NTC 2017-18 Seminar Schedule

**Literature & Drama (British)**

**Shakespeare's Woman Project**  
Paul Hecht, Purdue University North Central  
**October 10, 2017**

Stepping back a bit from older scholarly engagements with gender and sexuality in Shakespeare, this seminar proposes that we consider whether "woman" is an illuminating category in which to consider Shakespeare's development across his entire career. How much is femininity visible as a project in Shakespeare, an ongoing area of thought and development? Major characters from which this discussion will draw include Joan of Arc, Adriana, Juliet, Helena, Portia, Rosalind, Gertrude, Cordelia, Paulina. Some attention will be given as well to significant portrayals of these characters from theatre history.

**History (European)**

**The Habsburg Empire**  
Edin Hajdarpasic, Loyola University Chicago  
**October 12, 2017**

For much of the twentieth century, textbooks depicted the Habsburg Empire as a "prison of nations," an undemocratic and outdated state haunted by nationalist disputes until its bitter end during World War I. Contrary to such nation-centric interpretations, historians now view the Habsburg state as a dynamic and resilient polity whose diverse citizens had common histories, institutions, and aspirations. This seminar explores the foundational institutions and crucial tensions of the Habsburg state from the Enlightenment to the Sarajevo assassination in 1914. Using examples from both Austrian and Hungarian halves of the Monarchy, this seminar will consider different interpretations of the evolution of the Habsburg state; the rise of liberal and nationalist politics; the turmoil of fin de siècle Vienna; and the forces of cohesion and disintegration.

**Literature & Drama (World)**

**Liberating the Soul: A Comedy in Three Parts, by Dante Alighieri**  
Seemee Ali, Carthage College  
**October 16, 2017**

The Inferno is the only portion of Dante's great Commedia the majority of twenty-first-century readers will encounter. Regrettably, this means that the majority of Dante's readers mistakenly think of Dante as merely a moralist: first and foremost, a writer who is primarily interested in sin and its punishment. But the Inferno forms only a minor fraction of the greater poem Dante wrote in the early 1300s. The true subject of the Commedia is the liberation of the soul. In Paradiso, the third and final part of the epic, Dante invents a new word for his profound vision of liberation: trasumanar ("to transhumanize," we might translate, to be as literal as possible). The word is meant to point to the miraculous possibility of crossing beyond the ordinary limits imposed by our humanity. This miracle - the wonder of trans-humanizing - is achieved by the human imagination when it is liberated by poetry. So Dante claims. This seminar aims to show the full arc of the Commedia by examining short selections from each of its canticles: Inferno, Purgatorio, Paradiso.

**History (United States)**

**Populism in Historical Perspective and in the Age of Trump**  
Robert Johnston, University of Illinois at Chicago  
**October 17, 2017**

Rarely in the last century has the intellectual category "populism" been on the minds of so many pundits and citizens. And rarely has that category more needed genuinely historical analysis. I have led NTC seminars on American populism before, but this session will differ a) by consciously using the issue of Trump, the politics of resentment, and issue of the white working class to explore current controversies in the use of the term "populism," and b) by exploring the global reach of these issues, from Brexit to Venezuela. At the same time, we will explore "populists" (or not?) in the American past. Anti-Federalists? Andrew Jackson? Joe McCarthy? And, of course, the "capital P" Populist late-nineteenth-century agrarian rebels-the prototypical rebels who today seem so easily forgotten.
Politics Science & Economics

The European Union
Erik Tillman, DePaul University
October 20, 2017
Established in 1951 as a common market for coal and steel among six countries, the European Union today has (for now) 28 member states, an elected parliament, and a common currency used in 19 of those states. It is widely credited for helping to secure postwar peace and prosperity in Western Europe and later in guiding the democratization of Mediterranean and post-communist Europe in the 1980s and 1990s. Today, though, it faces numerous challenges: Brexit, the rise of nationalist and authoritarian political movements, the lingering effects of the financial crisis, relations with Russia, and the conflicts and refugee crises in neighboring regions. In this seminar, we will examine the historical development of the EU to understand how it functions today and how its design contributes to these contemporary challenges.

