Georgetown University Learning Community

Fall 2011   Classes for those ‘55 or better.’

Advance registration (thru http://emeriticourses.georgetown.edu) is required. Class-size will be limited.

Registration fees are $30 for one course, $50 for two or more courses.

Dues-paid members (and their spouses) of the AMCRF, the DC Alumni Club, the Library Associates, and LC faculty are exempt from fees.

Magic Images: Film and Philosophy.  John Brough
Films pose a multitude of fascinating questions. Are they “merely” entertainment, or are they sometimes works of art? What is their relationship to reality? Are they simply the products of mechanical reproduction, or can they reveal things about life and experience in unique and valuable ways? Are films “total works of art” because they embrace not only the visual, but also sound, motion, narrative with characters and dialogue, and music? We will attempt to address some of these questions through the examination of a few films, including Woody Allen’s The Purple Rose of Cairo and Alfred Hitchcock’s Rear Window. Some suggested readings (purely optional): V. F. Perkins, Film as Film, J. Dudley Andrew, The Major Film Theories. Roland Barthes, What is Cinema? (Two volumes).

John B. Brough is Professor of Philosophy, Emeritus, at Georgetown University. He has written essays on images, film, and photography from a philosophical perspective. (He is by no means a film historian or film “expert,” but he does like movies.)

Is “Just War” ever possible? An intellectual and moral inquiry.  Claire Carey
Tuesdays: Oct. 11, Oct. 18, Oct. 25.  10:15-11:45 a.m.  Georgetown College Dean’s Conference Room
Limited to fifteen registrants. White-Gravenor, Lower Level, East Entrance  Claire Carey retired as Associate Dean of Georgetown College.

Two Contemporary German Authors: Rafik Schami and Herta Müller.  Barbara Harding
Thursdays: Oct. 27, Nov. 3, Nov. 10, Nov. 17.  10:15-11:30 a.m.  Registrar’s Conference Room, White-Gravenor, Lower Level, West Entrance (from Red Square)
Two books (available from Amazon) -- Nadirs by Herta Müller and A Handful of Stars by Rafik Schami -- should be read before we meet.
We will spend two meetings on each book. Barbara Harding is Assistant Professor, Emerita, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service.

Approaches to Shakespeare: Textual, Theatrical, and Thematic  Joan Holmer
Wednesdays: Nov. 2*, Nov. 9*, Nov. 16#.  1:15-2:45 p.m.  * Murray Room, Lauinger Library, Fifth Floor.  # Room, TBA
Emphasizing a historical perspective for the contexts that contributed to Shakespeare’s art, this course will use examples from Shakespeare’s best known plays to focus on vital approaches for an enhanced appreciation of his drama: textual (ways of imaginatively reading his texts); theatrical (influences shaping his world-stage metaphor and intellectual views on the nature of the universe and man); thematic (Shakespeare on the subject of love, a theme central to his plays and adapted for modern audiences in the 1999 award-winning film, “Shakespeare In Love”). Joan Holmer is Professor of English, Emerita, at Georgetown University.

The Sudan and the Southern Sudan: Out of What Past and Toward What Future?  Betty Andretta
Thursdays: Nov. 3, Nov. 17.  1:15-2:45 p.m.  Murray Room, Lauinger Library, Fifth Floor
An independent state since 1956, Sudan has spent the majority of its time until the present engaged in civil wars. Although the longest and deadliest conflicts have been between the North and the South, violent conflict between the government in Khartoum and the inhabitants of Darfur and the Nuba Mountains has also created humanitarian disasters. Starting with the legacies of the 1899 Anglo-Egyptian Condominium government, we’ll examine the ethnic, religious, geographic and economic challenges to Sudanese statehood and view their implications for the new state of the Southern Sudan. Betty Andretta retired as Associate Dean and Director of the Undergraduate Program in the School of Foreign Service of Georgetown University. A cultural anthropologist, she lived among the Murle people of the Southern Sudan while completing her dissertation research in the early 1980’s.

Interpreting Socio-Economic Statistical Data.  Othmar Winkler
Wednesdays: Oct. 19, and Oct. 26  1:15-2:45 p.m.  Murray Room, Lauinger Library, Fifth Floor
Othmar Winkler is Professor Emeritus, McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University.

Who might benefit from this course? Any person who wishes to get a more profound, fuller understanding of published data in the fields of economics, sociology, demography, criminology, subjects dealing with society. Though not a prerequisite, it would help if s/he has attended one or more semester courses that dealt with any kind of statistics. How will the course be conducted? The lectures and discussions will be based on my non-mathematical book titled Interpreting Economic and Social Data - A Foundation of Descriptive Statistics published in 2009 by Springer Verlag. (The book is available through the internet, and one copy is available in Lauinger Library.) Interested persons may also consult the web page of the Statistical Literacy Project (StatLit.Org/Authors/Winkler). I will supply students with short handouts along with the chapters we will cover. In the second part of the course students are encouraged to bring data that are of particular interest to them to be discussed as class projects. Besides the indicated web page of the Statistical Literacy Project, a paper Prof. Winkler delivered in Dublin this August on the topic of interpreting socio-economic data can be accessed under http://www.statlit.org/pdf/2011WinklerISI.pdf.

All over 55 are welcome to register.  Parking ($3/hr) is usually available in the South Garage (enter from Canal Road).
Refer questions to Kimberly Wolfe at lifelonglearning@georgetown.edu or to CCPE at 202-687-7000.