



Spring 2018

Volume XXVI, Number 5

Worcester Institute for Senior Education

Membership Dues

Dues may be paid online or by check. **Full year dues are \$250 and half year dues are \$150 per person.** If paying by check, please mail your registration form and check directly to the WISE office.

Important Registration Information

There are many interesting courses listed in the Spring 2018 WISE catalog, and we ask that you carefully consider each before making your choices. **Registration begins December 7, 2017. You need to pay your membership dues prior to registering for classes.**

You can register online and you will receive a confirmation email for courses in which you are enrolled. You may also register by returning the Registration form (page 11). Mail or return by December 4th. The Office staff will manually enter your course selections starting at 9:00am on December 7th. Some courses will fill quickly; we cannot guarantee a seat in any course.

Registration remains open for courses with available space. Early registration is recommended.

Calendar for Spring 2018

- January 30, 2018:** New Member Orientation
- February 1, 2018:** Snow Date for Orientation
- February 5, 2018:** Session C Begins
- March 9, 2018:** Session C Ends
- March 26, 2018:** Session D Begins
- April 27, 2018:** Session D Ends

Class Cancellations

The decision to cancel WISE classes due to snow or inclement weather is made by the President and Director and is announced on the **WISE Office Voicemail: 508-767-7513**

Officers, Committee Chairs & Council Members

Executive Committee

- Joe Corn, *President*
- Marsha Addis, *1st Vice President*
- Karl Hakkarainen, *2nd Vice President*
- Donna Crocker, *Secretary*
- Sue Tellier, *Treasurer*

Committee Chairs

- Marsha Addis, *Strategic Planning*
- Elaine Bloom, *Communications*
- Pat Hurton, *Outreach*
- Barbara Kupfer & Cathy Rao, *Travel*

Sue Tellier, *Finance*
Cookie Nelson, *Special Events*
Zelda Schwartz, *Nominations*
Barbara Groves, *Curriculum*

Council Members at Large:

Ron Crocker Mohan Korgaonkar
Bob Dyer Ed Landau
Carol Fauerbach Paula Sommer
Patricia Hertzfeld

Coordinators

Bobbi Corn, *Class Assistants*
Kathy Drew, *Orientation*
Jane Gilligan, *Evaluations*
Karl Hakkarainen, *Technical Advisor*

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Lois Feldman, *President Emerita*
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Dolores Courtemanche, *President Emerita*
Barbara Groves, *President Emerita*
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College Sponsor/ WISE Administrators

Francesco Cesareo, PhD, *President, Assumption College*
Susan Perschbacher, PhD, *WISE Director*
Jill Lagana, MEd, *WISE Office Manager*

WISE CATALOG – Spring 2018 –SESSION C

C1. Marching, Charging Feet: Fifty Years Since 1968

Mondays 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

February 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5

1968 was a year of assassinations, marches, riots, elections, wars and the Big Mac. It was an “annus horribilis,” punctuated with Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da. Tricky Dick defeated the Happy Warrior. Paris, Prague and Chicago erupted. Pete Seeger sang “Waist Deep in the Big Muddy,” Simon and Garfunkel told the tale of Mrs. Robinson, and James Brown saved Boston. LBJ left and Elvis came back. Hippies, Yippies, and Maharishis. What did we learn? What did we not learn? What did we learn and forget?

LOCATION: Briarwood Community Center, 65 Briarwood Circle, Worcester, MA 01604

CLASS LIMIT: 60

GROUP LEADER: Karl Hakkarainen is a graduate of Amherst College and is technology adviser for WISE. He has taught WISE classes on social networks, learning and technology, law, history, journalism, and music.

BOOKS (optional): *The Making of the President 1968*, Theodore H. White (978-0061900648); *Revolution for the Hell of It: The Book that Earned Abbie Hoffman a Five-Year Prison Term at the Chicago Conspiracy Trial* (978-1560256908)

C2. Thinking for Oneself

Mondays 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

February 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5

Thinking – everyone does it. It is important to do it well. The first half of the course will consider aspects of thinking from Plato to Frederick Douglass. In the second half (in D session), we will practice thinking about important questions.

LOCATION: Worcester Jewish Community Center (JCC), 633 Salisbury Street, Worcester 01609

CLASS LIMIT: 25

GROUP LEADERS: Born in Germany, Richard Schmitt was forced to leave because he was Jewish. He emigrated to the US and earned degrees in Chicago, at Yale and spent many years teaching at Brown University and Worcester State. He has taught WISE classes for more than 20 years.

BOOK (required): Reading material available on the internet

C3. Energy: *Sine Qua Non*

Mondays 1:30-3:00 pm

February 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5

What is “energy?” We have had “energy crises” in the past, and “alternative energy sources” are currently making news. In fact, without energy, nothing at all can happen. We will explore its many forms and the processes that transform it from one form to another. We will also look at some environmental and economic impacts that accompany our use of energy. Are we really running out of readily-exploitable petroleum? Is “global warming” from our burning of fossil fuel going to doom life on planet earth? Could nuclear power – the energy mainstay of several European countries – play a larger role in our own energy future? Demonstrations, experiments, and computer animations will accompany our classroom discussions. Prior background experience in the sciences is not at all necessary but persons with such backgrounds will certainly be welcome

LOCATION: AC – Kennedy Building Room 119

CLASS LIMIT: 65

GROUP LEADERS: Les Blatt is Professor Emeritus of Physics and Education at Clark University. His research interests include work in experimental nuclear physics, astrophysics and modern approaches to the learning of science. He has taught many WISE courses in the past.

