



# Midcoast Senior College SPRING TERM I 2025 COURSES

February 3, 2025—March 28, 2025

Registration begins January 13, 2025

## MONDAY

### **Why Jenny Erpenbeck? 9:30-11:00 a.m. 8-week, 90-minute in-person course begins 2/3 (no class 2/17)**

This course will introduce you to the German author Jenny Erpenbeck, recipient of the International Booker Prize. Growing up in East Germany she experienced the collapse of the Berlin Wall and writes about the dilemmas it introduced, such as how personal identity is affected when your country disappears, how Germany is handling millions of new refugees, and how the horrors of the 20th century have affected people's lives. **Required readings:** Jenny Erpenbeck, *Kairos*, ISBN 978-0811238533; *Go Went Gone*, ISBN 978-0811225946; *Visitation*, ISBN 978-0811218351. **Ann Kimmage** has been a long-time instructor pursuing wide-ranging literary topics in her MSC courses. She grew up in communist Czechoslovakia while Jenny Erpenbeck grew up in communist East Germany. Appreciation of their similar experiences, combined with Erpenbeck's profound exploration of vital present-day issues, motivates Kimmage's examination of Jenny Erpenbeck's oeuvre. **Class meets at University of Maine Augusta-Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall St., Brunswick (Brunswick Landing), Room 119. (No class President's Day)**

### **The Kingfish: One of the Most Extraordinary Figures in American Political History 9:30-11:00 a.m. 4-week, 90-minute in-person course begins 2/3**

Huey Long was a populist and flamboyant governor and, later, a U.S. Senator from Louisiana. His legacy has been debated for 90 years, with one biographer stating that, "He did more harm—and more good—than any other governor in American history." Franklin Roosevelt considered him a rival, calling him, "one of the two most dangerous men in the country (the other was General MacArthur)." His tactics were undemocratic and shamelessly corrupt, but they nonetheless brought unprecedented change to Louisiana. He wanted to bring similar reforms to the nation and was preparing to run for President when he was assassinated in 1935. **Dan Possumato** has taught several courses for MSC. He was a professor at the U.S. Army Management Staff College and has an MS from Johns Hopkins University and a diploma from the Army War College. He has ties to Louisiana and has studied Huey Long's career for over a decade. **Class meets at The Highlands Theater Room, Topsham. (Class meets President's Day)**

### **Impeachment: Constitutional History and Issues 1:00-2:30 p.m. 8-week, 90-minute in-person course begins 2/3 (no class 2/17)**

Impeachment has become a fixture of the American political landscape. If recent events are any indication, that trend will continue. This course will describe the historical antecedents of constitutional impeachment beginning with English parliamentary impeachments, colonial and revolutionary impeachments, and the debates on this topic during the Federal Constitutional Convention. After considering the evolution of impeachment during the early Republic, we will focus on the presidential impeachments of Andrew Johnson, Richard Nixon, Bill Clinton, and Donald Trump. Final considerations will discuss what the Framers had in mind about impeachment and whether impeachment itself serves its intended purpose. **Readings:** Suggested readings will be available online. **H. Lowell Brown** is a practicing lawyer. He has taught courses on white collar crime, international law and procedure, and jurisprudence at the Maine School of Law and American University. He has also given lectures at the University of Southern California and the Georgetown University Law Center. **Class meets at University of Maine Augusta-Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall St., Brunswick (Brunswick Landing), Room 101. (No class President's Day)**

### **Waging Peace: The Psychology of Peace and Conflict 1:00-2:30 p.m. 8-week, 90-minute in-person course begins 2/3 (no class 2/17)**

Might we be able to create a bit more peace? Each session in this course will focus on one of eight important aspects to peace and conflict: how to conceive "peace;" the human nature of violence; non-violent resistance; group identity; justice and group conflict; coping with intractable conflicts; transformative mediation; and governmental alternatives to war. Students will be asked to undertake a small action that is based on the readings. This might involve a personal negotiation, mediating a community dispute, a piece of nonviolent resistance, promoting a piece of legislation, etc. We will form our own small community to support such actions. **Readings:** Reprints of required readings will be furnished and will cost about \$10. **Joseph de Rivera** (PhD Stanford, 1961) 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. **Class meets at University of Maine Augusta-Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall St., Brunswick (Brunswick Landing), Room 119. (No class President's Day)**



