Dedicated to lifelong learning, the Osher at JHU program was created in 1986 with a mission of enhancing the leisure time of semi-retired and retired individuals by providing stimulating learning experiences and the opportunity for new friendships.

The Osher at JHU program builds on the rich resources of an internationally renowned university to offer members an array of educational and social opportunities, including the following:

- Courses and discussion groups
- Access to the university library system
- Field trips to cultural events
- Preferred participation in university–sponsored events

Courses are offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Spring 2022 classes are expected to resume in person.

For additional information on membership, please call the program’s administrative office at 301-294-7058.

Osher at JHU Homepage
President Joe Biden is doing his best to pivot away from the presidency and international policies of Donald Trump. Biden’s personnel appointments, policies, and national security processes are an effort to deal with his wretched inheritance from his predecessor. We will focus on the Sino-America relationship—our most important bilateral relationship—as well as the Russian-American relationship. Special attention will be given to the worsening situations regarding Ukraine and Taiwan. We will also assess the impact of the climate crisis and the pandemic on American national security. Once again, we will try to make the case for reforming America’s bloated defense budget and the huge US military footprint around the world. Finally, we will assess the chances for improving relations with both Iran and North Korea, which involve serious negotiations and decision-making regarding nuclear programs.

Professor Goodman’s latest book, Containing the National Security State, will be the text for the course, and it will be a requirement for the course. Additional readings will be assigned from the editorial pages of The New York Times and The Washington Post, as well as Goodman’s op-eds from Counterpunch, where he is the national security columnist.

Melvin Goodman, PhD, is senior fellow at the Center for International Policy and a former professor of international security at the National War College. He has worked for the CIA, the State Department, and the Department of Defense; written numerous articles that have appeared in Harper’s, Foreign Policy, Washington Monthly, and Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists; and authored many books, including The Decline and Fall of the CIA (Rowman and Littlefield, 2008). His recent books, National Insecurity: The Cost of American Militarism and Whistleblower at the CIA, were published by City Lights Publishing in 2012 and 2016, respectively. He is also the author of American Carnage: The Wars of Donald Trump. Goodman’s latest book, Containing the National Security State, was published in January 2021.

Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew and The Merchant of Venice

Both of these plays are comedies in the strict sense, as all the protagonists are alive at the end, but in modern times both can be called “problem comedies.” Shrew deals with male dominance over females, and Merchant deals with anti-Semitism. There is ample substance for class discussion; there are excellent DVDs of each play. An important part of this course is comparing
what different directors and actors have done with the plays, as evidenced in filmed versions. We will read much of the plays in class, a bit at a time; discuss the text; see clips from two or three different films; and then discuss the film versions.

The class size is limited to 35 members, as this is a discussion class, not a lecture class.

James Blue, PhD, did research and published many scientific papers in the areas of physics, applied mathematics, and computer science before his retirement. At Osher, he led Great Books discussion groups for many semesters. Since 2007 he has taught classic literature discussion courses, ranging from Homer and Virgil to Jane Austen and Oscar Wilde. Since 2014 it’s been all Shakespeare.

21FMF210 Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew and The Merchant of Venice
Tuesdays, September 21–December 14, No class 11/23
10 a.m.–12 noon

The Protestant Reformation and Its Results, 1492–1648

This 12-week course will focus on the origins, course, and results of the Protestant Reformation, covering approximately the years 1492 to 1648, with special emphasis on the three major phases: German, English, and French. It will build around major personalities involved and the resulting religious, diplomatic, militaristic, and economic turmoil. This era proved to be a watershed of events, ushering in Modern European History.

Robert Hines, MA, received an MA from The Johns Hopkins University and has taught in Maryland Public Schools for the past 50 years. He just retired from teaching in the International Baccalaureate Program at Richard Montgomery High School for the past 31 years, with a focus on European and Russian History. Bob has also worked as an adjunct professor for Johns Hopkins graduate school of education. His post-graduate studies have been in the History of the Holocaust at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, and for the past 33 summers he has taught a 45-hour course in the History of Germany and the Holocaust. In his spare time he works with local volunteers at archaeology field schools.

21FMF522 The Protestant Reformation and Its Results, 1492–1648
Tuesdays, September 21–December 14, No class 11/23
10 a.m.–12 noon

History of Maryland: America in Miniature

Maryland is referred to as “America in Miniature,” due to its geographic and cultural diversity, as well as the impact Marylanders and local events have had on the development of the nation. This series will explore various themes and eras in Maryland history, while highlighting those
significant contributions and evolution in the areas of arts and culture. Participants will also enjoy behind the scenes looks at archival collections, conservation practices, and primary source research. Topics will include Indigenous populations, colonial growth, Maryland’s role in military conflicts, experiences of Black Marylanders, as well as the contributions of local artists and creators. Sessions will be led by several Maryland Center for History and Culture Education Department staff and select guest speakers.

David Armenti is the Director of Education at The Maryland Center for History and Culture (MCHC) — formerly the Maryland Historical Society — the oldest continuously operating nonprofit cultural institution in the state. MCHC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that houses a collection of seven million books, documents, manuscripts, photographs, and 350,000 objects in its museum and library located in Baltimore. MCHC serves as a leading center of Maryland history education for people of all ages. For students and teachers, our education programming includes onsite museum field trips, Traveling Trunks, Virtual Field Trips, and professional development workshops. For adults, we host lectures, tours, workshops, and Virtual Field Trips to inspire lifelong learning and spark curiosity in history.

21FMF518 History of Maryland: America in Miniature
Tuesdays, September 21–October 26, 6 weeks
10 a.m.–12 noon

American Musical Quilt

The template for American music is a merger of a thousand cultures, thrown together like nowhere else on Earth. And it’s not simply that they brought with them their music and cultural values: they applied what they knew to a wholly unfamiliar environment, along the way conjuring radical new methods for creating music. Their work came to define the American sound and has been embraced and celebrated as such around the globe. In this course we'll talk about and listen to Romani (Gypsy) music, Klezmer music, tangos and waltzes, and other styles of music building the American music landscape. Many of those pieces will be performed live by the instructor, a guitarist.

Vladimir Fridman earned his degree in civil engineering from Moscow Hydro Melioration College and in music from Moscow Music College Pushkin. Despite the promise of a career in engineering, he pursued his passion for the guitar. Born and raised in Moscow, Russia, he was active in some of the best Moscow theaters and in a Philharmonic orchestra. As a member of the show group Jazz Balalaika, Fridman toured Europe, the Middle East, and Japan and released four albums, as well as performing in concerts as a soloist, accompanist, and in ensembles. He arrived in the US in 1998 and became known to the musical community in the greater Washington, DC area, as a musician in several bands and as a gifted composer. He now
operates a successful guitar studio; his students have won awards at the Montgomery County and Maryland state levels.

21FMF107 American Musical Quilt
Tuesdays, November 2–December 14, 6 weeks, No class 11/23
10 a.m.–12 noon

Tuesday
AFTERNOON SESSION

Aaron Sorkin: A Modern Writer for the Big and Little Screens

Aaron Sorkin wanted to be an actor. While he was struggling in New York, he wrote a play on cocktail napkins while working as a bartender in a Broadway theater, based on a true story his sister told him about a marine who was killed by fellow marines. The play became *A Few Good Men*, which ran on Broadway and was subsequently made into a movie and nominated for a Best Picture Oscar. His work includes the TV Series *West Wing*, his Academy-award-nominated films such as *The Social Network*, *Moneyball*, and *Molly’s Game*, and even films starring Paul Newman (*Malice*) and Tom Hanks (*Charlie Wilson’s War*). Through clips and discussion, we will explore how his writing style, with his humor and edge, influenced 21st century movies.

*Stan Levin* has a degree in Film and Theatre from New York University. He also studied theater at the graduate level at the Catholic University of America. He was a documentary film maker for the US Department of Agriculture and an award-winning writer of radio and TV commercials. He was a nationally syndicated film critic, and is a frequent lecturer on film and contemporary culture in the DC Metro area.

21FMF108 Aaron Sorkin: A Modern Writer for the Big and Little Screens
Tuesdays, September 21–December 14, No class 11/23
1–3 p.m.

Essays Discussion Group

*Reviewing the Review Essay*: The Review Essay, in its fully developed (long) form, is a writer's personal/professional opinion about one or a related set of literary work, fine art, theater, dance, personalities, places, pastimes, dining and drinks, media, products, and services. Factoring in the relative authority of the author and the medium through which the review is delivered, the views presented by the reviewer may be trustworthy…or not. Often, recommendations passed along to us from others originate in the latter's reading of reviews.

In this 24th annual installment of the Essays Discussion Group, we will read, discuss, and debate long-form review essays by noteworthy writers published in the past 25 years. Examples from

No textbook is required. We will average weekly reading, then in-class discussion, of two review essays per session. To preserve the intimacy and weekly opportunities for all to express their responses to the assigned texts, participation is limited to 20.

**Jim Applebaum, MA,** has been a teacher of reading and writing; and a journalist, a publicist, and consultant to government and nonprofit organizations for outreach and technology transfer communications. Emeritus faculty at Mercersburg Academy in Pennsylvania, he has authored and edited news, feature, and opinion stories with local, regional, and national implications; proposals and reports, testimony and speeches. Jim earned an MA in non-fiction writing from The Johns Hopkins University.

**21FMF204 Essays Discussion Group**  
Tuesdays, September 21–December 14, *No class 11/23*  
1–3 p.m.

**Aristotle's Physics, Ethics, and Politics**

Aristotle is arguably the greatest philosopher who has ever lived, or at least certainly one of the greatest. He was the father of logic. His biological investigations foreshadowed the rise of the empirical sciences. He wrote the first systematic treatises on ethics and politics in Western literature. His work on aesthetic theory has undergirded the development of the arts ever since. And on a personal note, Aristotle has influenced me in my own thinking more than anyone else, except possibly my parents. I have developed a two-semester survey of Aristotelianism, organized within a seven-layer architecture. Neither of the courses presupposes the other. This course will cover Aristotle's physics, ethics, and politics. We will be using *The Basic Works of Aristotle,* edited by Richard McKeon.

**Donald Ross, PhD,** holds degrees BA, MA, and PhD in philosophy. His PhD dissertation, under the supervision of A.W.H. Adkins at the University of Chicago, was on Plato's Symposium and Phaedo. He has published articles on ancient philosophy in general and on Plato in particular. He has taught ancient philosophy at George Mason University, the University of Maryland, and Marymount University. He has also taught a two-semester Plato course at OLLI at American University.

**21FMF551 Aristotle's Physics, Ethics, and Politics**  
Tuesdays, September 21–December 14, *No class 11/23*  
1–3 p.m.

**Hidden in Plain Sight: Subtle But Powerful Influences that Moved America Forward**
History books report on the major events and personalities that shaped our nation. However, they don’t always tell “the whole story.” There were many influencers who worked quietly in the background—not always by choice—but still had a significant impact upon the promotion and future of this country. In this class we will discover, discuss, and sing about six of those sometimes-overlooked groups and occurrences that solidified the delicate structure of a growing, learning, nation. What were the first globally traded items that connected the continents that led to the colonization of North America? What significant part did alcohol play in our early political system? Who were the most influential First Ladies? The power of the Bible was a moving force in the development of 18th and 19th century America: do you know the legacy of the Circuit Riders? Often overlooked, who would have guessed that some of the most impressive achievements in science and technology would come from the smallest members of our population? Heroes and legends: inspirational stories of characters from our imaginations, or, amazing accomplishments by ordinary people doing extraordinary things? All of these topics and subjects will be explored during this course. Your invitation is given!

Roy Justice has been presenting “American History Discovery Programs” since 1985. He is a 1976 graduate of Mansfield University, Mansfield, PA, with a BA degree in Music (emphasis on Theory and Composition, and Performance in Voice) and is a resident of Chambersburg, PA.

21FMF570 Hidden in Plain Sight: Subtle but Powerful Influences that Moved American Forward
Tuesdays, September 21–October 26, 6 weeks
1–3 p.m.

Capital Crimes: Detective Fiction DC, Paris, and Dublin

Mystery novels find fertile ground in capital cities: centers of power, political intrigue, cultural crosscurrents, decisions affecting millions and numerous motives for murder. This course explores fictional dark deeds in Dublin's fair city, in the City of Light (Paris), and in Chocolate City (Washington, DC). Each of these settings not only is an international backdrop for crime but also provides the selected authors a context in which to explore the meaning of home, family, and obligation. The reading list includes Tana French's Faithful Place; Georges Simenon's Maigret Sets a Trap; Louise Penny's All the Devils Are Here; Margaret Truman's Murder on K Street; and George Pelecanos' The Man Who Came Uptown.

Class members should read Tana French's Faithful Place before the first class.

Melinda Kramer, PhD, holds master's and doctorate degrees in English from Purdue University. She earned her BA at Earlham College. In addition to mystery and detective fiction, her teaching specialties include British and American drama; mythology, legend, and folklore; business communication; and rhetoric and composition. Professor of English at Prince George's
Community College, she served 12 of her 24 years on the faculty as Chair of the English Department. Before coming to Maryland she was a faculty member at Purdue’s Krannert Graduate School of Management. She is the author of several college textbooks.

21FMF235 Capital Crimes: Detective Fiction DC, Paris, and Dublin
Tuesdays, November 2–December 14, 6 weeks, No class 11/23
1–3 p.m.

Staying Well as You Age

Over this six-week course, health experts from Suburban Hospital, a member of Johns Hopkins Medicine, will discuss different aspects of how to stay healthy in mind, body, and spirit. Topics will include Functional Medicine, Current Nutrition Trends, and Physical Movement.

Eleni Antzoulatos, MPH, a Program Coordinator in the Community Health and Wellness Center at Suburban Hospital, will coordinate the course.

21FMF608 Staying Well as You Age
Tuesdays, September 21–October 26, 6 weeks
1–3 p.m.

Fighting Slavery in the United States

This class examines the fight against slavery between 1787 and the end of the Civil War. Slavery was growing and thriving in the Southern states throughout those decades, and yet the size and energy of the anti-slavery movement grew to match it, ultimately overcoming the “peculiar institution” and consigning it to the dustbin of history by 1865. We will discuss the Constitution and its three-fifths clause, the Haitian Revolution, the rise of the domestic slave trade, David Walker and Nat Turner, the growth of organized antislavery societies, the impact of Frederick Douglass and militant abolitionism, Harriet Beecher Stowe and Uncle Tom’s Cabin (1852), Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad, Roger Taney and the Dred Scott decision, John Brown at Harpers Ferry, and the decisive role played by Black people in the destruction of slavery during the Civil War. The class will provide ample opportunity for student participation.

Richard Bell, PhD, is Associate Professor of History at the University of Maryland. He holds a BA from the University of Cambridge and a PhD from Harvard University. Dr. Bell has held two dozen research fellowships and is the recipient of 15 awards for teaching and mentoring. He serves as a Trustee of the Maryland Historical Society, as an elected member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and as a fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

21FMF512 Fighting Slavery in the United States
Tuesdays, November 2–December 14, 6 weeks, No class 11/23
1–3 p.m.

**Wednesday**

**MORNING SESSION**

**The Divine Comedy: A Journey Through Art**

To honor the 700th anniversary of the poet’s death we will go through the highlights and lowlights of Dante’s journey through the world after death, where everyone gets what they deserved. Illustrated manuscripts of the poem popped up in the dozens soon after 1321. From the great Florentine Botticelli, to Blake and Doré in the Romantic era, and down to Salvador Dali, and including the 16th century drawings for the dome of Florence cathedral, as well as the gorgeous Urbino Codex of 1480, our journey will be guided by artists. Students will be invited to invent their own characters.

*Nora Hamerman, MA, holds her MA degree from the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University. She has taught art history at the University of Virginia and Shenandoah University, and has published articles in scholarly journals as well as hundreds of reviews of art exhibitions as a freelance writer. She studied in Italy for three years as a Fulbright scholar and Chester Dale Fellow of the National Gallery of Art, and is an experienced translator from German, Italian, and Spanish.*

21FMF112 The Divine Comedy: A Journey Through Art  
Wednesdays, September 22–December 15, **No class 11/24**  
10 a.m.–12 noon

**Queen's Gambit: Empresses, Warrior Queens, and the Women Who Exercised Power From Antiquity to the Enlightenment**

In royal courts where aristocrats vied for power and royal siblings and cousins battled over crowns, empresses, queens, and warrior-queens occupied an ambiguous position. They were alternatively respected (and even feared) for the power they could exercise, but often disdained for the gender they embodied; they were loved, revered, sometimes even canonized. More often than not though they were criticized as corrupters of power and its “proper” exercise and frequently prevented from ruling at all. From Zenobia and Boudica to Isabel of Toledo and Catherine de Medici, this course will explore the complex and contradictory figure of these women, from antiquity to the early modern period, discussing the varied roles of queenship across time and across societies; their relationship to broader social and cultural institutions such as the Christian Church; and the ways in which they were acknowledged, celebrated, challenged or set aside. We will also survey how writers, troubadours, and artists of their time imagined them on the page or on the canvass.
Naomi Daremblum is a political scientist whose work focuses on democracies in crisis in Europe and Latin America. She has had teaching appointments at NYU and The New School. She has taught and written on a wide range of subjects, from the rise of Hugo Chavez in Venezuela to the literature of Isabel Allende. Her pieces have been published in magazines such as The New Republic and Letras Libres, the premier literary journal for Latin America, founded by Octavio Paz.

21FMF520 Queen's Gambit: Empresses, Warrior Queens, and the Women Who Exercised Power From Antiquity to the Enlightenment
Wednesdays, September 22–December 15, No class 11/24
10 a.m.–12 noon

Energy and the Environment II

This semester we will move beyond a basic understanding of climate change and the search for alternative sources of energy. Due to the timeliness of our subject and a sense of urgency in seeking solutions, we will be positioned to monitor developments in technology and public policy under the new leadership of the Biden administration.

How will the new administration respond to the climate change imperative? What should be its actions over the first year, the first term? What can be done without Congressional approval? The year 2020 tied for the warmest year since record-keeping began. Or will it be the coolest year for the next 50 years? Join me for a review of climate change’s impacts on global temperatures, drought, flooding, hurricanes, and wildfires, and what the future might bring. Have we reached the tipping point or do we still have time to keep global warming below 2º C? Energy technology is leaping ahead: is a world with minimal fossil fuel possible, or desirable? What are the benefits and drawbacks? How close are we to approaching a zero net-carbon world? What scientific advancements in renewables, energy storage, carbon capture, and geoengineering are necessary to get us there?

How has climate change affected the poorest amongst us? Let’s take a look at climate justice in the US and climate-induced migration around the world and what it portends for the future.

What about the Texas rolling blackouts? What caused them? What can be done to prevent them from happening again?

Join me for an exciting series of sessions where we will explore these and other critical energy and environment issues.

Ron Edelstein is an independent consultant performing energy and environmental analysis, public utility commission regulatory advocacy and expert witness testimony, R&D planning
support, and strategic planning. Ron has been appointed to the City/Utility Advisory Committee of IRESN (Integrated Renewable Energy Systems Network). Ron is consultant to FortisBC, supporting their regulatory filing for R&D approval. He has also taught energy seminars as part of an International Relations course at Johns Hopkins University Osher Lifelong Learning Program.

**21FMF606 Energy and the Environment II**  
Wednesdays, September 22–December 15, **No class 11/24**  
10 a.m.–12 noon

**Modern Labor History**

This course will follow the US labor movement through the years of World War II and into the post-war Red Scare. It will discuss Operation Dixie and the general challenges of organizing in the south, up to the campaign in Bessemer, AL in 2021. There will be discussion about the changes in the work processes and ownership, and the impact of post-industrialism and anti-unionism on the movement and on working people in general. We will consider the dramatic political changes in the US after 1945 and the impact on the union movement. There will also be an evaluation of the culture of the period, the movies, and the songs.

*William “Bill” Barry* is a specialist in labor history and is the retired Director of Labor Studies at Community College of Baltimore County. He taught courses on the history of labor at CCBC and also created a full semester course on the history of the 1930s. He has taught courses on the 1930s and the history of American labor for the Osher programs at Johns Hopkins University and Towson University. The history of slavery course grew out of his course on the history of American labor. Bill is a film zealot and enjoys teaching film as well.

**21FMF519 Modern Labor History**  
Wednesdays, September 22–October 27, **6 weeks**  
10 a.m.–12 noon

**1900: Cradles of Modernism in Vienna, Paris, and London**

1900 was a pivotal fulcrum of that crucial era from 1890 to World War I, which saw the decisive transition from the cultural landscape of the old order in Europe to the dramatic changes signified by the advent of Modernism in its many manifestations in the arts and in social and political life. The coffee houses of fin-de-siècle Vienna were brimming with provocative new ideas about society, human nature, and the arts: it was the age of Sigmund Freud, Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele, Oscar Kokoschka, Gustav Mahler, and Arnold Schoenberg. At the same time, the boldly colorful posters of Toulouse Lautrec advertised the Parisian Belle Époque world of boulevard cafés, Montmartre cabarets, and riot-producing theater performances, while painting moved beyond Impressionism to the even more radical modes of Symbolism, Post-
Impressionism, Fauvism, and Cubism. Meanwhile, London was the center of perhaps the greatest contradictions of all: a dominant imperial and colonialist culture celebrated by Rudyard Kipling on the one hand, with mordant comic relief provided by Gilbert and Sullivan; and on the other hand, by subterranean currents of aestheticism and decadence, as explored by Oscar Wilde and Aubrey Beardsley. We’ll explore this complex cultural brew in richly illustrated presentations, including archival film footage.

George Scheper, PhD, holds a PhD in English from Princeton University. He founded the humanities program for adults at Community College of Baltimore County, where he is Professor Emeritus; he has taught for the Johns Hopkins MLA and Odyssey programs since the 1980s, and has served also as Director of the Odyssey program. Professor Scheper has directed over 20 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institutes for college faculty. Special areas of interest, other than turn-of-the-century culture, include the cultural history of New York City, the pre-Columbian cultures of ancient America, and the tradition of nature writing in England and America.

21FMF102 1900: Cradles of Modernism in Vienna, Paris, and London
Wednesdays, November 3–December 15, 6 weeks, No class 11/24
10 a.m.–12 noon

Wednesday
AFTERNOON SESSION

A Time Traveler's Guide to 14th Century England

This 11-week course will provide an in-depth look into the everyday lives of people in 14th century England. It will be a social history of the times with such topics as how people dressed, what they ate, what their houses looked like, their health and medicine, how did they maintain peace and punish those who did not, how social classes were distinguished, what kind of education was available, what life was like in towns and on the farms, how they conducted trade and commerce, how did their monetary system operate, what weights and measures were used, and how they were governed.

The classes will follow a lecture/discussion format with student input and questions encouraged. It is intended that the participant will complete this course with an increased understanding of this topic, as well as with a desire to learn more about it.

Robert Clarke, MA, earned his degree in European History from The Pennsylvania State University. He is a retired Montgomery County high school Advanced Placement European History teacher, a former adjunct instructor at Essex College, a former Oasis instructor, and an Evergreen/Osher instructor since 2002. In his spare time he volunteers at the National Capital Trolley Museum where he operates and helps maintain vintage streetcars.
A Time Traveler's Guide to 14th Century England
Wednesdays, September 22–December 15, No class 11/24 and 12/15
1–3 p.m.

Mending a Broken Nation: 1870–1880

How does a country that is fragmented come together? The decade of 1870–1880 encompassed a significant chapter in American history, in which healing and rebuilding were necessary. This turbulent era continues to have far-reaching influences on America's political, educational, and cultural systems. This course will explore some of the people and events (well-known and not) that helped to mold the policies and attitudes of a fractured society in 1870 and beyond. Our nation is still reaping the harvest of this tragic conflict. This decade of immense challenges offers a compelling look back to help to understand the long shadow cast by the Civil War and why it still matters in 2021.

Joan Adams has worked as an educator, consultant, and community organizer. Her experience in the classroom ranges from middle school to graduate school. Since 1988 she has served as an adjunct instructor with Prince George's Community College for the Seasoned Adults Growing Educationally (SAGE) program, facilitating classes in current issues and literature. Recently she retired from Washington Adventist University as an adjunct instructor for the School of Graduate and Professional Studies.

Wednesday Great Books

In the fall of 2021 we'll continue using the anthology 100 Great Short Stories (Dover Thrift Editions), edited by James Daley. It contains stories over several centuries, by authors such as Edgar Allan Poe, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Guy de Maupassant, Charles Dickens, Anton Chekhov, Mark Twain, Saki, Luigi Pirandello, Kate Chopin, and Ring Lardner, plus many others. At our first class, we'll discuss two stories: “Desiree's Baby” by Kate Chopin, followed by “The Dark Lantern” by Jules Renard. Both of these stories were published in 1893. Each story's discussion is normally led by a volunteer member of the class, following the “Shared Inquiry Method” promulgated by The Great Books Foundation. There is no requirement that anyone volunteer, and it does take some work to lead discussions, but most of those who have done so find it rewarding. (Under the Shared Inquiry Method, the leader poses interpretive questions which class members then answer based on evidence that they find in the text.) The objectives for this class are to increase not only our understanding of the stories and the authors who wrote them, but also our understanding of our own values and beliefs, and those of the other members of the
class. In addition to being interesting, this increases the sense of community that many of us value.

Erik McWilliams, PhD, directed computing at Cornell University and research and development programs at the National Science Foundation before establishing his own small business in Rockville that specialized in computer simulations. He has participated in dozens of classes of this kind since joining Osher in 2002, and first served as the instructor for this particular class in 2007.

21FMF215 Wednesday Great Books
Wednesdays, September 22–December 15, No class 11/24
1–3 p.m.

History and Its Challenges: How Historians Recreate the Past and Why Others Distort It

Historians are detectives who investigate the past, lawyers whose only client is the truth, and writers who must communicate history's depth, verity, and importance with acumen. But while the past is immaculate, history is a product of human hands and minds—and thus subject to mistakes, errors, and distortions. This course provides six weeks of examining key ideas and figures who created the idea of historians and detailed study of the past. We will discuss who uses history well and who dirties its waters with lies, hoaxes, and conspiracies like Holocaust Deniers and their ilk, and how historians must challenge them. Such conflicts are no less a struggle for who controls perceptions of reality; or as George Orwell noted, “Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past.”

Jason S. Ridler, PhD, is a leftist military historian and novelist. He created the Historical Methods course for the Global Security Studies Program at Johns Hopkins University, and “Exorcising Hitler's Ghost,” a class on the history of the Holocaust and Holocaust Denial for Norwich University. He is the author of Mavericks of War and Maestro of Science, works about civilian subject matter experts as force-enhancers.

21FMF540 History and Its Challenges: How Historians Recreate the Past and Why Others Distort It
Wednesdays, September 22–October 27, 6 weeks
1–3 p.m.

Understanding the Immune Response to Coronavirus and Covid-19 Vaccines

There has been an unprecedented global sharing of information during the pandemic via scientific/medical publications and media outlets. I have found that my background in immunology and 20 years of experience working in the biopharmaceutical industry have given
me a lens for understanding and interpreting the science. This has been valuable in responding to questions from family and friends during the pandemic. I would like to share this information with those who do not necessarily have the scientific background but who want to understand the key findings and discuss the implications during this unprecedented time of vaccine development.

This course will cover the key aspects of the immune response to Covid-19 that have been outlined in the peer-reviewed literature, including the role of the innate and adaptive immune response, as well as immune cells that are required for a protective response to infection. We will discuss vaccine development (compare/contrast current vaccines and how to interpret vaccine efficacy) and look to the future of building new vaccines for covid variants.

**Marna Williams, PhD,** has worked in the biopharmaceutical industry for 20 years in translational medicine and contributed to the development of therapeutics for cancer and autoimmune/inflammatory diseases. Her educational background is in immunology and cellular biology (PhD Yale University, postdoctoral fellow Stanford University). She has authored more than 50 publications, presentations, and scientific posters. Her research at Stanford focused on evaluation of the mechanisms of trafficking of cells that provide immune responses during viral infection (rotavirus).

**21FMF630 Understanding the Immune Response to Coronavirus and Covid-19 Vaccines**

Wednesdays, November 3–December 15, **6 weeks, No class 11/24**

1–3 p.m.

**The Film Works of David Fincher**

2020’s *Mank,* starring Gary Oldman, tells the story behind the writing process of Orson Welles’s *Citizen Kane,* yet it also fully articulates the unique style of David Fincher. While he got his start directing flashy music videos for the MTV Generation in the 1980s, his film *Se7en* in 1995 put him on the map as an up-and-coming auteur in Hollywood. This course will explore a majority of his feature length films (*The Game* [1997], *Fight Club* [1999], *Panic Room* [2002], *Zodiac* [2007], *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* [2008], *The Social Network* [2010], *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* [2011], *Gone Girl* [2014], and *Mank* [2020]) to uncover a director whose vanguard position in Hollywood’s transition to the digital age fostered his distinguished approach to filmmaking in the 21st century.

**Mary Dutterer, MA,** is Associate Professor of English at Prince George’s Community College and Master Adjunct Instructor at Howard Community College, where she teaches composition, literature, and film classes. She has a BA in English Literature (minor in Film Studies) from The Ohio State University and an MA in English Literature (concentration in Film Studies) from Illinois State University. Her work in Film Studies focuses on literature adaptations and propaganda films of WWII.
Novellas: Short Fiction With Power

Many writers of full-length novels have written shorter works that fully express their talents. In this course we will read a selection of these so-called “novellas” that are recognized as distinctive works of their authors. We will begin with Herman Melville's *Billy Budd* and *Bartleby the Scrivener*, which students should read before coming to the first class. The other works, in order, are Henry James' *The Aspern Papers* and *The Beast in the Jungle*; Edith Wharton's *Ethan Frome*; James Baldwin's *Giovanni's Room*; Muriel Sparks' *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*; and J. L. Carr's *A Month in the Country*.

*Robert Shoenberg, PhD,* received his degree in English literature from the University of Michigan and taught at Williams College and the University of Maryland, College Park, where he served for 14 years as Dean for Undergraduate Studies. For several semesters he has taught seniors through Montgomery College's Lifelong Learning Institute.

21FMF213 Novellas: Short Fiction With Power
Wednesdays, November 3–December 15, 6 weeks, No class 11/24
1–3 p.m.

Thursday
MORNING SESSION

The Operas of Giacomo Puccini and Richard Strauss: Forever Rivals

In the generation of opera composers that followed Verdi and Wagner, a great Italian, Giacomo Puccini, and a great German, Richard Strauss, dominated the stage with magnificent operas. Once again, they were as different from each other as are the cultures of their countries. But in these sessions, we don’t have to choose one or the other! *La bohème* and *Der Rosenkavalier*—and so many more—are the gifts we can share and celebrate. The finest recordings and videos will be presented and the music dramas analyzed by our opera expert and long-time Osher instructor Saul Lilienstein.

*Saul Lilienstein, MS,* was for many years Artistic Director and Conductor of Maryland's Harford Opera Theatre and then of Operetta Renaissance in Baltimore, conducting and producing well over 50 operas. His is a familiar voice at the Smithsonian Institution, here at Johns Hopkins University in Rockville, at the Goethe Institut for symphonic concerts at the Kennedy Center, opera lectures for Washington National Opera, and recently at music symposiums in New York, California, Ohio, and Florida. He has now completed over 90 highly
acclaimed commentaries on CD for the Washington National Opera, analyzing the repertoire in the most extensive series of its kind in the English language. His essays on music have appeared in newspapers throughout the country, in journals, and in anthologies.

21FMF106 The Operas of Giacomo Puccini and Richard Strauss: Forever Rivals
Thursdays, September 23–December 16, No class 11/25
10 a.m.–12 noon

Taking Stock of Biden’s America

This course examines in real time the progress the Biden-Harris team is making to confront violent extremism and keep its promise to use government to effectively combat economic inequality, racial injustice, and climate change. The class also covers the evolution of the post-Trump Republican Party and the media’s role in promoting a new generation of leaders in both political parties.

Eleanor Clift is a politics writer at The Daily Beast, an online publication. Formerly with Newsweek, she has covered every presidential campaign since 1976. She has written or co-written five books, including Two Weeks of Life: A Memoir of Love, Death, and Politics, and Founding Sisters and the Nineteenth Amendment. She has appeared as herself in several movies, including Independence Day and Dave, and CBS-TV’s Murphy Brown.

21FMF420 Taking Stock of Biden's America
Thursdays, September 23–December 16, No class 11/25
10 a.m.–12 noon

From Tribes to Monarchy: The Book of Judges

The Book of Judges, the seventh (out of 24) book of the Hebrew Bible, describes the transition time between the conquest of Canaan (the Book of Joshua) and the beginning of monarchy (in the early Book of I Samuel). In the interim, warriors who were called Judges emerged as the leaders when needed.

In the book of Judges, one finds the first attempt to explain history through Deuteronomist glasses, and therefore this and the rest of the history books are assumed to be written by “the Deuteronomic Historians.”

Some stories are very short while others are long with many details. Some are well known but others are rarely mentioned unless one is actually reading the text. Join us for this interesting exploration.
Gideon Amir, MS, MA, worked and taught in various areas of computer science for 30 years before enrolling in a full-time graduate program in Judaic Studies at Baltimore Hebrew University. In May 2001 he earned a master’s degree and completed PhD course work. He taught undergraduate courses at Baltimore Hebrew University; he also taught Bible and Jewish liturgy courses in many area synagogues and churches and in other adult education outlets. Gideon earned his bachelor’s degree in mathematics from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and his master’s degree in computer science from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel.

21FMF504 From Tribes to Monarchy: The Book of Judges
Thursdays, September 23–December 16, No class 11/25
10 a.m.–12 noon

Wisdom's Fortune: An Introduction to French Philosophical Thought

The aim of the course is to acquaint the student with the French philosophical tradition from the 16th to the 20th century in its specific religious, artistic, and political context, which is generally absent from the histories of philosophy. It also aims to fill the gap by mentioning lesser-known thinkers whose influence was important to understanding the development of French thought.

We will study two authors per class: Montaigne/Descartes, Voltaire/Diderot, Montesquieu/Rousseau, Comte/Bergson, Sartre/de Beauvoir, and Camus/Foucault. The book Wisdom’s Fortune: An Introduction to French Philosophical Thought, is currently awaiting publication and is the foundation for this course.

Daniel Vitagliano, PhD, is a native of Marseille (France) and holds master’s degrees in Psychology and English from the University of Aix-Marseille, a master’s in Comparative Philosophy from the University of Hawaii, and a PhD in English and Comparative Literature from the University of St. Andrews (UK). He is the author of several books including George Eliot and George Sand, The Literature of Provence, and L’Amérique des Utopies. He has taught literature and philosophy in several American and French universities and now teaches at Miami Dade College and the University of Miami, Continuing Education/OLLI division.

21FMF536 Wisdom's Fortune: An Introduction to French Philosophical Thought
Thursdays, September 23–October 28, 6 weeks
10 a.m.–12 noon

Don DeLillo Novels: Living in Dangerous Times

Don DeLillo is arguably America’s greatest living novelist. Described in one review as “the chief shaman of the paranoid school of American fiction,” reality has finally caught up with
DeLillo and what once seemed paranoia now appears as prophecy. Throughout his remarkable career DeLillo has explored nuclear war, terrorism, technology, art, ecological catastrophe, the Kennedy assassination, conspiraey, television, and what it means to be an American living in the midst of all these things.

In this class we will read and discuss three of DeLillo’s most prominent books: *White Noise*, *Libra*, and *Mao II*. Join us as we, through class discussion, delve into DeLillo’s dark yet often comic vision of the turbulent era we inhabit—what DeLillo describes as “living in dangerous times.” This class will involve in-depth discussions and close readings of the texts.

Robert Jacobs, MA, received a BA in English from Towson University and traveled to the United Kingdom where he attained an MA in Comparative Literature from the School of Oriental and African Studies/University of London. He spent several years in London working as a freelance writer and has contributed to a variety of publications such as *Time Out/London*, the Baltimore Sun’s Metromix, and *The Examiner*. In addition to teaching for Osher at JHU, he is currently an adjunct instructor at the Community College of Baltimore County.

**21FMF206 Don DeLillo Novels: Living in Dangerous Times**  
Thursdays, November 4–December 16, 6 weeks, No class 11/25  
10 a.m.–12 noon

**Thursday**  
**AFTERNOON SESSION**

**Osher at JHU Lecture Series**

Osher at JHU is pleased to offer a roster of distinguished guest lecturers who will share professional expertise, ideas, and experiences. A complete summary can be found on BOX. An abridged version is provided below:

September 23, Hussein Aboubakr Mansour, Director for Emerging Democratic Voice in the Middle East, addressing “Anti-Semitism and Democracy in the Middle East.”

September 30, Cynthia Miller-Idriss, Professor of Education and Sociology, School of Education, American University, addressing “Hate in the Homeland: The New Global Far Right.”


October 14, Anne-Marie Slaughter, CEO, New America, addressing “Renewing the Promise of America.”
October 21, Wendy R. Weiser, Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, addressing “Attacks on Voting Rights and Other Threats to American Democracy: The Challenge and the Path Forward.”

October 28, Nancy Duff Campbell, Co-President Emerita, National Women’s Law Center, addressing “Statues May Tumble, Mountains Not So Much: Naming an Adirondack for the Suffragist Inez Milholland.”

November 4, Frank Figliuzzi, Former Assistant Director for Counterintelligence at the FBI, and MSNBC Columnist and National Security Contributor for NBC News and MSNBC, addressing “The FBI Way: Inside the Bureau's Code of Excellence.”

November 11, Suzanne Maloney, Vice President and Director-Foreign Policy, Brookings Institution, addressing “Biden’s Foreign Policy for the Middle East.”

November 18, Lee Gelernt, Deputy Director, ACLU Immigrants’ Rights Project, addressing “An ACLU Lawyer’s View of the Trump Administration’s Immigration Policies and Commentary on the Biden Administration's Implemented and Pending Actions.”

December 2, Joanna Weiss, Editor-In-Chief of Experience, Northeastern University, Contributing Editor to Politico, addressing “How Twitter Changed Politics: Social Media and The New Political Discourse.”

December 9, Nick Schifrin, Foreign Affairs and Defense Correspondent, PBS NewsHour, addressing “Empathy and Foreign Policy.”


**Alan White, PhD, Guest Lecture Series coordinator, is a former college professor, college administrator, national training program director, and US Department of Defense contract training manager.**

**21FMF900 Osher at JHU Lecture Series**
Thursdays, September 23–December 16, **No class 11/25**
1–3 p.m.

**Current Events**

Please join me for discussions of the latest current events in this exciting period of US and world history. We will journey across topics, from the coronavirus and vaccine rollout to suppression
of voting rights, climate change and the potential for shifting to a low-carbon future, and the latest Biden administration initiatives. On the international front: China’s economic and military threats and internal suppression of Hong Kong, Uighurs, Tibetans, and other minorities; Russian actions in Eastern Europe, European actions on embracing renewables; and other topics that hit the news. On the political front, we’ll talk about the possibility for removal of the filibuster in the Senate; how to deal with roadblocks to legislative action; possibilities for and limits to Executive Action, and what are the most important initiatives that the Biden administration should be pursuing? On climate change, what are the most critical events: wildfires, draught, flooding, sea level rise, desertification; have we reached a tipping point and, if not, what might the tipping point be; how are energy use and climate change related; and can we act fast enough to reduce or reverse the impact of climate change? This is really your course, so I want to hear from you and get your comments on what you think about these and other topics important to you. As the news changes, new topics will be added to the agenda.

*Ron Edelstein* (see bio page 10)

**21FMF404 Current Events**

Thursdays, September 23–December 16, No class 11/25

1–3 p.m.

**Storytelling Without Words**

Human beings have always told stories, whether to explain their world, convey some deeper truth, or merely to entertain. Stories generally use words. But this course will look at some of the ways in which stories can be told by non-verbal means. Through visual art, in a single picture, or a series of them. Through maps, diagrams, and cartoons. Through dance. Through tone poems in music. Through ritual. Through film. Through any medium that can engage us with a character or idea, and take us on a journey to a different place.

*Roger Brunyate* is Artistic Director Emeritus of the Peabody Opera Theatre, which he led from 1980 to 2012. He holds degrees in English and Fine Arts from Cambridge, but made his career in opera, working at Glyndebourne, the Edinburgh Festival, the English Opera Group, and La Scala, Milan. Coming to America in 1972, he has run programs in Florida, Cincinnati, the Curtis Institute, and Wolf Trap, besides directing here and abroad with such conductors as Mstislav Rostropovich and Yuri Temirkanov.

**21FMF117 Storytelling Without Words**

Thursdays, September 23–October 28, 6 weeks

1–3 p.m.

**Tales of Ovid**
The *Metamorphoses* of Ovid (8 CE) have had a powerful hold on the imagination of poets, artists, and composers from the renaissance and baroque to the present day. In this six-week course, we shall look at Ovid himself in the crux between the death of the old world and the birth of the new—and, by following selected stories, at the many different ways his work has been translated and adapted in poetry, painting, music, and the theater.

Roger Brunyate (see previous bio.)

21FMF118 Tales of Ovid
Thursdays, November 4–December 16, 6 weeks, No class 11/25
1–3 p.m.

Short Stories by International Voices

This course will reflect on stories by writers who immigrated to America. They focus on the experiences, concerns, and aspirations of those who left their homeland for a new life in the United States. *Immigrant Voices*, a collection from the Great Book Foundation, highlights authors such as Junot Diaz, Edwidge Danticat, Yiyun Lin, Alexandar Hemon.

Kumar Dixit, PhD, has taught Religions and Theology at three academic institutions. He is the author of two books and hundreds of magazine articles and journals. He earned his doctorate at Wesley Theological Seminary.

21FMF203 Short Stories by International Voices
Thursdays, September 23–October 28, 6 weeks
1–3 p.m.

Democratic Leadership Models

The political scientist James McGregor Burns said “one of the most universal cravings of our time is a hunger for compelling and creative leadership.” Today, the craving for sound leadership is felt even more keenly than before, but examples of excellence in leadership are scarce. With both populism and authoritarianism on the rise globally, and polarization at high levels domestically, it has become especially urgent to understand what true democratic leadership entails—both its power and its limits. This course explores leadership models in America, starting with the founders and the conditions they set for future democratic leaders. In addition to examples of political leadership, we will study leadership in the area of social reform. The course considers these models through primary readings, biographies, lectures, and film depictions to identify which models of creative leadership may be helpful in addressing current problems of contemporary politics.
Dorothea Israel Wolfson, PhD, is the Director of the Master of Arts in Government for the Government Program at Johns Hopkins University. She has been teaching in the program since 1995 and currently teaches courses in the areas of American politics, American political thought, political theory, and writing and research methods. Her research and teaching interests center on democracy and civic engagement, American political thought, and family policy. She has published articles on Alexis de Tocqueville, Thomas Jefferson, Abigail Adams, and on John Locke and children’s literature. She has collaborated on a book, Our Sacred Honor, with William J. Bennett, and her essays and reviews have appeared in The Claremont Review of Books, The American Interest, and Perspectives on Political Science. Before joining the Johns Hopkins program, she was a policy analyst at Empower America. She holds a BA from the University of Chicago and a PhD in Government from Cornell University.

21FMF530 Democratic Leadership Models
Thursdays, November 4–December 16, 6 weeks, No class 11/25
1–3 p.m.

Contemporary Issues in Criminal Law

This course will provide insight into contemporary topics in criminal law. John McCarthy, the State’s Attorney for Montgomery County, will present a series of lectures that will include updates on handgun legislation, the opiate crisis, new strategies for protecting the senior community, and hot topics of common interest that evolve during the course of the next several months. He will also feature periodic appearances of major figures involved in the development of criminal justice policies in Montgomery County.

John McCarthy, JD, State's Attorney for Montgomery County for 16 years, has been a practicing member of the Maryland bar for more than 40 years. He was elected to the American college of trial lawyers in 2007. He has prosecuted more than 250 major felony and high-profile cases throughout his career and is widely regarded as one of the top trial attorneys in Maryland. Mr. McCarthy is a former president of the Maryland Bar Association and the Maryland State's Attorneys Association. He was recently inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers as the first prosecutor in the history of Maryland to be so honored. He is an associate professor at Montgomery College in the Paralegal Studies Program. John regularly hosts international groups of judges from around the world and teaches internationally on Rule of Law issues for Open World and the United States Justice Department.

21FMF510 Contemporary Issues in Criminal Law
Thursdays, September 23–October 28, 6 weeks
1–3 p.m.

Making Environmental Choices: Climate, Energy, Chemicals, and Radiation
The choices we face in our daily lives might include which policies to support and what personal actions to take or avoid. We will look at some physical processes that are central to our understanding of environmental issues. Topics to be covered include climate change, renewable energy, nuclear radiation and wastes, marine dead zones, and the fate of chemicals in the environment. Along the way we will look some facets of the norms and conduct of science research, including scientific publications, science advisory committees, and how journalism treats science. No scientific background is required.

*Kenneth Hinga, PhD,* recently retired after 10 years at USDA Foreign Agricultural Service and US FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. He was a science advisor for both agencies. Prior to federal service, he was a research oceanographer and assistant dean of the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography.

**21FMF619 Making Choices: Understanding Environmental Issues**

Thursdays, November 4–December 16, *6 weeks, No class 11/25*

1–3 p.m.