ENROLL IN THE FROMMCAST AND TAKE THE FROMM INSTITUTE WITH YOU WHEREVER THERE’S INTERNET ACCESS

The Fromm Institute’s robust program of previously recorded classes, lectures, and insights is available to you through the Frommcast, our on-line lifelong learning educational platform. This Spring, Frommcast viewers can select from the diverse courses found within these pages, or watch multiple single lectures. With each Session, the Frommcast library grows — and so does your love of lifelong learning on-line.

WHAT’S COMING THIS SPRING?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Dystopian Dramas: From “Metropolis” to “Blade Runner”</td>
<td>Prof. Eilenberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Napoleon I, Napoleon II, Napoleon III: Promise, Tragedy, Tyranny”</td>
<td>Prof. Hohmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“The Golden State in American Century”</td>
<td>Prof. O’Sullivan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Great Federal Power &amp; Due Process Cases” (AUDIO ONLY)</td>
<td>Prof. Carcieri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“The Ring of the Nibelung: Music, Myth &amp; Meaning” (AUDIO ONLY)</td>
<td>Prof. Keolker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“The Real Girls of the Golden West” (Holiday Lecture)</td>
<td>Prof. O’Sullivan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“The Girls of the Golden West” (Holiday Lecture)</td>
<td>Prof. Cranna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Frank Sinatra: The Man &amp; His Music” (Holiday Lecture)</td>
<td>Prof. Buxton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Frommcast is Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning’s digital ‘school for seniors’ where registered, on-line students can access educational content recorded at Fromm Hall and shared via the web. In its design, it opens our lifelong learning experience beyond the boundaries of classroom walls as it enables a connected community the opportunity to view, or review, courses offered by our outstanding faculty — or to encounter special lectures and commentary that our faculty has prepared just for this platform. The Frommcast has been designed to move “career-free” (aka “retired”) people with a shared lifetime of experience beyond the physical confines of time and place onto a unique plateau of educational enrichment that is both beneficial and satisfying – all obtainable from anywhere linked to the Internet. Like the Institute that is its source, all are welcome to engage in lifelong learning through the Frommcast.

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

To enroll, make the Fromm Institute your first contact, in person (Fromm Hall Rm. 102), by phone (415-422-6805), or by Email (fromm@usfca.edu). The Frommcast is presented year round in three-month “sessions” (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer). You can enroll in any one, or all of these sessions that are offered throughout the year. You can become a member at the low rate of $50 per session ($100 if not attending classes in Fromm Hall). If you would like to join for the entire year the annual rate is $175 (or $350 if you are not attending Fromm Hall classes).

CONTACT US

If you have any questions about the Frommcast or how to become a member of the Frommcast, contact the Fromm Institute at 415-422-6805 or fromm@usfca.edu. For an on-line version of this brochure, or to sign up for the Frommcast, go to our website (fromm.usfca.edu) and click on Frommcast Library or Frommcast Sign-Up, respectively.

THE FROMMCAST LIBRARY

On the pages that follow, you will find a diverse group of courses, lectures and insights all recorded at the Fromm Institute at the University of San Francisco. The Frommcast Library is an ever-growing collection, with new material added every session. Something for everyone and representative of the Fromm Institute educational experience at USF, this archive gives you the opportunity to study within the fine arts, humanities and science curriculum upon which the Fromm Institute has built its reputation for excellence in learning in retirement.

The Frommcast library is supported by a grant from the Koret Foundation.
FROMMCAST SPRING SESSION 2018: WHAT’S ON

VIDEO COURSES

MUSICAL PAIRINGS
PROF. JONATHAN BAILEY
This course will offer a study of composers and performers who live at the same time in history, and seem to use similar musical language; yet their compositions differ in ways that provide valuable insight into their times and audiences. We will explore both ‘classical’ and ‘popular’ figures from the 18th to the 21st century including these ‘musical pairings:’ Bach & Handel; Gustav Mahler & Anton Bruckner; Bob Dylan & Leonard Cohen; Mozart & Haydn; John Adams & Steve Reich; Cole Porter & Irving Berlin; S. Sondheim & Andrew Lloyd Webber; Joan Baez & Joni Mitchell.

PHOTOGRAPHY IN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE
PROF. RODGER BIRT
Since 1839, when the French daguerreotype was first described in American newspaper accounts, various forms of camera-made images have been wedded to culture and society in the United States. These images made political and cultural elites familiar; they celebrated national expansion westward; documented rapid urbanization; and gave individuals their first opportunity to see themselves in artistically composed portraits. Art fotography, documentary photography, amateur photography, present day camera phone photography, and photography as a field of academic investigation and cultural criticism will be among our several topics. Photographs — writing(s) with light — are texts, and I want to pursue their meanings, with the ultimate goal of discussing just what it is photographs can tell us about their makers and their audiences.

THE LAST GOOD WAR: REFIGHTING WORLD WAR II
PROF. CLAY LARGE
This course will reexamine the history and legacy of the Atlantic Theater in World War II by focusing on seminal episodes, including the Dunkirk evacuation, the Battle of Stalingrad, the murder of French Resistance leader Jean Moulin, the D-Day invasion, the botched Hitler assassination, and the Malmedy Massacre during the Battle of the Bulge. These iconic moments not only helped shape the war’s course but lived on in the postwar period as bones of further contention and acrimony among the erstwhile belligerents. Armed with the latest historical research and the advantage of hindsight, we’ll follow this trail of disputation from the wartime battlefields through the Cold War and beyond, gaining in the process a better understanding of the war and some new perspectives on the politics of our own era. William Faulkner observed that the “past is never dead; it is not even past.” So it is with “The Last Good War.”

