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SPRING  
2026

EMERITUS SOCIETY COURSES

**EMERITUS SOCIETY**  
*Lifelong Learning*

*Emeritus Society, a lifelong learning program affiliated with the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, provides stimulating noncredit opportunities for adult learners. The program creates a learning community that affirms the unique attributes that adult students bring to the classroom—delight in the joy of learning, intellectual savvy, and substantial life experience. Emeritus Society participants are encouraged and supported in pursuing their intellectual interests with like-minded peers. Our courses are designed to satisfy a hunger for intellectual nourishment without the pressure of tests and grades.*

*This spring the program is excited to offer courses and lectures in Greensboro taught by outstanding instructors noted for their scholarship and engaging classroom style. We hope you will find one or more of interest and join us.*

## EMERITUS SOCIETY SPRING KICK-OFF

### *Religion and Peacebuilding: Rethinking Religious Discourse in Conflict and Countering Extremism*

Oversimplifying religion as simply a cultural phenomenon unrelated to political organization or as solely dealing with soteriology (e.g., doctrines of salvation or liberation) can lead to, at best, misguided recommendations for conflict resolution and, at worst, progressively escalating episodes of injustice and violence. Conversely, by overemphasizing the importance of religion in conflict, other factors like economic disparity or structural violence may get short shrift. To avoid these pitfalls, it may only be possible to follow Richard Horsley's (2003) advice that when striving "for critical studies of religion, we must almost certainly be thinking in terms of 'religion and...'" If religion, in Horsley's sense, cannot be understood as a stand-alone social phenomenon, then how do we begin to understand how it is instrumentalized in modern political discourse? In this lecture/discussion, we will comparatively explore 'Western' and 'South Asian' conceptions of religion and try to understand what these divergent conceptions mean for understanding religiously fundamentalist movements and countering violent extremism (CVE). In challenging Appleby's (2000) claim that "'Religious leadership' [is] the most critical category in our analysis [of religion and conflict]," this talk instead focuses on religious discourse as the best means to overcome violent religious militancy (e.g., CVE).

Tuesday, February 3, 1:00-2:30 pm  
Greensboro Shrine Club

*No charge, but for planning purposes registration is requested*

**Jeremy A. Rinker** is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of North Carolina Greensboro (UNCG). His research interests include narrative meaning-making and the role of collective historical trauma in social movement conflict. Dr. Rinker has two single-authored publications: *The Guide to Trauma-Informed and Emotionally Mindful Conflict Practice* (Bloomsbury, 2024) and *Identity, Rights, and Awareness: Anti-Caste Activism in India and the Awakening of Justice through Discursive Practices* (Lexington Books, 2018). He is also the editor of *The Journal of Transdisciplinary Peace Praxis* (<https://jtp.p.uk/>) and two edited volumes as well as multiple academic journal articles/chapters. Dr. Rinker is the executive director of the Institute for Peace and Harmony (IPH - <https://iph-institute.org/>).

## CHARLES DARWIN AND THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES

Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*, published in 1859, initiated a revolution in our understanding of the living world, yet it is rarely read today, even by biologists. This course begins by surveying the ways in which students of natural history explained the living world prior to Darwin's evolutionary proposals. Darwin drew on his own extensive experience as a naturalist, especially during his voyage on the H.M.S. Beagle from 1831-1836, as well as on discoveries by other naturalists in the early decades of the 19th century. Darwin described his book as "one long argument," and we'll dissect the elements of that argument, examining the evidence on which Darwin based his proposed mechanism of natural selection, as well as the rhetorical strategies he used in presenting his argument to an audience he was sure would be critical of his ideas. The book was an immediate sensation, and it provoked strong reactions both pro and con. Many of Darwin's contemporaries supported his theory as heralding a new, revolutionary approach to the study of the natural world; critics included those who took philosophical or religious exception to his ideas, as well as those who pointed out scientific problems. Darwin's writing did not end with the *Origin*. In the remaining 23 years of his life, he published 10 additional books (half his total output) on a wide range of topics, all of them focused on further supporting his view that all species have descended from a common ancestor, primarily through the mechanism of natural selection.

Session 1: Prelude – Natural History Before Darwin

Session 2: The Origins of the *Origin of Species*

Session 3: Darwin's Evolutionary Argument

Session 4: Victorian Reactions to Darwinism

Session 5: Darwin's Writings after the *Origin*



Tuesdays, 10:30 am-12:00 noon  
 February 3-March 3  
 Greensboro Shrine Club  
 \$100

**Tim Johnston** is Emeritus Professor of Psychology and Emeritus Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at UNCG, where he was a faculty member for 41 years. He has taught classes in the history of psychology, animal behavior, general psychology, and the history of evolution. His current research and scholarship deal with the history of the behavioral sciences.

