

# VERITAS SOCIETY

## COURSE CATALOG

**SPRING 2026**

**Registration Opens: February 11 • 9 a.m.**  
**Spring Term: March 9 - April 17**



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members and Friends,

A friend I was recruiting into the Veritas fold asked me, "What will Veritas do for me — why not just read a book?" Excellent question. Why not just take a deep dive on YouTube? Why not curl up with a good book? Well, do those things. I do. But, the short answer to the question is 'people'. The long answer is:

One of the greatest gifts of a lifelong learning society isn't simply the knowledge we gain, but the community in which that learning takes place. At a time in life when many structures fall away - careers end, children are grown and flown, routines shift - we have chosen something profoundly meaningful: to keep learning together.

Learning in community is fundamentally different from learning alone. Books, lectures, and videos are valuable of course, but conversation brings ideas to life. When we sit side by side in a classroom, on a field trip, or around a seminar table, learning becomes a shared endeavor. We bounce ideas back and forth, ask better questions, and see the world through one another's experiences. A comment from a classmate can bring a concept to life in a way logging through a textbook never could.

Veritas is enriched by the diversity of our members. We come from different professions, regions, beliefs, and life stories. That diversity isn't incidental-it is essential. It deepens discussion. It challenges assumptions. It reminds us that learning is not about the "right" answer or any answer at all. It's about expanding our concept of what is possible. Curiosity matters. Credentials don't. Thoughtful listening is as important as speaking.

As we look forward to the new term, I encourage you to participate fully: register for (lots of) classes, then ask questions, share insights, laugh, invite friends, consider volunteering your talents.

That's what communities do. That's what the Veritas Society Lifelong Learning Institute is.

See you in class.

Ann

Ann McWilliams  
President, Veritas Society  
amcwilly@yahoo.com

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## Contact Information

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# About Us

## Who We Are

For 30 years, the Veritas Society Lifelong Learning Institute has brought adults age 50 and better in the Louisville area together through a shared love of learning, meaningful connection, and curiosity about the world. We believe learning is essential to brain health and overall well-being as we age, and an active mind supports a fuller, more engaged life.

Our purpose is simple: to keep our minds active, open, and growing through enriching learning experiences that:

- explore our history and shared culture
- keep us informed about and engaged with the world around us
- help us make sense of an ever-changing world and find our place within it
- foster belonging through meaningful social connection and shared experiences

Our members include retirees, semi-retirees, and those still working -- people from many professions and backgrounds. We welcome individuals from every walk of life, belief system, and educational experience. You don't need to be a Bellarmine graduate or have any University affiliation - Veritas is open to everyone. Our organization is guided by a Board of Directors elected by our membership.

## Registration and Fees

Registration is **ONLINE** only.  
(See instructions on page 4).

- Fall or Spring term membership fee – \$50
- 6-week course fee – \$30
- 3-week course fee – \$15

## What We Do

Veritas is a hands-on learning community. Our members shape our programs, and we invite engaging speakers and instructors from across the region to share their knowledge and experiences. We offer six-week learning programs each fall and spring, along with additional classes, talks, and social activities during the winter and summer months.

## Membership Benefits

- Register for classes of interest. No prerequisites, tests, or grades
- Access to activities year-round, including lectures, winter activities, virtual and in-person field trips, and social events such as the Holiday Lunch and the Spring Celebration
- Free parking on campus
- Full use of Bellarmine library
- Access to Bellarmine's SuRF (Sport, Recreation and Fitness) Center
- 15% discount on select Continuing Education courses
- Bellarmine Veritas Student ID card
- Discounts at local community partners

Check out our Membership Handbook (emailed to all members & on the Veritas Website) for full details about membership benefits.

## Veritas Scholarships Available

The Veritas Society recognizes that its members are in a unique time of their lives when medical expenses, fixed income, caregiving for loved ones, or other unforeseen events can create a financial burden even for those who have planned well. The Veritas By-Laws state that “the Society strives to provide opportunities for intellectual growth, cultural enrichment, and lasting fellowship” for its members. Undue financial burden should not be an impediment to this goal.

The Veritas Society offers a limited number of scholarships to members each term. A scholarship covers the cost of the membership fee and one class fee. Scholarships are open to current and prospective members. Members may reapply each term but are not guaranteed a scholarship each time.

To apply for a Veritas Scholarship, email [veritas@bellarmine.edu](mailto:veritas@bellarmine.edu) and the application form will be sent to you. Applications are due before February 10th.

# Online Registration & Fees



## STEPS TO REGISTER

Registration opens at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 11th

**1. Go to [www.bellarmino.edu/ce/veritas](http://www.bellarmino.edu/ce/veritas) and click on “ENROLL NOW.”**

EVERYONE registering should use “Continue as a guest.”

**2. Click on the “VERITAS” tab.**

- You will automatically be charged the \$50 membership fee when you choose your courses. If you do not want to take courses, but want to maintain your membership, choose the 1st category — “Membership Only.”
- Courses will be listed by category. Click on the category to find your course. Add the courses you want to attend by clicking “Add to Cart” UNDER the “seat count” for that course.
- NOTE: The hybrid classes will have two options — In-person or Zoom. Please carefully select the option you prefer, so that we can place you in the correct option and keep counts accurate.
- When you put a course in your cart, one of the remaining spots is reserved for you. (If you do not complete the payment process within 45 minutes, your registration will be automatically canceled.)
- Before proceeding to “payment,” double-check that you’ve selected the courses/programs you actually want. You can look at the items in your shopping cart at any time by clicking “My Cart.”
- If you logged in with your credentials, you will not be prompted to enter your personal information, as it is stored in the registration system. If you pressed “register as a guest,” you will be prompted to enter your personal information.

