



Spring 2021 Online Program

About WISE

<https://assumptionwise.org/aboutwise>

WISE is a nonprofit member driven organization founded in 1993. As a member of the Road Scholar Lifelong Learning Network, our premier lifelong learning program offers adult intellectual stimulation, leadership opportunities and personal growth.

About Lifelong Learning

Lifelong learning offers many benefits to our members who seek engagement and meaning in retirement. Major benefits include:

- Perpetuating education of older learners*
- Increasing an understanding of self & society*
- Promoting an active and engaged lifestyle*
- Opportunity to expand social circles*
- Utilizing lifelong work skills in leadership opportunities*



Join Our Community Online

<https://assumptionwise.org/join>

We invite you to join our active community by becoming a Spring member. Read through the information contained in this catalog and contact the WISE office if you have any questions. We look forward to your participation and engagement with our organization utilizing our new online format.

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Membership Fees

Fees are paid online through your WISE account: \$165 for spring membership, if you are a fall member you can pay \$100 to upgrade to a full year membership. If you are not already a WISE member, you can become one on our website at <https://assumptionwise.org/> click on the icon on the upper right of the home page and follow the prompts.

Registration

<https://assumptionwise.org/courses>

Online Registration begins January 6, 2021. All participants must pay membership fees prior to registering for classes. With our security features, only paid and registered members will have access to the Zoom link for courses page on the WISE website.

Zoom Information

For general help with Zoom, refer to the Zoom application information website at <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>.

Zoom & Registration Assistance

We are conducting **WISE Zoom Coffee Hours on Mondays from 9-10 am** for help on the registration process, website navigation and Zoom application that we are using for online classes. Enjoy your coffee or tea while you receive some tips during these informative sessions. After you set up your account, click on <https://assumptionwise.org/using-Zoom> for the Zoom link. We look forward to meeting you!

WISE Benefits

The WISE membership includes no limits for course enrollments, access to clubs and groups, free WISE lectures, free Assumption University events and eligibility to volunteer for WISE leadership roles.

New Member Information

Once you join WISE, you will receive an email receipt for membership enrollment, a payment confirmation, a Member Guide and an invitation to the next WISE Zoom Coffee Break session. If you join close to the next scheduled New Member Orientation session, we will email an invitation. If you do not receive this information within a few business days, reach out to us at wise@assumption.edu.



Spring 2021 Academic Calendar

January 6, 2021:	Registration for WISE Spring 2021 term
January 25, 2021:	New Member Orientation
February 1, 2021:	Session C classes begin
March 5, 2021:	Session C classes end
March 22, 2021:	Session D classes begin
April 30, 2021:	Session D classes end

***Please click on <https://assumptionwise.org/events> for free WISE lectures, Clubs and Special Interest Group meetings and free Assumption University event dates**

Answers to WISE FAQ

Course Selection: WISE members may register for as many online courses as they wish. There are many interesting courses listed in this catalog, and we ask that you carefully review each topic before making your choices. WISE is pleased to offer online classes utilizing the Zoom platform that allows us to increase the number of registrants in a class without needing to create a waitlist. If you find that you cannot participate in a course that you selected, please notify the WISE office.

Holidays: WISE follows the Assumption University holiday calendar. If the University is closed, the WISE staff will also not be available

on that day. Members are informed of holiday closures by email, on the WISE website <https://assumptionwise.org/events> and announced in classes.

Cancellations: Any individual class cancellations and make-up class meetings are announced by email and posted on the WISE website. Courses may be cancelled due to low enrollment or other unusual circumstances.

Refund Policy: Refund requests before classes begin will be considered and reviewed by the WISE Director.



WISE Office Information

Location	Campus access is currently restricted; please use email address listed below
Hours	Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-2:00pm, Friday, 9:00am -12:00pm
Email	wise@assumption.edu
Website	http://assumptionwise.org/
Voicemail	(508) 767-7513

WISE Clubs & Special Interest Groups

Clubs <https://assumptionwise.org/WISE-Clubs>

WISE clubs provide stimulation as well as social interaction around shared activities for interested WISE members. Volunteers organize club related events with support of volunteer coordinators. All clubs meet online via Zoom.

Movie Club organized and coordinated by Bobbi Corn

Periodically throughout the year the Movie Club members view movies on their own and meet online for lively discussions. Announcements are made about the movies well in advance.

