



## ***Shared Learning Association* Catalog for the Fall 2023 Semester**

**September 11 – December 15, 2023**

**THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR COURSES IS**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1**

**Our Website: [sharedlearning.us](https://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 daytime courses during Fall, Winter and Spring semesters to the general public. Courses are led by volunteer *Shared Learning* members, **who are eager to connect, engage, share, and learn with others about topics of mutual interest.** All weekly classes will be held: **on-site** in classrooms of our host, the Church of Reconciliation (110 North Elliott Road, Chapel Hill), **via Zoom**, and **as a hybrid** – a combination of in-person and Zoom.

### ***Shared Learning* Membership**


To become a full year *Shared Learning* member or to renew your past membership, you should submit a \$70.00 annual membership fee each fall, as noted on pages 14-17 of this catalog. This entitles you to take advantage of all member benefits: **(1)** Registration choices for an unlimited number of Fall and Winter courses, 14-weeks in length, and *Spotlight Series* courses, 2-4 weeks; **(2)** Opportunities to serve as a moderator for courses of your choosing and a member of a *Shared Learning* committee; **(3)** Invitations to participate in all *Shared Learning* social and educational activities; and **(4)** Notification of up-coming events and opportunities. **NOTE:** Registration for Spring courses (May-June) is free and open to the public.

### **Fall 2023 COVID Policy**


People who have tested positive for COVID-19 should notify their *Shared Learning* moderator or event organizer and refrain from attending on-site *Shared Learning* activities for five days. If there are any new CDC and/or local guidelines issued, these will be followed with regard to attending on-site classes and other on-site *Shared Learning* activities.

**Shared Learning Course Schedule – Fall 2023**


**MONDAY**






TITLE	TIME	FORMAT	MODERATOR
The Mongol Empire	9:15-10:45	Zoom	R. Greg Hesterberg
Views on the News	9:15-10:45	Zoom	Doug Shier and Steve Bravy
A Wondrous Machine, Part 3: The Human Brain and Consciousness	9:15-10:45	Hybrid	Barry Lentz
 The Literary Artistry of Abraham Lincoln (Oct 9., 16, 23, 30)	11:15-12:45	On-site	John McCarthy
Reading Shakespeare: <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>	11:15-12:45	On-site	Kris Yensen
Controversies: <i>Caste: The Origins of our Discontent</i>	11:15-12:45	Zoom	Meyer Liberman and Ken Kustin
Other Peoples' Problems	11:15-12:45	On-site	Jonathan Gerard
Short Story: <i>The Art of the Tale</i> <b>Wait List Only</b>	1:00-2:45	On-site	Lori-Anne Shapiro

**TUESDAY**

TITLE	TIME	FORMAT	MODERATOR
The World of Biblical Israel	9:15-10:45	Zoom	Jonathan Gerard
Another Classic Read: <i>The Wings of the Dove</i> , Part I	11:15-12:45	On-site	Nancy Goudreau
Democracy and Truth	11:15-12:45	On-site	Hank Becker
The Human Brain: A User's Manual	11:15-12:45	On-site	Matt Epstein
 Arts and Crafts Studio (Sept. 12, 19, 26, Oct 3) <b>Cancelled</b>	1:15-2:45	On-site	Florence Link
Ted Talks <b>Wait List Only</b>	1:15-2:45	On-site	Scott Parent

**WEDNESDAY**

TITLE	TIME	FORMAT	MODERATOR
Reading and Discussing Great Short Stories	9:15-10:45	Zoom	Marcy Sacarakis
Sharing Written Personal Histories	11:15-12:45	Zoom	Mary Freedman
 Revealing the Messages in the Gospels (Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25) <b>Cancelled</b>	11:15-12:45	On-site	Anna Klein
Understanding the Mysteries of Human Behavior	11:15-12:45	On-site	Anne-Marie Durand-Kennett
Spanish Conversations	11:15-12:45	Zoom	Melissa Hardy-Trevenna
Change: Past, Present, and Future	9:30-10:45	Hybrid	Alan Ziegler
The Transformative Power of Opera	11:15-12:45	Zoom	Peggy Stevermer

