

Shared Learning Association  
Catalog for the Fall 2022 Term—September 12 to December 15  
September 2 is the deadline to register for courses  
and Shared Learning membership.

[www.sharedlearning.us](http://www.sharedlearning.us)

### Overview

Shared Learning is an unaffiliated, non-profit educational association for adults who consider themselves to be **life-long learners**. Since 1979, we have offered non-credit courses during Fall, Winter and Spring semesters. Courses are led by volunteer member moderators, **eager to connect, engage, share and learn with others about topics of mutual interest**. With a \$70 annual membership, Shared Learning members enrolling now for fall classes can take an unlimited number of courses per term. A separate enrollment period will be offered prior to the winter term; to become a member at that time and enroll only in winter term courses, the fee per person will be \$40. Enrollment in our Spring mini-term courses (May and June) is offered free of charge to **the public at large**. Weekly classes are held either **on-site** in classrooms of our host, the Church of Reconciliation (110 North Elliott Road, Chapel Hill), or **via Zoom**.

### Our Fall 2022 COVID Policy

All Moderators and class members who attend **on-site** classes or events must be fully vaccinated and have at least one booster. We encourage all members to wear masks, in accordance with the current *CDC Guidelines*: <https://www.cdc.gov/>. People who have tested positive for COVID should consult the *CDC Guidelines* and consider the health of their classmates before returning to class.

### Enrollment

This year, you have two registration and payment options: **1)** print and fill-in the two-page form at the end of this catalog and mail it with your check for yourself or totaled as a couple, payable to **Shared Learning Association**, to the Shared Learning Registrar: Doug Shier, 182 Fearington Post, Pittsboro, NC 27312, **OR 2)** Complete the online form [HERE](#) and pay with a credit card. The online form allows one person to register and pay by credit card at a time. An advantage of the online registration option is that it provides immediate feedback that your course selections have been recorded and payment has been received successfully. If you have questions about a course, email [moderators@sharedlearning.us](mailto:moderators@sharedlearning.us). Be sure to write the moderator's name in the subject line and your name, email address, and question in the text area. To receive a paper copy of this catalog, please send an email to [welcome@sharedlearning.us](mailto:welcome@sharedlearning.us).

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Mondays, 9:15 – 10:45 a.m.	Mondays, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
<b>Views on the News</b> (Zoom) Doug Shier	<b>Climate Change: What Does the Latest Science Tell Us?</b> (Zoom) Frank Pricciotta & Rob Fowler
<b>The Brain—A Wondrous Machine, Part 1</b> (Zoom) Barry Lentz	<b>Controversies: More Humane Wars and Their Negative Effects</b> (Zoom) Meyer Liberman
<b>The Irish Identity: A Cultural History</b> (Zoom) Greg Hesterberg	<b>Creative Problem-Solving</b> (Zoom) Jeanne Hillson

Tuesdays, 9:15 – 10:45 a.m.	Tuesdays, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
<b>Medical School for Everyone: Grand Rounds Cases</b> (Zoom) Michael Goodyear	<b>Another Classic Read: Tristram Shandy by Laurence Sterne</b> (On-site) Nancy Goudreau
<b>A Critical Examination of Judaism</b> (Zoom. Starts September 27) Rabbi Jonathan H. Gerard	<b>This Week's Most Provocative Essays &amp; Columns</b> (Weekly alternating On-site and Zoom) Hank Becker
<b>Power Over People</b> (Zoom) Joe Swain, Jack Narayan & Raghu Ballal	<b>World War II in the Pacific Theater</b> (Zoom) Steve Bravy
<b>Tuesdays, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. (once a month) →</b>	<b>Craving Chances for Deeper Thinking, Personal Psychology-Wise</b> (On-site Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 13) Nancy Goudreau

Wednesdays, 9:15 – 10:45 a.m.	Wednesdays, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
<b>Reading &amp; Discussing Great Short Stories</b> (Zoom) Marcy Sacarakis	<b>Learn Secrets of Great Mysteries and Suspense Fiction Part 1</b> (On-site) Anne-Marie Durand-Kennett
<b>Sharing Written Personal History</b> (On-site and Zoom; hybrid) Mary Freedman	<b>Spanish Conversations</b> (Zoom) Valerija Momirova & Sydnie Kunin
<b>What's Wrong?</b> (Zoom) Larry Mason	<b>Transform your Appreciation of Opera, Part I</b> (Zoom) Peggy Stevermer

