

# OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

# OLLI

at American University

## FEBRUARY SHORTS & SPRING 2026 CATALOG

FEBRUARY 2–13 & MARCH 2–MAY 8  
IN-PERSON & ONLINE

202.895.4860

[www.lli-dc.org](http://www.lli-dc.org)

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CURIOSITY  
NEVER  
RETIRES

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## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

Spring offers a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with your interests and pursue the experiences that bring joy and meaning to your days. For many, lifelong learning is not just an activity—it is a way to stay curious, engaged, and connected with the world. OLLI is designed with that spirit in mind, offering a rich selection of courses created especially for individuals who are embracing a rewarding chapter of life.

In the pages ahead, you'll discover a broad range of classes that honor the diverse passions of our learners. Whether you're hoping to explore a creative talent, deepen your knowledge in the humanities, strengthen your digital skills, or simply meet others who share your enthusiasm for lifelong learning, you will find opportunities that are both enjoyable and enriching. Each course is taught by instructors who understand the value that experience and maturity bring to the classroom and who create spaces where everyone feels welcome, capable, and inspired.

Our spring offerings are intentionally flexible—short sessions, varied formats, and relaxed learning environments—so you can participate at a pace that suits your lifestyle. Many of our classes encourage conversation, collaboration, and hands-on exploration giving you the chance not only to learn something new, but also to build meaningful connections within a community of fellow learners.

As we look ahead to 2026, OLLI will join communities across the country in recognizing the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Throughout the coming year, you'll see this theme woven into select classes, lectures, and special events. We welcome your suggestions for how OLLI can mark this anniversary in ways that feel engaging, thoughtful, and meaningful to our community.

Whether you're pursuing a passion you set aside years ago, following a curiosity sparked only recently, or simply looking for a refreshing way to spend your days, we invite you to join us. Welcome to an OLLI experience that celebrates the joy of learning at every age.

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.

### Lesley Rubinger

*Chair, Board of Directors*

### Tony Long

*Executive Director*

**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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## 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>Jan. 21</b>	Registrations due by 10:00 AM for <b>February Shorts lottery</b>
<b>Jan. 22</b>	February Shorts class assignment letters emailed
<b>Jan. 30</b>	February Shorts refund deadline
<b>Feb. 2-13</b>	<b>February Shorts</b>
<b>Feb. 18</b>	Registrations due by 10:00 AM for <b>spring lottery</b>
<b>Feb. 19</b>	Spring class assignment letters emailed
<b>Feb. 25</b>	Spring Wine & Cheese Welcomer
<b>Mar. 2</b>	<b>Spring classes begin</b>
<b>Mar. 13</b>	Spring refund deadline
<b>Apr. 10</b>	Annual Meeting
<b>May 8</b>	<b>Spring classes end</b>
<b>May 14</b>	<b>Feb &amp; Spring 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 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. *If AU has a delayed opening, all OLLI classes will still be held at their originally scheduled times.*



# 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. **Our weekly Friday newsletter is sent 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. There are also regular **social events**, including happy hours, a lunch club, member appreciation week, semester wine & cheese welcomes, and a holiday party.

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

View OLLI's event's calendar to see all upcoming events:  
**[www.oli-dc.org/events](http://www.oli-dc.org/events)**

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 class 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

Most courses are recorded. 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. **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 has two regular academic semesters: Spring, which runs Mar–May, and Fall, which runs Sept.–Dec. Most semester study groups run from 7 to 10 weeks long. Each class session is 1½ hours long.

## Serendipities!

OLLI 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.oli-dc.org/serendipity\\_talks](https://www.oli-dc.org/serendipity_talks) for more information.

## Shorts

February and July Shorts meet 2-5 times over the course of one week. Each class session is 1½ hours.

## Social Events

OLLI encourages a sense of belonging to this vibrant community with a full schedule of regular social events, including happy hours, a lunch club, member appreciation week, semester wine & cheese welcomers, and a holiday party.

## 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). See more information: [www.oli-dc.org/for\\_study\\_group\\_reps](http://www.oli-dc.org/for_study_group_reps)

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.oli-dc.org/get\\_involved](https://www.oli-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. Please only attend classes for which you are registered.

## Weather Policy for Class Cancellation

We follow American University's weather policy. 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. *If AU has a delayed opening, all OLLI classes will still be held at their originally scheduled times.*

## Website

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

- to view the events calendar
- to register for classes and pay membership dues
- to add, drop, change classes, or request a refund
- to volunteer or 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 6-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 6-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.

# OLLI CELEBRATES "AMERICA 250"



***"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."***

As OLLI heads into 2026, we want to acknowledge, and celebrate, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Drafted primarily by Jefferson, it was edited by a committee of five people, including Adams and Franklin. Not a dry or dusty document, it has inspired the independence of many other nations since 1776. It gave the Continental Congress legal standing to negotiate with France and other allies who came to our aid, and listed specific grievances against the British Crown. In the months ahead, OLLI members will note that some of our classes, lectures, and special events will reflect this theme. The Board of Directors, Curriculum Committees, and OLLI staff welcome ideas about how these efforts can be most meaningful to you and encourage your active participation.

Below are courses in this catalog that relate to the "America 250" theme.

## February Shorts

9730: Commemorating the Nation's Founding:

A Closer Look at the Years 1826, 1876, 1926, and 1976

## Spring

102: The Constitution and Equality

135: Political Extremism: Its Roots and Its Branches

202: Family Narratives Enriching 250 years of US History

508: The Cities That Created the American Sound

574: The Founders of Washington DC's Iconic Art Museums

585: I Like to Be in America!: American Art 1750–1920 (ish)

701: Revolution and the Meaning of Liberty: Two Case Studies

719: The American Revolution: An Intellectual  
and Social History

721: 1938–1954: Dynamic Years of Change For Americans

727: Washington's Soldiers

770: A Brief History of Washington, DC



# 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 Wednesday, February 18, to be included in the spring 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 February 19.**

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

**SPRING 2026: MARCH 2–MAY 8**

4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW • Washington, DC 20016

Phone: **202.895.4860** | Email: **olli@american.edu** | Website: **www.olli-dc.org**

**Choose your lottery selections  
for the SPRING SEMESTER  
by 10:00 AM on Wed., Feb. 18.**

**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" (pg. 4), **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. _____	_____	_____
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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: Spring 2026 Semester**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **\$297: Spring 2026 Semester 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% Spring 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 for any contact information you do NOT want included in our membership directory. The directory is produced during the third week of each semester and is made available to current members. It 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 SPRING 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>					
135	Political Extremism: Its Roots and Its Branches	Sachs	3/2	10	Online
250	TED Talks	Lewis, Mindel, Swan	3/2	8	Online
360	US International Trade Policies in Crisis: Past, Present & Possible Future	Williamson	3/2	8	Online
615	Deutsch fuer Fortgeschrittene	Caraher	3/2	8	Online
622	Memoir Writing Workshop	Friedman	3/2	6	In-Person
768	The Trump Corollary, American Imperialism, and the Robotization of Warfare	Wilson	3/2	4	Online
778	Character is Destiny: The Lincoln Factor in American History	Simpson	3/2	6	Online
805	Meditation Class	Reo	3/2	8	In-Person
<b>MONDAY 11:45 AM</b>					
376	Understanding Medicare—A Practical Guide	Kayrish	3/2	8	In-Person
592	Modernist Washington	Hensler	3/2	8	Hybrid
605	Les Dessous du Visible	Sandifer	3/2	8	In-Person
630	<i>Nicholas Nickleby</i> by Charles Dickens: Three Views	Bachorik, Coleman, Freeman	3/2	8	Online
631	Understanding Families Through Plays	Lewis	3/2	8	In-Person
649	The Trojan War in Story and History	Croog	3/2	9	In-Person
719	The American Revolution: An Intellectual and Social History	Lamont	3/2	9	In-Person
834	Mindfulness Meditation Intermediate level	Drobis	3/2	10	Online
<b>MONDAY 1:45 PM</b>					
322	The Economics of Public Policy Issues	Woglom	3/2	7	Online
444	The History of the Relationship Between Mathematics and Science	Read	3/2	10	In-Person
505	Beethoven	Flaxman	3/2	10	Hybrid
568	Contemporary Asian Architects 2	Swoger	3/2	10	Online
570	A Brief History of Rugs and Textiles	Swan	3/2	8	In-Person
603	Cours de Lecture et Conversation en Français	Férat	3/2	10	In-Person
644	The Poetry of T.S. Eliot: "Ash Wednesday" and "Four Quartets"	Draper	3/2	10	In-Person
761	The Age of Hitler and Stalin: The Failed Peace and the Road to World War II	Kramer	3/2	10	In-Person
<b>TUESDAY 9:45 AM</b>					
200	Practicum on Productive Conflict Engagement	Hull	3/3	8	In-Person
349	Retirement Planning & Mid-Course Corrections	Tekamp	3/3	5	Online
477	Human Evolutionary Development and Prehistoric Rock Art	Achrati	3/3	8	In-Person
526	The Great Symphonies	Garlock	3/3	10	In-Person
611	Reading Sanskrit	Ross	3/3	10	In-Person
646	Poetry Craftshop: Dreams and Elegies (Section A)	Pierson	3/3	10	In-Person
744	Nuremberg: The Trial and The Legacy	Feinberg	3/3	10	In-Person
785	Did the 1920s Roar?	Belden	3/3	6	In-Person



**TUESDAY 11:45 AM**

232	Finding Your Family History	Goodman	3/3	8	Online
310	Do Only the Rich Have Trusts? Key Strategies Using Trusts in Your Estate Plan	Burton	3/3	4	Online
589	Why You Should Like Victorian Furniture	Fitzgerald	3/3	8	In-Person
657	The Bronte Sisters	Frantz	3/3	8	In-Person
677	Exploring the Aphorism	Shingleton	3/3	7	In-Person
716	Assassinations!	Woodward	3/3	10	In-Person
777	Reviewing The Rise and Fall(?) of HUD on its 60th Anniversary, Now in the AI Era	Watkins	3/3	10	Online

**TUESDAY 1:45 PM**

172	Current Events and Public Policy II	Callet, Porter	3/3	8	In-Person
180	Today's Supreme Court: A Course for Citizens	Hansen	3/3	10	In-Person
212	Asian Films IV: Culture, History, Politics	B Hadden, R Hadden	3/3	8	In-Person
499	Immunotherapy: Harnessing the Immune System in Cancer and Autoimmune Disease	Williams	3/3	10	Online
529	The Life and Music of Antonin Dvorak	Kaufman	3/3	10	Online
668	Fiction Writers' Bootcamp	Nash	3/3	10	In-Person
690	Sensation and Gothic Novels, Then and Now	Moody	3/3	10	Online
721	1938–1954: Dynamic Years of Change For Americans	Stanton	3/3	8	In-Person

**WEDNESDAY 9:45 AM**

171	Current Events and Public Policy I	Callet, Porter	3/4	8	In-Person
350	Protecting and Maximizing Your Retirement Income	Hurwitz	3/4	6	Online
426	The Human Brain	Shaw	3/4	10	In-Person
519	The Great French Songbook	Harper	3/4	10	In-Person
533	Through A Jazz Lens	Sherwin	3/4	7	In-Person
656	Writing Love, Grief, Madness: A <i>Wuthering Heights</i> Case Study	Faye	3/4	8	Online
682	Contemporary Jewish Short Stories in Context	Pomerantz	3/4	9	In-Person
831	Mastering Skills of Mindfulness Meditation	J Drobis, S Drobis	3/4	10	Online

**WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM**

292	How to Live Healthier, Happier, and Longer in Retirement and Before: Eight Essential Pillars	Bickford	3/4	7	In-Person
510	The Great Guitarists of Rock	Gondelman	3/4	10	Hybrid
562	How to Develop a Photographer's Eye	Logan	3/4	8	In-Person
601	Conversation Avancée	Spittler	3/4	10	In-Person
608	Beginning Spanish, Part 2—Culture in Context & Conversation	Meade	3/6	10	In-Person
621	Enjoying <i>The New Yorker</i> Together	Foster	3/4	10	Online
647	Poetry Craftshop: Dreams and Elegies (Section B)	Pierson	3/4	10	In-Person
739	Late Imperial China and the 20th-Century Revolutions	Spendelow	3/4	10	In-Person

WEDNESDAY 1:45 PM					
492	RNA: The Versatile and Indispensable Molecule	Taran	3/4	10	In-Person
602	French Conversation Advanced	Farrell	3/4	7	Online
610	Intermediate Italian	E Evangelita, L Evangelista, Flaxman	3/4	10	In-Person
696	We the Paranoid	Starr	3/4	9	In-Person
727	Washington's Soldiers—How They Fought, Lived, and Forged American Values & Beliefs	Richardson	3/4	7	In-Person
740	Japan's "Modern" Century	Spendelow	3/4	10	In-Person
780	The Jews of Spain	Gorsky	3/4	7	In-Person
THURSDAY 9:45 AM					
102	The Constitution and Equality	Steinbach	3/19	7	Online
202	Family Narratives Enriching 250 years of US History	LaRossa	3/5	7	In-Person
433	Recent Developments in the Renaissance of Nuclear Power	Trubatch	3/5	7	In-Person
497	Agriculture and Our Food Supply: Environment, Safety, and Trade	Hinga	3/5	10	In-Person
655	Modern Fiction	Parlato	3/5	10	In-Person
675	Poetry about Growing Up and Growing Older	Pettengill	3/5	8	Online
701	Revolution and the Meaning of Liberty: Two Case Studies	Mulligan	3/5	8	In-Person
773	Battleships: From the Merrimack to the Missouri	Beasom	3/5	4	Online
THURSDAY 11:45 AM					
281	The Psychology of Happiness: Science-Backed Insights and Interventions	Sebenick	3/5	8	In-Person
502	Introductory Folk Guitar	Siebens	3/5	10	In-Person
572	The Printed Book	Ruff	3/5	7	In-Person
574	The Memory of Mankind: The Founders of Washington DC's Iconic Art Museums	With	3/5	8	In-Person
606	Intermediate German: Part II	Cutts	3/5	10	In-Person
653	<i>Eugene Onegin</i> : Alexander Pushkin's Singular Novel in Verse	Rubenstein	3/5	4	In-Person
671	It's Plato's World, We Just Think in It	White	3/5	10	Online
707	The Rise and Fall of Napoleon Bonaparte	Coffman	3/5	10	In-Person
THURSDAY 1:45 PM					
163	Propaganda & Public Diplomacy	Begleiter	3/5	5	Online
252	Exploring Cultural Complexities	C Weichel, K Weichel	3/5	8	Online
260	The Impact of World War I on Western Culture and the Western Worldview	O'Connor	3/5	10	In-Person
412	Improving Brain Function by Building a Cognitive Reserve: An Interactive Approach Emphasizing Social Interaction, Humor, and Improv	Caporale	3/5	7	In-Person
508	Cities That Created the American Sound	Gondelman, OLLI Coordinator	3/5	9	Online
607	Low Intermediate Spanish for Enthusiastic Learners	Aclan, Garzoli	3/12	10	In-Person
639	Celebrating the Art and Words of Picture Books	Buglass	3/5	9	Online
724	Manifest Destiny and US Territorial Expansion: From 13 Colonies to a Global Power	Belden, Wilkinson	3/5	8	In-Person

**FRIDAY 9:45 AM**

286	Thriving as Elders: The Adventure Continues	Beizer	3/6	5	Online
364	Stakeholder Emphasis Implications in Corporate Governance	Yener	3/6	8	In-Person
441	Essential Tech Literacy: Staying Up to Date with Technology	Rezmovic	3/6	10	In-Person
613	Latin for Developing Translators	Smith	3/6	10	In-Person
689	Collaborative Fiction Workshop	Presser	3/6	10	In-Person
806	Medical Qigong	Reo	3/6	8	In-Person
860	Husserl and Heidegger	Ross	3/6	10	In-Person

**FRIDAY 11:45 AM**

160	Public Education and the Future of American Democracy	Blank, Usdan	3/6	7	In-Person
585	I Like to Be in America!: American Art 1750–1920 (ish)	Fleps	3/6	7	In-Person
600	Beginning Italian	E Evangelita, L Evangelista, Flaxman	3/6	10	In-Person
712	Nonviolent Resistance: Gandhi, King, Chavez, Tutu and Now	E King, L King	3/6	10	In-Person
770	A Brief History of Washington, DC	Somers	3/6	9	In-Person
861	Aristotle's Physics, Ethics, and Politics	Ross	3/6	10	In-Person

## SPRING 2026 LECTURES

During the spring semester, lectures will be held on Fridays from 1:30–2:30 PM, except when the Annual Meeting is held. 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 inquiries every Friday morning.

