



# Midcoast Senior College FALL TERM II - COURSES

Nov. 9 to Dec. 18 2020

Registration begins October 12, 2020

Website: [midcoastseniorcollege.org](http://midcoastseniorcollege.org)

Email: [mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org](mailto:mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org)

## MONDAY

### **Dubliners 9:30-11:00 a.m. 6-week course begins 11/9**

James Joyce's *Dubliners*, published in 1914, is a collection of fifteen short stories that portray a memorable array of characters in the early 20th century. Joyce's ambivalence toward Dublin and its residents emerges through the stories, which are highly varied in character and plot, and, unlike Joyce's later works, fully accessible to readers. We will read and discuss eleven of the stories. The course will include an on-line discussion forum and a weekly Zoom session. The teacher has recorded a very short video about the course: <https://vimeo.com/458991493>. **Required Book:** James Joyce, *Dubliners*—available free and on-line with Project Gutenberg. **Paul Kalkstein** studied James Joyce's works as a Princeton undergraduate and taught *Dubliners* and *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* at Phillips Academy, Andover.

### **Italian Opera: From Monteverdi to Puccini 1:00-2:30 p.m. 6-week course begins 11/9**

This course is designed for anyone with an interest in Italian opera. In six sessions we will explore over three centuries of this extraordinary and often extravagant art form from its rather modest beginnings in the early 17th century up through the mature works of the early 20th century. Biographical material of the important masters of Italian opera will be included, as well as some historical background of their continued masterpieces that will be presented utilizing scenes of recent and past productions. After earning a B.M. degree from Peabody Conservatory and a M.M. degree from Eastman School of Music, **Ross Crolius** spent thirty years as a professional singer in New York City, including singing full time as a chorister and a "small part" soloist with The Metropolitan Opera. His instructional experience includes teaching voice at Ithaca College and Westfield State University, as well as presenting opera appreciation classes for adult education programs.

### **A Final Gift: Advance Directives 1:00-2:30 p.m. 6-week course begins 11/9**

It is painful to consider the loss of our loved ones, as it is distressing to think of our own demise. The desire to control our final destiny requires knowledge of what is to come. We must articulate our final wishes and ensure that when we are unable to self-advocate, others respectfully speak on our behalf. This course focuses on understanding our responsibility to ourselves, our loved ones, and society in general, providing the learner with the knowledge, skills, and the necessary tools to document important decisions. **Susan F. Goran** has over forty-seven years of experience as a nurse practicing in the critical care environment and teaching both healthcare professionals and the public regarding health-related issues.



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## TUESDAY

### **Ocean Energy: Tide Mills — A Once (and Future?) Thing 9:30-11:00 a.m. 6-week course begins 11/10**

The nature and impact of tides is explored, and the dream and feasibility of economically harnessing ocean energy is reviewed. The long history and technology of tide mills are studied in detail. Their cultural impact, especially on our own coast, will be a focus. So that interested participants can explore local tide mill history on their own, a self-guided field trip to some local mill sites will be developed. A class website will offer reading material. For over a quarter of a century, **Bud Warren** has played with early tide mills, documenting over two hundred in Maine alone. Co-founder of Tide Mill Institute, a non-profit educational and research organization, he has organized and conducted fifteen annual conferences featuring speakers on the topic from the U.S. and seven other countries.

### **Let's Talk: Reckoning with Racism 1:00-2:30 p.m. 6-week course begins 11/10**

We have reached a moment in time when a larger segment of the white American population has finally become conscious of the horrific implications of racism. We now need to think about how to address this enormous issue by digging deeply. In an effort to capture this moment, we will discuss: dealing with white privilege, white supremacy, white fragility, intersectionality, affirmative action, the wealth gap, police brutality, color blindness, micro-aggressions, anti-racism, reparations, and, most significantly, systemic racism. **Susan Bowditch** has taught courses for MSC on crossing cultures, the Atlantic Slave Trade, white privilege, racism, systemic racism, and reparations. **Suggested Reading:** One or more of the following: Layla F. Saad, *Me and White Supremacy*, ISBN 978-1728209807; Austin Channing Brown, *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*, ISBN 978-1524760861; Ijeoma Oluo, *So You Want to Talk about Race*, ISBN 978-1580058827; Toni Morrison, *The Origin of Others*, ISBN 978-0674976450.

