WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

Funded by a Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the MWCC Humanities Project strengthens the college's humanities curriculum; supports collaborative and interdisciplinary teaching and research in the humanities; examines the intersection between the humanities and other academic disciplines; and engages MWCC and the community in the discussion of enduring themes from the world’s many cultures and traditions.

EAST MEETS WEST IN A CABIN IN CONCORD: WALDEN AND BEYOND

Henry David Thoreau's Walden, or Life in the Woods is at the center of the Humanities Project first year’s theme. Thoreau considered himself as much a scientist as a poet. Still relevant today, his work gave rise to the “citizen science” movement. Thoreau was also deeply influenced by Eastern religious and philosophical thought at a time when globalization was not a buzzword. And of course, Thoreau, the creator of the modern concept of civil disobedience, is the perfect vehicle for examining the power (and responsibility) of the individual citizen in a healthy democracy.

FREE EVENTS Open to the general public

SEPTEMBER 2014
- 17 (WED) Book Discussion - Walden, or Life in the Woods, 6:30-8pm, MWCC Commons, Gardner

OCTOBER 2014
- 1 (WED) Lecture - Susan Gallagher: What Thoreau Can Teach Us About Climate Change, 6:30-8pm, Levi Heywood Memorial Library, Gardner
- 7 (TUE) Film Screening - Into the Wild, 12:30-2:45pm, MWCC Room 127, Gardner
- 9 (THUR) Lecture - Corrine Smith: Thoreau’s Relevance for Our Time, 12:30-1:30pm, MWCC North Cafeteria, Gardner
- 18 (SAT) Fundraiser - Hike for the Humanities, 9am, Wachusett Mountain, Princeton
- 28 (TUE) Book Discussion - Cabin Fever: A Suburban Father’s Search for the Wild, 6:30-8pm, Athol Public Library

NOVEMBER 2014
- 6 (THU) Book Discussion - Walden on Wheels: On the Open Road from Debt to Freedom, 6:30-8pm, Leominster Public Library
- 18 (TUE) Lecture - Mike Frederick: Thoreau, Eastern Philosophy, and Non-Violence, 12:30-1:30pm, MWCC North Cafeteria, Gardner

DECEMBER 2014
- 4 (THU) Student Presentations and Exhibit - 12:30-1:30pm, MWCC North Cafeteria, Gardner

FEBRUARY 2015
- 11 (WED) Book Discussion - Being Henry David, 6:30-8pm, MWCC Commons, Gardner

MARCH 2015
- 5 (THU) Book Discussion - The Transcendental Murder, 6:30-8pm, Leominster Public Library
- 26 (THU) Book Discussion - American Primitive, 6:30-8pm, Fitchburg Public Library

APRIL 2015
- 15 (WED) Poetry Reading - Gail Thomas: No Simple Wilderness: An Elegy for Swift River Valley, 6:30-8pm, Athol Public Library

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed during these activities, do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The MWCC Humanities Project has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence

FEATURED BOOKS Visit mwcc.edu/humanitiesproject for book summaries

1. Walden, or Life in the Woods – Henry David Thoreau
2. Cabin Fever: A Suburban Father’s Search for the Wild – Tom Montgomery Fate
3. Walden on Wheels: On the Open Road from Debt to Freedom – Ken Ilgunas
4. Bhagavad Gita
5. Being Henry David – Cal Armistead
6. The Transcendental Murder – Jane Langton
7. American Primitive – Mary Oliver
8. No Simple Wilderness: An Elegy for Swift River Valley – Gail Thomas