



Albion Area

Lifelong Learners

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ROAD SCHOLAR
Adventures in Life Long Learning



Albion College

Spring 2014 Newsletter

AlbionAALL.org

2014 Spring Assembly

April 10, 2014 - First United Methodist Church, (Tennant Hall) 10:00 a.m.

Speaker: Justin A. Hinkley, "Whole Child, Whole Community" reporter, Battle Creek Enquirer

Topic: "On Bob Woodward and Jackhammer Journalism"

Justin A. Hinkley is the Whole Child, Whole Community reporter for the Battle Creek Enquirer, covering the politics of local schools and the holistic issues that affect kids and families in their attempt to get an education. Born and raised in Battle Creek — with some time spent in the Houston, Texas and Charlotte, N.C. areas — Hinkley has worked for the Enquirer since early 2006 and has covered education since 2010. A 2003 graduate of Lakeview High School with no college education, he's been honored by the Associated Press and Gannett Co. for his work.



In his presentation, titled "On Bob Woodward and Jackhammer Journalism," Hinkley will cover the challenges and opportunities facing journalism as it continues to evolve into the modern era of technology, social media, and engrained partisanship. He'll cover the tenets of professional journalism that separate established media from the blogosphere and print journalism from cable TV news outlets. He'll discuss the differences between the paper's editorial board and its news team and the challenges, in these hyper-partisan times, reporters face in convincing sources of their independence from the paper's opinion writers. And he'll discuss whether journalism is a good career for today's youth to pursue.

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.

AALL Proposed Trip for 2014

AALL Field Trip to Chelsea

The date of the AALL field trip to Chelsea has been changed to Wednesday, May 7th.

The change is predicated by coordinating between Chelsea Milling Company and the Purple Rose Theater.

Our schedule and plans are as follow:

10:30 — Depart Albion by bus. The bus will pick us up in the parking lot in front of Tractor Supply, 1448 N. Eaton Street, Albion.

11:30 — 12:45 — Tour Chelsea Milling, home of Jiffy Mix. The address is 201 West North Street, Chelsea. There will be an opportunity to purchase a case of Jiffy Mix at a discounted price and our bus will be available to receive the product.

12:45 — 2:45 — Free time; lunch on our own and visit Chelsea shops or an opportunity to tour of the Teddy Bear Factory or the Alehouse micro-brewery. A map of downtown Chelsea and information about restaurants will be distributed on the bus.

3:00 — 4:15 — Matinee spring comedy festival show at the Purple Rose Theater; Lovers, Liars, and Lunatics. The address of the theater is 137 Park Street, Chelsea.

4:20 — 4:50 — Post show talk-back with Guy Sanville.

5:00 — 5:45 — Return to Albion. Board the bus at the Purple Rose Theater and return to the Tractor Supply parking lot in Albion.

Please Note:

We apologize for any inconvenience the change of date might cause. If there is anyone who must drop out because of the change please notify Dave Farley as soon as possible. Your payment will be refunded. Anyone interested in being added to the group should also contact Dave. He can be reached by phone, 517-629-8396 or by e-mail, davefarley@hotmail.com. Cost: \$50.00/person.

This date does not conflict with AALL spring classes.



SPRING CLASS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring 2014 Newsletter

AALL
P.O. Box 188
Albion, Michigan 49224

AALL Course Descriptions, Spring, 2014

Registration required

AN INTRODUCTION TO KANT'S MORAL PHILOSOPHY. Jorg Baumgartner, Ph.D. in Philosophy, Retired, Albion College Philosophy Department. Thursdays, 10:00-12:00, May 8, 15, 22, 29. Albion College Library, Mudd, 210. **Class size limit: 30.**

Commentators widely agree that Kant is the greatest moral philosopher since the ancient Greeks. Already towards the end of the *Critique of Pure Reason* (1781) Kant says that "all the interests of my reason...combine in the three following questions: 1. What can I know? 2. What ought I to do? 3. What may I hope?" In his short book *Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals* (1785), the most important treatise in modern moral philosophy, Kant tries to answer the second question.

The aim of this course is to see how Kant goes about answering this question.

In the first week we will get acquainted with some of Kant's basic philosophical terms such as subjective, objective, *a priori*, and *a posteriori*. This will help us gain a basic understanding of the text.

The second week is devoted to Kant's claim that we all possess a common sense knowledge of morality and that it is the task of the moral philosopher to clarify the principle behind this knowledge and to give a precise formulation of it. We will examine how Kant, by an analysis of the concept of a *good will*, arrives at this principle which he calls the *moral law* or the *categorical imperative*.

In the third week we will look at the categorical imperative in detail: we will see how, according to Kant, it actually works in establishing the moral status of our actions, that is, how it allows us to distinguish between actions which are morally *permissible*, *forbidden*, and *obligatory*.

