



# SPRING SESSION 2024

*April 15 - June 6*

THE FROMM INSTITUTE FOR LIFELONG LEARNING  
*at the University of San Francisco*

# THE SPRING 2024 COURSE SELECTIONS

Full descriptions and faculty biographies appear on pages 7 through 27. Instructions on “how to enroll” are on page 6. Classes run eight weeks from April 15 until June 6. The Academic Calendar appears at the bottom of page 5.

## MONDAY

### 10 A.M. - 11:40 A.M.

IN-PERSON HYBRID

PROF. WILLIAM EDELMAN VIENNA 1900

ONLINE ONLY

PROF. DAVID PERITZ PLACING MACHINE AND HUMAN LEARNING IN DIALOGUE: A.I., TECHNOLOGY AND HUMANITY

IN-PERSON HYBRID

PROF. MARK MONTESANO NONVIOLENCE AND SOCIAL CHANGE

### 1 P.M. - 2:40 P.M.

ONLINE ONLY

PROF. SONNY BUXTON HARLEM TO HOLLYWOOD - SWING IS THE THING

IN-PERSON ONLY

PROF. THOMAS LORCH ADVENTURES IN AMERICAN POETRY II: CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN POETRY \*

IN-PERSON HYBRID

PROF. RICHARD COVERT AMERICAN JOURNEYS – REAL AND IMAGINARY

## TUESDAY

### 10 A.M. - 11:40 A.M.

IN-PERSON HYBRID

PROFS. ALAN GOLDBERG & INDIANA QUADRA-GOLDBERG WOMEN TELLING STORIES

IN-PERSON HYBRID

PROF. AVRIL ANGEVINE THE ART & SOUL OF ABSTRACTION

IN-PERSON HYBRID

PROF. KIP CRANNA PUCCINI PLEASE! THE LIFE, TIMES AND WORK OF THE WORLD’S FAVORITE OPERA COMPOSER

### 1 P.M. - 2:40 P.M.

ONLINE ONLY

PROF. ANDREW FRAKNOI THE UNIVERSE REVEALED: A GUIDED TOUR WITH WEBB AND HUBBLE TELESCOPE IMAGES

ONLINE ONLY

PROF. MICHAEL KRASNY MODERN AMERICAN SHORT STORIES: MAJOR FIGURES SINCE 1945

IN-PERSON ONLY

PROF. DEBASHISH BANERJI BUDDHIST ART OF ASIA

*\*This class will not be recorded.*

**PLEASE NOTE: All classes will be recorded for later viewing unless otherwise noted.**

**We will also set up an online only course for viewing on the big screen in a Fromm Hall for communal viewing.**

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## WEDNESDAY

10 A.M. - 11:40 A.M.

ONLINE ONLY

VARIOUS LECTURERS THE MEDICAL LECTURE SERIES COORDINATED BY DR. MELVIN CHEITLIN

1 P.M. - 2:40 P.M.

ONLINE ONLY

PROF. GAYE WALTON-PRICE THE SHARED LEGACY OF THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

IN-PERSON ONLY

PROF. JAMES MULLANE LITERATURE OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH: THE PLANTATION MYTH \*

ONLINE ONLY

PROF. ERNEST NEWBRUN MARC CHAGALL: HIS LIFE & WORK

## THURSDAY

10 A.M. - 11:40 A.M.

IN-PERSON ONLY

PROF. CARY PEPPER MEN OF THE MOVIES IN HOLLYWOOD'S GOLDEN AGE

ONLINE ONLY

PROF. SCOTT FOGLESONG VIRTUOSO

IN-PERSON ONLY

PROF. CHARLIE VARON SEMINAR: WE ARE ALL STORYTELLERS \*

1 P.M. - 2:40 P.M.

IN-PERSON HYBRID

PROF. RUTHE STEIN ROMANTIC COMEDIES – HOLLYWOOD STYLE

IN-PERSON HYBRID

PROF. RICHARD CORRIEA POLICING IN AMERICA: AN EXAMINATION OF THE HISTORY, CULTURE AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

*\*This class will not be recorded.*

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## THE SPRING 2024 COURSE SELECTIONS BY SUBJECT

Full descriptions and faculty biographies appear on pages 7 through 27. Instructions on “how to enroll” are on page 6. Classes run eight weeks from April 15 until June 6. The Academic Calendar appears at the bottom of page 5. For specifics on class times please see pages 2 and 3.

### FINE ARTS

AVRIL ANGEVINE THE ART & SOUL OF ABSTRACTION

DEBESHISH BANERJI BUDDHIST ART OF ASIA

SONNY BUXTON HARLEM TO HOLLYWOOD - SWING IS THE THING

KIP CRANNA PUCCINI PLEASE! THE LIFE, TIMES AND WORK OF THE WORLD’S FAVORITE OPERA COMPOSER

WILLIAM EDELMAN VIENNA 1900

CARY PEPPER FURTHER INTO DARKNESS: FILM NOIR PART 2

SCOTT FOGLESONG VIRTUOSO

ALAN GOLDBERG & INDIANA GOLDERBERG-QUADRA WOMEN TELLING STORIES

MICHAEL KRASNY MODERN AMERICAN SHORT STORIES: MAJOR FIGURES SINCE 1945

THOMAS LORCH ADVENTURES IN AMERICAN POETRY II: CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN POETRY \*

JAMES MULLANE LITERATURE OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH: THE PLANTATION MYTH \*

ERNEST NEWBRUN MARC CHAGALL: HIS LIFE & WORK

CARY PEPPER MEN OF THE MOVIES IN HOLLYWOOD’S GOLDEN AGE

RUTHE STEIN ROMANTIC COMEDIES – HOLLYWOOD STYLE

CHARLIE VARON SEMINAR: WE ARE ALL STORYTELLERS \*

### SCIENCE

VARIOUS LECTURERS THE MEDICAL LECTURE SERIES COORDINATED BY DR. MELVIN CHEITLLIN

ANDREW FRAKNOI THE UNIVERSE REVEALED: A GUIDED TOUR WITH WEBB AND HUBBLE TELESCOPE IMAGES

### SEMINARS

CHARLIE VARON SEMINAR: WE ARE ALL STORYTELLERS \*

### SOCIAL SCIENCE

RICHARD CORRIEA POLICING IN AMERICA: AN EXAMINATION OF THE HISTORY, CULTURE AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

RICHARD COVERT AMERICAN JOURNEYS – REAL AND IMAGINARY

*\*This class will not be recorded.*

## THE SPRING 2024 COURSE SELECTIONS *BY SUBJECT*

Full descriptions and faculty biographies appear on pages 7 through 27. Instructions on “how to enroll” are on page 6. Classes run eight weeks from April 15 until June 6. The Academic Calendar appears at the bottom of page 5. For specifics on class times please see pages 2 and 3.

