

FIVE COLLEGE
LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

SPRING 2009
SEMINAR CATALOG

February 9 – April 23

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Affiliate of the Elderhostel Institute Network

April 19, 2009

To the Members of Five College Learning in Retirement:

The Curriculum Committee of Five College Learning in Retirement is delighted to present this catalog of seminars and workshops for the spring 2009 term. Committee members and seminar moderators have worked together over the past several months to develop a curriculum that we believe reflects the broad range of artistic and intellectual interests of the 5CLIR membership. We hope that you agree and that you find among these offerings seminars that excite and challenge both heart and mind.

Our peer-led seminars and workshops are the center of the 5CLIR program and their success depends on the quality of participation of each member. In seminars, each participant is responsible for researching and making one report or presentation and for taking an active part in all discussions. In workshops, participants engage in active learning, usually through hands-on activities; sometimes these involve outside preparation. 5CLIR has an extensive inventory of audio/visual equipment that may be reserved by members to use in their seminar presentations. Any expenses such as texts, DVD/VCR rentals, photocopies, or artistic supplies are the responsibility of the participants.

The Committee would like to thank the members who have volunteered to moderate the 24 seminars and workshops to be offered in the spring semester. Without their creativity and dedication, we would not have the variety and quality that you find in these pages.

Members of the 2008–2009 Curriculum Committee

Term Ending 30 June '09

Bertram Bandman
Roger Coulombe
Pat Goldsher
Carol Lee*
Michael Wolff

Term Ending 30 June '10

Shirley Brodigan
Susan Case
Gerald Goldman
Irving Howards
Anne McIntosh

Term Ending 30 June '11

Paul Berman
Laura Cranshaw
Peter Ferber
Beverley von Kries
Naomi Yanis

*will move up to another class when a vacancy becomes available

Sara Wright and Joan Laird, **Co-Chairs**

Ex-Officio: Leo Sartori, President

Five College LIR: Schedule of Seminars – Spring 2009

Monday Mornings (10:00–12:00)

George Eliot's Last Two Novels... – Michael Wolff – AC: Room 207, Campus Center
The Bicycle – Sandy Muspratt – SC: Field House
Puzzles About Art: Intro to Aesthetics – Nancy Frazier & Michael Greenebaum –
Room 113, UMass: Continuing Educ Bldg, Venture Way (off N. Maple St), Hadley
The Legacy of Darwin – Dorothy Rosenthal & Jim Scott – Hitchcock Center,
525 South Pleasant St (Route 116), Amherst (meeting elsewhere *tba* on Feb 17th)

Monday Afternoons (1:30–3:30)

Foundation of Portrait Drawing – Cosimo Favaloro – SC: Field House
Let's Read the Book and See the Movie – Dorothy Gorra – UMass: Room 113,
Continuing Education Bldg, Venture Way (off N. Maple St), Hadley
America's Love–Hate Relationship With Drugs – Peter Ferber & Pete Reitt – Rockridge
Retirement Community, 25 Coles Meadow Road, Northampton
Isaac Bashevis Singer – Gerald Goldman – HC: National Yiddish Book Center
(NOTE: This seminar runs from February 23rd to April 27th.)

Tuesday Mornings (10:00–12:00)

Watercolor Painting – Sally Lawton – SC: Field House
Women and the Law – Barbara Reitt & Joan Laird – SC: Dewey Hall Common Room
The History of Photography – Paul Berman – Amherst Woman's Club, 35 Triangle St,
Amherst

Tuesday Afternoons (1:30–3:30)

Three Irish Playwrights – Ed Golden – AC: Room 207, Campus Center (Note: this
seminar begins on February 17th and finishes on April 28th)
Time, Clocks and Calendars – Beverley von Kries & John Armstrong – SC: Dewey Hall
Common Room
Reading Poetry: American Poets Laureate – Katharine Hazen & Suzette Jones –
Rockridge Retirement Community, 25 Coles Meadow Road, Northampton

AC – Amherst College

HC – Hampshire College campus

SC – Smith College

UMass – UMass @ Amherst

Five College LIR: Schedule of Seminars – Fall 2008 continued

Wednesday Mornings (10:00–12:00)

Age of Enlightenment – Hy Edelstein & George Snook – *SC: Field House*
Writer's Workshop – Sue Case – *UMass: Room 114, Continuing Education Bldg,
Venture Way (off N. Maple St), Hadley*
History of Cinema in the US – Dean Poli – *Newman Catholic Center at UMass,
472 North Pleasant Street, Amherst*
The Short Stories of Edith Wharton – Sofia Ellsberg & Mary Franks – *Amherst
Woman's Club, 35 Triangle St, Amherst*

Wednesday Afternoons (1:30–3:30)

Pre-Colombian North Americans – Larry Ambs – *UMass: Room 114, Continuing
Education Building, Venture Way (off N. Maple St), Hadley*
Autobiographical Writing – Joel Halpern & Sally Wilbur – *Amherst Woman's Club,
35 Triangle St, Amherst*

Thursday Mornings (9:30–11:30) NOTE THURSDAY TIME CHANGE!

