

## Coastal Spring 2022 Catalog

### Tuesday

#### How It All Began

Put on your deerstalker and be ready to use “your little gray cells.” Our investigation will begin with Arthur Conan Doyle’s “Study in Scarlet,” then examine suspects with Miss Marple and Hercule Poirot, and finally read several stories by Agatha Christie. The investigation will close with Doyle’s “The Hound of the Baskervilles.” The two Doyle stories are really short novels, so get a head start on this part of the investigation.

**Class Limit: 20**

**Instructor Maryanne Ward** is retired after a 40-year career in small college education. She chaired Kenyon College (Gambier, Ohio) Humanities program and served as academic dean until moving to Centre College (Danville, Kentucky) 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.

On Zoom

Dates: April 5 – May 17 (Class will not be held on May 3)

Time: 9:30 – 11:00

#### What’s Up With the Explosion in Artificial Intelligence?

This is a repeat of a Spring 2019 course. Artificial intelligence has gone from science fiction to reality. It is starting to profoundly change our way of life. Some see it as a promise, others as a threat. The study group will look at how philosophers, scientists, and other scholars view the phenomenon. To prepare for each session participants may read a recommended article or story, and/or watch some videos. They will be available as links from the study group web page. In class we will discuss the assignment and take up further examples. There are no right or wrong answers. The experts themselves are divided. Please join the discussion. **Class Limit: 20**

**Instructor Michael Werner** is a retired computer science professor from Wentworth Institute of Technology. He has a Ph.D. in computer science from Northeastern University. Michael has had a long involvement with computers, starting in 1963. His recent teaching specialties have been in programming languages and 3D graphics on Android phones. Lately, his interests have shifted to the philosophical implications of the computer revolution. Michael taught “Exploring the Gift” at Instituto Allende’s Life Long Learning program as well as six study groups at Tufts University’s OLLIE program.

On Zoom

Dates: April 5 – May 10  
Time: 10:00 – 12:00

### **Robert Frost: Intentional Uncertainties. Are We Misled?**

Frost concludes many poems with questions unanswered. Sometimes celebrated as a plain-speaking New Englander with a gift for rhyme, he was also an anxious seeker — a man who wrote to keep control of a complex, troubled life. Never presented with a simple answer or a clear outcome, the reader needs to re-read and ponder with care. But — despite his uncertainties — Frost built his poems with great technical control and disciplined planning. We will read selected poems and admire the ways in which the poet forces us to think twice, to think again. **Class Limit: 20**

**Instructor John Ward** has been professor and chair of Kenyon College (Gambier, Ohio) English Department and has served as Dean of Centre College (Danville, Kentucky). 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.

On Zoom

Dates: April 5 – May 17 (Class will not be held on May 3)  
Time: 1:00 – 2:30

## **Wednesday**

### **Sketching the Buildings Around You**

The focus of his course is to introduce drawing techniques that will be the basis for creating a work of art featuring buildings as the main subject matter. The first class concentrates on drawing with graphite to create form and texture. Colored charcoal pencils will be the medium used for more vibrant works.

Materials needed for the first class are a set of graphite pencils, eraser, ruler, and drawing pad. For the other classes, the addition of a set of charcoal colored pencils is needed.

Photos will be emailed with the Zoom invitation to be printed for each class. **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 illustrated a museum cookbook.

On Zoom

Dates: April 6 – April 27

Time: 10:00 – 12:00

## **How the Impressionists Defeated the Academy**

Impressionism was a radical art movement that rebelled against the yoke of the Academy and embraced modernity to create works that truly reflected the world in which they lived. Art became spontaneous, luminous, colorful, unregimented. These artists opened the gates of personal creativity and innovation. Uniting them was a focus on how light could define a moment in time, with color providing freshness, and loose brushstrokes suffusing an unexpected reality, not detracting from it.

How and why did this happen? **Class Limit: open?**

**Instructor Antoinette Pimentel** has a degree in biochemistry, but grew up among pigments, easels, and brushes, as her father was an artist, a printer, and an engraver. Her travels led her to turn to art, as science requires a more sedentary life. Antoinette attended the Kunsternes hus in Oslo, Norway, and the Volksuniversiteit in Amsterdam, Nederland. She has taught the history of art and art appreciation for several years in a variety of settings.

