

POLIS

Pursuit Of Learning In Society



The PATTERN
Spring 2023

Registration: Wednesday, February 8, 2023
1:00-4:00 PM, Quincy University's North Campus,
18th & Seminary Road
Registration: Conference Room in Lobby of Main Entrance

Handicap Accessible
228-5594
polis@quincy.edu

Dear POLIS Members,

After a successful return last fall after the COVID interruption, POLIS returns with a spring schedule of courses reflecting your wide range of interests. Many of the presenters have taught in our program before while some are new to POLIS. We welcome for the first time: Dr. Nathan Averbeck, Dr. Jayme Peacock, Christopher Pratt, Dr. Padraic Rohan, Dr. Sam Swisher, and Saul Terence Thomas.

This past semester we welcomed returning members and many new members. 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.

The very successful bus trip to the Churchill museum last fall has led us to plan another for the spring semester. It will be on April 19 to the Holocaust Museum in St. Louis, Missouri. Seating will be limited to 40 so make your reservation soon.

In-person registration will be on February 8, 2023, from 1-4 p.m. In the conference room at the main entrance of Quincy University's North Campus. As always you can mail your registration to us.

The POLIS Curriculum Committee is already looking ahead to the 2023 fall semester. We are contacting presenters who have indicated they are interested in offering courses. We will be approaching others, following up on suggestions our members make. We will be giving you updates 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 about POLIS.

Sincerely,

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

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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?

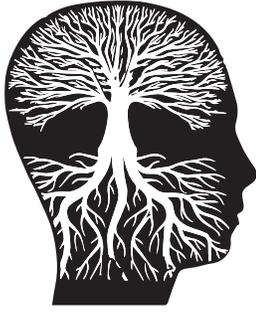
Classes are from 2:00-4:00 pm at Quincy University's North Campus, 18th & Seminary Road. Most classes are in the North Cafeteria which is on the lower level and Strieby 323A on the third floor. Locations do change. Look for the POLIS signs and follow the arrows pointing the way.

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**



SPRING COURSES 2023

Wednesdays, February 15, 22; March 1

C-103(Cafeteria)

The Renaissance

Holistic approach to the Renaissance looking at the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries from the perspective of ideas, history, social history, art, and music.

Presenters: Dr. Patrick Hotle, the John Sperry Jr. Endowed Chair in Humanities at Culver-Stockton College and Professor of History

Dr. Sam Swisher, recently retired from teaching full-time as a faculty member at Hannibal-LaGrange University, where he taught history and was Chair of the History Department for 24 years. Dr. Swisher was raised as a military dependent with a father who was a career Air Force enlisted member. Dr. Swisher went to high school in San Antonio, Texas, and subsequently attended the University of Texas at Austin on an ROTC scholarship. After graduating from that program as a Distinguished Military Graduate, Dr. Swisher entered the United States Army where he served first as a platoon leader, and then battery Executive Officer at Ft. Hood, Texas. After serving in the U.S. Army, Dr. Swisher attended Western Conservative Baptist Seminary in Portland, Oregon, where he earned an M.Div. degree. Believing that God had called him into educational ministry, he then entered a graduate program at the University of North Texas, in Denton, Texas, where he earned a Ph.D. in Renaissance-Reformation history. In the fall of 1996, Dr. Swisher came to Hannibal-LaGrange University as an Assistant Professor of history and Chair of the department, a position which he held until 2020. Dr. Swisher has been actively involved in pulpit supply in Northeast Missouri and Western Illinois and was involved in planting a church in Quincy, Illinois which he also pastored for 2 and a half years. Dr. Swisher is married to Susan, having been married since 1978, and has two grown children, a son, Jonathan, who lives in San Francisco, CA and a daughter, Linzi, who lives in Chicago, IL.

Friday, February 24 323-A(Strieby)

Environmental History: Confederate Worms on the Riverfront: The Plantation Regime, Environment, and Guerrilla Warfare in Civil War Louisiana, 1864.

