



Midcoast Senior College
March 15-May 7, 2021

SPRING TERM I COURSES
Registration begins February 22, 2021

Website: midcoastseniorcollege.org

Email: mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org

MONDAY

Anna Karenina 9:30-11:00 a.m. 8-week course begins 3/15

Using discussion techniques to analyze Tolstoy's novel, we will explore his views on marriage, love, the destiny of Russia, and the meaning of life. This psychologically profound novel invites us to probe life's big questions, contradictions, and complexities. How should we live, what should we live for, and to whom are we accountable for our choices? Three contrasting marriages set in 19th-century Russia parallel Tolstoy's own spiritual search for answers to these questions and the moral dilemmas they evoke, making this novel timeless and thought-provoking. **Required Reading:** Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*, ISBN 978-0198748847. **Ann Kimmage** looked to Tolstoy for answers to life's moral dilemmas as a graduate student in Slavic Studies. At this later stage of life, do Tolstoy's answers still work today?

Morality: More Than Do No Harm 1:00-2:30 p.m. 8-week course begins 3/15

Does Morality have a universal meaning anymore? Do we as individuals each define Morality according to our own personal understanding? Do Family, Religion, Politics or Philosophy have influence today on how moral or ethical decisions are made? Can we move back from an "I" society to a "We" society? In this class we will attempt to address these questions through discussion of present-day issues. We will challenge our own understandings of right and wrong and invite a broadening of perspective beyond our Tribe. **Required Reading:** Jonathan Sacks, *Morality, Restoring the Common Good in Divided Times*, ISBN 978-1541675315. **Suggested Reading:** Joshua Greene, *Moral Tribes*, ISBN 978-0143126058; Jonathan Haidt, *The Righteous Mind*, ISBN 978-0307455772. **Susan G. Mikesell** is a retired psychologist. She enjoys the exchange with students on topics that are relevant to our age and time. She previously taught "The Mature Mind" and "Being Mortal" for MSC.

Registration opens Feb. 22 at 9:00 a.m. for MSC members

Pay Membership Fee

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



TUESDAY

Introduction to Philosophy 9:30-11:00 a.m. 8-week course begins 3/16

Plato's *Euthyphro*, *Apology*, and *Crito* provide an excellent introduction to philosophy. These dialogues are so accessible that they require no prior study of philosophy, yet they are so rich that even the most serious scholars have critically discussed them for more than two millennia. Our discussions will devote time to both the dialogues and some of the historical criticisms of them. In addition to providing the opportunity for interested individuals to learn about the philosophical activity, our discussions will show students how to engage in it. **Required Reading:** Plato, *Five Dialogues: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, and Phaedo*, ISBN 978-0872206335. **Bruce Hauptli** earned a B.A. in mathematics from Lawrence University and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Philosophy from Washington University. He is an Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at Florida International University in Miami, where he taught for thirty-nine years and used these dialogues in a historically-themed introductory philosophy course for undergraduates. He has taught this course and four others at MSC.

The Fall of France, 1940 1:00-2:30 p.m. 8-week course begins 3/16

Why did the French and Allied armies fall so readily to the German armies that invaded Belgium and France on May 10, 1940? Why did military defeat lead almost immediately to the collapse of the French Third Republic and its replacement by an authoritarian state at Vichy? We will attempt to answer these questions as we examine and discuss the situation of France leading up to 1940 and the crisis of 1940, itself. **Required Reading:** Alistair Horne, *To Lose a Battle: France 1940*, ISBN 978-0141030654. **Robert Bunselmeyer** taught history at Yale, Fordham, and Bates colleges. He has taught eight courses for MSC.

MSC Singers: "By the Sweat of Your Brow" 3:00-5:00 p.m. 4-week course begins 4/13

The MSC Singers will focus on famous choral settings of Anglo-European and American folk songs that were sung at work. Songs of the 19th-century lumberman, railroad workers, Scottish sheep herders, and square-rig sailors will be the focus of our study. Through our on-line exploration, we will study the history of these work songs, while comparing them to their transformation into choral music. **Stuart Gillespie** retired in 2004 as Director of Choral Ensembles and Fine Arts Department Chair at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Connecticut. He began teaching at Midcoast Senior College in 2005 and has taught over 20 courses in music. MSC Singers is now in its 12th semester.



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WEDNESDAY

Will Vaccines Eradicate Covid-19? 9:30-11:00 a.m. 6-week course begins 3/17

2020 and 2021 will be remembered as the years of the Covid-19 pandemic. This course will discuss the properties of Coronaviruses and how they replicate, the human immune system and how it normally responds to viruses, and potential drug- and immune-therapies designed to fight Covid-19 infections. It will also discuss the various efforts to produce a vaccine, the clinical trials to determine their effectiveness, and the potential timeline for creating herd immunity. **Norm Curthoys** received a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of California, Berkeley and conducted basic biomedical research for over forty years. During this time he also taught biochemistry to undergraduate, graduate and medical school students.

French Opera: Beyond Faust and Carmen 1:00-2:30 p.m. 8-week course begins 3/17

This eight-session course is for anyone interested in exploring the long and rich history of French opera extending from the late 17th century into the mid-20th century. Each class will include an examination of one or two period masterpieces utilizing highlights of productions both old and new as well as some pertinent background on each work. **Suggested Reference:** Roger Parker, ed., *The Oxford Illustrated History of Opera*, ISBN 978-0192854452. **Ross Crolius** spent over thirty years performing opera in the New York City area, including singing for twenty-five years with the chorus of the Metropolitan Opera. He also spent ten years teaching college-level voice and opera appreciation.

