



THE HOUSTON SEMINAR

FALL 2024

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vera Baker
 Marcela Descalzi Brave
 Barbara Catechis
 Janet Clark
 Liz Crowell
 Erika de la Garza
 Anne Furse
 Marta Galicki
 Gastonia "Terri" Goodman
 Lynn Kelly
 Rainey Knudson
 Nancy Manderson
 Hadia Mawlawi
 Judy Nyquist
 Carol Price
 Lourdes Remond
 Carlisle Vandervoort
 Bess Wareing
 Ann Watson

ADVISORY BOARD

Gail Adler
 Nancy Crow Allen
 Diane Cannon
 Bettie Cartwright
 Jan Cato
 Kathleen Huggins Clarke
 Sandy Godfrey
 Kate Hawk
 Nancy Haywood
 Pamela Howard
 Josephine John
 Sis Johnson
 Marley Lott
 Gaye V. McCullough
 Evelyn Nolen
 Ann Norwood
 Mary Flood Nugent
 Beverly "Sam" Ramirez
 Louisa Stude Sarofim
 Anne Schlumberger
 Dorothea Shaddock
 Hinda Simon
 Barbara Sklar
 Josephine Smith
 Ginger Teague
 Gay Tigner
 Emily Todd
 Vallette Windham



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.

WE MOURN THE DEATHS OF OUR BELOVED FRIENDS

Emilie "Mimi" Kilgore

Board of Directors 1985-2005,
 Advisory Board 2005-2022

Jacqueline Andre Schmeal

Board of Directors 1979-2002,
 Advisory Board 2002-2023

*She opened every door;
 she always dwelt in possibility.*

EMILY DICKINSON

Fall 2024

Study Tour		PAGE
	What is Kansas City? Where is Kansas City?	4
Daytime		
	Journey Through Gandhi's Legacy: A Museum Exploration	5
	Fashion City	6
	Hidden Houston: Research in Motion	8
	Texas and Modern Architecture	10
	Houston Cultural Icons: Behind the Scenes at Jones Hall and the Houston Symphony	12
	Persian Feast	14
Evening		
	What is a Poem and Why Does Poetry Matter?	6
	Bodies, Libraries, World Wars: The Case of Golden Age Detective Fiction	11
	Houston Cultural Icons: Behind the Scenes at Jones Hall and the Houston Symphony	12

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
OCTOBER						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
NOVEMBER						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
DECEMBER						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Kansas City Explored

Thursday, October 24–Sunday, October 27

© Andy Ryan



© J. Pellgen

This study tour will focus on the culture of Kansas City through its art, architecture and art, city planning, food, and investment in sports. Stephen Fox will guide us through the City's downtown, landscape architect George Kessler's greenway park and boulevard system and real estate developer J.C. Nichols's Country Club District (models for Houston's Hermann Park and River Oaks), and Hall family's utopian Crown Plaza. We will visit landmarks such as the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and the World War I Memorial as well as several private art collections. Kansas City has an abundance of artist studio spaces and we plan to visit a couple of them. Our itinerary includes meals at chef-driven as well as renowned barbecue spots. Along the way we will hear from insightful speakers, thoughtful collectors, and perhaps visit a few of Kansas City's notable shops!

Travelers will stay at Crossroads Hotel, a 2018 architectural transformation of the 1911 Pabst Brewing Depot, and home of comfortable rooms, an appealing bar and restaurant, an art gallery and an artist in residence program co-curated by Houston's Hesse McGraw.

Architectural historian Stephen Fox has long wanted to bring a group to Kansas City because of the city's influence on Houston. Here is your chance to come along.

✈️ STUDY TOUR

For trip pricing and further information, or to place your name on an interest list, please call 713-666-9000 or email registrar@houstonseminar.org.

COURSES

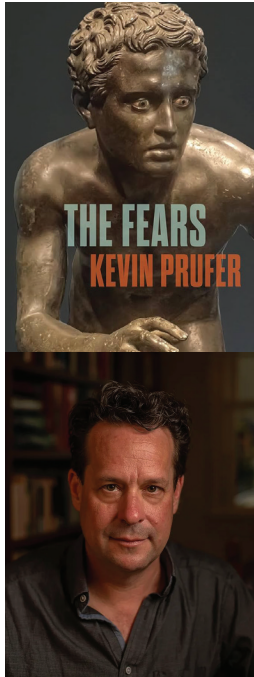
Journey Through Gandhi's Legacy: A Museum Exploration

Saturday, September 21, 9:30–11:00 A.M.
12379 Riceville School Road, 77031. Limited enrollment.