### **SOCIAL SCIENCE** *continued...*

MARK MONTESANO *NONVIOLENCE AND SOCIAL CHANGE*

DAVID PERITZ *PLACING MACHINE AND HUMAN LEARNING IN DIALOGUE: A.I, TECHNOLOGY AND HUMANITY*

GAYE WALTON-PRICE *THE SHARED LEGACY OF THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM*

## A NOTE ON CLASS RECORDINGS

All Spring classes will be recorded for later viewing, except where noted. Recordings will be posted and available forty-eight hours after the live lecture, barring unforeseen technological circumstances.  
If you are unable to attend a class consider signing up to receive the class recordings.

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

### SPRING SESSION 2024

**April 9** – *Spring Gather Together Event*

**April 10** – *New Student Orientation*

**April 15 - June 6** – *Classes in Session*

**May 16** – *USF Commencement (holiday, no classes)*

**May 27** – *Memorial Day (holiday, no classes)*

**June 10 - June 13** – *Make Up Week*

## ON-CAMPUS PARKING

USF Campus Parking Permits are available for In-Person Classes. Please complete the Parking Permit Application online at [here](#).

## HOW TO ENROLL

1. **VISIT:** <https://courses.fromminstitute.org/>.

2. **NAVIGATE** to the left-hand menu and select "SPRING SESSION 2024" to view the current course offerings. You can return to this page at any time by clicking on "SPRING SESSION 2024" from the left-hand menu.

3. **CLICK ON** "Choose Plan" to choose in-person or online.

4. **FOR HYBRID COURSES**, faculty will teach in-person in Fromm Hall. **NOTE:** Buy the "in-person" option if you plan to attend any classes physically. You'll still receive Zoom links for all online sessions. Choose "online" only if you'll attend ALL classes remotely.

5. **YOUR CREDIT CARD** details will be securely saved for easy enrollment in additional classes.

6. **CONFIRMATION:** Upon enrollment/payment, you'll receive an email confirmation. Online reminders will be sent out 10 minutes before each class.

7. **QUESTIONS:** For any issues or assistance, please contact the Fromm Institute office at 415-422-6805.

**To apply for a scholarship**, please call the Fromm Institute to enroll at 415-422-6805.

## FEES

Each class is \$125 – there are no other fees. Scholarships may be requested by phone (415-422-6805) for up to four classes, and everyone is required to pay something toward their membership. Membership fees are not tuition and cannot be prorated or applied to a future session. Payment can be made by credit card online or over the phone.

## SPRING GATHER TOGETHER EVENT

**Tuesday, April 9, 2024 10 a.m. to Noon**

Please join us at the Fromm Institute [Spring Gather Together](#) event on **Tuesday, April 9, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**, in **Fromm Hall** on the **University of San Francisco** campus. This event is an excellent opportunity for you to meet with our Spring Session faculty and learn about the diverse range of courses offered. Whether you are interested in fine arts, current events, political science or history, our faculty members are passionate about sharing their knowledge and expertise with you. You can also obtain your USF student ID card, learn about the Fromm Institute Student Association (FISA) and other resources available to you as a Fromm Institute student.

The [Spring Gather Together](#) event is a great opportunity for us to reconvene in person with other Fromm Institute students. You can share your experiences, learn from each other, and make new friends. Refreshments will be served, and we'll have plenty of time for socializing. **Registration is required.** Secure your spot today at this informative and engaging event. We look forward to seeing you there!

## CONTACT US

The Fromm Institute office is open Monday through Thursday and every other Friday. You can reach us at:

**Phone:** 415-422-6805

**Email:** [info@FrommInstitute.org](mailto:info@FrommInstitute.org) **Web:** [FrommInstitute.org](http://FrommInstitute.org)

**Mailing Address:**

2130 Fulton St. | SF, CA 94117-1080

## SPRING 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

MONDAYS FROM 10:00AM - 11:40AM

IN-PERSON HYBRID VIENNA 1900

PROF. WILLIAM EDELMAN

As the 600-year-old Hapsburg Empire was coming to its end in Vienna during the period of 1890 to 1920, there occurred this incredible burst of experimental activities and a unique cultural focus on modernity, a focus that shaped the thought and cultural environment of the Western world. This class is an overview of this very provocative period where we will be looking at the works of architects such as Wagner, Hofmann and Loss, painters of the Viennese Secessionist movement such as Klimt, Schiele and Kokoschka who were radical departures from artistic traditions in their explorations of erotic and sexual themes. In psychology and literature, the work of Freud and Schnitzler. In music, the worlds of composers Mahler, Schoenberg, Berg, Johan Strauss II and Richard Straus. This 'crucible of creativity' was happening during a period of tremendous social and political changes. These tensions would express themselves in intense nationalistic feelings, antisemitism, and class struggles, which would break the Empire apart. Vienna was the central focus of multiethnic complexity – it drew people from throughout Central and Eastern Europe into the mixture that defined and transformed the Hapsburg Empire into a major experiment of modernity.



**Prof. William Eddelman**

William Eddelman is an Associate Professor Emeritus in Theatre History and Design in the Stanford University Department of Theatre and Performance Studies. At Stanford, he combined both the Academic and Creative worlds in undergraduate and graduate classes. His course offerings and theatrical interpretations were extremely varied, diverse, and interdisciplinary, moving from theater and cultural history through contemporary designs aesthetics and dramatic literature. As an expert in international theatrical design with a focus on Europe he is currently creating an international theatrical design and performance collection, and in honor of the 75th anniversary of the Achenbach Graphic Arts Council of the San Francisco Fine Arts Museums he gave his complete Japanese Kabuki Collection. Currently he is preparing and researching a class titled Orientalism: East to West, a study of Cultural and Artistic Influence that comes from the Middle and Far East and how they have affected Western Cultures – this is a unique opportunity to be exposed to a class of this nature. This subject matter has never previously been offered at the Fromm Institute.

