

Join Us for a Lively *Adventure* of the *Mind*!

Dear Friends:

In 2009, we created **ROUNDTABLE CULTURAL SEMINARS**, a *non-profit* organization whose mission is to engage your intellectual curiosity and enrich your life.

The **six 1 hour-15 minute** sessions meet in our Townhouse 5th floor space, 45 East 78th Street.

SPRING 2019 **ROUNDTABLE CULTURAL SEMINARS**

THE ENGLISH NOVEL IN THE 20TH CENTURY

TODAY'S ART WORLD

THE MASTERPIECES OF FILM NOIR

POLITICAL DYNASTIES IN THE U.S.

POLITICS & THE MEDIA

AMERICAN TORCH SONG

** * Join Us for Several of these Seminars * **

Nancy Becker Adriana Mnuchin

For detailed Seminar descriptions with dates and times,

PLEASE REVIEW THIS 8-PAGE PDF.

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REQUEST YOUR SELECTED SEMINARS BY EMAIL:

AMnuchin-NBecker@RoundTableCulturalSeminars.org

YOUR SEMINAR CONFIRMATION

MAY TAKE UP TO 7 BUSINESS DAYS.

UPON RECEIPT, SEND YOUR CHECK

(\$475 PER SEMINAR) TO:

ROUNDTABLE CULTURAL SEMINARS

45 East 78th Street

New York, NY 10075

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Please note our Cancellation Policy:

No refund for cancellations after February 19, 2019.

★ Important: Your membership is “non-transferable.” If you are unable to attend a session, please do not send anyone by “proxy.”

THE ENGLISH NOVEL IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Brian Kulick, Moderator



This Seminar looks at the works of such literary luminaries as E.M. Forster and Evelyn Waugh, alongside lesser known, but no less accomplished, novelists as Henry Green and Penelope Fitzgerald. Taken together, this extraordinary constellation of artists contributes to one of the great flowerings in the history of the novel. The Seminar explores a major work from each of these authors and attempts to tease out what accounts for this unprecedented literary Renaissance.

- Session 1 *A Passage to India*, E.M. FORSTER
- Session 2 *A Passage to India*, E.M. FORSTER (*continued*)
- Session 3 *Brideshead Revisited*, EVELYN WAUGH
- Session 4 *Brideshead Revisited*, EVELYN WAUGH (*continued*)
- Session 5 *Loving*, HENRY GREEN
- Session 6 *The Gate of Angels*, PENELOPE FITZGERALD

MONDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

MAR 4, 18
APR 1, 15, 29
MAY 13

Cost \$475 (6 sessions)

* tax deductible portion is \$237.50



BRIAN KULICK – is the author of *The Secret Life of Theater: On the Nature and Function of Theatrical Representation*. From 2003-2017 he was the Artistic Director of Classic Stage Company (CSC) where he directed Mandy Patinkin in “The Tempest,” F. Murray Abraham in “Nathan The Wise,” and Dianne Wiest in “The Forest.” He conceived and produced CSC’s critically-acclaimed Chekhov Cycle with a constellation of artists that included Alan Cumming, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Ethan Hawke, Joely Richardson, Peter Sarsgaard, John Turturro, and Dianne Wiest.

He made CSC a home for the plays of David Ives whose “Venus in Fur” went onto Broadway and was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Play. For the past 16 years, he has been teaching at Columbia University’s School of the Arts.

TODAY'S ART WORLD

Rory O'Dea, Moderator



The contemporary art world is ever expanding and increasingly complex. In “Today’s Art World,” we will give shape and meaning to this vast cultural landscape by exploring the ways that iconic and up-and-coming contemporary artists engage with both the art of the past and the larger world they work within. By focusing our perspective on contemporary art through the lens of significant themes and trends, we will gain a deeper understanding of the major currents flowing through the art world today, and discover new possibilities for what art can be. **With images.**

- Session 1 The Pioneering Women of Contemporary Art**
- Session 2 Contemporary Art and Popular Culture**
- Session 3 The Photograph in Contemporary Art**
- Session 4 Art and the Natural World**
- Session 5 The Artist’s Body**
- Session 6 The Digital Art World: Artists and New Technology**

*** Please note: There are TWO (2) Sections of this Seminar.
Specify your first choice of DATE — MONDAYS or TUESDAYS.**

MONDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. OR TUESDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

MAR 11, 25
APR 8, 22
MAY 6, 20

MAR 12, 26
APR 9, 23
MAY 7, 21

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RORY O'DEA – Professor of contemporary art and design, Parsons School of Design. He received his PhD in modern and contemporary art history from the Institute of Fine Arts, and his scholarship explores the connections between visual art, film, literature and popular culture.

His current book project focuses on the American artist Robert Rauschenberg and his enduring legacy among contemporary artists. Rory has previously taught at the Yale University School of Art’s MFA program and New York University, and has served as a researcher and curatorial assistant at the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Morgan Library and Museum, and the Grey Art Gallery at New York University.
Portrait Photo: Andrea Wenglowskyj

THE MASTERPIECES OF FILM NOIR

MURDER, MAYHEM, AND MYSTERY

Joseph Luzzi, Moderator



What are the classic films from the “film noir” tradition, an eminently American cinematic genre that remains one of global film’s most influential forces, both artistically and commercially? How do these film noir masterpieces draw on other art forms and cultural forms, from the everyday to the most rarefied, and what do they tell us about the American experience (which they often chronicle in its marginal, outlaw forms)? This Seminar will immerse participants in the fascinating world of film noir in movies that continue to appeal to cinephiles the world over. **Video will be used.**

Please Note: Viewing the films is recommended, but not required. While the sessions will include clips of the selected films, they will not be screened in their entirety.

