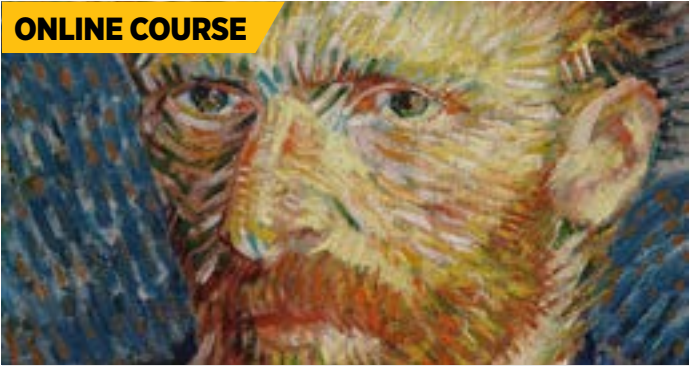


ONLINE COURSE**THE ART AND LIFE OF VINCENT VAN GOGH**

Joseph Cassar

Sessions I and II**Monday, 11:15 a.m. (begins September 11)****Fee: \$140 (\$70 for each session)****THIS COURSE WILL NOT BE RECORDED**

Post-Impressionist painter Vincent van Gogh (1853–1890) was a unique painter whose tormented soul kept him struggling to perfect his art. In this course, learn about the artist's upbringing, artistic education, and the development of his mature style. We will see the deep union and friendship between Vincent and his brother, Theo, who continued to support him until the end. We will gain better understanding of what Vincent was painting through quotes from three volumes of Vincent's special letters. Vincent's paintings and drawings will be studied in detail through critical analysis. This course is enriched by images of the artist's work that will invite questions and discussion.

Joseph Cassar, Ph.D., is an artist, art historian, curator, and educator. He studied at the Accademia di Belle Arti, Pietro Vannucci, Perugia, Italy, the School of Art in Malta (Europe) and at Charles Sturt University in NSW, Australia. He is the author of several books and monographs on the pioneers of modern art of the Mediterranean island of Malta, two of which have been awarded best prize for research in the Book Festival, Europe. He served as a free-lance art critic for "The Daily News" (1978–1981) and "The Times of Malta" (1997–2000). He has lectured at various educational institutions in Europe and the United States. He lectures at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC, The Renaissance Institute, Notre Dame University, Towson University, York College of Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins University, Community College of Baltimore County among others. He currently designs online art courses for the New York Times Knowledge Network and for the University of Maryland University College. As an artist he has had two residencies: at Luther College, Decorah Iowa (2002) and at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (2003). He was curator for the international Art Center: St James Cavalier Center for Creativity between 1999–2003. Cassar exhibits his work regularly in the Baltimore-Washington area.

**THE ART OF ILLUSTRATION**

Greg Houston

Sessions I & II**Thursday, 11:00 a.m. (begins September 14)****Fee: \$140 (\$70 for each session)**

Illustration has been a mode of communication since the dawn of man. While folks today may think about illustration strictly in terms of images they see in newspapers or magazines—if they think about it at all—illustration is a living, thriving art form that touches everyone's life in some way or another through the power of the image. This course will introduce students to the art and profession of illustration through demonstration, conversation, and simple in-class exercises. We will look at examples of famous and not-so-famous illustrators, and talk about how style, medium, composition, and other elements help the illustrator communicate a concept or deliver a message to a mass audience through visual means. We will also utilize pen and paper to do some in-class exercises that will give better understanding of the choices one makes when creating an image that is meant to convey an idea. Art skills are not necessary to participate. It's all good fun!

Greg Houston is a Baltimore-based illustrator who received his B.F.A. from the Pratt Institute in New York. He taught illustration at MICA for nine years. Since 2015, he has owned and operated the Baltimore Academy of Illustration. In addition to his work as an editorial illustrator for a variety of magazines and newspapers, he has written and illustrated two graphic novels for NBM Publishing and has written two books on illustration for The Monacelli Press.



PHOTOGRAPHIC FAKES, FANTASIES, AND FABRICATIONS

Steve Dembo

Sessions I & II

Thursday, 9:30 a.m. (begins September 14)

Fee: \$140 (\$70 for each session)

Photographs have been faked, manipulated, and fabricated from the early days of photography up to the present times with artificial intelligence (AI). The photograph has been trusted to only reveal the truth. We will see that this is not necessarily the case. Early photographs were faked way before the advent of Photoshop and today a camera is not even required to produce an award-winning image. Students taking this course will see examples of these photographs and will learn about the photographers and the events that inspired them.

