

Circle of Scholars



Fall Seminars 2020 - Online

Salve Regina University's Circle of Scholars is a lifelong learning program for adults of all inclinations and avocations. We enlighten, challenge, and entertain. The student-instructor relationship is one of mutual respect and offers vibrant discussion on even the most controversial of global and national issues. We learn from each other with thoughtful, receptive minds. 360 degrees. Welcome to Salve Regina and enjoy the 2020 selection of fall seminars.

**Online registration begins on
Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at noon**
www.salve.edu/circleofscholars

Seminars are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please register online using your six-digit Circle of Scholars identification number (COSID). As in the past, you will receive confirmation of your credit card payment when you complete the registration process. For each seminar you register for, you will receive a Zoom email invitation to join the seminar 1-3 days before the start date.

If you need assistance or have questions, please contact our office at (401) 341-2120 or email sheila.powell@salve.edu.

Important Program Adjustments for Fall 2020

- Most online seminars will offer one hour sessions. There are a few seminars that will offer one and a half hour sessions.
- Online class fees begin at \$15 for one session and range to \$60 for 10 sessions.
- The 2019-2020 membership fee has been extended through the Fall 2020 term.
- Zoom is our online platform. If you do not have a Zoom account already, please visit the Zoom website to establish a free account at <https://zoom.us>. Zoom is easy to use, once you are familiar with it.
- After you register for seminars, you will receive a Zoom email invitation 1-3 days before each seminar begins. Use the links provided in the emails to join your scheduled seminars.
- Zoom training sessions were offered several times in August. Please call the office at (401) 341-2120 if you need additional Zoom support.
- Registration is the same online process we have used in the past and will be available on our webpage September 9, 2020 at noon. www.salve.edu/circleofscholars
- Instructors will receive your contact information on a class roster. They may send materials to you via email in advance of your class sessions. Be sure to monitor your email inbox regularly.
- There are 26 seminars offered this term: 12 new seminars and 14 rescheduled from the spring

Fall Seminars 2020 - Online

Along the Silk Road: An Introduction to the History and Culture of Central Asia *With U.S. Ambassador George Krol, retired*

Dates: Nov. 12, 19

Two Sessions: Thursdays, 1 - 2 p.m.

Cost: \$20

Central Asia, comprising the modern countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, was at one time the key crossroads of a flourishing trade connecting east and west along what was called the Silk Road, so named because it was the main route for bringing silk from China to western markets such as ancient Rome. Alexander the Great moved through these lands as did conquering Arab armies that made Central Asia a vibrant center of Muslim culture. The region then fell to Genghis Khan and Tamerlane, who made his capital Samarkand, one of the wonders of the world. Central Asians such as Babur moved south to conquer much of today's India, establishing the Mogul Empire that gave us architectural monuments such as the legendary Taj Mahal.

After sea trade ended the sway of the ancient land routes, the region settled into a long decline, becoming a pawn in the "Great Game" played among the Russian, Chinese and British Empires until its final absorption into the Russian Empire and later Soviet Union. After the collapse of the USSR, five new states in Central Asia emerged from the shadows to become a major source of energy, raw materials, and a strategic land route between east and west and north and south. It is also once again an object in the strategic competition among superpowers Russia, China and the United States. The area is full of history, art, intrigue and wonder. Join Ambassador George Krol, who served as America's envoy to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, on a personal journey along the fabled Silk Road to understand and appreciate the glories and the challenges of this fascinating region.

George Krol retired from the U.S. Foreign Service in 2018 concluding a 36-year career during which he served as U.S. Ambassador to Belarus as well as to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Subsequently he has taught as an Adjunct Professor at the U.S. Naval War College and is an Associate of Harvard University's Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies. Ambassador Krol has given two previous Circle of Scholars presentations on Understanding Russia and on the Nuts and Bolts of Making U.S. Foreign Policy. He resides in Middletown, RI.

The Arab Israeli Conflict

With George Kassis

Dates: Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24

Eight Sessions: Tuesdays, 10 - 11 a.m.

Cost: \$50

"Growing anti-Semitism in Europe and Jewish fears of assimilation gave birth in 1896 to the concept of creating a "State of the Jews." In 1917, Great Britain, having driven the Ottomans out of Palestine, promised to support the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine. Most Jews around the world were not in favor. However, the Holocaust in the early 1940s would change all that, opening the floodgates for waves of Jewish immigration to Palestine, and leading to the creation of the State of Israel by a vote of the United Nations in 1947.

To this day, the conflict remains and impacts all that happens in the Middle East, a region that holds 2/3 of the world's oil and gas reserves and whose stability has significant impact on world peace. From day one, the USA has been deeply involved in bringing peace to this troubled part of the world. We will examine the ups and downs in the relationships between the U.S., Israel, the Palestinians and the Arab States of the region over time and dare venture into what the future may hold.

