

# Selim Center

## *for Lifelong Learning*

## Learning Post September 2025

### Plan Now to Join Us This Fall!

Our fall schedule begins next week, and we hope you'll join us throughout the next 8 weeks for terrific lifelong learning opportunities.

Our director, Dr. David Williard, offered a few words about two of our featured Wednesday events this semester.

Our September 17th event, "Paradox," led by Dr. Yohuru Williams (director of the Racial Justice Institute), emerges from our commitments to sharing emerging research from St. Thomas scholars and to programming that has a direct connection to our region. It draws on hundreds of hours of archival research and interviews with Twin Cities residents of diverse perspectives: police, community leaders, journalists, and ordinary citizens. Our conversation with Dr. Williams about the documentary, and the research initiative that made it possible, aims to get beyond simple binaries and into the human and social complexities that have shaped Minneapolis for the past five decades.

On October 8th, UST President Rob Vischer will inaugurate a new series at the Selim Center called "The Good Society." In this series, we will focus on topics of broad importance through an explicitly intergenerational lens. Participants will come from our community of lifelong learners as well as from UST undergraduates, and our format will feature dialog and reflection in addition to the formal presentation. President Vischer's topic, "The Terrain of Relationship," draws on his own scholarship as well as his experiences as a university president to consider why interpersonal engagement—encountering one another—is a vital component of a healthy, democratic society and essential to human freedom.

I look forward to welcoming you to these two events!



### Looking Ahead to January 2026

We March for Justice!, our intergenerational travel experience to the American South and focused on the contexts and legacies of the Civil Rights Movement, will take place from January 10th-22nd, 2026. Both undergraduates and Selim Center participants have described the trip as "life changing" for its breadth of encounters and depth of human connection. Details will be forthcoming in early October, but David (dwilliard@stthomas.edu; 651-962-5736) welcomes all inquiries you may have about the trip in the meantime.



We lost one of our 25-year lifelong learners this summer. John (seen here at a class break with historian & instructor Dr. George Woytanowitz) was a passionate student, taking multiple classes each term since his retirement in 2000. We hope you'll be inspired by his passion and follow his mantra, as John himself once said, "I have to learn something new every day!"

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## Fall Programming: Tuesday Mornings

### Ending World War II: Problems, Possibilities, Legacies with Dr. Joseph Fitzharris

Tuesdays, September 16 & 23, 2025, 10:00-11:45 a.m. (\$50)  
For Americans, World War II ended in Rheims on May 7, 1945 and September 2, 1945 in Tokyo. Though the fighting ended, the end phase dragged on as the problems and possibilities and legacies generated by the war became obvious. The situation of the combatant nations as the fighting ended is our starting point for the examination of the problems (e.g., de-Nazification), possibilities (e.g., European cooperation), and legacies (e.g., the Cold War).



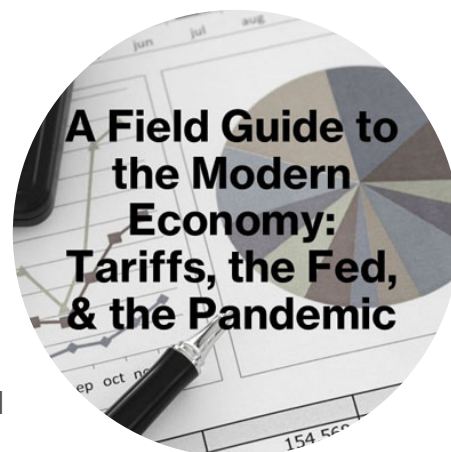
### Cold War Cadence: A Military Musician's Berlin Memoir with Dr. Bruce Gleason

Tuesday, September 30, 2025, 10:00-11:45 a.m. (\$25)  
In this fascinating memoir session, Dr. Bruce Gleason provides a fascinating review of his enlistment with the 298<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Band stationed in Berlin at the end of the Cold War. Based on his book, Cold War Cadence, he will share not only the work of army bandsmen and women, but will also offer more than a glimpse of the historic city of Berlin--as well as the Prussian and Nazi ghosts that still reside there. Filled with copious detail, Gleason's latest book of vivid recollections promises to satisfy even the most discerning reader of Cold War and general European history.



