





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

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CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

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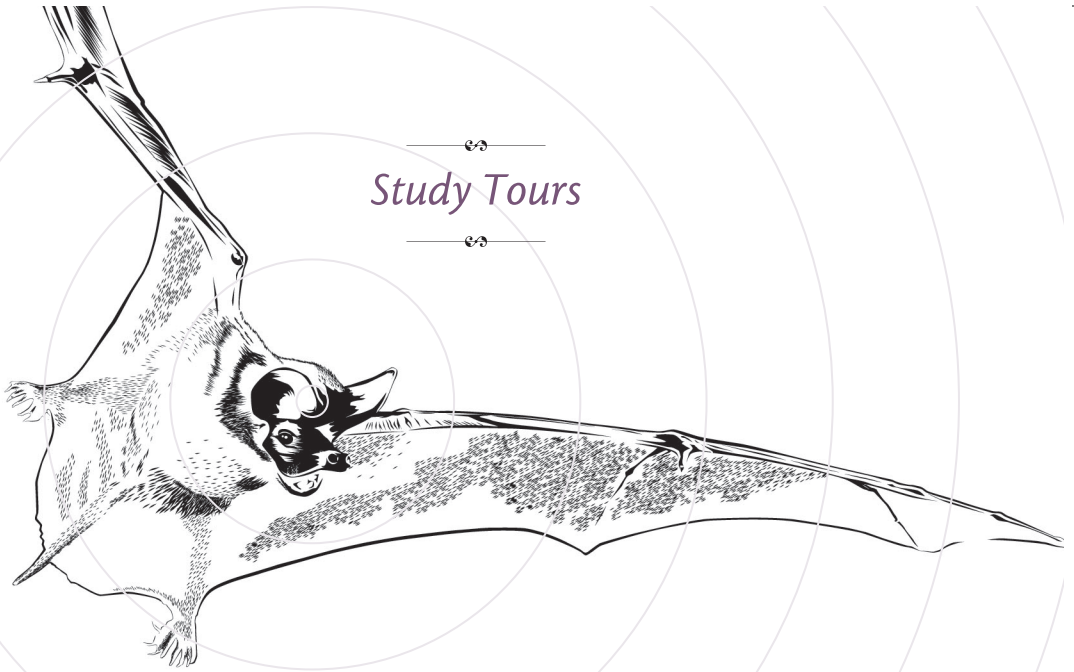
OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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Study Tours

Birds, Bees, Bats, and Wine in the Texas Hill Country

FRIDAY–SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7–9, 2016. Participants will meet in Johnson City and travel by motorcoach for the remainder of the study tour.



From our base in Johnson City, we will explore the natural wonders and outsize ambitions that characterize Texas from the perspective of the Hill Country of central Texas. Our visit will focus on life in the twentieth century. **LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON** was born in this area in 1908. The National Park Service now maintains LBJ's birthplace, family cemetery, and ranch on the banks of the Pedernales River. We will have a guided tour of the **Texas White House**, where an airstrip and hanger sit in a rural setting complete with livestock. At the early twentieth-century working **Sauer-Beckmann homestead**, we will learn fascinating details about life and agricultural practices in a not-so-distant but very different time in Texas.

We will also tour **Selah Ranch Preserve**, a 5,500-acre property that **J. David Bamberger** started restoring in 1969. Over the past forty years, he has transformed an overgrazed, worn-out piece of land into a sustainable working ranch that nourishes wildlife and native plants. Over 200 species of birds, 97 species of grass, 245 species of wildflowers, and 28 mammal species are found on the property. Today Selah is an epicenter for landowner education and features an outdoor research lab and hands-on science classroom.