George Kassis was born and raised in Syria before moving to Lebanon to attend the American University of Beirut and embark on a career with the United Nations where he met his American wife, Jill. They had parallel

Fall Seminars 2020 - Online

professional careers, which took them on tours of duty to Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and Yemen before being transferred by the U.N. to New York. Upon his retirement in 2009, George and Jill moved to Portsmouth, R.I., where they continue to enjoy the pleasures of the Ocean State.

Big Bands of the 1930s and Beyond: Their Vocalists and Vocal Groups

With Anthony Agostinelli

Dates: Oct. 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20

Six Sessions: Fridays, 10 - 11 a.m.

Cost: \$40

This course will use DVDs, recordings and other materials to present the Big Bands of the 1930s and 1940s and in some instances with their vocalists and vocal groups into the 1950s and beyond. A presentation of musicians such as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Harry James, Woody Herman, Stan Kenton and others, with discussions by students, will be made. The students will also be presented with the vocalists of the big bands -- Ella Fitzgerald, Helen Forrest, Jo Stafford and others. Vocal groups such as the Pied Pipers, the Modernaires, the King Sisters, the Andrews Sisters, the Four Freshmen, the Pastels, and others will be heard and discussed.

Anthony J. (Tony) Agostinelli is a retired university professor, a former professional musician, novelist, a TV and radio personality; he is also a jazz, opera and Broadway historian. Tony lives on Aquidneck Island.

Big Business: Highly Competitive or Greedy Monopolists?

With Dennis Sheehan, Ph.D.

Dates: Oct. 19, 26

Two Sessions: Mondays, 2 - 3 p.m.

Cost: \$20

There has been a lot of concern recently about the extent to which large businesses in the United State are competitive or have become monopolists. Congress has held hearings on the issues, and the Department of Justice has initiated investigations. The concern is particularly pronounced with regards to the tech companies like Facebook, Apple, Netflix, and Google, but it extends more generally to large companies where the concern is that "bigness" leads to monopoly power. We will examine the evidence for and against these claims.

Dennis Sheehan recently retired from the Penn State Smeal College of Business faculty, where he was the Virginia and Louis Benzak Professor of Finance. He previously taught at Purdue University, the University of Chicago, and the University of Rochester. He has also taught in Europe at the École des Ponts Paris Tech and the Universität Bern. Professor Sheehan is a graduate of Georgetown University and received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley. He grew up in Newport and has moved back home to be closer to family.

British Voyages: Anson, Cook and Bligh, Part I

With Thomas Beall

Dates: Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23

Four Sessions: Mondays, 3 - 4 p.m.

Cost: \$30

In 1740-44, Commodore George Anson led a naval expedition to the Pacific to harass Spanish settlements there. The voyage was an unmitigated disaster with Anson losing all but 1/5 of his men, mostly to the disease known as scurvy. Had Anson not captured one of the Spanish trans-Pacific treasure ships the voyage would have been a total failure. In 1768, Lieutenant James Cook departed on the first of his three voyages of Pacific exploration. Cook returned home after three

Fall Seminars 2020 - Online

years, having completed his mission of exploration without losing a single man. In 1789, following the mutiny onboard H.M.S. Bounty in the South Pacific, Lieutenant William Bligh was cast adrift in one the ship's boats with 18 loyal crewmen. Bligh, with very few instruments and no charts, navigated the boat 3500 miles to Kupang in the Dutch East Indies without losing a single man. We will examine ships, sailors, and navigation of the 18th century British Navy and then explore Commodore Anson's circumnavigation in the 1740's. In the spring 2021 term, we will examine the voyages of Captain James Cook and Lieutenant William Bligh.

Thomas R. Beall is a retired U. S. Navy Captain and a retired high school math and history teacher. He holds three master's degrees in mathematics and history subjects and is a Ph.D. pre-candidate at Salve Regina University. He, his wife, Linda (a hospice RN), and their cat, Patches, live in Middletown.

Case Studies in Ethical Thinking

With Teresa M. Testa

Dates: Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 8, 22, 29, Nov. 5 (*Note: Class will not be held on Oct. 15.*)

Six Sessions: Thursdays, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$45

Have you ever been asked by someone, "What should I do?" In any given situation, we turn to our personal value system to approach the question of right versus wrong. Accordingly, we discover that at the heart of each decision is a value-laden human calculation with personal and collective consequences. Because life is not made of absolutes, one decision can be more complex than another. In other words, decision-making variables illuminate how ethics and personal beliefs are entwined within the human condition. This course shines a light on ethical cases from different time periods to provide a study in contemporary applied ethics (e.g., business, biomedical, political, etc.). Students will be introduced to classical philosophy as well as the latest teachings in ethics along with topics that originate from historically significant cases to familiar contemporary subjects. Because our academic endeavors become applicable measures of valuable hands-on living, the ultimate objective of the course is to engage the mind in ethical dilemmas and experiential learning.

