



Midcoast Senior College  
February 2021

WINTER TERM COURSES  
Registration begins January 4, 2021

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

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

## MONDAY

### **Blood!!! 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. 4-week course (2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22)**

To many, the word “blood” conjures up images of vampires, violence, and gore. In fact, however, blood is a fascinating tissue that is indispensable for life among all vertebrates and many invertebrates. This course will describe its multiple components, blood types, and functions, as well as discuss many of the disorders involving red blood cells, the blood clotting system, and white blood cells. **Richard S. Neiman**, MD, a graduate of Harvard College and Tufts University School of Medicine, is Emeritus Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and of Internal Medicine at Indiana University School of Medicine, where he directed the Division of Hematologic Pathology. He has studied, taught, and published on subjects related to the blood and blood-forming organs for the bulk of his medical career.

### **Autism: Myths and Mysteries 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. 4-week course (2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22)**

Despite many years of research, autism remains a largely mysterious disorder. Science does not have a complete understanding of the cause and consequences of autism nor of how to prevent or cure this disorder. Perhaps because of these knowledge gaps, autism has attracted many myths and outright hoaxes. Some of these have caused direct or indirect harm to persons with autism and their families. This course is designed to help members gain a better understanding of autism—what it is, what causes autism, and what therapies work. Even more important, this course is designed to help members to sort through the sometimes conflicting claims about autism to enable them to help friends and family who may be dealing with family members who are autistic. **S. Jay Kuder** has been a professor of special education at Rowan University (NJ) for over 35 years and the founder and former coordinator of the autism certificate program at the university. He has published *Teaching Students with Language and Communication Disorders* and numerous research articles. His current research and writing focus on college-age students with autism.

**Registration opens January 4 at 9:00 a.m. for MSC members**

**[Pay Membership Fee](#)**

**MSC Membership Period is July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021**



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## TUESDAY

### **Selected Topics in U.S. National Security 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. 4-week course (2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23)**

Protecting our nation with covert actions directed against countries or persons we deem to be our adversaries is important. When they succeed, we almost never hear about them. However, if they fail and are exposed, they can cause much damage to our national security. This class will look at several past U.S. covert operations, now widely known, and discuss the rationale, implementation, and outcome for each. We will also take a look at how the government approves people to hold security clearances, and how secret documents are used and safeguarded. **[NOTE: Those who have previously taken a class from Dan Possumato are advised not to sign up for this one, since it is a condensed version of previous classes].** **Dan Possumato** is a former Director of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, as well as a Deputy Garrison Commander for the U.S. Army in Germany and Alaska. He has a M.S. from The Johns Hopkins University and is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College. He previously was a professor at the Army Management Staff College in Virginia. After 25 years he retired and worked as a contractor conducting anti-terrorist exercises at U.S. bases in the U.S., Europe, and Asia. He currently holds a Top Secret clearance and works as a Special Investigator for the U.S. Department of State. **Optional Reading:** Josh Dean, *The Taking of K-129: How the CIA Used Howard Hughes to Steal a Russian Sub in the Most Daring Covert Operation in History*, ISBN 978-1101984437.

### **Cheapo Snobs Go to Paris 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. 4-week course (2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23)**

Based on my guidebook, *Pilgrimage to Paris*, this course is designed for those who want to get the most out of the French capital at the lowest possible price. During our armchair visit, we will share travel tips, discuss free and nearly free things to do, a dozen top attractions, as well as many famous Americans who once lived there. The book provides short biographies and addresses associated with celebrated authors, politicians, artists and architects, musicians and performers, and a few other unique, unforgettable individuals. Finally, we'll examine the cafés of Montparnasse and Saint-Germain, favored hangouts of our compatriots. **Jayne Boisvert** holds a Ph.D. in French and has extensive experience teaching all levels of the language. An ardent traveler, she has published two guidebooks on Paris. **Required Book:** *Pilgrimage to Paris: The Cheapo Snob's Guide to the City and the Americans Who Lived There*, ISBN 978-1948598118.



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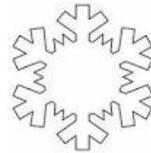
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## WEDNESDAY

### **Ravaged Lives: Can They Be Restored? 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. 4-week course (2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24)**

If it happens, it's possible. Tragically, Northern Ireland and the U.S. present an abundance of ravaged lives. So also do they present creative social healing processes that are configured to elicit empathy and shared humanness . . . striking examples of which we will explore in depth. **Steven Piker** is an anthropologist who taught for 44 years at Swarthmore College, did field work in Thailand, and studied religious conversion in the U.S. He has taught for 3 Maine senior colleges. Suggested Reading: Teya Sepinuck, *Theater of Witness: Finding the Medicine in Stories of Suffering, Transformation and Peace*, ISBN 978-1849053822.



