Reading Austen's *Emma* with Juliette Wells
Virtual course: Mondays Apr 3 and 17, May 1 and 15 7:00-8:30 pm ET
Zoom link will be sent one week before the course begins

Description
Emma and the Woman Artist
What is to become of a talented woman in a society that believes that her abilities are best spent amusing herself, entertaining her family, and educating her children?
Jane Austen took up this question most directly in *Emma*, which focuses on a heroine who is an "imaginist" and which also features a supporting character whose musical gifts greatly exceed what is expected of an accomplished woman. Austen, an inventive writer beginning in her teenage years, knew well what it was like to aspire to more than women were supposed to and to face hard choices about balancing creative work and family obligations. We will read and discuss *Emma* in relation to Austen's life and career, her involvement in the publication of her novels, and the critical praise her works received during and after her lifetime.

Recommended text
Please purchase the special 200th anniversary edition of *Emma*, introduced and edited by Juliette Wells
https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/318866/emma-by-jane-austen-edited-with-an-introduction-by-juliette-wells/

Reading schedule
Apr 3: chapters 1 – 17
Apr 17: chapters 18 – 29
May 1: chapters 30 - 42
May 15: chapters 43 - 55

About the instructor
Juliette Wells is Professor of Literary Studies at Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland. She is the author of three histories of Austen's readers, all published by Bloomsbury Academic: *Everybody's Jane: Austen in the Popular Imagination* (2011), *Reading Austen in America* (2017), and *A New Jane Austen: How Americans Brought Us the World's Greatest Novelist* (forthcoming 2023). For Penguin Classics, she created reader-friendly 200th-anniversary editions of Austen's novels *Emma* (2015) and *Persuasion* (2017). All these books highlight Goucher's world-renowned Jane Austen Collection and its creator, alumna Alberta H. Burke.