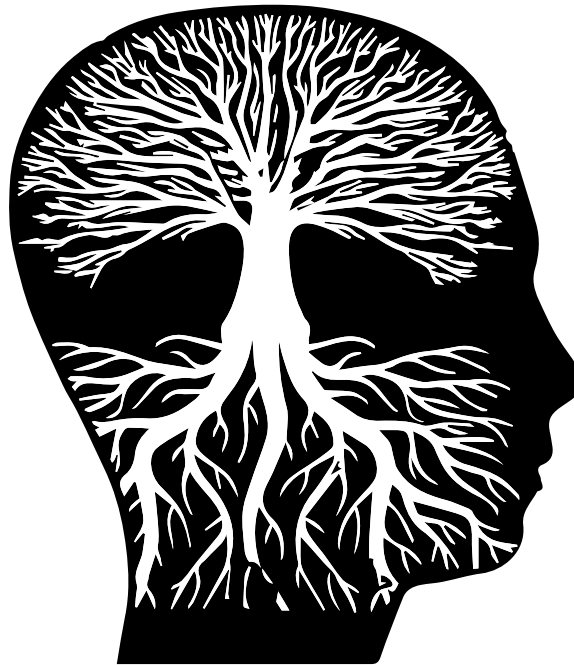


# POLIS

## Pursuit Of Learning In Society

Quincy University's Program for Learning in Retirement



THE PATTERN  
SPRING 2026

Registration: Wednesday, January 21, 2026  
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](mailto:polis@quincy.edu)

Dear POLIS Members,

We hope that your holidays were all you hoped they would be and that 2026 is beginning well.

The fall 2025 course offerings were well received. We were again impressed by the number of walk-ins who chose the pay-as-you-go option. The spring 2026 courses offer an intriguing range of topics. Many of the presenters have taught in our program before, and we welcome them back. We also welcome for the first time John Schneider and Margaret Stapleton.

Fall 2025 memberships numbered 167. We look forward to seeing those members return and many new faces. **You are our best recruiters.** Please invite family and friends to join and share with them this edition of the POLIS PATTERN. **Remember that someone who has never attended a POLIS course or has never been a member of POLIS can attend one course for free to sample our program.**

We are glad to add potential members to our mailing list, but we are asking your help in maintaining a list that is effective. If you receive this mailing and plan to continue to be a member, we ask that you let us know by emailing me at [maryannklein@gmail.com](mailto:maryannklein@gmail.com) or calling me at 217-653-7482.

A highlight of the spring semester will be a bus tour on May 6 to Cahokia Mounds. This tour, organized by Larry and Annelle Ruemmler, 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. **Please note all reservations must be secured by payment, not just by request.**

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 consider joining our board. Please talk with me if you are interested in joining this amazing group of volunteers who are committed to the mission of POLIS and work on your behalf.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Ann Klein  
Emerita Professor of English, Quincy University  
President, POLIS Board of Directors  
Director of POLIS  
[maryannklein@gmail.com](mailto:maryannklein@gmail.com)  
217-653-7482

## 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 \$67,170 to date. Personal donations and memorials to the scholarship are welcome.

### POLIS – Where is it?

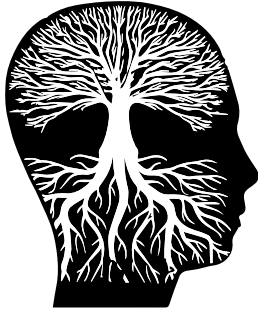
Classes are from 2:00-4:00 pm at Quincy University's North Campus, 18th & Seminary Road. Most classes are in the North Cafeteria which is on the lower level and in Strieby 323A on the third floor. Locations do change. Look for the POLIS signs and follow the arrows pointing the way.

### 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.



## SPRING COURSES 2026

### **Friday, January 30**

323-A Strieby

#### **The Media Affect All of Us – How, how much and why they affect us?**

The questions about how the media can affect us go back to the 19th century. How the media affect us, the degree to which they affect us and understanding the theories that explain the media's influence will be the topic of this course. Also, what new ways can new media affect us?

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

### **Tuesdays, February 10, 17, 24**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

#### **The History of Mexico**

In this broadly based exploration of key themes in the history of our southern neighbor, Hotle will begin with the Spanish conquest and finish with today. One of the key focuses will be Mexico's important relations with the United States. Hotle will also consider the highly diverse nature of Mexico's culture, politics, and society.

