Bridgewater State University Senior College
Spring 2020 Course Descriptions & Instructor Biographies

Please Note: Courses take place on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at the Bridgewater Public Library, 15 South Street, Bridgewater MA and on Tuesdays at BSU Attleboro, 11 Field Road, Attleboro, MA.

https://www.bridgew.edu/ccs/seniorcollege

Questions: please call the Senior College at (508) 531-2570
Or email: BSUSeniorCollege@bridgew.edu

Session I (March 16 to April 27)
Location: Bridgewater Public Library, 15 South Street, Bridgewater, MA

Mondays 9-10:20 am
Kathryn Evans, Writing Your Life: Discovering the Story of Your Life's Journey

Participants will craft a narrative describing a memory, making it come to life—with feedback from the instructor and classmates—so that it might be shared with children and grandchildren. You should feel free to write in your own unique style or to craft your piece along the lines of those submitted to Reminisce Magazine, which invites contributors “to tell your own story—of personal experiences in years gone by; memorable people in your life; family trips or anecdotes; seasonal or holiday memories . . . recollections of now-famous people you knew ‘back when;' little-known historical items, etc.” To help you make your story come to life, we will discuss samples of narrative writing that illustrate key elements of creative nonfiction, including strong pacing, characterization, and use of sensory detail.

*Kathryn Evans has a PhD in Writing Studies from the University of Illinois, and she is the author of Real Questions: Reading and Writing Genres (Bedford / St. Martin’s Press). She directs BSU’s Writing Studio and has been a professor in the English department since 2004. She loves teaching writing courses, finding that it is a privilege to learn from her students and to help them grow as writers.*

Mondays 10:40 am-Noon
Mike Kryzanek, U.S. Foreign Policy in Challenging Times

United States Foreign Policy in Challenging Times will provide an overview of many of the key global and regional interactions that face the United States in the modern era. The goal of the course will be to examine how the United States foreign policy establishment—White House, Congress, State Department, the intelligence community, and numerous lobbying organizations — responds to various concerns and crises in the international arena and seeks to advance American interests. The course will explore the following topics: Trade and Military Challenges from China, The Growing Threat from Russia, Wars and Terrorism in the Middle East, Nuclear Proliferation in Iran and North Korea, The Migration of
Refugees to the United States, Globalism vs. Protectionism, and The United States as a World Power. Since United States foreign policy is certain to be an issue in the 2020 presidential campaign, these topics and others will be discussed within the context of the election.

*Dr. Michael Kryzanek is currently the Special Assistant to the President of Bridgewater State University. Dr. Kryzanek’s areas of expertise are in American government, US foreign policy and comparative politics. He was Chair of the Political Science Department and was named as the Executive Director of the Minnock Center for International Engagement with responsibilities for all international programs at BSU.*

**Wednesdays Noon-1:20 pm**  
**Ellen Scheible, Reading James Joyce: Dubliners**

James Joyce wrote some of the most revered but complicated fiction of the early twentieth century. An Irish writer who lived as an expat in Europe for most of his adult life, Joyce infused controversy into much of his work by openly critiquing what he saw as a stagnant modernity in Irish culture. Join us as we read a handful of short stories from Joyce’s collection, *Dubliners*. We will discuss the history of Joyce’s writing and the challenges his work brings to both modern and contemporary readers.

*Ellen Scheible is Associate Professor of English and Coordinator of Irish Studies at Bridgewater State University. Her research interests include Irish and British modernism, modern gothic fiction, the domestic interior, and the postcolonial body. She has published on Oscar Wilde, James Joyce, and others. She is co-editor of Rethinking Joyce’s Dubliners (Palgrave 2017).*

**Wednesdays 1:40-3:00 pm**  
**Calvin Mires, Massachusetts Maritime Heritage & Archaeology**

Join Dr. Mires in lectures, discussions, and hands-on activities that focus on better understanding the essential role maritime heritage played in shaping and defining culture and identity for the state, and the tangible remains of this heritage that exist in archaeological resources, such as shipwrecks and maritime culture landscapes. Participants will also be encouraged to share their stories and heritages throughout the course.

