

FALL 2026 SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

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



SESSION I (SEPTEMBER 14–OCTOBER 9) • SESSION II (OCTOBER 16–NOVEMBER 13)

Class will not be held on Friday, September 25 but will meet on Friday, October 16. (Break: October 12–October 15)

The Beatles, Jonathan Palevsky

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

It has been over sixty years since The Beatles made their indelible mark on the world. Their music continues to be popular with both young and old alike even after half a century since they broke up. We will explore the lives and songs of these remarkable lads.

Duke Ellington & Count Basie: American Jazz Royalty, Seth Kibel

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

Duke Ellington and Count Basie were both pianists who led big bands that achieved fame during the Swing Era. However, they were quite different – in personality, careers, and in their music. Recordings, videos, and live performances from Seth will keep these lectures as lively as the music itself.

Orchestral Women Composers, Natalie Groom

Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m., Session I

With orchestral programming trends remaining deeply unequal, this exploration of women composers from all over the world will give you just a glimpse into the wealth of overtures, symphonies, and other pieces for orchestra that have been previously overlooked, from the 1700s to present day. This course brings the lives and music of many outstanding women composers out of obscurity and into the spotlight.

Opera and Real Life, Roger Brunyate

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

Dr. Johnson described opera as “irrational and exotic entertainment,” but does it have to be? Even operas written for court performances grew out of real political conditions, and it would not have succeeded so well as public spectacle had it not in some way reflected contemporary social conditions. More importantly, the best productions now manage to say something that matters to the audiences of today and contain characters whose triumphs and temptations we can see as very similar to our own.

ONLINE COURSE: Music and the Holocaust: Tragedy, Hope and Legacy, Emanuel Abramovits

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

Music was heard in many ghettos, concentration camps, and partisan outposts of Nazi-controlled Europe. For many victims of the Holocaust, music was an important way of preserving and asserting their humanity. Learn the role that music played in the struggle for hope in the darkest of times.

ONLINE COURSE: Georgia O’Keeffe: The Mother of American Modernism, Joseph Cassar

Mondays at 11:15 a.m., Session I

This course explores the life and work of Georgia O’Keeffe. Learn about O’Keeffe’s education and influences. We will focus on several phases of O’Keeffe’s art, including the New York Skyscraper Series and the Crosses Series.

Cast, Cut, Fused and Stained Glass Artist, Howard Cohen

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

This class explores the work of innovative glass artists who use castings, fusing, cutting, laminating, and stained glass to create bold and compelling art. We’ll examine striking international works – from monumental installations to intricate geometric forms – that transform light, color, and space.

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Eight More Plays Everyone Should Know, *Greg Jones*

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

In this edition of the popular series, students will look at plays inspired by real events. Among the plays under consideration: “Inherit the Wind”, “Gross Indecency: The Trials of Oscar Wilde”, “Richard III”, “The Miracle Worker”, “Twilight Los Angeles 1992”, “St. Joan”, and “The Elephant Man”.

ONLINE COURSE: A Vibrant Voice: The Films of James Earl Jones, *Arnold Blumberg*

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

Overcoming a stutter as a child to become one of the most distinctive and resonant voices in pop culture history, James Earl Jones crafted a career that brought him success on stage and screens big and small, leading to him achieving the coveted EGOT (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony awards). He embodied an elegance and dignity that lifted him to the level of movie “royalty.”

ONLINE COURSE: Accent on Versatility: The Films of Meryl Streep, *Arnold Blumberg*

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

The often-chameleonic Meryl Streep is one of the most celebrated and respected actors of her – or any – generation. Her prolific career, record number of Oscar nominations, and advocacy of better and more nuanced representation of women in film have made her a pivotal and powerful pop culture personage.

ONLINE COURSE: 1976: The 50th Anniversary of a Star-Spangled Year in Film, *Arnold Blumberg*

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

A little more than halfway into a cinematic era sometimes referred to as the “American New Wave” or the “Hollywood Renaissance,” films were produced and released in the historically significant year of 1976 that captured a wide-ranging and memorable silver-screen snapshot of the United States and the world.

