Art Cities of Italy: Florence, Rome, Venice

Tuesdays, September 10, 17, 24, October 1 (four meetings), 6:30–8:30 p.m., $165 (LLX179)

This survey of the history of Italian art opens in Florence with the works of Early Renaissance painters like Giotto, who transformed the art of the Late Middle Ages with a new spirit of human emotion.

During the Quattrocento (1400s), Florentine artists such as Donatello, Masaccio, and Botticelli were achieving major advances in composition and technique. At the same time, under the Medicis, masters of the Italian High Renaissance like Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo melded observation of the world around them with careful study of the classical heritage of ancient Greek and Roman art.

With the coming of the Reformation and clashes between Catholics and Protestants, artistic focus shifted to Rome, its fervid atmosphere characterized by the dramatic paintings of Caravaggio and the Baroque structures and fountains of Bernini. Meanwhile, in Venice, painters such as Titian and Veronese explored new approaches to color and composition, and successors like Canaletto documented the opulent buildings and unique cultural environment of the “City of the Lion.”

With the Risorgimento—movement toward Italian unification in the 19th century—Italian art increasingly reflected the political and social foment of national aspiration. This course will close with a look at the rise of Italian modernism and some of its distinctive stylistic movements (Futurism, for example) that led into the 20th century.

These explorations of the Italian art cities of Florence, Rome, and Venice will include brief “visits” to major museums and cultural institutions as a means to highlight the treasures that await visitors—be they in person or virtual.

Art historian Allan Kohl has taught courses on ancient, medieval, and Renaissance art at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, where he is the visual resources librarian. His previous LearningLife courses include historical celebrations of baseball and American popular culture, the art of the Civil War, and the art and design history of New York, Paris, London, Athens, Vienna, Istanbul, and other cities.

Offered in cooperation with the College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Sciences Office of International Programs and the College of Education and Human Development.
Writing About the Past: Become a Popular History Storyteller

Monday, September 16 (one meeting), 4–7 p.m., $70 (LLX176)

History is riding a wave of high interest, with many publications seeking factual historical stories and Oscar-winning movies focusing on tales of the past. With long experience as an author of articles, essays, books, and podcasts on history-related topics, award-winning author Jack El-Hai will lead this fast-paced journey into the process of writing about history for general audiences.

The course will cover how to identify historical nonfiction stories that resonate today, as well as how to research topics, interview sources, organize your findings, structure stories, blend in personal experience, find markets, and bring your work to the attention of readers.

There also will be an opportunity to discuss your ideas and ask questions.

Jack El-Hai is the author of *The Nazi and the Psychiatrist* (PublicAffairs Books, 2013), *Non-Stop: A Turbulent History of Northwest Airlines* (University of Minnesota Press, 2013), *The Lobotomist* (John Wiley & Sons, 2005), and *Lost Minnesota* (University of Minnesota Press, 2000). In addition to receiving two Minnesota Book Awards and the annual book award of the Medical Journalists’ Association of the UK, three of his works have been optioned or adapted for the screen.

El-Hai is a frequent contributor to such publications as *The Atlantic, GQ, Wired, Topic, Discover, Scientific American Mind,* and *The Washington Post Magazine.*

His latest book, *The Lost Brothers,* is a historical true-crime investigation forthcoming from the University of Minnesota Press.

The Power to Overcome: Memoirs of Survival

Thursdays, September 12, October 3, 24 (three meetings), 6–8 p.m., $135 (LLX175)

Historically, memoirs were written by people of privilege and notoriety, predominantly white men who, late in their lives, looked back on successful careers, arranging and embellishing memories to make a coherent story about triumphing over life’s obstacles. But today, memoir has been adopted and adapted by people whose lives are quite different from those earlier writers.

Women, political radicals, LGBTQ community members, and people from the working class have recently given us memoirs that record struggles faced and barriers crashed through. These writers see the genre as a path to examining the environments and situations from which they’ve come and which have allowed them to achieve goals they never dreamed possible. The difference: a traditionally “polite” form of writing has become psychologically framed and politically astute.

In this course, we’ll discuss three such memoirs: James McBride’s *The Color of Water,* which spent more than two years on the *New York Times* bestseller list; Jesmyn Ward’s *Men We Reaped,* which was called one of the best books of the century by *New York Magazine,* and Casey Gerald’s *There Will Be No Miracles Here,* about which author Marlon James marveled, “Somehow Casey Gerald has pulled off the most urgently political, most deeply personal, and most engagingly spiritual statement of our time by just looking outside his window and inside himself.”


