

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.

FALL 2019 ROUNDTABLE CULTURAL SEMINARS

BEST SELLING NOVELS BY WOMEN WRITERS

TODAY'S ART WORLD

WATCHING DANCE

SIX FILMS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

WORLD WAR II

LEADERSHIP AND DIPLOMACY

COMPOSER/LYRICISTS OF BROADWAY MUSICALS TODAY

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

Nancy Becker Adriana Mnuchin

For detailed Seminar descriptions, dates and times,

PLEASE REVIEW THIS 9-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 July 9, 2019.

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

BEST SELLING NOVELS BY WOMEN WRITERS

Susan Barile, Moderator



This Seminar will focus on contemporary narratives that have achieved great success, major recognition, famous prizes, and for some, movie deals. What are the social, literary and cultural influences behind the well-liked story? We will read the novels of six North American women writers and discover how each diverse story succeeds in creating a compelling tale that generates an aesthetic charge for a wide-ranging audience. **With images.**

- Session 1 *Pachinko*, MIN JIN LEE (2017)
- Session 2 *Salvage the Bones*, JESMYN WARD (2012)
- Session 3 *Outline*, RACHEL CUSK (2014)
- Session 4 *Commonwealth*, ANN PATCHETT (2016)
- Session 5 *The Friend*, SIGRID NUNEZ (2018)
- Session 6 *Where the Crawdads Sing*, DELIA OWENS (2018)

MONDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

SEPT 16
OCT 7, 21
NOV 4, 18
DEC 9

Cost \$475 (6 sessions)

* tax deductible portion is \$237.50



SUSAN BARILE – Assistant Professor, English Department, Hunter College. A graduate of Georgetown University, Dr. Barile holds a Master’s Degree from Hunter and a Ph.D. in Literature from The Graduate Center, NYC. She completed her dissertation on the letters of Edith Wharton written to Italian Renaissance art historian Bernard Berenson. She is the author of *The Bookworm’s Big Apple: A Guide to Manhattan’s Booksellers*, published by Columbia University Press.

TODAY'S ART WORLD

Rory O'Dea, Moderator

ONLY THE "MONDAYS AT 2:30 P.M." SECTION IS AVAILABLE



The contemporary art world is complex, multi-layered, and increasingly fascinating. In "Today's Art World," we will explore the most pivotal artists, trends, and ideas that are shaping the possibilities of art making across the globe. 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, and discover new possibilities for what art can be. [With images.](#)

- Session 1 The Venice Biennale
- Session 2 The Contemporary Art of Africa
- Session 3 New Trends in Drawing
- Session 4 Art & Craft
- Session 5 Art & New Technology
- Session 6 The Politics of Contemporary Art

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

MONDAYS, 2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

OR

TUESDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

SEPT 9, 23
OCT 14, 28
NOV 11
DEC 2

SEPT 10, 24
OCT 15, 29
NOV 12
DEC 3

Cost \$475 (6 sessions)

* tax deductible portion is \$237.50



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

Photo Credit: Everett Collection

WATCHING DANCE

Heather Watts, Moderator

SEMINAR FILLED



In conjunction with the vibrant 2019 New York City fall dance season, Balanchine ballerina Heather Watts leads a lively discussion of the ballets being featured at New York City Ballet and American Ballet Theatre. This Seminar will examine an exciting range of repertory through the lens of music, dance structure, historical context, as well as how we observe ballet today. Starting with a look at ballet class and technique, we will then move on to repertory and the stars of past and present who illuminate the field. **Video will be used.**

Session 1 **Ballet Technique:** Class, rehearsals, and coaching.

Session 2 *Jewels* (1965): Balanchine's *Emeralds*, *Rubies* and *Diamonds*, which was the first full length abstract ballet, is flourishing today. What are the historical and geographical significance of Balanchine's musical choices of Fauré, Stravinsky, and Tchaikovsky?

Session 3 **The Revolution of Ballet by George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins at NYCB**

Session 4 **Ballerinas We Revere, Then and Now**

Session 5 **The Voices of Today:** Alexei Ratmansky, Resident Choreographer at American Ballet Theater, and Justin Peck, Resident Choreographer at New York City Ballet.