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

### **Wednesday, February 11**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

#### **Game Changing Inventions**

The approaching Sesquicentennial (250th) Anniversary of the United States offers an opportunity to explore

achievements and ingenuity across diverse fields in America's history that have moved humanity forward. No country has as rich a history of modern invention as the United States.

America wasn't discovered; it was built. Everything we have exists because those who came before us built it. What drove them, what obstacles did they face, and how are we doing as stewards? America is not a finished story. It's a living promise—one we continue to build, together.

The list of game-changing American inventions is too long to cover in one, two-hour session. Therefore, we'll pursue a very subjective short list of contenders for the most influential invention in our country's history. Which one do you think should be in the top spot?

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

### **Friday, February 20**

323-A Strieby

#### **The Psychology Behind Believing in Conspiracy Theories and Why They Persist**

This presentation examines some of the psychological processes that lead individuals to believe in conspiracy theories. We will consider factors such as cognitive biases, pattern perception, need for control, and social identity. The course also addresses the role of misinformation, group dynamics, and distrust in authority, while exploring how conspiracy beliefs can impact individual behavior and society.

Presenter: Dr. Kristina Mouzakis, Associate Professor of Psychology, Quincy University

### **Friday, February 27**

323-A Strieby

#### **History of Radio Broadcasting**

Starting at its inception and going through the introduction of television. I will also include some of the history of Quincy's part in the development of radio.

Presenter: John Schneider

John Schneider graduated from San Francisco State University in 1972 with a degree in Broadcast Communications. While there, he wrote a thesis about radio broadcasting history, which began his lifelong efforts of researching and writing on this topic. After graduation, John worked for several radio stations in Michigan and California before entering the broadcast equipment field. In his 40-year career, he worked for manufacturers Sparta, McMartin and Broadcast Electronics and operated his own distribution company. He retired in 2015 after 7 years promoting HD Radio in Latin America for iBiquity Digital Corporation. John has authored two books and numerous magazine articles on broadcast history, and maintains a website, [www.theradiohistorian.org](http://www.theradiohistorian.org). He is a Fellow of the California Historical Radio Society. John and his wife moved to Quincy from Seattle in 1998 when he was hired by Broadcast Electronics as their Latin America sales manager. He is a licensed amateur radio operator (W9FGH, FCC Extra Class) and enjoys traveling and playing music.

### **Tuesday, March 3**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

#### **Pioneer Women: Stories of Pioneer Life Told Through the Lens of the Women Who Lived it**

This presentation is about life on the Illinois frontier beginning in the 1820s. Questions to be answered are: How did the settlers get here? Once here, where did they decide to live? Did anyone own the land? The West was opening up with unlimited opportunities and promises of available land. Settlers were young and adventurous, leaving their homes for economic reasons. If they survived the difficult trip, they had to clear the land for farming and build a dwelling to protect their families from wild animals, the elements, and perhaps intruders. Few settlers gave up and returned home, but did they stay or keep moving west?

Presenter: Arlis Dittmer, MA, MALS, a retired health science librarian and former president of the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County

### **Tuesday, March 10**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

#### **Canine Rescue and Dog Breeding – an insider's view**

The demand for dogs in the US is 8 million per year. How is this need satisfied? The process of rescuing and adopting out dogs will be described by Dr. Joe Coelho, who, along with his wife, has been active in dog rescue for 10 years. Amusing stories of dogs they have fostered will be told. The benefits of fostering dogs will be described, as well as the perils and pitfalls. The types of dog breeders will be enumerated, along with the advantages and disadvantages of each. Goal: to foster an understanding of some of the problems facing dog populations in this country.

Presenter: Dr. Joe Coelho, Professor of Biology, Quincy University; Ph.D. in Environmental, Population, and Organismic Biology, University of Colorado, Boulder. Coelho has developed and taught a course in Biology of Dogs at Quincy University. Currently Secretary of Quincy Kennel Club. He has trained dogs in agility, hunting, tricks, and rally obedience.

### **Friday, March 13**

323-A Strieby

#### **Update on the Stock Market**

An update on the stock market, what drives values in markets, and what brings risks. The discussion of the creation of cryptocurrencies and the movement to allow retirement plans to invest in private equity with particular attention to the additional substantial risk that these new "securities" and rules bring to the investing public.

