Renaissance Institute
FALL 2020
Life Long Learning

NOTRE DAME
OF MARYLAND
UNIVERSITY
EXPLORE. DREAM. DISCOVER.

Trying something new can take you to places you’ve never investigated. Pursue your painting or photography passion. Join a writing workshop. View a film and share impressions.

Keeping the minds, bodies, and spirits of adults age 50+ flexible since 1989, the Renaissance Institute is a lifelong learning community housed on the main campus of Notre Dame of Maryland University.

Renaissance Institute offers two semesters of noncredit courses, designed and led by the members themselves. As a member, you may take as many classes as you wish from our varied catalog of offerings and, when ready, share your acquired knowledge by teaching courses on subjects you are passionate about. Course topics have included literature, public affairs, philosophy, history, music, art, languages, tai chi, film, science, computers, yoga, acting, and more.

We also offer member-sponsored activities and travel opportunities. Past trips have included Costa Rica, the Canadian Maritimes, the Grand Tetons, and the Southwest U.S.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Take as many courses as you like each registered semester
- Audit one Notre Dame of Maryland University course for $185
- Access the Notre Dame library, computer lab, dining hall and fitness center
- Receive a Notre Dame ID card that can be used for student discounts
- Apply for an Amazon Prime Student account through your Notre Dame student email account. See Amazon.com for details
- Enjoy free on-campus parking when NDMU reopens

COST: Membership for Fall Semester 2020: $200

DATES AND TIMES: As stated in this catalog. All Fall 2020 classes will be by remote delivery via Zoom

MORE INFORMATION: sbigley1@ndm.edu
1.) BALTIMORE CITY ISSUES 2020  
September 8 – October 13  6 weeks  
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.  
Instructors: Joe Nathanson and Larry Kamanitz  
Continuing the series started in Spring 2020, we will hear from local leaders in such fields as public health, higher education, arts and culture, community development, parks/recreation and transportation.  
Joe Nathanson, with degrees in architecture and city planning, worked at the Baltimore Metropolitan Council and later his private consulting firm.  
Larry Kamanitz is a retired CPA and a lifelong activist. His civic involvement has included Greater Homewood Corporation, Jewish Museum of Maryland and committees of the Baltimore Development Corporation.

2.) JANE AUSTEN’S MANSFIELD PARK  
September 8 – October 13  6 weeks  
9:30 – 10:45 a.m.  
Instructors: Betty Loafmann and Ellen Goodman  
One of Jane Austen’s lesser-known books, it tells the story of three sisters who married into three different classes and lived three different lives but with one disposition. Most importantly it follows the life of Fanny Price, who must find her way in a world so different from her early life with the help of an aunt who never fails to tell her she does not deserve her good fortune.  
Betty Loafmann has been a “Janite” for the past 13 years and has taught the RI class on Austen’s Persuasion along with a variety of other classes on history, theology and politics.  
Ellen Goodman previously taught a course for RI on Louise Penny. Ellen is an avid reader of mysteries and other literature.

3.) HEARING LOSS: THE GOOD, THE BAD  
September 8 – October 13  6 weeks  
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.  
Instructors: Linda Webb and Margaret Widner-Kolberg  
This course will discuss different aspects of hearing loss. Topics will include how we hear, types of hearing loss, technology available to aid communication, and self-help techniques in coping with hearing loss. PowerPoint slide presentations and demonstrations of communication technology will be followed by an interactive period for questions and answers.  
Linda Webb, MA, MCRP, worked with senior programs and MD DHCD in housing finance.  
Margaret Widner-Kolberg, BSN, MA is a nurse who is also a Certified Hearing Loss Specialist with nearly 40 years’ experience. Both lost their hearing later in life and have worn hearing aids and are now cochlear patients and have fun with self-help strategies for hearing loss.
4.) SURREALISM
September 8 – October 13  6 weeks
9:30 – 10:45 a.m.
Instructor: Joseph Paul Cassar, Ph.D

Sigmund Freud’s publication in 1900 On the Interpretation of Dreams regarded dreams as the serious business of our lives. The Surrealist movement develops in the early 1920s with an art of disquiet, sabotaging the existing order of things, relating theories of psychology to the idea of creativity and the production of art. The dream became equivalent to imagination itself. This course explores the origins of surrealism, its widespread influence and the art of some of its most prominent members such as Max Ernst, Jean Arp, Joan Miro, Andre Masson, Rene Magritte, Alberto Giacometti, Salvador Dali and others. The course is in the form of a PowerPoint presentation rich in images that invite questions and discussion.

