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Meeman Center Course Catalogue, Spring 2012

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SPRING 2012

Meeman Center
FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

Stress-Free Liberal Arts Education
meeman.rhodes.edu



As a Principal Broker of a real estate investment, sales brokerage and property management organization, I review real estate sales contracts and leases all day, every day.

The Meeman Center offers courses that allow me to engage in a totally different thought and skill set in the evening. I find the courses at the Meeman Center to be very stimulating and they have given me many hours of pleasure and relaxation.

When you register for courses at the Meeman Center you will be exposed to world-class professors who will guide you in a very positive manner through the course material. As an added bonus to the course you will participate in class discussions with members of the class who come from different walks of life, professions and backgrounds.

The discussions in class are very enlightening and will stimulate you when you listen to how your fellow classmates process the same information from the course and apply their life experiences to the class discussion.

When you register for courses at the Meeman Center you will engage in a mind-expanding experience and have the time of your life!

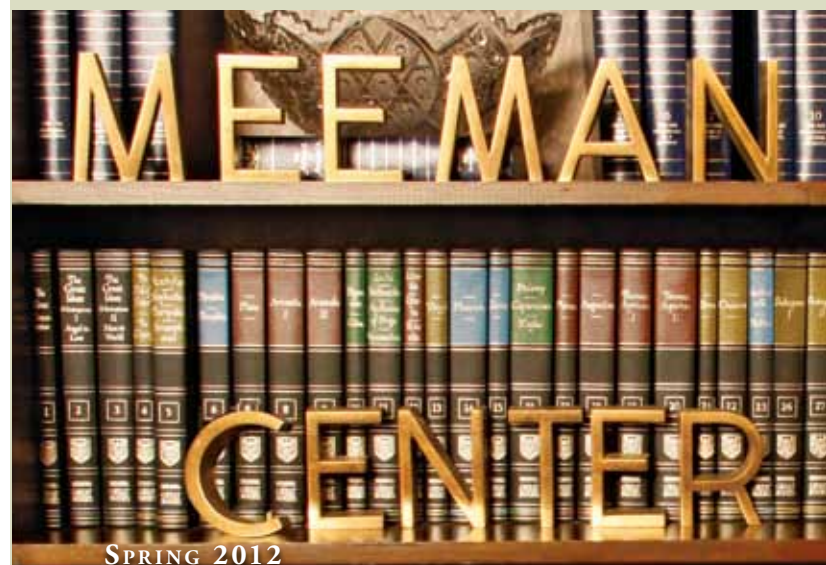
I wholeheartedly recommend that you register for courses at the Meeman Center now!

Marshall Gordon, CPM

Ask one of the more than 200 students who attend the Meeman Center for Lifelong Learning each semester and they will tell you that being at Meeman is about more than taking a class. It's an enduring experience.

From the elegant library in King Hall to the state-of-the-art classrooms to the delicious refreshments, Meeman Center caters to members of the greater Rhodes community with the same standard of excellence we offer our resident students.

If you are looking for an opportunity to mingle with knowledgeable classmates from diverse backgrounds and to access some of the best minds Memphis can offer, register online today for a Meeman Center class at meeman.rhodes.edu or call (901) 843-3965.



THE EXAMINED LIFE: STUCK WITH VIRTUE

This course invites reflection on the biotechnological revolution and its consequences for ourselves, and our understanding of ourselves. One of the peculiarities of being human is the gap between what we are and what we think we are, or what we might desire to become. Much has been written about our so-called posthuman future; but perhaps we are really stuck with a condition from which we cannot escape. Maybe we are not, after all, ripe for the “liberation” promising buffer bodies, sharper minds and better moods. We will read most of Peter Lawler’s excellent book: *Stuck with Virtue: The American Individual and Our Biotechnological Future* which comments broadly (and wryly) on religious, moral, political and technological issues of the moment. A sample of Lawler’s style: “We, in our pride, don’t want the zoned-out contentment we imagine cows have. We want to remain alienated enough to appreciate Johnny Cash, without going through the hell of being Johnny Cash.”

Text:

Stuck with Virtue: The American Individual and Our Biotechnological Future

Peter Lawler, (Intercollegiate Studies Institute, 2005)

ISBN 978-1932336842

Daniel Cullen, Ph.D.

Boston College

Associate Professor of Political Science

Five Tuesdays, Jan. 10 – Feb. 7

5:30 – 7:30 p.m., \$150, 1 CEU

Register by January 9 to take advantage of our 10% early-bird discount. May not be used in conjunction with any other discounts.

