The Academy of Lifelong Learning at Trinity College

An opportunity for adults to pursue new interests, expand intellectual horizons, and enrich their lives
The Academy of Lifelong Learning at Trinity College

Open to adults in the community at large, the Academy of Lifelong Learning presents a series of mini-courses 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
- Saturday Academy ............... $125

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.

An online campus map of Trinity College can be found at the following Web site: http://www.trincoll.edu/SiteCollectionDocuments/2013%20VISITORS%20GUIDE.pdf
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2014

CHINA: HISTORY, RELIGION, CITIES, AND CARS

Coffee: 8:30 a.m.
Classes: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Lunch: Noon-1:00 p.m.
Two morning sessions, lunch, and two afternoon sessions on the Trinity College campus

Cities and the Course of Modern Chinese History
Michael Lestz
9:00-10:15 a.m.

Religion and Rulership in Taoism and Confucianism
Ellison Banks Findly
10:30-11:45 a.m.

China’s Urban Revolution: Booming Growth and Pressing Challenges
Xiangming Chen
1:15-2:30 p.m.

From Flying Pigeons to Fords: The Rise of Car Culture in Reform-Era China
Beth Notar
2:45-4:00 p.m.

Special pricing for the daylong Saturday Academy and lunch.........$125
The Making of Modern India

In 1947, the government of independent India was confronted by a country fragmented by the presence of hundreds of “autonomous” princely states and a populace that was mired in poverty and illiteracy and ethnically divided by language, religion, caste, and race. This course will start by examining how the new government tackled the more critical obstacles that posed a peril to the young state and continue by reviewing the first step of the founding fathers—the establishment of a constitutional parliamentary democracy. The course will go on to discuss the developments of the next 60 years and show how democracy brought a greater sense of equality, unity, and nationalism to the country and how it released women and the backward castes from their state of bondage, making them active participants in social, political, and professional fields. The course will also touch upon India’s foreign relations and conclude with a discussion of India’s modernization and the problems (including poverty) that it still faces.

Ranbir Vohra
Five Wednesdays: September 3, 10, 17, 24; October 1
10:30 a.m.-Noon
Lucy Robbins Welles Library, 95 Cedar Street, Newington, CT 06111

Religion & Secularism in a Free Market:
Belief, Belonging & Behavior among 21st Century Americans

For two centuries, the United States has operated a free marketplace of ideas that allows different generations and groups to seek different responses to their spiritual and religious needs. Change is a constant feature, so whatever you learned about religion in the United States a generation ago is out of date. Whether you are a political consultant, a marketer, a religious leader, or a social scientist, it’s impossible to fully understand American society today without understanding what’s happening to religion in America.

Lectures:
1. Believers & Skeptics
3. Behavior: Whatever Happened to Sunday and the Family?
4. New Minority Influences: Asians and Latinos in Transition
5. Red State-Blue State: The Politicization of Religion
6. Religious, Spiritual & Secular: The Emergence of Three Distinct Worldviews?

Barry Kosmin
Six Tuesdays: September 30; October 7, 14, 21, 28; November 4
2:30-4:00 p.m.
McLean, 75 Great Pond Road, Simsbury, CT 060703
Czechoslovakia: A Personal Perspective by a Native Born Czech

Neville Chamberlain referred to Czechs as a “people of whom we know nothing.” This course will rectify that characterization by describing that country’s history, geography, and economy, followed by a personal story of one family’s escape from Hitler’s Nazis in 1939. A presentation of photographs will illustrate the geography and history of the country. Nicky’s Family, a film that tells the remarkable story of Sir Nicholas Winton, an Englishman who single-handedly saved 669 children from Czechoslovakia before World War II broke out by organizing kinder transports to England, will be screened.

