The History and Development of the Big East Conference

This course will be led by a team who lived through Big East history:
- David Swanson, Georgetown University retired Assistant Athletic Director for Finance, moderator
- Francis X. Rienzo, Georgetown University Athletic Director Emeritus
- Joseph Lang, GU retired Athletic Director and current Associate Athletic Director, University of the District of Columbia (UDC)
- Patricia Thomas, GU former Associate Athletic Director and Senior Woman Administrator, currently Athletic Director, UDC
- Michael Callahan, GU Sailing Coach (10 national and one international sailing championships), whose recent master’s thesis is on the history and development of the NCAA and the Big East as it relates to Georgetown University
- Lee Reed, Georgetown University Athletic Director.

Wednesdays, 10:30-12:00 a.m.; October 7, 14, 21. The Murray Room, Lauinger Library.

The course will focus on the creation and evolution of the Big East Conference from an idea for a new league which emerged in the mid/late 1970’s and developed through several phases to the current basketball-centered conference in which Georgetown is a leader. Special interest will be given to the importance of the Conference as an all-sports conference and to Title IX and the impact of women’s sports on the development of the Conference. Time permitting; the course will also touch on the future.

John Milton’s Paradise Lost: Books 1, 4, and 9

Jason Rosenblatt, Emeritus Professor of English, has written extensively on seventeenth-century English literature. He is a past president of the Milton Society of America and is its 2015 Honored Scholar.

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00p.m., October 15, 22, 29, McShain Lounge, McCarthy Hall.

We will be reading three books of Milton's great twelve-book epic. For the first session, which will cover book 1, please pay especially close attention to: the opening invocation (lines 1-26), the portrayal of Satan, and the epic similes (e.g., regarding Satan's spear and shield, the fallen legions compared to autumn leaves, the devils troopng to Pandemonium [Milton's invented word] compared to bees in springtime).

Teilhard de Chardin and Big History: A Look Inside

John F. Haught is Distinguished Research Professor in the Department of Theology. Professor Haught has written on the thought of Teilhard de Chardin and on the relationship between religion and science.

Friday, October 23, at 10:30 a.m. Large McShain Lounge, McCarthy Hall.

A few historians and scientists are trying these days to connect human history to the longer scientific story of the universe. They call their project Big History. Big History is new because the scientific story of the universe is new. There is an inside cosmic story, however, that needs to be told along with the outside version. Big History requires a widening and deepening of its survey of the cosmic story, similar to what Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955) was calling for early in the 20th century but which in his writings remained incomplete. This lecture will list and discuss essential requirements that Teilhard would have insisted on in any truly Big History in the future.

Religious, Political & Civic Themes in 14th Century Sienese Art

Serafina Hager is Associate Professor, emerita; former Chair of the Italian Department and former Curricular Dean of the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics. She is currently Director of the Italian Research Institute.

Thursdays, 1:30-3:00 p.m., October 22, 29, November 5, Murray Room, Lauinger Library.

The course is an introduction to 14th century Sienese art that reflects a more secular vision of the divine and a very strong civic message. During the Guelph rule of the Nine (1285-1355), with economic growth and urbanization, we witness great artistic activity. We will analyze the historical, philosophical, and literary context in selected works of Duccio di Buoninsegna, Simone Martini, and Ambrogio Lorenzetti.
The History of the Jesuits

John O’Malley, S.J., is University Professor in the Georgetown Theology Department. A church historian, he has written extensively on the history of the Jesuits. His best known book in that regard is The First Jesuits (Harvard, 1993), now published in thirteen languages.

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Oct. 28, Nov. 4, Murray Room, Lauinger Library

The course will consist of two lectures. October 28: How the Jesuits originally got into education, and so what for today? Looked at from one perspective, the Jesuits should not have begun to operate schools, but they did. Why? Why are they still in the business today? November 4: The Suppression of the Jesuits. In 1773 Pope Clement XIV suppressed the Jesuits and ordered all their properties confiscated. What led him to take this unprecedented move? That should have been the end of the Society of Jesus, but it was not. What happened?

Successfully Navigating the Healthcare System: What You Need to Know to be Your Own Best Advocate

MaryAnn Griffin, MSW, is the former Division Director of Aging and Adult Services for the City of Alexandria, Virginia. She has had a 30+ year career in aging and healthcare venues, including managing physician practices, ambulatory care, hospice, and home health.

Thursdays, 10:30-12:00 p.m., November 5, 12, 19. Murray Room, Lauinger Library.

Medicare is the primary health insurance for most older Americans, 55 million to be exact. With 10,000 of us turning age 65 every day, it is a pretty sure bet that we will have an encounter with some aspect of the healthcare system. Yet even though so many of us depend on Medicare, few among us really understand the Medicare alphabet, rules for home health, for rehab stays, prescription drug coverage, selecting the right “Medigap” plan or the newest, the Hospital Observation Status. The class will also focus on a panoply of broad health-related issues such as when/how to use long term care insurance, identifying a patient advocate, how to select a home care agency, surrogate decision making and more. We will also look at assisted living facilities and what payment sources there are to cover the cost, deciding on a Continuing Care Retirement Community to assure “care for life,” or, if deciding to remain in the community, what supports there are, such as joining a Village and the community-based services that are available. This course will help to make sense of all aspects of the complex healthcare system so that class participants can become astute, educated advocates for themselves and their family members in navigating the system and managing their care.

Understanding Prophets in the Hebrew Scriptures

Anthony Tambasco, Professor of Theology, Emeritus, was Assoc. Dean of Liberal Studies.

Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 p.m., November 3, 10, 17. The Makom Room, Leavey Center.

The course will give an overview of the history and the teaching of some of the important prophets whose writings have been preserved in books of the Bible. The major goals of the course are (1) to show that prophets need to be understood foremost as speaking to their present circumstances and less about predicting the future; (2) to draw out messages of both judgment and hope that still speak to us today; (3) to show how Christians might read these texts in distinctive ways, but in ways that promote Jewish/Christian relations. It would be helpful to bring a Bible to the course.