



## Fall 2020 Semester Class Descriptions and Instructor Bio's

**Virtual LLC Kickoff:** Thursday, August 27 at 2 p.m.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR VIRTUAL CLASSES](#)



**September 3 at 2 p.m.**

### **Resilience: The Psychology of Grace Under Pressure**

This talk will explore the conditions, processes, and personal habits that enable some people to outlast adversity and come through difficult circumstances unscathed. I will define the concept of resilience, and discuss how research is changing our understating of what it means—and what it takes—to be resilient. Finally, I will share some tips on what we can do as individuals to facilitate resilient outcomes in our own lives.



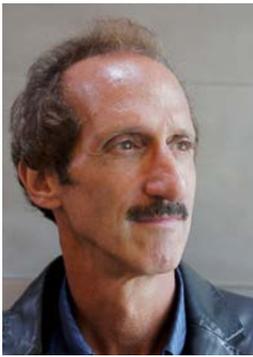
**Noam Shpancer** is Professor of Psychology at Otterbein University. His research interests center on issues of childcare and development. He is also a licensed clinical psychologist in private practice, specializing in the treatment of anxiety disorders. Dr. Shpancer is also an official blogger for the online magazine *Psychology Today*, where his popular science blog *Insight Therapy* receives over a million unique hits per year.



**September 10, 17, 22 at 2 p.m.**

## **Memory in the Time of Corona**

This class explores the principles of individual and collective memory, with the goal of applying these principles to our lives during the pandemic. How does personal memory influence the way we interpret our present conditions? How do the stories we tell about ourselves shape our memories? When we look back on these times, what will we remember – as individuals and as a society? Classes will involve a mix of presentation and discussion. Between classes, we will watch online videos about memory and self.



**Dr. Robert N. Kraft** is professor emeritus of psychology at Otterbein, where he taught courses in cognition, personality, memory, research methods, and the self. After receiving his doctorate, Kraft worked as a decision analyst in Washington D.C. and then taught at Grinnell College and Otterbein, conducting research on film, memory, emotion, violence, and the self. His 2002 book, *Memory Perceived*, documents patterns of deeply traumatic memory in Holocaust survivors. Kraft's 2014 book, *Violent Accounts*, analyzes how violent perpetrators remember and justify their destructive actions of the past. He is currently writing a book on Memory and the Self and a blog for *Psychology Today* called "Defining Memories." In 2005, he won Otterbein's Master Teacher of the Year award.



**September 24 at 2 p.m.**

## **Understanding Viruses: Villainy to Valor**

Viruses are sometimes labeled as the most abundant "life form" in nature, yet many scientists do not consider them to be alive. As obligate intracellular parasites, viruses turn their host cells into living factories that create more and more virus particles. This talk features the common characteristics of all viruses and the amazing diversity that is present. Even smaller than bacteria, viruses cause some of the most feared diseases on the planet, including Ebola, HIV, Influenza and COVID-19. However, the powers of viruses are also being harnessed for breakthroughs in biotechnology and medicine. Participants will learn the basic parts of a virus, examples of viruses and how they cause disease, what can be done to stop them, and how some viruses are being used for the common good.



**Dr. Jennifer Bennett** graduated with a B.S. in Biology and Chemistry from La Roche College, an M.S. in Biological Sciences and a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences (concentration in Microbial Genetics/Cell and Molecular Biology) from Duquesne University. She performed a teaching post-doctoral fellowship at Juniata College before arriving at Otterbein. She is currently an Associate Professor and microbial geneticist at Otterbein University, and teaches courses in cell biology, microbiology, microbial genetics and bioinformatics. Students in her research program identify new genes involved in bacterial development and antibiotic production using a multi-disciplinary approach. As an educator and researcher, she enjoys infecting the people around her with the love of microbiology!



**October 1 at 2 p.m.**

### **Strategies for Social Emotional Learning**

In this session, we will examine the meaning of emotional intelligence. We will also explore tools for home and at school that help all individuals recognize emotions, understand how emotions may impact situations, and identify strategies for regulating emotions.



**Dr. Allison McGrath** is an assistant professor of special education at Otterbein. She received her Ph.D. in special education at the University of Illinois Chicago in 2016. She is a former middle school special education teacher. Her teaching experience mostly involved working with individuals with high incidence disabilities. During her 13 years teaching eighth grade special education, she taught self-contained and co-taught mathematics as well as co-taught science.

