

CHESHIRE ACADEMY FOR LIFELONG LEARNING – Spring 2024

March 4 to April 26, 2024

For more information and to register, visit www.keene.edu/call

EACH COURSE IS \$50 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. \$10/COURSE DISCOUNT FOR 4+ COURSES.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Ukraine War: Two Years of Fighting But No Closer to Resolution – Bob Beck (Free)

Friday, February 9, 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Morrison 109 and online

After two years of bloody combat on the battlefields of Eastern Europe, Ukraine and Russia seemed locked in a stalemate. Please join Bob Beck for a discussion of the most likely ways this war might end. The presentation will be in class and via ZOOM, and it will be recorded.

JFK Assassination: What They Told Me – A Talk with Bill Holiday (Free)

Friday, February 16, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Rhodes Hall S203

November marked the 60th anniversary of the JFK Assassination, a date that most of you remember vividly. Bill Holiday, CALL instructor and popular local educator, has spent years researching the assassination and meeting and gathering first person accounts from a vast array of eyewitnesses. From the doctors who treated President Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald to an automobile salesman in Dealey Plaza, this book has documented their accounts through interviews by Bill and his students. This is an opportunity to learn about his research, purchase the book, and get it autographed.

Active Threat Preparedness Training – Chris Buckley (Free)

Friday, March 1, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Space TBD

Learn how to be more prepared in the event of an emergency such as a fire or active shooter in a public space.

MONDAYS

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. French for Beginners – Brian Donovan (Online)

A course for students with little or no previous French experience. We'll talk about the sounds of French, and we'll cover the basics you should know heading into French-speaking experiences. **Will be recorded.**

2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Through the Centuries with Jewish Music – Lainee Ginsberg and Virginia Eskin – Offered at Covenant Living, 95 Wyman Rd, Keene. Note: Covenant residents register through Tracy Summers for a discount.

The first four weeks of this class will be taught by Lainee Ginsberg and will cover Biblical and other ancient music, Cantorial music, Ashkenazic Yiddish and Klezmer Music, Sephardic Music in Ladino, and the beginnings of Jewish Choral music in the 17th and 18th centuries. Then,

Virginia Eskin will take over for the next four weeks, specializing in piano works of great Jewish composers in the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. Prepare for a whirlwind tour of great music!

2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Gilbert and Sullivan Operas - Andy Papas (Online)

Grab your parasol and patter song and get ready for some delightfully ridiculous fun, as you toddle about the operettas of Gilbert & Sullivan! We'll promenade through 6 delightfully ridiculous light operas, hitting all your favorite tunes and tarantellas, and previewing Raylynmor Opera's May production of The Pirates of Penzance! The most famous collaborations of William Gilbert & Arthur Sullivan will be the focus, with famous singers and productions highlighting the important moments of this theatrical era. The class is led by a professional actor & singer who specializes in G&S patter roles, and who will be a part of the cast of Pirates at Keene's hometown opera company, Raylynmor Opera. Note: this class will not meet on 4/22 and 4/29 and will run until 5/13. We are working on finding a guest speaker for one of those weeks.

TUESDAYS

9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Contemporary Individual Artists with Kimberley Olmstead (Online)

In this course, we will examine one artist in-depth per week. The focus of this course will be on contemporary artists who use their art to express activism in some way. We will cover topics such as the environment, human rights, LGBTQ, women's rights, indigenous art, and art by African Americans that explores racial issues and social justice. Some of the artists featured will be Zaria Forman, Banksy, Ai Weiwei, Jaune Quick-To-See Smith, Kent Monkman, and Titus Kaphar. **This class will be recorded.**

10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Senior Sneakers - Gretchen Nadeau (Online, 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 in length. It is effective and easy to follow! **This class will not be recorded.**

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Chess – Eric Strickland (Online)

The course will start with the basics of 'What is checkmate?' and what is the difference between checkmate and stalemate? The relative value of the pieces, opening principles, middlegame tactics and strategies, and essential endgame knowledge will be emphasized. The class will be delivered via Zoom Meeting, in conjunction with the chess website chess.com. Participants in this course will need to have an account with this website. Registering for an account with them can be done in just a few minutes. Free accounts are available and will enable participants in the course to do most of the planned

activities. There are three tiers of premium accounts:” Gold,” “Platinum,” and “Diamond.” The “Gold” tier, which will unlock many features of the website that students of chess will want to access, is recommended.