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.
Minnesota Mycology: Study, Forage, Savor

Thursday, September 19, 6–8 p.m., Continuing Education and Conference Center
Saturday, September 21, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., William O’Brien State Park
Wednesday, September 25, 6–8:30 pm, Campus Club, Coffman Memorial Union
East Bank campus, $180 (LLX050)

With more than 5,000 species of mushrooms found in the region, identifying species can be challenging. The most commonly asked questions: “What is this?” and “Can I eat it?” Led by mycology enthusiast Kathy Yerich, this course allows you to first learn about, then forage for, and finally savor the mushrooms of Minnesota.

We’ll begin in the classroom with a lecture that defines what mushrooms are, surveys the species found in the region, and details the characteristics essential to species identification.

The next session will have you foraging at William O’Brien State Park. Mushroom identification is a tactile and sensory experience, so we’ll spend time observing, touching, and smelling specimens, all of which can help to distinguish species.

And finally, the taste test! We’ll meet at the Campus Club where chef Beth Jones will prepare small plates that feature locally sourced wild and cultivated mushrooms. In addition to offering tips on how to use mushrooms in your own kitchen, the soirée will include a visit from a gourmet mushroom cultivator who will discuss the ins and outs of the ever-expanding local mushroom industry.

Throughout the evening, there will be a cash bar with suggested pairings for the courses. Tuition includes food.


Kathy Yerich, Beth Jones, Ian Silver-Ramp, and Courtney Tchida; see bios on page 7.

Offered in cooperation with the Campus Club of the University of Minnesota, Cornercopia Student Farm, Minnesota Mycological Society, and Mississippi Mushrooms.

Birding by Ear

Monday, September 23, 7 a.m.–2 p.m., $150 (LLX136)
Richardson Nature Center, Bloomington

How do avid birders find so many birds? Half the battle is being able to identify bird songs—not only what type of bird is singing, but what its specific songs and calls mean. This lively immersion will have you out during fall migration season to help you get an idea of the species passing through your yard and our fair cities. Among the many things you will learn: the difference between songs and calls, how to listen for sparrow chips versus thrush chips, and identifying birds as they migrate at night. You’ll also discover your best birding opportunities for the remainder of the year.

Led by Sharon “Birdchick” Stiteler, this nature-filled, multisensory experience will boost your bird song knowledge. We’ll begin at the Richardson Nature Center located within Hyland Lake Park Reserve. After a morning full of birds, then lunch at a nearby restaurant, the group will reconvene at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. The day will conclude on the refuge’s trails, where you can practice using the tools you’ve learned to identify the songs and calls you have added to your repertoire.

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

Sharon “Birdchick” 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*, Stiteler is the author of *City Birds/Country Birds* (Adventure Publications, 2008) and *Disapproving Rabbits* (Harper, 2007).
Minnesota Mycology: Small Plate Soirée

Wednesday, September 25, 6–8:30 pm, Campus Club, Coffman Memorial Union
East Bank campus, $70 (LLX051)

What is this? Can I eat it? According to mycology enthusiast Kathy Yerich, these are the most commonly asked questions about mushrooms, and this soirée offers you the opportunity to learn about and sample some of the more than 5,000 species found in our region.

Hen of the Woods. Chicken of the Woods. What’s the difference? Yerich will discuss Minnesota mushroom species and detail the characteristics essential to their identification. As she presents, chef Beth Jones will serve small plates that feature locally sourced wild and cultivated mushrooms.

In addition to offering tips on how to use mushrooms in your own kitchen, the soirée will include a visit from a gourmet mushroom cultivator who will discuss the ins and outs of the ever-expanding local mushroom industry.

Throughout the evening, a cash bar will feature wines, beers, and cocktails with suggested pairings for the courses. Tuition includes food. Space is limited. Registrations must be received by September 18.

Kathy Yerich, BFA, University of Minnesota, is vice president of the Minnesota Mycological Society and a member of the North American Mycological Association. She is coauthor of Mushrooms of the Upper Midwest: A Simple Guide to Common Mushrooms.

Beth Jones, executive chef, Campus Club, University of Minnesota, honed her cooking skills and became a proponent of the local foods movement while at Lucia’s in Minneapolis.

