

VERITAS SOCIETY COURSE CATALOG



FALL 2026

Registration Opens: September 9 • 9 a.m.
Fall Term: October 5 - November 13

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome!

Welcome back returning members and a warm Veritas welcome to new members joining us for the first time. You've picked a terrific time to dip your toe into the lifelong learning waters. The 'In The Classroom' Team has outdone themselves in putting together a broad selection of courses.

Inner Life

Your inner life need fuel? How about a little Genesis or perhaps a dose of Descartes, Hume and Kant? Personally, this is an opportunity to revisit topics that are more appealing to me now than when I was an 18 year old college freshman dreading another paper.

Outer Life

New - Tennis! Keep moving, Veritasians. Several pro-class instructors will introduce you to a sport for all ages.

Darts - back by popular demand. Learn about the history and science of this time-honored game. Best of all: throw stuff!

This American Life

Dive into liberty, democracy, voting, "Kentucke", and more. Olmstead parks are waiting for you.

More?

Yes! We've got weather, AI, comedy, music, art and, (cue theme song, please) James Bond.

Your Life

We do our best to meet you where you are. Veritas is again offering in-person, online via Zoom, and hybrid (in-person and Zoom) options.

Additionally, we'll hold classes at Treyton Oaks for the first time. I'm very excited about introducing TO residents to Veritas. They are a very engaged and lively group and will add much to our community of lifelong learners.

So, take a deep dive into the course descriptions, register for (lots of) classes, and get ready to learn.

See you in class.

Ann McWilliams
President, Veritas Society
amcwilly@yahoo.com

Veritas Society Board of Directors

Executive Committee

President Ann McWilliams '27

Vice President Donna Edgar '27

Secretary Maureen Fitzgerald '27

Jeff Conner '28

Ron Gordon '28

Susan Mateja '28

Rose Nett '27

Ann Nunn '28

Marilyn Schorin '27

Herb Shulhafer '28

Judith Skretny '28

Jonathan Smith '28

Don Snow '27

Bud Spalding '27

Patricia Walker Fitzgerald '27

Deloris White '27

Dennis Wiseman '27

Contact Information

Abigail Walsh
Director, Center for Community &
Professional Education & Veritas Liaison

Kristen Marcela
Veritas Program Coordinator

502.272.8374 • veritas@bellarmine.edu
www.bellarmino.edu/ce/veritas

About Us

Who We Are

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

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

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

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

Registration and Fees

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

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

What We Do

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

Membership Benefits

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

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

Veritas Scholarships Available

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

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

To apply for a Veritas Scholarship, email veritas@bellarmine.edu and the application form will be sent to you. Applications are due before September 9th.

Online Registration & Fees



STEPS TO REGISTER

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

1. Go to www.bellarmino.edu/ce/veritas and click on “ENROLL NOW.”

EVERYONE registering should use “Continue as a guest.”

2. Click on the “VERITAS” tab.

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

3. Payment

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

4. To register another person, start from the beginning of these instructions

Risk & Consent Form & Code of Conduct

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

The Veritas Office, in conjunction with Bellarmine University, wants to be overly prepared to assist our members in case of an emergency. By filling out the form, we are better informed of who to call, what to be aware of, and how to respond in preparation for any situations that may arise.

If you filled out the form during the Spring term, you will not be required to fill it out again, unless your information has changed. Returning members this fall who have not filled out the form in the past year, as well as new members, will be sent the form the week before class begins.

Daily Schedule at a Glance

MONDAY

The Pentateuch Part 1: Genesis Explored • Rouse • IN-PERSON • WMC • 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.
Popular Cultural Events Around the World • Yates • HYBRID • WMC • 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Six Wives of Henry VIII • Wiseman • HYBRID • WMC • 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.
The Name is Bond, Jimmy Bond • Marple • HYBRID • WMC • 3:15 – 4:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

Poetry of 17th Century Anglican Clerics • Smith • IN-PERSON • FC • 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.
Qigong Therapeutic Postures • Carrington • IN-PERSON • WMC • 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
The Meaning of Your Life • Bahr • IN-PERSON • FC • 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
An Easel of One's Own: Women Artists • Pearman • HYBRID • WMC • 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.
Soundtrack of America: Music that Changed Us • Various • IN-PERSON • WMC • 3:15 – 4:30 p.m.
Ethics in the Real World • Schorin • IN-PERSON • BU • 3:15 – 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

