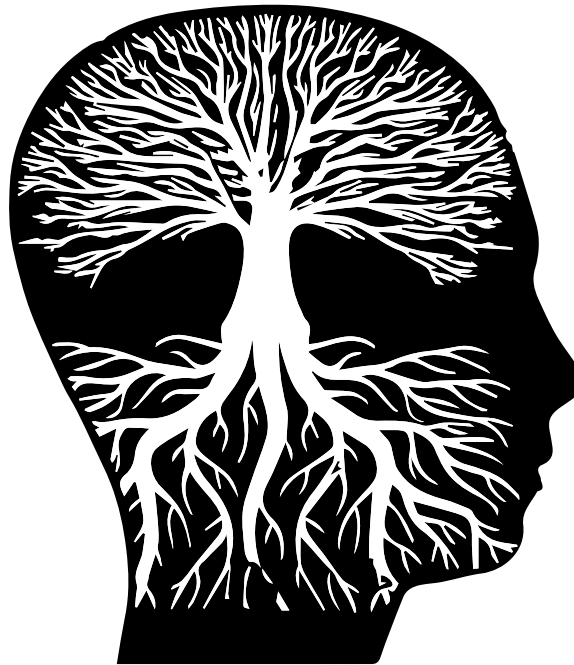


POLIS

Pursuit Of Learning In Society

Quincy University's Program for Learning in Retirement



THE PATTERN
FALL 2025

Registration: Wednesday, September 3, 2025
1:00-4:00 p.m., Quincy University's North Campus
Ryan Center for Science
18th & Seminary Road
Registration: Conference Room in Lobby of Main Entrance

Handicap Accessible
228-5594
polis@quincy.edu

Dear POLIS Members,

We hope the summer met your expectations and you are ready for the fall.

The spring 2025 semester course offerings were well received. We were again impressed by the number of walk-ins who chose the pay-as-you-go option. The fall 2025 courses offer a wide range of topics to engage our interest. Many of the presenters have taught in our program before, and we welcome them back. We also welcome for the first time Michael Seng, Dr. Margaret Williams, and Lindsey Witt.

This is our 31st year of service to the community. The number of memberships has significantly increased. We look forward to seeing familiar faces and many new faces. When we describe POLIS to potential members, they are delighted with the prospect of continuing to learn and to be in the company of others who are 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 attended a POLIS course or has never been a member of POLIS can attend one course for free in order to sample our program.

A highlight of the fall semester will be a bus tour on October 8th to Stages, St. Louis to see "Beautiful, the Carol King Musical." Lunch before the show will be at Billy G's restaurant in Kirkwood, MO, home of Stages. This tour is organized by Larry and Annette Ruemmler and promises to be as memorable as all those they have conducted. Please make your reservations early so we can accommodate all who want to take the trip.

The POLIS Curriculum Committee is already looking ahead to the spring 2026 semester. We are contacting presenters who have indicated their interest in offering courses. We will be approaching others, 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, QU Emerita Professor of English
President, POLIS Board of Directors
Director of POLIS
maryannklein@gmail.com
217-653-7482

Board of Directors

Dr. Mary Ann Klein, President, Director
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POLIS Office: 122D

Quincy University POLIS Scholarship

POLIS sustains an endowed scholarship for Quincy University students and has contributed \$67,170 to date. Personal donations and memorials to the scholarship are welcome.

POLIS – Where is it?

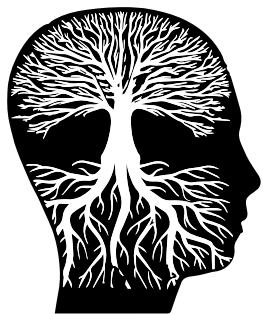
Classes are from 2:00-4:00 pm at Quincy University's North Campus, 18th & Seminary Road. Most classes are in the North Cafeteria which is on the lower level and in Strieby 323A on the third floor. Locations do change. Look for the POLIS signs and follow the arrows pointing the way.

