

Forever Learning

SUMMER ACADEMY 2024

Week 1: July 14-20

Week 2: July 28-August 3





Forever Learning Summer Academy

A Duke Alumni Lifelong Learning Program

Combining the intellectual energy of college with the camaraderie of summer camp, the inaugural Forever Learning Summer Academy (FLSA) will provide an immersive week-long educational adventure for Duke University alumni and friends. Participants will embark on a captivating course curriculum, gain exclusive access to campus happenings, and enjoy unique outings around Durham.

Classes will take place on Duke's West Campus among the iconic Gothic stones and arches. Participants will select one of four featured interdisciplinary courses of study for the week and will take part in 15 hours of intriguing class time with some of Duke University's

phenomenal faculty. In the afternoons, participants will have the opportunity to experience on-site educational and experiential tours and plenary talks from featured professors.

Participants will reconnect with the university experience, and each other. All participants will have accommodations through the Washington Duke Inn, recreating a communal dorm-like atmosphere with the luxury of one of Durham's premier hotels. The vibrant academic, cultural, and social environment that defines both Duke University and the city of Durham will be in full display all summer long.

CLASSES

Week 1: July 14-20

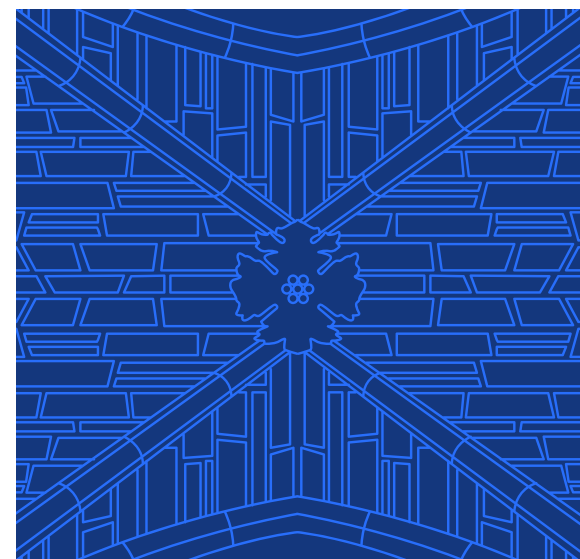
Moral AI and How We Get There

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is growing fast and raises a host of ethical issues. This course will discuss what AI is (and what kinds there are), how safe it can be (in military weapons), how it invades privacy (on the internet), whether it can be fair (in criminal trials), who is responsible (in vehicle accidents), how to build human morality into AI (for medical decision making), whether AIs can have moral rights (in the far future), and how to structure AI companies and train their employees to behave more morally. In all these case studies, AI can bring great benefits as well as great harms, so we need to learn how to use it properly and point it in the right direction.



Walter Sinnott-Armstrong is Chauncey Stillman Professor of Practical Ethics in the Department of Philosophy and the Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University. He holds secondary appointments in Duke's Law School and Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, and he is affiliated with the Duke Institute for Brain Science and Centers for Cognitive Neuroscience and Interdisciplinary Decision Sciences. He earned his bachelor's degree from Amherst College and his doctorate from Yale University. He has published widely on philosophy of law, religion, and psychiatry. His recent work has focused on moral artificial intelligence, political polarization, free will and moral responsibility.

Required Pre-Reading: Schaich Borg, J., Sinnott-Armstrong, W., & Conitzer, V. 2024. *Moral AI and How We Get There*. Penguin.



Giants of Jazz

In the Giants of Jazz Seminar, participants will delve deeply into the music and lives of the biggest names in Jazz. Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Charlie Parker, Duke Ellington, Art Blakey and Cannonball Adderly (to name a few) are among those who created various levels of the art form known as jazz, and this course allows participants a unique opportunity to get down and dirty with the music and blueprint they left for the world to enjoy. This highly interactive course engages participants in an up close and personal experience with some of the greatest music and musicians of all time!



John V. Brown is the Professor of the Practice of Music and Vice Provost for the Arts. Bassist, composer, producer, actor, and educator John Brown is a native of Fayetteville, NC. He is a graduate of the School of Music at UNC Greensboro, and the School of Law at UNC

Chapel Hill. He has taught at Duke University since 2001 and is currently the Director of the Jazz Program and Professor of the Practice of Music. In addition to teaching and performing, he serves on the Board of Directors for the Duke Cancer Patient Support Program and is a member of the Screen Actors' Guild. John is a YAMAHA Certified String Instructor and is an Acoustic Image, AMT, Epifani and Warwick Artist. Learn more at jbjazz.com.



Week 1: July 14-20

Ecocultural Restoration for a Changing Planet

In this class, participants will explore strategies for restoring ecosystems, reviving cultural practices, and reweaving communities. We will combine short lectures and discussions of case studies with a series of field trips to local restoration sites. From Duke Forest's work to restore rare pine ecosystems to local farms practicing regenerative agriculture, we will explore the potential for not only reversing human-caused degradation but also re-imagining new reciprocal relationships with nature. This course will involve site visits, so participants should be able to walk short distances (no more than one mile.)



Rebecca Vidra is a Senior Lecturer of Marine Conservation and Ethics at the Nicholas School of the Environment. She is a transdisciplinary scholar-teacher, weaving together ecological and cultural restoration, science and ethics, and reflection and communication. Her community-engaged work, informed by relationships with stewards of Kauai's North Shore, is focused on helping students connect meaningfully and respectfully beyond the classroom. She is the past director of the Duke Environmental Leadership Program and current Associate Director of Community Engagement for Duke Restore.

Recommended Pre-Reading: *Healing Grounds* by Liz Carlisle.





WEIRD Psych: Race, Culture, and Human Behavior

A disproportionate amount of psychological research has been done only considering members of Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, and Democratic (WEIRD) society. The focus of this course will be to introduce how the inclusion of culture/race/ethnicity enhances our understanding of human behavior, and how it is essential for our ability to adapt to the rapidly shifting demographic in the U.S. today. Each day participants will discuss and examine a different topic from both historical and contemporary perspectives. For example, examining cultural differences in non-verbal communication (e.g., gestures, facial expressions, etc.), racial differences in mother-child communication, how our identities play a role in the stories we tell and how we see the world, and more. Research presentations, class activities, group discussions, guest speakers, lab field trips, and research observations are just a few of the exciting things we will do in this seminar. Let's explore and celebrate our diversity together!



Makeba Parramore Wilbourn is an Associate Professor of the Practice in the Department of Psychology & Neuroscience. She completed her Ph. D. at Cornell University before joining the faculty at Duke in 2008. Dr. Wilbourn studies the relationship between gesture, thought, and language through a sociocultural lens. She is the director of the Wilbourn Infant Lab at Duke, affectionately called “WILD”. In 2016, she was awarded the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers by President Barack Obama. This is the highest honor bestowed on early career scientists in the US.

Required Pre-Reading: “[Developmental Psychology’s Weird Problem](#)” by Jane C. Hu.

Week 1: July 14-20



#CREATORS: From Literary Celebrities to Instagram Influencers

Among people who aren't digital natives, social media has a reputation of being "that silly things kids do to waste time." It also has been blamed for causing an epidemic of loneliness, extreme polarization, and even global conflict. Is social media truly "ruining the world" as so many of its critics complain? This course begins with a deep dive into the historical lineage of social media to help participants appreciate social media and digital content creators within a broader historical narrative. Once that foundation is set, the course explores the fundamental strategies for growing and sustaining audiences online based on techniques that have been working for thousands of years. The course concludes by providing actionable tactics and processes members can use to create successful social media content. While this course isn't explicitly for people who want to become "TikTok famous," it is a class that hopes to help participants appreciate why social media fame might be more accessible (and useful) than they realize. For those interested, the class also gives participants a strong foundation for how to build large, valuable social media audiences of their own.



Aaron Dinin is faculty in Duke's Innovation & Entrepreneurship program where he specializes in teaching marketing and personal brand building on social media. He's one of the most read authors on Medium where he regularly writes about topics related to startups, entrepreneurship, business, and venture capital, and his videos on Instagram and TikTok about teaching Duke students have been viewed by over 75 million people. Aaron is Duke English major (Trinity, '05), has a PhD in English Literature, and spent 15 years as the technical co-founder and CEO of multiple venture-back software companies.

Week 2: July 28-August 3

Dante's *Divine Comedy*

A voyage through the three otherworldly places of Dante's philosophical poem whose transformation of human actions into an ordered ethical system continues to captivate readers. This course offers participants a close reading of Dante's whole poem, *Hell, Purgatory, and Paradise*. This reading will consider this pre-eminent work of Western literature in its philosophical context of the works of Plato and Aristotle. The course will also consider theological influences including Augustine, Aquinas, and Catherine of Siena. Participants will explore tensions between the Papacy and the Romance Empire and the Florentine factionalism which provided the historical backdrop to this poem. There will also be discussion of the other prominent literary works of the time, included Virgil, Ovid and Arthurian romance. Participants in this course will not only explore these contemporary contexts but also learn about how the *Divine Comedy* influenced later thinkers, artists, poets, and popular culture including Boccaccio, Machiavelli, Botticelli, Galileo, Borges, Beckett, Primo Levi, Rodin, and Dalì.



Martin Eisner is the Chair of Romance studies and Professor of Italian at Duke University. He is the author of *Dante's New Life of the Book* (Oxford UP, 2021), which won the Howard R. Marrero Prize for Best Book in Italian Studies from the Modern Language Association. His



first book, *Boccaccio and the Invention of Italian Literature* (Cambridge UP, 2013), has recently been translated into Italian (Salerno, 2022). He has also co-edited two volumes on Boccaccio and has a forthcoming critical life of Boccaccio for Reaktion Books. His research has garnered fellowships from the American Academy in Rome, the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, and the Mellon Foundation.

Required Pre-Reading: Dante's *Divine Comedy* in Allen Mendelbaum's translation.

Statecraft and Strategy

How do we reconcile the limited resources we have at our disposal with the boundless range of things we want to do in the world? How can states use power — be it cultural, diplomatic, economic, military, or otherwise — to achieve their goals and do so effectively and efficiently? How might leaders begin to make sense of a dynamic and infinitely complex world and identify priorities, opportunities, and threats in the short-term and over the long haul? The answer to these questions is one of the most elusive concepts: strategy, the bridging of ends and means. In this course, participants will examine case studies in the successful and unsuccessful conception and implementation of strategy, an introduction to the military, political, economic, and other drivers of international affairs with applications not only to statecraft, but also to activism, business, politics, and other fields.



Simon Miles, Assistant Professor in the Sanford School of Public Policy, is a diplomatic historian whose research agenda explores the causes and mechanics of cooperation between states. His first book, *Engaging the Evil Empire: Washington, Moscow and the Beginning of the End of the Cold*

War, explores the root causes of cooperation between two adversarial states, the United States and the Soviet Union. He is currently working on an international history of the Warsaw Pact. At Duke, Simon teaches courses on US and Russian foreign policy, military history, and grand strategy. He is a frequent media commentator on Russia and a regular consultant to the US Department of Defense.



Week 2: July 28-August 3

History of the Book

This course investigates the history of the “book” as a physical object from its earliest forms (clay, bone, or bamboo tablets, papyrus scrolls) through to texts in the digital age. Participants will learn how book production changed over the centuries from ancient Greece and Rome through medieval monastic scriptoria to the printing presses of the early modern world. The course will also explore the evolution of scripts in the Latin West from Roman times to the type of pieces read today. Throughout the week, participants will enjoy firsthand experience with rare and historic materials from the Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Participants will handle cuneiform tablets, decipher



papyri, leaf through medieval manuscripts, and learn all about the printing revolution of the fifteenth century, paper making, and more. The course also contains some practical “learning-through-doing/making” components. A final project will invite course participants to delve into the history of an old book, whether one from the Rubenstein’s collection, or a family heirloom from their own bookshelves.



Clare Woods is an Associate Professor in the Department of Classical Studies at Duke University. She received her B.A., M.A. and Ph. D degrees from King’s College, London. After a Frances Yates Fellowship at the Warburg Institute in London, she was an Appointed Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Classics at University College, Dublin. At Duke she teaches courses in classical and medieval Latin language and literature, Latin paleography and manuscript studies, and the history of the book. She is currently at work on a book, *Manuscripts on the Move: Building Connections in Carolingian Europe*. In addition to her monograph, Clare is also about to publish a study of one of Duke’s early printed books. *Greek Science in the Margins* explores the Rubenstein Library’s heavily annotated Renaissance copy of *Pliny’s Natural History*.

Recommended Pre-Reading: Chapter 2, “From Orality to Literacy” in *Introduction to Book History* by David Finkelstein and Alastair McLeery (Routledge, 2nd edition 2012).

Week 2: July 28-August 3

Global Chinatowns

What happens at the crossroads of space and ethnicity? This seminar explores the myriad ways in which “Chinatown” has circulated as ‘memory, fantasy, narrative, myth’ in the dominant cultural imagination in the last two centuries, and how the lived realities of overseas Chinese communities, Asian American history, and changing conceptions of ‘Chineseness’ have productively engaged with these real and phantom Chinatowns. Though the emphasis of the mini-seminar will be on cultural and theoretical issues concerning the ‘Chinatown’ phenomenon rather than on a socio-historical study of Chinatowns around the world, participants will be guided in different disciplinary approaches to the subject should they be interested in exploring further—such as studies in urban history, architecture, ethnography, economics, or in creative endeavors. This will be a condensed version of a term-time course on the same subject that is taught to Duke undergraduates.



Eileen Cheng-yin Chow 周成蔭 is Associate Professor of the Practice in Chinese and Japanese Cultural Studies at Duke University, and one of the founding directors of Story Lab at Duke. She is currently the Director of Graduate Studies for Duke Asian Pacific Studies Institute’s East Asian Studies graduate program, and a founding/core faculty member of Duke Asian American and Diaspora Studies. Eileen is also Director of the Cheng Shewo Institute of Chinese Journalism at Shih Hsin University in Taipei, Taiwan 世新大學舍我紀念館與新聞研究中心, and she co-directs the Biographical Literature Press and its longstanding Chinese-language history journal, Biographical Literature 傳記文學. Eileen serves on the executive board of the LA Review of Books, and as co-editor of the Duke University Press book series, Sinotheory. Eileen received her A.B. in Literature from Harvard and her Ph. D in Comparative Literature at Stanford. Find her on socials @chowleen.





Why Poetry Matters...

We poets hold on to poetry because it keeps us whole. In dark political days, poetry can provide a refuge to refuel. It can also serve as a respite to cope with isolation or grief. When you step into a poem, it allows you to see yourself differently and the world more fully. Writing poetry can flush out thoughts, feelings, and questions you didn't know were in you. In this course, we'll hold close readings of contemporary poetry from poets such as Poet Laureate Ada Limon, Mary Oliver, Ocean Vuong, Ross Gay, Claudia Rankine, Maggie Smith, and others. This course will also include craft workshops designed to provide us with the “tools” needed to construct meaningful poetry.



Crystal Simone Smith is an instructor in the Thompson Writing Program at Duke University. An award-winning poet, indie-publisher, and educator, she is the author of *Dark Testament* (Henry Holt, 2023). She also authored three poetry chapbooks, *Down To Earth* (2020),

Running Music (2014) and *Routes Home* (2013). In 2022, her collection of haiku, *Ebbing Shore*, won The Haiku Foundation Touchstone Distinguished Book Award. Smith is the recipient a Duke Humanities Unbounded Fellowship. Her work has appeared in numerous journals including *Prairie Schooner*, *POETRY Magazine*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Frogpond*, and *Modern Haiku*.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

TUITION

\$3,250 per person, Double occupancy

\$250 Single-room supplement

Cancelation/Refunds

Notification of cancellations must be received in writing. **Refunds will be made in accordance with the following per person cancellation penalties based on the number of days before departure.** Up to 60 days: \$150 administrative fee; 59-30 days: 50% of the total program price; 29 days or less: 100% of the total program price. In the event of cancellation of the program by Duke, a full refund will be given. We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation and medical insurance.

What's Included

- Tuition for selected course of study
- Accommodations for 6 nights
- Welcome Reception and Dinner
- Breakfast Monday-Saturday at Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club
- Meal Card to be used for lunch at Campus Eateries
- Transportation between Washington Duke Inn and West Campus
- Friday Evening Party
- Duke Exclusive Facility Tour
- Group excursion in Durham
- Common room coffee/tea breaks

Accommodations

All guests will stay at the Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club. Your hotel room is included in your tuition cost. Participants in the Forever Learning Summer Academy will not be permitted to share their hotel room with non-participant guests. Please visit the [Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club list of Hotel Amenities](#) to see their updated offerings.

Required Readings

If your course has required readings, faculty will be conducting classes based on the assumption that all participants will have completed the required readings prior to arriving at Duke. Additional suggested readings may be provided along with other course information following the completion of registration.

Physical Requirements

Please note that this program will be challenging for anyone who has difficulty with walking or other mobility issues. Field trips and excursions often require up to one mile or more of walking including uphill terrain, stairways, and uneven ground. The age and layout of many buildings at Duke University can make them arduous to traverse as well. Our aim is to treat all participants equally and to keep our touring group together and safe while enjoying the program. Prospective participants with mobility difficulties, visual or hearing impairments, or other health concerns should make preliminary inquiries before signing up for this program.

Insurance Coverage

From past experience, we strongly recommend that all participants take out insurance cover against cancellation of their travel plans (travel insurance can be obtained through the travel agent), and against personal accident and medical expenses, and against damage to or loss of personal property. Information about trip insurance may be viewed on [the Duke Alumni website](#). Scroll to the section on "Safeguarding Your Investment."

Registration Refusal/Program Removal

The Duke Alumni Education Office has the authority to refuse participation or remove someone if their physical or mental condition, actions, or attitude negatively impact the program's functioning or the rights, welfare, or enjoyment of other participants.

For more information and frequently asked questions please visit our [Registration Page](#).

For assistance please contact **(919) 660-3852** or **lifelonglearning@duke.edu**