



Midcoast Senior College FALL TERM II COURSES

Nov. 7—Dec. 16, 2022

Registration begins Oct. 17, 2022

MONDAY

Les Bon Temps: New Orleans 9:30-11:00 a.m. 6-week, 90-minute online course begins 11/7

Through the eyes of Ignatius Reilly, the bumbling picaresque protagonist of the classic comic novel, *A Confederacy of Dunces*, we will explore New Orleans, a uniquely beguiling American city. We will also look at the contemporary city from streetcars to hurricanes (both kinds) and sample the music and art that flourish there. If you love NOLA, or are interested in visiting, this course is for you. A video introduction to the course is available at <https://vimeo.com/733359382>. **Reading:** John Kennedy Toole, *A Confederacy of Dunces*, ISBN 978-0802130208. **Paul Kalkstein**, a retired secondary school literature instructor, is looking forward to sharing his tenth pilgrimage to NOLA with you. **Where:** Class meets on Zoom only.

Essential Opera: The 20th Century 1:00-3:00 p.m. 6-week, 120-minute online course begins 11/7

This six-week survey course explores the remarkable variety of operatic styles developed in the 20th century. We will take an in-depth look at a different opera in each session and, as in previous courses, will rely on material currently available on YouTube as our primary resource. Additional resources will be recommended during the course. **Ross Crolius** holds a B.M. from Peabody Conservatory and an M.M. from the Eastman School of Music. He sang professionally in New York for more than 30 years, including 25 years as a full-time chorister and *comprimario* soloist with the Metropolitan Opera. Upon retirement, he taught voice and opera appreciation in the New York area as well as at Ithaca College and Westfield State College. **Where:** Class meets on Zoom only.

TUESDAY

Water, Water, Everywhere? 9:30-11:30 a.m. 6-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 11/8

Water is essential for life and has played an enormous role in human culture. In the modern world it also plays an increasing role in global and local politics. We will study: 1) how the chemistry of water makes it a “miracle molecule”; 2) how water has shaped life on Earth and determines our climate and weather; 3) how water has impacted the development of human civilization; 4) how water’s value as a limited resource has led to both conflict and innovation; and 5) how water use will impact our (near) future. **Reading:** Giulio Boccaletti, *Water: A Biography*, ISBN 978-0525566007. **Barbara Snapp** has taught and researched in science for over 45 years since receiving her Ph.D. in biology from Cornell University. Her research focuses on the ecological and evolutionary adaptiveness of life. She most enjoys teaching broad survey courses where she can interweave basic themes to build a multidimensional understanding. **Where:** In-person class meets at UMA Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall Street, Brunswick, ME 04011 (On Brunswick Landing in Cook’s Corner)—Room 101

Water, Water, Everywhere? 1:00-3:00 p.m. 120-minute online course begins 11/8

See morning section of this course for description. **Where:** Class meets on Zoom only.

Beowulf: Then and Now 1:00-2:30 p.m. 6-week, 90-minute online course begins 11/8

What is modern about *Beowulf*, the Old English epic written before the end of the first millennium? What can it tell us about ourselves, our attitudes towards society, and even our attitudes toward government? We will glance at the epic’s provenance as well as its poetic devices, but the primary focus will be on the epic as a whole, with all its themes and characters. **Reading:** *Beowulf: An Illustrated Edition* (Seamus Haney, translator) ISBN 978-0393330106. **Leona Dufour** enjoyed the challenge of engaging the interest and even the enthusiasm of high school students for *Beowulf*. She would like to take the epic to an older audience, some of whom might have missed this offering while in school. She has previously taught several courses at MSC and currently moderates MSC’s “Book Talk.” **Where:** Class meets on Zoom only.



WEDNESDAY

Could Amy Gutmann's Philosophy of Education Help Repair our Republic? 9:30-11:00 a.m. 6-week, 90-minute online course begins 11/9

Amy Gutmann published *Democratic Education* while a professor at Princeton. As provost at Princeton and later as president at the University of Pennsylvania, she elaborated on her philosophy of education and worked to put it into practice. Gutmann emphasized the importance of publicly-supported education that “develops the capacity to deliberate among all children as future free and equal citizens” and “schooling whose aim is to teach the skills and virtues of democratic deliberation within a social context where educational authority is shared among parents, citizens, and professional educators.” We will contrast her educational philosophy with several others in order to assess its potential to repair our democracy and will study its implications at all educational levels for both the control and the distribution of such an education. **Reading:** Amy Gutmann, *Democratic Education*, ISBN 978-0691009162. **Bruce Hauptli** is an emeritus professor of philosophy at Florida International University where he taught for 39 years. During that time he served as chairperson of the Philosophy Department for eight years, chairperson of the faculty senate for six years, and in the central administration for two years. He has taught seven different courses for MSC. **Where:** Class meets on Zoom only.