The focus of the fourth week will be on some implications of the categorical imperative: Kant's concept of a *person* as opposed to the concept of a *thing*, and Kant's doctrine of the *autonomy* and *heteronomy* of the human will.

The book that participants will need before class starts: *Kant, Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Second Edition. Introduction by Lewis White Beck (1997).

Available at Amazon in paperback, and on reserve at the Albion College Library.

INTRODUCTION TO NEUROSCIENCE William Hayes, Ph.D., Albion College Professor Emeritus of Psychology. Thursdays, 2:00-4:00, May 15, 22, 29, June 5. Albion College Olin 112.

Neuroscience is increasingly important in understanding ourselves and others. We will scratch the surface of some neuroscientific methods and will attempt to apply a materialistic, scientific approach to understanding how the brain is involved in some kinds of behavior and experience. Throughout, we will wrestle with some of the most interesting and frustrating issues of our own experience. There will be some exposure to anatomical and physiological techniques via the internet, including the use of animal models. If this makes you uncomfortable, you may wish either to avert your gaze or to take some other course.

Week 1, Methodology, science and the brain.

Week 2, From brain to neuron. The nervous system.

Week 3, Sensory & Perceptual issues & the brain

Week 4, Cognition and the brain, Who are we, really?

AFRICA THROUGH ITS LITERATURES. Emmanuel Yawah, Ph.D., Comparative Literature, Professor Modern Languages and Culture Department, Albion College. Wednesdays, 10:00-12:00, May 14, 21, 28, June 4. Vulgamore 204.

My background is rooted in the comparative literature or comparative cultural studies tradition. As such, my discussions of literary texts do not focus mainly on the aesthetic values of the works or do not treat texts as self-referential, self-sufficient, and coherent wholes, but always and necessarily as informed by the contexts of their production. Moreover, comparative literature does not pigeonhole literary works to national or disciplinary boundaries but always studies them from a trans-national and interdisciplinary perspective and, especially, as they relate to other disciplines.

In this course we will draw from a selection of four works (one each week) spanning the colonial and postcolonial periods to show that African writers draw their inspiration from the real world around them and from various disciplines including history, religion, law, politics, culture, etc. in order to construct their own imaginative or, indeed, fictive space.

Book to be read prior to the first class meeting: Achebe, Chinua, *Things Fall Apart*. 1994. Available at Books and More, \$11.95 (paperback), and at both the Albion College Library and Albion District Library.

AALL Officers

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SIR WINSTON SPENCER CHURCHILL, 1874-1965. John Kandelik, Ph.D., History of Higher Education. Albion College Librarian Emeritus. Wednesdays, 2:00-4:00. May 14, 21, 28, June 4. Albion College Library's Wendell B. Will Room.

It is reasonable to say that few men of the 20th century have been as admired as Winston Churchill. There have been well over 600 biographies of Churchill and countless articles, films, and television programs. Many of these works have been adulatory and hero worshipping. Since his death in 1965 there have been a number of revisionist studies and biographies that are more critical of Churchill's life and political role in British and world history. Did he lack judgment, was he an egoist, a spendthrift, an alcoholic, a racist, a militarist, or an imperialist? Many of these critical works suggest that Churchill was an heroic anachronism. Or, maybe he was, as Gretchen Rubin suggests in her book that I am asking you to read, "a tragic hero".

These questions are what I propose to explore in this course. In four sessions we look at Churchill's life as it developed from youth to old age. I will emphasize particular events in Churchill's political career, family life, interests, and personality. I hope that Churchill will be revealed as a very complex individual, a very talented man who possessed many faults as well as virtues.

I ask the class to purchase and read *Forty Ways to Look at Winston Churchill* by Gretchen Rubin. Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2004, ©2003. The book will be available at Books and More, (Hardcover, \$22.95, paperback \$16.00) or from Amazon. This is a short, compact survey of Churchill's life and will be a valuable source for us.

THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE AMERICAN MUSICAL THEATRE. Royal Ward, Ph.D. in Theatre History and Dramatic Criticism. Professor Emeritus of Theater, Albion College. Mondays, 10:00-12:00. May 12, 19, June 2, 9. Albion College Visual Arts Auditorium (Bobbitt).

The "golden age" was a period that saw an outpouring of successful musicals that was unparalleled before or since. It begins with *Oklahoma!* in 1942, ends with *Fiddler on the Roof* in 1964, and probably includes many of your favorite musicals.

We will begin by looking at the American theatre in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and discuss *Showboat* as a precursor to the golden age. In the second session we will examine the landmark production of *Oklahoma!* and discuss some of Rodgers and Hammerstein's later contributions (*South Pacific*, *The King and I*, *The Sound of Music*). In the third week we will compare and contrast the two biggest hits of 1957: *West Side Story* and *The Music Man*. Finally we will look at the musical that marks the end of the golden age—*Fiddler on the Roof*—and use *A Chorus Line* to discuss some of the new directions in the American musical at the end of the 20th century.

