**Description**

*The Great Gatsby* can elate or depress us with the turn of a page. Because its author so magically accomplishes both in the pages of the same short book, many regard it as the Great American Novel. Fitzgerald wrote like an angel, and his evocative prose is a sheer joy to read. *Gatsby* evokes what is enchanting in the human experience -- in particular in the American experience. It also illustrates how blithely (certain) Americans count on that magic as their birthright, and how often they come up short. We'll compare the novel to the 2013 movie directed by Baz Luhrmann: in what ways is the movie true to the novel, and to what extent does Hollywood diminish it, as Fitzgerald himself might have predicted?

**Instructor**

William Flesch is a professor of English at Brandeis, where he teaches courses on Shakespeare, on the history of poetry, and on film. He is the author of *Comeuppance: Costly Signaling, Altruisitc Punishment and Other Biological Components of Fiction*, one of *The New Yorker's* best books of 2008. He is the recipient of three teaching awards and a National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship. Billy has led twenty 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.  
To register, please visit [www.brandeis.edu/BOLLI](http://www.brandeis.edu/BOLLI)

*General Public participants are invited to attend BOLLI summer events.*