All Fly Away: Avian Migration Madness

Saturday, September 15, 8 a.m.–3 p.m., $150 (LLX154)

According to Sharon “Birdchick” Stiteler, the process of bird migration is decidedly long, and “in theory, somewhere in the world, some bird is migrating every single day of the year.”

Migration in Minnesota starts at the end of July and continues through mid-December. Shorebirds pass through first. In August, orioles, nighthawks, and a few raptors join in the journey. September is when migration turns wild with warblers, native sparrows, vireos, hawks, and raptors all passing through on their way to more southern states and South America. This frenzy continues into October, which also marks the start of waterfowl migration, and continues with large raptor, owl, eagle, and diving duck migration, which ends when the water freezes.

Led by Stiteler, this nature-filled immersion will have you watching birds as their migration turns mad. The morning will be spent near the Carpenter Nature Center in Hastings, where we’ll look for birds in native plantings, and if the sun and wind allow, spy migrating birds of prey such as broad-winged and sharp-shinned hawks from the bluffs.

After a morning full of birds, we’ll have lunch while Stiteler surveys the best locations to experience the remainder of the migration season. We’ll end the day by searching for more birds along the confluence of the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers.

Participants should be prepared to walk and stand throughout the day. Tuition includes lunch; transportation not included. Itinerary subject to change.

—Anastasia Faunce
Program Director

Cognitive Consonance

Five years ago, Kathy Stack’s neurologist diagnosed her with early-stage Alzheimer’s, predicting: “You’ll have full-blown Alzheimer’s within five years.” He went on to tell her that while there is no pharmacological cure for this neurodegenerative disease, there are ways to slow its progress, primarily by “exercising” the brain.

Determined to stay mentally sharp, Kathy followed her doctor’s recommendations. But it was a friend who took her to her first Headliners event.

“I didn’t even know what it was,” she says. They made plans to go, picked up another friend on the way, then showed up and recognized many friends in the audience—people she’d worked with, including civic leaders and retired University of Minnesota staff.

Indulging in a schedule of social activity as well as Headliners’ robust discussions about present-day issues, Kathy reflects on the effects of her self-imposed regimen. ‘I’ve passed the five-year mark, and what we’re looking at is a kind of plateau. My doctor said, ‘I really think you’re benefitting from a cognitive reserve: you’re getting the benefits of staying mentally active.’ And I thought, ‘I’m going to keep this up! We’ve come to make the Headliners’ nights sacred. It really is a bargain, just remarkable.”

Read more of Kathy’s story at z.umn.edu/stack. And do join Kathy—and LearningLife!—for the 13th anniversary season of Headliners. Hint: if you purchase a Series Pass prior to October 4, you’ll get admission to all seven Headliners events for the price of four! That said, individual tickets are still a bargain at $20.

—Anastasia Faunce
Program Director

On the Cover

According to Professor James Kakalios, Captain America’s shield has sometimes been erroneously described as being an alloy of Vibranium and Adamantium, but that is physically impossible. So, just what is the chemical composition of the good Captain’s shield? Learn more during The Physics of Superheroes. See page 12.

Sharon Stiteler works as a National Park Ranger for the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area and travels the world as a speaker, bird field technician, and bird-bander. A frequent consultant for the media, including Outdoor News Radio, All Things Considered, and NBC Nightly News, she is the author of City Birds/Country Birds (Adventure Publications, 2008) and Disapproving Rabbits (Harper, 2007).
Out of the Lab and Into the Fire: Scientists and the Nobel Peace Prize

Mondays, September 17, October 1, 15, 29 (four meetings), 6:30−8:30 p.m., $165 (LLX146)

Scientists of all stripes have won the Nobel Peace Prize, bringing their scientific acumen out of the lab or clinic and into the roiling cauldron of international politics and policy.

How did they come to choose this mission? What characterizes their leadership? What unique ethical or professional challenges do they encounter? What do they accomplish and at what price?

This course takes an in-depth look at four laureates: the University of Minnesota’s Dr. Norman Borlaug (September 17), Kenya’s Dr. Wangari Maathi (October 1), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (October 15), and Doctors Without Borders (October 29).

Highly interactive, each session will use video screenings, lectures, small group discussions, and readings to explore how scientists have become international forces for human rights.


