

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

				<p>This is a long list of TLC Courses from 2006 to 2023. If the instructor name is in our database, it will be shown; otherwise it will be blank. (Note: If you see funny characters in the description, they are formatting characters)</p>	
Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2006	Fall	History of the German Peoples Through 1871	12	<p>There was no German Nation as a distinct political entity until 1871. Yet before that the Germanic peoples played an important, even dominant role in Western Europe. This course will cover their history, culture, and influence up to 1871. Teaching aids such as videos, DVDs and reading sources will be utilized.</p>	
2006	Fall	The Crusades	6	<p>In the Preface to "A History of the Crusades", the author, Sir Steven Runciman, wrote "Whether we regard the Crusades as the most tremendous and most romantic of Christian adventure, or as the last of the barbarian invasions, they form a central fact in medieval history. Before their inception the center of our civilization was placed in Byzantium and in the lands of the Arab caliphate. Before they faded out the hegemony in civilization had passed to Western Europe. Out of this transference modern history was born." In this course we will review conditions in Western Europe, Byzantium and the Arab Middle East before the crusades, the four actual Crusades, and, finally, the impact of the Crusades on relations between the East and West during the last 700 years.</p>	

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2006	Fall	Numbers for Fun and Profit	5	We will discuss all sorts of number-theoretic ideas of practical or recreational import, together with choice bits from the 2500-year history of this subject. As usual, no background in mathematics will be assumed. A recreational example: say we are in the year 2006. Suppose you wrote down the number 2006 a total of 2006 times and multiplied all these numbers together. The answer would be pretty big; in fact it would have 6674 digits. It is very easy to see what the last digit would be (why?). But what are the last THREE digits? An example of a useful idea would be how to tell at (almost) a glance whether or not the number 723765542 is evenly divisible by 9. We may also discuss modern encryption and the use of bar codes.	
2006	Fall	Russian 202: Continuation of Russian 201	13	Prerequisites: a reading familiarity with Russian declensions and conjugations, an understanding of the difference between perfective and imperfective verbs, prepositions, stressed and unstressed Russian vowels, etc.	
2006	Fall	The Prophetic Voice: Historical and Contemporary Views on Social Protest	10	This course focuses on both Biblical and modern prophets. Questions to be addressed include: "How do we distinguish between true and false prophets"? "Do each of the contemporary voices measure up to the classical biblical model?" "What common themes do we hear as each of these voices challenge our world to change?" Please note: course registrants should purchase (Oblong) paperback copy of Abraham J. Heschel's The Prophets and read the introduction & chapter 1 before first class. We will also hear from: Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Desmond Tutu, William Sloan Coffin, and Marion Wright Edelman.	
2006	Fall	Play Reading	6	The class will read and discuss several plays including one by Woody Allen and one by Anton Chekov. Class members will be assigned roles to read.	

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2006	Fall	Mozart: His Life and Music	9	To celebrate the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth, this course will include a survey of his most significant compositions: keyboard sonatas, concertos for piano and other instruments, chamber music, operas, symphonies, and The Requiem. Each session will include audio and video presentations. Please note the opening session will run until 4:30 to accommodate a biographical film on Mozart.	
2006	Fall	The Roberts Court: Which Direction?	6	We will examine cases decided by The United States Supreme Court under the Chief Justiceship of John Roberts as well as cases pending on the current court docket in an effort to read the judicial tealeaves. What is Roberts' style? What patterns if any in Court rulings can we discern at this point? Which justices will assume greater importance on the new court?	Laurance Rand
2006	Fall	The Culture of Modern China	8	China today is developing at breathtaking speed and cities have booming economies. Skyscrapers have the most modern designs to be seen anywhere and wedged between are the fast-disappearing alleys, housing families with no running water! The old China is disappearing. The classes will cover traditions, customs, etiquette, entertainment, the arts, education, and health. We will end with the ultimate dining out experience!	
2006	Fall	Spanish 101	11	Elementary Spanish or the Spanish you have Forgotten! Oral, aural, and written Spanish with multimedia instruction tools. Maximum 10 students.	

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2006	Fall	Special Course: Election Issues 2006	6	This course will consist of 6 weekly presentations on issues relevant to voters in this year's congressional elections. Presenters have been chosen to represent different sides of the political spectrum. Some reading material may be suggested or made available before each weekly session. During the second hour members of the class will be expected to ask questions and present differing perspectives. 9/28 Sara Wardell Immigration 10/05Bob Estabrook Iraq 10/12Ted Briggs Latin America 10/19Larry Rand Privacy 10/26Jerry Simonson The CEO and Corporate Welfare 11/02Jim Buckley The Environment	
2006	Fall	The World of Opera	8	A look into the operas composed in the 20th century including Poulenc's Dialogue of the Carmelites, Floyd's Susannah and other favorites. Willie Waters, conductor of the Connecticut Opera orchestra and several of this year's apprentices will visit the course.	
2007	Fall	Plane Geometry: Euclid and Beyond	5	The BEYOND part of this course has two components: different proofs of classical theorems, and new theorems. The different proofs will involve, among other stuff, use of rigid motions, dilations, and dissection. The new stuff will include the Euler line and the nine point circle. The crowning result will be the use of circular inversion to give a really beautiful proof! Don't be put off by the technical language! As always, no serious prior knowledge will be assumed.	

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2007	Fall	Oil and Energy, Past, Present and Future	4	This course will review energy supply and use starting with colonial times in the northwest corner. We will then track the development of the oil and gas industry and see how it came to dominate energy use in the US and the world. What are the economic forces that drive the industry from exploration through recovery, refining, marketing to point of sale at your local service station? What role does consumer behavior play in the delicate supply and demand balance that has been forcing costs upwards in recent years. We will then show how oil and gas competes with other sources of energy such as coal, nuclear, water, wind and solar power. Finally, we will discuss current trends and future issues including environmental factors, economic issues, global warming and political and economic stress factors. There will be ample time for spirited classroom questions and discussion.	
2007	Fall	The Glorious Baroque Era of Music 1600-1750	12	The course will feature a film biography of J.S. Bach and several video musical programs including works for the harpsichord, and an organ recital from the Thomaskirche in Leipzig. We will listen to several Cantatas, Suites, and other crucial works, concluding with the sublime Mass in B minor. We will then have a survey of Baroque operas by Montaverdi, Lully, Rameau, and Handel.	
2007	Fall	The Roberts Supreme Court	9	The course will examine key rulings of the Court during the past year and look at cases on the 2007-2008 docket. Questions we will address include "in what direction is the Court moving?"; "who are the pivotal justices?"; "has the Court given signs of an emerging jurisprudence on questions such as separation of powers, federalism, and the extent of congressional commerce power?"	

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2007	Fall	Play Reading	8	This course is a gathering of people who like the theater and reading plays just for the fun of it. There is no "literary criticism" or "educational component". The class makes decisions about what we read, and share their thoughts about the works chosen. We will start with Shakespear's The Tempest.	
2007	Fall	Discover and Learn the Secrets of Inventing	6	The world is full of wonderful things, waiting only for us to see them! This course will supply you with the special techniques that make inventing easy and fun. Inventing becomes exciting when you learn how to use these tools. In six sessions, participants can expect to invent at least two new things that will be of value to themselves and to the public at large. You will also receive a free copy of the instructor's book INVENT! published in 1999.	
2007	Fall	Spanish 103	12	This is a language course at the intermediate level with prerequisite of 700 basic Spanish words, facility with conjugation of regular verbs, and the ability to read aloud with correct pronunciation.	
2007	Fall	Enjoying Poetry	8	On the theory that much modern poetry leaves us bewildered, this course sets out to rediscover the joy of poetry. Beginning with some general thoughts about language and how we use words, we will then trace the evolution of English poetry from the ancient era (Beowulf) to the middle (Piers Plowman, and Chaucer), onward to the classical age (Donne, Herbert), and ending with the Victorian period and the contemporary scene. Participants will be encouraged to bring their own favorite poetry to class to read and discuss.	

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2007	Fall	Issues on the Public Agenda	7	This course is designed to promote discussion about and understanding of controversial topics such as campaign finance, gay rights, gun control, immigration, facing up to the nation's finances, and freedom of speech in the media and on the internet. All registrants will be expected to complete 1-2 hours of reading per week drawing largely on www.publicagengda.org and other informative websites. For those without their own access to the internet, the Scoville Memorial Library will offer assistance and use of the their desktop computers. Each week, 2-3 of our classmates will go beyond the required reading on the subject to bring us additional perspectives and lead the discussion and raise questions for the class to consider.	
2007	Fall	Consideration of Canonization for Mohandas K. Gandhi	4	Speaking of Gandhi, Albert Einstein said: "Generations to come , it may be, will scarce believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon the earth". He was a Hindu yet the greatest practitioner of Christ's teaching in the twentieth century. He said of himself that he was a Jew, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist and Hindu.This class will learn about the process of Saint-making and learn what Gandhi did to be so considered.	
2007	Fall	World Ethics	10	In the West, the study of ethics is increasingly global in its perspective. Using as our text "World Ethics" by Wanda Torres Gregory and Donna Giancola (Wadsworth Press), we will probe a wide range traditions including European (Plato, Kant, Kierkegaard, Buber, Sartre), Asian (The Buddha, Confucius, Gandhi), and African American (King, Malcom X, and Cornel West.	
2008	Winter-Spring	The Early Civilizations of the Americas	13	When the Conquistadors landed in the New World, they did not find naked savages living in Stone Age ignorance. Rather they came upon large cities cleaner and grander than most of the cities of Europe. How did this happen? Readings and videos in this class will bring to life the great civilizations of the Aztec, Maya, and Inca people.	

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2008	Winter-Spring	Critical Decisions in American and European History	6	Hindsight is always 20/20! This course will focus on six sets of critical decisions that had a profound effect on our history. We will look at the background, the decision makers themselves, their alternatives, and the immediate and long-term consequences of their actions. The events to be addressed are: Rome and the Visigoths (fourth century AD); Henry V and the Battle of Agincourt (1415); Great Britain's Lake Champlain Campaigns (1776/7); Andrew Jackson and the Second Bank of the U.S. and Nullification (1830's); Hitler's attack on Russia (1942); and the Battle of Midway (1942).	
2008	Winter-Spring	Musical Highlights	10	Come, relax, and enjoy video highlights from past programs on Shakespeare, mythology, Mozart, and Baroque opera. New programs in tribute to Beverly Sills and Luciano Pavarotti!	
2008	Winter-Spring	Great Decisions	9	The course will deal with eight U.S. foreign policy issues. Individual class members will lead each session. Purchase of a textbook (\$15-\$20) is required. A summary of our conclusions will be sent to the Secretary of State for her information and edification.	
2008	Winter-Spring	Play Reading	11	This class is a gathering of people who enjoy reading plays just for the fun of it- no performance skills required! The participants make the decision about what to read and share their thoughts about the works as they read through them. We like to find new plays and reread those we have enjoyed in the past. Our spring session will begin with Thornton Wilder's Our Town, so please bring a copy of the play to the first session.	
2008	Winter-Spring	German 101	16	This course is for beginners and those who may think they used to know some German. Using a multi-media approach we will emphasize conversation about contemporary German culture and daily life. An inexpensive textbook will be required.	

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2008	Winter-Spring	Six Philosophers on the Challenge of Being Human	6	What are we doing here? What are we supposed to do with our lives? These are two of the most basic philosophical questions human beings have to ask themselves. Students in this class will consider how six significant philosophers understand the challenge of being human. Some of their views are complementary and others opposed. Reading materials will be handed out before each class and students should anticipate at least 1-hour worth of reading each week. The six philosophers will be chosen from the following list: Plato, Aristotle, Immanuel Kant, John Stuart Mill, Sigmund Freud, Jean Paul Sartre, John Dewey, and Martin Buber.	
2008	Winter-Spring	A Shakespeare Play in Depth: All's Well That Ends Well	8	This play was written in 1604 when Shakespeare was approaching the peak of his career. Although there have been three filmed versions and a New York City production as recently as last year, this play remains one of the least known and least performed of Shakespeare's comedies. Our course will include scene-by-scene readings, a sampling of scholarly opinions, group discussion, and viewing at least one of the filmed versions. This play is the featured production this summer at the Shakespeare and Company Theater in nearby Lenox and the class will go as a group to see a performance. Please come to class with an annotated edition of the play such as those available from Bantam, Pelican, or Penguin. The instructor has ordered six copies. Call him if you would like to reserve one.	
2008	Winter-Spring	A Look at our Distant Past	6	This course will involve discussion of the Celts, Vikings, and Mongols. We will savor a liberal sprinkling of myths, some of which still pervade our lives.	

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2008	Winter-Spring	Bureaucracy	9	We need to recognize that this is a social tool that legitimizes the control of the many by the few, a disguise that operates in any social milieu. "As bureaucracies satisfy, delight, pollute, and satiate us with goods and services, they also shape our ideas, our very way of conceiving of ourselves, control our life chances, and even define our humanity." (Perrow). This course will attempt to stand outside organizations (even TLC) and see how they influence our values, beliefs, and how we think and reason.	
2008	Winter-Spring	Good Poetry, Bad Poetry, and Puzzling Poetry	7	This course will involve extensive student participation both in discussion and reading poems aloud. Students should provide themselves a copy of either The Norton Anthology of Poetry or The Top 500 Poems (Columbia U. Press). There will also be handouts of other poems resulting from student requests or the inspiration of the moment.	
2008	Winter-Spring	Watercolor on the Right	8	Fear not, this course has nothing to do with politics! "On the Right" refers to the right side of the brain, the spatial, holistic, non-lingual side. We will exercise our brains by focusing on the problems that artists face whenever they set out to do a painting in watercolors. We will practice various techniques to create still life and landscape scenes. Our goal is to experiment in class-not to launch you on a career as a painter. In fact, if you were an experienced painter, this class would be a bore. Conversely, if you haven't drawn anything beyond stick figures for twenty years, this class would be difficult. If you are somewhere in the middle, this is the class for you! If you attended the previous course on "Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain" you will be very comfortable with the approach, but this is not a requirement. This is NOT a lecture course-no passive observers please! (There will be a modest fee for materials).	

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2008	Winter-Spring	Special Event: A Group Trip to The New Britain Museum of American Art on Thursday May 15, 2008	1	This museum has an extensive collection of American masterpieces dating from the Colonial Period to the present, with emphasis on the Hudson River School and American Impressionism. Our visit will coincide with a special exhibit of California Impressionist paintings on loan from the Irvine Museum collection. For those who have visited this outstanding museum in the past, this trip will present the opportunity to see the new building addition. Space is limited for this trip. If you would like to participate, please send in your registration with a check for \$25 made out to Taconic Learning Center. Marcia Friedman, who has organized this trip, will contact you to acknowledge your registration and provide additional details.	
2008	Fall	Four Authors Working The Same Side Of The Street: Waugh, Amis, Cheever, & Updike	4	We are taking a quick peek behind the cloistered doors of Cheever, Updike, Waugh and Amis, LLP. Two English who got what they wanted, sort of; two Americans who also did exactly what they set out to do. Is any one of them happy? We certainly are. Two hours each doesn't begin to do the job but it will be fun, and instructor expects class to have read many if not all of the assigned books. And laughed.	John Neufeld

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2008	Fall	Rome: Not Seen in a Day	6	<p>Join us for a vicarious trip to Rome. Visit Classical Rome, Medieval Rome, Renaissance Rome. We will visit Rome of the Baroque, of the Risorgimento, and Modern Rome too! This is the city where Kings, Consuls, Emperors, Popes, Princes, Cardinals, more Kings, the Leader, and a boatload of Prime Ministers have ruled for almost 3000 years. See the works of M.Agrippa, Sisto, Michelangelo, Bernini, Borromini, Caravaggio, Verdi and others. Registrants will be encouraged to share their own experiences and thoughts about the Eternal City.</p> <p>No class on October 13.</p>	
2008	Fall	The Roberts Supreme Court	9	<p>The course will examine key rulings of the Court during the past year and look at cases on the 2008-2009 docket. We will focus on what direction the Court is moving, the five to four vote decisions, and how this year, the presidential election may influence the future direction of the Court.</p>	Laurance Rand
2008	Fall	Understanding Probability And Statistics	8	<p>We encounter statistical data and probabilistic estimates almost daily—from political polls, to medical research, to sports gambling. With the help of an inexpensive outline text, we will work together to understand these concepts and use them in practical applications. Our task will be made easier with a bit of simple geometry and common sense.</p>	
2008	Fall	Heroines Of the Twentieth Century	8	<p>This course will investigate and celebrate some of the women who changed America and made possible the extraordinary opportunities available today to our daughters and granddaughters. Participants will be encouraged to share stories of the women in their own lives who also made a difference.</p>	

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2008	Fall	Opera From Baroque To Britten	10	Variety will characterize this term,Âs selections! We will hear Handel,Âs earliest opera Aggripina featuring three great countertenors, Boito,Âs Mefistofele with Samuel Ramey, and Britten,Âs chamber opera The Turn Of The Screw. The course will also include several all-star gala concerts from the world,Âs most famous opera houses.	Robert Julien
2008	Fall	French 301 Advanced French Refresher Course	14	A broadening of French conversational usage will be attempted through the study of a series of contemporary essays. Purchase of Marguerite Yourcenat,Âs Mishima ou la vision duVide (under\$20 new) will be required, aussi bien qu,Âs un desir urgent de parler Francais.	John Leich
2008	Fall	Shakespeare And The Law: The First Thing We Do, Let,Âs Praise All The Lawyers	5	This course will begin with an analysis of the social, political, and most importantly, religious framework of the Elizabethan world into which Shakespeare was born in 1564. We will follow the development of the English common law from its origin in medieval times through the playwright,Âs day and see the connection between several of his early history plays and Elizabethan concepts of law and social order. We will consider several plays including The Merchant of Venice, The Winter,Âs Tale, and Measure for Measure to see how he used the law and legal principles. How faithful was he to the law, as he understood it? What dramatic license did he take? What does his use of the law tell us about Shakespeare the playwright and dramatist? Film clips from BBC productions will be used to demonstrate the legal principles under discussion.	

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2008	Fall	Play Reading	8	<p>Play reading classes take place in a relaxed atmosphere with all class enrollees reading parts in chosen plays. This semester we will begin with George Bernard Shaw, 's Caesar and Cleopatra. Please bring a copy of this play with you to the first class. We will also be reading plays by Chekhov, Ibsen, and others. No theater experience necessary!</p> <p>No classes October 29 and November 5.</p>	Marcia Friedman
2008	Fall	Economics & Politics- Things Your President and Congressperson Never Told You!	6	<p>There is no such thing as a , 'free lunch, ' only one that someone else paid for. This will be a broad theme throughout the course as we cover basic economic principles including supply and demand, pricing, international trade, interest rates and monetary policy. We will cover today, 's headline economic issues and see the interplay with contemporary politics. Sometimes government actions, however well intentioned, make bad situations worse. Neither Democrats nor Republicans will be spared!</p>	Jerry Jamin
2008	Fall	China and The United States in the World Today	7	<p>This course will look at how the United States can best position itself to maintain its leadership in an era of rising Chinese influence. We will start with the historic Nixon China visit in 1972 and then focus on the dramatic changes in China, 's foreign policy, economy, and military posture. Along the way, Lyn Westsmith will discuss how the country, 's three ancient religions: Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism help shape contemporary policy. There will be plenty of time for discussion and class participation.</p>	

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2008	Fall	German 102	13	<p>This is a continuation of an earlier course in beginning German. Newcomers are welcome. This course presupposes understanding of 500-750 words, ability to distinguish gender and case in nouns and adjectives and recognition of present/past tense of verbs.</p> <p>No class on November 27.</p>	John Leich
2008	Fall	Physics and Spirituality	4	<p>The universe is yielding its secrets to new technologies from long-range telescopes to super computers. Quantum mechanics is offering a new understanding of our true nature and ultimate reality. This course is designed as a platform on which we use new information to assemble a current state of awareness. Science has given us graphic descriptions of the beginning of everything („Äthe big bang,Ä) and shows the possibilities of the end of creation („Äthe big crunch,Ä), that very interestingly agrees with 5,000-year-old Hindu cosmology! The goals of this course are to help increase awareness of the rapidly changing scientific base, and to share appreciation of man,Äs movement in consciousness on planet earth. Math skills are not required for this course; only an inquiring mind! PBS videos and suggested readings will help along the way.</p>	Jerry Oakes
2008	Fall	Trip To Williams College Museum and The Clark Art Institute	1	<p>On Thursday October 9th group transportation will be arranged to visit both museums. For those who are interested, a guided tour of The Clark is planned. Lunch reservations will be made on request. Registration is strictly limited to a maximum of 19 persons; a check for twenty dollars payable to The Taconic Learning Center must accompany your registration!</p>	Marcia Friedman

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2009	Winter-Spring	The Obama Transition: Challenges Facing the New Administration	12	We will track the myriad issues and problems that come up when the Presidency changes hands. How does politics influence cabinet choices? What relationship if any does the party platform or promises made to the base during the campaign have in determining first steps for the new President? Will the present economic crisis take serious consideration of other priorities like new foreign policy initiatives, energy, healthcare reform, tax fairness, the environment, and immigration off the table? Much of the material covered in class will reference articles and commentary in daily newspapers such as The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal. Registrants will also find useful information on the website www.change.gov .	James Boorsch
2009	Winter-Spring	Modest Expectations-Extraordinary Results	6	We will discuss the background and development of six efforts of great significance in English and American history. At their inception, none of these efforts offered assurances that their objectives would be met, but in the end, their original goals were greatly exceeded. We will begin with consideration of the Magna Carta, the U.S. Constitution, and The Bill of Rights. The last three sessions will focus on: the Presidential Election of 1800 (which established our two party system), the Emancipation Proclamation, and British-American deception operations against the Germans in World War II.	Thomas Key

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2009	Winter-Spring	Back to Bach; Forward to Mozart; By way of Haydn	8	The instructor invites you to come to each session as you would to a concert, picking up as you enter your copy of the program with notes on the works and composer! Bach will be introduced with a video highlighting the places where the composer lived and worked, featuring three complete Cantatas. A witty and clever film narrated by Peter Ustinov will introduce Haydn and a second film, by Sir Andre Previn will compare Haydn with Mozart by studying a symphony from each. We will also listen to a variety of chamber music pieces from these Master composers.	Robert Julien
2009	Winter-Spring	Great Decisions	9	The course will deal with eight U.S. foreign policy issues. Individual class members will lead each session. Purchase of a textbook (\$15-\$20) is required. This year,Âs edition includes such topics as: Afghanistan & Pakistan, Energy & The Global Economy, The Arctic, and Cuba after Castro. A summary of our conclusions will be sent to the Secretary of State for her information and edification!	John Leich
2009	Winter-Spring	Play Reading	8	Come join our play reading class! No theater experience is necessary. The class selects plays and each participant reads a part or two depending on the number of characters. Our first play will be one by Lillian Hellman, so please find an anthology at your library or local bookstore and bring it to the first class.	Marcia Friedman
2009	Winter-Spring	Advanced French	16	This course is a continuation of the fall semester course. We will continue reading Marguerite Yourcenar,Âs Yokio Mishima, la Vision du Vide and other related materials. A high school knowledge of French grammar and vocabulary is assumed.	John Leich

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2009	Winter-Spring	Knowing Ourselves	6	,ÀÛKnow thyself,ÀÛ is the proscription inscribed on the Temple at Delphi. It is the most profound summons to philosophical reflection and ultimately the most effective means of solving life,Àôs problems. Nonetheless, it is by no means clear how to proceed in seeking to know ourselves or why it is so important. In this class we consider what self-knowledge means and also practice various disciplines of self-reflection. This class will be conducted as a seminar, not as a lecture, and it is essential that participants be willing to undertake the exercises that will illuminate the material. As course material will be sequential, it will be important to attend class from the beginning. Course size will be limited to 25 registrants.	Lyn Mattoon
2009	Winter-Spring	Shakespeare,Àôs Twelfth Night	10	A play, according to Oscar Campbell, "... brimming with merriment and enlivened with more than a little mischief." Our considerations will include scene-by-scene readings, a sampling of scholarly opinions, group discussion, and viewing of at least one filmed version. This comedy will be one of the main productions this summer by Shakespeare and Company in nearby Lenox; we will have an opportunity to see a performance in June. Please come to the first meeting with an annotated edition of the play, such as those available in paperback for about \$7 from Bantam, Pelican, or Penguin. Let us join, once again (?) the love entanglements of Orsino and Olivia, and the antics of Sir Toby Belch, Sir Andrew Aguecheek, and ("cross-gartered") Malvolio in one of William Shakespeare's most pleasing comedies.	William Devoti

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2009	Winter-Spring	Colonial America: A Search for Truth	10	<p>This course takes issue with conventional wisdom regarding Colonial America. It will dispute Max Weber,Äôs assertion that Puritanism (Calvinism) provided the foundational energy for a capitalistic society. It will suggest strongly that it was Roger Williams of Rhode Island rather than John Locke who provided the fundamental philosophical and theological basis for a democratic America. And it will assert that the colonial period, especially in the Massachusetts and Plymouth Bay Colonies was anything but paradisiacal. This course will depend heavily on original sources supplemented by commentary by the philosopher Martha Nussbaum and essayist-novelist Marilynne Robinson.</p> <p>Scholarly research provided by Dinie Simonson.</p>	John O'Malley
2009	Winter-Spring	The Plays of Oscar Wilde	6	<p>When these scintillating dramas appeared on the London stage, a prominent critic found them a standout against ,Äúthe almost unrelieved mediocrity of theatrical production for a whole century,Äù! We will read these plays giving free rein to the acting impulse in each of us and enjoying the wit of the man who advised us ,Äúa little sincerity is a dangerous thing,Äù. Our text is: The Plays of Oscar Wilde, Vintage paperback, with introduction by John Lahr.</p>	Edward Nickerson
2009	Winter-Spring	Survey of Modern Art	6	<p>In this class, we look at the development of art over the last two centuries. Periods and movements discussed will include the Rococo, Romanticism, Fauvism, Cubism, and Dada. Our survey will focus on painting, sculpture, and architecture. Each class will focus on a contemporary artist who is shaping the art world today. Major issues considered will be the birth and development of abstraction, art with political intention, and the rise of the avant-garde.</p>	Erin Madlaque

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2009	Fall	The Obama Presidency: Continuing Observations	5	On the domestic front, discussion will focus on the bailouts and economic stimulus programs. We will assess developments on a variety of foreign policy issues including Pakistan-Afghanistan, Iran, the Middle East, and Latin America. Healthcare proposals, energy and environment, and other then-current issues, which cannot now be predicted with precision, will be covered. Suggested readings from print and Internet sources will be cited, along with some tips on TV watching. The idea is to keep current on what President Obama is doing or failing to do.	James Boorsch
2009	Fall	A Survey of Man Booker Prize- Winning Books	4	On the fortieth anniversary of the inception of this prestigious book prize, we will study a selection of Man Booker winners. A booklist will be posted on the website and sent by email to all registrants selected for this course. This course is limited to 10-12 registrants to allow an informal roundtable discussion. No class on October 12.	John Neufeld
2009	Fall	The Roberts Supreme Court	8	The course will examine key rulings of the Court during the past year and look at cases on the 2009-2010 docket. The occasion of President Obama,Äôs first appointee to the Court(Sonia Sotomayor), replacing David Souter, gives us the opportunity to discuss how a new justice can both be influenced by the Court and, in his or her own right alter the outcome in close decisions.	Laurance Rand
2009	Fall	Play Reading	9	In a very relaxed atmosphere, we will read some of the best plays written in the 20th and 21st centuries. All participants are given parts to read. We will be reading ,ÄúRaisin in the Sun,Äù by Lorraine Hansbery and other plays by A.R. Gurney, J.M.Synge, and others. Participants will be contacted about what plays to bring to class.	Marcia Friedman

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2009	Fall	Beethoven	9	Was he the „greatest,“ composer of all time, our „consolation,“ for losing Mozart at such an early age, or a „great revolutionary,“? This course will explore these questions and view a BBC documentary on his life and works. We will listen to twenty complete major works chosen from his symphonies, piano concertos, piano sonatas, and the quartets. We will also hear his only opera „Fidelio,“. The course will conclude with Leonard Bernstein,‘s historic performance of Beethoven,‘s Ninth Symphony commemorating the fall of the Berlin Wall.	Robert Julien
2009	Fall	Poetry	8	Is free verse „tennis without the net,“? Is there still value in the traditional forms? Why does a poet choose to end a line at one place rather than another? Is poetry mostly rhythmic philosophy? What is a great poem? We shall consider some of these questions in a course structured so that half of the poems we consider are your choice, with the other half picked by the instructor to illustrate particular concerns. There will be an emphasis on reading poems aloud. We will start the course with the close study of a single sonnet by Edna St.Vincent Millay. There is a choice of basic texts: The Norton Anthology of Poetry or The Top 500 Poems (Columbia).	Edward Nickerson

