



Northwestern University School of Continuing Studies

OLLI's 2014 Winter Session

4-Weeks

Tuesday, January 21*–

Monday, February 17, 2014

**Chicago and Evanston
Study Groups**

OLLI's Winter Session is Open to Current Members Only



**Northwestern is closed on January 21 to honor Martin Luther King, Jr.
Monday Study Groups begin on January 27, 2014.*

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Northwestern University School of Continuing Studies

Winter Session

Tuesday, January 21 – Monday, February 17, 2014

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Study Group Descriptions
Chicago Campus

MONDAY

#4053 British Settlement of New England, 1620-1675 **NEW**

Monday, 10am-noon, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions beginning January 27)

Coordinators: Dick Spurgin, Dan Burns

What did thousands of Pilgrims and Puritans hope to achieve when they established new settlements on the forbidding, rocky shores of New England? As part of his 2012 series on the *Peopling of British North America*, award-winning historian Bernard Bailyn published *The Barbarous Years: The Conflict of Civilizations, 1600-1675* (Vintage paperback, 2013) in which he discusses the entire colonial Atlantic seaboard. For our winter session we will focus only on Bailyn's chapters devoted to New England.

Be prepared to revisit and revise long-held notions on Native Americans (remember Squanto at the first Thanksgiving?), theocratic governance, and trade-offs between relative economic liberty and civil discipline. Bailyn also shows that many of the migrants' attitudes and customs can be traced to their regions of origin in Britain.

#4054 *Night Train to Lisbon* **NEW**

Monday, 10am-noon, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions beginning January 27)

Coordinator: Martha Bills

While *Night Train to Lisbon* might sound like an espionage novel, it is anything but that. An international bestseller, our book was originally published in German in 2004 and then in English in 2008. *Night Train to Lisbon* by Pascal Mercier (Grove Press, paperback 2008, translation by Barbara Harshav) explores life, along with the possibility of changing our lives as well as confronting who and what we are. Who among us hasn't had the urge to quit our job and take the first plane, or in this case train, to a destination that had never occurred to us before? That's what happens in *Night Train to Lisbon*. Join us as we go along for the ride with the middle-aged school teacher, Raimund Gregorius, as he abandons his teaching position and travels to Portugal after a chance meeting with a mysterious woman. He will delve into the writings of Amadeo de Prado and confront his own demons as he experiences life under the dictatorship in Portugal. Philosophically focused, questioning the world around him, Raimund becomes a changed person as he

explores the thoughts and works of the Portuguese thinker and writer, de Prado. **Please purchase the translation by Barbara Harshav.**

#4055 Monday at the Movies: Mel Brooks

Monday, 1-4pm, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions beginning January 27)

Coordinators: Peggy DeLay, Ray Rusnak

In 1980 Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert called Mel Brooks and Woody Allen “America’s two funniest filmmakers.” We’re going to focus on Brooks who was a film director, screenwriter, composer, lyricist, comedian, actor and producer. He was one of the few artists to have won an Oscar, Emmy, Tony and Grammy. We’ll watch *The Producers*, *Young Frankenstein*, *High Anxiety* and *Blazing Saddles*.

All his films were either parodies or farces. *The Producers* was so outrageous in its satire, that major studios wouldn’t touch it. But because of it, Brooks wound up winning the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay beating out both Stanley Kubrick and John Cassavetes. Was it shameful or was Pauline Kael right when she said “Either you get stuck thinking about the bad taste or you let yourself laugh.” We choose to laugh.

Each week a member of the study group will present one of the films giving us background of the shooting of the film, the actors and the awards the film won— all easily available online. Following the screening, the presenter will lead a discussion about the film.

#4056 *The New Yorker*, Monday

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions beginning on January 27)

Coordinators: Jim Deutelbaum, Sandy Edidin

Inside its famous covers and beyond the cartoons, *The New Yorker* magazine is dedicated to quality, topical writings and ideas. Our peer-led group discussions will be as varied as the contents of this distinguished magazine. Join us as we explore art, technology, politics, personalities, medicine, movies, fiction, fashion, culture and commentary. You will find your view of our current world expanded. You must have a current subscription to *The New Yorker* magazine.

