



**WISE**

Worcester Institute for Senior Education

# Summer 2024 Course Catalog

## About WISE

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

## About Lifelong Learning

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

- Continuing education for older learners.
- Increasing social community connections.
- Promoting an active and engaged lifestyle.
- Opportunity to explore new topics.
- Using lifelong work skills in leadership.



## Join Our Community

We invite you to join our active community by registering for 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.

## Course Fees

Fees are paid online through your WISE account. Individual course fees are \$12 per class meeting. For example, a 2 session course costs \$24 and a 5-session course costs \$60.

If you do not have a 2024 Summer Participant account or current WISE membership, 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](mailto:wise@assumption.edu).

## Registration

Online Registration begins May 1, 2024. All participants must pay all course fees prior to attending class. If a course is offered on Zoom, only paid and registered members will receive the Zoom link. Once you register online, you will receive a confirmation email for courses in which you are enrolled. Please see the website information on <http://assumptionwise.org>

We offer a **WISE Office Hour on Monday afternoons** for help on the registration.

## 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.

## Zoom & Registration Assistance

May 1	Summer Term registration starts
May 28	Summer Term classes begin
July 4-5	WISE Office and Assumption offices closed for July 4th holiday and on Fridays for the month of June and July.
July 12	Summer Term Ends





Zoom links will be provided after you have registered for your course. For general help with Zoom, refer to the Zoom support website: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/>.




When you are on campus, stop by the WISE office. We are in the La Maison Francaise building, Room 206, on the second floor. This is the 3-story building just past the Duck Pond when entering the campus off Salisbury St. Visitor parking is available in the first lot to the right and below the building. Our office hours are Tuesday - Thursday, 10 AM to 2 PM.

*The WISE office is closed on Fridays during July.*

Phone	508-767-7513
Email	<a href="mailto:wise@assumption.edu">wise@assumption.edu</a>
Website	<a href="https://assumptionwise.org">https://assumptionwise.org</a>

## Meet our Instructors:

	<p><b>Sari Bitticks</b> has served as president of the Auburn Historical Society and Museum for the past 12 years. She has researched and presented over 70 talks on various subjects for the Society and for area schools, senior centers, and other organizations.</p>	<p><b>S2. Fascinating History</b></p>
	<p><b>Martha Chiarciaro</b> has brought art history to life 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 classes at the Worcester Art Museum, Worcester State University, WISE and other cultural organizations.</p>	<p><b>S4 and S10. Five Major American Art Museums</b></p>
	<p><b>Jim Foley</b> is a Professor Emeritus from Worcester State University. Pre-pandemic, he frequently offered courses in WISE, dealing with poetry, short stories, modern drama, and Shakespeare.</p>	<p><b>S9. The Dramatic Monologues of Tennyson and Browning</b></p>
	<p><b>Rick Hendra</b> is a long-time bball player, coach, and rec league exec (now retired). He has previously taught "Basketball: A Social History", a Spotlight Special on "Singing Sisters: The Rise of the Female Vocal Groups", and other blues and gospel related courses, always with a social justice slant. He edits the WISE Guide &amp; Bulletin, and in previous lives taught at UMass, managed the co-and extra-curricula at Quinsig CC, and DJ'd at Community Radio WCUW.</p>	<p><b>S13. The Long War for Women's Basketball</b></p>

	<p><b>Anne Lenault</b> has been interested in honeybees since she was a young adult, which inspired her to acquire her first hive when she was 23. This first journey lasted about 10 years. She returned to Beekeeping 11 years ago and in that time, her interest has grown from simply keeping hives to studying current scientific research and attending national bee conferences.</p> <p>She has most recently served as the Vice President for Worcester County Beekeepers Association, the largest and oldest county beekeeping club in the country. She is currently the Director of their beekeeping school, which serves 250-300 students each year in an 8-week beekeeping class. She continues learning and enrolled in a Master Beekeeper program at the University of Montana, earning her Master Beekeeper Certification in 2022</p>	<p><b>S8. Honeybees and Beekeeping</b></p>
	<p><b>David Nevard</b> grew up in suburban Boston and has always been fascinated by history – especially 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.</p>	<p><b>S11. Jackie Robinson, Boston and the Integration of Baseball</b></p>
	<p><b>John S. Ross, III (Jack)</b> holds degrees from Yale University and the University of Virginia School of Law. He served as Adjunct Professor of Law at Washington &amp; Lee University and has taught numerous courses in the WISE program with a focus on constitutional law and the Supreme Court. Jack also facilitates the WISE Special Interest Group focused on discussing Supreme Court case decisions.</p>	<p><b>S12. The Creeping Professionalism of Major College Sports</b></p>



**Marcia Tannenbaum** is a longtime WISE Instructor who has been teaching Literature in various venues since she was a student teacher while at Simmons (College) University where she earned a Bachelor’s Degree in the School of Education and a Master’s Degree in English Language and Literature. Her roots are in New York City, the location of the apartment building which is where the novel takes place. She lived in the Bronx as a young child and in the West Village after her graduation from Simmons in 1967/1969. For her, NYC is “the City.” The idea of a Collaborative novel is very appealing to this instructor as she has been trained as a Collaborative Lawyer and sat for many years on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Collaborative Law Council. In addition, Marcia is a fan of Geoffrey Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales. Most recently, she taught a course entitled We Read Banned Books at WISE in the fall, 2023.