**3. Payment**

- Click “My Cart” to proceed to the “Payment” page. After reviewing your course selections, click the “Check out” button to be sent to the CashNet payment system to complete your purchase.
- Payment can be made with e-Check (no fee, use account and routing numbers on your personal check) or VISA, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express (2.75% non-refundable convenience fee). If paying by credit card, please click the button to acknowledge the service charge.
- Before submitting payment, look at the email address in the box. If it is not your “preferred” email, change it.
- You will receive a payment confirmation via email.

**4. To register another person, click on the name in the top right corner, then click “sign out.”** Enter the next person’s credentials.

## Risk & Consent Form & Code of Conduct

The Veritas Office has recently implemented the “Veritas Membership Information Form” that must be filled out **annually**. This form includes: a Risk & Consent form, vehicle information for the Public Safety Office, and signing a Veritas Member Code of Conduct.

The Veritas Office, in conjunction with Bellarmine University, wants to be overly prepared to assist our members in case of an emergency. By filling out the form, we are better informed of who to call, what to be aware of, and how to respond in preparation for any situations that may arise. If you filled it out during the Fall term, you will not be required to fill it out again unless your information has changed. Returning members this Spring who did not take a fall class, as well as new members will be sent the form the week before classes begins.

# Daily Schedule at a Glance

## MONDAY

The Revolutionaries: America's "Other" Founders • Conner • HYBRID • WMC • 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.  
Get Your Kicks on Route 66 • Wiseman • HYBRID • WMC • 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.  
Global Immigrants and Their Positive Impact on America • Yates • HYBRID • WMC • 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.  
More of the Great American Songbook • Marple • HYBRID • WMC • 3:30 – 4:45 p.m.

## TUESDAY

Reading Shakespeare and Oscar Wilde • Smith • IN-PERSON • FC • 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.  
Off the Beaten Path • Atkinson • IN-PERSON • WMC • 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.  
*Power & Liberty: America's Constitution(s)* • Conner • IN-PERSON • FC • 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.  
The Classical Tradition: Plato, Aristotle, Augustine • Kennedy • IN-PERSON • WMC • 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.  
International Politics • Sistarenik • IN-PERSON • WMC • 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.  
Archaeology of the Holy Land • Stammerman • IN-PERSON • WMC • 3:30 – 4:45 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY

The Holocaust in Historical Perspective • Schmall • HYBRID • WMC • 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.  
*Tuesdays with Morrie* • Panzera • IN-PERSON • WMC • 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.  
Steamboats on Kentucky's Ohio River • Golliher • HYBRID • WMC • 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.  
Western Classical Music & Christian Tradition • Echols • IN-PERSON • WMC • 3:30 – 4:45 p.m.

## THURSDAY

Parole in the US • Chandler • IN-PERSON • MH • 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.  
*All About Love*, by bell hooks • Bahr • IN-PERSON • WMC • 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.  
Encountering Lincoln • Meade • IN-PERSON • MH • 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.  
Louisville's Olmsted Parks • Davis • IN-PERSON/ZOOM • 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.  
Dance for Health • Thurmond • IN-PERSON • WMC • 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Christian Diversity • Rouse • IN-PERSON • WMC • 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.  
Chautauqua Lectures 2025: Part II • Cherry • ZOOM • 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.  
Churchill: The War Years • Graeter • IN-PERSON • BU • 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.  
Cases and Controversies: Supreme Court • Williams • ZOOM • 3:30 – 4:45 p.m.

## FRIDAY

Lunch & Learn • Various Speakers • IN-PERSON • FRAZIER HALL • 11 a.m. – noon followed by lunch.  
Darts: For Self-Improvement and Competition • Sprawls • IN-PERSON • WMC • 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.  
Fridays at the Movies: Charles Laughton • Spalding • ZOOM • 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

### KEY:

WMC - Watterson Medical Center, Suite 101  
BU - Bellarmine University Campus  
FC - Central Bank Community Room at the Flashcube Building  
MH - Meadow Theater at the Masonic Home

# Inner Life

## OFF THE BEATEN PATH: FINDING MEANING IN UNCONVENTIONAL WAYS

There are many paths to a fulfilling life. Thomas Merton, Anna & Harlan Hubbard, John Howard Griffin, Tim Krekel, Sister Martha Buser, the Monastic Community of Gethsemani, and Tom Owen are all remarkable people who found meaning in unconventional ways. But what was it that spurred each person to follow his or her path?

Merton, the renowned spiritual writer, lived as a Trappist monk. The Hubbards led a Thoreau-like existence on the banks of the Ohio River for 40 years. John Griffin, the author of *Black Like Me*, worked for social justice during the height of the Civil rights era. Tim Krekel was a rock musician who “made it” on the biggest stages but also embraced smaller venues. Sister Martha was a vowed religious during a time of dramatic change in the Catholic Church. Tom Owen is an historian who has told the story of Louisville in a unique way. The Abbey of Gethsemani is often described as a “school of love” where disparate individuals try to become part of a whole.

Through this intentional mix of people and vocational pursuits, we will use Morgan Atkinson’s documentaries and discussion to guide our class on how these remarkable people found meaning in unconventional ways.

**PRESENTER:** Morgan C. Atkinson is a Louisville-based writer and producer of documentaries. His work has appeared often on PBS and has focused primarily on subjects related to Kentucky. Aside from showcasing Louisville quirks, his work has ranged from the art of Harlan Hubbard to the spiritual journey of Thomas Merton.

