



The English and Humanities Division at North Idaho College is honored to have **Dr. Mark Bauerlein** of Emory University deliver a keynote speech – **“Why Are the Humanities Deteriorating?”** – on Friday night, October 9, at the 2015 Northwest Philosophy Conference in Coeur d’Alene.

Dr. Bauerlein is Professor of English at Emory University, where he has been teaching since receiving his Ph.D. in English at UCLA in 1989. In addition, Dr. Bauerlein served as Director of the Office of Research and Analysis at the National Endowment of the Arts from 2003-2005. He is probably most well-known for the Nautilus Award winning 2009 bestseller, *The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes Our Future*, which the Amazon.com review calls “a startling examination of the intellectual life of young adults and a timely warning of its impact on American culture and democracy.”

In addition to his many other books, Dr. Bauerlein is the editor of *The Digital Divide: Arguments for and Against Facebook, Google, Texting, and the Age of Social Networking* (2011), which is a collection of essays from well-known thinkers from across the intellectual spectrum who reflect on the advantages and disadvantages of the digital revolution. The Amazon.com review of the book includes the following: “Some see the technological breakthroughs we live with as hopeful and democratic new steps in education, information gathering, and human progress. But others are deeply concerned by the eroding of civility online, declining reading habits, withering attention spans, and the treacherous effects of 24/7 peer pressure on our young.”

Most recently (June 2015), Dr. Bauerlein is editor of *The State of the American Mind: 16 Leading Critics on the new Anti-Intellectualism*. With Allan Bloom’s 1989 classic *The Closing of the American Mind* in the background, the many contributors in *The State of the American Mind* examine whether there has been a continuing “deterioration” in American intellectual life. From the Amazon.com review: “For anyone interested in the intellectual fate of America, *The State of the American Mind* offers an accessible and critical look at life in America and how our collective mind is faring.”

In addition to his books, Dr. Bauerlein’s many essays have appeared in PMLA, Partisan Review, Commentary, Wilson Quarterly, New Criterion, and in national periodicals including the Washington Post, Boston Globe, Wall Street Journal, Chronicle of Higher Education, Weekly Standard, and The Guardian. His essay “What’s the Point of a Professor?” appeared recently in the New York Times.

Dr. Bauerlein’s books will be available for purchase at the event, and he has graciously offered to sign copies for interested participants. It should be a fantastic evening!