



# ESI COLLEGE

Course Listings: Summer 2017  
July 6 – September 1

Visit us at: [www.elderlyservices.org](http://www.elderlyservices.org)

112 Exchange Street, Middlebury, Vermont 05753

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**BETH ROBINSON**



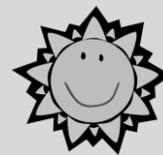
**CHARLES BUELL**

## **Summer Seminar Series**

Welcome to our summer lecture series! Almost every Thursday in July and August, we focus on a different topic. We are pleased to have two new instructors, Charles Buell and Beth Robinson, teaching this summer, along with some favorite teachers we've had in the past.

We hope to see you here!

*Kristin Bolton and Dana Perzanoski*  
ESI College Course Coordinators



ESI College offers lifelong learning for independent individuals ages 60 and over. If you need personal assistance, please call us about educational and social activities at Project Independence.

## ***A Background to Hillbilly Elogy***

Time: 10:00-11:30 AM  
Date: Thursday, July 6  
Cost: \$20



**Description:** The current best-selling book, *Hillbilly Elogy*, follows J.D. Vance's upbringing in a dysfunctional "Hillbilly" family to his eventual graduation from Yale Law School. Many of the elements in the author's life came from the Appalachian culture, brought over from the Borderlands of Great Britain in the 18th century. This culture encourages violence to settle disputes, and stresses clan loyalty and personal pride regardless of one's economic standing. Using David Hackett Fischer's *Albion's Seed* as a source, we will look at some difficult episodes in Vance's life which reflected cultural continuity from the Borderlands.

**Recommended reading:** *Hillbilly Elogy*, at least chapters 1-2.

**Instructor:** After graduating from Middlebury College in 1963 and finishing graduate studies at NYU in history, **Charles Buell** worked in academic publishing, particularly at Springer-Verlag. In retirement, he has taught many courses for Osher@ Dartmouth, updating the graduate history learned 50 years ago!

## ***Inside the Mind of a Judge***

Time: 10:00-11:30 AM  
Date: Thursday, July 13  
Cost: \$20



**Description:** Do judges interpret the law like umpires calling "balls and strikes"? How do they "interpret" the law without "making" law? In this interactive presentation, Vermont Supreme Court Justice Beth Robinson will present a series of Vermont cases to walk audience members through the process of judging difficult cases. Your participation is encouraged!

**Instructor:** **Beth Robinson** has served on the Vermont Supreme Court since November 2011. Before that, she practiced law in Middlebury for eighteen years, representing individual clients in a wide range of matters. She also served as counsel to Governor Peter Shumlin for a year.

## *The State of Religion in Contemporary China*

Time: 10:00-11:30 AM  
Date: Thursday, July 20  
Cost: \$20



**Description:** Many Americans know about the communist suppression of religion and the "cult of Mao." Fewer know about the remarkable revival of religion since Mao's death in 1976. We will consider the activity itself – ranging from traditional practices to new religious movements to various forms of Christianity – and the complex cultural and political dynamics involved in this "return" to religion.

**Instructor: Elizabeth Morrison** earned a B.A. at Amherst College and an M.A. and a Ph.D. at Stanford, all in religious studies. Along the way, she studied and lived in China, Taiwan and Japan. Her research and teaching revolve around the intersection of Buddhist studies and East Asian religions. She has taught at Middlebury College since 2003.

## *The Champlain Valley from the Early 1900s to 1960*

Time: 10:00-11:30 AM  
Date: Thursday, July 27  
Cost: \$20



**Description:** What were some of the influences that made the Champlain Valley what it is today? Bud Smith shares his deep knowledge of this area both from his readings on Vermont history and his family's intimate knowledge of this place: how the Champlain Valley got settled, where the early European settlers came from, how they acquired their land, and how they made a living. Then he'll focus on the first half of the twentieth century. What was it like growing up in the Champlain Valley then? How did things change in 1960 and what characteristics remain?

**Instructor: Bud Smith** is a 7th generation Vermonter. Many of his ancestors were born in either Bridport or Addison, and his father was born within sight of the spot where Samuel Smith and his sons built the first family cabin in the 1760s, on the shore of Lake Champlain. Bud has run a number of small businesses in the Champlain Valley, of which Bud's Beans is his current venture.

