

Renaissance Academy at Chicago NFP Fall 2024

October 8 - November 14

Located at

Saint Xavier University 3700 West 103rd Street

We are back on the SXU campus for Fall!

We will also offer a class and book clubs

online via Zoom.

What is the Renaissance Academy?

The Renaissance Academy is an association of retired and semi-retired men and women who get together to experience intellectual growth in an environment that is open to all who believe in pursuing the Academy's lifelong learning opportunities.

Members are encouraged to volunteer their energy and skills to make the program successful. Please consider how you might contribute your time and talent to our organization.

Renaissance Academy Information

Email: renaissancechgo@gmail.com

Phone: 773-298-3149. This is an answering machine only. Please leave a message.

The Newsletter can be accessed on the Renaissance Academy website: https://www.renaissancechgo.org.

Fall 2024 Registration

We are back on the SXU campus for Fall!

We will also offer a class and book clubs online via Zoom.

Annual membership enrollment <u>and</u> registration for on-campus and online classes will be available September 6 – 13 online at: https://www.renaissancechgo.org.

Every member must have access to email. No information or materials will be mailed.

The membership enrollment fee for the entire year is \$180.

The fee includes: classes for all three terms, Christmas and Spring luncheons, use of the Shannon Center track on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Renaissance Forum and the opportunity to audit an SXU class with consent of professor.

While participating in our various programs, you may be included in photos and/or videos. These photographs and videos are used in a variety of publications and advertising materials. By registering for our programs, participants consent to the use of these photos and videos.

This year members have a choice of paying by credit card or check. Information is on the registration form.

Checks should be made out to The Renaissance Academy at Chicago NFP. Mail to:

Renaissance Academy at Chicago Saint Xavier University 3700 West 103rd St. Chicago, IL 60655

Requests for registration assistance can be emailed to renaissancechgo@gmail.com.

The final date for enrollment is September 13, 2024.



It has been a wonderful summer! Now, as Autumn approaches, we have an opportunity to transition into a new mode. It is a time to go back to school, to expose ourselves to new ideas, to reconnect with friends, and to make new friends.

Thanks to our volunteer facilitators, we will be offering some great classes this Fall. You may want to begin learning about birds from Mike Hastings in this term's *The Genius of Owls: the Wise Guys of the Skies*, or join Carol Conway's in-depth Zoom book discussion of Jodi Picoult's *Small Great Things*. An always popular and lively program is *News & Views*.

We will offer programs about the voyages of great explorers and the history of Ireland. You may prefer to explore the arts in *The Case for Impressionism*, and there will be two programs on music in the 50's, 60's and 70's. Or, you may want to give thought to *Understanding the Mysteries of Human Behavior*, with Maureen Connolly. There will also be three book discussions held at local libraries or on Zoom.

Please plan to register and attend our *Getting to Know You* reception in the Butler Room at Saint Xavier University on September 28 at 1 p.m. This will be an opportunity to welcome new members as well as to get reacquainted with friends from previous classes.

I look forward to meeting you all and to our new shared journey in Lifelong Learning!

See you in class!

Jean Day, President



Getting to Know You!

Saturday, September 28th

1:00 - 3:00 PM

St. Xavier University Butler Room

Welcome to both new and current members! You will get to meet our Board of Directors and your course Facilitators. Learn about plans for the coming year and get an overview of what's coming up in your Fall courses.

You can get a map of the campus and our volunteers will give a short tour of the main building, the Warde Academic Center. We will show you the best parking, accessible entrances, the cafeteria, the library and the location of your classrooms.

After your course registration is complete, we will send you an email so you can RSVP. We will serve light refreshments so your response is appreciated. You can also pick up your new and improved name badge!

SEE YOU THERE!



Fall 2024 Session Oct. 8 – Nov. 14 On Campus

Tuesday 2:30-3:30

Anatomy of a Song: Part 3
 Betty Kort

News and ViewsMike Yeager and team

Tuesday 3:45- 4:45

- History's Voyages of Exploration: Part 3
 Mike Young
- Understanding the Mysteries of Human Behavior
 Maureen Connolly

Fall 2024 Session Oct. 8 – Nov. 14 Zoom

Wednesday

12:00 -1:00

5. Let's Read!
Small Great Things
Carol Conway

Fall 2024 Session Oct. 8 – Nov. 14 On Campus

Thursday 2:30 - 3:30

- Folk Music Revival of the 50's and 60'sBrian and Erin McCann
- 7. The Great Tours: Ireland and Northern Ireland
 Part 3
 Sharon Coghlan Gerc

Thursday 3:45 - 4:45

- 8. The Genius of Owls: The Wise Guys of the Skies Mike Hastings
- The Case for Impressionism
 Sue Wrzesinski

Tuesday 2:30 - 3:30 On Campus

Anatomy of a Song: Part 3 Betty Kort

Prior attendance from last term is not required because each journey is complete on its own.



