



FALL CLASSES 2015

THE  
**Meeman Center**  
FOR LIFELONG LEARNING  
AT RHODES COLLEGE

Experience the Rhodes Liberal Arts Tradition

[meeman.rhodes.edu](http://meeman.rhodes.edu)

## Meeman Center



*The Meeman Center for Lifelong Learning is located in Dorothy C. King Hall,  
577 University Street, at the corner of North Parkway and University*

## Experience the Rhodes Liberal Arts Tradition!

For over 70 years the Meeman Center for Lifelong Learning has offered classes from the Rhodes College curriculum to the community with the same standard of excellence we offer our resident students. Join this intellectual environment and take part in evening classes by registering at [meeman.rhodes.edu](http://meeman.rhodes.edu) or by calling (901) 843-3965.

FALL 2015

Register for Meeman Classes at [meeman.rhodes.edu](http://meeman.rhodes.edu)  
or call 901-843-3965

• Class Starting Dates •

Date/Class	Professor	Page
September 10 <i>Empire of Cotton</i>	Hughes	2
September 14 <i>World of Literature</i>	Zastoupil+	15
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October 19 <i>Shakespeare: Two Noble Kinsmen</i>	Hutchison	12
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October 29 <i>What is the What</i>	Boswell/Boyd	14
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+Indicates that sections of this class will be taught by various professors

The Meeman Center for Lifelong Learning  
at Rhodes College is located in King Hall on  
University St. at North Parkway.

## Empire of Cotton

The history of an era often seems defined by a particular commodity. The 18th century certainly belonged to sugar. The competition to cultivate it in the West Indies was called “the principal cause of the rapid movement which stirs the Universe.” Since the 20th century, the commodity has been oil: determining events from the partitioning of the Middle East after World War I to our own fateful ties to the Persian Gulf. In his book *Empire of Cotton*, Harvard historian Sven Beckert makes the case that in the 19th century what most “stirred the universe” was cotton.

Beckert shows how every stage of the industrialization of cotton rested on violence. As soon as the profit potential of Southern cotton fields became evident in the late 1780s, the transport of slaves across the Atlantic rapidly increased. The search for more good cotton-growing soil in areas that today are such states as Texas, Arkansas, Kansas and Oklahoma was a powerful incentive to force Native Americans off their traditional lands and onto reservations.

Today, the never-ending search for cheaper labor has shifted most cotton growing and the work of turning it into clothing back to Asia, the continent where it was first widely used several centuries ago. And violence in different forms is still all too present. In Uzbekistan, up to two million children under 15 are put to work harvesting cotton each year. A long thread of tragedy is woven through the story of the puffy white substance that clothes us all.

**Text:** Sven Beckert, *Empire of Cotton*

Charles Hughes, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Director of The Memphis Center at Rhodes

Three Thursdays, September 10, 17\* and 24  
5:30-7:30 p.m., \$80, .4 CEU

**\*The class is invited to attend a lecture by author Sven Beckert at 6:00 p.m., on Sept. 17, in the Bryan Campus Life Center, as part of the Communities in Conversation series.**



## Fighting at Home and Abroad: Japanese-Americans and World War II

World War II is undoubtedly the most important, and perhaps most interesting, historical event of the twentieth century. During the seven decades since the war's end, we have learned a great deal about various aspects of the war—the fight in the Pacific, the

Manhattan Project, Pearl Harbor, and so on. However, the story of the Japanese-Americans who were put into internment camps while their relatives fought in Europe and the Pacific remains relatively unknown. This class will explore a diverse set of themes and events concerning Japanese-Americans and World War II, including events surrounding Pearl Harbor, Japanese relocation from the West Coast, secret Military Intelligence operations involving Japanese-American translators

and spies, and the valiant efforts of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, an all Japanese-American unit that became the most decorated in the history of America's wars.

