



Northwestern University School of Continuing Studies

# Spring Semester 2014

Monday, March 3 – Friday, June 6

Evanston and Chicago  
Study Groups



	Group #	Chicago Study Groups At-A-Glance	Start Time
<b>Monday</b>			
	4102	Great Short Stories	10 am
<b>NEW</b>	4103	John D. Rockefeller, Billionaire	10 am
	4104	Literary Masters	10 am
	4105	Monday at the Movies: "Cinema de AARP" (12 sessions)	1:00 pm
	4106	<i>The New Yorker</i> (Monday)	1:30 pm
	4107	Short Story or Movie: Which Works Better?	1:15 pm
	4108	Women in Literature	1:30 pm
	4109	Writing Life Stories	1:30 pm
<b>Tuesday</b>			
	4110	Chicagoland Beat	10 am
<b>NEW</b>	4111	<i>In Search of Gentle Death</i> (13 sessions)	10 am
	4112	Made in America: Art, Literature, Music	10 am
	4113	Monarchs Who Made a Difference: Queen Victoria	10 am
	4114	<i>A World Undone: The Story of the Great War</i>	10 am
	4115	Let's Talk about the Movies—Bonus Group (7 sessions)	12:15 pm
<b>NEW</b>	4116	Da Mayors! — Politics Chicago Style	1:30 pm
<b>NEW</b>	4117	How Success Happens	1:30 pm
<b>NEW</b>	4118	Toward Better Understanding: <i>Beyond Red and Blue</i>	1:30 pm
<b>NEW</b>	4119	The Wise Men and the World They Made	1:30 pm
	4120	The Writing Group	1:30 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>			
	4121	<i>Foreign Affairs</i>	10 am
	4122	<i>The New Yorker</i> (Wednesday)	10 am
	4123	Painting Today	10 am
<b>NEW</b>	4124	<i>The Story of the Human Body: Evolution, Health and Disease</i>	10 am
	4125	TED Lectures: Ideas Worth Spreading (10 sessions)	10 am
	4126	Previews and Reviews—Bonus Group (3 sessions)	12:15 pm
	4127	Alexis de Tocqueville's <i>Democracy in America</i> (Volume 2)	1:15 pm
<b>NEW</b>	4128	<i>The Black Hole War</i>	1:30 pm
<b>NEW</b>	4129	Covering <i>TIME</i> (12 sessions)	1:30 pm
	4130	Curtain Up!	1:30 pm
	4131	Documentary Films	1:30 pm
	4132	<i>The Economist</i> Magazine	1:30 pm
	4133	Hillary Clinton —A Woman of Her Times (Part II)	1:30 pm
<b>NEW</b>	4134	<i>The Story of Film: An Odyssey</i>	1:30 pm
<b>Thursday</b>			
<b>NEW</b>	4135	1940— American Politics on the Brink of War	10 am
	4136	British Mystery Writers	10 am
<b>NEW</b>	4137	<i>Marco Polo: From Venice to Xanadu</i>	10 am
	4138	Readings in Western Culture	10 am
	4139	The World of Poetry	10 am
<b>NEW</b>	4140	Exploring the Writer Within (12 sessions)	1:30 pm
<b>NEW</b>	4141	Railroads in America	1:30 pm
	4142	Washington Week	1:30 pm
<b>NEW</b>	4143	WWII Resistance Movies	1:15 pm



**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute**  
*Northwestern University School of Continuing Studies*  
**Spring Semester**  
**March 3 – June 6, 2014**

**Study Group Descriptions**  
**Chicago Campus**

**MONDAY**

**#4102 Great Short Stories**

**Monday, 10 am – noon**

**Coordinators: Anita Barry, Paula Wise**

As Stacy Schiff wrote in the *New York Times*, “A short story is by definition an odder, more eccentric creature than a novel: a trailer, a fling, a warm-up act, a bouillon cube, a championship game in one inning. Irresolution and ambiguity become it; it’s a first date rather than a marriage. When is it mightier than the novel? When its elisions speak as loudly as its lines.” If you enjoy reading fiction and want to explore the succinctness of the short story, join our study group. The very brevity of the form invites differing interpretations of the material and lively discussion. Each week we will read two stories (usually a total of about 30 pages) chosen by the discussion leader, who also prepares brief biographies of the authors.

As texts we will use *The Best American Short Stories 2013*, Mariner paperback, edited by Elizabeth Strout and Heidi Pitlor and *The O. Henry Prize Stories 2013*, Anchor Books, edited by Laura Furman.

**#4103 John D. Rockefeller, Billionaire**

**NEW**

**Monday, 10 am – noon**

**Coordinators: Joe Gassner, Hal Malen, Martha Bills**

Business magnate and philanthropist, John D. Rockefeller was one of the founders of not only Standard Oil Company but also the University of Chicago. Starting out as an assistant bookkeeper in a small produce firm in 1855, Rockefeller became adept at all aspects of the systems of a modern office. Making only 50 cents an hour at this first job, he became one of the world’s richest men through Standard Oil, the company he founded and ran until his retirement in 1897. His involvement in the petroleum industry in its early development was a key factor in the rise of America’s influence in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Actively working for only 42 years, Rockefeller was recognized as the first American billionaire. How did this son of a traveling salesman and homemaker rise from assistant bookkeeper to “the world’s richest man?” Join us as

we read and discuss Ron Chernow's biography of Rockefeller, *Titan: The Life of John D. Rockefeller* (Second Vintage Books paperback, 2004), the first biography to be based on unlimited access to the Rockefeller papers, making it a "wealth" of information on this major figure in American business and philanthropic endeavors.

### **#4104 Literary Masters**

**Monday, 10 am – noon**

**Coordinators: Ira Weinberg, Sue Berger, Eric Cooper**

This study group targets readers who enjoy exploring literature of many cultures and styles—classic to modern, from Aeschylus to Atwood, Roth to Rushdie, Shakespeare to Shaw—and combines the joy of reading with the pleasure of discussion. We usually devote two weeks to each novel to assure a complete and meaningful dialogue.

This spring we will begin by reading *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte and continue with works by Phillip Roth, Thomas Hardy, Oscar Wilde, Vladimir Nabokov, Jean Rhys and Kazuo Ishiguro. New members are always welcome.

### **#4105 Monday at the Movies: "Cinema de AARP"**

**Monday, 1 pm - 4 pm (12 sessions, no class May 26 or June 2)**

**Coordinators: Peggy DeLay, Ray Rusnak**

This semester we will explore some of the films that belong in the genre which the French refer to as "Le Cinema de AARP." Our suggested playlist will include Jack Nicholson in *Something's Gotta Give*; Clint Eastwood in *Gran Torino*; Michael Douglas, Robert De Niro, Morgan Freeman and Kevin Klien in *Last Vegas*; Bruce Dern in *Nebraska*; Joan Rivers in the documentary film, *A Piece of Work*; and from the Brits, *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, *Calendar Girls* and *Quartet*. If you have a favorite that's not on our list, you would be welcome to suggest it.

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

### **#4106 *The New Yorker* (Monday)**

**Monday, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**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 and a willingness to lead a discussion.

## **#4107 Short Story or Movie: Which Works Better?**

**Monday, 1:15 pm – 4pm**

**Coordinator: Mark Chernansky**

A short story communicates its message in but a few pages, whereas its translation into a movie gives directors license to embellish its simple plot. Sometimes it works, sometimes not. In this class, you'll read the original story, discuss it, and then see its film adaptation after which we'll compare and contrast the two. Were the story lines generally the same, or were they different? Did the casting ring true? Did the translation from written page to feature film add to or distract from the story? And which did you like better? You might be surprised as you get to voice and share opinions with others and then decide for yourself.

*Adaptations: from Short Story to Big Screen* (Three Rivers Press paperback, 2005) edited by Stephanie Harrison, will be our short story resource. All genre types will be included, from science fiction to comedy to drama to westerns to horror. Films tentatively scheduled are: *All About Eve*, *A Face in the Crowd*, *The Fly*, *Smoke Signals*, *American Splendor*, *The Wild One*, *Bringing Up Baby*, *The Last Time I Saw Paris*, *Memento*, *My Friend Flicka*, *Field of Dreams*, *In The Bedroom*, *The Killers* and *A Man Called Horse*.

## **#4108 Women in Literature**

**Monday, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm**

**Coordinators: Ann Ahtelius, Paula Wise**

If you like great literature and lively discussion, welcome to our group! Our objective is to gain insight into the literature of women's lives from time to time and place to place. We focus on fiction about women, written by both contemporary and classic male and female authors from a variety of cultures. We plan to read novels (devoting one week for shorter books and occasionally two weeks for longer books) interspersed with short stories and perhaps a movie. A broader understanding and appreciation of books read individually, plus exposure to others not previously read or even known about, are especially valued by our group members.

