Close your eyes and picture the American West. What do you see? Is it an ochre-dappled landscape of canyons and cacti? Is it populated? If so, what sort of people does it contain? If not, what might that mean? Americans have been imagining "the West" since before they were citizens of an independent United States, and long before much of that West ever came under their national domain. ("West" of where? Is this an implicitly Anglo/Eurocentric concept?) The very definition of the region has shifted over time, never having been uniformly understood at any given moment. Its mythology is deeply interwoven with several of the most pivotal episodes in our history, and that mythology has been framed in explicitly visual ways since the beginning—whenever that was. Scholars have tackled aspects of this salient fact, and yet we’re just beginning to explore its implications for a region that has historically contained some of the fastest-growing cities in the world. By 1990, 80% of all American Westerners were urban—as historian Carl Abbott noted, that’s the highest proportion of metropolitan-dwellers in the nation. What do these facts mean for the way you answered the initial question, above—the way that we have literally and figuratively pictured the West, and continue to do so? Does "the West" cease to exist beyond the northern or southern borders of the United States? If not, why and how has its image become so intertwined with that of the United States itself (provided you agree with that contention)? Was that a coincidence? We’ll read about people, landscapes, and pictures; a variety of image reproduction methods; and the ways they’ve intersected with a range of themes that have come to be identified as Western. We’ll discuss photography, cinema, illustrated books, panoramas, posters, portraiture, and more. Join us! "Go West, young man [and woman]!"

This seminar will focus on forms of resistance within Native American and Indigenous communities towards settler invasion. It will examine Indigenous resistance, cultural resurgence movements, political mobilization, and decolonizing struggles in the United States and Mexico. e.g. Wounded knee occupation at Pine Ridge, #NODAPL movement and other forms of Indigenous resistance such as language revitalization efforts and preservation of oral histories. This seminar will also include a guided tour of the Newberry’s current exhibition, What is the Midwest?, by co-curator, Analú López.

Canto Five of the Inferno is especially noteworthy. The canto focuses on the problem of reading in general and of reading literature in particular. Indeed, it might be said that Paolo and Francesca (the two main characters of Canto Five) managed to ruin their lives through reading literature. Literature-reading, warns Canto Five, turns out to be a morally hazardous undertaking. If we understood Canto Five well enough, perhaps we would have a grasp on the following questions: a) What is so dangerous about reading literature? b) Is the Inferno itself dangerous to read? (If so, how, and for whom? c) Should we just stop reading now? Or if not, how can we read the Inferno in a way that is not soul-damaging?

Our seminar will consider Penelope in Homer’s Odyssey. Homer represents her as a charismatic force, entirely equal if often opposite to her husband Odysseus. Like Odysseus, Penelope is famous for her wiles and powerful intelligence.
Like Odysseus, she appears as a figure who is both hated and loved by the Olympian gods. Unlike Odysseus, however, Penelope is a woman who remains responsible for the nurturing (indeed, the very survival) of her son and for the preservation of her home. Ultimately, Penelope’s constancy stands in poignant, deliberate counterpoint to Odysseus's wanderings and adventures. In this seminar, we will consider the poetic representation of Penelope's complex interiority with special attention to some of the remarkable similes in the closing episodes of the epic. We will examine the ways in which the Odyssey defines and blurs gender identity in the figure of Penelope, and we will conclude by asking what marriage – as an institution and as a poetic symbol – might mean in the epic.

Literature & Drama (British)

Othello and Racial Performance
Meghan Daly-Costa, Northwestern University
October 11, 2019

How was racial difference constructed and performed in Shakespeare’s theater? As the critic Dympna Callaghan famously reminds us, "Othello was a white man." That is, because Africans were barred from self-representation on the Renaissance stage, white English actors impersonated blackness for the first two hundred years of Othello's production history. In this seminar, we will study the historical contexts and material conditions of racial impersonation. How were racial prostheses, wigs, cosmetic ointments, artificial extremities, and dyed textiles mobilized by white, male actors to represent Africans, Jews, Muslims, and Native Americans (among other groups) on the Renaissance stage? What is the political import of racial performance, and how did the theater help consolidate oppressive structures of power? Looking forward, we will also brainstorm ways to explore and critique more modern instantiations of racial impersonation (like digital blackface and Hollywood casting patterns) with high school students and conceptualize techniques for evaluating more recent performances of Othello. Though actors of color were banned from playing Othello until the nineteenth-century, the Anglo-African actor Hugh Quarshie has also questioned the complexities built into the play's titular role. "If a black actor plays Othello, does he not risk making racial stereotypes seem legitimate and even true," Quarshie questions, noting that "when a black actor plays a role written for a white actor in black make-up and for a predominantly white audience, does he not encourage the white way, or rather the wrong way, of looking at black men?" (1998). Engaging a broad range of unique (and often contentious) performances of Othello, we will evaluate the values and limitations of competing casting models, such as "original practice" performances that employ blackface, race-blind productions, and ensembles that feature all-black casts. We will also brainstorm assignments that encourage students to envision and propose a modern-day, race-conscious performance of Othello.

