

# SPRING 2026

## SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

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



### SESSION I (MARCH 2–MARCH 27) • SESSION II (APRIL 6–MAY 1)

*Class will not be held March 30 – April 3*

#### **Beethoven: The Man and the Music, *Jonathan Palevsky***

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

It isn't too much of an exaggeration to say that Ludwig Van Beethoven was the first "rockstar" of music. Explore the master and his music from his difficult childhood to his struggle with deafness and his eventual evolution into western music's greatest composer.

#### **Unsung Heroes of Jazz, *Seth Kibel***

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

In this class, Seth will engage participants in a robust discussion about the lives and careers of a number of jazz and swing greats who, to this day, don't receive the proper credit to which they are rightfully due. Should-be legends as Fletcher Henderson, Charlie Christian, Willie "The Lion" Smith, Mary Lou Williams and more will be included. Classic recordings and vintage video clips will keep this class as lively and engaging as the music itself.

#### **ONLINE COURSE: The Search for an American Sound, *Emanuel Abramovits***

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

Since the 1890s, when Americans were beginning to develop their own traditions in classical music, composers have recognized the dilemma of creating the American sound. In this course, we explore how not only classical musicians, but also Broadway and Hollywood composers of diverse origins and ethnicities created a sound that has been defined as evocative of these lands and their people. Discover how these elements of jazz, folk music, and classical techniques created a uniquely American sound identity.

#### **ONLINE COURSE: Two Art Fairs that Changed the World, *Michael Salcman***

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

Much of the development of modern and contemporary art in the 20th century was undertaken at the 1913 Armory Show in New York and When Attitudes Become Form, the experimental museum show at Bern in 1969. The Armory gave America its first major viewing of European art, including Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, Fauvism, and Cubism.

#### **ONLINE COURSE: From Venuses to Chartres Cathedral and Beyond, *Joseph Cassar***

**Mondays at 11:15 a.m., Sessions I & II**

This course will cover a wide and deep cross-section of art history and movements. It focuses on fundamental issues like art as an expression of an idea, to why artists create, invent and improvise. It addresses the symbolic meanings and beauty of stained-glass windows like those in Chartres Cathedral and continues to come to present times when chance and accident became central themes in artistic expression.

#### **Great Women Photographers (Part 2), *Steve Dembo***

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

This course will bring us up to date with more familiar names: Dorothea Lange; Berenice Abbott; Lee Miller, and many more through to today's greats: Diane Arbus; Vivian Maier; Cindy Sherman; Sally Mann; Annie Leibovitz and others. The war photographers, the fashion and celebrity image makers, the socially and politically conscious photographers. Note: Part 1 is not required to take this course.

#### **Eight Plays Everyone Should Know, Spring 2026 Edition, *Greg Jones***

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

In this edition of the popular series, students will look at plays by or about strong female characters. This semester will feature the following plays: Medea by Euripides, Trifles by Susan Glaspell, Major Barbara by George Bernard Shaw, Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen, Auntie Mame by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee, Night, Mother by Marsha Norman, Intimate Apparel by Lynn Nottage and The Children by Lucy Kirkwood.

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### **ONLINE COURSE: From Flying Nun to Super Aunt: The Films of Sally Field, Arnold Blumberg**

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

In her early television work on *Gidget* and *The Flying Nun*, actress Sally Field proved herself adept at humor, segueing into cinema with comedies like *Stay Hungry* (1976), *Smokey and the Bandit* (1977), and *The End* (1978). She distinguished herself as equally capable of drama, winning the Best Actress Oscar twice for *Norma Rae* (1980) and *Places in the Heart* (1985). She has endeared herself to multiple generations of moviegoers through decades of memorable performances.

### **ONLINE COURSE: Rugged Charisma: The Films of Robert Redford, Arnold Blumberg**

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

Robert Redford began his career on stage and in television before eventually becoming one of the most respected and desired leading men in Hollywood. Whether teaming with fellow matinee idol Paul Newman, sharing the screen with Jane Fonda in multiple films, or directing films, Redford established himself as one of the most accomplished and celebrated filmmakers of his generation.

