



Course Catalog

**Spring 2025
Sessions C and D**



Find out more at [assumptionwise.org](https://www.assumptionwise.org)

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How to Contact Us

The WISE office is located on the Assumption University campus in Room 206 in La Maison Française. Our office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Please let us know if you have any questions or wish to discuss the program; we invite new ideas, and feedback at any time.

Find us at assumptionwise.org
or visit our Facebook page

Email: wise@assumption.edu
Phone: (508) 767-7513

All About WISE

The Worcester Institute for Senior Education was founded in 1993 and is an affiliate organization of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies at Assumption University in Worcester, MA.

The WISE Mission

WISE is a member-driven organization providing lifelong learning opportunities for older adults.

Our vision is to be a learning community that offers adults intellectual stimulation, socialization, personal growth, and opportunities for service.

Through peer learning concepts, members share their knowledge and experiences with each other by creating, coordinating, and participating in courses.



Be WISE and Join Now

Join WISE and you become a member of a community of lifelong learners. WISE members enjoy a variety of interesting courses together with a schedule of engaging educational and social events.

Members can enjoy performances and sports events on campus at no cost. Discounts are available when visiting Assumption University's recreation center, snack bar and dining hall.

The WISE Classroom

Membership allows access to all courses and events. Each session, WISE offers classes both online via Zoom and in-person on the Assumption University campus. Zoom classes (and even some in-person classes) are recorded for members to access at a time that is convenient for them.

Unlimited Course Selection

A WISE membership provides adult learners with unlimited access to a compelling selection of courses. Most Fall and Spring courses consist of five 90-minute classes, in a wide variety of topics such as music, art, history, technology, culture, science, nature and more. Most courses do not overlap, allowing members to take as many classes as they choose.

Teach at WISE

Do you have a special interest or hobby? WISE is always interested in welcoming new instructors and new topics. In addition to becoming a student, consider being a WISE instructor. For more information on teaching at WISE visit our website here: <https://assumptionwise.org/teaching>

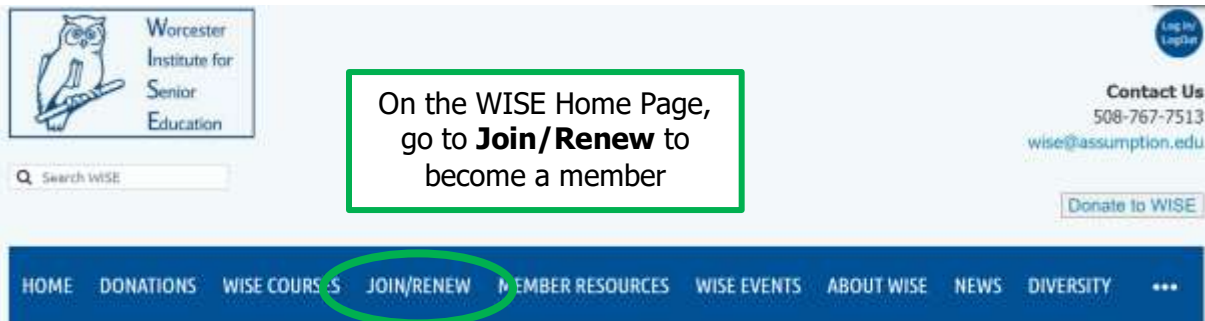
Ready to Join WISE?

Visit the WISE website at assumptionwise.org to sign up and purchase a full- or half-year membership online.

Membership Fees for the current academic year:

Half-Year (Fall 2024 **or** Spring 2025) \$185.00

Full-Year (Fall 2024 **and** Spring 2025) \$365.00



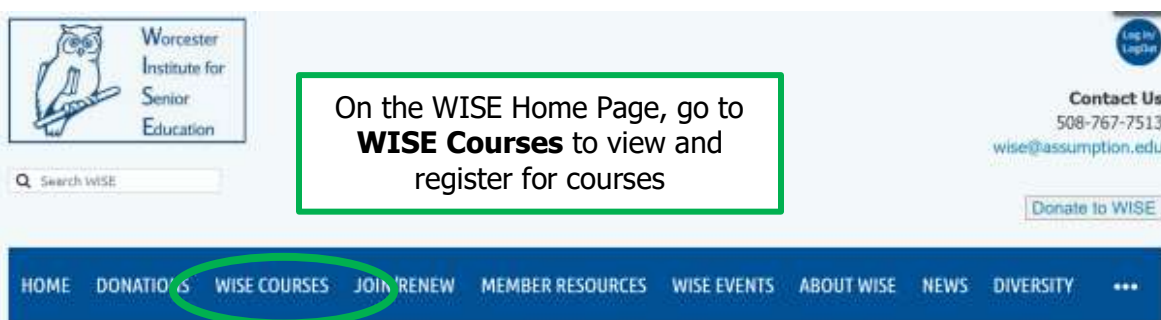
Follow the registration instructions for membership, which will prompt you to pay online with your credit card. If you prefer to pay by check, send your payment to:

WISE at Assumption University, 500 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609

You can also contact the WISE office directly to start your membership. We are here to assist you with logging onto our site, setting up your WISE profile, and/or registering for classes. Send us an email at wise@assumption.edu or call (508) 767-7513. We are happy to help!

How to Register for Classes

Once you are a WISE member, you can register for upcoming classes via the WISE website. Sign up for one class or all of them! You will receive a confirmation email for each of the courses you have selected.



Spring 2025 Overview

Session C dates: February 3 - March 7

Session D dates: March 24 – May 2

Spring 2025 classes are offered **In Person** and on **Zoom**. See below for details.

In-Person classes: These are held on campus at Assumption University (unless otherwise noted)

Category	No.	Title	Instructor(s)
History	C2	Introduction to the American Antiquarian Society <i>(NOTE: Class will meet at the AAS in Worcester)</i>	N. Wolverton/S. Casper
Business	D1	Financial Crimes, Money Laundering & Fraud	E. Goodwin
Literature	D3	Women of the Frozen North	L. Corti
Current Events	D4	Title IX: Unintended Consequences	J. Sifleet
Science	D5	The Anthropological Perspective	S. Rodgers
Literature	D6	Shakespeare's Uppity Women	H. Whall/V. Mason Vaughn
Current Events	D9	Yup, MORE Controversies in Education	S. Starr
Music	D15	The "Magic" of Music Literacy	M. Lutch

Zoom classes: These are held online via Zoom; links are made available upon registration

Category	No.	Title	Instructor(s)
Music	C1	The Life & Times of Great Composers Part III	P. Buono
Art	C4	Ninth St. Women: Modern Art in the 20 th C.	M. Chiarchiaro
History	C5	Peacemakers & their Religious Traditions	K. Fisher
Nature	C8	The Nature of the Seasons of Worcester	S. Pereira
History	C9	The Roosevelt Family	D. Nevard
History	C10	New England & the Underground Railroad	S. Franz
Science	C11	In Darwin's Footsteps: Journey to the Galapagos	E. Simon
Business	C13	China's Economy in the Global Marketplace	T. Gottschang
Culture	C14	I Go Pogo: Walt Kelly's Comic Strip	K. Hakkarainen
Music	C15	Four Icons of American Music	M. Lutch
Art	D8	A History of American Photography	M. Chiarchiaro
History	D10	Votes for All: Emancipation to Suffrage	S. Franz
History	D11	More Great Trials that Changed History	S. Solomon
History	D12	Wise Elders: Teachers of Hope	K. Fisher
Technology	D13	Historical Analysis with Artificial Intelligence	K. Hakkarainen

Session C Course Descriptions

C1. The Life and Times of Great Composers – Part 3

Mondays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3

Zoom



This is the last of a 3-part course focusing on a variety of musicians, exploring their lives and the historical times in which they lived. These musicians will be separated by geography and perhaps many years, but the relationship they will share is their great contribution to the history of music composition as well as their intriguing personal life stories. We will examine musicians from the 1600s to modern day. Students will be treated to playlists that they can use to create their own "mix tapes" of these incredible composers.



Instructor: Paul Buono began as a classical pianist, discovered jazz in high school and then moved to New York City to hone his skills, somehow managing to play with masters such as Wynton Marsalis. He played a variety of gigs, taught in the NYC public school system, and worked as a musical director for Princess and Cunard Cruises, traveling to exotic locales such as Bora Bora, Tahiti, New Zealand, and Alaska. Paul earned his law degree and passed the MA bar before returning to NYC to work as an attorney in the intellectual property field but was pulled back into the music scene. He served as the musical director for Javier Colon, the Season 1 winner of "The Voice" on NBC, and toured with Maroon 5 on their 2012 "OverExposed World Tour" throughout North, Central, and South America, performing for audiences as large as 35,000. Paul performs regularly and teaches at various universities and online, including Assumption University where he is the jazz band director. Paul also works as a musical director for Music Management, a Boston agency that produces a variety of musical installations.

C2. An Introduction to the American Antiquarian Society

Mondays 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
February 3, 10, 24, March 3, 10

In person
American
Antiquarian
Society



The American Antiquarian Society has long welcomed scholars of American history and culture to its home on Salisbury Street in Worcester. This course will provide an overview of the library facilities and introduce participants to the impressive pre-1900 collections at AAS, including books, newspapers, graphic arts, manuscripts, and children's literature. **Course is limited to 15 participants and will have a wait list.**

Instructor: Nan Wolverton, Vice President for Academic and Public Programs at the AAS, holds a PhD in American Studies from the University of Iowa. Before joining the AAS, Nan held positions at Old Sturbridge Village, Historic Northampton, and Smith College.

Scott Casper became the 18th President of AAS in 2020. Long affiliated with the AAS, Scott began his career as a history professor. He has numerous publications in the field of American history, including his award-winning book, *Constructing American Lives: Biography and Culture in 19th-Century America*.

C3. The Beatles from Liverpool to Abbey Road – Part 3

Mondays 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3

Zoom



We explore the history and music of The Beatles in a 5-part series which incorporates lecture, audio, and video. The course begins with an examination of the time before the British Invasion, and the onset of Beatlemania. We follow the group through the 1960s, album by album, as they progress stylistically, add new sounds, technologies, and mature lyrical ideas. Ultimately, they become independent of each other and finally break apart. Participation is encouraged. There are suggested readings for enrichment and playlists associated with each session.