World Language (Spanish)

Latin American Immigration in Film
Gizella Meneses, Lake Forest College
October 23, 2017
This seminar will be conducted in Spanish and will explore through film the controversies surrounding Latin American immigration in both the late twentieth and twenty-first centuries. We will specifically examine race relations, exile, the war on drugs, push-pull factors and the socio-political backdrop of multiple Latin American countries and the United States; that is, through filmic representation, we will gain a vivid understanding of immigration across the Americas.

History (United States)

John C. Calhoun and the Civil War
Robert Elder, Valparaiso University
October 24, 2017
John C. Calhoun remains one of the most controversial figures in American history. Variously revered and reviled in the century and a half since his death in 1850, the two-time vice-president and U.S. Senator from South Carolina is often attributed with sowing the seeds for a Civil War he didn't live to see due to his defense of states' rights and the doctrine of nullification. Moreover, Calhoun's famous defense of the institution of slavery as a "positive good," as he called it in a speech on the Senate floor in 1837, is one of the best examples of the debates over slavery that led to the Civil War and one of the clearest reminders of the history of racial oppression in our nation's past. This seminar will offer an up-to-date account of Calhoun in the context of recent scholarship on slavery, nationalism, and the Civil War. Participants will read and discuss some of Calhoun's writings as we try to understand how to think about a figure the historian David Potter once called "the most majestic champion of error since Milton's Satan."

History (World)

The Partition of British India
Rajit Mazumder, DePaul University
October 27, 2017
The British Indian Empire lasted for nearly two centuries until 1947. Independence, however, came with a division of British India into the two sovereign countries of India and Pakistan in 1947. This seminar begins with an appraisal of the historical antecedents of the Partition of British India. It will then consider some of the important aspects and ramifications of Partition including the creation of the new boundary, the human tragedy that unfolded in the aftermath of the Partition, the nature of state formation, and the gendered impact of the events. The seminar considers individuals, groups, nation states and bureaucratic intervention, ethnic and religious nationalisms, and their interplay through the violent aftermath of the creation of India and Pakistan.

Politics Science & Economics

Russian-American Relations: Past, Present & Future
Richard Farkas, DePaul University
November 3, 2017
The centrality of America’s relationship with Russia has become evident to all Americans. The political
**History (World)**

**China's Changing Shape: Exploring Geographic Conceptions of ‘China’ from the Second to the Twentieth-Century**
Laura Hostetler, University of Illinois at Chicago

**November 7, 2017**

Designed to provide teachers with a concrete set of images and concepts that they can adapt for their own use in the classroom, this seminar focuses around a series of Chinese maps to explore how "China" was conceived of both culturally and geographically over time. Mapping in China varied greatly over the course of its long dynastic history. The images we will explore begin with early dynastic graphics that depict China as a civilization centered on the imperial capital with rings of "less cultured" people radiating out from it. In this conception the emphasis was not on territory controlled per se, but on cultural zones of influence. By contrast, a twelfth-century Song dynasty map, reproduced on rubbings made from a carved stele, shows a highly accurate grid of much of what is now China. Yet, while highly accurate in terms of scale, the emphasis is on hydrography, not on imperial borders. In late imperial China (1500-1900) maps were used primarily as a supplement to extensive textual geographic descriptions and generally demonstrate little interest in accuracy of scale. In 1602 China was introduced to European conceptions of the globe, including latitude and longitude and the five continents, through a world map in Chinese made by Jesuit Matteo Ricci and his Chinese colleague Li Zhizao. Following up on this technology, during the early eighteenth century the Kangxi emperor commissioned a scaled map of the entire Qing empire. The surveys were undertaken with assistance of European Jesuits serving at his court. But beginning only in the 1840s, when the Opium War also forced a significant transition in diplomatic practices in China, were these geographic conventions more broadly introduced to the Chinese public. Our "map tour" will culminate with a discussion of the "nine-dash" map that China developed in the 1930s and is currently using as the basis for its expanded claims to control of the

**History (European)**

**The American Press and the Holocaust**
Danny Greene, Northwestern University

**November 14, 2017**

"What did Americans know about the Nazi persecution of Europe's Jews and when did they know it?" This question has obsessed a generation of historians who write about Americans and the Holocaust. Our seminar will challenge two pervasive misconceptions: 1) that Americans had little information about Nazism during the 1930s and 1940s; 2) that published information about Nazism was buried on the back pages of American newspapers. Participants will read primary sources published in US newspapers and magazines between 1933 to 1945 in order for participants to gain a deeper understanding of how Americans understood the threat of Nazism. This course also will introduce a crowdsourcing project collecting US news coverage from on Nazism, developed by the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and intended for use in classrooms.
Politics Science & Economics