### **ONLINE COURSE: Irresistible Icon: The Films of Marilyn Monroe, Arnold Blumberg**

**Mondays at 1:00 p.m., Session II**

On the 100th anniversary of her birth, we look back at the films of one of the most unforgettable pop culture icons of all time, Norma Jeane Mortenson, known to the world as Marilyn Monroe. Marilyn's sex symbol status and "blonde bombshell" image rocketed her to a level of fame that has rarely been equaled, but her success came at a tragic cost.

### **ONLINE COURSE: The Great Film Detectives, Arnold Blumberg**

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

From Sam Spade and Clarice Starling to Virgil Tibbs and Benoit Blanc, this course will look at the great film detectives from the 1930s to the present who painstakingly searched for truth and justice on the silver screen as we all watched from those familiar shadows.

### **Scorsese and DeNiro—The Early Collaborations, William Florman**

**Thursdays at 1:00–4:00 p.m., Session I**

In 1973 Martin Scorsese and Robert DeNiro collaborated for the first time in *"Mean Streets"*. Over the next several decades they collaborated on nine more films. This class will focus on their first four masterpieces, *"Mean Streets,"* *"Taxi Driver,"* *"Raging Bull,"* and *"Goodfellas."* These four films provide an illuminating, exhaustive, and harrowing portrayal of the dark, violent aspects of the American psyche.

### **ONLINE COURSE: Cormac McCarthy's 'No Country for Old Men,' Robert Jacobs**

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

In this course we will read and discuss Cormac McCarthy's 2005 novel, *No Country for Old Men*, which explores existential themes such as fate vs. free will, the nature of evil and violence, the rule of law, and the role of morality in what appears to be an incomprehensible universe.

### **Our Dogs, Ourselves: Dogs in Literature, Myth, History, and Life, Mikita Brottman**

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

One can love an animal with such an extraordinary intensity," wrote Freud, "feeling affection without ambivalence." How have dogs enriched the lives of poets, philosophers, kings, psychologists, writers and others, both notable and ordinary people? This course will address how much dogs have to teach us about empathy, anxiety, joy, happiness, and what it means to be human.

### **Robert Frost and His Poetry, Joseph Mohler**

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

The course will begin with a brief biographical introduction of Robert Frost. Then we will dive into what is considered his last great poem entitled, *"Directive."* In this poem, Frost reflects on the mining and deforestation of the Green Mountains of Vermont in the mid-19th century. We will explore the poem line by line and leave no stone unturned.

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### **Aesthetics, Ed Fotheringill**

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

Aesthetics is the philosophical study of beauty, taste, and art. Aesthetics is a perplexing philosophical topic in that each of us knows what beauty is. Is there a universal beauty that we can all agree on? Or is beauty simply a subjective state of mind that gives us pleasure? In this course, we will ponder these questions under the guidance of several distinguished philosophers and artists.

### **Great Civilizations of the Ancient Near East, Robert Baer**

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

The ancient Near East, considered a cradle of civilization, saw the rise of powerful empires and cultures like Sumer, Babylon, Assyria, Canaanites and Persia. Mesopotamia witnessed the origin of many of the world's first cities. This highly illustrated class will explore the history and achievements of these pivotal cultures.

### **Unpacking Maryland's Geography: From Mountains to Marshes, Michael Allen**

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

This course explores the rich and varied geography of Maryland, offering a comprehensive look at how the physical and social features help shape its identity. We'll examine key physiographic characteristics and explore how these features influence climate, agriculture, and urban development.

### **ONLINE COURSE: Mapping the World, James O'Leary**

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

Since ancient times, humans have chronicled the world from inscribed bones of our earliest ancestors to today's Google maps. See how geography shapes our view of the planet and how maps have fashioned the world we know today.

### **The Civil Rights Movement in Maryland, Peter Levy**

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

Traditionally, the civil rights movement has been associated with places and protests that took place in the Deep South. Yet a vibrant civil rights movement also arose in Maryland in the twentieth century. As we trace this movement, from the 1930s through the mid-1970s, we will learn how Marylanders fought for full equality through the courts, in the streets, and with their voices and pens.

