



Spring 2019 Course Descriptions
\$265 for unlimited classes

TUESDAY

American Ideals in Troubled Times

Most of us today, whatever our political affiliation, are concerned about the high level of polarization, mistrust, and political dysfunction in our society. In this course, we shall consider these problems in relation to our political ideals, the conflicts and gaps between these ideals and reality, and the prospects for reinvigorating these ideals in the future. Topics to be discussed include sexual equality, racial equality, civic education and statesmanship. Readings will include selections from the writings of contemporary authors on sexual equality, as well as Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Alexis de Tocqueville and Abraham Lincoln.

Tue 10:30-11:45am

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7

(6 sessions)

Sandy Kessler, Ph.D., Political Science, Boston College. He taught political theory and American political thought at North Carolina State Univ. for 41 years, taught in North Carolina's State's OLLI (Lifelong Learning) program for five years, wrote a book on Tocqueville's understanding of religion and democracy, edited an abridged version of Tocqueville's "Democracy in America," co-edited a source book entitled "American Debates on Sexual Equality," has written many articles on religion and modern political thought.

Making Smarter Investing Decisions

Most people have heard the terms "asset allocation" and "diversification," but what do they really mean and how do they contribute to investing success? What else do you need to know to make good stock market investments? Are fees important? What about tax treatment? And what is the difference between investment risk and volatility? We'll talk about some simple strategies for avoiding common investing mistakes.

Tue 10:30-11:45am

May 14

(1 session)

Anthea Perkinson, Certified Financial Planner™ with Monterey Associates LLC. Past president, Financial Planning Association of NY. Lead instructor, speaker for the MoneyMadeSimple course on personal finance topics at colleges, hospitals, libraries and nonprofit organizations. BA, English Literature, NYU; Certificate in Financial Planning, NYU.

Memory Loss is Not a Normal Part of Aging

Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Supreme Court Justice, 86; Cecily Tyson, actress, 95; Tony Bennett, singer/performer, 92; Harry Belafonte, singer/actor/activist 82. These are just a few individuals who have aged with their memories unaffected. Granted they're famous, but many everyday people in their 70's, 80's and even 90's are also fully clear and present. We need to strive to be proactive with regards to our brain health. This class examines the difference between normal forgetting and memory loss, such as Alzheimer's, treatable conditions that can cause memory loss, diagnostic testing and services available through Caringkind, formerly the Alzheimer's Association of NYC.

Tue 10:30-11:45am

May 21

(1 session)

Paula Rice, Caringkind Manager of African American Outreach. Originally a client of the organization when she was the full-time caregiver for her mother, who suffered from Alzheimer's disease. She works through community partnerships, seminars and lectures with the goal of educating potential caregivers about risk factors, warning signs and the importance of early detection.

Poetry for Pleasure in the Spring

These lectures with discussion will involve close readings of poems – classic, modern and contemporary. Our aim is to listen to the sound poems make. What makes a successful language performance? We'll discuss these works' emotional truth, unity of expression, and attention-holding, pleasure-providing use of language.

Tue 1:00-2:15pm

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21

(8 sessions)

Barry Wallenstein, Emeritus Professor of Literature and Creative Writing at the City Univ. of New York. Author of eight collections of poetry, most recently "At the Surprise Hotel and Other Poems" and "Drastic Dislocations: New and Selected Poems" and "Tony's Blues," a bilingual e-book. Barry is also an Editor of American Book Review.

Short Stories of Alice Munro

Text: *Family Furnishings, Selected Stories*, 1995-2014, Vintage International Edition, 2015. Even though Munro's characters are so different from one another, readers find themselves identifying with all her protagonists, male or female, young or old. Critics compare her to Chekhov, and writers say things like, "there is no one like her" and "how does she do it?" We will read and talk about several of her stories, attempt to find out how she does it – and what it is she does. She would clearly agree with Chekhov that it is the writer's business to pose questions, not to answer them. Maybe that is the reader's business too!

Tue 2:30-3:45pm

April 2, 16, 30, May 7, 14, 21

(6 sessions)

Lisa Commager was a writer and editor for UNICEF in Kathmandu and an editor at Orbis Publishing in London. When she returned to New York, she taught literature and writing in private high schools and, for ten years, at Hunter College.

NYC Department of Consumer Affairs: Consumer Protection for Older Adults

Older adults face unique consumer challenges. A DCA representative shares tips on how we and people we care about can avoid common fraud, identity theft and other scams. Among the all-too-often tricks: the Medicare/Medicaid scam, the grandparent scam, medical device scam, lottery and sweepstakes scam. She'll talk about how to report a con, find free help and other resources. DCA licenses over than 81,000 businesses in more than 50 industries, enforces key consumer protection, workplace laws and regulations applying to many more.

