Renaissance Academy at Chicago NFP

Located At
Saint Xavier University
3700 West 103rd Street, Chicago, IL 60655
773-298-3149
rennaissancechgo@gmail.com
www.sxu.edu/renaissance-academy/index.asp

COME LEARN WITH US IN A COMFORTABLE ATMOSPHERE WITH FRIENDLY PEOPLE!
Spring 2020 Registration

Registration will be online on the Renaissance web page from March 2-9.

Register at: www.sxu.edu/renaissance-academy/registration.asp

Membership Committee and Information Systems representatives will be available for registration assistance in the Renaissance Office, Room L-214 on Tuesday, March 3 from 12:30 till 2 pm.

The final date for enrollment is March 9, 2020. (Note: Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Register Early!)

Select up to three classes and indicate your choices in this booklet for reference.
## Spring 2020 Session  March 17 to May 1
### CLASS SCHEDULE

**Tuesday 2:15-3:15**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class No.</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Facilitator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Wonders of Our State Parks</td>
<td>Phyllis Sheahan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>A Year in Review</td>
<td>Jim Machniak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Irish Short Stories</td>
<td>Maureen Connolly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Peg Walsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Murky Mysteries</td>
<td>E. Holderbaum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C. Morrin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tuesday 3:30-4:30**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class No.</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Facilitator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Ken Burns’ Jazz</td>
<td>Maureen O’Connor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Great Short Stories</td>
<td>C. Conway/D.Kijek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>The Sky above the Clouds</td>
<td>Mike Hastings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>News, Real, Fake, and a Bit of Fun</td>
<td>Various</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## CLASS SCHEDULE

### Thursday 2:15-3:15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class No.</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Facilitator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Is It Art?</td>
<td>Sue Wrzesinski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>The Ottoman Empire</td>
<td>Dan Lynch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Pacific War</td>
<td>Dennis Waldeck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Real History of Secret Societies</td>
<td>Dan Byrne</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Thursday 3:30-4:30

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class No.</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Facilitator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Notorious Crimes</td>
<td>Jane Junis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Why Birds Matter</td>
<td>Mike Hastings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>History from the Eye of a Needle</td>
<td>Cleo Lampos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Beginners Yoga</td>
<td>Donna Wilkinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shannon Center</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. National Parks

Phyllis Sheahan

We will continue our tour of State Parks going on through the Midwest, along the Mississippi, Land of Lincoln, the Black Hills, Colorado, the Southwest Red Rock and Desert Canyon Parks. Our tour will be narrated by Great Course's travel writer, Joe Yogerst.
2. A Year in Review

Jim Machniak

Have a special year you would like to study and review? Each week I will be asking the class to identify a year which is special to them. It may be the year you were born or the year you graduated high school. Based on the year, I will present what was happening during that time period regarding politics, sporting events, movies, weather events, etc.

Come with your own stories to supplement the presentation. Since we need to have a starting point for week 1, I will present the year 1955. We will look at the Eisenhower presidency and view the introduction of GM’s 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air which is one of my favorite cars. Does anyone remember if the New York Yankees won the World Series that year? Come and find out.
3. Irish Short Stories

M. Connolly/ P. Walsh

44 Irish Short Stories

An Anthology of Irish Short Stories from Yeats to Frank O’Connor

Edited by Devin A. Garrity

The Irish have always had a way with words. Long ago they took on a language not their own and learned to re-word it into pure magic. Nowhere is this magic more in evidence than in their short stories--stories that combine lyricism, humor, and tragedy with rare Imagination-set in simple backgrounds, largely without prompts.

In this anthology there are gathered, for the first time in America, some of the more representative examples of Irish short fiction. Only 21 of the 44 short stories have been published in this country.

We will continue to use the book 44 Irish Stories for the Spring session. This book (used copies) can be purchased on Amazon at a low cost. There are copies available at your local library. For our first class, please read Persecution Mania pg. 291 and The Hawk pg. 298. Both of these stories are written by Liam O’Flaherty. In this anthology there are gathered, for the first time in America, some of the more representative examples of Irish short fiction.
4. Murky Mysteries

Eileen Holderbaum / Catherine Morrin

This class is a continuation of previous semester's classes and the same book will be used--*The Best American Mystery Stories of the Century*, c. 2000, edited by Tony Hillerman, available on Amazon (new from $9.77 + s & h; used from $.01 + $3.99 s & h). Read *Paul's Case* by Willa Cather, pp. 8-25, before the first class and come prepared to discuss. (Note: This story is longer than most. Don't let its length discourage you!) Each week read at home and discuss in class a new short mystery by some of America’s best mystery writers. Be prepared to share thoughts about each story, as well as writers class members might like to explore, since this class has a strong emphasis on class participation and discussion.