# SPRING STUDY GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

## 100 POLITICS, LAW & GOVERNMENT

### US International Trade Policies in Crisis: Past, Present & Possible Future

**IRVING WILLIAMSON**

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

**March 02**

**Online**

For study group description and Study Group Leader's bio, see 360.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

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

### We the Paranoid

**PETER STARR**

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

**March 04**

**In-Person**

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

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

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

### The Trump Corollary, American Imperialism, and the Robotization of Warfare

**PETER WILSON**

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

**March 02**

**Online**

For study group description and Study Group Leader's bio, see 768.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

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

### 102: The Constitution and Equality

**STEVEN STEINBACH**

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

**March 19**

**Online**

"Equal Justice Under Law," declares the Supreme Court pediment. "The equal protection of the laws," promises the Fourteenth Amendment. Yet the constitutional principle of equality—like the Supreme Court building and the amendment itself—is a relatively recent development. This discussion-based course traces how a commitment to equality, absent from the original Constitution, emerged and expanded over the past century and a half. We will examine major constitutional controversies involving race, gender, same-sex relationships, and voting, and consider how these debates

continue to shape our understanding of equal rights today.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Discussion

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

**Recorded:** Yes

*Steven Steinbach taught history and government courses at Sidwell Friends School for many years and previously was a partner in the law firm of Williams & Connolly LLP. He is the co-editor of With Liberty and Justice for All?: The Constitution in the Classroom. He was educated at Harvard College, Yale Law School, and the Graduate Institute of St. John's College Annapolis.*

### 135: Political Extremism: Its Roots and Its Branches

**DANIEL SACHS**

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

**March 02**

**Online**

The politics of our time are characterized increasingly by extremism, at both ends of the spectrum, right and left. This course examines how these movements emerged, why they attract so many followers, and how they have manifested themselves in recent times. We will explore the mindsets and motivations of extremist leaders and of individuals who commit violence in support of these beliefs. Finally, we will consider whether—and how—those drawn to extremist ideologies can be encouraged to disengage and reenter the political mainstream.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Daniel Sachs, born in Madrid, Spain, is a graduate of Cornell University and the George Washington University Law School. His interests in retirement lie in literature and Jungian psychology.*

### 160: Public Education and the Future of American Democracy

**MARTIN BLANK**

**MICHAEL USDAN**

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

**March 06**

**In-Person**

Public education in the United States has long been a pathway to opportunity and a cornerstone of our democracy. Today, however, the K–12 system faces mounting challenges: chronic absenteeism, declining reading levels, teacher shortages, book bans, restrictions on discussing LGBTQ issues, and attempts to sideline historical truths.



Recent actions by the Trump Administration have further strained local school budgets, while a new federal tax credit for private school vouchers has heightened concerns about accelerating privatization. This course will examine these issues in the context of how public education works, the influence of partisan politics, enduring inequities, and the implications for our democracy's future. This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Michael Usdan and Martin Blank are former presidents of the Institute for Educational Leadership, with decades of experience in public education at the school, community, state, and national levels.*

## 163: Propaganda & Public Diplomacy

**RALPH BEGLEITER**

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

**March 05**

**Online**

From World War II through the Cold War, from the September 11 attacks through the US invasion of Iraq, governments have exercised their power over media to influence public opinion, both at home and abroad. This course examines how propaganda is crafted, why it works, who deploys it, and to what ends. We will consider the ways traditional news outlets can become collaborators in influence efforts—and how they sometimes resist them. The course will also explore modern propaganda on social media, its impact on public opinion, and how the rise of social platforms, advancing artificial intelligence, and the decline of independent journalism have made these techniques more powerful than ever. ***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 served as a world affairs correspondent for CNN from 1981 to 1999. From 1999 to 2017, he was a professor of communication at the University of Delaware and the founding director of the university's Center for Political Communication.*

## 171: Current Events and Public Policy I

**DAVID CALLET**

**JEFFREY PORTER**

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

**March 04**

**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. A 1973 graduate of George Washington University Law School, he served as a federal government attorney and later as a partner in two DC firms before founding Callet Law in 2015. His practice focuses on consumer product safety compliance and education.*

*Jeffrey Porter earned BA and MA degrees from the University of Wisconsin. After moving to Washington, DC, he owned several businesses for nearly 20 years and later worked in the catering department 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)**

**March 03**

**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. A 1973 graduate of George Washington University Law School, he served as a federal government attorney and later as a partner in two DC firms before founding Callet Law in 2015. His practice focuses on consumer product safety compliance and education.*

*Jeffrey Porter earned BA and MA degrees from the University of Wisconsin. After moving to Washington, DC, he owned several businesses for nearly 20 years and later worked in the catering department at Whole Foods on P Street.*

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

**PENNY HANSEN**

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

**March 03**

**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.*

## 200 PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY, & CULTURE

### Improving Brain Function by Building a Cognitive Reserve: An Interactive Approach Emphasizing Social Interaction, Humor, and Improv

**JILL CAPORALE**

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

**March 05**

**In-Person**

For study group description and Study Group Leader's bio, see 412.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

## 200: Practicum on Productive Conflict Engagement

**JEANINE HULL**

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

**March 03**

**In-Person**

I get it, conflict is unpleasant and can even feel scary. This new practicum focuses on building the skills needed to engage more effectively when conflict arises, drawing on insights from neuroscience and Nonviolent Communication to navigate both everyday tensions and more challenging situations. Developed in response to the need for additional practice time in "The Neuroscience of Conflict" study group, the course is almost entirely experiential. Prior participation in that course, reading the SGL's book, or reviewing any of the recommended readings will best prepare members to participate. Success depends on active, supportive, and nonjudgmental participation. The goal is to experience how skillful, constructive conflict engagement can strengthen relationships and reduce harm in our lives.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**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: Family Narratives Enriching 250 years of US History

**ROBERT LAROSSA**

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

**March 05**

**In-Person**

Family histories are critical. For 250 years, we and our predecessors have been experiencing America; here each of us will collect, digitize, share, and organize these stories in a collegial, supportive environment. Suggested writing topics include: (1) Introducing Your Story and Life, (2) First Steps in America, (3) Influential Rural and Urban Settings, (4) The American Mosaic, (5) Opportunities in America, (6) Barriers to the American Dream, (7) Technological Advances, and (8) Social Upheaval. Other possible topics include food, media impact, holidays, entertainment, and patriotism. Expectations are that each week participants will compose and share an essay or musings on one topic.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

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

**Recorded:** No

**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.

## 212: Asian Films IV: Culture, History, Politics

**BILL HADDEN**

**RITA HADDEN**

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

**March 03**

**In-Person**

Asian films often reflect the culture, history, or politics of these countries. They give us rarely seen glimpses of realities in some of those nations. The Vietnam of *North vs South* and *Indochina* is not what we see in *Vertical Ray of the Sun*! In this study group, we will see key excerpts of eight Asian films and discuss what is exposed by these films, and why they matter in shaping our views of these countries. Possible films include: South Korea: *Revivre*; China: *Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles*; Indonesia: *Yuni*; Japan: *Perfect Days*; Vietnam: *Vertical Rays of the Sun*; India: *Dangal*; Taiwan: *A Sun*; South Korea: *Escape from Mogadishu*.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** No

**Bill Hadden** is a medical sociologist with a career at the CDC and NIH.

**Rita Hadden** is Chinese-American, born in Hanoi, lived in Saigon, Phnom Penh, Hong Kong, Thailand, China, and the US. She did management consulting for 40 years, was President of the Asian American Forum in Washington, and leads study groups on Asia at OLLI. Rita and Bill have lived and traveled widely in Asia and worked in China, Thailand, and Pakistan. They love films, thrive in different cultures, and speak multiple languages.

## 232: Finding Your Family History

**SUSAN GOODMAN**

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

**March 03**

**Online**

This workshop aims to help members begin the process of finding basic genealogy data using free resources from libraries, archives, and the internet, as well as from free and subscription-based genealogy programs. Members who subscribe to Ancestry.com often find it helpful to let the SGL guide them in getting started on their family tree, using information from Ancestry's extensive databases and shared trees. The workshop also welcomes those who may not be interested in creating a tree, but want to know more about preserving family stories, photos, and the many ways they can be shared.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**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.

## 250: TED Talks

**LYNN LEWIS**

**CAROLINE MINDEL**

**DIANE SWAN**

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

**March 02**

**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:** Reading and Discussion

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

**Recorded:** Yes

**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.

**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.

## 252: Exploring Cultural Complexities

**CARL WEICHEL**

**KIM WEICHEL**

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

**March 05**

**Online**

Our world has become very complex with rapid changes affecting our normal social relationships, political systems, and financial stability. We'll explore current issues of the day through the documentary series "Explained by Vox" on Netflix. We'll delve into our inner world with topics on mental health and music therapy; memory and personality; and how we adapt to rapid change. To better grasp our

expanding outer worlds, we'll cover diverse topics such as economic inequalities, restraining social media's influences, social and political polarization, truth vs facts, censorship and disinformation, digital surveillance, preparing for AI's dominance, and more. A study guide is provided detailing all themes.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

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

**Recorded:** Yes

*Carl Weichel has held various positions internationally in marketing, design, and advertising. Kim Weichel is a social entrepreneur and nonprofit leader in the fields of women's leadership, cross-cultural dialogue, citizen diplomacy, and peacebuilding, and is a published author. Together they have led OLLI study groups on topics such as political polarization, the 1960s, and The New York Times Book Review, among others.*

## 260: The Impact of World War I on Western Culture and the Western Worldview

**CHARLES O'CONNOR**

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

**March 05**

**In-Person**

Intellectual and cultural historians generally consider World War I the turning point in modern Western civilization. This disastrous war shattered Enlightenment confidence in human reason, exposed the 19th-century myth of inevitable progress, challenged traditional belief in a divinely ordered universe, and fostered a postwar cosmic pessimism and materialist cosmology. To understand the war's effect on Western culture, we will compare prewar and postwar philosophy, theology, literature, art, and music, focusing on the evolving Western view of reality. We will end with a discussion of the continuing influence of the war on Western culture and cosmology.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

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

**Recorded:** Yes

*After a 40-year career in environmental law, Charles O'Connor earned a doctorate in liberal studies from Georgetown in 2012 and has taught at OLLI since 2014. His course on the cultural impact of the Great War draws on his book *The Great War and the Death of God and related scholarship*. His publications include work in *Confluence*, *Religion and the Arts*, and the introduction to *A John Haught Reader*. He holds degrees from Harvard (AB) and Georgetown (JD, MALS, DLS).*

## 281: The Psychology of Happiness: Science-Backed Insights and Interventions

**CAROLE SEBENICK**

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

**March 05**

**In-Person**

Have you ever wondered if the mood-boosting claims of yoga, protein-rich diets, or even winning the lottery have any scientific basis? Or if a social media detox truly enhances well-being? Through engaging lectures and discussions, this course delves into the credibility of such popular recommendations by drawing on research from the growing field of positive psychology. You will discover diverse perspectives on happiness, explore factors associated with long and fulfilling lives, and learn practical, science-backed applications to enhance personal well-being. Whether you're a psychology enthusiast or simply curious about the happiness hype, this course offers valuable knowledge and strategies for everyday life. This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** No

*Carole W. Sebenick, PhD, is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist in Virginia with more than 30 years of experience in private practice and in university and government settings, specializing in psychotherapy and career counseling. She has taught as an adjunct faculty member at several local universities, including a widely enrolled psychology of happiness course at the University of Maryland. An active community volunteer, she has served on nonprofit boards and taught English to adult learners.*

## 286: Thriving as Elders: The Adventure Continues

**BARBARA BEIZER**

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

**March 06**

**Online**

Thriving as elders is not just about filling our time. It's about how we lead a fulfilling life over time, how we face the realities of aging with its often disorienting changes, and how we continue to find and sustain meaning and satisfaction throughout our elder years. Together, working with an evidence-based framework, we'll explore relevant research, share our wisdom and strategies, deepen practical skills, and create a personal legacy and mission. This generative process is designed to stimulate introspection and insight, motivate and guide us to be more intentional about our choices, and illuminate how we are growing and showing up in the world for ourselves and others.

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Discussion



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

**Recorded:** No

**Barbara Beizer** is a certified coach, working with people who wish to grow and thrive as human beings and leaders. Her practice draws on decades of business and nonprofit leadership, graduate study in organizational psychology and change, and finely-honed intuition. She was a Peace Corps volunteer in India, co-facilitated multicultural interfaith community dialogues, and has designed and delivered more than a hundred workshops on resilience, change, boundaries, and related topics.

## 292: How to Live Healthier, Happier, and Longer in Retirement and Before: Eight Essential Pillars

**BRAD BICKFORD**

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

**March 04**

**In-Person**

Want a healthier, happier, longer life? This dynamic class explores practical, research-based strategies for optimal aging. Learn key actions to support brain health, prevent dementia, and understand the wide-ranging benefits of exercise. We'll discuss finding purpose in retirement, and staying socially connected. The class also covers differences in men's and women's health, communication skills that strengthen relationships, learn how to be happier, and foods and products that support longevity. Sessions include discussions, humor, TED Talks, lectures, guest speakers, and Tibetan singing bowls for an engaging, uplifting experience.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

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

**Recorded:** Yes

**Brad Bickford**, BCD, LCSW is a semi-retired therapist and grandpa who has studied improv, stand-up comedy, painting, and the harmonica. He has taught sex education and led grief work. He is a national lecturer and published author on this class subject and enjoys pickleball, fly fishing, gardening, and carpentry.

# 300 ECONOMICS & PERSONAL FINANCE

## 310: Do Only the Rich Have Trusts? Key Strategies Using Trusts in Your Estate Plan

**JOHN BURTON**

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

**March 03**

**Online**

Trusts are not just for the wealthy. Trusts can handle any estate more efficiently than relying on a last will and testament alone. This course surveys the basics of implementing trusts and the new planning opportunities trusts can provide you in your estate plan. Several topics will be covered: What is the difference between revocable and irrevocable trusts? Can trusts protect an estate against the costs of probate, state and federal estate taxes, creditor claims, and lawsuits? Do trusts protect you financially, should you ever need nursing home care in the future? How do trusts impact wills, powers of attorney, real estate, investments, retirement accounts, and other assets? How does the field of elder law impact the use of trusts? **OLLI does not permit the solicitation, marketing, or selling of products as part of a study group, and does not endorse particular products or financial advice from SGLs.**

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**John S. Burton, Esq., CEP, TEP**, practices in the areas of estate planning, asset protection, business, and elder law. He is a Certified Estate Planner (CEP) and a Trust and Estate Practitioner (TEP). John is admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of VA, the US Federal Courts within the Fourth Circuit, and the US Tax Court.