## BRICS AND BEYOND: THE RISE OF A GLOBAL ALLIANCE

The term “BRIC” was coined in 2001 to describe the four largest emerging economies in the world at that time, Brazil, Russia, India, and China. This group of countries held its first summit in 2009, and South Africa joined the following year, giving birth to BRICS. Since 2024, the group has expanded further to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. This course will examine and explore the history of BRICS as both the informal alliance it has evolved into and as the independent component parts that comprise the organization.

1. Introduction
2. Brazil and Russia
3. India and China
4. South Africa and Egypt
5. Iran and Saudi Arabia
6. Conclusion

Tuesdays, 12:30-2:00 pm  
 February 10-March 17  
 Greensboro Shrine Club  
 \$120

**Jeff Jones** (Ph.D., UNC Chapel Hill) is Professor of Russian/Soviet and Contemporary World History at UNCG. He is the author of *Everyday Life and the “Reconstruction” of Soviet Russia During and After the Great Patriotic War, 1943-1948* (Slavica Publishers, Bloomington, IN, 2008) and of two recent works, *Smoke, Mirrors, and Memories: Legacies of the Soviet-Afghan War* (University of Toronto Press, August 2025) and *Contemporary World History Since 1945* (Routledge, October 2025), as well as of several articles. He won the 2024 UNCG College of Arts & Sciences Senior Instructor Award as well as the 2024-2025 Mary Settle Sharpe Alumni Award for Teaching Excellence.

## ONLINE ZOOM COURSE

### BIRD WILD: WHY BIRDS ARE THE NEW CRAZE

Birdwatchers are often portrayed as absent-minded folk in goofy hats, binoculars around their necks, scanning the trees and tripping over the roots. But birdwatching is having a moment. It’s become wildly popular with the young as well as the retired. Birding groups are everywhere. Actors, office workers, students all seem to be out on trails looking up and watching, and many are writing about how what they’ve seen has changed them.

The new obsession with birds is no doubt related to the indisputable fact of climate change, as well as a growing desire for the outdoors in an isolated and tech-controlled world. But it’s an old obsession, too. Birds have always provoked the old and young alike to look up. We’ll discover some of the reasons for this deep and growing fascination with birds, and learn a little about the mystery of bird-love. It seems that birds might have something to teach us, might give us a hint about how to change this all-too-earthbound world.

Book: *Birding to Change the World*. Trish O’Kane  
 Short work: Nobel Prize speech. Toni Morrison, 1993.  
 “Willing”, from *Birds of America*, Lorrie Moore.

Selected poems, commentary

“Three Years After”, Christian Cooper, *New York Times*, May 26, 2023  
 “The Birds”. (yes, that one). From *The Birds and Other Stories*, Daphne duMaurier (or watch the movie!)

1. Conversations with Birds  
 Introduction: Birds in Language and Culture
2. Notes from Birders  
 Thoreau, Cooper, Tan, MacDonald
3. What Birds Say  
 Hitchcock and du Maurier, The Birds  
 Chapter 1: *Birding to Change the World*
4. Birding and the Imagination  
 “Willing”, Moore  
 Selected poetry—Coleridge, Oliver, Shelley, Dunbar, Berry
5. Changing the World  
*Birding to Change the World*, O’Kane
6. The Gift of Birds  
 Nobel Prize speech, Morrison

Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30 am  
 March 4-April 8  
 Online via Zoom  
 \$120

**Hephzibah Roskelly** (Ph.D., University of Louisville) is a Professor Emeritus of Rhetoric and Composition. She is the recipient of the Alumni Teaching Excellence Award and the UNC Board of Governors’ Teaching Excellence Award.

## JAZZ LISTENING: UNDERSTANDING AMERICA'S MUSIC THROUGH ITS ICONIC RECORDINGS

Jazz music embodies self-expression, creativity, and the story of America's social and cultural evolution. This class will explore how to listen to jazz deeply, hearing not only the notes but the context, emotion, and intent behind them. Each week, participants will examine landmark jazz recordings that shaped the genre, discussing why these albums and artists remain vital today. From Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington to Miles Davis and Wynton Marsalis, we will discover how jazz teaches us to listen to music, to others, and to ourselves.

Throughout the course, we will build active listening skills, develop a shared vocabulary for discussing music, and engage in open dialogue about jazz's ongoing role in American and global culture. No prior musical experience is required, just curiosity and open ears.

