



## MONDAY

### **Staff of Life: The Tyranny, Commodification, Industrialization, and Politics of Food** **9:30-11:00 a.m. 8-week course begins 9/13**

Heavily industrialized and capitalized global agribusiness controls the very “staff of life” of over eight billion people. Its goal is nothing less than to grow the most profitable cash crops, to expand sources of meats and fish, to produce the highest yields possible, and to manipulate consumer demand, no matter what the toll on planetary ecology and human health. How did this happen? Is there no escaping this food tyranny? Is it possible to grow affordable, nutritious food for everyone based on sustainable local or regional resources? Can every country adequately cultivate its own food on regional resources so as to become self-sufficient, as opposed to being held hostage by foreign agribusiness? Can we restore a proper balance between cultivation and our life-sustaining planetary ecology? These are some of the questions we will grapple with in this course. **Required Reading:** Mark Bittman, *Animal, Vegetable, Junk: A History of Food from Sustainable to Suicidal*, ISBN 978-0358645528. **Fred Cichocki** is a long-time college professor with a Ph.D. 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.

## TUESDAY

### **The Final Gift: Advance Directives 9:30-11:00 a.m. 6-week course begins 9/14**

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 takes you on a journey of understanding, beginning with the role that the ICU often plays in our final days, to understanding our responsibility to ourselves, our loved ones, and society in general. This class will provide the learner with the knowledge, skills, and the necessary tools to document crucial decisions. **Susan Goran** retired after working in a variety of roles as a full-time critical care nurse for 45 years. She is currently teaching as an adjunct faculty for the UNE School of Nursing and Population Health.

### **Plato’s “Aristocratic and Authoritarian Republic” vs. Dewey’s “Pragmatic Democracy” 9:30-11:00 a.m. 8-week course begins 9/14**

Plato’s ideal state has paternalistic rulers who are to enable those who lack knowledge the best chance of living the good life. In his account, democracy is one of the worst forms of government imaginable. Writing roughly twenty-three centuries later, John Dewey provides both a critique of Plato’s views and a defense of democracy rooted in an American pragmatism, while providing significant challenges to a number of deep contributions that Plato has made to Western culture. In this course we will study Plato’s views and arguments and contrast them with Dewey’s. **Required Reading:** *Plato’s Republic*, trans. G.M.A. Grube, ISBN: 978-0872201361; Debra Morris and Ian Shapiro, eds., *John Dewey: The Political Writings*, ISBN 978-0872201903; John Dewey, *A Common Faith*, ISBN 978-0300186116. **Bruce Hauptli** regularly taught Plato’s *Republic* in his “Introduction to Philosophy” course. He intentionally used that text to help students think about the value and importance of democracy by getting them to understand Plato’s reasons for rejecting democracy. He regularly taught Dewey’s views in an “American Philosophy” course and hopes to bring the differences between these two philosophers’ views into clear focus.

### **Churchill’s Politics 1:00-2:30 p.m. 8-week course begins 9/14**

Winston Churchill is known principally as a great wartime leader. But he was also and more fundamentally a politician and member of parliament—first Conservative, then Liberal, then Conservative again. In this course we will follow and discuss Churchill’s achievements, shortcomings, and turning points in parliamentary politics. We will conclude with an examination of how he became prime minister in 1940, his wartime alliance with the Labour Party, and his defeat by Labour in 1945. **Required Reading:** Roy Jenkins, *Churchill*, ISBN 978-0452283527. **Robert Bunselmeyer** taught modern British and European history at three colleges and has taught for Midcoast Senior College nine times.



# Midcoast Senior College FALL TERM I COURSES

Sept 13 to Nov 5, 2021

Registration begins Aug 23, 2021

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

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

## WEDNESDAY

### **American Sign Language Level 1 9:30-11:00 a.m. 6-week course begins 9/15**

Learn basic sign language communication, including handshapes for the manual alphabet, fingerspelling, numbers, vocabulary, and easy-to-use sentence structure. Deaf culture and familiar phrases will be included to enhance your communication with deaf and hard-of-hearing family, friends, co-workers, students, clients, and customers. Our ASL syllabus will detail learning outcomes and course content areas. No previous sign language experience is necessary. ASL is a visual language, so no notetaking, textbooks, or dictionaries are required. Instructor will provide handouts via internet. **Martin Samelson** is an ASL college professor and job coach for the Deaf, a specialist in learning to communicate without voice.