POSTPONED



The instructor is a graduate from Oberlin Conservatory of music where he received his M.Ed. from UMass Boston in online learning design and recently retired after 17 years as a Learning Designer there. He edits the Music Museum of New England website: MMONE.org. Gene recently participated in a Beatles tour of Liverpool and London sponsored by the Fab 4 Masterclass. He is also proficient on synthesizer, bass, and guitar.

C4. The Ninth-Street Women: Modern Art in the Mid-20th C.

Tuesdays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
February 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4

Zoom



As Mary Gabriel did in her 2018 book, *Ninth Street Women*, we will chronicle the extraordinary contribution of five women in the mid-20th century world of Abstract Expressionism: Lee Krasner (married to Jackson Pollock), Elaine DeKooning (married to Wilhem DeKooning), Grace Hartigan, Joan Mitchell, and Helen Frankenthaler (married to Robert Motherwell). All of these women participated in the historic 1951 9th Street Art Exhibition, the formal debut of Abstract Expression, considered by many scholars to be the first American art style to achieve international influence. We will explore the lives and art of these five women who helped to revolutionize American art of the 20th century.

Optional Reading: *Ninth Street Women*, Mary Gabriel, 2018



Instructor: Martha Chiarchiaro has brought history to life through the art of the times for more than 30 years. She received her Master's degree in the History of Art from Williams College and has taught a variety of art history classes at the Worcester Art Museum, Worcester State University, WISE, and other cultural organizations. As noted on her *Seeing History* website, Martha's specialty presentations related to specific periods, artists, and activities provide an in-depth look at the life and times of people through their art.

C5. Peacemakers and their Religious Traditions

Tuesdays 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
February 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4

Zoom



This course explores the stories of five people who won or were considered for the Nobel Peace Prize and the religious principles that influenced their work. It offers a different approach to the study of religions by focusing each session on the social justice teachings of one faith tradition and its Nobel laureate: Quakers -- Emily Greene Balch (1946) and the Quaker community (1947); Protestant Christianity -- Martin Luther King, Jr. (1964); Judaism -- Elie Wiesel (1986); Buddhism -- The 14th Dalai Lama (1989); and Hinduism -- Mohandas Gandhi, the missing laureate, who was nominated several times.



Instructor: Kathleen Fisher has taught at WISE since 2019, offering courses on The Gnostic Gospels, Celtic Spirituality, the poet Mary Oliver, and the mystics Rumi and St. Francis. She holds a Ph.D. in Medieval History and Religion from Boston University where she focused on Irish history and medieval monasticism. "Peacemakers and their Religious Traditions" arose from her interest and teaching experience in world religions and issues of social justice. Recently retired from a long teaching career in Theology at Assumption University, Kathleen now lives in Chapel Hill, NC.

C8. The Nature of the Seasons of Worcester

Wednesdays 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
February 5, 12, 19, 26

Zoom



Explore how plants and animals respond to the changes of the seasons. Fall displays its full beauty at the end of the growing season with its abundance of seeds, nuts, and berries. The Winter brings shorter days with colder temperatures, and plants enter a state of dormancy. Next up, Spring ushers in warmer temperatures and sunlight which brings new life to both animals and plants. Then finally Summer arrives with longer days and abundant sunlight when plants are in full growth mode as well as the animals relying on the food produced. These adaptations to seasonal changes are crucial for the survival and reproduction of both plants and animals, demonstrating the intricate connections between life and the Earth's natural cycles.

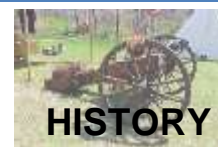


Instructor: Sheryl Pereira is a Field Teacher at Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary in Worcester. She is a longtime naturalist and keeps the sanctuary bird feeders well-stocked. When not birding or working with the public, Sheryl can usually be found teaching her granddaughter about the out-of-doors. Sheryl's favorite courses to teach are all about birds from our backyard birds to raptors, owls, and waterfowl. She also enjoys taking nature enthusiasts on birding adventures.

C9. The Roosevelt Family

Wednesdays 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
February 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5

Zoom



The Roosevelt family dominated American politics in the first half of the 20th century. Theodore was president for 7 years as a Republican, and his distant cousin Franklin was president for 12 as a Democrat. Eleanor Roosevelt linked to both – she was Theodore’s niece and Franklin’s wife. They were wealthy New York aristocrats who felt an obligation to enter public service and did so energetically. Teddy’s “Square Deal” focused on conservation of natural resources, corporate law, and consumer protection. Franklin’s “New Deal” used public work projects, financial reforms, and regulations to rescue the country from Depression. Both promoted the United States as a leader on the world stage. Eleanor Roosevelt was a unique First Lady, acting as Franklin’s liberal conscience and later as the first US Ambassador to the United Nations.

Optional Reading: *The Roosevelts: An Intimate History* by Geoffrey C. Ward; Alfred A. Knopf, 2014
ISBN: 978-0-307-70023-0

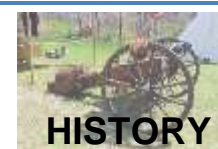


Instructor: David Nevard grew up in suburban Boston and has always been fascinated by history – especially World War II and the postwar era. He attended UMass-Amherst and worked as an IT professional for over 30 years. Since retirement, David has been an instructor at WISE and other area lifelong learning programs. His courses include The Worcester Tornado; Suburbia; New York World’s Fair; Displaced Persons after World War II; the Berlin Wall; Operation Paperclip; The Nuremberg War Crimes Trials; and most recently Immigrant Ships.

C10. New England and the Underground Railroad: By Land and by Sea

Thursdays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
February 6, 13, 20, 27, March 6

Zoom



New England shares the dual roles of promoting enslavement in the 17th & 18th centuries with its ports and products vital to the Transatlantic slave trade and the 19th century rise of the Underground Railroad and Abolition movement that brought enslavement to its end. We will discuss key events and figures including Sea Captain Paul and his wife Alice Cuffe, Lewis and Harriet Hayden, Charles Lenox Remond, Frederick Douglass, Rev. Samuel J. May, Prudence Crandall, Abby Kelley Foster, and other significant figures who bring this era to life.



Instructor: Susan Franz holds a master's degree from Clark University and has taught at several local colleges. She has taught several courses on the abolition and Underground Railroad periods for WISE and lectures frequently around the Commonwealth. She played a key role in gaining National Park Service recognition for Underground Railroad locations in the Blackstone River Valley and designed an exhibit on the Underground Railroad for state parks. She has served on the Uxbridge Select Board, Finance Committee, and Historical Commission and has edited a book on French artist Elisabeth Vigée Le Brun titled *Moments of Joy*.

C11. In Darwin's Footsteps: A Journey to the Galapagos

Thursdays 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
February 6, 13, 20, 27, March 6

Zoom



From 1831-6, Charles Darwin circumnavigated the globe on HMS *Beagle*. In the Galapagos Islands and elsewhere, Darwin collected data that, after decades of study and reflection, formed part of the basis for his publication *On the Origin of Species*. The ideas presented in that volume remain the foundation of all modern biological thought. Drawing upon original source materials and the instructor's photos, this course will present the historical and cultural context of Darwin's era, follow the 5-year journey, discuss how Darwin came to his ideas, and explain his theories in detail. This course is intended for people with little or no college-level biology experience; no prior knowledge of biology or evolutionary theory is presumed.

Optional Readings:

The Autobiography of Charles Darwin by Charles Darwin, *The Voyage of the Beagle* by Charles Darwin and *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* by Charles Darwin, all in a public domain given to the students.



Instructor: Eric J. Simon, Ph.D. is a professor in the Department of Biology and Health Science at New England College in Henniker, New Hampshire. Dr. Simon is an award-winning nature photographer who leads educational trips for both undergraduates and lifelong learners to such destinations as Belize, the Galapagos, Tanzania, Cuba, the Amazon River, and Patagonia. Prof. Simon earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Harvard University. Dr. Simon is the author of a widely used series of college biology textbooks with over 2 million books in print that help teach biology to students in over 40 countries.

C13. China's Economy in the Global Marketplace

Fridays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
February 7, 14, 21, 28, March 7

Zoom



China has the second largest economy in the world by standard GDP, and its rapid rise since the 1980s has transformed global markets. Despite recent turbulence in its housing and financial sectors and strains in its relations with the United States, China continues to grow faster than any other major economy and affects consumers and firms around the world. This course will provide participants with an understanding of the influences that have shaped China's economy and that continue to guide the decisions of its leaders. Each class session will focus on a major influence and show how it is manifested in today's events. Class content will include discussions of the role of geography, history, and culture, as well as an examination of the choice of the centrally planned socialist economic model in the 1940s and the sharp turn to a market-based economy in the 1980s. We will conclude with discussions of several prominent current topics, including the explosive growth of China's auto industry, and the controversial Belt and Road Initiative.

Optional Readings:

Barry Naughton, *The Chinese Economy: Adaptation and Growth*; Second Edition, 2018, MIT Press. ISBN 9780262534796
Justin Yifu Lin, et al., *The China Miracle: Development Strategy and Economic Reform*, Revised Edition, 2003
China Daily, available online at www.chinadaily.com.cn
"China," *The World Factbook*, Central Intelligence Agency, USA; available online at www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/china/



Instructor: Tom Gottschang is a Professor Emeritus of Economics at the College of the Holy Cross, where he taught courses on economics and the economy of China for over 40 years. He has lived and worked in China and earned his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan.

C14. I Go Pogo: Walt Kelly & the World's Greatest Comic Strip

Zoom

Fridays 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
February 7, 14, 21, 28, March 7



From 1948 until his death in 1975, Walt Kelly gave us *Pogo*, arguably the best comic strip ever. Ever-lovin' Blue-Eyed Pogo Possum lived in the lushly illustrated Okefenokee Swamp with buddies Churchy La Femme, Albert Alligator, the forever convoluted bats, Bewitched, Bothered, and Bewildered, and countless other characters and caricatures. We'll learn about Kelly's life, his time in the Disney Studio, his daily and full-page color Sunday strips, his politics that drew fire from left and right, innumerable side projects, and that holiday classic "Deck Us All with Boston Charlie." The strips made us laugh and made us think.

Suggested Reading: The Internet Archive offers many Pogo books for free online viewing:
<https://archive.org/search?query=pogo+walt+kellyn>



Instructor: Karl Hakkarainen is retired after a 40-year career in the computer industry. A graduate of Amherst College, he is a long-time WISE instructor who has taught courses on technology, history, journalism, music, and law. His grandchildren still ask for and generally heed his advice with their technology concerns. He was born in Gardner, Massachusetts.

C15. Four Icons of American Music

Zoom

Fridays 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
February 7, 14, 21, 28, March 7



This course will cover the lives and music of 4 American music icons: Aaron Copland, George Gershwin, Leonard Bernstein, and John Williams. We will focus on their musical influences, compositional styles, performing, teaching, conducting, and legacies. Their musical output, known domestically and internationally, spans over a century with Copland's first composition, *The Cat and Mouse*, being written in 1920 and Williams' most recent being *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny* in 2023.



Instructor: Mitchell Lutch is Wind Band Director at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he directs the concert band and chamber ensembles, and teaches music theory, performance, and appreciation. He received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Instrumental Conducting at the University of Washington and earned his Master of Music degree from New England Conservatory (NEC). His Bachelor's Degree in Music Education is from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. Conducting appearances and research presentations include concerts and conferences throughout the United States, Quebec, London, Japan, The People's Republic of China, the former Soviet Union, Luxembourg, Prague, and Mexico.

Spring 2025 Session C Schedule

	Monday 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24, 3/3	Tuesday 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/4	Wednesday 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5	Thursday 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27, 3/6	Friday 2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 2/28, 3/7
10:00 am	C1. The Life and Times of Great Composers - Part 3 Paul Buono Zoom	C4. The Ninth-Street Women: Modern Art in the Mid-20th Century Martha Chiarchiaro Zoom	C7. Not Available	C10. New England and the Underground Railroad: By Land and By Sea Susan Franz Zoom	C13. China's Economy in the Global Marketplace Tom Gottschang Zoom
1:00 pm	C2. An Introduction to the American Antiquarian Society <i>No class on 2/17; meeting on 3/10 instead</i> Nan Wolverton In-Person at AAS	C5. Peacemakers and their Religious Traditions Kathleen Fisher Zoom	C8. The Nature of the Seasons of Worcester (only 4 weeks, no class 3/5) Sheryl Pereira Zoom	C11. In Darwin's Footsteps: A Journey to the Galapagos Eric Simon Zoom	C14. I Go Pogo Walt Kelly and the World's Greatest Comic Strip Karl Hakkarainen Zoom
3:00 pm	C3.	C6.	C9. The Roosevelt Family David Nevard Zoom	C12.	C15. Four Icons of American Music Mitchell Lutch Zoom



Lifelong Learning is WISE

Session D Course Descriptions

D1. Financial Crimes, Money Laundering & Fraud

Mondays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21

In person
AU campus
Kennedy
112



U.S. law enforcement & regulatory agencies have changed such that money laundering is now treated as an independent and primary focus across all relevant agencies. Banks through the Anti Money Laundering Act and Bank Secrecy Act are required to work with U.S. law enforcement and regulatory agencies to identify, solve and prevent financial crimes. This course reviews the history of financial crime enforcement and how agencies and financial institutions work to combat financial crimes and terrorism. This is an overview of the extent, nature, causes, and control of financial crimes. It will examine the nature and extent of offenses committed by individuals, crime networks, corporations, professionals, and public officials. It will identify challenges and techniques to prevent, detect, investigate, regulate, and sanction financial crimes.

Paperback Readings:

The Panama Papers: Breaking the Story of How the Rich & Powerful Hide Their Money, F. Obermaier and B. Obermayer, April 11, 2017, Oneworld Publications, ISBN-10: 1786070707; ISBN-13: 978-1786070708
SPAM Nation; Brian Krebs, 2014, ISBN-13:9781492603238, Publisher: Sourcebooks Inc.



Instructor: Eddie Goodwin's experience includes directing financial crime divisions as a Bank Secrecy Act Anti Money Laundering Officer at domestic banks and an international division of a world-wide bank. His experience includes money laundering cases and information sharing with U.S. law enforcement and regulatory agencies, and state and local law enforcement. He is a financial crime professional with extensive criminal justice experience in Bank Secrecy Act, Anti Money Laundering, fraud investigations, international and domestic crime case investigation, fraud detection and anti-money laundering forensic system analysis. He earned degrees at Northeastern University -MS Criminal Justice; Nichols College- MBA; and the College of the Holy Cross -BA.

D3. Women of the Frozen North

Mondays 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21

In person
AU campus
Kennedy 112



Though it's a long way from the ancient Mediterranean world where the history of Western Literature begins to the Arctic, some of the works I read during my sojourn in Fairbanks, Alaska have continued to haunt me during my years here in Massachusetts, partly because of the continuing vitality of ancient themes such as patriarchy, child-murder and war in modern fiction, and partly because of the acknowledgment of essentially modern concerns, such as gender roles and ecology in the culture of Native Alaskans. Among the most memorable of Alaskan narratives are those by the Gwich'in writer, Velma Wallis. We will be reading several of her novels: *Two Old Women*, and *The Bird Girl and the Man Who Followed the Sun*.

