



# WISE

Worcester Institute for Senior Education

# Spring 2022 Online Program

### About WISE

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

### About Lifelong Learning

Lifelong learning offers many benefits to 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 becoming a Spring or Full Year member. Read through the information contained in this catalog and contact the WISE if you have any questions. We look forward to your participation and engagement with our organization.

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## Membership Fees

Fees are paid online through your WISE account: \$300 for the full academic year (September-May) and \$150 for Fall or Spring membership. If you are not already a WISE member, you can become one on our website at <https://assumptionwise.org/join> .

## Membership Benefits

Benefits of membership include Members-Only access pages on the website, WISE clubs and special interest groups (see page 21), WISE free lectures, free Assumption University sponsored online events and the opportunity to hold a volunteer position.

## Registration

**Online Registration begins December 15, 2021. All participants must pay membership fees prior to attending class. Only paid and registered members will have access to the password protected web page with the Zoom links to the courses.** If you do not have a WISE member account, please create one by clicking on the quick link on the home page of our website. Registration will remain open while there is available space in the course. **Once you register online, you will receive a confirmation email for courses in which you are enrolled.**

## Registration & Zoom Assistance

We are conducting **WISE Zoom Coffee Breaks on Mondays from 9-10am** to help you feel comfortable with the Zoom application that we are using for online classes. Enjoy your coffee or tea while you receive some tips during these informative sessions and meet other WISE members. Refer to <https://assumptionwise.org/using-Zoom> for the Zoom link or view our events calendar listed on our website at [assumptionwise.org](https://assumptionwise.org). We look forward to meeting you online!

Please see <https://assumptionwise.org/events> for events sponsored by Assumption University, WISE meetings or clubs/groups dates, office closings and special presentations



## Spring 2022 Academic Calendar

December 15, 2021:	Registration for WISE Spring 2022 term
January 24, 2022:	New Member Orientation via Zoom
January 31, 2022:	Session C classes begin
March 4, 2022:	Session C classes end
March 21, 2022:	Session D classes begin
April 29, 2021:	Session D classes end

## Answers to WISE FAQs

### 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/>

### Refund Policy

No refunds will be issued after the spring classes have begun. Please note that any refunds for membership fees paid by check

will require an email request and W9 form submitted to the Assumption University business office.

### 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.



### 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  
Please refer to the calendar on our website for closures and other dates  
**Email:** [wise@assumption.edu](mailto:wise@assumption.edu)  
**Website:** <http://assumptionwise.org/>  
**Voicemail:** (508) 767-7513

## **SPRING ONLINE PROGRAM 2022**

<https://assumptionwise.org/courses>

### **C Session: January/March**

#### **C1. Jazz History, Part 2**

**Mondays 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**

**January 31, February 7, 14, 21, 28**

**Instructor: Paul Buono** see Instructor profile on page 15

Jazz history is American history – the study of culture, politics, and economics of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Its characters are the geniuses, virtuosos, outcasts, pioneers, eccentrics, and revolutionaries of American history. Post-Civil War America presented tremendous division within the country, but this landscape gave rise to a form of music often referred to as America's only true art form. This course is a lecture beginning in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the historical context that continued the evolution of jazz.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**OPTIONAL BOOK:** *Jazz: Essential Listening* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition), by Scott Deveaux, Gary Giddins, ISBN: 9780393668346

#### **C2. The AENEID (10 weeks)**

**Mondays 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm**

**January 31, February 7, 14, 21, 28, March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18**

**Instructor: Lillian Corti**, see Instructor profile on page 16

Since the glory that was Greece had been famously immortalized in the Homeric epics, the Emperor Augustus decided that somebody would have to write an epic exalting the grandeur of Rome. For this purpose, he recruited Virgil, who obliged by producing the *Aeneid*, a poem of such celebrated wisdom and beauty that, many centuries later, the poet would once again be recruited into an epic enterprise, this time by Dante Alighieri whom he would serve as guide on the journey through Hell and Purgatory. In this course, we will read and discuss this great poetic masterpiece.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**REQUIRED BOOK:** *The Aeneid of Virgil*, trans. Allen Mandelbaum. University of California Press ISBN 978-0-520-25415-2