## SPRING 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

MONDAYS FROM 10:00AM - 11:40AM

**ONLINE ONLY** **THE LIFE OF THE MIND IN THE AGE OF INTELLIGENT MACHINES: PLACING MACHINE AND HUMAN LEARNING AND COGNITION IN DIALOGUE**  
**PROF. DAVID PERITZ**

Humanity is for the first time encountering, in artificial intelligence and the machine learning on which it rests, a form of intelligence we have created that not only differs from but also in important respects exceeds our own. One set of critical questions to be addressed in this class concerns dangers posed by unleashing an intelligence we are far from certain that we can control. These concerns run from the relatively mundane but still essential (How many jobs will be lost by humans to AI? How much of our privacy and routine autonomy of decision-making will we surrender?) to the existential (AI experts estimate that there is a roughly 10% chance that AI will bring about human extinction or a permanent and severe disempowerment of the human species!). But there are also possible employments and overall scenarios for AI that are far more benign and in fact beneficial: a humanity relieved of boring, repetitive stultifying tasks and able to concentrate our intelligence on more creative employments; an artificial intelligence that assists us in solving some of our most urgent problems (think climate change). Yet even in this second, more utopian scenario, it seems that relieving humanity of the need to solve routine and daunting problems will not leave us unaltered. So another range of issues concerns what we can learn about human intelligence, language use, creativity and cultures, as well as their limits, by comparing the way we think—the categories and conceptual schemes as well as unconscious processes that organize our cognition—with the way machines think. Surveying these issues will allow us to relate the architecture of our minds and brains to the way machines think. Already the study of artificial intelligence is transforming our understanding of human cognition. Perhaps this a good moment, before the way we think and act are transformed by constant interaction with and reliance on AI, not only seek to envision a world restructured by thinking machines, but also to take stock of the life of the human mind such as we have known it until now.



**Prof. David Peritz**

David Peritz earned his BA from Occidental College and Ph.D. from Oxford. A professor at Sarah Lawrence College since 2000, he is the recipient of a Marshall Scholarship and has taught at Harvard, Deep Springs, Dartmouth, UC Berkeley, and Cornell. His research focuses on modern and contemporary political philosophy, especially theories of democracy and justice and their relation to issues of diversity and inequality. He has taught at Fromm since 2016 and has been in lifelong learning for nearly 25 years. He also directs the Minerva Academy of Lifelong Learning and recently received a Mellon Foundation Grant to support his work in this field.

## SPRING 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

MONDAYS FROM 10:00AM - 11:40AM

IN-PERSON HYBRID NONVIOLENCE AND SOCIAL CHANGE

PROF. MARK MONTESANO

Long before Martin Luther King, Jr., the Montgomery Bus Boycott, The Freedom Riders, and the march on Selma, Black leaders in the U.S. showed great interest in how Mohandas Gandhi used nonviolent methods and mass media to challenge British rule and trigger real social change.

As early as the 1920s, several of these leaders went to India to study Gandhi's methods. In this class, we will trace a direct line from Gandhi to Black colleges to MLK and some of the most dramatic events of the civil rights movement of the 50's and 60's.

We will begin with Gandhi's development as a leader: from a proud British citizen to a successful lawyer in South Africa, to a civil rights activist in South Africa, and then the iconic leader of India's struggle for independence from the British.

From there, we will explore the early influence of Gandhi on Black American leaders like King in the struggle to overcome the horrors of Jim Crow laws and bigotry in mid-20th century America.

Over 100 PowerPoint photos and two brief films will dramatize and make this inspiring era come alive. Throughout, we will discuss the effectiveness of nonviolent methods and philosophy and their relevance today.



**Prof. Mark Montesano**

For over 20 years, Dr. Mark Montesano taught a broad range of humanities seminars at Arizona State University for the Department of Religious Studies, The Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, and The Barrett Honors College.

Before that, he spent 20 years as a therapist and counselor. With graduate degrees in counseling psychology, religious studies, and English. He has a passion for integrating fields of knowledge to explore what it means to be human in various cultures and throughout history.

His current interests include exploring the similarities between Western and Eastern philosophies. Out of his love for jazz and its history, he taught a class on the first 50 years of recorded jazz. After retiring to Portland, Oregon he became the host of his own radio show for 4 years. He gave regular lectures on jazz history and led philosophy reading groups there.

## SPRING 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

MONDAYS FROM 1:00PM – 2:40PM

ONLINE ONLY

**HARLEM TO HOLLYWOOD – SWING IS THE THING**

**PROF. SONNY BUXTON**

Swing music and its description will be used as a metaphor for life and times in U.S. history, beginning with the Harlem Renaissance. The course will look at artists such as Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Fletcher Henderson, Louis Armstrong, and Artie Shaw. As we trace their careers, we look at social history in the United States. 'Swing' was another word for 'Jazz,' created by the industry to hide a musical style closely associated with African Americans. In the middle twenties of the last century, bands led by Fletcher Henderson, Duke Ellington, Chick Webb, and others were playing and popularizing the new music. Millions of Black citizens were migrating from the South to the North. New York's Harlem was the site of the largest settlement of Black migrants. Through the music and the artists, the course will present a profile of the music, the people and the movement.



**Prof. Sonny Buxton**

Sonny Buxton's lifelong passion has been music and documentary filmmaking. He has worked as a professional musician with the likes of Peggy Lee, Billy Eckstine, and Bill Strayhorn. He has produced shows ranging in scope from the Motown Allstars to B. B. King, Ray Charles, Ella Fitzgerald, and Miles Davis. He traveled with Ellington, producing an award-winning audio documentary. A longtime jazz club/restaurant in Seattle and SF, he has also had a long career in broadcasting, working for KGO as a newsman, a talk show host, and an executive producer. He is a Northern California Emmy Awardee. He hosts "Saturday Mid-Day Jazz" on KCSM. Working as a social psychologist/football player has been part of his life, now being put into [Memoirs of a Jazz Junkie: My First Two Hundred Years](#).

## SPRING 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

MONDAYS FROM 1:00PM – 2:40PM

**IN-PERSON ONLY** ADVENTURES IN AMERICAN POETRY II: CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN POETRY  
**PROF. THOMAS LORCH**

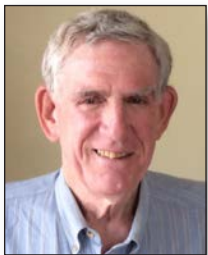
**NOTE: THIS CLASS WILL NOT BE RECORDED**

Contemporary American Poetry, American poetry written since the 70s, especially in the 21st Century, opens a whole new world. Older poetry was written long enough ago that a consensus has developed about who the outstanding poets are and what their best poems are.

