

COLLEGIUM CLASS SCHEDULE

FALL 2024

All classes will meet in person at the Knollwood Center

Tuition is \$225 per day (either Wednesday or Friday) with a one-time semester registration fee of \$10.50

Select one class per time slot

WEDNESDAYS

October 16, 23, 30 November 6, 13, 20
(makeup date December 4)

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Religious Buildings Around the World

Leader: Michael Molinelli, architect of churches, schools, health-care facilities, and distinctive residences in Westchester County and around the country

We will explore the commonality of buildings of transcendence regardless of religion, century built, or location—from the Temple of Karnak in Egypt to the Notre Dame in France, and from the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona to Temple Beth El in Chappaqua. Each week we will watch pertinent, brief Architecture Codex videos. They will help provide insight and be a springboard for spirited discussion and reaction.

J. Edgar Hoover: “The man who stayed too long”

Leader: Charles Farrell, Collegium board member, former high school administrator and social studies teacher, contractor/builder, lifelong history buff; and Jim Burnett, JD, LL.M, Collegium board member, retired FBI Agent, and criminal justice professor

The remarkable story of the most powerful unelected person of 20th Century America. Hoover began his career as an advocate for progressive expert-driven government and ended as an avenging social conservative. To understand who we are, we need to understand Hoover’s rise and reign. This class will explore the path taken and discuss the people and events that influenced him during his 44 years as director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Suggested reading: *G-MAN J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century* by Beverly Gage.

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Coffee, Cookies, and Conversation

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Aristotle-Timeless Teacher, Philosopher, and Scientist

Leader: Dwight Goodyear, *PhD, SUNY Westchester Community College professor of philosophy, SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, WCC Foundation Award for Scholarship*

We will look at Aristotle, the greatest pupil of Plato, tutor to Alexander the Great, and according to Dante, “master of those who know.” We will begin with Aristotle’s views on what nature is, how it works and then move on to his account of human nature, discussing how virtue, friendship, family, art, and politics help humans to flourish and reach happiness. Finally, we will look at Aristotle’s metaphysics and discuss his vision of God. By the conclusion of class, we will have a better appreciation of the beauty of Aristotle’s systematic mind and how it applies to contemporary problems in science, morality, politics, religion, and more.

Surviving Being Black While Blue

Leaders: Derek Wright, *retired 1st Grade NYPD Detective* and **Jim Burnett**, *JD, LL.M, Collegium board member, retired FBI Agent, and criminal justice professor*

If you enjoy learning about the complexities of the lives of everyday people unfamiliar to your own, *Surviving Being Black While Blue* will take you on a thought-provoking journey illustrated by two retired law enforcement officers. This course will illustrate not only the essentials of remaining safe and sane as cops during the turbulent 80s but will delve deeper into why being a black officer during those years was much more intricate. Secrets will be revealed, and personal stories shared during this candid and lively class. *The Black and The Blue* by Matthew Horace and Ron Harris will be used for reference.

12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch: Bring your own or purchase at the Student Center

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Short Story

Leader: Christine Bobkoff, *retired senior adjunct professor of English at Westchester Community College, Chappaqua Library book group*

According to the award-winning novelist Lorrie Moore: “A short story is a love affair; a novel is a marriage.” If you prefer to flirt rather than to commit, join us by reading a sampling of short stories from *The O’Henry Prize Stories of 2015*. Then, prepare yourself for a lively discussion.

The variety of voices and styles in this anthology of award-winning authors ventures far from entertaining and predictable storytelling. You will encounter intriguing characters in crisis, unfamiliar times, places, and narrators who leave us to ponder the meaning of it all. You may not love everything you read but then again first dates don't always work out. A flirtatious encounter with an unfamiliar author could very well lead you to a lasting relationship!

School Days or School Daze?

