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Fall 1971

## Abenaki Experimental College, Course Catalog, Autumn, 1971

University of Maine

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# abenaiki

experimental college experimental college experimental

*think about the kind of world you want to  
live and work in. what do you need to know  
to build that world? demand that your teachers  
teach you that.*

*kropotkin*

**autumn, 1971**

### **abenaki experimental college**

abenaki experimental college is a new step toward community togetherness. it has been our experience that students and members of the surrounding communities are willing to share their personal interests and knowledge with others. abenaki experimental college is and attempt to bring these people together.

abenaki experimental college differs from more traditional colleges in the following ways: (1) we are not a degree-granting institution, (2) the staff is non-salaried, (3) there is no tuition. in addition, the structure of abenaki experimental college makes possible a broad range of subject offerings, reflecting the needs and interests of this community.

the university of maine at orono, and surrounding communities, have generously donated classrooms and other facilities. some courses will also be given in the private homes of the staff members.

since we have no source of income at present (for postage, printing costs, etc.) we are relying on the donations of interested persons and companies. your help and participation is welcome.

# a beginning

abenaki experimental college was born last fall, when five people met in the maine lounge to discuss the possibility of operating a free university on campus. it has been almost a year now, and many things have grown and changed, even the maine lounge is no longer existant. the following is a brief history of this past year.

after the first meeting last september, some publicity was put out, and more people began to show an interest. meetings were held weekly to discuss the structure and policies, and to allot assignments. people went back to the communiversity and asked everyone what they would like to see as courses offered through an open educational system. this information was gathered, and people were sent out to find people who would like to 'teach'. the present structure of the school evolved through these meetings and the input collected.

february third, fourth, and fifth were chosen as the registration period. by january we had scrounged enough materials to print a thousand catalogs. everything was done through donations or our own pockets. by the evening of the third, we had seventy-six course offerings that ranged from bicycle repair to existentialism. thanks to the good publicity that we have had, the response was better than expected. by the end of the registration period, over a thousand people had signed up, and sixty-eight of the courses would run. we were not really prepared to handle this many courses or people, and so we could not help as much as we might have. most of the courses ran very well. there are many reasons for a class failure. many of the people teaching are inexperienced. many people expected the makeup or structure of a class to be different from what it was, and were disappointed. we feel that these problems are inherent in such a structure, and must be resolved between the members of the class. the responsibility for learning should be between the teacher and his students, not between the students and the institution.

last spring we finally found an office. we began to organize our operations. we had to spend time looking for funds. this sapped our energies, and the summer program suffered. we offered fifteen courses last summer, and enrolled approximately one hundred and fifty people. the summer is a very hard time to make anything work. the student population is transient, and faculty and community people have vacations.

our office moved down the hall. we received a three hundred dollar grant from an organization working through the university of massachusetts, which has helped to pay phone bills and postage. we have been working on foundation grants. there are many things we would like to do, which require financial backing. many people have asked for courses in pottery, weaving, photography, painting etc. these require expensive equipment, and a place to house them. we hope to run abenaki on donations, but for these projects a large donation must be found.

many things are underway at present. we hope to become a non-funded, non-salaried, department of the university. we feel that such a union is beneficial to both the university and abenaki experimental college. we have people gathering information to

publish a 'people's yellow pages' . . . a directory of unpublicized services and crafts throughout the state. there are some people who are working to build an arts guild, a place where people can go to work in the arts. some people hope to start a lecture series using people from this community to discuss contemporary people, ideas, and research. we will have a vista volunteer assigned to work with us for the upcoming year. hopefully this volunteer will be able to work closely with the community outside of the university, an area that we have not fully explored yet. president libby will be helping us pay for a work-study secretary.

we are constantly growing, changing, making mistakes, and hopefully learning from our mistakes. we feel that abenaki experimental college can help to build a better community to live in, but we need your help. we need people to teach, people to take courses, and any other support you can give.