Environmental factors like crop pests, poor weather, and dense terrain played a decisive role determining the shape of the Civil War along the Mississippi River in southern Louisiana in the later years of the war. Weather and terrain often boosted the destructive power of Confederate guerrilla raids by shielding their movements or confounding Union pursuit. Southern planters, laborers, and Union soldiers relied on landscape knowledge to resist guerrilla raids, though the environment often destabilized those efforts as well. Coupled with the negative factors of soil and weather, such heavy raiding also disrupted black laboring communities nominally under the protection of Union occupation. Where paucity afflicted black laborers, they often augmented their own situations by removing needed supplies from the plantations where they worked. These survival practices further exacerbated the effects of weather and raiding and depleted the material aspirations of property owners who hoped to regain their footing under Union military supervision. The combined effects of environmental factors, guerrilla attacks, and labor autonomy revealed limitations in the project of Union military occupation, which at times failed to uphold black labor or protect the environmental security needed to make free labor successful.

Presenter: Dr. J. Matthew Ward: Visiting Assistant Professor of History, Quincy University. He specializes in U. S. 19th century history, including slavery, military history, the Civil War and gender studies. Currently working on a manuscript entitled "Garden of Ruins: Military Occupation, State Power, and the Household in Civil War Louisiana" for the LSU Press.

Tuesday, February 28 D-114

The Rise of Adolph Hitler

Final segment of "Murder or Suicide: The Death of Democracy in the Weimar German Republic and the Rise of Adolph Hitler", course presented in fall 2022.

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

Fridays, March 3, 10 323-A(Stribery)
**Between Binaries: Love, Sex, and
Apocalypse in Shakespeare's *Antony
and Cleopatra***

Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra* is a play about opposites: male versus female rulers, Republic versus monarchy, cold machinations versus sensual indulgence, Rome versus Egypt. Among these opposites, it would seem Shakespeare leaves little room for middle ground, yet few things in this play are clear cut. The love shared by the two middle-aged protagonists brings out the best and the worst in them as they repeatedly quarrel, betray and return to each other. This famous pair seems to exhibit an almost magnetic attraction and opposition to each other. She is feminine, seductive, and ruled by her emotions. He is masculine, a leader of men, and ruled by strength and order. Yet while in Egypt, Antony's staid Roman orderliness becomes uncharacteristically flexible. He can wear Cleopatra's clothing, and she can wear his sword—all part of an act of play between lovers. Though *Antony and Cleopatra*, like any Shakespearean tragedy, ends in the death of its protagonists, the space of Egypt and the body of Cleopatra present great potential for subverting the stubborn oppositions that eventually trap these lovers. What inflexible binaries does Rome bring to this play, and how do Egypt, its Queen, and her lover suggest a life of possibility beyond those binaries?

Presenter: Dr. Jayme Peacock, Assistant Professor of English, Quincy University, specializes in English Renaissance literature. She loves reading Shakespeare and other Renaissance poets, including Phillip Sidney and John Donne. A native of Northwest Indiana, she earned her Ph.D. at Penn State University in 2019 and was very happy to return to the Midwest. When she isn't in the classroom, Jayme enjoys playing fetch with her Doberman dog-child named Karma.

Tuesday, March 7 C-103(Cafeteria)
Weighted Voting

This course will explore the idea of weighted voting, at least one definition of "voting power" (probably the Banzhaf Power Index), and applications (such as voting by shareholders in a company, or states in the US Electoral College, or countries in the UN Security Council). It's a natural assumption that a state with 6 electoral college votes (e.g. Iowa) has twice as much "voting power" as a state with 3 electoral votes (e.g. Wyoming), but this is not necessarily the case.

For example, suppose three friends agree to start a business, each investing \$11,000, \$9,000, and \$8,000, respectively. Suppose each friend gets a number of votes according to the money he has invested (\$1,000 equals one vote). They further agree that it takes 20 votes (\$20,000) to put a decision into effect. They thought it sounded like a nice, round number. Interestingly, though, this means the person who invested \$8,000 cannot, under any circumstances, influence any decision, whereas no decision can pass without the approval of the investor with \$9,000. If the \$8,000 investor votes with the others, his vote doesn't matter, as they already have enough votes without him, but if the other two are divided in their opinion, and he sides with one of them, that would not be enough votes to put into effect the proposed change.

Many real-life examples would be too intense for us (and in fact, would require a computer), but we would look at some simple examples that are easy to calculate, such as how John Banzhaf demonstrated that certain districts in Nassau County, New York, cannot influence decisions at all. I would spend part of the time letting participants work on short problems from a worksheet so I would be sure they were following the main takeaways.

