

# The Benefits of Studying the Humanities and Social Sciences

April 5

## **Session I: 11 a.m.**

Title: **Escape and Return: Revealing Real-World Truth through Imaginative Experience**

### [Escape and Return](#)

Host: Ms. Jeanette Brossmann, professor of communication studies

Presenters: Dr. Gretchen Frank and Dr. Natalie Hopper, professors of English

**Description:** Let's face it: even before the pandemic began, we all needed an escape from time to time. And the genres of fantasy and science fiction offer such a rich world to escape to. Is this the realm of geeks? Totally! But it's also a great space in which to explore some of the ideas that make our real-world experiences valuable and learn about how we really understand ourselves and our existence. From Frankenstein to Harry Potter, the escape that fantasy and sci fi provides to us can be fun, joyful and downright weird. But our return to reality often allows us to look critically at our own experiences and reality in new ways and provides much more than just escape. Join English Professors Gretchen Frank and Natalie Hopper in exploring how escaping through fantasy and sci fi can offer us a heck of a return, revealing real-world truths through imaginative experience.

**Bios:** Dr. Gretchen Frank is a professor of English at Lakeland. She earned her M.A. and Ph.D. from Illinois State University. She teaches composition, British literature, women's literature, children's literature and Fantasy at Lakeland; is a faculty co-advisor for Sigma Kappa Delta (the English honor society); and especially adores British Victorian literature. She's literally from Normal (which is a town in Illinois), has a surprising addiction to watching NHL hockey, and happily drinks what others might label too much tea.

Like Dr. Frank, Dr. Natalie Hopper is a professor of English at Lakeland and a faculty advisor for Sigma Kappa Delta. She earned her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Alabama and joined the Lakeland faculty soon after, teaching courses in composition, poetry, British literature, science fiction and mythology. Dr. Hopper loves SEC football (Roll Tide!) and will watch almost any movie or TV show featuring time travel, superpowers, or magic.

## **Session II: 2 p.m.**

Title: **Assessing Your Conflict Style: A Step in Managing the Way You Manage Conflict**

### [Assessing Conflict Style](#)

Host: Dr. Natalie Hopper, professor of English

Presenter: Dr. Eric Usatch, professor of communication studies

**Description:** In this session, audience members will learn how to recognize different forms of conflict in their relationships and identify their own conflict style and its implications for tendencies in conflict behavior. They will also learn how aspects of conflict style pertain to different relational, social and cultural contexts. Audience members will learn how to consider and engage alternative responses to conflict in relation to different conflict situations.

**Bio:** Dr. Eric Usatch has a B.S. in communication/media and psychology from SUNY Fredonia, and a M.S. and Ph.D. in speech communication from SIU at Carbondale. Currently, an associate professor in the department of communication studies at Lakeland Community College, he has taught courses in communication studies for over two decades including: fundamentals of communication, public speaking, interpersonal communication, persuasion, organizational communication, group communication, intercultural communication, and conflict management. He has also worked as a consultant and professional researcher in marketing research and behavioral analysis for private and public institutions, including federally funded research at Michigan State University and the University of Vermont.

April 6

### **Session III: 11 a.m.**

Title: **Why Study History? Transferable Skills and Employment Opportunities**

#### [Why Study History](#)

Host: Ms. Jeanette Brossmann, professor of communication studies

Presenters: Dr. Jennifer Nalmpantis and Dr. Matt Hiner, professors of history

**Description:** The study of history has long been recognized as central to a liberal arts education and has served as a foundation for successful careers in many fields. The study of history is not designed simply to teach students to regurgitate dates or facts, or even to explain how our present society emerged from other times or places. The true study of any area of history is understanding cause and effect: why events happened the way they did and what consequences those events had. This training in objective thinking is useful in ways that students may not always anticipate, but which employers often understand. There are many ways in which skills learned in the study of the past can be translated into the enterprises of the present.

The term “historian” covers a broad range of career options and job settings. In general, historians study, assess, and interpret the past to determine what happened and why. They examine court documents, diaries, letters and newspaper accounts; they conduct research, write, teach, evaluate

and make recommendations. They interview individuals and study various historical remains. Based on this training, career paths for history majors are almost limitless: schools, universities, libraries, museums, government offices, and newspapers are just a few of the potential professional choices for history students. This session will explore many career opportunities for history majors, and largely based on projections provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, discuss potential long-term career earnings as well.