Passage to Modernity: Europe & The World in the Nineteenth Century
PROF. CLAY LARGE
Europe was still the center of the “civilized world” in the nineteenth century, but nascent “globalization” was already at work due to expanding commercial ties, multinational alliances, and innovations in communications, transportation, and information sharing. This course will examine how European politics, society, and culture were transformed by industrialization, technology, political revolution, nationalism, and imperialism – and how Europe’s passage to modernity affected, and was affected by, the wider world in which it transpired. For better and for worse, the epochal transformations we associate with the nineteenth century established the socio-political framework for the world in which we now operate. Each lecture will include copious use of visual imagery, especially maps.

For 1,000 years, Venice was ruled by an aristocratic oligarchy that maintained control of the Republic until 1797. This course will take you back into those centuries to explore the rich and splendorous cultural activities/lifestyles that defined that aristocratic world. With an emphasis on the Golden Age of the 16th and early 17th centuries through the Silver Age of the 18th century we’ll focus on Venetian humanistic culture and the rich “illusionistic” fantasies (myths, theatres, operas, balls, music, etc.) and some of the art and architecture. During this period Venice would eventually decline from a powerful mercantile society into a pleasure-loving, sybaritic tourist destination. Venice will be our primary focus but we’ll also move into the countryside (the Veneto) to explore the aristocratic country lifestyles of its villa culture, the major 16th century villas created by Palladio, their links to Rome and antiquity; and their ongoing influence throughout the following centuries. Venice must always be understood in relation to the world of the Middle East and Asia. As the major trading power in the Eastern Mediterranean, it served as the “Bazaar of Europe” and we’ll discuss these eastern influences that became an influential part of Venetian culture, shaping its final cultural aesthetic. We’ll talk about artistic figures — Bellini, Tintoretto, Tiepolo, Canaletto, Veronese, Monteverdi and Goldoni. Cultured, powerful, humanistic, artistic and mythic; Venice over the centuries has always exerted its own particular seductive spell and we’ll go back to selectively explore these vanished worlds.

DYSTOPIAN DRAMAS: FROM “METROPOLIS” TO “BLADE RUNNER”

Society “gone wrong” somehow in the future, that’s what’s pictured in a “dystopia.” George Orwell’s seminal dystopian novel, “1984,” written nearly 70 years ago, is presently in extraordinary demand with its harrowing vision of a technologically totalitarian state serving to caution us of what can easily come of current trends. The rich tradition of dystopian fiction has yielded an equally rich canon of dystopian dramas in the theatre and cinema, with a range of source material from Sinclair Lewis’s 1935 anti-fascist “It Can’t Happen Here” through Kazuo Ishiguro’s 2005 medically terrifying “Never Let Me Go.” Original dystopian films include a panoply of classics from the post-apocalyptic “Mad Max” to the animated robotic future of Pixar’s “Wall-E.” Our dystopias mirror our present social anxieties by dramatizing their possible consequences, they underline the fatal flaws in our imagined utopias, and they have provided an extraordinary videography of compelling dramas. This course will screen ample material from that body of work and analyze its artistic and social significance.

THE ORCHESTRA

Presented Under the Auspices of the Barbara Fromm Chair in Classical Music. The orchestra – a collective of instrumentalists often led by a conductor – has been a steadfast participant in the Western musical scene for Centuries. Nowadays many of our orchestras are civic jewels that proudly bear the names of their host cities. But even before the Vienna Philharmonic or the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, there were orchestras in courts, churches, theaters, opera houses, and just about anywhere with enough space. Orchestras big and small: their history, their conductors, their repertory, their recordings. We’ll hear lots of music, encounter numerous orchestras, and explore some strikingly different approaches to the repertory from those baton-wielding folks up there on the podium.
NATIONALISM IN MUSIC  
PROF. SCOTT FOGLESONG
During the last half of the nineteenth century, a wave of nationalistic fervor swept Europe and America. Music provides a superb reflection of that widespread and passionate movement, as composers increasingly turned to the native music of their own cultures for inspiration. Russia, Bohemia, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Spain, England, Poland—it seemed just about every country needed a “national” composer. We'll take a good look at, and listen to, those wonderful composers and their vividly compelling music, not only stalwarts such as Mussorgsky, Dvořák, Grieg, and Granados, but we'll also cast a wider net as we make the acquaintance of such lesser-known figures as Arthur Farwell (United States) and Antonio Carlos Gomes (Brazil).

THE EARLY ROMANTICS  
PROF. SCOTT FOGLESONG
The first half of the nineteenth century saw a generation of composers who were celebrated not only in their own time but still continue to be beloved today. Consider their names: Franz Schubert, Robert Schumann, Frédéric Chopin, Felix Mendelssohn, Franz Liszt, Hector Berlioz. They join with the efflorescence of wonderful opera composers such as Rossini, Donizetti, Bellini—and early Verdi. Some of the less-remembered figures such as Weber, Spohr, Moscheles, and Meyerbeer round out what should be a delightful romp through a dearly-loved and justly valued era of music.

BRAHMS  
PROF. SCOTT FOGLESONG
Johannes Brahms, the great classicist of the later 19th century, created an imposing body of work that covers every genre of his era except for opera. Whether symphonies, concertos, orchestral works, chamber works, sonatas, solo pieces, art songs, or choral works, Brahms bequeathed precious gifts to posterity. We'll find out about him, his career, his world, his friends, his colleagues. Most importantly, we'll explore his music in all its variety, depth, and radiance.

