



# *Circle of Scholars*

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*Online Seminar Catalog*



*Spring 2021*





## Circle of Scholars



### Online Seminar Catalog – Spring 2021

*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 2021 selection of spring seminars.*

**Online registration begins on  
Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at noon**  
[www.salve.edu/circleofscholars](http://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](mailto:sheila.powell@salve.edu).

#### **Important Program Information for Spring 2021**

- Online seminars will typically offer 1.5 hour sessions.
- Class fees begin at \$15 for one session and range to \$85 for eight sessions.
- 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 a seminar, you will receive a Zoom email invitation 1-3 days before it begins. Use the link provided in the email to join your scheduled seminar sessions. The same link works for all sessions.
- Please call the office at (401) 341-2120 if you need additional Zoom training or support.
- Registration is the same online process we have used in the past and will be available on our webpage February 3, 2021 at noon. [www.salve.edu/circleofscholars](http://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 41 seminars this term including 31 new seminars and 10 rescheduled from the spring of 2020.
- Annual membership for the 2019-2020 academic year was extended from July 2019 through December 2020 due to COVID-19. Membership renewal is being offered this month for a reduced rate of \$35 to cover the remainder of the 2020-2021 academic year. Please remember to renew your membership. We currently have over 200 people on our waitlist.

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# Circle of Scholars: Spring 2021

## America and Russia: The Biden Difference

*With Tom Fedyszyn, Ph.D.*

Dates: Feb. 10, 17, 24

Three Sessions: Wednesdays, 3 - 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$35

Russia has been the focal point of American global strategy for nearly a century. This is inevitable partly because of the immutable facts on the ground: Russia has developed an historical adversary relationship with America and is the world's largest country with the greatest arsenal of nuclear weapons. However, national strategies and leadership also leave their mark on this relationship. Newly-elected President Joseph Biden will be inaugurated on January 20, 2021, and steer future U.S.-Russian relations opposite Vladimir Putin. This seminar will consider the prospects for this relationship. Where might we find common ground? Where might the next bilateral conflict arise?

**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.

## Animals at War

*With Richard Lobban, Ph.D.*

Dates: Mar. 16, 23, 30, Apr. 6

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

Cost: \$45

Since the beginning of time, animals have been integral strategically and in support of humans in military operations. Dr. Lobban will present the key roles animals of all kinds have played in various wars throughout history. You will be fascinated by his tales about these kindly beasts and their efforts in battle, from horses, mules and donkeys to elephants. He will regale us with the exploits and heroism certainly of dogs but also uniquely rats, pigeons, bees and playful, intelligent dolphins.

**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 ten 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.

# Circle of Scholars: Spring 2021

## Architectural Preservation in Newport and Beyond

*With Ross Cann*

Dates: Apr. 12, 19, 26

Three Sessions: Mondays, 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Cost: \$35

Newport is not only a treasury of important architectural monuments; it has been a cradle for the architectural preservation movement, which has grown in strength and breadth over the last 75 years since the founding of the Preservation Society of Newport County in 1945. With the goal of preventing the disassembly and destruction of the Hunter House in the Point Neighborhood, a small group of individuals were at the leading edge of a movement that has been extremely impactful worldwide. This course will examine the people, forces and events both within and without Newport that have been central in the American architectural preservation movement. (*Note: If possible, a field trip may be offered in May.*)

**Ross Cann** is a practicing architect, author, historian and teacher. He holds architecture and architectural history degrees from Yale, Cambridge and Columbia universities. Ross studied with Vincent Scully, Robert A.M. Stern and Maya Lin, among many other notable scholars. He is the founder and principal of A4 Architecture in Newport.

## The Artistic Structure of Spirituality: God is in the Details

*With Teresa M. Testa*

Dates: Mar. 26, Apr. 2, 9, 16

Four Sessions: Fridays, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$45

Visually stunning, technologically enlightened, and exceptionally individualistic, the history of the artistic structure tells the story of humanity, its involvement in the fruition of material culture, and its connection with the divine world. Consider the second part of the course title, attributed to modernist architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, yet equally attributed to 16th-century theologian Saint Teresa of Ávila. Here we find our enchanted entrance into a world of architectural splendor and mnemonic spiritual value. Students will be introduced to a short history of architecture through visual image and historical narrative. Students then will learn the physical and spiritual features of the artistic work by decoding the symbolic structure. The objective for each session is to gain a broader history of each time period, enhanced knowledge of material culture, and increased perspective on the connection between the artistic structure and the transcendent.

**Teresa M. Testa** is a Ph.D. candidate at Salve Regina University where her dissertation research explores 20<sup>th</sup>-century American cultural approaches to moral theory within the philosophy of technology and theology. Having graduated from Brown University with a concentration in English and American literature, Teresa also earned the M.Sc. in Management from Salve Regina University with emphasis on modern business ethical standards. Her academic interests are extensive and connect multiple disciplines within the humanities.

# Circle of Scholars: Spring 2021

## The Brooklyn Dodgers: They Captured - and Then Broke - a Borough's Heart

*With Charles J. Heffernan, Jr. and Donald O'Hanley*

Date: May 6

One Session: Thursday, 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$15

This seminar will survey the history of the Brooklyn Dodgers, who went from zany losers dubbed "The Brooklyn Bums," to world champions, and then, finally, to defectors, still unforgiven by many 64 years later. It will also revisit Ebbets Field, their bandbox-size home in Flatbush with its fan-friendly aura, collection of "characters," and famous visitors.

The seminar presenters have much in common: they are native New Yorkers devoted to the Brooklyn Dodgers; they attended Christian Brothers high schools in New York City; they graduated from Boston College; and they have volunteered for many years with the Newport Gulls baseball team, where they met. Don is the public address announcer noted for his insightful, droll observations, and Charlie is an official scorer.