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 2025

Thursday, September 11

C-103 (Cafeteria)

Tariffs - the past, present, and possible future

Tariffs are in the news quite often lately. This course will introduce what tariffs are, various types, and how they work. A historical perspective will examine tariff use in the United States especially regarding the U.S. Civil War and the Great Depression. Current tariffs will be examined in regard to trade policy and effects on consumers and businesses. Arguments for and against tariffs and what tariffs mean for future trade policy and economic growth will be discussed.

Presenter: Paul Lange is a retired businessperson who was a commodity broker at D&S Commodities from 1996 till 2022. In 1991 he earned a BS in Management Information Systems from Quincy University. During the period 1993 till 2000 he was a computer science instructor at Quincy University. In 2022, he was the Democratic candidate for the Illinois 15th Congressional District. He resides in Quincy.

Thursday, September 18

C-103 (Cafeteria)

Fairness Doctrine— “Why we want it, need it and can’t have it.”

The Fairness Doctrine lasted 38 years until the FCC abolished it in 1987. In 1969, despite some fears of inhibiting free speech for some, the Supreme Court found it constitutional due to its benefits.

The abolition of the doctrine allowed massive change in the media ecosystem that led us to the media of today.

Many have called on the Fairness Doctrine to be revived to help us deal with today’s media.

This discussion will look at the intentions of the Fairness Doctrine, its successes, its perceived failures and its perceived lack of necessity. We will then discuss why the Fairness Doctrine can never return, and if it did, wouldn’t accomplish anything today.

Presenter: Dr. Richard Vogel: Retired Assistant Professor of Communication, Culver-Stockton College

Friday, September 19

323-A Strieby

Restorative Justice

The history, philosophy, and practice of restorative justice and how it is being used as a successful dispute resolution technique not only in criminal cases but in other areas as well. We will also discuss the new Restorative Justice Community Courts that have been opened in Chicago and the Illinois privilege law that provides confidentiality for restorative practices. I will explain the peace circle process, and we could end the session by doing a peace circle. This would be an informal presentation and very participatory.

Presenter: Michael Seng, Professor of Law, UIC Law School, Chicago, IL

Tuesdays, September 23, 30; October 7

C-103 (Cafeteria)

European Middle Ages

The European Middle Ages have been misunderstood since the Renaissance. In fact, the years between 350 and 1500 AD laid the foundations for many of today’s institutions. Hotle will take a thematic approach to the age and consider the religion, politics, society, economy, music and literature of the age through the medium of medieval art and architecture.

Presenter: Dr. Patrick Hotle, Emeritus Professor of History, Culver-Stockton College

Friday, September 26

323-A Strieby

TRUMP v. CASA INC.: Birth Right Citizenship and Nation-Wide Injunctions

The history and genesis of citizenship rules in the US and the impact of “universal injunctions” (nation-wide injunctions) on constitutional litigation.

The Fourteenth Amendment, Section 1, dealing with national and state citizenship as well as the history, development and status of birthright citizenship in general and in the U.S.

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.

Thursday, October 2

C-103 (Cafeteria)

Presidential Pardons: The History, the Controversy, and the Realities

It has been said that Presidents reveal themselves by those they decide to pardon and not pardon. As time allows, we'll examine some famous and infamous presidential pardons and what they reveal.

The President's pardon power (Article II Section 2) is a nearly blank check hidden among the Constitution's checks and balances. The power is extremely broad. It is vested by the Constitution in the President, and there is little that Congress can do to constrain it, short of impeaching the President if they believe it was exercised improperly. The courts have rarely weighed in on the limits of pardon power. An administrative process has been established through the Department of Justice's Office of the Pardon Attorney for submitting and evaluating requests for clemency, an umbrella term that encompasses the President's pardon powers.

How were pardons started and how have they evolved? Does this plenary presidential power still have a place in today's world? When attempting to answer these questions and others, related to one of the most

controversial presidential powers, our discussion will remain objective and non-partisan to facilitate our pursuit of learning about executive clemency.

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

Wednesday, October 8

Bus Trip to “Beautiful, the Carole King Musical”

“You’ve Got a Friend” as we return to “Stages, St. Louis” to see “Beautiful, the Carole King Musical.” This Tony award winning show follows the incredible journey of Carole King from her humble beginnings as a teenage songwriter to her rise as a chart-topping music legend and features many of her iconic hits including “I Feel the Earth Move,” “A Natural Woman” and many more. We will enjoy lunch at “Billy G’s Restaurant” in Kirkwood, Mo (the home of “Stages”) prior to the show.

