

Spring 2006
College of Letters and Sciences
Contemporary Issues Lecture Series

Walter Mosley

“Life Out of Context”

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

7 p.m. Hamilton Center

Hailed by *The Boston Globe* as “one of the nation’s finest writers”, Walter Mosley is a novelist and activist whose writing depicts the black experience as seen through the eyes of ordinary men. Mosley is an active voice for the black community in the ongoing effort for racial equality. In his essays and nonfiction work, he examines ways that the African American perspective can contribute to political, economic and social progress in the U.S. He is the founder of the City Colleges’ pioneering publishing program aimed at young urban residents and is the first African American to sit on the National Book Foundation’s board of directors. His novel, *Devil in a Blue Dress*, which is part of his mystery series featuring private investigator Easy Rawlings was made into a film starring Denzel Washington and other novels in the series have been on the *New York Times* Bestseller List. Mosley has won numerous awards including a 2002 Grammy for the liner notes accompanying Richard Pryor’s *And It’s Deep Too! The Complete Warner Bros. Recordings*, the 2004 Sundance Risktaker Award and the PEN USA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Bakari Kitwana

“Why White Kids Love Hip Hop: Wangstas, Wiggers, Wannabes, and the New Reality of Race in America”

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

7 p.m. Hamilton Center

Bakari Kitwana is the author of *Why White Kids Love Hip-Hop* and *The Hip-Hop Generation: Young Blacks and the Crisis in African American Culture* and co-founder of the National Hip-Hop Political Convention. The former executive editor of *The Source*: the magazine of hip-hop music, culture and politics, he's edited hundreds of articles on hip-hop and youth culture. Acknowledged as a expert on youth culture and hip-hop politics and activism by *The New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Salon.com*, *USA Today*, *CNN*, *The O'Reilly Factor* and other leading publications and news outlets, his writings have appeared in the *Source*, *Savoy*, the *Village Voice*, the *Progressive*, BET.com and other publications. Additionally, Kitwana writes a column on hip-hop and youth culture called "Do the Knowledge" for the *Cleveland Plain*. The author of *The Rap on Gangsta Rap*, he teaches a course in the political science department at Kent State University called "The Politics of The Hip-Hop Generation" and is a consultant on hip-hop for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Howard Zinn

"You Can't be Neutral on a Moving Train"

Tuesday, April 18, 2006

7 p.m. Hamilton Center

Acclaimed historian, political theorist, teacher, storyteller and author of the legendary book *A Peoples History of the United States*, Howard Zinn is America's preeminent, most respected and best-loved radical historian. Zinn is a legendary voice for social justice and equality in America. As a teacher, writer and activist he has been a central figure in the most important social and political movements of recent history. His presentations speak to the future, not to the past, showing in vivid detail how small actions affect great change and how every person has the ability and the obligation to make a difference. In his most recent book, *You Can't be Neutral on a Moving Train: A Personal Memoir of our Times*, Zinn provides an open discussion of his life’s work, from his youth in the immigrant slums of Brooklyn, NY to his bombardier assignments during WWII and his years teaching at Spellman College and Boston University. As a key activist in the civil rights and anti-war movements, Zinn has both chronicled and participated in the most important social and political upheavals of recent history. He has received the Thomas Merton Award, the Eugene V. Debs Award, the Upton Sinclair Award, and the Lannan Literary Award.

Spring 2006
College of Letters and Sciences
Distinguished Scholars Lecture

Lisa Randall

“Warped Passages: Unraveling the Mysteries of the Universe's Hidden Dimensions”

Monday, March 13 2006

7 p.m. Upham Hall 145

Professor Lisa Randall, one of the world's leading physicists and an expert on string theory, is among the most cited and important scientists of our time. Her new book, the best-selling *Warped Passages: Unraveling the Mysteries of the Universe's Hidden Dimensions*, brings her quest to explain the very fabric of reality—via string theory—to a broad readership. Lisa Randall was the first tenured woman at the Princeton physics department and the first tenured woman theoretical physicist at MIT and Harvard. She is the winner of an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellowship and a National Science Foundation Young Investigator Award. Randall is that rare breed of scientist who not only makes rigorously tested and groundbreaking discoveries—she also works hard to make those maddeningly complex theories understandable for the average citizen, to whom these debates and findings could have a huge impact.

Contact Susan Johnson (johnsons@uww.edu, 262-472-4766) for additional information.

All lectures are free and open to the public.