The first part of each class will be for presenting new concepts and techniques, answering questions, and reviewing material covered in earlier lessons.

During the second part of each class, participants will be divided into pairs and go to breakout rooms to put into practice what they have learned, with a friendly opponent. The instructor will monitor the breakout rooms and be available for answering questions and clearing up any confusion that may arise.

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. – American Encounters to 1877 - John Lund (Online)

In this course, students will be exposed to a variety of American perspectives through time. Emphasis will be placed on the voices of the traditionally unheard such as the poor, women, African Americans, and Native Americans. Issues of class, race, and gender will be explored from a comparative approach. Emphasis is placed on primary sources and local (NH and VT) connections. It is recommended that students purchase Jill Lepore's 2018 book, *These Truths*, which will be extensively used during class. This class will NOT be recorded.

WEDNESDAYS

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Traveling Solo – Judy Brophy (\$30, online, April 3 – April 25 only)

Traveling on your own is rewarding and exciting. Consider going to places that only YOU want to go. Start with a weekend away and build up to that Alaska cruise you’ve been dreaming about that you can’t find anyone else interested in. We will see how to plan a trip or find a tour that is a good match for you and discover what you need to know to travel with joy and safety.

This class will be recorded.

10:00 a.m. – 12 noon Landscape Drawing – Angela Amato (\$70, online)

Express yourself by drawing artistic landscapes - trees, land elements, seascape, clouds, and mountains with expressive mark making. Study composition and explore the Principles of **Art**: proportion, unity, variety, rhythm, shape, space as well as continue with Art Elements such as line and value This study will also include viewing images of Impressionist Art and Contemporary Artists to help inspire our unique drawings. **This course is not recorded.**

Materials: Computer, printer is helpful. Vine or other charcoal, charcoal pencil soft, sketch book size approx. 11x14 inches or loose paper sheets, tortillon sticks for blending, 2B 4B 6B pencils, eraser and any other materials you may have. Spray fixative for charcoal drawings (optional).

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Empathy and Fiction – Kathy Fleming (online)

The popular and critically acclaimed author, George Saunders, has expressed the belief that fiction “encourages us to step out of ourselves and into someone else, temporarily,” a movement that he regards as “a *de facto* moral experience.” Even before the term *empathy* was coined at the beginning of the twentieth century, fiction writers and literary critics asserted the power of literature, and storytelling specifically, to create a more caring, humane reading public. In this course we’ll discuss the empathic impact of short stories by a wide range of writers, such as Anton Chekhov, Nikolai Gogol, Raymond Carver, Claire Keegan, George Saunders, ZZ Packer, and Yiyun Li. **This class is recorded.**

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Continuing Italian – Angela Amato (\$40, online)

Must have taken beginner Italian courses and have some knowledge of verb conjugation.

The course will include comprehension, reading - writing & verb conjugations with some conversational Italian. Parliamo e studiamo Italiano insieme! **This course is not recorded.**

Materials: Printer is helpful. Emails will be sent weekly.

2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Life and Death in Tolstoy’s Short Fiction – Susan Olson (online)

Leo Tolstoy is one of the greatest and most well-known authors in nineteenth century Russian and world literature. When we think of Tolstoy, most often his longest works, *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina* come to mind, but he also wrote many short masterpieces, in which his realistic portrayal of nineteenth century Russian sociopolitical life and psychological insight reveal his moral, spiritual and philosophical worldview. In this course we’ll read a few of these shorter works in the context of nineteenth century Russian history, society and culture to define how Tolstoy’s concept of the meaning of life evolved and how he believed humans could attain goodness, often in the face of death. When possible, our discussion will be enhanced by videos and other media. All course materials will be provided electronically, and **the class sessions will be recorded.**

THURSDAYS

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon Watercolor Painting: Illusion of Depth AM – Lynn Zimmerman (\$150, online)

There are several ways to depict depth in our two-dimensional paintings. Let's explore them with the aim of creating paintings with a feeling of space or distance. Each class will begin with a discussion of the day's topic, often including a slideshow with visual examples. Then, we'll have an exercise where we can practice bringing the ideas to life, followed by time to paint independently.