Teresa M. Testa is a Ph.D. candidate at Salve Regina University where her dissertation research explores twentieth-century cultural approaches to moral theory within the philosophy of technology and theology. Graduating from Brown University with a concentration in English and American Literature, Teresa earned the M.Sc. in Organizational Management from Salve Regina University with emphasis on modern business ethical standards. Her life is immersed in the teaching of original coursework, editing manuscripts, and promoting a philanthropic scholarship program. Her academic interests are extensive and connect multiple disciplines within the humanities.

Caste, The Origins of Our Discontents

With Len DeAngelis

Dates: Oct. 5, 12, 19

Three Sessions: Mondays, 9 - 10 a.m.

Cost: \$25

"Caste, The Origins of our Discontents," by Isabel Wilkerson, 2020 (4 August), 476 pages.

Readers and non-readers are welcome to participate. Politics is ingrained in this very well researched and well-expressed book. "Politeness," for all attendees is the only caveat requested. Haven't we all experienced a "caste" household? Wilkerson's analysis and presentation are supported with anecdotes that stun the reader. We will explore the contents; and also project how reading this book could serve as a guide to understanding and the prejudice that may prevent a reader from reading. This exercise is voluntary and intended to cite drafts and word choices to exemplify and speculate on exploring the purposes of the book and its broader usefulness.

Fall Seminars 2020 - Online

Len DeAngelis, who retired as the head of the English department at Middletown High School, was the 1990 R.I. Teacher of the Year. He has also received Disney's American Teacher Award and the 2018 Education for Service Award at UMass Boston. He has led seminars on the Divine Comedy for several years. Len is also the R.I. ambassador for the Portrait Society of America.

The Cradle of Color: How Renaissance Venice Changed the Course of Art History

With Maria Mack D'Amario

Date: Nov. 16

One Session: Monday, 10 - 11 a.m

Cost: \$15

Pivotaly placed along the trade route between the East and the West, Venetian artists and patrons would adopt luxurious and exotic pigments, modern techniques of oil painting, as well as new subjects and innovative compositions. Painting *alla veneziana* with its mastery of light and color would set new standards for almost every future school of painting from the Spanish Old Masters to the Pre-Raphaelites to the Impressionists.

This magical city of canals and bridges, shifting colors and atmospheric light produced painters that no other art center could possibly have. Starting with the Bellini Family workshop this class will examine the iconic works of Giorgione, Titian, Tintoretto, and Veronese. We will also explore what it was about this unique Republic, which nurtured this great talent.

Maria Mack D'Amario is an art historian specializing in European decorative arts and the American Gilded Age. A graduate of Denison University, Maria holds a post-graduate diploma in The History of Art from the University of Oxford. She also holds an M.A. in the Venetian Renaissance from the University of Warwick in Coventry, U.K. Maria has worked with the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and the Royal Collection Trust in London. She served as trustee of the U.K. Friends of the National Museum

Discovering Belarus: The Unknown Country of Europe

With U.S. Ambassador George Krol, retired

Date: Oct. 15

One Session: Thursdays, 1 - 2 p.m.

Cost: \$15

Belarus, a country of 10 million people that emerged from the collapse of the Soviet Union, has been largely invisible to most of the outside world -- until now perhaps, as huge popular demonstrations against its first and only president thrust the nation into world media attention. Wedged between Russia and Poland, Lithuania and Ukraine, Belarus sits at the crossroads of history. Through the centuries the people living on the territory of today's Belarus have experienced invasions, devastation, the Holocaust, and massive nuclear fall-out and witnessed the end of empires. In its time, the land was also a center of culture and the arts, the place where the first constitution in history was written and where American Revolutionary War hero General Tadeusz Kosciuszko as well as artists such as Marc Chagall were born. It also contains Europe's last remaining primeval forest while its broad marshes serve as the crucial "lungs" of Europe. Join Ambassador George Krol, who served as U.S. Ambassador to Belarus 2003-2006 to discover and understand this unknown land, its people and its complicated history and why what happens there matters.

George Krol retired from the U.S. Foreign Service in 2018 concluding a 36-year career during which he served as U.S. Ambassador to Belarus as well as to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Subsequently he has taught as an Adjunct Professor at the U.S. Naval War College and is an Associate of Harvard University's Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies. Ambassador Krol has given two previous Circle of Scholars presentations on Understanding Russia and on the Nuts and Bolts of Making U.S. Foreign Policy. He resides in Middletown, RI.

Fall Seminars 2020 - Online

Generals and Presidents

With Lee Hardgrove

Dates: Oct. 15, 22, 29, Nov. 5, 12

Five Sessions: Thursdays, 10 - 11 a.m.

Cost: \$35

Eleven U.S. presidents have served as general officers in the United States Army. We will cover George Washington to Dwight Eisenhower. Some of these men were career officers before they were presidents. Others served in different capacities that included military governors to Civil War generals to National Guard (or militia) generals. How did the military experiences of these men influence their performances as president? What are the differences in being a military leader and being an elected official? Did their military background influence their role as commander-in-chief while technically being a civilian? How did they influence both institutions of the army and the presidency?

