January–March 2027

Siegal Lifelong Learning Programs

In-Person and Remote Learning Opportunities



CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
The Laura & Alvin Siegal Lifelong Learning Program

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
The Laura & Alvin Siegal Lifelong Learning Program

CAMPUS OFFICE

Thwing Center, Room 153
11111 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44106-7116
216.368.2090

BEACHWOOD OFFICE

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Suite 100
Beachwood, OH 44122
216.368.2091

Website: case.edu/lifelonglearning
Email: lifelonglearning@case.edu

REGISTRATION INFORMATION & POLICIES

Registration policies including course withdrawals, cancellations and refunds can be found on our website.

case.edu/lifelonglearning/about/registration-info-policies

MEMBERSHIP

An optional membership model offers reduced fees for most courses and lectures. Details and pricing are available on our website.

case.edu/lifelonglearning/about/membership

Ted Evans
Executive Director

Dafna Ben Yosef
Director of Jewish Lifelong Learning

Andrea Kushnick Rubin
Director of General Studies & Marketing

Holly Kitko
Department Assistant

Lorraine Nelson
Program Manager

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Program Administrator

REMOTE COURSE

FROM REVISIONISM TO THE SETTLEMENTS: THE EVOLUTION OF ISRAELI RADICAL POLITICAL IDEOLOGY

Josef Olmert, PhD, Emeritus Professor of Political Science, University of South Carolina

Thursdays, January 7–February 11
11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. ET

Examine Jewish underground organizations during the British Mandate, including the Haganah, Irgun (Etzel), and Lehi (Stern Group), and their evolution before and after the establishment of Israel. Explore the ideologies of Jewish self-defense, independence, and national survival that shaped the struggle for statehood and their continuing influence on Israeli society and politics. The course discusses contemporary ideological movements within the settler community in the West Bank (Judea and Samaria), their views on self-defense and the use of force, and their broader implications for Israeli democracy and society, including ongoing debates over the boundaries of legitimate force and retaliation.

Price: $147
Members receive 15% discount

IN-PERSON LECTURE

LINCOLN REVOKES GENERAL ULYSSES GRANT'S EXPULSION OF JEWS

Peter Haas, PhD, Abba Hillel Silver, Professor Emeritus, CWRU

Monday, January 11
1:30–3 p.m. ET

In December 1862, Union General Ulysses S. Grant issued an order expelling all Jews from his military district, which included parts of Tennessee, Kentucky, and Mississippi, as part of an effort to suppress illegal cotton smuggling. The order was enforced in Paducah, Kentucky, where Jewish families were forcibly removed from their homes. Jewish leaders traveled to Washington to protest, arguing that the decree unfairly punished an entire religious group for the actions of a few and ignored the contributions of Jewish Union soldiers. In January 1863, President Abraham Lincoln revoked the order, leaving a lasting stain on Grant's reputation.

Price: $10
Members receive $5 discount

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

IN-PERSON COURSE

CONTRIBUTIONS OF JEWISH IMMIGRANTS TO AMERICAN CLASSICAL MUSIC

Eric Kisch, Instructor of Lifelong Learning

Tuesdays, January 12–February 9
10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

This course explores Jewish immigrants' impact on classical music in the United States. The artistry of Jewish immigrant composers, conductors, pianists, violinists, cellists, and vocalists helped shape the nation's musical landscape. Their enduring legacy continues to influence contemporary performers, composers, and audiences, leaving a profound mark on American cultural life.

Price: $174
Members receive 15% discount

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

IN-PERSON LECTURE

THE GEESE IN OUR BACKYARDS: MIGRATION SCIENCE, FLIGHT DYNAMICS, AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF HUMAN FEEDING

Mary Kazmir, Instructor of Lifelong Learning

Wednesday, January 13
9:30–11:30 a.m. ET

Canada geese are remarkable athletes shaped by millions of years of evolution, yet modern landscapes—and human habits—are changing their biology and behavior in surprising ways. This talk explores the science of migration, the physics of long-distance flight, and how human feeding can disrupt wing development and navigational instincts. Through clear explanations and field observations, participants will learn why some geese stop migrating, how flight formations conserve energy, and how well-intentioned actions can unintentionally harm wildlife. A fascinating scientific look at one of North America's most familiar birds.

Price: $20
Members receive $5 discount

Ohman Family Living
10190 Fairmount Road, Newbury
Please use Entrance A

Price includes breakfast

IN-PERSON COURSE

THREE MORE WINDOWS: CONTEMPORARY ISRAELI SHORT STORIES IN TRANSLATION

Shira Atik, Poet and Literary translator

Thursdays, January 14–February 4
1:30–3 p.m. ET

This class will explore three Israeli short stories, each of which illuminates a different facet of the contemporary Israeli experience. Topics include trauma, resilience, political conflict, alienation, Arab-Jewish relations, and the oppression of women in the Arab world. Join us to get an insider's view of some of the most pressing issues facing Israel today. All reading and discussion will be in English (but also available in Hebrew if desired).

Reading will be provided in both Hebrew and English. Participants will be asked to read them before class.

Price: $98
Members receive 15% discount

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

IN-PERSON COURSE

CINEMA AND THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Earl Leiken, JD, Instructor of Lifelong Learning

Terri Mester, PhD, Instructor of Lifelong Learning

Fridays, January 15–March 5
10:30 a.m.–noon ET

This course studies the American Experience of seeking opportunity and a better life and the outcome of those efforts as described in film. The nine films are *Citizen Kane, A Place in the Sun, The Great Gatsby, The Grapes of Wrath, Got Out, Public Enemy, Hester Street, The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* and *Nothing But a Man*. Content of the course will include their historic settings and a presentation about the film including applicable dramatic and film production issues. Students will view the films in advance of class and there will be ample time allowed for class discussion of each film.

Price: $131
Members receive 15% discount

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

This course is offered with the generous support of the Association for Continuing Education.