Literature & Drama (World)

Love You Like a Love Song: Lyrics, Lyric Poems, and Close Reading
Eric Selinger, DePaul University
October 16, 2019

Close reading isn’t just an academic practice. On fan forums, websites like Genius.com, and a myriad of YouTube videos, everyday listeners do close reading for fun. They annotate song lyrics, connect details to singers’ careers and personal lives, point out wordplay, allusions, and historical/cultural references, and debate the religious, philosophical, and political implications of verses or lines. Scholarship and arts journalism build on this extracurricular practice—and, in turn, can feed back into it, adding nuance and insight. This seminar will explore how to teach the art of close reading through literal love songs and through short lyric poems that present themselves as love songs, with the goal of leading students from the pleasures of making local annotations to the discipline of synthesizing these into well-supported claims about complete texts and the characters, situations, and ideas that they bring to life. Songs to be discussed will range from ancient and canonical texts to enduring jazz standards and contemporary hits; the complexities of dealing with non-verbal elements in actual songs (music, vocal style, the visual cues in a video) will also be addressed.

Literature & Drama (United States)

The Mighty Casey, Katie Casey, and Charlie Brown: American Identity in Baseball Literature
Bill Savage, Northwestern University
October 21, 2019

Baseball has long been considered America's "National Pastime," and for generations, artists and writers have
used baseball as a lens through which to focus on questions of American identity. In this seminar, we will read a varied selection of classic poems, songs, essays, short fiction, and comic strips to explore the manifold ways that the game, from sandlots to the Majors, both simplifies and complicates our understanding of American sports, entertainment, and politics.

Geography & Environmental Studies
American Environmental Issues
Jon Kilpinen, Valparaiso University
October 22, 2019
The United States has been simultaneously a country with abundant natural resources and a world leader in economic development and industrialization. Numerous federal policies, particularly since the 1960s, have tried to balance these realities and protect our environment even as we pursue economic growth. But the balance between the economy and the environment is uneasy. The Trump Administration, for instance, recently announced changes to federal interpretation of the Endangered Species Act. And the government shutdown in early 2019 led to numerous environmental impacts. This seminar will consider this dynamic by reviewing important policies and the state of the American environment. Topics will include climate change, national parks, endangered species, ecosystems, and the Indiana Dunes. We will also review the use of an in-class exercise that challenges students to see controversial issues from multiple perspectives, which we dearly need more of in society.

Literature & Drama (British)
Bad Girls in Renaissance Literature
Rebecca Fall, Newberry Library
October 23, 2019
Anxiety about "bad girls" and rebellious women has a very long history. But what makes a woman "good" or "bad" in the first place? What is a "bad girl," anyway? This seminar will examine dramatic representations of unruly, cruel, and otherwise tough women as they appear in English Renaissance literature. We might consider the stubborn independence—and abusive "taming"—of Katherine in The Taming of the Shrew; the cross-dressing, hard-drinking, gutter-dwelling Moll Cutpurse in Middleton and Dekker’s play The Roaring Girl; the sexually dominant "dark lady" of Shakespeare’s Sonnets; or the mad poets and haughty queens of Mary Wroth’s wild and weird romance, Urania. As we explore these unruly representations of femininity, we might also ask what "bad girls" in Renaissance literature can teach us about the female rebelliousness today, from Rihanna’s self-presentation as "Bad Gal Riri" to the tragicomic tales of incarcerated women in Orange Is the New Black.

American Studies
The American Nightmare
Nora Eltahawy, Independent Scholar
October 24, 2019
We’ve all heard of the American Dream and the pursuit of happiness. But what happens to our conception of American society when things go terribly wrong? This seminar uses this question to guide our examination of works of literature, film, and popular culture that depict moments of crisis—real or imagined—in the United States. Turning our attention to a variety of sources, including photographs of the Great Depression, a play about the AIDS epidemic, and movies about alien invasions, we will interrogate the significance of crises to the US and its artistic representation. What do moments of turmoil reveal about the way American society functions? Why have works that portray disasters proven to be so popular? And how do these works invite us to confront or challenge some of the darkest elements of contemporary American life?

History (European)
Gender, Rights, and Citizenship in the Enlightenment: French and English Women Writers in the
Valentina Tikoff, DePaul University
October 25, 2019
Beginning in 1789, French Revolutionaries fundamentally reframed questions of citizenship, legal equality, and political rights for Frenchmen, but left largely intact the subordinate legal status of women. Yet in these same years women within and beyond France, including Olympe de Gouges and Mary Wollstonecraft, also took up their pens.
and wrote influential texts claiming women's rights and responsibilities as equal citizens. Seminar participants will read and discuss selected primary sources written by such authors, often considered foundational feminist texts. Participants also will consider developments of the early Revolutionary years from 1789-1794 as critical context for understanding these texts and their authors.

