



MONDAY

Mostly Chekhov 1:00-2:30 p.m. 8-week, 90-minute course begins 3/7

In *A Swim in a Pond in the Rain*, George Saunders gives a masterclass on how fiction relates to life in the short stories of Anton Chekhov and other Russian writers. What should we value? What is our purpose in life? What is truth? This seminar-like discussion class focuses on Saunders's book and the *Selected Stories of Anton Chekhov*. In Chekhov's works we will encounter unforgettable characters struggling with the twists and turns of life. **Required Reading:** George Saunders, *A Swim in a Pond in the Rain*, ISBN 978-1984856029; *Selected Stories of Anton Chekhov* (Pevear translation), ISBN 978-0553381009. With a degree in Slavic Studies, **Ann Kimmage** has been a lifelong student of Russian and world literature. She also has a strong interest in the writing process and has most recently taught a course at MSC on memoir writing.

TUESDAY

Plants: The Elegant Organism 9:30-11:30 a.m. 6-week, 120-minute course begins 3/8

A plant is an elegant organism. It solves the same problems of life that animals do: acquiring energy, adapting, reproducing, defending against predation, responding to the environment. Yet it does not move, is not aware, and cannot communicate. Or can it? The elegant simplicity with which plants carry out the imperatives of life and structure the lives of animals is the subject of this course. **Required book:** Daniel Chamovitz, *What a Plant Knows: A Field Guide to the Senses* (2017), ISBN 978-0374537128. **Barbara Snapp** received her Ph.D. in 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, connect them to a human context, and build a multidimensional understanding.

Plants: The Elegant Organism 1:00-3:00 p.m. 6-week, 120 minute course begins 3/8
(See course description in morning entry above)

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.



Midcoast Senior College SPRING TERM I COURSES

March 7-April 29, 2022 Registration begins February 14, 2022

Website: midcoastseniorcollege.org

Email: msoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org

WEDNESDAY

American Sign Language - Level I 9:30-11:00 a.m. 6-week, 90-minute course begins 3/9

Learn basic sign language communication, including the manual alphabet, fingerspelling, numbers, vocabulary (colors, animals, foods, etc.), Deaf culture, and familiar phrases that will enhance your communication with Deaf and hard of hearing family, friends, co-workers, students, clients, and customers. No previous sign language experience is necessary. ASL is a visual language, so no textbook or dictionary is required. Instructor will supply handouts and all materials. **Martin Samelson** has taught college and high school students, as well as private lessons and corporate programs. His experience supporting Deaf job seekers enhances his classroom presentations.

The Whole Shebang: Universe, Life, Consciousness, Meaning 1:00-3:00 p.m. 8-week, 120-minute course begins 3/9

Space and time, matter and energy, the Cosmos, life, consciousness and meaning—can all these manifestations of our Universe be understood in purely naturalistic terms accessible through scientific inquiry, or is there something more to it than that? Can the Universe in all its amazing hierarchical complexity simply emerge naturally without any explicit plan or design? And, given an impersonal Universe, what of truth, beauty, love, spirit, and human existence itself? Does any of that have meaning beyond what we subjectively give to it? This course addresses such big questions. **Required reading:** Sean Carroll, *The Big Picture: On the Origin of Life, Meaning and the Universe Itself*, ISBN 978-1101984253. With a doctorate in ecology and evolutionary biology, **Fred Cichocki** has been a college professor for nearly 50 years. His eclectic interests span science, culture, philosophy—The Big Picture. Among his other pursuits, he mentors research projects for high schoolers, is Adjunct Curator of Vertebrates at the Maine State Museum, and co-founder of the Maine Master Naturalist Program.

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THURSDAY

What Do Colleges and Universities Owe Democracy? 9:30-11:00 a.m. 6-week, 90-minute course begins 3/10

Ronald Daniels's account of liberal education points to a "vital tension" in liberal democracies, arising as they work to bind "the notion of a government responsive to popular will to the imperative to protect individual rights and preserve rule of law." As president of Johns Hopkins University, Daniels contends universities must provide students with a civic education that prepares them for the responsibilities of democratic citizenship, and maintains universities fail to recognize, let alone meet this responsibility. Daniels discusses historical attempts to address this and offers his own proposals. In this course we will critically study his analysis and proposals.

Required reading: Ronald J. Daniels, *What Universities Owe Democracy*, ISBN 978-1421442693 (Kindle or hard-cover). **Bruce Hauptli** is an Emeritus Professor of philosophy at Florida International University in Miami, FL where he taught for thirty-nine years. During this tenure he served as a departmental chairperson, the chairperson of the Faculty Senate (for six years), and in the Central Administration. He has taught six different courses for MSC.

Murder in London 1:00-3:00 p.m. 8-week, 120-minute course begins 3/10

London is a powerful central city, of course, and many detective novelists came of age there. This course's books are Dorothy Sayers, *Murder Must Advertise*; John Dickson Carr, *Fire, Burn!*; Margery Allingham, *Death of a Ghost*; and Sarah Caudwell, *The Shortest Way to Hades*. We will start with a quick reading of a Sherlock Holmes story, "A Scandal in Bohemia." **Required reading:** Dorothy L. Sayers, *Murder Must Advertise*, ISBN 978-0061043550; Margery Allingham, *Death of a Ghost*, ISBN 978-0553249583; John Dickson Carr, *Fire, Burn!*, ISBN 978-0441229109; Sarah Caudwell, *The Shortest Way to Hades*, ISBN 978-0440212331; Arthur Conan Doyle, "A Scandal in Bohemia" in *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, (any version). **Susan Ransom** is a retired architectural marketer who has been reading detective fiction all her life in order to avoid doing her homework. She is an editor of art history and historical publications and has an M.A. in English from Clark University.

FRIDAY

Whitman and Dickinson: Two Flowerings of the Emersonian Seed 9:30-11:00 a.m. 6-week, 90-minute course begins 3/11

This six-week course will explore—via close reading and discussion—selected poems by Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson. Specifically, we'll consider how both poets embody, in opposing ways, the kind of artistic expression that Ralph Waldo Emerson called for in his essay, "The Poet," which Whitman heard in lecture form in 1842. These two remarkable voices in American letters will assuredly stimulate lively discussion. **Reading:** Best versions are to be found on-line at the Emily Dickinson Archive (www.edickinson.org) and the Walt Whitman Archive (www.whitmanarchive.org). Emerson's essay, *The Poet*, can be found at www.poetryfoundation.org/articles/69389/from-the-poet). Information on book versions is available on MSC's website. **John Haile** (B.A. Bates, M.A. Middlebury) recently retired from a career as an English teacher and administrator at Avon Old Farms School in Connecticut, Western Reserve Academy in Ohio, and Brooks School in Massachusetts.



Midcoast Senior College SPRING TERM I COURSES

March 7-April 29, 2022 Registration begins February 14, 2022

SPRING TERM I 2022 CLASSES WILL BE HELD ON-LINE USING ZOOM

Term II bulletin will be published in late March

HOW TO REGISTER

- Registration for courses is on-line; phone assistance is available at 207-725-4900.
- Registration opens February 14, 2022 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
- On February 16, 2022 the registration page will be published for others 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: 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.

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 or call 207-725-4900. Visit our website: midcoastseniorcollege.org.

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