Session 6 **Finale:** Class Selections

TUESDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

SEPT 17
OCT 8, 22
NOV 5, 19
DEC 10

Cost \$475 (6 sessions)

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HEATHER WATTS joined New York City Ballet in 1970 and was one of the last of the famed Balanchine Ballerinas. Watts worked closely with George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins at NYCB and was an acclaimed international ballet star retiring from the stage in 1995. Watts is a contributing editor at Vanity Fair magazine. She has created academic courses on Balanchine's life and work at Harvard University and Visiting Lecturer in Dance at Princeton University in 2012. She was an inaugural fellow at the Institute of Ballet, NYU in 2014. Watts received a Doctorate in Fine Arts *honoris causa* from Hunter College.

Portrait Photo: Inez and Vinoodh

Photo Credit: Everett Collection

SIX FILMS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Joseph Luzzi, Moderator

SEMINAR FILLED



What are some of the films that have changed the history of the cinematic medium, and even impacted society at large? How did the techniques these films employed and the themes they developed revolutionize the way we watch movies, and why do these films still remain relevant and fascinating today? We will focus on six groundbreaking films, providing in-depth analysis of these individual works while connecting them to the larger cultural and historical factors that they so profoundly influenced. **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 *Casablanca*, MICHAEL CURTIZ (1942)
- Session 2 *Rebel Without a Cause*, NICHOLAS RAY (1956)
- Session 3 *8 ½*, FEDERICO FELLINI (1967)
- Session 4 *Gandhi*, RICHARD ATTENBOROUGH (1982)
- Session 5 *The Thin Blue Line*, ERROL MORRIS (1988)
- Session 6 *Philadelphia*, JONATHAN DEMME (1993)

THURSDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

SEPT 5, 19
OCT 3, 17, 31
NOV 14

Cost \$475 (6 sessions)

* tax deductible portion is \$237.50



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

WORLD WAR II

Robert David “KC” Johnson, Moderator

SEMINAR FILLED



Fall 2019 is the 80th anniversary of the start of World War II. This Seminar will cover the run-up to the war, the expansion of the conflict beyond Europe, the effects of the U.S. entry, Hitler's demise, the war and Europe's civilian population (especially European Jews), and the onset of the Post-War order. The last 10-15 minutes of each session will discuss contemporary events.

Video will be used.

- Session 1 Road to War
- Session 2 From Poland to the Fall of France
- Session 3 The Creation of a World War
- Session 4 Hitler's Demise
- Session 5 The War and Civilians
- Session 6 The Emerging Post-War Order

*** 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.

SEPT 4, 18
OCT 2, 23
NOV 6, 20

Cost \$475 (6 sessions)

* tax deductible portion is \$237.50



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*.

LEADERSHIP AND DIPLOMACY

Robert David "KC" Johnson, Moderator

SEMINAR FILLED



This Seminar will explore six international events in the 20th century, where U.S. or European leaders had to make a choice between **diplomacy** or **conflict**. We will examine these instances to draw lessons as to what conditions might make diplomacy a preferable option. The last 10-15 minutes of each session will discuss contemporary events.

Video will be used.

- Session 1 The "Big Four" and Versailles
- Session 2 MacMillan and the Aftermath of Suez
- Session 3 LBJ & Vietnam, 1964-65
- Session 4 Thatcher and the Falklands
- Session 5 Gorbachev and the Baltic States
- Session 6 H.W. Bush and Kuwait

*** 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.

SEPT 11, 25
OCT 16, 30
NOV 13
DEC 4

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COMPOSER/LYRICISTS OF BROADWAY MUSICALS TODAY

Edward Barnes, Moderator

SEMINAR FILLED



You may not know their names, but you know the award-winning shows they've written: *Falsettos*, *Rent*, *The Full Monty*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *Waitress*, and *Hadestown*. Over 600 new musicals are written every year, but only a handful make it to Broadway. Find out why these six critically acclaimed composer-lyricists are unique, what makes their songs so successful, and how their Tony, Grammy, and Drama Desk-winning works have come to be produced and praised by theater companies and audiences around the world. **Video will be used.**

- Session 1 William Finn, b. 1952 (*Falsettos*, *Putnam County Spelling Bee*)
- Session 2 Jonathan Larson, b. 1960 (*Rent*, *Tick, Tick... Boom!*)
- Session 3 David Yazbek, b. 1961 (*The Full Monty*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *The Band's Visit*)
- Session 4 Adam Guettel, b. 1964 (*Floyd Collins*, *The Light in the Piazza*)
- Session 5 Sara Bareilles, b. 1979 (*Waitress*)
- Session 6 Anaïs Mitchell, b. 1981 (*Hadestown*)

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

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

SEPT 12, 26
OCT 10, 24
NOV 7, 21

Cost \$475 (6 sessions)

* tax deductible portion is \$237.50



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.