**Charles J. Heffernan Jr.** is a former Manhattan assistant district attorney, special assistant United States attorney in the southern district of New York, deputy criminal justice coordinator for New York City, acting justice of the New York Supreme Court, and military judge (LTC, U.S. Army). He has lectured and written extensively on criminal justice matters.

**Donald O'Hanley** is in his 19th year serving as the "Voice of Cardines Field." An inductee into the Newport Gulls Hall of Fame in 2014, O'Hanley has incorporated experience, humor, and baseball knowledge into his public address announcements, and is highly regarded around the NECBL for his attention to detail and public address protocol. An avid baseball historian, O'Hanley's voice has become synonymous with both historic Cardines Field and the Newport Gulls organization.

## Camron Wright's Story of Hope: The Rent Collector

*With Len DeAngelis*

Dates: May 10, 17, 24

Three Sessions: Mondays, 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Cost: \$35

A former student, and present friend, loaned me her copy which I devoured in three days. I also gave copies to my daughter, her husband, and my granddaughter so they could read it simultaneously. Cameron Wright creates a book as a sewist designs and assembles a quilt. His magnetic prose grips the reader and remains as tenacious on the last page as the first—as clever in the first piece of cloth as the entire covering. Alertness compels, and the injection of the works of others is more like a booster shot to the elements that contribute in themselves, as well as to the entirety—a slice as well as the loaf. Yet the freshness of expression tweaks a reader's memory as much as it pierces a stitch in the patch of admiration for simplicity.

**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.

# Circle of Scholars: Spring 2021

## COVID-19 Vaccine Update: Where Do We Go From Here?

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

Date: Feb 17

One Session: Wednesday, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$15

In record time, not one but several COVID-19 vaccines have been developed. With over 400,000 Americans having succumbed to this deadly viral pandemic and over 230 million Americans infected, the United States Food and Drug Administration has given emergency approval for the release and use of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines with the AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, and Oxford vaccines soon to follow in early 2021. But where do we go from here? Are these vaccines safe? Are there side effects? Will one vaccine work better than another? Why aren't we having the usual influenza outbreak? Should we still be advocating for everyone to receive the annual flu shot? Newly elected President Joe Biden is directing that all COVID-19 vaccines be released to vaccinate as many Americans as possible ignoring the initial plan to hold vaccine back for a second booster shot to follow. Is this the best plan? Will these vaccines provide protection against the dangerous COVID-19 mutation variant that is rapidly spreading around the world and the United States? The biggest question of all is when will we be able to return to normalcy, if ever? These and many more questions about the COVID-19 vaccines and where do we go from here will be answered through an up-to-date presentation of the current medical literature, recommendations from major Public Health Universities and Center for Disease Control directives. The presentation will include easy to follow images, photographs, charts and videos.

The goals of this update will be to have attendees develop a deeper understanding of how and why the COVID-19 vaccines work, why it is important to have as many Americans vaccinated as possible, and could another viral pandemic happen again? Attendees will also be given a peek into the future on what is most likely to happen in 2021/2022. Questions, shared observations and discussion are encouraged.

**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. He has a deep interest in the medical history of our past United States presidents.

## Debating the Electoral College

*With Luigi Bradizza, Ph.D.*

Date: Feb. 26

One Session: Friday, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$15

The Electoral College has been under attack, on and off, for decades. Proposals for reform and even outright abolition have been advanced by serious people. Other serious people favor retaining the Electoral College. This seminar will present neutral, unbiased, and non-partisan arguments for both sides of the issue.

**Luigi Bradizza** holds a Ph.D. in Politics from the University of Dallas. He is an associate professor of political science at Salve Regina University, and the chair of the Department of Political Science and International Relations. He has published a number of scholarly articles and book chapters on American political thought and political philosophy. He is also the author of "Richard T. Ely's Critique of Capitalism" (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013).



# Circle of Scholars: Spring 2021

## The Federal Reserve, Inflation, Interest Rates, Debt: What's It All About?

*With Dennis Sheehan, Ph.D.*

Dates: Mar. 22, 29, Apr. 5, 12

Four Sessions: Mondays, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$45

What is the role of the Federal Reserve? Is it a secret cabal that controls our economy? Or a bunch of people who only think they know what they are doing? How does the Fed try to control inflation? How successful are they? What is their role in financing the debt of the United States government? What is the role of the Fed in ameliorating the economic disruptions caused by the global pandemic? How well has the Fed performed during this crisis and in past crises? We will try to answer these questions and more in this class. The aim is to help you understand the headlines you see every day in the newspapers about macroeconomic events such as the monetary policy of the Fed, inflation, interest rates, and budget deficits.

**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.

## The Feminine Gaze: Women with a Camera

*With Jan Armor*

Dates: May 5, 12, 19, 26

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

Cost: \$45

This four-session workshop is a close look at some creative women who use or have used photography to express their artistic vision. We will discuss their images and take their work as inspiration for our own. We will also share voluntary homework assignments and learn about the craft of photography.

**Jan Armor** is an award-winning educator and fine art photographer with forty years of experience in both digital and traditional media. He has taught several photography courses for the OLLI at URI. He has 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 others. To see Jan's work and a more descriptive biography, visit his web site: [armorphoto.com](http://www.armorphoto.com). Read students comments here: <http://www.armorphoto.com/comments>

## Geography and History of India and Its Neighbors, Part Two

*With Thomas Howard, Ph.D.*

Dates: Mar. 15, 22, 29, Apr. 5, 12

Five Sessions: Mondays, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$55

This will be a continuation of The Geography and History of India and Its Neighbors, Part One, offered in fall 2020, though it is not necessary to have taken the first to benefit from the second. We will begin at the "high noon" of the British Indian Empire (circa 1900) with a review of features of British rule that created the conditions for the



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independence movement, and then proceed through the major events of that movement to the partition of British India into the two countries of India and Pakistan. Developments in both new countries will be followed to the present, including the breakaway of Bangladesh from Pakistan, the Kashmir problem, and the rise of Hindu nationalism in India.