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2009	Fall	The Great Economic Meltdown: Crime and Punishment	8	<p>Our course will cover the decade from 2004-2014, when America and the world encountered the realities of a new economic order. Drawing upon extensive analysis of recent history and bold predictions about the future, we will cover fundamental economic concepts in the context of our business and political institutions. We will also discuss the mystical quest for a free lunch, or at least one that we can get somebody else to pay for! Those obsessed with the need to find someone to blame are welcome to attend. It will save time if they bring a neighbor, a spouse, or a mirror!</p> <p>No class on October 8.</p>	Jerry Jamin
2009	Fall	A review of Genetics in 2009-the Year of Darwin	7	<p>With the rapid development of genomics and nanotechnology during the last five years, genetic knowledge has expanded to become an integral part of both the natural and social sciences. Evolution, paleontology, anthropology, and medicine are just a few of the disciplines that use genetics today. This course will take a layman, look at some of the recent discoveries, concepts, and applications in these subjects that have come from the field of genetics. No prior knowledge is necessary and the first few classes will cover the basics. Readings will be provided weekly and there will be ample time for questions and discussion. For a pleasant historical introduction, read Darwin, On Natural Selection (Penguin Great Ideas series) available from Amazon.com for less than ten dollars.</p> <p>No class on October 8.</p>	
2009	Fall	Latin 101	12	<p>Welcome to a course for of all those interested in this venerable language. The required textbook is Frederick Wheelock, Latin, an Introductory Course available second hand at Amazon.com. In one semester, students will learn enough to read the classics!</p>	John Leich

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2009	Fall	Your Life-Why it is the way it is -and what you can do about it!	4	This is an updated course based on new developments in quantum physics, the Hubble views of deep space, and developments in DNA research. We will see how all sorts of new data tie the many mysterious cosmic machinations together. The class will explore how, despite all appearances to the contrary, what happens to us may be caused by us. If true, there is no such thing as an innocent victim.	Jerry Oakes
2009	Fall	The Industrial Heritage of the Northwest Corner	5	The original settlement of Salisbury and adjacent towns in the Northwest Corner was spurred by the discovery of iron ore in the 1730s. That discovery, coupled with the abundant waterpower resources of the area, gave birth to a significant number of industries here. This course covers industrial activity in the region from 1734 through 1900. Among the topics covered will be the pre-revolutionary industry, the Blackberry River Corridor, Horatio Ames, the heavy industry in Amesville, the Barnum & Richardson Company, and Hotchkiss & Sons. Along the way, we will learn how iron was mined and processed, and survey some of the inventions that resulted from this industry. No class on October 6.	Richard Paddock
2009	Fall	Demystifying the Tarot	6	Variably characterized as „the hero’s journey,“ an aristocratic card game, or a conveyance of mystical secrets, tarot cards have fascinated people for more than six hundred years. This course will explore the connection between the cards and mythology, psychology, history, and religion. We will study the cards from myriad perspectives including the writings of Carl Jung and Joseph Campbell.	Jeff Neves

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2009	Fall	Writing Your Life: an Eight-Week Memoir Writing Program	8	This course gives participants the opportunity to acquire a toolbox of skills for memoir writing. Weekly assignments, with instructions and examples, give students the impetus to practice a variety of techniques. Members of the group read and discuss their writing at each class. Constructive suggestions as well as discussion of more general issues related to memoir writing help participants develop new ideas and abilities.	Betty Krasne
2009	Fall	A DAY AT MUSEUMS IN THE COUNTRY	1	<p>On October 29th, a trip has been planned to take you to Stockbridge MA where we will visit the Norman Rockwell Museum and Chesterwood, the home of Daniel Chester French. A small bus will leave from Noble Horizons at 9:30, arriving at the Norman Rockwell Museum at 10:15. A gallery talk will take place at 11:00 if you chose to take it. We will depart the Museum about 12:00 for lunch. The bus will then take us to Chesterwood, where we can browse through the home, studio and grounds. Mr. French, a sculptor, was the creator of the statue of Abraham Lincoln which stands in the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. A guided tour is scheduled for 2:30. We will leave the grounds about 4:00, returning to Noble Horizons before 5:00.</p> <p>The cost of the trip is \$40 excluding the cost of lunch. Seating on the bus is limited to 19 people, so if you plan to join us, please contact Ms. Friedman directly at 413-229-3452.</p>	Marcia Friedman

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2010	Winter-Spring	The Obama Presidency: Selected Topics	6	The class will continue under the format established during the last two TLC terms. Discussion will focus on a variety of domestic and foreign policy issues. No doubt this will include an update on healthcare legislation, the economy, and the continuing American military commitments in Iraq and Afghanistan. As always, there will be time to look at new issues of national concern as they develop. Registrants can count on suggested readings from print and Internet sources. No class on February 15.	James Boorsch
2010	Winter-Spring	The American Presidency in Fiction and Film	12	We examine the role and personality of our nation,Äôs chief executive as shown in films made in the last eighty years. Registrants will see and discuss movies about the presidency that range from the serious to the humorous and the satirical. What do these films tell us about both the institution itself and the character of those who have held this office? Look forward to seeing among others, such cinema favorites as Fail Safe, Dr Strangelove, Seven Days in May, and State of the Union. Bill Suter will assist Larry Rand in presenting the course.	Laurance Rand
2010	Winter-Spring	Shakespeare,Äôs The Winter,Äôs Tale	10	We will do a complete reading of this classic with sampling of scholarly opinions and plenty of time for classroom discussion. This play will be one of the main stage productions this summer by Shakespeare & Company in nearby Lenox. Registrants should bring to the first class an annotated edition of the play which is available in paperback from Bantam, Pelican, or Penguin.	William Devoti

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2010	Winter-Spring	Bad Mistakes and Very Bad Mistakes.	6	This course will use 20/20 hindsight to examine some significant mistakes by statesmen, generals, military planners, engineers, and even the American electorate. We will discuss such major mistakes as: King George III and his ministers forcing the North American Colonies into rebellion; General Longstreet's second assault at Gettysburg; the Gallipoli Campaign in WW I; President Harding and the Teapot Dome; the Three Mile Island accident; the structural failure of the Kansas City Hyatt Regency; and the five Arab nations' attack on Israel in the Six Day War.	Thomas Key
2010	Winter-Spring	19th Century American Art	6	We begin with the painting and sculpture of the new Republic (Benjamin West, Gilbert Stuart) then look at genre painting of everyday life and the dawning celebration of our dramatic landscape by the Hudson River School (Cole, Church, Kensett). We will move west with the scientific explorations and the development of our western culture (Bierstadt, Bingham, Remington). Artists such as Brady and Homer reflect the upheaval of the Civil War era. The following years of prosperity are expressed in the work of Eakins and Homer. Impressionism and the American renaissance are in full swing (Sargent, Cassatt, Hassam), during the latter part of the century.	
2010	Winter-Spring	U.S. Economy: 1776 to the Present	6	We will look at the economy of the thirteen original colonies during the revolutionary war years and see how Adam Smith, <i>Wealth of Nations</i> had a powerful effect on our young country. Later the opposing viewpoints of Jefferson and Hamilton are crucial in building a viable economic system. In the years 1800 to 1900 the United States economy grew to become the strongest in the world. After World War II, we accepted the challenge of rebuilding the shattered economies in Europe and Asia. Now we are faced with globalization and free trade. How we deal with these problems will determine much of our future role in the world.	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2010	Winter-Spring	Play Reading	8	Join us in a relaxed atmosphere as we read through several wonderful plays. This spring we will be reading Tennessee Williams, "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," along with plays by Noel Coward, Eugene O'Neill, and others.	
2010	Winter-Spring	Transnational Poetics	10	This course will advance the theory that poetry, though composed in the context of "mother, home, and native place," is designed to express, in whole or in part, the profound essence of the human condition. Contrary to Auden, this course will assert and perhaps demonstrate that significant poetry will touch the common core of the human and transcend its origins in its cultural and national components, its ethnic and gender affiliations, as well as the personal identity of the poet. In a word, Wallace Stevens is better than Robert Service. Scholarly research provided by Dinie Simonson.	
2010	Winter-Spring	Opera Returns to TLC!	8	Your host again welcomes you to the rare, the exotic, and the excellent in this semester's opera program. Two "Opera Gala" sessions will feature a large number of favorite artists. Four programs will be devoted to less "known but no less interesting operas. The last 2 programs will be outstanding reissues from the Met including Verdi's "Othello" with Jon Vickers and Renata Scotto.	
2010	Winter-Spring	Great Decisions	9	The course will deal with eight U.S. foreign policy problems such as U.S.-China security relations, global crime, Russia and its neighbors, and the Persian Gulf. Registrants may purchase (approximately \$20) the required syllabus at the first session of the class or by contacting the instructor (860.824.2683) after January 15. A summary of the class's conclusions will be sent to the Secretary of State for her information and edification.	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2010	Winter-Spring	The Perennial Philosophy	4	The term „perennial philosophy,“ refers to the common philosophy that underlies all major religions, and rests on a common experience to which the great teachers of the various traditions refer. A Sufi proponent defines it thus „There is one religion, the unswerving progress in the right direction towards the ideal, which fulfills the life purpose of every soul,“. This course will consider a few of the central concepts of the perennial philosophy: the nature of God, the nature of man, good and evil; and salvation. The primary text will be Aldous Huxley,„s The Perennial Philosophy (available at amazon.com). Stories and texts from many traditions will be included. There will be NO class on February 11.	
2010	Fall	The Cold War: The war that should never have been fought for reasons that never existed	6	In retirement, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur described the Cold War as the period when „our government kept us in a perpetual state of fear, a continuous stampede of patriotic fervor with the cry of grave national emergency,„some terrible evil at home or some monstrous foreign power that was going to gobble us up if we did not blindly rally behind it by furnishing the exorbitant funds demanded. Yet, in retrospect, these disasters never seem to have happened, never to have been quite real,“. In group discussion in this course we will look at the social, economic, and political consequences of the Cold War and ask whether our exhaustive efforts to confront this „terrible evil,“ was in the best interest of the United States	
2010	Fall	The American Presidency in Fact and Documentary	8	We will examine the role of our national chief executive and the personalities of a number of men who have held that office as shown in documentaries made over the past forty years. Registrants will see and discuss films on Lincoln, Grant, both Roosevelts, Wilson, Truman, Kennedy, Nixon, and Reagan. Our goal is a greater understanding of both the office itself and the strengths and frailties of some who have held it.	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2010	Fall	The Roberts Supreme Court	8	The course will examine key rulings of the Court during the past year and look ahead at cases on the 2010-2011 docket. We now have the opportunity to discuss how Justice Sotomayor has already influenced the decision making and speculate how the arrival of Justice Elena Kagan will play out in new cases to be heard after October 1.	
2010	Fall	The Bernstein Legacy	9	Was Leonard Bernstein, as recently speculated in BBC Music Magazine, the „greatest musician of modern times? Come and find out! In this course we will look at and listen to what it was that made Bernstein such a musical colossus: his role as communicator in the Young People’s Concerts series; as preeminent conductor of Brahms, Mahler, and others; or as composer of Candide and West Side Story..	
2010	Fall	The Technology around Us	3	Every day seems to bring the announcement of yet another „smart“ gadget. From cell phones to thermostats, we are surrounded by digital devices that often amaze and sometimes frustrate us. This course surveys the technology that makes these things possible. Despite the complexity of the end product the basic principles that underlie them are simple and easy to understand. While you won’t become an engineer after this course, you will have a much better understanding of how all these gadgets are made and some of the challenges that designers face. In three sessions this course will introduce you to binary numbers, logic circuits and codes „how to turn the world into ones and zeros. How do they place thousands of transistors on one little piece of silicon? Making it all work with software „what is software anyway? No class on October 5th.	
2010	Fall	Play Reading	9	Please join us for a nice relaxing morning reading some of the finest plays ever written. This semester we will read works by the great Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen who has been called the godfather of modern drama. Each person in class participates- no theatre experienced required! Participants will be contacted about what plays to bring to class.	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2010	Fall	World Languages and World History	7	<p>This is not a class in English language history rather a course on world languages, how they grew, how they died, and what is happening today.</p> <p>No class on October 6th.</p>	
2010	Fall	Meltdown 2.0	8	<p>Having lived through Meltdown 1.0 we now confront our economic future. Housing markets, personal portfolios, local, state, federal, and international finances are all hanging by threads. Will our next decade be, like remarriage after divorce, a triumph of hope over experience? Will we leave all debts for our children and grandchildren to settle? Or will they pull the plug on us before we do any further damage? Surely our government will ride to our rescue like the cavalry; if they can find the horses.</p> <p>The governors of California, New York, and Illinois along with the Prime Minister of Greece will be invited to offer us their insights, but there is no assurance that they will not be otherwise engaged. A variety of issues including global warming, immigration reform, financial reform, energy policy, and healthcare will all bear on the outcome. Course prerequisites are an interest in (or tolerance of) economic concepts and a sense of humor.</p> <p>No class on October 7th.</p>	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2010	Fall	Recent Discoveries in the Sciences	7	<p>During the last two years, technology, research, and international cooperation have combined to generate fascinating new knowledge in all the sciences, including archeology, astrophysics, biochemistry, climatology, evolution, and genetics.. Registrants will choose from a host of topics including: climate-- can the past predict the future? DNA from Mars; the power of platelets; do it yourself genetic testing; the Neanderthal aunt in your family tree; growing your own stem cells-controversy resolved! Our food,Äis it nutritious, tasty, and safe? The class will see how recent discoveries in science provide both new insights into the world we live in and a glimpse of the future.</p> <p>No class on October 7th.</p>	
2010	Fall	Beginning Russian	11	<p>This class will concentrate on the problems encountered by students who have had literally no prior experience with the Slavonic languages.-† Problems of inflexion, verb aspects, and spelling conventions in the written and printed Cyrillic alphabet will be dealt with and conquered. &#1076;&#1086;&#1089;&#1074;&#1080;&#1076;&#1072;&#1085;&#1080;&#1103; &#1074; &#1088;&#1091;&#1089;&#1089;&#1080;&#1084;&#1082;&#1083;&#1072;&#1089;&#1089;&#1077;!</p> <p>No class on November 26th.</p>	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2010	Fall	American Art 1880-1950	5	We will begin with the image of the western cowboy as fashioned by Frederic Remington and Charles Russell. Then we go back to the east and review impressionism (Cassatt and Hassam). The nineteenth century ends with the American Renaissance and the paintings of Sargent and Whistler, both expatriates. The twentieth century begins with European artists expressing the new ideas of Freud and changing economic and political conditions (Picasso, Matisse, and Duchamp). Our review to mid-century continues as we showcase the new artists identified with Abstraction, Social Realism, and Abstract Impressionism.	
2010	Fall	Literary Themes From the Bible	12	Both the Hebrew Scriptures and the Christian Testament contain a wealth of stories that have had and continue to have an impact on Western culture. Such themes as power, loyalty, love, forgiveness, sacrifice, evil, and sexuality as they appear in the Bible will be explored. Texts: The New English Bible Don't know much About the Bible, Kenneth C. Davis (available in paperback from Amazon.com) No class on November 27th.	
2011	Winter-Spring	Graham Greene	4	This course will survey the remarkable breadth of the writer, his art. The class on Greene as screenwriter will include one of his films shown on DVD. Subsequent classes will showcase Greene as critic, playwright, essayist, equestrian, comedian, mechanic and correspondent. All registrants should read The Heart of the Matter, widely available in paperback.	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2011	Winter-Spring	Reading and Seeing a Shakespeare Play	12	Our play this term will be As You Like It, one of the main stage productions to be performed this summer by Shakespeare and Company in nearby Lenox. The class will do a complete read-through of this classic, view various filmed versions, and sample outside criticism with, as always, plenty of time for classroom discussion. Registrants should bring to the first class an annotated edition of the play, available in paperback such as those available from Bantam, Pelican, or Penguin.	
2011	Winter-Spring	The End Game	6	Most historical events and entities such as empires, wars, and governments have a nominal end. Yet important collateral events with lasting ramifications sometimes occur before and after this date. These events may be considered as a part of the end game. This course will discuss some examples of this historical phenomenon such as New France in Canada and then in the Louisiana Territory, the Federalist Party in The United States, the First French Empire under Napoleon, the Confederate States of America, and finally, the End of WW I which laid the foundation for WW II.	
2011	Winter-Spring	Women Artists	5	We begin with the emergence of women in European art then turn to the United States where in the Nineteenth Century women artists faced a hostile and paternalistic environment. Among the few who succeeded in getting the requisite training and sponsorship were Sarah Peale, Lily Spencer, Edmonia Lewis, and Mary Cassatt. Georgia O'Keefe was the dominant figure during the first half of the Twentieth Century. We will then look at the work of documentary photographers in the 30's and 40's like Margaret Bourke-White and post WW II artists Helen Frankenthaler (abstraction), Louise Nevelson (sculpture). Finally we will look at some of the women artists offering cutting edge experiments in many areas such as Cindy Sherman in performance art.	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2011	Winter-Spring	Play Reading	8	Join us in a relaxed atmosphere as we read through several wonderful plays. The first part of the course will read two lighter plays- Oscar Wilde, "The Importance of Being Earnest" and "Lady Windermere," and "Fan." You might become Algernon or the Butler, or maybe Lord or Lady Windermere! No classes February 16 to March 2.	
2011	Winter-Spring	Emily Dickinson: The Secluded Poet	4	This will be a seminar to delve into some of the most telling poems written by The Maid of Amherst. Emily Dickinson was notoriously shy and solitary. She wrote eighteen hundred poems, "short volleys of brilliance, boldness, and blasphemy," (Benefey) but not one was published in her lifetime. The recent book "Dickinson" by the distinguished scholar Helen Vendler has stimulated renewed interest in this poet and a look for new meaning and nuances in her work. Copies of selected poems will be provided to participants.	
2011	Winter-Spring	The Bernstein Legacy: Part Two.	8	We continue our exploration of the treasure trove bequeathed to us by Maestro Leonard Bernstein. There is plenty of material with works preserved on video. Some sessions will be devoted to Michael Tilson Thomas who followed in Bernstein's footsteps with "Keeping Score."	
2011	Winter-Spring	Great Decisions 2011	9	This year's Foreign Policy Association syllabus deals with national security, the international financial crisis, and important issues in Germany, Haiti, the Caucasus, and the Horn of Africa. Registrants may purchase (\$20) the required syllabus at the first session of the class. After 20 years of directing this course, Dr John Leich will attend as emeritus professor, with retired Foreign Service officer Ted Briggs trying to fill his shoes. No class on 27 January.	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2011	Winter-Spring	The Origins of World War II	6	This course will cover the period between the aftermath of the First World War (Versailles) and the declaration of war by England and France against Germany on September 3, 1939. Classroom lectures and discussion will be supported by PowerPoint and video clips. We will focus on many key events including the rise of the Third Reich in Germany and the militarist government in Japan, the build-up of troops and armaments, territorial expansion, the cynical agreements between Germany and the Soviet Union, and finally the appeasement movement (Munich)	
2011	Fall	Graham Greene	4	This course will provide a recap of Greene, his life and personality, with a look at his early masterwork <i>The Power and the Glory</i> (1940), then a film written by Greene, then Greene the dramatist (1970), and last the final Greene, a softer, thoughtful, funny, and still undecided about where he stands vis a vis with God.	
2011	Fall	The American Presidency in Fact and Documentary	8	We will examine the role of our national chief executive and the personalities of a number of men who have held that office as shown in documentaries made over the past forty years. Registrants will see and discuss documentaries on Presidents Hoover, Kennedy, Nixon, Carter, Reagan, Clinton, and George W. Bush. Our goal is a greater understanding of both the office itself as well as the strengths and frailties of some who have held it. There will be NO class on October 31.	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2011	Fall	Pre-Columbian Civilizations of the Americas	8	<p>The Americas before 1492 saw the emergence of three different peoples who created societies that attained high levels of cultural development: the Mayas, the Aztecs and the Incas. What do new discoveries tell us about them? Is there any evidence of interaction among them? This course will examine in some detail the social, religious, economic, military and political aspects of these three remarkable peoples.</p> <p>As in previous courses of Latin American history, we will devote the last few minutes of each session to discuss current issues in Latin America.</p>	
2011	Fall	The Roberts Supreme Court	8	<p>We will examine key rulings of the United States Supreme Court from the year 2010-2011 as well as look ahead at cases on the 2011-2012 docket. First Amendment rulings, the continued influence of the Citizens United ruling, and Justice Kagan,Äôs opinions will be among our discussion points.</p> <p>There will be NO class November 1.</p>	
2011	Fall	Going Baroque!	8	<p>This means Johann Sebastian Bach, mostly choral works, but a concerto grosso or two as well. Handel (previously neglected) will be celebrated with two operas and a special varied program. And, of course, several works of Antonio Vivaldi, another significant composer of the Late Baroque period. Programs mostly on video.</p>	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2011	Fall	The Role of Law in American Democracy	5	<p>This course will explore the role American law has played in the establishment and development of American democracy. From the earliest days of the republic, law has both nurtured and sustained the democratic institutions which are at the heart of our great experiment. But that law was not created in a vacuum. It was the direct result of political, social and economic forces, and, most importantly, the involvement and influence of strong leaders, politicians, judges, lawyers, legislators, ordinary people and powerful people, who sought to shape American democracy by shaping the institutions of the law which created it. We will trace this development by concentrating on a number of significant themes in American legal history exemplifying this phenomenon, including the rise of representative government, the establishment of individual liberties, the regulation of business and commerce, the creation of property rights and environmental protections, the law of gender, race and sexual orientation, crime and punishment, and the concept of privileges and immunities, equal protection and due process.</p> <p>There will be NO class October 5.</p>	
2011	Fall	Play Reading	9	<p>Please join us for a nice relaxing morning reading some of the finest plays ever written. The instructor will choose the first play, and class members will help decide the remainder of the plays we will read. Each person in class participates ,Äi no theater experience required! Participants will be contacted about what plays to bring to class.</p>	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2011	Fall	How Internet is Changing the Way We Communicate	6	<p>The Internet, and in particular social media, has transformed the way we develop relationships, build communities, share information, govern ourselves, and do business. It has broken down barriers between cultures and languages and has enabled auto-didactic learning as never before. And though in many respects it is still in its infancy, the Internet has already caused world economic growth greater than that of the Industrial Revolution.</p> <p>With all the benefits come a host of challenges: privacy concerns, „filter bubbles,“ where technology encourages us to connect with those who are perceived to be similar and filters out differences of opinion, and addictive behaviors (can,„put our gadgets down!), among other things. Whatever its ills, the Internet and digital media are here to stay and constantly evolving, thereby creating larger and larger gaps between those who adopt to changing technologies and those who don,„.</p> <p>This course will explore the issues described herein, using sources from both print and digital media. Primarily a pragmatic experience, it will introduce tools to more effectively navigate information online, manage privacy, and build meaningful relationships. It is not an advanced technology class, but familiarity with web browsing and personal computing will help in making best use of what the course offers.</p>	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2011	Fall	2020 Vision: Economics for the Next Decade	8	<p>It,Ãs midnight, December 31, 2020, and the world is a very different place. For many Americans the change was not what they hoped for, and the world of 2000-2010 is looking a lot like the good old days.</p> <p>We will start in the year 2011 when there were hard economic and political decisions to be made about America,Ãs future. We will examine the choices that we made or the challenges we ignored and see what the balance sheet looks like.</p> <p>Of course it is possible that by September 2011 we will have upgraded our decaying infrastructure, restructured a failing educational system, increased our global competitiveness, initiated a comprehensive deficit reduction program, and finished at least one of our current three wars without starting a new one. If all this comes to pass there will be no need for this course. Otherwise, please come prepared with your crystal ball and a functioning sense of humor.</p>	
2011	Fall	American Sculpture	6	<p>We will begin with sculpture methods and materials and explore the resulting designs and cultural purposes for making three-dimensional objects. Succeeding sessions will focus on American sculpture, beginning with folk sculpture and graveyard headstones resulting from the needs of colonial life. Then we will look at the highlights of 19th century sculpture, including that of Hiram Powers, Harriet Hosmer, Edmonia Lewis, John Rogers, Augustus Saint Gaudens, and Frederic Remington. Our focus will shift to the staggering variety in the 20th century to the present time. Calder, French, Nogouchi, Smith, Olderberg, Graves, Nevilson, and Serra represent that variety. We will end with a look at land art and public war memorials.</p>	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2011	Fall	The Crisis of Success	8	<p>The leadership of the United States has given the world its highest standard of living in history. Simultaneously, the world is facing a crisis of leadership. In its role as leader of the Western world, the United States since the end of the Cold War has had to face and solve international governance issues as well as domestic issues.</p> <p>In this class we will not find answers to these paradoxes. Rather, we hope to find explanations. We will discuss some of the questions that we as concerned citizens have as we read the news and try to sort out the jumble of conflicting ideas with which we are confronted every day. We will talk about international issues and current domestic issues regarding the health, strength, and welfare of the United States. Your thoughts and your knowledge will be invaluable as we discuss the issues of ,Äi among others ,Äi health care, social security, and immigration. Please join us.</p>	
2011	Fall	The United States and Vietnam	4	<p>This course will examine four aspects of the American experience in Vietnam: the factors that led the United States into the war; soldiers as volunteers and the draft; the homefront and 1968 as a turning point in public opinion; and similarities to U.S. foreign policy today. Multiple copies of books are available that can be used on loan from Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Participants will be an important part of the course in sharing their experiences about the time period and how their perceptions were influenced from the 1950's to today.</p>	

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2011	Fall	World War II from September 1, 1939 to December 6, 1941	5	<p>This course will cover the war from its beginning with the German invasion of Poland in September, 1939 until just before the US entry following the Japanese Pearl Harbor attack December 7, 1941. We will cover the defeat of Poland, the Soviet attack on Finland, the fighting in Norway, the Blitzkrieg and collapse of France, the Battle of Britain (during that class, we will design an air defense system for Britain), the continuous air attack on British cities, combat in the Balkans, Greece, Crete and North Africa (with Italians, Germans and the British Commonwealth), the German invasion of Russia, naval action in the North and South Atlantic (Sink the Bismarck!), including German U-boats, and the Mediterranean. We will also look at the slow beginnings of US mobilization and developments in the Pacific. We will do a very brief review during the first class on the origins of the War (which was the subject of my class this past winter) ,Ä not more than 15-25 minutes.</p> <p>The course will be taught using PowerPoint and audio recording, as well as some videos (You Tube, if I can figure out how to download videos from that site!)</p>	
2012	Winter-Spring	The Psalms as Great Literature	6	<p>The biblical book of psalms contains 150 documents, which communicate profound human emotion running the gamut from darkest despair to jubilation in military victory. We will begin by considering some of the distinguishing aspects of Hebrew poetry and go on to study representative samples of various categories of psalms including: individual and group laments, psalms written for royal occasions, liturgical and historical psalms. They will be explored in relation to their cultural and historical background and their relevance to contemporary society.</p>	Richard Taber

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2012	Winter-Spring	Bad Mistakes and Very Bad Mistakes, Part II	6	<p>This year,Ãs course examines further significant mistakes that have impacted US and European history. The course will continue with the same theme as the original course but with emphasis on strategies that went wrong. In this course we will address the following:</p> <p>Removal of the Acadians from Nova Scotia at the Beginning of the French and Indian War General Cornwallis' Southern Campaign in the American Revolution Aaron Burr's Expedition to Somewhere Napoleon Bonaparte; Elba to Waterloo, two sessions Area Bombing of Dresden, Germany in WW II</p>	Thomas Key
2012	Winter-Spring	The Art of Bel Canto	7	<p>This program will offer a cornucopia of beautiful singing, beginning with a historical video, ,ÃGreat Voices of the Century,Ã, which contains selections by Bjorling, Callas, Caruso, Corelli, De los Angeles, Pinza, Ponselle, Price, Tebaldi, Sutherland, and many others. Special programs will then offer extended scenes from recitals and operas with Callas, Sutherland, Pavarotti, as well as current operatic stars including Fleming, Netrebko, Hrovostovsky, and Hampson. One or two complete operas, choice of Bellini, Donizetti, or Rossini will conclude this program of beautiful singing.</p>	Robert Julien
2012	Winter-Spring	Play Reading	8	<p>The play reading class will study plays of William Inge. No play reading experience is necessary. Just come and enjoy yourself. Participants should obtain a copy of Four Plays by William Inge. Inexpensive used copies of this book may be ordered from abebooks.com or Amazon.com .</p>	Rosemary Farnsworth

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2012	Winter-Spring	Personal Information Management In the Cloud	4	As our data, our communications, our banking and more move away from desktop computers and into "cloud" computing, personal information management becomes both easier and more complex. We will discuss issues related to privacy, branding (e.g., marketing your self or your organization), and more generally using social media, as well as explore some basic tools available to help you find and re-find information online. Note: people attending this class should already definitely enjoy some of what the Internet has to offer!	
2012	Winter-Spring	Great Decisions 2012	9	This year's course will address the following topics, selected by the Foreign Policy Association: Middle East realignments; promoting democracy; Mexico; cybersecurity; exit from Afghanistan and Iraq; the state of the oceans (the impact of climate change); Indonesia; and energy geopolitics. Participants will have the opportunity to purchase the FPA briefing book, and will be encouraged to engage actively in this discussion-based course.	Everett Briggs
2012	Winter-Spring	Art and Artists During the Civil War	2	Painters, sculptors and photographers reflect the build up to Civil War, the war itself and its aftermath. We will look at the works of Fitzhugh Lane, Winslow Homer, John Rogers, Augustus Saint Gaudens, Matthew Brady and others.	
2012	Winter-Spring	The Essay:—† Moral Philosophy for Our Times	4	From the time of Montaigne, the essay has been the most versatile literary form:—† less concise than poetry, less elaborate than the novel, and more personal than other nonfiction.—† This course will examine the style of the essay by such stellar practitioners of the genre as John Updike, Louis Menand, and Dwight Macdonald and find, quite likely, embedded in their essays their notions of how things ought to be.—†	John O'Malley

