

F/M COMMUNIVERSITY: Fall 2009 Course List

Madcap Movies: Film Comedies of the 40s - Tony McRae

Saturdays, October 10, 17 & 24; 2-4:15pm

Waterford at Harwood Groves, 1200 Harwood Drive, Fargo

Fee: \$36

From 1940 to 1944 Preston Sturges wrote and directed some of Hollywood's funniest and wittiest movies. While the war in Europe and Asia was pushing the Great Depression off center stage, Sturges lovingly parodied American life, and in the process helped get us through the most difficult of times.

Screen (and talk about) three of Sturges's best pictures:

Saturday October 10 *The Lady Eve* (Barbara Stanwyck and Henry Fonda)

Saturday October 17 *Sullivan's Travels* (Joel McCrea and Veronica Lake)

Saturday October 24 *The Palm Beach Story* (Claudette Colbert and Joel McCrea)

Tony McRae taught Film and French at Concordia College. Occasionally he reviews movies for Prairie Public Radio. You will find his film criticism on www.film-trip.com

The History of Islam in the United States – Syed Sajid Ahmad

Saturdays; October 17, 24 & 31; 2-4 pm

Riverview Place, 5300 12th Street South, Fargo

Fee: \$36

It would be a surprise to many to know that one of the first mosques to be built in the US could have been in North Dakota. Muslims have lived in the US longer than most people can imagine. This course is a review of how Islam reached the new world (especially US) and what role it has played and can play in the modern world.

Syed Sajid Ahmad has lived in the US for more than three decades. He has spoken and written about Islam, and is interested in interfaith learning leading to interfaith harmony in the society.

Four Nights in a Vineyard: An Exploration of Bordeaux – Sam Wai & Ron Ellingson

Two Sessions:

A – October 22, 29, November 5 & 13; 6:30-9:00pm

B – March 5, 12, 19 & 26; 6:30-9:00pm

Riverview Place, 5300 12th Street South, Fargo

Fee: \$149

Spend four nights in the Bordeaux wine region; a night among the chateaux on the Right Bank; the Left Bank including Medoc; Entre-Deux-Mers; and, Graves and Sauternes. Examine the terroir, the viticulture and the winemaking that together create up to 7 million hectoliters or 850 million bottles of wine annually; wines ranging from the “every day” to the most expensive and famous in the world. We will look into the history of the region from the Celtic beginnings to the English connection to the present day. Each night we will accompany the wine tasting with a sample of the culinary delights of the region.

Sam Wai and Ron Ellingson are wine aficionados who have taught many courses through F/M Communiversity.

Satan in Literature – Jonathan Steinwand

Saturdays, November 7, 14 & 21; 2-4pm

Waterford at Harwood Groves, 1200 Harwood Drive, Fargo

Fee: \$36

Do you ever wonder how Satan, the personification of evil, originated and became a major character in theology, literature, and the popular imagination? We will begin this course by

briefly surveying world civilizations to consider the prototypes for and alternatives to the Western characterizations of evil. Then we'll examine the evolution of (the) Satan as accuser, tempter, and enemy in Judeo-Christian scriptures and traditions. With the help of Dante's *Inferno* we'll consider the evolution and imagery of Hell as the devils' domain. Sessions on John Milton's *Paradise Lost* and Goethe's *Faust* will focus on post-Reformation transformations of Satan as rebel and as the bargain you cannot refuse. Finally, we will discuss the implications of the sometimes comic and ironic endurance of Satan in contemporary literature, film, and popular culture despite the apparent triumph of a disenchanting secular worldview.

Jonathan Steinwand introduces students to the enduring questions and contemporary relevance of comparative world literature at Concordia College. Besides inquiring into the implications of our fascination with Satan, he enjoys studying vampires, whales, dolphins, castaways, monsters, ghosts, environmental disasters, indigenous rights, and post-colonial cultural politics. He spent a semester in India in 2008 and plans to lead students on an around the world tour of novel destinations of former British colonies in May 2010.

Recommended Reading: *The Bible* (Job 1-2, 38-42; Matthew 4:1-11; Genesis 1-3); Dante's *Inferno*; *Paradise Lost* by John Milton; Goethe's *Faust*.

Scandinavia During the Second World War – Verlyn Anderson

Saturdays, November 7, 14 & 21; 2-4pm

Riverview Place, 5300 12th Street South, Fargo

Fee: \$36

The Second World War affected each of the Scandinavian countries in quite different ways, - Denmark and Norway were invaded and occupied for more than five years, Sweden tried to remain neutral, Iceland became an important military base for the Allies and Finland suffered greatly because of two terrible wars with the Soviet Union. Most histories of the Second World War do not include much about the war in these countries. It is a very interesting history, especially for those who remember these momentous five years.

Dr. Verlyn Anderson is a retired library director and professor of Scandinavian studies at Concordia College. He now leads tour groups to Scandinavia for the Smithsonian Institution and Concordia College, serves as the Cultural Director for the Sons of Norway Kringler Lodge, and always has a good story to tell.