

POLIS

Pursuit Of Learning In Society



The PATTERN
Fall 2023

Registration: Wednesday, September 6, 2023
1:00-4:00 PM, Quincy University's North Campus,
18th & Seminary Road

Registration: Conference Room in Lobby of Main Entrance

Handicap Accessible
217-228-5594
polis@quincy.edu

Dear POLIS Members,

We hope that you have been able to weather the summer heat. The Spring 2023 semester course offerings were well received. The Fall 2023 courses promise to engage us all. Many of the presenters have taught in our program before and we welcome them back. We also welcome for the first time Nancy Benz, Taylor Pensoneau, and Jorge Rivera.

2022-2023 was our first full year since the pandemic closed us down. Returning members and many new members joined POLIS. We continue to make efforts to reach out to those in our community who would be prime candidates for joining our program. When we talk with people about POLIS, they are delighted to think about the opportunity to continue to learn and to be in the company of others who are also so inclined. You are our best recruiters. Please invite family and friends to join and share with them this edition of the POLIS PATTERN. We are glad to add potential members to our mailing list. Remember that someone who has never been a member of POLIS can attend one course for free in order to sample our program.

We will be beginning this semester with our Annual Meeting on September 11th. We will be doing some POLIS business and recognizing individuals, such as Dan Tanna, who have supported the work of POLIS over many years. We will also be celebrating our 29th anniversary with a presentation on the history of POLIS prepared by Barb Richmiller.

A highlight of the fall semester will be a bus tour on October 4th to the "Chihuly in the Garden" exhibit at the Missouri Botanical Garden, organized by Larry and Annette Riemmler. It promises to be as stimulating as the bus tours they conducted to the Churchill Museum and the St. Louis Holocaust Museum in 2022-2023. Seating will be limited to 40 so make your reservation soon. Note especially the separate registration form for this trip.

The POLIS Curriculum Committee is already looking ahead to the 2024 spring semester. We are contacting presenters who have indicated they are interested in offering courses. We will be approaching others and following up on suggestions our members make. Updates will be forthcoming as our planning progresses.

In this edition of the PATTERN, you will find a list of the members of the POLIS Board of Directors. Please feel free to pass on to them your suggestions and topics. We are also hoping that some of our members will want to join our board.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Ann Klein, Emerita Professor of English
Quincy University
President, POLIS Board of Directors
Director of POLIS

Board of Directors

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POLIS Office: 122D

Quincy University POLIS Scholarship

POLIS sustains an endowed scholarship for Quincy University students and has contributed \$62,045 to date. Personal donations and memorials to the scholarship are welcome.

POLIS – Where is it?

Classes are from 2:00-4:00 pm at Quincy University's North Campus, 18th & Seminary Road. Most classes are in the North Cafeteria which is on the lower level and Strieby 323A on the third floor. Locations do change. Look for the POLIS signs and follow the arrows pointing the way.

Parking

Parking Lot L is a small lot but close to the classroom in the North Cafeteria. Enter Lot L from Seminary Road. Additional handicap parking is in the front circle drive. General parking is available on the north side lot.

North Campus is HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING
YOU THIS SEMESTER



FALL COURSES 2023

Wednesday, September 13

Winemaking with the Demented

Fermenter

Dr. Joe Coelho has been making wine for 30 years. In this slide-lecture presentation, perhaps including some demonstrations, he will describe various methods for making wine out of a dizzying variety of fruits. Warning: some math and chemistry will be involved—not for the faint of heart. Successes and failures will be revealed. Perhaps a few samples of recent vintage will be available for sampling.