### A Field Guide to the Modern Economy: Tariffs, the Fed, & the Pandemic with Dr. Tyler Schipper

Tuesdays, October 7, 14 & 21, 2025, 10:00-11:45 a.m. (\$75)  
In this three-part series, we'll explore the policies and shocks that shape our economic world. The first session dives into the economics of tariffs, followed by an inside look at how the Federal Reserve works, and concludes with economic lessons from the pandemic focusing on changes to the labor market and government support. Each session combines data, theory, and real-world examples to help make sense of the complex issues driving today's headlines.



**[Read more & register at  
www.stthomas.edu/selim-center/programs](http://www.stthomas.edu/selim-center/programs)**

## Fall Programming: Tuesday Afternoons

### Modern Greece and Italy: Parallel Histories with Dr. John Mazis

Tuesdays, September 16, 23 & 30, 2025, 1:00-2:45 p.m. (\$75)  
The Greeks and the Italians are people with ancient histories, but the Greek and Italian states are recent creations of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In this series of lectures, we'll examine how the two countries gained their independence, how they evolved, their dreams for their futures, and their place in the world today.



### Postwar? Japanese and American Experiences After World War II with Dr. Connor Mills

Tuesday, October 7, 1:00-2:45 p.m. (\$25)  
As World War II came to an end, the United States began a military occupation of Japan that would continue for nearly seven years. This talk will use newly available courts-martial records to explore some of these interactions, with a particular focus on various forms of violence that were remarkably common during these years. In the process, we will explore the question of whether this kind of violence is perhaps an inherent part of even ostensibly peaceful military occupations.



### Seeing Culture with American Culture & Difference Program Faculty

Tuesday, October 14, 1:00-2:45 p.m. (\$25)  
This event, the first in the Selim Center's new "Tools for Discovery" series, introduces skills for finding culture in the world around us. How does culture appear in landscapes and built environments, in language, and in social interaction? How can reading culture help us to know our world - and the people within it - better? Three faculty from the American Culture & Difference program will take an interdisciplinary approach to a common question: what does it mean to see culture produced and reflected in everyday life?



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# Fall Programming: Wednesdays

## Paradox with Dr. Yohuru Williams

Wednesday, September 17, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Plan now to join the Selim Center at UST on September 17, from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 pm, when Dr. Yohuru Williams, founding director of the Racial Justice Initiative (RJI) at UST, will lead a preview and discussion of "Paradox", a documentary produced in partnership with Twin Cities Public Television and scheduled to air in October. Based on several years of archival research and oral interviews, the film explores policing in Minneapolis as it evolved in the decades prior to George Floyd's death in May 2020. Dr. Williams will introduce the film and its relationship to the RJI's mission and ongoing work, reflecting on the state of civil rights in our local community and national context six decades after the passage of the Voting Rights Act.

To learn more about the RJI's Master Class programming, visit this link: <https://www.stthomas.edu/about/diversity-equity-inclusion/racial-justice-initiative/racial-justice-masterclass/index.html>



## The Terrain of Relationship: Individuals, Governments, and the Vital Space Between with UST President Rob Vischer

Wednesday, October 8, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
What gets lost when democratic societies attend to questions of the good only as personal preferences or electoral choices? In the inaugural event in the Selim Center's "Good Society" series, President Rob Vischer will reflect on his own scholarship as well as the contemporary moment's challenges to consider why a good society must cultivate "relational space," a place of encounter where individuals develop and practice their values through engagement with one another. "Good Society" series events will feature reduced admission prices, intergenerational participants, and a format that encourages vibrant dialogue with the hope that the Selim Center can foster conversations that reinvigorate our campus, community, and civic life.




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## Fall Programming: Thursday Mornings

### A Survey of the Old Testament with Dr. Daniel Pioske

Thursdays, September 18 & 25; October 2, 10:00-11:45 a.m.  
(\$75)

This session offers an introduction to the writings of the Old Testament. We begin by discussing the historical origins of these texts and the ancient world in which they were composed. We then investigate the writings themselves and the major sections in which they are divided, the Torah, the Prophets, and the Writings.



