One Hundred Years of Women’s Detective Novels
Eleanor Green
Sessions I and II
Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. (begins March 7)
Fee: $130 ($65 for each session)

Detective novels, a relatively recent genre of fiction, now fill contemporary best-seller lists. Women crime writers have contributed in increasing numbers to the growth of this popular form of literature. In this course, we will look at the development of the detective novel in general and at its increasing popularity for women writers, many of whom have intriguing personal histories of their own. Changing views of the role of women and their place in society are clearly reflected in the history of crime writing, and many women detective writers have a strong social or feminist agenda. Many of the better novels reflect a deeply considered philosophy of life, explore contemporary social issues, and present complex characters from an informed psychological perspective. A primary focus of the course will be the evolution of various subgenres of the detective novel, both past and present. As a sample of women crime writers, you might want to read any works by Agatha Christie, N.gaio Christie, D. H. Lawrence, Josephine Tey, and P. D. James. L. Perry, V. McDermid, R. Rendell, or J. Evanovich.

Eleanor Green, Ph.D., received her B.A. in English from Vassar College and her doctorate from the University of Nottingham in England. She has taught English at Norfolk State and Ohio Northern Universities, served as academic administrator at three other institutions, and published numerous articles on modern British and American writers. Currently retired, she is editor of the D. H. Lawrence Review and is also working on a book on early presidents of women’s colleges.

Joseph Campbell’s “Myth and the Hero”
Michael Magrorgan
Sessions I and II
Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. (begins March 8)
Fee: $130 ($65 for each session)

Joseph Campbell came upon the learning scene in 1949 with his seminal work, The Hero with a Thousand Faces, in which he introduced a new approach to the subject of myth. He emphasized the relationship between myths of various cultures and focused on the role of the archetypal journey of the hero. Campbell’s work and his studies in comparative mythology became very popular in the 1960s, 70s, and 80s. In 1988, Bill Moyers introduced Campbell to a TV audience with his PBS documentary series, “Joseph Campbell and the Power of Myth.” In this course, we will view the major episodes of that series, with each followed by probing discussions of what we have watched. We will discuss the relevance of mythology to our own culture, introduce personal mythological observations, and, where appropriate, apply these observations to our own lives.

Michael Magrorgan, M.A., is a retired English teacher with more than 45 years of teaching experience. For twenty years he was chair of the English Department at Calvert Hall College High School where he taught “Myth and the Hero” as an elective course.

NO CLASS CONFIRMATIONS WILL BE SENT.
YOU WILL BE INFORMED ONLY IF YOU DID NOT GET INTO A CLASS.
PLEASE NOTE ON THE CALENDAR INSIDE THE FRONT COVER OF THIS CATALOG THE COURSES FOR WHICH YOU HAVE REGISTERED.

Introduction to the Bible
Father Bob Albright
Sessions I and II
Thursday, 1 p.m. (begins March 9)
Fee: $130 ($65 for each session)

The Bible was produced in an age and culture foreign to most American eyes and ears. Thus we need a new pair of glasses to read the Bible authentically. As well, we need to think like a Jew of 1st century Israel in order to properly interpret the Bible. Using the most up-to-date Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant scholarship, Father Bob will attempt to tackle eight issues that will help the ordinary person come to a greater appreciation of the Bible. These eight issues are the Bible as a book of faith; how literally do we take the Bible; the Bible as a composite of various literary styles; the Bible as the Word of God and the words of humans; conflicting theologies within the Bible; the Bible as an association of many images; the Bible as one story made up of many stories; and the second coming of Christ as a dominant theology within the New Testament. This is an introduction and not an in-depth study. However, what you will learn in these eight weeks will help you read any passage of the Bible with greater understanding than ever before. Come and learn about the greatest and most widely read Book ever written! Please bring a Bible to class, any version.

This is a repeat of the course last offered in fall 2014. This class will not meet on April 20. It will meet on April 6 instead.

Rev. Robert E. Albright is a retired Catholic Priest of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He served as the Catholic Campus Minister at Towson University for the 26 years before his retirement in July 2006. Through teaching a scholarly approach to the Bible over the past 50 years, Father Bob has explored greater interfaith issues at the Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies of Baltimore. He has studied twice in Israel at the International Center for Holocaust Studies and has been to Israel over 18 times leading study tours and retreats and doing private research in Biblical sites and studying the Palestinian/Israeli situation. Father Bob is engaged in numerous Catholic/Jewish endeavors including a funded program to educate Jewish and Catholic high school students in each other’s tradition.

