For the Senior Thinker

The Lifelong Learning Institute at National Louis University
Tuesday: 1-2:30 PM
Introduction to Religious Literature
Adam Rose

Whatever else they may be, “religious” books are first and foremost … books, that can be read and analyzed with the same techniques used to understand “secular” books. This four-session online course will provide a broad introduction to the rigorous reading and interpretation of several types of “religious” literature, including the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), the New Testament, and the Qur’an as well “religiously-themed” works of “secular” literature. No prior knowledge or experience is required.

1. Introduction to the Book of Genesis as Literature
   Study text: Genesis

2. Apologies of Socrates and Gospels of Jesus

3. Introduction to the Qur’an as Literature
   Study texts: Q1; Q2:1-7; Q112; Q96; Q72; Q55; Q16; Q19

4. Shakespeare’s Merchant of Venice as Christian Comedy
   Study texts: The Merchant of Venice; Romans 1-5

Monday: 1-2:30 PM
Journey of the Soul: An Exploration of Life, Death & What Lies Beyond
Rabbi Shalom Notik

For as long as we’ve been around, we humans have wondered: What’s next? Is there really an “afterlife?” Is there a soul that lives on? What happens after death?

Mankind also offers many answers: Some fervently believe in a world of the soul, a complete reality on its own. Others scoff at such notions, and still others concede that they simply do not know.

What does Judaism say? Is death the absolute end of the road? If there is an afterlife, what is it like? Do heaven and hell exist? Are the loved ones we lost still somehow thinking about us?

In Journey of the Soul we explore the concept of souls & afterlife from the perspective of ancient Jewish teachings. Far from being a mere curious discussion of an intangible world, this exploration yield profound insight into the meaning of life and inspires us to make the most of the time we have left.

So buckle up for the Journey, and get to know your soul!

April 13-May 8, 2020
1–2:30 PM
REGISTER NOW
http://www.cvent.com/d/5nqr8g/4W

$75 for each four week class
Take two classes get one free.
**Wednesday: 1-2:30 PM**

*In Search of the Spiritual Beliefs of the Great Composers*

Jim Kendros

What were the spiritual beliefs of the great composers? In addition to practicing established religious beliefs, what were their spiritual “Northern Stars” which guided them and their music? This exciting class will explore these compelling questions. Acclaimed composer and music researcher Jim Kendros will lead you in this fascinating quest to understanding some of the innermost beliefs of these musical immortals. By citing specific life events of each composer, Jim will use these life events as a springboard to bring us a portrait of the inner beliefs of Bach, Handel, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and Brahms. Relevant musical examples will be highlighted and a weekly study guide will enhance the concepts of each session.

Text: *The Spiritual Lives of Great Composers*
Patrick Kavanaugh/ Sparrow Press/ 1992
(Not required but highly recommended. This book will be highlighted in each session.)

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**Thursday: 1-2:30 PM**

*How Four Western Religious Traditions Deal(t) with Death*

Jim Kenney and Adam Rose

Since the beginnings of civilization, humans have been preoccupied with death. Indeed, issues of mortality and immortality are perhaps the oldest and most persistent themes in world literature and religions. This four-session online course will survey four major approaches to death and dying: Classicism, Judaism, Christianity, and Existentialism. Each session will include a live, 90-minute [120 minute?] online presentation by veteran instructors Jim Kenney and Adam Rose, short study texts that participants are invited to read in advance of the presentation, and an extended opportunity to discuss the presentation and the study texts with fellow participants. No prior knowledge or experience is required.

1. Classicism: From polytheism to philosophy.
   Study texts: *Iliad* 18; *Odyssey* 11; *Apology of Socrates*

2. Judaism: From the religion of ancient Israel to rabbinic Judaism.
   Study texts: *Genesis* 1-3; *Deuteronomy* 27-28; *Job*

3. Christianity: From Jesus to the Reformation.
   Study texts: *Gospel of John* 1, 11, 19-21; *Acts* 9-10; 1 Corinthians 15

4. Existentialism: The meaning of death when God is dead too
   Study text: *The Myth of Sisyphus*

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**Friday: 1-2:30 PM**

*Testing the Conservative Soul and the Liberal Soul*

Jim Kenney

In 2007, Andrew Sullivan, the noted conservative columnist and one of the sharpest critics of the modern extreme right, wrote a powerful account of his own conservatism and the current state of the political right in America. As the CoronaVirus crisis puts the American political order to the test, we’ll ask two key questions. What is the “conservative soul” at its very best? And what’s the “liberal” equivalent? Our conversations will direct us toward the progressive center that may yet provide the shared spark that can animate the best of conservative and liberal thought and action. Along the way, we may arrive at a better understanding of the ways in which authentic conservatism and authentic liberalism can interact and even cooperate in challenging times.

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