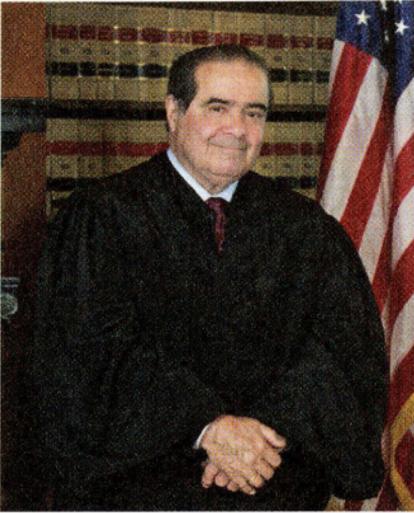
**Text:** Robert Asahina, *Just Americans: How Japanese Americans Won a War at Home and Abroad*

Bradley Onishi, Ph.D. University of California, Santa Barbara; Visiting Assistant Professor Humanities and Religion

Three Tuesdays, November 12, 19, December 3  
5:30 – 7:30 p.m., \$105.00, .75 CEU

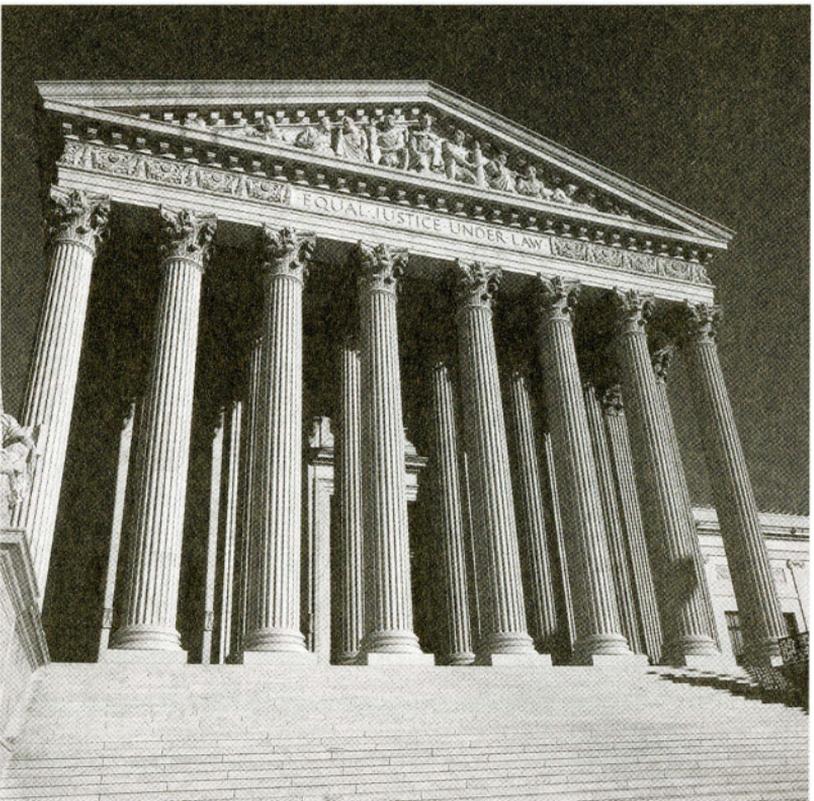


## Justice Antonin Scalia and Conservative Constitutionalism



This course will explore the life and work of one of the most significant—and controversial—members of the Supreme Court. Participants will read Joan Biskupic's biography, *American Original: The Life and Constitution of Justice Antonin Scalia*, along

with excerpts from a few of Justice Scalia's most important opinions. The sessions will discuss Scalia in the context of the conservative reaction against the "judicial activism" of the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s.



**Text:** Joan Biskupic, *American Original: The Life and Constitution of Justice Antonin Scalia*

Tim Huebner, Ph.D., University of Florida  
Sternberg Professor of History, Chair of the  
Department of History

Three Tuesdays, September 15, 22\* and 29  
5:30-7:30 p.m., \$80, .4 CEU

\*The class is invited to attend a lecture by U. S.  
Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia at 6:00 p.m.  
on Sept. 22 in the Bryan Campus Life Center as part  
of the Constitution Day observance.

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## Memphis: Five Crucial Moments

The city of Memphis possesses a rich and complex history that has significantly shaped the broader experiences of people in the United States. From the cotton boom to the yellow-fever epidemic to the civil rights movement and beyond, Memphis has been the site of major historical transformations. In this course, we'll discuss 5 crucial moments in that story with the help of several Rhodes faculty members. Each week, a Rhodes professor who specializes in the area will offer an in-depth discussion of that moment and its consequences. With engaging discussions and illuminating readings, this class provides an opportunity to better understand the richness of Memphis's past, present, and future.



