The Art of the Book
Fri., Sept. 11, 18, 25

Japanese Art and Culture
Mon., Sept. 21, 28; Oct. 5, 12, 19

The Booker Prize Book Club
Tues., Sept. 22, 29; Oct. 6, 13

The Unwinding
Thurs., Sept. 24; Oct. 1, 8

More West Hartford’s Hidden History!
Thurs., Sept. 24; Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22

Africa: A Continent, not a Country
Mon., Sept. 28; Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26

A Round Up of U.S. Supreme Court’s 2014 Term
Tues., Sept. 29; Oct. 6, 20, 27

The Gothic Cathedral
Wed., Sept. 30; Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28

Nicholas Nickleby
Fri., Oct. 2, 9, 16, 30

The Crusades
Fri., Oct. 9, 16, 30

The Future of Jewish-American Writing
Wed., Oct. 21, 28; Nov. 4, 11, 18

Love, Ecstasy, and Grace in Italian Art
Thurs., Oct. 15, 22, 29; Nov. 5

Contemporary Economic Challenges: A Complexity Science Approach
Sat., Oct. 24, 31; Nov. 7, 14, 21

An Introduction to Rhetoric
Mon., Oct. 26; Nov. 2, 9, 16

How Science Shaped the 20th Century
Tues., Oct. 27; Nov. 3, 10, 17

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FALL PROGRAM PREVIEW 2015

JAPANESE ART AND CULTURE

AFRICA: A CONTINENT, NOT A COUNTRY

THE FUTURE OF JEWISH-AMERICAN WRITING

LOVE, ECSTASY, AND GRACE IN ITALIAN ART

EXPENSIVE PAINTINGS

BEETHOVEN’S EROICA

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HOW SCIENCE SHAPED THE 21ST CENTURY

Nicholas Nickleby

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 9, 16, 30

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Precedents for Life | July 2015 | No. 141 | The Presidents’ College is a program of the University Libraries.
JULY IS THE MONTH TO ANNOUNCE OUR FALL PROGRAM. It may seem premature to start thinking about the fall already, but we want you to be able to make your Presidents’ College plans good and early, before you’re hedged about with other commitments. We’re also eager to tell you about our offerings so that you can get ahead of the crowd and are not closed out of your favorite courses.

First, put October 4 on your calendars. That’s the date of this year’s Presidents’ College Symposium, a day’s activities in which we introduce you to some of the University’s finest teachers and tickle your intellectual fancy with some of the things they study and teach.

Then, renew your membership as a Fellow of the Presidents’ College so that you can enjoy discounts on our courses. Or, if you have not been a Presidents’ College Fellow before, consider joining the 300 people who are already members. We’ll keep you up to date on what is going on, invite you to events, and tell you about other university activities. We want you to feel at home on our campus, with all the good things that we have to offer.

As for the fall, it’s hard to know where to start. We have a particularly rich set of offerings in art this fall, including everything from Japanese art to Gothic cathedrals. Jenni Freidman will be teaching the art of the book, George Lechner will offer a course on Renaissance art, and Patrick McCaughey will look at the world’s most expensive paintings—works by Cézanne, Klimt, Munch, and Picasso.

Our musical courses include Michael Schiano on Beethoven and Ken Nott on Handel’s oratorios, particularly Messiah. Avi Patt and Stephen Pier are teaming up to present to us a unique example of the relationship between literature and dance (tied in with a performance by the Hartt School’s dance division).

Avi will also offer a course on contemporary Jewish fiction, based on his recent anthology of work by winners of the Wallant Award for Jewish fiction. Michele Troy has seized on the Booker Prize to create an unusual challenge not just to those who choose to take her course, but to all of us who like to read. We hope that many of you will decide to read along with Michele in the weeks before this year’s winner is announced. We’re pleased to have Amanda Walling back with us for a course on Ovid’s Metamorphoses, perhaps the classical work of most influence on Renaissance art and literature. It’s still influencing us today: the Hartt School will perform Mary Zimmerman’s theatrical adaptation of Ovid next February. Catherine Stevenson will offer another course on Dickens, this time on Nicholas Nickleby, in preparation for a major production by the Hartt School in November.

Equally rich are our offerings in current affairs: Bilal Sekou on racial politics, Russ Hoyle on George Packer’s highly influential book The Unwinding, Jilda Aliotta on the United States Supreme Court’s most recent term, and Adryan Wallace with an introduction to the complex realities of Africa, perhaps our least understood continent. Jane Horvath, whose course on complexity attracted so much interest last fall, will be back with another Saturday course, in which she will look at contemporary economic issues through the lens of complexity theory.

The limited-enrollment course on West Hartford history that we offered last semester in cooperation with the Noah Webster House proved so popular that we closed out almost as many people as we admitted. So we are offering a second course on a different range of topics likely to interest those who took the previous course and also newcomers who perhaps could not get into it last time around. Michael Robinson will once again be offering a course on the history of science, sure to be of interest to old hands and newcomers alike. For those interested in an earlier era, Trinity College’s Jonathan Elukin will take a look at the historical reality (not always a pretty sight) behind the Crusades.

It’s hard to know how to categorize Kathleen McGrory’s course on argument. The art of rhetoric underlies so much of literature, history, and culture that it belongs in none of our categories or all of them. I am particularly pleased that we can add this too-neglected and fascinating topic to our fall offerings. We have a couple of other things in the wings; more about them later.

Remember: sign up now, while you can and while you’re thinking about it. We look forward to seeing you in the fall.

In our next issue, we’ll tell you about our fall lecture series.

— Humphrey Tonkin
THE ART OF THE BOOK

JENNIFER FREIDMAN

From the time of medieval manuscripts and before, books have always attracted the attention of artists and provided settings for their talents. This course will look at how books are made: how they are designed, how they are printed and bound, and how they are used by contemporary artists as means of artistic expression. Part talk and part practical example, the course will help participants learn about binding books from scratch and printing letterpress, and give them opportunities to view historical and contemporary examples of artists’ books. We will work primarily in the book arts studio of the Hartford Art School with an additional chance to view rare and special books from private and university collections.