Tue 2:30-3:45am

April 9

(1 session)

Marian Jones, Community Affairs Associate, NYC Department of Consumer Affairs. DCA is a city agency dedicated to protecting and enhancing the daily economic lives of New Yorkers to create thriving communities by providing the tools and resources they need to be educated consumers. Before joining DCA last year, she worked for Care for Homeless, a non-profit providing healthcare for them; interned at the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. BA, Political Science, Smith College; MA, Humanities and Social Thought, NYU.

From DJ to Dominican Friar: My Journey

How did this unusual journey come about? Born and raised a Roman Catholic by decedents of Irish immigrants, Fr. John grew up in Clinton, NJ. As a teenager still in high school, he became involved with a local public radio station at Centenary University in Hackettstown, NJ. This led to him earning a degree in communications and launched him into the music/radio business. Among the many music stars he worked with and interviewed were The Allman Brothers Band, BB King, The Band and Emmylou Harris, to name a few. The turning point for him was the death of the Pope St. John Paul II in 2005. He began to experience a deepening of his faith which led to the encounter with the Dominican Friars here on the Upper East Side. He decided that the priesthood would be his true path in life. He talks about his former and current life, and how he got from there to here.

Tue 2:30-3:45pm

Apr 23

(1 session)

Fr. John Maria Devaney, OP (Order of Preachers) of the Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry of NY. BA, Communications, Emerson College.

WEDNESDAY

Women Warriors

Challenging the norm from the mythical Amazons to the very real female soldiers in today's armies, women have been fighting in a variety of ways, sometimes literally bearing arms, more often symbolically rebelling against oppressive norms imposed upon them by the patriarchal establishment. In this course, we will read and discuss three texts that focus on these "women warriors" in different settings across time and space, ranging from 17th century Europe to 20th century America. Texts (in the order of reading): Catalina de Erauso, *Lieutenant Nun: Memoir of a Basque Transvestite in the New World*; Hans Jacob Christoffel von Grimmelshausen, *The Life of Courage: The Notorious Thief, Whore and Vagabond*; Gioconda Belli, *The Inhabited Woman*.

Wed 12-1:15pm

April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15

(7 sessions)

Pilar V. Rotella, Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, Univ. of Chicago. Taught undergraduate and graduate courses at Saint Xavier Univ., Univ. of Chicago, Sarah Lawrence College, Chapman Univ.; continuing education at Univ. of California-Riverside, Marymount Manhattan College and New York Univ.

What Makes a Genius? Inside the Minds of History's Great Personalities

How does a person evolve from newborn to icon? How can a single soul redefine the way we think about science, art, literature and music? Genius, the word, is amorphous – too elusive, too subjective, too wedded to the verdict of history to be easily defined. Still, we can begin to understand the world's greatest minds by teasing out the qualities that entwine to propel their triumphs. Picasso broke barriers, shattering our most primal understanding of the world with his splintered perspectives; Martha Graham rejected tradition to choreograph her revolutionary style of dance; Leonardo da Vinci sought knowledge voraciously and never stopped asking questions; Emily Dickinson wrote hundreds of poems, even though only a few were published during her lifetime. In some cases, the most legendary personalities battled the most human challenges. Darwin was highly anxious, Warhol was a hoarder, and Marilyn Monroe exhibited symptoms of borderline personality disorder. The journey to genius is everything: messy, exhilarating, disruptive, illuminating, tortured, revealing – and, above all, inspiring.

Wed 12-1:15pm

May 22

(1 session)

Claudia Kalb, New York Times bestselling author and independent journalist, specializing in medicine, science and human behavior. Her stories for National Geographic delve into the subject of genius through the lens of science, biography, history and culture. Her first book, *Andy Warhol Was a Hoarder: Inside the Minds of History's Great Personalities*, explores the challenges and triumphs of 12 icons, including Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein and Marilyn Monroe. Currently working on her second book, which focuses on creativity, inspiration and life journeys.

How and Why We Use Social Media: Marymount College Student Panel

Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, Google+, even the "old-fashioned" Facebook are commonplace means of communication and connection for many young people today. Some platforms are mocked by older people as frivolous, others are simply a mystery to them. A student panel will talk from a personal point of view, explaining the role social media plays in their lives today.