American Republic at a Crossroads • Schmall • HYBRID • WMC • 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.
Pathways to "Kentucke" • Golliher • HYBRID • WMC • 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Tennis for Beginners • Mateja • IN-PERSON • BU • 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.
Early Modern Philosophy • Kennedy • IN-PERSON • WMC • 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.
AI as Transformative Technology • Tiell • ZOOM • 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.
Securing the Blessings of Liberty • Whitfield • IN-PERSON • BU • 3:15 – 4:30 p.m.
American History: True or False? • Williams • ZOOM • 3:15 – 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Alchemy, Magic, & Mysticism • MacKay • HYBRID • WMC • 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.
Olmsted Parks in the 20th Century • Davis • ZOOM/IN-PERSON • Various • 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Your Vote Counts — Or Does It? • Henson • HYBRID • WMC • 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Kentucky Skies: Science of Weather • Various • ZOOM • 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.
Golden Era of Comedy Duos • Schmall • IN-PERSON • TO • 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.
Intro to Gerontology • Hartman • IN-PERSON • BU • 1:40 – 2:55
Chautauqua Lectures • Various • ZOOM • 3:15 – 4:30 p.m.
Essential American Founders • Conner • IN-PERSON • TO • 3:15 – 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

KEY:

WMC - Watterson Medical Center, Suite 101
BU - Bellarmine University Campus
FC - Central Bank Community Room at the Flashcube Building
TO - Treyton Oaks Towers

Inner Life

THE PENTATEUCH PART I: GENESIS EXPLORED

Genesis is the first book of the Pentateuch/Torah. The reader encounters the stories of many individuals, including the founder of three faiths, Abraham. Who was Abraham, who were his decedents, and how did he become so pivotal to three faiths? We will examine the myths, legends, and archaeological/historical basis of the earliest stories in the Bible, while learning the stories of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs. Creation, Adam and Eve, Cain and Able, Noah, and The Tower of Babel will also be explored and examined in regard to the worldview they present. This course is Part I, with Part II coming in the Spring, covering Moses and the next 4 books of the Pentateuch.

REQUIRED READING: We will read the Book of Genesis as found at www.usccb.org/offices/new-american-bible

ASSIGNMENT FOR FIRST CLASS: Read Genesis chapters 1 - 3 using the version above. Be sure to read the footnotes of each chapter.

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

CATEGORY: Inner Life
COURSE # CEVE 001-01
FORMAT: IN-PERSON
LOCATION: WMC - Suite 101
MEETS: 6 Mondays / 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.
October 5 - November 9

EARLY MODERN PHILOSOPHY:

DESCARTES, HUME, AND KANT

Writing during a critical period at the dawn of the modern age, Descartes, Hume, and Kant introduced genuinely new ways of thinking about the world and our place in it. These writers offered a clear break from past writers and their thinking. Their impact on contemporary society is enormous, shaping our world in many subtle yet unmistakable ways.

REQUIRED READING: Handouts will be provided by instructor.

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

CATEGORY: Inner Life
COURSE # CEVE 001-02
FORMAT: IN-PERSON
LOCATION: WMC - Suite 101
MEETS: 6 Wednesdays / 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
October 7 - November 11

Literature

DIVINE AND PROFANE: THE POETRY OF THREE 17TH-CENTURY ANGLICAN CLERICS: DONNE, HERBERT, AND HERRICK

The early 17th century in England was a revolutionary time intellectually, linguistically, and poetically. John Donne, George Herbert, and Robert Herrick used ingenious comparisons, paradoxes, and unconventional imagery to develop complex ideas and surprise readers. The three poets in this course, dubbed "metaphysical" by later generations, were all priests of the Anglican Church but nevertheless were well acquainted with the desires of the flesh. These metaphysical poets started questioning the universe and humanity's place in it.

ASSIGNMENT FOR FIRST CLASS: Assignment will be emailed a week before class begins.

REQUIRED READING: Reading materials will be shared via email.

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

CATEGORY: Literature

COURSE # CEVE 002-01

FORMAT: IN-PERSON

LOCATION: Flashcube - Central Bank

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

October 6 - November 10

Class Formats & Locations

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

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

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

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

Locations:

BU Campus - 2001 Newburg Road, Louisville, KY 40205

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

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

Treyton Oak Towers - Oak Room, 211 W. Oak Street, Louisville, KY 40203

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

Literature

THE MEANING OF YOUR LIFE, BY ARTHUR C. BROOKS

As a continuation of the ideas explored in Arthur Brooks's *Strength to Strength*, his second book, *The Meaning of Your Life*, examines why we often flounder when trying to understand our purpose and seek happiness and meaning in the wrong places. Drawing on psychology, spirituality, and sociology, Brooks explores what truly contributes to a meaningful and fulfilling life and challenges us to reconsider how we define happiness.