**C3. Twentieth Century Literature & The American Dream: The Great Gatsby, Death of a Salesman, and The Bell Jar**

**Mondays 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm**

**January 31, February 7, 14, 21, 28**

**Instructor: Christina Graziano** see Instructor profile on page 16

What does it mean to pursue “the American Dream” and what are the consequences of this pursuit? In these three texts – Arthur Miller’s *Death of a Salesman*, F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby*, and Sylvia Plath’s *The Bell Jar*, these authors confront the question of what it means to achieve success in America. In this course, we will explore the varying themes and lessons present in these three texts and consider each author’s take on the pitfalls and perils of pursuing the American Dream.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**REQUIRED BOOKS:** *Death of a Salesman* ISBN10 9780140481341. *The Great Gatsby* ISBN 13 979-8745274824. *The Bell Jar* SBN 10 0060837020.

**C4. 25 Women Artists Over 5 Centuries**

**Tuesdays 10:00 am – 11:30 am**

**February 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1**

**Instructor: Martha Chiarchiaro** see Instructor profile on page 15

For the past several years, museums around the world have held a campaign called #5, promoting the public’s knowledge of at least 5 women artists. In this course, we will explore five women artists in each of the past five centuries. Just as a sampling, we’ll examine the works of the court painter to Elizabeth I, the drama of Artemisia Gentileschi, the glamour of Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun, the maternal work of Mary Cassatt, and the boldness of Georgia O’Keeffe. You’ll have a better understanding of the tremendous contribution made by women artists over the past five centuries.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

**C5. The Good Life (10 weeks)**

**Tuesdays 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm**

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

**Instructor: Richard Schmitt** see Instructor profile on page 18

In the ten weeks of this course, the participants will have the opportunity to reflect about what makes a life a good life following suggestions we find in different readings. Writings from the following authors will be included: J.S. Mill, Plato, Tolstoy, Hornby, and de Maupassant.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**REQUIRED READINGS:** J S Mill, *On Liberty*; Plato, *Republic, Book 1 and Symposium*; Tolstoy, *The Death of Ivan Ilych, Part 1 & 2* and *A Confession*; Nick Hornby “*Nipple Jesus*,” de Maupassant, “*Mademoiselle Fifi*”

## **C6. Telling America's Story – The Federal Writers' Project**

**Tuesdays 3:00 - 4:30 pm**

**February 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1**

**Instructor: Karl Hakkarainen** see Instructor profile on page 16

What W.H. Auden called “one of the noblest and most absurd undertakings ever attempted by a state,” the Depression-era Federal Writers' Project (FWP) employed more than 6,000 writers and editors who produced guides for all 48 states, most territories, and many regions and highways. The project collected narratives of formerly enslaved people, folklore from around the country, and nature studies. The list of writers, people such as Ralph Ellison, Conrad Aiken, Studs Terkel, Richard Wright, Saul Bellow, and Dorothy West, is impressive; their products are even more so. Let's find out what they said about the America they found.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**OPTIONAL BOOKS.** *Republic Of Detours* – Scott Bochert, ISBN: 9780374298456.

**Federal Writers' Project,** <https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/newdeal/fwp.html>,

*Massachusetts A Guide to Its Places And People,*

<https://ia802609.us.archive.org/23/items/massachusettsgui00federich/massachusettsgui00federich.pdf>

## **C7. How to Read Art, Part 2**

**Wednesdays 10:30 am – 12:00 pm**

**February 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2**

**Instructors: Bill Shelley and Ginny Powell-Brasier** see Instructor profiles on page 18 & 19

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 across the last 5,000 years. Enter these storied worlds and deepen your appreciation of them. We will examine examples from various ancient cultures as well as European and American art from the Middle Ages through the 20th Century. This course will look at different objects from those discussed in the 2021 D Session.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

## **C8. Lessons from the Covid-19 Pandemic**

**Wednesdays 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

**February 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2**

**Instructor: Clare O'Connor** see Instructor profile on page 17

The Covid-19 pandemic has upended life around the globe with tragic consequences.

Fortunately, the scientific community responded quickly with investigations that have provided unprecedented insights into coronaviruses, human immune responses, and effective therapeutics. The course will begin with a discussion of the viral infection cycle.

