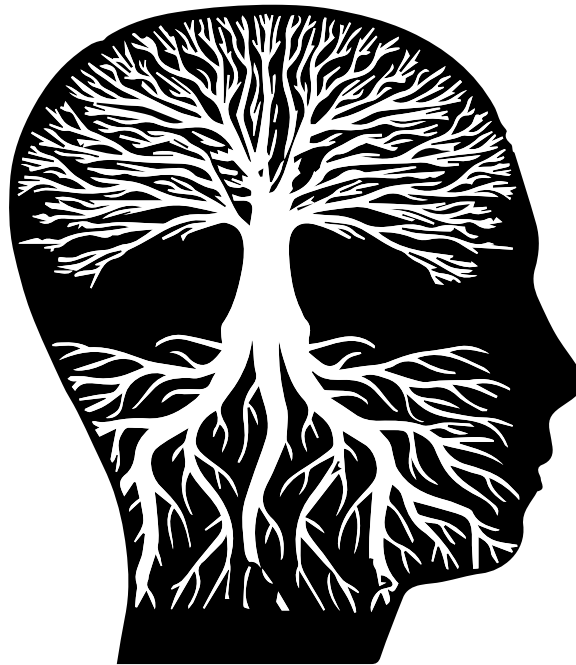


# POLIS

Pursuit Of Learning In Society

Quincy University's Program for Learning in Retirement



THE PATTERN  
SPRING 2025

Registration: Wednesday, January 15, 2025  
1:00-4:00 PM, Quincy University's North Campus  
Ryan Center for Science  
18th & Seminary Road

Registration: Conference Room in Lobby of Main Entrance

Handicap Accessible  
228-5594  
[polis@quincy.edu](mailto:polis@quincy.edu)

Dear POLIS Members,

We hope the past holiday season was delightful and this winter has been kind to you and yours.

The fall 2024 semester course offerings were well received. We were impressed by the number of walk-ins who chose the pay-as-you-go option. The spring 2025 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 Philip Bradshaw, Jonathan Hoover and Rick Vogel.

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. We are glad to add potential members to our mailing list. Someone who has never attended a POLIS class or been a member of POLIS can attend one course for free to sample our program.

A highlight of the spring semester will be a bus tour on April 23 to the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, known for its architecture and the finest display of mosaics in North America. Lunch will be at Favazza's on the hill. This tour is organized by Larry and Annelie Ruemmler and promises to be as stimulating as all those they have conducted. Please make your reservations early.

Also, please save the date for our annual meeting and social with wine and cheese, 2-4 p.m. on May 9.

The POLIS Curriculum Committee is already looking ahead to the 2025 fall 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.

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

## **Board of Directors**

Dr. Mary Ann Klein, President, Director  
Barb Richmiller, Vice-President  
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Dr. Meenal Mamdani  
Larry Ruemmler  
Dr. John Schafer

POLIS Office: 122D

### **Quincy University POLIS Scholarship**

POLIS sustains an endowed scholarship for Quincy University students and has contributed \$67,045 to date. Personal donations and memorials to the scholarship are welcome.

#### **POLIS – Where is it?**

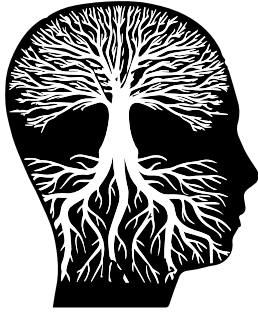
Classes are from 2:00-4:00 pm at Quincy University's North Campus, 18th & Seminary Road. Most classes are in the North Cafeteria which is on the lower level and Strieby 323A on the third floor. Locations do change. Look for the POLIS signs and follow the arrows pointing the way.

#### **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**



## **SPRING COURSES 2025**

### **Wednesday, January 22**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

#### **Literacy Matters: The Crucial Role of Literacy Proficiency in Our Community**

In today's world, literacy is not just a fundamental skill; it is a vital cornerstone for individual and community success. This course explores the critical importance of literacy proficiency and its profound impact on our community. Participants will examine the devastating effects of illiteracy, from economic implications to social challenges, and understand why advocating for effective literacy instruction is essential for all students, especially those who struggle.