BOOK (optional): “Energy” by Vaclav Smil, second edition (paperback). A free, downloadable supplementary resource book will also be suggested

C4. Films of the Fifties

Monday 3:15 - 4:45 p.m.

February 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5

The fifties were not just a time for Disney escapism, Abbott and Costello antics or battlefield action. A filmmaker named Roger Corman cut his teeth during this time, and such actors as Marlon Brando and Jack Nicholson first appeared on the silver screen. Come explore this pivotal decade, during which black-and-white movies went from majority to minority status, and the rising popularity of television affected Hollywood decisions on what sort of films to produce.

LOCATION: AC – Kennedy Hall, Room 119

CLASS LIMIT: 65

GROUP LEADER: Jeffrey Long has been writing movie reviews for the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* since 2008 and teaches undergraduate film studies classes at Becker College. He is also the author of *Remembered Childhoods* (2007), a reader’s guide to coming-of-age memoirs and films.

C5. Oh the Places You Will Go!

Tuesdays 9:45-11:15 am

February 6, 13, 20, 27, March 6

In this class we will read travel literature, focusing primarily on the essays and stories from the volume *Best American Travel Writing 2016*, edited by Bill Bryson. We will read selected essays and articles for discussion and analysis using some important creative nonfiction writing techniques including braiding, image and metaphor, telling a story, the “aha moment,” and taking the reader on a journey.

LOCATION: AC-Plourde Recreation Center Conference Room

CLASS LIMIT: 22

GROUP LEADERS: Susan Perschbacher is Professor Emerita at Assumption where she taught Sociology for over twenty years. Upon retirement she earned a Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from the University of Southern Maine Stonecoast Creative Writing Program. She specialized in nonfiction writing, including memoir, nature writing, spiritual writing, and travel writing.

BOOK (required): *The Best American Travel Writing 2016*, edited by Bill Bryson. Mariner Books, 2016.

C6. FUNDamental Physics: Why the Apple Doesn’t Fall Far from the Tree!

Tuesdays 1:00-2:30 pm

February 6, 13, 20, 27, March 6

Scientific novices: this is for you! Why do we wear seat belts? Why do we wash clothes and dishes in soap? Why does my glass of ice water get wet on the outside? Does warm water freeze faster than cold water? Can I really separate egg yolks from egg whites using an empty water bottle? In physics terms, we will be studying inertia, projectiles, pressure, changes of state, and solubility. In FUN terms, we will be doing lots of experiments to see how physics affects us every day.

LOCATION: AC – Kennedy Building Room 119

CLASS LIMIT: 65

GROUP LEADER: Jane Crooks (B.S. Biology, University of Notre Dame; M.A. Secondary Education, Tufts University) is a former middle school science teacher. She currently works with at-risk college students as an academic coach.

C7. Shakespeare's Fathers and Daughters: King Lear and The Tempest

Tuesdays 2:45-4:15 pm

February 6, 13, 20, 27, March 6

This course will place King Lear and his daughter Cordelia, and Prospero and his daughter Miranda within the context of early modern English views of the family and the gendered roles that men and women were expected to assume during that period. There will be three sessions on King Lear and two on The Tempest. The focus will be on the father-daughter relationship, but we will discuss other aspects of the plays as well.

LOCATION: AC – Kennedy Building Room 119

CLASS LIMIT: 65

GROUP LEADER: Virginia Mason Vaughan taught Shakespeare at the introductory and advanced levels at Clark University from 1976 to 2014. She has published books on Shakespeare and served as an “expert Shakespeare commentator” for Julie Taymor’s DVD of *The Tempest*.

BOOK (required): The Folger Shakespeare editions; ed. Barbara A. Mowat and Paul Werstine; also recommended: the Third Arden series: R.A. Foakes, editor of *King Lear* (1997) and Virginia Mason Vaughan and Alden T. Vaughan, eds., *The Tempest* (rev. ed. 2011)

C8. The Guilty and the Innocent: Searching for Justice

Wednesdays 10:00-11:30 am

February 7, 14, 21, 28, March 7

We will study in detail famous court cases of modern times—the crimes committed, the evidence, and the verdicts rendered. Was justice served in each? Included will be the trials of the Nazi criminals at Nuremberg, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg for treason, the Lindbergh baby kidnapping, the murder of Lizzie Borden’s parents, the Watergate investigation, the Sacco and Vanzetti case, and others important in our history. We will examine the merits of each investigation, extract the flaws in the evidence presented, and consider the influence of the media at the time of the trial.

LOCATION: The Willows at Worcester, Great Room, 101 Barry Road, Worcester 01609

CLASS LIMIT: 50

GROUP LEADER: Margaret Watson is a product of the Big Ten, having received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Michigan and then pursuing further graduate study in research at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. She is professor emerita from Quinsigamond Community College serving both in the faculty and the administration in her thirty-six year tenure there.

