The Academy of Lifelong Learning
at Trinity College

An opportunity for adults to pursue new interests, expand intellectual horizons, and enrich their lives
Open to adults in the community at large, the Academy of Lifelong Learning presents a series of minicourses on diverse and intellectually stimulating topics. Enrolled students have access to many Trinity College resources, including the Raether Library and Information Technology Center, for research. They also receive discounts at Cinestudio, Austin Arts Center, and Trinity College sporting events.

Courses cover a wide range of interesting subjects taught by distinguished former and current Trinity faculty members. The hallmark of a Trinity education has long been the close interaction between professors and students, and the Academy of Lifelong Learning continues that tradition. Courses are taught in an engaging, collaborative manner, and there are opportunities to meet with fellow students and professors.

Classes are conveniently scheduled for the late afternoon and early evening in classrooms easily reached from the center of the campus. Well-illuminated, secure parking is available on campus within walking distance of classrooms. In addition, some classes meet during daytime hours at various attractive locations in the Greater Hartford vicinity.

CO-DIRECTORS
Frank Kirkpatrick, Ellsworth Morton Tracy Lecturer and Professor of Religion
Patricia J. Bunker, Head Reference Librarian, Retired

PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Rashana Lord

COURSE FEES
Courses meeting FOR:

- four class sessions ....................................................... $ 85
- five class sessions ....................................................... $105
- six class sessions ....................................................... $125
- eight-session Memoir Tutorial ........................................ $300

Trinity alumni, faculty, and staff are eligible for a 10 percent discount. If you are an alumna/alumnus, please include your class year, and if you are an employee (current or retired), please include a photocopy of your Trinity ID with your registration.

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION
Academy of Lifelong Learning
Trinity College
300 Summit Street
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 297-2125
lifelonglearning@trincoll.edu

Gift certificates for The Academy of Lifelong Learning are available and make a special gift for friends and family.
Heroes and Heroines in the Biblical Tradition

The values of a culture and a people, their dreams and fears, are best understood in the stories they tell about revered men and women of the past who have struggled and, whether succeeding or failing, they represent enduring models for emulation and guidance through life’s dilemmas. This course will focus upon prominent figures of ancient Israel (i.e. Abraham, Sarah, Jacob, Moses, Deborah, David) and discern the distinctive character of the heroic in the biblical tradition, particularly in comparison and contrast to other stories of the ancient Near East.

**John Gettier**

Five Mondays: October 5, 12, 19, 26; November 2
10:30 a.m.-noon
*Avery Heights, 705 New Britain Avenue*
*Hartford, CT 06106*

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Four American Dreamers

Once “American dreams” went together with “dreams of America” as a perfected society under construction in the New World. This class will examine key writings by four visionaries and builders of a just America: Benjamin Franklin, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglas, and Jane Addams. These four had strong opinions about where their country was going and stronger convictions about where it ought to be going. We will strive to understand them in their own times and decide what they have to teach us in ours.

**Eugene Leach**

Six Thursdays: October 8, 15, 22, 29; November 5, 12
2:00-3:30 p.m.
*The McAuley, 275 Steele Road,*
*West Hartford, CT 06117*
Weather and climate have played an essential role in the history of North America, from the migration of Stone Age hunter-gatherers to the rise of pre-Columbian civilizations to the westward expansion of the United States. We begin by studying the physical processes that control weather and climate. We go on to explore climate in North America over the millennia and then focus on weather events that have marked American history, such as the Dust Bowl of the 1930’s and the role of weather in the D-Day invasion of Europe. Finally, we will study the evolution of American weather forecasting, from the qualitative forecasts of Benjamin Franklin to the computer-generated forecasts of today. Using a current weather map, we will make our own weather forecast by applying techniques developed in the pre-computer era.

The Mystery Novel: A Captivating Read

We begin in Sweden, on the island of Gotland, with a crime novel that introduces us to another singular police detective, Fredrick Broman. From Gotland to a Greek island, where our messenger, Hermes Diaktorus, comes to understand and to resolve the dark consequences of envy and revenge. From Greece we go to Prague in the autumn of 1941, where there will be a murder for Bernie Gunther to solve. Next, on to Venice with our amiable companion, Guido Brunetti, who is called upon to investigate the theft of several pages from rare books from a Venetian library, but what appears to be a harmless crime is soon complicated by murder. In 1939 Raymond Chandler introduced us to Philip Marlowe, the quintessential private eye, in The Big Sleep. Welcome to the hard-boiled American shamus!

**Books:**

**Andrew De Rocco**
Five Wednesdays: September 23, 30; October 7, 14, 21
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Birds of the City

With their bright colors, melodious songs and behavioral antics, birds are a familiar sight in both wild nature and urban environments. Birds play important roles in the ecosystems that sustain life and, as harbingers of seasonal change and indicators of environmental health, they are the focus of both recreational and scientific study.

This course will explore the lives of birds and focus particularly on questions commonly asked by people who encounter birds in the city. We will examine the varieties of behaviors exhibited by birds, their migratory patterns, habitat associations, and favorite foods. We will also investigate several hot topics in both research and conservation. On our Saturday morning field trip we will visit a site where we can observe birds living in our city.

