

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

*Meet your instructor by clicking on the Instructors tab on the Home Page.*

*You may view the Project Photo Gallery by clicking on the link on the Courses Page.*

**ACRYLICS FOR BEGINNERS** Students will be working with a limited palette, focusing on these painting techniques: blending, layering, glazing, highlighting, and much more! Inexperienced students will receive a supply list at the first class. If you have painted a bit before and have some supplies, bring them with you and instructor **Loran Chavez** will make recommendations on items to add or subtract from your paint box. **Class size is limited.**

**ALABAMA: FROM TERRITORY TO STATE** *New Course!* Alabama's territorial and early statehood years represent a crucial formative period in its past, a time in which the state both literally and figuratively took shape. This history is rich with stories of charismatic leaders, rugged frontiersmen, a dramatic and pivotal war that shaped the state's trajectory, raging political intrigue, and pervasive sectional rivalry. Many of Alabama's modern cities, counties, and religious, educational, and governmental institutions first took shape within this time period. It also gave way to the creation of sophisticated trade and communication networks, the first large-scale cultivation of cotton, and the advent of the steamboat. Contained within this story of growth and innovation is a parallel story, the dispossession of Native groups of their lands and the forced labor of slaves, which fueled much of Alabama's early development. In this course, historian **Mike Bunn** will help students better understand Alabama's origins and its developmental period.

**AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE FOR PROFESSIONALS – PART 1** This intensive course will provide instruction in simple American Sign Language to enable professionals such as nurses, police and fire personnel to communicate with deaf persons whom they may encounter during their workday. We will also discuss aspects of deaf persons' culture so that students might understand their perspective: the challenges they encounter, how they navigate without sign language to help them, the emotional toll they suffer being dismissed or looked down upon by others, and the successes they have achieved although hearing-impaired. Students will also learn about the history of schools for the deaf and how children are taught. At the end of Part 1, students will have gained the basic vocabulary skills for everyday conversation. **Part 2**, which will be held in Spring 2022, continues the studies, and provides students guidance in how to sign in the workplace, e.g., in their public service capacities in medical and other emergency situations. In addition, students will then be invited to participate in dinners for the deaf and to volunteer at schools for the deaf in order to hone their skills. The text is *American Sign Language for Dummies*, by Adan R. Penilla II and Angela Lee Taylor, available on Amazon for about \$15. **Cheray Bixler** is the instructor. **Class size is limited**

**THE ART OF STORYTELLING: TIPS AND TECHNIQUES** *New Course!* Storytelling has long been the way preliterate man received his information, religion, culture and social structure. Today it is still the purest form of communication and is used to inform, entertain and enrich our lives. We will delve into the various forms of story, discover what appeals to you, and learn skills and techniques that enhance your stories. Of course, many stories will be told to illustrate the various story types. The instructor, **Irene Wegner**, has over 40 years' experience. **Class size is limited.**

**AWAKENING YOUR INNER LIGHT: TOOLS TO RAISE YOUR VIBRATION AND DISCOVER THE HIGHER DIMENSIONS OF SELF** *New Course!* The seeds of your immortal essence and potential already exist within you in the form of your luminous Lightbody. This course will offer a new awareness and understanding of your Lightbody and provide practical techniques that you can use daily to raise your vibration and consciousness. It offers a new transformative perspective on how to live your fullest potential and deal with life challenges with greater confidence and purpose. The instructor, **Bob Maldonado**, will provide students a copy of his book, *Walking in Your Light: Essential Tools for the Ascension*, which will be used for study.

**BASIC DRAWING SKILLS FOR KEEPING NATURE JOURNALS** *New Course!* Embrace your artistic side with nature drawings. No drawing skills required. Learn to observe nature and improve your critical thinking skills to create fun drawings. Using live plants as models, we will explore paper types and drawing implements, and learn scientific observation skills necessary to translate plant characteristics into sketch journal drawings for your own nature journal. The instructor, **Nancy Milford**, will provide a supply list. Bring a bag lunch. **Class size is limited.**

**BIRDING 101 – JUST IN TIME FOR FALL MIGRATION!** Learn the basics of bird identification using physical characteristics such as size, shape and color and how they are related to behavior, diet and habitat. Students will also learn about seasonal variations in plumage and range and become familiar with common bird calls. **Carol Furman** will give instruction on the proper use of binoculars and provide valuable tips for tricky identifications. An optional, free field trip can be arranged, and during this time of year there are regularly scheduled Eastern Shore Birders/Mobile Bay Audubon trips. Bring your binoculars and bird guide if you have them.

