



The MICL Letter

March 2025

Spring Session C

A Message from our MICL President - Bruce Clifton

Humor! Traveling Through Complexity



“Comedy can cut men like this down to size, robbing them of their power and myths.” Mel Brooks

“Satire is tragedy plus time.” Lenny Bruce

Can you imagine being so offended that you slaughter 25,000 people? What could cause one to be so aggrieved? It was an incident involving humor, jokes, and laughter. In 215 AD, the residents of the city of Alexandria in Egypt, due to being under foreign rule, had developed a penchant for challenging higher authorities through witty humor and satire. At the time, the city was under Roman jurisdiction ruled by the authoritarian Marcus Aurelius Antonius, better known as Caracalla. As a tyrant and narcissist who engaged in ridiculous behavior, he was too tempting for the city’s satirists to ignore: he was a “gold mine” for comedy-making. So, when endless jokes reached Caracalla’s ears in Rome, he angrily sent his army to Alexandria where the people were engaged in a joyous festival. After the slaughter, Caracalla’s weakness to being mocked was exposed leading to one of his own soldiers stabbing him to death. The anniversary of his death thus became an annual city-wide celebration in Alexandria, and forever highlights the power, and complications, of humor.

Humor completes our acronym of our school year's theme **SPLASH**. Humor represents **COMPLEXITY** as it can be an effective tool to express dissatisfaction but can also trigger unexpected consequences. Humor reminds us that there are complications inherent in EVERY academic discipline. At MICL, we reserve time each hour for us to discuss the lesson’s concepts and the topics because, for all human beings, it takes time to wrap our minds around them. So, as you take a look at the Session C classes, remember that there is much more behind a simple title of a class. It is a door that opens us to our world: one of profound complexity.



Dan Gorman

FIELD TRIPS:
April 19, 2025
“The Marvelous Wonderettes”
See Flyer for Details

SESSION C Classes:
March 24 thru
April 25 , 2025

Spring 2025 Session C					
March 24 – April 25, 2025					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10 am to NOON	 Travels Around the World	 Vietnam: 10,000 Day War	 Wine Tasting	 Current Events	 MICL at The Movies
1 pm to 3 pm	 All Things Considered	 The Philosophy of Humor	 Writing it Down!	 Great Decisions	

2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President Bruce Clifton
- President-Elect Johnnie Williams
- Secretary Linda Lagace
- Treasurer Dorothy Ford
- Curriculum, VP Bob Droual
- Communications Debi Jackson
- Facilities Noel Russel
- Membership Roger Jackson
- Publicity Betty Stewart
- Hospitality Maureen Fuertes
- Field Trips Dan Gorman

CLASSES ARE HELD

IN THE EL CAPITAN CENTER BUILDING
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
DURING FALL & SPRING SEMESTERS
Summer Session No Mondays or Fridays

Annette Olsen Immediate Past President
 Vicki Vander Veen MJC Comm. Ed. Specialist
 MJC Lifelong Learning (209) 575-6063
 MJC West Campus, El Capitan Bldg. 2201 Blue Gum Ave. Modesto, CA

George Pettygrove, 1920-2014
Odessa Johnson
Founders

M
O
N
D
A
Y

10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

Coordinator:
Betty Stewart



TRAVELS AROUND THE WORLD: Everything to do with travel is in this course, including trips taken by MICL members, guest speakers who have visited exotic countries, tips on how to travel as painlessly as possible, B & B advice, and exploring countries that people rarely go to. Photos, videos, and most of all great stories are the core of this fun course. Come and experience the world!

3/31 Cesar Chavez Day NO CLASS

12:00 NOON TO 1:00 PM **BREAK**

1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Coordinator:
Bob Droual



ALL THINGS CONSIDERED: In this course we will focus on topics of interest that lend themselves to a one or two hour class but not a full five-week session. Special emphasis will be on topics that are particularly timely at this point in history.

3/31 Cesar Chavez Day NO CLASS

10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

Coordinator:
Dan Gorman



VIETNAM: THE TEN THOUSAND DAY WAR: This documentary was produced in Canada in 1980. There are ten, 48 minute videos, covering 1945 to 1975. We will add to the discussion by hearing from a few veterans that were there, who will share their stories.

12:00 NOON TO 1:00 PM **BREAK**

1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

T
U
E
S
D
A
Y

Coordinator:
Bruce Clifton



THE PHILOSOPHY OF HUMOR: Don't miss this course! Come see and experience a delightful array of insightful and-yes-humorous lectures of Take My Course, Please! The Philosophy of Humor. Together, let's jump into Alice in Wonderland's rabbit hole and travel through the philosophical theories of humor. We'll make surprisingly profound stops on our journey to learn everything from blatantly obvious puns to sly twists of language. Rooted in the observations of thinkers like Aristotle and Sigmund Freud, this course will leave you with your mouth agape of how we as humans tick. You'll be amazed and will leave each class with a smile on your face. Mark this course on your calendar right now!

W
E
D
N
E
S
D
A
Y

10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

Coordinator:
Duane Nelson



WINE TASTING: In this course, Master of Wine Jennifer Simonetti-Bryan will show you how you can become a knowledgeable wine drinker just by training your senses to get the most out of every glass you drink. We begin by building your taster’s tool kit, a set of skills you will need to taste and analyze wines most effectively. Then, we examine the process of making wine, all the way from the vineyard to the bottle. From there, we will approach the abundance and variety of the wine world.