The Bloomsbury Group Revisited – Sheila Klem – *UMass: Room 114, Continuing
Education Bldg, Venture Way (off N. Maple St), Hadley*
Contemporary Jazz Performers – Audrey Bozzo – *Mt Tom Room, Easthampton
Lathrop (Note: Seminar meets from 10:00–12:00 noon.)*
Richard Wagner, Part II – Peggy Bedell – *Community Meeting House, Northampton
Lathrop (Note: Seminar meets from 10:00–12:00 noon.)*
The Once-a-Week Vegetarian – Lise Armstrong – *55 Amity Place, Amherst
(Note seminar meets from 10:00–12:30 and does not meet on April 2nd)*

AC – Amherst College MtH – Mt Holyoke College

SC – Smith College UMass – UMass @ Amherst

All seminars are confirmed. While every effort is made to adhere to the schedule as published here, occasionally changes must be made at the request of a hosting institution, but you will be advised immediately of any altered arrangements.

There are no seminars on Thursday afternoon and all day Friday.

Spring 2009 Catalog for 5CLIR

Seminars begin the week of Monday, February 9th, 2009

MONDAY MORNING

George Eliot's Last Two Novels With Something of Her Life

Moderator: Michael Wolff

Role of Participants: either prepare a brief presentation on a chosen topic or lead a discussion on a pre-assigned reading

Number of Participants (incl. moderator): 16

Time: Monday mornings, 10:00 – 12:00

Place: Room 207, Amherst College Campus Center

Parking: Obtain parking permit from Campus Safety Office, Amherst College

Before George Eliot became one of Britain's great novelists, she was Marian Evans, a shy provincial woman and an intellectual prodigy with a reading knowledge of seven languages. She was earning a living in London as a translator, editor, and journalist, when, in her mid-thirties, she met GH Lewes, who became her life-partner and gave her the love she needed to become a best-selling author. Those who took this seminar earlier have already read all her novels and stories (*Scenes of Clerical Life, Adam Bede, The Mill on the Floss, "The Lifted Veil", "Brother Jacob," Romola, and Felix Holt, the Radical*).

Both her last novels, *Middlemarch* (1873) and *Daniel Deronda* (1876), especially reward careful reading. Most critics think *Middlemarch* as great as anything by Tolstoy or Balzac and we will test that in the first half of the semester. Then we will turn to *Daniel Deronda* (1876), her last novel and her most experimental. *Daniel Deronda* has two heroes (and perhaps two heroines): first, Daniel, who is seeking the truth about himself and the women who fascinate him; and second, Mordecai, whose life is based on a vision of his people's future.

Resources to be used: Everyone will need the same two books, the Penguin Classics *Middlemarch* (ed. Rosemary Ashton) and *Daniel Deronda* (ed. Terence Cave).

The Bicycle

Moderator: Sandy Muspratt

Role of Participants: give a presentation: either a report or demonstration

Number of Participants (incl. moderator): 15

Time: Monday mornings, 10:00 to 12:00

Place: Field House, Smith College

Parking: Plentiful, on site

The golden age of the bicycle was probably 1890 to 1910; a new, platinum, age dawns as gas prices *reculent pour mieux sauter*.

The Bicycle continued

Do you secretly yearn to recapture the joys of your first bike? Prepare now!! **Sessions will progress from the cerebral to the physical.** It is hoped that each participant will be inspired (not required) to choose, acquire, master, mount and propel his/her own machine. Weather permitting, the seminar will culminate in a gentle, safe, easily accomplished, group ride.

Participants will give reports: history, fashion, design, exercise physiology, obscure usage, races, heroes; or demonstrations: mechanics, maintenance, simple repairs, safety, trip planning. We will have classroom presentations, practical demonstrations, a visit to a bike shop, and a group ride for Spring 2009.

Resources to be used: "Bicycle" entered in the five college libraries, Jones, and Forbes Library searches yields scores of "hits." Topics abound: the bicycle in children's literature, amazing journeys, engineering oddities. You will find a lot of information on the Web, especially <http://sheldonbrown.com/harris/index.html#articles>

This seminar/workshop is intended to lure the wary and inert into a joyful activity.

Puzzles About Art: An Introduction to Aesthetics

Moderators: Nancy Frazier and Michael Greenebaum

Role of participants: Give a short presentation and lead a discussion

Number of participants (incl. moderators): 16

Time: Monday mornings, 10:00 – 12:00

Place: Room 113, UMass Continuing Education Bldg, Venture Way, off N Maple Street, Hadley

Parking: Plentiful, on site

Finally! Answers to the questions that have kept you awake at night. Is truth beauty and beauty truth? Is Duchamps' urinal really an artwork? Does a perfect forgery have the same aesthetic value as the original? Can bad persons create masterworks? Are aesthetic values merely matters of taste?

If questions like these pique your curiosity, our seminar may be the right choice for you. We will plunge into the philosophic discipline called Aesthetics in the most delightful and entertaining way possible. We will read, discuss and argue a wide range of puzzles, both real and imaginary, that raise questions like these. We will be gently introduced to philosophers and arts theorists who come down on all sides of aesthetic puzzles. Our puzzles will deal with fine art, music, dance, and will raise questions about meaning and interpretation that are relevant to all areas of life and thought.

Resources to be used: Members will be asked to obtain the text by Battin, Fisher, Moore and Silvers: *Puzzles About Art*, St Martin's Press, 1989 (ISBN:0-312-00307-2), which costs about \$25. If enough members wish, we can have copies set aside at Amherst Books in downtown Amherst.

