

A Week with Summer Scholars at Brookdale College
August 19-23, 2019

Morning

Ancient Greece

By Christopher Bellitto, PhD, history professor
Kean University

Lessons:

We often talk about ancient Greece and its influence without really being able to place it in place, time, and context. This course proceeds with a chronological and cultural approach by taking a close look at ancient Greece's essential elements: the legacy of the polis and democracy, its great battles and personalities, its soaring artistic and literary achievements, its treatment of women and slaves, and its tragic flaws. We will go from the walls of Troy to the theatres of Athens, from the Delphic oracle to the Spartans' stand at Thermopylae, from Socrates' trial and Alexander the Great's long journeys to the moment where Rome conquered Greece – but Greece conquered Rome.

Bio: Christopher M. Bellitto, Ph.D. is Professor of History at Kean University in Union, NJ. He is also a frequent public speaker and media commentator on church history and contemporary Catholicism. Dr. Bellitto is a member of the Speakers' Bureau of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities and the former chair of Kean's History Department. He received an M.A. and a Ph.D. in History from Fordham University. His B.A., magna cum laude, is from New York University, where he was a University Scholar.

During and immediately after college, he worked in journalism, then taught English at his alma mater Cardinal Spellman High School in the Bronx, NY, before entering graduate school at Fordham University, where he held Presidential Scholarships and was a Teaching Fellow. He was a church history professor at St. Joseph's Seminary (Dunwoodie) and its Institute of Religious Studies in Yonkers, NY, where he also served as the Institute's Associate Dean. From 2001 to 2004, he was Academic Editor at Paulist Press in Mahwah, NJ, while teaching at Fordham's College of Liberal Studies (2002-2004) and serving as a Fellow at Fordham's Center for Medieval Studies (2003-2004).

In 2010-2012, he was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Enduring Questions grant to develop a course titled, "Is there such a thing as a just war?" As a Fulbright Specialist, he taught at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand July-August 2019.

Publications: Dr. Bellitto is the author of ten books, including most recently *Ageless Wisdom: Lifetime Lessons from the Bible* (Paulist Press, 2016), *101 Questions and Answers on Popes and the Papacy* (Paulist Press, 2008), *The Living Church and Church History 101* (Liguori Publications, 2011, 2008), and the companion volumes, *The General Councils: A History of the 21 Church Councils from Nicaea to Vatican II* and *Renewing Christianity: A History of Church Reform from Day One to Vatican II* (Paulist Press 2001-2002). He is also the author of *Nicolas de Clamanges: Spirituality, Personal Reform, and Pastoral Renewal on the Eve of the Reformations* (Catholic University of America Press, 2001). In addition, Dr. Bellitto has co-edited six volumes of collected essays, including *Reassessing Reform: A Historical Investigation into Church Renewal* (Catholic University of America Press, 2012), *The Church, the Councils, and Reform: The Legacy of the Fifteenth Century* (Catholic University of America Press, 2008), and *Reforming the Church Before Modernity: Patterns, Problems, and Approaches* (Ashgate, 2005).

He has also taped a series of audio and video courses on Christianity and ancient, medieval, and reformation history for Now You Know Media. For some samples: Ancient Greece, Crusades, Medieval Europe, John Paul II.

His scholarly and outreach articles have appeared in the Catholic Historical Review, Church History, Annuario historiae conciliorum, Cristianesimo nella storia, Revue d'histoire ecclésiastique, America, Commonweal, U.S. Catholic, The Tablet, CNN.com, Reuters, NJ.com and other outlets. His writing has been honored by the American Catholic Historical Association and the Catholic Press Association.

In addition to his own writing, Dr. Bellitto has long experience as an editor. He is currently Academic Editor at Large for Paulist Press and Editor in Chief of the series Brill's Companions to the Christian Tradition. A longtime public historian, he also offers professional development workshops on working with the media, publishing, writing outreach articles and essays, and speaking to a wide range of audiences.

Courses taught: World Civilization; Ancient City Greek Civilization; Trojan War: History and Legend; Athens in the Age of Pericles; Alexander the Great: History and Legend; Roman Civilization; Roman Revolution; Roman Empire; The Papacy and Its History; Medieval Europe: History and Civilization; England in the Middle Ages; Reformation Europe; History of Just War; Crusades

Afternoon

Artists and Their Cities: An Inspirational Tour

By Edoardo Mungiello, PhD, adjunct art instructor
Brookdale College

Lessons:

An entertaining and educational look into five cities and the artists that, by the power of their work, have made them must see destinations. From the Florence of Brunelleschi and Masaccio to the Paris of Rodin and Picasso, this light hearted and fascinating journey spans several time periods in art history and illuminates works that are considered to be central to the understanding of the cities that inspired them. Enjoy a tour without buying tickets or worrying about hotel vacancies as we explore artists and their cities.

Added: This will be a seminar class wherein I welcome discussion, interjections and exciting dialogue on the subjects which present themselves. The exchange between us which opens our eyes to new possibilities not apparent at first.