TUESDAY

#4057 *Breach of Trust*

NEW

Tuesday and Thursday, 10am-noon, Wieboldt Hall (7 sessions, classes will meet on January 21, January 23, January 28, January 30, February 4, February 6 and February 11)

Coordinators: Bernard Hoffman, Richard Krantz

This class will focus on what some would consider the increasing embrace of imperial ambitions of the United States, including the impact caused by military service becoming "something for other people to do" rather than the business of "we the people." Andrew Bacevich's new book *Breach of Trust: How Americans Failed Their Soldiers and Their*

Country (Metropolitan Books hardback, 2013) examines the gulf between America's soldiers and the society that sends them off to seemingly perpetual war, and that the responsibility for defending the country should rest with its citizens, not with a "foreign legion" of professionals and contractor-mercenaries. Professor Bacevich (history & international relations) served twenty-three years in the Army (West Pointer), was company commander in Vietnam, and retired as lieutenant colonel. He has authored several books on military history and policy, as well as numerous articles in various journals.

The book will provide the foundation for interesting and informative class discussions that will enrich our knowledge and understanding of how American military policy has evolved and provide insight on what our future policies should be.

#4058 First Meetings with British Detectives

NEW

Tuesday, 10am-noon, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinator: Michael Goodkind, Lee Ayers

Many British detectives are familiar to most of us. From long-standing TV series on PBS, we've come to know detectives like Hercule Poirot and Inspector Morse. But how did the author choose to introduce them to us? Was it a detailed physical description, his entry at a crime scene, or was it with our hero sitting at a bar sharing a pint with the locals?

The way a writer first presents his character can affect how well readers will be drawn back again and again.

This course will introduce us to detectives featured in three well-known British mystery series: Hercule Poirot in *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* (Agatha Christie); Inspector Morse in *The Last Bus to Woodstock* (Colin Dexter); and Thomas Pitt in *The Cater Street Hangman* (Anne Perry). In this study group we will focus on how they were first presented to us in their written stories. What techniques, or even gimmicks, did our authors use to entice us to care about and even develop a fondness for these characters as we follow their first cases? Join us as we read and compare these introductions. Maybe you'll even want to read and explore more of their adventures. You may read any edition of these books.

#4059 *Wait till Next Year: A Memoir*

NEW

Tuesday, 10am-noon, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinator: Joe Hinkel

Set in the suburbs of New York in the 1950s, *Wait Till Next Year: A Memoir* (Simon & Schuster paperback, 1998) is Doris Kearns Goodwin's touching memoir of growing up in love with her family and baseball. She re-creates the postwar era, when the corner store was a place to share stories and neighborhoods were equally divided between Dodger, Giant, and Yankee fans.

We meet the people who most influenced Goodwin's early life— her mother, who taught her the joy of books but whose debilitating illness left her housebound; and her father, who taught her the joy of baseball and to root for the Dodgers of Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella, Pee Wee Reese, Duke Snider, and Gil Hodges. Most important, Goodwin

describes with eloquence how the Dodgers' leaving Brooklyn in 1957, and the death of her mother soon after, marked both the end of an era and, for her, the end of childhood.

This is a great story of the youth of a great American historian! Join us as Goodwin shares the joy of growing up in the 50s and her love of baseball.

#4060 Baseball Movies: The Dark Side

NEW

Tuesday, 1-3:30pm, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Rich Dubberke, Martha Bills

Baseball— is it all just about apple pie, Cracker Jacks and “Take Me Out to the Ballgame?” Consider the darker side of baseball; career-ending injuries as described in *The Stratton Story*; a life-threatening disease sidelines a back-up catcher in *Bang the Drum Slowly*; the difficulty of adapting to an all-American game by young Dominican players struggling to make it to the majors in *Sugar*; and the infamous color-line which blocked talented black players in the major leagues until 1947 as shown in *42* and the prejudice that followed. The nitty-gritty of the great American pastime is brought to light in these excellent baseball flicks. Let’s get ready for another baseball season by exploring another side of the game.