Ivan Backer
Four Thursdays: October 16, 23, 30; November 6
2:00-3:30 p.m.
The McAuley, 275 Steele Road, West Hartford, CT 06117
Human Rights in Latin America & the Caribbean: A Brief History

In the 1970s and 1980s, thousands of people were “disappeared,” tortured and murdered in Latin America and the Caribbean, mostly by military regimes and by paramilitary death squads. While the situation improved in the 1990s, during last decade, human rights violations remain a central threat to societies in the Americas. The most violent period of state terror in Latin America is often characterized as perhaps the lowest point in the modern abuse of “human rights” in the region. This course explores how these modern notions, the “human” and “rights,” evolved in theory and in practice in the history of the Americas long before the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, that is, before the modern era of human rights organizations and an international legal system of institutions that now struggle against the violation of human rights.

Dario Euraque
Four Mondays: 6:30-8:00 p.m.
September 8, 15, 22, 29

Connecticut Geology

The oldest rocks in Connecticut are more than 1,300 million years old. During this almost incomprehensible timespan, the area that is now Connecticut has been at the edge of the old American continent with sandy beaches and coral reefs offshore and has experienced a collision with North Africa, as well as the birth of the Atlantic Ocean. Its climate ranged from tropical to freezing cold. Connecticut’s geological history is written in its rocks. After an introduction to the major rock types, we will explore Connecticut’s geologic history through its rocks from the Precambrian to the Anthropocene. We will conclude the course with a field trip through the Connecticut Valley.

Monday, September 8: Rocks Galore: How They Formed and How to Tell Them Apart
Monday, September 15: Collisional Geology of Connecticut, from Life on the (Precambrian) Beach to the Great Crunch
Monday, September 22: All Good Things Must Come to an End: The Breakup of Pangea and the Creation of the Atlantic Ocean
Saturday, September 27: Field Trip through the Connecticut Valley and Adjacent Hills
Monday, September 29: From the Tropics to the Ice Ages: How to Read the Climatic Story from Rocks and Sediments
(Rain dates: Sunday, October 5 or Saturday, October 25; pouring rain cancels, a drizzle won’t, some walking is required)

Christoph Geiss
Four Mondays and one Saturday
September 8, 15, 22, 27, 29 (rain dates: Saturday, October 5 or 25)
6:30-8:00 p.m.
Inside the Crime Lab: The Real Science Underlying CSI

This course is designed for those interested in learning about the methods used in forensic laboratories for the analysis of common types of physical evidence encountered at crime scenes. The nature and significance of physical evidence, the underlying chemical/physical principles of the scientific methods employed for its analysis, and the interpretation and evidentiary value of scientific results will be studied. Topics to be explored include fingerprints, ballistics and tool marks, DNA, toxicology, and trace evidence. Some limited laboratory exposure will be provided through demonstrations and activities designed to acquaint the student with basic forensic laboratory techniques for the analysis of evidence.

Janet Morrison
(class size limited to 12 students)
Six Tuesdays: September 9, 16, 23, 30; October 7, 21
(note: no class October 14)
5:30-7:00 p.m.

Crime and Punishment: A Mystery Tour

However similar mystery novels may appear to be, they embody both the distinct personality of the sleuth and, as well, the setting, cultural and otherwise.

We will become acquainted with five quite different personalities and settings: Hazel Micallef in Canada, Erlendur in Iceland, Edward (“Ed”) Loy in Ireland, the team of Katya (she) and Nayir (he) in Saudi Arabia, and, lastly, an expatriate New Yorker, Vincent Calvino, in Thailand. Five thrilling stories woven into the fabric of their respective surroundings, the outcome of each an invitation to meditate on whatever “universality” may be attached to justice.

The five novels in the order in which they will be read and discussed:

Canada: The Taken, Inger Ash Wolfe, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (2010)

ISBN: 9780099542216 (as it appears in the text)


ISBN: 978-0-316-07427-8


Andrew DeRocco
Five Wednesdays: September 24; October 1, 8, 15, 22
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Raether Library and Information Technology Center Music and Media Room 6
When Bad Things Happen to Good People

This title of Rabbi Kushner’s insightful book frames well a concern raised by so many throughout history inside of every religious tradition and in the secular world as well. This concern, addressed continuously in the Hebrew Bible, took on particular poignancy when monotheism—the belief in the existence of but one God—became assumed in that tradition. How can the one, caring, and all-powerful God permit suffering and evil? This course will examine the treatment of this perplexing issue within the ancient Hebrew tradition and wrestle with the equally perplexing answers.