Lee Hardgrove is a retired United Methodist minister who served parishes primarily in the New York area for 30 years. Lee is also a retired U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard chaplain who served briefly at Ground Zero in New York City and did a tour in Kabul, Afghanistan. He holds degrees from American University, Yale University, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and Rhode Island College.

The Geography and History of India and Its Neighbors

With Thomas Howard, Ph.D.

Dates: Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9

Eight Sessions: Mondays, 11 a.m. - noon

Cost: \$50

The seminar will cover the physical, social, and cultural geography of India and its neighbors. The approach will be historical, beginning with the Indus Valley Civilization, then the Vedic culture that absorbed and supplanted it, continuing through various noteworthy Hindu and Buddhist states, the invasions from Muslim Central Asia that culminated in the Mughal Empire and then the British Empire. Because of its historic and demographic centrality, India will be the main focus, but notice will be taken of Sri Lanka and Nepal.

Thomas Howard retired in May 2012 from teaching geography (including South Asia) at Armstrong State University (now merged with Georgia Southern University) Savannah, GA. His experience in India goes back to two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Tamil Nadu (1967-69). He has taken four trips to India since then, most recently for a month in summer 2011 as participant in a National Endowment for the Humanities program for professors.

I Can Feel It in My Gut!

With Ralph Mastrorio

Dates: Nov. 2, 9

Two Sessions: Mondays, 1 - 2 p.m.

Cost: \$20

We are never alone. We each have trillions of microbial hitchhikers living in and on our bodies. These symbiotic organisms have co-evolved with us over millions of years and increasingly are being seen as essential to our health and wellbeing.

It is becoming widely accepted that a complicated interplay exists between the gut microbiome and human host metabolism. Gut bacteria, which easily outnumber our own cells, aid in the digestion and metabolism of certain foods we eat, providing us not only with nutrients we can use, but also sometimes with potentially harmful metabolites.

Fall Seminars 2020 - Online

Humans coexist with diverse microbial species that live within and upon us—our so-called microbiota. It is now clear that this microbial community is essentially another organ that plays a fundamental role in human physiology and disease. Basic and translational research efforts have begun to focus on deciphering mechanisms of microbiome function—and learning how to manipulate it to benefit human health. This seminar is designed to provide an overview of the basic functions of the microbiome as we understand it at this time and to take a look into the future uses of this extraordinary part of our body.

Ralph Mastrorio has been teaching for COS for over 10 years. He taught biology and bioethics at Shrewsbury High School in Shrewsbury, MA. for 34 years. He went on to teach at Anna Maria College as an assistant professor for 10 years. Ralph did his undergraduate work in pre-medical science at Worcester State University. He received a master's degree in biological sciences at Anna Maria College and his Ed. D. work at Clark University in Worcester, Mass. Ralph's experience in bioethics took place primarily at Albert Einstein College of Medicine as well as Boston University. He is a longtime member of the Hastings Center of Bioethics in Hastings, N.Y.

Inside the Executive Branch: The 2020 Battle for the Presidency While at War with COVID-19

With Anne DuBose Joslin

Dates: Oct. 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29, Nov. 3, 5, 10, 12

Ten Sessions: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$60

Two privileged white men in their seventies, one a Senator and former Vice President, D.C. insider and left-leaning Democrat, and the other the President, an outsider and centrist Republican; both say this could be the most significant election ever held in this country. And this could be true. We-The-People have an inordinate lack of confidence in the Washington system and the leaders who run it, leaving us feeling disconnected, confused and angry. There is an all-out battle between the Executive Branch and Congress, and there is also a fight within State governments and City mayors.

At the same time, we at war with a virus. COVID-19 is killing millions around the globe and displacing millions from their jobs here in the United States. Republicans and Democrats each blame the other for the deleterious results. Then there is the conflict over who is more "American." The flag, Christopher Columbus, and Confederate statutes have been declared by some to be immoral and unsuitable to be woven into our nation's celebrated quilt. What are the candidates saying about racism?

Overlying all the questions posed above, we must ask: how are the news broadcasts, cable news, radio, and social media portraying this divide between the Red and the Blue? Just who will best serve the United States at this perilous time? The answer lies at the ballot box on November third. Will it be Trump or will it be Biden?

Anne DuBose Joslin has a B.A. in English, M.S. in statistics, and A.S. in legal studies and criminal law. She is a certified paralegal and has been a scholar of the American political system for 35 years. Anne spent 20 of those years in Washington, D.C., where she served as a White House appointee. She authored the book titled "Ambushed: Why G.H.W. Bush Really Lost in 1992."

iPhone Photography Inspired by Masters of the Medium

With Jan Armor

Dates: Oct. 28, Nov. 4, 11, 18

Four Sessions: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$35

Fall Seminars 2020 - Online

This four-session workshop is an informative and enjoyable introduction to iPhone photography. We will study the work of selected masters for inspiration. Using the camera in your pocket as an artistic tool, you will learn how to make, not just take, better photographs. Not only will you become more proficient with your iPhone camera, you will meet and study some of the medium's greats, applying their ideas and techniques to your own pictures. We will also share voluntary homework assignments, so we can learn from each other. (Note: If you enjoyed "The Joy of iPhone Photography" last term, you will also like this one with different masters.)

