

Winter 2022–23 Catalog

TUESDAY

The Presence of the Past: History and Memory

How do we make sense of the past and what do we do with this as individuals and societies? Why do we need to find meaning in what we have lived through both personally and collectively? How are private memories and public commemorations created and how are they used? How do the stories of history — historical narratives — come to be and why? How do these narratives influence our outlooks and actions today? Who selects what to remember and why? What are their motivations? How do the issues of the present frame our views of the past? How do memories and meanings of the past change over time? What are the implications of *not* understanding the differences between actual historical events and our interpretations of them?

These are some of the questions we will be examining during the course, using specific case studies.

Week 1. Private and Public Experience: Introduction; the Ancient Shoemaker and the Boston Tea Party; Paul Revere's Ride

Week 2. Events and Interpretations: Remembering the Revolution, America's Creation Story; Grandfathers, Grandsons

Week 3. The Dangers of Denial: Slavery in New England; the Complex Case of Thomas Jefferson; *Gone with the Wind* and the "Lost Cause" Narrative

Week 4. Changing and Challenging Meanings: the Énola Gay Controversy; Suffrage and *Little Women*; Maine's 200th Birthday

Week 5. Inventing Traditions: The Shaping of Christmas and Other American Holidays

Week 6. Landscapes of Memory: Monuments and Battlefields; *Walden* and Walden Pond; Memorializing 9/11; Your Own Sacred Sites

Class Limit: 20

Location: On Zoom

Dates: January 17 – February 28 (skip February 14)

Time: 9:30 – 11:30

Instructor Jayne Gordon is Vice-President of Coastal Senior College, and a member of the curriculum and activities committees. She has taught courses for CSC on Maine history and literature, and on the writers of her former hometown of Concord, MA. Jayne worked for decades as a public historian, educator, administrator, and consultant at numerous history museums and literary sites. Before retiring and moving to

Damariscotta, she served as Director of Education and Public Programs at the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Turgenev's *Fathers and Children*: A Key to Understanding Russia.

Ivan Turgenev, *Fathers and Children* (sometimes translated as *Fathers and Sons*) stands on its own as a wonderfully written short novel about generational, ideological, and romantic conflict within a small group of people in rural Russia in 1859. Turgenev explores the moment, does not take sides, but, as gifted writer of realism, brings the characters and the moment to life. This is not a political novel, but it does explore the roots of the Slavophile/Westernizer dispute within Russian culture. Turgenev looked to the West for his literary models; he was a great friend of Flaubert. This novel is a good place to start a discussion of the current state of Russia and how the past is the key to the present.

I do not have a favorite contemporary translation; several are very good. Turgenev writes in a style that is fairly easy to translate accurately. But I would avoid the very dated Constance Garnett translations. Assignments will be sent well before the first class. **Class Limit: 20**

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: On Zoom

Dates: January 17 – February 7

Time: 1:30 – 3:00

WEDNESDAY

The Art and Poetry of Snow

A 4-session Zoom excursion into selected high points in the art and poetry of winter snows. Paintings and poems will be examined and discussed, along with two somewhat longer "homework" texts, Robert Frost's 14-page "Snow" from *Mountain Interval* and the six-page prose-poem "Neiges" (Snows) by St. John Perse with French and English translation *en face*— both of these texts to be supplied electronically by the instructor. And finally, the course will culminate in the greatest series of snow paintings in history by Maine's own Neil Welliver. **Class Limit: None**

Instructor Winslow Myers returned to mid-coast Maine, where he grew up, after 40 years of teaching studio art and history of art in various venues in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The most recent exhibition of his paintings occurred at River Arts in October of 2022 and his most recent publication is *Walter Tandy Murch: Paintings and Drawings, 1925–1967*. He served on the Board of the Coastal Senior College and has given courses for CSC such as "The Universe Story," and "Appreciating Painting."

