Welcome to the College of the Third Age by Augsburg College

The College of the Third Age is a teaching-learning service founded more than 30 years ago to encourage life-long learning, foster interactive discussion, and to introduce new topics/subjects related to an ever-changing world. A roster of more than 40 retired, semi-retired, and working professors and teachers have been invited to teach for the program, based on their area of expertise. Classes are generally one hour in length.

Our partners in this effort are those organizations and facilities that serve older adults in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Partners pay $125 per class session (based on a one-hour session.) Longer sessions may be booked – contact College of the Third Age for pricing.

Our Mission

Believing that learning is an ongoing, lifelong adventure, Augsburg College of the Third Age provides opportunities for older adults to expand their knowledge, thinking, and interests. These learning opportunities are facilitated by instructors educated in the liberal arts, theology, and social and physical sciences. Programs for groups are offered where mature learners reside or meet.

Living is all about learning! We hope that you will request one program or several from the programs offered.

Information about requesting programs for your group

Call or email the College of the Third Age office (contact information below) and discuss with our staff the date, time, place, class length, and honoraria. Please allow 4-6 weeks between your request and the desired date of your program.
The College of the Third Age programming is very dynamic. The catalog is intended as a starting point for your own programming. Please view the catalog online as course offerings can change as we add instructors and discover new interests in the community. The catalog can be viewed online at http://www.augsburg.edu/thirdage.

Contact us

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2211 Riverside Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55454
612-330-1139
thirdage@augsburg.edu
http://www.augsburg.edu/thirdage

Note about the catalog notations

Instructor notations

*Advanced Booking* – indicates that the instructor is willing to book between six months and one year in advance.

*Special Transportation Provisions* – indicates that the instructor may additional assistance or coordination in order to arrive at the site. Contact the program staff for additional details regarding specific instructors.

Class notations

- DVD player needed
- VHS player needed
- Microphone needed
- Slide Projector needed
- Computer needed
- Musical Equipment needed
Instructors

**Ruth Aaskov** received a BA from Augsburg College. She went on to receive an MA in French from Middlebury College and a PhD from University of Wisconsin. Dr. Aaskov is Professor Emerita of Modern Languages at Augsburg College.

Since 1994, **Duane Addison** has been an adjunct teacher in Augsburg’s Religion department, specializing in world religion. Dr. Addison is a Retired Lutheran Pastor, Professor Emeritus of Religion, Augustana College. He received his BA from the University of Minnesota, his M.Div. from Lutheran Seminary and his MA and PhD from Yale University.

**William Arden** is currently on the faculty of Augsburg College. He holds degrees in astronomy, physics and mathematics. He is an astronomer and astrophotographer and member of the Minnesota Astronomical Society, the International Dark Sky Association and the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. He has taught astronomy at North Hennepin Community College and lectures on astronomy for Augsburg College’s College for the Third Age as well as the Minnesota Astronomical Society.

**Walter Benjamin** received a BA from Hamline University. Dr. Benjamin completed an M.Div. at Garret Evangelical Theological Seminary and a PhD at Duke University. He is Professor Emeritus of Religion and Applied Ethics at Hamline University.

**Carolyn Bliss** was a church musician before retirement. Now she designs and presents classes about a variety of music for mature adult learners. Ms. Bliss received aBA from Augsburg College in music education, and a MA in music history from University of Minnesota, music history.

**Vern Bloom** received a BA and MSW from University of Minnesota. One of the founding members of College of the Third Age, Mr. Bloom is also Professor Emeritus of Social Work at Augsburg College.

**Maria Brown** is a retired professor of Social Work at Augsburg College. Her particular interests are in the area of social change, social justice, and human development. Ms. Brown is a singer/songwriter who enjoys music with her friends and faith community.

**Elizabeth Burns** is an award winning poet and novelist who has taught literature locally at the University of St. Thomas, Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts, and
Metropolitan State University. Dr. Burns is a cum laude graduate of Barnard College at Columbia University (BA) and SUNY Buffalo (Ph.D.).

**Joan Campbell** is a retired nurse from the University of Minnesota Hospital. She is also a former member of the Minneapolis City Council (Second Ward), a former member of the Metropolitan Council and a long-time civic activist. Ms. Campbell received a BSN from University of Minnesota.

**Frank Dreisbach** received both an AB and M.Div. from Drew University. Mr. Dreisbach also completed an MA at Harvard and an MA at Princeton Theological Seminary. Mr. Dreisbach is Professor Emeritus at Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

**Arne Fogel** is a teacher, jazz-club singer, broadcaster and entertainment historian. In addition to his work with College of the Third Age, Mr. Fogel is an instructor for Compleat Scholar, and Elderhostel, University of Minnesota. He received a BA from University of Minnesota.

**Leola Dyrud Furman** received a BA and the Distinguished Alumna award from Augsburg College. Dr. Furman received an MSW from University of Chicago and a PhD from the Fielding Institute. Dr. Furman has served as an adjunct faculty in social work at Augsburg College and the University of St. Thomas. She is Associate Professor Emerita of Social Work at University of North Dakota.

**Charles Graham** earned a BS, MA and PhD from University of Illinois. Dr. Graham is President Emeritus at Hamline University and St. Cloud State University. He is also Professor Emeritus of Political Science at University of Wisconsin.

**Irene Khin Khin Jensen** received a BA from Rangoon University in Burma. Dr. Jensen completed an MA at Bucknell University and a PhD at University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is Professor Emerita of Asian Studies at Augsburg College.

**David Johnston** is a lifelong resident of Minnesota. He grew up in Richfield and attended the University of Minnesota and Bethel Theological Seminary in St. Paul. He has been the lead pastor of CrossPoint Church of Coon Rapids since 1995. In recent years, Pastor Johnston has shifted his ministry emphasis to senior adults. He has volunteered as a chaplain in several senior residences and currently serves as a chaplain.
for Twin City Christian Homes. His wife Jeanie and he travel across the state performing as **Ole & Lena**, bringing a touch of Scandinavian humor and folk music to anyone who will listen. He has been married to Jeanie since 1980 and they have two children, David and Kristen.

**David Jones** received a BA in Business Administration with Secondary Education coursework from Gustavus Adolphus College. He went on to receive a Masters in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management from the University of St. Thomas. He has had experience educating adults for the past ten years. He has a strong interest in history, and making history come alive for his audiences.

**James Knutson** received a BS from University of Minnesota. Dr. Knutson also received an M.Div and M.Th. from Luther Seminary and a DD from Wartburg Seminary. Dr. Knutson is a retired missionary, formerly stationed in South Africa, and former Secretary for Africa for the ALC and ELCA.

**Anita Makar** received both a BA and MA from Brooklyn College. Ms. Makar is Professor Emerita of Speech Communication at Minneapolis Community College.

**Lawrence Moe** is passionate about poetry. He holds the Ph.D. in English from the University of Minnesota, where he also earned the BA with summa cum laude honors in each of his two majors, English and philosophy. He is Professor of English at Metropolitan State University, where he was named Outstanding Teacher of the Year. The Minnesota House of Representatives has passed a resolution honoring Dr. Moe for “his exceptional teaching skills.” In recent years he has undertaken a major study of the early poetry of the Red River Valley of the North, and has located and analyzed thousands of poems from that region. Professor Moe has shared his research in poetry through numerous scholarly and community presentations, on television, and in various publications.

**Mildred “Mike” Mueller** earned a BA and MA from Central Michigan University. Dr. Mueller earned an EdD from the University of Minnesota. She is Professor Emerita of Education at Augsburg College.

**Ronald Nelson** is the retired Music Director at Westwood Lutheran Church and a composer. Mr. Nelson earned a BMus from St Olaf College and a M Mus from University of Wisconsin.
Judy Niemi Johnson earned her BA in Theater Arts and Secondary Education from Bethel University and her MA in Leadership from Augsburg College. Her research has focused on postmodern ministry as it compares with traditional and modern ministry models, with particular evaluation of generational and denominational influence on ministry, worship and leadership. Ms. Niemi Johnson has served in church leadership since 1981 and has worked with every age group in an educational role, including child/youth/adult forums, staff development, worship service design and sermon coaching. She is currently employed in the Admissions Department at Augsburg College while she continues teaching and consulting in the area of spiritual formation, church trends/leadership and education at individual churches and professional seminars/conferences.

Bettye Olson is a lifelong resident of the Twin Cities, attending the University of Minnesota, graduating with a Masters in Art Education. She is an exhibiting artist with a career of 60 years, a teacher of Art at the University of Minnesota, Concordia University and Augsburg College. She was a lecturer of Art for Osher Life Long Learning, University of Minnesota; St. Paul College Club and Augsburg College. She was Director of College of the Third Age for six years.

Thomas O’Toole is a well-published scholar and experienced teacher. He is Emeritus Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at St. Cloud State University with more than seven years of experience in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and Latin America as a Fulbright scholar, teacher, and researcher. He is currently an adjunct professor of history at Metropolitan State University and an adjunct professor of Global Studies at St. Cloud State University.

Tina Ottmar is the owner of Artsy Smarty, LLC, an organization that provides art education to senior citizens ages 55-106. Artsy Smartsy began in 2009 in the basement activities room of Chandler Place Assisted Living, in St. Anthony Village, MN for Dolly Ferguson, Tina’s late grandmother. It was a way to encourage her to meet new friends and neighbors and also to help her continue her joyful life and inspire her creativity after her husband Hubert’s passing.

As of July 2011, Artsy Smartsy’s outreach program provides classes to 24 locations across the Twin Cities, MN. Working with co-ops, independent living, assisted living, memory care residences, adult day services, community education and even the Hennepin County Public Library system. Artsy Smartsy booths can be seen at the Uptown Art Fair and the Minnesota Monarch Festival. Seniors
have a great deal to offer to society, but few avenues by which to contribute, sometimes there are no outlets for their artistic creativity. Artsy Smartsy strives to change all of that!

As a professional designer, business owner, and artist, Tina brings joy and meaning to seniors now and in the future. Both by encouragement and by example, she assists them in expressing their feelings, their memories and their life experience. Seniors have more knowledge and wisdom than any other segment of society, by showing them the way to make art and providing them the opportunity and materials, everybody learns.

**Philip Quanbeck** received a BA from Augsburg College and a B.Th from Augsburg Theological Institute. Dr. Quanbeck earned a M.Th. and PhD from Princeton Theological Seminary. Dr. Quanbeck is Professor Emeritus of Religion at Augsburg College.

**Arne Sovik** is a retired Christian missionary in China, as well as a retired Executive Director, Lutheran World Federation. Dr. Sovik earned a BA at St Olaf College and a B. Th. from Luther Theological Seminary, and a PhD from Yale University.

**Frank Wright** was the Associate Editor, Washington Bureau Chief, Managing Editor and Foreign Correspondent formerly with the Minneapolis Tribune and now retired from the Star Tribune. He received a BA from Augustana College.
Culture and Technology: For Better? For Worse?
Instructor: Anita Makar
Advanced Booking

Press 1, press 5, press the pound sign ... Are you tired of listening to all of those instructions? Do you long to talk to a "human being?" Do you sometimes wonder where we are heading with all of the current technology? Has technology advanced faster than our ability to deal with it? This lively presentation will examine some of the implications of how technology has impacted our lives.

Do You Have A Bucket List?
Instructor: Walter Benjamin

When possible, I play a 5-minute segment of the film "Bucket List" starring Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson. Freeman is a bright, black, and poor auto mechanic while Nicholson is a multimillionaire Daddy Warbucks type. Both have cancer and will die within 6-12 months. They collaborate on items they want to do before they die and jet off to Egypt, India, Africa, Hong Kong and other venues and develop a deep relationship while doing so. I then switch to my personal journey through cancer (surgery, chemo, radiation) and how I worked off my bucket list (Arctic Plunge, India, Skydiving) in 2011. I summarize by indicating the importance of pushing out our personal frontiers and risk taking of our physical, mental, and emotional boundaries before we die.

Do You Remember?
Instructor: Anita Makar
Advanced Booking

Can't remember a name or where you put your keys? Relax, a simple memory lapse does NOT mean you are developing Alzheimer's disease. You forgot things when you were 30. Using material from the latest research on how to keep your mind young, this presentation will explore some of the myths of growing old.

No New Memories
Instructor: Anita Makar
Advanced Booking

This program will focus on the neglected subject of adult sibling loss. The grief literature seems to focus on the loss of a spouse, the loss of a child, and the loss of a pet. Adult sibling loss is rarely mentioned. My journey through grief after the sudden death of my sister gave me the idea and the motivation for this book. No New Memories is also about the shared compassion of other adult siblings I met on this journey. We do not want to be the forgotten mourners.

Copies of the book will be available for sale at the presentation.

Positive Aging
Instructor: Anita Makar
Advanced Booking

Is living longer a "milestone" or a "millstone"? This session will focus on the positive aspects of growing old in the 21st century. We are currently experiencing a longevity revolution with people living to
100 and beyond. Now that we've added years to our lives isn't it time to think about adding life to those years? Anita Makar has published a book entitled, "The Afternoon of Life - A bouquet for Longevity". She will explore some of the topics presented in this book.

Retirement - A Realignment
Instructor: Anita Makar
Advanced Booking

Since we are living longer than ever before, we are spending more years in retirement. We need, therefore, to move from the old models of retirement to examine new possibilities. In retirement, one size does not fit all. It is helpful to think of retirement as a period of realignment. For a car, an alignment is the process of adjusting the wheels so that they are in proper relative position to each other. In retirement, the parts of our lives need similar adjusting. This session will explore the exciting options for this realignment in order to help make the retirement years more meaningful.

Spirituality & Alzheimer’s: Does God Remember Me?
Instructor: Judy Niemi Johnson

What happens to spirituality in the midst of memory loss? How is our relationship with God affected when I have Alzheimer's or my family member has Alzheimer's? Using the personal story of my mother, I trace how our experience of spirituality was challenged and strengthened during this difficult time. As the numbers of people diagnosed with memory loss continue to rise, it is helpful to see how God can show up in the midst of personal memory loss and grief.

The Joy of Aging - Part I: Grow Old Along With Me
Instructor: Anita Makar
Advanced Booking

Life is like a good book - the more you can get into it, the more you can enjoy it. Using the Robert Browning quote, "Grow old along with me," the aspects of a joy-filled aging will be explored.

The Joy of Aging - Part II: Reach For the Stars
Instructor: Anita Makar
Advanced Booking

"How old would you be if you didn't know how old you are?” or "you are only as old as you think you are." These popular expressions need to be re-examined in the light of new thinking about the subject of aging. When are we old? Using ideas from two important books, "Tuesdays with Morrie" and "The Virtues of Aging," we will explore the truths, myths, and wisdoms as well as the values of aging. You do not need to read the two books in order to participate.

The Moral Dimensions of the Terri Schiavo Case
Instructor: Walter Benjamin
Advanced Booking

There are some events that have the power to create controversy and this has proven to be
one of them. It can be very difficult to make sense of what is right and what is wrong. Can we humanize and shorten the dying process and still remain within well accepted moral boundaries? This one question, as illustrated by the events surrounding Teri Schiavo’s life and death, offers us the opportunity to examine some of the values we often take for granted.
Art is All Around Us
Instructor: Bettye Olson
Advanced Booking

Art is in public places such as parks, downtown areas, malls, state capitol, churches, and roadways: places we pass every day. The art beautifies the city, commemorates events and people, identifies buildings or locations, and sometimes makes a political statement. Slides of various public artworks are the beginning of a discussion of these important functions of art and their meaning in our lives.

