



Midcoast Senior College FALL TERM I COURSES

September 11—November 3, 2023

Registration begins August 21, 2023

MONDAY

The Tragic Moment 9:30-11:30 a.m. 6-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 9/11

From the famous Greek classics to modern works like *Death of a Salesman*, dramatic tragedy is marked by the isolation of the protagonist. This course will examine Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex* and Shakespeare's much-overlooked *Titus Andronicus* to see how the tragic moment comes about, what that moment means for the heroes and the characters who revolve around the heroes, and in what ways the tragic isolation contrasts with the collective moment in comedy. **Required reading:** Sophocles, *The Oedipus Cycle* (trans. Fitts and Fitzgerald), ISBN 978-0156027649; Shakespeare, *Titus Andronicus*, ISBN 978-1420958416. **Paul Kalkstein** holds degrees in English from Princeton and Yale. He has taught both of these works to many years of students at Phillips Academy, Andover. **Class meets at UMA Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall St., Brunswick (Brunswick Landing)—Room 101**

Understanding the War in Ukraine 1:00-2:30 p.m. 6-week, 90-minute in-person course begins 9/11

This course will consider the war in Ukraine to help participants better understand why the war started, how it is being fought, and to what it may lead. It will provide background to the current environment and will review the progress of the conflict since the Russian invasion in February 2022. The course will also consider the key military weapon systems and tactics used by both the Russian and Ukrainian armed forces, as well as current events related to the conflict. We will conclude with a discussion of possible outcomes. **Reading:** Owen Matthews, *Overreach: The Inside Story of Putin's War on Ukraine*, ISBN 978-0008562786.

Dave Cutler is a retired U.S. Army Field Artillery Colonel, who served during the Cold War in cannon and rocket field artillery units in Korea, Germany, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After retirement from the Army, he was a federal employee in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness in the Pentagon. He holds a master's degree in International affairs and is a graduate of the U.S. Marine Corps War College. **Class meets at The Highlands, 20 Governors Way, Topsham—Merrymeeting Bay Room in the Main Lodge**

TUESDAY

Existence - An Earthly Perspective 9:30-11:30 a.m. 8-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 9/12

Are time and space the same throughout the universe? How did matter and life come to be? How do chance and change create complexity? Does consciousness determine reality? In this course we will explore how we know what we know, and how it has affected our scientific and cultural understanding of existence through history into the present. **Required Reading:** Bill Bryson, *A Short History of Nearly Everything* (Special Illustrated Edition), ISBN 978-0307885159. Other readings will be available on the course website. **Barbara Snapp** has taught and researched in science for over 50 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 Westrum House, 22 Union Park Rd., Topsham—Community Room**

A Self-Guided Nature Tour of Merrymeeting Bay 9:30-11:00 a.m. 6-week, 90-minute online course begins 9/19

Merrymeeting Bay is an amazing 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 a series of self-guided nature walks for five publicly accessible preserves that touch on the Bay. Each class presents a walking guide to a different site, including natural and cultural history, trail details, and directions to the site. Participants are then invited to visit the site on their own and, if they like, to describe in the next class what they saw, heard, and experienced. **Terry Porter** is a Maine Master Naturalist and professor emerita at the University of Maine Business School. She is a lifelong naturalist and enjoys sharing her interest with others. **Class meets on Zoom**

Existence - An Earthly Perspective 1:00-3:00 p.m. 8-week, 120-minute online course begins 9/12

See Course Description above—**The afternoon section meets on Zoom**



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WEDNESDAY

American Sign Language (Handshapes & Simple Sentences) 9:30-11:00 a.m. 4-week, 90-minute in-person course begins 9/13

A relaxed demonstration of the 36 basic A-B-C /1, 2, 3 handshapes will be used to fingerspell everyday English words and sign useful expressions. Students will enjoy communicating in sign language with family, coworkers, and friends. Previous students can pick up where they left off in a prior class. **Martin Samelson** has taught ASL to college and high school students. He has also given private lessons and worked with corporate and job development programs for Deaf clients. (**Class meeting location to be determined**)

The U.S. Supreme Court and the 2022-2023 Term 9:30-11:00 a.m. 8-week, 90-minute online course begins 9/13

