

OPTION 01

**Tai Chi 8 Movements**

Ivy Chin

**Mondays – *In Person Class***

9:30am – 10:55am

**5 Sessions**

9/18, 10/16, 10/23,  
10/30, 11/6

The class breaks down into three parts. The First part is to warm up the different parts of the body. The second part is to learn the Tai Chi 8 movements. The last part is to cool off the body. Tai Chi promotes good health for the mind and body.

Everyone is welcome!

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OPTION 02  
(NEW)

**Female Singers in  
Popular Music**

Mitchell Lehrer

**Mondays – *In Person Class***

11:10am – 12:05pm

**7 sessions**

10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/06  
11/13, 11/20, 11/27

This course will focus on female singers from the early 1960s to the early 1980s. Course topics will include girl groups such as The Shirelles, The Ronettes, The Supremes, as well as individual artists like Lesley Gore, Dionne Warwick, and Petula Clark. We will explore female singers in male bands such as Grace Slick, Janis Joplin, and Deborah Harry. This course will rely heavily on music videos to enhance the visual experience and will include class discussions as well.

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OPTION 03  
(NEW)

**Shakespeare's  
Taming of the Shrew**

Joan Hartman

**Mondays – *In Person Class***

12:15pm – 2:15pm

**5 Sessions**

9/18, 10/2, 10/16,  
10/23, 10/30

We will read this early comedy of Shakespeare with twenty-first sensibilities about misogyny and speculate about how Shakespeare's audience saw and heard it. Together the instructor and students will look carefully at the text and watch two twentieth-century films that realize it.

Please buy the Folger edition of the play

OPTION 04  
(NEW)

## The Century Playoffs

Peter Whitehouse

**Mondays – *In Person***

12:15pm - 1:15pm

(11/6 – 11/27)

12:15pm - 1:45pm

(12/4 & 12/11)

**6 Sessions**

11/6, 11/13, 11/20,

11/27, 12/4, 12/11

Join this course for discussion and debate on the most notable figures over the course of the 19th century. The instructor will facilitate the content, but students will serve as the final arbiters at the end of the course. Along with determining who the “greatest” man or woman was, we will ask “how does one define greatness”? Should it include evil as well as righteous candidates? Is it Marx, Lincoln, Napoleon, Darwin, or Beethoven? Or perhaps Jane Austen or Marie Curie, who help bridge the century from 18th to 20th? This course is intended to run annually and will cover a different century and set of notable figures each year.

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OPTION 05

## Mah Jong for Beginners

Laurie Raps

**Mondays – *In Person***

***Class***

1:30pm – 3:00pm

**5 Sessions**

11/6, 11/13, 11/20,

11/27, 12/4

If you have always wanted to play, now is the time! Gain an understanding of the basic rules on how to play a beginner level Mah Jong. Learn the meaning of each tile, how to set them up, cards, strategies, and much more. Forget your worries and find a sisterhood!

Required: 2023 Mah Jong cards which must be pre-ordered (approximately \$15)

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OPTION 06  
(NEW)

## Self-Care through How we Relate

Catherine Bridges

**Mondays – *In Person***

***Class***

3:30pm – 4:30pm

**7 Sessions**

10/16, 10/23, 10/30,

11/6, 11/13, 11/20,

11/27

This course is for anyone wanting to understand themselves and others in a new way. Together, we will meditate, review astrology, and the Enneagram.

A recommended text is: 'How We Relate' by Jesse Eubank; available in the library.

OPTION 07  
(NEW)

**Computer  
Fundamentals**

Doriann Pieve-Hyland

**Mondays - *Hybrid Class***  
5:15pm – 6:20pm

**7 Sessions**  
10/16, 10/23, 10/30,  
11/6, 11/13, 11/27, 12/4

This course is great for beginners and intermediate-level computer learners.

Topics covered will include:

- **Introduction to Zoom** - create a personal Zoom account, host meetings with friends and family, create custom backgrounds.
- **Cyber Security** - learn how to surf the internet safely, learn about different types of computer viruses and how to avoid cyber scams.
- **Email & Web Browsers** - how to attach documents to emails, learn the difference between a web browser and a search engine.
- **Microsoft Windows** - understanding terminology like desktop, start menu, start bar, folders, files, and learn to customize your desktop.
- **Microsoft Word** - learn the basics of MS Word including formatting and saving a document.
- There is always something new and exciting to learn! Instruction is student-centered. Please bring your questions on other topics of your choice as well!