Jan Armor is an educator and award-winning fine art photographer with 40 years of experience in both digital and traditional media. He has taught many photography courses for the Circle of Scholars. Jan received grants and awards for environmental photography and has taught at the Newport Art Museum, the Bristol Art Museum, Wickford Art Association, South County Art Association, and Warwick Center for The Arts. To see Jan's work and a more descriptive biography, visit his website: Armorphoto.com.

The Irish in Newport

With Kurt Schlichting, Ph.D.

Dates: Oct. 7, 14, 21

Three Sessions: Wednesdays, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30

Histories of Newport typically focus on two eras. Newport's "Golden Age" as a flourishing colonial seaport, the British occupation during the Revolution, and then decline. The second focuses on the Gilded Age as America's "First Resort," the mansions lining Bellevue Avenue, and the lavish summer lives of the Vanderbilts, Astors and Goelets. The mansions and swirling social life required a small army of servants and gardeners – the "downstairs" world often hidden from view. The history of immigration to America in the 19th century to the major seaports; Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia and especially New York is well documented. Millions of Irish immigrants arrived in the 1840s fleeing the Potato Famine. While many settled in New York, others followed networks of "chain migration" across the country, including to Newport.

Data from the US Census in 1880 documents that over 36 percent of Newport's residents were either born in Ireland or "first generation" Irish, born in the United States of parents born in Ireland. Important research questions remain. What drew the Irish to Newport? What type of work did they do? Where in Newport did they settle? How did they overcome the often virulent anti-Irish sentiment and opposition to their religious faith? What social institutions sustained the community and built a sense of being Irish-Americans, which continues to the present day. The course will include analyzing Census data and link the data to historic maps of Newport. The Census data and historic maps will explore the Irish neighborhoods in Newport and the struggle for upward mobility. Ancestry.com will be used in class to illustrate how to search for ancestors. (*Previously offered in the fall 2019 and early spring 2020.*)

Dr. Kurt Schlichting, Fairfield University, is the E. Gerald Corrigan '63 Chair in Humanities and Social Sciences Emeritus. At Fairfield, Dr. Schlichting served as the dean and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and he is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. His academic research leads the field of historic geographical information system, HGIS, which he used to study the Irish in Newport. He has lectured for the Newport Museum of Irish History and presented at academic conferences in the United States and abroad. In the spring of 2017, he was a visiting fellow at the Moore Research Institute – National University Ireland, Galway.

Libya: Conflicts of the Past and Present

With Richard Lobban, Ph.D.

Dates: Sept. 15, 22, 29, Oct. 6

Four Sessions: Tuesdays, 1 - 2 p.m.

Cost: \$30

Fall Seminars 2020 - Online

This seminar focuses on the historical and present-day conflicts in Libya. The first half reviews the battles of Tripoli in the 18th century where the U.S. flag was planted overseas for the first time. We will also discuss Libya in world history with the major battles in World War II between the Axis and Allied armies and the coup and bizarre government of Muammar Gaddafi.

The second half examines Libya since the fall of Gaddafi in 2011 and the issues surrounding the death of the American ambassador. Recent events then turned to the establishment of an Islamist state by ISIS and the means to remove it. We will also consider the violent struggles in Libya today between the LNA forces of Khalifa Haftar and the GNA forces of Fayeze Seraj. The sessions will conclude with the causes and contexts of how these current conflicts may be resolved by the internal and foreign proxy forces that back them.

Dr. Richard Lobban, professor emeritus of anthropology and African studies at Rhode Island College, serves as adjunct professor of African studies at the Naval War College. He also taught at the University of Khartoum, American University in Cairo, Tufts University, University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie-Mellon University and Dartmouth College, and has conducted field research in Tunisia, Egypt and Sudan. He is widely published in his areas of expertise in urban and complex societies, informal sector economy, gender, ethnicity, race and class, especially in the Middle East. Dr. Lobban often serves as a subject matter expert and court-appointed expert witness in political asylum cases for refugees from Africa and the Middle East.

He has a master's degree from Temple University and a Ph.D. from Northwestern University. Dr. Lobban currently guides archaeological tours in Sudan, where for 10 years he has been excavating a Meroitic-era temple destroyed during the fourth-century Axumite invasion. He is the author of "Sudan Security," "Libya: History and Revolution," and "African Insurgencies." A proclaimed Yoruba Elder, he and his wife are both active beekeepers, enjoying honey, making beeswax candles, and lecturing on ancient and modern beekeeping in Africa.

The Medical Health of U.S. Presidents: How It Affected Their Presidency and History

With Captain Murray Norcross, M.D., MPH

Dates: Sept. 23, 30, Oct. 7, 14

Four Sessions: Wednesdays, 10 - 11 a.m.