REMOTE COURSE

THE TRAGEDY OF GAZA: FROM OSLO TO OCTOBER 7

Steve Klein, PhD, Instructor, Tel Aviv University, and Haaretz English Edition Senior Editor

Tuesdays, January 19–February 23
1:30–3 p.m. ET

How did the situation in the Gaza Strip evolve into the crisis of October 7 and the ensuing war? This course traces the rise of Hamas, the Oslo era, and the post-Oslo cycles of violence, examining key decisions, missed opportunities, and the evolving relationships among the parties. Drawing on history, political theory, psychology, neuroscience, and complexity science, participants will gain new perspectives and analytical tools for understanding the forces that have shaped one of the world's most enduring and complex conflicts.

Price: $147
Members receive 15% discount

IN-PERSON COURSE

AMERICA'S HOME FRONT IN WORLD WAR II

Patrick Moore, JD, Instructor of Lifelong Learning

Tuesdays, January 19–February 23
10:30 a.m.–noon ET

The Normandy
22701 Lake Avenue, Rocky River

OR

Thursdays, January 21–February 25
10–11:30 a.m. ET

Hamlet Clubhouse
200 Hamlet Hills Drive, Chagrin Falls

World War II was fought not only on battlefields across the globe, but also in factories, laboratories, farms, movie studios, and homes. This course explores the remarkable transformation of civilian life during World War II, examining the ingenuity, sacrifice, social change, and scientific breakthroughs that helped determine the outcome of the conflict. Topics include military mobilization and the draft, including who was exempt from service and why; the inventions and discoveries that changed modern warfare, from radar to other critical technologies; and the financing of the war through war bonds, scrap drives, and public campaigns. We will explore the enormous expansion of war production and the unprecedented

role of women in the workforce, along with the everyday realities of victory gardens, rationing, and making do with less. How Americans supported the war effort is both fascinating and inspiring.

Price: $109
Members receive 15% discount

This course is offered with the generous support of the Association for Continuing Education

IN-PERSON COURSE

A FOCUS ON THREE AREAS OF SUPREME COURT REVIEW

Barbara Greenberg, JD, Magistrate for Bedford Municipal Court (retired)

Tuesdays, January 19–February 23
10:30 a.m.–noon ET

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

OR

Tuesdays, January 19–February 23
1:30–3 p.m. ET

South Franklin Circle,
16600 Warren Court, Chagrin Falls

This course will examine several legal areas currently before the U.S. Supreme Court. Working in two-week blocks, we will explore cases involving the use of public tax dollars to support private and parochial schools; voting rights, including mail-in ballots for seniors and the use of government data to identify potentially ineligible voters; and environmental issues related to climate change, including questions of who may be financially responsible when communities or individual property owners experience damages. Several of these cases are currently pending before the Court, with decisions expected in the spring. We will consider the legal questions at issue, the arguments presented by the parties, and the potential implications of the Court's rulings.

Price: $109
Members receive 15% discount

This course is offered with the generous support of the Association for Continuing Education

REMOTE COURSE

AI FOR THE CURIOUS AND CAUTIOUS

Morissa Schwartz, MS, Writer, Educator, and Founder of GenZ Publishing

Wednesdays, January 20–February 3
7–8:30 p.m. ET

New to AI? This three-session course starts at the beginning. In plain English, we'll explore what generative AI does, try one low-stakes everyday use, and learn why polished answers can still be wrong. Through friendly discussion and guided examples, you'll practice checking claims, protecting personal information, and deciding when AI helps—and when to set it aside. No technical background, paid tools, or prior AI experience required.

Price: $76
Members receive 15% discount

IN-PERSON COURSE

PORTS, PARTS, AND POLITICS: HOW GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS SHAPE OUR WORLD

Marti Flacks, JD, President and CEO, Cleveland Council on World Affairs

Wednesdays, January 20–February 10
10–11:30 a.m. ET

From your morning coffee to the phone in your pocket, everything you own traveled on a complex global journey to reach you. This four-week course demystifies international supply chains, covering how goods are manufactured and sourced, how and why they move around the world, and the geopolitical and economic forces that are shaping trade today. Participants will explore real-world case studies, from disruptions due to the Covid-19 pandemic to today's tariff battles and the U.S.-China rivalry, and you'll come away with a clearer sense of how these global forces play out right here in Northeast Ohio.

Price: $98
Members receive 15% discount

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

IN-PERSON COURSE

MICHELANGELO – MAN IS THE MEASURE

Jim Lane, Instructor of Lifelong Learning

Thursdays, January 21–March 11
1:30–3 p.m. ET

Relive the intense struggle of Michelangelo in his restless search for Truth and Beauty. Set in the turbulent world of 14th- and 15th-century Italy with its plotting princes, warring popes, brilliant artists and authors, there is indeed a new awakening that reshapes the future of Europe and Western civilization. Michelangelo embraced and struggled with all that faced him in this Renaissance period. Irving Stone has "painted the portrait of a supreme craftsman and created a cyclorama of one of the world's most astounding ages" in a biographical novel that captures the scope, high drama, intensity and fury of one of the world's foremost artists. Meet the sculptor of David and the Pieta, the painter of the Sistine Chapel and the architect of the Dome for St. Peter's up close and personal.

Optional Reading: *The Agony and the Ecstasy*, Irving Stone

Price: $131
Members receive 15% discount

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

This course is offered with the generous support of the Association for Continuing Education

REMOTE COURSE

FLEEING OPPRESSION, SEEKING A FUTURE: JEWISH IMMIGRATION TO AMERICA FROM THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE, 1881–1914

Steven Ujifusa, Historian and President of Tradewinds History, LLC

Monday, January 25–February 15
1:30–3 p.m. ET

Join Steven Ujifusa again for an expansion to the guest book talk given last year. Between 1880 and 1914, about 2 million Jews fled Eastern Europe for America. They were escaping pogroms, military conscription, and poverty. Their journey to the New World involved illegal border crossings, railroad trips in sealed cars, and week-long transatlantic crossings in the bottoms of giant ocean liners. This course will uncover state-sanctioned antisemitism in Czarist Russia, the business of shipping and steerage, the role of American Jewish philanthropy, Jewish life in Imperial Germany, and the anti-immigration movement in America that led to the closure of American borders to Eastern and Southern Europeans.

