

FALL 2019
CLASS SCHEDULE



WEDNESDAYS

October 16, 23, 30 • November 6, 13, 20

FRIDAYS

October 18, 25 • November 1, 8, 15, 22

WEDNESDAYS

October 16, 23, 30 • November 6, 13, 20

All classes will be held in the Knollwood Center.

..... 9:25 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

A la Carte

Leaders: **Don Levin**, *Collegium member, retired principal at a public relations firm,* and **Michael Arum**, *Collegium member, retired advertising executive*

It's another semester of delightful presenters offering a menu of weekly topics for our consumption. Rick Leibert, a respected Collegium faculty member, will guide us through **Teddy Roosevelt: His Early Years**, his family background and accomplishments prior to his rise to the national stage, as well as his relevance to our present time. Victor Mazmanian, PhD, retired associate professor at the U.S. Air Force Academy, will speak to the intellectually curious and/or those who avoided college physics. **Smallest to Largest in the Universe** will feature matter, space, and time in the cosmos. Dr. Mahjabeen Hassan, a plastic surgeon and co-founder of the Center for Jewish-Christian-Muslim Understanding and the American Muslim Women's Association, will offer **comparisons of the three religions** and discuss **women in Islam**. **Does Ethics Need God?** promises to be a spirited discussion of ethics and morals led by Rabbi Howard Goldsmith, spiritual leader of Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester in Rye, NY. Jennifer Morrissy, a retired art teacher, will share her passion for **Jyotish, a form of Indian Vedic astrology**, explaining how it provides valuable clues to understanding our life's journey. Stephen Sherman, an eclectic Collegium presenter, will explain **mid-20th-century Brutalist architecture**, including the raw concrete buildings of Le Corbusier's Unité d'Habitation in Marseille and the Barbican Estate in London.

A History of the World in Six Buildings

Leader: **Michael Molinelli**, *AIA NCARB LEED ap, architect of churches, schools, health-care facilities, and residences; cartoonist, inventor, author, and lecturer*

In this course we will take a look at Western architecture through detailed analyses of six iconic buildings: the Temple of Karnak in Luxor, Egypt; the Roman Colosseum; Notre Dame de Paris; Villa Capra (aka Villa Rotonda) by Andrea Palladio; New York City's Grand Central Terminal; and Fallingwater by Frank Lloyd Wright. We will explore who built them, why they built them, and how they built them. Each building will stand on its own as a symbol of its civilization embodying the political, economic, religious, and aesthetic philosophy of its age.

Julius Caesar: *The Evil That Men Do*

Leader: Janet Matthews, *Fulbright Scholar, former English teacher and department chair, Bilateral U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce TEACH Fellowship, New York State English Council Fellow*

Shakespeare's tragedy *Julius Caesar* is full of explosive situations. Amid psychic omens, anxious wives, and deceptive charades, Shakespeare juxtaposes a clash between blind arrogance and political manipulation. Caesar is open to interpretation and leaves the reader wondering who the real tragic character is: Caesar, Brutus, or the people left behind. We'll begin by examining how Shakespeare, the storyteller, crafts the power of rhetoric using the world as his stage. What unfolds is the role of rituals, gender identity, and the escalation of "character assassination." In our discussions, readings, and viewings we will explore how the weapon of words can create moral and political turmoil, making us question whether the conspirators are patriotic defenders or criminals. Participants will receive electronic copies of *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar* downloaded from Open Source Shakespeare.

Madness, Malfeasance, and Mayhem

Leaders: Selena Barron, *retired manager, Westchester County Department of Social Services, and Tony Barron, JD, attorney, and professor*

Do you enjoy sharing your opinions? Or are you anxious about how best to present your views on controversial topics? With so much going on in the world today, it's satisfying to be able to put together cogent arguments supporting your beliefs. This course will provide a congenial environment within which to weigh all sides of a debate, hone your speaking skills, and express your opinions clearly. Our lively discussions will focus on the most current issues in the news and may include anything from immigration to terrorism, health care, drug policy, Supreme Court cases, corporate or government malfeasance, the constant controversy surrounding our current administration, and more.

..... 10:40 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Coffee, Cookies, and Conversation

Philosophies of Evil

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

Unfortunately, our world includes people and actions that we often feel compelled to describe as evil rather than simply as bad. But what is evil? Are there different types of evil? Where does evil come from? How can we deal with it? And if God exists, why is there evil at all—or why so much of it? These questions and many others will be answered with the help of a set of philosophical accounts of evil. Along the way we will connect evil to modern culture, politics, psychology, the arts, and science. The course will draw from *A Philosophy of Evil* by Lars Svendsen (Dalkey Archive Press, 2001), a readable but not a required text.

