

**CHESHIRE ACADEMY FOR LIFELONG LEARNING – SPRING 2025**

**February 19, 2025 – April 11, 2025 (Snow date 4/18/25)**

For more information and to register, visit [www.keene.edu/call](http://www.keene.edu/call)

***EACH ONLINE COURSE IS \$50 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.***

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## **KSC SPRING Opportunities**

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### **45th Annual Medieval and Renaissance Forum**

**Spanning the Globe: Thinking across Geographies in Medieval and Medievalism Studies**

March 28-29, hybrid, Morrison Hall

Registration opens mid-March, check the [FORUM WEBPAGE](#) for more information. The cost of registration has not been posted yet.

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## **MONDAY (all classes are delivered remotely, via Zoom)**

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**10:15 – 11:30 Australia - The Land DownUnder, Forged by Fire and Fortune - Peter Henriques**

8-weeks (2/24-4/14), online Zoom, RECORDED (also taught fully in-person on Fridays)

This course will explore the rich history of Australia. The nation continent has a history starting in Dreamtime inhabited by people wandering and living centuries before the first European sailing vessel sighted its shores. Flag planting, convicts, settlers, Aboriginal discrimination, national awakening and today, a modern society bridging the West and Asia, whilst one the USA's staunchest Allies over time and one of the five eyes.

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## **TUESDAY (all classes are delivered remotely, via Zoom)**

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**8:30 – 9:45 Pre Raphaelite movement - Kimberley Olmstead**

8-weeks (2/18 (skip 2/25)-4/15), online Zoom, RECORDED

This course will look in-depth at the three generations of the Pre Raphaelite movement in England, starting with the group's inception in 1848 and going through the turn of the 20th century. We will examine what made this group stand out stylistically in its time, and we will also examine the many sources of inspiration from poetry, literature, nature, mythology, and history. Some artists covered will be John Everett Millais, William Holman Hunt, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Edward Burne Jones, Evelyn de Morgan, and John William Waterhouse.

### **10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon - Intermediate Drawing - Angela Amato**

8-weeks (2/25-4/15), online Zoom, **NOT RECORDED**, note extended session, \$100  
**Registration is limited to 12 participants.**

Must have taken a beginner class prior and be proficient in how to use your drawing tools with some knowledge of drawing papers, sketching with line and tonal values. You will be inspired through photographic digital imagery, discussion, and sharing your work with others. This class will focus on Drawing Fundamentals (composition, form, simple perspective, pattern) Continue a weekly drawing practice of your compositions.

#### **Materials:**

- ✓ A computer and a printer are helpful
- ✓ At this drawing level you should have some material to start the first class.
- ✓ Sketchbook white paper any size, graphite pencils 2b 4b 6b, Eraser, pencil sharpener-
- ✓ Charcoal pencil (soft or med), Blending stumps (or Q-tips), Vine charcoal soft or med.
- ✓ A white chalk pencil and a sheet or more of black paper, OR toned paper (can wait till we
- ✓ discuss in class)

### **12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. - Beginning Drawing – Angela Amato**

4-weeks (3/25-4/15), online Zoom, **NOT RECORDED**, note extended session.  
**Registration is limited to 12 participants.**

This 4-week, beginning level course is for that person who is just learning how to draw and how to manipulate some drawing materials. The class includes drawing exercises and an exploration of the drawing elements: line, value, space, and texture.

#### **Materials:**

- ✓ A computer and a printer are helpful
- ✓ Sketchbook any size / or white drawing paper any size, graphite pencils 2b 4b 6b,
- ✓ Eraser, pencil sharpener- Charcoal pencil (soft or med), Blending stumps (or Q-tips),
- ✓ Vine charcoal soft or med.
- ✓ Objects from around the house for drawing study. e.g. some fruit, a coffee cup, a plant.

