



***Shared Learning Association* Catalog for the Winter 2024 Term**

JANUARY 15 – APRIL 12

THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR COURSES IS

JANUARY 5

Our Website: sharedlearning.us

An Overview of the Association

Shared Learning is an unaffiliated, non-profit educational association for adults who consider themselves to be life-long learners and relish learning in congenial groups. Since 1979, we have offered to the general public a variety of non-credit, daytime courses, now included in Fall, Winter and Spring terms --- from fields, such as: hard sciences, the humanities, fine arts, social and behavioral sciences, and current events. 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 classes are held: **On-site** in classrooms of our host, the Church of Reconciliation (110 North Elliott Road, Chapel Hill) or via **Zoom**.

Benefits to Receive from *Shared Learning* Membership

With your *Shared Learning* membership, you can:

- 1)** Register for *an unlimited number of Winter 2024 offerings*, full term courses (13 weeks in length), monthly courses, or *Spotlight Series* courses (2-4 weeks in length).
- 2)** Gain opportunities to serve as a moderator for your own course and to serve on a *Shared Learning* committee.
- 3)** Be invited to participate in all *Shared Learning* social and educational activities.
- 4)** Be notified of up-coming events and opportunities.
- 5)** Gain opportunities to interact with fellow lifelong learners and make new friendships.

Membership Fees:

- 1)** If you have already paid the \$70, 2023-2024 annual membership fee, you can enroll for this Winter 2024 term without further cost and *still sign up for an unlimited number of courses.*
- 2)** For those who wish to now join *Shared Learning* and enroll in its Winter 2024 courses, the fee per person is \$40 — again, permitting you to take as many Winter 2024 courses as desired. **NOTE:** Enrollment in our Spring 2024 eight-week term (May and June) will be offered free of charge to the public at large.
- 3)** To complete your course registration (and payment, if required), please go to pages 13-16.

Winter 2024 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 Board of Directors


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

Ken Leto, President, LTP Chair, FC, CCC. **Barry Lentz**, Vice President, LL, CCC, LTP, Website C. Chair. **Terry Lucas**, Secretary, CCC. **Dave Morgan**, Treasurer, FC. **Doug Shier**, Registrar, LL Co-chair, TC. **Nancy Goudreau**, CCC Chair, Pub. **Daniel Kiechle**, TC Chair, FC Chair, LTP. **Meyer Liberman**, LL. **Anna Klein**, Member Communication Coordinator, CCC. **Asta Crowe**, Pub. Chair. **Alice Parsons**, Immediate Past President, Hospitality Committee Chair. **Gary Sobel**, Records, DVD Collection Librarian. **Barbara Brunson**, CCC. **Terri Tyson**, Assistant Secretary. **Jim Neeley**, TC.



Other *Shared Learning* Members on Committees: CCC: **Terri Porter**, **Scott Parent**. LL: **Greg Hesterberg**, Co-chair; **Hank Becker**, **Rob David**. TC: **Jim Neeley**, **Scott Parent**, **Terri Tyson**, **Doug Shier**. LTP: **Hank Becker**, **Matt Epstein**, **Jonathan Gerard**, **Bisharah Libbus**.

Shared Learning Course Schedule – Winter 2024


MONDAY


| TITLE | TIME | FORMAT | MODERATOR |
|--|-------------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Spain, A Comprehensive History | 9:15-10:45 | Zoom | R. Greg Hesterberg |
| Views on the News | 9:15-10:45 | Zoom | Doug Shier and Steve Bravy |
| Ancient Indigenous North American Civilizations | 9:15-10:45 | Zoom | Barry Lentz |
| Controversies: <i>Deaths of Despair and the Future of Capitalism</i> WAIT LIST ONLY | 11:15-12:45 | Zoom | Ken Kustin and Meyer Liberman |
| Probing Dostoevsky, The Prophet of Now in <i>Demons</i> , Part I | 11:15-12:45 | On-site | Michele Levy |
|  Wisdom through the Ages, Part I (Jan. 15, 22, 29) | 11:15-12:45 | On-site | Matt Epstein |
| Short Story: <i>The Art of the Tale</i> | 1:00-2:45 | On-site | Lori-Anne Shapiro and Carolyn Brown |

