



**SPANISH CIVIL WAR**

Rex Rehfeld



**SURVIVING THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION AND THE BATTLE FOR MANILA**

Julio Esteban

**Session I and II**

**Thursday, 9:30 a.m. (begins September 23.  
Class will meet on October 14 due to later start)  
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 Two. 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 until tired of ineffective government, the Generals took control, led by Francisco Franco and in July 1936 launched a rebellion, which ended in April 1939 with Franco’s victory. Then we will discuss how Spain was transformed from an autocracy to a democracy.

Rex Rehfeld holds 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.

**Session I and II**

**Thursday, 11:00 a.m. (begins September 16)  
Fee: \$130 (\$65 for each session)**

February 2020 marked the 75th anniversary of the horrific Battle for Manila, the first urban battle the U.S. fought in the 1941-1945 Pacific War with Japan. Often described as the most devastated city of WWII after Stalingrad, civilian deaths exceeded 100,000, and Manila forever lost its pre-war soubriquet as Pearl of the Orient. Julio Esteban’s total slide presentation will review the Philippines prior to 1941 and the migration of his Spanish family to Manila in the early 1900s. He will describe the city and his family life before the war, then move to the Japanese occupation and life under its military administration. Following will be a brief review of America’s 1942 loss of the Philippines. Then his focus will be his occupation and survival experience between the ages of 11 to 14, and especially during the terrible month-long final battle. He will close with a reference to the war’s aftermath, a look at the new and different Manila—which he has visited several times—and lessons to be learned from the experience.

Julio Esteban, Jr., M.A., was born in Manila, Philippines, of Spanish parents. Having survived the three-year Japanese Occupation and 1945 Battle for Manila, he migrated with his wife and children to Baltimore in 1963. A business communicator most of his working life, he became a Spanish teacher in 1996 until his retirement in 2010. Becoming an Osher member in 2011, he presented this course here for four weeks in 2012, then for eight weeks in 2013.



## THE 1950S IN HISTORY AND MEMORY

Ed Berkowitz

### Sessions II

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

**Fee: \$65**

For members of the baby boom, the 1950s were a formative decade. This class presents four lectures on the 1950s from the perspective of the baby boomers who lived through them. Topics include politics, the rise of television, civil rights, and efforts to market the Edsel automobile. From the rise of John F. Kennedy to the rise of Martin Luther King Jr. and other important political and civil rights figures, to pop culture icons such as Perry Como and Elvis Presley, this course will provide perspective on an influential decade for the baby boomers and beyond.

Ed Berkowitz, Ph.D., is professor emeritus of history at George Washington University. He earned his Ph.D. in American History from Northeastern University. He has extensive scholarship in the areas of American social welfare policy, recent American history, and American cultural history. He worked in the Carter White House. This is his second Osher course.

## ONLINE COURSE



## WORLD WAR I AND THE SHAPING OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

Jared Day

### Sessions II

**Monday, 9:30 a.m. (begins October 18)**

**Fee: \$65**

This set of four lectures examines the cataclysmic course of World War One (1914-1918) from the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand to November 11, 1918 and beyond. The series will explore the experience of trench warfare, the broad social impact of “total war,” many of the different theaters of war both in Europe and around the world, and the shattering effect the war had on the fundamental geo-political order that had dominated Europe and the world for a hundred years.

Jared Day, PhD, 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.

