

FALL 2023 CLASSES
INSTITUTE FOR LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

Exciting Interactive Courses for Curious People at SaddleBrooke

23-301 RELIGION AND THE CONSTITUTION (UPDATED REPEAT)

Mel Durchslag, Tuesdays, 10:00 am to 12 noon
Sonoran Room: September 19, 26, October 3, 10, 17, 24

The role that religion plays in our public life—religion in the public square, as it is sometimes called—has been a matter of debate since before the founding of our nation. Indeed, it is one of the legacies we inherited from England. It has become more intense recently as the requirements of the civil law have clashed with individual religious beliefs. We will explore what, if anything, the Constitution says about religion in our public life, whether there is any meaning to the oft cited phrase, “separation of church and state”, whether one’s religious beliefs excuse compliance with otherwise generally applicable laws, and whether the notion of separation of church and state, whatever that may mean, fits with the other constitutional provision affecting religion, the provision that protects the free exercise of religion. We will explore not only the history of religion clauses as expounded by the courts and historians, but we will devote a great deal of attention to the ways in which the Roberts Court has altered the landscape of the two sometimes conflicting religion clauses. All of this and more in six weeks.

23-302 FLYING 101: AVIATION AND AIR TRAFFIC SAFETY IN THE U.S. (REPEAT)

Chuck Stump, Wednesdays, 10 am to 12 noon
Cactus Room: September 20, 27, October 4, 11, 18, 25

YIKES! Is it really safe to fly in today’s busy and crowded airspace? Aviation travel is one of the safest modes of transportation in the United States today. To support that statement, the following questions will be considered:

- What makes an airplane fly and how does it stay in the air, even when weighing several tons?
- What keeps aircraft in flight from running into each other?
- How does the air traffic control system work?
- Who is involved in making air travel safe?
- AND the ONE key question. . . How safe is it, really, to fly?

These questions and more will be discussed, with plenty of opportunities for participant questions and comments.

23-303 WWII TECHNOLOGIES AND LOGISTICS (NEW)

Mark Schwartz, Thursdays, 10 am to 12 noon

Sonoran Room: September 21, 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26

America led in developing key WWII technologies and logistics—making reliable/maintainable weapon systems and keeping supplies moving to the front lines. Technologies like radar provided a definite edge in combat, but the reliability of the M-4 Sherman tank also created an advantage over the “feared” German Panther and Tiger tanks. We will cover:

- Radar—America and Britain created superior radar and electronic technology to defeat Germany;
- Computers—America and Britain applied computer technology to beat Germany’s Enigma;
- Atomic technology—the Manhattan project made America the lone post-war superpower;
- Aviation—unusual concepts and technologies that helped shape the post-war jet age;
- Case study: the M-4 Sherman against Germany’s Panther and Tiger tanks;
- Case study: American railroads supported wartime production as the transportation/supply chain link.

23-304 BLACK AMERICAN WRITING 1830 TO PRESENT (NEW)

Mike Carran, Fridays, 10 am to 12 noon

Cactus Room: September 22, 29, October 6, 13, 20

Great controversy has attached to recent attempts to include Black American fiction and non-fiction writing in public schools and colleges. We will read essays, short stories, poetry, and listen to some Black American music and discuss a persistent theme of the invisibility of the Black American experience to White Americans.

23-305 CHINESE CULTURE AND RELIGION (REPEAT)

Ann Kuperberg, Mondays, 10 am to 12 noon

Sonoran Room: October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

The Chinese culture has existed for over 5,000 years through different dynasties and Communist rule. This 5-week course will cover cultural changes including myths and Feng Shi as shown in literature, dance, and opera. The Chinese zodiac, family traditions and education help us understand the Chinese character. We will discuss teachings of Confucius, Buddhism and Daoism as influences on government, and how medicinal practices, silk and pottery have been exported, exposing the society to the Western World. There will be short DVD selections and current news as they reflect Chinese philosophy, with interaction from the group.

23-306 THE ART OF DYNAMIC COMMUNICATION (NEW)

Kathy Szpakowski, Wednesdays, 1:30 to 3:30 pm
Cactus Room: October 4, 11, 18

This interactive workshop is designed to help you identify your observable natural behavioral style with emphasis on “how” you communicate with others. Behavior can be categorized as the “how” people do many things. Participants will have the opportunity to complete a self-assessment using **DISC** (an acronym for the four behavior styles that model human behavior) to identify “how” they naturally prefer to talk, walk, shop, drive, and play. The **DISC** model is a powerful and profoundly simple tool for understanding people.

The workshop will include case studies to help you learn how to “people read” others who appear to have observable behavioral styles that differ from your own. At the conclusion of all three sessions, you will be able to recognize both similarities and differences among people and learn how to adapt your own style to blend with other people.