Ian Silver-Ramp, BS, University of Minnesota, is founder and co-owner of Minneapolis-based Mississippi Mushrooms.

Courtney Tchida is the Student Programs Coordinator for the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture and Cornercopia Student Organic Farm.

Offered in cooperation with the Campus Club of the University of Minnesota, Cornercopia Student Farm, Minnesota Mycological Society, and Mississippi Mushrooms.
FROM THE FIELD | Easiest Catch: Another Fish in the Dark Net

Monday, October 7, 6:30–8:30 p.m., $55 (LLX178)

You've read the headlines. Unfortunately, the question at this stage in the game is not whether your information is going to be accessed or stolen, but when. It makes no difference whether you're a multimillion-dollar business or an average citizen—no entity is immune from internet crimes, many of which are increasingly sophisticated as human enterprise expands online.

In recognition of National Cyber Security Awareness Month, we’ve invited one of the nation's leading cybersecurity experts to survey recent high-profile cybercrime events, including website breaches that have impacted businesses, institutions, and organizations. He also will discuss the threats that affect individuals, including those that make use of the Dark Web, the Internet of Things, phishing scams, and Wi-Fi attacks.

And in the hope that you don’t become that next fish, current developments in the digital underground and realistic advice for your own cyber protection will be presented.

LearningLife's From the Field series provides a firsthand look at the professions that shape and the practitioners who influence our world.

Mark Lanterman is Chief Technology Officer of Computer Forensic Services and a Seized Computer Evidence Recovery Specialist as certified by the Department of Homeland Security. A former member of the US Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force. Lanterman has testified in more than 2,000 cases and provided training in digital evidence, computer forensics, and cyber security to the US Supreme Court. Lanterman is a professor in the cybersecurity program at the University of St. Thomas School of Law and teaches regularly for the Federal Judicial Center, Washington, DC; the National Judicial College, Reno, Nevada; and the University of Minnesota.

Offered in cooperation with the University's Cybersecurity Boot Camp.
Mighty Fitz: The Sinking and Trial of the Edmund Fitzgerald

Monday, October 14, 6:30–8:30 p.m., $55 (LLX187)

The sinking of the SS Edmund Fitzgerald is one of the most famous shipwreck stories in Great Lakes history. It is also one of maritime lore’s great mysteries, the details of its disappearance as obscure now as on that fateful November day in 1975.

In the award-winning Mighty Fitz, author Michael Schumacher relates in vivid detail the story of the ship, her many years on the waters of the Great Lakes, the tragic final day, the search and rescue efforts, and the speculation that followed in the wake of the disaster.

The investigation into the wreck, resulting in a divisive final report, generated more than 3,000 pages of documentation, a mere fraction of which has been made available to the public. In The Trial of the Edmund Fitzgerald, Schumacher mines this rich resource and draws on dramatic testimony given at the Coast Guard’s official inquiry to produce this first-ever documentary account.

Join us to mark the 44th anniversary when Schumacher will pay tribute to the lives lost by sharing a unique, and uniquely enlightening, perspective on this unforgettable episode in America’s maritime history.


Michael Schumacher is the author of three other shipwreck books: Torn in Two (2018), November’s Fury (2014), and Wreck of the Carl D. (Bloomsbury, 2008), as well as narratives for 25 documentary films. His biographical subjects include: Eric Clapton, Phil Ochs, Will Eisner, Al Capp, George Mikan, Francis Ford Coppola, and Allen Ginsberg. Schumacher’s most recent books are First Thought (2017) and The Contest: The 1968 Election and the War for America’s Soul (2018).

Offered in cooperation with University of Minnesota Press; all titles published by the Press unless noted.

It’s a Small World: Boost Your Intercultural Competency

Saturdays, October 12, 19 (two meetings), 10 a.m.–noon, $95 (+ $12 workbook fee) (LLX182)

At one time or another, we’ve all exclaimed “What a small world!” when faced with situations or coincidences that appear foreign but feel strangely familiar. And while there is much in the world that has brought us together and encouraged universal interdependence and celebration, there are cultural differences that have kept and continued to keep us apart, distant, even divided.

In this course, you will learn how to uncover aspects of your own culture in order to distinguish how your unique values shape your perception of the world. Whether you are a world traveler, a professional who works with people around the globe, or a prospective host to international visitors, you’ll come to see how identifying relevant cultural differences can make it easier to create positive connections with people who come from cultural backgrounds different from your own.