Chess, It's Your Move <b>Cancelled</b>	1:15-2:45	On-site	Carol Downs
 How to Talk to Your Doctor (Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11)	1:15-2:45	On-Site	Terry Gordon
 College Admissions and Academic Selectivity (Nov. 1, 8, 15)	2:00-3:30	Zoom	Alan Ziegler
<b>THURSDAY</b>			
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>FORMAT</b>	<b>MODERATOR</b>
Great Minds of the Western Intellectual Tradition, Part 3	9:15-10:45	Zoom	Bisharah Libbus
Banned/Challenged Books: Big Brother vs Freedom of Expression (Sep. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14) <b>Cancelled</b>	9:15-10:45	Zoom	Ruth Morgan and Terry Lucas
Comparison of Civilizations	11:15-12:45	Zoom	Bisharah Libbus
Dig Into Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i> , Part I	11:15-12:45	On-site	Nancy Goudreau
Comparative Film Analysis <b>Wait List Only</b>	11:15-1:30	On-site	Dan Brenner
Craving Chances for Deeper Thinking, Personal Psychology-Wise (Sept. 21, Oct. 12, Nov. 2, Nov 30., Dec. 14)	1:15-2:45	On-site	Nancy Goudreau
 The Human Microbiome (Sept. 14, 21, 28)	1:15-2:45	On-site	Matt Epstein
 Powerful Tools for Using Your MAC Computer (Nov. 2, 9, 16)	1:15-2:45	Zoom	Hank Becker
<b>FRIDAY</b>			
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>FORMAT</b>	<b>MODERATOR</b>
Deutsche Konversationsgruppe	9:15-10:45	Zoom	Andrew O'Brien
Shared Learning Friday Book Club (Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 1)	10:00-11:30	Zoom	Terry Lucas
Art Meets Literature (Sept. 22, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, Dec. 15) <b>Wait List Only</b>	11:15-12:45	Zoom	Bonnie Sullivan
 Journey of the James Webb Telescope (Oct. 13, 20, 27, Nov. 3, 10)	1:15-2:45	Zoom	Brand Fortner

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### MONDAY

#### **Mon, 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. THE MONGOL EMPIRE (Zoom)**

Moderator: R Greg Hesterberg. Question: What is the largest Empire the world has ever seen? Who caused the building of the Great Wall and set up the fabled Silk Road? Who turned the horse into a weapon of war? Who gave us such legendary names in history like Genghis Khan, the Qubilai Khan, and Tamerlane? And finally, why is Russia to this day culturally European but not Western? The answer is ... The Mongols. Their story is a “tale of two cities,” they were unbelievably violent, destructive, and horrifying in their ways and tactics, yet they established the “Pax Mongolia” through their uniting of so many diverse cultures and peoples stretching from China to Europe. Come join me in learning about the people who first brought East and West together structured in part via a **Great Courses** offering. And knowing this moderator’s style of using comedy...can the Mongols actually be funny? Register and see! **NOTE:** Greg will show two lectures per meeting.

#### **Mon, 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. VIEWS ON THE NEWS (Zoom)**

Moderators: Doug Shier and Steve Bravy. Our open round table format allows for the respectful discussion of events at the world-wide, national, state and local levels. During each meeting, volunteers present current topics for the exchange of ideas, in order to share and learn. The conversations and information exchanges are respectfully managed by Doug and Steve, using pre-established general operation guidelines to ensure that meeting etiquette and decorum are followed. **NOTE:** Class is limited to 20 participants.

#### **Mon, 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. A WONDROUS MACHINE, PART 3: THE HUMAN BRAIN AND CONSCIOUSNESS (Hybrid)**

Moderator: Barry Lentz. In the final phase of our examination of the Human Brain, we will use two **Great Courses** by Professor Patrick Grim of SUNY Stony Brook and Univ of Michigan, but primarily his second course: **Mind-Body Philosophy**. This delves into the nature of consciousness from the perspective of modern neuro and electrophysiological science. Dr. Grim draws a distinction between the brain as a perceiving and organizing machine (or computer) and the thoughts it produces in response to the signals it receives, thus, the difference between the Brain and the Mind. Is consciousness real or an illusion? How does the brain generate consciousness? Can a computer model consciousness? Does knowledge of the brain help answer these questions? Also, Grim summarizes the history and nature of the thoughts produced by the minds of men over the centuries. The latter material is outside Barry’s expertise, so he will rely on the discussions and additional information contributed by class participants. Lecture notes will be provided.



**Mon, 11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. THE LITERARY ARTISTRY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN (Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30) (On-site)**

Moderator: John McCarthy. Although first and foremost a lawyer, Lincoln sets aside strictly legal analysis in the *Gettysburg Address* and his *Second Inaugural* but employs rhetoric as magisterial and sublime as any poet. Those two speeches, along with his *Farewell Speech to Springfield* and parts of the *First Inaugural* and the *House Divided* speech, will be this course's subject matter – valued as works of literature. Thus, we'll look at their construction and use of language, just as one would with a finished poem. We'll explore the whole or parts of speeches, line by line, reading them aloud, debating word choice and phrasing, analyzing effects and summarizing Lincoln's influences. Our goal is to see Lincoln in a new light, not simply as a storyteller, master politician, statesman and war leader, but also as a man of genuine literary sensibility whose prose composition matches those whom we consider the greatest prose writers ever.

**Mon, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. READING SHAKESPEARE: *ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA* (On-site)**

Moderator: Kris Yensen. We'll explore and appreciate Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra* through reading the text aloud together, consulting various resources for interpretation, viewing available video productions, and discussing all. Let's look at Shakespeare's English (esp. famous words and phrases still in common use) and the historical context in which the play was written and originally presented. We'll compare alternative production decisions made by directors and actors and discuss Shakespeare's messages for us in the 21st century. Most classes will begin with a brief recap of the scenes read so far and a quick synopsis of the scene(s) to be read in the current class. After reading, there will be time for questions and discussion. Kris will use the edition referenced below, but class members are welcome to bring any edition of the play they can read easily. Members are encouraged to bring in relevant resource material containing interpretation, critique, historical notes and illustrations they find interesting. *Antony and Cleopatra* (Folger Shakespeare Library) ISBN 978-1-9821-5734-0.

