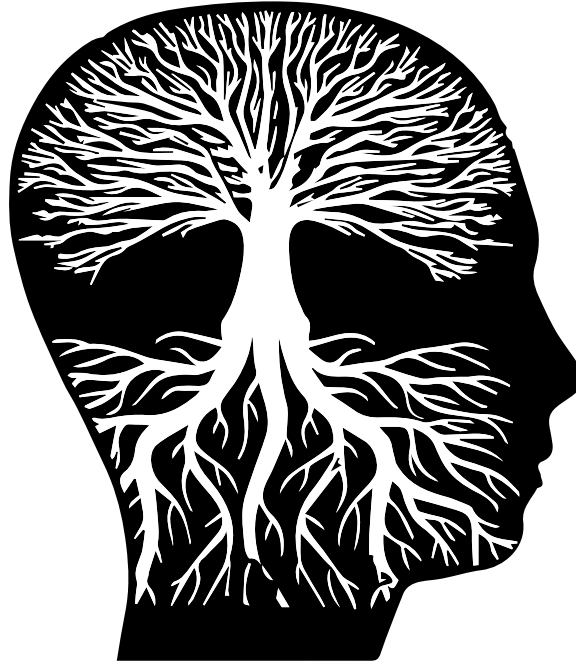


POLIS

Pursuit Of Learning In Society



THE PATTERN
FALL 2024

Registration: Wednesday, September 4, 2024
1:00-4:00 PM, Quincy University's North Campus
18th & Seminary Road

Registration: Conference Room in Lobby of Main Entrance

Handicap Accessible
228-5594
polis@quincy.edu

Dear POLIS Members,

We hope your summer has been productive.

The spring 2024 semester course offerings were well received. The fall 2024 courses offer a wide range of topics to engage our interest. Many of the presenters have taught in our program before, and we welcome them back. We also welcome for the first time Roger Leenerts, Kristina Mousakis, Michael Ruemmler, Lindsey Reichert-Gully, and Richard Schmitt.

2024-2025 is our 30th anniversary. Last year we experienced a significant increase in membership—a great sign. We look forward to seeing returning members and new members. When we describe POLIS to potential members, they are delighted with the prospect of continuing to learn and to be in the company of others who are also so inclined. You are our best recruiters. Please invite family and friends to join and share with them this edition of the POLIS PATTERN, also available on the QU website. Someone who has never attended a POLIS class or been a member of POLIS can attend one course for free in order to sample our program.

A highlight of the fall semester will be a bus tour on October 9 to a production of “Ragtime” by STAGES St. Louis. Lunch will be at Café Provencal in Kirkwood, MO. This tour is organized by Larry and Annette Ruemmler and promises to be as stimulating as previous bus tours they conducted. Seating will be limited to 40 so make your reservation early.

The POLIS Curriculum Committee is already looking ahead to the 2025 spring semester. We are contacting presenters who have indicated they are interested in offering courses. We will be approaching others and following up on suggestions our members make. Updates will be forthcoming as our planning progresses.

In this edition of the PATTERN, you will find a list of the members of the POLIS Board of Directors. Please feel free to pass on to them your suggestions. Contact me if you are interested in joining the board.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Ann Klein, Emerita Professor of English,
Quincy University
President, POLIS Board of Directors
Director of POLIS
maryannklein@gmail.com
217-653-7482

Board of Directors

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POLIS Office: 122D

Quincy University POLIS Scholarship

POLIS sustains an endowed scholarship for Quincy University students and has contributed \$62,045 to date. Personal donations and memorials to the scholarship are welcome.

POLIS – Where is it?

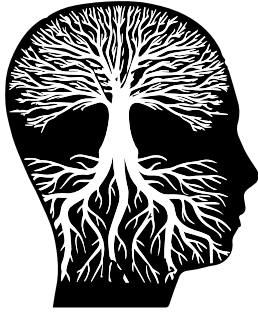
Classes are from 2:00-4:00 pm at Quincy University’s North Campus, 18th & Seminary Road. Most classes are in the North Cafeteria which is on the lower level and Strieby 323A on the third floor. Locations do change. Look for the POLIS signs and follow the arrows pointing the way.