C9. Beyond Heller: Gun Control and the Second Amendment

Wednesdays 1:30-3:00 pm

February 7, 14, 21, 28, March 7

The Second Amendment protects the right to bear arms, but its scope is a subject of vigorous debate. While gun ownership and gun violence have increased in the United States in recent years, gun control initiatives have gained little traction. This class will examine the history of the Second Amendment, various gun control measures enacted or proposed by the states and the federal government, and how the Supreme Court and lower federal courts have interpreted the scope of the second amendment. A major focus will be the Supreme Court’s landmark 2008 decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller* and subsequent decisions by federal courts.

LOCATION: AC – Kennedy Building Room 119

CLASS LIMIT: 65

GROUP LEADER: Jack Ross holds degrees from Yale University and the University of Virginia School of Law and served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Washington & Lee University. He has taught a number of courses on legal topics in the WISE program.

BOOK (required): *The Second Amendment: A Biography* by Michael Waldman (Simon & Shuster 2014) 978-1-4767-4745-3. Optional: *Gun Fight: The Battle Over Gun Rights in America* by Adam Winkler (2014) 978-0-393-07741-4

C10. Public Choice—Money in Politics

Wednesdays 3:15-4:45 pm

February 7, 14, 21, 28, March 7

This course will look at how money interacts with politics and policy analyzed from an economic perspective. Public Choice is a well-researched area of the intersection between economics and politics and the subject of the course leader's PhD dissertation written a while ago. Since then, Citizens United has changed the political landscape, and campaign tactics have changed with the rise of social media. Substantially more resources have become available online, but transparency has often declined. Each week, we will look at a different aspect of money and politics ranging from campaign finance law, to the effect of political action committee campaign contributions on legislative votes, to the efficacy of campaign spending in electoral success, to dark money.

LOCATION: AC – Kennedy Building Room 119

CLASS LIMIT: 65

GROUP LEADER: William O'Brien holds a Ph.D in Economics from Northeastern University and is Professor of Economics at Worcester State University. His research interests range from public choice to the effect of taxes on economic behavior to the determinants of MCAS scores to globalization.

BOOK (required): We will use openly available internet resources such as www.opensecrets.org and www.fec.gov

C11. Wills, Trusts and Asset Protection Planning Thursdays 9:45-11:15 am

February 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8

Attorney Rivard will offer a clear and concise primer in the basic legal planning for lifetime decision making to protect you and your family with regard to health and finances; financing, health and residential needs; protecting family members; and planning for death. We will discuss planning for second marriages and special needs beneficiaries, as well as avoiding probate. The course will offer the knowledge to sort through the incorrect and conflicting advice received from many sources. Topics covered will be Health Care Proxies, Durable Powers of Attorney, Living Wills, HIPAA Waivers, wills, trusts, and estate and trust administration.

LOCATION: AC - Plourde Recreation Center Conference Room

CLASS LIMIT: 22

GROUP LEADER: Brenda Rivard of O'Connor and Rivard Attorneys PC is an experienced attorney who specializes in life/estate planning for all ages; specific elder law issues; probate estate administration; Medicaid planning and applications; guardianships and conservatorships; and asset planning to maximize resources and preserve assets.

C12. Favorite Tours of the Month at WAM

Thursdays 12:30-2:00 pm

February 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8

Five different docents will present favorite tours they have given. Topics include People and Places in early Worcester Photographs; American Impressionists; Stained Glass; The Ancient World and the Flow of Cultural Icons; and The Art of Fashion.

LOCATION: Worcester Art Museum, main entrance, 55 Salisbury St. Worcester 01609

CLASS LIMIT: 22

GROUP LEADERS: Paul Mahon is class organizer with Susan Gately, Hank Rose, Ginny Powell-Brasier, Mark Mancevice, and Arlene Pedjoe as WAM presenters. All are experienced docents at the museum.

C13. The Italian High Renaissance - REPEAT

Thursdays 1:00-2:30 pm

February 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8

During the late 15th Century and the early decades of the 16th Century under the patronage of the powerful and sophisticated Courts of the Italian Renaissance, some of the greatest artists of all times emerged. Leonardo, Michelangelo and Raphael dominated the artistic scene of this gilded period marked by great cultural achievements and political struggle. Topics will include: Leonardo at the Court of Milan, Michelangelo in Rome, The Florentine Years, the Roman Years and the Twilight of the Renaissance.

LOCATION: AC – Kennedy Building Room 119

CLASS LIMIT: 65

GROUP LEADER: Antonella Doucette is an Italian native, residing in Italy for the first 28 years of her life. The education she received there focused on the knowledge of Greek and Latin Classic Literature, Philosophy, European History and Art, as well as Italian Language and Literature. She is currently a docent and member of the faculty at the Worcester Art Museum.

C14. A Life in the Theater: Victor Herbert

Thursdays 2:45-4:15 pm

February 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8

Victor Herbert is one of the giants of American culture touching every corner of American musical life at the turn of the 20th century and is one of the fathers of modern musical theater composing *Babes in Toyland*, *Naughty Marietta*, *The Red Mill*, and *The Fortune Teller* among others. He had a strong Worcester connection as conductor for the Worcester Music Festival for three years in the 1890s.