REQUIRED READING: *The Meaning of Your Life*, by Arthur C. Brooks

ASSIGNMENT FOR FIRST CLASS: Read the Introduction and Chapter 1

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

CATEGORY: Literature

COURSE # CEVE 002-02

FORMAT: IN-PERSON

LOCATION: Flashcube - Central Bank

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

October 6 - November 10

ETHICS IN THE REAL WORLD, BY PETER SINGER

Ethical consideration forces us to consider our beliefs and actions beyond the simple Ten Commandments. Big questions, such as when does life begin or our place on Planet Earth, get to the heart of us as humans. Other questions ask about happiness, public health, and global problems. Dr. Peter Singer, a Princeton University professor, tackles many issues in this compact volume. Throughout the class, we will select a few of these topics for in-depth discussions.

We are all biased - can you defend your particular biases? Can you admit to having biases? No special background is needed - and no one has a lock on the 'right' way to think about these issues. Please join me as we explore some of our closely-held opinions.

REQUIRED READING: *Ethics in the Real World: 90 Essays on Things that Matter* by Peter Singer

ASSIGNMENT FOR FIRST CLASS: Will be communicated via email.

PRESENTER: Marilyn Schorin, Ph.D. in nutritional biochemistry from Columbia University, is a Betts Meehan Lifetime Member, serves on the Veritas Board of Directors, is a member of the Production Team, and is a frequent presenter. Marilyn has been a Veritas member since 2007.

CATEGORY: Literature

COURSE # CEVE 002-03

FORMAT: IN-PERSON

LOCATION: Bellarmine Campus

MEETS: 6 Tuesdays / 3:15 - 4:30 p.m.

October 6 - November 10

The World

POPULAR CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS, EVENTS, AND OBSERVATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Leave your passport at home and embark on a cultural voyage around the world, discovering cultural celebrations, events, and observations along the way. Immerse yourself through class discussion, videos, pictures, and music in the traditions seen all around us. Whether it's celebrations you are already familiar with or something brand new, each class will focus on a different continent and delve into the rich history and meaning behind their marquee events.

North America: "Mardi Gras," "The Day of the Dead," and "Winter Carnival";

South America: "Carnival" and "The Tango Festival";

Europe: "Oktoberfest," "The Running of the Bulls in Pamplona," and "Tomatina";

Asia: "Diwali" and "Songkran";

Africa/Antarctica: "National Arts Festival" (S. A.); "The Race Around the World" (Ant.);

Australia and Oceania: "Adelaide Fringe" and "Samoan Fire Dance."

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

CATEGORY: The World

COURSE # CEVE 003-01 & ON1

FORMAT: HYBRID

LOCATION: WMC - Suite 101

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

October 5 - November 9

DIVORCED, BEHEADED, DIED, DIVORCED, BEHEADED, SURVIVED - THE SIX WIVES OF HENRY VII

Separate historical fact from fiction as we explore the life of Henry VIII and his infamous six wives. Discover how these remarkable queens helped shape the course of English history—from the English Reformation and royal succession to the evolving role of women in Tudor society. Meet each of Henry's wives, learn how and when they came into his life, explore the lengths of their marriages, and uncover how each extraordinary union came to an end.

REQUIRED READING: Handouts will be provided by instructor.

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

CATEGORY: The World

COURSE # CEVE 003-02 & ON2

FORMAT: HYBRID

LOCATION: WMC - Suite 101

MEETS: 6 Mondays / 1:30 - 2:45 p.m.

October 5 - November 16 (no class October 26)

Alchemy, Magic, and Mysticism

Until the end of the last century, subjects like alchemy, magic, and mysticism had a very limited place in academic research and college courses. Recent research by scholars in fields like history, psychology, religion, anthropology, and literature has led to new theories about this vast but under-examined area of history, one within which there was a shared belief that we are part of a living and connected unity that extends throughout the universe. We will review the new theories while being introduced to some of the main currents and figures in this tradition, their role in the history of science and other disciplines, and some of the great creative works of art, music and literature they have inspired. Could examining these subjects help modern society gain new insights?

PRESENTER: Carol MacKay, PhD in French literature, has taught courses to French majors at three universities and is retired from the University of Southern Indiana. She has taught seven Veritas classes on French literature and culture.

CATEGORY: The World

COURSE # CEVE 003-03 & ON3

FORMAT: HYBRID

LOCATION: WMC - Suite 101

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

October 8 - November 12

Arts & Entertainment

THE NAME IS BOND, JIMMY BOND: IAN FLEMING'S HOT, SEXY, AND OH SO POLITICALLY INCORRECT SUPER SPY

Join us for an entertaining exploration of Ian Fleming's legendary British spy and the character who became a worldwide cultural phenomenon. From Fleming's original novels to the movies, music, memorable villains, glamorous Bond girls, and even the 1954 television production of *Casino Royale*, we'll examine the many incarnations of 007.

