

WALL Course Descriptions

Fall 2025

Tales of the Watergate Building-Donna Green

Tuesdays, September 2, 9, 16, 23 11:00-12:00

Location: Taylor Amphitheatre

The course will emphasize the history, architecture and purpose of the iconic complex but will also include personal stories of my time living there. In addition, there will be stories about many of the famous people who have lived there. The last class will cover insider tips for visiting other Washington landmarks including some oft-missed sites. Learning to look and behave like a local might help avoid frauds and keep your tourist dollars safe.

How did a small town girl from KY end up living at the famous Watergate complex? Donna Green lived at the Watergate complex for 7 years. During this time, she roamed the city with her constant companion, “Spanky”, the world-famous dachshund. Donna visited sites of interest while her husband worked with various government agencies. Prior to actually moving to Washington, Donna and her husband made frequent visits to D.C. with plenty of time for her to explore all the well-known landmarks important to our American history.

A Brief Survey of Maya Culture-Ed Vesely

Wednesdays, September 3, 10, 17, 24 1:30-2:30

Location: Taylor Amphitheatre

The class will cover architecture, religion, numbering system, calendar and nobility of the Maya civilization. We will do some adding and subtracting using the Maya counting system and convert from the Maya calendar system to our calendar system.

I have a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from University of Illinois and an MBA from Northern Illinois University. I have 20 years’ experience teaching college level courses in these subjects. I have worked as a program manager for many companies including Northrop Grumman where I was the Program Manager on the defensive avionics system for the A-1 bomber. I have traveled to many Maya sites in Mexico and Guatemala with two professors from Florida State University who are experts in this field. I developed a course and taught about the Maya culture to home-schoolers (7th through 12th grades) that was the basis for this expanded class.

Women of the Bible-Vivia Fowler, Ph.D.

Thursdays, September 4, 11, 18, 25 1:30-2:30

Location: ZOOM / Book signing Sept. 18 at 12:30 in Burden Parlor

During four weeks in September, we will explore the fascinating stories of women in the Bible, focusing on two sections of the Hebrew Bible (Christian Old Testament) and two sections of the New Testament. Each week we will explore a major section of the Bible. In each case, we will examine the biblical text, and then I will share one of my original monologues to illustrate a woman whose life and story illustrate the theme or section of the Bible that we are studying.

Dr. Fowler was president of Wesleyan College from 2017-2022 and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Wesleyan from 2007-2017. Prior to that, she served on the religion faculty of Columbia College (SC) from 1986-2007. Her bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees are from Columbia College, The Lutheran Southern

Theological Seminary, and the University of South Carolina. She is a clergy member of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and currently serves as pastor of Epworth UMC in James Island.

Eleven Groundbreaking Women Inventors–Vince Coughlin, J.D. and LL.M.

Wednesdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22 1:30–2:30

Location: Taylor Amphitheatre

This course traces the contribution of women inventors from 1880 to 1998. The inventors are briefly described as well as their inventions.

Mr. Coughlin, founder of the WALL program, received a B.S. in Physics from Bucknell University, an M.S. in Physics from Franklin & Marshall College, a J.D. from the University of Toledo, and an LL.M. from Pennsylvania State University's Dickinson School of Law. He retired from General Electric as a Senior Patent Counsel to GE and RCA Licensing Operation. He has taught law-related courses at Harrisburg, PA, Area Community College, the University of South Carolina Aiken's Academy for Lifelong Learning, and WALL where he has served as the facilitator for Great Decisions since 2012. His interests include Constitutional Law and Lifelong Learning.