From Fake News to Facebook: The Problems with the Media in an Age of Political Polarization
Catherine May, DePaul University

November 17, 2017

In the last decade, the American political system has witnessed growing political and ideological polarization among the American public on a range of issues. Ideological polarization has made compromise unlikely and gridlock commonplace. While there are many factors which have contributed to this climate, political polarization is driven in part by the growing reliance on social media outlets for political information and the mainstream press which dramatizes information to retain profits. While there are many factors which have contributed to this climate, political polarization is driven in part by the growing reliance on social media outlets for political information and the mainstream press which dramatizes information to retain profits. This seminar will address the problem of political polarization, the structural problems of the mainstream media, and some of the implications of social media for American democracy.

History (European)

NTC (+) Religious Change during the European Wars of Religion
Brian Sandberg, Northern Illinois University

November 28, 2017

Please note, this NTC (+) seminar is 5 hours long. Religious Change during the European Wars of Religion will be a journey into the excitement, division, chaos, and horror of religious reform and civil violence during the Wars of Religion in early modern Europe. This seminar will focus on cultural and social aspects of religious and civil conflict during the German Peasants’ Revolt, Dutch Revolt, French Wars of Religion, Thirty Years’ War, and English Civil Wars. Participants will explore the religious conflicts of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and the experiences of the people who lived through them. Participants will confront various faces of religious violence, from iconoclasm and book burning to executions of heretics and religious massacres. We will explore the motivations and explanations for religious violence in early modern Europe, as well as the problems of peacemaking during religious conflict. The seminar also offers participants a chance to consider the difficult questions posed by religious violence outside the charged contexts of religious violence in contemporary societies like Bosnia, Kosovo, Algeria, Palestine, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

History (United States)

Abraham Lincoln, Slavery, and Race
Kate Masur, Northwestern Univeristy

November 29, 2017

This seminar will investigate Lincoln's views on slavery, race, and equality in the United States. Emphasizing primary sources - mainly Lincoln's own writings, but also perspectives from Frederick Douglass, Steven Douglas, and others - we will discuss Lincoln in context and consider how we should understand him in the present. Topics to be considered include Lincoln's role in the wartime destruction of slavery, debates about the right to vote, John Wilkes Booth and the assassination, and parties at the Lincoln White House. The goal is to challenge clichés and develop a deeper understanding of a critical moment in the American past and its
implications for the present.

History (European)

Winston S. Churchill: The statesman and his times, 1874-1965
Gene Beiriger, DePaul University

November 30, 2017

Born in 1874 during the height of the British Empire under Queen Victoria, Winston Churchill lived a consequential life at the center of British and global affairs, including during colonial wars, two world wars, and the early cold war. Churchill was more than simply a warrior or warlord, however. He was both a tory democrat and a liberal imperialist, supporting Britain's versions of social security, universal national health insurance and public housing. Churchill was a dynamic and charismatic writer, speaker and politician. He was a highly paid journalist, a prolific biographer/historian, a painter of some merit, and noted raconteur. He also served in parliament for 62 years and held most of the major positions in the British cabinet over a 50-year period. Churchill's life intersected with many of the major currents of the late-19th and early-20th century, and he remained relevant until his retirement from the prime ministership in 1955 at the age of 80. This seminar explores the fascinating life and career of this seminal statesman, as well as the turbulent times in which he lived and helped shape. (It will also be held on WSC's 143rd birthday!)

