The Historical Jesus – A Radical Approach!
No figure in Western history has been given more print, scholarship or speculation than this person called Jesus. However, just who or what was Jesus? Jewish revolutionary? Divine spiritual man? Unlucky artisan? Mythical figure? Perhaps something else altogether? These are some of the questions we will explore together. The class will entail not only a synthesis of what the scholars say, and a list of books by them, but mostly the professor’s own radical and quite different approach as the title of the course suggests.
Vincent Coppola
Monday 10am-12pm, 3/23-5/11/15
CSU Channel Islands Broome Library #2325
Course# 4082

The Americans are Coming
More and more, American Opera companies are staging American operas. This course is meant to stimulate that notion by exploring such treasures as George Gershwin’s “Porgy & Bess,” John Adams’s “The Death of Klinghoffer,” Andre Previn’s “A Streetcar Named Desire” (sans Marlon Brando!), and Jake Heggie’s “Dead Man Walking,” based on Sister Helen Prejean’s No. 1 bestseller. The course will also touch on some non-American operas, because their underlying themes are American in nature. We will experience some of the great American opera singers that our country now has produced.
Steve Kohn
Monday 1pm-3pm, 3/23-5/11/15
CSU Channel Islands Broome Library #2325
Course# 4083

The Evolution of Life on Earth – From Microbes to Man
Evolution is one of the most important concepts in biology and yet remains controversial and misunderstood in many circles. This course will introduce the history and principles of evolution and summarize some of the extensive scientific evidence supporting this fundamental biological process. We will consider the origin of life on earth and some key developments during the first 3 billion years of life’s history when living organisms were mostly single-celled microbes. The course will deal with the development of increasingly complex multicellular organisms during the last 550 million years, considering the transition of organisms from water to land, the development of the major land vertebrates, and the evolution of primates, including humans.
Robert Stellwagen
Tuesday 10am-12pm, 3/24-5/26/15
CSU Channel Islands Broome Library #2325
Course# 4084

From “Next Door” to Global – Economic Thinking Applied to Current Issues
This six week course will examine popular media and academic articles regarding current and potentially controversial world issues. Course participants will discuss the articles, form opinions and take a stance on the issues. The instructor will present current economic theory and discuss concepts that could be used to more carefully interpret those issues. Students will then re-examine the articles, discuss and form opinions once again to see if they still have the same convictions as before.
Claudio Paiva
Tuesday 1-3pm, 3/24-5/5/15
CSU Channel Islands Broome Library #2325
Course# 4085
The British Invasion: A 1960’s Phenomenon
This course explores the popularity of British rock music during the 1960’s, and its profound influence on American music, art and culture at that time. Groups to be examined, through discussion and video clips, would include The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Who, The Kinks, The Yardbirds, The Animals, and Spencer Davis Group. We will examine concurrent historical events and trends as a cultural backdrop, along with the ramifications of this phenomenon 50 years later. While this course runs for 6 weeks, it offers longer class times which gives it an equivalent price to that of an 8 week course.
Peter Neff
Tuesday 3:15pm-5:45pm, 3/24-5/5/15
CSU Channel Islands Broome Library #2325
Course# 4086

The Major Novels of James M. Cain
Take a walk down the shadowy streets of old California in this six week class as we read and discuss James M. Cain’s most celebrated novels. At our first class meeting, we’ll examine the first half of The Postman Always Rings Twice, the novel so tough that The New York Times called it a “six-minute egg.” We’ll then move on to the emotionally devastating Mildred Pierce and conclude with his iconic work Double Indemnity. Supplemented by clips from the various film adaptations, our discussion of the writer The Washington Post called “the poet of the hard-boiled school of the American novel” is sure to be as gripping as the books themselves. Note: this class will not meet 4/8.
Shannon Diffner
Wednesday 10am-12pm, 3/25-5/6/15
CSU Channel Islands Broome Library #2325
Course# 4087

Fortress Under Siege: Harry Truman and the Postwar Presidency
The Truman Presidency fell into the critical years of 1945 to 1953, when the nation concluded a war, witnessed the advent of the nuclear age, responded to a renewed civil rights movement, embarked on a Cold War with the Soviet Union and a new war in Korea, and experienced the anxieties and excesses of a national security crisis. Truman’s role in all these areas is interwoven into the larger historical perspective, and Truman is evaluated for his contributions, successes, and failures. Key actions by Truman, including his decision to use atomic bombs on Japan, the executive order he issued to desegregate the military, and his firing of General MacArthur, are highlighted. The course concludes by detailing the post-presidency cultural, political and academic images that elevated Truman’s stature among historians and the general public, an amazing resurrection for a president whose approval rating was abysmal when he left office.
John Pendleton
Wednesday 1pm-3pm, 3/25-5/13/15
CSU Channel Islands Broome Library #2325
Course# 4088