Thursdays, 9:15 – 10:45 a.m.	Thursdays, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
<b>Shared Learning Photography Seminar</b> (Zoom; every other Thursday starting Sept 15) Glenn Wrighton	<b>How a Vengeful Satan Lost Us Paradise</b> (On-site) Rosemary Monroe & Nancy Goudreau
<b>Great Minds of the Western Intellectual Tradition, Part 1</b> (Zoom) Bisharah Libbus	<b>Comparative Film Analysis</b> (On-site; runs until 1:30 p.m.) Dan Brenner
	<b>Death, Dying and the Afterlife in World Cultures, Part 1</b> (On-site) Maria Salgado
	<b>Making History: How Historians Interpret the Past</b> (Zoom) Bisharah Libbus

Fridays, 9:15 – 10:45 a.m.	Fridays, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
<b>First Friday Shared Learning Book Club, Part 1</b> (Zoom; once a month Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2) Terry Lucas	<b>Art Meets Literature, Part 1</b> (Zoom) Bonnie Sullivan
<b>Deutsche Konversation Gruppe</b> (Zoom) Andrew O'Brien	

**Mondays, 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

**VIEWS ON THE NEWS (ZOOM).**

Moderator: **Doug Shier**. Our open round table format allows for the respectful discussion of events at the worldwide, national, state and local levels. During each meeting, volunteers present current topics for the exchange of ideas, in order for us to share and learn. The conversations and information exchanges are respectfully managed by Doug, using pre-established general operation guidelines to ensure that meeting etiquette and decorum are followed. **NOTES:** \*Class is limited to 20 members. \*New students are welcome.

**THE BRAIN—A WONDROUS MACHINE, Part 1 (ZOOM).**

Moderator: **Barry Lentz**. We will examine the workings of the HUMAN BRAIN and the high-speed electrical communication system it manages. This system controls and coordinates the actions of the human body. Neurobiology is a complex and rapidly evolving field, so the lectures from two *Great Courses* to be shared during the Fall semester (*Understanding the Brain* by Jeanette Nordin, circa 2007 and *Biology and Human Behavior* by Robert Sapolsky, circa 2012) can serve only as primers on the basic biochemical, anatomical, physiological and psychological features of this system. In the Spring semester, we will use this basic knowledge to take on a series of undergraduate lectures by MIT professor Nancy Kanwisher (*The Human Brain*, 2019) that go into more recent information and controversies. As always, discussions and additional information brought forward by the participants will be welcomed as important course components.

**THE IRISH IDENTITY 🍀: A CULTURAL HISTORY (ZOOM).**

Moderator: **R. Greg Hesterberg**. Few small countries have had a greater and outsized impact on history and on other nations than Ireland. This especially goes for our own country, the USA 🇺🇸. Why? In this offering, based on two *Great Courses* series, we look to answer that question, as well as gain insight into the Irish experience through its people, its land, and its culture. We will carefully examine Ireland’s literature, arts, theater, dance, food and drink, and her many great traditions which are world renowned (one great unique Irish tradition now celebrated the world over is “Halloween”) all to ascertain why. What are your takeaways by enrolling in this course? In participating you will gain a deeper insight that will help you better understand not just Ireland 🇮🇪 herself but a key facet that comprises a large part of our own nation, the USA 🇺🇸. This course is also composed in part of a video travelogue of Ireland where you will have the opportunity to see and experience first-hand her “terrible beauty,” as writer Leon Uris described Ireland. Class is by Zoom only and in this moderator’s style...lots of laughs and comedy will ensue as well as some other fun planned activities. Yes, the Irish can be very funny! Writer Nora Roberts wrote, “Ireland is a land of poets and legends, of dreamers and rebels,” and Ireland 🇮🇪 is uniquely that. I hope you will come join me. **NOTE:** Class limited to 40.