Optional Reading: *The Last Ships From Hamburg—Business, Rivalry, And The Race To Save Russia's Jews On The Eve Of World War I*

Price: $98
Members receive 15% discount

IN-PERSON LECTURE

BOOK DISCUSSION: *THIS IS NOT ABOUT US*

Sylvia Abrams, PhD, Professor Emerita and Former Dean, Siegal College

Monday, January 25
10:30 a.m.–noon ET

Allegra Goodman, the bestselling author of *Isola*, returns to a subject that endeared her to readers – navigating American Jewish suburban family life. *This Is Not About Us* discusses growing up and growing old, the weight of parental expectations, and the complex connection between sisters. The novel is structured as a series of linked stories focused on various family members. The central concerns revolve around generational family conflict, sibling rivalry, and the weight of unspoken resentments. We will discuss the issues that the novel evokes: the modern American Jewish family, waiting for death, family loyalties, lingering guilt, differing traditions, and preserving family ties.

Read: *This Is Not About Us*, Allegra Goodman

Price: $15
Members receive $5 discount

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

IN-PERSON COURSE

DANTE'S DIVINE COMEDY CYCLE 2: *PURGATORIO*

Paola Basile, PhD, Professor of Italian,
Lake Erie College

Mondays, January 25–March 1
3:30–5 p.m. ET

Purgatorio, the second canticle of the *Divine Comedy*, is a profound exploration of the human soul's journey toward healing, freedom, and spiritual renewal. Unlike the despair of Inferno, Purgatorio offers hope: the possibility that people can change, grow, and become better. Through figures such as Cato the Younger, Manfred of Sicily, Virgil, Statius, G.P. della Mirandola, and Beatrice this course will invite you to reflect on themes of forgiveness, free will, dignity, love, pride, vanity, and human transformation. The course examines Dante's belief that people can change through self-reflection, responsibility, ethical effort, and the pursuit of goodness, while also considering *Purgatorio* as a metaphor for the struggles and growth of human life itself. The series will continue in spring with *Paradiso*.

Read: *Divine Comedy, Purgatorio*, Dante

Price: $147
Members receive 15% discount

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

IN-PERSON COURSE

THE WORLD'S GREATEST MYSTERIES

Avery Fromet, JD
Retired Attorney and Instructor of Lifelong Learning

Mondays, January 25–March 1
10:30 a.m.–noon ET

Who was the Man in the Iron Mask? What really happened to Amelia Earhart? Where is the Ark of the Covenant? Who was Jack the Ripper? For centuries, these and countless other mysteries have captured our imaginations, sparked endless speculation, and left historians and investigators searching for answers. In this six-week series, we'll explore some of the world's most fascinating unsolved mysteries, puzzling disappearances, historical enigmas, and unexplained events.

Price: $147
Members receive 15% discount

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

IN-PERSON COURSE

CMA UP CLOSE: MATERIALS AND PROCESSES

Professional staff

Tuesdays, January 26–March 2
1:30–2:30 p.m. ET

OR

Thursdays, January 28–March 4
1:30–2:30 p.m. ET

This course will offer insights into the materials and processes that artists use in making art, as well as the methods museum professionals use to conserve and exhibit them. Hear perspectives from conservators, preparators, curators, and educators on the materials, making, care, and display of art. Individual session topics include: the work of Juste-Aurèle Meissonnier (French, born Italy, 1695–1750) – one the most revolutionary forerunners of the Rococo style in the decorative arts and considered a genius goldsmith by his contemporaries; the development of printing in China from the 1600s to the international modern woodcut movement in the early 1900s; a special exhibition on Malagasy textiles, *Stunning Patterns: Woven Textiles from Madagascar's Merina Kingdom*, which weaves a dynamic story of royalty, resistance, reinvention, and resilience as told through the history of eastern African silk weaving; and discussion of other parts of the museum's permanent collection and rotating exhibitions.

This on-site course involves walking through the museum galleries. Assisted listening devices are available.

Price: $131
Members receive 15% discount

Cleveland Museum of Art

IN-PERSON COURSE

THE GOD WE CANNOT KNOW: RAMBAM ON REASON, REVELATION, AND REDEMPTION

Rabbi Jeremy Bruce, PhD
Director of Programming, Rabbi Sacks Legacy

Wednesdays, January 27–February 24
7–8:30 p.m. ET

What does it mean to live a religious life if God ultimately lies beyond human description? In this five-part series, we explore how Rambam builds an entire vision of Judaism from this starting point. We will examine what we can know about God, why the mitzvot matter, the possibilities and limits of human reason, the relationship between philosophy and prophecy, and the nature of human perfection. The series concludes with Rambam's political and messianic vision, asking how his understanding of God and the good life ultimately shapes his vision of community, leadership, and the ideal society.

Price: $60
Members receive 15% discount

Green Road Synagogue
2437 South Green Road, Beachwood

This course is in collaboration with Green Road Synagogue

IN-PERSON LECTURE

DEADLY BEAUTY: FASHION, TOXICITY, AND THE PLUME TRADE, 1800–1900

Mary Kazmir, Instructor of Lifelong Learning

Thursday, January 28
10–11:30 a.m. ET

Deadly Beauty uncovers the hidden hazards behind 19th-century fashion. Elite women's gowns, ribbons, cosmetics, and feathered hats were created with dangerous substances including arsenic, mercury, lead, chromium salts, and coal-tar dyes. Through vivid historical examples, the presentation reveals how toxic chemicals were used to process feathers, color fabrics, and create cosmetics, endangering both workers and fashionable women. The talk also explores the global plume trade, which contributed to the deaths of more than a billion birds. Finally, Deadly Beauty traces how these dangers helped spark early conservation efforts, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and modern protections for species such as the Canada goose.

