

sponsored by:



THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
Potsdam

# Course Descriptions Fall 2021

## SOAR

*lifelong learning in the North Country*

affiliated with:

ROAD SCHOLAR  
*Institute Network*

### Note from Chair, Lyn Swafford

Welcome to the Fall 2021 semester of SOAR courses! The Board was sincerely hoping we could return to in-person classes this Fall. However, since planning for and scheduling the Fall semester's courses began last March, the unpredictable nature of the COVID pandemic once again compelled the BOD to make the decision that all SOAR courses this Fall will need to be on Zoom.

The SOAR Board of Directors hopes to be able to reintroduce some live, in-person classes for the Spring 2022 semester. As the area colleges gradually open their doors and as we find additional classroom sites, we hope to expand our course offerings to include live classes while continuing to offer some on-line courses.

Meanwhile, we continue to offer Zoom courses, with **no membership fee**, to family, friends and other members of our community. Most courses do not have a registration cap - we are encouraging you to register for as many as you would like. The **Fall courses will not be recorded**, so be sure to attend those classes that interest you.

The SOAR Board of Directors, working as a team, has put together an interesting array of classes. We hope that you'll find several that will whet your learning appetite.

Keep SOARing,  
Lyn

### Notes on Procedure

To register for Fall 2021 Zoom courses, please click on this link to go to the online registration form <https://forms.gle/MUiBWAXUsSzusXLd7>, or type it into your browser.

To complete the registration form:

1. Fill in the required fields: **name, email address, mailing address, preferred phone number**.  
Optional fields to fill in are: **other phone number, be ambassador**.
2. Click on the check box next to the titles of the courses you would like to take.
3. When you have completed your course selections, click on "Submit." Your choices will be sent to the Registration Committee who will register you and then send you an email listing the courses you are in.
4. After you "Submit" your registration, a web page that allows you to submit another response will be displayed. **This is only necessary if you wish to add more courses**. If you wish to drop a course, email the Registration Committee at [soarregister@gmail.com](mailto:soarregister@gmail.com).

Registration for a course is necessary to receive an "invitation" to the "Zoom meeting." Enrollment is unlimited for all courses except for #01, #02 and #24 which will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

If you have any questions concerning the registration process, please email the Registration Committee at [soarregister@gmail.com](mailto:soarregister@gmail.com) and, of course, consult the SOAR website [soarnorthcountry.com](http://soarnorthcountry.com) for the latest updates.

## 01 Introduction to Zoom 1—One on One

Zoom

**Presenter:** Janet van Weringh**Classes:** 1 session, 1.5 hours**Dates:** to be arranged individually**Cap:** 20**Description:** A one-on-one discussion and introduction to using Zoom. We will start with a phone call from Janet to set a time and then meet on Zoom. The goal is to have you feel comfortable attending a SOAR class.**Presenter's Background:** Janet worked in the IT Departments at Clarkson University and SUNY Potsdam before retiring and joining SOAR shortly afterwards. She is vice-chair of the SOAR Board and is a Co-Chair of the Tech Committee. When SOAR was forced to cancel in-person classes, she learned Zoom and helped to organize the Fall 2020 Zoom classes.**Other information:** You will receive a phone call from Janet van Weringh, a few days after you register for this course.

## 02 Introduction to Zoom 2—Small Group

Zoom

**Presenter:** Mark Coleman**Classes:** 1 session, 1.5 hours**Date:** Monday, 9/06, 10-11:30**Cap:** 8**Description:** An Introduction to using Zoom, with only a small group of people present. The group will be limited to 8, so if more than 8 register, we will have multiple sections. We will only cover the basics; the goal is to have you feel comfortable attending a SOAR class.**Presenter's Background:** Mark Coleman is Professor Emeritus of English at SUNY Potsdam and former Chair of the SOAR Board. He has undertaken rigorous training in hosting Zoom conferences under the preceptorship of his grandson.