**S5. Fourteen Days – A Collaborative Novel**

**Rebecca Watters** is a wildlife researcher who has worked on wolves, wolverines, and social perceptions of wildlife in Mongolia and the Western US for the past two decades. She lives in Bozeman, Montana.

**S16. Conservation in the American West**

# Summer 2024 Program

## **S2. Fascinating History – 5 Sessions - *Instructor Sari Bitticks***

S2. Session 1 – Women Inventors covers several centuries of very clever women, starting with the first computer programmer in the 1830s.

S2. Session 2 - Mary Roberts Reinhart, America’s Agatha Christie and the only female World War I correspondent.

S2. Session 3 – The Great Molasses Flood – Boston, 1919

S2. Session 4 – The Healy Brothers and their Family - including the Bishop of Portland, Maine, the President of Georgetown University, and the Governor of Alaska - and that is only the tip of the iceberg.

S2. Session 5 – The History of Toys comes with over 60 vintage toys and covers three thousand years of creative play

## **S4. Five American Art Museums – 5 Sessions – *Instructor Martha Chiarchiaro***

We’ll explore the history and highlights of five major American art museums from across the country. From the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and the MFA, Boston, both founded in 1870, to the Getty Museum in Los Angeles, founded in 1997, we will discover what makes these museums American treasures. The Art Institute of Chicago, founded in 1879, is also one of the oldest and largest art museums in the country. We’ll also examine Andrew Mellon’s contribution in creating the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, modeled after the London National Gallery, which Mellon admired while America’s ambassador to England.

## **S5. Fourteen Days, A Collaborative Novel – 5 Sessions – *Instructor Marcia Tannenbaum***

Fourteen Days is the creative effort of 36 authors who have collaborated on producing a Covid novel which occurs primarily on the rooftop of an apartment building whose tenants were unable to flee the City for their nonexistent summer homes unlike many, many more affluent New Yorkers who could and did.

Typical of NYC apartment buildings, most of the tenants did not know each other, and only when they were trapped by Covid restrictions did they come together for connection in a similar way that Chaucer’s Pilgrims only meet because of their individual desire to travel to Canterbury and do so at the same time.

## **S8. Honeybees and Beekeeping – (not a course on how to be a beekeeper just about honeybees and beekeeping) – 4 Sessions – *Instructor Anne Lenault***

Most people are aware of and concerned about the future survival of honeybees and other pollinators. This course will focus on honeybees and begin with the history of honey hunting/beekeeping. We’ll look at current beekeeping practices by comparing the different types of hives currently in use.

We’ll take a deeper dive into the hive to learn about who lives there and honeybee social structure, life cycles and communication. We’ll examine some of the theories of why honeybees are in danger and look at some ways that all of us can help honeybees and other pollinators survive.

## **S9. The Dramatic Monologues of Tennyson and Browning – 3 Sessions**

### ***Instructor - Jim Foley***

In no other literary era has the dramatic monologue flourished as it did during the Victorian period. Two Victorian poets, Alfred, Lord Tennyson and Robert Browning, were (and still are, most would agree) the masters of the form. We'll read and discuss a pair of dramatic monologues from each of these two poets: Tennyson's "Ulysses" and "Tithonus," and Browning's "My Last Duchess" and "Fra Lippo Lippi." If time permits, we may get to "the Bishop Orders His Tomb at St. Praxed's" and/or "Andrea del Sarto," both by Browning.

## **S11. Jackie Robinson, Boston, and the Integration of Baseball – 5 Sessions**

### ***Instructor – David Nevard***

In 1947, Jackie Robinson, with the Brooklyn Dodgers, was the first player to break the "color line" in Major League Baseball. This historic event could have taken place in Boston, but the Red Sox lost that chance. In fact, they were the last team to have a black player when they brought up Pumpsie Green in 1959. Ever since then, there have been lingering questions about the racial policies of the team and its owner, Thomas A. Yawkey. These questions have been raised by baseball fans and by professional ball players who have expressed a reluctance to play in Boston. In February 2018, the Red Sox petitioned Boston to change the name of Yawkey Way back to its original name of Jersey Street. This course examines the events surrounding Robinson's Boston tryout and examines racial attitudes of the team and its owner, Thomas Yawkey.