**Mondays, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.**

**CLIMATE CHANGE: WHAT DOES THE LATEST SCIENCE TELL US? (ZOOM).**

Moderators: **Frank Princiotta**, recently retired Air Pollution Prevention & Control Division Dir., USEPA, and **Rob Fowler**, recently retired from RENCI at UNC-CH. They will lead discussions on recent climate change scientific findings with a focus on three recently published, Intergovernmental reports from the Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which include: quantifying the drastic actions necessary to meet international warming targets and projections of climate impacts as a function of warming. Before each meeting, videos, and other material relevant to the next class’s subject matter will be sent to classmates to facilitate discussion. Two key questions to be addressed during this course: \*Is the mitigation challenge too great and the likely global response too weak to avoid catastrophic impacts? \*What is the extent to which humanity is already facing the dire consequences of climate change?

**CONTROVERSIES: MORE HUMANE WARS AND THEIR NEGATIVE EFFECTS (ZOOM).**

Moderator: **Meyer Liberman**. This is a seminar-type, discussion-oriented course, based on the careful reading of chapters in our selected book: *Humane* by Samuel Moyn, published in Sept. 2021. Moyn’s thesis is: What if efforts to make war more ethical—to ban torture and limit civilian casualties—have only shored up the military enterprise and made it sturdier? To advance this case, Moyn looks back at a century and a half of passionate arguments about the ethics of using force. As American wars have become more humane, they have also become endless. This provocative book argues that this development might not at all represent progress. Participants will be encouraged to present and lead at least one week’s reading selection. **NOTES:** \*Class size is limited to 15 members, in order to promote discussion and thought. \*Prior members who have registered and attended former sessions will have a priority registration period through August 19

**CREATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING (ZOOM).**

Moderator: **Jeanne Hillson**. In this course, we’ll explore and practice the mindset and tools of deliberate creativity, that is, the ability to think more flexibly and imaginatively when faced with a challenge—be it planning a strategy, resolving a conflict, generating options or maneuvering through a change. We will use a combination of lectures from *Great Courses* Creative Thinker’s Toolkit and occasional material from the moderator’s creativity training and coaching practice. You can expect to: \*learn about different styles of creativity, \*energize your imagination, and \*practice the various stages of creative problem-solving via work on hypothetical and actual challenges of your own. Most of our meetings will combine lecture, discussion, and activities, with an invitation to apply your learning between sessions. Our creative thinking skills will build from week to week, along with our sense of community—so please plan to attend every session. **NOTES:** \*You’ll never be required to share a personal challenge, but will benefit from hearing different perspectives on what you present. \*Class size is limited to 12.

**Tuesdays, 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

**MEDICAL SCHOOL FOR EVERYONE: GRAND ROUNDS CASES (ZOOM)**

Moderator: **Mike Goodyear**. Medical students learn to correlate textbook descriptions with real, live patients by: \*accompanying experienced doctors; \*watching and listening as the doctors talk with the patients about symptoms; \*asking questions when appropriate; and \*then examining the patient and possibly ordering appropriate lab tests to clarify their impressions and help to differentiate between similar-appearing medical conditions. This *Great Course* was designed by lecturer/physician Dr. Roy Benaroch to simulate the experience for watchers who don't have: \*extensive exposure to medical textbooks, \*descriptions of selected patients' symptoms, and \*descriptions about what doctors think in differentiating between different diseases that might cause those symptoms. Therefore, participating in the course will enhance our knowledge of how our bodies work, both in health and in disease and offer insight into how doctors think and how we can better communicate with them. Mike will show two 30-minute lectures per class with discussions about what we have observed and heard.

**A CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF JUDAISM (ZOOM).**

Moderators: **Rabbi Jonathan H. Gerard**. The Jewish "religion" is often compared, erroneously, with Christianity. This course will present and discuss a comprehensive dive into the scaffolding and construction that established modern Judaism and that sets it both apart from, and proximate to, modern Christianity and Islam. Jonathan will show one or two lectures per meeting from *Great Course* lectures, and he will supplement with textual readings in order to prompt discussion and further analysis.