Our sojourn will feature a rare private visit to Bat Conservation International's **Bracken Cave Preserve**, the world's largest colony of bats. Here **CULLEN GEISELMAN**, BCI board member, and **FRAN HUTCHINS**, director of the Bracken

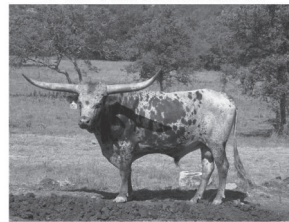


Cave Preserve, will introduce travelers to the importance and ecological niche of bats. At dusk we will watch millions of Mexican free-tailed bats pour from the mouth of the cave. The preserve is also a sanctuary for other wildlife including hawks, owls, painted buntings, wild bees, bobcats, deer, fox, and the endangered golden-cheeked warbler.

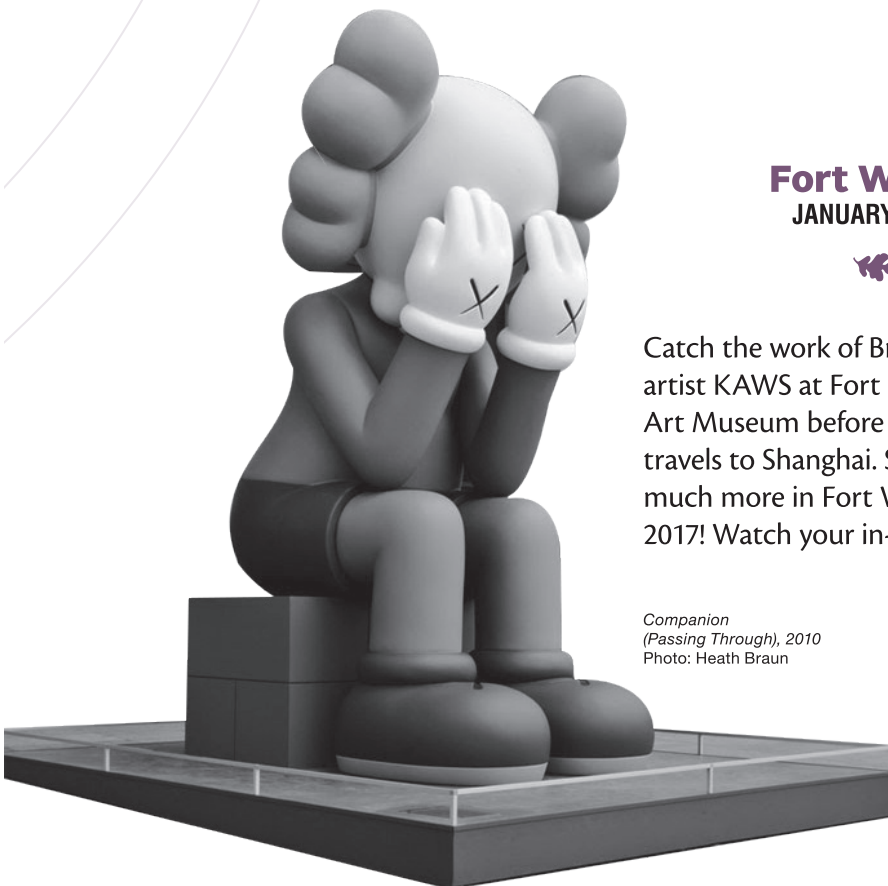
BONNIE BASKIN and **ROBERT ELDE** created the recently-opened **Hill Country Science Mill**. They will welcome us to the museum and tell us about their vision for a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math)-based museum. We will tour the facility and enjoyed a catered meal within the renovated walls of a former grist mill and cotton gin.

No trip to the region would be complete without a tour of a vineyard. **RICHARD AND BUNNY BECKER** founded **Becker Vineyards** in the 1990s and have received rave reviews of their wines ever since. We will meet the Beckers and hear about how these pioneer Texas viticulturists have expanded into lavender, and sample the fruits of their vines.