Understanding the viral cycle is guiding the development of new therapeutics. We'll then



discuss the immune responses to infection, including antibodies and inflammation. We'll also discuss Covid vaccines, with special emphasis on the novel mRNA vaccines. Finally, we'll look forward to the prospect of controlling an endemic virus and preparing for emerging pathogens.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

### **C9. Natural History Sampler of Massachusetts**

**Wednesdays 3:00 – 4:30 pm**

**February 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2**

**Instructor: Sheryl Pereira**, see Instructor profile on page 17

Massachusetts is filled with a variety of interesting native wildlife. and in this course, we will explore a sampling of these species. Each week will focus on different plants and animals that can be found in the various habitats in our state. Our topics will include trees, mammals, birds, plants and reptiles/amphibians.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

### **C10. A Virtual Economic, Cultural, and Historic Tour of Prague and Czech Republic**

**Wednesdays 5:00 – 6:30 pm**

**February 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2**

**Instructor: Bill O'Brien**, Instructor profile on page 17

Sick of being unable to travel? Join us for an economic, cultural, architectural, and historic tour of Prague and the Czech Republic. We will look at the history of the Czech lands, Czechoslovakia, and the Czech Republic since about 500 AD from King Wenceslas to Jan Hus to Vaclav Havel and more. We will investigate Czech economic history especially when occupied by foreign powers. We will look at architecture including Gothic, Baroque, Renaissance, Cubist, Socialist, and Art Nouveau styles. We will listen to Czech music, including Dvorak, Smetana, folk music, and opera. Pictures taken over Bill's 25 visits to Prague will feature prominently.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members.

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**OPTIONAL BOOKS:** *Xenophobe's Guide to the Czechs*, ISBN 9781902825236 Peter Berka 2008.

### **C11. History Told in Poems**

**Thursdays 10:00 – 11:30 am**

**February 3, 10, 17 24, March 3**

**Instructor: Eve Rifkahn** see Instructor profile page 18

History removed from texts and put into voice breathes life into the times. Often persona or

epistolary poems are used to tell a story, in this case of a real event or person. History texts bypass the real interesting happenings that can be heard in the voices of those involved. All the poems I will use were written by women and deal with American events.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**OPTIONAL BOOKS:** *Commonweath of Wings An Ornithological Biography of John James Audubon*, Pamela Alexander --- on line or 0-8195-1193-5. *Queen of the Mist*, Joan Murray, Available in the library. *The Book of Sarah*, Amy Benson Brown. ISBN 9781936370344 *Kyrie*, Ellen Voigt ISBN 0-393-31561-4. *Outcasts the Penikese Island Leper Hospital, 1905-1921*, Eve Rifkah ISBN 978-097469116-9

## **C12. Colson Whitehead: Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author**

**Thursdays 1:00 – 2:30 pm**

**February 3, 10, 17 24, March 3**

**Instructor:** Marcia Tannenbaum, see Instructor profile on page 19

We will read two historical novels by Colson Whitehead: *The Underground Railroad* and *The Nickel Boys*, each of which recently won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. In addition, we will look at some of his non-fiction writing and the huge impact his work has had on the American literary scene and American culture.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**REQUIRED BOOKS:** *The Underground Railroad*, Penguin Random House; *The Nickel Boys*, Anchor Books Trade Paperback 978-0-345-90434-1

## **C13. Shakespeare and Free Will**

**Thursdays 3:00 – 4:30 am**

**February 3, 10, 17 24, March 3**

**Instructor:** Helen Whall see Instructor profile on page 20

Do we or the stars shape our destiny? *Julius Caesar* examines that question. Do witches, wives, or innate drives dictate our actions? *Macbeth* makes us wonder. Both plays use the assassination of a national leader to explore the nature of evil and the concept of personal choice. In Shakespeare's era, free will was much debated, challenged both by classical notions of astrological influence and religious doctrines like predestination. This class will consider how both plays addressed then and address now the concept of free will.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**REQUIRED BOOKS:** *Julius Caesar*, Folger edition preferred (free online) Paperback available; *Macbeth*, Folger edition preferred (free online) Paperback available

