



THE HOUSTON SEMINAR
FALL 2013



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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COURSES

DAYTIME	PAGE	CALENDAR LEGEND
Behind the Headlines: Prominent authorities discuss current hot topics from world economics to world politics	8	○
Planet Houston: Home to the World, Bus Tour	7	△
Latin Fusion: Private Houston Collections	9	□
EVENING		
Why We Hug Trees: Exploring the Instinctive Bond between Humans and Nature	5	■
Murray on the "Off-Year" Elections: Mayoral Musings, City Council Calculations, School Board Speculations and the Take on Texas in 2014	7	●
Planet Houston: Home to the World, Panel Discussion	7	▲
Latin Fusion: Private Houston Collections	9	□
STUDY TOURS		
Tamers of the Wild West: Fred Harvey, Mary Colter, and the Santa Fe Railway	4	●

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

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LEGEND

- Behind the Headlines
- △ Planet Houston – Bus Tour
- Latin Fusion

- Why We Hug Trees
- Murray on the "Off-Year" Elections
- ▲ Planet Houston – Panel Discussion
- Tamers of the Wild West



Courses for Fall 2013

STUDY TOUR:

TAMERS OF THE WILD WEST: FRED HARVEY, MARY COLTER, AND THE SANTA FE RAILWAY

SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 6, 2013

This tour will study sweeping social history in the land of canyons and cowboys, sunrises and sunsets, set against the magical horizons of the great American Southwest. We will learn from our expert guides how one man, **FRED HARVEY**, tamed this land for the comfort of the American traveler.

Fred Harvey was the founding father of the American service industry and a pioneer in personnel management, advertising and marketing. In the late 1880s, he created the first national chain hotels and restaurants, operating all the restaurants, hotels, bookstores and newsstands along the Santa Fe Railroad route and then along Route 66, and in most major cities from Rosenberg, Texas to Chicago; from Needles, California to San Francisco. As one of our trip leaders, Stephen Fried, wrote, "Fred Harvey was Ray Kroc before McDonald's – Howard Johnson before HoJo's."

Before the Harvey era, travel to the American west was unpredictable, uncomfortable and inhospitable. Travelers could not count on getting a good meal or a good night's sleep.

Harvey understood the iconic appeal of the cowboy and Indian myths of American culture and his entrepreneurial empire was built on a blend of romanticism and commercialism. For example, he appreciated and preserved Native American art, yet much of the turquoise jewelry sold in his gift shops was commissioned, and sometimes designed, by him. Many of the best known paintings, photographs, songs and writings about the Southwest were commissioned by Fred Harvey, and used to enhance the hotels and restaurants we will visit.

The legendary "Harvey Girls" – subject of an Oscar-winning film starring Judy Garland – were the first major female workforce in America, allowing single women to travel independently, earn a decent living and eventually participate in settling the American West. The pioneer female architect, Pennsylvanian **MARY COLTER**, became Fred Harvey's company architect in 1910, completing 21 projects, many of which we will visit. Her signature "Pueblo Revival" style was the precursor of what we all now know as "Santa Fe Style."

On this trip we will spend nine days exploring treasures of the American

Southwest; enjoy historic accommodations; drive in comfort along iconic Route 66 and into the crown jewels of our National Park System; hop aboard the historic Grand Canyon Railway; expand our appreciation of Native and Spanish American-inspired design in the art, architecture and decorative workmanship we will see everywhere we travel; and participate in several behind-the-scenes tours and private receptions along the way.

Our understanding and appreciation of this era and this land will be enriched by our expert guides and tour leaders, **JOHN NINNEMAN**, naturalist, professor and dean at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, and **STEPHEN FRIED**, investigative journalist and adjunct professor at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. Fried, author of *Appetite for America: Fred Harvey and the Business of Civilizing the Wild West – One Meal at a Time*, (Bantam Books, 2010), will join us in Santa Fe.

WHY WE HUG TREES: EXPLORING THE INSTINCTIVE BOND BETWEEN HUMANS AND NATURE

THREE WEDNESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 25, OCTOBER 9, AND OCTOBER 16, 2013, 6:30-8:00 P.M. Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, 4501 Woodway Drive, 77024.

Why do humans study nature? Because we are part of the natural world. Nature sustains us. Nature moves us. We use facets of nature to describe delicacy, beauty, and destruction. We crane our necks up to the great sequoias of northern California or into the filigree of a huisache tree. We associate the smell of a fruit or a bloom with a particular season. We are hypnotized by the movements of bees, ants and butterflies. We marvel at the migrations of robins, herons, hawks and warblers through our region. Weather references pepper our descriptions of people and events: "she's a force of nature," "it was a stormy session," "it was a landslide election."