23-307 FUN WITH GEOLOGY (REPEAT)

Karen Gray Wednesdays, 1:00 to 3:00 pm
Cactus Room: October 25, November 1, 8, 15, 29, December 6 (no class on November 22)

In this course you will learn how geologists look at the world around them. Have fun with hands-on activities, learn techniques to identify minerals and rocks and the environment in which they formed. Enjoy your walks, hikes, or travels more by understanding your environment and what you see.

23-308 INSIDE THE ATOM PART I (NEW)

Harold Kirk, Fridays, 10 am to 12 noon
Cactus Room: October 27, November 3, 10, 17, December 1, 8 (no class on 11/24)

The 20th century has witnessed a remarkable advancement in our understanding of the physical nature of the world within the atom. In this course, we will be following the trajectory of discoveries which have led to our current understanding. We begin with the discovery of radioactivity in 1896 and conclude with the celebrated discovery of the Higgs boson in 2012.

23-309 UNDERSTANDING ASIA PART ONE: CHINA AND ITS NEIGHBORS (NEW)

Boyd Bosma, Tuesdays, 8:30 am to 10:30 am
Sonoran Room: October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 28, December 5

Embark on a captivating six-week journey through the vibrant continent of Asia. As the largest continent on Earth, Asia encompasses over 17 million square miles and is home to nearly 5 billion people, making its countries increasingly significant to our global landscape. In this

course, we will delve into the multifaceted relationship between China and its neighboring countries in South, East and Southeast Asia, and the United States.

From the economic powerhouse of China to the diverse cultures and histories of countries like Japan, India, and Vietnam, we will explore the intricate dynamics that shape this region. Through in-depth discussions, case studies, and a rich collection of insights from contemporary sources and from the instructor's own travels to 32 major Asian countries, we will examine the economic, political, and diplomatic conditions that influence these relationships, and gain valuable insights into our own national security and future relations with this fascinating part of the world.

23-310 ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES FOR A CHANGING WORLD (NEW)

Lockwood Carlson, Tuesdays, 10:45 am to 12:15 pm

Sonoran Room: October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 28

This course is about current, emerging, and longer-term energy technologies. We will make careful distinctions between reality today, hype, facts, and hope for tomorrow, common misconceptions and key controversial issues. Energy technologies drive most important global issues, including climate change, economics, security, governance, demographics, and health; both for today and in the future. We will survey the technologies currently used and their outlook, promising new technologies, and longer-term opportunities.

23-311 JEROME KERN, 'FATHER OF THE AMERICAN MUSICAL', PAVING THE WAY FROM EUROPEAN OPERETTA TO THE INTEGRATED AMERICAN MUSICAL (NEW)

Gail Nelli, Thursdays, 10:00 am to 12 noon

Sonoran Room: November 2, 9, 16, 30, December 7 (no class on November 23rd)

Leaving European operetta behind, composer Jerome Kern was soon creating the groundwork for a new legitimacy to the American musical in the seven Princess Theatre musical collaborations with Guy Bolton and P.G. Wodehouse. Of most importance would be the 1927 production of **Show Boat** with lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II. It would integrate music and plot in a way never before seen on the Broadway stage. Soon he would be off to Hollywood working on film musical scores as well.

Younger colleagues George and Ira Gershwin, Rodgers and Hart, and Cole Porter credited Kern with leading their way forward to improving the American musical form. Come discover Kern's contribution to the American musical form and hear the songs that are now part of the Great American Songbook.

23-312 WHAT'S THE MATTER? (NEW)

Louise Grabell, Fridays 9 am to 11 am

Coyote South HOA 1: November 3, 10, December 1, 8, 15 (no class on November 17 and 24)

One does not have to be a chemist or physicist to understand and appreciate the “stuff” of life and the universe. The formation of matter theoretically began with The Big Bang and continues today within the cores of stars. This course will take you on a journey back in time to the origin of the first elements. Once basic atomic design is explained, the course will focus on the relationships and behaviors (usual and extraordinary) of the various elements, including an overview of that beloved Periodic Table. Included will be a discussion of matter that is radioactive, how it happens, and useful applications. No lab coats, test tubes, or lead shields required!

23-313 SADDLEBROOKE CSI (REPEAT)

Bart Epstein, Mondays, 10 am to 12 noon
Sonoran Room: November 6, 13, 20, 27, December 4

The instructor, a forensic scientist for the State of Minnesota for 32 years, will present a survey of what can and cannot be done in a forensic science laboratory. The class will introduce the participants to different types of evidence and their value as well as how they are used in court. Material will be presented by lecture and demonstration as well as participants actually doing some forensic work in class. Numerous actual cases will be presented and discussed.