

# HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



**HUMANITIES  
INSTITUTE**  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

**SPRING 2020  
NEWSLETTER**

## USF HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

4202 E. Fowler Ave. CPR107

Tampa, FL 33620

[www.humanities-institute.usf.edu](http://www.humanities-institute.usf.edu)

### STAFF

Director: Liz Kicak

[ekicak@usf.edu](mailto:ekicak@usf.edu)

Program Planner: Stephanie Lance

[s lance@usf.edu](mailto:s lance@usf.edu)

Staff Assistant: Jade Von Werder

[jvonwerder@mail.usf.edu](mailto:jvonwerder@mail.usf.edu)

### FACULTY ADVISORY BOARD

Michael DeJonge (Religious Studies)

Nicole Discenza (English)

Ylce Irizarry (English)

John Lennon (English)

Barbara Lewis (Library)

K. Stephen Prince (History)

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# UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

In November, two dozen undergraduate scholars from 11 departments and schools gathered together to share their original research in our first Undergraduate Humanities Conference. We are so proud of the professional, well-researched presentations that these students completed and are happy to say that, due to the success of this year's conference, we plan to make this an annual event.

### What the students said:

*This conference was one of the most influential experiences I have had at the University of South Florida. Presenting my research to students and faculty was truly an enriching experience.*

—Mary Fraraccio

*I am proud I went beyond my comfort zone to participate and I am proud of the work I was able to do. This conference really inspired me to do more research in the future.*

—Kristofer Elverd

*This conference provided me a platform to present my research in such a productive and accepting environment.*

—Bianca Siegenthaler



# NEW GIFT BRINGS HUGE OPPORTUNITY

## THE CLARA COOPER ENDOWED FUND



Clara  
Cooper  
(1936 - 2019)

The Clara Cooper Endowed Fund will allow the Humanities Institute to provide support to humanities scholars at all levels of their academic career. The wide-ranging impacts of this gift are a beautiful way to memorialize Dr. Cooper's dedication to her students and scholarship.

Over the next few months, we will be sharing additional details of the impact that Dr. Cooper's generous planned giving will bring to the USF community.

The Humanities Institute is overjoyed to announce the establishment of the Clara Cooper Endowed Fund. This generous estate gift will provide funding for the advancement of humanities research in perpetuity and serves as a permanent testament to Dr. Cooper's deep commitment to the humanities at USF.

Dr. Cooper was born in Secunderabad, India in 1936. After completing her Ph.D. in Humanities from Florida State University, she became a USF faculty member in 1972 where she taught in the Department of Humanities and Cultural Studies until retiring in 2003. Dr. Cooper was a gifted scholar and dedicated educator. She was deeply invested in the success of her students and was a beloved teacher and mentor. Her research focused on the Humanities of India and she published the definitive study of the Hindu Mystic Swami Vivekananda.

### YOUR GIFTS HELP THE HUMANITIES THRIVE

Would you like to learn more about making a lasting difference with a planned gift? Please contact Liz Kicak: [ekicak@usf.edu](mailto:ekicak@usf.edu) or 813-974-3657.

Make an annual gift online today:  
<https://giving.usf.edu/online/gift/f/420019/>

# ARTISTS CAPTURE “HOME”

Following the incredible feedback of Matthew Desmond’s Fall 2019 talk on the social impacts of eviction, the Humanities Institute wanted to delve deeper into what it means to have a “home” in our local community. With the help of two wonderful co-sponsors, we will be hosting a juried art exhibit at the Portico Community Hall. The exhibit opening will feature live music and refreshments.

## SHELTER: CONCEPTS OF HOME JURIED ART EXHIBIT OPENING



FRIDAY, JAN. 24 | 6:00PM - 9:00PM

PORTICO COMMUNITY HALL:  
1001 N. FLORIDA AVE. TAMPA, 33602

### PERIPHERY MEDIA

Shelby Baerwalde and Clay Hollenkamp formed this local non-profit after a successful 2019 exhibit illustrated the need for greater support and opportunity for local artists. Their goal is to advance meaningful artwork that engages with social issues in Central Florida and beyond. Their passion for local art made this program possible.