**NOTE: The first class meeting is Sept. 27.**

**POWER OVER PEOPLE (ZOOM)**

Co-Moderators: **Joe Swain, Jack Narayan & Raghu Ballal**. All societies have had to determine how much power rulers should have over the people. What should be the basis of legitimate government? What limits should there be on authorities? What obligations and rights should the people have within society? In Western thought, these questions have been considered since antiquity—with still much to debate. This course will analyze the *Great Courses* lectures by Dr. Dennis Dalton, Barnard College/Columbia. He poses three broad questions: \*what are the characteristics of human nature and a good society? \*What is the proper relationship between individuals and the state? \*What are the dynamics and limits of change in society? Dr. Dalton examines the thinking of thinkers from Socrates to Gandhi, as they wrestled with these issues. The moderators will broaden the scope of the content by considering approaches taken by non-Western cultures. For instance, Rabindranath Tagore says that, "Those who seek liberty in a purely political plane, constantly curtail it and reduce their freedom of thought and action to the narrow limit which is making political power secure, very often at the cost of liberty of consciousness." Joe, Jack, and Raghu will show one lecture per session, supplemented by discussion, readings and videos, as appropriate, and encourage member participation, questions and civil debate. Before each class, members will receive the PDF lecture summary so that they can see the goals and objectives of each lecture.

**Tuesdays, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.**

**ANOTHER CLASSIC READ: TRISTRAM SHANDY BY LAURENCE STERNE (ON-SITE).**

Moderator: **Nancy Goudreau**. Last winter's 'classic read' members felt they needed an amusing classic to immerse into this fall. So, *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy* (published in London in installments, 1759-1767) by Anglo-Irish cleric Laurence Sterne, won a majority vote. In his late life, Sterne (who died in 1768) took years to write a not-so-subtle critique of his contemporary English society—using numerous diversions and interruptions that subverted a standard plot line and conclusion, while dissecting human folly in a comedic, bawdy, witty manner. With the expectation of sharing many shocks and laughs, we will review 50+ pages per week of this innovative, 'stream-of-consciousness' novel, with 'progressive digressions' and erratic narrations by Tristram. Our copy of *Tristram Shandy*, 500+ pages, is a Penguin Classic publication, 2003, about \$13 for a new version, or a Modern Library Classic, 2004, at \$18 new; both are available at Flyleaf Books, Chapel Hill. **NOTES:** \*Class is limited to the first 15 to enroll. \*Shared Learning members, new to a 'SL classic read' course, are welcome.

**THIS WEEK'S MOST PROVOCATIVE ESSAYS & COLUMNS**

(ON-SITE AND ZOOM alternating each week).

Moderator: **Hank Becker**. Each week we will discuss 5 or 6 recent articles germane to current public policy issues. All are recent articles (emailed newsletters or published columns) written by outstanding journalists, social scientists, and philosophers. PDF files of those articles will be posted on the course website several days prior to class, and class members are expected to have read at least some of them. To get a better sense of the content, Shared Learning members during 2021-22 are welcome to view the website from last Winter's parallel course: <https://sharedlearning.us/provocative>. Sources will include NY Times op-ed writers and analysts such as David Brooks and Ezra Klein; essay writers on [substack.com](http://substack.com) such as Matthew Yglesias, Yascha Mounk, and Bari Weiss; and many others.

**NOTE: Classes will alternate in format:** one week in-person, the next meeting via Zoom. People can enroll in the course and feel free to attend in one venue or both, however they like.

**WORLD WAR II IN THE PACIFIC THEATER (ZOOM).**

Moderator: **Steve Bravy**. The course will revolve around the *Great Courses*' "World War II, Pacific Theater," with additional content added by the moderator and by the class during weekly discussions. The course will cover several Pacific Theater conflicts, including historical background, decisions made and their constraints. Participants are not assumed to know much about World War II. The Pacific War was a whirlpool, resulting from the confluence of the currents of nationalism, independence, and anti-colonialism against Western colonization that existed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. We cannot ignore the historical context. These forces are still at work, and, although the Pacific war began the end Far-East colonization by western powers and triggered Japan's current extreme pacifism, both of these still contribute to the current state of tension in the China-Taiwan stalemate. Steve will show one or two lectures per meeting.

