



Midcoast Senior College FALL TERM II 2025 COURSES

Nov. 3, 2025—Dec 17, 2025

Registration begins Oct. 13, 2025

MONDAY

William Hogarth: His Art and Times 9:30-11:00 a.m. 4-week, 90-minute in-person course begins 11/3

Our course could be subtitled, “The Good, the Bad, and the Bawdy.” Hogarth’s ever popular paintings, drawings, and engravings robustly delineate every imaginable side of human nature: piety, hypocrisy, integrity, fraud, charity, malice—all the opposites and everything in between. As in much literature, so in Hogarth’s art: the bad actors and their actions are often more interesting than the good, vice often more memorably presented than virtue. In all Hogarth’s works, however, the great theme is less a condemnation than a celebration of life in all its contradictions, variety, and energy. And, no surprise, as we closely examine many of his works, Hogarth’s eighteenth century may look like an uncanny preview of our twenty-first. **Readings:** Images and relevant information will be presented in class from online sources. Printed collections of Hogarth’s works are useful and available in many editions from major booksellers, but no specific book is required. **George Young’s** academic degrees and college teaching positions have been on Russian and World Literature. Outside academia, he and his wife, Pat, ran an art gallery and auction business for 25 years, featuring Old Master, Nineteenth, and early Twentieth Century paintings and prints. Hogarth engravings were special favorites. **Class meets at University of Maine Augusta-Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall St., Brunswick (Brunswick Landing), Room 101.**

The Art of Storytelling 9:30-11:00 a.m. 4-week, 90-minute in-person course begins 11/3

Participants will learn about storytelling, storytelling opportunities and techniques, and storytelling resources. A retired educator and education professor, **Phyllis Blackstone** uses storytelling as her preferred teaching tool from first graders to graduate students. In retirement, she tells a variety of stories in various venues: classrooms, churches and retirement communities. She is the founder and leader of BASS, the Brunswick Area Storytelling Society. **Class meets at University of Maine Augusta-Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall St., Brunswick (Brunswick Landing), Room 119.**

All about Mars 1:00-2:30 p.m. 6-week, 90-minute in-person course begins 11/3

This course is part of a series of classes about our solar system and how it teaches us about the past, present, and future of planet Earth. The course begins with a review of the history of Mars exploration, then segues into discussion of the issues around its future, namely sending human explorers to Mars. A third week discusses what it’s like to be part of a NASA mission like the Curiosity rover. Then we shift gears to cover Mars volcanos, craters, surface processes, and past environments on the planet as revealed by rover exploration over the past two decades. **Readings:** Optional readings to be posted on the course website. **Darby Dyar** is an emeritus professor of Astronomy at Mount Holyoke College and is now employed by NASA to work on meteorites, lunar samples, and a mission to Venus. **Class meets at The Highlands, 30 Governor’s Way, Topsham, Merrymeeting Bay Room.**

Brain Repair 1:00-2:30 p.m. 5-week, 90-minute in-person course begins 11/3

This course will be an overview of what the current medical and scientific thinking about fixing the damage to the brain caused by Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders. **Readings:** Suggested readings will be provided by the instructor and will be easily available online, usually in the form of a current review of the literature and/or commentaries in the field. PDFs of all class “slide” presentations will also be provided. **Donald Stein** has more than 50 years of teaching and research in university settings. He has published extensively in the field of recovery from brain injury and in clinical application of this work. **Class meets at University of Maine Augusta-Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall St., Brunswick (Brunswick Landing), Room 119.**

Humor: Not Just a Laughing Matter 1:00-3:00 p.m. 5-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 11/3

Can you explain the interrelationship of wit, mirth, and laughter, and how they contribute to a humorous experience? What do theorists believe to be the purpose of laughter? Are there gender differences in the appreciation of humor, and what role do they play in societal norms? Is laughter the best medicine? What role does humor play in both our physical and psychological health? And, what happens to humor as we age? This course will explore the role of humor in our lives while encouraging laughter during the learning process. **Suggested Reading:** A reference list will be posted online prior to class. **Susan Goran** has offered this topic as a keynote address locally and nationally 48 times. She has taught professional nurses in a BSN program and in a hospital staff development role. **Class meets at Avita, 89 Admiral Fitch Ave., Brunswick Landing, in the Multipurpose Room.**



Midcoast Senior College FALL TERM I 2025 COURSES

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TUESDAY

Exploring the Universe Using Binoculars 9:30-11:30 a.m. 5-week, 120-minute online course begins 11/4 (Class meets Veteran's Day, 11/11)

Those binoculars sitting on a windowsill or hiding in a closet are all you need to discover some of the most amazing objects that you can imagine—star clusters, galaxies, nebulae, satellites, planets, and moons. Learn how binoculars work, how to find those incredible objects, and what those objects actually are. Optional observing opportunities will be scheduled for hands-on and eyes-on experiential learning. Binoculars are less expensive and more portable than telescopes and are an excellent way to learn your way around the night sky. Look up and understand a bit more about your place in the Universe. **Readings:** We will use Internet resources. Access to binoculars is strongly recommended, but not required. **Russ Pinizzotto** has been observing the skies since he was one year old, at least, according to his mother! He is an AstroLeague Master Observer and Master Binocular Observer. **Class meets on Zoom.**