**Politics Science & Economics**

**Teaching Equality**

Anthony Laden, University of Illinois at Chicago

**October 29, 2019**

Discussions about equality and inequality often founder because different people have different ideas about what equality means. This seminar will examine three broad conceptions of equality discussed in recent work in political philosophy: 1) Distributive equality obtained when everyone has the same amount of resources, 2) Relational equality obtained when no one is in a position to dominate or arbitrarily rule over others, 3) Equality as an intersubjective practice that requires that we treat one another with equal regard and respect. We will discuss how each of these conceptions can shape our thinking about equality, inequality, and various political questions, how adopting one or another conception of equality shapes what we notice as unjust, and how we might teach our students not only how to think about equality but how to engage with each other and the world as equals.

**Politics Science & Economics**

**The Recent History and New Future of the Economy**

Rudi Batzell, Lake Forest College

**November 5, 2019**

In this seminar, we will examine the current economy from a historical perspective, focusing on the most "recent" six decades. The crisis of the 1970s is widely recognized as marking out the beginning of a new era of economic history. Variously celebrated or critiqued as "globalization," "Neo-Liberal," "Post-Fordist," "Post-Industrial," or the "Service Economy," we will examine what actually changed during these years, as well as important continuities with the longer history of capitalism. Did the Great Recession of 2007-2008 mark the beginning of a new era of global economic history? What trends do we expect to continue, which to change? Rather than abstract economic theory, empirical data will be emphasized, and the seminar will explore the pedagogical power of using data sets and data visualization to encourage students to rethink their assumptions about the economic past, present, and future.

**American Studies**

**The Ballot, the Bullet, or the Microphone**

H. Lavar Pope, Loyola University Chicago

**November 6, 2019**

This seminar uses content analysis exercises to compare political content in Civil Rights and Racial Justice movement speeches from the 1960s and 1970s to the political content in rap music lyrics from the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s. We will focus on the ways in which words and language become "weaponized" by Civil Rights and Racial Justice leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and Huey Newton. We will also explore how these techniques of weaponizing the microphone were adapted by inner-city youth in the early stages of rap music in the 1980s, during the golden era of rap music in the 1990s, and in the rising commercialization of rap music in the 2000s. Considerable attention will be given to: (1) the construction of rap music as a synthesis of Black Power message and Jamaican Dub Music style in the South Bronx and Harlem; (2) rap music’s early evolution in the South Bronx and five boroughs; (3) rap music’s early expansion and differentiated content in other major and mid-sized US cities; and (4) a contextualization of how rap music messages from the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s compare to the rap music messages heard today. Participants will learn where to place rap music within the long history of black political thought, praxis, and protest, will be better equipped to consider ways in which rap music can be used in future struggles, and will develop additional experience in using basic content analysis practices in classroom instruction.
World Language (Spanish)
The Invented Speeches of Moctezuma, NTC+
Glen Carman, DePaul University
November 8, 2019
Please note this seminar will be conducted in Spanish. Nobody knows what Moctezuma II said to Hernán Cortés when they first met in Tenochtitlan on November 8, 1519, even though early accounts of this meeting tend to include a welcome speech by the Mexica ruler, and often another speech of his given some days later. In these sixteenth-century narratives, Moctezuma usually abdicates in one way or another and recognizes the authority of Cortés or Charles V, but only because he mistakenly recognizes them as somehow connected to the Mexica. This seminar will examine various versions of this encounter, especially the words that writers have put into Moctezuma’s mouth. We will consider Spanish accounts, beginning with that of Cortés, and the closest thing we have to an indigenous account, the Florentine Codex, a Franciscan project based on interviews with Nahua informants. We will also compare European and Mesoamerican illustrations, drawing on the Newberry’s rich collections in this area. Other sources will provide historical context and scholarly perspectives. Some of the questions we will explore: How does each depiction attempt to justify or explain the conquest? What rhetorical strategies does each source use? How do they treat the problem of translation (the speech had to go through two interpreters, from Nahuatl to Yucatec Mayan to Spanish)? How might the representation or misrepresentation of this pivotal moment be emblematic of early modern imperialism? Where does it fit into the founding myths of the modern Mexican nation state? And what relevance does it have for us 500 years later?

Chicago Studies
She Shot Him Dead: Husband-Slaying in Turn-of-the-Century Chicago
Rachel Boyle, Independent Scholar
November 18, 2019
Well before the infamous cases that inspired the musical Chicago, dozens of women in Chicago attempted to secure acquittal by juries who saw them as respectable, vulnerable women victimized by their own hysteria. This strategy worked for many women until the 1910s, when this "unwritten law" came under attack by Progressive Era suffragists, lawyers, and journalists. What changed? This seminar will utilize the colorful press coverage of turn-of-the-century murder cases to interrogate changing ideas about gender and class, and unpack an important transitional moment in the broader cultural and legal history of spousal homicide.

History (United States)
Laughter and Tears: A History of American War Cartoons, NTC+
Mark Pohlad, DePaul University
December 4, 2019
American war-time cartoons provide an engaging and revealing way to understand the history of this country’s military conflicts. Cartoons document the soldier’s experience, make light of government and military decisions, and illustrate the behavior of those on the home front. As opposed to other news forms—articles, essays, and op-ed pieces—cartoons were highly visible and wildly accessible. They are the result of a complex relationship between artists, the press, and in some cases, government agencies. From an artistic standpoint, cartoonists made stylish and memorable imagery. This session will include discussion and PowerPoint presentations; and we will also examine first-hand important cartoons as primary sources from the Newberry’s Collection. Participants will come away with an enhanced understanding of America’s wars as they are documented in these sparkling but sober examples of American visual culture.

