

# WEDNESDAY

## • The Arts and Canadian Identity

**NEW!**

What is quintessentially Canadian? We will explore this question through a variety of cultural media, including film, literature, poetry, art, and music. We'll view Douglas Coupland's documentary, *Canada House* (2009) and Michael McGowan's film *One Week*; read some short fiction from Alistair MacLeod, Alice Munro, Alex MacLeod, and Madeleine Thien, as well as last year's Giller prize winner, *The Sentimentalists*; examine the work of the G20 Canada Pavilion's designers, and revisit the folk music and poetry of Canada's "Beat" generation. And maybe these competing visions of our country will help us in our own attempt to discover what it is that makes up our national character.

Dr. Pamela Coles began her studies at the University of Barcelona and is a graduate of the Centre for Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto. She lectures in the University of Toronto Distinguished Lecturer Series and Continuing Studies programs and is currently engaged in a project of historical fiction based on the events of the Trojan War.

**Dates:** Oct. 5 – Nov. 23 (8 sessions)

**Time:** Wednesdays, 10:10 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.

**Fee:** \$55.00

**Lecturer:** Pamela Coles

---

## • Digital Photography:

### Intermediate Level

Anyone can take a snapshot. But wouldn't you like to learn how to make a truly memorable photograph? The purpose of this course is to give you the tools and the know-how to move up to this next level. Key items to be covered will include the basics of composition, the impact of lighting, understanding exposure (shutter speed/aperture/ISO), and photo editing. We will present these techniques, which will then be put into practice by taking photographs in various locations, followed by friendly critiquing in a classroom setting. This pattern will be repeated throughout the course. *Please note: Participants must have digital, rather than film, cameras to benefit fully from this course, and must have e-mail and know-how to send and receive e-mailed attachments.*

Roger Payne is an enthusiastic amateur photographer who enjoys organizing photography walkabouts with friends and colleagues.

Martha Pluscauskas has long been teaching how to manage digital photographs using Picasa, as part of the LIFE programs, and has made it her forte.

Sheila Clarke has always had two creative outlets—gardening and photography. Now that her knees are rebelling, her foremost passion is photography.

**Limited to 25 participants**

**Dates:** Sept. 28 – Nov. 30 (10 sessions)

**Time:** Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

**Fee:** \$45.00

**Moderators:** Roger Payne, Martha Pluscauskas, and Sheila Clarke

*\*Please note the starting and ending time.*

## ● Immigration as a Global Phenomenon

Good news! If you missed this course last term, here's another chance to examine the issue. Immigration poses many key questions. Can we sustain our economies in the rich world without large-scale immigration? How many immigrants do we need? How do we choose immigrants that meet our needs? How do we integrate large numbers successfully? Does immigration pose an economic, security, or cultural threat? We will explore how immigration has developed globally in the last 30 years, as well as the likely future trends. We will examine the various approaches that different countries are taking to immigration. We will get past the ideological posturing and identify the best approaches to dealing with this complex issue.

Elizabeth Ritchie has had a career in adult education and 20 years experience in the Ontario Government in staff development and managerial roles.

Marilyn Cooper has taught, both abroad and in Canada, and has travelled extensively on all continents.

**Limited to 30 participants**

**Dates:** Sept. 28 – Nov. 30 (10 sessions)

**Time:** Wednesdays, 10:10 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.

**Fee:** \$60.00 (includes the course booklet and all handouts)

**Moderators: Elizabeth Ritchie and Marilyn Cooper**

*(NOTE: the \$12 cost of the course booklet is nonrefundable.)*

---

## ● Landscapes of Renaissance Italy

**NEW!**

In a series of dramatic changes from the 1300s to the 1700s, Italy transformed itself and introduced great art, architecture, and civic planning to the European cultural repertoire. During this Renaissance, Europeans, Italians in particular, also invented and then expanded capitalism until it replaced traditional society. We will examine a number of developments from this epic period: the shift from Byzantine culture to Italian Humanism, Greco-Roman literature, perspective drawing, scientific rationalism, Renaissance culture and politics, and the transformation of a traditional agrarian economy into capitalist mercantilism. These intellectual, cultural, artistic, and economic shifts will illuminate the Italian landscape and reveal how fundamentally it altered during the Renaissance.

Gerald Walker is a historical geographer from the University of California, Berkeley, who taught geography (mostly rural) at York University, Toronto, from 1971 to 2001. His research focuses on the processes of urbanization of the countryside. He is currently Emeritus Professor in Geography at York University.

