

2021 FALL PROGRAM CATALOG



FIVE COLLEGE
LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

About Us: Five College Learning in Retirement

History

The Learning in Retirement movement began some thirty-five years ago at the New School for Social Research in New York City. Now generally called "Life-Long Learning Institutes" or LLIs, such organizations are blossoming around the country. 5CLIR is now one of the more established of the many LLIs around the country and one of the more autonomous.

Founded in 1988-1989, Five College Learning in Retirement (5CLIR) serves the Pioneer Valley of Western Massachusetts. It is sponsored by Five Colleges, Incorporated, a consortium formed by Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Who are Our Members?

Our members are a diverse group of intellectually curious individuals who want to pursue new fields of interest or to revisit interests too long neglected. We are characterized by a willingness to share the knowledge and insights we have gained over lifetimes variously experienced.

Volunteer standing and *ad hoc* committees are responsible for all programs and activities under the direction of an elected Council and Officers.

The Programs

Peer-led seminars and workshops are the core activities of Five College Learning in Retirement and are designed to engage the active learner. Each spring and fall, 20 to 25 peer-learning seminars and workshops are offered. These classes are coordinated by members and are different every session. In addition, a few short seminars may be offered during the summer.

Between the spring and fall sessions, we also coordinate a number of summer and winter programs for members. These extracurricular activities present opportunities to share activities and interests with other members.

In addition to seminars, workshops and programs for members, we sponsor some programs open to the public. These include an annual series called Great Decisions, a Foreign Policy Association program, which provides a forum to discuss pressing foreign policy issues with national experts, as well as occasional special programs.



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Greetings from the Curriculum Committee

Although we are all feeling the liberation brought by vaccinations and spring, we regret that there is no certainty yet about when we will be able to meet in person in our usual venues for seminars. We are happy, however, to mark this anniversary of our pandemic year with thanks and appreciation for all we have learned and shared. We have acquired confidence in our ability to manage Zoom rather than be only at its mercy, and we celebrate the array of seminars, events, and programs that have kept us informed, entertained, and challenged as we share our journeys of life-long learning.

Once again, the Curriculum Committee is proud to offer an outstanding collection of seminars. And once again, we extend our thanks to our peers who have so generously shared their interests and energy to make that happen. You will be able to meet these moderators and co-moderators at the on-line Preview, Sunday, May 2, at 2 PM. In addition to the information provided in this catalog and at the Preview, many moderators have posted additional information at 5clir.org/2021-fall-seminars/. They also can be reached by email through that page if you have further questions.

Although the expectations of participants varies from seminar to seminar, all carry the expectation that participants will be engaged in sharing information, ideas, and conversation. The Handbooks for Participants and Moderators, found at 5clir.org/5clir-handbooks/, contain comprehensive and useful information.

We have learned lots of things we never expected, and many that we might have preferred never to need. Our commitment to learning has given us the strength and desire to accept and thrive with those challenges.

Please feel free to contact any member of the Curriculum Committee with any questions or ideas you have.

Members of the Curriculum Committee

Term Ends:

Kathy Campbell, co-chair	June 30, 2022
Francie Borden, co-chair	June 30, 2021
Kendra Dahlquist	June 30, 2021
Chris Hurn	June 30, 2021
Emily Hurn	June 30, 2021
Dean Poli	June 30, 2021
Kip Fonsh	June 30, 2021
Jim Averill	June 30, 2022
Suzette Jones	June 30, 2022
Elly Rumelt	June 30, 2022
Lise Armstrong	June 30, 2023
Susan Beer	June 30, 2023
Hardy Ballantine	June 30, 2023

Membership in Five College Learning in Retirement

Our annual membership year runs from July 1st through June 30th.

If you have already paid your dues for this year, there is no need to renew until June

One may join at any time during the year, although fees are not pro-rated.

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

***** YOU ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO PAY ONLINE *****

The office at Smith College is closed and mail may be delayed.

Online: At www.5CLIR.org Paypal is a secure way to pay online using your credit card.
There is no extra charge for registering online.

By Mail: Download & print the membership form at www.5CLIR.org/forms.

Make your check out to **Five College, Inc.** and send to:

**Five College, Inc..
Learning in Retirement
97 Spring Street
Amherst, MA 01002**

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

- Full membership.
- Half-year membership, ***an option for new members only.***
- Associate Membership for former Full Members who wish to participate in Winter/Summer and Special Programs, but not in seminars/ workshops.

MEMBERSHIP FEES HAVE BEEN DISCOUNTED FROM OUR NORMAL RATES DUE TO THE CURRENT LIMITATIONS ON IN-PERSON CLASSES.

Cost	Type	Benefits
\$220	Full Year Member (reduced rate)	All programs and privileges
\$110	Half Year (First-time member only) (reduced rate)	Either fall or spring term seminars; all other programs and privileges
\$110	Associate Former Member (reduced rate)	No seminars or voting rights; all other programs and privileges
\$110	Discounted Membership (reduced rate)	For those experiencing financial hardship; please contact the office.

THE ASSISTANCE FUND

The Membership Assistance Fund makes 5CLIR membership available to everyone.

It is funded by generous donations from fellow members.

For further information, please contact the office at 5CLIR@smith.edu



FIVE COLLEGES LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP DUES HAVE BEEN REDUCED FOR THE 2021-22 YEAR

The membership year is from July 1 through June 30 each year.
Full year dues are payable in June, and are not pro-rated for the year.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Email _____

Phone (_____) _____

Emergency contact:

Name _____ Phone (_____) _____

First-time Members:

- \$220 Full Year July 1 - June 30 (Regularly \$250)
- \$110 Half Year (One term; Regularly \$125)

Renewing Members:

- \$220 Full Year July 1 - June 30 (Regularly \$250)
- \$110 Associate for Former Full Members (No seminars or voting rights; Regularly \$125)
- \$110 Discounted Full Year: July 1- June 30 (Regularly \$125.
For individuals with restricted income or other financial hardship)

Donate to the Membership Assistance Fund

The 5CLIR Membership Assistance Fund offers financial assistance to applicants who qualify. To help support such aid to fellow members, I enclose a gift to the Membership Assistance Fund in the amount of

\$ _____ This contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

How did you first hear about Learning in Retirement? _____

As a member of Five College Learning in Retirement, I recognize that my address, email address and telephone number will appear in the 5CLIR membership directory and my photograph may appear in the Newsletter or on the website unless I request an exemption in writing.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please make your check payable to **"Five College, Inc."** and mail to:

**Five College Learning in Retirement
97 Spring Street, Amherst, MA 01002**

Important Details on Registration, Schedules & Attendance

SPECIAL NOTE ON SCHEDULING DURING THE PANDEMIC

As of April, 2021, the 5CLIR Council has determined that all fall 2021 programming will be scheduled online, via Zoom. The one exception is a small group craft workshop. If we are able to hold in-person gatherings, it may be necessary for participants to show proof of vaccination, and take other health precautions. As we go forward, we will continue to re-evaluate our options for in-person events other than seminars.