1. Week 1: What Is Jazz? An introduction to listening: rhythm, improvisation, and expression.
2. How to Listen & Why It Matters: Developing listening habits and understanding basic elements: harmony, texture, and form.
3. New Orleans & The Birth of Jazz: Exploring the roots of jazz and its ties to blues, ragtime, and African American traditions.
  - Listening: Louis Armstrong, Sydney Bechet, Jelly Roll Morton
4. Week 4: Swing and the Big Band Era: The rise of jazz as America's popular music.
  - Listening: Count Basie, Benny Goodman, Mary Lou Williams.
5. Week 5: Duke (East) vs. Basie (West). Two approaches to swing: compositional elegance vs. rhythmic drive.
  - Listening: Duke Ellington, Count Basie
6. Miles Davis and the Cool School: Space, tone, and restraint as a new form of sophistication. Listening: Miles Davis, Gil Evans, Chet Baker
7. 1959: The Turning Point. A watershed year with groundbreaking albums from Davis, Mingus, Brubeck, Coleman, and Coltrane.
  - Listening: Selected tracks from each.
8. Modern Voices in Jazz: How today's artists continue the legacy.
  - Listening: Esperanza Spalding, Wynton Marsalis, Robert Glasper, and others.

Fridays, 2:00-3:30 pm  
 March 13-May 8 (no class April 3)  
 Greensboro Shrine Club  
 \$160

**James Lane** is a versatile trombonist, educator, and ensemble director based in North Carolina. He serves as Director of Jazz Ensembles at Wake Forest University and as Assistant Director of Jazz and Athletic Bands at High Point University. As an active performer across jazz, classical, and commercial styles, James works with groups such as Greensboro Chamber Brass, Gate City Jazz Trio,

and Rebekah Todd. He holds dual bachelor's degrees in music education and jazz studies, a Master of Music in Trombone Performance, and a Doctor of Musical Arts, focusing on jazz performance and music pedagogy.

## WAR, CONFLICT, AND MEMORY IN MODERN UKRAINE

This course explains the role of ethnic conflicts and genocides in Ukraine in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries (e.g., the Holodomor, the horrible famine in Ukraine in the mid-1930s; the Great Terror, the purges of the Stalinist regime in the late 1930s; the Holocaust; the Volhynian tragedy, the bloody conflict between Ukrainians and Poles in 1943; the deportation of Crimean Tatars during World War II, etc.) and their memory, including the current Russia's war against Ukraine. We will examine how contemporary events in Ukraine have affected historical perceptions of the Holodomor and the Holocaust. Historical ethnic conflicts and genocides, which were taboo topics and silenced during the Soviet era, have gained attention at both the national and international levels since Ukraine gained its independence in late 1991, and much of our focus will be on that development.

1. The Politics of Memory and Historical Narratives: Actors, Issues, and Memories of the Past
2. Politics of Memory of the Holocaust in Ukraine
3. Soviet Heritage and Collective Memory in Ukraine
4. Competing Recollections: Responsibility and Reconciliation—Memory of the Volhynian Tragedy and Ukraine-Poland Relations
5. Russia's war against Ukraine and New Memory?
6. Conclusions and Considerations

Thursdays, 2-3:30 pm  
 March 26-April 30  
 Greensboro Shrine Club  
 \$120

**Nataliia Ivchyk** (PhD, Chernivtsi National University, Ukraine) is from Rivne, Ukraine, where she is an Associate Professor in Political Science at Rivne State University for the Humanities in Ukraine. She is the co-founder of the Mnemonics, a center in Rivne that has created educational materials, translated scholarly documents, and erected Holocaust memorials. Her research examines gender and children's experiences during the Holocaust in Ukraine and Central Europe. She has published a book, *Insulted Otherness: Ethno-Confessional Policy of the Russian Empire in the Right-Bank Ukraine* (2020), and is currently working on a chapter, "Children, World War II, and the Holocaust," for the forthcoming

book *European-Jewish Studies* (De Gruyter Brill, 2026). She has also published a chapter in the book *Town of Remembrance-Town of Oblivion: The Palimpsests of Rivne Memorial Landscape* (2020). Most recently, Dr. Ivchik has been in residence at the University of British Columbia in 2023-2024 and as a research Fellow at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC in 2025.

## THE PARADOX OF *PERSUASION*: JANE AUSTEN'S FINAL NOVEL

According to many scholars, Jane Austen's last complete novel, *Persuasion*, published posthumously in 1818, is her finest work. Often described as "autumnal" in tone, *Persuasion* is the story of a mature heroine and second chances. In this class, we will unpack the many paradoxes of *Persuasion* and attempt to understand how Austen's own life imbues the novel. Set in 1814, the narrative transpires during a brief peace in the course of England's long war with France. With its prominent inclusion of the British navy, war and domestic concerns stand side by side. The many references to health and illness, some serious, others quite humorous, remind the reader that Austen was dealing with her own medical. Finally, Austen's attention to gender and class, especially her examination of the traditional roles of women and the many interesting female characters in the novel, make it quite modern for its time. Ahead of class, participants are asked to read the section of the novel under discussion. (Carolyn recommends the 2nd Norton Critical Edition, ed. by Patricia Meyer Spacks ).

1. Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, Background and Chapters 1-8
2. Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, Chapters 9-16
3. Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, Chapters 17-24; Film and Book Adaptations

Tuesdays, 10:30-12:00 noon  
March 17-31  
Greensboro Shrine Club  
\$60

**Carolyn J. Brown** (Ph.D., UNC-Greensboro) is a teacher, writer, editor, and independent scholar. Winner of the 1991 UNCG Dissertation Award, her areas of specialty are medieval, Renaissance, and 18th-century literature. She is the author of five works of nonfiction, including award-winning biographies of Mississippi writers Eudora Welty and Margaret Walker. In addition, she has published articles in several peer-reviewed journals, including *Persuasions*, the journal of the Jane Austen Society of North America (JASNA). Brown is a former board member of JASNA and has presented papers at their annual conference on four occasions, most recently in 2025. She teaches continuing education classes in Greensboro and Chapel Hill.

## EXPRESS YOURSELF: ART FOR ALL

Research on participatory arts shows promise for improving adults' quality of life and well-being, from better cognitive function, memory, and self-esteem to reduced stress and increased social interaction. This course will introduce you to watercolors, oils, and mosaics for anyone interested in the visual arts. Try your hand at them all, no experience necessary!

1. Watercolor Florals — Discover the beauty of watercolor florals as you learn to paint spring blooms. You'll be guided through essential watercolor techniques—such as layering, blending, and composition—to create an expressive floral piece that captures the beauty of nature.
2. Painting with Water-mixable Oils — Explore the rich, buttery texture of oils without the mess or harsh solvents in this water-mixable oil painting class. Develop color mixing skills and explore expressive application using a variety of tools in a relaxed, supportive setting.
3. DIY Mosaic Tile Stepping Stones — This class will introduce how to design and assemble a mosaic stepping stone, decorating it with bright colors and patterns you create yourself. A mosaic is simply a pattern of small pieces of tile, glass, or other materials secured with grout, resulting in your very own unique piece to accentuate your flower beds or walkway.

Wednesdays, 10-11:30 am  
April 15-29  
Creative-Aging Network  
\$75

**The Creative Aging Network-NC** enriches the lives of adults through creative expression, education, and social connection, bridging generations and cultures. Our 10.5-acre campus in Greensboro is a vibrant, welcoming hub for people of all backgrounds and abilities to engage, create, and build community. The talented instructors for this course include Diana Shur, Lia Miller, and Vanita Bailey.

## EMERITUS AT TANGER

*An entertaining course held in tandem with performances at the Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts that provides a deeper understanding and context for performances.*

## ICONS OF ROCK MUSIC

As part of a growing list of explorations into the History of Rock Music and its many personalities, this lecture series will be the first in a new collection of adventures: The Icons of Rock Music. In each series, we will explore a collection of ground-breaking artists and bands, connected by a common theme or topic. Each lecture will then focus in depth on a single artist or band that made a significant contribution to the theme.

Our first Icons series will take us across the pond to the United Kingdom. But this isn't just any look into the great rock music England had to offer. In this series, we will explore a sampling of rock royalty—literally. Throughout the history of rock music, there have been a small handful of elite artists whose contributions to the kingdom were so rockin' that they were actually knighted by the queen. These rockers in shining guitar strings defended crown and country with their brilliance and innovation while carving out a permanent place in the world culture that is rock music.

But wait, there's more! On February 14, 2026 (Valentine's Day!), the Tanger Center for the Performing Arts will present a concert by the Greensboro Symphony: Music of the Knights, featuring music by two of our royal rockers—Elton John and Paul McCartney. This lecture series is the perfect opportunity to hear their stories and get in the mood to hear some of their tunes at the concert. So, shine up your shield and sharpen your broadsword. Next stop: the majestic world of rock royalty! (Note: Course may contain offensive language and material. It's rock and roll!)