The cost of \$125 includes round trip travel on a modern motorcoach, a ticket to the show, lunch and gratuity, a snack on the way home, plus a tip to the bus driver. The bus leaves at 8:30 a.m. from the Quincy University North Campus lot and returns at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Tour Organizers: Larry and Annette Ruemmler

Tuesday, October 14

C-103 (Cafeteria)

Origins of Healthcare in Quincy

At the time of Quincy's founding in 1825, settlers relied on home cures passed down from their mothers or borrowed from the Native Americans with their knowledge of medicinal plants. Physician training consisted of observation and apprenticeship. Some may have attended medical schools which began in 1727 in Edinburgh and in this country in 1767 in New York City. This presentation will discuss early medical schools, physicians, hospitals, public health, and sanitation in this area of Illinois throughout the 19th century.

Presenter: Arlis Dittmer, MA, MALS, is a retired health science librarian and former president of the Historical

Society of Quincy and Adams County. During her years with Blessing Health System, she became interested in medical and nursing history—both topics frequently overlooked in history.

Thursday, October 16

C-103 (Cafeteria)

A History on Fire

This presentation will explore two of Quincy's most notorious fires. The St. Francis School fire is arguably the city's most tragic event, taking the lives of twelve young girls and leaving an entire community shocked and heartbroken. Although few recognized it at the time, the JC Penny fire pushed the community to the brink of disaster. The intense fire, minimal building separation, and high winds came perilously close to creating a firestorm, a dangerous phenomenon capable of massive destruction.

Presenter: Scott Walker, former Quincy Fire Chief; instructor in fire science, Western Illinois University

Wednesday, October 22

C-103 (Cafeteria)

It's the phones!

Indications abound that our screen-consumed existence has us careening toward dystopia. We are losing touch with one another, with the physical world, and with our attachment to reality. Our addiction to powerful new technologies robs us of leisure and imperils our capacity for sympathy, for critical thought, and for free will. To the extent that we mediate our existence by smartphones and outsource the functions of the human mind to artificial intelligence, we dull our ability to perceive the consequences of this change and to act in response. Join me as I survey the social, political, and educational effects we have observed thus far and imagine what might be done.

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

Wednesday, October 29

C-103 (Cafeteria)

Feed the Mind, Fuel the Brain:

Aging Well with Science from Dr. Amen and Dr. Sears

During this interactive course, we will explore readings from books by Dr. Amen and Dr. Sears – both popular authors, with ways to keep your brain healthy as you age. We will also explore current evidence-based scientific readings to support good brain health strategies. (Attendees are not expected to read the books. Highlights of the content will be shared and discussed.)

The books are:

Amen, D (2015) Change Your Brain, Change Your Life: The Breakthrough Program for Conquering Anxiety, Depression, Obsessiveness, Lack of Focus, Anger, and Memory Problems

Amen, D. (2023) Change your brain every day: Simple Daily Practices to Strengthen your Mind, Memory, Moods, Focus, Energy, Habits and Relationships.

Sears, W. & Fortanasce, V.M. (2020). The Healthy Brain Book: An All-Ages Guide to a Calmer, Happier, Sharper You: A proven plan for managing anxiety, depression, and ADHD, and preventing and reversing dementia and Alzheimer's

Presenter Dr. Margie Williams PhD, RN is a speaker in the local Quincy area on health topics. She has taught health promotion to nurse practitioners across the country as well as undergraduate and graduate nurses here in Quincy. She continues to lead a community-based support group for persons of all ages with diverse types of neurological disorders, especially brain injury and stroke. (Brain Trauma Awareness Organization). Her doctoral dissertation and master's thesis all centered on life after brain injury.

Fridays, October 24, 31

323-A Strieby

Being the Boss: The Life and Music of Bruce Springsteen

Bruce Springsteen embodies the culture of Americana. This course will cover the life of Springsteen from a local musician in New Jersey to one of the most successful artists in the world. We will examine his influences, understand the cultural context of his music, and see how his records reflect his life experiences.

