




This semester's offering includes virtual courses taught on Zoom, in-person courses at George Mason University's Mason Square, offsite courses at various locations around Arlington, and hybrid courses which will be simultaneously taught virtually and in-person.

-  Virtual classes are noted with the Zoom icon.
-  In-person classes are noted with the people icon.
-  Hybrid classes are noted with both icons.

Register online at: <https://encorelearning.asapconnected.com/#CourseIndex>

Fine Arts, Theater & Music

1041.42v French Color Revolution

Instructor: Tom Manteuffel
Monday 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM
10/16 - 11/6
4 Sessions
Location: Virtual
Maximum 50 participants

In the 19th century two significant artistic revolutions occurred, both largely in France. Prior to the development of the salons, artists created works on commission rather than through the current system of selling works through dealers or galleries. The other revolution concerned a fresh new eye for color due to a large array of commercially manufactured, never-before-available materials, such as paint in tubes and portable easels for painting outdoors. We will look at this second revolution and at French painting and painters in the 19th century, examining how they changed the art world forever and laid the basis for modern art. In addition, color itself will be examined in terms of what it is, and how it works on the eye and in the brain to create meaning.

Tom Manteuffel is a retired consultant in cybersecurity with a longtime interest in art. He has taught classes on the Renaissance in Florence as well as in Northern Europe, on Renaissance patrons, and on the history of the National Gallery of Art.

1042.42v Opera Lafayette: The Era of Madame de Maintenon

Instructor: Jace Chambers
Friday 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
10/6 - 10/27
4 Sessions
Location: Virtual
Maximum 40 participants

Opera Lafayette begins its season with "The Era of Madame de Maintenon," an intimate chamber concert focusing on the music of François Couperin. The wonderfully expressive and sophisticated music giant of the harpsichord would charm those fortunate enough to attend his concerts at Versailles and influence other giants of the baroque, like J.S. Bach. Join Opera Lafayette as guest scholars and artists lead

a series on the life and influence of Madame de Maintenon, the last mistress and secret wife of Louis XIV. Her life was characterized by private concerts of religious music and, after Louis died in 1715, by comedy and dance spectacle, a reaction to the dour mood of the king's final years. The influence of all three kinds of musical presentation would be felt for years to come.

This course will feature discussions with Opera Lafayette's scholars around the life and musical influence of Madame de Maintenon, especially in regard to composer François Couperin. There will be presentations and demonstrations performed by this season's artists as we look into the background of opera, exploring how music, song, and movement work together to make a cohesive performance. In our final week, class members may attend Opera Lafayette's chamber concert, "Couperin le Grand," featuring Christophe Rousset, on harpsichord. This performance will take place Wednesday, October 25, at the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater. Opera Lafayette will provide a code for discounted ticket prices the first week of class. The following Friday, we will discuss the concert, the aspects learned from our classes that appeared in the performance, and hold a Q&A to talk about opinions, feelings, and emotions that opera brings alive in the audience.

Jace Chambers joined Opera Lafayette in 2021, bringing a mixed background of perspectives and degrees in multiple disciplines, including a BS in psychology, with focused graduate work in experimental psychology and an MA in museum studies. Jace worked in areas including diversity, equity, accessibility, inclusion, educational programming and community engagement events. She combined all her passions to focus on various areas of interest relating to how the arts can promote better physical/mental well-being as well as social inclusion among all individuals and generations.

1043.42 Inside the Orchestra

Instructor: Scott Wood

Wednesday 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

11/1 - 12/6 (No class 11/8, 11/22)

4 Sessions

Location: Hybrid

Maximum 65 in-person/95 virtual participants

The symphony brings a rich history, tradition and architecture to music, which are best experienced by listening as if you are within the ensemble. Join us as we closely examine a known masterpiece and a new discovery each week. The music covered will include repertoire presented at a separate concert of the Arlington Philharmonic to which all class members will be cordially invited. As always, questions and comments will guide our work together.

A. Scott Wood is music director of the Arlington Philharmonic and the Amadeus Orchestra and teaches at the National Cathedral School and George Washington University. He has recently conducted the Israel Symphony Rishon LaZion, the Middleburg Film Festival Orchestra and the Wolf Trap Orchestra.

Health & Wellness

2007.42 Aging and the Brain

Instructor: Mike Stutts

Wednesday 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

10/4 - 11/15 (No class 10/25)

6 Sessions

Location: Mason

Maximum 42 participants

The brain is the most complex organ of the human body. Participants will learn what part of the brain does what and develop a better understanding of the brain's normal aging process, with particular attention to memory. We will also learn about cognitive changes that are normal with aging versus cognitive decline due to disease (e.g., mild cognitive impairment or Alzheimer's disease). Finally, we will examine behavioral and lifestyle practices that are likely to help preserve or enhance brain functioning.

Material presented will draw upon neuroscience research, clinical experience from the instructor's career as an academic clinical neuropsychologist, and the popular press and media, including suggested readings. Ideally, this course will blend didactic instruction and interactive exchange among and between the instructor and participants.

Recommended Reading: Better with Age: The Psychology of Successful Aging, Alan Castel; *Still Alice*, Lisa Genova (and/or the movie of the same title); *Keep Sharp: Build a Better Brain at Any Age*, Sanjay Gupta; *Remember: The Science of Memory and the Art of Forgetting*, Lisa Genova; *Successful Aging: A Neuroscientist Explores the Power and Potential of Our Lives*, Daniel Levitin; and *The Memory Bible: An Innovative Strategy for Keeping Your Brain Young*, Gary Small.

Michael Stutts earned a PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Louisville, followed by an internship at the University of Virginia School of Medicine and fellowship training in clinical neuropsychology at Virginia Commonwealth University/Medical College of Virginia. His patient care,

research and teaching at Eastern Virginia Medical School focused on clinical/geriatric neuropsychology and rehabilitation psychology. He retired from EVMS as professor emeritus in 2018 after a 33-year career. He has been a licensed clinical psychologist in Virginia since 1986.

2019.42 Shaping the Social Determinants of Aging Well

Instructor: Eric Derks

Tuesday 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

10/17 - 12/5 (No class 11/7, 11/21)

6 Sessions

Location: Mason

Maximum 20 participants

Good gardeners know that a healthy, beautiful garden arises from a myriad of underlying conditions. Likewise, aging well depends, in many ways, on a myriad of underlying social conditions and dynamics. These can range from, for example, societal perceptions about aging to the responsiveness of service providers to the changing needs of people as they age. While this course delves into the social determinants of aging well, it does so primarily to explore practical ways of shifting and shaping these determinants within our own communities and at a broader scale.

Drawing on key concepts from complexity science and change management, the course offers a hands-on, workshop experience addressing:

- Making sense of the social determinants of aging well in our surroundings
- Understanding the underlying conditions that give rise to these determinants
- Identifying opportunities to shift these underlying conditions
- Employing practical and feasible measures to shape the social determinants of aging well

Eric Derks is the founder of Riverain Collaborations, which specializes in helping people and groups be more intentional and effective at influencing outcomes in complex social systems. His experience stems from nearly 30 years in international development, designing and leading programs to change the way

market systems work, generally to make them more competitive and inclusive. He is also a skilled facilitator and trainer, having organized and led workshops for large organizations such as Oxfam America and CARE International.

History

3022.42 Walks with Charley

Instructor: Marty Suydam

Tuesday 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

10/3 - 10/31

5 Sessions

Location: Offsite

Maximum 40 participants

This course has everything — history, mystery, exercise and more! We will enjoy five walking tours covering Arlington Ridge history and mystery. All walks start and end at the same point, but different routes and locations are explored for each walk. Highlights and locations that are part of each walk are outlined below:

Walk 1: Arlington Ridge, Northwest, 2-mile circuit (general orientation of area, Hume School, Little Tea House, Fort Albany, Prospect Hill Manor, JEB Stuart homes, Pentagon Ridge condos, Sears)

Walk 2: Arlington Ridge, Southeast, 2-mile circuit (street naming/renaming, Oakridge Elementary School, Tudors of Arlington, summer rentals offices, “Ty Bryn” and Haley Park, Garfield Estates, Fort Scott, Luna Park)

Walk 3: Arlington Ridge, Southwest, 2-mile circuit (Arlington Ridge Road, Gunston Middle School, Shirley Homes, Green Valley Manor and Fraser family history, ARNA Valley, Dolley Madison JHS, Four Mile Run, Long Branch and Luna Park)

Walk 4: Arlington Ridge, Northeast, 2-mile circuit (Addison House, Crystal City, Brick Yards, Sunnyside Farm, Jubal Early homes)

Walk 5: Army Navy Country Club, 2-mile circuit (Fraser Cemetery, Civil War Fort Richardson and Convalescent Hospital)

Join us in walking with Marty to explore this Arlington neighborhood and discover its history. We promise you will find some surprises along the way! This five-session course is based on the instructor's book *Walks with Charley: Sniffing Arlington Ridge History & Mystery*, 3rd edition, available for purchase at Hume School and from the Arlington Historical Society. While it will follow the general sequence of the book, new information is added continuously. This is the fourth time the course has been offered and each adventure has provided new information about the area.

Marty Suydam is a retired Army officer, government and corporate executive and professor. He has published articles in *The Arlington Historical Magazine* and has written several memoir books, including *Walks with Charley: Sniffing Arlington Ridge History & Mystery*, 3rd edition.

3057.42 Winston Churchill: World War II Decisions

Instructor: Alan Saltman

Wednesday 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

10/18 - 11/15

5 Sessions

Location: Mason

Maximum 35 participants

In his 2022 book, *No Peace with Hitler*, instructor Alan Saltman examined the circumstances surrounding Winston Churchill's May 10, 1940, appointment as prime minister and the factors that led to his early decision to fight against Germany rather than enter into peace negotiations. On that same day that King George VI asked Churchill to form a new government, Germany simultaneously invaded Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Luxembourg and France. The new prime minister's war cabinet, fearful of the impact of war,

wanted to negotiate with Adolf Hitler, but Churchill opted to fight.

In this course the instructor will discuss why Churchill made his fateful choice and will consider how World War II and the Holocaust could have been avoided. He will also review the curious way that Churchill finally became prime minister, and how and why ousted Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain came to provide critical support for Churchill's decision not to negotiate with Germany. Finally, we will examine how we should view Churchill in the 21st century, given recent assertions of racism.

Recommended Reading: No Peace with Hitler: Why Churchill Chose to Fight WWII Alone Rather than Negotiate with Germany, Alan Saltman.

Independent Reading: Churchill: Walking with Destiny, Andrew Roberts.

Alan Saltman, a retired corporate attorney and managing partner of the Washington, DC office of Smith, Curry & Hancock, is the author of *No Peace with Hitler*. He is writing a second book on how Churchill and Neville Chamberlain came together to save Britain and Western democracy. He is a graduate of the Boston College Law School, where he was also an adjunct professor.

3058.42v Great Cavalry Raids in the Civil War

Instructor: Robert Stone

Thursday 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

10/5 - 11/2

5 Sessions

Location: Virtual

Maximum 50 participants

The role of the cavalry at the beginning of the Civil War was very limited. Horsemen in each army were initially limited to patrolling and scouting, guarding supply trains and railroads, and providing escorts to generals. They were used in battle only as shock troops, a tactic that dated back to the Romans. The foot soldiers believed the cavalry were "dandies on horseback" who never saw much fighting and always had the easy life.

The role of the cavalry changed in mid-June 1862 when younger commanders like J.E.B. Stuart for the Confederates and John Buford for the Union became the strike arms of their larger armies. We will discuss the typical cavalryman and his horse – they cannot be separated – and follow the transition to combat roles.

We will then cover a number of famous, and not so famous, cavalry raids during the war, including J.E.B. Stuart's ride around George McClellan; Wade Hampton's Beefsteak Raid behind enemy lines; Benjamin Grierson's raid in Mississippi in support of Ulysses S. Grant's capture of Vicksburg; the largest cavalry battle on the North American continent at Brandy Station in Culpepper County, VA; and John Hunt Morgan's raid into Indiana and Ohio, just to name a few.

Note: This is a new course offering in the instructor's popular series on the Civil War.

Optional Field Trip: After the course, a field trip may be scheduled to Brandy Station if there is enough interest.

Robert Stone is a graduate of West Virginia University with a BS in education. He has studied the American Civil War for most of his life and shared his knowledge with numerous Civil War Roundtables and other interested groups. He is also a tour guide for most of the eastern battlefields.

3059.42v Crusades: Wars Among Christians and Muslims

Instructor: Thomas Wukitsch

Monday 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

10/2 - 12/11 (No class 10/9)

10 Sessions

Location: Virtual

Maximum 50 participants

The Crusades were initially advertised as Christian military expeditions to help the besieged remnants of the Byzantine Empire recover the Christian holy sites in the Middle East from Islam. The response to the call by Pope Urban II to take up arms was overwhelming; mostly undisciplined and poorly led mobs started to rumble toward Jerusalem. They arrived there in 1099 and took the city — but not before French and German crusader mobs paused at

Rhineland towns to loot and massacre Jewish communities. The Rhineland Massacres were just the first of many crusader atrocities over more than 300 years.

This course is subtitled "Wars among Christians and Muslims" because there were occasions when shifting alliances and Middle East politics put factions of both religious groups in opposing armies on both sides of the battle lines. The Fourth Crusade (1202-1204) culminated with the looting, capture and partial destruction of Christian Constantinople by Christian crusaders. At the end of the crusading period, Christians were crusading against dissident Christians in Spain and France, and Teutonic Knights were busy "Christianizing" the mostly Christian Baltic Sea. We will try to untangle the disputes and disputed terminology about the Crusades and to understand modern fringe propaganda about "crusading."

Tom Wukitsch's fascination with ancient things began before age five while reading his grandparents' files of *National Geographic* magazines. By age 12 he had learned about Latin, ancient Greek, ancient northern Semitic languages and Egyptian hieroglyphics. His degrees are in Semitic languages, archeology, archaeometry and international strategic intelligence. After retiring from the Foreign Service, he studied and taught in Rome and, since 2003, at Encore Learning.

3060.42 Historians' Christianity: The First 600 Years

Instructor: Dwight Rodgers

Friday 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

10/27 - 12/15 (No class 11/10, 11/24)

6 Sessions

Location: Mason

Maximum 35 participants

The history of the Christian movement during the first 600 years of its existence is complex and fascinating. This course will examine:

- The situation in Roman Palestine just before and during the beginning of the Common Era;

- The period of Jesus's ministry and the development of the earliest community of followers of "The Way";
- The development of the earliest written materials, including the letters of Paul and the canonical and non-canonical gospels;
- The variations in early Christianity including Gnostic groups, Marcionites, Docetists and the early differences between the Greek East and the Latin West;
- The Great Transformation of the 4th Century during which Christianity moves from a persecuted and illegal movement to the only sanctioned religious practice of the late Roman Empire; and
- Augustine, Justinian, iconoclasm and the Papacy of Gregory I at the beginning of the 7th Century, which traditionally marks the end of the classical period.

The course is titled "Historians' Christianity" because it will be taught from the point of view of scholars who use a critical approach to evidence. It is suitable for persons of any religious persuasion who would like to learn what can and cannot be said about the development of the Christian traditions from the Roman conquest of Palestine (63 BCE) to the beginning of the so-called the Dark Ages in Western Europe after the fall of the Western Roman Empire.

Dwight Rodgers has taught courses for Encore Learning on the history of Ireland, the secular history of Christianity, and the practice of mindfulness. He holds a BA in history from Amherst College and an MAT in teaching history from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

3061.42 History of the Third Reich

Instructor: Eric Gartman

Tuesday 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

10/17 - 12/5 (No class 11/7, 11/21)

6 Sessions

Location: Mason

Maximum 42 participants

From 1933 to 1945, Germany, the most advanced and successful country in Europe, was ruled by a murderous ideology known as National Socialism. The result was a world war and the deliberate destruction of millions of unarmed civilians. The Third Reich, also known as Nazi Germany, was in power for a brief 12-year period yet it radically changed our world. The Third Reich is primarily remembered for perpetrating the Holocaust and initiating World War II. These topics will be the focus of our class.

In addition, we will examine how and why fascism rose in Germany in the 1930s, how it differed from other similar movements in Europe, and what life was like under the Third Reich for ordinary people. We will explore if Nazism was a backward or forward-looking movement; if the Holocaust perpetrators were ordinary people or willing executioners; and if the Third Reich represented a radical break from German history or a continuation of previous eras.

Recommended Reading: The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich, William Shirer.

Eric Gartman is a former intelligence analyst for the Department of Defense who studied history and political science as an undergraduate at the University of Arizona. He earned an MA in International Relations at the University of Virginia and an MS in Strategic Intelligence at the National Defense University.

~~3062.42v Evolving U.S. Supreme Court: From Earl Warren Court to John Roberts~~ [Cancelled]

3063.42 Campaigns of Napoleon: The Years of Glory (1804-1809)

Instructor: Charles Hertel

Thursday 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

10/26 - 12/14 (No class 11/2, 11/23)

6 Sessions

Location: Mason

Maximum 35 participants

This class covers the period between Napoleon's coronation as emperor of France in December 1804 until his defeat of the Austrian army at Wagram in July 1809, which resulted in the dissolution of the Fifth Coalition, the Austrian and British-led alliance against France. During this period, Napoleon was at the apex of his talents and energy, and the *Grande Armee* was at the peak of its military efficiency and professionalism. After the triumph at Wagram, Napoleon was unchallenged on the European continent, although the seeds of his downfall had been planted.

The class will concentrate mainly on the military aspects of Napoleon's success, although some political background is unavoidable. We will examine the composition, organization and training of the *Grande Armee* under Napoleon and his *Marshals* (the generals Napoleon appointed as marshals of the empire). The bulk of the class will deal with military campaigns and battles that crushed imperial France's adversaries and made Napoleon supreme in Europe by the time of the signing of the Treaty of Schonbrunn in 1809.

These events include:

- 1805: Maneuver of Ulm, Battle of Austerlitz — Defeat of Austria and Russia
- 1806: Battle of Jena/Auerstedt — Destruction of Prussian Army
- 1807: Battles of Eylau and Friedland — Neutralization of Russia
- 1808: Crowning of Jerome Bonaparte as King of Spain — Crushing of Spanish Rebellion
- 1809: Battles of Aspern-Essling and Wagram — Treaty of Schonbrunn

Recommended Reading: Napoleon: A Life, Andrew Roberts

Charles Hertel is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and holds an MA from the University of Massachusetts. He spent more than 30 years as an Army officer in command and staff positions in the U.S., Germany, Vietnam and Korea. He taught at West Point and has visited several of the battlefields that will be the subject of this class.

3064.42 Immigrants Who Made America, 1845-1965

Instructor: Tyler Anbinder

Tuesday 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

10/3 - 12/5 (No class 11/7, 11/21)

8 Sessions

Location: Hybrid

Maximum 65 in-person/50 virtual participants

This class will examine why so many people of such diverse backgrounds have chosen to move to the United States; what the life of the immigrant was like and how it changed over the course of the 19th and 20th centuries; how immigrants were treated by native-born Americans upon their arrival; why nativism has been so prevalent throughout American

history; and the major court cases and pieces of legislation that have shaped American immigration history. The course begins by looking at the origins of the idea of the United States as a “nation of immigrants” and then will devote approximately one class each to Irish, German, Scandinavian, Chinese, Italian and Eastern European Jewish immigrants. The final two classes will examine the immigration restrictions put in place in the 1920s, repeal of those laws in the 1960s and a comparison of the lives of today’s immigrants with those of earlier eras.

Tyler Anbinder is a historian who specializes in American immigration history, the history of New York City and the American Civil War. He has published three award-winning books: *Nativism and Slavery: The Northern Know Nothings and the Politics of the 1850s*; *Five Points: The Nineteenth-Century New York Neighborhood that Invented Tap Dance, Stole Elections, and Became the World’s Most Notorious Slum*; and *City of Dreams: The 400-Year Epic History of Immigrant New York*. He was professor of history at George Washington University for 26 years until his retirement in 2020.

Law, Politics & Public Affairs

4039.42v War in Ukraine: Some Significant Global Impacts

Instructor: Richard Kauzlarich

Wednesday 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

11/1 - 11/29 (No class 11/22)

4 Sessions

Location: Virtual

Maximum 95 participants

Putin's invasion of Ukraine continues. There are no crystal balls to tell us what the world will look like, but we can confidently say that the Ukraine war will result in a fundamentally different geopolitical setting for the United States and Russia in the years ahead. Under these circumstances, there will also be consequences in other regions where U.S. and Russian geopolitical interests collide. Without trying to predict the

outcome, it is crucial to see how the disruptions caused by the war in Ukraine have affected the possibility of conflict or cooperation in areas at the geographic periphery of Ukraine. We also will consider the role an expanded NATO will play and how these disruptions affect energy security and the quest for clean energy.

Four sessions will delve into these issues, looking particularly at the South Caucasus and Iran, the Balkans and Eastern Europe, and the impact of an expanded NATO and economic sanctions.

Richard Kauzlarich is a distinguished visiting professor at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. He also serves as co-director of the Center for Energy Science

and Policy. He teaches courses on the geopolitics of energy security, the theory and practice of public policy, and policy communication for executive leadership. He served as U.S. ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1997 to 1999 and Azerbaijan from 1994 to 1997. He was deputy assistant secretary of state for European affairs from 1991 to 1993.

4040.42v Foundations of American Foreign Policy

Instructor: Edward Rhodes

Wednesday 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

10/4 - 10/25

4 Sessions

Location: Virtual

Maximum 95 participants

This class explores the historical relationship between American foreign policy and American political theory, particularly America's deep, usually unstated, and generally unexamined commitments to three tenets:

- Domestic Liberalism — the idea that government is created by contract for the limited purpose of preserving the individual's enjoyment of his/her natural right to life, liberty and the fruits of one's labor;
- Domestic Republicanism — the idea that governmental office and responsibility should be placed in the hands of those with civic virtue, and the belief that participation in government is necessary for the development of civic virtue; and
- Democracy — the belief that political rights and responsibilities should be extended to the masses.

From even before the founding of the American republic, it was understood that preservation of a liberal, republican, democratic political society would impose unusual constraints and imperatives on foreign policy and, indeed, the foreign policy of such a state would need, in critical ways, to be antithetical to the statecraft of the existing European system. The course looks at five critical periods in American foreign policy history to see how policymakers attempted to deal with these imperatives and constraints: the

founding, the early republic, the progressive period, World War I, and the inter-war years.

Recommended Independent Reading: *Promised Land, Crusader State: The American Encounter with the World Since 1776*, Walter McDougall; *Special Providence: American Foreign Policy and How It Changed the World*, Walter Russell Mead; and *Empire of Liberty: The Statecraft of Thomas Jefferson*, Robert W. Tucker and David C. Hendrickson.

Edward Rhodes is a professor emeritus of government and international affairs at George Mason University's Schar School. He came to GMU after 24 years on the faculty at Rutgers University. Along the way, he has held research or teaching appointments at Princeton, Harvard, Stanford and Cornell universities, as well as at universities overseas. He has served on the congressionally mandated oversight board responsible for the official, publicly released documentary record of American foreign policy. He received his AB from Harvard University and his MPA and PhD degrees from Princeton.

~~**4041.42 Religion and the American Presidency [CANCELLED]**~~

4042.42 Professional Practices in Journalism

Instructor: Charles Self

Friday 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

10/13 - 11/17 (No class 11/10)

5 Sessions

Location: Mason

Maximum 15 participants

This will be an introductory level lecture/discussion class examining the professional practices of journalists. It is designed to compare professional standards with actual professional practices and with the practices of non-professional (untrained) journalists.

The instructor will introduce traditional practices, examine examples of their implementation, and call for students during each class period to offer and

discuss examples they bring to class of how these standards are followed or not. Using these practices and standards, we also will discuss the ethical implications of these practices. We will start by discussing who claims to be a journalist. We will discuss how journalists judge what makes something news. We will talk about how journalists work; how they get the news and support what they report; and how they are held accountable for what they report. We will discuss why journalism and journalistic practices have become so controversial and volatile in recent years. And we will talk about the demands put on journalists to illustrate and explain what they are reporting and the limits placed on those techniques.

My goal is that this class will draw on the experiences of class participants who have worked in journalism themselves or who have worked with journalists and who have had experiences with good and poor practices by journalists. But students who have no experience with journalism are welcome to discuss their observations of journalism practices from their own experience as consumers of news.

Charles Self, PhD, is professor emeritus and a former dean at the University of Oklahoma. He has served as president of three national journalism educator organizations. Currently, he serves on the board of the National Press Foundation. He has briefed hundreds of foreign journalists through the US State Department's International Visitors Leadership Program about free speech, free press, the US Constitution and democracy.

4043.42 Baby Boomers: A Generation That Reshaped America

Instructor: Steve Shapiro

Thursday 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

10/5 - 10/26

4 Sessions

Location: Mason

Maximum 36 participants

This course explores the wide-ranging impacts of the generation that was born in the two decades after World War II. Using a mixture of quantitative and qualitative sources, we will discuss how those 76 million babies changed our nation's educational

system, health care, housing, employment, transportation, politics, religion, demographics and culture. As that generation has aged, it continues to exert influence on public policy choices, the national economy, the impacts of technological change, and social cohesion. We will also examine how the transition of power to the subsequent generations is causing friction and a variety of societal challenges.

Steve Shapiro is a graduate of Tufts University and the MIT Sloan School. He spent 25 years as a consultant and executive with several tech-centric companies and then became a math teacher with Fairfax County Public Schools. For the past six years, he has co-taught the *Numbers and the News* courses for Encore Learning. He is a member of the Encore Learning Board of Directors and serves as the organization's treasurer. He also serves on the board of directors for the Virginia Public Access Project.

4044.42 Changing World Order: Great Power Competition and Fragile States

Instructor: Allen Keiswetter

Wednesday 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

10/4 - 10/25

4 Sessions

Location: Hybrid

Maximum 44 in-person/50 virtual participants

Drawing on his personal experiences, the instructor will address perennial problems of global security in four class sessions:

1. **The Changing Foundations of World Order**, including the nature of power, the definition of national interests, and the realist and idealist perspectives on world affairs;
2. **The United States in the World Today**, examining the effective/ineffective uses of the diplomatic, intelligence, military and economic instruments of power in U.S. policy;
3. **The Middle East: A Perpetual Hot Spot**, featuring problems of the Persian Gulf and Israeli-Palestinian relations;

4. **The Wicked Problem of Fragile States**, including its consequences for policy.

Allen Keiswetter is a retired senior foreign service officer who served 36 years (1967-2003) in the Department of State. He served in Vietnam, Beirut, Baghdad, Tunis, Khartoum, Sanaa, Riyadh, and Brussels. At State, he served as deputy assistant secretary for Near Eastern Affairs as well as in the bureaus of European Affairs and Intelligence and Research. He has taught for more than 20 years at the National War College, the National Defense Intelligence College and the University of Maryland. He now is a scholar at the Middle East Institute, a Washington think tank.

4045.42v European Union in the World

Instructor: Carl Lankowski

Wednesday 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

10/18 - 11/15

5 Sessions

Location: Virtual

Maximum 50 participants

The European Union has state-like features but is not a state, yet it enacts policies that have profound implications for every part of the world. Maintaining its own cohesion requires continual orchestration of the collective action of its members, and this complicates the regulation of relations with all other actors in global affairs. This course addresses the following questions:

- What are the sources of EU action in the world?
- In what fields has the EU acted and where has it not?
- How does the EU achieve the capacity to act?
- What is the EU's track record in realizing the aims of the policies it adopts?

The course will open with a discussion of the origins of postwar European regional integration and the quick emergence of a global trading entity that required external policy actions. Subsequent sessions will focus in turn on the EU's evolving security profile, its performance vis-a-vis Russia (with special attention to Ukraine), its climate policy and its relations with China. EU relations with the United States are of central importance and will be addressed in every session.

Carl Lankowski has been a lifelong observer of European affairs. With a doctorate in political science (Columbia University), he was a faculty member of several universities and was visiting professor in Denmark (Aarhus), Belgium (Brussels) and Germany (Konstanz). He served on the board of the European Community Studies Association and as deputy director of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies. From 2000 to 2020, he was director of European Area Studies at the US Department of State.

Literature & Writing

5037.42v Holmes and Poirot, the Two Giants of Literary Crime Detection

Instructor: Verne Vance

Monday 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

10/2 - 12/11 (No class 10/9)

10 Sessions

Location: Virtual

Maximum 50 participants

Since Edward Allan Poe published the first modern detective story in 1841, dozens of literary sleuths,

public and private, have arisen to ferret out those who commit the world's crimes. In this 10-session course, we will examine the careers of the two most famous sleuths: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes and Dame Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot. We will read and discuss novels and short stories, as well as view films that feature the two detectives to consider what has made them so enduringly popular. We will compare the two characters and the different worlds in which they worked and consider the differences in

their crime-solving techniques. Finally, we will examine the lives and careers of the two authors and their views of the two great characters they created.

Recommended Readings:

The Complete Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Hercule Poirot: The Complete Short Stories, Agatha Christie

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd, Agatha Christie

Murder on the Orient Express, Agatha Christie

We will discuss two Christie novels; two Conan Doyle novels, *A Study in Scarlet* and *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (both included in *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*); and several short stories featuring each detective.

Verne Vance is a retired corporate attorney with a lifelong interest in history and literature. He is a two-time winner of the T.F. Evans Award of the Shaw Society of the United Kingdom for writings in the manner of George Bernard Shaw. Several of Verne's short plays have been performed at the Open Eye Theater in Margaretville, New York.

5038.42 American Short Story Sampler

Instructor: Jenny Sullivan

Tuesday 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

10/17 - 12/5 (No class 11/7, 11/21)

6 Sessions

Location: Mason

Maximum 35 participants

In this course, we will discuss a variety of works that include some of the best in this most American of literary genres. We will look at them both as the works of art that they are and as the conveyors of culture and history that they have become. We will read Nathaniel Hawthorne's *Young Goodman Brown*, Bret Harte's *Tennessee's Partner*, Jack London's *The Law of Life*, Flannery O'Connor's *Revelation* and Kurt Vonnegut's *Harrison Bergeron*.

The stories are widely available, and we will talk about how to access them during our first day's introduction to the genre and to the authors. Come and enjoy

these engaging stories set in colonial New England, the Wild West, the Klondike, the deep South and Dystopia!

Jenny Sullivan taught literature for more than four decades in the Virginia Community College System and is the author of four books. She is pleased to present another course for Encore Learning.

5039.42v It's Never Too Late to Launch Your Literary Career

Instructor: John Wasowicz

Thursday 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

10/26 - 11/16

4 Sessions

Location: Virtual

Maximum 25 participants

This class is a guide to starting a writing career later in life by someone who successfully did just that. It will consist of four sections:

1. **What's Your Passion?** A review of the various genres available for you to express yourself, including memoirs, fiction, romance and historical fiction; first- and third-person narrative; and print, audiobook and e-book options.
2. **The Writing Process:** A discussion about effective writing habits to unleash your creative instincts.
3. **Publication:** A review of the three major options available for writers to get their work to market, including major publishing houses, small indie publishers and self-publishing.
4. **Writers' Forum.** An "open mic" discussion with all of the course participants to discuss progress in their writing endeavors.

John Adam Wasowicz is an attorney and author of the *Old Town Mystery Series* featuring legal mysteries that take place in historic Alexandria, VA. He began his career as an Assistant Commonwealth Attorney in Arlington, VA. Following a decade in private practice, he began a new career as a federal attorney in 2005. He did not begin writing the mystery books — six to date — until 2017.

5041.42 Dickens and Trollope Debate Progress and Change

Instructor: Rosemary Jann

Tuesday 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

10/24 - 12/5 (No class 11/7, 11/21)

5 Sessions

Location: Mason

Maximum 30 participants

This course will pair two shorter novels by two best-selling Victorian authors. Charles Dickens' *Hard Times* (1854) and Anthony Trollope's *The Warden* (1855) offer perspectives on some of the burning issues of their day – and ours – such as worker unrest, environmental degradation, clerical misconduct, a sensationalizing press and utilitarian social engineering. The authors also explore timeless conflicts in social organization: self-interest versus public interest, personal integrity versus legal wrong, rights versus responsibilities, extremism versus moderation, progress versus tradition. We will discuss **Rosemary Jann**, professor emerita, taught a variety of courses on Victorian prose, poetry and fiction in the English Department at George Mason University and also served as department chair and associate director of the GMU Honors College. She is the author of various books and articles on Victorian fiction and historical writing, Darwinian science and Sherlock Holmes.

5042.42v American Women Writing Short Fiction

Instructor: Janet Auten

Thursday 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

10/19 - 11/30 (No class 11/23)

6 Sessions

Location: Virtual

Maximum 35 participants

Women writers played a key role in the development of the American short story. In turn, short fiction proved to be the perfect vehicle for women writers to examine and expand their sphere in the 19th century and find new ways to speak truth with new voices in the 20th century. This course traces that parallel development of the short story and women's fiction writing in America, stopping to sample many acknowledged great American writers — from Louisa

philosophical differences between Dickens and Trollope, their contrasting techniques and even some of their sly satire on one another's methods. Students will gain insights into British history and experience the trademark story-telling styles of these two Victorian masters.

Recommended Reading: Unabridged editions of each novel, preferably with explanatory notes, such as the Penguin Classics edition of *Hard Times* and the Oxford World Classics edition of *The Warden*.

Recommended Websites:

The Victorian Web on *Hard*

Times: <https://victorianweb.org/authors/dickens/hardtimes/index.html>

The Victorian Web on *The Warden:*

Times: <https://victorianweb.org/authors/trollope/wardenov.html>

Alcott to Zora Hurston — as well as writers who are less familiar to readers today.

Organized thematically rather than chronologically, the course will consider writers and their work from early 1800s travel narratives to colorful regional fiction of the Gilded Age, from the 1920s Harlem Renaissance to masterpieces that defined modern literature. It will center on works of short fiction from *The Vintage Book of American Women Writers* and *Short Story Masterpieces by American Women Writers*, with pdfs of other stories provided as needed. The class will revolve around lectures on Zoom, but sharing via the Zoom chat function is encouraged, and time for discussion will open and close each class.

Recommended Reading: *The Vintage Book of American Women Writers*, Elaine Showalter, ed.; *Short Story Masterpieces by American Women Writers*, Clarence Stowbridge, ed.

Janet Auten taught literature and composition courses and a graduate teaching seminar during her 25 years at American University, where she also directed the Writing Center. She developed and taught a course in the Women's Studies Program for eight years called "Women's Voices Through Time." She holds a PhD in rhetoric, composition and

American literature and an MA in journalism. Her publications include articles on teaching and on 19th century women writers.

5043.42v New British Theater

Instructor: Michael Collins

Thursday 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

10/5 - 11/2

5 Sessions

Location: Virtual

Maximum 50 participants

Shortly after World War II, the theater in Britain underwent a profound transformation. New themes and new dramatic forms began to challenge the conventions of the “well-made plays” that had been produced on London stages for the previous half-century. This course will look first at one of the best plays in the older tradition, Terence Rattigan’s *The Deep Blue Sea*, and then consider three plays that brought a new kind of theater to Britain: T.S. Eliot’s *The Cocktail Party*, John Osborne’s *Look Back in Anger* and Samuel Beckett’s *Waiting for Godot*. The discussions will be supplemented by selections from filmed performances of the plays.

Michael Collins is teaching professor of English and dean emeritus of Georgetown University. He is editor of *Shakespeare’s Sweet Thunder: Essays on the Early Comedies*; *Reading What’s There: Essays on Shakespeare in Honor of Stephen Booth*; and (with Michael Scott) *Christian Shakespeare: Question Mark*. He has published numerous essays on Shakespeare and 20th century British dramatists and taught courses on both topics. He received the Bunn Award for outstanding teaching from Georgetown’s College of Arts & Sciences.

5044.42 Shakespeare on the Page and the Stage

Instructor: Iska Alter

Friday 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

10/27 - 12/15 (No class 11/10, 11/24)

6 Sessions

Location: Mason

Maximum 35 participants

It is fall at Encore Learning, so we will once again dive into Shakespeare — luckily, the water is deep! It is almost too obvious to assert that Shakespeare wrote plays to be performed; therefore, for six weeks we will examine two of Shakespeare’s play texts — *The Merchant of Venice* and *King Lear* — and explore the ways that particularly significant scenes have been staged in production. Together, we will find and discuss the many facets of Shakespeare on the page and the stage and, once again, pause to admire the exceptional quality of his writing as performed by great actors.

Recommended Reading: *The Merchant of Venice* and *King Lear*, William Shakespeare.

Iska Alter is emerita professor of English at Hofstra University. Her specializations are American literature, Shakespeare and English Renaissance drama. Her work has appeared in *Modern Drama*, *Theater History Journal* and *Shakespeare Survey*. She is the author of an analysis of the fiction of Bernard Malamud entitled *The Good Man’s Dilemma*. She earned her BA at City College of New York, an MA at the University of Wisconsin and a PhD at New York University.

Science & Technology

6005.42 Fall in Arlington Parks - Wednesdays

Instructor: Multiple

Session 1: Wednesday 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
10/4 - 11/1

Session 2: Friday 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
10/6 - 11/3

5 Sessions

Location: Offsite

Maximum 20

Enjoy fall with a nature blast! Learn, walk, engage, savor. This course will offer a seasonal view of Arlington nature, focusing on its flora, fauna and birds. Take a look at how our area changes with the seasons and enjoy the richness. Sessions will be held Wednesday or Friday morning in various locations.

10/4 and 10/6: *Nature in an Urban Environment* with **Rita Peralta**: Participants will be introduced to the local biodiversity found in the fall in Arlington parks. We will discuss the educational, environmental and health benefits that natural areas provide and will also consider some challenges to managing natural resources in an urban area. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington. Limited parking at the Center or use VHC parking deck (\$5 fee, 5-minute walk) or Glencarlyn Park lot near picnic shelter 1 (15-20-minute walk).

10/11 and 10/13: *Introduction to Birding* with **Colt Gregory**: Fall is the peak time to observe many species of birds as they migrate south to their breeding grounds in Central and South America. Learn to identify different species by sight and sound and find out about phone apps that can help you identify birds when you are on your own. Binoculars recommended. Meet at Fort C. F. Smith, 2411 24th Street N, Arlington.

10/18 and 10/20: *Issues Facing the Arlington Watershed* with **Aileen Winquist**: Learn about challenges facing Arlington's streams, such as stormwater runoff and flooding and how the county is addressing them. Learn what you can do to protect

water quality. Meet at the entrance on the playground side of Lubber Run Community Center, 300 N. Park Dr., Arlington.

10/25 and 10/27: *Invasives: What To Do in the Fall* with **Jennifer Soles**: This session will cover the problem of invasive, non-native plants in our parks and what can be done in the fall to stop their spread and manage those that have already become established. Meet near Giant Food in the parking lot at Lyon Village Shopping Center, 3150 Langston Blvd., Arlington, where we will take a short walk to Thrifton Hill Park. Bring gloves if you would like to remove invasives after class.

11/01 and 11/3: *Fall Finds in Arlington Parks* with **Kurt Moser**: Arlington's 33 miles of perennial streams are an important part of the beginnings and development of the county. As in most urban areas, streams and creeks appear very different than in the past. The old natural water conduits have been relocated, piped underground, siphoned off for irrigation, or have disappeared. The session will provide a fall overview with a focus on Four Mile Run. Meet at the Four Mile Run parking lot, 4131 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria.

Recommended resources: Cornell Lab of Ornithology: free Merlin and eBird apps, AllAboutBirds site; <https://www.audubon.org/gear/binocular-guide>

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Sustainability-and-Environment/Stormwater>

Rita Peralta is a naturalist and manager at Long Branch Nature Center in Arlington. Previously, she was natural resource manager at Riverbend Park, part of the Fairfax County Park Authority. In her spare time, she volunteers as an instructor for the Virginia Master Naturalists, leads an invasive management area for Fairfax County Park Authority, is on the board of the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, and travels near and far to enjoy nature.

Colt Gregory, a member of the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia and Northern Virginia Bird Club, has been an Arlington Regional Master Naturalist since 2017 and served on the Training Committee. He co-leads the weekly Sunday bird walks for the National Park Service at Great Falls and leads a sector in our area's Christmas bird count. He is often seen pulling invasive plants to restore bird habitat and balance in our local parks, where he would like to see more common yellow-throated warblers.

Aileen Winquist has 20 years of experience in environmental communications and engagement. She has a master's degree in environmental science from the University of Virginia. She manages engagement for Arlington's stormwater program and pond restoration projects, storm system capacity projects and green streets. She also manages outreach and education on water pollution, flood resilience and stream volunteer programs.

Jennifer Soles is a natural resources specialist in Arlington's Department of Parks and Recreation, where she coordinates the Invasive Plants Program. She has been with the county for over a decade and was formerly a naturalist leading environmental education programs and invasive removal events at Arlington's nature centers. She has a degree in environmental science from the University of Virginia.

Kurt Moser is co-founder and president of the Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation, an organization that promotes nature, culture, and community at lower Four Mile Run in Alexandria and Arlington, and is an independent researcher/ecologist. He currently serves on the boards of the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust and NoVA Outside. He has a master's degree in environmental science and policy from George Mason University, where his thesis and publications focused on ecosystem function in natural and mitigation wetlands.

6024.42v Electric Cars: The Future Is Now

Instructor: Barry Ginsberg

Thursday 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

11/2 - 12/7 (No class 11/23)

4 Sessions

Location: Virtual

Maximum 50 participants

Sustainability experts say driving an electric vehicle (EV) is one of the best steps we can take to help reduce our carbon footprint. Auto manufacturers are gearing up to convert manufacturing plants to produce EVs rather than gasoline-powered ones. Naturally such a dramatic change in the market for a new means of transportation raises questions. The course will cover:

- How cars work: current cars (engines, transmissions, safety features);
- Electric cars overview: electric car types, engines and batteries, range and efficiency, new safety features and self-driving;
- Range: factors affecting range (speed, temperature resistance), charging (how it works and locations), getting electricity from your vehicle;
- Current EVs: features compared, price and the Inflation Recovery Act.

Barry Ginsberg is an MD with a PhD in molecular biology and a strong interest in technology. His training was at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Harvard and the NIH. He was a professor of medicine at the University of Iowa College of Medicine and a vice president of medical affairs for Becton Dickinson. He developed a personal interest in electric vehicles during the pandemic and spent hundreds of hours learning about them and now drives one.

6027.42 Exploration of the Solar System

Instructor: Michael Summers

Thursday 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

10/5 - 11/9

6 Sessions

Location: Mason

Maximum 30 participants

Over the past 60 years, astronomers have explored our solar system, our so-called “backyard in space,” with a slew of extremely sensitive ground-based and space-based telescopes that include the Hubble Space Telescope and the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). NASA has also launched robotic spacecraft to all nine planets, as well as to many asteroids and comets. From these explorations, we have learned that the solar system is not at all what we expected. We now know that at least five planetary moons have deep oceans of liquid water. We now know that both Venus and Mars were once very Earth-like on their surfaces but have since suffered catastrophic climate change making them uninhabitable. And we now know that the planets in the outer solar system get their energy from their interiors - not from the sun.

This course is a survey of what we have learned about our solar system. There are six units, each one dealing with an aspect of solar system exploration as follows:

1. Terrestrial Planets
2. Gas Giants and Ice Giants
3. Kuiper Belt Objects and Dwarf Planets
4. Asteroids and Comets
5. The Birth and Death of Planets
6. The Future of Solar System Exploration

Michael Summers is a planetary scientist who studies the structure and evolution of planetary atmospheres. His research has encompassed many aspects of the atmospheres of planets and moons in our solar system. He was a mission co-investigator on the NASA/New Horizons Spacecraft Mission to Pluto and the Kuiper Belt. He is also an award-winning educator who teaches astronomy and astrobiology at George Mason University.

6028.42 Neuroscience of the Senses

Instructor: Linda Berg

Friday 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

10/6 - 12/15 (No class 11/10, 11/24)

9 Sessions

Location: Mason

Maximum 30 participants

Our senses are the interface between our internal selves and the outside world. This nine-week course will explore how our senses work, how the brain interprets what the senses perceive and how things go wrong. We will explore insights from cell and molecular biology, pharmacology and neuroscience to understand the processes that underlie the senses. We will learn why bees see the world differently than we do, why cilantro tastes like soap to some people and many other just-so stories in sensory neuroscience.

Sessions will cover:

- Senses as the interface between the world and behavior
- Auditory system
- Visual system
- Olfactory system
- Gustatory system
- Somatosensory (touch) system
- Vestibular (balance) system
- Proprioception (body awareness)

The final class meeting will examine current research questions in the field of neuroscience of the senses.

Linda Berg pursued her interest in neuroscience after a 30-year career at the Central Intelligence Agency. She holds undergraduate degrees in physics and mathematics from the University of Puget Sound in Washington State and a PhD in solid-state physics from Iowa State University.

~~6029.42v Biosecurity in the Age of COVID [CANCELLED]~~

6030.42v Artificial Intelligence: Blessing or Curse?

Instructor: Stephen Ruth

Monday 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

11/20 - 12/11

4 Sessions

Location: Virtual

Maximum 50 participants

This course will offer an up-to-date review of the extraordinary characteristics of this new human capability of artificial intelligence (AI). Questions abound. Will generative languages like ChatGPT foster greater productivity, deeper insights or chaos? How will the growing availability of AI technologies impact democratic governance, invite repressive practices or undermine the rule of law? Will AI open up technology opportunities previously unavailable to liberal arts graduates? How will new autonomous, AI-directed weapon systems affect battlefield outcomes? Which jobs are most susceptible to be replaced by AI interfaces? What are the latest statistics on the actual productivity advantages of AI in the workplace? Does AI have the potential to develop super intelligence that can threaten civilization? Will competing chat bots cause chaotic versions of reality through misinformation?

By the time this course is presented, there will be countless new questions; the instructor will bring up all the latest developments, challenges and opportunities. In addition, it may be possible for students to actually communicate with AI systems while the course is underway to develop their own sense of the possibilities — and perils.

Stephen Ruth is a professor of public policy at George Mason University, specializing in technology issues associated with globalization. He is also the director of the International Center for Applied Studies in Information Technology. For several years he has taught a popular graduate course about the challenges and opportunities of AI and robotics, with emphasis on close to 70 applications. He has taught a number of classes for Encore Learning on a variety of topics.

Social Sciences

7029.42 Refugee Stories

Instructor: Lisa McGregor

Friday 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

10/6 - 10/27

4 Sessions

Location: Mason

Maximum 30 participants

This course will open with an overview of U.S. refugee and asylum history and policies. We will focus on eligibility, status and resettlement of refugees and asylum seekers. We will also examine the roles of federal, state and local governments, the United

Nations and private groups such as nonprofit, faith-based and volunteer-based organizations.

In weeks two and three, we will hear personal stories from refugees who have settled in the Washington area. Speakers will include asylees/refugees from Afghanistan, Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries, Africa, Central America and Eastern Europe. Each class session will begin with a brief overview of the history and political context for each refugee population, then focus on personal stories, followed by questions and answers. The final class will be a facilitated discussion on citizen involvement, advocacy

and helping diversity grow in our local area. We will also discuss key lessons and what we each might do in response.

Lisa McGregor has a MA in international affairs and a MS in urban planning from Columbia University and a BA in international studies from the University of Minnesota. She started her career in refugee assistance and has worked on governance, applied political economy analysis and capacity development with RTI International, USAID, United Nations Development Program, International Rescue Committee and CARE. She has worked in Kenya, Sudan, Bangladesh, Thailand and other countries. She recently volunteered to help Afghan families in Northern Virginia.

7030.42 American Freedom Project

Instructor: James Grefer

Friday 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

10/13 - 11/17 (No class 11/10)

5 Sessions

Location: Mason

Maximum 35 participants

Few countries in the world have made freedom as big a part of their story as we have in America. Our very founding was based on freedom. Our legal and political documents, our politicians, even our songs tell us we are the land of the free.

But what do we mean by freedom? Is this a concept that "we know it when we see it?" As we've witnessed in the news, politics, and movies, there are many views of what makes, or takes away, freedom. And how free is America, anyway? Are we freer now than before? Are we more free than most countries? What makes one country free and another one not free?

In our class, we will explore all these questions, from philosophical, historical, and economic perspectives, over a variety of ideological and political points of view. We will look at the history of America and its evolution of freedom—for our country and our people.

Finally, we will compare freedom in America with the countries of the world. We will examine the relationships of freedom with democracy, rule of law, economic systems, governments, and more and discover the factors that make us more or less free.

Jim Grefer is retired from a career in economic research of the infrastructure, logistics, resources, and labor markets for the U.S. Navy. While an economist by vocation, he is a philosopher and historian by avocation. He will combine all these skills and interests in this class.