Class size is limited to 15 students.

JENNIFER FREIDMAN makes prints and drawings as well as limited edition books under the name of Stone Dragon Press. Her work has been shown in exhibitions across the United States and abroad. Her most recent work is celebratory and works to create a sense of joy within the viewer. Jenni teaches at the Hartford Art School and lives in West Hartford with her husband, Brian, her daughter, Nona and their dog, Vinny.

This is a course in the Scholarly Encounters Series.

Fri., Sept. 11, 18, 25. 10:30 a.m–12 p.m.
Location: Book Arts Room, Hartford Art School
Cost: $65; Fellows, $50

JAPANESE ART AND CULTURE

SHERRY BUCKBERROUGH, HIRO FUKAWA, AND COLLEAGUES

From the traditional aesthetic subtleties of the tea ceremony to the pop culture exaggerations of manga, this five-session course offers a multi-disciplinary introduction to the arts and culture of Japan. Chung-Lan Wang starts by considering the ways in which Buddhist ceramics and sculpture establish an enduring basis for Japanese aesthetics. Hiro Fukawa carries these ideas further in his presentation of traditional and modern Zen Buddhist garden design, including the recently installed garden at the MFA in Boston. Akane Mori introduces music and theatre in her exploration of traditional music of the Noh tradition. Michael Walsh brings us into the modern era with a look at Japanese cinema, focusing on the films of Akira Kurosawa. Finally, Sherry Buckberrough assesses the exceptional success of Japanese contemporary art, including painting, performance, sculpture and photography. Open to all President’s College students, this course also serves as good preparation for those interested in the President’s College trip to Kyoto and regional art and cultural sites (May–June, 2016; led by Sherry Buckberrough and Hiro Fukawa).

SHERRY BUCKBERROUGH (PhD, University of California, Berkeley) is Chair of the Art History Department at the University, where she has developed more than 25 specialized courses on modern and contemporary art, women’s art, ecoart, modern design, and contemporary globalism. Her work of the past 40 years has returned consistently to topics in the Parisian avant-garde, particularly the work of Sonia Delaunay, for which she curated the first American retrospective. Most recently, she contributed to the catalogue for Sonia Delaunay: Les couleurs de l’abstraction, which opened in October at the Musée d’Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris and is now at the Tate Modern in London.

HIROKAZU FUKAWA, associate professor in the Hartford Art School, holds degrees from Waseda University and the Rhode Island School of Design. Hirokazu Fukawa practices on diverse media such as installation, sculpture, drawing, computer imaging, sound, video and photograph. His works have been shown nationally and internationally. His website can be found at www.fukawa.org.

Location: KF Room, Mortensen Library
Mon., Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 3–4:30 p.m.
Cost: $80; Fellows, $65

RECENT FICTION: THE BOOKER PRIZE BOOK CLUB

MICHELE TROY

Michele Troy writes as follows: “The Presidents’ College is known among University of Hartford faculty as a bustling hive of avid readers and thinkers. With this course, I invite the intrepid readers among you to join me in the reading challenge of the Booker Prize Book Club. Many of you will know of the prestigious Man Booker
Prize, launched in 1969 and awarded each year to the ‘best novel of the year written in English and published in the UK.’ Judges are chosen from across disciplines, and have included prominent critics, writers, academics, poets, politicians, and actors. The short list of six finalists will be announced on Tuesday, September 15, and the winner will be announced on Tuesday, October 13. In the interim, we will take a whirlwind tour of the six novels nominated for the Prize, reading and discussing two novels per week for each of the first three course dates. The final date will allow us to match our wits against those of the judges. Do we agree with their final decisions, or feel their fiction sensors are off-target? While I will offer a brief presentation of each author to anchor discussions, actual course time will largely feature you and your own thoughts and questions about the books. We hope this approach brings out armchair critics and enamored readers alike for a course that lets you go back to college for a while, but without penalty if you don’t quite finish the reading!

Michele Troy, associate professor of English in Hillyer College, holds a PhD from Loyola University of Chicago. An accomplished teacher who has taught frequently in the Presidents’ College, she is a specialist in literary modernism in the work of such authors as D.H. Lawrence, May Sinclair, and Virginia Woolf. Her book on the Albatross Press and English-language publishing under the Nazis has recently been accepted for publication by Yale University Press.

Location: KF Room, Mortensen Library
Tues., Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13. 2–3:30 p.m.
Cost: $70; Fellows, $55

The Unwinding: An Inner History of the New America

Russ Hoyle

In 2013, to great acclaim, author and journalist George Packer published The Unwinding.

The book is an exploration of the crisis facing American democracy as told through profiles of selected individuals, both well-known and unknown, as they struggle with the seismic shifts brought on by the evolving crises of inequality, housing, and systemic financial collapse. “The unwinding,” Packer writes, “brings freedom, more than the world has ever granted, and to more kinds of people than ever before,” but it also brings illusion, and it “leaves you on your own.” Packer, a staff writer for The New Yorker and author of several books on current affairs, two novels, and a very successful play, will visit the Watkinson School on September 21; the Presidents’ College has been invited to bring a small group to hear him speak. This book club will begin by listening to the author himself and will then go on, in three discussion sessions, to talk about his book and its implications for our lives and those of the people coming after us. The group will be limited to 15 people.

Russ Hoyle is a former senior editor at Time, The New Republic, and the New York Daily News; and is the author of Going to War (2008, St. Martin’s Press), a comprehensive account of the 18-month run-up to the Iraq War. As a veteran editor and writer, he has a practitioner’s interest in journalism, letters, and the issues that are changing our national culture.

This is a course in the Scholarly Encounters Series.
Location: KF Room, Mortensen Library
Thurs., Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 8. 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Cost: $65; Fellows, $50

More of West Hartford’s Hidden History!

