



THE HOUSTON SEMINAR
SPRING 2012



THE HOUSTON SEMINAR

THE HOUSTON SEMINAR WAS FOUNDED IN 1977 FOR THE PURPOSE OF STIMULATING LEARNING AND CULTURAL AWARENESS. EACH SPRING AND FALL THE NONPROFIT GROUP OFFERS LECTURES AND STUDY TOURS FOCUSED ON VARIED TOPICS THAT MAY INCLUDE ART, ARCHITECTURE, LITERATURE, MUSIC, THEATER, HISTORY, POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY, RELIGION, THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, AND CURRENT TRENDS AND EVENTS.



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The Houston Seminar is grateful for the support of United Airlines, which generously provides transportation for many of our distinguished speakers.

spring 2012 COURSES

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	EVENING
5	PRIMARILY MURRAY
6	SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE? THE U.S. CONGRESS
7	AMERICAN POETRY WITH TONY HOAGLAND
8	DONIZETTI'S MARIA STUARDA
9	AN EVENING OF HARP AND FLUTE
	STUDY TOURS
4	BOSTON, SALEM, AND GLOUCESTER

spring 2012 calendar

JANUARY	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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	29	30	31				

FEBRUARY	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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APRIL	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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MAY	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	27	28	29	30	31		

-  STUDY TOUR
-  ADULTERESS AS ARCHETYPE
-  PRIMARILY MURRAY
-  SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE?
-  AMERICAN POETRY
-  DONIZETTI'S MARIA STUARDA
-  SEMINAR SALON

NEW SPACES IN OLD PLACES: FROM BOSTON TO GLOUCESTER

A STUDY TOUR

MAY 3–7, 2012

Enrollment limited to 25

Please join the Houston Seminar as we explore dazzling new spaces in the treasure-filled museums of Boston, Salem, and Gloucester, including the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, and the Cape Ann Museum in Gloucester. In addition, we will tour several of eastern Massachusetts' venerable landmarks and literary institutions, including Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Trinity Church, and the Boston Atheneum; visit private houses, art collections, and house museums; listen to Beethoven and Stravinsky in Boston's acclaimed Symphony Hall; and enjoy the glorious blooms of a New England spring. We will depart from Houston on the morning of Thursday, May 3, stay in elegant, historic hotels in Boston and Salem, and arrive back in the early afternoon of Monday, May 7.

ADULTERESS AS ARCHETYPE: ANALYZING ANNA, EMMA, AND HEDDA

FIVE TUESDAYS, JANUARY 10 AND 24; AND FEBRUARY 7, 21, AND 28, 12:30–2:00 P.M.

Northern Trust Bank, Third-Floor Conference Room, 2701 Kirby Drive

Matthew Arnold wrote, "The truth is we are not to take *Anna Karenina* as a work of art: we are to take it as a piece of life." Gustav Flaubert famously said, "One can be master of what one does, but never of what one feels." Oscar Wilde said of *Hedda Gabler*, "I felt pity and terror as though the play had been in Greek."

Leo Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* and Gustave Flaubert's *Madame Bovary* stand together as the most prominent nineteenth-century European novels of adultery. The title role in Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*, the other great suicide-adulteress of the nineteenth century, is thought by many critics to be one of the great dramatic roles in theater—the female Hamlet. **TERRENCE DOODY**, professor of English at Rice University, will examine adulteress as archetype and discuss the decline of cherished values and moral principles that precipitate the suicides of Anna, Emma, and Hedda.

TERRENCE DOODY, the author of *Confession and Community in the Novel* and *Among Other Things: A Description of the Novel*, has received NEH and Mellon grants as well as several prestigious teaching awards at Rice University. He teaches courses in the modernist period, the novel and narrative theory, contemporary literature, and poetry.

In this course, we will read the translation of *Hedda Gabler* by James McFarlane and Jens Arup, followed by the Penguin edition of *Madame Bovary*, and conclude with the edition of *Anna Karenina* translated by Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky.

PRIMARILY MURRAY

FIVE THURSDAYS, JANUARY 12, FEBRUARY 9, MARCH 8, APRIL 12, MAY 10, 6:00–7:30 P.M.