## 322: The Economics of Public Policy Issues

**GEOF WOGLOM**

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

**March 02**

**Online**

Economics plays a central role in the functioning of every aspect of society. This course will address a set of prominent policy issues where economics is at their core. We will explore their origins as policy matters, the underlying data and evidence, and what policy levers are available to deal with them. Each lecture will be taught by a different subject matter expert. **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

**Geoffrey Woglom** is Professor of Economics, Emeritus, at Amherst College, where he taught for over 40 years. During his career he has been an economic consultant for the IMF, the Federal Reserve Board, and Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. He received his PhD in economics from Yale University. He is currently a Director at the National Economic Education Delegation (NEED), which unites the skills and knowledge of a vast network of professional economists to promote a nonpartisan understanding of the economics of policy issues in the United States.

## 349: Retirement Planning & Mid-Course Corrections

**ZACH TEKAMP**

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

**March 03**

**Online**

This course will cover all aspects of retirement planning, specifically tailored to those who have just entered retirement or have been retired for several years. We will cover how to optimize your retirement from every lens of financial planning, including retirement income, health care, Social Security, taxes, investments, cash flow, cash reserves, estate planning, and the emotional and human side of retirement planning. **OLLI does not permit solicitation, marketing, or selling of products or services as part of a study group, and does not endorse particular products or financial advice from SGLs. This study group has a high class size capacity.**

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Zach Tekamp, CFP®, EA**, is a local financial planner who specializes in working with late-career professionals and retirees to help them retire on their terms, minimize their lifetime taxes, and use their money as a tool to live the life they want to live. Zach lives in Old Town Alexandria with his fiancée, Mary Kate, and their two dogs, Rudy and Rosie.

## 350: Protecting and Maximizing Your Retirement Income

**DAVID HURWITZ**

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

**March 04**

**Online**

During this study group, members will learn how to set up a retirement-income stream consistent with their retirement goals; understand tax treatments with their investment objectives; and plan for inflation, economic challenges, and a potentially long retirement. Sessions will include insights on estate planning, tax planning, long-term care, social security planning, and how to utilize various

investment vehicles. The study group leader strongly encourages participants to have their video on during class. **OLLI does not permit solicitation, marketing, or selling of financial products as part of this study group, and does not endorse particular products or financial advice from SGLs.**

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** No

**David Hurwitz** is a Certified Financial Planner Practitioner™ as well as a Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor®, Chartered Retirement Plan Specialist®, Retirement Income Certified Professional®, Behavioral Financial Advisor™, Accredited Portfolio Management Advisor®, and Accredited Investment Fiduciary®. David has been named “Best Financial Advisor” by the readers of Bethesda Magazine for over ten years running, he is recognized by Forbes as a Best in State (Maryland) advisor, and is a Five Star Wealth Manager, Washington Post Magazine. David has been a study group leader presenting this course since 2007.

## 360: US International Trade Policies in Crisis: Past, Present & Possible Future

**IRVING WILLIAMSON**

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

**March 02**

**Online**

International trade is still important to the US economy, but US trade policies are currently in disarray. This course will examine the international trading system and US trade policies. We will first focus on the relevant US trade laws and policies, World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements and their economic impact prior to 2025. We will next examine the trade policies of the second Trump Administration, especially the tariffs, the legal authority for them, their economic impact and how they have disrupted the international system. Lastly, we will consider what may happen to US trade policies and the international trading system post-Trump. The course does not require a prior knowledge of international trade.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

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

**Recorded:** Yes

**Irving Williamson** has more than 50 years of experience in international affairs and trade policy. He served 12 years as a Commissioner on the US International Trade Commission, including two and a half as Chairman. He was also a Deputy General Counsel at the Office of the US Trade Representative for five years and an attorney for three. A former Foreign Service Officer and trade policy manager for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, he has worked on trade capacity building projects across Africa, the Middle East, the Caribbean, and Asia, advising countries on WTO accession and compliance. Additional trade experts will join most sessions.

## 364: Stakeholder Emphasis Implications in Corporate Governance

**DEMIR YENER**

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

**March 06**

**In-Person**

This course explores how the separation of ownership and control creates principal–agent conflicts that raise firm risk and influence stock prices. We examine how strong corporate governance—built on transparency, accountability, and fair treatment of all stakeholders—reduces these conflicts and lowers the cost of capital. Key topics include the roles of shareholders, boards, management, and other stakeholders; shareholder voting; board practices; disclosure and transparency; executive compensation; and the growing importance of ESG factors. The course emphasizes how effective governance builds long-term value and investor confidence beyond simple regulatory compliance. **This study group may have a copied materials fee between \$5-20. If this is the case, the fee will be collected in class.**

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

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

**Recorded:** Yes

*Demir Yener is a retired Professor of Finance and Corporate Governance and former Academic Program Director for the MS in Finance at Johns Hopkins Carey Business School. A financial economist, he has taught at Babson, Suffolk, Syracuse, and in visiting roles at Harvard, Bocconi, and universities in Europe. He also spent two decades in international development with the World Bank Institute and USAID. His work focused on financial sector reform, corporate governance, SME development, and business education programs across Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the Middle East. His teaching and research center on corporate finance, investments, international finance, and emerging markets.*

## 376: Understanding Medicare—A Practical Guide

**ANN KAYRISH**

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

**March 02**

**In-Person**

Whether you are retired, assisting a family member or planning to enroll into Medicare soon, this course is designed to help you understand the basics of Medicare cost, coverage, and enrollment. The class sessions will also include demonstrations and instructions on how to use online tools and resources to make more informed Medicare plan and coverage choices.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Ann Kayrish has spent more than 15 years helping people with Medicare better understand the program and make better benefit choices, first as a Medicare counselor with the State Health Insurance Assistance program and then as the Medicare subject matter expert at the National Center for Benefits Outreach and Enrollment at the National Council on Aging. In her time as counselor and trainer she has gained insights into the parts of the Medicare program that people find most confusing.*

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

### 412: Improving Brain Function by Building a Cognitive Reserve: An Interactive Approach Emphasizing Social Interaction, Humor, and Improv

**JILL CAPORALE**

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

**March 05**

**In-Person**

A cognitive reserve helps an individual maintain or regain intellectual function despite brain aging, damage, or disease. This course will focus on lifestyle choices that can have a positive impact on the brain. It provides an overview of learning and the brain.

Course Content:

- Learning a little about the brain and neurotransmitters
- Using humor and improv to activate emotional and creative centers
- Understanding how movement and music enhance brain-body integration
- Practicing reducing stress through relaxation and mindfulness techniques
- Recognizing the importance of sleep and brain-friendly nutrition
- Using social connection exercises to stimulate neuroplasticity

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Jill Caporale is a retired Associate Professor and Associate Dean at Northern Virginia Community College, where she taught biology for more than 30 years. Her work included traditional and online courses as well as study abroad field programs in coral reef and terrestrial ecosystems. She has presented widely on evidence-based teaching strategies that use social interaction, humor, and mindfulness, and has collaborated across disciplines to integrate science with other fields. She holds master's degrees in biology and communication.*

## 426: The Human Brain

**MARJORIE SHAW**

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

**March 04**

**In-Person**

This course is intended for those wishing to explore neuroscience, but does not assume a biology background. It will be a bit more technical than “The Human Body” and the text (*Neuroscience for Dummies*) will be helpful. Topics will range from basic function of neural cells to higher cognition, highlighting neurological maladies.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Marjorie Shaw, PhD, taught anatomical sciences at the Howard University College of Medicine before retiring. She has also taught dental students, nurses and physical therapy students in areas of anatomy, cell biology, embryology, and neuroscience.*

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

**SHELDON TRUBATCH**

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

**March 05**

**In-Person**

Nuclear power is undergoing a renewed surge of interest as a carbon-free energy source. This course examines the reasons behind this revival, how new approaches to power generation address past drawbacks, and where lingering concerns may still slow progress—much as they have in earlier US efforts. No prior technical knowledge is needed. We will also consider the role of current US policy in shaping the pace of new nuclear development and discuss how emerging technologies such as “DeepSeek” and other AI advances may alter future electricity demand.

This study group is new.

**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 Sidley 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**

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

**March 06**

**In-Person**

Technology is evolving faster than ever, reshaping how we communicate, work, and manage our daily lives. Yet many people continue relying on older devices and services even when newer options offer greater convenience and significant cost savings. In this course, we'll explore a wide range of modern technologies that may not be familiar but can make everyday life easier, safer, and more efficient. Topics include mesh Wi-Fi systems, new cellular solutions that can provide whole-home internet, and cloud-based IoT devices such as smart cameras and doorbells. We'll discuss the latest best practices for staying safe online and practical ways to use AI tools in your daily routines.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**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.*

## 444: The History of the Relationship Between Mathematics and Science

**JACQUES READ**

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

**March 02**

**In-Person**

Mathematics began thousands of years ago as what we now call arithmetic, and science began as rude conjectures. The two human activities didn't really merge until Newton in the 17th century; the indirect result of the merging of the two pastimes was the Age of Enlightenment. Since then, math has mostly wandered off doing its thing while science plodded on, occasionally needing significant help from math, in that one would blunder along until wild new discoveries in one drew a new surge of insight in the other. Starting in Babylon, going through Greek and Egyptian, and Roman efforts, this course will go through the history of their relationship, emphasizing the dependence of one upon the other.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.



**Recorded:** Yes

**Jacques Read** has taught at Fairleigh Dickinson and the University of California, performed research at Oak Ridge and Livermore National Laboratories, and been employed by the Atomic Energy Commission, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Department of Energy. He has taught at OLLI since 2013.

## 477: Human Evolutionary Development and Prehistoric Rock Art

**AHMED ACHRATI**

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

**March 03**

**In-Person**

This course examines human evolutionary development through the study of prehistoric rock art. The first three introductory sessions provide a conceptual basis for understanding rock art as human cognitive behavior: this includes the origin and aesthetic nature of iconographic production, its modes, techniques, and interpretations. This is followed by a survey of rock art traditions of Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia, and the New World. Interdisciplinary in its approach, the course stresses the importance of aesthetic growth and creative thinking. Whether your interest is in art, music, history, literature, philosophy, religion, or archaeology, this course will engage your views on human existence and expand your intellectual horizons. This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

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

**Recorded:** Yes

**Ahmed Achrati** 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 Achrati has published *Rock Art of the Qsur and 'Amour Mountains, Algeria: A Cognitive Approach*, and *An Anthropology of the Qur'an*.

## 492: RNA: The Versatile and Indispensable Molecule

**ALBERT TARAN**

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

**March 04**

**In-Person**

The great success of mRNA vaccines in halting the Covid-19 pandemic turned a spotlight on RNA. Our understanding of RNA has grown steadily, if slowly, over the past 50-plus years. In this study group, we will explore the structure and function of multiple RNAs, their critical role in maintaining and regulating cellular processes, and with its unique self-catalyzing property, the theory that RNA preceded DNA at the origin of life, RNA World. Lastly, we will explore the ongoing

research into the therapeutic role of RNA in the fight against cancer and gene editing. We will use *The Catalyst: RNA and the Quest to Unlock Life's Deepest Secrets* by Thomas R. Cech, Nobel Laureate for his work on RNA, as our guide.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

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

**Recorded:** No

**Al Taran** has a BA in Philosophy but spent his working career in information technology. He has a lifelong interest in the sciences and mathematics. This is the 24th study group that Al has led.

## 497: Agriculture and Our Food Supply: Environment, Safety, and Trade

**KENNETH HINGA**

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

**March 05**

**In-Person**

Agriculture encompasses a wide array of farm types, including hundreds of different crops and livestock. We will look at what typical US farms look like and the people who farm them. We will examine the effects of farming on the environment including methane emissions from livestock and the runoff of nutrients that affect our rivers, lakes, and estuaries. We will examine food safety including bacterial contamination, GMOs, food additives, and hormones. We will look at the international trade in foods and its place in our domestic agriculture and food supply.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Ken Hinga** recently retired after ten years as a science advisor at the USDA and FDA, working on food safety and agricultural–environmental issues. He has also served on US delegations to Codex committees and in negotiations with the EU and Russia. He has contributed to major international assessments and represented the US at global forums on water, nitrogen, and agricultural research. Previously, Dr. Hinga was a research scientist and Assistant Dean at the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography. He holds degrees from Purdue University and the University of Rhode Island.

## 499: Immunotherapy: Harnessing the Immune System in Cancer and Autoimmune Disease

**MARNA WILLIAMS**

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

**March 03**

**Online**

This course explores the human immune system—how it detects and fights infection, how its cells communicate, and what happens

when immunity is compromised in cancer or autoimmune disease. We will also examine cutting-edge immunotherapies now used to treat cancer, autoimmune disorders, and infectious diseases. Designed for learners seeking a clear, comprehensive overview, the course includes discussions of molecular and cellular immunology, along with optional weekly readings and short videos. No prior biology background is required. The two recommended books offer accessible and engaging explanations of immunology and disorders of the immune system; their use will be discussed in the first class.

***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:** Yes

**Marna Williams** is an immunobiologist who has worked for 20 years in the biopharmaceutical industry on novel therapeutics for cancer and autoimmune disease. She has taught courses at OLLI since 2021 on immunology, vaccines, and immunotherapies. She has a BA from Duke University, a PhD from Yale University, and postdoctoral studies in immunology from Stanford University. Marna has been an invited speaker at conferences, academic institutions, and community centers across the United States.

## 500 MUSIC & VISUAL ARTS

### Human Evolutionary Development and Prehistoric Rock Art

**AHMED ACHRATI**

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

**March 03**

**In-Person**

For study group description and Study Group Leader's bio, see 477.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

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

### 502: Introductory Folk Guitar

**ARTHUR SIEBENS**

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

**March 05**

**In-Person**

Do you have a guitar lying around that you've been meaning to learn to play but have never gotten around to it? This course will be an introduction to folk guitar, i.e., learning to play chords, mainly to accompany singing (as opposed to classical guitar which involves reading music). If you already play the guitar at the beginner level, this is an opportunity to become more proficient. We will learn whatever the class wants—classic folk (e.g. Woody Guthrie), later folk (e.g. Bob Dylan), rock (e.g. The Beatles), pop (e.g. Neil Diamond), Motown (e.g. Marvin Gaye), show tunes (Andrew Lloyd Webber). Bring out your inner rock star!

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Arthur Siebens** has been playing the guitar and writing songs since college. He taught biology (mainly Advanced Placement) at Woodrow Wilson High School in DC. As "Dr. Art the Singing Scientist," his two compact discs for teachers presented modified lyrics to popular songs (e.g., Beatles, Motown) to teach key concepts on a given topic. Before teaching, he was a lab scientist at NIH and Yale. He has a PhD in human physiology.

### 505: Beethoven

**DAVID FLAXMAN**

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

**March 02**

**Hybrid**

This class will follow the usual format of David's music classes. We will cover the music of Beethoven largely in chronological order, interleaving some of the story of his life with his music. We use many extracts of videos of performances of his music. At times we will delve gently into music theory—never enough to hurt anyone. ***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, linguist, and computer scientist who has been teaching a variety of music classes at OLLI for years. He performs with a variety of choral music ensembles in the DC area, including the City Choir of Washington, the Washington Douglass Chorale, and the Georgetown Chorale.

