

April-June 2023 Public Programs

In Conversation With

\$3,000 for program, reception, and dinner for up to 9

\$2,000 for program plus reception

\$1,500 for program

In Person

Pennoni Panel: Is a Book Still a Book if Not a Book?

Thursday, April 12, 6:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Vivan and Mark Greenberg

The printing press is considered one of the greatest innovations in literature – making documents and texts more easily reproduced and accessible. The physical book has been the dominant form for centuries. As digital books and audiobooks take hold, will the physical book be flushed out of existence, a remnant of what used to be? Or will it be able to maintain its place on the shelf?

Finding Ignatius Sancho's Voice: In Conversation with Paterson Joseph, Author of *The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho*

Thursday, April 27, 6:00 p.m.

In his acclaimed new novel, *The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho*, award-winning actor Paterson Joseph engages in an act of historical imagination focused on one of the most fascinating *real-life* characters of eighteenth-century British society: Charles Ignatius Sancho. Born on the Atlantic Ocean, in a slave ship bound for the Spanish Empire in the Americas, Sancho became a prosperous London merchant, musician, man of letters, friend of royalty and the nobility—as well as the first known person of African descent eligible to vote in British elections. In this program, Paterson Joseph will welcome us into his research and writing process before offering a dramatic reading from his novel.

Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase autographed copies of the novel and view the Rosenbach's copy of *Letters of the Late Ignatius Sancho, An African* (1803), which is the first book authored and printed by people of African descent in Great Britain and preserves elements of Sancho's remarkable story. Other original artifacts to be shown include manuscripts from the Spanish Empire in the 1600s that document the stories of other enslaved Africans in the Americas.

How do modern-day artists, writers, and scholars find ancestors' voices in the historical record? How do they add in their own, creative voices, when the archive is silent? Come to the Rosenbach to explore these, and many other, critical questions.

Paterson Joseph is an award-winning actor who has been fascinated by Sancho for many years. He wrote and starred in the play *Sancho: An Act of Remembrance* in 2018, which was staged in the UK as well as the US, at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. A veteran of the stage, TV, and film, Paterson has appeared at The Royal Shakespeare Company in *King Lear*, *Troilus & Cressida*, *Loves Labours Lost* and as Brutus in *Julius Caesar*. ; Television credits include: *The Leftovers* HBO, *Timeless* NBC, *Doctor Who* BBC ;

Noughts + Crosses BBC; films include *The Beach*, *Aeon Flux* and the upcoming *Wonka*. *The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho* is his first novel.

***Left Bank: The Visionary Women behind James Joyces and Ulysses* Film Screening**

Friday, June 9, 6:00 p.m.

In anticipation for Bloomsday 2023, join us for a screening of the new documentary *Left Bank: The Visionary Women Behind James Joyce and Ulysses*, which seeks to investigate the important and largely unacknowledged role of the notable women in the realization of James Joyce's famed masterpiece.

About the Film

James Joyce's controversial masterpiece *Ulysses* would have never been published in 1922 if not for these forward-thinking women. They provided funding, moral support, business acumen and love to the self-centered, obsessive writer. *Left Bank* tells Joyce's story and, at the same time, reveals the feminist history of a revolutionary bookshop in Paris, through dramatic scenes, interviews, archival footage and animation. *Left Bank* seeks to answer the question – who were these women and why was it so important for them to support the arts, cultivate a culture of reading and to publish *Ulysses*, considered by many to be the most important novel of the 20th century?

Virtual

Annual Bloomsday Virtual In Conversation with Dr. Clare Hutton on “Women and the Making of Ulysses”

Wednesday, June 14, 6:00 p.m.

Building on *Women and the Making of Ulysses*, the 2022 exhibition at the Harry Ransom Center for the Humanities (University of Texas at Austin), curator Clare Hutton joins us for this year's Bloomsday lecture. She will reflect on the story which comes through when you gather material evidence of the emotional, administrative and financial support which women gave to Joyce in the period when *Ulysses* was in formation. The women in this narrative range from his closest confidants in family life (Nora Barnacle, Aunt Josephine) through to publishers and editors (such as Margaret Anderson, Jane Heap and Sylvia Beach). The story is full of gaps and surprises, and illuminates new ways of thinking about Joyce's work.

About the speaker

Clare Hutton is Reader in English and Digital Humanities at Loughborough University in the UK and the author of Serial Encounters: Ulysses and the Little Review (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019). In addition to extensive research at the Harry Ransom Center, she has recently been a Library Fellow at the Firestone in Princeton, where she looked at the papers of Shakespeare and Company. Her exhibition included a blog series: [Women and the Making of Ulysses: A History in Ten Objects](#).