## 03 Activism through Poetry: Critical Spanish Poems

Zoom

**Presenter:** Marina Llorente and Marcella Salvi**Classes:** 1 session, 1.5 hours**Date:** Thursday, 9/16, 10-11:30**Description:** Spanish Literature has played in recent years an active role in the debates surrounding topics such as recovering historical memory of the Spanish Civil War and subsequent dictatorship. In this session we will explore the active role that poetry plays in these debates. We will focus on poets who are activists. Their poetry, known as Social Poetry (poesía social), Critical Poetry (poesía crítica), Poetry of Commitment (poesía comprometida), or Poetry of Conscience (poesía de la consciencia), not only comments on society but, more importantly, wants to have an impact on it. The poems explore cultural, political, social, and ecological issues in the context of contemporary Spain.**Presenters' Background:** Dr. Llorente is originally from Madrid, Spain, but earned her PhD in the US. She has been teaching at SLU for 24 years and her current position is Professor of Hispanic Studies at the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and Associate Dean for International and Intercultural Studies. Her area of expertise is contemporary Spanish poetry. She has published five books and articles on the intersections between Hispanic literatures, gender and social justice with a focus on contemporary Hispanic poetry analyzed under the theoretical framework of cultural studies. Her current research project explores traces of the Francoism-time in contemporary Spanish poetry focusing on the analysis of poems dealing with violence against women. In her publications she addresses also ethics and the politics of memory in contemporary literature in Spain and Latin America. She teaches elementary, intermediate, advanced Spanish language courses and upper level literature, film, and culture courses as well as student research projects. Dr. Llorente has directed the SLU Program Abroad in Spain four times, founded the Poetry for Peace reading series at SLU and delivered the Piskor Lecture in 2013 on contemporary Spanish poetry and politics.

Dr. Marcella Salvi is Professor of Spanish and Italian Studies and co-chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at SLU. Her research focuses on sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Spanish and Italian drama, as well as on the politics of memory in contemporary literature in Spain and Italy.

#### 04 Airborne Disease Transmission: What Do We Know and Not Know? Zoom

**Presenter:** Suresh Dhaniyala

**Classes:** 1 session, 1.5 hours      **Date:** Wednesday, 10/13, 10-11:30

**Description:** We are all familiar with airborne transmission of disease because of COVID-19 and with six-foot spacing for social distancing. The terminology of airborne transmission and social distancing have a long history with past diseases, including measles and TB. In this course, I will discuss some basics of airborne disease transmission, past efforts to control this transmission mode and the future engineering approaches that can help minimize the possibility of a pandemic like COVID-19.

**Presenter's Background:** Suresh Dhaniyala is professor in Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering in Clarkson University. His research interests are in the fields of air pollution, airborne biological particles, and sensors. His recent projects have focused on understanding the diversity of airborne microbial populations and in determining their transport characteristics in indoor spaces.

#### 05 Ayurveda - The Ancient Knowledge of Health Zoom

**Presenter:** Rajiv Narula

**Classes:** 2 sessions, 1.5 hours      **Dates:** Wednesday, 9/15 & 9/22; 2:30-4

**Description:** Ayurveda is an alternative medicine system with historical roots in the Indian subcontinent. Though I am not an expert, my wife Geetika and I follow certain principles at home that were handed down through generations (call them Grandma remedies or secrets to health). Time and again, I do research on some of what I know and am happy to find scientific studies that confirm the merits.

**Presenter's Background:** Rajiv Narula received his Bachelor's Degree with an Honors in Botany from the esteemed Presidency College (now Presidency University), Calcutta, India, in 2001. He went on to get a Masters in Biotechnology from GGD University, Chhattisgarh which he graduated winning top honors (First Class – Gold Medal as University Topper) in 2003. He came to the US in Fall 2005 to pursue a PhD in Environmental Engineering from Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY. After completing a doctoral thesis on Pathogen Reduction and Recycling of Bedding Materials on Dairy Farms (2011), he joined SUNY Canton in Fall 2011 to teach Chemistry and Environmental Science. Teaching is his passion so he took Education classes at SLU to earn a (second) Masters in Education in 2020. Now an Associate Professor at SUNY Canton, he lives in Canton with his wife Geetika and 2 year old son, Rohan.