Price: $10
Members receive $5 discount

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

REMOTE COURSE

BRAVE WOMEN, BOLD REFORMS: WOMEN AND THE ROOTS OF AMERICAN SOCIAL JUSTICE

Renea Frey, PhD, Associate Professor, Writing Program Director, Xavier University

Mondays, February 1–February 22
10:30 a.m.–noon ET

This course explores women reformers of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries who used writing, public speaking, organizing, journalism, religion, labor activism, and social reform to challenge injustice. Looking beyond the fight for suffrage, we will consider how women shaped movements for labor rights, racial justice, religious freedom, immigrant aid, public health, peace, and human rights. Possible figures include Ida B. Wells, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Matilda Joslyn Gage, Ernestine Rose, Clara Lemlich, Rose Schneiderman, Maud Nathan, Lillian Wald, and other Black, Jewish, immigrant, working-class, religious, and radical women reformers.

Price: $98
Members receive 15% discount

IN-PERSON COURSE

ABRAHAMIC RELIGIONS: HOW DID RABBINIC JUDAISM, CATHOLIC CHRISTIANITY AND SUNNI ISLAM COME TO BE?

Peter Haas, PhD, Abba Hillel Silver Professor Emeritus, CWRU

Tuesdays, February 2–March 2
1:30–3:30 p.m. ET

The three Western monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam share a good deal in common. Not only do they all have roots in Biblical mono-theism, but they all recognize the same major Biblical prophets such as Noah, Abraham, David, Elijah, Jonah; Islam also recognizes Jesus as a prophet. There were also considerable philosophical and theological interconnections as each forged their classic identities in the wake of the moral and ethical teachings of Hellenistic and Greco-Roman culture. Finally, they share a linear sense of time leading to the coming of a final judgement and a messianic age. These commonalities are often overlooked in modern confrontations.

Price: $102
Members receive 15% discount

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

Senior Scholars – See page 15 for full program

IN-PERSON COURSE

GOLDEN AGE SPAIN

Elizabeth A. Lehfeldt, PhD, Professor of History, Cleveland State University (retired)

Wednesdays, February 3–March 3
1:30–3:30 p.m. ET

Before there was a British empire that spanned the globe, there was a Spanish one, with holdings from the European continent all the way to the Pacific Ocean. What were the political, cultural, and religious underpinnings of this "golden age" of Spanish dominance? Beginning with an examination of the late medieval legacy of convivencia and divided kingdoms, this course will move to an analysis of the politics and society of sixteenth and seventeenth-century Spain. It will include a close look at institutions like the Inquisition and great works of literature like Don Quixote. It will include considerations of the tensions and darker side of global expansion. It will conclude with a discussion of Spain's decline and fall from the world stage.

Price: $102
Members receive 15% discount

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

Senior Scholars – See page 15 for full program

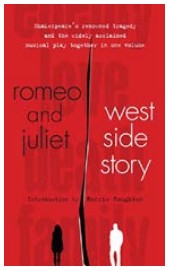
IN-PERSON COURSE

SONDHEIM'S SHOWS: A TABLE READING AND DISCUSSION OF *WEST SIDE STORY*

Jon Miller Steiger, JD, Former Regional Director, Federal Trade Commission & Broadway Enthusiast

Wednesdays, February 17–March 3
10:30 a.m.–noon ET

Experience the genius of Stephen Sondheim through a table reading and discussion of one of his most popular musicals: *West Side Story*. No singing or acting skills required! Learn about the creation of the show, read through the brilliant script by lyricist Stephen Sondheim and book writer Arthur Laurents, and discuss this classic updating of *Romeo and Juliet*. Even if you've seen the original 1957 musical, the original 1961 movie, the many Broadway revivals, or the 2021 movie, you'll enjoy living in the script and learning what makes *West Side Story* the masterpiece it is.



No pre-reading is required for this course. Please purchase a copy of the *West Side Story* original Broadway musical script and bring to class. Available on Amazon or Mac's Backs Books.

Price: $76
Members receive 15% discount

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

IN-PERSON COURSE

SOME OF HISTORY'S MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN ARTISTS

Carol Salus, PhD, Professor Emerita, Art History, Kent State University

Thursdays, February 18–March 11
1–2:30 p.m. ET

For centuries, many of history's most accomplished women artists were overlooked despite making extraordinary contributions to the art world. This course explores the lives, works, and lasting influence of artists including Artemisia Gentileschi, Mary Cassatt, Frida Kahlo, Yayoi Kusama, Faith Ringgold, Barbara Kruger, Cindy Sherman, and others. Through their art, we will examine the historical, cultural, and personal forces that shaped their creative visions while gaining a deeper appreciation for the challenges they overcame in a predominantly male art world.

Price: $98
Members receive 15% discount

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

IN-PERSON LECTURE

OHIO INVENTED THE MOVIE BIZ AND IS STILL IN THE LEADING ROLE

Bill Garvey, President, Greater Cleveland Film Commission

Thursday, February 18
10–11:30 a.m. ET

Did you know Ohio invented the movie business? From the first movie moguls to famous Ohioans on the silver screen, the Greater Cleveland Film Commission (GCFC) is keeping Ohio's film legacy alive & growing. GCFC's presentation features behind-the-scenes stories & little known trivia to inform, inspire, & learn how GCFC continues to shape film history and bring production investment and jobs to Ohio.

