

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, in the Philadelphia region

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

jamesfmulhern@gmail.com

salon.silvercurrentpress.com/partners.html