



FALL 2017 – Wednesday Schedule

Morning Class: 10:00 – 12:00 and Afternoon Class: 1:30 – 3:30

**September 13, 2017**

**Buddhist Peace Practice:**

**Socially Engaged Mindfulness and Contemporary Conflict Transformation**

**Jeremy Rinker**

When most people think of Buddhism, they think of a person sitting on a cushion meditating. Not particularly a socially engaged image. This talk will explore the Buddhist tradition as it spreads globally and is adapted to different social contexts and power dynamics. From India to the United States, Buddhists are socially engaged in changing unjust systems. Many Buddhists see mindfulness work as inseparable from their work for social justice. Exploring Buddhist doctrine, history, and the present state of social conflict, Dr. Rinker's talk aims to draw connections between Buddhism and peace practice while complicating the normal ways you think about Buddhists as working for peace.

*Jeremy Rinker is an Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina Greensboro's (UNCG's) Department of Peace and Conflict Studies where he researches the intersections between narrative, violent conflict, and nonviolent conflict transformation. His work on the Ambedkar-Buddhist social movement in Maharashtra, India explores the connections between justice, narrative and identity in social movement mobilization, framing, and strategy. While much of Jeremy's research has focused on the centrality of justice discourse in religiously based social change movements, Jeremy also has interest in restorative justice, political violence, and conflict intervention practices, as well as, trauma, memory, and reconciliation. Jeremy was a 2013 Fulbright-Nehru Fellow at the Malaviya Center for Peace Research at Banaras Hindu University in Banaras, India. He has a master's degree in Asian Religion, and is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer ('95-'97, Kazakhstan). Jeremy remains committed to exploring the complex intersections between religion, conflict, and peace.*

**September 20, 2017**

**Anatomical Gift Program at Elon University**

**Dianne Person**

Elon University has launched an Anatomical Gift Program to serve as a resource for students in undergraduate science courses and students in Elon's School of Health Sciences as they learn about the human body and train to be physical therapists and physician assistants. The program will provide an ethical, moral and self-sufficient future for anatomy education at Elon. Dissection and study of the human body constitutes an invaluable and indispensable part of healthcare education. Each year at Elon University bodies are needed for the teaching of undergraduate biology, graduate programs in physical therapy (DPT) and physician assistant curricula (PA). The principal source of bodies is private donation. The need for donations is

great and the gift is highly valued and honored. Choosing to donate your body for the purpose of healthcare education and research is a supremely compassionate and altruistic humanitarian gesture. With this priceless gift, you can provide an unprecedented legacy of learning and a foundation for the education and training of healthcare professionals. The AGP is the official entity for procurement and final disposition of donated bodies for anatomy education in the School of Health Sciences.

*Dianne Person, as the Founding Director of the Anatomical Gift Program (AGP) at Elon University is the public relations expert on anatomical donation that advances the institutional interests and acts in the best interest of the donor(s) and their family. Ms. Person has been directly involved in the field of anatomical donation since 1999 and has successfully completed graduate courses in Death, Dying and Palliative Care. Ms. Person has been a member of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists' Anatomical Services Special Interest Group since 2005 where she has recently been elected to serve as a member of the Anatomical Services Committee and the 'Abstracts Review Committee'. She has contributed to 'Best Practices for Willed Body Programs' and the creation of a 'Checklist for Institutional Self-Review of an Anatomical Gift Program'. Ms. Person is recognized nationally among Willed Body Program Directors for her years of dedication to the field. Her commitment positions Elon University's Anatomical Gift Program as one that is beyond reproach for its sensitivity and caring, humanity and respect. Ms. Person is greatly responsible for the development of the program.*

**September 27, 2017**

**Communication through Documentaries**

**Nicole Triche**

In this session we'll be discussing documentary film. Documentaries have never been more popular, but where did they begin? There are so many documentaries available now, but which are the ones to watch? During our session we will screen the short documentary *All Skate, Everybody Skate*, directed by Nicole Triche. On the south end of Topsail Island, NC there is a small post office. Above the post office is a roller skating rink. Miss Doris has run both for over 50 years and the documentary is about her. We'll conclude with why documentaries are important to watch - and to make.