THE BRITISH MUSE  
PROF. SCOTT FOGLESONG
The land without music, it was called. But it wasn’t true. England was, and is, abundantly gifted with music and with fine composers—as are Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the rest of the Commonwealth. We'll start with Elizabethans such as Tallis and Byrd, exult in Henry Purcell's glorious (but sadly brief) career, visit England’s cherished adopted son Handel, then explore the 19th century musical Renaissance with Parry, Stanford, and Elgar. From there it’s on to the 20th century with Vaughan Williams, Britten, Walton, Bax, and others who stood as rare sentinels of sanity amidst a century of musical chaos.
### Video Courses

#### Exploring the Universe: Mars to the Stars (and Galaxies)

**Prof. Andrew Fraknoi**

In this course, we’ll offer a tourist’s tour of the three realms of the cosmos as astronomers understand it today: the planets and moons in the solar system, the stars in the Milky Way, and the galaxies in the universe. Using the latest images from the largest telescopes in space and on our planet, we marvel at the colorful sights and alien vistas we can now explore. Along the way, we come to understand how different the other planets are in our neighborhood, how stars shine and why they eventually die, and how the big bang theory explains the organization and properties of the cosmos. No science background is required or assumed.

#### History of Islam, Part One

**Prof. Nikolaus Hohmann**

In this first part of two, we will look at the ancient city of Mecca and the timeless world of Arabia. Other topics will include: Mohammed, the new prophet of old teachings; the Successors — conquest, schism, and conversion; the marvels of the Caliphate as a Muslim world empire at its zenith; the wars of brothers and the collapse of the Caliphate; the Old Man of the Mountain and the Assassins, and Moghul India and new traumas for the Hindu world. Throughout this study our primary focus will be on understanding the Islam of today.

#### History of Islam, Part Two

**Prof. Nikolaus Hohmann**

In this second part of two, we’ll look at The Ottoman Empire (the 2nd Caliphate) and its disintegration — the birth of modern crises. Our case studies will be: Iran (the Shah and the Ayatollahs); Iraq (Saddam Hussein, the Gulf Wars, the aftermath); Syria and the new Islamic state (ISL) movement; Saudi Arabia and Yemen, and lastly Israel, Egypt, and the Palestinians.

#### Napoleon I, Napoleon II, Napoleon III:

**Prof. Nikolaus Hohmann**

The Bonapartes: Napoleon I, the Savior of France and the Terror of Europe. Napoleon II, his son, “the Little Eagle.” The nephew, Napoleon III, “the first modern dictator” who foreshadowed the media-driven authoritarian politics of the 20th century and into our times. We will follow the dramatic stories of these three men, and the women who accompanied, cajoled, scolded and guided them in their quest for glory — a fascinating journey through the grand and magnificent 19th century.
HISTORY OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, 1789 — 2016
PROF. CHRIS O’SULLIVAN
This course will take us on an entertaining journey through the history of American presidential elections, from the unopposed selection of George Washington in 1789, to the tumultuous election of 2016. Of the nearly sixty presidential elections since Washington’s, all are compelling, yet several stand out for their drama and consequences. Bringing the spectacle of these contests to life, exploring the personalities, strategies, and historical consequences, this course reveals that presidential campaigns have always been tenaciously contested and often nasty, yet they reveal much about our history and ourselves.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF RUSSIA
PROF. NIKOLAUS HOHMANN
Tensions between Russia and the United States have escalated recently, and one wonders whether a new Cold War is beginning. Are the two countries inevitably adversaries? Is active cooperation ever possible or even desirable? In this survey course of 1,000 years of Russian history, we will meet: Ivan the Terrible, Boris Godunov, Peter the Carpenter and Catherine the Great; Alexander I (the nemesis of Napoleon), and Nicholas & Alexandra, the tragic last tsar and his empress; then Lenin and Stalin, Khrushchev and Gorbachev; and finally a look at Vladimir Putin and the Russia of today.

FROM ROMULUS TO THE END OF THE WORLD: A HISTORY OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC AND ROMAN EMPIRE
PROF. NIKOLAUS HOHMANN
An Empire before there was an Emperor, and an Emperor who led a Republic — the history of ancient Rome is filled with surprising developments and astonishing people who created one of the most successful states and one of the most influential cultures in World History. The Roman world became a major foundation for the nations of Western Civilization and inspired emulation by countless leaders across the centuries, including the men and women who created the American Republic. In a rollicking ride across 1,000 years from Romulus to Ruin, we will meet some of the most famous personalities in history and be entertained by their heroics, their antics, by their thought-provoking words and their remarkable achievements.
“NOTHING TO FEAR:”
NEW LIGHT ON THE NEW DEAL
 PROF. CHRIS O’SULLIVAN

Historians have long contended that the New Deal was one of the most groundbreaking political eras in American History. This course will explore the key characters in that story, from the President himself and his extraordinary wife, Eleanor, to major figures such as Frances Perkins, Harry Hopkins, Henry Wallace, Harold Ickes, and many more. We’ll revisit FDR’s path to the presidency, his policies during the Great Depression and his unprecedented four consecutive landslide elections. The course will feature in-depth reassessments of the most enduring controversies of the era such as economic policy, the ideological character of the New Deal, the struggle for civil rights, clashes with the Supreme Court, and the New Deal’s influence on American life and culture.