Book Club organized and coordinated by Joyce Abdow-Dowd

Five times during the year members of the Book Club meet online to discuss books selected by a committee of WISE members. The books include contemporary, classic and historical fiction and memoirs. Each book online discussion is led by a volunteer.

Non-Fiction Book Club organized and coordinated by Bill Forbes

Five times during the year members of the Non-Fiction Book Club meet online to discuss books selected by a committee of WISE members. Each book online discussion is led by a volunteer.

WISE Writing Club organized and coordinated by Josette Kaplan

This group is designed for members interested in honing their writing skills in a collaborative and supportive online setting that meets once a month to share individual work.

Special Interest Groups <https://assumptionwise.org/WISE-SIGs>

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) focus on a specific subject matter and are organized by an expert in the field and coordinated by a volunteer. These are informal, self-directed, and may involve experts and activists in the subject matter. The SIGs meet monthly online via Zoom.

Supreme Court SIG organized by Jack Ross and coordinated by Joe Corn

This group focuses on a series of Supreme Court decisions that have been recently or currently handed down. Jack Ross, a WISE Group Leader with extensive legal training and background, facilitates the online discussion and supplies background information for each case.

Energy and the Environment SIG organized by Pete Murphy and coordinated by Michael Fishbein

The focus of this group is on energy production and the effect on the climate and environment. Under the expertise of Pete Murphy, the members of the SIG will discuss public policy about energy production, use, and conservation, now and in the future to protect the environment.

If you are interested in joining a club or group, contact us at wise@assumption.edu

WISE Instructor Profiles for Spring 2021

Instructor emails can be found on our password protected Directory here <https://assumptionwise.org/directory>

B

Richard Bonanno is an Italian language professor in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Cultures and directs the Italian Studies program at Assumption University. He holds a Ph.D. in Italian from Rutgers University and is passionate about Italian culture, especially the timeless masterworks of art and literature.

COURSE: C11. The Divine Comedy

C

Martha Chiarchiaro received her Master's degree in the History of Art from Williams College and teaches a variety of art history courses at WISE and other local organizations. She enjoys delivering courses related to specific periods, artists, and activities that provide a more in-depth look at the life and times of the people who are part of the exploration.

COURSES: C4. World Expositions in the 19th Century - How We Learned What's New in the World and **D8. The 1913 Armory Show - Modern Art Comes to America**



Joe Choiniere is a lifelong naturalist with a BS in Natural History from UMass/Amherst. He has taught hundreds of natural history classes and workshops and has been an instructor for Fitchburg State University.

COURSE: D15. Winter Botany: Trees

Joe Corn spent most of his professional career working as an engineer. He has also taught in the NYC school system, Springfield Technical Community College, Penn State University and worked as a technical instructor for Moore Products. Joe, a former WISE President, has taught several music and technology courses for WISE.

COURSE: D3. Great Movie Music



Lillian Corti has a degree in Italian and French from Brooklyn College and a doctorate in Comparative Literature at the City University of New York. She taught Italian at the Foreign Language Institute in New York and taught literature in translation at Tulsa University, the University of Alaska Fairbanks and in Macerata, Italy for a Study Abroad program.

COURSE: C2. Giovanni Boccaccio's Decameron (10 Week Course)

F

Rabbi Aviva Fellman serves Congregation Beth Israel. She is collaborating this year with Mona Ives who is an adult religious instructor, Islamic teacher, interfaith activist, and president of a local non-profit agency and Fr. Dave Woessner, the Rector of St. Michael's-on-the-Heights Episcopal Church. They have served in ministry and education for many years.

COURSE: C3. Jewish, Christian and Muslim Religious Life during the Pandemic

Dr. John Ferriss retired from the University of Massachusetts Medical School in 2011. He is a long-time history enthusiast and a railroad/train buff. He completed a Master of Arts degree in Military History from Norwich University, VT in 2016.

COURSE: C6. WWII in the Pacific: Island Hopping 1942-1944

G

Martha Gach is Education Manager and Conservation Coordinator at Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Conservation Center and Wildlife Sanctuary and an instructor at Worcester State University. She has a PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and taught in the Peace Corps in Central Africa.

COURSE: D4. Habitats of Massachusetts

H

Karl Hakkarainen is the Technology Adviser for WISE. He has taught courses covering a variety of topics including politics, digital literacy, social networks, history, music, and intellectual property law. He enjoys spending time with his granddaughters who ask him for advice about computers and cellphones.

