Session II  
**Monday, 1:00 p.m. (begins April 11)**  
**Fee: $65**

Many Americans are only dimly aware that capitalism is alive and well in ‘communist’ China. But China is now an overwhelmingly capitalist country and emerging as a formidable rival to the United States. How is China doing it? In this course, we compare the U.S. and Chinese models of capitalism and government, their respective strengths and weaknesses, and the factors that may determine the long-term future of each country. Will the U.S. or China be stronger over the long run? Which country will be more stable? Which will be more influential in the world? In this course, we will take a serious look at these questions while we look to find the answers.

Mark Yourek is a business professional who has worked for major corporations in the United States and around the world. He is a student of economics and international relations and holds an M.B.A. from UCLA and a B.A. in international relations from USC.

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Session I and II  
**Monday, 9:30 a.m. (begins March 7)**  
**Fee: $130 ($65 for each session)**

The Spanish Civil war is probably one of the most misunderstood wars of all times. It is often characterized as a fight between democracy and fascism. Ernest Hemingway notwithstanding, there was little if any democracy on the one side and little fascism on the other. Nor, as often considered, was it the precursor and rehearsal for World War II. The origins of the war start in 1812 with the promulgation of Spain’s first constitution, and its final chapter closes with Spain’s completion of its transition to Democracy in 1981. We will discuss the early attempts to create a republic, along with the first autocracy. We will look at the flip-flops between a popular front and an autocratic government as well as a rebellion in 1936, which ended in April 1939 with Francisco Franco’s victory. Then we will discuss how Spain was transformed from an autocracy to a democracy.

Rex Rehfeld has a B.S. from the University of California and a J.D. from the University of Maryland. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and the U.S. Army in the Korean War and for several years afterward. After leaving the service he worked as an investment advisor until retiring in 2014. Rex’s avocation is the study and teaching of history. He has presented courses and lectures at local university senior learning programs as well as lectures at retirement centers.
Thank you for being part of the Osher community!

SOCIAL SCIENCES

ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE QUR’AN
Ahmed Achrati

Session I and II
Friday, 9:30 a.m. (begins March 11)
Fee: $130 ($65 for each session)

This course presents an anthropological study of the Qur’an, focusing on the representation of God in the Qur’an and the conception of the divine in Islamic thinking and practices. Combining primary textual materials and anthropological analysis, the course identifies various Islamic attitudes towards the transcendence of Allah and explores their possible root-causes. These are 1) the ambiguity of the Qur’anic text, 2) the inherent instability of the concept of transcendence, 3) human inclinations toward contradiction, doubt, and skepticism, and 4) human hierarchical and authoritarian tendencies and susceptibility to the lure of power. The course then examines how the misunderstanding of God’s transcendence has affected Islamic thinking and practices, especially as it relates to gender, ethics, art, and economy.

Ahmed Achrati holds an LL.B from the University of Oran, Algeria, an LL.M from New York University School of Law, and a Ph.D. in international relations from the University of Pennsylvania. He continues to do research in anthropology and prehistoric rock art. He has extensive teaching experience, and his writing spans a wide range of topics. His latest publication is “An Anthropology of the Qur’an,” London, New York: Routledge, 2021.

WOMEN WHO CHANGED THE WORLD
Barbara Blumberg

Session II
Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. (begins April 12)
Fee: $65

They came from diverse backgrounds, races and religions, education, countries and training. These women accomplished what they did many, many decades ago, and in some instances, well over a century ago. From Kevlar vests to coffee filters, from life rafts to fire escapes, and from automatic dishwashers, car windshield wipers/heaters to refrigerators and penicillin, these women inventors achieved what their male counterparts could not. They did this at a time when women were expected to stay in the kitchen and bedroom only; when they couldn’t vote or get an education. You may not know them, but they changed your lives for the better.

Barbara Blumberg, having earned a B.S from Towson University, spent three years teaching in Baltimore City schools and 25 years teaching at Beth Tfiloh Community Day School. She was an adjunct faculty member at Florida Gulf State University and at the Community College of Baltimore County.
Session I
Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. (begins March 9)
Fee: $65

What is American cuisine? This course is designed as a fun and informative trip of exploration to discover American food preferences and trends and how we developed them. The course will focus on the interplay of food quality, convenience, variety, and special effects, lifestyle, and our culture.

WE ARE WHAT WE EAT:
The Interplay of Food and Culture in the U.S.
Margaret Algren

Session II
Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. (begins April 13)
Fee: $65

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Baltimore and her citizens underwent unprecedented change. The citizenry re-invented itself as technology and industry grew and changed their lives. It was the era of electrification, where businesses, then homes joined a new power grid. Here too were the beginnings of mass communication via radio, the opening of a Golden Age of information and entertainment. Baltimoreans became more mobile as rail networks were joined by automobiles, then airplanes, not only operated, but built in the city as well. And finally, heavy industry and the jobs it could create left tradition behind as a new remarkable steel mill appeared on the banks of the Patapsco River. This is the story of the citizens of a city adapting to, then adopting change.

