

life@ELON

Spring 2019 – Tuesday Schedule

Morning Class: 10:00 – 12:00 and Afternoon Class: 1:30 – 3:30

February 12, 2019

Ancient Maya Ritual, Religion & Cosmology

Dr. Rissa Trachman

Why did the ancient Maya practice human sacrifice? What forms did it take? What cultural underpinnings did their religious practices have? This session will examine ritual and religious practices of the ancient Maya within the context of their cultural cosmological world view. In this process, the question of sacrifice becomes less sensational and more understood as an integrated part of an elaborate cultural system.

Rissa Trachman, Ph.D., is an associate professor of Anthropology at Elon University. She specializes in Maya archaeology and has been conducting archaeology field work in Belize since 1997. She is currently conducting field research at the site of Dos Hombres in Belize, a project in which students participate annually. Her research interests also include topics such as household archaeology, ancient social organization, lithic technology, gender and archaeology, ancient childhood, and ancient water management.

February 19, 2019

Red Cross Girls in Vietnam

Jennifer Young

During the Vietnam war, many young women traveled overseas, not to serve as nurses, but to serve as “Red Cross Girls.” These Red Cross Girls provided recreation programs to the American soldiers out in the field in places, such as firebases and landing zones that were usually accessible only by helicopter. It's a little known program that the military requested of the Red Cross, despite the fact that about 100 women served over the span of six years in this capacity in Vietnam. In total, there were only about 673 Red Cross Girls from 1966 to 1972. The nickname (a holdover from WWII for the women of the mobile donut and coffee canteens in Europe) was "Donut Dollies." This presentation will provide a first-hand account of what life was like as a Red Cross Girl during the Vietnam War.

Jennifer Young was born and raised in Webster Groves, MO, a suburb of St. Louis. She is a 1968 graduate of Purdue University, and spent her senior year on the Year Abroad Program in Madrid, Spain. Her first job out of college was a one-year tour in Vietnam with the American Red Cross. After that, she had a 33-year career in Human Resources in the oil and banking industries, living in Texas, Idaho, and California. Three years ago, Jennifer and her significant other, Jack, moved to The Village at Brookwood from Texas. They're still learning about and exploring North Carolina.

February 26, 2019

Religious Cults and the Media

Dr. Anthony Hatcher

What do Jim Jones and Jonestown, David Koresh and Branch Davidians, and Scientology all have in common? All three have been labeled cults by various media; all three have been scrutinized by various media; and leaders of all three have manipulated various media. Come find out how in this session by Anthony Hatcher, Associate Professor of Communications.

Anthony Hatcher, Ph.D., has been an associate professor of Communications at Elon University since 2002. As a journalist, Hatcher worked at The Winston-Salem Journal, The Thomasville Times, The Daily News (Jacksonville, North Carolina), and was editor of The Clemmons Courier. He is also a former Faith & Values correspondent for The Charlotte Observer. Prior to teaching at Elon, he chaired the Communication Studies Department at Pfeiffer University. Hatcher is co-editor of a textbook, Mass Communication in the Global Age. His primary areas of research are issues in journalism and the intersection of religion, media, and culture. He is currently working on two books, one a media writing textbook, and the other a study of religion and media. He earned a B.A. in English and M.Ed. in Speech Communications at UNC-Greensboro, and his Ph.D. in Mass Communications Research at UNC-Chapel Hill.

March 5, 2019

Nuclear Technology in a Modern Society

Rob Tayloe

Join Rob Tayloe for a discussion of the historical evolution of nuclear technology from the early 1900s. The Manhattan Project during WWII led to the development of nuclear weapons. Issues associated with the disposition of these weapons are ongoing. The use of nuclear energy for propulsion by the U.S. Navy preceded the eventual use of nuclear energy for electrical power generation. North Carolina is one of the largest consumers of nuclear generated electricity in the U.S. The different types of nuclear reactors will be discussed along with risks and benefits associated with nuclear energy. In addition, he will discuss examples of how nuclear technology is used for medical and industrial purposes.

