

Adventures in Learning

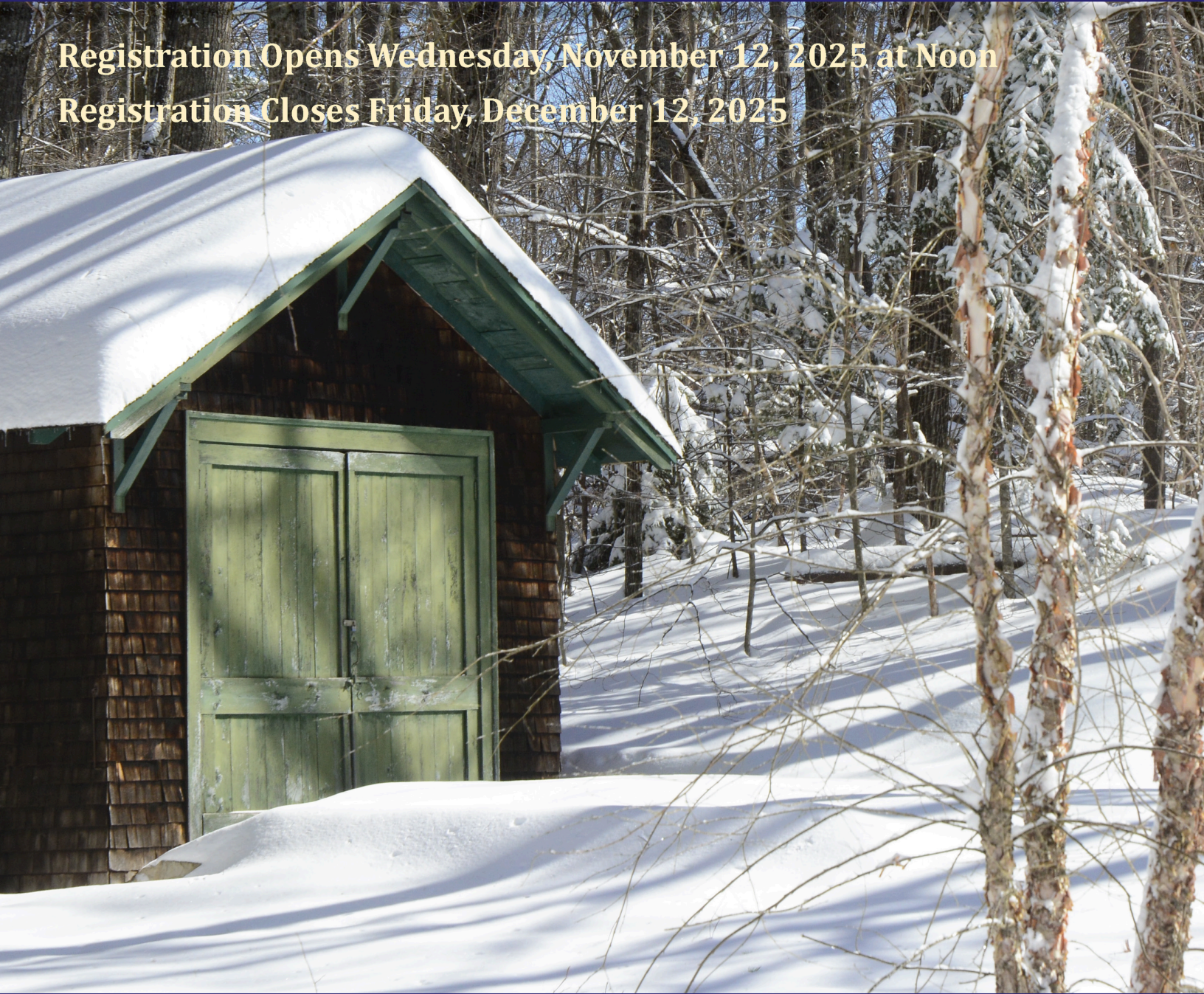
Winter 2026

Course Offerings



Registration Opens Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at Noon

Registration Closes Friday, December 12, 2025



Colby·Sawyer
College

Lifelong Learning at Colby-Sawyer College



Winter 2026 Courses

Cover Photo: "All Tucked In" by Joan Eaton

Most courses begin the week of January 19

Courses

Mondays

10 a.m.-12 p.m.	The Ceremonial Aspects of Drumming: An Exploration of a Lost Art / Julie Corey 4 weeks beginning Feb. 23 in the AIL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College
1:30-3:30 p.m.	Cuba: Friend or Foe? / Bill Helm 4 weeks beginning Jan. 19 in the AIL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College