The Briar Club, 2603 Timmons Lane, 77027 (at Westheimer)

The 2012 primary season kicks off with the Iowa caucuses on Tuesday, January 3, followed a week later by the New Hampshire primary on the 10th. Then South Carolina starts the southern battles eleven days later. February promises campaign commotion and controversy, leading up to Super Tuesday (and our Texas primaries) on March 6, followed by two months of steady strategy until California, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, and both Dakotas hold their primary elections on June 5th.

The Houston Seminar is proud to present **RICHARD MURRAY**'s incisive insider's perspective every step of the way as the American people determine which candidates will arrive at their parties' summer conventions to stand for nomination to lead the final fall campaigns in the battle for the presidency. A plausible prediction about the 2012 primary season? It will be interesting!

RICHARD MURRAY is the Bob Lanier Professor of Urban Public Policy and director of surveying for the Center for Public Policy at the University of Houston, where an endowed scholarship in his name was established in 2008.



SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE? THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, NOW AND AFTER NOVEMBER

TWO THURSDAYS, FEBRUARY 2 AND 16, 6:00–7:30 P.M.

The Briar Club, 2603 Timmons Lane, 77027 (at Westheimer)

Congressional politics today is marked by discord, disagreements, and dysfunction. Is this the way Congress is supposed to work?

SEAN THERIAULT, award-winning professor of government from the University of Texas, Austin, will give us an illuminating tour of the current Congress and a tantalizing glimpse of what we might expect as elections for the new Congress unfold in 2012.

FEBRUARY 2: The Current Congress

The 2008 and 2010 elections sent sharply different messages and very different people to Washington, D.C. The issues have been equally perplexing. A languishing war in Afghanistan and a limping economic recovery have made the politics in our nation's capital some of the most interesting in decades. How have the Democrats who triumphed in 2006 and 2008 and survived 2010 interacted with Tea Party Republicans in forging a path forward – or not? Professor Theriault will provide an enlightening look at the difficult tasks facing Congress and also at the genius behind the constitutional framework.

FEBRUARY 16: The 2012 Congressional Elections

Although the presidential race usually enjoys top billing, the 2008 and 2010 elections prove that the president is elected as the head of only the Executive Branch of the U.S. government. At times, Congress is led by the president; but often, Congress is stymied by Congress. Professor Theriault will use the broad contours of the presidential race as a backdrop for a look at the politics of the congressional races eight months before the first ballots are cast. His insights about the way our political process works will apply not only to the 2012 elections but also to those in 2014, 2016, and beyond.

SEAN THERIAULT, associate professor of government at the University of Texas in Austin, holds two of the university's highest teaching awards: Professor of the Year in 2011, and, in 2009, the Friar Society Teaching Fellowship, the highest undergraduate teaching award. He teaches courses in American politics and political methodology, with specialties in congressional politics, American political institutions, elections and voting behavior, and party polarization.



AMERICAN POETRY: THEORY AND PRACTICE WITH TONY HOAGLAND

FIVE WEDNESDAYS, FEBRUARY 15, 22, AND 29; MARCH 7 AND 14, 6:30–8:00 P.M.

Private houses; addresses will be provided to subscribers.

Limited Enrollment

A collaboration between The Houston Seminar and Inprint.

"Once, in the Museum of Modern Art, I saw a sculpture that I liked: a big, black cast-iron frying pan with six handles around its circumference. I think poetry is like that frying pan. You can grab it and pick it up from almost any side."

