

Spring 2023

[The Need to Tell our Story: Primo Levi](#)

February 8 & February 22

McKenna B01

Presented by Charles Leavitt

Primo Levi has been called “a major, universally recognized, icon in Holocaust literature” (Geerts), indeed “the witness-writer par excellence,” because “his narrative, poetry and essays about his time in Auschwitz are among the most widely read and most widely lauded of all writings on the Holocaust” (Gordon). Levi was this and more: witness and storyteller, scientist and writer, he was among the greatest authors and moral authorities of the twentieth century. In this seminar, we will examine Levi’s first and most famous work, *If This is a Man* (1947), a masterpiece and milestone in the Italian tradition, in which Levi recounts his internment in Auschwitz. With Levi, we will ask what it means to live, what it means to be human, in and after the Nazi death camps. With Levi, too, we will broaden our exploration to address vital questions of faith, identity, meaning, truth, responsibility, love, friendship, freedom, diversity, survival, science, and salvation as we consider selections from such fundamental works as *The Truce* (1963), *The Periodic Table* (1975), *Moments of Reprieve* (1978), and *The Drowned and the Saved* (1986). Primo Levi insisted that the “the story of the death camps should be understood by everyone as a sinister alarm-signal,” and he spent the last years of his life sounding that alarm to all who would listen. Traveling to schools throughout Italy, he answered countless questions put to him by middle school and high school students, helping them to think through the lessons of the Holocaust. We will follow Levi’s lead, reflecting together on the relevance of his testimony in the present day. As we do so, we will make use of materials from the Primo Levi Collection of Notre Dame’s Hesburgh Library, one of the world’s foremost collections dedicated to the study of Primo Levi.

About Charles Leavitt

Professor Leavitt is a scholar of modern and contemporary Italy. His first book, *Italian Neorealism: A Cultural History* (University of Toronto Press, 2020), was awarded the 2020 Book Prize for Visual Studies, Film and Media from the American Association of Italian Studies.

A Fellow of the UK’s Higher Education Academy, Professor Leavitt has received an Outstanding Contribution to Teaching Excellence Award from the University of Reading, UK, and a Kaneb Distinguished Graduate Teaching Award from the University of Notre Dame.

A Faculty Fellow of the Nanovic Institute for European Studies and the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, and a Research Fellow of the University of Reading, UK, Professor Leavitt serves on the editorial boards of the journals *Italian Studies* and the *Italianist*.

[Words, Words, Words: Elevating Shakespeare from the page to the stage](#)

March 7 & March 28

McKenna B01

Presented by Scott Jackson

Teaching students (of any age) the works of William Shakespeare can prove a difficult venture, especially when approaching his plays as works of literature as opposed to playscripts. In this workshop series we will explore how direct engagement with these texts provides the framework for a deeper engagement with the worlds of Shakespeare—for both you and your students. Together we will lift Shakespeare's words and characters off the page in an informal exploration of the plays in performance. Participants will learn how actors use scene analysis to approach these texts, explore performance techniques that give us the ability to tell the story beyond the written word, study resources that enhance your in-class work, and discover the power of ensemble in breathing life into some of the world's greatest plays. No prior acting experience is required.

About Scott Jackson

Scott Jackson has served as the Mary Irene Ryan Family Executive Director of Shakespeare at Notre Dame since the position was created in 2007, providing oversight for the many Shakespeare-related programs housed at the University of Notre Dame with a particular focus on engaging our local community through the works of William Shakespeare. Previously he served as executive director for the Fairbanks Shakespeare Theatre (FST) in Fairbanks, Alaska. At FST he produced and performed in outdoor Shakespeare productions staged under the midnight sun at venues throughout Alaska and around the globe (most notably at the VIII World Shakespeare Congress in Brisbane, Australia, and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland). From 2000–2003, Scott was the business and legal affairs coordinator for Brighter Pictures, Ltd (now a part of Endemol Shine UK), one of the United Kingdom's most successful independent television and film production companies. He holds a dual BA in theater and history from Indiana University Bloomington, as well as intensive study in acting at the London Centre for Theatre Studies. He also holds a Master of Fine Arts in Actor Training and Coaching from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama (University of London) and recently certified as a Kundalini yoga teacher with acclaimed practitioner Maya Fiennes. He has produced, directed, and performed in more than 170 productions. In 2022 he was the recipient of the Shakespeare Publics award, presented annually by the Shakespeare Association of America.

[Keeping the Republic](#) - PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE

March 17 & March 31

McKenna B01

Presented by David Campbell

Back in 1787, Benjamin Franklin was asked what kind of government the new American Constitution created. He responded, “a republic, if you can keep it.” Today, many people are asking whether the republic—and thus democracy in America—as we know it will survive. Trust is low, polarization is high, and longstanding democratic norms are being shattered left and right. Some scholars have even suggested that the US is on the brink of a new civil war. Others, however, argue that things are not as bad as they seem.