#4061 One Summer: America, 1927

NEW

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Susana Lopatka, Les Reiter

What better way to spend a winter than to think of summer and in this study group we will focus on the summer of 1927. It began with the May 21st landing of Charles Lindbergh’s in Paris after his solo nonstop flight across the Atlantic and ended on September 30th when Babe Ruth hit his 60th home run. In between, a Queens housewife named Ruth Snyder and her corset-salesman lover garroted her husband, leading to a murder trial that became a tabloid sensation. Alvin “Shipwreck” Kelly sat atop a flagpole in Newark, New Jersey, for twelve days — a new record. The South was clobbered by unprecedented rain and the Mississippi basin flooded, Al Capone tightened his grip on the illegal booze business through a murderous reign of terror and municipal corruption. The first true “talkie,” Al Jolson’s *The Jazz Singer*, forever changed the motion picture industry. The four most powerful bankers on earth met secretly on a Long Island estate and made a fateful decision that virtually guaranteed a future crash and depression. Our time travel guide to summer 1927 will be Bill Bryson’s *One Summer: America 1927* (Doubleday hardback, 2013).

#4062 Walt Disney’s Vision of the Future

NEW

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinators: John Donahue, Warren Ruby

We usually associate Walt Disney with his wonderful cartoons and his creativity with using art and technology. But he was also a visionary, storyteller, and dreamer who considered how our world could change in the coming years. A number of his ideas were shown in Tomorrowland at the Disneyland theme park as well as a TV series in the 1950s. For each session in this class we will watch a DVD from the *Disney in Space and*

Beyond collection showing several of his visionary forecasts followed by a class discussion of where he got it right or wrong, and which things are still possible.

WEDNESDAY

#4063 Culture and Conflict in the Middle East

NEW

Wednesday, 10am-noon, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinator: Manny Kahana

In an era of increasing interaction between the United States and the countries of the Middle East, it has become ever more important for Americans to understand the social forces that shape Middle Eastern cultures. Our book for this study group is *Culture and Conflict in the Middle East* by anthropologist Phillip Carl Salzman (Humanity Books hardcover, 2007). Based on years of his own field research and the ethnographic reports of other scholars, Salzman presents an incisive analysis of Middle Eastern culture that goes a long way toward explaining the gulf between Western and Middle Eastern cultural perspectives.

#4064 Fracking—Opportunity or Disaster?

New

Wednesday, 10am-noon, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Joan Sophie, Norman Groetzinger

Burning natural gas emits less greenhouse gases than burning coal or oil, making gas an attractive alternative for home heating, electricity generation, and motor vehicle engines. The good news is that there are vast reserves of natural gas in shale deposits in many parts of our country. But getting it out of the ground is very difficult. A new drilling technology, hydraulic fracturing—fracking—has been developed that has opened these reserves to eager energy companies who see this as a great opportunity for themselves and for the country. But this fracking can be disastrous for the environment, especially the water supply on which we all depend.

Under the Surface: Fracking, Fortunes, and the Fate of the Marcellus Shale by Tom Wilber (Cornell University press hardcover, 2012) is a riveting account of fracking in the Marcellus in northern Pennsylvania and southern New York, two states which have resolved these conflicting forces in very different ways. Wilber is a journalist who interviewed a variety of stake holders concerning developments in these states from 2006 to 2012. We'll use Wilber's book to examine the issues connected to fracking that have broad application for many areas of the US, supplemented by articles and information on fracking law in Illinois.

#4065 TED Lectures: Ideas Worth Spreading

Wednesday, 10am-noon, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinator: Lenore Melzer, Laura Mongello

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to the world of ideas. The TED website represents a clearinghouse that offers free knowledge and inspiration from the world's most inspired thinkers on a wide variety of topics including technology, entertainment,

design, the sciences, humanities, business and the arts. Available at www.ted.com, the TED lectures bring to the world a stimulating variety of fresh and innovative global ideas in 18 minute segments.

If you believe in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives and, ultimately, the world, become part of our group of curious souls. You will have the opportunity to react to riveting talks by remarkable people. Each week two participants will select and screen one video each from the TED library and lead the group in a discussion based on each video. Internet capability is required.