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2012	Winter-Spring	Exploring Headlines	4	<p>We live in a time when new technologies, advances in science and the increasing influence and interdependence of countries upon each other effect the economic, political and social life of our country. Increasingly The United States will be required to take its part in this new world order. The responses we make to these responsibilities will influence our success or failure in the years ahead.</p> <p>Using the weeks headlines as a basis for discussion we will express our thoughts and ideas, becoming our own „Äúeditorial writers,Äù as we explore, question and understand the news of the day.</p>	
2012	Winter-Spring	The History of American Literature in Eight Short Stories	9	<p>Join us for a fast-paced, fun, but no less comprehensive survey of American literature from its post-colonial first shoots through the burgeoning nineteenth century and up to the twigs of the twentieth. In nine weeks (that is, an introduction plus eight short stories), we,Äôll ring the changes of the American experience from Nathaniel Hawthorne to William Faulkner, Bret Harte to Flannery O,ÄôConnor, Henry James to Lorrie Moore.</p> <p>These is a fee of \$10 for class materials.</p>	Mark Scarbrough

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2012	Winter-Spring	Searching for Shakespeare and The Tempest	10	The main interest of the course will be a complete classroom reading of <i>The Tempest</i> , along with a sampling of scholarly opinions, filmed versions, and plenty of time for discussion. This play will be one of the main stage productions this summer by Shakespeare & Company in nearby Lenox, Massachusetts. As usual, we will have the opportunity to see it there together in the (ah!) summer, and talk with at least one of the actors. Participants should bring to the first class an ANNOTATED edition of the play, which is available in paperback and will be for sale at the Oblong Bookstore in Millerton. As a counterpoint to the film "Anonymous" there will be a presentation of Michael Wood's film "Searching for Shakespeare." Who knows, we may find him!	William Devoti
2012	Spring	An Introduction to Latin	6	This class will cover basic Latin grammar and vocabulary. Classes will be conducted in a traditional way with the instructor explaining points of grammar and students translating sentences from the text. When students have learned some grammar they will translate excerpts from Latin poetry and prose with the help of the instructor. Excerpts from the Vulgate Bible and Italian opera will be studied. Some memorization will be required. The course will include a survey of Roman and Greek art and architecture.	William Trowbridge
2012	Spring	The Evolution of Corporate Personhood	6	The vast economic power that large corporations exert, and now the 1st Amendment right to freedom of speech specified by the Supreme Court in its 5-4 Citizens United ruling, has led many individuals to question how corporations could be considered by the Court as "persons" with the same constitutional rights men and women have. This course will examine how the United States Supreme Court gradually developed a jurisprudence that included corporate personhood and will consider the consequences thereof.	Laurance Rand

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2012	Spring	Theodore Roosevelt	5	<p>The course will be based on the book, " Theodore Roosevelt, A Strenuous Life " by Kathleen Dalton. She writes in her introduction: " Theodore Roosevelt has become one of the enduring stock characters of American culture. He is so familiar to us in his aggressive exuberance that when his distinctive spectacles, mustache, and clenched teeth appear before us in a play or television commercial we need merely count the seconds until he utters the predictable " Bully!"... Even without words his image speaks to us." The course will have five sessions. It will be centered on the image and the reality of the man, his life and his actions as a public figure.</p> <p>Session #1 will explore the influences of his early life on what he would become.</p> <p>Session #2 will deal with his early adult life as a political activist and the molding of a philosophy.</p> <p>Sessions # 3 and #4 will examine his presidency and influence on national and international policies.</p> <p>Session # 5 will analyze his post presidential years and his influence on the modern presidency.</p> <p>Students should be prepared to share their knowledge and opinions of this complex man in each session.</p>	David Bayersdorfer
2012	Spring	Exploring Headlines Part 2	4	<p>We live in a time when new technologies, advances in science, and the increasing influence and interdependence of countries upon each other effect the economic, political, and social life of our country. Increasingly, the United States will be required to take its part in the new world order. The responses we make to these responsibilities will influence our success or failure in the years ahead. Using the weeks' headlines as a basis for discussion, we will use our thoughts and ideas, becoming our own ,Äeditorial writers,Ä as we explore, question, and understand the news of the day.</p>	

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2012	Spring	Making the Most of Social Media	4	If you don't know why, what, or how to do it, it can feel like a big old waste of time. But social media is actually about your values, passions, and interests and, it's about being authentically you. Perhaps most important, it's about connecting with others who share your interests: individuals, organizations, publications, etc. These days almost all organizational entities have a Facebook and Twitter account, and following them there is a way for you to efficiently keep up on the news that matters to you. And because of social media and self-publishing tools, you can be a great source of info to others as well. Come learn how to make the most of social media. We will build on things learned in previous classes, though anyone with an interest in expanding their ability to use the internet for information gathering and sharing is welcome and can certainly benefit.	

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2012	Fall	Female Troubles:The History of Gender in America in Seven Short Stories	8	<p>Our national fascination with the on-going war between the sexes most often devolves into various indictments and proclamations, not about men, but about women--their place, their role, their identity. Over a course of eight short stories, we will explore the changing notions of gender and identity in the United States, setting these questions in their historical contexts, using short stories to exemplify history of women in this country, and moving along the way from Hawthorne to Cather, James to Welty, Wharton to Fitzgerald.</p> <p>Students will need to pay \$15 for a booklet of course materials.</p> <p>No class on Sept 24th</p>	Mark Scarbrough
2012	Fall	The American Presidency	9	<p>In this, our fourth year of analysis of the office of chief executive, we will examine the presidencies of Dwight Eisenhower, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama. Using DVDs from the PBS series „The American Experience,“ and discussion, we will learn how these men perceived their office, their responsibilities, their goals, and the extent to which they were able to achieve these.</p>	Laurance Rand
2012	Fall	Job and the Problem of Innocent Suffering	5	<p>We will study the book of Job as it addresses the problems of a faithful man who suffers the loss of family, health and wealth. In the folktale Satan is sure that Job will loose his faith, while God bets that he will see it through and ultimately receive a reward. In conjunction with the bible study we will read and discuss the play „J.B.“ by the poet Archibald MacLeish. Volunteers will be invited to do a dramatic reading of the play.</p>	Richard Taber

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2012	Fall	The Roberts Court, 2011-2012	9	In an election year marked by unprecedented amounts of money being poured into campaigns (much of it made possible by the Court,Ãs 5-4 ruling in Citizens United v. FEC (2010), the Court has already handed down a number of controversial decisions, and more await announcement. The Court,Ãs rulings in the Health Care Act case and the Arizona immigration law case will surely be issues in the forthcoming election of president and Congress. These and more will be subjects of our discussions.	Laurance Rand
2012	Fall	The Piano Concerto: from Bach to Rachmaninoff	10	First, we will have a short history of the evolution of the modern grand piano from the harpsichord and the fortepiano. Musical examples of all three instruments will be provided. Then comes the Grand Entertainment part of this program in which most of the important concertos from Bach to Rachmaninoff will be presented (not all of the 27th of Mozart, obviously, but the most important). Featured pianists will be among the greatest of the last century: Sergei Rachmaninoff, Arthur Rubenstein, Vladimir Horowitz, Sviatislov Richter, Martha Argerich, and others. Most of these performances on video!	Robert Julien
2012	Fall	Anatomy of a Lawsuit: Civil Procedure in a Nutshell	4	An introduction to the stages and procedures in the litigation of a typical lawsuit for money damages. Topics will include: jurisdiction; pleadings; discovery; burden of proof; trials; the right to a jury; verdicts; judgments; appeals; enforcement of judgments; and res judicata. The course is intended to help a lay person to understand legal process and to translate legal jargon (mumbo jumbo) into plain English. The course is not intended to address personal legal problems or to enable the student to represent oneself in court.	

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2012	Fall	Genes and Genomes, Sequencing and Science: What's Happening Right Now	5	<p>In the past three years, spectacular new technologies and major advances in genetics have converged to produce an explosion of widely available data and knowledge. Astronomy, climatology, oceanography, ecology, archaeology, agriculture, and, especially, medicine are just a few of the fields that already are integrating the new genomics into their work and research.</p> <p>After a brief review of relevant vocabulary and basic cell biology, the course will present some specific discoveries and applications that are part of our lives today and promise changes for the future. A 2012 PBS film will add to our explorations. Questions are always welcome, so, please bring them and any topic suggestions to the first class.</p>	
2012	Fall	The How of Poetry	8	<p>The essence of reading a poem is understanding how it works: how its rhythms, word choices, and all the factors that are part of it contribute to its over-all effect. In this course the emphasis will be on your own selection of poetry, not mine, but for practical reasons, you will choose your poems from Garrison Keiler's eclectic Good Poems anthology. The class work will consist mostly of your presentations, not mine, but there will be a few copies of poems handed out from other sources, which you will be free to use.</p>	Edward Nickerson

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2012	Fall	Your Money or Your Wealth: What,Âs the difference	8	<p>We will start with the world economic big picture and how it will impact your personal financial economics. We will discuss money, wealth, net worth, budgets, cash flow, investment choices, risk/reward metrics, inflation, and the only sure things: death and taxes.</p> <p>There will be lots of charts and graphs and statistics. Do not attend if you suffer from NumberPhobia or have a genetic aversion or allergic reaction to facts and figures.</p> <p>Your first assignment is to take out a dollar bill and read it very carefully. Save it for the first class, where it will be Exhibit A. This course is unconditionally guaranteed to be more relevant to your personal future than anything that you will hear during this political season. If you don,Ât agree you can keep your dollar, assuming it,Âs still worth anything after the election. In addition to your dollar bill please bring along a functioning sense of humor.</p>	Jerry Jamin
2012	Fall	How Artists Use Color	3	<p>We will explore how cultures use color in paintings, customs and literature. We will then look at the history of color and its place in the economy of the Ancient Mediterranean world. In the middle ages symbolic color became important in religious art, and in the Renaissance Da Vinci experimented with oil paint. By the 19th century technology and the science of color changed the way impressionist artists painted, and Van Gogh emphasized the emotional and psychological impact of color. This expanded in the 20th century with Rothko and the abstract expressionists. The traditional color palette continued along side the modern approach with Hopper and Wyeth. New technology again changed everything: digital cameras, computers, and printing. We come full circle back to culture.</p>	

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2012	Fall	Exploring Headlines, Part IV	4	<p>We live in a time when new technologies, advances in science and the increasing influence and interdependence of countries upon each other effect the economic, political and social life of our country. Increasingly The United States will be required to take its part in this new world order. The responses we make to these responsibilities will influence our success or failure in the years ahead.</p> <p>Using the weeks headlines as a basis for discussion we will express our thoughts and ideas, becoming our own ,Äúeditorial writers,Äù as we explore, question and understand the news of the day.</p>	
2012	Fall	A Comparison of the Governmental Principles of Britain and the United States	8	<p>Most Americans (i.e. those in the United States) believe that their government is completely different from the British system. To some extent they are correct - the distinct separation into the three branches of the federal government, the relationship between the federal government and the states, the fact that the US has a written constitution, etc. However, in other ways, much of the United States system is based on its British antecedents - the bicameral system (with even a Speaker in one of the Houses), a Bill of Rights, the importance of precedents/common law, etc. This course will begin with a brief history of the British system, which, it should be remembered, is not static. Recently, for example, the British created a Supreme Court, and membership of the European Union has had profound implications for the British constitution. The course will then turn to the creation of the United States system of government (Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, the 1787 Constitution and the subsequent amendments). Finally, the course will compare the two systems of government and try and answer the question whether one or the other (or neither) is better suited to the challenges of the early 21st century.</p>	

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2012	Fall	Shakespeare: From the Page to the Stage	8	Using three plays of William Shakespeare: Henry V (history), Hamlet (tragedy), and Taming of the Shrew (comedy), the course will explore works of, arguably, the world's greatest poet and playwright. We will read and discuss the text, watch video excerpts, and listen to audio examples of current and historic performances of the three plays. The purpose of this course is to heighten the student's ability to see and read Shakespeare with greater pleasure and to better understand performance traditions and socio-political ramifications of these plays in performance. Recommended texts: Folger mass market paperbacks are available for all three plays. Inexpensive with excellent notes on the verso pages.	Thomas Gruenewald

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2012	Fall	Charles Lindbergh	5	<p>Week # 1 American Hero --- What qualifies a person to be called hero? Who are your heroes? Is Charles Lindbergh the first celebrity hero? Was Lindbergh the first modern media superstar? His early life which formed his character and desire to fly. His life before fame.</p> <p>Week #2 Landing in Paris, May 21, 1927. How did he do it? Why him? How this astonishing and thrilling flight led to an overwhelming aftermath.</p> <p>Week #3 Dealing with Fame from marriage to the kidnapping of Charles Augustus Lindbergh Jr.</p> <p>Week #4 Life with his family-- Anne Morrow Lindbergh and their five children, Jon, Land, Anne, Scott, and Reeve.</p> <p>Week #5 The storm over his fascination with Hitler and Germany and the isolationist America First movement. His remarkable work devoted to medical research, rocketry, anthropology, and conservation which was part of his life until he died at age 72 on August 26, 1974.</p>	David Bayersdorfer
2012	Fall	A Mathematician Looks at the Election	3	<p>This short course will meet twice before and once after the November 6th election. Topics to be discussed will include, among other topics: present and past methods for determining how many representatives each state receives; the Electoral College and possible ways to modify it; gerrymandering; election fraud both within and without the law; exit polling. No mathematical background beyond arithmetic will be assumed.</p>	

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2012	Fall	Play Reading	8	The play reading class will read a variety of plays this term from tragic to ridiculous. No play reading experience is necessary. Just come and enjoy yourself. Participants should obtain a copy of Plays from Contemporary American Theater edited by Brooks McNamara. Inexpensive used paperback copies of this book can be ordered from abebooks.com, Amazon.com, or half.ebay.com.	
2013	Winter	The Descent of Man: A Leisurely Stroll Through Dante,Âs Inferno	6	It,Âs the pinnacle of medieval literature, one of the highest flights of Western imagination, an immortal journey to the depths and beyond - and yet a book more talked about, even (strangely) more remembered than read. Together, we,Âll follow Dante on the first third of his journey into the realms beyond ours. We,Âll stumble on the damned, hear their stories, and encounter one of the world,Âs great reading experiences, a book no one ever forgets. When it comes to The Divine Comedy, we,Âre all novitiates. So let,Âs take a walk into the light. THE REQUIRED TRANSLATION WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR A \$5 PURCHASE ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS	Mark Scarbrough
2013	Winter	Interfaith Studies	8	Three years ago a Pastor, a Rabbi, and a Sheikh formed a relationship that bonded them together as friends. How a Christian, a Jew, and a Muslim found themselves in dialogue is expressed in a book entitled Getting at the Heart of Interfaith. Using this book, this course will provide a resource for building such a dialogue. As we read the book together we will pursue ways in which to transcend the differences that have divided us historically. The cost of the book is \$17. Available from Skylight Paths Publishing, Woodstock, Vermont or www.skylightpaths.com .	

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2013	Winter	A Selection of Historic Successes and Failures; Sometimes We Can Even Tell Which is Which	6	This year,Âs course will examine the following: Washington,Âs Patriot Enemies; Jefferson,Âs Second Term; Jackson, Calhoun, and Nullification; Johnson, Grant, and Hayes; Reconstruction and Redemption (two sessions), and the Japanese/American Diplomacy Before Pearl Harbor.	Thomas Key
2013	Winter	William Shakespeare and Love's Labor's Lost	10	The main interest of the course will be a classroom reading and discussion of Love,Âs Labor,Âs Lost, enriched by a sampling of scholarly opinions, historical background, and filmed versions. The play will be one of the main stage productions this summer by Shakespeare & Company in nearby Lenox, Massachusetts. As in the past, the class will have the opportunity to see it there and talk with at least one of the actors. Participants should bring to the first class one of the many ANNOTATED editions of the play, which are available in paperback on line or may be purchased at the Oblong Bookstore in Millerton.	William Devoti
2013	Winter	Keeping Score	9	In this series of two-hour videos, Michael Tilson Thomas has taken up the educational reins from his mentor Leonard Bernstein. Perfect for those who wish to be educated as well as entertained, each video starts with a documentary in which MTT brings us behind the scene to give a detailed exploration and analysis of several compositions including Beethoven,Âs Eroica Symphony, Berlioz,Âs Symphonie Fantastique, Tchaikovsky,Âs Fourth Symphony, Shostakovitch,Âs Fifth Symphony, and others. In the second hour, the San Francisco Symphony, conducted by MTT, performs the complete work.	Robert Julien

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2013	Winter	Play Reading	8	The class will read 4 plays by the same author, Henrik Ibsen. The plays are: A Doll House, Wild Duck, Hedda Gabler, and Master Builder. Participants should plan to bring a copy of the plays to the first session. The four plays may be found in Four Major Plays, Volume I, by Ibsen. This is available from Amazon, either as a new book or as an inexpensive used paperback. Any collection that has these four plays will be all right.	Rosemary Farnsworth
2013	Winter	Technological Advances in Medicine	8	<p>This course will detail some of the significant technological advances that have occurred in medicine since 1945. It is not possible to present all the advances in one term. Therefore, this will be a brief attempt to present in more or less detail what the presenter thinks are advances worth discussing. In addition, time will be set aside to discuss those advances which the audience, the ultimate consumers of these advances, feels are significant.</p> <p>I will present topics that are difficult to understand, and armed with this class members will be able to pursue further knowledge on subjects that interest them. Medicine is a fascinating subject with simple individual topics. The problem is that they all work simultaneously, hence the complexities. Suggestions are always welcome, for this topic is too broad for me to understand all of it.</p> <p>I will e-mail to those who sign up for the course an outline of the topics to be covered each week.</p>	Lynn Whelchel

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2013	Winter	One Is the Loneliest Number	8	<p>The United States has been the number one economy and the dominant world military power for more than a century. Nothing lasts forever and the number one is a big target. Other nations are gaining on us and narrowing our lead. Experts now predict that in about 15 years China will overtake the U.S. and become the largest economy.</p> <p>We will look at the global economy and cover the inter-relationships of competitiveness, productivity, growth, trade, demographics, and political and financial systems. These factors will lead to the inevitable convergence of standards of living as faster growing emerging economies catch up to the U.S. and other developed nations. Maybe it won't be all bad if the U.S. handles the transition with common sense and a renewed sense of purpose and competitive urgency. Perhaps.</p> <p>The standard warning applies: Economics is called the dismal science for a good reason, but if you bring a functioning sense of humor we shall overcome.</p>	Jerry Jamin

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2013	Winter	A Slow Walk Through Walden	6	<p>As students in this class read Henry David Thoreau, "Walden," they will select passages for discussion at our meetings. I will begin each class with some background material about Thoreau, his life and thought. Following this introduction, students will briefly write about and then discuss the selected passages. I may offer more passages that I think are pertinent to the discussion as it evolves or that are too important to miss. The course will also include a trip to see the Replica of Thoreau's "A" house, and its authentic furnishings at Berkshire School in Sheffield.</p> <p>I recommend that students purchase the excellent and reasonably priced text I will be using, the fully annotated Walden edited by Jeffrey Cramer, available new and used through Amazon.com. This hardcover book is not to be confused with a softcover Walden also edited by Jeffrey Cramer but not fully annotated. Both are from Yale University press.</p>	
2013	Winter	A Paint Box and a Brush: The Development of Watercolor Painting	2	<p>Water color was traditionally a hand maiden to scientific drawings, and artists accompanied expeditions around the world. John James Audubon combined science and art, but water color was also considered suitable for Victorian ladies. Winslow Homer elevated it to a major art medium, and John Singer Sargent used it for travel sketches and personal expression. We will explore some unique styles in the 20th century with Maurice Prendergast, Helen Frankenthaler, and Sam Francis.</p>	

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2013	Winter	Exploring Headlines Winter 2013	4	<p>Europe has been in the throes of economic crises since 2008. there is every reason to believe that it will continue for some time. We will discuss the history of the European Union, the Common Market, and the Euro and their importance to the American Economy. Our discussion will include democracy and the lack thereof, in the formation of the Common Market, the European Parliament, the central bank, and more.</p> <p>We will continue to discuss HEADLINES and ask you to bring in current headlines that are of interest to you. We will continue our practice of discussing all subjects that are introduced.</p>	
2013	Winter	DON JUAN: The Great Lover, A Multi-Media Study	8	<p>This course will study George Bernard Shaw, 's play Man and Superman, including the rarely performed , 'Don Juan in Hell, ' scene. We will then explore through the written texts and videos The Trickster of Seville and the Stone Guest by Tirso de Molina (in translation), Moliere, 's Dom Juan (also in translation), Mozart and da Ponte, 's opera Don Giovanni, and films Don Juan with Errol Flynn, The Private Life of Don Juan with Douglas Fairbanks, and Don Juan de Marco with Johnny Depp and Marlon Brando. The focus of the course will be the changing view of a mythic character from the 17th to the 21st centuries. Class members are urged to read Shaw, 's Man and Superman including the preface and the , 'Don Juan in Hell, ' scene prior to the first class. The play is available in paperback and at all nearby libraries</p>	Thomas Gruenewald
2013	Winter	Great Decisions 2013	9	<p>Richard Collins and Tracy Atwood will teach this year, 's course, which will address the following topics, selected by the Foreign Policy Association: Future of the Euro; Egypt; NATO; Myanmar and Southeast Asia; Humanitarian Intervention; Iran; China in Africa; Threat Assessment. All registrants should order the 2013 briefing book(\$25-00 inc.ship) on the internet from fpa.org. (Click on great decisions and then great decisions pre-order box.)</p>	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2013	Spring	An Introduction To Latin	5	This course is an introduction to the structure of Latin and the Romans who spoke it. Students will learn how to identify nouns, verbs and adjectives and how to translate Latin phrases and quotes. Ancient texts such as Virgil, Catullus and the vulgate Bible will be studied and there will be discussions about the literature relevant to Latin such as Homer and the lyrics of Verdi, "La Traviata". Cost of text to be announced.	William Trowbridge
2013	Spring	Corporate Personhood 2	4	In 2010 the Court ruled in Citizens United that corporations "as persons" were entitled to the 1st Amendment right to freedom of speech. This ruling struck a significant blow at campaign reform efforts of Congress. Now the Court is considering another challenge to campaign reform, one that could further enhance the scope of corporate personhood. This course will examine "through readings and visual material" the relationship between modern corporations and the United States Constitution and the role of the United States Supreme Court in the development of that relationship.	Laurance Rand
2013	Spring	Richard Strauss and the Symphonic Poem	5	In this course we will not argue whether Richard Strauss (1864-1949) was a first-or-second-rate composer. We will let our ears decide as we listen to some of his most glorious music which he preferred to call "tone poems" but which are in fact one-movement orchestral works on a symphonic scale. These works are "programmatic," that is, they deal with descriptive subjects: Don Juan; A Hero's Life; Death and Transfiguration; and many others. Also included will be a few songs, especially Strauss' "Four Last Songs," arguably the most beautiful ever written for soprano and orchestra. Most of the program will be on video.	Robert Julien

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2013	Spring	LBJ and the Great Society: The Political Life of Lyndon Johnson	5	<p>This course will explore one of the most perplexing and fascinating figures to become President of the United States. The course will begin with his impoverished childhood in central Texas and carry through to his withdrawal from politics, disillusioned and defeated. The main emphasis will be on the vast amount of social legislation passed during his presidency and the impact those laws have today.</p> <p>Session #1 -- Making of a politician -- Class one will explore from his growing up in Texas to his years as U.S. Senate Majority Leader. .</p> <p>Session #2 -- National politician -- This class will look at his selection as Vice President, the roles he took in that position, and how he completed John Kennedy,Ãs term after JFK,Ãs assassination on November 22, 1963.</p> <p>Session #3 -- President Johnson -- The third class will investigate the impact of the election of 1964 and the successful passage of the "Great Society." This becomes one of the most intense periods of reform in U.S. history.</p> <p>Session #4 -- The fall of a President -- Starting in 1966 and intensifying in the 1968 election season, a series of events leads to the end of the Johnson era.</p> <p>Session #5 -- Retirement Years, Death and the Johnson Legacy-- With the release of thousands of LBJ,Ãs White House tapes, and the declassification of tens of thousands of documents and interviews, we can look at the Johnson years in a new way of understanding the last great burst of liberalism in America</p>	David Bayersdorfer

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2013	Spring	Genetically Modified Foods: Risks, Myths, and Dangers	4	Note new Start Date This course will examine the history and the current state of genetically modified (GMO) organisms and foods, including the status of first Genetically Engineered (GE) salmon application currently pending at the FDA. It will also offer an update on Connecticut legislative and other GMO/GE labeling initiatives. We will also look at domestic and international health studies documenting health risks related to GMO consumption and exposure, current food labeling, and tips to avoid GMO/GE foods for a healthier diet. Aaron Zweig, Food Studies teacher and columnist, will guest lecture, and the award-winning documentary "Genetic Roulette - The Gamble of Our Lives" (it just won top award for most transformative documentary film in 2012) will be shown.	Leila Baroody
2013	Spring	Technology Around Us 2.0	4	Using input from students in the last class and a host of new developments, this class takes a fresh look at the expanding universe of gadgets around us. From bar code scanners to smart phones we will explore the technologies that underlie our modern lifestyle and look at how some of them work. Topics covered include cellphones, the internet, wireless networks, GPS, cloud computing, LED lighting, computer architecture and how integrated circuits are made. Prerequisites are a good sense of humor and extreme tolerance of TLA,Âs (Three Letter Acronyms) and jargon - all of which will be decoded.	Richard Paddock
2013	Spring	More Advances In Medicine	4		Lynn Whelchel
2013	Fall	The Roberts Court, 2012-2013	9	There is no description for this course. Please check back later.	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2013	Fall	David: The Hero With Clay Feet	5	<p>We will be studying one of the greatest narratives of antiquity as found in the biblical books of Ruth and First and Second Samuel and Kings. „ÄúThe King David who emerges from these pages is a masterful (and sometimes cunning) politician a bold warrior and a devoted ruler and a surprisingly human centerpiece of an ancient story.,Ä¸ Herbert Kupferberg</p> <p>Students should bring a bible. New Revised Version preferred</p>	Richard Taber
2013	Fall	American (Mostly) Musical Theater: Its Evolution	8	<p>The focus of this class will be American musical theater. European sources, including the ballad opera, music hall, singspiel, vaudeville, and operetta as well as Afro-American jazz will be explored as contributors to the creation of the American musical. Audio and video illustrations will be used in every session. Gerald Boardmans/,Ä¸s American Musical Theatre: A Chronicle (Oxford University Press) is a useful reference. It is overpriced at Amazon but can be borrowed through Bibliomation and IConn.</p>	Thomas Gruenewald
2013	Fall	Eight Poets Who Created The Modern World	8	<p>Shelley famously claimed that „Ä¸poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world.&quot; While such high-flying optimism is doubtful, we can say that poets did much of the heavy lifting for the construction of our notions of „Ä¸modern&quot; in Western culture. Our class will start with the spark of modernism that Coleridge blew to a flame and work our way through poets whose vision broke apart tradition and pushed art (and will push us) out of long-held conventions: T. S. Eliot, Pablo Neruda, Adrienne Rich, Philip Larkin and others. A prepared booklet will cost each class member \$5.00.</p> <p>Note: No class on October 31</p>	Mark Scarbrough

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2013	Fall	A Celebration of Giuseppe Verdi (1813 -1901)	8	This year, the entire musical world is celebrating the 200th birthday of Giuseppe Verdi - arguably the most admired opera composer of all time. All of Verdi's 37 operas are being recorded and many rare ones are being presented in the world's opera house. For this course, we will present a biographical film on the life of Verdi, as well as several complete operas (if possible a rare one that no one is likely to have seen or heard). In some cases, we will present excerpts, focusing particularly on historical performances. A special Opera Gala from La Scala Opera House will be part of this program as well. Entire program on video.	Robert Julien
2013	Fall	Balance	6	For the continued well being of our country it is necessary to address the imbalance that now exists within our political, economic and social systems. Our political parties are unable to work productively. One percent of our population control ninety percent of the country's income. Taxes and energy and regulation remain problematic issues. Together we will look at headlines and other sources to talk about these and other issues.	
2013	Fall	Playreading	8	We will read some contemporary plays written from 1978-2000 by Tom Stoppard. Participants should obtain the book: Tom Stoppard: Plays 5. This book contains the following plays: Arcadia, The Real Thing, Night & Day, Indian Ink, and Hapgood.	Rosemary Farnsworth
2013	Fall	Writing A Memoir. Writing A Memoir	6	This will be a course in writing pieces of a memoir -- a less daunting memoir course where each week students write portraits, anecdotes, scraps of their lives, memories of grandparents, etc.; share their work in class; and then do some in-class writing to get themselves started on the following week's work. So the class will be a workshop in which I will participate as a "player-coach," so to speak.	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2013	Fall	The Experiential Enneagram	6	The Enneagram (pronounced Any-A-Gram) is derived from the Greek words Ennea and Grama (meaning nine and figure). The Enneagram is a model of human behavior that describes nine distinct personality types, our underlying motivations, and the various ways we show ourselves to the world. The experience of learning it with others is both revealing and fun. We get a chance to understand ourselves in more depth and listen to what motivates others in our lives to act in ways that often make us wonder. Among the benefits of the Enneagram are self-awareness and resilience, more self control, and a deeper compassion for our own patterns and those of others.	
2013	Fall	It/,'s All About Money, But This Time It/,'s Personal	8	Money: Governments all over the world are printing it like there/,'s no tomorrow. But for you the issue is how to make the most of what you have, assuming that an armored car from the Federal Reserve won/,'t be pulling up to your door with a special delivery before it all becomes worthless. This is personal finance for our generation. We won/,'t be spending a lot of time on student loans or how to save for retirement or how to pay for your starter home or even your starter spouse. We will be concentrating on personal financial issues: investment alternatives, risk measurement and management, portfolio strategies, taxes, inflation, and how to make your money last as long as you hang around. Maybe something left for the kids and grandkids. Maybe not. After all what did future generations ever do for us anyway? As usual a tolerance for arithmetic and a sense of humor are the only requirements.	Jerry Jamin

