



Northwestern University School of Continuing Studies

Summertime... and the Learning is Easy

OLLI's 2009

Summer Session

Classes begin Monday, July 6, 2009

Chicago and Evanston

Study Groups

For additional information contact

Chicago: 312-503-7881

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[www.scs.northwestern.edu/olli](http://www.scs.northwestern.edu/olli)



*Northwestern University School of Continuing Studies*

## **SUMMER SESSION**

**Begins Monday, July 6, 2009**

### **STUDY GROUP DESCRIPTIONS**

#### **Chicago Campus**

#### **MONDAY**

**[No Study Groups]**

#### **TUESDAY**

##### **#3134 Day of Empire**

**Tuesday and Thursday, beginning July 7 and 9, 10am-12noon (8 sessions)**

**339 E. Chicago Ave, Wieboldt Hall**

**Coordinators: Bernard Hoffman, Richard Krantz**

America today has been called a hyperpower, but how do hyperpowers rise and fall—and what lessons can we learn from their history? To explore these questions we will read *Day of Empire: How Hyperpowers Rise to Global Dominance--and Why They Fall* (Anchor paperback, 2009) by Amy Chua. With what has been described as “scintillating history, breathtaking in scope and chock-full of insight,” Chua argues that the real key to acquiring and maintaining great power lies in the ability to attract and assimilate rather than to coerce or intimidate. Tolerance is both a prerequisite for global dominance as well as cultural glue holding a great nation together. Guided by a survey of history’s hyperpowers, including Persia, Alexander, Rome, Tang China, the Mongols, the Dutch, the British, and those less successful—Medieval Spain, Ottoman, Ming, Moghul, Nazi Germany, Imperial Japan—we will discuss what lessons can be learned to guide America’s future.

##### **#3135 In Our Own Hands: The Hidden Story of the Jewish Brigade in WWII**

**Tuesday, July 7 and July 14, 10am-12noon (2 sessions)**

**339 E. Chicago, Wieboldt Hall**

**Coordinators: Chuck Cooper, Dea Brennan, Ira Weinberg**

In the final weeks of WWII, His Majesty’s Jewish Brigade – recruited in Palestine, and the only all-Jewish fighting unit in the war – goes into combat as part of the British 8<sup>th</sup>

Army against the Nazis, and comes away victorious. It is after the war, though, that the real story of the Brigade begins. Amid the chaos of post-war Europe, the young Jewish soldiers mastermind one clandestine operation after the next: forming secret vengeance squads to assassinate Nazi officers in hiding... engineering the rescue and illegal movement of Holocaust survivors to Palestine. Later, in 1948, Brigade veterans help organize and lead Israeli Defense Forces in their country's War of Independence. From the trenches of Northern Italy to the refugee camps of war-torn Europe, this documentary (co-produced by OLLI member, Chuck Cooper) reveals the remarkable tale of young soldiers who carried the weight of a people on their shoulders.

Members of this group will meet twice to see and discuss this award-winning film, hear about its production from two of the co-producers and the cinematographer, and review the history that led to its controversial formation.

This study group is a repeat of the class that was held during the 2009 winter semester.

### **#3136 *The New York Times*, Week in Review**

**Tuesday, beginning July 7, 1:30-3:30pm (4 sessions)**

**339 E. Chicago Ave, Wieboldt Hall**

**Coordinators: Katherine Nair, Ralph Block, Bud Traub**

Join us as we explore and share ideas drawn from articles in the current *Sunday New York Times*. Participants find that lively discussion of the articles and columns gives them a fuller comprehension of the topics than they might get from simply reading the newspaper in isolation. We emphasize the *Week in Review* section, but other parts of the paper are eligible for discussion topics: feature articles, summaries of the week's top news stories, editorials, and opinion columns, among others. Each Sunday the weekly discussion leader selects five to six articles to be discussed at the next study group meeting. Communication is key, since class members are informed by mid-day Sunday (via e-mail or telephone) which articles will form the basis for discussion two days later. This is a completely up-to-the-minute news discussion group. As a result of stimulating class session, participants are better informed about issues that are timely, important, and often controversial.

### **#3137 Nature and Travel Photography**

**Tuesday, July 14, 21, 28, 1:30-3:30pm (3 sessions)**

**339 E. Chicago Ave, Wieboldt Hall**

**Coordinator: Roy Slovenko**

This study group is for anyone who enjoys photography either as a pastime or serious creative pursuit, and aspires to a higher level of accomplishment. Our summer 2009 studies will center on popular photo opportunities occasioned in travel and nature, and working in the digital medium. We will learn by reviewing works and techniques of the renowned pro, Art Wolfe (on DVD), and by seeing and critiquing efforts of our own. Whatever level of photographic knowledge, skill or experience that individual members possess, we all can advance our knowledge, share enthusiasm with, and gain inspiration from our peers.

