



Midcoast Senior College FALL TERM I - COURSES

Sept. 14 to Nov. 6, 2020

Registration begins August 17, 2020

Website: midcoastseniorcollege.org

Email: mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org

MONDAY

Climate, The Times They Are a'Changin' 9:30-11:00 a.m. 8-week course begins 9/14

Coverage will include how climate is more than just the weather, why the climate and the weather are both changing, and what the consequences will be for us. Insights into the scope and presentation of the course are offered in the following 90-minute video provided by the instructor: <https://vimeo.com/437404636> **Recommended Reading:** Robert Henson, *The Thinking Person's Guide to Climate Change*, ISBN 978-1944970390. **Bruce MacDougall**, a native of Bangor, practiced for many years in Kentucky as a plastic and hand surgeon. A summer resident of the North Maine Woods since 1948, he has witnessed the effects of global warming locally and has taught courses on climate at MSC since 2015.

From Weimar to Hitler 1:00-2:30 p.m. 8-week course begins 9/14

The failure of democratic government in Germany during the Weimar Republic of 1919-1933 and the rise of the Nazi Party led to the destruction of the Republic in 1933-34 and its replacement by an authoritarian Third Reich. Why did Weimar's democracy fail? What explains the rise of the Nazis? Does Weimar contain lessons for other democracies? We will address these questions as we study the political history and culture of Weimar. **Required Books:** Benjamin Carter Hett, *The Death of Democracy: Hitler's Rise to Power and the Downfall of the Weimar Republic*, ISBN 978-1785151538; Peter Gay, *Weimar Culture: The Outsider as Insider*, ISBN 978-0393322392. **Robert Bunselmeyer** taught modern British and European history at four colleges and has taught at MSC eight times.

The Fall (or Rise?) of Shakespeare's Comic Eccentrics 1:00-2:30 p.m. 8-week course begins 9/14

Four men alike in grandiose spirit. Four plays different in setting and story. Four standout characters teetering in harm's way. What happens when reality bites and their lives are rocked. Will they fall? Will they tread water? Or will they rise, stoop to conquer, reinvent themselves, assume new roles, travel in new directions? Will they become different men with grandeur calmed and purpose re-envisioned? Explore the worlds of Sir John Falstaff in *Henry IV, Part 1*, Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, Parolles in *All's Well That Ends Well*, and Don Adriano de Armado in *Love's Labour's Lost*. **Class Structure:** Four plays, one for each of four bi-weekly exploration classes; plus, an optional "further-exploration" discussion on the Monday following each class. **Readings:** Any Shakespeare playbooks of the four plays are acceptable; the Arden playbooks contain extensive footnotes and clarifications. Additional class resources will be emailed in advance. **Joseph Côté's** classical actor training here and abroad has led to performances in 14 of the plays by William Shakespeare on a variety of professional and amateur stages. His class explorations of the plays of the Bard unfold from a "real people" performance point-of-study rather than from an historic, scholarly angle.

MORE FALL MSC COURSES

A second fall term (Term II) will take place November/December. A bulletin will be sent in October.



TUESDAY

The U.S. Foreign Service and the State of State 9:30-11:00 a.m. 8-week course begins 9/15

This course is about American foreign policy and the role of United States diplomats in shaping and carrying it out. The modern U.S. Foreign Service was created in 1924, and its officers serve in the State Department and in some 300 U.S. embassies and consulates, in international organizations, and in other locations mostly outside the U.S. As the number, size, and “footprint” of U.S. government entities operating in foreign affairs have grown, those of the State Department have declined in proportion. That said, the State Department and “FSOs” still “punch above their weight,” as shown in the October 2019 testimony of Ambassadors Taylor and Yovanovitch and others during President Trump’s impeachment hearings in the House of Representatives. **Required Books:** Paul Richter, *The Ambassadors*, ISBN 978-1501172434; Shawn Dorman, *Inside a U.S. Embassy: Diplomacy at Work*, 3rd ed., ISBN 978-0964948846; Nicholas Kralev, *America’s Other Army*, 2nd ed., ISBN 978-1517254513. **Charles Dunbar** spent 32 years as a U.S. and U.N. diplomat and ambassador, plus 23 more as president of a world affairs council, and university teacher. This will be his twelfth MSC–taught course.