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2013	Fall	Medical Topics for Fall Term 2013	4	<p>This is a continuation of the previous two semesters regarding advances in medicine since 1945 (and sometimes earlier). As before, PowerPoint will be the medium of expression. However, person-to-person and e-mail feedback is essential to make the course interesting and informative as well as keeping me on track. Obviously the number of topics that can be discussed is virtually limitless, and we only have a finite amount of time. Therefore I have picked four topics with 05 December as a backup day for bad weather. Many of you have my e-mail address , so give me some feedback before the course begins. Also, I recommend going to www.khanacademy.org for information covered in previous lectures.</p> <p>SCHEDULE 24 OCT CANCER---WHAT IS IT AND HOW DO WE DEVELOP IT? 07 NOV CANCER---TREATMENT-- PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE 14 NOV BRAIN FAILURE #2---I FORGOT 21 NOV US HEALTH CARE SYSTEM,ÄîBASIC FACTS ABOUT OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM</p> <p>(Note: No class on October 31.)</p>	Lynn Whelchel

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2013	Fall	World War II: A Documentary History	8	In 1974 the History Channel completed a video series entitled World at War, narrated by Sir Laurence Olivier. One reviewer of the series wrote: „This series „ is on a scale of value that stands far above any individual/„ presumption to criticize „.The passage of thirty years allows the telling to be backed up by an impressive and fascinating panoply of the very individuals involved, ranging from some of the highest military and political figures down to the field soldiers, civilians, and such survivors of the death camps as have remained to bear witness to the unimaginable inhumanities of which civilized humans are capable „.The highest possible rating seems unworthy of being applied to this presentation. I think the value of this series is beyond counting.„	Laurance Rand
2014	Winter	A Potpourri of Biblical Poetry	8	„In a multitude of dreams and many words“ the people of the Bible have sung their hopes and fears, their loves and longings. Share these beautiful words with us as we read from the Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Isaiah, and others. Please bring a Bible.	Richard Taber
2014	Winter	What is Calculus About and Why Is It Useful?	4	Calculus stands with writing and arithmetic as a signal achievement of human ideas. Founded on a simple, intuitively appealing observation, it has become an indispensable tool of science and engineering, helping bring to reality many applications, from weather prediction to CAT scans to space flight. This introductory course will explore calculus from both a historical and a geometric viewpoint, using minimal amounts of algebraic manipulation. No advanced preparation will be needed, just a willingness to explore ideas.	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2014	Winter	"Beware the People Weeping When They Bare the Iron Hand"	6	<p>In this course, we will discuss several conflicts where a weaker entity went to war with a much stronger adversary. We will address the reasons that compelled the people to commit what seem to be very rash actions and how they supported these actions once the conflict was underway. The sessions will also look at some of the decisive battles in these conflicts.</p> <p>There will be six sessions as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Scottish Highlanders in the /,ÄôRising of 1745/,Äô, ending with the Battle of Culloden. New England Colonists at Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill (Breeds Hill): two sessions. Mr. Madison/,Äôs War and the Battle of New Orleans. Spying: a Very Dangerous Contribution to the Cause. Egypt and Syria/,Äôs Attack on Israel in the Yon Kippur War, 1973. 	Thomas Key
2014	Winter	William Shakespeare and Henry IV, Part One	10	<p>The main activities of the course will be classroom readings and discussion of Henry IV, Part One, enriched by samplings of scholarly opinions, historical background, and filmed versions. The play will be one of the main stage productions this summer by Shakespeare & Company in nearby Lenox, Massachusetts. As in the past, the class will have the opportunity to see it there and talk with at least one of the actors. Participants should bring to the first class one of the many ANNOTATED editions of the play, which are available in paperback on line, or may be purchased at the Oblong Bookstore in Millerton.</p>	William Devoti

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2014	Winter	A Celebration of Verdi, Part II	5	Although the 200th anniversary will soon end, the consensus from last semester was that "we can never have too much Verdi." So, this semester we will catch up with two masterpieces, Aida and Il Trovatore, as well as highlights from several earlier operas, including Nabucco and Macbeth.	Robert Julien
2014	Winter	Playreading	8	This term we will continue reading the works of fairly contemporary English playwrights and we will concentrate on Harold Pinter. Participants should obtain this book, The Essential Pinter, which is available from Amazon or abebooks.com. Many of the used book dealers on abebooks have very inexpensive copies of this book. If using a used book dealer, please allow at least three weeks for delivery.	Rosemary Farnsworth
2014	Winter	Guantanamo: Detention, Torture, CIA Black Sites, Abu Ghraib, and How We Got There	4	America, in time of peril, at times has gone too far in the name of security, straying from the principles on which our nation was founded. The Alien and Sedition Acts; the internment of 120,000 Japanese, two-thirds of them U.S. citizens; and the Palmer Raids are examples. Did we lose our way yet again following the terrible 9/11 attacks? Many argue that we did and that we have not yet recovered our bearings. Examining these issues will be the focus of this course.	
2014	Winter	Great Decisions	9	Topics chosen by the Foreign Policy Association include: Defense Technology; Israel and the U.S; Turkey/,Ãs Challenges; Energy Independence; Islamic Awakening; Food and Climate; China/,Ãs Foreign Policy; and U.S. Trade Policy. This year our class will include students and faculty from the social studies department at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. All registrants should order the 2014 briefing book (\$25) as soon as possible. Books will be shipped the third week of December and may be ordered by phone (1-800.477.5836) or online at fpa.org (click on Great Decisions and select Pre-order).	Collins_&_Atwood

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2014	Winter	Medical Topics, Part IV	4	This term we will examine the following topics: a. Immunology in Its Broadest Sense,Äcovers infection, rejection, cancer treatments, etc. b. Modern Anesthesia in the OR, Recovery Room (PACU) and Intensive Care Unit c..How We Hear and See,Äand Don/,Äôt. How to fix the problems	Lynn Whelchel
2014	Spring	American Music Theater: Coninued	6	This class will be a continuation of last fall/,Äôs class: American musical theater. European sources, including the ballad opera, music hall, singspiel, vaudeville, and operetta as well as Afro-American jazz will be explored as contributors to the creation of the American musical. This term/,Äôs class will pick up with Rodgers and Hammerstein/,Äôs Oklahoma! (1943) and continue to the present, including the British Invasion (Andrew Lloyd Webber!). Audio and video illustrations will be used in every session. Gerald Boardmans/,Äôs American Musical Theatre: A Chronicle (Oxford University Press) is a useful reference. It is overpriced at Amazon but can be borrowed through Bibliomation and IConn.	Thomas Gruenewald

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2014	Spring	Continuing the Fall Term/World War II: A Documentary History	6	<p>In 1974 the History Channel completed a video series entitled World at War, narrated by Sir Laurence Olivier. One reviewer of the series wrote: „This series is on a scale of value that stands far above any individual’s presumption to criticize. The passage of thirty years allows the telling to be backed up by an impressive and fascinating panoply of the very individuals involved, ranging from some of the highest military and political figures down to the field soldiers, civilians, and such survivors of the death camps as have remained to bear witness to the unimaginable inhumanities of which civilized humans are capable. The highest possible rating seems unworthy of being applied to this presentation. I think the value of this series is beyond counting. This term we will begin with the Allied war effort in Southeast Asia.</p>	Laurance Rand

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2014	Spring	President James A. Garfield (November 19, 1831 ,Ài September 19, 1881)	4	<p>For 40 plus years of teaching United States History to high school students, I considered James A. Garfield a brief footnote in our country//,Àôs story. Candice Millard//,Àôs book, Destiny of the Republic, peaked my interest and changed my mind. These four sessions will explore the life of a remarkable man, an important Civil War General, an influential Congressman, and a potentially great President. David Bayersdorfer</p> <p>SESSION #1: Childhood, Education and Early Career The Making of a Person.</p> <p>Session #2: Military and Congressional Careers. The Making of a Leader.</p> <p>Session #3: Presidential election of 1880 and Presidency (Domestic and Foreign Policy). A compromise candidate who stood tall.</p> <p>Session #4: Assassination and death of a President. What could have been and what was.</p>	David Bayersdorfer
2014	Spring	The Three Faces of Monotheism	7	<p>This course offers a study of the monotheistic idea as presented in the Old and New Testaments and the Qur`an. Selections from these books will be read and discussed, showing how the idea of One God was transmitted and understood in Judaism, Christianity and Islam, in their formative periods. Enrolled class members should bring a Bible and a copy of the Qur//,Àôan with them. [The Qur//,Àôan is available in paperback for \$5.85 and higher; check Amazon.com.]</p>	Alfred Ivry

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2014	Spring	Current Affairs	5	<p>This course will focus on five topics in current affairs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leadership Qualities: Washington, Mandela and Lessons for leadership today. 2. Income Inequality: History, Analysis, and Possible Solutions. 3. Taxation in the US: In or Out of Balance? 4. Capitalism: History, Evolution, Present Challenges and Its Future. 5. Whither the US ? Beacon to the World or Heading to Mediocrity and Decline? <p>Change: Course time is 1pm - 3pm</p>	Bruce Montgomerie
2014	Spring	Last Tango in Halifax	7	<p>We have opted to change the material in this Friday morning class. Last Tango in Halifax is the series we have decided to show. There are six episodes, so the course will have six sessions.</p>	
2014	Fall	The Bawdy Road to Paradise: Chaucer's Canterbury Tales	8	<p>There is no story collection quite like it, a sociological and historical mosaic of medieval society in twenty-four performances, ranging from the sublime to the vulgar, saints' legends to dirty jokes, sermons to romances. As we take a look at a cross-section of the tales, you will discover (maybe again, maybe for the first time) why this celebrated work is considered one of the most complex and enjoyable reads in English literature. Do not worry about reading Middle English. We will use an interlinear translation that will be available in class, the modern English right up against the original. You can read either, but be prepared to have a grand time with some master storytellers on their way to the holy shrine at Canterbury.</p> <p>The two course texts will be available on the first day of class for \$15 per student.</p>	Mark Scarbrough

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2014	Fall	George Bernard Shaw: Our Contemporary	6	<p>GBS (1856-1950) used his fierce wit to expose the absurdity of his world, attitudes regarding class, politics, gender discrimination, militarism and just about everything around him that got his dander up. His comedies are still relevant in our world.</p> <p>The class will explore three plays through independent reading of the texts, viewing video and cinema productions, and discussing themes, characters and plot.</p> <p>-Mrs. Warren, Profession (September 15 and 22) was written in 1893-94, but not performed until 1905 in New Haven. Vivie Warren discovers that her comfortable life and Cambridge education are paid for by her mother, international chain of brothels.</p> <p>-Caesar and Cleopatra (September 29 and October 6) was written in 1898 and first performed in 1901 in Chicago. Julius Caesar leads the Roman occupying army into Egypt where he teaches the young Cleopatra to be a leader. She also has a son by him.</p> <p>-Major Barbara (October 13 and 20) was written in 1905 and first performed that year in London. Barbara, who is committed to her work with the Salvation Army, is appalled to learn that her organization accepts funding from her father, a major</p>	Thomas Gruenewald
2014	Fall	The Roberts Court, 2013-2014	9	<p>During the past year, term the United States Supreme Court has continued its pattern of 5-4 rulings in controversial cases in a variety of fields: prayer at town meetings, execution of mentally retarded persons, campaign finance, and affirmative action, just to name a few. We will examine these rulings and the public reaction to them.</p>	Laurance Rand

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2014	Fall	Mozart: Prodigy and Genius	9	The purpose of this course is to draw attention to some of Mozart's most significant compositions, The works chosen need to mark a special moment in the composer's life - perhaps a turning point, perhaps a sudden flash of inspiration, sometimes an intensifying of genius. For instance, it is generally recognized that Mozart's Third Violin Concerto, K216, composed when he was only 19 years old, was an important point of departure - a significant leap into maturity. Thus it will be our point of departure as well. From there, important works in all categories of Mozart's compositions will be presented: chamber works, piano concertos, symphonies, and operas, concluding with the Unfinished Requiem, K626. Most of the program will be on video.	Robert Julien
2014	Fall	Play Reading	8	This term we will focus on the works of a famous American playwright, Horton Foote. Foote is well known for writing the screenplay for To Kill a Mockingbird. His play, A Trip to Bountiful, was made into a well-received film. Participants should obtain the book Getting Frankie Married and Afterwards by Horton Foote. The book may also be known as Volume III of Horton Foote Collected Works. Good used copies are available from Amazon.com, Alibiris.com, Abebooks.com, or Bookfinder.com. If you choose to purchase a book from a used book dealer, please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.	Rosemary Farnsworth

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2014	Fall	More on Medicine	5	<p>The original plan for my lectures has changed as a result of discovering the magnitude of the topic of Nutrition. Accordingly, the course will devote itself entirely to Nutrition. Most will agree with me on our lack of knowledge of the topic. Hopefully this course will lessen some of that ignorance. Taking this trip should be fun.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ,ÄÇNutrition: What is it? ,ÄÇSources ,ÄÇGetting nutrition into our body ,ÄÇMultiple components ,ÄÇGood fat,ÄÏbad fat controversy ,ÄÇVitamins and minerals ,ÄÇDiseases and how to manage them ,ÄÇWhat kind of diets ,ÄÇRole of exercise ,ÄÇFood labels ,ÄÇFood safety or lack thereof <p>Note: We may go to 6 sessions, ending on Oct 22nd.</p>	Lynn Whelchel

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2014	Fall	The Cold War: A Documentary History	8	<p>No sooner had the World War II allies defeated the Third Reich and Japan than division among them led to yet another kind of war: a war of ideology, of words, threats and localized conflagration. This was the Cold War, a war that seemingly ended in 1991 with the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Yet celebration in France of the 70th anniversary of D-Day brought the following comment from an article in the New York Times: „Äú „Ä¶ wisps of the Cold War that so quickly followed [World War II] were in the air along the sacred French battlefronts, stirred by President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia/ „Äôs continued flirtation with the old rhetoric, veiled threats and regional chess moves of the defunct Soviet empire. For his part, President Obama worked to brace the European alliance as if it were the 1950s. „Äù</p> <p>Jeremy Issacs, who produced the documentary The World at War, also produced The Cold War, using the same techniques and format employed in his previous work. Narrated by Kenneth Branagh, this documentary will help us review and discuss what was a formative event in our lives.</p>	Laurance Rand

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2014	Fall	The Trouble with Money	8	<p>Money, it's like the scoreboard of a ball game. It tells you who is winning as of a particular moment. But it tells you nothing about how the game is played or the skill or motivation of the players or who is working harder or smarter or if they are catching up or falling behind.</p> <p>Money, It's a just measure of wealth but don't try eating it.</p> <p>Money, Why it's important and why it's sometimes meaningless. Common sense economics, no hidden agendas, no political points of view, no mumbo jumbo.</p> <p>Money, We will develop pragmatic economic and financial insights you can actually use in real life. With a sense of humor and enthusiastic class participation we will prevail over the so-called experts, as usual.</p>	Jerry Jamin
2014	Fall	History of The Federal Reserve : 1913 ,àPresent	6	<p>A historical view of one of the most important and influential entities in America since its inception in 1913. This course will look at the underpinnings for its formation and the subsequent policy decisions that have shaped both the history of and the current economy of America and the world. The course will present a chronology and description of Fed policies in an effort towards de-mystifying what in some circles is known as ,The Fourth Branch , of the US government</p>	John Brett

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2014	Fall	The World and Words of Apostle Paul	8	<p>Paul, the man, the mission and martyr, was arguably the single driving intellectual force in the early church. His writing influenced not only the early church fathers but Augustine and Martin Luther, leading ultimately to the Protestant Reformation.</p> <p>Paul, a Jew, also held Roman citizenship, allowing him to travel freely in his Roman-occupied world. Drawing on a background in Greek philosophy and rabbinic law, his mission was to, "be all things to all people," to bring them a message of love and faith.</p>	Richard Taber
2014	Fall	The Industrial Heritage of the Northwest Corner	5	<p>This course is a five-week examination of the industrial activity conducted in the northwest corner towns of Connecticut. It begins with the discovery of iron ore in Salisbury nearly a century after settlement began in other regions of the state. Topics include the story of the arms makers, beginning with the production of artillery for Washington's army as well as other arms makers like Horatio Ames and the Hotchkiss brothers of Sharon. One session covers the biggest area iron maker of all - the Barnum Richardson Company, which made the wheels that carried America west. The course also covers other industries such as those in the industrial corridors of the Blackberry River and Wochocastinook Creek that made everything from textiles to mousetraps.</p>	Richard Paddock
2014	Fall	An Introduction to Latin	5	<p>This course is an introduction to the structure of Latin and the Romans who spoke it. Students will learn how to identify nouns, verbs, and adjectives and how to translate Latin phrases and quotes. Ancient texts such as Virgil, Catullus, and the vulgate Bible will be studied, and there will be discussions about the literature relevant to Latin such as Homer and the lyrics of Verdi's La Traviata. The cost of our text will be announced.</p>	William Trowbridge

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2015	Winter	Sometimes Things Work Out Well, and Sometimes They Don,Äôt	6	The sessions will address various politics, strategies and weapons of WW II, starting with "FDR vs. the Noninterventionist 1938-1941". However, the first session will look at the politics, trade offs and strategies involved with creating the U.S. Constitution.	Thomas Key
2015	Winter	Keeping Score: Revealing Classical Music	8	This semester's offering is tailor-made for those who like their music explained. Each program is divided in two parts. In Part I, Michael Tilson Thomas and members of the San Francisco Symphony explore the biographical, historical and musical elements which make each work they are considering significant and revolutionary. In Part II, a live full-length, high-definition concert is performed by MTT and his orchestra. Some works to be presented: Beethoven,Äôs 3rd Symphony ,ÄúEroica,Äù; Tchaikovsky,Äôs 4th Symphony; Berlioz,Äô Symphonie Fantastique; Mahler's 1st Symphony and others.	Robert Julien
2015	Winter	Playreading	8	This past term we read about the small town Texans in Horton Foote,Äôs plays. In the winter term we will continue our readings with another American playwright. We will meet the WASPy New Englanders of A.R. Gurney. Participants should obtain the "Collected Plays Volume Two of A. R. Gurney." Good sources for this book are Amazon.com and bookfinder.com. Used books may take at least three to four weeks to arrive so early ordering is suggested. Volume Two covers plays from 1974-1983.	Rosemary Farnsworth

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2015	Winter	Great Decisions	9	<p>Topics chosen by the Foreign Policy Association include: Russia and the Near Abroad; Privacy in the Digital Age; Sectarianism in the Middle East; India Changes Course; U.S. Policy Toward Africa; Syria,Ãs Refugee Crisis; Human Trafficking in the 21st Century; and Brazil,Ãs Metamorphosis. This year our class will again include students and faculty from the Social Studies Department at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. All registrants should order the 2015 briefing book (\$25) as soon as possible. Books will be shipped the third week of December and may be ordered by phone (1-800.477.5836) or online at fpa.org (click on Great Decisions and select pre-order).</p> <p>Richard Collins and Tracy Atwood, with HVRHS Social Studies Department, John Lizzi and Peter Vermilyea</p>	Collins_&_Atwood

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2015	Winter	From Microbes to Molecular Biology and Why it Matters	7	<p>Do not worry if you last took biology in 10th grade. This series of lectures, discussions, readings and demonstrations will take the mystery out of modern biology. We will begin with the nineteenth century where most of the origins of modern biology can be found. We,Äôll describe the discovery of microbes by Pasteur and applications by Lister, and Koch. We will learn how Miescher discovered DNA. There were dramatic moments of discovery and we will not neglect personalities, conflicts, and lost opportunities. We will examine the biology and genetics of cells, learn how DNA translates its code into proteins, and proteins work to create and maintain the cell cells that are the basis of life. We,Äôll learn about bacteria and viruses, how we defend against them, and why sometimes, they win. We,Äôll talk about vaccines and the immune system. There will be time for discussion and if there are special topics that people would like to discuss ,Äi GMO crops, Ebola and flu viruses, neurodegenerative diseases, resistance to antibiotics, or whether we should have our genomes sequenced ,Äi we can include those topics.</p> <p>Most of the reading is easily available on-line and will include films ,Äi "The Story of Louis Pasteur" with Paul Muni, "Arrowsmith" with Ronald Colman and Helen Hayes and a novel "An Imperfect Lens" by Anne Roiphe, about a cholera epidemic in Egypt. The instructor,Äôs recent novel "The Famine of Men," about a hypothetical virus and how it was discovered, is</p>	Richard Kessin

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2015	Winter	Shakespeare	9	<p>NOTE: Class will be at Noble Horizons beginning with Jan 22 class.</p> <p>The first two sessions will consider Henry V, including a full viewing of Laurence Olivier's film. Main activities during the remainder of the course will be classroom readings and discussions of The Merchant of Venice, enriched by historical background, samplings of scholarly opinions, and filmed versions. Both plays will be performed next summer by Shakespeare and Company in nearby Lenox, Massachusetts. As in the past, class members will have the opportunity to see them performed and to talk with some of the actors.</p> <p>Participants should bring to the first class one of the many ANNOTATED editions of the plays, which are available in paperback at the Oblong Bookstore in Millerton. It would be to the scholars' advantage to be familiar with Henry V by the first session.</p>	William Devoti
2015	Winter	The Major Prophets of the Hebrew Scripture	8	<p>It is often said that the role of the Prophet is to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable. Keeping in mind that provocative statement, we will focus on the magnificent language of Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel (with special emphasis on ISAIAH). We will explore the ways that cultural conditions and historical events shaped the writing of these documents and their subsequent influence on the New Testament.</p>	Richard Taber

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2015	Winter	The Case for Reincarnation	4	<p>The belief in the system of life before birth, life, death, rebirth in the next body of expression is a very old one. In the 6th century B.C. Pythagoras and Pherecydes wrote of it. Plato, in 428 B.C., wrote in Book Ten of The Republic, "The living are born from the dead" and gave us a story about a prominent figure's life and his next earthly incarnation. Emerson, Thoreau and John Masefield (poet laureate of Great Britain) wrote of it.</p> <p>This course will take up the questions of its possibility and if true, so what? Over one half of today's world population sees the process of reincarnation as the answer to how we get from here to a "garden of Eden" experience. Resources: Dr. Ian Stevenson, former head of Psychiatry, University of Virginia; Kahil Gibran, The Prophet; Leslie Weatherhead, The Case for Reincarnation; Selected subjects from Ralph Waldo Emerson, David Thoreau, Henry Ford, Buddhist teachings, and several other sources.</p>	Jerry Oakes

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2015	Spring	The Cold War, Part Two: A Documentary History	5	<p>No sooner had the World War II allies defeated the Third Reich and Japan than division among them led to yet another kind of war: a war of ideology, of words, threats and localized conflagration. This was the Cold War, a war that seemingly ended in 1991 with the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Yet celebration in France of the 70th anniversary of D-Day brought the following comment from an article in the New York Times: „Äú „Ä¶ wisps of the Cold War that so quickly followed [World War II] were in the air along the sacred French battlefronts, stirred by President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia's continued flirtation with the old rhetoric, veiled threats and regional chess moves of the defunct Soviet empire. For his part, President Obama worked to brace the European alliance as if it were the 1950s.„Äù</p> <p>Jeremy Issacs, who produced the documentary The World at War, also produced The Cold War, using the same techniques and format employed in his previous work. Narrated by Kenneth Branagh, this documentary will help us review and discuss what was a formative event in our lives.</p>	Laurance Rand

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2015	Spring	Eugene O,ÄöNeill: His Family On and Off the Stage	7	This class will explore O,ÄöNeill,Äös life as documented in the excellent biography O,ÄöNeill by Barbara and Arthur Gelb (Dell Publishing, 1962), now out of print but available used and in libraries. An expanded edition by the Gelbs, O,ÄöNeill: Life with Monte Cristo (Applause Books), dealing with his early years, is in print and in libraries. Three plays will comprise the syllabus: Long Day,Äös Journey in Night, Moon for the Misbegotten, and Ah Wilderness!. Each of these plays is drawn from his life. The plays are readily available at bookstores, on line, and at libraries. All three plays are included in the Library of America Complete Plays of Eugene O ,ÄöNeill: 1932-1943. This is the third and final volume of the edition. Via DVD we will have guest stars at our sessions including Jason Robards, Katharine Hepburn, Laurence Olivier, Colleen Dewhurst, Mickey Rooney and many more.	Thomas Gruenewald

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2015	Spring	Genetically Engineered Foods	4	<p>This course will provide an update on the Genetically Engineered (GE) crop and food landscape and include discussion about international experiences as well as federal administrative (FDA, USDA, EPA) and state legislative issues. We are very fortunate that the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) National Resources Council is conducting a review of genetically engineered food and crops at this time. The study is broad-ranging and covers not only science updates on food and crop safety, but also on environmental, social, economic and regulatory aspects. The material includes looking at the purported benefits and negative impacts of GE crops, crop characteristics such as yield differentials, reported health impacts associated with the genetically engineered crop system, increased use of pesticides and herbicides (including impacts such as chemical pesticide resistance from weed and bug &quot;pests&quot;) and toxic ecosystem impacts spilling over into the environment from the significantly increased load of pesticides being spread over the U.S. since GE crop approvals began in the mid-90s. Besides looking at independent science studies from around the globe, we will review some of the more recent national and state legislative developments, (and leave the judicial arena of this topic for Larry Rands classes). We will also entertain a conversation about legitimate science &quot;missing in action&quot; on this very timely subject matter, and if time, touch upon the &quot;triple stacked traits&quot; and some of the next generation crops, including</p>	Leila Baroody

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2015	Spring	Four Puccini Operas	5	<p>Although Puccini (1858-1924) lacked the nobility of Verdi, few opera composers can rival him in dramatic flair and skill. He is sentimental, but it is a sentimentality to which millions are glad to respond. His sense of characterization was highly developed and his genius for orchestration enabled him to hold an audience in the palm of his hand. This will be in evidence in the four operas chosen for this semesters offering: Manon Lescaut (1892); La Boheme (1895); Tosca (1898); Madame Butterfly (1904).</p> <p>Note; No Session on April 21st due to non-availability of room at Noble. There will be 5 session in all.</p>	Robert Julien
2015	Spring	Dialogues of Plato. Selected Readings and Discussion	5	Readings and Discussion of Plato,Ãs Apology, Crito, Phaedo, Phaedrus, Symposium and The Republic. Subjects to explore will be Plato,Ãs theory of knowledge and ideas, immortality, ethics, love and justice. We will use the Dover Thrift Edition of Plato,Ãs Six Great Dialogues, beginning with the Apology.	Alfred Ivry
2015	Spring	Civil Rights: An Overview from 1619 to the Present	5	This course will include: 1. A perception of time and events from slavery beginnings to the Dred Scott ruling, with emphasis on political and economic implications. 2. The Civil War and Reconstruction. (1860-1880}, focusing on Constitutional amendments and the States Rights movement. 3. Immigration and the development of industry (1880 to 1954) and the de facto and de jure segregation and advancement of non-black groups during this period. 4. The Modern Civil Rights movement (1954-2000) and its advancement through law and protest 5. Civil Rights today, featuring a discussion of profiling, attitudes and judgment on where we are today.	David Bayersdorfer

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2015	Spring	Oil Is Where You Find It	4	<p>It is not on Park Avenue or Rodeo Drive. It is found in places you don't want to visit. Unless you have a thing for rough seas, barren deserts, frozen wastelands, infectious diseases, mosquitos, despotic dictators or terrorists.</p> <p>Prices are down by half since 2010. Experts are pontificating on their price forecasts, which range from \$20-\$120 per barrel. At least 54% of the experts will be dead wrong. Either direction will have profound economic and geopolitical consequences for producers and consumers. There will be some big winners and big losers when the dealing is done.</p> <p>We'll dig deep into the economics of the energy business including renewables and non-conventional sources and new technologies. We'll cover the whole nine yards but with particular emphasis on oil and gas. You will become experts, and the one thing we'll know for sure is that no forecast is worth a damn.</p>	Jerry Jamin