Tuesdays

1:30-3:00 p.m.	Women Who Made a Difference / Beverly Marshall et al. 5 weeks beginning Jan. 20 in the AIL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College
1:00-3:00 p.m.	A Place in the Sun: The Movie That Entwined Elizabeth Taylor & Montgomery Clift / John Peterman 3 weeks beginning Mar. 3 in the AIL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College

Wednesdays

9:30-11:30 a.m.	10 Discoveries, Inventions & Innovations Since WWII That Changed Medical Practice / Tom Ebert 6 weeks beginning Jan. 21 in the AIL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College
1:30-3:30 p.m.	The Powers of Native American Medicine People / Nancy Marashio 8 weeks beginning Jan. 21 in the AIL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College

Thursdays

9:30-11:30 a.m.	Betwixt & Be Twain: Huck & Tom, Jim & James, Mark & Sam, & The Many Depths of the Mighty Mississippi / Jim Mathias 5 weeks beginning Jan. 22 in the AIL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College
1:30-3:30 p.m.	Admiral Booth: The World of J.M.W. Turner / David Click 5 weeks beginning Jan. 22 in the AIL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College
4:00-5:30 p.m.	Comic Gems: Studying The New Yorker Cartoons / Barclay Douglas 3 weeks beginning Mar. 5 in the AIL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in Adventures in Learning courses and presentations are those of the presenters and class participants and do not necessarily represent the views and/or opinions of AIL or Colby-Sawyer College.



Winter 2026 Courses

Courses

Courses begin the week of January 19



THE CEREMONIAL ASPECTS OF DRUMMING: AN EXPLORATION OF A LOST ART

Julie Corey

Mondays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

4 weeks beginning February 23

AIL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College

Maximum number of participants: 20

In this course, we will explore the ceremonial aspects of drumming, which can include shamanic practices that come from Indigenous places around the globe. We will share in drumming rituals that include invoking aspects of the divine feminine and goddesses of ancient times, and the priestesses that were the keepers of the drums and rituals in places like Egypt, Turkey, Greece, Malta and Crete going back 30,000 years. We will also collectively recreate the croning ceremony of the making of grandmothers to honor all women who are now in their croning years. There will be time spent with the three-foot mother drum in circle and in community.

Come to learn about these often-forgotten herstories about drumming and reawakening them in your body, mind and spirit. The course will be female-centric in nature, as we focus on the aspects of the divine feminine.

[View on ProClass](#)



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CUBA: FRIEND OR FOE?

Bill Helm

Mondays, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

4 weeks beginning January 19

ALL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College

Maximum number of participants: 30

The United States and Cuba have shared a rich history since the onset of the Spanish-American War in 1898. The objective of this course is to examine the political, military, economic and cultural events that have brought the two countries together at times and have separated them at other times, often magnified by outsized personalities: Teddy Roosevelt (Rough Riders), the Bacardi family, Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, Ernest Hemingway, Fulgencio Batista and Nikkita Khrushchev, among others. Particular attention will be given to the current dilemma of Cuban-American relations given the strong Cuban diaspora in the United States.

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WOMEN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE **Beverly Marshall et al.**

Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

5 weeks beginning January 20

AIL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College

Maximum number of participants: 40

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Jan. 20 – The Flappers: Beyond the Fringe – Beverly Marshall

This session will examine the flapper as a bold cultural figure of the 1920s, emerging in the wake of World War I and the enactment of the 19th Amendment. In many ways, flappers symbolized women's expanding freedoms, flaunting their disdain for what was considered acceptable behavior. We will explore how flappers redefined fashion, gender roles and social behavior while embracing the Jazz Age and the energy of the modern city. We will also consider key shifts in music (jazz, swing and ragtime) and literature (F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway), and reflect on both the glamour and contradictions of this transformative era.

Jan. 27 – Julia Child & Dr. Ruth Westheimer: Spicing Things Up – Steve Solomon

Despite their very different backgrounds, each of these women broke similar taboos and molds: Julia in the kitchen, Ruth in the bedroom. They were not just media personalities; they were cultural educators who used the intimacy of television to connect, inform and inspire. They made expert knowledge fun, interesting and accessible. They empowered people to take control of their lives, whether in the way they ate or in their personal relationships. Today, we see their legacy in the vast variety of television and radio shows, podcasts and websites devoted to food and personal relationships.

Feb. 3 – Margaret Fuller: Public Intellectual, Feminist, Social Activist – Kathleen Hunter

Margaret Fuller belonged to the New England intellectual community of Transcendentalists during the early 1800s. She was a contemporary of Emerson and Thoreau and was equally influential but not promoted or studied at that time – or thereafter – to the same extent. We are fortunate that a new biography has been written and her complete works have been published and reissued. Her ideas and her life are interesting and still relevant for women today.

Feb. 10 – Mrs. Jane Tracy: The Westside Social Club and Other Ideas, 1890-1938 – Jim Perkins

As a summer resident beginning in 1890, Jane Tracy took an early and unusual interest in New London's cultural welfare, with her plans for town improvements – often modeled on experience in her native Cleveland, Ohio – and later informed by her unaccompanied travels across the globe at the outbreak of World War I. This presentation looks at Jane beyond Tracy Memorial Library – at her life, travels, writings, photography and lesser-known works spanning fifty years in New London.

Feb. 17 – Women of the Wild West: Legends or History? – John Peterman

American history of 19th century western expansion is filled with tales of heroes and villains, most of them men. Yet a number of women carved out their own legacies on the frontier, and their names still echo through our culture thanks to print and digital media. Figures like Annie Oakley, Belle Starr and Calamity Jane feel larger than life, but how much of what we “know” is truth, and how much is legend? Join us as we unravel the myths and realities behind these extraordinary women, alongside others such as Stagecoach Mary, Pearl Hart and more.



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A PLACE IN THE SUN: THE MOVIE THAT ENTWINED ELIZABETH TAYLOR & MONTGOMERY CLIFT

John Peterman

Tuesdays, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

3 weeks beginning March 3

AIL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College

Maximum number of participants: 40

Elizabeth Taylor and Montgomery Clift were arguably the two most beautiful people in Hollywood's Golden Age. They first met on the set of *A Place in the Sun* (1951), a film Charlie Chaplin once called "the greatest movie ever made about America." Directed by George Stevens, the picture was nominated for seven Academy Awards and won five, including Best Director.

At just 17, a starry-eyed Elizabeth Taylor was cast opposite international heartthrob Montgomery Clift – much to his surprise, since he knew her mainly from her early *Lassie* films. What began as a professional pairing blossomed into one of the most remarkable and tragic friendships in Hollywood history.

- **Session 1 – The Players:** An introduction to Elizabeth Taylor, Montgomery Clift, Shelley Winters, director George Stevens, composer Franz Waxman and costume designer Edith Head.
- **Session 2 – The Film:** A full screening of *A Place in the Sun* (2 hours).
- **Session 3 – Beyond the Screen:** The enduring relationship between Monty and Liz, scene analysis, the origins of the story and group discussion.

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10 DISCOVERIES, INVENTIONS & CARE INNOVATIONS SINCE WWII THAT HAVE CHANGED MEDICAL PRACTICE

Tom Ebert

Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

6 weeks beginning January 21

ALL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College

Maximum number of participants: 25

Throughout this course, we will explore the impact of at least 10 discoveries, inventions and care innovations that changed medical education and medical practice. In so doing, these important landmarks have made care more standardized and consistent but, ironically, more expensive. These innovations range from the profound to the mundane, from Nobel prizes to proliferation of technology, from keen observation to the de-emphasis of the history and physical exam; but they have led to rapid discovery and rapid adoption of new therapies. The study leader will share several real cases that impacted his own professional experiences.

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THE POWERS OF NATIVE AMERICAN MEDICINE PEOPLE **Nancy Marashio**

Wednesdays, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

8 weeks beginning January 21

AIL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College

Maximum number of participants: 15

One goal of Native American attorney Vine Deloria Jr.'s *The World We Used to Live In* is to "understand the spiritual/intellectual journey of the Indian elders." Elders gained their knowledge through observation and inquiry of the physical world as well as from stories passed down by their elders. Emphases differed by tribe. Deloria argued "for the power and legitimacy of indigenous spirituality." The stories in this book are meant to be applied to daily lives; our discussions will help us to explore those possibilities.

Required text:

The World We Used to Live In: Remembering the Powers of Medicine Men

Vine Deloria, Jr.