A Survey  
of the  
Old Testament

### The Critical Study of the New Testament: Some Test Cases with Dr. David Landry

Thursdays, October 9, 23 & 30, 2025 , 10:00-11:45 a.m. (\$75)

This series explores some of the issues that are covered in introductory classes to the New Testament that employ the critical method of biblical study. Among the topics covered will be the dating of the gospels, christological implications of the portrayal of Jesus on film, and the differences between critical analysis of Scripture and the fundamentalist interpretation of the Bible.



The Critical Study of  
the New Testament:  
Some Test Cases



No Classes  
on  
October 16

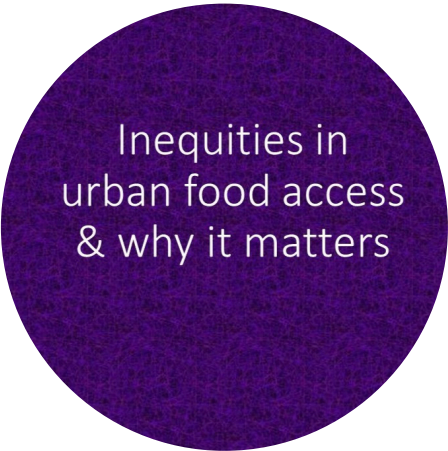
Note: There are no class sessions on  
Thursday, October 16, both morning  
and afternoon sessions

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## Fall Programming: Thursday Afternoons

### **Inequities in urban food access & why it matters with Dr. Justa Heinen-Kay & Dr. Adam Kay**

Thursdays, September 18 & 25, October 2, 1:00-2:45 p.m. (\$75)  
This series will explore topics around urban food access in the Twin Cities at the intersection of hunger relief, public health, environmental sustainability, and social entrepreneurship. The speakers will explore global, national, and local factors that limit access to healthy foods, and will describe challenges and opportunities for creating thriving food systems in US cities that benefit everyone. They will examine these ideas through the lens of a nationally recognized, local nonprofit organization, BrightSide Produce, established in 2014 and currently co-directed by the speakers.



Inequities in  
urban food access  
& why it matters

### **Brain Science & Healthy Aging with Dr. Ben Denking**

Thursdays, October 9, 23 & 30, 1:00-2:45 p.m. (\$75)  
This three-part lecture series explores the frontiers of brain science and healthy aging. Participants will learn how cognitive function changes over time and what lifestyle factors – such as exercise, nutrition, and mental activity – can support long-term brain health. Each session will include accessible scientific insights, practical strategies, and group discussion, and is ideal for anyone interested in aging well and staying mentally sharp.



Brain Science  
and  
Healthy Aging

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## Fall Programming: Special Programs

### Rhapsodies with Susan Anderson-Benson

Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 1:00-2:45 p.m.

Instead of a traditional send off for her retirement from UST, the Selim Center's music maven will present a farewell lecture-performance event titled "Rhapsodies" that you won't want to miss. The event will explore the concept of rhapsody in music and will feature several important rhapsodic works, including works by Gershwin and Queen plus a live performance of a Brahms piano rhapsody.

This event is a fundraiser for the Selim Center; registration fee is a donation to the Center. Suggested donation \$20; any amount welcome.



### Lunch'n Explore: American Democracy at the Cross Roads with Dr. David Schultz

Friday, November 7, 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (\$45)

One year after the re-election of Donald Trump to a second presidential term some are hopeful yet others fearful about the fate of American democracy and politics. This lecture examines the present and future direction of the Trump presidency and what it means for American democracy and the role of the US in the world.



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## Homecoming 2025

Save the date and plan now to join us at Homecoming on Saturday, October 4. As always, our table will feature information about our programming, cornhole/bags, and fun give-aways. You won't want to miss this fun annual event on campus ahead of the football game between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m..

Looking forward to seeing you on October 4th!

## Tommie Give Day 2025

Save the date and plan now to support the Selim Center for the annual Tommie Give Day campaign. Online giving begins October 21 and runs through November 4.

You can also give now by sending your donation via check which will allow you to take part in the October 21 special class, "Rhapsodies", a fundraiser for the Center.



## Contact Information

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