



Albion Area Lifelong Learners



Participating Member

ROAD SCHOLAR
Adventures in Life Long Learning



Albion College

Fall 2015 Newsletter

AlbionAALL.org

2015 AALL FALL ASSEMBLY

Speaker:

Dr. Jess Roberts, Associate Professor of English, Albion College

Wesley Hall, First United Methodist Church
September 17, 2015, 10:00 a.m.

Subject: When Dragons Came to Albion
and
Marvelous Things Happened:
Adventures in Big Reading



This Assembly is about the transformative power of literature and the integral role that programs like the National Endowment for the Arts' Big Read can play in cultivating and strengthening community in its richest and most dynamic forms. Literature helps us to imagine worlds that are different from our own: worlds that are more just and equitable, worlds in which fewer people live in need and in fear. In the context of programs like the Big Read, literature also gives us the opportunity to act in our communities and to realize change where we live. It becomes a reason to build something together and a tool to do so. It is that act of building, the nuts-and-bolts work of creating community programming together, that may have the most significant and enduring impact on the lives of the people who live and work and read in towns like ours.

HAL WYSS, A REMEMBRANCE

We grieve the loss of Albion College Professor Emeritus, Hal Wyss, July 28, a founding member and continuing advocate of AALL since its inception in 2000. Through the years, Hal taught numerous courses in literature to hundreds of warmly appreciative AALL members. He was much more than Secretary for the Board, Hal was our institutional memory, our kindest wit, and will remain our deeply missed colleague.

You can find an appreciation of Hal's passion for ideas and people at Albion.edu "News and Events."

The Rainbow Connection

The Albion Rainbow Connection, a group of LGBTQ people and allies, strives to develop "safe spaces in places, minds, and hearts" through education and awareness, and by addressing bullying, discrimination, exclusion, and other issues important to the LGBTQ community. The group has asked local area churches, governments, and organizations to help create awareness in Albion and surrounding communities of the group's existence and purpose. Please send an email to albionrainbowconnection@gmail.com with any questions. To join the group, or to be added to the group's private Facebook page and / or private email list.



FALL CLASS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall 2015 Newsletter

Albion, Michigan 49224

P.O. Box 188

AALL

AALL Course Descriptions, Fall, 2015

Registration required

NUCLEAR ENERGY: THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, POLITICS, CONTROL. David Kammer, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor of Physics, Albion College. Mondays 2:00-4:00. October 5, 12, 19, 26. Norris 102.

The first week of the course will deal with the basic science of the atom and the research and technology that led to the development of reactors and nuclear weapons.

The second week will be a discussion of the politics of the decisions to make the first atomic bomb and development of the hydrogen bomb.

The next week's topic will include the Cold War and the arms race; America's reaction, for example: "duck and cover" and fallout shelters; and arms control efforts.

The course will conclude with contemporary issues such as WMD in Iraq, centrifuges in Iran, and nuclear proliferation. Included will be many historical video clips, photos, and live demonstrations.

PLATO'S ACCOUNT OF THE HUMAN SOUL in "THE REPUBLIC." Jorg Baumgartner, Ph.D., Philosophy, Albion College. Wednesdays 10:00-Noon, October 7, 14, 21, 28. Mudd 210.

The first session introduces Plato's Theory of Forms. This theory is essential for his account of the soul because the realm of Forms is a realm of moral resources.

The second session deals with Plato's view that the soul has three parts: a higher or rational part (reason, intellect, thought) and two lower parts, our emotions and our desires. Plato thinks that the rule of the higher part over the lower parts results in the soul's self-mastery. We will see what the latter consists of and how it is achieved.

The third session looks at the decline of the soul from self-mastery to self-enslavement. In analogy to forms of government, Plato distinguishes four types of soul: 1. The timocratic soul (the love of honor usurps the rule of reason); 2. The oligarchic or plutocratic soul (the purpose of life is money); 3. The democratic soul (all pleasures are equal); 4. The despotic or tyrannical soul (it is dominated by some master-desire or passion, enslaving the two other parts).

The fourth session examines criticisms of Plato's views: 1. Augustine argues that Plato looks in the wrong direction: the source of moral goodness is not outside us in the realm of Forms, but in the inner human being; 2. Plato instituted a powerful tradition according to which reason orders our lives for the good. This view has been challenged, for example, by Luther, Nietzsche, Freud and others. Some argue that the hegemony of reason may desiccate and repress us, and that rational self-mastery may turn into self-enslavement.