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

- Registration for Fall 2021 courses opens on Monday, **May 3, 2021**.
- Registrations can **only** be made online at www.5clir.org, or by mail, not by phone.
- Membership dues must be current prior to the start of programs and seminars for which you register. For new members, payment of dues must accompany seminar registration.
- Additional information about the registration process can be found at www.5clir.org/programs

ENROLLMENT PROCESS

- All registrations received by the office by **Friday, May 21, 2021** will be included in the first round of fall class assignments.
- Oversubscribed seminars will be filled by random lottery of all registrations received by the deadline.
- Those not assigned to as many seminars/workshops as requested will be added to wait lists.
- Registration notifications will be sent on or about **June 9, 2021**.
- Registrations received after the lottery will be added as space is available in requested seminars/workshops, or added to wait lists.
- Wait listed individuals will be notified when a space becomes available.

CHANGES AND CANCELLATIONS

- Changes to seminar schedule are made by the office.
- In the event of low enrollment, a seminar may be cancelled by the Curriculum Committee, in consultation with the moderator.

ABSENCE

- Members who are absent for the first two sessions of a seminar without notifying the moderator may be dropped from the seminar.

WITHDRAWALS

- Withdrawal notification should be made to both the moderator and the office.
- Withdrawals should be made as soon as possible, so the space can be made available to another member, and so the moderator can plan accordingly.

SEMINAR SCHEDULES

- Most seminars run for 10 weeks. Some run for fewer weeks, or start later.
- Please check the listing for schedule details and dates that the class will not meet.
- Seminars are usually two hours long, and are scheduled Monday through Wednesday mornings and afternoons, and Thursday mornings. Check seminar listings for exact times.

PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Participants should become familiar with their role and responsibilities.
- The Participant's Handbook can be found on the website at: www.5clir.org/resources/documents
- Several guidebooks to Zoom for participants and moderators are at <https://5clir.org/tech-assistance/>
In addition, members of the Tech Committee are available to provide assistance.

5CLIR OMBUDSMAN

- Should a difficulty or situation arise in a seminar that cannot be resolved, the 5CLIR Ombudsman may be contacted for assistance.
- Contact: Anne Lombard at aslombard@comcast.net or at 413-586-7509.

Before Registering, Please Note:

If you know that you will miss the first two sessions of a seminar, or more than two overall, please talk to your moderator(s) to see whether that would be acceptable.

2021 FALL SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Most classes meet at 9:30-11:30 AM or 1:30-3:30 PM, although times may differ.
Check the class listing for exact schedule.

<u>page</u>	<u>course#</u>	<u>seminar title</u>	<u>moderator(s)</u>
<u>Monday Morning</u>			
21	21FPAC	Paranoia and Conspiracy Theory	Borson, Rumelt
25	21FSON	The Sonnet	E. Armstrong
28	21FTOL	Tolstoy's <i>War and Peace</i>	Coiner, Dahlquist
<u>Monday Afternoon</u>			
12	21FANE	Ancient Egypt	Harvey
15	21FDEH	Death in Hollywood	Miller, Cooper
31	21WRB	Writing to Remember (Blue)	Lewin, Jolly
<u>Tuesday Morning</u>			
13	21FBEA	The Beatles	Fonsh
16	21FELE	The Elements	J. Scott
20	21FLAC	The Lewis & Clark Expedition	Honan
27	21FTEX	Textiles	Tropp, Jones
<u>Tuesday Afternoon</u>			
23	21FSHS	Short Stories to Share	Aulino
24	21FSMD	Social Media Problems and Solutions	Goldman
<u>Wednesday Morning</u>			
14	21FCRA	The Crafty Grandparent	Heckman
19	21FHER	Here's Looking at You, Kid	Kosmer, Siersma
30	21FWIP	Will It Play in Peoria?	Clune, Cohen
<u>Wednesday Afternoon</u>			
17	21FGPL	Great Plants in History	J.McMurrich
22	21FREC	Reconstruction and the Constitution	J & M Russell
29	21FWIL	The Wild West Era	Tillona
32	21FWRP	Writing to Remember (Purple)	Borden, Alford-Cooper
<u>Thursday Morning</u>			
11	21FALN	Alien Life	Rosenthal, Hanner
18	21FGSC	Great Supreme Court Decisions	Levin
26	21FSTD	The Story of King David, King of Israel	Fisher
33	21FWRR	Writing to Remember (Red)	Porter, Callard

Seminar Registration Instructions

COMPLETING YOUR REGISTRATION FORM

- You do **not** need to register, as you are pre- enrolled, if you are a Moderator or Co-moderator.
- Before registering, please be sure you will be able to participate in online seminars using Zoom. See "Quick Start for Zoom" at <https://5clir.org/tech-assistance/>.
- Enter up to 6 choices, in order of preference. Class assignments are made in sequential order, and one class per time and day. It is best to register for alternate classes in case you are 'lotteried out' of a particular class.
- Enter the TOTAL NUMBER of seminars YOU WISH TO ENROLL IN in the box provided.
If this box is blank, you will be assigned ONE seminar.
- If you wish to co-enroll with another member, you may only register for ONE seminar together. That seminar must be the FIRST CHOICE of both members, and BOTH members must submit registrations by the lottery deadline. Moderators may not co-register.

'WRITING TO REMEMBER' MEMOIR SEMINARS

- You may request more than one Writing to Remember seminar, but enrollment is limited to **one** per semester, in order to accommodate as many members as possible.

REGISTRATION AS AUDITOR

- Auditor status is only open to full members of 5CLIR who have participated in seminars for four or more years and who wish to take seminars, but are unable to fulfill research and presentation requirements, are able to register as an auditor.
- Auditors may have reading or other assignments.
- Registrations made as an auditor are NOT included in the lottery, and are added to seminars following regular enrollment, with the permission of moderators, as indicated on the course description page.

Alien Life

The Search for Life in the Universe

Course #	21FALN
Format:	Seminar
Moderators:	Dottie Rosenthal Martha Hanner
Date and Time:	Thursday, 9:30-11:30 AM 10 weeks, starting 9/30/2021
Format:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	18
Auditors accepted:	Yes, up to 2

Purpose: The purpose of this seminar is to pursue the question of whether life exists elsewhere in the universe. That question goes back to ancient times, but interest in it has increased with time, especially in the Space Age.

Description: We will begin with a brief history of ancient beliefs in alien life and trace the continuing interest in alien life to the present in fiction and in science. We will review the basic chemistry of life on Earth and then focus on the search for life beyond our planet, and even our Solar System. We will conclude by considering what the discovery of life beyond Earth might mean for humans and other life as we know it.

Role of participants: The moderators will provide a list of possible topics. Participants will select a topic from that list or a topic of their own choosing (with the approval of the moderators.) Participants will make a presentation on their topics to the group and lead a discussion based on their topics.

Resources: There are many sources on the possible topics. Participants will be given an extensive list of relevant resources and, because the search for alien life is ongoing, will want to review current sources for additional information.

About the Moderators: Dottie Rosenthal is a science educator, with a special interest in biological evolution. She taught biology in secondary schools and science education at the State University of California, Long Beach.