We’ll ask: What is culture? What are the underlying things that make up a culture? Why do people operate differently and how? You will develop your communication skills, boost your intercultural competency, gain greater self-awareness, and feel a deeper appreciation for the significance that understanding cultural values plays in fostering positive interactions, establishing relationships, and building meaningful bridges between people.

It’s a small world, after all.

Thorunn Bjarnadottir, MA, University of Minnesota, is the Director of Intercultural Education for the University’s International Student and Scholar Services, where she readies students to work in an interconnected global environment. A native of Iceland, she speaks four languages.

Offered in cooperation with the Office of International Student and Scholar Services.
The Roaring 1880s: Minneapolis and Saint Paul Come of Age

Wednesdays, October 16, 23 (two meetings), 6:30–8:30 p.m., $95 (LLX186)

The 1880s were a time like no other in the history of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul. It was a dynamic period that saw explosive growth and a great flowering of architecture.

The first skyscrapers appeared in the two downtowns, culminating in the twelve-story Northwestern Guaranty Loan (Metropolitan) Building—the tallest and most magnificent commercial structure in Minneapolis. Department stores like Donaldson’s and Saint Paul’s Emporium transformed the shopping experience. Mighty stone flour mills, including the two largest in the world, created an industrial colossus around St. Anthony Falls. Mansions of unprecedented size and opulence rose along such storied avenues as Summit in Saint Paul and Park in Minneapolis.

Meanwhile, impoverished immigrants lived in ramshackle communities like Swede Hollow and Bohemian Flats, all but hidden from the cities around them.

Based on three books by architectural critic and historian Larry Millett, this course will explore the 1880s in all of their splendor and squalor, looking back at the crucial decade when Minneapolis and Saint Paul came of age.


Larry Millett, MA, University of Chicago, is the author of 14 nonfiction books, including Minnesota Modern: Architecture and Life at Midcentury (University of Minnesota Press, 2015), which received a Minnesota Book Award, and Lost Twin Cities, which received the American Institute of Architects International Architecture Book Award. He also is author of eight novels, the most recent of which is Sherlock Holmes and the Eisendorf Enigma (University of Minnesota Press, 2017).

Offered in cooperation with University of Minnesota Press.
Quick, off the top of your head: name a book about creativity or creative practice that was written in the last half century. Name another. Perhaps you cited John Gardner’s classic treatise *Self-Renewal: The Individual and the Innovative Society* (1964) or Austin Kleon’s digital-age manifesto *Steal Like an Artist* (2012). Or maybe it was Betty Edwards’s *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain* (1979) or Julia Cameron’s *The Artist’s Way* (1992).

The truth is, hundreds of such books exist and range from Roger von Oech’s mind-stretching *A Whack on the Side of the Head* (1983) to Richard Florida’s theoretical *The Rise of the Creative Class* (2002). Always compelling and frequently best-selling, the existence of this vast catalog illustrates our human obsession with thinking, in general, and how we solve problems and create, in particular.

But what constitutes creative thinking? How does this compare to critical thinking? What are the individual characteristics of those who are considered creative? What cognitive skills and personality traits support creative thinking? Can creativity be taught?

It’s a topic for the ages, so let’s jump in! Both Part I (Why are we not all like Einstein?) and Part II (How can we be more creative?) of this course will feature lectures, discussions, and activities that illustrate how creative approaches and innovative thinking may be applied to myriad situations, as well as to solving problems large and small, global and personal.

**Alice Larson**, PhD, University of Minnesota, is a Professor in the Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences at the University’s College of Veterinary Medicine. The former director of the University’s Graduate Program in Neuroscience, Larson is interested in creativity as an outgrowth of her research on brain function and work with postdoctoral associates, and graduate and undergraduate students.

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Do you ever wonder why some people run away from money, while others chase after it? Or why some who have unlimited disposable income prefer to buy their clothes at Goodwill, while others who are in debt shop at Gucci? And why spouses, parents, and children seldom agree on how to manage money?

Money and property are among the most pervasive forces in modern life, not just in English-speaking societies but throughout the world. Our personal relationships with money are as much about psychology as they are about economics, communication and symbolism, and buying and selling.

