
FALL 2024

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Schedule subject to change.

SESSION I (SEPTEMBER 9 – OCTOBER 4) • SESSION II (OCTOBER 14 – NOVEMBER 9)

Class will not be held October 7 – 11

“J.S. Bach and the Musical Heritage of East Germany” Jonathan Palevsky

Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m., Sessions I & II

There wasn't much that was remarkable about the former East Germany but the incredible musical heritage of three of its cities is simply incomparable. This course explores the music of J.S. Bach, Mendelssohn, Robert and Clara Schumann, Liszt, and others.

“Bebop & Beyond” Seth Kibel

Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m., Sessions I & II

This course will present a survey of jazz history from the end of WWII to the dawn of the 21st century, covering exciting jazz subgenres such as bebop, cool jazz, hard bop, modal jazz, jazz fusion, and more. Learn about the lives, personalities, and music of jazz legends including Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Sonny Rollins, Stan Getz, Dave Brubeck, and many more.

ONLINE COURSE: “Music: Controversies and Curiosities” Emanuel Abramovits

Fridays at 9:30 a.m., Session I

Music has often been a source of controversy. In their goal for originality, musicians sometimes push the envelope too far and pay the price. We will analyze some controversial pieces and others that challenged established norms. This course will explore the biggest scandals in classical music, pop, and music for the stage and screen.

ONLINE COURSE: “Kandinsky: A Colorful Life” Joseph Cassar

Mondays at 11:15 a.m., Sessions I & II

This course focuses on artist Wassily Kandinsky who, in addition to being a painter, musician, and writer, was a lawyer and professor of law in Moscow. We will focus on his commitment to painting, his role as an abstract artist, his artistic development, and his involvement with Bauhaus.

“Modern Movements in Photography: Dada to Surrealism to Pop” Steve Dembo

Thursdays at 11:00 a.m., Sessions I & II

In post-WWI Germany and Paris, a ground-breaking practice in photography emerged, inspired by Dada's improvisational practices and the Surrealists' forays into the unconscious, dream, and fantasy realms. Photographers explored using their cameras and progressive techniques to create artistic images.

“Eight Plays Everyone Should Know, Fall 2024 Edition” Greg Jones

Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m., Sessions I & II

A continuation of this popular series of courses, this semester will capitalize on the Baltimore-area theaters' celebration of playwright, August Wilson. Students will learn about the life and works of Wilson including two of his most celebrated plays, “Fences” and “The Piano Lesson”. Other playwrights explored in this course include Paula Vogel (“The Baltimore Waltz”), Tennessee Williams (“The Glass Menagerie”), Arthur Miller (“After the Fall”), and Eugene O'Neill (“Ah, Wilderness!”)

ONLINE COURSE: “The Films of Leslie Nielsen: From Starships to Squad Cars” Arnold Blumberg

Fridays at 1:00 p.m., Session I

Leslie Nielsen had the incredible fortune to enjoy two different acting careers over his lifetime. In the first part of his 60-year career, he was a charming leading man in science fiction adventures, romantic romps, and television productions. In the second part, he skewered the seriousness of his previous persona in comedies and parodies of his earlier roles.

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ONLINE COURSE: “It’s Good to Be the King: The Life and Laughs of Mel Brooks” Arnold

Blumberg

Mondays at 1:00 p.m., Session II

With roots in Borscht Belt comedy, Mel Brooks became one of the writers of “Your Show of Shows” along with colleagues who defined a generation of humor. He was the writer and director of cinema comedy classics such as “The Producers”, “Blazing Saddles”, and “Spaceballs”. In this course, we will learn how his early life shaped his stage and screen creations and how he has become pop culture royalty.

ONLINE COURSE: “The Films of Debbie Reynolds: An Unsinkable Star” Arnold Blumberg

Fridays at 1:00 p.m., Session II

Starting with her breakout performance in the classic “Singin’ in the Rain”, Reynolds established herself as America’s sweetheart. We will learn all about this energetic performer who lit up the screen and stage.

ONLINE COURSE: “Yoknapatawpha County: The Literature of William Faulkner” Robert Jacobs

Mondays at 9:30 a.m., Sessions I & II

Yoknapatawpha County was the grand fictional setting that allowed Faulkner to explore how the past continually endures and shapes our lives. Through his classic short stories, we will investigate how Faulkner’s prose style established the connections between time, memory, and place and the impact they have on the development of both personal and national consciousness.