Joseph Paul Cassar, Ph.D. is an artist, scholar, curator and educator. He lectures in art history and appreciation and teaches studio art: drawing, painting and sculpture. He lectures at the Smithsonian Institution, Johns Hopkins, Towson University and is currently designing online art courses for The New York Times Knowledge Network and the University of Maryland University College with a focus on Art History and Graphic Design.

5.) THE NEW WOMAN: AND THE DECADE THAT MADE WOMEN ROAR!
October 20 – December 8  7 weeks
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Instructor: Donna Bertling

In the Roaring Twenties, many women rejected traditional female roles and cut loose in every aspect of life; from fashion, fads and flappers to the Harlem Renaissance; from science, sports and medicine to organized crime; from the workplace to the arts. Meet “The New Woman” of the 1920’s in a PowerPoint presentation.

Donna Bertling holds a B.A. in English from Loyola University Maryland and has taught many courses at Renaissance.

6.) ARTISTS OF THE FRENCH RIVIERA
October 20 – December 8  7 weeks
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Instructor: Joseph Paul Cassar, Ph.D.

This course is about how the French Riviera attracted many artists to live and work in the South of France. Artists to be studied are Matisse, Leger, Picasso, Bonnard, Dufy, Renoir, Chagall, Hartung among others. These artists came because of the light and the beautiful weather. This course will show how this environment inspired artists and their work.

See Course No. 4 for instructor’s Bio.
7.) GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES FOR AN EDUCATED MIND
October 20 – December 8    7 weeks
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Instructor: Sr. Mary Fitzgerald

This course prepares participants for responding thoughtfully in an increasingly interdependent world to make decisions contributing to the common good. We will use the book, The Coddling of the American Mind by Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt. It is available in paperback from Amazon.com in both new and used format.

Sister Mary Fitzgerald received a B.A. from NDMU, a M.A. and Th.D. from La Salle University, and a M.Ed. from Loyola Maryland University. She had a long teaching career before assuming her position in 2007 as Coordinator of the Administration & Supervision Practicum in the School of Education at Notre Dame of Maryland. Her duties at Notre Dame include: teaching courses in Leadership, Global Perspectives in Education; coordinating the international internship program; and serving on the University Global Solidarity Committee. Interests include appreciating music and art, reading, and swimming.

8.) MEMORY PICTURES/WRITERS’ WORKSHOP
September 8 – December 8    13 weeks
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Instructor: Elizabeth Fanto

Writers will write on self-selected topics in and out of class; respond to mini-lessons on fiction, non-fiction and poetry models; share their efforts in response groups; and revise works as they choose. Beginning writers are welcome.

Elizabeth Fanto is a graduate of TSU, with a B.S. in Education and a Master’s in English. She taught high school English and Creative Writing in BCPS and was the sponsor of Dulaney’s Sequel literary/art magazine for 6 years. She has taught writing classes every year for 20 years at RI. She is editor of Reflections magazine.

9.) QIGONG
September 8 – December 8    13 weeks
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Instructor: Pamela Tanton

Qigong is a Chinese moving meditation and internal healing art. It stimulates energy flow in the body, triggers a relaxation response with deep breathing and repetitive movements, improves balance through the constant shifting of weight, and enhances one’s sense of well-being and overall health. In this class, we will learn several forms from the qigong system called Sheng Zhen, which means “Unconditional Love.”

