

**SENIORS' COLLEGE
ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA**

**FALL 2020
(via Zoom)**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our prime concern at this time is the health and safety of our members. As seniors, we all have to take special care because we are at greater risk for more serious complications from the COVID- 19 virus. The likelihood of a second wave in the fall and winter months is looming over us. As a consequence, we believe that an online alternative, with webinars and Zoom classes, is the only option currently available to us.

INFORMATION SESSION

September 9 (Wednesday)
1:30 pm
via Zoom

ONLINE COURSE REGISTRATION

Register online at www.theSCANS.org
Registration deadline is October 5, 2020.

CLASS CANCELLATIONS

Announced on website www.theSCANS.org

COURSES (via Zoom)	
1	<p>The Science of Mindfulness - Patricia McMullen Mondays, 10:00 - 11:30 am, Oct 19 - Nov 23</p> <p>In this seminar about the “Science of Mindfulness”, you will learn about the practice of mindfulness meditation from an experiential view-point. Investigation of the effects that this secular practice is purported to have from research on cognition, emotions, the brain and our bodies will be central to the course. We will also discuss the psychological conditions that mindfulness has been used to help and the applied settings in which it has been implemented. Finally, some of the problems with mindfulness as a practice will be presented as well as problems with the scientific research, as it stands today.</p>
2	<p>Satire: from Juvenal to Stephen Colbert - David McNeil Tuesdays, 10:00 - 11:30 am, Oct 13 - Nov 17</p> <p>"Satire is a sort of glass, wherein beholders do generally discover everybody's face but their own" (<i>Jonathan Swift</i>). Swift's satiric definition of satire is one of many mirror images that surface in discussions of the genre. In this class, we elucidate the dynamics of satiric humour in a wide range of works from antiquity to the present: literary texts, cartoons, songs, sketches, monologues, dialogues. Early Scottish “flyting” (i.e., insulting), eighteenth-century graphic satire, Punch Magazine, standup comedy, and local cartoonists will be just some of the things we'll examine. Folly and vice are traditionally considered to be the targets of satire, and the art of satire is to make fun of them. So the goal of this class is to admire the art and have a lot of laughs. We'll even make fun of ourselves! Seeing so much corruption and idiocy in ancient Rome, Juvenal said that: “It is hard not to write Satire.” Many believe the same about our contemporary world (if you think otherwise, just SEARCH “people doing dumb things” on YouTube and see for yourself).</p>
3	<p>Seeing is Believing: How the Telescope Changed Who We Are and What We Know - Tony Schellinck Wednesdays, 1:30 - 3:00 pm, Oct 14 - Nov 25 (no class on Nov 11 Remembrance Day)</p> <p>The Seeing is Believing course is a mixture of history (going back to 3,000 BC and the creation of the constellations), science (how observers discovered how the universe works) and practical observing through binoculars and telescopes (this may include field trips if we can work it in these times. We may have a zoom field trip). The course describes in detail the character and the lives of the astronomers as well as how and what they contributed to the advancement of knowledge about the universe. If I can fit it in, students will be introduced to the night sky and the deep sky objects that can be observed with telescopes.</p>



QR code for online course descriptions and instructor biographies.

COURSES (via Zoom)

<p>4 The Devil That Will Not Die: The History of Anti-Semitism - Angus Smith Thursdays, 1:30 - 2:45 pm, Oct 15 - Nov 19</p> <p>Anti-Semitism is a hatred both ancient and eternally new, seemingly remaking and re-establishing itself in every generation. Today, we are confronted by a particularly virulent and insidious form of anti-Semitism, one that not only crosses political boundaries, but that also enjoys a certain degree of social acceptability. Where does anti-Semitism come from? Why does it happen? This course will try to answer those questions by focusing on three main themes. The first of these, religious anti-Semitism, will cover the period between the propagation of the Christian gospels and the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492 to understand how the teachings of the Church contributed to and encouraged hatred and persecution of Jews. The second theme, racial anti-Semitism, will cover the period up until the end of the Second World War. It will look at how religious anti-Semitism was augmented by a view of Jews as a "separate" people, essentially hostile to the societies in which they found themselves, whether in Germany, Poland or the Russian empire. The final theme will address our own time, and the manner in which anti-Semitism is at once racial, religious and entangled with the emergence of Zionism and the State of Israel. The course will also address the special case of anti-Semitism in the Muslim world. And while anti-Semitism remains sui generis, we will consider how anti-Semitic tropes have been adapted to fit other forms of bigotry and xenophobia, often with horrific consequences.</p>
<p>5 Choosing the Future: American Presidential Election 2020 - Michael MacMillan Fridays, 10:00 - 11:30 am, Oct 16 - Nov 20</p> <p>The upcoming American Presidential election is often described as one of the most important elections for the future of American society. It takes place in the framework of a complex election process that is distinctively American and is driven by conflicts over race, culture, and the role of the state. It has been the subject of ongoing critical debate about its flaws and biases which challenge its democratic claims. In this course, the design and operation of the American electoral system will be discussed, including the selection of presidential candidates by political parties, the role of the Electoral College in the path to presidential power, as well as the impact of ethnicity, class and religion on patterns of voting behaviour by American citizens and how that impacts strategies for electoral success. These will be considered in the context of the November 2020 election.</p>



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FALL 2020
Course Program (via Zoom)

Continue your life-long learning by joining the Seniors' College Association (SCANS), a registered non-profit organization providing affordable non-credit academic courses to seniors (50+) in Nova Scotia.

Membership entitles you to enrol in any number of courses offered per year. Membership can be started at any time and is valid for three consecutive terms. The annual fee is \$150 + HST (total \$172.50).

CONTACT

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