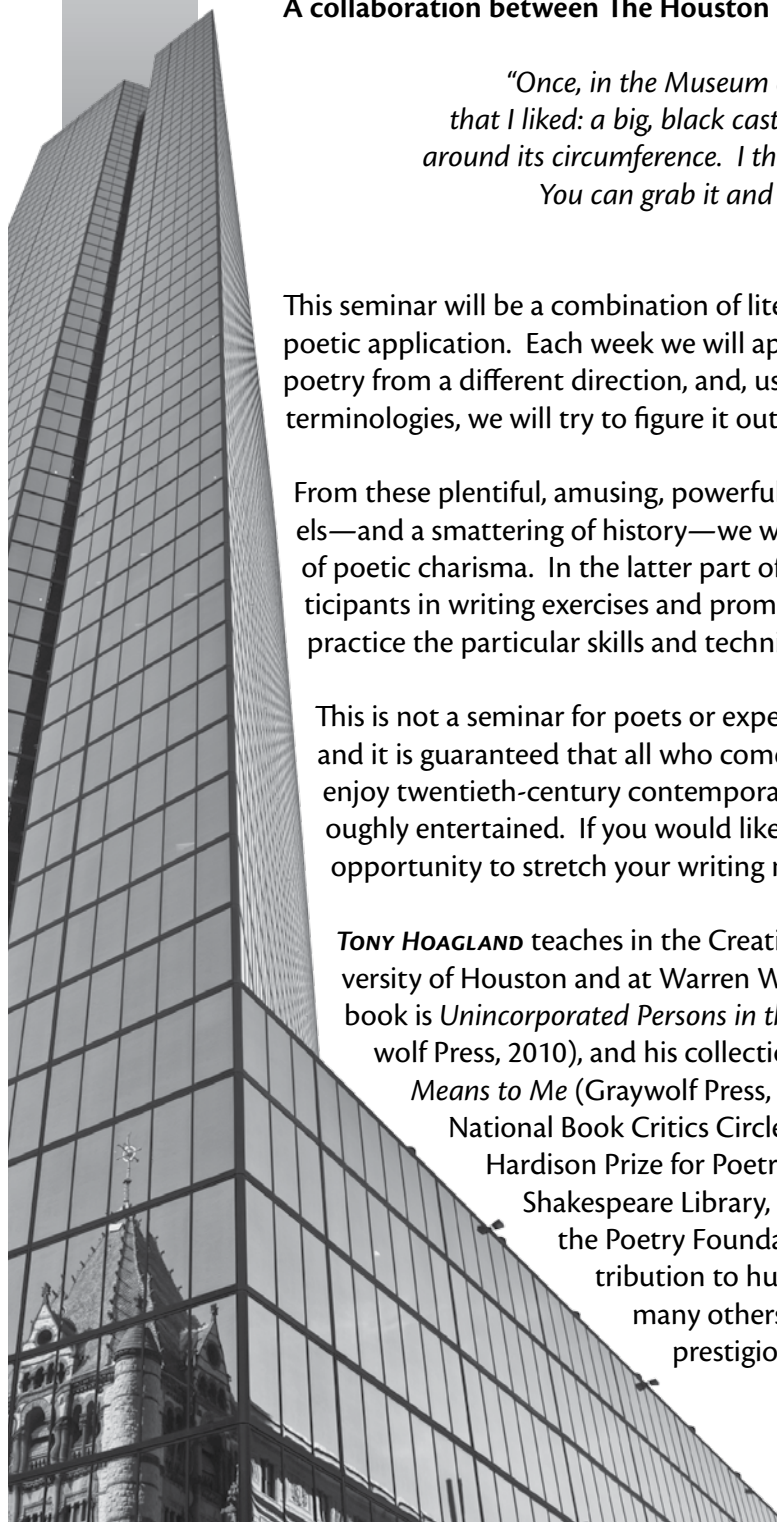
– **TONY HOAGLAND.**

This seminar will be a combination of literary studies and hands-on poetic application. Each week we will approach the reality of American poetry from a different direction, and, using different examples and terminologies, we will try to figure it out.

From these plentiful, amusing, powerful, robust, and eccentric models—and a smattering of history—we will gain insight into the sources of poetic charisma. In the latter part of each class, Tony will lead participants in writing exercises and prompts designed to cultivate and practice the particular skills and techniques of the week's lessons.

This is not a seminar for poets or experts only! Everyone is welcome, and it is guaranteed that all who come will learn to understand and enjoy twentieth-century contemporary poetry and will be thoroughly entertained. If you would like an informal, non-threatening opportunity to stretch your writing muscles, this could be for you.

TONY HOAGLAND teaches in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Houston and at Warren Wilson College. His most recent book is *Unincorporated Persons in the Late Honda Dynasty* (Graywolf Press, 2010), and his collection of poems, *What Narcissism Means to Me* (Graywolf Press, 2003), was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. He has won the O. B. Hardison Prize for Poetry and Teaching from the Folger Shakespeare Library, the 2005 Mark Twain Award of the Poetry Foundation in recognition of his contribution to humor in American poetry, and many others. He has also received many prestigious fellowships and grants.