### 508: Cities That Created the American Sound

**OLLI COORDINATOR: LARRY GONDELMAN**

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

**March 05**

**Online**

Many American cities have developed their own signature "sound"—a musical style uniquely tied to their history and culture. Each week, a different presenter will explore one city's contribution to the distinctive American soundscape and how the city's story shaped its music. Join us as we travel to Philadelphia for the Sounds of Philly; to Chicago for Chicago's electric blues; to Los Angeles for the Laurel Canyon sound; to Nashville for country; to Seattle for grunge rock; to Memphis for soul; and to the Appalachian Region for old-time music. We'll also make two stops in New York City—one for doo-wop and another for hip-hop. ***This study group has a high class size capacity.***

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Appreciation

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Our seven presenters bring deep experience and passion for music. Six are returning OLLI instructors—**Garey Eakes, Mark Stevens, Marcia Clemmitt, John Hill, Karen Buglass, and Larry Gondelman**. Our newest presenter, **Greg Mumford**, has taught music courses outside of OLLI—and even sang on a song that reached #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.*

## 510: The Great Guitarists of Rock

**LARRY GONDELMAN**

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

**March 04**

**Hybrid**

There is no instrument more central to rock 'n' roll than the electric guitar. This class will explore the artists who have contributed to the advancement of the electric guitar's role in the evolution of rock 'n' roll. We'll learn about and hear the contributions of pre-rock artists like Memphis Minnie, Elizabeth Cotton, and Sister Rosetta Tharpe; blues guitarists like Robert Johnson and B.B. King; early rockers like Chuck Berry, Peggy Jones, and Buddy Holly; classic rockers like Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page, and Jeff Beck; female guitarists like Joni Mitchell, Bonnie Raitt, and Chrissie Hynde; and many others like Peter Green, Duane Allman, Eddie Van Halen, and Brian May. ***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 a wide range of music-focused study groups at OLLI, including courses on the history of rock 'n' roll, iconic albums, influential songwriters, and the stories behind major musical movements.

## 519: The Great French Songbook

**LISA HARPER**

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

**March 04**

**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 1950s. 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.

## 526: The Great Symphonies

**DAVID GARLOCK**

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

**March 03**

**In-Person**

This is a classical music appreciation class, focused on the great symphonies, from Haydn and Mozart, to Mahler and Shostakovich. There will be a little bit of music history and a bit of music theory, but mostly we'll focus on what to listen for and then we'll listen. The course is designed to appeal to all levels of prior experience, from beginners to those already quite familiar with the symphonic repertoire.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**David Garlock** is a lifelong lover of classical music and an avid amateur pianist. He is part of a longstanding chamber music group, the Da Capo Chamber Players, that gives concerts once or twice a year. David is an experienced teacher, having taught one OLLI course previously, ESOL classes at Washington English Center, math classes at Georgetown Day School and tax courses at the LLM programs at Georgetown University and the University of Michigan. He retired in 2018 from a career as a tax lawyer.

## 529: The Life and Music of Antonin Dvorak

**LEE KAUFMAN**

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

**March 03**

**Online**

Antonin Dvorak is not an American, but is the first classical music composer to write a nationalistic composition dealing with Americana. Coming from humble beginnings in Bohemia, he studied throughout Europe, taking on the established musical structures of symphonies, concert (violin, piano, and cello), sacred music choral pieces, and operas. While many classical music people are single dimensional in character, Dvorak had many non-musical interests, established a close family with many children, and had close interpersonal relationships. We would call him a regular guy. He would be categorized as one of the most outstanding of the romantic

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

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Lee Kaufman** has taught classical music courses for numerous continuing education programs, including those at Parkway School District, St. Louis Community College, Chautauqua Institute, and multiple OLLIs nationwide. He is a founder and former secretary of the Elgar Society of North America and co-producer of George Gershwin Alone, Monsieur Chopin, and Beethoven as I Knew Him. Now retired, he previously owned a floor contracting company. He holds a BA from Washington University in St. Louis and an MBA from Emory University.

## 533: Through a Jazz Lens

**ALAN SHERWIN**

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

**March 04**

**In-Person**

Jazz musicians find material in a variety of sources. In addition to their own compositions, they often adapt tunes from Broadway shows, themes from movies and TV, classical works, traditional melodies, pop music, etc. Each session will concentrate on jazz works adapted from a different source, e.g. Session 1: Broadway; Session 2: Movies, etc. We'll pay attention to the roles of the various instruments and their interactions, aspects of style and form, the construction of solos, and other secrets for "jazz insiders."

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Appreciation

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Alan Sherwin** is a saxophonist who performs with a number of DC-area jazz ensembles. He has a strong interest in encouraging "active listening" rather than simply letting the music pass through our ears. This is a skill that can be learned and practiced, revealing hidden depths in the music. With a background in engineering, his other interests include developing software programs for musicians and other applications.

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

**BEVERLY LOGAN**

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

**March 04**

**In-Person**

Billions of photos 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 like, including smartphones. The class requires you spend

one to two hours a week taking pictures. This class is about taking photographs, not about enhancing images, which is the equivalent of darkroom work with analog images. To learn how to use the camera features of your iPhone, you might want to attend one of the free workshops 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).

## 568: Contemporary Asian Architects 2

**JEFFREY SWOGER**

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

**March 02**

**Online**

Part one of this course focused on home-grown architects in China and South Korea. Part two will examine Japanese architectural firms, as well as those in Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Japan is a small, densely populated island where land is scarce. So efficient use of space, and privacy are key issues architects must solve. Singapore also has land-use issues, while Thailand and Vietnam are experiencing both economic and tourism booms, creating wealth, both national and personal, that is reflected in its contemporary architecture.

***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.



## 570: A Brief History of Rugs and Textiles

**WENDEL SWAN**

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

**March 02**

**In-Person**

The domestication of sheep in Mesopotamia 12,000 years ago resulted in rugs and textiles becoming “high tech” throughout much of the world for most of the time since. We will survey the historical and cultural evolution of weaving textiles and rugs that began in the Near East and spread to Asia and Europe as textiles developed independently in the Western Hemisphere. The emphasis will be on the importance of how woven textiles (including those of silk) were and have been made for use other than as floor coverings. The class will see actual examples of diverse textiles and rugs right in class and class members will be invited to bring their own clean items in as well for viewing, identification, and discussion.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Appreciation

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Wendel Swan is a retired lawyer and business intermediary who has collected textiles all of his adult life and continues to serve on many nonprofit institutions that provide education about rugs and textiles. He has led various OLLI classes on photography, computers and the internet, discussions in the visual arts and Oriental rugs, and textiles.*

## 572: The Printed Book

**CARIN RUFF**

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

**March 05**

**In-Person**

This course will pick up where my Fall 2025 course on the medieval book left off, with the invention of printing with movable type in Europe. We will consider the nature of Gutenberg’s invention; the potential and limitations of early printing; control of the press; the development of the the book trade in the American colonies; the impact of the Industrial Revolution on papermaking, printing, and binding; and the early 20th-century fine press movement.

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.*

## 574: The Memory of Mankind: The Founders of Washington DC’s Iconic Art Museums

**CHRIS WITH**

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

**March 05**

**In-Person**

Washington, DC, is home to a plethora of museums of various sizes, scope, and collections. A rough count tallies at least 30 museums scattered throughout the city. To bring focus to this amalgam, this class will examine eight major museums of art. Some bear the name of their founders, others do not. Regardless of each art museum’s size, history, or focus, all of their beginnings are traceable to one founder, one generating vision. Each class will discuss the founder’s background; investigate the originating impetus behind the establishment of his/her art museum; describe its structure, organization, and programs: and, examine a few of the “stars” of each collection.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Christopher With worked for many years in the Education Department of the National Gallery of Art. Since retiring, he has lectured on a diverse variety of topics for OLLI at American University. He holds a PhD in German history from the University of California, Los Angeles.*

## 585: I Like to Be in America!: American Art 1750–1920 (ish)

**CHRISTINA FLEPS**

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

**March 06**

**In-Person**

On the eve of America’s 250th birthday, this course covers the art of America on its way. This vibrant variety of art depicts America as it grew from post-colonial experiment in the 18th century to riven republic post-Civil War to economic engine and emerging world power in the early 20th century. We’ll examine artists as varied as early history painter Rembrandt Peale, Impressionist Childe Hassam, Gilded Age star John Singer Sargent, Western landscapist Thomas Moran, Ashcan stylist George Bellows—and more. We’ll see how they explored, adored, glorified, and glamorized America, how they questioned it, and even how they exposed its dark underbelly. This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Christina Fleps is a retired lawyer with lifelong interests in writing, singing, dancing, reading, and especially art history. Inspired in childhood, she continued studying art history through school and*



extensive travel, exploring museums around the world. She has served as a docent at the National Gallery of Art and as an art lecturer at the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase. She enjoys sharing art history with others and learning from their insights.

## 589: Why You Should Like Victorian Furniture

OSCAR FITZGERALD

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

March 03

In-Person

Victorian furniture was a reaction to the boring classicism of the 18th century. It is probably the most misunderstood of all American furniture styles. The course will explain the unique Victorian aesthetic—anti-classicism and the idea of the picturesque—and survey the various revivals that were popular during the 19th century, including Gothic, Rococo, Renaissance, and Eastlake. The survey culminates at the end of the century when a reaction set in with the Aesthetic Movement and the Arts and Craft critique that ushered in Modernism. The course will cover the most important designers such as John Henry Belter and the Herter Brothers, and even Shaker furniture (yes, it was Victorian too!).

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

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

**Recorded:** Yes

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

## 592: Modernist Washington

DAVID HENSLER

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

March 02

Hybrid

This course will focus on the Mid-Century Modern (MCM) homes that have been designed by Washington architects. Some are well-known, such as Charles Goodman, Hugh Newell Jacobson, Frank Schlesinger, Mark McInturff, Robert Gurney and Travis Price, while others, such as Wouter Boer, Brian Patrick Jones, and Division One, are lesser known but doing highly impressive work. The course will include virtual tours of an MCM cluster on Chain Bridge Road as well as more traditional neighborhoods, such as AU Park, Palisades/Kent, Wesley Heights, Cleveland Park, and Forest Hills, that now contain a surprising number of MCM homes. We expect guest architects to participate in several of our sessions. ***This study group has a high class size capacity.***

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*David Hensler is a trial lawyer who has studied modernist architecture for over 30 years. He has taught two prior courses at OLLI on Modernism (2024) and Art Deco Architecture in Washington (2025). He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Mies van der Rohe Society. He has also served as an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University Law Center.*

# 600 LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

## 600: Beginning Italian

ELISA EVANGELISTA

LOUIS EVANGELISTA

DAVID FLAXMAN

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

March 06

In-Person

This is a first class in Italian for folks who want to get started on the path to understanding this beautiful language. We will study grammar, work on some conversations that will be useful to travelers, and do some light reading out loud so we can expand our vocabularies and work on pronunciation.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 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 has been teaching music and intermediate Italian for a number of years. In response to a request to offer an introductory class for persons not ready for the intermediate class he is offering this class in the basics.*

## 601: Conversation Avancée

MICHELE SPITTLER

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

March 04

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. On continuera le livre de vocabulaire: *Vocabulaire progressif du français Perfectionnement C1C2* (Claire Miquel; ISBN 978-2090384536), ainsi que des articles d'actualité et un film vu en classe. En début de session, les étudiants recevront un plan de travail. Les discussions porteront aussi sur l'actualité politique, culturelle et artistique du monde francophone.

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)**

**March 04**

**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 16 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)**

**March 02**

**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 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.*

## 605: Les Dessous du Visible

**CATHERINE SANDIFER**

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

**March 02**

**In-Person**

Que voit-on, que comprend-t-on d'une peinture? Il y a toujours un lien, un arrière plan historique et/ou parfois une histoire personnelle qui sous-tend l'oeuvre. Venez découvrir le secret de grands tableaux tels que Les ambassadeurs de Holbein ou Les hasards heureux de l'escarpolette de Fragonard et pénétrez le monde occulte des toiles.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Catherine Sandifer a un BA et MA de La Sorbonne ainsi qu'une agrégation d'anglais. Elle a enseigné dans plusieurs établissements parisiens dont Sciences-Po.*

## 606: Intermediate German: Part II

**MARTHA CUTTS**

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

**March 05**

**In-Person**

As a continuation of previous semesters, this study group will focus primarily on Friedrich Dürrenmatt's *Der Besuch der alten Dame*. The citation for the Schiller Prize that Swiss author Dürrenmatt received in 1959 referred to him as the most significant playwright in Germany at that time. We will, as always, continue to work on speaking, writing, and understanding spoken German. **This study group may have a copied materials fee between \$5-20. If this is the case, the fee will be collected in class.**

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)

March 12

In-Person

This course has been designed to bring students to an intermediate level of Spanish, to increase vocabulary, and to feel more confident about their ability to communicate in the language. The course includes short stories, short student presentations on different topics, and reviews of language grammar. **Before registering, all new class members should either view the attachment in the course listing on the OLLI website, or contact Carolina Aclan at [tiacaro@comcast.net](mailto:tiacaro@comcast.net) to set up an oral interview.**

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Carolina Aclan has a Master's 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, Part 2—Culture in Context & Conversation

JULIA MEADE

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

March 04

In-Person

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

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

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

**Recorded:** No

*Julia Meade holds BA and MA degrees in philosophy and educational sciences from the University of Barcelona. She taught Spanish for 27 years as Lead Instructor of the Modern Language Department at Blessed Sacrament School in Washington, DC. She is certified in Secondary Education Spanish Instruction in Maryland and has been an active member of AATSP, ACTFL, and GWATFL for more than 25 years.*

## 610: Intermediate Italian

ELISA EVANGELISTA

LOUIS EVANGELISTA

DAVID FLAXMAN

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

March 04

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.*

## 611: Reading Sanskrit

DON ROSS

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

March 03

In-Person

The object of this course is to enable participants to decipher ancient Sanskrit texts with the help of a translation. The intent is not to master the ancient Sanskrit language as such, but rather to learn how the language works so that one can, with a translation in hand, look at the Sanskrit original, and see why it means what the translation says it means. This course would appeal to anyone interested in: (1) ancient Greek poetry, philosophy, history, or science, (2) the development of the Greek language from the archaic to the Byzantine period, (3) the general principles of linguistics, (4) understanding the challenges and choices facing translators. We will be reading selections from the Bhagavadgita.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

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

## 613: Latin for Developing Translators

DIANA SMITH

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

March 06

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:** Yes

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

March 02

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 E-mail an [hcaraher@verizon.net](mailto:hcaraher@verizon.net) 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 Wednesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 04

Online

Readers outside New York will enjoy *The New Yorker's* in-depth reporting, its commentary on current issues, and its articles and reviews on many other topics. The short stories, memoirs, and poems are also notable. So are the provocative covers and (of course) the cartoons. Online meetings consist of two 40-minute sessions on items drawn from issues of the magazine between January 1 and May 8, 2026. Each student will lead at least one session on an item of his/her choice, perhaps providing background or raising some questions, but leaving ample time for discussion. Some OLLI members have taken the study group several times. Enjoy an open, friendly atmosphere where conversation can flourish.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

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

**Recorded:** Yes

*John Foster, Professor of English emeritus, specializes in modern, comparative, and world literature. Raised in the Midwest and educated in New England, he taught in California before joining George Mason University in 1983. He has lived abroad in France, Germany, Italy, and briefly in China as an infant. He has previously led lifetime learning courses on Russian literature and drama, and after several semesters as a class member in "Enjoying The New Yorker Together," he became its Study Group Leader two years ago. He looks forward to continuing discussions that explore the magazine's many strengths.*

## 622: Memoir Writing Workshop

LISA K. FRIEDMAN

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

March 02

In-Person

What is a writing workshop? Simply, a workshop is where writers meet as a group and discuss each other's work. With guidance from an experienced writer, and support from a community of fellow participants, this ongoing workshop offers a safe place to imagine, wonder, think, and create. Learn how to frame a narrative, find a unique voice, reflect on the past through the present, and much more. We will discuss the hallmarks of all good memoirs and personal essays and discuss works in progress, and, because good writing demands good reading, we will take a look at other fine examples in this genre. Be prepared to share!