**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 the summer of 2011 as participant in a National Endowment for the Humanities program for professors.

## Getting the Most Out of Your iPhone or iPad

*With Jan Armor*

Dates: Feb. 9, 16, 23, Mar. 2

Four Sessions: Tuesdays, 12:30 - 2 p.m.

Cost: \$45

Your iPhone is more than just a telephone - lots more! This little device in your pocket is full of many other useful features. Besides being a multi-faceted communication device, it is also a sophisticated camera that comes with its own editor. It is an entertainment center providing music, movies, NPR radio, your favorite newspaper and thousands of podcasts for every taste and political persuasion. It is your personal secretary, spreadsheet and word processor. Heck, you could run a small foreign county out of your iPhone. In this four-week workshop you will be introduced to the phone in all its glory. Note: This is for iPhone and iPad only, no Android phones.

**Jan Armor** is an award-winning educator and fine art photographer with forty years of experience in both digital and traditional media. He has taught many photography courses for the Circle of Scholars. He has 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 others. To see Jan's work and a more descriptive biography, visit his web site: [armorphoto.com](http://www.armorphoto.com). Read students comments here: <http://www.armorphoto.com/comments>

## Giuseppe Verdi: Listen, Watch and Discuss His Famous Arias

*With Anthony Agostinelli*

Dates: Mar. 26, Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Six Sessions: Fridays, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$65

This course will listen to, watch and discuss Giuseppe Verdi's famous arias from each of his operas, including from: Aida, Don Carlos, Il Trovatore, La Forza del Destino, La Traviata, Rigoletto, Otello, Un Ballo Maschera. Some of the opera singers are: Marcelo Alvarez, Maria Callas, Placido Domingo, Renee Fleming, Jonas Kaufmann, Sherrill Milnes, Anna Netrebko, Luciano Pavarotti, and Katia Ricciarelli. Some of the conductors will be: Marco Armiliato, James Levine, and Giuseppe Patane. The opera companies will include: Bayerisches Staatsorchester & Choir, Covent Garden, Metropolitan, Wiener Philharmoniker and Staatopera. A syllabus which will include places on the internet where these arias may be found, and a short description of the arias will be submitted to those enrolled prior to the first class.

**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.

# Circle of Scholars: Spring 2021

## Go Ahead and Make a Scene

*With Jack Galvin*

Dates: Feb. 11, 18, 25, Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25, Apr. 1

Eight Sessions: Thursdays, 10 a.m. - noon

Cost: \$85

You say you've always wanted to try to write fiction, but never had the opportunity? Then go ahead and make a scene. That's what Jack Galvin wants you to do. In fact, he wants you to make seven of them. In this fiction-writing course, writers will work on the skills needed to create a successful scene. These skills include point of view, setting, dialogue, action, character development and narration. Jack will offer specific prompts so writers will have the opportunity to create seven scenes in the eight two-hour sessions, each focusing on one major skill. Writers will present each week's assignment to the group for discussion. Who knows? Maybe making a scene will be your first step in writing that short story or the novel you've been thinking about for years. *(Previously offered in the spring of 2019.)*

**Jack Galvin** has enjoyed the experience of WriteLife courses for many years now. He also leads Shakespeare discussion groups as well as a fiction-writing workshop. Jack taught high school English in winter and tennis in summer.

## The Golden Age of Greece, 500-338 BCE

*With Fred Zilian, Ph.D.*

Dates: Apr. 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4, 11

Six Sessions: Tuesdays, 12:30 - 2 p.m.

Cost: \$65

This course will address the high period of the ancient civilization of Greece, 500-338 BCE, a civilization which served as one of the foundations of Western Civilization. It is foundational because we give the ancient Greeks credit for inventing so many things which we now take for granted: democracy, tragedy, comedy, lyric poetry, history in the modern sense, philosophy, mathematical theory, coinage, and probably organized, competitive sports. Additionally, they advanced so many other disciplines, such as architecture, sculpture, and painting. In six lessons this course will cover: Early Greece, the Greek City-States, the Greek-Persian Wars & the Rise of Athenian Democracy, the Peloponnesian War, and Greek Culture and Society. The ancient Greek world is all around us today; come learn how it all began.

**Fred Zilian, Ph.D.** graduated from West Point in 1970 and completed a 21-year career as an infantry officer in the Army. He was an educator at Portsmouth Abbey School and taught history, ethics and German. He authored numerous articles, essays and book reviews on history, Germany, Europe, China, NATO, religion, music, education, climate change, globalization, civilization and the Civil War in numerous publications including the Wall Street Journal. Fred has also been an Abraham Lincoln interpreter/presenter for 20 years and lectures on a wide variety of subjects, including history, Lincoln, military strategic affairs, civilization and climate change. Fred has a Ph.D. in international relations and strategic studies from Johns Hopkins University. He has published a book titled "From Confrontation to Cooperation: The Takeover of the National People's (East German) Army by the Bundeswehr." He is currently an adjunct professor of history and politics at Salve Regina and an opinion contributor to The Hill, a contributing editor to The History News Network and a regular columnist for The Newport Daily News. He blogs on a wide variety of subjects at [www.zilianblog.com](http://www.zilianblog.com).

# Circle of Scholars: Spring 2021

## Grand Central Terminal, the Vanderbilts and Newport

*With Kurt Schlichting, Ph.D.*

Dates: Feb. 15, 22, Mar. 1

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

Cost: \$35

The magnificent Grand Central Terminal on 44th Street in the heart of midtown Manhattan is today an architectural treasure as well as the busiest railroad transportation hub in the country. Thousands of commuters and New Yorkers pass daily through the magnificent Grand Concourse, New York's great public square. Grand Central's history is also the history of the rise of New York City as the center of commerce, business, entertainment and communication in the United States.