Pamela Tanton started studying qigong in 2002 with Master Li Junfeng, founder of the Sheng Zhen system. She attended teacher training seminars and later was certified as a teacher with Master Li. Pamela has taught for many years in the Baltimore area and teaches at several local assisted living centers. She enjoys the movements and has a light-hearted touch.
TUESDAY CLASSES

10.) MEDITATION
September 8 – December 8    13 weeks
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Instructor: Linda McGill

Discover the power of a peaceful mind. This course will help you bring gentle and loving attention to the present moment. When you meditate, you are cleansing your subconscious mind – the storehouse of your life experiences, and your reactions to them – so that your natural happiness and radiance can shine more brightly.

Linda McGill is a certified 500-hour yoga teacher and has been teaching yoga and meditation for the past 3 years at a senior center, community center and Johns Hopkins University.

11.) MORE ART TALKS
September 8 – October 13    6 weeks
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Instructor: Terry Weisser

This illustrated lecture course, taught by several speakers, will explore the many roles curators and conservators play to bring art to the public, to enhance our historical and technical understanding of art, and to preserve cultural heritage. Subjects will focus on the “back stories” about art, i.e. information and discoveries you will not find on a museum label. Questions and discussion encouraged. Speakers will include museum directors, art historians and preservation and technical art specialists.

Terry Weisser was Director of Conservation and Technical Research at the Walters Art Museum for 41 years. Graduating from Swarthmore College and the Institute of Archaeology in London, she continues to teach, lecture and publish, as well as advise on preservation of cultural heritage in Iraq.

12.) ORGANIZE AND DOWNSIZE
September 8 – October 13    6 weeks
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Instructor: Vivian Appel and Cindy Bernstein

Tips, tricks and strategies to help participants downsize, declutter and organize any space in the home. Topics will include resources for unwanted items, paper management, photo organization and mindset management.

Cindy Bernstein is a professional organizer and owner of Aim 4 Order. She has taught downsizing and organizing at RI and CCBC. She appears on WBAL as guest organizer and has been featured in numerous local publications. Vivian Appel downsized and organized two years ago and moved to Baltimore.

13.) MISUNDERSTOOD II: EXPLORING SHAKESPEAREAN VILLAINS
September 8 – October 13    6 weeks
11:00 – 12:15
Instructor: Sharon Harwood

Combining lecture/PPT, readings and class discussion, explore another example of Shakespearean villainy as seen in an iconic Shakespearean play and through the lens of a contemporary historical fiction novelist. Who is misunderstanding whom? Or, what? Participants will need to purchase a Folger’s edition of the play and a copy of the novel, Gertrude and Claudius by John Updike.

Sharon Harwood is a life-long English major and 10+ year member of RI who enjoys pursuing new perspectives in the written and visual arts.

Note: This course is limited to those who registered for this course for the spring semester 2020.
14.) MASS APPEAL: THE RISE OF THE MOVIES, RADIO AND TELEVISION

September 8 – October 13   6 weeks
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Instructor: Edward Berkowitz

Mass Appeal will examine the changing world of American popular culture from the first sound movies to the age of television. It will feature a lecture and discussion format, with students encouraged to watch the shows that are discussed on their own outside of class.

Edward Berkowitz has taught at Renaissance since fall, 2018. He is professor emeritus at George Washington University and the author of Mass Appeal on which the course is based.

15.) VIRGINIA AND LEONARD

October 20 – December 8   7 weeks
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Instructor: Dorian Borsella

The course has as its focus the well known Virginia and Leonard Woolf of Bloomsbury, with emphasis on their lives, their times, their friends, and the unusual psycho-dynamics of relationships. Lecture, discussion, and film will be used in attempts to know this couple up close and personal.

Dorian Borsella has taught a variety of courses at R.I. She has a Master of Liberal Arts. She has familiarized herself with the writings and lives of both Virginia and Leonard Woolf and their friends.

16.) MORE TED TALKS

October 20 – December 8   7 weeks
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Instructor: Nancy St. Pierre

TED Talks are a collection of videos by some of the world’s most inspired thinkers. We will watch some current videos and discuss each.

Nancy St. Pierre is a retired IT Specialist who enjoys quilting, exploring spirituality and volunteering at Renaissance.

