Adventures in Learning

Winter 2010 Course Offerings

Deadlines:
Lottery—Monday, October 26
Registration—Monday, November 30
# Adventures in Learning

**Winter 2010**

**Term at a Glance**

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<td>9:30 – 11:30 a.m.</td>
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<td><strong>Gabriel García Marquez: One Hundred Years of Solitude</strong> / Jim Bowditch / pg. 1</td>
<td><strong>The American Circus</strong> / Tom Simon / pg. 3</td>
<td><strong>How to Get the Most from a Meeting</strong> / Steve Winter / pg. 5</td>
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<td><strong>The Golden Era of Bel Canto</strong> / Ron Luchsinger / pg. 13</td>
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<td>3-week Minicourse beginning January 19 at Tracy Memorial Library</td>
<td>5 weeks beginning January 20 at Lake Sunapee Bank Community Room</td>
<td>4-week Minicourse beginning January 21 at the New London Town Office Building</td>
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<td><strong>America’s Early Alley: New Amsterdam from 1630 to 1660</strong> / Barbara Beskind / pg. 4</td>
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<td><strong>The Power of Logic and the Joy of Problem Solving</strong> / Dick Little / pg. 14</td>
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<td>6 weeks beginning January 20 at the New London Town Office Building</td>
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<td>4-week Minicourse beginning January 20 at Tracy Memorial Library</td>
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*Cover photo by Maureen Rosen*
Gabriel Garcia Marquez: One Hundred Years of Solitude

Study Group Leader: Jim Bowditch
Mondays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
6 weeks beginning January 18, 2010
Lake Sunapee Bank Community Room

Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the 1982 Nobel Prize winner, is one of South America’s greatest writers, and “One Hundred Years of Solitude” is perhaps his finest novel. Published in 1967, it is a classic in what has become known as “magic realism.” A complex but eminently readable work set in the fictitious town of Macondo—somewhere in Colombia (sort of) around the mid-19th to mid-20th centuries (sort of)—it tells the story of generations of the Buendia family. An intriguing blend of the probable, possible and impossible, it is a journey through an all-too-real fantastic land and time of hope and despair, violence and tranquility, love and hate. A roller-coaster ride in the hands of an author with an endlessly fertile imagination and a deep understanding of the human condition, the story is told in a style that combines deadly seriousness and infectious humor.

The course will use a discussion format, with each participant encouraged to voice his or her interpretation of the novel and, if motivated, to present a written commentary on some aspect of interest.
Reality and Unreality: An Exploration of the Natural and Supernatural

The course will outline current issues in physics and metaphysics with an emphasis on consciousness and spacetime. It will contrast classical beliefs with current thinking and search for common ground. Perception will also be examined. The course will raise such questions as: Does observation influence reality, and are there limits to what we can know? The supernatural will also be explored. Should we believe our clergy, our physicists, or our senses? Is God inside or outside our universe? Discussions will be wide ranging and open to other areas such as Intelligent Design v. Evolution and Free Will v. Determinism.

Participants will receive study outlines covering the various issues, and clips will be used from the video From Plato to Aquinas to Darwin to Einstein to Strings to Hawkins to Null Physics. The class will be encouraged to share views, and consensus will be sought. Because an overflow of issues is anticipated, participants will be offered the option of extending the class into a monthly discussion group.

Study Group Leaders: Joseph Brophy and Gregory Burke, M.D., Ph.D.
Mondays, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
8 weeks beginning January 18, 2010
New London Town Office Building
A Minicourse

The American Circus

Study Group Leader: Tom Simon  
Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
3 weeks beginning January 19, 2010  
Tracy Memorial Library

The American circus has a unique and often overlooked importance in American history. The first American circuses began shortly after the country was founded and, as the country’s population grew, moved West. In many cases, the circus provided people’s first view of new inventions, exotic animals and peoples, and popular entertainments. The history of the circus is in many ways a microcosm of the history of America. This course will explore the impact of the American circus on life in the 19th and 20th centuries, looking at aspects from Bandstand to Ballyhoo, Barnum to Ringling, Travel to Trapeze, Mud Shows to the “Greatest Show on Earth,” and circus lore from Pink Lemonade to “Give ‘em a John Robinson.” There will also be discussion of what the circus contributed to life in America.