The Legacy of Darwin

Moderator(s): Dorothy Rosenthal and Jim Scott

Role of Participants: prepare a brief presentation on a chosen topic

Number of Participants (incl. moderators): 18

Time: Monday mornings, 10:00 – 12:00

Place: Hitchcock Center, 525 South Pleasant St (Route 116 South), Amherst

(Note: The February 16th seminar will be held elsewhere, to be arranged)

Parking: Plentiful, on site

Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, published in 1859, is one of the most influential books ever written. The book received a mixed reception when it was published because it conflicted with the view that all species were created at one time and have not varied since. The theory Darwin advanced in that book, evolution through natural selection, became and still is the central unifying idea in biology. But even though modern biology rests on a foundation of Darwin's ideas, at least one-third or more of Americans still do not accept the idea of evolution and many oppose teaching evolution in science classes.

In this seminar, we will trace the evolution of Darwin's ideas from his voyage on the *Beagle* (1832–1837) to the “modern synthesis” of genetics and evolution in the mid-20th century. Along the way we will learn about his visit to the Galapagos Islands; his other scientific work; the independent discovery of the theory of evolution by Alfred Russel Wallace; the response to publication of *On the Origin of Species*, and the history of Social Darwinism.

Role of Participants: Presentation and discussion. The moderators will provide a list of possible topics, such as *The Voyage of the Beagle*, *On the Origin of Species*, Responses to *On the Origin of Species*, Social Darwinism, and co-evolution.

Resources to be used: The moderators will provide a bibliography of a few sources on each topic to help seminar members get started. All participants will be asked to read *The Reluctant Mr. Darwin* by David Quammen before the first session.

MONDAY AFTERNOON

Foundation of Portrait Drawing

Moderator: Cosimo Favaloro

Role of Participants: create drawings at home similar to those executed in class

Number of Participants (incl. moderator): 10

Time: Monday afternoons, 1:30 – 3:30

Field House, Smith College

Parking: Plentiful, on site

Here is a chance to acquire a set of skills usually not associated with 5CLIR seminars. Within the time constraints, we will reinforce our ability to see so that we can depict the

Foundation of Portrait Drawing continued

beauty of the human face through a drawing. This seminar is designed as a three-step process.

First we will create drawings of a “still life” that contains the simple large masses that describe the features of the head and of many objects around us – the cube, pyramid, cylinder, rectangle, sphere, etc., examining the function of line and value in depicting the three-dimensional world on a flat sheet. Next we examine how the facial features change as the head is observed from different angles. We will study and make drawings of the human skull since it is the underlying structure of the head we see. Lastly, we apply this knowledge to the creation of drawings of a professional model or volunteers willing to pose for two hours. During each class the moderator will go from person to person to help with the drawing in progress.

This is a hands-on workshop with assigned homework. A handout with technical information and selected projects will be distributed at each class.

Resources: Some references will be suggested, and information sheets about materials needed will be distributed. If a model is used, the cost will be shared by participants, about \$3.00 each per class. We hope to visit a collection of drawings at a nearby museum.

Let’s Read the Book and See the Movie: Favorite American Novels and Films

Moderator: Dorothy Gorra

Role of Participants: give a report or lead a discussion on a book or movie

Number of Participants (incl. moderator): 20

Time: Monday afternoons, 1:30 – 3:30 (alternate weeks, 1:30 – 4:00)

*Place: Room 113, UMass Continuing Education Bldg, Venture Way, off N Maple Street, Hadley
Parking: Plentiful, on site*

In this seminar we will read *The Accidental Tourist* by Anne Tyler, *Billy Bathgate* by E.L. Doctorow, *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck, *Nobody’s Fool* by Richard Russo, and *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. In the first session, a biography of the author will be presented, followed by a discussion of the novel. In the following session, the film will be preceded by an introduction about the director, actors, etc., followed by a discussion of how the film relates to the novel.

Format: For book sessions, we will have one presenter for the author’s biography and one for book discussion. For movie sessions, one presenter will give the background information and another will present the movie.

Resources to be used: Any edition of the novels will do. The presenters on film day will be responsible for procuring the movie, which should be easily available through various sources such as libraries and Netflix.

America's Love-Hate Relationship with Drugs

Moderators: Peter Ferber and Pete Reitt

Role of Participants: prepare a brief presentation on a chosen topic

Number of Participants (incl. moderators): 16

Time: Monday afternoons, 1:30 – 3:30

Place: Rockridge Retirement Community, 25 Coles Meadow Road, Northampton

Parking: Plentiful, on site

From the medicine shows in the 19th century through the days of Prohibition and the Roaring 20s, followed by the acid-soaked 1960s on to the War on Drugs in our recent past, America has shown an intense ambivalence toward the use of mind-altering substances. This seminar will examine our relationship to intoxicating drugs from several perspectives and in several contexts.

We will study the history of drug laws and drug consumption; the moral, religious and political dimensions of the ongoing struggle, with its advancing and receding boundaries; the human toll of drug use; and the international ramifications of our drug policies and habits. Along the way we will look at the pharmacology of the substances of abuse, and their ramifications in terms of the health and productivity of our population. As time permits, we will digress and examine other nations' dealings with drugs, such as the effects of marijuana laws in The Netherlands, the place of opium in history, or our irrational enthusiasms for imaginary medical cures.

This is a seminar with reports and discussion. Suggested topics include, but are not limited to: laudanum use in the 1800s, Edgar Allan Poe and Sherlock Holmes, the roller coaster of American drug laws, cocaine and its pioneers at the turn of the century, America's prison population and the human and economic costs of a Draconian drug policy.

Resources to be used: Medical, sociological, and historical literature; the current media; the internet; fiction and memoirs.