Three Centuries of New England Garden History 9:30-11:30 a.m. 4-week, 120-minute online course begins 11/9, no class 11/23

This course will explore historic gardens in New England with a focus on Maine. We will examine gardens, whether ornamental or practical, and designed landscapes on a larger scale as cultural artifacts reflecting the needs, beliefs, values, and styles of each time period. We will look at the distinguishing characteristics of gardens, from colonial landscapes to early 20th-century designs, along with the plants and horticultural techniques that gardeners used in making and maintaining them. Many of the examples shown will be sites open to the public, offering students the opportunity to visit and make personal observations. **Recommended reading:** Alan Emmet, *So Fine a Prospect: Historic New England Gardens*, ISBN 978-0874517743. Other readings for discussion will be sent as PDFs by the instructor. **Val Libby** served as Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture at Temple University. In 2004 she served as the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Landscape History in Portugal and in 2016 and 2017 presented similar classes for Acadia Senior College. She has authored numerous articles on landscape preservation and women's history. **Where:** Class meets on Zoom only.

Obtaining Italian Citizenship by Right of Descent 1:00-3:00 p.m. 4-week, 120-minute online course begins 11/9

An estimated 17.8 million Americans are of Italian descent and many of them can claim Italian citizenship. There is no requirement to speak Italian. A step-by-step description of the process will be presented, and historical, cultural, and social aspects of Italian life will also be covered. The application process requires good planning and organization, careful scrutiny of multiple documents, securing any needed court-ordered amendments, and time to assemble the required certificates and translations. Application can be made either in the US or Italy, if you can live there for at least 3 - 5 months. (Note: this course will not cover the process of Italian citizenship by marriage or naturalization.) It is strongly recommended that, prior to enrolling, students complete the online questionnaire developed by the Consulate of Italy in Detroit to determine if they may be eligible for Italian citizenship by descent: https://consdetroit.esteri.it/consolato_detroit/it/i_servizi/per_i_cittadini/cittadinanza/eligibility-verification.html. **Dan Possumato** is a former Professor at the Army Management Staff College, Fort Belvoir, VA and is a retired Department of the Army Civilian. He possesses both US and Italian citizenship. **Where:** Class meets on Zoom only.



THURSDAY

Making the Most of Ancestry.com for your Family History Research 9:30-11:00 a.m. 5-week, 90-minute online course begins 11/10, no class on 11/24 (Thanksgiving)

Ancestry.com databases now contain billions of records scanned and indexed from public sources in the US and around the world. This course helps individual learners make the most of Ancestry.com databases to study their family's histories, including using research tools available in the US and other national censuses: vital records (birth, death and marriage), military and pension records, land and property records, and immigration records. The course will be a mix of lectures about the nature of public records available on Ancestry.com and discussions in the chat room about how to search the records. The course will give special attention to studying those whose ancestors lived in Maine, and, more generally, to studying women ancestors regardless of their location. The course will not ask participants for any information about their DNA or make use of Ancestry.com's DNA testing. **Jim Oberly** is a retired professor of history. He has taught workshops on using Ancestry.com for Sunrise Senior College, for SAGE in Presque Isle, and for Minneapolis 55+ Community Education. **Where:** Class meets on Zoom only.

The Life and Legacy of Frances Perkins 1:00-3:00 p.m. 5-week, 120-minute online course begins 11/10, no class on 11/24 (Thanksgiving)

This course explores in five classes the work of Frances Perkins: Her Maine Roots and Early Career; The Woman Behind the New Deal; Perkins in the Eyes of Charles E. Wyzanski, Jr., Her Solicitor at the Department of Labor; Jobs, Infrastructure, and Art in the New Deal; A Conversation with Her Grandson, Tomlin Perkins Coggeshall. **Reading:** Kirsten Downey, *The Woman Behind the New Deal*, ISBN 978-1400078561. **Emma Wegner** is Program and Education Director at the Frances Perkins Center, which manages the Frances Perkins Homestead National Historic Landmark in Newcastle, Maine. She is a graduate of Bryn Mawr College and holds an M.A. in the History of Decorative Arts from the Bard Graduate Center in New York. **Where:** Class meets on Zoom only.

