

## **CVEC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - FALL 2011**

### **Nuclear Energy: Its History and Use**

From the discovery of radioactivity in the 1890s through the development of nuclear weapons during WW II and the recent disaster in Japan, the story of the human exploration and use of the energy contained in atomic nuclei will be explored in this course. Suggested reading will be Richard Rhodes' 1986 book, "The Making of the Atomic Bomb," which won a Pulitzer and National Book Award. Participants will be invited to share any experiences from their own lives with the wartime nuclear bombs, the cold war arms race, or nuclear power reactors.

Jim Cederberg retired from the Physics Department at St. Olaf in 2006, where he taught most of the classes in the department at one time or another over a 42 year span. As a part of the teaching program he worked with undergraduate students on experimental research into the structure of the electric and magnetic fields acting on the nuclei of the atoms in molecules.

### **The Arab revolt against misrule, 2011**

Starting in January, 2011, over a dozen self-immolations in Arab nations prompted masses of citizens to demonstrate peacefully against misrule. Hundreds of demonstrators are said to have been killed by governments choosing to resist. This course deals with the twenty or so nations across North Africa and the Middle East that have seen demonstrations and will center on the following questions: How have Arab nations been governed? What did the demonstrators want? What led to the eruption? Can the international oil trade be disrupted? What has been achieved? What price have the demonstrators paid? Should powerful nations and organizations intervene?

Hartley Clark, Ph.D., is Prof. Emeritus of International Relations, at Carleton College, where he taught from 1955 until his retirement in 1991. The nine CVEC courses he has taught include "Oil and International Relations in the Middle East;" "The Arab-Israeli Conflict;" "The War in Iraq;" and "Insecurity and Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan."

### **The Pipe Organ: King of Instruments**

The pipe organ has a long and illustrious history which parallels the course of western civilization as we know it. This course will look at the pipe organ from earliest times and will acquaint us with sounds and sights of the instrument. The

course will include an "organ crawl" to various organs in Northfield, a possible visit to an organ factory, interviews with organists, and a mini-recital. No musical experience is necessary.

Richard Collman is a retired minister-musician in Northfield who has served in various capacities over the years to interpret the pipe organ to all ages. He started the Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals five years ago and also accompanies the I Cantanti Choir on piano or organ at their concerts.

### **Great Decisions Topics For 2011**

The Foreign Policy Association proposes the following topics for next year's discussions: Rebuilding Haiti, U.S. National Security, Horn of Africa, Responding to the Financial Crisis, Germany Ascendant, Sanctions and Nonproliferation, the Caucasus, and Global Governance. Guest experts will be invited to address several topics. Discussions will be led by Ambassador Robert Flaten, continuing a CVEC series which is also sponsored by the Minnesota International Center.

Robert Flaten served as the American Ambassador to Rwanda from 1990 to 1993. He retired from the Foreign Service in 1994 after assignments in France, Pakistan and Israel and the State Department in Washington. He is past Chair of the Executive Committee of the Nobel Peace Prize Forum and Ambassador in Residence at St. Olaf College.

### **From Chaucer to W.S. Merwin: Eight Great Poems**

We will read eight poems taken from the whole range of English and American Literature and discuss them in depth. Because poems often reveal their meaning when they are read aloud, the class will include readings by members of the group who feel comfortable with this idea. We will probably disagree sharply on certain matters, and that will be very useful because sometimes different interpretations of a poem can bring out surprising nuances that can be overlooked in a solitary reading. Among the authors we'll look at will be Shakespeare, Robert Lowell, Seamus Heaney and W.S. Merwin.

Keith Harrison taught English at Carleton - where he was also Writer-in-residence and editor of *The Carleton Miscellany* - for almost 30 years. He has written a dozen books of verse and translation and his version of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, first published by The Folio Society, is included in Oxford's World's Classics. A New & Collected Poems (1962-2002) called CHANGES was published in 2002. Many of his recent poems are set in the countryside around Northfield.

