Senior College: A Health Club for the Mind

Senior College is a lecture series for adults in West Central Minnesota. A distinctive array of lectures by college level scholars from across the state simulates learning and fuels curiosity. No textbooks, exams or papers.

Now convening via ZOOM, Senior College typically meets in a congenial setting at the Alexandria Technical and Community College.

Two semesters, one in spring and one in fall, and a short winter session in January comprise the year. A single registration allows access to all lectures of the season.

The affordable fee is made possible with support from Alexandria Technical & Community College Foundation, Bethany on the Lake, special session partners, and the generous giving of individuals.

Senior College was established by Alexandria Technical & Community College in 2006 in response to community interest in informative and challenging college learning that is stimulating and social without the pressures of textbooks, grades, or degrees. Senior College is designed for adults 50+ and welcomes adults of any age.

As we stay safely at home, we can still join in learning about our world.

ZOOM is an easy, reliable cloud platform for video and audio conferencing and webinars that works across all mobile devices, desktops, telephones, and room systems.

**THE ZOOM EXPERIENCE**

Once you register, you’ll receive an email with a link from Senior College. With a single click, you are joining the group. You can control volume, see the speaker and visuals, and ask questions. It’s as simple as that.

You can connect from ANY device with internet access that has audio – computer, laptop, ipad, or phone.

Connect and engage in learning with wonderful faculty from around the state and beyond – all in the comfort of your home - no rushing to class, no driving, no parking, no mask - and you can have your own treats!

Zoom also offers the opportunity for anyone to connect from anywhere, so you can invite friends from afar to join in.

**SPRING LECTURE SERIES**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 16 – April 29
3:15 – 4:45 P.M.

**REGISTRATION**

The cost of the program is $99 per person. (We are on the honor system for registrations to match the number of participants.)

Once registered, registrants will receive an email with a link to access the program from Senior College.

**ZOOM TEST**

Participants are encouraged to test their connection and equipment before the season begins.

Go to: [https://zoom.us/test](https://zoom.us/test)

Please visit [www.alextech.edu/SeniorCollege](http://www.alextech.edu/SeniorCollege) for the most up-to-date information.

Info/Registration: 320-762-4510 • 888-243-1313

**SPONSORED IN PART BY**

Alexandria Technical & Community College Foundation

Bethany on the Lake

A Provocative Lecture Series with Scholars from Across the State

Join conversations that explore our world.

**Spring Season:**

March 16 – April 29

**ZOOM VIA ZOOM**

A Link to the World During Times Apart

Alexandria Technical & Community College

A member of Minnesota State

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Senior College Brochure Spring 2021 - 01/28/2021
**TOPICS & SPEAKERS**

**The Imperial Presidency Revisited**
Does the American President have too much power? Nearly 50 years ago historian Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., wrote The Imperial Presidency, describing an office that had become too powerful for American Democracy. Is that still true? This talk examines the evolution of the power of the president and assesses whether reforms are needed to weaken it.
- **David Schultz**, Political Science and Legal Studies
  Hamline University

**New and Pending Free Speech Cases**
Professor Kitrosser will review some new and pending cases from federal courts addressing free speech and free press issues. The cases for discussion will be determined based on developments closer to the date of the talk.
- **Heidi Kitrosser**, Professor of Law
  University of Minnesota Law School

**Minnesota Resources Commission: What it is and Why it Matters**
In 1945, the Minnesota Resources Commission published a comprehensive, four-volume economic history of Minnesota from the 1860s through the 1940s. We will look at how the Commission evolved over time and why this document is an important milestone in Minnesota’s economic history.
- **Louis Johnston**, Economics
  College of St. Benedict/St. John’s University

**Studying the Beginning of the Universe from the Bottom of the World**
Once the domain of mystics and philosophers, cosmology has become a vibrant science with fresh data coming in thick and fast. The contemporary universe is expanding, and by using specialized telescopes, scientists can now see the afterglow from when the universe was hot, formless plasma some 14 billion years ago.
- **Clem Pyrke**, Minnesota Institute for Astrophysics
  University of Minnesota