The Imagination of a Master Story Teller: Isaac Bashevis Singer

Moderator: Gerald Goldman

Role of Participants: introduce and guide a discussion on one reading

Number of Participants (incl. moderator): 16

Time: Monday afternoons, 1:30 – 3:30

NOTE: Seminar runs from February 23rd to April 27th

Place: National Yiddish Book Center, Hampshire College

Parking: Plentiful, on site

Isaac Bashevis Singer was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1978. He authored more than 40 volumes of short stories, novels, children's tales, plays and memoirs. Singer mined the dichotomies in the human psyche – our yearning to believe and our inability to do so, our awareness of fate and our experience of freedom, mystical

Isaac Bashevis Singer continued

experience in conflict with reason; love, hate, loyalty and betrayal in human relationships, especially between the sexes.

In this seminar we will read three of his novels. We will begin with his first novel, *Satan in Goray*, a tour de force, detailing the destruction of a 17th century Jewish community obsessed with the messianic end of time and the erosion of law and morality. Then two love stories: *Shosha*, a tale of love between childhood sweethearts set in pre-war Poland, and *Enemies, A Love Story*, the story of two holocaust survivors, husband and wife, each of whom believes the other has died in the camps, who by chance meet in New York City.

Resources to be used: Participants will be asked to read three books: *Satan in Goray*, The Noonday Press, Farrar Straus and Giroux, 1955; *Shosha*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1978; *Enemies: A Love Story*, Farrar Straus and Giroux, 1972.

TUESDAY MORNING

Watercolor Painting

Moderator: Sally Lawton

Role of Participants: hands-on painting and drawing

Number of Participants (incl. moderator): 15

Time: Tuesday mornings, 10:00 – 12:00

Place: Field House, Smith College

Parking: Plentiful, on site

In this workshop participants will use watercolor in various ways according to their individual skills and preferences, perhaps abstractly sometimes, more likely realistic as that has been the interest in past sessions. We will arrange and paint still life and occasionally portraits. Beginners are welcome as well as those with more experience.

Usually, but not always, painting is preceded by a drawing, an overall general plan with few details, drawn with pencil or pen (waterproof). One can also draw with the paint brush. Watercolor is a medium that balances the painter's control with letting the paint do its own thing. So it is an adventure with surprises and infinite possibilities. At the end of each session we set up all the paintings to discover, from a distance, what looks best and how to improve problem areas. We can learn from both successes and mistakes. Usually each painting will include both aspects which are much more easily observed from a distance.

Resources to be used: For our relatively short times it would be best to have a watercolor pad of a convenient size (11X15), 12 sheets (both sides can be used), some brushes, one round and a flat bigger brush and 5 or 6 colors. Some paint sets have many colors which are not really necessary and are confusing. Better to mix colors to achieve harmony. Also a pencil. Estimated cost: \$25 or more (brushes can be costly).

Women and the Law: How Far Have We Come, Baby?

Moderators: Barbara Reitt and Joan Laird

Role of participants: give a short presentation and lead a discussion

Number of participants (incl. moderators): 16

Time: Tuesday mornings, 10:00 – 12:00

Place: Dewey Hall Common Room, Smith College

Parking: Participants will be issued with a permit to park on the Smith campus

The Law Library of Congress, introducing its online program “American Women,” declares: “Historically, the legal rights of women have been determined by men” and adds, “It seems ironic that Justice, the symbol of the United States court system, is female.” Throughout U.S. history, laws addressing women have touched every aspect of life. They have defined what a woman must do, may or may not do, and what others may or must do with, for, or to her. Laws thus have affected her role in the family, business and employment, education, courts, health care, church, the bedroom, and even the grave, in her will—that is, *if* she was allowed to make a will—or even to own anything. At times, a woman even disappears legally as a person.

At our first session, the moderators will provide an overview of the history of the legal status of U.S. women and of resources for research. Participants will select a report topic, choosing either:

- a situation from the life of a woman (real or fictitious) in a particular state and time that reveals women’s legal status at that time and place (e.g., property rights, guardianship of her own children, access to education or employment, contractual rights, citizenship)
- a landmark case concerning women’s legal status or rights, in one state or nationally
- a single issue concerning women’s rights or legal status at a particular time and place, possibly focusing on a subgroup (e.g., immigrants, widows, freed slaves, mothers).

Resources to be used: Participants will be provided with a packet of readings assembled by the moderators, who will ask to be reimbursed for the cost of the copying (approximately \$3.00). We will also supply participants who need it for their presentation with a copy of a particular state’s history of women’s status from Christina Kassabian Schaefer’s sourcebook *Hidden Half of the Family*. All participants will be given a glossary of legal terms and a bibliography of resources.

Our discussions will address not only legal issues, but also cultural and social forces that intensify or mitigate the law. We hope to emerge from this seminar with a better understanding of the status of both yesterday’s and today’s American woman.

The History Of Photography, Part I: 1800-1900

Moderator: Paul Berman

Role of Participants: make a short presentation and lead a discussion

Number of Participants (incl. moderator): 15–18

Time: Tuesday mornings, 10:00 – 12:00

Place: Amherst Woman's Club, Triangle St, Amherst

Parking: On site

This seminar is part one of two sessions, the first to be offered in the spring of 2009 and the second in the fall of 2009. The first part will look at the beginnings of photography starting with Louis Daguerre about 1839 and extending to 1900. The second will carry us up to the present. Participants will have to do a presentation on some aspect of photography emphasizing the contribution made to the field. This is NOT a seminar in how to use the camera!