As always, we'll go beyond the familiar to uncover lesser-known facts and stories—including some that may surprise even longtime Bond fans. Having seen every available production, the instructor will share the hits, the misses, and, undoubtedly, a few laughs along the way.

And because no Bond experience would be complete without the music, we'll also explore the unforgettable theme songs and iconic opening credits that helped make the Bond films part of cinematic history.

REQUIRED READING: *Casino Royale*, by Ian Fleming. If possible, seek out an earlier edition to experience the book as it was originally published.

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

CATEGORY: Arts & Entertainment
COURSE # CEVE 004-01 & ON1
FORMAT: HYBRID
LOCATION: WMC - Suite 101
MEETS: 6 Mondays / 3:15 - 4:30 p.m.
October 5 - November 9

AN EASEL OF ONE'S OWN: WOMEN ARTISTS, 1500—1950

A 2019 study found that only about 11% of artworks found in major U.S. museums are by women artists. This course will examine the lives of multiple women artists each week and their visual contributions to the history of art. Special emphasis will be given to the systemic, societal, and institutional barriers they faced every day to create the works we admire today.

REQUIRED READING: Linda Nochlin's 1971 Essay "Why have there been no great women artists?"

ASSIGNMENT FOR FIRST CLASS: Prior to reading the above article, name 5 women artists on a sheet paper. Try this without using the internet, or any other resource, and bring the list to class.

SUGGESTED MUSEUM ADVENTURE: Go to the Speed Art Museum (or another museum of your choice) and take a picture of a piece of artwork by a woman artist. Research the artist and record a few fun facts you learned. We will share a few of these each class.

PRESENTER: Cayla Pearman, MBA, works in finance for a local marketing agency. When she isn't working with spreadsheets, she spends her time visiting museums, researching art history and sharing it with others. She volunteered as a docent at The Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, Maryland from 2012-2014. After moving back to Kentucky, she worked at the Speed Art Museum for over 6 years and has been a docent there since 2019.

CATEGORY: Arts & Entertainment
COURSE # CEVE 004-02 & ON2
FORMAT: HYBRID
LOCATION: WMC - Suite 101
MEETS: 6 Tuesdays / 1:30 - 2:45 p.m.
October 6 - November 17 (no class October 13)

THE SOUNDTRACK OF AMERICA: THE MUSIC THAT CHANGED US

Explore six pivotal moments when music didn't just reflect what was happening in America — it *changed* America. From the roots of Rock 'n' Roll and the Motown revolution to the Beatles' rivalry with the Beach Boys. Discover how Bob Dylan's decision to "go electric" changed rock forever, how music became the voice of protest during a turbulent era, and how technological innovations—from vinyl to streaming—have transformed the way we create, share, and experience music.

PRESENTERS: Bellarmine University Music Faculty and University of Louisville School of Music Faculty will present a lecture each week of the course.

CATEGORY: Arts & Entertainment
COURSE # CEVE 004-03
FORMAT: IN-PERSON
LOCATION: WMC - Suite 101
MEETS: 6 Tuesdays / 3:15 - 4:30 p.m.
October 6 - November 10

Arts & Entertainment

GOLDEN ERA OF COMEDY DUOS IN AMERICA 1920-1974

Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy; Thelma Todd and Zazu Pitts; Zazu Pitts and Patsy Kelly; George Burns and Gracie Allen; Bud Abbott and Lou Costello; Dean Martín and Jerry Lewis; Lucille Ball and Vivian Vance (a.k.a. "Lucy and Ethel"). Explore the comedy stylings of these seven American comedy duos that appeared on radio, motion pictures, and television in the midst of the 20th Century. Using movie clips, radio recordings, and clips from television episodes, we will experience the characteristics of each team's unique and successful comedy styles. We will cover each of the duos' backgrounds and team origin, character development, public popularity and eventual decline. Using many film and radio clips, we will discuss what made each of these teams so endearing.

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

CATEGORY: Arts & Entertainment
COURSE # CEVE 004 - 04
FORMAT: IN-PERSON
LOCATION: Treyton Oak Towers
MEETS: 6 Thursdays / 1:30 - 2:45 p.m.
October 8 - November 12

FRIDAY AT THE MOVIES: SIDNEY POITIER

Sidney Poitier was an actor best known for varied roles in films. The Bahamian-born actor-director was a stage actor early on, and a director later, who died in 2022 at age 94.

THE BLACKBOARD JUNGLE: An early film showing life in a city school. Glenn Ford is the teacher, supporting him are Anne Francis and Vic Morrow; the director is Richard Brooks (1955; 1 hr, 41 mins).

NO WAY OUT: Another early film, featuring racial intolerance, with Richard Widmark, Linda Darnell, Stephen McNally; directed by Joseph Mankiewicz (1950; 1 hr, 47 mins).

THE DEFIANT ONES: Two convicts escape, with trouble ahead. With Tony Curtis; directed by Stanley Kramer (1958; 1 hr, 36 mins).

LILIES OF THE FIELD: Poitier as the hired man for a bunch of nuns! With Lilia Skala; directed by Ralph Nelson (1963; 1 hr, 34 mins).

TO SIR WITH LOVE: Another school yarn, set in Britain, Poitier is the teacher. With Judy Geeson and Lulu; directed by Joseph Clewell (1966; 1 hr, 45 mins).

IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT: Poitier as a detective "from up north" arrested on suspicion of murder. With Rod Steiger, who knows he can't catch the killer. (When Poitier slaps a white man, in his own greenhouse, some Americans were . . . puzzled.) Directed by Norman Jewison. (1967; 1 hr, 50 mins).

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

CATEGORY: Arts & Entertainment
COURSE # CEVE 004-ON5
FORMAT: ZOOM
MEETS: 6 Fridays / 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. (or so)
October 9 - November 13

Americana

THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC AT A CROSSROADS: DEMOCRACY, POWER, AND THE 2026 MIDTERMS

Since the 2024 presidential election, Americans have debated whether the nation is experiencing a routine political realignment, a period of democratic stress, or a more fundamental transformation of the Republic. Throughout the six weeks, we will examine historical examples of democratic decline and renewal, explore contemporary developments in American politics and governance, and consider how current trends may shape the 2026 midterm elections and subsequently the future of our constitutional democracy. Through lectures, discussion, and analysis of unfolding events, participants will evaluate competing interpretations of the challenges facing the American Republic and consider what lies ahead.

To quote Lincoln's address to Congress on December 1, 1862, as the Civil War entered its eighth month: "The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present."

NOTE: This is a follow-up to one of Eric's previous classes: "Recognizing and Resisting Authoritarianism: A Quest to Restore Democracy." You did not have to previously attend this class to register this time.

ASSIGNMENT FOR FIRST CLASS: Stay current with US Political Events

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

CATEGORY: Americana
COURSE # CEVE 005-01 & ON1
FORMAT: HYBRID
LOCATION: WMC - Suite 101
MEETS: 6 Wednesdays / 10:00 - 11:15 a.m.
October 7 - November 11

PATHWAYS TO "KENTUCKE"

"Kentucke" was the largely unsettled county in the Commonwealth of Virginia in the 1770's. To many 18th century immigrants, its "great meadow" (the Bluegrass) is akin to the promised land. There were two major avenues leading there, the Ohio River and the Wilderness Road. Both routes were difficult, neither was safe. Still, they were routinely traveled by men, women, and children who wanted a new life, and they wanted it there.

These are the travel and settlement stories for thousands of immigrants who raised the area's non-native population from a few dozen in the 1760's to more than 73,000 by 1790. We discuss the routes settlers used, the conditions they encountered, and the risks they endured. We introduce some of the men after whom our counties and cities are named. Some of the few travelers' journals from the period add insight unavailable elsewhere.

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

CATEGORY: Americana
COURSE # CEVE 005 - 02 & ON2
FORMAT: HYBRID
LOCATION: WMC - Suite 101
MEETS: 3 Wednesdays / 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
October 7 - October 21

Americana

SECURING THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY: JAMES MADISON ON CHECKS AND BALANCES IN A DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Throughout his political career, James Madison, principal author of the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and many Federalist Papers, was concerned with how the various centers of power and their competing interests and claims to rights can coexist in a democratic republic. Considering how power is institutionalized in the branches and administrative offices of government, at both state and federal levels, or in the arena of public opinion, Madison's political philosophy focused on the idea of checks and balances to perpetually approach the ideals outlined in the Preamble to the Constitution. This phrase, so frequently invoked to address crises in governance, may have lost clear meaning. The focus of this course is on attaining a clearer idea of what checks and balances can mean by engaging in discussions of Madison's writings, informed by our own insights, experience, and observations.

REQUIRED READING: Syllabus and reading links will be shared via emailed. All required readings are in the public domain and available free online.

PRESENTER: Donald Whitfield was Vice President of the Great Books Foundation in Chicago, where he directed adult education discussion programs and trained discussion leaders. He conducted courses at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Northwestern University and the Newberry Library. Don is a frequent Veritas presenter.

CATEGORY: Americana
COURSE # CEVE 005 - 03
FORMAT: IN-PERSON
LOCATION: Bellarmine Campus
MEETS: 6 Wednesdays / 3:15 - 4:30 p.m.
October 7 - November 11

AMERICAN HISTORY: TRUE OR FALSE?