**NOTE:** Class size is limited to 15.

**Mon, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. CONTROVERSIES: *CASTE: THE ORIGINS OF OUR DISCONTENT* (Zoom)**

Co-Moderators: Meyer Liberman and Ken Kustin. This is a seminar-type, discussion-oriented course, based on the careful reading of chapters in our well-reviewed, jointly-selected book, *Caste: Origins of our Discontent* by Isabel Wilkinson. Published in 2020, *Caste* was met with critical acclaim and commercial success and featured on bestseller and best book lists. The book describes racism in the United States as a caste system and compares it to those systems in India and Nazi Germany, exploring how those two societies were shaped by people who espoused the caste system. Class members will be asked and encouraged, but not required to, lead the discussion for one session. **NOTE:** Class size is limited to 15 participants.

**Mon, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 a.m. OTHER PEOPLES' PROBLEMS (On-site)**

Moderator: Jonathan Gerard. There is a hasidic tale about a Problem Tree in heaven. People are invited to bring all their problems in a bag and to hang that bag on a branch of the tree. Everyone circles the tree, examining others' problems and then gets to decide which bag (whose problems!) to bring back with them to continue their earthly life. In the end, everyone brings back their *own* bag—containing the troubles they know. In this class, we will examine social and ethical problems raised in the popular media (essentially the NYT and the N&O). Each discussion will conclude with a presentation of the "official" answer published for readers.

A concluding discussion will then attempt to evaluate that official answer. Everyone will then return to his or her earthly life to grapple with their own questions and problems. **NOTES:**  
\*Class size is limited to 15. \*Class recordings will be made available following each session for those unable to attend that day.

**Mon, 1:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. SHORT STORY: *THE ART OF THE TALE* (On-site)**

Wait List Only

Moderator: Lori-Anne Shapiro. Join us as we embark on a journey into the literary art form of short story writing, as seen through the lenses of a vast array of international writers whose work has been anthologized in *The Art of the Tale*, edited by Daniel Halperin, 1987 edition (easily available both new and used). Each week a member of the group will select a story, present a brief biographical summary of its writer, and facilitate group discussion. Occasionally, a guest speaker will join us to facilitate a story from their own short story collection, in the case of local southern writers, or simply from a favorite writer they have studied in the past. Participants will read the short story in advance of class and participate in discussion. **NOTES:**  
\*Group size will be limited to 15, with priority given to returning members. \*Participants new to this course are welcome.

## TUESDAY

**Tu, 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. THE WORLD OF BIBLICAL ISRAEL (Zoom)**

Moderator: Jonathan Gerard. This course will begin with the *Great Courses* of the same title, but will proceed from each half hour lecture to a discussion of relevant and tangential ideas raised in each lecture. Our “visiting scholar” is Prof. Cynthia Chapman of Oberlin College. **NOTE:** There is no limit to class size.

**Tu, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. ANOTHER CLASSIC READ: *THE WINGS OF THE DOVE* BY HENRY JAMES, PART I (On-site)**

Moderator: Nancy Goudreau. In early 1900, Henry James (1843-1916) innovated a new type of novel, in which the off-stage author focuses on depicting the evolution of consciousness and motivations in his characters with the use of subtlety, poetic imagery, metaphor, symbolism, ambiguity. The turn-of-the-century plot is based on the growing relationship between a wealthy, naive American girl – with a great capacity for living life, despite a fatal disease – and a young envious British couple, who are trapped by the moral failings of their society. Though James’ descriptive prose style can be a challenge to understand, we will join together in interpreting changes in his characters’ subconscious and in appreciating his psychological insights – reviewing 25 pages of novel per week. Our text is *The Wings of the Dove*, Henry James, 2008, Penguin Classics. **NOTE:** Class size is limited to 15.

**Tu, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. DEMOCRACY AND TRUTH (On-site)**

Moderator: Hank Becker. Is our democracy threatened by the fact: (1) that so many people don't understand what is true and what is 'misinformation' or (2) that there are deep but defensible disagreements about what is true and what is misinformation? In other words, is democracy's problem the depth of disagreement about facts and values or the simple absence of critical thinking and understanding in so much of the population? Each week we will read and discuss excerpts and short articles on topics, such as: (1) distinguishing between facts and value disagreements; (2) the role of professional expertise vs. everyday wisdom; (3) human irrationality and reasoning skills when people are exposed to misinformation and disinformation;

(4) effective persuasion in discussion of politics; and (5) respectful conversation. Both historical and current examples will be discussed, as well as the role of news media (print, broadcast and Internet) and peoples' use of social media. Research in social psychology will play a significant role in the course. **NOTE:** Class size is limited to 25.