LOCATION: AC – Kennedy Building Room 119

CLASS LIMIT: 65

GROUP LEADER: Richard Kimball is recently retired as a professor of Psychology at Worcester State University. He is a Librarian and a member of Worcester Chorus. He has taught WISE classes for many years.

C15. Introduction to Birding Series: The Essentials

Fridays 10:00 am-11:30 am

February 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9

This course is for those who enjoy birds and want to learn more about them. You will be guided in class about the basics of bird watching and identification. Each week will cover a variety of New England birds, bird songs, identification, habitat, migration, feeding and much more.

LOCATION: Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, 414 Massasoit Rd., Worcester 01604

CLASS LIMIT: 25

GROUP LEADER: Sheryl Farnam has been teaching at Mass Audubon for over 17 years and leads a variety of bird watching trips. She attended Framingham State University where she studied Wildlife Biology. She teaches a variety of wildlife classes, but birding is her favorite.

C16. Connected Inventions: How One Thing Leads to Another, and Another and...REPEAT

Fridays 1:30-3:00 pm

February 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9

Based on James Burke's 1978 book, *Connections*, and the related BBC series, this course will explore the long strings of events that made modern technologies possible. How did primitive gold panning techniques lead to the atomic bomb? How did the English longbow lead to satellite communications? A number of "invention strings," tracing connections between an early invention/situation and modern technological inventions such as water wheels to computer, Caliph's stomach ache to production line, Little Ice Age to airplane. Discover connections you never dreamed of!

LOCATION: AC – Kennedy Building Room 119

CLASS LIMIT: 65

GROUP LEADER: Victor Saffrin has a BA in Theater and Economics and an MS in Computer Science and is now retired from a career spanning rock-and-roll lighting roadie, laser light show designer, embedded software engineer and engineering process manager.

BOOK (optional): *Connections*, James Burke ISBN 0-316-11681-5

C17. Czech Nationalism in the Operas of Bedrich Smetana

<< CANCELLED >>

WISE CATALOG -- Spring 2018--SESSION D

D1. Thinking for Oneself - Continued

Mondays 10:00-11:30 am

March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23

A continuation of the 10-week course. In this second half, we will practice thinking about important questions.

LOCATION: Worcester Jewish Community Center (JCC), 633 Salisbury Street, Worcester 01609

CLASS LIMIT: 25

GROUP LEADER: Born in Germany, Richard Schmitt was forced to leave because he was Jewish. He emigrated to the US and earned degrees in Chicago and at Yale. He spent many years teaching at Brown University and Worcester State. He has taught WISE classes for more than 20 years.

D2. Oscar Wilde: The Man and the Artist

Mondays 1:30-3:00 pm

March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23

Fifty years after the decriminalization of homosexuality in the United Kingdom, Wilde is being celebrated for his extraordinary mind and artistic skills. This class will cover his life, his aesthetic beliefs and notable works including *Ballad of Reading Gaol*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, his plays and three fairy tales.

LOCATION: AC-Kennedy Building Room 119

CLASS LIMIT: 65

GROUP LEADER: Karen Sasha Tipper, Ph.D. Professor Emeritus at Nichols College. She has published five books on the Wilde family and is an experienced WISE group leader.

BOOK (required): *Oscar Wilde, Complete Collection*. ISBN: 9781500337384 (Middletown, DE)

D3. Female Artists and their Music

Mondays 3:15-4:45 pm

March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23

Contemporary music is dominated by male performers, and great female music writers and performers are often overlooked. This course will present great songs recorded by some of the best contemporary female artists of today – some working as solo artists and some as lead singers of top bands. Included will be music performed by Barbra Streisand, Dionne Warwick, Judy Garland, Joni Mitchell, Natalie Merchant, Natalie Maines, Sarah McLachlan, Dusty Springfield, Linda Ronstadt, Stevie Nicks, Carly Simon, Karen Carpenter, Carole King, and others.

LOCATION: AC – Kennedy Building Room 119

CLASS LIMIT: 65

GROUP LEADER: Joseph Corn is a graduate of Penn State University and spent most of his professional career working as an engineer. He also taught in the NYC school system, Springfield Technical Community College, and Penn State, and worked as a technical instructor for Moor Products Co. Since joining WISE in 2010, Mr. Corn has presented both music and technical courses. He is the current President of WISE.

D4. Literary Conceptions of the Congo

Tuesdays 9:45-11:15 am

March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24

In the early years of the twentieth century, the European imagination was haunted by exotic images of Africa, but in the latter part of the century, Caribbean and Congolese authors produced works tending to challenge and subvert the Eurocentric perspectives of the colonial era. Topics will include the colonial context, post-colonial consequences, racial stereotypes, missionary zeal, indigenous African culture and religion, economic exploitation, political oppression, mythical and magical perspectives.

LOCATION: AC – Plourde Recreation Center Conference Room

CLASS LIMIT: 22

GROUP LEADER: Dr. Lillian Corti obtained a doctorate in Comparative Literature from the City University of New York. She taught at the University of Tulsa, Oklahoma, at Marien Ngouabi University, Brazzaville, and at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Her translation of the Congolese novel, *Le Feu des Origins* by Emmanuel Douglas was published by Lawrence Hill Books in 2001.