We will delve into the most recent evidence on literacy instruction, focusing on the structured literacy approach—an evidence-based method that has shown remarkable success in teaching reading and writing skills. Through interactive discussions, real world examples, and practical strategies, you will learn how structured literacy works, why it is effective, and how it can be implemented in various educational settings. The goal is to make literacy accessible to ALL.

Presenter: Julie Schuetz, Attorney at Law and Literacy Advocate with the Literacy Advocates of West Central Illinois

### **Thursday, January 29**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

#### **Entomophagy: Insects as Food**

Using a slide/lecture format, Dr. Coelho will begin by describing the history and geography of eating insects. The talk will also cover insects he has eaten, insects to avoid eating, and more. With luck, some insect snacks will be provided.

Presenter: Dr. Joseph R. Coelho, Professor of Biology, Quincy University. He has a B.S. in Biology from the University of California at Riverside and a Ph.D. in Environmental, Population and Organismic Biology

from the University of Colorado, Boulder. He has taught biology at Quincy University for 20 years.

### **Fridays, January 31 & February 7**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

#### **A GREAT CATHOLIC MYSTERY: Catholic Social Teaching**

Fr. Joe Zimmerman, OFM, proposes to explore CST (Catholic Social Teaching) which began with a letter of Pope Leo XIII in 1891, continues through the US Bishops "Program of Social Reconstruction" drafted at the end of World War I (which influenced FDR's New Deal), through Pope John XXIII and the Second Vatican Council, down to Popes John Paul II, Benedict, and now Francis.

For years, commentators have called CST the Catholic Church's "best kept secret." There are reasons for this, which Fr. Joe plans to explore and discuss.

Presenter: Fr. Joe Zimmerman, OFM: Emeritus Professor of Sociology, Quincy University

### **Tuesday, February 4**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

#### **The Historical, Present, and Future Integral Working of Society to Feed the World**

This course will cover these topics:

- Food, Agriculture, and Society in late Thirties and World War II Era
- The Cold War, the opening of China, and the introduction of commodity checkoff programs
- The Summit of Americas, animal disease eradication efforts, US activities after cold war (Romania)
- The changing face of Agriculture - less land in production to feed an ever-growing world population

Presenter: Philip E. Bradshaw

A farmer in Pike County, Illinois, with a lifetime career of raising corn, soybeans, wheat, cattle, and pigs, Philip has been active in agriculture commodity organizations and animal health organizations his entire adult life. He was Chairman of United Soybean Board, one of the largest, if not the largest, commodity organizations in the world; President of United States Animal Health Association, the largest and oldest animal health organization in the world; and appointed to boards and advisory committees by six U.S. Secretaries of Agriculture. While serving in these roles, Philip expanded the farm from 550 acres to 1400

acres and served as Chairman of a local bank, President of Interstate 72 Highway Committee and President of New Philadelphia Association (the 424th national park). Philip is the author of *Your Food, My Adventure: One Farmer's Journey to Feed the World*." He and his wife Linda have been married for 63 years and have three children, seven grand kids and seven great grand kids.

### **Friday, February 14**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

### **Constitutional Criminal Procedure and the Roberts' Court and Overview of Pending Cases in U.S. Sup. Ct. 2024-2025 Term**

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.

### **Tuesday, February 18**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

### **The Armenian Genocide**

We explore the roots, reality, denial, and continuing reverberations of the genocide, framing it within the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire, World War One, the establishment of the Turkish Republic, and the continuing controversy. How could such a thing have happened? How to determine what actually happened? How to interact with those who attempt to justify or deny it? How to approach the inevitable Holocaust comparison? These questions lead us to a larger discussion of genocide and to a richer but also more disturbing understanding of ourselves and the modern world.

Presenter: Dr. Padraic Rohan, Assistant Professor of History, Quincy University

### **Tuesday, February 25, March 4 & 11**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

### **World War I in the Middle East**

This course will look at the Middle East: causes, conduct, and consequences of the war that was supposed to end all wars. Much is made of World War I and its failed peace as the shaper of the twentieth

century. This is certainly true of Europe but equally so of the Middle East. The war exposed the people of the region to new jarring dynamics like nationalism, statism, imperialism, modern media, and technology. However, because of the sacred as well as the geopolitically important nature of the geography, the end of the war was only a prelude to future conflicts. Key themes to be considered include the decline of the Ottoman and Russian empires, British and French imperialism, Zionism, modern warfare, and the rise of Arab nationalism.