All group members are urged to take a turn as discussion leader, preparing a short biography of the author and developing questions that provide a springboard for discussion and enhanced understanding of the week's reading assignment. Spring semester books will include *The Woman Upstairs* by Claire Messud, *Redfield Farm: A Novel of the Underground Railroad* by Judith Redline Coopey (1<sup>st</sup> edition), and *State of Wonder: A Novel* by Ann Patchett (Reprint edition May 8, 2012).

We will begin the spring term reading *State of Wonder*.

## **#4109 Writing Life Stories**

**Monday, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Coordinators: Marta Killner, Melanie Tillmanns, Diana Phillips**

Why write our own stories? Memoir writing may help us capture on the page enduring portraits of the people in our lives, recreate with words the landscapes we once walked and take the time to reflect on our ever-changing personal, familial or social circumstances.

Yet writing about one's own life can be a daunting task. Where does one start? What should be included and what left out? As memoir writers, how should we organize our thoughts? Chronologically? By themes? What about style? Poems or prose? Brief anecdotes or chapter-long memoirs?

Whether experienced writers or beginners, we can help each other tackle some of these questions in our memoir writing group. Every week we will have an opportunity to present our work to a sounding board of like-minded “memoirists” and to give and receive helpful feedback. We will also hone our skills by drawing from a wide variety of resources dealing with the genre. If you ever wished to try your hand at writing compelling, real-life stories, this is your chance.

## **TUESDAY**

### **#4110 Chicagoland Beat**

**Tuesday, 10 am – noon**

**Coordinators: Janet Lang, Pam Prosch, Barbara Jones**

Put yourself in the shoes of an investigative journalist as we examine local (city, county, and state) current events. Our “beat” includes what’s happening in Chicagoland politics, business, education, and other areas of breaking news. We will use class discussion, readings, local newspapers, magazines and TV, as well as guest speakers to inform our views. Weekly classes will include a “news roundup,” and an in-depth discussion of a specific topic, as well as monthly field trips, either as a group or independently. Our investigation will be enhanced by personal community involvement in at least three areas of issue focus. For the spring semester, our focus will be on Cook County Government; the Judiciary; and the Cook County Healthcare System. Join us as we get to know our community better and actually participate in what’s happening around us.

### **#4111 *In Search of Gentle Death***

**NEW**

**Tuesday, 10 am – noon (13 sessions, no class on May 13)**

**Coordinators: Deborah Scott, Joan Sophie**

Since 1975, an international network of death with dignity activists has worked to help rational people who are terminally ill or suffering from intolerable, untreatable pain or anguish, to end their lives peacefully. We will study this movement using the book, *In Search of Gentle Death: The Fight for Your Right to Die with Dignity* (Corinthian Books hardback, 2012) by Richard Cote; supplemented by articles, videos, and guest speakers. Cote’s book covers the controversies that have arisen in each country as the activists promoting death with dignity confront equally adamant and vocal opposition. Our discussion and our choice of speakers, videos and articles will enable us to study both sides of this controversial issue.

When polled, the majority of Americans say that they want to die at home, but in fact, only 25% actually do die at home. Most also agree that advanced directives for medical care are important, but the majority don’t complete them. Through our examination of these vital issues, we hope we will all be better able to clarify our personal philosophies and wishes for our own end of life. All viewpoints on this controversial issue will be welcome in this class and will be included in our readings and discussions.

## **#4112 Made in America: Art, Literature, Music**

**Tuesday, 10 am – noon**

**Coordinators: Russ Lyman, Roxane McLean**

Is there something uniquely “American” about the arts of America? How have our multinational and multiethnic origins helped shape American art? How does our art and literature reflect the vastness of our nation and its regional differences? How has our great experiment in democracy influenced our cultural creations?

This spring, our study group will focus on the art, literature, and music of our nation from the Civil War through the early twentieth century. Topics we expect to consider include: “The Place of Art in a Time of Civil War,” “Rich and Poor: The Gilded Age and Urban Realism,” and “The Birth of American Modern.”

Join us on this cross-disciplinary tour of the United States. We will make use of a combination of class presentations, readings, discussions, and videos; a variety of resources will be published on our Blackboard site and handed out in class. Participants should be willing to research and present individual artists and authors to the group. It is not necessary to have participated this past fall to join the study group in the spring.

## **#4113 Monarchs Who Made a Difference: Queen Victoria**

**Tuesday, 10 am – noon**

**Coordinators: Martha Bills, Bruce Moser**

Queen Victoria is renowned for more than simply giving her name to an entire historical era. Ruling for 63 years and seven months, her reign is longer than any other British monarch and is the longest of any female in history. The Victorian Era was a period of industrial, political, cultural, scientific and military change within the British Empire. Queen Victoria ruled over this period of great change, significantly affecting the British people and impacting countries beyond Great Britain as well. Her Empire was one on which historians have said “the sun never set.” Not only did she rule over this vast Empire, she managed to produce nine children who all married into royal and noble families across Europe, tying nations together in alliances that affected the politics of Europe even after her death and earned Victoria the nickname “grandmother of Europe.” Our text will be Christopher Hibbert’s *Queen Victoria: A Personal History* (Harper Collins paperback, 2000). Join us as we read and discuss this “monarch who made a difference.”

## **#4114 A World Undone: The Story of the Great War**

**Tuesday, 10 am – noon**

**Coordinators: Dea Brennan, Tom Swanstrom**

World War I has been called “The Great War” since it involved all the major powers, resulted in the deaths of nearly 20 million people and led to the demise of four empires. It could also have been called “The Accidental War” since, at its onset, none of the countries initially intended to start a war but were forced into it by interlocking alliances. Of the 70 million military personnel involved, nearly 9 million lost their lives, many in the stalemate of trench warfare. In its barbarity and aftermath, WWI set the stage for the even greater war that started two decades later.

During the spring semester we will cover the years 1916-1918. While a continuing study group from the fall, new members are welcome. Our text is *A World Undone: The Story of the Great War, 1914 to 1918* by G. J. Meyer (Delacorte Press paperback, 2007). As is true of many of the

best military history authors, Meyer is both a journalist and historian; the result is a very readable book that includes not only a description of weaponry but also short biographies of the major players involved in the conflict. Please join us as we discuss the course of this tragic series of events.

### **#4115 Let's Talk about the Movies—Bonus Group**

**Coordinator: Bob Moss**

**Tuesday, 12:15–1:15 p.m. (7 sessions: March 4, March 18, April 1, April 15, April 29, May 13, May 27)**

If you enjoy seeing and talking about current films, then this bonus group is perfect for you. Every two weeks a new-release movie will be selected for you to see at a theater. We will then gather at Wieboldt Hall for an in-depth analysis (not a review) of the movie and its elements. We will discuss plots, themes, psychological meanings, cinematography, editing, music, adaptations and much more. Registration is required, but if you register for OLLI's spring semester you are eligible to register for Let's Talk about the Movies—at no extra charge—in addition to the number of study groups you have in your membership package. Join the conversation!

### **#4116 Da Mayors! — Politics Chicago Style**

**NEW**

**Tuesday, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Coordinators: Bob Moss, John Rappel**

Chicago's mayoral history is one of corruption and reform, scandal and ambition. Join us for an intriguing and informative glimpse into the fascinating lives and legacies of Chicago's most influential leaders from 1871 to the present. Our book, *The Mayors: The Chicago Political Tradition* edited by Paul Green and Melvin Holli (Southern Illinois University Press, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition paperback, 2013), illuminates the careers of seventeen of Chicago's most respected, forceful, and even notorious mayors, leaders whose lives were often as vibrant and eclectic as the city they served. This book also provides an analysis and history of the never-ending process of choosing the political leaders that rule our city. We will gain an insight into the history of both our great city and the people that were at its helm through the book, videos, discussion — and additional independent research for key issues. Join us if you appreciate the pathos, irony, audacity, hubris, melancholy, bewilderment, sanctity, humor and nobility of Chicago politics!

Internet and email access are required.

### **#4117 How Success Happens**

**NEW**

**Tuesday, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Coordinators: Joe Hinkel, Patricia Ames**

What makes some people more successful, happy, and satisfied than others? For insights to these questions we will study David Brooks' book, *The Social Animal, The Hidden Sources of Love and Achievement* (Random House Trade paperback, 2013). Brooks tracks the lives of one composite American couple as they grow from infancy to adulthood and older age. Looking at key moments in their lives, the author helps us see how our emotions, intuitions, biases, and desires impact our character and what influences the way we raise our children, conduct business, and practice politics. This highly readable book is well documented and makes frequent reference to recent studies in psychology, neuroscience, sociology and other areas. We will endeavor to look beyond the text to more fully understand these studies. A graduate of the University of Chicago, Brooks is an op-ed columnist for the *New York Times* and commentator on *PBS News Hour*.