ALTA CALIFORNIA:
THE LOST HISTORY OF A BYGONE PROVINCE
 PROF. CHRIS O’SULLIVAN

California’s history is undergoing constant reconsideration, as fresh discoveries and innovative research reveal new perspectives on the past and challenge old assumptions. This course will explore the saga of California history from its distinctive geography and the rich diversity of Indian life, to the discovery of gold in 1848. Special attention will be given to the California Indians; Spanish, English, and Russian exploration; the Spanish and Mexican eras; American interest in California; the legendary Bear Flag Revolt; the Mexican-American War in California; and the beginnings of the Gold Rush era.

CALIFORNIA IN A GILDED AGE:
GOLD RUSH TO EARTHQUAKE, 1848 – 1906
 PROF. CHRIS O’SULLIVAN

Exploring California’s history in the second half of the 19th century, this course tells the dramatic story of the key characters and events from the discovery of gold in 1848 to the 1906 earthquake. Special attention will be given to the Gold Rush era, the rise and fall of the infamous Barbary Coast, the era of the Silver Barons and the Big Four railroad tycoons, the rise of the “imperial cities” of San Francisco and Los Angeles and the emergence of a distinctive California culture, culminating in the devastating earthquake of 1906 and San Francisco’s inspiring rise from the ashes.

THE GOLDEN STATE
IN AMERICAN CENTURY
 PROF. CHRIS O’SULLIVAN

This class will explore the cultural and political trends shaping California during the transformational 20th century. We will investigate the Progressive Era, the explosive population growth of the 1920s, the harrowing Great Depression and World War II, the postwar rise of car culture and Los Angeles’s emergence as a megalopolis, and California’s jarring transformation into a mega-state. The course will profile cultural icons such as Robinson Jeffers, Dashiell Hammett, Raymond Chandler, John Steinbeck, and Upton Sinclair, as well as consequential public figures such as Hiram Johnson, Earl Warren, and Pat Brown.
INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM  RABBI STEPHEN PEARCE
Exploring texts from biblical, inter-testamental, rabbinic, medieval, and modern periods, this course will introduce students to diverse Jewish cultural expressions and core beliefs—from God, Torah, Israel to contemporary thought, history — from the Genesis narratives to the Holocaust, the creation of the State of Israel and modern Jewish Movements; and life and holiday cycles—including the liturgical calendar and celebrations. This focus on adaptation of religion and culture to changing times and circumstances will deepen an understanding of the origins and transformative nature of Jewish identity.

URGENT ISSUES, EVERYDAY POLITICS: PROF. DAVID PERITZ
DOMESTIC & INTERNATIONAL POLICY
ISSUES IN THE MIDST OF NATIONAL ELECTIONS
After another national election, there is still a deficit of serious political discourse despite a surfeit of issues. Internationally, the Islamic State’s pivot toward the ‘far enemy’, the ongoing bloodletting in Syria, an increasingly assertive China and Russia, the failure of the Arab awakening, and the inexorable advance of global climate change — all speak to dangerous times and America’s weakened capacity to influence world affairs. Domestically, partisan polarization makes it difficult for the nation to coalesce around even the most urgent political issues. Can national elections focus political attention on these serious issues, perhaps even generating the will to address them, or will our politics fall short of the urgency of the moment? This course will examine the policy issues at stake and survey potential solutions — always considering their political viability.

T.R. TO TRUMP: THE CHANGING NATURE OF PROF. JOHN ROTHMANN
THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY
The U.S. Presidency has evolved and changed during the 20th Century. This course will examine the impact of each individual president elected to this highest office in our nation. How do Presidents impact domestic policy, foreign policy and the power of the office? How important is stability in the presidential personality when it comes to being an effective chief executive? How are presidents judged by history? All of this and more will be integrated into eight lectures and reviewed during the course, as we study those from the thirty-third to the forty-fifth Presidents of these United States.

THE HISTORY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY  PROF. JOHN ROTHMANN
The Democratic Party has been a part of the fabric of American history since its founding in 1792. It is the oldest functioning political party in the world. Beginning with the election of Thomas Jefferson in 1800, the Democratic Party has sometimes been on the winning side — and sometimes on the losing side of the American political drama. This course will explore the Democratic Party through its candidates, its evolution from a classic conservative party to a liberal party including its struggles from the Civil War, to the Vietnam war and beyond.
ProBLEmS oF PoLITICAL LEADErSHIP                      PROF. JoHn roTHMANN
In AmErICA
This course will examine how we select our political leaders. The role of the media, polls, endorsements and more will be discussed. We will examine the importance of rhetoric in American public life. How important is religion in America and what role does it play in our political life? Issues involving impeachment and the role of the 25th Ammendment will be discussed and defined. How important is the Vice-President historically and today? All of this will be explored and more.

JErUSALEm: ProF. JoHn roTHmAnn
HISTorY, rELIGIon, PoLITICS
This course will give a comprehensive historical overview, a religious view from Islamic, Christian and Jewish perspectives and finally a full political evaluation from all points of view! Is there a solution? We will try to answer that question at the end of the class.