Readings: There will be copies of The Republic on reserve and a small course pack containing the texts we will discuss in detail. Participants will receive a summary of each session in advance.



AALL Officers

President :	Robin Reed
Vice President:	John Kondelik
Treasurers:	Alice Cook
Secretary:	Kathleen Seidl
Editor, Newsletter:	Dick Lewin

HISTORIC PRESERVATION 101. Elizabeth Schultheis, MPA and Masters, Interior Design Facilities Specializing in Historic Preservation. Tuesdays 2:00-4:00, October 6, 13, 20, 27. Bohm Theater.

This course will concern challenges faced in restoring sites and buildings of historic importance and will conclude with a case study of the Bohm Theater restoration in downtown Albion.

Historic preservation may be defined as "the practice of protecting and preserving sites, structures or districts which reflect elements of local or national culture, social, economic, political, archaeological, or architectural history. Preservation has many diverse purposes and rewards, including the strengthening of local economies, possible stabilizing of property values, civic beauty, and appreciation of local and national history. It is both economic and aesthetic."

The reality, in spite of that lofty definition, is that when a community, organization, or individual decides to embark on the process of preservation, complicated, lengthy, and unpredictable issues arise, among them preservation regulations, tax and grant requirements, structural surprises, and costs and deadlines. In other words, restoring a historic gem requires vision, work, and time.

MINERALS, CRYSTALS & GEMS. Carrie Menold, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Geological Sciences, Albion College. Thursdays, 9:30-11:30, October 8, 15, 22, 29. Putnam 157. Class size limit: 16.

The course will broadly cover the four content areas that make up the field of Mineralogy: (1) crystallography and symmetry; (2) crystal chemistry; (3) Earth materials; (4) economic mineralogy. Each two-hour block will be devoted to one of the topics and divided equally between lecture and laboratory (working with samples). Below is a brief description of each topic.

First week: Crystallography is the study of crystals; it focuses abstractly on form and symmetry. We will learn about and investigate the two categories of symmetry: point (rotational) and translational (think Escher prints).

Second week: Crystal chemistry is about adding real elements to our hypothetical crystals from week one to make real crystals and minerals. We will look at computer animations of crystal structures and real minerals to see what types of forms nature seems to like best. This week and next we will also use microscopes to get a closer look at the minerals.

Third week: Earth materials will focus on the minerals that are common and make up most of the Earth. While there are 3000+ known minerals, ten make up more than 90% of the crust and mantle. We will look at these and learn why they are so common and how to identify them in rocks.

Fourth week: Students will look at the minerals that people go to great lengths to get: gems and ores. These are generally rare and colorful and form in unusual conditions making them often quite rare. We will talk about how they form and the often mundane elements they are made of (diamond = carbon; ruby = aluminum). Albion has an extensive collection of ore and gem minerals which will be available to look at.

A general book about minerals/geology could be helpful if people are interested. Two are listed below but there are others. People can find them at Books and More. Rocks & Minerals, (Smithsonian Handbooks), \$22.00, and Rocks, Gems and Minerals, (Golden Guide from St. Martin's Press), \$6.95.

CANCER: THE EMPEROR OF ALL MALADIES. Robert Armstrong, Ph.D., Biochemistry, Albion College (retired). Mondays 10:15-12:15, October 5, 19, 26, November 2. Naomi Lane Room, Albion District Library. Open to the public. No fee.

The history and treatment of cancer will be reviewed using three 2 hour segments of the Ken Burns Documentary, *The Emperor of All Maladies* shown on public television in March, 2015. The final session will look at modern treatments such as the use of modified polio virus injected into brain tumors. Time will be allotted for discussion.

MODERN COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE. Dave Farley, Coordinator. Tuesdays 10:00-12:00, October 6, 13, 20, 27. Olin 112.

This course will explore the modern commercial side of agriculture, visiting locations in the Albion area.

The first session will be a presentation by Richard Bowman, Government Services Director for The Nature Conservancy in Michigan, who is an expert on farm policy at all governmental levels, a former farmer, and a former food retailer.

The next two sessions will include presentations and tours of Blight Farms, a crop and livestock operation and Dobbins Farm, a crop operation.