17.) MAKING SENSE OF REVELATION

October 20 – December 8   7 weeks
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Instructor: Don Burggraf

Many have puzzled over the last book of the Christian New Testament, with its vivid imagery, with numbers having special meanings, and with its catastrophic tone. This course will explore how such apocalyptic literature once played an urgent role for Jews and Christians, and the role it continues to play in culture.

Don Burggraf, a retired Lutheran Pastor, has taught RI courses in Bird Watching, and the Dead Sea Scrolls.
18.) THE NEW YORKER ROUNDTABLE
September 8 – December 8 13 weeks
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Instructor: Brian Young

Each week, 4-5 articles are assigned from a current issue of The New Yorker magazine. The selections will include current events, profiles, book and movie reviews, fiction and poetry. The class is a moderated discussion of these works encompassing content, writing style, and the author's points of view. A diversity of views is encouraged. Participants need to acquire the magazine by subscription, library or online.

Brian Young is retired from the aerospace industry with a background in engineering and program management. He has developed an interest in The New Yorker since his retirement.

19.) STILL LIFE DRAWING
September 8 – December 8 13 weeks
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Instructor: Alina Kurbiel

The workshop explores the fundamentals of drawing through observational skills. Students will become familiar with graphite, charcoal and ink pen drawing techniques. Using still life setups, students will develop their understanding of line, shape, proportion, value, and composition. This course is designed for students of all levels who wish to enhance their ability to draw.

Alina Kurbiel was born in Silesia, Poland. She mainly works in watercolors, ink and graphite pencils. She is a children's book illustrator. Her favorite subjects are animals and landscapes. Also she is a passionate art instructor at various places in Baltimore. She is a signature member of Baltimore Watercolor Society. To see Alina's beautiful artwork go to facebook.com/AlinaKurbielArt/

20.) YOGA SOMATICS
September 8 – December 8 13 weeks
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Instructor: Linda McGill

Somatics is a type of yoga class that creates a new freedom of movement. It works on strengthening the posture, core, and helping the body feel stronger, and better aligned using simple movements, breath and relaxation. Other benefits include relieving neuromuscular pain, regaining voluntary control of habitually tight muscles, improving coordination, balance, flexibility, while increasing self-awareness and mindfulness. Bring a yoga mat and a blanket.

See Course No. 10 for Instructor's Bio.

21.) BETTE DAVIS AND HOLLYWOOD’S GOLDEN AGE
September 8 – October 13 6 weeks
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Instructors: Joann Bruni and Amanda Joyce

This course will use films starring Bette Davis to show how movies reflected and influenced popular culture during the time period known as Hollywood's Golden Age. Preceding each movie will be brief lecture and discussion covering topics such as the studio system, censorship pros and cons, labor issues in the film industry, and changing images and ideals for women.

Joann Bruni and Amanda Joyce have been cinema lovers for many years and are especially focused on Hollywood's Golden Age.
22.) WATERCOLOR

September 8 – December 8  13 weeks
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Instructor: Alina Kurbiel

This program is for artists who tried watercolor painting before and for those who are new to this medium. We will use simple wet-on-wet, wet-on-dry and dry-on-dry techniques. We will also learn how to paint using negative painting techniques to build up layers of color and create stunning abstract watercolor art. We will draw from photographs and also from observation of still life setups. The ability to draw from observation is important in this course.

See Course No. 19 for Instructor’s Bio.

23.) POETRY WORKSHOP

September 8 – December 8  13 weeks
1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Instructor: Susan Marshall

In this course members will meet weekly to share and gently critique each other’s poetry in a welcoming and supportive atmosphere.

Susan Marshall earned her undergraduate degree in English in 1988. She returned to earn a Master’s Degree in Liberal Arts in 1994.

CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED by instructor request.

24.) NIA MOVEMENT

September 8 – December 8  13 weeks
1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Instructor: Amy Taliaferro

Music, movement and magic. That’s what NIA is all about. Weaving Dance Arts, Martial Arts, and Healing Arts into a blend comprised of 52 moves and endless possibilities for expression, NIA promises variety, joy for the spirit, and a great workout that YOU direct, based on your own body’s way. If you want greater strength, agility, stability and flexibility, NIA is the class for you!