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2015	Fall	Back On The Bawdy Road To Paradise: The Rest of Geoffrey Chaucer,Äôs Canterbury Tales	9	<p>Last fall, we read about half of The Canterbury Tales. It,Äôs high time we finished up! Join us as we journey on to Canterbury with medieval saints and sinners (I defy you to figure out who,Äôs who) and their remaining tales. Even if you weren,Äôt along for the first half, don,Äôt worry: there,Äöll be lots of review to get you up to speed.</p> <p>You need two texts: We,Äöll use the same one from last fall: Vincent Hopper,Äôs interlinear translation,Äî"Chaucer,Äôs Canterbury Tales: An Interlinear Translation.,Äù If you don,Äôt have a copy, it,Äôs available at Oblong Books in Millerton or from amazon at: http://www.amazon.com/Chaucers-Canterbury-Tales-Selected-Interlinear/dp/1438000138 There will also be a a very small number of copies for sale in class. Also, plan to buy the remaining tales in a bound packet in class on the first day for \$15.</p>	Mark Scarbrough
2015	Fall	The Gershwin Brothers: from Tin Pan Alley to the Metropolitan Opera	8	Featuring stops on Broadway and in Hollywood, with lots of video and audio.	Thomas Gruenewald
2015	Fall	The Roberts Court, 2014-2015	8	By the end of June, the Court is expected to have issued a series of blockbuster decisions, including rulings on gay marriage, death penalty drugs, and the Affordable Care Act. Will the conservative bloc have the last word in some or all of these rulings? Join us and find out what direction the Court has been headed this past term.	Laurance Rand
2015	Winter	Neglected French Opera?	8	No more!! This semester, we will finally get to the best of this great operatic tradition. Among the offerings: Berlioz's Les Troyens; Gounod's Faust; Ambroise Thomas' Hamlet; Bizet's Carmen; Massenet's Manon, and more surprises to be announced.	Robert Julien

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2015	Fall	Play Reading	8	This fall we will continue to read plays by a contemporary American playwright, Edward Albee. Albee has been awarded three Pulitzer Prizes for drama. We will read two of these award winning plays, A Delicate Balance and Seascape, along with a number of his other plays. Please obtain The Collected Plays of Edward Albee, Volume 2, 1966-77.	
2015	Fall	Asian Philosophy	9	This course combines an introduction to the history of Indian and other Asian philosophical traditions with in-class practice of some of the meditation techniques associated with these traditions. Reading for the Course include The Bhadacad Gita (Penquin,Ãs Juan Mascaro translation, Thomas Merton,Ãs The Way of Chuang Tzu, Walpola Rahula,Ãs What the Buddha Taught (Grove Press) and selected Xeroxes distributed by the instructor.	
2015	Fall	Poems That Make It	8	In this course we will read and evaluate a number of poems, determining which ones "sing to us". Believing that certain universal themes "ring bells" in human beings when articulated clearly, I will present some of my choices for an anthology of them, and I will encourage you to read your own choices. We will along the way gain insight into many stages of our shared human existence: youth, love, beauty, aging, death, etc. and we will learn more about some significant poets: e e cumings, W.B. Yeats, Emily Dickenson, Amy Lowell, A.E. Housman, Mary Oliver, or others you may choose. Please come and enjoy!	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2015	Fall	Water, Water Everywhere, but,Ä¶..	6	Flooded New York subways, depleted California reservoirs, the Dead Sea sinking, and the world,Äôs oceans rising. Water costs in Connecticut are too low to measure, while shortages elsewhere drive down standards of living. Water: It,Äôs cheap and abundant until it,Äôs not. What,Äôs happening? It,Äôs a subject too complex for any one instructor, so Lynn Whelchel, Dick Paddock and Jerry Jamin will team up to explain the medical, technical, and economic issues we,Äöll face in the 21st century. Will water be the new oil? Tune in and see for yourself. Instructors/Organizers: Lynn Whelchel, Dick Paddock, Jerry Jamin. Thursdays,	
2015	Fall	Genesis: Stories Which Have Shaped Our Culture	8	The first book of The Hebrew Bible is a rich repository of stories that address questions as straight forward as "why are women afraid of snakes" to "what is the nature of free will and the source of suffering ?" Touching briefly on the work of Joseph Campbell we will consider creation myths from other cultures. This class is conducted as a seminar. Please Bring a Bible.	
2015	Fall	The Israel-Palestine Conflict	8	It is now sixty-five years since the start of this conflict, and there is no end in sight. This course attempts to look at the situation from different perspectives. Documentary films made by Palestinians and Israelis will shed light on various aspects of the conflict.	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2016	Winter	Sir Gawain And The Green Knight	3	<p>Camelot Without Julie Andrews or Richard Burton -- A reading of the great medieval romance "Sir Gawain And The Green Knight";</p> <p>Without a doubt, this poem is the very heart of the romance genre: a (tall) tale of green giants, headless knights, witchcraft, dark forests, King Arthur, and a lonely, lying knight trying to reclaim his honor in, of all places, bed. We'll look at the poem from several angles -- and as usual, have a lively discussion about what it all means (or even if it means anything at all).</p> <p>Students should come the first day with \$15 to purchase the facing-page translation.</p> <p>NOTE: No class on Monday, Jan 25</p>	Mark Scarbrough
2016	Winter	Genesis Continued	6	<p>We will continue to explore the stories which have helped to shape our culture beginning with the story of "Rebekah at the well" and concluding with "Joseph and his many colored coat."</p> <p>NOTE: Do not forget to bring a Bible.</p>	Richard Taber

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2016	Winter	The Nineteen Thirties	6	<p>The Nineteen Thirties- A Decade We Could Have Done Without (except that many of us were born then)</p> <p>Session one-: The Stock Market Crash of 1929 The game, the field and some major players. Time line of the market collapse. Greed and foolishness. Results and consequences.</p> <p>Sessions two, three and four: The Great Depression Major theories of the causes, including: agricultural over production, weak independent banking, the Smoot Hawley Tariff, errors and inaction by the Federal Reserve, money supply mismanagement, etc</p> <p>Some major events of the early Depression years: the Dust Bowl, The Bonus Army, threat of Communism in this country, etc.</p> <p>Coolidge and Hoover's economic policies, Hoover's mitigating actions, the presidential election of 1932, the First One Hundred Days</p> <p>Session five: A Look at the New Deal Over view with emphasis on the NRA, TVA and CCC</p> <p>Session six : The Rise of Fascism and Its Evil Children</p>	Thomas Key

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2016	Winter	The Bernstein Legacy	8	Leonard Bernstein is universally recognized as one of the leading figures in the history of music of the last century. As composer, conductor, performer and teacher, his wonderful combination of exceptional performances and clear, inspired lectures superbly conveyed his excitement about music. His "Young Peoples Concerts," televised on CBS in prime time, in 1962, which introduced an entire generation to classical music, will be at the core of this semesters program. Celebrated performances from "The Bernstein Omnibus" will also be presented. The finale: Beethovens Ninth Symphony, performed Christmas Day, 1989 - to celebrate the fall of the Berlin Wall. For this occasion, Bernstein assembled an orchestra with musicians from the most important orchestras in the world. The "Ode to Joy," with which Beethoven concluded his symphony. became "The Ode to Freedom." (Note: For those who enjoyed "Keeping Score" by Michael Tillson Thomas - a student of Bernstein - this should be of interest).	Robert Julien
2016	Winter	Play Reading	8	We will continue our reading of contemporary works by American playwrights. This term we will read plays by a female Pulitzer Prize winner, Beth Henley. Please obtain "The Collected Plays of Beth Henley, Volume I, 1980-1989";	Rosemary Farnsworth

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2016	Winter	The Biology of Cancer	6	<p>"The Emperor of all Maladies" by Siddhartha Mukherjee, an oncologist. When I started reading this 571 page book published in 2010 I had no idea how it would capture me. It was almost impossible to put down. Consequently, I wish to share my enthusiasm for and the knowledge provided by this book with you, the participants, in this journey though "The Biology of Cancer".</p> <p>Each participant in the war on cancer stands on the shoulders of those who went before. The book describes four thousand years of mankind's grappling with the mystery of cancer with each person relying on his or her predecessors. The ups and downs, the fears and joys, the cures and failures are all presented in the book and I only hope that I am able to present Dr. Mukherjees superb writing in an exciting and understandable fashion.</p> <p>Come along for the journey with me through these six sessions. The goal is to understand how we have arrived at the gate of a new way to approach cancer.</p>	Lynn Whelchel

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2016	Winter	Reading Shakespeare ,À Aloud	8	<p>Reading Shakespeares plays can present special challenges. The unfamiliar words, peculiar spellings and opaque allusions often throw us a curve, but much of this confusion may be eliminated when Reading Shakespeare - Aloud! Often, the sound of the words being spoken carries the meaning along even when one might stumble over individual word meanings. In this course, we will read two plays: &quot;Much Ado about Nothing&quot; and &quot;Romeo and Juliet&quot;. There will be some discussion of interpretation, but mostly we will seek the pleasure of hearing these memorable characters through our own efforts to, as Hamlet would put it, speak the speech! To warm up we will read a sonnet or two each meeting. Finally, this course welcomes both the listener and the speaker; if you love to hear the language but would rather not read, by all means join us anyway, for you might just find the challenge irresistible!</p> <p>Instructors: Mark Alan Liebergall and Sarah Tames.</p> <p>Mark Liebergall has been a member of the Taconic Learning Centers Shakespeare class for several years and a Shakespeare enthusiast for a long time. He is looking forward to another season of speaking the words of the Bard with the other members of the class and helping lead the course with Sarah Tames.</p>	Tames_&_Liebergall
2016	Winter	Group Meditation	10	<p>This meditation group grew out of the fall semester course, "Indian Philosophy and Meditation". In it we will practice a variety of meditations in the Buddhist tradition with emphasis on the vipassana mindfulness meditation practice. No prior experience in meditation is necessary. Instruction is available and every one is welcome.</p>	Richard Olsen

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2016	Spring	The Civil War in Fiction	6	In this course we will examine how six authors use the war or parts of it as they tell their stories. While we will make some references to the history of the war where appropriate to do so, our principal focus will be the works themselves. Readings and discussions are as follows: Week One, Stephen Crane, <i>The Red Badge of Courage</i> ; Week Two: Ambrose Bierce, <i>Shadows of Blue and Gray</i> ; Week Three, William Faulkner, <i>The Unvanquished</i> ; Week Four: Michael Shaara, <i>The Killer Angels</i> ; Week Five: E. L Doctorow, <i>The March</i> ; Week Six: Stephen Vincent Benet, <i>John Browns Body</i> . [These books are available at local bookstores or on Amazon.]	John Toffey
2016	Spring	Dynasty and Destiny: Three Shakespeare Plays	7	This course will explore three Shakespeare plays: <i>Macbeth</i> , <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , and <i>Richard II</i> . Not quite as obviously as the History plays (or the Bush family), these three plays (tragedy, comedy and history) share at their core a family/," attempt to maintain and extend its influence. We will read the text, view video performances and discuss our responses to the material. The individual scripts with notes are readily available at bookstores and on Amazon. The Folger edition is particularly convenient. Harold Bloom/," SHAKESPEARE: THE INVENTION OF THE HUMAN (Riverhead Books) is an excellent resource.	Thomas Gruenewald
2016	Spring	Creation of the Modern Middle East: A Documentary History	6	This course will attempt to put the fall term documentaries on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in a broader historical context. How did the lands and peoples of the Middle East come to be what they are today? The course will reach back to the crusades, the rise of Islam and the Ottoman Empire, and finish with an examination of actions taken by Western powers in and after World War I that contributed significantly to the making of the modern Middle East. Note: No class on May 3rd	Laurance Rand

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2016	Spring	Mozart Piano Concertos, Mostly	6	The piano concerto came into its own during the time of Mozart(1756-1791), and he wrote 27 of them! During this six-week semester, the most important of these will be presented on video with many outstanding artists. In addition, other concertos, one for violin, one for clarinet, will be presented to demonstrate Mozart's genius in what is arguably the most pleasurable of musical forms.	Robert Julien
2016	Spring	Albert Einstein	4	We will examine the life and work of the man whose theory of Gravitation was recently confirmed by the chirp heard round the world. The course will focus on Einsteins: 1.Childhood and early schooling 2. Adulthood, marriage and early jobs 3.Genius in full flower including Miracle year of 1905 up to World War 1. 4. World War 2 and citizenship in U.S, at home in Princeton and continued impact today. NOTE: No class on May 11th. Last class is May 18th.	David Bayersdorfer
2016	Spring	The Great Unified Theory of Economics. Finance and Everything Related Thereto:The World According to Jerry Jamin	5	Economics-politics-world events-stocks and bonds-monetary and fiscal policies-demographics-infrastructure-interest rates-currencies-inflation and deflation-budgets and debts-good and evil, and the third rail of sociology. This course will tie it all together in one comprehensive and intelligible package. An unprecedented pedagogical tour de force? Or another example of egotistical overreach by the instructor? Perhaps. WARNING: THIS COURSE IS NOT FOR EVERYONE. CONSULT YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU ARE ALERGIC TO STRONG LANGUAGE, OR HAVE AN INTOLERANCE FOR UNCONVENTIONAL WISDOM OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH AN IMPAIRED SENSE OF HUMOR. Note: Exact number of classes to be determined.	Jerry Jamin

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2016	Spring	How Your Immune System Works	4	<p>We have been faced with an onslaught of strange viral infections –“–“,Ài Ebola, Hanta, Chickungunya, Zika, and not so long ago, HIV. Flu viruses continue to threaten and so do SARS, MERS and other respiratory viruses. Defeated viruses like measles have risen from the dead because some people fear vaccines. Our other foes, the bacteria, have become more and more drug resistant, so that some infections cannot be treated with antibiotics.</p> <p>It seems like a time to panic, but this series of discussions will help you avoid that. We will describe where each threat comes from, how it evolved, what is being done to contain it, and how to avoid it. Above all, we will describe the formidable defenses of the human immune system, how its parts work and how they can be fortified.</p> <p>The course will involve learning a little modern biology but people who took biology 40 or more years ago should not worry. We will take our time and explain all concepts. Many of these health challenges have been described in my columns in The Lakeville Journal, called The Body Scientific (http://tricornernews.com/category/opinion-author/body-scientific), which is the only reading.</p>	Richard Kessin
2016	Spring	Group Meditation	6	<p>This meditation group grew out of the fall semester course, "Indian Philosophy and Meditation". In it we will practice a variety of meditations in the Buddhist tradition with emphasis on the vipassana mindfulness meditation practice. No prior experience in meditation is necessary.</p> <p>Instruction is available and every one is welcome.</p>	Richard Olsen

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2016	Fall	Much Ado About Everything: Dante, Æs Inferno and Purgatorio	10	Much Ado About Everything: Dante*s Inferno and Purgatorio. Three years ago, we slogged to the bottom of Dante*s hell. But we left the job unfinished. Now it*s time for the whole trip. This fall, we*ll do a quick flyover of the Inferno and then start our grand ascent to Paradise. Even if you were in the first class, I urge you to experience the whole poem, Æperhaps the finest piece of Western literature, Æfrom the first footfall. How many times do any of us have the chance? (The plan is to read the Paradiso in the winter term.) Come gawk at the sinners in their torment before we start climbing Mount Purgatory, the most emotional, artistic, and indeed human part of the poem. We*ll use John Ciardi*s translation, available in inexpensive Signet editions. The books are available at both Oblong Books in Millerton and at the Book Loft in Great Barrington. Class members should read cantos I and II of the INFERNO for the first class.	Mark Scarbrough
2016	Fall	Homer and Western Literature	6	This course will teach that Homer is the basis of western literature. Students will learn to read passages of ancient Greek literature in original Greek. Passages from ancient literature will include Homer, Aeschylus, Aristophanes, and Sappho. Their influence on later western literature will be illustrated by looking at works by Roman and English authors such as Ovid, Virgil, Shelly, Byron, and Shakespeare. Students will not need a familiarity with ancient Greek or Latin for this course, just an interest in language.	William Trowbridge

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2016	Fall	Cole Porter	6	This class will explore Cole Porter*s vast body of work (using video and audio materials) in relation to the extraordinary times in which he lived. Amazingly two world wars and major social upheavals seem to have passed the gilded Porters by. He was born in Peru, Indiana in 1891; he said farewell to the Midwest for a prep school education at the Worcester Academy in Massachusetts, went on to graduate from Yale, and then dropped out of Harvard Law School in 1916 to begin his glamorous international life and career. He lived in Paris during World War I where he married his wife, Linda. The Porters returned to the U.S. for the Roaring 20*s and had homes in New York and California as well as Williamstown, Massachusetts. They knew and entertained everyone who was anyone, and because both were independently wealthy they were unscathed by the Depression and World War II. Porter was one of the few theatrical luminaries who wrote both the music and lyrics for his many shows on Broadway and Hollywood films including (1916) See America First, (1928) Paris, (1920) Fifty Million Frenchmen, (1932) The Gay Divorce, (1934) Anything Goes, (1939) Dubarry Was a Lady, (1947) The Pirate, (1948) Kiss Me, Kate, (1953) Can Can, (1954) Silk Stockings, (1955) High Society, (1956) Les Girls. He continued writing until his death in 1964.	Thomas Gruenewald

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2016	Fall	On Memoirs	6	This workshop will offer an introduction to the art of writing memoir. It will be prefaced by a discussion of the characteristics of good memoir writing and is designed to help people discover their stories in a supportive environment. Students will be asked to write short pieces from prompts and share them with the class as well as read excerpts from contemporary and classic memoirs. With a Master*s Degree in creative non-fiction and a background writing biographical sketches and magazine articles, Brenda Underwood will help participants explore the significance of people, places and events in their lives. Students will be encouraged to draw stories from memory and organize them into a narrative.	Brenda Underwood
2016	Fall	The Roberts Court 2015-2016	7	The death of Justice Antonin Scalia and the Senate*s refusal to consider President Obama*s nominee to replace him are enough in themselves to make a course on this year*s Roberts Court. Together with the key decisions the Court has handed down before June as well as its forthcoming rulings in abortion, affirmative action, and immigration cases, they promise stimulating analysis and discourse.	Laurance Rand
2016	Fall	Play Reading	8	This fall we will continue to read works of a contemporary American playwright, Lanford Wilson, who won a Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1980. Please obtain Lanford Wilson: Collected Works, Volume II, 1970-1983.	Rosemary Farnsworth
2016	Fall	Let*s Talk Poetry - Cancelled	8	Due to unforeseen circumstances, Maura Wolf will need to spend time with a family member in Virginia this fall and will not be able to offer her course Let*s Talk Poetry. We apologize for this situation, but we thank you for your understanding.	Maura Wolf

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2016	Fall	Great Decisions	9	<p>Topics chosen by the Foreign Policy Association include: Middle East Alliances; The Rise of ISIS; Kurdistan; International Migration; Korean Choices; United Nations; Climate Geopolitics; and Cuba and the U.S. This year will mark expanded collaboration with students and faculty from Housatonic Valley Regional High School. All registrants should order the 2016 briefing book (\$25) by phone (1-800.477.5836) or online at fpa.org (click on Great Decisions and select order).</p> <p>Instructors: Richard Collins, Tracy Atwood, John Lizzi & Peter Vermilyea</p>	
2016	Fall	The Middle East Since 1945	6	<p>At the Versailles Conference in 1919, President Woodrow Wilson championed democracy and self determination, then looked the other way as Britain and France carved up the Middle East. What was to be self determination became mandate. After World War II, the United States became a more active member of the faction attempting to control the Middle East. In 1953 it staged a coup in Iran, ousting democratically elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh and replaced him with the Shah. This course is an attempt to unravel, through documentary films, events in the Middle East from 1945 to today.</p>	Laurance Rand
2017	Winter	Much Ado About Everything: Dante's Paradiso	6	<p>In this course, we'll finish off this great epic poem, traveling up the celestial spheres to the top of heaven, the point where we begin to see the transition from the high Middle Ages to the early Renaissance. Even if you didn't join us for the Inferno and the Purgatorio this last fall, and even if you didn't get your will corrected properly, feel free to come along and complete the journey with us, and get your intellect set right in Dante's strange and marvelous universe. Please purchase John Ciardi's translation of the Paradiso, available at Oblong Books in Millerton, NY. Also, please read Canto 1 of the Paradiso for our first session.</p>	Mark Scarbrough

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2017	Winter	Moby Dick	6	In the six sessions of this course we will examine Melville*s novel, exploring, among other things, its mighty themes and its "bold and nervous lofty language." Whether you are coming to the novel for the first time or again after a number of readings, you should find in it something new. For the first session read through Chapter XIII.	John Toffey
2017	Winter	Some Surprising Images in Biblical Art	5	This course will consider a number of Biblical images, primarily in Italian art from the early Renaissance through the Baroque, approximately 1300 to 1650. These images, mostly painting, some sculpture, are "surprising" in that they appear to depart from their literal sources to express an expanded truth. Sometimes the texts offer little visual detail, sometimes they express a narrower vision than the artist is willing to accept, and on rare occasions there is no text at all. As a result, the artistic imagination roams freely, creating "surprising" images, some of which we know well but haven't thought about in just this way. Note: The five sessions will be conversational in format. Everyone will have more fun, and greater insight, if we all contribute.	George Faison
2017	Winter	On Memoirs: A Continuation	6	This workshop will offer a continuation of our examination of the art of writing memoirs. It will be prefaced by a discussion of the characteristics of good memoir writing and is designed to help people discover their stories in a supportive environment. Students will be asked to write short pieces from prompts and share them with the class as well as read excerpts from contemporary and classic memoirs. With a Master*s Degree in creative non-fiction and a background writing biographical sketches and magazine articles, Brenda Underwood will help participants explore the significance of people, places and events in their lives. Students will be encouraged to draw stories from memory and organize them into a narrative.	Brenda Underwood

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2017	Winter	Playreading	8	This term we will revisit Beth Henley. This collection of plays is set in various time frames. We will read plays of the past, present and future. Please obtain Beth Henley: Collected Plays, Volume II, 1990-1999.	Rosemary Farnsworth
2017	Winter	Booms, Busts, Bubbles, and Bastards	8	<p>We begin with a warp speed review of basic economic concepts to provide an understanding of the current state of the US and global economy.</p> <p>Then on to some of the great booms and busts -from the Dutch Tulip Mania of 1637 on through the Great Depression and the not so terrific Great Recession. When will have the next one? Surely we can trust the economists, who have predicted 7 out of the last 3 recessions, to give us a head up.</p> <p>Then Mr. Jerry*s favorite part: „Úthe Bastards,Äù. Why do they proliferate in the booms and hide out in the busts? We*ll meet some famous white collar crooks and some you never heard of, and you*ll be introduced to Jerry*s haircut hypothesis of Bastard outing.</p> <p>We*ll conclude with a look into our economic future. Things we already know and the unknown unknowns. Although Mr. Jerry pretends to know everything about anything, in fact when it comes to the future your guess is just as good as his.</p>	Jerry Jamin

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2017	Winter	Reading Shakespeare ,À Aloud	8	Reading Shakespeare ,À Aloud. Reading Shakespeare,Às plays can present special challenges. The unfamiliar words, peculiar spellings and opaque allusions often throw us a curve, but much of this confusion may be eliminated when Reading Shakespeare ,À Aloud! Often, the sound of the words being spoken carries the meaning along even when one might stumble over individual word meanings. In this course, we will read "The Merchant of Venice." There will be some discussion of interpretation but mostly we will seek the pleasure of hearing these memorable characters through our own efforts to, as Hamlet would put it, 'speak the speech"! To warm up we will read a sonnet or two.	Tames_&_Liebergall

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2017	Winter	"Well, It Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time"	6	<p>This course will look at six events in American history that, for the most part, failed to live up to their initial aims or expectations.</p> <p>Session One. "The First Great Awakening"- In the 1730s, a wave of religious revivals swept the Reformed churches in the Thirteen Colonies, particularly in Massachusetts and Connecticut , upsetting the authority of church and state. Though there was little lasting impact on the religious feelings of the colonies, the challenge to the established authority may have impacted the decision of the colonies to declare independence from Great Britain.</p> <p>Session Two- "Benedict Arnold, Ethan Allen and Gen. Guy Carlton"- The interaction between these three men involved heroism, religion, treason and a loss of a significant opportunity for Great Britain in the Revolutionary War.</p> <p>Session Three- "American Deist of the Revolutionary Era"- This session will look at the history and various tenets of Deism plus the ideas of some of its followers who were important in American history. The followers included Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Tom Paine and Ethan Allen.</p> <p>Session Four- "Manifest Destiny"- The movement to greatly expand the territory of the United States impacted the election</p>	Thomas Key

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2017	Spring	Shakespeare At The Opera	7	Over 200 operas have been based on the plays of William Shakespeare. Many have been performed once or twice and then been consigned to the trash bin, some unjustly. Others have become part of the canon. With videos, sound recordings and texts this class will explore 4 plays and the operas (and an occasional ballet) they have spawned: A Midsummer Night's Dream (with examples from Purcell and Britten), Romeo and Juliet (Bellini and Gounod), Othello (Rossini and Verdi) and The Merry Wives of Windsor aka Falstaff (Nicolai, Salieri, and Verdi). Guest artists will include (in alphabetical order) Roberto Alagna, Judi Dench, Joyce DiDonato, Placido Domingo, Margot Fonteyn, Anthony Hopkins, Kevin Kline, Helen Mirren, Anna Netrebko, Rudolf Nureyev, Diana Rigg, and many more. Some familiarity with the 4 Shakespeare plays is recommended.	Thomas Gruenewald
2017	Spring	Let's Talk Modern Poetry	6	"Poetry explains depths of thought and feeling that civilization requires for its survival". In a discussion group format we will consider some poems by about fifteen twentieth century poets, including TS Eliot, eecomings, Richard Wilbur, William Stafford, Mary Oliver, James Dickey, Billy Collins and others.. Participants may read their favorite poems from poets included or may contribute supplementary information about them. An outline will be provided later, and, though no texts are required, I recommend 100 Essential Modern Poems by Joseph Parisi and How to Read a Poem and Fall in Love with Poetry by Richard Hass. Both books are available on Amazon or by order from Oblong Books.	Maura Wolf
2017	Spring	Alexander Hamilton	4	In this course we will examine Hamilton's early life, his role during the Revolutionary war, his writings on the United States Constitution issues and the duel with Burr on the Hudson that ended his remarkable life. In our analysis of Hamilton and his contributions to the United States we will find many connections with issues in the news today.	David Bayersdorfer

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2017	Spring	Native Americans and Broken Treaties	6	The westward expansion of Americans from the 17th century to the present has been labeled by historians as "Manifest Destiny". Manifest for whom? From a Native American perspective, it could well be renamed "Broken Treaties, Inc." In this course we will use documentary films to examine this tragic feature of American history. Cherokee, Sioux, Lakota Indian tribes and others were forced from their land onto reservations, against their will and at great expense to them, their families, and their traditions.	Laurance Rand
2017	Fall	Mistaken Identity	6	This class offers a discussion of mistaken identity in the Bible, Greek tragedy and Roman comedy. The texts will be Genesis (the deception of Isaac and Jacob's stay with Uncle Laban), Sophocles' Oedipus Rex (Lattimore and Grene translation) and Plautus' Menaechmi (Segal translation) . We may also talk about how complications ensue when people try and beat the wrap, everything from Priam and Hecuba sending Paris off to be a shepherd (who then judged the three goddesses, and the rest is history) to Watergate.	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2017	Fall	Irving Berlin	6	<p>Jerome Kern stated: "Irving Berlin has no place in American music -- he is American music." Irving Berlin (1888-1989) had his first major international hit "Alexander's Ragtime Band" in 1911. He wrote for the Broadway stage (17 shows), movie musicals including Top Hat, Follow the Fleet, Easter Parade, and White Christmas, as well as hundreds of standards including "Cheek to Cheek", "Puttin' on the Ritz", "A Pretty Girl is Like a Melody", and "God Bless America".</p> <p>The class will track his biography chronologically, reflecting a changing America from the beginning of the 20th century through his death, with audio and video recordings performed by the many stars for whom he wrote including Ethel Merman, Fred Astaire, Ethel Waters, Judy Garland and Kate Smith.</p>	Thomas Gruenewald

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2017	Fall	The Civil War As A Moral and Theological Crisis	6	<p>At some level, as Lincoln said in his second inaugural address, "all knew that a moral issue, namely slavery, was somehow the cause of the war. In a time when religion was central and many Americans felt confident in their ability to discern God's purposes, the Civil War presented a theological and moral crisis to people of faith as they struggled with issues of freedom and slavery, the use of the Bible in ethical decision making, the justification for war and its morality, the meaning of death, and God's providential involvement in human history. This class will take a moral and theological cut at this critical period in history, which continues to fascinate and have ongoing significance for American life.</p> <p>Week 1 " Ways of approaching the Civil War and the reasons for looking at it as a religious crisis. Setting the context. The religious character of the ante bellum period. The united search for a Christian America. The countervailing tensions and the divisions of the churches.</p> <p>Week 2 " The problem of slavery as a moral and political issue. Biblical arguments for and against slavery. Religion and the rise of abolitionism. Emancipation and the transformation of the war to a moral crusade.</p>	Richard Reifsnyder
2017	Fall	The Roberts Court, 2016-2017	7	<p>With the addition of Justice Neil Gorsuch, the Roberts Court is one justice short of a commanding conservative bent. Nonetheless, Gorsuch's addition will be or has already been felt in cases involving the death penalty, workers' rights, and many other areas. This could well be a pivotal term in the jurisdiction of the United States Supreme Court, one as significant as that of 1937.</p>	Laurance Rand