Tom Simon

Tom was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. He received an A.B. from Brown University and an M.A. in American History from Xavier University. He has lived in Eastman since 1985. Tom has presented over 20 courses at ILEAD and is the life director of YMCA Camp Coniston, as well as a past trustee of Lebanon College.
A Minicourse
America’s Early Alley: New Amsterdam from 1630 to 1660

Study Group Leader: Barbara Beskind
Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
4 weeks beginning January 19, 2010
New London Town Office Building

“America’s early alley” was a block-long, muddy, rutted alley east of Broad Street and three short blocks south of the “Wall.” In covering the history of New Amsterdam, this course will explore little-known “firsts” witnessed in and around the alley. These firsts had profound ramifications for our civic and religious life, and they provided stepping stones to our Constitution, civic liberties and the separation of church and state. Originally called Slyck Steeg, the alley was renamed Mill Street after the British took over in 1664, and it is now South William Street. Between the street and the “Wall” was the financial center of the time, where wampum was used for exchange.

In 1630, six years after the settlement of the tip of Manhattan Island, a remarkable series of little-known events occurred which impacted, both directly and indirectly, not only the lives of the original settlers (who, surprisingly, were not Dutch) but the whole Province of Nieuw Nederlandt. In addition, events on the remote island of Recife, off Brazil, over the next 30 years would have unexpected significance on the alley residents in particular, and on fledgling America in general. To enrich class discussion, participants will be urged to investigate these and other topics that emerge, including the Dutch West India Company, governance, religion, agriculture, timbering, shipbuilding, architecture, language and customs of the time.

Barbara Beskind
A direct descendant of the only Knickerbocker to have come here from The Netherlands, Barbara was brought up in the Hudson Valley. In recent years she established the BKP Press and published three titles, writing under her family name, Barbara Knickerbocker. Powderkeg details some early history of Manhattan Island, as well as the pre-colonial days of New York that relate to her family. In Touches of Life in Time and Space, her book of poems and art, she includes a poem regarding Henry Hudson’s 1609 discovery and the presumed precursor to her Knickerbocker ancestor’s emigration. The third title, a creative non-fiction Flax to Freedom, is an account based on a Huguenot ancestor. Barbara moved to New London from Vermont in 2005.
How to Get the Most from a Meeting

Knowledge of basic parliamentary procedure prepares members of any organization to be more effective when conducting or attending business meetings. Understanding the process is the key to meaningful participation. This course is not intended to produce parliamentary experts. It is designed to provide a practical understanding of the use of parliamentary procedures in everyday life as leaders and participants in various types of club and business meetings, including the upcoming town meetings.

The course will emphasize the order of business, how to place motions on the floor, what each type of motion accomplishes, when certain motions can and cannot be made, and how to organize a productive meeting. In-depth explanations will be interspersed with interactive exercises and extensive time for Q&A. By the end of this course, all participants will be able to understand the flow of a meeting and the manner in which the rules are applied. As a bonus, there will be an optional field trip to the New Hampshire State House for a tour of the historic House and Senate Chambers and to see the legislature in action.
With the explosion in Internet resources for genealogy research, more and more people are searching the Web for family origins and connections. In providing an introduction to genealogy research via the Internet, this course will cover such topics as how to get started, what online resources, websites and document sources are available, information formats and terminology, and common mistakes. Participants will explore a variety of on-line genealogy databases, including census, immigration records, birth, death and marriage records, message boards, on-line trees, and newspaper archives. Search techniques will be demonstrated, including special tips and tricks, and suggestions offered for organizing the information. Participants may wish to bring laptops to class, if they are equipped for wireless Internet access. Individual search assistance will be provided as time allows.
Certainty versus Uncertainty

Study Group Leader: Richard Schwemm
Wednesdays, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
6 weeks beginning January 20, 2010
New London Town Office Building

This course presents a brief history of science. As such, it is about science and is not a “science course.” No math is required—only an open and inquiring mind. The course describes how modern science evolved from natural philosophy, which in turn evolved from ancient mythology. Using examples from astronomy, physics, chemistry, medicine and biology, it highlights how men and women of science have confronted and attempted to overcome the objections of people who held beliefs which they proclaimed to be infallible. Examples include the belief that the earth is immobile and rests at the center of the universe, the belief that illness is caused by an imbalance of “humors” in the body, and the belief that everything in the Bible is literally true.
America is a nation of magnificent museums, which did not evolve quickly or without the chase of collecting great masterpieces. How did it happen? This course will explore the legacies of the eminent collectors and financiers, such as J.P. Morgan, Andrew Carnegie, Henry Clay Frick and Isabella Stewart Gardner, among others, who set a tone at the turn of the last century for creating some of America’s finest private art collections. These collections later became the foundation for public museums. There will also be a review of the influences on these collectors ranging from scholars and universities to dealers and federal tax laws.
A Minicourse

Old Battles, Extraordinary Consequences

Study Group Leader: Bert Whittemore
Thursdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
4 weeks beginning January 21, 2010
New London Town Office Building

This course will describe old conflicts like Cannae and Agincourt and show how they have changed the behavior of military leaders over the millennia. For instance, why did Eisenhower write, “Every ground commander...tries to duplicate in modern war the classic example of Cannae”? These four sessions will bring to life many battles which resembled ancient encounters but with differences of terrain, relative strengths, weather and other conditions. Literature in the field of military actions from the plays of Shakespeare to the writings of Churchill will be studied, and a top-ten list of military literature will be discussed. Observations by participants will be encouraged.

Bert Whittemore
Bert is a native Yankee who worked in sales for many years after graduating from Dartmouth and Tuck and serving in the U.S. Navy. His last occupation was in commercial real estate development in the Concord area. Bert has long been interested in military history, both territorial and oceanic, and recently finished two Civil War battlefield tours. He has taken many Adventures in Learning courses and presented a lecture on aerial and naval conflicts in a course on the First World War.
A Lecture Series

Tyrants of the 20th Century

Moderator: Morris Edwards
Thursdays, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
7 weeks beginning January 21, 2010
New London Historical Society

The two great wars helped to foster the rise of a succession of cruel tyrants who ruled mercilessly. This lecture series will analyze how and why these dictators came to power and the dreadful deeds that made them infamous.

January 21  Benito Mussolini and Francisco Franco / Morris Edwards

Many Italians felt their nation had been treated unfairly and humiliated during the Paris Peace Conference following World War I. Mussolini played on this resentment, as well as concerns about severe social unrest after the war to create the Italian fascist political movement and become its leader. He used organized violence, propaganda, and Machiavellian tactics to create a totalitarian state with himself as supreme leader. Another tyrant who embraced fascism was General Franco. After winning the Spanish Civil War, he continued his repressive, authoritarian rule over Spain using censorship, coercion, torture, the death penalty, and long incarceration in concentration camps and forced-labor prisons.

January 28  Adolf Hitler / Professor Allen V. Koop, Dartmouth College

Adolf Hitler joined the Nazi Party in 1920 and became its leader within a year. He gained support by promoting nationalism, anti-Semitism and anti-communism with charismatic oratory and propaganda. He was appointed chancellor in 1933, and quickly established a totalitarian and fascist state. This lecture will focus upon Hitler’s relationship with the German people, his early accomplices and victims, and the role of ideas and circumstances in shaping the Nazi era.

February 5  Joseph Stalin / Bill Sullivan

Joseph Stalin died the ruler of a state he led to victory in war and to a position of world power. At his death, he was widely respected and feared, and was even sincerely mourned by many. Yet, within a few years he had been denounced and was regarded as a brutal tyrant, the murderer of millions, and a traitor to the ideals of the movement he had inherited from Lenin. A revolutionary and a true heir to czarist traditions, Stalin was the prototype for later Communist dictators.
February 11  **Nicolae Ceausescu and Ion Antonescu** / Bill Helm

From 1965 to 1989 Nicolae Ceausescu ruled Romania with cunning, exploiting leaders of the West, treating fellow Romanians harshly, and aggrandizing himself and his family. At the end he fell in the only violent revolution in Central Europe. Ceausescu’s reign of fear was preceded in Romanian history by the role Prime Minister Ion Antonescu played in the execution of over 400,000 citizens during World War II while Romania was allied with Hitler and Germany.

