

Welcome to Senior College

Welcome to the Alexandria Technical and Community College and to Senior College of West Central Minnesota! We are glad you are joining this effort to learn and be part of conversations that explore our world. We have a great season lined up for lively learning and exploration with a variety of scholars from around the state. This document serves as a guide for the season with information about Senior College and descriptions of each of the lectures.

Amy Sunderland, Director

Advisory Committee members: Carol Dittberner, Sue Engstrom, Katy Mohabir,
Dennis Thompson and Lois Wambheim

About Senior College

Senior College is a lecture series for adults in West Central Minnesota. A variety of stimulating lectures by college-level scholars fuels curiosity in a congenial setting at the Alexandria Technical & Community College. Three seasons of programming are offered: fall and spring semesters of lectures; and, a short-course winter session in January is offered for the winter hardy. Adults of all ages are welcome.

Senior College was established by the Alexandria Technical & Community College in 2006 in response to community interest in informative and challenging college learning that is stimulating and social without the pressures of textbooks, grades, or degrees. The quality program and affordable fee is made possible with support from Alexandria Technical and Community College Foundation, Bethany on the Lake, special session partners, and generous giving by individuals.

Donations to Senior College

Every gift makes an impact in our program, no matter the size. Gifts, memorials and bequests may be made through the Alexandria Technical & Community College Foundation, 318 17th Avenue East, Alexandria, MN, 56308. Donations may also be made on-line through the Foundation website: <https://www.alextech.edu/foundation/atcc-foundation-donation>. Please note "Senior College" in the Special Requests box on your check or the Donate page on-line. For more information: Phone: 320-762-4670 or 888-234-1222.

Information and Registration Contact

Website: www.alextech.edu/seniorcollege

Phone: Customized Training: 320-762-4510 or 888-234-1313

Email: seniorcollege@alextech.edu

How Senior College Works - Things to Note

REGISTRATION

- Registration for Senior College entitles you to attend any and all sessions of Senior College. A single registration for the season allows us to offer a consistent, quality program at an affordable fee. **Registration is per person.** If you are unable to attend all sessions, know you are still supporting a good cause.
- Admission is by season membership only. Season membership registrations can be purchased at any time on-line or by phone.
- Following registration, you will receive instructions for joining the program via ZOOM, including the trial run on Sept. 10. If for some reason, your set-up does not work for you, you may request a refund. Refund requests must be made by noon on Sept. 17.

SCHEDULE/FORMAT

- Schedule - All sessions are scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays from beginning promptly at 3:15 and ending no later than 5:15. When you join via ZOOM, you will be admitted to the session by the host. Most sessions will not exceed 90 minutes.
- Announcements of any changes in the schedule will be made during sessions and can be found on the website, www.alextech.edu/seniorcollege.
- Break – You can plan on a short stretch break around half-way through, as directed by the presenter. If you need to take a break at any time, you may turn your video off.
- Q&A – Participants may ask questions using the chat function on the ZOOM screen. Questions and comments generally take place following the lecture.

LECTURE TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

The New Green Revolution for Africa

The first Green Revolution largely impacted Asia and Latin America. Now focused on Africa, global philanthropy and aid organizations have increasingly framed African small scale, subsistence agriculture as the major development conundrum of the early 21st century. Female farmers, who play a major role in African food production, are oddly and simultaneously viewed as marginal and central to the African food puzzle. Advocates of the New Green Revolution for Africa argue that the solution is to better incorporate small farmers into the global food economy via a value chains involving the use of improved inputs, better production technologies, and enhanced access to markets for the sale of production. Ongoing research suggests that subsistence production, wild food collection, land tenure, and female agency are hugely important for the food security and dietary diversity of the poorest households.

