



THE HOUSTON SEMINAR

FALL 2022



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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A NOTE TO OUR PATRONS

We are excited to continue offering study tours, along with a combination of Zoom and in-person courses in Houston. We continue to navigate the changing circumstances of COVID-19 with the health and safety of our speakers and audience in mind; please check our website for updated guidelines. Most Zoom courses will be recorded, and you will be able to register for and view them on our website for the duration of the semester. Please note that by registering for Zoom courses, you are understood to be giving your permission to be recorded.

Fall 2022

Study Tours

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Zoom



In-person

September

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November

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STUDY TOURS



Old Victoria Courthouse



Cattle, Kingdoms: Coastal Bend

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3–SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Texas' economy and its popular culture during the last quarter of the nineteenth century were especially associated with cattle ranching. In the first of several projected study tours, the Houston Seminar will explore what was once the ranch country of the Coastal Bend, the flat plains between the Colorado and Nueces rivers. This study tour will take us to Victoria, Goliad, Beeville, and Refugio, the portion of the state where Mexican livestock ranching was introduced to Texas in the eighteenth century. We will experience both the history of this region and efforts to preserve—and creatively interpret—this legacy.

The tour includes bus transportation, meals, and three nights' hotel accommodations (Victoria and Beeville). Pricing will be announced shortly.

COURSES



History of Coffee and Coffeehouses: 1500-1800 [Z](#)

TWO WEDNESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 14 AND 21, 6:00–7:30 P.M.
ZOOM INFORMATION WILL BE EMAILED TO SUBSCRIBERS.

This two-part course traces the rise and dissemination of coffee in the period between 1500 and 1800 CE. We will explore the architecture, social atmosphere, and culture of coffeehouses from a cross-cultural perspective.

Coffee, a plant native to the highlands of Ethiopia, was first consumed as a hot beverage in Yemen during the fourteenth or fifteenth century. In the sixteenth century, the new drink spread beyond the Arabian Peninsula.

Coffeehouses then proliferated in the eastern Mediterranean region, Ottoman Turkey, and Safavid Iran. In the second half of the seventeenth century, coffee and coffeehouses were introduced to Europe.

In the first lecture **Farshid Emami** will take us to the Ottoman and Safavid lands, focusing on the cities of Aleppo, Istanbul, and Isfahan. The second lecture explores the early European coffeehouses of Venice, Paris, and London.

Farshid Emami is an associate professor of art history at Rice University where he specializes in art and architecture of the Islamic world with a focus on the early modern period and particularly Safavid Iran. Trained as an architect and urban designer, Professor Emami completed his Ph.D. in history of art and architecture at Harvard University.

Top
Coffeehouses in Istanbul,
ca. 1800

Triptych
Ms. 439, Folio 9
© The Trustees of the Chester
Beatty Library, Dublin



Courtesy: The Ion

Innovative Houston: Visits to The Ion and Greentown Labs

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1:00–3:00 P.M. 4201 MAIN, 77002. PARKING AVAILABLE ON SITE. SUBSCRIBERS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO WALK. LIMITED ENROLLMENT.

Travelers on Houston's Main Street have watched the rapid transformation of the former Sears building and Fiesta market into The Ion and Greentown Labs Houston. Join us to hear **Ryan LeVasseur**, **Jan Odegard**, and **Emily Reichert** reveal the activity inside these repurposed buildings as well as plans for future development of the Ion District, a joint initiative between Rice University and the City of Houston. The 16-acre mixed-use development is anchored by The Ion, a 266,000-square-foot building envisioned as a nucleus for innovation in Houston. The space fosters a community and culture where entrepreneurs and corporations come together to solve some of the world's greatest problems. Within a year of opening, The Ion has attracted several tenants, including four restaurants.

Massachusetts-based Greentown Labs opened its first satellite location here to accelerate Houston's evolution into a clean energy capital by supporting climate tech startups. The 40,000-square-foot incubator offers prototyping lab, office, and community space for up to 50 startup companies.

Ryan LeVasseur is the Managing Director of Direct Real Estate for Rice Management Company, Rice University's investment arm, and is responsible for investments in strategic development opportunities in Houston. Mr. LeVasseur previously spent five years in Hines's New York development office where he was a managing director.

Jan Odegard is the Executive Director at The Ion. Prior to joining The Ion, Mr. Odegard served as the Executive Director of the Ken Kennedy Institute at Rice University for 17 years, where he focused on building strategic partnerships to serve as catalysts for research, education, and external engagements in data and computing. He also served as the Associate Vice President for Research Computing at Rice for four years.