The Acids of Modernity: History, Literature, and Culture of the 1920s 1:00-3:00 p.m. 5-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 11/4 (No class Veteran's Day, 11/11)

The 1920s remain a decade we look back on with fascination. A time of profound change and challenge, the twenties embodied many aspects of what Walter Lippman called, "the acids of modernity," whose conflicts, issues and attitudes seem remarkably contemporary, and which continue to reverberate in our own time. Our course will look at this crucial decade through its history and politics, literature, music, and art. Scott and John will share presentations and lead discussions. **Readings:** Short readings will be suggested for each class session. **John Haile** and **Scott Andrews** both had long careers in the independent secondary school world. Scott was a US History teacher and administrator; John was an English teacher and administrator. Both have taught other courses for Midcoast Senior College—this is their first collaboration. **Class meets at Patten Free Library, 33 Summer St., Bath, in the Community Room.**

MSC Singers 2:00-4:00 p.m. 6-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 11/4 (Class meets Veteran's Day, 11/11; No class 11/25)

This fall, the MSC Singers will take a departure from folksong arrangements and study four choral art-songs that reflect the many romantic moods of winter. We will sing about the romance of crunching snow, winter winds, and starry nights. Our class will also have fun practicing ear training exercises and vocal exercises designed to improve the accuracy and flexibility in the senior voice. **Prerequisite:** If you have an ear for harmony, a memory for melody, and past choral singing experience, we encourage you to join this class. Reading music is an asset but not a requirement. Participants are also asked to commit to sing in an "Open House Social" on Dec 16. **Stuart Gillespie** retired in 2004 as Director of Choral Ensembles, and the Fine Arts Department Chair at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Connecticut. He is a published composer and has written a number of choral arrangements for the MSC Singers. **Class meets at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brunswick.**

WEDNESDAY

A Trio of Southern Voices: Three Southern Women Writers 9:30-11:30 a.m. 6-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 11/5 (No class 11/26)

This course explores the rich and complex world of the American South through the mostly short fiction of three of its most influential women writers: Flannery O'Connor, Eudora Welty, and Zora Neale Hurston. We will examine how Welty captures the quiet dramas of everyday life, how O'Connor blends the grotesque with the spiritual, and how Hurston brings folklore, dialect, and Black Southern experience to life. Students will examine the ways these writers use setting, voice, irony, and symbolism to portray a South marked by contradictions—beautiful and brutal as well as sacred and strange. Readings of short stories will include O'Connor's "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" and Welty's "Why I Live at the P.O." Instead of her shorter works, we will read Hurston's masterwork, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. This will be a discussion class. **Required Reading:** *The Collected Stories of Eudora Welty*, Mariner Books Classics, ISBN 978-1328625649; *The Complete Stories of Flannery O'Connor*, various publishers; Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, ISBN 978-0060916503. (Used books can be found online or at local stores.) **Michele Lettiere** is a graduate of Bates College, with an M.A. from The Bread Loaf School of English at Middlebury College. She spent over 40 years teaching English and Theatre to high school students, principally at Waynflete School in Portland. **Class meets at University of Maine Augusta-Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall St., Brunswick (Brunswick Landing), Room 101.**

WEDNESDAY (cont'd)

Intelligent Universe 9:30-11:30 a.m. 6-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 11/5 (No class 11/26)

The basis of intelligence is information: the way it is acquired, stored, processed, and acted upon. This course will explore information at increasing levels of complexity, from physics to chemistry to cells, and simple to complex organisms. We will look at the major breakthroughs in evolution of information processing that led to human intelligence and explore the similarities between biological and artificial intelligence. Finally, we will ask the question, "Is information and the intelligence that arises from it fundamental to the universe?" **Required Reading:** Max Bennet, *A Brief History of Intelligence: Evolution, AI, and the Five Breakthroughs That Made Our Brains*, Mariner Books, ISBN 978-0063286344. **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 and especially teaching broad survey courses where she can interweave science themes with culture and history to build multi-dimensional understanding. **Class meets at Martin's Point, 114 Bath Rd, Brunswick, in the Community Center. A Zoom option to this class is offered in the afternoon—see below.**

The U.S. Supreme Court and the October 2024 Term (Oct 2024-June 2025) 9:30-11:00 a.m. 5-week, 90-minute online course begins 11/5 (No class 11/26)

This course will examine the cases decided by the Supreme Court in its most recent term. Students will be encouraged to not only understand the reasoning the Court explicitly employs in deciding a case, but to also consider extra-legal reasons for decisions and the implications of those decisions. **Required Reading:** Students will access the cases from links provided to the cases on the Justia Law site (or other sites as appropriate). For students not familiar with how the Court functions and how to read a case, there will be supplemental materials provided prior to the first class. **Kevin Hart** has been a long-time student and observer of the Supreme Court, beginning as an undergraduate Political Science major at Allegheny College. As a newsletter journalist in Washington, D.C., he covered the Supreme Court for several years, both attending oral arguments and writing reports of the cases when they were decided. He taught Health Law for five years in the MPH program at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. With a law degree from Syracuse University, he is now a retired lawyer, having been admitted to the bars in Pennsylvania, New York, and the U.S. Supreme Court Bar. **Class meets on Zoom.**

