



Albion Area

Lifelong Learners

Winter 2018 Newsletter

AlbionAALL.org

Participating Member
ROAD SCHOLAR

Adventures in Life Long Learning



Albion College

Winter Assembly

Thursday, January 18, 2018

Mass incarceration: our addiction to jail-house profit and punishment
The Bohm Theatre - 10:00 a.m.

The United States incarcerates more people today, and does so at a higher rate, than any nation, ever. The number has spiked from around 300,000 incarcerated people in the 1970s to well over two million people today. The War on Drugs and other "tough on crime" policies and practices, that have yielded these historically high rates of incarceration, are racially biased. African-American and Latino men have been the prime targets, disproportionately arrested and incarcerated, and subject to a lifetime of stigma and discrimination.

Dr. Scott Melzer (Ph.D., University of California) is professor of sociology in Albion College's department of Anthropology and Sociology. His teaching and research interests are in gender, social psychology, and criminology, with particular interests in intimate violence such as violence against partners, male self-concepts threatened by status, gun politics, and social change. He co-founded and co-directs Albion College's Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, a semester-long seminar that brings together college students and people who are incarcerated in a correctional facility. He has published *Gun Crusaders: The NRA's Culture War* (NYU Press, 2009), an analysis of the National Rifle Association's transformation from a recreational firearms interest group into a conservative social movement organization. Dr. Melzer's next book examines violence against women when males are unwilling or unable to fulfill body and breadwinner ideals.



Perks Of Being Over The Hill

- There is nothing left anymore to learn the hard way.
- Things that you buy now won't wear out.
- Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.
- You no longer think of the speed limit as a challenge.
- Your investment in health insurance is finally paying off.
- You can quit trying to hold in your stomach no matter who walks into the room.
- Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them anyway.
- You can sing along with elevator music.
- Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the guy on the television.
- Your eyes won't get too much worse.
- Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
- People call you at 9 p.m. and ask, "Did I wake you???? "
- You can get into a heated argument about pension plans.
- You can eat dinner at 4:00 in the afternoon.
- In a hostage situation you are the most likely to be released first.
- No one expects you to run -- anywhere.
- You are no longer viewed as a hypochondriac.



WINTER CLASS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winter 2018 Newsletter

Albion, Michigan 49224

P.O. Box 188

AALL

AALL Course Descriptions, Winter, 2018

Registration required by January 20, 2018

EPIGENETICS. Ken Saville, Ph.D. Professor of Biology, Albion College. Wednesdays 2:00-4:00. February 7, 14, 21, 28. TBA.

The term 'genetics' refers to the inheritance of traits from one generation to the next. The basic notions of genetics were first described by Gregor Mendel in his study of pea plants. The major Mendelian concept is that a physical trait is determined by the action of a pair of genes. Each member of that pair is called an *allele*. Some alleles are dominant and some are recessive. We each get one set of alleles from mom and one from dad. The combination of alleles that a particular individual has is called the genotype. The coordinated expression of the genotype into a particular combination of traits is the phenotype. We also know that genes are made of DNA, and that DNA is expressed into proteins (via an intermediate called RNA) and these proteins do the work required to form a particular phenotype. That was then, this is now.

It turns out that the phenotype resulting from a particular genotype is much more complicated than this early understanding. One fascinating twist on this story is the role the environment plays in shaping the phenotype. Recently, it has been shown that environmental factors can determine which genes are turned on or turned off under specific circumstances, and that these environmental effects on gene expression may be inherited across several generations. Incredibly, this type of inheritance occurs without changing the DNA. Therefore, two individuals with the same genotype (e.g. identical twins) will not have the same phenotype. These inherited changes that do not require a change in DNA sequence are called 'epi-genetic' effects. *Epi* refers to a phenomenon in addition to or 'on top of' traditional genetics. The molecular mechanisms of how these epigenetic changes occur and how they are inherited is a major focus of current and future research in genetic medicine.

LANDSCAPE IMPRESSIONS IN WATERCOLOR. Maureen Reed, B.S. Liberal Studies Art Concentration. Wednesdays 10:00-12:00. February 7, 14, 21, 28. Ludington Center. (Limit 20)

This course concentrates on styles ranging from impressionistic to modern landscape painting. Inspiration comes from the Kalamazoo River as it meanders through the heart of Albion and the many parks within its city limits. Historical aspects of the development through the years that made Albion an All-American Tree City will be incorporated in the studies.

To learn more about the life of a working artist, a landscape muralist will be invited as a guest speaker during one of the workshops. The classes are casual and fun for anyone who appreciates art and nature. Materials fee: \$20.00.