Emily Reichert is the CEO of Greentown Labs, the largest climate tech startup incubator in North America. As the organization's first employee in 2013, she spearheaded the rapid growth of Greentown Labs into a global center for clean technology innovation.



Greentown
Houston

Courtesy: Greentown Labs



Dixie Friend Gay Studio Visit

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2:00–3:30 P.M. DIRECTIONS WILL BE PROVIDED TO SUBSCRIBERS. LIMITED ENROLLMENT.

Tour the vibrant and beautiful studio of Houston artist **Dixie Friend Gay**, a nationally acclaimed artist with a prolific career that spans more than three decades. The remarkable breadth of her artistic production encompasses public art, sculpture, painting, and drawing. She is best known for her public art commissions, including those at George Bush Intercontinental Airport, the Port of Miami, Indianapolis International Airport, Sam Houston State University, and Texas A&M Galveston. From intimate paintings to large-scale architectural projects, Friend Gay's work is fueled by an awareness of the natural world and its ability to inspire altered states.

Friend Gay's work has been recognized by Americans for the Arts' "Public Art Network Year in Review". She has received multiple Craftsmanship Awards and was recognized as Texas Artist of the Year in 2003 by the Texas Commission for the Arts. Her work can be found in the collections of the Federal Reserve Bank in Houston, Rice University, the Huntington Museum of Art in West Virginia, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, among many others.



Courtesy: Dixie Friend Gay Studio

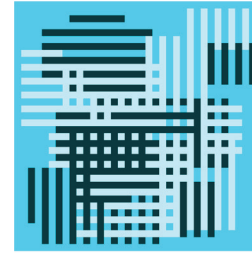
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Houston Collects

THREE THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 6, 13, AND 20, 10:00 A.M.–12:30 P.M. DIRECTIONS WILL BE PROVIDED TO SUBSCRIBERS. LIMITED ENROLLMENT.

Our fall art tours mark a return to in-person visits to private art collections, when five families will open their doors to the Houston Seminar. These seasoned and passionate collectors have fashioned their living environments around their collections. They are dedicated philanthropists and leaders in the art and cultural community. Many have been collecting for decades, concentrating on blue chip masters, regional luminaries, and rising emerging artists. Collections include craft and design objects as well as decorative arts. Hear from the collectors about how they started collecting, their most significant moments with artists, where they get inspired, and what they are excited about for the future.



**See you in the Metaverse:
A Primer
on Crypto & NFTs **

Courtesy: Jeff Davis

THREE MONDAYS, OCTOBER 10, 17, AND 24, 6:00–7:30 P.M. ZOOM INFORMATION WILL BE EMAILED TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The worlds of finance and banking are changing rapidly. Terms like De-Fi, cryptocurrency, blockchain, Ethereum and Bitcoin are dominating our news feeds. This three-part lecture series begins with two talks by **Manolo Sanchez** as he demystifies the language of digital assets, explores their potential impact on financial services, studies the main types of crypto assets (Bitcoin, Ethereum, tokens, stablecoins, and privacy coins) and how they are issued and held (wallets, exchanges, initial coin offerings, airdrops). In the last part of the series, **Jeff Davis** will dive into the world of non-fungible tokens, exploring what they are, how they are made, and how they are rocking the art world with prices in the hundreds of millions.

Manolo Sanchez is an adjunct professor in management at Rice University's Jones School of Business where he teaches disruption in financial services with a focus on cryptocurrencies and blockchain. Mr. Sanchez is the former CEO of BBVA Compass. He has earned degrees from Yale University, the London School of Economics, and the College of Europe in Belgium.

Jeff Davis holds an M.F.A. in painting and drawing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Mr. Davis is an artist, author, and founder of Davis Editions, a contemporary print publisher and online sales platform. He is the Chief Creative Officer of Art Blocks Inc., a platform focused on genuinely programmable, on-demand generative content that is stored immutably on the Ethereum blockchain.

1

Grupo Mondorgo
Calavera 3, 2009
Plasticine on wood

2

June Edmonds
The Part, 2017
Oil on canvas

3

Julie Mehretu
Untitled, 2009
Graphite, watercolor, gouache, ballpoint pen & tape on paper

4

Jamal Cyrus
Transformation_Green, 2016
Graphite, wax, vinyl records, grits and gel medium on dyed canvas mounted on styrene

5

William Bailey
Chorus, 2015
Oil on linen

6

Ed Ruscha
Old Indian, 1986
Dry pigment and acrylic on paper

7

Jean-Michel Basquiat
Untitled, 1988
Xerox, acrylic, and crayon on paper



The Midterm Elections: Our Experts Speak

TWO THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 27 AND NOVEMBER 17, 6:00–7:30 P.M. COVENANT CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL, 4949 CAROLINE, 77004. PARKING AVAILABLE BEHIND THE CHURCH AND ON ADJACENT SIDE STREETS.

