

FALL
2021

THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON

THE SCHEMEL FORUM

FOR CULTURAL ENRICHMENT
& EDUCATION IN THE COMMUNITY

A PROGRAM OF THE HARRY & JEANETTE WEINBERG MEMORIAL LIBRARY





Sondra Myers
Director, The Schemel Forum

FROM THE director

Dear Schemelites,

First I thank you for embracing the Schemel Zooms through these strange pandemic times. Though Zooms can be annoying, we are fortunate to have had them help us enjoy the opportunity to learn together — particularly at a time when many of us were under a kind of “house arrest.”

The air is clearing, the pandemic is dwindling, thanks to vaccinations and honoring the recommendations of public health leaders. I hope you have gotten your vaccination by now and are enjoying the outdoors without masks and socializing more. For those of us who still live comfortably the most difficult problem we have had is the lack of socializing. We’ve managed — we’re resilient — but it’s been hard.

We’ve been working on putting together the fall semester program, hopeful that the sessions will be in person — but backed up by Zoom. *Please let us know if you prefer Zoom only.* We’re living in a time that is full of “What ifs”? Still we are fortunate to have an array of courses and distinguished luncheon seminar speakers that are first rate. We promise to keep the standards high, always aiming to go even higher.

Let us know how you are doing and whether you know some eager learners who would like to be on the Schemel Forum list.

I look forward to seeing you in the Fall if not sooner.

Best,

P.S. COLLABORATIONS

1. I am happy to report that outgoing dean of the Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, Dr. Steven Scheinman, put the Schemel Forum in the institution’s budget. I consider this “statement” to be important and most gratifying. A partnership with one of our newest and most significant academic institutions is, indeed, an honor. In return we will welcome medical school students and faculty to our courses and World Affairs Seminars as our guests.
2. The new CEO of WVIA, Carla McCabe, has agreed to have Schemel speakers interviewed on NPR the day before they speak. That will get our Schemel message out to a large number of people in the region whom we don’t normally reach. And they can use Zoom.

COURSES



Trust the Science? A Political History of Science

Why have climate change, vaccinations, the theory of evolution, and even the history and shape of the earth become so controversial in contemporary American society? To understand these developments, this course will begin with an examination of how modern sciences emerged as an attempt to avoid political and religious disagreement by viewing nature with “objectivity”. Next, we will study creationist vs. geological conceptions of Earth’s origins, debates surrounding Darwin’s theory of evolution, and the rise and fall of eugenics practices to get a sense of how political and religious concerns have always played a part in scientific work.

Paul Sampson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, The University of Scranton

Thursdays, September 9, 16, 23, 30 and October 7, 14

6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. • Weinberg Memorial Library, Room 305; remote link will be emailed



Invisible Men: Novels by Ralph Ellison & Viet Thanh Nguyen

In this course, we will discuss W.E.B. DuBois’s concept of double-consciousness and its adaptation into Ralph Ellison’s concept of invisibility in *Invisible Man*. Then we will read Viet Thanh Nguyen’s *The Sympathizer* to see how he reworks those concepts for an Asian-American context.

Joe Kraus, Ph.D., Chair and Professor, Department of English & Theatre, The University of Scranton, and President, MELUS (Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States)

Mondays, September 13, 20, 27, and October 4, 18, 25

6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. • Weinberg Memorial Library, Room 305; remote link will be emailed



Social and Moral Issues in Information Technology

The course will deal with issues that remain current. They are intellectual property, software and music video piracy, liability for defective software, privacy, free speech, facial recognition, computer crime. Is the internet used as a distraction technology rather than an informative technology?

Kevin Nordberg, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Latin American Studies, The University of Scranton

Wednesdays, October 6, 13, 20, 27 and November 3, 10

6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. • Weinberg Memorial Library, Room 305; remote link will be emailed

about THE SCHEMEL FORUM

The Schemel Forum was founded in July 2006 through generous gifts to the Rev. George Schemel, S.J., Fund, created by friends of the late Father Schemel in his loving memory. Its aim is to provide an opportunity for people of all ages to explore the intellectual and cultural wonders of the world.

Course Fees:

Free to University of Scranton Staff, Students, Faculty and Schemel Forum Members
Single Fee Non-Member: \$75 • Couple Fee Non-Member: \$125 • Remote only: \$60



Friday, September 10

The Words That Made Us: America’s Constitutional Conversation, 1760-1840

The Words that Made Us according to reviewers, revives the constitutional history of the United States for a twenty-first century nation. Amar confronts the founders’ failures and successes with admirable frankness. Signed copies of the book will be sold following the lecture.