COURSES: C1. 2120 South Michigan Avenue - The Story of Chess Records and D6. Marshall McLuhan - Prophet of Zoom



L



Dr. Lawrence Lifshitz received a BA in Physics from Harvard University in 1980 and a Ph.D. in Computer Science from UNC in 1987. He taught courses at UMass Medical School from 1987-2020. His specialty areas are computer vision, computer graphics, mathematical modeling, and bioinformatics. Over the years, he has continued to read about topics in physics such as Relativity and Black Holes.

COURSE: D13. Einstein's Special and General Relativity for the Non-Scientist

Jeff Long has taught courses at WISE since 2014. He was an instructor of film studies at Becker College, has reviewed movies for the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, and has authored the coming-of-age memoir guide, *Remembered Childhoods* (2007).

COURSE: C16. Coming-of-Age Films

M

Rosemary McCarthy has a Master of Arts in Journalism from the University of Nevada, Reno where she was also Assistant Professor from 2002 - 2012 and taught an undergraduate Travel Journalism course for several years. She also has broadcast experience in television and radio.

COURSE: D10. Travel with Words: Essays About the World

N

David Nevard attended UMass-Amherst and worked as an IT professional for over 30 years. Since retirement, David has been an instructor at WISE and other organizations. His courses have included *Europe's Lost and Found: Displaced Persons after World War II*; *Jackie Robinson and the Integration of the Red Sox*; *A Massachusetts Regiment in the Civil War*; and *The Berlin Wall*.

COURSE: D9. Suburbia in Postwar America

O

William O'Brien holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Northeastern University and is Professor Emeritus 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.

COURSE: C7. World Economic History since the Fall of the Berlin Wall

Clare O'Connor received her Ph.D. from Purdue University and did postdoctoral research at Caltech and UCLA. She was a research scientist at the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology for 11 years, before becoming a Biology professor at Boston College. She taught courses in biochemistry, genetics and cell biology for 23 years before she retired.

COURSE: D5. A Brief and Basic Overview of the Human Immune System

P

Sheryl Pereira is a Birding Instructor and coordinator of Visitor Services at Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary. She is a longtime birdwatcher and enjoys caring for birds, especially the cardinals. When not birding or managing the MA Audubon front desk, Sheryl enjoys sharing her knowledge of ornithology with her grandchildren.

COURSE: C14. Introduction to Bird Watching

Virginia 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.

COURSE: D16. How to Read Art

R

Benjamin Railton is a Professor of English and American Studies at Fitchburg State University and the author of six books. Recently he published *Of Thee I Sing: The Contested History of American Patriotism*, 2021. He maintains a daily blog, contributes articles to many sites including *Saturday Evening Post Considering History* column and is a Boston chapter leader of the Scholars Strategy Network organization at <https://scholars.org/>.

COURSE: C9. Racism and Antiracism in American History



John (Jack) Ross holds degrees from Yale University and the University of Virginia School of Law and served as Adjunct Professor of Law at Washington & Lee University. He has taught several courses for WISE on constitutional law topics.

COURSES: C13. Religion and the Constitution and D12. Beyond Heller: Gun Control and the Second Amendment

S

Richard Schmitt was born in Germany and forced to leave because he was Jewish. He emigrated to the US and earned degrees from Chicago and Yale. He has taught philosophy for 65 years at various colleges including Brown University and Worcester State University. He is 93 years old and has taught WISE classes for more than 20 years.

COURSE: C8. Getting Old (10 Week Course)

Rev. Gary Shahinian is the Intentional Interim Pastor of the Federated Church of Charlton. He most recently completed 20 years of service at Park Congregational Church in Worcester. He has a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Vrije Universiteit and taught courses at Redeemer College in Ontario, Dordt College in Iowa and Worcester State U.

COURSES: C15. How to Read the Bible and D14. Christianity and Culture

Bill Shelley is a retired software engineer with a lifelong love of art and history. Since becoming a docent at the Worcester Art Museum, he has enjoyed sharing these interests with others on museum tours and classes.

COURSE: D16. How to Read Art

T

Marcia Tannenbaum is a local mediator, attorney and educator. She is a graduate of the University of Connecticut School of Law where she produced an Independent Study Project on Leo Frank. While teaching at Nichols College, she taught courses on Law and Literature and the Literature from the Holocaust. She currently volunteers for the ARC (Attorneys Representing Children) program.

COURSE: C10. The Incomparable Ruth Bader Ginsburg: Her Life and Legacy



W

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 pursued further graduate study at Ohio State University. She is professor emerita at Quinsigamond Community College with teaching and administrative roles during her thirty-six year tenure.