BECKER VINEYARDS



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Fort Worth JANUARY 2017

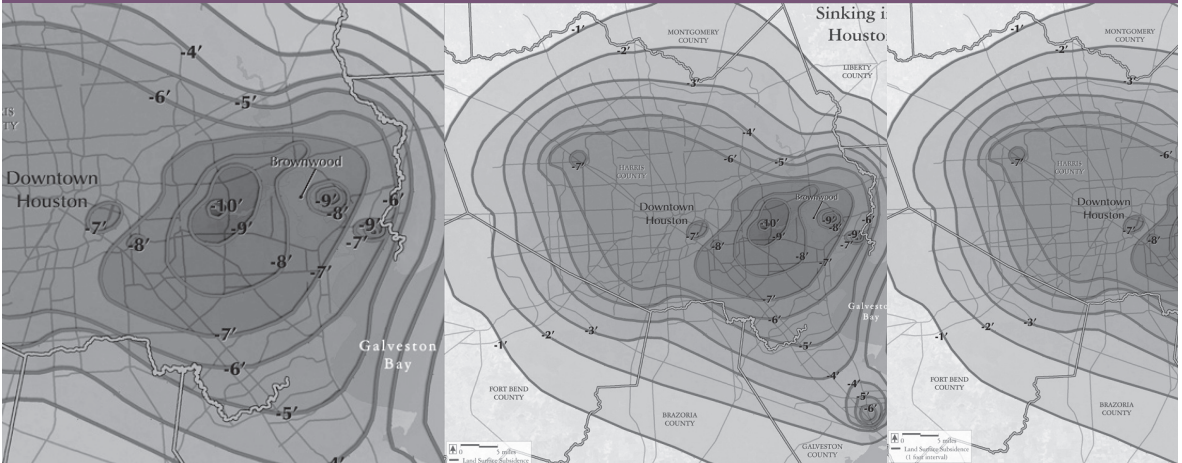


Catch the work of Brooklyn-based artist KAWS at Fort Worth's Modern Art Museum before the exhibit travels to Shanghai. See the show and much more in Fort Worth in January 2017! Watch your in-box for details.

*Companion
(Passing Through), 2010
Photo: Heath Braun*



Courses for Fall 2016



Map of Houston subsidence, 1891-2013. Courtesy of the *Texas Landscape Project: Nature and People*

Maps, History, and the Houston Environment

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2016, 6:00–7:30 P.M. Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, Hermann Park, 1500 Hermann Drive, 77004.



DAVID TODD has explored deep wells of data to develop an atlas that richly describes the development of the Lone Star State dating from prehistory to the present. He has digested colossal amounts of information from widely dispersed sources and, with the expert assistance of cartographer Jonathan Ogren, organized it into a comprehensive and comprehensible publication.

The result of their collaboration is a book with clear text accompanied by maps that chart patterns of settlement, the effect of urbanization and habitat fragmentation, water use, and the impact of Hurricane Ike, to mention a few of the sections. In his illustrated lecture, he will share insights about the greater Houston region and will welcome questions about the state at large.

DAVID TODD practiced as an environmental lawyer, founded the Conservation History Association of Texas, co-authored the *Texas Legacy Project: Stories of Courage and Conservation*, and is a rancher and sixth-generation Texan. Copies of the *Texas Landscape Project: Nature and People* atlas will be available for purchase at the course session. See registration form to reserve a copy in advance.



Johannes Brahms:

The German Master's Inspired September Years

TWO THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 6 AND OCTOBER 13, 6:30–8:00 PM.. Location to be announced to subscribers. Limited enrollment.



TIMOTHY HESTER will perform selections from the late solo piano works of German composer Johannes Brahms (1833–1897). These musical gems—Opus 116, 117, 118, and 119—were composed in the last five years of Brahms's life. They represent the epitome of the character piece, a genre of composition he had refined over the decades that captures the deepest feelings of the human spirit.

To end each program, Mr. Hester will be joined by clarinetist **MARK NUCCIO** performing one of the sonatas for clarinet and piano from Opus 120. Brahms composed these works for his friend Richard Mühlfeld, and through them brought the clarinet sonata form to new heights.