Jennifer DiCola Matos and Colleagues

This, the second in the West Hartford’s Hidden History series, will explore specific areas of West Hartford’s history, including some of the major farms that put it on the map, the industry that helped West Hartford become a town, the architecture that followed the suburban expansion, and the cemeteries where past residents have been laid to rest. Although nary a trace of them remains today, West Hartford was almost entirely composed of farms up until the turn of the 19th century. Lecturers will present information using images, documents and objects to recount some of the most popular farms in town. Industry changed everything in West Hartford. Museum of Connecticut history curator Dave Corrigan will present his research on one of the earliest industries in town, the
Goodwin Pottery Works, using objects from the museum’s collection. Mary Donohue (Connecticut Explored), will take an in depth look at the architecture that began to pepper the landscape as industry brought more and more residents to West Hartford. Noah Webster House staff will explore the three cemeteries in town, covering the evolution from the 18th century church burying yard to today’s modern municipal-run cemetery. The concluding bus tour will emphasize the areas discussed in all four lectures, plus highlight some other “hidden” gems that are passed along the way.

JENNIFER DICOLA MATOS, was named executive director of the Noah Webster House and West Hartford Historical Society in September 2014. She holds an undergraduate degree from the University of St. Joseph and a graduate degree in American Civilization from Brown University and was previously head of education at the Old State House in downtown Hartford. Before that she was director of education at the Noah Webster House.

Location: Noah Webster House, 227 South Main Street, West Hartford.
Thurs., Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22. 2–3:30 p.m. (The session on Oct. 22, a bus tour of West Hartford, will run from 2–4:30 p.m.)
Cost: $90; Fellows, and Members of the Noah Webster House, $70

AFRICA: A CONTINENT, NOT A COUNTRY
ADRYAN WALLACE
This course will provide an overview of the political, economic, social, cultural, and religious realities in the region that dispel common myths and negative stereotypes. Using four country case studies, one from each sub-region (North Africa, East Africa, West Africa, Southern Africa) as focal points for contemporary issues the course will examine the diverse experiences and the solutions employed in a range of countries in Africa. Turning to the continent as a whole, the course will look at regional organizations like the African Union and their efforts to create new development opportunities and address contemporary challenges. Participants will also be welcome to suggest additional countries or issues that are of interest and that can be explored during the course.

ADRYAN WALLACE assistant professor of politics and government, and director of the Africana Studies program, conducts research in such areas as gender, political economy, Islam, and the dynamic interactions of politics and culture on political institutions, particularly in an African setting. Her work focuses particularly on how Muslim women in West Africa are able to articulate their development interests within the context of Sharia law and secular political institutions. Before joining the faculty she held the Jackie McLean Fellowship at the University (2012-2013). She completed her dissertation with the support of a Ford Foundation Dissertation Writing Fellowship (2011-2012), having conducted 10 months of field work in Nigeria and Ghana on a Fulbright Fellowship (2010-2011).

Location: KF Room, Mortensen Library
Mon., Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26. 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Cost: $70; Fellows, $55

A ROUND-UP OF THE U.S. SUPREME COURT’S 2014 TERM
JILDA ALIOTTA
Same sex marriage, the Affordable Care Act (a.k.a. Obamacare), search and seizure in the digital age. There is no shortage of controversial issues as the United States Supreme Court completes its 2014 term. Each year the court is in session from early October to late June. During their annual term the justices issue between 65 and 80 decisions with full opinions. Some of these decisions are blockbusters; some are sleepers. With the 2014 session complete, what are the implications (political and legal) of the decisions handed down, what do they say about the political and legal evolution of the Roberts court, and what does the future hold? The class will assess the past term and look ahead to some of the major cases to be considered in the upcoming 2015 term.

JILDA ALIOTTA a popular professor in the Politics and Government Department and well-known among Presidents’ College participants for her thought-provoking commentaries on the US Supreme Court, teaches classes in law, American politics, and women in politics. She has published on decision-making in the Supreme Court, women in law, and related topics. Her current research investigates the impact of women on the judiciary in the United States.

Location: KF Room, Mortensen Library
Tues., Sept. 29, Oct. 6, 20, 27 (no meeting on Oct. 13). 5:30–7 p.m.
Cost: $80; Fellows, $65
THE GOTHIC CATHEDRAL

DAVID SIMON

The Gothic cathedral conveys a vision of spirituality and a sense of splendor virtually unparalleled in the history of art and architecture. A cathedral is more than just the fabric of a building designed to serve a function; it comprises a set of ritual practices as well as a number of decorative forms, employing in particular sculpture and stained glass. This historical and comparative study of Gothic cathedrals will examine their chronological development and the differences among regions or countries, looking particularly at the social, cultural, and artistic conditions of the times and places in which major cathedrals were erected. French cathedrals, including Notre-Dame in Paris and Notre-Dame in Chartres, as well as those in Rheims and Amiens, will be of fundamental importance, but we will also examine English, Spanish, and Italian examples.

DAVID SIMON assistant professor of politics and government, and director of was, until his recent retirement, Ellerton M. Jetté professor of art at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. This spring he will begin teaching on a part-time basis for the Art History Department at the Hartford Art School. With degrees from Boston University and the Courtauld Institute of Art at the University of London, he is a specialist on Spanish art of the Middle Ages. He has published widely on Romanesque art and architecture and on the history of art in general, and is joint author of Janson’s History of Art.