Maureen Reed, MD, University of Minnesota, is an adjunct faculty in the Schools of Public Health and Medicine. She chaired the University Board of Regents and served as Executive Director of the Nobel Peace Prize Forum, working with the Nobel Institute and its Laureates.
The Demoted but Unforgotten Gods of Ancient Scandinavia

Tuesdays, September 18, 25, October 2 (three meetings), 6:30–8:30 p.m., $135 (LLX145)

The conversion of Scandinavia to Christianity resulted in the banishment of the old gods, but unlike what happened in England and on the European continent, the northern myths have not been lost. A Dane (Saxo) and an Icelander (Snorri Sturluson) preserved numerous tales of Odin, Thor, Frey, Balder, Loki, Freya, Frig, and others.

Our main sources are the Poetic Edda (a collection of ancient songs) and Snorri’s Prose Edda. We see the world emerging from an encounter of cold and heat, a primordial giant dismembered and becoming the sky, the sea, the mountains, the stars, and the rest of the universe. The gods fight giants, monsters, and one another; they make love, seduce gullible women, and move toward the final battle in which everything and everybody will perish.

More “primitive” than the famous Greek myths, the myths of medieval Scandinavia breathe the spirit of fatalism. Rest assured, in this course the gods will appear in their original greatness and for a while triumph over chaos. We’ll even allow the earth to bloom again.

Recommended: Snorri Sturluson, Edda, any edition.

Anatoly Liberman is a professor in the Department of German, Scandinavian, and Dutch at the University of Minnesota. An internationally renowned scholar of word origins, Liberman is the author of Word Origins and How We Know Them: Etymology for Everyone (Oxford University Press, 2005).

Mediterranean Encounters

Wednesdays, September 26, October 3, 10, 17 (four meetings), 6–8 p.m., $165 (LLX134)

The Mediterranean provides a perfect site for reflection on the origins and limits of the modern nation state; on the demographic, economic, military, and cultural exchanges between societies and states that anticipate and compose the modern international state system; and on the benefits and challenges of living in close proximity with people of marked linguistic, ethnic, and religious differences.

Scholars have often commented on the historical Mediterranean as an antecedent of a modern, globalized society. Navigable waterways facilitated communication, trade, and cultural exchange, as well as population transfers between different Mediterranean societies. This also meant that the region was notoriously unstable. The incessant movement of peoples, goods, and ideas across any kind of border created constant threats to ethnic, religious, and political identities.

This course examines the work of Mediterranean authors who have responded to these challenges with reference to four points of cultural encounter: Ancient Greece and Rome, the Ottoman Empire and the West, the Balkans, and Israel and its Arab neighbors.


John Watkins is Distinguished McKnight University Professor in the Department of English at the University of Minnesota, where he also teaches in the Department of History. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Arthur “Red” Motley Exemplary Teaching Award, the University of Minnesota Morse-Alumni Award, and the Ruth Christie Award for Excellence in Teaching.
La Rondine

Saturday, September 29, 9 a.m.–noon, $70 (LLX148)

First performed in Monte Carlo in 1917, Giacomo Puccini’s opera La Rondine (The Swallow) has long been a neglected work and, despite the artistic value of the score, one of the composer’s less successful works. That is, until revivals started to blossom in the 21st century.

It seems modern audiences have come to recognize the opera as a worthy companion to Puccini’s better-known masterpieces, which have been performed regularly since they were first composed.

The title La Rondine refers to the opera’s main character, the Parisian courtesan Magda, who falls in love with a handsome young man of means. But their relationship threatens his family’s reputation, so Magda ends the courtship. Contrary to similar story lines, she does not die at the end. Rather, the couple simply parts ways.

The quality of the vocal music is commensurate with Puccini’s more established works, but La Rondine also contains passages that evoke styles from early 20th-century dance music, including tango, waltz, and fox-trot.

Tuition includes refreshments. Tickets to the Minnesota Opera’s production of La Rondine are not included in tuition; registered participants will receive information for a 20 percent discount on the performance of their choice.

Daniel Freeman has taught courses in music history at the University of Minnesota and the Smithsonian Institution. Considered the world’s leading historian in the field of 18th-century Czech music, Freeman is also a musicologist and pianist.

Offered in cooperation with the Minnesota Opera.