Presenter: Dr. Joe Coelho, Professor of Biology, Quincy University

Wednesday & Friday, September 20 & 22

Challenging Biblical Stories, or

“Forbidden Tales of the Hebrew Bible”

(subtitle borrowed from Jonathan Kirsch’s book on this topic)

A quotation from Fr. Joe Zimmerman: “Read the Bible. But be careful. It’s a dangerous book.” These sessions address some Biblical stories that may leave you scratching your head. Here are a few of them: the two creation stories at the beginning of Genesis; the naked Noah; Lot’s incest; the rape of Dinah; the harlot by the side of the road (Judah and his daughter-in-law Tamar); Moses’ circumcision; Moses’ death; and Jephthah’s daughter. Please bring your Bible to class. Dr. Messina uses the Harper Collins Study Bible, The New Oxford Annotated Bible, and (in Hebrew, with an English translation), The Torah: A Modern Commentary, and The Hebrew-English Tanakh. Per Dr. Messina, the King James Bible is an elegant translation, but its scholarship is out of date.

Presenter: Dr. Joe Messina, Emeritus Professor of English, Quincy University

Tuesday, September 26

Artificial Intelligence (AI): Past, Present, and Future

Science fiction often portrays AI as malicious, sentient technology belonging in a dystopian society. But could AI really just be misunderstood? Join us as we seek to develop an understanding of AI’s past, present, and future.

Presenter: John Schafer, Ph.D., CPA, is a proactive, lifelong learner/teacher.

Wednesday, September 27

Wild Lawlessness in Downstate Illinois from the Roaring Twenties through the 1960s

This course explores a terror-laden reign of lawlessness in downstate Illinois from the Roaring Twenties into the 1960s. Gang wars, the resurrection of the Ku Klux Klan, bootlegging and labor racketeering contributed to the murderous tumult.

Presenter: Taylor Pensoneau is a onetime Illinois political writer for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and a former president of the Illinois Coal Association. Pensoneau covered the Illinois Statehouse beat for the St. Louis Post Dispatch from Oct.1965-Jan.1978, reporting on the Richard Ogilvie, Dan Walker, and Jim Thompson gubernatorial administrations. Following this, he worked for several years as a lobbyist at the Illinois Coal Association, and while there began a third career, writing books on Illinois’ political and criminal history. Pensoneau has authored biographies of Illinois political leaders and two books on downstate gangsters, *Brothers Notorious: The Sheltons*, and *Dapper & Deadly: The True Story of Black Charlie Harris*. Pensoneau has also authored works of fiction including *The Summer of ‘50*, and *Falling Star*. He lives in New Berlin, Illinois with his wife Elizabeth, retired editor of the former *Outdoor Illinois* magazine.

Tuesday, October 3

Architectural History Class on Local Mid-Century Modern Architect John Benya

This course will explore the architectural work of John Benya, a Quincy architect whose career spanned four decades. A proponent of midcentury modern style, Benya designed more than 500 buildings in the U.S., including many in Quincy such as the striking St. Boniface Church, named by the Illinois Association of Architects as one of Illinois' 150 most important structures, and the ultra-modernistic Quincy Regional Airport, which features circular patterns and distinctive blue glass skylights.

Original architectural drawings, photographs and exhibits will also be part of Crane's presentation.

Presenter: Tony Crane, past principal partner and officer in Architechnics, Inc. of Quincy, worked closely with Benya many years ago. Semi-retired, Crane currently practices as an architectural consultant. He is an emeritus member of the American Institute of Architects and is licensed to practice in Illinois, Missouri and Iowa. Crane was awarded a National Council of Architectural Registration Boards certificate in 1979 and was recently named to the Board of Directors of the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County. He has been involved in the building design and development for numerous projects in the Tri-State area and in selected parts of the country.

Wednesday, October 4

Bus trip to Chihuly in the Garden:

Missouri Botanical Garden

Enjoy the work of world-renowned artist Dale Chihuly in a stunning exhibition uniting art and nature. Thousands of pieces of blown glass forms in 20 dramatic installations throughout the Garden's grounds present these art works on a grand scale. Lunch will be at Favazza's on the Italian Hill before arrival at the garden.

Tour guides and facilitators: Larry and Annelle Ruemmler

See separate registration form.