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OPTION 08  
(NEW)

**Generation Gap: How  
has the Culture of  
Staten Island Changed  
over the Past Century?**

Kristen Addressi

**Mondays – *Hybrid Class***  
6:30pm – 7:30pm

**7 Sessions**  
10/16, 10/23, 10/30,  
11/6, 11/13, 11/20,  
11/27

We all hope for everything in our lives, including our expectations of society to remain familiar if not the same. However, we see on a daily basis how the world around us is constantly changing. In this course we will explore a brief history of how the culture of Staten Islanders has changed from the 20th to 21st centuries. We will explore the similarities and differences in the expectations of various generations that have lived on Staten Island. This course will discuss how we can use the lens of cultural relativism to understand the history of social change on Staten Island.

## OPTION 09

### **Hebrew Bible IV Authorship**

John Petersen

**Tuesdays – Virtual Class**  
9:05am – 10:00am

#### **7 Sessions**

10/3, 10/10, 10/17,  
10/24, 10/31, 11/7,  
11/14

Join us as we explore important aspects and questions of the Hebrew Bible. Who were the authors of the various works that comprise the Hebrew Bible? Why and when did they write, and in what languages? How do we know this? How much of this is disputed by scholars and what is the nature of the disputes?

It has been said that a major ingredient of good writing is rewriting. What evidence of this is there in the Hebrew Bible? In what manner can this "rewriting " be said to amend, add to, subtract from, or "correct" previously "received" texts?

In what ways might this information influence our reading of and/or attitude toward these works today, and does this provide evidence toward a continual "reworking" of the texts today?

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, in what way has the Hebrew Bible come to be understood as "divinely inspired", and what might that mean to us today? Is the Hebrew Bible, with or without its less ancient counterpart, The Apostolic Writings, best considered the "word of God" or the "word about God?"

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## OPTION 10

### **1865: Last Months of the Civil War**

Leonard Warner

**Tuesdays – Virtual Class**  
9:00am – 12:30pm  
with 15-minute break

#### **2 Sessions**

12/5, 12/12

This course will cover the events leading to the end of the Civil War, the Confederacy, and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

Topics will include the end of the Siege of Petersburg, the capture of Richmond, Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, Lincoln's plans for Reconstruction, Surrender at Appomattox and of other Confederate armies, the end of the Confederate government, John Wilkes Booth, and Lincoln's Assassination and Funeral.

## OPTION 11

### Pursuit of Happiness

Harold Hellman

**Tuesdays – Virtual Class**  
10:10am – 11:05am

#### **7 Sessions**

10/3, 10/10, 10/17,  
10/24, 10/31, 11/7,  
11/14

Happiness is our birthright. Observe young children and see how easily joy comes to them. They approach life with an open heart, free to love without placing conditions on the object of their love. The Pursuit of Happiness is more than a class. It is a journey back to ourselves.

You will see how things like judgementalism, and perfectionism interfere with our happiness, and how choice, unconditional love, gratitude, and compassion put us on the road back to happiness. The course includes guided meditations and other experiential elements in which the participants will develop “happiness skills.”

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## ~~OPTION 12~~

### ~~Let's Talk about Idioms, again~~

Thomas Wortmann

**Tuesdays – Virtual Class**  
11:15am – 12:10pm

#### **6 Sessions**

**CANCELLED**

This course welcomes new and returning students as we cover common idioms and their history; specifically, where they come from, when, and why they were created. Don't be afraid to add your own.

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## OPTION 13

### Baseball

Alfred Grillo

**Tuesdays – Virtual Class**  
11:15am – 12:10pm

#### **6 Sessions**

10/24, 10/31, 11/7,  
11/14, 11/21, 11/28

This course will identify and discuss two All Star teams whose players were active from 1991 to 2020.

Join us for this open dialog as we decide selection criteria and discuss players who impressed us the most.

**OPTION 14**  
**(NEW)**

**1776**

Allan Meyers

**Tuesdays – Virtual Class**  
12:20pm – 1:15pm

**14 Sessions**  
9/12, 9/19, 9/26, 10/3,  
10/10, 10/17, 10/24,  
10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/21,  
11/28, 12/5, 12/12

Washington's rag tag Army takes on the most powerful Army and Navy in the world. We will learn how the continental Army, on or about a daily basis, fought from Boston to Princeton to preserve our independence.