One family, the Vanderbilts, created the New York Central Railroad, which built not one but two terminals on 42nd Street. Cornelius Vanderbilt, the Commodore, born on Staten Island just after the American Revolution, assembled a shipping and railroad empire that created enormous wealth. He is referred to as America's "First Tycoon." His son William Henry and then his grandsons, Cornelius II and William K., expanded the empire and oversaw the construction of Grand Central. William Wilgus, the New York Central's brilliant chief engineer, imagined not just the new terminal but the electrified, two story underground train yard and "Terminal City" that transforming midtown Manhattan.

The story of Grand Central and the Vanderbilts is tied to Newport where Cornelius II and William K. built their "summer cottages," the Breakers and Marble House. Whitney Warren, Grand Central's Beaux-Arts architect, summered in Newport, socialized with the Vanderbilts, and designed the Newport Country Club.

**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.

## Great Power Competition Across Eurasia

*With U.S. Ambassador George Krol, retired*

Date: Mar. 25

One Session: Thursday, 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$15

Join Ambassador George Krol in discussing the evolving relationships among the United States, Russia and China across Eurasia. Is conflict inevitable? Is cooperation possible? What are the roles of force and diplomacy? This lecture will examine the historical, cultural, political, economic and security issues that underlie the growing rivalries and antagonisms among these nuclear-armed states.

**Ambassador George Krol** retired from the U.S. Foreign Service in 2018 after 36 years of service, mostly dealing with the former Soviet Union, including as ambassador to Belarus, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan and as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Central Asian Affairs. Ambassador Krol resides in Middletown and teaches an elective course on Russia and former Soviet World at the U.S. Naval War College and is an Associate at Harvard University's Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies.

# Circle of Scholars: Spring 2021

## Happiness 5!!!

*With Len DeAngelis*

Dates: Feb. 15, 22, Mar 1, 8, 15

Five Sessions: Mondays, 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Cost: \$55

Interviews—Poetry—Writing ([onbeing.org](http://onbeing.org))

Listen/Read—Write, Reflect—Share (participant involvement voluntary)

The core of this workshop is based on interviews with Krista Tippett, (NPR) and poetry selected by “The Pause” written by Pádraig Ó Tuama from the podcasts of the [onbeing.org](http://onbeing.org) web site. Krista Tippett interviews people worthy of attention whose work and interest contributes to improving society. They are people about whom “happiness” and well-being are fair, thoughtful, and worthy of emulation and awareness.

Participants may listen, read transcripts and reflect on interviews, poetry and writings provided. If participants just want to listen to the workshop they are welcome. Those who wish to speak are asked to write reflections on what they listened to and provide a five sentence “script” of “impressions” or “reflections” five hours (11 a.m.) before the workshop meets. Write five sentences on one item, or a sentence on each of the five items, or anything in between. The purpose of the “script” is to respect time so all may be heard, and take questions and comments from the audience, as we will already have “scripts” via email. Questions and comments are welcome. (There are no prerequisites.)

**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 been leading seminars on the Divine Comedy for several years. Len is also the R.I. ambassador for the Portrait Society of America.

## Henry James’s Newport Circle

*With Mary Murphy, Ph.D.*

Dates: Mar. 8, 15

Two Sessions: Mondays, 12:30 - 2 p.m.

Cost: \$25

Henry James celebrated the “long afternoons of youth” that characterized the years that he spent in Newport. The city represented a point of reattachment to America and a welcome return to extended family for the 15-year-old and his siblings. Their circle played an active part in the genteel intellectual society that characterized pre-Civil War life on Aquidneck Island. Days were spent at the Redwood Library, studying at William Morris Hunt’s art studio on Church Street, wandering the cliffs, sketching at Paradise Valley, and swimming at Sachuest Beach. Returning at the turn of the century, James witnessed the dramatic changes that his beloved Newport had undergone in the Gilded Age, famously lamenting the “white elephants” lining Bellevue Avenue.

This class will explore the island’s influence on the author, as well as the artistic and intellectual circles that characterized pre-war Newport, including James’s friendship with the young artist John La Farge.

**Dr. Mary Murphy’s** expertise is in the 19<sup>th</sup>-century American novel. Newport artists and writers are an area of particular interest. She received her Ph.D. from New York University.



# Circle of Scholars: Spring 2021

## Honey Bees and Beekeeping: Local and Global Perspectives

*With Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, Ph.D.*

Dates: Apr. 7, 14, 21

Three Sessions: Wednesdays, 12:30 - 2 p.m.

Cost: \$35

Dr. Fluehr-Lobban is a beekeeper in R.I. and N.H. and active in public education about the importance of bees and other pollinators for the environment and our food sources as well as human well-being. She will survey the natural history of honey bees for the past 60 million years and their co-evolution with flowers. As an anthropologist, Dr. Fluehr-Lobban will review the quasi-domestication of honey bees by humans from the time of the rise of agriculture in the Middle East to their late arrival in the New World with Europeans. The many cultural and practical aspects of beekeeping in selected world cultures, in the U.S. and New England will be examined, along with the many benefits of using and consuming honey. Bees are endangered by pesticides and the practice of monocropping where they are transported across the country for pollination of various high-value crops. The value and fate of the honey bees will also be explored.

**Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, Ph.D.** is Professor Emerita of Anthropology at Rhode Island College (RIC) and has been a beekeeper since 2006. In 2011, she established beehives and the Bee Education Center at RIC where K-12 students can visit the college apiary for tours and bee education classes are offered annually by the R.I. Beekeepers Association. She is an advocate of public education about bees and their protection as key pollinators for our food supply.

## Honor Bound: Guantanamo and the Global War on Terror

*With Thomas Beall*

Dates: May 10, 17, 24

Three Sessions: Mondays, 12:30 - 2 p.m.

Cost: \$35

Retired Navy Captain Tom Beall organized, trained, equipped, and supervised the U.S. Navy sailors deployed as enemy combatant detainee guards at Guantanamo in 2005-2006. He offers an inside look at the day-to-day life at the detention camp and discusses the mission in the broader context of worldwide detention and interrogation operations of that time.