Voices of Light: Making Art Out of Politics

Thursdays, September 27, October 18, November 15 (three meetings), 6–8 p.m., $135 (LLX142)

For generations, writing that is political in nature has often contained more heat than light, and some critics have gone so far as to insist that “political art” can never be excellent as art—that it remains, by definition, polemic. In this course, we’ll begin with The Fire Next Time (September 27). Written in 1963, James Baldwin’s examination of the consequences of racial injustice gave passionate voice to the emerging civil rights movement and is a classic of American literature.

On October 18, we’ll move further back in time (1938) and to another place (England) with Virginia Woolf’s book-length essay Three Guineas. Written as a letter outlining how to prevent the looming specter of WWII, it underscores Woolf’s commitment to gender equality and pacifism.

A meditation on the cultural depiction of the black female figure, Voyage of the Sable Venus (November 15) received the 2015 National Book Award for Poetry, and author Robin Coste Lewis was declared to be a “voice essential to our present moment.”


Toni McNaron is professor emerita of English at the University of Minnesota where she has been the recipient of five awards for outstanding teaching, including the College of Continuing and Professional Studies Distinguished Educator Award.

Photo: Library of Congress
Climate Change in Our Own Backyards: Evidence and Implications

Thursday, October 4, 7 p.m., $20 (HEDLX002), Series Pass $85 (HEDL X001)

For several decades, there has been decided and increasing recognition that the earth’s climate is changing in its central tendencies (means, modes, medians), extremes (frequency and geographic distribution), and behavioral character, including seasonality.

In our own Great Lakes region these changes are significant and include: 1) warmer temperatures (with seasonal and diurnal disparity), 2) higher frequency of tropical-like dew points, especially in the summer months, 3) and an overall increase in precipitation, as well as variability and change in the character of extreme rainfall events.

These trends are clearly linked to visible consequences in the landscape. What’s more, scientific models suggest that our climate will continue to transform, affecting our lives on many levels, including our natural resources, societal infrastructure, and public health.

And while many units of government have been working to ensure the state can adapt effectively and manage and preserve Minnesota’s natural resources in a changing climate, there is, according to climatologist Dr. Mark Seeley, “work for all of us to do in this regard.”

Mark Seeley is a former Extension Climatologist and Meteorologist, and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Soil, Water, and Climate at the University of Minnesota where for 40 years, he taught, conducted research, and coordinated the Weather and Climate Education Program with the National Weather Service, the Minnesota State Climatology Office, and state agencies. He is a commentator for MPR’s Morning Edition, author of Minnesota WeatherTalk, and a regular guest on TPT’s Almanac. His Minnesota Weather Almanac (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2006, 2015) is considered the most comprehensive document of Minnesota weather history.

American Democracy in a Changing World

Tuesdays, October 9, 16, 23, 30 (four meetings), 6–8 p.m., $165 (LLX151)

By nature, a functioning democracy changes over time, and this is no less true of American democracy. While the United States was founded as a republic (rather than a democracy), how has our system of governance evolved over time, and what’s on the horizon as we continue to modify our institutions, policies, and processes?

This comprehensive course will (re)introduce you to the institutions (executive, legislative, and judicial branches), policies (health care, immigration, and federalism), and processes (how the branches and levels of government interact with one another), that comprise the American political system.

Three basic questions will be addressed: 1) What are the fundamental characteristics of American political institutions and the people who run them? 2) How do institutional rules and norms affect politics? 3) What is the relationship between the government and “the people,” and does it live up to the ideals of democracy?

We will examine these questions by focusing on national politics and Washington, DC, with due attention to historical events (the founding of the United States, the Civil War, the Great Depression) and contemporary political issues (partisanship and policy differences).

Timothy Johnson is Morse Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor of Political Science and Law at the University of Minnesota. A part of the President’s Distinguished Faculty Mentorship Program for two years, Johnson is a recipient of the Red Motley Award of Teaching Excellence and the John Tate Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising.
In 2001, Professor James Kakalios developed *Everything I Know About Science I Learned from Reading Comic Books*, a freshmen-level physics course that covered everything from Isaac Newton to the transistor. The catch was that there wasn’t an inclined plane or pulley in sight, and all the examples were derived from superhero comic books.

For example, was it “the fall” or “the webbing” that killed Gwen Stacy, Spider-Man’s girlfriend in the classic *Amazing Spider-Man* #121? Why does the Flash become heavier as he tries to run at the speed of light? How does Kitty Pryde of the X-Men use quantum mechanics to walk through walls?

