



THE INSTITUTE FOR LEARNING IN RETIREMENT, INC.

at Albertus Magnus College

Fall 2020

*"Ancora Imparo—I'm still learning."
Michaelangelo, Age 87*

Inside

- ◆ See a line-up of the Fall 2020 classes, all of which will be presented on Zoom. Index on Page 2, listings start on Page 3.
- ◆ ILR is an all-volunteer organization. See a list of volunteer leaders on Page 4.
- ◆ See other learning opportunities on your computer on Page 6
- ◆ **Don't forget to sign up for classes. Online registration opens on Sept. 4**

Contact ILR:

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From the President

Semester brings new board, new ideas

Dear Fellow ILR Members,

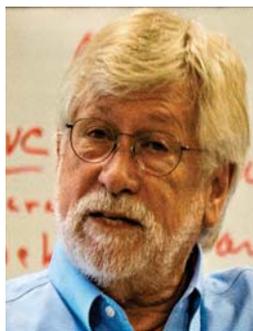
I hope you are weathering the coronavirus tempest and successfully sheltering in place.

As you know, ILR has taken steps to ensure the safety of its members as we await more settled times. For example, we have adopted Zoom as our new venue of choice for the duration of the crisis. You may have had the opportunity to

experience the courses we ran in May and June on the Zoom platform. We hope you found that those classes met your expectations.

The Curriculum Committee is working on a program for Fall 2020 that will also be offered on Zoom. The CC is also considering options for expanding the scope of offerings to include such things as reading groups and Round Tables. In addition, ILR is gathering information about opportunities for learning and cultural experiences at various online venues. ILR will make updated lists of these learning experiences available to you. Beyond offering classes and creating lists of online learning resources, ILR was able to carry out the business of elections for its current Board of Governors, of which I am the President.

Let me tell you briefly about myself. After teaching undergraduate and graduate English at Mercy College for 43 years, I began my career as a study group leader



Joel Feimer

for ILR in 2015. I have had the pleasure of getting to know many of you through our explorations of topics from Fairy Tales to books of the Bible to Feminist Utopias. I joined the Board of Governors in 2016 and have served as its vice president since 2019. I look forward to offering more courses on various topics and to serving you as president of our board.

We hope to resume our usual practice of offering classes and conducting business as soon as it becomes safe to do so. For now, of course, we will follow current and future CDC guidelines for the responsible conduct of meetings. We will continue to offer learning experiences via Zoom and explore new options for serving our community remotely. So, until we can safely congregate once again, stay safe and keep learning.

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation to Susan Vallillo and the outgoing board members, Steve Brieger, Susan Fitzgerald, Rita Landino and Joan Murphy for their careful, diligent, and creative leadership. Your new board is dedicated to continuing their level of service to our ILR family.

Warmest regards to all,

*Joel N. Feimer
President*

Here's your 2020 ILR Course Catalog

From sex to safaris, from the pandemic to Plymouth, this fall's ILR classes cover a lot of ground. With more than 25 classes covering literature, politics, the arts, science and other topics, there's something for everyone.

With everyone's safety in mind, classes this fall will be on Zoom. Instructions on using Zoom are on Page 15.

Take a look at what's here and choose your classes, because they're going to fill up quickly! And don't forget to see how you can help keep ILR running.

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Officers and Board

Leadership in ILR is by a volunteer Board of Governors and officers who meet several times a year to develop our programs, set policy and oversee all operations of the organization. Officers are elected to one-year terms and the Board of Governors are elected to two-year terms.

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- Doug Fenichel
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- Susan Vallillo

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Fall 2020 Courses, all online, listed

F20-01 An Education Through the Grotesque: The Gargoyles of Yale

Study Group Leader: Mathew Duman

Dates: Wednesday, Nov. 18

Time: 2:00 – 3:00 PM

Sessions: 1 • Maximum: 100

Course fee: \$5.00

Author and photographer Mathew Duman leads an online "A Safari through Yale University!" Yale is a great place to spy a wide variety of grotesques and gargoyles in their natural habitat as well as an in-



triguing case study in Collegiate Gothic architecture. On this trek, Mathew points out many of the grotesques and gargoyles that originally inspired him to explore this and other college campuses. First-time visitors will find Yale's campus to be a fascinating combination of architecture, history, academics, art, and culture. Even those who are familiar with the campus will see that there are still many discoveries yet to be made as many of these

sculptures still go unnoticed by campus visitors and locals alike.

Mathew Duman is a photographer, author and graphic designer who grew up in Bethany, Connecticut. He attended the gargoyle-free campus of Central Connecticut State University, but while studying abroad, he developed a fascination with the grotesque sculptures of the cathedrals of Britain. In addition to England, Matt has made photographic trips to Italy, Africa, Australia & New Zealand. As a personal project, he began exploring the variety of sculpture found on the buildings of Yale University. Since there was very little written about them, he published the book An Education in the Grotesque. Matt has since traveled to 9 other college campuses &, together with new sculpture at Yale, has published The Grotesque 10.

F20-02 The Artist Creative Process in Visual Arts

Study Group Leader: Zvi Goldman

Date: Wednesday, Dec. 2

Time: 10:30 – noon

Sessions: 1 • Max.: 25

Course fee: \$5.00

I am a scientist/engineer by training and a self-taught sculptor. In my last University role, I assessed student learning outcomes, of which creativity was one. I struggled with the concept of assessing creativity and decided to explore the subject as it applies to the visual artists. This



presentation is the outcome of that exploration. The following topics will be covered: The nature of creativity in humans and art (yes, we are all creative), the process of coming up with ideas (ideation) and what can we do to enhance this process, teaching creativity (can we?), and examples of the ideation process. Reference will be provided for further reading.