Price: $10
Members receive $5 discount

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

Exploring Jewish Italy

From Renaissance Florence and Sicily to the Distinctive Sounds, Culture, History and Traditions of Jewish Italian Life

REMOTE COURSE

SOUNDS OF A FRAGMENTED MEMORY: THE MUSIC REPERTOIRE OF ITALIAN JEWS

Piergabriele Mancuso, PhD
Director of the Eugene Grant-Jewish History Program at the Medici Archive Project, Florence, Italy

Wednesdays, January 20 to February 10
10:30 a.m.–noon ET

Explore the rich and evolving tradition of Italian Jewish music, from the ancient melodies of Torah cantillation to the influence of organ music, Italian opera, and the Jewish Reform movement. This course traces the historical, cultural, and religious forces that shaped one of the most distinctive musical traditions in the Jewish world. Discover how centuries of interaction with Italian society produced a remarkably diverse repertoire that blends sacred liturgy with local artistic influences. Gain insight into the unique musical evolution of Italian Jewish worship and the enduring legacy of a tradition that bridges Jewish heritage and Italian culture.

Price: $98 | Members receive 15% discount

REMOTE COURSE

THE CREATIVE JEWS OF SICILY

Katherine Aron-Beller, PhD
Senior Lecturer in Jewish History at the Rothberg International School of the Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University

Mondays, February 15–22
10:30 a.m.–noon ET

Explore Sicilian Jewry and the little-known cultural heritage of communities that have long ceased to exist and whose memory has almost faded. We will study the history of Jews in Sicily from Roman times until their final expulsion or conversion in 1493. Emphasis will be placed on the distinctive culture that developed on the island following the Muslim conquest, drawing on sources preserved in the Cairo Geniza. Jewish life under Norman, Hohenstaufen, and Catalan-Aragonese rule will also be examined. Finally, the expulsion and conversion of the Jews will be addressed, along with the crypto-Judaism they practiced.

Price: $50 | Members receive 15% discount

This course is sponsored by the Annual Enid and Irving Kushner Lecture Fund.

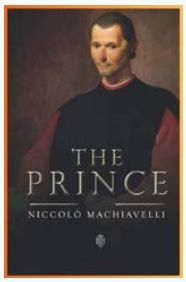
REMOTE COURSE

ITALIAN-RENAISSANCE MINDS: INTELLECTUAL ACADEMIES AND MACHIAVELLI'S SOCIAL NETWORKS IN 1400–1700

Simone Testa, PhD
Instructor, International Studies Institute, Florence, Italy

Mondays, March 1–8
10:30 a.m.–noon ET

Social networks were central to the intellectual and cultural life of Renaissance Italy. Scholars, artists, writers, and political thinkers gathered in academies, creating vibrant communities of conversation, debate, and exchange. By 1600, these networks had spread throughout Italy and beyond. Explore the fascinating world of Renaissance academies and the intellectual circles that shaped the era, alongside the life and ideas of Niccolò Machiavelli, a diplomat, statesman, historian, and political thinker. Best known for *The Prince* and *Discourses on Livy*, Machiavelli offered provocative insights into power, leadership, and government while invoking biblical figures as examples of political authority, republican leadership, and state-building. Materials will be provided before the class.



Price: $50 | Members receive 15% discount

REMOTE COURSE

ART AND IDENTITY: JONA OSTIGLIO, THE FIRST JEWISH PAINTER OF RENAISSANCE ITALY

Piergabriele Mancuso, PhD
Director of the Eugene Grant Jewish History Program at the Medici Archive Project, Florence, Italy

Wednesdays, March 24–31
10:30 a.m.–noon ET

Discover the remarkable story of Jona Ostiglio (c. 1638–1700), the first known Jewish painter in Italian—and European—art history. Born in the Florence Ghetto, Ostiglio began painting in midlife and was admitted to the Accademia del Disegno before receiving commissions from the Medici family and Florence's elite. His extraordinary career was matched by a dramatic personal life, including a romance with a Christian widow and her mysterious



rescue from a monastery. This course also explores Jewish artistic patronage, art collecting within the Florentine Ghetto, and Ostiglio's little-known workshop, where he trained the Jewish painter David Isaia Tedesco.

Price: $50 | Members receive 15% discount

REMOTE COURSE

KIDNAPPED FOR FAITH: THE MORTARA CASE AND FORCED BAPTISM ACROSS TIME: RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

Elèna Mortara
Professor of Anglo-American literature, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy

Fridays, April 30 to May 7
10:30 a.m.–noon ET

In 1858, the kidnapping of six-year-old Jewish boy Edgardo Mortara by Papal authorities and his secret baptism sparked an international debate over religious authority, parental rights, and individual freedom. In this thought-provoking program, Professor Elèna Mortara—a descendant of Edgardo Mortara and one of the leading scholars of the case—combines historical scholarship with her family's personal story to explore the case's lasting legal, ethical, and cultural significance. Participants will also examine its influence on literature and contemporary debates surrounding religious freedom. The series includes a screening of Marco Bellocchio's 2023 film *Kidnapped* on May 6, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Price: $76 | Members receive 15% discount

This course is sponsored by the Annual Enid and Irving Kushner Lecture Fund.

REMOTE COURSE

IRISH SHORT STORIES

Angela Fasick, MFA, Writer, Instructor of Lifelong Learning

Thursdays, February 25–April 1
10:30 a.m.–noon ET

Among the Emerald Isle's wonderful assets are centuries of storytelling and storytellers. In this course, we'll use the *2026 Everyman's Library Pocket Classic Series anthology Irish Stories* to read and discuss 200 years of short fiction. We'll move chronologically from early folkloric tales through classic works by James Joyce, Frank O'Connor, Maeve Brennan, and Edna O'Brien before settling in for some contemporary stories by Anne Enright, Colm Tóibín, Claire Keegan, Roddy Doyle, and Sally Rooney. As winter turns to spring, we'll gather glimmers of brilliance, and by St. Patrick's Day, we'll all be wiser.

Read: *2026 Everyman's Library Pocket Classic Series Anthology Irish Stories*

Price: $147
Members receive 15% discount

REMOTE COURSE

THE RESURRECTION: FACT, FICTION, OR FAITH?