### **registration**

because most of our courses are limited in size, we must hold a registration period. for the fall courses, registration will be:

september 29: from 6pm to 10 pm

september 30: from 10am to 8pm

october 1: from 10am to 6pm

registration will be held in our office on the second floor of the memorial union at the university of maine's orono campus. if you cannot register in person, you may call:

581-7038 or  
581-2201

during the above hours **only**.

if you have any questions about any of our courses or want to find out if we have any new additions, please call us at 581-2201 between 10 am to 2 pm any weekday.

the following is a sample listing of courses to be offered by abenaki experimental college this fall. the listing is incomplete, and courses will be added up to the registration period. the scheduling is at present also incomplete. for information or clarification call 581-2201.

**needlework**

barby spalding  
approx. 10 weeks  
tues.

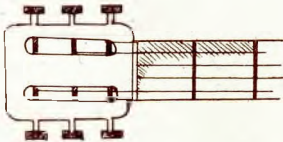
students: min. 8, max. 24  
7:00 pm

bargello, needlepoint, knitting, smocking, crocheting, hairpin lace, crewel work, cross-stitch -- you name it -- we will try it -- teach it -- share it with others. students will have to supply their own materials.

**guitar**

michael sites  
approx. 12 weeks  
tuesday

students: min. 5, max. 12  
6:30 pm



the purpose of the course is to help us become closer to our instruments. the goal is to learn how to read music, music theory, simple notes, chords, or whatever you wish to learn. the course is designed primarily for beginners and intermediate guitarists. the student should supply his/her own guitar, and perhaps the books (if needed by the student).

**the university**

winthrop libby  
approx. 6 weeks

students: no min. or max.

i would like to talk about the universities structure, relationship with the community and state, policies, or where ever the discussions lead. i hope that through these meetings we can foster a better understanding of the university, and perhaps find some viable solutions to the problems that are facing us. no cost.

## **relativistic physics**

lawrence ricci  
approx. 6 weeks  
mon. & thurs.

students: min. 3, max. 30  
7:00 pm

this course will contain elements of relativistic physics that are not usually taught to undergraduates. there will be lectures, readings, and problem sets. some calculus and vector algebra would be useful (but not essential) prerequisites. the cost for the student should be less than \$8.00.

## **european travel -- how to get about it**

vandall king  
approx. 8 weeks  
thurs.

students: no min. or max.  
6:30 pm

discussion (somewhat directed), and films, and guest lectures.  
the many international papers to get  
big transportation differences  
cultural expectations and pace  
budget (time and money)  
opportunity to see and be europe  
no cost.

## **folk dancing**

timothy burns  
approx. 10 weeks

students: min. 1, max. none

israeli , seribian, bulgarian, russian, macedonian, greek, hungarian,  
croatian, rumanian, scandanavian dancing et. al.: teaching and  
request dancing. no cost for the student.

## **introduction to organic gardening and foods**

dave pearsen  
approx. 4 to 5 weeks  
saturday

students: min. 20, max. 30  
7:30 pm

i want to make this an introduction to the organic foods and agriculture movement in this area. i would like to have three sessions. (1) a session to discuss organic gardening and the work being done, (2) a session in a garden for gardening instruction and an introduction to organic methods, (3) a session at ta-sita foods in bangor to discuss organic foods and marketing and the needs of the area. the sessions will probably last two to three hours. after the first one, we can arrange times for the other two. there will be no cost to student.

*... families, schools, churches are the slaughter-houses of our children; colleges and other places are the kitchens. as adults in marriage and business, we eat the product.*

*r. d. laing*

## **individualism and perception of the other**

rik thurston  
approx. 12 to 14 weeks  
thursday

students: min. 8, max. 18 (per group)  
7:00 pm

the intent of this experience will be to breakdown the barriers created by individuals in their relationships with each other. the main focus of the breakdown will center on that of preconceived notions. explained by eugene ionesco as the disease of society, preconceived notions are directly or indirectly responsible for the human misunderstanding that is rampant in today's world. the breakdown must first be manifested in an establishing of one's own individuality, and the individuality of others. therefore, this experience will strive to get the individuals involved to express themselves and be frank with the others of the group. using a melange of sensitivity, encounter, and synanon movement procedures, there will be an attempt to get every member of the group to realize their respective individualities. preconceptions will be put down and use of non-verbal communication will be stressed. there will be no suppression of emotion of any sort. the atmosphere will hopefully be one that will encourage individuals to reveal themselves to others and most important of all, to themselves. no cost.