## ONLINE COURSE



### STORIES OF BALTIMORE: Challenges of the 20th Century

Jack Burkert

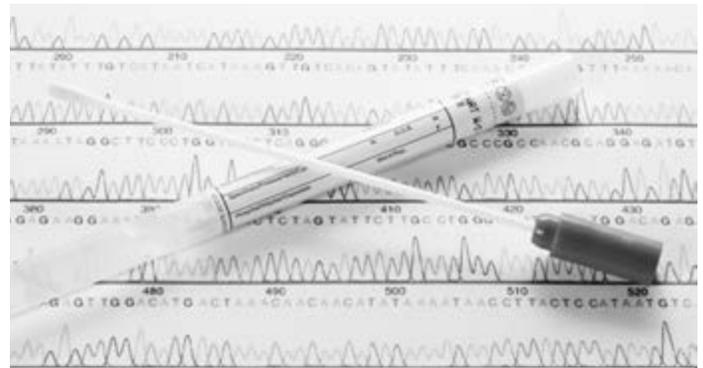
#### Session I

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

**Fee: \$65**

A fun and fact filled survey of the city, its citizens, businesses, lifestyles and events impacting 20th century Baltimoreans. We start our survey with the year 1910, and from that point we examine the pre-World War I period. We then direct our focus to three ensuing time periods: the excitement of the Roaring Twenties, the patriotic spirit of the 1940s, and the rapidly evolving prosperous 1950s. It's not just about business, industry, and jobs: it's also the stories of the people, the world around them, the changes they saw, the things they did, and how they and the city they lived in grew over time.

Jack Burkert is a Baltimore native with an interest in all things Baltimore. He has presented many educational programs that inform and entertain both adults and young people. An honors graduate of the University of Maryland, Jack's primary work life was as an educator with the Baltimore City School system, the Pennsylvania State University, private employers in Washington and New York City and his own consulting firm.



### HISTORY OF PATERNITY TESTING

Robert Wenk

#### Session I and II

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

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

Prior to the DNA era, genetic tests could exonerate falsely accused men or demonstrate probable fatherhood in most paternity disputes, but courts were slow to accept genetic evidence. Nowadays, widespread human relationship testing improves legal decisions about parentage or other kinships. Historically, the need for child support generated laws of bastardy that were later transferred to the common law in England. American colonies copied European laws and many remain in-effect. However, after the sexual revolution of the mid-twentieth century, neither the old legal remedies nor the combination of charity and taxes proved sufficient to address the problem of child support. New civil rights laws and paternity testing were necessary to provide a just solution. Learn how paternity testing is performed and how test results are reported as probabilities.

Robert Wenk, M.D. is a retired physician who specialized in laboratory medicine and obtained an M.S. in human genetics as well. Over four decades, he has written scientific papers about his experience with genetic testing of alleged blood relatives and written an introductory textbook, "Relationship Testing 1.0." He recently chaired the Accreditation Committee of the AABB, the nonprofit agency that sets standards for U.S. laboratories that evaluate relationships using genetic tests.

Thank you for being part of the Osher community!



### **CATHEDRALS OF CONSUMERISM: History of America's Department Stores**

Barbara Blumberg

#### **Session II**

**Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. (begins October 19)**

**Fee: \$65**

This course will examine the birth of American department stores, locally and nationally. We will learn how early peddlers, in the late 1860s, became princes of merchandise and created these spectacular cathedrals of consumerism. These men, and a few women, arrived on the American shores with very little in education, money and experience, and became giants in this field. Each store had a unique feature, such as an elevator or a lady's restroom that helped make it successful. How was so much accomplished when these men started with so little? From five-story standalone anchor stores to the suburbs and malls, department stores changed the lives of Victorian woman and ultimately the working women of the last half of the 20th century.

Barbara Blumberg earned a B.S from Towson University and spent three years teaching in Baltimore City Public 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.



### **MODERN LABOR HISTORY**

Bill Barry

#### **Sessions I and II**

**Thursday, 1:00 p.m. (begins September 16)**

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

In this course, we will trace the U.S. labor movement through the years of World War II and into the post-war Red Scare. We will discuss Operation Dixie and the general challenges of unionization in the south, up to the 2021 campaign to create an Amazon union in Bessemer, AL. There will be discussion about the changes in the work processes and ownership, and the impact of post-industrialism and anti-unionism on the movement and on working people in general. We will consider the dramatic political changes in the U.S. after 1945 and the impact on the union movement. There will also be an evaluation of the culture of the period—the movies and songs and a continual discussion of current events.

Bill Barry is the retired director of labor studies at the Community College of Baltimore County-Dundalk. He is the author of two books on Sparrows Point.