#### 06 The Determinants of Health Zoom

**Presenter:** Ernesto Moralez

**Classes:** 4 sessions, 1.5 hours      **Dates:** Wednesdays, 10/20, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10; 9-10:30

**Description:** Social factors, both contextual (e.g., poverty, housing, education) and interpersonal (e.g., racism, social support, stigma) are important contributors to health outcomes for all people. Understanding how these factors influence health, both individually and in combination, can guide health behavior modifications and public health programs designed to improve health outcomes.

**Presenter's Background:** Ernesto Moralez has a bachelor's degree in Human and Community Services, a master's degree in Public Health and a Ph.D. in Health Behavior Science. He is originally from New Mexico and just recently moved to the North Country.

#### 07 Exploring Environmental Change through Mathematical Modeling Zoom

**Presenter:** Rebecca Terry

**Classes:** 1 session, 1.5 hours      **Date:** Thursday 10/7, 3-4:30

**Description:** Mathematical modeling has been applied in many different contexts to help solve real-world problems. In this course, we will explore how mathematical modeling may be used to better understand and address environmental challenges. Topics may include tipping points, resilience, and adaption in response to environmental change.

**Presenter's Background:** Rebecca Terry is an applied mathematician with research interests in mathematical biology and the mathematics of planet earth. As an undergraduate, she majored in Environmental Studies with Economics. After working in the field of Environmental Economics, she became very interested in how mathematical models may be used in making environmental policy decisions. Her current work explores how populations respond to environmental change.

## 08 The Global Ecovillage Movement: Living Laboratories of Sustainability Zoom

**Presenter:** Heather Sullivan-Catlin

**Classes:** 1 session, 1.5 hours **Date:** Wednesday, 10/20, 3-4:30

**Description:** Ecovillages are intentional or traditional communities “using local participatory processes to holistically integrate ecological, economic, social, and cultural dimensions of sustainability in order to regenerate social and natural environments” (<https://ecovillage.org/>). This class will explore these living laboratories of sustainability with examples from communities throughout the world. The presentation will include information for those interested in travel to ecovillages, many of which prioritize education and welcome visitors.

**Presenter's Background:** Heather Sullivan-Catlin is Professor of Sociology at SUNY Potsdam. Her primary areas of teaching and scholarship center on families, sustainable communities and community food security. She has been active in a variety of local sustainability efforts, chiefly through her long involvement with GardenShare, and her current leadership role on the North Country Sustainability Day and Green Living Fair organizing committee. She is also a member of the Thrive Ithaca Ecovillage Education Center (<https://www.thriveithaca.org/>) advisory board.

## 09 Insect Behavior Zoom

**Presenter:** Bill Romey

**Classes:** 1 session, 1.5 hours **Date:** Wednesday, 9/29, 10-11:30

**Description:** As much fun as birds are to watch, I'll wager that insects provide even better viewing. There are more types, you can get closer to them, and they do some fascinating things about which we can try to make some generalizations about animal behavior in general. I will make a virtual presentation about everything you always wanted to know about insect behavior but were afraid to ask! Specific topics I will cover include: foraging, predator avoidance, territoriality, and mating. Many of the examples will come from local butterflies, bees, ants, flies, and aquatic insects.

**Presenter's Background:** Bill recently retired from SUNY Potsdam where he taught Entomology, Behavior, and Limnology at the biology department. His research interests include grouping formations of insects and the diversity of native bees in the Adirondacks.

