

Spring 2019

On the Edge: Irish Traditional Culture

Professor Tara MacLeod

January 24th & February 7th

Europe, Migration, Refugees: Beyond Emergency and Crisis

Professor Maurizio Albahari

February 7th & February 21st

Brain Development and learning: How early-life experience lays the foundations for a life-time

Professor Nancy Michael

~~February 12th (canceled due to weather)~~

February 26th & March 7th

Rainbows and lenses: refraction in history

Professor Robert Goulding

April 16th & April 30th

Fall 2019

Narratives of Belonging: Discovering the hidden narratives that shape our lives, our place in the world, and the meanings of love and justice

Professor David Hooker

September 19th & September 26th

Beloved Adversary: Islam in the Making of Western Culture

Professor Thomas Burman

October 7th & October 25th

The African Past and Us: How African History can provide new ways to understand the present

Mariana Candido

November 7th & November 13th

Dante's Inferno: Instructions for use

Professor Theodore Cachey

November 6th & November 13th

On the Edge: Irish Traditional Culture

Presented by Tara MacLeod

This course introduces the culture, heritage, language and literature of the Aran Islands, a set of three Irish-speaking islands off Ireland's west coast. Part of the considerable allure of Aran lies in what it lacks, but also in what it offers. The unique island culture has long attracted playwrights, poets, essayists and visual artists: J.M Synge, P.H. Pearse and Martin McDonagh among them. Responding to such exoticized, external depictions, islanders such as Liam O'Flaherty, Mairtin O'Direain and Dara O'Conaola created a 'native' island literature.

In this course, we learn about island life, cultural traditions, historic buildings and efforts to modernize the island economy while reflecting and exploring the evolution of material culture, social customs and communal practices. Adopting a multidisciplinary approach, we consider the island's depiction in the popular culture by studying film and television, visual arts, performing arts, archeology, folklore, history, politics and literature as we deconstruct the competing and conflicting images of the communities. We read a selection of poems, short stories and plays to understand and appreciate the unique culture of this island, lost in time but hiding in plain sight, caught between modernity and tradition.

About Tara MacLeod

Tara MacLeod is a native Irish-speaker from Ceantar na nOilean in the Connemara Gaeltacht. She received a Bachelor of Social Science in Social Administration and Library Information Studies from University College Dublin, a Masters in Social Work from University College Cork and a Diploma sa Ghaeilge from the National University of Ireland, Galway. She has previously worked as a social worker, specializing in child protection services. At the University of Notre Dame, she teaches Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced levels of Irish as well as Ireland's Edge, a cultural studies course on Gaeltacht heritage and culture. She is currently

completing the three-volume Irish-language course for Glossika that uses syntax to enable learners to internalize grammatical structures. Ms. MacLeod's interests include second language acquisition, the development of students' language skills in conjunction with an understanding of Gaeltacht culture and the age old tradition of sean-nos singing. She has also taught Irish at Universite Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3 and is the Irish language examiner for Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and UMass Amherst. The recipient of the Rev. Edmond P. Joyce, C.S.C. Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in 2011 and 2017, she has led Irish language workshops in the Mid-West for Daltai na Gailge.

Europe, Migration, Refugees: Beyond Emergency and Crisis

Presented by Maurizio Albahari

The course fosters an understanding of migration and refugee dynamics in the Euro-Mediterranean region. First, we bring into focus the social actors at the center of these dynamics, including governmental and border officials, smugglers, priests, activists, citizens involved in migrant reception, and migrants and refugees themselves. Then, we collegially tackle the many stakes and dilemmas of envisioning what is just when it comes to immigration issues, and ask whether the gap between what is just and what is feasible is as wide as many believe. Finally, the course includes and promotes further discussion on the importance of the school setting when it comes to integration issues.

About Maurizio Albahari

Maurizio Albahari (Ph.D., UC Irvine) is Associate Professor of Anthropology and concurrent Associate Professor in the Keough School of Global Affairs. He is the author of *Crimes of Peace: Mediterranean Migrations at the World's Deadliest Border* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015). His research and editorials on refugee mobility and related civic engagement in the Euro-Mediterranean context have appeared both in scholarly journals and in media venues including History News Network, Time, openDemocracy, Fox News, and CNN.

Brain Development and learning: How early-life experience lays the foundations for a life-time

Presented by Nancy Michael

With brain development as a backdrop, this workshop will discuss how adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can influence brain development, behavior, health and resilience across a lifespan. After completing this workshop, participants will be able to: 1) identify major features of early brain development, 2) describe how toxic stress can impact the developing brain and behavior, 3) consider how early-life experience informs student behavior and learning, 4) reflect on personal values and behaviors, and 5) generate at least one idea about how to increase resiliency for someone in their life.