We will paint landscapes, still lifes, and anything from the crisper drawer. Each class wraps up with time for a gentle critique where we share our work and learn from each other. You must

have at least some experiences with watercolors. No special materials needed beyond the basics. Suggested materials list provided upon request. **This class is not recorded.**

10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Senior Sneakers with Gretchen (Online, this class meets on both Tuesdays and Thursdays.)

Please see the description under Tuesday's listings.

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon Yin Yoga For Hip Flexibility, Spinal Health & Joint Mobility – Michelle Davis (online)

In this yoga series you will experience an opportunity to delve deep into each posture and discover how to feel very comfortable and relaxed within each pose. Yin is a practice of stillness rather than an active moving practice. Long posture holds are designed to release tension, stimulate bone cell renewal, increase the production of collagen, rejuvenate fascia and promote joint capsule health.

This series will increase your flexibility, strengthen your bones, improve circulation and reduce stress. Most yin postures will be done seated or lying on the belly or back. There will be a few standing postures within this series to support healthy feet and better balance.

This class will include 6 weeks online, live with Michelle (class will be recorded), followed by 2 weeks of video content- a 60-minute class featuring special guided relaxation.

Michelle is a very experienced yoga instructor. She will meet you where you are at with your practice- beginner, intermediate & advanced students are invited to join this special yin yoga series. **This class is recorded.**

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. "Keene as *Kosmos*: A Literary and Natural History of a New England Town" – Matthew Myer Boulton (online)

Please note: This course is an updated, enhanced version of a CALL course offered in 2021, based on research for a book project by the instructor. This time around, participants will have the option of reviewing and commenting on selections from the manuscript-in-progress. The idea is to do two things at once: participate in a CALL class, and (for those who wish) participate in the creation of a book about Keene and the Monadnock region.

In this course, we'll explore the "deep history" of both Keene and the Monadnock region more generally, with special emphasis on three levels of learning: highlights of the region's natural history (landscape, flora, and fauna), human history (from Abnaki settlements to present), and literary/artistic history (including Thoreau, Hale, Thayer, Twain, Cather, Kumin, and Wilder). All the way along, our goal will be to enrich our everyday experience of Keene and the

Monadnock region today. As William Faulkner once put it, "The past is never dead. It's not even past." **This class will be recorded.**

2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Watercolor Painting: Illusion of Depth PM – Lynn Zimmerman (\$150, online, please see description in Thursday morning)

FRIDAYS

8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Impressionism in Art and Music – Elaine Ginsberg and Kimberley Olmstead (online or in person)

This course will cover the Impressionist movement in art and music from its development in the 1860's through the early 20th century. We will cover the works of the major figures of the movement decade-by-decade. Some artists covered will be Eduard Manet, Claude Monet, Mary Cassatt, Edgar Degas, Berthe Morisot, Pierre Auguste Renoir, Camille Pissarro and Alfred Sisley. Composers will include Gabriel Faure, Claude Debussy, Maurice Ravel, Reynaldo Hahn, and Lili Boulanger. We will also look at the work of Post Impressionists artists such as Paul Gauguin, Vincent Van Gogh, and Georges Seurat, and composers such as Erik Satie.

8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Demographics and Foreign Policy – Bob Beck (\$30, online or in-person, April Fridays only)

There are many factors that enable or constrain a nation's capacity to effectively operate in the international arena. History, geography, military power, and culture all come to mind as determinants of foreign policy agency. Often forgotten, however, when considering a country's foreign policy, is demography. Please join Bob Beck for a four-week course on how population (size, type, age, growth rate, geographic distribution) significantly influences activities on the geopolitical chessboard. The class will be in-person and ZOOM and will be recorded.

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Experiment with Loose Watercolor Landscapes – Susan Kretchman (in person, April 5 and 12 only)

Participants will practice wet in wet washes to paint loose watercolor landscapes. Some textures will be introduced to complement the landscapes. Techniques will include control of a wet wash, adding salt, using plastic wrap and painting with a plastic card instead of a brush. Each session will include teacher demonstrations and participant practice.

