

ARTS, CULTURE & HUMANITIES



WHY MOZART STILL MATTERS!

Jonathan Palevsky

Sessions I and II

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

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

For someone who lived a total of 35 years and died in 1791, Mozart still seems to play an important role in our lives. In fact, it's hard to imagine Western culture without him. What was so special about this one person that his music is still moving and relevant today? Was it merely that he was one of the most remarkable prodigies of all time? Was it the fact that he left us compelling music in every genre that existed and invented some new ones? Or was it that he understood humanity better than any musician before or since? While he used all the conventional forms of his day, Mozart's music is timeless. Exploring his amazing scores allows us to find out more about him and, frankly, ourselves. We will explore the early works of this composer as well as his amazing mature chamber works, symphonies and operas.

Jonathan Palevsky, B.M., M.M., is program director for WBJC. His undergraduate studies focused on musicology and his graduate work at Baltimore's Peabody Institute focused on instrumental training in classical guitar performance. Jonathan can be heard as host of *Face the Music*, *Past Masters*, *WBJC Opera Fest* and regular afternoon classical programming on WBJC. He also hosts Cinema Sundays at the Charles Theater. Jonathan has been a regular of the Osher faculty since the former Auburn Society's first semester in spring 1999.



SINATRA IN CONTEXT

Julie Kurzava

Sessions I and II

Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. (begins September 22)

Class will meet on October 13 due to later start)

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

Widely recognized as one of the great popular singers of the 20th century, Frank Sinatra's decade's long career spans the history of the American songbook and beyond. From his modest beginnings in Hoboken, Sinatra moved to the highest echelons of stardom, including sold out concerts, goofy Rat Pack films, a dramatic Academy Award winning performance, and heaps of classic recordings. He eventually wrote over 1,500 songs. While the course will follow the trajectory of Sinatra's career, Julie Kurzava will also elaborate and expand upon the world he inhabited and his artistic influences and collaborators, such as bands, songwriters, actors, and his singing contemporaries. Julie will also use her expert knowledge of vocal technique and style to illuminate Sinatra's distinctive sound. Come fly with us!

Julie Kurzava is a versatile performer who has worked in professional theaters throughout the United States. A classically trained singer, she is a graduate of Northwestern University (B.M.) and the Peabody Conservatory (M.M.). Ms. Kurzava is co-founder and executive director of New Moon Theater, a touring theater for young audiences. Formerly a faculty member of the Peabody Road Scholar program, she is a popular lecturer on musical theater and the Great American Songbook. Ms. Kurzava is currently on the music faculty at Loyola University Maryland.



ANOTHER EIGHT PLAYS EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW

Greg Jones

Sessions I and II

Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. (begins September 22)
Class will meet on October 13 due to later start)
Fee: \$130 (\$65 for each session)

This “sequel to the sequel” course introduces students to a new range of theater classics. Using a lively mix of lecture, video clips, live performance and Q&A, the course traces connections and offers new insights on the following plays: *The Second Shepherd’s Play*, *Twelfth Night*, *A Doll’s House*, *Miss Julie* and *The Stronger*, *He Who Gets Slapped*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Angels in America* and *Top Dog/Underdog*. In addition to exploring each play’s unique literary qualities, the course will place each in its theatrical context, noting how it was produced and why it is still relevant. No prior reading is required, though students are sent a list of online sources for their own reference and research. This course does not require prior enrollment in the two earlier “Eight Plays” courses.

Greg Jones holds a B.A. in drama from Catholic University and an M.A. in English from Salisbury University. An award-winning playwright and actor, he has also published essays on Langston Hughes’s dramatic monologue poems and profiles of playwrights Marsha Norman and Paul Zindel. He is a one-day Jeopardy! champion whose winning Final Jeopardy category was...Characters in Plays!



FOUR MORE FABULOUS & FUN MUSICALS

Ellen Katz

Session I

Thursday, 11 a.m. (begins September 16)
Fee: \$65

This course dives into four well-known Broadway hits over four weeks. First are the spellbinding songs of deceit, sorcery, lasting love, and deep friendship in “Wicked!,” which tells the story of what happened in Oz before Dorothy’s arrival. Then enjoy learning about the American masterpiece “A Chorus Line,” which shares the stories of 17 dancers—each with one dream—as they audition for a new Broadway show. Next, travel back in time to the segregated 1960s of Baltimore in “Hairspray.” With her love of dancing, overweight teen Tracy Turnblad tries to integrate The Corny Collins Show in this comic musical with a message. The course ends with “West Side Story,” the tragic tale of star-crossed lovers on a hot summer evening in the 1950s in New York’s Upper West Side. Ellen is always in costume and ready to answer questions. Join in for nostalgic clips and live performances—don’t miss a note!

