



Spring 2016 Tuesday Schedule
Morning Class: 10:00 – 12:00 and Afternoon Class: 1:30 – 3:30

February 16, 2016
Laughter and Comedy
Dr. Russell Gill

Why do we laugh? Does comedy have to be funny? Is there something that will make everyone in the world laugh? What are the ethics and values of laughter and comedy: uplifting, escapist, self-centered, amoral? Members of our group should bring cartoons, favorite jokes, and memories of a favorite comedy. We will try to figure out what makes them work.

Russell Gill is Professor Emeritus of English at Elon University. During his tenure, he led Elon to earn a Phi Beta Kappa chapter and was honored as a Distinguished University Professor. His publications and classes are inspired from an interest in the values implicit in different types of literature.

February 23, 2016
Nominating the President: What Political Science has to Say
Dr. Jason Husser

The 2016 presidential primaries have lived up to their early promise of being historically competitive. What better time to have an interactive discussion about the 2016 primaries from the lens of political science scholarship on campaigns and elections? We will cover how cutting-edge social science research answers age-old questions about American political behavior.

Jason Husser has three primary roles at Elon University: Assistant Professor of Political Science, Assistant Director of the Elon University Poll, and Faculty Fellow for Civic Engagement. He researches American political behavior and survey methodology and completed a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University in 2012. He is a native of South Louisiana.

March 1, 2016
Navigating Pathways in the Nervous System: Patterns of Neural Dysfunction
Dr. Stephen E. Folger

The brain is at the apex of a complex, interconnected, and highly organized nervous system. Learning about the organization of the nervous system is critical to understanding how the location of Neuropathology is related to clinical signs and symptoms. In this session, we will follow three major pathways in the nervous system as the foundation for discussing the relationship between nervous system impairment and clinical presentation.

Stephen E. Folger, P.T., Ph.D., currently serves as the Department Chair/Program Director and Professor of Physical Therapy Education (DPTE) at Elon University. He earned a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1998 and a B.S. in physical therapy from Ithaca College. He joined the Elon DPTE in 1998, and his primary teaching responsibilities have focused on neuroscience and clinical electrophysiology. In 2013, he received the School of Health Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award and the Elon University Daniels-Danieley Award for Excellence in Teaching. Currently,

Dr. Folger is a member of the Elon Brain Care concussion research team, and he is a co-investigator for a study on the effects of exercise on brain function.

March 8, 2016

The Timeline: Recognizing Changes in Alzheimer's and Other Types of Dementia
Heather McKay

Many families have been dealing with Dementia for a decade or longer, and professionals of all kinds are supporting clients at every stage of the disease. Recognizing changes throughout this long disease and providing “the right care at the right time” can feel like detective work. This class will focus on the timeline of the disease. It will cover the progression in five stages and strategies that work to support people at every stage. Identified gaps and a description of the current state of care will be discussed as well.

Heather McKay is an award-winning occupational therapist, Dementia care specialist, consultant, and international speaker. She provides training for professionals, family caregivers and consults with facilities on topics related to Dementia and Alzheimer's care. She is a graduate of the Master's Occupational Therapy Program at UNC Chapel Hill. She has served on the executive board of the NC Occupational Therapy Association, and in 2007, she received the Marlys Mitchell Pioneer Award for Humanitarian Values, Knowledge, and Visionary Leadership. She completed an internship at the Eastern NC Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association in 2006 to develop her teaching and training skills in the areas of Dementia and Alzheimer's care and services. She is a recognized trainer for the Association and a member of Dementia Care Professional of America.

March 15, 2016

The Quiet Men Who Made a Difference in North Carolina Lives
Ned Cline

Learn about the lives of three men (Joseph Bryan of Greensboro, Charles Sanders of Durham, and Walter Davis of Chapel Hill) who, although not well known, have been major influences on North Carolina public policies, politics, and higher education in the last forty years. Their philanthropy and careers impacted the lives of thousands of residents of this state.