### **10:00 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. Senior Sneakers - Gretchen Nadeau**

8-weeks (2/25-4/17), online Zoom, **NOT RECORDED**, this class meets both Tuesdays and Thursdays

This is the perfect class for beginners and the older population. Improve strength, balance, cardio endurance, and flexibility during a combination of both standing and seated

work. Light weights (1-4lbs) are required- but water bottles, soup cans, etc. can be substituted. A sturdy chair, preferably without arms, is needed too. Each class is 40 minutes long. It is effective and easy to follow!

### **2:15 – 3:15 p.m. Introduction to Italian Language – Angela Amato**

4-weeks (2/25-3/18), online Zoom, NOT RECORDED, \$30

**Registration is limited to 12 participants.**

Learn a new language or review your beginner Italian studies. Start from the beginning with pronunciation, simple verb conjugation in the present tense and sentence structure. This class is designed as an introduction to the Italian language.

#### **Materials:**

- ✓ Computer, a printer is helpful if you want to print out weekly notes or you can save notes on your computer files.

### **5:30-6:45 p.m. A Deep Presence: Native Americans in the Monadnock Region– Dr. Robert Goodby**

4-weeks (3/18-4/18), online Zoom, **RECORDED**

This course will use the book [\*A Deep Presence: 13,000 Years of Native American History to explore the story of Native Americans in the Monadnock Region\*](#). From the ancient Tenant Swamp site in Keene, occupied when woolly mammoths still roamed, to a 4,000-year-old stone dam in Swanzey and Native basket makers in Keene and Peterborough in the early 20th century, the class will discuss important local sites, artifacts, the scientific process of archaeology, and the remarkable survival of the Abenaki people in their ancient homeland.

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## **WEDNESDAY (all classes are delivered remotely, via Zoom)**

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### **1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. The 4th Quarter – It’s About Our Time - Robert Meissner**

8-weeks (2/26- 4/16), online Zoom, NOT RECORDED

Life, in some ways, can be compared to a game, and many of us are playing in our 4th quarter—but how are we managing the clock? This engaging 8-week course provides a fresh, thoughtful, and often humorous perspective on how to make the most of the time we have.

Using the P.I.P.E.S. framework—Physical, Intellectual, Planning (including financial), Emotional, and Spiritual—we’ll explore how to maintain balance in our lives. Together, we’ll reflect on two key questions:

1. How do we balance what we do with who we are?

## 2. What qualities do we want to nurture and model for others?

Through group discussions and personal reflection, we'll examine both the play clock (our daily choices) and the game clock (our long-term vision) to ensure we're using our time wisely. The final class will tie everything together, helping you reset your priorities and fully embrace this stage of life.

No two-minute warning here—just a thoughtful, uplifting game plan for making the most of every moment.

### **2:00 – 3:15 p.m. Ukrainian Folk Traditions – Sue Olson**

8-weeks (2/19-4/9), [online Zoom](#), **RECORDED**

Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, the most important and powerful city in early Russia, had close ties with Europe. Its prince Vladimir introduced Orthodox Christianity, which is still the predominant religion in European Russia and Ukraine. The Mongol invasion in the 13th century destroyed Kievan Rus, which was fragmented and ruled for several centuries by different national powers. Although Ukraine shares a common early history and mythology with other Eastern Slavs, such as the Russians and Byelorussians, the Ukrainian people, despite being ruled by different nations, developed their own cultural identity, language, folk traditions and arts that reflect not only the majority Slavic population but the traditions and culture of other ethnic groups such as the Cossacks and the Carpatho-Rusyns. In this course we'll examine and discuss the Ukrainians and other ethnic groups, their history and traditions, including their culture, folklore, folk music and art as well as some of the literature and arts these traditions inspired. Whenever possible, our discussions will be enhanced by videos and other media. All readings will be provided. Coincidentally, the Brattleboro Museum and Arts Center will have an exhibit from March 22 to July 3: *Contemporary Ukrainian Folk Art: The Matrix of Resistance* that we may consider visiting as a group or individually.