Rob Tayloe obtained a B.S. from North Carolina State University and a M.S. from the Ohio State University. He worked at the Brunswick Nuclear Power Plant in Southport, North Carolina while at NCSU. After graduating from NCSU, he worked in the nuclear safety field for Goodyear Atomic, a contractor for the US Department of Energy in Ohio. He also worked for the Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio on a variety of nuclear safety and security matters. He has consulted for government contractors and laboratories, such as the OSU Nuclear Reactor Laboratory, where he developed and taught a number of nuclear engineering courses at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

March 12, 2019

What Can We Learn from the 2018 Mid-Term Elections?

Dr. Jason Husser

What explains results from the November 2018 elections? Which key factors were most persuasive to voters? Will the election outcomes mean big changes for legislative activity and the Trump presidency in months to come? While we will focus on U.S. House and Senate elections, we will also discuss implications for state government in Raleigh.

Jason Husser, Ph.D., is an associate professor of Political Science and Policy Studies at Elon. He researches American political behavior and survey methods. From 2012 to 2016, he served as assistant director of the Elon Poll. He became the director of the Elon Poll in the summer of 2016.

March 19, 2019

**Community Foundations: Planting Trees We Will Never Sit Under
H. Walker Sanders and Gavin Sands Stevens**

Join the leaders of two local foundations as they discuss philanthropy in the modern age. Charitable giving can run the gamut from making a first donation to building a multi-generational family legacy, but it always has the capacity to impact lives and shape communities. Learn about the role of the individual in modern-day philanthropy and what tools exist to help make investing in local communities easy, impactful, and (dare we say it?) even fun.

H. Walker Sanders is president of The Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro (CFGG). Its mission is to inspire giving, maximize opportunities and strengthen communities for present and future generations. CFGG manages more than \$220 million in assets through 650 component funds and makes grants to nonprofit organizations totaling more than \$15 million annually. Sanders serves on the board of the Greensboro Partnership and the operating committee of Action Greensboro as a founding member. He is the current treasurer of Forward Cities, a national learning network of cities committed to advancing inclusive innovation and economic development in their communities. He has served on numerous boards, including the N.C. Network of Grantmaker; N.C. Center for Nonprofits; N.C. A&T School of Education Advisory Board; and CF Leads, a national organization focused on community leadership by community foundations. He served as founding president of the J. Marion Sims Foundation in Lancaster, South Carolina and was director of development and regional services for the Foundation of the Carolinas in Charlotte, North Carolina. Sanders is a graduate of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee.

Gavin Sands Stevens serves as the executive director of the Alamance Community Foundation (ACF). Founded in 1991, the ACF is a charitable organization dedicated to strengthening Alamance County for current and future generations. The foundation manages \$15 million in assets and partners with donors to build permanent endowment funds and shape effective responses to community issues and opportunities. Prior to taking on her current role in her home community, Gavin was the senior director of Resource Development at the United Way of Greater Greensboro. Previously, she has worked for the Macy's Merchandising Group in New York City and for her alma mater, Elon University. Gavin is a founding board member of Reconsidered Goods, a creative reuse center in Greensboro, North Carolina. She holds a B.A. in Art and an M.B.A. from Elon University, as well as a Certificate of Non-Profit Management from Duke University. She lives in Elon with her husband and young daughter.

March 26, 2019

**You Can't Teach an Old Dog New Tricks: True or False?
Dr. Dayna R. Touron**

We are often told that the graying brain simply cannot absorb as much information as a sensitive young child's. Many people believe that you cannot learn complex novel skills, like a new language or to play chess, at the age of 90. Dr. Touron's research focuses on cognition and aging, specifically the strategies older adults use to complete cognitive tasks and how older adults' cognitive abilities and metacognitive knowledge influence their strategic approach. She will describe the latest studies from neuroscience and psychology that show that extraordinary learning achievements in older years are not the exception.

Dayna Touron, Ph.D., is Professor of Psychology and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at UNC-Greensboro. Dr. Touron received her Ph.D. from Syracuse University and was a post-doctoral research fellow at the Georgia Institute of Technology. She has widely published and presented research on the above topics and has received research funding from the NIH. She is a member of the editorial board for the APA journals, Psychology and Aging and Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied.