*Nicole Triche has been a part of Elon University's School of Communications since 2008. She is an assistant professor and teaches production and documentary classes in the Cinema and Televisions Arts major. She is also the faculty director of elondocs, which is a competitive program where students create documentaries outside of the classroom. In the summer, Triche is a Video Institute instructor at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University. Her work has been shown at various festivals including Full Frame, RiverRun, Atlanta Film Festival, and DC Shorts.*

**October 4, 2017**

**The Lives and Art of George and Ira Gershwin**

**Dr. Allan Friedman**

The Gershwins have played a vital role in the music of America over the last 100 years. Opera, Jazz, Broadway, and popular music have all been highly influenced by the music and words of these two men. This class will talk about the origins of the two men, their working life, and the ways they shaped a variety of musical traditions in America.

*Dr. Allan Friedman has earned music degrees from Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill, and Boston University. He is the Music Director at Judea Reform Congregation in Durham, the Artistic Director of Women's Voices Chorus, and the Founding Director of SONAM. He also composes and teaches at a variety of places in the Triangle.*

**October 11, 2017**

***Courage is Abundant in the Abstract: Take Your Dreams from Abstract to Reality***

**Selena Einwechter**

*Courage is Abundant in the Abstract* is the story of a well-scrubbed plan and a dedication to seeing it through. It discusses challenges, setbacks, and disappointments; and it is the story of the importance of faith. Selena will remind us that pursuing our dreams is a lifelong process. Dreams may change with time, but it's always possible to take a dream from the abstract to reality. Selena will share her personal narrative about following her dream even when it seemed impossible, and how each person can do the same.

*After spending more than thirty years in corporate America, Selena Einwechter decided to take a leap of faith and pursue her dream: building her own bed & breakfast. In June of 2009, Selena opened the doors of Tiffany Hill, a B&B in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains near Asheville, North Carolina. Selena loves to tell the story of how her dream became a reality; in fact, she finds that most of her time is spent sharing the process she created with others.*

**October 18, 2017**

**New Vision for Burlington**

**Ian Baltutis**

*Cities are complex organisms; each grows and develops in a unique local ecosystem. Join us to learn about innovative strategies that Burlington is exploring and implementing to steer positive growth in the community. Find out about the full spectrum of new urban projects, from recreation to economic development, all from the perspective of Burlington's mayor.*

Ian Baltutis was elected as the City of Burlington's youngest mayor in November of 2015. He is a member of Elon University's class of 2008, where he majored in entrepreneurship. Since graduation, he has founded multiple businesses ranging from product engineering, import/export, and craft brewing. He is a passionate community leader who has dedicated his service to improving the historic Downtown core of Burlington, North Carolina.

**October 25, 2017**

**Polar Bears: Icons of the Arctic**

**Steve Gerkin**

*Polar bears are supremely adapted to life in the Arctic where temperatures can get down to -50°F. These many adaptations serve them well in the Arctic, but limit the conditions in which they can thrive. On a warming planet where their very habitat, the sea ice, is being lost, the survival of these magnificent bears could be in jeopardy. There is still hope for these sea bears, but we need to act now to limit our impact on the Earth's thin atmosphere. During this class, Steve Gerkin will share the natural history of the polar bear and its incredible adaptations. In addition, we will talk about the changing conditions on the planet, what some of the causes are, and why we still hope to mitigate our impact and save the sea bear.*

Steve Gerkin has worked in formal education settings for 26 years, and informal settings like zoos and museums for 22. He graduated from Marietta College with a BA in Psychology, and later earned his M.Ed. in Secondary Science Education from Auburn University in Alabama. Mr. Gerkin has had the privilege of working at zoos across the country, including: the Alaska Zoo, the Baton Rouge Zoo, the Oglebay's Good Zoo, and the North Carolina Zoo, where he has been with the public education team for over 10 years. He is happily married to his wife of 14 years, and they have one daughter, four step-kids, and nine amazing grandchildren.

**November 1, 2017**

**Myth's Memory: Classical Allusions in Art Across the Ages**

**Dr. Kristina Meinking**

The myths and legends of antiquity have influenced art across the centuries that separate our modern world from that of the cultures who fashioned these tales of creation and transformation. But why, and how have these stories changed or have they been changed? We will begin our epic journey by exploring the stories of classical mythology — its gods and goddesses, monsters, heroes, and more. From there we will investigate the ways in which these fantastical accounts appeared in classical, Renaissance, and Baroque art.