**Text:** G. Wayne Dowdy, *A Brief History of Memphis*

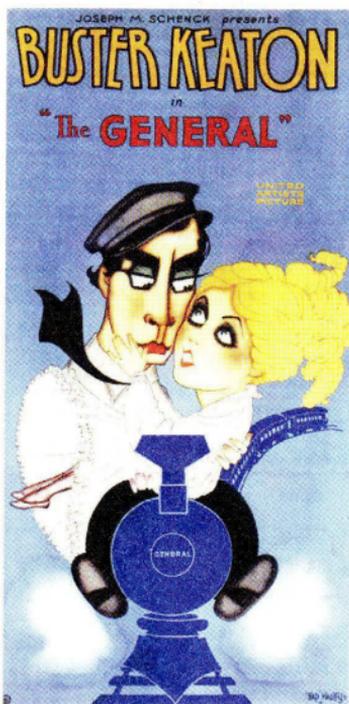
Charles Hughes, Ph.D. in U.S. History from University of Wisconsin-Madison; Director, The Memphis Center at Rhodes College

Five Wednesdays, October 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov. 4  
5:30-7:30 p.m., \$155.00, 1 CEU



## Movies at the Meeman: Celebrating Rhodes College's 90 years in Memphis (1925-2015)

In honor of Rhodes 90th anniversary in Memphis, Movies at the Meeman will show and discuss one film from each of the nine decades. Four of the films will be shown during the fall semester.



**The General** (1926)) directed by and starring Buster Keaton, is considered by critics as one of the greatest films ever made and has been ranked first in a list of the 100 greatest films of the silent era. Keaton plays Johnny Gray, a Southern railroad engineer who loves his train engine, "The General," almost as much as he loves his sweetheart Annabelle Lee. When the Civil War begins, Northern spies steal The General

(and, unwittingly, Annabelle). Johnny must use every means possible to catch up to The General and rescue his darling Annabelle. (Sept. 26)



**Lost Horizon** (1937) directed by Frank Capra and based on the novel by James Hilton. *Lost Horizon* is a classic romantic fantasy and science-fiction adventure film. The film reflects on both the long financial depression gripping the world as well as the gathering storm clouds of World War II. When British diplomat Robert Conway (Ronald Coleman) and a small group of civilians flee the

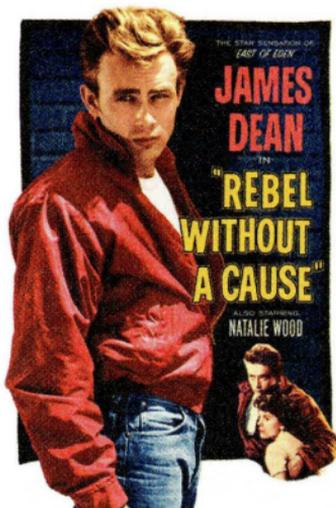
war in China, they crash land in the Himalayas and are rescued by people from the mysterious, Eden-like valley of Shangri-la. Protected by the mountains from the world outside, Shangri-la provides a home

of peace and hope for the world-weary Conway. However, not everyone is content to remain permanently. (Oct. 10)



**Mrs. Miniver** (1942) directed by William Wyler. Nominated for 12 Academy Awards and winning six, including Best Director, Best Actress (Greer Garson) and Best Picture, *Mrs. Miniver* is based on the 1940 novel of the same name by Jan Struther. The film shows

how the life of an unassuming British housewife in rural England is touched by the chaos of air raids and family loss during World War II. The film's tribute to the sacrifices on the home front did much to rally America's support for its British allies. Even British Prime Minister Winston Churchill commented that Mrs. Miniver "had done more for the Allies than a flotilla of battleships." (Nov. 7)



**Rebel Without a Cause** (1955) directed by Nicholas Ray. One of the most iconic films of the 1950s, the movie cemented James Dean's reputation as the embodiment of the restless, disillusioned teen. Hyped as a story of juvenile delinquency, *Rebel* questions the suffocating complacency and

conservatism of mid-century American society with raw force. Fresh from his Oscar nominated role in *East of Eden*, this was the only film during Dean's lifetime in which he received top billing. He died before the film's release. (Nov. 21)