This course tackles the big questions about the current state of democracy in the United States. Is the US actually a democracy? (And is that different than a republic?) If so, how, when, and why did it become a democracy? Will the US remain a democracy? Finally, what role can YOU play in keeping the republic?

About David Campbell

David Campbell is the Packey J. Dee Professor of American Democracy at the University of Notre Dame. His research focuses on civic and political engagement, with a particular focus on religion (and secularism) and young people. His most recent book is *Secular Surge: A New Fault Line in American Politics* (with Geoff Layman and John Green), which received the Distinguished Book Award from the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. His other books include *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us* (with Robert Putnam), winner of the 2011 award from the American Political Science Association for the best book on government, politics, or international affairs).

His work has appeared in a variety of scholarly journals including the *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, and *Daedalus*. In addition, he has been featured in publications such as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal* and—every political scientist’s dream—*Cosmopolitan*.

[Making Waves: Creative Expression Through STEM and Music Education](#)

March 23 & April 13

McKenna B01

Presented by Jay Brockman

Making Waves is an innovative STEM+Music program that sharpens students' creative and analytical skills while building community. Using principles drawn from grade-level standards in engineering, math, and science, as well as best practices in music education, students design, build, and analyze custom musical instruments and then compose and perform original works using those instruments. Developed by Jay Brockman, Director of the Center for Civic Innovation in partnership with Grammy artists Third Coast Percussion, Making Waves has offered educational programs to students across the country, including in the South Bend and Elkhart schools. In this workshop, we will introduce teachers to Making Waves by having them experience the program for themselves: making instruments, composing music with those instruments, and performing a final concert.

About Jay Brockman

Jay Brockman has broad experience in academia and industry. Before joining the College of Engineering in 1992, he worked for Intel Corporation. He is a co-founder of Lucata, Inc., a company with a patented architecture for big data analytics with offices in South Bend and New York. He is the author of an introductory engineering textbook, and he has received several awards for his teaching. In 2018 he received Notre Dame's Grenville Clark award, given to a faculty member whose voluntary activities advance the cause of peace and human rights.

Fall 2023

[Beyond Berets and Baguettes: Re-envisioning French Cultures from Couture to Cuisine](#)

October 10 & 24

McKenna B01

Presented by Alison Rice

This seminar will reflect on how cinematic storytelling can enable viewers to identify stereotypes, expectations, and projections related to French culture and adopt more nuanced understandings of contemporary France, its inhabitants, and the aesthetics and attitudes that contribute to shaping this location. Our sessions will be devoted to an examination of recent films that complexify what it means to qualify someone or something as “French” today, in a period marked by migration and globalization. A variety of sources are currently contributing to the enrichment of French traditions, opening up French culture to diverse influences in areas that range from food to fashion, from music to monuments, from history to humor. Studying films that depict characters from a range of backgrounds who are presently exerting an influence in France will set the tone for an in-depth exploration of how the chic clichés that have long made up a global mindset — and set up an immense attraction for all things French — are currently being transformed, yielding to more realistic representations of French cultures, in the plural, and celebrating the ways they are flourishing at present.

About Alison Rice

Professor Alison Rice specializes in 20th- and 21st-century French and Francophone literature and film. She has published two books on French-language autobiographical writings by authors from the Maghreb. Her recent third book, *Worldwide Women Writers in Paris: Francophone Metronomes* (Oxford University Press, 2021), focuses on the present proliferation of women writers of French from around the world. It is accompanied by a website featuring filmed interviews with eighteen women writers of French who hail from such different locations as Senegal, Slovenia, and South Korea. She is also the editor of a recent volume titled *Transpositions: Migration, Translation, Music* (Liverpool University Press, 2021) that explores a wide range of innovations in Francophone film, literature, theater, and art. Alison is in her third year as Chair of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures. Prior to taking on this position, she served as Director of the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts at Notre Dame. She is a Concurrent Faculty member in Gender Studies and a Faculty Fellow of the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, and the Nanovic Institute for European Studies.

[Sport in the Greek and Roman World and its Modern Legacies](#)

October 25 & November 8

McKenna B01

Presented by Luca Grillo

In the modern world, sports and sport-like spectacles are a source of livelihood, entertainment, and social interaction for huge swathes of the global population. Fans and practitioners of physical feats of strength were likewise a major component of ancient Greco-Roman society, from the earliest Olympic Games at the dawn of Greek history to the gladiatorial contests and chariot races that characterized the most decadent phases of the Roman Empire. The purpose of this seminar is to provide an interdisciplinary examination of the origin and nature of sport and spectacle in the Classical world and to compare the role that athletics played in ancient society to the position it occupies in our own lives - from the point of view of athletes, spectators, and patrons alike.

