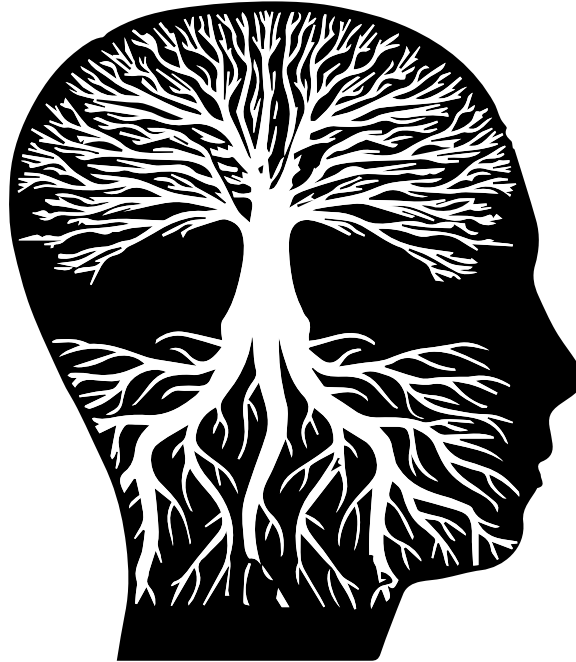


# POLIS

Pursuit Of Learning In Society



THE PATTERN  
SPRING 2024

Registration: Wednesday, January 17, 2024  
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,

The 2023 fall semester saw a record number of members joining POLIS and a substantial number of new members. Judging by enrollments, the course offerings were well received. The 2024 spring course topics are substantive. Many of the presenters have taught in our program before, and we welcome them back. We also welcome for the first time Nancy Benz and Dr. Jonathan Stewart.

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, which can also be found on the QU website. Someone who has never been a member of POLIS can attend one course for free in order to sample our program.

A highlight of the spring semester will be a bus tour on April 10 to the St. Louis Art Museum and its special exhibit, "Matisse and the Sea," organized by Larry and Annette Rummeler. We will leave QU at 8:30 a.m., stop at Bartolino's Osteria on The Hill for lunch, and then on to the museum. We will be divided into small groups for docent-led tours. We have reserved a 56 passenger bus, but make your reservation soon.

The POLIS annual meeting and social will move back to the spring semester. Please save the date: May 10, 2-4 p.m.

The POLIS Curriculum Committee is already looking ahead to the 2024 fall semester. We are contacting presenters who have indicated they are interested in offering courses. We will be approaching others, following up on members' suggestions. 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. We welcome a new board member, Tony Callihan. Please feel free to pass on to them your suggestions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Ann Klein, Emerita Professor of English,  
Quincy University  
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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Dr. John Schafer

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?

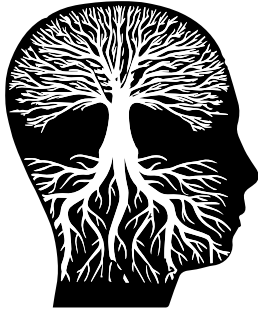
Classes are from 2:00-4:00 pm at Quincy University's North Campus, 18th & Seminary Road. Most classes are in the North Cafeteria which is on the lower level and Strieby 323A on the third floor. Locations do change. Look for the POLIS signs and follow the arrows pointing the way.

#### 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 2024**

**Thursdays, January 25 & February 1**

C-103(Cafeteria)

### **Where is Religion Going?**

There is a long-standing theory in sociology labeled “secularization.” The theory says that as people become more educated and economically successful, they move away from religion. The theory seemed to be backed up by trends in Europe, but the United States was an exception. Religious bodies here were thriving. Now even that exception is disappearing.

The discussion process initiated by Pope Francis, called a “synod,” is modeling a more participative church community than has been the pattern in the Roman church. Will that initiative change the trajectory? What are other signs either of hope or of decline in the religious world in 2024?

Presenter Fr. Joe Zimmermann says, “The story of my own religious order is part of that picture. In 2017, I described the study I was doing of the province of the Franciscan Order to which I belong. The story since 1970 has been one of decline.”

Presenter: Joe Zimmerman, OFM, was born in Decatur, Illinois and entered the Franciscan Order in 1955. He was ordained as a priest in 1962 and earned a doctorate in sociology from Harvard University in 1973. He began teaching at Quincy University in 1970. His recent interests focus on promoting Pope Francis’s approach to religious issues within the Catholic Church and among religions worldwide.