INTERESTED IN BRINGING THE FROMMCAST TO YOUR ELDER LIVING FACILITY OR GIVING IT AWAY AS A PRESENT TO YOUR FAMILY MEMBER WHO CAN'T ATTEND THE FROMM INSTITUTE. CONTACT THE FROMM INSTITUTE FOR MORE INFORMATION BY PHONE (415-422-6805) OR BY EMAIL (fromm@usfca.edu). GROUP VIEWING DISCOUNTS ARE AVAILABLE.
ArCHEoLoGY & THE BIBLE ProF. PAtRICK HUnT

Archaeology is the study of the past based on what survives from material culture. As is, the discipline as variously practiced will always be based on fragmentary knowledge from finds and not necessarily in agreement with ancient texts, especially those considered by some as scripture. How closely do traditions, text and material history match or not? Often considered mythological, here we examine the possible contexts for Moses and literary events like the Exodus as well as David, Solomon, Ahab, Hezekiah and sites of ancient Israel like Jerusalem, Beer Sheba and Megiddo that archaeology continues to reveal along with contemporary cultures like ancient Egypt, Assyria and Babylon, acknowledging different points of view ranging from minimalism to maximalism.

FLorEnCE: WITH AND WITHOUT THE mEDICI ProF. SUnnIE EvErS

Everyone goes to Florence – drinks chianti, devours pasta, and walks the cobblestones of medieval streets and lengthy corridors crowded with ancient, medieval and renaissance art. Fifteenth-century Florence was an exciting place to be. In 1425 Florence had a population of 60,000 and was a self-governed, independent city-state. What happened to transform a sleepy medieval city into a thriving hotbed of innovation? What inspired Florentines to produce a profusion of brilliant ideas and great art, that include Brunelleschi’s dome, Botticelli’s Primavera, Leonardo’s Adoration, Michelangelo’s David and Vasari’s decoration of the monumental Salone dei Cinquecento. Florentines believed themselves to be living in a new age, “reborn” into an era of brilliance not seen since antiquity. Recently, a Harvard Business Review article claimed that “Renaissance Florence was a better model for innovation than Silicon Valley!” Innovation and talent need patrons and the Medici were extraordinary spotters of talent and patrons of creative genius, and they inspired others to follow suit. This course will take you inside the heart of Florence from its Roman foundation in the 1st century BCE to its transformation into Medici ducal court in the 16th century.

VIDEO COURSES

WAGNER WITHOUT FEAR: ADVENTURES WITH THE GREAT GENIUS OF GERMAN OPERA

Richard Wagner was the towering figure of Nineteenth Century Opera, a genius whose work affected virtually every other composer of his time. His operas can be daunting, exciting, stirring, and demanding, all at the same time. Let’s take a close look at Wagner’s world and discover what lies behind the music, as we watch him grow in power and influence, and glimpse the people, events, and controversies that made his life and art so fascinating. We’ll use video examples to examine in detail his majestic and mythic music dramas. No previous opera background required. Just watch, listen, and enjoy.

PUCCINI PLEASE: THE LIFE, TIMES, AND MUSIC OF THE WORLD’S FAVORITE OPERA COMPOSER

Opera fans love Giacomo Puccini. The last of the great Italian opera composers, he never fails to thrill us with his soaring melodies or to move us with his pathos. But let’s take a closer look at Puccini’s world and discover what lies behind the music, as we watch Puccini evolve from a composer in the grand tradition of Italian opera into a ground-breaking exponent of supercharged post-Romantic “verismo.” We’ll search for the real people and true stories behind his operas, and uncover fascinating details about Puccini’s, often tumultuous, career. We’ll investigate his life and art in their historical context and use video examples to examine in detail his emotionally stirring music dramas. No previous opera background required. Just watch, listen, and enjoy.

ARCHEOLOGY & THE BIBLE

Archaeology is the study of the past based on what survives from material culture. As is, the discipline as variously practiced will always be based on fragmentary knowledge from finds and not necessarily in agreement with ancient texts, especially those considered by some as scripture. How closely do traditions, text and material history match or not? Often considered mythological, here we examine the possible contexts for Moses and literary events like the Exodus as well as David, Solomon, Ahab, Hezekiah and sites of ancient Israel like Jerusalem, Beer Sheba and Megiddo that archaeology continues to reveal along with contemporary cultures like ancient Egypt, Assyria and Babylon, acknowledging different points of view ranging from minimalism to maximalism.

FLORENCE: WITH AND WITHOUT THE MEDICI

Everyone goes to Florence – drinks chianti, devours pasta, and walks the cobblestones of medieval streets and lengthy corridors crowded with ancient, medieval and renaissance art. Fifteenth-century Florence was an exciting place to be. In 1425 Florence had a population of 60,000 and was a self-governed, independent city-state. What happened to transform a sleepy medieval city into a thriving hotbed of innovation? What inspired Florentines to produce a profusion of brilliant ideas and great art, that include Brunelleschi’s dome, Botticelli’s Primavera, Leonardo’s Adoration, Michelangelo’s David and Vasari’s decoration of the monumental Salone dei Cinquecento. Florentines believed themselves to be living in a new age, “reborn” into an era of brilliance not seen since antiquity. Recently, a Harvard Business Review article claimed that “Renaissance Florence was a better model for innovation than Silicon Valley!” Innovation and talent need patrons and the Medici were extraordinary spotters of talent and patrons of creative genius, and they inspired others to follow suit. This course will take you inside the heart of Florence from its Roman foundation in the 1st century BCE to its transformation into Medici ducal court in the 16th century.

