Dear Schemelites:

Can Spring Be Far Behind? The 19th century British poet, Percy Bysshe Shelley, thought so, so let his words brighten these pandemic days that we metaphorically call our winter. We ask questions— with a bit of desperation. Is there a spike in our region? Is the death rate growing? Will enough people be vaccinated?

Although we are proud that the Schemel Forum has endured and even grown during the pandemic, that people adapted to courses given remotely and Distinguished World Affairs Luncheon Seminars going lunchless, we are eagerly looking forward to a more normal spring. We have worked diligently to "spring up" to the challenges, selecting interesting courses taught by fine faculty members and inviting in nationally renowned scholars and journalists to enlighten us in these troubling times. We are hoping to meet in person and at the same time are prepared to switch to virtual if/when we need to.

These days there is always a "what if?" to our statements—we’ve grown accustomed to that. We promise that—whatever the weather or health announcements— we will have an interesting and enlightening assortment of courses and speakers at the Schemel Forum.

Thank you for putting up with Zooms and lunchless luncheon seminars— and join with us in welcoming in the Schemel Spring.

Be safe and well.

Warm regards,

Sondra Myers

FROM THE director

Sondra Myers

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.

about THE SCHEMEL FORUM

James Bond and the Cold War

One of the most famous fictional characters to come out of the British Isles, Ian Fleming’s superspy James Bond, has been a constant presence in books, films, video games and merchandise for almost seventy years. This course will put Bond back into the context of the Cold War from the 1950s to the 1980s. It will begin with an examination of Fleming’s novels and how they connect to his own background in espionage and then move to the films from the Connery to Dalton eras, ranging from Dr. No to The Living Daylights.

Sean Brennan, Ph.D., Professor of History, The University of Scranton

Tuesdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22 & March 1, 8
6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. • In Person- Weinberg Memorial Library, Room 305; remote link will be emailed

Moral Citizenship: The Enlightenment Vision of the Ethical Community

What does it mean to be a citizen? Upon what basis can it be said that we have an obligation to the common good? In order to answer these perennial questions in political philosophy, we will examine a vision of society put forward in the Enlightenment—the vision of the ethical community. We will explore the ideas of four central Enlightenment figures: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Immanuel Kant, Johann Fichte and Georg Hegel, paying particular attention to their views on how moral principles inform their political ideologies.

Christopher E. Fremaux, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Philosophy, The University of Scranton

Thursdays, February 3, 10, 17, 24 & March 3, 10
6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. • Weinberg Memorial Library, Room 305; remote link will be emailed

Police as Guardians in a Time of War

This course will first discuss the Anglo-Peelian roots of police as maintainers of order. Findings from key court cases and commissions on policing will serve as an overview of the modern history of policing in the United States. The course will conclude with present controversies in policing and debate ideas for aligning the need for maintaining orderly communities with the mandate of ensuring justice.

Michael J. Jenkins, Ph.D., Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, & Criminology and Executive Director, Center for the Analysis and Prevention of Crime (CAPoC)

Wednesdays, February 9, 16, 23 & March 2, 9, 23
6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. • Weinberg Memorial Library, Room 305; remote link will be emailed

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
Thursday, February 10
**Our Common Home: Vatican and Multifaith Engagement on Environment and Climate Justice**

Rabbi Daniel Swartz of Scranton's Temple Hesed and Executive Director of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, recently traveled to the Vatican to take part in an ongoing multifaith effort to address climate change. Join us to hear highlights of that work and to discuss the role of faith traditions to protect the environment and promote the common good.

Rabbi Daniel Swartz, Spiritual Leader, Temple Hesed and Executive Director, Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL)

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

Friday, February 18
**Is Liberal Democracy Already History?**

What is the state of democracy today, at home and abroad? Why have illiberal democracies evolved, particularly in eastern European countries and a drift toward illiberalism in the US? What has become of the peaceful revolution associated with the fall of the Berlin Wall? This talk will address the factors that made possible the societal hope that took root, the factors that facilitated unprecedented setbacks, and the factors that now sustain the promise of reclaiming democracy while addressing the issues of broader social justice.

Elzbieta Matynia, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology and Liberal Studies and Director of the Transregional Center for Democratic Studies at the New School for Social Research

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

Thursday, March 3
**Linnaeus’ Legacy: Corrupting Color to Serve Discrimination and Exploitation**

Why did Hitler have a color-coding system in concentration camps? Why are color names like yellow and red associated with racial slurs? Arguably it started with Swedish botanist, zoologist, and taxonomist Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778), who formalized a system of naming organisms still used today. Bowles traces Linnaeus’ legacy and its relationship to morally bankrupt views about race and gender through examples found in material culture.

Kathy Johnson Bowles, Executive Director of the Everhart Museum of Natural History, Science, and Art

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

Monday, March 14
**A Remarkable Tale of Law, Politics, and Religion: The Making of Kiryas Joel, a Hasidic Town in Upstate New York**

This talk will explore the fascinating story of Kiryas Joel, a legally recognized municipality in New York made up entirely of strictly Orthodox Hasidic Jews. How did this town come into being? Does it grate against the separation of religion and state in American politics and law? Or is it a piece with strong, of en religious communities that have found their place on the landscape on this country. The story of Kiryas Joel should be of interest to anyone interested in the place of religion in American society.

Copies of American Shtetl: The Making of Kiryas Joel, a Hasidic Village in Upstate New York will be on sale.

David N. Myers, Ph.D., Sady and Ludwig Kahn Professor of Jewish History at UCLA, where he serves as the director of the UCLA Luskin Center for History and Policy.

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

Thursday, March 24
**Window Into the Presidency: The White House Tapes and Their Meaning**

For a brief eleven-year period, from 1962 to 1973, three American presidents secretly recorded high-level White House deliberations concerning top policy issues. What do these extraordinary tapes reveal about the affairs of state during a tumultuous period of American history? Join us as we consider this question and hear some of the recordings with Harvard historian Fredrik Logevall.

Fredrik Logevall, Ph.D., Laurence D. Belfer Professor of International Affairs, Harvard University

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

Friday, April 22
**Russia and the Post-Truth Society**

During the Cold War, the U.S.S.R. tried to convince the world that communism was the future of humankind. The U.S. tried to convince the world that democracy and capitalism gave people a better life. Today, propagandists still try to convince but, more and more, try to confuse - to overwhelm their target audiences with a firehose of mis- and dis-information. Jill Dougherty, former CNN Moscow Bureau Chief, currently teaching a course in “Information Wars” at Georgetown University, explores the new paradigm, what it means for Russia, and what it could mean for America.

Jill Dougherty, was CNN’s Moscow Bureau Chief for almost a decade. A Russia expert, she is now an adjunct Professor at Georgetown University and a CNN on-air contributor

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