Ellen Katz believes her blood type is B—B for Broadway. She presents her lively and informative talks on Broadway’s super musicals in colorful costumes sure to entertain, educate and enrich her audiences. Ellen Katz graduated magna cum laude from the University of Maryland with a degree in music and voice. She has presented for Towson University, Johns Hopkins University, Peabody Conservatory of Music, The Chautauqua Institute, Osher Institute, Old Dominion University and Florida Gulf Coast University.

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ONLINE COURSE



THIS IS HOW THE WORLD ENDS AND ENDS AND ENDS

Arnold Blumberg

Sessions I and II

Friday, 1:00 p.m. (begins September 17)

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

Popular culture has embraced stories about the end of the world more than ever before, from zombies to alien invasion to climate change. Why are we so fascinated by the collapse of our civilization, and what can we learn from these stories? This course takes a critical look at classic and modern examples of apocalyptic film and television and how it reflects us as people, as a nation, and a world, including issues of racial and ethnic identity as well as gender and other socio-political issues.

Dr. Arnold T. Blumberg is a pop culture historian and a professor of multiple courses in media literacy and other cultural topics. He has taught at UMBC, the University of Baltimore, and the Osher Institute at Towson University. He spent 15 years in the comic book industry as a 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.

BIG THANKS

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



ARCHAEOLOGY IN MARYLAND: American Indian Cultures

Katharine Fernstrom

Sessions I and II

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

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

Maryland has a rich pre-history and history with new discoveries happening frequently. Native Americans occupied the area approximately 10,000 years ago, hunting game and gathering wild resources in their local environments. People in the subsequent Archaic period (~3,000–10,000 years ago) adapted to warming environmental conditions with genius. Local populations thrived and grew requiring new solutions to crowding and food competition. Warming temperatures promoted nut and fruit producing trees, seed producing plants, fish, mollusks, and terrestrial game animals. In the Woodland period (3,000 years ago, c. 1600) corn agriculture was adopted as a food strategy; native groups presented their distinctive identities with varying kinds of ceramics; such trade goods as shell beads indicate complex social relations; tubular pipes and copper ornaments suggest ritual. Carved stone and wooden human faces are evidence of unique ideas about representation and social boundedness in relation to neighbors. In the 17th century, Europeans arrived and changed the course of Native American life. Recent archaeological discoveries at St. Mary's City illuminate both the lives of colonists and those of their native neighbors.

Katharine Fernstrom is an anthropologist and archaeologist teaching part-time at Towson University and MICA in anthropology and art history. Her research specialty is the role of visual art as communication within the context of economic transactions in Native American, Inuit, and Papua New Guinean cultures. Katharine is currently interim president of the Central Chapter of the Archeological Society of Maryland and is also an appraiser specializing in Native American art made for the market (no antiquities).



MODERN THEMES IN PREHISTORIC ROCK ART

Ahmed Achrati

Sessions I and II

Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. (begins September 22)
Class will meet on October 13 due to later start)
Fee: \$130 (\$65 for each session)

This course looks at human behavior as documented in prehistoric rock art and tries to identify salient cultural features in this art and to assess their evolution through time. An introductory overview of rock art provides a background for the discussion of the following topics: human body, gender, human pathology, culinary patterns, fashion and sartorial behavior, games and entertainment, rituals, and empathy. Interdisciplinary in its approach, the course stresses the importance of aesthetic growth and creative thinking. Whether your interest is in art, music, history, literature, philosophy, religion or archaeology, this course will engage your views on human existence and expand your intellectual horizons.

Ahmed Achrati, Ph.D., is a retired professor who taught languages, anthropology, and religious studies at various institutions including Georgetown University, University of Illinois, and Howard Community College. His publications on religion and rock art in leading journals span various topics.