What were you doing in 1970? In the music world we experienced Elvis Presley's "Suspicious Minds" and saw Diana Ross wearing an Afro, singing "Ain't No Mountain High Enough." Black Sabbath was "Paranoid" and the Grateful Dead were "Truckin'! Was Alice Cooper

really Eighteen? Rod Stewart will reveal the real Maggie May and Joni Mitchell will uncover the mysterious Carey. Did you ever wonder if Janis Joplin ever got her Mercedes Benz?



2. News and Views

Kathy Austin, Jim Condon, John Garstka, Mary Hendry, Nancy North, Mike Yeager, Mike Young

Our day is filled with events that alter, illuminate, and often surprise us and you are there front and center! Join us as we attempt to make sense of the news of the day. Your perspective, of course, is always welcome.



Tuesday 3:45 - 4:45 SXU on campus

3. History's Greatest Voyages of Exploration: Part

Mike Young

Prior attendance from last term is not required because each video journey is complete on its own.



This course is based on the Great Courses/Wondrium program. Professor Vejas Gabriel Liulevicius examines the motivations and skills of explorers of the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries including the impact of new technologies. Over the following six weeks, each half hour film will look at the travels of specific adventurers and the driving forces that

set them on their path.

We will start with the Lewis and Clark exhibition and their 1804 exploration of the vast western U.S. continent. Staying in the western hemisphere, the tragic story of the search for the Northwest Passage by Sir John Franklin demonstrates the failure of even the most prepared companies.

Victorian Ida Pfeiffer is introduced and we learn of her worldwide travels against all conventions of her time. Ida was admired for her geographic and scientific observations and was the first woman admitted to the Royal Geographic Society.

Next, we will follow emissaries of Japan who travel the US and Europe to learn why the West was so successful! For two

years the delegation traveled and studied industry and politics while sampling food and culture. The fascinating results were compiled into 27 volumes.



Then Professor Liulevicius will take us through the exploration of the three most challenging continents, Africa, the Arctic, and Antarctica. We will meet Dr. Livingstone and Mary Kingsley in Africa, the great Arctic adventurers like Robert Peary and the Antarctic explorers: Robrt Falcon Scott, Roald Amundsen and Ernest Shackelton.

Deep-sea exploration involves crushing pressure and darkness. In 1875, the HMS Challenger discovered the Mariana Trench, more than 36,000 feet down. Deep sea exploration has brought recognition for Jacque Cousteau, Auguste and Julian Piccard and Don Walsh.

Our final topic will be the race to Space. Aside from ideology and politics, it has been the ultimate voyage for humankind and we're still assessing its benefits, drawbacks and future

challenges.



4. Understanding the Mysteries of Human Behavior

Maureen Connolly

The DVD program chosen for the spring session is from *The Great Courses*. It is a set of lectures that examines some particularly puzzling aspects of human nature—features of people's thoughts, emotions,



and behaviors that have intrigued scientists and laypeople alike. Relying on the latest theories and research from psychology, neuroscience, and other behavioral sciences, each lecture in this course addresses a provocative question about human behavior.

Professor Mark Leary, a Family Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience at Duke University, will present this series of lectures. Professor Leary is the author of a dozen books on social motivation, emotion and ego. He is among the world's top social and personality psychologists and has received a Lifetime Career Award from the International Society for Self and Identity.

Wednesday Noon-1:00 Zoom

5. Let's Read!

Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult Carol Conway



"With incredible empathy, intelligence, and candor, Jodi Picoult tackles race, privilege, prejudice, justice, and compassion—and doesn't offer easy answers. Small Great Things is a remarkable achievement from a writer at the top of her game." ~Goodreads

I want to share one of my favorite books, one I think everyone should read. Please get it in paperback. You can get it from the library, Bookie's, or online.

Please read pages 3-80 for our first session.

Contact me if you have any questions: cairec49@yahoo.com

Carol Conway

Thursday 2:30 – 3:30 SXU on campus

Folk Music Revival of the 50's and 60'sBrian and Erin Mc Cann

Board the sloop John B, row the boat ashore, take the Rock Island Line or the Midnight Special and walk right in and sit right down while we take a look at the American Folk Music Revival of the 1950's and '60's. We will delve into the roots of the revival, along with the origins of some of its songs. We will also take a look at the singers and songwriters of the era, and listen to some tunes along the way. Singing along is optional.