- **William G. Moseley** is a professor of geography, and director of the Food, Agriculture & Society Program, at Macalester College in Saint Paul, MN USA. His research interests include tropical agriculture, food security, and development policy. He is the author of nearly a 100 peer-reviewed articles and books chapters, as well as eight books, including: *Africa's Green Revolution: Critical Perspectives on New Agricultural Technologies and Systems* (2016); *Land Reform in South Africa: An Uneven Transformation* (2015); and *Hanging by a Thread: Cotton, Globalization and Poverty in Africa* (2008). He currently serves on International Steering Committee of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the UN Committee on World Food Security.

The Year(s) of the Whistleblower

In this talk, Kitrosser will discuss the roles played by whistleblowers in some of the most significant stories of 2019 – 2020, including impeachment and the Covid-19 pandemic. She will also shed light on some broader legal, policy, and historical aspects of whistleblowing in the United States.

- **Heidi Kitrosser** is the Robins Kaplan Professor of Law at the University of Minnesota Law School. She teaches and writes about government secrecy, the constitutional separation of powers, and speech and press freedoms. Her 2015 book, *Reclaiming Accountability*, received the Roy C. Palmer Civil Liberties Prize. She is a 2017 Guggenheim Fellow, and currently is working on a book about the law and policy of information leaking and whistleblowing by federal government employees and contractors. Kitrosser earned her J.D. from Yale Law School and her B.A. from UCLA.

All the News That's Fit to Ignore: Changing Audiences for Political Information Online and Offline

Historically, the press has been relied on so the public can make informed decisions and hold power to account. However, like many areas of civic life, trust in news has become highly polarized. Growing numbers avoid news that challenges partisan beliefs and many more opt out altogether because of how it makes them feel. As we spend more of our lives immersed in social media, what are the factors that shape engagement with various forms of news? And what can be done to stem the tide of false information online?

- **Benjamin Toff** is an Assistant Professor at the Hubbard School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Minnesota where he is also Director of Graduate Studies for the Center for the Study of Political Psychology. He studies news audiences and political engagement, public opinion, and changing media. His research has been published or is forthcoming in the *Journal of Communication*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Political Communication*, *Journalism*, and *Journalism Studies*. From 2016-2017, he was a postdoctoral research fellow at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford where he remains affiliated as a research associate. Prior to entering academia, he worked as a journalist and researcher at *The New York Times*. He received his PhD in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a BA in social studies from Harvard.

In Search of Krazy Kat

In an entertaining Powerpoint that combines comics, photographs, music and film, author Michael Tisserand reveals how legendary cartoonist George Herriman created a newspaper comic strip that commented slyly and humorously on race in early 20th century America.

- **Michael Tisserand** is author of *Krazy: George Herriman, A Life and Black And White* which was named a New York Times notable book for 2017. His previous works include *The Kingdom Of Zydeco* and the Hurricane Katrina memoir *Sugarcane Academy*.

Border Crisis? Central American Immigration in Historical Perspective

Central Americans now account for the largest number of immigrants apprehended at the US southern border. How does current Central American immigration compare with prior trends? What is driving Central Americans to journey to the US? This presentation places Central American immigration into historical perspective.

- **Brian Larkin** is a professor at the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University, where he has taught Latin American history for almost twenty years. His interests include Latin America, religious history, history of gestures, history of the body, wills and other notarial documents, trial (especially inquisition) records, and travel accounts. He received his PhD in Latin American history from the University of Texas at Austin in 1999.

Economic Implications of COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, public officials enacted policies that shut down entire swaths of the US economy. We will examine some of the short- and long-run effects of the pandemic and these policies.

- **Louis Johnston** is professor of Economics at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University and a regular media commentator on the Minnesota economy. He specializes in macroeconomics and economic history. Johnston is special contributor to the 4th, 5th, and 6th editions of Principles of Economics by Robert H. Frank and Ben S. Bernanke, with responsibility for developing and writing all of the macroeconomics chapters. His recent projects focus on analyzing the evolution of Minnesota's economy and how Minnesota became "above average" over the past 60 years. Johnston earned his B.S. at the University of Minnesota, and his M.A. and PhD at the University of California, Berkeley.