**Once a month, Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, and Dec. 13)**

**CRAVING CHANCES FOR DEEPER THINKING, PERSONAL PSYCHOLOGY-WISE** (ON-SITE with bag lunch)

Leader: **Nancy Goudreau**. More a gathering than a course, this once a month informal get-together will provide us with an opportunity to expand and appreciate the empowerment that comes from attempting a deeper consideration of our personal psychology, even at our ‘mature’ age. During and after a bag lunch, join us in probing the ‘opening’ and ‘locking’ of our minds, physically felt, to attitude and comprehension shifts—‘opening’ in response to our craving for deeper insights into how and why we traditionally reason and feel—‘locking’ in response to a denial or fear of abandoning our long-established thinking. We’ll share experiences that demonstrate the proposed theme. Nancy will initiate our first theme on Tuesday, Sept. 20: “when did it dawn on me that I had made a mistake of trust (in medical staff)? What was it costing me to live with that mistake?” Participants will propose other themes for each monthly meetings, stemming from their personal examples of ‘craving a chance for deeper thinking.’ Nancy’s D.C. area consulting career was focused on creating ‘learner-centered’ instructional models in federal agencies and community colleges that nurtured an openness and eagerness by adult students to learn new insights and skills. **NOTE:** Enrollment is limited to the first 15 to register.

**Wednesdays, 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

**READING AND DISCUSSING GREAT SHORT STORIES** (ZOOM)

Moderator: **Marcy Sacarakis**. Class members will discuss one story each week from *The Best American Short Stories 2020* edited by Curtis Sittenfeld, which is available for purchase from local bookstores or Amazon. We will participate in in-depth discussions about the author, the writing style, the plot, the characters and how they are developed, the themes, and the story’s relevance to us. Members of the class will take turns leading the discussion. Each class ends with a poetry reading chosen by a class member. **NOTES:** \*Class size is limited to 15. \*New participants are welcome.

**SHARING WRITTEN PERSONAL HISTORY** (ON-SITE and ZOOM)

Moderator: **Mary Freedman**. Only we can document our personal experiences, reactions and perceptions during dynamic times. We will support each other’s individual efforts to record in writing what we have lived through and encourage and aid our developing sense of accomplishments. All will: \*write beforehand about episodes and decisions made in our lives; \*read aloud our writing; \*give attention to the readers; and \*appreciate the telling of the experiences and/or insights. Also, we will be able to share illustrations and photos online. **NOTES:** \*Class is limited to 20 participants. \*Students new to this course are welcome.

**WHAT’S WRONG?** (ZOOM)

Moderator: **Larry Mason**. Everybody has problems: individuals, organizations, humanity. From his broad experiences in diverse work arenas, Larry believes that human problems can be grouped into three broad categories: 1) Mother nature-sourced problems, such as, earthquakes, weather, and pandemics; 2) Accidents of various kinds; 3) Human beings doing harm to others. He has devised and refined his own approach to better understanding problems that involve human interaction that he will share with Shared Learning members with a goal of increasing their problem-solving abilities. For problems of type 1, we will consider why the typical response of people is far less than optimal in preventing harm and minimizing suffering. For type 2 problems, we will analyze the reasons why they occur and why the typical response to these problems is usually less than optimal, making a bad situation worse. For type 3 problems, we will examine motivation, means, and opportunities to do harm to others. The analyses are based on SIX FACTS that can be used to better understand all kinds of problems that involve human interaction. Each class session will address several problems, suggested by class members, and we will use the six facts to analyze, explore, and perhaps, in some cases, even solve the problems. Class participation and discussion will be encouraged.

**Wednesdays, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.**

**LEARN SECRETS OF GREAT MYSTERY & SUSPENSE FICTION, Part 1** (ON-SITE).

Moderator: **Anne-Marie Durand-Kennett**. This course will provide avid readers of mysteries/suspense and those new to the genre a rich understanding of how authors have plotted and developed their books. Showing two lectures per meeting from a *Great Courses* series, Anne-Marie will use them to determine themes for our class discussions, such as: \*distinguishing writing styles of classic to contemporary authors; \*comparing their typical plot and subplot elements; \*establishing an author’s usual characteristics for villains and crime solvers; \*noting plot devices that have been adopted from British novels. Some authors to be considered include: Conan Doyle, Raymond Chandler, Agatha Christie, Megan Abbott, Georges Simenon and Leonardo Padura Fuentes. **NOTE:** Depending on interest, this course may continue into the 2023 Winter term.