### THE PORTICO

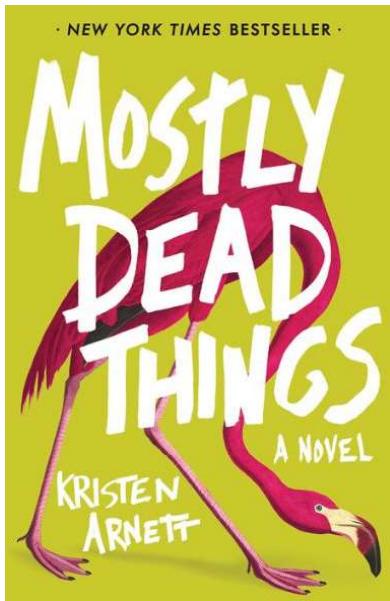
An initiative of Hyde Park United Methodist Church, Portico supports transformative community action—particularly on issues of homelessness. Portico is committed to enhancing the social, artistic, and spiritual fabric of Tampa through: The Portico Café, homeless initiatives, art, and mediation.

## The Humanities Institute Mission Statement

*The Mission of the Humanities Institute at the University of South Florida is to generate critical dialogue about what connects us to each other and our world, facilitating those conversations through research, education, and community programs.*

# Book GROUP

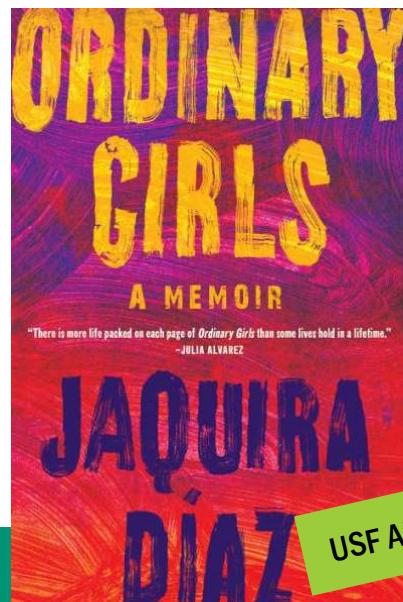
## Weird and Wild Florida



SATURDAY, FEB. 1 • 11AM

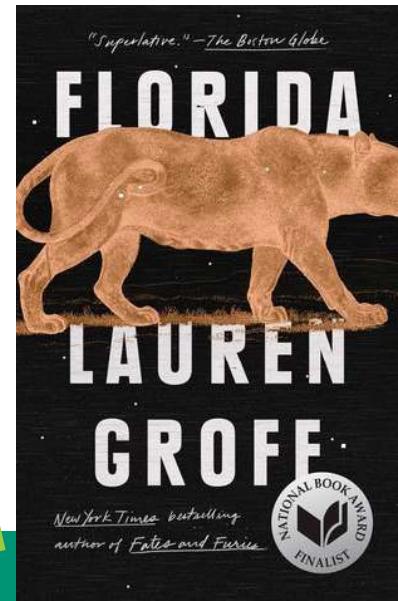
*Mostly Dead Things,*  
KRISTEN ARNETT

CAFFEINE ROASTERS:  
2420 W. KENNEDY BLVD.  
TAMPA, 33609



THURSDAY, MAR. 12 • 7PM

*Ordinary Girls,*  
JAQUIRA DÍAZ  
FLORIDAN PALACE LOBBY BAR:  
905 N. FLORIDA AVE.  
TAMPA, 33602



SATURDAY, APR. 25 • 11AM

*Florida,*  
LAUREN GROFF  
THE HALL ON FRANKLIN:  
1701 N. FRANKLIN ST.  
TAMPA, 33602

Kristen Arnett's debut novel is a hilarious, heart-wrenching, and eccentric look at loss and love. Set in Central Florida, this novel follows a woman dealing with the suicide of her father, while running the taxidermy business she inherited from him, getting over an ex, and learning to live with herself. This *NY Times* bestseller is a darkly funny family portrait.

In this searing memoir, Jaquira Díaz writes fiercely and eloquently of her challenging girlhood and triumphant coming of age. While growing up in housing projects in Puerto Rico and Miami Beach, Díaz longs for a family and home, but her life was upended by violence. As she celebrated her Puerto Rican culture, she couldn't find support for her burgeoning sexual identity.

Groff brings the reader into a physical world that is at once domestic and wild—a place where the hazards of the natural world lie waiting to pounce, yet the greatest threats and mysteries are still of an emotional, psychological nature. The stories span characters, towns, decades, but *Florida*—its landscape, climate, history, and state of mind—becomes its gravitational center.

# RESPECT + REBELLION

Everyone seems to agree that our increasing partisan divides are bad for the country, but how do we have conversations with people who hold profoundly different opinions about big issues? Respect + Rebellion is an innovative program that embraces the notion that a diverse country has clashing opinions and these clash of ideas is at the heart of a healthy democracy. Thanks to a grant from the Florida Humanities Council, the Humanities Institute will be hosting two Red/Blue speaking pairs this spring who demonstrate how to hold divergent views while still respecting (and even being friends with) those who disagree.

