



# Midcoast Senior College SPRING TERM II 2024 COURSES

April 8, 2024—May 18, 2024

Registration begins March 18, 2024

Website: [midcoastseniorcollege.org](http://midcoastseniorcollege.org)

Email: [mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org](mailto:mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org)

## MONDAY

### **Philosophy of Art: What Is Beauty? 9:30-11:30 a.m. 6-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 4/8**

Freud said beauty has no obvious use, but civilization could not do without it. Still, many philosophers are worried about beauty taking a back seat in a world driven by utility, efficiency, and power. They say that beauty is fundamental to our lives as rational beings. They know the arts cultivate aesthetic interests and sensibilities, allowing us to enter a realm beyond common logic where feelings and intuitions are vividly perceived. **Reading:** There are no required readings, but links to articles will be placed on the course website. Course handouts will also be placed on the course website before class meetings. A list of suggested books and articles will be offered before the course starts. **Christos J. Gianopoulos** is an adjunct professor in philosophy at the University of Maine in Augusta. For more than 35 years, he has taught courses in history, philosophy, and world religions at other branches of the University System and Maine Community Colleges. **Class meets at UMA Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall St. (Brunswick Landing), Brunswick—Room 101.**

### **Germes 101: Ten Germs That Shook the World 1:00-3:00 p.m. 6-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 4/8**

Our recent experience with Covid-19 has graphically illustrated the devastating effect of infectious microbial disease on the entire world. This course will focus on ten others—leprosy, influenza, TB, plague, polio, smallpox, cholera, syphilis, malaria, AIDS—that have had major political, social, economic, and historical effects upon mankind. We will discuss the discovery of their causative agents, mode of spread, their historic importance, our efforts to conquer them, and their potential future threats to humankind. **Reading:** Optional readings and a glossary will be made available. **Richard Neiman, MD**, a graduate of Tufts University School of Medicine and professor emeritus of pathology and laboratory medicine at Indiana University School of Medicine, has had a lifelong interest in the history of medicine. He has had a close association with MSC, having served for many years on its board, as its president, and as a faculty member. **NOTE:** This course is the first of a pair of related courses dealing with microbes and their relationship to man. The second, “Germes 201: Microbes Versus Man,” will be offered in the fall of 2024. **Class meets at UMA Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall St. (Brunswick Landing), Brunswick—Room 101.**

### **Edward Thomas 1:00-2:30 p.m. 6-week, 90-minute in-person course begins 4/8**

Until recently, Edward Thomas (1878-1917), killed at the Battle of Arras in 1917, was known mainly as one of the leading British soldier-poets of the First World War. He is now also recognized for his extensive literary criticism, for his poems about the countryside and folklore of southern England, and especially for the vocabulary, dialogue, and narrative style of his poems. During 1913-1917 he inspired and was inspired by his friend Robert Frost who soon became an American voice. In this course we will read and discuss selected poems by Thomas, available in many collections and anthologies, and we will read and discuss an excellent biography of Thomas. **Required Reading:** Matthew Hollis, *All Roads Lead to France: The Last Years of Edward Thomas*, ISBN 978-0393089073. **Robert Bunselmeyer** taught undergraduates at Yale, Fordham, Villanova, and Bates Colleges; he has taught for MSC 12 times. **Class meets at Patten Free Library, Bath.**

### Registration

**Registration opens March 18, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. for MSC members**

### Pay Membership Fee

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

**Membership is required to take a course**



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## TUESDAY

### **Religion and Violence 9:30-11:30 a.m. 6-week, 120-minute online course begins 4/9**

Religion these days is in bad odor in some quarters. Specifically, it is often alleged to foster violence. Is this so? No, it isn't. But religion is often one part of cultural mixes from which violence arises. To understand, then, the relationship, if any, between religion and violence, we must untangle these mixes. This course will do so especially for two cases in which some find it to be self-evidently true that religion fosters violence: the Crusades, and current and recent violence enacted by people of Islamic descent. **Recommended reading:** Karen Armstrong, *Fields of Blood: Religion and the History of Violence*, ISBN 978-0385353106. **Steve Piker** is an anthropologist by career, most spent at Swarthmore College, and has offered courses at four of Maine's senior colleges. Religion has been a career-long teaching and research interest. **Class meets on Zoom.**

### **A Republic, If You Can Keep It 1:00-3:00 p.m. 8-week\*, 120-minute online course begins 4/16 (\*class starts 4/16 and ends on 6/4)**

When asked to describe the government that had been created at the Constitutional Convention in 1787, Benjamin Franklin responded, "A republic, if you can keep it." Two hundred and thirty-six years later, we still are trying to sustain the American republic. Sometimes we are more successful, sometimes less; always we argue about what it means. We seem now to be in particularly difficult times. This course will examine how our practice lives up to the high promise of the American experiment in self-government. **Reading:** Links to online readings will be provided. **Doug Bennett** taught political philosophy and public policy at several colleges and universities. He was president and professor of politics at Earlham College for 14 years, retiring in 2011. **Class meets on Zoom.**

### **MSC Singers—Love in the Spring 2:00-4:00 p.m. 8-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 4/9**

Through the ages there have been countless Anglo-European folk songs written about love. Come sing with the MSC Singers this spring as we study and perfect four of these well-known folk songs that have been set in four-part harmony. As part of the instruction, we will study healthy singing habits through vocal exercises catering to the older voice. **Prerequisites:** A good ear, a good musical memory, and past choral singing experience. Reading music is an asset but not a requirement. For those of you who have previously sung with the MSC Singers, we welcome you back. **Stu 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 US Army Chorus in Europe. He is a published composer and has written numerous arrangements of well-known folk songs for the MSC Singers. *Regular classes end on 5/14. There will be a special practice on 6/11 and a performance on 6/13 at MSC's annual social.* **Class meets at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 27 Pleasant St., Brunswick.**

