



# WISE

Worcester Institute for Senior Education

# Fall 2021

## Online Program

### About WISE

WISE is a nonprofit member driven organization founded in 1993, WISE is a premier lifelong learning program that offers adult intellectual stimulation, socialization and personal growth. WISE is a member of the Road Scholar Lifelong Learning Network.

### About Lifelong Learning

Lifelong learning offers many benefits to members who seek engagement and meaning as an older adult. Major benefits include:

- Perpetuating education of older learners*
- Increasing an understanding of self & society*
- Promoting an active and engaged lifestyle*
- Opportunity to explore new topics*
- Utilizing lifelong work skills in leadership opportunities*

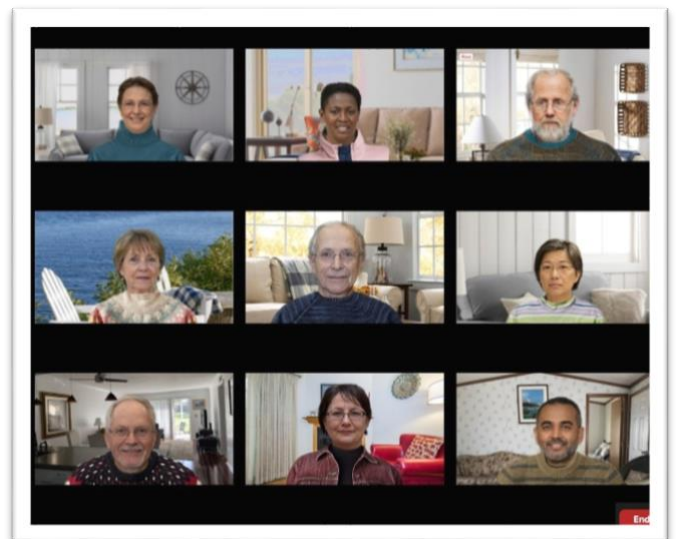


### Join Our Community Online

We invite you to join our active community by becoming a Fall or Full Year member. Read through the information contained in this catalog and contact the WISE if you have any questions. We look forward to your participation and engagement with our organization.

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## Membership Fees

Fees are paid online through your WISE account: \$300 for the full academic year (September-May) and \$150 for Fall or Spring membership. If you are not already a WISE member, you can become one on our website at <https://assumptionwise.org/join> .

## Membership Benefits

Benefits of membership include Members-Only access pages on the website, WISE clubs and special interest groups (see page 25), WISE free lectures, free Assumption University sponsored online events and the opportunity to hold a volunteer position.

## Registration

**Online Registration begins August 11, 2021. All participants must pay membership fees prior to attending class. Only paid and registered members will have access to the password protected web page with the Zoom links to the courses.** If you do not have a WISE member account, please create one by clicking on the quick link on the home page of our website. Registration will remain open while there is available space in the course. **Once you register online, you will receive a confirmation email for courses in which you are enrolled.**

## Registration & Zoom Assistance

We are conducting **WISE Zoom Coffee Breaks on Mondays from 9-10am starting August 16** to help you feel comfortable with the Zoom application that we are using for online classes. Enjoy your coffee or tea while you receive some tips during these informative sessions and meet other WISE members. Refer to <https://assumptionwise.org/using-Zoom> for the Zoom link or view our events calendar listed on our website at [assumptionwise.org](https://assumptionwise.org). We look forward to meeting you online!



## Fall 2021 Academic Calendar

August 11, 2021:	Registration for WISE Fall 2020 term
September 2, 2021:	New Member Orientation via Zoom
September 9, 2021:	Session A classes begin
October 14, 2021:	Session A classes end
October 25, 2021:	Session B classes begin
December 3, 2021:	Session B classes end

\*Please see <https://assumptionwise.org/events> for events sponsored by Assumption University, WISE meetings or clubs/groups dates, office closings and special presentations

## Answers to WISE FAQ

### Holidays

WISE follows the Assumption University calendar. If the University is closed, the WISE Office will also not be available on that day. Members can view closures in the catalog on page 2 and on the WISE website at <https://assumptionwise.org/>

### Refund Policy

No refunds will be issued after the fall classes have begun. Please note that any refunds for membership fees paid by check will require

an email request and W9 form submitted to the Assumption University business office.

### Cancellations

Any individual class cancellations and make-up class meetings are announced by email and posted on the WISE website. Courses may be cancelled due to low enrollment or other unusual circumstances. If all meetings of a course are cancelled, a refund will be issued.



### WISE Office Information

<b>Location</b>	Campus access is currently restricted; please use email address listed below
<b>Hours</b>	Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-2:00pm, Friday, 9:00am -12:00pm Please refer to the calendar on our website for closures and other dates
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:wise@assumption.edu">wise@assumption.edu</a>
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://assumptionwise.org/">http://assumptionwise.org/</a>
<b>Voicemail</b>	(508) 767-7513

## **FALL ONLINE PROGRAM 2021**

<https://assumptionwise.org/courses>

### **A Session: September/October**

#### **A1. Reading Poetry Aloud**

**Mondays 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**

**September 13, 20, 27, October 4, 11**

**Instructor: Eugene McCarthy**, see Instructor profile on page 21

In reading poems aloud, we use not only our eyes and mind but our whole body, voice, ears, gestures. We experience a poem's physical effects, how its emotion moves us as we speak it or hear it. In this class we will use *Sound Ideas: Hearing and Speaking Poetry* as our guide, with chapters on line, sound, rhythm, meter, imagery, and the like, those elements that make up poems, always with attention to reading aloud.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**REQUIRED BOOK:** *Sound Ideas: Hearing and Speaking Poetry*, by B. Eugene McCarthy and Fran Quinn, Hobblebush Books, ISBN: 978-098459297.