Steve Dembo received his M.F.A. from MICA. He is an adjunct professor at CCBC where he teaches digital photography, digital imaging, and 2-D design. His photographic work has been critically acclaimed and has garnered numerous awards and accolades. His work has appeared in national publications and exhibitions. He has taught several courses for the Osher at Towson University program.



FIVE COMEDIES EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW

Greg Jones

Session II

Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. (begins October 18)

Fee: \$70

In the tradition of the popular course, Eight Plays Everyone Should Know, this four-week course will introduce students to the wit, style, and social satire of four masters of comedy. "The Inspector General" by Gogol is a delightful critique of government inefficiency. The double bill of Chekhov's "The Bear" and "The Marriage Proposal" show the silly side of the Russian master. "A Flea in Her Ear" by Georges Feydeau is the quintessential naughty French sex farce. Finally, "Blithe Spirit" by the master, Noël Coward, reveals post World War II cynicism amidst zany goings on. Each class will feature a mix of background, clips from performances, lively discussion, and, when possible, live performances of scenes from the plays. Copies of each play will be distributed to students in advance.

Greg Jones is a local actor, playwright, and teacher. He most recently portrayed three individual immigrants in the Annapolis Symphony production of "Ellis Island: The Dream of America." His comedy-drama "All Save One" received the Julie Harris playwriting award. A reading of his adaptation of Edith Wharton's "Roman Fever" will be performed at the Classic Theatre of Maryland this fall where he is also slated to appear in the musical Shakespearean satire "Something Rotten." Jones holds a bachelor's degree in drama from Catholic University and a master's degree in English literature from Salisbury University.



HOLLYWOOD FROM THE SILENT ERA UNTIL NOW

Barbara Blumberg Ressin

Sessions I & II

Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. (begins September 12)

Fee: \$140 (\$70 for each session)

The course will begin with an introduction to the silent movies and the women behind it. These women starred in movies, wrote screenplays, produced, and directed silent films. When the talkies came on the scene, men entered the industry, disenfranchising the women, and going on to create all the major motion picture studios that we know today. The result was Warner Bros., Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM), Paramount Pictures, Fox Studio, Universal Pictures, Columbia Pictures, and RKO. How did immigrant men from Eastern Europe, with little formal training, little money, and lack of knowledge about the American culture, manage to create these mega studios? We will investigate how Hollywood film makers expanded technology and increased the appeal of movies to a wide audience across different societal classes. Students will learn how Hollywood did and did not get involved in World War II and how the House of UnAmerican Activities Committee affected movie moguls and caused the demise of the old Hollywood studio system.

Barbara Blumberg Ressin graduated from Towson University with a B.S. in education. She taught at Beth Tfiloh Community Day School for 25 years after having taught in Baltimore City schools for three years. She was an adjunct faculty member at Florida Gulf State University and at the Community College of Baltimore County.



ONLINE COURSE

THE SOUND OF MOVIES

Arnold Blumberg

Session II

Monday, 1:00 p.m. (begins October 16)

Fee: \$70

Movie soundtracks play a huge part in shaping our relationship with this storytelling artform. Through the careful and calculated balance of dialogue, music, and sound effects, the reality of a story can be shaped and presented to an audience in ways specifically designed to engage the emotions, immerse the viewer, and create an unforgettable cinematic experience. From the end of the silent era and the birth of the “talkies” to the latest blockbuster releases that make use of cutting-edge digital technology to craft an aural soundscape that fills a theater or living room, this course will look at the many ways sound can impact our reaction to a movie and leave an indelible mark on our psyche.

Arnold T. Blumberg is a pop culture historian and professor of multiple courses in media literacy and other cultural topics. He has taught at UMBC, the University of Baltimore, CCBC, and Osher at Towson University. He spent 15 years in the comic book industry as writer and editor of “The Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide,” curated a pop culture museum for five years, and currently runs his own publishing company, ATB Publishing.

