



Midcoast Senior College SPRING TERM I COURSES

February 13—April 7, 2023

Registration begins January 23, 2023

MONDAY

Shakespeare's *Henry V*, Broadway's *Hamilton*, and the Uses of History 9:30-11:30 a.m. 8-week, 120-minute online course begins 2/13

If Shakespeare wrote shows today, what would they look and sound like? What psychological, social, and political issues would he evoke? Would he still appeal to all ages, social classes, and educational levels, while transmuting intellectual brio into commercial success? Can we call Broadway's wildly successful musical *Hamilton* "Shakespearean"? We'll plunge into all these questions, enjoying ourselves with both the old *Henry V* and the new *Hamilton*, two immensely popular shows, both staged in times of bitter political polarization. How true are they to history? *Are they history?* **Reading:** Lin-Manuel Miranda, *Hamilton: The Revolution*, ISBN 978-1455539741 (this book can be rented); William Shakespeare, *Henry V* (any edition). After almost launching a career in Evolutionary Psychology, **Richard Welsh** turned to political advocacy work and feature journalism, with a focus on large-scale transformations in history (science, culture, religion, politics). His senior college courses explore the relationships among art, culture, history, and human identity, primarily through Shakespeare's plays. **On Zoom; meets Presidents Day**

The World According to Carp: The Marvelous Richness of Animal Sensory Perception 1:00-3:00 p.m. 8-week, online course begins 2/13

We tend to think of ourselves as the epitome of evolution. Yet, in terms of innate sensory abilities we take a back seat to many other kinds of animals. Of course, modes of sensory perception depend on ecological context. Nevertheless, the wide spectrum of sensory modalities available to life is far richer than we can know through direct experience. From superhuman versions of the classical five senses to apprehension of electromagnetic fields and pulses (and much more), these strange modalities of sensory perception engender unique worlds of awareness and thus alien kinds of consciousness. **Reading:** Ed Yong, *An Immense World*, ISBN 978-1847926098 (paperback), ISBN 978-0593133231 (hardcover). **Fred Cichocki** is a longtime college professor (15 years with MSC) and natural history museum curator, with a doctorate in evolutionary biology and ecology from the University of Michigan. His interests are eclectic, ranging from evolutionary theory and systems ecology through human ecology, traditional natural history, and on to the "Big Picture." **On Zoom; meets Presidents Day**

Registration

Registration opens January 23, 2023 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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TUESDAY

What Evaporates from all Translations: The Poetry of Robert Frost 9:30-11:00 a.m. 8-week, 90-minute online course begins 2/14

This eight-week course will explore—via close reading and discussion—selected poems of American poet Robert Frost (1874-1963). Specifically, we will examine how Frost uses the many tools of the poet to draw the universal out of the local. Prepare to be surprised and to see this familiar poet in a new light. Perhaps we'll come to understand what Frost meant when he famously said: "Poetry is a momentary stay against confusion." The course will be loosely organized around the four seasons: spring, summer, fall and winter. **Reading:** Any text of Frost's poetry will do. Suggestions are: *Robert Frost, Collected Poems, Prose, and Plays*, ISBN 978-1883011062; *The Poetry of Robert Frost*, ISBN 978-0805069860. **John Haile** had a 42-year career as a secondary school teacher and administrator (Avon Old Farms School, Western Reserve Academy, Brooks School). He taught Frost's poems throughout his career. **On Zoom**

Bach's Best 1:00-3:00 p.m. 8-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 2/14

This course will offer an in-depth study of some of Johann Sebastian Bach's finest works. With an emphasis on the harmonic structure of Bach's music, selections will include harpsichord works, sacred and secular cantatas, chorale preludes, concertos, chamber works, organ works, and large choral works, including the St. John Passion and the Mass in B Minor. The works studied will be different from those presented in the fall class, "The Life and Music of JS Bach." The class includes a 75-page take-home text, a slide show format with many video clips of musical examples, and teaching help from a keyboard. **Reading:** The 75-page text will be supplied by the instructor. **Peter Griffin** has taught classes at MSC and OLLI in Portland. He serves on the Boards of Holbrook Community Foundation in Cundys Harbor, Bowdoin International Music Festival in Brunswick, and Friends of the Kotszchmar Organ and Classical Uprising in Portland. **Class meets at UMA Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall Street, Brunswick (Brunswick Landing near Cook's Corner)—Room 101**