Chinese Immigration- When, why, and how did they come to USA?
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen
Advanced Booking

My presentation is the result of research and teaching about how this ethnic group enriched American society. Hear how young Chinese male immigrants gave their lives in the building of our trans-continental railroads in 19th century America, yet they experienced much discrimination. Recall the Chinese Exclusion Laws, the cartoons against them in newspapers and books? We now have world famous Chinese American architects, Ming, educators and scientists. How did this change occur in America?

The Pacific Basin in the 21st Century
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen
Advanced Booking

Hongkong, Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore are called the “New Tigers” of Asia. All four are former colonies of Britain or Japan. These areas experienced colonization in some form and for different lengths of time. I have traveled in three of these areas, am impressed by the economic development in all four areas which I covered in my teaching at Augsburg College. There is rapid industrialization despite war ravages- they have “pulled themselves up by their bootstraps”. These areas have beautiful beaches, great hotels, gourmet food and great infrastructure. You will enjoy learning about these nationalities.
Art is All Around Us  
*Instructor: Bettye Olson  
Advanced Booking*

Art is in public places such as parks, downtown areas, malls, state capitol, churches, and roadways: places we pass every day. The art beautifies the city, commemorates events and people, identifies buildings or locations, and sometimes makes a political statement. Slides of various public artworks are the beginning of a discussion of these important functions of art and their meaning in our lives.

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**Batik Silk Painting**  
*Instructor: Tina Ottmar*

Batik is an Indonesian cloth that traditionally used a manual wax-resist dyeing technique. Intricate batik fabric patterns are known to have existed in 13th century or even earlier. Contemporary batik is different from the more traditional and formal styles. We now have water based resist materials which are easier to use and remove than WAX. Come to class and experiment with your OWN silk scarf, banner or window hanging! No experience required, stencils and design options will be available to jump-start your creativity!

*Please note that this class is a two-hour workshop. As such, the workshop fee will be $165 plus materials cost of $12/person.*

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**Birches, Watercolor Painting**  
*Instructor: Tina Ottmar*

Bev Doolittle is very well known for a painting style called "camouflage art" within a birches landscape. When you first look at her paintings, you see the obvious image, like Indians and horses within the birches, and then as you look more closely, you see the other images "hidden" in the birch background. Come to class and work with our teacher in an easy step by step process to create your OWN birches watercolor painting! EVERYONE will leave with a unique and beautiful painting! Absolutely no art or painting experience necessary!

*Please note that this class is a two-hour workshop. As such, the workshop fee will be $165 plus materials cost of $8 per person.*

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**Creativity**  
*Instructor: Frank Dreisbach  
Advanced Booking*

Whether we are creating art or ourselves, certain conditions are present. Our discussion examines those conditions, while acknowledging that when it comes to art, the creative process eludes our attempts to fully understand it.

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**French Tapestries: The Stories They Tell**  
*Instructor: Ruth Aaskov*

What do the Bayeaux Tapestry, the Apocalypse of Angers, the Dame of the Unicorn at Cluny, and the huge classical woven panels at Versailles have to say to us in the 21st century? One of these massive multicolored textiles is often a part of tours in France. Their stories and the discovery of their amazing survival through the centuries...
help us appreciate the paintings in threads that we call early French tapestries.

**Lenten Themes through the Artist's Eyes**  
*Instructor: Bettye Olson*  
*Advanced Booking*

Lent is one of the oldest observations on the Christian calendar. The events of Holy Week in the Christian Church have a rich heritage and interpretation in paintings and art forms throughout history. Starting with a slide of a Swedish fold artist interpretation of Palm Sunday through French German and Italian traditions to today the events are portrayed.

**Madonnas: The Mother-Child Theme in Art**  
*Instructor: Bettye Olson*  
*Advanced Booking*

On postage stamps, greeting cards, and illustrations, the mother-child theme is a favorite. This was a popular theme for centuries in beautiful paintings and sculpture. The art works tell the theology of a time, and the interpretations of many cultures. Slides- a more concentrated theme for Christmas-expanded theme universal.

**Minnesota Artists, Founders to Today**  
*Instructor: Bettye Olson*  
*Advanced Booking*

An exhibition of Art Work of early artists who established our art community will be shown with colorful slides and commentary of their lives. We will see changes in art direction from Regionalism, to abstract expressionism, to today’s artists. Changes in art direction we use in today’s artists. Minnesota ranks high as an art center and in support of the arts. The art schools, art organizations and galleries of today show the cultural growth and diversity of expression in our area.
**Becoming a Peacemaker**  
*Instructor: David Johnston*

We live in a divided world often filled with conflict and anger. This lecture will focus on strategies for bringing peace into your world and your relationships (work, family, home, and neighborhood) through mediation and conflict resolution. We will discuss some simple and practical tools for anger management and peacemaking.

**Culture and Technology: For Better? For Worse?**  
*Instructor: Anita Makar*  
*Advanced Booking*

Press 1, press 5, press the pound sign ... Are you tired of listening to all of those instructions? Do you long to talk to a "human being?" Do you sometimes wonder where we are heading with all of the current technology? Has technology advanced faster than our ability to deal with it? This lively presentation will examine some of the implications of how technology has impacted our lives.

**Today’s News Media: Who Can We Trust?**  
*Instructor: Frank Wright*  
*Advanced Booking*

There are no more Walter Cronkites, no more single sources on whom you can rely. Given the clash between the declining traditional news media-newspapers, magazines, commercial radio and TV reporting-and the new chaos of talk shows, bloggers, cable TV and the Internet, we are inundated with commentary, information, data and blather that often seems overwhelming. How do we sort it out to get at some semblance of truth and accuracy?

**Understanding Gender Miscommunications: Can We Talk?**  
*Instructor: Anita Makar*  
*Advanced Booking*

Using cartoons and comic strips, this presentation will explore some of the reasons why women and men have problems in communicating with each other. Are men and women really from different communication planets? Has the way we have been socialized created some of the misunderstandings? What are some ways to help alleviate some of the problems?
The classes labeled Africa: Mything the Point can best be understood as new lenses through which to learn about and challenge false beliefs about Africa’s past. These classes can be booked individually or as a series-following numeric order is not required.

**Africa: Mything the Point I**  
*Instructor: Thomas O'Toole*  
*Advanced Booking*

Selected historical myths about of human origins, stateless societies, multiple lifestyles, and Bantu migrations.

**Africa: Mything the Point II**  
*Instructor: Thomas O'Toole*  
*Advanced Booking*

Selected historical myths about early ‘kingdoms,’ state formation, isolation, and cannibalism.

**Africa: Mything the Point III**  
*Instructor: Thomas O'Toole*  
*Advanced Booking*

Selected historical myths about the slave trades, European intrusions, and abolition.

**Africa: Mything the Point IV**  
*Instructor: Thomas O'Toole*  
*Advanced Booking*

Selected historical myths about the differences in colonial theory, colonial practice, and the results of colonialism.

**Africa: Mything the Point V**  
*Instructor: Thomas O'Toole*  
*Advanced Booking*

Selected historical myths about the 20th century freedom struggles, the Cold War, and independence.

**Africa: Mything the Point VI**  
*Instructor: Thomas O'Toole*  
*Advanced Booking*

Selected historical myths about the post colonial period – military coups, ethnic conflict, and failed states.

**African Diaspora: The Impact of Africans on the Americas**  
*Instructor: Thomas O'Toole*

The first African Americans came as a result of the slave trade while today many immigrants come seeking a peaceful life that isn’t possible in their home country. The story of the survival and innovation of Africans in the New World provides us with an introduction to the adaptations and persistence of African cultures on this side of the Atlantic.

**African Roots: Origins of African Americans**  
*Instructor: Thomas O'Toole*  
*Advanced Booking*

How and why African Americans came to this new world is important to understand, but this understanding isn’t complete without knowing where they are from. African culture is really not one culture but hundreds of cultures on one continent and this course
will examine where African Americans came from in Africa. We will go beyond the “Roots” myths to research based evidence to gain valuable insight into these immigrant groups.

Brazil: A Multi-Ethnic Society/Largest Country in Latin America  
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen  
Advanced Booking

Beautiful vistas and beaches, and vast resources of precious gems will amaze you. Brazil is the only Portuguese speaking country in the Americas, hence it has a unique history. Hear the story of the early slave trade and Brazil’s struggle for independence. My visit to this country with its magnificent waterfalls larger than Niagara Falls and my study and teaching about Brazil has encouraged me to share the story with you.

Burma/Myanmar: Monarchy, British Colony, Nationalism, and Military  
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen  
Advanced Booking


Cambodia and Laos: Different Roots  
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen  
Advanced Booking

Famous monuments such as Angkor Wat overwhelm the viewer. Cambodia faced tragedy in the 1970s. The “Killing Fields” will be discussed. I taught this course at Augsburg and to scores of church women a few years ago. The Vietnam War, the impact of land mines plus how several million Cambodians were killed is a tragedy still being investigated. Who are the Hmong from Laos? They are an ethnic group who helped the American airmen during the Vietnam War. A large number of Hmong refugees have settled in MN. Our famers markets have been enriched by their contributions.

China: An Emerging Economic Giant of the World Stage  
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen  
Advanced Booking

The changing United States relationship with this large and developing country, a brief story of China’s relationship with Japan and Russia will be shared. My training in Chinese history, my trips to China in three different decades- mid 1970s, late 1980s, and mid 1990s- will be explored through slides. You will observe and hear of vast changes,
dramatic engineering feats - it is a revolution to behold. Changes in the society, government and infrastructure have made the economy leap ahead - notice the items you buy in stores.

Cuba: Images Past and Present
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen
Advanced Booking

A former Spanish and American colon, only 90 miles from Florida is a Communist nation. Hear how my legal visit to Cuba via Canada in 2002 with educators and church members gave me a new appreciation for the lack of development and rebuilding of infrastructures in Cuba which Columbus called the most beautiful island he had seen. I met doctors, educators and Government leaders, heard stories of the Cuban revolution, how Fidel Castro gained power, and toppled Baptista. Cuban music, dance still survives.

Culture and Technology: For Better? For Worse?
Instructor: Anita Makar
Advanced Booking

Press 1, press 5, press the pound sign ... Are you tired of listening to all of those instructions? Do you long to talk to a "human being?" Do you sometimes wonder where we are heading with all of the current technology? Has technology advanced faster than our ability to deal with it? This lively presentation will examine some of the implications of how technology has impacted our lives.

Globalization: When your children or grandchildren enter the work force, where in the world are the good jobs going to be and who will get them?
Instructor: Frank Wright
Advanced Booking

A look at how the information explosion and the ability to move billions of dollars anywhere in the world at the click of a mouse have internationalized the economy and cultures - and raised immense questions about the impact of all that. Central to the presentation will be the works of New York Times columnist Tom Friedman, who believes that globalization raises all boats, and the critiques of Nobel Prize economist Joseph Stiglitz, who makes strong arguments to the contrary. The rise of China, India and Brazil as major US competitors also will be considered.

India and Pakistan: Nuclear Powers
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen
Advanced Booking

British rule in India - how and why? Mahatma Gandhi’s non-violent movement; impact of the civil rights movement in the U.S.A. as well as the legacy of the Nehru family: Indira Gandhi, her father, son Rajiv, and aunt Madam Pandit are impressive. My research and travel trips to India and Pakistan have enabled me to compare the potential of both countries. Discussion will include the current outsourcing to India’s silicon valley. Pakistan’s rule as an Islamic state, the role of
Ali Jinnah and the Benazir Bhutto family and Christian missionaries’ contributions to educational and medical institutions.

Indonesia: Dutch and Portuguese Legacy - Spices, Coffee, Oil
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen
Advanced Booking

Over 3,000 islands, equal in size to the continental United States, reveal a country rich in natural resources like timber and gas and cultural treasures, such as batik and textiles. Communism and militarism, the Japanese presence, and a developmental economic crisis are discussed. My visit to this country immediately after the Beijing women’s conference (1995) enabled me to compare the development of both nations. Spices first drew Europeans to these islands. The role of Indonesian students working as change agents and the fall of General Suharto after a 30-year rule creates an interesting program.

Israel and the Palestinians - Will Peace Ever Come?
Instructor: Frank Wright
Advanced Booking

All the parties know what a final agreement on the major issues will contain. That is no secret, as they will tell you privately in candid moments. But what are the prospects for progress with a new hard-line prime minister in control in Israel and the Palestinians badly split between Fatah in the West Bank and Hamas in Gaza? How much influence can the international community, including a new US president, bring to bear?

Japanese- Americans, Pearl Harbor - Hawaii, Internment Camps
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen
Advanced Booking

Over 90% of the Japanese immigrants to the United States in the early 20th century settled in California and Hawaii. After the attack on Pearl Harbor these immigrants on the west coast faced trauma and tragedy as an ethnic community. Many of the people were forced into internment camps although they were American citizens; this challenge to America’s constitution has fueled debate for many years. Sons and daughters of parents in the camps did volunteer to serve in World War II. Japanese immigrants in Hawaii vouched for their loyalty. This topic will be discussed as well as Minnesota’s role as a center for the Japanese Language School at Camp Savage. I was involved in holding conferences and teaching about the internment.

Jerusalem - The City of God
Instructor: David Johnston

This lecture will explore the city of Jerusalem which is viewed by Jews, Christians and Muslims to be the City of God. The lecture will include an overview of the ancient and modern day history of Jerusalem, including pictures and stories from recent travels to Jerusalem. The goal of the lecture is to provide greater
understanding to this important and complex city and to better understand the political and religious conflicts centered on Jerusalem.

Koalas, Kangaroos, Maoris and Kiwi: Australia and New Zealand
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen
Advanced Booking

This session will allow us to compare and contrast these two nations with common British roots. Beautiful landscapes, beaches, and magnificent views exist in both countries. New immigrants and new trading partners with Asia are changing trends that have helped these countries build a new identity. My visit to both these countries after years of studying about them in British Empire history helped me understand why the British colonized the area.

Korea: A Peninsula with Two Republics
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen
Advanced Booking

Korea was one country till the Korean War ended in 1953. Since 1910 it was a victim of Japanese colonial rule. During the 1990s the Korean Kingdom was the center of rivalry between China, Russia and Japan. This presentation will clarify reasons for the Korean War in 1950, the U.N. involvement and USA troops fighting in Asia with General MacArthur as a controversial figure. South Korea today is a modern democratic developed republic. I visited it at two different time’s in 1977 and 1985 and witnessed an amazing infrastructure change. North Korean became a Communist nation and has now secured nuclear capability.

Comments of the adoption of Korean orphans in Minnesota will be included.

