

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Great Decisions 2018 Class Schedule and Class Facilitators

Welcome to the OLLI Great Decisions course for 2018. The course will meet on consecutive Tuesdays beginning on March 27 and continuing through May 15.

The Great Decisions course is different from most of the OLLI courses in that it is not intended to be a lecture, and the class size is restricted to encourage robust conversation. The course is also different in that you have homework. By now, you have received the 2018 Great Decisions course book published annually by the Foreign Policy Association. The book contains eight chapters, each dealing with a different foreign policy issue, and an introductory chapter dealing with the origins of the Foreign Policy Association.

Each class will deal with a different chapter in the book. I will facilitate discussion in each class. However, we will not deal with the chapters in the order in which they are presented in the book. The reason for changing the order is that I will be accompanied by a co-facilitator in six of the eight classes who has particular expertise in the subject matter of the chapter under discussion. The rearrangement of order has been done to accommodate their schedules. Each chapter stands on its own as a discussion topic, so there is no magic to the order in which the chapters are presented in the book. We will not lose anything by taking them out of order.

Set forth below is the order in which we will examine each of the chapters in the book and the co-facilitators who will be with us in each class, including a short biographical explanation of each.

March 27—The Waning of Pax Americana?—There will be no co-facilitator for the first class. My bio is in the OLLI course sign-up information.

April 3—South Africa's Fragile Democracy—Naomi Tutu

I will be out of town for the week of April 2. My friend Ken Penegar will conduct the class on April 3 with Naomi. Ken has conducted the Great Decisions class in past years and last year enlisted me to do the class for the first time

Naomi Tutu was born in South Africa, the third child of Archbishop Desmond and Nomalizo Leah Tutu, was educated in Swaziland, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and has divided her adult life between South Africa and the United States. Mother to Joy, Mungi, and Mpilo, she and her family have made Nashville home for the past 18 years. Her professional experience ranges from being a development consultant in West Africa to being coordinator for programs on race and gender and gender-based violence in education at the African Gender

Institute at the University of Cape Town. In addition, Ms. Tutu has taught at the University of Hartford, University of Connecticut, and Brevard College in North Carolina. She also served as program coordinator for the historic Race Relations Institute at Fisk University. In 2016, Ms. Tutu received her M.Div. from Vanderbilt Divinity School. While there, she served an internship at All Saints' Church in Smyrna, Tennessee, and began her ordination discernment process as a member of that parish. She received her postgraduate Diploma in Anglican Studies from Virginia Theological Seminary. In December, 2017, she was ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church and currently serves as Curate at Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville.

April 10—Media and Foreign Policy—John Michael Seigenthaler

John Seigenthaler is a graduate of Father Ryan High School and Duke University, where he received a bachelor of science degree in public policy. John began his television news career in 1980 as a writer and producer at WNGE-TV (now WKRN-TV) in Nashville, Tennessee. From 1981-90, he reported and produced for WSMV-TV, Nashville and also hosted a weekday public affairs show. From there he moved to KOMO-TV in Seattle, where he anchored the weekend evening news. John served as the anchor for the weekend edition of *NBC Nightly News* for more than seven years of his 11-year tenure with NBC News. After NBC, he worked for the Associated Press until joining Seigenthaler Public Relations in July 2008. In 2013 he began work for Al Jazeera America as the anchorman for its one-hour prime time news broadcasts at 8pm eastern and 11pm eastern time. John has recently relocated to Nashville with his family and joined DVL Seigenthaler Public Relations.

April 17—China and America: The New Geopolitical Equation—Jeremy Goldkorn

Jeremy Goldkorn is co-founder of the *Sinica Podcast* and currently edits the website *SupChina* and its daily newsletter. He was born in Johannesburg, South Africa, he has spent chunks of time living in Cape Town, London, Paris, New York, and Mountain View. China, mostly Beijing, was his home from 1995 to 2015. During this time he lived in a workers dormitory, rode a bicycle across Xinjiang, Qinghai, and Tibet, started several businesses, and wrote for publications as diverse as *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *Cosmopolitan* magazine's China edition. He researches, writes and speaks about a range of subjects including media and Internet regulation, business in China, freedom of expression, the habits of Chinese Internet users, Sino-African affairs, the Great Wall and Chinese consumer culture.

While living in China, he founded and ran a number of print magazines and websites. He founded the groundbreaking website Danwei, which reported on and translated Chinese media and internet news and was acquired by the Financial Times in 2013. His articles about China appear at www.supchina.com.