TIMOTHY HESTER is professor of piano and director of keyboard collaborative arts at the University of Houston's Moores School of Music. He has performed internationally in solo and collaborative capacity. Mr. Hester studied with Albert Hirsch at the University of Houston and earned a Master of Music degree at the Juilliard School, where he studied with Adele Marcus.

MARK NUCCIO is the newly appointed principal clarinetist of the Houston Symphony and a new faculty member of the Moores School of Music. He was previously on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music and served as acting principal clarinetist of the New York Philharmonic. After study at the University of Northern Colorado, he earned his Master of Music degree at Northwestern University.





Analyzing the Elections: Prequels and Sequels

**FOUR MONDAYS: OCTOBER 17 AND 24, NOVEMBER 14 AND 28, AND TWO
WEDNESDAYS, NOVEMBER 2 AND NOVEMBER 9, 6:00–7:30 P.M.**

Covenant Church, 4949 Caroline, 77004, in the museum district. Parking
available behind the church or on adjacent side streets





To an unprecedented degree, the 2016 elections have placed all three branches of the United States government in play. In this course, three different speakers with expertise on the Presidency, Congress, and the Supreme Court will discuss what has brought us to this point and what we might expect after the elections are finalized and each branch resumes its work.

OCTOBER 17: The Supreme Court: A Refresher. **DR. ROBERT CARP** will review what the Founding Fathers intended the Court to do, how the Court acquired the right of judicial review, and the way the Court works now: how its agenda is set, what its workload is, and how case opinions are assigned. He will also take a look at the wrestling match between the President and Congress over a Supreme Court appointment this year. **ROBERT CARP** is a professor of political science at the University of Houston. His research and teaching specialties are judicial process and behavior, constitutional law, and law and society. He has authored or co-authored seven books in the realm of judicial process and more than thirty articles on judicial decision-making in refereed journals.

OCTOBER 24: What about the Congressional Races? **DR. SEAN THERIAULT** reminds us that with the White House on the line and a vacancy on the Supreme Court, it would be easy to overlook the congressional elections. But what happens in the House and Senate will have immediate and drastic consequences for whoever wins the White House and whatever it is that the new president hopes to accomplish. Dr. Theriault will put the 2016 congressional elections in historical context and make predictions for what is likely to happen on Election Day. **SEAN THERIAULT**, a professor of government at the University of Texas in Austin, specializes in research on congressional decision-making. He was named UT Professor of the Year in 2011 and was inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Teachers in 2012.

NOVEMBER 2: The End of the Marathon: Our Two-Year-Long Presidential Race Comes, at Last, to a Merciful End. Two years after Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush started their bids for the presidency, soon followed by twenty others seeking the nominations of the Republican and Democratic parties, we will finally reach the finish line on November 8. The party nominations took widely



divergent paths: the Democrats startled by Bernie Sanders's appeal while the Republicans experienced a "Black Swan Event" in the rise of the combustible Donald Trump, who upended the usual course of things in the GOP race. Now the survivors battle it out in one of the most interesting campaigns of the last 100 years. **DR. 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.

NOVEMBER 9: The Presidential Race in Perspective: DR. RICHARD MURRAY. Now that the results are in, what does it mean for the future of the country and the Republican and Democratic Parties? Did the Electoral College map shift? Did each party's bases change? What can we expect from the new President?

NOVEMBER 14: What's Next for Congress? DR. SEAN THERIAULT. Who won? Who lost? Why? And perhaps most importantly, what does it mean for the future of politics and policy in the United States?

NOVEMBER 28: The Supreme Court: a Look into the Future: DR. ROBERT CARP. What can we expect of the Court in the next four or eight years, given the type of people the new President is likely to appoint?





HUNKY DORY

Eat Local at Hunky Dory

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 12:00–1:30 PM. Hunky Dory Restaurant,
1801 N. Shepherd, 77008.



