

Spring 2019 Seminar Informal Curriculum



Pope John XXIII



Stanton



King



Spiegelman



Le Guin

SEMINAR SPACES: AROUND THE TABLE AND ACROSS THE CAMPUS

The Informal Curriculum enriches and expands the Seminar experience through lectures, colloquia, performances, and workshops. Inviting Saint Mary's faculty, visiting scholars, and guest artists to share their expertise and artistry, the Informal Curriculum stimulates informed, complex, and personal responses to Seminar texts. By making spaces in which all members of the Saint Mary's community can gather to discuss questions both timeless and timely, the Informal Curriculum fosters the kind of inclusive and collegial conversation that is essential to liberal education and to civil participation in a democracy.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

On Walking Away from "...Omelas"

Ursula Le Guin's story poses profound questions: What is the purpose of society? What are the limits of human choice? Does happiness for some entail suffering for others? Join us for a discussion of this short, deceptively simple story — by turns vivid and vague, appalling and ambiguous.

With Ellen Rigsby, Charlie Hamaker, & Ed Tywoniak

3:00-4:30 pm
Soda Center | Orinda Room

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Freud Forward

Sigmund Freud's pioneering work in psychology opened vast realms of human experience to scientific examination, data-driven analysis, and medical treatment. As modern research expands our understanding of the human mind, so too does it reveal new perspectives on Freud. Join us for an exploration of Freud's legacy in contemporary psychology.

With José Feito

1:15-2:30 pm
Hagerty Lounge

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25

#ShePersisted: Stanton on Systems of Oppression

Elizabeth Cady Stanton's *Declaration* is a foundational articulation of women's rights and a direct response to the *Declaration of Independence*. After a short faculty talk, participants will explore the ways that Stanton's *Declaration* highlights gendered aspects of inequality not recognized by America's founding document.

With Jessie Turner & Monica Fitzgerald

1:15-2:30 pm
Soda Center | Orinda Room

FEBRUARY 27 & MAY 2

How to Read a Play

Plays are blueprints for live performance; but minimal stage directions and spare narrative description, coupled with distant historical settings, can frustrate readers hoping to imagine "the stage beyond the page." Join us for an interactive workshop to discover the craft and artistry of dramatic works.

Measure for Measure
With Hilda Ma & Amissa Miller

Wednesday, February 27
3:30-4:45 pm, Galileo 201

Antigone

With Amissa Miller, Zahra Ahmed, & Rashaan Meneses

Thursday, May 2
3:15-4:30 pm, Museum of Art

Spaces for 35 participants.

*Pre-registration recommended.**

MARCH 5 & APRIL 23

How to Read a Graphic Novel

Graphic novels use the formal conventions of comics to tell sophisticated stories, as words and images work together to create layers of meaning. Drawing from *Understanding Comics* by Scott McCloud, we will explore the craft and artistry of Art Spiegelman's *Maus*.

With Deanna Zibello

Tuesday, March 5
1:15-2:30 pm
Hagerty Lounge

Tuesday, April 23
1:15-2:30 pm
Hagerty Lounge

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

Sor Juana Replies

Sor Juana was a star in Baroque Mexico — a poet-playwright-scholar-nun with friends in high places. When the Church pressured her to renounce the writing life, Sor Juana answered her critics in *La Respuesta*, an unapologetic defense of women's freedom of intellect and conscience.

With Frances Sweeney

3:45-5:00 pm
Hagerty Lounge

Co-sponsor: Institute for Latino and Latin American Studies (ILaLS)

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

Facing the Canon: Women and Violence in Seminar Texts

Part presentation and part discussion, this student-to-student event explores the difficult topic of gender- and power-based violence in Seminar texts. Presenters invite participants to consider the representation of women in various readings, and ask how to approach problematic depictions in Seminar discussion.

With Emily Klein & student co-facilitators

5:15-6:30 pm
Soda Center | Orinda Room

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

War Poets: Celan & Yevtushenko

Two events from the Holocaust inspired a pair of poems, which in turn inspired great paintings by a German artist, and magnificent music by a Russian composer. This presentation considers Celan's poem "Death Fugue" alongside the paintings of Anselm Kiefer, and Yevtushenko's poem "Babi Yar" in tandem with Shostakovich's *13th Symphony*.

With Joan Peterson

1:15-2:30 pm
Hagerty Lounge

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

Paths of Activism: Martin and Malcolm

Join us for a discussion with social justice educators and activists, as they examine the ways class, racism, and faith prepared two very different men for international leadership in the struggle for human dignity and justice.

With Bedford Palmer & Suzi Weissman

1:15-2:30 pm
Hagerty Lounge

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

Experiencing God after Vatican II:

An Ethnographic Study

Vatican II changed the way many Catholics practiced their faith. We will listen to interviews with Franciscan women religious and Carmelite nuns to hear how Vatican II reshaped their experiences of prayer and the divine, then consider how the values expressed in Vatican II manifest in our own lives.

With Anna Corwin & Jessica Coblentz

1:15-2:30 pm
Hagerty Lounge

Seating at all Informal Curriculum events is first-come, first-served. Plan to arrive 10 minutes early, as empty seats will be filled and doors will close promptly at the start time.

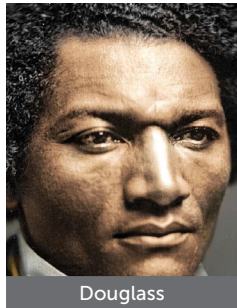
*** For events with limited capacity, pre-registration is strongly recommended.**

Students and faculty may use the QR code to RSVP.