**Limited to 50 participants**

**Dates:** Sept. 28 – Nov. 30 (10 sessions)

**Time:** Wednesdays, 10:10 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.

**Fee:** \$45.00

**Moderator: Gerald Walker**

## • Book Talk

Book lovers—here's the group for you. We meet five times during the term to explore, discuss, debate, and enjoy an assortment of novels. The first selection will be *Summertime: Scenes from Provincial Life* by J.M. Coetzee. All the rest are chosen at the initial meeting from suggestions offered by the whole group. Each subsequent week, one member will present the book chosen and lead the discussion. And very lively "book talk" is the result!

Marilyn Luciano is an avid reader and longtime member of book discussion groups. She believes sharing thoughts on books enhances the reading experience and looks forward to every Book Talk session.

**Limited to 15 participants**

**Dates:** Sept. 28; Oct. 12, and 26; Nov. 9, and 23.

(5 sessions)

**Time:** Wednesdays, 12:10 p.m. – 1:55 p.m.

**Fee:** \$30.00

**Moderator:** Marilyn Luciano

---

## Cuba at the Crossroads: Past, Present, and Future

**NEW!**

Is Cuba an unfortunate country with an oppressed population suffering under a cruel dictator or is it a socialist paradise to be emulated by others? Neither picture is entirely true, and Cuba warrants a closer look. We will take that close look by examining its history, focusing on its fight for independence, its relations with the Soviet Union, and its desire for full acceptance by the United States. We will look closely at the Castro brothers and examine in detail the social programs which are the envy of many third world countries (and of many in the first world). We will capture the essence of its people and their relationship to their government. Come with an open mind to explore the soul of Cuba. Then sign up for the Cuba tour and see the real Cuba for yourself.

*Note: While there will be guest speakers and media presentations, members of the class will be encouraged to research and deliver topics of interest.*

Ken Smookler has moderated courses through much of LIFE's 20 years. He is a retired lawyer with an interest in the rest of the world, who wants to learn about it and wants to see it and has travelled to much (but not enough) of it.

**Limited to 50 participants**

**Dates:** Sept. 28 – Nov. 30 (10 sessions)

**Time:** Wednesdays, 12:10 p.m. – 1:55 p.m.

**Fee:** \$45.00

**Moderator:** Ken Smookler

## • Recording Recollections

This course, started for seniors at Ryerson before LIFE was formed, is still going strong many years later! Join us as we remember and share our past experiences to help elicit wider and deeper recall. Some of us then choose to record these remembrances for our own personal benefit, to read to the group, or to leave as a lasting statement, while others find their satisfaction in remembrance itself. Selected passages are published in the *Recording Recollections* magazine, available to all group members and their families and friends.

Please note: This is NOT a how-to-write course. Sharon Roebuck and Geoffrey Allen are delighted to join forces to lead this group.

Limited to 25 participants

Dates: Sept. 28 – Nov. 30 (10 sessions)

Time: Wednesdays, 12:10 p.m. – 1:55 p.m.

Fee: \$15.00

Moderators: Sharon Roebuck and Geoffrey Allen

---

## • Canada's Wrongfully Convicted

NEW!

They languished in prison for years, convicted for crimes of which they were duly exonerated. Their names are indelible scars on the face of Canada's criminal justice system—David Milgaard, imprisoned for 22 years; William Mullins-Johnson, 12 years; and Donald Marshall Jr., 11 years. And unfortunately the list goes on.

How did the system fail? How many others, men and women, are rotting behind bars for crimes they did not commit? How should the victims be compensated? The questions are many; the intent is to find the answers.

Ian Macmillan is a retired civil litigation counsel, having practised in his native Scotland and in Manitoba and Ontario. Unfamiliar with the turbulent waters of Canada's criminal justice system, he welcomes the opportunity to examine situations where the system has failed and to identify solutions.

Limited to 50 participants

Dates: Oct. 5 – Nov. 9 (6 sessions)

Time: Wednesdays, 2:10 p.m. – 3:55 p.m.

Fee: \$33.00

Moderator: Ian Macmillan

## • Conversations et lectures

### de textes littéraires variés de langue française

This intensive course, geared to advanced students, aims at improving conversational skills, as well as at acquainting them with a variety of literary texts written by mostly modern authors. Among these are Ionesco, Camus, and Ernaux. In class, we will read aloud main scenes and passages and discuss themes and styles. Vocabulary enrichment and pronunciation exercises will be an integral part of the course.

Students will be encouraged to take an active part in class discussions and prepare a brief presentation on a topic related to the readings (chosen by the student).