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**OPTION 15**  
**(NEW)**

**Acupressure**

Connie Tabbitas

**Tuesdays – Virtual Class**  
1:25pm – 2:20pm

**7 Sessions**  
10/24, 10/31, 11/7,  
11/14, 11/21, 11/28,  
12/5

Acupressure consists of pressing the acupuncture points in an attempt to help free the flow of energy in the channels.

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**OPTION 16**

**Understanding the  
Music of the  
Beatles -Part 2**

“Mr. Lou” Russo

**Tuesdays – Virtual Class**  
2:30pm – 3:25pm

**7 Sessions**  
10/24, 10/31, 11/7,  
11/14, 11/21, 11/28,  
12/5

Understanding the music of the Beatles is to be all inclusive. This is the case for musicians who play the Beatles on guitar, piano, drum, bass, horns, and for song writers who compose melody construction. This class is for both beginners and pros, as well as those who are just interested in learning about their tremendous influence on popular culture, and the world of music. I will analyze the influence of the Beatles and explain their self-taught theory, which even they could not explain. We will also review their choices, and the sounds of their instruments, singing styles (lead and harmonic), their innovative rhythm styles, and their recording techniques. I will answer questions and give inside information and back stories that most musicologists do not know.

OPTION 17  
(NEW)

**Gian Lorenzo  
Bernini: Considered  
the Most Prolific Italian  
Artist of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century**

**Tuesdays - Virtual Class**  
2:30pm – 4:30pm  
**2 Sessions**  
10/17, 10/24

Snjezana Smodlaka

Gian Lorenzo Bernini (1598-1680) continues the famous Renaissance tradition of artistic versatility by engaging in different forms of art. He was a painter, sculptor, architect, and city planner.

While still very young, between ages 21 and 27, he created imposing marble sculptures of mythological and religious figures: Aeneas, Proserpine, Apollo with Daphne, David and of Ecstasy of Saint Teresa. He imbued them with human emotions, sense of movement, dynamism, and dramatic tension, mostly not seen in Renaissance sculptures.

Bernini in that way pioneered a new style called Baroque. His most visible and monumental architectural works are in Rome: two fountains on Piazza Navona, Baldachin in St. Peter's Church, and the majestic, all-encompassing colonnade in front of it. In this presentation we will try to compare and contrast his artwork with other artists' including Michelangelo's.

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~~OPTION 18~~

~~**Intro to the Piano**~~

**Wednesdays – Virtual Class**  
9:00am – 9:55am

Philip Garcia

**7 Sessions**  
**CANCELLED**

The first few weeks we will discuss the history of the piano and why it is designed the way it is. The remaining weeks we will spend learning the keys and how to play the piano.

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OPTION 19

**Piano II**

**Wednesdays – Virtual Class**  
9:00am – 9:55am

Philip Garcia

**7 Sessions**  
11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/22,  
11/29, 12/6, 12/13

This course is a continuation of Intro to the Piano. Anyone who has completed Intro to the Piano and/or has an intermediate understanding of the piano and reading sheet music is eligible for this course.

**. OPTION 20**

**Travel Thru History**

John Rossi

**Wednesdays – Virtual Class**

10:10am – 11:05am

**7 Sessions**

11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/22,  
11/29, 12/6, 12/13

Travel Thru History is an informational series of lectures designed to spark interest and enthusiasm. The audience will learn about the rich and fascinating history of diverse locations around the world. The series is an adventure through early European and North and South American history that tells the stories of people, places, and events that shaped the institutions of the world.

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**OPTION 21  
(NEW)**

**A Toolbox of Joy,  
Hope, and Healing  
in Challenging Times**

Darlene Timbreza

**Wednesdays – Virtual Class**

11:15am – 12:05pm

**7 Sessions**

10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25,  
11/1, 11/8, 11/15

This course is a discussion group on simple techniques to help bring joy, hope, and healing during the most difficult times in one's life

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**OPTION 22  
(NEW)**

**Declaration of  
Independence**

Allan Meyers

**Wednesdays – Virtual Class**

12:20pm – 1:20pm

**14 Sessions**

9/13, 9/20, 9/27, 10/4  
10/11, 10/18, 10/25  
11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/22,  
11/29, 12/6, 12/13

Not all of our forefathers were ready to agree on independence for the colonies. We will learn what discussions and arguments took place in the continental camps.

