

# **ElderCollege at Silver Harbour: Winter-Spring 2025**

## **Ancient Egypt: Life along the Nile**

This course will provide a general introduction to the culture and history of ancient Egypt during different periods of antiquity. We will focus in particular on Egypt in its home along the Nile, exploring the role of the river in supporting transportation and trade and provisioning bounty through the resources it held and the fertile land it nourished. Although the Nile represented an important source of life, it was also home to dangerous creatures and parasites, while fluctuations in the annual flood could have devastating effects on the landscape and those inhabiting it. Throughout this lecture series, we will discuss the emergence and development of ancient Egyptian society along the Nile valley through both archaeological remains and textual sources, addressing topics like the emergence of writing, religious beliefs, kingship ideology, governance and bureaucracy, funerary culture and pyramid building, and climate change. The role of Ancient Egypt within the larger Mediterranean world will also be explored, as well as the modern agendas at play in the exploration and appropriation of the past.

Christine Johnston is an Associate Professor of Ancient Mediterranean History at Western Washington University and a Natural Environment Area Editor for the UCLA Encyclopedia of Egyptology. Her research focuses on economic and environmental history in the Mediterranean, West Asia, and North Africa during the Bronze Age. She also engages in research on cultural heritage, legacy holdings, public history, and digital humanities, and is a co-founder and the video producer for the Peopling the Past project.

Fri 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Jan 24 – Feb 21

Card Room

\$30

## Books Unlimited Book Club (on Zoom)

This popular book club, established in 1997, continues to welcome both returning and new participants. This friendly group loves to talk about fiction and occasionally a non-fiction book. If you would like more information on Books Unlimited, please email [info@silverharbourcentre.com](mailto:info@silverharbourcentre.com), and we will have the facilitator contact you.

Wed 1:30 – 3:00 pm

Jan 22 – Apr 16

via Zoom

\$30

Jan 22 – This Is Happiness – Niall Williams

Feb 12 – The Splendid and the Vile – Eric Larson

Mar 5 – Various short stories and novels – Somerset Maugham

Mar 26 – The Huntress – Kate Quinn

Apr 16 – The Sympathizer – Viet Thanh Nguyen

## Champions of the Environment Spring 2025

This is an interesting and informative series with a variety of speakers on environmental issues related to the importance of biodiversity and its contribution to our wildlife, rivers, forests and more. However, biodiversity loss is occurring at an alarming rate. This course looks at what is happening both locally and internationally to face this challenge.

Mon 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Feb 24 – Apr 7

Card Room

\$30

February 24<sup>th</sup> - **“The Mighty Fraser River – Is it in Peril?”** presented by Jeremy Venditti, Professor SFU Environmental Sciences. Global sediment flux to the ocean is estimated as ~14.0 BT/yr but has declined to ~12.6 BT/yr due to anthropogenic influences on sediment supply, including sand trapping by dams. This risks the stability of the world’s deltas that are already under pressure due to predicted sea level rise. The Fraser River in British Columbia, Canada figures prominently in datasets used to estimate sediment flux to the world’s oceans because the river is unassailably large and undammed, and the basin is mostly undeveloped, which is increasingly rare.

March 3<sup>rd</sup> - **“Ecocide Law: A Legal Pathway to Prevent Environmental Destruction?”** Amalie Wilkinson, a law student at UBC, will explain ‘Ecocide’ which refers to mass damage and destruction of nature. This talk will introduce a critical legal solution to prevent ecocide: making it an international crime. The presentation will discuss an ongoing, worldwide initiative led by governments, faith leaders, lawyers, environmental advocates, diplomats, youth, businesses, scientists, educators, artists, and others to make ‘ecocide’ a 5th crime at the International Criminal Court.

March 10<sup>th</sup> – **“A Letter to the Future”** – an interactive session with Erlene Woollard and Eunice Lee of Suzuki Elders. When you think about the climate crisis, do you ever get stuck on the question, what can I do? In this interactive workshop, join other participants in search of inspiration and purpose about environmental issues. You will put pen to paper to express your feelings, envision the future and set goals. And with any luck, you just might find an answer to that question.

March 17<sup>th</sup> - **“Wildfires Where Communities Meet the Forest: Safety and Environmental Concerns”**. Speaker: Dr. Rhonda Millikin, Ph.D., M.Sc. is a Whistler-based ecologist who considers fire management in the context of ecosystems, rather than forestry. We are graced by a majestic coastal forest backdrop on the North Shore, yet the risk of fire in the areas where urban living abuts the forest, referred to as the Urban Interface Area, is a threat to both safety and a biodiversity. We need to protect structures while at the same time regarding the biodiversity - big trees, emerging vegetation, animals, birds, insects, microorganisms, etc. - in areas near our homes. It takes knowledge and sensitivity to integrate the two.

March 24<sup>th</sup> - **“What are Rain Gardens, and Why Do We Need More of Them?”** Speaker: Chloe Hartley, North Shore Rain Garden Association. A rain garden is a planted area with porous surfaces, ponds, streams, trees and water-loving vegetation. The effects of climate change are increasing rainfall on the already rainy North Shore, producing extreme events such as atmospheric rivers that overwhelm our stormwater management systems. By capturing rainwater where it falls and using ecological principles, rather than moving it into existing piping systems, we can harness the benefits of the water. For example, one benefit of a rain garden, among many others, is that it helps remove sediments and contaminants before they reach and damage our receiving waters (streams and salt water).

For those who are interested, Alex Jamieson, who volunteered on the recently completed rain garden project at the North Shore Alliance Church on 23rd Street, will lead a short walking field trip to take a close up look.

March 31<sup>st</sup> - **“Tree Talk – Before You Cut that Tree”** a talk by Justus Mirembe, a Wildlife Enforcement Officer at Environment Canada. Have you ever wondered whether you should cut down a tree, leave it for migratory nesting birds? As an example, the nuthatches and chickadees would come under the enforcement officer’s scrutiny as they migrate across the border. Justus will unravel all the federal rules of wildlife conservation in simple terms for us.

April 7<sup>th</sup> - **“Geoengineering - Could it Help to Reduce Climate Change?”** What happens if we run out of the easy climate solutions – Stewart will discuss what geoengineering means and its feasibility. Stewart Cohen aka Dr. Climate Change, obtained geography degrees from McGill University, the University of Alberta, and the University of Illinois. Dr Cohen has recently retired from a 35-year research career with Environment and Climate Change Canada. He was also a member of author teams for national assessments of climate change in Canada and the United States, as well as for several publications for IPCC. Since his retirement from research, Dr. Cohen has been teaching an online course, *“Climate Change Adaptation Fundamentals”* at Royal Roads University, and is writing posts on his blog, [www.doctorclimatechange.com](http://www.doctorclimatechange.com).

## **What's News?**

Are you interested in following current events? What's News is a discussion group that focuses on current topics in local, national and international news. Meeting once a week, this group offers you an opportunity to be informed, get caught up to date and express your opinions about the significant stories of the day. For this winter/spring term, some significant issues that we can anticipate include a potential national election in Canada and the impact of the incoming Trump administration in the United States, as well as ongoing conflicts in Europe and the Middle East.

Thur 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Card Room

Jan 16 – Apr 24

\$30