Location: KF Room, Mortensen Library
Wed., Sept. 30, Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28. 2–3:30 p.m.
Cost: $85; Fellows, $65

NICHOLAS NICKLEBY ON PAGE AND STAGE

CATHERINE STEVENSON

In 1838, Dickens was riding high, following the enormous popularity of his first novel, The Pickwick Papers. He was simultaneously writing two novels: Oliver Twist and Nicholas Nickleby. Oliver Twist explores the dark criminal underbelly of London; Nicholas Nickleby ranges farther afield: from the corrupt world of high society and moneylending, to the dark horrors of Yorkshire boarding schools, to the hilarious theatrical universe of the Crummles family’s provincial acting troupe. The narrative follows the fortunes of two young innocents, Kate and Nicholas, who are thrown into the cruel, often amoral, hurly-burly of early Victorian Britain. In their struggle to find a safe home in this rapacious world, they encounter a huge cast of memorable characters—characters who become even more vivid in their stage presentation. In 1980, the Royal Shakespeare Company mounted an ambitious eight-hour production of this novel, which broke new theatrical ground. An engaging, vibrant, and immensely moving dramatic spectacle, the play captures the heart of Dickens’s text and brings to life many of his characters. Some years later, a slightly shortened version of the play was made. This version will be performed by The Hartt School (November 3–8). Participants in this course will not only read Dickens’s Nicholas Nickleby together but also have the opportunity to attend The Hartt School’s production. They will also meet the cast, discuss with them the issues in preparing multiple roles, and attend one of the final rehearsals.

Catherine Stevenson, former academic dean for International and Honors Programs at the University, is the author of Victorian Women Travel Writers in Africa (1982) and many scholarly articles on English literature, theater, and women’s studies. In her 30 years at the University of Hartford, she has served as a department chair, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, assistant provost and dean of the faculty, and the Harry Jack Gray Distinguished Teaching Humanist. She received the University of Hartford’s Outstanding Teachers Award and the Trachtenberg Award for Service to the University.

Location: KF Room, Mortensen Library
Fri., Oct. 2, 9, 16, 30 (no meeting on Oct. 23). 1:30–3 p.m., Cost: $80; Fellows, $65

SCHOLARLY ENCOUNTERS

Each semester, the Presidents’ College offers a small number of limited-enrollment seminars called Scholarly Encounters. They focus on a very specific topic, generally related to the instructor’s research and writing and appealing to people with a special interest in the topic. Participants are engaged in dialogue with the instructor, are encouraged to read up on the topic, and, we hope, refine the instructor’s perspective. Our topics this semester are The Art of the Book and The Unwinding.
FALL COURSES

LOVE, ECSTASY, AND GRACE IN ITALIAN ART

GEORGE LECHNER

The great artists of Renaissance Italy expected their viewers not merely to look at but to “read” their works of art. Thus Botticelli’s Primavera is not simply a masterpiece of representation but also a philosophical statement about the relationship between love and grace (charis). This course will go beyond Botticelli to look at both sacred and mythological symbolism in the art of Titian, Correggio, Michelangelo, and others.

GEORGE LECHNER was a 2012 recipient of the Gordon Clark Ramsey Award for excellence in teaching. A reference librarian at Mortensen Library, he is also a scholar of the Italian Renaissance, and has been sharing his knowledge and passion as an adjunct faculty member in the All-University Curriculum for more than 20 years. During his time at the university he has also taught courses in history, art history, and computer graphics in the College of Arts and Sciences and Hillyer College. His expertise has led to appearances as a commentator in documentaries broadcast on the History Channel, A&E, and the BBC in the UK.

Location: Wilde Auditorium
Thurs., Oct. 15, 22, 29, Nov. 5. 10–11:30 a.m.
Cost: $80; Fellows, $60

THE CRUSADES

JONATHAN ELUKIN

In 1096, Pope Urban II issued a call for Christian soldiers to re-conquer the Holy Land from Muslims. Within three years, thousands of armed pilgrims captured Jerusalem and carved out Christian ruled territories in the Levant. The seizure of Jerusalem and the struggle with Muslim armies inspired subsequent armed pilgrimages in the Near East and in Europe against a variety of enemies. Church sanctioned warfare with the promise of salvation for crusaders became a fundamental but contested part of medieval culture. The crusading movement drove European expansion and shaped how Christians engaged with non-Christians. The cultural memory of the Crusades continues to shape modern relations between the West and Islam.

JONATHAN ELUKIN, associate professor at Trinity College, teaches courses in medieval history, Jewish studies, historiography, and the history of the book. He is particularly interested in Jewish-Christian relations, the evolution of the Bible, the technological development of books, philosophies of history, and various aspects of medieval society, including the Crusades, chivalry, English law and government, and the meaning of the Middle Ages for contemporary culture. He is author of, among other studies, Living Together, Living Apart: Rethinking Jewish-Christian Relations in the Middle Ages (Princeton, 2007).

Location: KF Room, Mortensen Library
Fri., Oct. 9, 16, 30 (there will be no meeting on Oct. 23).
10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Cost: $65; Fellows, $50

THE NEW DIASPORA: THE FUTURE OF JEWISH-AMERICAN WRITING

AVI PATT

Since 1963, the Edward Lewis Wallant Award has recognized outstanding writers who have produced works of “significance to the American Jew.” Beginning in 1986, the Wallant Award has been bestowed annually at the University of Hartford, bringing some of the leading figures in Jewish literature to our community. What makes fiction Jewish? American? And what separates award winners from other writers? In this course at the President’s College, Professor Avinoam Patt, co-editor of an anthology of past Wallant Award winners and finalists, and current Wallant Award judge, will review selections of award-winning fiction included in the anthology The New Diaspora and discuss the changing landscape of Jewish fiction in North America today. The New Diaspora is available for purchase by course participants at the discounted price of $25.

AVINOAM PATT is Philip D. Feltman Professor of Modern Jewish History at the Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies at the University, where he also directs the Sherman Museum of Jewish Civilization. He is the author of, among other publications, Finding Home and Homeland: Jewish Youth and Zionism in the Aftermath of the Holocaust (2009), co-author of Jewish Responses to Persecution, 1938-1940 (2011) and co-editor of The New Diaspora: The Changing Landscape of American Jewish Fiction: In Celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the
CONTEMPORARY ECONOMIC CHALLENGES: A COMPLEXITY SCIENCE APPROACH

JANE HORVATH

Today we face a multitude of seemingly intractable problems that traditional economic policy and approaches seem ill-equipped to address. From the debt crisis in Europe and the widening income and wealth gap domestically and internationally, to the lack of progress of international efforts to raise living standards in developing nations, traditional approaches have not yielded satisfactory policy outcomes. This course will apply a complexity science approach to some of our most pressing and important contemporary economic and geopolitical problems. It will evaluate the benefits and limitations of such an approach, and speculate about its future.

