

SOCIAL SECURITY – ITS BACKGROUND, CURRENT STATUS, AND FUTURE (164)

Mondays, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., Room 30 (3 Classes 10/10 to 10/24) Tuition \$25 Walk-in \$10 Pay prior to the class in the Center 4Life Learning office.

Our class will begin with a description and open discussion of the opposing views on the proper size and role of government held by noted libertarian, centrist, and liberal thinkers. We will then examine the role of Social Security. During our discussion, we will ask some fundamental questions about this program. How and why did Social Security begin? What explains the rapid growth of Social Security over the years and what are the reasons for this growth? Why has Social Security run into trouble in terms of adequately funding expected benefits for future generations? Finally, what are some suggestions for fixing the problems that Social Security faces? The solutions discussed will look at providing more revenue through an increase in tax rates and/or reducing benefits to future generations. In addition, we will consider several proposals which claim that the government program as it presently exists should largely be abandoned, with individuals determining on their own how to save for their retirement.

Robert Silverman is an Adjunct Professor of Philosophy at Hillsborough Community College and, before retiring, was an IT executive with IBM and JP Morgan Chase. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Center 4Life Learning and has lived in Valencia Lakes for a number of years.

Frank Slesnick, PhD is a Professor Emeritus of Economics at Bellarmine University, where he taught for 30 years. He is Vice-Chair of the Center 4Life Learning and has lived in Kings Point for a number of years.