No such consensus exists for contemporary poetry. Instead, we have an explosion of poets who are writing and publishing their poetry. You can find this explosion at your local public libraries. I live near three branches: I have found at least 20 to 30 recently published poetry books at each, with almost no overlapping. There are also some anthologies, which also rarely repeat poets or poems.

The result is an exciting variety of poems and poets. I am seeking to select poems that have freshness and uniqueness, striking language and poetic forms, that special something that reaches and touches us.

The format will be the same as in previous classes: two to four poets each day, short poems, all provided online in advance, read and discussed in class. Classes will be participatory: I believe that sharing our questions and responses enriches our understanding and appreciation of the poems.



**Prof. Thomas Lorch**

Thomas Lorch's great love is teaching literature. He has taught 7th grade through graduate school for more than twenty years. Quick biofacts. Education: New Trier High School, Yale (B.A., Ph.D.), University of Chicago (M.A.). Teaching: The Groton School, The University of Notre Dame, and others. Long-time public high school principal. "I find teaching and sharing literature always exciting and always fresh and new because every reader and every reading is different. I see reading as a creative act, as a two-way conversation between the work being read and the reader, in which he or she creates alongside the author. My approach to teaching great literature is to look as closely as possible at the texts themselves. What makes great literature great is that there is always more to find."

## SPRING 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

### MONDAYS FROM 1:00PM - 2:40PM

#### IN-PERSON HYBRID AMERICAN JOURNEYS – REAL AND IMAGINARY

##### PROF. RICHARD COVERT

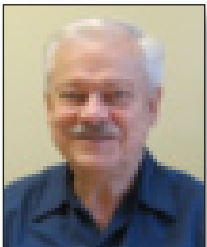
We start with the 1840s migration West - farmers sought fertile land in Oregon, young men sought gold in California, Mormons fled persecution and found safety in Utah.

Mark Twain's The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, published in 1884, is still read by millions. Huck flees his abusive father and joins forces with the escaped slave Jim - their adventures on the Mississippi River are the American Odyssey.

In the 1930s, poor farmers in Oklahoma and Arkansas fled drought and drove west on Route 66, seeking jobs in the San Joaquin Valley. John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath chronicled their journey.

Ernest Hemingway lived and wrote in France, Spain, Key West, and Cuba. His best novels feature Americans who volunteer for service in Italy in World War I (A Farewell to Arms) and the Spanish Civil War (For Whom the Bell Tolls.)

Then there's the great migration to California after WWII. May Fromm students be a part of the story. We'll feature actors, musicians, artists, and politicians who were a part of these journeys.



##### Prof. Richard Covert

Prof. Covert has a lifelong passion for American history and culture. A graduate of Stanford Law School he was a trial lawyer for Caltrans and other public entities for over forty years.

## SPRING 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

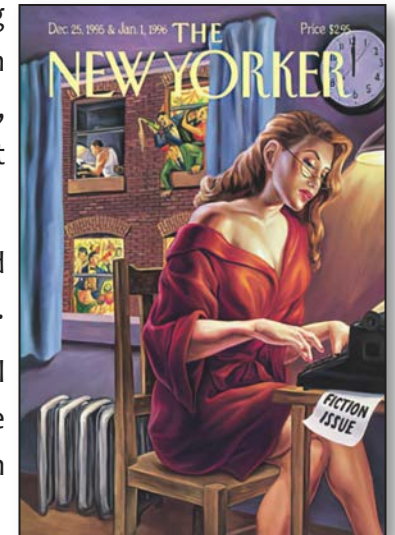
**TUESDAYS FROM 10:00AM - 11:40AM**

**IN-PERSON HYBRID** **WOMEN TELLING STORIES: CONTEMPORARY SHORT FICTION SELECTED (MOSTLY) FROM *THE NEW YORKER***  
**PROFS. ALAN GOLDBERG & INDIANA QUADRA-GOLDBERG**

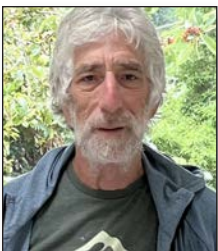
An extraordinary array of short stories has been published in the Fiction section of *The New Yorker*, the long-standing showcase for the best that this genre has to offer. In recent years, under the stewardship of fiction editor Deborah Treisman, women's stories have gained far greater prominence. An array of esteemed authors, such as Allegra Goodman, Gish Jen, Zadie Smith, and Ann Patchett, have been published early and often in the *New Yorker*, alongside emergent female authors.

The time is ripe for the voices of women fiction writers to be heard clearly and distinctly. To this end, we will be joined by Indiana Quadra-Goldberg, whose expertise lies in the field of Latina literature and extends to all women's literature.

At the core of this course, students would read and discuss a representative sampling of such stories. Context will be provided through lectures, slides, film clips, and author/critic interviews. We will encourage a collaborative classroom environment where the readers — whether women or men — are challenged to examine literature from a female perspective.



As Hamlet exclaimed, “The play’s the thing” that reveals the “conscience of the king.” Likewise, author Carolyn See observes, “Every word a woman writes changes the story of the world, revises the official version.”



**Prof. Alan Goldberg**

Recently retired after a 40-year career at USF, Alan Goldberg has concentrated on the multi-cultural variants of Rhetoric in American Literature. He was mentored by Saul Bellow at Chicago, Leon Edel at Hawaii, and Irving Halperin (late of the Fromm) at SFSU. Concentrating on Jewish American literature with particular emphasis on Bellow, Doctorow, and Roth, he is presently exploring the contemporary Jewish literary generation alongside other ethnic writers. His work extends to such genres as baseball writing and the bardic musical tradition of Dylan, Cohen, and Simon.



**Prof. Indiana Quadra-Goldberg**

A Nicaraguan-American, native San Franciscan, and lifelong educator, Indiana Quadra recently retired as Chair of Career Counseling and Professor of Ethnic Studies/Women's Studies at CCSF where she developed a core bicultural and bilingual curriculum, “Latinas in the USA.”

## SPRING 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

TUESDAYS FROM 10:00AM - 11:40AM

IN-PERSON HYBRID THE ART & SOUL OF ABSTRACTION

PROF. AVRIL ANGEVINE



Abstract Art: Whirling colors, sinuous lines, thick paint--and not a face, a tree, a cow in sight! Is abstraction supposed to be hard--or easy? Where did it come from? Why did it dominate mid-century art? What does it offer to the viewer or the painter? Explore the mystery and magic of abstract art in this eight-session course. We'll look at the beginnings of abstraction in the early 20th century, move on to the heyday of American Abstract Expressionism of the 40s and 50s, and finish by examining the kinds of abstraction produced now.