Wed 1:30-2:30pm

April 3

(1 session)

Marymount College students.

The Business of Broadway: A Producer's Perspective

Theater-goers may go to show previews, but the process starts months – or years – before this. Jessica Genick talks about how shows make it to "The Great White Way," from the first stages of development to opening night, and beyond. She offers backstage stories and insights based on 25 years of theatrical experience. She'll also describe how Show-Score, a website where she is Business Development Manager, provides free information on the NYC theater scene through listings of prices, reviews and discounts for all Broadway and Beyond Broadway shows.

Wed 1:30-2:30pm

Apr 10

(1 session)

Jessica Genick, Tony-nominated Broadway producer. Her credits include *"Fiddler on the Roof," "China Doll," "Sylvia," "Wolf Hall," "The Heidi Chronicles," "Disgraced," "You Can't Take It with You," "Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill,"* and *"Grace."* Business Development Manager, Show-Score, theater website. Formerly a professional actor; as drama therapist and arts educator, she created and taught Theater Arts curriculum in NYC public and independent schools. Certificate, Drama Therapy, The New School. BFA, Musical Theater. Syracuse Univ. MA, Drama Therapy, NYU.

Current Issues in Criminal Justice

Session #1: We'll be viewing and discussing an NPR program, "The New England Center for Investigative Reporting: A Conversation on Wrongful Imprisonment." A 55-year-old former prison inmate who was incarcerated for 32 years for murder tells the story of his arrest and incarceration. A lawyer from the Innocence Project and an investigative reporter for the Boston Globe worked to get his conviction overturned. The ex-prisoner tells the story of his arrest and his time in prison. Session #2 guest speaker to be announced.

Wed 1:30-2:30pm

April 17, May 8

(2 sessions)

Fred Weinberg, who will introduce our speakers, worked for 45 years for the NYS Division of Parole, NYS Department of Correctional Services, Kings County District Attorney, Vera Institute of Justice, other agencies. Author, "Social Workers with Guns," self-published account of his experience with NY, NJ parole agencies.

International Perspectives

Session #1: A View from the United Nations, on its history, culture, and its role in the world, with Amit K. Bhattacharyya. Sessions #2, 3: Contemporary Global Issues with Ellen Houston, on the US/China relationship, cyber security threats, and other challenges.

Wed 1:30-2:30pm

April 24, May 1, 15

(3 sessions)

Amit K. Bhattacharyya, Visiting Fellow, Marymount Manhattan College, International Studies Department. Worked professionally in the United Nations most of his adult life. Author, "Population, Environment and Development in Tanzania," "Combating Poverty: The Korean Experience." Extensive research and teaching experience in many countries around the world. Ph.D., Population Economics, Brown University. **Ellen Houston**, Adjunct Instructor, Marymount Manhattan College, International Studies Department. Studies International Studies, Effectiveness of Foreign Aid in Sub Saharan Africa, and International Aid and Development. BA, International Studies, Univ. of Denver; MS, Economics, New School for Social Research.

Psychology of Adult Development

We will discuss the personal and social development of humans in adulthood; ongoing changes related to physical growth and decline. These include relationships, occupational roles, leisure activities, disability and end of life.

Wed 1:30-2:30pm

May 22

(1 session)

Roy Magsisi is currently studying for a BS in Nursing and a Doctorate in Nursing Practice, to become a Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. He worked in corporate retail operations for over 20 years at fashion houses like Kenneth Cole, Tom Ford and Christian Dior. He was Director of the Roosevelt Island Youth Program, while also teaching the under-served youth community Piano, Music Appreciation and Computer Coding. He has been playing the piano since he was four years old.

Human Potential

This course deals with the underestimated potential of the human mind. We are beings of infinite possibility – if you can think it, you can do it. We will explore the untapped potential innate in all of us. With lectures, videos of interviews that have been done by the speaker and talks by some guest lecturers, students will get a taste of who and what they are capable of knowing and being.

Wed 2:45-3:45pm

April 3, 10, 17

(3 sessions)

Alan Steinfeld teaches adult education on topics devoted to creativity and perception. He hosts a cable program, "New Realities," Monday nights on WLNY, Channel 57, and is the founder of NewRealities.com, a website for body, mind and spirit.

Makers of History VII

A look at some of the most dynamic people who have changed the course of history, for good or ill: Simon Bolivar, Jose de San Martin, Ben Franklin, Joseph Stalin, Martin Luther King, Jr. Busy with our own lives, we of necessity harbor cartoon versions of historical VIPs. If we like them, they are good, if we dislike them, they are all bad. These lectures show that almost all are complex characters, with good and evil traits intertwined in varying proportions.