The final session will include a presentation and tour of The Andersons facility near Albion, including the ethanol plant.

The owners and/or managers of these facilities will conduct these sessions. Participants will see first-hand what modern farming consists of — policy, business, equipment, technology, and, of course, product.

AALL Course Registration Form – Fall 2015

Registration Instructions – Please Read Carefully

1. Fill in the blank below (on the left) for yourself. If you have a spouse/partner who is an AALL member, use the blank (on the right).
2. For each course for which you wish to register, place a number in the box in front of the course name: 1 for the course you most wish to take, 2 for the second course you wish to take, etc. Note: If you only wish to take one course, indicate only one (1) course (mark it with the number 1) — see instruction 4 below.
3. In the column marked FEE, indicate the appropriate cost. Your first course (each term) is free with your AALL membership; simply write FREE in the FEE column. For each additional course, the fee is \$10.
4. If you wish to indicate an alternate choice (in case one of your choices above is oversubscribed and you are not admitted to that course), mark an X in the box before your alternate choice.

IMPORTANT:

1. Use numbers in the boxes to indicate which course(s) you wish to take; use an X only to indicate alternate courses.
2. If you are registering for a course with limited enrollment, make sure you mark it number 1 (only those indicating a course as their first choice are entered into the random selection).

"If there are additional class fees for supplies, these fees need to be paid at the time of registration. If you are unable to attend a course for which you have registered, fees can be refunded up until the start of the course."

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MEMBERSHIP FORM
 (To be completed only by those wishing to renew their membership in AALL)

Name _____ Spouse/Partner Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Date _____

Phone () _____ E-mail _____

Dues: \$20 per year per person Spouse's E-mail _____

___ Yes, I am 55 or older (spouse/partner could be younger)



A suggestion was made at the AALL Board Meeting that members could bring their own coffee mugs to classes to help reduce landfill issues. The impact of this decision may seem to be of small significance, but it is one way that we can reduce our environmental "FOOTPRINT". AALL will continue to provide cups for those who don't bring their own.

AALL Membership

If you are not already an AALL member, or if you have not paid your 2015-2016 dues, a membership form is included at the bottom of the "Course Registration" form. Dues are \$20 per person, per year, with the year running from July 1 to June 30 of the following year.

Members may take one (1) free course per term (fall, winter, spring). There is a charge of \$10 for each additional course taken in any term. Members who are not sure whether they have paid dues for the current year should contact Alice Cook, AALL Treasurer, at 517-629-6432 or e-mail: acook@alumnimail.albion.edu.

Registration Information

The Registration form attached to this newsletter should be sent, with payment (if any), to:

AALL Registrar

P.O. Box 188

Albion, Michigan 49224

or brought to the

Fall Assembly on September 17, 2015 @ 10 a.m. in Wesley Hall, First United Methodist Church.

"If there are additional class fees for supplies, these fees need to be paid at the time of registration and are non-refundable unless the class is canceled."

AALL Lottery Policy for Over-Enrolled Classes

When a course with limits is over-enrolled, the names of all of those who had it listed as #1 shall be entered in a lottery. Those randomly drawn shall be placed in the class. Those not selected will comprise the waiting list and also be given first access if that course is offered again. The registrar will keep a record of those on the waiting list until the course is offered again.

Those selected for the course in its first offering will not be eligible to retake it until all those on the waiting list have had the opportunity to take the course.

Those who have signed up for a class with limits and listed it as #1 are encouraged to sign up for at least one additional class. Members are also encouraged not to sign up for a course with limited enrollment if they know they won't be there for all four sessions.

Fall Class Registration deadline is **Sept. 24, 2015**. Regretfully, class applications after that date cannot be accepted.

Registrants for all classes will receive a letter shortly after **Sept. 24, 2015** that will acknowledge their registration, and provide additional information about the course(s) for which they have registered.

If you are unable to attend a course for which you have registered, fees will be refunded up until the beginning of the course.

PLEASE NOTE: AALL incorporated as a separate NONPROFIT organization in January 2010 under the incorporation laws of the State of Michigan. However, we have NOT yet become a TAX EXEMPT organization under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Service. Therefore, any donations and/or fees paid to AALL are NOT tax deductible. The AALL Board is currently weighing the costs and benefits of applying for tax-exempt status, but no decision has yet been reached.