ONLINE COURSE: The Stories of Flannery O’Connor, *Robert Jacobs*

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

Considered one of America’s greatest fiction writers, Flannery O’Connor wrote bold and shocking stories that resisted conventional description. A devout Roman Catholic who lived in the “Christ haunted” Protestant South, O’Connor’s stories are strange, darkly humorous and often violent. In this course we will read a number of O’Connor’s most famous and critically acclaimed stories from her collection *The Complete Stories of Flannery O’Connor*.

Shakespeare’s Sonnets: 400 Years of Timeless Love, *Liza Achilles*

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

William Shakespeare’s sonnet sequence was first published over 400 years ago and still resonates with readers today. We will examine the life and times of Shakespeare and learn how he crafted these masterful 14-line poems, which have often been ignored due to their shocking sexual content. We will also read selected sonnets by other writers from various historical periods, from the Italian Renaissance through the twenty-first century.

The Bhagavad Gita, *Ed Fotheringill*

Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m., Session I

The Bhagavad Gita (Song of the Lord) is one of the classic texts of Hindu Philosophy. It is also part of the Indian mythological epic, *The Mahabharata*. The Bhagavad Gita (4th Century BC) is essentially a parable about the Hindu path to enlightenment. In this course, the central tenets of Hindu philosophy and its path to enlightenment will be explained and discussed.

Language of Loss: A Poetry, Grief, and Healing Workshop, *Rabbi Benjamin Shalva*

Thursdays at 1:30 p.m., Session I

An exploration of grief, memory, and loss through poetry—reading celebrated poets and writing from one’s own experience. Through close reading and guided writing, participants discover that finding language for what we carry is a form of healing. No prior experience is required.

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The New Kingdom: Egypt's Golden Age, *Bob Baer*

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

The New Kingdom was the period when Egypt reached its greatest artistic, architectural and intellectual development. Known for the famous pharaohs Tutankhamun, Ramesses, Akhenaton and Hatshepsut, it saw the building of splendid temple complexes and the Valley of the Kings and most expansive empire. Explore the great cultural and historical accomplishments of Egypt's Golden Age through this highly illustrated class.

ONLINE COURSE: The Declaration of Independence: America's Birth Certificate, *Richard Bell*

Fridays at 9:30 a.m., Session II (6 week course)

Meeting Dates: 9/18, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30

In this six-part program, historian Richard Bell, professor of history at the University of Maryland and a specialist in the American Revolutionary era, explores the fascinating origins, misunderstood purpose, and extraordinary global legacy of the Declaration of Independence.

The Environmental History of North America: From Pre-colonial Times to the Present, *Peter Levy*

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

Environmental history studies the changing relationship between human beings and the natural world over time. This course examines the environmental history of North America from the pre-colonial period to the present. Our central premise throughout will be that much of the familiar terrain of American history looks very different when seen in its environmental context, and that one can learn a great deal about both history and the environment by studying the two together.

Twentieth Century Baltimore, *Jack Burkert*

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

A survey of the history of Baltimore, its people, their lives and activities, and the events that impacted the city and region both international, national, and local in scope. The course covers, decade by decade, the story of Baltimore from New Years Eve 1899 to the renaissance of the city in the 1970s. If you want to learn of and understand the Baltimore of today, its story is written by the events of its history - it is here we offer the details of Baltimore's modern times.

The Great Baltimore Fire of 1904: From Devastation to Determination, *Bev Rosen*

Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m., Session II

The Baltimore Fire of 1904 was the third largest devastating city fire in the U.S. Even a century later, the story of the fire and the city's remarkable recovery makes for one of the truly dramatic chapters in US history. We will learn about the cause of this tragedy, the firefighter challenges, and some of the reasons the fire could not be controlled. But most of all this is a story of a city which reacted to this crisis and rebirthed and revitalized a new and better city with indomitable courage and determination.

The History of Baltimore Parks, *Jennifer Liles*

Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m., Session I

The history of Baltimore's parks is vast and covers all the city and the population. Come learn about how our parks define us as a city and community and how they have always been "our backyard."