**CATEGORY:** Inner Life  
**COURSE #** CEVE 001-01  
**FORMAT:** IN-PERSON  
**LOCATION:** WMC - Suite 101  
**MEETS:** 6 Tuesdays / 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.  
March 10 - April 14

## THE CLASSICAL TRADITION: PLATO, ARISTOTLE, AND AUGUSTINE

English philosopher and mathematician Alfred North Whitehead once said the history of western philosophy is Plato, followed by a long series of footnotes to Plato, and that most of the important footnotes were written by Aristotle. That’s an exaggeration, but it gives you an indication of their importance.

The classical tradition in philosophy believes the objective truth exists independently of us and our opinions about it, and it is possible for us to know the truth (or at least some of it — they never claimed that our knowledge is perfect or complete). It also provided a theory about the structure of reality that has shaped our understanding of the world and our place in it, a view still held by many today.

This class will focus on the foundations of the classical tradition, which is built on the thought of Plato, Aristotle, and Augustine.

**PRESENTER:** Tom Kennedy has been a philosophy instructor for over 20 years, teaching at Indiana University Southeast, Spalding University, and Bellarmine University. He is recently retired and is a parishioner at St. John Paul II Catholic Church.

**CATEGORY:** Inner Life  
**COURSE #** CEVE 001-012  
**FORMAT:** IN-PERSON  
**LOCATION:** WMC - Suite 101  
**MEETS:** 6 Tuesdays / 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.  
March 10 - April 14

# Inner Life

## CHRISTIAN DIVERSITY: VIEWS, PRACTICES, AND THINKING

Why are there so many different Christian churches? Christian Diversity takes a thoughtful look at how today's major Christian traditions came to be—from Catholicism to Restorationist movements. We'll explore the ideas and teachings of influential figures such as Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Wesley, George Fox, Jacob Ammon, Joseph Smith, and others, and how their beliefs shaped new denominations. Along the way, we'll also examine Christianity's influence on American life, from early Puritan "Blue Laws" to contemporary discussions of Christian nationalism. If you're curious about what unites and distinguishes Christian traditions—and how Christianity continues to shape modern society—this course offers a welcoming space to learn and discuss.

**ASSIGNMENT FOR FIRST CLASS:** A video overview of Christianity will be sent in the course confirmation.

**PRESENTER:** Mike Rouse holds an Advanced Catechist certification and has over 30 years of experience with the Archdioceses of Louisville. Having taught theology at a Catholic high school for 23 years, he looks forward to sharing what he has learned and continuing his own faith journey. Mike joined Veritas in the Spring of 2024.

**CATEGORY:** Inner Life

**COURSE #** CEVE 001-03

**FORMAT:** IN-PERSON

**LOCATION:** WMC - Suite 101

**MEETS:** 6 Thursdays / 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.

**March 12 - April 16**

## Class Formats & Locations

This spring we are once again offering a variety of class delivery options: Zoom, In-Person, and Hybrid. Under each description, look for the word **FORMAT** for how the class will be offered. Some of our courses will also be offered at off-campus locations. Read below to find out more information about each format.

**Zoom courses:** If you register for a Zoom course, the Zoom link will be emailed to you one week before the class begins. In the email with the link, you will also be sent some tips and tricks for using Zoom.

**In-Person courses:** If you register for an all In-Person course, the course information with location details will be sent to you a week before the course. See below for class locations.

**Hybrid Courses:** Hybrid courses will have two options for enrollment: In-class or Zoom. Carefully choose your option on the registration page — both options will be listed as separate classes. In-class students will also receive the Zoom link in case they need to attend virtually at some point.

### Locations:

BU Campus - 2001 Newburg Road, Louisville, KY 40205

Waterson Medical Center (WMC) - Suite 101, 3430 Newburg Road, Louisville, KY 40205

Flashcube Building - Central Bank Community Room, 9300 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40222

Masonic Home Campus - Meadow Active Lifestyle, 140 Masonic Home Drive, Masonic Home, KY 40041

Specific classroom and parking information will be sent in the class confirmation email the week before class. All off-campus locations have ample parking and accessibility.



# Literature

## **READING SHAKESPEARE'S *THE TEMPEST* AND OSCAR WILDE'S *THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST***

This class offers a shared reading and lively discussion of two beloved plays—Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*—both being staged this summer at the Stratford Festival. We'll read the plays together and explore their characters, themes, and humor, discovering what makes them work on the page and on the stage. It's a fun, welcoming experience for anyone who enjoys classic drama, and especially appealing for those Veritas members planning a visit to the Festival this summer.

**REQUIRED READING:** It is strongly recommend that you buy the New Folger Library Shakespeare Updated Edition of *The Tempest*, and the Dover Thrift Edition of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. These are quite cheap and discussion will go more smoothly if we all have the same page numbers. Please do NOT try to read from any electronic version, as it takes forever to find your place if you lose it. (I speak from sad experience!)

**ASSIGNMENT FOR FIRST CLASS:** Bring your copy of *The Tempest* to the first three classes. No need to read ahead, but you may wish to acquaint yourself with the list of characters on p. 3.

**PRESENTER:** Jonathan Smith is Emeritus Professor of English at Hanover College, where he taught from 1974 to 2015. Jonathan is a Betts Meehan Lifetime Member, a member of the Veritas Board of Directors, and frequent Discussion Leader. He serves as the Editor of the Veritas Voice Newsletter and has been a Veritas member since 2017.