Madonnas: The Mother-Child Theme in Art
Instructor: Bettye Olson
Advanced Booking

On postage stamps, greeting cards, and illustrations, the mother-child theme is a favorite. This was a popular theme for centuries in beautiful paintings and sculpture. The art works tell the theology of a time, and the interpretations of many cultures. Slides- a more concentrated theme for Christmas-expanded theme universal.

Music of Many Cultures
Instructor: Ronald Nelson
Advanced Booking

"Around the World in 60 Minutes!" A one hour trip exploring native folk and folk-related music from many parts of the globe. Hear amazing similarities and interesting differences in these native voices and instruments from many cultures.

Music of Many MORE Cultures
Instructor: Ronald Nelson
Advanced Booking

Continue your trip around the World! An exploration of folk music from places all around the globe, not visited during your
previous trip.

Our New Religious Neighbors
Instructor: Duane Addison

During the past generation, the United States has become the world's most religiously diverse nation. We will explore this reality both nationally and locally as we meet our new Hindu, Buddhist, and Muslim neighbors.

Religion in Today's China
Instructor: Arne Sovik

China was once permeated by popular religion, by Confucian ethics, Daoist cosmology and Buddhist piety. After half a century of repression by an atheistic regime, how is it that religion (not least Christianity) is blossoming?

Sites, Sights and Stories of Major Centers of the World
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen

I have selected the following cities I have visited for their historical importance, beauty and educational value in world history. They range from West to East during my travel around the world for research, during my teachings as a college professor. Some of you may have visited a few of these sites and recall memories of visits. The cities are London, Pairs, Versailles, Rome Agra, Rangoon, Honkong, Singapore, Beijing, Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima and Sydney.

South Africa: Mything the Point Series

The classes labeled South Africa: Mything the Point can best be understood as new lenses through which to learn about and challenge false beliefs about South Africa’s past and present. These classes can be booked individually or as a series-following numeric order is not required.

South Africa: Mything the Point I
Instructor: Thomas O'Toole
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Selected historical myths about human origins, European penetration of South Africa, The Empty Land, “Hottentots and Bushmen,” and the Afrikanner Covenant.

South Africa: Mything the Point II
Instructor: Thomas O'Toole
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Selected historical myths about Bantu, Boers, and Shaka Zulu.

South Africa: Mything the Point III
Instructor: Thomas O'Toole
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Selected myths about British benevolence, the stampedes for gold and diamonds, and the Boer Wars

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Instructor: Thomas O'Toole
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Selected historical myths about of the Afrikanner Republics and the Birth of Apartheid
South Africa: Mything the Point V  
*Instructor: Thomas O'Toole*  
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Selected historical myths about 20th century politics; the African National Congress, the Afrikanner personality; and the Nationalist Party.

South Africa: Mything the Point VI  
*Instructor: Thomas O'Toole*  
*Advanced Booking*

Selected historical myths about the freedom struggles, boycott, Nelson Mandela, F. W. DeKlerk, and the present day political situation.

South Africa: From 'Polecat' to 'Rainbow Nation'  
*Instructor: James Knutson*

The “miracle election” of 1994 was followed by the “we may be able to forgive, but never to forget” Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). A survey of that development and a look at what’s happening now with the TRC. What can we learn from them?

South Africa: Slowly Changing Course  
*Instructor: James Knutson*

How are the people of South Africa dealing with the challenges facing them in their fledgling democracy? What about the churches’ role?

The Kite Runner- Novel related to Afghanistan  
*Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen*

Khaled Hossein’s moving portrait of modern Afghanistan in the 1970s, the description of the Russians, the Taliban cruelty is realistic and educational. He describes the collapse and the destruction of a beautiful country. The lifestyle of the immigrant afghan community in California is educational. ‘The Kite Runner’ is a best-selling novel and movie. It is the powerful and haunting story of relationships and friendship between two young boys from different economic status who loved Kite-flying. This sport is very popular among Afghans. The novel tugs at your heart. Reading of the novel is recommended but not required.

The Metis: A New People on Our Doorstep  
*Instructor: Thomas O'Toole*

The Red River Valley stretches between Minnesota and the Dakotas north into Manitoba. It became a center for fur harvesting and trading first by the French and then by Scotch Irish. This course is an introduction to the history and culture of a people who emerged in the Red River Valley as a result of Scotch Irish, Cree, Anisinabe, and French interactions. This offers a clear example of the birth of new ethnic groups.

The Mystics  
*Instructor: Frank Dreisbach*  
*Advanced Booking*

Mystics are found in most if not all religions. Our discussion attempts to summarize what
they report and thus to explore the peaks and valleys of religious experience in general.

**The Pacific Basin in the 21st Century**
*Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen*
*Advanced Booking*

Hongkong, Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore are called the “New Tigers” of Asia. All four are former colonies of Britain or Japan. These areas experienced colonization in some form and for different lengths of time. I have traveled in three of these areas, am impressed by the economic development in all four areas which I covered in my teaching at Augsburg College. There is rapid industrialization despite war ravages— they have “pulled themselves up by their bootstraps”. These areas have beautiful beaches, great hotels, gourmet food and great infrastructure. You will enjoy learning about these nationalities.

**U.S. - China Security Relations**
*Instructor: Frank Wright*
*Advanced Booking*

China is beefing up its military, but for what purpose? The U.S. is rearranging its military to fight smaller wars against insurgents rather than against rising international powers like China. Where does that leave us for the future? Join us as we discuss the changing face of the U.S. relationship with China.

**Understanding Gender**
*Miscommunications: Can We Talk?*

*Instructor: Anita Makar*
*Advanced Booking*

Using cartoons and comic strips, this presentation will explore some of the reasons why women and men have problems in communicating with each other. Are men and women really from different communication planets? Has the way we have been socialized created some of the misunderstandings? What are some ways to help alleviate some of the problems?

**Understanding the Faiths of Others**
*Instructor: Duane Addison*

During this session we will take an appreciative look at non-Christian religions. What attitude and questions can we bring? How can we listen and share? In this course you will learn some of the basics of these religions and through discussion find your own understanding of how this faith relates to your own religious life.

Note: This topic can be one session as an overview or one session on a specific religion (Hinduism, Buddhism, etc.) One session (overview), one session (specific religion) or as a series (several religions).

**Uprooting Japanese-Americans in World War II - the church’s response**
*Instructor: Frank Wright*
*Advanced Booking*

Over 90% of the Japanese immigrants to the United States in the early 20th century settled in California and Hawaii. After the attack on Pearl Harbor these immigrants on the west coast faced trauma and tragedy as an ethic
Community. Many of the people were forced into internment camps although they were American citizens; this challenge to America’s constitution has fueled debate for many years. Sons and daughters of parents in the camps did volunteer to serve in World War II. Japanese immigrants in Hawaii vouched for their loyalty. This topic will be discussed as well as Minnesota’s role as a center for the Japanese Language School at Camp Savage. I was involved in holding conferences and teaching about the internment.

**Vietnam: Present and Past- Challenges and Opportunities**
*Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen*

Learn about the legacy of the Chinese, French and United States interactions with this nation. Discussion about how the challenge to foreign rule was brought forward by Ho Chi Minh and how his personality and leadership kept a nation fighting for decades. This conflict remains the most controversial war that the USA participated in and our soldiers were drafted. The erection of the Vietnam Memorial in 1982 attests to the impact of the war on both the US and Vietnam. Issues such as the Boat People, refugees and immigrants, the normalization of relations with the USA and tourism will be covered.

**Women across Culture**
*Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen*

Visual images of women from China, Korea, Philippines, Japan, Burma (Myanmar), India, Pakistan and Indonesia will give us great context for this discussion about political leaders of this region and the impact their leadership has had on the population there. Names to look for are Aung San Suu Kyi, Indira Gandhi, Madam Pandit, Corazon Aquino, Dr. Helen Kim, Madam Chiang Kai Shek, Benazir Bhutto, and Takao Doi. I will lift up some women from Minnesota, such as Gladys Brooks, Senator Muriel Humphrey, Arvonne Fraser and some judges such as Gail Ching Bohr and Senator Mee Moua.

**Women of Africa - Sustaining, Serving, Peacemaking**
*Instructor: James Knutson*

This course takes a look at some of the crucial roles played by African women within their communities. Included are some vignettes of women personally known by the presenter. Slides and commentary offer opportunities for discussion.

**Women's Studies: Commonalities in Pre-Literate Cultures**
*Instructor: Mildred “Mike” Mueller*

The similarities between pre-literate cultures and pre-Columbian North American Indian culture are exceptional, particularly in regards to the roles of women. Various sociological, psychological, historical, and traditional sources were investigated to form commonalities.
The classes labeled **Africa: Mything the Point** can best be understood as new lenses through which to learn about and challenge false beliefs about Africa’s past. These classes can be booked individually or as a series-following numeric order is not required.

**Africa: Mything the Point I**  
*Instructor: Thomas O’Toole*  
*Advanced Booking*  
Selected historical myths about human origins, stateless societies, multiple lifestyles, and Bantu migrations.

**Africa: Mything the Point II**  
*Instructor: Thomas O’Toole*  
*Advanced Booking*  
Selected historical myths about early ‘kingdoms,’ state formation, isolation, and cannibalism.

**Africa: Mything the Point III**  
*Instructor: Thomas O’Toole*  
*Advanced Booking*  
Selected historical myths about the slave trades, European intrusions, and abolition.

**Africa: Mything the Point IV**  
*Instructor: Thomas O’Toole*  
*Advanced Booking*  
Selected historical myths about the differences in colonial theory, colonial practice, and the results of colonialism.

**Africa: Mything the Point V**  
*Instructor: Thomas O’Toole*  
*Advanced Booking*  
Selected historical myths about the 20th century freedom struggles, the Cold War, and independence.

**Africa: Mything the Point VI**  
*Instructor: Thomas O’Toole*  
*Advanced Booking*  
Selected historical myths about the post colonial period – military coups, ethnic conflict, and failed states.

**African Diaspora: The Impact of Africans on the Americas**  
*Instructor: Thomas O’Toole*  
The first African Americans came as a result of the slave trade while today many immigrants come seeking a peaceful life that isn’t possible in their home country. The story of the survival and innovation of Africans in the New World provides us with an introduction to the adaptations and persistence of African cultures on this side of the Atlantic.

**African Roots: Origins of African Americans**  
*Instructor: Thomas O’Toole*  
*Advanced Booking*  
How and why African Americans came to this new world is important to understand, but this understanding isn’t complete without knowing where they are from. African culture is really not one culture but hundreds of cultures on one continent and this course
will examine where African Americans came from in Africa. We will go beyond the “Roots” myths to research based evidence to gain valuable insight into these immigrant groups.

Apollo: Why We Went to the Moon (a non-technical look at mankind’s greatest technological achievement)
Instructor: David Jones

“Landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to the Earth” before the end of the decade was the goal that President Kennedy laid out in 1961. In July of 1969, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the Moon. Even though this even is mankind’s greatest technological achievement, we will instead discuss the political forces in the world and the social forces in this country that propelled us to achieve this goal.

Burma/Myanmar: Monarchy, British Colony, Nationalism, and Military
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen


Cambodia and Laos: Different Roots
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen
Advanced Booking

Famous monuments such as Angkor Wat overwhelm the viewer. Cambodia faced tragedy in the 1970s. The “Killing Fields” will be discussed. I taught this course at Augsburg and to scores of church women a few years ago. The Vietnam War, the impact of land mines plus how several million Cambodians were killed is a tragedy still being investigated. Who are the Hmong from Laos? They are an ethnic group who helped the American airmen during the Vietnam War. A large number of Hmong refugees have settled in MN. Our farmers markets have been enriched by their contributions.

Celebrating Minnesota With Music
Instructor: Carolyn Bliss

This course includes some of the people, places, and things that have been and are important to Minnesota, illustrated with bits of music - such as rivers and lakes, with classic music, Bob Dylan, and Whoopee John. A fun course.

China: An Emerging Economic Giant of the World Stage
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen
Advanced Booking

The changing United States relationship with
HISTORY

this large and developing country, a brief story of China’s relationship with Japan and Russia will be shared. My training in Chinese history, my trips to China in three different decades- mid 1970s, late 1980s, and mid 1990s- will be explored through slides. You will observe and hear of vast changes, dramatic engineering feats- it is a revolution to behold. Changes in the society, government and infrastructure have made the economy leap ahead- notice the items you buy in stores.

Chinese Immigration- When, why, and how did they come to USA?
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen
Advanced Booking

My presentation is the result of research and teaching about how this ethnic group enriched American society. Hear how young Chinese male immigrants gave their lives in the building of our trans-continental railroads in 19th century America, yet they experienced much discrimination. Recall the Chinese Exclusion Laws, the cartoons against them in newspapers and books? We now have world famous Chinese American architects, Ming, educators and scientists. How did this change occur in America?

Cuba: Images Past and Present
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen
Advanced Booking

A former Spanish and American colon, only 90 miles from Florida is a Communist nation. Hear how my legal visit to Cuba via Canada in 2002 with educators and church members gave me a new appreciation for the lack of development and rebuilding of infrastructures in Cuba which Columbus called the most beautiful island he had seen. I met doctors, educators and Government leaders, heard stories of the Cuban revolution, how Fidel Castro gained power, and toppled Baptista. Cuban music, dance still survives.

Four Rebels, Four Patriots, Four Federalists
Instructor: Charles Graham

Ben Franklin, George Washington, John Adams, and Alexander Hamilton came to be revolutionaries by different paths and for different reasons. What were their patriotic roles in the revolution and how did they come down on the Federalist side in the divisive politics of the 1790s?

George Gershwin: A Genius for the People
Instructor: Carolyn Bliss

Beginning in the Jazz Age of the 1920’s, Gershwin’s music was heard on Broadway and in concert halls, sung by popular singers and played on home pianos all over America. And his tunes are still “Swonderful!” He was the first to bridge the gap between popular music and classical. How did he do it?
Globalization: When your children or grandchildren enter the work force, where in the world are the good jobs going to be and who will get them?
Instructor: Frank Wright
Advanced Booking

A look at how the information explosion and the ability to move billions of dollars anywhere in the world at the click of a mouse have internationalized the economy and cultures—and raised immense questions about the impact of all that. Central to the presentation will be the works of New York Times columnist Tom Friedman, who believes that globalization raises all boats, and the critiques of Nobel Prize economist Joseph Stiglitz, who makes strong arguments to the contrary. The rise of China, India and Brazil as major US competitors also will be considered.

Growing Up Indian in a Non-Indian World
Instructor: Mildred “Mike” Mueller

Listen as your presenter shares her memories of a Northern Michigan childhood during the 1930s and 1940s. Explore the differences and the advantages of a bicultural life and the rewards of achieving equilibrium with the best of both worlds. How does this life compare to other pre-literate cultures?

India and Pakistan: Nuclear Powers
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen
Advanced Booking

British rule in India—how and why? Mahatma Gandhi’s non-violent movement; impact of the civil rights movement in the U.S.A. as well as the legacy of the Nehru family: Indira Gandhi, her father, son Rajiv, and aunt Madam Pandit are impressive. My research and travel trips to India and Pakistan have enabled me to compare the potential of both countries. Discussion will include the current outsourcing to India’s silicon valley. Pakistan’s rule as an Islamic state, the role of Ali Jinnah and the Benazir Bhutto family and Christian missionaries’ contributions to educational and medical institutions.