### **Tu, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. THE HUMAN BRAIN: A USER'S MANUAL (On-site)**

Moderator: Matt Epstein. In this course, we will examine how our brains work, why they work that way, and how we can benefit from that knowledge. Also, we will learn how to maintain our brain health. Several topics using moderator-created material will be covered. We will explore physical, chemical and electric brain operation; the purpose of the brain and how it works; optical and audio illusions; cognitive biases; built-in and operational limitations; the limits of rational thought; the reasons why it is healthy to feel bad; and brain networks and brain health. The material will be presented in lectures by the moderator with heavy doses of questions, comments, and discussion.



### **Tu, 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. ARTS & CRAFTS STUDIO (On-site) (Sept. 12, 19, 26, Oct 3)** **Cancelled**

Facilitator: Florence Link. Calling all amateur crafters and artists! Come one, come all to the **Shared Learning Studio** to do your thing! Bring your art/craft, tools and materials to one of the big tables in Fellowship Hall. With access to a kitchen sink, we will knit/crochet/embroider, paint, sculpt, draw, bead/repair jewelry, carve, design – whatever you like to do in the company of other Shared Learners. Although not an art instructor, Florence will be there to unlock the door and encourage you, talk about your project or about anything else with you. Bring food/munchies and a smile. We'll have fun working together with classmates, encouraging each other, and making new friends.

### **Tu, 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. TED TALKS (On-site) Wait List Only**

Moderator: Scott Parent. Each week we will watch one, two or three TED Talks, vetted by Scott beforehand and given by experts in their fields. Let's see what conversations they invite among our participants. Although we may start our conversations on-topic, we will leave plenty of room for constructive off-topic meandering. Participants will not be told ahead of time which talks will be shown. We believe this serves to "level the playing field" during group discussions. Suggestions for specific talks, specific speakers or general topics from the group will be encouraged. **NOTE:** Class is limited to 20 participants.

## **WEDNESDAY**

### **Wed, 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 Andrew Sean Greer, 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 their development, the themes, and the story's relevance to us. Members of the class will take turns leading the discussion. **NOTES:** \*Class size is limited to 15. \*New participants are welcome.

### **Wed, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. SHARING WRITTEN PERSONAL HISTORIES (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 our developing sense of accomplishments. Each participant will: write beforehand about episodes and decisions made in their lives; read aloud their writing; give attention to and appreciate the telling of the experiences and/or insights of others. We will also be able to share illustrations and photos on-line. **NOTES:** \*Class is limited to 20 participants. \*Participants new to this course are welcome.



### **Wed, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. REVEALING THE MESSAGES IN THE GOSPELS (Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25) (On-site) Cancelled**

Moderator: Anna Klein. This short course will explore the messages conveyed in the four Gospels (**Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John**). We will examine their content, look at standard views of the Gospels and perhaps challenge those views, and discuss the evolution of the Gospels' messages. Primary Resource: **The Great Courses "The New Testament,"** lectures by Professor Bart Ehrman, UNC.

### **Wed, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. UNDERSTANDING THE MYSTERIES OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR (On-site)**

Moderator: Anne-Marie Durand-Kennett. Human beings are puzzling creatures. We are capable of impressive personal accomplishments, yet we sometimes behave in ways that are not only irrational and short-sighted and that also harm ourselves or others. This set of 24 **Great Courses** lectures, presented by Professor Mark Leary (Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience at Duke University), examines provocative phenomena like memory and forgetting, blushing, lapses of self-control, self-esteem, stress, risk-taking, negative emotions, laughter, happiness, and unconscious processes. The lectures also delve into how these behaviors relate to an array of interesting topics, such as overeating, fear, road rage, disgust, sexuality, political attitudes and other aspects of people's lives. Drawing upon the latest research in the behavioral sciences, this course shines a light on the deepest parts of the human mind, giving us insights into why we do what we do and revealing the fascinating side of seemingly ordinary human behaviors. **NOTE:** We'll be flexible in covering one or two lectures per meeting, dependent on member interest.

### **Wed, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. SPANISH CONVERSATIONS (Zoom)**

Moderator: Melissa Hardy-Trevenna. 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 with 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 course members. \*New students are welcome.

### **Wed, 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. CHANGE: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE (Hybrid)**

Moderator: Alan Ziegler. This course will focus on how both changes in practices and in attitudes during the past 100 years (post WW I) have shaped and may still influence our current world. Areas to be covered include: (1) politics (e.g., the rise, fall and potential resurgence of



totalitarianism and its challenge to democracy); (2) economics (e.g., automation, globalization, robotics and their effect on national self-sufficiency and the status of labor); (3) culture (e.g., the change from high culture to pop culture and the Americanization of world taste); (4) social relations (e.g., the decline of the nuclear family ideal, women's rights, and gender choice); and (5) technology (e.g., from library to internet, theater and movies to streaming, steamships to jets, and the effect of accelerating digitization on everything). We will also consider whether the apparent quickening of the pace of such change in each area is real and its implications. There will be a PowerPoint type presentation followed by class discussion.