1. Sir Paul McCartney
2. Sir Elton John
3. Sir Mick Jagger
4. Sir Ray Davies
5. Sir Van Morrison
6. Sir Rod Stewart

Thursdays, 10-11:30 am  
February 5-March 12  
Greensboro Shrine Club  
\$120

*This course is held in tandem with the 2025-26 season of the Greensboro Symphony at the Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts and provides a deeper appreciation for the music before an optional viewing of a symphony performance. The Music of the Knights tickets are sold separately on the first day of class. Limited tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.*

**Brian Carter** (DMA, University of Michigan) is a Lecturer at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro School of Music and an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Music at Elon University. Before recently returning to his home of Greensboro, he was a professional opera and classical concert singer, and a Clinical Assistant Professor of Music at Washington State University, where he specialized in Vocal Studies and Literature, and History of Rock Music.

## MUSIC OF THE "KNIGHTS" SYMPHONY

A spectacular tribute to three of Britain's most iconic songwriters: Andrew Lloyd Webber, Paul McCartney, and Elton John. Their legendary hits will be brought to life by three Broadway stars in a night of unforgettable music and romance.

Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts  
February 14  
Cost: TBD

## AUSTRIA: MORE THAN THE SOUND OF MUSIC

When most people think of Austria, they picture alpine landscapes and Julie Andrews twirling through the hills. But there's so much more to this vibrant country. Taught by a native Austrian, this course offers an engaging, non-academic exploration of Austria's rich history, diverse culture, political landscape, geography, and language. While *The Sound of Music* will make a few cameo appearances, the real spotlight is on the Austria that locals know and love—past and present.

1. Austria Unveiled—Beyond the Postcard
2. Culture, Customs, and Kaffeehaus Conversations
3. Politics, People, and *The Sound of Music* Legacy

Mondays, 2-3:30 pm  
February 23-March 9  
Greensboro Shrine Club  
\$60

*This course is held in tandem with the 2025-26 Broadway season at the Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts and provides a deeper understanding and context for The Sound of Music before an optional viewing of the musical. The Sound of Music musical tickets are sold separately on the first day of class. Limited tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.*

**Marion Hofmann** is an Austrian native who lived in Germany before moving to the United States in 1995. She immigrated to South Florida before relocating to the Carolinas. She made Greensboro her home in 2004. Marion has a degree in Tourism and Hotel Management from Germany and has always known that "people" and making them "happy" were her calling. She is passionate about telling people about her home country, Austria, whether they want to listen or not. As part of her "paycheck" career, Marion has been an Executive Assistant to various leaders at Stockhausen Superabsorber for the last 20 years and recently retired to make time for the fun things in life. She also has a tour guide business, Travel Like a Local.

## SOUND OF MUSIC

For 65 years, *The Sound of Music* has been one of our "favorite things." With its timeless story and irresistibly charming score, this classic isn't just meant to be enjoyed—it's meant to be shared. Now, a critically acclaimed North American tour brings the cherished musical to stages across the country, teaching a new generation to sing.

Directed by three-time Tony Award® winner Jack O'Brien (Hairspray), this vibrant and romantic tale of Maria and the von Trapp family will captivate



audiences with its universal themes of love, resilience, and the power of music. *The Sound of Music* features music by Richard Rodgers, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, and a book by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse.

Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts  
Date & Cost: TBD

## THE PROFS DO THE MOVIES

A series in which professors host screenings and lead discussions of important films. Now in its 20th season.

### HOLLYWOOD DOES THE DEPRESSION

The Great Depression was the most severe economic downturn in modern history. “Hollywood Does the Depression” illustrates some of the ways that Hollywood responded to the monumental crisis. The first movie is comic (with serious overtones), the second is tragic (but hopeful), and the third is purely escapist (and purely delightful).

#### MY MAN GODFREY (1936)

A spoiled socialite finds a down-and-out banker at the city dump and offers him \$5 to be her “forgotten man” in a scavenger hunt. He becomes the family butler. A so-called screwball comedy with a strong element of social criticism, the film captures the tensions of the period. Starring William Powell and Carole Lombard in two of their greatest roles.

Sunday, February 15, 1:30-5 pm  
UNCG School of Music  
Cost: \$20

#### THE GRAPES OF WRATH (1940)

Directed by John Ford, *The Grapes of Wrath* is the classic Great Depression film. Based on John Steinbeck’s fictional masterpiece, the film depicts the pain and suffering as well as the strength and perseverance of the hundreds of thousands of farmers whose lives were profoundly altered by the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression. Starring the young Henry Fonda in his greatest role.

Sunday, March 15, 1:30-5 pm  
UNCG School of Music  
Cost: \$20

#### SWING TIME (1936)

One of the best Fred Astaire-Ginger Rogers musicals with wonderful songs by Jerome Kern and Dorothy Fields, including “The Way You Look Tonight” and “A Fine Romance.” *Swing Time* is probably the most delightful and exhilarating dance movie of the ten Astaire-Rogers musicals. A successful Hollywood attempt to brighten a very dark time.