Indonesia: Dutch and Portuguese Legacy—Spices, Coffee, Oil
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen
Advanced Booking

Over 3,000 islands, equal in size to the continental United States, reveal a country rich in natural resources like timber and gas and cultural treasures, such as batik and textiles. Communism and militarism, the Japanese presence, and a developmental economic crisis are discussed. My visit to this country immediately after the Beijing women’s conference (1995) enabled me to compare the development of both nations. Spices first drew Europeans to these islands. The role of Indonesian students working as change agents and the fall of Geneal Suharto after a 30-year rule creates an interesting program.

Japanese-Americans, Pearl Harbor—Hawaii, Internment Camps
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen
Advanced Booking
Over 90% of the Japanese immigrants to the United States in the early 20th century settled in California and Hawaii. After the attack on Pearl Harbor these immigrants on the west coast faced trauma and tragedy as an ethnic community. Many of the people were forced into internment camps although they were American citizens; this challenge to America’s constitution has fueled debate for many years. Sons and daughters of parents in the camps did volunteer to serve in World War II. Japanese immigrants in Hawaii vouched for their loyalty. This topic will be discussed as well as Minnesota’s role as a center for the Japanese Language School at Camp Savage. I was involved in holding conferences and teaching about the internment.

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JFK Assassination: The Mystery & Legend
Instructor: David Jones

After President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963 in Dallas, the Warren Commission concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone. Yet, today, more than 70% of Americans question those findings. Why is that? What is the evidence in dispute? Rather than trying to answer the question, “Who Shot JFK?” this presentation will look at the question, “Why are we still debating this event today?” This will be a very balanced look at one of the pivotal events of the twentieth century.

Lessons for Today: Songs & Stories From the Depression Era
Instructor: Vern Bloom & Maria Brown
Advanced Booking

How was the Depression Era different or similar to today? Learn the history behind some of the great songs of the Depression and learn more about our current times. Listen to such songs as: "Brother Can You Spare a Dime?", "Hallelujah I'm a Bum", "This Land is Your Land" and many others. Traveling troubadour and songwriter Woody Guthrie will be a central figure in this lecture. Join us as we listen to music, watch video clips and share in the stories of this era.

Mexico: Rich History, Culture, Music and Cuisine
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen

College of the Third Age
www.augsburg.edu/thirdage
Last updated February 11, 2012
HISTORY

Advanced Booking

A former Spanish colony, our neighbor south of the border is an ancient civilization with unique pyramids, beautiful sculptures, paintings, fabulous cathedral, strong Roman Catholic traditions, beautiful beaches, and rich natural resources. There was a great loss of land to the United States in the 19th century. How and why did this happen? My visit to Mexico in 2002 resulted in meetings with educators, church leaders (bishops), school teachers and administrators, college and seminary professors, and ordinary Mexicans rich and poor. I will share their stories with you. Popular Mexican cuisine will be discussed.

Music of Social Change II: Labor Unions
Instructor: Vern Bloom & Maria Brown
Advanced Booking

Look back with us to when labor unions were organizing in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Times were tough for workers and violence on both sides was common. We'll sing the songs of miners, millers, and tenant farmers. Songs and singing helped to sustain them during their struggles! Sing familiar favorites such as "Solidarity Forever", "We Shall not be Moved", and others. Co-teachers are Vern Bloom and Maria Brown.

Music of Social Change III: Civil Rights Movement (1950's to 1960's)
Instructor: Vern Bloom & Maria Brown
Advanced Booking

Dr. Martin Luther King and his followers provided the context for many songs of social justice. Remember "This Little Light of Mine", "Blowin' in the Wind", and of course "We Shall Overcome", along with others. Join us as we recall the struggles and triumphs of those dangerous - but hopeful - times!

My Father's Black Bag: Medical Care in the Great Depression
Instructor: Walter Benjamin
Advanced Booking

Health care was just one “luxury” of the Depression that required creativity from both the doctor and the patient. These recollections by the son of a Pipestone County country doctor recall that creativity—of the “Summer Terror” (polio), farm house calls, and payment in kind. Drawn from the new book, The Magical Years: A Boyhood Remembrance the author shares his experience of the Depression and invites others to share as well.

Poetry: Early Poets of the Red River Valley
Instructor: Lawrence Moe
Advanced Booking

Along the border between Minnesota and North Dakota lies the beautiful Red River Valley, a geologically distinct region of rich soil, harsh climate, and overwhelmingly flat land. This Valley was settled in a single pioneer generation, and within the following, native-born generation publishing poets first
flourished there, yielding a wonderful tradition of Midwestern folk poetry never before collected or studied—until now. Professor Moe has located thousands of Valley poems, mainly from 1900-1940, offering memorable pictures of life in the towns and countryside of that once-remote prairie. In this presentation Dr. Moe will focus on the poets (mostly everyday folks), and read selections from the best of their work as an illustration and celebration of the memories those poems hold.

Poetry: The Life and Work of Colorado Pete  
Instructor: Lawrence Moe  
Advanced Booking

A Minnesotan named Arthur Peterson (1896-1932) served honorably in World War I, but came home terribly sick, to spend the rest of his too-short life shifting from one veterans hospital to another. It is a sad story, except that during his years of painful struggle against a terminal condition, he refused to give up on life and so recreated himself as “Colorado Pete,” a robust and romantic poet, who published over 100 poems and acquired a following of admirers who never learned of his real life story until after his death. Professor Moe is the editor of the first and only collection of Pete’s poetry, and in this presentation he will tell Pete’s unforgettable story and share examples of Pete’s unique ways with words.

Poetry: Shakespeare  
Instructor: Lawrence Moe  
Advanced Booking

William Shakespeare (1564-1616) holds a unique place in the history of English literature and language. His plays have been in print and in production for four centuries now with no end in sight, and have easily expanded their appeal from the stage to the cinema. He has added more words and phrases to the English language than any other writer, ever, by far. Shakespeare’s insights into the human heart touch audiences with personal resonance, and his characters are so credibly drawn that we find ourselves thinking about some of them—like Lady Macbeth, or Hamlet—as though they were actual people. In this presentation, Professor Moe will discuss the historical Shakespeare and his continuing influences upon us, with many examples of the Bard’s inexhaustibly magical language.

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The “miracle election” of 1994 was followed by the “we may be able to forgive, but never to forget” Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). A survey of that development and a look at what’s happening now with the TRC. What can we learn from them?

**Stories of the Constellations**  
Instructor: William Arden

Just who was Orion? Why is he never in the sky at the same time as the Scorpion? Which constellations tell a love story with a happy ending, which is unusual in ancient mythology? Many constellations are near each other in the sky for a reason. We’ll dig into the history and mythology behind the patterns and find some sense in their placement.

**The Beijing Olympics and the Szechuan Earthquake**  
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen  
Advanced Booking

Hosting the 2008 Olympics was a major coup for China. The world watched as this nation prepared to host visitors from all over the world. The best athletes in the world competed in Beijing using state of the art facilities, it was a spectacular event. Segments of these sports events, the fabulous opening event will be shown to provide evidence of how china has moved from devastation in 1949 to its rise as an emerging great power on the world stage.

The tragic major earthquake in Szechuan Province is to provide awareness of poor building materials and the impact of the one-
child policy in China when many school children died in the collapsed buildings. A little boy buried in rubble was shown in the opening parade.

The Common Good
Instructor: Joan Campbell

Are we still looking out for our neighbors? How do we define community, and what are we doing to support that community? Join us for an exchange of ideas about the disappearing commitment to inclusive and fair public policy. Can these changes in policy be reversed and should they?

The Diary of Anne Frank- My visit to Amsterdam in 2001
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen

Advanced Booking

In my trip to Amsterdam, I visited and climbed steep attic steps of the home where Anne Frank and her family hid from the Nazis for several months before they were caught and sent to German concentration camps. When I taught European history at Augsburg College I have my students read “The Diary of Anne Frank” to make World War II more realistic to them. This trip took on additional significance as I am a survivor of Japanese occupation in Burma during the same time frame as Anne’s story- I lived in the jungle.

The Legacy of Bing Crosby: The First Pop Star
Instructor: Arne Fogel

Bing Crosby was the first popular singer to combine an intimate, modernistic approach to mass-media communication (the microphone), with a jazz-bred sense of swing. He became the first pop music idol of the century and eventually sold 500 million records. Recorded examples illustrate the evolution of the Crosby style.

The Life of Abraham Lincoln
Instructor: David Johnston

A lecture on the life and times of Abraham Lincoln with a review of his life before the presidency, and his years as the president during the Civil War. The lecture includes a special emphasis on Lincoln’s own words to communicate the life and heart of this amazing man.

The Lincoln Assassination: A Fragile Time
Instructor: David Jones

In April 1865, after four bloody years of fighting, the Civil War was grinding to a conclusion. Although it was clear that the Union had been victorious, no one knew exactly what would happen afterward. At this moment when we needed leadership more than any other time in our history, the man who was arguably our best President was assassinated and replaced by, arguably, one of our worst. And, when John Wilkes Booth shot President Lincoln, only part of his plot to decapitate the government was realized. Amazingly, we survived, reunited, and
thrived. But, it could have ended very differently.

The Magic Microphone: How Pop Singing Changed in the Early 1930's
Instructor: Arne Fogel

In the late 1920's, the advent of electronic mass communications converged with the growing acceptance of African-American-derived jazz and blues to create a new mode of expression for singers and entertainers. Consider the singers of the period like Al Jolson, Bessie Smith, and Louis Armstrong by watching video performances.

The Metis: A New People on Our Doorstep
Instructor: Thomas O'Toole

The Red River Valley stretches between Minnesota and the Dakotas north into Manitoba. It became a center for fur harvesting and trading first by the French and then by Scotch Irish. This course is an introduction to the history and culture of a people who emerged in the Red River Valley as a result of Scotch Irish, Cree, Anisinabe, and French interactions. This offers a clear example of the birth of new ethnic groups.

The Pacific Basin in the 21st Century
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen

Hongkong, Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore are called the “New Tigers” of Asia. All four are former colonies of Britain or Japan. These areas experienced colonization in some form and for different lengths of time. I have traveled in three of these areas, am impressed by the economic development in all four areas which I covered in my teaching at Augsburg College. There is rapid industrialization despite war ravages- they have “pulled themselves up by their bootstraps”. These areas have beautiful beaches, great hotels, gourmet food and great infrastructure. You will enjoy learning about these nationalities.

The Religious Beliefs of American Presidents
Instructor: Charles Graham

In recent campaigns for the presidency, the religious beliefs of the candidates have often been front and center. This course looks at the religious beliefs of past presidents from George Washington through Barack Obama, and the influence those beliefs have had on their policies and actions. It also relates these issues to religious trends through the history of the United States.

The Richness of Not Having: Lessons from the Great Depression
Instructor: Walter Benjamin

Whether you experienced the Depression yourself or remember hearing about it from parents and relatives, these recollections will sound familiar. This course is a reflection on a more simple time, one both harsh and richly rewarding, when heroism of families was pitted against the onslaught of drought, destitution, disease, and depression. Drawn from his book: The Magical Years: A
Boyhood Remembrance.

Two Round the World trips: Educational Memoirs
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen
Advanced Booking

In the first world trip via Asia I accompanied my husband Dr. Vernon Jensen and our young family (3 & 4 years) to Burma on a Fulbright Teaching award in Rangoon, the capital. We stopped in Honolulu, Tokyo, Hongkong via Bangkok to Burma. During mid-year the Burmese military army took over the civilian government, in a coup! It was a frightening experience. We returned home after a year via India with brief stops in Madras and New Delhi, the Rome, Geneva, Copenhagen, the tip of Sweden and New York to visit the United Nations. Brief details to be shared in my talk.

Our second world trip with family began in Washington D.C. with our children now in at U. I was awarded a year of sabbatical leave, my husband a one quarter leave. Our foreign trip began in England (two and a half months- London, Blenheim) then France (Paris, Avignon) Rome, Athens, India (2-months- Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Hyderabad, Calcutta and Lucknow), Sri Lanka, Burma which the family visited without me-reason to be shared in lecture. Family departed from India in two Paris, father & son and mother and daughter with our research projects. Return trips for father and son were via Hongkong, South Korea (Seoul), Honolulu, Hilo and Los Angeles. The mother and daughter added Sri Lanka, Manila and Tokyo.

Uprooting Japanese-Americans in World War II - the church’s response
Instructor: Frank Wright
Advanced Booking

Over 90% of the Japanese immigrants to the United States in the early 20th century settled in California and Hawaii. After the attack on Pearl Harbor these immigrants on the west coast faced trauma and tragedy as an ethnic community. Many of the people were forced into internment camps although they were American citizens; this challenge to America’s constitution has fueled debate for many years. Sons and daughters of parents in the camps did volunteer to serve in World War II. Japanese immigrants in Hawaii vouched for their loyalty. This topic will be discussed as well as Minnesota’s role as a center for the Japanese Language School at Camp Savage. I was involved in holding conferences and teaching about the internment.

Vietnam: Present and Past- Challenges and Opportunities
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen
Advanced Booking

Learn about the legacy of the Chinese, French and United States interactions with this nation. Discussion about how the challenge to foreign rule was brought forward by Ho Chi Minh and how his personality and leadership kept a nation fighting for decades. This conflict remains the most controversial war that the USA
participated in and our soldiers were drafted. The erection of the Vietnam Memorial in 1982 attests to the impact of the war on both the US and Vietnam. Issues such as the Boat People, refugees and immigrants, the normalization of relations with the USA and tourism will be covered.

**What is a Liberal and Who Claims to Be One?**  
*Instructor: Charles Graham*

Join us for a brief look at liberalism in the American political spectrum. Find out how the Liberal label evolved from Herbert Hoover to the present. Find out why yesterday’s liberals are today’s conservatives.

**Why Turkey?**  
*Instructor: Mildred “Mike” Mueller*

Explore the historical significance of the Anatolian Peninsula from various perspectives: historical, archeological, religious, and artistic. The Anatolian Peninsula was not just the crossroads for dozens of ancient civilizations, but the site of the seven churches of Paul and the location of the world’s oldest known ‘city’. The Turks have been much misunderstood, but deserve a more insightful understanding.

**Women across Culture**  
*Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen*

Advanced Booking

Visual images of women from China, Korea, Philippines, Japan, Burma (Myanmar), India, Pakistan and Indonesia will give us great context for this discussion about political leaders of this region and the impact their leadership has had on the population there. Names to look for are Aung San Suu Kyi, Indira Ganhdi, Madam Pandit, Corazon Aquino, Dr. Helen Kim, Madam Chiang Kai Shek, Benazir Bhutto, and Takao Doi. I will lift up some women from Minnesota, such as Gladys Brooks, Senator Muriel Humphrey, Arvonne Fraser and some judges such as Gail Ching Bohr and Senator Mee Moua.

