



MONUMENTS & MYSTERIES OF THE BAROQUE

Marc Bellassai

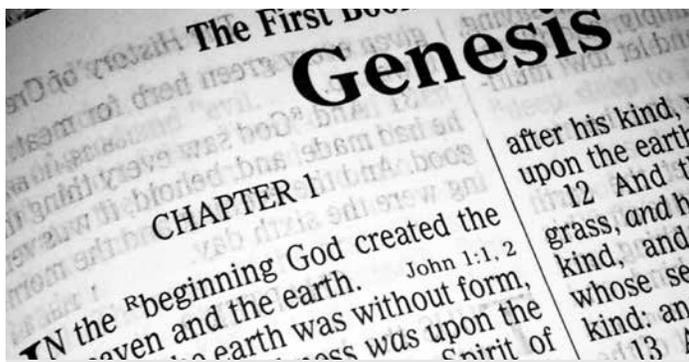
Session I

Wednesday, 11 a.m. (begins Sept. 11)

Fee: \$65

A fun way to explore art and architecture, theater and poetry, history, and music of the Baroque era will include a mystery to solve* in each class. Read through a scandalous scene from an 18th century English play, sample the musical theater that conquered Europe, examine some must-have high-budget bling and unravel some closely guarded secrets via original sources. Rituals of the French Court ('Le Coucher du Roi'), English drawing-room etiquette no-nos, how to order an 18th century Uber in Rome, a real Grand Tourist's miscellany! One class each focuses on England, France, Italy, and Germany, featuring music and culinary insights, optional participatory reading, views of palaces designed to transport—or intimidate—the visitor, and places of worship which stimulate the senses. These monumental appearances can be deceiving and the apparent "solution" isn't always the right one. This is your chance to look into the real dirt of the 17th and 18th centuries. (*Answers may vary.)

Marc Bellassai was a Fulbright IIE scholar from 1994-6, at the Civica Scuola di Musica and Castello Sforzesco in Milan, Italy. He currently teaches harpsichord, art history, and directs the Early Music Ensemble at Towson University. He currently performs with several Maryland early music groups including Vivicantando, Charm City Baroque, Tazzina Dramatica, Mountainside Baroque, and the Academy for Sacred Drama in New York City.



STORY, HISTORY, AND GEOGRAPHY OF THE BIBLE

Father Bob Albright

Sessions I and II

Wednesday, 1 p.m. (begins Sept. 11)

Fee: \$130 (\$65 for each session)

This course is not about the Bible, but what is in the Bible. It is not so much about how the Bible was formed or why there are different versions of the Bible, but more about the internal story of the Bible. This sequence of the Biblical history of Judaism with the Biblical history of Christianity reveals how these two branches of Israel are intertwined, interrelated, and at times, gnarled against one another. It is a telling story dotted with history, legend, and myth that will be enhanced by taking a look at a bit of the geography of the “land.” Classes will include: the formation of the Bible as one book; timelines of both the Old and New Testaments; geography and topography of Israel; and an analysis of what we mean when we say “Israel.” Please bring any version of the Bible to class with you. This is a repeat of the course offered in fall 2016.

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 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.



PHILOSOPHY IN HISTORY

Jo-Ann Pilardi

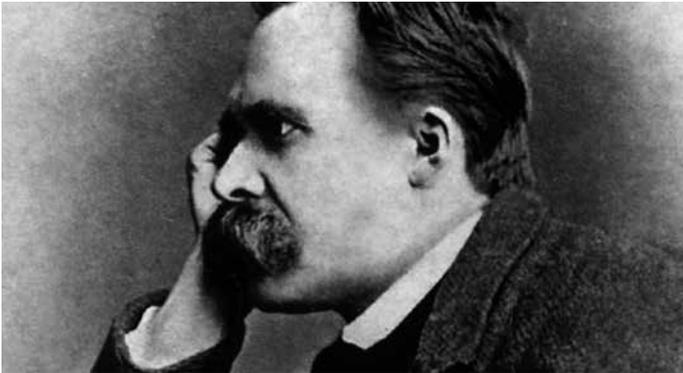
Session I

Thursday, 1 p.m. (begins Sept. 12)