Psychologist Kenneth Doyle advances the concept of money as a talisman by which we protect ourselves from individual fears, such as incompetence, abandonment, disorganization, or constraint. And just as economists rarely address the soft side of money in their theories, psychologists rarely pay attention to the hard side.

This course will help you to understand the symbolic meanings of money and the psychological, cultural, economic, social, and political variables that contribute to these meanings. Examples both contemporary and historical will synthesize what psychoanalysis, psychometrics, social science, and brain science tell us about our relationship with money and why we do what we do even when it is not considered rational or in our best interest.


**Kenneth Doyle**, PhD, University of Minnesota, is an associate professor in the University’s Hubbard School of Journalism and Mass Communication. His most recent book, coauthored with Larry Houk, is *Peace of Mind for Your Aging Parents* (Praeger, 2018).
Chinese Calligraphy: History, Culture, and Practice

Mondays, October 28, November 4, 11, 18 (four meetings), 6:30–8:30 p.m., $165 (+ supplies) (LLX183)

Chinese calligraphy can be traced back to some of the earliest marks made by carving on stone pieces and tortoise shells. The recognizable brush form of calligraphy was developed nearly 1,000 years ago and is characterized by more than 4,000 different characters. More than simply a form of written communication, Chinese calligraphy is a revered art form that has specific tools, techniques, principles, and approaches.

In this hands-on course, you’ll study the history and cultural background of this ancient practice and learn how to use a calligraphy brush, ink, and paper, as well as important calligraphic terms and techniques. Through lectures, demonstrations, and individual practice, instructor Hong Zhang will emphasize the importance of mastering calligraphic brush skills and gain a deeper appreciation for the beauty and concepts of the form.

No previous experience necessary. Participants are required to purchase newsprint and ink paste (estimate: $20) and may purchase brushes from the instructor (estimate: $25). Supply information will be sent upon registration.

Hong Zhang was born and raised in Shanghai, China, where he studied Chinese calligraphy and brush painting under the late Master Artist Shen Shijia. Zhang later studied at the Shanghai Fine Arts Institute and, in 1992, founded Minnesota-based Hong Zhang Studio. He is a popular instructor in the University of Minnesota’s Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.

A Golden Age of Cartography: Maps and Mapmakers Before 1800

Wednesdays, October 30, November 6, November 20, and December 4 (four meetings—no class November 13 and 27), 6–8 p.m., Elmer L. Andersen Library, Minneapolis West Bank campus, $165 (LLX184)

In today’s world of Google Maps and GPS, people often forget that it wasn’t always so easy to decipher how to get from point A to point B. Similarly, when using a road map, you may not realize that what you are unfolding represents the synthesis of decades of exploration, reckoning, and artistry.

This course surveys the golden age of cartography, highlighting maps and mapmakers from the Middle Ages and ancient Rome to 18th-century America. Using rare and magnificent maps from the James Ford Bell Library’s collection, you’ll delve into the history, romance, and beauty of cartography and learn how ideas about the world have changed over time—not just on maps, but in the imagination as well.

Marguerite Ragnow, PhD, University of Minnesota, is curator of the James Ford Bell Library, a member of the graduate faculties of History, Medieval Studies, and Early Modern Studies, and codirector of the Consortium for the Study of the Premodern World at the University. She also is president of the Society for the History of Discoveries.

Offered in cooperation with the James Ford Bell Library.
How American Gothic Fiction Critiques America: Vonnegut, Bradbury, King

Wednesdays, October 30, November 20, December 11 (three meetings), 6:30–8:30 p.m., $135 (LLX181)

In the 18th century, as the United States began to form its own political and economic system, the nascent country also started to develop its own culture, including its own literature.

Distinct from Gothic fiction, American Gothic fiction is a homegrown subgenre set in uniquely American settings (the frontier, suburbia) and characterized by themes that delve into the darker elements of the nation's culture and history (slavery, environmental devastation).

For this reason, American Gothic literature provides a profound and illuminating means to critique the country's flaws, whether it be the inhumane militarism that led to the firebombing of Dresden in 1945 as depicted in Kurt Vonnegut's masterpiece *Slaughterhouse Five*, the cultural insensitivity and colonial arrogance of the original settlement of the Americas as mirrored in the colonization of Mars in Ray Bradbury's carnivalesque science fiction fantasy *The Martian Chronicles*, or the brutality of contemporary high school students as represented in Stephen King's award-winning first novel *Carrie*.