ISBN-13: 978-1-55591-564-3

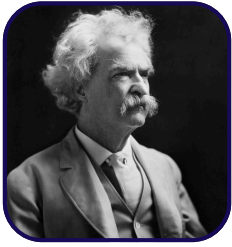
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BETWIXT AND BE TWAIN: HUCK & TOM, JIM & JAMES, MARK & SAM AND THE MANY DEPTHS OF THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI

Jim Mathias

Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

5 weeks beginning January 22

ALL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College

Maximum number of participants: 20

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain's timeless masterpiece, remains freshly celebrated, condemned and misunderstood 140 years after its publication. Forever-young Huck still resonates as a vivid and indelible personality, even in the minds of many who have never read the novel. The familiar "Tom Sawyer" will always suggest a clever rascal. The slave Jim's portrayal endures as stubbornly inscrutable. And the unpredictable river that propels them retains its starring role.

Ernest Hemingway proclaimed that "all modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called '*Huckleberry Finn*.'" H.L. Mencken first discovered "*Huck Finn*" at age 9, reread it annually for 40 years, and frequently cited it as the greatest of all American novels — one in which the expression of freedom romps across every page. This same novel has been damned and banned through the years as racist, simplistic, stereotypical and a mere children's tale. Such an enduring and controversial work of art deserves closer inspection.

Our collaborative course explores *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* in depth, considers Samuel Clemens as a writer and quintessentially American character Mark Twain, and uses the novel as a reference point to examine more broadly our role as critical readers of any work of fiction. A recent reading of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is the course's only practical prerequisite. We also reflect on Percival Everett's award-winning *James* and its modern reframing of Huck and Jim's journey down the Mississippi River. You are encouraged to read *James*, if you have time. "*Tom Sawyer*," a certain "*Celebrated Jumping Frog*," and other Twain writings may join our conversations for context, but they need not be read.

Our discussion-based course will meet for five weeks.

Required text:

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Mark Twain

ISBN-13: 978-0143107323

Recommended text:

James

Percival Everett

ISBN-13: 978-0385550369

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ADMIRAL BOOTH: THE WORLD OF J.M.W. TURNER

David Click

Thursdays, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

5 weeks beginning January 22

AIL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College

Maximum number of participants: 35

J.M.W. Turner is England's most revered artist. Talented, ambitious and eccentric, Turner began taking classes at the Royal Academy of Art at the age of 14. Over a 60-year career, he produced more than 500 oil paintings and 2,000 watercolors, stylistically covering romanticism, impressionism and the abstract. A complex artist who traveled extensively, Turner experimented with color, light and texture, influencing generations of European and American artists.

Living through a transformation in Great Britain had a major influence on Turner's work. In 1775, Turner was born into a world where London was Europe's largest city, King George III was on the throne and England was the world's preeminent sea power. By the time of his death in 1851, Queen Victoria was on the throne and Britain was a major industrial power.

This course will explore J.M.W. Turner and his world: from his mentor Sir Joshua Reynolds and his contemporary John Constable, to Turner's influence on later artists such as Thomas Cole, Claude Monet and Mark Rothko. The poet Stanley Plumly observed of Turner, "He apparently lives, simultaneously and continuously, in at least two worlds, the one in front of him and the one he is dreaming."

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COMIC GEMS: STUDYING THE NEW YORKER CARTOONS **Barclay Douglas**

Thursdays, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

3 weeks beginning March 5

AIL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College

Maximum number of participants: 40

Cartoons in *The New Yorker* magazine have a loyal following. This three-session course aims to be highly interactive, providing opportunities to explore the cartoons in detail: their commonalities, the variety of message content, select creators and what it is about them that we find appealing.

[View on ProClass](#)



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READY TO REGISTER?

**Registration opens on ProClass on Wednesday,
November 12, at noon.**

You can view all of the course details and learn more about the study leaders any time by visiting

<https://reg139.imperisoft.com/ail/Search/Registration.aspx>.

If you haven't yet created a ProClass account or renewed your ALL membership, you can use the link above to manage your membership and registrations, as well as browse current offerings.

If you need technical assistance with this process, [click here](#) for a step-by-step guide.

If you run into any unanticipated challenges in the process, feel free to email (adventures@colby-sawyer.edu) or call the office (603-526-3434) for further assistance; we are happy to help!