This workshop is for anyone who has taken watercolor class(es) before. Bring your own materials, including Arches 100% cotton rag paper (140 lb.) is the best to hold lots of water. In addition, you will need a big brush (round or flat) for applying water and paint. A one-inch flat brush will work fine. Additional materials: pencil and eraser, towel, a few paper towels, misting bottle, masking tape, dull paring knife and hair dryer (optional).

Bring your sense of exploration and risk-taking to have fun!

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. A Survey of 19th Century European Art – Kimberley Olmstead (online or in-person)

This course will be a survey on the art movements of 19th century Europe. We will begin in post-revolutionary France with the rise of Napoleon and then move on to Spain to examine Francisco Goya. We will examine the multiple revolutions that happened in France throughout the century, and the impact those revolutions had on art, specifically with the rise of Romanticism. Mid-century, the Realist movement begins with the work of Gustave Courbet, and by the late 1860's there will be the first hints of Impressionism. Towards the end of the century, we will examine the Pre-Raphaelites, Post Impressionists and Early Art Nouveau.

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Music Theory Continues – Elaine Ginsberg (in person)

For folks who love music theory! We will continue to work on chord inversions and analysis, secondary dominants, modulation, and 4-part chorale composition. Students should already understand reading music and theory fundamentals such as scales, intervals, triads, and key signatures (which were covered in last Winter's session theory class). This course will review and enhance material that was covered in the Spring session and continue the work of the Winter session as well. Other topics, such as "Reading from a Fake Book" and "Melodic/Rhythmic Dictation" will be addressed as well as interests of the participants of the class if time permits. If you love learning about the structure of music, this is the course for you!

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Keene State College: A Sense of Place - Bud Winsor (in person)

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.

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Astronomy: From Searching for Life to Eclipses - Claudio Veliz (in-person)

This semester we're going to focus on "the fun stuff", as one of my students a few years back termed it. We'll start out with an overview of the basic structure, the physics, and scale of the universe as we now understand it.

We'll then cover two waves of scientific activity which are converging, and which may in just the approaching years, have jolting impacts on our understanding of ...well, all detectible existence.

One is what current observatories – in space, and on the ground - have revealed in just the past few years.

The other is an explosion of hardware and software, unprecedented in their sophistication due to the last couple of decades of breathtaking engineering maturity.

With that understanding of how astrophysical evidence is collected, we'll move to some of the unexplained celestial objects which are growing in number, and what this may imply for our understanding of the universe, and why we're now at the threshold of knowing – at least in one way – how alone we may (or may not) be, in our universe.

And, of course, we'll cover the upcoming total solar eclipse, which will be sashaying through the upper Northeast and Canada this spring. We'll see how to prepare for it, what equipment (if any) you need, and what to do (and NOT do) when it arrives.

Presentations will be graphic-rich, with additional material provided for those who wish to delve deeper between/after classes. While access to the Internet and email is not *strictly* required, the course will include considerable on-line link references, so students will benefit *substantially* by having such access.

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Pottery – Katharina Rooney (in-person)

This course will focus on the design and construction of hand-built pottery. We will be using red clay with underglazes and clear glazes. There will be an introduction to clay and glaze preparation and the process of firing. **Materials are required for this class. Students should purchase an 8-tool pottery kit, such as this one, for around \$25 ([Kemper Pottery Tool Kit | BLICK Art Materials \(dickblick.com\)](#)).** Class size is limited to 15.

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Vietnam: Shaped by a multitude of histories – Peter Henriques (online or in person)

The course will help shape and challenge your perspective on Vietnam's evolution as a nation.

Vietnam entered written history in the 3rd Century BC. Vietnam has a long history of affiliating with a dominant civilization and adapting ideas, institutions, and technology to Vietnamese purposes, still in practice today.

We will follow Vietnam's history to show why this affiliation and adaption trait enhanced Vietnamese culture, but also formed a unique Vietnamese character.