*Dr. Calvin Mires is a Professor of Maritime Archaeology in the Department of Anthropology at Bridgewater State University. He has led and worked on more than 30 maritime archaeology projects around the world, including Greek and Roman shipwrecks and harbors, Sweden’s iconic warship, Vasa, Confederate Blockade Runners in North and South Carolina, ship graveyards in Bermuda, and various sites in the Caribbean Sea, Pacific Ocean, and the Great Lakes. His current research focuses on nearshore and foreshore sites, vernacular watercraft, public outreach and citizen science, and qualitative and quantitative approaches to public perceptions, attitudes, and values towards preservation of maritime cultural resources.*

**Thursdays Noon-1:20 pm**  
**Cynthia Ricciardi, Discovering Your Roots: An Introduction to Genealogy**

Participants in this introductory/intermediate genealogy session will learn how to climb into their family trees: how and where to research, how to evaluate and interpret what they find, and how to focus and organize their results. Using lectures/presentations, hands-on activities, discussion, and online as well as
local resources, the instructor will introduce participants to the elements of 21st-century genealogical research.

Cynthia B. Ricciardi, BSU ’81, is a native of Bristol County with a 399-year family history in Southeastern Mass. She caught the genealogy bug nearly fifty years ago, when she was surprised to learn that one of her Civil War ancestors was a resident of Minnesota. Dr. Ricciardi holds a Ph.D. in English and has been teaching at Bridgewater State University since 1984. She has worked as a verifying genealogist for the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and is a member of the Bristol Chapter of the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists (MSOG). She has also served as President of the Old Colony History Museum, where she is currently a board member and resident genealogist.

**Thursdays 1:40-3:00 pm**

**John Winters, African American Literature**

Students will survey writings in African American literature, from slave narratives to the novels of Toni Morrison and beyond. Studying distinguished writers of poetry, drama, essays, narratives and prose fiction, students will attend to the historical, cultural and political contexts in which the works were produced.

*John J. Winters teaches at Bridgewater State University and in the Rhode Island prison system. He is the author of Sam Shepard: A Life and is at work on a biography of the writer James Salter. His arts reviews are regularly featured on WBUR, in the Times Literary Supplement of London, and elsewhere.*

**Session I (March 16 to April 27)**

**Location: BSU Attleboro, 11 Field Road, Attleboro, MA**

**Tuesdays 9-10:20 am**

**Nan Loggains, Election 2020**

This course is a six-week study of the 2020 election year. The course will consider the issues confronting American society and how they relate to the upcoming election. Topics covered include the electoral process, the candidates, the economy, foreign policy, the military, healthcare, energy, the environment, culture wars, civil liberties, socioeconomic policy, homeland security, and immigration. In addition, the course will examine the effect of the media on the 2020 races. Class discussion will be both in depth and non-confrontational. The class will include short lectures, videos, in-class readings, and discussion.

*Nan Loggains spent eight years active duty in the Army working in military intelligence. While in the Army, she spent time in Germany, Alabama, Texas, Arizona, and Monterey, California (along with a number of TDY - temporary duty assignments). Nan Loggains has been at Bristol Community College since 2010. She loves teaching and has taught a variety of history courses including all of the foundation courses and several special topics courses (Vietnam War, Cold War, America’s War on Terrorism, and The 1960s). This past fall, she introduced another new course on campus: Social Science 260: Election 2020. Nan also works as an academic adviser and a special programs coordinator on the Attleboro campus.*

**Tuesdays 10:40 am-Noon**

**Frank Cook, Final Year: The Western Front in Europe, 1944-45**
May 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the conclusion of World War II in Europe. The focus of this course is on the critical events on the western front in the final year of the European war that lead to the defeat of Nazism. 1944 witnessed D-Day, the breakout from Normandy, the liberation of Paris, the failure of the planned thrust through Holland with its hope of a quick end to hostilities, and the German counteroffensive that became the Battle of the Bulge. As winter turned into spring 1945, the Rhine was crossed and the capitulation of the Nazi empire revealed the true horrors of the regime with the liberation of the concentration camps.

To help understand these events, emphasis will be placed on the personal accounts left by the Allied participants. The material will primarily be presented by lecture, supported by maps, videos, and pictures of the locations today. To further ensure comprehension, time will be provided for discussion.

Frank B. Cook is a Part-Time Faculty member at Bridgewater State University, teaching in the Management Department and serving as an Academic Advisor for Accounting, Management, and Economics. He has been teaching at the Attleboro campus since 2017. Frank earned a bachelor’s degree in history, a master’s degree in education, and has completed further graduate work in U.S. history, military history, and archaeology. A member of the Society for Military History, Frank is currently writing a book about his father’s experience in Europe during World War II.

Session II (May 4 to June 15)
Location: Bridgewater Public Library, 15 South Street, Bridgewater, MA

Mondays 9-10:20 am
Nick Pirelli, Are you Ready? Emergency Preparedness Essentials

Explore the changing weather patterns, the organization of emergency management at the local, state, and federal level, and discover how to prepare yourself and your family. Participants will engage in discussions, learn how to make a communication plan, and build a personalized emergency kit.

