

SPRING
2023

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
The University of Scranton*

FROM THE **director**

Dear Schemelites:

Welcome back to a live Schemel Forum. It has been great to see you all in person at the luncheon seminars—partaking in the ample buffets, chatting with fellow learners, listening to our terrific speakers and, as ever, asking pertinent questions. The Schemel Forum has become a model for out of school adult learning programs. We also welcome faculty members and students. A number of faculty members find our programs useful resources for their students. Each semester we offer three courses and six world affairs speakers.

During the pandemic some of you joined us remotely. That also made it possible to welcome on board people from all over the country and beyond. And so the pandemic opened the door to more eager learners.

I'm sure you will enjoy the spring offerings. Feel free to let us know how you like them. You might interest some of your friends to join us too. Feel free to be our agents.

And thank you for being part of this special offering at The University of Scranton.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sondra Myers".

Director of the Schemel Forum

The University of Scranton

P.S. I'd like you to know that the spring semester will be my last as Director of the Schemel Forum. It has been a privilege for me to serve you with issues and ideas through all these years and get to know you all. We'll always be friends.

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.



Down These Mean Streets: An Ethics of Hardboiled, Noir Fiction

The hardboiled novel, whether by writers like Dashiell Hammett or Raymond Chandler or in its more contemporary form in Walter Mosley, Dennis Lehane, or James Ellroy isn't just about detectives and femmes fatales. Instead, in the course of plots that involve murder and double-crossing, it's also a space of applied ethics. It's born in the space that Hemingway created when he contemplated how best to act in a universe that no longer seemed to have a moral center, and it's matured into a genre that – at its best – calls on us to ask how we develop the codes that guide us in our difficult choices. In this class, we will read a selection of stories and novels – looking sometimes at the films they inspired – from the earliest examples onward.

Joseph Kraus, Ph.D., *Professor, Department of English & Theatre, The University of Scranton*
Mondays, February 6, 13, 20, 27, & March 6, 13

6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. • Weinberg Memorial Library, Room 305



Philosophy East and West

Why do philosophy comparatively and cross-culturally? What are the benefits of thinking outside the box? In this seminar, we will briefly review essential theses of some influential Western thinkers such as Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, and Kant and then thematically compare them to Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism on topics of self-and-other, virtue, government, gender, and ecology. The purpose of this comparative approach is to broaden our mental horizon by considering alternative conceptual frameworks that can be useful resources for treatment of contemporary social, political, and environmental problems.

Ann A. Pang-White, Ph.D., *Professor, Department of Philosophy, and Director, Asian Studies Program, The University of Scranton*

Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, & April 5

6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. • Weinberg Memorial Library, Room 305



The Anatomy of Contemporary Conservatism in the US

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.

Matthew Meyer, Ph.D., *Professor, Department of Philosophy, The University of Scranton*
Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23, & March 2, 9

6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. • Weinberg Memorial Library, Room 305

Course Fees:

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



Monday, March 13

The Courage to Care

People who helped Jews during the Nazi era, WWII, and the Holocaust (1933-1945) were a small minority of the predominantly Christian population in Europe. Why did some non-Jews help Jews during those years while so many others did not? Why did some non-Jews – most of them baptized Christians – risk their lives to help Jews when so many others did not? What was it that moved such people from being passive bystanders to becoming active helpers of Jews during the Holocaust? What, if anything, can we learn from people who had “the courage to care” about what was happening to Jews during the Holocaust?

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

Brennan Hall, Room 509, Rose Room • Noon to 1:30 p.m.



Tuesday, March 28

A Foreigner Called Picasso

Before Picasso became Picasso, he was constantly surveilled by the French police. Amidst political tensions in the spring of 1901, he was flagged as an anarchist by the security services—the first of many entries in what would grow into an extensive case file. Though he soon emerged as the leader of the cubist avant-garde, Picasso’s art was largely excluded from public collections in France for the next four decades. The genius who conceived *Guernica* as a visceral statement against fascism in 1937 was even denied French citizenship three years later, on the eve of the Nazi occupation. In a period encompassing the brutality of World War I, the Nazi occupation, and Cold War rivalries, Picasso strategized and fought to preserve his agency, eventually leaving Paris for good in 1955. He chose the south over the north, the provinces over the capital, and craftspeople over academicians, while simultaneously achieving widespread fame. The artist never became a citizen of France, yet he generously enriched and dynamized its culture like few other figures in the country’s history.