TAIJIQUAN (T’AI CHI CH’UAN)

It has been characterized as an elegant slow-motion dance, a moving meditation, a lethal martial art. Western science has begun to acknowledge its beneficial effects for arthritis, bone density, prevention of falls, stress reduction, cardiovascular fitness and recovery from heart attacks. To be sure, it can be a doorway to better health and understanding of Chinese philosophy.

Milan Vigil, Director, Yang’s Martial Arts Association Taijiquan of Memphis

Spring I Series:

Seven Wednesdays, Jan. 11 – Feb. 29

7:30 – 9:00 p.m., \$99, 1.05 CEUs

(No class February 15)

Spring II Series:

Six Wednesdays, March 7 – April 25

7:30 – 9:30 p.m., \$99, 1.05 CEUs

(No class March 14 or April 4)

No discounts. Class meets in the second floor aerobics room in the Bryan Campus Life Center.

MOVIES AT THE MEEMAN: THE GREAT DIRECTORS SERIES

Orson Welles was the “boy wonder” who created what has been called the greatest American film of all time. Director Martin Scorsese has said that Welles was “responsible for inspiring more people to be film directors than anyone else in history of the cinema.” An undeniable pioneer in both radio and film, this actor-director used his genius to change the face of both mediums with imagination, ambition and technical daring. Though little appreciated in his time, Orson Welles is today one of the most acclaimed cinematic visionaries. Always an outsider, Welles never played by Hollywood’s rules, and his four-decade career was marked with moments of brilliance, excess

and waste. The class will look at the troubled career of this movie legend and study three of his most prized films.

***Citizen Kane* (1941)**

There are many thrills in Welles' breathtaking debut picture. There is the exhilaration of watching a cocky 25-year-old genius explore the possibilities of the motion picture medium for the first time, playing provocatively with the properties of film as if he'd been doing it all his life. From the "deep-focus" cinematography to the crisp, complex editing, to the multilayered impressionistic/expressionistic soundtrack, this work is as sophisticated as any movie ever made and rightly maintains its position as one of the greatest movies ever made. Based on the life of a newspaper magnate, not unlike that of William Randolph Hearst, the vivid performances—including Welles' own in the title role—earned the film eight Academy Award nominations (including Best Picture and Best Actor for Welles) and won Welles an Oscar for Best Screenplay. (119 min.)

***The Magnificent Ambersons* (1942)**

If events had turned out differently, Orson Welles' second film, might well have taken the title of "the greatest film of all time" rather than *Citizen Kane*. But RKO Studios recut the original version of *The Magnificent Ambersons* mercilessly, reducing its running time from 131 to the present 88 minutes. Nevertheless, what survives is still one of the most strikingly beautiful and technically innovative films to come out of Hollywood. It also tells a good story—based on the Booth Tarkington novel—about the decline of a once powerful and wealthy turn-of-the-century Midwestern family. Even in its truncated form, the brilliance of *The Magnificent Ambersons* was demonstrated when leading international film critics voted it one of the 10 greatest films ever made. (88 min.)

***Touch of Evil* (1958)**

This gripping study of corruption and morality, written and directed by, and co-starring Orson



Welles, features Charlton Heston, Janet Leigh and Marlene Dietrich. It is one of the last examples of the style known as "film noir." Set in a small town just across the Mexican-American border, a powerful police captain, who has framed a young Mexican for the murder of a prominent American businessman, finds his authority challenged by an upright Mexican narcotics detective. Like *The Magnificent Ambersons*, this film was changed and re-edited by the studio before its release. Recently, however, three versions of the movie have been made available: the original 1958 release (93 min.), a longer 1976 version with discovered footage (108 min.) and a 1998 restored version that attempts to reconstruct the movie according to Welles' original vision. The class will view the restored film. (112 min.)

John Rone, M.A.

University of Memphis

Director of College Events

Acting Director of The Meeman Center for Lifelong Learning

Three Wednesdays, Jan. 18 – 25 and Feb. 1

5:30 – 8:00 p.m. \$99, .75 CEU

No discounts.