**Women in Astronomy**  
*Instructor: William Arden*

Sure, you've heard of Edwin Hubble, Copernicus and Galileo. Maybe you've heard of William Herschel, too. But what about Anne Jump Cannon, Cecilia Payne and Henrietta Leavitt? Or the other Herschel - Caroline? Did you know that Jocelyn Bell discovered pulsars? This class explores the contributions of women to the science of astronomy throughout history.
Chinese Immigration - When, why, and how did they come to USA?
_Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen_
_Advanced Booking_

My presentation is the result of research and teaching about how this ethnic group enriched American society. Hear how young Chinese male immigrants gave their lives in the building of our trans-continental railroads in 19th century America, yet they experienced much discrimination. Recall the Chinese Exclusion Laws, the cartoons against them in newspapers and books? We now have world famous Chinese American architects, Ming, educators and scientists. How did this change occur in America?

George McDonald: Renegade or Visionary?
_Instructor: Ruth Aaskov_

Discover why a late 19th-century Scottish preacher turned to writing fiction. His writings influenced many authors like C.S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, Madeleine L’Engle and have inspired rock, jazz and new age musicians. Find out how McDonald’s imaginative semi-Gothic writing has been brought into the present.

Madeleine L’Engle's Journal
_Instructor: Ruth Aaskov_

Madeleine L’Engle is a contemporary author of children's literature, science fiction, poetry, essays, and adult fiction. L’Engle reveals her faith journey in the four volumes of the "Crosswick Journal". Published in 1984 and named for the home and retreat she shared with her family, “Crosswick Journal” is a reflection of her life and career.

Poetry: Classics in English
_Instructor: Lawrence Moe_
_Advanced Booking_

A “classic” poem may be thought of as one widely recognized for high levels of artistic or historical significance, one that has withstood the test of time. Shakespeare is just one of the poets capable of transcending their times and audiences, to stimulate intensely real ideas and emotions in very different audiences today, across spans of generations, even of centuries. As we see with the best composers or painters, such artists tap into deep and durable experiences and concerns of real people, including life and death, love and hate, joy and fear, and a myriad of other common and not-so-common human experiences. In this presentation, Professor Moe gives attention to what makes a poem a classic, but the emphasis is on joyful appreciation.

Poetry: Christian Ideas in Verse
_Instructor: Lawrence Moe_
_Advanced Booking_

Poetry has been written in English for 1,300 years, and our poets have often drawn on Christian ideas. Religious poetry was the principal type preserved from the Anglo-Saxon period, including _Beowulf_. Later poets such as John Donne, John Milton, Emily Dickenson, and Gerard Manley Hopkins illustrate the wide range of styles.
and perspectives in religious verse, from lyric to epic, from devout to doubtful. Using their keen insights into spirituality, combined with their command of the language, poets have found striking and thoughtful ways to challenge us to reflect upon a remarkable variety of religious ideas. In this presentation, Professor Moe will review examples of English poetry having Christian content, with discussion of related literary and theological issues.

**Poetry: Early Poets of the Red River Valley**  
*Instructor: Lawrence Moe*  
*Advanced Booking*

Along the border between Minnesota and North Dakota lies the beautiful Red River Valley, a geologically distinct region of rich soil, harsh climate, and overwhelmingly flat land. This Valley was settled in a single pioneer generation, and within the following, native-born generation publishing poets first flourished there, yielding a wonderful tradition of Midwestern folk poetry never before collected or studied—until now. Professor Moe has located thousands of Valley poems, mainly from 1900-1940, offering memorable pictures of life in the towns and countryside of that once-remote prairie. In this presentation Dr. Moe will focus on the poets (mostly everyday folks), and read selections from the best of their work as an illustration and celebration of the memories those poems hold.

**Poetry: Light Verse**  
*Instructor: Lawrence Moe*  
*Advanced Booking*

Light verse is poetry designed to be amusing or funny, and it has been written in many languages since antiquity. Types of light verse include epigrams, limericks, tongue-twisters, and nursery rhymes, with all manner of nonsense poetry. Satire, parody, irony, paradox, wit, or absurdity may freely be woven through these poems, which are often short and carefully crafted in diction and meter. The playful or comical tone is more important than the subject matter, as light verse treats all kinds of topics, including some not usually regarded as funny. In this presentation, Professor Moe will present examples of light verse from the last two centuries, with many opportunities for discussion, and for laughter!

**Poetry: Shakespeare**  
*Instructor: Lawrence Moe*  
*Advanced Booking*

William Shakespeare (1564-1616) holds a unique place in the history of English literature and language. His plays have been in print and in production for four centuries now with no end in sight, and have easily expanded their appeal from the stage to the cinema. He has added more words and phrases to the English language than any other writer, ever, by far. Shakespeare’s insights into the human heart touch audiences with personal resonance, and his characters are so credibly drawn that we find ourselves thinking about some of them—like Lady Macbeth, or Hamlet—as though they were actual people. In this presentation, Professor
Moe will discuss the historical Shakespeare and his continuing influences upon us, with many examples of the Bard's inexhaustibly magical language.

Poetry: The Life and Work of Colorado Pete

_Instructor: Lawrence Moe_

Advanced Booking

A Minnesotan named Arthur Peterson (1896-1932) served honorably in World War I, but came home terribly sick, to spend the rest of his too-short life shifting from one veterans hospital to another. It is a sad story, except that during his years of painful struggle against a terminal condition, he refused to give up on life and so recreated himself as “Colorado Pete,” a robust and romantic poet, who published over 100 poems and acquired a following of admirers who never learned of his real life story until after his death. Professor Moe is the editor of the first and only collection of Pete’s poetry, and in this presentation he will tell Pete’s unforgettable story and share examples of Pete’s unique ways with words.

The Diary of Anne Frank- My visit to Amsterdam in 2001

_Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen_

Advanced Booking

In my trip to Amsterdam, I visited and climbed steep attic steps of the home where Anne Frank and her family hid from the Nazis for several months before they were caught and sent to German concentration camps. When I taught European history at Augsburg College I have my students read “The Diary of Anne Frank” to make World War II more realistic to them. This trip took on additional significance as I am a survivor of Japanese occupation in Burma during the same time frame as Anne’s story- I lived in the jungle.

The Kite Runner- Novel related to Afghanistan

_Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen_

Advanced Booking

Khaled Hossein’s moving portrait of modern Afghanistan in the 1970s, the description of the Russians, the Taliban cruelty is realistic and educational. He describes the collapse and the destruction of a beautiful country. The lifestyle of the immigrant afghan community in California is educational. ‘The Kite Runner’ is a best-selling novel and movie. It is the powerful and haunting story of relationships and friendship between two young boys from different economic status who loved Kite-flying. This sport is very popular among Afghans. The novel tugs at your heart. Reading of the novel is recommended but not required.

Two Poets Responding to the World Wars: Words That Still Speak Today

_Instructor: Elizabeth Burns_

During this seminar, participants will first study and discuss W.H. Auden's "September 1, 1939," which responds to Hitler's invasion of Poland. Then, participants will read and talk about W.B. Yeats's poem "The Second
"Coming," in which the poet meditates on the loss of hope and fear of the future, reflecting on both World War II, and "The Troubles" in Ireland. Poems provided!
MUSIC

American Originals
Instructor: Carolyn Bliss

What makes American music “American?”
What does it sound like? Listen to a sampler of uniquely American music including composers like Stephen Foster, John Philip Sousa, George Gershwin, and more.

Celebrating Minnesota With Music
Instructor: Carolyn Bliss

This course includes some of the people, places, and things that have been and are important to Minnesota, illustrated with bits of music - such as rivers and lakes, with classic music, Bob Dylan, and Whoopie John. A fun course.

George Gershwin: A Genius for the People
Instructor: Carolyn Bliss

Beginning in the Jazz Age of the 1920’s, Gershwin’s music was heard on Broadway and in concert halls, sung by popular singers and played on home pianos all over America. And his tunes are still “Swonderful!” He was the first to bridge the gap between popular music and classical. How did he do it?

George Gershwin: An Hour with ‘Porgy and Bess’
Instructor: Carolyn Bliss

Hear and see Gershwin’s masterpiece, loaded with wonderful melodies and memorable characters. Take a quick trip to Catfish Row (the opera’s location) and hear the stories of real people in a real place, living and loving; stories of tragedy and hope told in Gershwin’s incomparable music.

Great Music of Faith
Instructor: Ronald Nelson
Advanced Booking

Spend an hour listening to music of the faithful, everything from the Gregorian chants of the Middle Ages through the “Hallelujah Chorus” and into the 21st century.

Lessons for Today: Songs & Stories From the Depression Era
Instructor: Vern Bloom & Maria Brown
Advanced Booking

How was the Depression Era different or similar to today? Learn the history behind some of the great songs of the Depression and learn more about our current times. Listen to such songs as: "Brother Can You Spare a Dime?", "Hallelujah I'm a Bum", "This Land is Your Land" and many others. Traveling troubadour and songwriter Woody Guthrie will be a central figure in this lecture. Join us as we listen to music, watch video clips and share in the stories of this era.

Music of Many Cultures
Instructor: Ronald Nelson
Advanced Booking

"Around the World in 60 Minutes!" A one hour trip exploring native folk and folk-related music from many parts of the globe. Hear amazing similarities and interesting
differences in these native voices and instruments from many cultures.

Music of Many MORE Cultures
Instructor: Ronald Nelson
Advanced Booking

Continue your trip around the World! An exploration of folk music from places all around the globe, not visited during your previous trip.

Music of Social Change I: Women's Issues
Instructors: Vern Bloom & Maria Brown
Advanced Booking

Sing the songs of women's issues related to suffrage, unions, civil rights, and peace movements. Sing songs written about female heroines such as Harriet Tubman and Amelia Earhart. We will also teach and sing the songs of union activists - Holly Near, Malvina Reynolds, Cris Williamson, and others.

Music of Social Change II: Labor Unions
Instructor: Vern Bloom & Maria Brown
Advanced Booking

Look back with us to when labor unions were organizing in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Times were tough for workers and violence on both sides was common. We'll sing the songs of miners, millers, and tenant farmers. Songs and singing helped to sustain them during their struggles! Sing familiar favorites such as "Solidarity Forever", "We Shall not be Moved", and others. Co-teachers are Vern Bloom and Maria Brown.

Music of Social Change III: Civil Rights Movement (1950's to 1960's)
Instructor: Vern Bloom & Maria Brown

Dr. Martin Luther King and his followers provided the context for many songs of social justice. Remember "This Little Light of Mine", "Blowin' in the Wind", and of course "We Shall Overcome", along with others. Join us as we recall the struggles and triumphs of those dangerous - but hopeful - times!

Music: Learning to Listen
Instructor: Ronald Nelson
Advanced Booking

Discussion of themes in music and their development, illustrated by recorded performances and discussion.

Musical Pictures - Worth a Thousand Words
Instructor: Ronald Nelson
Advanced Booking

From storms to sunsets, from rivers to oceans, composers have used a musical palette to paint their pictures. The results are often more vivid than either words or visual arts could accomplish. How do they do it, and what added advantages might these
Singing the Christmas Story with St. Luke
_Instructor: Carolyn Bliss_

The birth of Jesus as told in St. Luke's gospel is surrounded in song. And people have been singing about this birth story ever since. A look at the songs of Luke, chapters 1-2, and the hymns and carols that have grown out of the familiar words of Luke 2:1-14. Class includes carol singing. Suitable for church adult class presentation.

Songs of Hiawatha: Music Suggested by Longfellow's Epic Poem
_Instructor: Carolyn Bliss_

Do you remember “By the shores of Gitchee Gumi” and Nokomis and Minnehaha? Hear Hiawatha’s story in Longfellow’s poetry accompanied by music that paints the picture. Class includes background on the poem, reading the poem and listening to music. Designed for four-part series but can be abbreviated.

The Definitive Voice: The Recordings of Frank Sinatra
_Instructor: Arne Fogel_

Frank Sinatra provided us with the definitive interpretations of hundreds of classic pop songs in a style that has proven to be timeless. Discover the roots of the Sinatra style and the attributes of his singing that have come to represent the absolute pinnacle of the art of pop song interpretation.

The Legacy of Bing Crosby: The First Pop Star
_Instructor: Arne Fogel_

Bing Crosby was the first popular singer to combine an intimate, modernistic approach to mass-media communication (the microphone), with a jazz-bred sense of swing. He became the first pop music idol of the century and eventually sold 500 million records. Recorded examples illustrate the evolution of the Crosby style.

The Magic Microphone: How Pop Singing Changed in the Early 1930's
_Instructor: Arne Fogel_

In the late 1920's, the advent of electronic mass communications converged with the growing acceptance of African-American-derived jazz and blues to create a new mode of expression for singers and entertainers. Consider the singers of the period like Al Jolson, Bessie Smith, and Louis Armstrong by watching video performances.
A Good Word for the Humanities  
_Instructor: Frank Dreisbach  
Advanced Booking_

A fact is a fact is a fact. Not quite, say the Humanities, which explores the human dimension of a fact: for example, its tragedy, or its humor, or its beauty. This discussion attempts a defense of the Humanities especially in a culture drawn in other, philistine directions.

**Alone in Academia: Forty Years Within the Ivy Tower**  
_Instructor: Walter Benjamin  
Advanced Booking_

The importance of education to personal success is much talked about these days. Today the people we often depend on have spent many years on college campuses. This course explores "post-modernism" and "political correctness" and other movements taking place within the intellectual, social, and moral culture in American universities today.

**Christianity in Africa**  
_Instructor: James Knutson_

The "secret" is getting out. Christianity's center of gravity has shifted to the south. Africa, with its many problems and rapidly growing churches, is a vital part of this development. What are some of the prospects for them? What are some of the challenges for us?

**Conservative vs. Liberal: Philosophical Values in Conflict**  
_Instructor: Walter Benjamin  
Advanced Booking_

Conservative and Liberal are just two of many words that people can use to describe themselves. The list of reasons for choosing one over the other is long and isn’t confined to politics. Join us for a non-political presentation of the differences the two groups hold regarding American institutions, history, human nature, religion, justice, and other categories.

**Creativity**  
_Instructor: Frank Dreisbach  
Advanced Booking_

Whether we are creating art or ourselves, certain conditions are present. Our discussion examines those conditions, while acknowledging that when it comes to art, the creative process eludes our attempts to fully understand it.

**Do You Have A Bucket List?**  
_Instructor: Walter Benjamin_

When possible, I play a 5-minute segment of the film "Bucket List" starring Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson. Freeman is a bright, black, and poor auto mechanic while Nicholson is a multimillionaire Daddy Warbucks type. Both have cancer and will die within 6-12 months. They collaborate on items they want to do before they die and jet off to Egypt, India, Africa, Hong Kong and other venues and develop a deep relationship while doing so. I then switch to my personal
journey through cancer (surgery, chemo, radiation) and how I worked off my bucket list (Arctic Plunge, India, Skydiving) in 2011. I summarize by indicating the importance of pushing out our personal frontiers and risk taking of our physical, mental, and emotional boundaries before we die.

**Does Faith Heal? The Creative Intersection Between Medicine and Religion**  
*Instructor: Walter Benjamin*  
*Advanced Booking*

Should we pray for healing? What are we to think of the popular "faith healers?" What does the medical profession think about the power of faith to heal? Are certain illnesses beyond the power of faith to heal? With claims of faith healing just a mouse or remote click away it is important to talk about the ways of healing to discover what we really believe.