## 10 Legacy & Emerging Contaminant Concentrations in Great Lakes Fish: Pushing the Science Zoom

**Presenter:** Tom Holsen

**Classes:** 1 session, 1.5 hours **Date:** Monday, 11/1, 1-2:30

**Description:** The Great Lakes Fish Monitoring and Surveillance Program is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Program Office. This program focuses on monitoring contaminant trends in the open waters of the Great Lakes (using fish as biomonitors). Historically this program has focused on legacy contaminants like PCBs and pesticides that are ubiquitous in the environment. Recently the focus has moved towards new classes of contaminants like flame retardants, musks, pharmaceuticals and other chemicals that are widely used in industry. In this talk an overview of the numerous threats facing the Great Lakes will be presented including trends of contaminant concentrations in top predator fish and current efforts to identify new chemicals that are impacting the Great Lakes.

**Presenter's Background:** Tom Holsen is Jean S. Newell Distinguished Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Director Center for Air and Aquatic Resources Engineering and Science at Clarkson. His research area is understanding the sources and movement of chemicals in the environment and how to remove them from water.

## 11 Mathematical Art and Artistic Mathematics

Zoom

**Presenter:** Daniel Look

**Classes:** 2 sessions, 1.5 hours

**Dates:** Fridays, 9/24 & 10/1, 2-3:30

**Description:** Mathematics and Art have a long history together; many interesting mathematical theories came out of artistic endeavors and mathematics has led to the creation of amazing art. We'll discuss Bach, Pollock, Escher, Mandelbrot and others as we look at the cross-fertilization between these fields that, seemingly, sit at opposing ends of the spectrum.

**Presenter's Background:** Dan grew up in coastal Maine, earning his BA and MA in mathematics from the University of Maine and his PhD in mathematics from Boston University. After earning his PhD he taught outside Pittsburgh before teaching a year as a visiting professor at Williams and eventually relocating to St. Lawrence University in 2009. He quickly fell in love with the north country and can't imagine living anywhere else. His research involves chaos theory, complex dynamics, and the statistical analysis of writing.

## 12 Medieval Medicine

Zoom

**Presenter:** John Payne

**Classes:** 1 session, 1.5 hours

**Date:** Thursday, 9/23, 1-2:30

**Description:** Medieval medicine combined elements of science, religion, folk remedies and magic in a fascinating mix. Medical practitioners were just as varied—herbalists and wise women, monks and nuns, barber-surgeons and university-trained physicians. This class will examine the theory and practice of medieval medicine.

**Presenter's Background:** John Payne is Director of Libraries at St. Lawrence University. His scholarly interest is medieval intellectual history, especially the role of science and magic in medieval thought. He has taught several college courses on the subject including Faith and Reason in the European World, Magic in the Middle Ages, and Medieval Science and Magic.

**Other Information:** Bald's Leechbook (an Anglo-Saxon book of cures):

<https://archive.org/details/leechdomswortcun02cock/page/n53/mode/2up>

The Venerable Bede on Bishop John of Beverley's healing miracles:

<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/basis/bede-book5.asp>

Report of the University of Paris Medical Faculty on the Black Death:

<https://web.stanford.edu/class/history13/Readings/Horrox.htm>

## 13 New Hope for Solving Problems of Human Behavior

Zoom

**Presenter:** Adam Fox

**Classes:** 1 session, 1.5 hours

**Date:** Tuesday, 10/26, 7-8:30 PM

**Description:** Three things control your behavior: your genetic and physiological makeup inherited from your ancestors, everything you've ever experienced and your present circumstances. That's all. There is no part of you or your behavior that can be free of those things. However, we tend not to think about our behavior and the behavior of others this way. What happens when we do? Thinking this way can result in meaningful social change and has already helped solve major behavioral problems, such as addiction. When we understand the true causes of behavior, we can change behavior — and solve the problems of human behavior that we face.

