

Morning Group Seminars – 2019

Morning Groups run for 4 days, from 9:00 am – Noon.

Morning seminars will be capped at 15 participants. Additional participants will be added solely at the discretion of the convener.

Celebrating the Search in the Third Age of Life

Celebrating the Search: Third Age of Life has unanimously voted to meet again and invites anyone who has experienced a major transition and is willing to share how they dealt with it and what they have learned.

When we become adolescents there is so much dis-ease. Our bodies seem alien. We can't quite imagine what's ahead. Yet with all the discomfort there is also a sense of excitement: we know there is a great adventure ahead.

What people have forgotten to tell us is that the third age of life is a second adolescence. Again our bodies are surprising us. Again, we are not sure what is ahead. But with patience and trust we discover that there is, indeed, a great adventure ahead.

We discover that the body's increasing frailty is conjoined with the mind's increasing strength. We have become more thoughtful. The sharp edge of judgment has softened. Our hearts have expanded--it is amazing how much in our world there is to love. In my own experience, this is, in fact, the happiest time in my life.

I invite the Society's elders to share their wisdom, to share how their age has given them a different perspective on the current chaos around us and to help us all to celebrate what the years have brought us.

Carol (my 42nd meeting)

Please let me know if you would like to join this collective of wisdom.

[Convener: cochs@earthlink.net](mailto:cochs@earthlink.net)

Historical and Novel Fiction

The Historical and Novel Fiction Working Group will meet this summer to discuss four novels. David Dornan will start us off leading a discussion of Eleanor Catton's *The Luminaries*, a Man Booker Prize novel about 1860's New Zealand described by one critic as "at once a fiendishly clever ghost story, a gripping page-turner, and a reinvention of the lore and power of the zodiac." Mary Papke will follow as moderator for a discussion of *The Magnificent Ambersons* by Booth Tarkington, Indiana's famous son/author. Tarkington's book is considered one of the Modern Library's 100 Best Novels of the 20th Century and was awarded the 1918 Pulitzer Prize. Tom Stockdale will introduce our discussion of Jane Smiley's *Some Luck*, the first volume in a trilogy about growing up in Iowa. Finally, Nancy Cunningham will introduce us to another generational novel, Min Jin Lee's *Pachinko*, a National Book award finalist that focuses on Korean immigrants to Japan in the 20th century.

For information about the Morning Group, contact Mary Papke at papke@utk.edu.

Modes of Teaching

This year, the Modes of Teaching group will focus on the theme "Blow Up Your Course!" In addition to providing a safe, multi-disciplinary environment of fellow instructors who deeply value the art of teaching, this group will include lots of open work time in which participants will be encouraged to take the time to "blow up" a course by making the more radical course design and curriculum changes that sometimes prove impossible because of their scope. Each day will include an opportunity to state intentions for the day's work, work time, and a chance to be held accountable by sharing with the group about work that was accomplished that day.

Conveners: Melanie Howard (melanie.howard@fresno.edu) and Amy Berger (pangaia16@yahoo.com)

Pop Culture

The Pop Culture Morning Seminar examines the values that are presented, and received, through every imaginable form of popular culture, from broadcast television to video games, from pot boilers to heavy metal.

This year, in keeping with the conference theme, we are thinking about the future, both in higher education and more generally, through the lens of pop culture. The areas we plan to explore include, but are not limited to:

- What, if any, insights can we draw regarding the future of higher education from the genre of academic satire?
- What role will higher education play in a world of increasing automation, income inequality, and other, potentially drastic, global changes?
- How can we, as educators, shape the future of higher education?
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Our tentative schedule is as follows:

Thursday, July 23rd: Eric Ecklund (associate professor, Saint Francis University) will be leading the group in discussing Richard Russo's novel, *Straight Man*.

Friday, July 24th: Eric Ecklund will be leading the group in discussing Kurt Vonnegut's first novel, *Player Piano*. While *Player Piano* doesn't quite fit the theme of the FM, it does tie in to one of our field trips!

Saturday, July 25th: The group will do a field trip to the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library (see <https://www.vonnegutlibrary.org/what-is-the-vonnegut-library/>) and, if time and interest permits, the American Pop exhibit at the Children's Museum (see <https://www.childrensmuseum.org/exhibits/american-pop>)

Sunday, July 26th: Each participant will prepare a 10-minute presentation on the general theme* as reflected in their pop culture genre of choice. *Participants should feel free to focus on topics outside of the FM theme if they so desire.

Preparation – Attendees are asked to

1. Read and be ready to discuss Richard Russo's *Company*
2. Read and be ready to discuss Kurt Vonnegut's *Player Piano*.
3. Prepare a 10-minute presentation on the issues in the above bullet points (or related, or not, issues) drawing on the pop culture genre of your choice.

Convener: Eric Ecklund (eecklund@francis.edu)

Reclaiming your Writing Time and Space

Join us for four morning sessions dedicated to reclaiming your writing time and space. Each day, we will 1) convene to explore the daily topics, 2) adjourn for individual or interdisciplinary team writing; and 3) reconnect for support, accountability, sharing, and celebration. Participants are encouraged to bring works-in-progress. One-on-one consultations and peer feedback will be available. This year, the primary focus will be creative writing, but participants are welcome to bring other types of writing to the workshop, including scholarly writing and curriculum development.

Discussion topics may include: understanding your own writing process; developing strategies to protect your writing time and space; writing without inhibition; sparking creativity during slow periods; exploring different short writing forms; autoethnography; and personal goal-setting and accountability. Participants will leave with a better sense of what works for them as writers, progress on their own writing projects, and new ideas to strengthen their writing habits.

Presenters: Julie Phillips, MD, MPH, (phillips530@msu.edu) and

Christina Romero-Ivanova, PhD (civanova@iuk.edu)

Theorizing the Future: Past and Present

This year the group is taking a somewhat tangential approach to the meeting's theme, focusing on the very idea of "the future." In particular, we want to examine two representative texts that are about 100 years apart in order to think through similarities and differences in regard to ways of thinking about the future. We will spend the first two mornings focusing on Ernst Bloch's early 20th-century classic *The Principle of Hope* (specific sections TBD). The final two mornings we will focus on contemporary philosopher Susan Schneider's *Artificial You: AI and the Future of Your Mind*. Throughout our conversation, we also will consider the role of higher education in thinking about and preparing for whatever future is to come.

If you have any question, please contact Eric Bain-Selbo at ebainsel@iu.edu or

Allen Dunn at ardunn@utk.edu.