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. City and Town Government Operations and Issues: Jay Kahn, Mayor and Tom Powers, City Councilor - City of Keene (in person)

Key city, town and service leaders from Keene and surrounding towns will help lead in-class discussions on topics such as the following:

1. How to be involved in city and local government
2. Municipal Services
3. Fire and Police Services
4. Public Works and Infrastructure
5. Housing
6. Workforce
7. Elections
8. Taxation

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Beethoven at 250+ - Dave Gruender (in person)

2020 marked the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth. Unfortunately, COVID limited the many celebrations and retrospectives planned by arts organizations around the world, as well as institutions like our own Keene State College. This course will be a belated celebration of his 250th and a chance to get to know his life and achievement a little better. Along with many recorded musical examples, there will be live performances, as well.

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. SATIRE: READY...AIM...WRITE - Marcia Breckenridge (in person)

When damned mad, muckrakers attacked a wrong, straight on. Nader shouted, "CORVAIRS ARE UNSAFE." Rachel Carson testified, "DDT IS DEADLY." Satirists share muckrakers' passion and anger but use satire, the timeless weapon of humor and wit. Often more subtle than muckrakers, satirists both entertain and enrage while taking deadly aim.

This course will look at both historical satirists' and contemporary satirists' targets and impact. The course will include a brief historical look at early Greek and Roman satirists Horace and Aristophanes, and then focus on the following. The class will include direct text of writers and sources, handouts, video clips and interactive small group discussion and in-class creativity in writing satirical headlines. Bring your humor, curiosity and shared experiences with satire! Remember, "The pen is mightier than the sword."

- Chaucer's Canterbury Tales 1300's ...criticizing practices of Catholicism
- Jonathon Swift's 1700's... "A Modest Proposal" and "Gulliver's Travels" attacking taxation of poor and human weaknesses
- Jane Austen's 1800's ... "Pride and Prejudice" ridiculing society's expectations for marriage
- Oscar Wilde 1800's ... "The Importance of Being Ernest" mocking social facades of people
- George Orwell... 1900's..." Animal Farm" and "1984" damning totalitarian government

- Aldous Huxley...1900's..." Brave New World" exposing danger of progress and power
- Stephen Colbert and Jon Stewart ...2000's... lambasting politicians, news events of the day, potpourri of foibles
- Political cartoonists and The Onion...2000's... politicians, conditions of the country

12:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. A Guided Tour of The Great Films According to Roger Ebert – Mark Holding (\$75, in person, note extended time)

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

Throughout his career as a film scholar and critic, Roger Ebert championed and popularized the power of cinema for an entire generation of movie lovers. "Writing in a prose style intended to be entertaining and direct, he made sophisticated cinematic and analytical ideas more accessible to non-specialist audiences" (Steven Zeitchik). In recognition of his approach, Ebert became the first film critic to be awarded a Pulitzer Prize.

During his tenure at the Chicago Sun-Times (from 1967 until his death), Ebert published three volumes dedicated to The Great Movies. The focus of these books, he said, was to provide "a tour of the landmarks of the first century of cinema." Who better, then, to serve as our guide?

During this course, we will dip into the first volume of The Great Movies (pub. 2002) and watch some of Ebert's selections. 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.

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. THE ORIGINAL AMERICAN IDOL: ELVIS, Anatomy of the Icon - Larry Phillips (in person)

From rise to demise: poverty to phenomena to legend to icon to caricature... This journey will be a deep dive into his life and times to include:

- social-historical perspective on the social movements of the 50's-60's and the origin and development of rock and roll and his role within the evolving cultural context.
- a chronological personal history with a case study of his character, personality, and lifestyle including things you may not know about him and his rise to fame.
- myths, controversies, milestones, behind the scenes, and back stories.

- and of course...the music of which there is plenty across all genres. I will concentrate on some of the more significant songs with their unique background but focus primarily on songs with which you may be less familiar.

Grab your “Teddy Bear” for a ride on the “Mystery Train” and walk your “Hound Dog” down lonely street to “Heartbreak Hotel”. If you have a “Suspicious Mind” prepare to be “All Shook Up” for “It’s Now or Never”!