Parking

Parking Lot L is a small lot but close to the classroom in the North Cafeteria. Enter Lot L from Seminary Road. Additional handicap parking is in the front circle drive. General parking is available on the north side lot.

North Campus is HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING
YOU THIS SEMESTER**



FALL COURSES 2024

Wednesday, September 11

C-103 (Cafeteria)

Running Ahead of the President

My political career began at the ripe old age of three, campaigning door to door for Paul Simon, accompanied by my dad, POLIS's own Larry Ruemmler. From that early start, my interest in politics grew and after graduating from the University of Illinois with degrees in Political Science and English, I joined the staff of newly elected Governor Rod Blagojevich, advancing trips for the Governor.

I left the Governor's office in 2006 to manage the successful campaign of Illinois State Senate candidate Mike Frerichs who was the first Democrat elected from the 52nd District since the days of FDR. (Frerichs currently serves as Illinois State Treasurer.)

When Senator Barack Obama announced his candidacy for President of the United States in February of 2007, I quickly became part of the National Advance Team, traveling extensively all over the country. I worked in "advance" and was responsible for the details of rallies ranging in size from 20 people to over 70,000. Upon Senator Obama's election to the presidency, I accompanied the President to the White House where I was a Special Assistant and Advance Lead.

When Rahm Emmanuel left his White House position as Chief of Staff to run for mayor of Chicago, he asked me to return to Illinois to work for his election. Desiring to return to my home state, I served as Advance Director. Upon Emmanuel's election, I became Chief of Staff for his Government Affairs office. When Emmanuel ran for reelection, I managed his successful campaign.

Since 2015, I have been an independent political consultant and lobbyist. I still do occasional work for Presidents Obama and Biden.

Presenter: Michael Ruemmler, Independent Political Consultant and Lobbyist.

Thursday, September 12

C-103 (Cafeteria)

Fermilab, World Class Physics in Illinois

Fermilab is America's premier particle physics laboratory. It studies the smallest, most elemental particles of matter and how their properties help us understand the intricacies of space and time. Fermilab works on the world's most advanced particle accelerators to study the smallest building blocks of matter. They also probe the farthest reaches of the universe, seeking out the nature of dark matter and dark energy.

Fermilab provides educational materials for grades K-12 and offers a variety of internship programs for high school, undergraduate and graduate students, secondary school teachers, and professionals.

My course will cover a description of the Lab, its history, some experiments past and present, and an overview of the educational programs.

Presenter: Richard L. Schmitt has over forty years of cryogenic engineering experience and was employed at Fermilab for 32 years before retirement in 2017. His work at Fermilab involved the design, construction, and operation of physics experiments. He is a graduate of QHS and holds an engineering degree from the University of Illinois. He has published over thirty papers about cryogenic engineering and process automation.

Thursday, September 19

C-103 (Cafeteria)

Narrative Identity

Narrative identity is part of a personality process that refers to the internal story we create about ourselves that integrates our past experiences, present understanding, and aspirations for the future. The stories we tell about ourselves can influence our social connections and future direction. This evolving narrative gives us a sense of unity and purpose in life, and it's influenced by how we interpret and weave together significant life events. In this course, we will review the three levels for understanding a person, including narrative identity, and we will examine what those narratives say about our personality and how we view ourselves and the world.

Presenter: Kristina Mousakis, PhD, Associate Professor of Psychology, Quincy University. She received her BA in Psychology from DePaul University. After that, she took a 5-year break from school and worked as a research assistant at various psychology

labs at UCLA. Some of the work she did was working with addiction and nutrition data and interviewing adolescents about their risky behaviors. Kristina received her doctorate from UC Riverside in 2017 in Personality and Social Psychology. Some other areas she subspecialized through her research are development, health, and measurement. Her research focuses on student academic and social engagement and how we can predict changes in engagement based on their personality traits and how they spend their time.

Tuesday, September 24

C-103 (Cafeteria)

Improve Your Innovative Thinking

Innovative thinking is a mindset that values exploring new ideas, questioning established norms, and the pursuit of improvement. We will investigate proven concepts for innovative thinking skills and practice using tools for tapping into the creative side of our brains. Innovative thinking requires us to embrace the concept of failure, which is rarely comfortable for any of us. Let's participate in some activities that show us how to do that.