Wed 2:45-3:45pm

April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22

(5 sessions)

Manfred Weidhorn, Professor Emeritus of English, Yeshiva Univ. He has published a dozen books and over 100 essays on such historical figures like Shakespeare, Milton, Churchill, Galileo, Napoleon, Robert E. Lee and Jackie Robinson, as well as on cultural history, and the relationship between religion and science.

THURSDAY

Do You Really Know the Person You Married? Three Films

If it's hard enough to know who we really are, can we truly know who a new charming person in our lives is? Three classic films explore this mystery. *Gaslight* centers on murder and madness in Victorian London. Directed by George Cukor, its cast includes Charles Boyer, Ingrid Bergman, Joseph Cotten, and the 18-year-old Angela Lansbury in an Oscar-nominated screen debut (Supporting Actress). The movie's title added a word – both noun and verb – to our vocabulary. *Suspicion* is a psychological romantic thriller directed by Alfred Hitchcock, starring Cary Grant and Joan Fontaine. Fontaine won the Academy Award for Best Actress, the only Oscar-winning performance in a Hitchcock film. In *The Letter*, directed by William Wyler, it's the wife who is the suspect. Starring Bette Davis and Herbert Marshall, it was nominated for seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Actress and Director. The W. Somerset Maugham short story it is based on will be sent to students to read before in advance.

Thu 10:30-11:45am

April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23

(8 sessions)

Louise Terry, MA, Columbia Univ.; college English instructor; Education Director, Accent on Language School.

Politics 2019

The 2020 presidential campaign is gaining in intensity as more candidates announce they're running, and others organize "exploratory committees." On the crowded Democratic side, there's greater diversity than ever – in age, gender, ethnicity, region, political experience, ideology, marital status and even dietary preference. Will it be a contest between "progressives" and "pragmatic centrists?" While they share the desire to beat Trump, it's not yet clear who will be most "electable" and emerge as a frontrunner. On the Republican side, Trump still has the support of most of his party, especially his famous base, but he may get primaried. Will a strong challenger emerge? What will be the key issues? Here in NYC and NYS, we'll be looking at political developments as well. That and so much more in this interactive class.

Thu 1:00-2:15pm

April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23

(8 sessions)

Lawrence Geneen, formerly Chief Operating Officer of the American Management Association and Executive Vice President of Johnson and Higgins. He is currently a risk management consultant. Bill Caspary, Apr 25, May 2. Political science faculty, NYU Gallatin School of Individualized Study. Ph.D., Political Science, Northwestern Univ. Author, "Dewey on Democracy." Taught for 30 years at Washington Univ. in St. Louis; worked as an educational consultant, ombudsman, and mediator. Received the Distinguished Career Award in 2002 from the American Political Science Assoc. Leonard Lubinsky, May 9. Author/Publisher, "Len's Notes and Letters" on politics; Pres., Advisory Council, Himan Brown Senior Program, 92Y. Previous positions include teacher, school superintendent; Executive Director, Northeast Foundation for Children; Founding Director, Teacher and Administrator, Collaborative for Educational Services. BA, History, Brandeis University; MAT, History, Oberlin College; MA, Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst.

The Grammar Guru of New York City

Writer Ellen Jovin set up a folding table and a "Grammar Table" sign last September in Verdi Square on West 72d St., where she promptly began answering the grammar questions of passers-by. Grammar Table was an instant hit, and since then Ellen has popped up in different locations around town, talking about punctuation, past participles, and general language topics with hundreds of New Yorkers and visitors from around the world. The New York Times proclaimed in a headline, "This Grammar Guru Will Solve the World's Problems." While she doesn't promise to solve *all* the problems, she'll talk about some of her urban language adventures, as well as the questions that arise repeatedly (and interesting ones that arise rarely). Bring your own questions and comments about language today.

Thu 2:30-3:45pm

April 4

(1 session)

Ellen Jovin, principal and co-founder of Syntaxis, a communication skills training firm in Manhattan. Has studied more than 25 languages, reads nineteenth-century grammar books for fun, and co-organized New York's first Polyglot Conference in 2015 for 400+ language enthusiasts. Has appeared on NPR and Voice of America. May possibly have the largest grammar book collection in NYC. BA, German Studies, Harvard; MA, Comparative Literature, UCLA.