**Creativity**  
*Instructor: Frank Dreisbach*  
*Advanced Booking*

Whether we are creating art or ourselves, certain conditions are present. Our discussion examines those conditions, while acknowledging that when it comes to art, the creative process eludes our attempts to fully understand it.

**Doubters Welcome**  
*Instructor: Frank Dreisbach*  
*Advanced Booking*

Not all skepticism is anathema to religious belief, nor need churches condemn those who enter their doors with doubts on their mind. Our discussion will attempt to distinguish between a healthy doubt and other forms of skepticism less productive. The doubting mind, when it is also an open mind, can actually be a prelude to faith.

**Ethics in a Nutshell**  
*Instructor: Frank Dreisbach*  
*Advanced Booking*

What are grounds for identifying something as right or wrong? Is it the consequences, or the motive, or is it something about the act itself? Or, perhaps, there are moral rules to be upheld. Our discussion should help us to understand our own position as well as the position of others with whom we may disagree.

**Faith and Contemporary Issues**  
*Instructor: Duane Addison*

How can we faithfully and responsibly discuss urgent issues brought to us by society? What beliefs and values count? How can we agree and differ? We can focus on our faithful approach and/or on specific issues such as violence, race/culture, environment and economics.

**George McDonald: Renegade or Visionary?**  
*Instructor: Ruth Aaskov*
Discover why a late 19th-century Scottish preacher turned to writing fiction. His writings influenced many authors like C.S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, Madeleine L’Engle and have inspired rock, jazz and new age musicians. Find out how McDonald’s imaginative semi-Gothic writing has been brought into the present.

**Growing up in a Buddhist Country—Burma/Myanmar**  
*Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen*  
*Advanced Booking*

This presentation may be selected for a holiday time. Growing up in a country with strong Buddhist traditions made me tolerant of other religions and curious about their customs. As a young adult I attended Buddhist religious ceremonies and visited gold covered pagodas with my mother, a devout Buddhist. I looked for some similarities in holiday celebrations—like decorations with lights, etc. Comments on Muslim, Hinduism and Buddhism will be shared as practiced in Burma.

**Happiness**  
*Instructor: Frank Dreisbach*  
*Advanced Booking*

Whether or not we are happy depends partly upon our definition of happiness. When our definition is too narrow, it can be helpful to remember that each season of life has its own special blessings. Our discussion will briefly explore those blessings.

**Hebrew Prophets Today**  
*Instructor: Duane Addison*

In this course we will have a conversation about selected Old Testament prophets, looking at their times, their persons and their words by using Jewish and Christian guides. These amazing people disturb and inspire with a very contemporary message.

Note: *Hebrew Prophets Today* is offered in one session or in a series on one or several prophets such as Amos, Isaiah, or Jeremiah.

**Jesus for the New Millennium**  
*Instructor: Duane Addison*

Jesus has fascinated and challenged millions in diverse cultures for nearly 2,000 years—and especially today. Take a new "look" at Jesus as we listen to other religions, contemporary voices, gospel texts, and our own insights.

**Lessons From Nature**  
*Instructor: Frank Dreisbach*  
*Advanced Booking*

We have much to learn from the birds, the insects, and other creatures as close as our own backyards, for example, about sex, or death, or power, or justice. Sometimes there is a wisdom to nature which we had not considered.

**Madeleine L’Engle’s Journal**  
*Instructor: Ruth Aaskov*

Madeleine L’Engle is a contemporary author of children’s literature, science fiction, poetry, essays, and adult fiction. L’Engle
reveals her faith journey in the four volumes of the "Crosswick Journal”. Published in 1984 and named for the home and retreat she shared with her family, “Crosswick Journal” is a reflection of her life and career.

**Militant Islam**  
*Instructor: Duane Addison*

"Why do they hate us?" Since 9/11/01, many have wondered about the expressions of Islam that are angry at America and "the West", and often Judaism and Christianity. Who are "they" and how do they relate to other Muslims? What is more dangerous: their actions and speech or our response? Bring your questions for a thoughtful discussion about this topic.

Note: Pair this offering with *The Challenge of Islam* to gain a deeper understanding of this timely topic.

**No More One Way Streets**  
*Instructor: James Knutson*

Actually Global Mission involvement has never been a one way street. However, today we are being challenged more than ever to be open to receiving and learning, as well as giving and teaching.

**Our New Religious Neighbors**  
*Instructor: Duane Addison*

During the past generation, the United States has become the world’s most religiously diverse nation. We will explore this reality both nationally and locally as we meet our new Hindu, Buddhist, and Muslim neighbors.

**Reflections on the Morality of War After September 11, 2001**  
*Instructor: Walter Benjamin*  
*Advanced Booking*

This course offers an examination of pacifism, the jihad, and the principles of "just war" theory. Knowing what these terms really mean can help us to better understand and discuss related terms like “international terrorism” and “preemptive military attack” and what these actions mean to us as Americans.

**Religion, Coping, and Grief**  
*Instructor: Leola Dyrud Furman*

How can we go on coping after we have experienced the loss of a loved one or are experiencing a terminal illness? How can we be of support to friends and family who are in bereavement? Using religion as a source of empowerment, this presentation will explore possible approaches and responses to these questions.

**Shaping Our Environmental Philosophy**  
*Instructor: Frank Dreisbach*  
*Advanced Booking*

Environmentalists come in all shapes and sizes and are frequently strange bedfellows. This discussion attempts a typology of environmentalists, and observes that being an environmentalist means caring for the environment, but also caring which environmental philosophy we choose.
Stem Cell Research: Disease-Free Utopia or "Brave New World" Nightmare?
Instructor: Walter Benjamin
Advanced Booking

News that stem cell research could help find cures for terrible genetic diseases has made stem cell research a topic of debate for years. What are the benefits and what are the drawbacks? We will debate the issue of whether we are wise enough to "design" our descendants.

Stretching Our Theological Imaginations
Instructor: Frank Dreisbach
Advanced Booking

Major religious belief systems, if not by their answers, at least by their questions, arouse our theological imagination. When we think at the theological level we ponder such questions as the human condition and its repair, the problem of evil, the existence of God, and the validation of religious beliefs.

The Appeal of Buddhism
Instructor: Duane Addison

This ancient and fascinating way of compassion, peace, transformation and wisdom appeals to many today. Buddhism is present in a variety of forms in our nation and in our neighborhoods. How can we understand and learn from the teaching and path of the Buddha?

The Challenge of Islam
Instructor: Duane Addison

This worldwide faith shaped by the prophet Muhammad is alive and growing, raising questions for our nation and our churches. Who are Muslims and what do they believe? Through instruction and discussion we can better understand the faith of Islam and discover new ways to relate to one another.

The Creeds of the Christian Church
Instructor: Ruth Aaskov

Why have creeds? Why is there more than one? The language of the major creeds came out of centuries of turmoil, controversy, and struggle for the truth. We, the inheritors of creeds, need to know to appreciate and better understand the familiar words.

The Ethics of Health Care Rationing
Instructor: Walter Benjamin

Everyone is talking about health care these days. While it is a very personal topic for most Americans, it is an issue many countries deal with in very different ways. We will review ethical models and practices to discover just and unjust ways of distributing scarce medical resources. Does America have a unique culture that will allow only a certain form of rationing?

The Gospels - Portraits of Jesus
Instructor: Duane Addison

Through the skills of the remarkable artists who gave to us our four canonical Gospels and with your own imagination discover a deeper appreciation of Jesus. Learn more about the authors who present these loving and exciting, but different pictures of Jesus. Their insights and emphases paint
The Language and Imagery of the Bible
Instructor: Philip Quanbeck

The Bible uses many more metaphors and images than we sometimes suppose. This is a consideration of some of these images.

The Many Faces of God
Instructor: Frank Dreisbach
Advanced Booking

Have we become too pragmatic with our descriptions of God? The many faces of God suggest a wide-ranging conception of the divine, from the basic elements of nature to the basic experiences and values of humanity. Our discussion asks if we have become too preoccupied with the advantages of belief, leading to the neglect of the majesty and mystery of what one theologian calls "the God above God."

The Moral Dimensions of the Terri Schiavo Case
Instructor: Walter Benjamin
Advanced Booking

There are some events that have the power to create controversy and this has proven to be one of them. It can be very difficult to make sense of what is right and what is wrong. Can we humanize and shorten the dying process and still remain within well accepted moral boundaries? This one question, as illustrated by the events surrounding Terri Schiavo’s life and death, offers us the opportunity to examine some of the values we often take for granted.

The Mundane and the Exceptional
Instructor: Philip Quanbeck

The mundane and the exceptional: Proverbs and Job. A look at faith and behavior when life is more or less predictable and when tragic events occur.

The Mystics
Instructor: Frank Dreisbach
Advanced Booking

Mystics are found in most if not all religions. Our discussion attempts to summarize what they report and thus to explore the peaks and valleys of religious experience in general.

The Optimist vs. the Pessimist
Instructor: Frank Dreisbach
Advanced Booking

When we take stock of the times we live in with its various evils and joys, shall we be pessimistic or optimistic? This discussion explores arguments on both sides, but proposes that the optimist has the edge.

The Unique Features of the Gospel of John
Instructor: Philip Quanbeck

The Gospel of John is unique among the gospels of the New Testament. This is a look at its presentation of Jesus.

The War on Terrorism: Who's Winning? How Do We Know?
Instructor: Frank Wright
Advanced Booking

An assessment of where we stand today in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the broader war on terrorism, one of the longest armed conflicts in our history. Some guesses at the future. What is victory?

The Wisdom of American Indian Religions
Instructor: Duane Addison

Gain an appreciation of traditional ways of knowing and living as they are revealed in the spiritual paths of the first Americans. Learn how primal religions and the quest for the sacred began and how they continue today. Included will be a discussion of our history of oppression and injustice with special attention given to the Dakota and Ojibwa of this region.

To Forgive is Good for Your Spiritual and Physical Health
Instructor: Leola Dyrud Furman

This presentation will describe why it is important to forgive, explain the key elements to forgiveness, and the complexities of forgiveness. Participants will also learn about the relationship between forgiveness and health, the obstacles to forgiveness, and learn about the impact of religion on forgiveness.

Understanding the Faiths of Others
Instructor: Duane Addison

During this session we will take an appreciative look at non-Christian religions. What attitude and questions can we bring? How can we listen and share? In this course you will learn some of the basics of these religions and through discussion find your own understanding of how this faith relates to your own religious life.

What Really Matters
Instructor: Frank Dreisbach
Advanced Booking

Life is teeming with values. But values often cost other values. The trade-offs are perplexing until we can determine which values matter more than others, and which values, if any, matters the most. This discussion urges us to consider the many values at stake in a particular decision, and to give some sensible order to their priority.

Why Turkey?
Instructor: Mildred “Mike” Mueller

Explore the historical significance of the Anatolian Peninsula from various perspectives: historical, archeological, religious, and artistic. The Anatolian Peninsula was not just the crossroads for dozens of ancient civilizations, but the site of the seven churches of Paul and the location of the world’s oldest known ‘city’. The Turks have been much misunderstood, but deserve a more insightful understanding.
**Burma/Myanmar: Monarchy, British Colony, Nationalism, and Military**  
*Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen*  
*Advanced Booking*


**Four Rebels, Four Patriots, Four Federalists**  
*Instructor: Charles Graham*

Ben Franklin, George Washington, John Adams, and Alexander Hamilton came to be revolutionaries by different paths and for different reasons. What were their patriotic roles in the revolution and how did they come down on the Federalist side in the divisive politics of the 1790s?

**Growing Up Indian in a Non-Indian World**  
*Instructor: Mildred “Mike” Mueller*

Listen as your presenter shares her memories of a Northern Michigan childhood during the 1930s and 1940s. Explore the differences and the advantages of a bicultural life and the rewards of achieving equilibrium with the best of both worlds. How does this life compare to other pre-literate cultures?

**India and Pakistan: Nuclear Powers**  
*Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen*  
*Advanced Booking*

British rule in India- how and why? Mahatma Gandhi’s non-violent movement; impact of the civil rights movement in the U.S.A. as well as the legacy of the Nehru family: Indira Gandhi, her father, son Rajiv, and aunt- Madam Pandit are impressive. My research and travel trips to India and Pakistan have enabled me to compare the potential of both countries. Discussion will include the current outsourcing to India’s silicon valley. Pakistan’s rule as an Islamic state, the role of Ali Jinnah and the Benazir Bhutto family and Christian missionaries’ contributions to educational and medical institutions.

**Indonesia: Dutch and Portuguese Legacy—Spices, Coffee, Oil**  
*Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen*  
*Advanced Booking*

Over 3,000 islands, equal in size to the continental United States, reveal a country rich in natural resources like timber and gas and cultural treasures, such as batik and textiles. Communism and militarism, the Japanese presence, and a developmental
economic crisis are discussed. My visit to this country immediately after the Beijing women’s conference (1995) enabled me to compare the development of both nations. Spices first drew Europeans to these islands. The role of Indonesian students working as change agents and the fall of General Suharto after a 30-year rule creates an interesting program.

Israel and the Palestinians - Will Peace Ever Come?
_Instructor: Frank Wright_  
**Advanced Booking**

All the parties know what a final agreement on the major issues will contain. That is no secret, as they will tell you privately in candid moments. But what are the prospects for progress with a new hard-line prime minister in control in Israel and the Palestinians badly split between Fatah in the West Bank and Hamas in Gaza? How much influence can the international community, including a new US president, bring to bear?

Korea: A Peninsula with Two Republics
_Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen_  
**Advanced Booking**

Korea was one country till the Korean War ended in 1953. Since 1910 it was a victim of Japanese colonial rule. During the 1990s the Korean Kingdom was the center of rivalry between China, Russia and Japan. This presentation will clarify reasons for the Korean War in 1950, the U.N. involvement and USA troops fighting in Asia with General MacArthur as a controversial figure. South Korea today is a modern democratic developed republic. I visited it at two different time’s in 1977 and 1985 and witnessed an amazing infrastructure change. North Korean became a Communist nation and has now secured nuclear capability. Comments of the adoption of Korean orphans in Minnesota will be included.

Liberalism vs. Conservatism
_Instructor: Walter Benjamin_  
**Advanced Booking**

Warning! Take Comfort! This is not a Political Talk! This presentation is without bias! We will investigate the underlying values and philosophies that separate the two major political orientations in America. We will look at how these two orientations differ on their approaches to the State, Justice, Institutions, Scripture, History, and Human Nature.

Mexico: Rich History, Culture, Music and Cuisine
_Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen_  
**Advanced Booking**

A former Spanish colony, our neighbor south of the border is an ancient civilization with unique pyramids, beautiful sculptures, paintings, fabulous cathedral, strong Roman Catholic traditions, beautiful beaches, and rich natural resources. There was a great loss
of land to the United States in the 19th century. How and why did this happen? My visit to Mexico in 2002 resulted in meetings with educators, church leaders (bishops), school teachers and administrators, college and seminary professors, and ordinary Mexicans rich and poor. I will share their stories with you. Popular Mexican cuisine will be discussed.

**Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution**  
*Instructor: Frank Wright*  
*Advanced Booking*

This discussion will focus on special U.S. envoys, such as the successful assignments of Richard Holbrooke in Bosnia and George Mitchell in Northern Ireland and their current assignments to Pakistan and Israel/Palestine, respectively. Do they help by raising priorities or hinder by complicating normal diplomatic relations? We will also focus on the role of smaller nations as mediators, particularly Norway and Finland.

**Reflections on the Morality of War After September 11, 2001**  
*Instructor: Walter Benjamin*  
*Advanced Booking*

This course offers an examination of pacifism, the jihad, and the principles of "just war" theory. Knowing what these terms really mean can help us to better understand and discuss related terms like "international terrorism" and "preemptive military attack" and what these actions mean to us as Americans.

**South Africa: From 'Polecat' to 'Rainbow Nation'**  
*Instructor: James Knutson*

The “miracle election” of 1994 was followed by the “we may be able to forgive, but never to forget” Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). A survey of that development and a look at what’s happening now with the TRC. What can we learn from them?

**South Africa: Slowly Changing Course**  
*Instructor: James Knutson*

How are the people of South Africa dealing with the challenges facing them in their fledgling democracy? What about the churches’ role?

**The Beijing Olympics and the Szechuan Earthquake**  
*Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen*  
*Advanced Booking*

Hosting the 2008 Olympics was a major coup for China. The world watched as this nation prepared to host visitors from all over the world. The best athletes in the world competed in Beijing using state of the art facilities, it was a spectacular event. Segments of these sports events, the fabulous opening event will be shown to provide evidence of how China has moved from devastation in 1949 to its rise as an emerging great power on the world stage.

The tragic major earthquake in Szechuan
Province is to provide awareness of poor building materials and the impact of the one-child policy in China when many school children died in the collapsed buildings. A little boy buried in rubble was shown in the opening parade.

The Common Good
Instructor: Joan Campbell

Are we still looking out for our neighbors? How do we define community, and what are we doing to support that community? Join us for an exchange of ideas about the disappearing commitment to inclusive and fair public policy. Can these changes in policy be reversed and should they?

The Dilemma of the Persian Gulf
Instructor: Frank Wright
Advanced Booking

One little word describes the source of the always troubled, always tense relationship between the United States and the Gulf Countries—oil. Like it or not, we are dependent on their oil for our very existence. They effectively control the world price of this essential product, influencing our economy every day. And because of their combative relationship with Israel, the principal U.S. ally in the Middle East, we regularly find ourselves caught in the middle, forced to do a dangerous balancing act. Discussions of the history and future possibilities.

The Lincoln Assassination: A Fragile Time
Instructor: David Jones

In April 1865, after four bloody years of fighting, the Civil War was grinding to a conclusion. Although it was clear that the Union had been victorious, no one knew exactly what would happen afterward. At this moment when we needed leadership more than any other time in our history, the man who was arguably our best President was assassinated and replaced by, arguably, one of our worst. And, when John Wilkes Booth shot President Lincoln, only part of his plot to decapitate the government was realized. Amazingly, we survived, reunited, and thrived. But, it could have ended very differently.

The Religious Beliefs of American Presidents
Instructor: Charles Graham

In recent campaigns for the presidency, the religious beliefs of the candidates have often been front and center. This course looks at the religious beliefs of past presidents from George Washington through Barack Obama, and the influence those beliefs have had on their policies and actions. It also relates these issues to religious trends through the history of the United States.

The War on Terrorism: Who's Winning? How Do We Know?
Instructor: Frank Wright
Advanced Booking
An assessment of where we stand today in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the broader war on terrorism, one of the longest armed conflicts in our history. Some guesses at the future. What is victory?

**U.S. - China Security Relations**  
*Instructor: Frank Wright*  
*Advanced Booking*

China is beefing up its military, but for what purpose? The U.S. is rearranging its military to fight smaller wars against insurgents rather than against rising international powers like China. Where does that leave us for the future? Join us as we discuss the changing face of the U.S. relationship with China.

**Vietnam: Present and Past - Challenges and Opportunities**  
*Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen*  
*Advanced Booking*

Learn about the legacy of the Chinese, French and United States interactions with this nation. Discussion about how the challenge to foreign rule was brought forward by Ho Chi Minh and how his personality and leadership kept a nation fighting for decades. This conflict remains the most controversial war that the USA participated in and our soldiers were drafted. The erection of the Vietnam Memorial in 1982 attests to the impact of the war on both the US and Vietnam. Issues such as the Boat People, refugees and immigrants, the normalization of relations with the USA and tourism will be covered.

**What is a Liberal and Who Claims to Be One?**  
*Instructor: Charles Graham*

Join us for a brief look at liberalism in the American political spectrum. Find out how the Liberal label evolved from Herbert Hoover to the present. Find out why yesterday’s liberals are today’s conservatives.

**Why Do We Love to Hate Politicians?**  
*Instructor: Charles Graham*

Why do Americans love democracy, but continue to hate the people they elect to run the country? An analysis of why our elected office holders behave in ways which make us regard them with disdain, if not contempt.

**Women in Minnesota Government/Politics**  
*Instructor: Joan Campbell*

Are women making a difference? We will share some stories about past and present pioneers and path-makers in Minnesota’s political history. Learn about some well-known and some unsung heroines.
A Good Word for the Humanities
Instructor: Frank Dreisbach
Advanced Booking

A fact is a fact is a fact. Not quite, say the Humanities, which explores the human dimension of a fact: for example, its tragedy, or its humor, or its beauty. This discussion attempts a defense of the Humanities especially in a culture drawn in other, philistine directions.

Charles Darwin; His Influence on His Time and on Ours
Instructor: Walter Benjamin
Advanced Booking

2009 marks the 150th anniversary of Darwin's "The Origin of Species," a treatise which many claim is the most important scientific work ever published. We will investigate Darwin's work, the principals of "Natural Selection," and the continuing scientific, religious, and social controversy brought about by evolution. Suggestions for healing the rift between evolution and "Intelligent Design" regarding public education will be offered.

Christianity in Africa
Instructor: James Knutson

The "secret" is getting out. Christianity's center of gravity has shifted to the south. Africa, with its many problems and rapidly growing churches, is a vital part of this development. What are some of the prospects for them? What are some of the challenges for us?

Conservative vs. Liberal: Philosophical Values in Conflict
Instructor: Walter Benjamin
Advanced Booking

Conservative and Liberal are just two of many words that people can use to describe themselves. The list of reasons for choosing one over the other is long and isn’t confined to politics. Join us for a non-political presentation of the differences the two groups hold regarding American institutions, history, human nature, religion, justice, and other categories.

Creativity
Instructor: Frank Dreisbach
Advanced Booking

Whether we are creating art or ourselves, certain conditions are present. Our discussion examines those conditions, while acknowledging that when it comes to art, the creative process eludes our attempts to fully understand it.

Does Faith Heal? The Creative Intersection Between Medicine and Religion
Instructor: Walter Benjamin
Advanced Booking

Should we pray for healing? What are we to think of the popular "faith healers?" What does the medical profession think about the power of faith to heal? Are certain illnesses beyond the power of faith to heal? With claims of faith healing just a mouse or remote click away it is important to talk about the ways of healing to discover what
we really believe.

**Doubters Welcome**  
*Instructor: Frank Dreisbach*  
*Advanced Booking*

Not all skepticism is anathema to religious belief, nor need churches condemn those who enter their doors with doubts on their mind. Our discussion will attempt to distinguish between a healthy doubt and other forms of skepticism less productive. The doubting mind, when it is also an open mind, can actually be a prelude to faith.

**Ethics in a Nutshell**  
*Instructor: Frank Dreisbach*  
*Advanced Booking*

What are grounds for identifying something as right or wrong? Is it the consequences, or the motive, or is it something about the act itself? Or, perhaps, there are moral rules to be upheld. Our discussion should help us to understand our own position as well as the position of others with whom we may disagree.

**Faith and Contemporary Issues**  
*Instructor: Duane Addison*

How can we faithfully and responsibly discuss urgent issues brought to us by society? What beliefs and values count? How can we agree and differ? We can focus on our faithful approach and/or on specific issues such as violence, race/culture, environment and economics.

**George McDonald: Renegade or Visionary?**  
*Instructor: Ruth Aaskov*

Discover why a late 19th-century Scottish preacher turned to writing fiction. His writings influenced many authors like C.S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, Madeleine L’Engle and have inspired rock, jazz and new age musicians. Find out how McDonald’s imaginative semi-Gothic writing has been brought into the present.

**Great Music of Faith**  
*Instructor: Ronald Nelson*  
*Advanced Booking*

Spend an hour listening to music of the faithful, everything from the Gregorian chants of the Middle Ages through the “Hallelujah Chorus” and into the 21st century.

**Growing up in a Buddhist Country-Burma/Myanmar**  
*Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen*  
*Advanced Booking*

This presentation may be selected for a holiday time. Growing up in a country with strong Buddhist traditions made me tolerant of other religions and curious about their customs. As a young adult I attended Buddhist religious ceremonies and visited gold covered pagodas with my mother, a devout Buddhist. I looked for some similarities in holiday celebrations - like decorations with lights, etc. Comments on
Muslim, Hinduism and Buddhism will be shared as practiced in Burma.

**Happiness**  
*Instructor: Frank Dreisbach*  
*Advanced Booking*

Whether or not we are happy depends partly upon our definition of happiness. When our definition is too narrow, it can be helpful to remember that each season of life has its own special blessings. Our discussion will briefly explore those blessings.

**Hebrew Prophets Today**  
*Instructor: Duane Addison*

In this course we will have a conversation about selected Old Testament prophets, looking at their times, their persons and their words by using Jewish and Christian guides. These amazing people disturb and inspire with a very contemporary message.

Note: *Hebrew Prophets Today* is offered in one session or in a series on one or several prophets such as Amos, Isaiah, or Jeremiah.

**Jerusalem - The City of God**  
*Instructor: David Johnston*

This lecture will explore the city of Jerusalem which is viewed by Jews, Christians and Muslims to be the City of God. The lecture will include an overview of the ancient and modern day history of Jerusalem, including pictures and stories from recent travels to Jerusalem. The goal of the lecture is to provide greater understanding to this important and complex city and to better understand the political and religious conflicts centered on Jerusalem.

**Jesus for the New Millennium**  
*Instructor: Duane Addison*

Jesus has fascinated and challenged millions in diverse cultures for nearly 2,000 years - and especially today. Take a new "look" at Jesus as we listen to other religions, contemporary voices, gospel texts, and our own insights.

**Lenten Themes through the Artist's Eyes**  
*Instructor: Bettye Olson*  
*Advanced Booking*

Lent is one of the oldest observations on the Christian calendar. The events of Holy Week in the Christian Church have a rich heritage and interpretation in paintings and art forms throughout history. Starting with a slide of a Swedish fold artist interpretation of Palm Sunday through French German and Italian traditions to today the events are portrayed.

**Lessons From Nature**  
*Instructor: Frank Dreisbach*  
*Advanced Booking*

We have much to learn from the birds, the insects, and other creatures as close as our own backyards, for example, about sex, or death, or power, or justice. Sometimes there is a wisdom to nature which we had not considered.
Madeleine L'Engle's Journal  
Instructor: Ruth Aaskov

Madeleine L’Engle is a contemporary author of children's literature, science fiction, poetry, essays, and adult fiction. L'Engle reveals her faith journey in the four volumes of the "Crosswick Journal". Published in 1984 and named for the home and retreat she shared with her family, “Crosswick Journal” is a reflection of her life and career.

Madonnas: The Mother-Child Theme in Art  
Instructor: Bettye Olson  
Advanced Booking

On postage stamps, greeting cards, and illustrations, the mother-child theme is a favorite. This was a popular theme for centuries in beautiful paintings and sculpture. The art works tell the theology of a time, and the interpretations of many cultures. Slides- a more concentrated theme for Christmas-expanded theme universal.

Militant Islam  
Instructor: Duane Addison

"Why do they hate us?" Since 9/11/01, many have wondered about the expressions of Islam that are angry at America and "the West", and often Judaism and Christianity. Who are "they" and how do they relate to other Muslims? What is more dangerous: their actions and speech or our response? Bring your questions for a thoughtful discussion about this topic.

Note: Pair this offering with The Challenge of Islam to gain a deeper understanding of this timely topic.

No More One Way Streets  
Instructor: James Knutson

Actually Global Mission involvement has never been a one way street. However, today we are being challenged more than ever to be open to receiving and learning, as well as giving and teaching.

Our New Religious Neighbors  
Instructor: Duane Addison

During the past generation, the United States has become the world's most religiously diverse nation. We will explore this reality both nationally and locally as we meet our new Hindu, Buddhist, and Muslim neighbors.

Poetry: Christian Ideas in Verse  
Instructor: Lawrence Moe  
Advanced Booking

Poetry has been written in English for 1,300 years, and our poets have often drawn on Christian ideas. Religious poetry was the principal type preserved from the Anglo-Saxon period, including Beowulf. Later poets such as John Donne, John Milton, Emily Dickenson, and Gerard Manley Hopkins illustrate the wide range of styles and perspectives in religious verse, from lyric to epic, from devout to doubtful. Using their keen insights into spirituality, combined with their command of the language, poets have found striking and thoughtful ways to challenge us to reflect upon a remarkable variety of religious ideas. In this
Presentation, Professor Moe will review examples of English poetry having Christian content, with discussion of related literary and theological issues.

**Reflections on the Morality of War After September 11, 2001**  
*Instructor: Walter Benjamin*  
*Advanced Booking*

This course offers an examination of pacifism, the jihad, and the principles of "just war" theory. Knowing what these terms really mean can help us to better understand and discuss related terms like “international terrorism” and “preemptive military attack” and what these actions mean to us as Americans.

**Religion in Today's China**  
*Instructor: Arne Sovik*

China was once permeated by popular religion, by Confucian ethics, Daoist cosmology and Buddhist piety. After half a century of repression by an atheistic regime, how is it that religion (not least Christianity) is blossoming?

**Religion, Coping, and Grief**  
*Instructor: Leola Dyrud Furman*

How can we go on coping after we have experienced the loss of a loved one or are experiencing a terminal illness? How can we be of support to friends and family who are in bereavement? Using religion as a source of empowerment, this presentation will explore possible approaches and responses to these questions.

**Seven Questions That Shape Church Ministry**  
*Instructor: Judy Niemi Johnson*

We do not make decisions in a vacuum. Our personal history, experiences and beliefs determine our motivations and how we react to change in our church. Often we assume that if we are in the same church, around the same age, we will think alike or should think alike. In this highly interactive class, we will explore 7 questions that help to clarify our basic beliefs about the church, motivations behind behavior and understanding of spiritual formation. These answers shape our views on church life and each other, with or without our knowledge. In a non-threatening format, participants will come away with a better understanding of themselves and why we sometimes just can’t agree. This class is particularly helpful for groups that make ministry decisions or who work closely together in a ministry setting.