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## **THURSDAY (all classes are delivered remotely, via Zoom)**

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### **10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Senior Sneakers - Gretchen Nadeau**

8-weeks (2/25-4/17), [online Zoom](#), **NOT RECORDED**, this class meets both Tuesdays and Thursdays

This is the perfect class for beginners and the older population. Improve strength, balance,

cardio endurance, and flexibility during a combination of both standing and seated work. Light weights (1-4lbs) are required- but water bottles, soup cans, etc. can be substituted. A sturdy chair, preferably without arms, is needed too. Each class is 40 minutes long. It is effective and easy to follow!

**11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Jewish Mysticism and Mystics – Dale Rosenberg**  
8-weeks (2/27-4/17), online, NOT RECORDED

Kabbalah, a form of mysticism that was once the exclusive property of an elite group of Jewish men, is now studied and practiced by a wide assortment of Jews and non-Jews, including Mick Jagger, Madonna, Donna Karan and Roseanne Barr. Mysticism has always been a facet of Jewish learning and spirituality, but it has at times been a closely guarded secret discipline. This course explores Jewish mysticism in a way that is accessible to all.

CALL participants will learn about Jewish mystical traditions from Biblical times on. Every week we will read excerpts from mystical testimonies and other mystical texts. We'll explore just what mysticism is, how mystical thinking has been enacted Jewishly in different times and places, and how mystical practice affects the practitioners. We'll focus for much of the class on Kabbalah, exploring its roots in 13th century Spain, its resurgence in northern Palestine in the 16th century, and its influence on mainstream Judaism today and on mainstream American culture. We'll look at Kabbalah's transition from an arcane tradition of mysticism accessible only to a select group into a popularized form. The mystical underpinnings of Hasidic Judaism will be considered, as well as their spread through the Chabad/Lubavitch movement.

**1:00pm- 2:15 Reducing Financial Fears in Retirement - Expanded – Thomas Villeneuve**  
8-weeks (2/20-4/10), online Zoom, RECORDED

This course offers seniors a unique opportunity to strengthen their financial foundation as they transition into retirement or refine their existing strategies. Led by registered investment advisor Tom Villeneuve, this course provides a comprehensive exploration of retirement planning essentials tailored to the specific needs of seniors. Participants will have ample time to delve into crucial topics that are vital for optimizing financial well-being during retirement. From navigating retirement accounts like IRAs to understanding the intricacies of Social Security benefits and Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), participants will gain a thorough grasp of foundational concepts. The course emphasizes empowerment, making the complexities of retirement finance more accessible and boosting confidence in decision-making for seniors facing the uncertainties of post-retirement financial planning. By equipping participants with the necessary tools to make informed decisions, this course promises an engaging and enlightening journey for all involved.

**2:30 – 3:15 p.m. Reflections on Heroism in Our Time - Kathy Fleming**

8-weeks (2/27-4/17) Zoom, RECORDED

The centerpiece of this class will be Octavia Butler's 1993 novel, *Parable of the Sower*, which opens in Los Angeles 2024, a city ravaged by fires sparked by global warming and arsonists, by criminal street gangs, class warfare, and political extremism. The novel depicts the actions taken by an inner-city teenaged girl in response to disasters tearing apart her hometown. "I don't write about heroes," Butler once said. "I write about people who survive and sometimes prevail." In our consideration of Butler's novel, we will take up the question of the role of individual action in the face of systemic pressures beyond the control of any one person. We will bring to our discussion of *Parable of the Sower* ideas about heroism presented in short works by an eclectic mix of writers, including Hannah Arendt, Heather Cox Richardson, Alexei Navalny and Joseph Campbell.

**4:30-5:45 p.m. Like A Rolling Stone: Selected Songs of Bob Dylan, 1962-1982 - Paul Jenkins**

8-weeks (2/20-4/10), online Zoom, RECORDED

This course will explore and analyze songs written by the most famous lyricist of the twentieth century, Bob Dylan.