**#4118 Toward Better Understanding: *Beyond Red and Blue* NEW**

**Tuesday, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Coordinators: Mark Chernansky, Carolyn Adams**

Enjoy discussing the major issues facing us today? Open to gaining an understanding of the conflicting points of view people may have? In *Beyond Red and Blue: How Twelve Political Philosophies Shape American Debates* (The MIT Press paperback, 2012) author Peter S. Wenz postulates that varying ideologies frequently converge on certain issues—though often for very different reasons. Wenz outlines twelve political philosophies, or value systems (e.g., multiculturalism, feminism, theocracy, environmentalism) which are the underpinning of how people actually “see” issues, regardless of whether they are RED (right-leaning, conservative, Republicans) or BLUE (leftist, liberal, Democrats).

Each week, we will deal with one of 14 major issues the author presents that our country is struggling with today. We’ll review the situation(s) presented and relevance to these philosophies; then we’ll have a *respectful* interactive discussion. It is *not* our goal to necessarily reach agreement, or even to reach consensus. Rather, it is to gain a better understanding of the varying perspectives on the issue.

If you have an open mind and enjoy spirited discussion and debate, join us as we address topics ranging from affirmative action to abortion, immigration to pornography. We want to hear everyone’s thoughts, and hope you leave our class with a broader perspective and respect for one another’s point of view.

**#4119 The Wise Men and the World They Made NEW**

**Tuesday, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Coordinators: Dan Burns, Dick Spurgin**

Six close friends shaped the role the United States would play in the dangerous world following World War II. They were the original best and brightest, whose towering intellects, outsize personalities, and dramatic actions would bring order to the postwar chaos, and whose strong response to Soviet expansionism would leave a legacy that dominates American policy to this day. Their story is recounted in the text we will use for our study group, *The Wise Men: Six Men and the World They Made* (Simon & Schuster paperback, 2013 reissue), authored by Walter Isaacson and Evan Thomas.

In April 1945, they converged to advise an untutored new president, Harry Truman. They were Averell Harriman, the freewheeling diplomat and Roosevelt’s special envoy to Churchill and Stalin; Dean Acheson, the secretary of state who was more responsible for the Truman Doctrine than Truman and for the Marshall Plan than General Marshall; George Kennan, self-cast outsider and intellectual darling of the Washington elite; Robert Lovett, assistant secretary of war, undersecretary of state, and secretary of defense throughout the formative years of the Cold War; John McCloy, one of the nation’s most influential private citizens; and Charles Bohlen, adroit diplomat and ambassador to the Soviet Union.

## **#4120 The Writing Group**

**Tuesday, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Coordinators: Fran Markwardt, Fred Fulmer**

“Writing is an adventure,” said Winston Churchill. E. L. Doctorow said, “Writing is an exploration.” Franz Kafka said, “Writing is a sweet and wonderful reward.”

Join The Writing Group to experience your unique writing adventure! Discover the pleasure of sharing your work with other OLLI writers, who will listen carefully and offer supportive critiques, comments or suggestions for improvement. Enjoy the “sweet reward” of reaching your writing goals! Each week we’ll bring to the study group session something we’ve written (or rewritten) on any subject, in any style—memoir, fiction, essay, prose or poetry, etc.—and read it aloud to the group. The environment we’ll create together will invite trust and discovery.

Beginning writers are encouraged to join us.

## **WEDNESDAY**

### **#4121 *Foreign Affairs***

**Wednesday, 10 am – noon**

**Coordinators: Scott Morgan, Chris Beardsley, Maggie Wilson**

We live in a complex, dynamic, globalized world. Issues such as armed conflict, national defense, religious movements, human rights and economic crises affect individuals, communities, nations and global institutions. The objective of this class is to provide a lively, supportive forum for participants to discuss global issues and how they affect the US and other nations. We seek to understand how other nations, alliances and cultures view and address these issues.

Each week’s discussion focuses on essays from a recent issue of *Foreign Affairs* and related material from other sources that include The Brookings Institution, The Council on Foreign Relations and Chatham House. The week’s discussion leader chooses the discussion topic, seeks out materials that examine it, and provides open-ended questions to organize our discussion. This study group is limited in size and provides each participant an opportunity to explore topics of interest.

Participants should have a subscription to *Foreign Affairs* and register for that magazine’s weekly newsletter. Subscriptions to *Foreign Affairs* are available to OLLI members at a low student rate. You should also be able to use email, open email attachments and have access to the web. We look forward to discussing many exciting topics, so please join us!

### **#4122 *The New Yorker* (Wednesday)**

**Wednesday, 10 am – noon**

**Coordinators: Katherine Nicklin, Gail Shiner, Mary Jo Huck**

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 and a willingness to lead a discussion.

## **#4123 Painting Today**

**Wednesday, 10 am – noon**

**Coordinators: Lois Gordon, Russ Lyman**

What place does painting have in today's art world, when so much of what we see in museums and galleries is installation, multimedia, performance, conceptual—but not painting as we know it from centuries past? The death of painting has been proclaimed many times in the history of art, but it flourishes nonetheless. We will look at art in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, paying special attention to painting, alive and well in our day. We will examine how it pays homage to its traditional roots, how it has metamorphosed into forms unheard of even a few decades ago, how it incorporates new media and techniques and how it reflects our multicultural, globalized, technologically oriented society. The only prerequisite for this adventure through the world of contemporary art is an open mind. Our goal will be to explore painting in the context of the breadth of current artistic practices in order to develop a greater understanding of the nature and purposes of art in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and thus enhance our enjoyment of the art of our times.

## **#4124 *The Story of the Human Body: Evolution, Health and Disease*      *NEW***

**Wednesday, 10 am – noon**

**Coordinators: Leonard Kosova, John Donahue**

The human body has evolved over millions of years. As it has, a great paradox has arisen—greater longevity but increased chronic disease. We will read the book, *The Story of the Human Body: Evolution, Health and Disease* (Pantheon Books hardback, 2013) by Daniel E. Lieberman, Chair of the Department of Human Evolutionary Biology at Harvard, to illuminate the major transformations that have led to key adaptations. These have often induced cultural proficiencies in addition to the biologic evolution. The agricultural and industrial revolutions which occurred as a result have led to profound effects on human health including such diseases as obesity, diabetes, heart disease and some cancers.

Come learn with us what opportunities we have to better understand and prevent these health issues. *The Story of the Human Body* will be supplemented by selected additional readings and videos. No prior experience in science or healthcare is required. An interest in learning is a must!

## **#4125 TED Lectures: Ideas Worth Spreading**

**Wednesday, 10 am – noon (10 sessions beginning March 5)**

**Coordinator: Pam Prosch**

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](http://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 each select and screen two videos from the TED library and lead the group in a discussion based on their chosen video. Internet capability is required.

### **#4126 Previews and Reviews—Bonus Group**

**Wednesday, 12:15–1:15 p.m. (3 sessions: March 26, April 23, and May 21)**

**Coordinators: Marge Melstrom, Stephany Creamer**

Theater, film, music, art and more—would you like to know more about current and upcoming cultural events in the Chicago area? Would you like to know what other OLLI members have to say about them? Would you like to become a tastemaker by sharing *your* views on events you have seen? Must see? Might see? Not for me? You decide! Join us each month for Previews and Reviews. Registration is required, but if you register for OLLI's fall semester you are eligible to register for Previews and Reviews – *at no extra charge* – in addition to the number of study groups you already have in your membership package.

### **#4127 Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America* (Volume 2)**

**Wednesday, 1:15 pm – 3:15 pm**

**Coordinators: Leo Dohogne, Katherine Nair**

Alexis de Tocqueville visited America in 1831, during the rough and tumble times of the Jackson Presidency, ostensibly to study the prison system. After a year of travels he went back to France and wrote of this experience in *Democracy in America*, considered by many to be a classic in the examination of civil and political society. The astuteness and prescience of his observations are still relevant today. De Tocqueville foresaw much of modern America: the conflict over slavery that would lead to civil war, the rise of industrialism, the loneliness and alienation of modern life.

This spring we will continue our reading of *Democracy in America* with Volume 2 which continues to expound on the effects of liberty, equality, democracy and individualism on the family, women, intellectual life and the American pursuit of happiness.

You may use any edition but if you are purchasing a copy, the Penguin 2003 paperback edition of *Democracy in America* is recommended. We will also read selections from Part 1 of Montesquieu's *The Spirit of Laws*, a classic of political philosophy that greatly influenced de Tocqueville. Used copies are available online and inexpensive Kindle versions are also an option. We will read approximately 35 pages per week. New members are welcome to join this study group.