We will read and discuss the original written Declaration of Independence and the final Declaration of Independence with its more than 86 changes. Some changes were minor, and some were major.



**OPTION 23  
(NEW)**

**Anti-Aging for  
Seniors**

Ellen Simonetti

**Wednesdays – Virtual Class**  
1:30pm – 3:00pm

**5 Sessions**  
11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/22,  
11/29

We are learning that aging is no longer solely dependent on our biological processes, genetic predispositions and/or just plain bad luck. We have more control over our lives than we realize. Our minds can interact with our bodies and modify our scripts. Learn some of the tools to re-write your script. One week of this course will be devoted to friendship issues.

Embrace your age, unlock the sage...

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**OPTION 24  
(NEW)**

**Intro to Spanish**

Fausto Canela

**Wednesdays – Virtual Class**  
5:00pm – 6:00pm

**7 Sessions**  
10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25  
11/1, 11/8, 11/15

The basic Spanish course for mature learners introduces essential vocabulary and grammar structures to enable effective communication in everyday situations. The curriculum focuses on practical conversations, cultural insights, and interactive exercises to enhance language proficiency. With a supportive and relaxed learning environment, this course empowers mature learners to develop their language skills at their own pace.

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**~~OPTION 25~~  
(NEW)**

**~~Basic Photography~~**

Rogelio Ramos, Jr.

**Wednesdays – Virtual Class**  
6:30pm – 7:30pm

**7 Sessions**  
**CANCELLED**

Basic photography uses automatic mode to focus on framing pictures as well as perspective. As so many of us do while we use a camera, we tend to put the subject in the middle of the frame. When you realize that it is okay to try something else, your eye (perspective) will change, and your unique way of seeing the world will emerge. You must bring a smartphone (iPhone or Android) or a camera for this course.

OPTION 26  
(NEW)

**Moving Right Along**

Stephanie Parello

Thursdays – *In Person Class*

9:05am – 10:00am

**7 Sessions**

10/19, 10/26, 11/2,  
11/9, 11/16, 11/30,  
12/7

Expand your exercise horizons with simple gentle flowing movements to awaken your body using ancient techniques and modern science of health and well-being. A great gateway for beginners, the simple, low-impact, do-able movements adjust to any ability. While they may seem deceptively easy, each can be made easier or harder as necessary or desired since there is rich depths and levels to tap for increased and lifetime challenge.

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OPTION 27  
(NEW)

**Untold Stories of African Women**

Augustus Sarr

Thursdays – *In Person Class*

10:10am – 11:05pm

**7 sessions**

10/5, 10/12, 10/19,  
10/26, 11/2, 11/9,  
11/16

This course will explore the historical origins and cultural norms impacting the current socioeconomic realities of women in select regions of Africa. The instructor will also incorporate how Western ideals have influenced cultural norms. Some of the topics include domestic violence, marriage traditions, healthcare infrastructure, business and banking norms, gender politics, and infant and maternal mortality rates.

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OPTION 28  
(NEW)

**Brief and Fun History of TV**

David Frankel

Thursdays – *In Person Class*

11:15am – 12:05pm

**7 sessions**

10/5, 10/12, 10/19,  
10/26, 11/2, 11/9,  
11/16

A fun and historical look of the of American TV, and the legends who shaped it.

OPTION 29  
(NEW)

**Knitting for  
Pleasure**

Dianne Frankel

**Thursdays – *In Person*  
Class**  
12:20pm – 1:50pm

**5 sessions**  
9/14, 9/21, 9/28,  
10/5, 10/12

If you have never knitted before, by the end of the semester you will know how to knit a scarf or baby blanket on your own with confidence.

For knitters who know the basics and would like to broaden their skills by learning different stitches and techniques, or if you have a work in progress (WIP) that you would like to finish, bring it to class.