History (World)
D-Day: 75 Years
Eugene Beiriger, DePaul University
December 6, 2019
As we commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day, it's important to recall that the invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944 was no "sure thing." In addition to years of operational planning, the Anglo-American forces had to win the Battle of the Atlantic against German U-boats, secure the air space over the channel and into northwestern France, and land the largest amphibious force in the history of the world. In order to gain essential time, the Allies had to
achieve tactical surprise for the initial invasion. This inspired "Operation Bodyguard," the ambitious deception campaign that sought to convince Hitler and his staff that the invasion was intended at another place and time. Its success provided the Allies with the margin of error required for victory. We will use this important event to examine the politics, diplomacy and strategy of D-Day, as well as the tactical plans, logistics and intelligence work that helped it succeed.

**Literature & Drama (British)**

**The Merchant of Venice: Staging Gender, Class, Sexuality, Race**

Wendy Wall, Northwestern University

**January 24, 2020**

A crossed-dressed woman who complains that her life is constrained by men marches into the courtroom and makes sure that a Jewish character is defeated. A wealthy merchant pines for an aristocratic man way above his station, while servants and daughters devise schemes to be free. Shakespeare’s *The Merchant of Venice* has long been seen as a play embroiled in anti-Semitism (interpreted either as spreading or critiquing it). It has also been championed as a proto-feminist work in which a woman manipulates the action in startling ways. How, we will ask in this seminar, does the conflict between Christianity and Jewishness intersect with struggles around gender, same-sex desire, and class status in the play? How might modern readers respond to moments when characters from marginalized social groups mutate into the role of social oppressors? After situating *Merchant* in its historical time and sampling critical debates about economics, prejudice and social hierarchies, we will examine ways films "translate" tense social issues into modern frameworks.

**Literature & Drama (United States)**

**“The New Colossus”: Contexts, Controversies, and a Great American Sonnet**

Eric Selinger, DePaul University

**January 29, 2020**

Few American poems have intervened as successfully and enduringly in the public sphere as "The New Colossus," the sonnet composed by Jewish American poet, essayist, and journalist Emma Lazarus. Composed in 1883 as part of a fundraising campaign to build a pedestal for the Statue of Liberty (or *Liberty Enlightening the World*, as its sculptor, Auguste Bartholdi, named it), "The New Colossus" was added to the pedestal in 1903, but only in the 1930s did the poet’s claim that the statue represents a "Mother of Exiles" welcoming immigrants to their new home begin to be broadly championed in political discourse. This seminar will explore how the meanings and artistry of "The New Colossus" come into fresh focus when it is read in a variety of contexts, including American history, the histories of the poem’s reception, its various genres (the sonnet, ekphrastic poetry, etc.), its author’s career, and its place in Jewish American culture. Debates about the meanings of the Statue of Liberty will be addressed, as will other poems about the Statue, some of which respond to the Lazarus sonnet, including texts by Adrienne Rich, Tony Kushner, and Thalias Moss.

**Chicago Studies**

**Eddy Street: Looking for History in a Very Small Place**

Kevin Boyle, Northwestern University

**January 31, 2020**

This seminar applies the techniques of micro-history – the intense exploration of a tightly-focused time or place – to a tiny slice of twentieth century Chicago. It starts on the Fourth of July 1961 on the 6100 block of W. Eddy Street, out in the north side’s bungalow belt. From there it spins backward to explore class, race, immigration, assimilation, opportunity, mobility, war, and peace as they were experienced by one of the block’s thirty-six families. In the process, the seminar will show how revealing and compelling it can be to go looking for history in very small places.

**Literature & Drama (United States)**

**Melville’s Short Fiction: "Bartleby" and Beyond**

Will Hansen, Newberry Library

**February 6, 2020**

Herman Melville is best known for *Moby-Dick*, but he also wrote masterpieces of shorter fiction, including "Bartleby, the Scrivener," "Benito Cereno," "The Encantadas," and "The Paradise of Bachelors and the Tartarus of Maids." This
seminar will explore productive ways to teach and engage with Melville's short stories and their themes of labor, class struggle, urban life, racial conflict, and the natural world, including exploration of the stories' original serial publications and later illustrated editions from the Newberry's collection.

History (United States)
Are We Living in a "Second Gilded Age"? The Perils and Promise of Historical Comparison
Robert Johnston, University of Illinois at Chicago
February 7, 2020
It seems so obvious that we are living in a "Second Gilded Age." Rampant economic inequality amid an exploding growth in technology, a tidal wave of white supremacy, political corruption at the highest levels, attacks on government programs and even the very idea of a social contract, deeply polarizing conflicts over immigration and nativism, the swelling of populism…. All this—and plenty more!—lend plausibility to the idea that our own era represents the rebirth of one of our most caricatured historical periods. Yet does such a comparison truly make sense? In this discussion-oriented seminar based on scholarly reading done in advance of the seminar, we will explore the perils and promise of this historical comparison along two major axes. First: was there even a "Gilded Age" in the late 19th century? And does the concept "Second Gilded Age" actually do any more than provide a glib label for our lives today that obscures more than it illuminates?