Martha Hanner is an astronomer and planetary scientist. She has worked at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California and taught astronomy at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Both are experienced moderators for 5CLIR together and separately.

Ancient Egypt

History and Culture

Course #	21FANE
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Jim Harvey
Date and Time:	Monday, 1:30-3:30 PM 10 weeks, starting 9/27/2021
Format:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	17
Auditors accepted:	Yes, up to 2

Purpose: Our purpose in this seminar is to begin to appreciate the way Ancient Egypt functioned – politically, culturally, and in everyday life.

Description: Ancient Egypt was one of the world's oldest and most advanced civilizations. For almost 30 centuries—from its unification around 3100 B.C. to its conquest by Alexander the Great in 332 B.C.E.—ancient Egypt was the preeminent civilization in the Mediterranean world.

This seminar will look at some of its most interesting and important leaders, its magnificent temples and pyramids, its art and literature as well as the way ordinary people lived their lives.

Role of participants: The role of the participants is to read the recommended text, prepare a 30- to 40-minute presentation and lead discussion on one aspect of the subject.

Resources: *Red Land, Black Land: Daily Life in Ancient Egypt* by Barbara Mertz, plus some internet articles that I will provide.

About the Moderator: Jim Harvey has moderated over 30 5CLIR seminars, a number of them about ancient civilizations and other cultures.

The Beatles

Their story in music, film and words

Course #	21FBEA
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Kip Fonsh
Date and Time:	Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 AM 10 weeks, 9/28/2021
Format:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	12
Auditors accepted:	No

Purpose: The purpose of the seminar is to examine the historical, social and musical legacy of the Fab Four.

Description: The seminar will investigate the roots, contributions and legacy of The Beatles to recording techniques, songwriting, artistic presentation, the music industry, youth culture, pop culture, fashion, drugs, Eastern philosophy and spirituality, album art, electronic music to name just a few.

Role of participants: The seminar participants will select a topic of their choosing or from a list of topics provided by the moderator for a 30-minute presentation followed by a 30-minute discussion period. Possible topics include but are not limited to individual biographies, musical periods, the Liverpool years, pre-*Sgt-Pepper*, post-*Pepper*, specific albums, e.g. *Rubber Soul*, *Revolver*, *The White Album* etc., the movies, including *A Hard Day's Night*, *Help!*, *Yellow Submarine*, the solo years, and Lennon's murder.

Resources: There are numerous books, articles and online pieces and videos. There is no one source that participants should consult. The best place to begin is the music itself.

About the Moderator: Kip has been a member of 5CLIR for several years and has moderated one seminar. He is a former high school Social Studies teacher and has worked at the Basketball Hall of Fame and the Hampshire County House of Corrections and Jail

The Crafty Grandparent

Crafts You Can Make with Your Grandchildren

Course #	21FCRA
Format:	Workshop
Moderator:	Christine Heckman
Date and Time:	Wednesday, 10:00-Noon 10 weeks, 9/29/2021
Format:	Workshop, in classroom
Location:	Applewood Craft Room, Amherst*
	*Proof of Covid vaccination may be required as per venue. In the event that this workshop must be cancelled, it will be rescheduled for spring 2022.
Maximum number of participants:	12
Auditors accepted:	No

Purpose: Many of us would love to do handcrafts with the children in our lives but we have no idea where to start. In this workshop we will explore a variety of crafts and have fun in the process!

Description: At each session the participants will make two to four non-gender-specific crafts appropriate for a variety of ability levels. They will go home with the items they have made and complete directions for making them with a child or children. The moderator will lead many of these craft sessions, but there will be plenty of opportunities for participants to demonstrate their own crafts if they wish to.

Role of participants: Participants will be asked to assemble a crafting tool kit, and to contribute a modest amount of money for supplies (not greater than \$30). They will also be asked to bring items from home. Participants should dress casually and be prepared to get their hands dirty!

Resources: None

About the Moderator: Chris is a relative newcomer to 5CLIR, and this is her first try at leading a workshop, but she has plenty of experience crafting with children, as an elementary school librarian, Scout leader, Sunday school teacher, and parent of three and grandparent of five.

Death in Hollywood

Films that reflect our beliefs and behaviors about death and dying

Course #	21FDEH
Format:	Seminar
Moderators:	Michael Miller Paul Cooper
Date and Time:	Monday, 1:30-3:30 PM 10 weeks, starting 9/27/2021
Format:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	18
Auditors accepted:	Yes, up to 2

Purpose: Movies both reflect and influence American attitudes towards death and dying. What beliefs do films confront? What attitudes are fostered or lampooned? In the face of the great unknown, what are we willing to empathize with or laugh at?

Description: Death and dying remain the greatest mystery of human existence. It's one that we all face, think about, and deal with. So inevitably, popular culture has explored it since the beginnings of civilization.

Hollywood has a long and complicated relationship with the subject. Many thoughtful films, comic and serious, have explored our beliefs and behaviors around dying. Whether empathetic or mocking, movies offer us a wide-ranging opportunity to examine our culture's subterranean norms.

Especially now, as the harsh reality of the pandemic confronts us, understanding our attitudes towards dying can give us insight into the varied ways in which people have reacted to a national health crisis.

Contagion and *Outbreak* predicted the possibility of pandemic. *Harold and Maude*, the Japanese masterpiece *Ikiru*, or the noir classic *DOA* deal with people confronting their own demise or that of loved ones. *The Sixth Sense* or *Heaven Can Wait* deal thoughtfully or playfully with the possibilities of an after-life.

Role of participants: All participants will be encouraged to watch the films to be discussed. Each film will be presented by one or two people, who will summarize as necessary, call attention to key scenes and overt and implied cultural messages, and guide conversation about the issues and attitudes expressed in the movie.

This seminar lends itself well to the on-line environment. Film clips are not required but can be incorporated into PowerPoint or as a YouTube offering(s) to be shared on the Zoom platform.

Resources: Films can be obtained through one of many streaming services, or from public libraries (Kanopy, Hoopla, CW-MARS). The films selected will be available for free or at low cost. The moderators will provide a curated list of potential films that offer rich examples of Hollywood's "take" on death or dying. Participants will be welcome to find others, as the potential list of excellent films on the subject is very long.

About the Moderators: Paul Cooper and Michael Miller are cinephiles who have not directed major motion pictures but enjoy thought-provoking films and discussing their meanings and interpretations.

The Elements

The truth and consequences of chemistry

Course #	21FELE
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Jim Scott
Date and Time:	Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 AM 10 weeks, starting 9/28/2021
Format:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	16
Auditors accepted:	Yes, up to 2

Purpose: We will explore the properties of some of the 100 elements or groups of elements and their role in the world around us.

Description: The chemical elements form the basis for the structure and behavior of the physical and biological universe. We will explore the elements or groups of elements as to their role in the world around us, some of the mysteries and myths associated with them, and some of the remarkable scientists associated with the discovery and exploitation of particular elements.

Role of participants: Each participant will select a particular element or element group and present a report of approximately 30 minutes on that topic, concerning the discovery, properties, and applications in today's physical, biological, and economic environment, and lead the following discussion.

