LLI CURRICULUM SPOTLIGHT
May, 2013

SPRING BROWN BAG PRESENTATIONS
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Massachusetts Boston

This very popular series is once again presenting some stimulating topics. Some of the presentations will be broadcast from UMASS Boston via videoconference to their two other offsite locations. Members can choose to attend at any location. Up for discussion are the following:

- The Origins of Baseball
- John Adams and The Boston Massacre
- American Art in Boston
- Underground Boston
- The Dome of the Rock: The Politics of Islamic Art & Israeli Archaeology in an Ununified Jerusalem
- Holy Misrepresentation!: Memorable, but Misleading Religious Art, Contradicted by the Bible and History
- Probing the Planets
- Adapting to the Physical Changes of the Aging Process
- The Suriname Diary: The Wild Adventures of Daniel Rolander (1723-1793)
  - The Battle of Midway: Turning Point in WWII
    - The Aging Eye
  - The Prettiest Places in the Commonwealth
    - Solo Trip to the Caucasus
    - Why We are Fat!
- The Turkish Alphabet Revolution
- What Happens in Probate and Family Court and Why Should We Care?
  - Aging and Disabilities II: A Conundrum as We Age
  - The Rising at Roxbury Crossing
  - Changes in Memory: Is It Normal Aging?
- Who is that Girl in Pink? The Life and Times of Suzanne Valadon: Model & Artist
  - Living in the Digital Age: Are You Ready?
  - Into the Crazywoods: A Memoir of Madness
- Views of Dorchester and the North End of Boston
  - Burma/Myanmar in Transition
- Rupert Murdoch, the British Media and Democracy
- The Sixty-Fourth Day: A Memoir Reading and Discussion
  - Inside Hana’s Suitcase
- Human Genetics and Beyond: Epigenetics-The Story of Nature & Nurture in the New Age

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
LIFE ON THE FIRST COAST:
AN EXPLORATION OF ALL THINGS COASTAL
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of N. Florida, Jacksonville

Why do beaches disappear during storms, but rebuild later? What happens to all of the
plants and animals during hurricanes? Should you worry about sharks when you go
swimming? Why do we make such a fuss over endangered plants and animals? Are dolphins
really as smart as we think? How do oysters help keep our coastal waters clean? Why do
commercial and recreational fishermen need marshes? Eight UNF Coastal Scientists who
study First Coast will explore these topics and more, in language that anyone can understand
with plenty of time for questions and discussions. Topics include:

The Dynamic Coast – A look at the coasts of Florida and the Southeastern United States.

An Overview of Florida’s Geology and Natural History – This presentation will give an
outline of Florida’s history, where it came from, and how it developed.

Nutrients and Algae Blooms in Florida Lakes and Rivers: More than Just Unsightly –
This presentation will cover who are the algae, why they seem to be so omnipresent now,
how we can get rid of them, and why we should care so much about their existence.

Diamondback Terrapins: A Local Beauty Seldom Seen – A look at the only turtles that
prefer brackish coastal waters and live in salt marshes, tidal creeks and mangrove islands.

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sharks – A look at the biology of
sharks and their relatives in Florida.

Seafood and Saltmarshes – What are salt marshes and how do they thrive in the hostile
coastal environment?

Dolphins in the St. Johns River – Dolphin behavior in this habitat will be discussed.

Climate Change and the Impacts on Tropical Coral Reefs – The impacts of increasing
atmospheric carbon emissions and rising global temperatures on delicate reef systems will be
discussed.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

LITERARY DISCUSSIONS
Learning in Retirement at Iona College, New York

In keeping with the theme of their Friday lecture series, virtually all of the novels they will be
discussing this semester deal with war in some way – either events leading up to it, the war
itself, or its aftermath. This semester for the first time they are indicating the number of
pages in each book so participants can plan their reading. While their enjoyment of this
course will be enhanced if they read the book, they are welcome to come and just listen –
and perhaps be inspired to read. Short works will be distributed the week before they are
scheduled to be discussed. The following are topics for the eight weeks:
• *In the Garden of Beasts*, by Eric Larson
• *The Sense of an Ending*, by Julian Barnes
• *The Master Butchers Singing Club*, by Louise Erdrich
  • *The Buddha in the Attic*, by Julie Otsuka
  • Short Stories
• *All Quiet on the Western Front*, by Erich Maria Remarque
  • Short Stories
• *The Paris Wife*, by Paula McLain

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

SPRING COURSES
Adventures in Learning, Colby-Sawyer College, New Hampshire

• **The Biology of Morality** - Beliefs are derived from multiple sources and this course will emphasize the influence of genetics and our environment on our beliefs. How do these factors influence altruism, honesty and monogamy? Insights that science has provided into human belief and behavior will be drawn from anthropology, psychology, animal behavior, game theory and genetics, woven together by the theory of evolution.