About Nancy Michael

Nancy Michael is the Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Neuroscience and Behavior major and an assistant teaching professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. Nancy earned her Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the University of Minnesota in 2012, and now applies her understanding of how the constant exchange between the environment and neural function. Nancy uses these developmental principles to inform teaching practice, compassion, resilience and capacity building for her students and community.

Rainbows and lenses: refraction in history

Presented by Robert Goulding

Optics -- the study of light and vision -- is one of the oldest sciences. As well as his more famous *Elements of Geometry*, Euclid (3rd cent. BC) also wrote two short treatises on optics and mirrors. In this seminar, we will discuss ancient and early-modern texts on optics (beginning with Euclid's works), paying attention in particular to the phenomenon of refraction. The bending of light as it passed from one medium to another proved to be the most difficult optical problem to resolve; the mathematical law which describes its action was discovered only in the early seventeenth century. Nevertheless, in the centuries before the discovery of the law, there was a great deal of speculation about some important effects of refraction: in particular, the rainbow, and the magnifying power of lenses. In our seminar, we will reproduce some of the historical experiments that were used to probe the nature of these phenomena, and, by examining the notes and writings of contemporary scientists, we will explore the difficulty of distilling a simple pattern out of complex appearances.

About Robert Goulding

Robert Goulding is an Associate Professor in the Program of Liberal Studies, with a concurrent appointment in History. His areas of specialization are Renaissance science and mathematics, and the history of magic. He is the Director of the John J. Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values, and the Director of the Program in History and Philosophy of Science. Professor Goulding's current book project is a history of the law of refraction of light. His previous monograph was entitled *Defending Hypatia: Ramus, Savile, and the Renaissance Rediscovery of Mathematical History*. His recent articles include: "Five Versions of Ramus's Geometry," "Illusion in Medieval Magic," and "Binocular Vision and Image Location before Kepler." Professor Goulding was a Member in residence at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton in 2016-17. Among other awards, he has also received a National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship for 2006-2007, a National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship in 2012, and in the spring and fall of 2013, he was on leave as an American Council of Learned Societies Fellow.

Narratives of Belonging

Narratives of Belonging: Discovering the hidden narratives that shape our lives, our place in the world, and the meanings of love and justice

Presented by David Hooker

We live our lives through stories. Often those personal stories are shaped (unconsciously) by narratives contained in the myths, family folklore, religious text, and children's books that we once heard but have long-since forgotten. Using a series of reading reflections and guided activities, scholars will come to discover for themselves some of their own hidden narratives, the way these narratives shape relationships and meaning making. Two important types of narratives that will be the focus of our sessions are narratives of love and justice.

About David Hooker

David Anderson Hooker is Professor of the Practice of Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies in University of Notre Dame's Keough School of Global Affairs. His practice spans more than 30 years as mediator, restorative justice practitioner, trainer, leadership development specialist, advocate, and community peacebuilder working throughout Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, and the (united) States of America. Hooker's primary research investigates the social and narrative construction of complex identities; the role of multigenerational trauma in the formation of interpersonal and communal relationships, systems, and structures; and the various models and approaches to truth-telling as mechanisms for approaching justice, quality peace, and societal reconciliation. He is the co-author (with Amy Potter-Czjaikowski) of *Transforming Historical Harms* (Eastern Mennonite, 2012), and the author of *The Little Book of Transformative Community Conferencing* (SkyHorse 2016) and several other book chapters and journal articles.

Beloved Adversary: Islam in the Making of Western Culture

Presented by Thomas Burman

While Islam has often been seen as European/Western Civilization's great enemy, and while there has intermittently been bloody confrontation between Christians and Muslims, Islam has also been, especially in the pre-modern world, deeply admired by Europeans for its great scientific, philosophical, and technical sophistication, for its grand literary tradition, and for its alluring architecture and art. Indeed, Islam--Western Christendom's beloved adversary--played a formative and essential role in the creation of the culture we call Western. This seminar will consist of a series of case-studies of the influence of Islamic Civilization on the West, ranging from the technology of the astrolabe (the mobile phone of the medieval world), to the Islamicized architecture of Christian Spain, to the terrific Arab stories retold in countless European languages, to the Arab-Islamic names of Shriner Temples (and the North-African head dress of their members).

About Thomas Burman

Thomas E. Burman is Robert M. Conway Director of the Medieval Institute and professor of history. An expert on Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations in the Middle Ages, his works include *Religious Polemic and the Intellectual History of the Mozarabs, 1050-1200* and *Reading the Qur'an in Latin Christendom, 1140-1560*. With Brian Catlos and Mark Meyerson, he is the author of the forthcoming *The Sea in the Middle: Mediterranean Civilization, 650-1650*, and is currently writing a book entitled *Ramon Marti, the Bookish Religions, and Scholastic Thought*.