What's Next on the Docket for Net Neutrality?

Starting in 2005, the Federal Communications Commission handed down the first version of what Professor Tim Wu would coin as "Net Neutrality." In the 15 years since, the FCC has both won and lost in court while designing and implementing different Net Neutrality approaches. Now, after a partial legal win in Mozilla v FCC, the agency will employ a "light touch" regulation that only minimally enforces the concept. As the legal battle moves towards the states and the Supreme Court, his talk will explore the principles of Net Neutrality, the regulatory history of the policy and the four legal decisions which have defined this story.

- **Christopher Terry** is an Assistant Professor of Media Law and Ethics in the Hubbard School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Minnesota. His research focuses on maximizing political participation in a democratic society. He has published widely on FCC regulatory issues involving political advertising, media ownership, minority ownership and net neutrality.

Covid-19 and the 2020 Election: How it Changed Everything and Nothing

Covid-19 changed America, but did it change American politics? This talk looks at the impact of the coronavirus on the 2020 elections and what impact we can expect it to have in November and beyond.

- **David Schultz** is a Hamline University Professor of Political Science who teaches across a wide-range of American politics classes including public policy and administration, campaigns and elections, and government ethics. David is author of 30 books and 100+ articles on various aspects of American politics, election law, and the media and politics, and he is regularly interviewed and quoted in the local, national, and international media on these subjects including the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, the Economist, and National Public Radio. His most recent book is Presidential Swing States: Why Only Ten Matter. (2015)

Geopolitics and Global Governance

Always timely and thought-provoking, Tom will discuss an international project on the trends and issues in geopolitics and the future of global governance.

- **Thomas Hanson** is a former U.S. Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State whose diplomatic postings included East Germany, France, Norway, the Soviet Union, Sweden, and the former Soviet Republic of Georgia. He also participated in the opening of new U.S. embassies in Mongolia and Estonia, worked on the Foreign Relations Committees of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and served as Director for NATO and European Affairs at the Atlantic Council of the United States in Washington, D.C. Mr. Hanson currently serves as Diplomat in Residence at the Alworth Institute for International Affairs at the University of Minnesota – Duluth. He is also in charge of programming at the St. Paul-Minneapolis Committee on Foreign Relations and is a member of the Great Decisions advisory committee at the Minnesota International Center. He contributes to local and international media. Mr. Hanson holds a BA degree from the University of Minnesota and graduate degrees from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy; the Institute of Advanced International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland; and the National School of Administration (ENA) in Paris, France.

The Trump Administration in Latin America: The Return of the Monroe Doctrine

In October 2018 at a speech in Miami National Security Advisor John Bolton declared that the Monroe Doctrine was alive and well pointedly reversing a position taken during the Obama administration by Secretary of State John Kerry that the doctrine which declares the hemisphere to be a US domain was outdated. Under Bolton's leadership the United States has declared that Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela are a "troika of tyranny" and that their governments must be replaced. John Bolton is gone, but his policy remains in place. This presentation analyzes the impact of this shift on relations within the Western Hemisphere.

- **Gary Prevost** is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at St. John's University/College of Saint Benedict. He received his PhD in political science from the University of Minnesota and has published widely on Latin America and Spain. His books include *Democracy and Socialism in Sandinista Nicaragua*, coauthored with Harry E. Vanden; *The Undermining of the Sandinista Revolution*, coedited with Harry E. Vanden; *Cuba: A Different America*, coedited with Wilber Chaffee; *The Bush Doctrine and Latin America*, and *Cuban-Latin American Relations in the Context of a Changing Hemisphere*, both coedited with Carlos Oliva Campos; *Revolutionaries to Politicians*, coedited with David Close and Kalatowie Deonandan; *United States–Cuban Relations—A Critical History*, co-authored with Esteban Morales; *Latin America: An Introduction*, co-authored with Harry E. Vanden; and *Social Movements and Leftist Governments in Latin America: Confrontation or Co-optation and U.S. National Security Concerns in Latin America and the Caribbean: Failed States and Ungoverned Spaces*, both co-edited with Carlos Oliva Campos and Harry Vanden, in addition to numerous articles and book chapters on Nicaragua and Spanish politics. His research on Latin America has been supported by a number of grants, including a Fulbright Central American Republics Award.