As we read these novels, we'll discuss the genre and its history, and how it has come to offer a popular forum for critical insight into the American experience that is both conceptually subtle and decidedly intriguing.

Required: Any editions of Kurt Vonnegut’s *Slaughterhouse Five*, Ray Bradbury’s *The Martian Chronicles*, and Stephen King’s *Carrie*.

Patrick O’Donnell was born in Galway, grew up in Dublin, and attended University College, Dublin where his PhD thesis was about the Guthrie Theater. He currently teaches English at Normandale Community College. O’Donnell is the Director of Education at Saint Paul's Celtic Junction Arts Center, where he contributes articles and edits its online cultural magazine, *The Celtic Junction Arts Review*, and teaches classes in Irish literary history, literature, and mythology.
How Neuroscience Will Revolutionize the Law

Thursday, November 7, 7 p.m., $20 (HEDLX003)

Brain science is rapidly becoming central to our understanding of how we make decisions, why we act, and why we sometimes behave in ways we wish we hadn’t. Lawyers, public policy makers, and the courts, including the US Supreme Court, have all taken notice and are integrating neuroscience research into their arguments and opinions, asking questions such as: What are adolescents, psychopaths, and killers thinking? How does dementia affect legal capacity? Why is eye-witness memory so poor?

Legislators are also listening as they work to address mental health, addiction, dementia, prenatal care, education, and a host of other social policies.

According to Dr. Francis X. Shen, it’s clear that neuroscience will revolutionize the law, but how? “Better understanding of brain function offers great promise—but also great peril,” he states, noting there are “principles by which brain science should (and should not) be embraced…”

Join us as Shen introduces the University’s role in this emerging field. Topics will include criminal culpability, adolescent brain development, aging brains and capacity, brain-based lie detection, cognitive enhancement, memory, emotions, decision making, and more.

Francis X. Shen is the executive director of the Harvard Center for Law, Brain and Behavior, Massachusetts General Hospital, and an associate professor of law, McKnight Presidential Fellow, and faculty member in the Graduate Program in Neuroscience at the University of Minnesota, where the Shen Neurolaw Lab translates advances in brain science into better law and policy. Shen also is Executive Director of Education and Outreach for the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Law and Neuroscience and a member of the National Institutes of Health Neuroethics Subgroup.

The Barber of Seville

Saturdays, November 9, 16 (two meetings), 9–11 a.m., $95 (LLX177)

First performed in Rome in 1816, Gioacchino Rossini’s *The Barber of Seville* is, for many opera lovers, the first great example of an Italian opera written by an Italian rather than a German or an Austrian composer, making it a landmark composition that helped to usher in an era of Italian opera that flourished well into the early 20th century.

Delightfully comic and teeming with social commentary, the libretto is based on Pierre Beaumarchais’s French comedy *Le Barbier de Séville*, the first of the three Figaro plays. It tells the story of a vulnerable young woman who plots successfully to marry a glamorous young man rather than the odious guardian who covets her for himself.

The opera’s music has been said to “delight” rather than “challenge” listeners, as evidenced by the popular-music status attained by some of its melodies in the last century.

Ironically, the appeal of Rossini’s Barber has now far transcended that of its literary model and remains a prototype of 19th-century opera, in that it ends with the marriage of a couple who struggle to be together against all odds.

Tickets to the Minnesota Opera’s production of *The Barber of Seville* are not included in tuition. However, registered participants will receive information for a 20 percent discount on tickets to the performance of their choice.

Daniel Freeman, PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 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 also is a musicologist and pianist.

*Offered in cooperation with the Minnesota Opera.*
The Normandy Invasion: A 75th Anniversary Retrospective

Tuesdays, November 12, 19 (two meetings), 6:30-8:30 p.m., $95 (LLX163)

Perhaps one of the most dramatic events of World War II came with the Allied invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944, when approximately 156,000 US, British, and Canadian forces landed on five separate beaches along France’s Normandy coast and forever changed the course of the war. As the world marks the 75th anniversary of D-Day, this retrospective provides details of how the historic invasion was achieved.

To begin, we’ll look at the history of Norman invasions: the Vikings, the Norman invasion of England in 1066, and the subsequent projects for a cross-channel invasion that were never carried out. We’ll then examine the extent of planning and preparation for the Normandy Invasion (aka Operation Overlord), which illustrates how industrialization came to dominate warfare in the 20th century.