#4066 Covering *Time*

NEW

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Carolyn Adams, Jean Schwartz, Mark Chernansky

Do you like variety? Are you interested in exploring the social, environmental, political, and cultural issues that affect us all today? Each week in *Covering Time* we will begin with an in depth discussion of the current *Time* magazine cover story. We'll also look under the cover for topics that most interest and affect us.

We will address diverse topics ranging from current affairs to historical perspectives, long range issues, and occasionally light hearted topics that may inspire us to see a certain movie or read a new book. You will need to have access to *Time* magazine to participate in our lively discussions on the wide range of topics that *Time* offers. Join us for the *Time*-liest two hours of the week.

#4067 Curtain Up!

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinators: George Simon, Lynne Simon

Curtain Up! is an active and collegial way to enjoy Chicago Theater. As a group, we read aloud a script of a play currently performing in Chicago, taking two full class meetings to relish the lines, interpret the action, and envision the staging. After our reading of the play, we'll go to the theater to see the play on stage. The final step occurs when we return to the classroom, to discuss how well the stage performance fulfilled our collective vision of the play, and, if a film has been included to compare the screen version with the live performance.

We have selected the play *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg*, on stage at Theater Wit, a Stage Left production of the 1967 play by the English playwright Peter Nichols. A British classic not seen in Chicago for over 20 years, *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg* is a highly theatrical, heartbreaking, and hilarious look at the love that brings people together and the strains that rip them apart. Tickets for the show are purchased at group rates. A group dinner at a nearby restaurant enhances the theater experience. We will also view the 1972 film version of the play starring Alan Bates adding that medium's unique capabilities to the mix of discussion. Copies of the script will be provided.

#4068 Social Media--The Good, the Bad and the Ugly **NEW**
Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm Wieboldt Hall (3 sessions beginning on January 22)
Coordinator: Geri Flynn

Texting, tweeting, Skyping, blogging, e-mailing, YouTube, Facebook and smart phones may be an inescapable reality of modern life. While the human need to connect with others is fundamental, the increased use of technology may be creating a false sense of connection, making it more difficult to distinguish between authentic relationships in real life and casual relationships in the social media world. Clearly, social media can be used in healthy ways; distant friends and families can be included in important events and milestones, as if they were present. However, recent research is pointing to the harmful effects, primarily among the younger generation.

Does documenting one's every experience through "selfies" (digital self-portraits) or posting on Facebook details of one's daily activities become a breeding ground for narcissistic self-absorption? Cyber bullying, decreased attention span, stalking, increased aggressiveness, internet addiction and lack of civility, are just some of the ways in which the overuse of social media is creating serious problems today. Does social media serve or work against the development of healthy human connectedness and relationships? Join us for a lively discussion of this timely topic. We will be reading and discussing a variety of articles. Not surprising, access to the internet is required!

THURSDAY

#4057 Breach of Trust **NEW**
Tuesday and Thursday, 10am-noon, Wieboldt Hall (7 sessions, classes will meet on January 21, January 23, January 28, January 30, February 4, February 6 and February 11)

Coordinators: Bernard Hoffman, Richard Krantz

This class will focus on what some would consider the increasing embrace of imperial ambitions of the United States, including the impact caused by military service becoming "something for other people to do" rather than the business of "we the people." Andrew Bacevich's new book *Breach of Trust: How Americans Failed Their Soldiers and Their Country* (Metropolitan Books, hardback 2013) book examines the gulf between America's soldiers and the society that sends them off to seemingly perpetual war, and that the responsibility for defending the country should rest with its citizens, not with a "foreign legion" of professionals and contractor-mercenaries. Professor Bacevich (history & international relations) served twenty-three years in the Army (West Pointer), was company commander in Viet Nam, and retired as lieutenant colonel. He has authored several books on military history and policy, as well as numerous articles in various journals.

The book will provide the foundation for interesting and informative class discussions that will enrich our knowledge and understanding of how American military policy has evolved and provide insight on what our future policies should be.