Polarization. Gridlock. Inflation. Supply-chain issues. Tensions with Russia. Redistricting and gerrymandering. Pandemic. These and other weighty issues will shape the races between Republicans and Democrats during the 2022 midterm elections. Join us to hear longtime Seminar political analysts **Sean Theriault** and **Richard Murray** offer their insights before and after the midterms.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27: Professor Theriault reminds us that although the president's party normally loses seats in the midterms, these times are anything but normal. Will the political picture once again take on new colors, or even an entirely different look? What are the key races? What might we expect?

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17: Professor Murray will focus on several key questions: What happened in the U.S. House? Did Republicans regain the majority, or did the Democrats' slim margin hold up? What happened in the Senate? What happened in Texas? And what do the 2022 midterms tell us about what to expect in the 2024 cycle?

Sean Theriault, a Distinguished Teaching Professor in the department of government at the University of Texas at Austin, has received numerous teaching awards, including Professor of the Year, and is the author of several books on congressional decision-making.

Richard Murray consulted in more than 200 political campaigns in the late twentieth century and has worked in six Texas redistricting cycles from 1971 to the present. He taught political science at the University of Houston from 1966 until his retirement in 2020 and remains a Senior Research Associate at the University's Hobby Center for Public Policy.



Flora and Fauna along Sims Bayou: Visiting Houston's Raptor Center and Botanic Garden

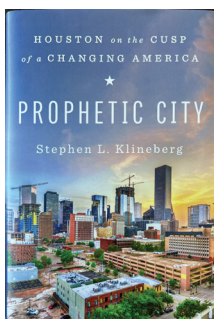
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 9:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M. 3997 RIVER, 77017. FREE ON-SITE PARKING AVAILABLE. SUBSCRIBERS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO WALK. LUNCH IS INCLUDED. LIMITED ENROLLMENT.

Houston delights with its urban gardens and nature sanctuaries. Join the Houston Seminar as we explore the Houston Audubon Raptor and Education Center and the Houston Botanic Garden, both located along Sims Bayou in historic Park Place.

We begin our day at the Houston Audubon Raptor and Education Center, a picturesque 1.1-acre sanctuary where the Education Director **Mary Anne Weber** will give us a behind-the-scenes tour of the sanctuary and some up-close encounters with hawks and owls.

We continue to the nearby Houston Botanic Garden for a private tour of the world-class, 132-acre garden and its wide variety of plant life and ecosystems led by the Garden's President **Claudia Gee Vassar**. We will learn why having a botanic garden is important to our community and hear directly from the experts about the diverse horticulture on display, including the global collection garden, the culinary garden which features edible and medicinal plants, the coastal prairie, and stormwater wetlands.

A boxed lunch will be provided, and guests are welcome to linger and enjoy the garden afterwards.



Stephen Klineberg and the Prophetic City

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 6:30–8:00 P.M. BRAZOS BOOKSTORE, 2421 BISSONNET, 77005. LIMITED ENROLLMENT.

In this evening discussion, **Stephen Klineberg** will give us the benefit of his accumulated wisdom and perspective about Houston before he moves away from the city he has studied with insight and acuity for the past 40 years.

In the annual “Kinder Houston Area Survey”, conducted since 1982, Professor Klineberg has tracked the shifts in economic outlooks, demographic patterns, life experiences, attitudes, and beliefs among successive representative samples of Harris County residents. His 2020 book *Prophetic City: Houston on the Cusp of a Changing America* goes even deeper, fleshing out the annual survey numbers with anecdotes about the people who have made Houston what it is today and the motivations behind the numbers. Professor Klineberg’s stories are riveting, and his insights provide a key to a real understanding of Houston. He helps us to interpret the past, appreciate the present, and anticipate the future, not only for Houston but for the rest of the country as well.

Stephen Klineberg is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Rice University, founding director of the Kinder Institute for Urban Research, and is the recipient of twelve major teaching awards at Rice University. Klineberg is a graduate of Haverford College, with an M.A. from the University of Paris and a Ph.D. from Harvard University.

The Twilight of Freedom: Learning from Literature

TWO MONDAYS, NOVEMBER 14 AND 21, 6:00–7:30 P.M. PRIVATE RESIDENCE. DIRECTIONS WILL BE PROVIDED TO SUBSCRIBERS. LIMITED ENROLLMENT.