Khrushchev to Putin: The Demise of the USSR and the Rise of the Russian Federation (1953–2019)

Leader: **Richard Rose**, *PhD, Collegium board member and retired professor*

This course will focus on the forces that resulted in the downfall of the USSR. We will analyze the changing role of Soviet dictators since Stalin and the fluctuating role of the Communist Party. Then we'll compare life in Russia before and after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. The global impact of the Russian Federation will be discussed along with its relationship with Eastern Europe and the “stans” of Asia. Lastly, we will ponder the effectiveness of totalitarianism as a political strategy for the future. This is the concluding semester of the Evolution of the Russian Nation series. Participation in the previous courses is not required.

Short Stories: Unexpected Pleasures

Leaders: **Greta Cohan**, *Collegium member, Westchester Community College professor emerita of English, and former Carol S. Russett Chair for English*, and **Christine Bobkoff**, *Collegium member, Westchester Community College senior adjunct professor of English, Chappaqua Library book group leader*

Some people rarely read short stories, preferring to immerse themselves in weightier novels, biographies, or perhaps serious nonfiction. But they're missing the treat of reading laser-focused tales, often with tightly woven themes, meant to be ingested in one gulp. The joy of these short stories

is that while we include some of the masters of the genre—Edith Wharton or William Trevor—we also introduce lesser-known authors whose stories can spark equally fascinating discussions. And there are most definitely discussions rather than lectures. Differing opinions, far from being silenced, are greeted with open arms. Class members will be notified of assigned readings before the first session.

Conversations about Money and Finance

Leader: Michael Shamosh, *consultant to brokerage firms, senior strategist at several investment companies, manager of a hedge fund and a mutual fund; degrees in business and physics; Collegium course leader for American music courses*

Money—we earn it, we save it, we spend it! If, as the song says, money “makes the world go ’round,” let’s talk about it. We’ll begin with the financial system and how it operates, particularly through the lens of current events. We’ll examine the various financial instruments available to us (bonds, loans, certificates). Along the way we’ll look at the history of manias, panics, and crashes and discuss their causes. We’ll consider the current state of financial markets and end with a conversation about how the media often misstates what is happening. If the best things in life were free, we would never watch CNBC.

..... 12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch: Bring your own or order a box lunch in advance.

..... 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

The Beginning of the Modern Age: The 16th Century in Western Europe, Part I

Leader: Robert Hajdu, *PhD in history, retired attorney and author*

This course, previously offered on Fridays, fall 2017, is now being offered on Wednesdays. The course will use contemporary paintings and woodcuts, images of surviving artifacts, and modern maps as historical gateways to the dynamic 16th century. We will begin by discussing the political systems of Western European countries around 1500 CE. Next we will explore the establishment of Protestantism as a rival to the Roman Catholic Church. By the end of the semester, we will be familiar with the new attitudes and worldview that reveal the 16th century as the beginning of the Modern Age. In the spring and fall of 2020, Parts II and III will examine the emergence of capitalism, the events of the Age of Discovery, the Renaissance, and the 16th-century wars of religion.

Beyond Impressionism: van Gogh and Cézanne

Leader: Jane M. Roos, *PhD in art history, professor emerita, author and lecturer on Impressionist painters and art history.*

This course brings us into the later part of the 19th century to explore works by Vincent van Gogh and Paul Cézanne. Very different in their painterly approach, each artist worked from Impressionism and moved in a highly personalized direction. Van Gogh, whose works are more viewer friendly, used heightened visual effects to infuse his paintings with intense movement and emotion. Meditative and cerebral, Cézanne created visually subtle works that questioned the essential principles of painting and hovered between representation and abstraction. And yet, as will be seen, van Gogh's paintings are more thoughtful, Cézanne's paintings more accessible, than they might seem at first glance. Suggested, but not required reading: *The Letters of Vincent van Gogh*, Penguin, 1997, paperback.

Utopian and Dystopian Thought in Western Imagination

Leader: Yoel (Joel) Magid, *PhD in English literature, professor, writer, and lecturer on literature and politics*

Buckle your seatbelts...for an animated, interdisciplinary journey through intellectual history via western literature and thought. Visit Calypso's island, the Garden of Eden, Plato's *Republic*, medieval monasteries, utopian and dystopian islands in Moore's *Utopia* and Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*. Explore real and imaginary 19th-century communes, the horrors of 20th- and 21st-century dystopias, and Yuval Harari's futuristic vision of artificial intelligence replacing *homo sapiens*. We'll discuss the imaginative discoveries of new worlds, the impact of seaborne explorers, and the new visions inspired by telescopes and microscopes. We'll touch on time travel, drugs, sex, food, women's lib, music, Frankenstein, and even zombies. All challenged the human imagination to dream and suffer nightmares of different social orders and the limits of rationality.

