

# Coastal Fall 2022 Catalog

## Tuesday

### Exoplanets and Aliens

The existence of worlds beyond our Solar System and alien civilizations has long been the realm of science fiction. We now know of thousands of planets orbiting other stars in our Milky Way galaxy, some of them tantalizingly similar to the Earth. In this course we will explore the ways that these discoveries have been made, and examine the characteristics of some of the newly found exoplanets. Whether any of these planets could harbor life forms is an open question. We will discuss the ongoing searches for alien life, consider the new technologies that are being brought to bear on the question, and assess the possibility that we are not alone in the universe. **Class Limit: none**

**Instructor Theodore (Ted) Williams** is Professor Emeritus of Physics and Astronomy at Rutgers University and former Director of the South African Astronomical Observatory. He has a physics B.S. degree from Purdue University and astronomy Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology. Ted spent most of his career at Rutgers, where he pursued observational studies of galaxies and developed astronomical instrumentation, while teaching a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses in physics and astronomy. He has spent innumerable nights at telescopes around the world, including observatories in California, Arizona, Texas, and Hawaii, as well as Chile, China, and South Africa, and an orbiting facility on the Space Shuttle (Ted stayed firmly on the ground). He has taught a number of astronomy courses for Coastal Senior College.

Location: St. Andrews (Zoom/hybrid)

Dates: September 13 – October 18

Time: 10:00 – 12:00

### Painting Fall Landscapes in Watercolor

This course focuses on the basics of watercolor painting using a limited palette. Mixing colors and basic painting techniques will be covered in this course for beginners. Art supplies needed for the first class include a pad of watercolor paper, tubes or pans of Payne's gray and primary (red, yellow, blue) watercolor paints, brushes, a water pot, a pencil, paper towels, and a mixing palette. **Class Limit: 10**

**Instructor Cynthia Dias** is a watercolor artist who has taught art and historically based classes for a number of years. In addition to her artwork that features scenes of Maine and England, she creates textiles that are handwoven at her home in Newcastle. She has worked as a curator and director of various museums and has illustrated a museum cookbook.

Location: On Zoom  
Dates: September 13 – October 4  
Time: 10:00 – 12:00

## **HISTORY – HERSTORY: Seamus Heaney and Eavan Boland**

These two late 20th-century Irish poets confront/examine Ireland's past and present — not only commenting on historical events but also revealing their own lives and experiences. Poems describing historical events typically do not last long: they are forgotten with the incident. Boland and Heaney write about Northern Ireland, the history of the Irish Republic, seeking ways to make sense of and survive difficult personal times and/or an inherited past (famine, war, exile, love, and loss). Treating them together, we can appreciate the role gender plays in their insights; Heaney and Boland do not memorialize moments in Irish history, but instead personalize those moments for us to share. **Class Limit: 25**

**Instructor John Ward** has been professor and chair of Kenyon College (Gambier, OH) English Department and has served as Dean of Centre College (Danville, KY). He earned his B.A. from Amherst College and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia, and has taught courses in 18th- and 19th-century British literature and the history of the British novel. He has published on 18th- and 19th-century British works, as well as those of Vachel Lindsay and Robert Lowell.

**Instructor Maryanne Ward** is retired after a 40-year career in small college education. She chaired Kenyon College (Gambier, OH) Humanities program and served as academic dean until moving to Centre College (Danville, KY) as professor of English and chair of the Humanities program. Her area of special interest and scholarship is 19th-century British literature. Among other topics, her publications have examined the relationship between literature, landscape, and painting.

Location: St. Andrews (Zoom/hybrid)  
Dates: September 13 – October 18  
Time: 1:30 – 3:00

## **Wednesday**

### **You and the Law: American Jurisprudence. Part One**

If you are interested in knowing how and why our judicial system functions as it does, this course provides you with in-depth knowledge covering much of what a practicing lawyer uses in the areas of criminal and civil law. We will use real-life cases to see how the relevant legal theories and practices are in play. For example, we will use the death of Trayvon Martin (*State of Florida v. George Zimmerman*) and the trial of O.J. Simpson

to illustrate what attorneys do to represent, prepare, strategize, and conduct themselves before and during a trial.

To do justice to what is considered one of the best systems of jurisprudence in the world, this course is divided into two parts. We will cover criminal law in this fall semester. Part two, offered next spring as a separate course, will cover civil law. Each topic will be covered via film lectures presented by law school attorneys with class discussion following each lecture. **Class Limit: 10**

**Instructor Paul Somoza** is a graduate of Fordham Law School and the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health with a degree in health care administration. He retired from Maine General Medical Center as director of education and organizational development. He lives in Newcastle with his wife, Kay Ann.