The format will be presentation of papers, two to a session from a list of subjects that I will supply at the first meeting. We may look at specific photographers and what their contribution was to photography. We may look at particular techniques, particular types of cameras. I want to keep the course flexible, trying to look at various subjects in photography – Wedgewood's "sun pictures," daguerreotypes, camera obscura, Henry Fox, stereoscopic era, Disderi, Talbot, Muybridge, Eastman, etc.

We will show illustrations with slides or simply bring in books with pictures – "flexibility" is the word.

Resources to be used: Resources are many and can be found in all the libraries both academic and public as well as on-line. I can provide some specific call numbers for the Forbes, and the Jones. All the universities have extensive material in the art portion of their libraries and of course there is Google, etc.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

Three Irish Playwrights: O'Casey, Synge, and Yeats

Moderator: Ed Golden

Role of Participants: lead a discussion of at least an act of one of the pieces

Number of Participants (incl. moderator): 10–16

Time: Tuesday afternoons, 1:30 – 3:30

NOTE: This seminar begins on February 17th and finishes on April 28th

Place: Room 207, Campus Center, Amherst College

This dynamic trio burst upon the Dublin scene toward the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries to establish the theater of Ireland as arguably second to none on the stages of the Western world. Even today their splendid legacy lives on in the stellar plays of Sebastian Barry, Martin McDonough and Conor McPherson, contemporary Irish writers in great demand and widely praised on both stage and screen.

Three Irish Playwrights continued

Join me to read and discuss a selection of the works of these three classic playwrights for the underlying ideas, magnificent language, vibrant characters, shattering emotional depths, and razor-sharp wit that have become identified as both universal and unmistakably Irish.

We will have a close reading of the plays. There will be emphasis on discussion, with a particular interest in how these plays might be realized today onstage, in film, or on TV. Each person will lead a discussion of at least an act of one of the pieces (development of the author's ideas, plot, characters, language, structure, etc.) A set of questions to serve as a guide for focusing discussion will be provided.

Resources to be Used: O'Casey: *Juno and the Paycock*, *The Plough and the Stars*; Synge: *The Playboy of the Western World*, *In the Shadow of the Glen* (one act), *Riders to the Sea* (one act), *Deirdre of the Sorrows*; Yeats: *The Countess Cathleen*, *Land of Heart's Desire* (one act), *Deirdre* (one act), *The Pot of Broth* (one act). If we have time, we may include *Spreading the News* and *The Rising of the Moon*, two one-acts by Lady Gregory, who was pivotal in the nurturing and development of all three playwrights as well as to the all-important Abbey Theater.

Any edition of the plays may be used, and related biographical and/or background information. Recommendations of sources and texts will be given at first meeting.

Time, Clocks and Calendars

Moderators: Beverley von Kries and John Armstrong

Role of participants: to prepare a brief report and lead ensuing discussion

Number of participants (incl. moderators): 16

NOTE: Participants will need access to the Internet to take part in this seminar.

Time: Tuesday afternoons, 1:30 – 3:30

Place: Dewey Hall Common Room, Smith College

Parking: Participants will be given a permit to park on the Smith campus

Historically, timekeeping represents an advanced level of science and technology. This seminar will follow the thread of “timekeeping” through history, including contributions from civilizations around the world. We will study clocks in more or less chronological order (ha, pun!), probably beginning with sun clocks, learning about the advances in science and technology that allowed new types of clocks to be developed. We will also examine changes in calendars from both an astronomical and a social/political perspective.

The measurement of time has been key to progress in many practical arenas. The scientific understanding of time and the societal significance of “time” have been profoundly affected by our ability to measure it. We will discuss these issues as our

Time, Clocks and Calendars continued

seminar progresses. We'll undoubtedly wrestle with the question of what time is even as we progress through our study of how to measure it.

Participants will be asked to choose a topic from a list provided by the moderators. To capture a sense of the history of science and technology involved, we will cover the topics in chronological order. Here are a few sample topics from our list: water clocks, GPS time, Meso-American calendars, and the Gregorian reformation of the Julian calendar. A more complete list of topics will be available at the Preview.

Resources to be used: A list of resources will be available at the Preview (and mailed to participants once the seminar list is complete). Participants will need email and access to the Internet.

Reading Poetry: American Poets Laureate

Moderators: Kathy Hazen and Suzette Jones

Role of Participants: read poems out loud and participate in discussion

Number of Participants (incl. moderators):16

Time: Tuesday afternoons, 1:30 – 3:30

Place: Rockridge Retirement Community, 25 Coles Meadow Road, Northampton

Parking: Plentiful, on site

Come join us in reading poems out loud together and perhaps discovering some new poets. Choosing among poets both published and honored means that the poems will be fairly contemporary and not too obfuscating.

There is a wide variety of poets from which to choose. Many towns and states have a Poet Laureate. For instance, UMass professor Martin Espada was Northampton's first Poet Laureate in 2000, and Leslea Newman is our current Laureate. The State of Massachusetts, however, has no Laureate.

Among the national American Laureates are the late Russian-born Joseph Brodsky, who taught at Mt. Holyoke College, and two Laureates who live in Cummington, Richard Wilbur and William Jay Smith. Robert Frost, Elizabeth Bishop, Stanley Kunitz, Maxine Kumin and Donald Hall have all been American Poets Laureates. Yugoslavian-born Charles Simic recently finished his term and passed on the bay wreath to a witty Californian, Kay Ryan, who wrote "Elephant Rocks."

Participants will bring 6–8 poems by a Laureate of their choice (with copies for everybody), and take turns reading out loud. This will be followed by discussion. We will focus on the poems, not the poets.