**Sustainable Solutions for Our Plastic Planet Predicament**
The rapid growth of the polymer industry has led to a myriad of useful technologies and, unfortunately, staggering levels of plastic trash. Scientists and engineers have a responsibility to help reverse this harmful course and more carefully consider the origins and fates of the materials they study.
- **Marc Hillmyer**, Chemistry/College of Science and Engineering
  University of Minnesota

**Earth Day >50: The Legacy of the 1960s-1970s American Environmental Movement**
In the wake of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, we will look back on the legacy of the environmental movement and its impact on the American environment, considering how this history might inform contemporary debates over how to respond to the pressing issue of global climate disruption in the 21st century.
- **Derek Larson**, History/Environmental Studies
  College of St. Benedict/St. John’s University

**Media Ownership and You**
The FCC has struggled to implement and defend its media ownership policies and is now appealing to the Supreme Court a case that will be heard in January. This talk with trace media ownership policy and the likely outcomes of the FCC vs. Prometheus Radio Project decision.
- **Christopher Terry**, Journalism and Mass Communication
  University of Minnesota

**The Impact of the Election and the Pandemic on US Foreign Policy**
A Biden presidency will usher in a new era in foreign policy that will break dramatically from the priorities, tone and style of the Trump administration, with implications for trade, national security, alliances and multilateral cooperation on global issues such as climate change, migration and COVID-19.
- **Tom Hanson**, Diplomat in Residence
  University of Minnesota Duluth

**You Bet Your Life: Pascal’s Wager in a Pandemic**
Blaise Pascal, a 17th century French philosopher, theologian, mathematician and physicist published an argument now known as “Pascal’s Wager.” One of the first uses of probability theory and decision theory, we’ll apply it to decisions we face during a pandemic.
- **Jay Sieling**, Liberal Arts
  Alexandria Technical and Community College

**A New Moral Rubicon? Autonomous Weapons and Just War**
Just as the advent of nuclear weapons led twentieth-century moral theorists to reevaluate what makes warfare justified, the advent of autonomous weapons demands the same of us in the twenty-first century. In what ways do these weapons change when we go to war, how we wage war, and who we hold responsible?
- **Noreen Herzfeld**, Science and Religion
  St. John’s University and the College of St. Benedict

**Consciousness and the Natural World**
Neuroscience plays an increasingly important role in our public discourse and how we understand ourselves. In her talk, Joy Laine will explore the philosophical challenges of explaining the subjective realm of consciousness within the objective framework of the natural sciences.
- **Joy Laine**, Philosophy
  Macalester College

**Biological Curiosities Explained**
How many senses do we have? In what animal species does the male give birth to the young? Why is cholesterol good? How is it that a white flower is not really white? In this presentation, we will explore these and many other surprising biological phenomena.
- **Van Gooch**, Biology
  University of Minnesota Morris

**The Preludes and Fugues of J. S. Bach**
In this lecture-recital, Dr. Mazullo will perform and discuss selections from J. S. Bach’s keyboard collection, The Well-Tempered Clavier, one of the most important landmarks of 18th-century music discussing both expressive and technical aspects, with an emphasis on illuminating what is involved in interpreting and performing this enduring music.
- **Mark Mazullo**, Music
  Macalester College

**The Playful Side of Engineering**
What happens when computer scientists collaborate with musicians? Or when engineers work with preschoolers? Combinations like these are at the heart of the work done at the University of St. Thomas Playful Learning Lab. This seminar will look at how elements of play can be incorporated into K-12 education in surprising ways.
- **Ann Marie Thomas**, Engineering/Entrepreneurship
  University of St. Thomas

Registration is required for season.
A complete syllabus is at www.alextech.edu/seniorcollege