## **C14. Two Sandlots: Baseball, Bigotry, and the Battle for America**

**Fridays 10:30 - 12:00 pm**



**February 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4**

**Instructor: Ben Railton**, see Instructor profile on page 18

In the late 1870s, two San Francisco sandlots featured and embodied two central strains of American history and identity. In one, Irish immigrant turned businessman and labor leader Denis Kearney gave demagogic speeches to angry mobs, helping make anti-Chinese fears and narratives truly national in the lead-up to the Chinese Exclusion Act. In the other, the Celestials, the baseball team featuring students from the Hartford Chinese Educational Mission, played a triumphant but tragic final game against an Oakland team. In this course, we'll discuss these two interconnected moments and stories, as well as the many American contexts to which they connect.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

### **C15. Atheism: An Increasing Phenomenon**

**Fridays 1:00 – 2:30 pm**

**February 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4**

**Instructor: Gary Shahinian** see Instructor profile on page 18

Atheism is the denial of the belief in the existence of God. The religious perspective of over a billion persons around the world would fit the category of atheism and its cousins, such as agnosticism, secularism, and humanism. A broad understanding of atheism and its variants then would be the religion with the third most adherents behind only Christianity and Islam.

Philosophy sections of bookstores are filled with books on atheism, especially those of the “New Atheists”: Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, and Sam Harris. What accounts for this growing atheism? This class will explore the phenomenon of atheism in Western culture. We will survey the history of atheism, its definitive expression during the period of the Enlightenment, the difference between the biblical view of God and the God of the philosophers, the nature of belief or faith, various arguments for and against God’s existence, the relationship between atheism and morality, and the relationship between atheism and science.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**REQUIRED BOOK:** *Atheism: What Everyone Needs to Know*, Michael Ruse, Oxford University Press, ISBN: 978-0-19-933458

### **C16. Modern Mongolia**

**Fridays 3:00 – 4:30 pm**

**February 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4**

**Instructor: Rebecca Watters** see Instructor profile on page 20

Modern Mongolia is a little-known country confronting issues that encompass a number of contemporary concerns. This course will consider climate change, resource extraction, conservation, Buddhist revival, Indigenous rights, and diplomatic and geopolitical concerns

through the lens of modern Mongolia. We will address the foundations of the Mongolian state with a brief look at the Mongol Empire and the Qing dynasty, and then spend most of the class considering the Socialist era (1921-1991) and the transition to democracy (1991-present.) Class will include invited guest speakers and multi-media material to gain diverse perspectives on the country.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

## **D Session: March/April**

### **D1. Incredible Insects**

**Mondays 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**

**March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 25**

**Instructors: Martha Gach** see Instructor profiles on pages 16

Explore the diverse, colorful, and at times surprising world of insects. Learn about their amazing anatomy, life cycles, behavior, and ecological relationships. Familiarize yourself with conservation threats and everyday actions you can take to help keep local insects and their habitats healthy. Examples of insects that will be covered include butterflies, moths, dragonflies, beetles, bees and ants.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

### **D2. The AENEID (10 weeks)**

**Mondays 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

**March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18**

**Instructor: Lillian Corti** see Instructor profile on page 16

See C1 for description and required books.

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

### **D3. Story Songs**

**Mondays 3:00 - 4:30 pm**

**March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18**

**Instructor: Joe Corn** see Instructor profile on page 16

Most songs convey a feeling – be it love, hate, sorrow, or some other human emotion. Other songs take a strong point of view, such as protesting war, economic discrimination, or environmental destruction. Then there are songs that tell a story. These “story songs,” also referred to as “lyric songs,” have a long history, going back to epic poems such as *The Odyssey* and later tales told by traveling minstrels. Today, many great song writers such as Harry Chapin, Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell and others have written memorable songs that tell a story. These songs often draw you in much more than traditional songs. In this course, you will

experience many of the great story songs written by contemporary song writers and performers.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

#### **D4. Changing Views of American Art and Culture**

**Tuesdays 10:00 - 11:30 am**

**March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19**

**Instructor: Margery Gordon** see Instructor profile on page 16

This course will focus on American symbols of freedom and independence, different interpretations of space and abstraction through artists' eyes, and a look at how families reflect the American spirit. We will discuss the changing attitudes and lifestyles in an urban environment and how artists portray some of these changes. In addition, we will look at the urban culture, the growth of cities, WPA Programs, changes in communities and the diverse populations.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

#### **D5. The Good Life (10 weeks)**

**Tuesdays 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

**March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19**

**Instructor: Richard Schmitt** see Instructor profile on page 18

See C4 for description and required books.