**Wednesday, February 7**

C-103(Cafeteria)

### **The Great Chicago Fire – The Untold Story**

On October 8, 1871, a firestorm erupted in Chicago. One hundred people lost their lives, 17,000 buildings were destroyed, and 100,000 residents were left homeless. The Great Chicago Fire is considered one of America’s greatest tragedies. Yet, it is a story that is both misunderstood and misrepresented. Sadly, many accepted elements of the accepted story are blatantly false.

The true story of the fire is a tale of the best and worst of humanity, of terror and forgotten heroes, and of bad luck and miracles. Sadly, it’s also a story of poverty, corruption, xenophobia, and misogyny.

This lecture will explore the significant events before, during, and after the Great Fire, with special emphasis placed on the cultural, political, and socio-economic realities that contributed to the fire and its aftermath. The lecture will be accompanied by slides depicting images of the people and places affected by the fire including, for instance, maps, significant buildings, major influencers, and views of the subsequent rebuilding of the city.

Presenter: Chief (ret) H. Scott Walker is a 30-year veteran of the fire service, including 10 years as fire chief in Quincy, IL. After retiring from the fire service, he joined the faculty of Western Illinois University where he served as director of the Fire Studies Program. Walker has written two nationally adopted textbooks related to Public Safety Administration and has also published two novels. The basis of the proposed lecture is from research for his second novel, *Dreams in Ash – A Firefighter’s Story of the Great Chicago Fire*.

**Thursdays, February 8, 15, 22**

C-103(Cafeteria)

### **History and Archaeology of Ancient Mesopotamia**

Over the course of a three-part series, Patrick Hotle will look at the history and archaeology of ancient Mesopotamia. Topics will include the rise of urbanization, the development of early city-states, religious beliefs and social structures. Dr. Hotle will also look at the emergence of early empires like Akkadia, Babylon and Assyria.

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.

### **Friday, February 16**

323-A

### **Colonial American Music - The Birth of Uniquely American Music**

While European music had come from the Middle Ages, through the Renaissance, finished the Baroque and started the Classical period, America as a nation was just getting started. Though in human societies, music always exists, the ability to greatly refine artistic musical expression always has a starting point. During the time that Western music in Europe had reached the refinement of the Classical era, America was approaching its Revolutionary war and truly fighting for its life. However, early American folk traditions, hymn singing, and singing schools did exist. Within this context, come and learn about early American colonial composers like William Billings, Justin Morgan, and Supply Belcher, the music they created, and their multi-vocational lives they led as America's first professional composers.

Presenter: Dr. Jonathan Stewart was born in Missouri, but because of his father's university teaching career, spent his childhood first moving to California, moving back to Missouri, moving to North Carolina and then back to Missouri. During his adult life, Dr. Stewart has lived in Missouri, Illinois and Oklahoma working first in music ministry, and later, in university teaching. Dr. Stewart has 12 years of experience as a music minister, 23 years as a college or university professor, and 4 years as the assistant conductor of the professional chorus, the St. Louis Chamber Chorus. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Southeast Missouri State University, a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, and a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Music Education from Boston University.

### **Tuesdays, February 20, 27 & March 5**

C-103(Cafeteria)

### **Double V: The African-American Struggle against Racism Abroad and at Home in the Second World War**

In this presentation, Dr. Mauter will tell the dramatic heart-rending story of Black Americans' struggle to fight against the Axis powers both in uniform and in the civilian war economy and the parallel struggle at home against the racism that tried to stop them from contributing to ultimate victory in the Second World War.

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

### **Friday, February 23**

323-A

### **Assassins and Would-Be Assassins**

Article II of the U.S. Constitution states explicitly that the "Executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America." Executive Power establishes the President as our nation's most prominent and visible representative, both nationally and internationally. Forty-six individuals have served in the Office of President.

From the time of America's first president, there have been plotters who, for personal or political reasons, attempted to assassinate the President. We will examine assassination attempts, both successful and unsuccessful, explore the historical significance of these events, and trace the evolution of Presidential protection over the years.

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

### **Thursday, March 7**

C-103(Cafeteria)

### **Taylor Pensoneau reveals inside stories in his writing of the biographies of two past Illinois governors, Republican Richard Ogilvie and Democrat Dan Walker.**

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.

### **Friday, March 22**

323-A

#### **Sentinels of the Household: Women during the US Civil War**

The Civil War affected the lives of women in a multitude of ways. Battles tore apart family homes and removed male kin to distant places. Military occupation exposed women to complex systems of taxation, policy, and restriction. Physical privation or danger turned many women into refugees. Numerous black women survived in contraband camps. This course will examine the numerous experiences of American women during the Civil War and illustrate the ways their participation changed the shape of the war and democracy itself.