Whether you are conservative, liberal, or not easily labeled, start your year with a small act of rebellion: share a table with someone you disagree with and learn from these incredible speaking pairs. Both events will be held at CAVU, an artistic space just down the street from the Hall on Franklin.

**Tuesday, Feb. 4 | 7:00PM**

**CAVU: 1601 N. Franklin St. Tampa, 33602**

**John + Ciaran of *Better Angels*:  
Depolarization in the Age of Donald Trump**



These friends couldn't be more different: John Wood, Jr. was Vice-Chairman of the Republican Party of Los Angeles County and ran for Congress in 2012. Ciaran O'Connor was a campaign staffer for Barack Obama in 2014 and Hillary Clinton in 2016. Both now work for "Better Angels," an organization that breaks down stereotypes, teaches skills for communicating across the political spectrum, and recognizes our common humanity. From Berkley to BYU, John and Ciaran model how friendship can thrive in the face of opposing politics.

**left + right**

**humility + authenticity**

**respect + rebellion**

**This Event IS**

- An opportunity to listen to different points of view.
- A chance to investigate assumptions.
- A challenge to partisan divides.
- A way to affirm or modify fundamental beliefs on an issue.

**This Event IS NOT**

- A political debate.
- A space with winners or losers.
- The time to try and convince someone they are wrong.

**Tuesday, Mar. 31 | 7:00PM**

**CAVU: 1601 N. Franklin St. Tampa, 33602**

**Inclusive Freedom: Protecting Religious Liberty and LGBT Rights  
with Rev. Marian Edmonds-Allen and Derek Monson**



Derek and Marian challenge the notion that gay rights and religious liberty are an inescapable, zero-sum fight. Edmonds-Allen is an ordained minister and passionate advocate for LGBT youth. Monson, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, is VP of Policy at the conservative Sutherland Institute. Learn how these two became friends and work together to help draft legislation, and write influential articles that challenge the traditional political divide.

# DEMOCRACY AND DISINFORMATION



## ANNE APPLEBAUM

Johns Hopkins University  
Agora Institute Senior Fellow

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 25 | 7:30PM  
TAMPA THEATRE: 711 N. FRANKLIN ST.  
TAMPA, 33602

### BOOKS

- *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine* (2017)
- *Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe* (2012)
- *Gulag: A History* (2003) \*Pulitzer Prize in History
- *Between East and West* (1994)

### JOURNALISM

- *The Atlantic* Staff Writer
- *Washington Post* Columnist
- *Spectator* Foreign and Deputy Editor
- *Evening Standard* Political Editor

Articles published in

- *The New Yorker*
- *The Wall Street Journal*
- *The New York Times*
- *Financial Times*
- *International Herald Tribune*
- *Foreign Affairs*
- *The Independent*
- *The Guardian*
- *Commentaire*

Public debate is fragmenting, both at home and abroad. New global information networks have rapidly undermined not only the Western media's business model, but Western political institutions too. Can democracy survive?

Pulitzer Prize winning author and staff writer for *The Atlantic*, Anne Applebaum explores these questions during her talk on March 25<sup>th</sup> at the Tampa Theatre. Applebaum co-directs the LSE Arena at Johns Hopkins University, a program on disinformation and 21<sup>st</sup> century propaganda.

This event is co-sponsored with the USF Institute on Russia, an organization whose goal is to advance knowledge and understanding of Russia in a global, regional, and historical context.



# POETRY CHALLENGES NORMALIZED VIOLENCE

## JERICHO BROWN

Emory University  
Associate Professor

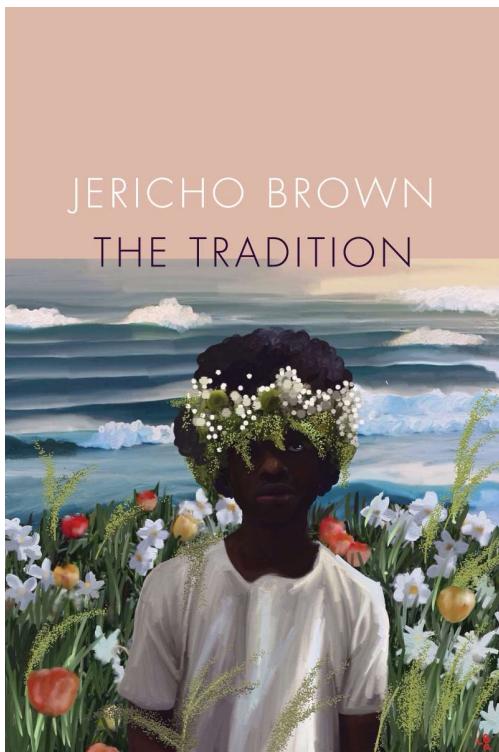


MONDAY, APR. 6 | 6:00PM  
CWY BILL YOUNG HALL (TAMPA CAMPUS)  
Room 206

National Poetry Month is a nation-wide celebration that takes place each April, and the Humanities Institute is hosting Jericho Brown to discuss his new critically-acclaimed

poetry collection: *The Tradition*, on April 6.