Resources: Information and reference materials on the elements are readily available on the Internet. Local public and academic libraries have multiple books and magazines available as well. The moderator can recommend additional sources.

About the Moderator: Jim Scott was a chemistry major in college and taught chemistry on the high school and college levels for many years. He has been a member of 5CLIR for more than 20 years and moderated seminars in science, history and other topics. He has lived in Amherst for more than 50 years.

Great Plants in History

A study of various plants and their surprising impact on history

Course #	21FGPH
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Jane McMurrich
Date and Time:	Wednesday, 1:30-3:30 PM 10 weeks, starting 9/29/2021
Format:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	16
Auditors accepted:	Yes, up to 2

Purpose: The purpose of this seminar is to appreciate (a) how plants throughout history have affected major world events, and (b) how the use of various plants has evolved over time.

Description: Participants will select a plant which has had historical ramifications, for example spices, the desire for which encouraged exploration and trade; or opium, with a medicinal use, an opportunity for misuse, and the wars it sparked in Asia. Alternatively, participants can choose a plant whose use has evolved over the centuries, for example the willow tree, used in the manufacture of aspirin, cricket balls, and coffins.

Role of participants: Each participant will be expected to make a presentation on the chosen topic, and to participate in the ensuing discussion.

Resources: *Fifty Plants that Changed the Course of History* by Bill Laws is recommended though not required reading.

About the Moderator: The moderator is a retired high school biology teacher, an amateur gardener and enthusiastic cook.

Great Supreme Court Decisions

Controversies and consequences

Course #	21FGSC
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Stephanie Levin
Date and Time:	Thursday, 9:30-11:30 AM 10 weeks, starting 9/30/2021
Format:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	20
Auditors accepted:	Yes, up to 2

Purpose: The goal is to give participants a greater understanding of how the U.S. Supreme Court works and to discuss a range of noteworthy Supreme Court decisions and their significance.

Description: From a list of topics and cases provided by the moderator, participants will choose one Supreme Court case they wish to study and present to the class, alone or with a partner. Emphasis will be on cases that concern issues of continuing controversy, such as abortion (e.g., *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*) or gun rights and the Second Amendment (e.g., *McDonald v. City of Chicago*). We'll explore not only past Supreme Court decisions, but also directions the Court may possibly take in the future.

Role of participants: Each participant will select, investigate, and report on a U.S. Supreme Court decision, either alone or with a partner, from a list provided by the moderator. Participants will be encouraged to join in the discussion of all the cases, not only the one they studied.

Resources: The only required reading will be the Supreme Court decisions themselves. Edited versions of the cases chosen by the participants will be made available by the moderator to keep the amount of reading reasonable. Participants are expected to do some additional research for the case on which they are presenting.

About the Moderator: Stephanie Levin is an attorney who has both practiced and taught law. Her last teaching job was at Hampshire College, where she taught undergraduates interested in legal issues, but not necessarily intending to be lawyers.

Here's Looking at You Kid

Portraits in the visual arts/discussions on how we see ourselves

Course #	21FHER
Format:	Seminar
Moderators:	Ellen Kosmer Betsy Siersma
Date and Time:	Wednesday, 9:30-11:30 AM 10 weeks, starting 9/29/2021
Format:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	15
Auditors accepted:	Yes, 1

Purpose: In this seminar we will look at a variety of portraits and self-portraits by well-known late 20th century artists. We will examine and discuss how visual artists have met the challenge of how to represent ourselves and others.

Description: This past year we have been immersed in watching faces. Our social lives have been dominated by images of heads fitted neatly into Zoom boxes. We create our own self-portraits, curating an image of how we want to present ourselves, perhaps adjusting lighting or background. In our Zoom meetings we are presented with a gallery of heads that we focus on for hours at a time. We are free to look at each other in a way that we don't do in person -- more intently, like looking at portraits in a gallery. The fascination with how we represent ourselves and how we want to be seen is an age-old one. Visual artists such as Andy Warhol, Annie Leibowitz and Lucien Freud have been creating images of individuals that attempt to show not just the physical appearance of a person but also to reveal something of their character or personality.

Role of participants: Seminar members will select a portrait from the list we provide, give a brief background on the artist and lead a discussion with everyone, looking closely at the person represented, and talk about why the artist may have chosen to represent them in this way. For a final project, each participant will create a self-portrait in any media.

Resources: Information about specific artists and portraits can be found online.

About the Moderators: Ellen Kosmer is an art historian and an artist. Betsy Siersma is a museum curator.

The Lewis & Clark Expedition

The Corps of Discovery Expedition 1804-1806

Course #	21FLAC
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Linda Honan
Date and Time:	Tuesday, 9:00-11:00 AM 10 weeks, starting 9/28/2021
Format:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	14
Auditors accepted:	Yes, 1

Purpose: This seminar will study the achievements of the first journey from the east to the west coast, following the Missouri River to the Yellowstone River and Rockies and reaching the Pacific at the border of modern Oregon and Washington States.

Description: This seminar is based on the book *Undaunted Courage: Merriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson and the Opening of the American West* by Stephen E. Ambrose. Participants will study Jefferson's plan to explore the lands westward of his Louisiana Purchase to the Pacific. His goals were to stake a claim to this territory before France, Britain or Spain did; to identify unknown animals and plants; to establish friendly relations with Native Americans living there; and to establish the best route to the coast for traders. He chose his personal secretary Merriwether Lewis to lead the expedition. Jefferson explained his choice as follows: "it was impossible to find a character who to a complete science in botany, natural history, mineralogy & astronomy, joined the firmness of constitution and character, prudence, habits adapted to the woods, and familiarity with the Indian manners and character, requisite for this undertaking. All the latter qualifications Capt. Lewis has." Lewis chose his army friend William Clark as co-leader.

Role of participants: Each participant will choose a section of the Ambrose book and give a 20-30-minute in-depth presentation based on their chosen reading, allowing time for discussion.

Resources: Stephen E. Ambrose, *Undaunted Courage: Merriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson and the Opening of the American West*. The moderator will suggest additional resources.

About the Moderator: Linda Honan is a happy Pioneer Valley retiree who has moderated several Five College Learning in Retirement seminars.

Paranoia and Conspiracy Theory

An exploration of how conspiracy thinking reflects history and culture

Course #	21FPAC
Format:	Seminar
Moderators:	Rachel Borson Ellie Rumelt
Date and Time:	Monday, 9:30-11:30 AM 10 weeks, starting 9/27/2021
Format:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	18
Auditors accepted:	No

Purpose: The seminar will seek to understand the American embrace of conspiracy thinking in several ways: research into eight well-documented conspiracy theories; examination of the contextual and historical grounding for each theory, and exploration of conceptual frameworks around conspiracy thinking.

Description: We are currently experiencing a spike in conspiracy thinking, but this is the evolution of our nation's historical embrace of paranoid thought and theory. At least half of Americans believe in at least one conspiracy theory. The seduction of conspiracy may be the way it orders chaos, and the way in which these theories make people's suffering and alienation comprehensible. Using readings about conspiracy theory such as Hofstadter's *The Paranoid Style in American Politics* and other writings on psychological, neurological and folkloric roots of conspiracy thinking, we will seek a framework for exploration during the first 2 weeks.

