



## FALL 2025 CATALOG

SEPTEMBER 29–DECEMBER 5

IN-PERSON & ONLINE



202.895.4860



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# A RENEWED SENSE OF POSSIBILITY

Autumn brings a renewed sense of possibility—an ideal moment to explore OLLI's fall catalog and turn a new page in your personal journey of growth and discovery. With 107 courses, the semester offers opportunities to learn, connect, and grow in a vibrant community of curious minds.

Whether you're looking to explore a new hobby or simply stay curious about the world around you, whether you're eager to delve into the mysteries of ancient civilizations, unravel the complexities of current events, or unlock your creative potential through art and music, you'll find a welcoming space here. Perhaps you're keen to brush up on a foreign language, explore the latest breakthroughs in science and technology, revisit a favorite era in history, or simply enjoy stimulating discussions on literature and philosophy, you will find classes in art, history, science, literature, current events, personal finance, fitness, and much more. With options to join in-person or online, you can still have your learning experience fit your lifestyle and interests.

Membership includes access to recorded classes and a growing digital library, which includes most in-person classes as well, so you won't miss a session. For \$330 per semester or \$600 for both fall and spring, you can register for four courses—three before, and one after, the September 8 lottery. We are happy to once again offer a 10% discount to new members. Classes begin September 29.

Beyond the classroom, our community thrives on connection. Join us for kickoff wine & cheese socials, our Friday lectures, happy hours, and field trips that make learning a shared adventure. Many of our participants find not just intellectual stimulation but also lasting friendships and a renewed sense of purpose.

Stay tuned for further information in our newsletter about classes that will be offered in the fall through our partnership with Carnegie Mellon University. Browse the catalog, discover new passions, and whether you're seeking intellectual challenge, creative expression, or simply the pleasure of good company, OLLI looks forward to welcoming you this fall.

## Lesley Rubinger

*Chair, Board of Directors*

## Tony Long

*Executive Director*

As an affiliate of American University, all OLLI members must follow **American University's Good Neighbor Policy** and are required to park in the garage of the Spring Valley Building while attending OLLI classes and events or risk receiving a \$200 ticket from the University.

**Mailing Address:** 4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20016

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Organization

**Phone:** 202.895.4860 | **Email:** [olli@american.edu](mailto:olli@american.edu) | **Website:** [www.olli-dc.org](http://www.olli-dc.org)

# MISSION

*The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at American University is an association of, by, and for the people in the Washington, DC area who wish to continue to study and learn.*

*OLLI at AU is dedicated to the proposition that learning is a lifelong process and that **curiosity never retires**.*

# EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

OLLI does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, age, religious preference, national origin, or sexual orientation.

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*As this catalog is a printed document, any changes after printing will be reflected on the OLLI website, [www.oli-dc.org](http://www.oli-dc.org), which has the most up-to-date course information.*

## PARKING

Parking is available in the Spring Valley Building garage. In accordance with DC regulations and American University's "Good Neighbor Policy," **OLLI members are required to park in an AU garage while attending OLLI.**

## IMPORTANT DATES

<b>Sept. 8</b>	Lottery selections due by 10:00 AM for the <b>fall lottery</b>
<b>Sept. 9</b>	Class assignment letters emailed
<b>Sept. 25</b>	<b>Fall Wine &amp; Cheese Welcomer</b>
<b>Sept. 29</b>	<b>Fall semester begins</b>
<b>Oct. 10</b>	<b>Fall refund deadline</b>
<b>Nov. 26-28</b>	<b>Thanksgiving</b> <i>OLLI closed &amp; no classes</i>
<b>Dec. 4</b>	<b>Holiday Party</b>
<b>Dec. 5</b>	<b>Fall semester ends</b>
<b>Dec. 11</b>	<b>SGL Luncheon</b>

## REFUNDS

The office must receive requests for refunds in a written note or an e-mail **no later than close of business on the date listed above**. A \$10 processing fee will be assessed.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

We follow American University's weather policy. If AU has a delayed opening, all OLLI classes will still be held at their originally scheduled times. If AU is closed, OLLI's online and hybrid classes will be held as scheduled (hybrid classes will be online only). In-person classes will be moved online, if possible.



# WHAT IS OLLI AT AU?

Drawing on the talent and experience of seniors in the Washington, DC area, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at American University offers a unique opportunity to continue learning at the university level. Members come from varied social, economic, and career backgrounds, ranging from business, academia, and homemaking to education, the arts, and government service. What they have in common is a genuine interest in continuing their learning experiences and intellectual stimulation by participation in an organization with other "seasoned learners." There are no educational prerequisites for membership in OLLI.

## Learning Community

The basic concept of the program is that of peer learning and teaching designed, specifically, for people who are 50 years of age or older. Members participate fully in study groups through preparation for, and involvement in, discussions on a wide variety of subjects. There are no tests and no grades; members participate purely for the joy of learning. Members are encouraged to discuss the possibility of leading a study group with members of the Curriculum Committee.

## Membership Involvement

Members become involved not only as Study Group Leaders or representatives but also as participants on an elected board and appointed committees. As a democratic membership organization, OLLI depends on the volunteer services of its members. Members are strongly encouraged to participate in one or more of the following:

The **Board of Directors** and its various **committees** develop and implement policies, procedures, and activities designed to enhance the overall program.

**Study Group Leaders (SGLs)** are members with special expertise or interests who wish to share these with other members by designing and leading study groups. They are entitled to free classes during the session in which they lead a group or the following comparable session.

# HOW IS OLLI AT AU ORGANIZED?

OLLI at AU is an independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in Washington, DC, and is part of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute National Network, which now includes 124 Institutes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

## Support of OLLI at AU

Membership fees for the semester (\$330 for one semester or \$600 for both fall and spring) and membership fees for the Shorts and Minis (\$100 each) support the program. OLLI is further supported by an endowment from the Osher Foundation given to, and managed by, American University. OLLI receives a percentage of the value from the endowment annually to assist in funding OLLI's operations.

The Friends of OLLI Fund, established by the Board of Directors, is a reserve fund helping OLLI maintain affordable tuition, expand and enhance its physical facilities, and develop innovative and diverse programs.

# THE ABCs OF OLLI

## Accessibility

OLLI makes every effort to accommodate members with visual and hearing impairments. We provide documentation in large print format, ask our Study Group Leaders to turn on captions for all videos, and offer technical support. If you are taking an online class, live closed captions are available in Zoom. To request that they be turned on in the meeting, click "More" and then "Request Live Transcription." The host of the meeting will enable them. Closed captions are also available in recordings. To turn them on, click the "CC" icon at the bottom of the video window when viewing. Please contact the office if you need accommodations to access classes, handouts, or any OLLI materials.

## Adding or Dropping Study Groups

Members may add, drop, or change study groups through the second week of a semester, the first week of the June Minis, or the Friday before the February or July Shorts.

## Books

Books are available through Politics and Prose bookstore at 5015 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008, 202-364-1919 or politics-prose.com online. Books also can be ordered online (often at reduced prices) or purchased at other book stores. The following are some online suggestions for purchasing books, in alphabetical order: **AbeBooks.com, AddAll.com, Alibris.com, Amazon.com, BookOutlet.com, BookFinder.com, eBay.com, and Powells.com.**

## Building PIN Code

The AU building where OLLI is located is only accessible to those with an AU ID or PIN code. You will see a keypad at both the garage entrance and front doors of the building. **Registered members will be sent the PIN code before each academic session.**

## Contact Information

Please log into your OLLI account to ensure your contact information, including home and cell telephone number(s), email, as well as emergency contact name and relationship, are current and accurate.

## Directory of Members

We publish a member directory each semester listing members' names, addresses, phone numbers, and emails. Please fill out this section of the registration form carefully. The directory is available online to download during the second week of class. Printed copies are available upon request.

## Drinks and Snacks

Coffee and tea are available in the Social Space on the 5th floor for OLLI members. There are also vending machines with water, soda, and snacks on the 4th and 6th floors.

## Email and E-Newsletter

We use email as our primary means of communication. Please make sure that you check your email several times per week during the semester. We also send a weekly Friday newsletter via email.

## Fourth Study Group

Once class assignment letters are emailed after the lottery, members may log into their account on the website to add a fourth study group. You can only add a fourth study group **after class assignment letters have been emailed**.

## Gift Certificates

Give an OLLI gift certificate to a loved one for an upcoming academic session. To purchase a gift certificate, email or call the OLLI office.

## Handouts

Downloadable class handouts are available each academic session on the OLLI website. You can find the handouts under either of the following tabs:

- Documents
- Classes (and then "Semesters/Minis" or "Shorts")

Handouts remain available through the end of the session. If no handouts are listed for a class, we have not received any from the Study Group Leader.

## Hearing Loops

All of OLLI's classrooms are equipped with hearing loops, a state-of-the-art assistive listening technology. Most recent hearing aids are equipped with a t-coil. Your audiologist can tell you whether or not your hearing aid has a t-coil and, if it does, your audiologist can activate the t-coil.

With the t-coil turned on, a member can hear others in the room very clearly. Members who do not have hearing aids or who have hearing aids without t-coils, can use a loop receiver with a headset, to benefit from the loop. Each classroom is supplied with a number of loop receivers.

## Identification in Classes

For in-person and hybrid classes, please wear your OLLI name tag. Lanyards and plastic name tag holders are available on the table outside the office. For online classes, click on the Participants Panel and rename yourself with your full name so that the Study Group Leader can call on you.

## Lecture Series

We offer four lecture series throughout the year. During each semester, there is a lecture on Fridays from 1:30-2:30 PM. In January and May, there are lectures on various weekday mornings from 10:30-11:30 AM.

## Library

Current members and SGLs have access to AU's Bender Library. The library is located on the main campus at the west end of the university quadrangle. The library requires a valid, government issued photo ID for account creation and for borrowing. The library is sent a list of members and SGLs before each academic session. They will issue a borrowing card

## EVENTS

There are four lecture series each year, featuring members of the Washington, DC community, and beyond, each speaking on a field of expertise. **Fall and spring lectures** are held on Fridays from 1:30 to 2:30 PM. **January and May lectures** are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 AM. Lectures are always free and open to the public.

**Special events** include *Serendipities!*, which are talks given by members, or their guests, as well as trips and tours.

The **Annual Meeting** in the spring gives members an opportunity to voice concerns, ask questions, and learn more about OLLI's future plans.

to be used along with the ID.

AU Library books may be borrowed with an account (up to 25 at a time). The checkout period is four weeks and renewal is available (all items are subject to recall and may need to be returned sooner).

Most of the library's electronic resources (databases and journals) are available on an as-needed basis to have access while physically at the library. Due to licensing agreements, remote access is only available to current AU students, staff, and faculty.

## Lost and Found

There is a lost and found box located outside the OLLI office. Please check there if you have misplaced something.

## Lunchtime Options

Members can also brown bag lunch with OLLI friends in one of the social spaces on the 5th floor. Buy lunch to carry out or eat in at Pizzeria Paradiso, Millie's, Starbucks, Bluestone Lane, or Wagshal's Market—all within one block of 4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

## Membership Fee

The fee paid each semester (or for the full academic year) is a membership fee. The fee allows you to be assigned up to three courses in the lottery and add a fourth once class assignment letters have been emailed. The fee is NOT a fee per study group. The membership fee entitles you to all of the benefits of membership at OLLI at AU. Membership in OLLI is not transferable. Spouses or partners must have their own individual memberships.

## Minis

Minis are study groups held once-a-week for four weeks during the month of June. Each day's session in the four weeks is 1½ hours.

## New Member Discount

Scan the QR code on the front of the catalog to register for the current semester, and a 10% discount will be applied if you are new or have not taken classes in five or more years. You can also call or email the office to take advantage of the discount.



## Parking

See page 4.

## Privacy Policy

OLLI at American University is highly sensitive to the privacy interests of members and believes that the protection of those interests is one of its most significant responsibilities. We publish the member directory as a courtesy to members. We expect members to respect other members' privacy. The directory is not to be shared with others outside of OLLI. If you have questions about this policy, please contact us by phone at 202-895-4860 or email at [olli@american.edu](mailto:olli@american.edu).

## Recordings

Study group leaders, as well as registered members for the current academic session, may view any recorded courses from that session. You do not need to register for a course if you only intend to watch its recording. Current members also have access to OLLI's permanent digital library, which contains recorded courses from previous sessions. Visit the website [www.olli-dc.org](http://www.olli-dc.org) and go to "Classes" to view recordings throughout each session, as well as the digital library. **Please note that whether a class is recorded is subject to change based on SGL preference.**

## Refunds

The office must receive requests for refunds by the deadline specified on page ii of the catalog, opposite the table of contents. A \$10 processing fee will be assessed.

## Semesters

OLLI at AU has two regular academic semesters: spring, which begins in March, and fall, which begins in September. Semester study groups usually run between 7 to 10 weeks long. Each class session is 1½ hours.

## Serendipities!

OLLI at AU members and guests are invited to give a talk or presentation to the OLLI membership as part of our *Serendipities!* program. *Serendipities!* are scheduled through the OLLI office and are held online. See [https://www.olli-dc.org/serendipity\\_talks](https://www.olli-dc.org/serendipity_talks) for more information.

## Shorts

We offer February and July Shorts. Classes meet 2-5 times over the course of one week. Each day's session is 1½ hours.

## Spring Valley Building (SVB)

American University and OLLI at AU refer to 4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW as the Spring Valley Building (SVB).

## Study Group Representative (SGR)

A volunteer Study Group Representative is assigned to each class. SGRs are registered members of the class and play an important role in helping to ensure each study group runs smoothly. Duties vary slightly depending on the study group's format (in-person, online, or hybrid), but generally include:

- Announcements of OLLI news, weekly lectures, and events;

- Taking attendance (in-person classes);
- Informing the office of problems in the classroom, including heating/AC, lighting, and sound; and
- Reminding class members of the feedback form and (optional) online SGL gifts at the end of the session

If you're interested in serving as SGR for one or more of your study groups, please check the applicable box(es) on the paper registration form or when selecting your courses online.

## Transfers

Membership in OLLI is not transferable. Spouses or partners must have their own individual memberships.

## Trips

OLLI offers tours and trips throughout each academic session. Trips sometimes include transportation and boxed lunches or meals at a restaurant. Specifics regarding pricing and transportation will be shared on our website for each trip. Trips and tours are arranged by OLLI's Trip Coordinator. Please contact the office if you have a suggestion for a trip or tour.

## Volunteer

If you're interested in volunteering, please let us know by selecting your areas of interest on the volunteer page of the website:

[https://www.olli-dc.org/get\\_involved](https://www.olli-dc.org/get_involved)

## Waitlists

If a seat opens in a class which has a waitlist, members will be contacted by email and offered a seat in the order in which they appear on the waitlist.

## Weather Policy for Class Cancellation

We follow American University's weather policy. If AU has a delayed opening, all OLLI classes will still be held at their originally scheduled times. If AU is closed, OLLI's online and hybrid classes will be held as scheduled (hybrid classes will be online only). In-person classes will be moved online, if possible. We will work with in-person SGLs regarding makeup sessions for any class that can't move online.

## Website

Please visit the OLLI website at [www.olli-dc.org](http://www.olli-dc.org):

- to view our calendar, including lecture series and events;
- to register for classes and to pay membership dues with a credit card in an encrypted, secure transaction;
- to add, drop, or change classes;
- to request a refund;
- to volunteer;
- to make a donation.

## Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi at OLLI is free. The network name is AUGuest-ByRCN. No password is required.

# PARKING & TRANSIT

## Public Transportation

Visit the **Parking & Transit** page on our website at <https://www.oli-dc.org/parking> for up-to-date information on using public transportation to attend OLLI activities.

## Parking

**Parking is available in the garage beneath the AU building where OLLI is located (at 4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW). In accordance with DC regulations and AU's "Good Neighbor Policy," all members of the AU community — including OLLI members — are required to park in an AU parking garage when visiting the campus; this includes those with Zone 3 stickers. Parking on the street in surrounding neighborhoods to attend OLLI events/classes will likely result in a \$200 parking ticket from AU.** For full parking information, visit the Parking & Transit page at <https://www.oli-dc.org/parking> on our website.

## Building PIN Code

The AU building where OLLI is located is only accessible to those with an AU ID or PIN code. To accommodate OLLI members, the garage entrance will be open from 9:00-10:00 AM, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM, and 1:00-2:00 PM and no PIN code will be required. If you need to enter the garage outside of these hours, or it happens to be closed, you will need to use the keypad outside the garage to enter the PIN code. **Registered members will be sent the PIN code before each academic session.** If you have any trouble, please call the office at 202-895-4860.

Please note that when exiting the garage, you do not need to enter the PIN code. As you approach the garage doors to exit, there is a sensor that detects your car and will automatically raise the doors.

## Parking Payment Options

Parking is \$2 per hour. You must pay for parking BEFORE class. In order to pay, you must know your vehicle's license plate number.

You may pay for parking:

- with credit card or cash at the kiosks located on each parking level, or
- by credit card using a smartphone and the PayByPhone app (see below), or
- with a credit card by calling PayByPhone at 888-450-7275.

## How to Pay By Phone

Dial 888-450-7275. The first time, you will be prompted to:

- Enter your cell phone number
- Create a 4-digit pin number
- Enter your 16-digit credit card number
- Enter your 4-digit expiration date
- Enter the 4-digit location code for Spring Valley Garage: **4889**
- Enter your license plate number
- Enter the number of hours you want to park

# AU SHUTTLE BUS

For full information on the shuttle service, go to: <http://www.american.edu/finance/transportation/shuttle.cfm> on AU's website.

**The AU shuttle buses are kneeling buses and are handicapped accessible.**

A free, open-to-the-public AU shuttle bus leaves regularly from the Tenley Metro station, makes stops at the Katzen Center, and then at the Spring Valley Building (4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW), where OLLI is located. To return to the Katzen Center Garage or the Metro, catch the shuttle at the bus stop on Massachusetts Ave. on the same side of the street as the Spring Valley Building.