Tuesday, October 10

Revolutionary Women: Women and their Roles in the American War for Independence

Although much national and historical attention focuses on the founding fathers, women were vital participants in the imperial crisis, the Revolutionary War, and the tumultuous years that followed. This

course will examine the experience and actions of revolutionary women of all backgrounds, including white, black, Indian, patriot, and Loyalist, to come to a fuller understanding of what was so revolutionary about the Revolution.

Presenter: Dr. J. Matthew Ward is Assistant Professor of History at Quincy University. He received his doctorate in US History from Louisiana State University in 2021. His dissertation, "Garden of Ruins: Occupied Louisiana in the Civil War", received the 2022 Anne J. Bailey prize from the Society of Civil War Historians. He specializes in the Civil War era, slavery, military history, and gender studies.

Tuesdays, October 17 & 24

Let's Talk About Domestic Violence

This course addresses some tough topics that people might prefer not to talk about. Presenter Deacon Cramer explains that abusers often count on that ignorance to further the isolation and secrecy found in many domestic violence situations, and he encourages participants to take ignorance out of their arsenal and learn together about domestic violence: what it is, the types of domestic violence, victims and abusers. The class will consider signs and symptoms of domestic matters, why victims choose to stay in abusive relationships, the first responder's view, and some legal issues. The class will also consider power and control in domestic matters and the cycles and will address the basics about Orders of Protection and perhaps most important, community resources.

Presenter: Deacon Harry Cramer is a life-long Quincian and holds a Master Degree in Law Enforcement Administration from Western Illinois University, and a B.A. in Sociology from Quincy College. Ordained a Catholic Deacon, he serves St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Quincy and is a Stipend/Volunteer Hospital Chaplain. Harry is retired from Quincy University as an Associate Professor in Criminal Justice, retired from the Quincy Police Department and served in the Adams County Sheriff's Department and the Major Case Investigative Division. During his law enforcement career, Harry served on the Domestic Violence Council and developed policy and training for police officers regarding domestic violence. Harry is a recipient of the John Evans Award (2019) and a number of community and law enforcement awards and designations.

Wednesday, October 18

How dangerous is it that this man goes loose?" Sexually Violent Prisoners Commitment Act (SVPCA)

Course description: A survey of the civil commitment of sex offenders, (post-prison) as upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Kansas v. Hendricks*, 521 U.S. 346 (1997).

Topics that will be addressed: Review of the Illinois Sexually Violent Persons Commitment Act; Review of the Sexually Dangerous Persons Statute; Examination of Best Practices in the Sentencing Sex Offenders and utilization of the "Containment Model"; Statistics regarding Illinois SVPCA residents, the development of specific Risk Assessments tools as well as costs associated when select Sex Offenders are "civilly" committed at the IDHS Treatment & Detention Facility in Rushville, Illinois.

Presenter: Judge Mark A. Schuering (Ret.) is a Quincy University Alum (B.A. Political Science 1975) and earned his juris doctor, cum laude, from Saint Louis University School of Law, (J.D. 1978). Schuering is a QU Adjunct Lecturer (Political Science, American Judicial Process). Judge Schuering (Ret.) was an Illinois State Trial Court Judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit from 1986-2010. During that time and in his capacity as a Circuit Judge, Schuering was assigned the first 12 of 13 filed Sexually Violent Persons Commitment Act lawsuits in the Eighth Judicial Circuit. Schuering had been appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to make numerous presentations at Judicial Education Conferences. He has further presented at Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA) and Illinois State's Attorneys and Illinois Public Defender Association Seminars on the topics of Sentencing, Conducting Felony and Civil Trials, Mediation (Alternative Dispute Resolution), Driving Under the Influence cases, and Evidence Based Sentencing

Thursday, October 19

Museum Lover's Guide to the Renaissance

As a period of art, the Renaissance is one of the great achievements of human kind; it is a whale of a subject that doesn't easily fit into the very small boat of just two hours. Consequently, the central idea for this one evening course is to give the student some takeaways that might help the next time you just run into a Renaissance painting or sculpture on the street, or more likely in a museum. We will discuss why museums exist from a cultural perspective, and the "aura" of authentic objects. Also discussed will be some of the aesthetic ideas of Plato, Lucy Lippard,

John Dewey, David Hume, and Immanuel Kant.

