



LLC May Mini Courses 2022

May LLC mini-courses are separate from the semester membership. These classes are offered only in-person at a cost of \$75 per course and offer a more immersive experience with class participation encouraged. We are offering two mini-courses this spring. Registration will open soon!

May 16-20, 2022

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Room 164 at The Point

***From Donwell Abbey to Downtown Abbey: Courtship and the Country House
in Jane Austen's Novels and Julian Fellowes' TV Series***

This minicourse will trace plots and themes from the popular 21st-century PBS series “Downton Abbey” back to the early 19th-century novels of Jane Austen. Although “Downton Abbey” is set in the 20th century (covering the years 1912-1926), it shares many of the same concerns as Austen’s novels (published between 1811 and 1818). Both the novels and the TV series show their audiences a world shaped by inheritance, class difference, family relationships, domestic life, and marriage. In both worlds we eagerly witness picnics, shooting parties, formal dinners, country walks, and dances. In both worlds we note the impacts of historical events on private life (the Napoleonic Wars and the transatlantic slave trade in Austen; World War I, the Spanish flu, and the sinking of the Titanic in “Downton Abbey”). At the center of both worlds sits the English country estate: Austen’s Pemberley, Mansfield Park, or Kellynch-Hall every bit as much as Downton Abbey. In the minicourse we’ll read excerpts from several Austen novels, locating some specific parallels to “Downton Abbey” like entailment plots and elopements. We’ll also talk about the specific historical contexts of Regency England vs. Edwardian England—anticipating ways that our modern eye might collapse important historical differences. And finally, we will discuss and appreciate the pleasure that we the audience find in both of these fictional worlds. Readers and critics have often described a recuperative effect from reading Austen, and perhaps the same can be said of “Downton Abbey.” We will think about the

power of literature to heal our woes and worries, to increase our empathy, and to build our capacity for social relationships.



Dr. Margaret Koehler is professor and chair in the English Department at Otterbein. She grew up in rural upstate New York, earned her BA in English at Wesleyan University in Connecticut and her Ph.D. in English at Emory University in Atlanta. Her research expertise is in 18th-century British literature, and she is currently working on a book project about poetry and medicine in the 18th century. At Otterbein she helped to propose the new Race and Ethnic Studies minor and serves as a core member of the TRHT team.

May 10, 12, 17, 19, 2022

1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Room 164 at The Point

Architecture and Urban Design: How Cities Shape Social Interaction

Motivated by social and economic factors people are drawn to cities and today, most of the world's population lives in urban areas. Cities, however, are not a modern development. With this course we will look at the how cities were created, why they take various forms, and how urban design and architecture impact social, psychological, and physical health. Experiences within cities are influenced by our social class, race, ethnicity, gender, and physical abilities. Taking into consideration land use, housing, transportation, infrastructure, public facilities, the environment, and natural resources that challenge communities, we will learn how power and wealth are unevenly distributed across the politics of urban design. In addition, this course investigates how architecture has both symbolic and cultural meaning in urban contexts. Why are some classical architectural styles “derived from the forms, principles, and vocabulary of the architecture of Greek and Roman antiquity,” coded as beautiful and patriotic for public buildings, while modern and postmodern architecture is disparaged? What qualities should we evaluate when critiquing the beauty and efficacy of architectural design and style? Join me as we look at cities from a social and architectural framework.



Dr. Carla Corroto earned a Ph.D. in sociology after practicing architecture in Chicago with Stanley Tigerman/McCurry Architects and Skidmore Owings & Merrill. She is currently a professor of sociology at Otterbein University, but has taught architecture at Miami University and Mississippi State University. She researches how inequality is structured in space, place, and architecture and design studio pedagogy.