Participants should be familiar with their own cameras (digital or film), and have Internet access at home, an e-mail account, and basic computer skills.

### **#3138 Play Reading!**

**Tuesday, July 14, 21, 28, 1:30-3:30pm (3 sessions)**

**339 E. Chicago Ave, Wieboldt Hall**

**Coordinators: Rey Petravich, Barb Shaeffer**

Thespian alert! **Play Reading!** continues during the summer session!

We will read aloud and interpret an exciting new drama which debuted at Yale University School of Drama in 2008: *Boleros for the Disenchanted* by playwright Jose Rivera. After reading this play together, the group will attend a performance at The Goodman Theater in Chicago. The final week's meeting will be devoted to discussing the entire experience, the play itself and the performance that we will see together. (Any members who are not able to attend the performance with the group are invited to see the play on their own and join the group for the final discussion session.)

The director of *Boleros for the Disenchanted* is Henry Godinez, who is both Director of Goodman Theatre's Latino Drama Project and Artistic Director of the Northwestern University Theatre Department.

## **WEDNESDAY**

### **#3139 Art Goes to the Movies – It's Criminal**

**Wednesday, beginning July 8, 10am-12:30pm (4 sessions)**

**339 E. Chicago Ave, Wieboldt Hall**

**Coordinators: Ady Rosenberg, Susan Weber**

Art has been the target of criminals from ancient times to the present – from forgery to theft, looting, wanton destruction, illicit trade, and more. We, however, will take a more lighthearted approach to the subject of crime in the art world by viewing four movies this summer that center on art crimes that are purely fictional — *Topkapi*, *The Thomas Crowne Affair*, *To Catch a Thief*, and *The Horse's Mouth*. It's theft, forgery, action, suspense, romance, comedy and more, Hollywood style, when **Art Goes to the Movies** this summer at OLLI, and along the way we can think about what makes art such an enticing target for criminals, and what makes a great art crime movie. We invite you to steal away and join us for so much fun it's almost criminal.

### **#3140 *The New Yorker***

**Wednesday, beginning July 8, 10am-12noon (4 sessions)**

**339 E. Chicago Ave, Wieboldt Hall**

**Coordinators: Don Esken, Sandy Esken**

Inside its famous covers, *The New Yorker* magazine has been famous for its quality writing and idea-stimulating articles. Our peer-led group discussions will be as enjoyable as the sparkling contents of this distinguished magazine. Join your friends as we explore art, economics, personalities, history, medicine, movies, fiction, and current political commentary. There are few better ways to expand your view of our society. While it is

important to have a current subscription to *The New Yorker* (student rate available), the Schaffner Library (second floor of Wieboldt Hall) has copies available for review. Also, librarians will be pleased to show you how to access the magazine on the Internet. You will be expected to lead one, one-hour discussion during the summer semester. We look forward to seeing you!

### **#3141 After *Fantasia*: Animation of Opera**

**Wednesday, beginning July 8, 1:30-3:30pm (4 sessions)**

**339 E. Chicago Ave, Wieboldt Hall**

**Coordinator: Howard I. Aronson**

*Fantasia* was the first popular attempt to seriously animate classical music. In this study group, we'll take a look at four later animations of opera. *Opéra Imaginaire* is a series of great arias from classic operas beautifully and imaginatively animated. *Le Rossignol* is a spectacular computer-generated animation of Stravinsky's *The Emperor's Nightingale*; it is a masterpiece of surrealism starring Natalie Dessay. *The Soldier's Tale* is *The New Yorker* cartoonist R. Blechman's animation of Stravinsky's *L'histoire du Soldat*. *Opera Vox*, sung by the Welsh National Opera, is a set of abbreviated versions of six classic operas. The films viewed represent a wide variety of animation styles and animators.

### **#3142 Lore of the Lake**

**Wednesday, beginning July 8, 1:30-3:30pm (4 sessions)**

**339 E. Chicago Ave, Wieboldt Hall**

**Coordinator: Robert Good**

How lucky we are to live on the shore of one of the most beautiful lakes in the world. But how many of us know about its maritime history, its lost stories and myths? Come join us for a fascinating exploration of the early history of Lake Michigan navigation and its inland waterways, rivers and canals, with a tentative tour of the U.S. Coast Guard station near Navy Pier.