American historical events have, over the years and generations, become legends, myths, rumors, and fabrications. Many of them still linger. For instance, did Teddy Roosevelt, the "hero of San Juan Hill" really lead the attack on horseback? Was FDR aware of the Japanese plans before December 7th? What is the "stolen land" argument, and is the United States really situated upon "stolen land"? Was there really a "smallpox blanket" used to perpetrate a genocide of Indigenous peoples? Was Christopher Columbus a "hero" or a "villain"? Were the Salem Witch Trials really about witchcraft and, if not, what might have been the real incentives for conducting the trials? What was the real story behind "1619"? Whether these and other history stories are true, false, or partly both, the class will separate "fact" from popular "fiction." (a.k.a. The Truth Is Out There!)

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

CATEGORY: Americana
COURSE # CEVE 005 - ON4
FORMAT: ZOOM
MEETS: 6 Wednesdays / 3:15 - 4:30 p.m.
October 7 - November 11

Americana

OLMSTED PARKS IN THE 20th CENTURY

This course consists of 5 walking tours in 5 different Olmsted Parks - Big Rock in Cherokee, the base of Iroquois Park, Shelby Park, Chickasaw Park, and one yet to be determined. The tour routes are mostly flat and on paved pathways and average about a mile in distance. We will begin our course with one Zoom session, during which we will learn about Frederick Law Olmsted and the firm he created and also review our tour schedule.

NOTE: Although anyone can sign up for this class, those who have already taken Denise's original Olmsted Parks course may understand certain references and park history better.

PRESENTER: Denise Davis is a certified tour guide for Olmsted Parks Conservancy. Her experience in leading tours dates back to her time as a certified tour guide in New York City's Central Park in 2016. She has researched and scripted ten tours now for our Olmsted Parks in Louisville. She has been a presenter for Veritas since 2022, having offered a variety of classes, most often focused on Frederick Law Olmsted and his work in Louisville and New York City.

CATEGORY: Americana

COURSE # CEVE 005 - 05

FORMAT: IN-PERSON (first class on ZOOM)

LOCATION: Olmsted Parks

MEETS: 6 Thursdays / 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

October 8 - November 12

YOUR VOTE COUNTS - OR WILL IT?

Voting is fundamental to democracy. Assaults on the right to vote are being made, which could shake our republic. These have taken the form of unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud, as well as the proposed Federal SAVE Act, which would require proof of citizenship and could disenfranchise 60 million women. States are enacting their own proof of citizenship requirements, as well. Are we seeing intentional attempts at voter suppression? This course will examine why our vote counts, how voting is affected by changing demographics, the effects of redistricting and gerrymandering, the Supreme Court decision *Louisiana v. Calais*, examples of winning in by a whisker, current attempts at voter suppression, and more.

ASSIGNMENT FOR FIRST CLASS: Read The Constitution

SUGGESTED READING: *One Person, One Vote* by Nick Seabrook; *One Person No Vote. How Voter Suppression is Destroying Our Democracy* by Carol Anderson; *The Fight to Vote* by Michael Waldman

PRESENTER: Dr. Gail Henson is Professor Emerita of Communication at Bellarmine, where she developed the Department of Communication's undergraduate and graduate programs. She is in her third year as co-president of the League of Women Voters Louisville. She has been active in public service, serving as vice-chair of the JCPS Board of Education, Member of the Kentucky Board of Education, and Chair of the KCTCS Board of Regents.

CATEGORY: Americana

COURSE # CEVE 005 - 06 & ON6

FORMAT: HYBRID

LOCATION: WMC - Suite 101

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

October 8 - November 12

Americana

ESSENTIAL AMERICAN FOUNDERS

Washington, Franklin, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, and Hamilton were involved in and critical to the major events of the founding era. They were key in declaring independence, the war effort, diplomacy with the European powers, drafting and ratifying the Constitution, and drafting the Bill of Rights. They took the constitution's slim outline and turned it into a working government, cementing together the not-so-United States. This course will consider the key events of the founding era through the lives of these six men – their motivations, their actions, where they agreed, and where they (often quite vehemently) disagreed.

SUGGESTED READING: Links to short readings will be sent via email for each class session.

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

CATEGORY: Americana

COURSE # CEVE 005 - 07

FORMAT: IN-PERSON

LOCATION: Treyton Oak Towers

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

October 8 - November 12

Health & Wellness

QIGONG, THERAPEUTIC PRACTICES: IMPROVING HEALTH THROUGH MOVEMENT

Before there was Tai Chi, there was Qigong. Discover the calming power of this ancient form with its gentle, slow, flowing movements. This beginner-friendly class is designed to nurture our bodies. You'll learn how to build and balance your natural energy, or "Qi," which will leave you feeling refreshed, centered, and revitalized. Each session offers a supportive, uplifting environment where you can move at your own pace and connect with a welcoming community. This class will be your time to slow down, recharge, and create a lasting sense of inner calm.