John Gettier
Four Thursdays: October 2, 9, 16, 23
5:30-7:00 p.m.

Writing What You Feel: The Personal Essay

When something thought provoking/infuriating/outrageous/hysterically funny happens to you, do you automatically think, “Now that would be great material for an essay!”? Does the reflective nature—and short length—of the personal essay format appeal to you? In this course you’ll learn how to turn your inclination into action—and turn those inspirations into finished pieces. You’ll be shown how to brainstorm for material, how to overcome your fear of the blank screen, how to edit yourself … in other words, how to get from a rough idea to a polished piece. Whether your goal is publication or simply personal satisfaction, this course will help you achieve it. Due to the tutorial nature of this course, which is limited to eight students, the extended length (eight weeks), and slightly longer classes (two hours), the fee for the series will be $300.

Hank Herman
Eight Wednesdays: October 15, 22, 29; November 5, 12, 19; December 3, 10
5:30-7:30 p.m.
(No class November 26 due to Thanksgiving holiday)
Medieval Women: Fiction, Fantasy, and Fact

Medieval women peer at us from tapestries and manuscript illuminations. They live and love in romantic and secular literature. They suffer martyrdom and receive mystic visions in religious writing. But what were they really like? This interdisciplinary course will look at representations of medieval women in history, literature, and art in order to begin to piece together the lives of women, rulers, writers, and artists. We will consider both what we can and do know about medieval women and also what we don’t.

Required Text: Medieval Women (Canto Classics), Eileen Power, author; Maxine Berg, foreword

Sheila Fisher
Six Tuesdays: October 28; November 4, 11, 18; December 2, 9
5:30-7:00 p.m.

FACULTY

Ivan Backer was born in Prague and was one of the children saved by Nicholas Winton. In the midst of war in 1944, he and his parents emigrated to the United States. He earned his B.A. at Moravian College and later received a master’s degree in social ethics. He came to Hartford in 1969 to become the director of community affairs at Trinity College, leading to the creation of the Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance (SINA), which he headed for 17 years. He has served on the boards of many nonprofit organizations.

Ellison Banks Findly received her B.A. in religion from Wellesley College, her M.A. in history of religions from Columbia University, and her Ph.D. in Hinduism and Buddhism, with a specialization in the Rig Veda from Yale University. She is the Scott M. Johnson ’97 Distinguished Professor of Religion and Asian Studies and has published numerous books and articles on Indian philosophy and religion. She has just published a book on healing and funeral textiles as used by shamans in northern Laos and is finishing a companion book on the trance experience of Lao shamans.

Xiangming Chen is the founding dean and director of the Center for Urban and Global Studies and Paul E. Raether Distinguished Professor of Global Urban Studies and Sociology at Trinity College and a distinguished guest professor at Fudan University in Shanghai. He has published extensively on urbanization and globalization with a focus on China and Asia. His several books include Shanghai Rising: State Power and Local Transformations in a Global Megacity (University of Minnesota Press, 2009; Chinese edition, 2009).
Andrew De Rocco, a former dean of the faculty at Trinity and president of Denison University, has had a long and enduring interest in the mystery genre, in part resulting from a childhood discovery in his family’s library of a 10-volume collection, The World’s Best One Hundred Detective Stories (Funk & Wagnalls, 1929). He received his doctorate from the University of Michigan, where he began his academic career before his appointment as Institute Professor of Molecular Physics at the University of Maryland. In addition to Maryland, he has held visiting appointments at the University of Colorado, at Tufts, and at Vanderbilt.

Dario A. Euraque (b. 1959, Tegucigalpa, Honduras) has taught at Trinity College since 1990, when he received his Ph.D. in Latin American and Caribbean history from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Between June 2006 and September 2009, he served the Honduran government as the director of the Honduran Institute of Anthropology and History, until ousted in military coup. He is currently writing a biography of a gay Honduran writer and poet.