JANE HORVATH is an associate professor of economics and founding director of the Van Rooy Center for Complexity and Conflict Analysis. She has attended two short courses on complexity offered by the Santa Fe Institute. Jane teaches complexity economics and routinely serves as committee chair for students writing honors theses exploring economic issues through the lens of complexity.

Location: KF Room, Mortensen Library

Wed., Oct. 21, 28, Nov. 4, 11, 18. 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Cost: $85; Fellows, $65

AN INTRODUCTION TO RHETORIC: ARGUMENT

KATHLEEN McG Rory

Rhetoric: Everyone uses it. Everyone argues. But what exactly is rhetoric? The classical definition, “Rhetoric is the art of speaking and writing effectively and persuasively,” demands practical applications and a corrective: rhetoric is not simply high-sounding, empty words. This course will demonstrate why one of the most popular 21st-century books on the subject of rhetoric is called Everything’s an Argument (by Andrea Lunsford). The classical roots of rhetoric will be reviewed briefly, along with modern theories (Douglass, Stephan Toulmin, Lunsford, Carl Rogers, feminist scholars’ “invitational argument”) and models of rhetoric as it is used universally today in the contemporary world of politics and social interaction. This class will provide opportunities to explore the art of rhetoric through brief sessions of actual writing and production of arguments of fact, definition, causality, and evaluation. Feedback will be available for brave rhetors who desire a second opinion.

KATHLEEN McG Rory holds a PhD from Columbia University in comparative literature. A native of New York City, she was a Sister of Divine Compassion in New York, then professor of English and founder of the Irish Studies graduate program at Western Connecticut State University. She was dean of Arts and Sciences and academic vice president at Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU), president of Hartford College for Women before its merger with the University of Hartford, NEH fellow at Stanford University, and senior fellow at the University of Virginia’s Commonwealth Center for Literary and Cultural Change. She also taught medieval literature at Georgetown University while executive director of the Society for Values in Higher Education. She currently teaches part-time at ECSU.

Location: KF Room, Mortensen Library

Mon., Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16. 2–3:30 p.m.
Cost: $75; Fellows, $60

THE RISE OF THE SCIENCES: HOW SCIENCE SHAPED THE 20TH CENTURY

MICHAEL ROBINSON

This course examines the rise of the sciences in the 19th and 20th centuries. Looking at the fields of physics, biology, astronomy and the cognitive sciences, it traces theoretical breakthroughs such as relativity theory, quantum mechanics, and the evolutionary synthesis. It also tracks the rise of “big science” in projects such as the Manhattan Project, the space program, and the human genome project.
MICHAEL ROBINSON is associate professor of history in the University’s Hillyer College. He is the author of The Coldest Crucible: Arctic Exploration and American Culture (University of Chicago Press), winner of the 2008 Book Award for the History of Science in America. His next book, The Lost White Tribe: Explorers, Scientists, and the Theory that Changed a Continent, comes out with Oxford University Press later this year. He has given lectures about his work at the American Museum of Natural History, the Explorers Club, the British Library, the Library of Congress, and other venues and organizations, and is a frequent guest on radio and television. He writes a blog about the history of science and exploration called Time to Eat the Dogs.

Location: KF Room, Mortensen Library
Tues., Oct. 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17. 1:30–3 p.m.
Cost: $80; Fellows, $60

THE AGE OF OBAMA: RACIAL POLITICS IN THE POST-CIVIL RIGHTS ERA

BILAL SEKOU

Despite the election of the nation’s first black president, African Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans continue to lag behind whites on most indicators of social and economic well-being. How should African Americans and other people of color judge the importance of Obama’s election victory in the broader context of their long, but unfinished, struggle for racial equality and socioeconomic justice? Structural inequalities are firmly entrenched in American society and are not easy to fix. They manifest themselves in a number of different ways, including inferior housing, health services, education, and employment opportunities. Electoral politics alone may not be enough. This course will explore the inherent limitations of electoral politics and interest-group-based politics as an electoral tactic by racially and economically marginalized groups in the United States. We will focus on the limitations of the style of racial politics operating in the post-civil rights era and suggest a more practical understanding of politics grounded in the realities of how the American political system really works.

BILAL DABIR SEKOU is associate professor of political science in Hillyer College, University of Hartford. His research interests include race and politics, urban politics, and campaigns, elections, and voting behavior. He has published on social and political participation by African Americans and public attitudes to quality and integrated education in Connecticut.

Location: KF Room, Mortensen Library
Wed., Nov. 4, 11, 18. 4:30–6 p.m.
Cost: $65; Fellows, $50

NOVEL INTO DANCE: ANDRE SCHWARTZ-BART’S LAST OF THE JUST AND JOSE LIMON’S PSALM

AVI PATT AND STEPHEN PIER

In 1959, Andre Schwartz-Bart published his extraordinarily moving novel, The Last of the Just, based on the Jewish legend of the Lamed Vov, the 36 just men who rise in troubled times to confront the enemies of Israel. The book traces a family of just men from 12th century England through the Holocaust, culminating in the story of Ernie Levy, a young man of compassion and vision who dies at Auschwitz. Psalm, a dance work from 1967 by Jose Limon, is a stunning choreographic achievement, combining powerful ensemble dancing with extraordinary solo work. Inspired by The Last of the Just, Limon wanted to create a dance “that would be an evocation of the heroic power of the human spirit, triumphant over death itself.” Like the Lamed Vov, Limon intended to transform suffering into an act of redemption. Nina Watt, a world renowned interpreter of Limon’s work, directs this piece for which Kathryn Swanson Ellis is composing a new musical score, inspired, in part, by the original from Eugene Lester. The Hartt Dance Division will perform this work at the Joyce Theater in October as part of the Limon company’s New York season. It will then be performed at The Hartt School on November 20, 21, and 22. This course will have three sessions. In the first, Professor Patt will lead discussion on November 20, 21, and 22. This course will have three sessions. In the first, Professor Patt will lead discussion on the novel. At the second, Stephen Pier and Nina Watt will address the choreography of the dance. The third session will be tied to attendance at one of the November performances.