## *Demographic Challenges Facing Vermont*

Time: 10:00-11:30 AM

Date: Thursday, August 3

Cost: \$20



**Description:** Vermont is facing many demographic challenges: retiring baby boomers; low birth rate; younger Vermonters leaving the state; stagnant, and sometimes declining, populations in many counties. What are the implications for the state's economy, society, and political system? Are there positive consequences? Should this continue, what would Vermont look like 10 to 20 years from now? Are there ways to try to slow down, if not reverse, these trends?

**Instructor:** **Eric Davis** (B.A., Brown University; M.A., Ph.D. Stanford University) is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Middlebury College. From 1980 to 2008 he taught courses on American politics. Since retiring, he has continued to be a close observer of Vermont and national politics, writing a column for the *Addison Independent* and providing analysis for local and national print and broadcast media organizations.

## *Magicians Without Borders*

Time: 1:30-3:00 PM (*note afternoon hours this week only*)

Date: Thursday, August 10

Cost: \$20



**Description:** Since 2002, Magicians Without Borders has traveled to over thirty countries using magic to entertain, educate and empower the most forgotten people in the world – mostly refugees and orphans living in desperate, difficult and often war-torn parts of the world. Founders Tom Verner and Janet Fredericks will talk about their work, what inspired them to do this work, what they've accomplished and their future plans. But they'll also bring their work to life through story, ideas, poetry, and sleight-of-hand magic, to draw on the great themes of life that affect us all and make their magic so captivating.

**Instructors:** **Tom Verner** is the Founder of Magicians Without Borders, psychology professor of thirty-five years, and avid lover of magic. Tom left teaching to carry out this dream of Magicians Without Borders. **Janet Fredericks**, an accomplished fine artist in her own right, performs with Tom as his quiet assistant LaFleur. She is the Co-Founder of Magicians Without Borders and wife of Tom who says, "Without her support none of this would be possible."

## ***Reading Plato's Phaedrus***

Time: 10:00-11:30 AM

Date: Thursday, August 17 & Thursday, August 24

Cost: \$50 includes book for 2-week class



**Description:** Plato's *Phaedrus* moves from speeches on love, or erotic rhetoric, to a discussion of the comparative merits of writings and speeches. This suggests two questions. First, what is the relationship between eros, desire or love, and rhetoric? Second, why does Plato write a dialog in which Socrates, his main character, criticizes writing in contrast to speaking? Careful reading and an engaged discussion of the dialog should help us answer these questions and the following: How does Plato's *Phaedrus* help us understand rhetoric in America today?

**Instructor: Murray Dry** is a Professor of Political Science at Middlebury College where he has taught since 1968. He received undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Chicago. Murray has published a book on the first amendment, numerous articles on American constitutionalism, and his book on same-sex marriage and American constitutionalism is currently in press at Paul Dry Books.

## ***Mindfulness Practice for Stress Reduction***

Time: 10:00-11:30 AM

Date: Friday, September 1 (*Friday class this week only*)

Cost: \$20



**Description:** This course will introduce mindfulness practices that can help reduce stress and relieve unnecessary suffering. Through guided practices and dialogue, students will explore a way of being that is a practical antidote to the disconnected and distracted way of life that dominates our modern world. All are welcome; no experience necessary.

**Instructor: Zubin Mistri, M.Div.,** has been practicing mindfulness meditation for sixteen years. His formal training includes three years studying Buddhist psychology and contemplative practices at Naropa University. Zubin has a private psychotherapy practice in Middlebury focused on using mindfulness practice to help people discover and embody a deeper relationship with what's most important in their lives.

**ELDERLY SERVICES, INC.**

**P.O. Box 581**

**Middlebury, VT 05753**

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Middlebury, VT

## ESI College *Summer 2017 Course Offerings*

- ❖ **Background to *Hillbilly Elegy* ..... July 6**
- ❖ **Inside the Mind of a Judge ..... July 13**
- ❖ **Religion in Contemporary China ..... July 20**
- ❖ **Champlain Valley History ..... July 27**
- ❖ **Vermont's Demographic Challenges ..... August 3**
- ❖ **Magicians Without Borders ..... August 10**
- ❖ **Reading Plato's *Phaedrus* ..... August 17 & 24**
- ❖ **Mindfulness for Stress Reduction ..... September 1**



Once we receive your registration, assume you're enrolled, unless you hear otherwise.  
*You will receive a reminder email (or call) the week before the class.*