We will examine selected theories that have multiple available analyses, such as QAnon and the JFK assassination. Each week we'll consider one in detail. A complementary presentation the same week will set the stage for each conspiracy theory, with background on germane historical and social forces of the time, as well as of the persons most deeply involved.

Role of participants: Participants should be willing to partner in twos for this seminar, as each week one person will research and present background information during the first hour that will dovetail with the conspiracy theory in the second hour. Partnership will enable a deeper examination without repetition

The conspiracy theories to be examined have been chosen for the depth of documentation and analysis available for research, as well as for the breadth of topics (political, scientific, financial, etc.) and historical linkages. Theories and topics not on the list may be chosen only after discussion with the co-moderators.

Resources: *What is a Conspiracy Theory? The Paranoid Style in American Politics*, by Richard Hofstadter, Harper Magazine 1964. A bibliography of suggested essays and a list of conspiracy theories are provided in the on-line catalog.

About the Moderators: Rachel has become fascinated by conspiracy thinking during the past several tumultuous years. A retired physician, she has been a member of 5CLIR for almost 4 years, and this is her third time moderating a seminar. First time co-moderator Elly was a student of history before embarking on a fifty-year career in social work, where she engaged professionally with the interplay among individual beliefs and actions and their context.

Reconstruction and the Constitution

How the Civil War and Reconstruction remade the Constitution

Course #	21FREC
Format:	Seminar
Moderators:	Jay and Margaret Russell
Date and Time:	Wednesday, 1:30-3:30 PM 8 weeks, starting 10/6/2021
Format:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	12
Auditors accepted:	Yes, up to 2

Purpose: We will examine, in the words of Civil War historian, Eric Foner, "the origins, enactment and objectives of the Reconstruction amendments [Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth] and the contest over their meaning that followed their ratification" and continues to the present day.

Description: In *The Second Founding*, Eric Foner writes that "[t]he Civil War and the Reconstruction period that followed form the pivotal era of American history." According to Foner, because many present-day issues (including citizenship, the meaning of equal protection, and the right to vote) "are in some way Reconstruction questions..., [i]t is impossible to understand American society today without knowing something about the Reconstruction period a century and a half ago."

This seminar will cover the debates over the drafting, passage and ratification of the Thirteenth (abolishing slavery), Fourteenth (guaranteeing due process and equal protection) and Fifteenth (granting Black men the right to vote) Amendments, legislation Congress enacted during Reconstruction extending federal power to enforce the Amendments, and decisions of the Supreme Court that limited the interpretation and application of the Amendments and legislation. The seminar will incorporate Black perspectives on these topics through the speeches and writings of Frederick Douglass, the Brotherhood of Justice and others.

Role of participants: Each member of the seminar will give a 25-30-minute presentation on a topic from a list prepared by the co-moderators and will have the opportunity each week to participate in the question and discussion periods following the presentations.

Resources: Required reading: Eric Foner, *The Second Founding -- How the Civil War and Reconstruction Remade the Constitution* (2019). This book is now available in paperback (\$17.95), and there are 47 copies in the CW MARS library system. The moderators will also provide a list of other resources.

About the Moderators: Jay Russell is a retired attorney and has previously co-moderated or moderated a number of legal, political and history seminars, including a Supreme Court seminar in 2017. Margaret Russell, a former newspaper editor and publisher and land trust administrator, has previously co-moderated seminars and has taken political, history and literature seminars.

Short Stories to Share

A read-out-loud program of short stories

Course #	21FSHS
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Chuck Aulino
Date and Time:	Tuesday, 1:30-3:30 PM 10 weeks, starting 9/28/2021
Format:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	20
Auditors accepted:	Yes, up to 2

Purpose: This seminar will gather a group for story-telling, and participants will have the opportunity to read one or two of their favorite short stories.

Description: The inspiration for this seminar is "Selected Shorts," an NPR program produced by Symphony Space. You can learn more about that program and listen to some of the selected shorts at this website: <https://www.wnyc.org/shows/shorts>

Here is a list of a few popular short story writers, but participants are welcome to selected works by any other author: Mark Twain, O. Henry, Edgar Allan Poe, Herman Melville, Ambrose Bierce, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Kate Chopin, Guy de Maupassant, Anton Chekhov, Katherine Mansfield, Isaac Babel, Mavis Gallant, John Cheever, Deborah Eisenberg, Roberto Bolaño, Italo Calvino.

Role of participants: Each participant will select short stories to read during a seminar meeting. After each reading, there will be an opportunity for discussion. Participants are asked to "rehearse" reading the stories and to time the length of the reading to assure that the story or stories can be completed within the allotted time, about 30 minutes per participant.

Resources: Many of the classic short stories are freely available on line. Those still under copyright may have to be obtained by borrowing or purchasing an anthology.

About the Moderator: Chuck has previously moderated one seminar and co-moderated for others. He is particularly interested in history and literature.

Social Media Problems and Solutions

Assessing the benefits and abuses that social media have created in their development

Course #	21FSMD
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Gerald Goldman
Date and Time:	Tuesday, 1:30-3:30 PM 8 weeks, starting 9/28/2021
Format:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	15
Auditors accepted:	No

Purpose: We will study the various forms social media have taken, the way they earn their income, the manner in which they glean and sell information about their users, and suggestions as to how abuses can be controlled.

Description: How do social media influence the voting decisions and beliefs of their followers? How does their commitment to vetting their sources and controlling the messages they publish differ from journalists who report in newspapers and magazines? Can and should social media continue to be shielded from accountability for the information they publish as well as the private information they gather and sell to unknown recipients? How have foreign governments and hate groups co-opted social media to influence the American public? These are some of the questions that will be raised in this seminar.

Role of participants: Each participant will lead a discussion on either a topic which he or she will choose from a list provided by the moderator or on a subject he or she has formulated.

Resources: Moderator will provide resources to participants in advance of the seminar.

About the Moderator: Moderator has led a wide variety of seminars and considers this subject particularly pressing at this time.

The Sonnet

A poetic form popular from Petrarch's era to the present day

Course #	21FSON
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Elizabeth Armstrong
Date and Time:	Monday, 9:30-11:30 AM 10 weeks, starting 9/27/2021
Format:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	15
Auditors accepted:	Yes, up to 2

Purpose: We will become knowledgeable about several traditional forms of the sonnet and enjoy a sampling of sonnets from each century including the 21st.

Description: The sonnet is a form of lyrical poetry written in one stanza of fourteen lines in iambic pentameter. It employs one of several possible rhyme schemes and expresses a single thought or idea, often related to love. The name is from the Italian word sonetto meaning little song.

Since rules are meant to be broken, variations are endless; the treatment of the theme can be lofty and serious or humorous and downright silly. Poets from Shakespeare, Milton, through Robert Frost, Edna St. Vincent Millay to Billy Collins have made good use of the form.