COURSE: C5. Imposters, Con Artists and Their Webs of Deception

Jed Watters is a former Assumption University history professor, retired naval officer and veteran of Selma and Vietnam. He has provided instruction for WISE courses for several years.

COURSE: D1. The Endless Civil War: Debunking the Myth of "The Lost Cause"

Helen Whall After finishing her Ph.D. at Yale University, Helen joined the faculty at The College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. There she taught Shakespeare and the Renaissance as well as modern drama. Since retiring in 2017, Helen has offered several courses for WISE.

COURSES: C12. Shall We Laugh? Two Dramatic Comedies and D11. Shakespeare and the Sonnet

WISE Course Selections for Spring Term 2021

Some class meeting dates may change, click here for the updates <https://assumptionwise.org/courses>

C Session: February/March

C1. 2120 South Michigan Avenue - The Story of Chess Records

Mondays 10:00 - 11:30 am

February 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1

Two Jewish immigrants, Leonard and Phil Chess, came from Poland to Chicago and established one of the most important music labels in American history. The Chess brothers produced sparse, raw recordings of artists such as Chuck Berry, Muddy Walters, Etta James, Benny Goodman, Howlin' Wolf, The Four Tops, Irma Thomas, John Lee Hooker, and Art Neville. We'll study the music and explore connections to Memphis, New Orleans, Detroit, and London, as well as the lasting impact of Chess Records on rock and roll, blues, jazz, R&B, pop, and all that followed. The course title comes from the only instrumental recorded by the Rolling Stones, a tribute to the address of Chess Studios in the 1960s.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Karl Hakkarainen, see Instructor profile on page 5

OPTIONAL BOOK: *Machers and Rockers: Chess Records and the Business of Rock & Roll*, W.W. Norton, 2004. ISBN: 9780393052800

C2. Giovanni Boccaccio's Decameron (10 Week Course)

Mondays 1:00 - 2:30 pm

February 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1, and March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19

Set in fourteenth-century Florence during the bubonic plague, Giovanni Boccaccio's *Decameron* begins with a haunting description of the plague-stricken city. The story continues with an introduction to ten young people who meet at a church one morning and decide to evade the black death by leaving town. They spend their afternoons telling stories so that paradoxically the grim opening scene of the novel ushers in a collection of entertaining stories. A treasure of World Literature, *The Decameron* has inspired works by Geoffrey Chaucer, Marguerite de Navarre, William Shakespeare, Gotthold Lessing and Charles Perrault. We will read the basic story and tales told by Boccaccio's charming young refugees from the plague.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Lillian Corti, see Instructor profile on page 4

REQUIRED BOOK: Giovanni Boccaccio, *The Decameron*, translated by G.H. McWilliam, Penguin Press. ISBN: 9780140449303

C3. Jewish, Christian and Muslim Religious Life during the Pandemic

Mondays 3:00 - 4:30 pm

February 1, 8, 15, 22 March 1

This brief course will explore how some of our local religious communities have adapted and continued to thrive during the Covid-19 pandemic. From transitioning worship sessions to Zoom and Facebook to providing pastoral care and education while wearing protective gear, we will reflect on how Covid-19 has changed our conceptions of religious connection as well as our theologies.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTORS: Rabbi Aviva Fellman, Mona Ives and Fr. Dave Woessner, see Instructor profiles on page 4

NO REQUIRED BOOKS

C4. World Expositions in the 19th Century - How We Learned What's New in the World

Tuesdays 10:00 - 11:30 am

February 2, 9, 16, 23 March 2

World Expositions in the 19th century was a showcase for innovations across industry and culture. We'll explore ten of the most influential Expositions from 1851 to 1904 held in England, France, and the United States. From demonstrations of the telephone, motion pictures, prototypes of the Colt revolver, an early fax machine to Annie Oakley, Winslow Homer and the first Olympics in the United States, we'll see how World Expositions changed our understanding of the world.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Martha Chiarchiaro , see Instructor profile on page 4

NO REQUIRED BOOKS

C5. Imposters, Con Artists and Their Webs of Deception

Tuesdays 1:00 - 2:30 pm

February 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2

In the history of humankind, we often detect unusually clever personalities who assume a double life or use fraudulent methods to deceive the innocent for their own purposes. The motive for such deception may be to escape capture and punishment for a crime, to gain power, prestige and wealth, or simply to gain satisfaction in duping someone in a high position. We will study the lives of these imposters and artists, many of whom have been exposed and brought justice including James (Whitey) Bulger, the Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann, Clark Rockefeller, Jim Bakker, the Piltdown Man hoax and many others.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Margaret Watson see Instructor profile on page 6