Whenever feasible, we will go to see French films or plays.

**Prerequisites:** A solid foundation in French studies and an interest in literature.

**Note:** *Students should purchase most texts from the Maison de la Presse on Yorkville in September when a final list of the works will be available.*

Palomba Yashinsky has taught French language and literature for many years at the university level. She is currently a docent at the Art Gallery of Ontario where she enjoys leading tours in both English and French.

**Limited to 15 participants**

**Dates:** Sept. 28 – Nov. 30 (10 sessions)

**Time:** Wednesdays, 2:10 p.m. – 3:55 p.m.

**Fee:** \$50.00 (Includes cost of materials)

**Moderator:** Palomba Yashinsky

---

## • Europe: Stagnation or Renewal?

Pack your critical faculties and let's visit Europe—here's your chance to participate in a repeat of this popular course! Only a generation ago, we considered that the source of modern life as we know it began in Europe with the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, the Industrial Revolution, and the spread of those ideas across much of the planet. Today, it is a very different story as Europe experiences collapsing demographics, mounting debt, and a shift of power not only to the US, but now also to the East. But hold on! Almost every index of innovation and human development shows European countries still sitting at the top of the table.

They must be doing *something* right. We'll explore the continent to discern whether it is a spent force or a guidepost to the future. Each week, we will look at key forces and trends, and also at particular countries in depth.

Linda Knowles retired from the corporate/consulting world and has been a LIFE member for over six years.

Paul Smith has been an entrepreneur, corporate executive, CEO for an international advertising agency, and a community activist, and has tutored meditation and philosophy courses.

**Limited to 30 participants**

**Dates:** Oct. 5 – Nov. 23 (8 sessions)

**Time:** Wednesdays, 2:10 p.m. – 3:55 p.m.

**Fee:** \$50.00 (includes the course booklet and all handouts)

**Moderators:** Paul Smith and Linda Knowles

*(NOTE: the \$12 cost of the course booklet is non-refundable)*

## ● Theatre Alive!

The curtain is going up on another season of Theatre Alive, with four fascinating plays to entertain, provoke, and illuminate.

• **Wednesday, October 5, 1:30 p.m.**

*Another Africa*, Canadian Stage, Front Street Africa, as seen from three different perspectives, one German, one Kenyan, one Canadian. This show includes two plays from Volcano Theatre's *The Africa Trilogy* which was premiered at last year's *Luminato* Festival.

(Hearing aids available at the cloakroom counter.)

• **Wednesday, November 9, 1:30 p.m.**

*The Sankofa Trilogy*, by d'bi.young anitafrika, Tarragon Theatre Amid the violence of a crucial Jamaican election, a young poet finds the strength and courage to stand up for the country's future as seen through the eyes of three generations of women who believe in truth and justice.

• **Wednesday, November 23, 1:30 p.m.**

*The Children's Republic*, by Hannah Moscovitch, Tarragon Theatre

A young orphan in the Warsaw ghetto orphanage run by the renowned educator and children's rights advocate, Dr. Janusz Korczak, teaches his mentor the true meaning of courage in the face of despair and certain death.

• **Wednesday, November 30, 12:30 p.m. (Please note time.)**

*The Rez Sisters*, by Tomson Highway, Factory Theatre A revival of a Canadian classic about a clutch of native women who dream of winning big at bingo in the hopes of changing their luck and their lives. There will be a talkback after each performance.

More information is available at the theatre websites: [canadianstage.com/educators](http://canadianstage.com/educators) and [students/study guide](http://canadianstage.com/students/study-guide), or [canadianstage.com/2011-2012/Africa](http://canadianstage.com/2011-2012/Africa) [tarragontheatre.com/outreach/teachers/study-guide](http://tarragontheatre.com/outreach/teachers/study-guide) [factorytheatre.com/edu-package](http://factorytheatre.com/edu-package). Your tickets will be given to you at the theatre before the first play. They will not be mailed out to you.

*Please Note:* No exchange or refund after the final ticket order has been placed. Please address any concerns or complaints to the LIFE office and not to the theatre.

**Limited to 100 participants**

**Dates:** Oct. 5, Nov. 9, 23, and 30

**Time:** Four Wednesday afternoons

**Fee:** \$80.00

**Coordinators:** Kitty and Ralph Wintrob

---

## ● Word Processing:

### The Basics

### ● Labels, Business Cards and Mailing Lists

### ● Tables in Word 2010

(For more information, see Computer Courses Section, pp. 22-24)