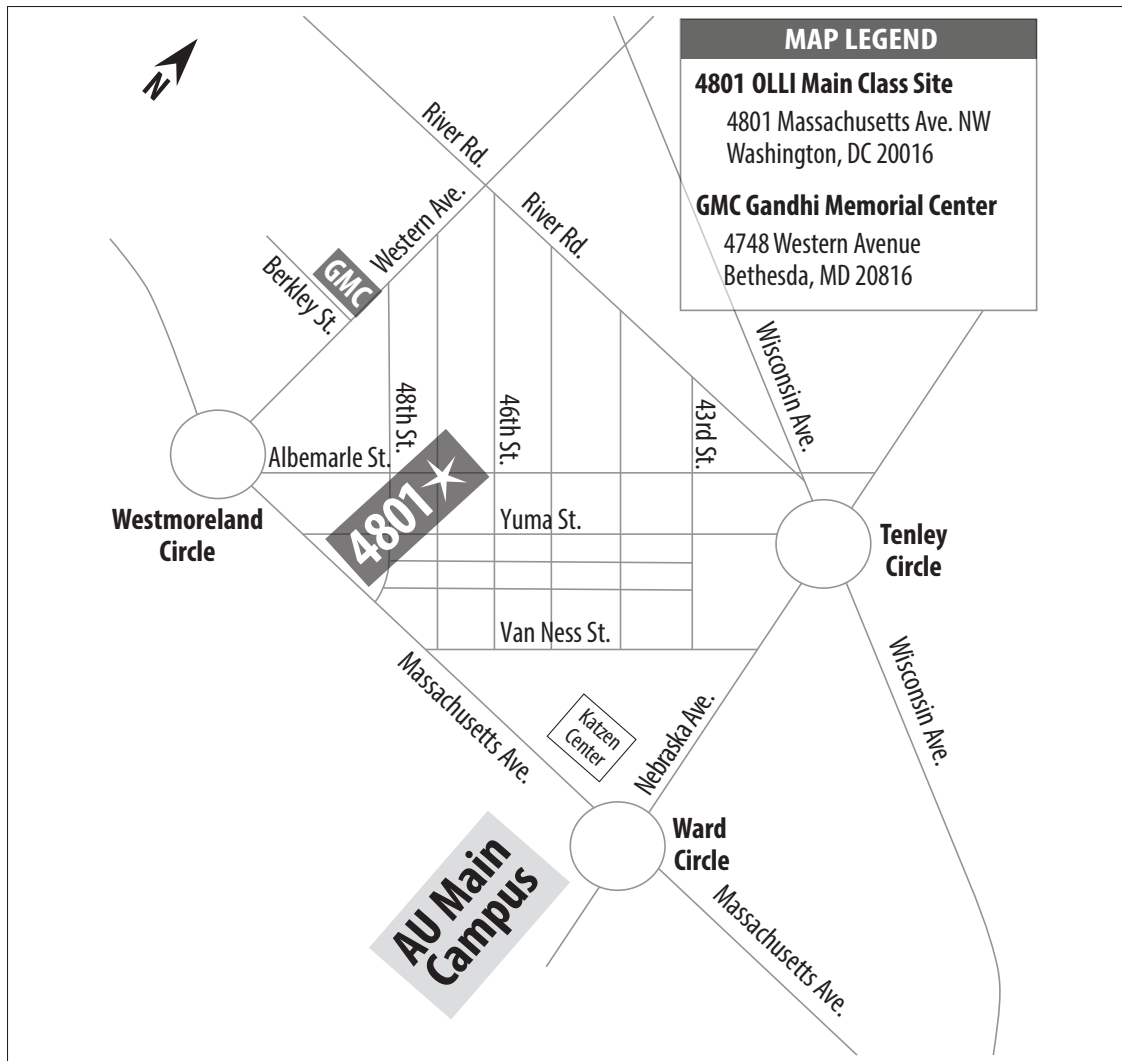
## How to Use the PayByPhone App

You can download the free "PayByPhone" app from the App Store or Google Play Store to pay for parking via your smartphone.

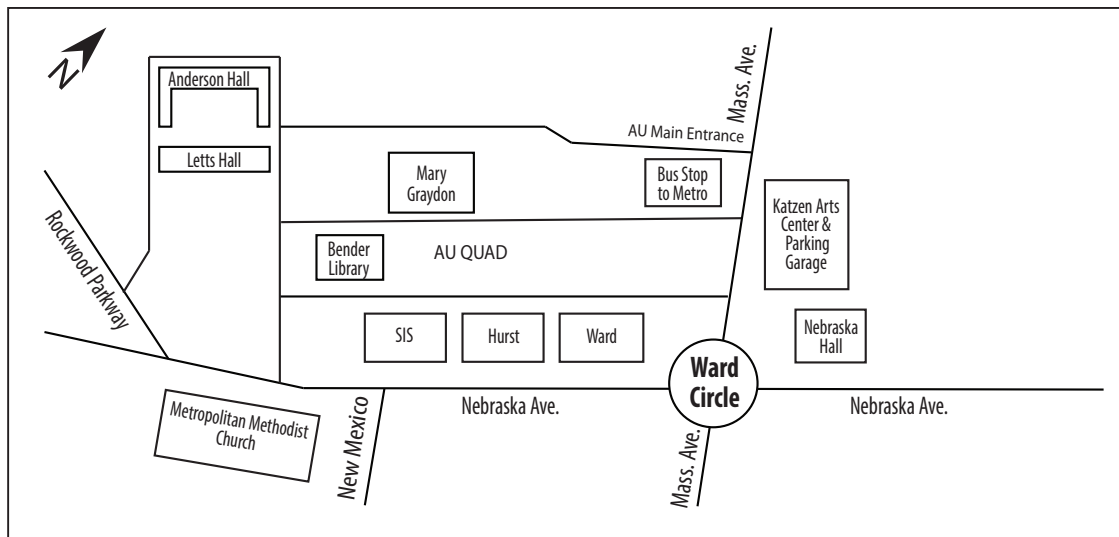
The first time you need to:

- Enter your cell phone number
- Create a 4-digit pin number
- Enter your 16-digit credit card number
- Enter your 4-digit expiration date
- Enter the 4-digit location code for Spring Valley Garage: **4889**
- Enter your license plate number.
- Enter the number of hours you want to park.

# MAP OF OLLI MAIN LOCATION



# MAP OF AU CAMPUS





# CLASS FORMATS: IN-PERSON, ONLINE & HYBRID

OLLI offers classes in three formats: online, in-person, and hybrid. In hybrid classes, the SGL and some members of the class are in-person while other members participate via Zoom. In the catalog, each course description lists the format and recording status. Most study groups are recorded. **Please note that whether a class is recorded is subject to change based on SGL preference.** If selecting a hybrid class, you must note whether you want to attend in-person (hybrid in-person) or online (hybrid online). List both formats if the class is a priority and you're willing to attend either format. You can prioritize up to eight classes for the lottery. The lottery will then assign you to up to three classes.

## REGISTRATION PROCESS

**Study group selections are due by 10:00 AM on Monday, Sept. 8, to be included in the fall lottery.** All selections are **pending** until lottery day. Class sizes are determined by Study Group Leaders' requests, classroom capacity, and the office. If a study group is oversubscribed on lottery day, pending registrations in that class are subjected to a random, computerized lottery. Members who are not selected for said study group are put on the waitlist and will be emailed by the office if space becomes available. **Class assignment letters will be emailed on September 9.**

After the lottery, we will continue to accept registrations on a space-available basis through the second week of the semester.

**OLLI reserves the right to cancel any study group. Members registered in a study group that is cancelled will be notified immediately so that they may select an available alternate.**

## JOIN OLLI AT AU

You may join OLLI, pay for membership, and choose your lottery selections all at once. To do so, complete the form on the following pages. Mail the form to the address on the form with a check made payable to OLLI or choose your lottery selections online at [www.oli-dc.org](http://www.oli-dc.org) to pay with a credit card in an encrypted, secure transaction.

You will need to create a user account. Follow these steps below to do so:

**1. Go to <http://www.oli-dc.org>**

Click on "**Membership**" in the menu at the top of the page.

A submenu appears. Click on "**Join OLLI.**"

**2. A new screen appears titled "Join OLLI." Click on "create an account" in the first paragraph.**

**3. Fill in the contact information form including entering a username and password. Write your username and password below. If you lose your username, the OLLI office can give it to you. If you forget your password, you can reset it or ask the office to do so.**

Username \_\_\_\_\_

Password \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Follow the instructions under Choose Your Study Groups.**

## CHOOSE YOUR STUDY GROUPS

- 1. Identify the number of study groups you are interested in taking. You must select 1, 2, or 3.**
- 2. Prioritize up to 8 study groups based on your preference for taking the study groups.**

(1 = highest priority and 8 = lowest priority).

If the class is hybrid, be sure to include your desired format, in-person or online. If you are willing to attend either in-person or online, be sure to list each format for the class. See the example on the form.

Note: Prioritize your study groups by whichever method works best for you: subject matter, time/day, location, or Study Group Leader. Even if you mark that you only want to take one study group, you may still prioritize up to 8 study groups. When the system processes your selections, it will assign you to your highest priority study groups that are available.

**Note:** All members have an equal chance at getting into a class. There is no restriction if a member has taken a study group or Study Group Leader previously.

- 3. Submit your lottery selections.**
- 4. You will receive email confirmation of your selections. All selections are **pending** until lottery day.**
- 5. After lottery day, you will receive by email your class assignment letter.**

Through the second week of classes, you can change your schedule online or by emailing the office.

**You may register online for a fourth course AFTER you have received your class assignment letter.**

**Study group leaders spend a prodigious amount of time preparing their classes. Please attend the classes for which you are registered and arrive on time to class.**

# OLLI AT AU REGISTRATION FORM

FALL 2025: SEPTEMBER 29–DECEMBER 5

4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW • Washington, DC 20016

Phone: 202.895.4860 | Email: [olli@american.edu](mailto:olli@american.edu) | Website: [www.olli-dc.org](http://www.olli-dc.org)

Choose your lottery selections  
for the FALL SEMESTER by 10:00 AM  
on Monday, Sept. 8.

Please complete all parts of the form. You also can pay and select study groups online at [www.olli-dc.org](http://www.olli-dc.org).

## CONTACT INFORMATION

FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ APARTMENT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME PHONE NUMBER -- CELL PHONE NUMBER --  
EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ RELATIONSHIP TO EMERGENCY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_  
EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE NUMBER --

## PARKING ATTESTATION

☐ By checking this box, I attest to understanding that in accordance with DC regulations and American University's "Good Neighbor Policy," **OLLI members are required to park in an AU garage while attending OLLI.**

## CHOOSE YOUR LOTTERY SELECTIONS

1. SELECT whether you want 1, 2, or 3 study groups: 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐

2. List up to 8 study groups in priority order. A hybrid class has both in-person and online members. If you want a hybrid class, you must write either "Hybrid In-Person" or "Hybrid Online" as the format, depending on which you prefer. If you wish to attend the class regardless of the format, be sure to list both formats. Please see the sample below in which 148 is a hybrid class and the member wants to attend regardless of format.

Number	Format	Study Group Name
1. 148	Hybrid In-Person	James Madison: Political Theorist and Politician
2. 148	Hybrid Online	James Madison: Political Theorist and Politician
3. 156	Online	SIS Foreign Challenges for the Year Ahead
4. 617	In-Person	The Great French Songbook

Number	Format	Study Group Name
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____

### VOLUNTEER TO BE STUDY GROUP REPRESENTATIVE

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You will be contacted, if chosen, as there may be multiple volunteers for each study group. See page 3 for a list of SGR duties.

Continued on other side.

## PAYMENTS

Please make checks payable to **OLLI at AU**. Payment must accompany your form. You can also use a credit card online at: [www.oli-dc.org](http://www.oli-dc.org). Financial assistance is available. Contact the OLLI office for information.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **\$330:** Fall 2025 Semester

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **\$600:** Fall 2025 & Spring 2026 Semester

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **\$297:** Fall 2025 Semester with AU 10% discount. *Please check one of the boxes below and explain further.*

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **\$540:** Fall 2025 & Spring 2026 Semesters with AU 10% discount. *Please check one of the boxes below and explain further.*

*(The names of members using the AU discount are shared with the AU Alumni Office for data-tracking purposes only.)*

☐ Alumna/Alumnus: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Current/Former Staff: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Graduation year/degree) (Department)

☐ Current/Emeriti Faculty or Trustee: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Spouse of one of these categories: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Department) (Spouse's name)

**10% Fall New Member Discount:** To take advantage of the discount, do not use this paper registration form. Instead, scan the QR code on the front of the catalog or call (202-895-4860) or email ([olli@american.edu](mailto:olli@american.edu)) the OLLI office.

## DIRECTORY LISTING

Please check the boxes below if you do NOT want your contact information included in our Membership Directory, which is produced as a courtesy to our members and is intended for internal use only.

**DO NOT** include the following in the OLLI Membership Directory.

☐ My Name ☐ My Phone Number ☐ My Address ☐ My E-mail Address

## BECOME A STUDY GROUP LEADER

☐ Check this box if you are interested in becoming a Study Group Leader at OLLI.

Topic(s) of interest for leading a study group: \_\_\_\_\_

An OLLI staff member or Curriculum Committee member will contact you shortly. Please visit the website below for more information:

[https://www.oli-dc.org/become\\_an\\_instructor](https://www.oli-dc.org/become_an_instructor)

## VOLUNTEER

If you're interested in volunteering, please let us know by selecting your areas of interest on the volunteer page of the website:

[https://www.oli-dc.org/get\\_involved](https://www.oli-dc.org/get_involved)

Contact the office by email at [olli@american.edu](mailto:olli@american.edu) or by phone at **202-895-4860** if you have any questions or would like more information.

## RETURN COMPLETED FORM

**MAIL completed form to:**

**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute**

4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW

Washington, DC 20016



## SCHEDULE OF FALL STUDY GROUPS

When selecting your study groups, be sure to check the class format.

#	STUDY GROUP	LEADER	START	WKS	FORMAT
<b>MONDAY 9:45 AM</b>					
210	The Art of Communication	Hecht	9/29	4	In-Person
515	A Few Favorite Operas	Eisen	9/29	8	In-Person
567	The Cultural Evolution of Meso-America and Its Impact on North America	Heilman	9/29	10	In-Person
690	Thackeray's <i>Vanity Fair</i> : A Novel Without A Hero	Moody	9/29	10	Online
717	How the World Became Modern	Squitieri	10/6	8	Online
764	Five Empires, Five Centuries: The Eastern Question Redefined	Shelton	9/29	8	In-Person
768	From Rifled Muskets to Killer Robots	Wilson	9/29	10	Online
805	Meditation Class	Reo	9/29	8	In-Person
<b>MONDAY 11:45 AM</b>					
376	Understanding Medicare: A Practical Guide	Kayrish	9/29	6	In-Person
462	The Evolving Role of Federal Support and Regulation of Science and Technology	Cheh, Read	9/29	8	In-Person
519	The Great French Songbook	Harper	10/6	10	In-Person
631	Understanding Families Through Plays	Lewis	9/29	8	In-Person
798	O Canada! The History and Culture of Our Northern Neighbor	Stanton	9/29	8	In-Person
889	Contemporary Issues in Medical Ethics	Olick	9/29	8	In-Person
<b>MONDAY 1:45 PM</b>					
202	Cartooning: The Lost Arts or Evolution	LaRossa	9/29	7	In-Person
253	Dreams—Their Link to Meditating, Mindfulness, and AI	Watkins	9/29	10	Online
321	Understanding the Federal Reserve	Kean	9/29	6	In-Person
505	Mozart	Flaxman	9/29	10	Hybrid
568	Contemporary Asian Architecture Part 1—China & South Korea	Swoger	9/29	8	Online
603	Cours de Lecture et Conversation en Français	Férat	9/29	10	In-Person
662	"Let's Get It Write!"	Jones	9/29	10	In-Person
685	August Wilson <i>American Century Cycle</i>	Maxwell	9/29	10	Online
<b>TUESDAY 9:45 AM</b>					
199	How Literature and Drama Can Illuminate Politics and Government	Verdier	9/30	10	In-Person
244	Survivors and Descendants of the Holocaust: A Search for Meaning	Feinberg	9/30	10	In-Person
250	TED Talks	Lewis, Mindel, Swan	9/30	8	Online
516	Wagner's <i>The Ring of the Nibelung</i>	Holman	9/30	8	In-Person
646	A Portrait of the Times: Poetry Craftshop (Section A)	Pierson	9/30	10	In-Person
671	Comedy, French-Style	White	9/30	8	Online
709	The Founding Fathers and Their Revolutionary Neighbors	Brown	9/30	8	In-Person
842	St. Paul and the First Christians	Dalby	10/21	4	Online

#	STUDY GROUP	LEADER	START	WKS	FORMAT
<b>TUESDAY 11:45 AM</b>					
212	Food, Culture, and Relationships	B Hadden, R Hadden	9/30	8	In-Person
232	Finding Your Family History	Goodman	9/30	8	Online
415	Science and Public Policy	Katz	9/30	10	In-Person
564	How to Take Better Travel Photos	Logan	9/30	8	In-Person
589	American Colonial and Federal Furniture: 1650–1840	Fitzgerald	9/30	8	In-Person
609	Latinoamérica y España en la Mesa: Comida y Cultura	Amador, Grigera, Reilly	9/30	7	In-Person
611	Reading Greek	Ross	9/30	10	In-Person
648	Science Fiction and Fantasy Writing Workshop	Hiller	9/30	8	In-Person
817	Magic Jesus	Ingebretsen	9/30	5	Online
<b>TUESDAY 1:45 PM</b>					
172	Current Events and Public Policy II	Callet, Porter	9/30	8	In-Person
180	Today's Supreme Court: A Course for Citizens	Hansen	9/30	9	In-Person
555	The Silent Clowns	Gorsky	9/30	7	In-Person
572	The Medieval Book	Ruff	9/30	7	In-Person
629	Dante's <i>Inferno</i>	Schubert	9/30	8	In-Person
644	The Poetry of T.S. Eliot Before His Conversion	Draper	9/30	10	In-Person
649	Children's Book Workshop	Hiller	9/30	8	In-Person
719	A Brief History of Modern India	Lamont	9/30	10	Online
<b>WEDNESDAY 9:45 AM</b>					
171	Current Events and Public Policy I	Callet, Porter	10/1	8	In-Person
395	Adapting to a Hotter World: How People and Regions are Coping with Climate Change	Pigato	10/1	8	In-Person
533	Jazz From the Ground Up	Sherwin	10/1	7	In-Person
586	Dive into Collage	Lauffer-Rubin	10/1	8	In-Person
615	Deutsch fuer Fortgeschrittene	Caraher	10/1	8	Online
729	The Civil War in Our National Park System	Kroese	10/1	5	Online
831	Mastering Skills of Mindfulness Meditation	J Drobis, S Drobis	10/1	10	Online
<b>WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM</b>					
495	How to Build a Nuclear Warhead (And Why You Should Probably Not)	Werner	10/1	10	Online
510	One Hit Wonders	Gondelman	10/1	10	Hybrid
562	How to Develop a Photographer's Eye: Introductory course	Logan	10/1	8	In-Person
601	Conversation Avancée	Spittler	10/1	10	In-Person
606	Intermediate German	Cutts	10/1	10	In-Person
647	A Portrait of the Times: Poetry Craftshop (Section B)	Pierson	10/1	10	In-Person
790	Off the Beaten Path in the DC Area	Buglass	10/1	10	In-Person
834	Mindfulness Meditation Intermediate level	Drobis	10/1	10	Online