In these sessions we will explore two novels: *The Passenger* by Ulrich Alexander Boschwitz and *Darkness at Noon* by Arthur Koestler. Written only months apart, both authors were sounding an alarm as their worlds sank deeper into totalitarianism. While providing a lens onto their time, both works continue to resonate today. We will bookend each session with a look at poems by two of their contemporaries, the German Bertolt Brecht and the Russian Osip Mandelstam.

The title of the seminar comes from a 1918 poem by Mandelstam. Revolution in Russia still held the promise of a new age—the twilight before sunrise. Later that year, after the German surrender in World War I, a period of revolutionary unrest gave way to the establishment of the first German republic, which at one point held the promise of becoming a stable democracy. Twenty years later, both countries found themselves in the grip of totalitarian regimes. The twilight turned out to be the period before what Churchill called “the long night of barbarism” descended.

Our speaker, **Philip Boehm**, has translated both novels into English for the contemporary audience. He is an American playwright, literary translator, and theater director. Mr. Boehm has translated into English more than 30 novels and plays by German and Polish writers. He has received a number of translation awards as well as National Endowment for the Arts and Guggenheim fellowships.



Study Tours

COMING IN 2023

Houston, Meet Dallas

FRIDAY, MARCH 24–SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023

Update those stereotypes of Big D with a weekend exploring our neighbor up I-45. Highlights will include art and architecture tours of Cowboys Stadium, Fair Park, Temple Emanu-El, the Trinity River Audubon Center, and architecturally significant private homes. Mark your calendars!

Washington, D.C.

TENTATIVE DATES: THURSDAY,
APRIL 20–SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023

Join the Houston Seminar for a study tour of the Washington, D.C. area, including a visit to Glenstone, the nearly 300-acre indoor and outdoor art museum in Potomac, Maryland. We also plan to visit Hillwood Estate, Museum, & Gardens, the opulent residence and grounds of Marjorie Merriweather Post.

TO PLACE YOUR NAME ON AN INTEREST LIST FOR EITHER
STUDY TOUR, PLEASE CALL 713-666-9000 OR EMAIL
REGISTRAR@HOUSTONSEMINAR.ORG.

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.

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of pop-up events,
course updates,
and other news.

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Course List and Reservation Form

Please send
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and payment to

THE HOUSTON SEMINAR

P.O. Box 22764
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77227-2764

(713) 666-9000

registrar@
houstonseminar.org

Register online at
[houstonseminar.org](#)

















Amount Enclosed

\$

- ☐ Check
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- ☐ American Express

PLEASE ENROLL ME/US IN THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

Cattle, Kingdoms: Coastal Bend Thursday, November 3–Sunday, November 6
For trip pricing and further information, please call 713-666-9000 or email registrar@houstonseminar.org.

History of Coffee and Coffeehouses: 1500-1800 Two Wednesdays, September 14 and 21, 6:00–7:30 P.M., \$25 per session	<input type="checkbox"/>  September 14 <input type="checkbox"/>  September 21
Innovative Houston: Visits to The Ion and Greentown Labs Tuesday, September 27, 1:00–3:00 P.M., \$50, limited enrollment	<input type="checkbox"/>  September 27
Dixie Friend Gay Studio Visit Thursday, September 29, 2:00–3:30 P.M., \$50, limited enrollment	<input type="checkbox"/>  September 29
Houston Collects Three Thursdays, October 6, 13, and 20, 10:00 A.M.–12:30 P.M., \$60 per session, limited enrollment	<input type="checkbox"/>  October 6 <input type="checkbox"/>  October 13 <input type="checkbox"/>  October 20
See you in the Metaverse: A Primer on Crypto & NFTs Three Mondays, October 10, 17, and 24, 6:00–7:30 P.M., \$25 per session	<input type="checkbox"/>  October 10 <input type="checkbox"/>  October 17 <input type="checkbox"/>  October 24
The Midterm Elections: Our Experts Speak Two Thursdays, October 27 and November 17, 6:00–7:30 P.M., \$35 per session	<input type="checkbox"/>  October 27 <input type="checkbox"/>  November 17
Flora and Fauna along Sims Bayou: Visiting Houston's Raptor Center and Botanic Garden Wednesday, November 9, 9:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M., \$100, limited enrollment	<input type="checkbox"/>  November 9
Stephen Klineberg and the Prophetic City Thursday, November 10, 6:30–8:00 P.M., \$35, limited enrollment	<input type="checkbox"/>  November 10
The Twilight of Freedom: Learning from Literature Two Mondays, November 14 and 21, 6:00–7:30 P.M., \$35 per session, limited enrollment	<input type="checkbox"/>  November 14 <input type="checkbox"/>  November 21

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