Cost: \$30

The medical health of our U.S. presidents is often overlooked, especially on how it affected their presidency and the outcome of United States history. Select U.S. presidents will be examined in case study format to reveal their health records, medical maladies, illnesses, surgeries, medications and fitness to hold the highest office in our land. Learn how tuberculosis kept the father of our nation from becoming a father, how one of our assassinated presidents should have survived his head wound, how a stroke that crippled a president was successfully hidden from the American public, how a Boston cardiologist saved the life of a president at a critical time in world history and more.

Each of the select presidents will be presented to you as if you were the attending physician on medical rounds. Real life medical records, where available from various presidential libraries, will be reviewed. Each medical case study of the select presidents will include how 21st-century medicine could have improved their medical health outcomes. Course goals will be for attendees to have a greater appreciation of how the health of our U.S. president has affected history and how it may affect the future course of our nation to include a discussion of the eventual first woman president. Questions and answers will be encouraged during and after the presentations.

Murray Norcross, M.D., MPH is a 30-year career U.S. Navy medical officer and family physician who has served in the Cold War, Operation Desert Storm, and the Global War on Terror. An eyewitness to many historic events of the past 30 years, Dr. Norcross served two staff tours in Washington, D.C., deployed in support of several Joint Task Forces, and was stationed overseas for six years, split between Bahrain and Japan. An avid photographer, writer, and artist, Dr. Norcross

Fall Seminars 2020 - Online

holds master's degrees in international relations, public health and health care administration. He has a deep interest in the medical history of our past United States presidents.

Medical Perspective on COVID-19

With Murray C. Norcross, Jr., M.D., MPH

Two date options:

Date: Sept. 25

One Session: Friday, 10 - 11:30 a.m. (Cost \$15)

Or

Date: Oct. 2

One Session: Friday, 1 - 2:30 p.m. (Cost \$15)

The COVID-19 Pandemic has abruptly changed the course of human destiny. Life in the United States and around the world as we know it has changed forever. People are fearful and anxious about what will happen next. But what is COVID-19? Scientists across the globe are working relentlessly to understand the novel coronavirus and what makes it so contagious and deadly. The objective of this one hour online program will be: (1) to share what we currently know about this virus, (2) to explain the basic terminology of medical epidemiology, (3) to show what we can do to combat the pandemic, (4) to explain medical treatment options for seriously ill patients, and (5) to give the latest update on the development of a COVID-19 vaccine. Questions will be welcome at the end of the presentation.

Murray Norcross, MD, MPH is a 30-year career U.S. Navy medical officer and family physician who has served in the Cold War, Operation Desert Storm, and the Global War on Terror. An eyewitness to many historic events of the past 30 years, Dr. Norcross served two staff tours in Washington, D.C., deployed in support of several Joint Task Forces, and was stationed overseas for six years, split between Bahrain and Japan. An avid photographer, writer, and artist, Dr. Norcross holds master's degrees in international relations, public health and health care administration.

Newport's Burial Grounds and Colonial Stone Carvers

With Lewis Keen

Dates: Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 8

Three Sessions: Thursdays, 10 - 11 a.m.

Cost: \$25

This presentation will focus on Newport's burial sites with attention to sites and stones from before 1800. The seminar will start with a general overview of burial sites, burial practices, and details about three generations of carvers in the Stevens shop. Burial sites located in the city will be explored including God's Little Acre, the most significant colonial era African burial site in the nation.

Lew Keen has served as chairman of the city's Historic Cemetery Advisory Commission since 2016. Presentations, tours and research about our historic stones and sites is an ongoing education that is entwined with the many facets of Newport's history.

The Nickel Boys, by Colson Whitehead

With Len DeAngelis

Dates: Sept. 14, 21, 28

Three Sessions: Mondays, 9 - 10 a.m.

Cost: \$25

Fall Seminars 2020 - Online

Contrary to respected advice, I would like to offer three sessions on “The Nickel Boys,” by Colson Whitehead. The book did not receive the National Book Award for which it was nominated. The author was on the cover of TIME. I did meet him at the Unitarian Church in Providence when he spoke at the invitation of The Providence Athaeneum. The book took courage to write. It takes courage to read. I hope to have the courage to present this in spite of, and because of, the times, and request the conversation be governed by thoughtfulness and consideration and respect based on the possibility that everyone else present may not agree with you. I believe something worth my time is worth my words, and offer you this opportunity. You may come with values and prejudices. You may not leave with them. Kindly read the book before the workshop. All are welcome--whether you have read it or not.

Len DeAngelis, who retired as the head of the English department at Middletown High School, was the 1990 R.I. Teacher of the Year. He has also received Disney’s American Teacher Award and the 2018 Education for Service Award at UMass Boston. He has led seminars on the Divine Comedy for several years. Len is also the R.I. ambassador for the Portrait Society of America.

Poetry Workshop

With Teresa M. Testa

Date: Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24

Four Sessions: Tuesdays, 1:30 - 3 p.m.

