

2025 SPRING Term
April 7 – May 16



LEARNING INSTITUTE OF
NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE

LINEC
EST. 1989

Bridge to Knowledge...Continuing the Journey!

**36 Years of Classes
for Lifelong Learning**

Join us this Spring
Invite friends and family, too.

Visit our website at [LINEC.org](https://www.linec.org) to
register and pay online.

LINEC is a member of Road Scholar Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) Resource Network, and affiliated with New England College, Henniker, NH.

About LINEC

LINEC, the **Learning Institute of New England College**, is a program created to educate, entertain, and enhance life. It offers non-credit, peer-led, peer-taught courses to retired and working adults, all for the sheer pleasure of learning.

LINEC offers four-to eight-week courses in the fall, spring, and summer.

Steering Committee

This committee administers the programs and tends the business of the organization.

Chair Nola Jordan nola.jordan.50@gmail.com

Vice Chair Richard Hesse **Treasurer** Lee DeBell

Secretary Chris Hague

Registrar / Membership / Website / Facebook

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Susan Roman, Glenn Stuart, Linda Graham

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Cover: NEC Henniker Bridge Pen and Ink by Fran Philippe 2021

LINEC | 2025 Spring Term

A - Alexander von Humboldt: The Consilience of Science and Art

Tuesdays, 10:00 am to 11:30 am | April 8 – May 6

Location: Zoom

Instructor: Eric Simon

Alexander von Humboldt was the most famous scientist of the 19th Century, influencing generations of scientists and artists including Charles Darwin, John James Audubon, and Ralph Waldo Emerson. As part of our ongoing investigation of nature as the consilience of science and art, we will follow von Humboldt's five-year journey to South America and his resulting groundbreaking scientific studies.

Eric Simon, PhD, is a professor in the Department of Biology and Health Science at New England College, where he teaches introductory biology, human biology, and tropical marine biology. Dr. Simon has also taught a series of international travel courses, including field trips to Belize, the Galapagos, Tanzania, Cuba, the Amazon River, and Patagonia. For full bio, see our website at LINEC.org.

B – All's Well That Ends Well

Tuesdays, 1:30 – 3:30 pm | April 8 – May 13

Location: 1st Congregational Church, Hopkinton

Instructor: Glenn Stuart

Helena, the orphaned daughter of a doctor, is under the protection of the widowed Countess of Rossillion and in love with Bertram, the countess's son. Bertram rejects her, but Helena devises an elaborate plan to meet the conditions under which he would accept her. But does all end well?

We will view the 2011 Globe Theatre production as well as read Canadian novelist, Mona Awad's 2021 novel, *All's Well*, inspired by this difficult and fascinating "problem play" by Shakespeare.

Glenn Stuart is a Professor of Theatre Emeritus at NEC, where he taught for 38 years, designed 125 theatre and dance productions, and was a founding director of the Open Door Theatre. He holds an MA in Theater from State University of New York, Albany. For a full list of his productions, see his full bio at LINEC.org.

C – The Belles of Broadway

Wednesdays, 10:15 am to 12:15 pm | April 9 – April 30

Location: Baker Free Library, Bow

Instructor: Paul Brogan

From the 1930's until the end of the 1990's, Carol Channing, Ethel Merman and Mary Martin lit up the stage with thousands of performances. In fact, Carol Channing performed the title role in *Hello, Dolly* more than 5,000 times, a show business record. Although they also appeared in films, on television and recordings, it was the stage where they truly shone. All of the great composers from Irving Berlin to the Gershwins eagerly wrote scores for them to sing. We'll talk about them and listen to and watch some of their most memorable work. It was a time when any of their names on a theater marquee was a guarantee for a sell-out.

Paul Brogan attended Plymouth State University and then set out on a life adventure that took him, eventually, to Los Angeles where he worked at CBS Television City. Paul has written several plays, musicals and screenplays. He is the author of three books, most recently "A Sprinkling of Stardust Over the Outhouse", which was released in the summer of 2022.