TUESDAY

| TITLE | TIME | FORMAT | MODERATOR |
|--|-------------|---------|--|
|  <i>Closer to Vermeer</i> , A Documentary Film (Jan 16, and possible showings in Feb., Mar., and Apr.) | 9:15-10:45 | Zoom | R. Greg Hesterberg |
| Great Minds of the Eastern Intellectual Tradition | 9:15-10:45 | Zoom | Jack Narayan, Joe Swain, Vasant Bhardwaj, and Raghu Ballal |
| TED Talks | 11:15-12:45 | On-site | Kit Hill |
| Solving Life's Dilemmas: Rabbinic Letters from the 1st Millennium | 11:15-12:45 | On-site | Jonathan Gerard |
|  Reading Aloud Favorite, One-Act Plays (Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27) WAIT LIST ONLY | 1:30-3:00 | On-site | Meyer Liberman |

WEDNESDAY

| TITLE | TIME | FORMAT | MODERATOR |
|--|-------------|---------|--|
| Reading and Discussing Great Short Stories | 9:15-10:45 | Zoom | Richard Horner, Terry Lucas, and Ruth Morgan |
| Sharing Written Personal Histories | 11:15-12:45 | Zoom | Christine Everhart |
| Spanish Conversations | 11:15-12:45 | Zoom | Melissa Hardy-Trevenna |
| Opera: The Quintessential Art Form | 11:15-12:45 | Zoom | Peggy Stevermer |
|  World's Fairs: Spectacle, Arts, Urbanism (Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27) | 11:15-12:45 | On-site | Bob Healy |

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|--|-------------|---------------|------------------|
|  The Paradox of <i>Persuasion</i> , Jane Austen's Final Novel (Jan. 24, 31, Feb. 7, 14) | 11:15-12:45 | On-site | Carolyn J. Brown |
| Craving Chances for Deeper Thinking, Personal Psychology Wise (Every other Wednesday, beginning Jan. 17) | 1:15-2:45 | On-site | Nancy Goudreau |
| THURSDAY | | | |
| TITLE | TIME | FORMAT | MODERATOR |
| Cosmic Color: Myths and Facts | 9:00-10:30 | Zoom | Brand Fortner |
| World Heritage Sites | 9:15-10:45 | Zoom | Bisharah Libbus |
| The Origin of Civilization | 11:15-12:45 | Zoom | Bisharah Libbus |
| More Digging Into Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i> , Part II | 11:15-12:45 | On-site | Nancy Goudreau |
| Comparative Film Analysis | 11:00-1:30 | On-site | Dan Brenner |
| FRIDAY | | | |
| TITLE | TIME | FORMAT | MODERATOR |
| Deutsche Konversationsgruppe | 9:30-11:00 | Zoom | Andrew O'Brien |
| <i>Shared Learning</i> Friday Book Club (Feb. 2, Mar. 1, Apr. 5, May 3) | 10:00-11:30 | Zoom | Terry Lucas |
| Art Meets Literature (WAIT LIST ONLY Apr. 15, Apr. 19) | 11:15-12:45 | Zoom | Bonnie Sullivan |



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MONDAY

Mon, 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. SPAIN, A COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY (Zoom)

Moderator: R. Greg Hesterberg. Spain sits on a geographic crossroads. This course will show how the Iberian Peninsula linked and inextricably influenced people from Western Europe to North Africa, from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic, and even the Americas. This location and relationships shaped the Spanish people and their culture. Plus, very few countries have had a greater impact on all of global history than Spain...and Spanish today is the second most native spoken language after Mandarin. Based on a *Great Courses* series, this course stretches from Paleolithic times to today. We will cover 2 lectures per meeting with discussion, and, knowing this moderator, have some great laughs. **NOTE:** Course limited to 40 persons.

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

Co-Moderators: Doug Shier and Steve Bravy. This class provides an open round table format that promotes the respectful discussion of events at the world-wide, national, state and local levels. At each meeting, volunteers present current topics and encourage the exchange of ideas, in order to share and learn. The conversations and information exchanges are respectfully managed by the moderators, using agreed upon operating 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. ANCIENT INDIGENOUS NORTH AMERICAN CIVILIZATIONS (Zoom)

Moderator: Barry Lentz. Were the indigenous humans of the lower Mississippi Valley and American Southwest, encountered by European explorers, uncivilized and backward people? Did Caucasian ancestors really save indigenous people from a doomed existence by introducing them to more 'civilized' ways? Or did Caucasians simply overcome them with viral diseases and more advanced methods of warfare . . . and then rob them of their land and simpler way of life, different from European life? We will ask these questions by listening to and discussing a *Great Course, Ancient North American Civilization* by Edwin Barnhart.

