

ADULT EDUCATION COURSE: “INTRODUCING HUMANISM”

UNM Division of Continuing Education’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Course #19845 - Humanism: Secular World View, Section SAA

The late Harry Willson, author and former HSNM Vice-president, was the original instructor for this class. Harry’s plan was to tell his personal story as a former Presbyterian pastor who finds "Freedom from God," but has his wonder restored when he discovers Humanism. He planned to examine the role of mythology in confronting morality, creation, and more. Harry died on March 9 after a short illness, and Fred March, current President of HSNM, agreed to teach the class.

Fred’s class will distinguish between humanism as a philosophy with origins in ancient Greece, and as a modern worldwide movement that advocates for an ethical society that relies on human nature and not on God for its moral grounding.

The course has been prepared in five parts as follows.

Part I: What is Humanism?

Part II: Humanism and Democracy

Part III: Evolution of the Human Social Order

Part IV: A Very Brief History Humanist Thought

Part V: Are Science & Reason Always the Answer?

Bob Bhaerman, Director of the AHA Kochhar Humanist Education Center, reviewed Fred’s outline and offered this evaluation:

“If the vision of the Kochhar Humanist Education Center is, as we have stated, ‘educating the public about how humanism enhances our personal lives, enriches our nation’s diverse cultures, and strengthens democracy – without promoting or denying any particular religious belief’, you have developed a marvelous instruction tool for this end.”

To attend, contact the Osher Program at 277-0077 to register. There is a \$20 fee, which entitles you to Osher membership and to attend the course. The course is scheduled on two Tuesdays, June 8 & 15 from 1-3 PM. Also, ask for the location and directions when you call.