**Bios:** Dr. Jennifer E. Nalmpantis is professor of history and past director of the Center for International Education at Lakeland Community College. She received her B.A. in history from the University of Dayton, where she researched, wrote, and published a history of Rike's Department Store, and her M.A. and Ph.D. from Kent State University, where she was president of Phi Alpha Theta and earned a University Fellowship. Her dissertation on political prophecy in Tudor-Stuart England received the dissertation award for best research. She has published and presented on various aspects of early modern prophecy at numerous national and international conferences. Her research interests include the formation of national identity in English political prophecy.

Dr. Matthew Hiner received his B.A in history from Muskingum College in 1990, his Masters in American History from Youngstown State in 1994, and his Ph.D. from the University of Akron in 2006. Dr. Hiner has taught history at Lakeland Community College for the past 16 years, where he has also served as advisor for the Honors Society. Prior to Lakeland, he taught at Northampton CC, The University of Akron, and Cleveland State University. His research interests focus on transportation history and Ohio history. He has written numerous articles on transportation subjects and is currently working on a definitive history of the Youngstown and Southeastern Railroad.

#### **Session IV: 2 p.m.**

Title: **January 6th: Protest or Act of Terror?**

#### [Protest or Terror](#)

Host: Mr. Tobin Terry, Professor of English

Presenters: Dr. Chris Skubby, professor of political science, and Dr. Michelle Smith, professor of sociology

**Description:** The events at the Capitol of Jan. 6, 2021, were shocking to many observers. Using Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> as the focal point of our discussion, we will explore tactics used by social movements and raise questions about the effectiveness of violent versus nonviolent approaches to social change. We will then widen the lens to look at the growth of mass protest at the global level. Given we are seeing unprecedented levels of protest, we will ask what is causing millions of people to take to the streets to march and demonstrate against - usually - their own governments? Is this another era of mass discontent that will eventually fade, or a trend that is likely to continue into the 2020s? What are the implications of this trend for social stability and the future of democracy? What are the consequences of using violence to push for social change?

How does the insurrection of Jan. 6 fit into this larger pattern of protest activity? Was this an aberration of part of this apparent trend? Dr. Skubby will present information on the global growth of mass movements and Dr. Smith will focus on movement tactics. We will both discuss the consequences of mass movements and their tactics democratic societies.

**Bios:** Dr. Christopher Skubby is a professor of political science and faculty adviser of the Model UN/NATO program. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from Johns Hopkins University with a specialty in congressional politics and has been teaching at Lakeland for over 25 years. His academic interests include electoral politics, Congress, comparative politics and international relations.

Dr. Michelle A. Smith earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in sociology from Kent State University. In addition to teaching principles of sociology, she teaches race and ethnic relations in the U.S. and social movements and the politics of protest. Her academic interests include grassroots social movements, civic engagement and race-ethnic group relations in society.

April 7

### **Session V: 11 a.m.**

Title: **Dream Quest: Finding Meaning in Your Dreams**

#### [Dream Quest](#)

Host: Dr. David Murad, professor of English

Presenter: Mr. Tony Palermo, associate professor of humanities

**Description:** Dreams speak to us in symbols. They help us to understand what is going on 'beneath the surface' of our existence. Many times, they inform us about illnesses that we are either ignoring or are completely unaware of in our waking lives. Dreams provide valuable information about our current mental and emotional states. In some instances, they help us see into the future. Basically, they provide a snapshot of who and what we truly are. To ignore them, is to cast off an integral part of our makeup as human beings. In my course "Dream Quest," we look to our dreams from every perspective possible. We learn what the ancients claimed about them, and what modern day science tells us as well. We explore dreams in relation to mythology, sociology and psychology. All one needs to do is to be willing to listen to what they have to say to us.

**Bio:** Anthony Palermo is associate professor of humanities. He teaches not only "Dream Quest," but also introductory courses, world mythology (with Dr. Natalie Hopper), and comparative religion. His favorite topics are ancient Roman religion and mythology as it relates to the dreaming mind.