AVINOAM PATT is Philip D. Feltman Professor of Modern Jewish History at the Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Hartford, where he also directs the Sherman Museum of Jewish Civilization.

STEPHEN PIER, director of the dance division at The Hartt School and Professor of Dance, danced with the José Limón Company, going on to become a leading soloist with the Hamburg Ballet in Germany and the Royal Danish Ballet.

Location: KF Room, Mortensen Library

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A TOUR OF BEETHOVEN’S EROICA

MICHAEL SCHIANO

Beethoven’s Eroica Symphony takes less than an hour to perform, but during that time you can encounter Napoleon, contemplate the nature of heroism, and maybe wonder how music can even let you do this. Indeed, it was the first piece of Western music that right from the start demanded an explanation. While the Enlightenment had considered how music worked, the Eroica inspired the nineteenth century to wonder how this piece worked. The course is a guided tour of that labyrinth we know as Beethoven’s Opus 55.

We’ll talk about what we know about its gestation and its reception. But most of all, we’ll look at the music itself. After all, whatever the Eroica accomplished, it did so using notes. We’ll explore what it is about those notes that created all this fuss: from Beethoven’s choices for thematic material, his astounding treatment of detail, and his unprecedented conception of what a symphony can be.

MICHAEL SCHIANO is associate professor of Music Theory at the Hartt School, where he teaches courses in music analysis, 20th-21st century music history, and counterpoint. He has degrees from Princeton, University of London, and Brandeis, and has taught courses for the Presidents’ College on Mozart scholarship, Haydn, Beethoven’s Influence, Mozart “Young and ‘Old,’” Bach, and The Beatles.

Location: KF Room, Mortensen Library
Thurs., Nov. 12, 19, Dec. 3, 10 (there will be no meeting on Nov. 26). 10:15–11:45 a.m.
Cost: $80; Fellows, $65

FOUR OF THE MOST EXPENSIVE PAINTINGS IN THE WORLD - AND WHY THEY ARE DAMN WELL WORTH IT!

PATRICK MCCaughey

The international art market is at its zenith. While the spectacle of conspicuous consumption around works of art is not particularly edifying, the present market has brought to public consciousness some great works of art, which were languishing in private collections or even in museums. They were all well known, but the scale of their value—the astronomical sums paid for them—has won them new fame. Why these particular paintings have attracted such prices will form the central theme of this course. The four paintings we will concentrate on are: Paul Cézanne, The Card Players, Gustav Klimt, Portrait of Adele Bloch Bauer, Edvard Munch, The Scream, and Pablo Picasso, Women of Algiers. They were all sold for between $119.9m and $250m. We will compare the works with other high-flying works by the same artists or their associates. The Qatar Museum Authority, for instance, acquired the Cézanne Card Players in 2011-12 and this year is believed to have bought Paul Gauguin’s When Will You Marry? for $300m. It would seem churlish not to compare the works and their significance. We will also consider how the art market got itself into this ever-spiraling price war (the market for Van Gogh was crucial in that regard) and why Old Master paintings remain so undervalued.

PATRICK MCCaughey, art historian and writer, is former director of the National Gallery of Victoria (Australia), the Wadsworth Atheneum, and the Yale Center for British Art. He writes frequently for publications in Britain, the United States, and Australia, and is known as an accomplished lecturer on all aspects of art. He is the author most recently of Strange Country: Why Australian Painting Matters (2014).

Location: Wilde Auditorium
Fri., Nov. 13, 20, Dec. 4, 11 (there will be no meeting on Nov. 27). 11–12 p.m.
Cost: $120; Fellows, $90

CREATION AND TRANSFORMATION: OVID’S METAMORPHOSES

AMANDA WALLING

The Metamorphoses, by the Roman poet, Ovid, turned a collection of Greek and Roman myths into an epic that explained the history of the world from its creation to the age of Julius Caesar. Taken individually, Ovid’s versions of these stories defined them for centuries to come, and taken together, they created a work of unparalleled artistic richness and psychological complexity. In this course, we will read and discuss some of the most enduring tales
from Ovid’s poem, as well as exploring its legacy for art and literature from Shakespeare to the present day, including Mary Zimmerman’s award-winning theatrical adaptation, which will be performed at the Hartt School in February 2016.

AMANDA WALLING teaches courses on the literature of the Middle Ages, women's writing, folklore and legends, and the history of the English language. Her research is primarily focused on 14th and 15th century English poetry, but she is also interested in medieval religion, politics, and drama, the Renaissance, the history of rhetoric, and responses to medieval literature in later centuries. She is completing a book on flattery as a cultural influence in late medieval England. She has published her work in Chaucer Review and The Yearbook of Langland Studies.

Location: KF Room, Mortensen Library
Mon., Nov. 16, 23, 30, Dec. 7. 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Cost: $75; Fellows, $60

MESSIAH: GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL’S GREATEST HIT

KENNETH NOTT
Handel’s oratorio Messiah becomes so ubiquitous every December that some of us just take it for granted as a part of the holiday of Christmas. But what is an oratorio?

What is its relation to opera? Where does the musical material that Handel used in Messiah come from? The oratorio was originally written for Lent and Easter but seems to have become indissolubly linked to Christmas. How did that come about? The course will set Messiah in the context of Handel’s life and achievement and will also trace the reception of Messiah from Handel’s own time down to today.

KENNETH NOTT is professor and chair of music history at The Hartt School. An organist who has performed in the USA and the UK, he is a specialist in eighteenth-century music. Among his recent publications is a full score edition of Handel’s oratorio Jephtha, recently performed in concert by The Hartt School.