#	STUDY GROUP	LEADER	START	WKS	FORMAT
<b>WEDNESDAY 1:45 PM</b>					
110	Critical Challenges of Our Time in Law, Government, and Policy	Rolnick, OLLI Coordinator	10/1	8	Online
200	Practicum on Productive Conflict Engagement	Hull	10/1	8	In-Person
530	The Music That Made America	Moskowitz	10/1	8	Online
600	Intermediate Italian	E Evangelista, L Evangelista, Flaxman	10/1	10	In-Person
602	French Conversation Advanced	Farrell	10/1	7	Online
613	Latin for Developing Translators	Smith	10/1	10	In-Person
759	Sustainability and Negotiating Climate	Kinney	10/1	7	In-Person
788	History and Relevance of the Berlin Airlift	Keller	10/1	8	Online
<b>THURSDAY 9:45 AM</b>					
145	Haven From 2025 Upheavals	Cohen	10/2	8	In-Person
191	Between Jerusalem and Washington: A Very Special Relationship?	Hadar	10/9	10	In-Person
433	Recent Developments in the Renaissance of Nuclear Power	Trubatch	10/9	7	In-Person
479	Making Choices: Understanding Environmental Issues	Hinga	10/2	10	In-Person
640	Recent American Poetry, Quarter One	Hendershot	10/9	8	Online
655	The Russian Short Story	Parlato	10/9	10	In-Person
715	Jewish History: Patriarchs to Israel	Berman	10/9	8	In-Person
815	Qur'an and Modern Society	Achrati	10/2	6	In-Person
<b>THURSDAY 11:45 AM</b>					
105	The US Social Safety Net—Full of Holes or Full of Fraud?	Nadel	10/9	8	In-Person
233	Thinking About Community	Moore	10/2	10	In-Person
563	Advancing Your Photographic Vision	Logan	10/9	8	In-Person
585	The Renaissance: Not Just Pretty Faces	Fleps	10/9	7	In-Person
621	Enjoying <i>The New Yorker</i> Together	Foster	10/2	10	Online
657	The Bronte Sisters	Frantz	10/2	8	In-Person
739	China's Early History	Spendelow	10/2	10	In-Person
<b>THURSDAY 1:45 PM</b>					
161	Does Europe Have a Future?	Kramer	10/9	10	In-Person
163	State of the News Media 2025	Begleiter	10/23	5	Online
252	Exploring Our Hidden Brain: How Unconscious Emotions and Behaviors Shape Our Decisions	C Weichel, K Weichel	10/9	7	Online
560	Learning to Look at Ballet	Lipkowitz	10/9	7	In-Person
607	Low Intermediate Spanish for Enthusiastic Learners	Aclan, Garzoli	10/2	10	In-Person
696	Wisdom Matters	Starr	10/2	8	In-Person
740	Japan's Early History to the 1868 Meiji Restoration	Spendelow	10/2	10	In-Person
787	Mexico: From Its Struggle for Independence Through the Mexican Revolution	Wilkinson	10/9	8	In-Person



#	STUDY GROUP	LEADER	START	WKS	FORMAT
<b>FRIDAY 9:45 AM</b>					
441	Essential Tech Literacy: Staying Up to Date with Technology	Rezmovic	10/3	7	In-Person
548	Where It Happened: Iconic Recording Studios	Hill	10/10	6	Online
675	Poetry about Growing Up and Growing Older	Pettengill	10/3	8	Online
689	Collaborative Fiction Workshop	Presser	10/3	10	In-Person
702	Wandering the World	Glakas	10/3	10	In-Person
806	Medical Qigong	Reo	10/3	8	In-Person
861	Plato's Academic Works	Ross	10/3	10	In-Person
<b>FRIDAY 11:45 AM</b>					
144	The China Challenge	Heath	10/3	10	In-Person
577	Digital Storytelling for Beginners	Gelb	10/3	8	In-Person
598	Film Analysis (Mostly Classic Films and Great Directors)	E King, L King	10/3	10	In-Person
608	Beginning Spanish with Cultural Context	Evangelista, Meade	10/3	8	In-Person
630	Thomas Hardy: the Sweet and the Strange	Freeman	10/3	8	Online
741	Importance of Sports in the Struggle for Civil Rights	Stewart	10/3	10	In-Person
860	Aristotle's Metaphysics, Psychology, and Epistemology	Ross	10/3	10	In-Person

## FALL 2025 LECTURES

During the fall semester, lectures will be held on Fridays from 1:30–2:30 PM. Lectures are free and open to the public. Registration is required for in-person lectures. Information about each lecture, including the format, is included on the OLLI website and in our e-newsletter, which is emailed to all members and subscribers every Friday morning.

# FALL STUDY GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

## 100 POLITICS, LAW & GOVERNMENT

### The Evolving Role of Federal Support and Regulation of Science and Technology

ALBERT CHEH

JACQUES READ

Eight Mondays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

September 29

In-Person

For study group description and Study Group Leader's bio, see 462.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week.

### Sustainability and Negotiating Climate

STEPHANIE KINNEY

Seven Wednesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

October 01

In-Person

For study group description and Study Group Leader's bio, see 759.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week.

### 105: The US Social Safety Net—Full of Holes or Full of Fraud?

MARK NADEL

Eight Thursdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

October 09

In-Person

Under the Trump administration, the various programs that comprise our social “safety net” have been subject to renewed scrutiny and the threat of Elon Musk’s chainsaw. Americans heard that Social Security was rife with fraud, that many people on Medicaid were lazy layabouts, and that the safety net provided benefits only to “those people.” This study group will explore the rationale, operation, and challenges of safety net programs including Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, the ACA (“Obamacare”), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. We will discuss these programs from several perspectives such as fairness, adequacy, impact, and cost, as well as comparisons with the approaches of other rich nations.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Mark Nadel's career was spent studying, teaching, and participating in the public policy process—most recently in the areas of health*

*policy and social welfare. He was a professor of political science at Cornell University and of public policy at Georgetown. In between those two academic stints he took a 20-year detour at the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and at the Social Security Administration as an Associate Commissioner. At OLLI he has led study groups on politics, policy, and political theory, and was Board Chair.*

### 110: Critical Challenges of Our Time in Law, Government, and Policy

OLLI COORDINATOR: SUSAN ROLNICK

Eight Wednesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

October 01

Online

Topics planned to be introduced by faculty from American University's School of Public Affairs include: Overview of Military Analysis Principles for Making Sense of News on Military Events, Whether in Ukraine, Gaza, or Elsewhere; Constitutional Vandalism and the Limits of Law; The Challenge of Combating Transnational Organized Crime and Cartels with Today's Government Climate; The Supreme Court's Influence on Policy-Making: When rulings are not in our favor, how do we take action in the other branches of government?; The Current Economic Landscape, Impacts on Workforce, and Opportunities in the Digital Space; The 30-Year Outlook for Women's Rights in the US; 21st-Century Policing in the US: Re-Imagining the Current Model to Meet Changing Expectations; and Where are the Truth-Tellers? Restoring Integrity in Government Oversight. ***This study group has a high class size capacity.***

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Ranked among the top schools of its kind, American University's School of Public Affairs (SPA) offers education in the fields of political science, public administration, public policy, and justice. It has been a hub for policy-related research and teaching for 85 years. Created during the depths of the Great Depression to train federal employees to implement President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "New Deal," SPA builds a culture of excellence and transforms the student experience through personalized teaching and experiential education; empowerment to conduct and produce research for those who seek knowledge; and ongoing engagement and collaboration between the academic and policy-planning spheres.*

## 144: The China Challenge

**JOHN HEATH**

**Ten Fridays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**October 03**

**In-Person**

This course draws on history, political science, and economics to examine China's remarkable rise since 1978, marked by rapid economic growth and the near elimination of extreme poverty. In purchasing power parity terms, China became the world's largest economy in 2014. It now leads in scientific publications, patent filings, and advances in AI and digitization. China's actions are critical to addressing climate change. Under Xi Jinping, political repression has deepened, yet the Communist Party has shown adaptability, scaling successful local reforms and maintaining public support. While tensions with the US persist, including efforts at economic decoupling, the two economies remain deeply intertwined. The course cautions against deterministic forecasts, emphasizing that China's future—like that of the world—is uncertain.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Since 2016, John Richard Heath has served as an Adjunct Senior Professorial Lecturer in the School of International Service at American University, teaching masters courses in international development and professional development management. In 2023, he won the award for Outstanding SIS Teaching by Faculty in an Adjunct Position. Born in London, England in 1953, he has a PhD in sociology from the University of Cambridge. Between 1990 and 2015 he was a staff member of the World Bank. During trips made in 2012 and 2024, he visited six provinces of China and plans to return in the near future.*

## 145: Haven From 2025 Upheavals

**LEW COHEN**

**Eight Thursdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**October 02**

**In-Person**

Are there any havens from the disruptive political, economic and social storms that are battering America? Fareed Zakaria's book *Age of Revolutions: Progress and Backlash from 1600 to the Present* is a good starting point to focus our discussion on what is to come.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Lewis Cohen earned degrees from Columbia College, Johns Hopkins University (SAIS), and Harvard University (Kennedy School). He was a Peace Corps volunteer in Tunisia, a Foreign Service Officer and Trade Negotiator with the Office of the US Trade Representative, and a consultant on international trade for a major DC law firm.*

## 161: Does Europe Have a Future?

**STEVEN KRAMER**

**Ten Thursdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**October 09**

**In-Person**

For three quarters of a century, Europe was closely tied to the United States politically, economically, and militarily. During this time, Europe transcended age-old nation-state conflicts and created the European Union. Now, suddenly with the advent of the Trump administration, Europe faces a tragic split with the US. A seemingly unbreakable alliance has come apart. As a result, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Europe needs to develop the means to defend itself from an aggressive Russia possibly without American support. At the same time, it faces internal threats to democracy from a rising extreme right, ironically egged on by US leadership. What is Europe's future?

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** No

*Steven Philip Kramer taught for 30 years at National Defense University where he co-directed the European program; he has also taught at Georgetown and SAIS. He received his BA at Brandeis and PhD at Princeton University. He has written five books and numerous articles on European history, politics, demography, and culture. The most recent is *Jews, Muslims, and the French Republic* (2023). He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.*

## 163: State of the News Media 2025

**RALPH BEGLEITER**

**Five Thursdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**October 23**

**Online**

This course explores the shifting landscape of news media in the US and globally after a tumultuous start to the second Trump administration. With declining engagement in both traditional and digital news, changing definitions of "news," and the rise of AI-generated content, the role of journalism is under pressure. We'll examine generational and gender divides in media consumption, the shift from public service models to profit-driven ownership, and waning interest in journalism education—all through the lens of national data and current trends. ***This study group has a high class size capacity.***

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Ralph Begleiter holds an MS in journalism from Columbia University and a BA in political science from Brown University. He is a former CNN world affairs correspondent (1981–1999), professor of communication*



at the University of Delaware (1999–2017), and founding director of UD's Center for Political Communication.

## 171: Current Events and Public Policy I

**DAVID CALLET**

**JEFFREY PORTER**

**Eight Wednesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**October 01**

**In-Person**

Jeffrey Porter and David Callet will lead lively discussions and debates on current events and public policy issues, focusing largely, but not exclusively, on politics, law, economics, and foreign affairs. Discussion topics, outlines, suggested readings (if any), and questions will be furnished in advance. Participants are also expected to follow the news closely. It is emphasized that this is a discussion-based class. Thus, participants are expected to take an active role in the conversations.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*David Callet practices product liability and consumer product safety law. He graduated from George Washington University Law School in 1973. After working as a federal government attorney, David was a partner in two DC law firms. In 2015, he established Callet Law, providing comprehensive client representation on all aspects of consumer product safety compliance and educating the product safety community so that they can understand and comply with their product safety obligations.*

*Jeffrey Porter is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, where he earned both BA and MA degrees. After moving to Washington, DC, he owned his own businesses for nearly 20 years. Following that, Jeff worked in the catering business at Whole Foods on P Street.*

## 172: Current Events and Public Policy II

**DAVID CALLET**

**JEFFREY PORTER**

**Eight Tuesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**September 30**

**In-Person**

Jeffrey Porter and David Callet will lead lively discussions and debates on current events and public policy issues, focusing largely, but not exclusively, on politics, law, economics, and foreign affairs. Discussion topics, outlines, suggested readings (if any), and questions will be furnished in advance. Participants are also expected to follow the news closely. It is emphasized that this is a discussion-based class. Thus, participants are expected to take an active role in the conversations.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*David Callet practices product liability and consumer product safety law. He graduated from George Washington University Law School. After working as a federal government attorney, David was a partner in two DC law firms. In 2015, he established Callet Law, providing comprehensive client representation on all aspects of consumer product safety compliance and educating the product safety community in order for them to understand and comply with their product safety obligations.*

*Jeffrey Porter is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, where he earned both BA and MA degrees. After moving to Washington, DC, he owned his own businesses for nearly 20 years. Following that, Jeff worked in the catering business at Whole Foods on P Street.*

## 180: Today's Supreme Court: A Course for Citizens

**PENNY HANSEN**

**Nine Tuesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**September 30**

**In-Person**

This study group will explore the important decisions that have and continue to be made by the 20-year-old Supreme Court under Chief Justice John Roberts. Presentation material and discussion will focus primarily on the major constitutional issues being decided by a divided court: presidential power, elections, diversity, guns, climate change, and religion. We will focus on the historical and political background of these issues, court procedures and norms, the legal orientation of the justices, and the new doctrines emerging from an activist court in a unique period in our history.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Penelope Hansen directed numerous programs at the Environmental Protection Agency during its first 30 years, implementing the country's first recycling, hazardous waste, Superfund, acid rain, and technology verification programs. She has devoted much of her retirement to studying the Supreme Court and has given OLLI classes on this and other subjects for the last ten years. She was educated at Skidmore College, Johns Hopkins University, and the Kennedy School at Harvard University.*

## 191: Between Jerusalem and Washington: A Very Special Relationship?

**LEON HADAR**

**Ten Thursdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**October 09**

**In-Person**

This course offers an overview of the relationship between the United States and Israel, situating it within the broader context of

American policy in the Middle East and the political evolution of the region. Topics include the historical foundations of Zionism, the establishment of Israel, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the shifting dynamics of the contemporary Middle East. Class members will explore the process of American-Israeli policy-making, analyzing the roles played by key actors such as the President, Congress, the federal bureaucracy, the media, public opinion, and influential interest groups. The course also deconstructs the ongoing debate over US policy in the Middle East by examining the contending perspectives on the issue and by focusing on the most recent developments in the Middle East, Israeli policies, and American responses.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Leon Hadar** is a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute's National Security Program, a Washington-based journalist, and a global affairs analyst. He is the author of *Sandstorm* and *Quagmire*, and a former Cato Institute fellow. His work has appeared in major publications such as *Foreign Affairs*, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post*. Hadar has held senior reporting roles with *The Jerusalem Post*, *The Business Times*, and is a contributing editor at *The National Interest* and *The American Conservative*. He holds a PhD in international relations from American University and has taught at several US universities.

## 199: How Literature and Drama Can Illuminate Politics and Government

**JAMES VERDIER**

**Ten Tuesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**September 30**

**In-Person**

This study group will explore how literature and drama can shed light on politics and government by offering perspectives that go beyond journalism, history, and biography. We'll examine works by authors such as Ward Just, Robert Penn Warren, Edwin O'Connor, William Shakespeare, Henrik Ibsen, and Hilary Mantel, as well as plays and films featuring major political figures. These works offer insights into the character, motivations, and behavior of those in political life across different times and contexts. We will consider how much depends on time and context, how much is fundamental, and how to tell the difference.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** No

**Jim Verdier** has taught at both Harvard and Princeton and has held senior roles in the US House and Senate, the Congressional Budget Office, and the state governments of Michigan and Indiana. He later spent more than 25 years with a policy research and consulting

company, where he advised federal and state agencies on the design and implementation of Medicaid and Medicare policies and programs.

## 200 PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY, & CULTURE

### Importance of Sports in the Struggle for Civil Rights

**KAREN STEWART**

**Ten Fridays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**October 03**

**In-Person**

For study group description and Study Group Leader's bio, see 741.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

### 200: Practicum on Productive Conflict Engagement

**JEANINE HULL**

**Eight Wednesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**October 01**

**In-Person**

I get it, conflict is unpleasant and can even feel scary. This new practicum will focus on skills that enable you to engage more productively when conflict arises, by exploring and applying the lessons of neuroscience and Non-Violent Communication to navigate everyday conflicts, both large and small. Born out of the need for more practice time in The Neuroscience of Conflict study group, this course is almost entirely practice. Prior participation in that course, reading the SGL's book, or reading any of the recommended books, will best prepare class members to participate. Success depends on members' active, supportive, and non-judgmental participation. The goal: to experience how productively engaging with conflict can strengthen relationships and reduce harm in our lives.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** No

**Jeanine Hull**, author of the book *Making Peace with Conflict: Using Neuroscience to Ease Difficult Relationships*, has been an attorney and mediator for the past 40 years. She has been counsel to a congressional committee, Assistant General Counsel of a Fortune 300 energy company, and partner at Cantor Fitzgerald.

## 202: Cartooning: The Lost Arts or Evolution

**ROBERT LAROSSA**

**Seven Mondays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**September 29**

**In-Person**

Cartoons were once the province of newspapers and candy stores. Some cartoonists are forgettable but others rank with the great illustrators. We will discuss the following: (1) political/editorial cartoons, (2) cartoon strips, (3) comic books and (4) sports cartoons. Among the artists we will touch upon are Pyle and his disciples representing illustrators, editorial cartoonists from Nast through Herblock to Handlesman, the comic strips from the Yellow Kid through Mike Doonesbury, comic book artists focusing upon the superhero illustrators, and finally sports cartoonists, specifically Willard Mullin. You will see that these genres inform, challenge and pull at your emotions, from sadness through joy. We will next look at animation as movement and sound are incorporated into cartoons by Disney, Warner Brothers, Lantz and Hanna-Barbera. We will end by investigating CGI and film where comic characters and humans interact.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Bob LaRossa**, a retired molecular biologist (Johns Hopkins, Yale, Stanford, DuPont), has a long-standing interest in American history, especially critical turning points that challenge our Constitutional order. For the last ten years, he has researched his family history and shared his scientific and genealogical knowledge at the OLLIs at American University and the University of Delaware.

## 210: The Art of Communication

**RABBI SHUA HECHT**

**Four Mondays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**September 29**

**In-Person**

Effective communication improves the way we do business, the way we conduct our domestic lives, our relations with friends and acquaintances, and the way we share our deepest emotions, thoughts, and inspirations. In a digital age where communication is so important, we can learn and practice more ways to better communicate. Our relationships at work, home, and in social circles have suffered greatly in the last two decades. This course offers insight into and practical application of the art of communication, using modern day methods supported by ancient texts. At the end of this course, you will have acquired and practiced ways to improve your interactions with all you encounter. Class members will receive information from the study group leader shortly after the lottery about how to order the required book.

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Rabbi Shua Hecht** was raised in Nice, France. Early on, he pursued Rabbinics, studying in Yeshivas Toras Emes in Israel, the Rabbinical College of America, and Sao Paulo, Brazil. Rabbi Shua Hecht currently serves as the spiritual director of the Chabad Lubavitch of the American University community and serves as a chaplain to Washington, DC hospitals.