Our text will be *From Lumber Lookers to the Hooligan Fleet: A Treasury of Chicago Maritime History*, edited by the Chicago Maritime Society (\$15 from Amazon.com). Utilizing this book and handouts from the Northwestern University and U.S. National Archives, historic newspaper accounts, and maritime videos, we will learn about early Chicago area water history, shipwrecks and rescues, and explore current and future uses of the wealth of water resources in the Chicago region. A fascinating tour of the U.S. Coast Guard station near Navy Pier is planned for the third or fourth session.

Come aboard!! Our ship is ready to sail.

## **THURSDAY**

### **#3134 Day of Empire**

**Tuesday and Thursday, beginning July 7 and 9, 10am-12noon (8 sessions)**

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**Coordinators: Bernard Hoffman, Richard Krantz**

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### **#3143 Lincoln and Darwin – 1809 Birthdays**

**Thursdays, July 9 and July 23, 10am-12noon (2 sessions)**

**339 E. Chicago Ave, Wieboldt Hall**

**Coordinator: Don Gralen**

Two great men...two birthdays. Help celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations of two of the 19<sup>th</sup> century's giant figures, Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin, with an examination of a Darwin biography and an analysis of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Unbelievably, Lincoln and Darwin were born on the same day, February 12, 1809, but they took far different paths to greatness. Join us as we learn more about these two monumental figures. Our texts will be *The Reluctant Mr. Darwin: An Intimate Portrait of Charles Darwin and the Making of His Theory of Evolution* by David Quammen (Atlas paperback, 2007, 300 pp.) and *Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words that Remade America* by Gary Wills (Simon & Schuster paperback, 2006, 320 pp), each of which focuses on a particular period or event in the life of its subject. Study group members will be expected to have read both books before our first session. We will concentrate in class on Darwin and evolution in general, and on Lincoln's literary skills.

Happy Birthday, Charles and Abe!

### **#3144 A Plague Among Us**

**Thursday, beginning July 9, 1:30-3:30pm (4 sessions)**

**339 E. Chicago Ave, Wieboldt Hall**

**Coordinators: Judith Handschuh, Marilyn Marks**

A plague is defined as “a pestilence, affliction or calamity.” Authors, however, have often used plagues in their works as allegories to portray a larger human condition and the ability of the human spirit to survive the most unjust of conditions. Albert Camus’ *The Plague* (Vintage paperback, 1991) and Jose Saramago’s *Blindness* (Harvest paperback, 1999) are two outstanding examples of this concept. As we read these novels we will discuss both the particulars of each plague and the larger meaning of each work. Albert Camus and Jose Saramago were both awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, and these books are brilliant examples of each author’s work.

### **#3145 Another 100 Days**

**Thursday, beginning July 9, 1:30-3:30pm (4 sessions)**

**339 E. Chicago Ave, Wieboldt Hall**

**Coordinators: Judy Widen, Rob Carr, Chuck Cooper, Laura Arterburn**

During the Obama Administration's first 100 days, a dramatic series of executive orders and proposed legislation came from the White House and the Congress. In **The First 100 Days** study group, we followed the action closely. Members of the group focused on specific areas to be monitored, such as health, energy, education, infrastructure, housing, foreign relations. They brought back to the group both information and provocative discussion questions.

The second 100 days are equally compelling. We will continue our Obama Watch during the summer session, and we invite new members to join us. There is no text for this course. Members follow newspapers, weekly magazines, blogs, cable talk shows. They capture the news as it happens, and bring it back to the study group on Thursday afternoons to discuss and analyze. Join us for an exciting July as we participate in history as it is happening.

### **FRIDAY**

### **#3146 Studying and Playing String Quartets**

**Friday, beginning July 10, 10am-12noon (4 sessions)**

**339 E. Chicago Ave, Wieboldt Hall**

**Coordinator: Ralph Block**

It's time to shake hands with Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and the rest of the gang in this study group, continuing in the spring – where amateur string players will gain greater insights into playing string quartets through analysis and history. You'll improve your performance and interpretation skills through readings, discussions, and especially joining together to play selections from the chamber music repertoire. Participants should have some experience playing chamber music.

Class members will take turns leading the weekly sessions, discussing supplementary materials, and preparing and playing selected quartets. Scores, parts, and study materials will be distributed in advance. The coordinator has access to a large library of scores, parts, and supplemental texts. Members will provide their own instruments and music stands.

So dig out that violin, viola, or cello and join us for some joyous music making!

