

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

PRESIDENTS' COLLEGE

Winter/Spring 2026 Courses and Lectures

Course/Lecture	Instructor	Date/Time	Location <i>Check website for updates</i>
ARTS			
Fresh Takes on Coming-of-Age Films*	Michael Walsh	Mondays, Jan. 12, 19, 26, Feb. 2, 3–4:30 p.m.	Wilde Auditorium/ Harry Jack Gray Center
The 19th Century Vogue for Japanese Culture at Hill-Stead & Beyond*	Anna Swinbourne	Lecture only: Feb. 19, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Hill-Stead Experience: Lecture + Exhibit + Lunch: Tues., April 28, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.	McLean (off-campus, Simsbury) Hill-Stead Museum (off-campus, Farmington)
Harmonies of Our Homelands from Colonial Times*	Dee Hansen Eric Hansen Neal Humphreys	Fri., Feb. 20, 2–3:30 p.m.	The McAuley (off-campus, WH)
Bringing Grimms' Fairy Tales to Life*	Tom Lee	Mon., Feb. 23, March 2, 9, 12:30–2 p.m.	Wilde Auditorium/ Harry Jack Gray Center
The Powerful Lineage of African American Art*	Christina Swaidan	Thurs., Feb. 26, March 5, 2–3:30 p.m.	KF Room/ Harrison Libraries
The Conductor's Vision from Score to Stage*	Kalena Bovell	Lecture: Tues., March 10, 3–4:30 p.m. HSO Concert: <i>Pines of Rome</i> , Sun., March 15, 3 p.m.	Wilde Auditorium/ Harry Jack Gray Center Bushnell/Belding Theater
How Music Reflects & Provokes Historical Change*	Karen Cook	Wednesdays, April 1, 8, 15, 10:30 a.m.–noon	KF Room/ Harrison Libraries
History Recast: Documentary Theater, Community, and the Hartford Circus Fire*	Michele Troy Jacques Lamarre Jared Mezzocchi	Lectures: Mon., Apr. 27, May 4, 2–3:30 p.m. Production: Sun., May 3, 1:30 p.m. director & playwright, 2:30 p.m. show	KF Room/ Harrison Libraries Theaterworks
PRESIDENTS' COLLEGE CONVERSATIONS			
<i>Free for Presidents' College Fellows-Level Donors, Fee for Non-Fellows**</i>			
Does American Health Care Need Repair?	Jillian Gilchrest Ben Wade	Thurs., Feb. 12, 11 a.m.–12:15 p.m.	Wilde Auditorium/ Harry Jack Gray Center
Thinking Past "Us" vs. "Them": A Conversation about Identity*	Siona Benjamin Amy Weiss	Tues., April 14, 11 a.m.–12:15 p.m.	Greenberg Center/ Harry Jack Gray Center
Kiss Me Kate: Broadway Meets Shakespeare*	Frank Rizzo	Sat., May 2, Lecture: noon, Hartt School production, 2 p.m.	<i>Bonus event: Fellows only</i>

*Made possible in part by the generosity of the Richard P. Garmany Fund at the Greater Hartford Gives Foundation, formerly the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

**Donate \$100 or more to the Presidents' College to become a Fellow; as our thanks, you'll receive free admission to four Presidents College Conversations, plus parking and library privileges, and invitations to Fellow-only events.

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HISTORY AND CURRENT EVENTS			
Trade, Tariffs & Technology	Farhad Rassekh	Thurs., Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 10:30 a.m.–noon	KF Room/ Harrison Libraries
How Big-Time College Sports Went Wrong & What To Do About It	Walter Harrison	Tues., March 10, 24, 31, 10:30 a.m.–noon	Greenberg Center/ Harry Jack Gray Center
Liberty, Equality, Revolution: Rethinking Our Founding Principles at 250 Years	Chris Doyle	Wed., March 11, 18, 25, 5:30–7 p.m.	Wilde Auditorium/ Harry Jack Gray Center
A Brief & Lively History of Hartford Radio	John Ramsey	Fri., March 20, 2–3:30 p.m.	The McAuley (off campus/WH)
Philosophical Lessons on Resistance from 1930s Europe	Benjamin Berger	Mon., March 30, April 6, 13, 2–3:30 p.m.	KF Room/ Harrison Libraries
The Latest from Human Rights Watch Europe & Central Asia	Hugh Williamson Jilda Aliotta	Tues., April 21, 5:30–7 p.m.	Wilde Auditorium/ Harry Jack Gray Center
LITERATURE AND CULTURE			
Food and Culture of Ancient Rome	Mari Firkatian	Course: Tues., Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 10, 2–3:30 p.m.	KF Room/ Harrison Libraries
A Roman Feast at Metro Bis	Mari Firkatian	Tues., Feb. 24, 6:30–8:30 p.m.	Metro Bis/Simsbury
Ralph Ellison's <i>Invisible Man</i>	Bryan Sinche	Wed., Feb. 4, 11, 18, 10:30 a.m.–noon	KF Room/ Harrison Libraries
<i>Hamlet</i>: Ghosts, Broken Promises & Shakespeare's England	Humphrey Tonkin	Thurs., March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2–3:30 p.m.	KF Room/ Harrison Libraries
SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & MATH			
Getting Around Town... In the Air	Paul Slaboch	Fri., Jan. 16, 23, 1–2:30 p.m.	KF Room/ Harrison Libraries
AI's Hidden Environmental Cost	Laura Pence	Thurs., March 12, 2–3:30 p.m. Fri., April 17, 2–3:30 p.m.	KF Room/ Harrison Libraries The McAuley (off-campus, WH)
Promising Research For the Aging Brain	Paola Sacchetti	Tues., April 7, 2:30–4 p.m. Mon., April 20, 2–3:30 p.m.	KF Room/ Harrison Libraries McLean (off-campus/Simsbury)
The Geology of Connecticut (All Seven Layers!)	Howard Wright	Lecture: Thurs., April 30, 1:30–3 p.m.; Field Trip: Thurs., May 7, 1:30–3:45 p.m.	KF Room/ Harrison Libraries Field Trip: Meet in Lot B
Why Immunology Could Revolutionize How We Fight Disease	Mike Magee	Fri., May 15, 2–3:30 p.m.	The McAuley (off campus/WH)

PLEASE NOTE: Details may change. Your welcome letter from the Volunteer Coordinator will include the most up-to-date class date, time, and location.

1/3/2026