Presenter: Dr. J. Matthew Ward, Assistant Professor of History, Quincy University

Tuesdays, November 4, 11, 18

C-103 (Cafeteria)

The Religions of the Greeks and Romans and Their Influences on Early Christianity

Since the Greco-Roman world provided the basis for Western Civilization, to understand how they comprehended the role of the divine and how they integrated their beliefs into their culture, society, politics and overall life gives us insights into their contributions to civilization. Moreover, as Christianity grew out of and developed from the Greco-Roman world, its influences can be seen in many Christian practices, rituals and doctrines to this day.

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

Thursdays, November 6, 13

C-103 (Cafeteria)

The History of the Book

Session one: A discussion of the history of books, from earliest recorded history to the medieval era
Session two: A continuation of the discussion of the history of books, from the invention of the printing press to the present day

Presenter: Lindsey Witt is an archivist at Quincy University, specializing in the preservation of rare books and manuscripts. She has a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University and a master's in library and information science from University of North Texas. She moved to Quincy in June of 2024 to begin her role at Brenner Library.

Fridays, November 7, 14

323-A Strieby

Poetry: The Subtler Language

I'm convinced that poetry enriches human life: it splits

stony hearts, it opens emotional depths we didn't know were there, it teaches us to read deeply and to appreciate the richness and beauty of language artfully deployed. But it is a hard sell in today's English class. During my years of teaching, I struggled to make the reading of poetry more than a required exercise. Realizing that for most students their college English class would be their last extended encounter with real poetry, I wanted our classes devoted to poetry to be moving and memorable. One year, having encountered and been delighted by Bill Moyers' series The Language of Life, I tried showing Moyers' videos of modern poets reading their own work. Students' responses were all I could have wished for: they came alive as they encountered living poets and living poetry.

I'd like to try Moyers' series on you. I think there's something in it for you whether you already love poetry, are indifferent to it, or even dislike it after bad experience in your own English classes long ago. For most of my POLIS classes, I've suggested that you read something to prepare. For this class, I ask you to come as you are. Let's see what your unspoiled reaction is to these poets informing their poems with the very breath of their lives.

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

Friday, November 21

323-A Strieby

Woodland Cemetery's Civil War Personalities

I will use several short video vignettes to present lives of 5-7 Civil War personalities buried in Quincy's Woodland Cemetery. The ensuing discussion will relate to these lives. Some of the stories included will be those of William Shipley (first Quincyan killed in CW), Cornelius Volk (sculptor), and Elizabeth Leebrick (nurse).

Presenter: Beth Young, retired Quincy educator, who has researched and written extensively about area Civil War history.

Friday, December 5

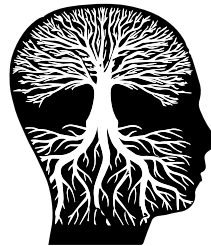
323-A Strieby

**A World without Men: Charlotte Perkins
Gilman's *Herland***

Charlotte Perkins Gilman is best remembered today for her proto-feminist short story "The Yellow Wallpaper," in which a nameless female narrator suffering from depression is gradually driven insane by her well-meaning husband and the patriarchal strictures that he represents. While this story points sharply to the suffering of women under nineteenth century patriarchy, in *Herland*, Gilman crafts an alternative world made entirely of and by women. In this land without men, sickness, hunger, and violence have been eliminated, science has accelerated, and all within live harmoniously with nature. Enter three American men: Terry, Jeff, and the novel's narrator Vandyck. These men, however, do not poison or overthrow the utopian principles of Herland, but rather learn how those principles can better serve humanity than the sexist traditions of contemporaneous America. In this POLIS course, we will discuss instances in *Herland* that throw into sharp contrast the harmful limitations of nineteenth-century patriarchal norms—many of which continue today—and what, the novel suggests, might be possible without them.

Here's one free, online text of the novel, but there are several others: <https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Herland>
The novel can also be found in audio format for free on YouTube.