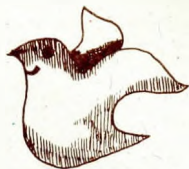
## environmental awareness

dave herer

approx. 8 weeks

students: min. 6, max. 12

a study of the impact of technology and technique on modern society to provoke increased awareness of the root nature of environmental issues. topics, following seminar and/or project orientation, may include the air, land, water environments, eco-pornography, counter culture as avant-garde, politics of pollution, and environmental entrepreneurship in the research establishment. the class itself will decide upon the final structure and content of the course. there will be optional texts.



## saving money with co-ops

dick davies

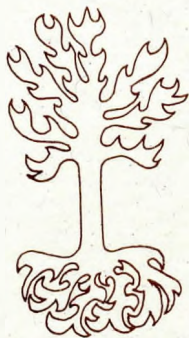
approx. 12 weeks

monday

students: min. 5, max. 100

7:00 pm

first 4 to 5 weeks will be discussion and readings on co-op ventures -- how they are set up, how they operate, how to make them work. second 3 weeks -- planning a co-op food buying club for the orono area. third 4 to 5 weeks, organizing to co-op. the cost might be \$2.00 -- but if you don't have it, we will get it for you.



## cheap vegetable cooking

robert marggraf

approx 10 weeks

friday

students: min.2, max. 6

6:00 pm

useful food attitudes. undull poverty cuisine. cheap, filling, good -- new visions of vegetarian maine.

## hegel

carol bombard  
approx. 10 weeks  
thurs.

students: min. 1, max. 8  
7:30 pm

a seminar on hegel. readings and informal discussion. i have maps to facilitate understanding of his dialectics. the cost for the students will be approximately the cost of two paperbacks.

## studies in conservatism

jeff hollingsworth  
approx. 10 weeks  
monday

students: no min. or max.  
8:00 pm

course will attempt to outline history of modern conservative philosophy, will examine leading conservative thinkers, theories, practices, and political action. focuses will be on conservative alternatives to liberalism and the problems of american society. texts will be provided free. possible guest speakers and special events. no anticipated costs.

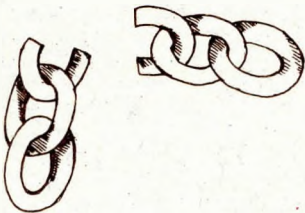
*in war, truth is the first casualty.*

*aeschylus*

## women's liberation

julia littleton  
approx. a lifetime  
wednesday

students: everyone  
6:30 p.m.



for one thing, this is not a course. this is a movement. the movement is open to the feelings of the members. i want to go into group conciouness raising. and since women's liberation is sensitive to an unlimited field of human prejudices, we will be flexible enough to encom- pass personal problems and to try to overcome them. i want a revolution. for the members, the cost will be personal, such as for printed materials, etc.

**the draft: counselling and resistance**

ralph green and bruce carlilse

approx. 10 weeks

students: no min., or max.

wednesday

8:00 pm

a brief history of the draft. . .

how to counsel people for the draft . . .

how to resist the draft . . .

*a free government with an uncontrolled power of military conscription  
is the most ridiculous and abominable contradiction and nonsense that  
ever entered into the head of men.*

*daniel webster*

**prophecy in the book of revelation**

victor pinard

approx. 11 weeks

students: min. 1, max. 7,000

informal lecture and discussion. you will need a bible.

**public broadcasting**

les spenser and john morrison

approx. 8 to 10 weeks

students: min. 4, max. 15

thursday

8:00 pm

an orientation fo all phases of public broadcasting with ample opportunity to rap. meetings are in the studios and offices of wneh -- fm and wneb tv. the course will be flexible -- we will cover whatever people want to know about public broadcasting. no cost.