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2017	Fall	Playreading	8	This term we will read a collection of fairly modern plays (1944-1975). It will give us a chance to read some well known plays which we may not have seen or read before such as <i>Waiting for Godot</i> . Participants are asked to obtain <i>Nine Plays of the Modern Theatre</i> , edited and with an introduction by Harold Clurman. Both new and used copies of this book are available on Amazon: http://www.amazon.com/Nine-Plays-Modern-Theater-Rhinoceros/dp/0802150322	Rosemary Farnsworth
2017	Fall	Money: Its Evolution	6	In God We Trust: It says so on the backside of our currency. That's all we can hope for. But it's a triumph of hope over experience. Since the beginning of the money civilization 2,500 years ago, kings, emperors, popes, presidents and politicians have shafted their subjects. We'll take a romp through history to see the evolution of money from primitive barter trade such as furs for flint or slaves for sex. Then we became sophisticated and learned to trade real things like food and shelter for pieces of green paper backed by an IOU from an organization called the Federal Reserve and if they can't pay maybe God will help you. Now we don't even need the green paper. This is the age of digital money which can be stolen by a teenage hacker sitting on a couch in Belarus, or someplace like New Jersey. Money: We'll cover the whole nine yards. Bring a sample and a sense of humor.	Jerry Jamin
2017	Fall	What's Up, Doc?	6	This course will examine medical advances since 2000, advances that have been extraordinary in their ability to respond to diseases.	Lynn Whelchel

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2017	Fall	Great Decisions	9	Topics chosen by the Foreign Policy Association include: European Union; Trade Policy; South China Sea; Saudi Arabia; Geopolitics of Energy; Latin America; Afghanistan/Pakistan; and Nuclear Security. This course continues a partnership with students and faculty from Housatonic Valley Regional High School. All registrants should order the 2017 briefing book (\$25) by phone (1-800.477.5836) or online at fpa.org (click on Great Decisions and select order).	
2017	Fall	The Parables of Jesus	6	***** PLEASE NOTE: THIS CLASS HAS BEEN CANCELED. Our focus will be on the simple stories of Jesus which have profound meanings. Even people with minimal exposure to the Bible are familiar with these beloved stories, which include the Parables. We will be discussing The Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, The Lost Sheep and The Faithful Steward. Please bring a Bible and your questions. We will use a seminar approach.	Richard Taber
2017	Fall	Marginalized Groups in the United States	6	This course will use documentary films to examine the condition of selected groups of Americans that have been left in positions of marginal importance, influence and/or power. Groups will include Native Americans, black Americans, women, and others.	Laurance Rand

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2018	Winter	The Prohibition Experiment	4	<p>1. Introduction- Drinking habits of America from colonial days to January 16,1920 and beyond. What standards were set and how did they change?</p> <p>2. How did Prohibition come about? We will explore the diverse forces which impacted this decision to change the Constitution including women's rights, religion, organized crime, politics, economics, immigrants and many other factors.</p> <p>3."That Americans would agree to relinquish their booze was as improbable as it was astonishing." (Okrent, LAST CALL) What was life like under Prohibition and how such an unprecedented degree of government interference in the private lives of Americans changed the country?</p> <p>4. Conclusions- What lessons were learned from this period in history that could be applied to the present? Can we as individuals and groups make a difference? How do we bring the factions together to do what is best for our country and the world?</p>	David Bayersdorfer
2018	Winter	World War I	4	<p>World War I: The War that Changed the World - in Ways Seen and Unseen</p> <p>Part 1- Causes of the War and why the US did not want to enter;</p> <p>Part 2- Technological advances of the War;</p> <p>Part 3- Political Changes Brought on by the War; and</p> <p>Part 4- The Lost Generation: Europe, 1919-1929</p>	Hamish Lutris

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2018	Winter	Playreading	8	<p>This term we will continue with a collection of fairly modern plays (1944-1975). Since we will use the same book from the fall term, students from the fall term will not need to obtain a book. New participants are asked to obtain <i>Nine Plays of the Modern Theatre</i>, edited and with an introduction by Harold Clurman. The book is available at Amazon:</p> <p>www.amazon.com/Nine-Plays-Modern-Theater-Rhinoceros/dp/0802150322/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1508358132&sr=8-1&keywords=nine+plays+of+the+modern+theater</p>	Rosemary Farnsworth
2018	Winter	Reading Shakespeare Aloud	8	<p>Reading Shakespeare's plays can present special challenges. The unfamiliar words, peculiar spellings and opaque allusions often throw us a curve, but much of this confusion may be eliminated when Reading Shakespeare <i>Aloud!</i> Often, the sound of the words spoken carries the meaning along even when one might stumble over the individual sense of the words themselves.</p> <p>Described in the Keatsian sonnet <i>On Sitting Down To Read King Lear Once Again</i> as <i>"the fierce dispute/betwixt damnation and impassioned clay,"</i> Shakespeare's rather dark tale seems just right for a winter's exploration of sound and sense voiced by aging parents, thankless children, loyal subjects, tender fools. There will be some discussion of interpretation (is the play hopeful? nihilistic?), but mostly we will seek the pleasure of hearing these memorable characters through our own efforts as players to, as Hamlet would put it, 'speak the speech'!</p>	Tames_ & Liebergall

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2018	Winter	Men Plan - The Gods Laugh	6	<p>The course will cover selected historical events characterized by unexpected consequences, collateral damages or unforced failures.</p> <p>Sessions one and two: "Roman Republic, Roman Empire, Roman Failure". Using a timeline approach we will follow the Roman rise and fall through the republic, the Punic Wars, transition to empire and finally the fall.</p> <p>Session three: "The Rough Men of the Reformation" We will look at some of the leaders of the Reformation, with their virtues and failings. They were not sweet, meek and mild!</p> <p>Session four: "US Presidential Elections of 1834 and 1838". You think politics are nasty and unpredictable now?</p> <p>Session five: "The Spanish American and Philippine American Wars" From fighting oppressors to being oppressors.</p> <p>Session six: "Schwarze Kapelle- The Black Orchestra" The most competently staffed German organization dedicated to removing Hitler failed in this all-important objective. There were many separate failures but one of the over riding difficulties was the Allies adherence to the doctrine of "Unconditional Surrender".</p>	Thomas Key

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2018	Spring	Jerome Kern: His Life and Music	6	Jerome Kern (1855-1945) changed the whole style of American theater music when, in 1927, he composed the score for Show Boat with book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II. Prior to Show Boat he wrote enormously successful musical comedies with lyricists including P. G. Wodehouse, author of the Jeeves series. After the triumph of Show Boat he was summoned to Hollywood where he wrote music for films starring Fred Astaire, Rita Hayworth, Irene Dunne, Paul Robeson, Jeanette MacDonald, Ginger Rogers, Deanna Durbin, and many more, all of whom we will hear and see in this class.	Thomas Gruenewald
2018	Spring	Marginalized Americans: Women	6	With the advent of the #MeToo movement in the United States and throughout the world, women are demanding respect and an end to routine sexual assault and harassment in their workplaces and their homes. It is but another chapter in the struggle of women in America to gain their rights under a Declaration of Independence that for them reads "all persons are created equal, not all men are created equal. We will examine this struggle from the early 20th century to the present, using documentary film and discussion.	Laurance Rand
2018	Spring	Let's Talk Poetry Again	6	In this course we will continue to try to define what Poetry is, make connections with new poems and poets, and discuss the relevance Poetry has in today's world. I hope to encourage participants to contribute research and personal choices of poems to the discussion. Suggested books: How to Read a Poem by Edward Hirsch. The Vintage Book of Contemporary American Poetry, ed. by J.D. McClatchy. Any poetry anthologies or collections.	Maura Wolf

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2018	Spring	The History of Western Sciences	4	<p>This four-part series will focus on the factors, events, personalities, and mindset that have produced one of the most prolific intellectual traditions human society has ever seen. The History of Western Sciences will explore the rich background and lead-up to our modern scientific accomplishments- and dilemmas. The course will examine the international background to western science; the Classical tradition of Greece and Rome; Medieval Science, both East and West; the Scientific Revolution of the 1500s; the Enlightenment; the accomplishments, inventions, theories, utopians, cranks and naysayers of the 19th century; and the two-edged sword that is science in the 20th and 21st Centuries.</p> <p>Part One: will explore the beginnings of science and technology in the earliest humans until the fall of Rome and the end of the Classical tradition. From its earliest beginnings, humanity has sought to explain the world and its workings, as well as adapting the world to its purposes.</p> <p>Part Two: will offer the background and process of the break between science and faith in the 1500s, and its merging in the 1600s with the Enlightenment.</p> <p>Part Three: The Enlightenment developed in the 1600s and electrified Europe with its new theories, such as gravity and Boyle's Law. These theories were later put into practice by men</p>	Hamish Lutris

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2018	Spring	Inequality	5	<p> Inequality is an important but complex topic. This course will approach inequality from the perspectives of (1) the varying scope and quality of health care and some approaches to correct the inequalities, (2) the importance of educational circumstances resulting in more, or less, inequality, (3) economic, sociological, religious and union developments influencing a century of American changes, and, finally (4) an examination of some of the causes of, and possible solutions for inequality. The intent is to provide a factual and rationale examination of inequality and leave politics to the politicians. Lynn Whelchel, Dick Paddock, Jerry Jamin and Bruce Montgomerie will each conduct one session, with time for class discussion toward the end of each class. A fifth class will be devoted to a class discussion. </p>	
2018	Fall	World War II - Four Battles	4	<p> World War II is one of the defining events of modern American history. 16 million men and women were under arms for the US, and yet, we were not as heavily involved as others, testament to the truly worldwide scope of the conflict. This course will highlight four of the most significant military operations of the war: 1) Pearl Harbor; 2) Stalingrad; 3) The Battle of the Bulge; and 4) The dropping of the atom bomb. Each session will offer background and context for the countries involved, the military operation itself, and the events and personalities of the operation. The course will thus provide an overview of the causes, technology, and results of the greatest conflict in human history. </p>	Hamish Lutris

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2018	Fall	Exiles in Paradise	8	Following the Russian Revolution, World War I, and the Treaty of Versailles, Europe went through a period of political and economic turmoil as well as an extraordinarily vital artistic explosion. With the rise of the Soviet Union and Fascism many playwrights, composers, writers, and directors (among them Bertolt Brecht, Kurt Weill, Fritz Lang, Billy Wilder, Marlene Dietrich, and Peter Lorre) escaped Europe. Many landed in New York and Hollywood, changing forever the performing arts in the United States. The classes will include audio and video examples of their work in Europe and in the United States.	Thomas Gruenewald
2018	Fall	American Exceptionalism	6	A consistent theme throughout American history is the idea that this nation and its people are somehow exceptional, set apart, unique. This idea has deep religious roots, going back to the Puritans, and is often connected to the thought that the nation has a special purpose in God's plan. It has taken many forms and has its own non-religious, secular expression as well. This class will trace the exceptionalism idea from the beginning to the present time, offering thoughts about its positive possibilities and problematic aspects.	Richard Reifsnyder
2018	Fall	The Roberts Court 2016-2017	7	The past term of the United States Supreme Court will be remembered as one of the most significant and pivotal terms in recent history. The opinions handed down prior to and in June reveal the effect of Justice Gorsuch's presence on the bench. Predicted to feature blockbuster decisions, the Roberts Court did not fail in that respect.	Laurance Rand

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2018	Fall	Play Reading	8	This fall we will read works by a contemporary woman playwright, Sarah Ruhl, who is an American playwright, professor, and essayist. Two of her plays have been finalists for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and she received a nomination for Tony Award for Best Play. Her most recent play, For Peter Pan on her 70th Birthday (2017), premiered Off-Broadway at Playwrights Horizons. She currently serves on the faculty of the Yale School of Drama. Participants are asked to obtain The Clean House and other plays by Sarah Ruhl. Used books are available from Amazon. The site is: https://www.amazon.com/Clean-House-Other-Plays/dp/1559362669/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1525280073&sr=1-1&keywords=the+clean+house+and+other+plays	Rosemary Farnsworth
2018	Fall	Clash of Civilizations	6	The Disuniting of America and Reflections on a Multicultural Society; Who Are We? The Challenges to America's National Identity; The Rise of Identity Studies and the Closing of the Liberal Mind; and the Suicide of the West. Will a continent-spanning, multicultural nation like the USA-- that encourages its citizens to value their respective cultural differences on a par with or more important than some strong unifying characteristic--, survive or break apart? Will the United States of America Go the Way of All Great Nations/Empires of History?	Jeff Fillman

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2018	Fall	Great Decisions	9	The 60th year of an international discussion program produced by the Foreign Policy Association and conducted in over 500 cities around the world. This year's topics include: Waning of the Pax Americana? Russia's foreign policy; China's geopolitics; Media and foreign policy; Turkey: partner in crisis; U.S. global engagement & the military; South Africa's fragile democracy; and Global health issues. This course continues a partnership with students and faculty from Housatonic Valley Regional High School. All registrants should order the 2018 briefing book (\$25) by phone (1-800.477.5836) or online at fpa.org (click on Great Decisions and select order).	
2018	Fall	Marginalized Black Americans 1954-2018	8	In this, the last episode of the Marginalized Americans documentary film course, we will examine efforts of American blacks to gain equal rights and treatment. Our documentary films will be "Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years: 1954-1965" and "And I Still Rise: Black America Since MLK".	Laurance Rand
2018	Fall	The Soul of America	6	The good old days were not as good as we think. Starting at our founding, America has been full of conflicts between our ideals and the realities of events of which we cannot be proud. Slavery, racism, Indian genocide, suppression of women, religious bigotry, and denial of civil rights to minorities. And that's not a complete list. Often our leaders were asleep at the switch, but sometimes at critical moments, great leadership inspired us to look towards our better angels. The book "The Soul of America" by Jon Meacham is a good place for you to get started. Otherwise you'll just have to accept your instructor's views as gospel.	Jerry Jamin

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2019	Winter	How to Listen to and Understand Great Music	8	<p>Learning how to appreciate the unmatched beauty, genius, and power of concert music can permanently enrich your life. Why is this so? As award-winning composer and Professor Robert Greenberg explains, "Music, the most abstract and sublime of all the arts, is capable of transmitting an unbelievable amount of expressive, historical, and even philosophical information to us, provided that our antennas are up and pointed in the right direction. A little education goes a long way to vitalizing and rendering relevant a body of music that many feel is beyond their grasp."</p> <p>This course, from the Great Courses DVD collection, features Professor Robert Greenberg, the Music-Historian-in-Residence with San Francisco Performances.</p>	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2019	Winter	How to Look at and Understand Great Art	6	<p>Great art is among the most sublime, meaningful, and redeeming creations of all civilization. Few endeavors can equal the power of great artwork to capture aesthetic beauty, to move and inspire, to change your perceptions, and to communicate the nature of human experience. Great art is also complex, mysterious, and challenging. Filled with symbolism, cultural and historical references, and often visionary imagery, great artworks oblige us to defy us, even to reckon with their many meanings.</p> <p>What does it take to truly know what you're seeing when you look at art? What technical skills and knowledge are needed to comprehend the full richness of artworks, to unpack the hidden significance of master paintings, sculptures, prints, and more?</p> <p>This course, from the Great Courses DVD collection, features lectures by Professor Sharon L. Hirsh, president of Rosemont College.</p>	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2019	Winter	Play Reading	8	<p>This winter, we'll read five plays by Paula Vogel, a contemporary American playwright. Currently, Vogel directs the MFA playwriting program at Brown University. Her plays simultaneously entice and disturb the reader using a combination of hilarious comic writing allied to sleepless political and social commentary that can move in the same play from titillating to shocking to murderous. She forces a reappraisal of our attitudes that define the conventional family, AIDS, violence against women, prostitution, the structural determinants of the impoverishment of women, and pornography.</p> <p>Part of her method entails revisiting classics such as Joyce and Shakespeare and extracting the authors' passages and perspectives that she turns on their head to show how they contribute to social pathology.</p> <p>Class members should bring The Baltimore Waltz and other plays by Paula Vogel. It can be ordered at Oblong Books in Millerton or from Amazon. I note below a link to the Amazon site for the Play.</p> <p>The collection was originally published in 1995, but her anatomization of the disablement of women speaks to us today in the accents of the continuing misogyny emanating from the highest circles of government.</p>	Robert Rumsey

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2019	Winter	Things Fall Apart; The Centre Can Not Hold	6	<p>The title is taken from the poem, "The Second Coming", written in 1919 by W.B Yeats.</p> <p>One: The French and Indian War, which was crucial in the future establishment of the United States of America. From 1754 to 1759, the French were winning. Then Pitt, the Elder, changed all that by hiring Germans to fight in Europe and sending troops and ships to North America.</p> <p>Two: Lord Cornwallis' Southern Campaign in the Revolutionary War. A series of British victories and one French victory at sea led to the British surrendering an army at Yorktown.</p> <p>Three: Negotiating the peace after Yorktown. You think politics are bad now?! Try putting together a peace agreement with five dissident factions, thirteen independent states, a stubborn king, three of the major combatants facing bankruptcy, threat to the unity of the British Empire, millions of acres at risk and hundreds of thousands of people, who have no say, affected by the terms agreed upon. All as a major part of the war continues in Europe and partisan raids continue in the Carolinas.</p> <p>Four: The Gallipoli Campaign, WW I. After an almost acceptable start, one of the great debacles of the war.</p>	Thomas Key

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2019	Winter	Applying To College: Behind the Scenes	2	<p>Would You Like to Go to College Now?</p> <p>The process of applying to college and university has become so fraught with stress and anxiety now. Is the trouble worth it? Here are some of the topics we will discuss and explore. Your personal stories and reflections will be integral to making this course a success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How do you choose where you would like to go - Liberal Arts: are they a thing of the past - The Common Application - The personal essay - SAT - ACT- Test Optional - Financial Aid - Athletic recruitment - Parental pressure - Interviews and campus visits - Legacies and development - What about Harvard - Rankings 	Dary Dunham
2019	Spring	How to Listen to and Understand Great Music, Part Two	8	<p>Learning how to appreciate the unmatched beauty, genius, and power of concert music can permanently enrich your life. Why is this so? As award-winning composer and Professor Robert Greenberg explains, "Music, the most abstract and sublime of all the arts, is capable of transmitting an unbelievable amount of expressive, historical, and even philosophical information to us, provided that our antennas are up and pointed in the right direction. A little education goes a long way to vitalizing and rendering relevant a body of music that many feel is beyond their grasp."</p> <p>This course, from the Great Courses DVD collection, features Professor Robert Greenberg, the Music-Historian-in-Residence with San Francisco Performances.</p>	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2019	Spring	Richard Rodgers with Lorenz Hart and Oscar Hammerstein II	6	Richard Rodgers (1902-1979) work is arguably the centerpiece of the American Musical Theater. The many revivals of his collaborations with Oscar Hammerstein II (1895-1960) attest to that. In the last 10 years alone Lincoln Center has presented Oklahoma, South Pacific, and The King and I. Before he worked with Hammerstein, Rodgers' partner was Lorenz Hart (1895-1943), with whom he wrote Pal Joey, Babes in Arms, A Connecticut Yankee, and many more. This class will examine the musicals with an emphasis on how changing partners changed the work. There will be many video and audio examples starring a vast array of performers including Al Jolson, Julie Andrews, Alfred Drake, Gertrude Lawrence, Yul Brynner, Mary Martin, Ezio Pinza, Mitzi Gaynor, Desi Arnaz, Lucille Ball, and a host of other favorites.	Thomas Gruenewald
2019	Spring	How to Look at and Understand Great Art, Part Two	6	Great art is among the most sublime, meaningful, and redeeming creations of all civilization. Few endeavors can equal the power of great artwork to capture aesthetic beauty, to move and inspire, to change your perceptions, and to communicate the nature of human experience. Great art is also complex, mysterious, and challenging. Filled with symbolism, cultural and historical references, and often visionary imagery, great artworks oblige us, defy us, even to reckon with their many meanings. What does it take to truly know what you're seeing when you look at art? What technical skills and knowledge are needed to comprehend the full richness of artworks, to unpack the hidden significance of master paintings, sculptures, prints, and more? This course, from the Great Courses DVD collection, features lectures by Professor Sharon L. Hirsh, president of Rosemont College.	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2019	Spring	Playreading	6	<p>To welcome spring and lighten our hearts, we'll read from a collection published in 2007 of 36 short comic plays called Laugh Lines by authors such as Elaine May, Shel Silverstein, Christopher Durang, Steve Martin (THE Steve Martin) and 32 others. They include "Your Mother's Butt," an insane therapy session in which the client confuses his clothing choices with his maternal nightmares; and "Alone at Last!", in which a young inexperienced couple try to lose their respective virginities together while a chorus of family members and friends constantly interrupts them with warnings on the one hand and critiques on the other. You get the idea.</p> <p>Reading material: Laugh Lines: Short Comic Plays, ed. Eric Lane, Nina Shengold, Vintage Books, 2007</p>	Robert Rumsey
2019	Spring	The Dead Cat Bounce and the Wall of Worry	6	<p>An irreverent romp through the mysteries of economics and finance. We will pierce the veil of baloney and mysticism to reveal an eternal truth: no one is an expert on what hasn't happened yet. But when it comes to investing the only thing that counts is what you do next. And the odds of making the right decision are no better than a coin flip. But they are slightly better if you can avoid the really bad stuff.</p> <p>Jerry will draw upon decades of economics and finance experience, during which time he participated in every debacle that you can imagine and some that are beyond belief.</p> <p>We will take a (sometimes) humorous look at the world of money. One funny thing about money is that it's not funny when you don't have it. It's true that money can't buy happiness but it can enable you to be miserable in a better neighborhood.</p>	Jerry Jamin

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2019	Spring	Let's Talk Poetry - Joyfully	6	<p>By reading aloud and discussing poems we will come to appreciate the special place that good poetry holds in our lives. Learn the joy that can come from thoughtful observation of nature and of human experience, and listen to the rhythm of modern poetic music. More a discussion group than a lecture, this class will be a creation of its members.</p> <p>Required Text: Good Poems, Garrison Keillor, Penguin Books, 2002</p> <p>Suggested Texts: The Classic Hundred Poems, ed. William Harmon, Columbia University Press, 1998; How to Read a Poem and Fall in Love with Poetry, Edward Hirsch, Harcourt, 1999</p>	Maura Wolf
2019	Spring	Italian-American Immigrants	5	<p>This four-part documentary is a continuation of our examination of marginalization in the United States. It varies simply because it is a story of successful adaptation and assimilation. As we examine the experience of Italian-American immigrants we will consider their success in the context of the larger issue of marginalization.</p>	Laurance Rand
2019	Fall	Listening to Great Music, Part 3	8	<p>In Part 3 of How to Listen To and Understand Great Music, Professor Robert Greenberg examines the evolution of Western music from the Romantic Period through the twentieth century.</p>	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2019	Fall	Opera on Stage and on the Big Screen	8	<p>Please note that this course has been cancelled. The operas not covered will be covered during the spring term.</p> <p>This course will be coordinated with the Metropolitan Opera HD broadcasts of the 2019-2020 season as shown at the Moviehouse in Millerton and the Mahaiwe in Great Barrington. We will examine the sources of the librettos; for example Puccini's <i>Madama Butterfly</i> began as a short story published in <i>The Saturday Evening Post</i>. The story was then turned into a play by David Belasco, which Puccini saw on a visit to New York and decided to use for his next opera. We will also review the production history. Again looking at <i>Madama Butterfly</i>, the premiere was not a success and Puccini made many revisions before it became a hit. In addition to <i>Madama Butterfly</i> we will explore Puccini's <i>Turandot</i>, Massenet's <i>Manon</i>, Berg's <i>Wozzeck</i>, the Gershwin's <i>Porgy and Bess</i>, Handel's <i>Agrippina</i>, Puccini's <i>Tosca</i>, and Donizetti's <i>Maria Stuarda</i>.</p>	Thomas Gruenewald
2019	Fall	When Life Feels Unfair-- An Exploration of the Book of Job	6	<p>Job deals with some of the biggest of life's questions, like how to deal with the reality of bad things happening to good people, what are some of things Job teaches and doesn't teach us about the human condition and the nature of God. Job can be looked at simply as great literature, of course, but I will approach it on its own terms, that is as a book of faith, and explore why this is such a pressing issue for people of faith. We'll do some looking at how Job has been viewed from within the Jewish, Christian, and Moslem faiths, and may take a look at some of the dramatic/literary treatments of Job (from Archibald Macleish, Robert Frost, et al.)</p>	Richard Reifsnnyder

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2019	Fall	The Supreme Court 2018-2019: Slow Step or Lurch to the Right?	6	With the addition of Brett Kavanaugh, the United States under John Roberts has a decidedly conservative majority. The extent to which that majority moves the Court's jurisprudence to the right remains to be seen. We will examine the Court's rulings in its 2018-2019 term involving gerrymandering, class action suits, gun control laws, 4th Amendment protection against unreasonable searches and seizures, tribal treaty rights, 1st Amendment church v. state issues, and the scope of 8th Amendment protection against cruel and unusual punishment as well as excessive fines. Only after we do this will we be able to determine whether the past term has been a slow step or a lurch. Welcome for the ride. It won't be smooth.	Laurance Rand
2019	Fall	Are you ready for the 2020 election?	4	<p>What do you plan to do as a Republican, Democrat or Independent to have the candidate of your choice win?</p> <p>Session One: Importance of Primaries. Review of Constitution and election process. Voting rights. Voter interference and suppression. Early Voting. Electoral College</p> <p>Session Two: Review of elections from 1960 thru 2016. Why did people win? What caused an upset? Are we living in a different world than what we grew up in? What qualities do you want your candidate to have?</p> <p>Session Three: Issues and goals important to you? Is there a hope for cooperation rather than Partisanship? Does our system work anymore?</p> <p>Session Four: How does your candidate win? What are you going to do to make a difference? How important is control of Congress?</p>	David Bayersdorfer

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2019	Fall	Eisenhower and the 1950s	8	While he was president from 1953 to 1961, Dwight Eisenhower's opponents, liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans alike, branded him a genial but do-nothing executive who, trading on his undeniable popular appeal as a victorious general in WWII, essentially retired to the highest office in the land and delegated the messy business of governance to strong-willed subordinates while he spent most of his waking hours playing golf. This estimate held the field for years after he left office. But recently that cloud has begun to lift. The release of formerly classified materials and their use by historians and biographers not swayed by the political and cultural passions of the 1950s has resulted in a more positive appraisal of the 34th president. In 1962, a poll of academics ranked Eisenhower 22nd out of 34 presidents. In 2017, another poll of academics ranked him 5th! Today, he's in the heady company of Washington, Lincoln and the two Roosevelts, a position that would have staggered the courtiers of Camelot, who were convinced that Eisenhower stood condemned forever in the eyes of history. Combining biography, political and social history, this course will examine Eisenhower's life and	Robert Rumsey

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2019	Fall	Great Decisions 2019	9	<p>This is an international discussion program produced by the Foreign Policy Association and conducted in over 500 cities around the world. This year's topics are: Refugees & Global Migration; Middle East Regional Disorder; Nuclear Negotiations; The Rise of Populism; U.S. & China Trade; India And Its Neighbors; Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics; The State of Diplomacy. This course continues a partnership with students and faculty from Housatonic Valley Regional High School.</p> <p>All registrants should get the 2019 great decisions briefing book. As before you can purchase it by phone (1-800-477-5836) or online at fpa.org. Regrettably the cost is now about \$35.00 including shipping charge. An attractive option is to download the digital edition (\$13) from Amazon.com on your Kindle, iPad, or any similar device with Ebook function. Go to Amazon.com and request Great Decisions 2019. Several of us have already done so and found it quite satisfactory.</p>	
2019	Fall	Poetry Around the World	6	<p>In this six-week program, we will read and discuss poems from all over the globe: South America, Spain, Germany, France, Persia, China and Japan, as well as others. Poetry reveals the soul of a nation through its individuals' expressions. This is more of a discussion group than an academic lecture. Please join us in learning more about poets and their remarkable views on our life on earth. Please obtain the book "Poet's Choice" by Edward Hirsch. It is a Harcourt Press paperback available on Amazon.</p>	Maura Wolf
2019	Fall	Marginalized Americans: Jewish Americans	5	<p>Using two documentary films (The Jewish Americans and GI Jews), we will examine the Jewish American experience and the tension inherent in it: the tension between their desire to assimilate and their need to maintain their sense of identity.</p>	Laurance Rand

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2019	Fall	Playreading	8	We'll read and discuss plays by August Strindberg, the late nineteenth century Swedish dramatist who was one of the most influential pioneers of the modern theater. His early plays are examples of Naturalism, in which he presents a psychological conflict of mind with mind in a realistic context. Later plays foreshadow Expressionism, with the plots often consisting of a sequence of dream-like events in which as Strindberg said, "everything can happen; everything is possible and likely." All of his plays echo his own troubled personal history and illustrate his bifurcated view of women that evolved in the course of his three rocky marriages. He believed that human life was dominated by the battle of the sexes, and rarely has the concept been as strikingly illustrated as in his plays. Reading material: "Six Plays of Strindberg," translated by Elizabeth Sprigge, a Doubleday paperback, 1955	Robert Rumsey
2020	Winter	A King, a Duke, and a Count with a Woody: Jazz Royalty of the Swing Era	8	Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and Woody Herman. A nostalgic look back at the Big Band Era from the 1920's through the 1960's. We will review the lives, artistry, bands, and associates of these four stellar leaders. We will also listen to an admittedly subjective selection of their best and most interesting music and discuss what makes it great. Our last class will include works from the classical repertoire associated with these "jazzers". NOTE: Jitterbugging, while not technically prohibited, is at your own risk and may be frowned upon by the Health authorities.	John Robinson
2020	Winter	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology: How Life Works	8	This course, from the Great Courses series, is an accessible and entertaining introduction to this vital discipline, heavily-illustrated and tailored to viewers with no more of a science background than high school chemistry.	Lynn Whelchel