**Shaping Our Environmental Philosophy**  
*Instructor: Frank Dreisbach*  
*Advanced Booking*

Environmentalists come in all shapes and sizes and are frequently strange bedfellows. This discussion attempts a typology of environmentalists, and observes that being an environmentalist means caring for the environment, but also caring which environmental philosophy we choose.
Singing the Christmas Story with St. Luke
Instructor: Carolyn Bliss

The birth of Jesus as told in St. Luke's gospel is surrounded in song. And people have been singing about this birth story ever since. A look at the songs of Luke, chapters 1-2, and the hymns and carols that have grown out of the familiar words of Luke 2:1-14. Class includes carol singing. Suitable for church adult class presentation.

Spirituality & Alzheimer’s: Does God Remember Me?
Instructor: Judy Niemi Johnson

What happens to spirituality in the midst of memory loss? How is our relationship with God affected when I have Alzheimer’s or my family member has Alzheimer’s? Using the personal story of my mother, I trace how our experience of spirituality was challenged and strengthened during this difficult time. As the numbers of people diagnosed with memory loss continue to rise, it is helpful to see how God can show up in the midst of personal memory loss and grief.

Stem Cell Research: Disease-Free Utopia or "Brave New World" Nightmare?
Instructor: Walter Benjamin
Advanced Booking

News that stem cell research could help find cures for terrible genetic diseases has made stem cell research a topic of debate for years. What are the benefits and what are the drawbacks? We will debate the issue of whether we are wise enough to "design" our descendants.

Stretching Our Theological Imaginations
Instructor: Frank Dreisbach

Major religious belief systems, if not by their answers, at least by their questions, arouse our theological imagination. When we think at the theological level we ponder such questions as the human condition and its repair, the problem of evil, the existence of God, and the validation of religious beliefs.

The Appeal of Buddhism
Instructor: Duane Addison

This ancient and fascinating way of compassion, peace, transformation and wisdom appeals to many today. Buddhism is present in a variety of forms in our nation and in our neighborhoods. How can we understand and learn from the teaching and path of the Buddha?

The Challenge of Islam
Instructor: Duane Addison

This worldwide faith shaped by the prophet Muhammad is alive and growing, raising questions for our nation and our churches. Who are Muslims and what do they believe? Through instruction and discussion we can better understand the faith of Islam and discover new ways to relate to one another.

The Creeds of the Christian Church
Instructor: Ruth Aaskov
Why have creeds? Why is there more than one? The language of the major creeds came out of centuries of turmoil, controversy, and struggle for the truth. We, the inheritors of creeds, need to know to appreciate and better understand the familiar words.

The Ethics of Health Care Rationing
Instructor: Walter Benjamin

Everyone is talking about health care these days. While it is a very personal topic for most Americans, it is an issue many countries deal with in very different ways. We will review ethical models and practices to discover just and unjust ways of distributing scarce medical resources. Does America have a unique culture that will allow only a certain form of rationing?

The Gospels - Portraits of Jesus
Instructor: Duane Addison

Through the skills of the remarkable artists who gave to us our four canonical Gospels and with your own imagination discover a deeper appreciation of Jesus. Learn more about the authors who present these loving and exciting, but different pictures of Jesus. Their insights and emphases paint complementary portraits that can lead us to a fuller understanding of Jesus for today.

The Language and Imagery of the Bible
Instructor: Philip Quanbeck

The Bible uses many more metaphors and images than we sometimes suppose. This is a consideration of some of these images.

The Many Faces of God
Instructor: Frank Dreisbach
Advanced Booking

Have we become too pragmatic with our descriptions of God? The many faces of God suggest a wide-ranging conception of the divine, from the basic elements of nature to the basic experiences and values of humanity. Our discussion asks if we have become too preoccupied with the advantages of belief, leading to the neglect of the majesty and mystery of what one theologian calls "the God above God."

The Moral Dimensions of the Terri Schiavo Case
Instructor: Walter Benjamin
Advanced Booking

There are some events that have the power to create controversy and this has proven to be one of them. It can be very difficult to make sense of what is right and what is wrong. Can we humanize and shorten the dying process and still remain within well accepted moral boundaries? This one question, as illustrated by the events surrounding Terri Schiavo’s life and death, offers us the opportunity to examine some of the values we often take for granted.

The Mundane and the Exceptional
Instructor: Philip Quanbeck

The mundane and the exceptional: Proverbs and Job. A look at faith and behavior when life is more or less predictable and when tragic events occur.
### The Mystics
*Instructor: Frank Dreisbach*

Mystics are found in most if not all religions. Our discussion attempts to summarize what they report and thus to explore the peaks and valleys of religious experience in general.

### The Optimist vs. the Pessimist
*Instructor: Frank Dreisbach*

When we take stock of the times we live in with its various evils and joys, shall we be pessimistic or optimistic? This discussion explores arguments on both sides, but proposes that the optimist has the edge.

### The Religious Beliefs of American Presidents
*Instructor: Charles Graham*

In recent campaigns for the presidency, the religious beliefs of the candidates have often been front and center. This course looks at the religious beliefs of past presidents from George Washington through Barack Obama, and the influence those beliefs have had on their policies and actions. It also relates these issues to religious trends through the history of the United States.

### The Star of Bethlehem
*Instructor: William Arden*

What was the object the Three Wise Men followed? For centuries, astronomers have debated the true nature of the Star. We'll look at what it might have been, what it certainly wasn't - and in the end, you'll be able to decide for yourself.

### The Unique Features of the Gospel of John
*Instructor: Philip Quanbeck*

The Gospel of John is unique among the gospels of the New Testament. This is a look at its presentation of Jesus.

### The Wisdom of American Indian Religions
*Instructor: Duane Addison*

Gain an appreciation of traditional ways of knowing and living as they are revealed in the spiritual paths of the first Americans. Learn how primal religions and the quest for the sacred began and how they continue today. Included will be a discussion of our history of oppression and injustice with special attention given to the Dakota and

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**RELIGION**

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Ojibwa of this region.

**To Forgive is Good for Your Spiritual and Physical Health**
*Instructor: Leola Dyrud Furman*

This presentation will describe why it is important to forgive, explain the key elements to forgiveness, and the complexities of forgiveness. Participants will also learn about the relationship between forgiveness and health, the obstacles to forgiveness, and learn about the impact of religion on forgiveness.

**Understanding the Faiths of Others**
*Instructor: Duane Addison*

During this session we will take an appreciative look at non-Christian religions. What attitude and questions can we bring? How can we listen and share? In this course you will learn some of the basics of these religions and through discussion find your own understanding of how this faith relates to your own religious life.

**What is the Emergent Church and Where Did it Come From?**
*Instructor: Judy Niemi Johnson*

Ever wonder about that new little church down the street, where all the college kids seem to go? What are they doing in there and are they even Christian? Since the late 90’s an international movement of disillusioned Christians began to form new collectives and explore a return to ancient spiritual practices. These groups have become the new voice of Christianity in a post-Christian world. They write the hottest selling books, have started the most cutting edge churches and are influencing changes in seminaries across the world. We will explore the historical roots of the movement, how the mega-churches fanned the flames and the essential characteristics that now define post modern churches in the Midwest region. Audience members may find they have more in common with the emergent church movement than they first realized.
2012 and All That – What’s Going On Up There?
Instructor: William Arden

Will the world end in 2012? Why isn’t Pluto a planet anymore? Could a black hole swallow up the Earth? Will the Milky Way collide with another galaxy- and if it did, would we notice the difference? Join Bill Arden on a tour of some of the Universe’s mysteries and myths, and you’ll get a fresh view of the night sky above us.

Apollo: Why We Went to the Moon (a non-technical look at mankind’s greatest technological achievement)
Instructor: David Jones

“Landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to the Earth” before the end of the decade was the goal that President Kennedy laid out in 1961. In July of 1969, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the Moon. Even though this even is mankind’s greatest technological achievement, we will instead discuss the political forces in the world and the social forces in this country that propelled us to achieve this goal.

Binocular Astronomy
Instructor: William Arden

You can see a lot of interesting objects in the night sky without a telescope - if you know where to look. We'll discuss how to use typical binoculars to find some sights that are just out of reach of the naked eye.

Charles Darwin; His Influence on His Time and on Ours

Instructor: Walter Benjamin

2009 marks the 150th anniversary of Darwin's "The Origin of Species," a treatise which many claim is the most important scientific work ever published. We will investigate Darwin's work, the principals of "Natural Selection," and the continuing scientific, religious, and social controversy brought about by evolution. Suggestions for healing the rift between evolution and "Intelligent Design" regarding public education will be offered.

Look Up!
Instructor: William Arden

There are always interesting things to see in the night sky. They vary with the season; this course will focus on what's visible now and how to find it, with the naked eye or with binoculars, even in city lights.

Stem Cell Research: Disease-Free Utopia or "Brave New World" Nightmare?
Instructor: Walter Benjamin

News that stem cell research could help find cures for terrible genetic diseases has made stem cell research a topic of debate for years. What are the benefits and what are the drawbacks? We will debate the issue of whether we are wise enough to "design" our descendants.

Stories of the Constellations
Instructor: William Arden

Just who was Orion? Why is he never in the sky at the same time as the Scorpion? Which constellations tell a love story with a happy ending, which is unusual in ancient mythology? Many constellations are near each other in the sky for a reason. We'll dig into the history and mythology behind the patterns and find some sense in their placement.

The Star of Bethlehem
Instructor: William Arden

What was the object the Three Wise Men followed? For centuries, astronomers have debated the true nature of the Star. We'll look at what it might have been, what it certainly wasn't - and in the end, you'll be able to decide for yourself.

Women in Astronomy
Instructor: William Arden

Sure, you've heard of Edwin Hubble, Copernicus and Galileo. Maybe you've heard of William Herschel, too. But what about Anne Jump Cannon, Cecilia Payne and Henrietta Leavitt? Or the other Herschel - Caroline? Did you know that Jocelyn Bell discovered pulsars? This class explores the contributions of women to the science of astronomy throughout history.
**Brazil: A Multi-Ethnic Society/Largest Country in Latin America**  
*Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen*  
*Advanced Booking*

Beautiful vistas and beaches, and vast resources of precious gems will amaze you. Brazil is the only Portuguese speaking country in the Americas, hence it has a unique history. Hear the story of the early slave trade and Brazil’s struggle for independence. My visit to this country with its magnificent waterfalls larger than Niagara Falls and my study and teaching about Brazil has encouraged me to share the story with you.

**French Tapestries: The Stories They Tell**  
*Instructor: Ruth Aaskov*

What do the Bayeaux Tapestry, the Apocalypse of Angers, the Dame of the Unicorn at Cluny, and the huge classical woven panels at Versailles have to say to us in the 21st century? One of these massive multicolored textiles is often a part of tours in France. Their stories and the discovery of their amazing survival through the centuries help us appreciate the paintings in threads that we call early French tapestries.

**Growing up in a Buddhist Country- Burma/Myanmar**  
*Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen*  
*Advanced Booking*

This presentation may be selected for a holiday time. Growing up in a country with strong Buddhist traditions made me tolerant of other religions and curious about their customs. As a young adult I attended Buddhist religious ceremonies and visited gold covered pagodas with my mother, a devout Buddhist. I looked for some similarities in holiday celebrations- like decorations with lights, etc. Comments on Muslim, Hinduism and Buddhism will be shared as practiced in Burma.

**Growing Up Indian in a Non-Indian World**  
*Instructor: Mildred “Mike” Mueller*

Listen as your presenter shares her memories of a Northern Michigan childhood during the 1930s and 1940s. Explore the differences and the advantages of a bicultural life and the rewards of achieving equilibrium with the best of both worlds. How does this life compare to other pre-literate cultures?

**Israel and Palestine: Seeking Solutions**  
*Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen*  
*Advanced Booking*

Understanding the foundation of the state of Israel in 1948, and the roots of the Palestinian struggle for their right of return to lost homes and territory is key to finding solutions to the current crisis in this region of the world. This conflict touches both sides, impacting women, children and youth as well as me. A solution needs to be impartial. I have taught courses related to this subject for many years. I urge people to become aware of how it all began.
WOMEN’S STUDIES

Madeleine L'Engle's Journal
Instructor: Ruth Aaskov

Madeleine L’Engle is a contemporary author of children’s literature, science fiction, poetry, essays, and adult fiction. L’Engle reveals her faith journey in the four volumes of the "Crosswick Journal". Published in 1984 and named for the home and retreat she shared with her family, “Crosswick Journal” is a reflection of her life and career.

Madonnas: The Mother-Child Theme in Art
Instructor: Bettye Olson
Advanced Booking

On postage stamps, greeting cards, and illustrations, the mother-child theme is a favorite. This was a popular theme for centuries in beautiful paintings and sculpture. The art works tell the theology of a time, and the interpretations of many cultures. Slides- a more concentrated theme for Christmas-expanded theme universal.

Music of Social Change I: Women's Issues
Instructors: Vern Bloom & Maria Brown
Advanced Booking

Sing the songs of women's issues related to suffrage, unions, civil rights, and peace movements. Sing songs written about female heroines such as Harriet Tubman and Amelia Earhart. We will also teach and sing the songs of union activists - Holly Near, Malvina Reynolds, Cris Williamson, and others.

Understanding Gender
Miscommunications: Can We Talk?
Instructor: Anita Makar
Advanced Booking

Using cartoons and comic strips, this presentation will explore some of the reasons why women and men have problems in communicating with each other. Are men and women really from different communication planets? Has the way we have been socialized created some of the misunderstandings? What are some ways to help alleviate some of the problems?

Women across Culture
Instructor: Irene Khin Khin Jensen
Advanced Booking

Visual images of women from China, Korea, Philippines, Japan, Burma (Myanmar), India, Pakistan and Indonesia will give us great context for this discussion about political leaders of this region and the impact their leadership has had on the population there. Names to look for are Aung San Suu Kyi, Indira Gandhi, Madam Pandit, Corazon Aquino, Dr. Helen Kim, Madam Chiang Kai Shek, Benazir Bhutto, and Takao Doi. I will lift up some women from Minnesota, such as Gladys Brooks, Senator Muriel Humphrey, Arvonne Fraser and some judges such as Gail Ching Bohr and Senator Mee Moua.
**Women in Astronomy**  
*Instructor: William Arden*

Sure, you've heard of Edwin Hubble, Copernicus and Galileo. Maybe you've heard of William Herschel, too. But what about Anne Jump Cannon, Cecilia Payne and Henrietta Leavitt? Or the other Herschel - Caroline? Did you know that Jocelyn Bell discovered pulsars? This class explores the contributions of women to the science of astronomy throughout history.

**Women in Minnesota Government/Politics**  
*Instructor: Joan Campbell*

Are women making a difference? We will share some stories about past and present pioneers and path-makers in Minnesota’s political history. Learn about some well-known and some unsung heroines.

**Women of Africa - Sustaining, Serving, Peacemaking**  
*Instructor: James Knutson*

This course takes a look at some of the crucial roles played by African women within their communities. Included are some vignettes of women personally known by the presenter. Slides and commentary offer opportunities for discussion.

**Women's Studies: Commonalities in Pre-Literate Cultures**  
*Instructor: Mildred “Mike” Mueller*

The similarities between pre-literate cultures and pre-Columbian North American Indian culture are exceptional, particularly in regards to the roles of women. Various