Paris and the World 1:00-2:30 p.m. 4-week, 90-minute online course begins 2/14

This course will examine the international side of the French capital. We will discuss city restaurants serving cuisines from around the world as well as museums and houses of worship with global ties. In addition, we will look at a variety of expatriates—from Van Gogh and Picasso to Oscar Wilde and Balenciaga, among many others—who had at one time called Paris home. **Reading:** Jayne Boisvert, *Paris and the World: The Cheapo Snob Visits the City and Its International Community*, ISBN 978-1948598606. **Jayne Boisvert** holds a PhD in French and has taught a variety of courses on secondary and college levels. She is the author of a trilogy of nonfiction works based on the city of Paris. **On Zoom**

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WEDNESDAY

Being Female: A New Perspective 9:30-11:30 a.m. 6-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 2/15

Behavior related to sex and gender in the animal kingdom is a lot more complicated than the dichotomy of Female-Male or X-Y. Subtle interplay among 60 genes determines the femaleness-maleness of many species, including humans. The course will explore what is known about the evolution of sex and the variety of reproductive experiences in animals, especially from the perspective of the female of each species. **Reading:** Lucy Cooke, *Bitch: On the Female of the Species*, ISBN 978-1541674899.

Barbara Snapp has taught and researched in science for over 45 years since receiving her PhD 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. **Class meets at UMA Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall Street, Brunswick (Brunswick Landing near Cook's Corner)—Room 101**

Being Female: A New Perspective 1:00-3:00 p.m. 6-week, 120-minute online course begins 2/15

(See above listing) On Zoom

Creating a Global Community 1:00-3:00 p.m. 8-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 2/15

This seminar is about the situation in which we find ourselves as we attempt to deal with warfare, pandemics, global warming, inequality, and flows of refugees. We will be reading, discussing, and critiquing a book that argues that we must create a global community. How can eight billion people form a community? The book integrates philosophy with social science and is too packed with ideas to be entertaining reading. However, you are guaranteed to learn something that will interest you. This is not a pragmatic, how-to-do-it, course, but may give you hope, change how you think, and perhaps even how you act. **Reading:** Joseph de Rivera, *Forming a Global Community*, ISBN 978-1648895166 (Amazon is charging \$55 but the book is available at the office for \$39. Photocopies at cost are available if requested a week in advance. An electronic pre-publication manuscript may be requested but is not recommended). **Joseph de Rivera** is a social psychologist who served in the Navy and taught at Dartmouth and NYU before going to Clark University where he formed its Program in Peace and Conflict Studies. **Class meets at UMA Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall Street, Brunswick (Brunswick Landing near Cook's Corner)—Room 119**

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THURSDAY

Could Amy Gutmann's Philosophy of Education Help Repair Our Republic? 9:30-11:00 a.m. 7-week, 90-minute in-person course begins 2/16

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 thirty-nine 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. **Class meets at UMA Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall Street, Brunswick (Brunswick Landing near Cook's Corner)—Room 119**

Rebalancing in the Midst of Uncertainty 9:30-11:30 a.m. 8-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 2/16

Resilience is the foundation for managing our changing world. We will explore the role of resilience in facing the challenge of living through the pandemic and ongoing national and international conflicts. Discussion of readings, interactive exercises, and personal writing will be used to reach that goal. **Reading:** Karen Armstrong, *The Spiral Staircase: My Climb Out of Darkness*, ISBN 978-0385721271; Pauline Boss, *The Myth of Closure: Ambiguous Loss in a Time of Pandemic and Change*, ISBN 978-1324016816; Elizabeth Strout, *Lucy by the Sea*, ISBN 978-0593446065. **Susan Mikesell** and **Ann Kimmage**, with PhDs in psychology and literature, respectively, have taught regularly for MSC. **Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick, Room 206.**

