FELLOWSHIPLIFE
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FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY

Lifelong Learning

In partnership with Fairleigh Dickinson University

WINTER – SPRING 2026

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Virtual Lifelong Learning Schedule

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*3-Part Series: Using Basic International Relations Theory to Understand World Events

Prof. Kyle Kattelman

*Friday, January 9

Realism vs. Liberalism

This lecture will introduce the central components of realism and liberalism, the concept of anarch in international relations, and the similarities and differences between the two theories.

*Friday, January 16

Liberalism and the War on Terror

This lecture uses the theory of liberalism to explain the underlying logic behind the US invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan and their postwar efforts to remake the two states into democracies.

*Friday, January 23

Realism and the War in Ukraine

This lecture uses the theory of realism to explain Putin's motives behind the invasion, as well as the US response across the Biden and Trump administrations.

Thursday, January 29

From Private Maggio to War Brides, to Real-Life Italian-American Soldiers in WWII

Prof. Gloria Pastorino

The presence of a secondary but pivotal Italian-American character in one of the most famous films of the 1950s (From Here to Eternity, Fred Zinnemann, 1953) marks the beginning of acceptance and assimilation of Italian immigrants by mainstream media. The switch in perception starts during World War II when Italian-American citizens distinguished themselves on battlefields across the world, defending their country against the Axis powers that included their families' country of origin. This lecture explores the fictional depiction and real-life effort of Italian-American soldiers in World War II and the post-war bond between Italy and the US that pushed a new wave of emigrants to America.

Thursday, February 5

Old Ways in the New World: the Arduous Journey of Italian-American Women

Prof. Gloria Pastorino

Drawing from novels, poems, and films by Italian-American women, this lecture focuses on the experience of Italian-American women in the twentieth century and on their struggle to fit in and get emancipated from their patriarchal culture in order to become more "American."

Thursday, February 12

Tenement Life in Mario Puzo's The Fortunate Pilgrim, Pietro Di Donato's Christ in Concrete, and Helen Barolini's Umbertina

Prof. Gloria Pastorino

This lecture offers an analysis of tenement life depicted in the three novels and of experiential tours of the Tenement Museum in New York to examine how the physical quarters of early immigrant life shaped the way Italians settled and integrated in America. The novels themselves are, obviously, enough to give an idea of what it meant to live in such close quarters, with little-to-no privacy, but walking through the narrow hallways of the building and standing in the room(s) of its minuscule apartments offers a different kind of narrative both historical and novelistic.

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Friday, February 20

The Silent Communicator: The Power of Non-Verbal Communication

Prof. Chris Caldiero

Many of us know the basics of what non-verbal communication entails. But few are aware of just how powerful non-verbal communication is and how frequently it conveys emotion and meaning. Join Dr. Chris Caldiero for a journey into the fascinating world of gestures, facial expressions, body language, cultural differences, and much more.

Friday, February 27

Kantian Deontology

Prof. John Schiemann

Immanuel Kant's thought is one of the most important for our understanding of contemporary human rights. This lecture presents Immanuel Kant's famous ethical theory based on his categorical imperative.

Friday, March 6

"The Animal Within: What Makes Human Beings So Special?"

Prof. Chris Caldiero

We as human beings have always considered ourselves the superior species on Earth. And while there is much evidence to support this notion, there is also fascinating evidence that shows that we are very similar to our animal brethren. Join Dr. Chris Caldiero for a compelling examination of the human animal. How do we communicate, relate to each other, and live our lives in many of the same ways as the "less" superior animals that share our world.

Thursday, March 12

The Origins & Outbreak of World War II: from Europe to America (1919-1941)

Prof. Gary Darden

This lecture will analyze the origins of World War II from the legacy of World War I, the Intewar crisis in Europe confounded by the Great Depression; the outbreak of the war in Europe with successful Nazi 'blitzkrieg' campaigns in Poland, Scandinavia, and Western Europe; to the United States from its Neutrality in the 1930s to its reluctant belligerence by 1940-1941.

Thursday, March 26

Turning Tides: From the Battle of Africa to Stalingrad (1941-1943)

Prof. Gary Darden

This lecture will analyze the spread of World War II from the aftermath of Nazi Germany's first failed campaign during the Battle of Britain in 1940 to the Nazi invasion of North Africa and the Soviet Union followed by its declaration of war against the United States in 1941. What ensued from 1942 into 1943 was what Winston Churchill declared: "Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning," as Nazi forces faced widespread retreat across all fronts.

Friday, April 3

Epistemology: How Do We Know the Things We Know?

Prof. Chris Caldiero

Join Dr. Chris Caldiero for a philosophical journey into one of the most interesting questions we ask about the human experience: How do we come to know the things we know (or THINK we know)? For centuries, great thinkers and scholars have pondered the question. Come find out the many ways we learn, know, and believe the things that fill the great repository of knowledge in our mind throughout our life.

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Friday, April 10
All Work and No Play Makes Jack a Dull Boy

Prof. Ian Mercer

A journey through the history of gaming and the benefits of play. Learn about the earliest games, why the were invented and explore how we can use games to teach leadership, and other team skills

Friday, April 17
A British Revolution - A Look at the Life of a Revolutionary War Soldier

Prof. Ian Mercer

Explore the uniform, living conditions, trials and tribulations of life as a Red Coat and a little of Revolutionary history from the British perspective at the start of the 250th commemorations.

Friday, April 24
Monarch Butterflies: Biology and Conservation

Prof. Harald Parzer

*3-Part Series: American Political Institutions
Prof. Kyle Kattelman

*Friday, May 1
Why Do We Have Political Parties?

This lecture explains the origin of political parties, in spite of the fact that they were never included within the Constitution. Topics cover their evolution, function and how they have evolved to become so polarized.

*Friday, May 8
Why Do We Have an Electoral College?

This lecture explains the origin of the Electoral College, including the historical logic behind its inclusion and the role that partisanship had in its subsequent evolution.

*Friday, May 15
The Connecticut Effect of the Electoral College

This lecture will cover the unintended effects that the Electoral College has on presidential elections. Several controversial elections, including 2000 and 2016, will be used to illustrate the outcome.

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