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** No

*Lisa K. Friedman is an award-winning essayist, author, and educator*



whose work appears in newspapers and magazines including the New York Times, Smithsonian, and the Huffington Post where she maintained a humor column for more than two years. She holds a MA in fiction from the Johns Hopkins University Graduate Program and a BA in American literature from George Washington University. Lisa also teaches creative writing and mentors professional and beginning writers in the art of fiction.

## 630: *Nicholas Nickleby* by Charles Dickens: Three Views

LAWRENCE BACHORIK

LINDA COLEMAN

LINDA FREEMAN

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

March 02

Online

Three retired professors take on Dickens' most joyous comic novel, bringing their expertise to bear on its plot, set pieces, characters, and meaning. As a specialist in Victorian literature, Linda Freeman will guide us through the text and provide the necessary background for understanding the literature and culture of the time. With his experience in evaluating the ways Shakespeare's works were transformed for a later age, Larry Bachorik will help us explore how Dickens drew on Shakespeare and theatrical traditions in this novel. Linda Coleman will examine the ways Dickens uses language to engage readers by directing their attention and drawing upon their cultural knowledge to add depth and color to the story he is telling. Class members will be equipped to follow Dickens' development as an artist along with this, his first attempt to treat realistically the serious consequences of a bad childhood. In the process they will have the fun of reading and being entertained by what is also the most theatrical of Dickens' early novels. ***This study group has a high class size capacity.***

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

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

**Recorded:** Yes

**Lawrence Bachorik** earned his PhD in English from McGill, taught at Georgetown, George Washington, and George Mason Universities, and later joined the US FDA, where he led a good writing initiative, wrote speeches for commissioners, and directed media and public affairs.

**Linda Coleman** earned her PhD in linguistics from UC Berkeley and recently retired from the University of Maryland, where she taught the history and structure of English, discourse analysis, rhetoric, and the language of literature and culture; her work in this course examines how our assumptions shape—and sometimes mislead—our readings of Victorian texts.

**Linda Freeman** holds degrees from Wellesley and the University of Maryland, completing her master's and PhD at age 60; she taught at Maryland for 15 years and has also taught for Smithsonian Associates,

Montgomery College, and OLLI, where she has created new courses annually since 1999.

## 631: Understanding Families Through Plays

KAREN GAIL LEWIS

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

March 02

In-Person

Participants will read four plays. We start with *Familiar*, by Danai Gurira, about a multi-generational Zimbabwean-American Then, we read *Another Part of the Forest* by Lillian Hellman. Our third are the last two of Tom Dudzick's trilogy: *King O' The Moon* and *The Last Mass at St. Casimir's*. We'll end with *The Remains* about a married gay couple and one set of in-laws. 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. Order plays early.

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.

## 639: Celebrating the Art and Words of Picture Books

KAREN BUGLASS

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

March 05

Online

You're never too old to enjoy the masterful artwork, prose, and poetry offered by children's picture books. The course springs from an appreciation of illustrations that can stand alone as museum-worthy art. At the same time thematic content and beautifully written text reach adult audiences on many levels. Together we'll read both fiction and non-fiction titles and get to know artists and authors along the way.

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Appreciation

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Karen Buglass** is an award-winning elementary educator inspired by children's literature. She's taught Appalachian dulcimer here at OLLI and has begun dabbling in collage and needle felting.



## 644: The Poetry of T.S. Eliot: “Ash Wednesday” and “Four Quartets”

**JESSE DRAPER**

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

**March 02**

**In-Person**

After T.S. Eliot’s 1927 conversion to “Anglo-Catholicism,” the nature of his poetry changed. The usually bleak and empty vision of modern life that characterized “The Waste Land” and his other earlier poetry yielded to a vision that included the possibility of redemption. Instead of references to particular events and quotations from Western (and Eastern) life, the poetry features philosophical meditations often focused on time and eternity. This course will cover “Ash Wednesday” and the “Four Quartets,” which Eliot considered his finest poetry. We will consider aspects of Eliot’s personal life and religious philosophy, but the focus will be on reading and understanding individual poems.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** More than 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 third OLLI course.*

## 646: Poetry Craftshop: Dreams and Elegies (Section A)

**JENNY PIERSON**

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

**March 03**

**In-Person**

For devoted students of poetry who wish to be challenged by a generative workshop that uses, as models, the haunting lyrics of the late Saskia Hamilton and the new work by Nigerian-born poet and Director of the Furious Flower Poetry Collective, Gbenga Adesina. These are two distinct poets who will widen our perceptions of the breadth and limitations of what makes a poem. Each week, assignments will require readings, a deep thoughtfulness, and a newly crafted poem based on specific prompts. Your poems will be shared aloud in every class and critiqued and returned the following week. **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: Poetry Craftshop: Dreams and Elegies (Section B)

**JENNY PIERSON**

**Ten Wednesdays (12:45 PM - 3:00 PM)**

**March 04**

**In-Person**

For devoted students of poetry who wish to be challenged by a generative workshop that uses, as models, the haunting lyrics of the late Saskia Hamilton and the new work by Nigerian-born poet and Director of the Furious Flower Poetry Collective, Gbenga Adesina. These are two distinct poets who will widen our perceptions of the breadth and limitations of what makes a poem. Each week, assignments will require readings, a deep thoughtfulness, and a newly crafted poem based on specific prompts. Your poems will be shared aloud in every class and critiqued and returned the following week. **This study group meets on Wednesdays from 12:45 to 3:00 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.*

## 649: The Trojan War in Story and History

**ROBERT CROOG**

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

**March 02**

**In-Person**

The siege and fall of Troy had a monumental influence on the Ancient World. It disrupted the existing order and gave birth to some of the earliest works of Western literature. Over 3,000 years later its poetry, history, and archaeology continue to be studied and interpreted. This course will examine the rich tapestry of fact and legend surrounding the Trojan War, from its initial causes through its eventful aftermath. Along the way, we will view many works of art inspired by the War and its various episodes. Two classes will be spent reviewing *The Iliad*, and I’ll be reading excerpts from Emily Wilson’s 2023 translation. While not required, some may want to read that translation or some other (e.g., Richmond Lattimore or Robert Flagles) to fully appreciate Homer’s epic retelling of the war’s turning point.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture

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

**Recorded:** Yes

**Robert Croog** received a BA from Harvard and a JD from Columbia. He is a retired intellectual property lawyer and former professor of communication, writing, media law, and ethics. At OLLI he has taught courses on skepticism and truth denial, war and morality, the underworld, the Trickster, and mother goddesses.

## 653: Eugene Onegin: Alexander Pushkin's Singular Novel in Verse

**ROBERTA RUBENSTEIN**

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

**March 05**

**In-Person**

Alexander Pushkin's classic novel, *Eugene Onegin*, written between 1823 and 1831 and published serially, differs from nearly all other novels because it is a narrative expressed in verse form. The author, who also published traditional prose stories and tales as well as poetry, created the sonnet form, later termed the Onegin stanza, that is unique to this text. He masterfully deploys it to develop elements that are typically regarded as novelistic: fully-realized characters, convincing dialogue, unforeseen plot twists, psychological complexity, moral depth, and emotional authenticity. Readers who might avoid a novel in verse would miss the encounter with a literary masterpiece by the revered Russian writer who penned this founding work of Russian literature. Spoiler alert: To experience the full impact of Pushkin's masterful storytelling, I implore study group participants not to read synopses of the novel prior to your own reading of it. This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

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

**Recorded:** Yes

**Roberta Rubenstein**, Professor Emerita of Literature at American University, received her BA in English Literature from the University of Colorado and her PhD from the University of London with her dissertation, *Virginia Woolf's Response to Russian Literature*. During her 50-plus years in AU's Department of Literature, she taught courses on Virginia Woolf, Modernist fiction, contemporary women's fiction, feminist theory, Russian literature in translation, and other topics. Her publications include five books and numerous essays and book chapters on modern and contemporary writers.

## 655: Modern Fiction

**RONALD PARLATO**

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

**March 05**

**In-Person**

This course will be a selection of ten of the most interesting and influential books of modern fiction selected by the instructor. There is no unifying theme to the novels other than they are among the authors' best and most well-known works. In a more personal way they reflect the taste and preference of the instructor, a longtime

student and teacher of literature. Each of the novels selected is unique in its depth of characterization, plot, atmosphere, theme, and philosophy; and as importantly is an example of serious creative writing which has attracted a large audience because of its universal themes, compelling storytelling, and interior drama.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

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

**Recorded:** Yes

**Ronald Parlato** has taught literature at OLLI for more than ten years, offering courses on writers such as Shakespeare, Hawthorne, Ibsen, Chekhov, Dostoevsky, Conrad, Greene, and Lawrence. He holds an AB in English and French literature from Yale. After graduate school, he worked as an international development consultant for the World Bank, the United Nations, the US government, and private firms, traveling to more than 60 countries and studying ten languages, seven of which he speaks fluently. He also writes a daily blog on politics, political philosophy, and culture.

## 656: Writing Love, Grief, Madness: A Wuthering Heights Case Study

**REBECCA FAYE**

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

**March 04**

**Online**

Anchored by the gothic intensity of *Wuthering Heights* (Bronte, 1847; feature film released 2/13/2025), this course traverses the wild moors of human emotion, examining how literature captures the extremities of love, madness, and loss. We will place Brontë's prose in conversation with a curated selection of poetry spanning from the abstractions of Emily Dickinson, to the contemporary intimacy of Ada Limón, to the natural observations of Mary Oliver and John Updike. Designed as a hybrid generative workshop, the class encourages students to channel these literary influences into their own original work. Over the course of the term, students will draft, critique, and polish either four distinct poems (verse or prose) or a single longer short story/eulogy suitable for memoir or publication, finding their own voice amidst the echoes of literary giants.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

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

**Recorded:** No

**Rebecca Faye** has been teaching creative writing and English composition for two decades. She has served as an editor for a variety of regional and institutional literary magazines, and contributes to poetry performance events on the East Coast. She is currently researching the rise of female illustrators at the beginning of the 20th century, particularly in the realm of children's books.

## 657: The Bronte Sisters

**LESLIE FRANTZ**

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

**March 03**

**In-Person**

The Bronte sisters created quite a stir when they burst on the scene in the 1840s. 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.*

## 668: Fiction Writers' Bootcamp

**SOPHIA NASH**

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

**March 03**

**In-Person**

Jumpstart your book project by delving into plot structure, the inner and outer journey, character development and growth arcs, the geometry of storytelling, world-building, creating a scene, high concept stories, theme, voice, tone, genre, narrator types, point of view tips, the writer's toolbox, and much more. We will also discuss insider secrets to getting published by traditional NYC publishing houses, working with an agent, and self-publishing. This ten-week workshop will challenge both novices and pros alike to reexamine their ideas on how to write a bestseller.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** No

*Sophia Nash is the award-winning author of 13 novels published by Penguin Random House and Morrow/HarperCollins, earning 17 national awards, including the RITA, and two spots on ALA's Booklist "Top Ten of the Year." Her work has been translated into a dozen languages, and her most recent novel, *Whispering in French*, received a starred Booklist review. A former CBS and international television producer, she also served as a congressional speechwriter, USIA/State*

*Department liaison, and CEO of a nonprofit Olympic-qualifier event. Born in Switzerland, she is a dual US–French citizen.*

## 671: It's Plato's World, We Just Think in It

**ANDREW WHITE**

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

**March 05**

**Online**

This semester, OLLI regular Andy White shifts gears to consider the thought and legacy of one of philosophy's founding fathers. Beginning with the context of Athens' Golden Age, we will do a careful reading of Plato's work, in particular *The Republic*, with additional readings from his times. The goal will be to reconsider Plato's career, his brief flirtation with tyranny in Syracuse, and the impact his thought has had on political movements down through the ages. (And yeah, Aristophanes' *Clouds* may figure here as well) 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 Thursdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)**

**March 05**

**Online**

This course explores the human life cycle from a broad range of poetic perspectives, from William Blake (perceiving children as both innocent and vulnerable), to Philip Larkin (envying modern teens' sexual freedom), Audre Lorde (capturing adolescent angst), and Donald Hall (celebrating the self-knowledge and creativity possible with age). Other likeliest: Carol Ann Duffy, Czeslaw Milosz, Tracy K. Smith, Adrienne Rich, Seamus Heaney, Marie Howe, Robert Hayden, Sylvia Plath, Elizabeth Acevedo... and more. Supporting material includes sociological models of human development (especially that of Erik Erikson) that can echo or challenge poetic versions. Personal responses are welcome, and no previous poetic expertise is necessary. Our goal is lively discussion with room for many points of view, rather than one authoritative interpretation.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Claire Pettengill retired from teaching Upper School literature and history and chairing the Humanities Department at Maret School. A fan*



of poetry from a young age, she feels fortunate to have found at OLLI people eager to participate in wide-ranging discussions about poetry.

## 677: Exploring the Aphorism

**BRAD SHINGLETON**

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

**March 03**

**In-Person**

The shortest literary form, the aphorism has been defined as a “short saying that requires interpretation.” (Andrew Hui), as “a short sentence drawn from long experience” (Cervantes), and as the “last link in a long chain of thought” (Ebner-Eschenbach). We will survey the history of the aphorism from ancient times to the present by discussing some of the famous and less famous aphorists. We will also consider some of the literary theories defining the aphorism and distinguishing it from other short forms: the maxim, adage, proverb, and epigram. Each class will consist of a brief lecture and (mostly) of class discussions of aphorisms suggested (or perhaps written) by class members.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

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

**Recorded:** No

*Brad Shingleton is a retired attorney who has collected aphorisms over the past 50 years, and who has written a few hundred of them himself.*

## 682: Contemporary Jewish Short Stories in Context

**DAVID POMERANTZ**

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

**March 04**

**In-Person**

Each week for the first six sessions, we will read and discuss two short stories: one written by a Jewish-American author paired with another story on a similar theme written by an American who is not Jewish. For the last three sessions, we will discuss an Israeli novel by Eshkol Levi. Our short story authors include Grace Paley, Tim Gautreaux, Raymond Carver, Nathan Englander, Julie Orringer, Ken Liu, Shalom Auslander, Brit Bennett, Elizabeth Edelglass, and Edith Pearlman.

