

Thursday

The War to End All Wars-World War I

Young men rushed to join the army in 1914 expecting that the war would soon be over. The war lasted four years and cost at least 6 million lives. This course will look at Europe before the war began, the reasons for the war, and the initial sweep through Belgium, followed by years of trench warfare. The focus will be on Europe, especially Ipers, the Somme, and Verdun. In addition to discussing people, places, and weapons, participants will read poetry, sing World War I songs along with the tape, and share personal family stories. They will be encouraged to write their own poem or share an impact statement. Video interviews of veterans and documentary footage will be shown to the class.

Facilitator: *Phyllis Carlson*

Phyllis's interest on this topic stems from two Canadian relatives, her mother's brother, Harry, enlisted at 17 years old and was killed at Passchendale. Her maternal grandmother's brother, also Harry, enlisted at age 43, and was partially blinded by gas. He wrote a memoir on his return. She has visited WWI sites on two occasions, and has facilitated this course at OLLI and Newton Community Education and given brief talks at senior centers.

Date: 6 Thursdays, March 15 to April 19

Time: 10:00-Noon

Location: UMass Boston, specific room will be announced

Darwin, Evolution and Biology Today (VC)

All of modern biology is based on an understanding of how living creatures have evolved over time, by natural selection. The origins of this understanding lie in the observations and perceptions of Charles Darwin during his voyage on the HMS Beagle (especially his explorations in South America and the Galapagos Island) in the 1830s. We will explore the origins of the idea of evolution by natural selection, discuss its development over time, and delve into the unraveling of the genetic code. We will discuss the evolution of our own species (*Homo sapiens*) at some length. Class discussions will hopefully be wide ranging—for example, they might focus on how scientists use their understanding of natural selection in their work --whether in developing new treatments for disease, or understanding how microbes evolve resistance to antibiotics.

Facilitator: Ruth Bennett

Ruth Bennett is a Professor Emerita of Biology at UMass Boston. She has taught at many levels, concentrating on neurobiology and physiology. Her research delved into mechanisms of color vision in insect eyes. Since her retirement, she and her husband (Fuad Safwat) and have traveled extensively, including to three sites that are connected with evolutionary biology: the Galapagos Islands, Darwin's home in Downe, England, and to the Darwin exhibition when it was in New York City.

Date: 5 Thursdays, March 22 to April 19

Time: 10:00-11:30

Locations: UMass Boston and Cordage Park, Plymouth (via video conference), specific room will be announced

Money Matters

Since your standard of living and “life style” are directly related to your income, it is incumbent on you to know where your dollars come from and where they go.

What is your attitude toward money and how does it influence your spending patterns?

Have you learned the difference between knowing “what you want” and “what you need”? What are your long-term housing plans? Will you have sufficient income for the remainder of your life to make it enjoyable? Working as a group we will explore personal finances, spending, investments, and giving money to your children. There are no easy answers and your expectations should not be based on getting the “magic” answers from this course, but rather how we as individuals and possibly retirees manage our money and maintain an enjoyable and rewarding life-style. Only you are responsible for your financial well-being. Join us to discuss money and living with it.

Facilitator: *Milton Wolk*

Milton Wolk has a Master’s in Education and a Manning Certificate in Gerontology. He has taught group dynamics at Massasoit Community College as well as at Boston College and Dean College. He also is a graduate of Bentley College and has been a financial consultant and tax preparer for over 40 years. Currently, he works at UMass Boston’s Center for Survey Research. He was a member of the OLLI Board of Directors and served as Treasurer from 1999-2001.

Date: 5 Thursdays, March 22 to April 19

Time: 1:30-3:00 pm

Location: UMass Boston, specific room will be announced

Great Books-Fifth Series

Participants will read and discuss selections from the Fourth Series of the Great Books program. The readings will enable us to understand our society and ourselves because they contain the great ideas that have shaped our thinking. It is incumbent upon the participants that they prepare for, question and discuss readings in order to receive the most benefit from this course. Although this course is a continuation of the Great Books courses held each year in the fall and in the spring, it is not necessary to have taken any Great Books courses before.

Facilitator: *Alicia Coletti*

Alicia Coletti was a participant in a Great Books course for ten years and a leader for nine years. She also led a Junior Great Books group for five years. She has a Master’s degree in counseling from Northeastern University and was director of federal programs for the Quincy Public Schools. She has been a member of the OLLI Board of Directors and Curriculum Committee. She is a strong believer in the benefits of adult education.

Date: 6 every other Thursdays, March 22 to May 31

Time: 10:00-Noon

Location: UMass Boston, specific room will be announced

Food around the World

This is a three-part course; please read the following descriptions of the three meetings carefully.

-- The first meeting at the UMass campus is a lecture/overview of human nutritional requirements, a brief history of the origin of agriculture, and an examination of the diets in the three primary centers where agriculture began (Mexico, corn; Near East, wheat; and China, rice).

-- The second meeting is a field trip to see tropical foods markets (for Latin American, Caribbean, and African foods) and a bakery in Belmont (wheat-based Near East foods), plus an Indian store for spices. All of these places have adequate parking. About 3 to 3 ½ hours; depends on traffic.

-- The third and last meeting, also a field trip, is to downtown Boston (parking impossible) to visit a market in Chinatown (rice-based diet) and then walk to the North End to a market on Salem Street. About 3 to 3 ½ hours; depends on traffic.

Participants may want to buy items from the markets. The facilitator will help identify the products and how to prepare them. He has been taking classes to some of these markets for over 40 years. Questions are welcome through all three sessions.

Facilitator: *Garrison Wilkes*

Garrison Wilkes is a botanist and has been on the UMass Boston Biology faculty since 1970.

He teaches a very large (250 students) course called *Introduction to Nutrition* and a junior-level plant course. His research is focused on the origin of agriculture in Mexico with the crops maize, beans, squash, and chilies. He has traveled extensively in both Latin America and in South Asia. He is a Harvard-trained Economic Botanist (plants useful to people).

Date: 3 Thursdays, April 5 to April 19

Time: 1:00-3:00 pm

Location: UMass Boston, specific room will be announced