**CATEGORY:** Literature  
**COURSE # CEVE 002-01**

**FORMAT:** IN-PERSON

**LOCATION:** Flashcube - Central Bank

**MEETS:** 6 Tuesdays / 10:00 - 11:15 a.m.  
March 10 - April 14

## **TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE, BY MITCH ALBOM**

Based on a true story, *Tuesdays with Morrie* is Mitch Albom's memoir about time spent with his former college professor Morrie Schwartz. Over the course of 14 Tuesdays, Morrie, who is dying of ALS, shares his wisdom on love, forgiveness, family, community, death, and finding meaning in life. The book remained on the *New York Times* bestseller list for almost four years. It also became an Emmy-winning movie.

The class will spend four weeks discussing the book, followed by two weeks viewing the award-winning movie based on *Tuesdays with Morrie*.

**REQUIRED READING:** *Tuesdays with Morrie*, by Mitch Albom

**ASSIGNMENT FOR FIRST CLASS:** Read to page 47

**PRESENTER:** Anna Marie (Panzi) Panzera, M.A., taught high school for 35 years. Panzi is a frequent presenter, has served on the Veritas Board of Directors, and has been a Veritas member since 2009.

**PRESENTER: CATEGORY:** Literature  
**COURSE # CEVE 002-02**

**FORMAT:** IN-PERSON

**LOCATION:** WMC -Suite 101

**MEETS:** 6 Wednesdays /11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.  
March 11 - April 15



# Literature

## ***ALL ABOUT LOVE, BY BELL HOOKS***

The opening review on the endorsement page comes from a New York Times Book Review, and it perfectly captures the spirit of the book: "It is a warm affirmation that love is possible, and an attack on the culture of narcissism and selfishness."

Written by Kentucky-born author Gloria Jean Watkins, under the pen name bell hooks, the book explores deeply personal and social questions with insight and compassion. Across thirteen chapters, hooks reflects on themes such as grace, justice, honesty, spirituality, greed, and romance. She examines these ideas through her own experiences as a Black woman raised in Kentucky, her years teaching at Yale, and her return home to teach at Berea College.

**REQUIRED READING:** *All about Love* by bell hooks

**ASSIGNMENT FOR FIRST CLASS:** Introduction and Ch. 1

**PRESENTER:** Jim Bahr is a Bellarmine grad who majored in English and Business. Jim has been a Veritas member since 2021 and likes to take as many classes as he can each year to continue learning.

**CATEGORY:** Literature

**COURSE #** CEVE 002-03

**FORMAT:** IN-PERSON

**LOCATION:** WMC - Suite 101

**MEETS:** 6 Thursdays / 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

**March 12 - April 16**

# The World

## GLOBAL IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

America is a nation shaped by immigrants from around the world, many of whom brought with them distinctive talents, ideas, and experiences that have enriched American culture. The individuals highlighted in this course chose to make the United States their home and, in most cases, became American citizens. Each session will focus on influential immigrants within a particular field, including entertainment, literature and education, science and space, fashion, athletics and sports, business and industry, medicine, and politics and the military. Featured figures include Helen Mirren, Ayn Rand, Albert Einstein, Oscar de la Renta, Martina Navratilova, Sergey Brin, Dr. Satheesh Kathula, and Madeleine Albright. Through lectures, class discussion, and video clips, we will explore the remarkable contributions these individuals have made to American life.

**PRESENTER:** Rocky L. Yates, B.A. and M.A. in French and Education from Western Kentucky University, Rank I from UofL, is a retired JCPS teacher. He has been a member of Veritas since 2011 and is a past class presenter.

**CATEGORY:** The World  
**COURSE # CEVE 003-01**  
**FORMAT:** HYBRID  
**LOCATION:** WMC - Suite 101  
**MEETS:** 6 Mondays / 2:00 - 3:15 p.m.  
March 9 - April 13

## INTERNATIONAL POLITICS: AN ERA OF UPHEAVAL AND CHANGE

Explore key global issues reshaping our world, including America's changing global role, President Trump's tariffs, U.S.-China relations, U.S. engagement in Africa, and the future of human rights. Using the *Great Decisions 2026* booklet to guide the way, each session will encourage participants to analyze current events, share diverse perspectives, and deepen their understanding of global affairs. Active participation and thoughtful dialogue will be encouraged to foster meaningful discussions on these critical topics.

**SUGGESTED READING:** *Great Decisions 2026* is strongly suggested but not required. Visit [fpa.org](http://fpa.org) to order a copy.

**ORGANIZER:** John Sistarenik, M.A., is a retired Professor of Political Science from Jefferson Community and Technical College, where he taught American Government and World Politics for over 30 years. John has been a Veritas member since 2017 and is a frequent presenter.

**CATEGORY:** The World  
**COURSE # CEVE 003-02**  
**FORMAT:** IN-PERSON  
**LOCATION:** WMC - Suite 101  
**MEETS:** 6 Tuesdays / 2:00 - 3:15 p.m.  
March 10 - April 14

## CHURCHILL: THE WAR YEARS

On May 10, 1940, 65-year-old Winston Churchill became Prime Minister of Great Britain. However, the Royal Family, the aristocracy, and a large majority of the House of Commons didn't want him in the role. Would he keep it?

In only weeks, Hitler's Wehrmacht overran Allied forces and Churchill found his nation standing alone, its army in disarray, and its weapons abandoned on the beaches of Dunkirk. The Nazi war machine and its mighty Luftwaffe poised for the attack just across the English Channel. It seemed hopeless. Faced with overwhelming pressure to sue for peace but determined to fight on, he reached out to the British people and turned his gaze west upon an isolationist and ill-prepared USA.

We will examine Churchill's WWII:

His battle for political survival; The Battle of France; Dunkirk; The Battle of Britain; The Blitz; ...and much more.