John Rone, M. A., University of Memphis  
 Director of College Events and Director of the  
 Meeman Center for Lifelong Learning

Four Saturdays, Sept. 26, Oct. 10, Nov. 7 & 21  
 2:00-5:00 p.m. \$90, .8 CEU (all four films)  
 Individual classes \$45 each, .2 CEU per class



## Origins of Christianity

Considering the origins of Christianity involves asking a number of complicated questions, such as: What is



Christianity anyway? What is religion? What is original about origins? This class will go beyond the commonly traced Jewish and Roman influences on Christianity. It will explore the cultural, historical, and social circumstances that made

Christianity possible, as well as the specific events that led to its growth and spread. We will consider the social world of the early Roman Empire, the cultural world of first century Judea, the intellectual world of Roman Stoic philosophy, and the historical Jesus. We will compare the earliest Christian texts to their contemporaries and consider other examples of new religious movements in the Roman world (including the cults of Mithras, Isis, and the Roman emperors). The goal of the class is to gain a better understanding not simply of Christianity, but of religion as a human phenomenon.

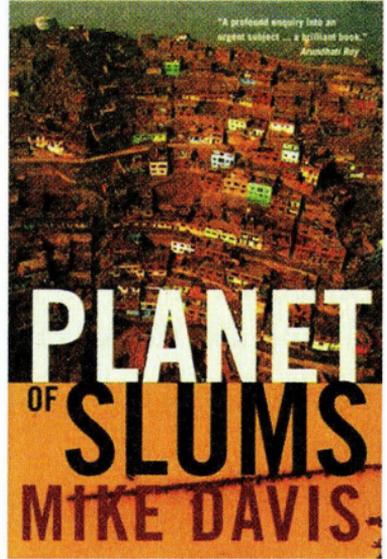


**Text:** Burton Mack, *Who Wrote the New Testament*  
Daniel Ullucci, Ph.D., Brown University  
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

Four Tuesdays, October 27, November 3, 10, 17  
5:30-7:30 p.m. \$120.00, .8 CEU

## Planet of Slums

According to the United Nations, more than one billion people now live in the slums of the cities of the South. In this brilliant and ambitious book, Mike Davis explores the future of a radically unequal and explosively unstable urban world. From the sprawling barricadas of Lima to the garbage hills of Manila, urbanization has been disconnected from industrialization, and even from economic growth. Davis portrays a vast humanity warehoused in shantytowns and exiled from the formal world economy. He argues that the rise of this informal urban proletariat is a wholly unforeseen development, and asks whether the great slums, as a terrified Victorian middle class once imagined, are volcanoes waiting to erupt.