“Introduction to the Bible” Father Robert Albright

Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m., Sessions I & II

This course will focus on modern Biblical scholarship to enable students to start seeing the Bible in the context of new discoveries. The course will cover eight aspects designed to help any reader of the Bible understand this timeless treatise with greater insight.

“Ancient Chinese Thought” Ed Fotheringill

Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m., Session I

This course will focus on the three major schools of ancient Chinese thought: Confucianism, Taoism, and Chan Buddhism. Together, the three schools of thought paint a dynamic portrait of Chinese intellectual and spiritual culture.

ONLINE COURSE: “The End of an Empire? The American Revolution and the British Empire”

Richard Bell

Fridays at 11:00 a.m., Sessions I & II

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.

“Anne Frank: Her Life & Legacy” John Damond

Thursdays at 9:30 a.m., Session II

Anne Frank is the most well-known victim of the Holocaust with millions around the world aware of her life through her diary. This course fills in her story by describing her early life, her family’s migration to Amsterdam, the Nazi invasion of the Netherlands, and the time after her arrest. Learn how her diary emerged following the war and how it impacted the world.

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“The History of Childbirth” Jennifer Liles

Thursdays at 9:30 a.m., Session I

This course explores the history of childbirth in America from the childbirth experience to medical advancements and differences in childbirth for the wealthy and poor. We will learn how medicine, society, and women’s rights have changed through history.

“The American Civil Rights Movement” Robert Baer

Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m., Sessions I & II

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.

“The History of Abortion in the United States” Barbara Blumberg Ressin

Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m., Sessions I & II

This course investigates the history of legal and illegal abortion in the United States from the colonial period to modern times. Religion, politics, and the medical community all play a role in the perception of abortion in this country. Regardless of one’s personal feelings on the topic, it’s important to understand the history of this hot-button topic.

“Baltimore Meets Adversity” Jack Burkert

Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m., Session I

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. Significant periods to be discussed include the Great Baltimore Fire, the Great Depression, the civil unrest of the 1960s, and the city’s renaissance in the 1970s.

“How to Keep a Secret: The Story of Cryptology” James Kraft

Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m., Session II

Cryptography refers to the technique used to send information that can be understood only by the intended recipient. Today, without being made aware of it, we use cryptography every time we make a bank transaction or log onto a website, but cryptography goes back to ancient times. Learn the history of cryptography, why cryptography is important in our daily lives, why classical methods of cryptography are no longer used, and the basics of modern cryptography.

“Artificial Intelligence: Principles, Concerns, and Future Directions” Guillermo Warley

Thursdays at 11:00 a.m., Session II

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become ubiquitous in everyday life. We will begin by looking at AI from a historical perspective. Definitions, methods, tools, and technological advances will be discussed. We will look at the impact of AI in all areas of life and we will discuss potential regulation and management of AI.

“The Science and Reality of the Opioid Epidemic in the U.S.” Deborah Finch and Patrick Chaulk

Thursdays at 11:00 a.m., Session I

In this four-week course, we will discuss the current opioid epidemic in the U.S., its roots, and the larger substance use problem in America. We will also discuss how our view of addiction has evolved over recent decades. Important themes we will talk about include the important role of public health in prevention and education programs, how stigma and harm reduction impacts diagnosis and treatment, and important risk factors such as age, genetics, and the environment.

“You Are What You Think: The Powerful Mind-Body Connection” Ann Farrel

Thursdays at 1:00 p.m., Sessions I & II

We are all emotional beings living in physical bodies, each of us suffering from the frailty of the human condition. This course expands our knowledge of genetics and epigenetics to the mental health domain and examines the potent influence that our state of mind has on the messages our brain sends to our immune system, our nerves, and our cells. We know now that the very way we think, and act, can maximize our ability to heal and enhance our overall health.

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ONLINE COURSE: “For the Love of Dogs: Cynology 101” Stephanie Slahor

Mondays at 1:00 p.m., Session I

This course is all about dogs. Understand the origination, domestication, anatomy, the extraordinary five senses, and much more about man’s best friend. We’ll discuss famous dogs in history and entertainment, dog-human partnerships in searching, security, assistance, ranching, and conservation. Learn about dog breeds, registries, and the undeniable human-dog bond.

“Investigating Happiness—Meg Algren

Wednesdays at 9”30 a.m., Session II

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.

ONLINE COURSE: “Light, Sight, and Color: How We See the World” Jim O’Leary

Fridays at 9:30 a.m., Session II

What is light and how has our understanding of it changed over the centuries? How do our eyes and brain work together to interpret the world around us? How is color perceived and do we see things the same way other animals do? These are just some of the questions we will explore during this four-week course.

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