BOOKS (required): Aime Cesaire, *A Season in the Congo* (Seagull Books, ISBN: 10-0857424874), 2. Emmanuel Dongala, *The Fire of Origins* (Lawrence Hill, ISBN: 1-55652-420-X) 3. Henri Lopes, *Tribaliks* (Heinemann, ISBN: 10:0435907638)

D5. The Guilty and the Innocent: Searching for Justice - REPEAT

Tuesdays 1:00-2:30 pm

March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24

We will study in detail famous court cases of modern times – the crimes committed, the evidence, and the verdicts rendered. Was justice served in each? Included will be the trials of the Nazi criminals at Nuremberg, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg for treason, the Lindbergh baby kidnapping, the murder of Lizzie Borden's parents, the Watergate investigation, the Sacco and Vanzetti case, and others important in our history. We will examine the merits of each investigation, extract the flaws in the evidence presented, and consider the influence of the media at the time of the trial.

LOCATION: AC – Kennedy Building Room 119

CLASS LIMIT: 65

GROUP LEADERS: Margaret Watson is a product of the Big Ten, having received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Michigan and then pursuing further graduate study in research at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. She is professor emerita from Quinsigamond Community College serving both on the faculty and the administration in her thirty-six year tenure there.

D6. River Restoration under the Federal Clean Water Act in Massachusetts

Tuesdays 2:45-4:15 pm

March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24

This course will focus on the state's River Basin Planning office in the 1970-1990's. We will begin with an overview of the Federal Act. Topics will include water quality standards, sampling rivers, assessment, analysis and river basin planning leading to the permitting of wastewater discharges.

LOCATION: AC - Kennedy Building Room 119

CLASS LIMIT: 65

GROUP LEADER: Warren Kimball worked for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality for 42 years. At various times, he was the head of the water quality standards program, the water quality assessment program, the biology program, and the research and demonstration. With US EPA, he helped found the Water Quality Standards Academy and was the New England representative on the National Water Quality Monitoring Council. He is retired but serves on the board of Directors of the Nashua River Watershed Association.

D7. Vietnam: How the Story's Been Told

Wednesdays 10:00-11:30 am

March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25

The Vietnam War has had a profound impact upon modern American culture, and through that culture, the lessons of the experience will live on into the future. We will examine the war using a variety of communication techniques such as news media, film, literature, music and photos which, collectively, have preserved the story and informed it for future generations.

LOCATION: The Willows at Worcester, 101 Barry Road, Worcester 01609

CLASS LIMIT: 50

GROUP LEADERS: Leo Sullivan is retired after a 35-year career in public school education, 30 of which were served as a high school principal and Superintendent of Schools. He holds an MA in American History from Notre Dame and has taught previous WISE courses on 20th century American history topics.

D8. Three Female Voices: Dickinson, Plath & Atwood

Wednesdays 10:00-11:30 am

March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25

We shall look at Emily Dickinson's poems describing her condition and also ones that describe the act of dying. Sylvia Plath was a brilliant student, a beloved professor and an important poet who took her own life. Margaret Atwood studied the American Puritans at Harvard and wrote *The Handmaid's Tale*, a dystopian novel in which females are valued only as fertility figures.

LOCATION: Worcester Jewish Community Center (JCC), 633 Salisbury Street, Worcester 01609

CLASS LIMIT: 25

GROUP LEADER: Steve White majored in English at Brown University and has an M.A. in English from Berkeley, California. He did summer work at the Breadloaf School of English and at Oxford. He assigned work by Dickinson, Plath and Atwood at Bancroft School where he taught for over 40 years.

BOOKS (REQUIRED): 1) *The Bell Jar* (any edition) by Sylvia Plath, Harper. ISBN: 978-0060837020
2) *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood, Anchor, ISBN: 978-0385490818

D9. How to Read Art

Wednesdays 10:00-11:30 am

March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25

Learn how to read visual stories narrated by artists from ancient Athens and Rome to colonial America. Enter these storied worlds and deepen your appreciation of them. Other topics will include the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and the 19th and 20th centuries of America and Europe.

LOCATION: Worcester Art Museum, main entrance, 55 Salisbury Street, Worcester 01609

CLASS LIMIT: 22

GROUP LEADER: Virginia ("Ginny") Powell-Brasier was a high school teacher of English and German for 32 years. A big fan of the German Expressionists, she is currently a docent at the Worcester Art Museum

D10. The Roberts Court: Defying Predictability?

Wednesdays 1:30-3:00 pm

March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25

When President Bush appointed John G. Roberts as Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court in 2005, a new era commenced for the Court. Subsequently, two conservative and two liberal justices joined the court, leaving the Court in an unpredictable balance on many issues. Under Chief Justice Roberts, the Court has issued a number of landmark decisions in the areas of healthcare, affirmative action, gay rights, campaign financing, gun control, abortion restrictions, and voter rights. This class will examine the Roberts Court from an ideological, legal, and political perspective, and will highlight the shifting coalitions on a changing court.