**Presenter's Background:** Adam Fox was born and raised in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. He earned a BS and an MA in psychology from Western Michigan University and a PhD in psychology (with a specialization in Behavior Analysis) from West Virginia University before coming to St. Lawrence. His research focuses broadly on the experimental analysis of human and non-human behavior—particularly as it relates to choice and time. He uses quantitative methods and laboratory models to study the variables that control behavior in our complex world. Recently his lab has been investigating learning

and behavior in rat models of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). He is also interested in using behavior-analytic principles to improve the relationships humans have with domesticated animals (applied animal behavior research)-especially horses. He enjoys spending time outdoors on the farm with his wife, their son, Luther, and their animals. He is also an avid runner, and plays bass guitar in his wife's band.

#### 14 Pandemic Economics. What Just Happened?

Zoom

**Presenter:** Gardner, Greg

**Classes:** 1 session, 1.5 hours

**Date:** Wednesday 10/27, 1-2:30

**Description:** Discussion of the primary economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, nationally and locally. Then a look ahead at some economic differences in the Post-COVID world.

**Presenter's Background:** Professor Gregory Gardner has been at SUNY Potsdam for 16 years, teaching courses in management and international business/economics topics. He is a Fulbright scholar who also teaches and lectures at universities in eastern Europe and Ukraine. His previous experience includes serving as the dean of business programs at a SUNY Community College, in management roles with Fortune 500 companies, in military service in the US Air Force, and as a managing director in a consulting practice specializing in strategic planning and market research. Dr. Gardner has a PhD in Organizational Management.

#### 15 Primate Cultures

Zoom

**Presenter:** Nasser Malit

**Classes:** 1 session, 1.5 hours

**Date:** Friday, 11/5, 1-2:30

**Description:** This course will deal with the learned behaviors of non-human primates. Some short films and a lecture will be used to start a discussion on what these cultures mean, and where we draw the line between human and non-human primates.

**Presenter's Background:** Dr Nasser Malit is an Associate Professor of Anthropology, SUNY Potsdam. As a trained paleoanthropologist, his research work covers many areas including the evolution and variation in early apes and humans. He teaches courses in primatology, evolutionary medicine, skeletal biology, forensic anthropology and human evolution.

#### 16 Recent Medical Research in Biophysics

Zoom

**Presenter:** Massooma Pirbhai

**Classes:** 1 session, 1.5 hours

**Date:** Monday, 10/18, 1-2:30

**Description:** This course is an introduction to biophysics, examining new research that has been happening in the last 20 years. The course will cover a wide range of recent developments in prosthetics, bioelectronics and cancer treatment.

**Presenter's Background:** Massooma Pirbhai is an assistant professor in the Physics department at SLU since August 2020. His research focuses mainly on the interaction between nanomaterials and cellular structures. He looks at how adding certain probes inside stem cells can affect them. He earned his Ph.D. in Physics from Lehigh University in 2015 and previously taught at Susquehanna University.

#### 17 Selected Topics from Food Chemistry

Zoom

**Presenter:** Galina Melman

**Classes:** 2 sessions, 1.5 hours

**Dates:** Mondays 11/1 & 11/8, 9-10:30

**Description:** Two Food Chemistry topics will be presented. The first lecture will focus on Food Flavors to discuss the perception of taste and aroma of food by cellular receptors and molecules affecting perception. The second lecture will discuss coffee production, processing, and coffee brewing methods as well as potential health risks and benefits of coffee.

**Presenter's Background:** Dr. Galina Melman is Instructor in Organic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry labs, and Food Chemistry at Clarkson University for more than 10 years. PhD in Organic Chemistry.

## 18 Slavery and Freedom in the Americas

Zoom

**Presenter:** Evelyn Jennings

**Classes:** 2 sessions, 1.25 hours

**Dates:** Tuesdays, 11/2 & 11/9, 12-1:15

**Description:** In our two sessions together, we will examine comparatively slavery in the Americas from the 1500s to the end of the 1800s to address some questions that people often ask about the institution. Why did slavery exist across time and space? Why is it important to study slavery, if the institution was abolished in the Americas by the late 1800s? How did enslaved people build new lives and cultures in the Americas? How did they resist enslavement and seek freedom? What are the legacies of slavery in the Americas today?