## 212: Food, Culture, and Relationships

**BILL HADDEN**

**RITA HADDEN**

**Eight Tuesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**September 30**

**In-Person**

Food often facilitates relationships among strangers, friends, family members, potential business partners, and more. Members will see eight highly acclaimed international films about memorable food stories prior to our weekly meetings. These films are on Amazon Video, YouTube, Netflix, and other platforms. When we meet in person, we will watch key excerpts from each film prior to our discussions. We will examine what is exposed by these films, and why they matter in shaping our views of food and relationships. Possible films are: *Babette's Feast*, *Chocolat*, *Hunger*, *Ramen Shop*, *Mostly Martha*, *Eat Drink Man Woman*, *Julie and Julia*, and *The Hundred Foot Journey*.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** No

**Rita and Bill Hadden** love films and have led film discussion courses at OLLI and elsewhere for years. They have eaten local foods around the world and traveled extensively, thrive in different cultures, and speak multiple languages. Rita has done management and culture change consulting for 35 years. Bill is a sociologist with a career at the CDC and NIH. They look forward to engaging with OLLI film lovers.

## 232: Finding Your Family History

**SUSAN GOODMAN**

**Eight Tuesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**September 30**

**Online**

This workshop aims to help members begin finding and recording basic genealogy data (birth, death, and census material) using free resources from libraries and archives, as well as the internet. Members discuss user-friendly ways to share what they have found with their own families and others by creating DIY-printed booklets, as well as online photo albums, blogs, and audio recordings. Membership to Ancestry.com is suggested, but not required.

Members may opt to give the SGL access to their family trees for help during class and by email after the end of the course.

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Susan Goodman has been doing genealogy research as a hobby for 20 years. Before she retired, she worked as a journalist in print and radio, contributing features to NPR programs and news reports for WAMU.*

## 233: Thinking About Community

**DAVID MOORE**

**Ten Thursdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**October 02**

**In-Person**

People use the term “community” to refer to all sorts of things: urban neighborhoods (“Adams-Morgan”); work groups (“the medical community”); identity groups (“the Black community”); social media (“my Instagram friends”); and others. This course will explore questions like: What do we actually mean by community? How does it arise and flourish, and when does it struggle? What impact does it have on individuals, groups, and society? How have these questions been addressed by various kinds of thinkers? How have activists tried to build and mobilize community? Is community a good thing, or does it narrow people’s attitudes and opportunities? We will draw on our own experiences to examine these questions.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*David Moore is an educational anthropologist who once, briefly and ineptly, worked as a community organizer and taught for over 30 years at the Gallatin School of Individualized Study at NYU.*

## 244: Survivors and Descendants of the Holocaust: A Search for Meaning

**EDWARD FEINBERG**

**Ten Tuesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**September 30**

**In-Person**

This course will focus on the lives of Holocaust survivors and their descendants. The overarching questions: What is the legacy of immeasurable loss? How do survivors consciously and unconsciously convey feelings of anguish and resilience to their children and grandchildren? Among the themes: chronic uncertainty—who survived, who was murdered, who might still be alive; the precious remnant as immigration to the US, Canada, and Israel; existential angst—can there be faith after Auschwitz?; and living in the shadow of the Holocaust as the second and third generations. This highly interactive course will be explored through presentations,

discussions, and reviews of articles and videos.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Ed Feinberg, PhD, is a retired psychologist whose professional career focused on direct service and management of programs for children with disabilities and their families. In retirement, he serves as a docent at the US Holocaust Museum.*

## 250: TED Talks

**CAROLINE MINDEL**

**DIANE SWAN**

**LYNN LEWIS**

**Eight Tuesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**September 30**

**Online**

This course features TED Talk speakers who share their cutting-edge work across diverse fields; in short, their ideas are worth spreading. This course focuses on TED Talks spanning a wide range of issues, from personal growth and aging to health and science, to society, community, and more. During our highly interactive sessions, we will view and discuss two talks weekly. Participants are welcome to preview the talks beforehand, but it isn’t necessary, as they will be viewed during class. Individual volunteers will be asked to prepare brief background and discussion points for each presenter. The TED Talks are different each semester.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** No

*Caroline Mindel has a BA and an MSW from the University of Pennsylvania. She founded Mindel Management, Inc., a property-management business in DC.*

*Diane Swan taught English, worked as a Defense Department analyst, and developed training courses for various federal agencies.*

*Lynn Lewis has a BA from the University of Michigan and an MA in journalism from Ohio State University. She has been a writer and editor for more than four decades.*

## 252: Exploring Our Hidden Brain: How Unconscious Emotions and Behaviors Shape Our Decisions

**CARL WEICHEL**

**KIM WEICHEL**

**Seven Thursdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**October 09**

**Online**

We’ll explore topics ranging from history, theories, and science and how our built-in emotional systems can be better understood



(emotional intelligence). We examine behavior patterns from roles of social conformity to snapshots of our prejudices. Most human decisions are triggered unconsciously through over 135 emotions, from falling in love to ending a heated argument. The course draws from the NPR series “The Hidden Brain” by Shankar Vedantam that presents intriguing arcs from social psychology to our embedded cultural norms. During class, we listen to podcasts, view video clips, review journal articles, review research methods, and then engage in interactive discussions. A comprehensive study guide is supplied. This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

***Carl Weichel** has held various positions over his career in marketing, design, and advertising in Australia, South Africa, Canada, and San Francisco. Carl has led OLLI study groups on political polarization, the 1960s, Eastern thought, The New York Times book review, David Brooks’ writings, and our cultural complexities.*

***Kim Weichel** is a social entrepreneur and nonprofit leader in the fields of women’s leadership, cross-cultural dialogue, citizen diplomacy, and peacebuilding. She is also a published author. Together, they have taught courses at several OLLIs.*

## 253: Dreams—Their Link to Meditating, Mindfulness, and AI

**KENT WATKINS**

**Ten Mondays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**September 29**

**Online**

Do we all dream? Science says yes—though not all remember. In this exploratory pilot, participants will delve into dream history, cultural and artistic representations, and scientific insights. Using dreams volunteered by the group, we’ll practice collective interpretation and examine dream analysis methods, archetypes, and practical applications. We’ll also explore the emerging role of AI in dream interpretation and visualization, including ethical implications. Expect deep dives, creative insights, and lively discussion—but don’t worry, AI won’t replace those aha moments in the shower! ***This study group has a high class size capacity.***

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

***Kent Watkins** has over 30 years of experience in dreamwork and has led sessions through the International Association for the Study of Dreams in the DMV area. A longtime public servant and urban strategist, his 2025 Who’s Who profile highlights roles in the US Congress, White House, HUD, the private sector, and as an international consultant. He chairs the American Academy of Housing and Communities, promoting cross-sector innovation. Kent’s diverse work*

*spans housing, transit, history, climate, AI, and civil rights. He holds degrees from William and Mary, Harvard, and Oxford, and has taught or studied at institutions including Cambridge, MIT, and FIU.*

## 300 ECONOMICS & PERSONAL FINANCE

### The China Challenge

**JOHN HEATH**

**Ten Fridays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**October 03**

**In-Person**

For study group description and Study Group Leader’s bio, see 144.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1–2 hrs/week.

### 321: Understanding the Federal Reserve

**EDWARD KEAN**

**Six Mondays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**September 29**

**In-Person**

The class will aim to provide lay people with a better understanding of how the Federal Reserve operates, particularly in its role, as assigned by Congress, in setting monetary policy. The class will primarily focus on the factors the Federal Reserve considers in carrying out its responsibility in setting its interest rate target and how it influences financial conditions more broadly in the economy. We will examine why the Federal Reserve was created, how its organizational structure has evolved during its existence, and its relationship with Congress and the executive branch. It will also discuss recent developments regarding the Federal Reserve’s political independence.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

***Edward Kean** retired in July 2024 after a distinguished career spanning over four decades in economics and finance. From 1982 to 2000, he worked as a financial journalist, followed by a role as an economic consultant from 2001 until his retirement. In these capacities, he covered the Federal Reserve extensively, along with a broad range of economic topics including fiscal policy, trade, and financial regulation. Through his work, he engaged with numerous Federal Reserve officials and developed a deep understanding of the factors that influence monetary policy decisions.*

## 376: Understanding Medicare: A Practical Guide

**ANN KAYRISH**

**Six Mondays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**September 29**

**In-Person**

Medicare is complicated. Whether you are retired, assisting a family member, or planning ahead, this course will help you understand the basics of Medicare, help you avoid costly mistakes, and make more informed choices about your Medicare coverage.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Ann Kayrish has over 30 years of experience in the healthcare insurance and consulting industries, with the past 20 years focused on helping individuals navigate Medicare and make informed benefit choices. She has served as a Medicare counselor with the State Health Insurance Assistance Program and as the Medicare subject matter expert at the National Center for Benefits Outreach and Enrollment at the National Council on Aging. Ann currently writes the Medicare Made Easy column for the AARP Bulletin, continuing her mission to simplify Medicare for a broad audience.*

## 395: Adapting to a Hotter World: How People and Regions are Coping with Climate Change

**MIRIA PIGATO**

**Eight Wednesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**October 01**

**In-Person**

This study group explores the principles and practices of climate adaptation, focusing on practical and innovative solutions. It provides a comprehensive picture of climate adaptation challenges and responses, spanning critical areas like health, agriculture, coastal and mountain regions, finance, and innovative technologies. Participants will gain global insights and tools to navigate these challenges effectively.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** No

*Miria A. Pigato is a Visiting Professor at Ca' Foscari University in Venice, where she teaches a course on the economics of climate change, and is a consultant with the World Bank's Independent Evaluation Group. Over the past three years, she has also served as a study group leader at OLLI. She has 30-plus years of international experience serving in managerial, operational, and technical positions at the World Bank, leading senior policy dialogue in middle and low-income countries on*

*macroeconomic and fiscal reforms, climate change, trade policies, and poverty reduction. She holds a PhD in economics from the University College, London, an MSc in economics from the London School of Economics, and a BA in economics from Ca' Foscari University in Italy.*

## 400 STEM: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH

### Adapting to a Hotter World: How People and Regions are Coping with Climate Change

**MIRIA PIGATO**

**Eight Wednesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**October 01**

**In-Person**

For study group description and Study Group Leader's bio, see 395.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week.

### Sustainability and Negotiating Climate

**STEPHANIE KINNEY**

**Seven Wednesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**October 01**

**In-Person**

For study group description and Study Group Leader's bio, see 759.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week.

### 415: Science and Public Policy

**ARTHUR KATZ**

**Ten Tuesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**September 30**

**In-Person**

Precision medicine, climate change, AI, cybersecurity, the microbial world, synthetic biology, resilience, and the challenge of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons are topics that epitomize the intersection of science and public policy. These topics and others will be examined as emblematic of the critical role science plays in almost every aspect of our world, and the opportunities and challenges it poses for society. The course will provide a balanced examination of both the underlying science, and how advances pose public policy challenges and some cases very real personal choices. In a world that increasingly sidelines fact-based science, understanding these connections is important.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Arthur Katz** holds a PhD in chemistry and an MS in meteorology. He spent nearly 40 years working at the US Department of Energy and its predecessor agencies, focusing on the intersection of science and public policy. His work included international collaboration on fusion energy and involvement in the Human Genome Project. He is also the author of the book *Life After Nuclear War*.

## 433: Recent Developments in the Renaissance of Nuclear Power

**SHELDON TRUBATCH**

**Seven Thursdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**October 09**

**In-Person**

Nuclear power is experiencing a renaissance as a carbon-free source of energy. We will discuss the basis for this renaissance. We will focus on how changes in thinking about power generation have addressed some of the major drawbacks associated with previous generations of nuclear power plants. We also will consider where remaining concerns may inhibit this renaissance, as they have with previous attempts to revive nuclear power in the United States. The course is self-contained and does not require attendance at the previous course or technical knowledge about nuclear power. Substantial attention will be paid to the impact of the current US administration on the timely realization of new nuclear power facilities. We will also discuss the potential impact of “DeepSeek” and other AI advances which appear not to require the amount of electricity currently required by Open AI and other major users of energy-gobbling computer chips.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Sheldon Trubatch** has worked extensively in all aspects of the nuclear power industry. He has a PhD in physics from Brandeis and a JD from Columbia. He has worked in the government at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as a litigator; for Commonwealth Edison, as its first in-house nuclear lawyer; in private practice for several utilities at Sidney Austin; as a partner at Winston and Strawn; and for the nuclear regulatory counsel for Bechtel-SAIC at the Yucca Mountain Project. Before becoming a lawyer, he was a physics professor at California State University, Long Beach.

## 441: Essential Tech Literacy: Staying Up to Date with Technology

**VICTOR REZMOVIC**

**Seven Fridays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**October 03**

**In-Person**

Technological innovations have been transforming various aspects of

our lives at a rapid pace. While newer technologies often offer more features and cost savings, many people continue to use older devices and applications. One such example is the landline phone, which can be replaced by Voice over Internet Protocol solutions while enjoying substantial cost savings. We will review many of today's innovations that may not be widely known, such as mesh Wi-Fi solutions; the newest cellular options to provide whole house Internet; devices such as cameras and doorbells; cloud applications including private clouds, streaming TV, and music; and the newest recommendations for staying safe online and uses of AI.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Victor Rezmovic**, PhD, was trained in quantitative methods and social science research. He was fortunate to have discovered the world of personal computers in 1983, which led him to a career as a technology consultant and educator. After retiring from consulting at the DOJ and FBI, he has dedicated himself to teaching practical uses of technology such as using the Cloud, disconnecting from cable TV, staying safe online, and practical uses of AI. He has been teaching at OLLI since 2017.

## 462: The Evolving Role of Federal Support and Regulation of Science and Technology

**ALBERT CHEH**

**JACQUES READ**

**Eight Mondays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**September 29**

**In-Person**

World War II launched an era of federal support for Big Science, fueling both national defense and peaceful innovation—alongside the nuclear arms race and fears of global catastrophe. The launch of Sputnik further expanded the US scientific workforce and reshaped STEM education with initiatives like New Math, emphasizing conceptual understanding over memorization—a debate that continues today. This course explores the federal government's role in funding research, expanding the scientific workforce, and providing oversight, all of which now face new challenges. We'll compare past anxieties and hopes surrounding the Manhattan Project with today's concerns over artificial intelligence, now largely driven by private corporations rather than government agencies. Are there lessons from the nuclear era that can guide us today? Active discussion and diverse perspectives are welcome.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Albert Cheh** has a BA in chemistry from Columbia and a PhD in biochemistry from the University of California at Berkeley. He retired



as Professor Emeritus in environmental science and in chemistry at American University in 2017.

**Jacques Read** has taught at Fairleigh Dickinson and the University of California, performed research at Oak Ridge and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories, and been employed by the Atomic Energy Commission, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Department of Energy. He has been a study group leader since 2012.

## 479: Making Choices: Understanding Environmental Issues

**KENNETH HINGA**

**Ten Thursdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**October 02**

**In-Person**

We are faced with the need to make choices on environmental issues, including what positions on environmental and health policies to support, what personal actions to take or avoid, and even what to buy in the supermarket. This course will provide an introduction to the basic physical processes central to understanding issues of the human environment. No scientific background is required. Topics to be covered will include climate change, GMO foods, nuclear radiation and waste, marine dead zones, renewable energy, oil spills, pesticides, food additives, residues of veterinary drugs, and “what is safe.”

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Ken Hinga** was a research oceanographer at the University of Rhode Island and worked on a variety of environmental issues. He then moved to USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service where he served as science advisor on environmental and food safety issues.

## 495: How to Build a Nuclear Warhead (And Why You Should Probably Not)

**JAMES WERNER**

**Ten Wednesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**October 01**

**Online**

This course covers the basics of nuclear warhead design and production, and the enduring consequences (even if never detonated in warfare again) starting with the WWII Manhattan Project to develop the bombs dropped on Japan. As dramatic as this history was, it was dwarfed by the subsequent construction and operation of an integrated network of massive industrial sites in almost every state to produce and maintain more than 125,000 US nuclear warheads. We will also address the limited connections to technologies for generating electric power. The course covers not only the science behind the warheads and facilities, but also the financial, security, and environmental consequences, as well as some of the

human stories.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Jim Werner** is an engineer with over 40 years of experience in environmental policy and technical consulting. He recently led the Environmental Policy Section at the Congressional Research Service, advising Congress on issues including nuclear materials, air and water quality, and climate change. He previously directed state environmental agencies in Delaware and Missouri and served as Policy Director at the US Department of Energy, overseeing nuclear cleanup and nonproliferation programs. His earlier roles include engineering work with NRDC and ICF, focusing on DOE nuclear facilities. Jim continues to consult for government and private clients.

## 500 MUSIC & VISUAL ARTS

### 505: Mozart

**DAVID FLAXMAN**

**Ten Mondays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**September 29**

**Hybrid**

We return to the great Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart with a class devoted to his music and his life story. We previously covered him in the fall of 2021. This will not be an exact repeat of the class but of course there will be significant overlap with the material from that semester. **This study group has a high class size capacity.**

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Appreciation

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**David Flaxman** is a musician and computer scientist who has been teaching classes at OLLI since 2017. His music classes have previously covered Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Schumann, Schubert, Mendelssohn, and others. He is president of the City Choir of Washington and the Georgetown Chorale and is a co-founder of the Washington Douglass Chorale.

### 510: One Hit Wonders

**LARRY GONDELMAN**

**Ten Wednesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**October 01**

**Hybrid**

Take a nostalgic trip down memory lane as we listen to and hear stories about approximately 150 distinctive songs that are part of the soundtrack of our lives. These songs are distinctive because they are “one hit wonders”—songs by a musical artist who was successful with one hit song, but with no comparable subsequent hit. We’ll



hear songs of love like “The Book of Love” by the Monotones and “The Game of Love” by Wayne Fontana and The Mindbenders, as well as novelty songs like “Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini” and “Tie Me Kangaroo Down Sport,” and many more. In the words of one one-hit wonder, for ten weeks we’ll all suffer from a severe case of “Rockin’ Pneumonia and the Boogie Woogie Flu.” ***This study group has a high class size capacity.***

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Appreciation

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Larry Gondelman** is a mostly retired attorney who has loved rock ‘n’ roll his whole life. He has previously led the study groups: *A History of Rock ‘n’ Roll; Iconic Albums; Songs of Sex, Drugs and Rock ‘n’ Roll; Cover Me: Tales of Songwriters and Their Songs; Black Godmothers of Rock ‘n’ Roll; A Look at Lyrics; Deeper Dive Into Lesser Knowns; Songs of Sex, Part two; Label Me: Record Labels and Their Artists; And the Grammy Goes To; and Music Festivals.*

## 515: A Few Favorite Operas

**BRUCE EISEN**

**Eight Mondays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**September 29**

**In-Person**

This course will include at least four operas, three of which are personal favorites and which stray a little from the standard repertoire. The operas are *Vanessa* (Barber); *La Vida Breve* (Fallá); and *The Consul* (Menotti). The class will pick the fourth opera by a method which will be presented at our initial session. Also, there will be an opportunity for increased class participation and a thorough discussion of opera events in the DMV.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Appreciation

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Bruce Eisen** is a past General Counsel of Washington National Opera and has served as an SGL for over a decade.