### **#4128 *The Black Hole War***

**NEW**

**Wednesday, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Coordinators: Arthur Goldman, David Hughes**

Greetings fellow science junkies. Here is another OLLI opportunity in our endless quest to understand nature and the universe. Our study group, *The Black Hole War*, will use Leonard Susskind's book (Back Bay Books paperback, 2009) by the same name to chart the ups and downs of the lengthy yet good-natured dispute between Susskind and Stephen Hawking over the nature of black holes. At stake in this nerd war is our very understanding of the universe.

Reviews describe the book as:

“A gregarious narrative of intellectual brinkmanship. . . *The Black Hole War* glows with the warmth of conversation. It's as though Susskind has joined us for dinner, regaling us with tales of genius. Hawking and Richard Feynman make appearances, living up to their legend.”

– *L.A. Times*

"Susskind shares Richard Feynman's gift for spinning fascinating anecdotes. *The Black Hole War* succeeds on two levels: as an engaging memoir by a skilled storyteller; and as a compelling introduction to some elusive but captivating scientific ideas." - *Physics World*

"A mind-bender. This is your universe on acid. Susskind explains this dizzying notion about as clearly as is probably possible." - *N.Y. Times*

Need we say more? Join us in this intriguing and enjoyable adventure.

### **#4129 Covering *TIME***

**NEW**

**Wednesday, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm (12 sessions, no class May 28 or June 4)**

**Coordinators: Carolyn Adams, Jean Schwartz, Mark Chernansky**

Every week, *TIME Magazine* includes a variety of articles on subjects that affect our lives. Whether it's the political, social, environmental or cultural issues that you are interested in exploring, *TIME* is a handy and valuable source of relevant facts and opinions and offers wide-ranging topics for discussion.

At each study group session, we will begin with an in-depth discussion of the current week's *TIME Magazine* cover story. Then, we'll also look under the cover for other feature stories and topics that most interest and affect us, addressing a diverse range of topics from current affairs to historical perspectives and from science to the arts. In addition to long-range issues we will occasionally include more light-hearted topics that may inspire us to see a movie or read a new book.

To participate in our lively discussions, access to *TIME Magazine* is required. Join us for the *TIME*-liest two hours of the week.

### **#4130 Curtain Up!**

**Wednesday, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Coordinators: Judy Widen, Barb Shaeffer, Linda Sieracki**

Would you like to join a congenial group of OLLI members who like to see good drama on the Chicago stage? Would reading the script aloud together, learning about the playwright and the play's historical context, seeing the live production together (at group rates!), and then capping it all off with an in-depth discussion with insightful OLLI classmates sound enticing? If you answered yes to these questions, then join our merry band in digesting four of Chicago's best dramatic offerings this spring.

We will devote three or four weeks to each play. The list won't be available until February, but you can expect them to be at theaters available by public transportation: usually Timeline, Remy Bumpo, Court, Steppenwolf, Shakespeare, Lookingglass, and Wit. (We begin the evening with a pre-performance dinner at a nearby restaurant.)

### **#4131 Documentary Films**

**Wednesday, 1:30 pm – 4 pm**

**Coordinators: Phyllis Faulman, Glory Southwind**

Join us in our venture into the thought provoking world of documentary films. In each session we will view a film of artistic, political, historical, or social merit—always of interest and sometimes controversial. Films under consideration for the spring are: *The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers*, revisit a pivotal point in American history that chronicles Pentagon Insider Daniel Ellsberg's daring endeavor to leak top-secret

government papers that disclosed shocking truths about the Vietnam War and Nixon's presidency; *We Steal Secrets: The Story of WikiLeaks*, reveals how Julian Assange fired a global debate on secrecy when his web site, WikiLeaks, published thousands of confidential documents; and *War Made Easy*, exposes the government's and the media's purported history of deceiving the American people and leading us into war after war.

### **#4132 *The Economist Magazine***

**Wednesday, 1:30pm – 3:30 pm**

**Coordinators: Joe Lane, Jerry Levine, Una Malkinson, George Panagakis**

*The Economist* is known for its informative and thought-provoking reporting on political and economic developments around the world. Join us as we review several articles selected from the current week's issue as catalysts for informed and lively discussion on the critical topics of our time. Subscribing to *The Economist* (student rate available) is encouraged but not a requirement—the only requirements are Internet access and a healthy interest in world affairs. Information on subscriptions, student rates and special rates are available at 1-800-456-6086 or [www.economistsubscriptions.com](http://www.economistsubscriptions.com).

### **#4133 Hillary Clinton —A Woman of Her Times (Part II)**

**Wednesday, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Coordinators: Becky Davidson, Beth McDonough**

This spring we will continue our inquiry into Hillary Clinton's journey, beginning with her difficult race in 2008 to be the Democratic candidate for President. Next we will study her successful years as President Obama's Secretary of State. This class will provide us valuable insight into the "real" Hillary. She has been the First Lady of Arkansas, the First lady of the United States, the United States Senator from the State of New York and our Secretary of State. Is she ready to be our first woman president?

Our texts for this course will be: *Game Change* (Harper Perennial paperback, 2010) by John Heileman and Mark Halperin; and *The Secretary, a Journey with Hillary Clinton from Beirut to the Heart of American Power* by Kim Ghattas (Times Book hardback 2013; Picador paperback will be available February 25, 2014). New participants are welcome to join the study group. Access to email is required.

### **#4134 *The Story of Film: An Odyssey***

**NEW**

**Wednesday, 1:30 pm – 4 pm**

**Coordinators: Lorraine Dorff, Bob Moss**

This study group takes a journey through the history of world cinema with noted film historian Mark Cousins. Through Cousins' documentary series and companion book entitled *The Story of Film* (Pavilion hardback, 2013), we will travel from the invention of motion pictures in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the multi-billion dollar globalized digital industry of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Designed for both movie buff and true student of film, this first of a two-part study group, will use Cousins' documentary series and book, historical articles and view of some of the world's best films to weave through different directors, nations and genres. In addition to covering some leading American films and film-makers, we will explore cinema in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and South America, and show how cinematic ideas and techniques cross national boundaries.

Our focus will be on more artistic, groundbreaking and influential works, taking the auteur approach—featuring directors more than actors or other facets of cinema. We learn how filmmakers are influenced both by historical events of their times, and by each other.

To supplement our journey, some independent research is encouraged. Internet and email access are required. The second part of this study group will be offered in the fall 2014 semester.

## THURSDAY

### **#4135 1940— American Politics on the Brink of War**

**NEW**

**Thursday, 10 am – noon**

**Coordinators: Dick Dell, Rich Dubberke**

The year 1940 was a pivotal and critical year in the history of America. Hitler's military legions were sweeping through Europe and the Luftwaffe was carpet bombing British cities. Most Americans opposed involvement in the European war. The isolationist movement was led by such figures as Charles Lindbergh; Joseph Kennedy, the American ambassador to England; Father Charles Coughlin, an influential priest of Detroit, and the pro-Hitler German-American Bund.

President Franklin Roosevelt while facing a presidential campaign for reelection to an unprecedented third term was desperately trying to counter the isolationists and at the same time bring what help he could muster through Congress to the aid of the British. Although Republican Party leaders were strongly isolationist, their presidential candidate Wendell Willkie was a moderate. Roosevelt and his vice presidential running mate, Henry Wallace, faced heavy opposition. In the eyes of many, the fate of Britain, Europe, and the Nazi Third Reich lay in the results of the American presidential election.

The book we will read covering these dramatic and history changing events is *1940: FDR, Willkie, Lindberg, Hitler-the Election Amid the Storm* (Yale University Press hardback, 2013) by historian, Susan Dunn. Join us for stimulating discussion as Dunn brings this perilous period of American and world history into sharp and dramatic focus.

### **#4136 British Mystery Writers**

**Thursday, 10 am – noon**

**Coordinators: Jean Weber, Martha Bills**

Looking for a mystery, then look no further than British Mystery Writers. Our authors are all past presidents of The Detection Club, the club made up of British writers who established the guidelines for writing mystery novels, starting with the first president, G.K. Chesterton, who introduces us to *The Man Who Knew Too Much*. The first novel in which gentleman sleuth Peter Trent appears, by long-time Detection Club president E.C. Bentley, *Trent's Last Case*, will be next followed by Dorothy Sayers' *Whose Body* with the debut of Lord Peter Wimsey. It has been said that Sayers fashioned Wimsey after another long-time president, Lord Gorell, who was co-president with Agatha Christie. In *The Murder at the Vicarage*, Christie presents us with Miss Jane Marple. Two additional Detection club members, Marjery Allingham featured Albert Campion in *The Black Dudley Murder* and Nicholas Blake featured Nigel Strangeways in *A Question of Proof*, rounding out our search for motive, means and opportunity.

Speaking of "opportunity," we invite you to enter the world of British Mystery Writers and their famous detectives. We will begin the semester reading G.K. Chesterton's *The Man Who Knew Too Much*. Any edition is acceptable.