*twenty years of schoolin' an' they put you on the day shift.*

*bob dylan*

## people's yellow pages workshop

rik thurston

approx. 10 weeks

students: unlimited

this workshop will be the responsible for most of the soliciting, gathering and sorting of the information to be included in the people's yellow pages. people's yellow pages will be a comprehensive in maine listing of services and products available in the state of maine. if a service or product is not available in maine and interest by the public is sufficiently great to arrange its being included in the yellow pages, it shall be also listed in the yellow pages. further information regarding the yellow pages will be discussed at the workshops. it is important that the workshop be comprised of individuals who are highly motivated in helping to provide the people of maine with what is hoped will be as complete as possible listing of products and services that can be obtained in maine. such a reference guide does not at the present time, exist and those of us who want the people's yellow pages feel it is time that there was one.



## the comic strip as art and as social document

sandy ives

approx. 8 weeks

tuesday

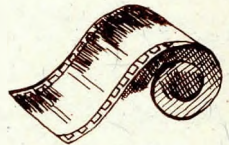
students: min. 5, max. 10

7:30 p.m.

discussion of what we find from day to day in our own *bangor daily news*. people should bring the week's comic pages with them to class. no cost except for the paper, if you are unable to scrounge it.

## film: discussions

a discussion of film. interest has been shown in having discussions about the art department films and the film classics series. at each film, it will be announced if a group will be held and where (at umi, carnegie, or someone's home). the meetings will be led by members of the art department and the students. the only cost will be just to get in to the films on sundays.





### french for wine-drinkers

jeff stewart  
informal all the way

this course is for people who like to talk in french and drink wine -- very informal, very invigorating. the cost will be one bottle of wine per meeting.

### basic bartending

robert barton  
approx. 6 weeks  
tuesday

students: min. 2, max. 10  
8:00 pm

lecture, discussion, lab on how to mix drinks and the philosophy of bartending. frequent field trips to local bars. the cost will vary -- most likely under \$2.00 per week and you get to drink what you make.

### music theory, appreciation, and history

cass dalton  
approx. 8 weeks

students: min. 19, max. 25

listening, analysing, begining -- just theory. the cost will be perhaps \$1.00.



### songwriting: all music is folkmusic cause i never heard a horse sing a song

john governale  
approx. 8 weeks

students: infinite

the best way to learn to write songs is to write songs. thats what we will do, exciting ideas and some good songs should come from the course. no cost.

## full media production of hy 6

stu doty

approx. 12 weeks

tuesday

students: min. 3, max. 10

7:00 p.m.

researching, writing, filming (moving and still), taping, editing and production of a fifty minute multi-media and audio-visual presentation as the last 'lecture' in hy 6 in hauck auditorium on the subject of twentieth century culture from freud and picasso to levi-strauss and the beatles. people with film-making skills especially needed. materials, such as film and tape, will be provided.

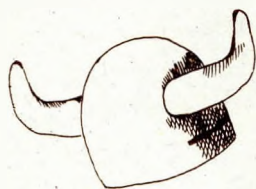
## free schools: alternatives to the public educational system

john green

approx. 8 weeks

students: min. 5, max. 20

after an analysis of the structure of present secondary, primary, and higher educational systems in america and the learning process practiced in these institutions, the participants of the course will design a theoretical model of a free school. resources for the course will include essays from current periodicals, speakers from system and free schools, and visits to free schools in the state. no cost to students.



## opera

nancy rogers

approx. 6 to 8 weeks

students: min. 4, max. 8

discussion -- i would like to learn too.

attending vocal recitals and concerts will be encouraged.

basic history will be covered to facilitate discussion.

cost is optional ( books, concerts, etc. )

## leather an' junk an' people

david sprague  
approx. 8 weeks  
tuesday

students: min. 1, max. 20  
7:00 p.m.

i want to help a group of people learn simple leather-work and junk recycling with an aim towards marketing, on an individual and/or group basis. this is a crafts course and the emphasis will be on individual creativity. no lectures on a formal basis by myself because we all learn together. good bull sessions. i am not sure that there will be any cost. it depends on what you can do with odds and ends of leather or anything else. yours and my tools.



## breaking into print

frank gordon  
approx. 8 to 10 weeks  
friday

students: class size of five  
7:00 pm

the aim is to break into print. the method in this case is to publish your own magazine, and sell it. please bring to the first meeting your version of the ideal refection slip.

*Silkscreening*

## silkscreening

susan webster  
approx. 8 weeks  
tuesday

students min. 4, max. 10  
7:00 p.m.

to teach basic silkscreening technique -- leaving it as free as possible. cost of supplies, including the construction of a screen must be born by the students. (\$5.00 to \$10.00, depending on the size of the screen.)