Monsters, Mobsters, and Metaphysics: Philosophical Issues in Film

Stephen Asma, Columbia College

December 7, 2017

We love our gangster movies, especially in Chicago. And we pay good money to be frightened and terrified in our horror films. But deeper themes emerge when we explore the philosophical ideas embedded in Hollywood movies and TV shows. How are values and ethical convictions contrasted and challenged in these movies? What do they say about meaning? How are ideas like nihilism, existentialism, hedonism, alienation, and even justice and happiness conveyed in stories like The Godfather, Goodfellas, The Shining, The Thing, The Walking Dead, and so on? In this program, Dr. Stephen Asma will analyze the philosophical ideas in the

History (World)

South Africa: Colonialism, Apartheid, Freedom

Amy Settergren, Northwestern University

January 23, 2018

South African history did not begin when Jan van Riebeeck set up a refreshment station on the Cape of Good Hope in 1652; Africans had been living in the area for centuries. However, that historical moment marked the beginning of over 350 years of European settlement, expropriation, and conquest. This seminar will examine the long sweep of South African history, paying particular attention to the interactions between and among African peoples and societies; Dutch settlers and British colonialists. We will consider the roots of racial segregation, the formalization of apartheid in 1948, and African resistance to, and ultimate victory over, the racist regime. We will conclude by discussing South Africa today, and what extent the promise of freedom and the vanquishing of apartheid's legacy has been realized.

Literature & Drama (World)

Dystopian Literature and Social Critique

Carter Hanson, Valparaiso University

January 29, 2018

Ever since Suzanne Collins’s The Hunger Games (2008), dystopian literature—literature that imagines societies worse than our own—has been particularly popular with young adult readers. But other than enticing students to read, does dystopian literature have a particular use value? This seminar will explore dystopian literature within the broader spectrum of the concepts of utopia and utopianism that open up a conceptual space for thinking about social alternatives. We will discuss the emergence of the dystopian genre in the twentieth century and the structural elements of dystopian narratives. We will focus on dystopian literature as a response to certain historical trends and its work as a critical, often satirical, warning of where society could be headed if those trends continue. We will also discuss the recent prevalence of the teen "dystopian romance" and its
Understanding Syria
TBD
January 30, 2018
This seminar will explore the background, origins, evolution, and human toll of the current conflict in Syria. It will begin by situating the country in the context of modern Middle East history and examining the character of the authoritarian regime that solidified under the presidency of Hafez al-Assad (1970-2000) and then his son Bashar (2000--). It will then discuss the launch of the Syrian uprising in 2011, its subsequent militarization, the escalation to a multi-party war, the contours of mass displacement, and the current situation of the millions of civilians who have fled as refugees. In addition to examining the crucial events, actors, and issues shaping these developments, the instructor will share voices from among the more than 300 displaced Syrians who she has interviewed across the Middle East and Europe from 2012 to 2017, and whose stories she features in her new book, We Crossed a Bridge and It Trembled: Voices from Syria (HarperCollins 2017). As such, this will offer seminar participants a chance not only to deepen their understanding of this conflict reshaping the Middle East, but also to gain a humanistic sense of what it has been like for the ordinary people who have lived

American Studies
The Long Civil Rights Movement
Heath Carter, Valparaiso University
February 1, 2018
The Civil Rights Movement is strongly associated with the 1950s and 1960s, when heroic figures such as Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr., came on to the world stage. But in recent years some historians have argued that those decades are best understood in the context of a much longer black freedom struggle, which extends from Emancipation to Barack Obama and beyond. In this seminar we will revisit these debates, focusing on how best to think about and teach the history of the African American fight for civil rights in the modern

Literature & Drama (World)
Beowulf: Myth, Legend, and History
Karl Seigfried, University of Chicago
February 2, 2018
Although acknowledged as a foundational work of English literature, the complicated and allusive style of the longest epic poem in Old English often intimidates teachers and students alike. This seminar will help educators to read and teach the work in a new way by illuminating the fascinating mixture of mythic, legendary, and historical material that come together in the poem. We will turn to the literary heritage of Scandinavia and continental Europe to help us understand material that the Beowulf poet assumed the audience would already know, and we will examine the historical events and figures that appear in the work. Educators will gain new insights into making this powerful work exciting and engaging for their students.

