



## THE SCHEMEL FORUM

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# THE SCHEMEL FORUM

2020  
FALL

# THE SCHEMEL FORUM

FOR CULTURAL ENRICHMENT  
& EDUCATION IN THE COMMUNITY

A PROGRAM OF THE HARRY & JEANETTE WEINBERG MEMORIAL LIBRARY



# COURSES



Sondra Myers  
Director, The Schemel Forum

## THE SCHEMEL FORUM: Who Are We?

We are still the program that aims to bring the world to Scranton, but circumstances beyond our control—to underestimate the situation—call for us to offer our courses and speakers remotely this semester. You can expect the high standards that have defined Schemel throughout its fourteen year history, but our delivery system will change temporarily.

We long for the days of socializing—not social spacing, the lecture room—not the Zoom screen, the lunch tables where ideas were the stuff of our conversations, not Zoom gazing. But for now, this is our reality. The essence of what we do—keeping people who seek knowledge in the loop, learning what historians, philosophers, scientists and journalists are thinking about, opening our hearts and minds to the challenges of the present, encouraging all of us to be the informed and engaged citizens that our times demand, will remain.

Scranton seems to have become a popular metaphor for small struggling cities that are obsolescent. But we are determined to make the place we live in the place we want to live in. As citizens we are obliged to know—to understand and when necessary make changes in our society. For people of diverse backgrounds who have the trait that Einstein considered most important—curiosity—Schemel will be here for you.

I see the pandemic as a dark cloud over us causing us to be in a kind of stasis. Even worse it has taken tens of thousands of our lives. But it has not frozen our minds. We still can and must read, discuss ideas and issues and seek ways to make our world safer, smarter and more just.

Meantime Schemel will be here to help in the struggle to maintain our sanity and acknowledge our interdependence.

Warm regards,

## 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.



## Berlin: The Capital of the Twentieth Century

Throughout the 20th Century few cities could claim greater historical importance than Berlin, from its position as capital of the German Empire in 1900 to its position as arguably the most important city of the European Union in 2020. This course will examine how Berlin's inhabitants, from university students to factory workers to democratic politicians to Nazi and Communist dictators and secret policemen, made the city one of the most dynamic and tragic cities in modern history.

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

Tuesdays, August 25; September 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.; [Zoom](#) link will be emailed



## Inverted America: Great Stories from Latin America

In this class, we will read and watch important works from Latin American authors like J.L. Borges, Julio Cortázar, Clarice Lispector, Juan Rulfo, Mariana Enriquez, Samantha Schweblin, Lucrecia Martel. Our discussions will address style, identity, representation, gender and sexuality, and influence in national and transnational contexts.

**Yamile Silva, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of World Languages and Cultures, The University of Scranton

Mondays, October 5, 12, 19 & 26; November 2 & 9

6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.; [Zoom](#) link will be emailed



## Responses to the COVID-19 Crisis: A Philosophical Perspective

This seminar will look at the COVID-19 crisis from the perspective of political philosophy and examine how these philosophies shaped responses to it. In particular, we will examine the issue through the conflict between individual rights and the common good. We will discuss readings from the likes of George Will, Richard Epstein, Michael Sandel and Robert Reich, and we will look at specific events such as the protests, the debate between Dr. Anthony Fauci and Rand Paul, and the Wisconsin Supreme Court decision that struck down stay-at-home orders.

**Matthew Meyer, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Philosophy, The University of Scranton

Thursdays, October 15 & 22; Wednesday, October 28; Thursdays, November 5, 12 & 19

6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.; [Zoom](#) link will be emailed

**Course Fees:** Single Fee Non-Member: \$60

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



Thursday, October 1

### **Artistic Manifestations of Life Transitions**

This presentation will look first at the cave art discovered in The Caves du Volp in the French Pyrenees and the possible relationship with the transformation in adolescence. In the second half of the presentation, we will examine the transition of Odysseus through midlife—from *The Iliad* to his homecoming in *The Odyssey*. We will see how these works are small stops on life's journey and the self-creation of the artist. Both Nietzsche and Jung see art as a forum for self-transformation and healing.

**Harmar Brereton, M.D.**

[ZOOM](#) link will be emailed; Noon to 1:30 p.m.