Ned Cline has chronicled the lives of politicians and other public officials in North Carolina for more than four decades as a journalist (reporter and editor) and biographer. After ending his newspaper career, he has researched and written eight biographies on persons who helped cultivate progress in this state. He is a political science graduate of Catawba College and was a Neiman Fellow at Harvard University.

March 22, 2016

The Secret Game
Scott Ellsworth

The Secret Game is the New York Times bestselling nonfiction book about North Carolina's amazing sports and civil rights milestone: a clandestine, racially integrated college basketball game held in a locked gymnasium in Durham in 1944 that has deliberately been kept quiet for more than fifty years. Author Scott Ellsworth, who uncovered the game, will give us a play by play account of how he stumbled upon this groundbreaking contest, and how it helped to turn North Carolina into the birthplace of modern basketball. More importantly, he will talk about the forgotten men and women, black and white alike, who, at great personal risk, fought back against segregation in the South during World War II. In December 2015, *Sports Illustrated* named *The Secret Game* one of six Sports Books of the Year.

Formerly a historian at the Smithsonian Institution, Scott Ellsworth is an award winning writer whose work has been featured on the TODAY Show, Good Morning America, the History Channel, and National Public Radio. He's written about American history for the New York Times, the Washington Post, and the Los Angeles Times, while his new book, The Secret Game, was praised by Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski as "a triumphant look at how basketball has broken down barriers and helped create a new kind of America." Born and raised in Oklahoma, Scott first came to North Carolina as a graduate student in 1976, and promptly caught the ACC Disease. There is no known cure.

March 29, 2016
Return of the Eagles
Dr. Lynn Moseley

In 1983, not a single pair of Bald Eagles nested in North Carolina, a state that was once historically home to hundreds of these majestic birds. The effect of the pesticide DDT on eagles and other birds of prey was devastating. By 1993, twenty years after DDT was banned in the United States, there were still only six pairs of eagles nesting in North Carolina, and most of those were in coastal areas. Thus, it was astonishing when in January of 1994, a pair of eagles began nest-building near Lake Higgins in Guilford County. Dr. Moseley has been studying the birds at this nest for over twenty years, recording their successes and failures, births and deaths, and environmental challenges. This presentation will describe the amazing events in the lives of these eagles, and will demonstrate how the story of this one pair of birds parallels events in the recovery of Bald Eagles in the state and across the country.

Dr. Lynn Moseley received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the College of William and Mary, her Ph.D. in Zoology from UNC-Chapel Hill, and spent her career as a biologist at Guilford College. When she retired in 2014, she was the Charles A. Dana Professor of Biology and Chair of the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. Her courses included Ornithology, Animal Behavior, Vertebrate Field Zoology, and Coastal Processes/Coastal Problems on the Outer Banks. She traveled widely with students and alumni as a leader of field biology courses in locations such as the American Southwest, East Africa, the Galapagos Islands, and Central America. She is a Federally-licensed bird bander, and for several years has taken students to work at a banding station on a shade-grown coffee farm in Nicaragua.

April 5, 2016
Walking in the Footsteps of our Founding Fathers
Pat and Tom Ernest

Why would a 21st century mom, dad, and three daughters spend eighteen weekends a year in the embrace of 18th century living history? Please join Wednesday class members, Pat and Tom Ernest, as they weave a tale of their experiences as a Revolutionary Militiaman's family. For more than twenty years, the family journeyed to battlefields, historic sites, schools, and communities to portray the life and times of the ordinary American foot soldier and his accompanying family. The Ernests will wear their period clothing and bring along some of their handmade "artifacts" they used to bring history to life for the young and old alike.

