

COLLEGIUM

SPRING 2023 CLASS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAYS APR 12, 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 17

Note the new time: 9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **IN PERSON**

The Many Voices of America: The Crossing

Leader: Linda Ching Sledge, PhD, Westchester Community College professor emerita of English, and Abeles Endowed Chair for Global Literature (retired)

This course in multi-ethnic American literature and history will explore the ancestral geographical displacements of three American peoples: one indigenous, one immigrant, one enslaved. We will examine personal accounts from the Cherokee Trail of Tears (1837-9); the Sioux activist Zitkala-Sa's description of her enforced Quaker education (1890); poems etched on the walls of Angel Island detention station by contract laborers from China (1910); and an Ibo myth from the African diaspora (1803) re-enacted by Gullah descendants today.

Readings for the course are listed in order. Please print and bring to the first class, or access on your device for classroom discussion, item #1 which will be emailed to participants. You will be advised when the remaining items will be discussed in upcoming classes.

1) "Three Cherokee Storytellers and the Trail of Tears"

2) Zitkala-Sa, "Land of Red Apples"

<http://www.digital.library.upenn.edu/women/zitkala-sa/stories/school.html>

3) poems from Angel Island

<https://www.aiisf.org/poems-and-inscriptions>

4) "The People Could Fly"

<https://www.stcharles.k12.la.us/cms/lib/LA01906411/Centricity/Domain/1028/The%20People%20Could%20Fly%20.pdf>

Note the new time: 9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **HYFLEX**

Great Decisions Discussion Group (4 sessions only: Apr 12, 19, 26, May 3)

Leader: Bob Fischer, Collegium board member, civil engineer, retired electric utility manager, board member of the Westchester Jewish Council, discussion facilitator

The Great Decisions program of the Foreign Policy Association (FPA), the USA's largest world affairs discussion program, promotes fact-based discussions and critical thinking. Using the FPA 2023 Briefing Book and associated DVD, each Hyflex class will begin with a 25-to-30-minute viewing of an FPA master class lecture on the selected topic, followed by a facilitator-led discussion. This class will have **four** sessions. They will be drawn from the following topics:

1) Political Trends in Latin America: learn about the "pink tide," the "two lefts," and the "three lefts." **2) Famine: a renewed threat in the 21st Century?** What are the causes and what are policy options? **3) Iran at a crossroads:** The most serious and widespread demonstrations since the revolution. **4) Climate change, environment degradation, and migration:** How climate change and associated environment degradation contribute to migration and possible policy responses. Members can purchase the 2023 Great Decisions Briefing Book (highly recommended) and companion DVD (if you like) by ordering online at www.fpa.org or calling 1 800-477-5836. Please allow time for the book to be shipped to you. Supplemental readings may be emailed to the class to enhance the discussion.

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Coffee, Cookies, and Conversation

WEDNESDAYS APR 12, 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 17 (cont'd)

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **HYFLEX**

Plato's Republic

Leader: Dwight Goodyear, PhD, Westchester Community College professor of philosophy, SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, WCC Foundation Award for Scholarship

The Republic is Plato's masterpiece. Its dramatic and intellectual flow is driven by Socrates' attempt to show what justice is and why being just is superior to being unjust. A challenge is put to Socrates in the beginning of Book II: why would we be just if we were in possession of the invisible ring called the ring of Gyges? Why wouldn't we go murder, rape, steal, and do all the things which we are usually afraid to do as visible agents accountable to the social order? To face this challenge, Socrates claims he needs to give an account of the human soul. But, in order to do that, he suggests we look at an ideal state that is structurally similar to the soul. So begins an extended account of an ideal republic or utopia. This account shows an ideal state and how the state deteriorates. And this account is then used to show how an ideal soul should be and how that soul can also deteriorate if not properly cared for. Once this account of the soul is established, Socrates uses it to show why, even if invisible, we would want to be just and lead the good life. This course will both present and critically evaluate the central arguments of the text, and imaginatively explore Plato's famous allegory of the cave, the simile of the divided line, and concluding myth of Er about the destiny of the soul in the afterlife.

12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch: Bring your own or purchase at the Student Center

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. **HYFLEX**

Museums for the Modern Age: Origin Stories

Leader: Jane M. Roos, PhD in art history, professor emerita, author and lecturer on Impressionist painters and art history

Having explored the Metropolitan Museum of Art's early years (1870-1920s) and its conservative acquisition practices, we turn to the histories of the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Studio Museum in Harlem. All three institutions were founded in the 20th century, for the purchase and exhibition of more cutting-edge art than was welcomed by the Metropolitan. MoMA opened in 1929, in a rented space on Fifth Avenue and 57th Street, with a loan exhibition of paintings by Cézanne, Gauguin, Van Gogh, and Seurat. The Whitney was created in 1930 by Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, a sculptor who collected works by contemporary American artists. In 1929 she had offered some 500 paintings from her collection to the Met, and after they flatly turned her down, she launched the first iteration of her museum. A group of artists, activists, and philanthropists formed the Studio Museum in Harlem in 1968, which is dedicated to supporting and exhibiting works by artists of African descent. By including the words "in Harlem," the founders emphasized the importance of the community to the institution's mission. Over six weeks, we will examine the history of each museum, as well as prominent works in their collections.