Zvi Goldman is a self-taught sculptor specializing in abstract figurative forms created with wood, clay, metal, and other materials. He is a board member of the New England Sculptors Association, a member of the Artists Collective of Westport, and is an art therapy volunteer with

Jewish Senior Services in Bridgeport.

F20-03 Pathogens, Immunity and COVID: Oh My!

Study Group Leader: Nick Maiorino, BS MS

Dates: Mondays, Sept. 14, 21

Time: 10:30 – noon

Sessions: 2 • Max: 30

Course Fee: \$10.00

This two-part session is designed to present a basic understanding of the various pathogens affecting the human body.

Topics will include their identification, transmission, and effects on the body. Then to better understand how these diseases are combated, an overview of immunity will be described including both the body's natural defense system and the use of vaccines as developed through clinical trials to elicit immunity. Finally, the latest research information on the COVID virus including current treatment options, and the status of vaccines will be discussed.



Nick Maiorino BS, MS



has been presenting ILR courses for the last five years. He is a former high school and university instructor whose teaching experience spans more than 50 years. His main area of expertise is science and he has presented courses on several aspects of weather, the human brain, and the aging brain. He is currently serving on the Board of

Directors of ILR and is a member of the Curriculum Committee. For the past three years he has been a volunteer with the Connecticut Audubon Society as an osprey nest monitor.

**F20-04
Marco Polo: The Silk Road & China; The UN in Action**

Study Group Leader: Dr. Joseph Baxer

Dates: Wednesdays, Sept. 16, 23, 30
Time: 1:30 – 3:00 PM
Sessions: 3 • Maximum: 20
Course Fee: \$10.00



Images of the ancient Silk Road and the medieval journey of Marco Polo invite fascinating images of caravans of cam-

els navigating long stretches of desert, caravanserais hosting a veritable

Babel of tongues and cooperation amidst diversity as traders, diplomats and adventurers came in contact. The UN is far from just an office building in Manhattan, but

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alive, in action, rooted across a continent in which China reimagines the ancient routes at sea, on ice and through cyberspace. Is it true that no longer do all roads lead to Rome, but now to Beijing? Following an immersion in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, Bangkok and Istanbul, Dr. Baxer will explore the vitality and promise of the UN in action within the context of Marco Polo's world as it takes shape in Asia, centered in China.

Dr. Joseph J. Baxer is President of the United Nations Association of Connecticut and has been the US representative to the UN for the London-based NGO, *Strategies for Peace*. He is engaged in sustaining cultural diversity and mediating cross-cultural conflicts. He focuses on creating an atmosphere in which reconciliation can occur. He has lectured on such topics locally and internationally and participated in international peace missions. He has masters' degrees in Philosophy and Sociology, and doctorates in

Theology and Psychology. His most recent book *An Intercultural Life explores the crossroads of religion and culture*. He and his wife live in Kent, CT.

**F20-05
Communication and its Discontents**

Study Group Leader: Richard Yanowitz PhD
Dates: Fridays, Oct. 2, 9, 16
Time: 1:30 – 3:30 PM
Sessions: 3 • Maximum: 18
Course Fee: \$10.00

"All criticism is autobiography" – Paul Alpers (1932-2013)]

"Fake news" is a new-fangled term for an age-old dilemma: how to tell when to trust communication in writing, speech, or visual art. The class goal is to bolster skills in making such judgments. From the time we are taught to talk and think, all communication—like this blurb—seeks to manipulate the thought of its audience. This includes (but is not limited to) political speeches, sermons, ad-



vertising, paintings, news, romantic wooing, social media posts, and outright lies. Assessing language is both a moral and practical concern. How can we maximize our own honesty when communicating, and how does others' language affect our own well-being? These questions are embedded even in what we normally consider "objective" disciplines: consider, for example, how the history of science is riddled with corrections of interpretations once taken as gospel. I invite you to think about why I headed this blurb with the Alpers' quote.

TRUTH IN ADVERTISING: Since loads of sources daily scrutinize communication by Trump and his allies, I do not plan to do so in this class—though since we will be meeting in election season, we will likely look at some campaign communication.

Richard Yanowitz PhD (*English literature/history of ideas, University of California, Berkeley*) focused on history in the West of attitudes towards the power of language at all social levels, especially ancient times

through Renaissance. His BA was in philosophy, and his teaching has stressed critical thinking and close reading. Sometimes he gets fooled by misleading information.

**F20-06
The World after the Pandemic and Geopolitical Implications for International Relations**

Study Group Leader: Mito Mardin PhD
Dates: Mondays, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9
Time: 10:30 – noon
Sessions: 3 • Max. : 100
Course fee: \$10.00

Geopolitical changes in international relations in the aftermath of the pandemic will be reviewed. What are the immediate and long term consequences of the changing power structures in international governing institutions?

Mithat "Mito" Mardin PhD was born in Istanbul, Turkey and is a graduate of the German High School there. He received a PhD in Organic Chemistry, Physics and Microbiology from the University of Göttingen. He worked at Bayer Pharmaceuticals for 33 years in various positions starting as laboratory head and retir-



ing as VP. He has worked on three continents: Europe, Japan/ Asia Pacific and the US. Since 2012, he has been President of the Japan Society of Fairfield County, served as ILR president for three terms and followed his passion for political sciences. He enjoys being a study group leader and sharing his knowledge of the European Union, US economy, Islam and current world affairs in general.

F20-07

The U.S. and World Economy After (During) the Pandemic – A Second Depression?

Study Group Leader: Mito Mardin PhD
Dates: Fridays, Nov. 13, 20; Dec. 4, 11
Time: 10:30 – noon
Sessions: 4 • *Maximum:* 100
Course fee: \$10.00

We will review the status of the U.S. economy and how it performed during the different stages of the reopening.