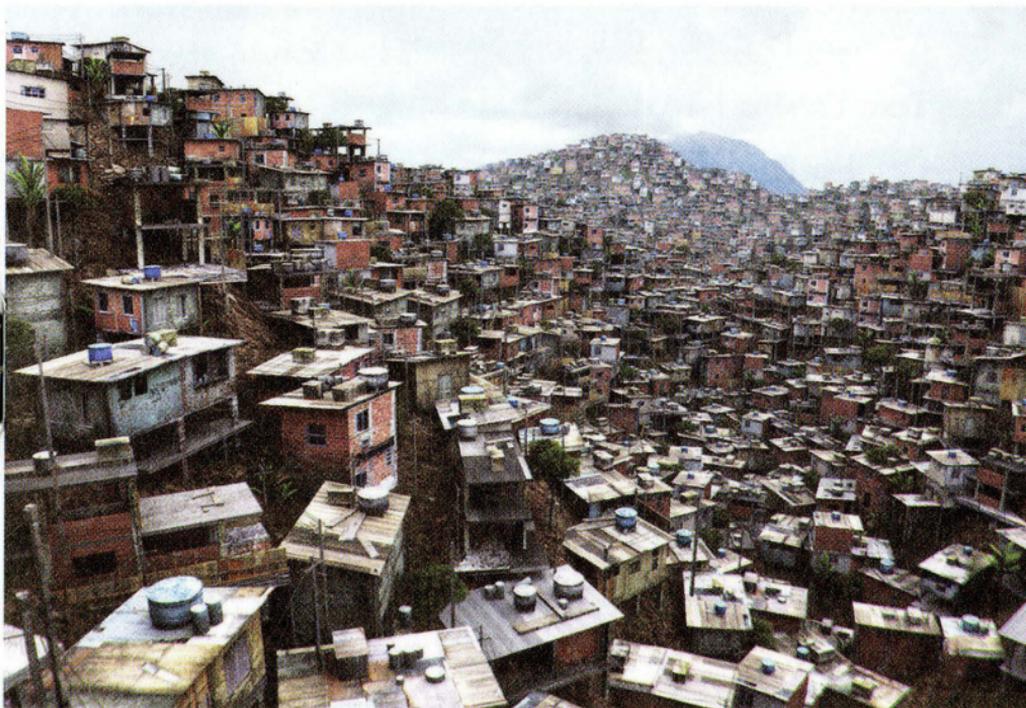
Text: Mike Davis, *Planet of Slums*

Tait Keller, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor and Director of the Environmental Studies and Sciences Program

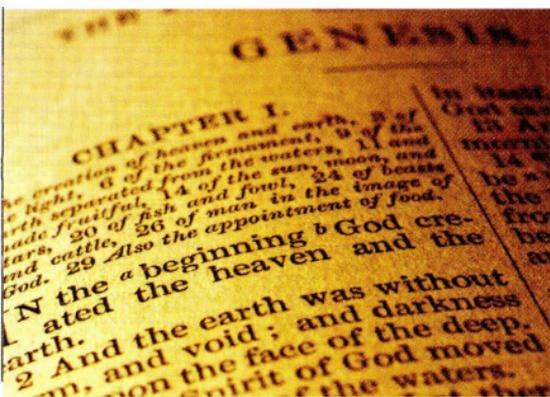
Three Thursdays, October 1, 8\* and 15  
5:30-7:30 p.m., \$80, .4 CEU

\*The class is invited to attend a lecture by Mike Davis at 6:00 p.m., on October 8, in the Bryan Campus Life Center, as part of the Communities in Conversation series.



## The Search For Values in the Light of Western Philosophy & Religion

This course will be taught by faculty primarily drawn from the Search Program, and will introduce Meeman students to some of the ancient texts and cultures at the heart of Western liberal arts education. Subsequent units



from the Search curriculum will be offered in coming semesters.

**September 16**

**Genesis and the Art of Biblical Literature**

Rhiannon Graybill, Ph.D. University of California at Berkeley,

Assistant Professor, Religious Studies

**Text:** Genesis

**September 23**

**Learning to Be Human: Mortality in the Epic of Gilgamesh**

Bradley Onishi, Ph.D. University of California  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Humanities and Religion

**Text:** the Epic of Gilgamesh

**September 30**

**Exodus, Memory, and Daily Life in Ancient Israel**

Rhiannon Graybill, Ph.D. University of California at Berkeley,

Assistant Professor, Religious Studies

**Text:** Exodus 1-14, Joshua 1-8

**October 7**

**Game of Thrones: The Story of the Israelite Monarchy**

Steven McKenzie, Th.D. Harvard  
Professor of Religious Studies

**Text:** 1 Samuel 16-18; 24-26; 28; 2 Samuel 1-4; 7; 11-12; 13-18; 20; 21:1-14; 1 Kings 11-12; 14; 16; 17-19; 21; 2 Kings 1-2; 9-10; 17; 25

Our readings for this class are all from the Bible. Some of it will probably be familiar to you already. I suggest that you skim it all to get the general outline of the stories and then read the ones you are interested in

more closely. In class we will discuss different ways of interpreting this literature and the implications of those interpretations for history.