About Luca Grillo

Luca Grillo is the Eli J. and Helen Shaheen Collegiate Professor of Classics at the University of Notre Dame, which he joined in 2018. Before coming to Notre Dame, Luca was Assistant Professor of Classics at Amherst College (2008-13) and Assistant and then Associate Professor of Classics and William R. Kenan, Jr. Scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2013-18). He has taught Latin and Greek and courses in ancient civilization, like *The Romans*, *Ancient and Modern Sport and Society*, *Ancient and Modern Slavery* and *Ancient and Modern Rhetoric*. Luca's main area of interest is Latin prose. His first book (Cambridge University Press, 2012, paperback 2015) is a literary analysis of Caesar's Civil War; his second book is a historical, rhetorical and legal commentary on a speech by Cicero, and he co-edited the *Cambridge Companion to the Writings of Julius Caesar* (with Christopher Krebs from Stanford University); he is currently working on a monograph on irony in Latin literature. He has given papers and published articles and contributions on various topics, especially Caesar, Cicero and Virgil.

[Economics: Much more than money](#)

October 26 & November 9

McKenna B01

Presented by Kasey Buckles, Ph.D.

The popular perception of what economists do often centers on money, banking, or the stock market. While economics certainly includes those topics, it is much more than that! At its heart, economics is the study of how people make decisions, and the tools of economics can help students make sense of the world around them. In this course, participants will see examples of economics in action in everyday life that can make a dry economics unit or class more engaging for students and teachers alike. Much of the discussion will center on the economics of the family (dating, fertility, parenting), drawing from Prof. Buckles' research on these topics. Prof. Buckles will also highlight the importance of K-12 economics education in attracting talented students from diverse backgrounds to the field.

About Kasey Buckles, Ph.D.

Kasey Buckles is a Professor of Economics at the University of Notre Dame. She is also a research associate with the National Bureau of Economic Research, and a research fellow at the IZA Institute for Labor Economics. She is currently serving the profession as Associate Chair and Director of Mentoring for the American Economic Association's Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession. She is also President of the Midwest Economics Association and recently completed a term as a co-editor for the Journal of Policy Analysis and Management. Buckles earned her B.A. from the University of Kentucky in 2000, and her Ph.D. from Boston University in 2005.

Professor Buckles' research interests include the economics of the family, economic demography, child health and well-being, and economic history. Her recent work has focused on the relationship between the business cycle and fertility, and on understanding the decline in fertility over the last decade. She is also collaborating with a team at the Record Linking Lab at Brigham Young University to construct new methods for digitizing and linking historical records for use in empirical work. Her scholarship has appeared in leading journals such as the Economic Journal, the Review of Economics and Statistics, the Journal of Human Resources, the Journal of Health Economics, Health Economics, the Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, and Demography. She has received funding from the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the Russell Sage Foundation.

In the classroom, Buckles teaches classes in econometrics, policy evaluation, labor economics, and the economics of the family. She is a recipient of multiple teaching awards, including the University of Notre Dame's award for excellence in undergraduate teaching.

Religion, Challenging or Preserving the Status Quo?

November 1 & 15

McKenna B01

Presented by Kraig Beyerlein

What explains why certain religious people and organizations mobilize to protest power structures and social inequality while others are indifferent or organize to maintain these structures and inequality? Are religious differences—such as those grounded in theological beliefs or denominational affiliations—a key to answering this question? How significant are the following variables of individuals or faith-based institutions: race, ethnicity, gender, immigrant status, or political ideology? And what about contextual factors? For example, does the social class or density of congregations in neighborhoods matter for understanding when religion resists or perpetuates the status quo? In this seminar, we will draw on various historical and contemporary cases as well as different social-scientific methodologies (e.g., surveys, in-depth interviews, ethnographies, and archival research) to address these and related questions.

About Kraig Beyerlein

Kraig Beyerlein is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and the Director of the Center for the Study of Religion and Society at the University of Notre Dame. He is also a faculty affiliate at the Center for the Study of Social Movements, a faculty fellow at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, and a faculty fellow at the Institute for Latino Studies. Kraig received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was a faculty member in the Sociology Department at the University of Arizona before coming to Notre Dame. His research and teaching focuses on the intersection of religion and collective action, especially civic engagement and protest activity. Kraig has a particular interest in the role of faith in mobilizing progressive social activism, such as immigrant rights and the recent Women's March. Published articles on these and related topics appear in the *American Sociological Review*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Mobilization*, *Poetics, Politics and Religion*, *Social Forces*, *Social Problems*, *Social Science Research*, *Sociological Methods and Research*, and the *Sociology of Religion*. He is currently finishing a book manuscript on the causes and consequences of faith-based mobilizing to save lives along the Arizona-Sonora border. Kraig is the current chair of the American Sociological Association's Altruism, Morality, and Solidarity section (for which he served as elected council member before) and current elected council member for the Association for the Sociology of Religion. He has also served as an elected council member for the American Sociological Association's Religion section as well as the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Kraig is currently on the editorial boards of the *American Sociological Review*, *Social Science Research*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, and *Sociology of Religion*. Various internal and external grants, including those from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., Louisville Institute, Spencer Foundation, and the National Science Foundation have supported Kraig's research over the years.