We'll revisit some of the scenarios discussed during the spring semester and compare to the current situation and vis-à-vis the other major world economies and their performance so far during the pandemic. A second Great Depression averted?

Mithat “Mito” Mardin PhD was born in Istanbul, Turkey and is a graduate of the German High School there. He received a PhD in Organic Chemistry, Physics and Microbiology from the University of Göttingen. He worked at Bayer

Travel by computer to learning opportunities

To entertain yourself, to teach yourself, and to engage yourself during this pandemic time, we suggest that you get out your computer, tablet or smart phone and start exploring. Many sites are available, some at a specific date and time, and many more at any time. This Fall, we plan on making monthly recommendations on the arts, language, general and social sciences, as well as current events. Look for them in your ILR emails and on the ILR website!

September recommendations.

Type into your browser: *Yale British Art-You Tube*

Among the offerings you will find Victorian Radicals: From the Pre-Raphaelites to the Arts and Crafts Movement. You can view not only some of the pictures and decorative arts but also, a lecture by Tim Barringer, member of the Art Department at Yale. Click on the site and scroll down to Victorian Radicals.

Type into your browser: *poetryfoundation.org*

On this site you will find a Poem and Essay of the Day, Collections, and Poetry on the Shelf. Check out the podcast: Poetry's History, Episode 1: *In the Beginning was the Word*. To find it, scroll down to Poetry on the Shelf, click on view more and scroll down further to Poetry's History. Here you can listen to the podcast and also view the audio transcript.



Type into your browser: *You Tube Yale art gallery*

Here you can view many of the gallery's former exhibits and lectures. One that is both educational and current is the panel discussion on *The Legacy of Lynching: Artistic Confrontation of Racial Terror*. This ties in with the current exhibition: "The Incident," John Wilson's Studies for a Lynching Mural. Click on the site and scroll down to the Legacy of Lynching.

Type into your browser: *all about birds*.

Here you will be able to search *All About Birds*, courtesy of Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Use the guides to identify birds, learn about their life history, listen to sounds and bird songs, observe live cams and much more.

Lastly, a bonus for September.

Type into your browser: *You Tube cocktails with a curator.frick*

Find some delightful videos based on specific items from the Frick Collection. Included in the curator's commentary is a recipe for a classic cocktail. You can also join the curator for Happy Hour (remotely) every Friday night at 5 p.m.

Note: As the country opens up, some sites may become unavailable.

— Curated for you by Marcia Jamron and Annis Fusaris

Pharmaceuticals for 33 years in various positions starting as laboratory head and retiring as VP. He has worked on three continents: Europe, Japan/ Asia Pacific and the US. Since 2012, he has been President of the Japan Society of Fairfield County, served as ILR president for three terms and followed his passion for political sciences. He enjoys being a study group leader and sharing his knowledge of the European Union, US economy, Islam and current world affairs in general.



Time: 11:00 – 12:30 PM
Sessions: 1 • Maximum: 35
Course Fee: \$5.00
 This introductory workshop will help solve the mystery of chronic musculoskeletal pain, balance, and movement challenges, remove undue limitations, and help get back to the activities you love. Enjoy an informational talk and gentle movement



experience to explore how chronic pain, physical stress, balance challenges or movement limitation may all indicate a lost connection with the most optimal posture alignment and ways to move in our bodies. Wear loose comfortable clothing to participate in optional simple movement demonstrations that will shed light on your posture and how to begin the process of healthful change.

- 9/30 – *Mudbound* (Netflix)
- 10/7 – *Did You Wonder Who Fired the Gun* (Kanopy*)
- 10/14 – *Roma* (Netflix)
- 10/21 – *My Happy Family* (Netflix)
- 10/28 – *A Serious Man* (Netflix)
- 11/18 – *20th Century Women* (Netflix)

JD degree in law. She has a wide variety of experiences ranging from President of the Board of Police Commissioners in Bridgeport in the 80's to Director of the nonpartisan bill-drafting office of the Connecticut Legislature until retiring in 2006. She has always had a great interest in film, typically researching good movies, including scholarly analyses and interviews with filmmakers. She created a film discussion group in Norwalk in the 80s that still meets monthly and loves hearing the viewpoints of others during discussions following each film.

Send an email to marcia.goodman@comcast.net for a brief summary of the movies. Films might change depending on streaming availability. Discussion materials will be emailed to you before each class. (* Note – Kanopy is available online free from your local library using your library card - see <https://www.kanopy.com/signup>)

Marcia Goodman LLB has a master's degree in Library Sciences and a

F20-09
Align your Posture-Ease your Pain: Yoga and Functional Movement for Posture Alignment, Pain Relief & Healthy Aging

Study Group Leader: Alan Franzi MS, C-IAYT, PAS
Dates: Friday, Sept. 25

Alan Franzi MS, C-IAYT, PAS has over 25 years' experience as a Yoga and Movement Therapy practitioner. His specialized individual therapeutic work centers on Posture Alignment Therapy and Movement Re-patterning to address the causes of musculoskeletal pain,

F20-08
Film Series

Study Group Leader: Marcia Goodman LLB
Dates: Wednesdays, Sept. 16, 23, 30; Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28; Nov. 18
Time: 11:00 – Noon
Sessions: 8 • Maximum: 40
Course Fee: \$10.00

Watch the film on your own (all are on Netflix, Prime, or Kanopy*), and then let us meet on ZOOM for an hour to discuss it.

- 9/16 – *Sliding Doors* (Prime)
- 9/23 – *Babel* (Netflix)



imbalances, and other movement challenges.

F20-10 Introduction to Mindfulness

Study Group Leader: Ken Steller MS MA
Date: Friday, Oct. 2
Time: 10:00 – Noon
Sessions: 1 • *Max.:* 30
Course Fee: \$5.00

Mindfulness is a form of meditation that over the past 40 years has been increasingly used as a secular approach to manage stress and to enhance health and well-being. Individuals, as well as numerous business, government, academic and non-profit organizations, have been including mindfulness practices as a key component of their stress management programs, as a way to promote mental and emotional well-being. There is scientific evidence to support the benefits of practicing mindfulness. Research conducted by the National Institutes of Health, the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Harvard University and others indicates that the practice of mindfulness provides numerous benefits, including reduced stress, increased cognitive function (focus, concentration, memory, learning abil-

ity), and improved mental and emotional well-being. The Introduction to Mindfulness seminar will enable you to 1) understand mindfulness concepts and techniques; 2) practice mindfulness; and 3) incorporate mindfulness practices into your daily life.

Ken Steller MS, MA has 30-plus years of experience as counselor, trainer, facilitator, and mediator. He has designed and delivered training programs for individual and organizational development for a wide variety of organizations. He has worked with highly diverse audiences at all levels in the US and internationally on programs that cover stress management, team building, project management, conflict resolution, supervisor development, diversity, process improvement, performance management, mental fitness, resilience and mindfulness.

F20-11 A Humorous Look at Sex and Aging

Study Group Leader: Joyce Saltman
Date: Wednesday, Oct. 21
Time: 10:30 – 11:30 AM
Sessions: 1 • *Maximum:* 50
Course Fee: \$5.00

Through a minimum of scientific data and a maximum of humor, this session will deal with the trials and tribulations of being a senior. Combining research about this important topic for the "senior citizen"



set (those of us who are old but not dead!), Joyce will show the beauty of having loving relationships rather than Olympic sex, how insignificant perfect bodies are (when our vision is not that good anyway), and how to see all of our aging issues in a humorous light.

Joyce Saltman is Professor Emeritus of Special Education at Southern Connecticut State University. Her experience in the areas of education, therapy, and comedy has provided an outstanding background for her research on the "Therapeutic Value of Laughter." Since 1983, when she began lecturing on "Laughter," she has been interviewed on national radio and TV programs, including the Regis Philbin Morning Show. She has also co-authored two books, several chapters in popular anthologies on humorous topics, and dozens of articles.

F20-12 Retire Fire

Study Group Leader: Doug Fenichel, APR, EMT-P
Date: Monday, Dec. 7
Time: 10:00 – 11:30 AM
Sessions: 1 • *Maximum:* 40
Course Fee: \$5.00

As a person of retirement age, you are in greater danger of death or injury from fire than any other population, including kids.

Learn from a firefighter how you can make your home, especially your kitchen, a safer place. Learn more about smoke and CO detectors. Find out how to keep pots and pans from becoming dangerous. Understand how our age creates special hazards and how we can mitigate them. And get the answers to whatever questions you may have.



Doug Fenichel has been a firefighter since high school and a paramedic for 30 years. He is currently the public information officer for the Orange Volunteer Fire Department. He has worked in journalism and corporate communications and was an adjunct professor of communications at Fairleigh

Dickenson and Montclair State universities in New Jersey. In addition to holding a bachelor's degree, he is an accredited public relations practitioner.

F20-13 Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Right to Vote

Study Group Leader: Wendy Swain MA

Date: Monday, Oct. 5

Time: 11:00 – 12:30 PM

Sessions: 1 • Maximum: 25

Course Fee: \$5.00

In August of 2020, we celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. Wendy Swain will present a Power-Point show with slides of photos, newspaper clippings, and cartoons in an exploration of who and what led to this historic change.

Wendy Swain MA has been a sculptor and sculpture teacher in various mediums after retiring from a teaching career in languages. She is presently a studio member of the New Canaan Sculpture Group and has participated in many juried shows-- Carriage Barn Gallery,

Case Memorial Library, Pequot Library, Acton Library, and Lyme Art Association. Wendy was the President of the Society of Connecticut Sculptors for 7 years. (Her work is on the website ctsculptors.org.) Wendy had a 23-year career as a teacher of French and Spanish in Fairfield and Stratford as well as in Tennessee and Bogotá, Colombia. Her interest in the suffragette movement stems from the new sculpture honoring 3 important women that now has a special place in Central Park.

F20-14 History of Global Pandemics

Study Group Leader: Sten H. Vermund MD PhD

Date: Tuesday, Oct. 6

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 P.M.

Sessions: 1 • Maximum: 100

Course Fee: \$5.00

Pandemics are epidemics that extend across nations and continents, i.e., have worldwide reach. History has been changed by such diseases as smallpox, plague, typhus, measles, influenza, coronaviruses, typhoid, yellow fever, polio virus, HIV/AIDS, Ebola virus, and Zika virus, to name a

few. The course will illustrate differences and similarities in public policy and political responses for different diseases and governments, highlighting what strategies should be considered in prevention and control of pandemic disease. A special comment will be provided to address anti-science and anti-vaccine sentiments that are prevalent in the U.S. at present.

Sten H. Vermund MD PhD is Dean, Yale School of Public Health, and holds the Anna M.R. Lauder Chair in Public Health. A pediatrician and infectious disease epidemiologist, Sten's research focuses on diseases of low- and middle-income countries and on U.S. health disparities. Recent work has focused on the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2000 and 2006, he founded two non-governmental organizations in three nations: Zambia, Mozambique, and Nigeria. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

F20-15 Vienna 1900

Study Group Leader: Elaine Lawson

Date: Thursday Nov. 5

*Time: 10:30 – Noon
Sessions: 1 • Max.: 40
Course fee: \$5.00*

We will look at the artistic, intellectual and creative ideas that made Vienna the cultural center of Europe at the end of the 19th century. We will also look at the developing crisis within that society which was reflected in the intellectual, social and political spheres and contributed to the demise of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.



Elaine Lawson was born in England. She has degrees in history and psychology. She was an antiques dealer for many years and has lectured on subjects such as Art Nouveau, Art Deco and the Arts & Crafts movement in Britain and the United States.

F20-16 The Founding of the Plymouth Colony: 400 Years Later

Study Group Leader: Kenneth P. Minkema PhD

Date: Monday, Nov. 23

Time: 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Sessions: 1 • Maximum: 50

Course Fee: \$5.00

This year marks the



400th anniversary of the colonization of Wampanoag lands by English settlers.



Based on a new edition of Gov. William Bradford's "Of Plimoth Plantation," this presentation will consider some themes in the ongoing reappraisal of the establishment and legacies of Plimoth, including the Native perspective.

Dr. Kenneth P. Minkema is the Executive Editor of *The Works of Jonathan Edwards* and Director of The Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale University, with an appointment as a Research Scholar at Yale Divinity School.

F20-17 Masters of the American Short Story

Study Group Leader: Peter Gibbon PhD
Date: Tuesdays, Sept. 15, 22, 29; Oct. 6, 13
Time: 10:30 – Noon
Sessions: 5 • *Maximum:* 15
Course Fee: \$10.00

This course will examine four of America's most influential writers and some of their short stories: Sherwood Anderson's "The Teacher" and "Unlighted Lamps"; John Updike's "Ace in the

Hole" and "Pigeon Feathers"; Philip Roth's "Eli The Fanatic"; and Joyce Carol Oates's "In the Region of Ice" and "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." We will connect each story to the author's biography, to perennial questions, and to contemporary dilemmas in American society.

Peter Gibbon PhD is currently a Senior Research Scholar at Boston University Wheelock College of Education and Human Development, where he taught "The Intellectual Foundations of Education" to graduate students and the American Short Story at Metropolitan College. His articles on education have appeared in both popular and professional publications. He is the author of the book *A Call to Heroism about the strengths and flaws of heroic men and women in American history*. A Harvard graduate with a PhD from Columbia University Teachers College, Dr. Gibbon is the former Head of Hackley School in Tarrytown, New York. He has taught ancient and medieval history, European history, anthropology, American history, and a variety of electives in American,



English, and European literature.

F20 -18 Sir Thomas Malory's King Arthur

Study Group Leader: Joel N. Feimer, PhD
Dates: Tuesdays, Sept. 15, 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13, 20
Time: 1:00 – 2:30 PM
Sessions: 6 • *Maximum:* 25
Course Fee: \$10.00

Using the French and British medieval Arthurian traditions, Thomas Malory composed what has become the comprehensive watershed narrative of the career of the fabled King Arthur. It was Malory who established for the modern world the classical Arthurian narrative elements of Merlin and the primal sin of Arthur's birth, the sword in the stone, Arthur's European empire, the quest for the Holy Grail, and the Lancelot, Guinevere, Arthur triangle that brought about the tragic demise of Arthur's dreams. British and American poets, playwrights and film makers from Edmund Spenser, Alfred, Lord Tennyson, T. H. White, Mary Stewart, Lerner and Lowe, Monty Python, John Boorman, and Marion Zimmer Bradley have all turned to Malory's magnum opus for their inspiration. This course will provide an

initial exploratory expedition into the realms of Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur*.

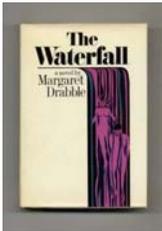
Joel N. Feimer PhD taught undergraduate and graduate level English Literature and Composition at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, New York from 1967 to 2010. He earned a PhD in Comparative Literature from the City University of New York in 1983. He has published several essays on topics in Medieval and Modern Literature and co-edited a text for composition with his former colleague at Mercy College, Howard Canaan. He began teaching for ILR in the spring of 2015 and currently serves as President on its Board of Governors.

F20-19 Margaret Drabble – *The Waterfall*

Study Group Leader: Harriet Bergmann PhD
Dates: Thursdays, Sept. 17, 24; Oct. 1
Time: 10:30 – Noon
Sessions: 3 • *Maximum:* 25
Course Fee: \$10.00

In her 1969 novel "The Waterfall" Margaret Drabble pays homage to sister writers Emily Bronte, Jane Austen,

George Eliot, and most importantly to Emily Dickinson. We will read Drabble's



novel and the important works (or parts of them) to which her text alludes. Our goal is not simply to decode Drabble's novel but to set it in the largest context of women's literature.

Harriet Bergmann PhD retired in 2002 as a Professor of American Literature at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. She then moved to New Haven and taught creative writing as an adjunct at Yale for 14 years.

**F20-20
Paradise or Failure?
Faulkner's *Go Down, Moses* and the American Dream**

Study Group Leader: Leonard Engel
Dates: Tuesdays, Sept. 29, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27; Nov. 10, 17, 24; Dec. 1, 8
Time: 10:00-11:30 am
Sessions: 10 • *Max.:* 15
Course Fee: \$10.00

Composed of seven seemingly unrelated stories, *Go Down, Moses* challenges readers with

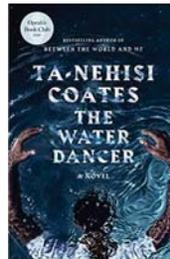
its structure and complexity. Set in Faulkner's fictional Yoknapatawpha County in Mississippi, the book focuses on the McCaslin plantation to ground a dynamic, mythical, generational history. Faulkner dramatizes issues relating to Native Americans, slaves, race relations in the Jim Crow era, Judeo-Christian beliefs, and, ultimately, the American Dream. Close reading will reveal the stories' interconnectedness, and careful analysis will guide readers through the time shifts, multiple narrators, and interior monologues that Faulkner uses. Handouts, including maps and a genealogy, will help participants understand this book.

Leonard Engel, Professor Emeritus at Quinnipiac University, served as chair of the English department for 18 years. He was selected "Outstanding Faculty of the Year" in 1989 and received Quinnipiac's "Excellence in Teaching Award" in 2013. He has edited many books and written numerous articles with a special focus on cinema.

**F20-21
The ILR Book Club – Part One: *The Water Dancer***

Study Group Leader: Lisa Beth Hill PhD MA BA; Susan Galli BA MBA
Date: Saturday, Oct. 3
Time: 10:00 – Noon
Sessions: 1 • *Maximum:* 20
Course Fee: \$5.00

The Water Dancer, by Ta-Nehisi Coates, is about Hiram, born to an enslaved black mother whom he barely remem-



bers, and a white father -- a plantation owner. Hiram possesses mystical powers that he will use as a member of the Underground Railroad to fight the war against slavery. This book restores the humanity of those from whom everything was stolen.

Please e-mail any questions you have about this book to Dr. Hill at lhill@hamdenhall.org before the session.

Lisa Beth Hill PhD MA BA is the Director of Inclusion, Equity and Diversity, and the Chair of the Department of History and AP Coordinator for US History at Hamden Hall Country Day Preparatory School. She received her post graduate degrees from Emory University and her BA from the University of Maryland. She served as

Program Coordinator at Elizabeth City State University, was Interim Dean and Chair, Department of History and Political Science at Tuskegee University, and is the author of numerous publications, and has presented lectures on diverse subjects of Black history.

Susan Galli has a BA in Economics and an MBA in Finance. She spent her career as a research administrator in various laboratories in the area.

**F20-22
Reading Toni Morrison's Early Novels**

Study Group Leader: Hedda Kopf
Dates: Thursdays, Oct. 8, 29; Nov. 19
Time: 2:00 – 3:30 PM
Sessions: 3 • *Max.:* 22
Course Fee: \$10.00

In her novels and essays, Toni Morrison "bequeathed to us a mandate to see and speak clearly, ... about the ways in which otherness persists in almost every facet of life—a responsibility we need to acknowledge more than ever in the present." We will revisit (or visit for the first time) Morrison's earliest novels: *The Bluest Eye*, 1970; *Su-*



la, 1973; and *Song of Solomon*, 1977. Acclaimed as “works of uncompromising vision... and crackling with passionate urgency. Each was groundbreaking in its own way, combining the power of black oral tradition with the authority of folklore, communal memory, and a feminist consciousness” from *The Atlantic*, Dec. 2019, “Finding the Other”.

Hedda Kopf taught literature and gender studies at Quinnipiac University for more than three decades. She continues to develop and lead book discussions at ILR as well as at several public libraries and other institutions in Connecticut. Hedda volunteers as a reading mentor in a New Haven public school and is the author of *Understanding Anne Frank's The Diary of a Young Girl: A Student Casebook to Issues, Sources and Historical Documents*.

F20-23
The ILR Book Club, Part Two: American Dirt

Study Group Leaders: Ann O'Brien, Susan Galli BA MBA
Date: Saturday, Oct. 24
Time: 10:00 – Noon
Sessions: 1 • *Maximum:* 20
Course Fee: \$5.00

“American Dirt” by Jeanine Cummins, is about a mother and her young son who are forced to flee their comfortable middle-class life in Mexico for the U.S. due to drug cartel violence. Instantly transformed into immigrants they begin a terrifying 2,500-mile, 55-day journey to freedom. A story not only about immigration but also about the power of a mother’s love.

Ann O'Brien is the Director of Community Engagement at Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) in New Haven CT.

Susan Galli has a B.A. in Economics and an MBA in Finance. She spent her career as a research administrator in various laboratories in the area.

F20-24
Chaucer Dreams of Love

Study Group Leader: Joel N. Feimer, PhD
Dates: Tuesdays, Oct. 27, Nov. 10, 17, Dec. 1, 8, 15
Time: 1:00 – 2:30 PM
Sessions: 6 • *Maximum:* 25
Course Fee: \$10.00

Before he began to com-

pose his unfinished masterpiece, *The Canterbury Tales*, Geoffrey Chaucer had a long apprenticeship as a narrative poet exploring the realms of medieval dream vision poetry. Many of the themes, characters, and motifs that he immortalized in *The Canterbury Tales*, Chaucer first explored in his dream visions. In these early poems, at least one of which may be connected to a powerful patron, John of Gaunt, the uncle of the ill-fated King Richard II and father of Henry IV, Chaucer began to examine the nature of poetic narrative, the torturous experiences of love, and the issues of authority and creativity in poetic composition. For Chaucer, the dream journey was one of the most profound adventures the human soul could take, not always to wisdom or completion. This course will examine three of Chaucer’s milestones on his journey to *The Canterbury Tales*.

Joel N. Feimer PhD taught undergraduate and graduate level English Literature and Composition at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, New York from 1967 to 2010. He earned a PhD in Comparative Literature from the City University of New York in

1983. He has published several essays on topics in Medieval and Modern Literature and co-edited a text for composition with his former colleague at Mercy College, Howard Canaan. He began teaching for ILR in the spring of 2015 and currently serves as President on its Board of Governors.

F20-25
A Very Special Musical Event

Study Group Leader: Maestro Alasdair Neale
Date: Thursday, Sept. 24
Time: 5:00 – 6:00 PM
Sessions: 1 • *Max.:* 100
Course Fee: \$5.00

Direct from San Francisco, Maestro Neale will keep us transfixed with his amazing musical knowledge and outstanding ability to assist us in understanding different musical pieces.

Maestro Alasdair Neale is the 11th Music Director of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, beginning his tenure in June of 2019. In addition to the NHSO, he is Music Director of the Sun Valley Music Festival (SVMF) and Music Di-



rector of the Marin Symphony. In his 24 years as Music Director of the SVSS, Mr. Neale has propelled this festival to national status. It is now the largest privately funded free admission symphony in America.

