



Midcoast Senior College SPRING TERM II COURSES

April 10—May 19, 2023

Registration begins March 20, 2023

MONDAY

Religious Conversion . . . What Is It? 9:30-11:00 a.m. 6-week, 90-minute online course begins April 10

Of what does religious conversion consist? Paul on the road to Damascus? . . . or? Conversion abounds in our U.S. world. This course sees it as an integral part of the life of the convert, in which the convert has considerable creative agency. Adopting a biographical perspective, we will attend to both continuities and changes across the conversion. We will rely on detailed case materials, seeking to grasp conversion from the convert's point of view. We will get to know a couple of religious converts personally. **Reading:** Shirley Nelson, *The Last Year of the War*, ISBN 978-1592449248; also, an unpublished manuscript will be circulated. **Steven Piker** is an anthropologist who has conducted extensive field work in the U.S. and Thailand. Religion is a career-long interest in his teaching and research. **On Zoom.**

A Final Gift: Advance Directives 1:00-2:30 p.m. 5-week, 90-minute online course begins April 10

Rarely do we engage in conversations regarding death. Despite the meteoric advances in life-extending technologies, death continues to come and occurs daily in the most advanced healthcare organizations. Baby boomers are advancing into those "golden years" at a record rate and facing outcomes born from their youthful indiscretions and unhealthy habits. The desire to control our final destiny requires knowledge and informed decisions. We must articulate our final wishes and ensure that when we are unable to self-advocate, others respectfully speak on our behalf. This course prepares you to discuss and document your final decisions. **Susan Goran** practiced critical care nursing for 45 years working in various ICUs in New England prior to her retirement in 2017. Currently, she is adjunct faculty in the School of Nursing at UNE teaching leadership skills to a new generation of nurses. **On Zoom.**

TUESDAY

Virgil's *The Aeneid* 10:00-11:30 a.m. 6-week, 90-minute in-person course begins April 11

Often called "the poem of Europe," Virgil's beautifully written Latin epic tells the story of Aeneas, the Trojan prince who fled his fallen home city and struggled through trials of devotion and courage to found a new civilization: Rome. In this course, we'll focus on what may have made *The Aeneid* so important a work for so many centuries, and why it may still hold value and relevance for our time. **Reading:** Any translation may be used but recommended (and to which references will be made in class) is *The Aeneid*, transl. Robert Fagles, ISBN 978-0143105138; a fine translation by Rolfe Humphries is also available for free download at Gutenberg.com. **George Young** has taught Russian literature and general humanities at Grinnell, Dartmouth, University of New England, and, in more recent years, at OLLI and MSC. He and his wife, Patricia, live and golf in Brunswick. **Class meets at Morrell Meeting Room at Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick.**

MSC Singers—Oldies and Goodies 2:30-4:00 p.m. 6-week, 90-minute in-person course begins April 11

This Spring the MSC Singers will practice five pieces that have been voted by the Singers as being their favorite. This is your chance to enjoy singing selections such as "Four Strong Winds," "Shenandoah," and others. There will be a special practice on Tuesday, June 6th. We will demonstrate our semester's accomplishments by performing our three best selections at the MSC Annual Meeting on June 13. If you have choral experience, please join us as we celebrate our 8th year of singing together. **Stuart Gillespie** retired in 2004 as a professor of music and Fine Arts Department Chair at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Connecticut. He began his choral directing career in 1965 as a baritone with the U.S. Army Chorus in Europe. He is a published composer and has written numerous arrangements of well-known folk songs for the MSC Singers. **Class meets at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Brunswick.**



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WEDNESDAY

Introduction to Big History I 9:30-11:30 a.m. 6-week, 120-minute in-person course begins April 12

As seekers, we have all wondered about the origin of everything around us and how it will all end up. This course is designed to address those questions, using the latest scientific and historical research available. Part I tells the story of the universe from the Big Bang to the emergence of life on Earth. Part II, the sequel to this course, will trace the evolution of human beings, our history as Earth's dominant species, and what the future may look like to the end (heat death?) of the universe. Curiosity, imagination, a sense of wonder, and an open mind are the only prerequisites for attending this class. **Reading:** David Christian, *Origin Story: A Big History of Everything*, ISBN 978-0316392006. **Bill Hammond** is a retired high school history teacher who trained with and helped pilot Bill Gates's Big History Project, a global, online version of Professor David Christian's Macquarie University course. **Class meets at UMA Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall Street, Brunswick (Brunswick Landing near Cook's Corner)—Room 101.**

THURSDAY

Let's Try Flash Fiction! 10:00-11:30 a.m. 6-week, 90-minute in-person course begins April 13

In "flash fiction" the writer takes a short prompt (e.g., "the smell of chocolate" or "what a way to die") and then writes a short story (1,000 words or less) to that prompt. This class will take a hands-on approach. In the first class, the instructor will first offer some thoughts and tips on the genre. Then he'll give a prompt, and class members will have 15 minutes to write a very short story. At the end of that class, he'll give a prompt for the next class. Each member will write a story and send it in two days before the next class. We will discuss each person's story at every class. We will also share thoughts on writing tips, etc., at each class as time allows. **Reading (recommended):** David Treadwell and Anneka Williams, *A Flash Fiction Exchange between Methuselah and the Maiden: Sixty Stories to While Away the Hours*, ISBN 978-1633812659; George Saunders, *A Swim in a Pond in the Rain*, ISBN 978-1984856036. **David Treadwell**, a graduate of Bowdoin College and the Harvard Business School, has been a professional writer for over 45 years. He spent most of his career writing admissions and fundraising materials for colleges and schools throughout the U.S. For the last 15 years he has mainly focused on writing newspaper columns (e.g., "Just a Little Old" in *The Times Record*) and alumni magazine articles. **Class meets at the Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick, Room 206.**

Affirmative Action in College Admissions: Where Do We Go From Here? 1:00-2:30 p.m. 4-week, 90-minute in-person course begins April 27

In June 2023 the Supreme Court will render a decision about two cases related to affirmative action in college admissions: The University of North Carolina and Harvard University. In order to understand the history of affirmative action, we will explore the origins of the idea, which were planted even earlier than the 1960's civil rights movement. We will discuss the controversy over affirmative action, its benefits and effectiveness. We will then study the actual cases before the Supreme Court that will determine its future. **Reading:** Suggested readings will be offered before the beginning of the first class. **Susan Bowditch** has been teaching for MSC since 2013. Her main focus has been on the history and issues related to African Americans: from the Atlantic slave trade, through slavery, racism, white privilege, reparations, and critical race theory, to name the focus of several courses. **Class meets at Morrell Meeting Room at Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick.**



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FRIDAY

England, 1910 1:00-2:30 p.m. 6-week 90-minute online course begins April 14

In this course we will read and discuss two novels that describe brilliantly the social culture and class relationships of industrial England and urban/commercial England just before World War I. The instructor will give short presentations about British society and politics before the war to provide background to the novels. **Reading:** D.H. Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, ISBN 978-0192838605; E.M. Forster, *Howard's End*, ISBN 978-0141182131. **Robert Bunselmeyer** taught history and humanities at four colleges. He has taught eleven times for MSC. **On Zoom.**

Registration

Registration opens March 20, 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

THANK YOU, MIDCOAST SENIOR COLLEGE SPONSORS!

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Website: midcoastseniorcollege.org

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 March 20, 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 March 22 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.