Nick Pirelli teaches Strategic Communication, Business and Professional Communication, Public Speaking, Visual Communication, Group Communication and Decision Making, Organizational Communication and Public Relations Case Studies. He has held positions as Director of Student Involvement and Leadership, Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, Director of Public Safety and Facilities Management, Director of Emergency Management, and Special Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives. Professor Pirelli is a Certified Park and Recreation Professional, Certified Emergency Manager, and Gallup-Certified Strengths Coach.

Mondays 10:40 am-Noon
Pamela Hayes-Bohanan, Media Literacy: Fake News, Misinformation, Scams, and Frauds

According to a recent Pew Study, “Many Americans Say Made-Up News Is a Critical Problem That Needs To Be Fixed” most Americans think that made-up news is a major problem and that it impacts our confidence in the government and in each other. A further study, “The Ability to Classify Statements as Factual or Opinion Varies Widely Based on Political Awareness, Digital Savviness and Trust in News Media” reveals that as people age their ability to distinguish fact from opinion diminishes. Participants in this course will be provided strategies and intellectual tools to help them identify false information,
and information bias, and to recognize when data is being misused. Different kinds of misinformation (e.g. deliberately false, misleading, satire) will be defined and discussed. Additionally, participants will learn how our own cognitive biases can prevent us from assimilating new information.

Using news stories from a variety of sources, as well as live websites, and statistical data, we will explore how we get our information, how we use it, what kind of information we share, and why. Students will look at how fake news is created, how it spreads, and what happens when misinformation “goes viral.” We will discuss how algorithms determine what kind of information we see and how to take a deeper look into web search results to get more accurate information through a ‘lateral reading’ of websites.

The class will also include a session on scams and frauds (particularly those that target senior citizens), how to avoid them, and what to do if you are taken.

Participants will be encouraged to bring their own electronic devices so that they will be able to explore websites, news stories, and social media sites along with the instructor.

_Pamela Hayes-Bohanan is a research and instruction librarian at Bridgewater State University. She holds a Master’s degree in Library Science from the University of Arizona and has been studying bias, and how people make decisions for over a decade._

_Wednesdays Noon-1:20 pm
Deb Stringham, Dance, Movies, and Society_

Dance is a powerful expression of the human spirit, communicating and bringing people together, which is why we find movies about dance to be not only entertaining, but deeply compelling. Dance films tell stories that uncover our passions, hopes, dreams and connections to one another. They portray universal themes such as love, courage and overcoming adversity, while highlighting important social issues such as gender, race and class. In this course we will use dance movies as a lens through which we can view and better understand who we are: our feelings, beliefs, values and humanity, as individuals and as a society. This course will run as a seminar and will include viewing a few movies outside of class and discussing them in class. We will also watch some clips in class. As well as discussion, we will work directly in fun and interesting ways with other class members to help us explore different movies and their themes as well as promote critical thinking, develop greater listening and speaking skills and empower us to feel more confident sharing our ideas with others. Another benefit of the course is that examining the themes and social/cultural/global issues these movies portray enables us to expand our point of view, thereby promoting a broad and compassionate understanding of our world and ourselves.

_De布 Stringham is a veteran performer and choreographer of many musical shows, including Off Broadway, an international tour and numerous summer stock and regional productions. Recent credits include "Wrinkles, the Musical" with the Cape Cod Theater Company and "Ellis Island: The Dream of America" with the Cape Symphony conducted by Jung-Ho Pak. Deb has a Master's Degree in Education and has taught all over New England and New York, including 19 years as part time faculty here at Bridgewater State University, teaching a wide variety of both academically based as well as studio-based dance courses. She enjoys her college-aged students but is really looking forward to working with people close to her own age._
Wednesdays 1:40-3:00 pm
Kathryn Evans, Writing Your Life: Discovering the Story of Your Life's Journey

Participants will craft a narrative describing a memory, making it come to life—with feedback from the instructor and classmates—so that it might be shared with children and grandchildren. You should feel free to write in your own unique style or to craft your piece along the lines of those submitted to Reminisce Magazine, which invites contributors “to tell your own story—of personal experiences in years gone by; memorable people in your life; family trips or anecdotes; seasonal or holiday memories . . . ; recollections of now-famous people you knew ‘back when;’ little-known historical items, etc.” To help you make your story come to life, we will discuss samples of narrative writing that illustrate key elements of creative nonfiction, including strong pacing, characterization, and use of sensory detail.

