

## **Weekly Update Spring 2021 Session B\_March 1 - March 5, 2021**

**WEBSITE:** [micl-online.org](http://micl-online.org)

**FACEBOOK:** Enter MICL in search field then at site click on +Join Group.

### **MICL “B” Session March 15 - March 19, 2021**

All of our classes will be held via Zoom, and you will receive an email invitation before each class. You will wait in a waiting room until the host lets you into the group. If you do not receive an email invitation, please call Ron Rutschman at (805) 312-3834.

### **Monday, March 1, 10:00 AM - Noon: ENGLISH IS STUPID**

Coordinator: **Judy Moore**

How many times have we heard that - either from our children, our students, or you might have even uttered this yourself! Why does English grammar and spelling have so many rules, yet just as many exceptions to the rules? Find out the answers (well, maybe some answers) in this light-hearted, educational, fun session!

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Hours: This week we'll cross the Atlantic and learn how American English developed. Noah Webster, of course, was an “influencer”, but what was Benjamin Franklin’s role in standardizing American English? (Hint: If Franklin had secured his version, our language would be far different!) Join us for a journey across the pond!

### **Monday, March 1, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM: SOCIAL HOUR**

Coordinators: **Wayne and Diana Sicard**

**Social Hour:** If you are missing your friends during these days of social distancing, consider joining our MICL Social Hour. It’s fun, and it will lift your spirits more than you might imagine. Time spent talking and hanging out with people will lift your mood! Please join us!

### **Tuesday, March 2, 10:00 AM – Noon: BIG IDEAS IN PHILOSOPHY**

Coordinator: **James Pack**

Philosophy is the love of wisdom and the pursuit of truth. In this course, we will consider many of the most significant questions in philosophy: What is the nature of truth and knowledge? Does God exist? What is morally right and wrong? What is the meaning of life? In this first lecture, we provide some guidelines for “doing”

philosophy, including these: Question everything and admit when you're wrong; don't assume that truth is a matter of opinion or gut feeling; and don't hide behind a right to your opinion. Instead, seek effective arguments and evidence and proportion your beliefs accordingly.

1<sup>st</sup> Hour: What do minds do, if anything? Examine three more theories of the mind-property dualism, epiphenomenalism, and eliminative materialism-discovering that each has shortcomings. All of us feel that we have minds, so why is it so difficult to pin down what the mind is? Could the mind be an illusion?

2<sup>nd</sup> Hour: Could machines think? Push your exploration of the mind even further by looking at functionalism, which suggests that anything that functions like our brain has mentality. The implication is that, in principle, machines can think. Study some responses to this theory, including John Searle's thought experiment called the Chinese Room.

## **Tuesday, March 2, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM: THE HISTORY OF LANGUAGE**

Coordinator: **David Froba**

Last week we talked about how languages are always changing and forming a complicated system of dialects. This week we will talk about how different languages are always getting mixed up with other languages, "borrowing" (actually stealing) from one another. So, what does "Ay te wacho" mean, and is it Spanish or English? (Actually it is neither.) Fascinating stuff.

## **Wednesday, March 3, 10:00 AM - Noon: HOW JESUS BECAME GOD**

Coordinator: **James Pack**

Lectures will come from the Great Courses Plus series titled The Big Questions of Philosophy. They will be presented by David Kyle Johnson.

We will uncover the extraordinary story behind an idea that has shaped our civilization: the Christian belief that Jesus of Nazareth was none other than God the Almighty. This course addresses the question of how that happened. How did the rejected Jewish preacher who ended up on the wrong side of the law and was crucified for his efforts, come to be thought of as Lord and creator of all things? How did Jesus become God?

1<sup>st</sup> Hour: Paul's View-Christ's Elevated Divinity. Paul's theology represents a transition between early conceptions of Christ as exalted by God upon his death and later views of his innate or eternal divinity. Trace Paul's seminal role within the early church, and his view of Jesus as a divine being whose actions raised him to a higher level of divinity.

2<sup>nd</sup> Hour: John's View-The World Made Human. The Gospel of John differs significantly from the other three canonical Gospels in its conception of Jesus. Investigate John's contention that Jesus had always been the Son of God and the equal of God the Father. Contemplate John's identification of Christ as the embodiment of the word of God, or "logos".

### **Wednesday, March 3, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM: WRITING IT DOWN**

Coordinator: **Millie Starr**

**WRITING IT DOWN:** Be inspired to share your writing efforts in an encouraging and supportive classroom setting. Class members write at home about anything they want, and they share what they write in class when they are ready. The goal of the class is to support one another in the writing process and learn by doing. Come join our writing community as a writer or listener.

### **Thursday, March 4, 10:00 AM – Noon: WHAT IN THE WORLD**

Coordinator: **Dorothy Winke**

Have you ever watched TV or read a newspaper article, opinion, or letter to the editor and really wanted to discuss or react to what you read? "What in the World" is just the class for you. We discuss all kinds of issues and happenings from your neighborhood, local, regional, state, national, and world news. You bring in the topic, introduce it, and we all discuss it with the help of a new class facilitator each five-week session. A number of class members have real expertise to lend to a number of discussions. Learn something new every day. Come join the camaraderie.

### **Thursday, March 4, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM: GREAT DECISIONS**

Coordinator: **Richard Cato**

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watching the DVD and meeting in a Discussion Group to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. Here are the topics for this year's discussion:

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Hours: Brexit and the European Union: by Harris LaTeef. With the "Brexit transition period" coming to an end this year, the United Kingdom will formally leave the European Union at the start of 2021. With negotiations between the two entities continuing to stall, what does the future of Europe and the UK look like? Will the UK survive a possible Scottish vote to leave? Who will step up and take command of Europe now that Angela Merkel is out of the spotlight?

## **Friday, March 5, 10:00 AM to end of film: FRIDAY AT THE MOVIES**

Coordinator: **Ron Rutschman**

Fridays at the Movies: Start your weekend relaxation with a film classic or foreign film (subtitled in English, of course) that will carry you away to other times and other places. Discussion encouraged but not required. Details of the movies are posted just before the semester starts.

March 5 - Mister Roberts

## **FUTURE MICL EVENTS**

### **Thursday, March 18, 10:00 AM - Noon: MICL BOOK CLUB**

Coordinator: **Carol Sullivan**

THE OTHER BENNETT SISTER, BY JANICE HADLOW

Moderated by Lila Bradshaw

Mary, the bookish ugly duckling of Pride and Prejudice's five Bennet sisters, emerges from the shadows and transforms into a desired woman with choices of her own.

What if Mary Bennet's life took a different path from that laid out for her in Pride and Prejudice? What if the frustrated intellectual of the Bennet family, the marginalized middle daughter, the plain girl who takes refuge in her books, eventually found the fulfillment enjoyed by her prettier, more confident sisters? This is the plot of Janice Hadlow's The Other Bennet Sister, a debut novel with exactly the affection and authority to satisfy Jane Austen fans.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

Coordinator: **Diedre Bush**

No Field Trips are scheduled at this time. We will advise you when we are able to resume.