### **MSC Singers: Folk Songs at Christmas 3:00-5:00 p.m. 6-week course begins 11/10**

This semester's chorus class will focus on famous folk songs that are popular during the Christmas season. "The Cherry Tree Carol," "What Child is This," "I Wonder As I Wander," to name just a few, are some of the "folk" Christmas Carols we love to sing at this time. This term, the MSC Singers class will have the joy of singing these songs together on-line while studying their background and history. For a final project, I have written a special arrangement of "The Cherry Tree Carol." I would like to try to put together a Senior College virtual recording at the end of semester. **Prerequisites:** A good musical ear, a musical memory, and an internet device that can make an audio recording of yourself singing (details to be provided). For the sake of learning and recording "The Cherry Tree Carol," please commit to at least four of the six scheduled classes. **Stuart Gillespie** retired in 2004 as Director of Choral Ensembles and Director of Fine Arts at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Connecticut. He began his choral directing career in 1965 with the U.S. Army Chorus in Europe. He has written numerous choral arrangements of well-known folk songs for the MSC Singers.



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## WEDNESDAY

### **A Very Brief Introduction to Thermodynamics, the Science of Heat, Work, and the Possible 9:30-11:00 a.m. 6-week course begins 11/11**

In this course you will learn what the four “laws” of thermodynamics have to tell you about what temperature, energy, heat, work, and entropy mean to the physicist . . . and to you. You will also discover the answers to questions of practical value—for example, how heat pumps, air conditioners, and refrigerators work, and which to buy; or, why rubber bands are stretchy when they are warm, but less so when cold; or whether turning the heat down at night makes sense. One textbook author claims that an understanding of thermodynamics will enrich the everyday experiences of your life. Required Book: Arieh Ben-Naim, *The Four Laws That Do Not Drive the Universe*, ISBN 978-9813223486. **Jonathan Mitschele** has a Ph.D. in physical chemistry, and taught chemistry and physics at Saint Joseph’s College in Standish for thirty-one years and summer courses in thermodynamics at Indiana University.

### **African-Americans: The Civil War and Aftermath 9:30-11:00 a.m. 6-week course begins 11/11**

The role and status of Americans of African descent have been major aspects of the culture and politics of the United States since the nation’s inception. It was THE major issue in the conflict that led to the American Civil War and throughout the war. The war resolved some issues related to slavery, but left most issues related to the role and status of African-Americans unresolved, creating the cultural and political structures that continue to define much of American society and politics. This course will offer a series of presentations by different individuals on topics that are intended to broaden our understanding of historical events in this pivotal period in our history. Presentations will address topics ranging from Afro-American resistance to slavery, emancipation, Reconstruction, and post-Reconstruction “Jim Crow” practices, and the struggle for civil rights during the 20th century. **Gardner Shaw** is a former high school history teacher, professor of political science, consultant to government and industrial organizations, and taxi driver. He is an active member of the Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain Civil War Round Table.

### **Introduction to Modern Architecture 1:00-2:30 p.m. 6-week course begins 11/11**

This course offers an introduction to the history of modern architecture in America and Western Europe, including the cultural conditions which have shaped it. We will start from the beginnings of architectural modernism at the turn of the 20th century and make our way to the state of contemporary architecture in the 21st. Among the key works we will study are those of Walter Gropius, Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier, and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. Discussions will be based primarily on the use of projected images, with readings in the written work of various architects (links to be provided). The aim is to gain a better understanding of the modern built environment. **David Spurr**, emeritus professor at the University of Geneva, has written several works on the relations between architecture and literature. In addition to teaching literature, he has taught architectural history at Geneva and in the school of architecture at the University of Iceland.



