

# THE Lifelong Learning INSTITUTE

NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY



## Winter 2012 Session

**January 9<sup>th</sup> – February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

5202 Old Orchard Road - Skokie, IL

(224) 233-2366

[www.nl.edu/lifelonglearning](http://www.nl.edu/lifelonglearning)

# Welcome

To The Lifelong Learning Institute at National Louis University where you'll have no problem staying warm this winter. Walk through our halls and you'll find a group of men and women 55+ who have a burning intellectual curiosity and who are often prone to heated discussion.

Take a look at our hot selection of study groups and we're certain you'll find something that piques your interest. The winter session runs from January 9<sup>th</sup> until February 10<sup>th</sup> 2012 and you'll certainly be able to warm up to our low \$75 membership fee.

Please don't stay out in the cold...come inside and see what we have to offer. For more information call Joan Marks at 224/233-2366.

## WINTER 2012 SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>9:30-11:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30-11:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30-11:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30-11:30 AM</b>	<b>9:30-11:30 AM</b>
Readings from The New Yorker	Leading Ladies: Film (9:00)  The Wall Street Journal	Writing for your Family  Nation of Change  Films that Inspire Us	Readings from Science News  The Best Short Stories 2011	The Women's Room
<b>1:00-3:00 PM</b>	<b>1:00-3:00 PM</b>	<b>1:00-3:00 PM</b>	<b>1:00-3:00 PM</b>	
Favorite Short Stories  Writing Workshop	Individual Rights vs. Social Responsibilities  <i>Boomerang: A Guided Tour through the Fiscal Tsunami</i>	The Influencing Machine  Medical Ethics  Nova: The Fabric of the Cosmos	Documentary Films	

## MONDAY

9:30-11:30 AM

### **Readings from *The New Yorker* - Coordinators: Greg Mancuso & Sheryl Schiff Room 578**

In this class, we will share dialogue and laughter as we explore the current issue's content and call attention to favorite articles. Then, a chosen article from prior weeks' edition, read by the group before coming to class is presented for discussion. It could be anything from a book review to a political exposé, from a short story to an in-depth people profile or a variety of other eclectic topics.

1:00-3:00 PM

### **Fascinating Short Stories: Coordinators: David Kleiman & Greg Mancuso Room 581**

Join us as we continue to read contemporary American and international stories and author's commentaries in an anthology by Ann Charters: "The Story and Its Writer," Third Edition. Our class members delight in the humor, thoughtful insights and wide variety of viewpoints that characterize our discussions and create stimulating afternoons. Please join us as we continue our journey!

To purchase the anthology go to Amazon.com. Scroll down to books. Type in the ISBN number: 0312034695. You will see a picture of our anthology as well as "New" prices and "Used" prices. Click on the \$0.01 and a list of all the used books available will come up. The book plus shipping will typically be less than \$5.00. It is an excellent anthology that is worth buying if you enjoy short stories. (The book is not easily obtainable unless you buy it). Order the book in December to make sure you receive it before our first class.

### **Writing Workshop – Coordinators: Michael Ellman & Bram Takefman Room 578**

You love to write and may have been doing so for years. This is your chance to participate in a group of practicing writers – to learn and practice new methods and writing styles --and to constructively critique each other's work, be it fiction, nonfiction or poetry. In a supportive setting, your classmates will provide concrete and considerate suggestions, reactions and evaluations intended to encourage you to put forth your best efforts. There is a certain discipline to writing and you will benefit from having an audience that is always looking forward to your next composition.

**LLI classes fill up quickly so don't wait to register – do it today! If you have any questions or would like more information, please call Joan Marks at 224/233-2366.**

## TUESDAY

9:00-11:30 AM

### **Leading Ladies...Stellar Performances – Coordinators: Corey Goldman & Molly Lazar Room 464**

There's something to be said for the pure, unadulterated pleasure of watching the countless screen heroines whose main virtue is the fact they are beautiful, or fascinatingly complex, or incredibly talented - sometimes, in a few rare instances, all three of the above. That's what this winter's spotlight is all about. Join us as we take a closer look at five films that highlight these outstanding leading ladies: Meryl Streep, Nicole Kidman, Julianne Moore, Kate Winslet and Laura Linney.

9:30-11:30 AM

### ***The Wall Street Journal* - Coordinators: Donald Gordon & Gerry Gordon Room 576**

*The Wall Street Journal* reports on many topics that shape our lives including events in business, politics, the stock market, economics, medicine and the law. Based on the depth of the articles, you can look forward to excellent discussions on politics, foreign relations, new discoveries and of course the stock market and the products that are part of a universal economic interchange. Typically in this study group, 4 articles are presented in detail using the “Socratic Method” which requires everyone to be prepared to answer in-depth questions about the weekly topics. Please note that nothing discussed in class should be considered as a recommendation for investment. Members must subscribe to or have access to *The Wall Street Journal* either hard copy or online.