World Studies
Cyberwarfare and Cyber Politics
Richard Farkas, DePaul University
February 12, 2020
Cyber politics is a new frontier in the realm of politics, in which government is the principle actor. This seminar will emphasize the vulnerability of political systems when government lags behind adversaries or hostile parties in developing cyber capabilities. Conflict has already begun to take the form of Cyber War in which the combatants are sovereign states, criminal organizations, dissident groups, thieves, and intellectual experimenters. Twenty-first century warfare is qualitatively different from the conflicts of the past. There is little controversy that an acute need exists for those in management and government service to have in focus the nature of the threats and the options for frontline defense and or other active measures. This seminar locates itself on the emerging frontier of thinking about the relationship between technology, politics, and conflict. Specifically, it examines the way that cyber warfare and cyber politics impact the characteristics of democracy including participation, communication, and legitimacy. The crucial element is how or if "cyber politics" — the use of electronic devices and cybernetics by governments and competitors — can change the balance between stability and change. The implications are more wide-ranging that anyone can imagine.

Politics Science & Economics
Gerrymandering and Voting in the United States
Jon Kilpinnen, Valparaiso University
February 13, 2020
In June 2019, the Supreme Court ruled that federal courts cannot determine whether election maps are overly partisan, effectively leaving the issue to Congress and ensuring that gerrymandering will be a factor in the 2020 elections. This seminar will explore gerrymandering within the context of broader communities of interest and identity, which politicians generally try to take advantage of during elections. We will thus focus on the intersection between social, cultural, and political patterns, especially as they shape our voting districts. Topics will include the origins of gerrymandering, its various forms, and the role it may play in our upcoming elections, as well as possible options or simulations for use in class to help students understand gerrymandering.

History (World)
Coffee, Global Exchange, and Empire
Valentina Tikoff, DePaul University
February 21, 2020
From the first European coffee shops of the seventeenth century to the ubiquity of Starbucks in airports around the globe today, coffee has played an important role in the cultural history of the West and its relationship to other parts
of the world. Since coffee is a tropical product, Western coffee culture has always depended on supplies from other parts of the world, procured through international trade, colonization, and neo-imperialism. This global supply nexus also has shaped coffee's cultural associations, from early modern Europeans' "Orientalist" views of coffee as an exotic product of the East, to late-nineteenth-century U.S. assessments of Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Cuba—all areas incorporated into the expanding American empire in 1898—as sites of coffee cultivation. This seminar will focus on the eighteenth to early twentieth centuries and will include discussion of primary source materials held at the Newberry Library (made available digitally).

**History (European)**

**A History of Caffeinated Drinks in Early Modern Europe**
Sarah Kernan, Independent Scholar
**February 24, 2020**
In the modern Western world, coffee, tea, and chocolate are viewed as daily necessities, found everywhere from convenience stores to chain restaurants to artisanal markets. These three caffeinated foodstuffs—all originally consumed as beverages—first made their way to Europe in the sixteenth century, awakening a continent accustomed to alcohol. Europeans adopted exotic drinks from faraway lands (Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and the Americas), assimilating foreign flavors into their daily diets. Over the course of three centuries, these drinks became popular in different pockets of Europe; geography, religion, class, gender, and politics highly influenced these preferences. Furthermore, these beverage preferences became entangled in the perilous economics of colonialism and slavery. Many contemporary texts and material goods were devoted to the consumption of coffee, tea, and chocolate. These included books and tracts by physicians, explorers, and theologians; recipes for the perfect cup of chocolate in manuscript recipe books and printed cookbooks; and dishware and tools for preparing and serving all three drinks. Through the evaluation of these and other sources pulled from early modern literature, art, economic records, maps, material goods, recipes, and more, many found within the Newberry Library’s own collections, we will examine the rise of coffee, tea, and chocolate in early modern Europe and the consequences of their popularity.

**Politics Science & Economics**

**2020 Presidential Nominations (First Session)**
Wayne Steger, DePaul University
**February 26, 2020**
Presidential nominations are a battle among candidates and factions for the heart and soul of a political party. Presidential nominees, more than any other person or group, are the personified image of their party, the aspirational goals of the party, and the policies that the party will pursue if they get elected. This talk places the 2020 Democratic nomination in historical context, analyzes the factional conflict between progressives and centrists, and covers the major theoretical explanations for why a particular candidate wins the nomination. Wayne Steger has authored numerous articles and a book on presidential nominations, and a model based on his research correctly forecast the 2016 Republican and Democratic presidential nominees.