On Zoom

Dates: April 6 – May 25

Time: 10:00 – 12:00

## **Consistency Versus Power**

When young children cry, "That's not fair!" they are demanding (logical) consistency, even though they can't say what it is. When adults cry, "No one is above the law!" or "Equal pay for equal work!" or "Black Lives Matter," they, too, are demanding consistency: It's the power of logic v. the powers that be. In this class, we will explore what consistency is, why it is so important, and when we should demand it.

What makes consistency so important is that — although it's a simple concept — without it we couldn't have the concepts of rule of law, due process, fairness, or rationality. Democracy depends on it. Truth depends on it. Without it, we couldn't have the concepts of corruption, prejudice, hypocrisy, conflict of interest, or lying. In short, consistency is necessary for rationality, for democratic ideals, and for much of moral thinking.

In a worst-case scenario, unless we demand consistency (and it's not always easy to know when to demand it), we could be in danger of losing the "rule of law," or democracy, or even truth. Without consistency, "might" will make right. When we should demand consistency, and when, à la Ralph Waldo Emerson, it is foolish to do so, will be a major topic of this course.

A course handout will be provided. **Class Limit: 20**

**Instructor Sara Shute** received a Ph.D. in philosophy from Washington University in 1977 and taught philosophy at Marietta College for most of her professional career. She has also taught philosophy at Michigan State, at three U Maine campuses, and at Colby College. Since retiring, she has taught many senior college courses. Her current interests are in the concepts of logical consistency and rationality.

On Zoom

Dates: April 6 – April 27

Time: 1:00 – 2:30

## Thursday

### Thoreau's Timeless Questions

"Let us consider the way in which we spend our lives," Henry Thoreau once wrote in his essay "Life Without Principle." That is what he did every day of his life, urging other people to do the same. He asked — in his journals, published essays, and the book *Walden* — penetrating, provocative questions that still challenge us to confront our own lifestyles and choices. You may disagree with his sometimes-acerbic observations, but his inquiries are hard to ignore — we are still searching for the answers.

Using excerpts from Thoreau's writings, we will explore six of these questions with historical context and readings provided by the instructor. Part of each session will be a conversation applying these questions to our own lives in 2022. **Class Limit: 20**

1. What does it mean to be truly awake?
2. What does it mean to live deliberately?
3. What does it mean to be wild and free?
4. What does mean to live a principled life in society?
5. What does it mean to live a principled life in nature?
6. What does it mean to be Henry Thoreau? To be *You*?

**Instructor Jayne Gordon** is VP of Coastal Senior College, and a member of the Curriculum and Activities Committees, coordinating the Brown Bag lunchtime series. She has taught courses on Thoreau and Antislavery, Fact and Fiction in Little Women, and Transcendentalism and Education Reform. She has also taught four courses on Maine history and literature.

Jayne lived in Concord, MA for close to a half century before moving to Damariscotta four years ago. She retired as Director of Education and Public Programs of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and before that was Executive Director of the Thoreau Society and of the Alcotts' Orchard House, and Director of Education at the Concord Museum. She has led countless classes, courses, workshops, and walks focusing on the

world of Henry Thoreau. She is on the Board of Directors of the Thoreau Society, chairing the Education Committee.

On Zoom

Dates: April 7 – May 12

Time: 10:00 – 11:30

## **Memoir Writing: Crafting Your Own Story From a Kaleidoscope of Memories**

Do you have a story to tell? According to Flannery O'Connor, "Anyone who has survived childhood has enough material to write for his or her life." This course will provide a relaxed, entertaining, and supportive environment for memoir writing. No previous writing experience is needed, just the desire to peek into the corners of your life and write 10 minutes a day about what you remember. The stories you tell will delight and enlighten your family and friends for generations to come. Preference will be given to those new to this course. **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.