**October 14**

**Song of Songs: Erotic Poetry & Second Life of Texts... also the Constitution**

Daniel Ullucci, Ph.D., Brown University  
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

**Text:** Song of Songs/Song of Solomon 1-5

**October 21**

**Job: The Bible's Theological Headache**

Daniel Ullucci, Ph.D., Brown University  
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

**Text:** Job 1-14, 38-42

**October 28**

**Divine Justice and Human Indignities: Gods and Heroes in the Iliad Part I**

Erin Dolgoy, Ph.D., Michigan State University  
Post-Doctoral Fellow in Political Science



**Text:** The Iliad Books I-XV

**November 4**

**Divine Justice and Human Indignities: Gods and Heroes in the Iliad Part II**

Erin Dolgoy, Ph.D., Michigan State University  
Post-Doctoral Fellow in Political Science

**Text:** The Iliad Books XVI-XXIV

**November 18**

**Sappho and the Emerging Voices of Archaic Greek Lyric**

Scott Garner, Ph.D. Princeton  
Director of Fellowships

**Text:** Readings to be provided

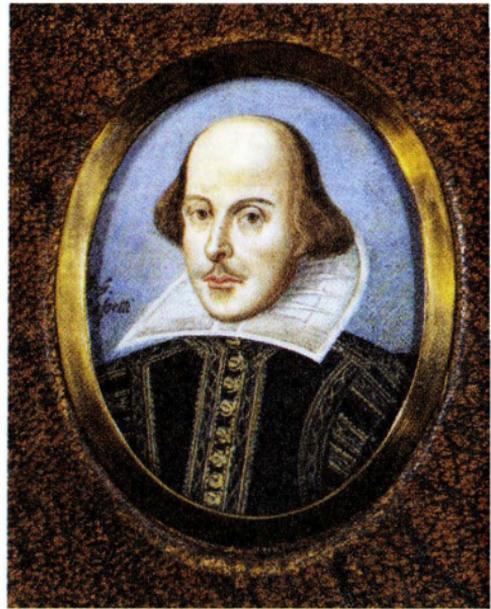
All Search classes are on Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Registration for all nine classes: \$250.00 1.7 CEU

Registration for individual classes: \$45.00, .2 CEU each

## Two Noble Kinsmen: Shakespeare's Great Late Comedy

Acclaimed British actor and director Nick Hutchison returns to Rhodes to discuss one of his favorite comedies, *Two Noble Kinsmen*. This beguiling play is derived from Chaucer's "Knight's Tale," and co-authored by Shakespeare's younger peer John Fletcher.



**Text:** *The Two Noble Kinsmen* (Folger Shakespeare Library)

Nick Hutchison is a director, actor, and lecturer. His work covers television, film, theatre, voice-over and radio, working for the BBC, ITV, the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Royal National Theatre, the Folger Shakespeare Library, the American Shakespeare Center, and Shakespeare's Globe. Hutchison has twice directed award-winning comedies at the McCoy: *Twelfth Night* (2011) and *As You Like It* (2013). In 2012, he participated in Rhodes' "Global Hamlets" symposium, and in 2014 he and Donald Jellerson co-authored an article about "character" in *Shakespeare Bulletin*, which they are expanding into a book.

Monday, October 19 (one session)  
5:30-7:30 p.m., \$45.00, .2 CEU

## U.S. Foreign Policy, Oil and Stability in the Middle East

From the war on terror to nuclear Iran debates, and from the Iraq war to the rise of ISIS, Middle East politics has played a central role in U.S. foreign policy. One particular challenge for U.S. foreign policy in this region has been the difficulty to secure access to oil and to provide stability at the same time. For instance, the U.S. oil partner, Saudi Arabia, has supported Islamist fundamentalism and sectarianism in the region; the U.S. relations with Iran has remained tense despite Iran's geo-strategic importance as an oil producer; and efforts by the U.S. to promote democratization and thus stability in Iraq, a vital oil country, has led to the rise of new threats, such as ISIS. To discuss these developments, this course will address the following four issues:

**1-U.S.-Saudi Arabia Relations:** Between Strategic Oil Partnership and Fundamentalist Ambiguity

**2-U.S.-Iran Relations:** Coups, Revolutions, and Nuclear Debates

**3-U.S.-Iraq Relations-1:** The Road to the 2003 U.S. Military Intervention

**4-U.S.-Iraq Relations-2:** Instability in Iraq today between ISIS and Kurds

**Text:** The Professor will provide readings for each class.

Esen Kirdis, Ph.D., University of Minnesota, Twin Cities  
Assistant Professor of International Studies