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Discussion

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

**Recorded:** Yes

*David Pomerantz taught political philosophy at SUNY Stony Brook then moved to DC to begin a long career as a staffer on the House Rules Committee and the House Appropriations Committee. He enjoys reading and discussing short stories.*

## 689: Collaborative Fiction Workshop

**MARSHALL PRESSER**

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

**March 06**

**In-Person**

Collaborative fiction is an activity in which a group of authors share the shaping, writing and production of work of fiction. 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 a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Discussion

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

**Recorded:** Yes

*Marshall Presser has written technical material collaboratively and worked on a collaborative fiction piece in the fall semester version of this course.*

## 690: Sensation and Gothic Novels, Then and Now

**ELLEN MOODY**

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

**March 03**

**Online**

This course will explore three classic and modern works of gothic fiction: *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins, *The Strange Case of Jekyll and Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson, and *Mary Reilly* by Valerie Martin—a novella that retells Stevenson's story from the perspective of a maid working in the household. Participants will examine the defining characteristics of sensation and gothic novels, considering where the genres overlap and how they differ. Participants will be asked to view the BBC's 2018 five-part adaptation of *The Woman in White*, featuring Jessie Buckley, and Stephen Frears's 1996 film *Mary Reilly*, starring John Malkovich and Julia Roberts.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Ellen Moody has been teaching since 1972, first at senior colleges, and for the past 11 years, at two OLLIs. She holds a PhD in British literature and is a published scholar specializing in 18th- through 20th-century literature, women's literature, the gothic, and film adaptation.*

## 696: We the Paranoid

**PETER STARR**

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

**March 04**

**In-Person**

Conspiracy theories have haunted the American experiment from pre-Revolutionary times to the present. This study group will examine what Richard Hofstadter famously called “the paranoid style” in American culture from the 1960s to 2026, with special attention to the pleasures many take in narratives of conspiracy—be they in novels, films, or internet postings. What drives conspiracy narratives around the JFK assassination, the events of 9/11, human trafficking, and corporate malfeasance, and how have those narratives evolved over time? How might we best (if so warranted) move beyond conspiracism? Prep work will involve reading short essays, screening several streamable films and TV shows, and reading one novel. 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 two print monographs and an online, multimedia project on the topic of this study group, he currently blogs on wisdom and culture at WisCult.com.*

## 700 HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

### Human Evolutionary Development and Prehistoric Rock Art

**AHMED ACHRATI**

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

**March 03**

**In-Person**

For study group description and Study Group Leader's bio, see 477.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

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

### Cities That Created the American Sound

**OLLI COORDINATOR: LARRY GONDELMAN**

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

**March 05**

**Online**

For study group description and Study Group Leader's bio, see 508.

**Class Format:** Appreciation

**Reading:** No required reading.

## 701: Revolution and the Meaning of Liberty: Two Case Studies

**MARY MULLIGAN**

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

**March 05**

**In-Person**

This study group will focus on two revolutions, 150 years apart, the American Revolution and the 1917 Russian Revolution. Despite profound differences in context and ideology both events give insight into the processes of social and political change and the ideas fundamental to that change. To prepare for each meeting participants will read assigned sections of Gordon Wood's *The American Revolution: A History* and Orlando Figes's *Revolutionary Russia, 1881-1991*. These two classic histories will give us a narrative for framing the discussion.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 2 hrs/week.

**Recorded:** No

*With undergraduate and graduate degrees in history and a law degree, Mary Mulligan spent three decades teaching American and European history at Phillips Academy in Andover, MA. She has been an SGL at OLLI since 2023 and a participant in several study groups.*

## 707: The Rise and Fall of Napoleon Bonaparte

**DAVID COFFMAN**

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

**March 05**

**In-Person**

This course covers the life of Napoleon Bonaparte, who prior to his defeat and exile, rose from modest circumstances in Corsica to rule France from 1799 to 1815 and build a European empire ranging from Spain to Poland. Particular emphasis is placed on the question of whether Napoleon bore primary responsibility for the ruinous wars that marked his reign or whether those wars were the fault of European monarchs who had continually fought the French republic before he became ruler. The course covers his formative influences, military campaigns, seizure of power, reforms of French and European institutions, and downfall and legacy.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

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

**Recorded:** Yes

*David Coffman is a retired federal administrative law judge with a life-long interest in European history. He is a graduate of Southern Methodist University, where he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, and of Harvard Law School. David served in the US Army where he attained the rank of first lieutenant and received a Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster for meritorious service as Commander of a detachment of Army correspondents in Vietnam.*



## 712: Nonviolent Resistance: Gandhi, King, Chavez, Tutu and Now

**ELIZABETH KING**

**LEONARD KING**

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

**March 06**

**In-Person**

"As long as people accept exploitation, exploiter and exploited will be entangled in injustice. But once the exploited refused to accept the relationship, refused to cooperate with it, they are already free."

- Gandhi. Throughout history there have been powerful examples of social and political change brought about through the power of nonviolence. The purpose of this course is to explore together the power of nonviolence to create peace through our study of its philosophy, historical examples (Gandhi, The Civil Rights Movement, Cesar Chavez, South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission), personal experiences, and present resistance to authoritarianism. Some reading and viewing will be required.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

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

**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.*

## 716: Assassinations!

**BILL WOODWARD**

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

**March 03**

**In-Person**

To be clear, this is not a "how-to" course. Instead, we will examine the "whys" of ten historically significant assassinations from the ill-advised butchery of Julius Caesar to the tragic demise of Yitzhak Rabin, immersing ourselves en route in Civil War America (Lincoln), turn-of-the-century Balkan conspiracies (Archduke Ferdinand), fascist horror (Heydrich), Cold War skullduggery (Lumumba), and the New Frontier (JFK). We will study, as well, the fates of two extraordinary men (Gandhi, King) whose commitment to nonviolence offers an enduring contrast to the ugly forces undermining political civility in our day. Promised: high drama, interconnecting themes, film clips, quizzes, and time for discussion. This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Bill Woodward is a retired writer whose employers included two members of the US Congress, two American secretaries of state, and a*

*losing presidential candidate. In addition to his writing, he provided each of these luminaries with rarely-heeded advice. He has led two courses at OLLI, one on pivotal presidential elections, the other on fascism.*

## 719: The American Revolution: An Intellectual and Social History

**TOMMY LAMONT**

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

**March 02**

**In-Person**

This course approaches the American Revolution from a modern, less traditional perspective. Rather than centering on the period's familiar military history, we will look at how people in Britain's North American colonies absorbed and shaped new ideas about liberty, equality, and identity. These ideas, and the social, economic, and cultural shifts they fueled, may have been even more transformative than the establishment of a new government in the late 18th century.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Tommy Lamont taught US and Eurasian history for nearly four decades at several of North America's leading independent boarding schools. She holds a master's degree from the University of Oxford, where she focused on colonial North America and the American Revolution within the broader British Empire and Atlantic world. Her deep understanding of the Revolution was further shaped by years of teaching and living in New England. Tommy looks forward to offering this course and hopes it will broaden and enrich participants' understanding of this pivotal period in modern history.*

## 721: 1938–1954: Dynamic Years of Change for Americans

**DONALD STANTON**

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

**March 03**

**In-Person**

During the years 1938–1954, the United States changed dramatically from being a neutral country which had to prepare rapidly for WWII, to becoming the superpower leader of the free world. We will cover and discuss how Americans weathered recessions, mobilized for WWII, and reset after the war. Big changes included military conscription, the GI Bill, Civil Rights, the "Baby Boom," and the growth of the suburbs. After the war as the superpower leader, the US created the United Nations, the Marshall Plan, and NATO to contain communism. We will discuss three presidents and their policies, the growth of conservative and liberal groups, anti-communist initiatives, the HUAC hearings, and what life was like in America.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Don Stanton** was commissioned at Cornell Naval ROTC, served on ships off Vietnam, and flew as a Navy Patrol Plane Commander and pilot for three airlines. He was a Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Chair of the Colorado Transportation Commission, and serves on the Maryland Aviation Commission. Don taught AP Political Science courses in urban high schools for the University of Colorado-Denver and International Relations for NOVA Community College-Alexandria. He holds an MA in national security studies from Georgetown University and wrote *Looking Back at the Cold War: 30 Veterans and a Patrol Plane Commander Remember*.

## 724: Manifest Destiny and US Territorial Expansion: From 13 Colonies to a Global Power

**JOE BELDEN**

**XENIA WILKINSON**

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

**March 05**

**In-Person**

This study group examines Manifest Destiny—the 19th-century belief that the United States was meant to expand across the continent. We will look at how this idea shaped events such as the Louisiana Purchase, the annexation of Texas, US conflicts with Canada and Mexico, the forced removal of Indigenous nations, and the annexation of Hawaii. We will also explore how territorial expansion intensified debates over slavery. Key figures include Presidents Jefferson, Tyler, Polk, and McKinley, along with Henry Clay and Congressman Abraham Lincoln. The course concludes with a look at the modern resurgence of Manifest Destiny.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Joe Belden** has taught several OLLI courses, including on the US-Mexican War and Manifest Destiny. He worked in Washington, DC, for nonprofit organizations and government and continues to write and consult. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and Baylor University Law School.

**Xenia Wilkinson** served in the Foreign Service with posts in Mexico, Brazil, Honduras, and the US Mission to the OAS, focusing on Latin America. After retiring, she earned a PhD in Latin American history from Georgetown University, where she recently taught a survey course. She has led OLLI study groups on Mexico and Amazonia and has co-led courses with Joe Belden on *Manifest Destiny and the Mexican-American War*.

## 727: Washington's Soldiers—How They Fought, Lived, and Forged American Values & Beliefs

**ROBERT RICHARDSON**

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

**March 04**

**In-Person**

This course explores who Washington soldiers were and how they lived and fought during the Revolution. It provides insight into the origins of what we now call “American values and beliefs.” Many of their stories come from their own words and are gleaned from journals they kept. Some were told to post-war officials, their ministers during the war, or to medical personnel who marched and sometimes fought along with them. The emphasis is not on dates and battlefield strategy, but on how Americans thought, what influenced them, how they fought, how they survived or not, and where we see their influence in our values and beliefs today. The course uses multiple video clips and personal case-studies throughout.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Rob Richardson** is a retired educator who recently led week-long tours of Washington, DC that prepared high school students to examine the origins and scope of American values. For six years, he was a docent at the American Revolution Institute at the Society of the Cincinnati. Previously, Rob was an education policy consultant and the East Coast Education Manager for the Intel Foundation funding K-12 STEM education programs. Before that, he launched and managed a regional education center in Massachusetts for teachers and students and was an Adjunct Professor at Worcester State College. Rob has a BA from Tufts University and an MEd from Harvard University.

## 739: Late Imperial China and the 20th-Century Revolutions

**HOWARD SPENDELOW**

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

**March 04**

**In-Person**

This course begins with the emergence of the Ming Dynasty out of the 14th-century collapse of Mongol overlordship, continues through the conquest of China by the Manchu/Qing Dynasty, and concludes with efforts to build a “new China” that could survive/thrive in the 20th century. Topics will include the Ming voyages to Africa and later involvement with European trade, problems of autocratic governance, the Manchus’ doubling of China’s territory, issues related to political domination by an ethnic minority, the “Century of Humiliation” (1842–1949), and the aftermath of the imperial system’s abolition in 1912.

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 and an MA in Chinese regional studies from Oberlin College, as well as 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, also chaired the Advanced Area Studies Seminar on China at the State Department's Foreign Service Institute.

## 740: Japan's "Modern" Century

**HOWARD SPENDELOW**

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

**March 04**

**In-Person**

This course focuses on Japan's modern history, although it starts and ends with American interventions: Admiral Perry's 1853 "opening" of Japan after a quarter-millennium of self-imposed isolation, and then the 1952 end of US occupation. In between, we'll cover Japan's aggressive efforts at 19th-century "modernization" on "Western" models, the establishment of a colonial empire, democratization in the early 20th century followed by domination by the military, the road to the Pacific war, defeat in 1945, and the post-war recovery.

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 and an MA in Chinese regional studies from Oberlin College, as well as 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, also chaired the Advanced Area Studies Seminar on China at the State Department's Foreign Service Institute.

## 744: Nuremberg: The Trial and The Legacy

**EDWARD FEINBERG**

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

**March 03**

**In-Person**

The Nuremberg Trials were designed to bring Nazi leaders to justice for mass murder and other heinous crimes. This study group explores the work and outcome of the trials and long-term impact. The study group will begin with a presentation on how the allies [the US, Great Britain, France, the Soviet Union] determined the format and procedures for the tribunal and how Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson was chosen to lead the American prosecution. The sessions then focus on the idea of "just following orders," the Nuremberg Code and new principles of international law. It will also address the aftermath in both Germany and the US, obedience to authority,

the role of bystanders and complicators, the phenomenon of moral disengagement and the relevance of Nuremberg to contemporary conflicts. The study group will provide ongoing opportunities for discussion and reflection.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Ed Feinberg**, PhD has previously served as the OLLI study group leader for "Survivors and Descendants of the Holocaust." A retired psychologist, he provided clinical services to children and families. He has been adjunct faculty at several area colleges and universities. Ed has been an active OLLI member for eight years. He has been assisted in the development of this course by Jacob Phillips, a staff member at a DC-based human rights organization.

## 761: The Age of Hitler and Stalin: The Failed Peace and the Road to World War II

**STEVEN KRAMER**

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

**March 02**

**In-Person**

World War I was supposed to be the "war to end all wars." Instead, it led the way to another world war only a generation later. The Great War destroyed much of the old order in Europe, splintered ancient empires, and undermined what had been a thriving European economy. In their place emerged totalitarian political movements like Fascism, Nazism, and Stalinism. Status quo powers Britain and France responded with appeasement that encouraged aggression and made a new war inevitable. Only American and Soviet intervention led to Axis defeat but they guaranteed that postwar Europe would be dominated by Russia and the United States. The age of European global dominance came to an end.

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). In fall of 2025, he taught "Does Europe have a Future" at OLLI.



## 768: The Trump Corollary, American Imperialism, and the Robotization of Warfare

**PETER WILSON**

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

**March 02**

**Online**

This course examines the Trump administration's 2025 national security strategy and its break from the post-WWII consensus that positioned the United States as a protector of democratic allies. Instead, the administration advances a 19th-century-style approach focused on Western Hemisphere dominance, resource control abroad, and a national agenda shaped by Christian nationalism, with traditional alliances like NATO taking a secondary role. The course also considers how rapid advances in robotized warfare—accelerated by recent conflicts—are reshaping global security. Peter Wilson will explore the domestic and international implications of these shifts. This study group is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

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

**Recorded:** Yes

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

## 770: A Brief History of Washington, DC

**ROBERT SOMERS**

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

**March 06**

**In-Person**

Born out of compromise, Washington, DC, was envisioned as a grand capital city and commercial center for the new American republic. Burned by the British in 1814, bitterly divided by the Civil War, and overshadowed by larger cities, Washington gradually began to come into its own by the turn of the 20th century. The city remains a work in progress as it deals with its unique political status and serves as the center stage for American history. This study group will highlight the history of the city, from its visionary origins to its current dual status as the capital of the free world and a place that more than half a million people call home.