**PRESENTER:** Don Graeter, J.D., has studied Churchill at Oxford University and is an author and speaker on Churchill and related topics. Don is a Veritas Society Lifetime Member and has been involved in Veritas since 2015.

**CATEGORY:** The World  
**COURSE # CEVE 003-05**  
**FORMAT:** IN-PERSON  
**LOCATION:** BU Campus  
**MEETS:** 6 Thursdays / 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.  
March 12 - April 16

# The World

## ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE HOLY LAND

In an introduction to archaeological work in the Holy Land, we will take a look at an ongoing excavation near the Sea of Galilee that Ken Stammerman has been volunteering on for many years. Using this dig as a case study, we will examine the tools, methods, and teamwork involved in a typical archaeological project. The course will also survey the history of archaeological research in the Holy Land, from the nineteenth century to the latest discoveries in Jerusalem, and explore how these findings relate to Jewish and Christian Scriptures.

**SUGGESTED READING:** *The Source*, by James Michener. Information on the dig at Hippos-Sussita is available at [www.dighippos.com/about](http://www.dighippos.com/about).

**PRESENTER:** Ken Stammerman, M.A., Economics, M.A., Theology, is a retired U.S. Foreign Service Officer with extensive experience in Middle Eastern affairs. He volunteers on archaeology digs in Israel every summer as a hobby. Ken has taught over 40 courses for Veritas since 1999 and is a Betts Meehan Lifetime Member. He is also a Bellarmine grad.

**CATEGORY:** The World  
**COURSE # CEVE 003-03**  
**FORMAT:** IN-PERSON  
**LOCATION:** WMC - Suite 101  
**MEETS:** 6 Tuesdays / 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.  
**March 10 - April 14**

## THE HOLOCAUST IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Through an accessible and thoughtful examination of the Holocaust for those seeking historical understanding and reflection, this class explores the conditions that gave rise to Nazism, the involvement of ordinary communities in systems of exclusion and persecution, and the experiences of Jewish communities and other targeted groups across Europe. Using historical documents, survivor testimony, maps, photographs, and selected film excerpts, participants will consider responses ranging from complicity to acts of courage. Attention is also given to how the Holocaust has been remembered, taught, and memorialized since 1945. No prior background is required—only a willingness to engage with one of the most consequential events in modern history and its lasting significance.

**SUGGESTED READINGS:** A list of suggested readings will be sent to those who register for the class.

**PRESENTER:** Eric Schmall's career path focused on management, consulting, and education. With his MA in International Relations, he has taught courses at Bellarmine University, UofL, and Indiana University Southeast. He studied 20th Century US and European history for 60 years with an emphasis on both World Wars and the rise of fascism in Europe. Eric has presented a wide range of topics from lighthearted reviews of classic comedy TV and films to historic examinations of the 20th century's nightmares such as the Holocaust and fascism. Eric joined Veritas in 2018 and is a Betts Meehan Lifetime Member for teaching over ten courses.

**CATEGORY:** The World  
**COURSE # CEVE 003-05**  
**FORMAT:** HYBRID  
**LOCATION:** WMC - Suite 101  
**MEETS:** 6 Wednesdays / 10:00 - 11:15 a.m.  
**March 11 - April 15**

# Arts & Entertainment

## MORE OF THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK

The Great American Songbook is an unofficial collection of beloved songs popular in the 20th century that includes jazz standards and showtunes. Covering the classics from World War II era to the Sixties, Mike Marple will present different songs for discussion (but he promises not to sing any of the songs, although he might hum the songs to himself). We will also explore what other, more current, music should be added to this list from the late sixties, seventies, and eighties.

**PRESENTER:** Mike Marple, B.A. and M.A., Western Kentucky University, is a lover of films, musicals, and anything on a stage. He is a Betts Meehan Lifetime member who has taught over 15 courses for Veritas and has been a Veritas member since 2008.

**CATEGORY:** Americana  
**COURSE # CEVE 004 - 01**  
**FORMAT:** HYBRID  
**LOCATION:** WMC - Suite 101  
**MEETS:** 6 Mondays / 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.  
March 9 - April 13

## WESTERN CLASSICAL MUSIC & THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION: A PARALLEL HISTORY

Explore how the Christian Tradition has influenced the development of Western Classical Music from Gregorian Chant to present day. Topics will include Renaissance Polyphony, the Oratorio, Music and the Reformation, the sung Requiem, Music and the Church of England, and the future of church music.

**PRESENTER:** Austin Echols is the Director of Music and Organist at Christ Church Cathedral in Louisville, KY, and conductor of the Singing Cardsmen, the tenor-bass ensemble at the University of Louisville. Austin has extensively studied the history of church music with an emphasis on the Tudor and twentieth-century English traditions. Also a composer, his music has been performed live on BBC Radio 3 and by choirs in the US, Europe, and Asia.

**CATEGORY:** Americana  
**COURSE # CEVE 004 - 02**  
**FORMAT:** IN-PERSON  
**LOCATION:** WMC - Suite 101  
**MEETS:** 6 Wednesdays / 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.  
March 11 - April 15

## FRIDAY AFTERNOONS AT THE MOVIES: CHARLES LAUGHTON

Charles Laughton (1899-1962) was an English actor known for his varied roles in films and on the stage. He lived and worked with his wife, Elsa Lanchester, from 1916 till his death.