### **#3147 Explore Chicago: No Passport Required**

**Friday, July 17, 24, 31, 10am-3:30pm (approximate) (3 sessions)**

**Meets off-site as described below**

**Coordinators: Marilyn Marks, Judith Handschuh, Linda Klutznick**

Experience Chicago's diversity — No passport or visa required! No text, no research necessary. All you need is an adventurous, adaptive spirit, and comfy walking shoes.

**Olé Olé (Friday, July 17)**

We will visit the National Museum of Mexican Art to view its permanent collection and an exhibition of Mexican art from the Bank of America's outstanding collection. An authentic Mexican lunch follows at Nuevo Leon Restaurant, and you can stop to buy freshly made tortillas at the factory next door. (Car-pooling arranged after registration.)

**All Aboard! (Friday, July 24)**

Plan to meet in the newly remodeled underground Amtrak Station at the corner of Randolph and Michigan for the commuter train ride to the historic Pullman district. Yes, the Pullman Sleeping Car was manufactured here and a company town was created for its workers. After a walking tour of the neighborhood we will lunch nearby at the Cal Harbor Café where you can enjoy one of their famous skillet lunches or anything on the menu. (Train schedule provided at time of registration.)

**FORE! and Fortissimo: "Friday in the Park" with OLLI (Friday, July 31)**

Meet at the Pritzker Pavilion by 10:30 in time to settle into our reserved section before the music begins. The Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus will be rehearsing Edward Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*, and Elaine Prag, OLLI member and Grant Park Orchestra docent, will be our guide through the music and libretto. After the rehearsal we will walk to The Green at Grant Park for lunch. You might like to play a round of golf on its miniature course.

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## **SUMMER SESSION**

**Begins Monday, July 6, 2009**

### **STUDY GROUP DESCRIPTIONS**

#### **Evanston Campus**

#### **MONDAY**

##### **#3125 The Summer *New Yorker***

**Monday, 9-11am (4 weeks)**

**1840 Oak Ave, Evanston**

**Coordinators: Dick Whitaker, Herb Lesser, Nancy Anderson**

*The New Yorker* magazine is renowned for its writers, breadth of coverage, cartoons, covers, poetry and many other features. And OLLI has *New Yorker* groups on both campuses during its regular semesters. This summer study group will be in a similar format and will meet for four weeks. It will provide a bridge between the regular semesters and discuss many summer issues that we would otherwise miss. Come join us.

##### **#3126 Short Stories in the Outdoors**

**Monday, 10-11:30am (4 weeks)**

**Meets off-site**

**Coordinator: Charlotte Projansky**

We will be reading short stories from *Unaccustomed Earth* (Vintage paperback, 2009) by Jhumpa Lahiri, the Pulitzer Prize winning author of *The Namesake*. We will meet outdoors near Northwestern's Norris University Center cafeteria on benches, with a canopy over our heads for shade. If the weather isn't pristine, we will meet indoors in Norris' cafeteria. Around 11:30am, class members will be invited to eat lunch together, again in the cafeteria. It worked last summer so I know it will work again this summer!

## TUESDAY

### **#3127 Team of Rivals – Part I**

**Tuesday, 9-11am (6 weeks)**

**1840 Oak Ave, Evanston**

**Coordinator: Bill Bridgman**

Between Lincoln the man and Lincoln the myth lies Lincoln the political genius. At no time in the past century has interest in Abraham Lincoln been higher than now, largely because our current president has based his team building strategies on those of Lincoln. In this study group, we go to the same source that Mr. Obama read during his presidential campaign, *Team of Rivals: the Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by Pulitzer Prize winner Doris Kearns Goodwin. We will read Part I only, about 325 pages. This provides extensive material on Lincoln and his Republican rivals, through the campaign of 1860, the formation of the cabinet, and the inauguration of March, 1861. We will get an intimate look at the development of the qualities which lead historians to consistently rank Lincoln as our best president.

To complete Part I in six weeks, we read 50-60 pages each week. The book is a pleasure to read, and you will probably want to finish the book on your own. *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* (Simon & Schuster paperback, 2005) is available in bookstores and Amazon.com for around \$13.

### **#3128 Lessons in Disaster: Vietnam**

**Tuesday, 1-3pm (6 weeks)**

**1840 Oak Ave, Evanston**

**Coordinators: Edwin April, Sal M. Bianchi**

Through readings and discussion, this study group will analyze the five or six crucial inflection points on the path of war that are posed by the author. We will revisit the enduring historical debate over whether America could have realized a different outcome in Vietnam. The central player in this tragic drama is McGeorge Bundy, National Security Advisor to both Kennedy and Johnson, and responsible for coordinating the vast National Security Agency and providing the Commander in Chief with definitive options to be relied upon to navigate a treacherous and complex international crisis. In the last years of his life (1994) McGeorge Bundy, who maintained his public silence on the war, decided to revisit the decisions that Americanized the Vietnam War and the role he played.