This *Whiz! Bang! Pow!* seminar will answer those questions and more, all with the goal of illustrating fundamental physics principles in a fun and accessible manner. Replete with a cast of heroes and villains, you’ll learn the answers to such important real-life questions as how graphene saved Iron Man’s life, what the chemical composition of Captain America’s shield is, and whether Superman or the Flash is faster. Cape not included.

LearningLife seminars embrace Socrates’s belief in inquiry and exchange; they include both lecture and critical discussion.


**James Kakalios** is the Taylor Distinguished Professor in the University of Minnesota’s School of Physics and Astronomy. A Fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Kakalios is the recipient of numerous awards, most recently the University’s George W. Taylor Award for Distinguished Service, the American Institute of Physics’ Andrew Gemant Award, and the AAAS Public Engagement with Science Award. His books include *The Physics of Everyday Things* (Crown Books, 2017), *The Amazing Story of Quantum Mechanics* (Gotham Books, 2010), and *The Physics of Superheroes*. 
The Unusual Suspects: Obscure Red Wines

Tuesdays, October 16, 23, 30 (three meetings), 6:30–8:30 p.m.
Coffman Memorial Union, Campus Club, East Bank campus, $135 + $40 wine fee (LLX150)

Year after year, the Nielsen reports continue to show Pinot Noir and Cabernet as the varietals that rule our red wine palates. It makes sense, then, that we gravitate toward these reliable standbys, be it out of convenience, price, or even to avoid the intimidation and uncertainty that can go hand-in-hand with selecting something less familiar. But when we avoid the road less taken, we miss out on the other 9,996 varietals to be discovered!

For instance, if you like Cabernet, you are also likely to enjoy Aglianico, Blaufränkisch, and Plavac Mali. If these grapes (originating in Italia, Austria, and Croatia, respectively) don’t ring a bell, then this might be the class for you!

"Anything but the usual suspects" is how instructor Leslee Miller describes this course exploring the lesser-known segments of the red wine world. From red- to black-skinned and light- to full-bodied grapes, you’ll learn about a range of obscure varietals and the history, geography, and they are produced.

As you sip through this vino venture, you’ll learn about wine label interpretation and the ins and outs of tasting. You’ll also expand your knowledge of international wine-growing boundaries.

No wine experience is necessary. A $40 fee, payable to the instructor at the first class, will cover the cost of wine for all sessions.

Leslee Miller is a dually certified sommelier through the International Sommelier Guild and the Court of Master Sommeliers. She is a former director of Archery Summit Winery of the Willamette Valley, and acted as a member to the board of directors for Archery Summit’s sister property, Pine Ridge Winery of Napa, California. Miller is owner of the wine-consulting firm Amusée, and cofounder of the national wine club Sip Better.

Here Lies: Twin Cities Cemeteries and Their Residents

Friday, October 26, 8 a.m.–4 p.m., $150 (LLX156)

This immersion celebrates four Twin Cities cemeteries and the lives of those who rest in their sacred places and played a significant role in the history of Minneapolis and Saint Paul.

Travelling by bus, we’ll begin at Minnesota’s largest burial ground, Lakewood Cemetery, which is home to a community columbarium, a reflecting pool, and two mausoleums. The historic Memorial Chapel is modeled after Istanbul’s Hagia Sophia and houses the best example of Byzantine mosaic art in the United States.

Next we’ll visit Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery, the oldest cemetery in Minneapolis and one of only a few listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Distinct in its architecture, the cemetery is home to territorial pioneers, veterans, abolitionists, early African American residents, and immigrants.

After lunch, we’ll visit Oakland Cemetery—the Midwest’s oldest. Founded in 1853 as Saint Paul’s primary nondenominational cemetery, Oakland has more than 50,000 residents. Its park-like atmosphere includes a firefighters memorial, soldier’s rest, and granite stone chapel.

We’ll end with Calvary Cemetery which is located on a scenic bluff overlooking downtown Saint Paul and known for its dramatic monument styles, including angels of all sizes. Established in 1856, it is considered a historical repository of both the city and the Catholic Church.

Participants will walk all day. Tuition includes lunch and transportation.

Doug Ohman is a photographer and historian whose work is featured in numerous books by Minnesota Historical Society Press, including Prairie, Lake, Forest: Minnesota’s State Parks, Cabins of Minnesota, Courthouses of Minnesota, Schoolhouses of Minnesota, and Barns of Minnesota.
Investigating Suicide, Self-Injury, and Psychosis: The Importance of the Research, the Risks to the Researchers

Thursday, November 1, 7 p.m., $20 (HEDLX003), Series Pass $85 (HEDLX001)

Many psychiatric illnesses are associated with disturbing and sometimes dangerous symptoms and behaviors, including suicidal behavior, self-injury, and psychosis. Research confirms that this is the result of abnormal information processing in the brain, which is related to changes in the structure and functioning of brain networks.

But this research is in its infancy and there is much to learn, especially in terms of how brain network changes occur during adolescence and early adulthood, and how best to treat these changes in a way that provides lasting and sustained benefit for the individual.

Yet in order to develop innovative approaches to help individuals recover from psychiatric illnesses, researchers must perform studies with young people who have serious symptoms and behaviors. According to Dr. Sophia Vinogradov, “When performing studies that focus on suicidal behavior, self-injury, or psychosis, the researcher and her department can be at high risk for adverse publicity and misunderstanding if one of their participants has a bad outcome.”

Join us November 1 to learn about the findings that have emerged from the Department of Psychiatry’s current studies, and the benefits and risks of performing this kind of research.

Sophia Vinogradov, MD, is the Donald W. Hastings Endowed Chair in Psychiatry and Department Head of Psychiatry in the University of Minnesota’s Medical School, where she directs a translational clinical neuroscience laboratory that focuses on cognitive dysfunction in schizophrenia. She is the recipient of the 2017 National Alliance on Mental Illness Scientific Research Award.

Fresco Painting: History and Hands-on Practice

Mondays, November 5, 12, 19 (three meetings), 6:30–8:30 p.m., $135 + $25 supply fee (LLX153)

From the brothels of Pompeii to the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, the history of fresco painting is replete with stories of tragedies and triumphs. The oldest known painting medium, fresco means fresh in Italian, and refers to the process by which water-based pigments are applied to freshly applied plaster. When executed properly, frescos can last for thousands of years.

To begin, participants in this course will learn the history of the medium by taking a virtual tour of the major frescoes of Italy, including the four Roman wall styles found in Pompeii, the edifice Camposanto in Pisa (which was damaged during World War II), and numerous paintings by Italian Renaissance masters. The tour also will include examples of contemporary frescos created in Minnesota.

During the second class, the instructor will demonstrate buon or true fresco painting and restoration techniques, and detail the Italian terms, materials, and processes associated with the fresco form.

At the final session, participants use what they have learned to create their own fresco.

No previous experience necessary. Supplies will be distributed in class.

Gretchen Wagener Burau, MFA, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, is an artist and adjunct professor of art history at the University of St. Thomas. She studied fresco painting and restoration in Florence, Italy with professional restorer Lorenzo Casamenti, and assisted local artist Mark Balma with The Transfiguration fresco in 2012.
Hate Speech as a Crime Against Humanity: The Nuremberg Trial of Julius Streicher

Wednesdays, November 7, 14, 28 (three meetings), 6–8 p.m., $135 (LLX157)

Julius Streicher was among the “major war criminals” brought to trial before the International Military Tribunal (IMT) at Nuremberg in 1945–46. Unlike most of his co-defendants, Streicher never held an official position in the German military or government during the Nazi era. He was however, an ardent member of the Nazi Party, having joined it in 1919 and serving as Party Gauleiter of Nuremberg from 1925 to 1945.

Through public speeches, books, and his privately published newspaper, Der Stürmer, Streicher espoused extreme and virulent anti-Semitism. In its judgment, the IMT found that “[W]eek after week, month after month, [Streicher] incited the German people to active persecution...murder and extermination.” The court determined that these activities constituted a crime against humanity and sentenced Streicher to death.

In this course we will examine:

- The legal basis of the trial and the charges
- The evidence against Streicher (warning: this includes offensive images and words)
- Streicher’s defense
- The case of Nuremberg co-defendant Hans Fritsche, a high official and radio personality in the German Propaganda Ministry, who was acquitted by the IMT
- Legal and practical distinctions between Hate Speech and Incitement

George Sheets, PhD, JD, is Professor Emeritus of Classical Studies at the University of Minnesota. He specializes in historical linguistics, Latin literature, and legal history, in particular, Roman law and its legacy in the civil and common law traditions. This course is the third in a series of popular short courses on “Famous Trials” that Professor Sheets has offered through LearningLife.