Required Readings

Velma Wallis. *Two Old Women*. Fairbanks, (Epicenter Press, 1993)
The Bird Girl and the Man Who Followed the Sun. New York, (Harper Perennial, 1997)



Instructor: Lillian Corti earned a doctorate in Comparative Literature at the City University of New York in 1984 and has taught at various institutions including Queens College, Tulsa University, Marien N'gouabi University and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, where she was on the faculty of the English Department and a member of the Women's Studies Department for many years.

D4. Title IX: Unintended Consequences

Tuesdays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

In person
AU campus
Kennedy 112



Title IX is a landmark federal civil rights law enacted in 1972 that prohibits sex-based discrimination in any school or any other education program that receives funding from the [federal government](#). How did it become law? It is known as the “sports-equity” law, but the original law doesn’t mention sports. What has the impact been on women’s sports? Men’s sports? What other impacts has Title IX had on American schools, including sexual harassment and sexual violence? What’s the lasting legacy of Title IX?



Instructor: Jean Sifleet is a retired business attorney and CPA. Many years ago, she used Title IX to get equity for her daughters’ high school ice hockey teams. The boys had after-school ice time, bus transportation, uniforms, equipment, all paid for by school (taxpayer) funds. The girls’ teams got no school support; the parents paid for everything. Year after year, the parents worked for some equity for the girls’ teams and recognition as Varsity Teams and were blocked at every turn. Finally, Jean filed a Title IX complaint to change the situation and obtain equity for the girls. Title IX forced the change that was needed. During her business career, she worked in corporate management, consulting, and private practice. In retirement, she served as an Access to Justice Fellow and worked with the Mass Law Reform Institute on immigration and law reform issues. Jean has taught numerous courses for WISE and welcomes participant discussion of the issues.

D5. The Anthropological Perspective

Tuesdays 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
March 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22

In person
AU campus
Kennedy 112



“The Anthropological Perspective” will introduce students to how sociocultural anthropologists look at the world and do their studies. It will cover some of the major theoretical frameworks used in this field of study and will also discuss the nature of ethnographic fieldwork. In Weeks 3-5, the course will focus on two selected research topics: anthropology of art and the anthropology of gender and sexuality. Finally, we will turn to examples of ethically engaged anthropology, discussing how scholars grapple with current day issues such as the structural violence of extreme poverty in shantytowns and how that impacts infant health and survival. No required book readings but all the individual chapters and journal articles are required readings. These will be made available as pdfs on our course page.



Instructor: Susan Rodgers is a sociocultural anthropologist who taught for 11 years in the anthropology program at Ohio U and for 27 years in the anthropology curriculum at Holy Cross (tenured in both places, in sequence). Her Ph.D. in anthropology (1978) is from the U of Chicago and she has published numerous journal articles and books on a variety of topics within anthropology (e.g., anthropology of literature and village arts; museum anthropology; state power and indigenous peoples of Southeast Asia; refugee resettlement). She has taught two WISE courses in anthropology, for spring and fall, 2024. She also has taught Intro to Sociocultural Anthro many times at Ohio U and at Holy Cross, along with Anthro courses on gender, art, museum representation, modernization, theory, and ethnographic field methods. She has her Ph.D., Professor Emerita Anthropology; Distinguished Professor Emerita, Ethics and Society, College of the Holy Cross.

D6. Shakespeare's Uppity Women: *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Much Ado About Nothing*

Tuesdays 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
March 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22

In person
AU campus
Kennedy 112



This course will study Shakespeare's most unusual comic heroines: the clamoring Mistress Page and Mistress Ford in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and acerbic Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Usually, Shakespeare's comic women say their piece while disguised as young men. These women defy that convention in ways that transform our sense of "romantic comedy." Those who wish to will reassemble for a post-performance discussion of *Much Ado* performed by the Hanover Theatre Repertory Co.

Required Readings:

The Merry Wives of Windsor, Folger edition (free online or buy the paperback)

Much Ado About Nothing (free online or buy the paperback)



Instructors: Helen Whall joined the faculty at The College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA after finishing her Ph.D. at Yale University. At Holy Cross, she taught Shakespeare and Renaissance drama as well as modern drama, frequently writing on all three subjects. Since retiring in 2017, Helen has offered several courses for WISE on Shakespeare, modern drama, and the modern mystery novel.

Virginia Mason Vaughan taught at Clark University for thirty-seven years, and since retirement, she has taught classes on Shakespeare at WISE, often with her good friend Helen Whall. She is widely published, including books on *The Tempest* and *Othello*. She also co-edited with her late husband Alden T. Vaughan, *The Tempest* (Third Arden Series) and co-authored with him *Shakespeare in America* (Oxford Shakespeare Topics). Her most recent book is *Shakespeare and the Gods* (2019), from Arden Shakespeare. She currently serves as Senior Editor for the digital resource, *The Literary Encyclopedia*.

D8. A History of American Photography

Wednesdays 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23

Zoom



We'll review key technological innovations in photography that led to aesthetic changes in the field from the daguerreotype in 1839, the camera in 1841, the Kodak camera in 1888, 35mm film and the Leica in 1913, 35mm SLRs by 1936, and digital photography in 1975. An exploration of iconic images in American photography will provide a history of the evolution of this artistic medium that changed the way we viewed the world.

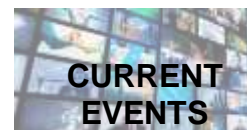


Instructor: Martha Chiarchiaro has brought history to life through the art of the times for more than 30 years. She received her Master's degree in the History of Art from Williams College and has taught a variety of art history classes at the Worcester Art Museum, Worcester State University, WISE, and other cultural organizations. As noted on her *Seeing History* website, Martha's specialty presentations related to specific periods, artists, and activities provide an in-depth look at the life and times of people through their art.

D9. Yup, MORE Controversies in Education

Wednesdays 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23

In Person
AU campus
Kennedy 112



Striving for a diversity of ideas and opinions, we will discuss a variety of controversial topics, including updates on our “controversies” discussion in spring 2024.

- Update: The impact of the ballot question to stop MCAS as a graduation requirement
- Update: Book bans and bibles in classrooms
- Update: Free community college in Massachusetts
- Update: The value of a liberal arts degree in 2025
- The impact of the SCOTUS ruling that banned race as a factor in college admissions
- Teaching and learning using an on-line format
- Speech on college campuses



Instructor: Susan Starr started professional life teaching elementary school. Unexpectedly, she was recruited by Clark University to teach undergrad and grad students to become elementary school teachers, a job she loved for 20 years. From 1994-2014, she worked with a team of physicians and educators at UMass Medical School in a program that taught educational strategies to doctors who teach med students and residents. Since retirement, she has been helping high achieving/low income (HALI) international students navigate the process of applying to college and succeeding once enrolled.

D10. Votes for All: Emancipation to Women’s Suffrage

Thursdays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24



Zoom





The extraordinary fight to end enslavement also opened doors for women in activism, public speaking, education, and organizing. Beginning in an era where educating women was rare and public life was considered the sole province of men, the region soon developed organizers, male and female, for a number of social causes including abolition, prison reform, temperance, and voting rights. We will explore the roles of prominent New England Black families including the Haydens of Boston, the Remonds of Salem, the Cuffes and Wainers of Westport, and Attorney Robert Morris along with Quakers, black and white, who helped to transform the legal, educational, and religious landscape of New England and paved the way for women’s suffrage.



Instructor: Susan Franz holds a master's degree from Clark University and has taught at several local colleges. She has taught several courses on the abolition and Underground Railroad periods for WISE and lectures frequently around the Commonwealth. She played a key role in gaining National Park Service recognition for Underground Railroad locations in the Blackstone River Valley and designed an exhibit on the Underground Railroad for state parks. She has served on the Uxbridge Select Board, Finance Committee, and Historical Commission and has edited a book on French artist Elisabeth Vigée Le Brun titled *Moments of Joy*.

<p>D11. More Great Trials that Changed the Course of History: Social Justice & Turmoil</p> <p>Thursdays 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24</p>	<p>Zoom</p> 
<p>What is of more concern to us today than the erosion of human rights? The five trials in this course took place in France, Germany, Israel, and South Africa. Each of these trials was responding to current events (of the time) that illuminate what people are thinking about over the span from 1400 to the 1950s. President Barack Obama said that: <i>"if you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you make progress."</i> Let's look at these trials and see if we think he is right.</p>	
	<p>Instructor: Sylvia Solomon is a retired educator who worked in schools, universities, and the Ontario Ministry of Education. Since her retirement, she has presented the Great Trial series at the University of Toronto, Toronto Metropolitan University, the Toronto Reference Library, the 92nd Street Y, the OLLI program (California) and the Instituto d'Allende in Mexico.</p>

<p>D12. "Wise" Elders: Teachers of Hope</p> <p>Thursdays 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24</p>	<p>Zoom</p> 
<p>We live in an "Age of Anxiety," beset with many fears about the future: Will the planet survive? Is civil peace possible? Will technology overtake humanity? Can we create community in diversity? Borrowing from the "On Being" podcast hosted by Krista Tippett, this course considers how five "wise elders" from different walks of life reflect on such fears and offer hope for our anxious time: Jane Goodall, primatologist and anthropologist; Desmond Tutu, former Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, South Africa; Kevin Kelly, co-founder of WIRED Magazine; Marilyn Nelson, poet; and Barbara Brown Taylor, Episcopal priest and writer.</p>	
	<p>Instructor: Kathleen Fisher has taught in WISE since 2019, offering courses on The Gnostic Gospels, Celtic Spirituality, the poet Mary Oliver, and the mystics Rumi and St. Francis. "Wise Elders" continues the exploration of diverse sources of spiritual wisdom for today's world. She holds a Ph.D. in Medieval History and Religion from Boston University where she focused on Irish history and medieval monasticism. Recently retired from a long teaching career in Theology at Assumption University, Kathleen now lives in Chapel Hill, NC.</p>

D13. Historical Analysis with Artificial Intelligence

Zoom



Fridays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
March 28, April 4, 11, 25, May 2

Artificial intelligence is changing education and research in new, exciting, and sometimes scary ways. What if, for example, we could generate a podcast about the Federalist Papers, look for new themes in old textbooks, and have conversations between Bronson Alcott meeting Maria Montessori? This course will do all of these things and more.

You won't need any specific experience with artificial intelligence products or technology. Your own curiosity will suffice.



Instructor: Karl Hakkarainen is retired after a 40-year career in the computer industry. A graduate of Amherst College, he is a long-time WISE instructor who has taught courses on technology, history, journalism, music, and law. His grandchildren still ask for and generally heed his advice with their technology concerns. He was born in Gardner, Massachusetts.

D14. Native Links and the First People in Golf

In person
AU campus
Kennedy 112



Fridays 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
March 28, April 4, 11, 25, May 2

Native Links is an entertaining and insightful course that makes the case that, as with the DNA of American history, Native American history is a leading strand and that is true for golf as well. Beginning in Eastern Long Island at Shinnecock Hills, and carrying through the contemporary rise of Native golf, the course will introduce students to the personalities, legal findings, and surprising stories of our First Peoples in “the least violent, most difficult game of human history.” Students of history will find this course a treasure.

Recommended Reading

Native Links, The Surprising History of Golf by Mark Wagner



Instructor: Mark Wagner was born in Paterson, New Jersey, the fourth child of eight born to Jack and Pat (Coyle) Wagner. A decorated athlete and educator, Mark has published extensively on golf course architecture and history. In 2021, as he explored the history of Native-owned golf courses, Mark began to realize there were many firsts among our First Peoples in golf, a game he has loved since his childhood outings in the Adirondacks with his family. The result is *I* (Back Nine Press, 2024), a travelogue and oral history about and by the Indigenous people who have shaped and played the game of golf. Mark's work on golf has appeared in *The Boston Globe*, *The Worcester Telegram*, *Northeast Golf*, and *ICT News*. For more information see drmarkongolf.com

D15. The “Magic” of Music Literacy: Sound-to-Symbol

Fridays 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
March 28, April 4, 11, 25, May 2

In person
AU campus
Kennedy 112



In your life, have you ever taken music lessons on a string, wind, or percussion instrument (such as the piano or xylophone)? If so, when given music/music notation from your teacher to practice, could you first sing, hum, or whistle the melody accurately prior to playing it on your instrument? Or, conversely, did you need to play it to know what the melody sounded like? If this latter question, and its answer, resonates with you... then this class is for you! And yes, it's also for those of us who have never played a musical instrument. Many instrumental method books do not reflect the way people naturally learn language - a process that begins with learning to speak, and only then moves on learning to read. This is often called sound-to-symbol because it emphasizes oral and aural recognition as precursors to theoretical knowledge and reading skills.



Instructor: Mitchell Lutch is Wind Band Director at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he directs the concert band and chamber ensembles, and teaches music theory, performance, and appreciation. He received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Instrumental Conducting at the University of Washington and earned his Master of Music degree from New England Conservatory (NEC). His Bachelor's Degree in Music Education is from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell.

Conducting appearances and research presentations include concerts and conferences throughout the United States, Quebec, London, Japan, The People's Republic of China, the former Soviet Union, Luxembourg, Prague, and Mexico.

Spring 2025 Session D Schedule

	Monday 3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14, 4/21	Tuesday 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/15, 4/22	Wednesday 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23	Thursday 3/27, 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24	Friday 3/28, 4/4, 4/11, 4/25, 5/2
10:00 am	D1. Financial Crimes, Money Laundering and Fraud Eddie Goodwin In Person, AU Kennedy 112	D4. Title IX - Consequences <i>No class on 3/25; meeting on 4/29 instead</i> Jean Sifleet In Person, AU Kennedy 112	D7. Not Available	D10. Votes for All: Emancipation to Women's Suffrage Susan Franz Zoom	D13. Historical Analysis with Artificial Intelligence <i>No class on 4/18 due to Good Friday</i> Karl Hakkarainen Zoom
1:00 pm	D2.	D5. The Anthropological Perspective Susan Rodgers In Person, AU Kennedy 112	D8. A History of American Photography Martha Chiarchiaro Zoom	D11. More Great Trials that Changed the Course of History: Social Justice & Turmoil Sylvia Solomon Zoom	D14.
3:00 pm	D3. Women of the Frozen North Lillian Corti In Person, AU Kennedy 112	D6. Shakespeare's Uppity Women Helen Whall and Virginia Vaughan In-Person, AU Kennedy 112	D9. Yup, MORE Controversies in Education Susan Starr In Person, AU Kennedy 112	D12. Wise Elders-Teaching of Hope Kathleen Fisher Zoom	D15. The "Magic" of Music Literacy <i>No class on 4/18 due to Good Friday</i> Mitchell Lutch In Person, AU Kennedy 112



Lifelong Learning is WISE