



BRCLL and Blue Ridge Community College will again co-host six Great Decisions lectures to promote international awareness of world issues by providing nonpartisan briefings and expert presentations on a variety of subjects. The Series is sponsored by the National Foreign Policy Association (FPA) and the Asheville World Affairs Council (WAC).

All lectures will be held on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 until 11:30 a.m. at the Thomas Auditorium on the Blue Ridge Community College campus. Cost is \$40 for all six lectures or \$10 each and may be paid before the start of each lecture.

Lecture dates are: February 6, 13, 20 27 and March 6, 13 and 20 (if needed as a snow date). No preregistration is necessary. For further information, call the BRCLL office at 694-1740. You may also email Terri Wallace at tk_wallace@blueridge.edu or send in the registration form below.

Lecture dates, topics and speakers are as follows:

February 6 - Refugees and Global Migration to be presented by Mark Gibney (Mr. Gibney is a distinguished professor of political Science at UNCA, long involved with human rights research and advocacy (organizing film festival for Asheville and WND on the matter). He is also an Affiliated Professor at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in Lund, Sweden.

Lecture Description by Karen Jacobsen

Today, no countries have open borders. Every state in today's global system has its own laws and policies about who is permitted to cross its borders, and how they will do so. Who determines whether someone is a refugee or a migrant? How have different countries, including the United States, reacted to migration? How effective are the international laws, policies and organizations that have evolved to assist and protect refugees and migrants?

February 13 - Cyber Conflict and Geopolitics to be presented by Mike Duncan (Mr. Duncan is an active member of Asheville's growing IT & internet community, is a private cyber-security consultant who works with corporations, companies, and groups to make their broadband services computer platforms secure and safe for themselves and their customers and members.

Lecture Description by Richard Andres

Cyber conflict is a new and continually developing threat, which can include foreign interference in elections, industrial sabotage and attacks on infrastructure. Russia has been accused of interfering in the 2016 presidential elections in the United States and China is highly committed to using cyberspace as a tool of national policy. Dealing with cyber conflict will require new ways of looking at 21st century warfare. Is the United States prepared to respond to such threats?

February 20 - The Rise of Populism in Europe to be presented by John Plant (Mr. Plant is a relative new comer to WNC, Plant is a retired Army officer, and currently a project manager and proposal writer for Consolidated Analysis Centers International (based in Arlington, Va.). He was recently awarded a PhD from George Mason University for his work on migration and demographic change in Europe.

Lecture Description by James Kirchick

Mass migration, and the problems associated with it, have directly abetted the rise of populist parties in Europe. Opposition to immigration was the prime driver of support for Brexit, it brought a far-right party to the German Bundestag for the first time since the 1950s, and propelled Marine Le Pen to win a third of the vote in the French presidential election. In addition to calling for stronger borders, however, these parties are invariably illiberal, anti-American, anti-NATO and pro-Kremlin, making their rise a matter of serious concern for the national security interests of the United States.

February 27 - The Middle East: Regional Disorder to be presented by Tom Sanders (Mr. Sanders holds a PhD from Columbia University and is a retired professor of religious and international studies He has taught for over 20 years in the OLLI program at UNCA, featuring courses on Turkey, the Kurds, Political Development in the Arab World, Religion & Ethnicity, and Politics in the Middle East.

Lecture Description by Lawrence G. Potter

As the presidency of Donald J. Trump passes the halfway point, the Middle East remains a region in turmoil. The Trump administration has aligned itself with strongmen in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, which along with Israel have a common goal of frustrating Iranian expansion. What will be the fallout from policy reversals such as withdrawing from the Iranian nuclear accord and moving the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem? Does the United States see a path forward in troubled states such as Syria, Yemen, Libya and Iraq? Is the United States headed toward war with Iran?

March 6 - Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future? To be presented by Dot Sulock (Ms. Sulock Is a retired professor of math at UNCA where she taught math, humanities, and international studies. Her teaching at OLLI has included courses on renewable energy, nuclear weapons proliferation, ballistic missiles, missile defense, and the smart grid. She is active in UN activities in WNC.

Lecture Description by Ronald J. Bee

Nuclear weapons have not gone away, and the Trump administration has brought a new urgency, if not a new approach, to dealing with them. The President has met with Vladimir Putin as the New Start Treaty with Russia comes up for renewal in 2021, the first presidential summit ever with Kim Jong-un occurred to discuss denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula, and President Trump has decertified the Obama nuclear deal with Iran. To what degree should past nuclear talks guide future U.S. nuclear arms control negotiations? Can the art of the deal apply to stabilizing our nuclear future?

March 13 - Decoding U.S.-China Trade to be presented by Julie Snyder (Ms. Snyder is a retired U.S. diplomat with the Department of Commerce who worked in the field of international trade for over 30 years. In her assignments to U.S. embassies in Canada, Asia and Europe, she focused on a wide range of trade agreements to support of the U.S. business community.

Lecture Description by Jeremy Haft

Though arguably the most advanced economy in the world, the United States still uses centuries-old numbers to measure trade. These antique numbers mangle understanding of the U.S.-China trade relationship, shrinking America's true economic size and competitiveness, while swelling China's. Bad numbers give rise to bad policies that ultimately kill U.S. jobs and cede market share to China. What other tools can the United States employ to counter China's unfair trade practices? There are several available, yet they remain mostly unused.

March 20 (snow day make-up "if necessary")

Please sign me up for the following lectures:

- All 6 Lectures (\$40.00)**
- Feb. 6** – Refugees & Global Migration (\$10.00)
- Feb. 13** – Cyber Conflict & Geopolitics (\$10.00)
- Feb. 20** – Rise of Populism in Europe (\$10.00)
- Feb. 27** – The Middle East (\$10.00)
- March 6** – Nuclear Negotiations (\$10.000)
- March 13** – Decoding US-China Trade (\$10.00)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Check Amount: _____

Check Number: _____

~~ Mail form to: BRCLL, 180 W. Campus Drive, Flat Rock, NC 28731 ~~