

CLOSE-READING COURSE · FOUR SESSIONS

Reading Thoreau

Walden and Civil Disobedience

A four-session close-reading of *Walden* and 'Civil Disobedience.' Three sessions in the cabin at the pond, one in the Concord jail. We do not read Thoreau for doctrine — he was not doctrinaire — but for his sentences, his arguments, and his ability to make an ordinary life feel like an unlived life.

SIX REPRESENTATIVE SESSIONS

1. Session 1 — *Walden*, 'Economy': the prosecutor's brief against ordinary life
2. Session 2 — 'Where I Lived' and 'Solitude': the discipline of the deliberate life
3. Session 3 — 'Spring' and 'Conclusion': how *Walden* ends
4. Session 4 — 'Civil Disobedience': the essay that shaped Gandhi and King
5. Thoreau's sentence rhythms
6. The politics of refusal

FORMATS · ALL CAN BE ADAPTED TO YOUR CALENDAR

- Full series:** The full set of sessions (see above)
- Workshop:** Shorter version, shaped to the venue's calendar
- Single talk:** One 60-90 minute lecture on a chosen theme
- Delivery:** In person, on Zoom, or hybrid

INSTRUCTOR · JAMES F. MULHERN

Kirkus-starred novelist · Oxford Writing Fellow · Professor Emeritus of English

Give Them Unquiet Dreams — *Kirkus Best Book of 2019*. *Pushcart Prize nomination*. *Founder, Silver Current Press*.

TO BOOK OR ASK QUESTIONS

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