Discover Mahatma Gandhi's legacy during this private visit to the Eternal Gandhi Museum Houston. Immerse yourself in the exhibits that capture Gandhi's universal values of nonviolence, peace and social justice, as well as his profound influence on India's quest for independence. Houston is the first city in the United States to have a museum solely dedicated to Gandhi, a testament to the tireless efforts of a group of forward-thinking Houstonians whose vision materialized this cultural gem in the fall of 2022. Gain invaluable insights from the museum's co-founders as they share how this institution came to life. We will also enjoy chai and a traditional Indian snack. Join us and prepare to be inspired to effect positive change in your own community.

Courtesy: Eternal Gandhi Museum Houston





Courtesy: Kevin Prufer

What is a Poem and Why Does Poetry Matter?

Three Tuesdays, September 24, October 1 and 8, 6:00–7:30 P.M. The Jung Center, 5200 Montrose, 77006. Parking information will be provided to subscribers.

What exactly is a poem? Is it any lineated work of literature? Is it the expression of a particular kind of thought? Is it a bundle of literary conventions? And *why* does poetry matter? This seminar will address such questions and more. The focus will be on the vitality of poetry—historically, politically, and personally. Emily Dickinson's poems reflected not only her time; she predicted the future of art. T. S. Eliot's poems ushered in a new cultural age. Other poets have defined their eras and helped countless readers to see the world with new complexity, insight, and connection. **Kevin Prufer** will explore how poetry can be a source of enrichment for all of us.

Kevin Prufer is the author of nine poetry collections and a novel. He is also editor of many books on literary translation, literary publishing, and European and American poetry. Professor Prufer is the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Lannan Foundation, and his recent poetry collections have won the Julie Suk Award, been short-listed for the Rilke Prize, long-listed for the 2019 Pulitzer Prize, and earned spots on best-of-the-year lists from the *New York Times*, *Publishers Weekly*, and *BookList*. He is a professor in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Houston.

Fashion City

Saturday, September 28, 10:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M. HCC Fashion Building, 3601 Fannin, 77004. Parking information will be provided to subscribers. Limited enrollment.

Get a closer look at the history of fashion in Houston and beyond as we visit the Houston Community College Fashion Archives, a collection of historical and contemporary clothing and accessories illustrating important trends over the past 280 years. At this repository of over 13,000 garments with an emphasis on Texas made and worn pieces, we will explore the wearable art that has adorned our city in the past, as well as some that is being worn and created right here, right now. The collection includes pieces by Caesar Galindo, Houston-born New York designer and influencer; Chloe Dao, Houston-based designer and Project Runway Season 2 winner; and dresses worn by Lynn Wyatt, Julia Frankel, Kay King, and other notable Houstonians.

Led by Fashion Archive Ambassador and Fashion Department Professor Alexander Chapman and Librarian/Archivist Denise Hulett, we will tour the collection, and learn about how the collection has evolved, including a new effort to photograph special pieces for a public archive.



Credits to come once visuals are finalized.



Hidden Houston: Research in Motion

Thursday, October 17, 3:00–4:30 P.M. Tudor Fieldhouse, Rice University, 6100 Main, 77005. Parking information will be provided to subscribers. Limited enrollment.

Discover a new 6,000-square-foot innovation hub for human performance technology and training regimens located in Rice University's Tudor Fieldhouse. The Center for Human Performance is a joint research collaboration among Houston Methodist's Department of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, Rice University's Department of Kinesiology, and Rice Athletics. State-of-the-art devices and equipment facilitate the Center's research and clinical care initiatives focused on the evaluation and customization of exercise techniques and nutrition and sleep regimens that prevent injuries and restore and enhance performance for athletes, performing artists, older adults, people with disabilities, and surgical patients.

Rice University's **Augusto X. Rodriguez** and **Nadia H. Agha** will guide us through the Center, provide demonstrations of 3D motion capture and strength, force, and balance assessment, and will explain the opportunities the Center presents for physicians, researchers, students, trainers, and coaches to foster innovative ideas and make meaningful discoveries across fields as diverse as orthopedic surgery, rehabilitation, kinesiology, biomechanics, and musculoskeletal regeneration.

Augusto Rodriguez is Chair of Rice University's Department of Kinesiology and the Co-Director of the Center for Human Performance. He holds a PhD in Kinesiology from the University of Houston and teaches in the areas of health sciences and sports medicine, including epidemiology, statistics for the health professional, and research methods. Kinesiology faculty member Nadia Agha earned her Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology-Exercise Science and her PhD in Kinesiology at the University of Houston. Her research focuses on the effects of exercise for patients with cancer, neuromuscular diseases, and diabetes, and the benefits of exercise to astronaut immune health during space flight.





Credits to come once visuals are finalized.

Texas and Modern Architecture

Monday, October 21, 10:30 A.M.–12:00 P.M. El Dorado Ballroom, 2310 Elgin, 77004.

