Sessions I and II  
**Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. (begins March 5)**  
**Fee: $130 ($65 for each session)**

Ancient Greece produced magnificent achievements that greatly influenced our modern world. Many of our contemporary ideas about architecture, theater, arts, athletics, government, law, science, philosophy, historical writing, language and literature originated during this period. Through illustrated lectures, this course will introduce students to the history and culture of one of the most important foundations of Western civilization. It will cover a broad overview of the accomplishments and historical significance of ancient Greece through the investigation of critical events, important people, literary and artistic innovations, cultural interactions and critical archaeological discoveries. It will look to critically analyze and evaluate the challenges and problems faced by this complex civilization.

Robert Baer holds a B.A. in history from Towson University, an M.L.A. in the history of ideas from the Johns Hopkins University, and a D.Ed. in higher education from Morgan State University. He spent 30 years as a college administrator in Connecticut, New York, and Maryland. He has been an instructor in history at York College-CUNY, Norwalk Community College, Community College of Baltimore, and Howard Community College. He is a former associate director of admissions and advising in the Graduate School at Towson University, 1998–99.

Session II  
**Wednesday, 11 a.m. (begins April 17. The final class meeting will be on May 8.)**  
**Fee: $65**

The history of spices is a story which spans thousands of years and crosses continents. During ancient times, transporting spices from far-away lands was bound to prove difficult and expensive, and that forms the basis of a saga filled with exotic places, myths, legends, brave souls, and numerous adventures. Spices were critical to commerce and power. Trade routes traversed Asia and the Middle East and ambitions stretched even farther. In this course, we begin with the origins of the spice trade and learn how different European countries gained a stronghold on trade. We will focus on three explorers who searched for alternate trade routes and learn how their voyages impacted the world in the late 15th and early 16th centuries. Marco Polo, Christopher Columbus, and Ferdinand Magellan changed history when they went in search of God, gold, and spices.

Jerry Kahan was active in engineering, research, and the application of mathematical techniques in the food industry from 1967 until his retirement from McCormick & Company in February 2005. For 10 years, Mr. Kahan was an associated adjunct professor at Loyal College Maryland, and twice served as president of the board of Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland. Mr. Kahan holds two bachelor’s degrees and two master’s degrees. He has authored or co-authored eleven articles and three books.

Visit our website  
www.towson.edu/oshers
ABRAHAM LINCOLN: His Life and Legend
Robert Mullauer

**Sessions I and II**
**Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. (begins March 6)**
**Fee: $130 ($65 for each session)**

Much has been and is still being written about Lincoln since his death. The course begins with an attempt to answer this question: “How does someone who grew up on the frontier nearly impoverished and with very little formal education emerge as the most important leader of the side who won a bloody four year civil war?” We will look at Lincoln and the Sumter Crisis, the president’s interaction with the cabinet, and perhaps his best speech, the “Gettysburg Address”. Later in the course, we will examine Lincoln’s views on his generals, both great and small, public and private. If Lincoln is still remembered millennia from now it will be for issuing the “Emancipation Proclamation” and guiding the 13th Amendment through the Congress. It is a study on how the impossible, the freeing of the slaves, became the law of the land. We will also look at how Lincoln’s contemporaries, friends and enemies, viewed him as a man and president. The course ends with his assassination. Recommended reading: *Lincoln* by David Herbert Donald (Simon & Schuster).

Bob Mullauer is a retired high school history teacher who still teaches and lectures for various adult education programs in Baltimore and its surrounding counties. Although his specialty is military history, that aspect of our past cannot be taught in a vacuum. Thus Lincoln, arguably the most competent of our “war presidents”, is impossible to present as such without understanding the culture, the political climate in the U.S., and its social structure that made the man who saved the Union and freed the slaves.

CONTROVERSY ON THE COURT
Barbara Blumberg

**Session II**
**Tuesday, 1 p.m. (begins April 9)**
**Fee: $65**

Religion or sex—or sometimes both—have resulted in decisions from the Supreme Court that have sparked controversy and divisiveness in our country for decades. Some issues that have come through the highest court involve the legalization of same-sex relationships and same-sex marriage, the legality of abortion, the rights of a religious group to protest the funeral of a fallen soldier, the rights of a corporation to determine whether they provide contraceptives to their employees, and many more. The class will discover how eugenics played a major role in a Supreme Court decision in the early 1920s that will shock them. And finally, they will hear how anti-Semitism was rampant within the Supreme Court and among the justices. Examples of important Supreme Court cases that have been influenced by sex and/or religion will be discussed.

Barbara Blumberg is a graduate of Towson University with a B.S. in education. She taught secular studies for 25 years in the lower and middle schools at the Beth Tfiloh Day School, as well as three years in the Baltimore City Public School System. She is an adjunct faculty member of The Community College of Baltimore County at both Owings Mills and Hunt Valley campuses, as well as a faculty member for the Renaissance Academy for the Florida Gulf State University. She teaches at Food For Thought Lectures, Kaleidoscope, and at The Edward A. Myerberg Center for Adult Studies. She has guest lectured for The Lecture Group, Friends of the Pikesville Library, North Oaks Retirement Community, and various religious and philanthropic groups.
ONE NATION, DIVISIBLE
Michael Anft

Session I
Thursday, 9:30 a.m. (begins March 7)  |  Fee: $65

This course will explore the historical origins of the dynamite that is blowing the United States apart. Fractiousness, political and otherwise, is making the nation more difficult to govern and eroding values most citizens once shared. Americans can no longer envision a future together. Through lecture and discussion, we will examine theories as to why Americans are now at each other’s throats, and will offer some possible solutions to this developing crisis. We will look at the effects that late 20th century events have had on creating new fissures in the body politic.


HEALTHCARE 2019: America’s Bitter Pill
Ann Farrell

Session I
Monday, 11 a.m. (begins March 4)  |  Fee: $65

The U.S. healthcare system is broken and the toxic political atmosphere and entrenched status quo discourage serious discussion. Rampant fake news and political gaslighting complicate discourse. The nation’s health suffers from sharp political divides within and across parties, and between citizens and the government. This course offers a synopsis and discussion of Trump administration healthcare policies and rulings with focus on mid-term election result impacts. The course updates status of these programs and life-critical actions of three government branches—some that capture headlines while others get lost in D.C. “noise”. The U.S. spends 17 percent of its GDP - twice that of peers—with woeful outcomes. Citizens are rightfully concerned about care access, quality, and affordability.

Ann Farrell, B.S.N., R.N., is principal of Farrell Associates, LLC, a strategic healthcare consulting firm serving provider organizations, clinical vendors, and investors. Her background includes bedside nursing, faculty membership, health IT (HIT) vendor leadership, and industry consulting support. She is a nationally recognized health IT expert, clinician, and patient advocate.

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

The U.S. economy is a mystery to many people. This course will attempt to demystify economic jargon while discussing economic data and what it means to you as an informed citizen. Economic data will be used to prompt discussion on current economic issues. Because the economic climate is changing, the discussion may surround different topics such as gender pay differentials, fair versus free trade, and income inequality. Class time will be divided between lecture and open discussion. It is likely that the discussion will become political in nature.

Paul Maihan holds an M.A. from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA. He was a professional economist for 36 years, 24 with the private sector at various organizations and 12 years with the public sector. In addition to working as an economist, he taught economics at both the University of Baltimore and Towson University for over 30 years as an adjunct faculty member. Maihan has been an Osher member since 2014.