February 18  **The Hubris of Power: Mao Zedong, the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution** / Professor Chris Reardon, University of New Hampshire

During the consolidation of the 1949 Chinese Revolution, Mao Zedong cooperated with the other major Chinese party elites in pacifying, stabilizing and “growing” the Chinese economy, which had suffered for decades from foreign invasion, underdevelopment and civil war. However, by the mid 1950s, the Great Helmsman began promoting a more autarchic strategy that relied on the virtues of “communist man” to inspire development. This disagreement led to two of the greatest human disasters in history: the death of 30- to 40-million Chinese people during the Great Leap forward in the late 1950s, and the utter chaos of the Cultural Revolution in the mid-to-late 1960s.

February 25  **Pol Pot, Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il** / Joe Kun

Long after the collapse of the Soviet Union, North Korea remains under the rule of the communist party whose present leader, Kim Jong-il, follows the policies of his father, Kim Il-sung. These two have managed to turn the country into a fortress that remains separate from the rest of the world and flaunts a nuclear ambition condemned by the international community. In contrast, the former communist dictator of Cambodia, Pol Pot, openly led a campaign which resulted in the murder of millions of innocent people. The memory of the “killing fields” in the Cambodian countryside reminds the rest of the world of the cruelty and mindlessness of the communist tyranny in that part of the world.

March 4  **The Totalitarian Mindset: Literature and the Lessons of George Orwell** / Dr. David Pook, The Derryfield School

Perhaps the most telling exploration of totalitarian regimes is not from the annals of the last century, but from the world of literature. In his novels, “Animal Farm” and “1984,” George Orwell menacingly described how dictators exercise their power by rewriting history and creating scapegoats; and the phrases he coined to describe aspects of totalitarianism—Big Brother, thought-police, doublespeak—continue to influence us to this day. This lecture will look at how Orwell’s writings capture the essence of 20th century totalitarianism and offer insights into the mentality of tyrants who embrace a world in which “2+2=5” and “all animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.”
Profiles in Presidential Leadership

Join a group of history buffs who are interested in learning more about how several of our American presidents have exercised leadership skills. Participants will read excerpts from some marvelous new books and articles about the following five presidents: George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt and Ronald Reagan. Most historians believe these men exhibited extraordinary leadership, moral authority and vision, and helped navigate the “Ship of State” through various domestic and international crises with unusual skill.

Study Group Leader: Gerry Jones

Thursdays, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
5 weeks beginning February 11
St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church Music Room

Gerry Jones

Gerry graduated from Yale with a B.A. (cum laude) in history and from Yale Law School with a J.D. He practiced law in New York and Connecticut for 40 years before retiring in 2005. He served as adjunct professor of law at Vermont Law School from 2006 through 2008, and he has taught history for five years at ILEAD. He is a trustee of the Vermont Law School, the Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation, and the Nature Conservancy of Vermont.
The Italian term “bel canto,” meaning beautiful singing, refers to a method of singing taught by the Italian masters of the 17th and 18th centuries in which a smooth emission of tone, beauty of timbre and elegance of phrasing are among the most important elements. This operatic art form reached its zenith in the works of Rossini, Bellini and Donizetti in such operas as “The Barber of Seville,” “The Italian Girl in Algiers,” “Lucia di Lammermoor,” “Daughter of the Regiment,” “Norma” and “The Puritans.”

This course will explore the roots of the bel canto style and its history, using audio and VCR/DVD recordings of the greatest living and historical exponents of the key roles in order to compare its most famous composers and their works.
The Power of Logic and the Joy of Problem Solving

Logic or reasoning is a mental capacity everyone possesses. Typically, it may be used hundreds of times a day. Its application to solving problems may range from the reflexive response of avoiding an accident to the thoughtful process of arriving at the solution of a complex intellectual exercise. A feeling of elation—the “ah-ha!” experience—usually follows.

This course will examine the nature of logic and the logic of Nature as participants solve a number of famous and not-so-famous problems that have puzzled and perplexed people, some of them for millennia. Among the better known will be Zeno’s Paradoxes, Einstein’s Problem, The Prisoner’s Dilemma and The Monty Hall Problem. The course will also delve into things like card tricks and number contortions that challenge people’s skills of perception. Once the secrets are learned, they may be used to “get one up on the other guy.”

For much of the time, the class will work interactively, in discussions and group problem-solving mode, with attention being given to both the problems and the process of thought in arriving at their solutions. Participants will be invited to bring in and challenge the class (and the leader) with their favorite problems. Above all, the objective will be to have fun while exploring a fascinating aspect of reality.
Registration Form / Winter 2010

☐ Please check this box if you are a first time member.

