

IND Spring 2024 Course Listings

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IND, THE INSTITUTE OF NEW DIMENSIONS,

is a non-profit organization. Our mission is to offer short college-level courses to adults. IND believes that intellectual stimulation fosters well-being in adults.

We are very grateful for our instructors and trustees, all of whom are volunteers.

Our courses are offered in the spring, fall and winter. Most spring and fall courses consist of four or five 90-minute daytime sessions, in semesters of approximately twelve weeks. Winter courses are mainly one or two sessions, in a seven-week-long semester.

Students may enroll in as many courses as they wish.

IN-PERSON, HYBRID and VIRTUAL COURSES

As the Covid pandemic recedes from view, we are increasing our in-person and hybrid course offerings.

IN-PERSON COURSES:

In line with governmental advice and rulings, we are holding in-person classes with no masking requirements. If guidelines change we will reconsider our policy. Individual students are welcome to wear masks at their discretion.

VIRTUAL COURSES:

Our virtual courses are held online via the Zoom application, on a device of your choosing – computer, smart phone, tablet, etc. You can also listen to classes by phone without attending visually. Virtual registrants will receive a Zoom link, which is good for all sessions of a course. Please do not lose the link.

All registrants will receive instructions for using the Zoom program. If you are inexperienced or hesitant about this system, we will hold tutorials. As a fallback position, ask your grandchildren how to use it.

For the convenience of all students, the virtual classroom entry will open 15 minutes before the start time. Entry after class start may be delayed. Please sign in early to allow time for checking your computer settings. You may leave class at any time before the session ends, and you may also reenter.

HYBRID ATTENDANCE:

Most in-person courses will also be open to virtual (hybrid) attendance. The experience of virtual attendance will not be the same as in-person, but every effort is being made to include virtual students in class discussions. If you must attend virtually the opportunity to participate in these courses is worth the slight inconvenience.

For hybrid courses please be sure to mark the registration form for virtual attendance so that we can send you the Zoom link. See the virtual course section above for more information.

THE COURSE BROCHURE

The course brochure is not being printed and mailed this semester. We are only sending our course brochure by Email, to people on our mailing list who have provided their Email addresses. If you know anybody who might be interested in our courses and has not received the brochure, please forward it to them or provide us their Email address for us to send it.

REGISTRATION

The registration form is separate from the course brochure. There are two versions of the registration form: a self-calculating one for PC computers with the Excel program, and one for hand completion if your device doesn't have the Excel program.

Register early for the courses of your choice. Classes fill quickly and some have limited enrollment. Each student registering for courses must complete an individual registration form accompanied by their payment. To minimize handling of checks and paperwork we strongly urge that you register only by credit or debit card payment, using the procedure described below.

For card payment, registration and payment is a two-step process. When we receive your registration form we will reserve your place(s) in your course(s) and send you the payment link. Upon receipt of your payment we will send you a confirmation by email. Please pay promptly, as we can't hold places for more than 5 days.

For both in-person and virtual courses, if space allows registrations will be accepted up to the time of a class session. Please call in advance to 973-291-8220 to check place availability if you wish to sign up for a course at that time. As there are room attendance limits for the in-person courses, do not arrive unregistered without calling in advance.

Prior to the start of your virtual course(s), we will email you a non-transferable Zoom class invitation registration link and passcode for each course you take. This information is necessary for you to attend a course, and is easily entered into your browser. Multiple sessions of a course use the same Zoom passcode. If you lose the passcode(s) please contact us.

Occasionally we may need to change the schedule or cancel a course due to unanticipated events. We will make every effort to inform you when that happens and to help you make changes in your course selection. Please be sure to enter your phone number(s) in the registration form for us to contact you.

ALL IN-PERSON COURSES THIS SEMESTER MEET AT:

Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County 687 Larch Avenue, at the corner of North Street. Teaneck, NJ

Located three blocks south of Cedar Lane. There is a door on North Street, but it is not an entrance.

There is ample street parking at the Society, with a small lot which we are reserving for handicapped students. Please only use the lot if you can't navigate the street parking.

We share the building entry with a nursery school. For that reason the door is always closed, to be opened by an IND monitor. Please be patient if the monitor is temporarily away from the door.

Please do not contact the Ethical Culture Society about IND business – our contacts are listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Call (Monday thru Friday) at: 973-291-8220

Email to: IND.bergen@gmail.com
Or see our website at: www.INDbergen.org

Monday Courses In-Person and Hybrid at the Ethical Culture Society

#121 The Diamond Anniversary of Six Movie Gems

Instructor: Alan Schwartz, now retired, was a high school English teacher, an attorney, and for many years research director for the Anti-Defamation League.

Mondays, 10:30 am – 1:00 pm 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/15, 5/13, 5/20

Notes: This is an in-person course. It is in six sessions; the fee is \$45.

To provide discussion time, this course starts earlier than usual and is $2^{1}/_{2}$ hours long.

Please arrive on time to not disturb the class in progress.

In this course we will screen and discuss six great films all made or released 75 years ago (1948-49). They deal with a variety of compelling themes: Overcoming personal disabilities; testing the limits of friendship and fidelity; and the consequences of greed and deceit.

These films received a total of 39 Academy Award nominations and won 12. Why do they endure as classics?

The movies we will view and discuss are:

- 1. Johnny Belinda (1948) Dir. Jean Negulesco
- 2. The Snake Pit (1948) Dir. Anatole Litvak
- 3. *The Heiress* (1949) Dir. Willliam Wyler
- 4. The Third Man (1949) Dir. Carol Reed
- 5. All the King's Men (1949) Dir. Robert Rossen
- 6. A Letter to Three Wives (1949) Dir. Joseph Mankiewicz

#122 The Second Amendment – Interpreted and Reinterpreted

Instructor: Philip S. Carchman is retired from the New Jersey judiciary, in which he wrote over 1,200 opinions and served as Administrative Director of Courts, in effect overseeing the state's entire court system.

Monday, 11:30 am- 1:00 pm 5/6

Note: This is a hybrid course. It is in one session; the fee is \$10.

"A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

Accepted as straight-forward and sufficient for its purpose, this statement was ratified as the Second Amendment to the Constitution. It has since become the most debated, interpreted and reinterpreted of "our rights" as American citizens.

Judge Carchman will explore the history of the amendment and the various court decisions that have revisited it to deeply affect our country. Are the courts clarifying the amendment, or essentially rewriting it?

The Institute of New Dimensions

Nahum Bachrach President Richard Burns Keith Danish Beatrice Geller Emily Ginder Steve Koblick Alice Olick Sue Putterman Enid Sachs Michael F. Sica Gloria Smith Robert Suffis Edie Turkin Elaine Weisfeld

#131 More Space Adventures

Instructor: Joe Lennox is a space program historian and student; creator of an extensive private space history museum, items from which are used during his presentation; former President of the New Jersey Aviation Hall of Fame and Museum, serving as their director of educational programs and curator of their space artifacts and exhibits; and assisted the space curator at The Intrepid Air and Space Museum. He was a senior officer at a major Canadian bank in New York.

Mondays 1:30pm 3/25, 4/1, 4/8

Note: This is a hybrid course. It is in three sessions; the fee is \$25.

This course will study three quite varied aspects of the space program. The topics are:

- 1. **Apollo 8**: Humans' first trip to the moon. This was the first crewed spacecraft to leave low Earth orbit and the first human space flight to reach the Moon. As a prelude to moon landing, the crew orbited the moon ten times without setting down. This presentation will contain newly added material.
- 2. **Neil Armstrong:** "That's one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind." Forever to be remembered for that statement, there was much more to Neil Armstrong. After many combat missions as a young naval airman he became a civilian test pilot, a job as perilous as war duty. All that experience made him an ideal choice to be the first civilian astronaut. We know about the moon landing as a fantastic success; in this session we will also learn of some near-misses that required a test-pilot's quick thinking and experience to help pull it off.
- 3. **Women in the space program** It's no longer a boy's club. At first a rarity, as of now more than 70 women from many countries have flown in space. A NASA astronaut, <u>Peggy A. Whitson</u>, was the first female commander of the space station during 2007.

#132 Moral Philosophy 101 for the Age of Disinformation and Anxiety

Instructor: Josef Machac, M.D. is a retired physician with a life-long interest in history, and has researched and lectured on this topic and related matters at a number of churches, synagogues, and civic organizations.

Monday, 1:30 - 3:00 pm 5/6

Note: This is a hybrid course. It is in one session; the fee is \$10.

It is natural to be anxious due to disinformation about natural disasters and disease, the horrors of history, the current sophists and bad rulers. This course will discuss how the teachings of the great Greco-Roman moral philosophers of 2,000 years ago, the source of many self-help approaches, can help in dealing with that anxiety.

The philosophers that we will examine offer common-sense advice, rather than esoteric speculation. We will review selected samplings from the Ethics of Aristotle; the Stoic philosophy of Cicero, Seneca and Epictetus; the cynics Dio Chrysostom and Lucian of Samosata; the down-to-earth views of Epicurus and Lucretius; and the moralist analysis of character and rulership by Plutarch and Marcus Aurelius.

Combined, these philosophers present philosophy as therapy and teach us how to live. These teachings are in contrast with the offerings of false philosophers, the charlatans and sophists of the day, the pundits and public relations experts, the purveyors of "alternative facts."

#133 How to Write Your Family History

Instructor: Susan Amsterdam has been a teacher of English in college and business schools, a journalist, a published poet, and retired after a career of over 25 years as an arts administrator in Passaic County. She lectures in the area for organizations, community schools and libraries.

Monday, 1:30 - 3:00 pm 5/13

Note: This is an in-person course. It is in one session; the fee is \$10.

Producing a family history is a two-part process: research and creation. It may seem daunting, but when broken down into steps it's quite manageable and enjoyable. Some of the issues are:

- Information sources, including how to conduct oral histories.
- Organizing what may at first be an overwhelming mass of information.
- Dealing with sensitive family stories.
- Finding one's authentic "voice" for narrating the story, and relating the story in an interesting manner.
- Including one's own autobiography.
- Selecting the most suitable format.
- Writing the manuscript and creating the finished book.

You will see examples of finished work and discuss alternative options.

Tuesday Courses In-Person and Hybrid at the Ethical Culture Society

#211 An Introduction to Digital Photography

Instructor: Ray Turkin is an award-winning professional photographer whose work has been widely exhibited. He teaches at The Art School at Old Church in Demarest and the Bergen Community College Institute for Learning in Retirement. He also gives private instruction.

Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00 am: 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16

Notes: This is an in-person course. It is in four sessions; the fee is \$30. Enrollment for this hands-on course is limited to 10 students.

This course is for those who have a basic knowledge of the fundamentals of digital camera operation. You'll learn the concepts of exposure, depth of field, lighting, and composition to improve your photographs, including pictures of family and friends. You'll also learn how to download, organize, and get your images printed. If all this sounds complicated, don't worry, we'll keep it simple.

Please bring your camera and user's manual to class.

#212 Sharing Contemporary Ideas

Instructor: Emily Ginder is a former homeschooling mom who brings her enthusiasm for history and literature to class. In addition to leading courses at Bergen Community College and OLLI at University of Delaware, she moderates a book club on Goodreads, an on-line discussion site.

Tuesday, 9:30 – 11:00 am 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14

Note: This is an in-person course. It is in four sessions; the fee is \$30.

This class will examine a series of short, dynamic talks covering a variety of topics. We will listen to Ted Talks and other insightful videos as we explore a new subject each session.

#221 Political Citizenship in the 21st Century - Rights and Obligations

Instructor: Michael F. Sica, human resources professional who has presented numerous courses at IND on the Civil War and current affairs, often with a consideration of the impact of leaders' personalities.

Tuesdays, 11:30 – 1:00 pm 3/26, 4/2, 4/16, 4/23

Note: This is a hybrid course. It is in four sessions; the fee is \$30.

We often hear much about our "rights;" those rights remain basic to the functioning of any democracy. But do "rights" alone ensure a well-functioning democracy? Beyond rights, individual obligations, including obligations between individual citizens as well as between citizens and the government, can be seen as another cornerstone of a successful democracy.

This four-session program will explore the intersection between individual rights and obligations, examining and building on an understanding of key contemporary issues that impact our lives as political citizens, in the face of the challenging and changing dynamic of the American landscape.

Topics will include:

- America's changing demographics
- Understanding American election dynamics
- Exploring American opinion and polarization
- News and Information sources what do we share and where do we differ?

#231 A History of the Origins of Religion

Instructor: Robert Suffis, chemist and retired research and development vice-president.

Tuesdays, 1:30 – 3:00 pm 3/26, 4/9, 4/23, 5/7, 5/21

Note: This is a hybrid course. It is in five sessions; the fee is \$40.

Homo Sapiens is the only animal capable of conceiving and discussing religious belief. In this course we will follow the human intellectual and language development that created this ability. This capability to construct possible answers to the mystery of life and to conceive of an after-life created an evolutionary advantage that helped lead to human conquest of our planet.

We will review the nature of the earliest beliefs in supernatural beings and the belief in the immortality of the spirit or soul. We will also discuss the origins of the major religions in both the western and eastern worlds and the difference between beliefs in these two world regions. Finally we will also look at the development of the connection between religion and moral values.

CALL FOR LECTURERS / TEACHERS / DISCUSSION LEADERS

IND is always seeking new instructors and lecturers.

Our richest resource is YOU!

Please let us know if you or anyone you know might be interested in teaching a one- or multi-session course.

Contact Gloria Smith at (201) 261-5073

Wednesday Courses In-Person and Hybrid at the Ethical Culture Society

#321 On Being a Refugee

Instructor: Judy Manton, as an ESL teacher taught Cuban, Cambodian and Vietnamese refugees in New York City. She's encountered Uyghurs in China and Rohingyas in Myanmar. A Chinese dissident couple from China obtained refuge in her home for three years and North Vietnamese boat people for several months. She tutors a Ukrainian woman on a weekly basis. She's an active member of the Northern NJ Sanctuary Coalition and has advocated for refugees most of her adult life.

Wednesdays 11:30 am - 1:00 pm 3/27, 4/10, 4/17

Note: This is a hybrid course. It is in three sessions; the fee is \$25.

Migration is a world-wide phenomenon. It is a raging political issue not only in the U.S. in this election year, but in all parts of the world which are impacted by the arrival of people escaping wars, gang violence, severe poverty, climate change, government corruption and other issues. Some travel as families, some alone, and some as unaccompanied children. Americans are almost all immigrants or descendants of some forebear who came here recently or generations ago, many as refugees escaping the holocaust.

Who are today's refugees? Why do they leave their homelands? What is the physical and psychological impact of their often life-threatening journeys across a desert or an ocean? How are they treated upon arrival? Which challenges do they have to overcome in their struggles to establish new lives?

This course will use videos, photos and other images as background material. The course will cover the following topics:

- 1. Why People Are Compelled to Leave Their Homes.
- 2. Dynamics of the Migration Journey.
- 3. Arrival, Welcome, Rejection, Resettlement, Guilt.

Call for Volunteers

As most of you know, IND is a volunteer organization - all our teachers graciously donate their valuable time and expertise - as does our board. We need help with running our classes. Can you share your time and talents?

Please join us by helping with:

- Checking the class list at the door, or when participants join a Zoom session.
- Making phone calls if a class is cancelled.
- Working on advertising and publicity.
- Producing the course catalog.
- Recruiting new teachers.

The work is rewarding - you'll help keep your IND program alive and vibrant as you interact with like-minded lifelong learners. Call one of our volunteer program coordinators:

Beatrice Geller: 201-742-5540 Elaine Weisfeld: 201-797-1902 Call our office at: 973-291-8220

Email to: IND.bergen@gmail.com

Mail to: Institute of New Dimensions

PO Box 17 Butler, NJ 07405

Thank you

#322 Six Unforgettable Films

Instructor: Theo Solomon, Professor of Anthropology and Sociology at Bergen Community College, is a world traveler, photographer and lecturer.

Wednesdays, 10:30 am - 1:00 pm 4/3, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22

Notes: This is an in-person course. It is in six sessions; the fee is \$45.

To provide discussion time, this course starts earlier than usual and is $2^{1}/_{2}$ hours long. Please arrive on time to not disturb the class in progress.

In this course we will screen and discus six great films, from Hollywood and abroad. They are all classics, honored for their writers, directors and actors. They remain with you long after experiencing them, and if you've seen them previously they are worth a repeat viewing and discussion.

The movies we will view and discuss are:

- 1. Zorba the Greek (1964) Greek, Dir. Michael Cacoyannis
- 2. Bicycle Thieves (1948) Italian, Dir. Vittorio de Sica
- 3. Umberto D (1952) Italian, Dir. Vittorio de Sica
- 4. Brief Encounter (1945) British, Dir. David Lean
- 5. *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre* (1948) American, Dir. John Huston
- 6. The Red Shoes (1948) British, Dirs. Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger

We Need You

To consider joining our skilled and knowledgeable faculty. We are always looking for more volunteer instructors.

- Can you offer a five-session course?
- A single class?
- Can you suggest a friend or colleague?
- Tell us of a discussion leader or lecturer who has impressed you?

Please tell your friends about our exciting mix of classes.

We believe we have a lot to offer continuing learners, and would like to increase our student body by adding to our mailing list.

Please send the names and contact information of potential students or prospective instructors, including yourself if appropriate.

By Mail to: Institute of New Dimensions

P.O. Box 17 Butler, NJ 07405

By Email to: IND.bergen@gmail.com

Or Call: Gloria Smith at (201) 261-5073

Thank you.

#331 Current Events

Instructor: Joseph Walinski, lecturer at Bergen Community College, JCC, Humanist Society and local libraries, and leader of IND discussion courses.

Wednesdays, 1:30 – 3:00 pm 3/27, 4/10, 4/24, 5/8, 5/22

Notes: This is a hybrid course. It is in five sessions; the fee is \$40.

Enrollment is limited to 25 students.

For many years, IND has presented a course titled "Great Decisions," using topics from a book by the Foreign Policy Association. The articles, while excellently written, were published many months in advance, and were of varying timeliness when we discussed them. As a result, the class often veered off-topic to the day's news.

This semester we will drop the book and go directly to the news and/or ongoing current issues. The topic will be chosen by the group in the preceding session, or will be the urgent news of the day.

Our background sources will be wherever you get your news – newspapers, magazines, TV, even the latenight comedians if that works for you.

Come prepared to discuss, dispute, argue, propose solutions. Ony one rule – keep it civil, and with words only.

#332 The Right-Wing Assault on Higher Education

Instructor: Arnold D. Rubin, M.D., Emeritus Professor of Medicine and Oncology, and former Director of the Stem Cell Transplantation Program at the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Rutgers University.

Wednesdays, 1:30 - 3:00 5/1, 5/15

Note: This is a hybrid course. It is in two sessions; the fee is \$15.

Despite much optimistic evidence to the contrary, the attitude of those who are politically conservative continue to claim that America is on the wrong track. Nowhere is this phenomenon more apparent than in higher education, with its responsibility to train young minds for future leadership of the nation. The beleaguered American universities have been set upon by a political far-right who have weaponized such legitimate issues as diversity, equality, and inclusion together with considerations of elitism, academic integrity, free speech, meritocracy and even anti-Semitism to threaten our current system of higher education.

This course will describe the assault in a historical context, then explore its sources, and finally deal with the individual aspects which are parts of a larger historical dilemma.

Thursday Courses Virtual

#411 The Golden Age of American Popular Music - Spring 2024 Edition

Instructor: Joe Weisfeld, Ph.D. Chemistry, retired director of a research and development laboratory, is a lifelong music lover.

Thursdays 9:30 – 11:00 am, 4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2

Note: This is a virtual course. It is in five sessions; the fee is \$40.

With all new selections, this course continues the celebration of American popular music written primarily in the 1920s, '30s and '40s. The music filled the demands of Broadway, Tin Pan Alley and the Hollywood musicals. New generations and groups around the world are discovering, playing and enjoying this music. In this course, we will play selections by songwriters like Irving Berlin, George and Ira Gershwin, Richard Rodgers, Lorenz Hart, Oscar Hammerstein, Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, Johnny Mercer and others.

Each class will have a theme, with musical selections and pertinent background discussions.

#421 The 1982 Chinatown Garment Workers' Strike

Instructor: Evelyn Hershey is the Education Director at the American Labor Museum in the Botto House in Haledon, where she teaches students and the general public about the history and contemporary issues of workers and the labor movement.

Thursday, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm 5/2

Note: This is a virtual course. It is in one session; the fee is \$10

In early summer 1982 the owners of factories making women's clothing in New York City's Chinatown decided to not renew their union contracts. They were trying to break the local of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU), and calculated that their workers in particular, mostly Chinese immigrants, would be afraid to resist.

The owners were wrong – the workers walked off the job. The workers surprised everybody with their strength and organization when 20,000 of them showed up to a rally. The strike was brief and effective. It not only continued New York as a unionized garment-making city, but it also changed the local's leadership to reflect its new membership.

The Labor Museum will open a new exhibit on May 1st entitled *We Are One – The 1982 Chinatown Garment Workers' Strike.* This course will highlight the historical memorabilia and background material in the exhibit.

#431 French Impressionism: Origins and Successors

Instructor: Ronnie Friedman, a retired Ridgewood High School teacher of French language and culture, has also taught at Bergen Community College. She has a B.A. in French from UPenn, an M.A. in Comparative Literature from CUNY, and has completed the doctoral coursework in French at NYU.

Thursdays, 1:30-3:00pm: 4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25

Note: This is a virtual course. It is in four sessions; the fee is \$30.

In the late 19th century the art world was revolutionized by the advent of Impressionist Art. This course will explore the theory and development of French Impressionism in the works of Manet, Monet, Renoir and Degas, and their impact on subsequent artists such as Seurat, Van Gogh and Cezanne.