Dozens and dozens of exceptionally talented artists/architects/sculptures inhabited the period from 1400 to 1600, but this session will focus on a very few. Particularly, we will examine a pre-Renaissance artist, Giotto, who sets the stage for a new approach to painting and an architect, Brunelleschi, who introduces and codifies the rules of Perspective. We will also look at the lives and the works of the "Big Three" of the High Renaissance, Leonardo DaVinci, Raphael, and Michelangelo. As we conclude the presentation, a discussion of the characteristics of these three artists, will provide a basis for reasonable generalizations that we can make about the period as a whole period.

Presenter: Karl Warma, MFA, Professor of Art, Quincy University. Professor Warma has a life-long association with the arts, particularly drawing, illustration and photography, all of which he has been teaching at QU since 2006. Teaching Aesthetics and Art History are more recent subject areas, although the Warma qualifies as a full-blown "Museum Lover."

Friday, October 20

Weighted Voting: Ranked-Choice Voting: What's Going on in Alaska?"

Election systems in which voters rank the choices, rather than just picking their favorites, are becoming more common. In 2022, Alaskan voters used ranked-choice voting to elect their Congressional representatives, and Maine has used the system since 2018. Ranked-choice voting is also being used with increasing frequency in local elections and around the world (including Australia, New Zealand, and Ireland). Why use ranked-choice voting? Two primary reasons are that it allows for "instant runoff" elections and also prevents a candidate from acting as a "spoiler" or splitting the vote. For example, suppose that in a local election, "A" is polling slightly ahead of "B" when shortly before the deadline, a local celebrity ("C") declares candidacy. In the election, C only ended up swaying 3% of the voters, most of whom had been planning to vote for A, while 48% of the vote went to A and 49% to B. Thus, C "spoiled" the election for A, and the voters for C might feel they've wasted their votes. Could voters vote for their favorite candidates but avoid the risk of wasting their votes? That is one promise of ranked-choice voting. Also note that candidate B did not actually win a majority (50%) of the votes. In some areas, state or local laws would have required a runoff election between A and B (with C eliminated), but elections are expensive. What if the runoff could be handled without calling voters back to the polls? Again, ranked-choice voting promises to be the solution.

In this session, we will discuss the benefits, drawbacks, and surprising complications of ranked-choice voting.

Presenter: Nathan Averbek has a PhD in mathematics from Baylor University (2016), was an assistant professor of math at QU, and is an associate professor of math at Cedarville University in Ohio. He has experience teaching math classes such as introductory math, the calculus sequence, and those for math majors (including linear algebra, differential equations, and topology).

Wednesday, October 25

Mary Elizabeth Tyler, Feminism, and the Women of the Ku Klux Klan

Course Description: Have you ever heard of Mary Elizabeth Tyler? What about the Women of the Ku Klux Klan? In 1915, William Joseph Simmons resurrected the Ku Klux Klan from its Reconstruction-era ashes. He soon realized recruiting members wasn't a simple job and hired a Georgia publicity agency to help. Here, he meets Mary Elizabeth Tyler—the woman who changes the face of the Ku Klux Klan revival. Learn about the Ku Klux Klan, the women's auxiliary group, and Mary Elizabeth Tyler and her role in the 1915 revival of the Ku Klux Klan.

Presenter: Nancy Benz is the Assistant Curator at the Quincy Museum in Quincy, Illinois. She received her bachelor's in American History from Quincy University in 2014 and her master's in 2018 from Western Illinois University. Nancy has been working in the public history field for 10 years and is the author of the #TrackingHistory blog and an all-ages coloring book, and has been studying the WKKK since undergraduate school. She encourages people to learn history through multiple mediums.