Role of participants: Seminar members will read assigned background material, participate in discussions and present an analysis of two or more poems chosen from different eras. Each member can expect to have 40-50 minutes for poem presentation and discussion. Optional activities may include writing a sonnet or memorizing and reciting sonnets in class.

Resources: The moderator will provide a list with recommended book titles, internet resources and suggested poets and poems to study and will be happy to assist in locating poems of interest to any participant.

About the Moderator: Elizabeth Armstrong has moderated many seminars in her 25 year LIR career, most of them in literature.

The Story of King David, King of Israel

As told in Samuel 1 and 2

Course #	21FSTD
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Gene Fisher
Date and Time:	Thursday, 9:30-11:30 AM 10 weeks, starting 9/30/2021
Format:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	16
Auditors accepted:	Yes, up to 2

Purpose: This seminar seeks to convey the character of David in all its complexity and depth.

Description: The story of David is "one of the most astounding pieces of narrative that has come down to us from the ancient world" (Robert Alter, *The David Story*). In each of our two-hour seminar meetings, the first hour will be devoted to an episode within the David story. The second hour will be concerned with themes running through the story.

The moderator will create a list of sixteen topics, eight dealing with important episodes in the story (for example, David slaying Goliath). The remaining eight topics focus on themes running through the story (for example, why the Israelites demanded a king.)

Role of participants: Members will choose either an episode or a theme. They will present their research on their chosen topic and lead a period of comment and discussion.

Resources: All participants will read *The David Story: A Translation with Commentary of 1 and 2 Samuel* by Robert Alter, 1999. An equivalent but more expensive source is *The Hebrew Bible, A Translation with Commentary by Robert Alter*, 2019. Members should consult other sources, translations, and commentaries to supplement their presentation. Some possible sources will be listed in the weeks running up to the seminar.

About the Moderator: Gene is a Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Massachusetts. Since joining LIR in 2017 he has moderated several seminars, including one on the Psalms of David, and attended as many more.

Textiles

How fibers and fabric changed the world

Course #	21FTEX
Format:	Seminar
Moderators:	Jessie Tropp Suzette Jones
Date and Time:	Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 AM 10 weeks, starting 9/28/2021
Format:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	16
Auditors accepted:	Yes, up to 2

Purpose: We will explore textiles in the context of history, science, agriculture, ecology, economics, industry, technology, culture, and arts from prehistory to the space age.

Description: The development of textiles in human history changed the way we live. Fabric provides warmth, comfort and decoration. Cloth is part of our daily life, but what do we really know about it other than what's on the laundry tag?

Traditional textiles begin with fibers from plants and animals. Many modern textiles are manufactured from wood pulp or petroleum products. What makes wool warm and cotton cool? What is the environmental impact of cotton farming? Why are primitive fiber hand crafts still so popular? How did local silk mills impact the economic growth of Western Massachusetts? From the earliest days of twisting a clump of wool around a stick, to the industrial revolution of mechanized weaving, to synthetic textiles with unusual properties, there is much to explore.

Role of participants: Each participant will choose from a list of selected topics or propose their own, and provide a 30-40-minute presentation. Potential topics include: the properties and production of wool; trade along the Silk Road; fabrics of transport: sails and wings; the history of cotton farming in the US South; traditional textile arts around the world; spinning and other fiber arts in fairytales, myths, and nursery rhymes; the Bread and Roses textile workers strike in Lawrence, and many more.

Resources: Recommended but not required

The Golden Thread: How Fabric Changed History by Kassia St. Clair, 2018. *The Fabric of Civilization: How Textiles Made the World*, by Virginia Postrel, 2020. Additional resources will be provided by the moderator.

About the Moderators: Jessie Tropp is new to LIR but has run many courses. She is an avid knitter who is endlessly fascinated by what you can do with two sticks and string, and by the amazing properties of wool. Suzette Jones is a painter, knitter and weaver and has taken many LIR seminars.

Tolstoy's *War and Peace*

Soap opera, epic masterpiece, neither, or both?

Course #	21FTOY
Format:	Seminar
Moderators:	Nancy Coiner Kendra Dahlquist
Date and Time:	Monday, 9:30-11:30 AM 10 weeks, starting 9/27/2021
Format:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	18
Auditors accepted:	Yes, up to 2

Purpose: We will read *War and Peace* together, with plenty of background presentations and discussion to make it come alive as a work of art and life.

Description: According to Isaac Babel, "If life could write by itself, it would write like Tolstoy."

War and Peace is a huge, sweeping narrative, part history and part fiction, which describes Napoleon's attempt to conquer Russia. Centered on the lives of four aristocratic families between 1805 and 1812, it includes complex characters based on Tolstoy's parents and grandparents, who spoke French and wore French fashions but passionately resisted Napoleon's attack.

Yes, it's long, with a cast of hundreds. But almost all readers find that, after the opening chapters, the story and characters carry them along irresistibly. We witness the burning of Moscow, young people making life-altering mistakes, the glory and horror of war. Yet (as Woolf notes) "there is always at the centre of all the brilliant and flashing petals . . . this scorpion, 'Why live?'" It's a brilliant, unsettling mix.

Background presentations and lively discussions will help us enter this exhilarating work of historical and philosophical fiction.

Role of participants: Participants will read approximately 150 pages of *War and Peace* a session. They will have the choice of giving a presentation (on Tolstoy, Russian Orthodoxy, Napoleon's career, the battle of Austerlitz, etc.) or leading a discussion.

Resources: There are many excellent translations with good notes. We will send out advice about which translations will best suit individual readers. There are decent films, too, which I imagine people will watch individually.

About the Moderators: As an enthusiastic amateur of the great 19th-century Russian writers, Nancy has read and taught *War and Peace* several times. Kendra is an avid reader, has been a member of LIR for eight years, and has participated in several literature seminars.

The Wild West Era

True tales and amazing legends of the Old West during the 19th century

Course #	21FWIL
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Patricia Tillona
Date and Time:	Wednesday, 1:30-3:30 PM 10 weeks, starting 9/29/2021
Format:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	14
Auditors accepted:	Yes, up to 2

Purpose: In this seminar we will learn about an era that spanned most of the 19th century from the Lewis & Clark Expedition in 1803-04 to the closing of the frontier in the 1890s.

Description: We will study this important time through readings and discussions about how people travelled, settled, and worked on the frontier. We will learn why people ventured west and endured the rigors they encountered on the way; how they developed the land; and who were the famous and the not so famous adventurers--lawmen, outlaws, gamblers, Indians, inventors, prospectors and the women.

Role of participants: Class members will choose from a list of topics or propose a topic for approval and give a presentation and lead a discussion on it. Photos will enhance the presentation.

Resources: There is no one book that all participants will use. There are online resources and documentaries on YouTube. The moderator will provide a list of books and other resources.

About the Moderator: Pat was raised in Brooklyn and employed as an early childhood teacher before retiring in 2008. She has been with LIR since 2010, taking and moderating seminars.

Will It Play in Peoria?