Amy Taliaferro has been working as a bodyworker since 1993 providing massage, craniosacral therapy and helping people build resilience through movement and somatic experiencing trauma work. Her NIA classes are fun, creative, and a great workout.
25.) ENHANCING YOUR LIFE WITH HERBS
September 10 – October 15  6 weeks
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Instructor: Mikell Worley
Herbs have been used throughout history to protect, destroy, predict, inspire, cure and season. Join us for a potpourri of herbal history, symbolism, legend and lore. The course features herbs for romance, holiday herbs, astrological herbs, herbs for healing, herbs in history, literature, and a finale featuring herbal recipes and sharing. Lecture featuring original herbal illustrations.

Mikell Worley has spent a lifetime collecting herbal legends and lore. She studied with Adelma Simmons from Capriland and Bertha Reppert from the Rosemary House. She has delivered speeches and workshops to universities, youth groups, garden centers, art councils, and church groups.

26.) PLAY READING
September 10 – October 15  6 weeks
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Instructor: Judy Floam
We will assign parts and take turns reading play scripts. The first play will be A Doll House - suggestions welcomed for others. You will be asked to find library copies or purchase inexpensive copies from on-line sources if available. Maximum: 25

Judy Floam has coordinated and co-coordinated play reading classes at RI.

27.) JANE AUSTEN’S MANSFIELD PARK
September 10 – October 15  6 weeks
9:30 – 10:45 a.m.
Instructors: Betty Loafmann and Ellen Goodman
This is the second time option for taking this course. See Course No. 2 for Description and Instructors’ Bios.

28.) TWILIGHT OF VIENNA, THE FINAL YEARS OF THE HABSBURG EMPIRE, PART I
October 22 – December 10  7 weeks
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Instructors: Warren and Christine Bentley
This two-part course will explore the sociological, political and cultural history of the Habsburg Empire as experienced in the capital city of Vienna from the beginning of the 19th century through the final years of the Empire. The final class in the second part of the course will also examine Vienna during the interwar years of the 1920’s. The course will be conducted through the use of lecture, film and discussion. Part II will be held in the Spring Semester 2021.

Christine Bentley holds a Master of Social Work from the University of Maryland. She is a lover of history and the arts and has traveled to Vienna numerous times. Christine has taught classes at Osher and CCBC.

Warren Bentley holds a MBA from Loyola University of Maryland. He is very interested in history and science and is also a student of military history. Warren has traveled to Vienna numerous times.
29.) MEDICARE – ALPHABET SOUP!
October 22 – December 10  7 weeks 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

*Instructor: Regina Curran*

There are four Parts of Medicare (A, B, C, and D). Medigap policies supplement Medicare coverage for beneficiaries who have Part A and/or Part B. There are 8 types of Medigap policies currently written (A, B, D, G, K, L, M, N). This will be a lecture course which will attempt to explain how all these letters interact.

Regina Curran has been actively involved with “senior public policy issues” for over 20 years. Professionally, she was a program analyst for the Social Security Administration and then a geriatric care manager. These diverse careers led to a specialization in Medicare issues.

30.) THE CULTURE OF AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE
October 22 – December 10  7 weeks 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

*Instructor: Renuka Purimetla*

Discover the fun of learning sign language and using your hands to communicate with deaf and hard of hearing people. Introduction to basic phrases and pronunciation. This short class is for those who have no previous experience to get started with the language. Features include homework for out-of-class study that corresponds to classroom lessons. A topic index allows students to find specific parts of their homework that include key vocabulary and grammar. Culture notes and bios of amazing deaf people increase students’ understanding of the Deaf World.

A Chicago native, Renuka Purimetla, landed in the Baltimore-area studying Sign Language Interpreting. She finds joy in teaching sign language to eager students and she feels great satisfaction in knowing that class provides opportunities to learn and grow together.