*Dr. Kristina Meinking holds a Ph.D. in Classics from the University of Southern California. She arrived at Elon in 2010 and has taught courses in Latin, Ancient Greek, Classical Mythology, and the Ancient Mediterranean Cultures. In addition to directing Elon's interdisciplinary program in Classical Studies, Dr. Meinking advises the Classics Club and is involved with a number of committees and groups on campus. Her scholarship is focused in two areas: intellectual culture in late antique North Africa and hybrid pedagogies for language learning.*

**November 8, 2017**

**The World War I Experience Exhibited at the NC Museum of History**

**Jackson Marshall**

World War I was a monumental historical event that left a lasting impact on the world that is largely misunderstood or forgotten. The causes of the war were complicated and the results were devastating. Here we will explore how the North Carolina Museum of History has touched on the

larger story of the war without overwhelming people with too much information, in a way that would be moving but not traumatizing, in the creation of its WWI centennial exhibition as an engaging experience for visitors.

*Jackson Marshall is a native North Carolinian with degrees in history from Wake Forest University. He has been with the North Carolina Museum of History for 30 years and is currently the museum's deputy director. Marshall is a published historian on North Carolina's role in World War I. His book, Memories of World War I, is based on his interviews with WWI veterans in the 1980s. He has taken numerous trips to France and Belgium to study WWI battlefields. Marshall served as the museum's curator and project manager of North Carolina in World War I, a 6,500-square foot exhibition that commemorates the centennial of the war.*

**November 15, 2017**

**Paperhand Puppets**

**Donovan Zimmerman**

Join artistic director of Paperhand Puppet Intervention, Donovan Zimmerman for an interactive and informal exploration of his group's puppetry, style, and techniques. Donovan will bring a wide variety of masks and puppets from Paperhand's rich and colorful history to share as he showcases the basics of his craft. Learn about the award-winning troupe's wild and whimsical path to their current place in the North Carolina theater world. Voted best live theatre in the Triangle by Indyweek for the past two years this, is a special treat for our LIFE@Elon community.

*Donovan Zimmerman is the artistic director and co-founder of Paperhand Puppet Intervention based in central North Carolina for the past 20 years. For 27 years, Donovan has been creating and performing with masks, giant puppets, stilts, shadows, and more throughout the South East and beyond. He studied art and drama at the School for Creative and Performing Arts and The Art Academy of Cincinnati. Donovan spent many years traveling the world drawing in sketch books and doing public/community art projects. He uses primarily papiermâché, cloth, bamboo and house paint to create the puppets themselves, then brings them to life in sweeping pageants, intimate shadow boxes, huge parades, multi-disciplined productions and theatre spectacles of all kinds. His award winning work has been widely acclaimed and celebrated for its vivacious originality and whimsical beauty.*

**November 29, 2017**

**What Makes a Southern Story Southern?**

**Tamra Wilson**

Southern stories are more than tangled tales of honeysuckle and kudzu. The thirteen states that comprise the Old South have collectively produced some of the nation's finest writers and the past century's most honored books. While some analysts insist that "authentic" Southern stories must include a dead mule, Tamra Wilson begs to differ. In this presentation she will share from her own research the six essentials that define Southern fiction and memoir. You'll never look at Southern literature quite the same way again. During this presentation, we'll examine how those

six ingredients function in several Southern narratives, including three well-known examples: *Gone with the Wind*, *To Kill a Mockingbird* and “The Andy Griffith Show.”

*Tamra Wilson has spent most of her career writing and editing for private companies, nonprofits and government agencies such as the Catawba County Library System, from which she retired in 2015. She holds an MFA in fiction from the Stonecoast Creative Writing Program at the University of Southern Maine. Wilson’s research of Southern literature morphed into two presentations for the North Carolina Humanities Council: “Southern Selves: The Child as Storyteller” and “What Makes a Southern Story Southern?” She has been published in such journals as storySouth, North Carolina Literary Review, Epiphany and Crossroads Journal of Southern Culture, to name a few. Her story collection, Dining with Robert Redford & Other Stories was published by a small indie press in 2011. Her novel manuscript was a finalist for the 2017 Killer Nashville Claymore Award. Her creative work often explores themes of family conflict, belonging, and obsession with celebrity. She is co-editor of She Loves You, a nonfiction anthology about teen idols due out next year from McFarland & Company.*

**December 6, 2017**

**Forty Years behind the Badge**

**Gary Hastings**

From his early days as a university police officer, to his job as a Greensboro police officer, Gary has spent an exciting career filled with interesting and exciting stories. He will share lessons learned from his years in one of the most difficult professions today. Although he continues to lead a cold case homicide unit in North Carolina, he has also become a successful author and has published five books.