Location: On Zoom

Dates: January 18 – February 8

Time: 9:30 – 11:00

The Psychology of Aging: What It Is and How to Do It

Oliver Wendell Holmes noted, "To be seventy years young is sometimes far more cheerful and hopeful than to be forty years old." Conversely, actor Bette Davis opined, "Old age is no place for sissies." Both positions are true. This course examines how many Americans experience aging as we interact with our physical, social, and cultural environments. Predictable changes in social and vocational adjustment, physical ability, mental health, spirituality, relationships, and approaching infirmity and the end of life will be considered. Strategies for adjusting successfully to these changes will be offered.

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 integrate international students successfully into the American classroom. Additionally, he wrote numerous articles for American and European professional journals and lectured at universities and conferences throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. He 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 earned his B.A. from Colgate University, his M.A. from Temple University, and his Ph.D. from Nova Southeastern University.

Location: On Zoom

Dates: January 18 – March 1

Time: 1:30 – 3:30

John Keats's Pathway to Perfection: Early Works Informing Later Odes

It is a commonplace that Keats's greatest works were written in 1823 and 1824, with his death following closely. How could he have achieved such mature poetic accomplishments in so short a time? What does the sequence of early sonnets tell us about the topics and techniques of the later odes? While it is useless to speculate on what he might have written had he lived longer, it may be fruitful to assess his last works as if they were the culmination of a painstaking career of poetic experiments and deep thought about the subjects, history, and goals of lyric poetry. We will start with early sonnets, next turn to major works like "The Eve of St. Agnes," and then to the

great Odes, including "To Autumn." Assigned texts will be identified class by class.

Class Limit: 20

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.

Location: On Zoom

Dates: January 18 – February 8

Time: 1:30 – 3:00

THURSDAY

Form in Nature and Design

The natural world is not a random clutter: an accident. To the discerning eye, all things appear as inventions and variations from a finite number of basic patterns. The beautiful spiral nebulae, the eddies in a stream, and the nautilus shell share a common theme. So too do meanders, radiations, branchings, as well as linear and circular systems. But why do these archetypal patterns occur? This course investigates the interactions of matter and energies in three-dimensional space as the underlying origins for these primary natural forms. If then, our material culture — what we make and what we build — are also compositions of materials and energies in space, perhaps these archetypal patterns also form the foundations for what we call harmony and beauty in man-made form as it does in nature. The course is taught in a lecture format with interludes of class discussion on Zoom. New material and lectures have been added this year. **Class Limit: 20**

Instructor Arnold J. Aho, A.I.A. has taught architecture and basic design for more than 40 years at North Carolina State U., Mississippi State U., and Norwich U., where he started the new Architecture Program and served as its first Director. He was educated at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the University of Pennsylvania, where he studied under Louis I. Kahn. He has many publications on materials and energies in design, vernacular (folk) architecture, and the relationships between natural and built environments. In addition to numerous design awards, he has received distinguished teaching recognition, including the Burlington Northern Outstanding Teacher Award (MSU) and the Dana Distinguished Professor (Norwich).

Location: On Zoom

Dates: January 19 – February 23

Time: 10:00 – 11:45

We All See the Same Moon

In 1998 astronomers from around the world gathered in Cape Town, South Africa to explore the possibility of building the world's largest optical telescope in the southern hemisphere. This course will trace the path of that project from idea to reality, set against the backdrop of the newly democratic South Africa, emerging from decades of brutal apartheid oppression. Science, technology, sociology, politics, and economics intertwined to produce opportunity, adversity, and eventual success. SALT — the Southern African Large Telescope — is today exploring the furthest reaches of the universe. We will consider the why, where, how, and who that made this possible, with some insights into the personal side of modern science and technology. **Class Limit: 25**

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 B.S. in physics from Purdue University and a Ph.D. in astronomy 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. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Dates: January 19 – February 9
Time: 10:00 – 12:00