Friday, November 20

### **Antisemitism Past, Present and Future**

This lecture will explore the enduring history of antisemitism, which has been called the "longest hatred" in history. What different forms did it take? What explains its staying power? And how grave a threat is it today? Will it ever die out? Prof. Myers will address these questions in his annual appearance in the Schemel Forum.

**David N. Myers, Ph.D.**, Sady and Ludwig Kahn Professor of Jewish History, UCLA, and President, New Israel Fund

[ZOOM](#) link will be emailed; Noon to 1:30 p.m.



Friday, October 23

### **The Politics of Maps: Cartographic Constructions of Israel/Palestine**

How have maps become entangled with politics, territorial claim-making, and nation-state building in Israel/Palestine? This talk will focus on how various actors, institutions and governments engage in "map wars" in order to further different and often incommensurable geopolitical visions of contested territories.

**Christine Leuenberger, Ph.D.**, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Science & Technology Studies at Cornell University

[ZOOM](#) link will be emailed; Noon to 1:30 p.m.



TBD

### **Christo's Alternative Universe: Challenging All Boundaries As a Practice of Freedom**

Annie Cohen-Solal will unveil how legendary artist Christo organized his artistic production, which intersects with stories of war, trauma, diaspora and catastrophe. This exceptionally rare and special insight into the process of an iconic artist can offer us a place of comfort and potential empowerment even while experiencing crises ourselves.

**Annie Cohen-Solal, Ph.D.**, Cultural historian, Writer and Professor of American Studies at the Université de Caen

[ZOOM](#) link will be emailed; Noon to 1:30 p.m.



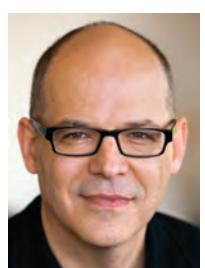
Thursday, October 29

### **Code Red: How Progressives and Moderates Can Unite to Save the Country with the Jesuit Center, The University of Scranton**

In CODE RED: How Progressives and Moderates Can Unite to Save Our Country (St. Martin's Press; February 4, 2020), bestselling author and *Washington Post* columnist E. J. Dionne, Jr. provides a blueprint for change that stresses the need for a coalition as diverse in its political orientation as it will be across the lines of race, region and ethnicity—from Democratic Socialists to those who would once have been called liberal Republicans.

**E.J. Dionne**, syndicated columnist for the *Washington Post*, a regular contributor on MSNBC and NPR, university professor at Georgetown and visiting professor at Harvard University

[ZOOM](#) link will be emailed; 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. \*please note the later start time