PUCCINI PLEASE: THE LIFE, TIMES, AND MUSIC OF THE WORLD’S FAVORITE OPERA COMPOSER

Opera fans love Giacomo Puccini. The last of the great Italian opera composers, he never fails to thrill us with his soaring melodies or to move us with his pathos. But let’s take a closer look at Puccini’s world and discover what lies behind the music, as we watch Puccini evolve from a composer in the grand tradition of Italian opera into a ground-breaking exponent of supercharged post-Romantic “verismo.” We’ll search for the real people and true stories behind his operas, and uncover fascinating details about Puccini’s, often tumultuous, career. We’ll investigate his life and art in their historical context and use video examples to examine in detail his emotionally stirring music dramas. No previous opera background required. Just watch, listen, and enjoy.

FLORENCE: WITH AND WITHOUT THE MEDICI

Everyone goes to Florence – drinks chianti, devours pasta, and walks the cobblestones of medieval streets and lengthy corridors crowded with ancient, medieval and renaissance art. Fifteenth-century Florence was an exciting place to be. In 1425 Florence had a population of 60,000 and was a self-governed, independent city-state. What happened to transform a sleepy medieval city into a thriving hotbed of innovation? What inspired Florentines to produce a profusion of brilliant ideas and great art, that include Brunelleschi’s dome, Botticelli’s Primavera, Leonardo’s Adoration, Michelangelo’s David and Vasari’s decoration of the monumental Salone dei Cinquecento. Florentines believed themselves to be living in a new age, “reborn” into an era of brilliance not seen since antiquity. Recently, a Harvard Business Review article claimed that “Renaissance Florence was a better model for innovation than Silicon Valley!” Innovation and talent need patrons and the Medici were extraordinary spotters of talent and patrons of creative genius, and they inspired others to follow suit. This course will take you inside the heart of Florence from its Roman foundation in the 1st century BCE to its transformation into Medici ducal court in the 16th century.
Audio Courses

GREAT FEDERAL POWER & DUE PROCESS CASES
PROF. MARTIN CARCIERI

The constitutional disputes the Supreme Court is called on to resolve arise under two kinds of provisions in our founding document: grants of governmental power like the Taxing, Spending, Commerce, and Commander in Chief clauses, and protections of civil rights and liberties like the Free Speech, Free Exercise, Equal Protection, and Due Process clauses. In the first half of this course, we shall examine select landmark cases on the constitutional power of Congress, the President and the Federal Courts, including the 2012 ruling upholding the Affordable Care Act. In the second half of the course, we shall examine major Due Process cases in three areas of enduring controversy: gay rights, abortion, and the right to die. Those who take this course will deepen their command of both sides of U.S. constitutional law.

"THE RING OF THE NIBELUNG: MUSIC, MYTH & MEANING"
PROF. JIM KEOLKER

Wagner’s four-opera saga, The Ring of the Nibelung is one of opera's peak experiences with its epic power and music of transcendent beauty. In addition to examining these awesome music-dramas, we’ll discuss the many myths Wagner used, his distinctive poetry, his system of musical motifs, his political and social evolution, his challenging anti-Semitism, and the various stagings of the Ring. This will be an excellent introduction to newcomers as well as provide preparation for those more experienced for the forthcoming performances at the San Francisco Opera.

THE FEDERALIST PAPERS: PART ONE
PROF. MARTIN CARCIERI

Among other functions, political theory justifies power, limits on power, rights, and limits on rights. The Federalist Papers are thus not only the original political theory of the U.S. Constitution, but also some of the greatest political theory the world has known. Written mostly by Madison and Hamilton, these 84 essays aimed to convince key state conventions to ratify the proposed Constitution of 1787. To understand what they were responding to, we begin with a walk through the Constitution and an overview of leading arguments by the Antifederalists, who opposed its ratification. The bulk of the course will then examine key passages from the first 44 Federalist Papers. Those who take this course will deepen their understanding of the U.S. Constitution at a time when that understanding is as important as ever.

BEYOND THE BORGIAS
PROF. ALBERT JONSEN

The Borgia name has become synonymous with the debased standards of the Papacy of the Roman Catholic Church at the conclusion of the 15th and the beginning of the 16th centuries. While the arts and education flourished under the reign of Alexander VI, so did the abuses of power and corruption of religious authority. Against an evolving backdrop of ecclesiastical graft and clerical indulgence emerged the movement we call the Reformation and the creation of new national Protestant churches. This course will look beyond the time of this Italian papacy and examine the dissolution of Christian unity in Europe. It will review the Protestant movement and the reforms to the Catholic Church that these turbulent times evoked.
BETWEEN TWO FIRES: EUROPEAN POLITICS, CULTURE & SOCIETY IN THE 20S AND 30S

PROF. DAVID CLAY LARGE

In the decades following World War I, Europeans, along with the rest of the world, desperately hoped for a prolonged peace, economic recovery, and social healing. Instead they got the rise of murderous dictatorships, social strife, and the most catastrophic economic meltdown the modern world had ever seen. Yet at the same time there were brief moments of economic promise, as well as sustained technological progress and tremendous cultural achievement. This course offers a comprehensive re-examination, based on the latest research, of the tumultuous years separating the two world wars. To better illuminate the European situation, the lectures will include occasional comparative glances at developments elsewhere, especially in the USA.