Sunday, April 19, 1:30-5 pm  
UNCG School of Music  
Cost: \$20

**Keith Cushman** (Ph.D., Princeton University), Professor Emeritus of English, has written or edited seven books about D.H. Lawrence. The recipient of two Fulbrights, he has lectured on modern English and American literature in Italy, Finland, the Czech Republic, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, India, Japan, and Korea. He is a recipient of the Alumni Research Excellence Award.

**Ron Cassell** (Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Associate Professor Emeritus of History and Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, has long had an interest in 20th century British political history and the two world wars. He is a recipient of the Alumni Teaching Excellence Award.

## FILMS FROM THE BRICS COUNTRIES

This course is based on (mostly) recent films from six of the BRICS countries covered in our earlier course in the Spring, which we will watch within a historical context. This is not strictly speaking a film class because we will not be concerned with issues of the director’s style, cinematography, etc., in these films (although those issues may certainly come up in the class and can be part of our discussion). Our main focus, however, will be on what these films can teach us about these various BRICS countries from a cultural and historical point of view, as depicted in film by those living through it. The films are not in English but will be subtitled in English.

The six films\* for the course are:

1. *I’m Still Here* (Ainda Estou Aqui) (Brazil, 2024; 135 minutes); dir. by Walter Salles
2. *Namesake* (India/US, 2006; 122 minutes); dir. by Mira Nair
3. *The Seed of the Sacred Fig* (Dane-ye anjir-e ma’abed) (Iran/Germany, 2024; 167 minutes); dir. by Mohammad Rasoulof
4. *Blind Shaft* (Mang jing) (China, 2003; 92 minutes); dir. by Yang Li
5. *Tsotsi* (South Africa; 2005; 95 minutes); dir. by Gavin Hood
6. *Wadja* (Saudi Arabia; 2012; 98 minutes); dir. by Haifaa al-Mansour

Tuesdays/Thursday, 2:00-5:00 pm  
May 12-28  
UNCG School of Music  
\$120

**Jeff Jones** is a native North Carolinian who did his undergraduate and graduate work at UNC-Chapel Hill. Since 2000 he has been a Professor of Russian/Soviet and Contemporary World History at

UNC Greensboro. His first book, *Everyday Life and the 'Reconstruction' of Soviet Russia During and After the Great Patriotic War, 1943-1948*, was published in 2008. His second book, *Smoke, Mirrors, and Memories: Legacies of the Soviet-Afghan War*, is forthcoming with the University of Toronto Press. He has also had several published articles. Jones won the 2024 Mary Settle Sharp UNCG Alumni Teaching Excellence Award and the 2023-2024 UNCG College of Arts & Sciences Teaching Award.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A special lunchtime event that includes an engaging lecture and boxed lunch.

### CAT SCIENCE

For those of us who are lucky enough to live with cats, they provide endless fascination and entertainment. Scientists have also become fascinated by felines, and in recent years, they have learned much more about cat biology and behavior. In this “Lunch & Learn,” we’ll discuss new insights into the evolutionary history of cat species (wild and domestic), the history of cat-human interactions, the genetic basis of variation in coat and eye color, and the genetics of cat behavior. That scientific progress now allows scientists to clone cats, so you can pay a company a great deal of money (more than \$50,000) to have them create a perfect genetic copy of your cat (although there are no guarantees that the clone will have the same personality as the beloved original).

Friday, March 13, 12-1:30 pm  
Greensboro Shrine Club  
\$25

**Dr. Janne Cannon** (Ph.D., UNC-Chapel Hill) is a Professor Emerita of Microbiology and Immunology in the School of Medicine at UNC-Chapel Hill. Her research and teaching at UNC-CH focused on genetics and infectious diseases. After retiring from UNC-CH, she taught a course for several years on “Plagues” for undergraduates in the Honors Program at UNCG; she also teaches courses on science and health for the Shepherd’s Center and the UNCG Emeritus Society.

**Dr. Rob Cannon** (Ph.D., University of Delaware) is a Professor Emeritus of Biology at UNCG. His research and teaching were focused on microbiology, immunology, and virology. He also taught for the Honors Program and was graduate director for the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) Program. This fall will mark 51 years of teaching at UNCG for him. He’s a private pilot and dreams of being the Chief Test Passenger for Boom Supersonic when they come to Greensboro.