*Gary Hastings retired from the Greensboro, North Carolina Police Department as an Assistant Chief of Police. During his distinguished career, he worked in many areas of the department including patrol, investigations, and police administration. He spent a significant amount of his career in the Criminal Investigation Division, where he served as a detective and was the commanding officer for many years.*

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 this semester will be announced in class as we get closer to the time of each event. We are planning a welcome coffee later in September as well as campus tours, a brown bag lunch seminar, special interest groups, and more throughout the semester. Please be on the lookout for announcements in class, by email, and on our Facebook page to join in the fun and learning!*

## ***LIFE@Elon Sponsors its First Event at Elon University***

Ambassador Cameron Munter, CEO and President of the EastWest Institute and former USA Ambassador to Pakistan, during the Osama bin Laden raid will lead two events at Elon on November 14. In the afternoon, he will speak to the Elon Core Forum for students and in the evening, he will speak in Whitley Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. This is the first event presentation undertaken by LIFE@Elon and we look forward contributing more such events for the Elon Community. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the LIFE@Elon general fund.

Admission: \$13 or free with Elon ID. Tickets will be available Tuesday, October 24 at the Center for the Arts Box Office and at our classes. Be sure to get your tickets promptly as we anticipate a full house and we want you to be a part of this special presentation.



*Ambassador Cameron Munter has been a career diplomat, serving in some of the most conflict-ridden areas of the globe. He served as U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan from 2010-2012, where he guided U.S.-Pakistani relations through a strained period, including the operation against Osama bin Laden. Whether as Ambassador to Serbia managing the Kosovo independence crisis or twice serving in Iraq, leading the first Provincial Reconstruction Team in Mosul (2006), Amb. Munter has a unique insider's view on key global events. Today, as CEO and president of the EastWest Institute ([www.eastwest.ngo](http://www.eastwest.ngo)), he leads one of the foremost international organizations working to reduce international conflict and addressing seemingly intractable problems that threaten world security and stability.*

## **LIFE@Elon 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. The location for each discussion will be in one of the conference rooms in Johnston Hall, the building where our regular classes are held. If you are already a member of the book club, there is no need to sign up again. To join the mailing list, please email Kate Hickey at [hickey@elon.edu](mailto:hickey@elon.edu).

### *Enemies: A History of the FBI*

by Tim Weiner

Monday, September 25th, 7:00 p.m.

Rudd Room in Johnston Hall

From J. Edgar Hoover to Robert Mueller, this book traces the rise of the FBI, an agency never formally authorized by Congress. Weiner, a Pulitzer Prize winner whose earlier books include histories of the CIA and the Pentagon, makes what could be a dry recitation read like a spy thriller.

### *The Immortal Irishman: the Irish Revolutionary who Became an American*

by Timothy Egan

Monday, October. 23, 1:30 p.m., OR Thursday, October. 26, 10:30 a.m.

Both discussions will be held in the Rudd Room in Johnston Hall and you are welcome to attend either session.

We have already read two books, *The Big Burn* and *The Worst Hard Time*, by award-winning historian Egan. Here he traces the amazing story of Thomas Meagher - little-known today but an international celebrity in the 19th century. His journey from Irish rabble-rouser to Governor of Montana Territory would be deemed unbelievable if written as a novel!

### *Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded, August 27, 1883*

by Simon Winchester

Thursday, December 7, 10:30 a.m., OR Monday, December 11, 1:30 p.m.,

Both discussions will be held in the Rudd Room in Johnston Hall and you are welcome to attend either session.

Winchester is one of our most admired history/science writers, with the ability to make the complex understandable and history come alive. His story of the enduring and world-changing effects of the catastrophic eruption of the Krakatoa volcano off the coast of Java reminds us of nature's awesome and unpredictable power.

The books for the spring discussions are listed here. The dates will be announced in late fall:

*One Summer: America 1927* by Bill Bryson - discussion in January.

*Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition* by Daniel Okrent - discussion in March.

*Untamed: The Wildest Woman in America and the Fight for Cumberland Island* by Will Harlan - discussion in late April/early May.