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Your Brain on the Humanities

So . . . what can a humanities podcast tell us about current events? Our new monthly *BrainBox* podcast steps out of the cacophony of the 24/7 news cycle to find out.

BrainBox takes listeners on a deep dive into history, literature, ethics, philosophy, and other humanities fields to give context to the issues gripping American society. Considering news in the broader scope of culture, historical events, and the human experience informs our understanding of current affairs and their effects on our day-to-day lives.

OH program officer and *BrainBox* host Chris Carroll says the podcast has ambitious goals. “The original meaning of the term *BrainBox* was a WWII-era think tank. The term also refers to a skull or someone of above-average intelligence. Our podcast challenges listeners to ‘use your *BrainBox*’ to consider what we can learn from the choices made by those who came before us, what literature and pop culture are saying about the

times we live in, and what experts think is coming in our future.”

The premiere episode of *BrainBox* investigates the Watergate era. Dr. Ben Alpers, a professor of American Intellectual and Cultural History at the University of Oklahoma Honors College, is our guest commentator. The conversation examines the historical memory of Watergate, media scrutiny and public debate surrounding Richard Nixon’s involvement, and the changing ways Americans have come to consider political scandals in decades since.

Future *BrainBox* episodes will look at sexual harassment and the #MeToo movement through the wider lens of women’s history, race and identity in Oklahoma and across the country, and the historical contexts of pop culture touchstones like *Game of Thrones*. Guests will include some of Oklahoma’s most interesting and talented humanities scholars. If you’re not listening, you’re missing out!

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