

Fall 2026 Registration Form

Note: You must select in-person or online learning for each event. Please note the in-person selection is in the first column and the online selection is in the second column.

Name(s)_____Age(s)_____

Address:_____

City/State/Zipcode:_____

Telephone Number:_____

E-Mail Address:_____

Highest Level of Education Completed:_____

Are you a UST alumna/alumnus?_____ If yes, class year:_____

Profession (or what you did before retirement):_____

Please indicate the number of registrations for each program and whether you are attending in-person or online.

In-person	Online	Program/Price
		Tuesdays, September 22, 29 & October 6: Home- An Exploration (\$75)
		Tuesdays, October 6 & 13 10-1:45 a.m.: The Federal Reserve and You (\$50)
		Tuesdays, October 13, 20 & 27: The Middle East in the 20th Century and Beyond (\$75)
		Wednesdays, September 23, 30 & October 7: Disputed Elections and Constitutional Crises (\$75)
		Wednesdays, October 7 & 14.: Human Rights in Crisis (\$50)
		Wednesdays, October 21: : Hidden in Plain Sight: The Engineering Behind Everyday Materials (\$25)
		Wednesday, October 28: The State of Cancer Research: What We Know and Where We Might Go (\$25)
		Wednesday, November 4: Veterans in Perspective (Donation based program, suggested donation is \$20, any amount welcome)
		Thursdays, September 24, October 1 & 8: The Book of Job (\$75)
		Thursdays, September 24, October 1 & 8: Polarized Politics: Causes, Attributes, and Responses (\$75)
		Thursdays, October 22, 29 & November 5: World War II in China (\$75)
		Thursdays, October 22, 29 & November 5: A Divided Nation: The Coming of Civil War, 1845-1861 (\$75)
		Friday, November 6: The Midterms and the Nation Lunch'n Learn with Dr. David Schultz (\$45)

___Voluntary Donation: \$_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$_____ (Please make checks payable to University of St. Thomas)

Completed forms & payment should be mailed to: Selim Center, MAIL OEC 109, University of St. Thomas, 2115 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105 (please allow 7 business days for mail to reach us)

Selim Center Fall 2026

Course Descriptions

(Updated 8/21/26)

Home: An Exploration

Dr. Christopher Toner

Tuesdays, September 22, 29 & October 6

1:00-2:45pm | \$75

Home is central to our everyday worlds, our literature and legends, and our politics. But what do we mean by "home," and how does home relate to ourselves, families, communities, and states? This three-part series will begin with a broad exploration of what home has meant to different societies, propose a working model of how we might think of "home" in our modern lives, and discuss the implications for our individual, communal, and political lives that "home" entails in the twenty-first century.

The Federal Reserve and You

Libby Starling, Minneapolis Federal Reserve

Tuesdays, October 6 & 13

10:00-11:45am | \$50

What does the Federal Reserve have to do with neighborhood development and home affordability in the Twin Cities? In this special two-lecture program, Libby Starling of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve will explain the structure and function of the Federal Reserve Bank and how the economics of monetary policy affect the real-world questions of neighborhood composition, housing availability, and who gets to own a home in the Twin Cities metro.

The Middle East in the 20th Century and Beyond

Dr. Shaherzad Ahmadi

Tuesdays October 13, 20 & 27

11:45am-1:15pm | \$75

In this series, held over the noon hour to promote intergenerational attendance, Professor Shaherzad Ahmadi (Associate Professor of History, University of St. Thomas) will explain how global currents of economic and political change created the national identities and regional politics of the modern Middle East. This story of revolutionary transformation and conservative resistance challenges many assumptions about how both peoples and states encountered the problems of modernization, Western influences, Cold War tensions, and the relationship of religion to politics and everyday life.

Disputed Elections and Constitutional Crises

Frank Sachs (The Blake School *emeritus*)

Wednesdays, September 23, 30 & October 7

10-11:45am | \$75

Contrary to our popular perceptions, approximately one in four U.S. presidential elections has seen significant accompanying controversy. Four Presidential elections' results have been disputed, while in two others the nominating process came under great criticism for irregularities. In two more elections, the winner of the popular vote lost the Electoral College vote, and two where the final results could have been heavily disputed but the losing candidate did not protest and in one they did and lost anyway. Frank Sachs, teacher at the Blake School for more than four decades and recipient of the Presidential Scholars Teacher Recognition Award, will discuss why all these elections were disputed, how the disputes were resolved, what was the impact on the presidency, and American history.