#### **A2. Ethics and Aesthetics in Nabokov's *Lolita***

**Mondays 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

**September 13, 20, 27, October 4, 11**

**Instructor: Christina Graziano** see Instructor profile on page 19

At once seductive and perverse, beautiful, and vulgar, Vladimir Nabokov's 1955 classic remains one of the most celebrated – and controversial – novels of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In this course, we will explore the dichotomy between ethics and aesthetics in the novel and consider the ethical question posed by Nabokov throughout what has been called, despite its depiction of pedophilia, “the only convincing love story of our century.”

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**REQUIRED BOOKS:** *Lolita*, Vladimir Nabokov, Vintage ISBN: 9780679723165

#### **A3. Intelligent Life in the Universe**

**Mondays 3:00 - 4:30 pm**

**September 13, 20, 27, October 4, 11**

**Instructor: Les Blatt** see Instructor profile on page 17

Are we alone in the universe? Science is closing in on solid answers about life beyond earth, and, eventually, on locating beings with the technology and interest to communicate with us. Recent NASA research shows that many of the stars in our galaxy have orbiting planets, including some similar to our own earth.

Space programs worldwide are studying other solar-system planets, seeking signs of living organisms, past or present. “Extra-terrestrial intelligence” programs are seeking signals coming from technically-developed civilizations; we are sending out messages to announcing our presence to the universe at large, hoping that communications might someday be established. No math is required, no prior science background is necessary. Just bring along a healthy curiosity!

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**OPTIONAL BOOKS:** *Aliens: The World’s Leading Scientists on the Search for Extraterrestrial Life*, Jim Al-Khalili. ISBN: 978-1250109637. Online booksellers have many used copies in good condition, at very reasonable prices.

#### **A4. The Story of the Blues**

**Tuesdays 10:30 am – 12:00 pm**

**September 14, 21, 28, October 5, 12**

**Instructor: Rick Hendra** see Instructor profile on page 20

They say “the blues had a baby and they called it rock & roll”. The blues gave us jazz, as well. The blues is fundamental to American popular music, and it’s got a story all its own, beginning on the black vaudeville stage in the early days of records and radio, then following the Great Migrations to Chicago, New York, and LA. The blues developed a family tree along the way, with different styles branching off the main trunk, shaped by time and place such as the Piedmont, Delta, Chicago, and Texas/LA Blues (R&B). This is that family history – and a social history as well.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS.** Instructor will make available 5-three hour radio shows, one for each unit.

#### **A5. Climate Change – Science and Perspective**

**Tuesdays 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

**September 14, 21, 28, October 5, 12**

**Instructor: Martha Gach** see Instructor profile on page 19

While the science of climate change hasn’t changed much, our understanding of the planet’s response, human impacts, and the scale of needed response is all deepening as the climate crisis unfolds. This course will provide an updated overview of climate change from an environmental perspective, considering the basic principles of climate science, carbon cycle and carbon sources. We will look at the impact of New England’s weather patterns, precipitation, and coast changes as well as its flora and fauna with a focus on birds.

We will explore how climate impacts where and how we live, the nexus of public health, environmental justice, and urban planning. Let's hear responses and actions and a vision for the future.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS.** Podcasts & articles may be offered as enrichment resources.

## **A6. Painting Techniques Through the Ages**

**Tuesdays 3:00 - 4:30 pm**

**September 14, 21, 28, October 5, 12**

**Instructor: Martha Chiarchiaro** see Instructor profile on page 18

The painting techniques available to artists has had a tremendous impact on their work. We will explore the history of art through the progress of painting techniques beginning with the frescoes of Giotto and Michelangelo. The tempera technique will be illustrated by panel paintings of Medieval and Renaissance artists. The centuries-long success of oil paint will be examined from the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The use of pastels as a formal painting medium came into practice from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. The 1960s saw the advent of acrylic paint, and this new medium broadened the technical options for artists.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

## **A7. The Mongol Empire in World History**

**Tuesdays 5:00 - 6:30 pm**

**September 14, 21, 28, October 5, 12**

**Instructor: Rebecca Watters** see Instructor profile on page 24

The rise of the Mongol Empire structured world history from the 13<sup>th</sup> century on, yet few Western histories examine the cataclysmic effects of Mongolian power and ideas on the rest of the world. This course explores the history and legacy of Mongol rule. From the passport you carry to travel internationally, to your granddaughter's Halloween princess costume, to National Parks, the post office and religious pluralism, Mongol innovation reaches across eight centuries to institutions, expressions, clothing, and values that are part of our everyday lives.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**REQUIRED BOOK:** Rachewiltz, Igor de, *The Secret History of the Mongols: A Mongolian Epic Chronicle of the Thirteenth Century* (2015). Shorter version edited by John C. Street, University of Wisconsin, Madison. Books and Monographs. Book 4. ISBN 978-9004153646.



**REQUIRED READING:** <https://cedar.wvu.edu/cedarbooks/4> This is the primary source document for most histories of the Mongol Empire. We will reference various sections of this work throughout the course. It is available free online under a creative commons license.

**FOR THE FIRST CLASS:** *The Secret History of the Mongols: A Mongolian Epic Chronicle of the Thirteenth Century*, pp. 9-31 (verses 56-103 of the text)

**OPTIONAL BOOKS:** Weatherford, Jack. 2005. *Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World*, Crown Press. Green, Monica. 2020. *The American Historical Review* V 125 (5), "The Four Black Deaths," Prazniak, Roxann, 2021. *Sudden Appearances: The Mongol Turn in Commerce, Belief, and Art*. University of Hawaii Press. Favereau, Marie. *The Horde: How the Mongols Changed the World*, Belknap Press.