Cost: \$35

Is this not fantasy or farce?
This life, we chop and parse
Clamping our tongue, yielding our fun—

Where are we now but in quarantine,
Faces unseen except on screen
Time absconded by an invisible fiend—

Yet our mind is still free, free to be
To scribble and scrabble—You and me,
Taking pen to paper— See how easy?

Time to join the poetry workshop—
To dabble and dabble, go don’t stop!
Read and write about climbing a tree
Where you are free inside to be.

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Teresa M. Testa is a Ph.D. candidate at Salve Regina University where her dissertation research explores twentieth-century cultural approaches to moral theory within the philosophy of technology and theology. Graduating from Brown University with a concentration in English and American Literature, Teresa earned the M.Sc. in Organizational Management from Salve Regina University with emphasis on modern business ethical standards. Her life is immersed in the teaching of original coursework, editing manuscripts, and promoting a philanthropic scholarship program. Her academic interests are extensive and connect multiple disciplines within the humanities.

Fall Seminars 2020 - Online

Queens of the Ancient Nile

With Richard Lobban, Ph.D.

Dates: Oct. 28, Nov. 4, 11, 18

Four Sessions: Wednesdays, 1 - 2 p.m.

Cost: \$30

This four-session seminar focuses on the several cases of reigning queens in ancient Egypt and Nubia. The first half identifies the queens in question who ruled in dynastic Egypt and Nubia (ancient Sudan). These include biographies of Nitocris, Sobekneferu, Hatshepsut and Cleopatra VII. As well, it will look at non-regnant women such as Queen Mother, wives of Kings, and the God's Wives of Amun.

The second half examines the more numerous cases of regnant queens (candaces) in Nubia including Amanishakete, Shanadakete and Amanitore. It will also take a closer look at the cases of matrilineal descent in the Nubian Dynasty XXV and the role of women in legitimating Christian Nubia. These two classes will conclude with the causes and contexts of how these various queens came to power and the implications that one may draw from this part of ancient history.

Dr. Richard Lobban, professor emeritus of anthropology and African studies at Rhode Island College, serves as adjunct professor of African studies at the Naval War College. He also taught at the University of Khartoum, American University in Cairo, Tufts University, University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie-Mellon University and Dartmouth College, and has conducted field research in Tunisia, Egypt and Sudan. He is widely published in his areas of expertise in urban and complex societies, informal sector economy, gender, ethnicity, race and class, especially in the Middle East. Dr. Lobban often serves as a subject matter expert and court-appointed expert witness in political asylum cases for refugees from Africa and the Middle East.

He has a master's degree from Temple University and a Ph.D. from Northwestern University. Dr. Lobban currently guides archaeological tours in Sudan, where for 10 years he has been excavating a Meroitic-era temple destroyed during the fourth-century Axumite invasion. He is the author of "Sudan Security," "Libya: History and Revolution," and "African Insurgencies." A proclaimed Yoruba Elder, he and his wife are both active beekeepers, enjoying honey, making beeswax candles, and lecturing on ancient and modern beekeeping in Africa.

The Rise of the Techno-Human: Adventures, Challenges and Choices

With Sean O'Callaghan, Ph.D.

Dates: Sept. 30, Oct. 7, 14, 21

Four Sessions: Wednesdays, 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.

Cost: \$30

The GRIN technologies (Genetics, Robotics, Information Technology and Nanotechnology) have enabled human beings to design themselves in ways never encountered before. Technological developments are providing the means to alter what it means to be human and these changes present profound challenges for all elements of human society: culture, biology, religion, economics, politics, the sciences and the humanities. Techno-utopians look forward to a world where perceived human limitations have been eradicated forever and techno-pessimists fear a world where what makes us human and, therefore, necessarily flawed, will disappear. Whether we face adventures or challenges, choices will need to be made and they will need to be made sooner than we think. This course will explain some of these choices and will ask you to make your own mind up. (*Previously offered in Spring 2019.*)

Dr. Sean O'Callaghan is an associate professor in the Department of Religious and Theological Studies at Salve. He grew up in Ireland and has a Ph.D. in systematic theology from the University of Liverpool. Sean's main area of expertise is in the field of world religions including their evolution into new forms. He is also interested in transhumanism and new technologies emerging from that field along with the ethical questions raised.

Fall Seminars 2020 - Online

Russia's Place in the World Order: Moscow's Foreign and Defense Policy

With Tom Fedyszyn, Ph.D.

Dates: Oct. 21, 28, Nov. 4

Three Sessions: Wednesdays, 3 - 4 p.m.

Cost: \$25

Russia, formerly the Soviet Union, has played a uniquely important place in world politics for the last century. Moscow has been appraised by the West as everything from an ideological revolutionary movement, through being a certified global superpower, to now reverting to a backward authoritarian state, although hitting well above its weight. This seminar will analyze all the sources of Russian power through its foreign and defense policies and ask the students where along the above spectrum Russia sits today. Specifically, where does Russia fit in today's world order?