**Presenter's Background:** Professor of Latin American history at SLU with a specialization in slavery in the Atlantic World and colonial Cuba.

**Other Information:** A great open access resource: <https://www.slavevoyages.org/>

## 19 Slavery, Race and Culture

Zoom

**Presenter:** Abye Assefa

**Classes:** 2 sessions, 1.5 hours

**Dates:** Tuesdays, 10/12 & 10/19, 10-11:30

**Description:** The main objective of this course is to bring to light the centrality of slavery in establishing: (1) the structural ground of the axial (geographical) division of labor and (2) racism as the cultural figuration(s) of the capitalist world economy or the Modern World-System. Contrary to conventional wisdom, which characterizes slavery as an aberration, incompatible with modern civilization and inconsistent with the capitalist ideal of free labor, the course underscores the saliency of slavery in instituting the racialized culture of exploitation as the essence of modernity.

Modern slavery is strictly a capitalist institution catalyzing the invention of the social category of race as a natural or cultural phenomenon and endorsing violence and terror as acceptable cultural norms. The personality, community and environment of the slave are important channels shaped by and shaping the contradictory dynamics of the racist universe of historical capitalism. The racist regime of modern slavery is marked, on the one hand, by extremely vicious acts of brutality, violence and greed and, on the other, by a remarkably virtuous display of compassion, perseverance and sacrifice.

**Presenter's Background:** Abye Assefa is Associate Professor Of Sociology at SLU. He holds a PhD from SUNY Binghamton with areas of concentration in: long-term/large-scale social-historical change, world-systems analysis, nomadism in the making of the pre-modern ecumene, the political economy, structures of knowledge, and the anti-systemic in the modern world-system of historical capitalism, race and ethnicity.

## 20 Thinking and Talking about the Arts

Zoom

**Presenter:** Mark Coleman

**Classes:** 1 session, 1.5 hours

**Date:** Thursday, 9/30, 10-11:30

**Description:** What are some possibilities for responding when we come upon something unexpected in literature or the visual arts? How can we appreciate new works or enhance our enjoyment of familiar ones? We will look at approaches from Aristotle to the modern age: general ideas with concrete examples. We'll also look at how people valued and discussed the arts from the renaissance and enlightenment to the romantic and modern eras.

**Presenter's Background:** Mark Coleman has taught courses on literature at several universities (including 30 years at SUNY Potsdam). He has also presented courses for SOAR on Shakespeare in Film and (with his wife, Cynthia) several Vicarious Voyages.

## 21 Tour of SUNY Potsdam's Mary English Commons Historical Exhibit Zoom

**Presenters:** Jane Subramanian and Victoria Hocking

**Classes:** 1 session, 1.75 hours

**Date:** Thursday 11/11, 1-2:45

**Description:** A virtual tour and discussion of SUNY Potsdam's Mary E. English Commons. The virtual tour was recorded via Facebook Live in November 2020. Following an introduction, the tour includes an exploration of the compelling history of the college on the more than 30 panels. Included will be information regarding where the Commons is located, the various aspects of the college's history as portrayed, how the idea of the exhibit all began, and how the work was accomplished using many volunteer hours. There will be time for questions and answers, as well as commentary by attendees who would like to contribute their thoughts.

**Presenters' Background:** Jane Subramanian is emerita librarian at SUNY Potsdam, having served as a librarian there for 38 years. In addition, she also served as the College Archivist for about 15 years and she continues to volunteer in the College Archives & Special Collections at the college in her retirement. She has published and given presentations on topics in librarianship, SUNY Potsdam's history, Laura Ingalls Wilder, and the Norwood Brass Firemen.