Todd Rosenberg, Instructor of Lifelong Learning

Wednesdays, March 3–March 31
7–8:30 p.m. ET

This course explores one of the most profound and consequential beliefs: the Resurrection of Jesus. Through historical, biblical, and theological inquiry, we will examine key questions surrounding its meaning and significance. Was the resurrection of the Messiah anticipated in the Hebrew Bible? What would an empty tomb prove? Who were the 500 witnesses described in the New Testament, and what significance does their testimony hold? Explore differences and inconsistencies among the Gospel accounts and consider how Jewish understandings of resurrection compare with Christian beliefs. Join a thought-provoking exploration of faith, history, scripture, and religious thought.

Reading materials will be provided to students before the course.

Price: $98
Members receive 15% discount

IN-PERSON LECTURE

A WORLD-CLASS MUSEUM IN OUR BACKYARD: REIMAGINING THE KENT STATE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

Sarah Spinner, JD, PhD, Director, Kent State University Museum

Thursday, March 4
10–11:30 a.m. ET

What does it take to reimagine a university museum for a new generation of visitors? Home to a world-class collection of more than 30,000 objects spanning from the Byzantine period to the present, the Kent State University Museum has experienced extra-ordinary growth over the past two years, while expanding its reach far beyond campus. With a belief that museums are for everyone, and that great fashion can be found everywhere, Museum Director Sarah Spinner will offer a lively behind-the-scenes look at the exhibitions, partnerships, and ideas helping a world-class museum on a public university campus become an increasingly prominent cultural destination.

Price: $10
Members receive $5 discount

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

IN-PERSON COURSE

NORTH-SOUTH: EXPLORING INTERACTIONS

Catherine Scallen, PhD, Andrew W. Mellon Professor Emerita in the Humanities, CWRU

Tuesdays, March 9–April 13
1:30–3:30 p.m. ET

In this course we will consider artists from northern Europe and southern Europe from 1400 to 1800 who traveled outside their native region—or, at least, whose art did so. Why did 15th century Italian art writers think Jan van Eyck and Rogier van der Weyden, from Bruges and Brussels, were the greatest contemporary painters, not those in Italy? What impact did the art of Leonardo and Michelangelo have on painting in the Low Countries in the 16th century? How did 17th century painters such as Artemisia Gentileschi and Anthony van Dyck affect the course of art in England and? How did Italy change Rubens? And how did the international careers of Swiss painter Angelika Kauffmann and French painter Elisabeth Vigée-LeBrun spread their fame from southern Italy to Russia? These are some of the major examples we will look together at in this course.

Price: $102
Members receive 15% discount

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

Senior Scholars – See page 15 for full program

IN-PERSON COURSE

NEW YORK CITY ARCHITECTURE: A CITY SHAPED BY MANY CULTURES

Thomas V. Edmonds, MFA
Lecturer, History of Art and Architecture, School of Communication and the Arts, Gannon University

Wednesdays, March 10–April 14
1:30–3:30 p.m. ET

This course explores how New York City's architecture grew from a blend of Native American, Dutch, English, African, Jewish, German, and Chicago influences. From early colonial buildings to modern skyscrapers, the course examines how immigration, commerce, and today's men and women architects, designing in the New Vernacular style, shaped the city's rich architectural character.

Price: $102
Members receive 15% discount

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

Senior Scholars – See page 15 for full program

IN-PERSON LECTURE

THE WAR THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING – CAUSES, FIRST CLASHES OF WWI

Patrick Moore, JD, Instructor of Lifelong Learning

Wednesday, March 10
9:30–11:30 a.m. ET

1914 – 100 years of European peace, ancient empires ruled, unbridled progress, industrial expansion – and all shattered by war on an industrial scale. World War I changed the world forever. We will study the events leading up to the outbreak of the "Great War". The war that would be "over by Christmas" killed 20 million people and set the stage for the even more cataclysmic World War II.

Price: $25
Members receive $5 discount

Ohman Family Living
10190 Fairmount Road, Newbury
Please use Entrance A

Breakfast is included in price

REMOTE COURSE

RUINS OF POWER AND FAITH: NOVEL ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES FROM THE JUDEAN DESERT TO THE SHEPHELAH

Oren Gutfeld, PhD
Director, Salvage Excavation Program, Institute of Archaeology, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Fridays, March 12–19
10:30 a.m.–noon ET

Join us for a journey across extraordinary Israeli archaeological discoveries. At Ḥorbat Ḥyrcania, new excavations reveal a fortress founded by the Hasmoneans, transformed by Herod into a desert palace, later reborn as the Christian monastery of Kastellion under Sabas. Across the southern Shephelah, Ḥorvat Beit Loya preserves a history spanning the First and Second Temple periods, Byzantine, and Islamic eras. Nearby, a monumental Hellenistic complex represents a Ptolemaic–Idumean cultic center, whose destruction illuminates the conflicts preceding Hasmonean power. Together, these sites offer a vivid insight into changing communities, beliefs, politics and rituals spanning more than a millennium.

Price: $50
Members receive 15% discount

REMOTE LECTURE

PURIM SPECIAL: NO HAPPY ENDING FOR ESTHER-THE DIASPORA SCROLL

Berel Dov Lerner, PhD, Retired Professor of Philosophy, Western Galilee College, Israel

Wednesday, March 17
10:30 a.m.–noon ET

The Book of Esther is often associated with joyful, carnival-like celebration, with costumes, festivities, and the traditional drowning out of Haman's name. Yet beneath its humor lies a darker story of persecution, political vulnerability, and a threatened Jewish community. We will explore the Book of Esther alongside its post-biblical interpretations and retellings, considering how the story has shaped Jewish understandings of life in the Diaspora, and the enduring tensions between vulnerability and resilience, assimilation and identity, power and survival. At the heart of our exploration is a compelling question: Is Esther a comic heroine – or a tragic one?