LOCATION: AC – Kennedy Building Room 119

CLASS LIMIT: 65

GROUP LEADER: Jack Ross holds degrees from Yale University and the University of Virginia School of Law and served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Washington & Lee University. He has taught a number of courses on legal topics in the WISE program.

BOOK (required): *Uncertain Justice: The Roberts Court and the Constitution*, Laurence Tribe (Henry Hold 2014) ISBN: 978-0-8050-9509-6 (available in paperback)

D11. All About Trees

Wednesdays 1:30-3:00 pm

March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25

In late winter and early spring, long before wildflowers bloom and leaves come out, many of our native and street trees bloom. Silver Maple, American Elm, Pussy Willow, and Cottonwood, among others, bring bright color and a sense of impending spring to the sanctuary and Worcester streets and open spaces. We will learn to identify trees on walks around the sanctuary and a field trip or two by van or car pool in Worcester. **PARTICIPANTS MUST BE ABLE TO WALK OVER IRREGULAR SURFACES.**

LOCATION: Mass Audubon Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, 414 Massasoit Road, Worcester 01604

CLASS LIMIT: 25

GROUP LEADER: Joseph Choiniere has worked for Mass Audubon for many years and taught hundreds of natural history classes and workshops in all aspects of nature study, especially plants and fungi. He has been an instructor for lifelong learning at Fitchburg State University where he offered workshops on nature study.

D12. The Troubles: Toward an Understanding of the Northern Ireland Conflict - REPEAT

Wednesdays 3:15-4:45 pm

March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25

In this course we will examine the deep-rooted hatred and bitterness that fueled the Troubles on both sides of the religious divide, years before the lid blew off in 1969. Long before the Balkans, Somalia, and Syria ever became news, people associated Northern Ireland with chaos and terror. Interestingly, the confusion that raged within the Six Counties during the time was mirrored by wide-scale misperceptions of the world at large: is Northern Ireland an island? Aren't the UVF a

branch of the IRA? Is Ireland an independent country or isn't it? The Troubles caused the loss of thousands of lives and were responsible for the British Army's longest ever military campaign..

LOCATION: AC – Kennedy Building Room 119

CLASS LIMIT: 65

GROUP LEADER: Philomena Feighan is a native of Ireland. An award-winning, published writer, she abandoned her endeavors for a career in teaching. She has a BA in history and an MFA in creative writing and literature. In June 2017, she gave up her full-time teaching position to return to writing.

BOOK (optional): *Making Sense of the Troubles: The Story of the Conflict in Northern Ireland* (by David McKittrick and David McVea, New Amsterdam Books, March 18, 2002)

D13. The Life and Thought of James Baldwin

Thursdays 10:00-11:30 am

March 22, April 5, 12, 19, 26

James Baldwin is arguably one of the most important 20th century writers. His piercing commentary on race in America, sexuality, religion, and the role of literature is as rare as it is poignant for our times. In the course we will explore some biographical history, read and discuss two of his works, and view some media clips of him speaking on various issues. You may want to watch "I Am Not Your Negro," the highly regarded film, before class begins. Further, should you take this class, be prepared to have your "buttons pushed" and your limits tested. Baldwin lets no one "off the hook."

LOCATION: Worcester Jewish Community Center (JCC), 633 Salisbury Street, Worcester 01609

CLASS LIMIT: 22

GROUP LEADER: Tim Burger is the rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Worcester and a lover of dusty, beleaguered bookstores. He earned a degree in English/Philosophy from the University of Georgia, Master of Divinity from General Theological Seminary in New York City, Master of Sacred Theology from Union Theological Seminary in New York and is working on an MFA in Creative Non-Fiction from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee.

BOOK (required): any edition of *Go Tell it on the Mountain* (read before first class) and *Giovanni's Room*. Optional: James Baldwin: *Collected Essays*, and James Baldwin: *Early Novels and Stories* (The Library of America)

D14. The Merchant of Venice

Thursdays 1:00-2:30 pm

March 22, April 5, 12, 19, 26

Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* combines a light-hearted romance with a dark, sinister melodrama. We will consider the play's delightful language, intriguing plot, and lively characterizations. But the Bard also raises serious moral issues-the problems of prejudice and discrimination-ones we have yet to solve. We must decide: is Shylock, the famous Jewish money lender a victim or a villain in vowing to legally murder his Christian enemy? To better understand the play, in addition to our discussions, group members will read aloud parts from the script, and we will view selections from the video of a live performance. Why has the play sometimes been banned? Was Shakespeare anti-Semitic? Did Shylock receive justice? What moral lessons might we learn from the play?

LOCATION: AC – Kennedy Building Room 119

CLASS LIMIT: 65

GROUP LEADERS: Virginia Mason Vaughan taught Shakespeare at the introductory and advanced levels at Clark University from 1976 to 2014. She has published books on Shakespeare and served as an "expert Shakespeare commentator" for Julie Taymor's DVD of *The Tempest*.

Helen Whall completed her PhD at Yale University in 1976, then began teaching Shakespeare and modern drama at The College of the Holy Cross. She has published a book on pre-Shakespearean drama and numerous essays on Shakespeare, renaissance literature, and contemporary theater. She has been an editor of theater reviews for *Theater Journal* and a frequent contributor to theater program notes and discussion groups. Professor Whall retired from Holy Cross in the spring of 2017.