The Skin of God 1:00-3:00 p.m. 4-week, 120 minute in-person course begins 11/10 no class on 11/24 (Thanksgiving)

Throughout our evolution, we *Homo sapiens* have used arts, sciences, and religions to pursue knowing, intimacy, and sometimes a dialog with the vastly powerful, awe-engendering inner mysteries of the cosmos, the natural world, and ourselves. Now old patterns are dissolving and reforming in unimaginable combinations through rapid changes in science, technology, art, and religion. In this series of art-illustrated dialogues, we will examine and discuss the understory of this continuous journey of longings using art, myth, fairytales, film, religion, and science in search of an enhanced understanding of the labyrinthine connections that touch us beneath the thinking level. **Stephanie Rayner** is a professional artist and international lecturer whose work deals with the transformation of our spirituality by the revelations of science and technology. She has presented her works to The Vatican Symposium on Religion and Science (Malta), The Institute for Religion in an Age of Science (New Hampshire), and the First International Symposium of Religion and Science (University of Toronto). In 2016, Stephanie Rayner became the only visual artist to be awarded The Ashley Fellowship. **Where:** In-person class meets at UMA Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall Street, Brunswick, ME 04011 (On Brunswick Landing in Cook's Corner)—Room 101

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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Website: midcoastseniorcollege.org

Email: msoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org

FRIDAY

The US Supreme Court and the 2021-2022 Term 9:30-11:00 a.m. 6-week, 90-minute online course begins 11/11

What exactly is the US Supreme Court? Is it a court of law or a super legislature? John Roberts, the current chief justice, has described Supreme Court justices as neutral umpires who merely call balls and strikes based upon the rules of law. The comparison is meant to suggest that justices don't have their own opinions on the issues involved in the cases they decide. They just follow the law. Political scientists, however, have long maintained that justices decide cases based upon their own personal values. This course will examine these two views of the Court, using cases from the 2021-2022 Court term. **Reading:** Jeffrey A. Segal and Harold J. Spaeth, *The Supreme Court and the Attitudinal Model Revisited*, ISBN 978-0521789714. **Kevin Hart** is a former lawyer who covered the US Supreme Court for a number of years as a newsletter journalist. **Where:** Class meets on Zoom only.

What is Love? 9:30-11:00 a.m. 6-week, 90-minute on-line course begins 11/11

Everywhere, love suffuses human sociality. To see how this can play out with many-splendored diversity, we will study two cases, one of a family with an "adopted" American member in strife-ridden modern Syria, and the other of a forager culture in the Kalahari Desert of South West Africa. We will talk about healing, family bonds, romance, sharing, affection and much more. Class members may share at their discretion their own experience as, *inter alia*, lovers. **Readings:** Emily Robbins, *A Word for Love*, ISBN 978-0399185854; Richard Katz, *Boiling Energy Community Healing Among the Kalahari Kung*, ISBN 978-0674077362. **Steven Piker** is an anthropologist who did field work in Thailand and in the US and taught for 44 years at Swarthmore College. He has offered 25 courses at three of Maine's senior colleges. **Where:** Class meets on Zoom only.

The Odyssey 1:00-2:30 p.m. 6-week, 90-minute in-person course begins 11/11

Western literature begins with Homer's two epic poems. The epics concern the Trojan war and, in the case of *The Odyssey*, its aftermath. *The Odyssey* is the story of Odysseus' postwar travels home from Troy to Ithaca. You may know the story and have read the text, but beside the obvious truth that Homer can bear many rereadings, it is a different and richer experience to read the text as an older adult. After an initial session devoted to the myths surrounding the Trojan war and the question of who Homer might have been, we will discuss the twenty-four books of the poem at the rate of roughly four books a week. **Reading:** Homer, *The Odyssey* (Robert Fitzgerald, translator), ISBN 978-0374525743. **David Tarbet** has both a Ph.D. in English Literature and a law degree. He became a lawyer after serving as Professor of English Literature at the State University of New York at Buffalo. **Where:** In-person class meets at Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant St., Brunswick, ME 04011 in Morrell Meeting Room

Registration

Registration opens October 17, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. for MSC members

Visit www.midcoastseniorcollege.org for more information or call (207) 725-4900

Pay Membership Fee

MSC Membership period is July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Membership is required to take a course



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PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT INFORMATION CAREFULLY

HOW TO REGISTER

- Registration for courses is online; phone assistance is available at 207-725-4900.
- Registration opens October 17, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. for MSC members. Midcoast Senior College's current membership period is July 1, 2022 -June 30, 2023.
- To pay your membership fee, go to <https://midcoastseniorcollege.org/membership-form/>
Not sure if you're a member? Email us at msoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org
- A link to the registration page (with full instructions) will be emailed to current members in advance. On October 19 the registration page will be public on our website.
- Space is limited; if a course is full, please notify us of your interest at msoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org.
- For Zoom-Only Classes (not in-person or hybrid) - 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 COURSE: 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.

IN-PERSON COURSE: Consult the course description for location of class meeting.

HYBRID COURSE: Students may register for either in-person or on Zoom option; consult the course description for location of in-person classes.

BOOKS & READINGS: Course descriptions include information regarding course books and readings. It is the student's responsibility to acquire books.

CONTACT US: Email at msoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org or phone 207-725-4900. More info at our website: midcoastseniorcollege.org.

CLUBS & GROUPS:

- **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.
- **BOOK TALK :** Guided discussions on Zoom. For more information, email Leona Dufour at leonadufour@aol.com.