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

### **Thursday, February 27**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

### **"The Founding Mothers"**

The term "Founding Fathers" is inherently patriarchal, excluding women from their roles in our nation's history. Women's achievements merit our attention, despite the fact that their contributions have been obscured. There is no reason to believe that men are more important than women in our history.

In 1987, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month. In 2025, the theme for Women's History Month is "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations." As time permits, we'll explore the roles women have played as abolitionists and suffragists, ensuring that their voices were heard. We'll see how women's roles have been redefined—sometimes quietly, and sometimes with a boom!

Presenter: John Schafer, Ph.D., CPA, is a proactive lifelong learner/teacher

### **Thursday, March 6**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

### **Media Literacy - It's more than just news**

This course will help us define all that we watch and understand both the obvious and subtle ways the media influence us. This will be a broad discussion of what media literacy entails. There will also be reminders of why media literacy education is important at any age and to all demographic groups. Media literacy is about telling valid news sources from less valid, fact from fiction, and fact from opinion. However, media literacy is also about how the tools

of the media—the camera, lights, sound, editing—can influence the media user. As the onslaught of media sources grows, this course will help us define all that we watch and understand both the obvious and subtle ways.

Presenter: Dr. Richard Vogel: Retired Assistant Professor of Communication, Culver-Stockton College

### **Wednesday, March 12**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

#### **How to Get Things Done in Local Government**

In this course, I hope to help the average person navigate the city/county governmental system. For example, if I want to get a street light installed on my street, who do I talk to? What is the process? Similarly, I provide an overview of what each office does. What is the difference between the county clerk and circuit clerk? My goal is to inform people how to be more involved in their local government.

Presenter: Jonathan Hoover, Chief Public Defender of Adams County. He is also an adjunct professor at Quincy University, where he has taught courses in Business Ethics, Business Law, and Philosophy of Law since 2008. Jonathan is also President of the Quincy Public Library Board of Trustees, and Past President of Cheerful Home Daycare and Early Learning Center.

### **Friday, March 14**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

#### **Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale: Speculative Fiction or Dystopian Future**

Do women in America, today, find themselves in a situation perilously close to that depicted by Margaret Atwood in her 1985 novel *The Handmaid's Tale*? Indeed, Atwood used only real, historical occurrences to construct her speculative dystopia. Set after a second American civil war that leads to the creation of the theocratic Republic of Gilead, a handmaid-slave called Offred records her story so that future generations might learn what happened to her and to the former United States. Gilead rewrites American history, in part by destroying all remnants of the previous culture and fabricating a new national origin story. Offred, who remembers her husband and child from before the coup, serves her high-ranking household as a human incubator, intended to bear the Commander's child because his Wife is infertile. Gilead's leaders use, misuse, and even invent

Bible verses to justify misogynistic, theocratic, totalitarian cruelty, and those in positions of power ensure the necessary gaslighting and reprogramming to cement the new government. Women are vessels to serve their social superiors, and any handmaid who can't bear a child, or worse, who aborts a child, is sent to "the colonies," which is effectively a death sentence. Given the story's roots in historical truth, how close are we in America today to the fictional Gilead? This POLIS talk will examine the historical precedents and predictions that show up in Atwood's novel and connect them to American women's dystopian present.

Presenter: Dr. Jayme Peacock, Assistant Professor of English, Quincy University

### **Thursday, March 27**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

#### **A Historical Review of the Iroquois Theater Disaster**

On December 30, 1903, 602 people (mostly women and children) were killed in a horrific theater fire. The tragedy was both predictable and preventable. The lecture will focus on the role of political corruption, greed, and apathy as causal factors in the tragedy. It will go on to demonstrate contemporary relevance by discussing the continuing conflict between profit incentive and public safety.

Presenter: Scott Walker, former Quincy Fire Chief; instructor in fire science, Western Illinois University

### **Tuesdays, April 1, 8, 15**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

#### **Holocaust: Life in the Ghettos**

A course on how people tried to survive in the Nazi controlled ghettos by trying to recreate 'normal' life and how due to Nazi policies it was a constant struggle against death. How and why just about every ghetto had an organized resistance group and what that meant to the people in the ghettos.