Presenter: Roger Leenerts, MBA, is the Director of Entrepreneurship at Quincy University who is leading efforts to establish a Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. After working for several large international companies, he owned a small business for 16 years, which he harvested in 2017. Instead of retiring, Roger spent the past seven years in "knowledge transfer" which included part-time teaching at Quincy University, leadership training with local companies, strategic planning with local non-profits, and manufacturing consulting.

Friday, September 27

C-103 (Cafeteria)

No Religious Test Clause

Article VI of the United States Constitution specifies that "no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office of public Trust under the United States." This prohibition, commonly known as the "No Religious Test Clause" banned a longstanding form of religious discrimination practiced both in England and in the Colonies.

Article VI provided a constitutional commitment to religious liberty and equality. The First Amendment provides that Congress shall make no law respecting

an establishment of religion or prohibiting its free exercise. Article VI and the First Amendment have influenced the way Americans have understood the relationship between government and religion.

We will consider how various presidents have faced religious "tests" and how they have freely exercised religion. We will also look at other past and current issues relating to the relationship between government and religion.

Presenter; John Schafer, PhD, CPA, is a proactive lifelong learner/teacher.

Friday, October 4

323-A (Strieby)

The Positives and Pitfalls of Philosophical Thought Experiments

In this two-hour session with a break between, we will explore the concept of philosophical thought experiment and then take POLIS members on a tour of some of the more clever, interesting, entertaining and even wacky philosophical thought experiments in the history of Western Philosophy. We'll cover some thought experiments with colorful names like "The Ship of Theseus," "The Experience Machine," and some metaphysical ones like Frank Jackson's colorblind neurologist. We'll not only look at the experiments themselves but their influence on culture right up to the present day. We'll let these experiments test our assumptions and understanding of the stuff we take for granted.

Presenter: Dr. J.K. Miles (Jonathan) is Professor of Philosophy at Quincy University. He has been at QU for 13 years. He is author of Practical Bioethics: Ethics for Patients and Providers (Broadview, 2023). He moonlights as an ethics consultant for Blessing's Ethics Committee. He loves all things Sci-fi and almost never misses his Thursday night Dungeons and Dragons game.

Thursday, October 8

C-103 (Cafeteria)

RAMAYANA

RAMAYANA is an Indian epic composed probably around 600 BCE. It has had an enormous influence on the Hindus who consider Rama, the protagonist of the epic, an avatar or incarnation of the god, Vishnu. RAMAYANA has been used in modern times by

Hindutva ideologues to propagate the idea of India as Hindustan, a nation exclusively of the Hindus. The first part of the talk will describe the epic and the second part will focus on the political use of the epic in today's India.

Presenter: Dr. Meenal Mamdani is a retired neurologist. She and her husband, Bashir, a nephrologist, moved to Quincy from Oak Park, IL in 2011 to be close to their grandchildren. She has a keen interest in politics, history, and Indian cooking.

Wednesday, October 9

Bus Trip to “Ragtime” at STAGES St. Louis

Join your POLIS friends for a trip to STAGES St. Louis, proudly presenting “Ragtime,” a sweeping musical portrait of early twentieth century America when everything was changing and anything was possible. “Ragtime” tells the story of three families united by courage, compassion, and a belief in the American dream and the promise of tomorrow. Told through a dazzling array of musical styles from the era, this Tony Award-Winning musical is bursting with emotion and hope.

STAGES St. Louis is located in the Kirkwood Center for the Performing Arts, a spectacular state-of-the-art venue in Kirkwood. STAGES has received national recognition for its productions, and its commitment to excellence has earned it a reputation as one of the finest theaters in St. Louis.

Prior to the show, we will enjoy a fabulous French lunch at the award winning Café Provencal.

Tour guides Larry and Anelle Ruemmler look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, October 9, 2024. The bus will leave at 9:00 a.m. from the main parking lot of Quincy University's North Campus. We expect to return to Quincy at approximately 7:15 p.m. Cost of the trip is \$145.00 (POLIS members) which includes transportation, lunch and admission to the theater.