If you need assistance obtaining the book, please email Eileen, holderbaume@gmail.com, and she will bring your book (at a cost of $7-$9) to the first class, pending its availability on Amazon. Alternatively, you might be able to find the stories online or purchase a copy from a member of a previous class who isn’t continuing. Professor Anne Curzan, from the University of Michigan, will help us to face these conversational problems and make us more confident and comfortable communicators.
5. Ken Burns’ Jazz
Maureen O’Connor

Jazz is the uniquely American art form originating in New Orleans in the 1890’s. Let’s sit back and enjoy Ken Burns’ historic appreciation of this music and the musicians who enriched America’s life and history through the major events of the 20th Century.

6. Great Short Stories
Carol Conway / Dorothy Kijek

Love to read quality works, but don’t have time for novels? In this session, we will read and discuss some of the world’s best short stories. For the first class, please read The Other Two, by Edith Wharton and A Haunted House, by Virginia Woolf.

Please purchase the Bantam Classic 50 Great Short Stories, edited by Milton Crane, 2005. Amazon has it for $6.81.
7. The Sky above the Clouds

Mike Hastings

This course invites everyone to become a stargazer. Even city dwellers!!! If you have ever wondered about life beyond the clouds, then this class will help you explore your extraterrestrial interests. We will discuss our solar system, our galaxy and beyond. Binoculars and telescopes are not necessary. This section of the course will focus on Spring constellations.

“Rapport of Sun, Moon, Earth and the constellations, What are the messages by you from distant stars to us?”
Walt Whitman

8. NEWS, REAL NEWS, FAKE NEWS, AND A BIT OF FUN.

Jim Condon, Mary Hendry, Bern Stiemann, Kerrie Stone and, Mike Yeager

“Today is a day filled with Events that Alter and Illuminate Our Times ______ AND You Are There”.

We attempt to address current topics, from national, state, county, city perspectives.
9. Is It Art? Sue Wrzesinski

This series of discussions may not answer the question, but we'll have fun trying to figure it out. We will visit topics such as: Art as imitation, Art vs Craft, Art markets and criticism, Genius and talent. There will be lots of examples to argue about. The course is based on the book, *But Is It Art?* by Cynthia Freeland, Oxford Press. Available on Amazon for under $5. (Purchasing the book is VERY Optional!)

This is the same course that ran in Spring 2019: it is not a drawing class.
10. The Ottoman Empire
Dan Lynch

The Ottoman Empire—today, yesterday and the day before yesterday; from ethnic stability to ethnic warfare

This course builds on the Yugoslav course presented previously and surveys from the beginning of the Ottoman Empire to its defeat and dissolution after World War I; the creation of the modern state of Turkey and the resultant events to this day.

When the multi-ethnic Ottoman Empire collapsed after World War I, simmering ethnic hatreds came to the surface in places like the Balkans and the Middle East.

World Powers made countries from competing ethnic groups that had never been able to get along; they supported dictators to keep the lid on. As dictators were overthrown, the ethnic conflict returned full force.

One has only to look at what is happening in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Turkey and other parts of the world and the resulting refugee crisis in Europe to see the effect on Europe and the U.S. in general.
11. Pacific War  
Dennis Waldeck

From Pearl Harbor to Hiroshima we will follow this titanic struggle which played out over two thirds of the earth’s surface. Emphasis will be on the causes, the battles and the costs of the war as well as the changes it wrought. The Pacific War often takes a back seat to the war in Europe, but as we will see it was more brutal and cruel than the struggle against Germany.

12. The Real History of Secret Societies  
Dan Byrne

Secret societies have been around for a long time. Despite the label, they really aren’t all that secret.

Led by Professor Richard B. Spence, PhD, this course will continue its exploration of the history, doctrines, and meanings of secret societies. Professor Spence will discuss the founders of these societies as well as how they have influenced history.

Join us as we learn about such societies as Ancient Mystery Cults, Islamic Assassins, the Rosicrucians, the Illuminati and the Freemasons.
13. Notorious Crimes

Jane Junis

In November, 1959 four members of the Clutter family were found brutally murdered in their home in a small town in Kansas. This story eventually became a book and a movie entitled "In Cold Blood". We will discuss in detail how this crime changed the town forever, look at the lives of the Clutter family, the lives of two perpetrators, what evidence was found at the crime scene, how investigators found the murderers, what role a former cellmate played, and finally cover the trial, verdict, appeals and the execution of Hickock and Smith. There will be a brief discussion as to whether both killers should have been executed and discuss why Truman Capote wrote this book, the meaning behind the title In Cold Blood and how Capote's life was changed forever. This discussion will be supported by handouts.

Our second case will be The Zodiac Killer. This individual terrorized the state of California for many years. We will have a brief discussion on the victims, who the main suspects were, the role the newspapers and T.V. played, the investigators, and then view a documentary on this subject.
14. Why Birds Matter - Mike Hastings

Join me and National Geographic in exploring "Why Birds Matter."

