



SUMMER SESSION 2020

Virtual Learning from June 1 - June 25



The Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning
at the University of San Francisco

LOOK AT YOUR CHOICES

Full descriptions and faculty biographies appear on pages 4 through 7. Instructions on “how to enroll” are on the next page. Classes meet online via Zoom and run four weeks from June 1 until June 25.

MONDAY

10 a.m. - 11:40 a.m. Prof. David Peritz

Alone Together in an Age of Social Distancing: What Becomes of Humanity When Most of Life Transpires Online?

TUESDAY

1 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. Prof. James Sokol

Exploring Opera: Love, Laughter, Madness & Death

WEDNESDAY

1 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. Prof. Chris O’Sullivan

Exploring the Golden State: A Readers’ Journey Through California History

THURSDAY

1 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. Prof. Andrew Fraknoi

Getting out Where There is NO Virus: A Tourist's Tour of the Solar System and Galaxy



COVER PHOTO BY ELENA SHEEHAN

*What we see is only appearance.
Art does not reproduce the visible;
Rather, it makes visible.*

Paul Klee

This statement speaks to me because for me photography is about looking closely, seeing and feeling the essence of the subject and then trying to convey it in a unique way.

These Water pictures are from my “Traces” series. Some traces pass quickly, others linger, change, disappear.

Everything is in constant change, and in these Water images I am trying to show the changes that we often miss by not bringing full attention to our observation.

(In some ways these images also speak to our current situation, which quite suddenly has brought great change to our lives and further has emphasized the ephemeral aspect of everything.) To see more of Elena’s work visit elenasheehan.com.

WELCOME

From the safety of our home Brian and I are thinking about our Fromm community with the hope that you keep up your spirits and take comfort in the thought that this time of quarantine is temporary. Undoubtedly life will look different when this is over but we will still have each other, we will still be able to learn and we can look forward to celebrating our community in person. Until then, we hope you enjoy the upcoming, physically distant, Summer Session.

- Caroline Fromm Lurie

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our cover image made me consider the way that water flows around obstacles. Here at the Fromm Institute, we are now considering how we can work with the current pandemic and "go with the flow." It is scary, but also exciting. Exciting because it has created a first for the Fromm Institute - our first Summer Session, and our first Live, Online courses. We hope this helps us all to stay safe, stay healthy, and stay distant. Please enjoy our newest endeavor from your home as we collectively anticipate a renewed, enduring future at the Fromm Institute no matter what faces us.

- Derek Leighnor

IN THIS CATALOG

In this booklet you'll find this all online session's courses, their descriptions, and our faculty biographies, also general information about enrollment. Since 1976, the Fromm Institute has encouraged 'career-free' persons, age 50 and older, from all walks of life, to engage their minds in academic pursuits. As you discover what our lifelong learning program is all about, you are invited to join them.

MISSION

The Fromm Institute, a "University within a University," stages daytime courses for retired adults over 50 years of age. Founded by Alfred and Hanna Fromm, the Institute offers intellectual and social stimulation by introducing its members to a wide range of college level learning opportunities.

VALUES

The Institute has a firm commitment to learning, believing that older students should be able to learn within a peer setting and be taught by emeritus professors of their own age. As an independent, non-profit program on the USF campus, it appeals to its members and to a broader philanthropic community for financial support.

The Fromm Institute welcomes people regardless of previous academic achievement or their ability to pay a modest membership fee. This San Francisco "original" serves hundreds of older students each day, and includes thousands among its lifelong learning student body and alumni.

HOW TO ENROLL

Enroll online at fromminstitute.org/sessions beginning **Monday, May 11**. If you have any questions please call us at 415-422-6805 or email us (fromm@usfca.edu). The last chance to enroll this session is 3 p.m. **Thursday, May 28, 2020**. Once classes start, membership is closed to all applicants.

FEES

The fees for participating in an online course is \$45 per class. Scholarships are available for those with financial need, but everyone must pay something toward their membership as they enroll. Your membership fee is not tuition and cannot be prorated or applied to a future session. Payment is collected online through enrollment and may be done using a credit card or PayPal account.

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CONTACT US

The Fromm Institute office is closed due to the outbreak of Covid-19. The best ways to reach us are the following:

Phone: 415-422-6805

Email: fromm@usfca.edu

Web: fromminstitute.org

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94117-1080

Please note mail is picked up sporadically.