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## THURSDAY

### **The Life and Legacy of Frances Perkins 9:30-11:00 a.m. 5-week course begins 11/12**

Frances Perkins was FDR's Secretary of Labor and the first woman ever to serve in a presidential cabinet. She is the woman behind the New Deal, Social Security, the Fair Labor Standards Act, and the modern middle class. Discover how this self-made woman with roots to her ancestors' 1750s Newcastle, Maine farm became America's leading advocate for industrial safety and workers' rights.

**Required Book:** Kirstin Downey, *The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life and Legacy of Frances Perkins--Social Security, Unemployment Insurance and the Minimum Wage*, ISBN 978-1400078561.

**Michael Chaney**, a native of Maine, has served as Executive Director of the Frances Perkins Center in Newcastle, Maine since 2014. *(There will be no class session on Thanksgiving Day, November 26.)*

### **Your Microbiome and You 9:30-11:00 a.m. 5-week course begins 11/12**

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 University 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. *(There will be no class session on Thanksgiving Day, November 26.)*

### **Talking Trash in Today's World 1:00-2:30 p.m. 5-week course begins 11/12**

In April 2021, the Brunswick Landfill will close. This course will examine the current efforts in Brunswick and the state of Maine to handle and reduce municipal waste after that, and to redirect what is left to recycling and composting efforts. We will look at the issues surrounding public policy on trash, the collection and processing of municipal waste, how recycling and compostable materials are handled, how to determine what can be recycled, how to separate the various items at the curb, how we can compost effectively at home, and how to handle special and hazardous wastes. While the information is geared towards Brunswick, it can be equally applied to any town being serviced by Casella systems, and has a place in any town with a recycling program. **Harry Hopcroft** has installed solar energy, taught energy auditing, managed large energy auditing projects, and taught an ecology course for non-science majors at Southern New Hampshire University. He is currently writing a weekly column on recycling issues for the *Brunswick Times Record*, is a member of Brunswick's Recycling and Sustainability Committee and an avid home composter. *(There will be no class session on Thanksgiving Day, November 26.)*



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## FRIDAY

### **The Rights of Native Peoples 9:30-11:00 a.m. 6-week course begins 11/13**

European settlers in the Americas dispossessed and decimated native peoples, here for thousands of years, and ravaged their traditional life ways—a vast, irreversible tragedy. Yet, surviving natives continue to enact meaningful lifeways that express traction and enable plural endurance and revitalization. This course asks: For natives and settlers, sharing a tortured history and now inescapably residents of one nation, “What is desirable?” “What is possible?” Two in-depth case studies of Indian communities in the 20th century will provide grist for our thinking and discussions.

**Suggested Books:** David Treuer, *Rez Life: An Indian’s Journey through Reservation Life*, ISBN 978-0802120823; Anastasia M. Shkilnyk, *A Poison Stronger than Love: The Destruction of an Ojibwa Community*, ISBN 978-0300033250. **Steven Piker** is an anthropologist, taught 44 years at Swarthmore College, has offered several courses at three Maine senior colleges, and has held a career-long interest in Native Americans.

## THANK YOU, MSC SPONSORS!

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Now You’re Cooking, Rhumbline Advisers, Riley Insurance,  
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
- Course registration opens October 12 at 9:00 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 your membership fee, go to <https://midcoastseniorcollege.org/membership-form/>  
Not sure if you're a member? Email us at [mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org](mailto:mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org)
- A link to the registration page (with full instructions) will be emailed to current members in advance.
- On October 14 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org). More info at our website: [midcoastseniorcollege.org](http://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 information, see [website](#) or contact Harry, 729-4238 or [hopcroft@techmanage.biz](mailto: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 information: email Clare Durst at [briegull@gmail.com](mailto:briegull@gmail.com)
- **IDEAS WELCOME:** Share with us your ideas for an on-line club or group! Email Donna at [mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org](mailto:mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org)