Our three speakers will examine the relationship of humans and nature. What is the actual relationship? How does it work? Why does it matter?

SEPTEMBER 25 – **JOE NOVAK** coined the term "sociohorticulture" to describe the restorative value of nature. His research examines the way gardens affect children and heal adults. He charts the connections between nature, contemplation and the creative process. He has applied these findings both in the classroom and outdoors as a senior lecturer in the Department of Horticultural Sciences at Texas A& M. After more than 30 years, Dr. Novak has left A& M to develop a Master Gardeners' organization with the Houston Urban Gardening Program dedicated to the study of gardens in the rejuvenation of neighborhoods. He will tell us about the



scientific basis for the healing qualities nature offers humankind.

JOE NOVAK received his B.S. *summa cum laude* with special honors in botany from Ohio University in 1965. He received his Ph.D. in vegetable crops with minors in plant pathology and international agriculture from Cornell University in 1971.

OCTOBER 9 – JAIME GONZÁLEZ will present “The Wilderness Within: An Introduction to Biophilia Theory and its Impact in the Houston Community.”

In Houston, despite the fact that we are surrounded by forests, prairies, coastline and parks, we spend countless hours in our cars or in front of a screen. There is an antidote to these often necessary and mind numbing pastimes. Jaime González is a leader in Get Outdoors Houston!, the local component of a statewide effort. He will tell us about “biophilia,” a term introduced by E. O. Wilson in 1979 to describe the connections that human beings subconsciously seek with the rest of life, positing that the deep affiliations humans have with nature are rooted in our biology. He shares the view that our children (and we), divorced from the natural world, are in crisis. He is actively working on several initiatives to reconnect us to the environment around us.

JAIME GONZÁLEZ earned a Master of Education in curriculum & instruction - science education (2007) and a B.S. in biology (1996) both from the University of Houston. He is currently President of the Coastal Prairie Partnership, a member of the Texas Children in Nature Coalition Steering Committee and Conservation Education Director and Volunteer Manager for the Katy Prairie Conservancy.

OCTOBER 16 – DAVID GEORGE HASKELL’s recent publication, *The Forest Unseen: A Year’s Watch in Nature* (Penguin Press, 2012) uses language to describe a square meter of earth in Tennessee. We observe with him and come to understand the language of nature, to understand the stories that close observation can reveal. The book propels the reader through time and season. He links his study to the creation and contemplation of sand mandalas by Tibetan monks. He writes “The mandala is a re-creation of the path of life, the cosmos and the enlightenment of the Buddha.” For Haskell, his book is a “biologist’s response to the challenge of the Tibetan mandala, of Blake’s poems, of Lady Julian’s hazelnut.”

DAVID GEORGE HASKELL is a professor of biology at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. He earned his B. A. at University of Oxford and his Ph. D. at Cornell University. *The Forest Unseen: A Year’s Watch in Nature* will be available at the Arboretum bookstore and Dr. Haskell has agreed to sign copies.

🌿 MURRAY IN THE “OFF-YEAR” ELECTIONS: MAYORAL MUSINGS, CITY COUNCIL CALCULATIONS, SCHOOL BOARD SPECULATIONS, AND THE TAKE ON TEXAS IN 2014

TWO MONDAYS, OCTOBER 21 AND NOVEMBER 4, 6:00—7:30 P.M.

St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, 2450 River Oaks Boulevard, 77019, at Westheimer Road, Parlor (Room #121 on first floor of administration building which faces River Oaks Boulevard). Parking available in the church parking lot on Westheimer.

The 2013 local elections are heating up; Mayor Annise Parker is being challenged and, in Austin, politicians are jockeying for position. Pollster, pundit and political science professor RICHARD MURRAY will again enlighten The Houston Seminar on the upcoming contests. Few people will have more information relevant to the 2013 and 2014 elections than Dr. Murray, and no one can pull that information into a coherent and entertaining lecture series better than he.

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 he has taught in the department of political science since 1966.

🌿 PLANET HOUSTON: HOME TO THE WORLD

“So this is planet Houston.” (General Zod, arriving on Earth after overhearing NASA astronauts in the movie *Superman 2*)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 – PANEL DISCUSSION, 6:30-8:00 P.M., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, BUS TOUR, 9 A.M.-4 P.M. Edward Rudge Allen III Education Center at Asia Society Texas, 1370 Southmore, 77004.