“I was a dreamer. I read comic books and I was the hero...I saw movies, and I was the hero of the movie. So every dream I ever dreamed, has come true a hundred times...” ELVIS ARON PRESLEY 1935-1977

“He can’t last. I tell you flatly, he can’t last.” (Jackie Gleason)

“His kind of music is deplorable, a rancid-smelling aphrodisiac... It fosters almost totally negative and destructive reactions in young people.” (Frank Sinatra)

“Before Elvis there was nothing.” (John Lennon)

“Elvis recorded a song of mine; that’s the recording I treasure most.” (Bob Dylan)

“When I was 15 and saw Elvis on TV, I wanted to be Elvis. Other kids in the neighborhood were listening to Ray Charles and James Brown, but I listened to Elvis. I admired him so much and I decided that if I was going to be famous, I’d do it just like him. He’s one of the reasons I wanted to entertain people and be loved by the people and make the girls admire me so much” (Muhammad Ali)

“Elvis Presley’s death deprives our country of a part of itself. He was unique and irreplaceable.”

(Jimmy Carter)

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. AMERICA TESTED, 1930-1945 – Jack Donegan (in person)

From the Wall Street crash of 1929 to the end of World War II, the U.S. endured more than 16 years of trials and hardship: the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, and a sneak attack on Pearl Harbor dragging us into global war. American Studies takes a deep dive into the issues and personalities that shaped the Greatest Generation: Eleanor and Franklin, Bonnie and Clyde, the Scottsboro boys, Amelia Earhart, film censorship, the four Hoovers, the Lindbergh kidnapping, the Tuskegee syphilis study, "packing" the Supreme Court, Seabiscuit, Japanese internment, rationing and of course Rosie the Riveter. So, refill your Prozac prescription and hop into our Time Machine for a trip back to the days when our parents were young.... All aboard!

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. “Breaking Silence: A Literary Journey with Women Who Spoke Truth to Power” – Elayne Clift (\$40, in person, offered for six weeks)

“What would happen if one woman told the truth about her life?” Poet Muriel Rukeyser famously asked more than 50 years ago. Her answer? “The world would split apart.”

We’ll find out why with a first class that provides a historical review of women writers past and present who told the truth about their lives and effected social change in necessary ways through courageous writing in a variety of genre. Their insightful writing helped create necessary social change in the home, the marketplace, academia, institutions, and government, not only for women. We will meet and learn from selected women writers whose work is a guide to social history and progress in ways that affect us all. Sessions will focus on Second Wave writers, "The Sisterhood" of Black women writers, and Cross-cultural feminist writers, whose truth telling diaries, autobiographies, poems, short stories and essays helped shape a more enlightened world with respect to gender, race, class, and caste. Through reading and lively discussion participants will discover new insights and, to use the late Mary Belenky’s words, “Women’s Ways of Knowing.” Participants will also be invited to write their own stories as an optional challenge to be shared in the final class.

Please join us for a journey into Gender, Literature, and “good trouble!”

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. From Marlon, Marilyn, Meryl and Beyond: The Training of the American Actor – PeggyRae Johnson (in person)

Have you ever watched the Oscars and wondered why the winner was selected? Or heard a theatre critic rave about a performance that you simply didn’t enjoy? Acting, unlike other selected art forms, is often misunderstood when it comes to evaluating quality. We have a highly subjective response to the stories, the characters, and the styles of varied performances. Six people can watch six versions of HAMLET with six different award-winning actors and each viewer may have six different choices about the “best” actor.

How do we evaluate acting performances? We know when a singer hits an “off” note or when a dancer makes a “misstep”. How do we determine when an actor presents a “stunning” performance?

By exploring the background of the two premiere actor training programs of the 20th Century, THE GROUP THEATRE and Viola Spolin’s ACTOR’S IMPROV THEATRE, you’ll be able to specify excellent acting craft beyond tepid descriptions of “I liked it” or “it was good”.

Learn to support your reasoning choices by describing why you respect the art of an actor you consider as an “A List” actor. These two training schools are still responsible for the techniques and skills learned and utilized by eight out of ten contemporary actors, from Bradley Cooper to Natalie Portman. Develop your audience/acting vocabulary.