SUMMER 2020 ONLINE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

SUMMER SESSION CLASSES WILL BE HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM. INTERNET SPEEDS OF AT LEAST 50 MBPS DOWNLOAD AND 50 MBS UPLOAD ARE REQUIRED. IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF YOUR INTERNET SPEED PLEASE VISIT [SPEEDTEST.NET](https://www.speedtest.net) BEFORE YOU ENROLL IN THE SUMMER SESSION.

MONDAYS FROM 10:00AM - 11:40AM - JUNE 1, 8, 15, AND 22

Alone Together in an Age of Social Distancing: What Becomes of Humanity When Most of Life Transpires Online?

Prof. David Peritz

The coronavirus pandemic dramatically accelerated an epochal transition in human culture that was already well under way. Human association, from the elaborate ceremonies of flirtation, though religious observance, to mundane work and arcane legal proceedings—conducted exclusively in face-to-face, in person settings for most of the history of the species—is migrating into virtual environs opened up by digital media. We were already navigating a brave new world with an enormous increase in the availability and sophistication of personal computing devices and the integration of connectivity into more and more everyday objects: a world where technological change occurs so fast that it is often hard to even keep track of what the latest applications do—and do to us. Then the pandemic hit, and self-preservation directed that we shelter in place and practice the art of social isolation. To maintain the vestiges of social connectivity, we have been forced to rely on Facebook, Zoom, email, and text messages. Now as never before, technology touches almost everyone and modifies nearly every aspect of human life. In this course we will focus on recent technological innovations, especially social media, the internet of things, the sharing economy, and the management of many activities of everyday life by programs and applications. We will evaluate their implications for some of the most durable and precious aspects of human life, including our identities and social relations, privacy and politics, work and equality, always focusing not only on technology but also its evaluation. Ultimately, we will aim to ascertain whether we can use the possibilities this technology contains to make ourselves and our world better—and, if so, how? This course does not assume a technical background: new technologies are explained as they are introduced, and the focus is on the lasting ethical and philosophical issues these technologies raise.



Professor David Peritz

David Peritz earned his BA from Occidental College and Ph.D. from Oxford. A Professor at Sarah Lawrence since 2000, he is the recipient of a Marshall Scholarship and taught at Harvard, Deep Springs, Dartmouth, UC Berkeley, and Cornell. His research specialization is modern and contemporary political philosophy, especially theories of democracy and justice and their relation to issues of diversity and inequality. He has taught at the Fromm Institute since 2016 and in lifelong learning for 20 years.



SUMMER 2020 ONLINE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS



TUESDAYS FROM 1:00PM TO 2:40PM - JUNE 2, 9, 16, AND 23

Exploring Opera: Love, Laughter, Madness & Death

Prof. James Sokol

Many operas include one or more of these universal experiences. Journey with James Sokol through video performance clips from a wide range of repertoire from the Baroque and Classical, through the *Bel Canto* and Romantic, to the *Verismo* and Modern periods to experience how love, laughter, madness, and death are portrayed through compelling characters, lush music and soaring voices. Discussions are highlighted with video performance clips that illuminate singers, productions and the excitement that is opera.



Professor James Sokol

James Sokol, M.A. worked in opera for over two decades, having started his career under Beverly Sills at NYC Opera. A Founding Member of The Singers Development Foundation, James has also worked on projects with Cincinnati Opera and the Opera Company of Philadelphia. James has worked and lectured for San Francisco Opera and is a former executive director of Pocket Opera.

SUMMER 2020 ONLINE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

WEDNESDAYS FROM 1:00PM TO 2:40PM - JUNE 3, 10, 17, AND 24

Exploring the Golden State: A Readers' Journey Through California History

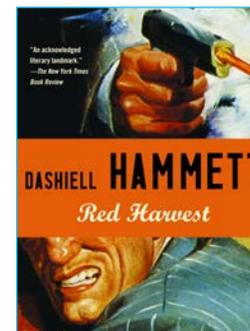
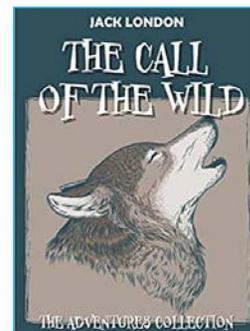
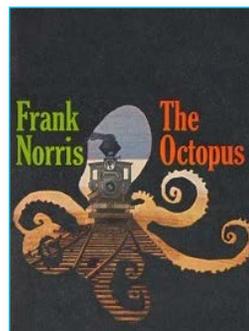
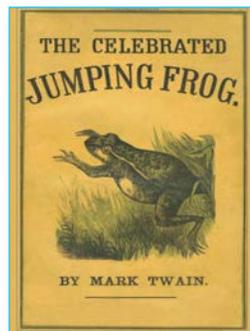
Prof. Chris O'Sullivan