Dr. McGrath has presented at multiple special education conferences and has published articles in special education journals related to her research on students with learning disabilities, science education and inclusion.



**October 8 at 2 p.m.**

**Gold!! “Thar’s Gold in Them Thar Hills”**

Who doesn’t love gold? Known since antiquity, gold is the essence of wealth and power in nearly every culture. Join this presentation to learn fascinating insights about this most beautiful of metals: where it is found due to plate tectonics, how it is mined, how famous gold rushes affected United States history, how gold is used and new uses in space and medicine, mints for gold coins and their role in the Civil War, the location of the world’s most prolific gold mines and modern production processes. Hear about a notorious gold scam, the challenges of responsible gold production and recycling issues for electronics. We’ll talk about the fascinating history of the United States’ most notorious gold coin and why it is illegal to own one.



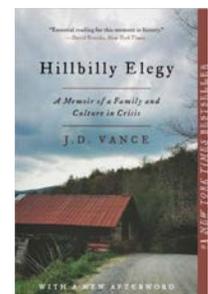
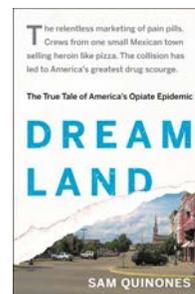
**Rich Tenaglia** is a retired metallurgical engineer, having spent 40+ years working in Central Ohio developing new materials and metal processes at Battelle, Ashland Chemical, and LSP Technologies. He has a passion for sharing insights of metals technology with general audiences in ways that are easy to understand as well as fun and interesting. LLC members may remember Rich’s presentation on Rare Earth and China in 2019. His explanations focus on how metals technology shapes our lives and history, and how history, in turn, shapes technology. Rich is a graduate of The Ohio State University (Metallurgical Engineering) and the University of Dayton (M.B.A.). Rich and his wife, Roxie, are longtime residents of the Westerville vicinity, and Rich thoroughly enjoys being a member of Otterbein’s Lifelong Learning Community.



**October 15, 22, 29 and November 5 at 2 p.m.**

**Portsmouth & Middletown: Navigating Economic and Cultural Challenges**

As the moment in which we live will attest, epidemics/pandemics have a set of interrelated causes and consequences. On the one hand, pandemics confront us with phenomena that are singular, unprecedented, and novel. On the other, they sometimes make us aware of things that existed all along, things that perhaps we never managed quite to see clearly.



In this embedded mini-course, we will look to the epidemic and economic recession that *preceded* the current one. I refer here to the opiate crisis and 2007-2009 Recession (sometimes called the subprime mortgage crisis). The books at the center of our inquiry will be Sam Quinones' *Dreamland* (2015) and J.D. Vance's *Hillbilly Elegy* (2016). In their own unique ways, these books confront us with some thorny political questions about the economic and cultural causes and effects of social decline in smaller U.S. cities. These causes and effects touch on a set of interrelated phenomena, including de-industrialization and the rise of finance capitalism, the opiate crisis, familial breakdowns, and the entrenchment of stereotyped and spectacle-laden depictions of poverty. We shall also have occasion to engage with some thoughtful and provocative diagnoses of the problems presented in these books and to consider, together, how they might be worked through and ameliorated. Perhaps, in the end, learning from previous pandemics might help us with this one.

Our consideration of these books will be augmented, most likely, by some collateral sources that I will introduce. You may purchase a copy of the Common Book, *Dreamland*, on this website.

### Likely Reading Schedule

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|-----------------------|---|
| Thursday, October 15: | Quinones' <i>Dreamland</i> : Part I (pp. 1-184)                       |
| Thursday October 22:  | Quinones' <i>Dreamland</i> : Parts II-V & Afterword (pp. 187-353)     |
| Thursday, October 29: | Vance's <i>Hillbilly Elegy</i> : Introduction & Chaps 1-8 (pp. 1-128) |
| Thursday, November 5: | Vance's <i>Hillbilly Elegy</i> : Chapter 9 to the end (pp. 129-257)   |



**Dr. Paul Eisenstein** a professor in the English department at Otterbein. He has taught courses for English majors in film studies, literary criticism and theory, and the history of the novel, as well as courses in Otterbein's general education programs known as Integrative Studies and Senior Year Experience Programs, on the meaning of the Holocaust for the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, and on the literature of nature, work and war (to name just a few). He is the author of a book on Holocaust Representation in Literature and Film, the co-author of a

second book o contemporary political theory, and articles that interpret and explore the meaning of books such as John Irving's *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, Jonathan Safran Foer's *Everything is Illuminated*, and Elie Wiesel's *Night*.