Mon, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. CONTROVERSIES: DEATHS OF DESPAIR AND THE FUTURE OF CAPITALISM (Zoom) **WAIT LIST ONLY**

Co-Moderators: Ken Kustin and Meyer Liberman. This is a discussion-oriented course, based on the careful reading of chapters in our well-reviewed, jointly-selected book, *Deaths of Despair and The Future of Capitalism*, by Anne Case and Angus Deaton, 336 pp. This book was critically acclaimed (e.g., *New York Times*, March 17, 2020) and exposes a mystery of US demographics: the decline in life expectancy of white people, aged 45-54. The book shows how capitalism fails all blue-collar workers and suggests ways to reverse downward trends in health and living standards for all Americans. Class members will be asked and encouraged, but not required, to lead the discussion for one session. **NOTE:** Class size is limited to about 15.

Mon, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. PROBING DOSTOEVSKY, THE PROPHET OF NOW IN *DEMONS*, PART I (On-site)

Moderator: Michele Levy. How did the growth of Western ideas colonize the Russian mind, creating a societal split that led to revolution and the death of Old Russia? In his writings, Dostoevsky's type of psychological realism includes sets of tortured souls within a nightmarish Russian society. First, we will read his short 1865 satire, *Crocodile (Krokodil)* (free download from Project Gutenberg), in which a Westernized bureaucrat somehow ends up inside a living crocodile and begins to spout Western ideas to observers in a Russian mall. Then, reading 40 pages weekly, we will delve into Dostoevsky's most political novel, *Demons (Bes)*, 1872, (Penguin Classics, 2008, translator Robert MacGuire). Based on an 1868 Russian assassination, the plot follows a terrorist cell with ambitions for spreading Western ideas that devastates the society and government of a provincial town. Our discussion-based class will emphasize the class responses to these texts and their links to situations now in our modern world. **NOTE:** Class size is limited to 15.



Mon, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. WISDOM THROUGH THE AGES – PART I (Jan. 15, 22, 29) (On-site)

Moderator: Matt Epstein. There have been multiple individuals, groups, and civilizations that have engaged in deep thought about human existence. In **Part I** of this course, we will investigate two of Western civilization's most misunderstood groups – the Stoics and the Epicureans – and explore misunderstandings about both – that the Stoics were unfeeling and stiff-lipped and that the Epicureans were superficial and pleasure-seeking. Nothing could be further from the truth. We will learn about the history and major minds of both schools of thought and compare the similarities and differences between both schools. Finally, we will look at how each, particularly the Stoics, has impacted our modern lives. Each class will begin with a PowerPoint presentation, leading to discussion. Not only will we learn what our modern age has gained from both, but through their deep thinking and insights, we will also learn what we are missing. References will be provided.

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

Co-Moderators: Lori-Anne Shapiro and Carolyn Brown. Come aboard this exciting journey as we explore the short story, a unique and compelling literary genre. Each week, a class member selects a story from either those available free downloadable sites or from *The Art of the Tale*, an international anthology, edited by Daniel Halperin, the 1987 edition (easily available new and used). During class, that member will present a brief biographical background on the writer and then facilitate discussion of the story. The rest of us will have read the story in advance of class and come prepared for discussion. Occasionally, a guest speaker will join us to present a story, either from his/her own collection, in the case of local southern writers or from a list of favorite stories he/she has studied in the past. A series of guest speakers was a new feature during the Fall 2023 term which received resounding enthusiasm and so, might be scheduled for this Winter 2024 term.

TUESDAY



Tu, 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. *CLOSER TO VERMEER*, A DOCUMENTARY FILM (Jan. 16, and possible showings in Feb., Mar. and Apr.) (Zoom)

Moderator: R. Greg Hesterberg. This past year, *The Rijksmuseum* exhibited what is the greatest art blockbuster ever shown, the near-entire collection of all of Vermeer's paintings in one exhibition. This

comprehensive art show will most likely never be duplicated for a variety of reasons, let alone the security risks in bringing an artist's entire collection to one place. No artist has mastered light and color in painting like Johannes Vermeer (1632-1675), known as the "Sphinx of Delft." I had the fortunate opportunity to travel to Amsterdam this past April and view the exhibition. I will share this experience with a film I purchased which covers the entire exhibition in 4K, UHD, complete with interviews with the curators, art restorers, and experts, taking nearly a decade to produce. **NOTE:** Due to possible high demand, I will limit each showing to 35 people per Zoom session, but will offer as many showings as needed to make sure all can watch in the month of January, and possibly February, March, and April.