*Of all the arts, abstract painting is the most difficult. It demands that you know how to draw well, that you have a heightened sensitivity for composition and for colors, and that you be a true poet.*

*This last is essential.*

— Wassily Kandinsky



**Prof. Avril Angevine**

Avril Angevine is an art lecturer interested in modern, contemporary, and California art. She has spoken on many subjects at various locations in the Bay Area, including numerous OLLI programs and the Fromm Institute. Avril has a BA in English and an MA in Comparative Literature from UC Berkeley and taught English and Humanities at local colleges. She is also a museum guide at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and a docent at the Oakland Museum of California and the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art.

## SPRING 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

**TUESDAYS FROM 10:00AM - 11:40AM**

**IN-PERSON HYBRID PUCCHINI PLEASE! THE LIFE, TIMES AND WORK OF THE WORLD'S FAVORITE OPERA COMPOSER**  
**PROF. KIP CRANNA**

**PRESENTED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE VICTOR MARCUS CHAIR IN OPERA STUDIES**

Opera fans love Giacomo Puccini. The last of the great Italian opera composers, he never fails to thrill us with his soaring melodies or to move us with his pathos. But let's take a closer look at Puccini's world and discover what lies behind the music as we watch Puccini evolve from a composer in the grand tradition of Italian opera into a ground-breaking exponent of supercharged post-Romantic "verismo." We'll search for the real people and true stories behind his operas and uncover fascinating details about Puccini's often tumultuous career. We'll investigate his life and art in their historical context and use video examples to examine in detail his emotionally stirring music dramas.



**Prof. Kip Cranna**

Dr. Clifford "Kip" Cranna is Dramaturg (Scholar in Residence) Emeritus of San Francisco Opera, where he served on the staff for over 40 years, earning the San Francisco Opera Medal, the Company's highest honor. He holds a PhD in Musicology from Stanford, and has taught at the San Francisco Conservatory. He teaches opera appreciation regularly at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes at UC Berkeley, San Francisco State, and Dominican University as well as at the Fromm Institute.

## SPRING 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

### TUESDAYS FROM 1:00PM - 2:40PM

ONLINE ONLY

#### THE UNIVERSE REVEALED: A GUIDED TOUR WITH WEBB AND HUBBLE TELESCOPE IMAGES

**PROF. ANDREW FRAKNOI**

For more than a year, the James Webb Space Telescope, orbiting a million miles from Earth in the deep freeze of space, has sent back remarkable information about the faint heat rays from objects in the universe. At the same time, the Hubble Telescope continues to observe some of the same stars and galaxies with visible light. Never before have we had images of the cosmos so rich in color and detail.



In this profusely illustrated class, astronomer Andrew Fraknoi will take us on a guided tour of the wider universe as astronomers understand it today, presented in everyday language and without any math. We will look at star birth and star death, the organization and structure of the Milky Way, cosmic mergers and collisions, and the great web of galaxies seen far away and long ago that gives us clues about the beginning and development of the universe. No background in science will be assumed or required.



#### **Prof. Andrew Fraknoi**

Andrew Fraknoi retired as Chair of the Astronomy Department at Foothill College in 2017. He was chosen the California Professor of the Year in 2007 by the Carnegie Endowment and has won several national prizes for his teaching. He is the lead author of OpenStax Astronomy, a free, electronic textbook, which is now the country's most-assigned introductory text in the field. He has also written books for teachers, children, and the public. He appears regularly on local & national radio, explaining astronomical ideas in terms everyone can understand. The International Astronomical Union has named Asteroid 4859 Asteroid Fraknoi to recognize his contributions to the public appreciation of science. See: <http://fraknoi.com> for more information about his work (including his recently published science fiction stories).

## SPRING 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

**TUESDAYS FROM 1:00PM – 2:40PM**

ONLINE ONLY

**MODERN AMERICAN SHORT STORIES: MAJOR FIGURES SINCE 1945**

**PROF. MICHAEL KRASNY**

We will read and discuss short stories by major figures in American fiction since 1945 at the pace of two stories each week for the eight weeks of the course. Authors will include (by week) John Cheever and Raymond Carver; Philip Roth and Bernard Malamud; Ralph Ellison and James Baldwin; Grace Paley and Tillie Olsen; Flannery O'Connor and Joyce Carol Oates; John Updike and Toni Cade Bambara; Amy Tan and Jamaica Kincaid; Louise Erdrich and Sherman Alexei.



**Prof. Michael Krasny**

Dr. Krasny was the host of the award winning KQED FORUM, a program discussing news and public affairs, current events, culture, health, business and technology. He has interviewed a wide range of major political and cultural figures. He is also a veteran interviewer for the nationally broadcast City Arts and Lectures series. Focus Magazine named him Best Bay Area Talk Show Host, and he was selected Best Talk Host and Best Interviewer by the editorial staff of San Francisco Weekly, as well as in their annual reader's poll.

He is the author of Off Mike: A Memoir of Talk Radio and Literary Life (Stanford University Press) which was on both *The San Francisco Chronicle* and *The Marin Independent Journal* best-seller lists, Sound Ideas (with Maggie Sokolik McGraw-Hill) and Let There Be Laughter (Harper Collins). He also released a twenty-four lecture series DVD, audio and book on “Short Story Masterpieces” for The Teaching Company, and is the author of Spiritual Envy (New World Press), which was also on the best-seller lists in *The San Francisco Chronicle* and the *Marin Independent Journal*.

A professor of English at San Francisco State University, he has been Visiting Professor at the University of San Francisco, Adjunct Professor at the University of California San Francisco and taught in Continuing Education at Stanford University, as well as being an Associate of the San Francisco Urban Institute. In 2007, he was honored with an Award of Excellence from the National Association of Humanities Educators. In 2017 Michael was a writer-in-residence at the Mendocino Coast Writers' Conference.