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

#### **D6. Finding America's Music – Alan Lomax**

**Tuesdays 3:00 - 4:30 pm**

**March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19**

**Instructor: Karl Hakkarainen** see Instructor profile on page 16

Dragging a disc recording machine weighing more than 300 pounds, Alan Lomax and his father, John, went to the plantations and juke joints of the American south, the hobo camps of the west, and the streets of Caribbean islands to collect the music and stories of the previously unknown. They recorded those who would be famous, such as Lead Belly, Muddy Waters, Woody Guthrie, and Jean Ritchie, and others who would stay nameless. The work was physically demanding, legally complex, and emotionally exhausting, and we now have thousands of recordings, showing America to itself.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**OPTIONAL BOOKS:** *Alan Lomax: The Man Who Recorded the World*, Author: John Szwed ISBN-13 978-0143120735 December 2011. Additional public domain recordings and writings

### **D7. Art Collections of the Vatican Museums**

**Wednesdays 10:30 – 12:00 pm**

**March 23, 30, April 6, 13, 20**

**Instructor: Martha Chiarchiaro** see Instructor profile on page 15

Many visitors to the Vatican are drawn to the Sistine Chapel, but the Vatican Collections hold a wealth of art and history from ancient times to the present day. We'll explore highlights from the classical sculpture collection, the various stages in the painting of the Sistine Chapel and the Raphael Rooms, highlights from the Old Master painting collection, as well as contemporary religious art. After this course, you'll understand why the Vatican holds one of the finest collections of art in the world.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**OPTIONAL BOOK:** *The Vatican, All the Paintings*, Anja Grebe, New York: Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers, 2013 (also includes sculpture, maps, tapestries)

### **D8. The Fascinating and the Deadly**

**Wednesdays 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

**March 23, 30, April 6, 13, 20**

**Instructor: Margaret Watson** see Instructor profile on page 19

Throughout human history we find a few attractive individuals with potential for destruction. Because of personal greed, desire for power, or passion for an ideology, they caused damage which often altered the course of history. In this course, we will study several of these fascinating but deadly characters, including the original Dracula, Rasputin the Russian Monk, Blackbeard the pirate, the spy Mata Hari, and the women who loved Adolf Hitler. Not a course for the faint of heart.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

### **D9. Unveiling African Art & Architecture: Issues of Interpretation, Preservation and Ownership**

**Wednesdays 3:00 - 4:30 pm**

**March 23, 30, April 6, 13, 20**

**Instructor: Barbara Beall** see Instructor profile on page 15

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

Citing major examples of African art and architecture, this course explores current issues of interpretation, preservation and the crisis of ownership linked to controversial provenance - who owns the art and who should own the art? Included in the discussion: Blombos Cave, Hatshepsut - from Queen to Pharaoh; the Great Mosques of Kairouan, Tunisia (and the Blue Qur'an) and Djenne, Mali; The Geniza Ben Ezra Synagogue Documents; rock churches of Lalibela, Ethiopia; the Great Zimbabwe; Benin City of 1897 and Decolonizing Western Museums: 'temples' of art or 'conspirators' of colonialism?

### **D10. Driving Through American History**

**Thursdays 10:00 am – 11:30 am**

**March 24, 31, April 7, 21, 28**

**Instructor: Jed Watters** see Instructor profile on page 19

In this course, we will explore the many historical venues along the I-95 corridor such as the Hudson River, James River and the Marshes of Glynn. Each week we will enjoy a virtual historical ride along the corridor visiting the settings where events of historical importance occurred and why they were important. Topics will include the establishment of a free nation, the tragic road to emancipation and the winding course of commerce and innovation.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

### **D11. Law and Drama**

**Thursdays 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

**March 24, 31, April 7, 21, 28**

**Instructor: Helen Whall** see Instructor profile on page 20

Dramatists have long recognized the implicit dramatic nature of a courtroom trial. This course will look at three twentieth century plays that prompted men and women to become lawyers—even Supreme Court Justices. Once trained, those same lawyers will often qualify their connection to a legal drama: “but of course that’s not really how a trial works.” We will study both how dramatists represent (or misrepresent) law and how their dramas inspire an audience’s pursuit of “the truth.” Our plays will be *Inherit the Wind* (Jerome Lawrence); *Twelve Angry Men* (Reginald Rose); *A Few Good Men* (Aaron Sorkin).

