



WISE

Worcester Institute for Senior Education

Summer 2021

Online Program

About WISE

WISE is a nonprofit member driven organization founded in 1993. Serving the central Massachusetts community, WISE is a premier lifelong learning program that offers adult intellectual stimulation and personal growth. WISE is a member of the Road Scholar Lifelong Learning Network.

About Lifelong Learning

Lifelong learning offers many benefits to our members who seek engagement and meaning as an older adult. Major benefits include:

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

Join Our Community Online

We invite you to join our active community by registering for online classes as a Summer Participant. 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 online format.

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Course Fees

Fees are paid online through your WISE account. Individual course fees are \$30 per 3 session course and \$50 per 5 session course. If you do not have a 2021 Summer Participant account, you can create one on our website at <https://assumptionwise.org> , click on the “Join WISE” box and follow the prompts. For assistance, please contact wise@assumption.edu .

Registration

Online Registration begins May 6, 2021. All participants must pay all course fees prior to attending class. Only paid and registered members will receive the Zoom link to the course. Once you register online, you will receive a confirmation email for courses in which you are enrolled. Please see the website information on the next page.



Summer 2021 Academic Calendar

May 6, 2021	Summer Term registration starts
June 14, 2021	Summer Term online classes begins
July 2-5, 2021	WISE Office and Assumption offices closed for July 4 th holiday
July 9, 16, 23, 30	WISE Office and Assumption offices closed
July 15, 2021	Summer Term Ends
August 4, 2021	WISE Fall class listings available on website
August 23, 2021	Registration for WISE Fall 2021 term

Answers to WISE FAQ

Holidays

WISE follows the Assumption University calendar. If the University is closed, the WISE Office will also not be available on that day. Members can view closures in the catalog on page 2 and on the WISE website at <https://assumptionwise.org/>

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 tips. 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!

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. If all meetings of a course are cancelled, a refund will be issued.

Refund Policy

No refunds will be issued after the summer classes have begun.



WISE Office Information

Location	Campus access is currently restricted, please use email address listed below
Hours	Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-2:00 pm and Friday 9:00 am -12:00 pm Please refer to the calendar on pg. 2 for closures and other important dates
Email	wise@assumption.edu
Web	http://assumptionwise.org/
Voicemail	(508) 767-7513

SUMMER ONLINE PROGRAM 2021

S1. Introduction to Evolutionary Biology

Mondays 11:00 - 12:30 pm (3 classes)

June 14, 21, 28

Controversial at its beginning, the theory of evolution is one of those overarching principles that tie together every living creature. This 3-session course will explore the theory from its origin to current understanding, the history of life and some amazing adaptations that organisms have evolved to ensure their success, including working with and in spite of other species. We will consider current challenges such as COVID-19 and climate change through evolutionary lens.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Martha Gach is Education Manager and Conservation Coordinator at Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook in Worcester and teaches climate change at Worcester State University. Her PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (University of Michigan) allows her to profess about evolution and shapes her world perspective.

OPTIONAL READING: On the *Origin of Species* is available in many editions, with many ISBNs including audio books. Recommended version, ISBN: 0674060172. *The Voyage of the Beagle*, ISBN 1619492814, Stephen Jay Gould's essays are available as collections in books, rarely as a single essay. If only reading one essay, *The Panda's Thumb* essay is found on pages 19-25: http://s-f-walker.org.uk/pubsebooks/pdfs/Gould_Stephen_Jay_The_Panda%27s_Thumb.pdf. The entire volume of *The Panda's Thumb* (31 essays) is available in hard copy, ISBN: 0393300234.

S2. America in the Gilded Age

Mondays & Wednesdays 1:00 - 2:30 pm

June 14, 16, 21, 23, 28

Profound and deepening economic inequalities. Widespread state violence and racial terrorism against ethnic minorities. Immigration restrictions based on xenophobia and fear. Activist movements for liberty and justice for all. America in the Gilded Age has a great deal to tell us about America 2021.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Ben Railton is Professor of English Studies and American Studies at Fitchburg State University. He is the author of five books, most recently *We the People: The 500-Year Battle over Who is an American*. He writes a daily American Studies blog and the biweekly "Considering History" column for the Saturday Evening Post online.

NO REQUIRED BOOKS

S3. The Oresteia

Mondays 3:00 - 4:30 pm

June 14, 21, 28 and July 5, 12

Although none of his extant plays are based on either the *Iliad* or the *Odyssey*, Aeschylus said that they were all "slices from the great banquet of Homer," and this claim is nowhere more evident than in the *Oresteia*, the trilogy which dramatizes fateful episodes in the lives of Agamemnon, Clytaemestra, Cassandra, Orestes and Electra. As if that were not enough, the drama also celebrates the origin of democratic institutions in the city-state of Athens. We will read all three plays in this essential masterpiece of dramatic poetry.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTORS: 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.