## SPRING 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

**TUESDAYS FROM 1:00PM - 2:40PM**

**IN-PERSON HYBRID BUDDHIST ART OF ASIA**

**PROF. DEBASHISH BANERJI**

This course will trace the history of Buddhism in Asia through its different regional artistic manifestations. It will begin with the early expressions of Buddhism in India covering sites such as Sanchi and Ajanta and then trace the expansion of Theravada Buddhism to Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia (Thailand, Myanmar) and of various schools of Mahayana and Tantric Buddhism, such as sects devoted to Maitreya, Avalokiteshwara and Vairochana Buddha, as well as the doctrines of Shingon, Vajrayana and Chan/Zen Buddhism, in China, Japan, Indonesia and Tibet. In all these cases, it will aim at showing how the art reflects the doctrine. It will end with a consideration of modern and contemporary expressions of Buddhist art in Asia.



**Prof. Debashish Banerji**

Debashish Banerji, PhD is Haridas Chaudhuri Professor of Indian Philosophy and Culture and Doshi Professor of Asian Art at the California Institute of Integral Studies. He is also the program chair in the East-West Psychology department. Professor Banerji obtained his PhD in Art History from the University of California, Los Angeles. He served as Professor of Indian Studies and Dean of Academics at the University of Philosophical Research in Los Angeles and has taught as adjunct faculty in Art History at the Pasadena City College, University of California, Los Angeles and University of California, Irvine. Banerji has authored and edited several books on major figures of "the Bengal Renaissance" such as the Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore, the artist Abanindranath Tagore and the spiritual thinker Sri Aurobindo. He has also edited books on Critical Posthumanism and Integral Yoga Psychology.

## SPRING 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

### WEDNESDAYS FROM 10:00AM - 11:40AM

ONLINE ONLY **MEDICAL LECTURE SERIES**  
**DR. MELVIN CHEITLIN, MODERATOR**

The Medical Lecture Series has been an invaluable educational resource since 1982 granting access to expert opinion on major medical issues and developments in health care today. With thanks to Chancellor Sam Hawgood, M.B.B.S., for UCSF's continued sponsorship, this cornerstone of our curriculum features speakers from UCSF and is superbly organized by **Melvin Cheitlin, M.D.**

**17 April** – Coronary Artery Disease and Myocardial Infraction – What's New? **John MacGregor, M.D., Ph.D.**

**24 April** – CRISPR Editing in Clinical Medicine **Jennifer Doudna, M.D.**

**1 May** – Imaging in 3-D - Putting the Patient's Anatomy in the Surgeon's Hands **Shafkat Anwar, M. D.**

**8 May** – Asthma & COPD **Prescott Woodruff, M.D.**

**15 May** – Spare Parts – The Ongoing Revolution in Transplantation **Nancy Ascher, M.D., Ph.D.**

**22 May** – Staying Strong to the Core – an Update on Bone Health **Dolores Shoback, M.D.**

**29 May** – Role of Inflammation and Cardiovascular Disease **Priscilla Hsue, M.D.**

**5 June** – Progress in Parkinson's Disease Treatments: From Improvements in Levodopa Delivery to Gene and Stem Cell Therapies **Chad Christine, M.D.**



**Dr. Melvin Cheitlin**

Dr. Cheitlin has organized the Spring 8-week *Medical Lecture Series* for the last 21 years. He is Emeritus Professor of Medicine, UCSF and former Chief of Cardiology at ZSFGH. Prior to joining UCSF he spent 20 years in the Army Medical Corps and was Chief of Cardiology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Dr. Cheitlin is a Master of the American College of Cardiology, a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, a Fellow of the American Heart Association and has been the Chair of the Subspecialty Board on Cardiovascular Disease of the American Board of Internal Medicine. He has been Chairman of the FDA Circulatory Devices Panel.

## SPRING 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

**WEDNESDAYS FROM 1:00PM – 2:40PM**

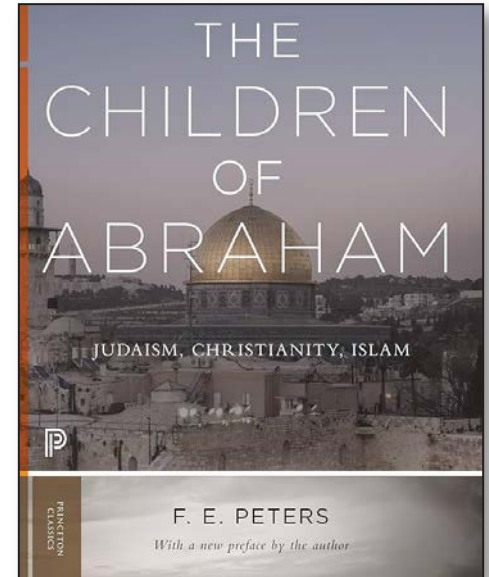
**ONLINE ONLY THE SHARED LEGACY OF THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM**  
**PROF. GAYE WALTON-PRICE**

The Shared Legacy of the Children of Abraham – All are heirs to God’s Promise to Abraham. How can the entwined elements of the Judeo-Christian-Islamic traditions inform us to move forward into an enlightened era?! Discovering the universal threads of meaning within the 3 Abrahamic Religions, as illustrated and explained by F. E. Peters in the book,

The Children of Abraham; Judaism, Christianity, Islam.

Princeton University Press [c 2018]

***This course requires that students purchase this book available through Amazon.com and through several other book vendors.***



### **Prof. Gaye Walton-Price**

Gaye D. Walton-Price is a highly motivated and talented college and university professor with years of teaching experience in various academic settings. Dr. Walton-Price earned her Ph.D. in Arabic language and linguistics at Georgetown University and also has a Master’s degree in Religious Studies from Yale University Divinity School. She has lived and worked in North Africa for extended periods of time. After nearly 20 years of college and university-level teaching experience, she found new teaching experiences to be invigorating when she recently joined the dynamic Fromm family of instructors, students, and admins. Along the way, she has gained expertise in teaching humanities and philosophy courses, in addition to the Arabic language classes.

## SPRING 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

**WEDNESDAYS FROM 1:00PM - 2:40PM**

**IN-PERSON ONLY LITERATURE OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH: THE PLANTATION MYTH**

**PROF. JAMES MULLANE**

**NOTE: THIS CLASS WILL NOT BE RECORDED**

**PRESENTED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SANOMAR “NONIE” BARR CHAIR IN LITERATURE**

The American South has always been associated with images of nostalgic, romantic local color. The myth of the plantation as an earthly Eden has endured from Thomas Nelson Page’s depiction of Marse Chan to Margaret Mitchell’s Scarlett O’Hara. In actuality, life in the south for many was the extreme antithesis. This course will examine the stereotypes that obscure this reality and seek to penetrate and deconstruct them. We will explore questions of race, caste, and gender oppression from the perspectives of both the “Old and New South,” in an effort to reread the representation of the “South” in literature beyond its usual, monochromatic romanticism. Readings will include 19th Century Plantation Fiction, autobiographical Slave Narrative, and 20th Century Expressionist Drama. The course will be conducted seminar style and require student reading and participation.