## 516: Wagner’s *The Ring of the Nibelung*

**JAMES HOLMAN**

**Eight Tuesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**September 30**

**In-Person**

This course offers a guided tour through music’s magnus opus. Wagner’s *Ring* represents a towering turning point in the history of music and theater, and a source of unending analysis across many fields. For 150 years, its production has been the ultimate goal of opera companies everywhere. Leading the way through each of the cycle’s four music dramas, Mr. Holman will offer extended video excerpts, together with commentary on *The Ring*’s origins, creative history, revolutionary music, and other aspects, encouraging active

class participation. ***This study group has a high class size capacity.*** This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1–2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Jim Holman** has written and edited various books on the life and music of Richard Wagner. Jim has lectured throughout the country and has conducted OLLI classes on Wagner for several years.

## 519: The Great French Songbook

**LISA HARPER**

**Ten Mondays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**October 06**

**In-Person**

French art songs known as “la chanson française” reached their height after World War II in Paris. Entertainers like Edith Piaf, Jacques Brel, and Charles Aznavour wrote the lyrics, composed the music, and performed the songs in France and the United States. The history of these songs and the backstories of singers, some little known in the US, will be presented with slides and videos against the backdrop of the events of the period. The course will be taught in English, but the songs will be in the original French with bilingual texts for each song. You don’t have to speak French to appreciate this music but you do need a taste for melody, rime, and poetry.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Lisa Harper** grew up bilingual in Paris in the 1950’s. The songs in this course were the soundtrack of her early life. She continued to listen to these songs during an international career mostly in francophone countries. She still enjoys them and lectures about them today. She currently serves on the OLLI Board and Lecture Committee.

## 530: The Music That Made America

**DANIEL MOSKOWITZ**

**Eight Wednesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**October 01**

**Online**

The Library of Congress maintains a national registry of recordings that show the “range and diversity of America,” reaching from Edison recordings to the original cast album of *Hamilton*. We’ll hear selections from the 600 titles now in the registry, discuss the role they played in shaping our country, and perhaps add a memory of the impact the piece had on our own lives. Each session will be devoted to a specific genre—pop, jazz, folk, classical, etc.—with the emphasis on recent additions to the registry. On the list: Helen Reddy’s “I Am Woman,” Roy Rogers’ “Happy Trails,” John Lennon’s “Imagine,” Fats Waller’s “Ain’t Misbehavin’,” “Hair” by the original cast, and Renee Fleming’s “Signatures” album. ***This study group has a high class size capacity.***

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Magazine writer Dan Moskowitz has, for more than a decade, tapped his avocational interest in American popular music to lead study groups in the subject at the OLLIs at American University and George Mason.*

## 533: Jazz From the Ground Up

ALAN SHERWIN

Seven Wednesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

October 01

In-Person

Each session will introduce works by ever-increasing ensemble sizes. Session one will present solo performances; Session two, duos; Session three, trios; and so on, culminating in large jazz ensembles. We'll study the roles of the various instruments in different settings, and how the musicians interact as soloists, ensemble players, and accompanists. We'll hear works and artists that may be familiar, and some that may be new to many listeners.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Appreciation

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Alan Sherwin is a saxophonist who performs with various DC-area jazz ensembles. His professional career included classroom teaching, curriculum design, and end-user training in various technical fields. A current interest is creating software applications related to music.*

## 548: Where It Happened: Iconic Recording Studios

JOHN HILL

Six Fridays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

October 10

Online

This study group is a look at some iconic recording studios and the impact they've had on music, including Motown in Detroit, Columbia 30th St/52nd St in New York, Sigma Sound in Philadelphia, Criterion in Miami, RCA Studio B in Nashville, Muscle Shoals in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, and more. ***This study group has a high class size capacity.***

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*John Hill is a record producer and songwriter. He got his start as a staff producer for Columbia Records and has produced some artists such as Dr. John, George Harrison, Bob Dylan, (Harrison and Dylan as sidemen), The Buckingham, Raven, Catfish, Ian and Sylvia, David Bromberg, and Susan Christie. His songs have been recorded by several*

*of the groups that have been important in the history of rock, including The Grassroots, The Buckingham, The Staples Singers, Bill Deal and the Rhondells, and Pacific Gas and Electric (the band, not the utility). He also co-wrote the song Fifty in Five, which was a top ten record in Australia by the Hilltop Hoods in 2012.*

## 555: The Silent Clowns

JEFFREY GORSKY

Seven Tuesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

September 30

In-Person

This course covers the careers of the great comedians of the silent film era—Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, Harold Lloyd, Harry Langdon, and Laurel and Hardy, illustrated by clips from their greatest short and feature films. Films covered include Chaplin's *The Gold Rush*, Keaton's *Sherlock Jr.* and *The General*, and Lloyd's *Safety Last* and *The Freshman*.

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Appreciation

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Jeffrey Gorsky is a lifetime silent film buff. Alex Trebek once told him that his wife let him watch too many movies. He is the author of *Exiles in Sepharad: The Jewish Millennium in Spain* and has taught many classes at OLLI on the history of the Jews of Spain. He is a retired diplomat and immigration lawyer.*

## 560: Learning to Look at Ballet

IRIS LIPKOWITZ

Seven Thursdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

October 09

In-Person

Ballet is probably the least understood art form. Few colleges offer courses on its history and appreciation for the non-dance major. This course will offer an approach for examining performance factors critical to the understanding of the art form such as technique, the concept of line, coordination of music and movement, expression of character and humor in movement, and choreographic and company style. Participants will view complete ballets and ballet segments which illustrate these factors. This course is appropriate for both balletomanes and novices.

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Appreciation

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Iris Lipkowitz is a retired Treasury Department analyst and ballet lover whose collection of playbills and programs reside at the American University library. She studied dance for many years and has taught ballet history and appreciation courses since 2004. She holds degrees from the University of Michigan and the University of Southern California.*

## 562: How to Develop a Photographer's Eye: Introductory Course

**BEVERLY LOGAN**

**Eight Wednesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**October 01**

**In-Person**

Billions of pictures are taken every day, but how many of them are compelling? In this class, you will learn the elements that make a photograph engrossing: lighting, color, composition, details, texture, and more. Every week we will study master photographers and you will have assignments which we will critique in class. Use whatever camera you prefer including smartphones. The class requires you spend one to two hours taking photographs each week. In preparation for this class, you might want to attend one of the free demonstrations on the camera features of iPhones at local Apple stores.

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** No

***Beverly Logan** is an award-winning photographer who received her MFA in advanced photography from Bard College. Her work has appeared in numerous consumer magazines. She is currently represented by the Studio Gallery in Dupont Circle, the Maryland Federation of Art in Annapolis, and the Limner Gallery in Hudson, New York. See more about her at [beverlylogan.com](http://beverlylogan.com).*

## 563: Advancing Your Photographic Vision

**BEVERLY LOGAN**

**Eight Thursdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**October 09**

**In-Person**

In this advanced photography course, you will use the skills you learned in the introductory course to express your personal vision. Each week we will assess the elements that make a photograph compelling and we will study photographers who have developed photographic projects. You will have weekly assignments which we will critique in class. The class requires you spend one to two hours taking photographs each week. Use whatever camera you prefer including smartphones. Prerequisite: "How to Take Better Pictures with Your Smartphone" class.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** No

***Beverly Logan** is an award-winning photographer who received her MFA in advanced photography from Bard College. Her work has appeared in numerous consumer magazines. She is currently represented by the Studio Gallery in Dupont Circle, the Maryland*

*Federation of Art in Annapolis, and the Limner Gallery in Hudson, New York. See more about her at [beverlylogan.com](http://beverlylogan.com).*

## 564: How to Take Better Travel Photos

**BEVERLY LOGAN**

**Eight Tuesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**September 30**

**In-Person**

We all take pictures while we travel, but what should we photograph that might just as well be remembered by purchasing a postcard or a book? In this class, you will not only learn how to take better pictures, but how to create a "shot list" to create a visual journal of your experience. We will study photographers who have specialized in projects such as food, street photography, monuments, landscapes, etc. We will use DC as our classroom travel experience. Expect to spend an hour or two a week on classroom assignments which we will critique in class. All cameras welcome including smart phones. In preparation for this class, you might want to attend one of the free demonstrations on the camera features of iPhones at local Apple stores.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** No

***Beverly Logan** is an award-winning photographer who received her MFA in advanced photography from Bard College. Her work has appeared in numerous consumer magazines. She is currently represented by the Studio Gallery in Dupont Circle, the Maryland Federation of Art in Annapolis, and the Limner Gallery in Hudson, New York. See more about her at [beverlylogan.com](http://beverlylogan.com).*

## 567: The Cultural Evolution of Meso-America and Its Impact on North America

**LAWRENCE HEILMAN**

**Ten Mondays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**September 29**

**In-Person**

The course will explore Meso-American civilization as represented in the emergence of 4,000 years of indigenous art and architecture. Over the course of ten classes, we will examine the following cultural phenomena: (1) Olmec and Maya civilizations; (2) High civilization at Teotihuacan, Tula, and Tenochitlan, and its spread throughout North America; (3) The Iberian Antecedent including early man, the Greeks, the Phoenicians, the Romans, the Goths, Islam, Romanesque art and architectural formats, and the Spanish Golden Age of art and literature; (4) The clash of civilization and the evolution of the Vice Royalty of New Spain; (5) 19th and 20th centuries in Mexico as prelude to the 1910 Revolution and the 1917 Constitution; (6) Diego Rivera in Mexico; (7) Diego Rivera in the US; (8) Jose Clemente Orozco in Mexico and the US; (9) David Alfaro Siqueiros in Mexico and the US;



(10) Impact of the Mexican muralists in the US; and (11) Impact of the Mexican muralists in the 21st century.

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Larry Heilman** has a PhD in history. He has taught Latin American history at various universities and undertaken archaeological fieldwork in Mexico, Spain, Florida, and California. Currently, he is a research associate in the Anthropology Department at the Natural History Museum of the Smithsonian. His research is focused on the impact of US foreign assistance in Latin America. A recent publication of his is USAID in Bolivia: Partner or Patrón.

## 568: Contemporary Asian Architecture Part 1—China & South Korea

**JEFFREY SWOGER**

**Eight Mondays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**September 29**

**Online**

Beginning in 2010, a majority of the winners of the prestigious Pritzker Architectural Prize have been of Asian descent. In the first of a two-part examination of Asian architecture, we survey Chinese architects: the incredible variety of their approaches to architectural design, their choice of materials, and their respect for the landscape. While China is still a tightly controlled society in many respects, the architects are clearly part of the international architectural community, and exhibit extraordinary artistic freedom. Though they uniformly embrace contemporary design, they also honor their rich cultural heritage. The resultant buildings are both exciting and thought-provoking. South Korean architects will round out the final two weeks of the course. ***This study group has a high class size capacity.***

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Jeffrey Swoger** began college studying architecture at Washington University in St. Louis, before transferring to the Institute of Design at IIT to study graphic design. However, he remained keenly interested in architecture, keeping abreast of the major architects and their buildings. Living in Chicago, he saw the rise of several iconic buildings: the John Hancock Building; the Sears Tower; the 860-880 Apartments. As a designer, he worked with many Chicago architects and real estate developers, and created the logo for the Chicago School of Architecture Foundation, which was housed in the historic Glessner House, designed by H.H. Richardson.

## 572: The Medieval Book

**CARIN RUFF**

**Seven Tuesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**September 30**

**In-Person**

We will explore the development of the book as artifact from Roman antiquity through the western Middle Ages. We'll consider how the physical form, script, decoration, function, and contents of books evolved in changing political, religious, cultural, and linguistic contexts, from the ancient scroll to the invention of printing. Participants will learn how to navigate the tens of thousands of digitized medieval manuscripts that are freely available online. This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Carin Ruff** has an MSLS from Catholic University and a PhD in medieval studies from the University of Toronto. She started out as a rare book librarian and during her academic career taught Latin, Old English, and manuscript studies at Toronto, John Carroll University, Berkeley, and Cornell. She teaches occasional graduate medieval Latin courses and workshops on the history of script. For OLLI, she has led courses on the history of the book and on Anglo-Saxon literature.

## 577: Digital Storytelling for Beginners

**CONNIE GELB**

**Eight Fridays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**October 03**

**In-Person**

A digital story is a short video (two–three minutes long) that combines your voice, still pictures and music to tell a personal story. In this hands-on course, you will be guided step-by-step through a simplified media production process, from conceptualizing a story, writing a script, recording a voiceover, selecting images, to completing a digital story. You'll receive individualized support with scripting, voice recording, and video editing. After our final class "screening," you'll leave with a short digital story that's easy to share on your cellphone, TV, laptop computer, and social media. Participants should be comfortable learning new video editing software and are required to bring cellphones and laptops to every class.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** No

**Connie Gelb** has facilitated digital storytelling workshops at American University, George Washington University, Dartmouth College, and The Barker Foundation in Bethesda, MD. She taught English for Academic Purposes to international students at American University and GW and currently designs interactive digital curriculum for online English



teachers. A published writer and photographer, she holds a BA in English and filmmaking from Hampshire College, an MS in journalism from Columbia University, and an MA in TESOL from American University.

## 585: The Renaissance: Not Just Pretty Faces

**CHRISTINA FLEPS**

**Seven Thursdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**October 09**

**In-Person**

This course examines Renaissance art from Giotto and Masaccio to Caravaggio and Gentileschi. Embarking from Byzantine icons, our Renaissance tour explores: how artists developed new techniques for realistic depiction of space, form, and emotion; how private powers like the Medici came to rival the Church as art patrons; and how artists changed from anonymous guild members to renowned “rock stars” like Leonardo, Michelangelo, Raphael, and Titian. Because the Renaissance masters became the models that later generations of Western artists studied and copied, this course is also intended as a foundation for potential later courses in Western art.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Christina Fleps is a retired lawyer whose other interests include writing, singing, dancing, reading, and art history. She has been fascinated with art history since age seven, when her teacher, Miss Jose, wove the art and architecture of ancient Greece through her third-grade curriculum. Since then Christina has pursued art history in high school and college courses and by prowling art and history museums in her worldwide travels. Most recently she was a docent at the National Gallery of Art and art lecturer at the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase. She loves sharing art history with others and learning their insights about art—and life.*

## 586: Dive into Collage

**LEAH LAUFFER-RUBIN**

**Eight Wednesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**October 01**

**In-Person**

Collage comes from the old French word *coller*, meaning “to glue,” a process artists have explored throughout art history, applying cut papers onto different surfaces. Learn the rich history of collage, from Medieval Europe to Picasso and the Dada artist Hannah Hoch. Tell your story in paper, text, and found objects through hands-on projects designed to build your visual vocabulary. Weekly projects use simple paper techniques, including image transfer, stenciling, and other mixed media processes. Collage making offers infinite possibilities of personal expression while having fun. An imagination and a sense of play are required, as well as the following materials: scissors, glue, pencils, background cardboard, old photos, fabric

scraps, ribbons, textured papers, string, colored pencils, paints, markers, pens, and an X-Acto knife with a cutting mat to work on. This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** No

*Leah Lauffer-Rubin has a BFA from Alfred University, School of Art and Design—NYS School of Ceramics, and an MFA from Rutgers University—Mason Gross School of the Arts. She has taught art at private K-12 day schools, including Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda, The Fessenden School in Boston, and Marymount School of New York. She is a New York City artist and art educator who recently returned to the Washington, DC, area and has a mixed-media studio at Artists and Makers in North Bethesda, Maryland. Her works have appeared in juried shows.*

## 589: American Colonial and Federal Furniture: 1650–1840

**OSCAR FITZGERALD**

**Eight Tuesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**September 30**

**In-Person**

This course will answer the question of why furniture in the Golden Age of American cabinetmaking before 1840 looks the way it does. American furniture styles evolved from the Jacobean in the 17th century through William and Mary, Queen Anne, and Chippendale in the 18th century to Federal and Empire in the early 19th century. Each style will be placed in its historical and cultural context, and regional differences will be explained. Special topics will include Windsor chairs, the idiosyncratic work of country cabinetmakers, both northern and southern, and a brief introduction to 18th-century cabinetmaking. A tour of the 18th- and early 19th-century Kaufman furniture at the National Gallery summarizes the class.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Oscar Fitzgerald, PhD, taught all the American furniture history classes of the Smithsonian and the George Washington University MA program in decorative arts. His American Furniture: 1650 to the Present is the standard textbook in the field. He lectures widely, including presentations to appraisers, collectors, museums, and colleges.*

## 598: Film Analysis (Mostly Classic Films and Great Directors)

ELIZABETH KING

LEONARD KING

Ten Fridays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

October 03

In-Person

Through a selection of 10 films (which members will see before each class), we will analyze and discuss different methods to view cinema: history, themes, techniques, psychology, major directors, and what the films say about contemporary issues to us individually. Although this list is subject to change, probable films are: *Great Dictator*, *A Face in the Crowd*, *M*, *Rope*, *The Wrong Man*, *Wild Strawberries*, *A Dry White Season*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Hannah and Her Sisters*, *The Truman Show*, and *American Fiction*.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Betty King taught science, mathematics, and computer education for 31 years at Maret School before co-teaching with Leonard.*

*After teaching 43 years at Maret School, Leonard King has taught study groups at OLLI on film history and analysis, European history and ideology, history of China, nonviolence, and moral dilemmas.*

## 600 LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

### 600: Intermediate Italian

ELISA EVANGELISTA

LOUIS EVANGELISTA

DAVID FLAXMAN

Ten Wednesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

October 01

In-Person

We continue our series on the Italian language. We read short stories together, discuss them in Italian, have short grammar lessons, watch some videos in Italian, read some newspaper articles from *Corriere della Sera* and discuss them.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** No

*Elisa and Lou Evangelista are both native Italians with significant teaching experience. Elisa has taught Italian at the high school level and is also a poet.*

*David Flaxman, computer scientist, musician, and linguist, has been teaching music and Italian at OLLI for several years.*

### 601: Conversation Avancée

MICHELE SPITTLER

Ten Wednesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

October 01

In-Person

Ce groupe d'études est pour des étudiants qui ont un niveau d'université intermédiaire/ avancé. Une participation intensive des étudiants est très importante. L'objectif est de développer le vocabulaire courant et d'être capable de s'exprimer presque couramment. Le cours sera basé sur différents éléments:

1) Livre à acheter avant le début du cours (Vocabulaire progressif du français. *Niveau perfectionnement C1C2*, Claire Miquei, ISBN 978-2090384536)

2) Photocopies de la nouvelle de Camus "L'hôte" et visionnement du DVD, Film sur la 2eme guerre mondiale.