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Lecture

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

*Robert Somers is a retired Federal government attorney and has been a licensed Washington, DC tour guide since 1989. He is a history buff and has been a docent with the Historical Society of Washington, DC, the National Building Museum, and the National Park Service.*

## 773: Battleships: From the Merrimack to the Missouri

**BUCK BEASOM**

**Four Thursdays (10:00 AM - 12:00 PM)**

**March 05**

**Online**

In less than a century, the age of big, fast, metal ships with powerful guns was born in the waters of Hampton Roads, Virginia and ended at Pearl Harbor. This course examines the technological revolution that brought these giant machines into being, the heroics and follies of the people who built, sailed in, and commanded them, and how fleets became symbols of national pride and prestige, draining their treasuries in the process. We'll examine how naval actions from China to the Philippines and from Cuba to Egypt threatened established empires and gave rise to new ones. We'll also explore the naval battles of the First and early Second World Wars, which marked the eclipse of the battleship as advancing technology left it behind. **This study group meets for two hours from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM.**

***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

*Buck Beasom teaches courses for OLLI chapters across the country. He had a dual-track career including four decades in data management and applications development while also teaching courses in business, accounting, and economics. He also spent five years teaching history at the middle and high school levels. He holds a BS in management science, with additional majors in history and economics, and an MBA in accounting.*

## 777: Reviewing The Rise and Fall of HUD on its 60th Anniversary, Now in the AI Era

**KENT WATKINS**

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

**March 03**

**Online**

September 9, 1965, marked the creation of a new cabinet department within the Federal government—Housing and Urban Development. As the nation turned the corner on its first urban majority population, it would seem as if this were a timely and necessary step in policy-making for the cities and communities that included this cohort. This course will trace the agency's labored birth, based on the study group leader's new book, and examine how its early days transitioned into the situation we have today. It will cover the various issues and challenges that HUD faced under 19 secretaries, while also considering comparative models, and how AI will impact the department. Guest experts will enrich this conversation.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Kent Watkins** has spent six decades in urban policy and development, working with every HUD Secretary since the department's founding. His career includes senior roles at HUD and Westinghouse and the founding of a consulting firm that has served more than 600 cities worldwide. As Founder and Chairman of the American Academy of Housing and Communities, he has promoted innovation in urban governance, including AI and smart-city technologies. Educated at William & Mary, Harvard, Oxford, Cambridge, and the University of London, he has taught OLLI courses on world cities, climate policy, Hamilton, memoir writing, and AI.

## 778: Character is Destiny: The Lincoln Factor in American History

**JOE SIMPSON**

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

**March 02**

**Online**

Abraham Lincoln transformed a slave republic into a new nation that guaranteed every American freedom, citizenship, and the right to vote. This course will focus on Lincoln's essential characteristics and his everlasting words and deeds that propelled him to greatness. We will review Lincoln's early life in the western frontier, his political rise, and opposition to the expansion of slavery. The Lincoln-Douglas debates and the 1860 election and southern secession will be reviewed as well. President Lincoln's remarkable leadership during the Civil War is highlighted during the concluding lectures. 165 years after his death, Abraham Lincoln's moral certainty and his prescient truths remain relevant today. ***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

**Joe Simpson** has a BA in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has researched Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War era for more than 30 years and has taught a course on Lincoln at multiple OLLI programs. Joe is a member of the Lincoln Forum, Gilder Lehrman Institute, and the Abraham Lincoln Association.

## 780: The Jews of Spain

**JEFFREY GORSKY**

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

**March 04**

**In-Person**

Using the book, *Exiles in Sepharad*, the group will study the 1,000-year history of Jews in Spain from the Visigoth era and Muslim

Spain, to the Spanish Inquisition and the Expulsion of 1492, and the aftermath in Portugal, Holland, and the New World. We also will study significant works in religion, literature, science, and philosophy, including poets, the great Jewish philosopher, Moses Maimonides, and Moses de Leon, author of *The Zohar*, the core text of the Kabbalah.

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Lecture

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

**Recorded:** Yes

**Jeffrey Gorsky** is retired from the Department of State, where he worked as Vice-Consul in Bilbao, Spain, and as an Iberian Intelligence Analyst. He was Senior Counsel for a law firm that is nationally recognized in immigration law. He is the author of *Exiles in Sepharad: The Jewish Millennium in Spain*. He has taught this course at OLLI and Encore Learning Arlington, and has also taught courses on film and music.

## 785: Did the 1920s Roar?

**TAMARA BELDEN**

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

**March 03**

**In-Person**

This course will cover the 1920s, a time of sweeping change. There were the light and positive notes of jazz, flappers, the Charleston, Babe Ruth, Charles Lindbergh, and women gaining the vote. At the same time, there was a dark underbelly of racism, xenophobia, and hate. The "First Red Scare" convinced many that immigrants brought disease, filth, and crime. Prohibition came with the rise of organized crime. The Tulsa Massacre, the Immigration Act of 1924, and the rise of the Klan all laid bare our often violent divisions. The decade then ended with the Wall Street crash. We will cover the decade in depth and learn about the forces which divided the nation.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

**Recorded:** Yes

**Tammy Belden** received her bachelor's degree from Tulane University and went to graduate school for cultural anthropology at the University of Texas-Austin. She worked at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC for 30 years and, since retiring, has lectured and given guided tours of the DC area speaking on a variety of topics in American history.



# 800 PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

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## The Impact of World War I on Western Culture and the Western Worldview

**CHARLES O'CONNOR**

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

**March 05**

**In-Person**

For study group description and Study Group Leader's bio, see 260.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

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

## Improving Brain Function by Building a Cognitive Reserve: An Interactive Approach Emphasizing Social Interaction, Humor, and Improv

**JILL CAPORALE**

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

**March 05**

**In-Person**

For study group description and Study Group Leader's bio, see 412.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading.

## The Jews of Spain

**JEFFREY GORSKY**

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

**March 04**

**In-Person**

For study group description and Study Group Leader's bio, see 780.

**Class Format:** Lecture

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

## 805: Meditation Class

**JOSEPH REO**

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

**March 02**

**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 - 10:45 AM)**

**March 06**

**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.*

## 831: Mastering Skills of Mindfulness Meditation

**JEFFREY DROBIS**

**SUSAN DROBIS**

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

**March 04**

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

**March 02**

**Online**

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.*

## 860: Husserl and Heidegger

**DON ROSS**

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

**March 06**

**In-Person**

This is a course on phenomenology. It will focus on its two principal 20th-century exponents—Husserl and Heidegger.

This study group is new.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 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: Aristotle's Physics, Ethics, and Politics

**DON ROSS**

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

**March 06**

**In-Person**

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

This study group is a repeat.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 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.*

# SPRING ASSIGNED BOOKS

#	Study Group	Book Title	Author	ISBN	Publisher	Notes
102	The Constitution and Equality	<i>With Liberty and Justice for All?: The Constitution in the Classroom</i>	Steven A. Steinbach, Maeva Marcus, Robert Cohen (eds.)	978-0197516300	Oxford University Press	Required
180	Today's Supreme Court: A Course for Citizens	<i>The U.S. Supreme Court: A Very Short Introduction (3rd Edition)</i>	Linda Greenhouse	978-0197689462	Oxford University Press	Recommended
200	Practicum on Productive Conflict Engagement	<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
260	The Impact of World War I on Western Culture and the Western Worldview	<i>The Great War and the Death of God: Cultural Breakdown, Retreat from Reason, and Rise of Neo-Darwinian Materialism in the Aftermath of World War I</i>	Charles A. O'Connor	978-0989916998	New Academia Publishing	Required
292	How to Live Healthier, Happier, and Longer in Retirement and Before: Eight Essential Pillars	<i>How to Live Healthier, Happier &amp; Longer in Retirement -8 Essential Pillars</i>	Brad Bickford	978-1667888613	BookBaby	Recommended
426	The Human Brain	<i>Neuroscience for Dummies 3rd Edition</i>	Frank Amthor	978-1394171217	For Dummies	Recommended
477	Human Evolutionary Development and Prehistoric Rock Art	<i>Rock Art of the Qsur and Amour Mountains, Algeria: A Cognitive Approach and An Anthropology of the Qurân</i>	Ahmed Achrafi	978-1527592131	Cambridge Scholar Publishing	Recommended
492	RNA: The Versatile and Indispensable Molecule	<i>The Catalyst: RNA and the Quest to Unlock Life's Deepest Secrets</i>	Thomas R. Cech	978-1324050681	W.W. Norton & Company	Recommended
499	Immunotherapy: Harnessing the Immune System in Cancer and Autoimmune Disease	<i>Immune: A Journey into the Mysterious System that Keeps You Alive</i>	Philipp Dettmer	978-0593241318	Random House	Recommended
		<i>Basic Immunology: Functions and Disorders of the Immune System (7th Edition)</i>	Abul K. Abbas et. al	978-0443105197	Elsevier	Recommended
572	The Printed Book	<i>The Book-Makers: A History of the Book in Eighteen Lives</i>	Adam Smyth	978-1541605640	Basic Books	Recommended
601	Conversation Avancée	<i>Vocabulaire progressif du français. Niveau perfectionnement C1C2</i>	Claire Miquel	978-2090384536	CLE INTERNAT	Required
608	Beginning Spanish, Part 2: Culture in Context & Conversation	<i>Encuentros 1: Comunicación y Cultura</i>	Jose A. Blanco	978-1543346213	Vista Higher Learning	Required

#	Study Group	Book Title	Author	ISBN	Publisher	Notes
610	Intermediate Italian	<i>Italian Short Stories for Beginners Volume 2</i>	Lingo Mastery	978-1951949181	Lingo Mastery	Required
		<i>Primiraconti Undici Racconti</i>	Marco Dominici	978-9606632341	Edilingua Pantelis Marin	Required
611	Reading Sanskrit	<i>Sanskrit Manual: A Quick-reference Guide to the Phonology and Grammar of Classical Sanskrit</i>	Roderick S. Buckness	978-9359038001	Motilal, Banarsidass	Required
		<i>The Bhagavad Gita</i>	Winthrop Sargeant (Translator), Christopher Key Chapple (Editor)	978-1438428420	State University of New York Press	Required
630	<i>Nicholas Nickleby</i> by Charles Dickens: Three Views	<i>Nicholas Nickleby</i>	Charles Dickens, Mark Ford (Editor)	978-0140435122	Penguin Classics	Recommended
644	The Poetry of T.S. Eliot: "Ash Wednesday" and "Four Quartets"	<i>The Complete Poems and Plays, 1909-1950</i>	T.S. Eliot	978-0151211852	Harcourt Brace & Company	Recommended
646	Poetry Craftshop: Dreams and Elegies (Section A)	<i>Death Does Not End At The Sea</i>	Gbenga Adesina	978-1496244772	University of Nebraska Press	Required
		<i>As For Dream</i>	Saskia Hamilton	978-1555973162	Graywolf Press	Required
		<i>All Souls</i>	Saskia Hamilton	978-164452639	Graywolf Press	Required
647	Poetry Craftshop: Dreams and Elegies (Section B)	<i>Death Does Not End At The Sea</i>	Gbenga Adesina	978-1496244772	University of Nebraska Press	Required
		<i>As For Dream</i>	Saskia Hamilton	978-1555973162	Graywolf Press	Required
		<i>All Souls</i>	Saskia Hamilton	978-164452639	Graywolf Press	Required
649	The Trojan War in Story and History	<i>The Iliad</i>	Homer, Emily Wilson (Translator)	978-1324001805	W. W. Norton & Company	Recommended
653	<i>Eugene Onegin</i> : Alexander Pushkin's Singular Novel in Verse	<i>Eugene Onegin</i>	Alexander Pushkin, James E. Folen (translator)	978-0199538645	Oxford University Press	Required
655	Modern Fiction	<i>An American Tragedy</i>	Theodore Dreiser	978-0451531551	Signet	Required
		<i>Lolita</i>	Vladimir Nabokov	978-0679723165	Vintage	Required
		<i>Rabbit At Rest</i>	John Updike	978-0449911945	Random House	Required
		<i>Revolutionary Road</i>	Richard Yates	978-0307454782	Vintage	Required
		<i>The Comedians</i>	Graham Greene	978-0143039198	Penguin Classics	Required
		<i>The English Patient</i>	Michael Ondaatje	978-0679745204	Vintage Books	Required
		<i>The Human Stain</i>	Philip Roth	978-0375726347	Vintage International	Required
		<i>The Remains of the Day</i>	Kazuo Ishiguro	978-0679731726	Vintage International	Required
		<i>Asylum</i>	Patrick McGrath	978-0679781387	Knopf Doubleday	Required



#	Study Group	Book Title	Author	ISBN	Publisher	Notes
656	Writing Love, Grief, Madness: A <i>Wuthering Heights</i> Case Study	<i>Wuthering Heights</i>	Emily Bronte	Any edition		Required
657	The Bronte Sisters	<i>Jane Eyre</i>	Charlotte Bronte	978-01411441146	Penguin Classics	Required
		<i>Wuthering Heights</i>	Emily Bronte	978-0143105435	Penguin Classics	Required
		<i>The Tenant of Wildfell Hall</i>	Anne Bronte	978-1679760297	Independently published	Required
677	Exploring the Aphorism	<i>The World in a Phrase: A Brief History of the Aphorism, Second Edition</i>	James Geary	University of Chicago Press	978-0226838601	Recommended
		<i>Geary's Guide to the World's Great Aphorists</i>	James Geary	978-1596912526	Bloomsbury USA	Recommended
		<i>The Aphorism and Other Short Forms</i>	Ben Grant	978-0415829298	Routledge	Recommended
		<i>A Theory of the Aphorism: From Confucius to Twitter</i>	Andrew Hui	978-0691210759	Princeton University Press	Recommended
		<i>The Oxford Book of Aphorisms</i>	John Gross	978-0192804563	Oxford University Press	Recommended
682	Contemporary Jewish Short Stories in Context	<i>Three Floors Up</i>	Eshkol Nevo, Sonda Silverston (Translator)	978-1590518786	Other Press	Required
690	Sensation and Gothic Novels, Then and Now	<i>The Woman in White</i>	Wilkie Collins, John Sutherland (Editor)	978-0199535637	Oxford University Press	Required
		<i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i>	Robert Louis Stevenson, Martin A Danahay (Editor)	978-1551112459	Broadview Press	Required
		<i>Mary Reilly</i>	Valerie Martin	978-0375725999	Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group	Required
696	We the Paranoid	<i>The Crying of Lot 49</i>	Thomas Pynchon	978-0060913076	Harper Perennial Modern Classics	Required
701	Revolution and the Meaning of Liberty: Two Case Studies	<i>The American Revolution: A History</i>	Gordon Wood	978-0812970418	Modern Library Chronicles	Required
707	The Rise and Fall of Napoleon Bonaparte	<i>Revolutionary Russia, 1891-1991</i>	Orlando Figes	978-1250062628	Picador	Required
740	Japan's "Modern" Century	<i>Napoleon: A Life</i>	Andrew Roberts	978-0143127857	Penguin Books	Recommended
739	Late Imperial China and the 20th-Century Revolutions	<i>A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present</i>	Andrew Gordon	978-0190920555	Oxford University Press	Recommended
		<i>Revolution and Its Past: Identities and Change in Modern Chinese History</i>	R. Keith Schoppa	978-1138742185	Pearson Higher Education	Recommended