Writing a “Legacy Letter” 9:30-11:00 a.m. 4-week course begins 10/6

This course is designed to introduce the concept of “legacy letters” and encourage participants to craft their own legacy document. A legacy letter (also called an “ethical will”) is a written document that allows people to share their life lessons, express their values, and transmit their blessings to future generations. Writing a legacy letter is a rewarding experience that creates an enduring gift for children, grandchildren, and other loved ones. The course includes discussion, brief writing exercises, and a model structure to help participants complete a legacy document that can be shared with family and friends. **Jay Sherwin** created the Life Reflections Project to educate people about legacy letters, ethical wills, and other legacy documents. He has practiced law, given away money for five different charitable foundations, been a philanthropy consultant, and served as a hospital chaplain.

Meaning in Life 1:00-2:30 p.m. 8-week course begins 9/15

Meaning IN life is different from THE meaning OF life. Meaning IN, allied to ordinary existence, is what this course will examine. Some themes: 1) the differences between “meaning” and related concepts, “happiness,” “significance,” “purpose,” “goodness”; 2) false paths like “follow your bliss,” live an “authentic” life, “make your own meaning”; 3) whether some ultimate lure toward good, i.e., a divinity, is needed as a source of motivation. Spoiler alert: everything about the course is included in two books, *Charlotte’s Web* and *The Little Prince*. **Readings:** A combination of philosophical and popular sources—all readings will be suggested and mostly available on the internet. Born in Lewiston, **Raymond Boisvert** earned a Ph.D. and taught philosophy for over 35 years at the college level. This did not allow for doing real, nitty-gritty, down-to-earth philosophy—what this course will do.



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WEDNESDAY

American Literature of the Progressive Era, 1900-1910 9:30-11:00 a.m. 8-week course begins 9/16

This course will consider infrequently read authors from the Progressive Era. *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair led directly to federal food safety standards. Edith Wharton crafted stories of uncommon delicacy. Jack London in *The Call of the Wild* produced a classic of man in a challenging environment. O. Henry composed popular stories with clever resolutions. Booker T. Washington compiled the writings of black intellectuals arguing passionately about the most effective path forward for slaves freed decades ago. **Required Books:** Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*, ISBN 978-1503331860; Edith Wharton, *The New York Stories of Edith Wharton*, ISBN 978-1590172483; Jack London, *The Call of the Wild*, ISBN 978-1950435937; O. Henry, *The New York Stories of O. Henry*, ISBN 978-0486833880; Booker T. Washington, ed., *The Negro Problem*, ISBN 978-1978357433. Note: All of the books are also available at Project Gutenberg or Google Books. **David Miller** is a lifelong teacher and learner who taught history and literature in independent schools in five states and the District of Columbia. (Annie Miller is his research assistant.)

Your Microbiome and You 1:00-2:30 p.m. 6-week course begins 9/16

Or, how I learned to love my bacteria. We are not human. We are a complex superorganism. We are host to many species whose members outnumber our cells and make up most of our combined genome. We have co-evolved to survive together, maintain health, and prevent disease. In this course, we will study how this relationship came to be, what it does for us, and why we have placed it in jeopardy. **Required Book:** Rob Knight and Brendan Buhler, *Follow Your Gut: The Enormous Impact of Tiny Microbes*, ISBN 978-1476784748. **Barbara Snapp** received her Ph.D. in evolutionary biology from Cornell where her research focused on the ecological adaptiveness of behavior. Her passion is teaching science, and especially teaching broad survey courses where she can interweave basic themes to build a multidimensional understanding. (This course will also be offered Fall Term II.)