DONIZETTI'S *MARIA STUARDA*: HISTORICAL FACT OR DRAMATIC FICTION?

TWO TUESDAYS, MARCH 27 AND APRIL 3, 7:00 P.M.

TWO WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 11, 7:00 P.M. AND

APRIL 18, 7:30 P.M., Dress Rehearsal

March 27, April 3, and April 11 sessions will be in private houses.

Addresses will be given to subscribers.

Dress rehearsal will be at Wortham Center.

What happens during the creation of a work of art that is inspired by an actual event or period of history? How are facts changed to support themes and create drama? We will address these questions as they relate to the story of Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, in film, theater, history, and opera.

In the opera's story, regal cousins, Mary, Queen of Scots, and Elizabeth I, are rivals for the crown and the same nobleman's love, delivering fascinating historical drama. Elizabeth has imprisoned Mary, suspecting her of treason, but Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, Elizabeth's lover, convinces the queen to meet with her cousin. Tempers soon explode and rage out of control. Mary, condemned to death, faces her demise with great dignity.

Spectacular vocal fireworks and *bel canto* singing are hallmarks of Donizetti's tragedy. *The Times* of London praised mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato, who will perform the title role, saying "DiDonato's voice is at present nothing less than 24-carat gold."

MARCH 27: DENNIS HUSTON, professor of English at Rice University, will present the 1971 film, *Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots*, starring Vanessa Redgrave and Glenda Jackson. He will address the changes made to history to heighten the drama of the film.

APRIL 3: ROBERT SHIMKO, assistant professor of theater history and dramaturgy at the University of Houston, will focus on the history of Mary Stuart and her time. He will also discuss Friedrich Schiller's adaptation of history in his play, *Maria Stuart*, which was the basis of Donizetti's opera.

APRIL 11: MENA M. HANNA, dramaturg of the Houston Grand Opera, will discuss the creation of *Maria Stuarda* and the historic and dramatic sources used by its creators, especially the work of the playwright Friedrich Schiller. He will also examine how other composers have employed Schiller's dramatic material.



APRIL 18: For our final session, we will be the guests of Houston Grand Opera for the dress rehearsal of *MARIA STUARDA*. During intermission, participants will gather for a reception.

DENNIS HUSTON is professor of English at Rice University, where he has taught since 1969. He has won a number of George R. Brown teaching awards, the Nicholas Salgo Teaching Prize, and received the 1990 Professor of the Year award from the council for the Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation. Over the past ten years at Rice, he has taught humanities, drama, public speaking, and Shakespeare on film. Huston holds a PhD from Yale University.

ROBERT SHIMKO is assistant professor of theater history and dramaturgy at the University of Houston, where he heads the M.A. program in theatre studies as well as the B.F.A. degree track in playwrighting/dramaturgy. Professor Shimko's scholarly writing has been widely published in numerous journals and magazines. In 2008, he received the Robert A. Schanke Theatre Research Award from the Mid-America Theatre Conference. As a professional dramaturg, his credits include productions at the Alley Theatre, the Guthrie Theater, Harlem Stage, Stages Repertory Theatre, and the Catastrophic Theatre. He has recently been named Senior Dramaturg of the Houston Shakespeare Festival.

MENA MARK HANNA is dramaturg at Houston Grand Opera and visiting scholar at the Shepherd School of Music, Rice University. As a composer, he has had premieres at such venues as Institute for Contemporary Art, London; Festival Acanthes, Metz, France; the 92nd Street Y, New York; and the Festival degli due mondi, Spoleto. He is the recipient of the Marshall Scholarship, the John Lowell Osgood Dissertation Prize, and Merton College's Prize Scholarship. Hanna holds a DPhil from Oxford University.



SEMINAR SALON: AN EVENING OF HARP AND FLUTE

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 6:30–8:00 P.M.

Private home; address will be given to subscribers.

If you've known the harp only as the ethereal and gentle instrument of the angels, get ready to tango! **JOAN EIDMAN** and **MELISSA SUHR** will enlighten and enliven us with a duet of harp and flute featuring the rhythmic music of Argentina and Brazil.