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**REQUIRED BOOKS:** *Inherit the Wind*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *A Few Good Men* (any edition for all books)

### **D12. One Person, One Vote? The Ageless Voting Rights Struggle in America**

**Thursdays 3:00 - 4:30 pm**

**March 24, 31, April 7, 21, 28**

**Instructor: John S. Ross III (Jack)** see Instructor profile on page 18

This course will explore voting rights in America from a historical, legal and political perspective. Starting from the original conception of the Founding Fathers, the course will explore the evolution of voting rights through adoption of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>st</sup> Amendments, voting impediments faced by African-Americans during Reconstruction and in the Jim Crow South, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, legal issues posed by the enforcement of the Act, racial and political gerrymandering, and various state restrictions on the right to vote following the Court’s 2013 decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* (voter I.D. laws, registration procedures, ballot rules, and purges of registration lists). The course will also examine the topics of voter suppression and voter fraud in the context of the 2020 election and the reaction by Republican state legislatures in

restricting voting rights, as well as recent Supreme Court decisions impacting voting rights.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**REQUIRED BOOK:** *The Fight to Vote*, by Michael Waldman (Simon & Schuster 2016) ISBN 978-1-5011-1648-3

### **D13. The Worcester Tornado: June 9, 1953**

**Fridays 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**

**March 25, April 1, 8, 22, 29**

**Instructor: David Nevard** see Instructor profile on page 17

Almost seventy years ago, a devastating tornado ripped through unsuspecting Worcester County, Massachusetts – far from Tornado Alley in the Midwest. Ninety-four people were killed in less than 90 minutes, in an incredibly violent experience that some compared to atomic war. Thirteen hundred were injured and 15,000 were left homeless. There followed a great humanitarian rescue effort by private citizens and first responders. The course will use slides, photos, videos, and selected readings to follow the path of the tornado as it moves through time and space. We will focus on eyewitness accounts of Worcester residents. Class members will be encouraged to share personal or family memories of the disaster.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**OPTIONAL BOOK:** *Tornado! 84 Minutes, 94 Lives*, By John M. O'Toole, Chandler House Press; 1st edition (February 17, 1998), paperback ISBN-10 : 0963627708, ISBN-13 : 978-0963627704

### **D14. Whistleblowing – Past, Present & Future**

**Fridays 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

**March 25, April 8, 22, 29, May 6**

**Instructors: Jean Sifleet** see Instructor profiles on page 19

Frauds and scams are hard to detect. The concept of whistleblowing dates back to Medieval England. This course will provide a historical overview of private citizens reporting corruption, theft, and misconduct. We will take an in depth look at some modern era cases including for example: Daniel Ellsberg (The Pentagon Papers), Frank Serpico (NYC Police corruption), W. Mark Felt (Deep Throat, Watergate), Sherron Watkins (Enron), Karen Silkwood (nuclear power), Frances Haugen (Facebook). We will also discuss modern whistleblower laws.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

### **D15. The 45<sup>th</sup> President and American History**

**Fridays 3:00 - 4:30 pm**

**March 25, April 1, 8, 22, 29**

**Instructors: Paul Macek** see Instructor profiles on page 17



With a critical analysis of “Trump and the American History,” this course will take you to a discovery and exploration into some of the most important ideas in American history such as free press, health care, racism, democracy, elections and economics. Most importantly, this course attempts to explore what it means to be an American. The instructor welcomes a diversity of thought.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**OPTIONAL BOOK:** Macek, Paul. *The Fall of the House of Trump*. Webster, Massachusetts: 2020. ISBN: 9780967047348

## WISE Instructor Profiles for Spring 2022

Instructor emails can be found on our password protected Directory here

<https://assumptionwise.org/directory>

### B

**Barbara Beall** Barbara Beall completed her PhD at Brown University. A Professor Emerita and former Chair of the Dept. of Art, Music & Theater at Assumption University, President Emerita of the Worcester Chapter of the AIA - Archaeological Institute of America, she is currently a Visiting Professor at Clark University teaching African and Islamic art and architecture.