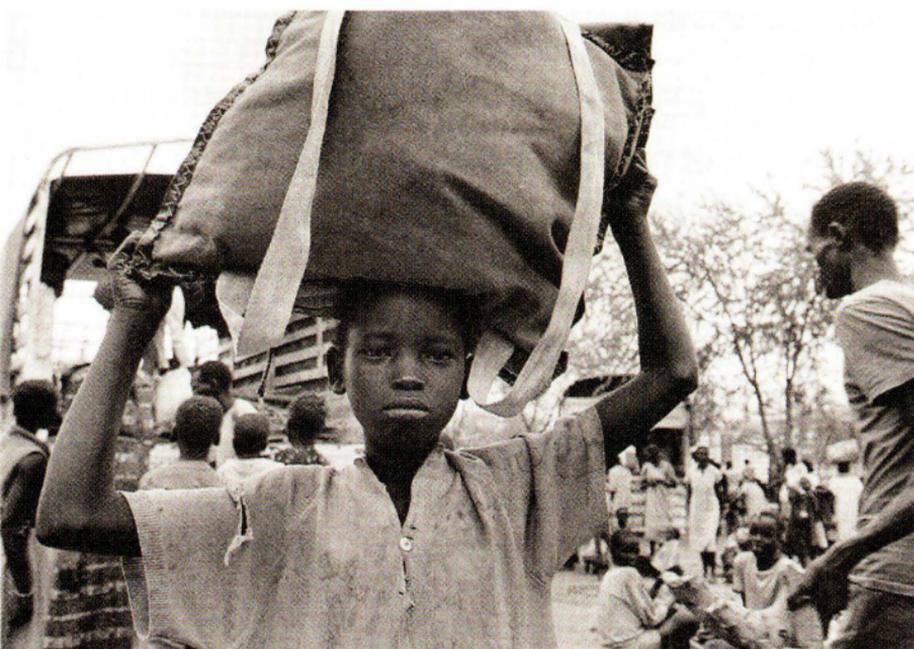
Four Mondays, November 2, 9, 16, 23

5:30-7:30 p.m., \$120.00, 1.0 CEU



## What is the What by Dave Eggers

*What Is the What* is the epic novel based on the life of Valentino Achak Deng who, along with thousands of other children —the so-called Lost Boys—was forced to leave his village in Sudan at the age of seven and trek hundreds of miles by foot, pursued by militias, government bombers, and wild animals, crossing the deserts of three countries to find freedom. When he finally is resettled in the United States, he finds a life full of promise, but also heartache and myriad new challenges. Moving, suspenseful, and unexpectedly funny, *What Is the What* is an astonishing novel that illuminates the lives of millions through one extraordinary man.



**Text:** Dave Eggers, *What is the What*

**Thursday, October 29:** Discussion with Marshall Bowsell, Ph.D., Emory University Chair, Department of English, 5:30-7:30 p.m.; in King Hall.

**Wednesday, November 4:** Communities in Conversation presents Valentino Achak Deng in conversation with Rhodes Readers, 6:00 p.m., Rhodes campus

**Thursday, November 5:** Memphis Reads lecture by Dave Eggers on *What is the What*, 7:00 p.m., Creative Arts Building at the Fairgrounds. Co-sponsored by Communities in Conversation

**Tuesday, November 10:** Discussion on “The Lost Boys” with Barron Boyd, Ph.D. University of South Carolina; Director of International Programs, 5:30-7:30 p.m. in King Hall

Four sessions: Thursdays, October 29, Nov. 4 & 5, and Tuesday, November 10; \$80, .4 CEU

## World of Literature

The World of Literature course present an array of literary works from around the world. Enjoy a relaxed study and discussion of the following.

### E. M. Forster's *A Passage to India*

This complex and multi-faceted work is considered one of the greatest novels of the 20th century. Published in 1924 when the cracks in the British Empire were just emerging, the novel centers on the trial of an Indian doctor accused of raping an Englishwoman. This was the last of Forster's novels, and a thematic departure for him as well. Previous novels such as *A Room with a View* (1908) and *Howards End* (1910) stayed in Europe, focusing on the familiar Edwardian theme of the individual's struggle against the stifling conventions of society. Informed by Forster's own travels to India in 1912-13 and 1921, *A Passage to India* has been lauded not only for its critique of the British Empire, but also for its stylistic innovation and philosophical density.