• **Beginning Figure Drawing** - Designed for students who are beginners or those who want an opportunity to continue building on their skills, participants will learn basic figure drawing techniques using a variety of media—pencil, charcoal, pastel, conte crayon and watercolors.

• **Religion in Collision II: The Medieval Age** - The Medieval Age was a violent time: clashing tribes, marauding horsemen and raiding sea people. Some have called it a dark and corrupt age, others a time of order and heroism. Key events during a 500-year period (1000–1500 CE) with an emphasis on the development and collision of religious and political institutions will be covered.

• **Eighty Years of Social Change in the U.S. (1933-2013)** - The social fabric of the United States has changed drastically in the last 80 years. Participants will examine and discuss the influence of immigration, legislation and the media on American society from the 1930s through present day. The focus will be on the changes that occurred as a result of the New Deal, World War II, the Civil Rights Movement, Women’s Liberation and the impact of TV and the computer.

• **The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution** - Led by two constitutional scholars, this course will explore the meaning, limits and issues that surround the First Amendment that guarantees freedom of speech and the press. Primary focus will be on Supreme Court cases, but cases from other courts and commentary from observers of the First Amendment scene will also be considered.

• **And the Bands Played On: A History of Big Band Jazz** - The course will trace the history of big band jazz from its origins in the 1930s (Goodman, Basie and Ellington) to the current day, through the use of selected listening examples and discussion. The focus will be jazz history rather than nostalgia, as big bands made the transition from dance halls to present-day concert halls.
- **Renaissance Architecture** - Renaissance architecture is the visual embodiment of what the Renaissance stood for. In six informal, illustrated lectures, the essential tenets of Renaissance architecture will be revealed in the buildings of its earliest practitioners in Florence. The course will show how these ideas eventually were altered, sometimes distorted or tarted, as the style spread to Rome and Venice, northern Europe and America.

- **Changing Course: Transformation in Contemporary Africa** - Diplomat and former U.S. Ambassador Thomas Hull will explore the enigma of sub-Saharan Africa. This four-session course will impart, through presentation and discussion, a better understanding of the formidable challenges Africans face, the prospects for surmounting them and the contributions the outside world is making to Africa’s transformation.

- **How Science Was Born and Why It Matters Today** - Using the “Copernican Revolution” as an example, the course will discuss how modern science evolved from natural philosophy, which in turn evolved from ancient mythology. Examples from physics, chemistry and medicine will be used showing how the scientific community confronted and attempted to overcome the objections of those who held beliefs, which they proclaimed infallible. The course will conclude with a discussion of three modern scientific theories—relativity, evolution and global warming.

- **The New England Transcendentalists** - Today most people understand Transcendentalism to be an intellectual movement whose members were the movers and shakers of many different progressive issues, including the abolition of slavery and the rights of women. Were they brilliant eccentrics or somewhat loony geniuses? This multi-speaker lecture series also examines the historical events and culture that enabled this group to be so influential and will include an optional field trip.

---

**INFLUENTIAL 20TH CENTURY SOCIAL THINKERS**
Institute for Lifelong Learning, Western Iowa Technical Community College, Iowa

Each seminar in this series focuses on a key social thinker of the 20th Century who made major contributions to social science, particularly sociology and our understanding of society. One reason people may not know much about sociologists is that sociologists often engage in only scholarly work with no direct intervention in society, thought the social thinkers presented in this series tend to be the exception to the socially disengaged academic standard. Topics include:

**Jane Addams: Pioneering Pragmatist** – Addams is the clearest example of a social thinker putting theory into practice, using social science and ideas to improve the lives of others in everyday philanthropic work.

Wright Mills: Rebel of the Ivory Tower – Some social thinkers engage with social issues in an effort to improve society, but a few become highly critical of the academic world, often called the Ivory Tower. Mills, a self-proclaimed outsider in academia, may be the most well known sociologist who openly criticized the Ivory Tower and its emphasis on academic integrity without much action.

Erving Goffman: Shakespeare of Social Science – “All the world’s a stage” from Shakespeare’s *As You Like It*, captures Goffman’s key contributions to social thinking, contributions that persist today in understanding how people interact with one another and society.


Betty Friedan: Catalyst of Feminism – Friedan’s writings and activism were crucial elements in the development of the women’s movement that has helped society move toward greater gender equality.

Nathan Glazer: Conservative Liberal – In the modern era of flip-flopping politicians, Glazer may be one of the innovators of flip-flop social science.

Howard Becker: Hipster Scholar – Perhaps Becker does not self-identify as a “hipster” but his work in social science has delved into that cultural world extensively.

Pierre Bourdieu: Barbarian at the Gate – A French sociologist, Bourdieu has injected new life into studies of social class, particularly with regard to highbrow culture as a way to evaluate the authenticity of wealthy individuals.