**COURSE: D9. Unveiling African Art & Architecture: Issues of Interpretation, Preservation and Ownership**

**Paul Buono** Paul Buono is a member of the music faculty at WPI, Clark University and Assumption University where he is the director of the jazz ensemble. Paul holds a bachelor's and master's degree in jazz performance as well as a law degree. He has toured internationally as a pianist and musical director for various ensembles. Paul performs and records regularly and also teaches privately, including online.

**Course: C1. Jazz History (Part 2)**

### C

**Martha Chiarchiaro** Martha Chiarchiaro has brought history to life through the art of the times for more than 30 years. She received her Master's degree in the History of Art from Williams College and has taught a variety of art history courses at the Worcester Art Museum and Worcester State University. Martha has always been fascinated by the various techniques in art.

**COURSES: C4. 25 Women Artists Over 5 Centuries and D7. Art Collections of the Vatican Museums**

**Joe Corn** 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 has taught a number of music and technology courses for WISE and is a former WISE President.

**COURSE: D3. Story Songs**

**Lillian Corti** After obtaining her doctorate in Comparative Literature at the City University of New York, Dr. Corti taught at the University of Tulsa, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and at the Athens Center in Greece. She published a book-length study on the myth of Medea which included chapters on dramatic works by Euripides, Seneca, Corneille, Grillparzer and various modern authors.

**COURSE: C2 & D2. The Aeneid (10 weeks)**

## **G**

**Martha Gach** Martha Gach is Education Manager and Conservation Coordinator at Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary in Worcester. Dr. Gach coordinated the design, installation, and maintenance of the sustainable landscape campus at Broad Meadow Brook, she directs adult education programs, and she manages the Sanctuary's 430+ acres of conservation land for wildlife and people. Dr. Gach also teaches climate change at Worcester State University.

**COURSE: D1. Incredible Insects**

**Margery Gordon** Margery graduated from Classical High and The American University where she received a BA and MFA. She was highlighted in the book *Museum People*. Margery was written up in the Washington Post, Denver Post, Worcester Telegram and Gazette, and more. She served as museum educator at Smithsonian's American Art Museum and National Museum of Natural History and has given presentations and shown artwork throughout the U.S. and other countries.

**COURSE: D4. Changing Views of American Art and Culture**

**Christina Graziano** Christina Graziano graduated from Assumption University in 2010, magna cum laude, with a degree in political science. She received her law degree from Suffolk University in 2013 and currently works as an attorney specializing in mass torts, pharmaceutical and medical device litigation, and sexual assault cases. She loves 19th and 20th century Russian literature and spends every spare minute of her life reading.

**COURSE: C3. Twentieth Century Literature & The American Dream: The Great Gatsby, Death of a Salesman, and The Bell Jar**

## **H**

**Karl Hakkarainen**, the WISE Tech Advisor, is a retired software engineer and IT professional. He has worked with copyrights, patents, and trademarks throughout his career. His legal studies

include a course on copyright law through the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard Law School. Karl is not a lawyer.

**COURSE: C6. Telling America's Story – The Federal Writer's Project and D6. Finding America's Music – Alan Lomax**

## **M**

**Paul Macek** Paul Macek has a bachelor's and master's degree in both history and English. He has taught U.S. History and American Literature at the high school level. He has also worked as a proofreader and copyeditor for thirty years. Paul is the author of seven books, most importantly, in local history with the title *Early History of Webster, Dudley, and Oxford*.

**COURSE: D15 The 45<sup>th</sup> President and American History**

## **N**

**David Nevard** grew up in suburban Boston and has always been fascinated by history – especially World War II and the postwar era. He attended UMass-Amherst and worked as an IT professional for over 30 years. Since retirement, David has been an instructor at WISE and other area lifelong learning programs.

**COURSE: D13. The Worcester Tornado: June 9, 1953**

## **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: C10. A Virtual Economic, Cultural, and Historic Tour of Prague and Czech Republic**

**Clare O'Connor** Clare O'Connor received her Ph.D. from Purdue and did postdoctoral research at UCLA and Caltech. She moved to Shrewsbury in 1984 to take a faculty position at the former Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology. She then joined the Biology Department at Boston College, where she taught courses in genetics and molecular cell biology before retiring in 2018.

