



FELLOWSHIPLIFE

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Lifelong Learning

in partnership with



**FAIRLEIGH
DICKINSON
UNIVERSITY**

Virtual Lifelong Learning Schedule

FALL 2024

Friday, September 6

3:00 - 4:00 PM

50 Shades of Jane Austen

Prof. Stacie Lents

This talk delves into the dialogue and relationships in Jane Austen's novels, particularly *Pride and Prejudice*. With an eye toward contemporary on-screen adaptations as well as the novels themselves, we'll focus on the theatricality of the text and will introduce ways in which Austen pushes against prejudices, limitations, and stereotypes – and the ways in which she is defined by them.

Friday, September 13

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Theater Behind Bars

Prof. Stacie Lents

Drawing on her experience writing plays about incarceration and collaborating with incarcerated artists, Prof. Lents will speak to the process of developing theater that addresses life behind bars and the role of theater in expanding the cultural dialogue on social issues.

Friday, September 20

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Espionage & Propaganda in Ancient Rome and the Premodern World

Prof. Robert Houle

This lecture highlights the ways states like Ancient Rome, the Abbasid Empire, and the Holy Roman Empire waged conflict outside of the battlefield using spies, rumors, half-truths and outright lies.

Friday, September 27

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Espionage & Propaganda in the First World War

Prof. Robert Houle

The first truly modern war saw new tools of war like machine-guns, tanks, and biplanes wielded to devastating effect, but it also the invention of modern propaganda and the professionalization of spy services like MI6. This lecture explores stories from this 'warfare by other means' fought before, during, and after the Great War.

Thursday, October 3

3:00 - 4:00 PM

**'Take the Gun, Leave the Cannoli':
Food *The Godfather* Saga**

Prof. Gloria Pastorino

Is food really central to the lives of the Corleone family? Let's discuss what role this identifier of "Italianness" plays in Coppola's films.

Thursday, October 10

3:00 - 4:00 PM

How the Workplace has Changed Since the Pandemic

Prof. Scott Benson

The American white-collar workplace, for better and for worse, operated largely unchanged for several decades. Then came the COVID-19 pandemic. Suddenly even the most well-established assumptions about how, when, and where work gets done were completely upended. Overnight, employers large and small needed to navigate intense challenges – how to maintain their businesses when so many couldn't come to the office, while also better addressing the work-life and mental health challenges of their employees. Today's workplace includes new communication technology, remote work, hybrid work, and increased awareness and support for employee needs. This talk will discuss these major workplace changes, their advantages and drawbacks, and what changes are here to stay. Examples from workplaces that have embraced these changes and those that are lagging behind will be shared.

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Thursday, October 17

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Darkest Hour: 1940 and the Battle of Britain

Prof. Gary Darden

The sweeping defeat of Denmark, Norway, the Benelux, and France in just 11 weeks left Britain and its overseas Empire completely alone against Nazi Occupied Europe, one that stretched from the Arctic Circle to the Pyrenees. Despite the gravest odds, Winston Churchill led an isolated island nation in a defiant stance against relentless Nazi air & sea power. While Britain alone could not defeat Nazi Germany, it only had to hold out until Hitler expanded his war against the USSR and US in 1941, thus offering Churchill the 'Grand Coalition' he knew could achieve ultimate victory.

Thursday, October 24

3:00 - 4:00 PM

The 'Return' of China and Superpower Politics in the 21st Century

Prof. Gary Darden

The formidable position of China in the 21st century is owed less to the 'rise' of China than the 'return' of China to a position of Great Power status it had held for centuries until the mid-19th century when the Industrial Revolution in the West forced China into a steady and volatile decline amidst foreign invasions & civil wars. To the Chinese, what ensued was the 'Century of Humiliation' (1839-1949). What followed that were the brutal revolutions of Mao Zedong and then the market revolutions of Deng Xiaoping, both of which radically remade China. It is this legacy that shapes the nationalist ambitions and world view of Xi Jinping and poses the greatest challenge to the US-led world order in the 21st century.

Thursday, October 31

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Understanding Halloween

Prof. Bruce Peabody

What are the origins of our most democratic holiday, and why are we attracted to the monstrous and terrifying? What explains the allure of being scared, and exploring our dark side through creatures, ghouls, and killers?

"Food"

Lecture Series

Reviews today's food-obsessed age, as we can see in the proliferation of TV shows about food, films, and novels. Its preparation and its consumption have become functional (and central) to the development of the storyline in films from the past four decades, acting as a socio-political lens through which culture and interpersonal relationships are seen. Several canonical literary texts have also been re-read through the lens of food studies, reaching surprising conclusions and offering new ways to look at literature. This series examines some of the cultural, political, and economic issues raised by this new genre, including cultural identification and appropriation, stereotypes, gender roles, belonging, othering, and food as simulated tourism or magic.

***Thursday, November 7**

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Food Part I: "The pervasiveness of food in the media"

Prof. Gloria Pastorino

***Thursday, November 14**

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Food Part II: "Food, memory, and manners"

Prof. Gloria Pastorino

***Thursday, November 21**

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Food Part III: "Food stereotypes in the media"

Prof. Gloria Pastorino

***While this is a lecture series, feel free to join one or all sessions. Attendance at all lectures is not necessary for a comprehensive understanding.**