Georgia's African Brigade-Slave to Soldier-Lonnie Davis

Thursdays, October 2, 9, 16, 23 1:30–2:30

Location: Taylor Amphitheatre

During the United States Civil War, 185 thousand United States Colored Troops (USCT) fought for the Union Army and the freedom of approximately four million people of African descent. The men of the Georgia's African Brigade, which was composed of the 136th, 137th, and 138th Infantry Regiments USCT, are some of those whose contribution has not been well publicized. All the enlisted men were former slaves that were given the opportunity to fight for their freedom and, in doing so, their right to be identified as American citizens. The majority of these men were recruited during Wilson's Raid, but upon their arrival in Macon, by directions from Secretary of War Stanton via telegraph, Major General Wilson was to create three infantry regiments of 1,100 colored troops each. All the men of the Brigade were medically screened at Tattnell Square Park and organized as a 3-Regiment Brigade at a site 21 miles west of Macon in Crawford County. This site was identified as Colored Enlisted Relocation and Enumeration Site (CERES) under command of Brigadier General Andrew J. Alexander. This presentation will enlighten attendees with details of Wilson's Raid and the creation of the regiments of the Georgia's African Brigade.

As a former historian for the National Park Service (NPS), one of my responsibilities was to research and obtain information, documents, and artifacts associated with the interpretative themes designated by the Washington Support Office (WASO) of the NPS. One of the major interpretative themes identified for the NPS between 2011 and 2015 was the "Civil War to Civil Rights" program. This theme was chosen to promote the 150th anniversary of the Civil War commemoration. To participate in this program, my proposal was to tell the story of the last three United States Colored Troops (USCT) regiments of the Union Army organized under the authority of the 1863 Second Confiscation and Militia Act.

Popularism: Rise of Capitalism, the Progressive Era-Patrick Bradley

Tuesdays, October 7, 14, 21, 28 1:30-2:30

Location: Taylor Amphitheatre

This course will discuss the transformation of American economic and social structure during the late 19th and early 20th centuries to include: discussion of the factors leading up to the Progressive era, implications of the rise of trade unions, and implications of the rise of the women's suffrage movement, discussion of the

individuals involved in, and those opposed, to the movement, and constitutional amendments arising from the movement.

I have a Master's degree (ABT) from Georgia Southern University in History and taught undergraduate classes through an assistantship. As an avid student of history, I continue to read non-fiction history that has included my interest in Russian history and have taught two classes for WALL on this subject. I have also taught several insurance classes for Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) program and have spoken to groups as large as 1200 people.

Echoes from the Past-Carolyn R. Garvin, Ph.D.

Tuesdays, October 7, 14, 21, 28 3:00-4:00

Location: Taylor Amphitheatre

"From the mountains to the Piedmont to the coastal plain to the sea, Georgia is rich in tales and legends of the supernatural and in stories of the spirits of some deceased individuals that linger on in our home state because of murder, because of some traumatic event, because of some emotion that ties them to a particular place, or even because of spirits who return to particular places for no reason at all." (Troy Taylor) Debates continue about the nature of such hauntings and about the origins of ghosts or of spectres or of presences felt but not seen. According to Edgar Allen Poe, "The boundaries that divide life from death are at best shadowy and vague. Who shall say where the one ends and the other begins?" This series of classes explores strange and unusual occurrences that have taken place in Georgia over a span of years. And so, if you are curious about unexplained mysteries, about "things that go bump in the night", or about "what wicked thing this way comes", join us for the legends, folklore, and stories of supernatural events that permeate our history, for "Georgia's history is not dead, its merely wandering, rising, hovering, and drifting from place to place." (Stephen Vincent Benet)

Carolyn R. Garvin, Associate Professor Emerita Mercer University, is a life-long educator beginning her career in Bibb County Public Schools (Joseph Neel Elementary) and progressing to secondary education at Mount de Sales Academy and culminating at Tift College of Education at Mercer University. Her interest in history and story-telling led to development of this series first presented at Elderhostel at Jekyll Island.

Psychology of Fun and Games-Brooke Bennett-Day, Ph.D.

Wednesdays, October 15, 22, 29, Nov. 5 11:00-12:00

Location: Taylor Amphitheatre

This course explores the psychology behind fun and games, examining why humans engage with recreational activities and how these experiences shape us. Drawing from social, cognitive, and developmental psychology, topics may include: the developmental role of play and concept of 'flow', social and cognitive processes in video games and traditional games, psychological dimensions of game shows, and the formation of community in 'third places' and through parasocial relationships.