This course will examine how the Supreme Court interprets the law (both the Constitution and federal statutes) in the context of the Court's decisions from the 2022-2023 term. **Reading:** Students can find the case decisions online at the Cornell Legal Information Institute. **Kevin Hart** has a law degree from Syracuse University College of Law and is a member of the U.S. Supreme Court Bar. In addition to practicing law, he was a newsletter journalist for five years covering the U.S. Supreme Court. **Class meets on Zoom**

The Wisdom(?) of Children's Literature 1:00-2:30 p.m. 7-week, 90-minute in-person course begins 9/13

This is a course for people who want to discuss children's books. We will read three books and, communally, make determinations about whether they reveal anything about what it means to be human. Some key questions: Do the books have anything to do with life? Should stories have a moral? What's the deal with animals? Can adults as well as children learn anything from these stories? There will be an introductory class, followed by two sessions on each book. **Required reading:** Kenneth Grahame, *The Wind in the Willows*, ISBN 978-0486407852; Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince*, ISBN 978-0156012195; E.B. White, *Charlotte's Web*, ISBN 978-0064410939. **Raymond Boisvert** grew up in Lewiston and spent over 30 years teaching philosophy at the college level. **Class meets at Thornton Oaks, 25 Thornton Way, Brunswick—Merrymeeting Room**

Maine's Climate Crisis: Why Is It Happening? What Can We Do? 1:00-2:30 p.m. 4-week, 90-minute online course begins 9/13

This course will focus on what is happening to Maine, from sea-level rise to the altering of the four seasons, and how this is affecting Maine's wildlife and plants and posing threats to the fishing and agriculture industries. We will discuss how Maine's leaders have developed an ambitious program to cut fossil fuel use and roll back the damage, while making towns and cities better able to withstand these threats. More broadly, we will discuss how the earth's climate is changing, the reasons why, and what we can do to help reduce the carbon emissions from our vehicles, homes, and businesses. The class will also contrast the robust plan that Maine has adopted to the limited action taken by the State Of Florida, even though Florida faces more serious threats from climate change. **Reading:** Various articles on the impacts of climate change and the options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions will be provided. **John Burr** is a retired journalist who has reported and served as editor-in-chief for the *Jacksonville Business Journal* and worked as a reporter and senior editor for the *Florida Times-Union*. For this course, he will draw on his long-time interest in climate issues and his experience as an environmental reporter. He has taught a continuing education climate class at the University of North Florida and has given a presentation at the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden. **Class meets on Zoom**



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THURSDAY

Banned Kids: Huck and Scout 9:30-11:00 a.m. 4-week, 90-minute online course begins 9/14

This course will explore why *Huckleberry Finn* and *To Kill A Mockingbird* come under threat of being banned or have actually been banned in American schools and libraries, practically from the first dates of their publications. Why is each book, centered on the development of a particular child, so threatening to certain parts of the American body politic? What do these works and reactions to them teach us about American illusions, American ideals, and American realities? We will do a close reading of both novels as well as consider the historical context of their publications. **Required reading:** Mark Twain, *Huckleberry Finn*; Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird* (any editions). **Leona Dufour** holds a master's degree in English, taught Advanced Placement literature classes at the secondary level, and has offered numerous literature courses at Midcoast Senior College. **Class meets on Zoom**

Introduction to Plato 9:30-11:00 a.m. 8-week, 90-minute in-person course begins 9/14

Plato's *Euthyphro*, *Apology*, and *Crito* provide an excellent introduction to Plato and philosophy. These dialogues are so accessible that they require no prior study yet are so rich that even the most experienced scholars have critically discussed them for more than two millennia. Our discussions will devote time to both the dialogues and some of the historical criticisms of them. In addition to providing the opportunity to learn about Plato and philosophy, they are intended to engage students in topics such as "Must one always obey the laws?" and "Is Socrates engaged in a religious quest?" **Required reading:** *Plato: Five Dialogues: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, and Phaedo*, ISBN 978-0872206335. **Bruce Hauptli** earned a BA in mathematics from Lawrence University and an MA and PhD in philosophy from Washington University. He is a professor emeritus of philosophy at Florida International University in Miami where he taught for thirty-nine years. Almost every semester he taught an introductory philosophy course to undergraduates as part of the University's core curriculum and used these dialogues to get the ball rolling. He has taught this course twice before for MSC, as well as seven others. **Class meets at UMA Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall St., Brunswick—Room 119**