**November 6 at 11:30 a.m.**

### **The Healing Choir**

Even in a "normal" year, the world is in great need of healing - in the fall of 2020, it is even more important that we find ways to heal our bodies, minds, and sagging states of minds. Fortunately, the art of music can help us regain our balance during a threatening time, for music helps us rediscover our shared humanity. Yet, the choirs of today - ensembles that aim to bring beauty and comfort to their audiences - have been given the heart-breaking news that their art can actually cause illness. Now, more than ever, we must use our music and friendship to knit the world and our aching hearts back together. Join me as we experience how the healing art of choral music can restore our hope and spirit.



**Dr. Gayle Walker**, a native of Iowa, received her bachelor of music degree summa cum laude from Macalester College, a master's degree in music from the University of Colorado, and a doctor of arts degree from the University of Northern Colorado. She has been honored with memberships in Phi Beta Kappa and Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society).

Dr. Walker is the vice president of the Ohio Choral Directors Association, having served as president 2014-16. Her choirs have been invited to perform in major venues throughout Europe and China, including St. Patrick's Cathedral in Ireland, Notre Dame in Paris, St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, St. Nicholas Church in Prague, and the Beijing Conservatory. In addition, the Otterbein University Choir has performed frequently at conferences of the Central Division of the American Choral Directors Association, the Ohio Choral Directors Association and the Ohio Music Education Association, as well as in performances with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. She has recorded six CDs with the Concert Choir.



**November 12, 19 at 2 p.m.**

### **What Confucius Taught Still Speaks to Us Today**

Confucius is the most highly regarded and influential figure in the history of Chinese civilization, and Confucianism is often seen as its core tradition. But the very different traditions of Daoism, Legalism, and Buddhism have also had enormous impact. Also, despite a consistently Confucian official ideology, the behavior of the Chinese imperial state often fell very short of Confucian ideals. During the

twentieth century, Confucianism was attacked both by the Chinese Communist state and by earlier reformers as well. But these attacks failed to destroy the deeply rooted respect and even reverence that Chinese people have for Confucius. In short, while Confucianism hardly explains everything about Chinese history and culture, to gain a better understanding of that culture, there is no more important single topic to pursue.

We know that Confucius has exercised enormous influence; we know he has been used and misused in all sorts of different ways; we know that in Chinese culture he is an object of veneration and even worship. The aim of my presentation will be to ask: what did he in fact teach? What conclusions can we draw from a close reading of the original text which records his “sayings” (the *Lun Yu* or *Analects*)? My conclusion will be that we can in fact discern through this work a coherent and strikingly original outlook whose intrinsic worth held the attention of Chinese civilization for more than two thousand years, and that still can speak to us today as fellow human beings, despite the distance of time and cultural tradition. **Our two online sessions will allow us time to look closely at some specific texts and discuss questions that participants may raise.**



**Jeremy Smith** has taught in the English Department at Otterbein since 1988. His Ph.D. in Comparative Literature (from Indiana University) focused on the relationship of literature to religion and philosophy. At Otterbein, he has continued to work with those themes both in teaching and research. His book, *The Staircase of a Patron: Sierra Leone and the United Brethren in Christ*, traces the interaction of traditional African culture with Christian

missionaries. (This study makes extensive use of the writings of the United Brethren missionary Lloyd Mignerey in the Otterbein archive.) He has a long-standing interest in Asian religions, and especially Confucianism. In recent years he taught a Freshman Year Experience Class on *Asian and Western Views of Human Nature*. The majority of the students in that class were from China, and this provided a wonderful opportunity for him to share his enthusiasm for Confucianism as well as to discover the perspective of Chinese college students today.



**December 3 at 2 p.m.**

## **Life Story of a Song**

You may remember playing a game as a child where a phrase is whispered from one person to another and ends up being a completely different set of words. Otterbein alumnus Benjamin Hanby wrote a Christmas song in 1864 entitled *Santa Claus*. Today the song is known as *Up on the Housetop*. How did the title and lyrics change over time? Hear the life story of Ben Hanby's popular Christmas song.

**Pam Allen** has been researching the Hanby family story for more than 40 years and spent 10 years as site manager of Hanby House Historic Site. An Otterbein alumnus and retired teacher, Pam enjoys connecting personal stories and historic occurrences to place our forebears within their "current events."

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