REQUIRED BOOK: Aeschylus, *Oresteia*, trans. Richmond Lattimore, University of Chicago Press, 1952. ISBN: 9780199537815.

OPTIONAL BOOK: Aristotle, *On Poetry and Poetics*, trans. Grube, Bobbs-Merrill, New York, 1958.

S4. Comedy of the Sexes

Tuesdays 1:00 - 2:30 pm

June 15, 22, 29 July 6, 13

Stage Comedy has long depended on sex for laughs, whether in the realm of the vulgar or of the romantic. Over the centuries the formulas have not changed so much as have our perceptions of “what’s funny.” Here we will study three plays that trace the arc from ancient Greece to Broadway, studying Aristophanes’ *Lysistrata*, G.B. Shaw’s *Pygmalion*, and Sarah Ruhl’s *The Clean House*.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: 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.

READING: Instructor will provide required edition of *Lysistrata* for reading assignments.

REQUIRED BOOKS: Any edition of G.B. Shaw’s *Pygmalion*, and Sarah Ruhl’s *The Clean House*.

S5. Great Female Artists and their Music

Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:00 – 4:30 pm

June 15, 17, 22, 24, 29

Women have made great strides in recent years in breaking the glass ceiling. While there is still a long way to go, we now have a female Vice President, and women are gaining more and more acceptance as “equals” in many other endeavors. In noting their progress, it seems appropriate to recognize them for their great contributions to popular music. This course will highlight many of the great women song writers and performers working today or in the recent past. They will include Barbra Streisand, Dionne Warwick, Judy Garland, Joni Mitchell, Natalie Merchant, Sarah McLachlan, Dusty Springfield, Linda Ronstadt, Carly Simon, Carole King and many others. During the course, we will discuss their backgrounds and history and hear much of their music.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Joseph 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.

NO REQUIRED BOOKS

S6. The Painters of the Hudson River School

Wednesdays 9:00 - 10:30 am

June 16, 23, 30 and July 7, 14

Beginning around 1825, American artists began to pay tribute to their native landscapes. We’ll explore the earliest American landscapes as they transition to the style we know as the Hudson River School.

The works include Thomas Cole, Asher B. Durand, and John Frederick Church. From the mountains to sea, we will also see the Luminist landscapes of John Frederick Kensett, Fitz Henry Lane, and Martin Heade. Later, Hudson River School painters such as Albert Bierstadt and Thomas Moran will head westward.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: 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 and artists that provide a more in-depth look at the life and times of the people who are part of the exploration.

NO REQUIRED BOOKS

S7. Presidential Pardon Power: History, Practice and Proposals for Reform

Wednesday 3:00 - 4:30 pm (3 classes)

June 16, 23, 30

This 3-day course will examine the history and constitutional basis for the presidential pardon power, the nature and limits of the pardon power, how presidents have generally exercised the power, and proposals for reform of the pardon power in the wake of President Trump's use of the power. Among other topics, we will explore the underlying theory of the pardon power, what if any checks exist on abuses of the power, and whether proposed legislative reforms would be likely to survive challenges in the courts.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: John S. Ross III 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.

NO REQUIRED BOOKS

S8. Poetry Writing Workshop

Thursdays 11:00 - 12:30 pm

June 17, 24, and July 1, 8, 15

When our minds are empty of ideas, a prompt can open the door to otherwise unknown thoughts. Prompts are used to jumpstart writing into new territory or could trigger a memory. Prior to each class, a prompt with an example poem will be provided. There will also be a backup prompt in case the first is not working. Poems will be read and discussed during class.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: Eve Rifkah earned her MFA in 2002 from Vermont College of Fine Arts. She has taught at WPI. She is the author of three published books on historical poetry and is published in many journals. She is a founder of Poetry Oasis, a non-profit venue for local and international poets, and founder and editor of *Diner*, a literary journal from 2001-2007.

NO REQUIRED BOOKS

S9. More Alice Munro

Thursdays 1:00 - 2:30 pm

June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 15

The Nobel Prize winning writer Alice Munro is beloved in her native Canada and throughout the world. Her stories are exquisite in their structure, texture, and charm. Her stories provide us with the insight resulting from her innate curiosity about how people live their lives and the stories they tell themselves.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: 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.

REQUIRED BOOK: *Too Much Happiness*, Munro, Alice. ISBN: 978-0307390349.

READING FOR FIRST CLASS: Please read this NY times article before the first class:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/29/books/review/Cohen-t.html?referringSource=articleShare>

S10. A General and Admirable History of American Military Leadership 1775-2020

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00 - 10:30 am

July 1, 6, 8, 13, 15

The course will take an evaluative look at American military and naval leadership during the most significant wars in our history. We will begin with a discussion of what constitutes effective leadership and then evaluate our military leader and related analysis on this basis.

ZOOM LINK: Available on website to paid and registered members

CLASS LIMIT: 95

INSTRUCTOR: 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.

NO REQUIRED BOOKS



Join us online this summer!