



# Albion Area

## Lifelong Learners

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**ROAD SCHOLAR**  
Adventures in Life Long Learning



Spring 2015 Newsletter

[AlbionAALL.org](http://AlbionAALL.org)

# 2015 Spring Assembly

## Spring Assembly

Speaker: Mark Brush, senior reporter/producer Michigan Public Radio

Location: Norris Science Center, Towsley Hall, Albion College

April 16, 2015 @10 a.m.

Subject: Navigating Environmental Issues in Michigan in the Age of Disruption and Disbelief

Mark Brush is a graduate of the University of Michigan ('00, MS in Environmental Policy and Planning and '91 BA in Political Science). Mark has been a "public radio junkie" since 1992. Beginning with WUOM in 2000, he worked as the technical director and senior producer for Michigan Radio's regional environmental news service. From 2006 to 2010, as co-manager and senior producer, he helped develop the award-winning national news service known as "The Environment Report." He has won state and national awards for his work, including a 2011 national Edward R. Murrow award for "best audio news documentary" on the future of coal in the United States.



His subject "Navigating Environmental Issues in Michigan in the Age of Disruption and Disbelief" plans to convey us into the present hornet's nest and minefield of the public radio world, called "digital disruption." It's really nothing new. Newspapers experienced it first. In the last year or two, radio has begun to feel the pressure as more online connections lead to more places to find information – good and bad. It presents a challenge to those in the traditional news business. Brush will talk about the changes he's seen covering environmental news in the state and how the "age of disruption and disbelief" presents challenges in the reporting of news.



## 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](mailto: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.



SPRING CLASS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring 2015 Newsletter

AALL  
P.O. Box 188  
Albion, Michigan 49224

# AALL Course Descriptions, Spring, 2015

**Registration required**

**INDIA AND TRADITIONS OF YOGA.** Peter Valdina, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Religious Studies, Albion College. Tuesdays 2:00-4:00, May 12, 19, 26, June 2. TBA.

Yoga today is a world-wide phenomenon linked to a commercialized industry that is estimated to generate billions of dollars in annual profits. The term “yoga” comprised a diverse array of practices and beliefs that found expression in a variety of religious communities in South Asia. At the end of the nineteenth century, however, the Indian reformer Swami Vivekananda presented yoga in a very different light to American audiences at the World’s Parliament of Religions in Chicago. Vivekananda’s speech made headlines across America in the 1890s, and he subsequently toured the United States to advance his interpretation of yoga. For Vivekananda, “yoga” was the central term that unified Hindu traditions. It represented a universal religious outlook that had little to do with the physical postures so central to contemporary practices.

This course will examine the history of yoga, using the lens of its contemporary global manifestation to understand its past. We begin with yoga’s early association with traditions of renunciation in classical India; trace its expression in scriptures including the Bhagavad Gita; and follow its development up to the colonial and postcolonial worlds. The course will serve as an introduction to practices and beliefs that have been central to Hindu traditions and will address broader questions related to the historical development of religious traditions and the challenges of modernity and commodification.

Optional text: Klostermaier, Klaus K., *Hinduism: A Beginner’s Guide*. (Oxford: Oneworld, 2008).

**COMMON TREES OF SOUTHERN MICHIGAN.** Dan Skean, Ph.D., Botany, University of Florida. Professor, Biology, Albion College. 10:00–12:00. May 26, 29 (Monday and Friday), June 2, 5 (Monday and Friday). Kresge 176. The class will meet twice a week for two weeks. Limit 18.

This course is an introduction to tree identification and natural history that takes a special look at the common trees of the Albion area. The course will include study of tree form, growth, and reproduction. There will be mellow campus tree ID walks and at least one meeting at the Whitehouse Nature Center, weather permitting.

It is hoped that course participants will finish with (1) a greater understanding of the types of trees that occur in southern Michigan, (2) an ability to use simple identification keys successfully to identify unknown trees, and (3) a greater appreciation for tree biodiversity and economic and ecologic importance. Unless announced beforehand, class begins in the botany lab (Kresge 176), the first lab on the left when entering the back of the science complex using the porch entrance from Park Street. Equipment: A small 10x hand lens would be useful. Recommended book: Barnes/Wagner, *Michigan Trees*, 2004. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

**OPERA: HOW IT BEGAN.** Tom Doran, D.M.A., Northwestern. Retired Albion College Music Faculty. Thursdays 10 am—12 pm, May 14, 21, 28, June 4. Goodrich Lower Level.

While earlier classes have dealt with operas from the “standard repertory” of the 19<sup>th</sup> century that are performed all over the world, this program will deal with the masterpieces of opera’s very beginnings. The roots of opera are in the genius of Monteverdi’s *L’Orfeo* (1607) and Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas* (1688).

At opera’s inception, from very different conventions and countries, came a fully realized, unique, new art form. How the new genre developed and the glories it gave us is the subject of this course. Text: Donald J. Grout, *A Short History of Opera*. Read up to Purcell. This book is out of print, but a few used editions are available though Books and More.

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## Prescriptions



**“I’ve been taking this medication for 50 years and I’m going to sue! The side effects made me wrinkled, fat and bald!”**

## AALL Officers

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

DON QUIXOTE II. Kalen Oswald, Ph.D. in Hispanic Literature, Associate Professor, Modern Languages and Culture, Albion College. Wednesdays 2:00–4:00, May 13, 20, 27, June 10. Vulgamore TBA.