1:00-3:00 PM

### **Individual Rights vs. Social Responsibilities – Coordinators: Rich Koomjian & Greg Mancuso Room 578**

Many of today's big issues involve the difficult balance between “rights” vs. “responsibilities” of American citizens. From assisted suicide - to freedom of speech - to standardized testing. From capital punishment - to abortion - to tax supported vouchers for sectarian charter schools. Should court damage awards be limited? Are standardized tests an appropriate way to measure teacher performance?

Each week, a discussion leader will address a different issue, selected from a limited list of topics. Discussion leaders will not be advocates, but instead will use the LLI method of inquiry to explore all sides of issues. Our primary resource will be three websites: procon.org, balancedpolitics.org, and factcheck.org. All three purport to be nonpartisan and attempt to set out the “pro” and “con” arguments of a variety of issues together with supporting citations. Other responsible websites may be used if they enhance both the “pro” and “con.”

1:00-3:00 PM

***Boomerang: A Guided Tour through the Fiscal Tsunami* – Coordinators: Miriam Greenblatt & Al Shapiro Room 576**

To research for his new book, *Boomerang*, author Michael Lewis went on what he has called a "financial disaster tour." He surveyed some of the most financially challenged countries in the world, from Iceland and Ireland to Greece and the United States. As we read his latest book, *Boomerang*, we'll get a guided tour through some of the disparate places hard hit by the fiscal tsunami of 2008 and we'll discuss the "utter folly and madness" that spread across both sides of the Atlantic during the last decade, as individuals, institutions and entire nations mindlessly embraced instant gratification over long-term planning, the too good to be true over common sense.

As described in a recent New York Times book review, author Michael Lewis is said to possess "the rare storyteller's ability to make virtually any subject both lucid and compelling." You can expect to leave this class with a whole new perspective and understanding about world finance and business.

**WEDNESDAY**

9:30-11:30 AM

**Writing for your Family - Coordinators: Eve Perkal Room 578**

Everyone has family and individual memories - some pleasant, funny and even sad that should be preserved for our children and their children. Experiences that have shaped our lives are too important to let disappear. In this class, you are the storyteller and, about every two weeks, you will have the opportunity to bring your family's memories to life by reading the story you have prepared to the group. This will generate discussion on the content and frequently triggers recollections and ideas for future stories.

**Progressive Political Discussions: Nation of Change – Coordinators: Linda Gohlke & Neal Rubin Room 576**

*Nation of Change* is a new nonprofit news organization that provides an online magazine, daily newsletter, and community platform free to the public. Their motto is "Progressive Journalism for Positive Action" and they believe that "dedicated individuals armed with knowledge and fueled by compassion and optimism can enact dramatic change - even in a world fraught with corruption and injustice."

Using selections from their online magazine, this class will challenge us to formulate opinions about our outlook on what we want to see in our nation and our world. You can support or refute their point of view, but come prepared to take part in the debate. Assignments will come from material found on [www.nationofchange.org](http://www.nationofchange.org) and class members must be able to access and download the articles.

**9:30-12:00**

**...And you think you've got problems: Films that Inspire Us – Coordinators: Barry Lippa & Claire Yashar Room 464**

We've often heard the saying, "When life hands you lemons, make lemonade." This theme is carried out in the five films we will view and discuss that are based on true stories of people who overcame extreme social and physical handicaps to succeed in life.

Some of the individuals you'll meet this winter include a brilliant young woman coping with autism (at a time when it was misunderstood) who becomes a famed animal behaviorist; a determined door to door salesman who did not let cerebral palsy stop him from pursuing a successful career; a struggling single parent barely paying his bills who takes an unpaid internship at a stock brokerage firm and goes on to being a Wall Street legend; and an enterprising mother of ten who kept poverty at bay with wit, poetry, and perfect prose during the "contest era" of the fifties and sixties.

You'll laugh, you'll cry...but in the end you'll get lemonade (and will cheer)!

**1:00-3:00 PM**

***The Influencing Machine: A History of How and Why Media and Society Shape Each Other* Coordinators: Mark Lieberman & Rochelle Singer Room 577**

Part history, part sociology, part personal reflection, in this study group we will explore and try to understand how what we see, hear, and read everyday influences our lives. Using a richly textured book disguised in a graphic, lighthearted format, we will be guided through two millennia of history- from the newspapers in Caesar's Rome to the penny press of the American Revolution and the manipulations of contemporary journalism.

Although we know that any number of outside influences color the information we get from the media, this book gives us some perspective on what those influences are, where they come from, and how they operate. With fascinating digressions, sobering anecdotes, and brave analytical wit, *The Influencing Machine* will equip us to be smart, savvy, informed consumers and shapers of the media.

**Ethical Dimensions of Medical Care: Case Studies – Coordinators: Bonnie Rubin & Neal Rubin Room 576**

Every day we are confronted by new developments in medical science and health care, many of which bring with them new challenges to our ways of thinking about the ethical dimensions of medical care. In this study group, we'll consider some of the basic principles and values of health care ethics used when evaluating medical ethical dilemmas. Then, we'll use these concepts as a framework in order to analyze and discuss a variety of medical cases from an ethical standpoint.