### **CRISPR, COVID, Morality, and Scientific Process 9:30-11:30 a.m.\* 8-week course begins 9/15 (\*note: class meetings are two hours)**

COVID-19 (aka SARS-CoV-2) is a fascinating virus. CRISPR is an amazing genetic tool. The two come together in a modern tale of scientific competition, cooperation, and intrigue in Walter Isaacson's book, *The Code Breaker*. Along the way, Isaacson discusses basic questions about the morality and equity of the use of scientific techniques. The course will explore the biology of viruses and COVID-19, in particular the technology behind CRISPR and the pros, cons, and challenges of gene editing. **Required Reading:** Walter Isaacson, *The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race*, ISBN 978-1982115852. **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 will be offered in the afternoon.*)

### **Tom Jones and Us 1:00-2:30 p.m. 8-week course begins 9/15**

Participants in this course will read, delight in, and discuss the popular 18th-century novel, *Tom Jones*. The central pivot: what might this nearly 400-year-old, lengthy, funny, book have to do with us? Some highlighted themes: the role and importance of comedy, life as a quest for wisdom, the nature of virtues and vices, reality vs. appearance, gender roles, hypocrisy, the novelist as provider of intellectual "victuals," love, marriage, and social conventions. Each course session will be divided between exploratory background remarks (the instructor) and discussions of relevant themes in the book (general participation).

**Required reading:** Henry Fielding, *Tom Jones*, ISBN 978-0393965490. **Raymond Boisvert** grew up in Lewiston and taught college philosophy for many years. His interests in food, philosophy, and humor led him to savor Henry Fielding's novel.

### **CRISPR, COVID, Morality, and Scientific Process 1:00-3:00 p.m.\* 8-week course begins 9/15 (\*note: class meetings are two hours)**

(See description in morning entry above.)



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## THURSDAY

### **Afghanistan: South Asia and the United Nations to the Rescue? Solution?**

**9:30-11:30 a.m.\* 8-week course begins 9/16** (\*note: class meetings are two hours)

The outlook for Afghanistan and its people is grim. Peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban have broken down, the last American troops in the country are leaving, and the ability of the Afghan security forces to defend the country without them is in question. In this situation, we have seen major gains by the Taliban and a subsequent flood of refugees. The project of building a modern country, whose women in particular have made great strides, may fall victim to the rampant corruption and incompetence of the Afghan government or the fanaticism of the Taliban. This course will follow developments in real time and explore possible ways out of the current morass: greater support from the country's neighbors, in particular Pakistan and India, or the United Nations' existing assistance mission. Readings will come primarily from current periodicals.

**Charles Dunbar** worked in and on Afghanistan for eight of thirty-three years as a US and UN ambassador and senior official, and subsequently as a briefer on the history of the country for American and NATO military contingents prior to their being deployed there. He also taught courses involving Afghanistan while a professor at Case Western Reserve, Cleveland State, Simmons and Boston Universities.

### **Harnessing the Ocean's Power: Tide Mills in Maine and Elsewhere 9:30-11:00 a.m. 8-week course begins 9/16**

There have been over 200 tide mills in Maine—nearly fifty between Portland and Wiscasset! This course offers a mixture of technology and history, focusing on the world's tides and currents and the ways man has sought to make use of the power of the tides from Roman times until today's efforts at creating commercially feasible and sustainable power devices. To understand Maine's tide mill culture, we will explore early mills from Kittery to Lubec, highlighting many whose sites can be visited today, offering an understanding of their impact on the region's development. **Required Reading:** Participants will receive a bibliography and occasional online documents. **Bud Warren** has played with tide mills for nearly fifty years. He has explored their muddy sites, written about them, lectured about them locally and internationally, taught courses about them at the high school and college level, and co-founded Tide Mill Institute to increase public awareness about them.

### **Improving Your French 1:00-2:30 p.m. 8-week course begins 9/16**

Have you studied French in the past? Does the thought of reviving your former language skills sound tempting? Then this intermediate-level course might be just what you had in mind. In the first half of each class, we will work on improving listening and speaking skills through vocabulary-building and, if necessary, grammar review. The remainder of our time will be devoted to discussing a short story chosen from a list of famous international Francophone authors. If you are unsure about your ability to perform well in the class, feel free to contact the instructor at [jrboisvert@gmail.com](mailto:jrboisvert@gmail.com). **Required Text:** Schmidt, Williams, et al, *French for Dummies*, ISBN 978-1118004647. **Jayne Boisvert** holds a Ph.D. in French from the University at Albany, New York. She has extensive experience teaching the language, history, and literature of the Francophone world on the secondary and college level.