ONLINE COURSE**THE FILMS OF CHARLTON HESTON**

Arnold Blumberg

Session I**Friday, 1:00 p.m. (begins September 15)****Fee: \$70**

For many, Charlton Heston was one of the definitive male stars of the Golden Age of Hollywood and beyond. His chiseled features and often brusque, distinctive delivery suited a wide range of iconic roles that frequently put him in the position of a man standing in defiance of authority and oppression. From his unforgettable biblical blockbusters like “The Ten Commandments” (1956) and “Ben-Hur” (1959) to his run of socially and culturally relevant science fiction epics like “Planet of the Apes” (1968), “The Omega Man” (1971), and “Soylent Green” (1973), this course will examine the impact of Heston’s contributions to our cultural history, not just through his film work, but also through his sometimes controversial political activism.

ONLINE COURSE**THE FILMS OF ANNE BAXTER**

Arnold Blumberg

Session II**Friday, 1:00 p.m. (begins October 20)****Fee: \$70**

Through her work on stage and on screens big and small, Anne Baxter became one of the most accomplished and recognizable stars of the twentieth century, exuding a smoldering sensuality in many of her roles that deftly skirted the often-rigorous restrictions placed on more open expression of sexuality in cinema. Whether in her only Academy Award-winning role as Sophie in “The Razor’s Edge” (1946), as a scheming sociopath in the world of theater in “All About Eve” (1950), or as the royal temptress whose influence will shape the future in Cecil B. DeMille’s biblical epic, “The Ten Commandments” (1956), Baxter infused every part with raw energy that leapt off the screen and drew in movie-going audiences again and again.

Arnold T. Blumberg is a pop culture historian and professor of multiple courses in media literacy and other cultural topics. He has taught at UMBC, the University of Baltimore, CCBC, and Osher at Towson University. He spent 15 years in the comic book industry as writer and editor of “The Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide,” curated a pop culture museum for five years, and currently runs his own publishing company, ATB Publishing.



NIETZSCHE'S ZARATHUSTRA

Ed Fotheringill

Session I

Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. (begins September 13)

Fee: \$70

The great 19th century German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche wrote sixteen noteworthy books. The one he considered most significant was "Thus Spoke Zarathustra." Reflecting on this work, Nietzsche confessed the following: "When I have looked into my Zarathustra, I walk up and down in my room for half an hour, unable to master an unbearable fit of sobbing." "Thus Spoke Zarathustra" is a parable about a man, Zarathustra, carrying the heavy weight of wisdom. He offers to unload this wisdom as a gift to mankind in an act of compassion. But he finds that mankind is not ready to receive his revelations. In this course, we will reflect upon the uncommon wisdom of Nietzsche, and decide for ourselves the value of his proclamations.

Edward Fotheringill has taught philosophy at the college level for over forty years. He has been an adjunct professor of philosophy at Towson University, Goucher College, and Maryland Institute College of Art.

BIG THANKS

to all Osher Volunteers who help to make Osher a success.



THE JEWISHNESS OF JESUS

Father Robert Albright

Sessions I & II

Thursday, 1:00 p.m. (begins September 14)

Fee: \$140 (\$70 for each session)

***NOTE:** This course ran previously in spring 2018.

The Jewishness of Jesus is a new field of study that has been emerging among scholars and theologians in recent years. This course will be a combination of lecture and small group dialogue (which in the Jewish tradition is called "Beit Midrash"). The course will examine the biblical Jewish ideas at the time of Jesus and connect Jesus with his own ethnic and religious traditions. We will study Jewish terms and traditions that formed the basis of Jesus' life and teachings along with early Jewish Christianity's usage of these terms in the New Testament of the Bible.

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.



AN INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

Kathleen Hajdamacha

Sessions I & II

Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. (begins September 13)

Fee: \$140 (\$70 for each session)

***NOTE:** This topic was taught as a four-week course in fall 2022. Thanks to recommendations from students in that course, this course has been expanded to eight weeks.

This course is based upon a nonverbal foundation and focuses on developing expressive and receptive American Sign Language skills within a cultural framework. Classes are conducted without the use of voice, lipreading, written English, or excessive reliance on finger-spelling. Course content includes ASL signs, concepts, and grammatical features. Emphasis and course content is placed on skill development, correct usage of signs and grammatical features, and general understanding of American Sign Language used by Deaf persons. Lectures and class assignments will focus on various aspects of the life of deaf, deafblind, and people who are hard-of-hearing.

Kathleen Hajdamacha earned a B.S. in child development from Gallaudet University and an M.A. in deaf education from McDaniel College. Kathleen was born and raised in New Jersey. She is proudly Deaf and is currently in her ninth year of teaching American Sign Language and Deaf Studies courses at Towson University.