## **S12. The Creeping Professionalism of Major College Sports – 3 Sessions -**

### ***Instructor – Jack Ross***

For many years, avid college sports fans have lamented the evolving shape of big-time football and basketball, driven by the insatiable quest for billions of dollars of television revenue. But over the past few years, several major changes threaten to convert big-time college sports into a near professional model and in the process destroy many of its unique traditions. Waves of athletic conference realignment and consolidation (driven by dollars) have eliminated traditional regional rivalries, and virtually eliminated the PAC-12 Conference. The college football playoff is expanding. NIL (name, image, likeness) payments are funneled legally to players through booster networks --some can earn more in college than they will in the pros. Liberal transfer rules now allow players to freely move among colleges and cut favorable NIL deals. The notion of a "student-athlete" remaining at a college for four years has become archaic. Unionization of college sports is on the horizon. And the NCAA has failed as a regulatory body. This course will examine these issues and ask the question: will the overseers of big-time college sports ultimately kill the goose that laid the golden egg?

### **S13. The Long War for Women's Basketball – 1 Session only**

Women have been playing basketball just as long as men. In the early years of the sport before WWI, women's basketball was often more popular than men's. But the women's game was hobbled by a series of rules to prevent the "weaker sex" from over-exerting themselves. No running. No defense. No competitive tournaments. Interest waned.

As women began to assert their rights leading up to suffrage in 1920, women's hoops suffered a new line of attack: that the players were unattractive and "unladylike"; that they were uppity women's suffrage types; and finally, that they were "muscle molls" - dykes. That last campaign was led by Pres. Hoover's first lady. It was effective: girls basketball disappeared from high schools across the country. Women's college hoops followed suit.

And the situation didn't begin to turn around until Title IX was passed, in 1972. Even then, the resistance continued. This year - 50 years after Title IX – the Women's NCAA championships drew more viewers than the Men's, and the biggest name in basketball is Caitlin Clark. The WNBA is poised to become the first financially successful women's professional team sport. More than half the League has come out as proudly lesbian.

This is the story behind that century-long battle for freedom and respect. It tracks the social history of women and the ongoing construction of gender in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **S16. Conservation in the American West – 5 Sessions – *Instructor Rebecca Watters***

This overview course of conservation in the American West will use case studies to explore the social, political, and ecological problems that accompany wildlife and wildland management in and around some of the country's most iconic landscapes. The course will consider the history of American conservation, the roles of science, values, and profit in decision-making, and the way that controversies and conflicts over wildlife and public lands in the 1990s and early 2000s presaged and predicted the rise of militia movements and right-wing politics. The class will look ahead to the future of conservation work in an era of climate change and governance challenges.

We will look closely at three species whose conservation trajectories highlight major themes, triumphs, and challenges in conservation – wolves, sage grouse, and wolverines. We will also consider evolving social and scientific technologies for better understanding and managing the environment, including AI, remote sensing and DNA, Indigenous Science, and other old and new approaches to the complex question of human/nature relationships



## Course Locations

Course	Location	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
S2.Session 1 - Fascinating History - Women Inventors	Kennedy 119	Jun 3 1 PM				
S2.Session 2 - Mary Roberts Reinhart	Kennedy 119		Jun 10 1 PM			
S2. Session 3 - The Great Molasses Flood-Boston 1919	Kennedy 119			Jun 17 1 PM		
S2. Session 4 - The Healy Brothers & Family	Kennedy 119				Jun 24 1 PM	
S2. Session 5 - The History of Toys	Kennedy 119					Jul 1 1 PM
S4. Five Major American Art Museums	Zoom	May 28 10 AM	Jun 4 10 AM	Jun 6 10 AM	Jun 11 10 AM	Jun 13 10 AM
S5. Fourteen Days – A Collaborative Novel	Kennedy 119	May 28 1 PM	Jun 4 1 PM	Jun 11 1 PM	Jun 18 1 PM	Jun 25 1 PM
S8. Honeybees and Beekeeping	Kennedy 119	May 29 1 PM	Jun 5 1 PM	Jun 12 1 PM	Jun 19 1 PM	
S9. The Dramatic Monologues of Tennyson and Browning	Kennedy 119	Jun 5 3 PM	June 19 3 PM	Jun 26 3 PM		
S11. Jackie Robinson, Boston, and the Integration of Baseball	Zoom	Jun 6 1 PM	Jun 13 1 PM	Jun 20 1 PM	Jun 27 1 PM	Jul 11 1 PM
S12. The Creeping Professionalism of Major College Sports	Zoom	Jun 20 3 PM	Jun 27 3 PM	Jul 11 3 PM		
S13. The Long War for Women’s Basketball	Zoom				Jul 11 10:30- 12:30	
S16. Conservation in the American West	Zoom	May 31 3 PM	Jun 7 3 PM	Jun 14 3 PM	Jun 21 3 PM	Jun 28 3 PM



**Join us this summer!**

**FIND US ONLINE AT  
ASSUMPTIONWISE.  
ORG**

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