October 2023

Dear Friends of the Humanities Institute—

October is upon us, and the interdisciplinary centers have created a tremendous range of events for the season. The Center for Ethnic Studies offers its traditional Day of the Dead celebration, a workshop on human trafficking in Ohio, and will feature the new faculty in Latinx Studies leading a discussion on “What is Ethnic Studies?” The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies offers a symposium on Shakespeare’s first folio and an evening of musical epic from Benjamin Bagby. The Center for Folklore Studies invites you to a pre-Halloween screening of Candyman along with a series of information sessions about its famed Ohio Field School. The Melton Center for Jewish Studies presents a discussion of Superman’s Jewish origins and the documentary Monument by filmmaker Michael Turner. The Center for the Study of Religion has expanded the annual Davis Lecture on Christianity into an exciting day-long colloquium focused on Christianity and the economy. Along with the Chris Zacher Lecture in the Humanities, “The Ed Scare,” offered by Jonathan Friedman of PEN America, the month is packed with engaging opportunities for intellectual community.

Speaking of which, please mark your calendars for our Grand Re-Opening of the 455 suite on November 8. All the centers will be on display, with student presentations and information about how to become more involved in their activities. Please join us.

Barry
October 23: Zacher Lecture in the Humanities

Our annual Zacher Lecture in the Humanities is right around the corner. Jonathan Friedman, director of education programs at the literary and human rights nonprofit PEN America, will speak on book bans and educational censorship on Monday, October 23 from 4 to 5:30 pm in the Faculty Club.

The “Ed Scare” — a campaign to foment anxiety and anger concerning public education — is being advanced by local efforts to ban books along with state legislation to exert ideological control over educational institutions. Friedman's talk will describe this battle and offer suggestions for how citizens can defend the freedom to read, learn and think for all.

To RSVP and find more information, go to our website.

Save the Date: Humanities Institute Reopening November 8

Save the date for our big celebration as we reopen the Humanities Suite following a season of renovations. We'll have refreshments, student presentations, giveaways and more. Plan to join us on Wednesday, November 8 from 5 to 7 pm in 455 Hagerty.
EVENTS

Day of the Dead Columbus

Take a free bus to Day of the Dead festivities! The festival features food trucks, art displays, dancing and musical performances and more. Fun for all ages! More information here.

Center for Ethnic Studies
Saturday, October 7
10 am - 6 pm
Bus from Ohio Union to Greenlawn Cemetery

6 Strings, 5 Fingers, 1 Voice: Harp, Mode and Text in Performing Medieval Epic

Benjamin Bagby, a founder of the medieval music ensemble Sequentia, will discuss the process of storytelling with voice and harp. Bagby's acclaimed performance of Beowulf has been heard worldwide and was released as a DVD in 2007. More information here.

Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
Monday, October 9
7:30 - 9 pm
Timashev Recital Hall
Film Screening: Monument

Filmmaker Michael Turner (The Way We Talk) documents his first visit to a Holocaust memorial created by his grandmother Lici, a Hungarian Jew whose parents and sister were killed in Auschwitz. The resulting personal documentary is a powerful and poetic story of two relatives meeting through time and space to carry their family memory forward. Find more information here.

Center for Ethnic Studies
Workshop: Human Trafficking and Race in Ohio

Advocating Opportunity’s Senior Attorney Emily Dunlap and Senior Advocate Grace Tellez will explain human labor trafficking in industries that have been excluded from worker protections (domestic servitude, agriculture, hospitality) and the reasons we see high representation of minoritized groups within those settings. Find more information and RSVP here.

Center for Ethnic Studies
What is Ethnic Studies? Lunch and Panel Discussion

New Latinx Studies faculty members will discuss their current research, revealing what we mean when we talk about “Ethnic Studies” as a field of study. Find more information and RSVP here.
Superman’s "Jewish Origins" and Other Thoughts on Jews and Comics

Samantha Baskind, Professor of Art History at Cleveland State University, will discuss the enormous Jewish contributions to comics and the graphic novel. Beginning in the 1930s, Jews built the comic book industry from the ground up. Co-sponsored by the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library.

Melton Center for Jewish Studies
Wednesday, October 25
1 - 2 pm
Will Eisner Seminar Room, Sullivant Hall

Candyman Movie Screening

A screening of the 1992 release of the movie Candyman, followed by a discussion of the movie from a folklore perspective and a Halloween costume contest.

Center for Folklore Studies
Wednesday, October 25
4 - 6:30 pm
455 Hagerty Hall

Davis Colloquium on Christianity and Economy

Six scholars, representing a range of disciplinary, historical, cultural and theological perspectives, will each offer a 20-minute presentation based on their own research, addressing a common set of questions. Co-sponsored by Comparative Studies. Find more

Center for the Study of Religion
Friday, October 27
10 am - 4 pm
Ohio Union, Senate Chamber
400 Years of Shakespeare’s First Folio: Separating Fact from Fiction

Four scholars will present 25-minute papers to correct misapprehensions about the trade and collection of English books. Find more information here.

Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
Friday, October 27
3:30 - 5:30 pm
150 Thompson Library

CONTACT US

Do you have a news item to share with the OSU Humanities Institute? Please share any publications, presentations, research or other items through our form. Your news may be used as a future newsletter item, blog post or other announcement through the Humanities Institute and its affiliated centers. Submit your news with this link.

The Humanities Institute

Center for Ethnic Studies
Center for Folklore Studies
Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
Center for the Study of Religion
Humanities Collaboratory
Melton Center for Jewish Studies