Included:

Monday: Warhol and New York; 1950-1970

How a shy kid from Pittsburgh took New York, transforming it by holding up a mirror to ourselves

Tuesday: Paris and the Artistic Revolution: 1900-1915

The rivalry between Picasso and Matisse and the social strains and "environmental causes" of the explosion of creativity that ushered in Modern Art unto the world stage.

Wednesday: Florence in the Age of Brunelleschi

The career of Filippo Brunelleschi and how his innovative genius transformed the landscape of his native Florence.

Thursday: The London of the Pre Raphaelites 1840-1880

The artists under investigation will be the three major Pre Raphaelites: Dante Gabriel Rossetti, William Holman Hunt and John Everett Millais with a foray into the Arts and Crafts Movement of William Morris and how Victorian London helped shape the way we think about art.

Friday: Bernini and Borromini: The Rivalry that Built Rome

The Neapolitan impresario and the melancholy Swiss divide Rome by design and temperament. Revisit the genius of the Baroque in its master forms on display in the Rome we all know and love.

Bio: (Odd that I couldn't find anything but this 2015 bio from an art show on a Facebook page.) Edoardo Mungiello is a Professor of Art History at Brookdale College, NJ and Essex County College. He is AP Art History Instructor and IB History teacher at East Side High School in Newark. He was formerly the owner of Artigiani, Ltd., a Renaissance bottega-style company that produced fine murals and portraits. He continues to paint on commission. As well as a professional artist, Edoardo is also a published author of several articles and a book called Christ Among Them: Incarnation & Renaissance In Medieval Italian Culture. He is proud to have been one of the original members of the FBAC and has given the lectures "Art to Drive For" and "Renaissance Love" for the Council. He lives with his wife and two girls in the Borough where he serves as an Extraordinary Minister at St. Rose of Lima Church.

The week

Included morning coffee, breakfast Monday and Friday, lunch everyday, and cookies in the afternoon.

Funny or sad? The average age of attendees seemed to be about 100 years old. Well, being serious, all retirees which is no surprise, mostly women which is no surprise since they are older, but lots of women with short gray hair and heavy! Frightening.

Follow up: See documentary on Fiddler on the Roof; look where else Dr. Bellitto might be appearing; see YouTube on Secrets of the Oracle at Delphi; Google BBC 100 Objects and especially the "Parthenon Sculpture." Dr. Bellitto will be speaker on a cruise through Scotland by Azamara Cruises the last two weeks of August 2020 (all suites sold out – sorry!)

Summer Scholars – A trip - A week of Summer Scholars
August 13-16, 2018

Summer scholars and update

I signed up for this week long series despite knowing I was gone on Friday and had to leave early on two of the days. Dr. Christopher Bellitto is one of my favorite lectures. I even considered going to Bologna Italy this summer where he was giving a series of lectures (but another schedule got in the way). Some of you may know him as having appeared on various television shows as a Catholic specialist. He has often also been on the lecture series with a Jewish fellow named Brooks and they are quite the amusing pair. Dr. Bellitto is author of a number of books on religion and especially on history.

I am fearful that I'm getting too used to being a retiree as it was tough getting up at 6:30 AM and being busy through early evening. I was between trips and still had laundry and desk work and packing for the next trip too.

Morning - History's Heroines, Heroes, And Legends Christopher Bellitto, PhD, professor of history, Kean University - "When the legend becomes fact, print the legend." So we hear in *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* (1962). Indeed, we can add that every history has a legend and every legend has a history. Join us as we try to untangle one from the other as we learn from both. We will spend our time in the classical and medieval world as we move from ancient battlefields to medieval convents.

Afternoon - The Russian Bear's Resurgence George Reklaitis, PhD, chair, history department, Brookdale - Russian President Vladimir Putin refers to the collapse of the Soviet Union as "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the [20th] century." Since coming to office in 2000, he has worked to restore Russia's place as a giant on the global stage. Russia's military maneuvering against its Eastern European neighbors, its backing of autocratic regimes around the world, and its economic bullying tactics towards trading partners stir the echoes of Soviet maneuvering during the Cold War. We'll focus on the history of the "Russian Bear," as it emerged from the shadow of the Mongol Empire to become an imperial giant under the Romanov dynasty, and its ascent to superpower status by the middle of the 20th century. Has the Bear truly come out of hibernation?

This afternoon class reminded me of a partial book on my desk: "Peter the Great" by Robert K Massie, and the newly loaned and equally massive 1000-page plus "Russka" by a favorite Edward Rutherford. (Yes that is spelled correctly but I don't know why yet). I'll get back to "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles soon. These were all gifts by Jack Breen, Nola Stewart, and my sister Beverly and in part because I thought I was going on a 15 day river cruise trip to Russia which never happened. Yet.

One fun and frivolous read was a historical novel and quick read called "Rasputin's daughter" by Robert Alexander.

And next I'm off to St. Louis for the wedding of Colin and Chelsea and the ceremony will have the participation of their sweet little 14 month old, Mallory. There will be a story about my getting off on this trip.

