

POLITICS AND LITERATURE NEWSLETTER

Winter 2001

On Politics, Literature and Teaching

The exploration of political ideas through the study of literature constitutes a particularly exciting way of studying both political thought and literary works. By seeing how the lives of characters in novels and plays are affected by principles and ideas, we are apt to see the importance of those ideas in our own lives as well. Literary works are effective ways of understanding political principles, both their grounds and their possible influence on life, because literary works are concrete and engaging in a way abstract studies are not.

Mary Nichols

MINUTES SEPTEMBER 1, 2000 BUSINESS MEETING

- 2000-2001 officers were elected
- The Politics and Literature section has 273 active members
- Mary Nichols spoke of the newly innovated Short Course (see below)
- Members voted to issue two Best Paper awards
- Germaine Paulo Walsh discussed details of the Organized Section Breakfast Meeting (8/31/00)
- Denise Schaeffer is gathering information for a Politics and Literature web site

2000-2001 Officers

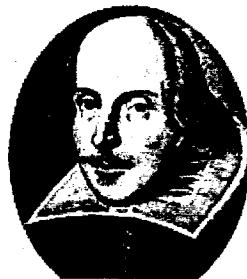
Chair	Denise Schaeffer College of the Holy Cross dschaeff@holycross.edu	
Chair-Elect	David Nichols Montclair State University nicholsd@mail.montclair.edu	
Secretary/Treasurer	Robert M. Schaefer University of Mobile schaefer@zebra.net	
Members at Large	Mary P. Nichols Fordham University mnichols@fordham.edu	Joseph Alulis North Park University jalulis@northpark.edu

Short Course on Political Philosophy and Film American Political Science Association annual meeting, August 2000 Washington, D.C.

Among the short courses offered last fall at the American Political Science Association was "Teaching Political Philosophy Through Film." Over twenty faculty from all over the United States enrolled in the course, which was sponsored by the Politics & Literature Organized Section. The course discussed ways in which teachers might integrate films into the study of political philosophy.

Presenters were Lisa Vetter of Villanova, David Nichols of Montclair State, and Mary Nichols of Fordham University. Vetter discussed the ways in which the traditional texts of an introduction to political philosophy course might be illuminated by the use of contemporary film. The class watched clips from the *Sweet Hereafter*, for example, and discussed their relation to Plato's *Republic's* treatment of justice and responsibility, and how scenes from *Dangerous Liaisons* facilitated discussion of Rousseau's First and Second Discourses. David Nichols showed how films such as *1776*, *Glory*, *High Noon*, *Inherit the Wind*, *All the King's Men*, *Casablanca*, *Lonestar*, and *Mumford* might illustrate the development of American political thought from the Founding to the present. Mary Nichols discussed a new curriculum for high schools that introduced the Great Books through contemporary media. Her presentation focused on politics and morality, and an analysis of the *Bronx Tale*.

APSA - Politics and Literature
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Announcements

Congratulations! Joseph Lane (Hampden Sydney) and Sandford Kessler (North Carolina State) received the 1999 Best Paper awards. The 2000 award will be announced in the May newsletter.

Please join us at the annual APSA annual meeting, August 30-September 2, in San Francisco. Panels will be announced in the May newsletter.

The Politics and Literature Organized Section must meet a mandatory enrollment. It is important to pay section dues (\$5.00 per year) when completing your annual APSA registration form. Ask a friend to join or, better yet, celebrate his/her birthday by paying their dues.

If you wish to submit an announcement (forthcoming book, etc.) to the May newsletter, send information to the above address no later than April 1, 2001.