FRIDAYS APR 14, 21, 28, MAY 5, 12, 19

Note the new time: 9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **IN PERSON**

Conversations about Money and Finance

Leader: Michael Shamosh, consultant to brokerage firms, senior strategist at several investment companies, manager of a hedge fund and a mutual fund; degrees in business and physics; Collegium course leader for American music courses

An earlier version of this course was offered in fall 2019. Money—we earn it, we save it, we spend it! If, as the song says, money “makes the world go ’round,” let’s talk about it. We’ll begin with the financial system and how it operates, particularly through the lens of current events. We’ll examine the various financial instruments available to us (bonds, loans, certificates). Along the way we’ll look at the history of manias, panics, and crashes and discuss their causes. We’ll consider the current state of financial markets and close with a conversation about how the media often misstates what is happening. If the best things in life were free, we would never watch CNBC.

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Coffee, Cookies, and Conversation

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **IN PERSON**

A la Carte

Leaders: Sue Brownie, Collegium member, retired medical physicist in radiation oncology, volunteer with Neighbors for Refugees, the Bronxville Giving Garden, and the Native Plant Center and **Jim Burnett, JD, LL.M.**, retired FBI Agent, criminal justice professor, and Collegium board member

After a very successful return of A la Carte in winter 2023, we are pleased to welcome back several presenters to continue their topics, and several new speakers to offer new, important, and unique topics. We open our new semester on **April 14** with Dana Hirsch, WCC Coordinator of LGBTQIA+ and International Student programs, Department of Student Involvement, who will present **The ABCs of LGBTQIA+** an interactive presentation that builds a foundation for everyone who wants to learn how to better support people who identify within the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and All Others community. On **April 21** William Kaung, VP for Advocacy and board member of the OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates, Westchester, and Hudson Valley Chapter, will return and present **Part II: A History of Asian-Americans in America from 1600 to the present.** On **April 28** Jeffrey Deskovic, Esq., M.A, an internationally recognized wrongful conviction expert and founder of **The Jeffrey Deskovic Foundation for Justice which has freed 12 wrongfully convicted people.** Mr. Deskovic will explain his own experience as well as concepts such as arrest and conviction, time in prison, appeals and exoneration, reintegration challenges and successes. On **May 5** Rev. Lane Cobb, MS CPC and interfaith minister, women’s wellness coach and antiracism educator will explain “...**Creating Safe Spaces for Courageous Conversations about Race**” addressing how organizations can create inclusive communities and workspaces that nurture interracial relationships and create a more equitable and just society. On **May 12** Michael Shamosh, amateur blues musician and historian of American popular music, will welcome us to “**Music of the Great Migration.**” He will trace the mass migration of six million American blacks from the South to industrial cities of the North and the songs that reflected their dreams, romance, and homesickness. We’ll close the semester with a delightful conclusion by Patricia Butter, Garden manager/educator at the WCC Native Plant Center who enchanted us in January with a discussion of “**The Importance of Native Plants and Ecological Gardening Practices.**” On **May 19**, she will offer a **guided tour of the WCC Native Plant Garden.**

FRIDAYS APR 14, 21, 28, MAY 5, 12, 19 (cont'd)

12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch: Bring your own or purchase at the Student Center

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. **IN PERSON**

Why the Innocent Plead Guilty and the Guilty Go Free

Leaders: Jim Burnett, JD, LL.M, retired FBI Agent, criminal justice professor, and Collegium board member and Derek Wright, retired 1st Grade NYPD Detective

How can a constitutionally created system of justice pressure the innocent to plead guilty? Why do we tout that same system as fair and equitable when a poor, minority man may be imprisoned for a modest crime, while a powerful, high-level executive evades prosecution for a high-impact crime? This course will examine current and past issues in the criminal justice/legal system based on a recent book entitled *Why the Innocent Plead Guilty and the Guilty Go Free and Other Paradoxes of Our Broken Legal System* by Jed S. Rakoff, senior federal judge and former white-collar criminal attorney (New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2021). The course will generate spirited discussions as we focus on mass incarceration, plea bargaining, eyewitness identification, and disparate enforcement of criminal law against minorities. The book is highly recommended but is not required reading.

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. **ON ZOOM**

Faith on Film (3 sessions only: Apr 21, 28, May 5)

Leader: Bill Costanzo, PhD, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of English and Film, author of seven books

Many of our views and values were forged in the traditions of the world's great faiths. In this class, we will explore three religions through the lens of cinema, exploring how movies represent Christianity, Judaism, and Buddhism. SUNY Professor Bill Costanzo will lead interactive discussions remotely each week, using selected video clips as prompts. Participants will have prior access to full videos, video clips, and background material on Google Drive.

The Way (US/Spain, 2010). Emilio Estevez wrote and directed this story of a grieving father (Martin Sheen) who decides to finish the pilgrimage to Camino de Santiago begun by his son. Along the way he meets an assortment of pilgrims and learns what the spiritual journey means for others and himself. 123 minutes.

Ushpizin (Israel, 2005). Filmed in Jerusalem's ultra-Orthodox community, *Ushpizin* offers a rare, sympathetic view of Hasidic life from the inside. The film tells the warm-hearted, often humorous story of a childless couple who cannot afford to buy a sukkah for the holiday. When a series of coincidences and a pair of unexpected guests test their faith, the couple learns a timely lesson about miracles. In Hebrew, with English subtitles. 91 minutes.

Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter ... and Spring (South Korea, 2003). Kim Ki Duk's exquisitely simple, deeply moving film is set in a Buddhist monastery surrounded by a lake. Under the watchful eyes of an old monk, a child grows through the seasons of human life, experiencing beauty, cruelty, obedience, desire, rage, terror, and atonement before achieving wisdom in his later years. Alternately allegorical and starkly realistic, Kim's story presents the mysteries and meanings of life from a distinctly Buddhist point of view. In Korean with English subtitles. 103 minutes.