Location: Carpenter Room, Skidompha Library (in person)

Dates: September 14 – November 2

Time: 9:30 – 12:00

## **LUCRECE AND LEAR: Lasting Themes and Images of Shakespearean Tragedy**

The Elizabethan narrative poem, "The Rape of Lucrece," was the second published work after "Venus and Adonis" to name William Shakespeare as its author. The man of Stratford called them "the first heirs of my invention." "Lucrece" was shared with the world of Elizabeth I in 1594 and provided Shakespeare with his first serious tragic theme. His poem is set in Rome 509 BCE and is replete with ideas and images that were to remain in his imagination for the rest of his career. The antagonist is Shakespeare's first self-destructive self-deceiver. The poem is the Bard's first extended treatment of that most familiar topos of tragic deceit, loss, and suffering. The passage of eleven years to 1605 gave birth to the play considered to be one of Shakespeare's masterpieces, "The Tragedy of King Lear." Set in 800 BCE Britain, it is first a tragedy of retribution, an anguished, storm-ridden journey of the mind and spirit. "Tragic deceit, loss and suffering" also play their roles to a heightened intensity. It seems indisputable that "Lucrece" in poetic form of 1,855 lines did indeed set an early stage for the five shattering acts of "Lear." Joseph will supply food-for-thought study documents in advance. He invites you to explore with him! **Class Limit: 18**

**Instructor Joseph Côté** has been a "jobbing" Shakespearean actor for 40 years who considers himself fortunate to have been offered the opportunities to raise the spirits of 14 leading or featured characters from the pages of Shakespeare's late 16th- and early 17th-century canon of 38 plays. (Additionally, he has even relished several of the proverbial "third spear-carrier from the left" supporting roles.) The highlight of Joseph's actor training over the years was with his mentor, the late, highly esteemed John Broome of the Royal Shakespeare Company. At CSC Joseph has taught a variety of popular Shakespeare-exploration courses as well as single master classes in his free CSC Member Interest Group, "Journeys with Will Shakespeare." All of his highly interactive classes focus on a single character within the greater landscape of the play with the goal

of understanding the details of that character's journey from the first words of the text to the final moment of the story.

Location: On Zoom

Dates: September 14 – October 19

Time: 10:00 – 12:00

## **Mill Stories: Characters and Communities in Fiction, History, and Memory**

Mills were established on the falls of rivers and tidal currents of the first permanent British colonies in North America for a variety of purposes and eventually became the location for the early stages of the industrial revolution in the new United States. Despite the history of industrial decline in the Northeast, mills remain central to the imagination of what many communities of New England and the northeast U.S. once were and still are. Starting from the base of contemporary memoir and returning to earlier times, we will look at the blend of fact and fiction in the tradition of "mill stories." What is unique to these stories and how do they contribute to our understanding of the experiences of people and place? What role does the image of the "mill town" and the "mill" play in our imagination of the lives of others — ancestors, immigrants, the "other half" — and themes of aspiration, accomplishment, and despair. Representative writers from the 19th to 21st centuries include Harriet Robinson, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Sarah Orne Jewett, Edwin Arlington Robinson, Gérard Robichaud, Jack Kerouac, Monica Wood, and Kerri Arsenault, among others. The instructor will provide URLs or PDF copies for texts. Reading will include about three short stories or chapters per week (poems in the case of Longfellow and E.A. Robinson), plus optional background readings and videos for those interested (not required for discussion). **Class Limit: 14**

**Instructor Stephen Hahn** is professor of English, emeritus, William Paterson University (NJ) and a member of the Curriculum Committee of Costal Senior College, where he previously taught the course "Literature Encounters Aging." He was born in Lawrence, MA, and attended Northern Essex Community College before transferring to Amherst College, where he graduated magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, in 1975. He received his M.A. (1979) and Ph.D. (1983) from Rutgers University. He serves on the Executive Council of the William Carlos Williams Society and the Editorial Advisory Board of the William Carlos Williams Review. He has published widely throughout his career. His current research interests involve not only William Carlos Williams, but also Henry David Thoreau, the literature of aging, and the literature of contact and conflict between colonial settlers and Indigenous people in what is now the Northeast United States.

