

Midcoast Senior College Fall Term II 2026



Visit www.midcoastseniorcollege.org for details

Course fee is \$60 and annual membership (\$40) is required

MONDAYS

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY | 9:30-11:30 a.m. | 6-weeks | In Person

Plato's *Euthyphro*, *Apology*, and *Crito* provide an accessible introduction to philosophy. This course examines the dialogues alongside historical criticisms and emphasizes philosophical discussion. **Required Reading:** *Plato, Five Dialogues: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, and Phaedo*, 2nd ed., trans. G.M.A. Grube, rev. John M. Cooper (Hackett, 2002), ISBN 978-0872206335. **Bruce Hauptli** is an Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at Florida International University where he taught for 39 years. **Starts:** Mon., 11/2. **Meets:** Midcoast Senior College, Brunswick.

READING POETRY | 9:30-11:00 a.m. | 6-weeks | In Person

A discussion-based exploration of how poems work, including figurative language, structure, meter, and sound. Students will consider representative poems from a range of poets and may bring favorites to the discussion.

Suggested Reading: David Spurr, *The Consolation of Poetry*, ISBN 978-3034342117. **John Haile** is a retired secondary school teacher and administrator who has taught several courses for Midcoast Senior College. **Starts:** Mon., 11/2. **Meets:** Topsham Library, Topsham.

BRAIN REPAIR: FACT OR FICTION? | 1:00-2:30 p.m. | 6-weeks | In Person

An examination of what is known about repairing brain injury, including concussion, stroke, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and chronic traumatic encephalopathy, with attention to the prospects for effective therapies. **Readings:** Materials will be provided. **Donald Stein** retired in 2021 from Emory University School of Medicine as Asa G. Candler Professor and Distinguished Professor in Emergency Medicine and Neuroscience. His research has focused on hormones, plasticity, and repair of CNS injury. **Starts:** Mon., 11/2. **Meets:** Midcoast Senior College, Brunswick.

ALL ABOUT THE MOON | 1:00-2:30 p.m. | 6-weeks | In Person

Beginning with the history of the Apollo program, this course explores the Moon's formation, volcanism and impacts, discoveries from orbital missions, and the ARTEMIS program and prospects for human life on the Moon.

Readings: Optional readings will be posted on the course website. **Darby Dyar** is an emerita professor of Astronomy at Mount Holyoke College and NASA Deputy Principal Investigator of the VERITAS mission to Venus. She has studied the Moon and worked on Apollo samples for nearly 50 years. **Starts:** Mon, 11/2. **Meets:** The Highlands, Merrymeeting Bay Room, Topsham.

ORIGINS OF HUMAN EVOLUTION AND SOCIETAL CONNECTIONS

| 1:00-3:00 p.m. | 6-weeks | In Person

Using *The Eleventh Layer—Origins of Human Evolution* as a framework, this interactive course traces life on Earth, Darwin's insights into natural selection, self-organizing complexity, and human evolutionary pathways, concluding with connections to modern society. **Optional Readings:** Bill Portela, *The Eleventh Layer—Origins of Human Evolution*, Kindle ASIN B0C4176VH6. **Bill Portela** is the author of *The Eleventh Layer—Origins of Human Evolution* and teaches and speaks on evolution, nature, psychology, and gender biology. **Starts:** Monday, 11/2. **Meets:** Avita, Brunswick.

TUESDAYS

OUR HISTORY MATTERS: FINDING AND TELLING STORIES

| 9:30-11:30 a.m. | 6-weeks | In Person

Students will explore methods and resources for researching family history, analyze documents and other sources, practice research strategies, and adapt these approaches to telling a portion of their own family history. Voluntary work outside class may lead to a draft family story. **Readings:** No required materials; a suggested reading list will be included in the syllabus. **Barbara Kent Lawrence** is the author of nine books and taught research methods, introductory sociology, and writing at Northeastern and Lesley Universities. **Starts:** Tues., 11/3. **Meets:** Midcoast Senior College, Brunswick. **Starts:** Tues., 11/3.

PARADISE LOST | 9:30-11:00 a.m. | 6-weeks | Online

An accessible exploration of John Milton's epic, following Satan's rebellion and Adam and Eve's choices while considering freedom, temptation, resilience, and the dramatic world of *Paradise Lost*. **Readings:** John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, ed. Gordon Teskey (Norton Critical Edition), ISBN 978-0393617085. A different text may be used if its diction is the 1674 model. **Paul Kalkstein** studied *Paradise Lost* at Princeton with Tom Roche and Robert Fagles and taught it for many years to seniors at Phillips Academy, Andover. **Starts:** Tues., 11/3. **Meets:** On Zoom.

