

## HISTORY AS PERFORMANCE ART: THUCYDIDES INQUIRES ABOUT THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR (163)

Fridays, 1:00 - 2:30 (6 Classes 10/13 thru 11/17) in Room 30

Tuition \$45

**Walk-in \$12 Pay prior to the class in the Center 4Life Learning office.**

Thucydides wrote about the Peloponnesian War. His Masterwork, completed in 411 BCE, influenced both Xenophon and Polybius. They three promoted a balanced and scientific approach. Thucydides is still studied, not merely read, in most military academies. Mr. Madden has partnered with Thucydides' avatar to write a series of 30 minute "reading theater" plays, each evincing a different perspective on the causes of the war. The instructor proposes that we "experience" these through the rehearsal **and** performance of each. A willingness to read a role is not required. Perspectives include those of Southerners, Abolitionists, Slaves, Free-Soilers and the Diplomatic World. Featured characters include Captain Samuel Ashe, Angela and Sarah Grimke, Frederick Douglas, Sojourner Truth, Salmon Chase, Alexander Stephens, Abraham Lincoln and, of course, Thucydides. It will be a blast!

**Dan Madden, PhD**, grew up in Salem Massachusetts where THE PAST was everywhere. He earned his BA at Boston College, focusing on Medieval and European History. For his master's and PhD, he traveled to the far distant land of the UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN in MADISON. There, he specialized in American Constitutional History. Dan worked for thirty years as an Economic Development Consultant. Upon his retirement, for reasons unclear to him, he started writing books on History. His first was THE TWISTY TRAIL FROM HOMER TO COPERNICUS. Undaunted by weak sales, he forged ahead and authored two books on the era from 1745-1789. They are ROOTS OF THE FIRST AMERICAN REPUBLICS and BEGINNING THE WORLD OVER AGAIN. These books led to popular lectures at Aston Gardens here in Sun City Center. Dan has also served as a panelist at the Dahlonega Literary Festival in Georgia and has introduced his Books to a ZOOM audience in Waunakee Wisconsin. Since the Spring of 2022, he has taught for two semesters at the Center 4Life Learning at the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center. Dan lives at Aston Gardens in Sun City Center with his wife, Judy, and a precocious lovebird named Sunshine. The couple have two children and two grandchildren. Dan loves birdwatching, Mexican Train dominoes, and learning Spanish.