BOOK (required): any copy of *The Merchant of Venice*

D15. Canadian Literature Continued

Thursdays 2:45-4:15 pm

March 22, April 5, 12, 19, 26

This course is designed to follow "Oh, Canada? An Introduction to Canadian Literature and Culture" (Spring 2017) and the Alice Munro class (Fall 2017). For those WISE students who want a taste of Canadian literature, it's a fine opportunity to jump in with both feet. Our goal is to broaden our understanding of Canada through its literature and the arts, while coming to know and appreciate Canadian authors and artists.

LOCATION: AC – Kennedy Building Room 119

CLASS LIMIT: 65

GROUP LEADER: Marcia Tannenbaum lived in rural Quebec and Ottawa, Ontario, from 1981-1986, during which time she developed a deep respect for and appreciate of Canadian literature, the CBC and Winter! In the summer of 2017, she revisited the cities of Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal in an effort to update her own Canadian experience and develop a new appreciation of our friendly neighbor to the North.

BOOKS (required): *Prayers of a Very Wise Child*, by Roch Carrier: ISBN: 0-14-014916-3; *Bachelor Brothers Bed and Breakfast* by Bill Richardson, ISBN: 0312171838; *What We Aren't Told*, ed. Carol Shields and Marjorie Anderson ISBN: 0-679-31071-1. Before first class, read the article by Richard Foot on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms @thecanadianencyclopedia.ca

D16. Why the Cold War Wasn't so Hot

Thursdays 2:45 –4:15 pm

March 22, April 5, 12, 19, 26

This course will examine the political and public assumptions that sustained the Cold War from Truman to Reagan and from Stalin to Gorbachev. We will also speculate on alternative scenarios. Topics will include world views; the Khrushchev dilemma; McCarthy to MAD; the strange flight of Barnhad Rust; and what did we get for our ten trillion?

LOCATION: Southgate at Shrewsbury Retirement Community, 30 Julio Drive, Shrewsbury 01545

CLASS LIMIT: 50

GROUP LEADER: Jed Watters was a history professor at Assumption and WPI for more than 30 years. He is a retired naval officer and analyst at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

BOOK (required): www.historyguide.org/europe/kennan.html (read George Kennan, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct")

D17. What Is an American?

Thursdays 5:00 – 6:30 pm

March 22, April 5, 12, 19, 26

During this divisive time, we are facing impassioned and often noisy discussions about what it means to be an American and whose country is it, anyway? In this course, we'll look at the idea of American citizenship from the colonial times and early Republic through to the modern era. We will walk about American history and culture, but we'll also have a chance to reflect and reconsider our own personal notions of being Americans. Topics will include the American nation seen by the founders and visitors, the making, breaking and remaking of America, race immigration and hyphenated identity, society and the individual.

LOCATION: AC – Kennedy Building Room 119

CLASS LIMIT: 65

GROUP LEADER: Karl Hakkarainen is the WISE 2nd Vice President and technology advisor to WISE. He has taught WISE courses on learning and technology, intellectual property, the news business, social networks, music and radio.

BOOKS (required): Articles may be found online and will be available from the instructor before class begins.

D18. Tower Hill: A Walking Tour

Fridays 10:00 – 11:30 am

April 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4

Join John Trexler for a fascinating tour of Tower Hill Botanical Garden. Learn all the behind-the-scenes secrets of this extraordinary landscape.

LOCATION: Tower Hill Botanical Garden, 11 French Drive, Boylston 01505 – Farmhouse Meeting Room

CLASS LIMIT: 22

GROUP LEADER: John Trexler is an Executive Director Emeritus of the Worcester County Horticultural Society and Founding Director of Tower Hill Botanical Garden.

BOOK (optional): *Tower Hill: The First Twenty-five Years* by John Trexler ISBN: 978-0-9978482-1-2

D19. World War I

Fridays 10 - 11:30 p.m.

March 23, April 6, 13, 20, 27

A centennial look at the enormously destructive war in Europe with an emphasis on the American involvement. Arguably World War I was the first modern war, with initial versions of many new weapons which would further develop in the future. A review of how the conflict dramatically changed the political and territorial landscape of Europe. Topics will

include The Western Front, America-the reluctant ally, Kaiserschlact-Germany's last offensive, the American home front, and the Treaty of Versailles.

LOCATION: Southgate at Shrewsbury Retirement Community, 30 Julio Drive, Shrewsbury 01545

CLASS LIMIT: 50

GROUP LEADER: Dr. John Ferriss retired from the University of Mass. Medical School. He is a long-time history enthusiast and a train buff! In retirement, he completed a Master of Arts degree in Military History from Norwich University.

D20. Films of the Forties

Fridays 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

March 23, April 6, 13, 20, 27

Spanning everything from the directorial debuts of John Huston and Elia Kazan to the light adventures of Andy Hardy and the dark stories of Film Noir, the movies of this decade were unlike those of any other decade. Join us as we examine the themes, historic forces, Hollywood trends, and foreign influences (e.g. Fellini and De Sica) that defined and shaped our motion pictures before, during, and after American's sudden entry into World War II.

