

Scholar's Choice is a series of lectures and discussions exploring literary classics and popular works. This special program brings scholars to the community of Clearwater to share an understanding and appreciation of literature. The Clearwater Public Library System is pleased to sponsor this program.

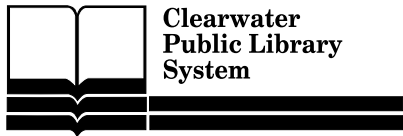
A series of three lectures and follow-up discussions will be led by scholars from the University of South Florida. Each scholar will first offer a lecture designed to inform and prepare an understanding of the text. After the lecture a follow-up discussion will be held.

Limited books and materials are available. Participants may choose to attend any individual lecture or all of the lectures.

For further information, please call (727) 562-4980, extension 5284 and speak with Jan Nickols.

All libraries are wheelchair accessible.

If you require special assistance at any of the library's programs or events, please call 562-4970 ext. 5284 one week in advance so reasonable accommodations can be made to assist you.



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Scholar's Choice

**A Series of
Lectures and
Discussions
Exploring
Literary Classics
and Popular
Works**

**Clearwater
Main Library**
100 N. Osceola Ave.
Clearwater, FL
www.myclearwater/cpl

**January - February
2009**



Wednesday, January 28, 2009 - 2 p.m.

Man of Property by John Galsworthy

Man of Property is the first book in The Forsyte Saga, the story of a wealthy London family stretching from the eighteen-eighties until the nineteen-twenties. The story centers on Soames Forsyte, the quintessential icon of the growth of the upper middle classes and the decline of the nobility during the Victorian era. Descended from a farmer in Dorset in the not-too-distant past, Soames is a lawyer and a man of property. He buys wisely, sells more wisely, and husbands his wealth and that of the family. He is in control of everything that affects him, except one thing--his wife. Desiring to possess the sensitive, beautiful, genteel but poor Irene, Soames pressures her into becoming his wife. From this single mistake, the one time Soames lets passion rule, his life and the lives of his family and their descendants are changed in unpredictable ways. Galsworthy's theme is the constant tussle in life between property and art, love and possession, freedom and convention. In the fine tradition of family sagas, these themes play themselves out over and over with each generation.

John Galsworthy was a celebrated writer and dramatist who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1932.

LECTURER: Dr. Nancy Jane Tyson, Associate Professor of English at the University of South Florida. Her specializations include Romantic and Victorian Literature, and Research Methods for English Studies. Dr. Tyson has published articles on Charles Dickens, William Morris and Oscar Wilde. She received the Teaching Incentive Award in 1994-95, and the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award in 1996. She is a United Faculty of Florida state Senator and NEA national Delegate, and served as USF Faculty Senate President in 2000-2001. She was a contributor to the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, the first revision of the revered standard DNB since its publication in 1885-1900.

Wednesday, February 11, 2009 - 2 p.m.

The March by E.L. Doctorow

Published in 2005, *The March* is a historical fiction novel set in 1864 near the conclusion of the Civil War. Central to the novel is the character of General William Tecumseh Sherman as he marches his 60,000 troops through the heart of the South, carving a 60 mile wide path of destruction in their wake. As a result of Sherman's order to live off the land, his soldiers wreak chaos as they pillage homes, steal cattle, burn crops, and accumulate a nearly unmanageable population of freed slaves and refugees who have nowhere else to go. While the novel revolves around the decisions of General Sherman, the novel has no specific main character. Instead, Doctorow retells Civil War history according to the individual lives of a large and diverse cast of characters—white and black, rich and poor, Union and Confederate--whose lives are caught up in the violence and trauma of the war.

By focusing on the personal lives of his characters, rather than battles or other historic events, Doctorow is able to stylistically distance himself from other works of historical fiction that seek to glamorize or merely dramatize history. While the looming figure of General Sherman provides a connection for Doctorow's characters, no single person carries a majority of the weight of the narrative. *The March* has been widely praised by critics since its publication, winning the 2005 National Book Critics Award, the PEN/Faulkner fiction award in 2006, and was a finalist for the 2005 National Book Award and the 2005 Pulitzer Prize.

LECTURER: Dr. Phillip Sipiora, Professor of English at the University of South Florida. His areas of specialization include Literary Theory, Twentieth Century literature, and Film Studies. He is a recipient, twice, of the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award. He is also a founding member of the Norman Mailer Society and is editor of The Mailer Review.

Wednesday, February 25, 2009 - 2 p.m.
Antigone by Sophocles

Antigone is the daughter of the incestuous marriage between King Oedipus of Thebes and his mother Jocasta (thus, Antigone is also her father Oedipus's half-sister and, through her father, her mother Jocasta's granddaughter). Antigone is an unconventional heroine who pits her beliefs against Oedipus in a bloody test of wills that leaves few unharmed. Emotions fly as she challenges the king for the right to secure a respectable burial for her brother Polyneices, even though he was a traitor to Thebes. Determined but doomed, Antigone shows her inner strength throughout the play. *Antigone* raises issues of law and morality that are just as relevant today as they were more than two thousand years ago.

LECTURER: Dr. Maryhelen Harmon retired as Associate Professor of English at the University of South Florida, where she had been teaching since 1964. She was named "USF Distinguished Teacher of the Year," and received four other awards as an Outstanding Professor. A past president of the Popular Culture Association, she was also past president of the Florida College English Association. Her degrees are from the University of Alabama, the University of Florida, and her Ph.D. is from Florida State University. She has also studied at Wesleyan College, Oxford University, and the University of Edinburgh. She has been a Fulbright Lecturer at the University of Paris (the Sorbonne) and also at the University Center in Florence, Italy. This is Dr. Harmon 20th presentation in our series, and we are delighted she is returning again while she enjoys her retirement.