**CURRENT EVENTS IN CHINA: THE AGE OF XI JINPING** *New Course!* This course will examine China's recalcitrant authoritarianism, from work camps in Xinjiang, repression in Hong Kong, and aggression toward Taiwan, to social credit, internet censorship, forced evictions, the belt and Road initiative, and COVID. The instructor is **Harry Miller**.

**DEEP GREEN FAITH: HOW WORLD RELIGIONS EXPERIENCE NATURE, AND FAITH COMMUNITIES PRACTICE CREATION CARE** *New Course!* This course explores how the major religions view the natural world and how faith communities promote Creation Care. We begin with how world religions portray the relationship between humans and nature by examining topics such as creation stories, the divine in nature, human responsibilities, personhood, etc., through comparing the major religions: Animism, Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Hindu, and Buddhism (including Daoism and Shintoism). Instructor **Ran Nisbett** will address the current efforts by various U.S.-based faith communities to create an ecumenical movement promoting Creation Care. We will explore as well how individuals and communities can re-engage with Nature, become better informed on environmental issues, and transform their relationship with the environment through contemplation and stewardship practices. **Class size is limited.**

**DEMOCRACY: THEORY AND PRACTICE** *New Course!* This course will discuss the theoretical and practical foundations of democracy. **Michael Darring** will help us look at democracy as a concept; at democracy in the founding of the United States; and at democracy in the modern world and beyond. A bibliography will be available for those students who wish to participate in the reading.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHORT STORY IN AMERICAN LITERATURE** *New Course!* This course will trace the development of the short story form in the U. S. from its beginnings in romanticism through its present form of pluralism. **Margaret Davis** will help us consider the cultural and historical events that prodded writers to shift both form and content to reflect the times. We will read two short stories each week, stories that represent the literary categories of romanticism, realism, naturalism, modernism, post-modernism, and pluralism. All the stories except one can be downloaded from the internet.

**DIBBLE DABBLE** *New Course!* When we use watercolor paint on photographic paper, random patterns and blotches appear, with unexpected results. Take some water and some paint, and you create a watercolor! **Jane Sellier** promises that you simply can't make a mistake using this interesting and fun method of painting. No previous experience is needed for this course.

**FAIRHOPE BY FOOT: WALKING TOURS** *New Course!* Whether you just moved in or have lived here for decades, you will find **Alan Samry's** tours entertaining and educational. Tracing 125 years of Fairhope's people, places, and events, each tour is approximately 1.5 miles and includes time for discussion and Q and A along the way. All walks begin from and end at the Fairhope Public Library.

**September 16 – In the Footsteps of Fairhope's Founders**

Stroll through the center of town following the footsteps and tracing the places of Fairhope's pioneers.

**September 23 – From Downtown Businesses to Bay Views**

This tour takes you past landmark buildings, homes of town founders, early hotels, and along bay.

**September 30 – Fairhope Public Library**

Take a walk from past to present public library locations and hear Fairhope's 120 years of literary history.

**October 7 – Art and Architecture**

This uptown walk explores public art, artists, local builders, and historic buildings.

In the event of severe weather, a slide show will be presented.

**FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS: SELECTED SHORT STORIES** In this course, students will read and analyze a variety of 20th- and 21st-century short stories by American writers. These focus on the dynamics of family relationships and the interaction of family members during situations and conflicts common to modern families. The stories for the first class will be available a week in advance so that the material can be read before class. The instructor is **Brenda Huchingson**. **Class size is limited.**

**THE FOURTEENTH COLONY: THE FORGOTTEN STORY OF THE GULF SOUTH DURING AMERICA'S REVOLUTIONARY DRAMA** *New Course!* The British colony of West Florida— which once included portions of what are now Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana—is the forgotten fourteenth colony of America's Revolutionary era. The colony's eventful years as a part of the British Empire form a compelling interlude in Gulf Coast history that has too long been overlooked. The colony's history showcases a tumultuous political scene; a host of bold and colorful characters; a compelling saga of struggle and perseverance in the pursuit of financial stability; and a dramatic series of battles on land and water which brought about the end of its days under the Union Jack. In this course, historian **Mike Bunn** offers the first comprehensive history of the colony, introducing readers to the Gulf Coast's remarkable British period and putting West Florida back in its rightful place on the map of Colonial America.