Location: KF Room, Mortensen Library
Tues., Nov. 24, Dec. 1, 8, 15. 1:30–3 p.m.
Cost: $65; Fellows, $50

CONTROVERSIES IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN SPORTS

WARREN GOLDSTEIN
Looking at three controversial aspects of American sports history (performance-enhancing drugs in baseball; women’s sports and Title IX, and public relations and the truth in college sports), historian Warren Goldstein will draw on his scholarly and popular work on American sports to illuminate the deeper trends and currents shaping the sports we watch, follow, listen to, and read about. Taking a long perspective on the history of what used to be our “national pastime,” baseball, Goldstein will explore dilemmas and offer reflections on the “purity of the game,” cheating, the place of the Hall of Fame, and lessons from the era of performance-enhancing drugs. He will show how the history of women’s sports has been intimately connected to waves of American feminism, and how Title IX has been essential to the modern explosion in women’s sports while transforming the sports landscape in unexpected ways. Finally, he will look behind the public relations curtain of top-flight college sports, exploring the birth of football culture in the late 19th century, and demonstrating how elite college football, men’s basketball, and other sports, simultaneously shielded and exploited by the NCAA, have always been deeply, structurally, inevitably hypocritical. The only value that has ever mattered—to athletes, their coaches, their boosters, their fans, their alumni, and their trustees—is winning.


Location: KF Room, Mortensen Library
Tues., Dec. 1, 8, 15. 11:00—12:30 p.m.
Cost: $65; Fellows, $50
THE PRESIDENTS’ COLLEGE
25th Anniversary
ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM
An all-day intellectual feast showcasing the University and celebrating the Presidents’ College’s
25 years of service to the Hartford area community

Monica Hardesty, Jane Horvath, and Roger Desmond on food
Police chiefs James Rovella and Tracey Gove on 21st-century policing
Colleen Manassa Darnell on ancient Egypt
Catherine Stevenson on Charles Dickens
Seth Holmes, Katharine Owens, and Laura Pence on the environment
Sherry Buckberrough and Hiro Fukawa on Japanese art
David Pines on service-learning
Avi Patt and Joe Voelker on Jewish Fiction
Beth Taylor on extreme exercise
Michael Robinson on the history of astronomical ideas
James McDonald on dazzle camouflage
and much more!

Sunday, October 4, 2015, 9:15 a.m.–4:15 p.m.

LOOKING FOR MORE SHAKESPEARE THIS SUMMER?

Our friends at Capital Classics are staging “Romeo and Juliet” for three weekends (July 23 through August 9), and it’s outdoors, on the campus of University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford.

This Greater Hartford Summer Shakespeare Festival also features pre-show entertainment, which includes the Elizabethan Consort, gallery viewings, and lectures by local educators...including our very own Professor Humphrey Tonkin on Sunday, August 9.

Performances are held on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for students and seniors.

So, be sure to catch Shakespeare under the stars with this tragic tale of two star-crossed lovers.

For more info, visit CapitalClassics.org or Facebook.com/ CapitalClassics

Get involved with the World Affairs Council!

The World Affairs Council of Connecticut is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization whose mission it is to engage the public on global affairs. Established in 1924, the council is a member of the World Affairs Councils of America, one of the largest global affairs nonprofits in the United States. Our membership includes leaders in Connecticut business, government, and academia.

Recent speakers include former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, First Lady Ernestina Naadu Mills of Ghana, NBC News Correspondent Ann Curry, Ted Turner, and Henry Kissinger.

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PRESIDENTS' COLLEGE REGISTRATION FORM

Please check relevant items and indicate amount paid at right.

☐ I wish to register as a Patron of the Presidents' College for the academic year 2015-16; $250
This includes registration as a Fellow and a $150 tax-deductible contribution to the Presidents' College.  ____

☐ I wish to register as a Fellow of the Presidents' College for the academic year 2015-16; $100  ____

☐ I wish to register for Symposium 2015. All rates include box lunch.
  Regular rate, $70  ____
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Fall 2015 Programs

☐ The Art of the Book  $65; Fellows, $50  ____
☐ Japanese Art and Culture  $80; Fellows, $65  ____
☐ Recent Fiction: The Booker Prize Book Club  $70; Fellows, $55  ____
☐ The Unwinding: An Inner History of the New America  $65; Fellows, $50  ____
☐ More of West Hartford's Hidden History! $90; Fellows and members of the Noah Webster House, $70  ____
☐ Africa: A Continent, not a Country  $70; Fellows, $55  ____
☐ A Round-up of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2014 Term  $80; Fellows, $65  ____
☐ The Gothic Cathedral  $85; Fellows, $65  ____
☐ Nicholas Nickleby on Page and Stage  $80; Fellows, $65  ____
☐ The Crusades  $65; Fellows, $50  ____
☐ The New Diaspora: The Future of Jewish-American Writing  $85, Fellows, $65  ____
☐ Love, Ecstasy, and Grace in Italian Art  $80; Fellows, $60  ____
☐ Contemporary Economic Challenges: A Complexity Science Approach  $85; Fellows, $65  ____
☐ An Introduction to Rhetoric: Argument  $75; Fellows, $60  ____
☐ The Rise of the Sciences: How Science Shaped the 20th Century  $80; Fellows, $60  ____
☐ The Age of Obama: Racial Politics in the Post-Civil Rights Era  $65; Fellows, $50  ____
☐ Novel into Dance: Andre Schwartz-Bart’s Last of the Just and José Limón’s Psalm  $65; Fellows, $50  ____
☐ A Tour of Beethoven’s Eroica  $80; Fellows, $65  ____
☐ Four of the Most Expensive Paintings in the World—and Why They Are Damn Well Worth It!  $120; Fellows, $90  ____
☐ Creation and Transformation: Ovid’s Metamorphoses  $75; Fellows, $60  ____
☐ Messiah: George Frederick Handel’s Greatest Hit  $65; Fellows, $50  ____
☐ Controversies in the History of American Sports  $65; Fellows, $50  ____

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UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where do we meet?
Most courses take place in the Mortensen Library KF Room, but sometimes we must move elsewhere and can’t always secure classroom space until shortly before a program or course begins. We do our best to get the word out to participants about location before each event starts. A course coordinator will notify you if the class location has changed. When in doubt, call the Presidents’ College at 860.768.4495.