The vaudeville era, 1880-1930

Course #	21FWIP
Format:	Seminar
Moderators:	Nancy Clune Robert Cohen
Date and Time:	Wednesday, 9:30-11:30 AM 10 weeks, starting 9/29/2021
Format:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	25
Auditors accepted:	Yes, up to 2

Purpose: In this seminar, we will explore the American theatrical spectacle known as vaudeville.

Description: From the 1880s through the 1930s, vaudeville shows featured a variety of dramatic scenes, comedy routines, ventriloquists, music and dance, beautiful girls, and circus acts. We will immerse ourselves in the culture of the time and view examples of some of the luminaries who got their start on the vaudeville stage, including Judy Garland, Jack Benny, The Four Cohans, Baby Rose Marie, Gypsy Rose Lee, Sophie Tucker, Fanny Brice, the Nicholas Brothers, Fred and Adele Astaire, and many more. Our goal is to enjoy ourselves as we learn about the history of American entertainment in the vaudeville era.

Role of participants: Participants will choose from a list of topics or propose a topic to the moderators for approval. Class members will prepare informal 15-to-20 minute presentations that may include video clips, photographs, and descriptions of the variety-show format that was vaudeville.

Resources: The moderators will provide a detailed list of recommended websites, books, and other materials covering the era.

About the Moderators: Nancy Clune was born in a trunk in the Princess Theatre in Pocatello, Idaho. Although at birth Bob Cohen could neither read nor write, he later became a man of too many words. He still hopes to write the Great American Couplet.

Writing to Remember (Blue)

Writing Your Own Story

Course #	21FWRB
Format:	Seminar
Moderators:	Henny Lewin Carol Jolly
Date and Time:	Monday, 1:30-3:30 PM 10 weeks, starting 9/27/2021
Format:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	12
Auditors accepted:	No

Purpose: The purpose of this seminar is to write about your life, share your writing with seminar members, and hear their stories.

Description: Whatever we call the form - autobiography, memoir, personal history, family history - writing about one's life is a powerful human need. Many people want to leave behind some record of their accomplishments, thoughts and adventures. If it's a family history it will have the added value of telling one's children and grandchildren about their heritage.

Writers are the custodians of memory, and memories have a way of dying with their owner. One of the saddest sentences we know is "I wish I had asked my mother about that." In this seminar, you'll enjoy writing about your life, as well as hearing the stories of other people's lives. The atmosphere is relaxed, but the serious efforts of all concerned help to make this a rewarding experience for the whole group.

Role of participants: Each participant is expected to write at home about his or her life whether through anecdotes, letters, conversations, or in full detail. During the semester everyone will be given two opportunities to present, by reading aloud from his or her prepared texts, and to contribute to the discussions that follow.

Resources: N/A

About the Moderators: Henia Lewin taught university courses in Hebrew and Yiddish and received a national Covenant Award as an Outstanding Jewish Educator. She is a Holocaust child-survivor working on her autobiography.

Carol Jolly has served on LIR committees, Council, and as an officer. After sampling a wide variety of seminars and moderating a few, she took Writing to Remember, and looks forward to continuing to work on her life story.

Writing to Remember (Purple)

Finding and using our voices in personal writing

Course #	21FWRP
Format:	Seminar
Moderators:	Francie Borden Finnegan Alford-Cooper
Date and Time:	Wednesday, 2:00-4:00 PM 10 weeks, starting 9/29/2021
Location:	ONLINE
Maximum number of participants:	12
Auditors accepted:	No

Purpose: This seminar provides motivation and support for personal writing whether for preserving personal and family legacies, exploring one's memories, or seeking wider audience for one's writing.

Description: The purple writing group welcomes work designed for personal satisfaction, passing on family memories and history, and for publication. Each writer emails their piece in advance of the seminar at which it will be read in order to enhance the readers' enjoyment and provide time for reflection. The participants' feedback is further enhanced by hearing it read in the author's voice during our meeting time. Participants choose the content, style, format, and genre of their writing and direct the specific kind of feedback they desire.

Role of participants: Each participant will prepare and read several pieces of original work and offer constructive feedback to others as requested. Participants are encouraged to voice preferences and present new ideas for the conduct of the seminar and the pursuit of writing.

Resources: There are no required readings, but innumerable articles and books about personal writing abound. Seminar members are encouraged to share their favorites with each other.

About the Moderators: Francie has participated in Writing to Remember seminars since joining 5CLIR and has found each one to be unique, fun, and rewarding. Finnegan is a retired Sociology/Anthropology professor who recently moved from Florida to Amherst with her husband and six cats.

Writing to Remember (Red)

Autobiographical Writing

Course #	21FWRR
Format:	Seminar
Moderators:	Catharine Porter Trish Callard
Date and Time:	Thursday, 10:00-Noon 10 weeks, starting 9/30/2021
Location:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	12
Auditors accepted:	No

Purpose: The purpose of this seminar is to share your life experiences with fellow participants and, at the same time, record them for yourself and your family.

Description: Long one of the most popular LIR seminars (previously called "Autobiographical Writing"), Writing to Remember offers its members the opportunity to get to know themselves and each other a little better.

Many participants have taken advantage of this seminar to write their family story for their children and grandchildren. The writing takes all forms, from rough drafts to polished pieces, and all are welcome. The group offers the writer feedback and, if desired, will offer suggestions for revisions and/or possible additions as well as clarification. This seminar is not a course in how to write; it aims, rather, to stimulate and encourage you to continue writing your own story. Your writing can center on the events of family life, career experiences, or anything else you would like to tell about yourself.

Role of participants: Each participant has the opportunity to read aloud two pieces of original writing during the semester. The atmosphere is relaxed, but the serious efforts of all concerned help make this a rewarding experience for everyone.

Resources: N/A

About the Moderator: Catharine is a retired UMass faculty member from the Department of Consumer Studies, and Ombudsperson. Catharine has moderated this seminar previously. Trish is a wife, mother, grandmother, and teacher of writing with children and grateful for the opportunity now to write stories and get inspired by the stories of others!

THERE'S MORE!

There's more to come for LIR members, even before seminars start up again in the Fall: Summer seminars and committee involvement.

SUMMER SEMINARS

The Curriculum Committee is currently vetting several interesting proposals for Summer programs – seminars, workshops, talks and the like. Keep an eye out for its forthcoming announcement and invitation to participate.

CURRENT INTEREST GROUPS

See Ongoing Programs

COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT

You might be tempted to say “ugh” at the prospect of signing on to a committee, but look at such a prospect these ways:

- Becoming part of a committee team is one of the best ways to get to know your fellow lifelong learners.
- Committee work is LIR's indispensable backbone, made up of many engines that could. How else could we do all that needs doing to fulfill our mission: sharing the pleasures of active learning?
- Council has just approved a re-structuring of our committees, which clarifies responsibilities of each. Some specific kind of work listed in the outline below may have your name on it.

There are many shoes to fill, especially after the substantial re-grouping LIR leaders have done in response to pandemic conditions. We've adjusted remarkably well by using the Zoom platform as we have. Summer and Winter field trips and special in-person social gatherings, though, have been out of the question during the past year and into the near future; these will need movers and shakers (as so many of you are) to stage their comeback in new ways. In the coming weeks, you will be seeing these and many other opportunities open to you for volunteering your time and talent.