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2020	Winter	Shakespeare's Four Roman Plays	8	We will read and discuss Shakespeare's four Roman plays, so-called because they are set either directly in or in the orbit of the Eternal City. Titus Andronicus was Shakespeare's first tragedy, and its blood-drenched atmosphere is often considered to have been a send-up of his contemporary purveyors of horror such as Christopher Marlowe. Julius Caesar, that staple of our schooldays, is Shakespeare's most classic play, severely restrained in structure like his Roman models and dappled with quotations from Ovid and Horace, as well as a meditation upon tyranny and power politics. Antony and Cleopatra stars (I use the word deliberately) Cleopatra, perhaps the most fully realized of all Shakespeare's heroines and a woman who has been called the world's first celebrity, famous for being famous. Coriolanus is Shakespeare's most overtly political play and explores what William Hazlitt called the insolence of power and its rewards and costs as exemplified in the career of the Roman general. All the plays were written at least in part to rebut the charge made by Ben Jonson and others that Shakespeare knew small Latin and less Greek.	Robert Rumsey

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2020	Winter	The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly	6	<p>There are 193 sovereign countries. Most have occupied the Bad or Ugly buckets for a substantial portion of their histories. Occupancy rates in the Good bucket are much lower.</p> <p>Because your President relies solely on his capacious gut to make national security decisions, our intelligence agencies have found alternative activities to justify their budgets.</p> <p>The Central Intelligence Agency has made its international data base available to me on a need to know basis. I have been allowed to select only eight countries for our course. The non-disclosure agreement does not permit me to reveal their identities until our class starts. But I can disclose that the "Secret 8" does not include Liechtenstein or Paraguay.</p> <p>"The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" is a classic western movie. The Hollywood portrayals of Bad and Ugly behavior are less awful than the stuff that countries do while pretending to be Good. The country that you think is Good when you go to sleep can be Bad or Ugly when you wake up. Bucket changing is a never ending process. Yogi said "it ain't over till it's over", but it's never going to be over.</p> <p><i>There are no prerequisites for this course, but a sense of humor</i></p>	Jerry Jamin
2020	Winter	How Churchill Changed the World	8	<p>A presentation of the Great Courses' program featuring Great Britain's most celebrated statesman, Winston Churchill, and his varied talents as a politician, public servant, soldier, writer and artist as well as his many significant contributions to the world.</p>	Bruce Montgomerie

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2020	Winter	Bach Christmas Oratorio	6	<p>Note that class has a restricted size.</p> <p>One week on each of the six cantatas in the larger work, with healthy doses of Prussian history and Continental politics of the time.</p> <p>NOTE CAREFULLY: The first class is on January 9th. This course is being offered with the cooperation of the Norfolk Library. There is ample parking around the Norfolk town green as well as in the main section of town behind the library. Class members should reserve the library's parking lot for those with mobility issues.</p>	Mark Scarbrough
2020	Winter	Beginnings, Endings and a Beginning of an End	6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bonnie Prince Charles, the Battle of Culloden and the End of the Stewart Attempt to Regain the English Crown 2. Events Leading to the Colonies Rebelling Against Great Britain. Were they Sufficient to Justify Rebellion? 3. A Time Line Oriented Survey of the Major Revolutionary War Battles in the Northern Colonies 4. Events Leading to the Secession of the Confederate States of America. Were they Sufficient to Justify Civil War? 5. The Civil War Chattanooga-Atlanta-Nashville Campaign that Destroyed a Major Confederate Army. 6. WW II Deception of the Germans by the British as an Important Part of the Normandy Invasion 	Thomas Key

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2020	Winter	Playreading	8	<p>We'll read and discuss plays by Terrence Rattigan (1911-1977), at least to all appearances a well-made British playwright who was popular during the 1940s and 1950s. He wrote carefully constructed, well-made plays, both comedies and semi-tragedies. He claimed that he wrote for a posited Aunt Edna, an upper middle-class, completely conventional theatergoer who knew what she liked and made no apologies for her taste. Rattigan reached his peak just before the advent of the kitchen sink dramas centered on the Angry Young Men of postwar British society.</p> <p>These antiestablishment plays rejected precisely the kind of drama, both in technique and subject matter, at which Rattigan excelled. His reputation as a result remained under a cloud for much of the rest of the twentieth century, although his work lately has begun to experience a revival of sorts. I suspect that the huge success of Downton Abbey may have something to do with this by resurrecting interest in the mores of the British social elite. Given all this, it is tempting to see Rattigan's plays as charming and refreshing interludes from post-modern angst and Continental complexities. But are they? We shall see.</p> <p>We will read "The Winslow Boy", "The Browning Version", "Separate Tables", "The Deep Blue Sea" and "Ross". And if</p>	Robert Rumsey
2020	Winter	Test Course - Do not use	1	Test Course. Do No use, added	

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2020	Fall	Post Industrial Northwest Connecticut	5	<p>Did you know northwest Connecticut is a post-industrial area? For nearly 200 years this area hosted a number of industries making products from mousetraps to heavy ship forgings and cannons. This course reviews that history in five sessions covering the towns of Norfolk, Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon.</p> <p>NOTE: For Further Information, click below for a book list. https://taconiclearningcenter.org/uploads/TLC-biblio-2020.pdf</p>	Richard Paddock
2020	Fall	The Roberts Court: Who Would Have Thought?	7	<p>As Americans awaited a series of June rulings by the Supreme Court in a number of sensitive cases, the general impression was that Chief Justice John Roberts would side with his conservative colleagues in virtually all these cases. While he did in some, he joined the liberal justices in three key cases, one involving the rights of the LBSTQ community, another the DACA program, and the third a Louisiana abortion law. Roberts has replaced Anthony Kennedy as the swing vote on the Court, and the Court can now be rightfully called the Roberts Court. We will examine the key decisions of the Court this past term and attempt to analyze the jurisprudence of the Chief Justice.</p>	Laurance Rand

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2020	Fall	Shakespeare	11	<p>We'll read and discuss Henry IV Parts 1 and 2, and Henry V, the most celebrated of Shakespeare's English history plays. The plays trace the trail of the father and son from Henry IV's successful deposition of Richard II and the founding of his own ruling line to the expedition to France and the glorious victory at Agincourt of his son, Henry V, the "star of England." But the two kings are in competition for the audience's attention and sympathy with Sir John Falstaff, a knight conspicuously lacking in royal qualities. Falstaff's exuberance and lustful striving after whatever experiences life offers suck the air out of the description of the political machinations of both his sovereigns, to such an extent that what was originally conceived by Shakespeare as a subplot has become for many theatergoers the main plot of the plays, with the political trajectories of the two Henrys functioning as a subplot. We'll investigate why this is so and if we agree with this scholarly upending of the roles. After consulting with the class members, sessions may extend to two hours, including a short break at the midpoint.</p> <p>Note: We have two extra classes from the original schedule.</p>	Robert Rumsey

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2020	Fall	Monsters in 19th Century British Literature	9	In this course, we will explore the figure of the monster and conceptions about monstrosity in nineteenth-century British literature. Across a century that experienced unprecedented advances in science and industry, the expansion of the British Empire and global travel, and changes in the agrarian and urban landscape, monsters figure centrally in the cultural and literary imagination. Our readings will include Mary Shelley's <i>Frankenstein</i> ; or, <i>The Modern Prometheus</i> (1818 edition), Emily Brontë's <i>Wuthering Heights</i> , Lewis Carroll's <i>Jabberwocky</i> and Bram Stoker's <i>Dracula</i> as we try to understand figures that are grotesque, frightful, demonic, mysterious, and seductive. Among the questions we will grapple with are: What forms do these monsters take? What spaces do they inhabit? What reactions do they elicit? What are their origins? How do we recognize them as monsters? What are the social, political, and economic contexts in which these stories unfold? A reading schedule will be shared with course participants by mid-August, and supplementary handouts will be provided in class and electronically.	Linda Neiberg

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2020	Fall	The Future Ain't What it Used to Be	6	<p>Autumn: 1950s Bronx, New York: (Yogi Berra, a Navy veteran is playing catcher for the New York Yankees. It's a sure thing for a team that is getting ready for yet another world series championship. Yogi's many humorous quotes will make him the most beloved of all our baseball greats. The Yankees are invincible but so is our nation; the world's only superpower respected by all.</p> <p>Autumn: 2020 Northwest Corner, Connecticut: Likely that Covid-19 infections and deaths will resume growth. We have watched the reopening and liberation of the economy. Enough noncompliance with scientific evidence to make us nervous. The protest and riot events of May-June reveal a nation divided and under social and economic stress. The crowds will cause infections and deaths to spike.</p> <p>We will review what has happened to our society, economy and institutions since the beginning of the year. We can continue to hope for a magic cure—a drug or vaccine that can quickly bring life back to what it once was. Maybe, but hope is not a strategy.</p> <p>There will be opportunities for discussions during the classes and a class forum for you to participate in between classes. With winter and elections coming, it will be up to us formulate our views as to what 2021 will bring. A return to the good old</p>	Jerry Jamin

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2020	Fall	Doctrine, Dictators, and the Devil	4	Hitler, Stalin, and Mao, among a few notable others, are responsible for the genocide, murder, starvation, and political extermination of many millions of individuals in the twentieth century, collectively setting records for brutality, destruction, slaughter, and evil in the whole history of humankind. Why did they do it? Why were they tolerated as long as they were? What can be done to prevent a recurrence? The answer may be our understanding of their kind and a willingness to stop them before they become unstoppable.	Bruce Montgomerie

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2020	Fall	Playreading	8	<p>In 1956, a new school of British playwrights appeared who expressly declared their opposition to the reigning offerings of British popular theater. The previous hits were called "well-made plays" as a tribute to the very visible skill that went into their creation. They dealt chiefly with upper-middle and upper-class themes, reflected the behavioral norms of their subjects, repressed excessive displays of personal emotion, and were largely innocent of ideological charge. In contrast, the new playwrights were usually of working or lower middle-class backgrounds and referred to upper class themes tangentially if at all. The authors preferred the appearance of spontaneity to that of self-conscious craft, brought raw and unfiltered emotion to the foreground and gave more than a hint of Continental imports such as existentialism. They wanted their plays to disturb, not to entertain. Their success pointed the way to the 1960's celebration of instinct and emotion and its corresponding devaluation of exclusively rational means of entralling an audience. After an initial period of rejection, theatergoers accepted these new plays with as much enthusiasm as they had patronized their predecessors. The former practitioners of the well-made play were stunningly dethroned and were not resuscitated for decades. We'll try to trace what there was about these new plays that toppled one popular school of dramatists and established another with such utterly different content and treatment. We'll read and discuss <i>Look Back in Anger</i>, the play by John Osborne that started the</p>	Robert Rumsey

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2021	Winter	Drama: Hits and Misses	5	<p>This class will explore the creation of varied theater events. It is the intention to help the student understand why some productions succeed and some do not. Familiarity with the material (available in print, on YouTube and iTunes) will be helpful. I will share my experiences (and probably some gossip) and entertain questions and comments from the class.</p> <p>January 18: Off-Broadway run followed by tour and return to New York as a stage manager to off-Broadway director: Hamlet, Androcles and the Lion and Dark Lady of the Sonnets.</p> <p>January 25: Period shifting with 7 productions of As You Like It: University of Wisconsin, Great Lakes Shakespeare Festival (2), Berkshire Playhouse, Southern Methodist University, Penn State Festival, University of Connecticut.</p> <p>February 1: Complete development process through critical and commercial success: Original off-Broadway musical Man with a Load of Mischief.</p> <p>February 8: From Goodspeed Opera House to Broadway: revival of Take Me Along (the musical adaptation of O'Connell's Ah, Wilderness!): Goodspeed to New Haven (Shubert Theater) to Kennedy Center to Broadway.</p> <p>February 15: Opera: Metropolitan Opera Studio. St</p>	Thomas Gruenewald

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2021	Winter	Men Plan, the Gods Laugh; but Sometimes the Gods are not Paying Attention.	6	<p>Sessions One, Two and Three: Making the Constitution of the United States of America. This will be a history, certainly not an interpretation.</p> <p>One- The short comings of the Articles of Confederation and the need for change.</p> <p>Two- Building the Constitution with the various problems, plans and options that were considered.</p> <p>Three- Ratification of the Constitution.</p> <p>Sessions Four and Five: Mr. Madison, War and the Battle of New Orleans. A war that few wanted and for which neither side was prepared. The war ended primarily due to lack of interest on either side, and the greatest impact of the war took place after a peace treaty was signed.</p> <p>Session Six: A Look at Don Sickles: A rogue by most definitions, Sickles was supported by Tammany Hall, had a significant impact on design of NYC Central Park, shot and killed Francis Scott Key's son due to an affair Key was having with his wife, and as a Union general either almost caused the Battle of Gettysburg to be lost by the Union or saved the Union's battle line from destruction. The jury is still out.</p>	Thomas Key

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2021	Winter	Douglas MacArthur	8	<p>Rarely in American history has there been a more fruitful subject for partisanship than Douglas MacArthur. Few of his contemporaries, subsequent biographers or historians were immune to his attraction or repulsion. William Manchester called him an "American Caesar." FDR was sure he was "the most dangerous man in America." Harry Truman was equally sure that MacArthur was a "counterfeit," "a man there was nothing real about," and "a dumb son of a bitch" to boot. Yet for Lord Alanbrooke, the senior British military officer during WWII, MacArthur was "the greatest general and the best strategist that the war produced." For one of MacArthur's subordinates, he was "the greatest man alive." For another, similarly bewitched, he was "the greatest man in history." He may have been comparable to Caesar as an inspirational leader of men when he wasn't antagonizing them. But his Rubicon was not the Potomac nor even the Mississippi, but the Yalu River that separated North Korea and China half a world away from Washington. And Harry Truman, whom MacArthur despised as a man and as a president, fired him before he could cross it. To cite just one example of the complicated nature of his personality: born fifteen years after the Civil War ended, his speeches, always written by himself in the purplest of prose, habitually referred to "muskets" and "cannon" as generic weapons of war. Yet in the</p>	Robert Rumsey

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2021	Winter	Narratives of Contagion in an Age of Pandemic	8	In this course, we will explore how writers across several centuries have imagined and narrated information about and experiences of widespread, contagious diseases. Collectively, we will try to understand how literature, history, and culture have been shaped by outbreaks from bubonic plague, to cholera, to influenza, to HIV/AIDS, to COVID-19 and likewise, how literature has shaped cultural histories of disease outbreaks. Our readings will include Giovanni Boccaccio's <i>The Decameron</i> (selections), Daniel Defoe's <i>A Journal of the Plague Year</i> , Edgar Allan Poe's "The Masque of the Red Death," Katherine Anne Porter's "Pale Horse, Pale Rider," Tony Kushner's <i>Angels in America</i> , and Fang Fang's <i>Wuhan Diary: Dispatches from a Quarantined City</i> (selections). Weekly readings will be supplemented with scholarly essays, scientific and medical articles, and primary source materials. Some of the questions we will attend to are: How do writers grapple with the material and metaphorical aspects of contagion? What do contagion narratives reveal about a particular culture? How do literary texts (re)imagine order and disorder in the context of pandemics? What do our narrative responses to disease outbreaks reveal about our relationship to mortality? And what does it mean to read these works as we navigate our own pandemic experience and its attendant anxieties? I will email participants a copy of the reading schedule and list of	Linda Neiberg

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2021	Winter	Renaissance Women Writers	0	In this seminar, we will read poetry, prose, and drama written by women in continental Europe and England during the early modern period. We will consider the possibilities that were available to women, the conditions within which they wrote, and what their writerly concerns reveal about them as individuals, and about their respective cultures. Our readings will include Elizabeth Cary's play, <i>The Tragedy of Mariam, the Fair Queen of Jewry</i> (England), sonnets by Louise Labé (France) and Vittoria Colonna (Italy), and <i>Marvella de Zayas y Sotomayor's</i> <i>The Disenchantments of Love</i> (Spain), as well as biographical materials and scholarly essays. Our guiding questions include: How did women influence one another to write? How did they relate to their male contemporaries? How do these women and their works shape our ideas about the Renaissance and early modernity? And how are these works still resonant and relevant in our own time? I will email participants a copy of the reading schedule and list of texts before our first class.	Linda Neiberg

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2021	Winter	Our Novel Coronavirus: What We Have Learned, Where We Have Failed, and What Is Coming Next	4	<p>Session One: Basic molecular biology, the virus, and its spread. Sessions Two and Three: Vaccines Session Four: The politics surrounding the struggle with SARS-Covid-2.</p> <p>Note: Dr. Kessin will post an aggregate of the columns on this subject that he has written for The Lakeville Journal and The Berkshire Eagle.</p> <p>NOTE: Click below for Rich Kessin,Ãs Columns. https://taconiclearningcenter.org/uploads/kessin-combined-covid-19-columns.pdf</p>	Richard Kessin

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2021	Winter	Shakespeare	8	We'll read aloud and discuss Shakespeare's final three plays of which he was the sole author: Cymbeline, The Winter's Tale and The Tempest. These plays are commonly subsumed under the heading of romance, neither tragedies nor comedies, although with elements of both genres, but chiefly characterized by an emphasis on, among other things, dreams, enchantment, music, shifting identities, recovery of lost siblings and people newly birthed from disasters at sea. Cymbeline illustrates Shakespeare's dexterous management of an extravagantly complicated plot and tests our tolerance of the author's creative wordplay. The Winter's Tale explores what today we call schizophrenia, centering on the hyperbolic jealousy of King Leontes and its echoing derangement of the other characters' behavior. And The Tempest, often called Shakespeare's valedictory, provides a fertile field for postcolonial interpretations and modern explorations of gender. The Winter's Tale and The Tempest in particular contain some of Shakespeare's most memorable verse, as well as songs that have been set to music by subsequent composers such as Schubert. We'll read "The Winter's Tale," "The Tempest" and "Cymbeline" in that order. For those of you who may not have the books, I'll post the complete texts of the plays on my screen and share them with you via Zoom.	Robert Rumsey

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2021	Spring	Fascism	6	<p>Fascism: My personal interest in Fascism is triggered by my family history, including my father's service in the World War I German cavalry and my grandfather's service in World War I as an Austrian army medical officer. My immediate family immigrated to the United States in 1936. This class will explore Fascism and the resistance to it from the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 to the present.</p> <p>Week One: Prologue: Post World War I - Treaty of Versailles - Wilson's 14 points - German reparations Week Two: Postwar Economy - Inflation - Abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II - Weimar world - Mussolini, Franco, Stalin Week Three: Hitler - Hitler - 1936 Olympics - World War II Week Four: Post World War II - European and Asian reconstruction - Marshall Plan - United Nations Week Five: The Cold War</p>	Thomas Gruenewald

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2021	Spring	The Canterbury Tales	8	<p>In this course, we will read selections from Geoffrey Chaucer's last (and unfinished) work, The Canterbury Tales. We will consider these stories in the context of the historical, political, economic, religious, and literary milieu in which they were produced and from which their tellers are drawn. Why, for instance, does Chaucer bring together people from such diverse classes and how do they interact with one another? What do the Tales' various literary genres and forms suggest about the themes, the pilgrim-storytellers, and the experimental qualities of Chaucer's work? What does it mean to go on a pilgrimage in late fourteenth-century England, and what are the various discourses around Christianity, Judaism, and Islam? And what ideas about gender, sexuality, and race does Chaucer explore in the prologues and tales? As we consider corporeal bodies in Chaucer's Tales, we will look at how physical bodies are seen as readable texts, and at how Chaucer produced his written work from the sources he drew upon, to the manuscript culture within which he wrote, to the mosaic of narratives, which yield information about late medieval social hierarchies, gender and race, marriage, the Church, war and chivalric codes, business and trade, and Chaucer's own place in the rising middle class. Together, we likewise will try to make connections between the older worlds of Chaucer's Tales and the world in which we live today. Some of the modern adaptations of Chaucer's work we will examine include Jean</p>	Linda Neiberg

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2021	Spring	Play Reading - Eugene O'Neill	8	<p>Play Reading - Eugene O'Neill: We'll read aloud and discuss Long Day's Journey into Night, which is this play of old sorrow, written in tears and blood, the finest play by arguably America's finest playwright. The ultimate family drama, the play echoes much of O'Neill's own family history and his relationships, torturous but inescapable, with its members. Yet his conception of tragedy lends them an importance greater than their limited roles on the stage of life:</p> <p>To me, the tragic alone has that significant beauty which is truth. It is the meaning of life, and the hope. The noblest is eternally the most tragic. The people who succeed and do not push on to a greater failure are the spiritual middle-classes. Their stopping at success is the proof of their compromising insignificance. How petty their dreams must have been!</p> <p>Following Long Day, for contrast, we'll read the best-known of O'Neill's few comedies, Ah, Wilderness, another family drama, but, superficially at least, missing the later play's guilt-ridden context in favor of happiness all around.</p> <p>The title is adapted from Fitzgerald's translation of the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam:</p> <p>A Jug of Wine, a Loaf of Bread and Thou Beside me singing in the Wilderness Oh, Wilderness were Paradise enow!</p> <p>But was it enough for O'Neill? Could a primarily tragic dramatist, perhaps in spite of himself, have clipped at least a</p>	Robert Rumsey

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2021	Spring	Marginalized Americans: Labor	7	<p>Marginalized Americans: Labor: This course will examine the situation faced by labor in the United States and in other countries in a world of increasing inequality. Because TLC does not have the upload speed to show on Zoom the documentary films which form the basis of this course, the only way we can do this is if class members look at the films on their computers prior to each class. Each class will be a discussion of the movie. Hopefully, this is a one-time only situation. Here are the films we will discuss (in the order listed, one film for each of the seven class meetings. These links should take you directly to the movies, but if you have any difficulty please contact me at lrand44@gmail.com:</p> <p>1. The Fight in the Fields Part One: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b81Xm93Bk7k Part Two: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_Z5prtcxyw</p> <p>2. Wage Crisis https://topdocumentaryfilms.com/wage-crisis/</p>	Laurance Rand

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2021	Spring	Play Reading ,ÁúShakespeare	7	<p>Play Reading √ç,ç" ,Áú Shakespeare: We'll read aloud and discuss, in the following order, Richard III and Macbeth, two plays at least partly designed as propaganda for Shakespeare's contemporary monarchs, Elizabeth and James I. And incidentally, although certainly not intentionally, to act as advertisements for republicanism. The melodramatic Richard III is the run-up to Macbeth. An archetypal figure in a context of civil war, Richard loves plotting and killing consistently throughout the play, although we can detect a slight weakening of purpose and conviction before his final battle. Richard is the ultimate lone wolf, a villain of villains. Unlike the earlier Scottish usurper, Richard does not depend on his wife to soothe his conscience but is delighted to cause mayhem alone and take all the credit for it. The end of the play baptizes, so to speak, the Tudor line and thus sanctions Elizabeth's right to rule. Macbeth similarly is sited in the midst of civic mayhem. Scotland the Brave is a nightmare, literally, in which the malign influence symbolized by the Three Witches blackens the affairs of state and loosens the world from its pivot. Macbeth and his Lady, a power couple from hell, successfully usurp the throne but are brought low, inevitably, by their √ç,ç" ≈ivaulting ambition.√ç,ç" -ù The dynamic of this couple follows its own peculiar trajectory. Macbeth needs Lady Macbeth to steel him to do what he wants to do. Yet following their successful usurpation, she loses her drive while he, in an opposite but parallel evolution, appeals his. As a riff on Richard III, the final</p>	Robert Rumsey

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2021	Fall	Virginia Woolf: Novelist, Essayist, Modernist, Feminist, Pacifist	10	<p>In this course, we will focus on the fiction and nonfiction of Virginia Woolf, a central figure of the modernist movement in art and literature, whose experimental style and prodigious intellect transformed the novel and essay. We will examine these works in their historical contexts, including the emergence of Post-Impressionism and the cinema, debates about women's suffrage and women's roles in society, Freud's psychoanalytic theory and Bergson's theory of time, World War I, colonialism, and the rise of fascism. We also will discuss these works in their personal contexts, including Woolf's complex relationship with her sister, the Post-Impressionist painter Vanessa Bell, her deep relationship with London and the seacoast of England, and her battles with manic depression, which ended with her suicide by drowning in 1941. Our readings will include her novels <i>Jacob's Room</i>, <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i>, and <i>To the Lighthouse</i>, her book-length essay, <i>A Room of One's Own</i>, some of her short stories and essays, as well as selections from her diaries.</p> <p>Questions we will explore include: How did Woolf emerge from her early life in an upper middle-class Victorian household to become an anti-colonialist, a feminist, and a pacifist? How did her involvement as part of London's Bloomsbury Group contribute to her development</p>	Linda Neiberg
2021	Fall	The Barrett Court	8	<p>The appointment of Amy Coney Barrett to the United States Supreme Court resulted in her, not Chief Justice John Roberts, being the tipping point Justice, the one whose vote often determines whether the Court conservatives (Alito, Thomas, Kavanaugh, and Gorsuch) will prevail or if the liberals (Sotomayor, Kagan, and Breyer), with the help of the Chief Justice and Barrett, will write the Court opinion. An examination of key cases in the Court's 2020-2021 Term will illustrate the effect of Barrett's appointment to the Court.</p>	Laurance Rand

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2021	Fall	Lewis and Clark and their America	8	The class will be a detailed description of their expedition set in the context of its time. Details of the Louisiana Purchase that started it off; the fierce opposition that the accession of territory aroused among the Federalists and their threats of secession; the tenuous nature of the bond that formed what we today think of as the United States; Spanish and British opposition to an enlargement of U.S. territory; trade with the Native peoples in the new territory; the results of the expedition both immediate and long term for both the Native and the non-Native inhabitants of the U.S.; and modern attempts to make the text of L&C's Journals yield meanings that would have surprised, not to say infuriated, the original authors. I'll also offer a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate my talk.	Robert Rumsey

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2021	Fall	Stuck in the Middle with You - Course is FINISHED	4	<p>Stuck in the Middle with You</p> <p>Clowns to the left of me! Jokers to the right! Here I am stuck in the middle with you.</p> <p>These lyrics, sung by a Scottish rock band 40 years ago, is where we are today. We are living in a country deeply divided by extremist partisans unwilling to agree on basic facts and devoid of common sense. Many of us have the unsettling feeling that more than half of the country and its politicians are way below average.</p> <p>Fortunately, our class fails all aspirational metrics for diversity, so your instructor is confident that he won't tell you anything that you don't already know. We will try to hold the middle ground, so we can expect flak from all sides.</p> <p>We will cover 'The Years from Hell' or life in America from January 2020 until the day you show up for class. We will take an objective view of the impact of Covid on our lives including our health, economic and societal issues, and political environment.</p> <p>Your instructor herewith renounces his aura of omniscience and welcomes class members to challenge any of his facts, figures</p>	Jerry Jamin

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2021	Fall	Evangelism in America: Blessing or Bane?	6	Many found it surprising that 81% of self-identified evangelicals voted for Donald Trump in the 2016 and 2020 elections, despite his being one of our least ostensibly "religious" Presidents. In popular parlance the term evangelical seems to some fundamentally political, signifying connection to the Republican party. A third of Americans consider themselves evangelical. But what exactly is an "evangelical"? Is its core definition religious, cultural, or political? Evangelicalism has deep roots in America, going back to the Puritans and being shaped significantly by the Great Awakening. Evangelicals were instrumental in securing the 1st amendment and were heavily invested in social causes in the 19th c., including abolitionism. This class will in essence be a survey of American religion, through the lens of evangelicalism. Major attention will be given to major developments in the last half century, and the movement's current connection to conservative causes.	Richard Reifsnyder
2021	Fall	Shakespeare Play Reading	8	In my Playreading course we'll read and discuss three of Shakespeare's "problem" plays - problems for us today, that is, not necessarily for him or his audience. We'll take a good, hard, and, I hope, unflinching look at "The Merchant of Venice", "Othello" and "Titus Andronicus". Anti-Semitism and racism rear their ugly heads here and we'll try to understand what the consequences might be if we convict Shakespeare of these horrors. Or not.	Robert Rumsey

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2022	Winter	Plagues and Pandemics from 430 B.C. to the Present	5	<p>This class will explore a chronological view of plagues and pandemics through recorded history. In addition, we will examine the search for preventative measures such as vaccines and quarantines. It is my hope that this study will bring some much-needed understanding of our current pandemic.</p> <p>Week 1 430 B.C. Athens (possibly typhoid fever) 165 A.D. Antonine plague (possibly typhoid fever) 250 A.D. Cyprian plague (possibly smallpox, measles, or hemorrhagic fever -Ebola)</p> <p>Week 2 541 A.D. Justinian plague (possibly bubonic plague) 11th Century (leprosy)</p> <p>Week 3 1350 The Black Death (bubonic plague) 1492 The Columbian Exchange (small pox, measles, and bubonic plague)</p> <p>Week 4 1665 The Great Plague of London(bubonic plague) 1817 The First Cholera Pandemic(cholera) 1855 The Third Plague Pandemic(bubonic plague) 1889 Russian Flu</p>	Thomas Gruenewald