History (United States)
Using American Herstory to Teach American History
Cindy Jurisson, University of Chicago Lab School
February 5, 2018
Numerous primary sources by and about women, from every era of American history, are now widely available. Even so, curricular and standardized test demands, as well as time constraints, can make it difficult for teachers to authentically incorporate the history of women into the larger historical narrative of the typical U.S. survey course. This seminar introduces participants to a variety of short, provocative, historically significant texts pertaining to women, from each major period in U.S. history. Teachers will find these texts particularly useful for: deepening students’ understanding of the impact of women (and related gender- and race-based issues) in American history; illuminating and reinforcing other historically significant themes and events in the nation’s history; and helping motivate students to improve their skills of textual analysis and interpretation. Over the course of the morning we will discuss and analyze a variety of sources from each major era in U.S. history, and think together about how best to use them in the classroom. Participants will also receive a select collection of primary sources, as well as a bibliography of secondary sources that can be particularly helpful for those who work with middle and high school students.
History (World)

Does death have a history? Teaching the changing nature of a universal experience
Sean Hanretta, Northwestern University
February 7, 2018

The history of death and dying provides a useful window into approaches toward cultural and intellectual history, topics that students might not normally associate with history at all. By combining demographic and medical history with the history of beliefs and attitudes, students practice drawing connections between the social, cultural, and material contexts of "human nature." Starting with learning how to read demographic data (age pyramids, life expectancy tables, etc) we dig into changing patterns of death: who dies when, at what age, and from what causes. We then investigate changing ideas and practices relating to dying and the dead, from the earliest archaeological record to ancient societies in Egypt and China, to experiences of epidemics in medieval Europe and Africa. The relatively constant demographics of death up to the 1600s help us recognize the deep variety of ways of approaching the phenomenon. Then, when we turn to the early modern period, we are better prepared to understand the effects of dramatic changes in mortality. For this, we focus on two separate dynamics: the way improved nutrition and other developments facilitated the decline in infant and child mortality in parts of Europe and the way, at approximately the same time, the transatlantic slave trade produced the first documented large-scale geographic disparity in mortality. We end by looking at modernist and contemporary developments, including the romanticization of older approaches to death, the consequences of the medicalization of death, to fantasies of defeating death through technology.

History (European)

Absolutism in Early Modern Europe
Mike Lynn, Purdue University North Central
February 9, 2018

The theory and practice of absolute monarchy in Early Modern Europe provides a wide array of examples, some successful and others less so, on how to run the emerging state. This seminar will explore some of the theories behind absolutism and the notion of the "king's two bodies" before turning to the development of absolutism in practice. While examples will be drawn from Europe as a whole, special attention will be given to France and King Louis XIV's version of absolute monarchy, his use of images and ritual to express his position, and the role played by the palace of Versailles.

American Studies

The Golden Age of Chicago Baseball in an Era of Social Turmoil: Sport and Society 1901-19
Robert Bionaz, Chicago State University
February 14, 2018

The success of its baseball teams between 1901 and 1919 catapulted Chicago to the top of the sporting world. In those 19 seasons, Chicago teams won 9 pennants (10 if you count the 1915 Federal League title won by the Chicago Whales) and 4 world championships. Putting a gloss on an era of debilitating poverty, labor unrest, racial violence, and a world war, the winning ways of the teams created a welcome distraction from everyday life. This seminar will explore the connections between sport and society in an attempt to ascertain just what these teams symbolized to the city's residents.

History (World)

Indigenous Response to Spanish Colonization in Word and Image: Guaman Poma de Ayala in Colonial Peru
Valentina Tikoff, DePaul University
February 16, 2018

In the early seventeenth century, Andean native Guaman Poma de Ayala wrote a detailed and richly illustrated "letter" to the King of Spain. In it, he chronicled Andean history and sought redress of the abuses that he observed in colonial Peru. This fascinating book-length manuscript of several hundred pages, including scores of drawings, provides unique insights into the perspective of author who bridged two cultures: one indigenous and Andean, and the other colonial and European. The complex (and sometimes unexpected) ways that Guaman Poma de Ayala navigated and sought to shape the confluence of these two cultures, in both word and image, have fascinated scholars from a wide range of disciplines, including history, literature, art history, and anthropology. This rich and multi-layered document also illustrates the challenges of transcribing, translating, and analyzing materials produced in a colonial context.