31.) AND THE EARTH MOVED (A SURVEY OF GEOLOGY TODAY)
October 22 – December 10  7 weeks 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.

*Instructor: Janet Currotto*

Although most of us were taught in school that the earth is a pretty static planet, the truth is that much has been learned about it in our lifetimes that presents a much more dynamic picture. This course will provide a foundational understanding of the science of geology, focusing on major theories and discoveries and the forces that continue to “move the earth.” (Lecture and discussion)

Janet Currotto spent her entire career as a Federal Financial IT developer/manager, after receiving a B.S. in Mathematics at UMD. Upon retirement, she earned an M.S. in Educational Studies at JHU, focusing on mathematics learning and the use of IT in education.

32.) OPEN STUDIO FOR PROSE WRITERS
September 10 – December 10  13 weeks 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

*Instructor: Donna Bertling*

This is a prose writing class for serious writers who want in-depth feedback. Students are encouraged to bring their short stories, memoirs or book chapters in progress or completed. Class size is limited to allow ample time for reading and critique.

See Course No. 5 for Instructor’s Bio.
33.) CURRENT ISSUES IN SCIENCE THAT ARE CHANGING OUR WORLD
September 10 – December 10   13 weeks
9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
Instructor: Don Finkelstein

The course is designed to analyze and evaluate current events, issues and ideas in science in order to improve the quality and accuracy of what is happening in the world around us. Current topics including climate change, artificial intelligence, overpopulation and the coronavirus, as well as other relevant issues, will be presented in documents, discussions and news articles.

Don Finkelstein was a Baltimore County Middle/High School teacher for 22 years implementing the State Common Core Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards as well as School Chairman of Green School Committee and school wide STEM program. He has a BA in Biology and MA in Education from UMBC.

34.) SPANISH 101
September 10 – December 10   13 weeks
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Instructor: April Knupp

This course is intended for students with little or no knowledge of the Spanish language. Students will develop communicative skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) and understanding of Hispanic cultures through discussion, videos, conversation, and grammar explanation.

Dr. April Knupp has been a Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish at Goucher College. She received her PhD in Spanish from Arizona State University in 2018 and her MA in Spanish Language, Literatures, and Cultures from St. Louis University, Madrid campus.

35.) “GOD MADE ME THIS WAY” + OLIVER SACKS-TYPE ODDITIES
September 10 – October 15   6 weeks
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Instructor: Dorian Borsella

I wish to share, in 6 loosely-connected classes, a smorgasbord of oddities related to genetics and neuro-psyche: genetics for absolute beginners; the phenomenon of sleep; hemophilia in Queen Victoria’s family; coloring of cats; bats. What determines your sex – XX, XY, XYY, XO. Curious syndromes: Capgras, Williams, Klinefelter, fragile X. Class members are welcome to add to list (Lecture, discussion visuals)

Dorian Borsella has long taught courses at RI. She has no formal academic background in this topic. She has attended seminars and has a passionate interest in this material.

36.) CHOCOLATE EYAWTKBWATA
September 10 – October 15   6 weeks
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Instructor: Betty Evans

Chocolate – loved, hated, bitter, sweet, once thought to be poison, drink of Aztec Kings. We’ll talk about its history and have a look at its uses all over the world. I’ll share some recipes, too.

Betty Evans thinks 63 years’ practice is an OK qualification.
37.) FABRICS OF SOCIETIES
September 10 – October 15  6 weeks
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Instructor: Betsy Cumming

A look at the way textiles function in various societies including the Inca, Native American (Navajo and Hopi), West Africa and others. There will be some discussion of techniques and materials. Course format will be primarily slides and discussion.

Betsy Cumming worked for nine years as a curatorial assistant at the BMA in the arts of Africa, Pacific Islands and the Americas. She and her husband have collected textiles for several years.

38.) THE CHINA TRADE AND THE NEW WORLD
October 22 – December 10  7 weeks
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Instructor: John Danz

These lectures include the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries’ global trade and consumerism. How did the China Trade influence the development of economics, decorative arts, architecture, and trade, and what was the impact? What part did the China Trade play in the American Revolution? How did our new nation participate in the China Trade, and what was the impact on the United States’ consumer tastes and economy? Where can we find and visit these influences today?