Joan Morrison
Five Wednesdays: September 30; October 7, 14, 21, 17 (tentative fieldtrip) 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Memoir Writing: Tell Your Own Story

It’s the human condition: the desire to get down on paper the most memorable events of your life. That’s why almost every celebrity you can think of — from Amy Poehler to Neil Patrick Harris to Barack Obama — has at some point tried his or her hand at a memoir. That’s also why so many of our most beloved novels — To Kill a Mockingbird, The Catcher in the Rye — are very largely memoirs in disguise. We might want to tell our whole life story, or just cherished moments (treasured memories of when our grown kids were little; a short, sweet interlude with a special pet; the most magical summer ever), but we all have recollections we want to pass on. Give in to that urge! Sit down at your computer, and start writing about yourself! Whether your motivation is to have a neatly-packaged memoir to pass down to your children or grandchildren, or a keepsake to enjoy for yourself — or to knock Lena Dunham and Mary Karr and Frank McCourt off the best-seller list! — this course will help you do it. You’ll learn how to write easily and naturally, in your own voice, about your favorite subject: you.

Hank Herman
Eight Wednesdays: October 14, 21, 28; November 4, 11, 18; December 2, 9
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
This course will be limited to eight students. Due to the tutorial nature, extended length (eight weeks), and slightly longer classes (two hours), the fee for the course will be $300.
The Desert in Western Imagination

Desert landscapes have exercised a mixture of fascination and revulsion on the minds and imaginations of people from Biblical antiquity to the present. They have been seen as wastelands, horrid and repulsive; as sites of testing and redemption; as wildernesses to be saved; as perfect homes for solar farms.

Where do these tropes about desert landscapes come from? During this course we will explore the ways in which different peoples in different times have viewed and imagined these landscapes as we consider the Bible and the desert, the desert fathers, Westward to California, John C. Van Dyke’s desert and the preservationist turn, the nuclear desert, and the desert of Mars.

Gary Reger
Six Tuesdays: October 20, 27; November 3, 10, 17; December 1
5:30- 7:00 p.m.

The Art of Science and Religion

In the domains of science and religion, the artist can be a powerful interpreter, helping people understand more deeply what it means to be human. Besides speaking different dialects, science and religion also have different ways to discern truth: on one hand, the scientific method; on the other, reading holy texts, meditation and prayer. No matter their differences, science and religion thrive best when there is mutual respect. This wide-ranging seminar will look at everything from creation stories to the Higgs Boson. Our guides will include artists (Leonardo da Vinci), musicians (Bach), scientists (Galileo), and theologians (John Polkinghorne and Abraham Heschel).

Kathleen Housley
Six Mondays: November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; December 7
5:30-7:00 p.m.
Philip Brown is professor of mathematics, emeritus, at Trinity College. He was coordinator of the Models and Data Minor and taught computer-related courses in mathematical modeling and numerical analysis. Before coming to Trinity, he worked in atmospheric research at the Travelers Research Center, Inc. and the Center for the Environment and Man, Inc. in Hartford.

Andrew De Rocco, former dean of the faculty at Trinity, was subsequently president of Denison University and then Connecticut's commissioner of higher education. Prior to his affiliation with Trinity he was on the faculty at the University of Michigan and Institute Professor of Molecular Physics at the University of Maryland, where in addition to physics he led, as part of the Honors Program, classes in American and European literature. The mystery novel early caught his attention and each successive author has added another friend to the roundtable of criminal investigation.

John Gettier, professor of religion, emeritus, at Trinity College, retired in 2001 after teaching for 35 years. With degrees from Wesleyan University, Yale University, and Union Theological Seminary in New York, he has taught a range of courses on biblical literature, specializing in apocalypticism, mythology, Hebrew narrative, and Hebrew language.

Hank Herman is an award-winning columnist for the Westport News and blogger for Hearst Media. He is also the author of a series of sports novels for children. His latest book, Accept My Kid, Please! A Dad’s Descent into College Application Hell (Da Capo Press) is a humorous memoir about the college admissions process. He also teaches writing at the University of Pennsylvania’s Kelly Writers House, Norwalk Community College, and the Mark Twain House. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

Kathleen Housley is the author of nine books. Her poems and essays on science, religion, and art have appeared in many national publications including Image, The Christian Century, and Woman’s Art Journal. Her most recent book of poetry is Epiphanies (Wising Up Press). She has also published a novel, The Sage of Time and Chance, which is based on Ecclesiastes (Wipf & Stock). She holds degrees in English and interdisciplinary studies from Upsala College and Wesleyan University.
Eugene Leach taught American Studies and U.S. history at Trinity College for 37 years until retiring in 2012. At various times he directed the American Studies program, chaired the History Department, and directed the Master’s program in both American Studies and History. Most of his courses explored American culture and political economy in the 19th and 20th centuries; his scholarship centered on the history of social thought and the working class. Currently he is vice-president of the Association for the Study of Connecticut History and a member of the editorial team of CONNECTICUT EXPLORED. He occasionally teaches graduate seminars as an adjunct instructor.

Joan Morrison is a Professor of Biology at Trinity College. She received her Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Florida and has conducted research on a threatened raptor in Florida since 1992. Dr. Morrison has also worked as a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service in Alaska, Colorado, Washington, and New Mexico. At Trinity she teaches courses in Conservation Biology, Global Biodiversity, Environmental Science, and Avian Ecology. Her research program continues to focus on the population of Crested Caracaras in Florida, although she also studies Red-tailed Hawks living in Hartford as well as avian communities present in Hartford’s urban parks.

Gary Reger is professor of history, Hobart professor of classical languages and is currently teaching Greek and Roman history at Trinity College where he has taught since 1987. His research focuses on the economic and social history of the Greek world in the centuries after the death of Alexander the Great. Professor Reger tries to bring together a wide variety of sources – literary, documentary, numismatic, and archaeological – in an effort to deepen and nuance students’ understanding of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds of the eastern Mediterranean. In Professor Reger’s teaching, he seeks to share some of the excitement and fascination of this complex, multi-textured approach to the past, but without (he hopes) setting himself up as an expert: the past is a foreign country, and we are all, to one degree or another, strangers there.
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