**World Studies**

**The Syrian War and Refugee Exodus**
Wendy Pearlman, Northwestern University
**February 27, 2020**
More than eight years of violence in Syria has left more than 500,000 killed or disappeared, forced over half the population of 22 million from their homes, and registered material destruction in the hundreds of billions of dollars. This seminar will explore the origins and evolution of this conflict and humanitarian catastrophe. After briefly examining the context of the authoritarian regime that has ruled since 1970, we will discuss the launch of a popular uprising in 2011, trace its escalation into a multi-sided war, and assess circumstances in the country today. We will then dive into one of the most significant outcomes of the war: mass forced migration. Syrians constitute the single largest national group among the world’s record 68 million people currently displaced. We will examine to where Syrian refugees have fled, the varied circumstances shaping their lives in these different settings, and the challenges that mass displacement poses for host countries, for the homeland left behind, and for refugees themselves. Along the way, we will consider topics such as integration, return, and the effect of displacement upon children and families. Throughout the seminar, the instructor will share voices and experiences from among the more than 400 displaced
Syrians who she has interviewed across the Middle East and Europe from 2012 to the present.

**History (European)**

**Voltaire and the Enlightenment**
Michael Lynn, Purdue University Northwest
**February 28, 2020**
Arguably, Voltaire epitomized and embodied the Enlightenment. Through a vast array of writings spanning disparate literary forms – including poems, plays, short stories and novellas, histories, philosophy, political activism, polemics, science, and a voluminous correspondence – Voltaire’s impact can hardly be overestimated. However, while he served as a champion for many, a large number of people disagreed with his positions, aims, and methods. In addition, while he symbolized criticism by the pen and the Enlightenment ideals of rationalism and rights, he did not always practice what he preached. This seminar will use his writings to examine the complicated nature of Voltaire’s legacy.

**History (United States)**

**Executive Order 9066: World War II-Era Japanese Internment Camps**
Mark Pohlad, DePaul University
**March 2, 2020**
Surely one of the darkest chapters in modern American history is the WWII-era Japanese Internment camps. After the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941, an intense and racist fear gripped this country. It was thought that anyone of Japanese descent, particularly on the West Coast, posed a threat to security as the U.S. entered World War II against Japan and the Axis powers. Franklin D. Roosevelt’s infamous Executive Order 9066 demanded that Japanese Americans, many U.S. citizens, surrender their property and relocate to remote western internment camps. This seminar examines the historical background of this period—the government’s role, the war era, and the victims. We will examine first-hand contemporary and historical accounts from detainees and learn about the rich, daily camp life. We will also view examples of art, literature, and cultural production made in and about the experience. Altogether, teachers will gain an enhanced understanding of this traumatic episode in our history—one that concerned America’s treatment of immigrants in a time of global conflict.

**Politics Science & Economics**

**2020 Presidential Nominations (Second Session)**
Wayne Steger, DePaul University
**March 4, 2020**
Presidential nominations are a battle among candidates and factions for the heart and soul of a political party. Presidential nominees, more than any other person or group, are the personified image of their party, the aspirational goals of the party, and the policies that the party will pursue if they get elected. This talk places the 2020 Democratic nomination in historical context, analyzes the factional conflict between progressives and centrists, and covers the major theoretical explanations for why a particular candidate wins the nomination. Wayne Steger has authored numerous articles and a book on presidential nominations, and a model based on his research correctly forecast the 2016 Republican and Democratic presidential nominees.

**History (World)**

**The Mughal Empire, 1526-1707**
Rajit Mazumder, DePaul University
**March 6, 2020**
This seminar studies the Mughal empire, one of the most important pre-modern powers, responsible in surprising ways for the world we live in. Beginning with the unlikely victory of Babur in 1526 we will examine the political, economic, social, and cultural developments resulting from the establishment of this powerful Islamic empire in a region where Muslims were always a minority. Particular emphasis will be given to Akbar (1556-1605) whose extraordinary reign established the foundation on which his successors expanded the empire. Akbar’s son Jahangir gave permission to the English East India Company to set up a factory in India. Akbar’s grandson, Shah Jahan, had the Taj Mahal built as a mausoleum for his beloved wife. The seminar will end with the last of the ‘great’ emperors, Aurangzeb (1658-1707), whose long reign preceded the decline of the empire, at the very moment the East India Company was emerging as a regional power. The central themes study how the state, economy, culture, and society
developed in the period when a specific, ‘Indian’ form of Islam evolved.

**American Studies**

**Documenting Abraham Lincoln’s Changing Legacy through Musical Source**

Thomas Kernan, Roosevelt University

**March 10, 2020**

Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865) was the subject of both promotional campaign songs and musical critiques. The posthumous Lincoln repertoire, however, has flourish to a degree that sets him apart from other chief executives. Music for and about Lincoln—be it in vernacular traditions, like bluegrass, blues, country, folk, hip hop, and rock and roll, or in cultivate traditions, like art songs, cantatas, operas, and symphonies—accounts for a vast repertoire, well more than a thousand compositions. Composers from Lincoln’s death in 1865 to the present have contributed new works that both reflect and contribute to American memory of Lincoln and his legacy. This seminar will draw from archival sources in the Newberry’s collection, especially those digitally available for classroom use, in order to guide discussions of the ways that musical works can help us examine changes in Lincoln’s legacy. We will then go beyond these specific sources, and even the Lincoln topic, in order to explore how diverse musical sources (sheet music, published and unpublished scores, audio recordings, video content, and public reception thereof) can be used as foundational data for individual students and whole classes to probe topics of historical memory.