### **#4137 *Marco Polo: From Venice to Xanadu***

**NEW**

**Thursday, 10 am – noon**

**Coordinators: Pat Stankard, Ted Jackanicz**

Pack your bags and join us on an incredible trip: Marco Polo's journey from Venice to Xanadu—today's China. It's a fabulous tale, one many of his contemporaries (and some modern historians) didn't believe. One of the first global travelers, his experience lasted 17 years, and encompassed lands of intrigue both then and now. In addition to Marco's own words, the author incorporates descriptions and information about the times, the countries, the customs and much more. Along the way, we'll learn about some of the countries and territories Marco traveled—the Venetian Empire, Armenia, Persia, Afghanistan, China, and India; the customs of various ethnic groups; the court and diplomacy of Kublai Khan; and we'll follow Marco as he develops from an unworldly seventeen-year-old to a trusted diplomat and envoy of the Great Khan. Supplemental videos and films will help to bring this information to life. Our book, *Marco Polo: From Venice to Xanadu* (Vintage paperback, 2008) by Laurence Bergreen, brings together history, biography and travelogue to create a fascinating tale of a long-ago time.

### **#4138 Readings in Western Culture**

**Thursday, 10 am – noon**

**Coordinators: Bernard Hoffman, Elaine Hoffman**

Readings in Western Culture, one of OLLI's long-standing groups, is based on Great Books Discussions, the adult education division of the Great Books Foundation. These sessions encourage an exchange of ideas through readings, both old and new, that have had a profound and formative influence on our world, with the hope that understanding our intellectual traditions' underlying assumptions is essential to making wise choices in both our personal lives and the civic arena. This semester we will continue reading *Great Conversations 6*, edited by Don Whitfield (Great Books Foundation paperback, 2013). The selections are drawn from classic and contemporary fiction, drama, poetry, essays, history and philosophy. The book is available through the Great Books Foundation ([www.greatbooks.org/store](http://www.greatbooks.org/store), 800-222-5870, ext. 2). Please join us for lively and thought-provoking discussions.

### **#4139 The World of Poetry**

**Thursday, 10 am – noon**

**Coordinators: Fran Markwardt, Steve Bloomberg**

*"Poetry comes nearer to vital truth than history."* – Plato

Welcome, poetry lovers! Join us in The World of Poetry, where we'll search for vital truth in the works of a variety of poets, both classic and modern. Group members will take turns choosing poets, distributing copies of selected poems a week before the study group session and leading a discussion of the poems. After a brief sketch of the poet's life and times, we'll read the poems out loud and examine them closely, sharing our opinions, ideas, questions and associations.

We'll also refer to the Poetry Foundation website, *Poetry* magazine, and other sources for interviews with poets, poetry readings and relevant essays or book reviews. We'll keep each other informed of poetry events around town and may attend one or two together as a group. But



mainly this study group will be about the poets we select and reading their poetry—and discovering their magic. Previous poetry study or knowledge is not required.

### **#4140 Exploring the Writer Within**

**NEW**

**Thursday, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm (12 sessions beginning March 20)**

**Coordinator: Cheryl Harbour**

Do you love to write...or want to write, but don't know where to start? This writing group will focus on different topics, themes, genres and styles with a new starting point each week. Beginning with each week's "prompt," you'll take it in your own direction, exploring your creativity and perhaps discovering hidden talents. Bring back your work to share with the group the next week and enjoy reading and discussing the varied work of other group members. We'll also weave in the chance to read and learn from examples written by published masters of the craft. Each week will bring a new, interesting exciting area of exploration and take you to new places in your own writing.

### **#4141 Railroads in America**

**NEW**

**Thursday, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Coordinators: Marc Ungar, Martha Bills, George Cohen**

“America was made by railroads. They united the country and then stimulated the economic development that enabled the country to become the world’s richest nation. The railroads also transformed American society, changing it from a primarily agrarian economy to an industrial powerhouse in the space of a few decades of the nineteenth century. Quite simply, without the railroads, the United States would not have become the United States.”

So begins Christian Wolmar’s *The Great Railroad Revolution: The History of Trains in America* (Public Affairs paperback, 2013). Join us as we read the extraordinary story of the rise and the fall of the greatest of all American endeavors—the creation of its railroads. We’ll supplement the text with online maps, photos and film clips of the people and events described. Halfway through the term, we’ll meet at the Museum of Science and Industry to see the railroad exhibits there. And as our final session, we plan on taking a trip to the Illinois Railway Museum, the largest railroad museum in the US, about 55 miles from Chicago.

### **#4142 Washington Week**

**Thursday, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Coordinators: Judy Widen, Len Grossman, Jane Mortenson, Gail Bartlett, Arlene Shafon**

This year is an election year for Congress; that means a busy semester for political junkies! We’ll chiefly follow contested House and Senate races in the key swing states. Sources for our discussions are many and varied: daily newspapers, particularly *The New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, though members can use their own favorites. We will also utilize political blogs such as *Politico*, *Salon*, *Huffington Post*, and other relevant news-oriented sites. And we will keep an eye on Iowa and New Hampshire, reading tea leaves in those states as 2016’s Presidential hopefuls begin their obligatory visits.

In addition, we will follow some legislative issues, especially those outlined in the President’s State of the Union address: jobs creation and stimulation of the economy, immigration reform, gun control, campaign finance, perhaps even climate change. We will continue to monitor Supreme Court decisions, with special attention to church/state decisions anticipated in spring, 2014. We will monitor Presidential appointments, both judicial and executive, observing any impact of the new Senate filibuster rule.

This is a fast-paced, Washington-focused group; students are expected to be keen observers of national news. Discussions are lively, well-informed, and respectful of diverse points of view.

### **#4143 WWII Resistance Movies**

**NEW**

**Thursday, 1:15 pm – 4:15 pm**

**Coordinators: Tom Swanstrom, Bill McGuffage**

Every occupied country had a resistance movement during World War II. In the spring we will show films that depict the activities of these brave individuals, most of which will be true stories of the partisans and their activities. Movies that may be shown include: *Closely Watched Trains* (Czechoslovakia), *Army of Shadows* (France), *The Train* (France), *Sophie Scholl: The Final Days* (Germany), *Rome, Open City* (Italy), *The Human Condition* (Japan), *Black Book* (Netherlands), *Max Manus: Man of War* (Norway), *Edge of Darkness* (Norway), *Kanal* (Poland), *The Eagle Has Landed* (UK) and *The Ascent* (Russia).

Each session will start with an introduction covering the director, actors and little-known facts about the film. After the film there will be energetic discussions of the film by class members. Please join us in this exciting foray into the realm of the heroic resistance fighters that helped turn the tide in this forlorn war.

	Group #	Evanston Study Groups At-A-Glance	Start Time
<b>Monday</b>			
	#4072	Best American Short Stories	9:30am
	#4073	Four Masters of the Short Story	9:30am
	#4074	<i>The New Yorker</i> , Section 1	9:30am
	#4075	American Essays	1pm
	#4076	History of China: A Survey	1pm
<b>Tuesday</b>			
<b>NEW</b>	#4077	Are We Alone?	9:30 am
	#4078	Exploring the Visual Arts	9:30am
	#4079	Tuesday at the Movies: The Director's Cut ( <b>3HRS</b> )	9 am
<b>NEW</b>	#4080	What the Dickens!	9:30am
	#4081	The Years of Lyndon Johnson	9:30am
	#4082	Great Novels: A Journey in Time and Place	1pm
<b>NEW</b>	#4083	Who Was Isaiah Berlin?	1pm
<b>Wednesday</b>			
	#4084	Creative Writing Workshop	9:30am
<b>NEW</b>	#4085	The Life of Charles Darwin: Explorer, Scientist and Family Man	9:30am
<b>NEW</b>	#4086	Vietnam, "The American War" —The Politics That Led Us There	9:30am
	#4087	OLLI About Town—Bonus Group ( <b>3 sessions</b> )	11:45 am
	#4088	From Print to Pictures, the Art of Film Adaptation: Coming of Age/Family Matters, Part 2 ( <b>2-3 HRS</b> )	1pm
	#4089	<i>The New Yorker</i> , Section 2	1pm
	#4090	Poetry for Pleasure	1pm
<b>NEW</b>	#4091	Upstairs with <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> and Downstairs with <i>Longbourn</i>	1pm
<b>Thursday</b>			
	#4092	Chicago: A Biography	9:30am
<b>NEW</b>	#4093	Five Plays by William Shakespeare	9:30 am
	#4094	The Novels of Philip Roth	9:30am
<b>NEW</b>	#4095	The Right to Vote?	9:30am
		Computer Round Table—MONTHLY DROP-IN	11:15 am
	#4096	Battle Cry of Freedom	1pm
<b>NEW</b>	#4097	The Joy of American Music: Jazz and Blues	1pm
<b>NEW</b>	#4098	Science Online	1pm
<b>NEW</b>	#4099	Washington's Crossing	1pm
<b>Friday</b>			
	#4100	Documentary Films ( <b>2.5 HRS</b> )	9:30am
	#4101	International Relations	9:30am



**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute**  
*Northwestern University School of Continuing Studies*  
**Spring Semester**  
**March 3 – June 6, 2014**

**Study Group Descriptions**  
**Evanston Campus**

**MONDAY**

**#4072 Best American Short Stories**

**Monday, 9:30-11:30 am**

**Coordinators: Lail Herman, Don DeRoche**

“We read fiction to . . . imagine our way into other lives, to explore characters and situations that tell us something new about the world, and maybe about ourselves, or to remind us of something important that we may have forgotten,” writes Tom Perrotta, editor of *The Best American Short Stories 2012*. Our lively discussions help us to deepen our understanding of each story and maybe even of ourselves. Besides, they are a lot of fun. This spring we will explore a diverse group of contemporary writers and their stories. We will be using two short story editions: *Pen/O.Henry Prize Stories 2013* (Anchor paperback), edited by Laura Furman, and *Best American Short Stories 2013* (Mariner paperback), edited by Heidi Pitlor.