NO REQUIRED BOOKS

C6. WWII in the Pacific: Island Hopping 1942-1944

Tuesdays 3:00 - 4:30 pm

February 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2

The "road" to Japan was provided by "steppingstones." Some of these stones are virtually forgotten, others have monuments in Washington. The Pacific theater never achieved a unified allied command and recognition like the European theater achieved. Topics will include MacArthur's New Guinea campaign, Guadalcanal & Tarawa, Saipan & Guam and Iwo Jima.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. John Ferriss, see Instructor profile on page 4

NO REQUIRED BOOKS

C7. World Economic History since the Fall of the Berlin Wall

Tuesdays 5:00 - 6:30 pm

February 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2

In 1989, the Berlin Wall fell and soon after the USSR dissolved. Capitalism appeared ascendant. In this course, we will look at changes in the world economy over the ensuing 30 years focusing on the US, UK, Russia, China, Japan, and Germany, but we will also look at former Soviet bloc and developing countries to see how they have used economic policies to influence their economies.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: William O'Brien, see Instructor profile on page 5

NO REQUIRED BOOKS

FOR THE FIRST CLASS: Please review this survey before class:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/world-economic-and-social-survey-archive-1990-1999/>

C8. Getting Old (10 Week Course)

Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:30 am

February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, and March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21

All of us are “elderly.” But what does that mean? People experience these years of their lives differently. Inspired by different readings, the group will explore different aspects of aging, advantages and disadvantages. We will share our experiences and consider different ideas about enhancing the advantages of old age and minimizing the effects of the losses we unavoidably experience.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Richard Schmitt, see Instructor profile on page 6

REQUIRED BOOKS: *The Death of Ivan Ilych* by Leo Tolstoy, *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway and *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande. Please select any edition or format.

C9. Racism and Antiracism in American History

Wednesdays 1:00 - 2:30 pm

February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3

Racism and concurrent racist policies, laws, events and histories have been a defining feature of American history. But so, have antiracist figures and communities that challenge those racist trends and push for an alternative vision of America. In this class, we’ll trace five case studies focusing on both racism and antiracism in American history.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Benjamin Railton, see Instructor profile on page 6

OPTIONAL BOOKS: Isabel Wilkerson, *Caste*; Ibram Kendi, *Stamped from the Beginning*; Erika Lee, *America for Americans*; David Treuer, *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee*; Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, *Our America: A Hispanic History of the United States*

C10. The Incomparable Ruth Bader Ginsburg: Her Life and Legacy

Wednesdays 3:00 - 4:30 pm

February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3

The late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was the second woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court which she did with great distinction for 27 years until her recent passing. She was the first woman and the first Jew to be honored lying in state prior to her burial at Arlington National Cemetery. We will follow her journey from James Madison High School in Brooklyn, NY to the highest Court in the land.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Marcia Tannenbaum, see Instructor profile on page 6

REQUIRED BOOK: *My Own Words* Ruth Bader Ginsburg by Harnett and Williams, Simon and Schuster, August 2018. ISBN: 9781501145254.

FOR FIRST CLASS: Please read the Preface of *My Own Words* and an obituary of the late Justice Ginsburg from the *New York Times*, *the Washington Post*, *the Boston Globe* or other newspaper.

C11. The Divine Comedy

Thursdays 10:00 - 11:30 am

February 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4

The course consists of a close reading of “Inferno” in the *Divine Comedy*, the first canticle of the 14th century masterwork. We will follow Dante Alighieri, the great Florentine poet and statesman on the first stage of his redemptive voyage through hell. This year we commemorate the 700th anniversary of the poet's death, which makes it an ideal time to revisit this literary classic.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Richard Bonanno, see Instructor profile on page 4

REQUIRED BOOK: Alighieri, Dante. *Inferno*. Bantam Classics, 2009. ISBN: 9780553213393.