Immune System Response to Viral Infections

COVID-19 has dramatically impacted our lives over the past several months. In this lecture, Dr. Johnson will explain how the immune system is able to detect and eliminate viruses, including SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

- **Rachel Johnson** is an Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Minnesota Morris. She is originally from Maple Grove, MN and earned her Ph.D. in Immunology from Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Her research is focused on how the immune system interacts with tumor cells. Rachel lives in Morris, MN with her husband and daughter.

Healthcare Systems Around the World

Americans know they pay a lot for healthcare compared to citizens of other nations, but they often don't realize that our healthcare systems has poorer outcomes, too. This lecture examines the challenges and solutions to contemporary healthcare in industrialized democracies around the world.

- **Claire Haeg** is Professor of Political Science at the College of St Benedict and St John's University. She did her undergraduate work at the University of Sydney in Australia, her master's in Library Science at the University of Hawaii, and her Ph.D. at the University of Oklahoma. She teaches courses on Congress, Political Parties and Elections, as well as Gender and Politics. Her current research examines the rise of populist movements in advanced industrial democracies, and she is also active in the scholarship of pedagogy in political science.

My Love Affair with Willa Cather

Willa Cather's best known novel, *My Antonia* explores life in rural Nebraska and shines light on the American experience of immigration, farm life, cultural conflict, love and family. She wrote so many accounts of Great Plains and through brief excerpts, story telling, and biography, we'll all get to know this author whose books I've loved for 50 years.

- **Annette Atkins** is professor Emerita of History at the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University. She is author of four books, including *Creating Minnesota: A History from the Inside Out*, *We Grew Up Together: Brothers and Sisters in the Nineteenth-Century America*, *Challenging Women: College of Saint Benedict since 1913*, and *Harvest of Grief: Grasshopper Plagues and Public Assistance in Minnesota 1873-78*. She specializes in finding and telling stories about people in the past with the goal of understanding those people and of knowing ourselves better. She is a frequent guest on MPR and producer of History talks.

Why We Need Poetry

Most Americans seldom read poetry—why is that? What are some misconceptions about poetry? What do we gain when we find a poem that appeals to us? And when we find one poem we like, how do we discover others? What’s the relationship between reading and writing poetry? Minnesota Poet Laureate will talk a little about her own experience with poetry, memorization, and then (in a short guided exercise), she will invite each person to write their own poem.

- **Joyce Sutphen** grew up on a farm in Stearns County, Minnesota. Her first collection of poems, *Straight Out of View*, won the Barnard New Women Poets Prize; *Coming Back to the Body* was a finalist for a Minnesota Book Award, and *Naming the Stars* won a Minnesota Book Award in Poetry. In 2005, Red Dragonfly Press published *Fourteen Sonnets* in a letterpress edition. She is one of the co-editors (along with Connie Wanek and Thom Tammaro) of *To Sing Along the Way*, an award winning anthology of Minnesota women poets. Her collection, *First Words*, was published in 2010; in 2012, *House of Possibility*, a letter press edition of poems, was published by Accordion Press, followed by *After Words*, which was published in 2013, and *Modern Love & Other Myths* (2015), *The Green House*, published by Salmon Press (Ireland) 2017, and *Carrying Water to the Field: New and Selected Poems* was published by the University of Nebraska Press (2019). She is the second Minnesota Poet Laureate, succeeding Robert Bly, and she is professor emerita of literature and creative writing at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota.