

Hello Osher Members and Friends,

I hope you and your loved ones are staying happy and healthy as we enter into the new year. We are so excited to share with you a first look at our Spring 2022 schedule of both online and in-person classes along with brief course descriptions. Our full catalog will be made available online in early February and the livestreamed preview is tentatively scheduled for February 14<sup>th</sup> (more details to follow)—as always registration will open following the preview.

As we have for the last two years, we will be ready to adjust how we deliver our courses as Covid-19 requires and in accordance with TU policy. As you all know, our members and instructors have been so resilient during such a difficult time and that will continue. We are committed to delivering excellent academic programming to our members and we are so excited about what we have in store for this year.

I hope this schedule will assist you in making your spring plans and that Osher at Towson University will be a big part of those plans! As always, please reach out with any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Jacobs", with a stylized, cursive script.

Tracy Jacobs

**Osher at Towson University**  
**Spring 2022 At-A-Glance**

**Session I: March 7 – April 1    Session II: April 11 – May 6** (Note: A break week is scheduled for April 4 – 8)

|        |  | Session I                      |  |                                   |  |                          |  |                                |  |                            |  |
|--------|--|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
|        |  | Monday                         |  | Tuesday                           |  | Wednesday                |  | Thursday                       |  | Friday                     |  |
|        |  | ONLINE                         |  | IN-PERSON                         |  | IN-PERSON                |  | IN-PERSON                      |  | ONLINE                     |  |
| 9:30   |  | Spanish Civil War              |  | J.S. Bach and Friends             |  | Klezmer: American Music  |  | Governors of Maryland          |  | Anthropology of the Qur'an |  |
|        |  | Abstract Expressionism         |  | Polynesian Arts and Cultures      |  | Bertolt Brecht           |  |                                |  |                            |  |
| 11:00a |  |                                |  | Women in Glass Art                |  | We Are What We Eat       |  | Women in Math and Science      |  | Secrets of the Sun         |  |
|        |  | Henri Toulouse-Lautrec (11:15) |  | A Short History of Modern Science |  | Humanitarian Engineering |  | Survey of the Bible            |  |                            |  |
| 1:00   |  | King Arthur and the Holy Grail |  | CANCELED: "Ben-Hur"               |  | Eight Plays, 5th Ed.     |  | Songwriter Signatures          |  | Golden Age of Comic Heroes |  |
|        |  |                                |  |                                   |  |                          |  | Movies of the Red Scare (1:30) |  |                            |  |
| 2:15   |  |                                |  |                                   |  |                          |  |                                |  | Inventing the Presidency   |  |
|        |  |                                |  |                                   |  |                          |  |                                |  |                            |  |

Session II

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

ONLINE

IN-PERSON

IN-PERSON

IN-PERSON

ONLINE

|       |                                |                                   |   |                                |                            |
|-------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 9:30  | Spanish Civil War              | J.S. Bach and Friends             | Klezmer: American Music                         | Governors of Maryland          | Anthropology of the Qur'an |
|       |                                | Polynesian Arts and Cultures      |   |                                |                            |
| 11:00 |                                | Wittgenstein                      | Baltimore In Changing Times                     | Heart of Darkness              | Street Photography         |
|       | Henri Toulouse-Lautrec (11:15) | A Short History of Modern Science | American Minority Experience through Literature | Survey of the Bible            |                            |
| 1:00  | Capitalism in China            | Women Who Changed the World       | Eight Plays, 5th Ed.                            | Musical Humor                  | Golden Age of Comic Heroes |
|       |                                | CANCELED: "Ben-Hur"               |   | Movies of the Red Scare (1:30) |                            |
| 2:15  |                                |                                   |   |                                | The Roaring Twenties       |
|       |                                |                                   |   |                                |                            |

\*SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

## ARTS, CULTURE & HUMANITIES

### **J.S. Bach and Friends...the Mystery of the Baroque** - *Jonathan Palevsky*

#### **Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. Sessions I & II**

This is the extraordinary time of Monteverdi, Corelli, Vivaldi, Handel, Lully Rameau and all the various Bachs. The baroque period gave us music of great complexity but also music that explored a range of emotions from the most sanguine to the most intense.

### **Songwriter Signatures** - *Julie Kurzava*

#### **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. Session II**

Julie Kurzava reveals a musician's clues on how to identify great songwriters based on substance and style. Each session will look at classic songs from the American Songbook written by a master songwriter from 1920's- 1950's, digging in and identifying musical characteristics.

### **Make 'Em Laugh: Musical Humor** - *Julie Kurzava*

#### **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. Session I**

They say that laughter is the best medicine, and comical songs have been known to cure a variety of illnesses, or at the very least, put us in a better mood! Julie Kurzava examines techniques and creative choices employed by songwriters to lighten our spirits and keep us entertained.

### **Klezmer: American Music** - *Seth Kibel*

#### **Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. Sessions I & II**

Klezmer, which literally means "tool of song" in Yiddish, is the secular folk music of the Jews of Central and Eastern Europe. These presentations will trace the history and evolution of this music, from the Old World to the New, up until the present day and the modern klezmer revival. Vintage audio clips and "live" performances from the instructor will make this program as exciting as the music itself.

### **Eight Plays Everyone Should Know, 5th Edition** - *Greg Jones*

#### **Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. Sessions I & II**

Using a lively mix of lecture, video clips, live performance and Q&A, this popular course returns, tracing connections and offering insights into the following plays: Antigone, Dr. Faustus, The Merchant of Venice, Mother Courage and Her Children, Long Day's Journey into Night, Cloud Nine, Arcadia and Glengarry Glen Ross.

### **Women in Glass Art** - *Howard Cohen*

#### **Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. Session I**

In this course we will explore the work, the inspiration, and the creative processes of six prominent American women glass artists. You will learn about a myriad of techniques that are used to create glass art.

### **Polynesian Arts and Cultures** - *Katharine Fernstrom*

#### **Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. Sessions I & II**

The region of the Pacific Ocean known as "Polynesia" was named by Colonial Explorers for its many islands spread across the eastern Pacific. Topics will include ocean navigation strategies and technology, large scale architecture, sculpture, and dance as well as small portable objects.

### **Henri Toulouse-Lautrec** - *Joseph Cassar* **\*\*Online Class\*\*** (Note: This online course will not be recorded.)

#### **Mondays at 11:15 a.m. Sessions I & II**

This course focuses on the life and art of Henri Toulouse-Lautrec (1864-1901) and his times.

### **Abstract Expressionism: The Pivot of American Art** - *Michael Salcman* **\*\*Online Class\*\***

#### **Mondays at 9:30 a.m. Session I**

This class examines Abstract Expressionism as the most important art movement in the history of American Art. Learn how it moved the capital of world art from Paris to New York and provided the basis for several succeeding movements and movements in opposition.

**Street Photography – Steve Dembo *\*\*Online Class\*\****

**Fridays at 11:00 a.m. Session II**

This survey will highlight both famous and relatively well-known street photographers and discuss style, technique, and equipment. We will briefly touch on some of the legal aspects of street photography and the difference of street vs. documentary or photojournalism.

**Bertolt Brecht; Literature that Educates and Delights – Thomas Dorsett**

**Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. Session I**

This course focuses on the works of Bertolt Brecht, including Galileo, Mother Courage, The Threepenny Opera, The Good Woman of Setzuan, and The Caucasian Chalk Circle.

**A Look into the Heart of Darkness - Mikita Brottman**

**Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. Session II**

This class looks at Joseph Conrad's 1899 novella "Heart of Darkness", widely considered to be one of the most important literary works of the twentieth century, and the foundation of literary modernism.

**The American (Minority) Experience through Literature - Saima Sitwat**

**Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. Session II**

This course will explore the experiences of minorities in the United States through the lens of literature. Using challenging literary pieces from Indigenous, Black, and immigrant authors and journalists, we will reflect on the experience of growing up as a minority in America.

**The Golden Age of Comic Heroes - Arnold Blumberg *\*\*Online Class\*\****

**Fridays at 1:00 p.m. Sessions I and II**

Why are all those colorful, crusading comic book heroes more popular than ever? We will look at the mythological and literary origins of superheroes and their evolution. In so doing, we will see why superheroes are some of the most powerful symbols in our culture today.

**Movies of the Red Scare - Bill Barry**

**Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. Sessions I and II**

The Red Scare that swept the US after 1946 had an enormous impact on the movies, both produced at the time and later movies that looked back at the period. This class will show four movies from the period and four from a historical perspective.

**Wittgenstein: A Philosophical Madness - Ed Fotheringill**

**Tuesdays at 11:00 Session II**

The 20<sup>th</sup> Century philosopher, Ludwig Wittgenstein, is one of the more enigmatic figures in the history of Western Philosophy. One curious fact must be noted: Wittgenstein *hated* philosophy and encouraged his students to stay away from it. Yet, he himself could not stop philosophizing – it was an obsession that took him down the rabbit hole of philosophical madness.

**Survey of the Bible - Father Bob Albright**

**Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. Sessions I and II**

This class will move through both the Old and New Testaments. Bring a Bible with you as you join in this rapid, but thorough trip through the "greatest story ever told."