**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.

## Impeachment of Federal Officials: Meaning, Definition, and History

*With Charles J. Heffernan, Jr.*

Dates: April 19, 26, May 3, 10

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

Cost: \$45

**Description:** This seminar will consider the impeachment provisions of the U.S. Constitution (Article II, Section 4), its text, legal interpretation, and its historical exercise, both actual and attempted. The seminar will conclude with a practical exercise in which members will examine two fictional scenarios and decide if each presents a valid basis for impeachment and conviction. *(Note: This seminar is not a forum for airing political views. Rather, its intent is to give*

# Circle of Scholars: Spring 2021

members sufficient historical and legal information upon which to form their independent opinions of the proper exercise of the impeachment option.)

**Charles J. Heffernan Jr.** is a former Manhattan assistant district attorney, special assistant United States attorney in the southern district of New York, deputy criminal justice coordinator for New York City, acting justice of the New York Supreme Court, and military judge (LTC, U.S. Army). He has lectured and written extensively on criminal justice matters.

## Introduction to Hieroglyphics

*With Richard Lobban, Ph.D.*

Dates: Feb. 9, 16, 23, Mar. 2

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

Cost: \$45

The ancient art of picture writing has been a key to understanding ancient societies and the thought process of historic civilizations. Dr. Richard Lobban combines his wit and knowledge to provide a basic orientation to this most fascinating language. This course will give a basic orientation of the discovery and the deciphering of this amazing communication era. It will cover the three forms of hieroglyphics and the monoconsontal 'alphabet' as well as understanding their application in royal names and major deities.

**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.

## Isn't It Romantic? The Literature of Hawthorne, Melville and Poe

*With Teresa M. Testa*

Dates: Apr. 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21, 28

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

Cost: \$65

There was a time in American literary history when the consciousness of man was exposed to the emotive and ethereal complexities of human nature—where truth became transient, virtue vanished by inclination, and the temporal encumbered man reaches for the transcendent. Through an unprecedented literary style contemporarily measured as anti-romanticism, this new original course follows the three principal authors who unveil the natural truths of existence while positioning the human being within complex allegorical tales of mortal circumstance. Hawthorne, Melville, and Poe offer a nod to the literature that came before while reminding us of the potential of the human spirit and depths of man's soul. Lecture-style sessions will focus on the assigned readings and the associations among morality, history,

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psychology, and theology. New literature assignments of approximately 25 pages will be posted prior to each class session.

**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.

## Leonardo in Florence: The Birth of Beauty

*With Maria Mack D'Amario*

Dates: May 3

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

Cost: \$15

It has been 500 years since the death of Leonardo DaVinci and we still find him endlessly fascinating. Painter? Sculptor? Inventor? Engineer? Scientist? There is only one città in the world, which could have given birth to such a curious mind. Join us while we travel to quindicesimo secolo Florence, that great hub of humanist scholarship and artistic production. By building libraries, churches, and academies, the powerful Medici family laid the foundation for the flowering of an unparalleled period of the liberal arts.

Leonardo spent two periods of his working life in Florence and some of his most iconic works such as the Mona Lisa, The Annunciation, The Portrait of Ginerva Benci, and the Benois Madonna were produced there. By looking closely at both his drawings and paintings we will explore the effects that this flourishing city had on his extraordinary mind and work, his development of beauty, and the legacy of his genius.

**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 of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C. Maria currently works for the Preservation Society of Newport County.

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

*With Captain Murray Norcross, M.D., MPH*

Dates: Apr. 21, 28

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

Cost: \$25

In "The Medical Health of U.S. Presidents (I)," some of our most beloved Presidents, Washington, Jackson, Lincoln, Wilson and Kennedy were presented in a medical grand rounds format, evaluating the diagnoses that these Chief Executives carried throughout their lives and into their presidencies. In "The Medical Health of U.S. Presidents (II)," select U.S. presidents throughout the centuries will be once again presented, revealing their health records, medical maladies, illnesses, surgeries, medications, and fitness to hold the highest office in our nation. Learn about which president suffered from intractable cluster headaches, which one is greatly suspected to have had a form of Asperger's

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Syndrome, which one had an influenza epidemic named after him, which one attended but did not graduate from medical school, which one was thought to have been poisoned possibly with strychnine and later exhumed to test the theory, which one crippled from a viral illness overcame his disability and worked to find a cure, and which president chose not to run for a second term due to the fear he would die in office. These and many more presidential medical case studies will be presented with lots of informative slides, photographs, images, and videos.

Each of the select presidents will be presented to you as if you were the attending White House physician. Real life medical records, where available from various presidential libraries, will be reviewed. Each presidential medical case study will include how 21<sup>st</sup> century medicine could have improved their medical outcomes and possibly changed the course of American history. Course goals will be for attendees to have a greater appreciation of how the health of our U.S. presidents has affected history and how it will continue to do so in the future to include a discussion of the eventual first woman President. Questions, observations, and discussions are highly encouraged during and after each 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. He has a deep interest in the medical history of our past United States presidents.

## Minor Figures in American History Who Played Epic Roles

*With Captain Murray Norcross, M.D., MPH*

Dates: Mar. 17, 24, 31, Apr. 7

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

Cost: \$45

E pluribus unum is our national motto, Out of many, one. Due to their steadfastness and devotion to the United States of America, hundreds of minor figures in our nation's history played epic roles. The goal of this seminar is to bring to life the stories of these great Americans who are forever woven into the fabric of our nation. Americans such as a Massachusetts fisherman who ferried Washington across the Delaware; a Seneca Indian warrior who served as General Grant's military secretary at Appomattox; the Secret Service Agent who shot and killed the would-be assassins while President Truman napped; and the Texas State woman judge who administered the Presidential Oath of Office to Vice President Johnson after President Kennedy's assassination. The legacy of these heroic American men and women, from all walks of life and disciplines will shed new light on how these seemingly minor figures played epic roles in major moments in American history. Discussion will be encouraged after each vignette to share viewpoints of the seminar attendees on the figures presented. The seminar attendees will be asked to recall in their lives examples of people they knew who contributed in an epic way to great moments in American history whether political, cultural, or historical.