Kathryn Evans has a PhD in Writing Studies from the University of Illinois, and she is the author of Real Questions: Reading and Writing Genres (Bedford / St. Martin’s Press). She directs BSU's Writing Studio and has been a professor in the English department since 2004. She loves teaching writing courses, finding that it is a privilege to learn from her students and to help them grow as writers.

Thursdays Noon-1:20 pm
Cynthia Ricciardi, Discovering Your Roots: An Introduction to Genealogy

Participants in this introductory/intermediate genealogy session will learn how to climb into their family trees: how and where to research, how to evaluate and interpret what they find, and how to focus and organize their results. Using lectures/presentations, hands-on activities, discussion, and online as well as local resources, the instructor will introduce participants to the elements of 21st-century genealogical research.

Cynthia B. Ricciardi, BSU ’81, is a native of Bristol County with a 399-year family history in Southeastern Mass. She caught the genealogy bug nearly fifty years ago, when she was surprised to learn that one of her Civil War ancestors was a resident of Minnesota. Dr. Ricciardi holds a Ph.D. in English and has been teaching at Bridgewater State University since 1984. She has worked as a verifying genealogist for the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, and is a member of the Bristol Chapter of the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists (MSOG). She has also served as President of the Old Colony History Museum, where she is currently a board member and resident genealogist.

Thursdays 1:40-3:00 pm
David Moore, History & Future of Town Government in Bridgewater

This course will focus on the evolution of the town government in Bridgewater over the last 30 years and the changes that have taken place. We, like other communities experienced trouble with special interest groups gaining power through social media, and the “backpack express.” The various changes from a three-member board of selectmen, to one with a town administrator, to a five-member board and then to a town council with a strong town manager, is it better or worse? Would a council /mayor be better? “Good old boys” or “home team”? Representative town meeting?

Debates, active class participation, discussions, guest speakers, retired town officials, residency requirements or preferences for employment, could get lively!
David R. Moore is chairman of the Bridgewater Historical Commission and a member of the Bridgewater Historical Collectors. The son of past town historian Ken Moore, he has lectured to various school and civic groups on local history for more than two decades and spearheaded the Bridgewater Ironworks Park preservation project. Mr. Moore is Bridgewater’s inspector of buildings and has worked in Town Hall for more than 20 years.

Session II (May 4 to June 15)
Location: BSU Attleboro, 11 Field Road, Attleboro, MA

Tuesdays 9-10:20 am
Nan Loggains, The American Home Front During World War II

This course is a six-week study of life on the American home front during World War II. The course will consider the issues and events facing American society during the war years. Topics covered include the draft, women’s roles, bond drives, rationing, migration, wartime boom towns, and rationing. In addition, the course will examine American culture during the period. The class will include short lectures, videos, in-class readings, and discussion.

Nan Loggains spent eight years active duty in the Army working in military intelligence. While in the Army, she spent time in Germany, Alabama, Texas, Arizona, and Monterey, California (along with a number of TDY - temporary duty assignments). Nan Loggains has been at Bristol Community College since 2010. She loves teaching and has taught a variety of history courses including all of the foundation courses and several special topics courses (Vietnam War, Cold War, America’s War on Terrorism, and The 1960s). This past fall, she introduced another new course on campus: Social Science 260: Election 2020. Nan also works as an academic adviser and a special programs coordinator on the Attleboro campus.

Tuesdays 10:40 am-Noon
Frank Cook, Egypt: Gift of the Nile

One of the most interesting and enduring civilizations of ancient history is Egypt. The Father of History, Herodotus, identified the Egyptian civilization as “the gift of the Nile.” Through lectures, discussion, and activities, illustrated with pictures taken by the presenter while studying archaeology in the Middle East, participants will travel back in time to visit this mysterious, fascinating society of the past. Presented against a timeline of history, the lives of the great pharaohs will be revealed, along with a glimpse of everyday life along the Nile.

Students will learn how the great building projects synonymous with Egypt - the pyramids, temples, and tombs - were built, along with the religious beliefs that drove these massive construction projects. While the term mythology is usually associated with Greece, the Egyptians too had a fascinating collection of tales that students will be able to read. Participants will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the culture through hands-on activities focusing on hieroglyphics and mummification.

Frank B. Cook is a Part-Time Faculty member at Bridgewater State University, teaching in the Management Department and serving as an Academic Advisor for Accounting, Management, and Economics. He has been teaching at the Attleboro campus since 2017. Frank earned a bachelor’s degree in history, a master’s degree in education, and has completed further graduate work in U.S. history,
military history, and archaeology. A member of the Society for Military History, Frank is currently writing a book about his father’s experience in Europe during World War II.