GREAT DECISIONS IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY

There is one safeguard known generally to the wise, which is an advantage and security to all, but especially to democracies as against despots. What is it? Distrust. — Demosthenes

Sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association, Great Decisions is the centerpiece of the longest-running civic education program devoted to foreign affairs in the United States. The purpose of this course is to empower student participants to discuss global issues shaping U.S. foreign policy and the world. The course consists of eight lectures by faculty members of the International Studies Department or outside experts. Lectures are followed immediately by a discussion. The lecture topics are chosen by the Foreign Policy Association and are considered important and (perhaps) the most controversial foreign policy and international affairs issues of the year. This year's topics include Middle East realignment, cybersecurity, exit from Afghanistan and Iraq, state of the oceans and energy geopolitics, among others.

Text:

Great Decisions 2012

Foreign Policy Association

The materials will be ordered for you when you register for the class for an additional \$20.

Stephen Ceccoli, Ph.D.

Washington University

Associate Professor of International Studies,
Chair

Eight Thursdays, Jan. 19 – March 8

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. \$200, 1.6 CEUs

Class will meet in Buckman Hall, Room 110

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GARDENS, LANDSCAPE, & LITERATURE IN ENGLAND 1650 TO 1850: “WHAT ARE MEN TO ROCKS & MOUNTAINS?”

England's most famous contribution to the visual arts is probably the great garden tradition of the 18th century and after: the “English Landscape Garden,” or “Jardin Anglais,” or “Englischer Garten.” We see its effects still in Memphis, in the design of Overton Park, the Dixon Gardens, and even the campus of Rhodes College. In this course we'll consider the origins of the English landscape garden and the ideas and attitudes that contribute to it: admiration of classical literature and art, the idealization of Italy in the works of Claude Lorrain and Nicolas Poussin, the sense of England as an empire of liberty, changing ideas of nature, and much more. To explore the topic, we'll read literary works and look at images of many of the great surviving landscape gardens, such as Stowe, Stourhead, Blenheim, Castle Howard, Rousham, Studley Royal, Rievaulx; examine the way the form changes; and end with some of the American landscapes most clearly connected with that tradition: New York's Central and Prospect Parks, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted; and George Kessler's Overton Park in Memphis.

Text:

Handouts will be provided.

Michael Leslie, Ph.D.

University of Edinburgh

Professor of English Literature

Dean of British Studies at Oxford

Six Thursdays, January 19 – February 23

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. \$180, 1.2 CEUs

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I have never been disappointed in any of the courses I have taken over several years. Courses are well chosen and the professors are excellent instructors.

Sandy Riggs

ROMAN BRITAIN, 55 BCE – CE 410

In CE 43 the Emperor Claudius ordered an army of four legions, plus auxiliaries, c. 40,000 men, to invade Britain. In CE 410 the Emperor Honorius informed the Romano-British population that they had now to defend themselves; there was no longer any Roman army to protect them, nor a Roman authority to administer the country. The four centuries during which the Roman presence in Britain increased, flourished and then declined changed every aspect of life—industry, trade, government and learning—even the physical appearance of the countryside; all were revolutionized. Tacitus would say, “The toga was often seen among them,” describing the Britons adopting the Roman way of life, yet we are left with the question as to just how far did the process of Romanization go? The purpose of these lectures will be to chart the breadth and depth of Roman influence on Britain and its population, and to examine the legacy of the Roman occupation of Britain, if any, on medieval and modern Britain.

Text:

Roman Britain: A New History

Guy de la Bedoyere, (Thames & Hudson: London, 2006)

ISBN 0500051402 or ISBN 978-0500051405

William Maynard, Ph.D.

Durham University, England

Associate Professor of History

Arkansas State University

Four Mondays, Jan. 23 – Feb. 13

5:30 – 7:30 p.m., \$120, .8 CEU

20TH-CENTURY MASTERWORKS IN MEMPHIS CONCERTS

The 2012 spring concert season in Memphis features some important musical masterworks of the first half of the 20th century. This course will explore these compositions and show how

they fit into their cultural and historical settings. In addition, the class will examine the local arts organizations that produce them. It will consider the challenges facing traditional arts organizations producing live concerts in the digital age. The class will entertain guests representing the various local arts organizations. Members of the class will be invited to attend selected rehearsals as an optional activity.

Prokofiev: *Romeo and Juliet Suite*

(Memphis Symphony Orchestra, performance Feb. 11)

Meeman Class – Monday, Jan. 30

Stravinsky: *Rite of Spring*

(Memphis Symphony Orchestra, performance March 17)

and

Shostakovich: *Violin Concerto*

(IRIS Chamber Orchestra, performance March 17)

Meeman Class – Monday, March 5

Britten: *Cello Symphony*

(IRIS Chamber Orchestra, performance April 17)

Meeman Class – Monday, April 2

Lauridsen: *Lux Aeterna*

(Rhodes MasterSingers, performance April 28)

Meeman Class – Thursday, April 19

Text:

The Rest is Noise, Alex Ross, (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007)

ISBN 978-0-374-24939-7

Patricia Gray, Ph.D.