Brown's new book details the normalization of evil and its history at the intersection of the past and the personal. His poetic concerns are both broad and intimate, and at their very core a distillation of the incredibly human. Poems of fatherhood, legacy, blackness, queer-



ness, worship, and trauma are propelled into stunning clarity by Brown's mastery. *The Tradition* is a cutting and necessary collection, relentless in its quest for survival while reveling in a celebration of contradiction.

## BOOKS

- *Please* (2008) \*American Book Award
- *The New Testament* (2014) \*Anisfield-Wolf Book Award
- *The Tradition* (2019) \*National Book Award Finalist

## AWARDS

- Whiting Writer's Award
- Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship
- National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship
- Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Fellowship

# HUMANITIES & HOPS

## Cold Drinks. Hot Food. Smart People.

Southern Brewing & Winemaking: 4500 N. Nebraska Ave. Tampa, 33603

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29 • 7PM**

You know about the Humanities Institute, but did you know there are nearly a dozen other centers and institutes in the College of Arts and Sciences? The heads of four other USF organizations present their research and discuss their unique goals and objectives.

FENDA A. AKIWUMI (Director of the Institute on Black Life and Center for Africa and the Diaspora) “The Tampa Bay African American Neighborhoods Project”

DAVID HIMMELGREEN (Director of the Center for the Advancement of Food Security and Healthy Communities) “Transforming the Conversation About Food Insecurity and Social Equity.”

BERND REITER (Director of the Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean)  
“Political and Economic Alternatives from the South: Learning from Black and Indigenous Communities in Colombia”

CHARLES STANISH (Director of the Institute for the Advanced Study of Culture and the Environment)  
“Ancient Monumental Architecture”

**WEDNESDAY FEB. 26 • 7PM**

We still need volunteers for Tuesday, Feb. 25. Share your research with the local community! Contact Liz Kicak ([ekicak@usf.edu](mailto:ekicak@usf.edu)) to volunteer.



# SPRING 2020 CALENDAR

Jan. 24 • 6pm - 9pm • The Portico  
Art Exhibit Opening: *Shelter: Concepts of Home*

Jan. 29 • 7pm • Southern Brewing  
Humanities & Hops: CAS Institutes

Feb. 1 • 11am • Caffeine Roasters  
Book Group: *Mostly Dead Things*

Feb. 4 • 7:00pm • CAVU  
Respect + Rebellion: *Love Your Enemies?  
Depolarization in the Age of Donald Trump*

Feb. 26 • 7pm • Southern Brewing  
Humanities & Hops: *Topic TBA*

Mar. 12 • 7pm • Floridan Palace Lobby Bar  
Book Group: *Ordinary Girls*

Mar. 25 • 7:30pm • Tampa Theatre  
Anne Applebaum: *Democracy and Disinformation*

Mar. 31 • 7:00pm • CAVU  
Respect + Rebellion: *Inclusive Freedom: Protecting Religious Liberty and LGBT Rights*

Apr. 6 • 6pm • USF Marshall Center 3707  
Jericho Brown: *Poetry Reading*

Apr. 25 • 11am • The Hall on Franklin  
Book Group: *Florida*

## ON-CAMPUS VENUES

CWY Bill Young Hall: USF Maple  
Dr. north of the Yuengling Center.  
Metered spaces in Lot 6 and 22.  
Parking Guide: [www.usf.edu/parking](http://www.usf.edu/parking)

## OFF-CAMPUS VENUES

The Portico: 1001 N. Florida Ave.  
Tampa, 33602

Southern Brewing & Winemaking,  
4500 N. Nebraska Ave. Tampa,  
33603

Caffeine Roasters: 2420 W.  
Kennedy Blvd. Tampa, 33609

CAVU: 1601 N. Franklin St. Tampa,  
33602

Floridan Palace Hotel, 905 N.  
Florida Ave. Tampa, 33602

Tampa Theatre: 711 N. Franklin St.  
Tampa, 33602

The Hall on Franklin: 1701 N.  
Franklin St. Tampa, 33602



This semester's events are  
co-sponsored by the Osher  
Life Long Learning Institute



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Tampa, FL 33620  
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