## PUBLIC LIBRARIES AS SUPPORTS OF SOCIAL, MENTAL, AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

In 2023, then US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy released a report entitled *Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation* that recommends addressing this epidemic by investing in public libraries, as well as in other physical spaces that support the development of social connections. This course discusses how we got from the idea of the public library as a place to get books to the idea of the public library as a vital community center that supports social, mental, and even physical health. We’ll discuss how changes in society, technology, public health, and in the field of library science brought about changes in this ubiquitous public institution, and we’ll also discuss current threats to the ongoing resilience of the public library and how you can get more involved in public libraries near you. Finally, the course describes the variegated landscape of public libraries across America, exploring how and why public libraries look and function differently in different parts of the country, and how that heterogeneity in turn enables experimentation and new forms of community collaboration that enhance the ability of the public library to function as a health promotion partner.

Friday, April 17, 12-1:30 pm  
Greensboro Shrine Club  
\$25

**Noah Lenstra** is an associate professor of Library & Information Science at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where he started *Let’s Move in Libraries* in 2016. He received his M.S. and PhD in Library & Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He brings a community organizing approach to the research and teaching of public librarianship. Recent books include *Healthy Living at the Library* and *The 12-Steps to a Community-Led Library*.

## CURIOUS MINDS BOOK AND JOURNAL CLUB

A unique gathering of curious minds to discuss scientific literature found in research-based journals or books. Participants will review designated readings beforehand and discuss over coffee.

### BRIEFLY, PERFECTLY HUMAN

by Alua Arthur

Readers of Alua Arthur’s 2024 New York Times bestseller *Briefly, Perfectly Human: Making an Authentic Life by Getting Real About the End* will reflect on Arthur’s experiences as a death doula as she helps people confront mortality. What do her story and the stories of her clients have to offer us? How does it inform our ideas and hopes about the end of our own lives? Come prepared to share and dig into the nitty-gritty with joyful fearlessness.



Monday, February 23, 9-11 am  
Creative-Aging Network  
\$15

**Holly Lux-Sullivan** is the founder of Heartwood Death Doula and Bereavement Care and has 17 years of experience supporting people in life-and-death crises, both sudden and gradual. She's a board-certified chaplain who holds certifications as a death doula, spiritual director, and integrative chaplain. Holly is an avid reader, podcast listener, and comedy fan who lives in Mebane with Kevin, her husband of 20 years, and their two rescued greyhounds.

## YEAR OF WONDERS

by Geraldine Brooks

*Year of Wonders*, by Geraldine Brooks, is subtitled "A Novel of the Plague." It's a wonderful novel, with beautiful writing and vivid characters, bringing to life the time of the Black Death in 1666 England. The book is a work of fiction inspired by the true story of the villagers of Eyam, Derbyshire, who tried to protect themselves from the Black Death by closing off all interaction with the outside world. The infectious disease of the plague is still with us, and we'll discuss the plague today, as well as recent insights into how the Black Death moved from Asia to Europe and then to the British Isles. The novel deals with the way that individuals and communities react to terrifying existential threats like a pandemic; it's an even more timely topic today, after the COVID-19 pandemic, than it was when the book was published in 2001. Reading and discussing this exceptional novel will give us an opportunity to talk about the similarities and differences between historical pandemics like the Black Death and more recent disease pandemics.

Monday, April 13, 9-11 am  
Creative-Aging Network  
\$15

**Dr. Janne Cannon** (Ph.D., UNC-Chapel Hill) is a Professor Emerita of Microbiology and Immunology in the School of Medicine at UNC-Chapel Hill. Her research and teaching at UNC-CH focused on genetics and infectious diseases. After retiring from UNC-CH, she taught a course for several years on "Plagues" for undergraduates in the Honors Program at UNCG; she also teaches courses on science and health for the Shepherd's Center and the UNCG Emeritus Society.

**Dr. Rob Cannon** (Ph.D., University of Delaware) is a Professor Emeritus of Biology at UNCG. His research and teaching were focused on microbiology, immunology, and virology. He also taught for the Honors Program and was graduate director for the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) Program. This fall will mark 51 years of teaching at UNCG for him. He's a private pilot and dreams of being the Chief Test Passenger for Boom Supersonic when they come to Greensboro.

## SPECIAL EVENTS: *Eat Your Words*

**A TOWN LIKE ALICE** with Special Guest, Jeff Jones

by Nevil Shute

*A Town Like Alice* is a romance novel in three parts by British author Nevil Shute, published in 1950, by which time the author had settled in Australia. The novel bounces around in time and place from 1950 London to the Australian outback with flashbacks of the key character's (Jean Paget's) time in Malaya before and during World War II, including her time as a prisoner of the Japanese, along with other women and children who are marched under horrible conditions from village to village. Along the way, Jean meets Joe Harman, an Australian who is also a prisoner of the Japanese, and a budding friendship/romance begins. Historically, this tale meets at the very interesting intersections of British colonialism, Japanese conquest of East Asia during World War II, and the early Cold War, all aspects of the history we will explore in our discussion of this fascinating novel.