Students will explore Dylan's lyrical magic in representative songs from six distinct phases of his career: 1.) protest folkie; 2.) angry rocker; 3.) mystical poet; 4.) country sage; 5.) disillusioned husband; and 6.) spiritual seeker.

Although Dylan's abstract lyrics are sometimes baffling, we will attempt to identify what makes his work so memorable and important.

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**FRIDAY MORNING**

**all classes are in-person or in-person/online hybrid via Zoom, please read description**

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**8:30 – 9:45 a.m. The Limits of Democracy – Rose Kundanis**

8-weeks 2/21 (skip 4/11) 4/18 hybrid RECORDED

**Morrison 206**

Limits on democracy will consider the limits on freedoms of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution: oral and written expression, assembly, and petition. Topics will include hate

speech, college protests, divisive concepts laws and book bans. We will also review and compare historical events of limits on these freedoms.

Guest speakers include Sean Locke, Assistant Attorney General Director, Civil Rights Unit, and Bureau of Civil Law who will speak about hate crimes.

**8:30 – 9:45 a.m. Works Progress Administration's Federal Art Project- Kimberley Olmstead**

8 weeks (2/21 (skip 2/28)-4/18), hybrid RECORDED

**Morrison 204**

This course will examine the various arts supported under the Federal Art Project during the Works Progress Administration. We will look at many kinds of art that were made during this program, including paintings, sculpture, murals, photography, poster art, and theater design. The timeline will span from the early 1930's until 1943.

\*This is an expansion of a previously offered 4-week course on the same topic.

**8:30 – 9:45 a.m. French Language Via Films - Bill Reed**

8 weeks (2/21-4/11), in-person

**Morrison 107**

This course is based on French films, with associated clips about actors, directors, and locations, and includes:

- ✓ Transcriptions and card games of lines from the films for comprehension and speaking practice; Grammar points and vocabulary taken from the transcriptions.
- ✓ Clips from French and Québécoise television and the Internet, with accompanying hand-outs: News, ads, travelogues, magic shows, history.
- ✓ Videos made by the instructor, including visits to French families, schools, interviews on the street, and student-made videos.

Students should have at least a low-intermediate level of French.

**8:30 – 9:45 a.m. History of the Atomic Bomb- John Samperisi**

8 weeks (2/21-4/11), in-person

**Morrison 110**

This course begins with the evolution of atomic theory from ancient times to the present day and then focuses on a significant scientific turning point reached at the dawn of the 20th century.

At that time an international “perfect storm” arose from the clash of political and scientific events. which resulted in the realization that splitting the atom would not only release unimaginable energy, but that such energy would revolutionize warfare. The race was on, and the United States was in last place.

We will travel the world to meet the scientists, politicians, and military figures who furthered this work, and meet spies, saboteurs, common workers, and families caught in the atomic web.

We will go along on the secret missions of those assigned to either promote or delay bomb production by another nation. We will learn of missed opportunities to discover atomic fission, and of delays in bomb building caused by ignorance, incompetence, and violence.

We will witness the story of how America created a new secret new city for scientists and their families, and also chose to staff it with many workers whose prime asset was being illiterate.

We will learn how universities coordinated discoveries with vast newly created industrial sites thousands of miles apart to bring the nuclear age into reality.

We will discover a project of even greater expense than the atomic bomb project itself. That is the story of designing and building something Japan and Germany already had on the drawing boards, a bomber capable of crossing oceans to deliver a weapon yet to be built.

The testing of the atomic bomb and the tragic fate of the ship that transported the bomb for final assembly on Tinian Island, will be covered.

We will discuss how the American “island hopping” strategy and conventional airborne bombing results factored into the decision to drop the bomb.

Finally, we will consider the controversy arising in the aftermath of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in both the then prevailing context as well as present one. We also will consider how the new atomic age changed society, international relations, domestic politics, science, healthcare, literature and film.