Au début de la session une liste de vocabulaire et des explications et exercices ainsi qu'un plan de travail seront aussi distribués. La classe sera exposée aux dernières nouvelles de politique, la culture, le arts, etc par des articles distribués en cours par le professeur. Il ne sera pas nécessaire de voir le film en dehors de la classe.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Michèle Spittler est née à Besançon. Elle a été professeur à National Cathedral School pendant 47 ans. Puis elle a enseigné à Washington Latin Charter Public school pendant sept ans. Maintenant elle est disponible pour des leçons particulières. Ses étudiants varient entre cinq ans et 93 ans! Elle a aussi enseigné des classes d'adultes le soir à l'Alliance française et à USDA Graduate school pendant 35 ans. Consultante pour le College Board pour AP French lit and AP Language pendant 20 ans. Elle s'intéresse beaucoup à l'histoire, aux problèmes sociaux et politiques, à l'art et à la cuisine du terroir et du monde francophone.*

### 602: French Conversation Advanced

CAROLINE FARRELL

Seven Wednesdays (1:45 PM - 3:00 PM)

October 01

Online

This class features conversation with attention to mastering complex structures and increasing vocabulary. The class presupposes a fairly high level of French. **Members registering for this course for the first time are kindly requested to contact Caroline Farrell before the lottery at caroline67bling@gmail.com. This study group meets for an hour and 15 minutes from 1:45-3:00 PM.**

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** No

**Caroline Farrell** holds an honors BA from the University of Toronto in French, German, and history and an MA (ABD) in French literature from Princeton University. She has taught French at the University of Kansas, within the Canadian government, the Department of National Defense, and at the Royal Military College, Kingston. For the past 13 years, Caroline has taught French at the Kingston Senior Center.

## 603: Cours de Lecture et Conversation en Français

**ELAINE FÉRAT**

**Ten Mondays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**September 29**

**In-Person**

Ce cours est conçu pour les étudiants qui possèdent un niveau de compétence orale déjà avancé. Il est composé d'éléments divers, par exemple, des discussions sur les événements de la semaine, des visites culturelles, voyages, critiques de films et de livres; opinions personnelles sur une variété de sujets; présentations individuelles (PowerPoint ou autre) sur des sujets choisis par les étudiants; des exercices de grammaire et vocabulaire; puis d'autres activités de groupe. Les devoirs hebdomadaires sont envoyés par email. **Before registering, all new students are required to contact Elaine Férat at [ecferat1@gmail.com](mailto:ecferat1@gmail.com) to set up an oral interview.**

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** No

**Elaine Férat** has over 30 years of experience in teaching French. She is a retired member of the language faculty at Johns Hopkins University SAIS, offers private lessons, tutors all levels, and is a freelance translator.

## 606: Intermediate German

**MARTHA CUTTS**

**Ten Wednesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**October 01**

**In-Person**

We will continue to work on building our vocabulary, our spoken and written fluency, and our listening comprehension. We will read short stories, watch more Nicos Weg episodes and listen to Langsam Gesprochene Nachrichten. We will also reinforce our command of grammar. No books beyond those used in the Spring 2025 class are needed. Additional weekly opportunities to gather for conversation will also be offered. Ich freue mich darauf!

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Martha Cutts** majored in German at Mount Holyoke College. After teaching English in a German school for a year, she earned a Master of Arts in Teaching (German) at Yale University. She taught German

for decades before becoming a full-time school administrator. She has taught German here at OLLI since September of 2022.

## 607: Low Intermediate Spanish for Enthusiastic Learners

**CAROLINA ACLAN**

**SILVIA GARZOLI**

**Ten Thursdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**October 02**

**In-Person**

During the course, we plan to read short stories written and edited by native Spanish speakers from Latin America to help build confidence in your overall reading and listening comprehension and improve your vocabulary. Some basic grammar will be reviewed, with emphasis on some of the most common mistakes made when speaking Spanish, such as, gendered nouns, "ser/estar" prepositions, false friends, etc. By the end of the course learners will: 1) Demonstrate understanding of the main points; 2) Produce simple connected sentences on short stories; and 3) Describe experiences, events, and opinions. Active participation will be encouraged. This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Carolina Aclan** has a Masters degree in Instructional Design and has worked in training and development at the Inter-American Development Bank developing and offering courses for at least 10 years and loves teaching.

**Silvia Garzoli** is a retired Physical Scientist with experience in teaching and research at Columbia University and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).

## 608: Beginning Spanish with Cultural Context

**ELISA EVANGELISTA**

**JULIA MEADE**

**Eight Fridays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**October 03**

**In-Person**

This study group will be an introduction to Spanish with the focus on developing practical communicative skills that can be applied to everyday situations for traveling in Spanish speaking countries. The class will also include discussions of cultural practices.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** No

**Elisa Evangelista** is a native Italian speaker with significant teaching experience. She has taught Spanish and Italian to adults and high school students. One of her interests is writing poetry.

**Julia Meade** received her BA in philosophy from University of Barcelona

and her MA in philosophy and educational sciences from University of Barcelona, Spain. She was the Lead Instructor of the Modern Language Department at Blessed Sacrament School in Washington, DC for 27 years. She received her certification from the State of Maryland in Secondary Education Spanish Instruction and is an active member for over 25 years of AATSP, ACTFL, and GWATFL.

## 609: Latinoamérica y España en la Mesa: Comida y Cultura

**RAYSA AMADOR**  
**MONICA GRIGERA**  
**LIZ REILLY**

**Seven Tuesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**September 30**

**In-Person**

This course explores the link between Spanish and Latin American cuisines and art and literature. The focus is on food and drink's significance in the Spanish-speaking world. **The class will be taught in Spanish and it requires an intermediate-advanced language level.**

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** No

***Raysa Amador**, a native Spanish speaker, has four decades of experience teaching at the university level.*

***Monica Grigera**, a native Spanish speaker, has taught from kindergarten to college, from Patagonia to Pennsylvania.*

***Liz Reilly**, a fluent Spanish speaker, spent her childhood in Latin America and worked in Madrid for five years.*

## 611: Reading Greek

**DON ROSS**

**Ten Tuesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**September 30**

**In-Person**

The object of this course is to enable participants to decipher ancient Greek texts with the help of a translation. The intent is not to master the ancient Greek language, but rather to learn how the language works so that one can, with a translation in hand, look at the Greek original and see why it means what the translation says it means. Because my field is philosophy, readings will be slanted in that direction.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

***Don Ross** received his BA in philosophy from Wake Forest University in 1970, his MA from the University of Iowa in 1972, and his PhD from the University of Chicago in 1979. His publications include material on*

*ancient philosophy, both East and West. He has many years of work in the original languages—Latin, Greek, and Sanskrit.*

## 613: Latin for Developing Translators

**DIANA SMITH**

**Ten Wednesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**October 01**

**In-Person**

A follow-up to the previous semesters of Latin for Curious Beginners, this session is designed for those who have been studying Latin at OLLI. We will continue our journey through *Wheelock's Latin, 7th Edition*, and we will apply our new grammatical knowledge to increasingly complicated translations from the ancient and medieval worlds. **For those who have not been in the previous OLLI Latin classes, but who have had some Latin in days of yore, please contact Diana Smith at [desdian@gmail.com](mailto:desdian@gmail.com) for permission to join in the fun!**

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** No

***Diana Smith** worked as a teacher and administrator for 35 years in secondary schools. Most recently, she served as the principal of Washington Latin Public Charter School since 2008. She has a BA in classics from Princeton and a PhD in English from the University of Virginia.*

## 615: Deutsch fuer Fortgeschrittene

**HANNE CARAHER**

**Eight Wednesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**October 01**

**Online**

Können Sie sich auf deutsch unterhalten? Kennen Sie die Grundregeln der deutschen Grammatik? Wenn ja, dann sind Sie ein guter Kandidat fuer diese Klasse. Wir werden uns auf deutsch unterhalten, Audios hoeren, ausgesuchte Texte uebersetzen, und auch Grammatik ueben. Hausaufgaben jede Woche eine oder zwei Stunden. **Neue Teilnehmer: Bitte senden Sie vor Semesteranfang eine email an mit Ihrer Telefonnummer.**

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** No

***Hanne Caraher** graduated from the University of Heidelberg, Germany, with the equivalent of a master's degree in conference interpreting and translation.*



## 621: Enjoying *The New Yorker* Together

JOHN FOSTER

Ten Thursdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

October 02

Online

Readers outside New York enjoy *The New Yorker's* in-depth reporting, its social/political commentary, and its articles and reviews on many other topics. Also notable are the short stories, memoirs, and poems, plus the provocative covers and (of course) the cartoons.

Each session features two 40-minute segments on single items from issues between August 4 and December 1, 2025. The leaders for each segment make brief presentations on their chosen item, leaving ample time for a lively general discussion. Some OLLI members have taken the course multiple times. Enjoy an open, friendly atmosphere where conversation can flourish. At the first meeting, class members will choose a date for their presentations.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*John Foster is a Professor of English emeritus with interests in modern, comparative, and world literature. He grew up in the Midwest, was educated in New England, and taught in California before moving to George Mason University in 1983. He spent a year each in France, Germany, and Italy in his 20s and 30s, and he has also lived in China—as an infant in 1946–1947. Years ago, in northern Virginia, he gave lifetime learning courses on Russian literature and on drama. After several semesters as a class member in “Enjoying The New Yorker Together,” he became the Study Group Leader last fall. He once again looks forward to facilitating discussions on items illustrating the magazine’s many strengths.*

## 629: Dante's *Inferno*

RICHARD SCHUBERT

Eight Tuesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

September 30

In-Person

T.S. Eliot said: “Dante and Shakespeare divide the world between them. There is no third.” *The Inferno* is the first third of *The Divine Comedy*. Dante (1265–1321) was a fully medieval man, both theologically and philosophically. His solutions to human problems were different from ours, but the questions were the same; sometimes you may not like his answers, but you will always respect them. This course will be taught entirely in English (including translations from the Italian). We will not tackle the entire work (although students are encouraged to do so) but will study selected cantos (“chapters”) that bring out Dante’s concepts. Future courses will tackle *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso*.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Richard Schubert, a retired physician, is not a medieval man; at least he doesn't think so. He started reading The Divine Comedy 25 years ago and was hooked. He hopes to get you hooked too. The Divine Comedy is a work that just keeps on giving; no matter how many times you read it, you will always find something new.*

## 630: Thomas Hardy: the Sweet and the Strange

LINDA FREEMAN

Eight Fridays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

October 03

Online

We will read and discuss two well-known but totally different Hardy novels. Published in 1878, *Far From the Madding Crowd* was Hardy’s first major literary success. Bathsheba Everdene, its brave, bold heroine, despite her confidence and high spirits, makes serious mistakes in love among the three men in her life before she finds true happiness. Sober and remorseful Michael Henchard, mayor in *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, is the hero of this flawed but tragic Hardy masterpiece of 1886. He makes one awful mistake as a young man and pays a high emotional price for it throughout the novel in terms almost as dire as those of classical Greek drama. Some of Hardy’s engaging poetry will be read throughout as forms of relief.

**This study group has a high class size capacity.**

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Linda R. Freeman, PhD, retired after teaching for 15 years on the College Park campus as a University of Maryland lecturer in Victorian literature. She also taught for Smithsonian Associates, Montgomery College, and for 26 years, at OLLI. She is enjoying course preparation for the teaching of two of her favorite Hardy novels, and hopes to astonish her study group members by slipping into this course some of Hardy’s insightful and challenging poetry, as well.*

## 631: Understanding Families Through Plays

KAREN GAIL LEWIS

Eight Mondays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

September 29

In-Person

Participants will read four plays. We start with *The Retreat from Moscow* (W. Nicholson), about divorce, not politics. Then, we read *The Tribe*, by Nina Raine, conflict between a deaf son and his hearing family. Our third play is the first of a trilogy, *Over the Tavern*, by Tom Dudzick and a 10-year-old boy’s “reforming” by his Catholic school nun. We’ll end with a delightful but little known play by Mark Dunn, about six sisters, *Belle: A Play in Two Acts and Forty-five Phone Calls*.

We discuss each play for two weeks focusing on themes, i.e., family/sibling relationship, gender roles, multi-generational patterns, and gender issues. This is an interactive class. Reading plays beforehand will enrich class participation

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

***Karen Gail Lewis** has been practicing family therapy for over 50 years and has authored numerous books and professional articles about marriage, gender relationships, singles, and adult siblings. She's been teaching at OLLI for many years.*

## 640: Recent American Poetry, Quarter One

**GERRY HENDERSHOT**

**Eight Thursdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**October 09**

**Online**

We will read and discuss recent American poems selected by Poet Laureate Billy Collins during his tenure, for reading to high school students. The poems are challenging but accessible. There are 180 poems, but they will be divided in four "quarters," each reviewed in a different OLLI semester. We will read and discuss five to six poems each session, selected by the class and SGL, from 45 of Collins' choices, supplemented by videos. Later quarters will be similar. Class members will obtain a good understanding of recent American poetry, both forms and themes.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Retired teacher and practitioner of health statistics, **Gerry Hendershot** has read, studied, written, published, and taught poetry for the OLLIs at American and George Mason Universities, including Black poetry, women's poetry, and poems about paintings.*

## 644: The Poetry of T.S. Eliot Before His Conversion

**JESSE DRAPER**

**Ten Tuesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**September 30**

**In-Person**

T.S. Eliot was probably the most important English language poet of the 20th century. From the publication of "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" in 1915 until his 1927 conversion to "Anglo-Catholicism," Eliot portrayed modern life as almost unsparingly bleak and empty. This course will cover four or five shorter poems from that period, but the centerpiece of the course will be "The Waste Land," certainly Eliot's most influential poem and probably the most influential English or American poem of the 20th century. We will consider aspects of Eliot's

personal life and his interactions with the larger world, but the focus will be on reading and understanding individual poems.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

***Jesse Draper** received his PhD in English literature from the University of Virginia in 1980. His specialty was early 20th-century American literature, and his dissertation focused on the early career of William Carlos Williams. During the 44 years that he worked as a computer scientist, he found time to lead reading groups that read a number of English and American classics, as well as all of Shakespeare's plays. This will be his second OLLI course; in the fall of 2024, he taught "The Poetry of Wallace Stevens."*

## 646: A Portrait of the Times: Poetry Craftshop (Section A)

**JENNY PIERSON**

**Ten Tuesdays (9:45 AM - 12:30 PM)**

**September 30**

**In-Person**

For serious poets who wish to expand their voice, technique, and heart: we will study the postmodernist, William Carlos Williams, alongside the contemporary lyrical Marie Howe, to mentor and enhance our own work. Both poets represent an innovation to the poetry of their peers and their teachers, but in quite different times and ways. With nearly 70 years apart in age, with Williams writing from post-war periods into the early 1960s, and Howe in the time of AIDS and the turns into a new century, their distinctive poems will be read weekly on assignment and then discussed in class. Each week requires you to write a new poem and to attend to feedback from both the class and the instructor. **This study group meets on Tuesdays from 9:45 AM to 12:30 PM.**

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** No

***Jenny Pierson** has taught poetry workshops at OLLI for over 20 years. She writes daily and holds an MFA. She advocates for the unwanted, reads obsessively, and has been a farmer and a traveler.*

## 647: A Portrait of the Times: Poetry Craftshop (Section B)

**JENNY PIERSON**

**Ten Wednesdays (12:45 PM - 2:45 PM)**

**October 01**

**In-Person**

For serious poets who wish to expand their voice, technique, and heart: we will study the postmodernist, William Carlos Williams, alongside the contemporary lyrical Marie Howe, to mentor and

enhance our own work. Both poets represent an innovation to the poetry of their peers and their teachers, but in quite different times and ways. With nearly 70 years apart in age, with Williams writing from post-war periods into the early 1960s, and Howe in the time of AIDS and the turns into a new century, their distinctive poems will be read weekly on assignment and then discussed in class. Each week requires you to write a new poem and to attend to feedback from both the class and the instructor. **This study group meets on Wednesdays from 12:45 to 2:45 PM.**

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** No

*Jenny Pierson has taught poetry workshops at OLLI for over 20 years. She writes daily and holds an MFA. She advocates for the unwanted, reads obsessively, and has been a farmer and a traveler.*

## 648: Science Fiction and Fantasy Writing Workshop

**ANDREW HILLER**

**Eight Tuesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**September 30**

**In-Person**

When writing genre fiction, how do you create a world that feels real and grounded enough to excite not only imagination, but empathy? How do you create characters who don't exist in our lives that our readers can relate to? In this interactive workshop, we will focus on writing speculative fiction (science fiction, fantasy, and horror). Each session will be divided into three parts: 1) Lecture/Discussion, 2) Writing, and 3) Sharing/Critique. Participants may work on new pieces inspired by prompts or their own ongoing projects. Particular attention will be paid to what makes opening pages compelling, characterization, and world-building.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** No

*Driven by curiosity, **Andrew Hiller's** stories always begin with a "huh?" or a "ha!" A longtime reporter and producer for public radio and an award-winning author, Andrew won Escape Pod's 2022 Flash Fiction Contest and placed second in Amazing Stories 2023's Reader Choice Awards. His novel, A Halo of Mushrooms, was selected 2019 Best Book by BFF.*

## 649: Children's Book Workshop

**ANDREW HILLER**

**Eight Tuesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**September 30**

**In-Person**

Have you ever told a story to your child or grandchild? A story that they kept asking you to repeat? Have you ever thought... maybe this is a book! In this workshop, author Andrew Hiller will guide you through the steps to take your concept/oral story to finished product. We'll discuss rhyming vs. non-rhyming books, use of language/vocabulary, page spreads, and illustrations. Most importantly, by the end of the session, we will make a book/book dummy. Note: You need not be an artist or illustrator to take part in this workshop. This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** No

***Andrew Hiller** fell off the road least chosen to find himself writing for public radio, the Muppets, and the New York Stage. As a best selling humorist, he is honored to have had his work selected as best of the year by Amazing Stories Magazine (2023) and BFF (2019). A little goofy, Andrew's delighted in leading more than 2,000 librarians at the American Library Association annual convention in a rousing parody of the song "C is for Cookie (B is for Bookie)" while celebrating the publication of his first children's book, Pitter Patty Finds Another Day.*

## 655: The Russian Short Story

**RONALD PARLATO**

**Ten Thursdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**October 09**

**In-Person**

The great Russian writers—Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Chekhov, Pushkin, and Turgenev—are well-known for their novels, complex works of history, philosophy, psychology, culture, and human nature. Some, like *War and Peace* and *The Brothers Karamazov*, are among the finest of world literature. All of these authors also wrote short stories, and Chekhov is considered to be one of the most literate and accomplished short story writers in literature. Each of these authors discusses the familiar themes of their novels in short form, but they stand alone as important works in and of themselves. This course will treat them as such—individual, unique pieces, but will also place them in the context of the author's opus. Note: Check syllabus for list of specific short stories. Most stories will be found in collected editions. Review the many for sale used or new, and select the one which contains the most stories, and supplement them with sources online.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Ronald (Ron) Parlato** has been teaching literature at OLLI for over ten years, including courses on Conrad, Shakespeare, Greek Tragedy, Tennessee Williams, 19th- and 20th-century fiction, and more. He is a graduate of Yale University with a double major in English and French literature. After graduate school, he spent four decades as an International Development Consultant working in over 60 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean. He has learned more than ten languages and speaks many fluently.