Steps to Improve Our World 1:00-2:30 p.m. 8-week, 90-minute in-person course begins 9/14

This seminar will focus on how we might make our world a better place. We'll be reading a book that presents new ideas about who we humans are, what our fundamental motivations might be, and how we might act to improve things. We'll discuss alternatives to politics that are neither democratic nor authoritarian, ways of dealing with money that are neither capitalistic nor Marxist, and new forms of spirituality and religion. We'll try to apply a theory that suggests the possibility of liberty, equality, and fraternity. **Reading:** Joseph de Rivera, *Forming a Global Community*, ISBN 978-1648895166. Several editions are available on Amazon and less expensive copies are available at the MSC office. **Joseph de Rivera** holds a PhD from Stanford. He is a social psychologist who served in the Navy and taught at Dartmouth and NYU before moving to Clark University where he formed its Program in Peace and Conflict Studies. **Class meets at UMA Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall St., Brunswick (Brunswick Landing)—Room 119**

Euripides: Three Tragedies, Texts, and Films 1:00-3:00 p.m. 6-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 9/14

Euripides is often called the "most tragic," "most modern," and "most decadent" of the major Greek tragedians. Of his ninety some known tragedies we'll read, discuss, and view films of three: *Iphigenia at Aulis* and *Electra*, about causes and consequences of the Trojan War, and *The Bacchae*, about Thebes maddened by Dionysus and wine. For films we'll watch two brilliant subtitled Greek language works by Michael Cacoyannis (director of *Zorba the Greek*) starring Irene Papas, and a British televised *Bacchae* featuring Terence Stamp and Edward Fox. As Aristotle famously stated, tragedy evokes pity and terror, but results in a catharsis or purgation of violent feelings. We'll see how that works for these three by Euripides. **Recommended Reading:** Euripides, *Electra*, *Phoenician Women*, *Bacchae*, *Iphigenia at Aulis* (trans. Cecilia Eaton Luschnig and Paul Woodruff), ISBN 978-1603844604. Any other translation or edition may be used. Online versions are available at www.Gutenberg.org. **George Young** has a degree in English from Duke and holds a PhD in Slavic Languages and Literature from Yale. He has taught Russian, English, and General Humanities at Grinnell, Dartmouth, The University of New England, and, in recent years, at OLLI and MSC. **Class meets at Patten Free Library, 33 Summer St., Bath—Community Room**



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CLASS MEETING LOCATIONS

Consult the course description for the location of your class. All locations are accessible by elevator or are on the main floor.

UMA Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall St., Brunswick (Brunswick Landing)—Room 101 and Room 119

The Highlands, 20 Governors Way, Topsham—Merrymeeting Bay Room, Main Lodge

Westrum House, 22 Union Park Rd., Topsham—Community Room

Thornton Oaks, 25 Thornton Way, Brunswick—Merrymeeting Room

Patten Free Library, 33 Summer St., Bath—Community Room

Online, Zoom (a link to the class meeting will be emailed before the start of class.)

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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 August 21, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. for MSC members. Midcoast Senior College's current membership period is July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
- 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 August 23 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

ONLINE COURSE

Classes use Zoom. Information on Zoom will be provided upon registration. More information is on our [website](#). Please note that the following permission is granted by those registering for an on-line Zoom course/lecture: "I grant permission for a recording or online streaming of this course that may include my image or voice and give permission for the use of such recording or streaming by MSC in furtherance of its educational activities."

IN-PERSON COURSES & CANCELLATION POLICY

Consult the course description for the location of class meetingS. 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 the class cannot be rescheduled, it will be cancelled. The host venue sets the policy for weather cancellations; consult the host venue website or follow announcements on the radio/tv. 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.

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. Please visit our website for more information at: midcoastseniorcollege.org.



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Registration

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Visit www.midcoastseniorcollege.org for more information

or call (207) 725-4900

Pay Membership Fee

MSC Membership period is July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Membership is required to take a course