- Session 1 *Double Indemnity*, BILLY WILDER (1944)
- Session 2 *Touch of Evil*, ORSON WELLES (1958)
- Session 3 *Chinatown*, ROMAN POLANSKI (1974)
- Session 4 *Blue Velvet*, DAVID LYNCH (1986)
- Session 5 *Fargo*, COEN BROTHERS (1996)
- Session 6 *Memento*, CHRISTOPHER NOLAN (2001)

THURSDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

MAR 14, 28
APR 4, 18
MAY 2, 16

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JOSEPH LUZZI – An active critic, his writings on FILM have appeared in the New York Times, Times of London, Bookforum, and many others. Professor of Comparative Literature at Bard College. He holds a PhD in Italian Literature, Yale University.

His books include the memoirs *In a Dark Wood* (HarperCollins, 2015) and *My Two Italies* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2014), a New York Times Book Review Editor's Choice. His scholarly work *A Cinema of Poetry: Aesthetics of the Italian Art Film* (Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 2014) was a finalist for The Bridge Book Award. He received the Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies from the Modern Language Association for the book *Romantic Europe and the Ghost of Italy* (Yale Univ. Press, 2008).

Photo Credit: Everett Collection

POLITICAL DYNASTIES IN THE UNITED STATES

Robert David “KC” Johnson, Moderator



The Founders explicitly rejected the idea of the United States as a monarchy. But throughout American history, political dynasties have emerged, shaped decades or even generations of American political culture, and then collapsed. This Seminar will examine the development and the actions of the key political dynasties of American history, and the tensions these dynasties have exposed in the country's republican ethos. The first 10-15 minutes of each session will discuss contemporary events.

Video will be used.

- Session 1 Adams
- Session 2 Roosevelt
- Session 3 Kennedy
- Session 4 Bush
- Session 5 Congressional
- Session 6 Modern-Day

*** Please note: There are TWO (2) Sections of this Seminar.**
Specify your first choice of TIME.

WEDNESDAYS, 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. OR **WEDNESDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

MAR 6, 20
APR 3, 17
MAY 1, 15

Cost \$475 (6 sessions)

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ROBERT DAVID “KC” JOHNSON - Professor of History at Brooklyn College and the City University of New York Graduate Center. In 2007-2008, he taught at Tel Aviv University as Fulbright Distinguished Chair in the Humanities.

Professor Johnson received his B.A. and PhD from Harvard and his M.A. from the University of Chicago. He has written and edited numerous books about American history, and appears frequently as a pundit on the History Channel. His most recent publication is the edited *Asia Pacific in the Age of Globalization*, published by Palgrave/MacMillan; and he has been selected by Oxford University Press to edit its forthcoming *Oxford History Handbook of American Foreign Relations*.

POLITICS AND THE MEDIA

Robert David “KC” Johnson, Moderator



The First Amendment guarantees that Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of the press. But relations between politicians and the press never have been friendly—a fact of which we need no reminding in our era of White House denunciations of "fake news" broadcast by "enemies of the people." This Seminar will explore the relationship between politics and the media, focusing on the 20th century, though with some historical background on the transformation of the partisan press into "yellow journalism" in the 19th century. Technology, ideology, the pursuit of truth all have come together in how politicians and the media have interacted. The first 10-15 minutes of each session will discuss contemporary events. [Video will be used.](#)

- Session 1 The Historical Political Press in the United States
- Session 2 From Print to Television
- Session 3 Liberalism & Backlash
- Session 4 Woodward & Bernstein
- Session 5 Politics, the Media, and the Emergence of the Internet
- Session 6 Modern Era

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APR 10, 24
MAY 8, 22

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AMERICAN TORCH SONG

6 VOICES, 6 STYLES, 6 JOURNEYS

Edward Barnes, Moderator



This Seminar will explore the powerful voices, big lives, and genre-defining stylings of six of the most legendary singers who ever lived. From the smoke-filled bars of Harlem to the stage of Nashville's Grand Ole Opry, from Detroit's gospel churches to the Las Vegas Strip, we will trace the musical evolutions of these gifted and highly-influential artists, and discover the source of some of the most emotionally compelling torch songs ever sung. **Video will be used.**

- Session 1 Billie Holiday (Jazz)
- Session 2 Frank Sinatra (Swing)
- Session 3 Elvis Presley (Rock n Roll)
- Session 4 Barbra Streisand (Broadway)
- Session 5 Aretha Franklin (Soul)
- Session 6 Dolly Parton (Country)

*** Please note: There are TWO (2) Sections of this Seminar.**
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MAR 7, 21
APR 11, 25
MAY 9, 23

Cost \$475 (6 sessions)

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EDWARD BARNES – is an award-winning producer and composer. His work has been seen on and off-Broadway, in concert halls, opera houses and theaters around the world. A graduate of the Juilliard School, he is the winner of Guggenheim and NEA Fellowships and the Stephen Sondheim Award for “*innovative musical theater.*” He has served as Managing Director of American Lyric Theater, Producing Director of MasterVoices, and Executive Director of Gotham Chamber Opera.