**World Studies**

**Listening and Society**

Shayna Silverstein, Northwestern University

**March 11, 2020**

Timbre, loudness, attack, decay, distortion, softness. We have many descriptors for sound that convey its aesthetic qualities, and that suggest what (not) to listen for. But how exactly does listening take place and what are the broader effects of listening? This seminar explores the emergent field of sound studies from the perspective of listening. Drawing on case studies from a range of historic periods and geographic locations, it will address the following issues: the 19th-cent emergence of audio technology as part of disability research; how we perceive spatial dynamics through listening; the cinematic relationship of sound and the moving image; listening as a mode of engaging the environment; and listening as an interdisciplinary research method. Materials from this seminar can be used for curriculum in the history of science, film and cinema studies, music and popular culture, and acoustic ecology, as well as the more general fields of history, social studies, English, and biology.

**History (United States)**

**Ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment: The Backstory, 1848-1919**

Cindy Jurisson, University of Chicago Lab School

**March 12, 2020**

With the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment on August 18th,1920, American women finally secured the most fundamental right of citizens in a democracy. The broad outlines of the story are well known: the decades long, hard-won victory was due largely to the collective efforts of thousands of women across the nation whose protests, picket lines, politicking, and publications finally persuaded (male) voters to extend women the right to vote. Less well understood is the complex backstory: the early impetus for woman suffrage provided by the Western states versus the inertia of the Eastern Seaboard; the grassroots fervor of disparate groups of polygamists, prohibitionists, socialists, and populists, versus the well-funded resistance of the railroad and liquor industries; the enthusiastic support from those jurists and legislators who welcomed, as well as those who deeply feared the consequences of the 14th Amendment; and the profoundly conflicting political and social visions of the numerous women’s organizations that could agree on little else except the necessity of women’s suffrage. In this seminar we will take a closer look, from the Civil War onward, at the backstories: the reasoning and motivations of opponents as well as supporters; relevant 19th C. court cases and legislation; the personalities and political tactics of key change agents, both male and female; the factors of race, class, and religion in different regions of the country; the involvement of Big Business; and the "pioneering" contributions of the Western states. Participants will be introduced to primary and secondary sources that can be used in middle and high school settings.
Literature & Drama (United States)

U.S. Latinx Literature and Culture
Gizella Meneses, Lake Forest College
April 10, 2020
This seminar provides an overview of the contributions of US Latinx authors and artists of the 20th-21st centuries (with an emphasis on the output of the Nuevo Latinx Boom). In doing so, we will examine the literary, socio-historical, and cultural development of Latinx and explore the similarities and distinctions among the experiences and imaginations of multiple Latinx groups: Puerto Ricans, Nuyoricans, Mexican Americans, Chicanx, Cuban Americans, as well as other representations from the Caribbean and Central and South America.

Literature & Drama (United States)

Honoring Black Girlhood in Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eye and Sula
Francesca Royster, DePaul University
April 15, 2020
In this seminar, we'll explore Toni Morrison's commitment to providing rich, complex subjectivities for black girls in her novels The Bluest Eye and Sula. We'll approach issues of black girlhood intersectionality, thinking about the connections of gender, race, sexuality, class, education and mobility. We'll also look at some historical contexts to think about Morrison's characters in light of past and contemporary social inequities that shape black girls’ lives, including sexual violence, education, popular standards of beauty and incarceration. Class readings will target specific chapters in each text and thorough reading of both novels before class is encouraged.