Although civic ideas would obviously be involved somewhat (e.g. voting, certain political or historical facts), my goal would be to talk in a non-political way. My background is in math, not history or politics, so I would be giving background from these areas but not be going deep into them.

Presenter: Dr. Nathan Averbeck, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Quincy University, teaches math classes including introductory math, the calculus sequence, and classes for math majors including linear algebra, differential equations, and topology. He has a PhD from Baylor University (2016) and has been at QU since 2020.

Thursday, March 9 C-103(Cafeteria)
Coffee: A Popular Beverage

Coffee is a popular and versatile beverage which can be prepared in a growing variety of flavors from a large number of sources. A cup of coffee—hot, cold, or other forms—is a personal decision based on source, taste, color, caffeine content, and preparation. This presentation will take a look at the kinds of coffee; the coffee tree, fruit, and bean; the harvesting and processing of coffee; and how it's traded. It will also discuss coffee roasting, grinding, and brewing water and brewing basics. The presentation will also look at

the world-wide sources of the various kinds of coffee.

Presenter: Dr. Alfred F. Pogge, Emeritus Professor of Biology, Quincy University

Tuesdays, March 21, 28 C-103(Cafeteria)

The Common Good in World History

In this course, we will trace the common good through world history, to get closer to the truth of who we are, where we come from, and where we're going. What is the relationship between the common good and the rule of law? Between the common good and individual rights? From ancient times to today, we explore the evolution of society and the emergence of rights, culminating in competing conceptions of democracy among modern authors. What are the lessons for us today? How can we harness these debates towards the common good?

Dr. Padraic Rohan, Assistant Professor of History, Quincy University. His work focuses on European, Islamic, and world history, and he has worked as a journalist and researcher in Turkey and throughout the Middle East.

Friday, March 24 323-A(Strieby)

Two Hot Topics in the U.S. Supreme Court

This course will explore Affirmative Action and Freedom of Expression/Free Speech.

Presenter: James L. Palmer, a practicing attorney who handles among other matters, Constitutional Law issues, governmental affairs, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties litigation, (primarily as defense counsel), He is an Adjunct Faculty member, Quincy University, teaching among other courses, Constitutional Law, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.

Thursday, March 30 C-103(Cafeteria)

The Basics of the Illinois Criminal Justice System, from Arrest to Trial.

The course will provide an overview of how a criminal case makes its way from an arrest on the street to trial and beyond.

Presenter: Christopher Pratt the Deputy Chief Public Defender for Adams County. He has been a practicing attorney for over a decade, including time spent in private practice. Pratt teaches the Mock Trial course at Quincy University and coaches the QU Mock Trial team. He is deeply devoted to legal education. Beyond

the mock trial program, he has lectured at multiple law schools and assisted with the Illinois State High School Association Mock Trial State Tournament. Chris is a lifelong Quincy resident. He is married with two adult daughters.

Tuesday, April 4 C-103(Cafeteria)

Kruschev to Putin

Final segment of Russian History presented in fall 2022: This course will concentrate on the dramatic and transformative years in Russian history from 1956 to the present.

Presenter: Dr. Patrick Hotle

Dr. Hotle's research and teaching interests include Renaissance Europe, the Crusades, Russia, the modern Middle East and nineteenth century Latin America.

Thursdays, April 6,13, 20 D-114

The Japanese-American Experience in the Second World War

This presentation will explore such questions as follow:

Why were Japanese-Americans incarcerated in concentration camps during WWII?

What was the experience of Japanese-Americans in America before the Second World War?

Why were Japanese-Americans only on the West Coast evacuated and incarcerated and not elsewhere in the US or even in Hawaii on the Pacific war's front lines?

Had Japanese-Americans engaged in any acts of sabotage or displayed any disloyalty to the US?

How did their treatment compare to other groups, such as aliens in the US and in other nations during WWII?

What was it like for the Japanese-Americans to go through evacuation and internment?

Why did many Japanese-American young men volunteer to fight for a country that had put them and their parents in concentration camps, and why did other young men refuse to serve?

Why, when and how did the internment of Japanese-Americans finally end?

What was/is the legacy today of interning 120,000 Japanese-Americans, most of whom were American citizens?

What does it all say about American values and ideals?

This course hopes to address and answer these and many other issues that arise from this historical event and reveal something about American society, politics and culture as well as about humanity itself.