Tu, 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. GREAT MINDS OF THE EASTERN INTELLECTUAL TRADITION, (Zoom)

Co-Moderators: Jack Narayan, Joe Swain, Vasant Bhardwaj, and Raghu Ballal. This course will serve as an introduction to the most significant thinkers in Asian history. Attention will be given to influential Eastern figures in philosophy, religion, history, literature, political science, and technology, from ancient times until the coming of the West. Class participants will learn about people and ideas that are relatively familiar, such as Sunzi's *Art of War*, Daoism, Yoga, Zen, Gandhi, and Mao, but also, some who are virtually unheard of in the West. We will see development of the three major Asian civilizations—India, China, and Japan—with side trips to Persia, Tibet, and Korea. We will provide basic historical background, so that these great thinkers can be understood within their political and social contexts. To encourage discussion, we will view one *Great Course* lecture per class.

Tu, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. TED TALKS (On-site)

Moderator: Kit Hill. Each week we will watch one, two or three TED Talks, vetted by Kit beforehand and presented by experts in their fields. Let's see what conversations they invite among our participants. Although we may start 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.

Tu, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. SOLVING LIFE'S DILEMMAS: RABBINIC LETTERS FROM THE 1ST MILLENNIUM (On-site)

Moderator: Jonathan Gerard. How did the ancient Jewish sages respond to questions of behavior that continue to vex us today? The answers are contained in the *Responsa*—a body of literature more voluminous than the Talmud (and better written). This course will study the evolution of Judaism's responses to such issues concerning marriage, marital intimacy, divorce, child raising, abortion, business ethics, burial, gambling, capital punishment, voting, and additional topics of interest raised by class members. In each class, we will review one *responsum* – its evolution of interpretation, from the Tanach (the Bible) to the Talmud to the history of rabbinic explanation and rulings. For example, we may discuss the question concerning how to think about risking the lives of innocent civilians in a defensive or just war.



Tu, 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. READING ALOUD FAVORITE, ONE-ACT PLAYS (Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27) (On-site) **WAIT LIST ONLY**

Moderator: Meyer Liberman. During our four weeks, we will read aloud four to six one-act plays with all members sharing equal acting/oral reading time. While we will enjoy this collaborative experience, we will also relish discussing our insights about the plots, characters, and/or writing style of the playwrights. Our text will be **24 Favorite One-Act Plays**, edited by Bennett Cerf and Dan H. Cartmell, 1958 (available on Amazon). Meyer will initially select plays from the 24 in the book that will take about an hour to read aloud. The class will then choose four to six plays from such famous authors as: Chekhov, Arthur Miller, John M. Synge, William Butler Yeats, etc. **NOTE:** Class is limited to ten members.

WEDNESDAY

Wed, 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. READING AND DISCUSSING GREAT SHORT STORIES (Zoom)

Co-Moderators: Richard Horner, Terry Lucas, and Ruth Morgan. Each week, a class member will be assigned to lead a story from **The Best Short Stories 2022: O. Henry Prize Winners** edited by Valeria Luiselli and Jenny Minton Quigley. This book is available for purchase from local bookstores or Amazon. At our first meeting, participants will sign-up for their chosen story to be discussed. The in-depth discussions focus on the author, the writing style, the plot, the themes, the characters and their development, the story's relevance to us and the fun of gathering and sharing our thoughts and disagreements! **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: Christine Everhart. 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. 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, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. OPERA, THE QUINTESSENTIAL ART FORM (Zoom)

Moderator: Peggy Stevermer. 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 semester we will be looking

at opera of the late 19th and early 20th century, which is a period of many great composers, including Verdi, Wagner and Puccini. It is a period that, in the case of Verdi and Puccini, takes a fresher look at the Italian Bel canto (beautiful singing) style of the early 19th century. As in the past, Peggy will be sharing information with you through PowerPoints, 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, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. WORLD'S FAIRS: SPECTACLE, ARTS, URBANISM
(Mar 6, 13, 20, 27) (On-site)**