Presenter: Dr. Wendell Mauter: Emeritus Professor of History, QU

### **Friday, April 4**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

#### **More Philosophical Thought Experiments**

In this course we will consider more philosophical

thought experiments and how they have influenced modern thought. This time we'll focus on ethics, religious belief, and personal identity with such colorful names as "The Veil of Ignorance," "The Pig that Wants to be Eaten," and "Parfit's split-brain" and one that features a whole bunch of people jumping out of a burning building. While this is a sequel to a previous POLIS course, anyone can attend.

Presenter: Dr. Jonathan Miles, Professor of Philosophy, Quincy University

### **Friday, April 11**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

### **Tumultuous Liberty: Major Slave Rebellions before the US Civil War (Part 2)**

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. Following last semester's course (the Stono Rebellion and the 1811 German Coast Uprising), this course will cover Denmark Vessey's Conspiracy, Nat Turner's Rebellion, and the Amistad revolt.

Presenter: Dr. J. Matthew Ward, Assistant Professor of History, Quincy University

### **Wednesday, April 23**

### **Bus trip to the spectacular Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis**

Join your friends for POLIS's spring trip to the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, a one-of-a-kind work of art. The Cathedral is known around the world for its beautiful mosaics, created by skilled artisans of the past. Nicknamed "the Rome of the West" the Cathedral's breathtaking architecture captivates its many visitors. Our guided tour offers a glimpse of the rich history of this magnificent church, its community, and events that led to its completion. Prior to our tour, we will have lunch at Favazza's Restaurant on the Hill.

Favazza is one of the finest Italian restaurants in St. Louis and earned rave reviews from those who attended a previous POLIS bus tour. \$95 covers the cost of the trip which includes the Basilica tour, your meal, and transportation. The luxury bus leaves the North Parking Lot at North Campus at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 23. We will return at approximately 6:00 p.m.

### **Fridays, April 25, May 2**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

### **Problems of/with Men**

Richard Reeves in his 2022 book *Of Boys and Men* argued that both political parties need to pay much more attention to the many specific problems of American boys and men: men are falling way behind women in education and nearly every college in the country now has more women than men, far more men than women died during the pandemic, at least partly because wearing a mask was seen as not manly, and far more men than women die deaths of despair: addiction, suicide, and gun violence. Meanwhile, some women writers and activists have written about their problems with traditional and commonly admired forms of masculinity. We will discuss problems of and with men in the first session and continue our discussion in the second session, which will include a conversation about the film, "Promising Young Woman," which those in the class are asked to view on their own.

Presenter: Dr. Rob Manning, Professor of Philosophy, Quincy University

### **Tuesdays, April 29, May 6**

C-103 (Cafeteria)

### **The Grammar and History of English**

– *"Grammar? Groan. Is he kidding?"*

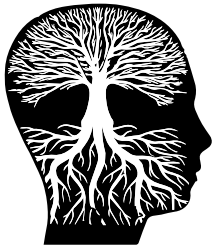
This will be nothing like the grammar you learned in your schooldays! The publication of Noam Chomsky's *Language and Mind* (1st edition 1968) and *Reflections on Language* (1975) radically changed the way we think about grammar and language generally. In this class we'll explore his hypothesis of a Universal Grammar (UG) underlying all languages and look at some of the ways to describe UG and the particular languages that are instances of it. We'll touch on the major components of both UG and particular languages: morphology, or word formation; syntax, the rules for putting words in order; semantics, how we

know what language means; phonetics, the sounds of language; phonology, the patterns of sounds in a language; and language change over time, specifically the history of English from its early days as a minor language spoken on a small island to its status today as a world language.

