

ONLINE COURSE



THE END OF AN EMPIRE? THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Richard Bell



ANNE FRANK: HER LIFE AND LEGACY

John Damond

Sessions I and II

Fridays, 11:00 a.m. (begins September 13)

Fee: \$140 (\$70 for each session)

Seen through American eyes, July 4, 1776, marked a triumphant moment: the birth of a bold new nation committed to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Through British eyes, the American Revolution looked quite different. Was it a crisis? A reckoning? Or an opportunity? Did it mark the beginning of the end of Britain's grand empire? Or was it a catalyst for a bigger, broader effort to tamp down dissent and assert British dominance across the globe? This new course investigates the transatlantic forces that shaped the American Revolution and the imperial consequences of this nation's break with Britain. It asks how the familiar story of the American Revolution—its causes, course, and consequences—changes when we place the revolution in the context of Britain's global empire. Answering these big questions requires us to cast aside worn-out notions of American exceptionalism and to embrace a broader and vastly more dynamic narrative that recognizes the impact wrought by the free movement of goods, ideas, and people around Britain's imperial system. Indeed, approaching the American Revolution through the lens of Britain's empire invites us to place the experiences of loyalist exiles, Irish farmers, British anti-war protestors, Canadian fugitives, Indian tea-growers, Chinese traders, Australian convicts, and Caribbean enslavers on the same stage as the Minutemen and the Sons of Liberty.

Richard Bell is professor of history at the University of Maryland and author of the book "Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped into Slavery and their Astonishing Odyssey Home" which was a finalist for the George Washington Prize and the Harriet Tubman Prize. He has held major research fellowships at Yale, Cambridge, and the Library of Congress and received the National Endowment of the Humanities Public Scholar award and the 2021 Andrew Carnegie Fellowship. He serves as a trustee of the Maryland Center for History and Culture and as a fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

Session II

Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. (begins October 17)

Fee: \$70

Anne Frank is the most well-known victim of the Holocaust with millions around the world aware of her life through her diary. Not as well-known is the story of her early life, from her birth in Frankfurt, through her family's migration to Amsterdam, to the Nazi invasion of the Netherlands, as well as the time after her arrest and the fates of the people she hid with. This course addresses her personal history and transformation from teenage girl to icon and the face of the Holocaust. Her story is told alongside major events of World War II to provide context and understanding on how the Holocaust was able to occur. This course also tells the story of the diary itself. Learn how her diary emerged following the war and how it impacted the world.

John Damond is a librarian at the Enoch Pratt Free Library. His interest in Anne Frank began in 1992 when he visited Amsterdam and the Anne Frank House. This interest grew as he continued to research Anne Frank's story and the Holocaust. John has presented programs on Anne Frank for schools, public libraries, and senior centers. He recently earned a master's degree in holocaust and genocide studies from Gratz College in Pennsylvania.



THE HISTORY OF CHILDBIRTH

Jennifer Liles



THE AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Bob Baer

Session I

Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. (begins September 12)

Fee: \$70

This course explores the history of childbirth in America from early American history to present day. What was the child-birth experience for women and how has it changed through history? We will view childbirth through the lenses of medical advancements, societal change, and differences in childbirth for the wealthy and poor. We will learn how medicine, society, and women's rights have changed through history.

Jennifer Liles is a public historian with a degree in public history from Stevenson University. Her research into the history of families uncovered the values that different societies have had toward sex within their cultures and prompted more research into the history and role of sex in society.

Sessions I and II

Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m. (begins September 10)

Fee: \$140 (\$70 for each session)

African Americans have sought to overturn deeply entrenched systems of racial segregation and discrimination in the United States. This course will explore the turbulent history of the Civil Rights struggle in America during the 20th century—major events, historical themes, important people, places, and strategies used by the campaign for social justice. We will assess the movement's achievements, shortcomings, influence, legacy, and lessons for today. Topics will include Jim Crow policies, sit-ins, freedom rides, voting rights, civil disobedience, Black power, as well as legal and legislative victories.

Bob Baer is a college administrator with over forty years of experience in higher education. He has bachelor's and master's degrees in history, and a doctorate in higher education. Bob is a history instructor at Community College of Baltimore County, Johns Hopkins University, and Towson University Osher programs, York College-CUNY and Norwalk Community College.

BIG THANKS

to all Osher Volunteers who help to make Osher a success.



THE HISTORY OF ABORTION IN THE UNITED STATES

Barbara Blumberg Ressin



BALTIMORE MEETS ADVERSITY

Jack Burkert

Sessions I and II

Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. (begins September 10)

Fee: \$140 (\$70 for each session)

The history of abortion in the United States dates to Puritan times. It's important to learn how America's past relates to the moral and political issue abortion has become today. Religion, politics, and the medical community all played a role in how abortion was perceived when America was a young country. This course will examine the history of abortion, its legality or illegality, and the impacts on society over the past 100 years.

Barbara Blumberg Ressin is a graduate of Towson University with a B.S. in education. She taught for three years in the Baltimore City Public School System, 25 years at the Beth Tfiloh Day School in the secular division, and as adjunct faculty member of Community College of Baltimore County at both the Owings Mills and Hunt Valley campuses, adjunct faculty member of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Towson University, adjunct faculty member of the Renaissance Academy for the Florida Gulf State University, member of Oasis faculty in Montgomery County under auspices of Johns Hopkins University, taught at Food For Thought Lectures, Kaleidoscope at Roland Park School, lectured for The Lecture Group, Western Howard County Senior Center, Friends of the Pikesville Library, North Oaks Retirement Community and various religious and philanthropic groups around the state.

Session I

Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m. (begins September 10)

Fee: \$70

Baltimore in the 20th century had several challenging periods for the city and its citizens. Some of the challenges were natural, others man made, but in each case the city met, overcame, and ultimately thrived. We start with the dawn of the 20th century and the Great Baltimore Fire, its impact and the city's recovery. The nation and the city were challenged by the Great Depression, making the 1930s a decade filled with adversity and recovery. By the 1960s, times were changing with protests and rage-filled rioting in the streets in this decade of societal disruption. Finally, we will discuss the 1970s as a period of renaissance for Baltimore. In this course, we will learn how Baltimore overcame major challenges through cooperation among citizens and government intervention in times of crisis.

Jack Burkert is a Baltimore native and a 1969 graduate of the University of Maryland, graduating with honors with a degree in history and education. His working life, some 40+ years, was spent in various educator roles, beginning in the Baltimore City Public School System, then as a staff member at the Pennsylvania State University, through private employers and then until his retirement in his own consulting firm.

**INVESTIGATING HAPPINESS**

Meg Algren

Session II**Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. (begins October 16)****Fee: \$70**

This is not a self-help class. Rather, we will be examining the construct and components of happiness using the recent U.N. World Happiness Survey, theories of both social and personal happiness, and findings from studies in human behavior. We will have a brief introduction to positive psychology and reflect on personal concepts of happiness. We will examine pertinent theories surrounding happiness including uncertainty reduction, expectancy violation, homo- and heterogeneity, relationship reciprocity, and others. Emphasis will be on making the information interesting, accessible, and easy to understand. This course may help you become happier but that will be due to your own doing.

Meg Algren holds a Ph.D. in communication. She is professor emerita at Towson University where she taught public relations and advertising for 15 years in the Department of Mass Communication. As a human behavioral science researcher, she has explored happiness in depth. She says, “The search for happiness seems to be ubiquitous among humans. I too, am intrigued by the topic.”