Many are discussing binge *watching* during the current crisis, but what about binge *reading*? Outsiders are often astonished to discover that California has such a rich literary history, yet those of us who live here appreciate that we inhabit a region abundant with gifted writers. What is so distinctive about California authors and how did they differ from their contemporaries elsewhere? This course, designed and modified exclusively for the Fromm Institute's summer session, will explore the dramatic adventures of Gold Rush-era storytellers including Dame Shirley, Bret Harte and Mark Twain; progressive-era bards such as Frank Norris and Jack London; and depression-era novelists such as Dashiell Hammett and John Steinbeck, among many others.



Professor Chris O'Sullivan

Chris O'Sullivan (BA, UC Berkeley; Ph.D. University of London) has taught California History at USF for two decades. He is the recipient of USF's Distinguished Teaching Award, as well as USF's Innovations in Teaching Prize, and has published five books on history.



SUMMER 2020 ONLINE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS WITH FACULTY BIOS

THURSDAYS FROM 1:00PM TO 2:40PM - JUNE 4, 11, 18, AND 25

Getting out Where There is NO Virus: A Tourist's Tour of the Solar System and Galaxy

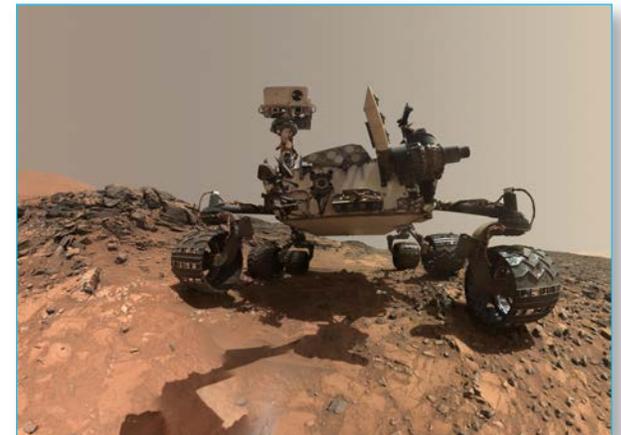
Prof. Andrew Fraknoi

What are the not to be missed “tourist sights” on the planets and moons with which we share the Sun? What are some of the most exciting places we could (someday) visit among the stars, glowing clouds, black holes, and star clusters and in our Milky Way Galaxy. Join us on an illustrated tour of the cosmos as astronomers understand it today. The discussion will be accompanied with really great color images from the latest space probes and the world’s largest telescopes. We’ll learn about some of the most interesting vistas in deep space (including the steam geysers on one of Saturn’s moons, and the debris from an exploding star that hides a natural beacon) and we’ll discover how we humans fit into the bigger picture. Designed like the Rick Steves travel shows on public TV, these tours are for the beginner and will assume no background in science.



Professor Andrew Fraknoi

Andrew Fraknoi retired as the Chair of the Astronomy Department at Foothill College in 2017, having taught introductory astronomy and physics at three different colleges and universities (including SF State). He was selected the California Prof. of the Year in 2007 by the Carnegie Endowment for Higher Education and has won several national prizes for his teaching. He is the lead author of a free, open-source, electronic textbook in astronomy, and has written books for teachers, children, and science fiction fans. He appears regularly on local and national radio, explaining astronomical developments in everyday language. The International Astronomical Union has named Asteroid 4859 Asteroid Fraknoi in recognition of his contributions to the public understanding of science.



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ENROLL IN THE FROMMCAST

TAKE THE FROMM INSTITUTE WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU HAVE INTERNET ACCESS

The Fromm Institute's robust program of previously recorded classes, lectures, and insights is available to you through the *Frommcast*, our online lifelong learning educational platform. This session, *Frommcast* viewers can select from the more than two dozen courses posted there, or watch multiple single lectures on subjects like Hamilton, Hamlet or Hollywood. With each Session, the Frommcast library grows — and so does your love of lifelong learning on-line. Watch it alone, watch it with others, but don't miss out on lifelong learning's latest trend.

HOW DO I JOIN THE FROMMCAST AS I ENROLL IN SUMMER COURSES?

The *Frommcast* is currently free through July 30, 2020. If you have attended Fromm Institute classes in the last year, your *Frommcast* account is already set up. Please call or email us if you need login assistance. If you are not a member of the Fromm Institute, please [CLICK HERE](#) to complete a simple form. We will reply to you within two (2) business days with your account login information and instructions for viewing the *Frommcast*.

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