True Love Comes to Those Who Wait: Esquivel and Hurston

Laura Esquivel and Zora Neale Hurston created marvelous stories about women whose lives are enriched by the love they share with their soulmates. Does Esquivel's protagonist Tita believe in true love? I'd say she does. Even though her mother tries to keep Tita and Pedro apart, Tita burns with love for Pedro her whole life long. What about Hurston's central character Janie? She does too, but she kisses a few frogs before she ultimately finds her prince. Join me for a lively discussion of *Like Water for Chocolate* and *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, the former set in northern Mexico in the early 20th century, the latter unfolding in the same time frame in Florida. What better way to escape the early darkness and dreariness of winter than by spending time with pear-tree love and recipes for passion? **Class Limit: 15**

Instructor Michelle Miller, a retired English teacher, has just finished teaching her first class for CSC on two novels by Ernest Hemingway. She relished the quality of the exchange from its participants but is ready to leave the battlefield of World War I and its aftermath to investigate the battle of the sexes. A resident of Owls Head, Michelle

spends a lot of time reading good literature, swimming at the Rockport YMCA, and gardening during the growing season.

Location: On Zoom

Dates: January 19 – February 23

Time: 1:30 – 3:00

FRIDAY

What Is Woman? Philosophers Weigh In.

Since the ancient Greeks, philosophers didn't have much if anything to say about women. But when they did, they typically argued that sex was destiny. Because they believed that women were deficient in that most important ability, reasoning, women were thought to be inferior to men. And since reasoning was essential for knowing truth, goodness, and justice, any higher pursuits (and most "lower" pursuits too) were, justifiably, closed to women. It wasn't until the latter part of the 19th century, with John Stuart Mill, that a major philosopher made the radical claim that sex was not destiny: most differences between men and women were likely due to nurture, not nature. Eighty years later, Simone de Beauvoir (*The Second Sex*, 1948) made this even more explicit with her famous remark: "One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman." We will analyze these philosophers' arguments, from Plato to de Beauvoir, and discuss how they might shed light on contemporary issues about gender, sex, and sexual orientation. **Class Limit: 15**

Instructor Sara Shute taught philosophy at Marietta College for most of her professional career, where she also initiated and then coordinated a gender studies program. Since moving to Maine, she has taught at several U Maine campuses, at Colby College, and at senior college. Her interest in gender issues intersects with her interests in rationality, and in philosophical pragmatism. She received a Ph.D. in philosophy from Washington University in 1977.

Location: On Zoom

Dates: January 20 – February 24

Time: 9:30 – 11:00

Historians and the Holocaust

As with my earlier Senior College course "Historians and Racial Conflict in America," this course will examine a complex historical event as interpreted by leading historians. These will include several who were featured in Ken Burns' recent PBS documentary "The U.S. and the Holocaust," such as Deborah Lipstadt (*Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory*), Timothy Snyder (*Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin*) and Daniel Okrent (*The Guarded Gate: Bigotry, Eugenics, and the Law*

That Kept Two Generations of Jews, Italians, and Other European Immigrants Out of America).

In addition, we will consider recent works by historians Jeffrey Herf (*Israel's Moment: International Support for and Opposition to Establishing the Jewish State, 1945–1949*) and David Kertzer (*The Pope at War: The Secret History of Pius XII, Mussolini, and Hitler*). A complete list, with links to videos and recommended readings will be provided in early January on the Coastal Senior College website. **Class Limit: 30**

Instructor Bob Rackmales will be teaching his tenth Senior College course dealing with aspects of the Holocaust. My interest stems from a combination of family history (my ancestors' roots were in the "bloodlands"), academic background in German and Eastern European history and my profession as a diplomat. Over the course of my career I represented the United States at a memorial service at the only Holocaust extermination camp in Italy, advised Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel during his visit to Belgrade at the height of the war in Bosnia and, as Director of the Office of Human Rights, prepared policy guidance on matters relating to violations of international law, including genocide.

Location: In person TBD

Dates: February 10 – March 3

Time: 9:30 – 12:00