Akhil Reed Amar, *Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science, Yale University*

Brennan Hall, Rose Room, 509 • Noon to 1:30 p.m.; remote link will be emailed



Tuesday, September 14

Arguing at the Supreme Court in a Time of Conflict

Neal Katyal, who has conducted 44 oral arguments before the US Supreme Court (more than any minority attorney in US history), will explain the Supreme Court’s role in times of conflict.

Neal Katyal, *partner at Hogan Lovells and the Paul and Patricia Saunders Professor of National Security Law at Georgetown University Law Center*

Edward Leahy Hall, Kane Forum, 235 • Noon to 1:30 p.m.; remote link will be emailed

****Please note the luncheon with be in-person and the speaker will be remote**



Monday, September 20

Biden and the World

Best with urgent domestic issues, President Biden must also contend with an increasingly aggressive China, a vengeful Russia, and the residue of conflicts in the Mideast and Afghanistan that occupied previous presidencies. Seven months in, how is he doing?

Trudy Rubin, *Worldview Columnist, The Philadelphia Inquirer*

Brennan Hall, Rose Room, 509 • Noon to 1:30 p.m.; remote link will be emailed



Tuesday, September 28

The 2020 Pennsylvania Presidential Election Litigation

We will take a backstage tour of the 2020 Pennsylvania Presidential Election litigation with two of Pennsylvania’s lawyers.

Dan Brier and Donna Walsh, *Partners, Myers, Brier & Kelly, LLP*

Brennan Hall, Rose Room, 509 • Noon to 1:30 p.m.; remote link will be emailed



Thursday, October 7

Jane Jacobs’ First City: What Comes Next?

Mayor Cognetti will note Scranton’s reputation as a city as seen by Jane Jacobs in the 1930s and then address present issues and her visions for the city’s future.

Paige Cognetti, *Mayor, City of Scranton*

Brennan Hall, Rose Room, 509 • Noon to 1:30 p.m.; remote link will be emailed



Friday, October 15

Democracy in America? An Outsider’s View

For two centuries after it was established, the American system of government was a benchmark and an inspiration for much of the rest of the world. In the last decade, however, it has seemed increasingly troubled. Those difficulties seem to go beyond immediate political events to raise more fundamental questions about systems, values and institutions. As a friendly outsider, the Irish writer Fintan O’Toole asks how deep this crisis goes and whether the promise that America once held for the world can be restored.

Fintan O’Toole, *columnist for The Irish Times and the Leonard L. Milberg Lecturer in Irish Letters at Princeton*

Brennan Hall, Rose Room, 509 • Noon to 1:30 p.m.; remote link will be emailed



Tuesday, October 26

The Holocaust and Jewish-Christian Relations

After their failures during the Holocaust, how have the Christian Churches, especially the Roman Catholic Church, examined and re-evaluated their theology, religious education, and prayers when it comes to Jews and Judaism? What challenges remain to be overcome so Christians -- especially Roman Catholic Christians -- can live their faith without prejudice?

Dr. Carol Rittner, *RSM, Distinguished Professor Emerita of Holocaust & Genocide Studies and the Dr. Marsha Raticoff Grossman Professor Emerita of Holocaust Studies at Stockton University in New Jersey*

Brennan Hall, Rose Room, 509 • Noon to 1:30 p.m.; remote link will be emailed

Seminar Fees:

Free to University of Scranton Staff, Students, Faculty and Schemel Forum Members

\$25 per luncheon per person • \$10 remote only



Thursday, November 4

This Community's Medical College: How advances in pedagogy and technology, and the pandemic, have shaped medical education in the 21st century

For much of the past century medical education has conformed to a template laid out in 1910 by Abraham Flexner and was heavily reliant on lectures, laboratory exercises and clinical experiences in urban hospitals. In recent decades some innovative medical schools, including The Commonwealth Medical College (now Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine) have moved past this model through embracing active learning, new educational technologies and community-based clinical experiences. The COVID pandemic forced all medical schools to pivot to embrace online learning, telemedicine and other technologies in ways that are likely to inform medical education in the long-term.

Steven Scheinman, M.D., *President and Dean, Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine; Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, Geisinger*

Brennan Hall, Rose Room, 509 • remote link will be emailed; Noon to 1:30 p.m. • \$25 per person



Tuesday, November 9

Beethoven's Deafness: Psychological Crises and Artistic Triumph

During the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth, psychiatrist and concert pianist Dr. Richard Kogan explores Beethoven's extraordinary resilience in response to medical and mental illness and illustrates his artistic transformation through performances of some of his most glorious music.