Annie Cohen-Solal, *writer and social historian, Distinguished Professor at Bocconi University in Milan, Italy*

Brennan Hall, Room 509, Rose Room • Noon to 1:30 p.m.



Friday, April 21

How Stories Heal the World

We live in fractured times. One of the few things that can help bring repair to the world is a knowledge and understanding of the worlds of others. Acclaimed novelist and co-founder of Narrative 4, Colum McCann, will talk about how stories bring a healing bond to our communities and to our lives.

Colum McCann, *author of seven novels and three collections of stories. He has been the recipient of many international honors including the National Book Award and the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award.*

Redington Hall, Collegiate Hall • Noon to 1:30 p.m.



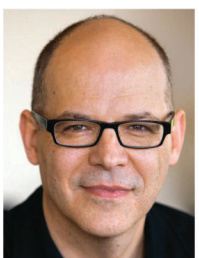
Friday, April 28

The World after the Ukraine War

The Ukraine war has fundamentally affected Ukraine and Russia, but it also has created upheaval around the world, transforming energy policies, inflation, food prices and political stability. More than a year (the war began February 24, 2022) after Russia invaded Ukraine, has the world stabilized, or spun deeper into chaos? What are the prospects for peace and reconstruction of Ukraine? How stable is the presidency of Vladimir Putin? Are Ukraine's allies still on board?

Jill Dougherty, *Russia expert, former CNN Moscow Bureau Chief, current CNN on-air contributor, and Professor at Georgetown University*

Brennan Hall, Room 509, Rose Room • Noon to 1:30 p.m.



Tuesday, May 2

The Promise of American Democracy

American society is deeply divided, with abundant mutual antipathy and tribalism, and a suspicion of the kind of good-faith bargaining between the parties that is essential in a democracy. Changing this reality will not be easy, but history offers reasons for hope. Join us as Professor Fredrik Logevall examines the state of American democracy—its strengths, weaknesses, and prospects.

Fredrik Logevall, Ph.D., *Laurence D. Belfer Professor of International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School and Professor of History, Harvard University*

Brennan Hall, Room 509, Rose Room • Noon to 1:30 p.m.



Tuesday, May 9

Vocalising and Music in the Development of Speech Language and Consciousness

In previous Schemel Forum presentations we have explored the evolution of consciousness reflected in tool artifacts and Palaeolithic art. Here we will look at how the hearing and making of sound also may have influenced the development of consciousness.

Harmar Brereton, M.D., *medical and radiation oncologist, Weill Cornell Medical School faculty, and Clinical Professor of Medicine at Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine*

Brennan Hall, Room 509, Rose Room • Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Seminar Fees:

Free to University of Scranton Staff, Students, Faculty and Schemel Forum Members
\$25 per luncheon per person



Wednesday, March 29

With Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine

Mozart : The Mind and Music of a Genius

Juilliard trained pianist and Harvard trained psychiatrist Dr. Richard Kogan will explore the mystery of creative genius through an examination of the life, mind, and music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791). The program will be illuminated by piano performances of some of Mozart's most sublime music.

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

WVIA Public Media Studios, Sordoni Theater • 5:30 p.m. • Reception to follow • \$35 per person