The "Race-Film" Era in America, 1915-1950

Leader: Joseph Sgammato, *adjunct faculty, department of English and department of Film, Westchester Community College*

From the birth of the film industry in 1895 until well into the 20th century, hundreds of short films depicted blacks as watermelon-loving, chicken-thieving stereotypes inherited from the minstrel shows of the 19th century. African American leaders protested in vain. Then D.W. Griffith made the three-hour racist juggernaut, *The Birth of a Nation* (1915), which portrayed blacks in a truly vicious way. The resulting outrage led to something

positive—independently produced “race-films”—with all-black casts (including Paul Robeson, Lena Horne, and Dorothy Dandridge) marketed exclusively to black audiences. This course will attempt to bring alive this fascinating, often forgotten chapter of film history.

FRIDAYS

October 18, 25 • November 1, 8, 15, 22

All classes will be held in the Knollwood Center unless otherwise noted.

..... 9:25 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Keeping Current on Business, Finance, and Economics

Leader: Jerry Moskowitz, *Collegium member, former president of a financial index company, Inside Market Data Hall of Fame inductee*

Intersecting political events and financial news have never been more important or informative. Together we will navigate the complexity of this information and broaden our perspective on key issues such as U.S. tax policy, Federal Reserve monetary actions, trade issues, and equity and bond market reactions to current affairs. Each week, an Economic and Financial Dashboard containing current and historical equity, bond, commodity, currency, and economic data will be distributed to guide our discussions. In addition, we will explore relevant financial news stories and topics.

A Grand Tour of European Capitals

Leader: John F. M. Flynn, *PhD in British history, Westchester Community College Abeles Professor of European Studies, vice president and dean emeritus of Academic Affairs*

London, Paris, Rome, Berlin, Vienna, and Amsterdam—these capitals are often in the news and definitely a part of any European itinerary. The foundation of a visit to any of these European cities is an understanding of its history, so we’ll begin our tour with a brief overview of the historical background of each locale. We’ll connect our insights to that city’s accessible highlights, each of which has its own narrative. For participants who have not yet visited these cities, every session will provide a context for planning a future visit; for veteran travelers, it should offer an opportunity to share favorite insights with other class members.

Great Decisions Discussion Group

Leader: Elaine Weiss, PhD in history, tolerance facilitator, history teacher, and curriculum developer

A similar version of this course was offered on Wednesdays, spring 2019. The Great Decisions program of the Foreign Policy Association (FPA), America’s largest world affairs discussion program, promotes fact-based discussion and critical thinking. Using the FPA 2019 Briefing Book and DVD, our class will start by exploring the worldwide crises of refugees and global migration and then look at the modern problems of cyber conflict, geopolitics, and U.S. trade with China. After we’ve dealt with those issues, we will turn to regional disorder in the Middle East, the rise of populism in Europe, and relations between the U.S. and Mexico. Members can purchase the 2019 Great Decisions Briefing Book online (www.fpa.org) or at the WCC bookstore.

James Joyce’s Ulysses

Leader: Stephen Sherman, retired banker, self-taught student of ancient Greek, avid student of literature

Are you afraid of James Joyce? Did you avoid *Ulysses* in college, or start it once only to give up on page 38? Fear not! We’re going to tackle this intimidating work systematically and discover how accessible it really is. We’ll begin by looking at the whole structure of the novel to identify what Joyce was doing chapter by chapter. Next, we’ll go through the early chapters carefully, examining Joyce’s techniques and allusions. Finally, we’ll dig into some of the more challenging chapters (“Proteus,” “Circe,” “Penelope”). Students should obtain a copy of *Ulysses* in the Gabler edition (Vintage Books, 1986).

..... 10:40 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Coffee, Cookies, and Conversation

..... 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

The Supreme Court: Six Cases That Molded 21st-Century America

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

Supreme Court decisions change America for better or for worse. We will examine six such cases including their precedents and progeny. Throughout the semester, we’ll listen to the arguments, examine the final decisions,

and discuss the reasoning and logic that resulted in these particular determinations. The specific cases under consideration involve the First, Second, and Fourth Amendments and will be announced at the beginning of the fall semester.

Transformation to Modern Geography: Adventure, Observation, and Perceptive Travel

Leader: *Tim Alexander, geographer, marine scientist, and specialist in satellite telecommunications and imaging for NOAA, NASA, and commercial GIS applications*

For nearly a millennium, thinking about physical geography was informed by philosophy, religion, military strategy, and trade concerns. Beginning in the mid-18th century, the research and discoveries of three extraordinarily curious and adventurous men—Alexander von Humboldt, James Cook, and Charles Darwin—transformed geography into a scientific discipline focused on the interrelationships between/among plants, animals, topography, and geologic time. We will discuss how their findings contributed to the evolution of modern-day biogeography, evolutionary theory, and ecology and how this altered perspective might enhance our own future travel and adventures.

Jewish and Christian Interpretations of Biblical Texts

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

This course, previously offered on Wednesdays, fall 2014, is now being offered on Fridays. The rabbinic sages of the second and third centuries CE, the authors of the New Testament, and the early church fathers revered the Hebrew scriptures (for Christians, the Old Testament) as divinely inspired. However, they had very different takes on what the scriptural words meant. We shall examine some essential features of rabbinic Judaism and classic Christianity, such as the Passover/Easter celebrations and the concept of a Messiah or Christ, in an effort to delineate similarities and differences in two of the three major monotheistic religions. Bring a Bible to class, preferably one with both the Hebrew scriptures and the New Testament.

What’s Behind the Breaking News?

Leader: Jay Forbes, *retired business publisher and retail consultant, moderator of executive forums, facilitator of political discussion groups, self-confessed “political junkie”*

Interested in a friendly exchange of ideas about current events? Curious to know how seemingly isolated events and actions are related to larger issues? Then this class is for you: it will provide a deeper understanding of the ways political, economic, and cultural forces are contributing to the gradual decline of democracy, the growth of autocratic populist governments, the widening class divide, and the emergence of tribalism. We’ll discuss the effects of income inequality, economic and educational deprivation, artificial intelligence, racism, and anti-Semitism. We’ll look at the impact of conventional and social media on these issues, and compare national and international trends. Come share your views in a setting where all viewpoints and insights are welcome.

..... 12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch: Bring your own or order a box lunch in advance.

..... 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Positive Psychology: A New Approach

Leader: Michael S. Hackett, *PhD, Westchester Community College professor of psychology, Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching*

Is optimism always beneficial? Which emotions influence us more—positive or negative? We will examine the relatively new field of positive psychology that goes beyond decreasing maladaptive behavior to emphasize optimal development. We’ll also discuss what factors promote happiness and consider how to become more optimistic thinkers who cultivate gratitude. Then we’ll move on to explore the view that positive emotions are not just the opposite of negative emotions, and, finally, we will learn how to apply positive psychology to our relationships, work or retirement, and health.

The Maghreb: A Crash Course on North Africa

Leader: George Keteku, *PhD in political science, Westchester Community College instructor in political science, and adjunct professor at SUNY Purchase*

This course, previously offered on Wednesdays, spring 2019, is now being offered on Fridays. The idea of studying Africa as a single monolithic unit has gone out of favor in recent decades, replaced by a focus on specific peoples, states, or regions. This course on the Maghreb

(which could be the start of a series) takes a close look at the region usually defined as much or most of northern Africa. Thanks to a long history of maritime travel linking it to its Mediterranean neighbors in Europe and western Asia, this region ultimately became a rich melting pot of peoples, goods, and ideas. We will explore the ancient commercial ties, expanding empires, and religious affiliations that linked this region with not only its neighbors to the north but also with its neighbors to the south, sub-Saharan Africa.

..... 1:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. (or later)

In the Library Media Theater

An Ang Lee Retrospective

Leader: Bill Costanzo, PhD, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of English and film at Westchester Community College, author of six books

Ang Lee, one of the world’s most versatile movie talents, has tackled everything from comedies of manners to martial arts fantasy. Born in Taiwan, he has spent most of his adult life in the U.S., making his home in Westchester County. After focusing on generational conflicts in his early films, Lee branched out, going as far afield as 18th-century England (*Sense and Sensibility*, 1995), 1970s suburban Connecticut (*The Ice Storm*, 1997), ancient China (*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, 2000), a Wyoming ranch (*Brokeback Mountain*, 2005), and a lifeboat on the Pacific (*Life of Pi*, 2012), bringing a deeply humanistic wisdom to everything he explores. We will screen five films from this Academy Award-winning filmmaker, devoting one session to an in-depth analysis of what makes his work so compelling.