LOCATION: AC – Kennedy Hall, Room 119

Class limit: 65

GROUP LEADER: Jeffrey Long has been writing movie reviews for the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* since 2008 and teaches undergraduate film studies at Becker College. He is also the author of *Remembered Childhoods* (2007), a guide to coming-of-age memoirs and films.

D21. The Rest of Gilbert and Sullivan - REPEAT

Fridays 3:15 – 4:45 p.m.

March 23, April 6, 13, 20, 27

Many people are familiar with the "Big 3" Gilbert and Sullivan operettas: *HMS Pinafore*, *Pirates of Penzance* and *The Mikado*. This course will acquaint you with several of the lesser-known-and just as marvelous works of this famous Victorian duo.

LOCATION: AC – Kennedy Hall, Room 119

Class limit: 65

GROUP LEADER: Victor Saffrin has a BA in Theater from SUNY Albany and was a master electrician for the Light Opera of Manhattan. He has taught WISE courses in a variety of subjects.

Parking: Members parking a car at Assumption College must purchase a parking permit for the 2017-2018 academic year. Members need to fill out a form and submit with a \$15 check in the WISE office. Members then pick up their permits at the office of Campus Police/Public Safety located in Kennedy Hall. **Carpooling is encouraged.**

Membership Dues: WISE Members are encouraged to register early. **Dues must be paid before course selection.** Payment can be made online (<http://assumptionwise.org>), by phone or by check (made out to: Assumption College/WISE) for full-year (\$250) or half-year (\$150) membership, upgrade in spring to full-year (\$100). Checks can be sent to the WISE office at any time prior to the opening of registration.

Courtesy: We respectfully ask that you select only courses that you have the ability to attend. Some courses may have waiting lists. Members who select a course that they do not attend may prevent a fellow member who really wants to take that course. If you find that you cannot attend a course that you selected, please notify the WISE office to have yourself removed from the class roster. If you filled out a registration form in person or mailed a registration form, please contact the office immediately. Your consideration in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Financial Aid: WISE has a small fund for **partial scholarships**. Application forms may be sent to the WISE Treasurer, c/o Assumption College/WISE, 500 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609.

Cancellations: Any individual class cancellations due to inclement weather are announced on the **WISE Office voicemail: 508-767-7513**. Although rare in occurrence, courses may be cancelled due to low enrollment or other unusual circumstances. Communications of such circumstances will be relayed via email or phone by a representative of WISE.

WISE Office Information:

- Location:** Assumption College, La Maison Hall, Room 203B
- Hours** Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00am-2:00pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00am-2:00pm
- Phone** (508) 767-7513
- Email** wise@assumption.edu
- Web** <http://assumptionwise.org/>
- Mail** WISE, Assumption College, 500 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA. 01609

WISE Save the Dates

Special Events for the 25th Anniversary

Check your email and mail for announcements and invitations to the following events

April 4, 2018

“The Art and Science of a Resilient, Happy Life”
by Maria Sirois Psy.D, positive psychologist,
International speaker and Ted lecturer, author of *A Short Course in Happiness* and *Every Day Counts*

May 23, 2018

25th Anniversary Celebration reception on the Assumption College Campus

June 7, 2018

WISE Annual Meeting, Assumption College campus



WORCESTER INSTITUTE FOR SENIOR EDUCATION – 2018 Registration

Name _____ Phone _____ Cell _____

Address _____ E-Mail _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Emergency Contact: Name _____ Phone _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

1. Indicate Your Membership Category.

Upgrade to a Full-year membership - \$100_____ (extends membership to June 30, 2018)

Half-year membership - \$150 _____ (January 1, 2018 – June 30, 2018)

If you are selecting courses yourself online, please skip to item 4.

2. Enter Course Numbers (Example A5, B3) In Order Of Preference. (Skip this if you selected courses online.)

Since some courses fill early, please list all alternative courses you may be interested in.

Session C Course

1st choice _____

2nd choice _____

3rd choice _____

4th choice _____

5th choice _____

Session D Course

1st choice _____

2nd choice _____

3rd choice _____

4th choice _____

5th choice _____

Session C: Feb. 5–March 7, 2018

Session D: March 26–April 28, 2018

3. Important - Please Complete:

If all of your above choices are available to you, how many courses do you want to take for each session?

Please do not state more than you will actually show up for.

Session C: _____ Session D: _____

4. Check a Committee or Area of Interest. Visit the WISE website to read descriptions of these volunteer opportunities:

Outreach ____ Curriculum ____ Communications ____ Class Assistant ____ Special Events ____

Mail or return paper registrations by December 4th. Mailed in course selections will be recorded on December 7th, beginning at 9:00am. Online course selections will open on December 7th, beginning at 12:01am. Registrations after December 7th are accepted for courses with available space. You will receive a confirmation email for every course in which you have enrolled. Course schedules will be mailed prior to the start of the spring term.

PLEASE COMPLETE, COPY, AND RETURN THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT (if appropriate) TO:

WISE, Assumption College, 500 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609

Office Use Only: Amount Received: \$_____ Date Received: _____ Cash: _____ Check: _____

**Worcester Institute
for Senior Education
Assumption College
500 Salisbury Street
Worcester, MA 01609
508-767-7513**

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Spring 2018 Course Catalog