The French Resistance 1940-1945 1:00-3:00 p.m. 5-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 11/5 (No class 11/26)

This discussion-based course will explore the origins, development, and legacy of the Resistance during the Nazi occupation of France in World War II. Through a combination of short texts and documentary films, students will examine how ordinary citizens—students, workers, clergy, and intellectuals—organized clandestine networks to oppose Nazi occupation and the Vichy regime. We will also examine how non-combatants found unique ways to resist. Topics will include early resistance efforts, the role of women and immigrant fighters, the relationship between the Resistance and the Allies, and the liberation of France. We will also investigate how the Resistance has been remembered and mythologized in French national identity. Students will gain a nuanced understanding of resistance as both a moral stance and a practical struggle, and how its legacy continues to shape debates about patriotism, collaboration, and civil disobedience. **Required Reading:** Jean Bruller, *The Silence of the Sea (Le Silence de la Mer)*, ISBN 978-1350106239. **Bill VanderWolk** is a retired professor of French at Bowdoin College where he taught many courses dealing with French literature of World War II, including a senior seminar entitled, "Resistance, Revolt and Revolution." **Class meets at University of Maine Augusta-Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall St., Brunswick (Brunswick Landing), Room 101.**

Intelligent Universe 1:00-3:00 p.m. 6-week, 120-minute online course begins 11/5 See above for description. **This class meets on Zoom.**

American Religious History, WWI to the Present 1:00-3:00 p.m. 4-week, 120-minute in-person course begins 11/5 (No class 11/26)

This class is a continuation of the "American Religious History" series that this teacher has taught at MSC and will cover the period from the WWI to present day. Topics will include: the continuity of American religion and the impact of rapidly changing US demographics, the increasing presence and specific contributions of women in religious life, the drive to include non-traditional personal relationships, the spread of religious evangelism powered by radio and, later, television, the increasing political influence of the religious right, and the growth of the spiritualists who stepped forward to take the place of traditional religious institutions. **Required Reading:** Martin Marty, *Pilgrims in Their Own Land*, ISBN 978-0140082685. **Ted Stainman** is a retired Air Force Chaplain who has taught this course previously to seniors and to college students in the Academy of Continuing Education and Wesley College. **Class meets at University of Maine Augusta-Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, 12 Sewall St., Brunswick (Brunswick Landing), Room 119.**



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THURSDAY

The Lost Generation 9:30-11:00 a.m. 5-week, 90-minute online course begins 11/6 (No class 11/27)

Following WWI, a brilliant coterie of writers and artists found their way to Paris. “The Lost Generation,” Hemingway called them. Though F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway are the best-known members of this group, our discussion course will also look at Gertrude Stein, Pablo Picasso, and Henri Matisse. **Required Reading:** Ernest Hemingway, *The Snows of Kilimanjaro*, ISBN 978-0099595649; F. Scott Fitzgerald, *Babylon Revisited: And Other Stories*, ISBN 978-0684824482. **Optional Reading:** Ernest Hemingway, *A Moveable Feast*, ISBN 979-8306931340. Although **Paul Kalkstein** studied 16th and 17th century literature at Princeton and Yale, he is fascinated by this period and wishes he had been guided there by someone other than Woody Allen. **Class meets on Zoom.**

American Indian Renaissance 9:30-11:30 a.m. 5-week, 120-minute online course begins 11/6 (No class 11/27)

In 1900, many well informed people—Indians as well as settlers—expected that distinctive Indian cultures were on the verge of disappearance, never to return. Given what was then known and knowable, it was a sensible expectation. The subsequent century and a quarter, however, has decisively falsified this expectation. Our course deals with this falsification. Of what, now, do distinctive Indian identities consist of? How, historically, have they emerged? How do they cohabit with settler culture? What might the future hold for them? **Suggested Reading:** Abe Streeb, *Brothers on Three: A True Story of Family, Resistance, and Hope on a Reservation in Montana*, ISBN 978-1250210685. **Steve Piker** is an anthropologist by career, most of which was spent at Swarthmore College. He has offered many courses at four of Maine’s senior colleges. American Indians are a career long interest. **Class meets on Zoom.**

Registration

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

Visit www.midcoastseniorcollege.org or call (207) 725-4900





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Nov. 3, 2025—Dec 17, 2025

Registration begins Oct. 13, 2025

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 October 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, 2025 through June 30, 2026. 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 20, 2025 the registration page will be published on our website.
- Space is limited; if a course is full, please notify us of your interest at mscoffice@midcoastseniorcollege.org.

ONLINE COURSES

Classes meet on Zoom. Information on Zoom will be provided upon registration. 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 or call 207-725-4900. Please visit our website for more information at: midcoastseniorcollege.org.



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