NOTE: All Qigong can be done seated or standing. Respecting your "comfort" zone is an important aspect of enjoying Qigong. Dress in comfortable and loose clothing and closed-toe shoes, allowing the body to move.

PRESENTER: Nancy Carrington is an active person growing older. After teaching Tai Chi for two years at Veritas and Lakeside Swim Club, she shifted her practice toward Qigong because it is more easily learned and more quickly enjoyed than Tai Chi, yet has similar benefits. She has training in various forms of Qigong including Shibashi 1 and Five Elements for Health along with certifications in other Tai Chi teachings. Nancy is a frequent presenter and has been a Veritas member since 2016.

CATEGORY: Health & Wellness
COURSE # CEVE 006 - 01
FORMAT: IN-PERSON
LOCATION: WMC - SUITE 101
MEETS: 6 Tuesdays / 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
October 6 - November 10

TENNIS FOR BEGINNERS

Game, set, match! Always interested in playing tennis? Now is the perfect time to pick up a racquet, learn the basics, and get moving on the court! You will learn the basic swings from all across the court— forehand, backhand, nets, overheads, and serves— and even work on game strategies. Love may mean nothing in tennis, but find your love of the game in this class!

NOTE: Participants may bring their own tennis racquets, but we will also provide racquets for those without one. Bring water and a towel.

PRESENTER: Susan Mateja, Bob Willis, and Ken Ott, University of Louisville Tennis Alumni, have been playing and teaching tennis for many years. Bob Willis (known as Coach Bob) coaches tennis at the Christian Academy School System and leads programs for the Louisville Youth Tennis Association in Kentucky. Susan and Ken have recently won gold medals in the KY State games and will represent the state of KY in the National Senior Games Association (NSGA). Susan is a member of the Veritas Board of Directors and has been a Veritas member since 2021.

CATEGORY: Health & Wellness
COURSE # CEVE 006 - 02
FORMAT: IN-PERSON
LOCATION: Bellarmine Campus (SuRF Center)
MEETS: 6 Wednesdays / 1:00 - 2:15 p.m.
October 7 - November 11

Health & Wellness

DARTS: FOR SELF-IMPROVEMENT AND COMPETITION

Darts can be a competitive sport or a charming leisure activity. This activity is accessible to all skill levels and is easy to learn, while developing focus, coordination, and ingenuity. It relieves stress and is conducive to building friendships. There are no age, gender, or mobility restrictions. Darts can be played at home with family, at a local pub, or even in league play. In addition to learning proper techniques and playing games, we will briefly explore the fascinating history of darts. Each participant will be provided with a set of darts.

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

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

CATEGORY: Health & Wellness

COURSE # CEVE 006 - 03

FORMAT: IN-PERSON

LOCATION: WMC - Suite 101

MEETS: 5 Fridays / 1:00 - 2:15 p.m.
October 9 - November 6

INTRO TO GERONTOLOGY

Veritas members will be joining this undergrad class for an intergenerational learning experience designed to introduce the discipline and current concepts found in gerontology, the study of aging and older adults. We will explore how society views older adults and aging, and the development of individuals' own attitudes, values, and expectations about growing to an advanced age. The course will present a multidisciplinary overview of key issues related to aging — and healthy aging — for the older adult population. Topics covered during the six-week course include physical changes, cognitive changes and mental health, diversity and aging, global health, economic considerations, ageism, elder maltreatment, and social engagement. These will be presented both from the consumer and health care provider perspectives.

PRESENTER: Julie Harmann, PT, DSc, is a professor in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program in the School of Movement and Rehabilitation Sciences at Bellarmine. Dr. Hartmann is a Board Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist.

CATEGORY: Health & Wellness

COURSE # CEVE 006 - 04

FORMAT: IN-PERSON

LOCATION: Bellarmine Campus

MEETS: 6 Thursdays / 1:40 - 2:55 p.m.
October 8 - November 12

Applied Knowledge

AI AS TRANSFORMATIVE TECHNOLOGY

Artificial intelligence is rapidly changing the way we learn, live, and navigate the world around us. In this three-week course, explore AI's continuing impact on education and lifelong learning—and consider the role Veritas can play in this evolving landscape. Discover how AI can assist older adults with everyday challenges involving healthcare, smart homes, travel, scam awareness, and life transitions. Finally, examine AI's growing connection to mental health and the important implications this technology may hold for the future.

PRESENTER: Robert "Bob" Tiell has a wealth of experience in the behavioral sciences field and has assisted many clients over the years on a variety of work and life transitions. Bob is a frequent Veritas Presenter and joined Veritas in 2020.

CATEGORY: Applied Knowledge

COURSE # CEVE 007-ON1

FORMAT: ZOOM

MEETS: 3 Wednesdays / 1:30 - 2:45 p.m.

October 7 - October 21

KENTUCKY SKIES: THE SCIENCE OF WEATHER AND TORNADOS

Kentucky weather can change in an instant—but what is happening in the skies above us? This engaging course explores the science behind Kentucky's ever-changing weather, from thunderstorms and severe storms to the formation and forecasting of tornadoes. Learn how meteorologists use radar, satellites, weather models, and other technology to predict dangerous conditions, while also examining significant Kentucky tornadoes, the lessons they taught us, and what the future may hold for severe weather and preparedness.

PRESENTERS: This course will be team taught by a group of experts representing several of Kentucky's leading weather and emergency management organizations. Presenters will include Jerry Brotzge of the Kentucky Climate Center, representatives from the National Weather Service Louisville, a local television meteorologist, and experts from Kentucky Emergency Management. Together, they will bring perspectives from climatology, forecasting, broadcast meteorology, and emergency preparedness to provide a comprehensive look at Kentucky weather and severe storms.

CATEGORY: Applied Knowledge

COURSE # CEVE 007 - ON2

FORMAT: ZOOM

MEETS: 6 Thursdays / 1:30 - 2:45 p.m.

October 8 - November 12

Applied Knowledge

CHAUTAUQUA LECTURES 2026: PART I

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

Sandra Cherry introduced Veritas to these lectures in the Spring of 2015, and each term continued to select lectures that were timely, thought-provoking, and relevant to our members. We are pleased to continue this tradition in Sandra's honor, bringing her love of learning and thoughtful discussion to Veritas members.

Week 1: "The State of the Federal Government, Federalism and U.S. Elections" - Kevin R. Kosnar (author and senior fellow, American Enterprise Institute) & Kathryn Dunn Tenpas (author and presidency scholar, Brookings Institute)

Week 2: "The Role of Culture in American Public and Political Life" - E.J. Dionne Jr. (Brookings Institute) & Christine Emba (American Enterprise Institute, contributing writer for *NY Times* and *Washington Post*)

Week 3: "Climate Change, Pollution, and Environmental Consequences of America's Culture of Disposability" - David Wallace Wells (Journalist, *New York Times*)

Week 4: "How Our Everyday Choices Can Reduce Impact on the Environment" - Rachel Zoe Miller (National Geographic Explorer, inventor, author)

Week 5: "A View from Across the Atlantic" - Robert Chatterton Dickson (British international affairs consultant, HQ NATO)

Week 6: "Global Ambitions of China and Other East Asian Countries, and How the West is Responding" - Miles Yu (China Center at Hudson Institute, former Trump administration China policy advisor)

ORGANIZERS: Judge Patricia Walker FitzGerald retired from the Jefferson Circuit Court, Family Division. She joined Veritas in 2020 and is a frequent course organizer. Dennis Wiseman, M.Ed., UofL, is a retired JCPS teacher who joined Veritas in 2013. Dennis is a Betts Meehan Lifetime Member.

CATEGORY: Applied Knowledge

COURSE # CEVE 007-ON3

FORMAT: ZOOM

MEETS: 6 Thursdays / 3:15 - 4:30 p.m.

October 8 - November 12

LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES

Lunch and Learn presentations will begin at 11:00 am in Pasteur Hall, Room 105. Following the presentation, lunch will be served right across the quad in the University Dining Hall (UDH), which offers all-you-care-to-eat restaurant quality food from the steam table, grill, salad bar, sandwich station, drinks, dessert, and more. Tickets for lunch will be given out by the L&L coordinators in the classroom.

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

FRIDAY, October 9

"What's New at Kentucky Opera" - Ben Robinson, General Director and CEO of Kentucky Opera

FRIDAY, October 16

"What's with the Canopy?" - Cindi Sullivan, Executive Director of Louisville Trees Inc.

FRIDAY, October 23

"Why We Need a Property Tax Increase for a Dedicated Parks Fund" - Brooke Pardue, President and CEO of the Parks Alliance of Louisville

FRIDAY, October 30

"Fighting for Health at Wavely Hills Sanatorium" - Dr. Lynn Pohl, Special Collections Archivist at Filson Historical Society

FRIDAY, November 6

"Your Genealogy Legacy" - Nancy Roberson, past President of the Louisville Genealogy Society

FRIDAY, November 13

"Understanding and Enjoying the Guitar" - Pat Lentz, guitarist

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

CATEGORY: Lunch & Learn

COURSE # CEVE 010

FORMAT: IN-PERSON

LOCATION: BU Campus

MEETS: 6 Fridays / 11:00 a.m.