



**THE HISTORY OF ANTISEMITISM,
A DOCUMENTARY APPROACH**

Rabbi Floyd Herman

Sessions I & II

Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. (begins September 13)

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

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

Antisemitism has occurred throughout the ages. This course will explore the history of antisemitism through an examination of some of the historical texts upon which it is based. We will trace the history of antisemitic writings from the ancient world, including Rome and the church, through modern writings up to the rise of antisemitism today in the Middle East, Europe, and the United States. An increase in antisemitic incidents in the United States and around the world has brought new focus to this topic. In this course we will try to understand the history of antisemitism and why it seems to never disappear. Is there a difference between anti-Judaism and antisemitism? Why does antisemitism seem to persist?

Rabbi Floyd Herman is the rabbi emeritus of Har Sinai Congregation in Owings Mills. He has taught a variety of courses at Osher and other lifelong learning venues in Baltimore. He taught undergraduate courses at Loyola University of Maryland for over 20 years. He has been active in many religious and civic organizations in the Baltimore area and nationally.



THE TRAGIC STORY OF JIM CROW

Robert Baer

Sessions I & II

Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. (begins September 12)

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

The Jim Crow era of American history was characterized by the systematic segregation, discrimination, and violence toward African American citizens primarily in the South during the 19th and 20th centuries. It represents one of the most relevant periods of American history in understanding race relations today. This class will examine many of the people, events, and issues of the time, as well as the historical background of the period. We will explore how black and white people responded to the many challenges they faced during the Jim Crow period and critically analyze how this era has affected race relations in America.

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 over 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.

ONLINE COURSE



AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Fred Pincus

Session I

Monday, 1:00 p.m. (begins September 11)

Fee: \$70

Affirmative action has been widely misunderstood since its inception in 1965. This course will provide a history and description of affirmative action policies in college admissions, employment, and small businesses. We will examine data on the impact of affirmative action on people of color and women as well as on whites and males. Finally, we will explore the impact of recent Supreme Court decisions. Ample time will be provided for discussion.

Fred Pincus is a professor emeritus of sociology at UMBC where he taught courses about race relations and diversity for 44 years. He is the author of four books including “Reverse Discrimination: Dismantling the Myth” (2002) and the essay “Affirmative Action: Not the Harsh Impact on Whites That Some Assume” in “Impacts of Racism on White Americans in the Age of Trump” (2021).



BALTIMORE NARRATIVES: HOW THE CITY BECAME AN INDUSTRIAL GIANT

Jack Burkert

Session II

Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. (begins October 24)

Fee: \$70

This course examines the growth of Baltimore as a major port city, welcoming immigrants, building ships, and making steel. Immigrants arrived in Baltimore by the thousands filling the city. We will learn how they got here, why they came, and how they made contributions to a growing city. The port drove the city’s growth while newly arrived immigrants provided the labor force for heavy industry. We will delve into stories of two select industries as we explore 300 years of shipbuilding and the rise and fall of the Sparrows Point steel mill.

Jack Burkert is a Baltimore native with a deep interest in the history of the city. Jack graduated with honors with a degree in history and education from the University of Maryland. His working life was spent in various educator roles, beginning with five years in the Baltimore City 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.

Thank you for being part of the Osher community!



HOW THE INDIANS LOST THEIR LAND

Jacqueline Hedberg

Sessions I & II

Thursday, 11:00 a.m. (begins September 14)

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

When Europeans came to North America during the 16th and 17th centuries, there were already millions of indigenous people living on the continent. By the time of the Civil War almost none of these people lived east of the Mississippi River. This is a course about how the Native population lost control of that territory. We will examine early contact between whites and Natives, the economic importance of the fur trade and the slave trade to both groups, and the struggle between France and England for control of North America. Our last three lessons will concentrate on U.S. Indian policy—from George Washington's belief that all could live together to Andrew Jackson's policy of expulsion by force. It is a sad tale.

Jacqueline Hedberg taught history in Baltimore County and with the Department of Defense Overseas Dependent Schools in Germany and Japan. Since retiring she has spearheaded the restoration of an historic graveyard on Hoopers Island, where she was born, and written extensively about her birthplace. She has taught Osher classes about slavery on the Eastern Shore and Reconstruction in Maryland. In 2019, her slavery lessons were published by The History Press under the title "Plantations, Slavery & Freedom on Maryland's Eastern Shore," and she has subsequently made presentations on this topic throughout Maryland.

ONLINE COURSE



THE ROAD TO REVOLUTION: AMERICA, 1763-1776

Richard Bell

Session II

Monday, 9:00 a.m. (begins October 16)

Fee: \$70

***NOTE:** This course starts at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 10:15 a.m.

In 1763 colonists across British North America could not have been prouder to be members of the British Empire. Fighting shoulder to shoulder with redcoat soldiers, the colonists had trounced their mutual enemies in the French and Indian War. In towns and cities across America, colonists toasted King George, his ministers, and his military. In New York City, grateful colonists erected a statue to their great king, a testament to the belief that their future lay with him. On July 9, 1776, a crowd of American soldiers and sailors tore down this statue and melted down its precious lead into 42,088 musket balls to fire at the king's army. The two sides were now at war—delegates in Philadelphia had finalized the Declaration of Independence just five days earlier—and that war would rage for the next seven years. In this four-part course, we will explore the tumultuous thirteen years between 1763 and 1776. In particular, we will examine four of the extraordinary events that turned thirteen loyal British colonies into a united confederation willing to go to war to achieve independence.