Knitting patterns and supplies will be discussed during the first class

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OPTION 30  
(NEW)

**Knitting and Crochet  
Discussion Group**

Meaghan Hilton

**Thursdays – *In Person*  
Class**  
12:20pm – 1:15pm

**5 Sessions**  
10/19, 10/26, 11/2,  
11/9, 11/16

Join us to chat, connect, knit, and crochet. Together we will learn, socialize, relax, and have fun! Feel free to bring anything you're currently working on, and we will share patterns as well as tips and ideas. Students are encouraged to bring their own materials, but extra knitting needles, crochet hooks and some yarn will be available in class if needed.

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OPTION 31  
(NEW)

**Myths Alive**

Anne Devlin

**Thursdays – *In Person*  
Class**  
1:25pm – 2:20pm

**4 Sessions**  
10/26, 11/2, 11/9,  
11/16

Discover and discuss an eclectic array of mythological allusions in the arts and sciences, history, literature, sports, technology, and everyday conversation. In the first session we will share our favorite myths, followed by group analysis of the criteria that defines the genre. Topics will range from archaeological excavations to modern superheroes.

**OPTION 32  
(NEW)**

**Let Freedom Read**

Anne Devlin

**Thursdays – *In Person*  
Class**

2:30pm – 3:25pm

**3 Sessions +Training**

11/2, 11/9, 11/16

11/30

Listen, reflect, and participate in an engaging discussion on the interface among the First and Tenth Amendments, Patriot Act, Parents' Bill of Rights, American Library Association Bill of Rights, intellectual freedom, and current book bans in public school libraries.

Included in this course is a training from CSI's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

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**OPTION 33  
(NEW)**

**Chair Yoga**

Donna Scimeca

**Thursdays – *In Person*  
Class**

5:30pm – 6:30pm

**7 Sessions**

9/14, 9/21, 9/28, 10/5,

10/12, 10/19, 10/26

Chair yoga is a gentle yoga practice where a chair is used as an aid when performing yoga poses, or asanas. This Iyengar style yoga class will focus on proper alignment, increasing flexibility, strength, and balance.

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**OPTION 34  
(NEW)**

**Intro to Italian**

Blerina Likollari

**Fridays – *In Person*  
Class**

9:00am – 9:55am

**7 Sessions**

9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6,

10/13, 10/20, 10/27

The basic Italian course for mature learners introduces essential vocabulary and grammar structures to enable effective communication in everyday situations. The curriculum focuses on practical conversations, cultural insights, and interactive exercises to enhance language proficiency. With a supportive and relaxed learning environment, this course empowers mature learners to develop their language skills at their own pace.

## OPTION 35

### **Art: Learning to Draw and Paint**

“Mr. Lou” Russo

**Fridays – Virtual Class**  
11:00am – 11:55am

**7 Sessions**  
9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6,  
10/13, 10/20, 10/27

This course will explore all aspects of drawing and painting, from concept, perspective, and composition to using charcoal, watercolor, acrylic, and oil.

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## **STUDENT CLUB**

### **The Group**

**Fridays – Virtual Class**  
12:05pm – 2:05pm

**Every Friday**  
9/15, 9/22, 9/29,  
10/6, 10/13, 10/20,  
10/27, 11/3, 11/10,  
11/17, 12/1, 12/8

### **COME JOIN THE FUN!**

Students come together to meet and socialize with one another.

The Group will host conversations on current events, locally, nationally & globally.

Join us for 30 minutes of special presentations that share students' stories.

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## Instructor Bios

**Kristen Addressi** is a proud Adjunct and Alumni of CSI since 2002. Since 2018, Professor Addressi has enjoyed her time teaching Introduction to Sociology and Anthropology courses, as well as her favorite course, Class, Status and Power in CSI's Sociology Department. She holds a bachelor's in psychology, a master's in liberal studies, and a master's in history with a certificate in public history. She loves to read non-fiction texts on history, sociology, socioeconomic issues, immigration, technology, feminism, culture, history of place and origins of words, as well as non-fiction texts, specifically science fiction. Professor Addressi loves making connections with what she's reading and learning into life lessons.

**Catherine Bridges** is curious and passionate about enjoying life in the present moment. In the 1980's, she received her LCSW, and is proud to say that Dr. Irene Deitch, the Options program founder, was her first professor in Psychology. Catherine is also an Interfaith Minister.

**Dr. Fausto Canela**, a Fulbright Scholar, possesses a master's degree in Instructional Technology and Design, as well as a Doctorate in Educational Leadership with a specialization in Educational Technology. Proficient in both Spanish and English, Fausto exhibits a strong enthusiasm for science, education, and instructional technology.

**Ivy Chin** is the 2023 Anchor Award recipient of the Options program, honored for your service to the College and her Community. Ivy has studied Tai Chi for 15 years. She seeks to pass on this knowledge and share common interests with others.

**Anne Devlin** is a proud CUNY graduate from Hunter College, Richmond College, and CSI. She enjoyed a 35-year career as an NYC Language Arts teacher, Drama teacher, and Library/Media Center Facilitator. She was a District 31 Representative at The New School for Social Research, New Victory Theater, and Metropolitan Opera Summer Workshops. She is also a UFT retiree book club facilitator, Options instructor for 12+ years, nursing home volunteer, community activist, and serious amateur geologist and photographer.

**David Frankel** has a BFA in Broadcasting and a master's in education, Supervision and Administration. He has worked in broadcasting and taught for 45 years.

**Dianne Frankel** was taught how to knit fifty years ago by her great aunt, and ever since then she has loved the craft. After retiring from NYC Department of Education Diane Frankel enrolled at the Fashion Institute of Technology, Yarn Council, Knitting Instructor Class. She has taught adult and Girl Scout groups how to knit.

**Philip Garcia** has a master's degree in music composition and a Bachelor of Arts in music. He has performed piano works by Beethoven, Chopin, Mozart, Brahms, and Godowsky, along with original compositions. He currently performs with the Staten Island Snugs and Visions NYC. He also teaches piano privately.

**Al Grillo** is a lifelong baseball fan who enjoys facilitating discussions on baseball. As a practicing CPA he has frequently spoken before business audiences and brings the same enthusiasm to the baseball class. He is a long-time member of the Staten Island business community.

**Dr. Joan Hartman** is a retired faculty member of the Department of English at CSI with a specialty in British literature of the Early Modern Period, also referred to as the Renaissance. She has been teaching one Shakespearean play a semester in Options each year over the last decade.

**Harold Hellman** has a master's in social work and has worked in mental health and long-term care for 30 years. Through years of meditation and spiritual practice, he had found that happiness is the key to a peaceful and fulfilling life. Happiness takes work, but what glorious work it is.

**Meaghan Hilton** has always loved crafting. She took a knitting class with her mother years ago, but she also wanted to learn crochet. During the pandemic while her son was napping, she taught herself to crochet and never looked back. It's a wonderful way to relieve stress and enjoy the simple act of creating. She loves sharing crochet ideas with others, and the community that it creates.

**Mitchell Lehrer** is a popular music enthusiast, and he has been teaching on this subject since 2018 in Options. His desire to teach stems from the enjoyment he receives sharing his knowledge of not-so-popular songs and "hidden gems" from popular groups and artists.

**Blerina Likollari** earned her master's degree in TESOL at Hunter College and has enjoyed teaching adult learners for more than 15 years. Before her current role as CSI's Associate Director of the Literacy and Language Programs, she was a faculty member at the World Languages and Literature Department. During her 13 years with the department, she taught beginner to advanced Italian language courses, which included teaching the fundamentals of expression and communication to students who had little to no-prior knowledge of language.

**Allan Meyers** is a Korean War Veteran. After the war he became a lawyer and started his own family practice. In retirement he enrolled in Options as a student. It was at that time that the Options Program Coordinator, Betty, asked him to teach a class about the Brooklyn Dodgers. He has been teaching two courses since then.

**Stephanie Parello** began an obsessive study of Chen-style Tai Chi, Kung Fu, fitness in general, as well as therapeutic massage, when she turned her life upside-down by relocating to Sydney, Australia. Her most prominent super-power is being a natural-born teacher, with decades of experience, and an almost magical ability to meet people exactly where they are.

**John Peterson** has been teaching in Options since the pandemic. A retired mail carrier and firefighter, Mr. Peterson's first experience teaching was in a Catholic education program organizing and presenting topics on religious education to high school students. John's passion is adult education on transcendental issues.

**Doriann Pieve-Hyland** serves as CSI's Director of Technology Operations, Training, and Development. She has over 25 years of experience in higher education management, teaching, and technology services. Doriann holds HDI, ITIL, and Microsoft Office Specialist certifications, as well as a master's degree in integrated technology and online learning in higher education. She is passionate about learning and teaching and tries to ensure that her students enjoy the learning process too.