**NOTE: Be assured all scientific concepts will be introduced in an easily understood format with handouts provided for those who wish to dig more deeply into the topic.**

**9:30-11:30 a.m. Quilting With Confidence - Emily Hammer- ~~CANCELLED~~**

4-weeks (3/7- 3/28) In-person at the College Camp, note the extended session **\$60**

Register with Emily Hammer directly after 2/3/25 [HERE](#).

March 7– Cut out fabrics together and begin sewing the Framing Blocks.

March 14 – Continue sewing the Framing Blocks and start assembling the Four-Patch Blocks.

March 21 – Construct the Column Blocks and begin piecing the quilt top together.

March 28 – Complete the quilt top, then add the backing and binding.

By the end of class, you'll have:

- ✓ A strong foundation in quilting techniques
- ✓ A beautiful quilt top—possibly even completed!
- ✓ The skills & confidence to tackle future quilting projects

### **10:00 – 11:15 a.m. Leadership and Foreign Policy -Bob Beck**

4-weeks (3/28-4/18), hybrid RECORDED \$30

#### **SCIENCE 126**

Success or failure in foreign policy is a function of many factors. Geography, economics, history and culture, demography, and access to natural resources all influence a nation's ability to operate in the international arena. Leadership, however, often plays a critical role in determining what a nation can or cannot accomplish on the geopolitical chess board. This four-week class will highlight the importance of leadership in the pursuit of foreign relations, using both historical figures and current world leaders as subjects to analyze. Recommended readings will be assigned prior to each session while class participation will be strongly encouraged.

### **10:00 – 11:15 a.m. Society's Mirrors: 8 American Writers - Marcia Breckenridge**

8-weeks (2/21-4/11) in-person

#### **Morrison 206**

Each class will begin with a short handout on the current status of the particular topic. This essay will begin class discussion then I will give a breakdown of society at the time of the writing and a view of the author's life at the same time. Class will then look at a summary of the book or play. Videos, discussion and informal lecture will be a part of each class.

**Week 1 Poverty: *Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck**

**Week 2 Racism: *Raisin in the Sun*, Lorraine Hansbury (play)**

**Week 3 & 4** The American Dream: Misplaced goal? Pinnacle of Success? (two weeks -one for each work)

*Babbit*, Sinclair Lewis & *The Great Gatsby*, F Scott Fitzgerald

**Week 5 & 6** Authoritarianism/ Communism: (two weeks -one for each work)

*The Crucible* (play), Arthur Miller & *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury

**Week 7** Gender Roles: *The Feminine Mystique*, Betty Freidan

**Week 8** Protest in poetry and song: Bob Dylan won the Nobel Prize for literature

**10:00 – 11:15 a.m. SPRING; how does it sound in Music? – Virginia Eskin**

4-weeks (3/28-4/18), in-person, \$30

**Redfern Room 112**

Songs, Birds, flowers- composers have captured the magic of spring and Prof Eskin will share and demonstrate these - live in class demos!

References to Music as we age, Oliver Sacks, Levitin, among others. We will explore the importance of tuning our minds with vibrations.

**10:00 – 11:15 a.m. The Drawing Studio – Katharina Rooney**

8 weeks (2/21-4/11), in person,

**Thorne-Sagendorph Art Studio**

**Registration is limited to 12 participants.**

This course will be held in a classic studio setting of easels, still lives and spotlights you will learn close observation and develop your drawing ability. We will also explore abstract drawing concepts. All skill levels are welcome!

**Materials: Drawing pad of 14" by 17" or similar size. Bring your favorite drawing tools such as pencils, erasers and sharpeners. [Faber-Castel Pitt Graphite Kit Sample](#) if you need to purchase materials.**

**10:00 – 11:15 a.m. Astronomy – A “New Era” ...again?**

**Is our understanding of reality about to get another jolt? – Claudio Veliz**

8-weeks (2/21-4/11), in-person

**SCIENCE 127**

In the realm of astronomy, observational oddities have been growing in number and confounding even the most august researchers.