The book, *Lessons in Disaster, McGeorge Bundy and the Path to War in Vietnam* by Gordon M. Goldstein (Times Books, 2008), sets out six lessons to be learned.

### **#3129 Old Friends Revisited**

**Tuesday, 1-3pm (4 weeks)**

**1840 Oak Ave, Evanston**

**Coordinator: Art Altman**

We will discuss and compare four classic short stories by popular 20<sup>th</sup> century author

W. Somerset Maugham (*Mackintosh* and *The Letter*) and the 19<sup>th</sup> century French writer, Guy de Maupassant (*Boule de Suif* (“Ball of Fat”) and *The Englishman of Etretat*). These wonderful old stories are still relevant today and their endings provide delightful surprises. The stories are available in anthologies in our North Shore libraries and bookstores. We won't be concerned with specific translations. The amount of reading will be approximately twenty to thirty pages per week. We hope to provide four weeks of old fashioned enjoyment and lively discussion. Please join us to study and enjoy these lovely, classic short stories.

## **WEDNESDAY**

### **#3130 Poetry**

**Wednesday, 9-11am (4 weeks)**

**1840 Oak Ave, Evanston**

**Coordinator: Judy Gearon**

Dip your toe into Poetry this summer by exploring the works of four poets. We will focus on one poet at each session. The poet is chosen by the discussion leader who will distribute copies of the selected poems one week in advance of the group meeting. The discussion leader will offer a brief biographical sketch of the poet. The poem(s) will be read aloud and discussed. We will pose questions, search for meaning and discover the particular elements which draw us to the poems. Both the novice and the long-term poetry lover will enhance their appreciation of poetry.

### **#3131 Famous One Act Plays**

**Wednesday, 1-3pm (4 weeks)**

**1840 Oak Ave, Evanston**

**Coordinator: Sue Altman**

They say that even shy and introverted people make good actors. We in OLLI aren't necessarily "shy," but shy or not, it would be fun and interesting to enact short one act plays and discuss them. Great playwrights like Chekhov and Wilder wrote such playlets to lure audiences into the theaters, like appetizers on a menu. The plays will already be copied and ready for us to read each time we meet. No director will badger or judge us, but we just might find the "actor within" and have a wonderful experience this summer.

## **THURSDAY**

### **#3132 The Hedgehog and the Fox**

**Thursday, 9-11am, July 9 and 16 (2 weeks)**

**1840 Oak Ave, Evanston**

**Coordinators: Dennis Beard, Gil Klapper**

We will take two weeks to read and discuss Isaiah Berlin's famous essay *The Hedgehog and the Fox*. This essay is Berlin's analysis of Tolstoy's novel, *War and Peace*, and of the philosophy of history elucidated in its pages. The study group will be of special interest to readers of *War and Peace*. At the first meeting, we will cover pages 24-58 of

the essay; at the second meeting, pages 59-92. *War and Peace* has been the subject of criticism from the time of its publication until the present moment. Critics always bring their own perspective to the task. Berlin, who has written several books on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century intellectual life, looks at Tolstoy from the perspective of a philosopher of history hoping to cast light on a man of singular genius.

Our text will be *Russian Thinkers*, a collection of seven essays by Isaiah Berlin (Penguin Classics, 2008; ISBN #978-0-141-44220-4). The book is readily available; and used, at [www.Alibris.com](http://www.Alibris.com).

### **#3133 Three Cups of Tea**

**Thursday, 1-3pm (6 weeks)**

**1840 Oak Ave, Evanston**

**Coordinators: Dick Whitaker, Ann Campbell-Vikner**

*Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time* (Penguin paperback, 2007), chronicles Greg Mortenson's attempt to reward a remote town in Pakistan for sheltering him after a mountain climbing incident. His altruistic efforts have expanded into the Central Asia Institute, which has started or supported 78 schools in remote regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan. This is a template for countering terrorism and is one of the most uplifting stories about humanitarian endeavors in recent memory. *Three Cups of Tea* is currently ranked #1 on the *New York Times* paperback list and has 1,449 five-star Amazon.com reviews. We'll need six classes to do this book justice and will read about 55 pages for each class.

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