**F20-26
Music and the Brain**

Study Group Leader: Nick Maiorino BS MS
Date: Fridays, Oct. 16, 23, 30
Time: 10:30 – 12:00 PM
Sessions: 3 • *Maximum:* 40
Course Fee: \$10.00

William Congreve’s 1697 line: “Music Hath Charms to Soothe the Savage Breast” has more meaning now than ever before.



Today, neuroscience has learned much about the effect music has on the brain, giving rise to new and exciting connections between the cultural and scientific worlds. This course will explore not only how music affects the brain, but also how it influences a person’s memory, emotions, and personality. A description of how music affects our well-being and how this can be used as a therapeutic strategy in treating neurological dis-

orders will be detailed. Finally, participants will listen and respond to selected musical pieces to experience for themselves how music and the brain are related.

Nick Maiorino BS, MS has been presenting ILR courses for the last five years. He is a former high school and university instructor whose teaching experience spans more than 50 years. His main area of expertise is science and he has presented courses on several aspects of weather, the human brain, and the aging brain. He is currently serving on the Board of Directors of ILR and is a member of the Curriculum Committee. For the past three years he has been a volunteer with the Connecticut Audubon Society as an osprey nest monitor.

**F20-27
Discover Opera: Love & Death at the Opera**

Study Group Leader: Charlotte D’Aniello
Dates: Mondays, October 19, 26
Time: 1:30 – 3:00 PM
Sessions: 2 *Maximum:* 40
Course Fee: \$10.00

Just about all of opera has the themes of love and death. This term we will explore some of the

best of these.

- *Great Love Scenes* - Some of the best music in opera takes place during love scenes. Here are examples of some of Charlotte’s favorites.
- *Murder and Mayhem* - What would opera be without tragedy? Is there anyone left standing at the end of the performance? Explore the many different ways people die in opera.

Charlotte D’Aniello is a graduate of the University of Toronto and the Royal Conservatory of Music with degrees in music and piano. She taught piano for 36 years and continues with a few special students. In addition, she has taught adult education classes in classical music and opera in Branford, and for Road Scholars at the Mercy Center. Charlotte gives frequent lectures and presentations on opera at Branford’s Blackstone Library and for the Schiller Shoreline Institute for Lifelong Learning. She is passionate about opera and has had season tickets to the Metropolitan Opera since 1961.

**F20-28
Conversational German Language Table**

Study Group Leader: Mito Mardin PhD
Dates: Wednesdays, Oct. 7, 14, 28; Nov. 4, 18; Dec. 9
Time: 10:00 – 11:30 AM
Sessions: 6 • *Max.:* 10
Course Fee: \$10.00

This course is intended for individuals who have a basic knowledge of the German language and would like to improve, revive, or refresh their conversational skills by engaging with native speakers and other attendees in a natural and relaxed environment. Topics may include current events as well as reports on trips and family memories.



Mithat “Mito” Mardin PhD was born in Istanbul, Turkey and is a graduate of the German High School there. He received a PhD in Organic Chemistry, Physics and Microbiology from the University of Göttingen. He worked at Bayer Pharmaceuticals for 33 years in various positions starting as laboratory head and retiring as VP. He has worked on three continents: Europe, Japan/Asia Pacific, and the US. Since 2012, he has been President of the Japan Society of Fairfield County, served as ILR

president for three terms and followed his passion for political science. He enjoys being a study group leader and sharing his knowledge of the European Union, US economy, Islam, and current world affairs in general.

**F20-29
Seniors and Sexuality:
We Never Stop Being
Sexual**

Study Group Leader: Barbara R. Beitch PhD
Date: Wednesday, Oct. 14
Time: 3:30 – 5:30 PM
Sessions: 1 • *Maximum:* 60
Course Fee: \$5.00

We are living longer, thanks to medical advances, our therapists, and our personal trainers. We are staying active into our senior years. Most of us remain sexually vibrant, but societal attitudes about us are not



in synch with our own sexual self-images. In this course we will address this dynamic and consider how to meet the challenges we confront in health issues, relationships, mental acuity, physical stamina, and more. We will consider sexuality in its broadest sense (not only biological sex but also, for example, gender roles and sexual identity), while

discussing how to navigate the dating scene (no longer worrying about pregnancy but still dealing with the reality of STDs), readjust our body image and functioning after surgery, and retain our sense of what it means to be sexual at this life stage.

Barbara Beitch, PhD, is no stranger to ILR or to the New Haven area. At ILR she has taught such diverse courses as genetics, bizarre reproductive strategies among animals, the Sleeping Giant, leaf cutter ants, and climate change. She has been teaching human sexuality since the early 1980s to diverse groups from high school seniors to life seniors. She has been a long-time mentor to others in the field, through Planned Parenthood and the Sexuality Education and Information Council of the US (SIECUS). She looks forward to sharing her knowledge and perspectives with members of ILR.

**F20-30
What does the Bible say
about the Evil Eye?**

Study Group Leader: Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus
Date: Wednesday, Nov. 25
Time: 11:00 – Noon
Sessions: 1 • *Maximum:* 80
Course Fee: \$5.00

Do you perform a personal ritual to repel the harmful effects of the evil eye? Do you wear an amulet to protect yourself and your loved ones from the evil eye? Do you drive with a protective charm in your car? When you hear good news, do you spit three times? Do you avoid leaving your food cabinet totally empty? Did you avoid visiting the cemetery while pregnant? Did you place a red ribbon in your baby's crib? Did you refrain from holding a baby shower lest it attract the evil eye?

Do you believe in the power of the evil eye? What does the Bible say about this?