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2022	Winter	Some Untoward Events that Affected the Politics and Policies of Our Young Republic, 1789 to 1807	6	<p>Some Untoward Events that Affected the Politics and Policies of Our Young Republic, 1789 to 1807, and the Presidential Elections of 1824 and 1828:</p> <p>Last year my course covered the writing and ratification of the U S Constitution and then skipped to the War of 1812. In between the ratification in 1788 and the buildup to the War of 1812 in 1807, a number of events took place which were very important to the young United States. I will discuss these events on a timeline basis. Hamilton,Ãs fiscal program, Citizen Genet Affair, XYZ Affair, Alien and Sedition Acts, Tripolitan War, misc. duels, etc. will be some of the happenings that I will present. These will be covered in five sessions.</p> <p>For the sixth session I will discuss the US presidential elections of 1824 and 1828. And you think politics are nasty now!</p>	Thomas Key

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2022	Winter	Witchcraft and Magic in the Renaissance	10	<p>In this course, we will focus on representations of witches, devils, and necromancers on the Elizabethan and Jacobean stage. We will examine these works in their historical contexts, including Catholicism and the Protestant Reformation; monarchy and female rule; sovereignty and succession; local custom and national order; the creation of secular theatre and public playhouses; and the discourses between science and the supernatural. Questions we will explore include: What are the similarities and differences between witchcraft persecutions in England and continental Europe? How are monarchy and absolutism part of this discussion? In what ways does gender factor into beliefs about and depictions of witches, devils, and necromancers? How do the Protestant Reformation and the Catholic Counter-Reformation shape contemporaneous discourses about witchcraft and magic? How do local folklore and local communities shape these discourses? And how does the early modern English stage itself become a site of magical transformations?</p> <p>Our readings will include Marlowe, <i>Doctor Faustus</i>, Shakespeare, <i>The Tragedy of Macbeth</i> and <i>The Winter, Tale</i>, and Dekker, Ford, and Rowley, <i>The Witch of Edmonton</i>, along with excerpts from King James VI and I, <i>Daemonology</i> and historical accounts of witchcraft trials. I likewise will recommend films to watch on our own, including a new production of a</p>	Linda Neiberg

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2022	Winter	Playreading: Modern Dramatist	8	<p>Peter Shaffer (1926-2016) was a British playwright. Among other things, Shaffer was fascinated by the differing responses to his work of American and British audiences. So much so that following their successful London openings, he often rewrote some of his plays to better suit an audience on this side of the pond. And the tactic worked.</p> <p>I've chosen the following plays to be read in this order and added to each title a response of Shaffer's to the reception of the play:</p> <p><i>Black Comedy</i> (,ÄúA stern-looking middle-aged man sitting directly in front of me suddenly fell out of his seat into the aisle....and began calling out to the actors in a voice weak from laughing, 'Oh stop it! Please stop it!' I cannot remember a more pleasing thing ever happening to me inside a theater.,Äù)</p> <p><i>Equus</i> (,ÄúWhen the English were outraged by the play, it was because it showed cruelty to horses; when Americans were outraged, it was because it showed cruelty to psychiatrists.,Äù)</p> <p><i>The Public Eye</i> (,ÄúCristoforou was played by the coruscating Kenneth Williams, and I would stand at the back of the theater night after night just to experience the hysterical accuracy with which he would explode every line of his closing</p>	Robert Rumsey

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2022	Winter	A Republic if You Can Keep It	5	<p>December 1787: The delegates have just ratified the new constitution. Benjamin Franklin was asked what type of government we would have. His answer remains a warning.</p> <p>Now, the lights are flashing. Two thirds of Americans think the country is heading in the wrong direction and half of Republicans think the insurrection was a legitimate protest.</p> <p>Common sense and fiscal responsibility are rare commodities. Illegal immigrants are suing the government for compensation because we did not meet their expectations. And the administration won, "just say no. Does your government care that it, " your hard-earned taxes that they are spending?</p> <p>Trump fearing Republicans and left-wing extremist Democrats leave many Americans "stuck in the middle". Congress has a 20% approval rating. That number is missing a decimal place. Have you ever met someone who approved?</p> <p>Some states are engaging in voter suppression and passing laws enabling legislative overrides on outcomes that they don't like. The goal is to make sure that politicians get to choose their voters. The clock is ticking.</p>	Jerry Jamin

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2022	Winter	Shakespeare in Italy	8	<p>Italy fascinated the Elizabethans. For them, it was an exotic, larger than life country where anything could happen and usually did. Always with an eye for the main chance, Shakespeare set thirteen of his plays, a little more than one third of his total output, either wholly or in part in that seductive land. We'll read and discuss Romeo and Juliet, Measure for Measure and The Taming of the Shrew in that order. Incidentally, modern Italy has tried to repay the favor. In 2002, a Sicilian scholar named Martino Iuvare entered the minefield of Shakespeare's identity. He proposed that the real William Shakespeare was born in Messina, Sicily, as Michelangelo Florio Crollanza, who emigrated to London and anglicized his last name. Crolla, from crollare, to shake, and lanza or lancia, meaning lance or spear, by an easy transition became the author of the plays we'll read. What could be clearer? Such can be the penalty of international fame.</p> <p>Since we'll be using Zoom, I'll scroll the texts of the plays on your screen.</p>	Robert Rumsey

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2022	Spring	Frick and Frack in the Theater	5	<p>Frick and Frack: any two people who are closely linked in some way, especially through a work partnership or strong friendship. (The origin is from a famous partnership of Swiss comedy ice skaters, whose stage names were Frick and Frack. Their association lasted so long, and they were at one time so well known, that their names have gone into the language as slang or a reference to two people who work well together or get along great.) Tom Gruenewald (Frick) and Macey Levin (Frack) will share their varied theater experiences, professional and academic. The class will be invited to ask questions and contribute their experiences. Each class will focus on different aspects of the theater profession.</p> <p>April 18: Week 1 Who we are and what we,Äöve done.</p> <p>April 25: Week 2 Auditions and casting</p> <p>Please note: a skipped week!</p> <p>May 9: Week 3 New scripts: (working with writers and composers)</p> <p>May 16: Week 4 Directing techniques</p> <p>May 23: Week 5 Battle stories: (rehearsals/productions/critics)</p>	Tom and Macey
2022	Spring	Marginalized Americans: LBGTQs	4	<p>This course will be a resumption of the documentary film series that was interrupted by the pandemic and our inability to show films on Zoom. It will focus on the struggles and progress of the LBGTQ community as well as discuss the current movement in several states to thwart the advances made.</p>	Laurance Rand

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2022	Spring	Mark Twain and the Gilded Age:	8	<p>Samuel Langhorne Clemens, a.k.a Mark Twain, came in with Halley's comet in 1835 and went out with it, as he predicted he would, in 1910. But the comet's periodic visitation doesn't begin to describe Twain's extraordinary literary career. He was the most famous American author of his day. His novel, <i>Huckleberry Finn</i>, has been called the greatest American novel, as well as the fountainhead of all subsequent American literature. He was also the most famous American, period, both at home and abroad. Almost single-handedly he popularized American literary culture and gave it a place at the international table. He traveled throughout the anglophone world, which, in the glory days of the British Empire, encompassed most of the planet considered worth knowing, and coupled with the development of photography and modern communication networks this itinerary made him the first world-wide celebrity. To top it all off, "Mark Twain" has become the most famous alias in world literature.</p> <p>I'll include a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate my talks.</p>	Robert Rumsey
2022	Spring	The Blues: A Very Short and Subjective Survey - Three Queens and a Pair of Kings	8	<p>We will take a look at and listen to a truly American music - what is and how it came about, and how it has influenced virtually every musical genre since. In-class listening to historically relevant blues and some of its "coolest" progeny. Also includes opinions, celebrity gossip and a pinch of hero worship, which should make for a fun as well as informative class.</p>	John Robinson

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2022	Spring	Play Reading ,Ài Shakespeare,Àôs Royal Road	8	<p>In the Elizabethan era, plays about England's Kings were surefire hits, and with his sensitive ear for what would attract and please his audiences, Shakespeare was happy to oblige them. We'll read <i>Henry VI, Part 2; Richard II; and King John</i> in that order. A common theme in all the plays is the need for the English state to fend off foreigners and control the rabble, and to accomplish these ends the occupant of the throne needs to be worthy of it. <i>Henry VI</i> is founded on the political and cultural chasm that existed between the ruling elite and the common people. Henry himself is a weak ruler who lacks inner strength, a failing that his Queen, a proto-Lady Macbeth, doesn't let him forget. <i>Richard II</i> is a portrait of an aesthete entirely overcome by the demands of his position and forced to yield his throne and his life to the future Henry IV, a much stronger and more worldly-wise king. <i>King John</i>, similarly, emphasizes the need for competent rulership to defeat foreign as well as domestic enemies. The memory of the glorious recent defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 was a backdrop for the plays and stood as proof of the need for unity in the nation and virtue in its rulers.</p>	Robert Rumsey

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2022	Spring	Milton's Paradise Lost and William Blake's illustrations for Paradise Lost	8	In this course, we will read John Milton,Äôs epic poem, <i>Paradise Lost</i> (1674). We will supplement each week,Äôs readings and discussions with images of William Blake,Äôs 1808 illustrations for <i>Paradise Lost</i>. Arguably one of the most complex and ambitious poems in the English language, <i>Paradise Lost</i> seeks to ,Äújustify the ways of God to men.,Äù A Puritan who supported religious freedom, Milton supported the overthrow of the Stuart monarchy and establishment of the republic. As we read <i>Paradise Lost</i>, we will study the poem,Äôs epic structure, and its relationship to,Äîand departures from,Äîthe classical tradition. We also will examine how Milton,Äôs religious and political beliefs shaped his <i>magnum opus</i>. What shapes, for instance, does rebellion take, in an epic poem that begins with the expulsion of Lucifer and his followers from Heaven and continues with Adam and Eve,Äôs rebellion against God and expulsion from Eden? Why does Satan speak some of the most beautiful words in the poem,Äîand perhaps in all English epic poetry? What do we learn about Milton,Äôs ideas of gender when we read the descriptions of Adam and Eve and their conversations with each other? What is the nature of God,Äîand of (hu)mans? And, of course, how does Milton shape himself in the great lineage of epic poets in the Western tradition? We will supplement our readings with studies of William Blake,Äôs 1808 illustrations for <i>Paradise Lost</i>, particularly the ways in which Blake sees himself in conversation with (and sometimes as a	Linda Neiberg

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2022	Fall	The United States Supreme Court, 2021-2022	7	<p>In what has been one of its most controversial terms since the 1930s, the Court has handed down decisions written by a conservative majority that have resulted in questions regarding the legitimacy of the Court, the rule of law, the growing distance between the Court's rulings and public opinion on key issues. We will examine six decisions and their relationship to the above issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency • Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization • New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen • Carson v. Makin • Shurtleff v. Boston • Kennedy v. Bremerton School District 	Laurance Rand
2022	Fall	Morality Tales: Short Stories by Tolstoy and Flannery O'Connor	6	<p>Both Leo Tolstoy and Flannery O'Connor are concerned with the flawed nature of human beings and the moral imperative of what might be called redemption. Their stories suggest that some moral requirements are not relative or incidental but universal and fundamental to the essence of being human.</p> <p>Texts: The Greatest Short Stories of Leo Tolstoy Flannery O'Connor, The Complete Stories (FGS classics)</p>	Lyn Mattoon

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2022	Fall	The Presidency of Harry Truman	8	<p>Few chief executives have enjoyed, or endured, terms of office as consequential as the presidency of Harry Truman. His order to use nuclear weapons for the first and so far only time, and in whose shadow we still live, helped to force the surrender of Japan and the end of WWII. His ongoing attempts to counter the seemingly limitless ambitions of Joseph Stalin, the absolute master of the Communist Soviet Union, set in motion a Cold War that was to last for more than forty years and with whose echo in Putin's Russia we try to coexist today. The Truman Doctrine pulled America out of its isolationist shell; initiated a permanent military build-up both at home and abroad; led to the creation of NATO and the unprecedented peacetime American membership in that European coalition; and set our country on the road to acting as policeman for the world, with consequences in Korea, Vietnam and Iraq, to name only a few. The Marshall Plan, sending American resources overseas on a scale never before attempted, helped to rebuild a Europe shattered by the war. Truman's support for the new state of Israel, in the teeth of the opposition of his own State Department, ensured that a Jewish homeland would survive. At home, Truman established a Loyalty Program to counter what was perceived as a domestic communist threat and by doing so fueled a burgeoning Red Scare and kickstarted the career of Joseph McCarthy. The ultimate responsibility for these world-changing events was Truman's and his alone, as he recognized in his celebrated formulation, "the buck stops here."</p>	Robert Rumsey

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2022	Fall	The Future Ain,Äôt What It Used to Be	4	<p>Yogi Berra is credited with the above insight. Your instructor knows that no one is an expert about what hasn,Äôt happened yet.</p> <p>Most of us come from a world that had a degree of stability and predictably. The Yankees would win the world series, you would go to college, maybe serve in the military, raise a family and your children would be better off than you were, just as you were better off than your parents. Expectations were high and the outlook optimistic. Americans were sure that we were destined to benignly rule the world. Especially if you were White, Male, and born in the USA.</p> <p>So much for the good old days. What counts now is the trajectory. What does our recent past and current national angst portend about the future.</p> <p>This year we,Äôll take a different approach. I will not be giving a lecture. Instead, we,Äôll have an open dialogue. No mute buttons. Interrupt at any time to state your view. I,Äôll show up with the data and facts and strongly held opinions, but chances are your predictions are as good as mine. Or to quote my daughter ,Äúthat,Äôs my dad...often wrong but never in doubt.,Äù</p>	Jerry Jamin

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2022	Fall	Shakespeare Play Reading	8	<p>We'll read aloud and discuss Hamlet, Twelfth Night and King Lear in that order. Hamlet and King Lear have been called „Äthe twin peaks of Shakespeare's achievement in tragedy.,Ä Madness is central to both plays, in Hamlet's case pretended, in Lear's actual. In Hamlet, the dramatic pressure is internal, in Hamlet's response to his intolerable personal situation. In King Lear, the pressure is more external and Lear responds to a world that is evil. For light relief, the tragedies will bookend Twelfth Night, the most musical of all Shakespeare's plays, in which the anti-hero Malvolio, who is „Äsick of self-love.,Ä gets his comic comeuppance.</p> <p>I'll scroll the texts of the plays on your screens.</p>	Robert Rumsey
2022	Fall	Marginalized Americans: Asian Americans	7	<p>Asian immigrants helped build the transcontinental railroad in the United States, they helped advance laws protecting workers rights, they made key contributions to the development of atomic science, and they have been critical to progress in civil rights. In spite of these and other contributions they have faced discrimination in multiple forms, from the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 to the attempted reduction of Asian Americans in colleges in the United States. The documentary films in this course examine the Asian American experience. They will serve as a gateway for discussion.</p>	Laurance Rand

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2023	Winter	MEN PLAN, THE GODS LAUGH, PART II	6	<p>Sessions One and Two: Gen. Burgoyne's campaign to take Albany, NY (ended at Saratoga) and Gen. Clinton's campaign to take Philadelphia, in the American Revolution. No cooperation!</p> <p>Sessions three and four: General Lee's two invasions of the North ending in the battle of Gettysburg. Bloody!</p> <p>Session five: Admiral Yamamoto's campaign to take Wake Island in WW II. A disaster!</p> <p>Session six: Examples of three important elements in waging war:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tactics: Hannibal and the Battle of Cannae, 262 BC. -Weapons: Henry V and the Battle of Agincourt, 1415 AD -Misdirection: Invasion of Sicily, WW II, and "The Man Who Never Was" 	Thomas Key
2023	Winter	The Perennial Questions	6	<p>Why are we here? Who am I? What is true? Human beings have posed these questions as long as they have been able to think. In this six-week class we will take a look at a few of the most enduring approaches to these questions. We will consider ideas about the purpose of human life, the means and ends of self-knowledge, and the challenge of discerning what is really true.</p>	Lyn Mattoon

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2023	Winter	Alexis de Tocqueville: Democracy in America	8	<p>In 1831, Alexis de Tocqueville, a young French aristocrat, traveled to America and found the future. The nations of the earth, he concluded, or at least the enlightened part of them, were moving inevitably toward a condition of social equality that in the world of politics was taking the form of democracy. This new kind of polity was rising on the ruins of the old, hierarchical societies, and the young republic was the clearest example of it. Previous visitors from overseas had concentrated on the minutiae of daily American life, but Tocqueville was after bigger game. He wanted to tease out the broad implications of increasing social equality and democracy rather than focus on the details that were bound to differ from one nation to another. These implications then would have the widest possible relevance to the various societies of the emerging modern world. This new dispensation, Tocqueville realized, was full of both promise and peril, and he devoted himself to transmitting this balanced assessment to his European contemporaries. The book that resulted, <i>Democracy in America</i>, has been called the "greatest work ever written about one country by a citizen of another." Because his conclusions were so general and of such wide application his book appropriately addressed the Americans of his own time, his fellow citizens in France still trying to come to terms with the modern world, and, not least, speaks to our own distracted society today, the uneasy inheritor of the raw republic in whose image he saw the future.</p>	Robert Rumsey

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2023	Winter	Experimental Cinema: A six-session session course on the history and the development of Experimental Cinema	6	This course attempts to present the participants a historical view of the genre, styles and the role of the filmmakers who developed and perfected the concept and the vision of Experimental Cinema. Invention of the movie camera offered a broad and diverse tool for artists to express their own interpretation of nature and life around them. Camera became another tool, a "brush" for artists to create moving images which projected their own aesthetic principles and perceptions. There will be a presentation of early cinema from France, Soviet Union, England and the United States. Early films by the Lumiere Brothers to Andy Warhol and how through ages, cinema has evolved from a vehicle to tell a story or document everyday life, to a tool expressing an individual artist's personal vision. Through the sessions of the lectures there will be an ongoing discussion about the goal for Experimental Films, which is to place the viewer in a more active and more thoughtful relationship to the film, which will be discussed. The 6 sessions will be an opportunity for the participants to understand this particular form of cinema and the various expressions and theorizations from various artists. The sessions will be coordinated with projections of stills from movies and at the end of each session there will be screening of a film, and an open discussion by the participants. During the entire sessions of the courses, informal and open-minded discussions of opinions will be encouraged.	Varoujan Froundjian

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2023	Winter	Unsung Heroes of WWII	8	We all know of Winston Churchill, FDR, Dwight Eisenhower; the Battle of Britain, the Battle of the Bulge, and more. What most of us do not know of are the unsung heroes of World War II, those who contributed significantly to the Allies' victory: men and women who were critical to the war effort but engaged in clandestine operations; men and women who provided essential services to the Allied effort. This course is both a lecture by Lynne Olson (author of <u>Citizens of London</u> and other exceptional books) together with classes led by Larry and Carol Rand.	Larry&Carol Rand
2023	Winter	Shakespeare Playreading	8	We'll read aloud and discuss <i>Twelfth Night</i> and <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> . The two plays are often called "festive" comedies because each commemorates a significant day marked by popular license in the Elizabethan calendar. <i>Twelfth Night</i> refers to the last night of the twelve days of Christmas, and in spite of its religious origin it was a thoroughly secular celebration. <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> takes its title from the evening before midsummer day, the summer solstice and the longest day of the year, when the prospect of warmth and lengthening days inspired much misbehavior. If time permits, we'll also read <i>Troilus and Cressida</i> , one of Shakespeare's so-called "problem plays," which contain both tragic and comic elements and thus resist easy placement in the canon. I'll scroll the texts of the plays on your screens.	Robert Rumsey

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2023	Spring	Part Two: Unsung Heroes of WWII	6	<i>the winter, we examined several unsung heroes of World War II. There are many we did not get to. So ,Ä¶</i> We all know of Winston Churchill, FDR, Dwight Eisenhower; the Battle of Britain, the Battle of the Bulge, and more. What most of us do not know of are the unsung heroes of World War II, those who contributed significantly to the Allies' victory: men and women who were critical to the war effort but engaged in clandestine operations; men and women who provided essential services to the Allied effort. This course is both a lecture by Lynne Olson (author of <u>Citizens of London</u> and other exceptional books) together with documentary films.	Laurance Rand

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2023	Spring	The Cold War	8	The Cold War was the ideological, military, economic and at least formally pacific rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union that began in 1945 following the surrender of Nazi Germany and ended with the breakup of the Soviet Union itself in 1991. Although centered on the principals, their competition drew most of the nations of the earth directly or indirectly into their orbits. Significant events of the period were the establishment of the United Nations; Churchill's "Iron Curtain" speech; the Truman Doctrine; the Marshall Plan; the Berlin airlift; communist coup in Czechoslovakia; founding of the State of Israel; establishment of West and East Germany; Mao's takeover in China; the Korean War; founding of NATO and the Warsaw Pact; Khrushchev's "Secret Speech"; the uprising in Hungary; debacle at Suez; Sputnik; Fidel Castro takes Cuba; the U-2 incident; erection of the Berlin Wall; missile crisis in Cuba; American buildup in Vietnam; China's Cultural Revolution; 1967 Arab-Israeli War; Prague's brief Spring; Willy Brandt's <i>Ostpolitik</i> ; Detente, or the "thaw"; Nixon visits China; Nixon visits Moscow and signs SALT I and ABM treaties; war in 1973 between Israel, Egypt and Syria; the Arab oil boycott; the Helsinki Accords; Angolan civil war; revolution in Iran; Soviet invasion of Afghanistan; Polish Solidarity established; Iran-Iraq War; Reagan's "evil empire"; Reagan's "Star Wars"; Flight 007 shot down; Gorbachev's reforms; perestroika (reconstruction) and glasnost (transparency); Reagan and Gorbachev meet at Reykjavik; "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall"; Gorbachev	Robert Rumsey
2023	Spring	Celebrating a Century of Jazz Starlettes	6	Unfortunately, we cannot recognize every lady who contributed to the music, but while a few names will be recognizable there are some very pleasant surprises also. We will discuss and listen to recordings of some vocalists, bandleaders, and mostly great instrumentalists. The selections are, of course, subjective but do represent the last 100 years.	John Robinson

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2023	Spring	Shakespeare Playreading	8	Sandwiching a love story that ends happily between two that do not, we'll read aloud and discuss <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> , <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> , and <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> .	Robert Rumsey
2023	Fall	Exiles: German and Austrian Artists and Intellectuals in America beginning in the 1930's	8	This class will explore the experiences of many celebrated German and Austrian artists and intellectuals seeking refuge in the United States from the Nazi take-over of Europe. A PowerPoint presentation of fascinating photographs will complement the amazing stories of those below, among others: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> oMadeleine Albright, born in Prague; then 1938 London, return to Prague 1948, then Denver. oBertolt Brecht, born in Augsburg, Germany; then Munich, Berlin, Stockholm, Helsinki, 1941 Santa Monica, 1947 return to Europe, 1949 East Berlin. oAlbert Einstein, born in Ulm, Württemberg, Germany; then Munich, Pavia, Italy, Switzerland, Berlin, 1933 emigration to U.S. Princeton, N.J. oHenry Kissinger, born in Fürth, Bavaria; then 1938 London, New York, now Kent, CT. oOtto Klemperer, born in Breslau, Prussia; then Hamburg, Frankfurt, Berlin, Prague, Strasbourg, Cologne, 1933 Switzerland, 1935 Los Angeles, 1947 Budapest, Zürich oHedy Lamarr, born in Vienna; then 1931 Berlin, 1935 Paris, 1937 London, then Hollywood oFritz Lang, born in Vienna; then 1913 Paris, Vienna, WWI, 1918, Berlin, 1933 Paris, 1936 Hollywood. oThomas Mann, born in Lüneburg, Germany; then Munich, Switzerland, 1939 Princeton, N.J., Los Angeles, 1952 Zürich. oEdward Teller, born in Budapest; then Germany, England, Copenhagen, 1935 Washington D.C. 	Thomas Gruenewald

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2023	Fall	Beyond the Nutcracker ,Äi A Closer Look at Tchaikovsky	8	Have you ever wondered what else Pyotr Ilyitch composed? Well, lots,Ä¶ of really great music. This class will present the in-depth biography created by Dr. Robert Greenberg for The Teaching Company's <i>Great Courses</i>. We will follow up each week's lecture by hearing excellent performances of some of the works mentioned in the biography and some lesser known works as well. I hope you will join us for some of the most beautiful, melodic and timeless music ever written. (IMHO, of course).	John Robinson
2023	Fall	Documentary Films on the Cold War	8	Most of you are familiar with the Cold War because you lived through it, and some of you just took Bob Rumsey's course on the Cold War. The documentary film course attempts to bring to life key moments in the Cold War, such as the Berlin Airlift, the Marshall Plan, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and more. These films are especially relevant today, as it may well be that the Cold War Phase Two has begun.	Laurance Rand

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2023	Fall	The Oregon Trail	8	In 1846, Francis Parkman, a recent Harvard College graduate, spent three weeks living cheek by jowl with a tribe of Oglala Sioux in their tipi village in what is today southeastern Wyoming. One year later, Parkman published <i>The Oregon Trail</i> , his account of that eventful trip and a subsequent American classic. We'll use his book as our entree to the settlement of the vast area of the continent from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean that over the following decades would round out the United States. It was a world in motion. What less adventurous contemporaries called the Great American Desert was in fact populated by disparate groups of people on the move, beginning with the settlers themselves in their covered wagons, or "white tops." Contesting their arrival were numerous Native tribes, who sensed that this influx of pale faces threatened their own survival. Ushering the largely untutored immigrants into this new world were French-Canadians, often disparagingly called "white Indians" by their proteges, who nevertheless needed their expertise. Veterans of the disappearing fur trade in the Rocky Mountains, known as Mountain Men, gave the settlers the benefit of their own specific skills. The occasional Boston Brahmin, of whom Parkman was one, went west out of curiosity. Big-game hunters from Europe joined the parade. They were on safari in the American West, a hunters' paradise of the sort that their descendants would find in Africa in the following century. Natives of Hawaii found a place in the evolving west, usually as	Robert Rumsey
2023	Fall	Technology Around Us	6	This is an update to a previous survey of many of the modern gadgets we interact with every day. We will take a peek at how some of these things actually work - from supermarket scanners to cellphones. I will include three new topics to take a look at: cryptocurrency, artificial intelligence, and quantum computing.	Richard Paddock

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Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2023	Fall	Younger Than That Now. THIS COURSE HAS BEEN CANCELLED	8	PLEASE NOTE: THIS COURSE HAS BEEN CANCELLED.	Jerry Jamin
2023	Fall	Whose Court Is It?	8	The 2022-2023 term of the Supreme Court ended in June with a flurry of important and controversial decisions. Nothing new for the Roberts Court. Or is it the Roberts Court? With public opinion and confidence in the Court ebbing to new lows and several Court justices embroiled in ethical issues, the Chief Justice has had his chance to redirect the Court. But has he? We will cover the main decisions of the Court this past term and look at the issues undermining the Court's standing in the eyes of many Americans.	Laurance Rand
2023	Fall	Shakespeare Playreading	8	NOTE: Classes will be held on Zoom only from now on. We'll devote our first class to the question of Shakespearean authorship, or who really wrote the plays commonly attributed to William Shakespeare from Stratford-upon-Avon? In the following classes we'll read two of the plays that the anti-Stratfordians - yes, that's what they call themselves - might point to in triumph as evidence that this denizen of the limited world of a small market town in deeply rural England couldn't possibly have been their author. <i>Richard II</i> displays a substantial knowledge of court ritual and intrigue that almost certainly would not have been possessed by the son of a minor country dignitary. <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> evokes the Italian city-state to a degree that some subsequent scholars have declared to be incompatible with a lack of extensive first-hand experience of Italy itself. For what it's worth, I myself am at least as skeptical of the claims of the anti-Stratfordians as they are of Shakespeare's authorship. But even though the debate has generated more heat than light, the heat itself is often hilarious and always entertaining.	Robert Rumsey

Taconic Learning Center History of Courses: 2006-2023

Year	Term	Course Title	Sessions	Course Description	Instructor
2023	Fall	Writing Workshop	7	<p>NOTE: Classes will not be held on Sept 25 and Oct 16th.</p> <p>If you write or would like to write, this workshop is for you. You don't need any previous experience or any conception of what you want to write about , just the desire to put words on paper.</p> <p>Each class meeting will include 2-4 writing sessions. I will start each session by offering a prompt and giving a time limit. We will write for the time proposed, then take a pause to read aloud and respond. The process is simple. Prompts are not assignments , you are free to use them as springboards for writing or ignore them entirely and write whatever comes to mind. Reading, too, is optional, as is responding. Responses focus on whatever you think works in a piece (for example, particulars of language, the way a writer creates character, scene, place, time; conveys thought, emotion, action; evokes feeling, mood, tension; startles, satisfies, saddens, elates, etc.).</p> <p>This workshop approaches writing as a form of discovery and expression, a release from expectations and conventions, a way to remember, to understand, to invent, to entertain ourselves and others, to explore and experiment, to relate experience or transform it, while "freely ranging within the zodiac of [our] own wit" (Alexander Pope).</p>	Karen Vrotsos