

The LLI Resource Network
Curriculum Ideas
June 2015

FROM ADVENTURES IN LEARNING AT COLBY-SAWYER COLLEGE

When Commercial Airline Flying Was Fun

Remember when you really looked forward to flying on our commercial airlines? Whether Eastern on the way to a winter Florida vacation or TWA to attend a three-day sales meeting in Arizona. Being “pampered” in first class with well-prepared food and accompanying drinks ... served by attentive flight attendants ... all while comfortably seated in a spacious, four-engine DC-7, Constellation or Boeing 747. Even the airline clubs and your extra bags were free. These were the never-to-be-forgotten days of American commercial aviation. Relive this wonderful era with a PowerPoint presentation supplemented with a series of vintage videos/slides. Plus, you’ll be invited to share memorabilia and tales with your fellow course participants. See you on board.

The Orphan Train and Other Child Migrations

Some were orphans, some were abandoned, some were kidnapped from the streets and all were sent far away in hopes of giving them a better life. From colonial times on, children in Britain were sent by the thousands to America, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and other parts of the empire. The first contingent of children to America was sent to Virginia before the sailing of the Mayflower. Later, the waves of migration to the United States in the 19th century were associated with many orphaned and abandoned children, especially in the large urban areas of the East Coast. From the 1850s to 1930, up to 250,000 of these children were sent to rural areas in the West on what became known as the Orphan Trains. A 1904 episode in Arizona culminated with the children being abducted at gunpoint by a crowd and resulted in a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. This course will examine the origins of the relocation movement and the experiences of the children sent overseas.

FROM OLLI AT UCONN

Fabulous French Paintings Around Connecticut

This three-week course offers discovery and exploration of French art exhibited in Connecticut museums. It includes a brief historical survey of French paintings, commenting both on the artist and the works found in the state. The selected pieces are housed at the Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington, the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, and the Yale Art Gallery in New Haven.

The Polish Experience in America

This course will give an overview of the Polish experience in Connecticut. It will include historical background of the community, discussion of Polish culture, and a tour of Poland through pictures. The class will conclude with a walking tour of Broad Street — “Little Poland” — in New Britain.

FROM CHESHIRE ACADEMY FOR LIFELONG LEARNING AT KEENE STATE COLLEGE

History and Future of Weather in New Hampshire.

Sure, the weather is perfect now, but remember two weeks ago when it was still winter? What is going on with the weather lately anyway? Get the full scoop in our CALL RiverMead class

- Hear about the fascinating world of New Hampshire's weather history with WMUR's meteorologist Kevin Skarupa.
- Join Will Brussard from the Mount Washington Observatory to find out about the intense weather history of NH's highest peak.
- Historical Society of Cheshire County's Director, Alan Rumrill will share his knowledge and expertise on the epic floods and hurricanes of New Hampshire.
- Alan Rumrill's knowledge will continue to inform us on the blizzards and ice-storms of our region, including 1888, the year without a summer.
- Ever wonder how The Farmers Almanac predicts the weather each year? Join writer and former Yankee editor Tim Clark for an afternoon of stories drawn from the pages Yankee's Old Farmers Almanac.
- Ecologist Jeff Littleton will share what the future holds for New Hampshire's weather and its landscape in light of climate change.

FROM OLLI AT AQUINAS COLLEGE

A Biased Look at Immunizations

Edward Cox, MD, associate professor of pediatrics at MSU College of Human Medicine, is a retired pediatrician and former director of the Division of Academic General Pediatrics at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. He continues to be an advocate for better healthcare both locally and nationally. With the Disneyland measles outbreak, the debate about the usefulness of immunizations was rekindled. Dr. Cox will look at changes in public health, the controversies and the benefits of immunizations from the standpoint of a physician who watched the effects of improved and expanded immunizations over a career. He will also discuss the benefit of immunizations for seniors. Bring your questions and opinions.

The Dawn of the Nuclear Age: Summer 1945

Earl R. Curry, Ph.D., history professor emeritus, retired after 32 years at Hope College. He taught courses in American, Latin American, and Irish history. Earl has delivered more than 20 papers on American and Irish history to various national and international conferences. In August of this year, the world will mark the 70th remembrance of the use of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These are the only cities and populations ever to be targeted for the deployment of the weapons. It changed the world forever. The decision to do this was hardly taken lightly, and this presentation will explore the arguments for and against using the weapons made at the time and those made since.

Chinese Music: The Window of Chinese Culture

Rui Niu-Cooper, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of education and the bilingual programs coordinator at Aquinas College, as well as a published author. She has drawn upon her experience as a professor in both China and the U.S. to offer multiple presentations on China-related topics. This four-session course will introduce the basic Chinese traditional classical music and the embedded Chinese traditional philosophy, social value and norms. During these sessions, the class will be given the opportunity to enjoy Chinese music, listen to the stories behind the music, and appreciate the art pieces related to certain musical pieces.