Courses

\$1,500 Pays for two scholarships

Reading Austen's *Emma* with Juliette Wells

Virtual, Mondays Apr 3 and 17, May 1 and 15, 7:00-8:30 p.m. ET on Zoom

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.

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.

Reading Faulkner’s *As I Lay Dying* with Carl Rollyson

Virtual, Thursdays Apr 6 and 20, May 4 and 18, June 1 and 15, 7:30-9:00 ET on Zoom

As I Lay Dying portrays a family adrift and disintegrating, but instead of the Compson elite in *The Sound and the Fury*, the Bundrens are poor whites. *The Sound and the Fury*, centers on the Compson household whereas *As I Lay Dying* is a road novel, with heightened language and interior monologues that deviate from the standards of social realism. Yet the characters are clearly recognizable as the country people that Faulkner associated with. Each Bundren, like each Compson, is distinctive, and yet all are concerned with the same questions: How do you mourn? How do you cope with what you have lost? How do you go on? This biblical story of fire and flood, of a family on a quest to bury their dead mother in her native soil, has a Homeric sweep, but with characters not usually thought of in epic terms. How Faulkner came to write this novel, why he chose a narrative method and style so unlike the work of writers like John Steinbeck and Erskine Caldwell, who created similar characters, will be the focus of this course.

It will be important to read *As I Lay Dying* in the Second Norton Critical edition, edited by Michael Gorra. The entire novel is included as well as articles about the cultural background of Faulkner and his characters, and a selection of criticism

About the instructor

Carl Rollyson, Professor Emeritus at Baruch College, The City University of New York, is the author of the two volume *The Life of William Faulkner* for University of Virginia Press. He has also published numerous biographies of literary figures such as Sylvia Plath, Susan Sontag, Lillian Hellman, Amy Lowell, Rebecca West, and Norman Mailer. His writing has appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New Criterion*, and the *Washington Post*. Carl Rollyson recently led courses on Faulkner’s *The Sound and the Fury* and *Absalom, Absalom!* for the Rosenbach.

Reading Proust’s *In Search of Lost Time: Swann’s Way* with Rebecca Goldner

Virtual, Thursdays Apr 13, Apr 27, May 18, Jun 1, 6:00-7:30pm ET

Sponsored by Susan Muller

The first volume of Marcel Proust's *In Search of Lost Time*, "Swann's Way" begins in a half-awake, half-dreaming state that leads our narrator to reflect on his childhood in Combray, culminating in the now-famous madeleine episode. The madeleine offers our narrator access to memories of Combray he thought were lost to him, including a childhood moment of authorial inspiration. Next, the text takes us into the life of his neighbor in Combray, Charles Swann, detailing Swann's tumultuous and painful love affair with Odette de Crécy, a passion that becomes inspirational for our narrator both in his own romantic experiences and as an aspiring writer. The seeds for the remaining six volumes are all planted in volume one, though it is the only part of the novel where we leave the narrator's perspective for an extended segment, traveling into the Swann's past to uncover details only suggested in the first two chapters.

This class will be a guided discussion: the teacher will offer questions and passages for focus but will allow the class to discuss the text at hand for the majority of our time together, giving participants the opportunity to share their thoughts, questions and reflections in conversation. There will be no predominant perspective in the class but an open opportunity to learn from and with each other.

About the instructor

Rebecca Steiner Goldner is a faculty member at St. John's College in Annapolis, MD, where she teaches throughout their all-required, liberal arts program of study. Her PhD is in philosophy and she has published works on sensation in ancient philosophy and tragedy. Her philosophical interests in sensation and memory eventually led her to Proust, whom she has been reading for over 20 years and teaching in seminars for juniors and seniors as well as in St. John's Community Programs. She recently received funding to chair a faculty study of the work of Henri Bergson (a thinker deeply connected to Proust), a project which further connected her work in philosophy to her study of *In Search of Lost Time*.

Gothic Transformations: Monsters and Mad Science

With the Ghoul Guides, Dr. Lauren Nixon and Dr. Mary Going

Tuesdays May 2, May 16, May 30, Jun 13, Jun 27 6:00-7:30 pm ET

A 6 session course exploring the transformations of the Gothic in the nineteenth century. Following the origin of the Gothic with Horace Walpole's *Castle of Otranto* in 1765 and the rise of Gothic icons Ann Radcliffe and Matthew Lewis in the 1790s and early 1800s, the nineteenth century saw the Gothic turn towards monsters, supernatural transformations, and science.