Thursday, October 26

Museum Lover's Guide to Baroque Art

Baroque Art, a name derived from Portuguese regarding irregular shaped pearls (barroco) is really a statement about seeing art from 1600 – 1750 in the shadow of the Renaissance. Ironically, most of the beloved European paintings and artists that we are collectively aware of... were the makers of "irregular shaped pearls." Having a set of generalization of the Renaissance from the previous week's discussion, we will survey the work of Caravaggio, Gentileschi, Reubens, Rembrandt, Vermeer, and Velazquez. We will briefly discuss the concept of museums and what they represent culturally. This will help us to keep in the mindset of being, "Museum Lovers." Like the Renaissance, the Baroque period is overflowing

with artistic talent and visual innovation but we will only focus on the six artists mentioned above. As we conclude the presentation, a discussion of our six targeted artists will naturally lead to a summary of the changes in economy, the church, and Europe's progress towards a more modern world.

Presenter: Karl Warma, MFA, Professor of Art, Quincy University. Professor Warma has a life-long association with the arts, particularly drawing, illustration and photography, all of which he has been teaching at QU since 2006. Teaching Aesthetics and Art History are more recent subject areas, although the Warma qualifies as a full-blown "Museum Lover."

Friday, October 27

Affirmative Action after the Harvard Case

This course covers the Constitutional basis for Affirmative Action, case law and the 14th Amendment. Topics will include the purpose of affirmative action in general and in education, pro's and con's, diversity issue/Bakke Case, Harvard and University of North Carolina cases, and the status and direction of Title VII and employment law. The session will end discussing where we go from here.

Presenter: James L. Palmer, a practicing attorney who handles Constitutional Law issues, governmental affairs, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties litigation (primarily as defense counsel). He is an adjunct Quincy University faculty member. His courses include Constitutional Law, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.

October 31, November 7 & 14

The Allies' Allies: How Allied nations helped the US, Britain and the USSR defeat the Axis powers and win the Second World War

This topic explains how Allied nations like Canada, China, France, Australia, New Zealand, India, Poland, Brazil, and Mexico (and others) played critical roles in the alliance not only providing soldiers, sailors and airmen, but also with crucial raw materials, food, industrial production and even transportation needed to win the war. Many of these nations also played key roles in important battles like the Battle of Britain, stopping Japan's initial blitzkrieg victories and retaking New Guinea, taking Monte Cassino from the Germans in Italy, the Normandy D-Day Invasion, the Battle of the Atlantic, and the breaking of the German Enigma machine

Presenter: Dr. Wendell Mauter, Emeritus Professor of History, Quincy University

Thursdays, November 2, 9 & 16

The Rise and Fall of Ancient Egypt

This course includes a survey of the history of the world's longest running civilization down to the Roman occupation. Any study of ancient Egypt must rely heavily on archaeology so important sites and finds will supply the bases of the course.

Presenter: Dr. Patrick Hotle taught history at Cairo-American College in Maadi, Egypt during the Mubarak years. He went on to teach Middle Eastern history courses at Culver-Stockton College for many years. In 2023, he retired from that institution as Emeritus Professor of History.

Wednesday, November 8

The Political Thought of Henry David Thoreau

This course picks up the intriguing threads of political thought left in the writings of Henry David Thoreau. In his famous "On the Duty of Civil Disobedience"—alternatively, and less famously, titled "Resistance to Civil Government"—Thoreau holds out hope that his fellow Americans can transcend democracy. We will review the key points of his political philosophy and try to envision what his ideal regime might look like.

Presenter: Dr. Neil Wright, Associate Professor of Political Science, Quincy University

Wednesday, November 29

Movies: powerful vehicles for culture, education, leisure, and propaganda?

Course description: An interactive conversation with POLIS members about why movies are a powerful vehicle for culture, education, leisure, and propaganda. Questions to be explored: What role does film play in society? Why has film become a prominent part of human culture? When did movies impact current affairs, politics, and social issues? How does film sit alongside music, theatre, and the visual arts? Why are movies good for society?

