Fall 2020 Courses

To register, visit the Senior College webpage foriowa.org/senior-college/. Registrations will not be accepted before 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 3, 2020.

QUESTIONS? Call 319-335-3305 or 800-648-6973 or email alumni.seniorcollege@foriowa.org.

Course 1

Hayd’n’ Go Seek

THURSDAYS, AUGUST 20, 27; SEPTEMBER 3, 10

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.
Registration Deadline: Thursday, August 13
Class Limit: 280

Over the course of four weeks, Dr. Timothy Hankewich will offer an overview of Franz Joseph Haydn’s career and works and will discuss the historical context of Haydn’s development as a composer, culminating in an in-depth exploration of what is arguably Haydn’s greatest, signature work, “The Creation.” Additional ideas to be addressed will include why Haydn’s reputation today has been unfairly eclipsed by others of his generation (most notably Mozart and Beethoven) and why Haydn should be considered one of the most remarkable and inventive musical personalities of all time.

INSTRUCTOR: Timothy Hankewich is in his 15th year as music director of Orchestra Iowa. He previously served on the conducting staffs of the Kansas City, Oregon, and Indianapolis Symphonies. He earned a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Music from the University of Alberta, Canada, and a Doctor of Music in orchestral conducting from Indiana University.

Course 2

Creative Writing and Healing:
Writing the Stories That Stay with You

WEDNESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 9, 16, 23, 30

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.
Registration Deadline: Wednesday, September 2
Class Limit: 100

The emerging discipline of narrative medicine uses close reading of selected works of literature and mindful, reflective writing to develop empathy, decrease stress, and assist in the healing process. In this course, students will be introduced to the techniques of narrative medicine, its applications to medical education, and its role in healing. Creative writing structure and specific techniques will be introduced. Students will have an opportunity to start or continue writing their own stories or poems and to share their work. Writing for publication and other topics of special interest to the class will be included.

INSTRUCTORS: Cate Dicharry, MFA, is director of the Writing and Humanities Program at the UI Carver College of Medicine and a published novelist. Carol Scott-Conner, MD PhD, is professor emerita of surgery, a member of the Humanities Council at the Carver College of Medicine, and fiction editor of The Examined Life Journal.
Course 3

Charming, Rotten Scoundrels:
In Search of Literature’s Bad Boys

WEDNESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 9, 16, 23, 30;
OCTOBER 7, 14

Time: 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Registration Deadline: Wednesday, September 2
Class Limit: 200

Some of the greatest masterpieces of 19th-century European and Russian literature explore the discontentment of passionate and insightful, yet cynical and alienated young men. Who are these charming rogues? How do they evolve from their inception in Goethe’s Sorrows of Young Werther and Byron’s Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage? And what do they have in common with cultural “bad boys” such as James Bond and Star Wars’ Han Solo? We will follow the development of the archetype through Pushkin’s Eugene Onegin, Lermontov’s A Hero of Our Time, Chekhov’s Three Sisters, Turgenev’s Fathers and Sons, and Dostoevsky’s Notes from Underground. Spoiler alert: There will be dueling!

INSTRUCTOR: Anna Barker is an adjunct assistant professor of Russian and comparative literature at the UI. Her interests include Russian cultural history, Russian literature, and 19th-century European literature, art, and music. She has organized several literary celebrations, including public readings of Don Quixote, Moby-Dick, and War and Peace.

Course 4

Exploring Fake News
and Alternative Facts

THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 1, 8, 15, 22

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.
Registration Deadline: Thursday, September 24
Class Limit: 40

In 1985, media theorist Neil Postman predicted that we would soon be “amusing ourselves to death” by confusing news and entertainment. The 24-hour news cycle, intentional publishing of fake news, echo chambers, satire interpreted as news, and opportunities for anyone to publish all place the burden of discernment on the information consumer. We will explore aspects of fake news—political, scientific/medical, and cultural—considered in the context of a free press and freedom of speech. There will be recommended follow-up activities for out-of-class time.

INSTRUCTORS: Greg Cotton, director of Cole Library at Cornell College, teaches online in the School of Library and Information Science at San Jose State University. Jean Donham, retired professor in library studies at the University of Northern Iowa, was previously associate professor in the School of Library and Information Science at the UI.
Course 5

Putting It Together: How a Theater Production Goes from Inspiration to Fully Realized Play

Thursdays, October 8, 15, 22, 29; November 5

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Registration Deadline: Thursday, October 1
Class Limit: 280

Theater work is frequently described as “magic,” but in reality that magic is the result of hard-working, imaginative collaborators who function as a team to bring a great story to life. Local and national experts, including writers, designers, actors, directors, choreographers, and stage managers, will share examples of their work and answer questions as we walk through each stage of a theater production, from the playwright’s first keystroke to the opening-night ovations.

INSTRUCTOR: Christopher Okiishi is a writer, performer, director, and producer of theater. His work has been seen at City Circle Theatre Company, SPT Theatre, Coe College, Riverside Theatre, Los Angeles’s Odyssey Theater, and the New York Film Academy. He has written scores for three theater projects and one award-winning film. He is also a practicing psychiatrist who lectures locally and nationally.

Course 6

Current Issues in Mental Health

Tuesdays, October 20, 27; November 3, 10

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Registration Deadline: Tuesday, October 13
Class Limit: 280

This course is designed to explore a variety of current mental health issues, including issues around COVID-19. Topics will include how to find a therapist, local mental health resources, psychotherapy and its effectiveness, stress/anxiety, depression/suicide, and mental health issues related to COVID-19. The course will meet for one hour each week over four consecutive weeks.

INSTRUCTOR: John Westefeld, professor emeritus of counseling psychology in the University of Iowa College of Education, is a board-certified psychologist in private practice. At the UI, his work focused on training psychotherapists at the doctoral level. Throughout his 42-year career, his primary research and practice interests have been suicide and suicide prevention, as well as educating the public about mental health issues.
Course 7

A History of the American Century in Eight Paintings

MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 26, 28; NOVEMBER 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Registration Deadline: Monday, October 19
Class Limit: 280

The publisher Henry Luce coined the term “American Century” in 1941, predicting that the entire 20th century would be dominated by American ideas and values. By exploring eight key artworks from the UI Stanley Museum of Art’s collection (not, in all cases, the usual suspects), we will trace the development of Luce’s idea from its roots during World War I through the social change movements of the 1960s and 1970s. As we go, we will explore the tensions that underlie Luce’s optimistic assertion—tensions between the personal and the social, between nationalism and internationalism, and between the promise of equal opportunity and the reality of inequality—that American artists negotiated during these eventful decades.

INSTRUCTOR: Lauren Lessing is the director of the UI Stanley Museum of Art. She holds a PhD in the history of art from Indiana University, and her wide-ranging scholarship has focused on art of the United States produced during the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries.

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