

Fall Term 2008-09

Instructors and Their Courses

The Vice Squad: Vanity, Anger, Envy, Greed, Lust, Gluttony, Sloth

Walt Stromseth (stroms@stolaf.edu)

We will examine the negative role and current relevance of these "vices" in personal and social life, as well as the challenges to nurturing their opposing "virtues" in our present society and world. As traits of character that find expression in personal attitudes and social interactions, these persistent vices were called "the seven deadly sins" in the early Christian era. In our more secular modern age they remain pervasive "evils" that disrupt the well-being of individuals and societies.

Walt Stromseth, Ph.D. A retired professor, he taught in both the Departments of Philosophy and Religion at St. Olaf College. He developed a late interest in ethical approaches, both Western and non-Western, that emphasize the virtues or personal character in the conduct of moral life.

The New Science of Positive Psychology: [Real] Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness

Bruce Roberts (bruroberts@gmail.com)

There is a fascinating difference between a recent survey of pre-retirees (ages 55-65) and one of "real-retirees" (65-85). The pre-retirees identified their preferences upon retirement as: (1) finding purpose, (2) taking classes for fun, (3) leadership opportunities, (4) some part time work, and (5) volunteering. Whereas those who have "been there", the actual retirees, indicated their preferences as: (1) creating meaningful structure in their life, (2) finding and maintaining good family and friend relationships, and (3) mental stimulation, with special interest in learning how to integrate expectations with real life, and discovering when is the right time to (...X). This class will explore the evolving field of positive psychology, from the early work of Erikson and Maslow to the work of psychology's contemporary social, cognitive, emotion and neuroscience research scholars, as together we consider how, when and where retirees and beyond can find a sense of well-being in their life – their real life.

Bruce Roberts, Ph.D. is a Professor Emeritus of Psychology (St. Olaf College). He and his St. Olaf research colleague, Professor Howard Thorsheim, respectfully studied and published extensively their findings on important components of well-being for retirees. However, Bruce's recent study of the new science of positive psychology continues to help him (sort of) make sense of his own convoluted retirement experiences and (for sure) to appreciate the increasing importance of supportive neighborliness as we age.

The Pipe Organ: King of Instruments **Richard F. Collman** (rkcollman@msn.com)

The pipe organ has a long and illustrious history, dating from Roman times to the present, spanning the history of western civilization as we know it. This course will look at the pipe organ in history from earliest times, acquaint us with sounds and sights of the instrument, and provide "close up" encounters with this "deus ex machina" that has provided entertainment and solace for generations in theatres, ball parks, and churches as well as concert halls. The course will feature an "organ crawl" to see organs in Northfield

as well as a possible visit to an organ factory, interviews with organists, and a mini-recital. No music experience is necessary.

Rev. Richard F. Collman is a retired minister-musician living in Northfield. His career has always involved the pipe organ; he served 20 years as a minister of music and 20 years as a preaching pastor. He has given recitals, taught organ, served as adjunct faculty to colleges, served in leadership roles in the American Guild of Organists on local, state, regional and national levels, created fine arts series, and used music and the pipe organ to enhance religion where he lived. His degrees are from the University of Minnesota, Yale Divinity School (M.Div.), and the University of Notre Dame (M.M. in Music & Liturgy). Currently, he is organist at First English Lutheran Church in Cannon Falls. In the summers of 2007 and 2008, he arranged seven thirty minute noontime recitals for Northfield and Dundas by various organists during Art Swirl in late July and August.

Sherlock Holmes and His World

J. Randolph Cox (cox@rconnect.com)

Who is there who does not know the name of Sherlock Holmes? People recognize the name who may have never read a word of the 56 short stories and four novels in which he appears. This course is an exploration of the career of one of the most popular figures in detective literature. We will look at some of the stories as examples of detective fiction and as a unique view of society in Great Britain in the late Victorian Age. We will also consider the life of Arthur Conan Doyle, considered either to be the real author of the stories or merely the literary agent for Dr. John H. Watson, the true biographer of the Great Detective. This course consists of discussions, lectures, and the viewing of films.

J. Randolph Cox is Professor Emeritus (Rolvaag Memorial Library) at St. Olaf College. In retirement he devotes most of his time as editor of *Dime Novel Round-Up: A magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and study of old-time dime and nickel novels, popular story papers, series books, and pulp magazines*. His other activities include writing, reviewing and consulting on a number of topics in popular culture as well as reading his large collection of detective fiction..

Oil, Energy, And The Environment: The Whole Picture

Hartley Clark (clark@carleton.edu)

This course will scan the principal energy sources—petroleum, natural gas, coal, hydroelectric, nuclear, solar, wind, hydrogen, biomass, and geothermal—with a view to identifying valuable action for individuals, communities, industry, and government. Dimensions of each source considered will include geopolitical consequences, use levels, reserves, distribution method, reliance on technology, energy that consumes energy, the effect on inflation and the value of the dollar, greenhouse gases, air and water pollutants, and public health consequences. Reading recommendations will be mailed to persons who register.