This course will take you through some of these key developments in British Gothic, and to start us off we'll be looking at some of Mary Shelley's short stories. Though perhaps best known for her iconic 1818 novel *Frankenstein* with its mad scientist, Shelley continued to publish throughout her life and authored many short stories. After exploring a selection of Shelley's short stories, we will turn to Robert Louis Stevenson, focusing on his best known novella *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and also his short story "The Body Snatcher." These strange tales offer different perspectives on nineteenth century monsters as well as reflecting anxieties surrounding scientific discoveries and the relationship between the human body (dead or alive) with science. Finally, we will turn to H. G. Wells's novel *The Island of Doctor Moreau* to explore the Gothic anxieties at the end of the century surrounding evolution, devolution, and mad science.

Texts:

All of the texts are available to read free online. For each session, we will provide a link to the online version as well as recommended print versions if you wish to purchase the text and have a physical copy.

- Mary Shelley - short stories (1819-1835) including: "Transformation", "The Mortal Immortal", "Roger Dodsworth: The Reanimated Englishman"
- Robert Louis Stevenson – *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1886) and "The Body Snatcher" (1884)

- HG Wells - *The Island of Dr Moreau* (1896)

About the instructors

[The Ghoul Guides](#) – a digital multimedia project devoted to exploring, understanding, and enjoying the wonders and weirdness of the Gothic. [Ghoul Guides podcast](#)

Dr. Lauren Nixon is a certified plague doctor, having obtained her PhD in 2020 from the University of Sheffield. She is the Doctoral Communications Executive at Nottingham Trent University, and has written for publications such as the *Jane Austen's Regency World magazine*. Lauren specialises in representation of war, nationality and gender in the Gothic from its eighteenth century origins to modern media and was a cohost for the Rosenbach's Austen Mondays program.

Dr. Mary Going completed her PhD exploring Christian constructions of the Jewish Other in literature from the University of Sheffield in 2022, and she is currently a Research Associate at the same university. She remains passionate about all things related to vampires and *Buffy*, and her current research focuses on the intersection of religion and theology with Gothic and horror narratives. Mary is also the web officer for the International Gothic Association.

Previously, The Ghoul Guides have been cohosts for the Sundays with *Dracula*, Sundays with *Frankenstein*, and Sundays with *Jane Eyre* programs, and also led the Gothic Awakenings course in 2021 for the Rosenbach.

Emily Dickinson in the Garden with Travis Foster

In Person Course

Saturdays Apr 15, Apr 29, May 13, Jun 3 2:00-4:00 pm ET

Lately, it's hard not to bump into Emily Dickinson. She pops up the TV we stream and the lyrics of our most popular music. Many of these modern-day Emilys usefully revise the longstanding image we've received of a spinster poetess writing day after day in a lonely attic room, instead providing us with a queer Dickinson, a social Dickinson, an environmentalist Dickinson, and a feminist Dickinson. In this class, we'll assess these contemporary suggestions, while also trying to navigate those of Dickinson's thinking, writing, and imagining that cannot be summed through contemporary categorization. We will study Dickinson's biography, her letters, and her historical context. Above all, though, we'll devote careful, slow attention to her poems, thinking together about how their form and content collaborate to present us with something that to this day remains strikingly—breathtakingly—Dickinson's own.

Weather permitting, this course will meet in the newly remodeled garden behind the historic Rosenbach home. Also included (in an indoor presentation) will be opportunities to view the Emily Dickinson books and manuscripts in the Rosenbach's collections.

About the instructor

Travis Foster is Associate Professor of English and Academic Director Gender and Women's studies at Villanova University. He is the author of *Genre and White Supremacy in the Postemancipation United States* (Oxford University Press, 2019) and the editor of *The Cambridge Companion to American Literature and the Body* (2022). He has published articles on, among other topics, Edith Wharton, Sarah Orne Jewett, F. O. Matthiessen, effeminate men, and campus novels. He lives in West Philly.

Biblicocktails

Sunflowers and Peacocks: A Wide-ly Aesthetic Biblicocktails

Wednesday, June 28, 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a bibliococktails that celebrates the Aesthetic Movement, an artistic style that spanned the second half of the nineteenth century, which aimed to produce beautiful “art for art’s sake” rather than for moral or didactic purposes. Enjoy peacock and sunflower themed cocktails inspired by two of the major decorative motifs of the movement, don your finest dandy apparel, pin on a green carnation and raise a glass to the most famous of aesthetes, Oscar Wilde.