D – Philosophy Talks

Wednesdays, 1:30 – 3:00 pm | Apr 9 – 30; May 14 – 21

Location: ZOOM

Instructor: Lisa M. Melander

This course continues our discussion of Bertrand Russell's *A History of Western Thought*. We will focus on Book Three, Part II, "From Rousseau to the Present Day". Philosophers such as Rousseau, Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, William James and John Dewey will be the topics of our discussions. In addition to the text, other resources such as video clips and podcasts will be utilized.

Lisa Melander holds a BA in philosophy from NEC and an M.Ed in education from Plymouth State U. She has served as a 4th, 5th, and 6th grade teacher in public and private schools. Lisa was a math coach mentoring teachers and developing math intervention/enrichment programs for several schools. Lisa has designed and taught professional development courses for educators and worked with school districts on curriculum mapping. Currently, she works as a math tutor. Her teaching has been richly informed by her studies of philosophy and poetry.

E – The Novel Reading Group

Wednesdays, 1:30 – 3:00 pm | April 2 and May 7

Location: Tucker Free Library, Henniker

Leader: John McCausland

LINEC's popular novel group is currently reading books selected from Britain's prestigious Booker Prize lists. The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month and new members are always welcome. The class meets informally around a table in the Henniker Library, sharing their reactions to the works selected and connecting their themes to issues in our lives and world today. The April selection is *A Month in the Country* by J.L. Carr. May's selection is *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* by Richard Flanagan.

John McCausland has taught LINEC courses on the Bible, Chaucer, and the American novel. An Episcopal priest and one-time lawyer, he loves history, literature, theology, teaching, and learning.

F – The Economy and Politics in 2025

Wednesdays, 4:00 – 6:00 | April 9 – May 14

Location: ZOOM

Instructor: Ali Reza Jalili

This course will address how the US domestic economy and the global economy will interact with US domestic politics under a second Trump administration. Topics we will discuss include how the incoming administration's advertised fiscal policies will likely affect and be affected by markets, wealth inequality, inflation, unemployment, the US budget deficit, and the US dollar exchange rate, among others. Where relevant, anticipated economic outcomes will be given historical context.

Ali Reza Jalili is a Professor of Business at New England College. Dr. Jalili earned a BS in accounting and finance from the College of Accounting and Finance in Tehran, Iran, an MBA from James Madison University, an MA in economics from UNH, an MSA concentrating in risk management from Bentley University, and a PhD in business economics from UNH. He has over thirty years teaching experience specializing in business economics and experimental/behavioral economics.

G – Art Colonies of New Hampshire

Thursdays, 10:15 am – 12:15 pm | April 10 – 24

Location: Baker Free Library, Bow

Instructor: Inez McDermott

In the latter years of the 19th century, New Hampshire became a summer haven and an escape from urban centers for artists, writers, composers, and other creative people. We will learn about what factors contributed to the rise of art “colonies” in Peterborough, Dublin, Cornish and Appledore Island in this era, and learn something about the charismatic figures whose presence contributed to establishing these creative communities. **Inez McDermott** is Professor Emeritus of art history at New England College. She is a curator of art and history exhibitions at various museums and galleries throughout New England, including most recently, “An Enduring Presence: The Old Man of the Mountain” at the Museum of the White Mountains at Plymouth State University (2023); and, in 2016, she was co-curator of Mount Washington, The Crown of New England at the Currier Museum of Art.

H – Astrobiology

Thursdays, 10:15 am – 12:15 pm | May 1 – June 5

Location: Baker Free Library, Bow

Instructor: Curtiss Rude

Are we alone in the cosmos? How are scientists seeking signs of life beyond our home planet? This course will explain our past, current, and future search for evidence of extraterrestrial life in our own solar system and among the thousands of exoplanets that have been discovered. We will explore how our increasing understanding of geology and our newest insights into the nature, origin, and evolution of life on Earth inform this search. No prior knowledge of geology, chemistry, biology, or astronomy is required to benefit from this course.