Pat and Tom were both born and raised in New York. Tom is a graduate of Appalachian State University. After thirty five years as an award winning middle and high school art teacher in a district outside New Your City, he realized his dream of retiring back to North Carolina in 2011. In the interim, all three of their daughters graduated from North Carolina State University. Pat, also a NYS certified teacher, taught elementary school, enjoyed several years as an active stay at home mom serving on the PTA Board, and as a religion teacher at their parish school. Upon re-entering the work force, Pat opened herself up to a new career as a Museum Educator. She became the Director of Education at The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum and Garden in Manhattan and then moved closer to home as Director of Education at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in the

Bronx. For many years, Pat and Tom have led special living history events at NYC National Park Service Sites including Governor's Island, Grant's Tomb, Federal Hall, Morris-Jumel Mansion, and St. Paul's Church.

April 12, 2016

Religion in India: Past and Present

Dr. Brian Pennington

India is one of the world's most religiously diverse nations. While its Hindu majority is numerically dominant, it is also home to very significant Muslim, Christian, Sikh, and Jain minorities, as well as other smaller groups. In spite of its tremendous pluralism and occasional conflict, throughout its history India has been a society in which inter-religious harmony and cooperation are the norm. In many respects, India is a model that the rest of the globalizing world could emulate, as countries develop more diverse populations. This talk by one of Elon's scholars of South Asian religion will introduce these various groups and discuss their relationships to one another.

Dr. Brian Pennington is the Director of Elon's Center for the Study of Religion, Culture, and Society. He is the author of Was Hinduism Invented?: Britons, Indians, and The Colonial Construction of Religion and the editor of Teaching Religion and Violence, both published by Oxford University Press. Currently, he is completing a collection of essays that will appear in the book, Ritual Innovation in South Asian Religions that he is co-editing with Amy Allocco of Elon's Religious Studies Department. His study of religious change in the Indian Himalayas, entitled God's Fifth Abode: Entrepreneurial Hinduism in the Hindu Himalayas, is built on over a decade of research in North India. He regularly teaches a Winter Term course in South India.

April 19, 2016

American Folklore and Legend

Dr. Tom Mould

George Washington and his cherry tree, John Chapman and his apple seeds, Molly Hays and her pitcher, and John Henry and his hammer. The United States has been imagined through legends that remain with us today, combinations of fact and fiction that are much more than the sum of their parts. Legends navigate that powerful boundary between what actually happened and what we want to believe or fear happened. In this class, we will discuss legends, past and present, with a particular focus on so-called "urban legends;" stories about vengeful spouses, vanishing hitchhikers, wealthy widows, and welfare queens. In our discussion, we'll consider how the stories we may or may not believe can nonetheless shape our views of religion, strangers, the poor, politicians, ethnic minorities, our health, and our country.

Dr. Tom Mould is Professor of Anthropology and Folklore at Elon University and Director of the Honors Program. He is the author of three books – Choctaw Prophecy: A Legacy of the Future (2003), Choctaw Tales (2004), and Still, the Small Voice: Revelation, Personal Narrative and the Mormon Folk Tradition (2011). He was the co-editor of two more – The Individual and Tradition (2011), and Latter-day Lore: Mormon Folklore Studies (2013). His research focuses on oral narrative, with particular attention to generic boundaries, constructed identities, and the elements of performance. He has engaged in public scholarship through his ethnographic videos for local PBS television stations that have examined folk art and culture in Indiana, Kentucky, and North Carolina. His current work examines the intersection of narrative and socio-political discourse through a collaborative research project to understand the impact that narratives about the welfare system in the United States have on shaping public opinion and public policy.

April 26, 2016
Reinventing Life: A Guide to Our Evolutionary Future
Jeffrey Coker

During the twenty-first century, humans will make choices that will profoundly impact the future of life. Will we restore ecosystems or continue to degrade them? Could regenerative medicine allow us to live for hundreds of years? How might we enhance ourselves through genetics or robotics? Should we resurrect extinct species? Will we spread life to other worlds? What should be our role in nature? *Reinventing Life: A Guide to Our Evolutionary Future* is a captivating tour of how humans are rapidly and radically changing the biology of life, our options for the future, and our responsibilities as stewards of evolution.

