

FALL GOLD College Study Groups

September 20 – October 28, 2021

MONDAY

American Civil War

9:00-11:00

There were huge events in history which have tested our country and the Civil War was one of the most challenging and transformational. In our class, we will look at the causes and consequences of the Union and the Confederacy army's actions, as well as the long-term economic and intellectual impact of this war. We will also discuss the conspiracy and killing of Abe Lincoln. *Dr. Lloyd Petersen, SMSU Professor Emeritus*

My Favorite Lecture

11:30-1:30

If you want 'something different', this Study Group for you! Each week a different SMSU professor will share one of their 'favorite lectures'. This SMSU sampler will include topics from History, Philosophy, Biology, Orphan train and more. There really is something for everyone!

The US War in Vietnam-Continued

2:00-4:00

We will continue to tap our personal experiences, oral and written history, to explore the impacts of the War in Vietnam. We will explore the events that led to US involvement in Vietnam and the key events, decisions, and persons involved in the US role in the Vietnam War. Then we will seek a better understanding of the experiences of the US soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who served in Vietnam. *Bill Palmer*

Basic Computer Hodgepodge

2:00-4:00

Each session will cover a different topic related to basic computer skills. Some topics include: Tips in basic Word, Excel basics, the 'ins and outs' of on line Banking, Cybercrime and identity theft and Google and its many great tools. Special guest (Pam Rosenau) will present the session on Cyber Crime, and special guest, (Julie Walker) will present the many great tools and uses of Goggle. *Beth Westra*

TUESDAY

Aging with Vibrancy

9:00-11:00

We will have exciting discussions on how to age with vibrancy, gusto and resiliency. Topics include: social connections, mindfulness and self-care, finding your purpose in aging, gratitude and kindness are key, building resilience and how moving your body. . .changes your mind! This will be followed with a 30 minute senior fit session. *Heather Radke - YMCA*

The 20's

11:30-1:30

This class will focus on the 1920s, in many ways the point where the United States becomes modern America. There are tremendous changes: advances in technology, like automobiles and airplanes and the movies; the development of a consumer economy, complete with psychology tested advertising; and dramatic social change, in costume, behavior and attitudes. It is a decade of "Flaming Youth." But opposing this modernism is a fierce resistance from traditional America, from the passage of prohibition to the rebirth of the Ku Klux Klan, the self-styled defender of real American values. It is a time of spectacle and frenetic activity, with dark undercurrents and signs of troubles to come. *Dr. Joan Gittens*

Information Overload

11:30-1:30

The Information age, also called the Digital Age, began in earnest with the widespread use of the Internet. It is the shift from industrial production to one based on information and computerization. This course will explore questions around living and navigating in the information age and (we hope) provide some strategies for thriving. Through a series of case studies, we will try to examine aspects of our information landscape such as where information comes from, how it is disseminated, and how we find the information we need—and how the information we don't need can find us. The topics discussed will include how news is made, how artificial intelligence shapes our information landscape, and how information from our past, shapes our present. *Maria Kingsbury and Kate Borowski*

The Art of Storytelling

2:00-4:00

Everyone is a storyteller! You will learn how to tell a good story whether true or fiction and create stories that inspire others. You will explore what makes a story powerful and meaningful, learn to choose your story and be given the tools to tell it. Persuade, influence and inspire your family, friends, employees and grandkids with a favorite story. *Sue Morton*

WEDNESDAY

Writers of Our Region

9:00-11:00

In this class we will examine the written works of authors who have lived in and written about Southwest Minnesota, starting with Ole Rolvaag's *Giants in the Earth*, continuing through Sinclair Lewis's novel of small-town life *Main Street*, to (Robert and Carol Bly, Meridel LeSueur, Fred Manfred) to writers of our generation who connected with and often taught at SMSU or visited for Marshal Festivals (Bill Holm, Leo Dangel, Paul Gruchow, Jim Heynen, Garrison Keillor, Tim O'Brien) to the younger ones who are actually in touch with our place. I'll give lectures, we'll read and discuss written texts, and we'll watch some taped interviews.