**GROWING AND PROPAGATING AFRICAN VIOLETS** African Violets have become the favorite houseplant across the world. This course will cover the seven key factors for successfully growing violets: light, watering, feeding, grooming, environment, soil, and potting. Your instructor, **Jere Trigg**, will discuss the procedures for propagating violets from leaves and suckers. Hybridizing your violets will result in the development of new and differently-colored flowers, some of which can be truly spectacular. You will learn techniques for cross-pollinating flowers, planting the resulting seeds, and caring for the seedlings to adult blooming plants. There will be demonstrations of grooming, repotting, propagation from leaves and suckers, and cross-pollination of two flowers to produce hybrid seed. *To see the immense size to which Jere's violets can grow, click on the Project Photo Gallery link on the Courses page.* And for a deep dive into the subject of African Violet propagation and Jere himself, see the article that appeared in *Mobile Bay Magazine* at <https://mobilebaymag.com/meet-jere-trigg-the-violet-guru/>. Plants will be available for purchase.

**HUMOR IN CLASSICAL MUSIC** *New Course!* Over time, classical music has erroneously gained the reputation of being serious, stuffy and inaccessible. The truth is that classical music possesses qualities that make it endure over time and can express a wide range of emotions, including sadness, happiness, joy, fear, and love that should appeal to everyone. The composers who created these great works were just regular people who at times took delight in inserting humor in their compositions! Be prepared in this course to learn how they accomplished this goal and laugh as you learn! The instructor is **Vincentine Williams**.

**INTRODUCTION TO BLOCK PRINTING** *New Course!* Explore one of the oldest, yet most versatile, of artistic media. We will cover linoleum and woodblock techniques, with traditional drawing and some contemporary approaches. Students will learn all the basics of relief printing, i.e., how to transfer designs to blocks and print in color on paper and fabric. *See sample designs on the Project Photo Gallery link on the Courses page.* During this course, each student will complete 3-4 blocks of their own design. The materials fee provides for cutting tools and supplies. **Register by September 1 to allow for ordering materials.** The instructor is **Anne Brooks**. **Class size is limited.**

**LIFESTORIES: CREATING A MEMOIR** Learn how to start writing life stories for future generations. Students will be provided inspiration, motivation, and organizational tips for beginning the project and staying on track. They will be guided as to what topics to choose formatting (chronological vs. random stories), and tips to make their writing sparkle and keep readers interested. Students will be shown how to write the text, include some photos and have the pages bound into a simple, inexpensive finished booklet that will be a priceless gift. **Rosanne Gulisano** will provide handouts containing helpful hints and ideas.

**MARY SHELLEY: MOTHER OF FRANKENSTEIN** *New Course!* *Frankenstein* was published in 1818 and has become part of modern myth and culture. Using lecture and photographs, instructor **Brenda Huchingson** will attempt to answer this question: How did Mary Shelley, just short of 19 years old when she began writing the novel, produce such a complex work filled with ideas on philosophy, science, and psychology of her day--and one that continues to find new generations of readers? **Class size is limited.**

**OSHIE JEWELRY: EMBELLISHED AND PADDED SILK APPLIQUE** **Basics and Intermediate New Courses!** Oshie is a Japanese technique used for decorative objects. It consists of small, padded silk pieces glued over each other to create pictures. The instructor, **Diana Yum-Bucher**, has simplified and adapted the technique to create unusual hand-sewn wearable art necklaces and bracelets. In the **Basics course**, students will design and create their own necklace, embellishing it with beads, gemstones, coral, metals, shells, or whatever! They will also learn how to back it, edge it, fringe it, and put a neck strap on it. If you love hand sewing and working with fabrics and beads, this class is for you! In the **Intermediate course**, for which the Basics course is a prerequisite, students will advance beyond simple outward-rounded and oval shapes to those that are more difficult to wrap in silk, i.e., points, corners, and inward curves. They will also create designs that involve a greater number of pieces, with more layering and interweaving, and learn how to design by attaching separate isolated sections to create a finished piece. The Intermediate course will also incorporate more beadwork for textural embellishment. Students will learn how to make their own templates for more complex designs as they advance. This is where the real fun and challenge begin! *See examples for both courses on the*

*Project Photo Gallery link on the Courses page.* Bring a work light and extension cord if needed. **Class size is limited.**

**OVERLOOKED EPISODES IN U.S. HISTORY, AND HOW HISTORIANS STUDY THEM** *New Course!* We will explore seven or eight episodes in U.S. history that are often not mentioned in history textbooks or seldom covered in depth in ordinary courses. Our exploration will include the “what” and “how” historians do their work. Two episodes will come from the 17<sup>th</sup> century; two from the Revolution; two from the period 1800-1850; and one or two from 1850-1950. The instructor is **Rick Byrd**.

**PAINTING ON TAR PAPER** *New Course!* It’s interesting and fun painting on different surfaces. Tar paper is much less exacting and intimidating than painting on either canvas or paper. This is a speedy painting process and does not require any artistic talent. The only requirement for this course is your interest and the willingness to try something different. **Jane Sellier** will take you on this new adventure in painting!

**PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE DIGITAL AGE** *New Course!* No matter what kind of camera you use (digital single lens reflex, compact camera, mirrorless or cell phone) the fundamentals of photography remain the same. This course will cover topics such as portraits, landscape, close-up or macro, and action photography and how to apply the principles of composition and lighting to obtain the best image. Instructor **Gene Sellier** will introduce you to computer software to organize, edit and distribute your images, and computer hardware and printers will be discussed. Since so many digital cameras today can record video as well as stills, there will be an introduction to making videos. Bring your camera and manual to class.

**RECONSTRUCTION: PAIN, FRUSTRATION, CONFUSION, REALITIES, MYTHS AND INTERPRETATIONS** *New Course!* We will explore one of the most important and controversial episodes in the post-Civil War U.S. The disruption and pain of the Civil War left little doubt that what followed in the American South would be a turbulent and troubled period. This course will cover the facts, the mythology, and the legitimate historical interpretations of the Reconstruction period, 1863-1877. The instructor is **Rick Byrd**.

**SIGHTINGS OF THE CIVIL WAR** *New Course!* This course will cover the tumultuous historical period of the U.S. Civil War. We will discuss the events that lead to the war and its aftermath. Contrasts will be used to show how the war was viewed in the North and in the South (where it was known as “The War of Northern Aggression”). **Allen Todd** is the instructor. **Class size is limited.**

**SYMBOLISM IN CONTEMPORARY CULTURE AND MEDIA** **Ronald Hunt**, a self-taught Jungian symbologist, will explain archetypal symbolism as it pertains to the Hero’s Journey, made famous in Joseph Campbell’s *Hero of a Thousand Faces*. Spanning a wide range of cultural and media expressions, contemporary examples that will be discussed in this course include the Superman myth, Coleridge’s *Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, Tiepolo’s frescoes, Andrew Lloyd Weber’s *Phantom of the Opera*, music videos produced by Celine Dion and Coldplay/Chris Martin, and Ralph Waldo Emerson’s poem, *Uriel*. An optional text is available from Amazon as well as PowerPoint photocopies of the course presentations.

**TATTING – IT’S NOT JUST FOR DOILIES!** This ancient form of lace making is enjoying a revival across the country. Consisting of one basic stitch, items are made by looping and tying knots using a cat-eye shaped shuttle and fine thread. Tatted items vary from trims on clothing and linens to Christmas ornaments, jewelry, and baby and bridal accessories. *Some examples appear on our Project Photo Gallery, but Google “tattoo photos” to see many more inventive designs.* Instructor **Vincentine Williams** will provide you initial supplies and suggestions for additional shuttles, threads, and books. Bring a bag lunch. **Class size is limited.**

**TEDDY ROOSEVELT: THE EARLY YEARS** *New Course!* This course is the first of a 3-part series on Teddy Roosevelt's life and career that is planned by instructor **Art Holder**. *The Early Years* will examine T.R.'s growth to adulthood and the ways in which his early years were quite different from the persona he later cultivated. Growing up in a moneyed family, with all the expectations and constraints that it carried, not always robust in health nor venturing outside his house for fear of bullies, greatly under the influence of his siblings, and with an exemplary father who set the bar for accomplishment very high, T.R. had much to overcome to emerge as a man of leadership and vision. The material covered in this course will include Teddy's early years as a writer and historian, a leader of the reform faction of the Republican party in the New York legislature, and as Assistant Secretary of the Navy under President William McKinley. We will also delve into the lives of his accomplished children, in whose upbringing Teddy had a strong hand. This course establishes the underpinnings of his character and the accomplishments that will be pursued in two courses in subsequent terms - *Theodore the King*, and *“The Old Lion Is Dead”* (his son's message to friends upon his death). Texts for recommended reading will be suggested but not required.