FROM THE LIFETIME LEARNING INSTITUTE OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Isabella, the Warrior Queen

Kristin Downey writes about the Queen who turned Spain into a global empire and was a powerful force for both good and evil. The Los Angeles Times has selected her book *Isabella, The Warrior Queen* as a finalist for best biography of 2014. Based on five years of research, Downey takes us inside the marriage of Isabella of Castile and Ferdinand of Aragon and how it was Isabella who made the decisions and was the powerhouse behind the throne. She was the queen with the vision to commission Christopher Columbus on voyages to the New World and follow-up aggressively after his discoveries. She organized and accompanied Spanish troops against the Moors, defeating the Muslims at Grenada. But on the dark side, her fanatical Catholicism was the driving force behind the Inquisition and the expulsion of the Jews in 1492. Downey examines the palace intrigues, the Queen's leadership style, her toughness and her place in history.

Children of the Sun the Rapid Rise and Fall of the Inca Civilization

Discover how a small tribe in the heart of the Andes Mountains created an empire that extended over 4,000 miles in length. Learn about the Incas' religious and social customs, and the reasons why they rose and fell so quickly.

A Melancholy Mile: The Rough and Tumble Side of Pennsylvania Avenue

Pennsylvania Avenue, America's Main Street, has served as the setting for powerful moments in our nation's history. Bracketed on one side by the White House and the Capitol on the other, this one mile of the avenue in question is also a symbol of our national government. Parades welcoming new presidents, astronauts fresh off successful missions, and championship football teams, are all part and parcel of this storied road; however, this stretch of the avenue has also seen a significant share of tragedy. Riots, fights, and assassinations are a few of the moments that have added a sense of the macabre to this special place.

The Booth Conspiracy and Crime at Ford's Theatre

Abraham Lincoln's assassination ranks as one of the most tragic events in our country's history. Listen to a Ford's Theatre Park Ranger narrate the details of this crime, its relationship to the end of the Civil War, and how it reverberates through our country's history leading up to the present day. The class will also focus on the assassin, John Wilkes Booth, and his famous family of actors, and how the violent atmosphere of the border state, Maryland, contributed to Booth's racism and radicalism.

History of Modern Lebanon

Lebanon's strategic geographic location, its unique history, and distinct political system have placed the country in the center of political turmoil in the Middle East. This course will cover the history of Lebanon from the late Ottoman Empire to the modern period. We will discuss the foundation of the modern nation-state of Lebanon, and the various trials and tribulations it has undergone, including civil wars and military invasions.

FROM OLLI AT VANDERBILT

English Country Dancing

Jane Austen wrote of the "felicities of rapid motion," a reference to the English Country dances she loved. These relatively simple dances, danced in lines or circles with a partner, involve lovely symmetrical patterns, put to elegant and playful fiddle music, with an emphasis on the social nature of dance.

African-American Art History

This course explores background aspects of African cultures to emphasize the achievements of African-American artists in a historic context. African-American art is presented here in a historical context to expand awareness of cultures, acquire comprehension of the interrelatedness of ideas, and to explore some social and political dimensions of this unique vein of American art. From the period of slavery through the Great Migration, the Jazz Era through World War II, the Civil Rights Movement, and into the twenty-first century, the essential question is: "What does it mean to be an African-American visual artist?" Presented in two illustrated lectures on the historical context of developments, the highlight of the course is a guided tour of the important collections held by Fisk University.

Design through the Ages

The car you drive, the home you live in, even the vessel that holds your morning cup of joe were all once the vision of a skilled designer, architect, or artist. Even though the types of transportation, dwellings, and household products have changed greatly over the years, there is always a common thread that links the designs from antiquity all the way to the present. We instinctively know good design when we see it. Form and function are in perfect balance. Using photos and explanation, we will show examples of significant designs from ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome. European contributions will include discussions of such styles as Rococo, Bauhaus, Art Nouveau and finally the very popular style of the 1920s and '30s we now call Art Deco. In the final weeks of this class, we will show how previous design influences have affected our lives here in America.

FROM OLLI AT BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Aeschylus's *The Oresteia* and Sartre's *The Flies*

Did Aeschylus already divine Freud's id, ego, and superego in his *Oresteia* trilogy? How did Jean-Paul Sartre reinterpret this classic tale of revenge into his 1943 existential drama *The Flies*, first produced in Paris under the watchful eye of the Nazi censors? We will discuss not only the qualities that make the Greek original a masterpiece, but also those enduring themes that have inspired playwrights and theatergoers for the past 2,500 years.

Boots on the Ground: Promoting Stability and Peace in Conflict Zones

What is the path to peace and stability in countries experiencing conflict? What roles do the U.S. government, nongovernmental organizations, and international organizations play in achieving these ends? Simply put: Who's doing what, how is it going, and what are the lessons learned? This course will provide an overview of the many actors and activities dealing with peace and stability in current and "past" conflicts, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Kosovo.