



NEW! TWO GREAT COURSES SERIES

The library will be showing DVDs on different topics presented by people who are eminent in their subject field. Series #1 courses are one to two months long. Series #2 courses are three to four months long. All Great Courses classes will be held in the Community Room.

GREAT COURSES SERIES #2 – SATURDAY AFTERNOONS, 4:00–5:30 PM

12 CLASSES, JAN–APR

History is made and defined by landmark events: moments that irrevocably changed the course of human civilization. While we may be taught that anonymous social, political, and economic forces were the driving factors behind past events, the instructor shows that it is individuals, acting alone or together, who alter the course of history. With their actions, human history would be shockingly unfamiliar. This point of view may lead us to think deeply about our future, as well.

The 12 classes, taught from January to the middle of April, feature 3 lectures per class for a total of 36 lectures that cover 36 of the most powerful and definitive events in the history of the world. The subjects of the lectures are listed below. These events cover

- spiritual and political ideas
- catastrophic battles and wars
- scientific and technological advances
- world leaders both influential and monstrous
- cultural works of unparalleled beauty

The World Was Never the Same: Events That Changed History

The best reason for studying history is not the accumulation of facts. It is to use the lessons of the past to make decisions in the present and to look into the future. —Dr. J. Rufus Fears



Dr. Fears chose the events based on three criteria:

- The event in itself fundamentally changed history.
- The aftermath of the event changed history.
- The event and its impact still resonate with us today.

Beginning at the dawn of civilization, the instructor takes you across more than 3,000 years of history around the world, from the ancient city-states of Mesopotamia and Greece to medieval Europe and colonial America to revolutionary Russia and China.

PROFESSOR J. RUFUS FEARS

He weaves a captivating story about each event, what led up to it, how it unfolded, and how the world changed as a result. Whether the choices are obvious or not, Dr. Fears ties each event to the present, pointing out how influential these events were to shaping who we are and how we live.

Dr. J. Rufus Fears is a professor of classics at the University of Oklahoma. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University and has also taught at Indiana and Boston Universities. He is a master storyteller who has won more than 25 awards for teaching excellence.

January 7th

- 1 Hammurabi Issues a Code of Law (1750 BC)**
- 2 Moses & Monotheism (1220 BC)**
- 3 The Enlightenment of the Buddha (526 BC)**

January 21st

- 4 Confucius Instructs a Nation (553–479 BC)**
- 5 Solon—Democracy Begins (594 BC)**
- 6 Marathon—Democracy Triumphant (490 BC)**

- January 28th
- 7 Hippocrates Takes an Oath (430 BC)
 - 8 Caesar Crosses the Rubicon (49 BC)
 - 9 Jesus—The Trial of a Teacher (AD 36)

- February 4th
- 10 Constantine I Wins a Battle (AD 312)
 - 11 Muhammad Moves to Medina—The Hegira (AD 622)
 - 12 Bologna Gets a University (AD 1088)

- February 11th
- 13 Dante Sees Beatrice (1283)
 - 14 Black Death—Pandemics & History (1348)
 - 15 Columbus Finds a New World (1492)

February 18th – No program

- February 25th
- 16 Michelangelo Accepts a Commission (1508)
 - 17 Erasmus—A Book Sets Europe Ablaze (1516)
 - 18 Luther's New Course Changes History (1517)

- March 3rd
- 19 The Defeat of the Spanish Armada (1588)
 - 20 The Battle of Vienna (1683)
 - 21 The Battle of Lexington (1775)

- March 10th
- 22 General Pickett Leads a Charge (1863)
 - 23 Adam Smith (1776) versus Karl Marx (1867)
 - 24 Charles Darwin Takes an Ocean Voyage (1831)

- March 17th
- 25 Louis Pasteur Cures a Child (1885)
 - 26 Two Brothers Take a Flight (1903)
 - 27 The Archduke Makes a State Visit (1914)

- March 24th
- 28 One Night in Petrograd (1917)
 - 29 The Day the Stock Market Crashed (1929)
 - 30 Hitler Becomes Chancellor of Germany (1933)

- April 7th
- 31 Franklin Roosevelt Becomes President (1933)
 - 32 Mao Zedong Begins His Long March (1934)
 - 33 The Atomic Bomb Is Dropped (1945)

- April 14th
- 34 John F. Kennedy Is Assassinated (1963)
 - 35 Dr. King Leads a March (1963)
 - 36 September 11, 2001

2012 SCHEDULE FOR GREAT COURSES SERIES #2



From Mid-April to Mid-August
The Foundations of Western Civilization

From Mid-August to Mid-November
Lifelong Health: Achieving Optimum Well-Being at Any Age