Moderator: Bob Healy. Since London's *Crystal Palace Exhibition* of 1851, international exhibitions, often called "World's Fairs," have served as: (1) emblems of national pride and colonial domination; (2) demonstrations of new technologies; (3) templates for innovations in the arts and urban planning; and (4) places where rural people could experience new forms of urban entertainment. In addition, fairs introduced visitors to technological marvels (electric street lighting, television) and cultural icons (belly dancing, the ice cream cone) and left lasting legacies (the Eiffel Tower and Chicago's Jackson Park). Bob will introduce us to four types of 'fair' with differing goals: (1) as an industrial boast (Centennial Exposition, 1876); (2) as urban spectacle (World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1892; Exposition Internationale, Paris 1900); (3) as part of a golden age of World's Fairs (St. Louis, Paris 1931) and (4) as 'Zombie Fairs' (Montreal, 1967) when they became victims of competition from theme parks, the Olympics and consumer electronic shows. Bob will make extensive use of original films shot at many fairs and will show some of the 'souvenirs' that the fairs generated.



Wed, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. THE PARADOX OF *PERSUASION*, JANE AUSTEN'S FINAL NOVEL (Jan. 24, 31, Feb. 7, 14) (On-site)

Moderator: Carolyn J. Brown. According to many scholars, Jane Austen's last complete novel, *Persuasion*, published in 1818, is her finest work. It has been described as both "the warmest and the coldest...the softest and the hardest." Through oral readings, short lectures, critical biographical context and discussion, we will unpack *Persuasion's* many paradoxes, including the role of the British Navy and the health and illness in both Austen's life and in the novel. Set in 1814, the narrative transpires during a brief peace in the course of England's war with France, and, although written in the Regency period, it contains several references to Romantic poets and themes. Finally, Austen's attention to gender and class, especially her examination of the traditional roles of women, make the novel quite modern for its time. Ahead of class, participants are asked to read the section of the novel under discussion. If you don't already own *Persuasion*, Carolyn recommends buying the 2012 Norton Critical Edition. **NOTE:** Class size is limited to 15 members.

Wed, 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. CRAVING CHANCES FOR DEEPER THINKING, PERSONAL PSYCHOLOGY-WISE (Every other Wednesday, beginning Jan. 17) (On-site)

Facilitator: 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 our past/current behavior and attitudes that might have us locked into a stale existence. Are we reluctant or unable to change our long-established state of mind and behavior? How can/should/might we conceive deeper psychological insights to grow our perceptions? If so, what benefits are we missing or could we gain? Participants are welcome to propose

meeting themes. (An example from last term: “What are the benefits and/or costs to you for maintaining friendships or relationships?”) Without judgment, we’ll share experiences and propose perspectives that will demonstrate and elaborate on each theme, different per meeting. Also, participants will be welcome to facilitate meetings. **NOTE:** Class size is limited to 15.

THURSDAY

Th, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. THE SCIENCE OF COSMIC COLOR: MYTHS AND FACTS (Jan 18.- Mar. 14) (Zoom)

Moderator: Brand Fortner. You think you know color? You don’t. Color contains wonders and surprises that amaze, astound and confound. Is color a human construct or a fundamental part of nature? Would an alien, or a parakeet, agree with us on colors? Do images from space telescopes or Mars landers show “true” colors? For that matter, do photographs? Or displays? After taking this course, you will understand the answers to all these questions. This nine-week course has three sections: (1) Color Vision: the physics of light, the biology of the eye, the processing of color by the brain, and the math of color vision; (2) Color Technology: color models, such as, CIE and color reproduction in print and display; and (3) Color Perception: the use of color to visualize data in graphic design and color vision by aliens. This course will illuminate the confusions, myths and amazing facts about color.

Th, 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. WORLD HERITAGE SITES (Zoom)

Moderator: Bisharah Libbus. UNESCO has identified 1199 cultural and natural landmark sites throughout the world that have outstanding value to humanity. We will listen to and discuss in each class two lectures from a *Great Course* by Prof. Justin M. Jacobs that covers 24 selected sites. These sites include: the Paleolithic cave art of Spain and France, the Taj Mahal of Agra, Australia’s Great Barrier Reef, the Mogao Grottos and Manuscripts, Persepolis, Samarkand, Thebes, the Forbidden City, Timbuktu, Angkor, and others. The lecturer draws on ecological, biological, historical and architectural data. This will provide insight and appreciation of the amazing beauty and allure of these sites and, in many cases, enrich our sense of wonder at human creativity. As usual, sharing our individual insights will be a focus of each class.

