

College for Seniors
SUMMER TERM 2020
ONLINE courses

All About Earth: Geology
Math, Science and Technology
Instructor: Richard Wiener

Geology is the scientific study of the Earth. We will examine fundamental geologic topics, including geologic time and evolution, minerals, rock types and their origins, earth's interior, plate tectonics, volcanoes and earthquakes, weathering and erosion, glaciers, and geologic resources. Although there is substantial new content in the course, some material will be repeated from previous courses by the instructor.

Prerequisite: No previous study of science is required.

Bare Bones Anthropology
Social Sciences
Instructor: Marilyn Laken

Does race represent a meaningful genetic difference among humans? Are we walking around with body parts left over from ancestors in the distant past? How has the collection and analysis of ancient DNA changed our understanding of the evolution of *Homo sapiens*? We will address these questions as part of a fast-paced overview of the five fields of anthropology: ethnology, linguistics, archaeology, and applied and biological anthropology, and include some of the science behind Darwin's theory of evolution.

Brave New World and Aldous Huxley, Section A
Brave New World and Aldous Huxley, Section B
Languages, Literature and Writing
Instructor: Dan Damerville

Aldous Huxley's monumental dystopia in *Brave New World* is a shining yet chilling future society reduced to subhuman shallowness of thought, purpose and feeling. Ranked fifth on the Modern Library's list of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century, *Brave New World* will entertain, astonish and frighten through Huxley's many uncanny prophecies of how pleasure and the suppression of individual identity can be used to enslave and dehumanize. This course requires active participation. **Required texts:** *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley, ISBN-13: 978-0060850524. Read first three chapters before the first session.

Mysteries of History, Part 5: Crimes, Cons, and Conflicts

History

Instructor: Ron Schon and Ellen Errico Schon

We will investigate a collection of entertaining, historically accurate stories depicting everything from clever cons to crimes of the century, scandalous sex to unscrupulous science, quick-witted women to wild weapons, dreadful disasters to mind-numbing mysteries and much more, all lavishly illustrated with drawings and photos. **Sample stories:** *Marilyn Monroe's Sorority*, *Black Wall Street*, *The Real Sweeney Todd*, *Victorian Ice Queens* and *The World's Worst Counterfeiter*. You did not have to attend previous classes to enjoy this one.

Hammett, Chandler and the Birth of the Hard-Boiled Detective

Languages, Literature and Writing

Instructor: Bill Cosgrove

From the taming of the wild west to the corruption of prohibition, the hard-boiled hero of Dashiell Hammett's Continental Op and the more refined and literary Philip Marlowe almost seems like a natural progression. From Voltaire to Poe to Doyle and Christie, mysteries were entertaining puzzles. Then, as Chandler points out, Hammett gave murder back to those who might actually kill. Damon Runyon gave voice to colloquial American language; Dashiell Hammett incorporated that language into an American literature and Raymond Chandler refined it. Together we will enjoy a soft-boiled exploration of this literary art form with other suggested reading and discussion. **Required reading:** *The Maltese Falcon*, by Dashiell Hammett – many editions; used from less than \$ 5, Kindle for \$1; *The Big Sleep*, by Raymond Chandler – many editions; used from less than \$5, Kindle for \$10. **Optional choice of story collections:** *The Black Mask Boys: Masters in the Hard-Boiled School of Detective Fiction* – William F. Nolan (ed.) - out of print - used copies available from under \$10 or library. **Or . . .** *The Black Lizard Big Book of Black Mask Stories* – Otto Penzler (ed.) - 978-0307455437 - used copies available from under \$10 or from the library.

Joan Baez: Queen of Folk

Performing Arts

Instructor: Margaret Davis

In the 1960s and 70s, Joan Baez was a popular voice of social conscience as well as a remarkable and talented singer. She has described herself as human being, pacifist and songwriter—in that order. We will take a look at her extraordinary 60-year career as a singer and songwriter as well as her continuing role as a human rights activist.



Piano Fun

Performing Arts

Instructor: Michael Ruiz

The lecture-recital format will be used to celebrate different approaches to piano music, arrangement, and improvisation. The assortment of musical arrangements will be examined in light of classical, jazz, popular, and Broadway/Hollywood styles. Presentations will also include meanings and emotions in music.



The Psychology of Human-Animal Relationships

Social Sciences

Instructor: Hal Herzog

Will getting a dog improve your health? Are humans “natural” meat-eaters? How strong is the link between animal cruelty and human-directed violence? Why are most animal protectionists women and most hunters men? Based on the new science of human-animal interactions, we will explore the psychologically and morally complex relationships humans have with other species. This is a 10-session discussion class based on the instructor’s book *Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat: Why It’s So Hard to Think Straight about Animals*. Participants will be expected to read the assigned material prior to class. **Required text:** *Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat: Why It’s So Hard to Think Straight about Animals* by Hal Herzog, ISBN-13: 978-0061730856.

Ripples from Henry’s Pond: Thoreau’s Freethought Voice

Religion and Philosophy

Instructor: Chris Highland

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) was a memorable character around Concord, MA, surveying, pencil-making, cabin-building, gardening, and writing. From *Walden* and *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers* to *Civil Disobedience*, delightful journal entries, and his final essay on *Walking*, he left a rich legacy of freethinking that still invites exploration in nature and our own nature. Through interactive lectures and discussion, we will fish around in selections of his writings to discover the depths of Thoreau’s pond of ideas, engaging his radical thoughts for their relevance in our time. All readings will be provided. **Recommended text:** *Meditations of Henry David Thoreau: A Light in the Woods* by Chris Highland, ISBN-13: 978-0899973210.

The Science of Happiness
Math, Science and Technology
Instructor: Julia Loughran

“Don’t Postpone Joy” is one of Asheville’s most iconic taglines. In *The Science of Happiness* we will explore what science has proven makes people happy. Culling from experiments over the last 21 years, participants will learn practical steps to understand and improve their own happiness, including happiness set points, the art of gratitude, practicing acts of kindness, goal setting and the power of social connections. **Prerequisite:** Participants must plan to attend a minimum of five class sessions.

A Trio of Thomas Hardy Novels
Languages, Literature and Writing
Instructor: Catherine Frank

Some critics dismiss Thomas Hardy as a regional novelist who confined his attention to the area of southeast England he called Wessex. Critic Lionel Johnson has countered that Hardy “laughs at Wessex, he is unsparing of Wessex, he delights in Wessex; with all the world round him and all history behind him, he is content to find ‘infinite riches in a little room.’” By reading three novels from the early part of Hardy’s career, we will explore the little room and the universal truths within. **Required text:** *Far from the Madding Crowd* (Penguin Classics), ISBN-13: 978-0141439655; *The Return of the Native* (Penguin Classics), ISBN-13: 978-0140435184; *The Mayor of Casterbridge: The Life and Death of a Man of Character* (Norton Critical Edition), ISBN-13: 978-0393974980. Participants may use any edition of these texts, but references, assignments, and class readings will come from these editions. We will read the novels in the order listed.