Presenter: Jorge Rivera, behavioral science specialist and economist, a University of Oxford, UK graduate. Author of four books: Redefining Money, Money & Greed, High Stakes and the London Times Best Seller How Do Emotions Drive Money Decisions? Rivera is also a film director and producer of five films: Money & Greed, Unprepared to Revive America, and High Stakes, and two films shot on location in Kenya: United for Change and Color Blind Killer. Rivera is CEO of American Hope Charities (AHC) and its Division AHC FILMS, a nonprofit and nonpartisan research organization. He also served as Advisor to the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, International Finance Corporation, and the United Nations.

Thursday, November 30

Woodland Cemetery's Civil War Dead

Did you know that Quincy has a number of prominent Civil War participants buried in beautiful Woodland Cemetery? A Confederate physician. A soldier who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his involvement in the Great Locomotive Chase. Quincy's first Black police officer. The first Union physician killed in the war. A woman who left wealth and comfort here and journeyed by herself to the battlefield at Vicksburg. Two US Senators.

Learn about these and several other important Civil War personalities whose graves are nestled in Quincy's oldest burial ground. Information regarding the sites of these graves will be provided for those wishing to wander the cemetery in search of Civil War history.

Presenter: Beth Young holds a BA in History from Quincy College and an MA in Library Science. She taught and was Library Director in the Quincy Public Schools from 1969 - 2003. She also served as an adjunct instructor at both QU and JWCC. Her chief academic interest in retirement is the social/cultural history of the Civil War. She currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Illinois State Historical Society and volunteers frequently at the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County.

POLIS 2023 FALL COURSE CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2023

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----------|--|----------------------------|--|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 Labor Day <i>No classes</i> | 5 | 6 Registration <i>1-4 PM</i> | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 Annual Meeting <i>2-4PM</i> | 12 | 13 Coelho 207 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Messina C-103 | 21 | 22 Messina C-103 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 Schafer C-103 | 27 Pensoneau C-103 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

OCTOBER 2023

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 Crane C-103 | 4 Bus Trip Chihuly/Garden | 5 <i>Fall Break</i> | 6 <i>Fall Break</i> | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 Ward C-103 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 Cramer C-103 | 18 Schuering C-103 | 19 Warma C-103 | 20 Averbeck 323-A | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 Cramer C-103 | 25 Benz C-103 | 26 Warma C-103 | 27 Palmer 323-A | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 Mauter C-103 | | | | |

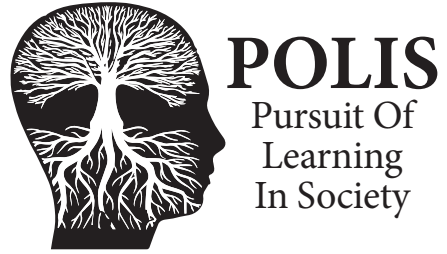
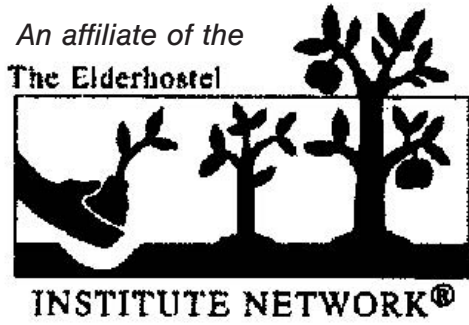
NOVEMBER 2023

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|-----------|
| | | | 1 | 2 Hotle C-103 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 Mauter C-103 | 8 Wright C-103 | 9 Hotle C-103 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 Mauter C-103 | 15 | 16 Hotle C-103 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 <i>Thanksgiving Break</i> | 21 <i>Thanksgiving Break</i> | 22 <i>Thanksgiving Break</i> | 23 <i>Thanksgiving Break</i> | 24 <i>Thanksgiving Break</i> | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 Rivera C-103 | 30 Young C-103 | | |

DECEMBER 2023

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 <i>Winter Break</i> | 9 <i>Winter Break</i> |

Class Locations: All classes are at Quincy University's North Campus from 2:00-4:00 PM. Most classes will be in the North Cafeteria on the first level and Strieby 323A on the third floor. **There will be changes in class locations so look for the POLIS signs for each class and follow the arrows pointing the way.**



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