Preparation requires thorough reading of one or two stories each week. We have an open invitation to local writers of our stories to attend a class and share their insights with us—a semester highlight whenever it occurs.

**#4073 Four Masters of the Short Story**

**Monday, 9:30-11:30 am**

**Coordinators: Glen Phillips, Jean Solomon**

Short stories have the power to entertain, inform, and even heal. Interpreting those stories, uncovering the author’s message, is a noble, challenging task. That task is the goal of this study group. Each week two complex stories by two different master authors are vigorously dissected for their ideas. During a lively exchange of interpretations, participants learn from one another and refine their own positions. At discussion’s end all have a clearer sense of the author’s words and, week by week, all become more adept at literary interpretation.

Specialized knowledge is not required to participate. The coordinators will provide any necessary definitions of literary terms as well as guidance for participants leading the discussion.

The books for spring are: *Blasphemy* by Sherman Alexie (Grove Press paperback, 2013); *Permanent Member of the Family* by Russell Banks (Ecco hardback, 2013); *The Stories of Mary Gordon* by Mary Gordon (Anchor paperback, 2006) and *Bobcat and Other Stories* by Rebecca Lee (Algonquin Books paperback, 2013).

### **#4074 *The New Yorker*, Section 1**

**Monday, 9:30-11:30 am**

**Coordinators: Hillis Howie, Nancy Anderson, Dick Whitaker**

This study group is for long time fans of *The New Yorker* as well as newcomers. Each session will examine the contents of the current issue and then explore a previously assigned article in depth, led by a volunteer discussion leader who has chosen the article. Participants will be encouraged to become “watchers” who briefly discuss cartoons, movie reviews, covers, or some other aspect of the current issue. Subscription to the magazine is necessary. Conversations are lively and often followed by lunch.

### **#4075 American Essays**

**Monday, 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Coordinator: Glen Phillips**

There is more to literature than novels, plays, and poetry; there are essays. Well executed essays, intrigue the reader with a thoughtful perspective about the human condition. The goal of this study group is the interpretation, analysis, and appreciation of that perspective. Participants will develop an awareness of the essay as an art form and will refine their literary analytic skills. Everyone, whatever his or her educational and professional background, will be comfortable reading and discussing essays. The book for spring is *Best American Essays 2013* (Mariner Books (a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) paperback, 2013) edited by Robert Atwan and Cheryl Strayed.

### **#4076 History of China: A Survey**

**Monday, 1:00-3:00 pm**

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

After a fall semester of learning the outlines of China's long history, we now undertake a more detailed study of 20th century China, plus the present century. The texts are the same as for the fall semester: *China: A New History, Edition 2*, by J.K. Fairbank and Merle Goldman (Belknap Press paperback, 2006), and *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook, Edition 2*, edited by Patricia Buckley Ebrey (Free Press paperback, 1993). Additional materials will be supplied by coordinators as needed to provide contemporary views of events and policies that have been important in our own lifetimes. With film biographies of Chiang Kai-Shek, Mao Tse Tung, Zhou Enlai, and Deng Xiaoping, we see those leaders, whose names we have known for many years, as real people. We begin with Henry Kissinger's account of the meetings that led to President Nixon's famous visit to China, and we end with a film travelogue and with conversations about visiting China now. We welcome new members to our study group. It should be a great study of a century!

## TUESDAY

### **#4077 Are We Alone?**

**NEW**

**Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 am**

**Coordinators: Joel Weiss, Bruce Marx**

Are you curious about our planet's place in the universe? Do you wonder what causes complex life to arise on a planet, or even any life at all? Join us as we delve into the ground-breaking text *Rare Earth*. It is written for laymen by noted scientists Peter Ward (paleontologist, University of Washington Professor of Geological Sciences and Curator of Paleontology) and Donald Brownlee (astronomer, University of Washington Professor Astronomy, and National Academy of Sciences member). The book synthesizes information from astronomy, biology and paleontology to explain events that produced simple life on Earth and to explain the unusual events that contributed to the evolution of complex life on Earth. No specific scientific background is required, just curiosity, interest and a desire to learn more

### **#4078 Exploring the Visual Arts**

**Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 am**

**Coordinators: Roger Heuberger, Dennis Beard**

Join us as we focus on increasing our awareness and appreciation of four exciting visual arts: painting, sculpture, photography and architecture. Both novice and experienced art lovers come together in lively discussion to explore artist's intent and the meaning we place on the artwork today.

The course is largely video-based. DVDs and YouTube clips are used as source material. Discussion leaders develop talking points on their subjects. As needed, the coordinators can assist in content preparation. Topics selected may include JAM Whistler, Mary Cassatt, Mark Rothko, Man Ray, Cindy Sherman, Phillip Johnson, Anish Kapoor and many more. The class may also choose to visit a regional art museum.

### **#4079 Tuesday at the Movies: The Director's Cut**

**Tuesday, 9:00 am-noon**

**Coordinators: David Liner, Florence Gatti, Stuart Applebaum**

Integral to the success of a film, the director provides imagination and creativity, livens the screenplay (which is often his creation), molds and instructs actors to encourage peak performances, and unifies the film in many other ways.

Emphasizing the critical importance of the director, Director's Cut will showcase highly visible, prolific directors and their work while contrasting their approaches and styles. Presenters will choose from film libraries of the three directors we have preselected so that each week we will be viewing the highest-regarded movies directed by masters of film art.

Directors being considered for the spring semester include Woody Allen (in continuation), Billy Wilder, Robert Altman, Quentin Tarantino, Steven Spielberg, Martin Scorsese, Ang Lee, Pedro Almodovar (in continuation), Francois Truffaut, Ingmar Bergman, Vittorio de Sica, and Federico Fellini. Join us as we watch and discuss the director's craft in creating outstanding movies.

## **#4080 What the Dickens!**

**NEW**

**Tuesday, 9:30-11:30**

**Coordinators: Charlotte Projansky, Sidney Projansky**

We will read Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield*, the most autobiographical of Dickens' novels. It is a picaresque novel, depicting the childhood and coming-of-age of our orphaned hero. Through David's adventures, we are introduced to many different kinds of familial relationships, both good and bad, and some of Dickens' most unforgettable characters, such as Mr. Micawber and Uriah Heep. As we laugh and cry with David, we will learn a good bit about life in 19th century England. So that we can all literally be on the same page, we ask that you read the Penguin Classics, revised edition, 2004, introduction by Jeremy Tambling. **This version is available at [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com).**

## **#4081 The Years of Lyndon Johnson**

**Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 am**

**Coordinators: Steve Fisher, Dona Gerson**

We continue with *The Years of Lyndon Johnson: The Passage of Power*, (Vintage paperback, 2013) the fourth volume of Robert A. Caro's critically acclaimed magnum opus. In the fall semester, we followed LBJ through both the most frustrating and the most triumphant periods of his career. He would go from extraordinary power as Senate majority leader to wretched powerlessness as vice president in an administration that disdained and distrusted him. Then the goal he had always pursued, the presidency, is thrust upon him by an assassin's bullet. We viewed the Kennedy assassination through LBJ's eyes; he inherited a staff fiercely loyal to his slain predecessor, a Congress determined to retain its power, and a nation in shock and mourning. In the spring semester, Caro makes clear how LBJ's political genius enabled him to make the presidency wholly his own, propelling through Congress essential legislation that had seemed log-jammed. Join us for an in-depth study of one of our most enigmatic presidents, Lyndon Johnson.