Dr. Jeffrey Coker leads the Elon Core Curriculum, the set of courses and experiences that are shared by every undergraduate. During his term as Director the Core Curriculum has undergone many improvements. He was also instrumental in the founding of Elon University Forest (established by the Trustees in October 2010), a campus preserve for teaching and research, and served as the first chair of its management committee. He has published and presented widely on higher education topics such as experiential learning, civic engagement, new pedagogies for introductory courses, and other high-impact educational practices. His biological research is similarly broad, ranging from plant ecology to genetics.

May 3, 2016

(Our annual business meeting will be held briefly before the class.)

Water in Our Lives
Dr. Janet McFall

According to the United States Geological Service, thirty trillion gallons of water are used each day in North Carolina. In addition to domestic use by families, other major uses of water are generation of electricity and agriculture. Managing water is a growing concern, especially in places like North Carolina, whose expected population increase is 50% in the next fifteen years. What is the source of the water we use, and how can we plan for a safe and reliable supply?

Dr. Janet MacFall is a native of Ellicott City, Maryland, a suburb of Baltimore. Her undergraduate training was at Juniata College, noted for a strong science program with skiing nearby. Her graduate degrees are from the University of Maryland in Botany, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Plant Pathology. She served on the faculty at Duke University for seven years, before joining the Elon faculty to begin the Environmental Studies Program, now a Department. She is also the founding Director of the Elon University Center for Environmental Studies, with the mission of building community partnerships for environmental stewardship. The Haw River Trail began as a Center project under Dr. MacFall's leadership, building partnerships with local governments. She lives on a farm along the Haw River in Saxapahaw with her husband and horses.

*Please note, presenters and topics for the weekly classes are subject to change.
Classes cancelled due to inclement weather will not be made up.

Additional Offerings

Book Club

New members are welcome to join our book club! The group reads two non-fiction books per semester and offers a choice of two discussion dates for each book. If you are already a member of the book club, there is no need to sign up again. To sign up, please email Kathryn Bennett at kbennett9@elon.edu.

The Worst Hard Time

by Timothy Egan

Wednesday, March 9, at 1:30 p.m. or Thursday, March 10, at 10:30 a.m.

While the Great Depression devastated the whole of America, it remains difficult to find a group it devastated more than Americans of the Midwest. Crops failed, families were left impoverished, and the worst of the lot were left dead--all because of dust. The Midwest became known as the Dust Bowl, which only served to perpetuate the tough circumstances facing all Americans of the time. The Worst Hard Time has been argued "the best nonfiction book yet," in which Timothy Egan takes readers on a journey alongside Americans who struggled to survive the Great Dust Bowl.

River of Doubt

by Candice Millard

Wednesday, April 20, at 1:30 p.m. or Thursday, April 21, at 10:30 a.m.

Theodore Roosevelt, usually known as Teddy, is famous for an innumerable list of professional titles: successful police commissioner, environmental activist, triumphant politician, the 26th president of the United States, and... adventurer? Outside of the realm of his professional work, Roosevelt is less known for his nature explorations that aided the greater world. Among these is his dangerous trek along the Amazonian River of Doubt, assisting in mapping this then-unknown area of South America and nearly losing his life in the process. Author Candice Millard allows readers to experience the physical and emotional challenges of the River of Doubt as they existed in this dark time of Roosevelt's life.

Tour of the Elon Environmental Center at Loy Farm

Tuesday, April 26, 2016, 3:45 – 4:45

The Office of Sustainability is offering a tour for LIFE@Elon members. The tour includes the solar farm, urban studio, and food and farming system operations. Parking is limited so transportation will be provided to and from Johnston Hall. Tours will last one hour. Please sign up on the clipboard at each class.

End of the Year Celebration

Sunday, May 1 at 2:00

Details will be forthcoming ~ Please save the date!