Prefix _____ Name ______________________________________________________

Nickname (for name tags) __________________________________________________

Mailing Address __________________________________________________________

Town __________________________ State _____ Zipcode __________

Telephone _________________ E-mail ________________________________________

☐ Information and special alerts will be sent via e-mail. Please check this box if you prefer to receive all communications via stamped mail.

Please check off course(s) for which you wish to register.

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☐ Additional course at no charge if space available: ____________________________

Total: ____________________________

Please make checks payable to Colby-Sawyer College.

Registration forms for any courses that are oversubscribed as of October 26 will go into a lottery. Remaining course assignments will be made by the date registration forms are received.

This form must be returned no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, November 30, 2009 to:

Adventures in Learning
Colby-Sawyer College
541 Main Street
New London, NH 03257

Information: (603) 526-3690

Registration

You have two options to submit your registration form, which is dated as it is received in the office. Please note that we accept cash or checks but not credit cards. Confirmation of your enrollment in a course will be sent on December 11.

Note: Each member should fill out a separate registration form. There is an additional form on back, or a form may be downloaded from www.colby-sawyer.edu/adventures/register.html

Registration by mail

Include a check made payable to Colby-Sawyer College along with your registration form and send them to Adventures in Learning, Colby-Sawyer College, 541 Main Street, New London, NH 03257.

Registration in person

Registration forms may also be dropped off at the Adventures in Learning Office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. We are located on the first floor of the Colby Homestead, the building located to the right of the entrance to the Hogan Sports Center parking lot.
**Registration Form / Winter 2010**

- Please check this box if you are a first time member.
- Prefix _____ Name ______________________________________________________
- Nickname (for name tags) _________________________________________________
- Mailing Address _________________________________________________________
- Town __________________ State _____ Zipcode ____________
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<td>Annual membership dues (if not already paid for the July 1, 2009–June 30, 2010 academic year)</td>
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Total: ____________________

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The Curriculum Committee of Adventures in Learning is delighted to bring you 13 course offerings for the winter 2010 term, which begins on January 18 and continues through March 12, 2010.

This term we welcome and look forward to the contributions of seven new study group leaders—Greg Burke, Barbara Chalmers, Gerry Jones, Mike Moss, Tom Simon, Bert Whittemore and Steve Winter. We thank all of our volunteer study group leaders for giving so generously of their time and expertise to make the winter courses possible. We also wish to thank Lake Sunapee Bank, New London Historical Society, the town of New London, St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church and Tracy Memorial Library for making space available for our winter courses.

Registration Process
► If you have not already paid your dues for the JULY 2009 to JUNE 2010 MEMBERSHIP YEAR, please include the $50 membership fee when you register.

► To register for courses, complete the form found on pages 15/16 or download a form from the website.

► For any course that is oversubscribed on October 26, a lottery will be held to randomly select the participants. For this reason, you may wish to select alternate choices on your registration form. We will notify you by November 2 if we are unable to enroll you in your first choice(s).

► Following the lottery date, registration for remaining courses with space available continues through November 30. Assignments will be made based on the date the registration form is received.

► After the registration period ends, there is sometimes space available in a course that would interest you. Requests for a course of equal value to the one you are registered in may be made at no additional charge during the registration period and until December 4. Assignments for these courses will be made, as space permits, based on the order the requests are received.

Books and Other Reading Material
Books that are selected by study group leaders are usually available for purchase at a discounted rate from Morgan Hill Bookstore in New London, N.H. Photocopied materials prepared by study group leaders are offered at cost from the Adventures in Learning Office.

Guest Policy
Many of our courses are oversubscribed and have a waiting list. As a courtesy to our membership, please remember that attendance in Adventures in Learning courses is reserved only for those members who have registered and have been enrolled in the course.

Inclement Weather Policy
Adventures in Learning follows the Kearsarge Regional School District policy on weather closures and delays. For information on the district’s cancellations call (603) 526-8444. If a question remains about a course cancellation, please call your study group leader.
Administration Office
Located in the Colby Homestead on the Colby-Sawyer College campus to the right of the Main Street entrance for the Dan and Kathleen Hogan Sports Center.

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(603) 526-3690 / adventures@colby-sawyer.edu

Staffed by: Sharon Ames, Joyce Kellogg and Janet St. Laurent