The United States is proud of its founding by immigrants seeking opportunity and religious freedom. At the beginning of the 20th century, New York City was considered the great gateway; at the beginning of the 21st century, Houston, with its cultural, religious and ethnic variety, is statistically the most diverse city in the nation, and Fort Bend County is the most diverse county in the United States. Greater Houston’s immigrant population is among the best educated and wealthiest in the country. These families, now multi-generational, provide our city with an unparalleled cultural richness and the promise of a dynamic future.

Join The Houston Seminar and Asia Society Texas in exploring this rich diversity, with a stimulating panel discussion highlighting the ethnic diversity of Houston with hard data and personal stories. The panel will be

led by **ANNE CHAO** (Ph.D. in Modern Chinese History and co-investigator of Houston Asian American Archive). Panel members will include **SONER TARIM** (Ph.D., Texas A&M University and CEO and superintendent of Harmony Schools) and **CHITRA DIVAKARUNI** (award-winning author, poet and professor at the University of Houston's Creative Writing Program).

OCTOBER 26 – Bus tour, 9:00 A.M – 4:00 P.M. Location to be announced

STEPHEN FOX (architectural historian) and **PAT JASPER** (folklorist at the Houston Arts Alliance) will lead our Saturday bus tour, during which we will visit several of the astounding architectural representations of this cultural and ethnic richness. We will have three stops, two for short tours and one for a performance, plus a special lunch.

🍁 BEHIND THE HEADLINES

FIVE THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 31, NOVEMBER 7, 14, 21, DECEMBER 5, NOON –1:30 P.M. The Station Museum of Contemporary Art, 1502 Alabama (at LaBranch) 77004. Pre-registration recommended.



Prominent authorities will dissect, analyze, and answer questions about front page topics, from world economics to world politics.

OCTOBER 31 – The End of Normal

JAMES K. GALBRAITH holds the Lloyd M. Bentsen Jr., Chair of Government/Business Relations, and is a professor of government at the LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas, Austin. His recent book was *Inequality and Instability: A Study of the World Economy Just Before the Great Crisis* (Oxford Press, 2012). Dr. Galbraith received his Ph.D. in economics from Yale University and his B.A. from Harvard. His recent research has focused on the measurement and understanding of inequality in the world economy and the financial crisis.

NOVEMBER 7 – The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly: The 2014 Election & President Obama's Second Term

VICTORIA M. DEFRANCESCO SOTO is a fellow at the Center for Politics and Governance at LBJ School for Public Affairs, University of Texas. She is senior analyst for Latino Decisions and a senior fellow at the Bernard Center for Women, Politics, and Public Policy. Dr. Soto, who analyzes how social identities shape political behavior, is also a political analyst for Telemundo and a contributor to MSNBC and NBC. She is currently working on a book project that looks at the integration of Latinos in the American polity. She was recently named one of the top 12 Emerging Scholars in the county by *Diverse* magazine.

NOVEMBER 14 – Understanding Sectarianism in the Modern Middle East: A History of the Modern Problem

USSAMA MAKDISI is a professor of history and the first holder of the Arab-American Educational Foundation, Chair of Arab Studies at Rice. He is author of *Faith Misplaced: The Broken Promise of U.S.-Arab Relations, 1820-2001* (Public Affairs, 2010). In 2009, the Carnegie Corporation named Dr. Makdisi a Carnegie Scholar as part of its effort to promote original scholarship about Muslim societies and communities in the United States and abroad. Dr. Makdisi, who has a Ph.D. from Princeton, spent last year as a resident fellow at Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (Institute for Advanced Study).

NOVEMBER 21 – The U.S.-Mexico Border: 21st Century Problems and 20th Century Institutions

TONY PAYAN, a visiting fellow at the Baker Institute of Rice University, has been working both sides of the border as associate professor of political science at University of Texas, El Paso, and as a member of the graduate faculty at Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez. His work theorizes on topics regarding international borders including border governability, foreign policy attitudes on the border, and the manifestation of U.S. foreign policy at its borders. He is author of *The Three U.S.-Mexico Border Wars: Drugs, Immigration, and Homeland Security* (Praeger Security International, 2006). He has a Ph.D. from Georgetown University.

DECEMBER 5 – Global Politics, the Media, and Foreign Policy Decision-Making in North Africa

ELIZABETH COLTON has worked in more than 100 countries as a foreign service officer, most recently at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo. Before joining the Foreign Service, she was a journalist working in the Middle East, Europe, Africa, and Asia. A Fulbright scholar, Dr. Colton has a doctorate in social anthropology from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is currently program director and adviser for the American Committee on Foreign Relations.