Tuesdays, October 15, 22 & 29

C-103 (Cafeteria)

Between Almost Paradise and Hell on Earth – The POW experience in the Second World War

The experience of POWS encompasses German and Italian POWS in the United States dealing with the

abundance of food and comforts and relative freedoms including eating at restaurants and going to movies unescorted. It also includes Soviet POWS in open air German camps exposed to the weather and literally starving to death in massive numbers. It includes American and British POWS in German camps taking the opportunity for self-realization and forming theater groups, bands, orchestras, debate societies, sports leagues, and earning degrees and certifications. Yet it also includes many British and American POWS in Japanese custody who were savagely beaten, starved and even worked to death.

To understand such different experiences, we must explore topics such as international law, experiences of POWS in prior wars, nationalism, race, ethnicity, ideology, practices and traditions of military institutions, national leadership, history, culture, ideas of gender, and many more topics. Ultimately, to understand the POW in WWII is to understand something about human beings and their capacity for evil and depravity, yet at the same time, their incredible resilience and determination to survive and flourish even in the worst of circumstances.

Presenter: Dr. Wendell Mauter, Emeritus Professor of History, Quincy University

Wednesday, October 23

C-103 (Cafeteria)

The Prospects for Liberal Education

In this course I will broach questions like “What is liberal education?”, “How does liberal education rate against other conceptions of education?”, “What are the necessary conditions for liberal education?”, and “What is the relationship between the liberally educated and the regimes they inhabit?”

Presenter: Neil Wright, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Great Books Program at Quincy University.

Friday, October 25

323-A (Strieby)

Presidential Immunity

This course will examine:
Constitutional Sources and Basis
Background and history
Trump V. United States (07.01.2024)

Presenter: James L. Palmer, a practicing attorney

who handles Constitutional Law issues, governmental affairs, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties litigation (primarily as defense counsel). He is an adjunct Quincy University faculty member. His courses include Constitutional Law, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.

Thursday, October 31

C-103 (Cafeteria)

Milton's Women and the Fall of Eve

If you've thought about the poetry of 17th Century writer John Milton at all, you might now be thinking - "Poetry, yuk, and that old poetry even worse." Or you could be thinking, "What an opportunity! I've always wanted to read Paradise Lost but never had the time." Another possibility is "Wasn't he a Puritan? I bet he blamed it all on Eve." This course welcomes all these responses and more. The focus, however, will be on Eve, so participants are asked to read Book IX (9) of Milton's epic poem, written when he was blind.

The course will begin with a brief survey of how women were viewed by writers, philosophers, and theologians up until the time of Milton, who lived from 1608 to 1674. The question to be pursued is "How does Milton fit into this tradition?" An examination of two sonnets and his "closet drama" Samson Agonistes, based on the Old Testament story of Samson and Delilah, will provide context for a much fuller discussion of Milton's portrayal of Eve and her role in the Fall.

Presenter: Maurine Magliocco, PhD, is a Professor Emerita of English from Western Illinois University, where her primary field was early British Literature, specifically the 17th Century writer John Milton. She also taught in the Honors, Women's Studies, and Cultural Diversity Program; was the first Director of the University's Women Center; and President-Chief Negotiator of the union for faculty and academic support professionals. In 2020, she and her husband returned to her hometown of Quincy to be near family.

Friday, November 1 & 8

323-A (Strieby)

Learning and "Loving Mastery" in Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*

For all that the twentieth century saw so many film adaptations of Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*, including *Kiss Me Kate* (1953) to *Ten Things I Hate about You* (1999), modern film audiences have never really reckoned with the unavoidable misogyny

of Shakespeare's original. Most often, filmgoers romanticize the stunning transformation of Katherina from biting man-hater to wife, both loving and beloved. Yet her husband Petruchio, having effectively purchased her from her father, brings about this transformation through techniques that readers today would correctly identify as physical and emotional abuse. How could this unavoidably misogynist plot have come from the same genius who gave us such strong female characters as Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing* and Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*? What are audiences meant to learn from cruelty-as-punchline?

The final scene shows Katherina obeying her husband's orders and submitting to his "loving mastery," but the playtext provides very few stage directions, leaving readers with virtually no evidence of any of the subtleties of performance. The question of misogyny thus becomes dependent on dramatic interpretation. Whether Katherina's "reeducation" finally breaks her spirit and makes her "love mastery," as scholar Lynn Enterline suggests, or simply teaches her to act as if it had, ultimately depends upon performance.