Thursday, March 19, 11:30 am-2 pm  
Greensboro Shrine Club  
\$60

**Jeff Jones** is a native North Carolinian who did his undergraduate and graduate work at UNC-Chapel Hill. Since 2000 he has been a Professor of Russian/Soviet and Contemporary World History at UNC Greensboro. His first book, *Everyday Life and the 'Reconstruction' of Soviet Russia During and After the Great Patriotic War, 1943-1948*, was published in 2008. His second book, *Smoke, Mirrors, and Memories: Legacies of the Soviet-Afghan War*, is forthcoming with the University of Toronto Press. He has also had several published articles. Jones won the 2024 Mary Settle Sharp UNCG Alumni Teaching Excellence Award and the 2023-2024 UNCG College of Arts & Sciences Teaching Award.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Emeritus Society courses are open to people of all ages and educational backgrounds. The program is a self-supporting arm of the University. Class fees, not tax dollars, are used to meet costs for the program. The cost of each course depends on the number of sessions. Courses consist of 3–8 sessions at \$20 per session.

You are registered only when payment is received. Register early to avoid inconvenience. Late registrants could miss important announcements such as last-minute changes in location. Instructors may not have enough materials for those registering late. Registration is on a first come, first served basis. If the class you want is filled, we keep a waiting list. Partial registrations to attend portions of the classes cannot be accepted. Detailed information on class location and parking will be supplied upon confirmation.

REGISTRATION

**Online:** You may register online at [spartanstrategiesinc.org/pages/emeritus-society](http://spartanstrategiesinc.org/pages/emeritus-society)

**Phone:** Call (336) 740-0211 to register with your credit card.  
Note: We will be closed December 24 – January 1.

**Mail:** Fill out the registration form. Include check payable to **Spartan Strategies, Inc.** To ensure accurate registration, it is suggested that only one person be registered per form. Mail to:

Spartan Strategies, Inc.  
Attn: Emeritus Society  
5900 Summit Avenue, #201  
Browns Summit, NC 27214

For further information about the Emeritus Society or questions about registration, please contact the Emeritus Society at [emeritus@spartanstrategiesinc.org](mailto:emeritus@spartanstrategiesinc.org) or call (336) 740-0211.

**Refund Policy:** To receive a refund, a written request must be received **3 business days before the first class.** A \$25 processing fee will be deducted from the refund. Cancellation requests received less than 3 business days before the first class but before the second meeting will receive a 50% refund. *ALL written requests should be emailed to [emeritus@spartanstrategiesinc.org](mailto:emeritus@spartanstrategiesinc.org) or mailed to the address above.*

REGISTRATION FORM

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME
ADDRESS	
CITY/STATE	ZIP
PHONE	
EMAIL	

COURSES

- ☐ CHARLES DARWIN AND THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES (\$100)
- ☐ BRICS AND BEYOND: THE RISE OF A GLOBAL ALLIANCE (\$120)
- ☐ BIRD WILD: WHY BIRDS ARE THE NEW CRAZE (\$120)
- ☐ JAZZ LISTENING: UNDERSTANDING AMERICA’S MUSIC (\$160)
- ☐ WAR, CONFLICT, AND MEMORY IN MODERN UKRAINE (\$120)
- ☐ THE PARADOX OF PERSUASION: JANE AUSTEN’S FINAL NOVEL (\$60)
- ☐ EXPRESS YOURSELF: ART FOR ALL (\$75 )

THE PROFS DO THE MOVIES

- ☐ MY MAN GODFREY (\$20)
- ☐ THE GRAPES OF WRATH (\$20)
- ☐ SWING TIME (\$20)
- ☐ FILMS FROM THE BRICS COUNTRIES (\$120)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT *Dietary Restrictions*\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ CAT SCIENCE (\$25)
- ☐ PUBLIC LIBRARIES AS SUPPORTS OF SOCIAL, MENTAL, AND PHYSICAL HEALTH (\$25)

CURIOUS MINDS BOOK AND JOURNAL CIRCLE

- ☐ BRIEFLY, PERFECTLY HUMAN (\$15)
- ☐ YEAR OF WONDERS (\$15)

EAT YOUR WORDS

- ☐ A TOWN LIKE ALICE (\$60)

KICK-OFF LECTURE

- ☐ RELIGION AND PEACEBUILDING (FREE)

EMERITUS AT TANGER

- ☐ ICONS OF ROCK (\$120)
- ☐ AUSTRIA: MORE THAN THE SOUND OF MUSIC (\$60)

Total Enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_