### **Struggles in the Valley: Understanding Social Conflicts of the Kennebec/ Androscoggin Region, 1524-2021 1:00-2:30 p.m. 8-week course begins 9/16**

Armed conflict and outright war, racial and religious division, economic injustice and social upheaval, land squabbles, labor unrest and immigration battles—for hundreds of years our mid-coast region has been a place of cultural conflict. And it is certainly worth exploring! This is a local history course with a twist. It focuses on incidents, issues, and struggles that have shaped our locality. Lectures, readings, and discussions will offer insight into what it means for us to be Mainers. **Required Reading:** Key reading materials will be made available online. **Bud Warren** knows the mid-coast region well; for over fifty years he has taught and written about it at schools, for Elder Hostel/Road Scholars, the Maine Maritime Museum, and for Midcoast Senior College.



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## FRIDAY

### **A Self-Guided Nature Tour of Merrymeeting Bay 9:30-11:00 a.m. 6-week course begins 9/17**

Merrymeeting Bay is a beautiful and important inland estuary right in our backyards, but one with surprisingly little access. There are no roads to it, and land access is very limited. This course presents, through an on-line site guide, a series of self-guided nature tours for five publicly accessible preserves that touch on the Bay. Each site guide provides directions, trail details, and natural history information on the ecology of the Bay. Using these guides, you will be able to visit the different sites at your leisure. The course will include optional readings about aspects of the Bay and time for discussion. **Terry Porter** is a Maine Master Naturalist and professor emerita at the University of Maine Business School. She taught sustainability in all of her business classes, including ones on Strategic Management and Business and Society. She is currently enjoying a return to her lifelong love of natural history. She hopes to help increase access to the Bay and, thereby, appreciation and conservation of natural resources, particularly within our local area.

## FRIDAY

### **Our Common Purpose: Fixing Our Democracy 9:30-11:00 a.m. 8-week course begins 9/17**

What kind of country have we become? What kind of country do we want to become? We will explore the changes America needs to realize the promises of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Do the structures and procedures established in 1787 still work in the 21st century? How do "We the People" need to change to make America more American? We will look at the techniques used to keep us divided and discuss strategies to overcome them. **Required Reading:** Jon Meacham, *The Soul of America*, ISBN 978-0399589829. **Niles Schore** practiced poverty law for thirty-five years, mostly in Pennsylvania where he founded the Elderly Law Project and was a staff lawyer for a statewide health law project. In the Pennsylvania Senate he was the Democratic Counsel and Executive Director for the Public Health & Welfare Committee. Prior to retiring to Maine in 2010, he spent seven years as senior manager in the Department of Public Welfare where he developed, implemented, and monitored policies for poverty programs for nearly two million customers.

## *THANK YOU, MSC SPONSORS!*

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# Midcoast Senior College FALL TERM I COURSES

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**FALL TERM I CLASSES WILL BE HELD ON-LINE USING ZOOM.**

**CAREFULLY READ THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

## HOW TO REGISTER

- Registration for courses is on-line; phone assistance is available at 207-725-4900.
- Registration opens August 23 at 9:00 a.m. for MSC members. Midcoast Senior College's current membership period is July 1, 2021 -June 30, 2022. 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 August 25, 2021 the registration page will be published on our website.
- Space is limited; if a course 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 course

### TWO-PERSON REGISTRATION

Tuition is \$50 per course, each person

**FALL TERM II:** A second Fall Term will begin after Fall Term I concludes. The dates of Fall Term II are Nov 8-Dec 17. The Fall Term II course bulletin will be published in late September.

**ON-LINE CLASSES:** All classes are on-line, using 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" book = optional reading. It is the student's responsibility to acquire books.

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

## CLUBS & GROUPS: VISIT WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

- **WRITING GROUP:** "Senior Scribblers" writing group for all levels meets every other Wednesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- **CURRENT EVENTS FORUM:** Weekly moderated topic-related forum meets Thursdays noon-1 p.m. at Curtis Memorial Library, sponsored by Thornton Oaks and in partnership with CML.
- **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.