Price: $10
Members receive $5 discount

REMOTE COURSE

THE NARRATIVES OF ABRAHAM AND JEWISH-MUSLIM DIALOGUE

S. Salman Ahmad, PhD (Psychology)
Lecturer and Researcher, University of Copenhagen & Copenhagen Business School, Denmark

Thursdays, March 18–April 8
10:30 a.m.–noon ET

What can the stories of Abraham and his family teach us about Jewish-Muslim relations? Drawing on the Torah, Qur'an, Midrash, and Hadith, this course explores how Abraham, Isaac, Ishmael, Sarah, and Hagar are understood across Jewish and Muslim traditions. We will examine the different interpretations of Abraham's sacrifice, the distinct symbolic roles of his two sons and their two mothers, and the ways ideas of "being the chosen" have shaped collective identities. The course concludes by considering the possibilities and challenges of interfaith dialogue, including trauma, and competing narratives of victimhood. Throughout, conversations will emphasize respect, understanding, and reconciliation.

Price: $98
Members receive 15% discount

IN-PERSON LECTURE

BOOK DISCUSSION: *BECOMING MADAM SECRETARY*

Ruth Silon
Professor Emerita, Cuyahoga County Community College

Thursday, March 18
1:30–3 p.m. ET

Celebrate Women's History Month in this discussion of Stephanie Dray's historical fiction portrayal of Frances Perkins, the first female U.S. cabinet member as Secretary of Labor. We will examine the challenges she faced, both personal and political, as she collaborated with both New York Governors Al Smith and Franklin Roosevelt on significant and lasting initiatives. When FDR became the President, they formed an historic partnership to pull the United States out of the The Great Depression and then create The New Deal, a social safety net for all Americans.

Read: *Becoming Madam Secretary*, Stephanie Dray

Price: $16
Members receive $5 discount

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

IN-PERSON LECTURE

HOUDINI THE LEGEND: 100 YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH

Bruce J. Averbook, MD, FACS, AIMC
Founder, The Averbook Magic Art Museum & Library

Thursday, March 25
10–11:30 a.m. ET

Even today, if you ask people to name the greatest magician who ever lived, they will say Houdini. But why has his name become synonymous with magic and legendary feats of escape? This engaging introduction explores Houdini's life, career, and enduring impact, offering highlights from the fascinating story that made him a legend. Drawing on artifacts and information from The Averbook Magic Art Museum and Library, the presentation brings Houdini's remarkable legacy to life while providing a glimpse into the man behind the myth.

Price: $10
Members receive $5 discount

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

INSIDE INNOVATION AT CWRU

Discover the remarkable innovation happening at Case Western Reserve University during this series featuring the research and work that turns groundbreaking ideas into real-world solutions. CWRU innovators will share how they developed their ideas, the challenges they encountered, and how their work is making a difference. This program is offered in partnership with Veale Institute for Entrepreneurship.

Full Series Price: $50 (members receive $5 discount)

Location: Landmark Centre Building, 25700 Science Park Drive, Suite 100, Beachwood

TAMING THE BRAIN'S ELECTRICAL STORMS: A NEW APPROACH TO EPILEPSY

Dominique Durand, PhD
EL Lindseth Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Distinguished University Professor, CWRU

Thursday, February 18 | 4–5:30 p.m.

Epilepsy affects millions of people worldwide, and for many, medications don't fully control their seizures. This presentation explores an exciting new approach developed at Case Western Reserve University: using gentle, low-frequency electrical pulses delivered to the brain's "information highways" the white matter fiber tracts to calm seizure activity across large brain networks. Unlike traditional brain stimulation, which targets a single spot at high frequency, this method can quiet seizures on both sides of the brain simultaneously. Laboratory studies and early human trials show promising results, including up to 87% seizure reduction. Researchers are now working toward a single smart device that can both detect and stop seizures automatically.

ROBOTS INSPIRED BY ANIMALS: HOW TO TRAVERSE CHALLENGING TERRAIN

Kathryn A. Daltorio, PhD
Associate Professor, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Dept., CWRU

Thursday, February 25 | 4–5:30 p.m.

What can we learn from animals when designing robots that need to navigate difficult environments? This fascinating talk will discuss worm robots that use soft body locomotion to crawl like worms and crab-like robots that walk through waves. The worm robots carry electrical conduit and the legged robots are being developed to remediate explosive hazards. The crab-like robots walk in waves to find potential hazards. Learn how CWRU engineers are looking to nature for creative solutions to some very challenging real-world problems.

TRUSTWORTHY COMPUTING: FROM AI ASSISTANTS TO ROBOTS

Vipin Chaudhary, PhD
Kevin J. Kranzusch Professor and Chair, Department of Computer and Data Sciences, CWRU

Thursday, March 4 | 4–5:30 p.m.

As AI moves from conversation into the physical world through robots and autonomous machines, how can we trust its decisions? This talk explores our work on helping AI recognize unusual situations, check its reasoning, and acknowledge uncertainty. Through accessible examples, we will discuss how these safeguards can make computing safer and more dependable in everyday life.

SEMANTIC MATERIALS SCIENCE: DATA-CENTRIC TOOLS TO CONNECT MATERIALS DATA IN ORDER TO DISCOVER PATTERNS, AND ADVANCE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Laura Bruckman
Climo Associate Professor, Department of Materials Science and Engineering, CWRU

Roger French, PhD
Distinguished University Professor, Kyocera Professor, Materials Science Department, CWRU

Thursday, March 11 | 4–5:30 p.m.

Inconsistent terminology and fragmented formats across research teams severely limit our ability to reuse historical data and reproduce long-term findings. Semantic materials science solves this by converting subjective research data into standardized reproducible data-centric workflows, allowing both humans and machines to reason across vast material lifespans.

SAVE THE DATE

for Two In-Person Programs with

TEHILA HAKIMI

Award Winning Israeli Author and Poet

BETWEEN POETRY AND PROSE: AWARD WINNING ISRAELI AUTHOR TEHILA HAKIMI ON WRITING, CULTURE AND IDENTITY, AND THE NOVEL "HUNTING IN AMERICA"

Monday, April 12
5:30–7:30 p.m. ET

Join Tehila Hakimi, Jewish Book Council Award winner and recipient of the Bernstein Prize for Literature, for an exploration of her literary work spanning poetry, short prose, and fiction, with a focus on her debut novel, Hunting in America. The novel follows an Israeli woman who moves to America, takes up hunting, and enters a world of predators, prey, and dark attraction. Hakimi explores themes of capitalism, gender, and power while reflecting on migration, war, cultural identity, and the creative challenges of writing and translating across literary genres and cultures.