### **Wed, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF OPERA (Zoom)**

Moderator: Peggy Stevermer. Currently, opera is one of the fastest growing art forms in today's world, so, if you have never ventured into the realm of opera, this is your chance. This Fall we will continue to focus on how opera has not only been transformed through the centuries but also how it has transformed its audiences as well as its creators. We will be looking at opera in the last half of the 19th century, a period of many great composers, including Verdi and Wagner. A few titles to be viewed include: *Les Pêcheurs de Perles* by Bizet, *La Gioconda* by Ponchielli, and *Boris Gudunov* by Mussogorsky. As in the past, Peggy will be sharing information through Power Point, as well as using videos from various sources as we watch and discuss particular operas. The goal of the course is to enhance appreciation of opera and opera knowledge for both those who love the genre and, hopefully, some who know nothing about opera and come to the course curious and perhaps a bit skeptical.

### **Wed, 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. CHESS, IT'S YOUR MOVE (On-site)**

Cancelled

Moderator: Carol Downs. *Shared Learning* chess players who have experience playing the game and are just looking for a partner to play with on early afternoons, Wednesdays, will find other members just as eager at the well-spaced tables in Fellowship Hall. **NOTE:** \*Members will need to bring their own chess set and a chess clock, if they want to use one. \*You are welcome to bring a bag lunch.



### **Wed, 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. HOW TO TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR (Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11) (On-site)**

Moderator: Terry Gordon. Practicing medicine and taking care of patients is more challenging than ever. Time with patients has been shortened while the complexity of chronic medical conditions, pharmaceuticals and treatments have become more complicated. Some of the questions we will tackle in class include: (1) How do we maximize the time and relationships with our health care providers – at the office, urgent care, telehealth, hospital bed – so that we get maximum benefit and outcomes? (2) Who are those providers - MD, DO NP, PA? (3) What are the differences? (4) Do you communicate differently with an MD vs PA? (5) What do providers value and what do they not value? **NOTE:** \*Class size is limited to 20.



### **Wed, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. COLLEGE ADMISSIONS AND ACADEMIC SELECTIVITY (Nov. 1, 8, 15) (Zoom)**

Moderator: Alan S. Ziegler. There has been much in the news about college admissions, including the value of using academically selective criteria that purportedly disadvantage certain groups. We will discuss selectivity as used in college acceptance, including (1) the purpose of having selective colleges and universities; (2) the question of whether publicly funded higher

education should be treated differently from private institutions; (3) the implications of the alternatives to affirmative action in light of the recent Supreme Court decision; and (4) the issue of whether subsidized equal accessibility to higher education is worth the economic and social price to society.

## THURSDAY

### Th, 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. GREAT MINDS OF THE WESTERN INTELLECTUAL TRADITION, PART 3 (Zoom)

Moderator: Bisharah Libbus. In previous semesters, we covered lectures on *the Classical Origins, the Christian Age, the Renaissance, the Enlightenment* and *the Age of Ideology*. We'll wrap up this 84-lecture *Great Courses* lecture series by Dennis Dalton by reviewing the last 24 lectures on *Modernism and the Age of Analysis* and *the Crisis of Modernity*. These lectures will cover the work and legacy of thinkers like Freud, Ayer, Weber, Dewey Heidegger, Hayek, Popper, and Kuhn. **NOTE:** As in previous class sessions, we will view two lectures in each meeting, coupled with adequate class.

### Th, 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. BANNED/CHALLENGED BOOKS: BIG BROTHER VS FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION (Zoom) Cancelled

Co-leaders: Ruth Morgan and Terry Lucas. There are daily discussions in the news regarding the banning of books from curricula in schools; removal of books from libraries; pickets/protests over selected subject matter – these are not new occurrences. This course comprises a review of previously banned/removed/censored books from the history of our nation and others. Each month, we will: (1) read and discuss the book; (2) review the historical/societal context and reasons why it was banned or the author challenged; and (3) discuss pertinent similarities why these books were controversial. Books for the Fall term have been selected by the co-leaders, but course members will assist in developing a list for the Winter term.

#### Schedule:

- \* **September 14** – Overview of the course; *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
- \* **October 12** – *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin
- \* **November 9** – *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque
- \* **December 14** – *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

### Th, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. COMPARISON OF CIVILIZATIONS (Zoom)

Moderator: Bisharah Libbus. The class will view and discuss lectures by Prof. Scott MacEachern. Prof. MacEachern is an archaeologist and anthropologist at Bowdoin College. In his *Great Course: Origin of Civilization* Prof. MacEachern brings these complementary perspectives to review a wide range of civilizations, from the development of settled groups to the appearance of cities and civilizations. The course examines civilizations ranging from the early Catalhoyuk of Turkey, the Ubaid of Mesopotamia, the ancient developments of the states in Ethiopia, Chad and Niger to the great Mayan and Andean civilizations. It traces the development of writing, religion, agriculture and mineralogy in these civilizations. Bisharah will cover two lectures in each class session with emphasis on time for discussion.