Architectural historian Stephen Fox writes, “Kathryn E. O’Rourke and Ben Koush have teamed up to produce a lively, provocative, sometimes irreverent look into what might be described as the long mid-twentieth century, using Texan buildings and places to frame their observations.”

Join author **Kathryn O’Rourke** and photographer **Ben Koush** in conversation as they describe the impetus for and process of creating their new book *Home, Heat, Money, God: Texas and Modern Architecture*. Conceived as a visual survey highlighting the state’s rich legacy of mid-twentieth-century architecture, the book trains a critical twenty-first-century eye on what it meant to be seen as “modern” in Texas between the 1930s and the 1970s. HHMG includes well-known structures like Houston’s Astrodome (1965, Wilson, Morris, Crane and Anderson), Dallas’s Temple Emanu-El (1957, Howard R. Meyer and Max Sandfield, William W. Wurster, consulting architect) and presents lesser-known gems such as the 1937 Kraigher House by Richard Neutra in Brownsville.

Kathryn O’Rourke is an architectural historian and professor of art history at Trinity University. She is the author of *Modern Architecture in Mexico City* and editor of *O’Neil Ford on Architecture*. Ben Koush is an architect and historian. He has written for *Architects’ Newspaper*, *Cite Magazine*, *Texas Architect*, and *houstonmod.org*.

Bodies, Libraries, World Wars: The Case of Golden Age Detective Fiction

Three Wednesdays, October 30, November 6 and 13, 6:00–7:30 P.M. Rice University. Directions will be provided to subscribers.

The “golden age” of detective fiction refers to the period between the two World Wars when (mostly English) authors produced an astounding variety of texts, often under multiple pseudonyms. In 1930, with the formation of the Detective Club, writers set for themselves, for the public, and for posterity a set of rules for writing detective fiction, many of them having to do with a sense of “fair play” for their readers. Founders of the club included Agatha Christie and Dorothy L. Sayer. Although many of the mysteries written at the time offer ambivalent representations of women’s agency and sexuality, this was nonetheless a genre in which women excelled and achieved popular and sometimes critical success.

In this three-part course taught by Rice University’s Helena Michie, we will be asking—and attempting to answer—a variety of questions, big and small. On the big side: what is the appeal of mystery stories, in particular murder mysteries? Why is it important to have solutions, to put “matter into place,” and why do we keep returning to the genre after one or more mysteries have been “solved”? Medium-sized questions will have to do with elements of the genre itself from the locked room to the often-euphemistic approach to dead bodies. Smaller scale, but still important questions will coalesce around the reading of three novels by three famous female practitioners of the genre: Agatha Christie, Dorothy Sayers, and Ngaio Marsh. In order to avoid the inevitable spoilers, and to enliven and deepen our conversations, Professor Michie asks that seminar participants please read the novel we are discussing before each class:

OCTOBER 30: Agatha Christie, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* (1926)

NOVEMBER 6: Dorothy L. Sayers, *Murder Must Advertise* (1933)

NOVEMBER 13: Ngaio Marsh, *Artists in Crime* (1938)

Helena Michie is the Agnes Cullen Arnold Professor in Humanities at Rice University and the former Director of Rice University’s Center for Women, Gender and Sexuality. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and is the author of five books in Victorian Studies and the study of gender and sexuality. Professor Michie has been an NEH and Guggenheim Fellow. She teaches courses in feminist theory, literary theory, and Victorian literature and culture.

Houston Cultural Icons: Behind the Scenes at Jones Hall and the Houston Symphony

Tuesday, November 12, 6:00–7:30 P.M., and Friday, November 22, 9:00–11:30 A.M. November 12: Private Residence. Directions will be provided to subscribers. November 22: Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana, 77002.

NOVEMBER 12: Join the Houston Seminar in a private home for an evening of music and conversation about Houston's oldest and largest performing arts organization, the Houston Symphony. The Symphony's Executive Director, **John Mangum**, will share his insights on the inner workings of the Symphony: how programming comes together, how soloists and guest conductors are selected, and the impact that the Symphony has on the city of Houston through its innovative community and education outreach. Mr. Mangum has held leadership positions at the L.A. Philharmonic, the New York Philharmonic, and the San Francisco Symphony, among others. The talk will be followed by a musical recital by one of the Symphony's virtuosic musicians. Beverages and light bites will be provided.

NOVEMBER 22: Enjoy a backstage tour of the newly renovated Jones Hall led by **Vicky Dominguez**, Chief Operating Officer of the Houston Symphony. The multi-million-dollar project will be completed over the course of four summers from 2022–2025 and is being primarily funded through private sources. Importantly, the concert hall's acoustics were vastly improved for patrons and musicians alike. The renovations included state-of-the-art technology upgrades to audio and video infrastructure, as well as lighting upgrades, contributing significantly to the Symphony's live streaming of its Classical and Pops concerts, viewed by audiences locally as well as globally. The patron experience has been elevated through enlargement and remodel of the Toomim Family Green Room; restructuring of the lobby to allow for improved accessibility, small chamber music recitals, or special patron dinners; replacement and realignment of all auditorium seating; and, even, substantial increase and improved access to restrooms. After the tour, you are invited to stay for a dress rehearsal by the Houston Symphony.