1:00-3:00 PM

**NOVA: "The Fabric of the Cosmos" – Coordinator: June Steinberg Room 464**

Join us (and physicist/author Brian Greene) as we journey to the frontiers of physics to see how scientists are piecing together the most complete picture yet of space, time, and the universe. Each week we will view one hour of the 4-part PBS NOVA series and with each step, we will discover that just beneath the surface of our everyday life lies a world more wondrous than we expected.

Much of what we thought we knew about our universe—that the past has already happened and the future is yet to be, and that our universe is the only universe that exists—just might be wrong. Interweaving provocative theories, experiments, and stories with crystal-clear explanations, "The Fabric of the Cosmos" will both astound and sometimes shock us this winter.

**THURSDAY**

9:30-11:30 AM

**The Best Short Stories of 2011 - Coordinators: Mary Bloom & Bram Takefman Room 581**

Our text, *The PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories 2011* contains twenty unforgettable stories selected from hundreds of literary magazines. The winning tales take place in such far-flung locales as Madagascar, Nantucket, a Midwestern meth lab, Antarctica, and a post-apocalyptic England, and feature a fascinating array of characters: aging jazzmen, avalanche researchers, a South African wild child, and a mute actor in silent films. Every story offers the opportunity for an enlightening discussion. Copies of the 5 stories read this winter will be distributed to members who do not own the text.

**Readings from *Science News* - Coordinators: Jerry Dincin & Yvette Lewis Room 563**

Do you want to advance your understanding and appreciation of science? Are you curious about what's happening through research to improve your health? Is keeping up with the newest technologies being used today important to you? If so, this class based on readings from *Science News* and articles from the internet and other science based media is for you. Each week, the class will delve into several different articles and -- through lively discussion and exchange -- uncover a wealth of information.

12:30-3:00 PM

**Documentary Films – Coordinators: Charlie Kite & Molly Lazar Room 464**

Documentary films have been described as a creative treatment of actuality. But can the creativity distort the actuality? This is one of many questions we will ask as we examine how different filmmakers deal with a wide variety of subjects. What are the elements that determine whether a film is effective or weak, biased or open minded? You will be amazed at the subjects covered in these films as we engage in lively discussions about the techniques and motives of each filmmaker. **Class size will be limited.**

## FRIDAY

9:30-11:30 AM

**The Women's Room: Coordinators: Mary Bloom & Martha Fox Room 576**

Our goal is to explore the complexities of women's lives and experiences leading participants to think beyond the boundaries of traditional gender roles. What are valued most in this study group are the lively and insightful discussions that result after our readings. Past participants have always commented on our unusual choice of authors as we search beyond the "best seller" list.

This winter, we are going to read short stories from *Gold Boy, Emerald Girl*, by Yiyun Li. "In these spellbinding stories, Yiyun Li, Hemingway Foundation/Pen Award winner and acclaimed author of *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers* and *The Vagrants*, gives us exquisite fiction filled with suspense, depth, and beauty, in which history, politics, and folklore magnificently illuminate the human condition.

## An LLI EdVenture

A Classical Music Excursion

The Lifelong Learning Institute is offering a classical music excursion with music instructor Sheldon Marcus. This will include a presentation/discussion **on Friday January 6, 2012 10:00 AM until noon**, and a field trip to hear a concert by the Civic Orchestra of Chicago on the following **Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:15 to approximately 9:00 p.m.** The Monday concert will feature Rachmaninov's *Symphonic Dances*. The deadline for registration is Friday, December 16, 2011 and there is a \$35 charge for this EdVenture which includes the price of the tickets.

As always in our music sessions no previous knowledge of classical music is required. Your curiosity, questions and sharing of emotional responses to the music are always welcome.

**Call Joan Marks at 224/233-2366 more information or to register for  
A Classical Music Excursion.**

**At LLI, referrals are our best source of "advertising." If you  
know someone who might enjoy our lifelong learning  
program, please call (224) 233-2366 or email  
[joan.marks@nl.edu](mailto:joan.marks@nl.edu) and we'll send out a winter schedule.**

**THE LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY  
WINTER 2012 MINI-SESSION  
JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup> – FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup> 2012**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

*To register, please complete this form and return it with your payment to:*

Joan Marks

c/o Lifelong Learning Institute at National Louis University

5202 Old Orchard Road - Skokie, IL 60077

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person in Emergency: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT OF \$75 MEMBERSHIP FEE ENTITLES YOU TO TAKE UP TO  
THREE CLASSES DURING THE WINTER 5 WEEK SESSION**

Please list study groups you wish to sign up for:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method:  Check payable to National-Louis University  Credit Card

I hereby authorize National Louis University to charge my account in the amount of \$75 for enrollment in  
The Lifelong Learning Institute:  Visa  MasterCard  Discover  American Express

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder's Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_