**SPANISH CONVERSATIONS** (ZOOM)

Co-Moderators: **Valerija Momirova and Sydnie Kunin**. This course presents an opportunity to improve your spoken Spanish. It is aimed at speakers with “advanced beginning” and “intermediate-level” skills. We are a friendly group of people at varying levels of fluency. We talk in Spanish about anything we want, such as, current events, books, movies and visited places. Sometimes a member will distribute a Spanish article in advance for our review at the next meeting. **NOTES:** \*Limited to 10 people, with preference given to returning class members. \*New students are welcome.

**TRANSFORM YOUR APPRECIATION OF OPERA, Part 1** (ZOOM).

Moderator: **Peggy Stevermer**. Opera is the fastest growing art form in the modern world. If you have never ventured into its realm, this is your chance. The course is planned for two Shared Learning semesters, fall, 2022, through winter, 2023 (with no requirement to take both). Peggy’s goal is to enhance appreciation of opera for both those who love the genre and, hopefully, some who know nothing about opera and come to the course curious and/or a bit skeptical. Her focus will be for us to discover how opera has been transformed over centuries and how it has transformed audiences, as well as its creators. She’ll share video lectures and Power Point, and we’ll watch and discuss sections of particular operas. We’ll examine opera from the 17th century through the 2021st, beginning with the first Opera masterpiece, *L’orfea*, written in 1607 by Monteverdi through Mozart’s Opera Buffa masterpiece, *Don Giovanni*, which has puzzled writers and philosophers throughout the centuries, and we’ll end up in the 21st century with the critically acclaimed *Fire Shut Up in my Bones* by Terence Blanchard. In studying the various operas, we will discuss why and how they were important in the development of both opera and music and learn about the composers, the librettists, the directors, and the singers, as well as opera itself.

**Thursdays, 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

**SHARED LEARNING PHOTOGRAPHY SEMINAR**

(ZOOM)

Moderator: **Glenn Wrighton**. Novice and expert photographers will meet to explore photographic topics, selected by the group, as well as photos taken by participants. Topic areas may include: photo editing, tips for taking photos, digital camera technology, and photo sharing—explored with lecture, videos, discussion and live demonstration as appropriate. **NOTES: \*Meets EVERY OTHER THURSDAY**, beginning September 15. \*Students new to this course are welcome.

**GREAT MINDS OF THE WESTERN INTELLECTUAL TRADITION, Part 1**

(ZOOM)

Moderator: **Bisharah Libbus**. Have you ever yearned to gain an overall understanding of the sweep of Western philosophy? We will use a series of lectures from *Great Courses*, taught by a team of professors, to take a panoramic view along with a close examination of the central concepts of Western philosophy. The course is divided into eight sections, dealing with Classical origins, the Christian Age, the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, the Age of Ideology, and Modernity and Analysis and the Modernity Crisis. While these terms may not be familiar to you, this course will help give you a good understanding of how the thinking of different ages evolved to form the major philosophical ideas and tenets of Western philosophy. Key philosophical doctrines are explained in their historical contexts, and the relations between them will be analyzed. Eighty-four lectures will be presented over two semesters. In the Fall, we will cover Classical and Christian Ages and some of the Renaissance. Two lectures will be shown in each class. We will adjust our pace, according to participants' wishes, allowing time for discussion.

**Thursdays, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.**

**HOW A VENGEFUL SATAN LOST US PARADISE (ON-SITE).**

Co-Moderators: **Rosemary Munroe** and **Nancy Goudreau**. We will experience a poetic drama that depicts, in 400 pages, how a virile Satan lost a Paradise for himself, his fallen angelic comrades, and Adam and Eve, our first parents. Published in 1674, the blind John Milton dictated **Paradise Lost** in vivid blank verse, in order to meditate on both the power and source of evil and divinity and the struggle between free will and fate. Right from the start, Satan is the vindictive lead character who, from the depths of 'Pandaemonium,' grimly confirms that, "Here we may reign secure, and in my choice, to reign is worth ambition, though in Hell; Better to reign in Hell, than serve in Heav'n..." Other charismatic characters include: Satan's first lieutenant, Beelzebub; golden boy Archangels Michael and Gabriel; and the two innocents, Adam and Eve, with their God-given free wills. Each week, we will read aloud poetic stanzas at a slow, humane pace and, during frequent discussions, share our interpretations and appreciation. Our text: **Paradise Lost**, by John Milton—editors: William Kerrigan, John Rumrich and Stephen M. Fallon, Modern Library, 2008.