## **geodesic dome workshop**

dennis mills

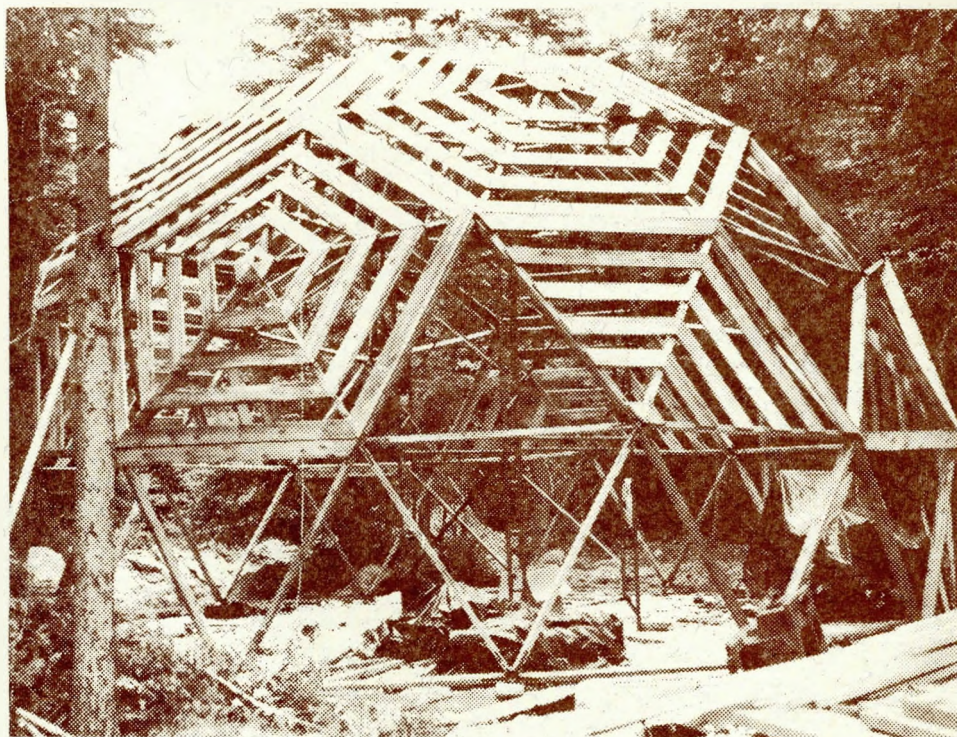
approx. 4 to 5 weeks

saturday

students: no min. or max.

10:00am

a few of my friends and i have erected a thirty-five foot geodesic dome (the kind bucky fuller cooked up) in a wooded section of kenduskeag. domes are cheap, strong, and aesthetically pleasing. they are a good alternative to the thirty year bank mortgage. the course will be very un-structured. if you already know about domes, come on out and help lead discussions et. al. no cost.



we will probably have courses in the following areas. call for more information.

sailing

labor history

auto mechanics

economics of inequality

myth and modern literature

kahlil gibran

and more too. . .



*the question is not what we'll be doing when we get there, but rather how to go and feel good that you're going. going there is being there or at least almost being there. knowing what to do once you get there must be something like knowing what to do when you're anywhere, knowing what to do when. i guess that if we're going there anyway we might as well start now, beginning to start to go is what most of these songs are about, getting there i ain't wrote about yet, i don't know if i ever will. i don't know if it could be wrote down anyway.*

*arlo guthrie*

these are descriptions of some projects that we are working on. they need people with ideas and some time, who are willing to organize and are willing to get these projects off the ground.

### **abenaki get togethers**

occasional lectures by local people for the educated lay person and followed by discussions over coffee. topics will deal with the ideas and issues which may not appear in current courses or in the popular media, but which promise to shape the present and the immediate future. these may include the ideas of skinner, laing, revel, and touraine and such issues as the jesus freaks, post-keynsian economics, etc. suggestions for topics, speakers, and people to make arrangements should be submitted to the coordinator: stewart doty, 145 stevens, university of maine, orono.