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

Tuesday, April 11 D-114

Caste in India - Rescheduled second session;
canceled in 2022 fall semester due to COVID

Caste is unique to Hindus in India. It is first mentioned in the Rig Veda around 1500 BC. Caste is a hierarchical system that dictates social customs such as marriage, adoption, occupation, education, etc. It is a self-limiting group such that one can only be born into it. While caste restrictions were more rigid in the past, the less restrictive version continues to the present and exerts enormous influence on politics, education, social mobility and marriage. Other religions too in India like Christianity or Islam have adopted caste distinctions. Caste restrictions exist even among Indians who have immigrated to the USA and to a lesser extent among second generation of Indian-Americans.

The course will describe the different caste systems and their customs, what DNA evidence suggests may be the origin of this system, the efforts to reform the worst aspects, and how it continues to exert a major role in modern India.

Presenter: Dr. Meenal Mamdani, M. D., is a retired neurologist in Quincy since 2011. Her interests include Indian History and Politics and contemporary American politics

Friday, April 14 323-A(Strieby)

**The Classical Musician's Life:
Diplomatic Music Making.**

Until the early 19th century, most European composers were employed by a patronage system. Composers would move away from their families and live under the roofs of their wealthy employers. Nearly all nobility in Europe employed composers and performers. While this fostered some of the most well known classical pieces, it came with creative costs. Composers had to write music to the nobility's likings and whims. This lecture will look at the lives and compositional output of three main composers: J.S. Bach, George Frederic Handel, and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Presenter: Dr. Christine Damm, Dean/ School of Fine Arts and Communication, Quincy University

Tuesdays, April 18, 25 C-103(Cafeteria)

Determining Truth in Othello

While there will be some lecturing in this class, it is primarily interactive. After being given the tools for reading, analyzing, and understanding a Shakespearean play, participants will work together through the tragedy Othello, paying particular attention to how facts and truth are manipulated. Themes in this play include evil, love, jealousy, and national identity, among others, but the focus will be on how we know what we know, on how we determine and react to what we perceive as "the truth."

This class is comprised of "close reading," or grappling with the text, to discover how Shakespeare speaks to us today about what it means to be human. It is not a class about the life of Shakespeare or the debate as to the author of Shakespeare's plays. Instead, participants should leave the class feeling confident that they understand the major issues in Othello, and by extension, that they can approach any Shakespearean play with greater understanding and insight.

During the first two-hour session, please read Acts 1 and 2 ahead of time, paying particular attention to plot details, character development, and conflict. Read key passages aloud to get comfortable with the language. The second two-hour session will focus on Acts 3, 4, and 5. Feel free to bring any text you like, but Othello Cambridge School Shakespeare, 3rd Edition is a good choice and available on Amazon for \$13.95.

Presenter: Dr. Maurine Magliocco, Ph.D. is a Professor Emerita of English from Western Illinois University, where her primary field was early British Literature, specifically the 17th Century writer John Milton. She also taught in the Honors, Women's Studies, and Cultural Diversity Programs; was the first Director of the University's Women Center; and President-Chief Negotiator of the union for faculty and academic support professionals. In 2020, she and her husband returned to her hometown of Quincy to be near family.

Wednesday, April 19

**Bus trip to Holocaust Museum,
St. Louis, MO**

NEVER FORGET!

That is what survivors, their descendants, and many Jewish people say about the Holocaust!

Please join us on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 for a trip

to the St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum in St. Louis County. You won't forget the experience! The bus coach will leave the main parking lot of Quincy University's North Campus at 8:30 A.M. We'll have a fine lunch together at 11:00 A.M., then travel a short distance to the Holocaust Museum. Prior to the 1:00 P.M. tour, we will be asked to go through security. We'll leave the museum at 3:00 P.M., arriving back at Quincy University's North Campus lot at 5:30 P.M. The cost for transportation, lunch, and tour is \$65.00 per person. Larry and Annelle Ruemmler are facilitators of the tour.