Washington University

Luna Nova Music, Executive and Artistic Director

Four various days and dates (see above)

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. \$120, .8 CEU

— OR —

Individual classes, \$40 each, .2 CEU per class

There is no discount on single classes.

THE FACES OF GRIEF IN FICTION & FILM

This discussion based course will explore a variety of representations of grief in contemporary short fiction and film. Through reading short stories and viewing film segments, participants will explore the many ways that writers and filmmakers depict grief and loss (psychologically, socially and spiritually), and will learn more deeply about the impact of grief and loss in our own lives. Short stories will be drawn from C. Michael Curtis' collection titled *God: Stories*, such as "A New Life" (Mary Ward Brown), "A Father's Story" (Andre Dubus), and "Redemption" (John Garner).

The first session will include an overview of the course, theoretical background and a discussion based upon the viewing of several film segments that depict grief and loss.

Text:

God: Stories, C. Michael Curtis
ISBN 0-618-38793-5

Lee Ramsey, Ph.D.
Vanderbilt University
Professor of Pastoral Theology and
Homilectics
Memphis Theological Seminary

Four Wednesdays, Feb. 1 – 22
5:30 – 7:30 p.m. \$120, .8 CEU

Most beneficial decision that I made about 20 years ago and that sentiment persists to the present. I could not recommend these programs more highly.

Peter Quinn

A HISTORY OF OPERA

For four hundred years, opera has been one of the most popular art forms in the Western world. This course is an introduction to its themes, sources, forms and nature through selected works from Monteverdi through the 20th century. While focusing on one or two specific operas each week, the class will consider ways in which music is used to interpret drama. We will also consider the cultural, social, philosophical and political elements that contributed to the changes in this musical genre over the years.

We'll explore such favorites as *Orfeo*, *Dido and Aeneas*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Carmen*, *La Bohème*, *Tristan and Isolde*, *Wozzeck* and *Porgy and Bess*. And we'll listen to great voices, recent and historical, from Maria Callas and Luciano Pavarotti to Leontyne Price.

Join us for an examination of the best-loved operas through brief excerpts of performances, demonstrations, close analysis of the scores and interactive discussions of the stories and the cultures that inspired them.

This course is appropriate for students without a background in music.

Text:

Opera: A History in Documents, Piero Weiss,
(Oxford University Press, 2002)
ISBN: 9780195116380

Optional Reading:

A Short History of Opera, Donald Jay Grout
and Hermine Weigel Williams, (Columbia
University Press; 4th edition, 2003)
ISBN: 9780231119580

Vanessa Rogers, Ph.D.
University of Southern California, Los Angeles
Assistant Professor of Music

Four Mondays, Feb. 6 – 27
5:30 – 7:30 PM, \$120, .8 CEU

THE 2012 ELECTIONS

Presidential election cycles are perhaps the most exciting times in American electoral politics. We are inundated with all manner of information and opinions from political parties, candidates, interest groups, pundits and media outlets. This course will provide some academic perspective on our campaigns and elections so that we can better understand and appreciate the events of 2012 and beyond. We will begin with a discussion of the role and meaning of campaigns and elections in democratic politics, including some background on the history of campaigning as a political phenomenon. The next session will address the American voter. Specific questions we will consider include: Who votes? Why? How is the American electorate changing? Does it matter? How do people decide who to vote for? From there we will turn to the congressional elections and the presidential race. Here we will discuss the rules and processes that govern these contests and how they influence candidate strategy and tactics, drawing on examples from both past and present campaigns. We will also examine what political science tells us about the kinds of candidates who tend to win and why, and discuss the likely outcomes and implications of the 2012 contests. Along the way we will also discuss how well our electoral process functions and what we might do to make it better.

Text:

Handouts will be provided.

Margaret Carne, Ph.D.
University of California, Berkeley
Assistant Professor of Political Science

Four Wednesdays, Feb. 8 – 29
5:30 – 7:30 p.m. \$120, .8 CEU



Besides the joy of continued learning with scholars and friends, Meeman Center offers the Memphis Community a chance to attend class with Rhodes College professors.