FAMOUS TRIALS & TRIAL LAWYERS

PROF. CURTIS CATON

High drama and enduring social lessons emerge from many cases that don’t always become the subject of Supreme Court opinions. We’ll focus on the trial process and its players — judge, jury, litigants and their counsel — against the historical backdrop of contentious issues like the “Red Scare” (Sacco/Vanzetti and the Rosenbergs); race (O.J. Simpson); and the defenses of insanity and diminished capacity (Leopold/Loeb and Dan White, the killer of Moscone and Milk). Memorable “test cases” will also be examined: the Scopes Monkey Trial (religious fundamentalism vs. evolution) and the recent challenge to Proposition 8’s ban on same-sex marriage in California. And we’ll highlight the talents of trial lawyers, some long forgotten and others as legendary as Abraham.

DIFFICULT DILEMMAS: SOCIAL/POLITICAL

PROBLEMS THAT CHALLENGE OUR LEGAL SYSTEM

PROF. CURTIS CATON

This course will explore a series of contemporary topics that pose stark policy choices involving legal, moral and financial complications for our society. The challenging subjects will include: poverty, homelessness and the civil legal representation of the poor; immigration, asylum and social welfare; terrorism and due process; ethical constraints for judges and lawyers; business economics vs. environmental sensitivity; drugs, prisons and the purposes of punishment; health care and the limits of congressional power; and weapons of limited destruction.

DONIZETTI’S DAZZLING OPERAS

PROF. JAMES KEOLKER

While born into the darkest poverty, Donizetti rose to become one of the most prolific and imaginative composers of the golden age of Italian opera. We will explore his most dazzling and melodic operas, among them “Anna Bolena,” “Lucrezia Borgia,” and “Lucia di Lammermoor” as well as his tune-filled comedies, “The Elixir of Love,” “Daughter of the Regiment,” and “Don Pasquale.” In addition, we will discuss his rarely heard but sensational “Imelda d’Lambertazzi,” “The Siege of Calais,” “Poliuto,” “Maria Padilla,” “Linda di Chamounix,” “La Favorite, Rosmonda d’Inghilterra” and “Dôm Sébastien.” This class is designed for those new to opera as well as those more experienced.

ROMANCE & GRANDEUR OF RUSSIAN OPERA

PROF. JAMES KEOLKER

There is a sonic splendor in Russian opera like no other, so we will explore the epic sounds of Mussorgsky’s “Boris Godunov” and Borodin’s “Prince Igor,” examine the opulent orchestration of Rimsky-Korsakov’s “Czar Saltan,” “Sadko” and “Coq d’Or,” thrill to the romantic melodies of Tchaikovsky’s “Eugene Onegin” and “The Queen of Spades,” laugh at the brilliant characterizations of Shostakovich’s “Lady MacBeth of Mtsensk,” and consider the profundity of Prokofiev’s “War and Peace.” Those new to opera as well as those more experienced are most welcome.
“THE REAL GIRLS OF THE GOLDEN WEST”  PROF. CHRIS O’SULLIVAN
Professor Chris O’Sullivan will take us on an exploration of the cultural gold rush, beginning with one of its most eloquent chroniclers, Louise Clappe, whose letters, under the pen name "Dame Shirley," are a primary source for the opera "Girls of the Golden West." We will also look at the careers and exploits of other notable women of the west such as Lola Montez, Lotta Crabtree, Mary Ellen Pleasant, Helen Hunt Jackson, and the scandalous Adah Menken.

“THE GIRLS OF THE GOLDEN WEST”  PROF. KIP CRANNA
The world premiere of John Adams and Peter Sellars’ Girls of the Golden West at San Francisco Opera dramatically highlighted little-known aspects of the California Gold Rush in the early 1850s, as cultures and personalities collided in the scramble for instant wealth. Sourced from historical writings, the opera looked past the romanticized Hollywood image of this crucial period in California history. Rather it examined remarkable real-life characters, including some extraordinary women, who flocked to the Gold Country hoping to strike it rich, only to have their optimism clash with the greed, violence, and prejudice of a rapidly changing world. San Francisco Opera’s dramaturg Kip Cranna will explore the opera's background and historical sources and present video excerpts of this remarkable new work.

“FRANK SINATRA: THE MAN & HIS MUSIC”  PROF. SUNNY BUXTON
The afternoon program will include clips from Mr. Sinatra’s television series featuring some of Jazz's greatest performers as his special guests: Ella Fitzgerald, Antonio Carlos Jobim and Count Basie among others. Also, there will be clips from a "Rat Pack" performance will be a part of the presentation and followed by an extensive discussion of Sinatra’s importance in the music business. December 12th also happens to be Frank Sinatra’s birthday. Come hear “the man and his music” and celebrate Frank’s 102nd birthday!

HAMILTON, THE MUSICAL  PROF. JONATHAN BAILEY
The New York Times has noted “It’s one of the most talked about Broadway shows since “The Book of Mormon.” Why? It’s a theatrical rarity: a critically acclaimed work, written by a young composer. That it’s told through the language and rhythms of hip-hop and R&B — genres that remain mostly foreign to the musical theater tradition — has put it in contention to redefine what an American musical can look and sound like.” Tune in to a favorite Fromm Institute faculty member who'll ask (and answer) the question “What’s all the fuss about “Hamilton?”

ALEXANDER HAMILTON, THE MAN, MYTH AND LEGEND  PROF. CHRIS O’SULLIVAN
While the Washington Monument commemorates the man Alexander Hamilton so loyally served, and the Jefferson Memorial honors the man he so vigorously opposed, there are no grandiose monuments to Hamilton on the National Mall, or elsewhere. Instead, he graces the ten-dollar bill, perhaps appropriately, as Hamilton’s true monument was the financial system he created. Professor Chris O’Sullivan will lead us on a journey deep into the life and legacy of this least understood of the Founding Fathers, exploring why Hamilton provoked so much controversy, and how his historical reputation has fluctuated so wildly since his tragic death, in a duel with Vice President Aaron Burr, in 1804.
FIFTY SHADES OF BLACK: POWER, STYLE, MYSTERY & BONDAGE

The color black was there at the very beginning. For thousands of years black has been associated with certain aspects of clothing. It is very ubiquitous: powerful, humbling, “self-negating”, erotic, elegant, luxurious and destructive. Often associated with evil, sin, the devil and mourning; it has also stood for positive meanings: temperance, humility and asceticism. So it can be both pious and perverse, sacred and profane. The lecture explores black in relation to certain moments of historical fashion and the various ways that black is expressed today. How does it relate to the body? What does it expose, reveal or cover? What black fabrics are used? What are the social and symbolic references that are expressed? A question: Are you ready to clothe yourself in black and if so, why?

THE OPTICS OF DESTRUCTION

In this presentation we’ll investigate the relationship between a group of photographs, made in the aftermath of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, and selected Renaissance depictions of Roman ruins in Italy. Arnold Genthe (1869-1942) took the photographs, and various artists made the prints. How the examination of images of ruins helps to explicate certain aspects of human history is the unifying theme of the presentation. All visual materials are from the permanent collection in the Achenbach Foundation at the Palace of Legion of Honor, San Francisco.

THE OBAMA YEARS: HISTORY & HOPE

The dramatic years of the Obama presidency have concluded. This lecture examines the ups and downs of his time in office. Over eight years, President Obama had a tremendous impact on America and the world. Prof. Rothmann describes his major triumphs and the failures, both at home and abroad. How will Obama be judged by history? How has his presidency affected our lives? If Obama had been able to run for re-election would he have won? All of these questions will be explored as we examine the two terms of our 44th President.

Fromm Institute Documentary Film

OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW BETTER

“Old Enough to Know Better” tells the story of seven “older people” who are students or teachers at the Fromm Institute. Here there are no exams, no grades and no graduation. These people who could relax in retirement, go back to college because it brings them back to life and they do it to take control of their aging. Filmed as the 20th Century was ending, this documentary presents an inspiring and positive way for older people to live again and participate in the 21st century.

EVEN MORE COURSES TO COME IN SUMMER 2018!

FROMM ON FILM

These short (15 minute) takes on cinema from the Bay Area’s hatted Hollywood historian and critic — and Fromm Institute ‘star’ professor — encompass eight topics in a way that are both effervescent and evocative. Explore “The Best” and “The Worst” of 2016. Watch as Jan Wahl guides you to “Stars Who Should Have Won An Oscar,” “Great Movie Locations,” “Music in the Movies,” “Real to Reel,” “Movie Laughter,” “Sports on Film” and “Politics on the Big Screen.” Enjoy her views and revisit some classic (and not so classic) moments from the silver screen.

FROMM INSTITUTE DOCUMENTARY FILM

OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW BETTER

“Old Enough to Know Better” tells the story of seven “older people” who are students or teachers at the Fromm Institute. Here there are no exams, no grades and no graduation. These people who could relax in retirement, go back to college because it brings them back to life and they do it to take control of their aging. Filmed as the 20th Century was ending, this documentary presents an inspiring and positive way for older people to live again and participate in the 21st century.

EVER MORE COURSES TO COME IN SUMMER 2018!

READING SHAKESPEARE: DIFFICULTIES AND DELIGHTS

This fifty-minute lecture aims to explain what difficulties beginning readers of Shakespeare confront, how they can be overcome, and what pleasures await them. Shakespeare’s style can pose a particular problem for beginning readers, but once some features of this style are clear, newcomers to his work will learn to see how its many facets provide many pleasures. Language, style, and some remarks about Shakespeare’s theatre and his time seek to round out a picture of the man and, hopefully, give glimpses of his greatness.

VIDEO LECTURES

PROF. WILLIAM EDDELMAN

PROF. JOHN ROTHMANN

PROF. JAN WAHL

PROF. RODGER BIRT

PROF. MANFRED WOLF

PROF. MANFRED WOLF
All on-line students will enroll through the Fromm Institute Office as a first contact, in person or by phone (415-422-6805) or by email (fromm@usfca.edu). On-line students should wait one business day for the on-line enrollment to be processed.

After 24 hours, head to the Fromm website, fromm.usfca.edu, and click on Frommcast. This will take you to the sign-up page (see below) and click “JOIN THIS CHANNEL.”

Your first visit to the Frommcast site? Hit these words first.

After selecting, “Join This Channel,” you will be prompted to enter your name, email address, and create a password. (Passwords should contain letters and at least one number and require a capital letter as well.)

Once you completed this, click on the button “Join Channel.”

Wait one business day for your authentication. Make note of the email you used, and the password you’ve created. The Fromm Institute staff will not have access to this information. If you forget your password you will need to have it reset. You can use the “Forgot Password?” link on the “Sign In” Page. (See image below.)

Upon receiving your approval email, you can now start your Winter 2018 Frommcast membership. Just return to the Fromm website, click on Frommcast and you’ll be taken to the “Sign In” page. Now enter your email and password again, and start enjoying the Frommcast.

CONTINUING ON?
To renew your access to the Frommcast Library, contact the Fromm Institute Office in person (Fromm Hall Rm. 102), by phone (415-422-6805) or by Email (fromm@usfca.edu) then enjoy all the new learning experiences the Frommcast offers.