



Course Descriptions, Winter Term 2016

Monday: 10 AM – Noon: Camelot Without Julie Andrews or Richard Burton
A reading of the great medieval romance "Sir Gawain And The Green Knight"

Without a doubt, this poem is the very heart of the romance genre: a (tall) tale of green giants, headless knights, witchcraft, dark forests, King Arthur,, and a lonely, lying knight trying to reclaim his honor in, of all places, bed. We'll look at the poem from several angles—and as usual, have a lively discussion about what it all means (or even if it means anything at all).

Students should come the first day with \$15 to purchase the facing-page translation.

Mark Scarbrough: January 18th through February 8th. No class on Monday, January 25th. At Geer (3 sessions)

Monday: 2:00 – 4:00 PM: Genesis Continued: We will continue to explore the stories which have helped to shape our culture beginning with the story of "Rebekah at the well" and concluding with "Joseph and his many colored coat."

Don't forget to bring a Bible.

Dick Taber: January 18 – February 22 at Geer Conference Room (6 sessions)

Tuesday: 10:00 AM – Noon: The Nineteen Thirties- A Decade We Could Have Done Without (except that many of us were born then)

Session one-: The Stock Market Crash of 1929

The game, the field and some major players. Time line of the market collapse. Greed and foolishness. Results and consequences.

Sessions two, three and four: The Great Depression

Major theories of the causes, including: agricultural over production, weak independent banking, the Smoot Hawley Tariff, errors and inaction by the Federal Reserve, money supply mismanagement, etc

Some major events of the early Depression years: the Dust Bowl, The Bonus Army, threat of Communism in this country, etc.

Coolidge and Hoover's economic policies, Hoover's mitigating actions, the presidential election of 1932, the First One Hundred Days

Session five: A Look at the New Deal

Over view with emphasis on the NRA, TVA and CCC

Session six-: The Rise of Fascism and It's Evil Children

F. Franco, B. Mussolini, A. Hitler

Tom Key: January 19 – February 23 at Noble Horizons (6 sessions)

Tuesday: 2:00 PM – 4:00: The Bernstein Legacy. Leonard Bernstein is universally recognized as one of the leading figures in the history of music of the last century. As composer, conductor, performer and teacher, his wonderful combination of exceptional performances and clear, inspired lectures superbly conveyed his excitement about music. His "Young People's Concerts," televised on CBS in prime time, in 1962, which introduced an entire generation to classical music, will be at the core of this semester's program. Celebrated performances from "The Bernstein Omnibus" will also be presented. The finale: Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, performed Christmas Day, 1989 - to celebrate the fall of the Berlin Wall. For this occasion, Bernstein assembled an orchestra with musicians from the most important orchestras in the world. The "Ode to Joy," with which Beethoven concluded his symphony. became "The Ode to Freedom." (Note: For those who enjoyed "Keeping Score" by Michael Tillson Thomas – a student of Bernstein - this should be of interest).

Robert Julien: January 19 – March 8 at Noble Horizons: (8 sessions)

Wednesday: 10:00 AM – Noon: Playreading. We will continue our reading of contemporary works by American playwrights. This term we will read plays by a female Pulitzer Prize winner, Beth Henley. Please obtain *The Collected Plays of Beth Henley, Volume I, 1980-1989.*

Rosemary Farnsworth: January 20 - March 9 at Noble Horizons (8 sessions)

Thursday: 10:00 AM – Noon: “The Emperor of all Maladies” by Siddhartha Mukherjee, an oncologist. When I started reading this 571 page book published in 2010 I had no idea how it would capture me. It was almost impossible to put down. Consequently, I wish to share my enthusiasm for and the knowledge provided by this book with you, the participants, in this journey through “The Biology of Cancer”.

Each participant in the war on cancer stands on the shoulders of those who went before. The book describes four thousand years of mankind’s grappling with the mystery of cancer with each person relying on his/her predecessors. The ups and downs, the fears and joys, the cures and failures are all presented in the book and I only hope that I am able to present Dr. Mukherjee’s superb writing in an exciting and understandable fashion. Come along for the journey with me through these six sessions. The goal is to understand how we have arrived at the gate of a new way to approach cancer.

Lynn Welchel: January 21 – February 25 at Geer (6 sessions)

Thursday: 2:00 – 4:00 PM: Reading Shakespeare – Aloud

Reading Shakespeare’s plays can present special challenges. The unfamiliar words, peculiar spellings and opaque allusions often throw us a curve, but much of this confusion may be eliminated when Reading Shakespeare – Aloud! Often, the sound of the words being spoken carries the meaning along even when one might stumble over individual word meanings. In this course, we will read two plays: “Much Ado about Nothing” and “Romeo and Juliet.” There will be some discussion of interpretation, but mostly we will seek the pleasure of hearing these memorable characters through our own efforts to, as Hamlet would put it, 'speak the speech"! To warm up we will read a sonnet or two *each meeting*. *Finally, this course welcomes both the listener and the speaker; if you love to hear the language but would rather not read, by all means join us anyway, for you might just find the challenge irresistible!*

Mark Alan Liebergall and Sarah Tames: January 21 – March 10 at Geer (8 sessions)

Friday: 10:00 AM – Noon: Group Meditation. This meditation group grew out of the fall semester course, “Indian Philosophy and Meditation”. In it we will practice a variety of meditations in the Buddhist tradition with emphasis on the vipassana mindfulness meditation practice. No prior experience in meditation is necessary. Instruction is available and every one is welcome.

Richard Olsen: January 22 – March 25 at Geer (10 sessions)