
SPRING 2025 SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Schedule subject to change. Classes meet for 75 minutes unless otherwise noted.



SESSION I (MARCH 3–MARCH 28) • SESSION II (APRIL 7–MAY 2)

Class will not be held March 31 – April 4

This England—The Land Without Music—Jonathan Palevsky

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

Centuries ago, Germans referred to England as “das land ohne musik”, the country without music. This was because England failed to produce a homegrown composer of note from the death of Henry Purcell until the emergence of Sir Edward Elgar—a period of 205 years. Nevertheless, during these years England imported some of the best musicians like Handel, Haydn and Mendelssohn who were happy to make ‘this sceptered isle’ their adopted home. Finally, in the 20th century a rebirth of English concert music occurred. Explore the English musical muse from the Renaissance to the 20th century.

Clarinetists of the Swing Era—Seth Kibel

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

The clarinet once occupied a central role in jazz music, especially during that brief period known as the “Swing Era”. We will explore the lives, careers, and personalities of such notable clarinetists as Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, and Woody Herman. Each had a lasting impact on jazz history.

ONLINE COURSE: The Art of Paul Gauguin—Joseph Cassar

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

This course focuses on artist Paul Gauguin from his early days in Peru, his life with the French merchant navy and his steady job experience as a stockbroker. We will explore how Gauguin embarked on his vocation as an artist and the sacrifices made along the way.

ONLINE COURSE: Surrealism: One Hundred Years—Michael Salcman

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

The art movement known as Surrealism celebrated its one hundredth birthday in 2024. In this course, we will explore the precursors to Surrealism along with the important artists of this movement including Ernst, Miro, Magritte, and Dali, among others.

Centers of Glass Art Excellence: Murano, Prague, and Seattle—Howard Cohen

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

Since the mid 1950s, three cities have become prominent in the history of glass art—Murano, Prague, and Seattle. Discover the pioneering artists and institutions associated with each of these cities and their contributions to glass art.

Eight Plays Everyone Should Know, Spring 2025 Edition—Greg Jones

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

This semester will feature the following plays: Edward Albee’s “Three Tall Women and A Delicate Balance”, Mart Crowley’s “The Boys in the Band”, William Inge’s “The Dark at the Top of the Stairs”, Anton Chekhov’s “Uncle Vanya”, Ossie Davis’s “Purlie Victorious”, Moliere’s “The Miser”, and J.M. Synge’s “Riders to the Sea”.

ONLINE COURSE: A Bumpy Spring with Bette Davis—Arnold Blumberg

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

Bette Davis remains one of the towering icons of Hollywood, with powerful performances spanning decades and a multitude of genres. From romance to wry comedy to horror, we will explore Davis’s career in film.

ONLINE COURSE: Joan Crawford: A Tarnished Star Shines Through—Arnold Blumberg

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

We will explore Joan Crawford’s career from star-making appearances in Depression-era rags-to-riches tales to a comeback in the 1940s and her later years which were marred by revelations about her private life and an alleged feud with Bette Davis.

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ONLINE COURSE: Movie Magic and Monsters: The Cinematic Wizardry of Ray Harryhausen— Arnold Blumberg

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

Ray Harryhausen became one of the most accomplished stop-motion animators in the history of cinema, leaving behind a legacy of magical movies filled with extraordinary creatures, amazing adventures, and some of the most memorable moments emblazoned into the hearts and minds of generations of fantasy filmgoers. He transformed rubber and metal into living icons of pop culture, from the giant monster and alien invasions of the 1950s to the sorcerous exploits of Sinbad the Sailor and the beasts of classical mythology.

Four Classic Billy Wilder Films—William Florman

Thursdays at 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., Session I

Born in Austria and emigrating to the United States in the early 20's, Billy Wilder became the quintessential American filmmaker. Both as a writer and director, he mastered a variety of genres from film noir to comedy. We will examine four of his greatest films: "Double Indemnity", "Sunset Boulevard", "Some Like it Hot", and "The Apartment". We will view the films during class and discuss breakthroughs that each film represents, as well as the influence each has had on later films.

ONLINE COURSE: Lady Lazarus: The Life and Work of Sylvia Plath—Robert Jacobs

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

Sylvia Plath is widely considered to be one of the greatest American poets and writers of the 20th century. In this course we will read and discuss Plath's novel, "The Bell Jar", as well as important poems from her posthumous collection, "Ariel". We will learn about Plath's life and her troubled marriage to British poet, Ted Hughes.

Survey of the Bible—Father Robert Albright

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

The first half of this course will cover the Old Testament of the Bible or Before the Common Era (BCE): The Torah, the Prophets, and the Writings or Wisdom books. The second half of the course will cover the New Testament of the Bible or the Common Era (CE): The story, letters, and person of St. Paul, the Synoptic Gospels, the Johannine Tradition and other NT works. We will examine each of the segments of the Bible from a scholarly point of view.