Friday, April 28 323-A(Strieby)

Working in a New World: Labor in Colonial America, 1609-1776

When we think of the colonial era and the American Revolution, we often think of prominent leaders and important battles. But upwards of 80% of colonial subjects are classified as dependents—women, children, indentured servants, enslaved people, landless men, and others. How did these common people live and survive? And what drove their allegiance to a new nation whose foundations were far less established than those of the British Empire at that time? This POLIS course will examine the working lives of women, men, and enslaved people in colonial America in the decades leading up to the Revolution. Women largely labored at home, but their childcare and local market production were essential to transforming the colonial economy. Men without established businesses and land often worked as sailors, shoemakers, herdsman, farmhands, and manual laborers. Enslaved people, especially in the Southern colonies, provided agricultural labor necessary to make those colonies highly profitable and linked them to a growing Atlantic marketplace. To understand how the North American colonies developed, we must understand the generations of labor who built the colonies, not just the great minds that spearheaded the movement for independence.

Presenter: Dr. J. Matthew Ward, Visiting Assistant Professor of History, Quincy University (see earlier bio)

Tuesday, May 2 C-103(Cafeteria)

Bystander Intervention

Learning to recognize when someone is in danger and how we can intervene safely is an essential skill in today's world. Safely intervening as a bystander could mean anything from a disapproving look, to interrupting, or distracting a perpetrator in non-confrontational way. Other times, it means asking

friends, staff, or law enforcement for help.

This session offers techniques to safely intervene when others are subject to difficult behaviors such as microaggressions, harassment, and discrimination, and how to communicate intervention signals to perpetrators that their behavior is unacceptable.

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

Thursday, May 4 C-103(Cafeteria)

Utopian Irony and the Trauma of Time: A Study of Kurt Vonnegut's Slaughterhouse Five

Course Description: In one of his most famous and influential novels, Kurt Vonnegut explores the nature of time and trauma through a fractured, postmodern approach to science fiction. In this course, we will examine Vonnegut's use of humor and irony as his novel proceeds with both a scathing critique of a sick society and glimpses of a more humane way of living.

Edition: The version he will be teaching from has the ISBN 9780440180296

Presenter: Michael Keller is an Associate Professor of English at Quincy University, where he teaches courses in American literature, rhetoric, and literary theory. His research has engaged the works of Ralph Waldo Emerson, John Greenleaf Whittier, and the popular poetry surrounding issues of race, labor, and abolition in the nineteenth century. Last year, as Fulbright Professor of American Literature at the University of Bergen, Norway, he researched the intersections between early nationalism and American literature, especially in the work of Charles Brockden Brown.

Friday, May 5 323-A(Strieby)

Development of Nationalism in China

This course will examine the development of nationalism in China from the Mao era to the present.

Presenter: Saul Terence Thomas, Lecturer in the Department of Liberal Arts at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

POLIS 2023 FALL COURSE CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Registration 1-4	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Hotle/Swisher C-103	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Hotle/Swisher C-103	23	24 Ward 323-A	25
26	27	28 Mauter D-114				

MARCH 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Hotle/Swisher C-103	2	3 Peacock 323-A	4
5	6	7 Averbeck C-103	8	9 Pogge C-103	10 Peacock 323-A	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Rohan C-103	22	23	24 Palmer 323-A	25
26	27	28 Rohan C-103	29	30 Pratt C-103	31	

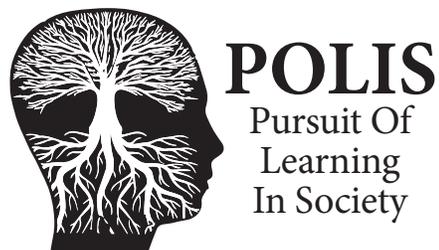
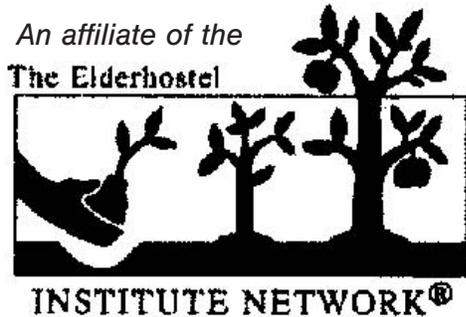
APRIL 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 Hotle C-103	5	6 Mauter D-114	7	8
9	10	11 Mamdani D-114	12	13 Mauter D-114	14 Damm 323-A	15
16	17	18 Magliocco C-103	19 Bus Trip	20 Mauter D-114	21	22
23	24	25 Magliocco C-103	26	27	28 Ward 323-A	29
30						

MAY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Schafer C-103	3	4 Keller C-103	5 Thomas 323-A	6

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. **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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