Resources to be used: Original works by any Poets Laureate. Check out the internet, or ask any reference librarians, or peruse anthologies such as the one by Harold Bloom. We will be glad to help track down any particular poet or provide a list of poets.

WEDNESDAY MORNING

Age of Enlightenment

Moderators: Hy Edelstein and George Snook

Role of Participants: prepare a brief presentation on a chosen topic

Number of Participants (incl. moderators): 16

Time: Wednesday mornings, 10:00 – 12:00

Place: Field House, Smith College

Parking: Plentiful, on site

In the wake of today's global developments and crises, we may be finding ourselves on the cusp of truly historic change. To gain perspective on where we might be going, we will re-examine the birth of our modern world in the Age of Enlightenment (1688-1789). In the two centuries since then, traditions of hereditary class distinctions and religious dogma have given way to traditions of reason, self-government, individualism, science and technology. It has affected our views of human rights, religion, education, economics, and science. The Enlightenment has been praised for its promotion of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, but also blamed for its release of rampant individualism; exploitation of peoples and natural resources; and lethal, nationalistic conflicts.

The questions we wish to raise in each discussion about Enlightenment issues are:

- Have we outgrown or abandoned certain aspects of Enlightenment ideals, having discovered their flaws?
- Which aspects will we continue to embrace and enrich?
- And what fresh ideals will our own Age create?

By discussion and critique of the ideas and passions which animated Enlightenment debates and shaped their future, we may begin to discern the shape of our own future.

Some suggestions for presentations follow: participants will be asked to pick a theme and one or two thinkers representative of that theme.

- The Thirst for Secular Knowledge – The *encyclopedists* and scientists who promoted science, tolerance, rationality, open-mindedness (Voltaire, Diderot, d'Alembert, Franklin, Lavoisier)
- Ordinary Life and Society – Abigail Adams, Madame de Stael and the French Salons, Thomas Paine, Ben Franklin, Rousseau
- The Self and the Individual – Rousseau, perhaps regarded as the first modern man, *The Social Contract*, *Confessions*, *Emile*, *Discourse on Inequality*
- Class in the 18th Century – The monarchy, the nobility, the merchant class, the peasantry
- Theorists of Mind, Morals, and Society – The philosophers: Descartes, Voltaire, la Mettrie, Berkeley, Hume, Burke, Kant
- Political Theorists – The philosophers: Hobbes, Montesquieu, Locke, Hume, Burke, la Mettrie
- The American Enlightenment – Adams, Jefferson, Hamilton, Madison, *The Federalist Papers*

Age of Enlightenment continued

- The Classic Economists – Adam Smith and *The Wealth of Nations*, the French Physiocrats
- The Humanists – Voltaire, *Candide*; Gibbon, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Goethe, Lessing.

Writers' Workshop

Moderator: Sue Case

Role of Participants: write & share their writing; make observations about others' writing

Number of Participants (incl. moderator): 9

Time: Wednesday mornings, 10:00 – 12:00

Place: Room 114, UMass Continuing Education Bldg, Venture Way, off N Maple Street, Hadley

Parking: Plentiful, on site

This is a workshop open to all writers in all genres – beginners and experienced writers, poets, novelists, playwrights, biographers, reporters, essayists, writers of memoir, etc. In each session, the moderator will provide one or more prompts to get the writers underway, and during the last half hour writers will share what they have written. Generally, we'll write from the first prompt for fifteen minutes, and the second prompt for longer. Writers will be free to choose not to use the prompts, or to use them in whatever way suits them. The goal of such prompts is to help people generate writing. Because what's written will be unpolished and brand new, other members of the group will comment only on what they noticed and what stood out for them; there will be no critiquing and no suggestions at that point.

If participants are interested, we may spend one or more of the later sessions focusing on revision. Participants who want to can bring in pieces they want help with, but this will not be a requirement.

Each participant will write during the session, will share part or all of what they've written, and will make observations about others' writing. There may be exceptions to the sharing if someone finds he or she has written something too upsetting or too private, but this should not be a regular event.

Resources to be used: No resources will be required, other than writing equipment. I have books about the process of writing that I'm happy to share with participants if there's interest, and can also provide a book list.

The History of Cinema in the U.S.

Moderator: Dean Poli

Role of Participants: prepare a brief presentation on a chosen topic

Number of Participants (incl. moderator): 16

Time: Wednesday mornings, 9:30 – 11:30

NOTE *slightly earlier time!*

Place: The Newman Center, 472 North Pleasant St, Amherst

Parking: Limited: arrangements will be made with you by moderator

Many of us in LIR can remember what life was like before television. This was the era when our major form of entertainment consisted of listening to the radio and going to the movies. If you grew up in a large city you probably remember the large movie palaces that seated thousands of people. These palaces had stand alone box offices, balconies, spectacular lobbies and foyers, drapery on the walls, ushers dressed in uniforms and prices that could reach \$1 on the weekends. If you lived in a smaller city or town you probably recall going to one of the neighborhood theaters where movies changed two to three times per week, the cost to attend was about a dime and they offered such things as bingo nights and free dishes to get your parents to attend. You may also recall that African Americans, Native Americans and Asian Americans were portrayed in films by WASPS in black-face, red-face and yellow-face makeup. This was the era when Italians, Greeks, and Hispanics were not considered quite white enough for major rolls in a film and where by the end of a film promiscuous women had to be punished – often by death. It was the era of Hollywood's Production Code and the Catholic Church's Legion of Decency, both designed to keep us all morally secure.