Sheila Fisher, professor of English, received her B.A. summa cum laude with highest honors in English from Smith College, where she majored in English and Latin, and her M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. from Yale University. She joined the English Department at Trinity in 1984 and served as chair of the department from 2005-2008. As a medievalist who specializes in Chaucer, late 14th-century English literature, and medieval women writers, she has published a book on Chaucer and articles on the Gawain-poet and medieval romance and has coedited a volume of feminist contextual essays on medieval and renaissance writings. Her latest book, The Selected Canterbury Tales: A New Verse Translation, was published by W.W. Norton in spring 2011.

Christoph Geiss holds a Ph.D. in geophysics from the University of Minnesota and studies changing environments in the United States and Canada. He teaches courses in earth and environmental science and physics and is currently the director of Trinity’s Environmental Science Program.

John A. 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 who writes for the Westport News. 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 and at Norwalk Community College. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, where he majored in English.

Barry A. Kosmin is a research professor of public policy and law and founding director of the Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society & Culture at Trinity College. He is also the joint editor of the international academic online journal Secularism & Nonreligion and has been the principal investigator of the American Religious Identification Survey–ARIS time series since 1990. Prior to coming to Trinity, he was a member of the faculty for the Ph.D. program in sociology at the City University of New York Graduate School and joint editor of the Routledge academic journal Patterns of Prejudice from 1999 to 2005. Kosmin is the author or coauthor of several books, including One Nation under God: Religion in
Michael Lestz is a member of Trinity College’s History Department and its former chair. Since 2005, he has been the director of the O’Neill Asia Cum Laude Endowment and also manages the Charlotte Riggs Scholarship Fund. Together with Dean Xiangming Chen and Professor Joan Morrison, he designed and led a novel interdisciplinary initiative linking history, urban sociology, and environmental studies. This traveling research investigation, titled Megacities of the Yangtze River, was mounted over five successive years in Chongqing, Wuhan, Nanjing, and Shanghai. With Chen and Morrison, Lestz was the coauthor of two successful grant proposals to The Henry Luce Foundation to strengthen undergraduate study of Asia and environmental issues at Trinity. Lestz is an author of The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection (Norton, third edition, spring 2013) and an array of articles tied to his research interests in Qing and 20th century Chinese history. In the spring of 2014, Lestz served as Trinity College’s first exchange professor at Fudan University in Shanghai.

Janet Morrison is a principal lecturer in the Chemistry Department at Trinity College. She holds a B.S. in chemistry from Hartwick College, an M.S. in forensic chemistry from Northeastern University, and a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from The American University. She teaches courses in introductory chemistry, analytical chemistry, instrumental methods of chemical analysis, and forensic chemistry, and her research focuses on the development of analytical methods for the detection of illicit drugs in biological samples. Prior to coming to Trinity in 1998, she was a research chemist and a postdoctoral fellow at the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Beth E. Notar is an anthropologist whose research focuses on the intersection of the cultural and the material. This focus has led her to examine the relationship between representations in popular culture, tourism, and transformations of place in southwest China; and money as a symbolic, economic, and political object. She is currently starting a new project on China’s emerging car culture.

Ranbir Vohra, Charles A. Dana Professor of Political Science, Emeritus, at Trinity College, began his career as a program officer in All India Radio in 1946; his work in AIR for the next 18 years gave him an insider’s view of political developments in the subcontinent from the gaining of independence in 1947 to the end of the Nehru era. In 1964, he left AIR for Harvard University, and on completing his Ph.D. degree in East Asian studies, he taught at Harvard (at the invitation of the Harvard History Department) before coming to Trinity, from where he retired in 1997. In addition to The Making of India (third edition, 2013), Vohra is the author of several books, including China’s Path to Modernization (third edition, 2000), and China: The Search for Social Justice and Democracy (Penguin/Viking Books: India, England, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and USA, 1990/1991).