**Prof. James Mullane**

James Mullane holds a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University in 19th and 20th Century American Literature, and an M.A. in English from University of New Orleans. He was an Associate Professor of English and Graduate Humanities at Dominican University of California and has had an extensive career at Lasallian secondary schools in both California and Louisiana. His major areas of interest and research include Frederick Douglass, Henry James, Kate Chopin, and Tennessee Williams.

## SPRING 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

**WEDNESDAYS FROM 1:00PM - 2:40PM**

ONLINE ONLY

**MARC CHAGALL: HIS LIFE & WORK**

**PROF. ERNEST NEWBRUN**

Chagall (1887-1985) was a Russia-born French Jewish modernist painter, and a major 20th century art figure. He trained in Vitebsk and St. Petersburg before moving to Paris in 1910, then the art capital of the world. Chagall was a craftsman, painter and illustrator. He also demonstrated versatility in theater work (sets, costumes), sculpture, ceramics, and stained glass. Throughout his career he incorporated elements from many schools of modern art, including Cubism, Fauvism, Symbolism and Surrealism, but developed his own unique style of painting, which blended sentiment and fantasy, figurative and narrative with a touch of whimsy. Chagall's favorite themes were Jewish folklore, stories from the bible, and illustrating the circus, often including scenes of his home in Vitebsk. According to Robert Hughes, he had a "lyric, flyaway, enraptured imagination" with "wry, sweet and irrepressibly meshuggeneh visions". Late in his career, when in his 70s and 80s, Chagall turned to stained glass, crafting magnificent windows for cathedrals like Reims and Metz, for the United Nations, the Art Institute of Chicago, and churches in England, Zürich, and U.S.A. as well as a synagogue in Jerusalem. In this course, we will study the work of his highly productive career.



**Prof. Ernest Newbrun**

Ernest Newbrun is Prof. Emeritus at UCSF where he taught oral biology for over 30 years. He earned dental degrees (BDS, DMD), graduate degrees (MS, PhD) and received honorary doctorates (Doc Odont, DDSc). Since his retirement from the UC in 1994, he has been teaching in lifelong learning programs at USF's Fromm Institute and Sonoma State University Osher Lifelong Learning Institute on a wide range of topics in science (evolution), nutrition (sugars & sweeteners), origin of scripts, and art history (biblical art, secessionism, expressionism, self-portraiture, murals, stolen art, innovators in modern art). Prof. Newbrun was born in Vienna, Austria, grew up in Sydney, Australia and has lived in San Francisco since 1961.

## SPRING 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

THURSDAYS FROM 10:00AM - 11:40AM

IN-PERSON ONLY MEN OF THE MOVIES IN HOLLYWOOD'S GOLDEN AGE

PROF. CARY PEPPER

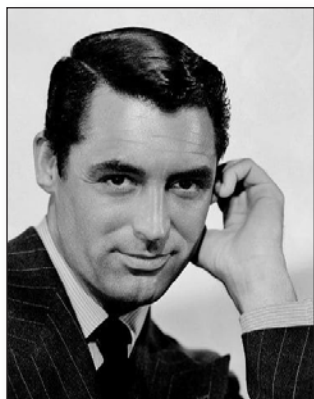
PRESENTED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ROBERT FORDHAM CHAIR IN LIBERAL ARTS

In this class we'll take a look at eight actors who left their mark on Hollywood and the millions of fans who flocked to see them on the big screen during American film's Golden Age. We'll discuss the highlights and low points, lives and careers, triumphs and tragedies, of Gary Cooper, James Stewart, Humphrey Bogart, James Cagney, Spencer Tracy, Edward G. Robinson, Henry Fonda, and Cary Grant. Films will include High Noon; Mr. Smith Goes to Washington; The African Queen; White Heat; Bad Day at Black Rock; Double Indemnity; and Notorious.



**Prof. Cary Pepper**

Cary Pepper is a playwright, novelist, screenwriter, and nonfiction writer. His plays have been presented throughout the United States and internationally. He's a four-time contributor to the Best American Short Plays series from Applause Books, and he's published dozens of articles as well as other nonfiction. He's taught classes on Alfred Hitchcock, Billy Wilder, Elia Kazan, Francis Ford Coppola, film noir, Humphrey Bogart, Women of the Silver Screen, Casablanca, Double Indemnity, and other aspects of American films.



## SPRING 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

**THURSDAYS FROM 10:00AM – 11:40AM**

**ONLINE ONLY** **VIRTUOSO**  
**PROF. SCOTT FOGLESONG**

**PRESENTED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE BARBARA FROMM CHAIR IN CLASSICAL MUSIC**

Virtuoso: no mere performer, but a presence. Larger than life, fascinating, compelling, mesmerizing, thrilling, intimidating. Sometimes irritating. These are the superstars of the musical world, they who command the highest fees and demand the utmost adulation. They are Jascha Heifetz, Vladimir Horowitz, Arthur Rubinstein, Maria Callas, Luciano Pavarotti, Enrico Caruso, Pablo Casals, Rudolf Serkin, Glenn Gould, and ... and ... and. Too many to list—but we'll encounter, celebrate, and experience as many as we can. Join us for Virtuoso: eight weeks of stellar music-making, inspiring rags-to-riches stories, and utterly oversized egos.



**Prof. Scott Foglesong**

Scott Foglesong is the Chair of Musicianship & Music Theory at the SF Conservatory of Music, where he has been a faculty member since 1978. In 2008, he received the Sarlo Award for Excellence in Teaching. A Contributing Writer and PreConcert Lecturer for the SF Symphony, he also serves as Program Annotator for the California Symphony, Grand Teton Music Festival, Maestro Foundation, and Left Coast Chamber Ensemble. As a pianist, he has appeared with the Francesco Trio, Chanticleer, members of the SF Symphony, and solo/chamber recitals nationwide in a repertoire ranging from Renaissance through ragtime, jazz, and modern. At the Peabody Conservatory, he studied piano with Elizabeth Katzenellenbogen; later, at the SF Conservatory, he studied piano with Nathan Schwarz, harpsichord with Laurette Goldberg, and theory with Sol Joseph and John Adams.