Genomes: Understanding Your Body’s Ancestry

Mondays, November 26, January 28 and February 4 (three meetings) 6:30–8:30 p.m.

This unique course will introduce you to, well, you. To participate, students should order the “Ancestry Only” personal genome service from 23andMe no later than November 25, 2018. The service (around $99) will detail a significant fraction of the genetic variations within your genome, and we’ll explore these in the second part of the course. It is important to read closely the terms of service and privacy statement at 23andMe prior to registering, and to consider the possible effects of learning such information.

First, we’ll look at the connection between our unique human genome sequence and what it reveals about our regions of origin. The instructor will survey how genomes vary between individuals, how to identify variations that trace to particular regions, and how this information may be used to estimate when an ancestor from a region distinct from that of the majority of our ancestors became a family member.

Later, we will focus on identifying and detailing the Neanderthal-derived gene variants that most of us carry, and exploring your ancestors’ regions of origin.

The final session will be dedicated to using your genome sequence to illuminate relationships with your contemporary relatives, including how to identify genetic similarity between a parent and child, and what that looks like in contrast to genetic similarities with siblings, uncles, aunts, and/or cousins.

David Matthes is a Morse-Alumni Distinguished Professor in the Department of Biology Teaching and Learning and the Department of Genetics, Cell Biology and Development at the University of Minnesota. He is a recipient of the College of Biological Science’s Most Engaging Professor Award and the Dagley-Kirkwood Undergraduate Education Award.
F. Scott Fitzgerald stands as one of the most important American writers of the 20th century, and his biographers all note the significance of his boyhood in St. Paul where, as Fitzgerald put it, he lived in "a house below the average on a street above the average."

The ties between his life in St. Paul and much of his short fiction are evident—the author's deep connection to the city giving him some of his best material. Populated with charming and mischievous characters who are filled with ambition and young love, insecurity and awkwardness, these stories are the stuff of winter dreams and ice palaces, lakeside parties, and neighborhood hijinks.

This course delves into those stories, some virtually unknown, others literary classics. Taught by Fitzgerald scholar Dave Page, each class session will begin with an illustrated lecture, followed by a discussion of related works.


December 5 lecture: Ah-ha Moments while Writing F. Scott Fitzgerald in Minnesota: The Writer and His Friends at Home, selections from This Side of Paradise, "He Thinks He's Wonderful," and "A Freeze-Out"

December 12 lecture: Frontenac and "The Diamond as Big as the Ritz" and "Bernice Bobs Her Hair," additional stories as time allows


Another Year for the Record Books? 2018 Election Results and the Implications for Governing

Thursday, December 6, 7 p.m., $20 (HEDL X004), Series Pass $85 (HEDL X001)

The US elections of 2016, during which Donald Trump became President and the Republican Party retained its majorities in the House and Senate, was unprecedented: rife with controversy, conspiracy, and consternation, most of which continues today (and then some)! Clearly, 2016 was a departure from elections of yore and the ensuing years have been similarly distinct and charged, leaving everyone—no matter their views—thinking: what’s next?

Come December and this edition of Headliners, the 2018 midterm elections will have taken place. All 435 seats in the US House of Representatives and 35 of the 100 seats in the US Senate will have been contested and decided. In addition, 39 state and territorial governorships and numerous state and local officials, including many in Minnesota, will have been selected and your guess is as good as ours as to what the post-election terrain will look like.

Join us—post-vote—when political scientist Dr. Kathryn Pearson will help us gather our collective senses and better understand where we’ve been, where we’re headed, and the election’s implications for governing in the years to come.

Kathryn Pearson is an Associate Professor of Political Science in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota. From 1993–1998, Pearson worked on Capitol Hill as a Legislative Assistant for two members of Congress, and in 2002–2003, she was a Research Fellow at the Brookings Institution. She is the recipient of the University’s Morse Alumni Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education.

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Contact Us
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On the Cover: Curious about the chemical composition of the Captain America’s shield? Learn more during The Physics of Superheroes. See inside front cover and page 11.

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LLFC  02  LL FY19 August 18 Edition Course Catalog 8-20-18