Description

This course will introduce Roth through a reading of his debut work, “Goodbye Columbus,” and center on *The Human Stain*, his complex, surprising, and subtle tale of the demise of Coleman Silk, classics professor at a small elite college in the Berkshires of Western Massachusetts. We will watch the movie, starring Anthony Hopkins and Nicole Kidman, scene by scene. How true is it to Roth’s vision? To what extent does it succeed or fail to do justice to his trickery and guile? Roth is one of the trickiest of our great writers, in part because he’s so good at not seeming tricky when he’s at his trickiest. We’ll be looking at how Roth uses fiction to change our confidence in what is real, or our confidence in whether we ourselves don’t all too often fictionalize reality — including the reality of Philip Roth.

Readings

Please plan to read *The Human Stain* (Houghton Mifflin, 2000) in advance of the seminar. Additional readings, including “Goodbye Columbus,” will be provided via email.

Instructor

William Flesch, PhD, is a professor of English at Brandeis, where he teaches courses on Shakespeare, on the history of poetry, and on film. He is the recipient of three teaching awards and a National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship. Billy has led eighteen previous Rapaporte Seminars— all to rave reviews.

Registration

BOLLI Seasonal Members: $185
*General Public: $250
*Annual members receive a 50% discount.

Registration is first come first served. Space is limited. Convenient parking available.

To register, please visit www.brandeis.edu/BOLLI