Note: If Demand is high we will offer a second section of this class Wed. afternoon. So when registering please indicate if you would prefer an afternoon class.

Hartley Clark, Ph.D., taught international relations at Carleton College from 1955 until his retirement in 1991. He is known to the CVEC through his courses “Middle Eastern Oil And International Relations,” “The Arab Israeli Conflict,” “Europe Versus the United States,” “Globalization and Why the World Hates Us,” and “The War in Iraq: History, Origin and Evolution.”

Paper vs. Pixels: Can Newspapers Survive in a Web-based World?

Linda Seebach (linsee@plethora.net)

The 2008 presidential race offers a case study in the enormous challenges faced by newspapers and other mass media as readers – and revenues – increasingly move online. We'll examine how American journalism developed historically, considering evolving expectations for content and coverage as well as the business models that have traditionally provided the financial resources needed to meet expectations. Who pays the cost of covering a national campaign? Does the answer affect the fairness and accuracy of the coverage? And if so, does it matter?

Given our focus on current events, our readings will primarily be drawn from online sources as the campaign moves into its final weeks, but we will provide printed versions for students who don't have online access.

Linda Seebach was an editorial writer and columnist for the Rocky Mountain News in Denver, Colo before retiring in 2007.

Migration To U.S.A.: Then and Now **Marie Gery**

Migration vb 1) to move from one place to another 2) to pass periodically from one region or climate to another

Today, migration does not stop long enough for an artist or photographer to compose a permanent portrait. Migration is part of our lives. Many of us migrated from small rural communities to cities for post high school education and work. Parents and grandparents left their country due to poverty and arrived in the United States hoping to realize the American dream. We'll take time for our own migration stories. We'll spend some time on U.S. immigration policies beginning with 1882. Then we'll take a look at how economics and wars drive migration as we discuss people leaving Europe, Africa and the Far East, as well as migration along the Mexico-Arizona Border. Sources for discussion will include books, newspaper and magazine articles, and guest speakers.

Marie Gery first migrated in 1942 during the early days of WWII when the family moved from Northwestern Iowa to Jackson, Mississippi, where her father was stationed at the Army Air Base. These days the Gerys migrate to Southern Arizona before the snow flies and return after the robins arrive in Northfield. Marie is deeply committed to humanitarian aid for people who become strangers in a strange land, especially those facing the dangers of the Sonoran Desert.

Twin Cities Churches: Getting to Know Them **Ed Sovik**

There is a scattered number of church buildings in the Twin Cities that are known by sight to people familiar with the urban scene. But few laymen are familiar with the interiors or with the factors that give the buildings their distinction. This course will consider these familiar structures up close to make understandable their variety and virtues. Two sessions will be in Northfield (dealing with architectural factors and to examine liturgical and theological matters relative to church buildings) and four half-day trips to St. Paul and Minneapolis to visit numerous churches.

Ed Sovik practiced architecture in Northfield from 1949 to 1996. Outside of Northfield he was broadly known for his work as a designer of church buildings. He wrote a book and more than one hundred magazine articles on the subject.

The African Experience **Joseph L. Mbele** (mbele@stolaf.edu)

A study of the historical and contemporary experience of the African people through a close look at Chinua Achebe's novel, "*Things Fall Apart*." Studying this novel will enable us to look at the life and values of the Africans before the coming of Europeans and the consequences of the coming of Europeans, which continue to the present day. It will also help us to appreciate how the art of story telling, both oral and written, influences African life.

Joseph L. Mbele, a Tanzanian, teaches in the English Department at St. Olaf College. Before coming to St. Olaf, he taught in the Literature Department at the University of Dar es Salaam, in Tanzania. He teaches mostly Literature in English from around the world. His main research interest is folklore. He has done folklore fieldwork in such places as Kenya, Tanzania, and the USA, presented papers at conferences around the world, and published widely. He focuses on epic traditions, as well as trickster and outlaw tales. Jesse James has been one of his favorite outlaws.

China, Inside Out **Richard Bodman** (bodmanr317@aol.com)

"China Inside Out" tells the story of China, past and present, through the voices of insiders, from philosophers such as Confucius and Mao, to their contemporary critics, and from classical poets to ordinary people in the city and countryside. We will examine China's enduring classical culture – including philosophy, poetry, and gardening – as well as of contemporary life in China, from the socialist system of the Mao era to the booming, money-mad present, and from the art and literature of the peasant to the views of the urban student and intellectual. Our readings will be from original sources, translated or edited by the instructor. The spiral-bound booklet of ca. 300 pp. will be produced at cost.

Richard Bodman, Ph.D, taught Chinese language, literature, and Asian Studies at St. Olaf College from 1980 to 2006. He has escorted both student and adult groups to China and most recently spent the fall semester of 2007 teaching at East China Normal University in Shanghai. He has taught two previous CVEC courses on China and one on Afghanistan.