The purpose of this seminar is to study the history of cinema in the U.S. We will begin where it all began, in Fort Lee, NJ, around 1888. We will discuss why movie making moved to Hollywood and then trace the rise of the Hollywood studio system (1915–1930) through its classical or golden era (1931–1951) up to today's New Hollywood. We will especially examine the issues of diversity as represented within U.S. films, including race, ethnicity, class, gender and sexuality during the various Hollywood periods.

Participant will prepare a brief presentation and lead a discussion dealing with a particular period of film history in the U.S. and/or aspect of diversity. Various topics for presentation, based on the readings, will be suggested, but participants are free to select a topic of their own interest which fits into the overall theme of the seminar. Participants are encouraged to show *brief* (1–5 minutes) portions of films to illustrate the main points of their presentation. The recommended book for the seminar makes recommendations for films that can be used to illustrate the various points to be discussed.

Resources to be used: The recommended book for this seminar is *America on Film* by Harry Benshoff and Sean Griffin, Blackwell Publishing, 2004. A list of other pertinent reference texts will be handed out prior to the start of the seminar.

The Short Stories of Edith Wharton

Moderators: Sofia Ellsberg and Mary Franks

Role of Participants: choose a story, review, and lead a discussion

Number of Participants (incl. moderators): 16

Time: Wednesday mornings, 10:00 – 12:00

Place: Amherst Woman's Club, Triangle Street, Amherst

Parking: Plentiful, on site

Edith Wharton is known principally for her novels, such as the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Age of Innocence*, *The House of Mirth* and *Ethan Frome*, but some of her finest works, 86 short stories that spanned a lifetime of creativity, are frequently overlooked. She made her literary debut with a short story, *Mrs. Manstey's View*, in 1891 when she was 29. By the time of her death in 1937, ten volumes of her short stories had been published.

Her stories capture the repressive society in which she lived and express the struggles of women to find love and fulfillment. In her writing she portrays the emotional consequences of life in the upper classes in New York and Europe in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Her stories often give us a glimpse of her own personal dilemmas.

The entire group will read 15 short stories. Each participant will select a short story to analyze and discuss with the group. Elements to be addressed include style, structure, point of view, choice of characters and their place in the rigid class hierarchy of Wharton's world.

Resources to be used: *The Portable Edith Wharton*, edited by Linda Wagner-Martin, Penguin, 2003. Barnes and Noble offers them to this LIR group for a 20% discount (\$12.80). Background reading of various biographies and autobiographies is encouraged. These are available at local libraries

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Pre-Colombian North Americans

Moderator: Larry Ambbs

Role of Participants: give a 30-minute presentation and lead discussion

Number of Participants: 18

Time: Wednesday afternoons, 1:30 – 3:30

Place: Room 114, UMass Continuing Education Bldg, Venture Way, off N Maple St, Hadley

Parking: Plentiful, on site

In this seminar we will explore the life and times of Native Americans who lived and occupied North America before the arrival of Columbus (or the Vikings or Chinese). As time passes, more and more is being learned about the habitats and behavior of these

Pre-Colombian North Americans continued

Native American peoples. I have previously examined the Anasazi of the Southwest. In this seminar, we will explore a number of early cultures, such as the Adena, Hopewell, Hohokam, Toltec, Olmec, Cahokia, Oneonta, Mississippian, Athabascan, Mogollon, and Thule, as well as groups in the Northeast and Southeast. Archaeological remnants are being documented from sites such as Chaco Canyon, Mesa Verde, and Midwestern and Lower Mississippian mounds. There are sites in the Northeast as well, although early European settlers probably did not recognize their importance.

Each seminar participant will investigate one of the Native American cultures that existed in North America before the 1400s. Both archeological and cultural aspects should be considered, as well as what is known about interactions with other groups and the possible identities of their descendents. A topic selection before the New Year will give seminar participants more time to prepare.

Resources to be used: In addition to the internet, several books are available for reference: *Ancient North America, the Archaeology of a Continent* by Brian M. Fagan, Thames and Hudson, 1991; *1491 – New Revelations of the Americas before Columbus* by Charles C. Mann, Vintage Press, 2005; *North American Archaeology*, ed. by Timothy Pauketat and Diana Loren, Blackwell Publishing, 2004.

The Web site <http://www.cyberpursuits.com/archeo/us-arch.asp> should be investigated. I also will email participants an extensive list of other books and articles as well as pertinent Web sites. A Google search on “North American Archaeology” gives a significant number of worthwhile sites.

Autobiographical Writing

Moderators: Joel Halpern and Sally Wilbur

Role of Participants: writing down their life experiences at home and reading excerpts to the seminar

Number of Participants (incl. moderators): 12

Time: Wednesday afternoons, 1:30–3:30

Place: Amherst Woman’s Club, 35 Triangle St, Amherst

Parking: Plentiful, on site

Long one of the most popular LIR seminars. Autobiographical Writing offers its members the opportunity to get to know themselves and each other a little better. It is a chance to share your life experiences with fellow LIR members and, at the same time, record them for yourself and your family.

Many participants have taken advantage of this seminar to write their family story for their children and grandchildren. The writing takes all forms, from rough drafts to polished pieces, and all are welcome. The writer gets feedback, and if desired, the group will offer suggestions for revisions and/or possible additions, as well as

Autobiographical Writing continued

clarification. The written comments can deal with the events of family life or career experiences.