### **A8. The Dark Side of Old Time Radio**

**Wednesdays 10:30 am – 12:00 pm**

**September 15, 22, 29, October 6, 13**

**Instructor: David Nevard**, see Instructor profile on page 21

In the dark days of World War II, Americans pulled down their blackout curtains, turned out the lights, and gathered around the radio. Some laughed with *Bob Hope* of *Fibber McGee and Molly*, but others turned to the dark side with *Lights Out*, *Inner Sanctum*, or *Suspense*. This course covers mystery, crime, and horror programs on network radio in the wartime and postwar eras. Besides entertainment aspects, we will discuss some of the psychological themes common to these programs. As one program states: "*Lights Out* brings you stories of the supernatural and supernormal, dramatizing the fantasies and the mysteries of the unknown."

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS:** Links will be sent to the class registrants for specific episodes to view on YouTube or LibriVox .

### **A9. The Ironic Drama of Euripides**

**Wednesdays 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

**September 15, 22, 29, October 6, 13**

**Instructor: Lillian Corti**, Instructor profile on page 18

Whereas Homer celebrates the suffering, heroism and triumphs of the archaic warrior and Aeschylus dramatizes the thematic transition from ancient revenge culture to a rough equivalent of modern judicial procedure, Euripides casts the events of the Trojan war in an ironic light tending to prompt skepticism with regard to the human propensity for murder and mayhem. In this course, we will read and discuss three dramatic masterpieces by Euripides (*Iphigenia in Aulis*, *The Trojan Women*, *Helen*) each one based on particular incidents or characters from the Homeric epics.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members.

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**REQUIRED BOOKS:** all three books from the *Complete Greek Tragedies*, ed. Grene & Lattimore, University of Chicago Press: *Euripides II, Helen*, trans. Richmond Lattimore, *Euripides III, The Trojan Women*, trans. Richmond Lattimore, and *Euripides IV, Iphigenia In Aulis*, trans. Charles R. Walker.

#### **A10. Jazz History 1900s-1950s (Part 1)**

**Wednesdays, 3:00 – 4:30 pm**

**September 15, 22, 29, October 6, 13**

**Instructor: Paul Buono** see Instructor profile page 18

Jazz history is American history with the study of culture, politics, and economics of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Its characters are the geniuses, virtuosos, outcasts, pioneers, eccentrics, and revolutionaries of American history. Post-Civil War America presented tremendous division within the country, but this landscape gave rise to a form of music often referred to as America's only true art form. We will examine jazz history beginning in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Through listening examples, videos, and selected readings from the text students, will gain a deeper understanding of the historical context that gave birth to jazz.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**OPTIONAL BOOK:** *Jazz: Essential Listening* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition), Scott Deveaux, Gary Giddins, ISBN: 9780393668346, <https://digital.wwnorton.com/jazz2ess>, ebook: <https://digital.wwnorton.com/jazz2>

#### **A11. Competitiveness in the International Business Arena**

**Wednesdays 5:00 – 6:30 pm**

**September 15, 22, 29, October 6, 13**

**Instructor: Bill O'Brien**, see Instructor profile on page 21

In 1990, Michael Porter wrote *The Competitive Advantage of Nations* and the work has been cited extensively in scholarly publications and last updated in 2012, but the ideas remain current. Why do some countries and firms have an advantage over others in producing goods and services? In particular, how does the business, government, and tax environment influence competitiveness? Are tariffs helpful or do they hurt business? Is it always the low-cost country that attracts production? We will define the basics of competitiveness, costs, tariffs, and policy influences on firms.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

**FOR THE FIRST CLASS:** Refer to the Course Material page for readings for the first class



**A12. Egyptian Art and Culture: What's Real and What's Myth**

**Thursdays 10:30 am – 12:00 pm**

**September 9, 23, 30, October 7, 14**

**Instructor: Margery Gordon** see Instructor profile on page 19

Throughout this course, we will look at what's myth and what's researched fact in Egyptian history and culture through Zoom lecture with slides, videos, objects, and discussion. These talks show how artists, craftspeople, architects, and poets created art and writing to give one a better understanding of Egyptian culture and values. An overview of the Egyptian dynasties will be provided with focus on major moments from early times through to modern. Each lecture is broken into themes with focus on dynastic life and its impact on modern art and architecture in Egypt today.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS** Handouts and bibliography will be available.

**A13. Worcester Poets Present Tense**

**Thursdays 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

**September 9, 23, 30, October 7, 14**

**Instructor: Eve Rifkah,** see Instructor profile on page 22

In this course, you will hear local poets read their poems. Many have books published but not all. A selection of the poems by our guest readers will be sent by email. Each week we will be visited by two poets who will read and speak about their writing.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

**A14. Intellectual Property for the Rest of us**

**Thursdays 3:00 – 4:30 pm**

**September 9, 23, 30, October 7, 14**

**Instructor: Karl Hakkarainen** see Instructor profile on page 19

One of the earliest parts of the U.S. Constitution established the nation's interest in the promotion of science and invention by authorizing Congress "to promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries." Since then, copyrights, patents, and trademarks have had a complex and contentious impact on science, technology, and the arts. This course will review the history, law, and use of patents, copyrights, and trademarks in the United States as seen from daily life in the digital age.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

## **NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

**READINGS FOR FIRST CLASS** [United States Copyright Office A Brief Introduction and History, Trademark Basics, Process for Obtaining a Utility Patent](#) (refer to Course Materials page on website)

### **A15. Echoes of the 1920s**

**Fridays 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**

**September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 8**

**Instructor: Ben Railton** see Instructor profile on page 22

As Mark Twain noted, history doesn't repeat itself, but sometimes it rhymes. One of the most significant rhymes for our 2021 moment can be found a century ago, in the America of the 1920s. In this course we will move through a handful of such echoes: from the aftermaths of a pandemic to debates over immigration and the border, from white supremacist racist violence to labor and educational activisms, and concluding with the role of literature and culture in helping us chart a path forward.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

## **NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

### **A16. How Magazines Helped Shape a Young Nation**

**Fridays 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

**September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 8**

**Instructor: Rosemary McCarthy** see Instructor profile on page 21

Magazines have been popular and influential since the early decades of nationhood providing Americans with outlets for expression in many spheres of life – literature, politics, religion, fashion, leisure, and more. Their variety and longevity (some lasting well into the 20th and 21st centuries) prove their value especially to a nation in the process of defining itself and its culture. We'll look at Ladies' Home Journal, Harper's Weekly, McClure's, The Atlantic Monthly, and The Saturday Evening Post among others that were, and are, America's debate stage, classroom, and drawing board.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

## **NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

### **A17. In American Cinema, All Politics Is Local**

**Fridays 3:00 - 4:30 pm**

**September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 8**

**Instructor: Jeff Long** see Instructor profile on page 20

Join us, as we discuss dramatic, comedic, and satiric films that center on recent or long ago political forces that have played out on national stages, local workplaces, and elsewhere.

Whether rooted in history or a writer's imagination, these movies will cover political campaigns, career arcs, and assassinations, as well as grass roots issues adjudicated in courtrooms. We will cover lively films with themes involving progressivism, conservatism, anarchism, libertarianism, populism, communism, and more. Students will view our five main films (*Blue Collar*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Dick*, *Dancer in the Dark*, *The Best Man*) on their own, prior to each class.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

## **B Session: October/November**

### **B1. From Polemic to Possibility: The Bible with and Without Jesus**

**Mondays 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**

**October 25, November 1, 8, 15, 22**

**Instructors:** **Rev. Rich Simpson & Rabbi Aviva Fellman** see Instructor profiles on pages 19,23  
Jews and Christians share many of the same Scriptures and yet, Christians read the Old Testament through the lens of the New Testament – *with* Jesus. Jews read those same texts from the Tanakh through the lens of postbiblical Jewish commentaries – *without* Jesus. Who is reading correctly? With Levine and Brettler, we want to argue that differing interpretative communities do not need to be polemical against each other but can enrich one another when we find ways to read texts together. This class is an invitation to do just that and to move from polemic to possibility.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**REQUIRED BOOKS:** *The Bible with and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently*, by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler, Harper One, 2020, ISBN 9780062560155.

### **B2. Surviving the Holocaust: We Were the Lucky Ones**

**Mondays 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

**October 25, November 1, 8, 15, 22**

**Instructor:** **Marcia Tannenbaum** see Instructor profile on page 23

Georgia Hunter's extraordinary novel, *We Were the Lucky Ones*, was written some years after the author learned at the age of 15 that her grandfather who had died the previous year was a Polish Holocaust survivor, one of five siblings, all of whom survived WW II.

She understood the importance of learning about and then writing this amazing family saga for her family and the world. Each of the siblings and their parents were among the few Jewish survivors of Radom, Poland. The novel is structured by historical events which provide the background against which the stories of each family member is told.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**REQUIRED BOOK:** *We Were the Lucky Ones*, Georgia Hunter, Penguin Publishing Group, 9780399563096, 2018.

**OPTIONAL BOOK:** *The War Against the Jews*, Lucy S. Davidowicz. Random House, 9780553345322, 1986.

**READINGS FOR FIRST CLASS:** *Hidden in a Stash of Old Letters, a Grandfather I Never Knew* found at Jewish Book Council link [jewishbookcouncil.org](http://jewishbookcouncil.org)

### **B3. The Vietnam War – A History in Documents**

**Mondays 3:00 - 4:30 pm**

**October 25, November 1, 8, 15, 22**

**Instructor:** John Fitzgerald see Instructor profile on page 19

This course will trace the Vietnam War from its origins under French Colonialism through to the American Intervention, escalation, and defeat. We will look at the periods of the Colonial-French War and then Diem and the CIA. Following JFK's escalation, we will look at what LBJ and Nixon's policies produced. We will cover issues of nationalism, communism, anti-communism, dissent, democracy, imperialism, and American militarism. How is Vietnam remembered in American cultural institutions, such as books, films, and music? What role did arrogance, ignorance, or innocence play in the escalation of the war? Could we have avoided the war? Why are 1945, 1955, 1965 and 1975 turning points in the war? What lessons can we learn from the Vietnam War and what were the consequences of the War for both Vietnam and the USA. Education, not indoctrination, will be the principal goal of this course. Debate will be based on documents with a healthy dose of opinion as befits a democratic society.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**REQUIRED BOOK:** *The Vietnam War: A History of Documents*. Marilyn B. Young, John J. Fitzgerald. A. Tom Grunfeld. Oxford University Press, ISBN: 978-0-19-516635-4 (new and used copies available).

### **B4. Wills, Trusts and Asset Protection Planning**

**Tuesdays 10:30 - 11:30 am**

**October 26, November 2, 9, 16, 23**

**Instructor:** Brenda Rivard see Instructor profile on page 22

Attorney Rivard will offer a clear and concise primer in the basic legal planning for lifetime decision making to protect you and your family with regard to health and finances; financing health and residential needs; protecting family members; and, planning for death. We will discuss protecting assets, planning for second marriages and special needs beneficiaries, as well as avoiding probate. The course will give you the knowledge to sort through the incorrect and conflicting advice you receive from many sources. You will emerge with an understanding of the planning approach that is best for you and the next steps you should take.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

### **B5. Time to Break Up Big Tech?**

**Tuesdays 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

**October 26, November 2, 9, 16, 23**

**Instructor:** Jean Sifleet see Instructor profile on page 23

Antitrust laws are a check on private power which can become abusive and overwhelm government. Teddy Roosevelt was the trust buster in the early 1900's. Breakups of Standard Oil, US steel, and the railroads spawned competition, growth, and improved business and employment practices. Today, we have tremendous concentration in the "Tech Trusts" and serious questions are being raised in lawsuits and proposed legislation that it is time to break up the monopolistic hold of Facebook, Amazon and Google on our country.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

### **B6. Microbes and Us: Some Complicated Relationships**

**Tuesdays 3:00 - 4:30 pm**

**October 26, November 2, 9, 16, 23**

**Instructor:** Clare O'Connor see Instructor profile on page 22

Although we cannot see them with the naked eye, microorganisms are all around us, as well as in us. In fact, modern civilization depends on man's ability to manipulate microorganisms. This class will begin with a basic introduction to microorganisms, including some viruses, bacteria, and yeast. We'll then examine some of our complex relationships with microorganisms in more detail. Topics will include our microbiome, antibiotics/antibiotic resistance, and fermentation. We'll also discuss how microbial genes have provided the foundation for modern biotechnology.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

## **NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

### **B7. Printmaking Techniques Through the Ages**

**Wednesdays 10:30 – 12:00 pm**

**October 27, November 3, 10, 17, December 1**

**Instructor: Martha Chiarchiaro** see Instructor profile on page 18

We'll explore the early printmaking techniques of woodcuts and engravings in the works of artists such as Albrecht Durer. The technique of etching will be illustrated in the work of Rembrandt and Whistler. We'll examine the differences between mezzotint, aquatint, and drypoint. The printmaking technique of lithography has been used by artists as diverse as Delacroix, Daumier, Degas, and Picasso.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

### **B8. Unveiling African Art & Architecture: Issues of Interpretation, Preservation and Ownership**

**Wednesdays 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

**October 27, November 3, 10, 17, December 1**

**Instructor: Barbara Beall** see Instructor profile on page 17

Citing major examples of African art and architecture, this course explores current issues of interpretation, preservation and the crisis of ownership linked to controversial provenance - who owns the art and who should own the art? Included in the discussion: Blombos Cave, Hatshepsut - from Queen to Pharaoh; the Great Mosques of Kairouan, Tunisia (and the Blue Qur'an) and Djenne, Mali; The Geniza Ben Ezra Synagogue Documents; rock churches of Lalibela, Ethiopia; the Great Zimbabwe; Benin City of 1897 and Decolonizing Western Museums: 'temples' of art or 'conspirators' of colonialism?

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

### **B9. Witches and Wizards Through the Ages**

**Wednesdays 3:00 - 4:30 pm**

**October 27, November 3, 10, 17, December 1**

**Instructor: Margaret Watson** see Instructor profile on page 24

A study of the role of occult beliefs and practices found in various cultures and societies. Included are the oracles in ancient kingdoms, astrology, voodoo, witchcraft, and the politics underlying the 1692 witch trials in Salem, MA.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members



**CLASS LIMIT: 95**  
**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

**B10. Native American Basketry**

**Thursdays 10:30 am – 12:00 pm**

**October 28, November 4, 11, 18, December 2**

**Instructor: Catherine Hunter** see Instructor profile on page 20

Native American baskets have stories to tell us about cultural traditions and history. Baskets are ingenious objects that are enriched with a myriad of human associations. Despite significant changes in basketry due to contact with Euro-Americans in the 19th century, basketry was revived and reinvented by Native Americans in the 20th century. Today artists create traditional forms and conceptual artwork. Over five weeks we will examine distinctive examples from five geographic regions. Topics for discussion will include ancient myths, history, ethnobotany, basketry techniques, regional designs, and cultural anthropology. In videos you will hear directly from artists about traditional practices of gathering and processing materials, personal philosophies, and the importance of basketry to Native American communities today.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT: 95**  
**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

**B11. How to Avoid a Climate Disaster?**

**Thursdays 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

**October 28, November 4, 11, 18, December 2**

**Instructor: Pete Murphy** see Instructor profile on page 21

Green House Gas (GHG) emissions are predicted to radically change the climate. Government and the media are promoting rapid and costly reductions in GHG emissions. What does this mean? Where do GHG come from? How can they be reduced? What technology is needed to achieve that reduction? What is a workable plan for GHG reduction? Bill Gates summarized the GHG problem and the challenges in a new book: *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster?* Gates states “There are two numbers you need to know about climate change. The first is 51 billion, the other is zero. 51 billion is how many tons of GHG the world typically adds to the atmosphere every year. Zero is what we need to aim for!” Using the Gates book and other sources, we will look at GHGs: how they impact climate, how they are produced, the challenges to achieve reductions, and a possible plan to get there.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT: 95**

**REQUIRED BOOKS:** *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster* by Bill Gates

**FOR THE FIRST CLASS:** Not required, but to follow along read Chapters 1-3 in Gates book

## **B12. The Women of the Supreme Court**

**Thursdays 3:00 - 4:30 pm**

**October 28, November 4, 11, 18, December 2**

**Instructor: John S. Ross III (Jack)** see Instructor profile on page 22

This course will examine the lives and careers of the five women to have served on the United States Supreme Court: Sandra Day O'Connor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Elena Kagan, Sonia Sotomayor, and Amy Coney Barrett. Topics will include the family, educational, and legal backgrounds of the justices; the social forces and politics that drove their nominations; and their ideologies and influences on the law as associate justices of the Supreme Court. The course will also examine social changes in the United States and the legal profession that culminated in the appointment of women to the Court and consider whether the advent of women justices has influenced the dynamics and public perception of the Court.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS** Optional readings will be made available on the Course Materials page on the website

## **B13. Stepping Stones of Your Life: Writing a Memoir**

**Fridays 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**

**October 29, November 5, 12, 19, December 3**

**Instructor: Lydia Bogar** see Instructor profile on page 17

Writing a memoir can be fun. It is a place to collect your thought or memorialize people and events in your life for future generations, or it is simply for your own pleasure. The primary goal is to demonstrate the basic skills of memoir writing while increasing the interaction of WISE students on ZOOM; turn on your camera, meet your neighbors, and enhance your communication skills post isolation.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**OPTIONAL BOOKS:** *Bird by Bird*, by Anne Lamont; *On Writing* by Stephen King; *Big Magic Creative Living Beyond Fear* by Elizabeth Gilbert (Sequel to *Eat, Pray Love* with lessons in writing)

## **B14. Shakespeare Transformed: Three Contemporary Novels**

**Fridays 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

**October 29, November 5, 12, 19, December 3**

**Instructors: Helen Whall and Virginia Vaughan** see Instructor profiles on page 23, 24

This class will examine three best-selling 21<sup>st</sup> century novels, one that adapts biographical and historical materials (Maggie O'Farrell's *Hamnet*) and two that respond to a particular play. Ian McEwan's *Nutshell* presents Hamlet the Prince literally *in utero*. Margaret Atwood's novel *Hag-Seed* reinvents *The Tempest* as its central character designs and mounts a prison production.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**REQUIRED BOOKS:** *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell, Vintage. May 18, 2021, ISBN: 978-1984898876. *Nutshell* by Ian McEwan, Anchor; Reprint ed. May 30, 2017, ISBN: 978-0525431947; *Hag-Seed* by Margaret Atwood, Anchor; Reprint edition (May 30, 2017), ISBN 978-0525431947.

## **B15. History of Conservation in the United States**

**Fridays 3:00 - 4:30 pm**

**October 29, November 5, 12, 19, December 3**

**Instructors: Martha Gach & Sheryl Pereira** see Instructor profiles on page 19, 22

Conservation in the United States can be traced back to the original indigenous peoples, with a post-colonial resurgence in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century American sportsman movement. In this course we will explore the early beginnings, the progressive era and the modern-day concepts used to protect the wildlife, land and natural resources. We will discuss some of the peoples, individuals, and government entities that played a key part in these efforts to protect our environment. Finally, we will look to the future of conservation and key figures leading the charge.

**ZOOM LINK:** Available on website to paid and registered members

**CLASS LIMIT:** 95

**NO REQUIRED BOOKS**

## **WISE Instructor Profiles for Fall 2021**

Instructor emails can be found on our password protected Directory here

<https://assumptionwise.org/directory>

### **B**

**Barbara Beall** Barbara Beall completed her PhD at Brown University. A Professor Emerita and former Chair of the Dept. of Art, Music & Theater at Assumption University, President Emerita of the Worcester Chapter of the AIA - Archaeological Institute of America, she is currently a Visiting Professor at Clark University teaching African and Islamic art and architecture.

**COURSE: B8. Unveiling African Art & architecture: Issues of Interpretation, Preservation and Ownership**

**Les Blatt** Les Blatt is Professor Emeritus of Physics and Education at Clark University. His research interests include experimental nuclear physics and astrophysics, as well as modern approaches to learning and teaching science.

He has created and taught WISE courses in a variety of areas – some on accessible topics in physics and astronomy, and others on often-unappreciated relationships between science and our daily lives.

**COURSE: A3. Intelligent Life in the Universe**

**Lydia Bogar** Lydia Bogar is a graduate of Worcester State College (University) and has taken classes at Coastal Carolina University and Brandeis University, since her retirement seven years ago. For three years, she was the Co-Coordinator of a Writers Guild at Brandeis. Her favorite teaching experience was as a Disaster Services Instructor at the Central MA Chapter of the American Red Cross. She served for 13 years on the Central MA Critical Incident Stress Management team. Lydia is retired from the MA State Fire Marshal's Office.

**COURSE: B13. Stepping Stones of Your Life: Writing a Memoir.**

**Paul Buono** Paul Buono is a member of the music faculty at WPI, Clark University and Assumption University where he is the director of the jazz ensemble. Paul holds a bachelor's and master's degree in jazz performance as well as a law degree. He has toured internationally as a pianist and musical director for various ensembles. Paul performs and records regularly and also teaches privately, including online.

**Course: A13. Jazz History 1900s-1950s (Part 1)**

## C

**Martha Chiarchiaro** Martha Chiarchiaro has brought history to life through the art of the times for more than 30 years. She received her Master's degree in the History of Art from Williams College and has taught a variety of art history courses at the Worcester Art Museum and Worcester State University. Martha has always been fascinated by the various techniques in art.

**COURSES: A5. Painting Techniques Through the Ages and B7. Printmaking Techniques Through the Ages**

**Lillian Corti** After obtaining her doctorate in Comparative Literature at the City University of New York, Dr. Corti taught Comparative Drama at the University of Tulsa, World Literature and Women's Center in Greece. She published a book-length study on the myth of Medea which included chapters on dramatic works by Euripides, Seneca, Corneille, Grillparzer and various modern authors.

**COURSE: A9. The Ironic Drama of Euripides**

## F

**Rabbi Aviva Fellman** Rabbi Aviva Fellman is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Israel in Worcester, MA. She holds a BA in Religious Studies from the University of Pittsburgh and earned her Master's in Talmud and Jewish Law from Machon Schechter in Jerusalem. Rabbi Fellman was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in NYC in 2012.

**COURSE: B1. From Polemic to Possibility: The Bible with and Without Jesus**

**John Fitzgerald** was a Combat Infantry Platoon Leader, 25th Infantry Division, Republic of Vietnam in 1966. He was awarded with a Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart, and Bronze Star for Valor. John is a retired History and Social Studies teacher who taught at Longmeadow High School in MA from 1971 to 2004. John has a Master's Degree in History Education, a Member in Veterans for Peace and Vietnam Veterans of America. He is the Co-Author of *The Vietnam War: A History in Documents*.

**COURSE: B3. The Vietnam War - A History in Documents**

## G

**Martha Gach** Martha Gach is Education Manager and Conservation Coordinator at Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary in Worcester. Dr. Gach coordinated the design, installation, and maintenance of the sustainable landscape campus at Broad Meadow Brook, she directs adult education programs, and she manages the Sanctuary's 430+ acres of conservation land for wildlife and people. Dr. Gach also teaches climate change at Worcester State University.

