Thursday, February 02
Should We Call the Police? Theatrical Illusion in France, England, and Germany
Howard D. Weinbrot, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin
How do we know that the theatrical or cinematic illusion that we see in theatres is just that, an illusion? Our speaker this evening offers three answers from as many national perspectives.
Co-sponsored by: Departments of English, Theatre, and World Languages and Cultures.

Tuesday, February 07
Gender and Politics in NBC’s “Parks and Recreation”
Erika Engstrom, Professor, UNLV
This presentation explains how the NBC comedy show “Parks and Recreation” conveys prosocial ideals through its men and women characters, and how television can serve to not only entertain us, but enlighten and educate us about gender equality in everyday life and politics as well.

Thursday, February 09
Discoveries of Distant Solar Systems
Jason H. Steffen, Assistant Professor, UNLV
Thousands of planets have been discovered orbiting distant stars. Dr. Steffen will present these discoveries and discuss what they tell us of our own history.

Monday, February 13
Blue Notes: The History and Role of the Color Blue in Ancient Egypt
Lorelei H. Corcoran, Professor, The University of Memphis
This lecture addresses the fascinating role of the world’s first artificially produced pigment – the color blue – in the language, thought, art, and religion of ancient Egypt.
Co-sponsored by: College of Fine Arts.

Thursday, February 23
Rethinking Eudaimonism in Greek and Neo-Aristotelian Ethics
Iakovos Vasiliiou, Professor, City University of New York
Eudaimonia or well-being for the ancient Greeks plays both theoretical and practical roles. Dr. Vasiliiou will argue that these two roles are in greater tension than philosophers have appreciated.
Co-sponsored by: Departments of Philosophy and History; and Great Works Academic Certificate Program.

Friday, February 24
Mrs. Miniver Builds the Home Front: Domestic Space and Wartime Propaganda
Melissa Dinsman, Assistant Professor, CUNY-NY
During the early 1940s, MGM adapted numerous wartime texts for the silver screen, including Jan Struther’s Mrs. Miniver. Dinsman illustrates that in the new era of total war all structures were engaged in mediating wartime propaganda.
Co-sponsored by: Department of English, and Honors College.

Monday, February 27
Everything New Sounds Old Again: The Cartoon Music Renaissance of the 1990s
Daniel Goldmark, Professor, Case Western Reserve University
The 1990s served to not only entertain us, but enlighten and educate us about gender equality in everyday life and politics as well.

Writing Selves
Jenny Davidson, Professor, Columbia University
Writing Selves: The habit of daily writing as a way of becoming a fully realized person, from James Boswell and Benjamin Franklin to the present day.
Co-sponsored by: Department of English, and Black Mountain Institute.

Thursday, March 02
Pericles’ Funeral Oration: Athenian Democracy vs. Modern Democracy
Arlene Saxenhouse, Professor, University of Michigan
The Greek historian Thucydides’ version of Pericles’s Funeral Oration offers an opportunity to explore the underlying differences between ancient Athenian and modern democracy.
Co-sponsored by: Association for the Study of Free Institutions, and Great Works Academic Certificate Program.

Thursday, March 16
Against Complicity: Surveillance, Education, and Digital Redlining
Chris Gilliard, Professor, Macomb Community College
This lecture looks at issues of student data privacy, student rights, and student information access through the lens of the historical practice of redlining.
Co-sponsored by: Departments of English, IGES, History, Sociology, Communication Studies, and Philosophy; and Boyd School of Law.

Monday, March 20
Craft, Magic, and the Re-Enchantment of the World
Roy Suddaby, Professor, University of Victoria
In this lecture, Dr. Suddaby demonstrates how this emerging social phenomenon – the rejection of globalization, scientific rationality, and secularism - represents a human need for craft, mystery, and magic or what the German sociologist, Max Weber, described as the “re-enchantment of the world”.
Co-sponsored by: Department of Management, Entrepreneurship, & Tech.

Thursday, March 23
Supernova 1987A: Thirty Years Later
Stephen H. Lepp, Professor, UNLV
In 1987 a supernova, the first bright enough to be visible to the naked eye in nearly 400 years, was observed. We will review the life and spectacular death of massive stars.

Friday, April 07
What is “Baroque” About Baroque Music?
Jonathan Rhodes Lee, Assistant Professor, UNLV
What is “baroque” about baroque music? This talk will consider this repertoire’s aesthetics of ornament, encyclopedism, and grandeur, supplemented by demonstrations from UNLV’s collection of harpsichords.

Thursday, April 18
On Painting and Mediated Experience
John Bauer, Artist, Based in Los Angeles
John Bauer’s paintings question the nature of expression within the historical contexts of art and culture. Visitors are invited to view the artist’s work, and attend a screen printing workshop prior to the lecture.
Co-sponsored by: Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art.

Thursday, April 25
Writing Selves
Jenny Davidson, Professor, Columbia University
Writing Selves: The habit of daily writing as a way of becoming a fully realized person, from James Boswell and Benjamin Franklin to the present day.
Co-sponsored by: Department of English, and Black Mountain Institute.

Tuesday, April 27
The Color Scheme of Three Revolutionary Epics in Socialist China (1964 – 2009)
Xiaomei Chen, Professor, University of California, Davis
This presentation examines the images and messages of three “song and dance revolutionary epics” in the PRC from 1964 to 2009 to highlight the shifting roles of propaganda in shaping national and personal histories.
Co-sponsored by: Department of World Languages and Cultures, Department of History, and Asian Studies Forum.
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