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*Lifelong Learning*

— in partnership with —



**FAIRLEIGH  
DICKINSON  
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FellowshipLIFE has partnered with Fairleigh Dickinson University to bring you a unique opportunity for intellectual growth and enrichment. Our Virtual Lifelong Learning program will bring world class academics to you throughout the year.

# Virtual Lifelong Learning Schedule

## SPRING 2024

**Friday, February 2**

**12:00pm - 1:00pm**

### **“Democratic Erosion”**

Prof. John Schiemann

Democracy is under threat across the globe and at home. This new threat is not from communism or terrorism but comes from within: the erosion of democratic norms and institutions by citizens and elites.

**Friday, March 1**

**12:00pm - 1:00pm**

### **“Understanding American Politics through *The Federalist*”**

Prof. Bruce Peabody

More than two centuries after they were written, The Federalist Papers continue to unlock secrets in today's political world. Join Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay in peeling back the curtain on the challenges and dysfunction of the twenty first century and pointing the way to solutions. Bruce Peabody is a professor of Government and Politics at Fairleigh Dickinson University, and the author of several books including *Where Have All the Heroes Gone?: The Changing Nature of American Valor*.

**Thursday, March 21**

**12:00pm - 1:00pm**

### **“Trying to fit in:**

### **Italian-American Dreams”**

Prof. Gloria Pastorino

The lecture explores some of the hardships Italian-American men had to face trying to fit into the new world. Through historical accounts, films, and excerpts from novels and poems, the lecture aims at showing at what cost the integration of the fourth-largest ethnic group in America was achieved.

**Thursday, March 28**

**12:00pm - 1:00pm**

### **“Beyond Homemakers:**

### **Italian-American Women”**

Prof. Gloria Pastorino

This lecture is a companion piece to the first one (even though there is no need to attend both). It focuses solely on the experience of women and on the struggle to fit in and get emancipated from their patriarchal culture to become more “American.” The lecture will quote novels, poems, films, and offer a historical frame.

**Friday, April 5**

**12:00pm - 1:00pm**

### **“Vanishing Wings: The Toll of the Built Environment for Birds”**

Prof. Elise Morton

This lecture explores the detrimental impact of human development on bird populations and their habitats.

**Thursday, April 18**

**12:00pm - 1:00pm**

### **“The Rise and Fall of the Berlin Wall”**

Prof. Robert Houle

On the morning of August 13, 1961, Berliners woke up to find their beloved city being torn in two. Panicked residents tried to get out while combat engineers unrolled barbed wire and laid the first bricks, but for most, it was too late. Why did the Berlin Wall go up? Why did it go down when it did? And how did Berliners live with and try to overcome the barrier in the intervening years? This lecture will answer those questions by exploring the heroics and tragedies connected with a divided Berlin.

**Friday, April 19**

**12:00pm - 1:00pm**

### **“Understanding the Wizard of Oz”**

Prof. Cordelia Siporin

*The film viewing will take place before the lecture and will be coordinated by your Life Enrichment Director.*

According to the Library of Congress, 1939's *The Wizard of Oz* is famously "the most seen film in movie history," and is internationally recognized as one of the most influential and beloved films of all time. However, reception of *Oz* was not always as warm as it has since become. The once wildly popular turn-of-the-century original *Oz* stage musical that predated the film was still fresh in the memories of audiences of the late 1930s, and differences between the musical, the book, and the film were cause for some contention. This discussion will take a look at "Oz Before the Rainbow," the various influences and circumstances that led to the creation of the 1939 film, fascinating behind-the-scenes production information, and will delve into the reasons for *Oz*'s eventual rise popularity, and how the film found its way down the yellow brick road of movie history.