**Th, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. DIG INTO OVID'S METAMORPHOSES, PART I (On-site)**

Moderator: Nancy Goudreau. During Emperor Augustus Caesar's "Golden Age," Ovid, age 51, was a witty, self-confident, man-about-town, famed for his poetic books about finding/keeping/discarding love. In 8 A.D., he also published a collection of 250 stories in lyric poetry titled **Metamorphoses**, which presented his views on transformations over time in Greek and Roman mythological stories, as well as Roman history and society. Contrasted to Virgil's respectful **Aeneid**, Ovid drained the majesty from the Olympians and historic heroes, while he depicted the greed, violence, sexual aggression, hopeless terror and hunger for power of his characters – most traits still relevant among today's leaders. Over centuries, his cinematic writing style and fearlessly-expressed perceptions have continued to influence world authors. Our text is **Metamorphoses** by Ovid, translated by Stephanie McCarter, 2022, Penguin Books. We will read and review two or three stories per week (about 30 pages) and include oral readings, interpretive discussions and a review of references. **NOTE:** Class is limited to 15 participants.

**Th, 11:15 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. COMPARATIVE FILM ANALYSIS (On-site)**

Wait List Only

Moderator: Dan Brenner. This Fall, we will view 14 films centered around three different and distinct themes. The first will be (1) *Unions*, as considered in the films: **Norma Rae, The Killing Floor, Matewan, Bread and Roses** and **Salt of the Earth**. We will then examine the '60's Hollywood (2) *New Wave movement* with the films: **Easy Rider, Medium Cool, They Shoot Horses Don't They, The Graduate** and **Take the Money and Run**. The last themed set concerns (3) *Advertising*. We will view: **Putney Swope, Crazy People, The Joneses** and **Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter**. At the end of each film, we'll participate in a group critique. **NOTES:** \*All films will be presented with closed captions. \*This class will run until 1:30 p.m. to accommodate the longer running film discussion. \*Class size is limited to 30.

**Th, 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. CRAVING CHANCES FOR DEEPER THINKING, PERSONAL PSYCHOLOGY-WISE (On-site: Sept. 21, Oct. 12, Nov. 2, Nov. 30, Dec. 14)**

Moderator: Nancy Goudreau. More of a gathering than a course, this informal get-together will provide us with an opportunity to expand and appreciate the empowerment available to us, when we attempt a deeper consideration of our personal psychology. We will aim to explore past/current behavior and attitudes that might have us locked into a stale existence because we are reluctant or unable to change our long-established state of mind and behavior. Our discussion will center on how we can/should/might conceive deeper psychological insights that will expand our perceptions. Without change, what benefits are we missing or could we gain? Without judgment, we'll share experiences that demonstrate and elaborate on the proposed theme, different per meeting. Also, members will have opportunities to facilitate meetings. **NOTES:** \*At the first gathering, we will discuss *how and why we should maintain old and new friendships and end unhealthy/ disappointing/faded relationships*. \*Enrollment is limited to the first 15 who register.



**Th, 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. THE HUMAN MICROBIOME (Sept. 14, 21, 28)  
(On-site)**

Moderator: Matt Epstein. The human microbiome consists of the 10-100 trillion symbiotic microbial cells, including bacteria, fungi and viruses, harbored by each person. It exists primarily, but not exclusively, in the lining of the gut. The microbiome plays a major role in virtually every cognitive and physical condition we experience, including developing and managing inflammation and immunity. In this course, we will learn what the human microbiome is, how it works, how it impacts health, and how to keep it healthy. The subject matter will be presented in lectures by Matt with heavy doses of questions, comments, and discussion.



**Th, 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. POWERFUL TOOLS FOR USING YOUR MAC  
COMPUTER (Nov. 2, 9, 16) (Zoom)**

Moderator: Hank Becker. This course will demonstrate a variety of built-in tips and tricks and third-party applications for the Macintosh. One application, for example, is perfect for storing web articles, highlighting them, and providing a way to review the highlights you made in the app and in other applications--such as Apple Books and Goodreader. Another resource provides access to two hundred other Mac add-ons that are vast improvements over built-in Mac capabilities including photo-editing, screenshots, clipboards, optical character reading, menu bar personalization, editing of pdf files, and dozens more. The course will make sense to you only if you already own and are comfortable using a MAC. During the class, your computer is only required for Zoom access. The course will continue as long as people find it worthwhile.

**FRIDAY**

**Fri, 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. DEUTSCHE KONVERSATIONSGRUPPE (Zoom)**

Moderator: Andrew O'Brien. For those German speakers who wish to maintain their fluency, this course will provide you with information and cordial opportunities to converse in German. We'll refer to articles in German newspapers, magazines, and select interesting topics about current German and American events. Each class meeting will be conducted entirely in German, but not include German grammar instructions. **NOTE:** German speakers new to this course are welcome.