Zionism: A Very Brief History
Rabbi Floyd Herman
Sessions I and II
Tuesday, 11 a.m. (begins March 7)
Fee: $130 ($65 for each session)

This course explores the history of Jewish nationalism, “Zionism,” from its Biblical roots to the present. We will examine how Zionism emerged as an idea about Jews and Judaism and how this laid the foundation for a revolutionary Jewish society. We will look at Biblical and Medieval Jewish nationalism, at later political Zionism, cultural Zionism, religious Zionism, militant Zionism, Arab nationalism and Zionist responses, American Zionism, and anti-Zionism. We will try to understand present-day Jewish nationalism within a Jewish and general context and attempt to compare and contrast Zionism with other “isms” which are a part of our world today. If you wish to do reading on the subject, two suggested, but not required, titles are Arthur Hertzberg, ed. The Zionist Idea and Shlomo Avineri, The Making of Modern Zionism.

This class will not meet on April 11 in observance of Passover. A make-up class will be held on April 4.

Floyd L. Herman is the Rabbi Emeritus of Har Sinai Congregation in Owings Mills. He has been a Baltimore resident for 35 years and has taught both undergraduates and lifelong learners in a number of places in Baltimore. He is an Zionist and has visited Israel more than a dozen times. He is still active in Zionist organizations in the United States and Baltimore.

Visit our Website at www.towson.edu/osher
A History of Slavery in the United States
Bill Barry

Session I and II
Wednesday, 11 a.m. (begins March 8)
Fee: $130 ($65 for each session)

Bill Barry is a specialist in labor history and is the retired Director of Labor Studies at The Community College of Baltimore County. He taught courses on the history of labor at CCBC and also created a full semester course on the history of the 1930s. He has taught two courses on the 1930s for Osher and one on the history of American labor. The history of slavery course grew out of his course on the history of American labor. He is a film zealot and will use the films as an illustration of the 1930s.

Films of the 1930s
Bill Barry

Sessions I and II
Wednesday, 1 – 3:30 p.m. (begins March 8)
Fee: $130, ($65 for each session)

The films of the 1930’s reflected a tumultuous social period and brought popular culture to every town in the United States. These films also reflected both the sufferings of the Depression, romantic escapism, and the deep political issues of the times. It was a period of marvelous directors, talented actors and actresses, and powerful scripts—a wonderful combination. In this course, we will view eight of the films of the 1930s: Gold Diggers of 1933 (1933); Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (1939); Stagecoach (1939); Across the Country with Debates (1939); It Happened One Night (1934); Modern Times (1936); Black Legion (1937); Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (1939); Stagecoach (1939); Confessions of a Nazi Spy (1939). Some may be familiar to you, some not. Each film will be followed by discussion. We will evaluate the impact of the films on the history of the times and judge the accuracy of their presentation of “history.”

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A History of Slavery in the United States
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The history of slavery reverberates across the country today with debates over race relations, historic monuments, the Confederate flag, and much more. This course will cover the history of slavery and the opposition to it, both from the slaves themselves and from sympathetic abolitionists. A primary focus will be slavery as a labor system and how the plantation system was part of the expanding U.S. economy after the American War of Independence. The course will also look at how history has portrayed slavery. While the lives of the plantation owners have been glorified, this class will describe the personal lives of the slaves and realities of the slavery system. Among suggested, but not required, readings are Many Thousands Gone by Ira Berlin and American Negro Slave Revolts by Herbert Aptheker. Suggested films are Gone with the Wind, Roots, Amistad, and Santa Fe Trail.

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Bill Barry

Capitalism and Its Critics
Firmin DeBrabander

Session II
Monday, 9:30 a.m. (begins April 10)
Fee: $65

In light of the recent—and devastating—credit crisis that rocked the global economy in 2008, Capitalism’s nature, and its self-evident supremacy, very much came into question. Perhaps, critics wondered, it is time to reconsider our embrace of bare-knuckled Capitalism in the West; perhaps it is time to consider subtler variations, compromises, hybrids—and evaluate the strengths and drawbacks of the Capitalist system anew.

Perhaps it is time to admit what kind of Capitalist economy we have cobbled together. Its essential problem might be that it is not, in fact, very ‘capitalist’ at all! Imagine that, in this course, we will look at some of the most prominent writings in the ‘canon of Capitalism’ as well as important contemporary voices critiquing the nature and character of the Capitalist system.

Firmin DeBrabander, Ph.D., is a professor of philosophy at the Maryland Institute College of Art where he specializes in ethics, social and political philosophy, and philosophy of religions. He has written articles for a variety of publications, including The New York Times, Baltimore Sun, Salon, The Atlantic and the New Republic. He has authored two books, Sinoza and the Stoics, and Do Guns Make us Free? Democracy and the Armed Society.

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