#4069 Revolutionary Summer 1776

NEW

Thursday, 10am-noon, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Dan Burns, Martha Bills

Our study group will focus on the critical events between May and October of 1776, the most consequential period in the story of our nation's founding. During these five months a consensus for American independence emerged and was officially declared, the outlines for an American republic were first proposed, the problems that would shape its future were faced and finessed, and the largest armada ever to cross the Atlantic arrived to kill the American rebellion in the cradle, and very nearly did. Our text will be Joseph Ellis's recently published *Revolutionary Summer: The Birth of American Independence* (Knopf hardback, 2013). Ellis intertwines the two strands of the story to create a single, comprehensive whole. The first strand is the political tale of how thirteen colonies came together and agreed to secede from the British Empire; the second is the military narrative of the battles of Long Island and Manhattan, where the British army and navy delivered a series of devastating defeats to an American army of amateurs, but missed whatever chance existed to end it all. Join us (as well as Adams, Jefferson, Franklin, Washington, et. al.) to revisit the colorful and compelling story of our nation's birth.

#4070 Monster Movies for the Kid in All of Us

NEW

Thursday, 1-3:30pm, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinator: Cheryl Graham

What better way to chase away the winter blahs than to indulge your fantasies in these movies made for the child in us all: *Matinee* (1993), about a group of teenagers at a Saturday movie matinee during the time of the Cuban missile crisis; *Where the Wild Things Are* (2009), about a sensitive boy who feels misunderstood at home and escapes to an island where he meets strange creatures with emotions as wild as his; *Monsters, Inc.* (2001), the largest scare factory in the monster world where the top kid Scarer is a huge intimidating monster with blue fur, large purple spots and horns; and *Spirited Away* (2001), a tale of the fanciful adventures of a ten-year-old girl who discovers a secret world when she and her family get lost and venture through a hillside tunnel. In addition to simply enjoying these films, we will discuss how each contributes to today's popularity of monsters among children.

As we enjoy and discuss the monster phenomenon in each film, we will be getting a taste of a study group planned for fall 2014; a broad examination of monsters geared toward adult audiences. No class preparation will be required; the coordinator will introduce and lead the discussion at each session.

#4071 Washington Week

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Len Grossman, Judy Widen, Jane Mortenson

As our classes resume, Washington will be in the midst of the next round of budget battles and we will stay on top of the fiscal cliff. Is Obamacare recovering from its shaky start? What is the Tea Party up to? Has immigration reform been buried? We will discuss the latest political developments in Washington in Congress and the courts and the executive branch as Congress returns from its winter break.

We will also keep our eyes out for early hints at what may be awaiting us less than a year from now when the campaign season will begin in earnest. We will be following closely some key Senate and House races that are up in Fall of 2014. We will also be watching for the early signs of Presidential campaigns shaping up.

Each week we will stimulate our discussion with the latest videos from *Politico* and other online sources, supplemented by newspaper findings by class members. During the second hour we will put things in perspective by discussing Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* and *A Modest Proposal* by Jonathan Swift. Inexpensive paperback versions are available from Amazon. Any editions are acceptable.

Join us each week for a lively discussion.

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Study Group Descriptions
Evanston Campus

Monday

4042 Films on the History of China

Monday, 9:30-11:30am, 1840 Oak Ave. (4 sessions beginning January 27)

Coordinators: Laura Ann Wilber, Bill Bunn, Barbara Peterson, Harold Richman

With a study of China come many fascinating side issues, some of which are presented on films that can be enjoyed without textbooks. *1421: The Year China Discovered America* will be shown the first week, and thereafter the programs will be based upon group choice. Films on the voting list include: *China's Forbidden City: What Really Went On Behind Its Impenetrable Walls*; *Confucius: Words of Wisdom*; *The Last Emperor* or, *The Manchurian Candidate*; *Secrets of the Dead: China's Terracotta Warriors*; *The Great Wall of China*; *Emperor of the Seas: Zheng He, China's Greatest Explorer, Conqueror, Diplomat and Trader* and perhaps others. Whatever films are chosen, they will provide effortless learning and fuel for discussion.