Location: Carpenter Room, Skidompha Library (in person)

Dates: September 14 – November 2

Time: 1:30 – 3:30

## **Thursday**

## **SEEING OURSELVES: Why Do We Feel This Way About That?**

Social and cultural environments shape our beliefs and behaviors in ways that are not always consciously apparent to us. We think, feel, and behave in ways these environments have taught us to and we seldom consider the reasons that underlie them. Our goal is to gain insight into how we shape — and are shaped by — the multiple forces and environments that surround us in 21st-century America. These include social, economic, cultural, and political environments. We will consider classic findings of sociology, anthropology, biology, and psychology and learn about classic studies that have impacted our understanding of why we think and behave as we do. We will learn how we develop our personal sense of morality and see how race, gender, economic status, and social class affect our views of others. We will also see how these beliefs inevitably shape our views of right and wrong, justice, crime, criminals, and punishment. Finally, we will discuss the concept of free will as it relates to our behavior and individual responsibility for our own actions. **Class Limit: 20**

**Instructor Joel Shapiro**, Ed.D., retired as Chair and full professor of education and psychology from Green Mountain College, Poultney, VT. He won a Fulbright Scholarship to teach at the University of Presov, Slovak Republic and wrote a book for college professors on ways to successfully integrate international students into American classrooms. Additionally, he wrote numerous articles for American and European professional journals and lectured at universities and conferences throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Joel has won teaching awards at several colleges. Prior to beginning his academic career, he was a school psychologist working with children who have special needs. He received his Bachelor's degree from Colgate University, his Master's degree from Temple University, and his doctorate from Nova Southeastern University.

Location: On Zoom

Dates: September 15 – October 20

Time: 9:30 – 11:30

## **Editing Techniques: How To Cut and Prune Your Writing.**

According to Nancy Thayer, "It's never too late...in life or in fiction...to revise." Given honest and constructive feedback, students will learn to "cut and prune" stories as they organize a kaleidoscope of random recollections. Memoir writings and supportive ways to deliver and receive constructive criticism will be discussed. Each participant will bring a completed story to class. The group will respond to the story, discussing memorable "hot spots" as well as places that could be stronger, funnier or more real. No prior writing experience is necessary, just the desire to strengthen the impact of your writing. **Class limit: 10**

**Instructor Caroline Janover** is an award-winning author of four novels and a play for children and young adults. A recipient of the New Jersey Governor's Outstanding

Teacher Award, Caroline has spent her professional career working in public and private school education. Caroline has dyslexia and lectures nationally about the creative gifts and academic challenges of children with learning differences and ADHD. She is currently working on a memoir.

Location: On Zoom

Dates: September 15 – October 20

Time: Thursday 10:00 – 11:30

### **The “Lost Generation” in Hemingway’s *A Farewell to Arms* and *The Sun Also Rises***

A Red Cross ambulance driver in Italy during the “Great War,” Hemingway was steeped in that conflict’s madness and exited the war damaged physically and emotionally. His scars, however, helped him produce two works of great twentieth-century fiction, *A Farewell to Arms* (1929) and *The Sun Also Rises* (1926), the first of which explains the rise of the Lost Generation, the second of which lays bare the extent of the wartime damage. To borrow a strategy laid out in George Saunders’s *A Swim in a Pond in the Rain*, we will investigate those two works as though they are a “call-and-response” between writer and reader. **Class Limit: 15**

**Instructor Michelle Miller** is a retired high-school English teacher who still finds discussing literature with people who love to read one of the most stimulating pastimes she pursues. She has been feeding that passion as a student at Coastal Senior College, but decided to accept their invitation to share by designing a class of her own on a topic inspired by Geoff Robinson’s engaging course on British poetry from World War I.

Location: On Zoom

Dates: September 15 – October 27

Time: 1:30 – 3:00

## **Friday**

### **Betrayal and Anarchy: The Political Vision of Joseph Conrad**

We will read two novels by Joseph Conrad, and see if these novels, written a hundred years ago, speak to the circumstances of the 21st century. The two Conrad novels are *The Secret Agent* (1907) and *Under Western Eyes* (1911). The first is a dark, ironic tale of anarchists working for the Russian Embassy in London. The use of agents provocateurs was suggested by Conrad’s friend Ford Madox Ford, who reminded him of a forgotten news item: In 1894 an anarchist, Martial Bourdin, blew himself up while trying to bomb the Greenwich Observatory. Conrad set this tale in 1896, the year he became a naturalized British subject.