Presenter: Dr. Jayme Peacock, Assistant Professor of English, Quincy University



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POLIS 2025 FALL CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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August

24	25 First day of class	26	27	28	29	30
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September

31	1 Labor Day	2	3 Registration 1-4p QU-NC	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Lange C-103	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Vogel C-103	19 Seng 323-A	20
21	22	23 Hotle C-103	24	25	26 Palmer 323-A	
28	29	30 Hotle C-103				

October

			1	2 Schafer C-103	3	4
5	6	7 Hotle C-103	8 Bus Trip	9 Fall Break	10 Fall Break	11
12	13	14 Dittmer C-103	15	16 Walker C-103	17	18
19	20	21	22 Wright C-103	23	24 Ward 323-A	25
26	27	28	29 Williams C-103	30	31 Ward 323-A	1

November

2	3	4 Mauter C-103	5	6 Witt C-103	7 Messina 323-A	8
9	10	11 Mauter C-103	12	13 Witt C-103	14 Messina 323-A	15
16	17	18 Mauter C-103	19	20	21 Young 323-A	22
23	24 Break	25 Break	26 Break	27 Thanksgiving	28 Break	29

December

30	1	2	3	4	5 Peacock 323-A	6
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All classes will be at QU's North Campus from 2-4 pm. Classes are in the cafeteria or in Strieby, 323A. There may be changes in class locations so look for the POLIS signs pointing the way.

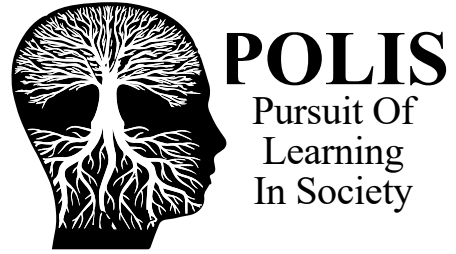
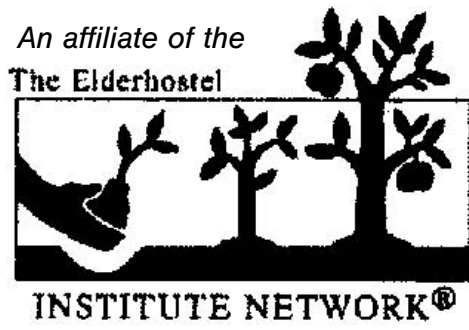
Registration for POLIS Fall Classes

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Name:	Phone:
Address:	Mobile Phone:
City: Zip:	Email:
Emergency Contact:	Preferred Method of contact: Phone__Email__Text__

Course	Date(s)	Lecturer	Fee	En-roll
Membership Fee to POLIS	Fall Semester		\$15	
Tariffs - the past, present, and possible future	September 11	Lange	\$5	
Fairness Doctrine –“Why we want it, need it and can’t have it.”	September 18	Vogel	\$5	
Restorative Justice	September 19	Seng	\$5	
European Middle Ages	September 23, 30; October 7	Hotle	\$15	
TRUMP v. CASA INC.: Birth Right Citizenship and Nation-Wide Injunctions	September 26	Palmer	\$5	
Presidential Pardons: The History, the Controversy, and the Realities	October 2	Schafer	\$5	
Bus Trip to “Beautiful, the Carole King Musical” at Stages, St. Louis	October 8	members non-members	\$125 \$140	
Origins of Healthcare in Quincy	October 14	Dittmer	\$5	
A History on Fire	October 16	Walker	\$5	
It’s the phones!	October 22	Wright	\$5	
Feed the Mind, Fuel the Brain: Aging Well with Science from Dr. Amen and Dr. Sears	October 29	Williams	\$5	
Being the Boss: The Life and Music of Bruce Springsteen	October 24, 31	Ward	\$10	
The Religions of the Greeks and Romans and Their Influences on Early Christianity	November 4, 11, 18	Mauter	\$15	
The History of the Book	November 6, 13	Witt	\$10	
Poetry: The Subtler Language	November 7, 14	Messina	\$10	
Woodland Cemetery’s Civil War Personalities	November 21	Young	\$5	
A World without Men: Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s <i>Herland</i>	December 5	Peacock	\$5	
TOTAL				

Registration: September 3, 1:00-4:00pm, at the Ryan Center for Science at QU North Campus, Conference Room at the main entrance, or by mail: POLIS, Quincy University, 1800 College Ave., Quincy, IL 62301. Information: Call 217-228-5594 or email: polis@quincy.edu.



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