Am I enrolled?
If you signed up for a class, please assume you are registered and plan to attend on the date and place listed. You will be notified if a class is canceled or filled.
If you are concerned about whether we have received your registration, call the Presidents’ College at 860.768.4495.

Should I start reading in advance?
The course coordinator will notify you if reading is required in advance. The University Store (in the Harry Jack Gray Center) stocks most of the basic texts recommended by our lecturers.

What happens if the University closes?
If the University closes for severe weather or any other reason, Presidents’ College courses and events are canceled. Complete closing information is posted at hartford.edu or you may call 860.768.4100. Please check these sources to confirm any information you see on TV or hear on the radio. We will be in touch with you about make-up sessions.

Parking on campus
If, as a Fellow of the Presidents’ College, you have been issued a parking permit, please hang it on the inside rearview mirror of your vehicle whenever you park on campus. You may park in any legal and unreserved space in any of the faculty, student or visitor lots at any time of the day. But if you park in a student or faculty lot without displaying the permit, you will be ticketed. If you run into problems or have questions, please call the Presidents’ College at 860.768.4495 or the Office of Public Safety at 860.768.7985. If you are not a Fellow, the volunteer coordinator for your course will send you a parking permit valid for the duration of the course. If the permit does not reach you by the date of the first course session, park in a Visitors Lot.

Am I permitted to record class sessions?
The University has a Lecture Capture system, which automatically records lectures and classes if the professor has given his or her consent. These recordings are sometimes available to those who have signed up for the course in question if they happen to miss a session. Lectures are intellectual property, just like written texts, and therefore you must get permission from the instructor if you wish to record him/her for your own use. Some instructors are sensitive about this.

Please also refrain from photographing during class sessions. This can be disruptive, and photographing PowerPoint presentations is potentially an infringement of copyright.

RENEW AS A FELLOW OF THE PRESIDENTS’ COLLEGE FOR 2015-2016

Make the most of your association with the Presidents’ College!

BENEFITS:
• significant discounts on courses and other programs
• free parking privileges on campus
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To become a Fellow you pay just $100 for the full academic year.

You can now make a special additional contribution to the University and the President’s College by joining as a Patron, at $250. The sum of $150 is tax-deductible. By supporting the Presidents’ College you help the University Libraries: any surplus the College generates at year’s end goes to support the Libraries, and their best services and collections.

If you were a Fellow last year, now is the time to renew. Take advantage of all the discounts and opportunities that membership allows.
SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER

The Art of the Book—Jenni Freidman  
Fri., Sept. 11, 18, 25, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Japanese Art and Culture—Sherry Buckberrough, Hiro Fukawa, and colleagues  
Mon., Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 3-4:30 p.m.

Recent Fiction: The Booker Prize Book Club—Michele Troy  
Tues., Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13, 2-3:30 p.m.

The Unwinding: An Inner History of the New America—Russ Hoyle  
Thurs., Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 8, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

More of West Hartford’s Hidden History!—Jennifer DiCola Matos and colleagues  
Thurs., Sept. 24, Oct. 21, 28, Nov. 4, 11, 18, 26, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Africa: A Continent, not a Country—Adryan Wallace  
Mon., Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, 10-11:30 a.m.

A Round-up of the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2013 Term—Jilda Aliotta  
Tues., Sept. 29, Oct. 6, 20, 27, 5:30-7 p.m.  
(no meeting on Oct. 13)

The Gothic Cathedral—David Simon  
Wed., Sept. 30, Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2-3:30 p.m.

Nicholas Nickleby on Page and Stage—Catherine Stevenson  
Fri., Oct. 2, 9, 16, 30, 1:30-3 p.m.  
(no meeting on Oct. 23)

OCTOBER–NOVEMBER

The Crusades—Jonathan Elukin  
Fri., Oct. 9, 16, 30, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
(no meeting on Oct. 23)

The New Diaspora: The Future of Jewish-American Writing—Avi Patt  
Wed., Oct. 21, 28, Nov. 4, 11, 18, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Love, Ecstasy, and Grace in Italian Art—George Lechner  
Thurs., Oct. 15, 22, 29, Nov. 5, 10-11:30 a.m.

Contemporary Economic Challenges: A Complexity Science Approach—Jane Horvath  
Sat., Oct. 24, 31, Nov. 7, 14, 21, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

An Introduction to Rhetoric: Argument—Kathleen McGrory  
Mon., Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 2-3:30 p.m.

Tues., Oct. 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17, 1:30-3 p.m.

The Age of Obama: Racial Politics in the Post-Civil Rights Era—Bilal Sekou  
Wed., Nov. 4, 11, 18, 4:30-6 p.m.

Novel into Dance: Andre Schwartz-Bart’s Last of the Just and José Limón’s Psalm—Avi Patt and Stephen Pier  
Tues., Nov. 10, 17, 10:30 a.m.-12 (plus your choice of a performance on Nov. 20, 21, or 22)

NOVEMBER–DECEMBER

A Tour of Beethoven’s Eroica—Michael Schiano  
Thurs., Nov. 12, 19, Dec. 3, 10, 10:15-11:45 a.m.  
(no meeting on Nov. 26).

Four of the Most Expensive Paintings in the World—and Why They Are Damn Well Worth It!—Patrick McCaughey  
Fri., Nov. 13, 20, Dec. 4, 11, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.  
(no meeting on Nov. 27)

Creation and Transformation: Ovid’s Metamorphoses—Amanda Walling  
Mon., Nov. 16, 23, 30, Dec. 7, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Messiah: George Frederick Handel’s Greatest Hit—Kenneth Nott  
Tues., Nov. 24, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 1:30-3 p.m.

Controversies in the History of American Sports—Warren Goldstein  
Tues., Dec. 1, 8, 15, 11:00-12:30 p.m.