Margaret Wellford Tabor

**THE SEARCH FOR VALUES IN THE LIGHT
OF WESTERN HISTORY & RELIGION:
ASPECTS OF THE EUROPEAN RENAISSANCE**

Session 1: Feb. 14

(Victor Coonin, Art)

*An Introduction to Renaissance Art and A
Renaissance Masterpiece: Michelangelo's
David*

What do we mean by the Renaissance in art,
and how does it manifest itself in 15th-16th-
century Florence?

Session 2: Feb. 21

(Victor Coonin, Art)

*A Renaissance Man: Leonardo da Vinci
and A Renaissance Woman: the Mona Lisa*

We will discuss some of the current attention
being showered on Leonardo, and conclude
with a focus on the most famous Renaissance
woman, the so-called Mona Lisa.

Session 3: Feb. 28

(Vanessa Rogers, Music)

*Sing Joyfully unto God: Music in
Renaissance European Cathedrals*

The Reformation and Counter-Reformation
engulfed Europe in the Renaissance, changing
the lives and careers of composers and musi-
cians, and creating new sacred music genres
and traditions. We will learn how religion
affected music in this era and listen to awe-
inspiring masses, motets and anthems culled
from the 15th – 17th centuries, including
sacred works by Dunstable, Josquin, Allegri,
Palestrina, Victoria and Byrd.

Reading:

Handouts will be provided.

Session 4: March 6

(Vanessa Rogers, Music)

*Le Virtuose Sublime: Songs and Dances
from the Courts of Renaissance Europe*

The rise of the Renaissance created a bur-
geoning middle class with increased leisure
time; the invention of music printing and the
fashion for music education among elites was
a boon to the arts in this era and would influ-
ence society long thereafter. In the meantime,
political events, the rise of Humanism, and
the “new English sound” would also change
the way we hear and experience music even
today. In this class we will learn why. We
will also explore the popular music trends and
personalities of the period and listen to music
of some of the most important secular com-
posers from the 15th-17th centuries, includ-
ing the murderous Gesualdo, the melancholy
Dowland, the duplicitous Byrd and the multi-
talented Monteverdi, among others.

Reading:

Handouts will be provided.

Session 5: March 20

(Michael Leslie, English Literature)

Tragi-comedies of Love

A selection of English sonnets, to include Wy-
att and Surrey from the 1530s, Philip Sidney
from around 1580, Edmund Spenser and Wil-
liam Shakespeare from the 1590s and John
Donne from the turn of the century.

Detailed reading of sonnets to see how the form
opens up new possibilities for English writers.

Reading:

Handouts will be provided.

Session 6: March 27

(Michael Leslie, English Literature)

Dramatic Re-interpretation of English Prose

A pairing of a prose tale with a dramatic re-
interpretation: Robert Greene's *Pandosto; or,
The Triumph of Time* and Shakespeare's *The*

Winter's Tale. Good to remind ourselves that early modern English writers produced prose as well, and what Shakespeare's magic could do with interesting but not stellar material. Or maybe it was the Earl of Oxford's magic.

Reading:

The Winter's Tale, ed. John Pitcher, (London: Arden Shakespeare/Methuen Drama, 2010) (This edition includes *Pandosto*) ISBN 9781903436356

**Sessions 7-8: April 3 and April 10
(Stephen Wirls, Political Thought)
*Machiavelli's The Prince***

Is the most notorious book ever written about politics an expression of Renaissance humanism, or something else? These final two sessions will be devoted to "the real Machiavelli" who continues to elude scholarly consensus, and to his new account of human virtue.

Reading:

The Prince, Machiavelli, translated by Harvey C. Mansfield, Jr., (University of Chicago Press) ISBN 0-226-50038-1

Eight Tuesdays, Feb. 14 – April 10
5:30 – 7:30 p.m. \$240 for all eight classes, 1.6 CEUs

(No class March 13)

Individual classes, \$40 each, .2 CEU per class

There is no discount on single classes.

PROBING THE MIND OF GOD

This course explores the new and growing field of cognitive science of religion, which posits that religious ideas are shaped and even directly created by specific ways in which the human brain works. We will explore the evolutionary history that gave us a brain prone to religious beliefs; we will consider how the brain creates beliefs in gods and how these ideas are spread from brain to brain.

Text:

Religion Explained: The Evolutionary Origins of Religious Thought, Pascal Boyer (ISBN 0-465-00696-5)

Daniel Ullucci, Ph.D.