7. The Great Tours of Ireland and Northern Ireland: Part 3

Sharon Coghlin Gerc



Prior attendance from last term is not required because each video journey is complete on its own.

Do you want to tour Ireland with us this Fall? Join our Renaissance Academy members as we continue our course on Ireland starting with the Irish Revival movement and the poems of W.B. Yeats. We will explore the history, world-renowned culture, breathtaking landscapes, and welcoming people of the Emerald Isle. Dr. Marc Conner, PhD, *The Great Courses* professor will offer us insight into the history of Art and Literature in Ireland. This term we will complete the final part of the series where we will learn about Literature and Art in Ireland over the years, starting with W. B. Yeats.

Each 30-minute tour includes beautiful scenery and historical information about Ireland and Northern Ireland. Those who have been to Ireland share their experiences as we watch and tour Ireland together during the term. Tours in this term include: The Ireland of W. B. Yeats; The Irish Revival in Literature and Art; James Joyce's Ireland; Experiencing Belfast; Northern Ireland beyond Belfast; Pub Life and traditional Irish Music, Film and Sport.

This term we complete the series, *The Great Tours of Ireland and Northern Ireland* and prepare for Dr. Connor's next series,

The Irish Identity: Independence, History, and Literature, in the Winter Term.

"Ireland's history is a passionate, painful, and inspiring one. It's a history defined by wave after wave of invaders, all contributing to the complex and diverse culture. In Ireland, the past is always a prominent feature of the present. Each stage of the nation's history reveals a great deal about the Irish people – their culture and their identities – even today" (Conner, M., *The Great Tours, Ireland, and Northern Ireland* The Great Courses, 2020). Join us as we learn about the contributions to Literature and Art from Ireland as we tour the beautiful cities and scenic landscapes of Ireland with our Renaissance Academy classmates this Fall. Next stop Irish Literature and Art...!



Thursday 3:45 - 4:45 SXU on campus

8. The Genius of Owls: The Wise Guys of the Skies Mike Hastings



No bird's gaze is more riveting than an owl's. That glance has gripped human imagination for thousands of years. The Greeks attributed victory in battle to the appearance of an owl. In *Julius Caesar*, Casca concludes that death is near when an owl appears during the day.

The Aztecs considered

owls messengers from the underworld. More recently, the field of science has struggled to satisfy our continued curiosity. We know that over 260 species of owl live on every continent but Antarctica.

Jennifer Ackerman's book *What an Owl Knows* reports how new technologies have aided research in answering our most vexing questions.

This course will discuss six of those findings.

- The secretiveness of owls. Owls are the most ingenious of deceivers. We will examine their life in the shadows.
- Owl talk. What does it mean when an owl, "gives a hoot"?
- · Seeing in the dark. These birds can see ultraviolet light!
- Their habitat. How do they build a home, rear their young and fiercely protect their nest.
- Surprises. Some owls adopt young orphaned owls, others burrow to create nests, and some owls hunt during the day!
- And finally, how new technologies have helped us to pull back the veil that long shrouded the adaptive skills and intelligences of this mysterious bird.

At the end of this course, you will have considered many new answers to the questions, "Just how wise is an owl?" and "Why should we be paying attention to its pearls?"



9. The Case for Impressionism* Sue Wrzesinski



This fall we will tackle everybody's' favorite "ism", Impressionism. Living near the Art Institute of Chicago, most of us have been able to enjoy their exceptional collection of Impressionist art

This course will introduce the beginnings of the movement and what kind of art these artists were trying to cast off.

We'll also look at the influences of new theories of color science, the impact of photography on fine artists and the popularity of

Japanese culture and art in Europe at that time.

We'll look at the forerunners of the movement such as William Turner and John Constable and the Barbizon School of en plein air painting.

This was a "movement" in the sense that the artists knew each other, met and discussed their goals and results and fought for a place in the art market. However, they worked in different techniques and styles and each artist's work evolved over time. They strove to depict the effects of light and color

in a specific time and place and often worked outdoors. They gave a starring role to the everyday life of modern Parisians. Even women were shown doing something (although there were nudes too). They were able to take full advantage of new advances in paint, portable tubes and even easy rail access to other locations to produce stunning landscapes.



The class will meet old favorites like Claude Monet, Edgar Degas and Camille Pissarro. Women will their due, as we examine the work and influence of Berthe Morisot, Mary Cassatt, and Bracquemond. And, Marie we'll sample the work of Alfred Sisley. Pierre August Renoir and Gustave Caillebotte

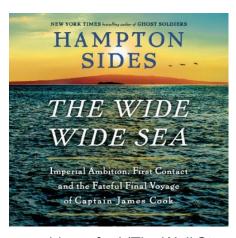
At least that's my goal! As in the past, I will send links to videos that enrich the course

as well as show some in class. See you soon.