**COURSE: C8. Lessons from the Covid-19 Pandemic**

## **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: C9. Natural History Sampler of Massachusetts**

**Ginny Powell-Braiser** 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.

**COURSE: C7. How to Read Art, Part 2**

## **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: C14. Two Sandlots: Baseball, Bigotry, and the Battle for America**

**Eve Rifkah** was co-founder of Poetry Oasis, Inc. (1998-2012), a non-profit poetry association dedicated to education and promoting local poets. She is also founder and editor of DINER, a literary magazine. She received her MFA from Vermont College. Eve has published the following books: *Dear Suzanne* 2010, *Outcasts: the Penikese Leper Hospital 1905-1921*, 2010, *Lost in Sight*, 2021, *Scar Tissue*, 2017, and *At the Leprosarium*, a 2003 winner of the Revelever Chapbook Contest.

**COURSES: C11. History Told in Poems**

**John (Jack) Ross** John S. Ross, III (Jack) holds degrees from Yale University and the University of Virginia School of Law and served as Adjunct Professor of Law at Washington and Lee University School of Law. Jack has taught numerous courses in the WISE program on constitutional law and the Supreme Court, and facilitates the WISE Supreme Court SIG.

**COURSE: D12. One Person, One Vote? The Ageless Voting Rights Struggle in America**

## **S**

**Richard Schmitt** Richard Schmitt was born in Germany. Forced to leave for being Jewish, he reached the U.S. as a young man. He received his higher education at the University of Chicago and Yale and spent many years teaching at Brown University and at Worcester State University. He has taught WISE courses for over twenty years.

**COURSE: C5 & D5. The Good Life (10 weeks)**

**Gary Shahinian** Rev. Dr. Gary Shahinian is the Intentional Interim Minister of the Federated

Church of Charlton (United Church of Christ and Unitarian Universalist Association). He earned a Ph.D. degree in Philosophy from the Free University of Amsterdam, Netherlands. He wrote his doctoral dissertation on the problem of evil in the thought of Alfred North Whitehead, the father of Process Philosophy. He taught philosophy and theology courses at Redeemer College in Ontario, Dordt College in Iowa, and Worcester State University.

**COURSE: C54. Atheism: An Increasing Phenomenon**

**Bill Shelley** 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: C7. How to Read Art, Part 2**

**Jean Sifleet** Jean Sifleet is a retired attorney and CPA. During her business career of over 40 years, she worked in corporate management, consulting, and private practice. She has taught business and intellectual property law. In retirement, Jean served as an Access to Justice Fellow and worked with the Mass Law Reform Institute on immigration policy and reform initiatives.

**COURSE: D14. Voting Reforms**

## **T**

**Marcia Tannenbaum** is a local attorney, mediator and educator who has been teaching courses on the Holocaust in various Jewish and secular venues for more than 40 years, including WISE. While teaching at Nichols College in Dudley, MA, Marcia created and taught a course on the Literature of the Holocaust. In 2001, she presented a paper at the International Conference on Teaching the Holocaust at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. On that trip, Marcia visited Auschwitz with other conference participants and then spent the Jewish Festival of Shevuoth in Warsaw before returning to Worcester.

**COURSE: C12. Colson Whitehead: Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author**

## **W**

**Margaret Watson** Margaret Watson received undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of Michigan. She pursued further graduate study in historical and literary research at the Ohio State University where she taught for several years. She is now Professor Emerita from Quinsigamond Community College after serving for thirty-six years as faculty member and administrator.

**COURSE: D8. The Fascinating and the Deadly**

**Jed Watters** Dr. Jed Watters is a former Assumption College history professor and retired naval officer.

**COURSE: D10. Driving Through American History**

**Rebecca Watters** Rebecca Watters is a wildlife biologist and writer who has worked in Mongolia for the past 12 years. She is fluent in modern Mongolian, decent at Classical Mongolian, and currently runs a wildlife research project in collaboration with the Ulaan Taiga Protected Areas Administration in northern Mongolia. She grew up in Massachusetts and when she isn't in Mongolia, she is based in Bozeman, Montana.

**COURSE: C16. Modern Mongolia**

**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, frequently writing on both subjects. Since retiring in 2017, Helen has offered several courses for WISE.

**COURSE: C13. Shakespeare and Free Will and D11. Law and Drama**

## **WISE Clubs & Special Interest Groups**

<https://assumptionwise.org/Clubs-Groups-and-SIGs>

### **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**

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 Instructor 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**

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.



**Join us online this Spring!**