

# IOWA™

## SENIOR COLLEGE

### Spring 2023 Courses

To register, visit the Senior College webpage [foriowa.org/senior-college](https://foriowa.org/senior-college).  
Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 9, 2023. All times are Central Time.

QUESTIONS? Call 319-335-3305 or 800-648-6973 or email [alumni.seniorcollege@foriowa.org](mailto:alumni.seniorcollege@foriowa.org).

#### Course 1

##### Players and Rivals: Touring America with the All-Star Cast of 1896

**Dates:** Wednesdays, January 25; February 1, 8, 15

**Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Coralville Center for the Performing Arts,  
1301 Fifth Street, Coralville

**Registration Deadline:** Wednesday, January 18

**Class Limit:** 175

In 1896, ten of America's most famous actors captivated the nation in an all-star tour of Richard Sheridan's *The Rivals*. Between sold-out performances, they debated acting technique, jockeyed for prominence, and shared stories about their lives on the stage. We will focus on four of them: Joseph Jefferson and Louisa Drew, two of America's first stage stars; Francis Wilson, leader of the fight to unionize actors; and Julia Marlowe, a passionate voice in the early feminist movement. Their journey by railroad will provide a framework for examining the challenges that came with a traveling production and for exploring 19th-century theatre practices and theatrical life outside New York City.

**INSTRUCTOR:** **Evan Hilsabeck**, managing director at the Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, is a magpie in the junk heap of American theatre history. His passion is researching and collecting the original playbills, photographs, faded press clippings, and archival documents that tell the stories of New York's early Broadway theatres.

#### Course 2

##### The Broadway Viewing Club

**Dates:** Thursdays, January 26; February 2, 9, 16

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Location:** Coralville Center for the Performing Arts,  
1301 Fifth Street, Coralville

**Registration Deadline:** Thursday, January 19

**Class Limit:** 175

Musical theater is an art form that thrills and uplifts audiences around the world. But what makes a show work? In this course, we will analyze productions of four well-known musicals: *Gypsy*, *Into the Woods*, *Les Misérables in Concert: The 25th Anniversary*, and *Billy Elliot* (subject to streaming availability). Each class will be an in-depth discussion of the production's music, theme, stagecraft, acting, direction, design, and story construction and their impact on the overall effect of the show.

**INSTRUCTOR:** **Christopher Okiishi** is a writer, performer, director, and producer of theater. His work has been seen at City Circle Theatre Company, Theatre Cedar Rapids, SPT Theatre, Coe College, Riverside Theatre, Los Angeles's Odyssey Theatre Ensemble, 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 3

### Loot, Forgeries, and the Global Art Market

**Dates:** Fridays, February 3, 10, 17, 24

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – noon

**Location:** Zoom

**Registration Deadline:** Friday, January 27

Since ancient times, thieves have looted art objects, and forgers have created art to satisfy the desires of patrons and collectors. This course will consider how and why both categories of objects have been incorporated into American museum collections and trace how these illicit objects make their way through today's global art market. We will examine the dangers that looted objects pose to our understanding of cultural heritage and the historical past, the ways that fakes have affected the art market, and the value of forgeries as indices of contemporary taste and preconceptions about art.

**INSTRUCTOR:** **Brenda Longfellow** is an associate professor of art history at the University of Iowa. She teaches classes on fakes and forgeries as well as on Egyptian, Greek, and Roman art. She has published broadly on the art, architecture, and hydraulics of the ancient Roman Empire.

## Course 4

### What Is a Print? Printmaking Then and Now

**Dates:** Thursdays, February 9, 16

**Time:** 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**Locations:**

- February 9: Lasansky Gallery, 216 E. Washington Street, Iowa City
- February 16: Stanley Museum of Art, 160 W. Burlington Street, Iowa City

**Registration Deadline:** Thursday, February 2

**Class Limit:** 15

How can we tell original handmade prints from high-quality photocopies? For that matter, what are prints, and what are the processes that graphic artists use to create them? This two-week course (which is identical to Course 10) will take us through the rich history of printmaking into today's contemporary techniques. We will look at historical and modern prints in the collection of the Stanley Museum of Art and enjoy a guided tour of the Lasansky Gallery and a demonstration in Diego Lasansky's studio in downtown Iowa City.

**INSTRUCTOR:** The work of artist **Diego Lasansky** follows a tradition of portraiture that both honors historical themes and reflects the influences of the contemporary world. His first solo exhibition, in 2015, featured paintings, drawings, and intaglio prints. He began to learn his craft at an early age from his uncle Tomás Lasansky and grandfather Mauricio Lasansky, both renowned artists.

## Course 5

### The Life and Times of John Prine: The Man, the Music, the Mischief

**Dates:** Mondays, February 27; March 13, 20, 27

**Note:** No class on Monday, March 6

**Time:** 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** Coralville Center for the Performing Arts,  
1301 Fifth Street, Coralville

**Registration Deadline:** Monday, February 20

**Class Limit:** 175

Guided by music clips, videos, and song lyrics, this course will lead students through the events of John Prine's life from his years as a singing mailman to his legacy as one of the most influential singer-songwriters of his generation. Students will gain a deep understanding of the many ways in which Prine's "Big Old Goofy World" showcases the American lived experience, with stories from his life highlighting his irresistible dedication to mischief making, his creation of the urban Appalachian musical sound, and the rich observational poetry crafted by this true American everyman. Students will be encouraged to explore their own life stories using Prine's novel musical style and evocative lyrics as a jumping-off point.

**INSTRUCTOR:** **Ken Anderson** is an author and a clinical associate professor in UI's College of Public Health who holds a passion for music, literature, and the performing arts. His career spans service as a nephrologist and a chief medical officer, and he has held several appointments as a state and federal health official.

## Course 6

### Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself"

**Dates:** Tuesdays, February 28; March 7, 14, 21

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – noon

**Location:** Zoom

**Registration Deadline:** Tuesday, February 21

This is your chance to read (or re-read) America's epic poem of democracy, Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself." We will divide the 52-section poem into four parts and discuss each part in a separate class period. Along the way, we will discuss the historical, cultural, and biographical contexts that inspired and that illuminate the poem. And we will end each class with a look at how Whitman's contemporary Emily Dickinson responded in a very different way to many of the same social, cultural, and philosophical issues.

**INSTRUCTOR:** **Ed Folsom** is the Roy J. Carver Professor Emeritus of English, editor of the *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review*, co-director of the online *Walt Whitman Archive*, and editor of the Iowa Whitman Series at the University of Iowa Press. He is the author or editor of numerous books and essays on Whitman and other American writers.

## Course 7

### **Agricultural Medicine at Iowa: Sustaining Our Food Supply, Protecting Our Workers**

**Dates:** Fridays, March 17, 24, 31; April 7

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – noon

**Location:** Students may attend on Zoom or in person at the Coralville Public Library, Room A/B, 1401 Fifth Street, Coralville.

**Registration Deadline:** Friday, March 10

**In-Person Class Limit:** 60

Just as Iowa leads the nation in agricultural output, the University of Iowa has been an international leader in protecting the health and safety of those who cultivate the soil, produce crops, and raise livestock. This course will cover the history of UI's Institute of Agricultural Medicine since its founding in 1955 and then focus on the diseases and injuries that most affect agriculturalists—who engage in the most dangerous occupation in the U.S. These include respiratory and musculoskeletal diseases, skin diseases, cancers, health hazards caused by pesticides and the pharmaceuticals used in livestock production, zoonotic infections, psychosocial issues, and traumatic injuries.

**INSTRUCTOR:** **Kelley Donham** is professor emeritus in UI's College of Public Health, having served for over 40 years in the specialized field of agricultural medicine. He holds degrees in preventive medicine, epidemiology, and veterinary medicine. He has published over 160 articles as well as five textbooks and a history of the Institute of Agricultural Medicine.

## Course 8

### **Shakespeare, Page to Stage: *Twelfth Night***

**Dates:** Tuesdays, March 28; April 4, 11, 18, 25

**Time:** 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Zoom

**Registration Deadline:** Tuesday, March 21

*Twelfth Night*—coming at the end of the Christmas holidays—is a time for festivities but also marks the end of the revelry. So too, Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* blends hilarious scenes of foolish behavior with moments of sadness, unrequited love, and possible betrayal. The play's setting, Illyria, sounds like "illusion," but we're reminded that "the rain it raineth every day," and we return to reality. We'll work through this complex comedy, with close reading of the text, and viewing of selected filmed performances—and look forward to Riverside Theatre's production in City Park this summer.

**INSTRUCTOR:** **Miriam Gilbert** is professor emerita of English, having taught at the University of Iowa from 1969 to 2013. She still enjoys studying and teaching Shakespeare and going to see Shakespeare in performance, especially in her second home, Stratford-upon-Avon.

## Course 9

### Lessons from *The Land Remains*: Land Tenure and Agricultural Development in Iowa

**Dates:** Mondays, April 3, 10, 17, 24

**Time:** 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** Zoom

**Registration Deadline:** Monday, March 27

Our history and future are shaped by how we treat the land, especially in a state dominated by agriculture. This class will use the 2022 book *The Land Remains: A Midwestern Perspective on Our Past and Future* to focus on the evolution of Iowa's agricultural structure, soil conservation, water quality, stewardship, and the role of land in rural culture. The historical discussion will trace parallels in attitudes toward the land to issues of racism, economic inequality, and environmental vulnerability and will serve as a platform for considering future challenges and opportunities such as climate change, the land-food connection, and land trusts.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Native Iowan **Neil Hamilton** is an emeritus professor of law and founding director of the Agricultural Law Center at Drake University. The author of *The Land Remains* and a commissioner with the Dallas County Soil and Water Conservation District, he is internationally known for his pioneering work in the field of agriculture and food law.