**TEMARI – JAPANESE EMBROIDERED THREAD BALLS** Temari began as a Japanese kick toy constructed from the remnants of old kimonos bundled into a ball and stitched. Later, stitching became more decorative and detailed with intricate embroidery, and temari transitioned into an art. Learn how to prepare temari for sewing and use the Spindle, Interlocking Diamonds, Chrysanthemum, and Rose Garden patterns. Past students are encouraged to return to learn new techniques. *See examples on the Project Photo Gallery link on the Courses page.* Materials fee is \$35, or past participants may bring their own supplies. Bring scissors. **Blair Heald** is the instructor. **Class size is limited.**

**TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES FOR ESTATE PLANNING** **John Brown's** goal for this course is to provide attendees with a solid understanding of the five basic estate planning documents: Will, Trust, Power of Attorney, Health Care Directive, and the (oft over-looked) Beneficiary Form. Estate planning goals can often be accomplished in several ways, some relatively simple, others more complex. The objective of this course is to prepare you for a visit with your attorney by acquainting you with these options and the primary advantages and disadvantages of each. Some of the topics we will discuss include:

- The four primary ways to pass along assets to heirs and advantages and disadvantages of each of them.
- Nine common mistakes people make when naming their beneficiaries that can damage their estate plan.
- Why persons named on your Beneficiary form take precedent over beneficiaries named in your will or trust.
- Why understanding the fundamental difference between how qualified vs. non-qualified assets are taxed at death is critical in estate planning
- How to choose your attorney and attorney-in fact (and whom not to choose).
- How to choose your health care agent (and whom not to choose).

Attendees will also be provided with several handouts and checklists that will serve as useful reminders for you and/or your survivors.

**UKULELE FOR BEGINNERS** Learn the basics of this fun folk instrument. Students will achieve beginners' skills in tuning the ukulele, playing simple chords in different musical keys, and employing different strumming styles, all while playing many traditional, popular and Hawaiian songs. No musical knowledge required – just a willingness to have fun! Students must provide their own ukulele; instructor **Carl Couret** will provide information about purchasing an instrument. Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at every class. **Class size is limited.**

**WALKING THE JEWISH BIBLE SERIES: ESTHER AND EZRA** *New Course!* A study of a woman and a man - responding to crisis differently. All are welcome! Please bring a Bible with you. The instructor is [Rabbi Steve Silberman](#).

**WATERCOLOR: BEGINNERS AND INTERMEDIATE** In *Watercolors for Beginners*, you will gain confidence in watercolor basics using a limited palette. The course concentrates on types of washes, paint, paper, and brushes, and all their uses. You will practice such techniques as dry brushing, masking, lifting, washes, glazes, bubbles, and more. You will create and complete paintings on your own, taking home a paint palette, paper, and four brushes. In the *Intermediate* course, you will take your watercolors further than you ever imagined with new techniques and tips, and you will work more with masking, using fluid, fabric and paper, bruising the paper, multiple layers, Chinese white as a resist, wax, nails, and more. See what you can do with this wonderful medium we call watercolor! The Beginners course or a working knowledge of the basics of watercolor is a prerequisite for this course. [Loran Chavez](#) is the instructor. **Class sizes are limited.**

**WOODCARVING - BASICS AND INTERMEDIATE** In our **Basics course**, students will learn woodcarving “in the round”. Using a basic carving knife, instructor [Chip Smith](#) will introduce simple object-shaping with a paring cut and explain how to interpret the grain of the wood as you carve. Each class will start a new carving project to help you practice and gain skill with previously-taught techniques, and introduce new knife cuts, blocking and rounding, and how and when to add detail. Projects will be taken home to be completed before the next class. There will be five carving projects: Cowboy Boot, Santa, Comfort Bird, Little Mountain Man and Whale. The materials fee for beginners includes a basic carving knife, a sharpening strop and all carving blanks. In the **Intermediate course**, for which the Basics course is a prerequisite, hand woodcarving gouges, tool sharpening and more advanced projects will be introduced. Students will learn how to address body proportions, body contours and facial expressions. These projects will include Golfer, a more intricate Santa, and others based on student preference. Intermediates pay only for carving blanks. *All projects can be viewed on the Project Photo Gallery link on the Courses page.* **Class size is limited.**

**THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN: THE GROWTH OF CHRISTIANITY** This course provides a non-faith based and non-denominational investigation into Christianity. The heritage which believers share today has developed over three millennia, from its roots with the descendants of Abraham to the earthly ministry of Jesus and his disciples, down through 20 centuries of development and strife, to the place it occupies in our times. The course will cover, among other topics, the first century church, the Roman and Orthodox churches, Reformation, European religious conflicts, and the coming of Christianity to America. Woven throughout this study will be the developing history of the Bible. The instructor is [Toby Gurley](#).

**WRITE RIGHT NOW!** This is your opportunity to scratch that writing itch you have always had with in-class prompts and visual imagery. Bring your notebook, laptop, or tablet because this is a *workshop*. It is time to answer that creative call and stretch out of your comfort zone. We will write in class and get ideas for a longer piece to complete at home. Sharing and positive critique will help improve and nurture that spark you’ve been hiding. The instructor, [Rosanne Gulisano](#), declares, “*Gonna be fun!*” **Class size is limited.**