TRAVELOGUE. Various Presenters. Tuesdays 2:00-4:00. February 6, 13, 20, 27. Albion District Library. No Fee. Open to the community.

February 6: Kathleen and Jim Seidl, Five Western National Parks

February 13: Barb and Bill Rafail, Christmas Markets on the Danube River

February 20: Tonya and Jim Arnett, South Africa

February 27: Pat Tomasik, A Tale of Three Cities: Amsterdam, Bruges, and Hanover

AALL Officers

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

WHAT'S NEW IN HUMAN EVOLUTION. Brad Chase, Ph.D., Anthropology. Associate Professor and Chair of Anthropology and Sociology, Albion College. Thursdays 10:00-12:00. February 1, 8, 15, 22. TBA.

“Awash in fresh insights, scientists have had to revise virtually every chapter of the human story” reads the headline. And it is true — these are incredibly exciting times in the study of human evolution as new findings in the field and laboratory are indeed leading to the revision of several long-held orthodoxies at an unprecedented pace. It’s a lot to keep up with. Unfortunately, we also live in an era of “fake news” and hyperbolic “click-bait” headlines. It can be hard to sort the wheat from the chaff. This course will help. Towards this end, materials will be primarily drawn from the popular press — and set into a broader context of human evolution as taught in a biological anthropology course at Albion College. Time will be allotted in each session for discussing the most recent news stories — good, bad, or ugly — as selected by the class.

THE ROOT OF POWER IN WESTERN MUSIC. Rob Reed, Albion College class of 1960. Thursdays 2:00-4:00. February 1, 8, 15, 22. 414 Allen Place, Albion.

In European and American music, profound beauty arrives through the power of melody. It is paradoxical that a modern listener enjoys simple tunes or complicated cascades of live or recorded sound that are grounded in tight rules of composition more than 300 years old. Composers since J.S. Bach have worked his models of cumulative repetition and variation to such effect that in hearing we are moved to silent awe or explosive exaltation.

This course argues through example from Bach to the Beatles that musical forms such as *cannon*, *passacaglia* and *fugue* are music’s fundamental, even transcendent, musical forms. The class meets at the Reeds’ home.

ARGUING ABOUT GOD. John W. Woell, PhD., Philosophy of Religion. Associate Provost and Professor of Religious Studies. Tuesdays 10:00-12:00. February 6, 13, 20, 27. TBA.

What do we talk about when we talk About God? Typically, we hold that our terms refer to objects or things that exist and that our beliefs about such things are well grounded if the terms refer appropriately and we have good evidence for believing our claims about these objects. For example, we are justified in believing “The rock is wet” is true insofar as there is an object “rock” that bears the property “wet” and we are in a good position to make a judgment about the wetness of the rock — such as looking at the wet rock with all our faculties functioning properly. But if we apply these same standards to religious belief, questions begin to arise immediately. How do terms refer when we cannot point to an object? What counts as being “in a good position” to make a judgment with regard to a religious belief? What kinds of claims do such beliefs make? Are true religious claims like true claims about regular objects? What counts as evidence for a religious claim or belief? These more philosophical questions about religious beliefs and claims form the philosophical tools and insights. Together we will examine the function and nature of religious language and belief by looking closely at major arguments for and against the existence of God from Anselm to the present.



Stirling books and brew

Free Events*

All events: Weeknights @ 7 p.m.

Thursdays – Poetry Night (1) Drama Night (3)

Fridays – Trivia Night

Saturdays – Live Music

*Check for additional Free Events

AALL Course Registration Form – Winter 2018

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 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: _____	
	FEE
___ Human Evolution	_____
___ The Root of Power in Western Music	_____
___ Travelogue	_____
___ Watercolor	_____
___ Epigenetics	_____
___ Arguing About God	_____
Total Fees	_____
Signature: _____	
Deadline for registration: January 25, 2018	

NAME: _____	
phone: _____	
E-mail: _____	
	FEE
___ Human Evolution	_____
___ The Root of Power in Western Music	_____
___ Travelogue	_____
___ Watercolor	_____
___ Epigenetics	_____
___ Arguing About God	_____
Total Fees	_____
Signature: _____	
Deadline for registration: January 25, 2018	

<u>MEMBERSHIP FORM</u>	
<i>(To be completed only by those wishing to 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 _____
___ Yes, I am 55 or older (spouse/partner could be younger)	



Members should 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 2017-2018 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

Winter Assembly on January 18, 2018 @ 10 a.m. in The Bohm Theatre.

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 **January 25, 2018** 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.