Eight Cities of the Middle East
This class will provide a “virtual tour” of eight great cities of the Middle East: Istanbul, Cairo, Jerusalem, Mecca, Beirut, Damascus, Baghdad, and Tehran. In each case, the history of the city will be examined as well as the social, political and cultural currents that have developed over the centuries. Extensive visual images will be used as we tour the major sites of each city.
Bill Garlington
Thursday 10am-12pm, 3/26-5/14/15
CSU Channel Islands Broome Library #2325
Course# 4089
From Ziegfeld to Andrew Lloyd Webber: The Great Tradition
Using historic recordings (e.g., Fred and Adele Astaire and Gershwin playing piano for them) and original cast CDs as well as appropriate film clips, we’ll trace the development of that genuine American art form, the Broadway musical, from its inception to its present state of (mainly) revivals. We’ll partake of numbers from operettas like Romberg’s Student Prince (which ran simultaneously with the Gershwin’s Lady Be Good), as well as cuts from now-forgotten but once huge hits like Follow the Girls and Song of Norway. Classics like Show Boat, Oklahoma!, Gypsy, all provide stories revealing the travails of creating what seem like effortless works of genius.
Bruce Collins
Thursday 1pm-3pm, 3/26-5/14/15
CSU Channel Islands Broome Library #2325
Course# 4090

The Mesozoic Was Really Cool – A Look at Dinosaurs and Their Kin
The Mesozoic Era spanned almost 200 million years (from 252 - 66 million years ago). A large and charismatic diversity of animals that we call dinosaurs dominated terrestrial habitats during most of this time. This class will seek to put these animals (and their relatives) into perspective. Covered will be how zoologists and paleontologists study ancient diversity; the human history of dinosaur studies, with introductions to the (often eccentric) people drawn to dinosaurs; changing views on dinosaur evolution and their role in popular culture; the patterns of dinosaur (and their kin) evolution and diversity; what is known or hypothesized about dinosaur ecology and living biology; just where did they go? did they leave any descendent? We’ll also cast an eye to other Mesozoic vertebrates such as fishes and amphibians.
Steve Norris
Friday 10am-12pm, 3/27-5/15/15
CSU Channel Islands Broome Library #2325
Course# 4091

This six week course will examine the movements of the 1960s and early ’70s specific to the Mexican-American experience in Southern California. It will link regional and Ventura County issues with national and global currents for civil rights, identity, and self-determination. Topics to be covered will consist of: the struggle for farm worker rights, the search for a new identity, national and global liberation movements, anti-Vietnam War protests, educational equity, and student organizations. Films, literature, music, and guest lectures will complement the material presented.
Frank Barajas
Friday 1pm-3pm, 3/27-5/15/15
CSU Channel Islands Broome Library #2325
Course# 4092

Thomas Piketty: Escalating Inequality, Part II
Thomas Piketty’s book, “Capital and the 21st Century” has been hailed as a transformational work by economist Paul Krugman, debunking myths economists have held about economics, capitalism and inequality for 50 years. In Part II, this 4 week course’s aim is to summarize the major works of Piketty, to bring up criticisms to his ideas and to develop a critical attitude using economics to consider policy decisions such as income and inheritance tax strategies.
Michael Teasdale
Tuesday 10am-12pm, 3/24-4/21/15
Thousand Oaks Campus
Course# 4093
From Galileo to Black Holes
In this six week course we will look at how Galileo discovered relativity, Newton discovered gravity and Einstein discovered they were the same thing. How Stephen Hawking became famous for proving there's a singularity at the center of a black hole, and then became more famous for proving there isn't. Special relativity merges space and time into space-time. General relativity makes space-time dynamic and leads to black holes, singularities, worm holes, and the current theories of where the universe came from and where it's going. Learn why we can't go faster than light; and we can't go slower either. Learn how John A. Wheeler offended the French and Alan Guth made inflation popular.
Brent Meeker
Thursday 10am-12pm, 3/26-4/30/15
Thousand Oaks Campus
Course# 4095

Of Love and Other Demons: South American Masters
In this course, we will read South American fiction, beginning with several short stories in the collection The Aleph and Other Stories (1949) by Argentina's Jorge Luis Borges. We will move on to read two novels: Death in the Andes (1993) by Peru’s Nobel Prize laureate Mario Vargas Llosa, a text which confronts passion, obsession, superstition as well as violence, murder and torture. These will be elements of class discussion. Other books are Of Love and Other Demons (1994) by Nobel Prize laureate, Colombian Gabriel García Márquez, where the author explores the blurred lines between love and logic. We will find that South American fiction is marked by lucidity as well as imagination and fantasy, and that the mysterious, the logical and the commonplace merge to enhance the mystery and the landscape of the text.
Marilyn Vail
Thursday 1pm-3pm, 3/26-5/8/15
Thousand Oaks Campus
Course# 4096