Human Rights in Crisis

Dr. James Dawes

Wednesdays, October 7 & 14

1:00-2:45pm | \$50

In this two-part series, Professor James Dawes will explore the relationship between human understandings of trauma and rights from ancient Greece to the algorithmic present. How do we remember terrible events without becoming trapped by them? How do we tell stories about suffering that are honest about the past but still leave room for hope? What happens to human rights if we create artificial intelligence systems more intelligent and powerful than we are?

Hidden in Plain Sight: The Engineering Behind Everyday Materials

Dr. Rita Lederle

Wednesday, October 21

1:00-2:45pm | \$25

Come learn what they are really doing when they close your road and why we can't seem to get rid of potholes!

The State of Cancer Research: What We Know and Where We Might Go

Dr. Nuri Alpay Temiz

Wednesday, October 28

1:00-2:45pm | \$25

In this special program, Dr. Alpay Temiz will introduce us to recent breakthroughs in genomics and bioinformatics that have produced substantial progress in identifying genetic markers and gene sequencing in the vast field of cancer research. He will then address how computational algorithms and artificial intelligence may accelerate or even transform cancer research in both genetic modeling and diagnostics and also highlight some of the durable problems within cancer science that remain resistant to breakthroughs.

Veterans in Perspective

Karon Veterans' Resource Center

Wednesday, November 4

1:00-2:45pm | Donation

This year's annual supporter appreciation event focuses on veterans and veteranhood in the United States. Developed in partnership with the Karon Family Veterans' Resource Center, our program will feature US military servicemembers from across three generations sharing perspectives on service, citizen-soldierhood, and the relationship of military service to American culture more broadly. While veterans and military service are sometimes stereotyped into singular and often politicized roles, the complexity of their experiences reflects the equally nuanced nature of the citizen-soldier throughout United States history.

As a thank-you to our benefactors, this **event is free to all who have made a gift to the Selim Center in the 2026-27 fiscal year. Donations can be mailed to the Selim Center, given in check or cash at the door on the day of the event, or made online via our Tommie Give Day site**

The Book of Job

Dr. Daniel Pioske

Thursdays, September 24, October 1 & 8

10:00am-11:45am | \$75

In this series, Dan Pioske (Associate Professor and Associate Chair of Theology, University of St. Thomas) explores the Book of Job. Among the most beautiful and challenging books of the Old Testament and one of the greatest literary and theological works of the ancient world, Job raises enduring questions about suffering, justice, faith, and God that have resonated throughout both the Jewish and Christian traditions.

Polarized Politics: Causes, Attributes, and Responses

Professors Goltz, Lynch, and High-Pippert

Thursdays, September 24, October 1 & 8

1:00-2:45pm | \$75

Drawing on their combined expertise, this series features three faculty members from the University of St. Thomas political science department who will explore the complex problem of polarized or "frozen" politics in modern American life. The series begins with deep tensions in political philosophy, moves to an assessment of the electoral and communicative mechanisms that select for polemics and punish compromise, and concludes with how both institutions and citizens can find alternatives to totalizing political identities.

World War II in China

Dr. Connor Mills

Thursdays, October 22, 29 & November 5

10:00-11:45am | \$75

For Americans, the Chinese theater of World War II can too often be regarded as a sideshow to more decisive campaigns. Yet the war in China began earliest (in 1931), lasted longest (14 years), produced among the highest human costs, and involved a bewildering array of belligerents. For Japan, China was the principal objective of imperial ambition, and more than 75% of all Japanese Army personnel deployed during World War II would fight in the Chinese campaigns. Moreover, the war in China yielded consequences of profound significance for the global 20th century and fundamentally influenced the origins and course of the Cold War.

A Divided Nation: The Coming of the Civil War, 1845-1861

Dr. David Williard, Selim Center Director

Thursdays, October 22, 29 & November 5

1:00-2:45pm | \$75

Explaining how an optimistic American public whose economy and borders were relentlessly expanding and whose political tensions seemed to have been effectively suppressed charted a course that ended in the bloodiest and most revolutionary conflict that the United States has ever witnessed poses a challenge for both historians and for public memory. This three-part series will integrate contingent political and institutional developments with explanations stemming from broader cultural and economic conditions, beginning with the invasion of Mexico in 1845 and culminating with the declaration of an insurrection by President Lincoln in April 1861.

The Midterms and the Nation Lunch N' Learn

Dr. David Williard, Selim Center Director

Friday, November 6

12:00-1:45pm | \$45

National political analyst and Selim Center regular David Schultz (Distinguished University Professor of Politics and Law, Hamline University) will provide an assessment of the 2026 electoral landscape and its possible meanings. He will discuss national trends, the Minnesota gubernatorial and Congressional results, and the broader context of the nation's political climate and its institutions. Tickets for this event include lunch.