A Jewish Understanding of the Synoptic Gospels.
Rabbi Harold White. Senior advisor in the Program for Jewish Civilization and retired senior Jewish chaplain. Tuesdays, October 8, 15, 22, and 29. 10:00-11:30 a.m.
This course will explore the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) from the perspective of Hebrew Scripture and the cultural, social, economic and religious environment during the life of Jesus. Participants should bring the Revised Standard Version of the Biblical text (or a bible of their choice) to class for the purpose of discussion. Recommended bibliography: Elias Bickerman, The Maccabees; Samuel Sandmel, Understanding of the New Testament From Jesus to Paul; Gerzer Vermes, Jesus the Jew; Amy Joy Levine: The Annotated New Testament; Joseph Klausner, The Messianic Idea in Judaism.

The Wisdom Literature: Ecclesiastes, the Song of Songs, The Book of Job.
Rabbi Harold White. Senior advisor in the Program for Jewish Civilization and retired senior Jewish chaplain. Tuesdays, October 8, 15, 22, and 29. 2:00-3:30 p.m. Room TBA.
This course will explore the possibility that the three texts were written in the context of morality plays. Parallels will be made to Goethe's Faust; St. John of the Cross, Cantides; and Archibald Macleish, J.B. The role of the use of text in the Jewish Liturgical year will be analyzed as well as parallels to the employment of Old Testament, New Testament and Gospel selections within Christian history. The use of Midrash (Exegesis) in Judaic and Christian scholarship will be included in discussions. Participants should bring the Revised Standard Version of the Biblical text (or a bible of their choice) to class for the purpose of discussion. Recommended bibliography: St. John of the Cross Cantides; Archibald Macleish, J.B.; Israel Battan, The Five Scrolls; International Critical Commentary- Job.

The Painting as a Narrative Text: from Medieval to Renaissance Thought
Serafina Hager, Associate Professor of Italian, Emerita, and former Dean of the School of Languages and Linguistics. Wednesdays, October 9, 16, 23, 1:00-3:00 p.m. The Murray Room.
The focus of this course is to trace the intellectual development of medieval thought from a theocentric to an anthropocentric view of the world through the literary, historical and philosophical analysis of a selected group of art works from the 13th to the 15th century. Readings will include The Hymn of the Creatures by St. Francis of Assisi, a canto from Dante's The Divine Comedy, a passage from Pico della Mirandola, The Dignity of Man, the Medici dynasty, & others. A packet with the selected readings will be distributed to the participants.

The Federal Budget.
Weds, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Nov. 6 (Dubin), 13 (Murray), 20 (Dubin).
In the past 44 years, 40 Federal Budgets have run in the red. Our last surplus year was FY 2001. Our debt ratio stands at 75%, well over the international danger standard. Our legislative process is stymied by political polarization. How did we get here? What drives our deficit/debt? Is our system irrevocably broken? Are we worse than other countries? What are the prospects for the future?

Kierkegaard's Fear and Trembling
William C. McFadden, S.J., Associate Professor of Theology.
Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m. November 6, 13, 20.

Introduction to Arabic Script.
Karin Ryding, Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Emerita.
Thursdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m. November 7, 14.
This course will introduce the Arabic writing system, showing the systematic relationships between letters and sounds, the order(s) of the Arabic alphabet, and the ways in which this cursive script is realized in print, handwriting, and calligraphy. Learners will practice handwriting and learn to recognize and sound out Arabic words. Recommended text: "Alf-Baa: Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds" by Brustad, Al-Batal and Al-Tonsi, 3rd edition (Georgetown University Press). This is the standard text/workbook used for teaching Arabic phonology and script. It also introduces vocabulary and culture in context and serves as a foundational text for further study. (It comes with a DVD.)