Birds have long held a special fascination for humanity. From the ancient Egyptians to Wright brothers, birds have been a source of wonder and inspiration. Today the fascination continues in the modern activity of birding. Birding once derided as an activity for “odd ducks” is now becoming the fastest growing sport in the world. This section of the class will focus on Spring birds.

This course focuses both on the importance of birds and how to go about observing and enjoying birds in their many habitats. Binoculars not required! National Geographic’s Guide to Birding in North America will supplement the lessons.
15. **History from the Eye of a Needle**  

Cleo Lampos

The stories from history weave together into the fabric of our lives. In this eight-week course, quilts, history and the human condition will be celebrated through documented facts, personal accounts and quilts, quilts, quilts. The Oregon Trail, Gee’s Bend Quilters, Irish Immigration, Feed Sack Artistry, the Hmong and Amish Quilters, and Quilts of Honor will highlight the sessions. The Quilter’s Trunk from Beverly, and the Thimbles Quilters from Palos will share their creations. Come, join us as history and personal stories warm your heart and bring significance to the quilts on display.

16. **Beginners Yoga - Donna Wilkinson**

Yoga postures, stretches and breathing done seated on a chair. Balances and lunges are done standing with the aid of a chair. We will also use Yoga breathing to strengthen lungs and increase energy; deep relaxation for peace and tranquility which can lead to meditation. Wear loose clothing you can move easily in and be prepared to remove shoes and socks. Class is held in the Shannon Center.
On Thursday, April 16, 2020 Rochelle Pennington who is a bestselling author of ten books and a storyteller and lecturer will present the Greatest Shipwrecks of the Great Lakes. Sunken ships swallowed whole when calm waters turned violent in Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario are hidden just below the surface of our inland seas. Pennington will highlight the most noteworthy and fascinating losses of our shipwrecked shores.

Light refreshments will be served following the presentation.

The Farrell Forum is a speakers’ series established in honor of the late John Farrell, a CIA analyst in the 1970’s and Renaissance Academy facilitator in the early 1990’s. There is one program in each of the three terms.
Book Club – TBA
Facilitator – Jean Day

APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH!

Let’s celebrate by getting together and sharing our favorite poems!

Choose a poem from your childhood, your high school or college days, or a verse that has pulled at your heart for some reason or another. It could be funny, touching, and/or thought provoking. It could be beautifully phrased or discordant. It could be a song, a rap, or a psalm.

You may want to share why this poem is meaningful to you. You may want to read it, sing it, or recite it from memory. Anything goes!

If you need help selecting a poem, your local library may be a good place to start. Ask your librarian for help. There are a number of good anthologies. One that I enjoy is Americans’ Favorite Poems, edited by Robert Pinsky and Maggie Dietz. There are also two websites that may be helpful:

- Academy of American Poets, poets.org
- The Poetry Foundation, poetryfoundation.org

Please join us!
Dates to Remember Spring 2020

Mar. 17                      Spring Term begins
Mar. 19 – 4:30               TGITT Gilhooleys
Apr. 14 – 11:30 AM          Board Mtg.
Apr. 16 – 10:00              Memorial Mass followed by luncheon
Apr. 16 - 11:30 AM          Farrell Forum – Butler Room
Apr. 23 - 12:30 PM          Facilitator Mtg.
April TBA                    Book Club
May 7                        Spring Term ends
May 12 - 11:00 AM           Board Mtg. Orland Chateau
May 12 – 12:00               Spring Luncheon
June 9 - 10:30               Executive Board Mtg.
                                11:00       Board Mtg.
                                12:00       Volunteers Luncheon
OFFICERS, COMMITTEE & BOARD MEMBERS
2019-2020

President: Grace Ann Kartheiser
Vice President: Eileen M. Holderbaum
Secretary: Maureen Fleming
Treasurer: Mary P. Cavanaugh
Information Systems: Jim Condon
Past President: Mary Lou Lovell
Consultant: Donatta Yates
SXU Liaison: Julie Davis

STANDING COMMITTEES

Curriculum:
  Dan Byrne* Maureen Connolly
  Cleo Lampos Peg Walsh
Membership:
  Bobbie Murray Mary Howley
  Mary Anne Gaynor Sheila O’Sullivan*
Special Events:
  Phyllis Sheahan * Rose A. Drever
  Sandra Stephens Kathleen Fassl
Farrell Forum:
  Eileen Holderbaum/Grace Ann Kartheiser*
  Marge Gierstikas Joanne Gruca
  Kay Heafey (advisor)
Care:
  Mary M. Doody* Geraldine H. Cooney
  Judy Sandburg
Communication:
  Maxine Byrnes* Katherine Sullivan
Newsletter:
  Peggy Dosch* Melaine Herbert
  Maureen O’Connor
Historian: Catherine Reardon
Office Managers:
  Anne Steele* Sandra Flanigan
  Marcia Janas Linda Sherwood

*Committee Chairperson or Co-Chairpersons