

To Be Continued...Four Contemporary Novels

Lois Harrod

Course Information

Wednesdays from 1:30–3:30 p.m. for eight weeks beginning October 2 through November 20.

In-Person – Lecture/Discussion – Maximum 18

Course Description

In a world where race, class, caste, culture, exploitation, poverty, age, and ageism make many of us almost invisible, how do we continue? And why? Four contemporary artists examine (some satirically) how the "invisible" can become "visible." This lively discussion course examines:

Percival Everett's *Erasure*, [Greywolf, 2001], a satiric two-for-one-novel, and the basis for the movie *American Fiction*; Kazuo Ishiguro's *Nocturnes* [Vintage 2009], short stories about fading musicians; Anne Patchett's *Bel Canto* [Harper, 2001], a novel plotted like an opera with a couple of terrorists thrown in; and Elizabeth Strout's most recent novel *Tell Me Everything*, [Random House, 9/2024] which will be published September with her familiar characters Lucy Barton, Olive Kitteridge and Bob Burgess.

A book club on steroids for those who love to read and discuss what they have read.

Course Schedule

Weeks	Assignment	Theme
Oct 2	<i>Crooner, 1-86</i>	Introduction to the Course: Love, Marriage, Divorce, Aging, Music, Celebrity
Oct 9	<i>Crooner 87-221</i>	Introduction to the Course: Love, Marriage, Divorce, Aging, Music, Celebrity
Oct 16	<i>Bel Canto , 1-159</i>	Love, Desire, Age, Music/Art, Celebrity, Terrorism, Stockholm Syndrome
Oct 23	<i>Bel Canto, 161-318</i>	Love, Desire, Age, Music/Art, Celebrity, Terrorism, Stockholm Syndrome
Oct 30	<i>Erasure, 1-143</i>	Sex, Love. Desire, Marriage, Age/Aging, Music/ Literature, Celebrity, Racism, Cultural Stereotypes
Nov 6	<i>Erasure, 144-252</i>	Sex, Love. Desire, Marriage, Age/Aging, Music/ Literature, Celebrity, Racism, Cultural Stereotypes
Nov 13	<i>Tell Me Everything, TBA</i>	Probably Love, Sex, Desire, Friendship, Marriage, Art and Artists, Cultural Stereotypes among the aging.
Nov 20	<i>Tell Me Everything, TBA</i>	Probably Love, Sex, Desire, Friendship, Marriage, Art and Artists, Cultural Stereotypes among the aging.

Leader

Lois Marie Harrod, life-long educator, has written 18 volumes of poetry.