Dr. Brooke Bennett-Day is a Professor of Psychology at Wesleyan College whose research examines eyewitness memory, racial bias in legal contexts, and human-robot interactions. As a social psychologist, she enjoys bringing psychological concepts into the real world through fun; innovative courses that help us better understand our interactions with others.

La Boheme Opera-Mary Keating, Ed.L.D.

Fridays, October 17, 24, 31, Nov. 7 1:30-3:00

Optional Metropolitan Opera Live broadcast of La Boheme at the Douglass Theatre,

Nov. 8 at 12:30 p.m. Admission is \$20

Location: Taylor Hall, Room 221

Puccini's masterpiece was based on Henri Murger's 1851 novel, *Scènes de la vie de bohème*, a collection of vignettes portraying young bohemians living in the Latin Quarter of Paris in the 1840s. The story is set in Paris around 1830 and shows the Bohemian lifestyle (known in French as "*la bohème*") of a poor seamstress and her artist friends. *La bohème* has become part of the standard Italian opera repertory and is one of the most frequently performed operas worldwide. **This class is limited to 25 members.**

Mary Keating holds degrees in music from Indiana University and the University of Florida. She was a professional opera singer for 15 years before entering the teaching profession. She currently teaches Music Appreciation at Georgia Military College in Dublin and gives frequent informational talks before opera performances at the Douglass Theatre.

History of Jazz-Doug MacMillan

Wednesdays, November 5, 12, 19, Dec. 3 1:30-2:30

Location: Taylor Amphitheatre

Jazz has been called uniquely American music and one of America's original art forms. This course will trace the history of jazz from its origins in African music through the decades up to modern practitioners of jazz music. Milestone recordings and artists from every decade of the 20th century and beyond will be represented. Major forms of jazz will be explored including early Dixieland and Hot Jazz through swing, bebop and cool jazz to Latin jazz.

Doug MacMillan started his lifelong interest in recorded music when he was a boy ever since discovering his grandfather's 78s. He has loved jazz since a boy listening along with this Dad to music from the 40s, 50s, and 60s. During the journey we'll hear many of the classic recordings from Mr. MacMillan's extensive jazz collection, including rare early recordings from original sources that have been restored using the latest technology.

Textile Mill Life from Early 1800s to the Demise of the Industry-Ken Heller

Thursdays, November 6, 13, 20, Dec. 4 11:00-12:00

Location: Taylor Amphitheatre

This class will trace the history of textile mill life from the beginning in the early 1800s when mill life was considered very attractive, through the decline beginning around 1920 and into the labor strife and strikes of the 1930s, and then to the demise of textile mills about 1960. Much of the discussion will center on the southern mills beginning after the Civil War. Also, we will discuss childhood labor.

Mr. Heller retired to Macon after a 40+ year career in banking in the Atlanta area. He has taught several WALL classes based on extensive research and his love of history.

Knowing Yourself through the Enneagram: Reverend Sara Pugh-Montgomery

Thursdays, November 6, 13, 20, Dec. 4 1:30-2:30

Location: Benson Room (Candler Alumnae Building)

What you don't know about yourself can hurt you and your relationships. Do you want help figuring out who you are and why you're stuck in the same ruts? The Enneagram is an ancient personality typing system with an uncanny accuracy in describing how human beings are wired, both positively and negatively. You'll learn about each of the nine Enneagram types through an assessment and conversation. Through the class, you'll learn more about yourself and will start to see the world through other people's eyes, understanding how and why people think, feel, and act the way they do. **This class is limited to 35 members.**

Sara Pugh-Montgomery is the pastor at Centenary UMC and has been working with the Enneagram tool for over two decades in premarital counseling and classes. Many have become more compassionate toward themselves and others through the work of this class.