Victoria Hocking is the Assistant Director of Alumni Relations at SUNY Potsdam, her alma mater. She graduated in December 2019 with a B.S in Business Administration. Throughout her time as a student, she often called Potsdam her "second home" but now it is truly becoming her home! One of the reasons Victoria loves and appreciates Potsdam is because of the rich history and community that celebrates the history, generation after generation.

## 22 Viruses and Viral Pandemics through the Ages Zoom

**Presenter:** Jan Trybula

**Classes:** 3 sessions, 1.5 hours

**Dates:** Tuesdays, 9/21, 9/28, 10/5, 1-2:30

**Description:** The COVID-19 pandemic has many people wondering about viruses. What are they? Where do they come from? Have we been through this before? How do we fight them both physiologically and medically? This course will examine viruses and their association with humans through the ages, using examples from smallpox, polio, HIV, and others, including COVID-19.

**Presenter's Background:** Jan is an Associate Professor and the current Chair of Biology at SUNY Potsdam. Jan came to the North Country in 2003. His background is in Genetics. His research includes population genetics and the effect of toxins on genes. He teaches many genetic-related courses including genetics for majors and non-majors, human genetic diseases, and virology.

## 23 World of American Muslim Zoom

**Presenter:** Tarik Ait Maatallah

**Classes:** 4 sessions, 1.5 hrs (50 min presentation & 40 min discussion)

**Dates:** Friday, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 2:30-4

**Description:** The course introduces audiences to the principles of Islam, the pillars of having faith, and the concepts that constitute both being a Muslim and being a believer. It is predominantly based on definition from Quran, as revealed by God, and the hadith, or the records of the messenger of God, Mohamed (Prayers and Peace upon him). It shares examples from history of the contribution of Islam and Muslims to the enrichment of the human experience. The course will also shed light on the geographic map of the Muslim world.

**Presenter's Background:** Tarik worked in management in retail, information technology, real estate, and healthcare administration. He was involved in activism like raising AIDS awareness in an era where affected folks suffered from disease, stigma, and taboos. He worked on issues of women's rights, homeless children's rights, and bridging cultural gaps. His passion for the human experience was why he chose to pursue a Bachelor's in English instead of Med School, against maternal advice. He also holds a Bachelor's in IT, an MBA in Management and International Business, and is now a candidate for a doctorate in Healthcare Administration. The more he learns, the more he discovers he knows only a



little. He has been involved with the Potsdam Interfaith Community (formerly MAP), a group of faith leaders in Potsdam, since 2008. He is the president of the Potsdam mosque. He is fueled by a 7th century declaration of the Messenger of Islam, Mohamed (BPUH) who stated: “O! People (...) there is no preference for a white person over a black person, nor is there preference for a black person over a white person. You all go back to Adam, and Adam was made of dirt.” Tarik has called Potsdam home for more than 15 years. He and his wife, Badra, have nested here, and raise three children: Taha, Amina, and Aya. He is a firm believer that without accountability, society cannot function.

**Other Information:** Grab a translation of The Meaning of the Holy Qur'an (preferably by Yusuf Ali). Islamicity.com/quransearch has all translations of Quran and the website has good resources and articles about Islamic concepts. As I finalize course, I may share PDF material with the class.

## 24 Writers Read

Zoom

**Presenter:** Jim Barry

**Classes:** 4 sessions, 1.5 hours **Dates:** Alternate Mondays, 9/13, 9/27, 10/11, 10/25; 3:00-4:30 **Cap:** 10

**Description:** Have you written pieces that you would like to share with others? Each of the participants will be given time to read their poems, short stories, vignettes, autobiography, etc. Then if they wish they may receive gentle constructive criticism of their work.

**Presenter's Background:** Jim has written over 250 vignettes. He is a retired Chemistry teacher. Jim is on the SOAR BOD and is Co-chair of Curriculum Committee. In Spring 2006 he was named a SuperSOARer.