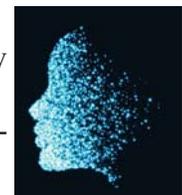
Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus, son of Holocaust survivors, was raised in an Orthodox environment in Brooklyn, NY. A Brooklyn College graduate with a degree in philosophy, he earned a Master of Education degree from NYU and was ordained in Tel Aviv, Israel in 1972. He served congregations in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, and in Manhattan before becoming the spiritual leader of Congregation Or Shalom

in Orange in 1981. Rabbi Wainhaus has immersed himself in the Jewish and secular life of the community and is highly regarded as a spiritual leader, educator, and lecturer on a wide range of religious and secular issues. His involvement in interfaith activities throughout Greater New Haven has earned him the respect and admiration of Jews and non-Jews alike.

**F20-31
Artificial Intelligence
and Machine Learning**

Study Group Leader: Frances Grodzinsky PhD
Dates: Thursdays, Nov. 5, 12, 19
Time: 11:00 – 12:30 PM
Sessions: 3 • *Maximum:* 20
Course Fee: \$10.00

Artificial Intelligence poses challenges that are both technical and social. We live in a changing world where many new technological developments are driven by AI. Big data algorithms, robots and machine learning are but a few. In this session we will explore the following questions: What is responsible AI? Where



are the biases and how do they present themselves? How do self-learning AI systems learn? What is the impact of AI on privacy? Social media? Is ethics algorithmically computable? Can we create moral autonomous agents?

Frances S. Grodzinsky PhD is Professor Emerita Computer Science and Information Technology at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield and Past Co-Director of the Hersher Institute of Eth-

ics.

F20-32 Your Brain: How Does it Work?

Study Group Leader: Sharif Kronemer

Dates: Saturdays, December 5, 12

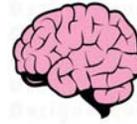
Time: 10:30 - Noon

Sessions: 2 • *Maximum:* 35

Course Fee: \$10.00

The brain is a massively complex biological system through which we are able to move, think, feel and remember. But

what happens when it goes wrong? The abnormal brain presents many challenges. This course will review a number of neurological and psychiatric disorders including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, and schizophrenia. Through these cases, we may gain insights to the workings of the healthy nervous system and pave new paths for treatments.



Sharif Kronemer is a

PhD candidate at Yale University studying the neural mechanisms of consciousness using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), scalp/intracranial electroencephalography (EEG), and pupillometry in the lab of Hal Blumenfeld MD, PhD. His primary interests include neuroscience, neuroethics, the philosophy of mind and consciousness. He is also active in science communication and outreach.

It's easy to Zoom into ILR Classes for Fall 2020. Here's How!

Susan Vallillo is ILR's new Registrar, replacing Joan Murphy, who "retired" from the position in June. You may continue to use the ILR cell phone number, 203-747-9675; email address Registrar@ilralbertus.org; and mailing address, PO Box 1156, Orange, CT 06477. Please don't send registrations, membership renewals or payments to Lucy Street.

Due to uncertainty about how long the pandemic will continue to require us to social distance, the Fall 2020 semester will be entirely on Zoom. Here is what you need to know:

- Basic Zoom training for members will be held on Sept. 9 at 10 a.m. Registration for this class opens on Sept. 4.
- Registration for courses will continue to be done the same as in-person courses, however members of the same household who are sharing one device (computer, tablet or phone) to log in only need to register and pay for one person.
- Class size is limited to 100 people



by our Zoom license. Some courses may be further limited because of SGL preference or for facilitation of discussion.

- If a class is full, you will not be able to log in with more than one device. If you have been using two devices in the past because you don't have one device with a microphone and a camera, you will need to choose one to login with.
- If you've never used Zoom before or have a new device, you may want to test your camera and microphone ahead of time. Click <https://zoom.us/test> to see if you have a working camera and microphone.

- A confirmation letter with the Zoom login links will be emailed the day before the class starts. If you have not received it by 8 p.m., send an email to info@ilralbertus.org.
- To login to the class with a computer or tablet, click on the link in the confirmation letter. If you are using a phone, you may need to dial the phone number provided and login by typing in the meeting ID and passcode.
- When you login, your microphone will be automatically muted and your video will be off. Please start your video and check to see that your name is showing in your box with your video. If not, the Host or Co-Host will help you.
- Please login by the time the class starts because it will be locked down soon after to help prevent Zoom-bombing.
- If you are unable to login for any reason, call the number provided in the confirmation letter.



ILR: An academic program for adults who love to learn

ILR is a non-profit, community-based group of adults who share a love of learning. At its heart, ILR is an academic program designed to suit varied interests.

In the company of like-minded peers, members have the opportunity to enjoy college-level academic pursuits without concern for credit, grades or prerequisites. This creates unique educational opportunities made possible by active membership participation and collaborative leadership.

ILR is hosted by Albertus Magnus College. When classes were held in traditional learning spaces, rooms were provided by Albertus Magnus, the University of New Haven's Orange campus, the Woodbridge Library, the Jewish Community Center in Woodbridge and other sites. Until it's again safe to meet together, ILR meets by Zoom.

Many of the courses we offer are led by active or retired professors from various colleges and universities in our area. Others are led by ILR members who want to share their academic interests and passions with their peers.

All our classes are held during the day. Most are on weekdays, although we occasionally have one on a Saturday.

As a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization ILR receives its sole funding from annual Membership Dues of \$30 per person.



Courses are open only to current ILR members.

If you are retired or semi-retired and are looking for a meaningful way to fill your newly acquired leisure time and meet new friends, we encourage you to become a member of our non-profit organization. Whether you have an interest in the arts, literature, music, current events, history, science, movies, social lunches or museums, ILR can provide enrichment to your life.

Your ticket to all that excitement is inside this catalog or at <https://www.ilralbertus.org/>.



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