Performances

“Written by Phillis” Open Rehearsal and Show and Tell

Sunday, April 30, 2:30-4:00 p.m

Join the Rosenbach Museum and Library in collaboration with Quintessence Theatre for a behind the scenes first look at *Phillis*, an original play that brings to life the remarkable history of Phillis Wheatley, an enslaved American who was the first Black poet to be published in America. You’ll get to watch how a cast and crew work together to put together the cohesive, engaging and fluid story you see when you attend a theatre performance. Afterward you’ll get the chance to ask the cast and crew about the process of adapting a more than 250-year-old historical figure to a character for a 21st century stage.

The Rosenbach Museum and Library holds a first edition of Phillis Wheatley’s *After Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* published in London in 1773. Before the open rehearsal starts get up close and personal with this jewel of the collection and other items in our collection connected to the story of Wheatley and contemporaries who appear in in the play *Phillis*, like Charles Ignatius Sancho and George Washington.

About the Play

Phillis is a world-premiere, original play that brings to life the remarkable history of Phillis Wheatley, enslaved American and beloved poet. *After Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* was published in London in 1773, she became “the most famous woman of African descent in the World” admired by Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and King George III, among countless others. Conceived and created as part of our collaboration with Chicago’s New Classics Collective—Paul Oakley Stovall (Artistic Director/Playwright), Marilyn Campbell-Lowe (Playwright), and Cheryl Lynn Bruce (Director)—this new biographical dramatization puts Wheatley’s poetry front and center, reconsiders her important role in America’s founding and ideals, and celebrates her life and legacy, one that inspired an African-American literary tradition that has lasted over two and a half centuries.

Workshops

Modernists & Movement: Yoga in the Garden

Friday, Apr 28, May 5, 12 & 19, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Modernist poetry and yoga may seem at first glance like very different disciplines; look closer and you’ll see they have much in common. Both are most productive when approached by warming up—be it physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritually—and finding flow and rhythm is key to each experience. The exploration and experimentation of a modernist poem or yoga practice helps guide you to a deeper understanding of the

self, the world, and the way that both are intimately intertwined. To get there, poetry and yoga require mindful reflection and attention to the precise alignment of words/bodies.

Come explore this intersection of body, mind and spirit as we practice gentle yoga illuminated through the poetry of T.S. Eliot, Langston Hughes, Marianne Moore and other modernists from The Rosenbach's collection. Weather permitting, we'll meet in the garden. Each session is suitable for all levels (no prior yoga or poetry experience is required!); please bring your mat and any props you wish to use. These 75-minute sessions will include 60 minutes of yoga practice with 15 minutes of poetry reading and reflection. Sign up for one or for all four!

Other

Welcome to America Open House

Saturday, June 24, 12:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.

As part of Philadelphia's Welcome America festival, The Rosenbach will be opening its doors for free. Those visiting on June 24 will get to explore an exhibition on presidential history and our museum founders' collection of rare books and manuscripts. Highlights of the collection include holdings from James Joyce, Bram Stoker, Lewis Carroll, Phillis Wheatley, Joseph Conrad, Charles Dickens, Cervantes, George Washington, and countless others.

Behind the Bookcase Tours

Sponsored by William and Anna Marie Petersen

Sunday, April 2, 2 PM: Sleuths and Spies

Thursday, April 6, 6PM: Titanic: The Rise of Rosenbach

Thursday, April 20, 6PM: Fakes and Forgeries

Sunday, May 7, 2PM: Creating Identity and Breaking Convention: Wheatley, Browning, Dickinson and Women Poets

Thursday, May 18, 6PM: Early Hebrew Books IV: *Learning the ways of the world*. The Gratz family in Philadelphia

Thursday, May 25, 6PM: Mostly Monarchs: Royal relics at the Rosenbach

Sunday, June 4, 2PM: Written in My Heart: James Joyce and Irish Authors

Thursday, June 8, 6PM: Written in My Heart: James Joyce and Irish Authors

Thursday, June 22, 6PM: Langston Hughes, Alain LeRoy Locke, and the Harlem Renaissance

Lunchtime Talks

Sponsored by Lenore Steiner and Perry Lerner

Tuesday, April 4, 12:30pm-1:30pm : The European Illuminated Manuscript, A Cultural Tapestry

Tuesday, May 2, 12:30pm-1:30pm: Before the Sissy: Girls-Boys in Nineteenth-Century America: Lunchtime Talk with Travis Foster