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.

### **Tuesday, March 26**

C-103(Cafeteria)

#### **The Pre-Liberal and the Post-Liberal**

Liberalism is under fire from both left and right, but what exactly is liberalism? We explore this contested concept at the heart of Western Society in two ways: first, we draw out the parallels between clearly "preliberal" political philosophers of the past and avowedly "postliberal" modern political philosophers. Second, we examine the parallels between the critics' arguments from right and left. This gives us a more

historically literate understanding of fascism and a more effective wedge strategy by which we can counteract the totalitarian threat today.

Presenter: Dr. Padraic Rohan, Assistant Professor of History at 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, April 5**

C-103(Cafeteria)

#### **Constitutional Interpretation – How the Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court Construe the U.S. Constitution**

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.

### **Wednesday, April 10**

#### **Bus Trip to "Matisse and the Sea" at St. Louis Art Museum**

Join your POLIS friends in examining the influence of the sea in the career of Modernist artist Henri Matisse as we journey to the St. Louis Art Museum. Our guided tour includes paintings ranging from Matisse's early panoramic marine views in the South of France to his late paper cutouts representing life beneath the waves. Following our guided tour, we may also be able to explore other exhibits.

Prior to arriving at the museum, we will enjoy a fabulous Italian lunch at the award winning Bartolino's Osteria on the Hill. Tour guides Larry and Annelle Ruemmler look forward to hosting you on Wednesday, April 10. The bus will leave at 8:30 AM from the main parking lot of Quincy University's North Campus. We expect to return to Quincy by 6:00 p.m. \$75.00 includes transportation, lunch and admission to the exhibit.

## **Tuesdays, April 12, 19**

323-A

### **Subversive Desires: What You Didn't Know about Shakespeare's Sonnets**

Most of the love poets in Shakespeare's day idealize unfulfilled love. The highest form of earthly, romantic love is unattainable and, therefore, necessarily painful in its impossibility. The male narrators of Renaissance love sonnets typically suffer from the painful pleasures of loving a woman who cannot or will not reciprocate. This process at once keeps the narrative pure from sexual sin and makes for compelling love narratives. Indeed, this tactic was often used by Elizabethan poets to ingratiate themselves with England's Virgin Queen. Shakespeare's sonnets, however, make many significant departures from this pattern. For instance, not only are his sonnets addressed to both a beautiful young man as well as a married woman, but they also depict these relationships as having been consummated.

In what other ways did Shakespeare's sonnets differ from the dominant religious and poetic trends of his time, and why? This talk will address the surprising and subversive aspects of the Sonnets and ultimately relate them to Shakespeare's contemporary fame in Renaissance England.

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.

## **Wednesday, April 24**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

### **America and the Holocaust**

The plan for the course is to examine America's relation to the history of the Holocaust as it is presented in the Ken Burns' documentary. It will help if you will have seen the documentary before the course.

Presenter: Dr. Robert Manning, Professor of Philosophy, Dean of the School of Humanities, Quincy University. Dr. Manning has taught a philosophy course on the Holocaust for thirty years and has published essays on Levinas and the Holocaust, Derrida and the Holocaust, and Heidegger too. He has been a Fellow at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC.

## **Thursday, April 25**

C-103(Cafeteria)

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

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.

## **Tuesday, April 30**

C-103(Cafeteria)

### **Gilgamesh: He Who Saw the Deep—**

This epic poem is possibly humankind's first literary achievement. Composed some 3,000 years ago in cuneiform and the world's oldest script, it has only recently been recovered from the darkness of oblivion. George Smith, a brilliant amateur archeologist and linguist, deciphered its language as he worked with fragments of clay tablets from the ruins of Ashurbanipal's library in Iraq. It was 1872, just 150 years ago. In comparison with the Iliad, the Bible, and the Latin classics, it's a newcomer that we're just beginning to take in. The task is complicated by the state in which the poem comes down to us—broken pieces of what were once entire clay tablets covered with cuneiform, an ancient writing system of the near east. Pieces of it are still being recovered, and scholars believe that one day we'll have the whole poem.

The poet Ali Smith, who's been described as "Scotland's Nobel laureate-in-waiting," called Gilgamesh "the original epic of self-knowledge." The great German poet Rainer Maria Rilke called it *das Epos der Todesfurcht*: the epic of the fear of death.