*Title taken from a video by Sarah Urist Green

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

The Wide, Wide Sea By Hampton Sides Mike Hastings – Facilitator TBA



The Wide Wide Sea: Imperial Ambition, First Contact and the Fateful Final Voyage of Captain James Cook, by Hampton Sides.

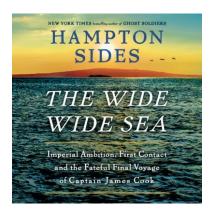
New York Times Bestseller -Named a Best Book of the Year So Far for 2024 by the New York Times Book Review. A thrilling and

superbly crafted (The Wall Street Journal) account of the most momentous voyage of the Age of Exploration, which culminated in Captain James Cook's death in Hawaii, and left a complex and controversial legacy still debated to this day.

On July 12th, 1776, Captain James Cook, already lionized as the greatest explorer in British history, set off on his third voyage in his ship the HMS Resolution. Two and a half years later, on a beach on the island of Hawaii, Cook was killed in a conflict with native Hawaiians. How did Cook, who was unique among captains for his respect for indigenous peoples and cultures, come to that fatal moment?

Hampton Sides' bravura account of Cook's last journey both wrestles with Cook's legacy and provides a thrilling narrative of the titanic efforts and continual danger that characterized exploration in the 1700's. Cook was renowned for his peerless seamanship, his humane leadership, and his dedication to science, the famed naturalist Joseph Banks accompanied him on his first voyage, and Cook has been called one of the most important figures of the Age of Enlightenment. He was also deeply interested in the native people he encountered. On previous expeditions, Cook mapped huge swaths of the Pacific, including the east coast of Australia, and initiated first European contact with numerous peoples. He treated his crew well, and endeavored to learn about the societies he encountered with curiosity and without judgement.

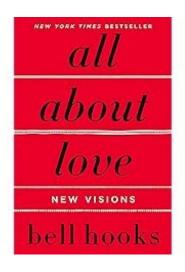
At once a ferociously-paced story of adventure on the high seas and a searching examination of the complexities and consequences of the Age of Exploration, *The Wide Wide Sea* is a major work of one of our finest narrative nonfiction writers.



November 6,2024 Zoom 1:15 PM

all about love By bell hooks

Facilitator - Betty Kort



Who is bell hooks and why did she write the book *all about love*? And why does she use lower case letters for her name?

There is a lot to unpack in this little book. *all about love* was written in 2001 and is readily available at libraries and second-hand bookstores.

Join me on zoom at 1:15 on Wednesday, November 6th, 2024.

November 18, in person TBA and December 11 – Noon on Zoom

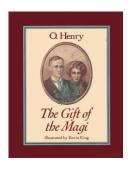
A Christmas Carol
By Charles Dickens
&
The Gift of the Magi by O. Henry

Carol Conway - Facilitator



Read Charles Dickens' *A* Christmas Carol (It's not long, and you've probably just seen movies) and O. Henry's *The Gift of the Magi*. You can find the latter for free online.

Carol Conway (cairec49@yahoo.com)



RENAISSANCE FORUM

History Unveiled The Truth About the Presidents

Presented by historian Jim Gibbons

Thursday, October 24, 2024,11:30 A.M. Campus of Saint Xavier University
Butler Room

Did you know that four presidents rode in the same car that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in after his



assassination? Have you heard about the meeting between President Richard Nixon and Elvis Presley in which Elvis requested to become a Federal Agent-at-Large in the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs? Did you know that former President Jimmy Carter fought a "Killer Rabbit" who dared to approach his fishing boat?

Historian, Jim Gibbons, will present fun-filled trivia and historical facts on the presidents.

Light refreshments will be served.

The forum is free of charge for Renaissance Academy members. Guests are welcome for a suggested \$5 **cash** donation.

ALL attendees (members <u>and</u> guests) must register by sending an email to <u>renaissancechgo@gmail.com</u>

Fall 2024

Dates to Remember

Sept. 6 – Sept. 13 On line registration

Sept. 28 Fall Welcome Back Reception 1:00-3:00 Butler Room all are welcome

October 8 First day of Fall term

October 24 Renaissance Forum

11:30AM Butler Room

October TBA Book Club

The Wide Wide Sea

Mike Hastings

November 6 Book Club Zoom

1:15 Zoom all about love - Betty Kort

November 14 Last day of Fall term

November 18 TBA Book Club

and Get into Christmas

December 11 Carol Conway

Zoom - Noon

December 3 Christmas Luncheon

12:00PM Orland Chateau

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