John Danz holds a BS in History & Political Science from VA Tech. John has lectured frequently on a wide range of subjects in American & Maryland history within several adult education programs in the Baltimore area.

39.) UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS REVISITED
October 22 – December 10  7 weeks
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Instructor: Peggy Egan

Come share the ups and downs of the Bellamy family in early 20th century London. Similar to Downton Abbey but without the glitz, the Bellamys and their servants reflect the mores of the upper middle class and those who “know their place.” After each episode of this award winning television drama, the class will discuss the plot and characterization and how they reflect the culture, history and British attitudes of the era.

Peggy Egan is a self-described Anglophile with family connections to early 20th century England. She has a B.A. in British Literature from the University of Toronto and an M.A. in Liberal Studies from College of Notre Dame of Maryland.

40.) HOW DO WE KNOW?
October 22 – December 10  7 weeks
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Instructor: Bruce Washington

A discussion of the nature of knowledge, the difference between what we think and what we know, beliefs and how we obtain them, uncertainty and unconscious inference. We will relate all of these to the scientific method and how, if we wish to be rational, we should form and defend our beliefs. We will talk too about “fake news,” “alternative facts” and how they can influence our democracy.

Bruce Washington has always been interested in ideas, how they develop and become part of culture. He has a BS in Math/Physics and a MA in Philosophy. He loves teaching but admits that teaching by remote is new to him and will be a challenge.
41.) WEATHERLAND: WRITERS AND ARTISTS UNDER ENGLISH SKIES
October 22 – December 10    7 weeks
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Instructor: Marianna Russell

Based on the book by Alexandra Harris, this course will explore diverse ways writers and artists have interpreted the beauty, challenges, and phenomena of English weather. Beginning in the Anglo-Saxon era, we will travel through 1200 years of cultural history—from Beowulf to Virginia Woolf. Join us on a vicarious journey as we skate on the frozen Thames; hike with Coleridge and Wordsworth by the sea and by the lake; and contemplate clouds and sunsets through the eyes of Constable and Turner.

Marianna Russell graduated from Notre Dame’s Continuing Education Program with a B.A. in English, going on to earn an M.A. in Liberal Studies. She has an abiding interest in English Literature, served as a docent at the Folger Shakespeare Library, and has taught courses in Shakespeare and Virginia Woolf at RI.

42.) VIEWS OF THE NEWS
September 10 – December 10    13 weeks
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Instructor: Hollis Jackson

Team Participants are invited to share opinions, concerns and critiques of current items in newspapers, books and other media.

Hollis Jackson, LCSW-C, was a social worker for over 40 years. She has an MSW from the University of Maryland. She also has an MS in Education from the University of Miami.

43.) SHORT STORY MASTERPIECES
September 10 – December 10    13 weeks
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Instructor: Elizabeth Fanto

The course offers a balance between well-known “classics” and works by new contemporary voices from the United States and abroad. Due to the need to duplicate materials, the class is limited to 25 to allow for optimal informal discussions by members. New stories are taught each semester. There will be a $15 fee for printing the stories.

See Course No. 8 for Instructor’s Bio.

44.) SPANISH 102
September 10 – December 10    13 weeks
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Instructor: April Knupp

This course is intended for students with some understanding of the Spanish language. It is a continued development of the four basic language skills—listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing—within the context of Hispanic cultures through discussion, videos, conversation, and grammar explanation.

See Course No. 34 for Instructor’s Bio.
45.) BEGINNING FRENCH - CONTINUATION OF BEGINNING FRENCH

September 10 – December 10   13 weeks
1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Instructor: Peggy Beauvois

This continuing beginning French course developed for adults focuses on the language one needs to function in interactions with French people. It is not travel French, nor is it school, grammar-based French. The method is composed of an on-going, light-hearted video story about a young Parisian, Mireille, and an American student, Robert who meet in Paris and explore the city together. From this encounter, the young American (and by extension the French class), is introduced to French humor & sarcasm, to family life in Paris, to the beauties of the City of Lights, to “la cuisine française” at home and in restaurants, and in general, to essential contemporary French life and culture. Participants in the course learn French vocabulary and grammar within the context of the video lesson. French will be spoken extensively in class to ensure maximum student contact with the language and to encourage fluency.