Leader: David Greene, *spent over 60 years in public schools as a student, teacher, teacher trainer, and consultant. Since finally “graduating” high school in 2008, he has written and spoken extensively about teaching, public schools, and the public policies affecting them*

Do you ever wonder about what happened to public schools since you went to school? What are all those Acronyms? NCLB? RTTT? CCSS? What, or why, are charter schools? Where have all the teachers gone and why? There have been significant changes to education policy for the past 40 years that have taken away what we once loved about public schools, especially in urban areas. This course will give you a fuller understanding about the evolution of public education hopefully answering those questions and ending in asking what good education should look like (especially at the secondary level), and what is in the future for public education.

FRIDAYS

October 18, 25, November 1, 8, 15, 22
(makeup date December 6)

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

The Transforming Wisdom of Buddhism

Leaders: Fernando Camacho, MD, oncologist and Maeve Eng-Wong, psychotherapist, *are both fully ordained Buddhist priests and teachers in the Dharma Teacher Order*

Are you interested in bringing more peace and happiness into your life? For millennia the philosophical teachings of Buddhism have provided ways for individuals to enhance their spiritual paths and allow peace and happiness to flourish. This course will aim to enrich our lives by introducing the ideas and practices of this Eastern tradition. We'll learn how the wisdom of Buddhism can help us recognize and transform both our personal and collective suffering, fears, anger, and other obstacles that impair our quality of life. We'll become acquainted with new ways of approaching and managing life's challenges including ways to navigate the current divisive worldly conflicts. In order to transform the world, we must first transform ourselves.

The Supreme Court and Elections: Hanging Chads to Hanging Pence

Leader: James Rose, JD, former chief of Appeals Section, Westchester District Attorney's Office; former president of The Legal Aid Society, Westchester County

This course will survey US Supreme Court cases involving the right to vote and the interactions between the states, the federal government, and the courts when voting rights are concerned. The topics covered will include the history of the right to vote, the secret ballot, party primaries, gerrymandering, redistricting and unfaithful electors. Court decisions including the “One Person One Vote” case, The Voting Rights Act, Bush v. Gore and the Electoral College, Trump v. Colorado, and Moore v. Harper will be included. Those interested in more class details are invited to visit the class blog www.collegiumvotingclass.blogspot.com

Nothin' But the Blues

Leader: Michael Shamosh, amateur blues musician and historian of American popular music

This class was previously offered in Fall 2018. “The Devil’s music” or one of America’s great art forms? Decide for yourself as we examine the blues from its Southern beginnings and follow it through the decades to see how the music adapted to changing times. Using audio and film, we’ll experience the great early practitioners including Robert Johnson, Son House, Leroy Carr, Blind Lemon Jefferson, Ma Rainey, and others. Digging deeper into the depths of America’s musical soul, we’ll move on to the blues shouters, guitar heroes, harmonica players, and modern urban electric blues men and women. The joint will be jumpin’ and you won’t be required to sell your soul to be a part of it all.

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Coffee, Cookies, and Conversation

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

History of Opera, Part Two

Leader: Susan Grunthal, a lifelong operagoer in the great houses from Covent Garden in her native England to the Met in New York City, instructor and lecturer in all things opera

Bravo! Brava! Bravi tutti! In last Spring’s semester we learned about the beginning of opera starting with Monteverdi in the 17th century and traveling all the way to the three kings of bel canto—Rossini, Donizetti and Bellini—in the 19th century. This semester the History of Opera Part Two will concentrate on the glorious music of Verdi, Wagner, and Puccini. The class will continue with operas from the 20th and 21st centuries as well as operettas and Broadway musicals. *Vieni e divertiti!* (You can enjoy this session without having attended Part One.)

A la Carte

Leaders: **Sue Brownie**, *Collegium member, retired medical physicist, and native plant enthusiast*; and **Jim Burnett**, *JD, LL.M., Collegium board member, retired FBI Agent, and criminal justice professor*

A la Carte is back this Fall with interesting and exciting weekly topics to ignite your curiosity.