Curtiss Rude has a BS in Physics from Carnegie-Mellon University and an MS in Electrical Engineering (solid-state physics) from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He worked in the microelectronics industry for IBM in Vermont for 20+ years in a variety of engineering and engineering management roles. His second career was as a high school chemistry and physics teacher for seven years. Curtiss has previously taught LINEC courses on astronomy, cosmology, AI, political geography, and the history of money.

I – The History of Language, Especially English

Thursdays, 1:30 – 3:30 pm | April 10 – May 16

Location: 1st Congregational Church, Hopkinton

Instructor: Don Melander

We will screen episodes of the Great Courses, *The Story of Human Language* and read Steven Pinker’s *The Language Instinct: How the Mind Creates Language*. We will study how language evolved in the human species and how children learn language.

Don Melander is a professor of English Emeritus at New England College, where in addition to teaching literature and humanities, he taught a course called *Language and Grammar* which was a required course for Education majors. He earned MA and PhD degrees in English and American literature, including a course on the language we call “Anglo Saxon” (“Old English”).

J – Abraham’s Ladies: Union Women and the Battle of Gettysburg

Thursdays, 5:00 – 6:30 pm | April 10 – May 1

Location: ZOOM

Instructor: Sarah Traphagen

On November 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln’s famed address honored the hallowed ground of a little crossroads in Pennsylvania. Months earlier, the town and fields of Gettysburg absorbed a deadly choreography of Union and Confederate forces that left unprecedented destruction and proved to be the American Civil War’s turning point. In the vast expanse of people eager to catch a glimpse of Lincoln were several women who sacrificed and put forth tremendous effort during the battle and its aftermath. The world tends to little note these women (and so many more left to the unwritten pages of history), but we will not forget what they did there. We will read their stories and hear their voices.

Sarah Traphagen received her Ph.D. in English from the University of Florida. Her areas of expertise are American literature, history, and Civil War medicine. She has published in *The Journal of Military Experience* and *The Journal of Working-Class Studies*. She has taught at the University of Florida and in college preparatory schools. Currently, she is at home with her son.

2025 LINEC Spring Class Calendar | Apr. 7 – May 16

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---------|-------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Mar. 31 | Apr. 1 | Apr. 2 | Apr. 3 | Apr. 4 |
| | | Novel Reading 1:30 – 3:00 | | |
| Apr. 7 | Apr. 8 | Apr. 9 | Apr. 10 | Apr. 11 |
| | von Humboldt 10 – 11:30 | Broadway 10:15 – 12:15 | Art Colonies 10:15 – 12:15 | Film Seminar 10:15 – 12:15 |
| | Shakespeare 1:30 – 3:30 | Philosophy 1:30 – 3:00 Economy 4:00 – 6:00 | History of Language 1:30 – 3:30 Abraham's Ladies 5:00 – 6:30 | |
| Apr. 14 | Apr. 15 | Apr. 16 | Apr. 17 | Apr. 18 |
| | von Humboldt 10:00 – 11:30 | Broadway 10:15 – 12:15 | Art Colonies 10:15 – 12:15 | Film Seminar 10:15 – 12:15 |
| | Shakespeare 1:30 – 3:30 | Philosophy 1:30 – 3:00 Economy 4:00 – 6:00 | History of Language 1:30 – 3:30 Abraham's Ladies 5:00 – 6:30 | |
| Apr. 21 | Apr. 22 | Apr. 23 | Apr. 24 | Apr. 25 |
| | von Humboldt 10:00- 11:30 | Broadway 10:15 – 12:15 | Art Colonies 10:15 – 12:15 | Film Seminar * 10:15 – 12:15 |
| | Shakespeare 1:30 - 3:30 | Philosophy 1:30-3:00 Economy 4:00 – 6:00 | History of Language 1:30 – 3:00 Abraham's Ladies 5:00 – 6:30 | * Film Seminar resumes May 23 and continues to June 13 |
| Apr. 28 | Apr. 29 | Apr. 30 | May 1 | May 2 |
| | von Humboldt 10:00 – 11:30 | Broadway 10:15 – 12:15 | Astrobiology 10:15 – 12:15 | |
| | Shakespeare 1:30 - 3:30 | Philosophy 1:30 - 3:00 Economy 4:00 – 6:00 | History of Language 1:30 – 3:30 Abraham's Ladies 5:00 – 6:30 | |
| May 5 | May 6 | May 7 | May 8 | May 9 |
| | von Humboldt 10:00 – 11:30 | | Astrobiology 10:15-12:15 | |
| | Shakespeare 1:30 - 3:30 | Novel Reading 1:30 - 3:00 Economy 4:00 – 6:00 | History of Language 1:30 – 3:30 | |
| May 12 | May 13 | May 14 | May 15 | May 16 |
| | | | Astrobiology * 10:15-12:15 | * Astrobiology continues to June 5 |
| | Shakespeare 1:30 - 3:30 | Philosophy 1:30 – 3:30 Economy 4:00 – 6:00 | History of Language 1:30 – 3:00 | |