## **Communities in Conflict: the Politics behind the New Testament Canon**

The Jerusalem temple was destroyed by Roman armies in 70 CE in response to Jewish civil war and rebellion. In the generation before the war, Paul of Tarsus sought to expand the Jesus movement into the Greco-Roman world despite the apprehensions of the original Jewish community of Jesus' followers. In the generation after the war, the compilers of the gospels interpreted the events of Jesus' life and death through the lens of post-war accusations, suspicions, and circumstances. Communities scattered by war competed with each other and with the fragment of Jewish religion that emerged as rabbinic Judaism, all claiming to be the righteous branch and true heirs of the divine promise. This course will explore this 1st century history and the communities in conflict that produced the core documents of the New Testament canon.

Robert "Obie" Holmen is a former trial attorney with a BA degree from Dartmouth and a JD degree from the University of Minnesota. He has also pursued post-graduate religious studies with the Benedictines of St. John's Abbey and University in Collegeville. His debut work of historical fiction, *A Wretched Man, a novel of Paul the apostle*, was released in 2010.

## **Jazz: The First Hundred Years**

This course will explore the music of the great performers of jazz through its rich tapestry of styles from the Levees of New Orleans to the Lofts of SoHo. Reading knowledge of music is not required.

Stephen Kelly retired in 2011 after teaching music history at Carleton College for thirty-seven years. He has been a Fulbright Scholar and has published work on medieval music, medieval monasteries, jazz history, and teaching. In addition to teaching jazz history for twenty five years, he plays sax and clarinet in Occasional Jazz.

## **Irish Song and Story**

I am utterly unqualified as a musicologist, but I love Irish music and have a large collection representing its many forms and moods: elegies, love songs, dances, airs, marches, drinking and political ballads, and religious music. I know a lot about Irish fiction, long and short, that features music or deals with situations which overlap with those reflected in the music: exile, nostalgia, blackguarding, match-making, love both requited and unrequited, etc, etc.

Jim McDonnell retired from Carleton College in 2007 after teaching

there for 38 years in the English Department. His chief literary interests are Irish Literature and Shakespeare. He visits Ireland almost every year.

### **Church, Aging and Well-Being: It-Takes-a-Village!**

As men and women retire and age, their church can serve as a powerful social institution that (1) brings them together with others they care about, (2) engages them meaningfully in contributing to the life of others, and (3) sustains their well-being. But does yours? We will stitch together our changing and seemingly unconnected "stories" -- of feelings, events, beliefs and expectations (at church) as we look for patterns. I will link our shared contributions with research from community, social, clinical, cognitive and positive psychology and neuropsychology

Bruce Roberts is a Professor of Psychology Emeritus from St. Olaf College. He and his colleague, Howard Thorsheim, have completed a number of research projects with church congregations, including a three-year National Institute of Health grant that included 10,000 people in 24 Minnesota congregations. The questions asked in their work also apply to other social institutions such as retirement centers and nursing homes.

**The Cannon River Valley:** a history of landforms, human occupation, and contemporary water quality issues.

How can we leave the rivers of the Cannon Valley in good shape for our grandchildren and their grandchildren? With that question in mind this course explores the land and rivers in our area, their deeper and more recent geologic history, settlement history, selected water quality issues, and a vision for the future. Two class field trips anticipated. Participants, individually or in small groups, will be asked to take exploratory trips on their own.

Gary Wagenbach taught biology and environmental studies at Carleton for 39 years. During his time at Carleton he actively used the outdoors as a classroom directing multiple ecology-oriented courses in the BWCAW of Minnesota, Bermuda, California, New Zealand, Australia, and Tanzania. Recently he served as a consultant to Lumbini Academy, located in Yangon, Myanmar, helping with K-12 curriculum development. Research interests include water quality issues and threatened species of freshwater mussels.