Dave Pichaske

US History to 1877 (offered over ZOOM and in Person)

9:00-11:00

This course will move quickly through the history of the United States from the Colonial Era to Reconstruction. Among the topics we will cover are: What is history? Interpreting the Colonial Era; The Revolution; The Constitution and Representative Government; The Idea of the West; The Civil War and Reconstruction.

Dr. Jeff Kolnick

Who Killed JFK? And Other Conspiracy Theories (offered over ZOOM and in Person)

11:30-1:30

The assassination of President John F. Kennedy in November 1963 not only had important short-term effects on domestic and foreign policy, but also generated conspiracy theories that have affected people's attitudes about the U.S. government ever since. In this course, we will examine some of those theories by putting them in the context of the times, while also considering other claims about conspiracies in the U.S., including those surrounding the assassinations of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and Senator Robert F. Kennedy, as well as the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the birthplace of President Barack Obama, and the election of President Joe Biden

Dr. Tom Williford

AURI (Agricultural Utilization Research Institute) (offered over ZOOM and in Person)

2:00-3:00

Housed on the SMSU campus, AURI helps develop new uses for agricultural products through applied science and technology, partnering with businesses and other organizations to bring new innovations to reality. They offer unique resources including the AURI Connects program and hands-on scientific assistance to develop new uses that add value to Minnesota-grown agricultural products for entrepreneurs and through public initiatives. Learn the insider story from AURI scientists and commercialization staff on innovative new uses of agricultural products and how they disseminate information as we rise together to build Minnesota's economy. Participants will tour the AURI labs, hear from the scientists, and be introduced to an array of services AURI offers.

Exterior places, Interior Spaces

2:00-4:00

If wall could talk, what interesting stories would they tell? Take a look at the selections of remarkable architectural structures of various times, places as styles. They are found in Turkey, Spain, Australia or even in your own backyard.

Pat Hand, Adjunct Professor

THURSDAY

The Great Sioux Reservation - 1868 to 1910

9:00-11:00

When the Great Sioux Reservation was established in 1868, it consisted of all of Western South Dakota, as well as parts of eastern Wyoming and northern Nebraska. By 1910 only a small percentage of it remained. The class will touch on the legal issues but will primarily focus on the social, political, military and bureaucratic aspects of the Great Sioux Reservation.

Steve Linstrom-Author

Prediabetes and Diabetes

11:30-1:30

These conditions are easy to manage with simple, proven lifestyle changes. If you live with diabetes and would like to improve your health and sense of well-being, this class is for you. Participants make weekly action plans, share experiences and help each other solve problems as they carry out their self-management program. Family members, friends and partners are welcome.

Rebecca Reynolds & Jamie Lanners

Pottery

11:30-1:30

Students will work with clay to create their own unique hand-built pottery forms. These will be dried and fired in a kiln to bisque temperature, then glazed and fired again to the glaze temperature. Working on a potter's wheel may be an additional option. Limit 15 people-\$10 supply costs

Pat Hand, SMSU Adjunct Professor

Meaning of Life

2:00-4:00

Thinkers of seemingly every age have asked, "What is the meaning of life?" This class explores this question and some of the answers that have been given to it. Questions to be considered include: Is finding meaning in life important? Is life objectively meaningful? What makes life meaningful? Is a meaningful life necessarily a religious life? Is life absurd?

Brent Gaul

Oh Yes. . .You Can Paint!

2:00-4:00

All you need to bring is your willingness to try something new or excitement to continue on your artistic journey. The members of the group are supportive, helpful, and like to laugh. No one in the group has forgotten when they first started on their journey and are willing to offer constructive ideas if you ask them. The tools needed to complete a painting are available for use throughout the sessions. You may bring your own paints or pay a \$5.00 paint fee.

Dale Hiland