## 657: The Bronte Sisters

**LESLIE FRANTZ**

**Eight Thursdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**October 02**

**In-Person**

The Bronte sisters created quite a stir when they burst on the scene in the 1840's. Under the names of Currer, Ellis, and Acton Bell, they defied convention and alarmed the critics. But their books sold well. What made them so different from their contemporaries? We will look at their unusual circumstances, far from the literary scene in London, and we will look at the works of literature that influenced them. Mainly we will talk about the novels themselves, and how very different they were from each other. Our reading will cover one novel from each sister: Charlotte's *Jane Eyre*, Emily's *Wuthering Heights*, and Anne's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Leslie Frantz** has a master's degree in English literature from Georgetown University and taught in the Continuing Education department for over 20 years. Her undergraduate degree is in both Russian and Chinese history. She has taught many courses on English literature for OLLI.

## 662: "Let's Get It Write!"

**CHARLES JONES**

**Ten Mondays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**September 29**

**In-Person**

This study group is designed as a hands-on workshop to improve our writing, from the fine points of revision to the esoteric and confusing aspects of grammar. We will focus on the various aspects of the writing process, from pre-writing to publishing, and then practice strategies to write with greater clarity, precision, efficiency, style, and voice. We will also consider all genres, from lyrics to letters to the editor.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Chuck Jones** is a veteran educator who has spent nearly 50 years

teaching students from middle school to post-graduate school in all aspects of literature and writing. He has been a writing coach and tutor and leads writing groups for cancer patients. Chuck is certified by the National Writing Project and the Maryland Writing Project. In addition, he holds an MFA in theater/directing and is a playwright.

## 671: Comedy, French-Style

**ANDREW WHITE**

**Eight Tuesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**September 30**

**Online**

What's a comedian to do when confronted by an egotistical ruler whose word is law (or so he thinks)? What can you get away with, and how can you get away with it? And can your Italian neighbors teach you a thing or two about schtick? Join OLLI regular Andy White as we explore the world of Moliere, his predecessors, and maybe a successor/usurper or two. Face it, we all need a good laugh, right? This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Andy White** has been teaching at OLLI for many years, usually on the areas of drama, and theater history. A Byzantinist by trade, he presents papers on Medieval Greek education and culture, at conferences here and abroad, and one day hopes to grow up and get a real job.

## 675: Poetry about Growing Up and Growing Older

**CLAIRE PETTENGILL**

**Eight Fridays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**October 03**

**Online**

This course features poetry from a wide range of perspectives about growing up and growing older. Some works represent children as innocent and vulnerable (Blake, Wordsworth), while others portray young people as sharply aware of and often pained by their adult guardians (Dylan Thomas, Robert Hayden). For some poets, old age can foster bitterness and envy (Philip Larkin) while others emphasize the self-knowledge and creativity possible with age (Adrienne Rich, May Sarton). Other likeliest from far and near: Emily Dickinson, Czeslaw Milosz, Robert Frost, Elizabeth Bishop, Tracy K. Smith, Seamus Heaney, Sylvia Plath, Daryl Alejandro Holnes... and more). Our goal is lively discussion with room for many points of view, rather than definitive interpretation. Personal responses are welcome, and no previous poetic expertise is necessary.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Claire Pettengill** retired from teaching literature and history and



chairing the Humanities Department at Maret School. A fan of poetry from a young age, she has been delighted by the wide-ranging, creative discussions sparked by OLLI participants.

## 685: August Wilson American Century Cycle

RAYMOND MAXWELL

Ten Mondays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

September 29

Online

This study group will read and discuss one August Wilson play each week for ten weeks, completing the *Century Cycle* of ten plays. Each participant will be required to read the assigned play at home prior to the group meeting, select a passage or passages they find significant, then be prepared to read the passage and discuss why that passage is significant to them. Occasionally we will role-play parts of the play together. The goal of the course will not be to exhaustively discuss each play, but to participate in a brief, collaborative close read and discussion by the group.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Raymond Maxwell is a retired foreign service officer, and now, a retired librarian/archivist. He first proposed this study group in 2018 after meeting an OLLI member at the American University library. Several class members have gone on to lead their own study groups and publish their own blogs about the plays. He is also in constant contact with leaders of the DC-based August Wilson Society, with whom he shares material. Most recently, he is in the process of publishing a study guide handbook for the plays, which will be available either online or by hard copy for class members who wish to purchase it (at cost).*

## 689: Collaborative Fiction Workshop

MARSHALL PRESSER

Ten Fridays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

October 03

In-Person

Collaborative fiction is an activity in which a group of authors share the shaping and production of a novel or short story. In this workshop, we will decide what to write, how to write it, how to manage differing views on content, style, workload, schedule, and similar aspects of the creative writing process. Prior fiction writing experience is helpful, but not required. At the first class, we will discuss group mechanics and organization as well as potential topics for the collaborative work. In addition to class participation, attendees will need to spend a few hours each week writing, reading the work of other attendees, and editing one's own work. Our goal is to have fun, be creative, and enjoy the group writing process.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Marshall Presser has written technical material collaboratively, but his fiction writing has not been collaborative. He led a study group called "How To Think Like A Programmer" this past spring.*

## 690: Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*: A Novel Without a Hero

ELLEN MOODY

Ten Mondays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

September 29

Online

We'll read Thackeray's masterpiece from a variety of perspectives: his life, his love for 18th-century literature and history, the influence of his predecessor Henry Fielding's fiction, his female characters, the 19th-century novel as a form, and the book as a poignant satirical comedy. We'll consider it as a novel published in installments, from the point of view of his illustrations to the book. We'll read selections from a small Everyman anthology of his writing called *A Shabby Genteel Story, and Other Writings*, edited by D.J. Taylor. Finally, class members will view some of the many superb film adaptations.

***This study group has a high class size capacity.***

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Ellen Moody taught in senior colleges from 1972–2011 and for over ten years at two OLLIs. She is a published scholar with specialties in British literature, film, and women's studies. Her most recent publications and talks have been about Anthony Trollope, Jane Austen, and 18th-century literature.*

## 696: Wisdom Matters

PETER STARR

Eight Thursdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

October 02

In-Person

In October of 1979, historian Barbara Tuchman delivered a lecture at West Point in which she decried the "persistence of unwisdom" among politicians across the ages. One can imagine Tuchman rolling in her grave, not just about the stunning unwisdom of our political sphere, but also about the new technologies and rampant ideologies of self that increasingly conspire against wisdom's acquisition. Drawing on the insights of classical philosophy, religious traditions, and contemporary psychology, this study group will examine the nature of wisdom, its traditional associations with age and experience, and the means whereby wisdom can be cultivated. Against those who see wisdom as outdated or retrograde, it will argue that the hunger for wisdom is alive and well today and that much of contemporary culture—novels, films, and plays—serves to feed that very hunger.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Peter Starr** is Professor of Literature Emeritus at American University, where he served as Provost and as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Prior to joining AU, he taught at the University of Southern California, serving two years there as dean. The author of several book-length studies, he currently blogs on wisdom and culture at *Wiscult.com*

## 700 HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

### The Cultural Evolution of Meso-America and Its Impact on North America

**LAWRENCE HEILMAN**

**Ten Mondays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**September 29**

**In-Person**

For study group description and Study Group Leader's bio, see 567.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week.

### 702: Wandering the World

**NICK GLAKAS**

**Ten Fridays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**October 03**

**In-Person**

Come wander the world and explore its beauties with visits to French Polynesia and its islands, the Riviera and its artists, Provence and its hilltop villages, Paris and its city highlights, Venice and its lagoon, Florence and its Renaissance artists, the Italian Lakes, the Amalfi Coast, the Vatican's art, and England's medieval towns.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Nick Glakas** is a former naval officer, international lawyer, corporate executive, college association president, and cruise ship lecturer. He has been a visiting fellow at Wolfson College, Cambridge, an adjunct professor at George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management, and a lecturer at Georgetown University's International Law Institute.

### 709: The Founding Fathers and Their Revolutionary Neighbors

**GORDON BROWN**

**Eight Tuesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**September 30**

**In-Person**

The greatest foreign policy challenge facing the newly formed United States after 1790 was managing relations with the European powers, who, as a result of the French Revolution, had embarked on a decades-long and world-wide struggle for supremacy. When the revolutionary tide reached the European colonies in the Western Hemisphere, our untried and militarily weak leaders struggled to protect American interests and our neutrality, while still providing some support to the revolutionaries. The class will explore the strategic, political, and commercial issues facing our leaders as they dealt with the European powers and revolutionary leaders from Haiti, Mexico, and South America from 1790 to 1825.

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Gordon S. Brown** is a retired diplomat who, since his retirement, has authored half a dozen books, most of them on early United States history. During a 35-plus year Foreign Service career focused on the Middle East, he served in a variety of senior management positions and was Ambassador to Mauritania.

### 715: Jewish History: Patriarchs to Israel

**JONATHAN (JOSH) BERMAN**

**Eight Thursdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**October 09**

**In-Person**

Judaism has been present for 4,000 years. We will survey Judaism from the Patriarchs to the State of Israel, with the aim of understanding how Judaism was able to survive 40 centuries and be part of our present world. Equal emphasis will be placed on historic events and Jewish life during those periods of history. The Scheindlin text will be supplemented by original source handouts, and videos from Ori Soltes' "Jewish Art" series. This overview of a vast swath of history is intended for Jews who wish to have a firmer understanding of their heritage and orientation to the Land of Canaan, and for non-Jews interested in the Jewish story.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** More than 3 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Jonathan (Josh) Berman, MD, PhD, FAAP, FASTMH**, is presently Vice-President for Clinical Affairs Emeritus, Fast Tract Drugs and Biologics, LLC. Josh is not a professional historian, rather he is a Jewish-American with a lifelong interest in his religious heritage.

## 717: How the World Became Modern

RAY SQUITIERI

Eight Mondays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

October 06

Online

For most of human existence, life was nasty, brutish, and short. In this course, we will begin by looking at early human societies, and see that even after thousands of years, life expectancy remained discouragingly low, child mortality alarmingly high, and one bad harvest still threatened famine. Around 1500, the economy of western Europe began to open up. But even with the coming of the Industrial Revolution in the 1700s, most people still lived at subsistence level. The picture changed for good around 1870, touching off a rise in living standards that would have been unimaginable to our ancestors. We will look at this progression and discuss how it came to be at that time, and in that place.

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Ray Squitieri is a retired economist. In Washington, he worked at the US Department of Treasury and the Council of Economic Advisors, mostly on energy and environmental analysis. He has taught courses at OLLI that include classical music and opera, modern European history, Chinese history, economic history, linguistics, personal finance, and acoustics.*

## 719: A Brief History of Modern India

TOMMY LAMONT

Ten Tuesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

September 30

Online

This course will examine the history of India since roughly 1500, with particular attention paid to the slow and tragic decline of Indian society during the 18th and 19th centuries, and then its painful but successful re-emergence in the 20th and 21st centuries. Several popular Hindi films will be our entry point to learning this fascinating and important history and will hopefully also help students better understand India, the world's most populous democracy, an emerging economic power, and the cradle of so many of the world's most important religious and spiritual traditions. A subscription to Netflix or Amazon Prime streaming services is highly recommended, though not required.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Tommy Lamont has taught history for nearly four decades at top US independent boarding schools. After a sabbatical teaching at the Doon School in India, she began offering a course on modern Indian history*

*at the Groton School in 2008. Her teaching experience includes US, European, Chinese, and world history, as well as international relations, the Holocaust, and the Atlantic slave trade. Since 2008, she has made frequent visits to India to deepen her knowledge of this extraordinarily diverse and interesting country.*

## 729: The Civil War in Our National Park System

DAVID KROESE

Five Wednesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

October 01

Online

Over 90 of our 424 National Park Service sites have a direct connection to the Civil War! Such is the impact the Civil War had on American history and the country we live in today. We'll explore these sites, revisiting profound tales of heroism and tragedy within events that changed the course of our nation. ***This study group has a high class size capacity.***

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Lecture

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*David Kroese is one of fewer than 100 people known to have visited all 400-plus National Park Service sites. Over the past decade, David has logged over 1,400 visits and 4,000 trail miles exploring NPS sites nationwide. David wrote of his experiences in the first published narrative through all the NPS sites, The Centennial.*

## 739: China's Early History

HOWARD SPENDELOW

Ten Thursdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

October 02

In-Person

This course presents a basic introduction to the often conflicting, even contradictory, traditions and legacies of China's history and its political, economic, social, intellectual, and artistic culture(s), beginning with the earliest origins through the collapse of the Ming state in the early 17th century. In addition, it explores the historical roots of several claims made by today's People's Republic of China in the 21st century, including: linkages with Xinjiang, Central Asia, and Tibet; the "Silk Road" origins of the 2013 "Belt and Road Initiative"; and China's aspirations for a blue-water navy.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Howard Spendelow earned a BA in government from Oberlin College, an MA in Chinese regional studies, and a PhD in history and East Asian languages from Harvard University. He taught history at Georgetown University from 1979 to 2023, and from 1980 to 2014 he also served*



as Contract Chair of the Advanced Area Studies Seminar on China at the State Department's Foreign Service Institute.

## 740: Japan's Early History to the 1868 Meiji Restoration

**HOWARD SPENDELOW**

**Ten Thursdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**October 02**

**In-Person**

This course covers the formation of Japan's social, political, and intellectual culture, including the formation of Japan's distinctive identity and the tensions between centrifugal and centripetal forces. We will also examine changes in Japan's relationship to East Asia, and by the 16th century, the rest of the planet. The course ends with the collapse of the last of the shogunal/military governments in the 1860s and the restoration of imperial rule, paving the way for Japan's "modernization" in the 19th and 20th centuries. ***This study group***

***has a high class size capacity.***

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Howard Spendelow** earned a BA in government from Oberlin College, and an MA in Chinese Regional Studies and PhD in history and East Asian languages from Harvard University. He taught history at Georgetown University from 1979 to 2023, and from 1980 to 2014 he also served as Contract Chair of the Advanced Area Studies Seminar on China at the State Department's Foreign Service Institute.

## 741: Importance of Sports in the Struggle for Civil Rights

**KAREN STEWART**

**Ten Fridays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**October 03**

**In-Person**

Everyone knows about Jackie Robinson integrating Major League Baseball, but what about football and basketball? Through lecture, videos, and discussion, we will explore the story of how individual athletes, coaches, managers and teams helped lead the nation into fuller civil rights through sports.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Karen Stewart** has been teaching OLLI courses on slavery and race in American history for eight years. She is a graduate of Barnard College and earned a master's degree at the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill. Studying and teaching about race in America had been a major retirement activity for Karen.

## 759: Sustainability and Negotiating Climate

**STEPHANIE KINNEY**

**Seven Wednesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**October 01**

**In-Person**

The purpose of this course is two-fold: 1) to provide a historical context for today's global environmental and sustainability challenges and 2) to use the negotiation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to understand how and why the United States took the lead in putting climate on the international map, a role from which it has retreated today. The course will start by reading and discussing a short history of sustainability as background before delving into the negotiation and consequences of the issue's negotiating framework, a template for many other international negotiation processes, whether environmental, economic, financial, trade, or military.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Stephanie Kinney**, a retired Senior Foreign Service Officer, served as one of the Department of State's three chief negotiators of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change from 1989–1992. Thereafter, she served as the US Negotiator for the creation of the UN Sustainable Development Commission, as well as US Representative/Negotiator in many other multilateral "environmental" fora for the rest of the decade. She also served as Executive Director for State's Bureau of Oceans, Environment and Science. In retirement, among other things, she taught a graduate seminar on Sustainability and Public Policy for Syracuse University's Maxwell School.

## 764: Five Empires, Five Centuries: The Eastern Question Redefined

**ELIZABETH SHELTON**

**Eight Mondays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**September 29**

**In-Person**

What do Sultan Mehmet II, Catherine the Great of Russia, Prince Eugene of Savoy, Metternich, Charles V, Napoleon, Ambassador Sir Stratford Canning, Luther, and George Washburn have in common? Using personalities such as these, this survey course will romp through 500 years of relations between and among five great European empires—Ottoman, Hapsburg, French, Russian, and English—from the late medieval period to the eve of the first World War (1400–1900). The "Eastern Question" (the fate of the Ottoman Empire) which dominated 19th century Europe, actually began centuries earlier. We will redefine "The Eastern Question" by broadening the aperture through which we examine individual empires' evolving geostrategic, political, military, economic, cultural, and social factors influencing its relations with the other empires



during these tumultuous centuries. **This study group has a high class size capacity.**

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Elizabeth W. Shelton** retired from the State Department after a career of nearly 30 years as a Foreign Service Officer. She served in Thailand, Malaysia, Nigeria, Turkey (both in Istanbul and Adana in the southeast), Azerbaijan, the UN, and Albania. She earned a doctorate of liberal studies at Georgetown University.

## 768: From Rifled Muskets to Killer Robots

**PETER WILSON**

**Ten Mondays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**September 29**

**Online**

This study group will consider, from the perspective of the two centuries that followed the Industrial Revolution, the effects of scientific and technological change on the global national security environment. Specifically, we will examine the hypothesis that there have been several “revolutions in military affairs” in both the 19th and 20th centuries that emerged as competitive ways of war which profoundly altered the global security environment. Particular emphasis will be given to how the United States has or has not successfully adapted to the periods of rapid military technological change that emerged during the 20th century and how these lessons might be applied to our current 21st-century security challenges. This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Peter A. Wilson** is an adjunct senior researcher at the Rand Corporation.

## 787: Mexico: From Its Struggle for Independence Through the Mexican Revolution

**XENIA WILKINSON**

**Eight Thursdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**October 09**

**In-Person**

How well do we know our southern neighbor? This study group will begin by examining Mexico's struggle for independence from Spanish colonialism. Serious internal and external challenges confronted the young Mexican republic, including Texas, the Mexican-American War, and the French intervention of the 1860s. Starting in 1910, after years of dictatorship, leaders of the Mexican Revolution fought for democracy, land reform, labor rights, public education and equal rights. How did the US try to influence the outcome of the revolution?

We will analyze the leadership of Francisco Madero, Emiliano Zapata, Pancho Villa, Lazaro Cardenas, and others in the formation of a reconstructed Mexican state and society.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

A retired Foreign Service Officer, **Xenia Wilkinson** served in Mexico, Honduras and Brazil, as well as the US Mission to the Organization of American States and the UN. She earned a PhD in Latin American history from Georgetown University, where she has taught courses on Latin America. Xenia has led several study groups at OLLI, focused on Latin American topics, and recently co-taught with Joe Belden on US Manifest Destiny.

## 788: History and Relevance of the Berlin Airlift

**PETER KELLER**

**Eight Wednesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**October 01**

**Online**

The end of WWII in Europe resulted in a Germany with American, British, French, and Russian occupation zones, as well as an isolated Berlin divided the same way. Allied cooperation agreed to at Yalta and Potsdam quickly broke down, and Stalin's Russia imposed a blockade in June 1948. Supplying a city of over two million by air was a daunting task, requiring a minimum lift of 3.5k tons/day. It ultimately proved possible to deliver nearly four times that amount, forcing Stalin to end the blockade in May 1949. This course will explore how this feat was accomplished, and its impact on US/Europe history.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Peter R. Keller** retired from the State Department after a career of 26 years with postings to Mexico, Germany, Chile, Switzerland (UN, Geneva) and Belgium. He earned an MA in international relations from American University's School of International Service and an MA in economics from the University of Colorado.