April 2, 2019

Governors of North Carolina

Phil Kirk

During this session, Phil Kirk will speak on the ten governors he has known. He will concentrate on humorous experiences with the Governors with a few issues thrown in. Also, there will be a discussion about specific examples of bi-partisan co-operation between the two political parties that Phil has experienced during his life.

Phil Kirk, a native of Salisbury and a graduate of Catawba College, has 55 years of experience in education, business, government, and politics. Elected as a State Senator at age 25, he has been Chief of Staff for two governors and a U. S. Senator, Cabinet Secretary, State Chamber CEO, school teacher, newspaper reporter, radio announcer, and business executive. He is chairman emeritus of the State Board of Education

April 9, 2019

The Opioid Crises

Drs. Susan Camilleri and Jennifer Carroll

Over the past several decades, drug overdose deaths have steadily risen in America. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), nearly 200 people a day died of drug overdose in 2017, over 70,000 people in total-the highest on record. The rise in deaths appears to be driven by the increased use and abuse of opioids, a highly addictive substance that is frequently prescribed to treat pain. The recent addition of highly potent synthetic opioids in the market, such as fentanyl, has exacerbated the growing epidemic. Given the widespread nature of the crisis, nearly every state has been affected in some way. This talk will discuss the causes of the epidemic and potential solutions to mitigating its effects. We will also examine how North Carolina has been impacted and what actions our policy makers are taking in response

Jennifer J. Carroll, Ph.D., M.P.H., is a medical anthropologist, research scientist, and subject matter expert on substance use and public health. She is currently an assistant professor of Anthropology at Elon University in North Carolina and an adjunct assistant professor of Medicine at the Alpert Medical School at Brown University in Rhode Island. Dr. Carroll's first book, Narkomania: Drugs, HIV, and Citizenship in Ukraine, will be released from Cornell University Press this spring.

Susan Camilleri, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science and Policy Studies at Elon University. Her primary research and teaching interests focus on policy analysis, policy process, health care policy, health services research, and aging/retirement policy. Dr. Camilleri has been published in several journals, including Health Services Research and the Journal of Pension Economics and Finance.

April 16, 2019

Cradles of the Game; Baseball in North Carolina and the Dominican Republic

Dr. Mark Cryan

Join Mark Cryan for a discussion of his book that brings to life the unique qualities of baseball in North Carolina. The book is combination travel guide and city-by-city history of baseball in North Carolina features the ballparks, their communities, and the people that bring them to life. It also includes an in-depth interview with long-time major league manager Jack McKeon, and former Durham Bulls owner Miles Wolff discussing the ultimate baseball movie, Bull Durham. During his discussion with LIFE@Elon, Mark will also include current topics in minor league and major league baseball, as well as brief look at his current research into baseball in the Dominican Republic.

Mark Cryan, Ph.D., spent four years as General Manager of the Burlington Indians, the Cleveland Indians affiliate in the Appalachian League, and worked for five years as athletic director for the Burlington Recreation and Parks Department. He has also worked for the NHL's New Jersey Devils, the Raleigh IceCaps minor league hockey team, and as a founder of the summer collegiate Coastal Plain League. Mark hold an M.B.A. from NC Central University and a Ph.D. from UNC-Greensboro. He has been teaching at Elon for seven years. Every January he takes a group of students to the Dominican Republic to study the business of baseball and visit a number of baseball academies that feed talent into U.S. major league teams.

April 23, 2019

Undergraduate Research Presentations

Various Elon Students

Join us for a riveting exploration of new scholarship from Elon's brightest young voices. Undergraduate Research is one of five learning requirements promoted by the University. Research offers a unique opportunity for students to engage in inquiry in their chosen field of study and to experience first-hand what professionals in a chosen field do. Elon students' research presentations will encourage you to think about the world in a way you hadn't before.

At each LIFE@Elon session, three Elon students will present their research from various fields across the University. Each class will feature different student presentations, as their class schedules and availability all vary. No matter which students speak to your class, the presentations will be compelling!