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## TUESDAY

### **“A” is for Ambiguity: Hawthorne’s *Scarlet Letter* and Selected Short Stories**

**9:30-11:00 a.m. 6-week, 90-minute online course begins 2/4**

Nathaniel Hawthorne hid in plain sight. So do the multiple symbols of his works, as we will discover in his masterpiece *The Scarlet Letter* as well as in his short stories, “Young Goodman Brown,” “The Minister’s Black Veil,” and “Ethan Brand.” In these works, Hawthorne’s symbols pulse with contradictory effects so that his symbols are more ambiguous than focused. In other words, does he mean this, or does he mean that? And, to what purpose is his ambiguity, whether deliberate or unintentional? We will try to arrive at unambiguous conclusions. **Readings:** Any editions the student has available will be fine. Required short stories will be available for downloading on the course website. For those who wish to purchase anew: Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*, ISBN 978-1519425591; *Hawthorne’s Short Stories*, edited by Newton Arvin, Vintage, ISBN 978-0307741219. **Leona Dufour** has an MA in English Literature and before retiring taught AP and Regents classes in an upstate New York high school. She has previously taught four classes with Janet Kehl and has taught solo for two others. **Class meets on Zoom.**

### **The Pursuit of Equality 1:00-3:00 p.m. 8-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 2/4**

“All men are created equal” says the Declaration of Independence, calling this a “truth” that is “self-evident.” Really? Ever since, we’ve been arguing about the meaning and promise of this recognition of equality. Eighty-seven years after 1776, on a blood-soaked battlefield, Lincoln proclaimed us a nation “dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.” What do we mean by this today, after the passage of another 161 years? What is the equality we are affirming and pursuing? We’ll look at some texts and some numbers, and talk civilly among ourselves. **Reading:** All readings are available online. **Doug Bennett** taught political theory and public policy at Temple University, Reed College, and Earlham College for 25 years. He holds a BA from Haverford College and PhD from Yale University. **Class meets at The Highlands, Kennebec Meeting Room, Topsham.**

### **An *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* Seminar 1:00-3:00 p.m. 8-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 2/4**

Written in Brunswick, Maine in 1851-52, Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* was the runaway bestseller of its century, prompting an exponential increase in anti-slavery sentiment in the North, as well as blazing outrage in the South. Many historians believe the national furor over the novel was a major factor in precipitating the Civil War. Stowe’s messages surrounding race, religion, gender, nationalism, and colonization are still controversial today. Through reading, discussion, lectures, and field trips to the Stowe House, First Parish Church, and Special Collections at Bowdoin College, we’ll dig into the complicated legacy of the novel that helped bring an end to American slavery and release four million people from bondage. **Reading:** Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, Third Norton Critical Edition, ISBN 978-0393283785. **Susan F. Beegel** holds a PhD in English from Yale and is a retired editor of *The Hemingway Review*. She is a scholar of American literature and history. Harriet Beecher Stowe is a special research interest for Beegel, whose collection of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* paper ephemera resides in the Bowdoin College Library. **Class meets at University of Maine Augusta-Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall St., Brunswick (Brunswick Landing), Room 119 and other locations.**

## Registration

**Registration opens January 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. for MSC members**

**Visit [www.midcoastseniorcollege.org](http://www.midcoastseniorcollege.org) for more information**

**or call (207) 725-4900**



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## WEDNESDAY

### **Classical Forms and the Chamber Music of Mozart 9:30-11:30 a.m. 8-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 2/5**