This two-part POLIS class will focus first on reviewing the plot of *Taming* and move into discussion of several recorded stagings (film clips will be provided), including the American Conservatory Theater's 1976 production (freely available on YouTube).

Presenter: Dr. Jayme Peacock earned her PhD in English literature from Penn State University in 2019, and she specializes in English Renaissance poetry and drama. This is her fifth year teaching at Quincy University, where she loves making Shakespeare accessible and meaningful to any student brave enough to try. When not reading or writing, she can often be found outdoors, likely throwing a Frisbee for her Doberman mix Karma, and she dreams of one day of taking a doughnut tour of the United States.

Thursdays, November 7, 14 & 21

C-103 (Cafeteria)

Jerusalem through the Ages

During three sessions, the major turning points in the history of Jerusalem will be presented. It is not an exaggeration to say that no city in the world has received more attention as a place of sacred geography and ethnic identity. Few cities can claim to be its equal in embodying both a physical and

symbolic landscape. As a result, Jerusalem has inspired and been at the center of a long cultural and political history involving the peoples of the three Abrahamic religions. Its importance has not waned in the modern world. Three lectures will necessarily be able to concentrate only on certain aspects and turning points in Jerusalem's five thousand year history.

Presenter: Dr. Patrick Hotle, Emeritus Professor of History, Culver-Stockton College.

Tuesday, November 12

C-103 (Cafeteria)

Exploring Lincoln's Breakdown in Quincy

Only in recent years has Lincoln literature begun to examine more fully the breadth and background of what the 16th President endured on the path to the presidency. In a sense, it was a lifelong path that ultimately required unforeseen sacrifice to alter the public's perception of justice as it related to the unanswered issue of the expansion of slavery. As one of the 1856 founders of the anti-slavery Republican party, Lincoln put aside his personal life to bring the critical question to a national conversation, culminating in a series of seven public debates at key Illinois locations against his adversary Illinois Senator Stephen A. Douglas. The sixth of the 1858 debates was held in Quincy on October 13th.

What led to Lincoln's little known total breakdown, the physical and mental collapse after the debate? Why did he almost quit the race? How did he recover to go on to be the Republican Party nominee in May of 1860? And, how did he make his way through the years in the White House as Commander in Chief?

Presenter: Iris Nelson, a retired QPL reference librarian, is a local historian and author who has presented programs at professional conferences and locally on Quincy history. She has been on boards of various civic organizations and for the past 15 years has been on the board for the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Museum. Nelson holds a BS degree in history and a Master of Library Science (MLS).

Friday, November 15

323-A (Strieby)

Tumultuous Liberty: Major Slave Rebellions before the United States Civil War

The system of slavery was never stable and passive—enslaved people sought every means of relief and freedom they could find. Although few enslaved people went free because they openly fought back against slaveholders, those who engaged in the most dangerous form of resistance, asserted their own traditions of bravery, and left behind powerful stories. Slave rebellions also inherently questioned the power of enslavers and contributed to the heavy militarization of the US South in the decades prior to the Civil War.

This course will examine several major slave rebellions—the 1811 German Coast Uprising, Denmark Vessey's Conspiracy, Nat Turner's Rebellion, and the Amistad revolt—and a few smaller ones as well to more deeply understand slavery in the Antebellum years.

Presenter: J. Matthew Ward, Assistant Professor of History, Quincy University, received his PhD at Louisiana State University in 2021. His dissertation won the prestigious Anne J. Bailey prize for the best dissertation in Civil War history from the Society of Civil War Historians in 2022. He is the author of *Garden of Ruins: Occupied Louisiana in the Civil War* (LSU Press, 2024) and is currently writing an environmental history of the Civil War in Louisiana tentatively titled *Merciless Winds*. He is happily married to his genius tech wife, Sarah Orlwr, and together they are parents to a boisterous Shar-Pei named Boris.

Tuesday, November 19

C-103 (Cafeteria)

Nineteenth Century Women and Their Roles during the American Civil War

Using Quincy, Illinois as a microcosm of events in the Midwest, this course will cover the hospitals and the medical and nursing advancements during the American Civil War. What were the hospitals like? What was the medical care? Who managed who? What were the long-term outcomes of the conflict for women and for healthcare?