The Miriamic Procession 1:00-2:30 p.m. 6-week course begins 9/16

The Miriamic procession starts with a glorious celebration of Miriam singing the “Song of the Sea” in Exodus 15, acclaiming Israel’s deliverance from the pursuing Egyptians. In the New Testament the Miriamic procession continues with Mary, Jesus’ mother, through women disciples, especially Mary Magdalen at the empty tomb and the resurrection. Miriam’s song of celebration resonates in Christian tradition from the song of Mary (Magnificat), in Peter Abelard’s Easter sermon, and in medieval and baroque music of the east and west. Mary (Arabic: translit. Maryam), the mother of Jesus (Isa), is the only woman named seventy times in the Qu’ran, more mentions than in the New Testament. **Deirdre Good** was born in Kenya, grew up in the UK, and now lives in Maine. She teaches courses online for the Stevenson School for Ministry of the Diocese in Central Pennsylvania and has published several books, including: *Jesus’ Family Values*, *Mariam, the Magdalen, and the Mother*, and *Courage beyond Fear: Re-Formation in Theological Education* (with Katie Day).



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THURSDAY

Ivan Turgenev: Selected Major Works 9:30-11:00 a.m. 6-week course begins 9/17

Of the three great nineteenth-century Russian novelists—Turgenev, Dostoevsky, and Tolstoy—Turgenev was the first to gain recognition outside Russia, and he remained the world's favorite Russian writer for most of his life. More than any other Russian writer, Turgenev addressed and defined the major Russian social and cultural issues and tendencies of his time. For this course, we will read and discuss three seminal, but (for Russian literature) relatively brief works: *Sketches from a Hunter's Album*, *First Love*, and *Fathers and Sons*. **Recommended Reading:** Ivan Turgenev and Constance Garnett, *Sketches from a Hunter's Album: The Complete Edition Paperback*, ISBN 978-1731703828; Ivan Turgenev, *First Love and Other Stories* (transl. Richard Freeborn), ISBN 978-0199540402; Ivan Turgenev, *Fathers and Sons* (transl. Constance Garnett), ISBN 978-1420956870. Any translation or edition of the three recommended works will do. All are available to download free on Gutenberg.org. **George Young** has taught Russian and comparative literature at Grinnell, Dartmouth, University of New England, and more recently at OLLI and MSC.

Mid-Coast Maine: Understanding its Maritime Heritage 9:30-11:00 a.m. 8-week course begins 9/17

Together we will explore the context and broad scope of Maine's maritime past and work to understand some of what faces us as coastal people today. Studying that heritage and thinking about our present, we will begin to realize that this coast is a microcosm of America's long confrontation and love affair with the sea. Many of the issues we face here challenge people on every coast of the world. **Required Book:** Lincoln Paine, *Down East: A Maritime History of Maine*, ISBN 978-0884482222 (for those wishing broader and deeper coverage: Roger Duncan, *Coastal Maine: A Maritime History*, ISBN 978-0881505559). **Bud Warren** is a free-lance maritime historian and educator who has studied and lectured on the subject for half a century. He has rowed and sailed much of Maine's coast, lead tours of the region, and is an expert on how tidal energy was utilized in Maine's past.

Delilahs: A History of Female Spies 1:00-2:30 p.m. 6-week course begins 10/1

This course will cover the stories of female spies in Europe and the U.S. since the American Civil War, including Belle Boyd and Rose Greenhow, Mata Hari, investigator Jane Sissmore Archer, and Soviet moles, the art of code breaking and the women of MI5, Russian spies Anna Chapman, Maria Butina and "the Americans." The female spy is often portrayed as deceiver, seductress, courier, and betrayer. The reality is a more complex world of international espionage, travel, disguises, covers, cipher machines, and double-agents. **Suggested Readings:** The course has no required reading, but there will be suggested readings throughout the course that may intrigue the eager student. Online independent research is also recommended. **Robert C. Williams** is a retired Russian historian who has taught courses on the history of espionage and published a book on *Klaus Fuchs, Atom Spy*.