Baltimore in Changing Times:
The Beginning of the Modern Era
Jack Burkert

A retired professor, Margaret, taught a similar class during her tenure at Towson University. How people create culture and how it, in turn, makes us who we are has been a focus of her studies. Additionally, Margaret loves creating in the kitchen resulting in a wide range of outcomes. Food and culture combine two of her favorite topics.

A 1969 graduate of the University of Maryland, Jack Burkert graduated with honors with a degree in history and education. His working life, some 40+ years, was spent in various educator roles, beginning with five years in the Baltimore City Public School system, later at the Pennsylvania State University, through private employers in Washington and New York City, and until his retirement a few years ago, in his own consulting firm. Jack’s interest in history led to a number of programs and information about Baltimore history that inform and entertain both adults and young people on topics such as the Port of Baltimore, Baltimore’s people and its businesses.
SOCIAL SCIENCES

**Catalog of Spring 2022 Courses**

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**Social Sciences**

**KING ARTHUR AND THE HOLY GRAIL IN MYTH AND HISTORY**

Bob Baer

Sessions I
Monday, 1:00 p.m. (begins March 7)
Fee: $65

The stories of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table have fascinated people worldwide since the Middle Ages. Equally captivating have been the myths associated with the Holy Grail, that object of marvel and mystery interwoven with the Arthurian romances and Celtic lore. Both have been major inspirations for the literature of Western civilization. This class will explore the legacy and historical development of these two enduring legends.

Robert Baer holds a B.A. in history from Towson University, an M.L.A. in the history of ideas from 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.

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**GOVERNORS OF MARYLAND: From Ritchie to the Present**

Bill Thompson

Sessions I and II
Thursday, 9:30 a.m. (begins March 10)
Fee: $130 ($65 for each session)

Since 1919, Maryland has elected an assortment of interesting individuals (all white men thus far) as governor. Most were consequential, often colorful, and sometimes controversial; all those elected contributed greatly to the history of the state. Although Maryland has been primarily a Democratic state over the past 100 years (albeit in different ideological forms), state voters have elected six Republican governors in its history. In this course, we will examine and discuss those who have served as Maryland’s chief executive, focusing on their backgrounds, electoral history, accomplishments in office, and their legacies to the state and its history.

William J. “Bill” Thompson, a native Baltimorean, graduated from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in 1982 with a major in history. He earned a graduate degree from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in 1989; writing his thesis on Maryland politics in the 1960s. He has taught history for the last 25 years at colleges and universities in Maryland, including Cecil College, Community College of Baltimore County, Howard Community College, UMBC, and Stevenson University. He has written op-ed essays on politics and sports for the Baltimore Sun and the Washington Post, as well as contributing essays to encyclopedia volumes on civil rights, the New Deal era, and sports in the post-World War II era, and scholarly article in the Maryland Historical Magazine.

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**ONLINE COURSE**

**GOVERNORS OF MARYLAND: From Ritchie to the Present**

Bill Thompson

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Session I
Friday, 2:15 p.m. (begins March 11)
Fee: $65

This course will examine the lives of America’s first three presidents with special emphasis on their administrations covering the crucial formative years of 1789 to 1809. We will explore the challenges that Washington faced as the first president, the critical precedents set by all three, the foreign and domestic challenges each faced, and the long-term legacies they left both in the institution of the presidency as well as in the broad course of American history generally.

INVENTING THE PRESIDENCY: Washington, Adams, and Jefferson
Jared Day

Session II
Friday, 2:15 p.m. (begins April 15)
Fee: $65

This course will explore three presidents of the 1920s: Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge, and Herbert Hoover during this critical decade of Republican Party dominance. We will examine key events such as the advent of prohibition, the Tea Pot Dome scandal, as well as the popularity of “Silent Cal,” the progressive career of Hoover, and finally the coming of the Great Depression in 1929. We will also consider some of the key technological developments of the era, such as the proliferation of radio, the automobile, and cultural icons such as Henry Ford.

CHALLENGING ‘NORMALCY’: The Roaring Twenties
Jared Day

Jared Day, Ph.D., taught American history at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh for sixteen years. His areas of specialization are U.S. political, urban, and cultural history as well as world history from the fifteenth century to the present. He is the author of several books along with numerous other popular and peer-reviewed articles. He now teaches at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich, CT.