Each participant has two opportunities to read aloud from his or her prepared texts during the semester. Sometimes these texts are distributed in advance (often via e-mail) allowing more time for discussion. The atmosphere is relaxed but the serious efforts of all concerned helps to make this a rewarding experience for everyone.

THURSDAY MORNING

The Bloomsbury Group Revisited

Moderator: Sheila Klem

Role of Participants: prepare a 30–40 minute presentation and lead discussion

Number of Participants (incl. the moderator): 16

Time: Thursday mornings, 9:30 – 11:30

*Place: Room 114, UMass Continuing Education Bldg, Venture Way, off N. Maple St, Hadley
Parking: Plentiful, on site*

Join us on our visit to Bloomsbury, the group of lively intellectuals that reshaped British culture during much of the first third of the 20th century. Coming of age at the turn of the century, this constellation of writers, artists, philosophers, and critics had at its center the novelist Virginia Woolf and her husband, publisher Leonard Woolf, whose Hogarth Press was influential in representing non-conventional views toward prevailing traditions in politics, government, art, economics, and morality. London's Bloomsbury district was the geographic focus, where artists Clive and Vanessa Bell, Dora Carrington, and Duncan Grant met with critic Roger Fry. Writer and historian Lytton Strachey, novelist E.M. Forster, eminent gardener-writer Vita Sackville-West, economist John Maynard Keynes, and journalist Desmond MacCarthy added to the lively mix.

The seminar will examine the philosophy and aesthetics of the group and evaluate the impact of the individual contributions of its members, both on one another and on their society. Has the impact of the Bloomsbury Group been indelible? Was it simply a passing phenomenon?

Resources to be used: A bibliography will be provided, and a core text may be selected. The libraries of the Five Colleges contain a wealth of material for research.

Contemporary Jazz Performers

Moderator: Audrey Bozzo

Role of Participants: prepare a brief presentation on a chosen topic

Number of Participants (incl. the moderator): 16

*Time: Thursday mornings, 10:00 – 12:00 **Note time!***

Place: Mt Tom Room, Easthampton Lathrop

Parking: Plentiful, on site

Are you familiar with the names of Cyrus Chestnut, Terence Blanchard, Nicholas Peyton, Joshua Redmond and Diana Krall? Whether you are or not, you are in for a treat. These and other performers are very talented Jazz musicians, many of them conservatory trained. This is not a course in jazz history. We will concentrate on contemporary musicians, playing their own interpretations of familiar songs.

Participants will present brief biographies of selected artists. We will then hear examples of the artists' work and discuss your reactions to them.

Resources to be used: I will make available my own CD collection. Participants may use internet and/or libraries.

Richard Wagner, Part II

Moderator: Peggy Bedell

Role of Participants: prepare a brief presentation on a chosen topic, in groups of 2 or 3

Number of Participants (incl. moderator): 15

*Time: Thursday mornings, 10:00 – 12:00 **Note time!***

Place: Community Meeting House, Northampton Lathrop

Parking: Plentiful, on site

You do *not* have to have participated in Part I to sign up for and enjoy this seminar!

Wagner was, surely, one of the most controversial artists who ever lived, and his influence extended far beyond the world of opera. He has been, and still is, both idolized and reviled by people in every area of human thought. More than a century after his death, his operas are performed everywhere, and there is general agreement on his musical genius, but in every other respect he remains a challenge.

This seminar proposes to explore his life and work in as much depth as we can achieve in two terms of 20-hour seminars. In the fall, we dealt with the first five major operas, *The Flying Dutchman*, *Tannhauser*, *Lohengrin*, *Tristan und Isolde*, and *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*. In the spring term we will deal with the four-opera cycle *Der Ring des Nibelungen* and *Parsifal*. For each opera, we will study Wagner's sources (he was his own librettist), the composition process and the production history, and we will use both audio and video materials to the extent that time permits.

Participants would be expected to do the research – perhaps in groups of two or three – then report to the group and lead the ensuing discussion.

Richard Wagner, Part II continued

Resources to be used: The moderator is prepared to provide libretti, CD, and DVD materials and to suggest fruitful sources. No text is required. Seminar members may wish to acquire William Berger's *Wagner Without Fear*, a Vintage Books paperback listed at \$15, for a comprehensive and knowledgeable overview of the man and his works written with good-humored respect, for the non-specialist.

The Once-a-Week Vegetarian

Moderator: Lise Armstrong

Role of Participants: Prepare and eat together a variety of vegetarian entrées and side dishes

Number of Participants: 8

*Time: Thursday mornings, 10:00 – 12:30 **Note time!***
NOTE: slightly longer seminar time & no class April 2nd
Place: Lise Armstrong's home: 55 Amity Place, Amherst

It has been suggested that by reducing the consumption of meat by even one meal a week Americans can greatly decrease the impact livestock have on our environment. In this seminar, a small number of "foodies" will meet weekly to share information and recipes, then prepare and eat together a variety of vegetarian entrées and side dishes. We hope to enlarge our repertoire of plant-based cuisines, offer support to local farmers and better understand the food habits of many other cultures. Reasons for following a vegetarian diet vary from one person to the next; the emphasis in this seminar will be on the environmental benefits of vegetarianism.

The class will be limited to seven participants in addition to the moderator and will meet at her home in Amherst. Each person will be responsible for one meal, although all costs will be shared equally. At the end of the seminar, we will have a compilation of quick and tasty vegetarian recipes to help us develop the "once-a-week" lifestyle. Our motto is from Michael Pollan's book *In Defense of Food*: "Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants."

It is recommended that anyone with food allergies not sign up for this seminar.