Taught by Lynn Zastoupil, Ph.D. University of Minnesota

Professor of History

Two Mondays, September 14 & 21, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

### *Augustine's Confessions*

A study of Books 1-9 of *Augustine's Confessions*, one of the classics of Western civilization and arguably the first autobiography. The course will focus on Augustine's philosophical and spiritual explorations and the remarkable artistry of his writing.



Taught by Stephen R. Haynes, Ph. D. Emory University

Professor of Religious Studies

Two Mondays, October 5 & 12, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

### G. García Márquez's *Of Love and Other Demons*

The class will study the short novel by Nobel Prize winning author Gabriel García Márquez and place the novel in historic



*continued next page*

context. Some images of the city of Cartagena will be shown. The text focuses on race, religion and hierarchy in 18th century Cartagena.

Taught by Michael LaRosa, Ph. D., University of Miami  
Associate Professor of History

November 2 & 9, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**“A Poet in Russia is More than a Poet,” the poetry of Alexander Blok and Anna Akhmatova**

The course will examine the biographies and creative work of two major Russian poets of the first half of the twentieth century.



Alexander Blok is often compared with Alexander Pushkin (the most revered Russian poet in Russia), and is considered perhaps the most important voice of the Silver Age of Russian Poetry. During the 1910s, Blok was admired greatly

by literary colleagues and the reading public alike, and his influence on younger poets was enormous. Such prominent poets as Anna Akhmatova, Marina Tsvetaeva, Boris Pasternak, and Vladimir Nabokov all wrote important verse tributes to Blok. We will read several early poems by Blok, many of which are devoted to the image of the Fair Lady, as well as his most famous longer ones, *The Scythians* and his enigmatic *The Twelve* (1918) that Blok himself considered his best work.



Anna Akhmatova was a Russian modernist female poet whose work ranged from short lyrical poems to long structured cycles one of which, *Requiem*, is a powerful description of the Stalin's terror and her own experience of it.

Akhmatova was clearly a strong, original, and leading female voice in Russian poetry of the 20th century. We will discuss several representative poems from her earlier collections and examine her two longer pieces, *Requiem* and *Poem Without a Hero*.

Readings will be provided.

Taught by Alexandra Kostina, Ph.D., Gornyi  
University of St. Petersburg, Russia;

Assistant Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures

Two Mondays, December 7 & 14, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

\$80 per pair, .4 CEU, or register for all eight World of Literature classes for \$240.00, 1.2 CEU

# Registration Form

**Register online at [meeman.rhodes.edu](http://meeman.rhodes.edu)**

**OR**

**Mail your registration form with payment to:**

Meeman Center for Lifelong Learning, Rhodes College  
2000 North Parkway, Memphis, Tennessee 38112

**OR**

**Fax your registration form, including your credit card information, to:**

(901) 843-3947

**OR**

**Call:** (901) 843-3965

Full Name: .....

Preferred Name: .....

Date of Birth: .....

Mailing Address: .....

City: ..... State: .....

Zip: .....

Home Phone: ..... Cell Phone: .....

Email: .....

I wish to register for the following courses:

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Yes, I would like CEUs for the course(s) I take.

Course Tuition (*does not include books & supplies*):

.....  
Required texts and suggested readings for Meeman Center  
courses may be purchased at your favorite bookstore, online or  
can be ordered at your request by the Meeman Center staff.

Method of payment - please circle one:

Check Enclosed

MasterCard  / VISA  / American Express  / Discover 

Credit Card Number: .....

Expiration Date: .....

How did you hear about this course? .....

Are you a Rhodes alum? Yes ..... Class of ..... No .....

Have you ever taken a Meeman Center course before?

Yes ..... No .....

Meeman Center may take class or activity photographs for use  
in our publications or website. If you are included in one of the  
group photos we select, we ask your permission to use it. Please  
indicate if we have your consent. Yes ..... No .....

## Questions?

Phone the Meeman Center at (901) 843-3965.

## Meeman Center Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00