PHOTOGRAPHY IN WAR AND CONFLICT

Steve Dembo

Sessions I and II

Monday, 11:00 a.m. (begins September 15)
Fee: \$130 (\$65 for each session)

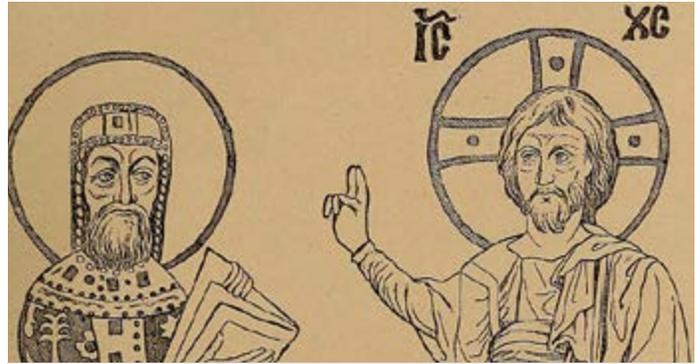
Roger Fenton, considered the first "War Photographer", went to the Crimea in the 1850's to document the British at war. Due to the technology of the photographic processes of the time – it took up to a minute or more to take the picture – his images are quite benign. Mathew Brady and others fully documented the American Civil War and were only slightly better able to show its horrors. As the technology of warfare progressed, so did that of photography. WWI and WW2, Korea, Vietnam and conflicts were heavily photographed. Robert Capa's images in Spain and on Omaha Beach are iconic, as are David Duncan and Larry Burrows' images from Vietnam. This course will present a brief introduction to the photography and photographers of war and conflict from the 19th century to today. This Fall's presentation, part two of three parts will cover war & conflict photography from WWII through Viet Nam. It is not necessary to have seen part one.

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, has garnered numerous competitive awards and accolades, and has appeared in national publications and juried exhibitions. He has taught several courses at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Towson University.



INTERNATIONAL GLASS ARTISTS: Processes and Methods

Howard Cohen



TALES FROM GREEK MYTHOLOGY

Bob Baer

Sessions II

Thursday, 11:00 a.m. (begins October 21)

Fee: \$65

Glass artists use many different techniques and processes to realize their creative vision. In this class, we will explore how several world-renowned artists use many of the most common processes to manipulate and shape the material—glass blowing, casting, cold working, torch-work, kiln-casting, glass fusing, and the use of glass powders and frits. It's an international line-up with one deceased German-born artist who worked in Canberra, Australia; a Czech artist working in Prague; a Maestro from Murano, Italy; a Swedish artist who also is a Kosta Boda designer; and two American artists living in Maryland and New Jersey. Each artist is an acknowledged master of the material processes that he or she uses to create their masterpieces.

Howard Cohen is a fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society who has a BA and MA in mathematics from Johns Hopkins University. Since his retirement, he has taught courses on contemporary glass art at Osher at Towson University, the Johns Hopkins University Osher program, at Beth El, the Myerberg Senior Center, and at the Community College of Baltimore County Senior Program. Howard has collected glass art for 25 years and is part of the tight-knit community of collectors, artists, gallery owners and members of institutions that support, produce, sell and exhibit glass art. He is on the board of the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass Art. He has also led trips to artists' studios, galleries and museums that exhibit glass art and has interviewed many artists for course content.

Sessions I and II

Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. (begins on March 2)

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

Stories of ancient Greek gods and heroes have provided entertainment and fascination for thousands of years. In their extensive mythology, the Greek deities resemble humans, with all their emotions, virtues and weaknesses. Zeus' many extramarital affairs, Hera's rage at her husband's infidelities, the constant interventions into daily affairs by omnipresent Olympians, and many other myths deliver captivating and enduring tales. Larger than life characters, such as Hercules, Jason, and Odysseus, pursue fantastic adventures while representing ideal qualities of loyalty and bravery. This class will explore many of these myths and analyze the meaning behind them.

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.



MORE GOSPELS: Apocryphal, Gnostic, and Forgeries

Ellen O'Brien

Sessions I and II

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

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

The announcement on September 18, 2012, in a building across from the Vatican, was astonishing. A senior Harvard professor claimed she had in her possession a papyrus entitled “The Gospel of Jesus’s Wife”. What would it do to the centuries old belief that Jesus never married? What would it do to the celibacy requirement for Catholic priests? And, what about other early Gospels that had not been accepted as part of the canon? For that matter, what were the Apocryphal Gospels? Were they really heresy? And what about the Gnostic Gospels? Where were they discovered? When? We now know that the early Christians had access to more Gospels. Let’s look at them and see what we can learn.

Ellen O'Brien holds a B.A. from St. Catherine's University in St. Paul, Minnesota, an M.L.A. from the John Hopkins University, a J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law, and a M.A. from St. Mary's University and Seminary. She practiced law for thirty years while continuing her theological studies. She has taught previous courses for Osher at Towson University, among the recent being on the Book of Exodus.