FOR THE FIRST CLASS: Prepare for *Inferno*, canti I-XII

C12. Shall We Laugh? Two Dramatic Comedies

Thursdays 1:00 - 2:30 pm

February 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4

This course will discuss important aspects of dramatic comedy. We will look closely at two very important English Comedies performed in the same year (1895). George Bernard Shaw's *Candida* and Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Both plays are still greatly admired and frequently performed. They could not, however, be more different in how and why they pursue laughter.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Helen Whall, see Instructor profile on page 6

REQUIRED BOOKS: *Candida*, by George Bernard Shaw, 2019. ISBN: 9781088987759

The Importance of Being Earnest, Oscar Wilde, 2015. ISBN: 9781514695043

READING FOR FIRST CLASS: Read Act I of *Candida*

C13. Religion and the Constitution

Thursday 3:00 - 4:30 pm

February 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4

This course will address the treatment of religion and religious beliefs under various clauses of the First Amendment. We will first examine the Establishment Clause doctrine and explore the increasing tolerance for religious expressions in public life under recent decisions of the Supreme Court. We will also examine how the Roberts Court's embrace of religious rights under the Free Exercise Clause, the Freedom of Speech Clause, and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act are redefining the traditional separation between government and religious organizations as well as the application of nondiscrimination laws, health regulations, and the regulation of corporate entities.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: John S. Ross, III, see Instructor profile on page 6

REQUIRED BOOK: *Divided by God: America's Church State Problem and What We Should Do About It*, by Noah Feldman, 2006. ISBN: 978-0374530389.

C14. Introduction to Bird Watching

Fridays 10:00 - 11:30 am

February 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5

Have you ever seen a bird and wondered what it was? Have you been trying to figure out who was singing outside? If so, this class is for you. Through interactive digital presentations, we will learn about typical New England backyard birds; their songs, behavior, feeding preferences and seasonal activity. You will learn methods to strengthen your identification and observation skills so you can appreciate wild, winged visitors even more. Topics include identification, birdsong, feeding birds, migration, other survival strategies and conservation.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Sheryl Pereira, see Instructor profile on page 5

NO REQUIRED BOOKS

C15. How to Read the Bible

Fridays 1:00 - 2:30 pm

February 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5

The Bible is the most read book in Western civilization and the foundational document of faith for the Christian religion. It is not a single book, but a collection of 66 books (more according to Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox believers) written over a period of 1200 years. Originally written in the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek languages, it has been translated into hundreds of different languages around the world. Those who hold to the sacredness of scripture and its inspiration by God usually find many of its stories and teachings confusing. This course will explore a helpful way to approach the Bible, so it ceases to be puzzling or intimidating, but instead yields coherent and comforting messages. We will explore the redemptive focus of the Bible, the nature of its authority, its interpretation in the context of the nature of truth and the findings of higher criticism. We will also review a summary of the individual books of the Bible, their author and date.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Rev. Dr. Gary Shahinian, see Instructor profile on page 6

REQUIRED BOOK: The Bible in one of the following translations: King James Version (KJV), Revised Standard Version (RSV), New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), New International Version (NIV), or the New American Standard Bible (NASB).

C16. Coming-of-Age Films

Fridays 3:00 - 4:30 pm

February 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5

We will learn about, view, and discuss coming-of-age films whose themes articulate, satirize, or otherwise subvert the customary tropes of this genre. We will also note which directors and actors have gravitated towards this type of production. Specifically, we will discuss the following films (in this following order), which you will be responsible for having seen outside of class: *Shoeshine (1946)* (*Amazon Prime Availability*); *The River (1951)* (*Amazon Prime Availability*); *Tiger Bay (1959)* (*Amazon Prime Availability*); *Pelle the Conqueror (1987)* (*Amazon Prime Availability*); *Ghost World (2001)* (*Amazon Prime Availability*).

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Jeff Long, see Instructor profile on page 5

NO REQUIRED BOOKS

D Session: March/April

D1. The Endless Civil War: Debunking the Myth of “The Lost Cause”

Mondays 10:00 - 11:30 am

March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19

This course will look at how the South’s military defeat in the American Civil War was transformed into the ostensible moral and cultural views of the “cause” and how they have come to shape current American political, economic and social divisions. Topics will include KKK, Plessy v. Ferguson, the New Deal.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Jed Watters, see Instructor profile on page 6

NO REQUIRED BOOKS

D2. Giovanni Boccaccio’s Decameron (Continued from C2)

Mondays 1:00-2:30 pm

February 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1, and March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19

ZOOM LINK: Sent to paid and registered members before the start of the course.