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Sunnybrook Village, Thornton Oaks**

THURSDAY

Thermodynamic Weirdness: A Brief History of Thermodynamics and Its Applications for the Interested Layman 9:30-11:00 a.m. 6-week course begins 3/18. (There will be no class 4/1)

This course is intended for those who desire an introduction to the foundational ideas and everyday applications of thermodynamics. We shall focus on the ideas of classical thermodynamics, expressed in words and elementary algebra. In this course you will learn what thermodynamics has to say about what temperature, energy, heat, work, and entropy mean to the physicist and to you. You will discover the answers to questions of practical value—for example, how heat pumps, air conditioners, and refrigerators work and why rubber bands are stretchy when they are warm, less so when cold. **Required Text:** Don S. Lemons, *Thermodynamic Weirdness*, (The MIT Press, 2020), ISBN 978-0262538947. **Jonathan Mitschele** has a Ph.D. in physical chemistry and taught chemistry and physics at Saint Joseph's College in Standish for 31 years and summer courses in thermodynamics at Indiana University.

The Brain, the Mind, and Intelligence 9:30-11:00 a.m. 8-week course begins 3/18

Learn how the brain integrates information and controls our biology, how the mind organizes conscious and unconscious mental activity, and why intelligence is the ability to learn or understand or deal with new situations. Discover how they are connected, why they may have evolved that way, and how cognition changes as we age. Finally, are humans special or simply at one end of a spectrum? **Recommended Reading:** David Eagleman, *The Brain: The Story of You*, ISBN 978-0525433446 (paperback, 2017 edition) or ISBN 978-1101870532 (hardcover, 2015 edition). **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. (*The same course is offered in the afternoon.*)

Did She Jump or Was She Pushed? The Fallen Woman in the Victorian Novel

1:00-2:30 p.m. 8-week course begins 3/18

Many a nineteenth-century author treats the woman who strays from the narrow path of virtue as a tragic heroine. These authors recognize the fragility of a woman's reputation in a society that grants sexual freedom only to men. They reveal the harsh consequences, including obloquy, poverty and death, facing women who even appear to compromise themselves or to be compromised by another. The novels covered in this course will represent the variety of women's sexual experiences outside marriage, from flirtation to rape, and the heroines' struggles within a society that does not distinguish between a stumble and a fall. **Required Reading:** George Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*, ISBN 978-0141439624; Henry James, *Daisy Miller*, ISBN 978-0141441344; Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, ISBN 978-0141439594; Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth*, ISBN 978-0451474308. **Charisse Gendron** holds a Ph.D. in English literature from the University of Connecticut. She has taught at the University of Connecticut, Middle Tennessee State University, and OLLI.

The Brain, the Mind, and Intelligence 1:00-2:30 p.m. 8-week course begins 3/18

(*See description in morning entry above.*)



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FRIDAY

Reweaving the Ecological Fabric 9:30-11:00 a.m. 8-week course begins 3/19

The ecological fabric of our small planet is unraveling, and with it, any meaningful future for the integrity of life on Earth. The cause is the brash, upstart species, *Homo sapiens*, that broke the age-old covenant that had woven all life together into a harmonious, self-actuating, self-reinforcing ecosphere. The inescapable fact today is that the earth's ecosphere cannot continue to support itself and us without a return to a sufficiently robust and rich wild ecology on a global scale. What is required of us is nothing less than a re-envisioned and revived ecological partnership with (not stewardship of) the wild Earth. We must transcend the current Anthropocene Period and inaugurate a new era of earth history, the Ecocene. How that might look and hopefully be accomplished is the subject of this course. **Required Readings:** David Attenborough, *Life On Our Planet: My Witness Statement and a Vision for the Future*, ISBN 978-1529108286; Ursula LeGuin, *Always Coming Home*, ISBN 978-0520227354; Daniel Quinn, *Ishmael*, ISBN 978-0553375404. **Supplemental Reading:** E.O. Wilson, *Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life*, ISBN 978-1631492525. **Fred Cichocki** is a long time college professor with a doctorate in ecology and evolutionary biology from the University of Michigan. His eclectic interests span science, culture, and philosophy. In addition to teaching and research, Fred is an ecological activist, Adjunct Curator of Vertebrates at the Maine State Museum, and co-founder of the Maine Master Naturalist Program.

Shakespeare, Captain John Smith, and the New World Republic 1:00-2:30 p.m. 8-week course begins 3/19

Shakespeare's last plays, in their juxtaposition of dehumanizing aristocratic values and alternative conceptions of humanity that seek the common good and dignify productive labor, increasingly ask: "How are we human?" These tragicomedies converge in remarkable detail with quasi-republican currents among Puritan activists and with a related impulse within England's earliest American colonial projects, where Captain John Smith became a standard-bearer in the sharpening culture clash. Comparison of *The Tempest*, Smith's popular writings, and an influential preacher's sermonizing reveals a common, America-focused, republican ideal. With an equal focus on history and drama, this course asks: "Shakespeare, are you a Founding Father?" **Required Reading:** William Shakespeare, *The Tempest* in any edition. **Richard Welsh** studied biology, psychology, and biological anthropology at Swarthmore and Cornell before turning to politics and issues advocacy. He split his time between administration and feature journalism, and eventually embarked on the 22-year project behind this course. Amateur acting along the way revived an earlier love affair with Shakespeare.



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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 February 22 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 or winter course 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
- A link to the registration page (with full instructions) will be emailed to current members in advance. On February 24 the registration page will be public on our website.
- Space is limited; if a course 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 course

TWO-PERSON REGISTRATION

Tuition is \$50 per course, 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.

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 or phone 207-725-4900. More info at our website: 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.
- **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.
- **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.