Major General Maurice Rose: Unsung Hero and Cultural Icon of World War II, *Jonathan Cordish*

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

This course examines the career and legacy of Major General Maurice Rose, the highest-ranking American officer killed by enemy fire in Europe during World War II. One of the war's most consequential armored commanders, Rose led pivotal operations from Normandy and Saint-Lô to the Battle of the Bulge and the Ruhr, earning praise as "the best armored commander in the business."

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The 1930s and Today, *Bill Barry*

Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m., Session II

With the political turbulence happening today, it is worth looking at another historical period that changed our country. This course will examine the New Deal, Social Security, the National Labor Relations Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, and federal support for the arts—then and now.

I Should Have Known That, *Meg Algren*

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

Attendees will explore the impact of deliberate and accidental historical events and phenomena on society. We will examine the impact on social change from a variety of different occurrences such as the Jack the Ripper murders, America's love affair with the peanut, and the competition between Thomas Edison, Nicola Tesla, and George Westinghouse. This thought-provoking course is designed for those with curious and eclectic minds.

Antisemitism Inside the Supreme Court: From Confirmation to Confrontation, *Barbara Ressin*

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

It started when the first Jewish justice was confirmed in the 1920s and continued for decades into the future as other Jews were confirmed. It was overt and made public, but seemed acceptable at the time. Why? For supposedly intelligent educated men, these biases would seem unfathomable. However, they existed and their prejudices were front and center in the Supreme Court.

Undercover II, *Daniel Sutton*

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

In this four-week course, Dan Sutton will continue his first-person accounts of his career as an undercover criminal investigator for the U.S. Government. Attendance in the previous course is not required.

ONLINE COURSE: What is Happening in American Higher Education? *Fred Pincus*

Mondays at 1:00 p.m. Session II

This course will explore ways that American higher education is being reshaped in the second Trump administration. Students will learn about the status of the U.S. Department of Education, the attacks on DEI programs, the weaponization of antisemitism and the consequences on free speech. We will also explore the Compact for Excellence in Higher Education and resistance to Trump policies.

The Longevity Movement: Social, Ethical, and Economic Frontiers, *Ann Farrell*

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

This past year marked one of the most productive years in human longevity science, with major breakthroughs in human trials, drug repurposing, metabolic therapeutics, biomarker discovery, and encouraging policy shifts. This course explores the current longevity movement - its roots, science, hopes, and perils.

ONLINE COURSE: The Universe: Ever Expanding – Ever Evolving, *Shelley Bonus*

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

This course explores theories and myths about the origin and evolution of the Universe. Cosmology and Astronomy are interdisciplinary sciences which often overlap and complement each other. This course combines the insights gained from both disciplines to achieve a deeper understanding of the Universe and our place in it.

ONLINE COURSE: Mysteries of Mars, *Jim O'Leary*

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

Long mysterious, Mars captures the imaginations of scientists, writers and artists alike. Ancients viewed reddish Mars as a sign of fire and destruction, noting its erratic motion across the sky. Some observed canals, fueling decades of imagining intelligent civilizations, and inspiring classic science fiction. Today, we explore its volcanoes and ancient rivers, search for signs of life, and plan future travels to the Red Planet.

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ONLINE COURSE: The Animal Kingdom, Well Some of it Anyway! Stephanie Slahor

Fridays at 2:30 p.m., Session I

From tropical jungles to polar regions, our Earth hosts a huge variety of animals. We'll explore six habitats-- in the air, arboreal, underground, on land, in fresh water, and in salt water, and learn about some of the animals that hunt, live, or rest in each of those habitats.

ONLINE COURSE: Caring for Ourselves While Caring for Others, Emily Kearns

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

Most of us are, or will become, a caregiver - that is, someone supporting another - a child, parent, sibling, neighbor, co-worker, or others. Join us in learning how to stay healthy and resilient, taking care of our body, mind, and spirit, while we support others. We will explore recent research on stress reduction and calming the nervous system to better sustain the caregiving marathon.

ONLINE COURSE: Nutrition and Healthy Aging, Karen Wright

Fridays at 2:30 p.m., Session II

What are the key nutrition guidelines that promote healthy aging? Students will learn about overall nutritional recommendations, gut health and its role in wellness, the relationship between nutrition and cognitive health, and tips for a heart healthy diet.

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