### **A History of Baltimore's Amazing Industry, Jack Burkert**

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

From modest beginnings, Baltimore's unique blend of resources, location and a growing labor force made a sleepy riverside village into an industrial powerhouse. In this course we offer the details of how this transformation occurred, the industries that led the way, and the impact they had on the city and its people.

### **German Baltimore and the World Wars: Anarchists, Nazis, and Those Who Fought Them, Jennifer Liles**

**Thursdays at 1:00 p.m., Session I**

In this course, students will learn about the history of German immigrants in Baltimore along with the organizations that existed in the city for the German population. What roles did German immigrants in Baltimore have in the political movements and how did they influence the outcomes of the World Wars?

### **The 1930s and Today, Bill Barry**

**Thursdays 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.

### **Major General Maurice Rose: Unsung Hero & Cultural Icon of WWII, Jonathan Cordish**

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

This course examines the career and legacy of Major General Maurice Rose, the highest-ranking American officer killed in action in Europe during World War II. This course reconstructs Rose's life and "afterlife," from his battlefield leadership to the wartime contest over his identity.

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### **Espionage in High Heels: Women Spies from the Civil War to the Present, *Barbara Ressin***

**Thursdays at 2:30 p.m., Session II**

This course will explore the fascinating history of women in espionage, tracing their roles from the Civil War through modern-day intelligence operations. Students will learn about the untold stories of female spies who shaped wars, influenced diplomacy, and challenged gender expectations in covert work.

### **Undercover, *Daniel Sutton***

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

A first-person account of one man's odyssey taking you behind the scenes of his work as a federal undercover special agent working for the U.S. Government. This course doesn't present the Hollywood version, but the real thing through the eyes of the instructor who worked as a special agent criminal investigator for 25 years, much of it working undercover.

### **Democracy, Corruption & Public Accountability: Where We've Been and Where We're Headed, *Douglas Pasternak***

**Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. Sessions I & II**

This class will examine the unique roles of Congress, federal Inspector Generals, and the investigative media to hold public officials and private corporations accountable to the public. The instructor's own personal experience as a former investigative reporter and senior congressional investigator will be utilized to provide first-hand accounts of how public accountability works, and sometimes, does not.

### **Conservation of Species: Stories of Scientists, *Jody Johnson***

**Thursdays at 2:30 p.m., Session I**

Students will learn the diversity of data gathering techniques tuned to the species under study, the frustrations of gathering some data sets, the dangers to the scientists that the species present, the danger that the issues surrounding the protection of the species present, the difficulty in reading the conclusions of the data, and the rewards of discovering and furthering knowledge. Species that will be covered are mussels, bees, elephants, and primates.

### **ONLINE COURSE: New Ideas in Cosmology, Astronomy, and Space Exploration, *Shelley Bonus***

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

This course is designed to provide intellectual excitement and a conversational understanding of the latest cosmological and astronomical theories and exploratory space missions as discussed in the news. Advances in space-based technologies like the James Webb Space Telescope and land-based observatories like the Vera C Rubin Observatory, what we thought we knew about the fundamentals of cosmology, astronomy, and space exploration is evolving at an extraordinary rate.

### **Artificial Intelligence and Other Modern Technologies, Spring 2026 Edition, *Guillermo Warley***

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

This class covers a variety of technologies that are rapidly changing and affecting our online interactions. We will discuss artificial intelligence (AI), wireless communications, alternative sources of energy, and other modern technologies as they have evolved. These technologies are explained in non-technical terms and do not require any type of technical background to understand.

### **Financial Wisdom in Retirement, *Eli Jackson***

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

This course offers practical information concerning different financial topics related to retirement. Have your questions answered about social security, healthcare, outsmarting scammers, and making your money last during retirement.

### **ONLINE COURSE: Living Well with Cognitive Changes, *Emily Kearns***

**Fridays at 9:30 a.m., Session II**

This program explores cognitive changes and dementia—signs and symptoms, key communication tips, and resources, including self-care for caregivers/care partners and individuals living with memory changes, including dementia.