Even with astute planning and extensive preparation, the outcome of Overlord was not secure until after six weeks of momentum inland, when the Allies broke out of the Normandy beachhead and advanced to the liberation of Paris (August 26). This then led to the surrender of Germany on May 8, some 11 months following D-Day and what was to become the largest of all amphibious military assaults in history.

John Kim Munholland is Professor Emeritus of the University of Minnesota where he taught courses on modern European history for 42 years. A frequent LearningLife instructor, he also is a Smithsonian Journeys Expert whose past and forthcoming teaching excursions include those to Normandy.

Beyond Extinction: On Nature’s Value, Biodiversity Trends, and Causes for Hope

Thursday, December 5, 7 p.m., $20 (HEDLX004)

A May 2019 media release from the United Nations reads “One million species at risk of extinction” and goes on to detail the findings of the Global Assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Three years in the making, the landmark intergovernmental report finds that the accelerated rate at which humans are destroying the natural world could plunge the planet into a sixth mass extinction event.

“The overwhelming evidence… presents an ominous picture,” said IPBES Chair Sir Robert Watson. “The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide.”

Dire headlines notwithstanding, the report also offers a range of possible scenarios and hope for the coming decades. According to scientist Dr. Kate Brauman, a coordinating lead author of one of the report’s major sections—how societies benefit from nature—there are practical ways in which we can reverse course and protect the natural environment.

Join Dr. Brauman to discuss the primary findings of the report, including how changes in nature affect human well-being, with a particular focus on approaches to work with nature to improve water quality, regulate water quantity, and mitigate the impacts of flooding.

Kate A. Brauman is the lead scientist for the Global Water Initiative at the University of Minnesota’s Institute on the Environment (IonE), where she also leads IonE’s Impact Goal to ensure safe water for all Minnesotans. She recently testified about the IPBES Global Assessment’s findings to the US House of Representatives Committee on Space, Science and Technology.
Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!

All persons having business before the Honorable, the Supreme Court of the United States, are admonished to draw near and give their attention, for the Court is now sitting.

And come October 10, the 14th season of Headliners will similarly be in session! We’ll begin, appropriately enough, with nationally renowned Supreme Court scholar Dr. Timothy R. Johnson (see page 8) who will speak about the Court—its personalities and proclivities—just three days after its new term has begun!

And while individual event tickets are a bargain at $20, a Headliners Series Pass will have you enjoying all seven events for just $12.86 each!

Visit the Headliners website to register or see the fall lineup.

Land of 10,000 Thanks

It’s true! Minnesotans have been called more generous with their time and money than people in any other state (WalletHub, 2018), and our personal giving holiday will soon pass the decade mark when Give to the Max Day returns on November 14.

In one 24-hour period, the work and worth of thousands of nonprofit schools, institutions, and programs will be highlighted, providing an opportunity for charitable Minnesotans to give what they can to the causes and organizations that mean the most to them.

What’s more, LearningLife will be participating in Give to the Max Day—for the very first time! We hope you will support us in our dedicated efforts to share the work of University scholars and researchers with an even broader constituency.

Please save the date and consider a gift to LearningLife on November 14.

On the Cover: Waterfalls and Dancing Pine 松壑雲瀑, a traditional Chinese painting by Hong Zhang.

The University of Minnesota shall provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

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Registration

Visit the LearningLife website for regularly added courses, seminars, and immersions, as well as information about registration, discounts, and scholarships.

**Online**  ccaps.umn.edu/learninglife
**Phone**  612-624-4000
**Mail**  CCAPS Registration, 353 Ruttan Hall, 1994 Buford Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55108

Location and Parking

Unless otherwise noted, all courses and events take place at the Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Avenue, Saint Paul. Parking is available in the adjacent lot or ramp for a fee.

Cancellation Policy

If LearningLife is forced to cancel a course or event, you will receive a full refund, credited to the original method of payment. Programs will not be cancelled due to inclement weather unless the University closes. Cancellations are subject to a 10 percent fee if received five or fewer working days before the program start date. No refunds will be granted if you cancel on or after the first day of the program.

LearningLife and Headliners Program Fund

Support from this fund allows us to maintain high-quality personal enrichment programming and instruction for many years to come! For more information, visit give.umn.edu/giveto/learninglife.

Contact Us

612-624-4000
ccapsinfo@umn.edu
ccaps.umn.edu/learninglife