For now, though, here is an outline of our committee portfolios. Look it over to anticipate where you might like to make your mark for LIR. Beyond that is a listing of ongoing Interest Groups that may, in fact, interest you. Contact their designated leaders to learn more.

LIR COMMITTEE PORTFOLIOS

Mission Sector Committees (“sharing the pleasures of active learning”)

CURRICULUM

Moderator preparation (training, meetings, handbook et al.)
Seminars & Workshops (Fall and Spring)
Short Seminars & Workshops (Summer)
Preview Catalog (with Office Manager, OM)
Preview/Open House (with OM & Past President)
Liaison with other committees & OM

EXTRA CURRICULUAR (previously known as “Activities”)

Supplementary programs (eg. field trips, concerts, theater et al.)
typically scheduled during Winter/Summer Intersessions

GREAT DECISIONS

A program sponsored by LIR in conjunction with the Foreign Policy Association
Open to the public; Payment is required to register.

INTEREST GROUPS (previously known as “Ongoing”)

Year ‘round continuous programs of various kinds
(see below for list of current groups)

PUBLIC PROGRAMS (previously part of “Activities”, “Ongoing” & “Projects & Events”)

Encore Presentations
Legislators’ Forum
Projects & Events (a special series of performances, lectures et al)
Liaison with Outreach Committee & OM

Communications Sector Committees

MEMBERSHIP (previously part of “Membership & Outreach”)

Contributing newsletter editor (generate & co-ordinate monthly columns by members, with OM as general editor)
Membership Surveys
Memorial Service: responsibility of Past President
Race/diversity ad hoc subcommittee
Social events (eg Newcomers Coffee, Potluck & Spring Social)
Welcome Packet (for new members)
Liaison with Outreach Committee

OUTREACH (previously part of “Membership & Outreach”)

Publicity (press releases, flyers, postcards)
Work with relevant committees and OM
Public Relations for LIR
 Speakers Bureau (presentations to other groups)
Social media content oversight:
 Facebook, Instagram
 Website (an ad hoc planning committee has begun mapping out how to replace our current one)
Liaison with Great Decisions, Public Programs, Membership & Tech Committees, OM

TECHNOLOGY

Coaching individuals re computer use, upon request
Technical set-up & management of Web Page
Workshops, training & handbooks to promote computer use
Liaison with Membership & Outreach Committees

Governance Sector Committees

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (current LIR officers)

General supervision & administration over LIR affairs
Collaboration with Council & OM (who assists in work with all committees)
Calendar Oversight
Various duties specified for each officer

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Advisement re financial control & budgeting
On-going development tasks: tracking & managing of gifts & investments
Chaired by Treasurer

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Supervise nominations of officers & Council
Supervise elections (eg. appoint tellers)
Determine eligibility re additional terms

INTEREST GROUPS

To participate in an Ongoing Program, members should contact the facilitator. No registration form is needed. New programs evolve from member interests, and are announced as programs develop.

BOOK INTEREST GROUP

Facilitator: Naomi Yanis

Day and Time: Monthly on varying Fridays, September – May, 2:00-4:00 PM

Responsibility for leading the discussion of each book is rotated among the membership of the book group. The choices for the year are made early in the summer, so some of the reading may be done when more time for reading might be available.

CLASSIC FILM CLUB

Conveners: Pam Daniels and Tyll van Geel

Day and Time: Third Thursday of the month at 4PM, December 17, 2020 – June 17, 2021.

Each month, a participant will select a film for the next session, and prepare to lead an informal discussion. We will watch the films on our own time between the meetings. The Kanopy film archive is available at <http://www.kanopy.com>, and you can set up a user id using your library card or university ID. The range of movies available without charge on Kanopy is significant including many Criterion films, drama and comedy from the golden years of Hollywood, and many productions of Shakespeare

(Note: if Kanopy is not available through your local library, MA residents can get a Boston Public Library card, which provides access.)

ENCORE PRESENTATIONS & LECTURES

Facilitators: various members

Date/time : TBA, fall 2021

Encore is a re-presentation of the best presentations from the previous semester. Nominations are made to moderators from each class, or directly to the Encore team. Presenters who are nominated have the option of presenting, and of updating their presentation with additional material before giving it during an Encore session.

Contact: John Armstrong, Elisa Campbell

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Facilitators: Jim Harvey, Kay Klausewitz

Date/time: contact facilitators

This program will focus on several components of our family histories. One important source of information is the family tree which documents the DNA part of our heritage. We will have some instructional time to introduce some genealogical tools and resources available to us. A second source is the collection of stories that have been passed down by word of mouth. The third important source of information about our heritage is an understanding of the cultures that shaped our ancestors' perspectives. We will spend our time sharing what we can discover about each of these sources.

READING THE CLASSICS

Facilitator: Lise Armstrong

Date/time: September - June, 4th Thursday of the month, 2:00 PM

This is a book club focused on books considered to be classics of literature. Each month a new book is read, and discussed at the meeting.

READING ROUNDTABLE

Facilitator: Nancy Clune

Date/time: One Wednesday afternoon per month (TBA), 4:00 PM

Join other incurable readers for an informal round table one Wednesday afternoon a month @ 4:00 pm. Whether you prefer literary fiction, biographies, nonfiction, science fiction, plays, detective series, or graphic novels, you're welcome to join this eclectic group. We talk about what we're currently reading (or listening to), where we get our recommendations, trends in publishing, and anything else that interests us. No prerequisite or homework!

VIEWPOINTS

Facilitator: Jay Russell

Date/time: 3rd Thursday of the month, 2:00-3:30 PM

Viewpoints is a monthly round-table discussion, facilitated by Jay Russell, of current domestic and international events and issues (often, but not always, political), and other subjects not necessarily tied to the headlines of the day (such as cultural appropriation, the impacts of social media and technology and societal polarization). Each month's participants choose four topics for roughly 20 minute discussions.

During the Zoom era, Viewpoints will meet from 2:00-3:30 on the third Thursday of each month. If you have any questions or wish to be included on monthly Viewpoints reminder emails and Zoom invitations, please email Jay.

FRENCH CONVERSATION

Facilitator: Judith Pool

The French Conversation group has transitioned to email during the COVID pandemic.

OPERA PREP

(Temporarily cancelled)

THEATER INTEREST GROUP

(Temporarily cancelled)

5CLIR Officers 2021-2022

President:	Tyll van Geel
Vice President/President Elect:	Francie Borden
Secretary:	Darcy Johnson
Treasurer:	Monroe Rabin
Assistant Treasurer:	Gene Fisher

Statement on Diversity and Inclusion

Five Colleges Learning in Retirement welcomes, as members and guests, persons of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex or gender (including sexual orientation and gender identity), disability, religious belief, and socio-economic status.

Further, Five Colleges Learning in Retirement does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex or gender (Including sexual orientation and gender identity), disability, religious belief, or socio-economic status.



FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

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