An in-depth study of classical-era musical forms: theme and variations, minuet and trio, rondo, and sonata form and its variants. Each form is analyzed in terms of its Baroque era antecedents and its sectional, thematic, and harmonic structures. All musical examples are from Mozart's chamber music composed in Vienna 1781-91 during the final ten years of his short life. The class includes a 100-page take-home text, a slide show format with video clips of musical examples, and teaching help from a keyboard. This is a rigorous course for the serious symphony orchestra and chamber music concert attendee. **Peter Griffin** has taught at MSC and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. He serves on the boards of Holbrook Community Foundation in Cundy's Harbor, Bowdoin International Music Festival in Brunswick, and Classical Uprising in Portland. **Class meets at University of Maine Augusta-Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall St., Brunswick (Brunswick Landing), Room 101.**

### **Juvenile and Criminal Justice Reimagined: Promoting Justice, Equity, and Accountability 9:30-11:00 a.m. 6-week, 90-minute online course begins 2/5**

This course is designed to explore the contours and contexts of juvenile and criminal justice practice. Participants will examine justice systems in Maine and other jurisdictions with a focus on improving outcomes and promoting safer communities. **Readings:** Reading materials will include executive summaries of policy papers, justice system data, and research studies. Participants will also choose a biography of a formerly incarcerated individual from a provided list of recommended titles. **Peter Leone** is Professor Emeritus in the College of Education at the University of Maryland. For more than 40 years he has worked as a monitor, expert to the courts, and researcher with the U.S. Department of Justice, public interest law firms, and public agencies. In 2023 he was a recipient of the Leadership Award from the Juvenile Law Center. **Class meets on Zoom.**

### **Metamorphoses: Ancient Greek Voices into Contemporary Texts 1:00-3:00 p.m. 6-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 2/19**

In this course we will read and discuss poems in the anthology *Orpheus and Company* (edited by Deborah DeNichola, 1999), examine the Greek and Latin sources of twelve seminal myths, and enrich our interrogation of these poetic texts by looking at art and listening to music inspired by ancient stories. **Reading:** *Orpheus and Company: Contemporary Poems on Greek Mythology*, Deborah DeNicola, ed., ISBN 978-0874519174 (hardcover), ISBN 978-0874519181 (paperback). Though out of print, the book is available at Gulf of Maine Books in Brunswick and online at Bookshop.org and other sellers. **Bill Hammond** taught high school literature for 35 years. He has MA degrees in English and American Literature and in Classics and Comparative Literature. **Class meets at University of Maine Augusta-Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall St., Brunswick (Brunswick Landing), Room 101.**

### **Slow Looking with Art and Nature 1:00-2:30 p.m. 5-week, 90-minute in-person course begins 2/19**

Slow looking encourages us moderns to practice a skill not emphasized in current education and especially not in our ubiquitous screen technology. Slow looking augments some of the natural and societally ingrained behaviors such as scrolling, quick first impression judgments, as well as the substitution of on-screen images for in-person experience. Working in the Bowdoin College Museum of Art and outside in the town of Brunswick, we will employ close looking with 17th-century paintings as well as with works of your own choosing from the museum. The course also includes focused observation of birdlife, water, sky and plants, and requires the ability to walk outside, standing—or sitting—for 20 minutes. All levels of visual ability are welcome. **Film and Podcast:** John Berger, *Ways of Seeing (John Berger/Ways of Seeing, Episode 1 (1972))*; Claire Bown, *What is Slow Looking? (and How Can I Get Started?)*; and other materials which will be supplied by the teacher. **Susan Wegner** has taught the history of Italian art as well as the art and architecture of the ancient Maya, Aztec, and Inca peoples. She has been an observer of the natural world since her rural Wisconsin childhood. **First class (2/19) meets at University of Maine Augusta-Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall St., Brunswick (Brunswick Landing) Room 119; all other dates will meet at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art in the Crystal Foyer, then go to different sites.**