April 30, 2019

Economics of Environmental Justice

Dr. Brooks Depro

Join us for an introduction to a contested area of environmental policy: the economics of environmental justice. His discussion will examine ways in which environmental injustice may arise out of discriminatory behavior and market forces. He will also provide an introduction to common economic frameworks used to explain and document unequal pollution exposure and reviews the existing evidence for and against competing explanations of injustice.

Brooks Depro, Ph.D., recently joined Elon University's full-time faculty as an assistant professor of Economics in 2017. He has over 20 years of experience in economic consulting working at RTI International, a non-profit research organization located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. He

Additional Offerings

More details and sign up information will be shared at class.

Campus Tours with Nicole

Many of you already know Nicole, one of LIFE@Elon's student workers. She has been with us for four years now, but outside of LIFE@Elon she is very involved across campus. This past summer she had the opportunity to work as a University tour guide, and she wants to bring her training to her favorite group of people on campus – LIFE@Elon members! Nicole will be offering several campus tours throughout the latter part of the semester. Tours will start at Johnston Hall and last approximately an hour and a half, so make sure to wear comfortable shoes! Sign-up sheets will be located in the lobby during class so you can sign up for a date and time that is convenient for you. We hope you take advantage of this opportunity to properly tour our growing campus and to let Nicole talk about her favorite place in the world.

LIFE@Elon Book Club

New members are welcome to join our book club! The group meets six times a year to discuss six different books. Commitment is minimal - you may read one book or all of them; you may come to as many or as few discussions as you wish. The location for each discussion will be in one of the conference rooms in Johnston Hall, the building where our regular classes are held. If you are already a member of the book club, there is no need to sign up again. To join the mailing list, please email Kate Hickey at hickey@elon.edu. The list of books and discussion schedule for the spring semester can be found below. Please note than members are responsible for locating their own copy of each book.

Tuesday, January 22, 1:30 p.m.

One Good Turn: A Natural History of the Screwdriver and the Screw
by Witold Rybczynski.

This short, elegant book begins with Archimedes and Leonardo. Written by a man who built his own house with hand tools, Rybczynski enables us to see a seemingly simple tool in a whole new light.

Monday, February 25, 1:30 p.m., or Thursday, February 28 at 10:30 a.m.

True North: A Memoir
by Jill Ker Conway

Conway was raised on a remote sheep ranch in the Australian outback, went to Harvard, lived many years in Toronto, and eventually became the president of Smith College. This is the second of her gracefully written memoirs, which focusses on her early years in North America. For more, read *The Road from Coorain* to learn more about her Australian experiences.

Monday April 15, 1:30 p.m., or Thursday, April 18, 10:30 a.m.

The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History
by John M. Barry.

At Least 21 million people worldwide lost their lives in the influenza epidemic of 1918, an unprecedented disaster. Barry's comprehensive exploration of the medical, economic, and political paths of the disease, exacerbated by the travel and sanitary conditions of World War I, is fascinating and thought-provoking.

Discounted Tickets

Discounted tickets (\$5) will be offered to the following cultural events:

Amernet String Quartet
Thursday, March 14
Whitley Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Florida International University's Artists-in-Residence, the Amernet String Quartet, is recognized as one of today's exceptional string ensembles. Their sound has been described as complex with an old-world flavor. The Amernet has always been committed to the music of our time and has commissioned works from many of today's leading composers and is also keen on collaborative projects recently appearing with Cantor Netanel Hershtik, jazz pianist Steve Allee, Josee Garant Dance and the Kruger Brothers.

Thursday, April 4
Julia Gillard, "Engagement in the Asian Century: The Opportunity of Our Lifetime"
Alumni Memorial Gym, 3:30 p.m.
Elon University Spring Convocation

Gillard served as prime minister of Australia from 2010 to 2013. She was central to managing the Australian economy, the 12th largest in the world, during the global financial crisis and in 2012 generated worldwide attention for her speech in Parliament on the treatment of women in professional and public life. During her tenure leading Australia, she delivered nation-changing policies including reforming the country's educational system from early childhood to university. Gillard played key roles in improving the delivery and sustainability of health care in Australia, creating a national system to care for people with disabilities, restructuring the telecommunications sector and building a national broadband network