4043 *The New Yorker*

Monday, 9:30-11:30am, 1840 Oak Ave. (4 sessions beginning January 27)

Coordinators: Hillis Howie, Nancy Anderson, Dick Whitaker

This study group is for both long-time fans of *The New Yorker* and newcomers. Each session will examine the contents of the current issue and discuss a previously assigned article in depth, led by a volunteer discussion leader who chose the article. Participants will be encouraged to become “watchers” who briefly discuss cartoons, movie reviews, the cover, or some other aspect of the current issue. Conversations will be lively and often followed by lunch. A subscription to *The New Yorker* is required and available from the publisher.

4044 The Comic Play's the Thing

NEW

Monday, 1-3pm 1840 Oak Ave. (4 sessions beginning January 27)

Coordinators: Sue Altman, Neal Mancoff

We've been "cold reading" short plays for several sessions now and propose to do the same this winter with a comic twist. Comedy takes many forms: farce, skit, thematic material, and life itself when it is ridiculous. We have chosen several one- and two- act plays by famous and not so famous authors to read aloud – among them, *The Devil and Daniel Webster* by Stephen Vincent Benet, and Chekhov's *Marriage Proposal*. Our plan is cover two plays per session; scripts will be provided. There will be time for discussion of the material and that should be fun as well as meaningful. We're all on equal footing as actors in OLLI, and no one will direct or criticize us. Anyone can do this—really! Please join us.

Tuesday

#4045 Exploring the Visual Arts

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 1840 Oak Ave. (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Roger Heuberger, Dennis Beard

This study group is for both novice and experienced art lovers. The study group's focus is on increasing awareness of, sensitivity to, and appreciation of four visual arts: painting, sculpture, photography and architecture. The course is largely video based. DVDs and YouTube clips are source material. Proposed classroom topics may include: Henry Moore/ Barbara Hepworth, Minimalism, Iconography in art, Italian frescos and Hudson River Painters. Discussion leaders develop questions for discussion based on the videos being viewed. At the first class meeting, a field trip to either the Art Institute of Chicago or Racine Art Museum will be arranged for the study group to attend on a Tuesday sometime during winter.

#4046 A Day at the Operetta

Tuesday, 1-3pm, 1840 Oak Ave. (2 sessions: January 21 and January 28)

Coordinators: Neil Adelman, Patsy Thrash

The subject of the study group is *Die Fledermaus*, Johann Strauss Jr.'s masterpiece and the world's favorite operetta. *Die Fledermaus* is the holiday time production of Lyric Opera of Chicago's current season. Our first session on January 21 will be a lecture about the work given by an experienced volunteer lecturer from the Lyric Opera Education Department. The lecture will include musical excerpts from the work. In our second session on January 28, we will view a DVD of either the entire work or of excerpts. There may also be a short discussion about the operetta. **Please note: This is a two-week only study group and our second session may extend to 3:30pm.**

Wednesday

#4047 Creative Writing Workshop

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am, 1840 Oak Ave. (4 sessions)

Coordinator: Ron Denham, Jo Stewart

This workshop is designed for the improvement and practice of creative writing skills across the various genres: poetry, creative nonfiction, essay, memoir and fiction. Participants will present their work to the group for response, encouragement, critique and suggestions. Revisions and resubmissions will be encouraged. Longer works can be submitted in segments. This workshop will give you a creative outlet and an opportunity to produce a finished piece of writing of which you can be proud.

#4048 An Introduction to Flash Fiction

BONUS GROUP

Wednesday, 1-3pm, 1840 Oak Ave. (8 sessions beginning January 8)

Workshop Leader: Betsy Haberl

This is an introductory workshop on the flash fiction form. Flash fiction stories, also known as short short stories, have fewer than 1,000 words. Writing these compressed works encourages creativity; the form allows a writer to focus on language while still maintaining a narrative. By studying and writing flash fiction, we'll delve deeper into an understanding of craft elements, such as point of view, setting, and character development. The workshop will include readings and discussions, in-class writing exercises, and each student will have opportunities to workshop their own flash fiction in class. This workshop is open to writers with all levels of experience. This class is offered in affiliation with the School of Continuing Studies' MA/MFA in Creative Writing (MCW) program. **NOTE: This study group has an early start date of January 8.**

Betsy Haberl is pursuing her MFA in Creative Writing at Northwestern University in the fiction track. She works as a freelance writer/editor and program director of the Northwestern Summer Writers' Conference. Betsy holds a BA in English/Creative Writing from University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she first learned to write flash fiction.