**WINTER WISDOM: FREE ON-**  
**sponsored by The Highlands \***

**LINE PRESENTATIONS**

**Visit [website](#) for details and registration.**

- **January 6: Music as a Form of Community in the Time of Covid**  
Jud Caswell, song writer and performer **Jud Caswell** presents.
- **January 13: Universal basic income (UBI) in a Post Pandemic World**  
**Michael Howard**, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Maine, presents.
- **January 20: Remembering Topsham**  
Historian **Robert C. Williams** presents.
- **January 27: The Vikings Raids in Ireland: 790 – 1000**  
American naval history author **Jim Nelson**, presents.
- **February 3: The “Great White Fleet”: Black Sailors, Unions, and Racism on the Palmer Schooners**  
**Christopher Timm**, Chief Curator of Maine Maritime Museum, presents.



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## THURSDAY

### **T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets* 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. 4-week course (2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25)**

We will spend four weeks closely reading and discussing Eliot's great four-part meditative poem, his fullest response to the questions of time, love, death, faith, renewal, and eternity. In addition to analysis and discussion, we'll listen to readings by Eliot and others, including volunteers from the class. **George Young** has degrees from Duke and Yale and taught Russian and general humanities at Grinnell, Dartmouth, and the University of New England. **Required Reading:** The poem is available in many print editions and is also free online; <http://www.davidgorman.com/4quartets/>

### **The Founding and Refounding of the United States of America 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.**

#### **4-week course (2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25)**

The United States is a country with strong founding ideals, but that founding has happened several times and with important differences among those ideals. We were founded in 1776 and refounded in 1787. Or was the first founding really 1619? And how about 1865? Or 1933? Where do we look to find our bearings? Where do our worst practices, like slavery, fit in this? This course will look at our founding moments, our divergent ideals, and the conversation we are having among them.

**Doug Bennett** taught political philosophy and public policy at Temple University, Reed College, and Earlham College. He retired as president of Earlham in 2011.

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## FRIDAY

### **James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. 4-week course (2/5, 2/12, 2/19/ 2/26)**

In *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, published in 1916, James Joyce portrays the development of an autobiographical character coming to grips with an Irish society that pulls him in contrary and confusing directions. In this short course we will examine the text of the novel in a quest to understand and appreciate the author's ideas and methods. **Paul Kalkstein** came under the spell of Joyce as a Princeton undergraduate and has taught this novel for years to adolescents at Phillips Academy, Andover. **Required Book:** The text is available free in several digital forms at <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/4217>. Any print version is also satisfactory.

### **"Eye of Newt" and "Pound of Flesh": Payback in Shakespeare's Plays 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. 4-week course (2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26)**

"An eye for an eye; a tooth for a tooth." First included in Hammurabi's Code, this oft-quoted phrase is later used in various passages in the Old Testament (Exodus 21:24). Still later, Mahatma Gandhi echoed an important variation on the theme as his teachings took a different approach with "an eye for an eye makes the whole world blind." Which guiding light does the world embrace more often? This course will examine deals foretold, agreements made, and payments pursued in *Macbeth* and *The Merchant of Venice*. Does the drive for power, fame, wealth or beauty weaken our willingness to commit to a risky deal, however big, however deadly? Trained as a classical actor and having relished the experience of applying his own nuances to 15 of Shakespeare's memorable characters, **Joseph Coté** explores the roles within the context of the character's needs and wants in the greater scope of the play and everyone in it. **Required Books:** Any printed or internet editions of *Macbeth* and *The Merchant of Venice* will serve our purpose despite slight variations. The individual Arden playbooks contain excellent footnotes. Links to film productions of plays will be supplied in advance.

## THANK YOU, MSC SPONSORS!

**Atlantic Federal Credit Union, Bath Savings Institution, The Highlands,  
Joane Tait-Legacy Properties Sotheby's Int'l Realty, Just Framing,  
Maine Pines Racquet & Fitness, MW Sewall, Norway Savings Bank,  
Now You're Cooking, Rhumblin Advisers, Riley Insurance,  
Sunnybrook Village, Thornton Oaks**



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**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT INFORMATION CAREFULLY**

## **HOW TO REGISTER**

- Registration for courses is on-line; phone assistance is available at 207-725-4900.
- Registration opens January 4 at 9:00 a.m. for MSC members. Midcoast Senior College's current membership period is July 1, 2020 -June 30, 2021. (If you registered for a fall class then you are a current member.)
- 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 January 6 the registration page will be public on our website
- 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. For help, 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/readings may be found free on-line, as indicated in the course description.

**CONTACT US:** Email at [mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org](mailto:mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org) or phone 207-725-4900. More info at our website: [midcoastseniorcollege.org](http://midcoastseniorcollege.org).

## **CLUBS & GROUPS: ON-LINE USING ZOOM! VISIT WEBSITE FOR DETAILS**

- **WRITING GROUP:** Senior Scribblers writing group for all levels of experience meets every other Wednesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m. For info, contact Harry Hopcroft at [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 info, contact Clare Durst at [briegull@gmail.com](mailto:briegull@gmail.com).
- **SHAKESPEARE FOCUS:** Clubbing with Willy the Shake is a monthly special interest group that meets the first Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. for a 2 1/2 hour exploration of a theme. For info, contact Karen Williams at [slmedia@comcast.net](mailto:slmedia@comcast.net).
- **PANDEMONIUM PASTIMES:** Variety of games and topics planned for this winter! More details to come — Check our website and look for an email announcement forthcoming.