**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. He has a deep interest in the medical history of our past United States presidents.



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## Moving Better

*With Dennis Sheehan, Ph.D.*

Dates: May 11, 18, 25

Three Sessions: Tuesdays, 3 - 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$35

Most of us would like to continue to move well as we age. Moving well means being able to do the things that give us pleasure or are required for daily living: playing with your grandchildren, carrying a suitcase while traveling, getting in and out of those ridiculously small airline seats, hiking, gardening, and a score of other activities that we love. That desire to continue to move well, however, is often frustrated by a lack of knowledge about what works. The class will discuss what the research says about movement and how to continue to move well as we age, screening for movement limitations which can then be addressed, and the importance of strength in sustaining good movement. This class is meant to be practical, to suggest some things you can do from home that could help you move better.

**Dennis Sheehan** is Professor Emeritus at the Penn State University Smeal College of Business, where he taught economics, finance, and statistics. He previously taught at Purdue University, the University of Chicago, and the University of Rochester. Dennis is a graduate of Georgetown University and received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of California at Berkeley. Although he remains interested in his academic discipline of economics, he has a long-standing interest in fitness and staying active. He completed marathons and triathlons in his 60s, but hastens to add that he is more of a “completer” than a “competer”. He and his daughter share the distinction of coming in dead last in one of the triathlons they did together. As a life-long learner, Dennis decided to study for several fitness certifications after retiring from Penn State. He is certified by the American Council of Exercise (ACE) as a Personal Trainer, by Functional Movement Systems (FMS) Levels 1 and 2 for movement screening and Y-Balance screening, and by Strong First as a kettlebell instructor. He is a firm believer in the FMS tag line: “move well. move often”.

## Notable Women of Rhode Island

*With Fred Zilian, Ph.D.*

Dates: Apr. 8, 15, 22, 29

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

Cost: \$45

This course celebrates the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment, giving women the vote, by addressing in four lessons eight of Rhode Island’s most important women: Anne Hutchinson, Julia Ward Howe, Katharine Wormeley, Elizabeth Chace, Alva Vanderbilt Belmont, Maude Howe Elliott, Matilda Sissieretta Jones, and Princess Red Wing.

**Fred Zilian, Ph.D.** graduated from West Point in 1970 and completed a 21-year career as an infantry officer in the Army. He was an educator at Portsmouth Abbey School and taught history, ethics and German. He authored numerous articles, essays and book reviews on history, Germany, Europe, China, NATO, religion, music, education, climate change, globalization, civilization and the Civil War in numerous publications including the Wall Street Journal. Fred has also been an Abraham Lincoln interpreter/presenter for 20 years and lectures on a wide variety of subjects, including history, Lincoln, military strategic affairs, civilization and climate change. Fred has a Ph.D. in international relations and strategic studies from Johns Hopkins University. He has published a book titled “From Confrontation to Cooperation: The Takeover of the National People’s (East German) Army by the Bundeswehr.” He is currently an adjunct professor of history and politics at Salve Regina and an opinion contributor to The Hill, a contributing editor to The History News Network and a regular columnist for The Newport Daily News. He blogs on many subjects at [www.zilianblog.com](http://www.zilianblog.com).

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## Rhode Island's Founders: Roger Williams & Anne Hutchinson

*With Fred Zilian, Ph.D.*

Dates: May 6, 13, 20, 27

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

Cost: \$45

This course addresses the lives, struggles, and ideas of two key founders of the colony of Rhode Island: Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson. We give credit to Roger Williams for the idea of religious freedom, what he called "soul liberty." It is this idea which was eventually enshrined in the First Amendment to our Constitution: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Anne Hutchinson dared to challenge the domineering male leaders of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and paid the price for it. She was among the first inhabitants of Portsmouth. In four lessons, this course will address their roles in establishing the colony of Rhode Island and in proclaiming and defending key ideas which became part of the fabric of our country.

**Fred Zilian, Ph.D.** graduated from West Point in 1970 and completed a 21-year career as an infantry officer in the Army. He was an educator at Portsmouth Abbey School and taught history, ethics and German. He authored numerous articles, essays and book reviews on history, Germany, Europe, China, NATO, religion, music, education, climate change, globalization, civilization and the Civil War in numerous publications including the Wall Street Journal. Fred has also been an Abraham Lincoln interpreter/presenter for 20 years and lectures on a wide variety of subjects, including history, Lincoln, military strategic affairs, civilization and climate change. Fred has a Ph.D. in international relations and strategic studies from Johns Hopkins University. He has published a book titled "From Confrontation to Cooperation: The Takeover of the National People's (East German) Army by the Bundeswehr." He is currently an adjunct professor of history and politics at Salve Regina and an opinion contributor to The Hill, a contributing editor to The History News Network and a regular columnist for The Newport Daily News. He blogs on a wide variety of subjects at [www.zilianblog.com](http://www.zilianblog.com).

## The Salve Pop-up Gaeltacht: An Introduction to Speaking Irish

*With Sean O'Callaghan, Ph.D.*

Dates: Mar. 3, 10, 17

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

Cost: \$35

In Ireland, a Gaeltacht is a geographical area where Irish is spoken as the first language. Since we can't all spend time in Ireland to study Irish, a recent phenomenon, called the 'Pop-up Gaeltacht,' has emerged in many cities across the world. The main feature of the 'Pop-up Gaeltacht' is that it is an entirely organic, relatively casual, gathering of people who can either speak Irish, have been able to speak Irish in the past and have lost it due to lack of practice, or want to learn to speak Irish and converse in it. A Gaeltacht can pop up anywhere, and in the spring semester of 2021 one will pop up here at Salve.