Persian Feast

Wednesday, December 4, 11:30 A.M.–1:30 P.M.
Café Caspian, 12126 Westheimer, 77077.

Join us as we explore the delicious flavors of Persian cuisine and its rich and illustrious history that spans thousands of years. Café Caspian in west Houston will prepare traditional dishes of rice and various meats and vegetables flavored with fruits, nuts, limes, saffron, and cardamon.

The lunch will be accompanied by Iranian tea and will end with a traditional dessert. Over lunch we will learn about the history of Persian cuisine, and how it influenced and was influenced by other regions throughout the centuries.



Discounts

Teachers and students with a school I.D. may attend classes for a discounted fee. Please call the registrar for details.

Refunds

For refund requests that occur at least two weeks before a course begins, a 20% cancellation fee will be charged. If others have been turned away from a limited-enrollment course, no refund will be issued unless your place can be filled. Refund policies for courses involving travel will differ.




Enrollment

All courses are available on a first-come, first-served basis. You may enroll by mail, email, phone, or online.

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). Please call for more information.

Connect with us!

-  HoustonSeminar
-  TheHoustonSeminar
-  HoustonSeminar

Sign up for our email list to receive announcements of pop-up events, course updates, and other news.

houstonseminar.org/contact



Course List and Reservation Form

If you no longer wish to receive this mailed brochure, please email registrar@houstonseminar.org. Please stay in touch! If you do not receive our emails, please email registrar@houstonseminar.org

PLEASE ENROLL ME/US IN THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

STUDY TOUR

What is Kansas City? Where is Kansas City?
Thursday, October 24–Sunday, October 27

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




Journey Through Gandhi's Legacy: A Museum Exploration

Saturday, September 21, 9:30 –11:00 A.M., \$75

 September 21

What is a Poem and Why Does Poetry Matter?

Three Tuesdays, September 24, October 1, and 8, 6:00–7:30 P.M., \$40 per session

 September 24
  October 1
  October 17

Fashion City

Saturday, September 28, 10:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M., \$50

 September 28

Hidden Houston: Research in Motion

Thursday, October 17, 3:00 – 4:30 P.M., \$40

 October 17

Texas and Modern Architecture

Monday, October 21, 10:30 A.M.–12:00 P.M., \$40

 October 21

Bodies, Libraries, World Wars: The Case of Golden Age Detective Fiction

Three Wednesdays, October 30, November 6 and 13, 6:00–7:30 P.M., \$40 per session

 October 30
  November 6
  November 13

Houston Cultural Icons: Behind the Scenes at Jones Hall and the Houston Symphony

Tuesday, November 12, 6:00–7:30 P.M. and Friday, November 22, 9:00–11:30 A.M., \$60 per session

 November 12
  November 22

Persian Feast

Wednesday, December 4, 11:30 A.M.–1:30 P.M., \$75

 December 4

NAME	<input type="text"/>
ADDRESS	<input type="text"/>
CITY/ZIP	<input type="text"/>
PHONE	<input type="text"/>
EMAIL*	<input type="text"/>
Payment Info	* Providing an email address allows us to send registration receipts, course reminders, and notices of change or supplemental information. We do not share or sell email addresses or any other enrollment information.
CC#	<input type="text"/>
EXP. DATE (MM/YY)	<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> CCV# <input type="text"/>
SIGNATURE	<input type="text"/>

Please send reservation form and payment to

THE HOUSTON SEMINAR
P.O. Box 22764
Houston, TX
77227-2764

(713) 666-9000
registrar@houstonseminar.org
Register online at
houstonseminar.org



Amount Enclosed

\$

- Check
- Visa
- MasterCard
- American Express



THE HOUSTON SEMINAR

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

(713) 666-9000
HoustonSeminar.org

**Fall
2024**

Daytime

Journey Through Gandhi's Legacy: A Museum Exploration

Fashion City

Hidden Houston: Research in Motion

Texas and Modern Architecture

Houston Cultural Icons: Behind the Scenes at Jones Hall and the Houston Symphony

Persian Feast

Evening

What is a Poem and Why Does Poetry Matter?

Bodies, Libraries, World Wars: The Case of Golden Age Detective Fiction

Houston Cultural Icons: Behind the Scenes at Jones Hall and the Houston Symphony

Study Tour

What is Kansas City? Where is Kansas City?