Geography & Environmental Studies

Chicago's Lakefront: A Rags to Riches Story, NTC+
Jim Montgomery, DePaul University
April 17, 2020
What do Grant Park, Millennium Park, Navy Pier, Jackson Park, South Shore Cultural Center, and Steelworkers Park all have in common? They all are located on Chicago's lakefront. Chicago's 27 miles of lakefront have undergone significant physical, social, and cultural transformations since the time of European exploration. This NTC seminar will examine these transformations. When the French explorers Fr. Jacque Marquette and Louis Joliet paddled through what is now Chicago in the 1680s, the lakefront was a series of windswept barren dunes reeking of wild onion and garlic, transected by the lumbering Chicago River on its way to joining Lake Michigan. The lakefront seen by Marquette and Joliet has been completely transformed by human agency. Indeed, in 1836, only three years after Chicago was founded, Chicagoans set aside the first narrow shoreline as public ground and declared it "forever open, clear, and free..." Known then as "Lake Park", this strip eventually expanded eastward into Lake Michigan due to periods of lake filling as well as debris from the Great Fire of 1871. Lake Park eventually became "Grant Park", the cultural and emotional front porch of the city of Chicago that beckons people from all over America and the world. Later transformations of the lakefront occurred with construction of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Jackson Park, the Lakefront Trail, marinas and boat basins, the South Shore Country Club (now called the South Shore Cultural Center), McCormick Place convention center, U.S. Steel Company's "Southworks" site, Grant Park Municipal Stadium (now known as "Soldier Field"), Navy Pier (Chicago’s #1 tourist trap), and Millennium Park. Chicago's beaches are the product of structures designed to trap sand moving south along the 300-mile length of Lake Michigan. The shoreline is now protected from wave erosion by gleaming concrete revetments that have enhanced the Lakefront Trail and improved pedestrian access. Future transformations include construction of the Obama Presidential Center. Indeed, the Chicago lakefront and adjacent landscape showcases the transformative legacy of intentional human invention. The Chicago lakefront has had a tumultuous history full of triumph and tragedy. On Sunday July 27, 1919, Eugene Williams, a young African American boy, was murdered at the 26th Street beach by white agitators. This led to a prolonged race riot that left two African American's dead and fifty whites and blacks seriously injured. Later systemic racism produced profound differences in access to the lakefront. Grant Park also served as the staging ground for Abraham Lincoln's funeral procession through the city, civil rights protests and the 1968 Democratic National Convention demonstrations, the open-air mass of Pope John Paul II, a visit by a young Queen Elizabeth II, and the site of festivals such as Lollapalooza and celebrations for the Chicago Bulls, Blackhawks, and president-elect Barack Obama.
History (European)
Technology and Invention in the Renaissance: Stradanus’s *Nova Reperta* Engravings, NTC+
Lia Markey, Newberry Library
April 21, 2020
The Renaissance, as the period’s name tells us, is generally conceived of as a time of “rebirth” when there was an intense interest in looking back to antiquity. This seminar will consider another aspect of Renaissance studies and question what was new in the Renaissance through an exploration of a renowned print series, entitled the *Nova Reperta*. Designed in Florence and printed in Antwerp in the late sixteenth century, the images represented in these engravings document such post-classical novelties as the Americas, syphilis, the printing press, the cannon, and the clock. What can these inventions tell us of early modern culture and of the Renaissance conception of technology? The seminar coincides with a Newberry exhibition focused on these engravings. Beyond the print series at the heart of the seminar, we will examine related Renaissance books about navigation, the Americas, colonization, machines, warfare, and visuality. Highlights will include analysis of the writings of Vespucci, Vasari, and other Renaissance thinkers, as well as the study of Renaissance maps. In turn, we will use the *Nova Reperta* to question the role of technology and innovation today and to reconceive of the way in which the Renaissance can be taught in the contemporary classroom. This seminar will also include a guided tour of the Newberry’s spring exhibition, *Renaissance Invention: Stradanus’s Nova Reperta*, by co-curator, Lia Markey.

History (United States)
American Indian Sovereignty in the 20th and 21st Centuries
Rose Miron, Newberry Library
April 23, 2020
Two of the biggest misconceptions about American Indian peoples in the United States are that they 1) have disappeared, and 2) are just like any other racial group. Instead, American Indian nations are sovereign nations that are still here. This seminar will explore American Indian history through the less common lens of sovereignty and nationhood, focusing on what happened to American Indian peoples following the end of the so-called "Indian Wars" and why a series of federal policies in the late 19th and early 20th century continue to shape whether Native sovereignty is respected or ignored in the continental United States today. We will consider major policies and events like the creation of Indian reservations, the allotment of Indian land, the recognition (or lack thereof) of tribal governments, and the relocation and migration of Native people to urban areas. Accordingly, we’ll also consider how American Indian nations and activists have responded to these events. We will end by examining how a few of the contemporary issues facing Native people today, such as pipelines, missing and murdered Indigenous women, and the frequent adoption of Native children, are linked to the ongoing struggle to defend Native sovereignty.

World Language (French)
Reading Rousseau, Knowing Rousseau, Teaching Rousseau
Guillemette Johnston, DePaul University
April 24, 2020
*Please note this seminar will be conducted in French.* Rousseau is one of the most important philosophers and thinkers of the French Enlightenment, yet he is also one of the most controversial and misunderstood philosophers of all times. In this seminar we will look closely at several passages from Rousseau’s key works in order to come to an understanding of his philosophy and the coherence of the system he shared with his readers. Rousseau’s philosophy was crucially shaped by a vision he had on his way to Vincennes to visit Diderot in prison. He claims that all of his writings are an attempt to capture some of the insight he gained from that vision. The underlying themes of his writings are often misunderstood, however, as philosophers, political theorists, and others have tended to project their own ideas onto Rousseau’s insights. We will talk about how critics interpreted Rousseau’s works in the 20th century and how his views became distorted through slanted interpretations in the political, structural, and epistemological spheres. A list of passages to read in advance will be provided online in order to help us discuss both the critical perspectives and Rousseau’s own message. Works that we may look at if time allows are the first and second *Discourses*, the *Dialogues*, the *Confessions*, *La Nouvelle Héloïse*, *Emile*, and the *Social Contract*. 