### **the peoples yellow pages**

a group of people throughout the state of maine are finding out what interesting items might go in a localized whole earth catalog. this fall a course is being offered through abenaki for anyone interested in helping with the compiling and publishing of such a thing. anyone interested should sign up.

### **practical law series**

a group of lawyers from the bangor area are willing to discuss topics of concern with interested people. a 'lecture series' is now being organized through abenaki. if anyone has a specific topic he/she would like to hear, please call 581-2201. as soon as the talks are scheduled, they will be posted.

## abenaki arts guild

in the past few thousand years, man has gotten himself into an increasingly complex and abstract bind which separates him from himself, his fellow man, his environment, and his universe. the need for the re-unification of these seemingly separate parts is paramount.

it is the hope of the people who are forming the arts guild that greater communication and expression will develop from the initiative of the community. now, the 'arts guild' is merely a small group of people with ideas, dreams, hopes, and damn little money. the objective is to provide a human agency, dedicated to helping in any manner possible the human expression of the community, through the human facilities available at the present time.

under the arts guild, we hope that there will be such things as an experimental theater; facilities for painting, pottery, dance; such programs as yoga, chanting, healing, magic; possibilities of a newspaper, many concerts, rituals, etc. the people of the arts guild believe that there is no limitation to the development and freedom of the human being. it is up to us!

*of course, a lecturer or a professor whom the state pays a good salary would say with unpleasant ease that man exists in order to build a future culture and future universal happiness. but for an ordinary man all this is nebulous and even repulsive. only then do other strange questions arise. why does a ladybird exist, and why a jackdaw? they obviously are of no use to anyone, certainly not to any future culture. and why is a man's life more important than that of a jackdaw?*

*mikhail zoshehenko*

there are many agencies in the community who offer free or inexpensive courses. the following is a sample of these agencies and the courses that they offer:

the ymca in bangor offers many courses in various topics. although they are not free, they are reasonable and may be of interest. some of the courses are life-saving, self defense (including judo), scuba diving, aikito, etc. the courses cost \$10.00 for non-members of the ymca and \$6.00 for the members. if you can afford them, they are worth the money. for more information, contact the ymca at 127 hammond street in bangor or call 942-6313.

the american red cross will be offering courses in first aid this fall. anyone interested should call them for more information. call 942-8217 or drop in at 619 hammond street in bangor.

the bangor adult education program does some pretty nice things. if you are a high school drop-out or want to take some evening courses for high school credit, call the adult education program and talk to them. they like to listen and the courses are free. they are located at 183 harlow street in bangor. their phone number is 942-6322.

*a caterpillar transforms itself into a cocoon  
and lives for a long time  
in a warm and tranquil world.*

*if it had human consciousness,  
it might claim that this is the best of all worlds,  
even the only one possible.*

*but the time comes  
when an unknown power  
makes it begin acting*

*to destroy.*

*if other caterpillars could see the horrible activity  
it is engaged in,  
they would call this*

*immoral  
impious,*

*they would talk about pessimism,  
skepticism,  
nihilism*

*and similar things.*

*why destroy something that has required such efforts!*

*and then what is wrong with this warm,*

*comfortable,*

*finite world!*

*to protect it,*

*it is necessary to invent a sacred morality  
and a theory of cognition.*

*and the fact that wings have grown on the caterpillar  
and that,*

*having eaten through its old nest,*

*it will fly out into the free world  
in the form of a gorgeous and light butterfly  
is of no concern to anybody.*

*the wings are mysticism,*

*and conscience is reality.*

*the people who create it*

*deserve suffering and punishment.*

*and in this wide world there are enough prisons  
and voluntary hangmen:*

*the majority of books are I*

*the majority of books are also prisons,  
and great writers were often hangmen.*

*lev shestov*



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and our thanks to so many others who have made our continuation possible.

and our special thanks to r. buckminster fuller and herman wolf for their inspiration.

*. . . it is in fact nothing short of a miracle that the modern methods of instruction have not yet entirely strangled the holy curiosity of inquiry; for this delicate little plant, aside from stimulation, stands mainly in need of freedom; without this it goes to wrack and ruin without fail.*

*albert einstein*

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# abenaki

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