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FRIDAY

Bewitched, Beguiled & Bewildered: Finding Ourselves in the 21st Century

9:30-11:00 a.m. 8-week course begins 9/18

There is a brave new world looming, and we see it only through the glass, darkly. Despite their promise of a brighter future, Big Data, Deep Algorithms, and Super AI, working together systematically may be on the verge of making many of us obsolete, irrelevant, or, at best, members of a redundant social class. Fake news, disinformation, propaganda, groupthink, etc., herald a new post-factual age in which anything goes. What of morality, ethics, justice, and fairness in a world where everything is globalized and societies are fast becoming homogeneous? Has the market supplanted democracy? Does liberal democracy have a future? What will be our new defining story as individuals, a society, a culture, a species, as we are reimagined/reshaped in/by the 21st Century, and beyond? **Required Book:** Yuval Noah Harari, *21 Lessons for the 21st Century*, ISBN 978-0525512196. **Fred Cichocki**, Ph.D., has studied and taught ecology and evolutionary biology at several colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada. His interests have always been eclectic and inclined toward “big picture” synthesis. In addition to teaching and research, Fred was a natural history museum curator (currently adjunct at the Maine State Museum), and co-founder of the Maine Master Naturalist Program.

Brushing up on Your French 1:00-2:30 p.m. 8-week course begins 9/18

Have you ever thought that resurrecting your long-ago competence in French would be fun? If so, this non-threatening course might be just what you had in mind. Intermediate listening, speaking, and reading skills are required since the class will be conducted in the language. However, students will make progress at whatever their degree of fluency. The first half of class will concentrate on speaking by reviewing vocabulary and grammar, if necessary. In the second half, we will discuss an intermediate-level reading in French. *Please contact the instructor at jrboisvert@gmail.com if you are unsure about qualifications for the class.* **Required Book:** Kristine K. Kershul, *French in Ten Minutes a Day*, ISBN 978-1931873291. **Jayne Boisvert** holds a Ph.D. in French and has extensive experience teaching all levels of the language.

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Sunnybrook Village, Thornton Oaks**



PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT INFORMATION CAREFULLY

- Registration for courses is on-line only; phone assistance is available at (207) 725-4900 as of August 16
- Course registration opens August 17 at 9 a.m. for MSC members. If you have not yet paid your membership fee for Midcoast Senior College's current period (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021), please do so before registering for courses.
To pay membership fee, go to <https://midcoastseniorcollege.org/membership-form/>
Not sure if you're a member? Email us at mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org
- A link to the registration page (with full instructions) will be emailed to current members in advance.
- On August 19 the registration page will be public on our website. You must be a current senior college member to register for MSC courses.
- Space is limited; if a class is full, please notify us of your interest at mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org
- Two persons in a household sharing one Zoom screen are granted discounted tuition:

SINGLE PERSON REGISTRATION

Tuition is \$60 per class

TWO-PERSON REGISTRATION

Tuition is \$50 per class, each person

ON-LINE CLASSES

- Classes use Zoom. Information on Zoom will be provided upon registration. More information is on our [website](#). Assistance is available—please contact Clare Durst at briegull@gmail.com.

BOOKS & READINGS

Course descriptions include information regarding books: “required” book = strongly recommended; “suggested” or “recommended” books = optional reading. It is the student's responsibility to acquire books. Books and readings may be available free on-line, as indicated in the course description.

CONTACT US

Contact MSC with questions or for assistance by email at mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org. You may call (207) 725-4900 after August 16. More info at our website: midcoastseniorcollege.org.

CLUBS & GROUPS—ON-LINE USING ZOOM

- **WRITING GROUP:** Senior Scribblers writing group for all levels of experience meets every other Wednesday 9:30—11:30 a.m. For more info, see [website](#) or contact Harry, 729-4238 or hopcroft@techmanage.biz.
- **CURRENT EVENTS FORUM:** Weekly moderated topic-related forum meets Thursdays noon-1 p.m., sponsored by Thornton Oaks and in partnership with Curtis Memorial Library. For more info: email Clare Durst at briegull@gmail.com
- **IDEAS WELCOME:** Share with us your ideas for an on-line club or group! Email Donna at mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org