We will start with some conceptual appetizers, including how the research process works, the bigness of the universe, and a review of basic stellar evolution, as this is critical to understanding the nature of what we cannot yet figure out.

Then, we will be diving into the core of the course: a survey of the mammoth, breathtakingly sophisticated telescopes, and their instrumentation, which are about to be commissioned. We will cover how they promise – or threaten, depending on one’s viewpoint – to shake up our image of existence - nothing less, and why; what they may reveal, amongst many other phenomena, about the nature of the atmospheres of planets orbiting stars “merely” hundreds of light years away...just in our immediate, astrometric neighborhood.

With all this in tow, throughout the class, we will cover that old standby: extraterrestrial life, and what that – “life” - may actually mean, once we detect something that we may think hints at it, as is now a very real possibility with these new assemblies.

This will be a live, in person, course. Terrestrials, and extraterrestrials, welcome.

**10:00 – 11:15 a.m. Keene State College: A Sense of Place – Bud Winsor**

8-weeks (2/21-4/11), in-person

**Morrison 204**

This class will discuss the origins, places, people, and things that have shaped the campus of Keene State College. Searching through the history of the Buildings and Grounds of the campus, we will explore this corner of Keene and how it became home to an outstanding Public Liberal Arts College from extremely humble beginnings. Learn about the history, legends, and people that helped shape a quintessential small New England College with a unique story. Note: as the weather permits, we will visit many of the landmarks on Campus.

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## FRIDAY AFTERNOON

**all classes are in-person or in-person/online hybrid via Zoom, please read description**

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### **12:30 – 1:45 p.m. Voting Systems and Apportionment– Vince Ferlini**

8-weeks (2/21-4/11), hybrid

#### **SCIENCE 126**

Making decisions is an important component of a well-functioning society and in a democratic one, having procedures in place that involve input from all the affected individuals is critical. A voting system is one of those methods used to determine the will of a group of people. For most individuals, voting for national, state, and local officials involves the system defined by one-person, one-vote, candidate with a majority of votes is the winner. Alternatives to this have gained attention in recent years. In this course, we shall investigate the following: Plurality, Ranked Choice, Yes-No, Approval, and Weighted Voting Systems. Furthermore, with each, there will also be an analysis of the effectiveness of the systems in terms of a set of desirable properties.

The U.S. House of Representatives has 435 elected members, and each state is allocated, or apportioned, a certain number of those seats depending upon the population. Each state is divided into districts and each district has one of these representatives. In theory, each of the 435 representatives should represent about the same number of people. A method for allocating the seats to the states was not included in the constitution that was ratified in 1789; the issue was left to the first Congress to figure it out. In this part of the course, we investigate why this happened and how the Congress struggled to establish a good method of apportionment leading up to the present system which was enacted in 1941. We will also look at how the New Hampshire representative districts are set up and look at how the state uses an unusual type of district called a floterial district.

### **12:30 – 1:45 p.m. Overcoming Hunger in Africa - Bob Winterbottom**

8-weeks (2/21-4/11), in-person

#### **Morrison 107**

Food insecurity remains a pressing issue in many developing countries, with millions of people not having enough food, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. What are the root causes of hunger in Africa, and how can we improve food security and uplift rural communities, especially in Africa's drylands? This eight-week course will review recent trends in agricultural

production and examine the key factors contributing to hunger in Africa. With a special focus on the West African Sahel, we will explore innovative strategies and proven approaches to increase food production. The course wraps up with inspiring success stories that showcase how degraded rural landscapes can be revitalized, restoring hope and resilience to rural communities.