**COMPARATIVE FILM ANALYSIS (ON-SITE).**

Moderator: **Dan Brenner**. One way to enjoy a good film is to compare it to other films. This would include characters, directing styles, cinematography, acting, themes, plot development and so much more. This semester, we will view 14 films of different genres and by different directors. Three to four films will be grouped together around a common theme, viewed sequentially in their entirety. Upon a film's conclusion, we will spend 15 to 20 minutes critiquing it and comparing it to others. These 14 films will run the gamut from Hollywood classics to independent films and even foreign films—to be presented with closed captions. **NOTES:** \*This class will run until 1:30 p.m. to accommodate the longer running films and the discussion. \*Class is limited to the first 25 who enroll

**DEATH, DYING AND THE AFTERLIFE IN WORLD CULTURES, Part 1 (ON-SITE)**

Moderator: **Maria Salgado**. In this 12-part lecture series, a *Great Courses* lecturer will guide us through an exploration of death in multiple disciplines (religion, history, literature, art), cultures (Classical Greece, Christian, Chinese), and time periods, both ancient and modern. From such world sources, we'll address the lecturer's comprehensive answers to several major questions about humanity's conceptions, such as: 1) How do we experience death? 2) How do religions approach death and what comes after? 3) When (if ever) is it justified to take a life? 4) How important is death to our understanding of our humanity? In the lectures, some answers are proposed by poets, celebrated scientists, philosophers and spiritual leaders, including: the Buddha, St. Paul, Epicurus, Albert Camus, Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, Dylan Thomas. Each one half hour presentation will be followed by a discussion, based on personal experiences and readings, as suggested by Maria and/or group members. **NOTE:** Part II will continue in the Winter 2023 semester.

**MAKING HISTORY: HOW HISTORIANS INTERPRET THE PAST**

(ZOOM)

Moderator: **Bisharah Libbus**. Have you ever wondered about who decides what is newsworthy, or how past events are remembered? History is too vast to be remembered simply or singly. History writers usually have a particular agenda or message that governs their choices. Prof. Allen Guelzo from *Great Courses* blends a focus on the lives of the great historians with how they handled and developed their craft. After examining the beginnings of history writing, and the sharp break the early Christians made with the classical tradition, he considers the revival of the classical historical models, and the making of modern history with the Enlightenment and the Present age of multiculturalism, relativity, and anxiety. Throughout the course we will repeatedly consider the questions: What is history? How do historians choose what actually happened in the past? And how does the recent Romantic revolt of the 19th century favor non-rational factors of race, ethnicity, culture, class, and language? Two half hour lectures will be covered in each class along with a group discussion.



**DEADLINE** for the fall registration by mail is **Sept. 2, 2022**. Classes begin **ON-SITE** or by **ZOOM** the week of **September 12**. For questions about any course, email [moderators@sharedlearning.us](mailto:moderators@sharedlearning.us). Be sure to write the moderator's name in the subject line and your own name, email address, and question in the text area. To receive a paper copy of this catalog, please email [welcome@sharedlearning.us](mailto:welcome@sharedlearning.us). With a \$70 annual membership, Shared Learning members enrolling now for fall classes can take an unlimited number of courses per term. A separate enrollment period will be offered prior to the winter term; to become a member at that time and enroll only in winter term courses, the fee per person will be \$40. Enrollment in our Spring mini-term courses (May and June) is offered free of charge to the public at large. You now have two enrollment and payment options: **1)** print and fill out this two-page form and mail it with your check for one or two people, made out to Shared Learning Association, to the Shared Learning Registrar: Doug Shier, 182 Fearington Post, Pittsboro, NC 27312, **OR, 2)** Complete the online form [HERE](#) and pay with a credit card (see *Enrollment* on page 1 for details). **To enroll in any course using the form below**, write your initials to the left of the course choices. Couples write both initials. As indicated under each course title below, weekly class meetings are held **either ON-SITE** in classrooms of our host, the Church of Reconciliation (110 North Elliott Road, Chapel Hill) **or ON ZOOM**.

