in 1967.

The novel's central figure is Yakov Bok, a handyman or "fixer," who, like Beilis, endures great suffering after he is arrested. Adrift and alienated, Bok is bewildered when he is dragged into history. As events ensnare him, he struggles with issues that affect every thinking human being. Malamud's intense style will make you experience Yakov's moral ordeal as if it were your own.

This class will require reading about 60 pages of the novel for each session and some supplementary handouts that will be provided. Members will be encouraged to lead discussions.

Thursday

#3609 Old Movie Morning

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am, 1840 Oak Ave. (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Barbara Peterson, Phyllis Anderson

Nine films will be offered to members of this study group, and four will be chosen by a group vote to provide the content for this light-hearted winter group. These classic films are all "feel good" stories, most with happy endings. No psycho-babble, no grumpy

omens, and no feel-bad plots: it's all for relaxation and enjoyment. Following is a tentative list of the nine films, from which the final four will be chosen: *My Fair Lady*, *Casablanca*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Philadelphia Story*, *Shall We Dance*, *Adam's Rib*, *Field of Dreams*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *Wizard of Oz*.

#3610 Boomerang: Travels in the New Third World

Thursday, 1-3pm, 1840 Oak Ave. (5 sessions beginning January 26)

Coordinators: Dick Whitaker, Barbara Ghoshal

Michael Lewis, author of *The Big Short* and *Liar's Poker*, has just written another best-seller about the economy, *Boomerang: Travels in the New Third World* (W. W. Norton & Company hardcover, 2011), which, according to a recent *New York Times* review, "could not be more timely," and is "not only comprehensible but also fascinating -- even, or especially, to readers who rarely open the business pages or watch CNBC."

In *Boomerang*, Lewis chronicles how the financial crisis of recent years has played out in five countries: Iceland, Greece, Ireland, Germany, and the United States. The human folly underlying many economic decisions is portrayed by the author as both amusing and tragic. We'll cover the book, which is based on articles in *Vanity Fair* magazine in five sessions, reading about forty pages a week. Join this study group if you're interested in better understanding what lies behind today's headlines about Europe's debt crisis and the risk this poses for our global economy.

Friday

#3611 Making Sense Out Of the News

Friday, 9:30-11:30am, 405 Church St. Room #104 (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Ronald Epstein, Joel Weiss

Do you want to delve more deeply into the events currently making the news? Then this is the study-group for you! Each week, the co-coordinators will present a list of topics to be discussed. They will, from time to time during the week preceding each meeting, e-mail copies of newspaper, magazine or other brief articles on the chosen topics to study-group members. All members will thus be prepared to express their views, hear others' knowledge, and enjoy our discussion of the articles' topics. It is anticipated that there will also be time for members to raise for discussion current issues not included among the pre-selected topics. There is no restriction on the nature of the items we shall discuss. Presidential politics, developments in medicine, a new biography of an important person and everything else that is topical and will enhance one's knowledge is eligible for discussion. In a "round-table" format, the co-coordinators will call upon a member to speak when one indicates an interest in speaking. Come to learn, listen, enjoy!

#3612 Exploring Our Emotional Legacies –Bonus Group

Friday, February 3, 10-11:30am, 1840 Oak Ave. (1 session)

Workshop Presenter: Cornelia Maude Spelman

The stories that were most critical in the formation of one's mother are often the very ones that she has not talked about. There are also, in many families, secrets. Both kinds of stories invite us, if we wish to understand the present, to become detectives of the past. This workshop will help you think about your own emotional legacies and your important family stories. You are invited to bring an object passed down to you from your family and to share a few words about it. A companion workshop, *Dairies and Letters: Valuing our Personal Histories and Emotional Support*, will be offered Friday, February 10, 2012, on the Chicago campus. See Chicago winter offerings for more details on this bonus group.

Cornelia Maude Spelman (www.corneliaspelman.com) is a former clinical social worker and author of a memoir, *MISSING* (Northwestern University Press), about her mother's life and the emotional legacies in her family, ten picture books for young children which help their emotional development, and 146 volumes of diaries which are being archived at Radcliffe's Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America (www.radcliffe.edu/schlesinger_library.aspx). She has presented workshops on diary writing and emotional legacies at national women's studies and mental health conferences, book clubs, writers' conferences, the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum in Washington, D.C, and the Plymouth Antiquarian Society. A mother and grandmother, she lives in Evanston with her husband, Reginald Gibbons, a faculty member of Northwestern University.

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