*Under Western Eyes* takes place in St. Petersburg and Geneva during the 1904 Russian Revolution. Although less well known than *Lord Jim*, with which it shares the subject of betrayal, critics consider this novel among Conrad's greatest. Here it is the betrayal to the Czar's police of an idealistic, active, and revolutionary student who has just tossed a bomb into the carriage of the Minister of the Interior and killed him. This tale is prescient, given the use of Russian political and police abuse of power to this day. **Class Limit: 20**

**Instructor Geoffrey Robinson** earned his B.A. and M.A. in English Literature from Yale University. He has taught in secondary schools in Connecticut; at Maarif College in Samsun, Turkey; and at the Penobscot Language School in Rockland, Maine. Geoffrey has also spent 25 years as a dealer in paintings, specializing in 19th- and 20th-century European and American art.

Location: Bremen Library (in person)

Dates: September 16 – October 22

Time: 10:30 – 12:00

### **Sheri S. Tepper: Science Fiction, Feminism, and a Little Magic**

Although we will briefly review some of the first feminist science fiction novels and will mention some current ones, we will focus on two works by Sheri S. Tepper (1929–2016). Her science fiction novels have a strong feminist slant (she preferred the terms "eco-feminist" or "eco-humanist") for which she was both praised and attacked. The devices of science fiction allowed her to expand the boundaries of her themes, often in invented settings, while portraying real issues and concerns.

The two novels we will read use the devices of science fiction but are set within recognizable or frighteningly possible worlds. The first novel, *Gibbon's Decline and Fall* (1996), is set in Washington, DC in the year 2000 in a time increasingly threatened by misogyny and extremism. Although the novel flashes back to the college friendships of the women who are the heart of the novel, most of the action takes place 40 years later. The story follows the central character, a lawyer, as she agrees to act for the defense in a controversial case, and follows the friends as they go on a journey and struggle with the ethics of the case as well as with often-violent forces allied against them. The life experiences of the women reflect aspects of male-female relationships. Although differing external forces both intensify the malevolence of their enemies and provide a positive *deus ex machina*, the issues and anger that surface in the novel are very real and present.

The second novel is *The Gate to Women's Country* (1988), one of Sheri S. Tepper's best-known works. The novel is set on earth 300 years after a cataclysm "the burning." In this time, the women live in walled city-states and perform a Greek tragedy resembling *The Trojan Women* during their festivals. Outside the gates are camps of armed men, who defend the city and enter only for other festivals. This novel explores the nature of war and violence and how they are linked to gender. Although this novel also has a journey and quest, nothing is quite what it seems and solutions found by the women raise their own questions.

The portrayals of male-female relationships in the novels echo some of the continuing concerns of feminist writers. The discussion of violence and war is powerful as well. The ethical questions and ambiguities in the books provide material for discussion and debate. Whatever our conclusions about the novels, their focus and arguments are relevant and useful. **Class Limit: 14**

**Instructor Ann Nesslage** is a graduate of Vassar with a masters in British literature from Bryn Mawr. Ann retired from Choate Rosemary Hall, where she taught different levels of literature including British Studies and world literature. She also created electives in fantasy literature, satire, Early Irish and Welsh literature, and other topics. Ann lives in Bremen, where she enjoys reading and gardening and serves on the Bremen Conservation Commission and the library board. She is also a member of the CSC board and the Curriculum Committee.

Location: Bremen Library (in person)  
Dates: September 16 – November 4  
Time: 1:30 – 3:00

## CSC ACTIVITIES — FALL 2022

*This fall, Coastal Senior College offers a variety of Activities that are free to members in addition to the course listings.*

### Mystery Mondays

This well-established reading group meets on the first Monday of the month from September through June (the September meeting is always on a Tuesday) **via Zoom** to discuss a new case. The mystery of the month comes from a list compiled from suggestions by the members. Some years we have themes: 2022–23 is the year of Female Investigators. The group is open, without charge to members of CSC. If you are interested in being included on the list of investigators, please contact Maryanne Ward at [mcw39@hotmail.com](mailto:mcw39@hotmail.com). Deerstalker hats and/or knitting are not required.