On Zoom

Dates: April 7 – May 12

Time: 10:00 – 11:30

## **From Chapbook to Goethe: Faust as a Literary Theme**

In 1587 Johann Spies published a German chapbook about the saga of Johann Faust, who made a pact with the devil in his quest for knowledge. The chapbook offered the story as a cautionary tale. Christopher Marlowe used an early English translation to create a play about the tragedy of Faust's quest. English actors took Marlowe's play to Germany and adapted it to German tastes during the period when Puritans closed down English theaters. Eventually Germans adapted it as a puppet play, in which a comic character (Pikelhäring at first, later Hanswurst or Casper) appears as double of Faust and dominates the play. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe worked with later editions of the chapbook and various versions of the puppet play to create over the course of 60 years his *Faust: A Tragedy*, which became the German national epic *par excellence*. The course will follow these developments, reading excerpts from each stage of the developing saga. It is recommended that students purchase an edition of Goethe's work (either the translation by David Luke (ISBN-13 978-0199536214 and 978-0199536207) or the older translation by Bayard Taylor (ISBN-13: 978-0486821887). The instructor will provide other materials. **Class Limit: 15**

**Instructor Byron Stuhlman** is a retired Episcopal minister with a doctorate in theology and is the author of six books. He was a member of the faculty of Hamilton College and the General Theological Seminary. Prior to moving to Maine, he taught at the Mohawk Valley Institute for Learning in Retirement (Utica, NY). Byron has served as the chair of the CSC board and chair of its curriculum committee as well as teaching a good number of courses.

On Zoom

Dates: April 7 – May 26

Time: 1:30 – 3:00

## **Friday**

### **Show Me the Money: Mr. Shakespeare and Mr. Jonson**

Two popular Jacobean playwrights!

Two plays – one comedy, one tragic epilogue!

One stage – the Globe Theatre, Southwark, London!

One Summer – 1606!

One theme – MONEY!

Who's got it, who wants it, who gets it!

AND, most important, the effects of money on the men of wealth!

'Tis to be a journey with the title characters of Timon in William Shakespeare's *Timon of Athens* and Volpone in Ben Jonson's *Volpone*.

'Twill be an exploration of two former actors cum playwrights, two friends and theatrical rivals, one a mentor to the other, the other eight years younger outliving the greater by 21 years.

'Twill be a study of "compare and contrast," "cause and effect," "success and ultimate stardom" of one over the other.

**MONEY! MONEY! MONEY! 1606! ON STAGE WITH WILL SHAKESPEARE & BEN JONSON**

(Any book editions or free Internet downloaded texts of both plays are acceptable for the class.) **Class Limit: 24**

**Instructor Joseph Coté** is a classically trained actor who has explored the literary world of William Shakespeare from an actor's vantage view for several years. Over time, Joseph has appeared in feature roles within 14 of the Bard's plays. In the classroom his study of the text and the flow of the play's action focuses on "one character on one journey." His work with curious class members is far more a "character study" than a scholarly analysis. Identifying the steps and effects of that journey within the greater scope of the play is paramount. Joseph's classes are highly interactive "conversations" involving all students and they always include opportunities for students to lift the words

off the page, breathing life into them with vocal readings of key scenes. Joseph holds a B.A. from the University of Maine and an M.S. from Washington University in St. Louis. His actor training included extensive work with the late John Broome of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

On Zoom

Dates: April 8 – May 13

Time: 10:00 – 12:00

### **A Sense of Place: Dylan Thomas, Gillian Clarke, and Other Welsh Poets**

Welsh poetry is enriched and informed by the legends, people, and especially the landscapes that have shaped the world of the poets. This course will focus on the texture, imagery, and language of the poems reflecting that world. The writing of Dylan Thomas and Gillian Clarke will be at the center of the course and class discussion, although the class will read a few medieval and other early poems as well as selections from 20th-century poets and from younger modern poets. Both Dylan Thomas and Gillian Clarke travelled well beyond Wales, but their greatest poems and other writings are rooted in their homeland. Dylan Thomas wrote in English but his language captures the rhythms of home. Gillian Clarke, former national Poet of Wales, writes in both English and Welsh and is also the translator of other poems we will read. The class will also read some prose selections from both authors. Although any collection of the poems of Dylan Thomas will be helpful, many of Thomas's poems can also be found online. All of Gillian Clarke's writing is published by Carcanet. I strongly recommend the purchase of *Roots Home* her most recent collection of essays, which serendipitously includes diary selections, descriptions of nature, discussions of her own poetry (with some poems), and an essay on Dylan Thomas. Its emphasis on roots echoes the themes of this course. Although her *Collected Poems* includes some poems we will read and would be helpful, it is limited in scope because she has published several small collections of poetry since then. Because much of her poetry is not available online, I will provide supplementary selections. **Note:** ordering early is wise since her books are shipped from the UK. **Class Limit: 15**

**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.

On Zoom

Dates: April 8 – May 27

Time: 1:30 – 3:00