**12:30 – 1:15 p.m. Reflections on Heroism in Our Time - Kathy Fleming**

8-weeks (2/28-4/18), hybrid, RECORDED

**SCIENCE 101**

The centerpiece of this class will be Octavia Butler's 1993 novel, *Parable of the Sower*, which opens in Los Angeles 2024, a city ravaged by fires sparked by global warming and arsonists, by criminal street gangs, class warfare, and political extremism. The novel depicts the actions taken by an inner-city teenaged girl in response to disasters tearing apart her hometown. "I don't write about heroes," Butler once said. "I write about people who survive and sometimes prevail." In our consideration of Butler's novel, we will take up the question of the role of individual action in the face of systemic pressures beyond the control of any one person. We will bring to our discussion of *Parable of the Sower* ideas about heroism presented in short works by an eclectic mix of writers, including Hannah Arendt, Heather Cox Richardson, Alexei Navalny and Joseph Campbell.

**12:30 – 3:15 p.m. Continuing a Guided Tour of Great Films According to Roger Ebert  
- Mark Holding**

8-weeks (2/21-4/11), in-person, note extended session \$70

**Morrison 110**

*Of all the arts, movies are the most powerful aid to empathy, and good ones make us into better people ~ Roger Ebert (1942-2013)*

This course is an invitation to newcomers and returnees alike. Continuing in the spirit of last spring's offering, we will select and watch seven more films included in Roger Ebert's first volume of *The Great Movies* (pub. 2002). Ebert's goal was to provide "a tour of the landmarks of the first century of cinema."

In preparation for each of our weekly screenings, we'll read the relevant short essay he wrote to illuminate his beloved choices.

Thus, each class will typically start with a brief introduction, followed by a viewing of the complete movie, which in turn will lead into a large-group discussion of the film and of the talking points in Ebert's essay for that title.

There are one hundred Great Movies included in the collection, so we'll devote some of our first class to deciding which of them we'll schedule for the following sessions.

**12:30 – 1:45 p.m. Short Story Seminar (Version 2.0) - Jeff Minahan**

8-weeks (2/21-4/11), in-person

**Morrison 107**

**Registration is limited to 12 participants**

Returning for its second run on the CALL schedule, this class is an eight-week, seminar-style investigation of the short story. This will be a discussion-centered class that thrives on student participation, debate, and vibrant give-and-take. We will dissect fundamental literary ideas, including structure, setting, character, and more. Several of the stories we explored in the 2023 class are repeated here, including Flannery O'Connor's *A Good Man is Hard to Find*, J.D. Salinger's *A Perfect Day for Bananafish*, Mark Helprin's *Monday*, Andre Dubus (*Rose*), and Dennis Lehane's *Until Gwen*. New additions include Philip Klay's shattering *Redeployment*, the title story from his 2014 National Book Award-winning collection, and Joyce Carol Oates's *Where are You Going, Where Have You Been?*

**12:30 – 1:45 p.m. Harlem Renaissance – Diane Riley**

8-weeks (2/21 (skip 3/7) 4/18), in-person

**Morrison 208**

In this course we will look at the history of the Harlem Renaissance (Great Migration, Red Summer of 1919) and the literature from that period. Authors we will read and discuss include Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, Claude McKay, W. E. B. DuBois, Zora Neal Hurston, Laurence Dunbar, Nella Larsen, Wallace Thurman, James Weldon Johnson, and others. Discussion subjects: Why Harlem?; who should Black authors write for?; should Black writings be in dialect or "traditional English"?; questions of color; women of the Harlem Renaissance; protesting oppression; and sexuality and voyeurism. We will also touch lightly on other forms of art during this time period.

**2:00 – 3:15 p.m. Women Writers of the Gilded Age – Elayne Clift**

6-weeks (2/21-3/28), in-person, \$40

**Morrison 107**

This six-session class explores the Gilded Age and some of its literary contributions written by pioneering women writers of the period. We will begin with an overview of the Gilded Age, and then focus on women who wrote great literature, investigative reporting, mystery stories and ghost tales. The class will include PowerPoint slides that offer historical context along with examples of the artistic, cultural and creative contributions of the period. Each week we will discuss assigned readings in a relevant genre.