🍁 LATIN FUSION: PRIVATE HOUSTON COLLECTIONS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 10 A.M. - NOON, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 10 A.M. – NOON, TWO TUESDAYS, NOVEMBER 5, 7:00 P.M.- 8:30 P.M., NOVEMBER 12, 10 A.M. – NOON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. All sessions except November 20 will be in private houses; addresses will be provided to



Antonio Berni, Argentinean, 1905-1981, *Ramona vive su vida de la serie Ramona Montiel y sus amigos* [Ramona Living Her Life from the series Ramona Montiel and Her Friends] 1963 Xilo-collage-relief. The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, gift of Duke Energy in honor of Peter C. Marzio and his twentieth anniversary as Director of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston at "One Great Night in November, 2002," 2002.3245

subscribers. November 20 will be at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1001 Bissonnet, 77005. Due to very limited enrollment, those who wish to subscribe to all sessions will be given priority.

Some of the world's most extensive and impressive collections of Latin American Art are right here in Houston. Our limited group will have exclusive access to some of the most extraordinary.

OCTOBER 7 – A River Oaks house which offers an eye-opening, personal and eclectic collection of contemporary art and unusual sculpture and objects.

OCTOBER 30 – A landmark River Oaks house filled with contemporary and Latin American art.

NOVEMBER 5 – A twilight adventure to a Memorial area house offering world-class Latin American art with a particular emphasis on video.

NOVEMBER 12 – First, an exciting new art space, then on to a private house with a prized collection of international artists' work, both in the Museum District.

NOVEMBER 20 – Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, where renowned curator of Latin American art, **MARI CARMEN RAMIREZ**, will give us a private tour of the Antonio Berni exhibition.

Enrollment: All classes are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Confirmation of enrollment will be sent. 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; those enrolling by fax may wish to copy the enrollment form on regular paper before sending it through a fax machine.

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 with student I.D.

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 or fax 713-666-9000, or consult www.houstonseminar.org

The Houston Seminar
P.O. Box 22764, Houston, TX 77227-2764

Antonio Berni, Argentinean, 1905-1981, *Carnival de Juanito* [Juanito's Carnival] 1962
Mixed media on board. Collection of Gail and Louis Adler, Houston

COURSE LIST AND RESERVATION FORM

PLEASE ENROLL ME/US IN THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

A STUDY TOUR: TAMERS OF THE WILD WEST: FRED HARVEY, MARY COLTER, AND THE SANTA FE RAILWAY
SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 6

For trip price and further information, please call 713-666-9000 or email registrar@houstonseminar.org.

WHY WE HUG TREES: EXPLORING THE INSTINCTIVE BOND BETWEEN HUMANS AND NATURE
THREE WEDNESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 25, OCTOBER 9 AND 16, 6:30-8 P.M.

\$75/3 sessions
 \$30/1 session

MURRAY IN THE "OFF-YEAR" ELECTIONS: MAYORAL MUSINGS, CITY COUNCIL CALCULATIONS, SCHOOL BOARD SPECULATIONS AND THE TAKE ON TEXAS IN 2014
TWO MONDAYS, OCTOBER 21 AND NOVEMBER 4, 6-7:30 P.M.

\$40/2 sessions
 \$25/1 session

PLANET HOUSTON: HOME TO THE WORLD
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 6:30-8 P.M.
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, BUS TOUR, 9 A.M.-4 P.M.

\$35/Panel discussion
 \$150/Bus tour
Asia Society members receive \$5 discount for panel discussion.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES
FIVE THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 31, NOVEMBER 7,14,21, DECEMBER 5
NOON-1:30 P.M.

\$100/5 sessions
 \$30/1 session

LATIN FUSION: PRIVATE HOUSTON COLLECTIONS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 10 A.M.- NOON, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 10 A.M. – NOON, TWO THURSDAYS, NOVEMBER 5, 7:00 P.M. 8:30 P.M., NOVEMBER 12, 10 A.M. – NOON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

\$150/5 sessions
 \$35/1 session

TOTAL FEE:	
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WWW.HOUSTONSEMINAR.ORG

Please contact us if you would prefer to receive an online-only version of the brochure.

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Red Figures Indicate distances between cities



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FALL 2013 SCHEDULE AND ENROLLMENT FORM

aim at the FRED HARVEY HOTEL marked

A STUDY TOUR

Taming the Wild West:
 Fred Harvey, Mary
 Colter and the Santa
 Fe Railway

Why We Hug Trees:
 Exploring the
 Instinctive Bond
 Between Humans and
 Nature

Murray on the
 "Off-Year" Elections:
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 Take on Texas in 2014

Behind the Headlines

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 to the World

Latin Fusion: Private
 Houston Collections



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COMING IN SPRING 2014

The Most Southern Place in the World: The Mississippi Delta