It is impossible to think meaningfully about ideas without reference to a range of experiences. It is a failure of the imagination to experience without some reflection on its meaning. This is a class that examines the classics – works that speak to subjects and ideas rooted in time and place but also time-less. We will intensively read and reflect on nine to ten classic works, both from fiction and non-fiction. In some cases, we will substitute several short readings or selections from longer texts for one of those ten. In past cycles, authors have included Conrad, Woolf, Kawabata and Didion, among others. The books you read in Ideas and Experience II will be ten books that you will want to have in your library. Your final grade will be based on five short (under four page) papers and two longer (seven to eight page) papers. I will also grade on your capacity to add to class discussion – discussion based on close textual analysis. Participation is essential. This is not only a writing-intensive but a reading-intensive course.

John Karaagac has a Ph.D. as well as M.Phil. both in International Relations, and a B.A. in History. He is in the historical wing of Political Science. Karaagac has taught at the University of Richmond, the graduate program at Johns Hopkins University and now at Indiana. His classes have included American Foreign Policy, Political Thought, International Political Economy, American Public Administration and an Introduction to National and International Policy. He is particularly interested in political biography. For Karaagac, the university is a place where the student and the scholar explore great texts and competing traditions—with the goal of becoming a better scholar, citizen and, ultimately, a better individual.