HEARTLAND OF THE SILK ROADS | 1:00-3:00 p.m. | 6-weeks | In Person

A six-week journey along the Silk Road trade routes, with stops at cities, oases, and religious sites in Central Asia. Topics include languages, commerce, cultural and intellectual institutions, political forces, belief systems, and the early development of globalization. **Readings:** James A. Millward, *The Silk Road: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2013), ISBN 978-0199782864. **Bill Hammond's** interest in Central Asia grew from years teaching high school world history. **Starts:** Tues., 11/3. **Meets:** Midcoast Senior College, Brunswick.

FROM PIETY TO PLURALISM: A HISTORY OF BOWDOIN COLLEGE

| 1:00-2:30 p.m. | 5-weeks | In Person

This course traces tolerance and intolerance across Bowdoin College's 230-year history, including its relationships with Maine's tribal communities and ethnic, racial, and religious minorities, and its transformation from a religiously affiliated institution into a modern liberal arts college. **Required Reading:** Allen Wells, *From Piety Toward Pluralism: A History of Bowdoin College* (Pink Eraser Press), ISBN 979-8994663103 (available for purchase at MSC). **Allen Wells** is the Roger Howell Jr. Professor of History, emeritus, at Bowdoin College and author or co-author of seven previous books. **Starts:** Tues., 11/3. **Meets:** Coastal Landing, Theater Room, Brunswick.

LOST & FOUND IN DEEP BLUE SEA II | 1:00-2:30 p.m. | 4-weeks | Online

A look at more underwater adventures and mysteries involving lost ships, aircraft, and other discoveries, combining history, archaeology, science, technology, diving, and submersible technology. Topics include searches for Amelia Earhart's aircraft, Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, and a Civil War submarine. **Readings:** None required. **Vince Capone** has 35 years of marine technology and training experience and participated in nine Explorers Club Flag expeditions, found lost shipwrecks, and worked with submerged hazardous waste. **Meets:** On Zoom. **Starts:** Tues., 11/3.

SINGING WITH FRIENDS | 3:00-5:00 p.m. | 7-weeks | In Person

An exploration of Western choral music through melody, harmony, rehearsal, and performance. Repertoire includes Dona Nobis Pacem, Danny Boy, Sicut Servus, and Lean on Me. Students build music-reading, ear-training, intonation, balance, and expressive skills. **Materials:** Folders and music are provided. **Roy Underhill** has been involved with choirs, orchestras, concert bands, musical theater, and chamber music as conductor, music director, performer, and accompanist. He emphasizes teaching through rehearsal. Visit website for details and to contact teacher. **Starts:** Tues., 11/3; last class is open house. **Meets:** St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brunswick.

WEDNESDAYS

MARY SHELLEY'S FRANKENSTEIN OR "THE MODERN PROMETHEUS"

| 9:30-11:30 a.m. | 6-weeks | In Person

A discussion-based study of *Frankenstein*, its creation and Romantic influences, its nested narratives and themes, and its lasting cultural legacy—from scientific overreach and the ethics of creation to the modern visual image of the Creature. **Readings:** The 1818 text of the novel *Frankenstein* is required: Penguin Classics, ISBN 978-0143131847, or Norton Critical Edition, ISBN 978-0393927931. **Michele Lettiere** taught English and Theatre to high school students for 40 years and has led three Midcoast Senior College courses. **Starts:** Wed., 11/4. **Meets:** Midcoast Senior College, Brunswick.

MATTERING | 10:30 a.m.-Noon | 6-weeks | In Person

An exploration of theories about the human desire to matter and the ways people create and pursue “mattering projects” to establish significance in their own lives and in the lives of others. **Required Reading:** Rebecca N. Goldstein, *The Mattering Instinct* (Liveright, 2026), ISBN 978-1324096856. **Mark Davies** has taught students from seventh grade through college and has taught four literature courses at Midcoast Senior College. **Starts:** Wed., 11/4. **Meets:** Patten Free Library, Community Room, Bath.

CRITICAL THINKING AND MINDFULNESS | 10:00 a.m.-Noon | 5-weeks | In Person

A highly interactive workshop designed to strengthen reasoning and communication, unpack assumptions, advocate for positions clearly, and reflect on habitual thinking. Students practice critical-thinking and mindfulness skills in every meeting. **Readings:** Materials will be provided in class. **Terry Porter** is professor emerita of business at UMaine Orono, a Fulbright Scholar, and a nationally certified counselor. **Starts:** Wed., 11/4. **Meets:** Brunswick Recreation Center Welcome Room, Brunswick.

AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY | 1:00-3:00 p.m. | 6-weeks | In Person

A survey of American Jewish participation in U.S. history from 1654 to the present, exploring America as a land of opportunity for Jewish communities and the profound influence of American life on Judaism. **Required Reading:** Jonathan D. Sarna, *American Judaism* (Yale University Press, 2004), ISBN 978-0300190397. **Theodore Stainman** is a Rutgers University and Hebrew Union College graduate and served as an Air Force Chaplain for 23 years. He has previously taught American Religious History and Bible History. **Starts:** Wed., 11/4. **Meets:** Midcoast Senior College, Brunswick.

WOMEN AFTER ALL | 1:00-3:00 p.m. | 6-weeks | Online

A discussion of Melvin Konner's scientific argument about sex, evolution, and the future of male supremacy, drawing on evolutionary, cross-species, and cross-cultural material accessible to non-specialists.

Recommended Readings: Selections from Melvin Konner, *Women After All: Sex, Evolution, and the End of Male Supremacy* (W.W. Norton & Co.), ISBN 978-0393352313. **Steven Piker** is an anthropologist with field work in Thailand and the U.S. He taught for 44 years at Swarthmore College and has taught more than 40 courses at four Maine senior colleges. **Starts:** Wed., 11/4. **Meets:** On Zoom.

THURSDAYS

FROM WILDERNESS TO VACATIONLAND: MAINE'S TOURIST INDUSTRY, 1830-1940 | 9:30-11:30 a.m. | 4-weeks | In Person

An examination of the social, cultural, and economic forces that helped reinvent Maine as a tourist destination between the 1830s and the eve of World War II, including the roles of artists, writers, publishers, railroads, investors, hoteliers, architects, and others. **Recommended Reading:** Peter Dow Bachelder, *Vacationland: A History of the Maine Tourism Industry*, (2022), ISBN 979-8985391701; Dona Brown, *Inventing New England*, (1995), ISBN 978-1560984733. The Bachelder book is available through Midcoast Senior College for \$33.75. **Mark Lincicome** is a retired professor of Japanese and Asian history at the College of the Holy Cross and serves on the West Bath Historical Society board and volunteers at the Maine Maritime Museum. **Starts:** Thurs., 11/12. **Meets:** Midcoast Senior College, Brunswick.

A HISTORY OF FOOD: CHEMISTRY, CULTURE, CONFLICT | 9:30-11:30 a.m. | 6-weeks | In Person

An exploration of food chemistry, the ways culture shapes and is shaped by food, and conflicts that influenced the development of a global palette. This course also examines food lore and modern views of diet and nutrition, including myths and controversies about food preparation. **Readings:** Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, *Near a Thousand Tables: A History of Food* (2003), ISBN 978-0743227407. Online articles will also be provided. **Barbara Snapp** received her PhD in biology from Cornell University, where she studied the ecological adaptiveness of behavior. She enjoys teaching broad survey courses that interweave science, culture, and history. **Starts:** Thurs., 11/5. **Meets:** Coastal Landing, Brunswick.

A HISTORY OF FOOD: CHEMISTRY, CULTURE, CONFLICT | 1:00-3:00 p.m. | 6-weeks | Online

See above entry. This is a Zoom class of the identical course.

THE EVENTS OF MAY 1968 (IN FRANCE & ELSEWHERE) | 1:00-3:00 p.m. | 6-weeks | In Person

A discussion-based examination of the tumultuous events of 1968, centering on France's May student demonstrations and labor strikes, with comparisons to Vietnam, the U.S. civil rights movement, student protests, the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, Berlin, Greece, and elsewhere. Short documentaries will be shown. **Readings:** Several short essays will be provided. **Bill VanderWolk** taught French literature and history of the 19th and 20th centuries at Bowdoin College. He began his studies in France in September 1968, when the aftershocks of May were still reverberating. **Starts:** Thurs., 11/5. **Meets:** Patten Free Library, Community Room, Bath.

C. G. JUNG AND THE GREEKS | 1:00-3:00 p.m. | 4-weeks | In Person

An introduction to Carl Gustav Jung and analytical psychology, with particular attention to his classical education, Greek and Latin influences, archetypes, and the integration of conscious and unconscious elements of the psyche. **Readings:** Anthony Stevens, *Jung: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press), ISBN 978-0192854582. Handouts will be provided. **Christos J. Gianopoulos** is a retired Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Maine at Augusta, a member of the Jung Center of Maine, and an experienced teacher of Jungian thought. **Starts:** Thurs., 11/5. **Meets:** Midcoast Senior College, Brunswick.