**Fri, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. SHARED LEARNING FRIDAY BOOK CLUB (Zoom)**

Leader: Terry Lucas. Please join **Shared Learning** friends and new acquaintances to discuss current and classic group-selected books to review. (See below for the listing in 2023.) Group members lead the discussions that focus on the synopsis of the book and then share views, thoughts and general opinions, but never try to conduct a graduate degree analysis of the book. Selections for Fall 2023 were chosen by this past year's members.

**Schedule:**

- \* **October 6** – *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, by Yuval Noah Harari.
- \* **November 3** – *Horse*, Geraldine Brooks.
- \* **December 1** – *Stoner*, John Williams.

**Fri, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. ART MEETS LITERATURE (Zoom)  
Wait List Only**

Moderator: Bonnie Sullivan. Our Fall term will take us from the 17th century Dutch Golden Age to the Jim Crow South and fin de siècle Paris of Sargent and Rodin. We'll discover fascinating layers of artwork – the artist's personal life, influences on the artist and the cultural and political context of the era. Class time will focus on discussion of each book, 'close looking' and visual analysis of the artist's work. Time permitting, we'll watch short videos relating to the artwork. Good online resources for reasonably priced used books are [thriftbooks.com](https://www.thriftbooks.com), [abebooks.com](https://www.abebooks.com), and through Amazon's "More Buying Choices" feature. Concerning the 'close looking' method: "Looking at paintings this way . . . opens them up, and what used to be mere surface becomes a portal . . ." — Tejo Cole, *New York Times Magazine*, 5/26/23. **NOTE:** Class is limited to 24 participants.

**Schedule:**

- \* **September 22 - *Vermeer's Hat: The Seventeenth Century and the Dawn of the Global World*** by Timothy Brook. Nonfiction, 288 pages.
- \* **October 20 - *Chasing Me to My Grave: An Artist's Memoir of the Jim Crow South*** by Erin I. Kelly. Biography, 2022 Pulitzer Prize winner. 304 pages.
- \* **November 17 - *Sargent's Daughters: The Biography of a Painting*** by Erica E. Hirshler. Nonfiction, 262 pages.
- \* **December 15 - *Rodin's Lover*** by Heather Webb. Historical fiction, 306 pages.



**Fri, 1:15 – 2:45 p.m. JOURNEY OF THE JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE  
(Oct. 13, 20, 27 and Nov. 3, 10) (Zoom)**

Moderator: Brand Fortner. What is the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), and why was it created? How will it revolutionize our view of the cosmos? How was one picture taken by the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) instrumental in creating and designing the JWST? In this course, we will explore the history and personalities involved in the creation of this critical HST image, the questions it raised and influences on the design of the JWST. To put this image in context, we start with a history of cosmology from ancient times, the Renaissance and modern times, when burning cosmic questions prompted the creation of first the HST and now the JWST. We then talk about the science of the JWST and its unprecedented engineering challenges. At the end of the course, participants will have an overview of cosmology, the histories of the HST and the JWST, the science that both have done and will do. Finally, participants will appreciate why the JWST is more than worth the 25 years and \$10 billion cost.

## ***Shared Learning Association Registration*** **for the Fall Semester 2023, September 11 – December 15**

**The deadline to become a 2023-2024 member and to register for courses in the Fall term is FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st.** Most classes begin during the week of SEPTEMBER 11th – check the schedule for start dates. There are two options for registration and payment:






**Online:** Use [this link](#) to register and pay online. The online form allows one person at a time to register and pay by credit card. An advantage of the online registration option is that it provides immediate feedback that your course selections have been recorded and payment has been successfully received.



– or –

**On paper:** Use the registration form below which is also posted on our website, [sharedlearning.us](http://sharedlearning.us). (Note: couples should place both initials separately on the form.) Mail the completed form and payment to: Doug Shier, Registrar, 182 Fearrington Post, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Make your check (the \$70 per person registration fee) payable to *Shared Learning of Chapel Hill*.

For any questions about a course, email [moderators@sharedlearning.us](mailto:moderators@sharedlearning.us). Be sure to write the moderator's name in the subject line. Write your name, email address and question in the text area. To receive a paper copy of this catalog, send an email to [welcome@sharedlearning.us](mailto:welcome@sharedlearning.us).