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for Lifelong Learning at
Westchester Community College

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COLLEGIUM for Lifelong Learning is a membership organization created in 2004 to combine serious study and social exchange. Each COLLEGIUM semester features an array of courses in the arts and sciences, led by exceptional volunteers with expertise in the subjects they teach. Participants are encouraged to engage in classroom as well as informal discussion. COLLEGIUM, planned and powered by volunteers, is grateful to the administration of Westchester Community College for the generous use of its facilities and the support of its staff.

The Collegium office is located in the Knollwood Center on the
Westchester Community College, Valhalla Campus.
Phone: 914-606-6748 • Fax: 914-606-6526
Website: www.sunywcc.edu/collegium
Email: collegium@sunywcc.edu

REGISTRATION DATES

Please use the Planning Table on p. 2 of this brochure to assist yourself in preparing to register. It is important to recognize that some classes fill up quickly and close due to limited room capacity. Graciously registering for alternative classes embodies the true spirit of Collegium and reflects the hallmarks of our program: being with peers who enjoy learning, finding an unexpected treasure in a class, and engaging in stimulating discourse.

- **Members** who attended Collegium in fall 2018 or winter or spring 2019 are eligible to register online starting at 9:00 a.m., **Wednesday, September 11**, from their home computer, another computer, or computers in the Westchester Community College Computer Lab. If you want to register with assistance in the Westchester Community College Computer Lab, located in the **Gateway Center**, remember to schedule an appointment beforehand by calling the **Collegium office**.
- **Members** who attended Collegium in fall 2018 or winter or spring 2019, **but did not register online**, may register in person in the Knollwood Center (where classes are held) or by calling the **Collegium office** starting at 9:00 a.m., **Thursday, September 12**.
- **If you are new to Collegium or a former member** who did not attend in fall 2018 or winter or spring 2019, you may register in person in the Knollwood Center or by calling the **Collegium office** starting at 9:00 a.m., **Friday, September 13**. Enrollment will continue until classes fill.
- The membership fee for fall 2019 is \$200. There are also one-time fees per semester: a \$4.75 student service fee (FSA) and a nonrefundable \$5 registration fee. Should you need to cancel your registration, and providing you do so at least two business days before the start of fall classes, you will receive a full refund less the \$5 nonrefundable registration fee. MasterCard, Visa, Discover cards, and personal checks are accepted.

A letter confirming your class assignments will be mailed by October 2, 2019.

PLEASE NOTE: Collegium has limited capacity. Our goal is to give all current members an opportunity to attend at least one Collegium day—Wednesday or Friday. New members are welcome as openings occur.

If registering online, register for *either* Wednesday *or* Friday. If you wish to attend both days, you must first register for your preferred day and then call the **Collegium office** to have your name placed on a waiting list for the other day. Your name will be held until registration is complete, after which, if there is availability, you will be contacted so you can register for the second day.

If registering in person, you must first register for your preferred day and then ask the person helping you to put your name on the waiting list for the second day. The procedure noted above will be followed.

REGISTERING ONLINE

Members who attended Collegium in fall 2018 or winter or spring 2019 are encouraged to register online beginning 9 a.m. on Wednesday, September 11. Online registration affords the best chance to enroll in the classes of your choice. Please note: printed instructions for online registration entitled *CHEAT SHEET: ONLINE REGISTRATION TIPS IN A NUTSHELL* are enclosed. If you plan to register yourself on a home computer or other computer, please read this enclosure before beginning the registration process.

REMEMBER:

- **You can register by appointment in the Computer Lab in the Gateway Center.** The Lab will be open on September 11 with staff and volunteers available to assist you in registering online. The process takes about 15 minutes. Please call the **Collegium office** to schedule your appointment beforehand.
- **You will need your User ID and password to register yourself online or in the Computer Lab.** Please check to be sure you have them and that they work properly. Follow directions on the enclosed *Cheat Sheet*.
- **ALTHOUGH YOU CANNOT REGISTER BEFORE REGISTRATION OPENS at 9:00 a.m., September 11, LOGGING ON BEFORE THAT DATE to familiarize yourself with the website and the process will resolve any User ID or password problems BEFORE registration begins.** To log on, go to either www.sunywcc.edu/mywcc or <https://mywcc.sunywcc.edu>.
- Wednesday or Friday membership numbers (essential to begin the online registration process) and course numbers can be found on the Planning Table (p. 2) of this brochure.
- If you experience difficulty registering, call the **Collegium office** for assistance.

Collegium office: 914-606-6748