Th, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. THE ORIGIN OF CIVILIZATION (Zoom)

Moderator: Bisharah Libbus. The class will view and discuss lectures by Prof. Scott MacEachern, an archaeologist and anthropologist at Bowdoin College. In his *Great Course* series of lectures, *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 cultures. These include: 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. The lectures trace 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. MORE DIGGING INTO OVID'S *METAMORPHOSES*, PART II (On-site)

Moderator: Nancy Goudreau. We continue to dig into *Metamorphoses*, the collection of 250 stories written in lyric poetry and published in 8 C.E., by star Roman author Ovid. His stories depict transformations made over time in legendary Greek/Roman mythological tales, as well as in Roman history and society. He works to drain the majesty from the Olympians and historic heroes, while showing the greed, envy, violence, sexual aggression, hopeless terror and hunger for power of his characters – traits still relevant among today's world leaders. His choice of myths portray such themes, without any one hero character or one plot line. Our text title is *Metamorphoses by Ovid*, translated by Stephanie McCarter, 2022, Penguin Books. Starting mid-way in the book, we will review four myths per week (about 20 pages) with in-class oral reading and interpretation.

NOTES: *Class size is limited to 15. *Newcomers are welcome. (Before our first meeting, to help you acclimate to Ovid's poetic style and world, you might read the book introduction and any ten myths from those on pages: 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 14, 17, 23, 27, 33, 63, 67, 69, 77, 80, III, 120, 124, 139, 151, 156 and 167.)

Th, 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. COMPARATIVE FILM ANALYSIS (On-site)

Moderator: Dan Brenner. This semester we will view 13 films centered around three different and distinct themes. First, we will travel across the pond and examine 5 British films made in the 1960s: *The Magic Christian*, *The Ruling Class*, *Blow-Up*, and finally two films from director Lindsay Anderson – *O Lucky Man!* and *If*. In our next theme, we will explore teachers and education with the four films: *To Sir, With Love*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *Mona Lisa Smile*, and *Dead Poets Society*. We will then view four films by the acclaimed director Alexander Payne: *About Schmidt*, *Sideways*, *The Descendants*, and *Nebraska*. At the end of each film there will be a group critique. **NOTES:** * Films will be presented with closed captions (some DVDs may not have that feature). *This class will start at 11:00 a.m. and end at 1:30 p.m. to accommodate the longer running films and the discussion. *Class size is limited to 35.

FRIDAY

Fri, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 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 (1st Friday of the month) (Zoom)

Leader: Terry Lucas. Please join *Shared Learning* friends and new acquaintances to review and discuss current and classic group-selected books. (See below for the listing in 2024.) 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 Winter 2024 were chosen by this past year's members.

Schedule:

- * **February 2** – *Lessons in Chemistry*, Bonnie Garmus.
- * **March 1** – *Coyote America: A Natural and Supernatural History*, Dan Flores.
- * **April 5** – *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, Moshin Hamid.
- * **May 3** – *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*, Robert Heinlein.

Fri, 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. ART MEETS LITERATURE (3rd Fridays) (Zoom)
WAIT LIST ONLY

Moderator: Bonnie Sullivan. From 11th century France to the U.S. in the 20th century, we'll study printmakers, painters and embroiderers. Classes will incorporate book discussion and visual analysis. "Studying past art fosters empathy, broadens perspectives, and enhances visual literacy" - Khan Academy.
NOTE: Class size is limited to 24 participants.

Schedule:

- * **January 19** – *The Invention of Truth* by **Marta Morazzoni**. Historical fiction about the Bayeux Tapestry in 11th century France, 99 pages.
- * **February 16** – *The Printmaker's Daughter* by **Katherine Govier**. The story of father and daughter artists in 18th century Tokyo. Historical fiction, 497 pages.
- * **March 15** – *In Montmartre: Picasso, Matisse and the Birth of Modern Art* by **Sue Roe**, pages xi - 171. A group biography of the artists who worked in Montmartre after the Impressionists.
- * **April 19** – *In Montmartre: Picasso, Matisse and the Birth of Modern Art* by **Sue Roe**, pages 171 - 312.
- * **May 17** – *Georgia: A Novel of Georgia O'Keeffe* by **Dawn Tripp**. O'Keefe's quest to become an independent artist. Historical fiction, 352 pages.

