

Baldwin Wallace University
Institute for Learning in Retirement – East
2020 Fall Quarter Schedule

The Fall Term will begin on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, and run for six weeks, ending on Thursday, November 12, 2020. Note the virtual platform for each class. For information or a registration form contact us at ilreast@bw.edu or call 216-987-2985.

TUESDAYS, BEGINNING OCTOBER 6

Jerusalem-The Political History of a City

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Zoom

Presenter: Peter Haas, Ph.D.

Founded as a small hilltop village some 6000 years ago, Jerusalem entered history when it became the capital of David's biblical kingdom. Since then it has been at the center of Western religious imagination and struggles. This course looks at the settlement during its transformation into the Davidic capital and then traces its evolution during the Persian, Roman, Early Islamic and Ottoman periods. We culminate with a look at the city today as it embodies in many ways the Israel/Palestinian conflict.

Lincoln

12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Zoom

Presenter: Steven Schecter, M.A.

We continue our journey of the Presidents with Abraham Lincoln, Part One. For most historians, he is considered the best or second-best President in our history. Yet, he had only one year of schooling and lived his early life in poverty. We will look at the qualities Lincoln possessed allowing him to overcome these disadvantages and achieve success. We will closely examine his life before becoming President, and his surprise nomination at the 1860 Republican national convention in which he beat better known candidates. Then on to the White House and the Civil War.

The Women of Gettysburg

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Zoom

Presenter: Judi Slack, M.Ed.

The pivotal battle of Gettysburg did not take place in isolation; it had a devastating effect on the civilians who were swept up in the conflict. Overlooked and under recorded is the history, stories, and contributions of the women civilians of Gettysburg and the other women who came to help during and after the battle. These women endured heartbreaking hardships during the three days of the battle and for months following. So, join this session and meet the Women of Gettysburg and learn about the life altering impact the battle had on them.

WEDNESDAYS, BEGINNING OCTOBER 7

Art in Focus, Classics through the French Revolution: A Different Approach

9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Zoom

Presenter: Michael J. Kaplan, J.D.

Nothing is created in a vacuum. Paintings and Sculptures reflect the political and social circumstances of their time and tell much more than what's on the label -- WHY is much more interesting than WHEN or WHO. Like DNA markers, it provides critical context to understanding what we see. We'll share an eclectic journey through the history of Western art from the classics through the fall of the French Monarchy, stopping to explore as we find rocks worth turning. Leave the standard textbook at home and bring a curious mind as we go in search of "wondrous things."

Empire: The American Experience (Part II)

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Zoom

Presenter: Karl-Heinz Bernhardt, CAPT, USN (Ret.)

Following a short recap of Part I, we will briefly discuss how the military uses war games to develop war plans. Next we will discuss the topic of "conspiracy theory." This includes a psychiatrist's analysis of the American conspiratorial mind, a history of "conspiracy theory" in America from George Washington to the present, how "conspiracy theory" became a pejorative term, and its use today. "Conspiracy theory" has influenced American history. It is a fascinating, timely topic that completes this series of Empire: The American Experience. Extra copies of Part I slide decks available upon request.

Agatha Christie at the Movies, Part 2.

12:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. YouTube (instructions provided) Presenter: Bill Rafalski

By popular request, this course will discuss and watch six movies based on Christie stories. In the first two films, Margaret Rutherford stars as Miss Marple in "Murder She Said" and "Murder Most Foul." The third and fourth movies will feature the married detectives Tommy & Tuppence Beresford as they mix marriage and mystery solving in "The Crackler" and "The Case of the Missing Lady." The course concludes with two movies with David Suchet as Poirot in "Five Little Pigs" and "One Two Buckle My Shoe."

Cosmology: From the Big Bang to Eternity?

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Zoom

Presenter: Stephen Thompson, B.S.

Virtually everything we know about the universe, its evolution and its potential futures, was discovered within our lifetimes. Take an amazing tour of how matter originated at all, then organized itself into stars, galaxies, our 98 elements, and ultimately, us. Discover what this dark matter and energy is all about. Plato suggested that, "Man is the measure of all things," so we'll also examine how Earth materialized into this very unlikely, very special place we call home, how we became its current, dominant species, and our chances for long-term survival

THURSDAYS, BEGINNING OCTOBER 8

Where Will We Get the Energy?

9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Zoom

Presenter: James Marder, Ph.D.

The importance of having sufficient energy and the consequences of using energy wastefully are of long-term importance. The establishment of new sources to replace those likely to be exhausted will remain a problem for at least the remainder of this century. The intent of this course is to review the current situation regarding fuels that currently power our civilization and the prospects for new sources of power. We will cover technology, natural resource availability, and potential adverse effects of traditional as well as novel energy sources.

A Novel Approach to Art in Focus: Nineteenth and Twentieth Century

9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Zoom

Presenter: Michael J. Kaplan, J.D.

Nothing is created in a vacuum. Paintings and sculptures reflect the political and social circumstances of their time and tell much more than what's on the label—WHY is much more interesting than WHEN or WHO. Like DNA markers, it provides critical context to understanding what we see. We will ramble through 'Modern' movements of the 20th century, stopping to explore as we find rocks worth turning. Leave the standard textbook at home and bring a curious mind as we go in search of "wondrous things."

Curtain Up: The American Musical Theater

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Zoom

Presenter: Roy Berko, Ph.D.

One of Cleveland's leading theatre critics, using facts, stories, videos and anecdotes, will take students on a journey from THE BLACK CROOK, the first American musical, to HAMILTON and other present-day productions. Topics include: how examining the musical plays of an era allows for an understanding of that era, the formats of musicals, and the roles of the writers, lyricists, composers, producers, directors and performers of America's major contribution to the theatre lexicon.

Musical Theatre: Ancient Thebes and a Modern Cleopatra

2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Zoom

Presenter: Michael L Blauner, Ph.D.

The opera will be Giuseppe Verdi's magnificent "Aida". The production and cast date from 2018-2019 opening night. Anna Netrebko shows her acting and vocal abilities to fine effect. Her colleagues are equally adept at their roles. Dominating the proceedings is the staging and the use of the magical facilities of the Metropolitan Opera. The opera will be supplemented by a Viennese style operetta, "The Pearls of Cleopatra". Oscar Strauss wrote some memorable music for the spoof of ancient Egypt. The opening number is the most surprising and entertaining I have seen in a lifetime of theatre going. The humor and musicality is maintained throughout this piece. The director is the now-famous Barrie Kosky.