Presenter: Dr. Mitch Ellison is an experienced finance educator with over forty years of teaching at undergraduate and graduate levels, including twenty-six years at Quincy University and more recently at Webster University. He holds a Ph.D. in Finance from Saint Louis University and numerous professional certifications in accounting and finance. Dr. Ellison is coauthor of Capital Budgeting and Financial Decision, 4th Edition, and has provided expert commentary on economic events for television stations in Saint Louis and Quincy.

### **Friday, March 27**

323-A Strieby

#### **A Poor Cow at the Door: Milk Sickness as Environmental and Social Problem in the Antebellum Midwest**

Many people know that Abraham Lincoln's mother died of milk sickness, but few understand how far-reaching milk sickness was as a disease in the antebellum Midwest. Thousands became ill and many died because they consumed the milk or meat products of animals who ate white snakeroot weeds, which contained a poison called tremetone. This course will explain the cause of milk sickness, its various effects on American settlers, how the mystery disease was solved, and its legacy.

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

### **Tuesday/Thursday, April 7, 9**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

#### **The Never-Ending Debate: The Significance of History and Its Methods for Searching for the Truth**

To understand the past has never been more critical than in today's world. This presentation seeks to demonstrate why history is so vital and why it is a never-ending debate that both enlightens and explains the past to help us understand ourselves in the present and make better decisions for the future. The talk also shows how the field of History with its scholarly methods can help determine what occurred in the past and illustrate what humans and human societies have done and what they are capable of doing. Without an understanding of our past as an individual or a society, we are rootless and ignorant of who we are and what we can be.

Presenters: Dr. C. Patrick Hotle, Emeritus Professor of History, Culver-Stockton College and Dr. Wendell Mauter, Emeritus Professor of History, Quincy University

### **Friday, April 17**

323-A Strieby

#### **Leonard Bernstein: Composer, Conductor, and Communicator**

Explore the remarkable life and artistry of Leonard Bernstein, one of the most dynamic and influential musicians of the 20th century. As a composer, he bridged the worlds of Broadway, jazz, and the concert hall with works ranging from *West Side Story* to the *Chichester Psalms*. As a conductor, Bernstein brought a unique blend of intellect, passion, and theatrical flair to the podium, transforming how audiences experienced classical music. As a communicator, Bernstein made music accessible through his Young People's Concerts, lectures, and writings.

Presenter: Dr. Christine Damm is Dean of the School of Fine Arts and Communication at Quincy University. She is the Director of the Hawk Express Jazz Band, woodwind instructor, and teaches a variety of music courses. She is the Principal Clarinetist with the Quincy Symphony Orchestra. She is an advocate of new music and has premiered several works for the clarinet. She has appeared as a featured soloist with the Quincy Symphony Orchestra, Quincy University Symphonic Band, and the Quincy Area Clarinet Choir. She has published articles for the *Instrumentalist*, *Illinois Music Educator's Journal*, *The American Music Teacher*, and the *Missouri Journal of Research in Music Education*. She has presented lectures for the Illinois Music Educators All State Convention, Iowa Music Educator's Convention, Quincy University's POLIS program, and John Wood Community College's Lunch and Learn Lecture Series. Damm received her DMA from the University of Missouri - Kansas City, MM from the University of Illinois, and a BA from Quincy University.

### **Friday, April 24**

323-A Strieby

#### **Presidential Power Under the Constitution**

This course will include a review of the Constitutional approaches to Presidential Power by U.S. Supreme Court; a discussion of Constitutional theories of Executive Power: literalist theory/magistrate approach, stewardship theory, unitary theory; an analysis of

expressed and implied Article II powers of the President – appointment and removal power, foreign affairs, Commander in Chief and military power; and the impact on separation of powers.

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, April 30**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

## **Poverty in the United States from 1964 to 2026**

Ending or reducing poverty among Americans was a goal for governments, religious organizations, private social services agencies, and individuals long before President Lyndon Johnson, in his January 1964 State of the Union address, declared “an unconditional War on Poverty” and made R. Sargent Shriver the head of the battles. But since 1964, efforts to end or reduce poverty have advanced, receded, switched course, succeeded, or been abandoned or even repealed as the American economy expanded and cycled through recessions and as thinking about poverty and people living in poverty have impacted public policy. Margaret Stapleton will try to describe the path of these efforts since 1964 and the state of poverty elimination efforts in the US in 2026 and may tell a few stories about Sargent Shriver.