## 790: Off the Beaten Path in the DC Area

**RALPH BUGLASS**

**Ten Wednesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**October 01**

**In-Person**

As the nation's capital, our area is replete with well-known historical attractions. But there are many other lesser known yet equally interesting landmarks and spots worth visiting—or at least knowing about. Come hear about, and experience, through

lavishly illustrated slides, some of these little-known gems and the fascinating stories behind them. Examples include presidential monuments and commemoratives in unexpected places, reminders of World War II and the area's rich African American history, Gilded Age mansions around DuPont Circle, buildings by Frank Lloyd Wright and other noted architects, early mills that still work, cemeteries that come to life with stories of those interred, and more.

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Lecture

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Ralph Buglass is a Washington-area native and lifelong history buff who enjoys sharing lesser-known aspects of the wonderful area we call home. A frequent speaker for Montgomery History, the neighboring Maryland County historical society, he is a retired communications professional with a BA in history from Cornell and an MA in journalism.*

## 798: 0 Canada! The History and Culture of Our Northern Neighbor

**ELLEN STANTON**

**Eight Mondays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**September 29**

**In-Person**

Interested in learning more about Canada? If so, please join our class for a wide-ranging overview of Canada's provinces, territories, cities, government, culture, and history. We will focus on important topics such as: Canadian regions and their characteristics; historic highlights, including the Hudson's Bay Company, Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battles, the 1846 Oregon Boundary Treaty, Klondike gold rush, and US relations during the World Wars; recent conflicts; and treaties. Additional subjects such as natural resources, landscapes, favorite sports, and notable people will be discussed as well.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Ellen Stanton served as an educator at the US Capitol Visitor Center and lead historic interpreter at George Washington's Mount Vernon, and for several years was chair of the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission. She has facilitated classes at the OLLIs at the University of Denver and at American University. Ellen is a graduate of Manhattanville College and received a MSW at SUNY/Albany.*

# 800 PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

## Wisdom Matters

**PETER STARR**

**Eight Thursdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)**

**October 02**

**In-Person**

For study group description and Study Group Leader's bio, see 696.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 hrs/week.

## 805: Meditation Class

**JOSEPH REO**

**Eight Mondays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**September 29**

**In-Person**

The primary goal of this course is the systematic, ongoing commitment that we come together, weekly, at this same time, with the simple intention to regularly practice the discipline of meditation. It doesn't matter if you've never meditated in your life, or if you've done it for 20 years with your own lovely mantra and years-long routine. I'll guide us through various "styles," some perhaps leading us somewhere, some taking us potentially to a quiet nowhere. We will practice several short meditations each class, or just one. We'll debrief at the end of the session to talk about what worked, what didn't, what was helpful/useful, and what wasn't. We'll be open to members who may wish to take the lead to guide us through a session towards the end. Anyone, and all forays or experimentation into leading, will be welcome.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** No

*Joseph Reo holds a bachelor's degree from Arizona State University and was an adjunct instructor at George Washington's School of Exercise Science where he taught meditation, massage, and sports massage for more than 10 years. He currently teaches meditation and massage with various adult-education companies and is a licensed massage therapist with an active practice in Northwest DC.*

## 806: Medical Qigong

**JOSEPH REO**

**Eight Fridays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**October 03**

**In-Person**

This class will introduce the practice and medical benefits of Chinese Qigong, or Chi Kung, the centuries-old method of "healing movement." We will exercise together, blending action, breathing,

and imagination, to physically energize the body and promote overall well-being. Through rhythmic movement, relaxed breathing, and mental focus, we'll practice simple forms together as a group, to stimulate and heal specific organs and organ-systems in the body. The easy-to-perform, simple "mudras" will gently release tight muscles, soften ligaments, and coax the lengthening of tendons, which can diminish joint pain and improve balance. Exercise modifications will be shown, when requested. **Note: before participating in any exercise program, participants should check with their doctors to ensure that there are no contraindications, special considerations, or limitations from a medical standpoint. This study group meets for one hour, from 9:45 to 10:45 AM.**

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** No

*Joseph Reo holds a bachelor's degree from Arizona State University and was an adjunct instructor at George Washington's School of Exercise Science where he taught meditation, massage, and sports massage for more than 10 years. He currently teaches meditation and massage with various adult-education companies and is a licensed massage therapist with an active practice in Northwest DC.*

## 815: Qur'an and Modern Society

**AHMED ACHRATI**

**Six Thursdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**October 02**

**In-Person**

This introductory course provides class members with a basic background of the Qur'an, its structure, foundational narratives, interpretations, and importance in shaping Muslims' attitudes in key areas: ethics, gender, art, science, and philosophy.

Session 1: Muhammad (his life) and the Qur'an (its literary structure, foundational narratives, and interpretations)

Session 2: Gender in the Qur'an

Session 3: Qur'an and Ethics

Session 4: Qur'an and economic regulation

Session 5: The Qur'an and Science

Session 6: The Qur'an, art and philosophy.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Ahmed Achraati holds an LLB from the University of Oran, Algeria, an LLM from New York University School of Law, and a PhD in international relations from the University of Pennsylvania. His scholarly interests include the anthropology of religion and the study of prehistoric rock. In addition to numerous articles on various topics in leading journals, Ahmed Achraati has published Rock Art of the Qsur and 'Amour*

*Mountains, Algeria: A Cognitive Approach, and An Anthropology of the Qur'an.*

## 817: Magic Jesus

**EDWARD INGEBRETSEN**

**Five Tuesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**September 30**

**Online**

This course explores the spiritual power and political danger of Yeshua of Nazareth. Session 1 places Jesus within Second Temple Judaism, where his healings and miracles align him with prophets and provoke alarm from religious authorities. Session 2 offers a close reading of Gospel texts—especially Mark—through the lens of magical consciousness, focusing on natural magicks like touch, spittle, and word, and the enigmatic command to "tell no one." Session 3 examines how early Christian writings worked to theologize and suppress Jesus' wonder-working identity, transforming his acts into proofs of divine authority while sidelining their mystical dimensions. Session 4 presents a visual-political timeline of Jesus in art, tracing the evolution of image and power. Session 5 follows the discredited legacy of magic into the Middle Ages, where it reemerges as Natural Magic in the work of Paracelsus, Newton, and beyond.

**This study group has a high class size capacity.**

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** No

*Revd Ed Ingebretsen, PhD holds graduate degrees in Theology and philosophies, and has taught at Georgetown University in a variety of capacities since 1986. His areas of expertise: ethics, culture and religious folk expressions, American social cultures of enslavement, ethics and justice for non-human animals. His books and publications explore how American popular and political culture builds upon a range of occult spiritualities and practices, and how these in turn create what Chesterton called "a country with the soul of a church."*

## 831: Mastering Skills of Mindfulness Meditation

**JEFFREY DROBIS**

**SUSAN DROBIS**

**Ten Wednesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**October 01**

**Online**

In this study group, you will learn skills to rewire your brain to help make you a happier and more compassionate person. Mindfulness enhances our capacity for managing anxiety, stress, intense emotions, uncertainty, and increases our capacity to experience deep fulfillment. We will practice techniques that we have learned from Shinzen Young to use both in sitting meditation practice and in ordinary life. Sessions will include instruction, guided

meditations, and group discussion. No reading is required, but class members should plan to practice meditation on their own for at least 10 minutes most days. This study group is appropriate for both beginners and experienced meditators and those who have taken this class before.

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Susan Drobis, a retired psychotherapist, and Jeffrey Drobis, a retired MD, have practiced meditation for 30 years. Their teacher, Shinzen Young, draws on traditional Asian practices but is consciously secular and contemporary. Susan has been teaching mindfulness for 25 years, and Jeffrey has led meditation study groups at OLLI since 2015.*

## 834: Mindfulness Meditation Intermediate level

**JEFFREY DROBIS**

**Ten Wednesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**October 01**

**In-Person**

This study session is similar to another offering, Mastering Skills of Mindfulness Meditation. It is intended for persons who have taken that course or other study groups with me. If you have not worked with me but have significant experience with meditation and are interested in this offering, please contact me at jeffdrobis@gmail.com. Classes will include instruction, extensive guided meditations, and discussions. Assignments will include guided meditations from the Waking Up app and other sources which will be available to class members free of charge.

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Jeffrey Drobis, a retired MD, has practiced meditation for 30 years. He has trained as a facilitator with his teacher, Shinzen Young, and leads regular group meditations on the telephone. He has taught at OLLI since 2015. The mindfulness techniques that he teaches draw on traditional Asian practices but are consciously secular and contemporary.*

## 842: St. Paul and the First Christians

**JACK DALBY**

**Four Tuesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**October 21**

**In-Person**

Christianity's origins remain mysterious. Historians debate what happened at the "big bang" moment 2,000 years ago when some of Jesus's followers came to believe he had risen from the dead after his crucifixion. How did this tiny group of 1st-century Palestinian Jews start a religious movement that would one day grow to include

over two billion adherents? Some of the topics for discussion will be: What are our sources for understanding Christian origins? Who was St. Paul? What was Paul's mission to the gentiles? What do we know about the 12 Apostles of Jesus? Who was James, the Brother of the Lord? Was there one Christianity or many? Did Rome persecute Christians? What were the earliest Christian rites and prayers? ***This study group has a high class size capacity.***

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Jack Dalby is a retired NOVA business owner. For the past 13 years, he has lectured on the topics of Christian Origins and the Historical Jesus with OLLI programs at George Mason University, the College of William and Mary, and American University.*

## 860: Aristotle's Metaphysics, Psychology, and Epistemology

**DON ROSS**

**Ten Fridays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**October 03**

**In-Person**

The purpose of this course is to explore the philosophy of Aristotle. The theoretical aspects of Aristotelianism will be presented and organized within a seven-layer structure.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Don Ross received his bachelor's degree in philosophy from Wake Forest University in 1970, his master's from the University of Iowa in 1972, and his doctorate from the University of Chicago in 1979. His publications include articles on ancient and medieval philosophy. He has also done work in Asian and modern European philosophy.*

## 861: Plato's Academic Works

**DON ROSS**

**Ten Fridays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**October 03**

**In-Person**

This course will cover the late dialogues of Plato. These were probably influenced by discussions within the Academy, which Plato founded circa 385 BCE.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Don Ross received his bachelor's degree in philosophy from Wake Forest University in 1970, his master's from the University of Iowa in 1972, and his doctorate from the University of Chicago in 1979. His*



*publications include articles on ancient and medieval philosophy. He has also done work in Asian and modern European philosophy.*

## **889: Contemporary Issues in Medical Ethics**

**ROBERT OLICK**

**Eight Mondays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)**

**September 29**

**In-Person**

This course offers an introduction to core issues in medical ethics.

What do patients have the right to know to make informed decisions?

When should doctors break confidentiality? When can patients and

families refuse medical interventions near the end of life? Can you

choose the time and manner of your own death? Can doctors decide

there is nothing more to be done? Who should receive scarce life-

saving resources during a public health emergency like a pandemic?

Should we be able to sell our organs? Do you own your DNA?

Class sessions will emphasize interactive, case-based discussion.

Recommended readings average approximately 20 pages per session.

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** No

***Robert S. Olick, JD, PhD (bioethics)** taught medical ethics for more than two decades as a member of the faculties of SUNY Upstate Medical University and the University of Iowa Colleges of Medicine and Law. His approach to bioethics is interdisciplinary, drawing on training and experience in law, bioethics, and public policy.*

# FALL ASSIGNED BOOKS

#	Study Group	Book Title	Author	ISBN	Publisher	Notes
144	The China Challenge	<i>The China Model: Political Meritocracy and the Limits of Democracy</i>	Daniel A. Bell	978-0691173047	Princeton University Press	Recommended
145	Haven From 2025 Upheavals	<i>Age of Revolutions: Progress and Backlash from 1600 to the Present</i>	Fareed Zakaria	978-0393239232	W. W. Norton & Company	Required
180	Today's Supreme Court: A Course for Citizens	<i>The Oath: The Obama White House and The Supreme Court</i>	Jeffrey Toobin	978-0307390714	Anchor	Recommended
200	Practicum on Productive Conflict Engagement	<i>The U.S. Supreme Court: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions) 3rd Edition</i>	Linda Greenhouse	978-0197689462	Oxford University Press	Recommended
		<i>Making Peace with Conflict: Using Neuroscience to Ease Difficult Relationships</i>	Jeanine Hull	978-1649701909	IngrahamSpark	Required
		<i>Nonviolent Communication</i>	Marshall B. Rosenberg	978-1892005281	PuddleDancer Press	Recommended
		<i>Fight Right: How Successful Couples Turn Conflict Into Connection</i>	Julie Schwartz Gottman and John Gottman	978-0593579657	Harmony	Recommended
		<i>5 Types of People Who Can Ruin Your Life</i>	Bill Eddy	978-0143131366	Tarcher	Recommended
244	Survivors and Descendants of the Holocaust: A Search for Meaning	<i>Why the Germans? Why the Jews? Envy, Race, Hatred and the Prehistory of the Holocaust</i>	Gotz Ally	978-1250062642	Picador Paper	Recommended
		<i>Survivor Cafe: The Legacy of Trauma and the Labyrinth of Memory</i>	Elizabeth Rosner	978-1640091078	Counterpoint	Recommended
516	Wagner's <i>The Ring of the Nibelung</i>	<i>Wagner's Ring: A Listener's Companion and Concordance</i>	J. K. Holman	978-1574670707	Amadeus	Recommended
567	The Cultural Evolution of Meso-America and Its Impact on North America	<i>The Wind that Swept Mexico: The History of the Mexican Revolution of 1910-1942 (Texas Pan American Series)</i>	Anita Brenner and George Leighton	978-0292701069	University of Texas Press	Recommended
572	The Medieval Book	<i>Meetings with Remarkable Manuscripts</i>	Christopher de Hamel	978-0143110804	Penguin	Recommended
589	American Colonial and Federal Furniture: 1650–1840	<i>American Furniture: 1650 to the Present</i>	Oscar P. Fitzgerald	978-1442270381	Rowman & Littlefield Publishers	Recommended
600	Intermediate Italian	<i>Italian Short Stories for Beginners Volume 2</i>	Lingo Mastery	978-1951949181	Lingo Mastery	Required
601	Conversation Avancée	<i>Vocabulaire progressif du français. Niveau perfectionnement C1C2</i>	Claire Miquel	978-2090384536	CLE INTERNAT	Required
608	Beginning Spanish with Cultural Context	<i>Encuentros 1</i>	Encuentros One Comunicación y Cultura	978-1543334920	Vista Higher Learning	Required
611	Reading Greek	<i>Oxford Grammar of Classical Greek</i>	James Morewood	978-0195218510	Oxford University Press	Required
		<i>Pocket Oxford Classical Greek Dictionary</i>	James Morewood	978-0198605126	Oxford University Press	Required

#	Study Group	Book Title	Author	ISBN	Publisher	Notes
613	Latin for Developing Translators	<i>Wheelock's Latin, 7th Edition (The Wheelock's Latin Series)</i>	Frederic M. Wheelock and Richard A. LaFleur	978-0061997228	Collins Reference	Required
629	Dante's <i>Inferno</i>	<i>The Inferno</i> (A list of suggested translations will be sent before class)	Dante Alighieri			Required
630	Thomas Hardy: the Sweet and the Strange	<i>Far from the Madding Crowd</i>	Thomas Hardy	978-0393954081	W.W. Norton & Company	Recommended
		<i>The Mayor of Casterbridge</i>	Thomas Hardy	978-0393974980	W. W. Norton & Company	Recommended
644	The Poetry of T.S. Eliot Before His Conversion	<i>The Complete Poems and Plays 1909-1950</i>	T.S. Eliot	978-0151211852	Harcourt Brace and Company	Recommended
646	A Portrait of the Times: Poetry Craftshop (Section A)	<i>New and Selected Poems</i>	Marie Howe	978-1324075035	W.W. Norton	Required
		<i>Selected Poems</i>	William Carlos Williams	978-0811209588	New Directions	Required
647	A Portrait of the Times: Poetry Craftshop (Section B)	<i>New and Selected Poems</i>	Marie Howe	978-1324075035	W.W. Norton	Required
		<i>Selected Poems</i>	William Carlos Williams	978-0811209588	New Directions	Required
657	The Bronte Sisters	<i>Jane Eyre</i>	Charlotte Bronte	any unabridged edition		Required
		<i>Wuthering Heights</i>	Emily Bronte	any unabridged edition		Required
		<i>The Tenant of Wildfell Hall</i>	Anne Bronte	any unabridged edition		Required
685	August Wilson <i>American Century Cycle</i>	<i>Two Trains Running</i>	August Wilson	978-0452269293	Penguin Publishing Group	Required
		<i>Seven Guitars</i>	August Wilson	978-0452276925	Plume	Required
		<i>King Hedley II</i>	August Wilson	978-1559362603	Theatre Communications Group	Required
		<i>Gem of the Ocean</i>	August Wilson	978-1559362801	Theatre Communications Group	Required
		<i>Radio Golf</i>	August Wilson	978-1559363082	Theatre Communications Group	Required
690	Thackeray's <i>Vanity Fair</i> : A Novel Without A Hero	<i>Vanity Fair: A Novel Without A Hero</i>	Thackeray, William	978-0192816429	Oxford Classics paperback	Required
		<i>A Shabby Genteel Story &amp; Other Writings</i>	Thackeray, William	978-0460872898	Everymans Library	Required

#	Study Group	Book Title	Author	ISBN	Publisher	Notes
696	Wisdom Matters	<i>Beloved</i>	Toni Morrison	978-1400033416	Vintage	Required
		<i>The Left Hand of Darkness</i>	Ursula K. Le Guin	978-0441007318	Ace	Required
		<i>Wisdom: From Philosophy to Neuroscience</i>	Stephen S. Hall	978-0307389688	Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group	Required
715	Jewish History: Patriarchs to Israel	<i>A Short History of the Jewish People</i>	Raymond P. Scheindlin	978-0195139419	Oxford University Press	Required
729	The Civil War in Our National Park System	<i>The Centennial: A Journey Through America's National Park System</i>	David Kroese	978-1627876575	Wheatmark	Recommended
739	China's Early History	<i>The Open Empire: A History of China to 1800</i>	Valerie Hansen	978-0393938777	W. W. Norton & Company	Recommended
740	Japan's Early History to the 1868 Meiji Restoration	<i>Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey</i>	Mikiso Hane and Louis G. Perez	978-0813349657	Routledge	Recommended
759	Sustainability and Negotiating Climate	<i>Sustainability: A History, Revised and Updated Edition</i>	Jeremy L Caradonna	978-0197625033	Oxford University Press	Required
768	From Rifled Muskets to Killer Robots	<i>One Minute to Midnight: Kennedy, Khrushchev and Castro on the Brink of Nuclear War</i>	Michael Dobbs	978-1400078912	Vintage	Required
		<i>Downfall: The End of the Imperial Japanese Empire</i>	Richard B. Frank	978-0141001463	Penguin Books	Recommended
		<i>Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow</i>	Yuval Noah Harari	978-0062464347	Harper Perennial	Required
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