Thursday, April 27

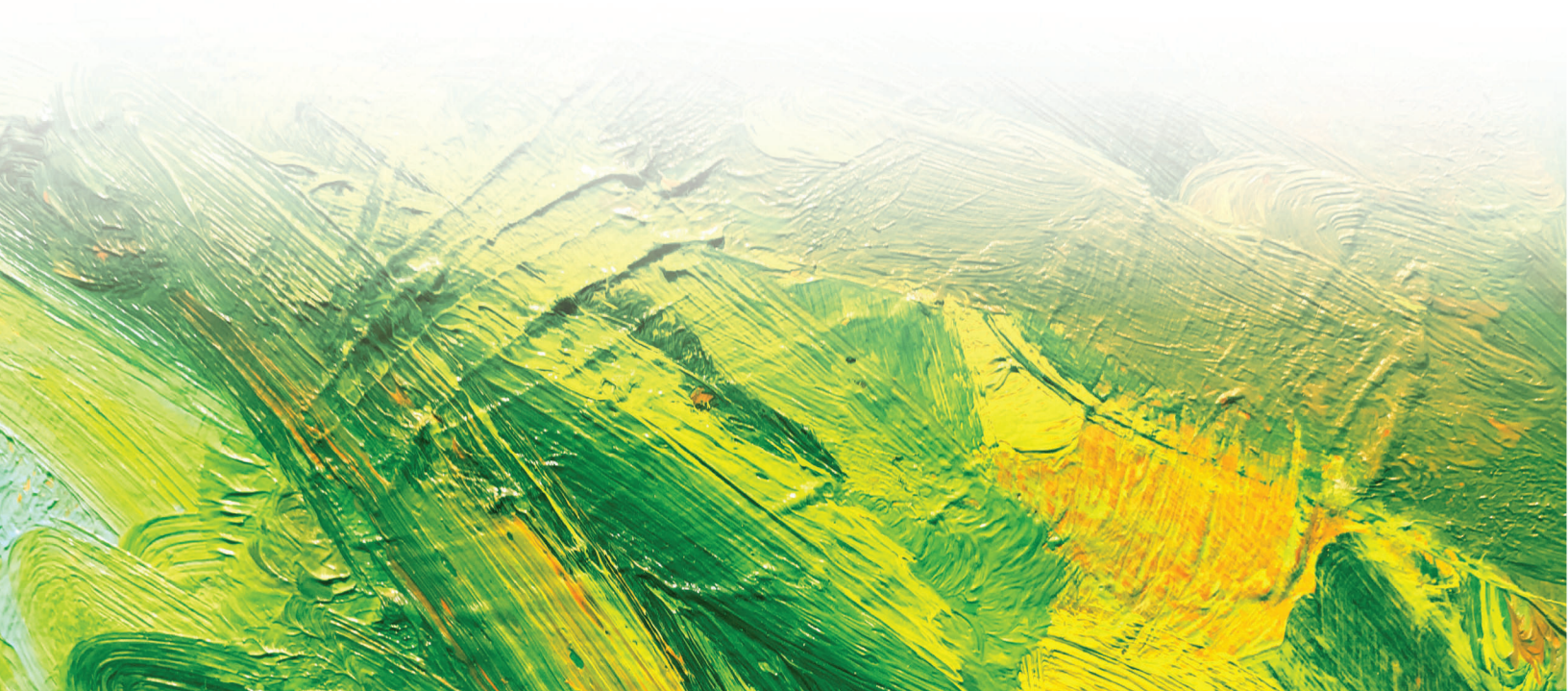
With Weinberg Judaic Studies Institute

Only in America? Religion, State, and a Hasidic Town in Rural New York

This presentation will discuss the remarkable case of Kiryas Joel, a town in New York state comprised exclusively of Satmar Hasidic Jews. What does this town of religiously observant Jews tell us about the “wall of separation” between religion and state of which Thomas Jefferson spoke? Has that Jeffersonian ideal given way to a new vision of religious liberties as the paramount constitutional right? These are some of the key questions at the heart of the debate over Kiryas Joel—and other strong forms of religious community—in the 21st century.

David N. Myers, Ph.D., *Distinguished Professor of History, Sady and Ludwig Kahn Chair in Jewish History, and Director of the Luskin Center for History and Policy, UCLA*

Brennan Hall 228, Pearn Auditorium • 7:00 p.m. • \$15 per person



EVENING COURSES • Single Fee Non-Member: \$75 • Couple Fee Non-Member: \$125

1 | 2 Down These Mean Streets: An Ethics of Hardboiled, Noir Fiction • *Kraus*

1 | 2 Philosophy East and West • *Pang-White*

1 | 2 The Anatomy of Contemporary Conservatism in the US • *Meyer*

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

1 | 2 3/13/23: The Courage to Care • *Rittner*

1 | 2 3/28/23: A Foreigner Called Picasso • *Cohen-Solal*

1 | 2 4/21/23: How Stories Heal the World • *McCann*

1 | 2 4/28/23: The World after the Ukraine War • *Dougherty*

1 | 2 5/2/23: The Promise of American Democracy • *Logevall*

1 | 2 5/9/23: Vocalising and Music in the Development of Speech Language and Consciousness • *Brereton*

COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS

1 | 2 3/29/23 : Mozart : The Mind and Music of a Genius • *Kogan* • \$35 per person

1 | 2 4/27/23 : Only in America? Religion, State, and a Hasidic Town in Rural NY • *Myers* • \$15 per person

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