## **Session VI: 2 p.m.**

**Title: The Fourth Estate: Journalism Offerings at Lakeland Community College**

### [The Fourth Estate](#)

Host: Mr. Alex Cox, associate professor of English

Presenter: Mr. James De Monte and Mr. Tobin Terry, professors of English

**Description:** Courses in journalism and experience in the high-profile work of a college publication can prepare students in all fields with transferrable skills such as critical thinking, reading and writing; clear communication; and thorough, accurate research practices. In this session, Professors James De Monte and Tobin F. Terry will discuss Lakeland's journalism courses, their impact and their importance in today's professional world, and the practical applications students of all disciplines can gain from experience working on Lakeland's student-run publication, *The Lakelander*.

**Bios:** James B. De Monte is a professor of English and director of the Center for International Education at Lakeland Community College. Previously, he was a professor at both Central State University and Columbus State Community College. In addition, he served as the outreach assistant at Kent State University's Wick Poetry Center and taught English as a Second Language in Sicily and Spain. His creative work has been published by "Fjords Review," "Chagrin River Review" and others.

Tobin F. Terry is a professor of English at Lakeland Community College. As a graduate of the Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Arts Program, Tobin received the Alpha Omega Dukes Memorial Promising Fiction Writer Award. Before coming to Lakeland, Tobin taught English at Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, and the University of Akron, and served as copy editor at the United States Sports Academy in Daphne, Alabama. Tobin was a fiction editor for the second issue of "Barn Owl Review," served as communications director for the Antioch Writers' Workshop, and is an editor for "Chagrin River Review." His most recent work appeared in "Emerge Literary Journal."

April 8

## **Session VII: 11a.m.**

**Title: How Should Western Classical Music "Engage?"**

### [Western Classical Music](#)

Host: Dr. Adam Cloutier, dean for Lakeland's Arts and Sciences Division

Presenter: Dr. Matt Saunders, professor of music

**Description:** Through much of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, classical music, centered on the Austro-German tradition, was promoted as the music of high culture, true European- or American-ness, and a sign of education, refinement and Westernization. At Lakeland, like many colleges, non-music majors are often steered into “music appreciation” courses that are rooted in the assumption that an “educated” person has benefited from the study of the classical canon, however brief, and that canon has usually been composed of works by white, male, European composers. Increasingly, however, the world of classical music has had to grapple with two uncomfortable truths: a mass popular music that has become the basis of an enormous, recorded music industry, and its own problematic past (and present). This session will ask how we as artists and musicians continue to innovate without appropriating, promote diversity without tokenism, and teach without toxicity.

**Bio:** Dr. Matthew C. Saunders is professor of music and music and theater department chair at Lakeland Community College, where he directs the Lakeland Civic Orchestra. He has taught music from kindergarten through college in styles from madrigals to mariachi and strives to make beautiful music for and with captivating people. He holds graduate degrees in music composition from The Ohio State University and a bachelor’s degree in music education and trombone performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. His original compositions have been performed nationally and internationally, as well as throughout Northeast Ohio. He is the secretary of the Cleveland Composers Guild. He will never write unlistenable music, lose money in Vegas, or stop stargazing. Dr. Saunders lives in Willowick with his wonderful wife Becky and their two amazing children.

### **Session VIII: 2 p.m.**

Title: **Start at Lakeland Community College, Finish at CWRU: Cleveland Humanities Collaborative (CHC) Information Session**

#### **[Collaborative Information Session](#)**

Host: Dr. Adam Cloutier, dean for Lakeland’s Arts and Sciences Division

Presenters: Ms. Allison Morgan, Cleveland Humanities Collaborative program manager at Case Western Reserve University, and Ms. Lorrie Shuck, Lakeland’s Transfer Center assistant

#### **Description and Bios:**

Go from:

**A** — an Associate of Arts degree at Lakeland Community College to

**B** — a Bachelor of Arts degree at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) to

**C** — making choices that open doors to your future.

The **Cleveland Humanities Collaborative (CHC)** is a program that supports Lakeland Community College students as they complete their Associate of Arts degrees and helps them apply and transfer to CWRU to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in any of CWRU’s humanities fields. In this info session, you’ll hear from Allison Morgan, CHC Program Manager at CWRU, and Lorrie Schuck, Transfer Center Assistant at Lakeland Community College, about how the CHC Program can help you reach your goals. We will discuss program

eligibility as well as program benefits, like the opportunity to take classes at CWRU while students are still enrolled at Lakeland.