Presenter: Dr. Joseph Messina, Emeritus Professor of English, Quincy University

**Friday, May 9, 2 - 4pm**

Annual meeting of POLIS and end-of-year social in C-103, Cafeteria



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## POLIS 2025 WINTER/SPRING CALENDAR

### January

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
12	13	14	15 Registration 1-4pm QU-NC	16	17	18
19	20 MLK No Classes	21	22 Schuetz C-103	23	24	25
26	27 Classes Begin	28	29 Coelho C-103	30	31 Zimmerman C-103	

### February

2	3	4 Bradshaw C-103	5	6	7 Zimmerman C-103	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Palmer C-103	15
16	17	18 Rohan C-103	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Hotle C-103	26	27 Schafer C-103	28	

### March

2	3	4 Hotle C-103	5	6 Vogel C-103	7	8
9	10	11 Hotle C-103	12 Hoover C-103	13	14 Peacock C-103	15
16	17 Spring Break	18 Spring Break	19 Spring Break	20 Spring Break	21 Spring Break	22
23	24	25	26	27 Walker C-103	28	29
30	31					

### April

		1 Mauter C-103	2	3	4 Miles C-103	5
6	7	8 Mauter C-103	9	10	11 Ward C-103	12
13	14	15 Mauter C-103	16	17 Easter Break	18 Easter Break	19
20	21 Classes resume at 5pm	22	23 Bus Trip	24	25 Manning C-103	26
27	28	29 Messina C-103	30			

### May

				1	2 Manning C-103	3
4	5	6 Messina C-103	7	8	9 annual meeting social	10

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

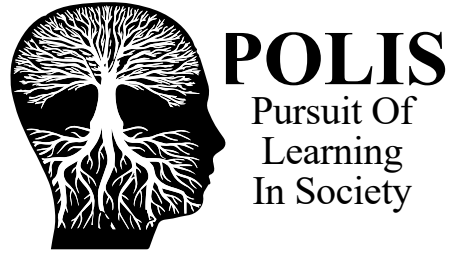
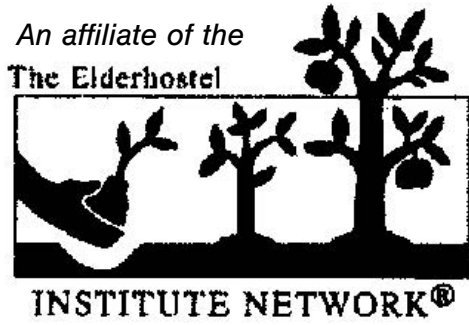


## Registration for POLIS Fall Classes Wednesday, January 15, 2025

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>Mobile Phone:</b>
<b>City:</b> <b>Zip:</b>	<b>Email:</b>
<b>Emergency Contact:</b>	<b>Preferred Method of contact:</b> Phone__Email__Text__

Course	Date(s)	Lecturer	Fee	En- roll
Membership Fee to POLIS	Spring Semester		\$15	
Literacy Matters: The Crucial Role of Literacy Proficiency in Our Community	January 22	Schuetz	\$5	
Entomophagy: Insects as Food	January 29	Coelho	\$5	
A GREAT CATHOLIC MYSTERY: Catholic Social Teaching	January 31 February 7	Zimmerman	\$10	
The Historical, Present, and Future Integral Working of Society to Feed the World	February 4	Bradshaw	\$5	
Constitutional Criminal Procedure and the Roberts' Court and Overview of Pending Cases in U.S. Sup. Ct. 2024-2025 Term	February 14	Palmer	\$5	
The Armenian Genocide	February 18	Rohan	\$5	
World War I in the Middle East	February 25 March 4, 11	Hotle	\$15	
"The Founding Mothers"	February 27	Schafer	\$5	
Media Literacy - It's more than just news	March 6	Vogel	\$5	
How to Get Things Done in Local Government	March 12	Hoover	\$5	
Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale: Speculative Fiction or Dystopian Future	March 14	Peacock	\$5	
A Historical Review of the Iroquois Theater Disaster	March 27	Walker	\$5	
<i>Holocaust: Life in the Ghetton</i>	April 1, 8, 15	Mauter	\$15	
More Philosophical Thought Experiments	April 4	Miles	\$5	
Tumultuous Liberty: Major Slave Rebellions before the US Civil War (Part 2)	April 11	Ward	\$5	
Bus Trip to Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis	April 23	Members Non-Members	\$95 \$110	
Problems of/with Men	April 25, May 2	Manning	\$10	
The Grammar and History of English	April 29, May 6	Messina	\$10	
TOTAL				

**Registration:** January 15, 1:00-4:00pm, in the Conference Room at the entrance (across from snack bar) of QU's North Campus or by mail: POLIS, Quincy University, 1800 College Ave., Quincy, IL 62301.  
Information: Call 217-228-5594 or email: polis@quincy.edu



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