Cockefair Chair Course Schedule Fall 2017

Four More by Sondheim
William Everett, Ph.D., Curators’ Distinguished Professor of Musicology, Conservatory of Music and Dance
Fridays, 10:30 – Noon
September 8, 15, 22 and 29
UMKC Administrative Center, Plaza Room
$50 ($70 with parking permits)

Stephen Sondheim remains one of the most significant creators for the American musical theater. We’ll begin this four-week course with an overview of Sondheim’s life and work before turning to our first musical, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (1962), which was the first Broadway show for which Sondheim wrote both music and lyrics. The second week will focus on Follies (1971), a reflection on the passing of time and the choices we make, and our third session will be devoted to Sunday in the Park with George (1984), a meditation on the creative process. We’ll finish the course with Into the Woods (1987), a distinctive take on fairy tales and an exploration of what it means to be a community and the power of wishes.

The Vatican and the Popes
Theresa Torres, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Sociology
Thursdays, 10:30 – Noon
Oct. 5, 12, 19 and 26
UMKC Administrative Center, Gillham Park Room
$50 ($70 with parking permits)

This course focuses on the impact of the Vatican and the popes from late 19th century to the present. Professor Torres, scholar in religion, Catholicism, anthropology and Latinx Studies, will describe the creation of the Vatican, its physical building and the many layers of its hierarchy and leadership. The study of the popes begins with Pope Leo XIII and the development of the first papal Encyclical (letter to the world), Rerum Novarum (Of Revolutionary Change or Rights and Duties of Capital and Labor), with its focus on economic justice. More recent popes have continued this vision of social justice, particularly Popes John XIII, Paul VI, John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis. We will review their roles in developing church world social justice leadership in economic justice, peacemaking and human rights. The course will conclude with an analysis of social justice issues, including the role of women and women’s issues, sexual abuse, rights of gays and lesbians, and the church’s outreach and impact on youth.

The Transformation of the World, 1650-1720
William Ashworth, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of History
Tuesdays, 10:30 – Noon
Oct. 31, Nov. 7 and 14
Linda Hall Library Auditorium
$40 (Free parking at Linda Hall Library)

Our understanding of the world — the way it works and the way we should examine that world — underwent a profound transformation in the period between 1650 and 1720. The transformation was so drastic that we often call this a scientific revolution — the Scientific Revolution. This course will examine the major figures of this period, including Robert Boyle, Christiaan Huygens and Isaac Newton, and many of the noteworthy events, such as the acceptance of a heliocentric cosmos, the invention of the pendulum clock, the discovery of the microscopic world and the hypothesis of universal gravitation. As usual, we will have an abundance of images to help us along, and will be able to view many of the original books (such as Newton’s Principia) in the library’s History of Science Collection. This course is a sequel to one offered in Fall 2016, but it also stands alone; you do not need to have taken the previous course to feel at home.

PLEASE NOTE

Parking: Registrants may purchase parking permits at $5 per course session. Parking is available in the UMKC Cherry Street Parking Garage, located at 50th and Cherry streets. Metered parking (without a permit) is on Level 5. Handicapped spaces are available with a permit in front of and behind the Administrative Center.

No shuttle will run to and from the garage to the Administrative Center. For evening courses, parking is available with a permit behind the Administrative Center. Permits are mailed to registrants before each course.

Inclement weather policy: If the Kansas City, Missouri School District is closed, scheduled Cockefair course sessions will not meet.

For more information, visit umkc.edu/cockefairchair.
Carolyn Benton Cockefair inspired students by bringing Greek, Roman and English classics to life. Under the leadership of Selma Feld, students raised money and petitioned the University of Kansas City in 1960 to establish a chair in the name of their beloved teacher. Since then, the list of outstanding scholars the Cockefair Chair has brought to UMKC includes:

Stephen Ambrose
Russell Banks
David S. Broder
Eleanor Clift
Thomas Friedman
Carlos Fuentes
John Kenneth Galbraith
Doris Kearns Goodwin
Mary Gordon
Terry Gross
John Houseman
Molly Ivins
Tony Kushner
Barry Lopez
David McCullough

James Michener
Grace Paley
Robert Finsky
Adrienne Rich
Frank Rich
John Richardson
Robert Rubin
David Sedaris
Terry Teachout
Calvin Trillin
John Updike
Gore Vidal
Kurt Vonnegut Jr.
Tom Wolfe
Fareed Zakaria