University Forum is a public lecture series sponsored and funded by the UNLV College of Liberal Arts, the Dean’s Leadership Board, and the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art. All events are free and open to the public. The lectures will be held in the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art at 7:30 PM.

For details visit the University Forum website at https://www.unlv.edu/liberalarts/universityforum.

Tuesday, January 30
Jane Austen, Then and Now
Devoney Looser, Professor of English, Arizona State University
Our speaker this evening will introduce some of the unsung innovators who first turned the great English novelist, Jane Austen, into a household name.

Monday, February 05
How Does Las Vegas Fit Into the Changing Landscape of Sport?
Steve Miller, CEO Agassi - Graf Holdings
How likely is Las Vegas to succeed as a major league sport city? Steve Miller will address this question based on his extensive experience as a sport executive college athletic director and entrepreneur.

Tuesday, February 13
Constructing the Modern Marimba
Timothy Jones, Assistant Professor of Percussion, UNLV
An informational presentation and first screening of the documentary film that followed the building process of the modern marimba.

Thursday, February 22
The Importance of Storytelling in a Digital World
Shahab Zargari, Filmmaker and Communications Coordinator, College of Fine Arts, UNLV
The talk examines how the art of storytelling is just as important now as ever, even in this fast-paced digital world.

Monday, February 26
Seeing the Invisible in Space: Non-Optical Measurements in Astronomy
Paul La Plante, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Pennsylvania
This presentation explores two contemporary telescopes that observe the cosmos using gravitational and radio waves instead of optical light to learn more about the early Universe.

Monday, March 05
How Indiana Jones Got It Wrong: What We Can Learn From Ancient Maya Ceramics
Laura Kosakowsky, Professor of Anthropology, University of Arizona
Dr. Kosakowsky reveals the difference between Maya ceramics in a museum display and an archaeological dig. She explores what we can learn from these ceramics about Maya ritual and everyday life.

Friday, March 09
Race and Revenge: Rethinking the Legacy of the Civil War
Gregory Laski, Assistant Professor of English, United States Air Force Academy
This lecture examines revenge as a mode of seeking justice for the wrong of slavery in African American literature and history after the Civil War.

Thursday, March 15
The Power of Stories in American Indian Traditions
Donald Fixico, Distinguished Professor of History, Arizona State University
American Indian oral traditions enlighten us about the indigenous past and present. Seven stories are shared that tell us about indigenous worldviews where physical and metaphysical realities come together.

Wednesday, March 21
Connecting Circles of Research/Activist Knowledge: Violence and Migration in the 21st Century
Bandana Purkayastha, Professor of Sociology and Asian American Studies, University of Connecticut
This talk outlines some of the different approaches to understanding violence and migration in different parts of the world, and the role of researchers and activists in this process.

Monday, April 02
Entrancing Sounds: Music in Clay, Then & Now
Susan Rawcliffe, Independent Artists and Researcher, Angel’s Gate Cultural Center, Los Angeles CA
Susan Rawcliffe will share her research through images and sound recordings of ancient flutes, with excerpts from contemporary ensemble recordings and live demonstrations of original ceramic sound sculptures.

Monday, April 16
Origins of Maya Civilization Reconsidered: Ritual, Sedentism, and Olmec Connection
Takeshi Inomata, Agnese Nelms Haury Chair in Environment and Social Justice, School of Anthropology, University of Arizona
Dr. Inomata is an internationally renowned archaeologist whose research in Guatemala and Mexico has focused on the origins of Maya civilization and its relationship with the Olmec.

Monday, April 23
For the Freedom of Captive Nations: Eastern European Exiles in Postwar America
Martin Nekola, Independent Scholar
The talk focuses on the formation and development of organizations of political exiles from the countries of East-Central Europe in the United States in early years of the Cold War.

Thursday, April 26
Slippery: Hip Hop Studies
Jody Lykes, Hip Hop Scholar, UNR
A dialogical journey through Hip Hop pedagogy, Hip Hop culture and aesthetics in the classroom, and Racial Identity Development Theory, the application of movement through different stages relating to an individual’s racial awareness.