CLASS LIMIT: 95

D3. Great Movie Music

Mondays 3:00 - 4:30 pm

March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19

What do John Williams, Max Steiner, Maurice Jarre, Elmer Bernstein, Jerry Goldsmith, Dimitri Tiomkin, John Barry, James Horner, Alfred Newman, Andre Previn, and Vangelis all have in common? They have all written some of the most memorable music for films - from *Titanic* to *Exodus*. From *Star Wars* to *Gone With the Wind*. From *On the Waterfront* to *The Magnificent Seven* to *Mission Impossible*. This course will examine the lives and notable contributions these and other great composers have made to our most beloved films.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Joe Corn, see Instructor profile on page 4

NO REQUIRED BOOKS

D4. Habitats of Massachusetts

Tuesdays 10:00 - 11:30 am

March 23, 30 April 6, 13, 20

Massachusetts is blessed with a varied topography and underlying geology that sets the state for incredible habitat diversity and, in turn, biodiversity. This class will survey the major habitats of Massachusetts, considering the natural and anthropogenic forces that shape the landscape, the unique characteristics of each habitat type, their flora, fauna, and conservation challenges including climate change.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Martha Gach, see Instructor profile on page 4

NO REQUIRED BOOKS

D5. An Introduction to the Human Immune System

Tuesdays 1:00 - 2:30 pm

March 23, 30, April 6, 13, 20

This course will provide a brief introduction to the human immune system, which protects us from a wide range of pathogens and foreign substances. Effective immune responses require the coordinated activities of multiple kinds of white blood cells, including lymphocytes that produce antibodies. Vertebrates are unique in possessing an adaptive immune response in addition to the more widely distributed innate immune system. Following an initial exposure to a foreign agent, an adaptive immune response becomes stronger as more potent antibodies appear. The immune system can also overreact, with some negative health consequences. We'll use the COVID pandemic as an organizing point for some of these discussions.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Clare O'Connor, see Instructor profile on page 5

NO REQUIRED BOOKS

D6. Marshall McLuhan - Prophet of Zoom

Tuesdays 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

March 23, 30 April 6, 13, 20

Marshall McLuhan, 1911-1980, was born more than a decade before his city, Edmonton, Alberta, had a radio station. He left this world at the start of the Internet age. In that time, he chronicled and prophesied, distilling his long discourses into tidy aphorisms (probes, he called them), only to flip them on their heads. "The medium is the message" became *The Medium Is the Message*. Advertising is at once a cruel drug and our most enduring art form. Education now moves from discrete and unrelated subjects to broad, integrated pattern recognition. "You don't like those ideas?" he reminded us. "I got others!"

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Karl Hakkarainen, see Instructor profile on page 5

OPTIONAL BOOK: *Understanding Media: The Extension of Man*, Marshall McLuhan, ISBN: 978-0262631594.

D7. Getting Old (Continued from C8)

Wednesdays 10:00-11:30 am

February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, and March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21

CLASS LIMIT: 95

D8. The 1913 Armory Show – Modern Art Comes to America

Wednesdays 1:00 - 2:30 pm

March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21

The 1913 Armory Show, also known as the International Exhibition of Modern Art, was the first large exhibition of modern art in America. We'll learn how the exhibition came about to tour in New York, Chicago, and Boston. We'll also explore what American and European works of art were "modern" in 1913. The impact of the Armory Show on contemporary and future American artists will also be examined.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Martha Chiarichiaro, see Instructor profile on page 4

NO REQUIRED BOOKS

D9. Suburbia in Postwar America

Wednesdays 3:00 - 4:30 pm

March 24, 31 April 7, 14, 21

Life in America changed profoundly after World War II, with the birth of the modern suburb. In some ways, the Government planned for suburbia with FHA and VA loans encouraging home ownership, and the GI Bill making veterans upwardly mobile. Cars made the suburbs reachable; Levittown and other developments supplied desperately needed housing. Many women left the workplace and raised the generation of Baby Boomers. And there were always outsiders, African Americans and Bohemians trying to break into or out of the suburbia.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: David Nevard, see Instructor profile on page 5

OPTIONAL BOOK: *The Fifties*, by David Halbersta.; Villard 1993. ISBN: 9780679415596. Also available in Paperback, Kindle, and Audible.