Tom Fedyszyn is Professor Emeritus of National Security Affairs at the U. S. Naval War College following 18 years on its teaching faculty. A retired Navy Captain, he commanded a cruiser and a destroyer. His shore assignments included being the U.S. Naval Attaché in Russia as well as the Russia Branch Chief for the International Military Staff at NATO Headquarters in Brussels. He has published widely on the Russian Navy and foreign affairs. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science and International Relations from Johns Hopkins University.

They Are Still Here! Native American Voices Through Poetry, Art, and Music

With Judith Gamble, Ph.D.

Dates: Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6

Five Sessions: Fridays, 12 - 1 p.m.

Cost: \$35

Dozens of contemporary Native American poets, artists, and musicians have produced insightful and memorable creative work, much of it deeply rooted in their beliefs and culture, reminding the rest of us that "they are still here". Glimpses into their native identity and the tribal history of their people and the struggles they have endured can be gleaned through a sampling of this work. We will read and discuss a number of narrative and lyric poems, closely examine traditional and modern art, and listen to a sampling of native music, all organized around themes and topics that embrace this native experience over time. Selections will be chosen from a variety of different native tribes and historical context will be included to further enrich an understanding and appreciation of each work.

Judith Gamble has a Ph.D. in history and specializes in the social and cultural history of underrepresented people. She has taught courses on U.S. social and cultural history and Latin American civilization for many years at a variety of colleges and universities across the country, and still teaches part-time at URI where she created and has taught Introduction to Native American History every summer since 1999. Lately her passion has shifted from scholarly to creative writing, especially poetry.

What Do We Know About Economic Inequality?

With Dennis Sheehan, Ph.D.

Dates: Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12

Four Sessions: Mondays, 2 - 3 p.m.

Cost: \$30

Economic inequality is likely to be an issue in this year's election. It's an issue many of us have strong opinions about, but are the opinions based on data? If our opinions are influenced by newspapers, magazines, and TV, do those writers and editors know very much about the topic? In this class, we will explore what the data can tell us about the extent of

Fall Seminars 2020 - Online

economic inequality in the US, the sources of that inequality, and possible remedies. We will try to understand which inequality claims are robust and which are tenuous. (*Previously offered in the Spring of 2018.*)

Dennis Sheehan recently retired from the Penn State Smeal College of Business faculty, where he was the Virginia and Louis Benzak Professor of Finance. He previously taught at Purdue University, the University of Chicago, and the University of Rochester. He has also taught in Europe at the École des Ponts Paris Tech and the Universität Bern. Professor Sheehan is a graduate of Georgetown University and received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley. He grew up in Newport and has moved back home to be closer to family.

Fall 2020 Instructors

Instructor	Page #	Seminar Title
Anthony Agostinelli	3	Big Bands of the 1930s and Beyond: Their Vocalists & Vocal Groups
Jan Armor	7	iPhone Photography Inspired by Masters of the Medium
Thomas Beall	3	British Voyages: Anson, Cook and Bligh, Part I
Maria Mack D'Amario	5	The Cradle of Color: How Renaissance Venice Changed ... of Art History
Len DeAngelis	4	Caste, The Origins of Our Discontents
Len DeAngelis	10	The Nickel Boys, by Colson Whitehead
Tom Fedyszyn, Ph.D.	13	Russia's Place in the World Order: Moscow's Foreign/Defense Policy
Judith Gamble, Ph.D.	13	They Are Still Here! Native American Voices Through Poetry, Art, Music
Lee Hardgrove	6	Generals and Presidents
Thomas Howard, Ph.D.	6	The Geography and History of India and Its Neighbors
Anne DuBose Joslin	7	Inside the Executive Branch: The 2020 Battle for the Presidency...
George Kassis	2	The Arab Israeli Conflict
Lewis Keen	10	Newport's Burial Grounds and Colonial Stone Carvers
Ambassador George Krol	2	Along the Silk Road: An Intro. to the History and Culture of Central Asia
Ambassador George Krol	5	Discovering Belarus: The Unknown Country of Europe
Richard Lobban, Ph.D.	8	Libya: Conflicts of the Past and Present
Richard Lobban, Ph.D.	12	Queens of the Ancient Nile
Ralph Mastrorio	6	I Can Feel It in My Gut!
CAPT Murray Norcross, M.D.	9	The Medical Health of U.S. Presidents: How It Affected Their ...
CAPT Murray Norcross, M.D.	10	Medical Perspective on COVID-19
Sean O'Callaghan, Ph.D.	12	The Rise of the Techno-Human: Adventures, Challenges and Choices
Kurt Schlichting, Ph.D.	8	The Irish in Newport
Dennis Sheehan, Ph.D.	3	Big Business: Highly Competitive or Greedy Monopolists?
Dennis Sheehan, Ph.D.	13	What Do We Know About Economic Inequality?
Teresa M. Testa	4	Case Studies in Ethical Thinking
Teresa M. Testa	11	Poetry Workshop