**RUGGLES OF RED GAP:** Laughton is a British valet in the old American West. Leo McCarey was director; it was voted Best Picture by New York Film Critics. (1935, 1 hr 32 minutes)

**REMBRANDT:** Sir Charles is the famous 17th-century Dutch painter, with his wife as Hendrickje. Directed by Alexander Korda and noted for its camera work. (1936, 1 hr 25 minutes)

**HOBSON'S CHOICE:** A Victorian bootmaker with a daughter who takes a shine to a talented but underappreciated employee. Directed by David Lean, it won a BAFTA and Berlin's Golden Bear. (1954, 1 hr 47 minutes)

**WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION:** A British attorney represents a murderer with a German wife who turns against him in court. Director by Billy Wilder, it was nominated for 7 Oscars, a BAFTA, & 5 Golden Globes (1957, 1 hr 56 minutes)

**ADVISE AND CONSENT:** Based on Allen Drury's novel, Senator Seab Cooley watches a "rascal" perjure himself with all of Hollywood represented. Otto Preminger directed Laughton's final film, which won a Cannes Palme d'Or. (1962, 2 hr 19 minutes)

**THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER:** The only film Laughton directed, because it did so poorly then, owing to United Artists' miserliness. It stars Robert Mitchum, Shelley Winters, and Lillian Gish — It knocks your socks off! (1955, 1 hr 32 minutes)

**PRESENTER:** J. B. (Bud) Spalding, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus at Bellarmine University, has taught over 80 Veritas courses and is a Betts Meehan Lifetime member. Bud joined Veritas in 2001 and serves on the Veritas Board of Directors.

**CATEGORY:** Arts & Entertainment  
**COURSE # CEVE 004-03**  
**FORMAT:** ZOOM  
**MEETS:** 6 Fridays / 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. (or so)  
March 13 - April 24 (no class April 3)



# Americana

## GET YOUR KICKS ON ROUTE 66

The legendary Route 66, known as the “Mother Road”, runs from Chicago to Santa Monica and played a large role in early automobile travel and westward migration, as well as becoming an icon in American popular culture. This vital route features iconic roadside motels, diners, and gas stations across eight states. Throughout the six-week course, we will explore Route 66 as it was in its heyday compared to the popular road trip destination it is today.

**PRESENTER:** Dennis Wiseman, M.Ed., University of Louisville, is a retired JCPS teacher. Dennis has taught over 20 Veritas courses and is a Betts Meehan Lifetime Member. Dennis is Past President of the Veritas Board of Directors. and serves on the Production Team. He has been a Veritas member since 2013.

**CATEGORY:** Americana

**COURSE # CEVE 004 - 02**

**FORMAT:** HYBRID

**LOCATION:** WMC - Suite 101

**MEETS:** 6 Mondays / 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

**March 9 - April 13**

### THE REVOLUTIONARIES: AMERICA'S "OTHER" FOUNDERS

Explore the lives of founders who are less famous but critically important to the decision to declare independence. We will study founders from the hotbed of the revolution, Massachusetts — James Otis Jr., Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Dr. Joseph Warren, and Mercy Otis Warren — as well as leaders from the largest colony, Virginia, including Richard Henry Lee and Patrick Henry. Attention will also be given to voices of men like John Dickinson from the more reluctant middle colonies. By investigating their lives and roles, we will better understand how the thirteen colonies, long proud of their place within the British Empire, ultimately united in revolution against it.

**SUGGESTED READING:** Short readings will be provided via email each week.

**PRESENTER:** Jeff Conner, MBA, is an Emeritus Associate Professor in the Business Scholars Program at Hanover College. Jeff is a frequent presenter, serves on the Veritas Board of Directors, and has been a Veritas Society member since 2018.

**CATEGORY:** Americana

**COURSE # CEVE 005 - 01**

**FORMAT:** HYBRID

**LOCATION:** WMC - Suite 101

**MEETS:** 6 Mondays / 10:00 - 11:15 a.m.

**March 9 - April 13**

### POWER & LIBERTY: AMERICA'S CONSTITUTION(S)

The U.S. Constitution was shaped by decades of trial and error, ultimately forged at the Constitutional Convention through tough compromises among men with different ideas. The framers tried to address the weaknesses of previous attempts – the unwritten English Constitution, colonial charters, the Articles of Confederation, and thirteen different state constitutions. We will gain a greater understanding of the origins and meaning of the Constitution through presentations and guided class discussion of provocative essays from a short book by eminent historian, Gordon S. Wood. A copy of the Constitution and Bill of Rights will be provided.

**REQUIRED READING:** *Power and Liberty:*

*Constitutionalism in the American Revolution*, by Gordon S. Wood

**ASSIGNMENT FOR FIRST CLASS:** Read the Intro and Ch. 1

**PRESENTER:** Jeff Conner, MBA, is an Emeritus Associate Professor in the Business Scholars Program at Hanover College. Jeff is a frequent presenter, serves on the Veritas Board of Directors, and has been a Veritas Society member since 2018.

**CATEGORY:** Americana

**COURSE # CEVE 007-03**

**FORMAT:** IN-PERSON

**LOCATION:** Flashcube - Central Bank

**MEETS:** 6 Tuesdays / 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

**March 10 - April 14**

# Americana

## STEAMBOATS ON KENTUCKY'S OHIO RIVER

Kentucky's northern boundary, the Ohio River, was the Commonwealth's first thoroughfare, facilitating early settlement and downstream commerce. In 1811, the first Ohio river steamboat, *The New Orleans*, proved that this modern invention could go up the river as well. For decades following, the cry "Steamboat a comin!" would bring locals to the riverbank hoping to catch a glimpse of an elegant craft pouring smoke and cinders out of its tall stacks. As it rumbled and belched its way up or down the river, it could often reach the incredible speed of 12 miles an hour! Boats connected to the Evansville, Louisville, Cincinnati, and Maysville trades would stop at the small Kentucky towns along the river, providing an outlet for commerce and an opportunity for travel. This course discusses the first 50 years of steamboat history on the Kentucky side of La Belle Riviere, its triumphs and its tragedies.

