Red Dress, White Dress: Emily Dickinson Reads Dante
When other New Englanders, like Emerson, were excitedly discovering Dante, Emily Dickinson read Dante’s youthful Love Story, the *Vita Nuova*, noticing parallels between Amherst and Florence, his life and hers. Dante’s tale may seem to have suggested her famous white dress. But she was *not* inspired to read his *Divine Comedy*, instead she blended Emerson and Dante into a single elderly figure which she dismissed in “A precious mouldering pleasure ‘t is to meet an antique book.” What didn’t she like in Dante?

JOHN AHERN / *Professor of Italian Emeritus*

Reconstructing Life and Death with Forensic Anthropology and Archaeology
Crime scenes are archaeological sites – they contain the remains of past human activity to be deciphered from disturbed environments, objects left behind, and bodies of those who perished there. This lecture will cover the basics of how anthropologists identify people from their skeletons and how archaeologists read crime scene photographs. Be prepared for images of real homicides and skeletal remains.

APRIL BEISAW / *Associate Professor of Anthropology*
IBM’s Early Days in the Hudson Valley
This lecture will offer comments on the history of IBM in the Mid-Hudson Valley, including its impact on social, spatial and economic developments in the region and its role as part of the military-industrial-educational complex during the Cold War.
HARVEY FLAD / Professor of Geography Emeritus

The Music Room in a Bohemian Castle:
Princess Gabrielle Auersperg’s Souvenir de Senftenberg en 1814
KATHRYN LIBIN / Associate Professor of Music

Things to Know About Physics
How do you make small talk in physics? What about those photons, lasers and particle accelerators? How do we know what temperature a distant star has. Demonstrations included.
JENNY MAGNES / Associate Professor of Physics

The Origins of Writing: From the Sumerians to the Iliad
This lecture will address the origins or writing from Sumerian cuneiform and Egyptian Hieroglyphics to the development of the alphabet and the Homeric epics.
BARBARA OLSEN / Associate Professor of Greek and Roman Studies
The Presidency, Congress and the War Power: Activism and Avoidance
A look at the expansion of presidential war powers and Congress’ role as reluctant enabler.
SIDNEY PLOTKIN / Professor of Political Science

Putin’s War
Putin’s actions in Chechnya, Georgia and the Ukraine and what they mean for Russia and Europe.
MICHAELA POHL / Associate Professor of History

Food, Energy, Climate Change and Human Health:
What’s Biology Got to Do with It?
All of the major issues facing us in the 21st century are deeply rooted in biology.
This crash course on major principles of biological sciences can give you insights into humanity’s biggest challenges and how we might face them.
KATE SUSMAN / Jacob P. Giraud, Jr. Professor of Biology

China and Globalization: The Long View
This class introduces the deep history of globalization from a Chinese perspective, and how the experiences of global interactions in the last millennium has informed and shaped cultures and the national identity of contemporary China.
YU ZHOU / Professor of Geography