## **#4082 Great Novels: A Literary Journey**

**Tuesday, 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Coordinators: Florence Gatti, Hillis Howie**

Do you love to read? How about travel? In this group we will explore parts of the world we may never have dreamed of—without leaving our favorite “reading spots.” Literary greats have introduced us to heroes, lovers, cowards, beggars and war criminals in varying cities and different times.

We will read four or five novels, covering an average of 100 pages a week, discussing each section under the direction of a volunteer leader. The discussions will be open and lively, with easy exchange of ideas and opinions.

The reading list is selected from suggestions offered by current class members, lists of prize winning authors and lists of great books of the past three centuries. The spring semester will include: *The Comedians* (Penguin Classics paperback, 2005) by Graham Greene; *The Round House* (Harper Perennial paperback, 2013) by Louise Erdrich; *The Sense of An Ending* (Vintage Book paperback, 2012) by Julian Barnes; *A Death in The Family* (Penguin Classic paperback, 2009) by James Agee; and *Kristin Lavransdatter I: The Wreath* (Penguin Classics paperback, 1997) by Sigrid Undset the first book in a trilogy. We welcome new members and look forward to your contributions. The only requirement to join us is a love of good books!

## **#4083 Who Was Isaiah Berlin?**

**NEW**

**Tuesday, 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Coordinators: Helen Widen, Connie Karduck**

Who was Isaiah Berlin? Isaiah Berlin was an Oxford-based philosopher and historian of ideas whose long life spanned three different cultures and most of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. We learn that he is considered one of the best modern essayists, who writes with exemplary lucidity and rare penetration on certain central human problems, especially questions of human identity and value, association and organization, political theory and practice. He has much to say about the clash of cultures and values which permeate our world, and which places us all in a peculiarly modern predicament. His ideas about pluralism, conflict, contradiction and ambiguity reflect the world around us, as well as our own inner experience, as we make choices and create our lives. Unlike many intellectuals, Berlin had close links with public life and a gift for friendship. His works are near to one's personal experience in the world. He has the remarkable ability to put himself in the shoes of others from different countries and different epochs.

Berlin's essays have been collected in an anthology entitled *Isaiah Berlin: The Proper Study of Mankind*, edited by Henry Hardy and Roger Hausheer (Farrar, Strauss and Giroux paperback, 2000). We will read and discuss an average of thirty pages per week. Let's come together for a vigorous and stimulating exploration and mental workout.

## **WEDNESDAY**

### **#4084 Creative Writing Workshop**

**Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am**

**Coordinators: 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.

### **#4085 The Life of Charles Darwin: Explorer, Scientist, and Family Man *NEW***

**Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am**

**Coordinators: Naomi Fisher, Susan Gaud**

Charles Darwin was only 22 years old when he took the position of naturalist aboard the HMS Beagle. The five-year, exceedingly arduous journey of the southern hemisphere changed Darwin's life definitively, laying the foundation for his revolutionary thinking about the origins of human beings. However, Darwin would not publish *The Origin of Species* until he was in his forties. A devoted husband and father, Darwin spent most of the intervening years working in his home study in the country.

We'll begin our study of Darwin's life with his explorations and world travel as narrated in *Darwin and the Beagle*, by Alan Moorehead and then pick up Darwin's life story in England as told in *The Reluctant Mr. Darwin* by David Quammen. Any edition of these books is acceptable.

A possible tie-in for the study group would be seeing the play *In the Garden: A Darwinian Love Story*, which will be at The Lookingglass Theatre in April-May. Join us in exploring a multi-



faceted story of exciting scientific activity on the one hand and the strictures of Victorian ideas on the other, not to mention replacing the one-time creationist view with a dynamic, on-going process of evolution.

**#4086 Vietnam, “The American War”—The Politics That Led Us There *NEW***  
**Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am**

**Coordinator: Stuart Applebaum, David Liner**

During the fall semester we studied Vietnamese history from the end of World War II to 1959. By then, the French had been driven out of Indochina and the United States involvement had begun to escalate, ultimately dragging our country into a war that would last until 1975. This semester, reading David Kaiser’s book *American Tragedy: Kennedy, Johnson and the Origins of the Vietnam War* (Belknap Press paperback, 2002), we will follow the evolution of Vietnam policies from 1961 to 1965, the year that President Johnson committed the United States to an unwinnable war. Our goal: to examine the administrations of three U. S. Presidents — Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson—to ascertain how we would be drawn in to the quagmire that Vietnam became. We will supplement our reading and discussions by viewing the PBS *American Experience* documentary on the war. New participants are welcome as we explore America’s involvement in Vietnam.

**#4087 OLLI About Town —Bonus Group *NEW***  
**Wednesday, 11:45-12:45 (3 sessions: March 26, April 21, May 21)**

**Coordinators: Debbie Behrman, Henry Lahmeyer**

Do you feel overwhelmed with the plethora of theater, film, music, art, lectures and more that Chicago has to offer? Would you like more “real people” reviews from other OLLI members? Then join us each month as we review current and upcoming cultural events in the Chicago area. Registration is required, but if you register for OLLI’s spring semester you are eligible to register for Previews and Reviews— at no extra charge in addition to the number of study groups you already have.

**#4088 From Print to Pictures, the Art of Film Adaptation: Coming of Age/Family Matters, Part 2**

**Wednesday, 1:00-4:00 pm and 1:00-3:00 pm (12 week session starting March 5)**

**Coordinators: Julie Gordon, Art Bloom**

What crucial events propel us from childhood to adolescence to maturity? Many of us overcome great obstacles to achieve fuller understanding and self-knowledge, while others are thwarted in their emotional growth. Join us for as we explore six highly-rated films based on texts that depict characters of different ages, genders and social classes whose life experiences change them and entertain us.

Our journey takes us from a Boston spinster who defies her autocratic father by accepting the attentions of a questionable suitor (*The Heiress*), to a small 1950s Texas town whose adolescents connect or disconnect in memorable ways (*The Last Picture Show*), to the 19<sup>th</sup> century Australian outback where a headstrong young woman determines to live an independent life as a writer (*My Brilliant Career*), to the life-changing adventures of four schoolmates in rural America as they search for a missing boy (*Stand by Me*), to Chicago where a crisis causes a lethargic music store owner to reflect on his failed relationships (*High Fidelity*), and finally to contemporary England as schoolboys face emotional and intellectual challenges while their teachers prepare them for entrance exams to Oxbridge (*The History Boys*).

The course structure consists of a three-hour session where we first discuss the text, then see the film. The following week is a two-hour discussion of the film's adaptation from the text. The coordinators will provide the readings. Our analysis will discover whether or not the film has imaginatively translated the written word into a compelling viewing experience.

### **#4089 *The New Yorker*, Section 2**

**Wednesday, 1:00-3:00pm**

**Coordinators: Elizabeth Berman, Jack Mitchell, Judith Saylor**

Since 1926, *The New Yorker* has attracted— indeed, sometimes discovered— the finest writers and artists our world offers. Every Wednesday, this lively study group examines Monday's issue cover to cover. From award-winning reportage to up-to-date political intelligence to cutting-edge reviews, we grapple with it all...and find ourselves informed, intrigued and, yes, amused (those famous cartoons). So bring your curiosity—and your sense of humor— and join us as we explore the pages of this standout magazine. A subscription to *The New Yorker* is required.

### **#4090 Poetry for Pleasure**

**Wednesday, 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Coordinators: David Hart, Judy Kamin**

The goal of this study group is to enhance our appreciation and understanding of poems by authors both well-known and not so well-known. A member of the class selects a poet for discussion each week and prepares copies of poems for class members. The presenter leads with a brief biography and perhaps a critical commentary on the poet, and then we take turns reading and discussing a poem. The discussions can be lively and challenging and give new insights to the work.

### **#4091 *Upstairs with Pride and Prejudice & Downstairs with Longbourn* NEW**

**Wednesday, 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Coordinator: Suzanne Dupré**

The year 2013 marked the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of *Pride and Prejudice* and, to our good fortune, the publication of *Longbourn* — a reimagining of the Bennet household from the point of view of Sarah, the orphaned housemaid, who works 18-hour days in the servants' hall at Longbourn.

Elizabeth Bennet, Mr. Darcy, and the other characters in *Pride and Prejudice* are memorable, and their intrigues and drawing room conversations about money and marriage and manners, men and matches remain enchanting! We will read this 18<sup>th</sup> Century masterpiece; and then, in *Longbourn*, we will meet the household servants, with their own dramas and the nonstop drudgery of their work. The Bennets' doings and distractions seem minor in the servants' lives, but not their lack of a son. When Mr. Collins inherits the property, will he hire his own staff? Will Wickham seduce downstairs Polly or upstairs Lydia? We will learn of different pursuits of happiness, as well as the practical side of early-19<sup>th</sup> century housekeeping in a bourgeois household.