## 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.**

**Curtis Memorial Library**, 22 Pleasant St., Brunswick—Seminar Room 205

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

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

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**, 27 Pleasant St., Brunswick

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



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## WEDNESDAY

### **Flash Fiction! Expose Yourself to Writing Fun Fiction 1:00-2:30 p.m. 6-week, 90-minute in-person course begins 4/10**

Flash fiction is a specialized writing art that tells a whole story in 1,000 words or fewer. In this course, we will examine a flash fiction technique each week, then read and critique student stories based on a prompt that will have been provided in the previous class. Note that we're not looking for grammatical corrections—that's what revisions are for. We're looking for "this passage works well, this one confused me a bit, or that one doesn't work for me." How to revise will then be up to the author. **Reading:** There is no specific text, but the class website will offer recommended book titles on writing. **Harry Hopcroft** has enjoyed managing the Senior Scribblers flash fiction writing group for several years and has provided technical support for two writing courses at MSC. **Class meets at Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick in Room 205.**

### **Using Tools to Aid Peace, Justice, and our Earth 1:00-2:30 p.m. 6-week, 90-minute in-person course begins 4/10**

You can't build a house with just a hammer. To build peace, justice, and a sustainable Earth requires the use of different tools. Several sets are needed and currently available. These tool-sets involve various approaches to negotiation, different types of non-violent action, "strength-tools" (such as law, policing, and military action), new sorts of political, economic, and religious tools, and ways of personal-spiritual transformation that may help us to successfully use these tools. We'll be discussing the tools and how we might apply them in our lives and for our world. **Reading:** Material about each tool will be online with books available for purchase for those who wish to explore particular tools in more depth. **Joseph de Rivera** (PhD, Stanford) is a social psychologist who served in the Navy and taught at Dartmouth and NYU before coming to Clark University where he formed its Program in Peace and Conflict Studies. The editor of *Handbook on Building Cultures of Peace*, his most recent book is *Forming a Global Community*. **Class meets at UMA Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall St. (Brunswick Landing), Brunswick—Room 119.**

### **Essential Opera: Opera Exotica 1:00-2:30 p.m. 6-week, 90-minute in-person course begins 4/10**

In this six-week survey course, we will explore six different operas, beginning with Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio* and ending with Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, each of which is set in an exotic location. By examining highlights from each piece, we will discover how a composer's musical style can be enhanced in order to reflect the cultural essence of each opera's setting. **Reading:** Resources will be recommended as the course develops. **Ross Crolius** holds a BM from Peabody Conservatory and an MM from the Eastman School of Music. He sang professionally in New York for more than 30 years, including 25 years as a 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. **Class meets at Patten Free Library, Bath.**

### Registration

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## THURSDAY

### **The Journey from Climate Doom to Active Hope 9:30-11:30 a.m. 6-week, 120-minute online course begins 4/11**

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 can 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? **Suggested** reading: Kathleen Dean Moore, *Great Tide Rising: Towards Clarity and Moral Courage in a Time of Planetary Change*, ISBN: 978-1619029064. Videos and short articles will be assigned before each class. **Thomas G. White** is a developmental psychologist whose career focused on teaching and research in K-12 and higher education settings. Since retiring from the University of Virginia in 2017, he has been teaching lifelong learners at Midcoast Senior College, OLLI in Portland, and the College of William and Mary. **Class meets on Zoom.**

### **The Electoral College: Creation, Evolution, Controversy 1:00-2:30 p.m. 6-week, 90-minute in-person course begins 4/11**

The 2024 election looms. Up for grabs are the House of Representatives, one-third of the Senate, and most importantly, the Presidency. The presidential election immediately leads to questions about the uniquely American method of electing our chief executive. Is the Electoral College a good fit for 21<sup>st</sup>-century America or a relic of the past? This course explores the creation of the Electoral College and its evolution over nearly two-and-a-half centuries. As the course proceeds, we’ll look at closely contested presidential elections (e.g., 1800, 1876, 1960, 2000) to examine the relationship between the popular vote and actual electoral results. **Reading:** Suggested readings and course-related materials will be provided during the course. **Jim Bunting** is a retired lawyer and American history instructor. He holds a BA from Rutgers University, a JD from the University of Michigan, and a MALS degree specializing in American history from Duke University. **Class meets at Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick in Morrell Meeting Room.**

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***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 18, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. for MSC members. Midcoast Senior College's current membership period is July 1, 2023-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](mailto:mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org)
- A link to the registration page (with full instructions) will be emailed to current members in advance. On March 20 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](mailto:mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org).
- For Zoom-Only Classes (not in-person) - Two persons in a household sharing one Zoom screen are granted discounted tuition. Single person on Zoom is \$60; two-persons on Zoom is \$50 each.

## **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 online 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](mailto:mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org) or call 207-725-4900.



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## **Save the Date!**

**MSC Members On-Line Business Meeting will be held on June 6, 2024**

**MSC Members In-Person Social will be held on June 13, 2024**

*(Details to come)*

## **THANK YOU, MIDCOAST SENIOR COLLEGE SPONSORS!**

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