**COURSE: DA6. Climate Change**

**Margery Gordon** Margery graduated from Classical High and The American University where she received a BA and MFA. She was highlighted in the book *Museum People*. Margery was written up in the *Washington Post*, *Denver Post*, *Worcester Telegram and Gazette*, and more. She served as museum educator at Smithsonian's American Art Museum and National Museum of Natural History and has given presentations; and shown artwork throughout the U.S., and other countries.

**COURSE: A12. Egyptian Art and Culture: What's Real and What's Myth**

**Christina Graziano** Christina Graziano graduated from Assumption University in 2010, magna cum laude, with a degree in political science. She received her law degree from Suffolk University in 2013 and currently works as an attorney specializing in mass torts, pharmaceutical and medical device litigation, and sexual assault cases.

She loves 19th and 20th century Russian literature and spends every spare minute of her life reading.

**COURSE: A2. Ethics and Aesthetics in Nabokov's "Lolita"**

## H

**Karl Hakkarainen**, the WISE Tech Advisor, is a retired software engineer and IT professional. He has worked with copyrights, patents, and trademarks throughout his career. His legal studies include a course on copyright law through the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard Law School. Karl is not a lawyer.

**COURSE: A14. Intellectual Property for the Rest of us**

**Rick Hendra** Rick Hendra is a philosopher by training and inclination (BA: SUNY/Buffalo, M. Phil: Columbia U., EdD: UMass-Amherst) and as much a polymath as possible. A born bibliophile, Rick was raised in an apartment full of books, now living in a houseful (25 bookcases – and 2 on order). Reading everything was good training for an academic career, and for 30 years he taught writing, critical thinking, leadership, community development, and organization theory at the University Without Walls, an experimental college for adult students at UMass/Amherst. For the past several years since retirement, Rick has pursued another career as a radio show host on community radio WCUW, playing the stories of American roots music. Also, Rick is co-founder of the Worcester Hot Club, nurturing appreciation for the era of 78's. He lives in Oakham, MA with his wife and son.

**COURSE: A4. The Story of the Blues**

**Catherine Hunter** Catherine Hunter was a museum curator, educator, and consultant for over twenty years. She received a B.A. in History of Art from Cornell University and began her career as a curator in the Department of Textiles at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Catherine has a lifelong interest in studying the overlap of art, culture, and science. She has studied basketmaking, published feature articles for the National Basketry Organization, and worked as a Research Associate with Native American basketry collections at the Robert S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology in Andover, Massachusetts.

**COURSE: B10. Native American Basketry**

## L

**Jeff Long** has taught film studies courses at WISE since 2014. He has also taught film at Becker College and wrote movie reviews for the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (2008-2018).



Jeff has also authored a 500-page guide to coming-of-age memoirs, *Remembered Childhoods* (2007).

**COURSE: A17. In American Cinema, All Politics Is Local**

## M

**Eugene McCarthy** Gene McCarthy taught English at Holy Cross College for thirty five years and has been teaching at WISE since 2008 and offering poetry reading sessions at Briarwood Retirement Community. Besides *Sound Ideas*, he co-edited with Thomas Doughton *From Bondage to Belonging: The Worcester Slave Narratives*, an edition of eight narratives by ex-slaves who lived in Worcester.

**COURSE: A1. Reading Poetry Aloud**

**Rosemary McCarthy** has a Master of Arts in Journalism from the University of Nevada, Reno where she was also Assistant Professor from 2002 - 2012 and taught an undergraduate Travel Journalism course for several years. She also has broadcast experience in television and radio.

**COURSE: A16. How Magazines Helped Shape a Young Nation**

**Pete Murphy** retired from teaching Management in the Business Studies Department at Assumption University in 2011. He came to Assumption after a long career in the international energy industry managing a variety of business and technical organizations.

**COURSE: B11. How to Avoid Climate Disaster**

## N

**David Nevard** grew up in suburban Boston and has always been fascinated by history – especially World War II and the postwar era. He attended UMass-Amherst and worked as an IT professional for over 30 years. Since retirement, David has been an instructor at WISE and other area lifelong learning programs. David and his wife have been listening to Old Time Radio for years.

**COURSE: A8. The Dark Side of Old Time Radio**

## O

**William O'Brien** holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Northeastern University and is Professor Emeritus of Economics at Worcester State University. His research interests range from public choice to the effect of taxes on economic behavior, to the determinants of MCAS scores, to globalization.

**COURSE: C7. World Economic History since the Fall of the Berlin Wall**

**Clare O'Connor** Clare O'Connor received her Ph.D. from Purdue and did postdoctoral research at UCLA and Caltech. She moved to Shrewsbury in 1984 to take a faculty position at the former Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology. She then joined the Biology Department at Boston College, where she taught courses in genetics and molecular cell biology before retiring in 2018.

**COURSE: B6. Microbes and Us: Some Complicated Relationships**

## P

**Sheryl Pereira** is a Birding Instructor and coordinator of Visitor Services at Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary. She is a longtime birdwatcher and enjoys caring for birds, especially the cardinals. When not birding or managing the MA Audubon front desk, Sheryl enjoys sharing her knowledge of ornithology with her grandchildren.

**COURSE: C14. Introduction to Bird Watching**

## R

**Benjamin Railton** is a Professor of English and American Studies at Fitchburg State University and the author of six books. Recently he published *Of Thee I Sing: The Contested History of American Patriotism*, 2021. He maintains a daily blog, contributes articles to many sites including *Saturday Evening Post Considering History* column and is a Boston chapter leader of the Scholars Strategy Network organization at <https://scholars.org/>.

**COURSE: CA15. Echos of the 1920's**

**Eve Rifkah** Eve Rifkah was co-founder of Poetry Oasis, Inc. (1998-2012), a non-profit poetry association dedicated to education and promoting local poets. She is also founder and editor of DINER, a literary magazine. She received her MFA from Vermont College. Eve has published the following books: *Dear Suzanne* (2010) and *Outcasts: the Penikese Leper Hospital 1905-1921*, 2010. *Lost in Sight*, 2021, *Scar Tissue*, 2017, *At the Leprosarium*, which is a 2003 winner of the Revelever Chapbook Contest.