Perhaps you already own a copy of *Pride and Prejudice*, but if you are purchasing a new copy, it is recommended that you purchase the inexpensive version published by the Barnes and Noble Classics Series. *Longbourn* written by Jo Baker was published by Alfred Knopf in 2013 and available in hardback.

## THURSDAY

### #4092 Chicago: A Biography

Thursday, 9:30-11:30 am

**Coordinators: Barbara Peterson, Patty Dreibelbis, John Dreibelbis, Jim Elesh**

Twentieth-century Chicago is the story of a great city becoming even greater. It survived many difficulties: two world wars and almost constant localized war since 1950; depression and rising taxation; local politics that could never be called exemplary; commercial sex; and mobs and gangs and ethnic warfare. It also saw growth in many categories: community building; a second world's fair; growth in the arts, educational institutions, and popular culture; industry, with major sales and trade; shopping centers and loop development; building of suburbs with their enriched facilities; transportation, including airports; and continuous improvement in everyday life for most residents. Participants will have a strong voice in topics that will be added or substituted for items on the printed agenda. Basic textbooks remain the same as the fall semester: *Chicago: A Biography*, by Dominic A. Pacyga (University of Chicago Press paperback, 2009) and *Ethnic Chicago: A Multicultural Portrait*, edited by Melvin G. Holli & Peter d'A Jones, (Wm. B. Eerdmans paperback, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 1995). Other resources are welcomed. Continuing and new members will find this study group informative as well as entertaining.

### #4093 Five Plays by William Shakespeare

**NEW**

Thursday, 9:30-11:30 am

**Coordinators: Michael Singer, John Lucadamo, George Roth**

Love, hate, comedy, tragedy, betrayal, murderous ambition, and more! No, not a novel about Washington politics but rather five of William Shakespeare's greatest plays—*King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *Othello*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*. We will discuss each play so that the beauty and power of Shakespeare's writing may be appreciated by each of us. **Please purchase the Folger Shakespeare Library mass market paperback edition of each play so that all participants can easily follow along as we read and discuss passages.**

### #4094 The Novels of Philip Roth

Thursday, 9:30-11:30 am

**Coordinator: Hillis Howie, Larry Gordon**

Philip Roth is one of the most awarded American writers of his generation. His fiction, regularly set in Newark, New Jersey, is known for its autobiographical character, for philosophically and formally blurring the distinction between reality and fiction, for its supple, ingenious style, and for its provocative exploration of Jewish and American identity. We will start the semester with *Plot Against America* (Vintage paperback, 2005) which was awarded the James Fenimore Cooper Prize for Best Historical Fiction. We will continue with selections proposed by members of our group. Each participant will be expected to read approximately 70 - 80 pages before each session and to lead our discussion at least once each semester. If you have always wanted to share with others reading and discussing Philip Roth's rich novels, please join our study group.

## **#4095 The Right to Vote?**

**NEW**

**Thursday, 9:30-11:30am**

**Coordinators: Neil Adelman, Bill Bridgman**

“Photo ID laws,” “limiting and closing polling places,” “the butterfly ballot,” “Supreme Court decisions.” Just how secure is the right of all Americans to vote? In this study group we will begin with how this critical right has expanded and contracted throughout our history— from the birth of the republic to the present. Then we will focus on the historic Voting Rights Act of 1965—from the momentous events in Selma, Alabama to the recent Supreme Court decision that invalidated a critical provision of the Act. Our texts are Alexander Keyssar’s *The Right to Vote: The Contested History of Democracy in the United States* (Basic Books paperback, rev. ed. 2009) and *Bending Toward Justice: The Voting Rights Act and the Transformation of American Democracy* (Basic Books hardcover, 2013) by Gary May. Study group coordinators or discussion leaders may provide videos to be shown in class and/or additional readings. Each study group member is expected to lead one discussion session. Please join us as we learn together the history and current issues concerning what is called American’s “most taken-for-granted right.”

## **#4096 Battle Cry of Freedom**

**Thursday, 1:00-3:00pm**

**Coordinators: Harold Primack, Michael Singer**

The American Civil War had a more profound effect on the development of our nation and the character of contemporary America than any other event in our nation’s history. Hundreds of books on the war are published yearly, films about the war still capture our attention, and thousands dress in period clothing and reenact battles. In the fall semester, we discussed America at midcentury, the effects of the Mexican War on the Union, the battles over slavery in the territories, the election of 1860, the secession of the South, and the start of the Civil War. In the spring semester, we will continue to explore the issues, the politics, the battles, emancipation of the slaves, and the leaders who shaped the country’s values, inflamed the emotions and brought the country to conflict.

We will continue reading James McPherson’s Pulitzer Prize winning book, *Battle Cry of Freedom* (Oxford University Press paperback, 2003), acclaimed by many historians as the best one-volume history of the Civil War. Supplemental readings and the Ken Burns’ documentary, *The Civil War* will also add to our understanding. This study group is for Civil War buffs and everyone interested in American history.

## **#4097 The Joy of American Music: Jazz and Blues**

**NEW**

**Thursday, 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Coordinators: Joan Cohan, Carole Bass, Henry Lahmeyer**

The musical genres of jazz and blues are truly two of America’s greatest original art forms, reflecting young America’s spirit of innovation and excitement. We welcome you to join us in exploring these genres, using audio, video, and print materials. Discussion leaders will be able to choose a prominent performer or composer of jazz and/or blues and will lead us in discussion of relevant biographical materials, interviews, recordings, etc. No text is required; however, discussion leaders will be able to borrow texts on jazz and blues from coordinators, and we will be available for help in searching for other resources. Together, we will enjoy in-depth conversations about the musicians who have had a powerful influence on our country’s musical repertoire.

## **#4098 Science Online**

**NEW**

**Thursday, 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Coordinators: Ken Schulein, Mary Rosen Swanson**

Join us to explore scientific ideas presented through selected videos and articles that are highly accessible to the layman. Each study group session will begin with a science related video and brief discussion; followed by discussions on assigned science articles. Each week a member of the study group will select and present a 30-50 minute video on a scientific subject of interest to them. Videos topics may be selected from websites such as NOVA ([www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/)) or TED ([www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com)). We will begin the semester with a four-part NOVA series that explores the origin of life on earth, *Australia's First 4 Billion Years*. Our articles will be chosen from general scientific online sources such as *New York Times Science Tuesday* or *Wired*. Each week a class member will select two or three articles from these online sources or others for discussion. Members are expected to be able to read the selected articles online and receive the links to the science articles by email.

## **#4099 Washington's Crossing**

**NEW**

**Thursday, 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Coordinator: John Dreibelbis, Ed April**

The study group will read and discuss David Hackett Fischer's book, *Washington's Crossing* (Oxford University paperback, 2006) winner of the 2005 Pulitzer Prize in History. Fischer's thoughtful account describes how Washington, in a frantic, desperate month, turned his collection of troops into a professional force, not by emulating the Europeans but by establishing a distinctly American way of warfare. The most dramatic moments in the narrative come as the history Fischer presents outshines the myths we've been told. The Hessians, for example, were not drunk on Christmas ale. They were highly skilled and significantly more experienced than their American adversaries. Even Fischer, after 42 years of teaching American history, was surprised to learn how close the Americans came to losing. Instead of presenting Washington as the Napoleonic hero of the well-known painting, he shows a proud youth who evolved into a democratic leader, and fixed the place of the military in the republic that the Revolution created. Fischer combines thorough research and superb narrative. Please join us as we take a fresh look at this amazing time in American history.

## **FRIDAY**

### **#4100 Documentary Films**

**Friday, 9:30 am- noon**

**Coordinators: Arthur Altman, Bob Moss**

We will view and discuss a vast selection of documentary films chosen from Northwestern's Multimedia Center and from other sources. Participants will choose a film and lead the post screening discussion of it. Attention will be paid to the aesthetic and technical aspects of the film as well as the content. The goals of this group are to encourage group discussion and appreciation of the artistry of the filmmakers and their impact on our culture and to better understand our world. This study group will meet at Northwestern's Multimedia Center, University Library, 1970 Campus Drive, Evanston.

## **#4101 International Relations**

**Friday, 9:30-11:30 am**

**Coordinators: Allen Cohen, Frank Glaser**

We are living in a rapidly changing and perilous world. International and U.S. policy concerns are so interrelated and changing that they need to be constantly reviewed and reevaluated. Our study group will analyze specific problems and potential threats as well as opportunities that shape U.S. and global security. Our topics will cover the far-reaching ramifications of the security and the well-being of the United States, including the profound implications for world stability.

We will focus on historical trends as well as the most current political, economic and demographic concerns. We will explore and discuss many different viewpoints, using material from the best informed and most qualified sources, including pertinent foreign policy journals. We hope that you will join us as we explore many multifaceted approaches and strategies to many of these complex topics and concerns.

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