Over three weeks, you will learn basic conversational Irish, which will get you started on further exploration. If you wish to venture further in conversing in what Irish speakers call the '*cúpla focal*,' I will point you to some good websites and organizations to help. If you can speak the '*cúpla focal*,' it means that you have the rudiments of the Irish language.

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**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.

## The Science of Archaeology

*With Richard Lobban, Ph.D.*

Dates: May 4, 11, 18, 25

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

Cost: \$45

This course gives a basic view of the methods and theories of Archaeology. It then turns to the specific case study of Abu Erteila from the Sudanese Sahara of a Merotic site dating from the 4th century BCE to the 4th century CE. The class will study the material, architectural, human and animal remains recovered. Using analytical conclusions and observations, the historical significance of the site will be considered.

**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.

## Seeking Asylum in the U.S.: Grounds, Cases, Challenges

*With Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, Ph.D.*

Dates: Mar. 24, 31

Two Sessions: Wednesdays, 12:30 - 2 p.m.

Cost: \$25

Since 2010 the instructor, an anthropologist, has been recruited by attorneys working for clients seeking asylum in the U.S. on various grounds to serve as an expert witness. After decades researching and living in various nations, Dr. Fluehr-Lobban has participated in dozens of cases involving asylum seekers throughout the United States and the UK from African and Middle Eastern societies including Sudan (North and South), North and West African nations, and select regions of the Middle East. Lawyers seek the assistance of anthropologists to help them, and the judges reviewing their cases, to understand the underlying cultural, political, historical bases of the asylum seekers claims and bases for the possible awarding of full or limited asylum. A comprehensive list of the types of cases that she has reviewed and offered professional opinions is diverse including: government torture; political harassment and imprisonment without trial; ethnic, racial, and gender discrimination and persecution; religious harassment and discrimination; and domestic violence. This seminar will offer an introduction to Asylum law and Asylum seekers from Dr. Fluehr-Lobban's personal

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experience. It will also offer a review of the history, current practice, and possible future of asylum law and practice in multicultural America.

**Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, Ph.D.**, is a professor emerita of anthropology at Rhode Island College and is an adjunct professor of African studies at the Naval War College in Newport. At Rhode Island College she taught courses on race, gender, African, Middle East and Islamic studies and received the Award for Distinguished Teaching and the Award for Distinguished Scholarship.

She has spent six years living and conducting research in three different African countries, including the Sudan, Egypt and Tunisia, and is an Arabic speaker. Her last research was conducted in Sudan and South Sudan from 2007-2009; 2010 and was funded by the U.S. Institute of Peace. Her writings on ethics are embedded in this substantial field experience. She is the author or editor of 12 books, several general works on Sudan and two specialized on Shari'a law in Sudan and, both translated into Arabic. She has authored the textbooks: "Islamic Societies in Practice" (1994; 2004) and "Race and Racism, an Introduction" (2006; 2018). She frequently serves as an expert witness in asylum cases for Sudan and Africa, with a specialty in cases involving torture by repressive governments and the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Africa.

She received her doctorate in anthropology and African studies in 1973 from Northwestern University, which, in its 70<sup>th</sup> year, is the oldest program in African studies in the U.S. She is the immediate past-president of the World Affairs Council of Rhode Island, a civic organization dedicated to public education and discussion about global affairs, and she currently serves as its board chair.

### Shakespeare for Fun: Othello

*With Jack Galvin*

Dates: May 5, 12, 19

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

Cost: \$35

Read any Shakespeare lately? Or any Shakespeare not connected to a grade or course credit? Here's a chance to read "Othello" just for fun, discussing one of the great classics of English drama with peers experienced enough in life and learning to "get" Shakespeare. Jack Galvin had the challenge of "teaching" Shakespeare to high school kids for many years. He now enjoys the interaction with Circle of Scholar members, discussing the themes of love, jealousy, manipulation, and, of course, tragedy. Beautiful poetry. A great way to spend three spring mornings.

Please read Act 1 of "Othello" before the first class.

**Jack Galvin** has enjoyed the experience of WriteLife courses for many years. He also leads Shakespeare discussion groups as well as a fiction-writing workshop. Jack taught high school English in winter and tennis in summer.

### Speak to the Soul: The Splendor of Contemplative Literature

*With Teresa M. Testa*

Dates: Feb. 12, 19, 26, Mar. 12 (*Note: Class will not be held on March 5*)

Four Sessions: Fridays, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$45



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This course offers a respite from the rigorous and vigorous daily cacophony of clatter, clamor, and commotion which, for better or for worse, is modern culture today. Contemplative literature provides the desirable capacity to *contemplate* and initiates the active engagement of intellectual and spiritual discernment. Teachings focus on intentionality and the turning toward reflective philosophies where writings center the attention on a more resplendently contemplative approach to daily living. Students will be introduced to significant pieces of writing from diverse academic and theological scholars within the Christian, Judaic, Buddhist, and intuitively spiritual frameworks. An enduring course objective will be to create innovative habits in personal and interpersonal experience, and to effect positive change within one's intellect and spirit. Course reading materials of approximately 20 pages will be provided each week in anticipation of the following week's seminar.

**Teresa M. Testa** is a Ph.D. candidate at Salve Regina University where her dissertation research explores 20<sup>th</sup>-century American 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 also earned the M.Sc. in Management from Salve Regina University with emphasis on modern business ethical standards. Her academic interests are extensive and connect multiple disciplines within the humanities.

## Three-Fifths Compromise to Black Lives Matter

*With Kim Ripoli*

Dates: Apr. 7, 14

Two Sessions: Wednesdays, 2:30 - 4 p.m.