Richard Bell, Ph.D., is professor of history at the University of Maryland, College Park. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University and his B.A. from the University of Cambridge. His research focuses on American history between 1750 and 1877. He is the author of the book "Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped into Slavery and Their Astonishing Odyssey Home" which was a finalist for the George Washington Prize and the Harriet Tubman Prize. He has held major research fellowships at Yale, Cambridge, and the Library of Congress and is the recipient of the National Endowment of the Humanities Public Scholar award and the 2021 Andrew Carnegie Fellowship. He serves as a trustee of the Maryland Center for History and Culture and as a fellow of the Royal Historical Society.



THE ATOMIC BOMB AND THE END OF THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC

Jonathan Cordish

Session I

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

Fee: \$70

***NOTE:** This course ran previously in spring 2017.

This course will examine the most controversial military decision of World War II—the decision to use atomic weapons against Japan in August 1945. Despite decades of intense debate, the actual historical circumstances that led to use of the “A-Bomb” are often misunderstood. This course will explore the military, moral, and political circumstances faced by decision-makers at the time, examining how key wartime officials understood atomic weapons and integrated them into broader U.S. wartime strategies. We will also explore the impact on atomic decision-making of combat in the Pacific, Japanese decision-making, and the demands of U.S. domestic politics. Such an examination reveals a vastly different history of the A-Bomb than is often presented in popular histories, one that challenges commonly held views on its use and the broader end of the war against Japan. It also raises sobering warnings on current trends in global nuclear policies.

Jonathan Cordish has taught several courses on World War II history at Osher. His previous courses examined aspects of combat in the Pacific and European Theaters. Jonathan is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Military History at the Citadel, the Military College of the University of South Carolina. He holds a B.A. summa cum laude from Brandeis University and a M.B.A. from the Wharton School.

ONLINE COURSE



CAPITALISM IN CHINA: RISE OF A GLOBAL GIANT

Mark Yourek

Session I

Friday, 11:00 a.m. (begins September 15)

Fee: \$70

***NOTE:** This course will meet online for six consecutive weeks. A previous version of this course ran in spring 2022.

Many Americans are only dimly aware that “communist” China is now an overwhelmingly capitalist country and emerging as a formidable rival to the U.S. How is China doing it? How did their economy become so large and successful in such a short time? How do the U.S. and Chinese models of capitalism compare? What are the key strengths and weaknesses of each? Which country will be stronger in the long run? Which will be more stable? Which country will be more influential in the world? Our aim is to explore the critical factors that will determine the long-term future of each country.

Mark Yourek is a business professional who has spent his career working with dozens of the largest corporations in the world, both in the U.S. and abroad, in the fields of consulting, strategy, and project management. His primary research interests include economics, government, and history. He holds a B.A. degree in international relations from USC, and an M.B.A. from UCLA.



REDEFINING AGING: COMPASSIONATE CAREGIVING AND SUCCESSFUL AGING

Ann Kaiser Stearns

Session II

Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. (begins October 18)

Fee: \$70

***NOTE:** A version of this course previously ran in spring 2018.

This course is about successful aging. How are individuals able to redefine aging so that they can deal with anxiety related to aging, disability, and dependence? In this course, we will discuss ways to resist ageist stereotypes while learning how to embrace all that can be good in late adult life. We will examine the importance of self-care and ways to reduce the risk of dementia. We will discuss essentials in planning ahead to make life easier for those who may care for us as we age. Spouses and other family caregivers living with the blessings, burdens, chronic stress, and countless challenges of caring for a loved one with dementia also will find this course uplifting and empowering. Paid caregivers doing eldercare and interacting with family members can benefit from the myth-busting perspectives and problem-solving skills discussed in this course. In addition to reframing what aging means today, students in this course will learn to strengthen traits of resilience that we all need, regardless of age.

Ann Kaiser Stearns, Ph.D., is an academic psychologist also trained in counseling psychology. Dr. Stearns presents timely, well-researched information along with personal insights and practical advice. She is the author of “Living Through Personal Crisis” and other books and articles on finding resilience in adversity. A long-time professor of psychology at the Community College of Baltimore County, Dr. Stearns has also received awards for excellence in teaching from Loyola College, Johns Hopkins University, and the Maryland Psychological Association.



THE HISTORY OF SEX

Jennifer Liles

Session I

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

Fee: \$70

***NOTE:** A version of this course previously ran in spring 2018.

This course will provide a glimpse into how sex was represented in society during specific time periods: ancient history, the Victorian Age, the Cold War, and the Sexual Revolution. We will look at how different societies built their culture around sex and the various cultural views on the subject. How was sex used in religion and medicine? How was sex defined for men and women in different societies? Learn how sexual mores have changed over history from openness in ancient Greece to taboo in Victorian England to “sex, drugs, and rock ‘n roll” during the Sexual Revolution.

Jennifer Liles is a public historian with a degree in public history from Stevenson University. Her research into the history of families uncovered the values that different societies have had toward sex within their cultures and prompted more research into the history and role of sex in society.