### Mystery Mondays: Reading list 2022–23

September 6: Anthony Horowitz  
October 3: Nevada Barr  
November 7: Patricia Cornwell  
December 5: Peter Tremayne  
January 2: Susan Witting Albert  
February 6: Faith Martin  
March 6: Barbara Neely  
April 3: Kathy Reichs  
May 1: Katherine Page  
June 5: Jacqueline Winspear

*Magpie Murders*  
*A Superior Death*  
*Cause of Death*  
*Absolution by Murder*  
*Rosemary Remembered*  
*Murder of the Bride*  
*Blanche among the Talent Tenth*  
*The Bone Code*  
*The Body in the Lighthouse*  
*Maisie Dobbs*



## **Cup a...?**

CSC invites you to have a cup of coffee/tea with CSC friends at **Cupacity** at 133 Main Street, Damariscotta. This event is for members only: no charge, no program, purely social. This is an experiment as we try to add variety to our programming. We have chosen two dates that do not conflict with any other CSC program or meeting. In the future, some members might enjoy a walk or a lecture/discussion, while others might choose to grab a cup and chat. **Cupacity** has been generous enough to offer their facilities on Mondays when they are usually closed. So, sign up for either October 31 or November 14 from 10:00–11:30 a.m. Come and go anytime. You will get an email reminder close to the date, but remember to mark your calendar.

Contact: Maryanne Ward at [mcw39@hotmail.com](mailto:mcw39@hotmail.com).

## **Journeys with Will Shakespeare**

Coastal Senior College invites you to be their guest on a complimentary "Journey with Will Shakespeare." Each month, we will take a whirlwind journey to a different destination as we follow the path of one character from a great play by the master. Join CSC instructor [Joseph](#) Côté on Zoom on the third Monday of each month, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Each session is limited to 18 Zoom "explorers" who may volunteer to read a scene from the play and who are all encouraged to participate in the highly interactive feedback and discussion.

The plays and the characters in the spotlight for September 2022 through May 2023 will be announced soon on the CSC website. Study guides, video and film sources, and food-for-thought tidbits from "what the scholars say" will be provided two weeks prior to each Journey.

Membership in the group is dynamic. Members will need to register monthly when they wish to attend the upcoming "journey." Here's how it works:

On the 4th Monday of each month, beginning in September, a link to the registration page for the upcoming month's meeting will be posted on our website, describing the upcoming "journey." After you register, supplementary information about the trip will be emailed to you, and a Zoom link for the meeting will be sent a few days before the journey is set to begin.

## **The "Challenge of Change" Discussion Group**

Coastal Senior College offers the "Challenge of Change" to the Mid-coast community; this group is open to both members and non-members of CSC.

The “Challenge of Change” is a discussion group that provides a venue for community conversation to discuss economic, political, environmental and cultural challenges facing our society — at the national, state and local level. The group members propose and then choose the meeting’s topics and readings, which generally provide provocative and lively discussions.

The group generally meets twice a month — typically from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The schedule is set twice a year by participants, with no meetings during the summer months.

Due to the Covid pandemic, meetings during the past two years have met virtually via Zoom. In September 2022, the group will meet in person for the first time since 2020. New members are always welcome!

Please join us for this meeting to re-engage the discussion group, which will be held at the Midcoast Friends Meeting House at 77 Belvedere Road in Damariscotta. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 13, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. It will feature Stephen Shaw, the author of *The Power Conundrum: Exploring the Puzzle of How to Reclaim a Democracy*. Stephen is a local author who offers us a wonderful opportunity to engage in this timely topic.

Should you desire additional information, you may contact Anton Lahnston at [antonlahnston@aol.com](mailto:antonlahnston@aol.com) or Susan van Alsenoy at [svanalsenoy@gmail.com](mailto:svanalsenoy@gmail.com).

## **Fall Walks**

Our brown bag tradition continues outdoors as we explore three nearby spots on foot. Reserve your spot for these members-only events and pack a picnic lunch! Starting place and “what to wear/bring” directions will be sent to all registrants. More details about the walks will be on our website in late August.

### **September 12: Head Tide with Jayne Gordon**

We will discover ruins of the industrial past of this section of Alna on the upper Sheepscot River, and explore the dam, an 1838 church, parts of an old railway, and the birthplace of a major American poet.

### **September 26: East Boothbay with Rich Gillespie and Jayne Gordon**

Located on the west shore of the Damariscotta River, this village has been a center of shipbuilding for two centuries. We will stroll by the river, the millpond, and the end of Linekin Bay, and see evidence of a rich history in transportation and tourism.

### **October 24: West Side Road area, South Bristol with David Andrews**

Crossing the bridge onto Rutherford Island, we will walk through a beautiful neighborhood on the east shore of the Damariscotta River, and learn about its storied past from a man steeped in the history of this place.

**Jayne Gordon**, Walk Series Coordinator