12:00 NOON TO 1:00 PM **BREAK**

1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Coordinator:
Joyce Starkey



WRITING IT DOWN: Do you like to write? Do you have family stories you want to share with your grandkids? Do you like to write poetry? If you answered yes to any of these questions, come join our writing group. Write anything you like at home and bring it to class when you are ready to share. We will enjoy what you wrote and offer friendly feedback. Don’t worry, sharing is always voluntary! If you are not sure, come and listen to check it out. Come and join our writing community of writers and listeners.

10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

Coordinator:
To Be Announced



CURRENT EVENTS: Have you ever watched TV or read a newspaper article, opinion, or letter to the editor and really wanted to discuss or react to what you read? “*Current Events*” is just the class for you. We discuss all kinds of issues and happenings from your neighborhood, local, regional, state, national, and world news. You bring in the topic, introduce it, and we all discuss it with the help of our collective expertise.

12:00 NOON TO 1:00 PM **BREAK**

1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Coordinator:
David Froba



GREAT DECISIONS: America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions [Briefing Book](#), watching the [video series](#) and meeting in a [Discussion Group](#). It is an opportunity to understand more in depth the most critical global issues facing America by a combination of reading, watching a video, and discussion. All are welcome to watch the video and discuss, but if you buy and read the book you will get more out of the class.

If you have any questions about the class or would like to reserve a book, please contact:

David Froba via email: davidfroba@gmail.com or by phone/text at (209) 499-6406.

T
H
U
R
S
D
A
Y

1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

T
H
U
R
S
D
A
Y

Coordinator:
Arlene Allsup



BOOK CLUB: We meet the last Thursday of each Session. We read a nonfiction book one month and a fiction book the next month. The book is suggested and selected by the group and will be moderated by the person that suggested the book title. Our group is open to everyone, even if you have not read or have previously read the book. Please feel free to join the group for any of the meetings. Keep Reading!

April 24, 2025

“Black Wall Street: From Riot to Renaissance in Tulsa’s Historic Greenwood District”,
by Hannibal Johnson

Early in the twentieth century, the black community in Tulsa- the "Greenwood District"- became a nationally renowned entrepreneurial center. Frequently referred to as "The Black Wall Street of America," the Greenwood District attracted pioneers from all over America who sought new opportunities and fresh challenges. Legal segregation forced blacks to do business among themselves. The Greenwood district prospered as dollars circulated within the black community. But fear and jealousy swelled in the greater Tulsa community. The alleged assault of a white woman by a black man triggered unprecedented civil unrest. The worst riot in American history, the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921 destroyed people, property, hopes, and dreams. Hundreds of people died or were injured. Property damage ran into the millions. The Greenwood District burned to the ground. Ever courageous, the Greenwood District pioneers rebuilt and better than ever. By 1942, some 242 businesses called the Greenwood district home. Having experienced decline in the '60s, '70s, and early '80s, the area is now poised for yet another renaissance. Black Wall Street speaks to the triumph of the human spirit.

10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

F
R
I
D
A
Y

Coordinator:
Noel Russell



FRIDAY AT THE MOVIES: Start your weekend with a film, related to our current classes, that will carry you away to other times and places. After the movie, those who wish gather at a local eatery for lunch and discussion. The movie details are posted in the Weekly Update on the prior Friday.

March 28: “Mankind: the story of all of us” (Continued from Session B)

April 4: “Mankind: the story of all of us”

April 11: “Mankind: the story of all of us”

April 18: “Sideways”

April 25: “Patrick and the Whale”

The Marvelous
Wonderettes

MICL FIELD TRIP
SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH
2:00 P.M.
SEATS ARE \$30 EACH



This smash Off-Broadway hit takes you to the 1958 Springfield High School prom, where we meet Betty Jean, Cindy Lou, Missy, and Suzy: four girls with hopes and dreams as big as their crinoline skirts! As we learn about their lives and loves, the girls serenade us with classic '50s hits including "Lollipop," "Dream Lover," "Stupid Cupid," and "Lipstick on Your Collar." Reunited ten years later, the Wonderettes take the stage and perform at their high school reunion. Featuring over 30 classic '50s and '60s hits, *The Marvelous Wonderettes* will keep you smiling in this must-take musical trip down memory lane!

Deadline: March 20th

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: MICL

MAIL CHECK TO: DAN GORMAN
2215 EL CAPITAN
TURLOCK, CA. 95380

NOTE: Dinner afterwards at **Standard Pour Restaurant** at 4:30 pm
Let Dan know if you want to be included in the reservations.

The MICL Lunch Hangout

Tip: The MJC Food Court has deli sandwiches, salads, snacks, drinks, and more! It's just a short walk away!

Are you waiting for the afternoon class to start? Feel free to bring a lunch, sit at a "community table" at MICL, and enjoy eating and socializing with class members!



NOON TO 1:00 PM

EVENT SCHEDULE			
Session C Starts	March 24, 2025		
Curriculum Committee	1st Tuesday	April 1, 2025	3:45 pm
Board Meeting	2nd Tuesday	April 8, 2025	3:45 pm
Birthday Luncheon	3rd Friday	April 18, 2025	1:00 pm
No Potluck	Annual Luncheon	May 7, 2025	
Book Club	Last Thursday	April 24, 2025	1:00 pm
Session C Ends	April 25, 2025		

micl-online.org Find our latest Catalog, MICLetter, Weekly Update, pictures and videos

Join us on Facebook: Enter MICL in search field, at site click on [+ Join Group](#)