

2019-2020 Humanities Center Brown Bag Series

Living With Detroit:

An All-Purpose History of America

The ways Americans have devised for living with Detroit are an all-purpose guide to our history as a people. Everything that makes us who we are has gone further and faster here than anyplace else. In other words, when America happens, Detroit is the result—so exaggeratedly typical that it looks like an exception, except it is not. The question is what to do with the truths about ourselves that get revealed in Detroit, this most extravagantly typical American place. As to the nature of those truths, they might be thought of in terms of five revelations that Detroit manifests—about memory, history, forgetting, design, and nostalgia—that we have had to live with, or not, depending on who we happen to be and how things look from our particular points of vantage. But rather than accepting the exemplary truths about ourselves revealed here, we have mostly been living in denial—right from the start, so that our history is defined by the serial denials we have contrived when confronted with this most representative expression of ourselves—Detroit.



Jerry Herron

Irvin D. Reid Honors College

Dean Emeritus

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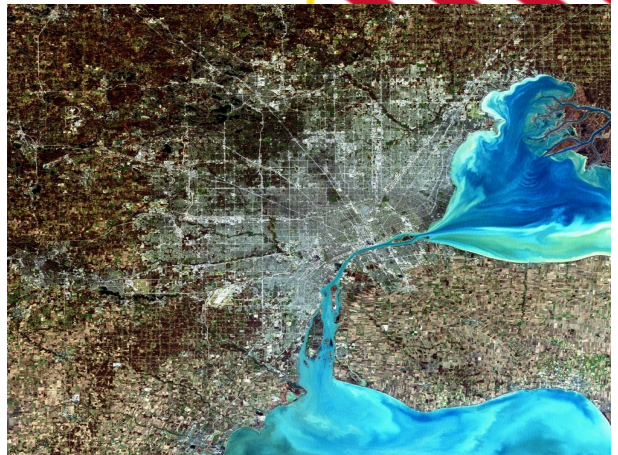


Tuesday, January 14, 2020

12:30PM—1:30PM

Rm. 2339

Faculty Administration Building



Jerry Herron is dean emeritus of the Irvin D. Reid Honors College and professor of English emeritus at Wayne State University. His publications include two books, *Universities and the Myth of Cultural Decline* and *After Culture: Detroit and the Humiliation of History*. He is currently finishing a book of related essays, *Living With Detroit: An All-Purpose History of America*.

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