K – Scorsese, DeNiro, and (sometimes) Pesci

Fridays, 10:15 – 12:15 | April 11 – 25; May 23 – June 13

Location: Baker Free Library, Bow

Instructor: Don Melander

Films directed by Martin Scorsese starring Robert De Niro, sometimes including Joe Pesci: *Mean Streets* (1973), *Taxi Driver* (1976), *Raging Bull* (1980), *The King of Comedy* (1982), *Goodfellas* (1990), *Cape Fear* (1991), and *Casino* (1995).

Don Melander developed and taught a course at NEC called “Literature as Film, Film as Literature”. In the 1980’s he and a colleague in history team-taught period courses in American culture in which they explored the possibilities of using movies as cultural “texts”. During the last decade of his career at NEC, he taught the film course for the Communications program.

LINEC Membership Benefits

- The pleasure of learning with peers, *from* peers
 - Reasonably priced classes
 - Many opportunities to volunteer
 - Invitation to LINEC’s Annual Meeting
 - Invitation to special NEC events
 - Free loan of LINEC course videos stored in Danforth Library at New England College (NEC)
 - Use of Danforth Library
 - Reduced fee for per-credit NEC courses
 - Opportunity to audit one NEC course per semester on a space available basis at no cost
-



LINEC instructor Eric Simon leads international travel courses specifically designed for lifelong learners. Eric recently returned from leading a

group of LINEC members to **Patagonia**, where they saw glaciers up close by boat and land. (See the enthusiastic group below.) Future travel opportunities include **Tanzania** (July 2025 and July 2026) to view wildlife from a luxury tent camp on the Serengeti and deliver tons of food to Maasai schools; **Costa Rica & Panama** (January 2026) to view rainforests, volcanoes, and a trip through the Panama Canal; and **Iceland** (August 2026) to experience the natural beauty of waterfalls, thermal pools, sea cliffs, and the spectacle of a full solar eclipse! Every trip includes: pre- and post-departure online Zoom classes to learn about the biology, culture, and logistics of the trip; service opportunities to help each local community; and all-inclusive in-country pricing. To learn about past trips and to view photo galleries, visit SBT.ericjsimon.com. If you'd like to be added to the email notification list (with no obligation), email Eric at SimonBiologyTravel@gmail.com.



Membership and Registration Fees

September 2024 through August 2025

- Register and pay on our website LINEC.org
- **Registration Deadline:** Monday, March 24,
- Receive your **Zoom link instantly** when you register online.
- **Membership:** \$40 per person per academic year, September through August; no household memberships.
- **Spring Term Registration:** \$15 per course
- **Scholarships** are available thanks to our members' generosity. Please let us know if you are in need.
- **If you prefer to register by mail,** send form with a check payable to **LINEC** to:

Lee DeBell
20 Timberpond Dr, Apt. 203
Peterborough, NH 03458

- **Questions?** linecregister@gmail.com



Tell a Friend!

If you've enjoyed being part of LINEC, please don't keep it a secret! Tell a friend about your experience. Be an ambassador for LINEC.

Registration Deadline **Monday, March 24**

Please fill out completely

Annual membership fee (paid up if you registered in the Fall) :

Individual (1) \$40 \$ _____

Individual (2) \$40 \$ _____

Registration of \$15 each course:

Individual (1) \$15 x _____ courses = \$ _____

Individual (2) \$15 x _____ courses = \$ _____

TOTAL Enclosed \$ _____

Name (1) _____

Email _____ *Phone#* _____

Name (2) _____

Email _____ *Phone#* _____

Address _____

1

2

- _____ **A – von Humboldt – Tuesday, 10 – 11:30 am**
- _____ **B – Shakespeare – Tuesday, 1:30 – 3:30 pm**
- _____ **C – Broadway – Wednesday, 10:15am – 12:15 pm**
- _____ **D – Philosophy – Wednesday, 1:30 – 3:00 pm**
- _____ **E – Novel Reading – Wed, Apr. 2 & May 7, 1:30 – 3:00 pm**
- _____ **F – Economy – Wednesday, 4:00 – 6:00 pm**
- _____ **G – Art Colonies – Thursday, 10:15 – 12:15, April 10 - 24**
- _____ **H – Astrobiology – Thursday, 10:15 – 12:15, May 1 – June 5**
- _____ **I – Language – Thursday, 1:30 – 3:30 pm**
- _____ **J – Abraham's Ladies - Thurs, 5 – 6:30 pm, Apr 10 – May 1**
- _____ **K – Film – Fri, 10:15 – 12:15, Apr 11 - 25, May 23 – June 13**

CHECK HERE TO CONTINUE TO GET PRINTED CATALOG

Looking for New Testimonials

We are looking to update testimonials on our website and in our marketing. Do you have an experience you could share? What drew you to LINEC? What keeps you coming back? Have you taken a class on Zoom with a friend or relative, and how did that make your term even more special? Write one or a few sentences to tell someone why they would love LINEC.

Thank you.

Where are all the places you have seen or heard information about LINEC? *You can choose more than one.*

Library ___ Church ___ Flyer ___ Website ___ Facebook ___
Friend ___ Article ___ Family Member ___ Online Calendars ___
Other _____

Where should we publicize LINEC?

A Brief History of LINEC

1975

New England College (NEC) in Henniker, New Hampshire, has provided educational opportunities for older adults since the beginning of the Road Scholar program in 1975 (formerly Elderhostel) which had roots at NEC and four other New Hampshire colleges. These were trips and non-credit college-level courses at member universities and colleges.

1989

Lifelong learning institutes began a decade later. NEC wanted to create learning opportunities for retired adults who lived within commuting distance of the College campus. In the early fall of 1989, an invitation to attend a planning meeting for the new institute was issued by Professor of Economics, Thea Braiterman, and Professor of Education, Marvin Seperson. Jim Verschuren, then the Director of Elderhostel's Office of Support and Development, was the keynote speaker.

Two meetings followed in November. Eighteen people paid the first membership dues – on good faith – and Marvin Braiterman became the first Chair. Committees were created, the first statement of policy was drafted and The Learning Institute of New England College (LINEC) was formed.

1990

Classes started in the spring of 1990. The rest is history, which is well documented in course catalogs, and in Steering Committee and Annual Meeting minutes.

Looking Back, Looking Forward

At the 2019 Annual Meeting, LINEC celebrated its 30th anniversary. We continue to be inspired by the dedication of those who led LINEC through its formative years and by the talents and gifts of its members since that time. LINEC continues to offer classes in many disciplines such as science, history, literature, art, music, film, social sciences, mathematics, technology, and topical issues. Members are invited to offer suggestions for future courses.



LINEC NEC Box 75
New England College
98 Bridge Street
Henniker, NH 03242

NOTE: Please send registration form to address on page 12

**We don't want you to miss any
LINEC news!**

- *Check your Spam/Junk folder often.*
- *If you find LINEC emails there, right - click on email and tell your system to accept emails from LINEC or Mailchimp.*