“Johnny's in the basement, mixing up the medicine” . . . these words sung by anyone besides Bob Dylan would hardly say much. Yet in his signature voice, laden with sincerity but edged with a sneer, they still echo with mystery and foreboding. More than any artist of the 1960s, Bob Dylan defined a way of writing and singing that merged poetry and songwriting and fundamentally reshaped both folk and rock music. Almost singlehandedly, Dylan defined the new role of poet-songwriter. Dylan influenced countless artists from the 1960s forward. Arguably most important among those he influenced are Joni Mitchell and Leonard Cohen. This course will explore the poetry, music, and cultural influence of these three artists.
Cliff Wilcox
Saturday 10am-12pm, 3/28-5/2/15
Thousand Oaks Campus
Course# 4097

Art History in the Late Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque Periods
In this class we will be taking a survey of the art and architecture that was produced during the: Late Medieval (13-14th centuries) by looking at painting, sculpture and architecture designed to evoke the heavenly realm of God; Renaissance (15th-16th centuries) seeing how big name artists like Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Titian looked back to the example of the classical past for inspiration and at the same time made some of the most sublime art the world has ever seen; and Baroque (17th century) by learning when artists were fascinated with depicting in ever more accurate detail the world around them and the values of the day.
Laura Hagel
Wednesday 1pm-3pm, 3/25-5/13/15
The Real “Mad Men” of Marketing: How They Capture Our Attention, Our Hearts and Our Money!
Kids as young as three easily recognize McDonalds, Disney and Nike brands and logos even though they can’t yet read. All of us remember commercial jingles that haven’t been on TV for decades. We’re fiercely loyal to some brands and yet couldn’t care less about others. We spend our entire lives deciding and buying, and yet we know so little about this process. We’ll explore the real “art and science” behind getting us to believe and to act. How color, scents, images and “the box” trigger specific emotions. What casinos and big box stores have in common. How everything can be “packaged”, from cereal, to politicians to global movements. How statistics, testimonials and endorsements are used and abused. And why “the promise” is everything, and “image” often beats “substance.” Join us for a fun look at the tricks of the trade, as well as to become a smarter consumer about the many decisions, big and small, we make every day that impact our wallets and quality of life!
Kathleen Booth
Friday 1pm-3pm, 3/27-5/15
V.A.C.E.
Course# 4100

Legal Principles in Recent Supreme Court Decisions
This course will review recent decisions (since 1995) of the United States Supreme Court and identify the legal principles and core ideas offered by the justices to defend their interpretations of the Constitution and legislative language. A variety of recent cases will be examined that raise legal issues on topics such as immigration, gay marriage, voting rights, campaign financing, affordable health care, environmental protections, Presidential authority, civil liberties, the use of the death penalty, gender equity, and juvenile justice. Both majority and dissenting opinions will be analyzed. Questions about the sources of judicial thinking and the use of precedents by the justices will be considered. Examples of public oral arguments and questioning by the justices will be listened to. Students will be encouraged to think about the broader issues regarding the role of the Supreme Court in relation to democratic ideals and the sharing of government authority within the framework of the United States Constitution.
Carolyn Dorrance
Tuesday 1pm-3pm, 3/24-5/19
Ventura College: Guthrie Hall
Course# 4101

Music of the Golden 1940s
With lectures, live piano music, video, photos, and sing-alongs, this 4 week multimedia course brings alive the music, stories, and memories of the 1940s. The lectures will explore songs of patriotism, love, separation, hope, joy, and escapism as sung by the Andrew Sisters, as played on the silver screen in “Casablanca”, and as background, refreshment, and diversion in our daily lives. Recall those hours glued to the radio listening to your favorite comedy, drama, and adventure shows. See your favorite entertainers as they serve our fathers, brothers, and loved ones in camp shows around the world. Finally, delight in the swing, sweet, and savory Big Band music of an era that lasted just over a decade but had a profound influence on our lives.
Saul Jacobs and Bob Lipson
Thursday 1pm-3pm, 4/23-5/14
Ventura College: Guthrie Hall
Course# 4102
Eight Cities of the Middle East
This class will provide a “virtual tour” of eight great cities of the Middle East: Istanbul, Cairo, Jerusalem, Mecca, Beirut, Damascus, Baghdad, and Tehran. In each case, the history of the city will be examined as well as the social, political and cultural currents that have developed over the centuries. Extensive visual images will be used as we tour the major sites of each city.
Bill Garlington
Friday 10am-12pm, 3/27-5/15/15
Little House in Ojai
Course# 4103

Shakespeare: King Lear and The Winter’s Tale
Two brilliant plays from Shakespeare’s later career relate to hard lessons learned late in life. In King Lear, Lear’s blind egotism makes him misjudge his daughters with tragic consequences, echoed in the similar misjudgment made by Lear’s friend the Earl of Gloucester about his sons. In The Winter’s Tale, Leontes’ unfounded jealousy has terrible consequences. Although Winter’s Tale depicts loss, it ends with redemption: it is one of Shakespeare’s ‘late romances.’ This is a discussion-based course; please bring copies of the plays to class and read the assignment at home before each class. Any Shakespeare text or anthology is fine. If you are buying paperbacks, the Folger / Washington Square editions are good.
Jinny Webber
Friday 1pm-3pm, 3/27-5/15/15
Little House in Ojai
Course# 4104