MLA alumni-
Consider taking an MLA seminar this spring 2020!

MLA 353: The Fourth R: Religion, Education, and Schooling in America
Tuesdays, 7:00-9:30pm
Ari Kelman
Associate Professor of Education and, by courtesy, of Religious Studies

“Separation of church and state” is as much a legal construct as a cultural one. And as firmly grounded as it has become in the minds of US Americans, it has not always been this way. Questions about the purpose of public schooling blends quickly into conversations about moral education or civic education. Meanwhile, questions about religious education invites inquiries into method, evidence, and what to do with religion in a largely secular society. This course will explore the historical trajectory of these questions and others, tracing a trajectory from the inauguration of compulsory public schooling to contemporary debates about prayer and “school choice.” The course will highlight important legal cases as signposts for a larger, more multifaceted conversation about how it is that American schooling can help us understand the relationships between social and spiritual concerns, between science and religion, between church and state.

MLA 355: Dante and the Poets
Wednesdays, 7:00-9:30pm
Denise Gigante
Professor of English

Dante Alighieri has had a profound influence on literary tradition. Among his more active respondents were the poets. While the Romantic poets found inspiration in his blend of lyric and epic, of romance and dream vision, of allegorical pilgrimage and spiritual autobiography, pre-Raphaelite poets such as Christina and Dante Gabriel Rossetti (named after the Italian national poet) explored his use of gender dynamics, poetic authority, and the obsessive nature of love poetry. T.S. Eliot was, as always, a mixed bag, and at the same time as he was critical of a poet like William Blake, who illustrated all of The Divine Comedy and who was in his illuminated poetry in the visionary Dantean tradition of world-making, used The Inferno as the basis for his own deep psychological explorations in poems like “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock.” Prophetic poets like Percy Bysshe Shelley and John Keats found themselves turning to Dante in their own dying attempts at epic, those masterful fragments The Triumph of Life and The Fall of Hyperion, respectively. This course will explore the lasting legacy of Dante as a poet of melancholy, alienation, and redemption in the visual and verbal artwork he inspired.
Details

Classes are $800 for alumni. We do require that you participate fully in the course--doing the reading and participating in class discussions. The choice to do a paper is up to you. If you wish to take it for a grade, you will need to submit a paper. You will have access to the library, and you will be added to the seminar Canvas site for class details and readings.

A place is based on availability. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to sign up. Current students have priority for enrollment, and I may not be able to confirm your spot until current students have had a chance to enroll.

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