Very few would argue that Miguel de Cervantes's work *El ingenioso hidalgo Don Quixote de la Mancha* is a masterpiece of world literature. Virtually everybody has heard of Don Quixote and Sancho and most have seen some representation of their (mis)adventures. The verb phrase "tilting windmills" and the adjective "quixotic" are found in English dictionaries. Nevertheless, the number of people that has actually read the entire novel is still relatively small.

With this masterpiece Cervantes radically changed narrative fiction and thereby initiated the invention of the modern novel. In the fall of 2013 we studied Part I of *Don Quixote*, and we began to see why it was so innovative for its time and how it has affected the development of the novel. We will now continue this process with an astute examination of Part II of the novel, exactly 400 years since its first publication in 1615. We will study plot development, the narratology of Part II, intertextuality, irony, humor, parody, satire, sanity/insanity, and the relationship between fiction and history. Another important aspect of analysis of Part II will be a comparison (of purpose, tone, historical context, etc.) with Part I. (I would prefer that all participants be returning students from the DQ part I course I taught in Fall of 2013. At the very least all participants should have already completed the reading of DQ part I). Cervantes Saavedra, Miguel de. *Don Quixote*. Trans. Edith Grossman. New York: Eco, 2005. ISBN 0-06-093434-4.

POST WW II GERMAN FILM: COMING TO TERMS WITH THE PAST. Perry Myers, Ph.D. in German Studies. Associate Professor, Modern Languages and Culture, Albion College. Mondays 2:00-4:00, May 11, 18, June 1, 8. Vulgamore 304.

In this course we will view 3 important German films from the Post World War II era. The first two films, Wolfgang Staudte's *The Murderers are Among Us* (1946)—the very first post-War German film—and Werner Rainer Fassbinder's *The Marriage of Maria Braun* (1979), analyze the incessant German attempt to come to terms with the horrific past of National Socialism. Staudte's film deals with the immediate consequences of Germany's utter destruction and the psychological dilemma of guilt for the survivors. Fassbinder's film critically explores Germany's post-war re-construction and the *Wirtschaftswunder* (economic miracle) in order to expose the country's obsession with economic recovery and its inability or unwillingness to address the past.

The third film by Werner Herzog stands in stark contrast to these first two films. Herzog's *Aguirre: The Wrath of God* (1972) avoids direct commentary about Germany's past. Set in 16<sup>th</sup> century South America, a group of Spanish conquistadors search for the riches of El Dorado. The film depicts the conflict between the human being, the construction of society, and nature's power.

Thus, all three films treat the human endeavor and its twentieth-century disasters from very different and intriguing angles. Book: Select chapters from the book by Stephen Brockmann, *A Critical History of German Film* (Rochester, NY: Camden Press). This book is available at the Albion College Library.

NAPOLEON: "IMPOSSIBLE IS NOT A FRENCH WORD." Susan Connor, Ph. D., Retired Provost and Professor of History, Albion College. Wednesdays 10:00-12:00, May 13, 20, 27, June 3. Mudd 210.

This spring and summer mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 100 Days, Battle of Waterloo, and exile of Napoleon to St. Helena. The dates of these events, in fact, partially overlap our course.

Napoleon, second son of an elite Corsican family, went to military school on a scholarship from the French King, became an artillery commander to be reckoned with, and enjoyed socializing although he was quite miserable at it. With an iron will, good friends, and circumstances in his favor, he saved one constitution and made three more. He negotiated the only peace France knew; he completely redrew the map of Europe; and he sent millions of men into combat and to their deaths. In the meanwhile, he encouraged industry, sponsored the arts, rebuilt portions of Paris, reframed education, dallied with women, and created modern France. Throughout the period, he was a soldier, husband and father, consul, emperor, commander, strategist, reformer, enemy, and friend.

If you were to ask French citizens today who were the great rulers of France, they would undoubtedly name Saint Louis, Henri IV, Louis XIV, and Napoleon. Regardless of Waterloo, Napoleon had always said "A leader is a dealer in hope," and the French have always believed that. We will analyze Napoleon through his writings and maxims. We will follow him and his commanders onto the battlefields of Austerlitz, Spain, Russia, and Waterloo. We will hear the music of his Empire, study his reforms, analyze art, caricature, and propaganda, and remind ourselves why he said, "Impossible is not a French word." So, how tall was Napoleon? When General Massena met him in Italy in 1797, he noted, "When he put on his hat, he was two feet taller." Perhaps, perhaps not. One short text: Rafe Blaufarb, *Napoleon Symbol for an Age: A Brief History with Documents* (Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2008).

# AALL Course Registration Form – Spring 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 and are non-refundable unless the class is canceled."

NAME: _____ phone: _____ E-mail: _____	NAME: _____ phone: _____ E-mail: _____																																
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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 2014-2015 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](mailto: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 16, 2015 @ 10 a.m. in Norris Science Center, Towsley Hall, Albion College .**

**"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.

Spring Class Registration deadline is April 23, 2015, regretfully, class applications after that date cannot be accepted.

Registrants for all classes will receive a letter shortly after **April 16, 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 **ONLY** if the AALL Registrar, Mary Deardurff (517-629-9661) is notified **no later than one week prior to the start of the class.**

**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.