Presenter: Arlis Dittmer, MA, MALS, is a retired health science librarian and former president of the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County. During her years with Blessing Health System, she became interested in medical and nursing history—both topics frequently overlooked in history.

Friday, November 22

323-A (Strieby)

Mental Resiliency - Utilizing positive psychology to assist in achieving authentic happiness in your life

Positive psychology strategies focus on harnessing an individual's inherent strengths and virtues to foster life fulfillment and authentic happiness. By recognizing and leveraging personal strengths, individuals can achieve a deeper sense of purpose and satisfaction. Learning optimism plays a crucial role in this process, as it involves developing a positive outlook on life and cultivating resilience against adversity. Overcoming negative thinking patterns through cognitive restructuring and positive reframing allows individuals to maintain a constructive mindset, ultimately leading to a more fulfilling and happy life.

Presenter: Lindsey Reichert, a seasoned clinical psychologist, holds the role of Clinical Director of Evaluation and Counseling Services at the Arc of the Ozarks Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center. Her extensive expertise spans various domains of psychology, with a particular focus on autism and neurodevelopmental disorders.

Alongside her role at The Arc, Dr. Reichert serves as an adjunct faculty member at Quincy University in Illinois, where she shares her knowledge and experience with aspiring psychologists. Dr. Reichert received her undergraduate degree at Quincy University. She furthered her education at the Forest Institute of Professional Psychology, obtaining both her master's and doctorate degrees, as well as a certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy. Her dedication led her to become a certified autism specialist and health service provider. Prior to joining The Arc in July 2023, Dr. Reichert spent nine years at Mercy, where she served as the Section Chair of Behavioral Health for the Springfield community. Her leadership and expertise significantly contributed to the enhancement of behavioral health services in the region.

In her current role at The Arc, Dr. Reichert is entrusted with leading Evaluation and Counseling Services. Her wealth of experience in child and adolescent development positions her as a key figure in implementing best practice standards in care and treatment services, ensuring the highest level of support for individuals with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders.



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POLIS 2024 FALL CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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September 2024

1	2 Labor Day	3	4 Registration 1-4 PM QU/NC	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Ruemmler C-103	12 Schmitt C-103	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Mousakis C-103	20	21
22	23	24 Leenerts C-103	25	26	27 Schafer C-103	28
29	30					

October 2024

		1	2	3	4 Miles 323-A	5
6	7	8 Mamdani C-103	9 Bus Trip	10 Fall Break	11 Fall Break	12
13	14	15 Mauter C-103	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Mauter C-103	23 Wright C-103	24	25 Palmer 323-A	26
27	28	29 Mauter C-103	30	31 Magliocco C-103		

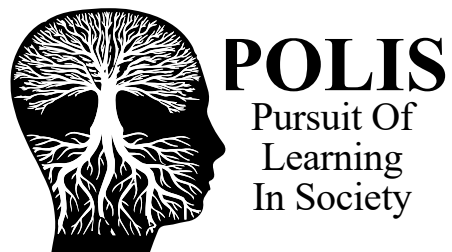
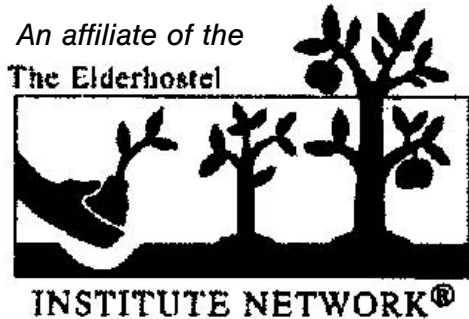
November 2024

					1 Peacock 323-A	2
3	4	5	6	7 Hotle C-103	8 Peacock 323-A	9
10	11	12 Nelson C-103	13	14 Hotle C-103	15 Ward 323-A	16
17	18	19 Dittmer C-103	20	21 Hotle C-103	22 Reichert 323-A	23
24	25 Thanksgiving	26 Break	27 Thanksgiving	28 Break	29 Thanksgiving	30 Break

December 2024

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Last Day of Classes/Finals	13	14

Class Locations: All classes are at Quincy University's North Campus from 2:00-4:00 PM. Most classes will be in the North Cafeteria on the first level and Strieby 323A on the third floor. **There will be changes in class locations so look for the POLIS signs for each class and follow the arrows pointing the way.**



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