Getting to Know the Lower Kennebec Valley 1:00-3:00 p.m. 8-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 2/16

The Kennebec/Androscoggin River system has influenced the culture of our part of Maine. You will learn how the river works and how for two thousand years people have used it as they harvested its bounty and forged a way of life. You will also learn about the river's ecosystem and its changes, how to navigate its waters, and how a diverse range of communities were built along its banks. In following the stories of struggle as people from away vied to seize the land from its natives, you will be venturing into the past of our region. **Reading:** There is no required text. An annotated bibliography, some readings, and a chart of the river will be made available. **Bud Warren** is a freelance maritime historian. Retired from teaching and BIW, he is a small-boat enthusiast who actively explored the region, knows it intimately, and has shared it for years through teaching, guiding tours, and lecturing for locals and folks from away. **Class meets at UMA Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall Street, Brunswick (Brunswick Landing near Cook's Corner)—Room 101**

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FRIDAY

The Journey from Climate Doom to Active Hope, 9:30-11:30 a.m. 8-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 2/17

When you think about climate change and ecosystems destruction, do you experience feelings of despair or helplessness? Do you want to leave these negative thoughts and feelings behind and take a thought-provoking journey to “active hope”? In this discussion-oriented class, you will explore the ideas of scientists, social scientists, and philosophers who have shown us how we could create a more hopeful story for ourselves. You will consider this question: How can I become more active—and hopeful—in protecting the Earth and ensuring the well-being of future generations? **Reading:** Suggested readings will be offered before the beginning of the first class. **Thomas White** has a PhD in developmental Psychology. He has taught at Gettysburg College and for the OLLI at College of William and Mary and the OLLI at USM. **Class meets at UMA Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall Street, Brunswick (Brunswick Landing near Cook’s Corner)—Room 101**

Lost and Found in the Deep Blue Sea 1:00-2:30 p.m. 6-week, online course begins 2/17

Six classes demonstrate the evolution of marine technology through historical accounts of searching for and finding shipwrecks, aircraft, and spacecraft lost at sea. The first class starts with an introduction to the underwater search discussing the unsuccessful search for Malaysian Airlines flight 370 and the recent discovery of Ernst Shackleton’s ship, the *Endurance*, in the Antarctic. From the Antarctic, we travel back in time to 1922 and the loss, search for, and salvage of the P&O liner SS *Egypt* off the coast of France. Each class will recount a famous loss and search at sea, culminating in a final class describing the search for and recovery of Apollo rocket motors from 3 miles beneath the Bermuda Triangle. **Reading:** Electronic pdfs of supplemental materials will be made available. **Vincent Capone** has over 30 years of marine search, underwater technology, and diving experience in locating over 100 shipwrecks and aircraft. **On Zoom**

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Email: mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org

Please read the following important information:

HOW TO REGISTER

- Registration for courses is online; phone assistance is available at 207-725-4900.
- Registration opens January 23, 2023 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 mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org
- A link to the registration page (with full instructions) will be emailed to current members in advance. On January 25 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.
- 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](#).

IN-PERSON COURSES & CANCELLATION POLICY

Consult the course description for the location of class meeting. If inclement weather or illness requires the cancellation of an MSC in-person class meeting, the class will shift to Zoom or will be rescheduled, if possible. If the class cannot be rescheduled, it will be cancelled. The host venue sets policy for weather cancellations; consult the host venue website or follow announcements on the radio/television for information. If illness should require a teacher to cancel a class meeting, we will notify you by email/phone and determine a time/method to make up the class. (CML: <https://curtislibrary.com/> UMA: <https://www.uma.edu/locations/brunswick/>)

BOOKS & READINGS

Course descriptions include information regarding course books and readings. 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.