D10. Travel with Words: Essays About the World

Thursdays 10:00 - 11:30 am

March 25, April 8, 15, 22, 29

We'll explore and enjoy other places through the works of some of the great travel writers. How is it that they can take us away with words alone? Perhaps we'll figure that out by looking at short works of some of the greats such as Paul Theroux, Freya Stark, Pico Iyer, and Jan Morris. Each session will include brief discussions about the idea of travel writing, including its development, genres, problems and purposes. We will enjoy closely comparing reactions and savoring the trip.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Rosemary McCarthy, see Instructor profile on page 5

NO REQUIRED BOOKS

D11. Shakespeare and the Sonnet

Thursdays 1:00 - 2:30 pm

March 25, April 8, 15, 22, 29

Shakespeare is best known for his plays but many a suitor still turns to his sonnets when trying to win over a beloved. Scholars still argue about the arrangement of his 154 sonnet sequence as well as their autobiographical significance. Who is the young man the speaker addresses? Who is the dark lady? Did Shakespeare invent them? This class will review how England adopted the European sonnet form. We will then study carefully 20 sonnets selected from across the story Shakespeare tells.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Helen Whall, see Instructor profile on page 6

REQUIRED BOOK: Any edition of Shakespeare's complete sonnets (can be found available online).

FOR THE FIRST CLASS: Read Sonnets 3, 12, 17 and 18

D12. Beyond Heller: Gun Control and the Second Amendment

Thursdays 3:00 - 4:30 pm

March 25, April 8, 15, 22, 29

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*, in which the Court recognized an individual right of gun ownership under the Second Amendment, and subsequent decisions by state and federal courts.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: John S. Ross, III, see Instructor profile on page 6

REQUIRED BOOK: *Guns and Control: Nonpartisan Guide to Understanding Mass Public Shootings, Gun Accidents, Crime, Public Carry, Suicides, Defensive Use and More*, Smith, 2020. ISBN: 9781510760073.

OPTIONAL BOOKS: *Gun Fight: The Battle Over Gun Rights in America*, Winkler, 2014. ISBN: 9780393077414. *The Second Amendment: A Biography*, Waldman, 2014. ISBN: 9781476747453.

D13. Einstein's Special and General Relativity for the Non-Scientist

Fridays 10:00 - 11:30 am

March 26, April 9, 16, 23, 30

This course does not expect students to know or remember any mathematics or physics! Much of the discussion will be descriptive or involve "thought" experiments. Time and distance formulas will be presented and well explained to make some concepts clearer, but students will not be expected to derive them or manipulate them. This course will explain many of the astounding and transformational discoveries of Albert Einstein. The concepts covered include Special Relativity, General Relativity, Black Holes, gravity's effect on time, cosmology, the "Big Bang," Time Dilation and Tidal Forces.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Lawrence Lifshitz, see Instructor profile on page 5

NO REQUIRED BOOKS

D14. Christianity and Culture

Fridays 1:00 - 2:30 pm

March 26, April 9, 16, 23, 30

Famed American Protestant theologian H. Richard Niebuhr (1894-1962) wrote a book titled *Christ and Culture* in 1951 in which he set forth the five attitudes throughout history that Christians have adopted toward culture. This seminal work remains a classic articulation of what Niebuhr calls the "enduring problem" of how the church should relate to the wider culture. This course will analyze and discuss the five different positions that Niebuhr discovers in church history, evaluating their strengths and weaknesses.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Rev. Dr. Gary Shahinian see Instructor profile on page 6

REQUIRED BOOK: *Christ and Culture*, H. Richard Niebuhr, Harper & Row. ISBN: 9780061300035

D15. Winter Botany: Trees

Fridays 3:00 - 4:30 pm

March 26, April 9, 16, 23, 30

Late winter is a great time to study trees. The fifty common native trees in our area provide shade and habitat for backyard wildlife and are the primary components of forests for native wildlife. Trees are easy to learn to recognize and identify by their winter characteristics of bark and twigs. By early spring, many trees will begin to flower.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Joe Choiniere, see Instructor profile on page 4

OPTIONAL BOOKS: *Bark: A Field Guide to Trees of the Northeast* by Michael Wojtech, *Tree Identification Book: A New Method for the Practical Identification and Recognition of Trees* by George Symonds and Stephen Chelminsk.

D16. How to Read Art

Wednesdays, 10:00 - 11:30 am

March 24, 31 April 7, 14, 21

Much fine art is the art of storytelling. In this online class, we will view objects in WAM's collection virtually and 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. We will view art of ancient Greece and Rome, the Middle Age, Renaissance, Colonial and early 19th century America and 19th and 20th centuries in America and Europe.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTORS: Virginia Powell-Brasier and Bill Shelley, see instructor profiles on page 6

NO REQUIRED BOOKS

Join us online!



<https://assumptionwise.org/join>