

Humanities Institute for Lifelong Learning

The University In Our Town

HILL Fall 2024 Info:

Bethlehem's Humanities Institute for Lifelong Learning is an independent organization offering opportunities for lifelong learning to residents of the Capital District since 1993. For fall 2024, HILL will present three six-week courses in-person at the Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave. in Delmar. Two of the courses will also be available on Zoom. Please note: While we do our best to provide Zoom delivery, that delivery will be dependent on properly functioning equipment.

REGISTRATION AND FEES

- Registration is required for each person to attend a class. There is a \$45 fee for each course selected.
- Please go to the HILL website (www.hillclasses.org) and click on the Registration Form link or scan the QR code below. Registration for HILL will be open on or about September 1, 2024. Please register no later than October 2, 2024.
- Messages with questions about HILL courses that do NOT relate to Zoom should be left at (518) 368-7029 and a volunteer will call you back.
- For more information or to register, visit the HILL website, www.hillclasses.org or scan the QR code.

PLEASE NOTE: REGISTRATION WILL OPEN ON OR ABOUT SEPTEMBER 1



MONDAYS P.M.

The Elections of 2024 and the Future of American Government

Starts: Monday, October 7
 Time: 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 Place: Delmar Reformed Church (Zoom delivery dependent on properly functioning equipment)

INSTRUCTOR: Bruce Miroff, *Professor Emeritus of Political Science, UAlbany*

For partisans on both sides, the elections of 2024 present a fateful choice. The unexpected presidential matchup between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump pits two candidates who pledge to take the nation in radically different directions. Control of Congress is up for grabs: The Democrats go into the election with a one-seat majority in the Senate, and the Republicans go into the election with a similarly narrow majority in the House. While following the endgame of this unusual election in real time, the course will also delve into several fundamental questions. Can Harris shed her reputation as a weak candidate and emerge as a convincing and energizing nominee? How has Trump maintained a fervent following despite the disturbing controversies throughout his presidency and in the years since. Class meets October 7, 14, 21, 29 (in place of Oct. 28), November 4 and 11.

TUESDAYS A.M.

World War II, Classic Cinema, and American Memory

Starts: Tuesday, October 8
 Time: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 Place: Delmar Reformed Church (Zoom delivery dependent on properly functioning equipment)

INSTRUCTOR: Richard Fogarty, *Associate Professor of History, UAlbany*

Iconic films such as *Casablanca* and *The Third Man* were made during the Second World War or in its immediate

aftermath, and so they reveal a great deal about the world that endured and was made by the conflict. But these movies (and others from that era) have also helped to shape subsequent generations' understanding of the war, for better and worse. This course will examine such films (in part by viewing clips from them!) and ask questions about what they can and can't tell us about the war itself, and what we think we know about it. Class meets October 8, 15, 22, 29, November 5 and 12.

WEDNESDAYS P.M.

Listening to Mahler

Starts: Wednesday, October 9
 Time: 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 Place: Delmar Reformed Church
 (in-person only)

INSTRUCTOR: Albin Zak, *Professor Emeritus of Music, UAlbany*

Among the leading opera conductors of his day, Mahler himself wrote no operas. Yet his symphonies and symphonic song cycles present sweeping musical narratives set in vivid sonic spectacles and inhabited by complex and varied musical characters. In his hands, the symphonic genre is treated as a dramatic medium of layered symbolism, emotional conflict, and spiritual transcendence, confirmed by Mahler himself in letters, conversations, and programmatic descriptions. In this course we will explore the dramatic fabric of Mahler's music with ears attuned both to its aural style and thematic substance. The course requires of attendees no prior musical training, only an interest in the topic. Class meets October 9, 16, 23, 30, November 6 and 13.