Brown University

Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

Four Thursdays, Feb. 2 – 23

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. \$120, .8 CEU

Register by January 9 to take advantage of our 10% early-bird discount. May not be used in conjunction with any other discounts.

The courses that I have taken at the Meeman Center have been an invaluable addition to my intellectual and social life here . . . Thanks for all your efforts and for the time and erudition of your many excellent professors.

Ed Weston



LORE OF LITERATURE

The Lore of Literature course presents an appealing array of fascinating literary works for spring. Each of the four works was chosen by the professor, who with Dunbar Abston, will lead the discussion on two Monday evenings. You may register for the whole series of eight classes or you may choose any pair or pairs of classes. Come and enjoy a relaxed study and discussion of the following works with Dunbar, an admired Rhodes professor, and a group of intellectually interested Meeman students.

Monday, Feb. 20 & 27*Sense and Sensibility*

Published in 1811 and for many years regarded as the ugly duckling of Austen's six major novels, *Sense and Sensibility* is a fascinating study not only of its rival orientations to the world as embodied in the Dashwood sisters, the prudent Elinor and the romantic Marianne, but of their lives of genteel poverty, as compared to their wealthy social-climbing relatives.

Text:

Sense and Sensibility, Jane Austen,
(most recent Penguin edition)

Jennifer Brady, Ph.D.
Princeton University

Monday, March 19 & 26*The Rise of Silas Lapham*

This 1885 work by William Dean Howells is considered by many to be the first American novel to treat seriously business ethics in the modern American workplace. When the narrative opens, Silas Lapham is the quintessential self-made man; however, as someone with “new money,” Lapham has never been accepted into the old Boston society that surrounds him, and his desire for this acceptance leads him to make some questionable choices.

Text:

The Rise of Silas Lapham, William Dean Howells, (Penguin edition)

Leslie Petty, Ph.D.
University of Georgia

Monday, April 2 & 9*The Lieutenant of Inishmore* and the film, *In Bruges*

Martin McDonagh, a Londoner of Irish extraction, is among the most accomplished—if also outrageous and controversial—playwrights of the past 15 years on either side of the Atlantic. McDonagh's plays and films, at once wickedly funny and horrendously violent, take their place within—yet at the same time test the limits of—the Irish theatrical tradition that extends back to J.M. Synge, Sean O'Casey and Samuel Beckett. *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (2001), set in the Irish Aran Isles, is so politically risqué (and so graphically violent) that it first had to be staged in England—no Irish theatre company

continued next page

Meeman Center keeps me young! I feel that I am still in college, a late-teenager, with the whole world spread out as a banquet.

Norm Shapiro

would touch it. *In Bruges* (2008), McDonagh's first feature-length film, though set in Belgium, shares with his five Irish plays a jet-black comedy that is at once light and deep.

Text:

The Lieutenant of Inishmore and the film, *In Bruges*, Martin McDonagh

Brian Shaffer, Ph.D.
University of Iowa

Monday, April 16 & 23

Henry V

Henry V seems to provide all the answers to questions of kingship, be they political, military or social. Even so the play subverts the glorification of the "ideal" monarch. This course will examine the nature of royal power. Is this power actual or ironic? Triumphant or illusionary?

Text:

Henry V, William Shakespeare, (The Folger Shakespeare Library Edition)

ISBN 0-7434-8487-8

Seth Rudy, Ph.D.
New York University

Dunbar Abston Jr., A.B., Princeton; M.B.A., Harvard; M. Philosophy, Literature, Oxford

Eight various Mondays, Feb. 20 – April 23

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. \$240 for all eight sessions, 1.6 CEUs

— OR —

\$65 per pair or pairs, .4 CEU

There is no discount on pair/pairs of classes.

**DEATH, BURIAL & THE AFTERLIFE**

Through an analysis of history, archaeology and a focus on the local Memphis community, this course will examine a wide array of beliefs and practices related to death, burial and the afterlife from the ancient world to modern America. The class will begin with an introduction to ideas and rituals from Egyptian, Greek, Roman, early Christian and Eastern cultures. We will then explore modern American ideas of the afterlife and death rituals. We will take advantage of the historical cemeteries in Memphis as we examine funeral practices, symbols and related belief systems since the 1820s in the local community.

Text:

Handouts will be provided.

Milton Moreland, Ph.D.