## THURSDAY

### **Love Matters in Literature and Life 9:30-11:30 a.m. 6-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 2/6**

The course goal is to examine experiences, understandings, and questions about love in literature and life. Classmates will review historical and contemporary aspects of love presented in selected stories and poems by renowned writers. Readings and in-class exercises will inspire questions and insights about the impact of love in our lives. **Required Readings:** Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *Love in the Time of Cholera*, ISBN 978-0307389732. Links to short stories and poems will be provided by the instructor. **Ellen Whiting**, MEd, Assistant Professor Emeritus, Northeastern Ohio Medical University, served as Director of Faculty Development, leading a fellowship to help clinical and basic medical science faculty develop their skills in teaching, research, and leadership. She also enjoyed teaching an annual Literature and Medicine elective to senior medical students. **Class meets at University of Maine Augusta-Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall St., Brunswick (Brunswick Landing), Room 119.**

### **Elemental, Part 2: Water and Air 9:30-11:30 a.m. 6-week, 120-minute online course begins 2/20**

This course is the second in a series to explore the scientific, historical, and cultural impacts of Aristotle's classic elements: earth, air, fire, water—and a fifth element added in the Daoist tradition—wood. In this course, we will cover the role that water has played in human history and in the chemistry and biology of life on Earth. Since water and air interact extensively, we will also study the way in which our understanding of the interactions of these “elements” has evolved from folklore to modern science. **Reading:** Suggested readings will be from articles posted on the course website. **Barbara Snapp** received her PhD in biology from Cornell University where her research focused on the ecological adaptiveness of behavior. Her passion is teaching science, especially broad survey courses where she can interweave science themes with culture and history to build multidimensional understanding. **Class meets Martin's Point Health Care Center, Community Room, 114 Bath Rd., Brunswick. (An in-person option of this course is offered in the afternoon.)**

### **Anti-Modernism in America and its Societal Consequences 1:00-2:30 p.m. 6-week, 90-minute in-person course begins 2/6**

Anti-Modernism is a phenomenon characterized by a negative personal or societal response to modern development and “progress.” It occurs in responses to change in religion, industrial and technological development, science, politics, art, etc., and frequently results in cultural, religious or political changes with consequent divisions and disputes. Striking examples appear in the Roman Catholic Church, Anglican Church, and other religious denominations, contemporary politics, art, medicine, and personal dispositions of large segments of society. The reasons for and outcome of these and other examples can be eye-opening. We will discuss particular instances of anti-modernism from the 19th century through contemporary time and consider the psychological and emotional human factors involved. **Suggested Reading:** T.J. Jackson Lears, *No Place of Grace (Antimodernism and the Transformation of American Culture 1880-1920)*, ISBN 978-0226469700. Additional online references and notes will be provided. **Ed Lovely** holds a BA in biology and chemistry, MS in Chemistry, graduate degree in business from Columbia Business School. Following early retirement from management in the chemical industry, he obtained a PhD in Philosophy of Religion from Drew University. **Class meets at University of Maine Augusta-Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall St., Brunswick (Brunswick Landing), Room 119.**

### **Elemental, Part 2: Water and Air 1:30-3:30 p.m. 6-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 2/20**

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Email: [mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org](mailto: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 13 at 9:00 a.m. for MSC members.
- Membership is required to register for a course. Annual membership fee is \$40 per year, from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. 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 January 15, 2025 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, two persons in a household sharing one Zoom screen receive 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 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 otherwise may 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. Please visit our website for more information at: [midcoastseniorcollege.org](http://midcoastseniorcollege.org).





# Midcoast Senior College SPRING TERM I 2025 COURSES

February 3, 2025—March 28, 2025

Registration begins January 24, 2025

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

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

## Registration

**Registration opens January 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. for MSC members**

**Visit [www.midcoastseniorcollege.org](http://www.midcoastseniorcollege.org) for more information**

**or call (207) 725-4900**

## Pay Membership Fee

**MSC Membership Fee is \$40 per year, from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025**

**Membership is required to register for a course**

## **CLASS MEETING LOCATIONS**

**Consult the course description for the location of your class**

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

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

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

**Martin's Point Health Care Center**, 114 Bath Rd., Brunswick, Community Room

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