

SIX LANDMARK EPISODES FROM WORLD HISTORY (163)

Fridays, 1:00 - 2:30 in Room 30 (6 Classes 10/14 to 11/18)

Tuition \$35

Walk-in \$10

Pay prior to the class in the Center 4Life Learning office.

1. THE RISE and FALL OF THE ATHENIAN NAVY, 483-404 BCE. Trace the path from Democracy to Naval Empire to the Great Cultural outburst that followed. We follow the lives of Themistocles, Thucydides, and the redemptive tale of handsome Alcibiades. Discover that the saga of Athenian Democracy is timeless!
2. FALL OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, (107 – 44 BCE). Why did Caesar cross the Rubicon? Why did this matter? This epic tale portrays the slow demise of the republic, hailing back to the Cimbri Wars of 113-101 BCE, to a one-party republic, and to the wholesale slaughters of his political enemies by the Dictator Sulla.
3. THE HOUSE OF WISDOM, 750-1000 CE. By the 14th century, Europe re-discovered much of its ancient Greco-Roman heritage. These previously unknown documents first came to them from Islamic libraries. We focus first on the House of Wisdom in Baghdad. There, a faction of Islamic thought sought to assemble and consolidate the wisdom Greece, India, and Islam. Then, hear the remarkable story of how Spanish Cordoba and Toledo became the primary vehicles for the ultimate transfer of all this to Western Europe.
4. WILLIAM PITT and ENGLAND'S MIRACLE YEAR, (1759). With the French Empire at the peak from 1745-58, the GREAT COMMONER, in a single year, reversed England's grim war prospects. Britannia would thereafter become the new Great Power of Europe until 1939.
5. BATTLE OF SARATOGA (1777). The Saratoga Campaign of 1777 began so well for the British! How did it all fall apart? The American victory set off a chain of events that insured both American Independence, and the rise of anti-monarchical ideas in Europe. These will ultimately become the predominant ones in modern Europe.
6. THE GUADALCANAL CAMPAIGN (1942-3). This was the first full four-dimensional campaign involving submarines, carriers, battleships, airplanes, and infantry. The island itself was an unbearably humid jungle- full of snakes, crocodiles, fire ants, and malaria-bearing mosquitoes. This Campaign is widely recognized as one of three decisive Allied victories in WW2. Japan was thereafter on the defensive.

Dan Madden, PhD earned his MA and PhD at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He specialized in American and English Constitutional History. Two of his three books focus of the era from 1745-1789. They are Roots Of The First American Republics and Beginning The World Over Again. He has also written The Twisty Trail From Homer To Copernicus. The Twisty Trail is a "magic carpet ride" through the high points of Ancient and Medieval History. It tells its riveting story in a mere 126 pages. Maps and photographs abound. Dan offers popular monthly lectures at Aston Gardens here in Sun City Center. He was a panelist at the Dahlonga Literary Festival in Georgia and led a Book Reading ZOOM EVENT in Waunakee Wisconsin. He taught a class on the American Revolution last semester here at the Center 4Life Learning.