April 24—Turkey: A Partner in Crisis—Samar Ali

Samar Ali is an attorney practicing in the Nashville office of Bass, Berry & Sims law firm. She started her career practicing at Hogan Lovells US LLP, where she helped establish its first Middle Eastern presence by helping open an office in the United Arab Emirates. In 2010, she was named a White House Fellow where she served as a counterterrorism adviser and worked

closely with U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, gaining experience negotiating bi-lateral agreements on behalf of the U.S. government. She remains a third-party mediator for Syria and, during the Obama administration, regularly consulted with White House officials on the fight against ISIS. Samar has also served as Assistant Commissioner of International Affairs in the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development in the administration of Governor Bill Haslam. In addition to her law practice, she serves as a Managing Director of the Lodestone Advisory Group, a consulting firm that specializes in internationalization, investment advisory and strategy. She is an adjunct professor of law at Vanderbilt Law School, where she teaches courses on international relations and negotiations. She has served as a law clerk to the Honorable Gilbert S. Merritt of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and the Honorable Edwin Cameron, now of the Constitutional Court of South Africa. She has been a U.S. delegate to the World Islamic Economic Forum and the U.S./Italy Young Leaders Summit. Samar is one of 24 young professionals from North America selected by the World Economic Forum for its Young Global Leaders class of 2017. The class of 100 young professionals from all over the world is chosen from among rising professionals under 40 who are considered the most innovative, enterprising and socially minded men and women in their regions. Samar received her law and undergraduate degrees from Vanderbilt University, where as an undergraduate she was elected the school's first Arab-American study body president. You can learn more about Samar at <http://www.bassberry.com/professionals/a/ali-samar-s>

May 1—U.S. Global Engagement and the Military—Dr. Jason Dempsey

Jason Dempsey is an Adjunct Senior Fellow of the Military, Veterans, and Society Program at the Center for a New American Security in Washington. Dr. Dempsey is a graduate of the United States Military Academy and holds a Ph.D. in political science from Columbia University. He recently retired from the United States Army as an infantry officer with the rank of Lt. Colonel. During his military service, he deployed twice to Afghanistan and once to Iraq. In 2005 Dr. Dempsey volunteered for deployment to Iraq where he traveled between Baghdad and Kirkuk working with State Department and military personnel to help draft and coordinate policy towards Kirkuk and the reconciliation of conflict stemming from the displacement of Kurdish and Shiite populations in northern Iraq. In January, 2009, Dr. Dempsey deployed with the 10th Mountain Division as the operations officer for Task Force Chosen, responsible for interdicting insurgent movement along 140km of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border in Kunar Province. Midway through the deployment he was selected to serve as the brigade operations officer for Task Force Spartan and was responsible for coordinating counterinsurgency operations in Wardak and Logar, two previously unoccupied provinces located south of Kabul. From 2012 to 2013 Dr. Dempsey served with the 101st Airborne Division as a combat adviser to the Afghan Border Police in eastern Afghanistan. Dr. Dempsey is a graduate of the Army's Command and General Staff College and an honor graduate of the Amphibious Warfare School of the United States Marine Corps. His other military assignments have included tours with the 82nd Airborne Division, the 75th Ranger Regiment, and the 3rd Infantry Division. He also spent three years teaching civil-military relations and American politics in West Point's Department of Social Sciences. Immediately prior to his retirement as a Lt. Colonel, he served as Special Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, where he oversaw the Chairman's strategic priority of Keeping Faith with the Military Community and led the development and launch of the Call to Continued Service, an initiative endorsed by all of the Joint Chiefs of Staff which

encourages members of the military to continue public service after they leave the military. Dr. Dempsey has written extensively on Army efforts toward gender integration, the experiences of Hispanics in the military, and our counterinsurgency efforts in Afghanistan. His book, [Our Army: Soldiers, Politics and Civil-Military Relations](#), was published by Princeton University Press and was the first major work to delve into the social and political attitudes of the active-duty military. During the Obama administration, he was named a White House Fellow and served in the Office of the First Lady, where he worked on the development and implementation of Joining Forces, the First Lady and Dr. Jill Biden's initiative to support military families. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a prior delegate to the U.S./Italy Young Leaders Conference. You can learn more about Dr. Dempsey at <https://www.cnas.org/people/jason-dempsey>

May 8—Russia's Foreign Policy—Dr. Marieta Velikova

Marieta Velikova is Associate Professor of Economics at Belmont University's Jack C. Massey College of Business, where she teaches economics and international business and also advises members of Students in Free Enterprise and has been involved in the creation of the IB Society, an organization for students interested in international studies. Her research interests include macroeconomics and monetary economics. Marieta was born in Bulgaria, but was raised in Western Siberia. She first came to the United States in 1994 when she was 14 through an exchange program created under the Freedom Support Act, which was the first program that initiated exchange between United States and Russia. She received her undergraduate degree from the People's Friendship University of Russia. Her M.A. in Financial Economics and Ph.D. in Applied Economics were both earned at Mississippi State University, where she worked as a research assistant, academic tutor, and instructor of economics. She currently writes articles for economic journals and is a board member of the Sister Cities of Nashville.

May 15—Global Health: Progress and Challenges—There will be no co-facilitator for the last class. I hope to cover the Global Health topics in the readings and use the last half of the class as a summary review and discussion session.