Cost: \$25

The 1787 Three-Fifths Compromise to 21st Century Black Lives Matter is a discussion on how race has directly impacted American history, laws, politics and social policies. The U.S. Constitution does not relegate blacks to "three-fifths of a person" status. This erroneous and distorted interpretation of the 1787 Constitutional Convention Compromise has only intensified America's societal divide. Just as the mantra/hashtag for *Black Lives Matter* is a straightforward statement of facts and at its core, a continuation of the Civil Rights Movement's battle for social justice.

**Kim Ripoli** holds a master's degree from Salve Regina University in international relations and a Master of Law from Roger Williams University School of Law. She retired from the Navy after 26 years of service (multiple combat and humanitarian tours) as a Sr. Chief. Kim teaches courses in American government and state government with internship for Salve Regina's Department of Political Science and International Relations.

## Turtle Island Through Native American Eyes

*With Judith Gamble, Ph.D.*

Dates: May 7, 14, 21, 28, Jun. 4

Five Sessions: Fridays, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$55

On the continent of North America (Turtle Island to many indigenous people), from Maine to California, all of our lands were once theirs, a hugely diverse landscape of the greatest plenty that sustains us all. Although white Americans justified this taking and sanctioned it by formal treaties, it is a sordid story that many are ashamed of today. This seminar seeks to show how native people's lives were changed forever, but they did not lose their deep connection to the land, both where their ancestors once flourished, and in what remains of their reservation homelands today. We will explore and try to understand their special bond to the earth and its preservation using primary writings and visual images from their point of view, both past and present. Each week a different region of the country will be featured,

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beginning right here in New England. Recommended but not required to purchase (all selected readings will be provided to students): “When the Light of the World Was Subdued, Our Songs Came Through: A Norton Anthology of Native Nations Poetry (2020).”

**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.

## Understanding Progressivism

*With Luigi Bradizza, Ph.D.*

Dates: Mar. 12, 19

Two Sessions: Fridays, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$25

American politics is divided between the political philosophies of liberalism and conservatism. Today’s liberals have their intellectual and political origins in the Progressive Era of a century ago, which altered the foundations of American politics away from the principles of the Founding Fathers. Understanding political debates today requires understanding how the old Progressives argued against the principles of the American Founding and how today’s liberalism is an outgrowth of the Progressive Era. This course will consider key Progressive Era documents from Woodrow Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt, and other prominent progressives and demonstrate how present-day liberals aim at fulfilling the promise of the old Progressives.

**Luigi Bradizza** holds a Ph.D. in Politics from the University of Dallas. He is an associate professor of political science at Salve Regina University, and the chair of the Department of Political Science and International Relations. He has published a number of scholarly articles and book chapters on American political thought and political philosophy. He is also the author of “Richard T. Ely’s Critique of Capitalism” (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013).

## The United Nations: The Inside Story Reflections on 25 Years of Service

*With George Kassis*

Dates: April 13, 20, 27

Three Sessions: Tuesdays, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$35

This course with George Kassis will offer reflections on 25 years of his personal experiences serving in various capacities within the United Nations system. George held progressively more senior positions in Lebanon, Sudan, Jordan and Yemen before being transferred to the United Nations New York headquarters.

**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 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.

# Circle of Scholars: Spring 2021

## Weather, Ocean and Climate

*With Peter Ranelli, Ph.D.*

Dates: Feb. 17, 24

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

Cost: \$25

In this series you will learn about the Earth's weather and climate system. The atmosphere and ocean together are a vast heat engine, moving incredible amounts of energy from the tropics to the polar regions producing a wide range of weather patterns and regulating the climate. The first session will explain the atmospheric and oceanic events that occur on a daily, weekly, monthly or annual time scale, such as tropical cyclones, El Nino, monsoons and the Gulf Stream. The second session will describe how the Earth's climate works and examine causes of climate change. This will include the role of the ocean in understanding and monitoring climate change. The large-scale consequences of climate change as well as local impacts will be discussed.

**Dr. Ranelli** has over 40 years of experience in oceanography and meteorology. He completed a 25-year career in the U.S. Navy, specializing in operational oceanography and meteorology, retiring with the rank of Captain. He has extensive experience in underwater systems including autonomous robotic vehicles, underwater acoustics as applied to anti-submarine warfare and communications, physical oceanography and meteorology, oceanographic instrumentation, and operational environmental support.

He served as the Battle Group Oceanographer for the USS New Jersey (BB-62) and the Fleet Oceanographer for the United States Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea and Deputy Director of the Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences at the Naval Research Laboratory. After leaving the Navy, he was the Head of Applied Research at the NATO Undersea Research Centre, LaSpezia, Italy. Dr. Ranelli has a master's degree with distinction in Meteorology and Oceanography from the Naval Postgraduate School and was awarded a Secretary of the Navy Fellowship to earn a Ph.D. in Oceanography from Dartmouth College.

## When Incapacity Befalls a President: Is the 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment Misunderstood?

*With Charles J. Heffernan, Jr.*

Dates: Feb. 15, 22, Mar. 1

Three Sessions: Mondays, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$35

Until 1967, the U.S. Constitution offered no protocol to follow if a President becomes disabled in office. This three-session seminar will examine the fragility experienced by Presidents over time, the history and terms of the 25th Amendment, as well as changes recently proposed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. It will conclude with a practical exercise requiring seminar members to consider hypothetical scenarios and then decide whether or not each suffices for exercise of the 25th Amendment. *(Note: This seminar will not be a forum for airing political views. Rather, its intent is to give members sufficient historical and legal information upon which to form their independent opinions of the proper exercise of the 25th Amendment.)*

**Charles J. Heffernan Jr.** is a former Manhattan assistant district attorney, special assistant United States attorney in the southern district of New York, deputy criminal justice coordinator for New York City, acting justice of the New York Supreme Court, and military judge (LTC, U.S. Army). He has lectured and written extensively on criminal justice matters.

## *Circle of Scholars: Spring 2021*

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