**PRESENTER:** Ken Golliher, graduate of Ball State University and the University of Louisville School of Law, is the retired co-owner of a Louisville based training company. He has recently cultivated an interest in history and storytelling, with focus on early KY history, the Clark family, and steamboats.

**CATEGORY:** Americana

**COURSE # CEVE 005 - 04**

**FORMAT:** HYBRID

**LOCATION:** WMC - Suite 101

**MEETS:** 6 Wednesdays / 2:00 - 3:15 p.m.

**March 11 - April 15**

## PAROLE IN THE U.S.

How does the Parole Board determine which convicted felons should be discharged back into society and which should remain incarcerated? Does parole work? Are there reforms that could make it better? Learn about the history and origins of parole in the United States. With a specific focus on parole in Kentucky, we will learn about the Kentucky Parole Board and how it functions. The class will conclude with a panel of former inmates who will share their experiences and opinions about parole.

**PRESENTER:** Larry D. Chandler is a former jailer, warden of six prisons, Parole Board Chair, and Director in the Juvenile Justice Department. Larry has previously taught a course for Veritas on "The History of Kentucky Prisons".

**CATEGORY:** Americana

**COURSE # CEVE 005 - 05**

**FORMAT:** IN-PERSON

**LOCATION:** Masonic Home

**MEETS:** 6 Thursdays / 10 - 11:15 a.m.

**March 12 - April 16**

# Americana

## LOUISVILLE'S OLMSTED PARKS, PART I

Louisville is home to one of Frederick Law Olmsted's greatest legacies: 17 parks and parkways in one city. In a blend of Zoom presentations and walking tours in Louisville's three Olmsted flagship parks — Cherokee, Iroquois, and Shawnee — expert Denise Davis will guide the way. She will present the early history of the parks, information about Frederick Law Olmsted, and the formation and continued work of Olmsted Parks Conservancy, an organization dedicated to the work and philosophy of Olmsted, while enhancing our parks for contemporary use.

**NOTE:** Due to the unpredictability of Louisville's springtime weather, we will determine if we will have a walking tour or a Zoom meeting. Attendees will need to pay close attention to email and/or text notifications for these updates and must also be able to walk approximately 1.25 miles on the walking tours.

**PRESENTER:** Denise Davis has been leading tours in parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted for ten years, beginning with Central Park in NYC. In Louisville, she volunteers with the Olmsted Park Conservancy as a tour-scripser and guide. A self-described Olmsted geek, Denise relishes the opportunity to showcase our incredible Olmsted parks. She has been teaching for Veritas since 2022.

**CATEGORY:** Americana

**COURSE # CEVE 005 - 06**

**FORMAT:** IN-PERSON & ZOOM

**LOCATION:** Olmsted Parks or Zoom

**MEETS:** 6 Thursdays / 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

**March 19 - April 23**

**Note:** This class will begin one week late

## ENCOUNTERING LINCOLN

President Abraham Lincoln is best remembered for leading the United States through the Civil War, abolishing slavery, and for his reputation for integrity—earning him the nickname “Honest Abe.” While he is often regarded as a revolutionary president, there is far more to Lincoln than his years in the White House. Throughout the six weeks, we will deep dive into six areas to gain a better understanding of who this iconic man was: Lincoln as citizen and family man; Lincoln as lawyer; Lincoln as communicator; Lincoln as politician and strategist; Lincoln as visionary about preservation of the Union; and Lincoln as cultural deity. The class will presume a basic knowledge of Lincoln's life, but will be instructive for both the novice and veteran students of the civil war era.

**SUGGESTED READING:** *Team of Rivals*, by Doris Kearns Goodwin

**ASSIGNMENT FOR FIRST CLASS:** Videos will be shared before the first class via email

**PRESENTER:** Don Meade is a retired labor and employment law attorney. Don is a long-time student of the Civil War, particularly Lincoln. He has previously presented to civic and interest groups on Lincoln and excerpts of his speeches. Don joined Veritas in Fall of 2024.

**CATEGORY:** Americana

**COURSE # CEVE 005 - 07**

**FORMAT:** IN-PERSON

**LOCATION:** Masonic Home

**MEETS:** 6 Thursdays / 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

**March 12 - April 16**

## CASES & CONTROVERSIES: THE SUPREME COURT

Examine a selection of Supreme Court cases that are either currently pending or recently decided. While choosing which cases to discuss, priority will be given to those of interest to class members and to cases with broad public impact. Participants may request specific cases or legal issues for discussion at any time before or during the sessions. Cases of interest will also include matters pending or decided within the Commonwealth.

**PRESENTER:** Mike Williams holds an M.A. in History from Northern Kentucky University and a J.D. from Chase Law School. A semi-retired attorney, he is a committed lifelong learner who has continued to pursue additional education throughout his career, including degrees in history and business. He is currently pursuing a degree through Northern Kentucky University. Mike is a Betts Meehan Lifetime Member who has taught over 20 Veritas courses since 2013.

**CATEGORY:** Americana

**COURSE # CEVE 005 - 08**

**FORMAT:** ZOOM

**MEETS:** 6 Thursdays / 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.

**March 12 - April 16**

# Health & Wellness

## DANCE FOR HEALTH

Dance for Health offers an engaging and accessible movement experience designed to support physical, cognitive, and emotional well-being. Grounded in the connection between brain, body, imagination, and emotion, the class uses expressive movement and music to promote strength, balance, agility, coordination, flexibility, and range of motion.