**Rogelio Ramos, Jr** says his life as a photographer started when his wife bought him his first SLR camera. He began to photograph anything that caught his interest during his daily life. Since he works in Manhattan, he usually has his camera with him. In this digital age, photography is cost effective since you can see the results prior to printing. See samples of Rogelio Ramos pictures on Facebook: Rogelio Ramos Photography

**Laurie Raps** started playing Mah Jong as a child while watching her mother and her friends playing every week. She joined a game as a young adult and has been playing ever since. Besides loving the game, she especially loves the friendships she has made. Join this course to journey into Mah Jong with the Options community!

**John Rossi** is a former professor at the prestigious New York University. Professor Rossi has educated and inspired numerous audiences on subjects ranging from South America, Europe and the Pacific Northwest to technology and finance. His knowledge and enthusiastic lectures highlight the history of ports-of-call using Power Point presentations, animation, video, rich illustrations, and photos.

**Louis Russo** is a professional guitarist. singer/songwriter, as well as a professional artist, painter/illustrator.

**Augustus Sarr** is from West Africa. He received his bachelor's in international development studies with a minor in economics from St Mary's University in Halifax, Canada. He also served as a Teacher's Assistant in the Department of Social Sciences at the University of the Gambia. Augustus is passionate about the socioeconomic realities of African women because he witnessed his mother experiencing the hardships that many African women are subjected to during his childhood.

**Donna Scimeca** is a full-time administrator in the Office of the Dean of Humanities & Social Sciences. She is also an adjunct lecturer, and Coordinator of Core 100, a US civics course at the College. She began developing her Iyengar yoga (Hatha) practice in 2000 and has been teaching yoga since 2007. She teaches classes in person at the College and virtually via Zoom.

**Dr. Ellen Simonetti's** life has followed an unconventional path that has required her to find alternative strategies to cope with many of life's challenges. Her passion to learn more about the human condition led her to a lifetime love affair with Psychology. Dr. Simonetti has earned a master's degree and Ph.D. in psychology.

**Dr. Snjezana Smodlaka** was born in Croatia. A Fulbright scholar in 1981, she holds a B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. in Italian language and literature. She published numerous professional articles and presented more than forty papers on international congresses in USA, Italy, Austria, Germany, Spain, Canada, and Croatia. She is particularly committed to bringing back Italian Renaissance and Baroque women artists from centuries old oblivion.

**Connie Tabbitas** is a certified Reiki Master, Hypnotherapist, Stress Management Consultant, Tai Chi instructor, and an Ordained Minister and Wedding Celebrant. She began teaching in 1990 about the flow of Energy.

**Dr. Darlene Timbreza** is a physical therapist with clinical experience of more than 25 years. Dr. Timbreza is also a Happiness Life Coach and considers teaching as both a privilege and a sacred vocation.

**Leonard Warner** grew up with a love of nature and evolution. As an educator and Biology major, he taught in the sciences and humanities both at John Dewey High School for over 30 years, and after retirement in 2000 at the UFT SI Beagle Learning Center, Blue Heron Park Nature Center, and CSI Options. His cumulative teaching experience spans 57 years. He specializes in teaching Anthropology, Archaeology, Ancient World, Biblical World and American Indian subjects. In recent years in his retirement, he has focused on American History, specifically the American Revolution, Lives of the Founding Fathers and early Presidents, Abraham Lincoln, and the Civil War. He loves to teach, to learn, to interact with people, and to share his knowledge with anyone who likes to learn.

**Peter Whitehouse** has taught in the Options program for over a decade. Before that he was the Advanced Placement European History instructor at Tottenville High School. His previous subject course areas for Options have ranged from European philosophy, art, architecture, religion, and literature, with emphasis on the Medieval and Renaissance periods. He has also conducted several museum art tours for students at the NYC Met and the Cloisters, as well as educational trips abroad.

**Thomas Wortman** is a CSI alum whose passions and interests are in history. Over the years, Tom has acquired a lot of knowledge on the history of the sayings we commonly use and the cultures they come from. He is a firm believer in sharing knowledge. Otherwise, it has no purpose.