#4049 A Jane Austen Film Festival

NEW

Wednesday, 1-3:30pm, 1840 Oak Ave. (4 sessions)

Coordinator: Suzanne Dupré

Two hundred years ago, within the quiet bounds of her family home in rural Hampshire, Jane Austen ("good, quiet Aunt Jane") wrote novels that satirized the class structure of Regency England and still today teach us something about human nature and its social expression. Her timeless works— numbering just six completed novels—have been turned into a plethora of motion pictures. We will enjoy watching four of the best of these films and discuss the characters, the actors, the costumes, or whatever else we wish: *Pride and Prejudice* (the original A&E version with Jennifer Ehle as Elizabeth Bennet and Colin Firth as Darcy); *Persuasion* (another early A&E film, with Amanda Root as Anne Elliott and Claran Hinds as Captain Wentworth); *Sense and Sensibility* (with Emma Thompson as Elinor Dashwood, Hugh Grant as Edward Ferrars, and Kate Winslet as

Marianne Dashwood); and *Emma* (with Gwyneth Paltrow as Emma Woodhouse and Jeremy Northam as Mr. Knightley).

As Jane herself said, “Let other pens dwell on guilt and misery.” We will enjoy our Jane, and her Elizabeth and Darcy, Anne and Wentworth, Elinor and Ferrars, and Emma and Knightley, and all their families and foibles.

Thursday

#4050 *The Monuments Men: WWII Nazi Stolen Art* **NEW
Thursday, 9:30-11:30am, 1840 Oak Ave. (4 sessions)**

Coordinators: Mark Rosenberg, Jim Elesh

As we are all aware, new discoveries of art stolen and hidden away by the Nazis during World War II are part of the continuing story about the thousands of art masterpieces which disappeared from Western Europe. The art was confiscated from Jews and public museums, was sometimes sold, a few times destroyed, but often many pieces were kept by dealers and Nazi officials for their private collections. We will watch the documentary, *The Rape of Europa* based on the book by Lynn H. Nichols. We will also read portions of *Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History* (Center Street paperback, 2010) by Robert M. Edsel. Participants will be informed prior to the start of class about which chapters we hope you will read. The recovery of these invaluable collections is a fascinating and still evolving episode of the history of WWII.

#4051 *Little Book of Atheist Spirituality* **NEW
Thursday, 1-3 pm, 1840 Oak Ave. (4 sessions)**

Coordinator: Dick Whitaker, Roberta Dawson

In *Little Book of Atheist Spirituality* (Penguin Books paperback, 2008) eminent contemporary French philosopher, Andre Comte-Sponville, draws on many spiritual and philosophical sources, including eastern spirituality. He offers a different perspective from that of the “angry atheists” (e.g. Dawkins, Hitchens, Harris, and Dennett) by providing a convincing argument for a spiritual life that does not relate to a supreme intelligence but to the universe, itself. He has a non-dogmatic approach to the God question which agrees primarily with Spinoza that God = Nature.

We’ll cover the book in four sessions: Part I: Can We Do without Religion; Part II: Does God Exist; and Part III: Can There Be an Atheist Spirituality? Part III will be covered in the last 2 sessions. If you enjoy discussions of religion and ultimate reality, you will like this class. Please join us.

Friday

#4052 Understanding the News from *All Sides*

NEW

Friday, 9:30-11:30am, 1840 Oak Ave. (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Joel Weiss, Stanley Cohen

The purpose of this study group is for members to share different opinions on specific news items. The process of sorting out one's own views and comparing them with the view of others leads to a better appreciation of topical issues. Approximately one week before each of our four meetings we will email participants of the study group copies of one or more articles discussing multiple sides of a chosen topic. Possible discussions dealing with "student loan debt," "Illinois race for Governor," "Iran and the bomb," "the future of online college courses," "the future of Social Security and Medicare" are among the timely topics being considered. We hope to cover eight unrelated topics during the winter session. Articles will be chosen from reputable publications.