The African Past and Us: How African History can provide new ways to understand the present

Presented by Mariana Candido

The African past continues to be marginal to our understanding of the present. African societies and states are portrayed as underdeveloped, primitive, and backward, despite a rich scholarship that proves the opposite. This erroneous image creates stereotypes about Africa and African descendants, affecting our communities and our classrooms. This seminar introduces the history of the peoples of Africa and will problematize the creation of images about Africa and Africans in the past 200 years. We will examine African states and societies before contact with Europeans and how their experiences affect us in the twentieth-first century. The origins of Islam, the Atlantic slave trade, and European explorers and missionaries receive attention mainly in their African aspects. The emphasis on Africa in this seminar provides a valuable alternative perspective on these, and other, seemingly familiar events. Participants will have a chance to explore how media influences the ways we think about the African past and will leave the course knowing much more about Africa's history than what is available on newspapers or television. This knowledge will be valuable to understand the African past, include it in our classroom teaching, as well as to have a better understanding of the world where we live in.

The first section will focus on people and civilizations indigenous to Africa and their interaction with the outside world before 1700. We will visit the African gallery at the Snite Museum to examine the links between material culture, spirituality, and global interactions. The second section we will explore the impact of the transatlantic slave trade on African societies and its ramification. We will discuss primary source and digital tools that can be easily incorporated into the classroom. Participants will have access to the newest and best historical findings about African history, its peoples and languages, as well as to unresolved areas and debates among historians.

About Mariana Candido

Mariana Candido is an Associate Professor of African History, University of Notre Dame. Her research deals on the economic, social and cultural history of Angola in the seventeenth to the nineteenth century. Her publications include *An African Slaving Port and the Atlantic World: Benguela and its Hinterland* (Cambridge University Press, 2013); which received an honorable mention in the competition for the Herskovits prize/ African Studies Association. She has also published *Fronteras de Esclavización: Esclavitud, Comercio e Identidad en Benguela, 1780-1850* (Colegio de Mexico Press, 2011), which has been translated into Portuguese and published in Angola, *Fronteras da Escravidão* (Benguela: Universidade Katyavala Bwila, 2018). Candido is finishing a book on the history of property in Angola during the nineteenth century. Candido has co-edited with Adam Jones, *African Women in the Atlantic World. Property, Vulnerability and Mobility, 1680-1880* (James Currey, 2019); Carlos Liberato, Paul Lovejoy and Renée Soulodre-La France, *Laços Atlânticos: África e africanos durante a era do comércio transatlântico de escravos* (Museu Nacional da Escravatura/ Ministério da Cultura, 2017); and *Crossing Memories: Slavery and African Diaspora*, with Ana Lucia Araujo and Paul Lovejoy (African World Press, 2011). Her articles have been published in *Slavery and Abolition, History in Africa, Canadian Journal of African Studies, Social Sciences and Missions, Tempo, Portuguese Studies Review, Journal of Eighteenth-Century Studies, Afro-Ásia, African Economic History, Cahier des annexes de la mémoire, Luso-Brazilian Review, Saeculum, Brésil (s), Sciences humaines et sociales*, and edited volumes. Candido is one of the editors of *African Economic History*. The journal publishes scholarly essays in English and French on economic history of African societies from precolonial times to the present. It features research in a variety of fields and time periods, including studies on labor; slavery; trade and commercial networks; economic transformations; colonialism; migration; development policies; social and economic inequalities and poverty. The audience includes historians, economists, anthropologists, sociologists, political scientists, policymakers, and a range of other scholars interested in the African present and past.

Dante's Inferno: Instructions for use

Presented by Theodore Cachey

According to an eminent critic, "Understanding in the *Inferno* is a process that might be characterized as hyperbolic doubt systemically applied to the values of contemporary society." This explains the revival of interest in Dante's poetry in these days. In this seminar, we will read the poem in the Hollander translation, focusing on major episodes in the light of recent scholarship and in relation to current debates in humanities. The seminar will include an up-to-date overview of Dante's life and works and will introduce participants to the rare books and illustrated volumes of the John A. Zahm, C.S.C., Dante Collection in Notre Dame's Hesburgh Library.

About Theodore Cachey

Theodore J. Cachey, Jr. is a Professor of Italian and the Albert J. and Helen M. Ravarino Family Director of Italian and Dante Studies at the University of Notre Dame. He earned his B.A. from Northwestern University and his Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles.