

Integrated Liberal Studies Newsletter- Spring 2023



Integrated Liberal Studies
University of Wisconsin-Madison



Spring 2023

The Meiklejohn Experiment



The Meiklejohn Experiment is the Student, Faculty, & Alumni newsletter of the Integrated Liberal Studies (ILS) Certificate Program at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Written by the student ambassadors, with help from the ILS Faculty members and Professor of Classics, Grant Nelsestuen.

Meiklejohn House

228 N. Charter Street
Madison, WI 53715

ILS Department Chair

Grant Nelsestuen
nelsestuen@wisc.edu

Academic Department Manager

Beth Shipman
eshipman@wisc.edu

Contact Us!

<http://ils.wisc.edu/about-us/ils@ils.wisc.edu>

ILS Academic Advisor

Laura Bradley
lsbradley@wisc.edu

Student Ambassadors

Sally Conroy
sjconroy@wisc.edu

Check Us Out on Social Media!

Instagram:
@ils.uwisconsin

Facebook:
UW Integrated Liberal
Studies - ILS

A Message from the Chair

Dear ILS alums and friends,

So another semester's in the books here and I'm happy to report that it's been an excellent one. For me, one highlight was the opportunity to teach another of ILS's "Core" courses, "ILS 200: Critical Thinking and Expression." It was a blast—and an ongoing reminder of the academic dynamism intrinsic to the mission of a unit called, somewhat understatedly, "Integrated Liberal Studies."



Insofar as the course was structured around the principles of classical rhetoric—logos, pathos, ethos, and the usual smattering of other core rhetorical techniques and figures as taught by Aristotle, Cicero, and Quintilian—I, qua Classics professor, felt right at home. But notwithstanding occasional forays into Plato and Pericles, its engagement with great speeches from the more recent past afforded me numerous opportunities to engage in some of my own critical thinking about new(er) material: from Nelson Mandela's "I am prepared to die" speech to Susan B. Anthony's stump speeches to the Gettysburg Address to Malcolm X's "The Ballot or the Bullet." Case studies in Wisconsin oratory brought students into dialogue with the speeches and ideas of such civic-minded Wisconsinites as Sen. Robert "Fightin' Bob" LaFollette and Lizzie Black Kander, while a week on Sen. Joe McCarthy's rhetoric helped to cultivate the sort of critical thinking that students—as consumers of media like we all are—need to be informed citizens of democracies. Of course, this latter learning objective brings us squarely into the realm of ILS's spiritual progenitor: Alexander Meiklejohn. But it was an ILS alum, Louise Grossman Trubek, and another UW alum, Dave Trubek, who brought home the need for putting critical thinking and expression into practice on this campus with their visit to speak about their paper, "Slaying the Monster: Defending Academic Freedom against McCarthyism at the University of Wisconsin in the 1950s" (cf. p. 5). And just to round it all off, in asking students to write (and re-write!) about, debate, and declaim on the issues they deem most meaningful and important today, the course strove to empower our students to make their own marks as both great speakers and great thinkers—in their communities, workplaces, and wherever life may take them.

Thanks to the generosity and support of our dedicated friends and alumni, ILS was also fortunate to be able to award a number of scholarships to our most distinguished students. For more on them, see pages 9-10. As someone who has had them all in his classes, I have to say: the future is bright!

I'd like to close with two other exciting developments. First, the courses we have lined up for this coming Fall semester comprise both the usual mainstays and exciting additions: from our enduring and highly regarded "Core" courses to innovative new ones (e.g. "Environmental Political Thought" and "Migration and the Migrant Experience in the Americas"), the ILS experience

A Message from the Chair (cont'd)

continues to integrate the best of both the new and the old. That we have no less than nine (!) “First-Year Interest Groups” associated with ILS courses is a further mark of our reputation for teaching and learning excellence on campus here at UW-Madison—and a testament to our ongoing mission to bring the ILS message to as many students as we can.

The second comes not without some mixed emotions for me. Having served as chair of ILS now for the customary three years, I am passing the baton to Professor Dan Kapust over the course of this summer. For those who don't yet know him, Dan is a long-time ILS devotee and a political theorist working in both ancient and modern political theory on topics like democratic theory, empire, liberalism, republicanism, and rhetoric. He's also a good friend and a proven campus leader. So while I'm sad to step down from this position, I'm also excited to see ILS continue to thrive and expand its impact on UW-Madison students under his direction.

Thanks again to all our friends, alums, and students, whose patronage and support over the years has made our work a privilege and a joy to carry out.

Here's to a great summer for us all,



Grant A. Nelsestuen
Chair, Integrated Liberal Studies
Professor of Classics
University of Wisconsin – Madison

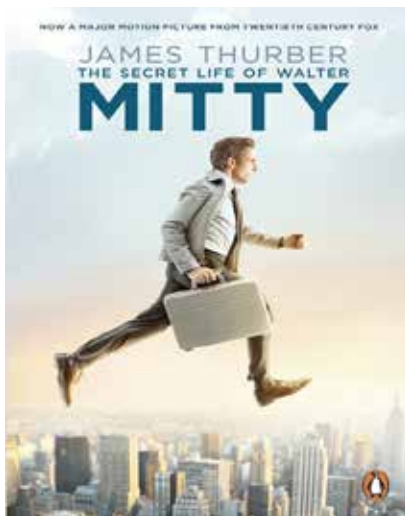
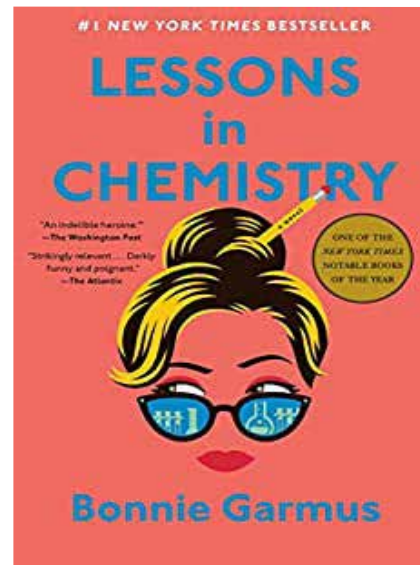
Thank you Grant!



Entertainment Recommendations

“Lessons in Chemistry is one of my new favorite books because I have never felt such a physical, emotional reaction while reading a book whereas in this book I laughed, felt anger, and even sadness, but overall I thought it was a unique take on the adversity women in the science industry in the 50s face and I thought it was extremely well written.”

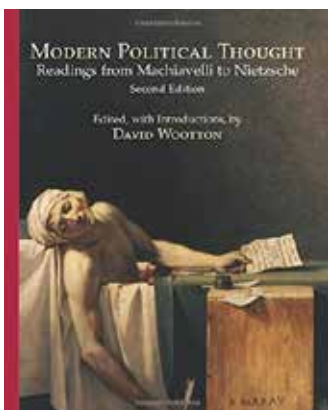
-Sally Conroy, Student Ambassador



“The Secret Life of Walter Mitty is one of my favorite movies of all time. Aside from being a cinematic masterpiece, it’s an easy go-to for feel good movies and gives a lot of perspective to the bigger picture of life. I think everyone can learn a little something from the movie.”

- Lucia Estrada, Student

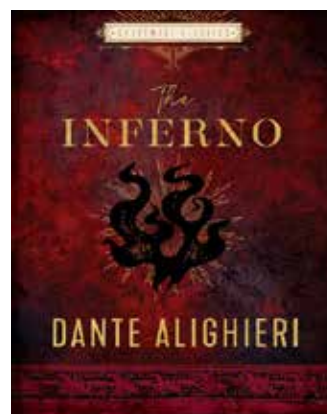
What are ILS students reading/watching for class?



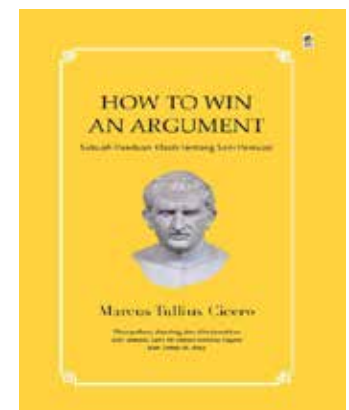
Modern Political Thought:
From Machiavelli to
Nietzsche
(ILS 206: Western Culture)



Thelma & Louise
(ILS 400: Friendship and
Community)



Dante's Inferno
(ILS 350: Rome: Lust for
Glory)

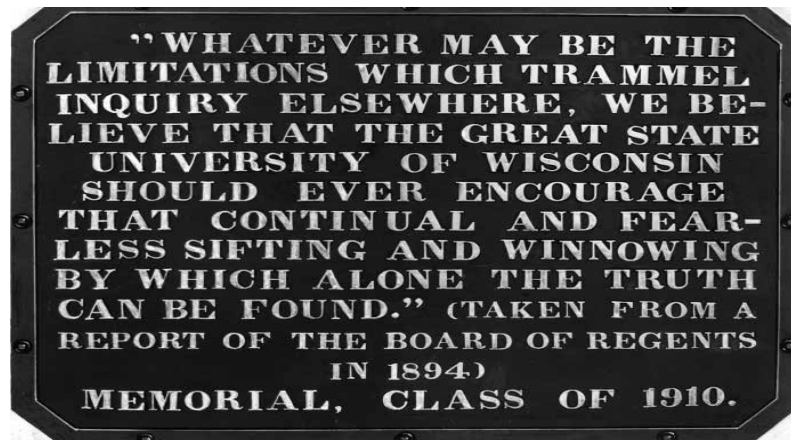


How to Win an Argument:
An Ancient Guide to the
Art of Persuasion
(ILS 200: Critical Thinking
and Expression)

Event Highlight: Louise and David Trubek's "Student Activism, Membership Lists of the Labor Youth League, and the Fight for Academic Freedom in the 1950s"

On March 21, UW-Madison Law Professors Emeriti, Louise Grossman Trubek and David Trubek, visited ILS 200 (cf. Chair's letter on p. 3) to speak about their efforts as student leaders and activists to fight against McCarthyism on campus and to preserve free speech at the University of Wisconsin in the 1950s.

A bit of background on the Trubeks is in order: before graduating from Yale Law School and pursuing illustrious research and teaching careers at the University of Wisconsin and various other institutions, David and Louise both did their undergraduate degrees here in Madison. (Of particular note is that Louise [then Grossman] was both an ILS student and one of the University's "Ford Scholars," whose members generally enjoyed the mentorship of ILS's own Herbert and Evelyn Howe.) During their time as undergraduate students, David and Louise were active in leadership capacities in various student organizations and activities. David, for example, was a Contributing Editor of the Daily Cardinal, while Louise organized efforts against discrimination in housing. In recognition of these efforts, each was appointed in 1956 to Student Life and Interests Committee (SLIC), a board of faculty and students that played an oversight role for student activities and organizations on campus.



As David and Louise Trubek detailed in a draft paper and then talked about in class, 1956 was also the year in which the campus chapter of the Labor Youth League—the last

remaining unofficial student affiliate of the Communist Party of the United States of America—came under renewed attacks from the leadership of the Wisconsin American Legion, against the backdrop of the Cold War and McCarthyism. Later that year, SLIC moved to require that student organizations furnish their membership lists upon request—a requirement that many students saw as an action directed against radical student groups like the Labor Youth League. Through their various efforts—including Louise's advocacy in the Student Senate and David's writings in the Daily Cardinal—the Trubeks would play paramount roles in the campaign that ultimately led to SLIC relenting on this requirement the following year.

For Louise and David Trubek, those efforts in defending academic freedom and free speech on campus was just the start of illustrious legal careers that put into practice in various ways the University of Wisconsin's commitment to "that continual and fearless sifting and winnowing" in pursuit of truth, as famously enshrined on Bascom Hall. ILS is grateful to the Trubeks for all their work over the years and thanks them for sharing their story and their values—more important than ever—with ILS students of today.

Get to Know Our Staff:

Jeffrey (JJ) Grinde

JJ Grinde is one of our awesome ILS 200: Critical Thinking and Expression teaching assistants. As he closes up his final semester with our program, we had the opportunity to ask a few questions about his time in the UW Law School and any advice he has for future badgers.



1. What is your involvement in ILS and how long have you been a part of the department?

I've taught ILS 200 (Critical Thinking and Expression) since Spring 2022. I began as an instructor at the business school, but came over three semesters ago because I had a liberal arts background and thought it was important that students at UW got a similar experience.

2. What made you decide to go to law school and what drew you to UW-Madison?

Initially, I was slated for medical school. I come from a family of nurses, factory workers, and farmers. I got along with the nurses best, and I greatly enjoyed science, so medicine made a lot of sense. It wasn't until my time teaching in the Peace Corps as a chemistry teacher in Mozambique that I realized the degree to which legal systems and laws impact people's lives at a very fundamental level. I decided on UW because I thought I would stay in Wisconsin, it offered a great value, and that sweet, sweet in-state tuition didn't hurt.

3. What advice do you have for future law students or people who are considering a legal field?

My biggest piece of advice is to make sure that you are intrinsically motivated by thinking through difficult concepts and reading for reading's sake. I think far too many students end up in law school because they have no idea what else to do, they had immense family pressure, they were told that they were good at debating/arguing, or they thought that it was a ticket to a high-paying, prestigious job. If you are motivated by those extrinsic factors, you are better served going into another less intensive field, because you really do need to like mental puzzles inherent in the field, or at least view them as a means to an end—to help your client as best you can.

Get to Know Our Staff: (cont'd)

4. From being a TA in ILS 200, have you learned anything that you may take away in your future endeavors?

One of the best lessons this experience has afforded me is understanding that it is always worth taking extra time at the beginning of something new to make sure that everyone involved is on the same page, in terms of understanding what their role is and what is expected of them. When you assume that students know what you are talking about, that can backfire, and frequently not until much later. It is almost always better to give an uncomfortably long silence to ensure that anyone hesitating to ask more questions actually asks them. If one student is confused, at least a few of them are. Better to clarify at the front-end.

5. What are your plans following graduation?

I'll be taking the Illinois Bar in late July, taking my mom and little sister on a trip down the California coast, hiking the northern route of El Camino de Santiago through Spain, go on a camping trip with my dad, and then move to Chicago in the fall. I'll be working as an intellectual property litigation associate at Foley & Lardner, a large law firm.

6. What is your favorite part about UW-Madison and being a Badger?

My favorite part about UW-Madison/being a Badger is the sense of camaraderie that exists between all generations of people who attended here. I cannot tell you how many times I have worn a UW hat or scarf or shirt in random places and been stopped by the full range of people to ask me about my time here. The ability to connect over something as simple as Bucky really shows the connection that alumni feel with this institution, and their desire to help those who come after them.



COURSE HIGHLIGHT: ILS 204

Western Culture, Literature, and the Arts II

Fast Facts

3-4
Credits

100
minutes per
week

106
Students

This class focuses on the development of literature and the arts from the Renaissance to the modern period, including such figures as Shakespeare and Michelangelo through T.S. Eliot and Picasso. It interprets literature and art in the context of society and ideas. It is a continuation of ILS 203, where students learn about the development of literature and the arts in the ancient and medieval world, including Akhenaton's Egypt, Homer's Troy, Euripides' Athens, Virgil's Rome, and Dante's Florence. Neither of these courses have a prerequisites and are considered part of the literature breadth.



“What I love about ILS 204 is firstly the students, who come from all over the University and who contribute a range of fascinating perspectives to the class. Secondly, I love the scope of the course. We investigate material that extends from Italy in the 1500s to America in the present day asking big questions such as “What makes a human?,” “What is art?,” and “Why do we have museums?” Students have the opportunity to try out their observation and writing skills in a number of different assignments from art and literary analysis through a final project inspired by any aspect of the class. With any luck, people finish the course with greater confidence in their ability to analyze and write about cultural texts and objects. I also hope they might be excited to travel, to try out new ideas, and to look at the world a bit differently.” - Karen Britland, ILS 204 Professor, Spring 2023

Scholarship and Award Winners 2022-2023

May Kohler
ILS Distinguished
Achievement Award



Irene Tomasovic
Ruth Knatz Award

Jasper Nelson
Ruth Knatz Award



Sally Conroy
Pooley Prize

Student Highlights:

Jasper Nelson and Irene Tomasovic

Jasper Nelson and Irene Tomasovic were recently named this year's recipients of the Ruth Knatz Memorial Prize. Named for Ruth Knatz Gross Wisnewsy and given by her husband, Edward Wisnewsy, this prize was created to be given to truly outstanding students who are majoring in at least one humanities discipline, gives promise of making a valuable contribution to the humanities, shall have done exemplary work in 15 ILS credits (six credits above 250), has achieved junior or senior standing, has enrolled in the certificate program and plans to complete the ILS certificate program. This spring, both Irene and Jasper will be graduating from UW-Madison.

Irene will be getting her degree in English-Creative Writing with a certificate in ILS and is involved with St. Paul's Catholic Student Center as an RA. Her favorite ILS memory is staying after her 'Virtue Theory' class every week to hear the grad students talk about their readings. She said that their discussions showed her how to critically think about the texts she read! Her favorite thing about UW is how much it has challenged her to go outside her comfort zone. She says she used to feel unable to speak about difficult ideas, but feels more equipped as she prepares for graduation. Following graduation, she plans to work for Brew City Catholic as a college campus missionary in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



Jasper will be getting his degree in History with certificates in ILS and African-American Studies. On campus, he plays in two active bands, and spent four years as a leading booking agent for WUD Music, the student-led booking organization at the Union. His favorite course was in his Freshman Year Interest Group with Professor Craig Werner titled "Music, Movies and the '60s." He says that Craig introduced him to the field of music history and interdisciplinary humanities, and he's still studying in that field five years later. As an out of state student from San Francisco, his favorite thing about UW is the whole school spirit and state spirit. He said, "I may be in the library during most football games, but I do feel some sense of communal pride in seeing all those people in Bucky gear. Plus, whenever I'm home and wear a Wisco sweatshirt people always hit me with a random "On, Wisconsin" while passing me on the street." After graduating this May, he plans to finish out his lease in Madison and then set off to hopefully see the Canadian Rockies, find some hidden bluegrass music secrets in Appalachia, and camp in the New Mexico desert. Eventually, he'd like to get to South America or Africa.

ILS GRADUATES 2023

Jake Bernstein
Communication Arts and English

Jasper Nelson
History

Jack Calkins
Communication Arts

Erik Pfantz
Journalism

Zoe Hunt
Economics and Political Science

Eli Seath
Neurobiology

Andrew Kansas
Communication Arts

Malik Staude
Political Science

Brianne Karmann
Political Science

Houa Thao
Sociology and Zoology

May Kohler
Music-Performance, and Political Science

Irene Tomasovic
English

Emma Malian
Economics

Kiriakos Tsokanos
Sociology, Psychology, and History



THANK YOU!

Your donations make a difference.

Help support current ILS Certificate students by donating to one of our general funds. To help foster a community between student and faculty, ask for your donation to be sent to the **ILS fund**, which is used to fund student activities.

<https://ils.wisc.edu/donate/>