Participants in this seminar will analyze selections from this important manuscript and consider some of the
ways that scholars' explorations of it have shed light on artistic, cultural, and linguistic syncretism, an
indigenous perspective, and colonialism in early colonial South America. The seminar discussion will cover
the form as well as content of Guaman Poma de Ayala's manuscript, including both images and text.
Note: The entire work by Guaman Poma de Ayala is digitized and available online in an excellent site hosted
by the Royal Library in Copenhagen, which possesses the manuscript:

History (European)

French History After Charlie Hebdo: Inclusion and Exclusion in the Wake of Empire
Suzanne Kaufman, Loyola University Chicago
February 26, 2018
The attacks on Charlie Hebdo and the Hyper Cacher supermarket in January 2015 rocked France and shocked
the rest of the world. While historians of modern France have long been interested in questions of
immigration, race and national identity, these issues have taken center stage in light of recent events. This
seminar will examine France’s troubled politics of immigration and integration in the aftermath of the Algerian
War while also discussing the country’s longer history of inclusion and exclusion. Topics will include the
French Revolution’s legacy of laïcité and republican universalism; the Dreyfus Affair and its legacies for Jewish
citizens; and the post-World War II creation of disenfranchised immigrant communities of North African
descent. We will read several essays and discuss a range of primary sources and films that focus on recent
controversies, such as the Headscarf affairs, the 2005 riots and the rise of the National Front as an anti-
immigration party. We will also reflect on the usefulness of this scholarship for teaching France’s

American Studies

From Adulthood to Adulting: Understanding Adulthood in the 21st Century
Holly Swyers, Lake Forest College
February 28, 2018
What does adulthood look like to different generations? And what tools do we have at our disposal to
investigate what has changed - and what hasn't? This seminar includes historical background on the American
conception of adulthood over the past 150 years and offers some classroom ready exercises in data collection

History (United States)

Modernism and Chicago
Mark Pohlad, DePaul University
March 9, 2018
Modernism-as a style, a culture, and a philosophy transformed the world in the twentieth century. Chicago
both reflected and generated some of its key aspects, and in its own characteristic ways. From the 1893 World's
Columbian Exposition, to the high-rise housing projects and urban renewal of the 1950s, this workshop will
focus on the manifestations and forces behind Chicago's unique contribution to modernism. Special emphasis
will be placed on the challenges and efforts of women and minoritized individuals. We will also examine
modern art-particularly that produced in Chicago-in the public sphere, and in the collections of the Art
Institute and other museums. Our session will also consider modern literature created in Chicago, as well as
how the city is depicted in modernist writing, film and theater. Overall, the day will provide information and
resources for teaching about several aspects of the culture of our city in the twentieth-century.

Geography & Environmental Studies

Poverty's Poison: Understanding the Lead Crisis in the U.S. and Chicago
Jim Montgomery, DePaul University
March 12, 2018
Lead is often referred to as "poverty’s poison" because lead poisoning is most prevalent in young children
living in inner-city communities of color stamped with an industrial footprint. The lead crisis in Flint, MI
produced splashy and breathless coverage by the mainstream media, giving the impression that lead
contamination is a recent phenomenon. In actuality, lead contamination dates back to the days of the Roman
Bacchanalia. One upside to the Flint crisis is that it has re-invigorated a much needed national discussion about
the health impacts of lead exposure, environmental racism, and environmental justice issues afflicting low income communities of color whose young children are most susceptible to blood lead poisoning. However, when put into appropriate context, there are many cities struggling with lead contamination issues that are equal to or even worse than Flint, including Chicago and New Orleans. In this seminar we will discuss the history of lead production and usage in the U.S., the general health effects of lead contamination, lead as an environmental justice issue, the events leading to the Flint crisis, and the history of lead contamination in

History (United States)
The Rise, Fall, and Rebirth of Public Housing in Chicago
D. Bradford Hunt, Newberry Library
March 14, 2018
This seminar will explore the troubled yet still hopeful history of public housing in Chicago from the 1930s to the present day. Starting with the earliest visions of public housing, the seminar will move through the goals behind the mass expansion of the program in Chicago in the 1950s, the reasons for its neglect through the 1970s and 1980s, the origins of its destruction in the 1990s, and the values in its new incarnations in the 21st century. Readings, lecture, and discussion will range widely, including ideas on design and community, race and class, rules and rights. The voices of public housing residents, the eyes of planners, and the ambivalence of the general public will be part of the conversation. Finally, we will put Chicago's public housing experiences in national and international context to try to understand alternate paths in state-sponsored efforts

World Language (French)
French Cinema and the Two World Wars
John Ireland, University of Illinois at Chicago
March 16, 2018
Please note that this seminar will be conducted in French. Even more than other European countries, modern France was shaped by its experience of the twentieth century's two world wars. Referencing a number of films (a new and soon dominant medium of cultural expression and communication), participants will look not so much at the violence of war, but at how the two wars a) changed French society and b) affected and changed human relationships, among men, between men and women, among women and children. In particular, participants will look at how film met the challenge of representing the German occupation (1940-44) and the traumatic issues of resistance and collaboration. As these painful issues are far from resolved, they still fuel what Henry Rousso has memorably called the "Vichy Syndrome", still very evident in France today.