BIRD LIFE. Dale Kennedy, Ph.D. in Ecology. Albion College Professor of Biology and Chair of the Honors Program. Tuesdays, 2:00-4:00. May 13, 20, Kresge 170, Albion College Science Complex, all day trip Friday May 23. And one day TBA in June. **Class size limit 28. Note: \$10.00 fee.**

Birds have been fascinating humans for centuries and are well represented in literature, art, music, and other cultural areas. The study of birds has led to many contributions to science, especially in ecology, evolution, communication, migration, and conservation. In this course we will look at several reasons why birds have been important to humans with regard to culture and science.

We will spend two classes indoors, on May 13 and 20, discussing topics such as basic features of birds, vocalizations and other communication, and birds and poetry. We will examine materials, such as eggs and study skins, from the collection at Albion College.

In addition, participants will have two outdoor experiences.

On Friday, May 23 students will take a full-day field trip to Magee Marsh, OH, one of the top birding spots in the U.S. in spring, and neighboring birding spots such as Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. On that trip we will see many species of birds and many people who enjoy birds!

The other outdoor experience will be in June (date TBA). We will split the class in half, and have each group spend a class period in Whitehouse Nature Center. There we will experience activities involved in research on birds (Doug White and I have been carrying out research on birds in WNC for 20 years). We will observe active nests of birds and will band nestling birds.

Books, Equipment, Supplies that participants will need before class starts:

Participants with binoculars should bring them to outdoor meetings (binoculars will be supplied to others for those classes). A standard field guide to eastern birds: If getting one, I suggest Dunn, J.L. and J. Alderfer. 2008. (available at Albion District Library). Also, *National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America*. Houghton-Mifflin, Boston, MA. (\$19.95 but less from Amazon). Note: Other acceptable field guides to birds are Kaufman 2005, Robbins et al. 2001, and Peterson 2008, or National Geographic 2006. Books and More can order any of these books.

AALL Course Registration Form – Spring 2014

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 and are non-refundable unless the class is canceled."

Spring class registration deadline is April 17, 2014. Regretfully, class applications after that date cannot be accepted.

NAME: _____	
phone: _____	
E-mail: _____	
	FEE
<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to Kant	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to Neuroscience	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Bird Life (lab fee \$10.00)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sir Winston Spencer Churchill, 1874-1965	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden Age, American Musical Theatre	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Africa Through Its Literatures	_____
Total Fees	_____
Signature: _____	

NAME: _____	
phone: _____	
E-mail: _____	
	FEE
<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to Kant	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to Neuroscience	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Bird Life (lab fee \$10.00)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sir Winston Spencer Churchill, 1874-1965	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden Age, American Musical Theatre	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Africa Through Its Literatures	_____
Total Fees	_____
Signature: _____	

<u>MEMBERSHIP FORM</u>	
<i>(To be completed only by those wishing to join AALL or renew their membership in AALL)</i>	
Name _____	Spouse/Partner Name _____
Address _____	
City _____	Zip _____ Date _____
Phone () _____	E-mail _____
Dues: \$20 per year per person	Spouse's E-mail _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I am 55 or older (spouse/partner could be younger)	

Reminder: Library Access for AALL Members

Current members of Albion Area Life Long Learners are eligible to check out books from the extensive collection of the Mudd (Albion College) Library.

Each year, the AALL Registrar will forward a list of current members to the IT Department. To get your ID card, go to the IT Department in the basement of the Ferguson Building (next to Olin Hall). Staff will verify your AALL membership, take a photo ID, and provide you with your card. The card will also enable you to attend athletic events on campus free of charge.

Several of the books recommended for our next Spring Semester have been placed on hold at the Albion College Library (recommended texts for the Churchill and Kant classes), and several are already available on the shelf.

Books & More also has some copies of the text suggested for the Class on Birds ([National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern North America](#)) as well as the book for Emmanuel Yewah's class on Africa Through Literature ([Things Fall Apart](#)).

AALL Membership

If you are not already an AALL member, or if you have not paid your 2013-2014 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

Spring Assembly on April 10, 2014 @ 10 a.m. in Tennant 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.

Registrants for all classes will receive a letter shortly after April 10, 2014 that will acknowledge their registration, and provide additional information about the course(s) for which they have registered.

Spring class registration deadline is April 17, 2014. Regrettably, class applications after than date cannot be accepted.

If you are unable to attend a course for which you have registered, fees will be refunded ONLY if the AALL Registrar, Mary Deardurff (517-629-9661) is notified ***no later than one week prior to the start of the class.***