## SOCIAL SCIENCES

### **Capitalism in China - Mark Yourek *\*\*Online Class\*\****

#### **Mondays at 1:00 p.m. Session II**

Many Americans are only dimly aware that capitalism is alive and well in 'communist' China. But China is now an overwhelmingly capitalist country and emerging as a formidable rival to the US. How is China doing it?

### **Spanish Civil War - Rex Rehfeld *\*\*Online Class\*\****

#### **Mondays at 9:30 a.m. Sessions I and II**

This course will dissect "one of the most misunderstood wars of all times" from its origin in 1812 to the tumultuous events that led to Spain's transition from autocracy to democracy in 1981.

### **Anthropology of the Qur'an - Ahmed Achrati *\*\*Online Class\*\****

#### **Fridays at 9:30 a.m. Sessions I and II**

This course presents an anthropological study of the Qur'an, focusing on the representation of God in the Qur'an and the conception of the divine in Islamic thinking and practices, and how the misunderstanding of God's transcendence has affected these practices.

### **Women Who Changed the World - Barbara Blumberg**

#### **Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. Session II**

This class looks at women of diverse backgrounds who, through their inventions, changed the world as we know it today. From Kevlar vests to coffee filters, from life rafts to fire escapes, and from automatic dishwashers, car windshield wipers/heaters to refrigerators and penicillin, these women inventors achieved what their male counterparts could not.

### **We Are What We Eat-The Interplay of Food and Culture in the U.S. - Meg Algren**

#### **Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. Session I**

What is American cuisine? Designed as a fun and informative trip of exploration to discover American food preferences and trends and how we developed them, this course will focus on the interplay of food quality, convenience, variety, and special effects, lifestyle, and our culture.

### **Baltimore In Changing Times: The Beginning of the Modern Era - Jack Burkert**

#### **Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. Session II**

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries Baltimore and her citizens underwent unprecedented change. The city re-invented itself as technology and industry grew and changed their lives. This is the story of a city adapting to, then adopting change.

### **Governors of Maryland: From Ritchie to the Present - Bill Thompson**

#### **Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. Sessions I and II**

Over the past century (or since 1919), Maryland has elected an assortment of interesting individuals, all white men thus far, as governor. This course will examine and discuss those who have served as Maryland's chief executive.

### **King Arthur and the Holy Grail in Myth and History - Bob Baer *\*\*Online Class\*\****

#### **Mondays at 1:00 p.m. Session I**

The stories of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table have fascinated people worldwide since the Middle Ages. Equally captivating have been the myths associated with the Holy Grail. This class will explore the legacy and historical development of these two enduring legends.

### **Inventing the Presidency: Washington, Adams, and Jefferson - Jared Day *\*\*Online Class\*\****

#### **Fridays at 2:15 p.m. Session I**

This set of lectures will examine the lives of America's first three presidents with special emphasis on their administrations covering the crucial formative years of 1789 to 1809.

### **Challenging 'Normalcy': The Roaring Twenties - Jared Day *\*\*Online Class\*\****

#### **Fridays at 2:15 p.m. Session II**

This set of lectures will explore the lives of three presidents: Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge, and Herbert Hoover during this critical decade of Republican Party dominance.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### **Humanitarian Engineering: Challenges and Accomplishments** - *Guillermo Warley*

#### **Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. Session I**

This course will explore the engineering disciplines, projects, challenges, and accomplishments of what is lumped together in the words "Humanitarian Engineering": advancing humanity and solving difficult problems associated with water, air, climate change and other existential issues faced by many people around the globe.

### **Women in Math and Science** - *Greg Pevzner*

#### **Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. Session I**

This course recounts the stories of lives and professional achievements of eight remarkable women from ancient times to modern times who fought tremendous odds to advance our understanding of math and science.

### **Secrets of the Sun** - *Jim O'Leary* **\*\*Online Class\*\***

#### **Fridays at 11:00 a.m. Session I**

Explore our life-giving star with advanced imagery, Sun-inspired art, and Sun-based human history. This class will look at sunspots, prominences and flares, and the Sun's effects on Earth—eclipses, auroras, and tremendous solar storms that disrupt satellites, cause power failures, and threaten the health and lives of astronauts as they venture out into the Solar System.

### **A Short History of Modern Science** – *John Spears*

#### **Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. Sessions I & II**

This course will survey the development of some of the more important and mystifying parts of our modern intellectual landscape, reviewing the development of astronomy, physics, biology, chemistry, and medicine, along with some review of the debates about how science really works.

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