Literature & Drama (World)
Reimagining the Real: Writers of Color and Creative Nonfiction
Francesca Royster, DePaul University
April 17, 2018
This seminar will offer tools for reading and writing Creative nonfiction, including personal essay, travel writing, memoir and biomythography. We'll use as our inspiration short writings by James Baldwin, Audre Lorde, Zadie Smith, Angela Morales, Gloria Anzaldua and others.

Politics Science & Economics
Basic Economics: Economics you can use in non economics classes
Jennifer Clark, Roosevelt University
April 18, 2018
Many social sciences classes involve economic theories even if they aren't "economics" classes. This class will provide non economists (or those new to economics) an understanding of important economics concepts. Are supply and demand curves really that important to the market? What is a tariff and do they help protect local jobs? Does a minimum wage hurt or help an economy? Is trade and globalization good for an economy? Will robots take all our jobs in the future? These questions and more will be answered in this seminar. No previous knowledge of economics is necessary.
History (World)
The Swahili Coast and the Indian Ocean: some lessons in World History
Jonathon Glassman, Northwestern University
April 19, 2018
Since the Enlightenment, the myth of the African past has depicted Africans as isolated from history, destined
to live in static "tribal" societies until the forces of change intruded in the form of colonial conquest. Such
myths can be challenged by the history of the ancient city-states of East Africa’s Swahili Coast, which for
centuries mediated commercial, political, and intellectual influences from across the Indian Ocean and deep
into the African interior. We will examine the racial ideas that prevented an understanding of Swahili culture:
ideas by which an urban, cosmopolitan culture like this was assumed to be a foreign transplant. But at the same
time, we will consider the dangers of conceiving "history" as entailing only the broad features familiar from
the history of the West, such as cities, long-distance commerce, literacy, and monotheistic religions. The
presence of such features may prompt us to accept the Swahili coast as part of "history." But what about other
East African cultures, which lacked such features? Are they still to be regarded as somehow outside history,

Literature & Drama (World)
To see a World in a Grain of Sand: Teaching Close Reading With Really Short Poems
Eric Selinger, DePaul University
April 25, 2018
Really short poems—just one, two, three, or four lines long—are a superb resource for teaching the art of close
reading. Because they're so short, they ease the anxiety students often have about poetry as an art form, and they
can be integrated into a longer class period as a "warm-up" or "cool-down" exercise, helping teachers cultivate
close reading as a habit. By the time students reach longer poems—six lines! Eight lines! A whole sonnet—they're
ready to break them down into smaller, more approachable sections, and to make the kind of precise, detailed,
and well-supported claims that characterize good close readers, not just of poetry, but of any type of writing.
This class will equip teachers with a sheaf of classic and contemporary poems to teach, none more than nine
lines long. It will also offer some handy, accessible terms and conceptual models that students can use to make
any poem more interesting, whether as a character study, as a verbal contraption, or as part of a cultural

History (United States)
The City Logical
Bill Savage, Northwestern University
April 27, 2018
Chicagoans often attribute much of what’s right about our city's infrastructure to Daniel Burnham and his 1909
Plan of Chicago (co-written with Edward Bennett). But Burnham’s plans for the "City Beautiful" are largely
unrealized, more a gesture or an ideal than an everyday reality, and much more focused on the monumental
downtown and lakefront than to the patchwork of our city of neighborhoods. This seminar will examine the
work of a much lesser-known Chicagoan, Edward Brennan, the man who convinced Chicago’s political and
business powers-that-be to regularize street names and the house numbering system. Brennan’s plan created
what I call the "City Logical," starting in 1908. This seminar will engage with primary documents from his
campaign to make the city's grid reasonable and intelligible, as well as with exceptions to the general pattern of
the grid which teach us lessons about Chicago history.