Claremont Graduate University

Chair, Archaeology; Associate Professor, Religious Studies

Four Wednesdays, Feb. 29 – March 28

(No class on March 14)

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. \$120, .8 CEU

MORMONISM IN AMERICA

What does Mitt Romney “believe?” Would his faith affect his presidency? Besides Romney, Harry Reid, the leader of the Democrat majority in the Senate, is Mormon. Does his religion affect his politics? Tolstoy referred to Mormonism as the “American religion.” Sociologist Rodney Stark characterizes Mormonism as the first worldwide religion since Islam. To a large extent, Mormons made the Western United States. And yet, America is still deeply suspicious of Mormons. One episode of *The Simpsons* refers to Mormons as “America’s Most Powerful Weirdos.” Few groups in the U.S. have been as influential and as reviled as Mormons, who inhabit increasingly diverse demographics in America. This course examines the history of Mormonism and the ways in which Americans have viewed Mormons. The class will also consider some of the things that make Mormonism both unique and sinister in America, including its peculiar theology, its rituals, its scriptural tradition and its insularity and distrust of America.

David Mason, Ph.D.
University of Wisconsin - Madison
Associate Professor of Theatre
Four Thursdays, March 1 – 29
(No class on March 15)
5:30 – 7:30 p.m. \$120, .8 CEU

Register by January 9 to take advantage of our 10% early-bird discount. May not be used in conjunction with any other discounts.

CELEBRATING NATURE & THE SACRED THROUGH POETRY: “THE DEAREST FRESHNESS DEEP DOWN THINGS”

In his poem “God’s Grandeur,” the 19th-century poet and Jesuit priest Gerard Manley Hopkins affirms the “dearest freshness deep down things” as a manifestation of God’s presence in the natural world. This four-week class will explore conceptions of nature and the sacred as described by poets such as Hopkins, Wallace Stevens, Wendell Berry, Gary Snyder, Denise Levertov and Mary Oliver. We will investigate the power of poetic language to evoke a contemplative frame of mind and to deepen our joyful appreciation of the natural world.

Text:
Handouts will be provided.

Mary Leigh Pittenger, Ph.D.
Emory University
Part-Time Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

Four Thursdays, March 1 – 29

(No class on March 15)

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. \$120, .8 CEU



MEMPHIS HISTORY: CENTURIES OF ADVENTURE & DEVELOPMENT

Jimmy Ogle will present various aspects of his study of and life experiences in Memphis, Tennessee. From the early explorers and settlers to modern day citizens; from imposing natural landscapes that made Memphis one of the earliest settlements in the nation to the largest metropolis of the Mid-South; the Mississippi River, cotton, Civil War, disasters, Beale Street, Memphis music, civil rights, medicine and to the city's modern day impact as the "Nation's Distribution Center" will be covered, along with many anecdotes, fun facts, figures and historical achievements of many citizens along the way.

April 9:

*Before There Was "Memphis" (1541-1826)
Historic Memphis to Modern Memphis (1819-2011)*

April 16:

Memphis Memorials, Statues & Sculptures; The Memphis Music Story

April 23:

Cotton Men of Elmwood; Civil War; The Moving Appeal; Memphis & The Civil Rights Movement

April 30:

Potpourri Night: Overton Park; Gayoso Bayou - Then & Now; Origins & Oddities of the Streets & Bridges of Memphis; Mississippi River Stories . . . and more

Jimmy Ogle, B.S.

University of Memphis

Community Engagement Manager

Riverfront Development Corporation

Four Mondays, April 9 – 30

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. \$120, .8 CEU

DON QUIXOTE: THE FIRST MODERN NOVEL

The first modern novel is the story of an eccentric old man who aspires to become a medieval knight. Why does that would-be knight attack a windmill in spite of the protestations of his illiterate squire, Sancho Panza? As for Sancho, what motivates him to leave home and seek adventures, and how well does he fulfill his responsibilities as squire? How does Don Quixote's first encounter with the peerless Dulcinea affect his zeal? In conclusion, what is the cause of Don Quixote's final defeat? Given the length of the novel, only selected passages will be considered.