**COURSES: A10. Worcester Poets Present Tense**

**Brenda Rivard** is an experienced attorney who practices in Worcester and specializes in life/estate planning for all ages: specific elder law issues; probate estate administration; Medicaid planning and applications; guardianships and conservatorships; and asset planning to maximize resources and preserve assets. She has a radio show on Emmanuel Radio called "Life's Transitions" on which she addresses legal topics that affect all of us throughout our lifetimes.

**COURSE: B4. Wills, Trusts and Asset Protection Planning**

**John (Jack) Ross** John S. Ross, III (Jack) holds degrees from Yale University and the University of Virginia School of Law and served as Adjunct Professor of Law at Washington and Lee University School of Law. Jack has taught numerous courses in the WISE program on constitutional law and the Supreme Court, and facilitates the WISE Supreme Court SIG.

**COURSE: B12. The Women of the Supreme Court**

## S

**Jean Sifleet** Jean Sifleet is a retired attorney and CPA. During her business career of over 40 years, she worked in corporate management, consulting, and private practice. She has taught business and intellectual property law. In retirement, Jean served as an Access to Justice Fellow and worked with the Mass Law Reform Institute on immigration policy and reform initiatives.

**COURSE: B5. Time to Break Up Big Tech?**

**Rich Simpson** The Rev. Dr. Rich Simpson serves as Canon to the Ordinary (Assistant to the Bishop) in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts. From 1998-2013, he was the Rector of St. Francis Episcopal Church in Holden. Over the past two decades, he has enjoyed teaching the Bible with WISE, especially team-taught classes with Rabbi Fellman.

**COURSE: B1. From Polemic to Possibility: The Bible with and Without Jesus**

## T

**Marcia Tannenbaum** is a local attorney, mediator and educator who has been teaching courses on the Holocaust in various Jewish and secular venues for more than 40 years, including WISE. While teaching at Nichols College in Dudley, MA, Marcia created and taught a course on the Literature of the Holocaust. In 2001, she presented a paper at the International Conference on Teaching the Holocaust at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. On that trip, Marcia visited Auschwitz with other conference participants and then spent the Jewish Festival of Shevuoth in Warsaw before returning to Worcester.

**COURSE: B2. Surviving the Holocaust: We Were the Lucky Ones**

## V

**Virginia Vaughn** Virginia received her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and taught at Clark University for 37 years, where she specialized in Shakespeare and Renaissance Drama. She has published widely on both *The Tempest* and *Othello* and has taught several WISE courses.

**COURSE: B14. Shakespeare Transformed: Three Contemporary Novels**

## W

**Margaret Watson** Margaret Watson received undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of Michigan. She pursued further graduate study in historical and literary research at the Ohio State University where she taught for several years. She is now Professor Emerita from Quinsigamond Community College after serving for thirty-six years as faculty member and administrator.

**COURSE: B9. Witches and Wizards Through the Ages**

**Rebecca Watters** Rebecca Watters is a wildlife biologist and writer who has worked in Mongolia for the past 12 years. She is fluent in modern Mongolian, decent at Classical Mongolian, and currently runs a wildlife research project in collaboration with the Ulaan Taiga Protected Areas Administration in northern Mongolia. She grew up in Massachusetts and when she isn't in Mongolia, she is based in Bozeman, Montana.

**COURSE: A7. The Mongol Empire in World History**

**Helen Whall** After finishing her Ph.D. at Yale University, Helen joined the faculty at The College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. There she taught Shakespeare and the Renaissance as well as modern drama, frequently writing on both subjects. Since retiring in 2017, Helen has offered several courses for WISE.

**COURSE: B14. Shakespeare Transformed: Three Contemporary Novels**

## WISE Clubs & Special Interest Groups

<https://assumptionwise.org/Clubs-Groups-and-SIGs>

### Clubs

WISE clubs provide stimulation as well as social interaction around shared activities for interested WISE members. Volunteers organize club related events with support of volunteer coordinators. All clubs meet online via Zoom.

#### **Movie Club organized and coordinated by Bobbi Corn**

Periodically throughout the year the Movie Club members view movies on their own and meet online for lively discussions. Announcements are made about the movies well in advance.

#### **Book Club organized and coordinated by Joyce Abdow-Dowd**

Five times during the year members of the Book Club meet online to discuss books selected by a committee of WISE members. The books include contemporary, classic and historical fiction and memoirs. Each book online discussion is led by a volunteer.

### **Non-Fiction Book Club organized and coordinated by Bill Forbes**

Five times during the year members of the Non-Fiction Book Club meet online to discuss books selected by a committee of WISE members. Each book online discussion is led by a volunteer.

### **WISE Writing Club organized and coordinated by Josette Kaplan**

This group is designed for members interested in honing their writing skills in a collaborative and supportive online setting that meets once a month to share individual work.

### **Special Interest Groups**

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) focus on a specific subject matter and are organized by an expert in the field and coordinated by a volunteer. These are informal, self-directed, and may involve experts and activists in the subject matter. The SIGs meet monthly online via Zoom.

### **Supreme Court SIG organized by Jack Ross and coordinated by Joe Corn**

This group focuses on a series of Supreme Court decisions that have been recently or currently handed down. Jack Ross, a WISE Group Leader with extensive legal training and background, facilitates the online discussion and supplies background information for each case.

### **Energy and the Environment SIG organized by Pete Murphy and coordinated by Michael Fishbein**

The focus of this group is on energy production and the effect on the climate and environment. Under the expertise of Pete Murphy, the members of the SIG will discuss public policy about energy production, use, and conservation, now and in the future to protect the environment.



**Join us online this fall!**