## SPRING 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

THURSDAYS FROM 10:00AM – 11:40AM

IN-PERSON ONLY **SEMINAR: WE ARE ALL STORYTELLERS**

**PROF. CHARLIE VARON**

**NOTE: THIS CLASS WILL NOT BE RECORDED**

Human beings are the storytelling animal. Sometimes we write our stories. Sometimes we speak them out loud. Sometimes we seek an audience of thousands. Sometimes we share a story with one trusted friend.

This class is designed to help you develop your unique gifts as a storyteller. It focuses on three questions:

- What are you called to say?
- What makes the creative process come alive for you?
- What are you discovering about yourself as a storyteller?

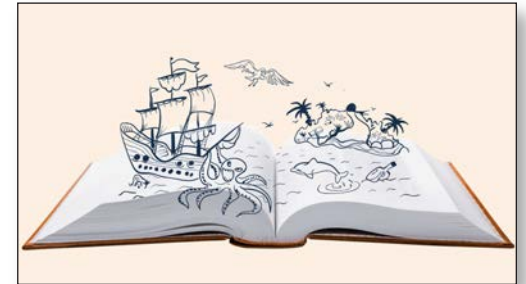
We will begin by creating very short stories, 3 to 5 minutes long – the equivalent of the visual artist's sketch. After that each student has the option of developing the story into a longer piece, or moving on to work on another very short story.

Each class session will include

- a brief writing prompt
- a chance to share what you've written with another student
- several students sharing work with the group, and getting feedback from me (optional)

This is a class for writers at all levels, from beginners who want to get started to seasoned storytellers who want a jolt of fresh energy.

**ENROLLMENT NOTE: This class is limited to 25 students on a first come, first served basis. The first meeting (April 18) is required, as is regular attendance. Please do not apply unless you can make this commitment**



**Prof. Charlie Varon**

The *San Francisco Chronicle* has credited Charlie Varon with “redefining the medium” of solo performance. For over 30 years, he has written, performed, directed and taught at The Marsh Theater in San Francisco. Charlie’s award-winning shows – all created in collaboration with David Ford – include Rush Limbaugh in Night School, The People’s Violin, Rabbi Sam, and Second Time Around. Since 2004, Charlie has collaborated with and directed Dan Hoyle on his hit solo shows, including Tings Dey Happen, The Real Americans and Border People. Charlie’s current focus is his work as a coach and mentor – especially for those who don’t think of themselves as professional writers. “I’m passionate about the craft of storytelling and creating the conditions where anyone can express and share their truth.”

## SPRING 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

THURSDAYS FROM 1:00PM - 2:40PM

IN-PERSON HYBRID ROMANTIC COMEDIES – HOLLYWOOD STYLE  
PROF. RUTHE STEIN

An overview course tracking the evolution of Hollywood romantic comedies from early sound films like “It Happened One Night”-- tracking a romance from an unlikely beginning to a happy ending-- to less substantial films of the 21st century. Their flimsiness is captured in the abbreviated name of the genre, now called romcoms. The class will cover classics like “Annie Hall,” “Four Weddings and a Funeral,” “When Harry Met Sally” and “Sleepless in Seattle,” illustrating through clips how the stories build to enthrall audiences with the lives and loves of the characters. Contemporary romcoms are notable for displaying diversity such as “Past Lives” in which a woman of Asian descent is torn between her former Korean boyfriend and her white husband. The question running through all these films: Does love really conquer all?



**Prof. Ruthe Stein**

Ruthe Stein is the founder and co-director of the annual Mostly British Film Festival. For 50 years, she was the movie editor, film critic and celebrity profiler for the San Francisco Chronicle. She is the author of Sitting Down With the Stars: Interviews with 100 Hollywood Legends. She wrote a syndicated singles column that ran in 30 newspapers and is the author The Art of Single Living. She has taught at the Fromm Institute for more than a decade and holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.

## SPRING 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

### THURSDAYS FROM 1:00PM – 2:40PM

**IN-PERSON HYBRID** **POLICING IN AMERICA; AN EXAMINATION OF THE HISTORY, CULTURE, POLICIES AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN POLICING AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

**PROF. RICHARD CORRIEA**

#### **PRESENTED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE HOWARD NEMEROVSKI CHAIR IN GOVERNMENT, SOCIETY & PUBLIC POLICY**

This course will provide students with a perspective on the development of modern policing, the nature of police strategies, and current challenges facing agencies and the communities they serve.

The course subject matter will include consideration of how community values, media, popular culture, and politics drive police policy and policing methodologies.

The instructor will share his experiences and insights as the class considers police and justice system policy related to topics including police legitimacy, use of force, police discipline, violent crime, criminal prosecutions, and disorder.

The curriculum includes a critical behind-the-cut look at police culture, leadership, and how departments operate. Significant attention will be given to the traditions, culture, and policies of the San Francisco Police Department.

This course is intended to inspire an informed community to leadership in the ongoing critical discourse on policing.

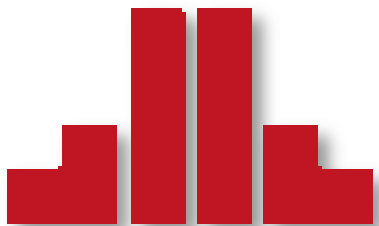


#### **Prof. Richard Corriea**

Richard Corriea is a fourth-generation San Franciscan and a former San Francisco Police Department Commander. He attended San Francisco State University, and earned his Juris Doctorate and Master's in Business Administration at Golden Gate University. He is an adjunct professor at University of San Francisco's School of Management.

Corriea's family has a long history of public service in San Francisco. His great grandfather was an SFPD sergeant before the 1906 earthquake and fire, and relatives including his great-uncle, father, sister and cousins have served the city since that time.

During his career in public safety Corriea has held a wide variety of positions, including, commanding the SFPD's Metro Division, where his responsibilities included five district stations and over 600 personnel. Prior to his appointment to commander he headed up the Police Academy, Internal Affairs, Sexual Assault Investigations, commanded Police Station, managed security operations at the SF Airport and the Municipal Railway.



*There is still time to contribute to the **2024 Annual Campaign**. Make your donation before May 31, to be listed on these pages in next year's catalogs. Please visit [fromminstitute.org/giving](https://fromminstitute.org/giving) to make your donation today.*

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