

# **BROWNBAG BOOK CLUB**

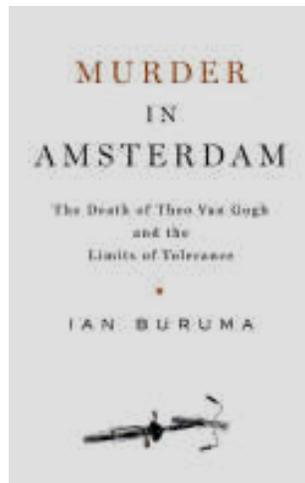
This club gives faculty, staff and students the opportunity to read and discuss socially relevant fiction and nonfiction.

*Murder in Amsterdam:  
The Death of Theo Van Gogh and the Limits of Tolerance*  
By Ian Buruma

**Wilmington College Library**  
**Thursday, March 1, 2007 – 12:00 noon**  
**Room 122**



*Author Ian Buruma*



*Filmmaker Theo Van Gogh*

## **From Publishers Weekly**

Theo Van Gogh, a provocative media personality in the Netherlands, was shot and stabbed on an Amsterdam street in November 2004 by a young radical, the son of Moroccan immigrants, who accused him of blasphemy against Islam. [Buruma] realized there was more to the story than a terrorist lashing out against Western culture. Exploiting the tensions between native-born Dutch and Muslim immigrants, Van Gogh drew attention to himself with deliberately inflammatory political theater that escalated beyond control. Buruma refuses to blame the victim, though, giving equal weight to critics who insist Islam must adapt to European culture rather than the other way around, like Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a Dutch politician who scripted Van Gogh's final film, an avant-garde indictment of the religion's treatment of women. There is a strong sense of journalistic immediacy to Buruma's cultural inquiry, and if the result is a slim volume, that's because his dense, thoughtful prose doesn't waste a single word.

**Library Director James McCloskey invites the Wilmington College Community to join in a conversation about this new work of nonfiction with compelling contemporary themes. Bring your lunch!**