Dr. Richard Kogan, M.D., *Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Weill Cornell Medical College and Artistic Director, Weill Cornell Music and Medicine Program*

Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple, 420 N. Washington Ave., Scranton • 5:30 p.m. Reception to follow. \$30 per person

BUS trip

Saturday, October 23, 2021. BACK TO GOTHAM! NYC!

After the long, imposing and frightening pandemic we return to NY to lap up its unmatched array of cultural attractions.

Our first stop will be the dazzling exhibit: *Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience NYC*. It's a 20,000 square foot light and sound spectacle unlike anything we've seen before. From there we move on to the theater district with time to grab some lunch at one of the many eateries near the Friedman Theatre. Then onto the debut performance of Ruben Santiago-Hudson's brilliant solo play, *Lackawanna Blues*, that celebrates the strong, bighearted woman who raised him.

This is the made-to-order bus trip for the Schemel's first post-pandemic visit to New York.



Cost is **\$150 per person** which includes transportation, exhibit and show tickets. The bus leaves from The University of Scranton at 7:45 a.m. & arrives back on campus at approximately 6:00 p.m. **Please email Alicen.Morrison@scranton.edu, to reserve a spot by October 1st as spaces are limited.** *Bus trip fees are non-refundable.

EVENING COURSES • Single Fee Non-Member: **\$75** • Couple Fee Non-Member: **\$125** • Remote only: **\$60**

- 1 | 2 REMOTE ONLY Trust the Science? A Political History of Science • *Sampson*
- 1 | 2 REMOTE ONLY Invisible Men: Novels by Ralph Ellison & Viet Thanh Nguyen • *Kraus*
- 1 | 2 REMOTE ONLY Social and Moral Issues in Information Technology • *Nordberg*

WORLD AFFAIRS LUNCHEON SEMINARS • \$25 per luncheon • \$10 remote only

- 1 | 2 REMOTE ONLY 9/10/21: The Words That Made Us: America's Constitutional Conversation, 1760-1840 • *Amar*
- 1 | 2 REMOTE ONLY 9/14/21: Arguing at the Supreme Court in a Time of Conflict • *Katyal*
- 1 | 2 REMOTE ONLY 9/20/21: Biden and the World • *Rubin*
- 1 | 2 REMOTE ONLY 9/28/21: The 2020 Pennsylvania Presidential Election Litigation • *Brier & Walsh*
- 1 | 2 REMOTE ONLY 10/7/21: Jane Jacobs' First City: What Comes Next? • *Cognetti*
- 1 | 2 REMOTE ONLY 10/15/21: Democracy in America? An Outsider's View • *O'Toole*
- 1 | 2 REMOTE ONLY 10/26/21: The Holocaust and Jewish-Christian Relations • *Rittner*

COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS • \$25 for luncheon • \$10 remote only • \$30 for concert (no remote option)

- 1 | 2 REMOTE ONLY 11/4/21: This Community's Medical College: How advances in pedagogy and technology, and the pandemic, have shaped medical education in the 21st century • *Scheinman*
- 1 | 2 11/9/21: Beethoven's Deafness: Psychological Crises and Artistic Triumph • *Kogan*
- 1 | 2 **BUS TRIP to NEW YORK CITY 10/23/21 • \$150** (not included with membership) *Please confirm your spot before sending payment

membership OPTIONS

ACADEMIC YEAR

All Programs from 06/01/21 – 05/31/2022, except Bus Trip

Individual **\$660** Couple **\$990**

SEMESTER MEMBERSHIP • FALL 2021

All Semester Programs, except Bus Trip

Individual **\$330** Couple **\$495**

ANGEL MEMBERSHIP

All Academic Year Programs, except Bus Trip

Individual **\$1,000** Couple **\$1,250**

ARCHANGEL MEMBERSHIP

All Academic Year Programs, except Bus Trip

Individual **\$2,000** Couple **\$2,500**

For Members CHECK THIS BOX to sign up for ALL programs (or select individual programs above)

all PROGRAMS

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

Email _____

I am enclosing a check for _____

MAIL TO: The Schemel Forum, Weinberg Memorial Library, The University of Scranton, Scranton, PA 18510

CONTACT: Alicen Morrison, 570.941.6206, alicen.morrison@scranton.edu

CREDIT CARD: To pay by credit card over the phone please contact Kym Fetsko, 570.941.7816

NEW PAY ONLINE: www.scranton.edu/schemelforum

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