**Course Choices for Fall 2022**

<b>Initials</b>	<b>Course Titles</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Course Titles</b>
	<b>Another Classic Read: Tristram Shandy</b> On-Site, Tuesdays, 11:15 a.m.		<b>Irish Identity: A Cultural History</b> Zoom, Monday, 9:15 a.m.
	<b>Art Meets Literature, Part 1</b> Zoom, Meets once a month on Friday, 11:15 a.m.		<b>Learn Secrets of Great Mysteries and Suspense Fiction, Part 1</b> On-Site, Wednesday, 11:15 a.m.
	<b>The Brain—A Wondrous Machine, Part 1</b> Zoom, Monday, 9:15 a.m.		<b>Making History: How Historians Interpret the Past</b> Zoom, Thursday, 11:15 a.m.
	<b>Climate Change: What Does the Latest Science Tell Us?</b> Zoom, Monday, 11:15 a.m.		<b>Medical School for Everyone: Grand Rounds Cases</b> Zoom, Tuesday, 9:15 a.m.
	<b>Comparative Film Analysis</b> On-Site, Thursday, 11:15 a.m.		<b>Power Over People</b> Zoom, Tuesday, 9:15 a.m.
	<b>Controversies: More Humane Wars and their negative effects</b> Zoom, Monday, 11:15 a.m.		<b>Reading and Discussing Great Short Stories</b> Zoom, Wednesday, 9:15 a.m.
	<b>Craving Chances for Deeper Thinking, Personal Psychology-Wise</b> On-Site, Mets once a month on Tuesday, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.		<b>Shared Learning Photography Seminar</b> Zoom, Thursday, 9:15 a.m.
	<b>Creative Problem-Solving</b> Zoom, Monday, 11:15 a.m.		<b>Sharing Written Personal History</b> On-Site and Zoom, Wednesday, 9:15 a.m.
	<b>Critical Examination of Judaism</b> Zoom, Tuesday, 9:15 a.m.		<b>Spanish Conversations</b> Zoom, Wednesday, 11:15 a.m.
	<b>Death, Dying and the Afterlife in World Cultures, Part I</b> On-Site, Thursday, 11:15 a.m.		<b>This Week's Most Provocative Essays and Columns</b> Alternating On-Site and Zoom, Tuesday, 11:15 a.m.
	<b>Deutsche Konversations Gruppe</b> Zoom, Friday, 9:15 a.m.		<b>Transform your Appreciation of Opera, Part 1</b> Zoom, Wednesday, 11:15 a.m.
	<b>First Friday Shared Learning Book Club</b> Zoom, Meets on first Friday of each month, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.		<b>Views on the News</b> Zoom, Monday, 9:15 a.m.
	<b>Great Minds of the Western intellectual Tradition</b> Zoom, Thursday, 9:15 a.m.		<b>What's Wrong?</b> Zoom, Wednesday, 9:15 a.m.
	<b>How a Vengeful Satan Lost Us Paradise</b> On-Site, Thursday, 11:15 a.m.		<b>World War II in the Pacific Theater</b> Zoom, Tuesday, 11:15 a.m.

Member information for one or two people

Person 1	Person 2
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Only fill in the information for email, phone, and address on the next 4 lines if it has changed or if a person is new to Shared Learning.

email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Land line phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

I/we certify that at this date of registration, I am/we are fully vaccinated and have received at least one booster

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your usual source of local news and events? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about Shared Learning? \_\_\_\_\_

In the future, would you or one of you like to serve as a course moderator?

Yes/No/Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

If so, what subject would you like to moderate? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to discuss your serving as a future SL course moderator (a possible study topic, possible course content, possible presentation format) with a member of the SL Curricula & Catalog Committee?

Yes/No/Initials: \_\_\_\_\_