Dr. Peggy Beauvois has had a long career in teaching French from elementary to graduate school. She especially enjoys teaching adult courses where students really want to learn and have fun doing so. The method used in this class, designed for adult learners, is one she thinks will work very well for her fellow Renaissance Institute students! As for her background in French: Peggy is a dual-national (French/American) with a B.A. and M.A. in French and a Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics (Foreign Language Education), and over a 50-year career teaching languages (a career she began when a very young child — a baby really!)

46.) INTRODUCTION TO BALLET

September 10 – December 10   13 weeks
1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Instructor: Susan Sklar

This course is designed to use the techniques of classical ballet for the purpose of improving strength, flexibility, coordination, posture, range of motion and balance. Tap into your creative spirit, cultivate musicality and experience the joy of movement! Wear comfortable clothes (sweats or leggings okay) and ballet slippers.

Susan Sklar received her training at various local studios, Goucher, and the University of Maryland. She has performed in productions of Giselle, Swan Lake, La Bayadere and The Nutcracker. She has been dancing all of her life and loves sharing her passion with a “new generation” of dancers.

Absolute beginners welcome.

Class limited to 16.

Note: Registration priority will be given first to students from previous classes.
THE MYTHOPOEIC APPROACH: USES OF MYTH AND MYTH-MAKING IN THE MAGIC MOUNTAIN AND OTHER GREAT LITERATURE

September 10 – December 10 13 weeks
1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Instructor: Dorothy Pula Strohecker

We will read in English translation Thomas Mann’s celebrated novel and masterpiece The Magic Mountain, first published in German in 1924. As time permits, we will also address all or portions of Franz Kafka’s The Castle, Sigrid Undset’s Kristin Lavransdatter, and/ or Milan Kundera’s The Unbearable Lightness of Being. In our discussions, we will apply the “mythopoeic approach” to literary analysis, based on concepts derived from Sir James Frazer’s The Golden Bough and subsequent work of Joseph Campbell. The instructor will supply some guiding discussion questions about function, structure, etc. weekly prior to class.

Dr. Dorothy Pula Strohecker, is an alumna of Notre Dame, an RI literature instructor for over 20 years, lecturer, literary expert, and active international Joseph Conrad scholar (on whom she did her PhD at U of MD). Robert Poor acts as course administrator.

Assignment for First Class:

Please read the first chapter, “Arrival”, of The Magic Mountain. (Please do not read the Foreword until you have finished the book.) Questions to guide your reading prior to the first videoconference class meeting will be provided.

Note: Potential registrants must contact Robert Poor (see Membership Directory for contact information) for information on translations, sources and pricing of the required books, as preparation is expected prior to the course start.

ART COLLABORATIVE

September 10 – December 10 13 weeks
2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Instructors: Josef Nathanson and Paula Murphy

This is an opportunity for all artists of any experience level who wish to work at their own pace in their preferred medium. There is no formal instruction - only camaraderie. For this semester only we will meet via Zoom to share a piece or two of our work completed, or not quite, in the previous week. Participants comment, question, encourage, and offer valuable suggestions. It’s lively and friendly, with frequently shared new concepts and ideas for other online resources. It’s an attempt to allow us to keep working at home and know that our colleagues will meet with us every week.

Josef Nathanson was able to take oil painting classes in his high school years, courtesy of the School District of Philadelphia. Watercolor is an entirely new medium, which he took up a few years ago. He finds the support and critiques by others in Art Collaborative to be very rewarding. Paula Murphy is a retired math teacher and emergency nurse. She has a lifelong interest in drawing and watercolor painting. After a long hiatus she renewed her friendship with both media, mostly due to the opportunities presented at RI.