Descartes' Dilemma—Ed Fotheringill

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

The 17th century French philosopher, Rene Descartes, is considered the Father of Modern Philosophy, for good reason. He sought to devise a method of philosophical investigation that would guarantee the apprehension of truth with absolute certainty. This dilemma was compounded when Descartes felt pressured by the Catholic Church to invoke God into his philosophical equation. We will trace the development of Descartes' dilemma and consider the intellectual fallout in the thought of Blaise Pascal, Edmund Husserl, and Ludwig Wittgenstein.

Greek Goddesses—Ellen O'Brien

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

The ancient Greeks created their gods and goddesses in image of themselves complete with reasoning and emotions. The goddesses represented all facets of our lives: love and laughter, life and loss, sorrow and jealousy. Learn the stories of Athena, Hecate, and Bia, among others as well as the mortal women in Greek mythology such as Pandora, Medea, Helen of Troy, and Medusa.

ONLINE COURSE: Fighting Slavery in Early America—Richard Bell

Fridays at 9:30 a.m., 6-week course (March 7–April 18, no class on 3/21)

In the decades between 1619, when the first enslaved Africans arrived, and 1787, when delegates in Philadelphia drafted the new Constitution, men and women who were committed to opposing the spread of slavery in North America grappled with difficult questions. This six-week course offers you the opportunity to meet a large and often unfamiliar cast of characters—both Black and white, enslaved and free—who developed a range of tools and tactics, means and methods to escape slavery or try to resist it.

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Heroes of Nonviolence—Robert Baer **Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m., Sessions I & II**

Throughout history, people have sacrificed their freedom to nonviolently protest laws they felt were unjust. This class will explore the lives of individuals who practiced civil disobedience to challenge such issues as civil rights, voting restrictions, economic exploitation, militarism, environmental degradation and self-determination.

Baltimore Scandals—Jennifer Liles **Thursdays at 11:00 a.m., Session I**

Explore Scandals that shocked Baltimore, scandals that shocked the nation but are now largely forgotten. Stories about love affairs, labor, interesting people and more. Come explore Baltimore and her people and what makes Baltimore “Mobtown”.

Baltimore and Its River—Jack Burkert **Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m., Session II**

The story of Baltimore was written first on its waterfront. A port city, commercial center, shipbuilding hub, reliant from its earliest years on the Patapsco River for its settlement and sustainability. This is the story of those critical parts of the city’s history.

Baltimore Labor History—Bill Barry **Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m., Sessions I & II**

This course will present the diverse periods of Baltimore’s long and exciting labor history, starting with colonial Baltimore and continuing through to the present. Each class will include a discussion of current events, and their historical background.

The History of Women’s Fashions: From Underwear to Outerwear (Part 1)—Barbara Blumberg Ressin **Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m., Session II**

This course traces the history of what women wore fashion-wise through the centuries, starting with the Puritans. We will explore all manners of clothing and learn what outside forces influenced the fashions of the day and we will see how fashion ran the gamut during different eras in our history.

High Times: Marijuana, Medications, Alcohol & Older Adults—Deborah Finch and Patrick Chaulk **Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m., Session I**

Marijuana sales now outpace alcohol sales. This course investigates the impact of this trend and trends in other substances on aging. Related topics include medication prescribing patterns, physical and neurocognitive shifts, social and cultural adjustments, stigma and treatment.

Why Are We Missing the Disinformation Solution?—Joyce Garczynski **Thursdays at 9:30 a.m., Session II**

Since “fake news” reemerged into the American lexicon in 2016, the U.S. has been grappling with how to reduce the spread of mis- and disinformation across the country. We’ve explored technological, political, journalistic, and educational solutions, but the problem just seems to be getting more and more difficult to solve. In this discussion-based course, communication librarian Joyce Garczynski will dive into how technology companies, politicians, journalists, and educators have attempted to address the mis- and disinformation problem. Then attendees will discuss why these efforts seem to fall short and what should be done next to help everyone better separate fact from fiction.

ONLINE COURSE: It’s About Time—James O’Leary **Mondays at 9:30 a.m., Session II**

What is time? How would you define it? We explore the earliest attempts to track time to systems found throughout the ages. See ingenious ways – sundials, water clocks, gears, pendulums and crystals – we have employed to track time to ever tinier divisions, important today for the operation of everything from our daily schedules and global finance to GPS satellites. We explore evolution of the calendar, world time zones, circadian rhythms, and how people’s perceptions of time have changed over “time.”

Registration will open February 4, 2025.