This seminar will examine three of Austen’s novels in the context of her life and times. We will consider literary, intellectual, social, economic, and political history as well as the shifting circumstances of Austen’s life as she wrote these three works. Our discussions will explore the enduring respect her novels have inspired and the contemporary fascination they have provoked. We will analyze excerpts of film adaptations as they reinforce or contradict the novels, thus alerting us to modern sensibilities perhaps at odds with Austen’s own.

Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice* (1813; written 1796-?).
Austen, Jane. *Sense and Sensibility* (1811; written 1795-?).

The most recent Penguin editions of the novels are recommended for the thoroughness and reliability of their annotations though any unabridged edition will be fine. Some editions of all three novels are available free of charge online.

To those interested in supplementing the readings, I recommend Claire Tomalin’s biography, *Jane Austen: A Life*. 
Peggy Thompson is the Ellen Douglass Leyburn Professor Emerita of English at Agnes Scott College, where she taught from 1985 to 2016. Her teaching and research interests include Restoration and eighteenth-century British literature, Medieval and Renaissance drama, comedy of all historical periods, literary and cultural theory, and relationships between literature and philosophy. She is the author of *Coyness and Crime in Restoration Comedy: Women’s Desire, Deception, and Agency* (2012) and the editor of *Beyond Sense and Sensibility: Moral Formation and the Literary Imagination* (2015). Current projects include an essay about habit in Jane Austen’s *Mansfield Park*, a book-length manuscript on habit and freedom in later eighteenth-century British writing, and an edited forum on “Defending the Humanities: Making a Case for Eighteenth-Century Studies.”

**January 10, 2019**
**Reading:** *Sense and Sensibility*, vol. 1  
Topics: Austen’s life; the novel in late 18C England; women authors in late 18C England; laws and customs of inheritance; sensibility; the etiquette of courtship

**January 17, 2019**  
**Reading:** *Sense and Sensibility*, vol. 2  
Topics: understanding finances in Austen’s time; individual integrity, personal expression, and social pressures; uncertainty and expectation

**January 24, 2019**  
**Reading:** *Sense and Sensibility*, vol. 3  
Topics: the marriage plot; constructions of masculinity; careers within the church

**January 31, 2019**  
**Reading:** *Pride and Prejudice*, vol. 1  
Topics: coordinates of identity; dancing; variations on pride; the English army

**February 7, 2019**  
**Reading:** *Pride and Prejudice*, vol. 2  
Topics: the novel as comedy; the novel as romance; the agency of “no”; conduct literature for women; Fordyce, Gregory, and Wollstonecraft

**February 14, 2019**  
**Reading:** *Pride and Prejudice*, vol. 3  
Topics: the great estate; male sexuality and false suitors; literary and ethical character

**February 21, 2019**  
**Reading:** *Persuasion*, vol. 1  
Topics: aristocracy and meritocracy; the Napoleonic wars and the English navy; waiting women; nobodies and somebodies; interiority and physicality

**February 28, 2019**  
**Reading:** *Persuasion*, vol. 2  
Topics: histories and the power of the pen; a sense of place; Bath; romance and prudence
The 33rd annual Winter Seminar is a series of classes for ASC alumnae that provides the stimulation of the college classroom without the pressure of tests, papers and grades.

The Atlanta Chapter uses proceeds from the Winter Seminar to help fund an ASC student scholarship.

LOCATIONS

January 10-31
at the home of
Libby Rhett Jones ’73
42 W. Brookhaven Dr. NE
Atlanta, GA 30319
404.549.7656

February 7-28
at the home of
Liz Hallman Snitzer ’85
4584 E. Brookhaven Dr. NE
Brookhaven, GA 30319
404.233.2402

MEETING TIME

Thursdays from 9:45 a.m. ’til noon
FEE: $100 per person (nonrefundable)
The eight sessions are a single unit.

Registration will be strictly online through Eventbrite.
No checks will be accepted.

Early-bird registration for former hosts will open on Monday, October 1, at 9 a.m. Former hosts will receive an email with the link to register on that Monday morning, and registration will remain open until the end of the day on October 15.

General registration will open on Thursday, November 1, at 9 a.m. Please go to https://ws2019registration.eventbrite.com to register. Registration confirmation will be sent via email, so please include your email address when you register online. Space is limited, so register in a timely manner—last year the seminar sold-out in 3 hours. Alumnae can register for themselves and up to one other alumna or previous WS attendee. If you have trouble registering online through Eventbrite, please call the Alumnae Office for technical support at 404.471.6323, M-F, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

For general information, contact
Betty Derrick ’68 at
bderrick1968@att.net or 404.889.3472
or
Janet Bolen Joiner ’73 at
janet.b.joiner@gmail.com or 404.797.7492.