- We open our semester on October 18th with **Tim Judge**, adjunct professor in Environmental Studies. He will explain *the 'Birds and the Bees,'* how they orient and navigate.
- October 25th, **Minda Chipurnoi**, branding and adjunct instructor and former graphic design and production director for several top NYC design agencies, will explore the science behind effective branding.
- November 1st, *Picture this!* **Jane Roos**, professor emerita, author and lecturer on art history, will teach us how to look and decode paintings.
- November 8th, **Ellen Williams**, museum educator at the Katonah Museum of Art will present *Imagining Heaven: A survey on the immense variety of images about the afterlife from around the world.*
- November 15th, **Rick Leibert**, a history buff par excellence, will share his historical knowledge about Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela and the downfall of apartheid Africa.
- Finally, on November 22nd, **Joseph Forte**, emeritus professor of art history, will give us the historical background behind *Preachers, Pyres & Pants: the censoring, banning, and destroying of paintings from 1300 to 1600.*

Israel's Kings and Prophets

Leader: **Michael Malina**, *LLB, retired attorney, author of a commentary on the book of Genesis, student of theological texts*

This class was offered on Zoom in winter 2021. The Hebrew Bible reports that, following a hectic period of intermittent wars waged by so-called judges, the Israelites settled on a God-appointed king to head their government. What followed were the drama-filled reigns of Saul, David, and Solomon. After Solomon's death, the united nation fell apart when the ten northern tribes seceded and formed their own monarchy, known as Israel (with its capitol Samaria), leaving two tribes, known as Judah (with its capitol Jerusalem), in the south. God's concerns were reflected in the history of the kings of these tribes and delivered through God-appointed messengers known as prophets. We will examine these bigger-than-life characters to determine the balance between human politics and God-driven ethics. Our text will be any translation of the Hebrew Bible (for Christians the Old Testament).

12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch: Bring your own or purchase at the Student Center

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Seeing the Hudson

Leader: Scott Craven, *MS in American History, lecturer at the Ossining Teacher's Center focusing on the Hudson River Valley and co-author of the book, Croton Point Park: Westchester's Jewel on the Hudson.*

Viewed as the cradle of modern environmentalism, the Hudson River is the most significant river in modern history. In this series of “directed conversations,” we will look at several disparate topics pertaining to the river: lighthouses, wildlife, early people and European contact. We will discuss how the unique meeting of climate and geology created the possibility for our modern nation to develop and made New York the “Empire State.” Croton Point will be seen as a historical metaphor for the Hudson Valley, and we will explore how the river is a critical part of our modern infrastructure. We will talk about how Environmental History and Geographical Determinism pertain to our valley. Most importantly we will leave with a renewed appreciation for our own Hudson River. You won't just “look” at the river, you will start to “see” it.

This Is Your Brain

Leader: Milton Steinberg, *PhD, neuropsychology professor emeritus, interests include brain function, philosophy of mind, biological evolution, and cosmology.*

Are our visual experiences illusory? Can we devise a computer that has subjective experiences? What accounts for human consciousness? *Neuroscience* has answers to some of these questions and hints of answers toward others. We'll start with an overview of the brain and nervous system; explore the methods we use to determine brain function and discuss how neurons communicate so that we can better understand how drugs work. To help us understand whether it is possible to create sentient machines, we'll discuss the mechanisms by which the brain learns and stores memory while investigating whether our memories faithfully record real events. A description of the visual system will help us understand how well our senses reflect reality. The class will conclude by asking how the brain machine can create subjective experiences—consciousness.

For example... The Human Condition in Literature and Life

Leader: Andrew Bausili, *retired English teacher with 21 years of experience at the Bronx High School of Science*

Last semester this lively discussion class considered some of the Big Questions in life: The problem of evil, fate vs. free will, reason vs. emotion, and others. In this class, we will examine some of the universal issues, challenges, and questions that human beings face through the lens of various characters in literature, the real world, and film. Some of the core aspects of humanity that we will explore (along with corollary issues) include, but are not limited to: evil, the value of life, redemption, dehumanization, and truth. Expect some verbal fireworks and some fun!