Getting the Most from International Travel

Whether you're a budget or luxury traveler, a relative newbie or highly a veteran, the often-perplexing world of travel can be challenging. Adam Rogers draws on 40 years of exploring more than 130 countries to offer advice on getting more from your trips. He'll offer tips on the smartest ways to deal with airlines, culture shock, ecotourism, ground transportation, hotels/alternative lodging, learning languages, passports/visas, staying connected, staying healthy, photography, and more.

Thu 2:30-3:45pm

April 11

(1 session)

Adam Rogers, author, *"The Intrepid Traveler: Responsible, Ecological and Personal-Growth Travel and Tourism."* Previously served the United Nations for 22 years in several roles, including UN Office for South-South Cooperation Regional Representative for Europe, World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty coordinator, UN Capital Development Fund head of communications, and UN Development Program European regional communications adviser in Geneva. Worked as an entrepreneur and as an environmental journalist. Editor-in-chief of the LA-based Earth News; author, *"The Earth Summit: A Planetary Reckoning"* on 1990s global summits, and *"Taking Action: An Environmental Guide for You and Your Community."* BA, International Affairs, Northern Arizona Univ., MA, Communication and Technology, Univ. of Alberta; MBA, TRIUM Global Executive Program, NYU, London School of Economics and HEC Paris School of Management.

A Light-Hearted History of Our First Ladies: From Martha to Melania

Well, Hello, Dolley! There were approximately 41 "First Ladies." We understand the term to mean presidential spouse, but some were really "acting first ladies," subbing for ailing or absent wives of presidents. While some loved the role, others had to be dragged kicking and screaming into or out of the White House (figuratively, fortunately), or were so ill they could barely leave their rooms. More than one was at least as competent as her husband and would have made an excellent president in her own right. In fact, one was considered the true president for a good part of her husband's term. Some stories are extraordinary, and some are unremarkable. There is no official role for the First Ladies – but there are expectations and judgments that they must contend with. And each in her own way has influenced our history. What about their relationships with the "First Man?" Not all of these "first unions" were great love affairs. Some could be called marriages of convenience, but in almost all cases they worked.

Thu 2:30-3:45pm

April 18, 25

(2 sessions)

Richard Klein, amateur historian, focused on the lives of US presidents and their wives. Former cabaret performer. Previous partner in a family business. BA, Communications, George Washington Univ.

DreamStreet Theatre Company: Inclusion of Disability in the Arts

The non-profit theatre has provided education and inspiration for developmentally disabled individuals with a passion for the performing and creative arts for over 20 years. Its performances and programming are designed to break down stereotypes and illustrate the profound effect art can have on life. The company's Executive Director discusses the challenges this community faces in the current climate, and the joy its members have found through their collaboration. The talk will include videos and a slideshow.

Thu 2:30-3:45pm

May 2

(1 session)

Kendra Heisler, DreamStreet Executive Director. Member of the organization's team since 1998, when she joined as assistant stage manager and photography intern, working with her mother, the company's founder. Board member, Downtown Brooklyn Artists' Alliance; Advisory Board member, Friends of Karen, non-profit providing support for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families; member, YMCA's Senior Citizen Life Improvement Efforts. BFA, Photography, Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC.

Middle East Marvels: Washington's Policy Report Card

Perhaps more than usual, there is a lot going on in the Middle East. We'll review and discuss the Trump peace plan, the recent Israeli elections, the US troop withdrawal from Syria, Saudi prospects, emerging political movements in the Middle East, and other current topics. The goal is to further our knowledge of the major political, social and cultural developments in the region. We'll explore how Middle Eastern societies and cultures have been represented in American discourse since the beginning of the Trump administration, for good and bad.

Thu 2:30-3:45pm

May 9

(1 session)

Gregg Roman, Director and COO, the Middle East Forum. Previously political adviser to Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister, also worked in the Israeli Ministry of Defense. Served as Director of the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh. Named one of the 10 most inspiring Jewish leaders worldwide by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in 2014.

The Eyes Have It: Preserving and Improving Your Vision

Our sight is precious to us, yet many of us have not been educated on how to take care of it as we age. An ophthalmologist explains steps to prevent vision loss, and explains conditions like cataracts, macular degeneration, and glaucoma. What are the treatment options and how can you to know when they're right for you? She'll answer your questions and concerns.

Thu 2:30-3:45pm

May 16

(1 session)

Dr. Jessica B. Ciralsky, Assistant Professor, Ophthalmology, Weill Cornell Medicine. Her practice interests include corneal diseases and corneal surgery, advanced cataract surgery, laser vision correction, and comprehensive ophthalmology. MD, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