Text:

any English translation

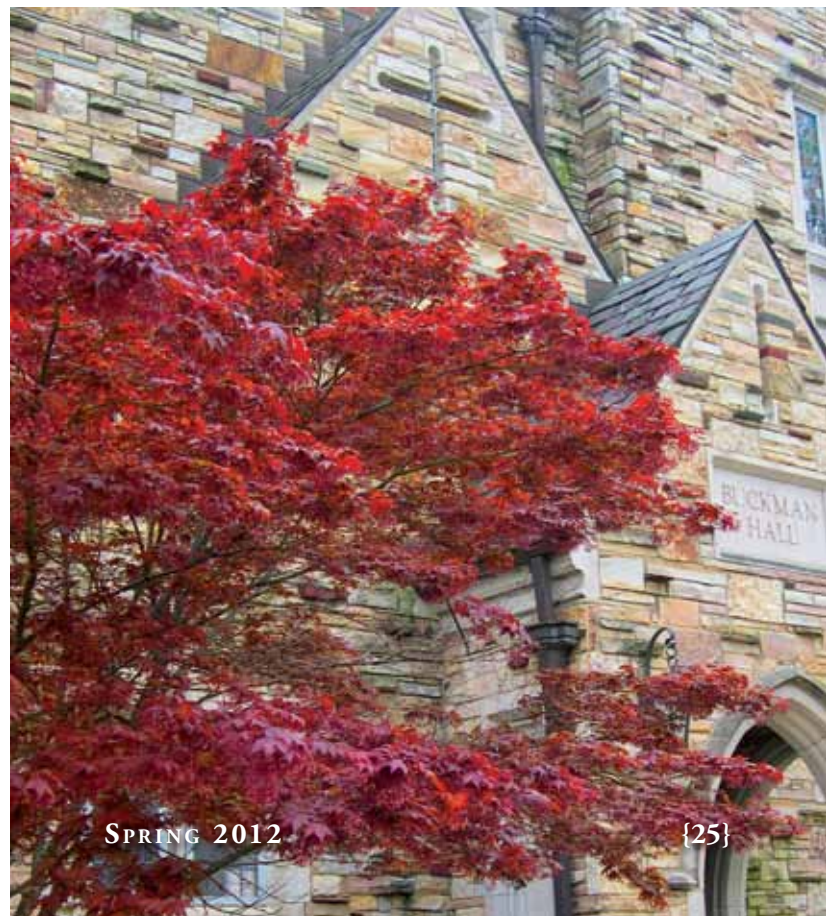
Donald Tucker, Ph.D.

University of North Carolina

Professor Emeritus of Spanish

Three Wednesdays, April 11 – 25

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. \$90, .6 CEU



ST. PETERSBURG: WHERE RUSSIA MEETS THE WEST

This course will explore the riches of Russia's cultural capital—St. Petersburg. The city remained the home seat of the Romanovs for almost 300 years and still bears the splendor and glamour of that period. We will look into the history of the city, its imperial and Soviet past, as well as aspiring present. Since St. Petersburg was designed by Peter the Great to be a European city in outline and spirit, we will examine the role that St. Petersburg played as a “Western side” of Russia, the symbol of Westernizing efforts of Russian czars and czarinas. As one example of a dialogue between Russia and the West, the course will offer a viewing and discussion of Alexander Sokuriv's film, *Russian Ark*—a time-traveling journey through 300 years of imperial Russian history. Filmed with a cast of several thousand and three live orchestras, *Russian Ark* is the first film ever created in a single take.

Alexandra Kostina, ABD

St. Petersburg Gornyi Institute
Instructor of Modern Languages

Three Thursdays, April 12 – 26

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. \$90, .6 CEU



I have enjoyed my first course at the Meeman Center and look forward to taking advantage of this resource in the future.

A Lifelong Learner

BLACK PREACHING IN THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN TRADITION

What distinguishes black preaching from other forms of discourse? How did the African Diaspora use preaching to understand the Christian gospel in the New World? How has the power of black preaching been the source for organizing the black church and for nurturing a determined people in a seemingly hopeless situation? How can an individual in the 21st century adjust black preaching methods and styles to shifting needs of Christian worshipers while seeking to function from an African-American perspective? This class explores major styles and methods of black preaching as demonstrated through imagination, biblical storytelling, translating folk culture and language, dialogue, and celebration. Students will read and listen to black sermons in order to analyze and interpret rhetorical strategies in an attempt to discern the role of the divine in the sermonic process and moment.

Text:

Preaching with Sacred Fire: An Anthology of African American Sermons, 1750 to the Present, Martha Simmons and Frank A. Thomas, (W.W. Norton, 2010)
ISBN 978-0393058314

Earle J. Fisher, M.Div.

Memphis Theological Seminary

Adjunct Instructor of Contemporary
Theology

Department of Religious Studies

Two Tuesdays, April 17 & 24

5:30 – 7:30 p.m., \$60, .4 CEU





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Ken Blackburn

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Meeman Center Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 8:30-5:00



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