Presenter: Margaret Stapleton, an Illinois attorney who worked for decades for legal services organizations on poverty issues in Cairo, IL, East St. Louis, and Chicago, and for over 20 years for the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

### **Tuesdays, May 5, 12**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

## **Flannery O'Connor: Master of the Comic Grotesque and Source of Important Theological Statement**

Presenter Dr. Joe Messina notes that during his last

POLIS class, where he introduced four interesting modern American poets by using videos, the class got into a brief but exciting discussion of Flannery O'Connor, famed for her novels and short stories but sometimes baffling to new readers. These sessions will look at her from two angles, as a master of the comic grotesque and as a writer with an important theological statement to make, through four of O'Connor's stories: “A Good Man is Hard to Find,” “Good Country People,” “Revelation,” and “Everything That Rises Must Converge.”

*The Complete Stories of Flannery O'Connor* is available in a Kindle edition at Amazon \$3.99.

“Everything That Rises Must Converge” may be found at:

[wheelercolumn.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/OConnor.Everything-that-Rises-Must-Converge.pdf](http://wheelercolumn.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/OConnor.Everything-that-Rises-Must-Converge.pdf)

The three others may be found at:

[jerrywbrown.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/A-Good-Man-Is-Hard-To-Find-and-other-stories-OConnor-Flannery.pdf](http://jerrywbrown.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/A-Good-Man-Is-Hard-To-Find-and-other-stories-OConnor-Flannery.pdf)

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

### **Wednesday, May 6**

## **Bus Trip: A Visit to the Past**

Step back into history this spring as the POLIS bus tour takes us to Cahokia Mounds, a U.S. National Historic Landmark and a World Heritage Site, so designated for its significance in the history of North America. We will visit the newly renovated world-class Interpretive Center to learn about the highly sophisticated civilization that built this urban complex. We will see the largest mound—“Monks Mound”—and you will have the option of climbing the 158 steps to the top! Prior to our tour, we will enjoy a fine Italian lunch at Bartolino's Restaurant, on “the Hill” in St. Louis. The cost of \$98 includes round trip travel on a modern motorcoach, a ticket for the tour, lunch and gratuity, a snack on the way home, plus a tip to the bus driver. The bus leaves on Wednesday, May 6th at 8:30 a.m. from the Quincy University north campus lot and returns at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Tour Organizers: Larry and Annelie Ruemmler

**Friday, May 8**

323-A Strieby

**Escaping the Attic: Charlotte Perkins  
Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper" and the  
Prison of Patriarchy**

In 1890, Charlotte Perkins Gilman writes her now-famous short story "The Yellow Wallpaper," depicting the slow descent into madness of its nameless, female narrator. Having recently given birth, she is prescribed the "rest cure" and instructed to do as little as possible. Her husband, a working doctor himself, leaves her for days at a time in the home they are renting for the summer, and though she shares the house with her child, her sister-in-law, and the maid, she feels only a deepening isolation, one that will eventually drive her out of her mind. This story takes up the figure of the madwoman in the attic that originated in Jane Eyre and points an accusing finger squarely at patriarchal control—social, medical, and domestic. As nineteenth-century science evolved, social roles did not keep pace; women scientists were few and far between. Male doctors, therefore, assumed they knew best about women's bodies and minds, leading to diagnoses like hysteria and bad nerves when, in point of fact, such "maladies" were the effects of women being treated as the beautiful, fragile, vacuous objects they were believed to be. In "The Yellow Wallpaper," Gilman gives the world fiction that turns out to be fable, a warning to all women that we must strive to escape the attic — even if it costs us our sanity.