Yes, but there's a counter-balance to this: it's also a story about the meaning of human culture, of the worlds we create in spite of time and decay. Most of all, it's the story of a great friendship, a great love that helps to give meaning to life even as it faces death. It will help if you can bring a copy of the poem to class. The most readable translation known is by John Gardner & John Maier. It's available in hardcover from Amazon for \$10.98 or in a Kindle edition for \$6.99. Also excellent, though in a format that's sometimes difficult to follow: Andrew George, Penguin Classics edition, at Amazon for \$13.99, Kindle edition \$8.99. This edition is available on line at The Internet Archive at no cost. There are several translations of Gilgamesh online. Try this one: <https://www.ancienttexts.org/library/mesopotamian/gilgamesh/tab1.htm>

Speaking of translations, you might be interested to know that Klingon is among the dozens of languages that Gilgamesh has been translated into. Being the language of a heroic culture, Klingon might handle very well the heroic ethos of our poem.

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

### **Friday, May 3**

323-A

### **John Williams: Life and Career of a Film Score Genius**

This lecture will focus on the life and career of John Williams, arguably the most prolific film composer. His music has spanned over 50 years and captured audiences from every walk of life. His works include the film scores to some of the most well-known movies including: Star Wars, Jurassic Park, Jaws, Harry Potter, Schindler's List, and many more.

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, Washington State Music Educators Conference, Quincy University POLIS Lecture Series, and John Wood Community College 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.

### **Tuesday, May 7**

C-103(Cafeteria)

### **Milton's Women and the Fall of Eve**

If you've thought about the poetry of 17th Century writer John Milton at all, you might now be thinking, "Poetry, yuk, and that old poetry even worse." Or you could be thinking, "What an opportunity! I've always wanted to read Paradise Lost but never had the time." Another possibility is, "Wasn't he a Puritan? I bet he blamed it all on Eve." This course welcomes all these responses and more. The focus, however, will be on Eve, so participants are asked to read Book IX (9) of Milton's epic poem, written when he was blind. The course will begin with a brief survey of how women were viewed by writers, philosophers, and theologians up until the time of Milton, who lived from 1608 to 1674. The question to be pursued is: "How does Milton fit into this tradition?" An examination of two sonnets and his "closet drama" Samson Agonistes, based on the Old Testament story of Samson and Dalila, will provide context for a much fuller discussion of Milton's portrayal of Eve and her role in the Fall.

Presenter: 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.

### **Friday, May 10**

C-103(Cafeteria)

### **Annual Meeting and Social**

## **POLIS 2024 SPRING COURSE CALENDAR**

### **JANUARY 2024**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
14	15	16	17 Registration 1-4 PM QU-NC	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Zimmerman C-103	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### **FEBRUARY 2024**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Zimmerman C-103	2	3
4	5	6	7 Walker C-103	8 Hotle C-103	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Hotle C-103	16 Stewart 323-A	17
18	19	20 Mauter C-103	21	22 Hotle C-103	23 Schafer C-103	24
25	26	27 Mauter C-103	28	29	March 1	March 2

### **MARCH 2024**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3	4	5 Mauter C-103	6	7 Pensoneau C-103	8	9 Spring Break
10 Spring Break	11 Spring Break	12 Spring Break	13 Spring Break	14 Spring Break	15 Spring Break	16 Spring Break
17 Spring Break	18	19	20	21	22 Ward 323-A	23
24	25	26 Rohan C-103	27	28	29	30

### **APRIL 2024**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
March 31	1	2	3	4	5 Palmer 323-A	6
7	8	9	10 Bus Trip	11	12 Peacock 323-A	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Peacock 323-A	20
21	22	23	24 Manning C-103	25 Benz C-103	26	27
28	29	30 Messina C-103				

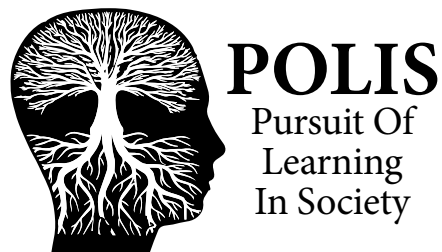
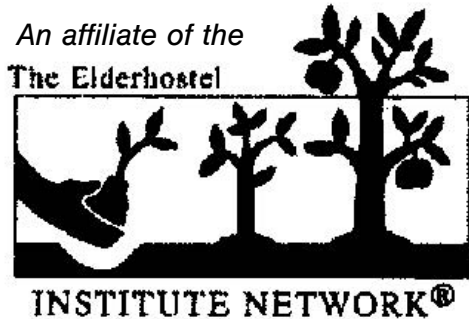
### **MAY 2024**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 Damm 323-A	4
5	6	7 Magliocco C-103	8	9	10 Meeting & Social C-103	11

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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