Our first Seminar Salon will meet in a private home where we will be surrounded by a notable art collection as we rock to the sounds of Latin-style harp and flute.

JOAN EIDMAN is the Principal Harpist with the Houston Grand Opera and Houston Ballet Orchestras and enjoys playing second harp with the Santa Fe Opera.

MELISSA SUHR performs with the Houston Ballet and Houston Grand Opera Orchestras, Masterworks Chorus, and Grand Teton Music Festival. She is an affiliate artist of flute at the Moores School of Music.

Enrollment: All classes are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Confirmation of enrollment will be sent by return mail. It is possible to attend a single session of multi-session courses for a pro-rated fee. You may enroll by mail, fax, or online.

Discounts: Any individual or couple signing up for more than three courses on the same registration form may discount the total fee by 10 percent. However, calculations of total costs eligible for the discount cannot include out-of-town trips or excursions. Teachers and students at accredited institutions may attend classes for a discounted fee of \$10 per session.

Refunds: You will receive a partial refund if you cancel at least two weeks before a course begins; a cancellation fee will be charged. If your enrollment has caused others to be turned away from a limited-enrollment class, no refund will be issued unless your place can be filled. Refund policies for courses involving travel may differ.

Gift certificates: These are available for a single session, a specific course, or a dollar amount, which the recipient may apply toward any course(s). Notification will be mailed to the donor and the designated recipient. Please call for more information, or send request and payment with this form.

For further information telephone 713-666-9000
or fax 281-488-0511 or consult www.houstonseminar.org

The Houston Seminar
P.O. Box 590964, Houston, TX TX 77059



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please enroll me/us in the following courses:

NEW SPACES IN OLD PLACES: FROM BOSTON TO GLOUCESTER
Study Tour, May 3–7

For price and
information, please
call 713.666.9000

ADULTERESS AS ARCHETYPE: ANALYZING ANNA, EMMA, AND HEDDA
Five Tuesdays, January 10 and 24; February 7, 21, and 28, 12:30–2:00 p.m.

☐ \$100/5 sessions
☐ \$25/1 session

PRIMARILY MURRAY
Five Thursdays, January 12, Feb. 9, March 8, Apr. 12, May 10, 6–7:30 p.m.

☐ \$100/5 sessions
☐ \$25/1 session

SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE? THE U.S. CONGRESS, NOW & AFTER NOVEMBER
Two Thursdays, February 2 and 16, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

☐ \$50/2 sessions
☐ \$30/1 session

AMERICAN POETRY: THEORY AND PRACTICE WITH TONY HOAGLAND
Five Wednesdays, February 15, 22, 29; March 7 and 14, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

☐ \$175/5 sessions
☐ \$40/1 session

DONIZETTI'S MARIA STUARDA: HISTORICAL FACT OR DRAMATIC FICTION?
Two Tuesdays, Mar. 27 and Apr. 3, 7:00 p.m.; Two Wednesdays, April 11, 7:00 p.m.;
and April 18, 7:30 p.m.

☐ \$140/3 sessions
☐ \$35/1 session
☐ \$55/ dress
rehearsal

SEMINAR SALON: EVENING OF HARP AND FLUTE
One Tuesday, May 15, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

☐ \$65/1 session

TOTAL FEE:

LESS DISCOUNT (SEE ENROLLMENT INFO):

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

NAME

ADDRESS **CITY/ZIP**

TELEPHONE (VERY IMPORTANT) HOME **OFFICE**

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NAME

CC# **EXP. DATE**

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WWW.HOUSTONSEMINAR.ORG

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SPRING 2012

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NEW SPACES IN OLD PLACES: FROM BOSTON TO GLOUCESTER
A STUDY TOUR

ADULTERESS AS ARCHETYPE: ANALYZING ANNA, EMMA,
AND FIEDDA
WITH TERENCE DOODY

PRIMARILY MURRAY
RICHARD MURRAY ON THE 2012 PRIMARIES

SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE:
SERIALS, SERIALITY, AND THE "GIRL" CURSE

AMERICAN POETRY: THEORY AND PRACTICE WITH
TONY LO CLAND

MARIA STUARDA: HISTORICAL ACTION DRAMA

SEMINAR SALON: AN EVENING OF HARP AND FLUTE