It's hard to believe that the word "locavore" was first coined in 2005 (and surged in popularity to win "Word of the Year" in 2007 in the Oxford American Dictionary's annual contest). Inspired by the success of our Delicious Yucatan learning lunch at Caracol last semester, The Houston Seminar invites you to "dine local" at Hunky Dory, the Treadsack Group's hottest new pub/restaurant, in the Heights. Treadsack's co-owner, **CHRIS CUSACK**, and its director of operations, **BENJY MASON**, will lead a discussion on their passion: the meaning of eating local and the sense of community inspired by the locavore movement. Internationally acclaimed chef **RICHARD KNIGHT** (late of Feast fame) will introduce each locally sourced course. Join this food movement...at least for a lunch!



Waterford® perfume bottle



Coming to Our Senses: The World of Perfume

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2:00–3:30 P.M. Forum of Civics Building,
2503 Westheimer at Kirby Drive. Limited enrollment



Smell is thought to be our oldest sense. While it's not as dominant today as sight and touch, it is still our most evocative sense: olfactory sensors connect to the part of our brain that governs emotions and emotional memory. When we encounter a particular fragrance, it not only stimulates our sense of smell but also engages our memory of certain experiences and the emotions attached to them. Humans recall scents considerably longer and with greater accuracy than they do visual images, and the smell of a particular perfume can instantly and vividly remind us of someone from our past.

In an interactive presentation, **ALYSSA HARAD**, author of the memoir *Coming To My Senses: A Story of Perfume, Pleasure, and an Unlikely Bride*, will introduce participants to the history of perfume, the perfume industry, the range of scents used, and how perfume is made. She will also explore scent's link to memory, why an individual might select a particular perfume, feminism vs. femininity, the pleasure to be found in perfume, and helpful tips to know before you embark on buying perfume.

ALYSSA HARAD is a writer based in Austin, Texas. In addition to being a perfume expert and collector, she has worked as a cook, journalist, and creative arts facilitator at a private psychiatric hospital and has collaborated with therapists and others to work with girls and women, particularly survivors of sexual abuse and trauma. She holds an undergraduate degree in English from Harvard and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Texas.



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 or online. As courses sell out quickly, it is advised to enroll online for quicker confirmation.

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. Discount is available only on forms mailed to The Houston Seminar. Teachers and students at accredited institutions may attend classes for a discounted fee of \$10 per session with a school I.D.

Refunds: You will receive a partial refund if you cancel at least two weeks before a course begins; a 20 percent 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 consult www.houstonseminar.org

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





Course List and Reservation Form

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PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE AN ONLINE-ONLY VERSION OF THE BROCHURE

PLEASE ENROLL ME/US IN THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

STUDY TOUR: BIRDS, BEES, BATS, AND WINE IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

OCTOBER 7-9, 2016

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

MAPS, HISTORY, AND THE HOUSTON ENVIRONMENT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 6:00-7:30 P.M.

☐ \$30 single session

☐ \$65 with book

JOHANNES BRAHMS: THE GERMAN MASTER'S INSPIRED SEPTEMBER YEARS

TWO THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 6 AND OCTOBER 13, 6:30-8:00 P.M.

☐ \$100 all sessions

☐ \$50 single session

ANALYZING THE ELECTIONS: PREQUELS AND SEQUELS

FOUR MONDAYS: OCTOBER 17 AND 24, NOVEMBER 14 AND 28, AND TWO
WEDNESDAYS, NOVEMBER 2 AND NOVEMBER 9, 6:00-7:30 P.M.

☐ \$150 all sessions

☐ \$30 single session

EAT LOCAL AT HUNKY DORY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 12:00-1:30 P.M.

☐ \$75

COMING TO OUR SENSES: THE WORLD OF PERFUME

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2:00-3:30 P.M.

☐ \$60

FORT WORTH

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FALL 2016 SCHEDULE AND ENROLLMENT FORM

Maps, History, and the Houston Environment

Johannes Brahms: The German Master's Inspired September Years

Analyzing the Elections: Prequels and Sequels

Eat Local at Hunky Dory

Coming to Our Senses: The World of Perfume

STUDY TOURS

Birds, Bees, Bats, and Wine in the Texas Hill Country

Fort Worth

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