Unclaimed seats will be released five minutes before start time.



Spring 2019 Seminar Informal Curriculum



Douglass



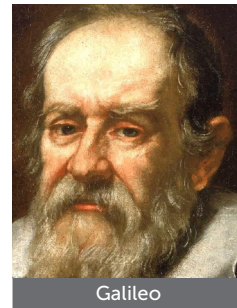
Satrapi



Smith



Bayat



Galileo

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MONDAY, APRIL 1

Executive Order 9066: Remembering a National Disgrace

Japanese-American citizens faced a painful choice in WWII: whether or not to comply with a government order to leave their homes and live out the war in US internment camps. Ted Tsukahara shares memories of his own family's internment, and connects his story to the ongoing struggle over prejudice and American identity today.

With **Ted Tsukahara**
& **Carl Guarneri**

3:30-5:00 pm
Hagerty Lounge

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

Wollstonecraft on Gender & Education

Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* reinterpreted liberal ideas of individualism to claim equal opportunities for women and men; even so, it reinforced patriarchal values. Join us for an interactive discussion exploring gendered views of knowledge and their implications for education.

With **Denise Witzig**
& **Joe Zeccardi**

4:00-5:15 pm
Soda Center | Orinda Room

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

Roger Guenveur Smith is Frederick Douglass Now

This one-hour solo performance combines the words of the famed runaway slave-turned-abolitionist with elements of poetry slam, rap music, and revival preaching to create a striking statement about America, then and now.

4:15-5:15 pm
LeFevre Theater

Limited seating. Arrive early.

POST-SHOW DISCUSSION

Join in a conversation with the show's creator and performer.

5:30-6:30 pm
Faculty-Staff Dining Room

Major co-sponsors: Disney Forum, CCIE, Cummins Institute, & Oakland School of the Arts. **Additional support:** SOLA, Intercultural Center, English, CWGE, History, & Performing Arts.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

Arndt on Arendt

In "On Violence," political philosopher Hannah Arendt probes the nature of power and its relation to violence. Arendt scholar David Arndt will introduce her life and work; then small-group discussions will invite students to explore their own ideas on violence.

With **David Arndt**
1:00-2:15 pm
Museum of Art

*Spaces for 35 participants.
Pre-registration recommended.**

APRIL 30 & MAY 1

Close Looking at Non-Western Art

This workshop provides a new way to experience visual art. Students apply "close looking" — with its own logic, grammar, and rhetoric — to a close reading of non-Western artworks chosen from the Museum of Art's collection.

With **Grete Stenersen**
& **Hossien Khosrowjah**

Tuesday, April 30
1:15-2:30 pm
Soda Center | Orinda Room

Wednesday, May 1
2:45-4:00 pm
Soda Center | Orinda Room

*Spaces for 30 participants per session.
Pre-registration recommended.**

THURSDAY, MAY 9

On Lynn Margulis, "science's unruly Earth mother"

As Darwin is to evolution, Margulis is to symbiogenesis — the theory that fundamentally reframes evolutionary biology and offers tantalizing clues to the search for extraterrestrial life. Join us for a discussion of the "scientific rebel" who authored *Life From Scum*.

With **Alice Baldrige**,
Rebecca Jabbour, & **Joe Zeccardi**

1:00-2:15 pm
Soda Center | Orinda Room

*Limited seating. Arrive early.**

MONDAY, MAY 13

Galileo's Lunar Observations

In *The Starry Messenger*, Galileo describes the Moon with the wonder of someone seeing its details for the first time in history. Using telescopes far superior to Galileo's spyglass, we will repeat his observations and recreate his estimates of the Moon's highest peaks. Participants should dress warmly so they can work outdoors for a full 45 minutes. Clouds thick enough to obscure the Moon will cancel the event.

With **Brian Hill**

8:30-9:15 pm
and
9:30-10:15 pm
SMC Campus Observatory Pad

Allow 5-10 minutes for the walk if starting from the fire road gate, or 15-20 minutes from Oliver Hall.

*Spaces for 36 participants per session.
Pre-registration recommended.**

THURSDAY, MAY 16

Persia's Daughters: A Pocket Theatre Festival

Join us for two stories of flight and family, refuge and return, at the intersection of the Ayatollah's Iran and diasporic dreams.

STAGED READING

Sabz

A young woman dreams of being a theatre artist, but American culture has challenged that dream. Guided by ancestors, she finds healing and inspiration in her Iranian roots, and the courage to fight for stories like hers to be told. Kimiya Shokri's new play is her senior capstone project for the Theatre major.

4:00-5:00 pm
LeFevre Theatre

Co-sponsor: Under 30: A Festival of One-Acts. **Additional support:** Performing Arts

PLAYWRIGHTS IN CONVERSATION

A cross-generational conversation, moderated by Lisa Marie Rollins, explores the artists' evolving relationship to cultural identity and to theatre.

5:10-5:45 pm
LeFevre Theatre

ONE-WOMAN PERFORMANCE

Mimi's Suitcase

Performing 27 characters in four languages, writer-actress Ana Bayat embodies the universality of human experience and empathy in times of change. Based on her family's experience of returning to Iran in the 1980s, *Mimi's Suitcase* unpacks adolescence, displacement, adaptability, and resilience.

With **Ana Bayat**

6:30-7:30 pm
LeFevre Theatre

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