Fee: \$65

If you think that all philosophers have their heads in the clouds, this course will surprise you. Western philosophy is full of interactions between philosophers and their worlds. This course will focus on the effects some philosophers have had on their times and societies. We’ll learn how these men—and a few women—shaped history—and how history shaped them, in events like the trial of Socrates in Athens and Plato’s failed political trip to Syracuse; the struggle between the Church and Rationalists like Descartes; the influence of Locke and Rousseau, Burke and Wollstonecraft on the 18th century revolutions (American and French); the 19th century British Utilitarians and Reform in England; Karl Marx and the Russian Revolution; John Dewey and education; and the critical theorists of the New Left of the 1960s. Join us to celebrate Philosophy in History!

Jo-Ann Pilardi, professor emerita, Towson University, taught philosophy and women’s studies at Towson University for 38 years and chaired Women’s Studies for nine years. An activist in Baltimore’s women’s liberation movement, she was also a “charter member” of TU’s Women’s Studies program. Her expertise is in continental and social-political philosophy and feminist theory; she has an M.A. in Philosophy (Penn State) and a Ph.D. in Humanities (Johns Hopkins University). Her publications include a book and articles on Simone de Beauvoir, and articles on feminist theory, immigration, and hospitality. She has taught several other courses for Osher at Towson University.



THE ORIGINS OF EXISTENTIALISM

Edward Fotheringill



IF YOUR GARDEN COULD TALK

Margaret Algren

Session II

Wednesday, 11 a.m. (begins Oct. 16)

Fee: \$65

The Dane Soren Kierkegaard (1813-1855) and the German Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) are considered the co-fathers of the philosophical movement known as Existentialism. At its core, Existentialism is concerned with what it means to be a human being: What is the human condition? What is the landscape of the inner life of man? What is the essential purpose of life? These are the questions that Kierkegaard and Nietzsche pondered with utmost sincerity and personal commitment. Their responses and conclusions to these seminal questions are radically different: Kierkegaard sees the ultimate meaning of life to lie in a religious commitment to God, and the transcendent demands that entails; Nietzsche views the ultimate meaning of life to lie in an atheistic expression of authentic self-determination. In this course, we will consider the philosophical insights of Kierkegaard and Nietzsche and determine their value to our personal lives as well as our contemporary culture.

Edward Fotheringill is an adjunct professor of philosophy and intellectual history in the Department of Humanistic Studies at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). He was a senior lecturer of philosophy at Towson State University and at Goucher College for many years. In the spring of 2019, he taught a course at Osher entitled "Hinduism: The Path to Final Truth".

Session I

Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. (begins Sept. 18.

The final class meeting will be on Oct. 9.)

Fee: \$65

Explore the secrets, myths, folklore, historical importance, and purposes—both magical and mundane—of garden and Maryland native plants. What natural healers and killers are lurking unsuspected in your backyard? Learn what plants colonists used to cure bad breath or get rid of a hangover; what common plant tempted Italian Renaissance women to risk death and why. Discover the amazing green medicine cabinet that thrives among the weeds; what plants are dangerous for pets and children; why mistletoe is such a bad choice for a kissing plant; and what Socrates and Marylanders have in common. Learn what holiday favorite is nothing more than a marketing miracle and why purple aster and goldenrod frequently bloom beside each other in the wild. These and dozens of other stories plus practical tips and advice on making your garden a success will help turn you into a green thumb insider.

Margaret Algren holds a Ph.D. in communication. She is professor emerita at Towson University where she taught public relations and advertising for 15 years in the Mass Communications department. She served as director of the Communication graduate program for four years. Margaret is a Maryland master gardener and an avid native plant gardener.