Optional reading: *Hunting in America*, Tehila Hakimi

Price: $5 | Free for Members

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

Light refreshments will be served.

This lecture is sponsored by the Cleveland Israel Art Connection (CIAC), a program of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland

MODERATED DISCUSSION WITH TEHILA HAKIMI: BETWEEN POETRY AND PROSE: AWARD WINNING ISRAELI AUTHOR – WRITING, CULTURE AND IDENTITY, AND THE NOVEL "HUNTING IN AMERICA"

Moderated by Nadav Linial, PhD
Professor of Modern Hebrew Language & Literature, CWRU

Tuesday, April 13
Time TBD

Join Tehila Hakimi for a moderated discussion exploring her literary work spanning poetry, short prose, and fiction, with a focus on her debut novel, Hunting in America

Price: $5 | Free for Members

Location TBD



CLASSIC JEWISH CINEMA

A Monthly Film Series

(Not All Dismal!)

Join us for a journey through classic and lesser-known Jewish-themed cinema. Featuring acclaimed films from genres including drama, comedy, romance, and historical narrative, the series explores the richness and diversity of Jewish life, culture, history, and identity. Each screening offers insight into the social, cultural, and historical contexts that shaped these works and their continuing relevance. Curated by Peter Haas, PhD and Eric Kisch, the series includes a brief introduction and historical background before each film, followed by the movie projection and concluding with a lively Q & A discussion.

Tuesday, January 19 | 3 p.m.
TEVYE

Tuesday, February 16 | 3:30 p.m.
WEAPONS OF THE SPIRIT

Tuesday, March 16 | 3:30 p.m.
LIVE AND BECOME

Tuesday, April 13 | 3:30 p.m.
POWER

Tuesday, May 18 | 3 p.m.
PICKLE RECIPE

Price: $10/film
(members receive $5 discount)

Landmark Centre Building
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

SENIOR SCHOLARS

The Senior Scholars program consists of four courses featuring CWRU faculty and local experts on a variety of topics. Register for one or all of the following courses.

Individual Course Price: $98 | Members receive 15% discount

Landmark Centre – Beachwood

ABRAHAMIC RELIGIONS: HOW DID RABBINIC JUDAISM, CATHOLIC CHRISTIANITY AND SUNNI ISLAM COME TO BE?

Peter Haas, PhD, Abba Hillel Silver Professor Emeritus, CWRU

Tuesdays, February 2 to March 2
1:30–3:30 pm

[see page 6 for details]

GOLDEN AGE SPAIN

Elizabeth A. Lehfeldt, PhD, Professor of History, Cleveland State University (retired)

Wednesdays, February 3 to March 3
1:30–3:30 pm

[see page 7 for details]

NORTH-SOUTH: EXPLORING INTERACTIONS

Catherine Scallen, PhD, Andrew W. Mellon Professor Emerita in the Humanities, CWRU

Tuesdays, March 9 to April 13
1:30–3:30 pm

[see page 10 for details]

NEW YORK CITY ARCHITECTURE: A CITY SHAPED BY MANY CULTURES

Thomas V. Edmonds, MFA, Lecturer, History of Art and Architecture, School of Communication and the Arts, Gannon University

Wednesdays, March 10 to April 14
1:30–3:30 pm

[see page 11 for details]

COURSE AUDIT PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS



This program offers adults ages 65 and older reduced tuition rates for a broad range of courses at CWRU.
Registration is now open. For more information, contact Felicia Westbrooks at fcw2@case.edu

SeniorAuditProgram@case.edu | 216.368.3195 | case.edu/senioraudtprogram



Hebrew

Our Hebrew classes are ongoing groups that continue to progress each semester. Student placement is determined in consultation with the Director of Jewish Lifelong Learning and our Hebrew instructors. For more information or to discuss placement, please contact Dafna Ben Yosef at dby10@case.edu or 216.368.5686/2091.

Price: $229 (10 sessions)
Members receive 15% discount

BEGINNER HEBREW FROM ALEPH-BET (REMOTE)

CONTINUOUS LEVEL 2

Tuesdays, January 12–March 16
6–8 p.m. ET

Rivka Taub, Hebrew Language Instructor

BEGINNER CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW (REMOTE)

CONTINUOUS LEVEL 1

Tuesdays, January 12–March 16
1–3 p.m. ET

Leah Cooper, Hebrew Language Instructor

CONTINUOUS LEVEL 2

Mondays, January 11–March 29
6:30–8:30 p.m. ET (no class Jan 18)

Leah Cooper, Hebrew Language Instructor

INTERMEDIATE CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW (REMOTE)

CONTINUOUS LEVEL 1

Mondays, January 11–March 29
1–3 p.m. ET (No class Jan 18 and Mar 22)

Leah Cooper, Hebrew Language Instructor

CONTINUOUS LEVEL 2

Wednesdays, January 13–March 17
10 a.m.–noon ET

Rivka Taub, Hebrew Language Instructor

ADVANCED CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW (REMOTE)

CONTINUOUS LEVEL 1

Tuesdays, January 11–March 14
10 a.m.–noon ET

Rivka Taub, Hebrew Language Instructor

CONTINUOUS LEVEL 2

Thursdays, January 14–March 18
10 a.m.–noon ET

Judith Shamir, Hebrew Language Instructor

ADVANCED HEBREW LITERATURE (REMOTE)

CONTINUOUS LEVEL 3

Tuesdays, January 11–March 14
10 a.m.–noon ET

Judith Shamir, Hebrew Language Instructor

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BREAKTHROUGH POINT



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