THE ENIGMA OF HEIDEGGER

Ed Fotheringill

Sessions I

Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. (begins September 22)

Class will meet on October 13 due to later start)

Fee: \$65

Before WWII, Martin Heidegger was posturing himself to be the most profound philosopher of the 20th century. His reputation as a lecturer in Germany was legendary, and his masterwork, “Being and Time” (1927), shook the world of philosophy at its foundations. But then a seminal crack appeared—not in his philosophy, but in his character: Heidegger was a Nazi. It wasn't until the 1980s that the full story of his Nazi involvement reached the public at large, and since that time philosophers and other intellectuals have been engaged in the difficult task of rendering a final critique of his thinking. Some scholars have voiced the opinion that the value of Heidegger's philosophy must be calculated apart from his political vision, while others contend that this is impossible. What makes matters more complicated is that Heidegger never showed contrition for his actions and never formally explained his Nazi sympathies. In this course we will examine the life and the work of Heidegger, the thinker largely responsible for the rise of 20th century existentialism and phenomenology. The trajectory of his philosophy is fascinating and unexpected: the philosophically detailed and nuanced exposition of his vision of human nature (Dasein) in “Being and Time” ultimately gives way, in his later years, to a quasi-mystical, poetic hymn to the mystery of the presence of being.

Edward Fotheringill has taught philosophy at the college level for 40 years. He held the position of senior lecturer of philosophy at Towson University and Goucher College before ending his formal teaching career as adjunct professor of philosophy at the Maryland Institute College of Art. Cheever and



Updike
CHEEVER AND UPDIKE

William Florman

Sessions I and II

Thursday, 9:30 a.m. (begins September 16)

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

John Updike, major novelist, poet, essayist, and critic was also one of the finest practitioners of the short story. John Cheever, once called “the Chekhov of the suburbs,” was one of Updike’s few equals in the short story form and also a novelist of note. Each has been the subject of highly acclaimed new biographies. This course will analyze, discuss, and compare selected short stories of each writer, emphasizing a close reading of the text, as well as pertinent biographical information garnered from recent biographies.

William Florman, M.A. J.D., has taught courses in literature and writing at Boston College, Salem State University, and American University. Upon graduation from Georgetown Law School, he practiced labor law in Washington, D.C. Mr. Florman is enjoying his return to his first love, which is teaching.



GOD BLESS US EVERYONE: A close examination of the novel “A Christmas Carol” and its finest film adaptations

Dick Thompson

Sessions I and II

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

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

Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” is a cherished and revered part of many holiday celebrations. Most know the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, but few know the background of the novel’s creation and the key social issues that prompted it to be written in 1843—issues that are as perplexing today as they were when Dickens wrote the novel. We will examine all of this and supplement our study by considering segments of various film adaptations of Scrooge’s journey to redemption. Finally, a complete showing and discussion of the three best “A Christmas Carol” films featuring Alistair Sim (1951), George C. Scott (1984), and Jim Carey (2009) will conclude our study. I believe this course will enhance your holiday celebrations and give you a deeper and even greater appreciation of Dickens’ marvelous holiday classic.

Dick received B.A., M.S., and M.Ed. degrees from Towson University. For 38 years, Thompson was a 7th grade language arts teacher in Carroll County Public Schools, instructing well over 5,000 young people. He has received seven teaching awards including Carroll County Teacher of the Year and was a finalist in The Disney Channel Salutes the American Teacher competition. Mr. Thompson continues to volunteer and instruct in Baltimore City Public Schools and looks forward to bringing his enthusiasm and love of literature and film to his new friends at Osher.



INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Father Bob Albright

Sessions I and II

**Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. (begins September 22
Class will meet on October 13 due to later start)
Fee: \$130 (\$65 for each session)**

The Bible was produced in an age and culture foreign to most American eyes and ears. Thus, we needed a new pair of glasses to read the Bible authentically. As well, we need to think like a Jew of 1st century Israel in order to properly interpret the Bible. Using the most up-to-date Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant scholarship, Father Bob will attempt to tackle eight issues that will help the ordinary person come to a greater appreciation of the Bible. These eight issues are the Bible as a book of faith; how literally do we take the Bible; the Bible as a composite of various literary styles; the Bible as the word of God and the words of humans; conflicting theologies within the Bible; the Bible as an association of many images; the Bible as one story made up of many stories; and the second coming of Christ as a dominant theology within the New Testament. This is an introduction and not an in-depth study. However, what you will learn in these eight weeks will help you read any passage of the Bible with greater understanding than ever before. Come and learn about the greatest and most widely-read book ever written. Please bring a Bible to class, any version.

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 inter-faith 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.



IF YOUR GARDEN COULD TALK

Meg Algren

Session I

**Monday, 1:00 p.m. (begins September 20.
Class will meet on October 11 due to later start)
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. This is a repeat of the course offered in fall 2019.

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.