## Course 10

### What Is a Print? Printmaking Then and Now

**Dates:** Thursdays, April 6, 13

**Time:** 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**Locations:**

- April 6: Lasansky Gallery, 216 E. Washington Street, Iowa City
- April 13: Stanley Museum of Art, 160 W. Burlington Street, Iowa City

**Registration Deadline:** Thursday, March 30

**Class Limit:** 15

How can we tell original handmade prints from high-quality photocopies? For that matter, what are prints, and what are the processes that graphic artists use to create them? This two-week course (which is identical to Course 4) will take us through the rich history of printmaking into today's contemporary techniques. We will look at historical and modern prints in the collection of the Stanley Museum of Art and enjoy a guided tour of the Lasansky Gallery and a demonstration in Diego Lasansky's studio in downtown Iowa City.

**INSTRUCTOR:** The work of artist **Diego Lasansky** follows a tradition of portraiture that both honors historical themes and reflects the influences of the contemporary world. His first solo exhibition, in 2015, featured paintings, drawings, and intaglio prints. He began to learn his craft at an early age from his uncle Tomás Lasansky and grandfather Mauricio Lasansky, both renowned artists.

## Course 11

### Clinical Anatomy and Physiology: A Systems Approach to the Human Body

**Dates:** Wednesdays, April 19, 26; May 3, 10

**Time:** 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

**Location:** Zoom

**Registration Deadline:** Wednesday, April 12

Each session will begin with a detailed discussion of the anatomy (structure) and physiology (how things work) of a particular system of the body, focusing on information that is not only inherently fascinating but clinically relevant. Comparative anatomy will be used to show examples of adaptation to varied environments. Where appropriate, we will consider embryology and development to explain structures and errors of development. We will also discuss how things can go wrong and how disorders are treated. Beginning with the musculoskeletal system and ending with the endocrine system, we will sequentially explore our own bodies.

**INSTRUCTOR:** **Carol Scott-Conner**, MD PhD, is professor emeritus of surgery at the University of Iowa. She is a recipient of the Honored Member award from the American Association of Clinical Anatomy and a founding member of the American College of Surgeons Academy of Master Surgeon Educators.

## Course 12

### Brain Myths: Debunking Common Misconceptions about Our Most Complex Organ

**Dates:** Thursdays, April 20, 27; May 4, 11

**Time:** 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** Coralville Center for the Performing Arts,  
1301 Fifth Street, Coralville

**Registration Deadline:** Thursday, April 13

**Class Limit:** 175

The brain is the most complex organ in the human body, and neuroscience is still a young discipline. Yet popular culture and the news media are full of confidently presented statements about the brain that scientists know to be highly misleading or even false. This course will highlight eight of the most popular of these myths, including ones like “We only use 10% of our brain” and “Lies can be detected through brain waves.” It will point out why these assertions are misguided and will offer an accurate picture of the underlying science, presented on the level of an introductory college course.

**INSTRUCTOR:** **Dr. Jan Wessel** is a neuroscientist and an associate professor in the Departments of Neurology and Psychological and Brain Sciences at the University of Iowa. He is the director of the Cognitive Neurology Laboratory, which studies the human brain’s ability to flexibly control thoughts and behaviors.

## Course 13

### The Piano: From Cristofori to Steinway

**Dates:** Tuesdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23

**Time:** 1:30 – 3:20 p.m.

**Location:** Voxman Music Building, Classroom 2,  
93 E. Burlington Street, Iowa City

**Registration Deadline:** Tuesday, April 25

**Class Limit:** 60

This course will examine the indispensable piano's ancestors, the harpsichord and the clavichord; the invention of the piano in 1700 in Italy; its journey in the 18th century through Germany, Austria, England, France, and elsewhere; its role as one of the first mass-produced products of the Industrial Revolution; its popularity in the 19th century; and its still-changing nature today. The many forms of the piano such as the grand, the square, the pantalon, the upright, the lyre, the giraffe, the doghouse, and the euphonicon will be discussed. Along the way, we will pay special attention to the pianos of Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Schumann, Chopin, Liszt, and Brahms.

**INSTRUCTOR:** University of Iowa professor emeritus of musicology **Ed Kottick** has a particular interest in the history, acoustics, and mechanics of musical instruments. In his younger days, he enjoyed professional careers as a trombonist, recorderist, and conductor. In 2022 he produced and conducted *The Machine Stops*, a two-act opera based on a story by E. M. Forster.

### Senior College Committee

Emil Rinderspacher, Chair

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Holly Carver

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