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

**Friday, May 15, 2 - 4 p.m.**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

**POLIS Annual Meeting and Social**



**POLIS**  
Pursuit Of  
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University**

## POLIS 2026 WINTER-SPRING CALENDAR

### January

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Registration 1-4pm QU-NC	22	23	24
25	26 Classes resume	27	28	29	30 Vogel 323-A	31

### February

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Hotle C-103	11 Schafer C-103	12	13	14
15	16	17 Hotle C-103	18	19	20 Mouzakis 323-A	21
22	23	24 Hotle C-103	25	26	27 Schneider 323-A	28

### March

1	2	3 Dittmer C-103	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Coelho C-103	11	12	13 Ellison 323-A	14
15 Spring break	16 Spring break	17 Spring break	18 Spring break	19 Spring break	20 Spring break	21 Spring break
22	23	24	25	26	27 Ward 323-A	28
29	30	31	APRIL 1	APRIL 2	APRIL 3 Easter break	April 4 Easter break

### April

5 Easter break	6	7 Hotle & Mauter C-103	8	9 Hotle & Mauter C-103	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Damm 323-A	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Palmer 323-A	25
26	27	28	29	30 Stapleton C-103	MAY 1	MAY 2

### May

3	4	5 Messina C-103	6 Bus Trip	7	8 Peacock 323-A	9
10	11	12 Messina C-103	13	14	15 Meeting C-103	16

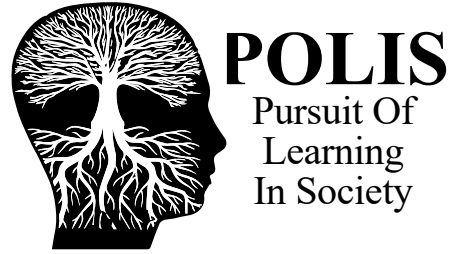
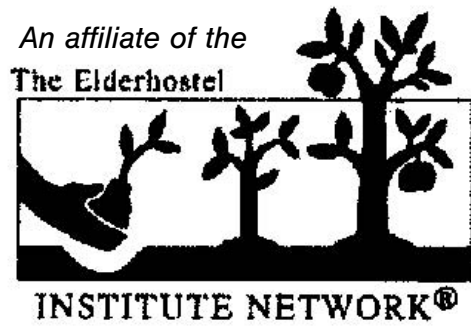
Class locations: All classes are at QU's North Campus from 2-4pm. Most classes will be in the North Cafeteria on the first level with some in Strieby 323A on the third floor. There will be changes in class locations so look for the POLIS signs pointing the way.

## Registration for POLIS Spring Classes Wednesday, January 21, 2026

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>Mobile Phone:</b>
<b>City:</b> <b>Zip:</b>	<b>Email:</b>
<b>Emergency Contact:</b>	<b>Preferred Method of contact:</b> <b>Phone__Email__Text__</b>

Course	Date(s)	Lecturer	Fee	En-roll
Membership Fee to POLIS	Spring Semester		\$15	
The Media Affect All of Us – How, How Much and Why They Affect Us?	January 30	Vogel	\$5	
The History of Mexico	February 10, 17, 24	Hotle	\$15	
Game Changing Inventions	February 11	Schafer	\$5	
The Psychology Behind Believing in Conspiracy Theories and Why They Persist	February 20	Mouzakis	\$5	
History of Radio Broadcasting	February 27	Schneider	\$5	
Pioneer Women: Stories of Pioneer Life Told Through the Lens of The Women Who Lived It	March 3	Dittmer	\$5	
Canine Rescue and Dog Breeding – an insider’s view	March 10	Coelho	\$5	
Update on the Stock Market	March 13	Ellison	\$5	
A Poor Cow at the Door: Milk Sickness as Environmental and Social Problem in the Antebellum Midwest	March 27	Ward	\$5	
The Never-Ending Debate: The Significance of History and Its Methods for Searching for the Truth	April 7, 9	Hotle & Mauter	\$10	
Leonard Bernstein: Composer, Conductor, and Communicator	April 17	Damm	\$5	
Presidential Power Under the Constitution	April 24	Palmer	\$5	
Poverty in the United States from 1964 to 2026	April 30	Stapleton	\$15	
Flannery O’Connor: Master of the Comic Grotesque and Source of Important Theological Statement	May 5, 12	Messina	\$10	
Bus trip: A Visit to the Past	May 6	member non-member	\$98 \$113	
Escaping the Attic: Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s “The Yellow Wallpaper” and the Prison of Patriarchy	May 8	Peacock	\$5	
POLIS Annual Meeting, 2pm, cafeteria C-103	May 15			
TOTAL				

**Registration:** January 21, 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](mailto:polis@quincy.edu).



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