## Course Choices for Fall 2023

Initials	Course Titles	Initials	Course Titles
	<b>The Mongol Empire</b> Zoom, Monday, 9:15 a.m. 10		<b>Chess, It's Your Move</b> Cancelled On-site, Wednesday, 1:15 p.m. 37
	<b>Views on the News</b> Zoom, Monday 9:15 a.m. 11		 <b>How to Talk to Your Doctor</b> On-site, Wednesday, 1:15 p.m. 38
	<b>A Wondrous Machine, Part 3: The Human Brain and Consciousness</b> Hybrid, Monday, 9:15 a.m. 12		 <b>College Admissions and Academic Selectivity</b> Zoom, Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. 39
	 <b>The Literary Artistry of Abraham Lincoln</b> On-site, Monday 11:15 a.m. 16		<b>Great Minds of the Western Intellectual Tradition, Part 3</b> Zoom, Thursday, 9:15 a.m. 40
	<b>Reading Shakespeare: <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i></b> On-site, Monday, 11:15 a.m. 13		<b>Banned/Challenged Books: Big Brother vs Freedom of Expression</b> Cancelled Zoom, Thursday, 9:15 a.m. 41
	<b>Controversies: <i>Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent</i></b> Zoom, Monday, 11:15 a.m. 14		<b>Comparison of Civilizations</b> Zoom, Thursday, 11:15 a.m. 42
	<b>Other People's Problems</b> On-Site, Monday, 11:15 a.m. 15		<b>Dig into Ovid's Metamorphoses, Part I</b> On-Site, Thursday 11:15 a.m. 43
	<b>Short Story: <i>The Art of the Tale</i></b> Wait List Only On-Site, Monday, 1:00 p.m. 17		<b>Comparative Film Analysis</b> Wait List Only On-site, Thursday, 11:15 a.m. 44
	<b>The World of Biblical Israel</b> Zoom, Tuesday, 9:15 a.m. 20		<b>Craving Chances for Deeper Thinking, Personal Psychology-Wise</b> On-Site, Thursday, 1:15 p.m. 45
	<b>Another Classic Read: <i>The Wings of the Dove</i>, Part I</b> On-site, Tuesday, 11:15 a.m. 21		 <b>The Human Microbiome</b> On-site, Thursday, 1:15 p.m. 46
	<b>Democracy and Truth</b> On-site, Tuesday, 11:15 a.m. 22		 <b>Powerful Tools for Using Your MAC Computer</b> Zoom, Thursday, 1:15 p.m. 47

	<b>The Human Brain: A User's Manual</b> On-site, Tuesday, 11:15 a.m. <span style="float: right;">23</span>		<b>Deutsche Konversationsgruppe</b> Zoom, Friday, 9:15 a.m. <span style="float: right;">50</span>
	 <b>Arts and Crafts Studio</b> On-site, Tuesday, 1:15 p.m. <span style="float: right;">25</span> <b>Cancelled</b>		<b>Shared Learning Friday Book Club</b> Zoom, Friday, 10:00 a.m. <span style="float: right;">51</span>
	<b>Ted Talks</b> <b>Wait List Only</b> On-site, Tuesday, 1:15 p.m. <span style="float: right;">24</span>		<b>Art Meets Literature</b> <b>Wait List Only</b> Zoom, Friday, 11:15 a.m. <span style="float: right;">52</span>
	<b>Reading and Discussing Great Short Stories</b> Zoom, Wednesday, 9:15 a.m. <span style="float: right;">30</span>		 <b>Journey of the James Webb Telescope</b> Zoom, Friday, 1:15 p.m. <span style="float: right;">53</span>
	<b>Sharing Written Personal Histories</b> Zoom, Wednesday, 11:15 a.m. <span style="float: right;">31</span>		
	 <b>Revealing the Messages in the Gospels</b> On-site, Wednesday, 11:15 a.m. <span style="float: right;">36</span> <b>Cancelled</b>		
	<b>Understanding the Mysteries of Human Behavior</b> On-site, Wednesday, 11:15 a.m. <span style="float: right;">32</span>		
	<b>Spanish Conversations</b> Zoom, Wednesday, 11:15 a.m. <span style="float: right;">33</span>		
	<b>Change: Past, Present, and Future</b> Hybrid, Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. <span style="float: right;">34</span>		
	<b>The Transformative Power of Opera</b> Zoom, Wednesday, 11:15 a.m. <span style="float: right;">35</span>		



# Shared Learning Association Registration Form for the Fall Semester, 2023

## Member information for one or two people

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

2) Date of registration: \_\_\_\_\_

**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*.

3) Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

4) Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

5) Landline phone: \_\_\_\_\_

6) Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

7) I/we certify that at this date of registration, I/we have acknowledged/read the *Shared Learning* Covid policy (on page 1).

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

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

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

10) 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?  
\_\_\_\_\_

If so, would you like to discuss it with a member of the *SL Curricula & Catalog* Committee?

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

11) At this time, I grant and authorize *Shared Learning* the right to use any picture(s) taken of me during sponsored *Shared Learning* events, activities or meetings for its promotional materials, without payment or other consideration. This authorization shall continue indefinitely, unless I revoke said authorization in writing. Also, any photos shall become the property of *Shared Learning* and will not be returned. Please indicate your preference.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

## Shared Learning Board of Directors

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**Committees:** **CCC**=Curricula & Catalog Committee; **LTP**=Long Term Planning Committee;  
**LL**=Lindgren Lecture Committee; **Pub.**=Publicity; **FC**=Finance Committee.

**Other SL Members on Committees:** CCC: **Terri Porter**, **Scott Parent**; LTP: **Hank Becker**, **Matt Epstein**, **Jonathan Gerard**, **Bisharah Libbus**; LL: **Hank Becker**, **Rob David**, **Greg Hesterberg**; Pub.: **Carol Downs**.