Find used books at thriftbooks.com, abebooks.com, or Amazon's "More Buying Choices."

Shared Learning Association Registration for the Winter Term 2024, January 15 – April 12

The deadline to become a 2023-2024 member and to register for courses in the Winter term is Monday, January 5, 2024. Most classes begin during the week of January 15 – check the schedule for start dates.

PLEASE NOTE: If you previously paid your \$70 membership fee in Fall 2023, no further payment will be needed.

There are two options for registration and any required payment:


Online: Use [this link](#) to register and pay online – **\$40 per person membership fee for the Winter 2024 term.** 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 any payment has been successfully received.

– or –

On paper: Use the registration form on page 16 which is also posted on our website, sharedlearning.us. (Note: couples should place both initials separately on the form.) Mail the completed form and any payment to: Doug Shier, Registrar, 182 Fearington Post, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Make your check (the **\$40 per person membership fee**), payable to *Shared Learning of Chapel Hill*.

NOTE: For any questions about a course, email 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.

Course Choices for Winter 2024

| Initials | Course Titles | Initials | Course Titles |
|----------|---|----------|--|
| | Spain, A Comprehensive History Zoom, Monday, 9:15 a.m. 11 | |  World's Fairs: Spectacle, Arts, Urbanism On-site, Wednesday, 11:15 a.m. 35 |
| | Views on the News Zoom, Monday 9:15 a.m. 12 | |  The Paradox of <i>Persuasion</i>, Jane Austen's Final Novel On-site, Wednesday, 11:15 a.m. 36 |
| | Ancient Indigenous Northern American Civilizations Zoom, Monday, 9:15 a.m. 13 | | Craving Chances for Deeper Thinking, Personal Psychology-Wise On-site, Wednesday, 1:15 p.m. 37 |
| | Controversies: <i>Death of Despair and the Future of Capitalism</i> WAIT LIST ONLY Zoom, Monday 11:15 a.m. 14 | | Cosmic Color: Myths and Facts Zoom, Thursday, 9:00 a.m. 41 |
| | Probing Dostoevsky, The Prophet of Now, Part I On-site, Monday, 11:15 a.m. 15 | | World Heritage Sites Zoom, Thursday, 9:15 a.m. 42 |
| |  Wisdom through the Ages, Part I On-site, Monday, 11:15 a.m. 16 | | The Origin of Civilization Zoom, Thursday, 11:15 a.m. 43 |
| | Short Story: <i>The Art of the Tale</i> On-site, Monday, 1:00 p.m. 17 | | More Digging into Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i>, Part II On-site, Thursday, 11:15 a.m. 44 |
| |  <i>Closer to Vermeer</i>, A Documentary Film Zoom, Tuesday, 9:15 a.m. 21 | | Comparative Film Analysis On-site, Thursday, 11:00 a.m. 45 |
| | Great Minds of the Eastern Intellectual Tradition Zoom, Tuesday, 9:15 a.m. 22 | | Deutsche Konversationsgruppe Zoom, Friday, 9:30 a.m. 51 |
| | TED Talks On-site, Tuesday, 11:15 a.m. 23 | | Shared Learning Friday Book Club Zoom, Friday, 10:00 a.m. 52 |
| | Solving Life's Dilemmas: Rabbinic Letters from the 1st Millennium On-site, Tuesday, 11:15 a.m. 24 | | Art Meets Literature WAIT LIST ONLY Zoom, Friday, 11:15 a.m. 53 |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| |  Reading Aloud Theater-Favorite, One-Act Plays WAIT LIST ONLY On-site, Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. 25 | | |
| | Reading and Discussing Great Short Stories Zoom, Wednesday, 9:15 a.m. 31 | | |
| | Sharing Written Personal Histories Zoom, Wednesday, 11:15 a.m. 32 | | |
| | Spanish Conversations Zoom, Wednesday, 11:15 a.m. 33 | | |
| | Opera: The Quintessential Art Form Zoom, Wednesday, 11:15 a.m. 34 | | |

Shared Learning Association Registration Form for the Winter Term, 2024

Member information for one or two people

| | Person 1 | Person 2 |
|--|----------|----------|
|--|----------|----------|

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 .

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) If you have not previously answered the following (or if your preferences have now changed), kindly indicate your current position regarding the use of photographs by *Shared Learning*:

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 _____