**2:00 – 3:15 p.m. Post-War America 1945-1960 – Jack Donegan**

8-weeks (2/21-4/11), in-person,

**Mason Library 240**

American studies revisits the 1950s. If you took "I like Ike, but I love Lucy" back in 2019 BC (Before Covid), rest assured we will be serving up all new material this time. We'll be looking at Tupperware, fluoride, S&H green stamps, organized crime, westerns, the Beat generation, all things Disney, the "do-nothing" congress, Truman vs Eisenhower, the Kennedys resurgent, SEX ...from Kinsey to Masters and Johnson (including how I lost my innocence to Eartha Kitt on Christmas, 1953).....and MORE! (This course may be rated R...no guarantees).

**2:00 – 3:15 p.m. Music for Romantics – David Gruender- CANCELED**

8-weeks (2/21-4/11), in-person

**Morrison 206**

The Romantic movement in music, art, and literature dominated the 19th century. This class will look at the concert music that underscored so much of the century, from the passing of Beethoven to the outbreak of the Great War, when everything changed. We will get to know more about familiar composers such as Berlioz, Brahms, Dvorak, Saint-Saens, Tchaikovsky, Verdi, and Wagner, as well as a number of influential and beguiling composers who may be unfamiliar. Musical examples will abound, and no special musical background is needed.

**2:00 – 3:15 p.m. Bird Behavior of Our NH Birds – Steve Hooper**

4-weeks (3/21-4/11), in-person, \$30

**Morrison 204**

This four-week course will delve into why our locally seen birds act like they do. How does their brain work? Birds are very intelligent. The more you know, the more birds you will see and the more fun you will have!

The instructor will show his own bird photography of many of the species he has captured and explain each bird's behavior. For example, certain bird species show up near wetlands when there has been an insect hatch in the water. Or if there is a large rodent population, Barred Owls will be present.

Folks need not be bird experts to attend this course. Simply, the joy of birding outdoors or from your home window is all that is necessary.

If weather permits, a stroll on campus looking for birds will take place.

**2:00 – 3:15 p.m. Science Fiction, Film, TV & Philosophy - Sander Lee**

8-weeks (2/21-4/11), in-person

**Drenan Auditorium**

This course is an exploration of philosophical themes in science fiction films such as *Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977), *The Day the Earth Stood Still* (1951), *La Jetee* (1962), *2001* (1968), *Blade Runner* (1982), *Contact* (1997), *Arrival* (2016) and examples from the *Star Trek* and *Black Mirror* franchises.

Using lively discussion and debate, we will do analyses of the films. Philosophers to be discussed include Plato, Nietzsche, Kant, Simone de Beauvoir, and Jean-Paul Sartre.

**2:00 – 3:15 p.m. Better Listening Will Enhance Your Whole Life- Robert Meissner**

5-weeks (2/21-4/11), in-person \$40

**Morrison 208**

We live in a world where true listening is becoming a lost art—yet it has never been more essential. Listening isn't just about hearing words; it's about building stronger relationships, resolving conflicts, discovering common ground, and fostering joy in everyday interactions.

In this lively and insightful course, we'll explore the foundations of good (and not-so-good) listening, starting from childhood and evolving through life. With humor and real-world examples, we'll tackle the surprising truth: despite its incredible value, listening is rarely taught—even in schools. But you have the power to change that.

Join us as we (re)discover how better listening can enhance your relationships, improve communication, and bring greater fulfillment to your life—especially in this chapter of our lives when clarity and connection matter most.

**2:00 – 3:15 p.m. Australia - The Land DownUnder, Forged by Fire and Fortune - Peter Henriques**

8-weeks (2/21-4/11), in-person (also taught online on Monday)

**Morrison 208**

This course will explore the rich history of Australia. The nation continent has a history starting in Dreamtime inhabited by people wandering and living centuries before the first European sailing vessel sighted its shores. Flag planting, convicts, settlers, Aboriginal discrimination, national awakening and today, a modern society bridging the West and Asia, whilst one the USA's staunchest Allies over time and one of the five eyes.