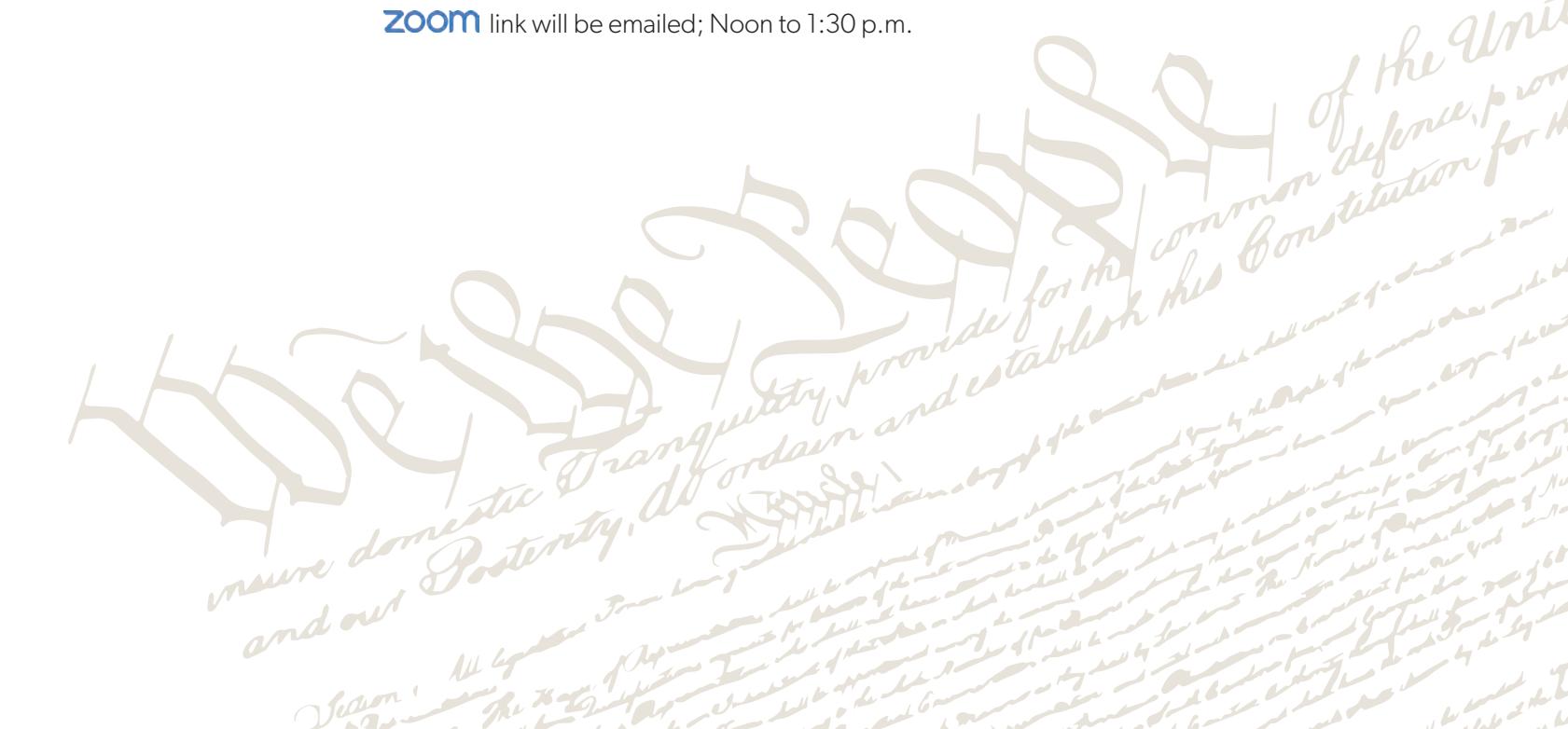
Thursday, November 5

### **What Democracy Requires: The 2020 Election in Historical Perspective**

How should we think about the outcome of the 2020 election and the challenges and opportunities that loom for American democracy? History provides important clues, Professor Logevall will suggest, as well as a path forward.

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

[ZOOM](#) link will be emailed; Noon to 1:30 p.m.



#### **Seminar Fees:**

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

\$10 per seminar per person

# register

\*Please CIRCLE number attending example **1|2**

## EVENING COURSES • \$60 per course

- 1|2** Berlin: The Capital of the Twentieth Century • *Brennan*  
**1|2** Inverted America: Great Stories from Latin America • *Silva*  
**1|2** Responses to the COVID-19 Crisis: A Philosophical Perspective • *Meyer*

## WORLD AFFAIRS SEMINARS • \$10 per seminar

- 1|2** **10/01/20:** Artistic Manifestations of Life Transitions • *Brereton*  
**1|2** **10/23/20:** The Politics of Maps: Cartographic Constructions of Israel/Palestine • *Leuenberger*  
**1|2** **10/29/20:** Code Red: How Progressives and Moderates Can Unite to Save the Country • *Dionne*  
**1|2** **11/05/20:** What Democracy Requires: The 2020 Election in Historical Perspective • *Logevall*  
**1|2** **11/20/20:** Antisemitism Past, Present and Future • *Myers*  
**1|2** **TBA:** Christo's Alternative Universe: Challenging All Boundaries As a Practice of Freedom • *Cohen-Solar*

## Notes:

# membership OPTIONS

## VIRTUAL SEMESTER MEMBERSHIP

All Semester Programs      Individual **\$225**       Couple **\$400**

## YEARLY ANGEL MEMBERSHIP

All Academic Year Programs      Individual **\$1,000**       Couple **\$1,250**

## YEARLY ARCHANGEL MEMBERSHIP

All Academic Year Programs      Individual **\$2,000**       Couple **\$2,500**

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**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](mailto:alicen.morrison@scranton.edu)

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

**NEW PAY ONLINE:** [scranton.alumniq.com/go/schemelfall2020](http://scranton.alumniq.com/go/schemelfall2020)