The approach is suitable for all participants, including those with movement disorders, and is intended to complement other wellness or therapeutic activities. Through creative play and expressive movement, participants are invited to reconnect with their bodies while building confidence, vitality, and community.

**NOTE:** Participants should wear clothing suitable for active range of motion.

**PRESENTER:** David X. Thurmond is a nationally respected arts educator, dancer, and administrator whose career spans performance, education, and public service. He has served as Deputy Secretary of Kentucky's Education, Arts, and Humanities Cabinet; founded the Governor's School for the Arts; established multiple arts programs across the Commonwealth; and performed with the Louisville Ballet in numerous leading roles. He continues to teach and lead innovative dance programs focused on health and wellness, including his DXT Dance for Health approach.

**CATEGORY:** Health & Wellness

**COURSE # CEVE 006 - 01**

**FORMAT:** IN-PERSON

**LOCATION:** WMC - Suite 101

**MEETS:** 6 Thursdays / 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
March 12 - April 16

## DARTS: FOR SELF-IMPROVEMENT AND COMPETITION

Darts range somewhere between a competitive sport and a charming leisure activity, with a surprisingly interesting history. The activity is accessible to all skill levels and is easy to learn since it is not restricted by age, gender, mobility, venue, climate, and other conditions, and is suitable for a wide range of occasions. It can be played at home with family, at a local Pub or establishment, or even in league play.

Playing darts is very beneficial both physically and psychologically, developing people's focus, concentration, coordination, mathematics, and ingenuity. Darts can relieve stress and is conducive to friendly communication and building friendships.

**NOTE:** Participants should be able to stand without support while throwing or picking up darts from the floor, without danger of falling.

**PRESENTER:** Robert Sprawls is a graduate of University of Louisville with a B.A. in Sociology. He is a retired financial advisor of 40 years and has been a dart enthusiast for 50 years

**CATEGORY:** Health & Wellness

**COURSE # CEVE 006 - 02**

**FORMAT:** IN-PERSON

**LOCATION:** WMC - Suite 101

**MEETS:** 5 Fridays / 1:00 - 2:15 p.m.  
March 13 - April 17 (no class April 3)



# Applied Knowledge

## CHAUTAUQUA LECTURES 2025: PART II

In Western New York, the nine-week summer assembly on Lake Chautauqua presents over 200 lectures of the leading thinkers of our time. The national forum has an open discussion of the latest thinking in politics, economics, international relations, literature, science, religion, and the arts. Sandra Cherry will guide discussion.

Week 1: "Presidential Leadership Traits" - Doris Kearns Goodwin (Pulitzer Prize writer & historian)

Week 2: "How to Harness and Save Our History" - Jeffrey Rosen (CEO, National Constitution Center) & Sabrina Motley (Director, Smithsonian Folklife)

Week 3: "Deeply Divided Politics and Broken Government" - Jonah Goldberg (American Enterprise Institute) & Jonathan Rauch (Brookings Institute)

Week 4: "Economic Policies and Artificial Intelligence" - Michael Strain (American Enterprise Institute) & Louise Scheiner (Brookings Institute)

Week 5: "The Carter Center and the Global Rise of Authoritarianism" - Paige Alexander (CEO, The Carter Center)

Week 6: "Intersection of Religion and Race for Muslim Americans" - Wajahat Ali (Muslim-American author) & Besheer Mohamed (Pew Research Center)

**PRESENTER:** Sandra Cherry holds an M.A. and a Rank I in teaching from UK and a B.A. from the University of MD with majors in Theatre and Math. Sandra has taught over 30 courses for Veritas since 2008 and is a Betts Meehan Lifetime Member. She also serves on the Veritas Board of Directors.

**CATEGORY:** Applied Knowledge

**COURSE # CEVE 007-01**

**FORMAT:** ZOOM

**MEETS:** 6 Thursdays / 2:00 - 3:15 p.m.  
March 12 - April 16

## LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES

Lunch and Learn presentations will begin at 11:00 am in the George Brown Center, Frazier Hall. Following the presentation, lunch will be served next door in the University Dining Hall (UDH), which offers all-you-care-to-eat restaurant quality food from the steam table, grill, salad bar, sandwich station, drinks, dessert, and more. Tickets for lunch will be given out by the L&L coordinators in the classroom.

Lunch & Learns are paid for individually during registration at a cost of \$12 per session, which includes the presentation and lunch.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 13

"The Festival of Faiths" - Rev. Dr. Lauren Jones Mayfield, Executive Director, Center for Interfaith Relations

### FRIDAY, MARCH 20

"Human Body Responses to Infection" - Dr. David Sandoval, retired Rheumatologist

### FRIDAY, MARCH 27

"Safe Louisville - Violence Reduction Plan" - Misty Wright, Mayor's Executive Director of Community Safety

### FRIDAY, APRIL 10

"World War II: The Largest Art Theft in History" - Stephen Brown, Kentucky Writer

### FRIDAY, APRIL 17

"Kentucky's Economic Development and What's with All of the Data Centers?" - Jeff Noel, Secretary, Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development

**ORGANIZERS:** Bud Spalding and Jonathan Smith are the co-chairs of the Lunch & Learn committee. J. B. (Bud) Spalding, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Bellarmine University, and Jonathan Smith, Emeritus Professor of English at Hanover College serve on the Board of Directors and are Betts Meehan Lifetime Members. Jonathan is the Chair and Editor of the Veritas Voice newsletter.

**CATEGORY:** Lunch & Learn

**COURSE # CEVE 010**

**FORMAT:** IN-PERSON

**LOCATION:** BU Campus

**MEETS:** 5 Fridays / 11:00 a.m.