

## **OLIVES, GRAPES, AND DEMOCRACY (225)**

Thursdays, 10:30 – 12:00 (3 Classes 7/23 – 8/6) in Room 30

**Tuition \$35**

**Walk-in Friendly, \$14. Pay prior to the class in the Center 4Life Learning office.**

This class will explore Democracy from Ancient Greece to Today. What do olives and grapes have to do with the birth of democracy? Why did people begin to believe that ordinary citizens—not kings or aristocrats—should make the laws and judge disputes? Democracy did not emerge as an abstract theory; it developed as a brilliant, practical solution to real struggles over land, opportunity, and justice in the ancient world. Over time, democratic societies have faced recurring challenges—from human nature and environmental limits to powerful new technologies. How have they adapted and expanded opportunity in the past and can they continue to do so in the future?

In this three session course, we will explore the surprising journey of democracy from its beginnings in ancient Greece to its modern implementation in the United States as a republic, through great literature, influential ideas, and even a few memorable songs. Along the way we'll see how democratic societies have worked to balance fairness, freedom, and progress. No background in history or philosophy is required—only curiosity and a willingness to explore these questions together.

**Robert Silverman** spent more than 30 years in IT support and product development at IBM and JPMorgan Chase. He taught logic and philosophy at Rutgers University in the 1970s and now teaches logic and ethics at Hillsborough Community College. Robert enjoys the lively discussions in our adult education classes and serves on the Center 4Life Learning Board.