#	Study Group	Book Title	Author	ISBN	Publisher	Notes
761	The Age of Hitler and Stalin: The Failed Peace and the Road to World War II	<i>Europe Between the Wars</i>	Martin Kitchen	978-0582894143	Routledge	Required
778	Character is Destiny: The Lincoln Factor in American History	<i>Prelude to Greatness: Lincoln in the 1850s</i>	Don E. Fehrenbacher	978-0804701204	Stanford University Press	Recommended
		<i>The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery</i>	Eric Foner	978-0393340662	W.W. Norton & Company	Recommended
		<i>Lincoln and His Generals</i>	T. Harry Williams	978-0307741967	Vintage	Recommended
780	The Jews of Spain	<i>Exiles in Sepharad: The Jewish Millennium in Spain</i>	Jeffrey Gorsky	978-0827612518	University of Nebraska Press	Required
806	Medical Qigong	<i>The Healing Art of Qi Gong: Ancient Wisdom from a Modern Master</i>	Master Hong Liu and Paul Perry	978-0446673471	Grand Central Publishing	Recommended
860	Husserl and Heidegger	<i>Being and Time</i>	Martin Heidegger	978-0061575594	Harper	Required
		<i>An Introduction to Metaphysics</i>	Martin Heidegger	978-9357607070	Motilal Barnarsidass	Required
861	Aristotle's Physics, Ethics, and Politics	<i>The Basic Works of Aristotle</i>	Aristotle, Richard McKeon (Editor)	978-0375757990	Modern Library	Required

# FEBRUARY SHORTS DESCRIPTIONS

## 9100: Anatomy of a Murder

**RUSSELL CANAN**

**February 2-5 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM**

**Online**

This course will explore the sensational murder of government intern Chandra Levy, whose skeletal remains were eventually found in Rock Creek Park many months after she went missing. Did the Congressman she was having an affair with kill her? Someone else? We will examine this homicide trial through the lens of the key actors in the trial. A separate class will be devoted to: the detectives who investigated the case, former FBI agent Brad Garrett and MPD detective Todd Williams; the prosecutors, former Assistant US Attorneys Kevin Flynn and Deborah Sines; defense attorney Santha Sonnenberg; and the trial judge, Judge Gerald I. Fisher. Judge Russell F. Canan will lead the discussion. It is highly recommended class members watch the documentary, *Chandra Levy: An American Murder Mystery* (streaming on Amazon and other channels). **This study group has a high class size capacity.**

**This short course is new.**

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No reading

**Recorded:** Yes

*Presenters include: former FBI agent **Brad Garrett**; MPD detective **Todd Williams**; former Assistant US Attorneys **Kevin Flynn** and **Deborah Sines**; defense attorney **Santha Sonnenberg**; Judge **Gerald I. Fisher**; and Judge **Russell F. Canan**, who will lead the discussion.*

## 9110: Classic Supreme Court Cases and the Story Behind Them

**WILLIAM DANEY**

**February 2-6 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM**

**In-Person**

This course will present the stories behind five classic US Supreme Court cases, famous for the legal precedent that they set. While the names of the cases may be familiar, and everyone has heard of Brown v. Board of Education, how many know that “Brown” refers to Oliver Brown and his young daughter Linda? We will attempt to breathe life into the dry history behind some of the most important cases that the court has considered. We will view videos that will help us better understand the issues and encourage dialogue between class participants with varying opinions.

**This short course is new.**

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

**Recorded:** Yes

***Bill Daney** has a background in science and engineering and a lifelong interest in the social sciences. He has facilitated a variety of classes in economics, current events, history, political science, and other subjects*

*at the Anne Arundel County Community College and OLLI at American University since 2007.*

## 9120: Perspectives on Congress

**PHILIP SHARP**

**February 2-5 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM**

**In-Person**

Through discussion and lecture, we will focus on the work of a representative; how members of Congress get to collective decisions; how Congress can check the Administration; and how citizens can influence Congress. An opening brainstorming session will elicit participant perspectives, experiences, and questions about Congress. The agenda will be shaped in part by current events and what emerges from the initial brainstorming session.

**This short course is new.**

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No reading

**Recorded:** Yes

***Phil Sharp** was elected to Congress from Indiana in 1974 when citizens were revolted by the Watergate scandal. He served for 20 years. Upon retirement, he became a lecturer at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and part of the time served as Director of Harvard's Institute of Politics. Later, he was president of the Washington think tank, Resources for the Future, retiring in 2016. He has served on several nonprofit and corporate boards of directors. He taught a course about climate change policy at Columbia and Georgetown. He has a BS from Georgetown's School of Foreign Service and a PhD in American government from Georgetown.*

## 9130: Anxious About Our Country, the World? Let's Discuss It

**JOE OPPENHEIMER**

**February 9-12 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM**

**In-Person**

This course will explore four major themes: the path the United States is currently on, global political and social trends, the accelerating challenges of climate change, and the strengths and vulnerabilities of US institutions. The Study Group Leader anticipates a robust discussion about the current political divide but will strive to maintain a nonpartisan tone throughout.

**This short course is new.**

**Class Type:** Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

**Recorded:** Yes

***Joe Oppenheimer** is Professor Emeritus of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland. He has taught PhD courses in politics, economics, philosophy, and public affairs at the University of Maryland and the University of Texas. He has consistently won major teaching awards at both. He has taught courses on social justice, statistics,*

non-market economics, climate change, experimental methods, game theory, etc. Since retiring he has taught courses on short plays and play writing at OLLI and run writers' groups in the DC VA hospital and the Progress Place homeless center. He is also a published playwright, fiction writer, and poet.

## 9200: Case Studies in Ethical Decision Making

**BILL MCSORLEY**

**February 2-5 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM**

**In-Person**

What happens when people of power and influence face complex ethical decisions—not clear-cut cases of right and wrong, but cases where the lines are blurred, precedent is scarce, and the legal framework is underdeveloped? How do leaders sort through conflicting pressures and organizational biases to arrive at decisions? And how do they rationalize those decisions? This study group will examine a series of case studies from various corners of society. It is not a traditional lecture format. It relies on the full and active participation of each member. The value lies in sharing perspectives and challenging assumptions. The goal is learning by asking rather than telling.

**This short course is new.**

**Class Type:** Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

**Recorded:** No

*Bill McSorley retired from AT&T after a career in the telecommunications industry. His work was primarily in the areas of network operations and technology development, including assignments at the executive level. He holds a BS in electrical engineering from the University of Notre Dame and an MBA from the University of Chicago.*

## 9210: All About Mah Jongg

**MELISSA WATTS**

**February 2-4 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM**

**In-Person**

Mah Jongg is sweeping the nation with mysterious tools, a unique vocabulary, and the thrill of the win! This historic game provides stimulation for many types of intelligence: strategic, artistic, historic, mathematical, and social. This course will provide all the basic tools for you to begin to play with confidence. The tiles, the card, the rules, the flow of play, and strategies for a winning hand will be revealed through lecture, hands on practice, and video examples. Additional resources to practice and learn will be provided so you can progress to confidence and competence as a Mah Jongg player.

**This short course is new.**

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

**Recorded:** Yes

*Melissa Watts enjoyed a long career as an architect and city planner, designing major projects across the US and teaching aspiring architects*

*to master the complexities of bringing order to chaos. Mah Jongg became her passion three years ago as 152 tiles form hands much as the variables of construction form a building. Teaching an Intro to Mah Jongg class at the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase forced Melissa to dig deeper into the rules and strategies that make great players.*

## 9220: Thriving as Elders: The Adventure Continues

**BARBARA BEIZER**

**February 9-13 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM**

**Online**

Thriving as elders is not just about filling our time. It's about how we lead a fulfilling life over time, how we face the realities of aging with its often disorienting changes, and how we continue to find and sustain meaning and satisfaction throughout our elder years. Together, working with an evidence-based framework, we'll explore relevant research, share our wisdom and strategies, deepen practical skills, and create a personal legacy and mission. This generative process is designed to stimulate introspection and insight, motivate and guide us to be more intentional about our choices, and illuminate how we are growing and showing up in the world for ourselves and others.

This short course is a repeat.

**Class Type:** Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

**Recorded:** No

*Barbara Beizer is a certified coach, working with people who wish to grow and thrive as human beings and leaders. Her practice draws on decades of business and nonprofit leadership, graduate study in organizational psychology and change, and finely-honed intuition. She was a Peace Corps volunteer in India, co-facilitated multicultural interfaith community dialogues, and has designed and delivered more than 100 workshops on resilience, change, boundaries, and related topics.*

## 9230: Contemporary China—AI, Architecture, Art, and Sister Cities

**KENT WATKINS**

**February 9-13 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM**

**Online**

The Study Group Leader will reflect and discuss his recent trip to China (four cities), involving AI, architecture, art, and sister cities. He will also compare and contrast his previous trips in the 2000s with the updates in transportation, housing, smart cities, robotics, and cultural aspects that he observed, along with closing the loop on some major personal symbolic journeys. It will not focus on the present geopolitical issues but hope that the present co-existence will continue to foster cultural and technology exchange. Some interesting guests from China and elsewhere will be invited, as feasible. Also, included will be some tips on traveling to and inside China.



**This short course is new.**

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

**Recorded:** Yes

**Kent Watkins** is Founder and Chairperson of the American Academy of Housing and Communities, leading initiatives on urban innovation and global knowledge exchange. His international work includes collaborations with the International Olympic Committee, Sister Cities International, and major Chinese institutions. He has spoken widely on AI and cities and is active in the Harvard Club of New York's China Interest Group and the China Institute. A former staff member in the US House, Senate, White House, and HUD, he holds degrees and certificates from William & Mary, Harvard, Oxford, London, and Cambridge, and is listed in *Who's Who in America*.

## 9240: Create an Advance Directive with a Physician

**ELEANOR TANNO**

**February 9-11 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM**

**Online**

Creating an advance directive can be intimidating! Learn the process of creating one with a local practicing board-certified physician who is passionate about advance directives. This course will provide an overview of advance directives, considerations in choosing a medical power of attorney, how to define your "medical wishes," and how to initiate meaningful conversations with your family.

This short course is a repeat.

**Class Type:** Lecture

**Reading:** 1-2 hours/session

**Recorded:** Yes

**Eleanor Tanno** is a practicing Maryland board-certified family physician who is passionate about all people having an advance directive. She obtained her Medical Doctorate from the University of Maryland and holds a degree in biomedical engineering from the University of Virginia.

## 9250: Shall I Stay or Shall I Go? Comparing Aging in Place vs. Retirement Communities

**LOUIS TENENBAUM**

**VICTOR REZMOVIC**

**February 12-13 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM**

**In-Person**

Deciding where and how to live out your later years is one of the most important decisions you and your family will face. This informative talk provides a balanced comparison of two primary options for senior living: aging in place (remaining in a home of your choice) and moving to a retirement community (such as independent living, assisted living, or Continuing Care Retirement Communities). We'll move beyond assumptions to explore the real-world pros and cons of each choice, covering key considerations such as financial realities,

lifestyle and socialization, and independence and control. Attendees will leave with a clear framework for evaluating their future options.

**This short course is new.**

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

**Recorded:** No

**Victor Rezmovic**, PhD, has taught technology courses at OLLI since 2017. After recently exploring retirement living options in the DC area, he now shares insights from his experience and offers guidance on evaluating the many choices available throughout the DMV.

**Louis Tenenbaum** is a leading advocate for aging in place and home accessibility. Named an Influencer in Aging by Next Avenue, he helped develop the original AARP-NAHB CAPS program and later co-founded HomesRenewed™ Ventures, whose innovations have earned more than two million dollars in SBIR grants. His work focuses on practical, scalable solutions that improve home safety and support aging in place.

## 9260: Sharpen Your Creative Thinking and Problem Solving Skills

**RUTH LOZNER**

**February 2-3 and 5-6 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM**

**In-Person**

Over four days of short lectures and enjoyable hands-on exercises, this course will put you in touch with your innate creativity while learning new problem-solving and brainstorming skills. Taught in a fun, informal, interactive style, you will practice the art of collaboration and ideation. Topics include the evolution of the creative brain, the creative process, humor, free association, deductive thinking, and more!

This short course is a repeat.

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

**Recorded:** No

**Ruth Lozner**, has a BFA from Carnegie-Mellon University and an MFA from American University. She is Professor Emerita, University of Maryland, teaching Creative Thinking and Innovative Problem Solving in the Honors College, Smith Business School, and Arts and Humanities College. She is a Fellow of the UK Royal Society of Arts as well as a retired member of the Education Committee of the Cooper-Hewitt Museum.

## 9300: Reflections on Wealth: Our Present and the Future, Impact, and Legacy

**SERGIO ABARCA**

**February 2-4 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM**

**In-Person**

In life's mature stage, wealth takes on broader meaning—it's no longer just financial assets, but also our human, intellectual, and social capital. When resources are seen not merely as tools for security but as channels of meaning, connection, and contribution, they create new possibilities for impact—today and for generations

ahead. This course invites reflection on the emotional and practical dimensions of wealth, moving beyond investment, tax, and legal mechanics to focus on values, communication, and the people we share wealth with. Together we'll lift the taboo around money, inheritance, and legacy—fostering openness, clarity, and intention.

**OLLI does not permit solicitation, marketing, or selling of products or services as part of a study group, and does not endorse particular products or financial advice from SGLs.**

**This short course is new.**

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

**Recorded:** Yes

**Sergio Abarca** is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional and founder of Personal Financial Partners LLC. He holds an MS and PhD in Atmospheric Sciences from UCLA and began his career in research with the National Academies and NOAA, advancing numerical modeling used in hurricane prediction and market dynamics. He later led a team at a Fortune 500 firm, serving hundreds of families and mentoring advisory teams. A frequent lecturer for the National Institute of Transition Planning and at the World Bank, he helps people make evidence-based financial decisions and view wealth as an expression of purpose and connection.

## 9310: Your Taxes After the One Big Beautiful Bill Act

**MARTIN SILFEN**

**February 9-12 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM**

**In-Person**

2025's One Big Beautiful Bill Act will affect your taxes in many ways. In this course, we will summarize all of the Act's tax provisions, discuss whether they reflect good or bad tax policy, and explore how they might impact your tax obligation. The course will be about 50% policy and 50% planning. We will not discuss any of the many other important features of the Act, such as its impact on Medicaid—just its tax provisions. Nor will we discuss how horrible the name of the Act is.

**This short course is new.**

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No reading

**Recorded:** Yes

**Martin Silfen** was a practicing tax attorney for 21 years, specializing in retirement planning and estate planning, and a wealth planner with a wealth management firm for 14 years. He is the author of *The Retirement Plan Distribution Book* (The National Underwriter Co., 1999) and *The Retirement Plan Distribution Advisor* (The National Underwriter Co., 2002). He has led OLLI courses in "Tax Policy," "Social Security," and "Financial Planning in Retirement."

## 9320: Do Only the Rich Have Trusts? Key Strategies Using Trusts in Your Estate Plan

**JOHN BURTON**

**February 2-3 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM**

**In-Person**

Trusts are not just for the wealthy; trusts can handle any estate more efficiently than relying on a last will and testament alone. This course surveys the basics of implementing trusts and the new planning opportunities trusts can provide you in your estate plan. What is the difference between revocable and irrevocable trusts? Can trusts protect an estate against the costs of probate, state and federal estate taxes, creditor claims, and lawsuits? Do trusts protect you financially should you ever need nursing home care in the future? How do trusts impact wills, powers of attorney, real estate, investments, retirement accounts, and other assets? How does the field of elder law impact the use of trusts? **OLLI does not permit solicitation, marketing, or selling of products or services as part of a study group, and does not endorse particular products or financial advice from SGLs.**

This short course is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No reading

**Recorded:** Yes

**John S. Burton, Esq.** practices in the areas of estate planning, asset protection, business, and elder law. He is a Certified Estate Planner (CEP) and a Trust and Estate Practitioner (TEP). John is admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia, US Federal Courts within the Fourth Circuit, and the US Tax Court.

## 9400: Creating a Local Healthy Ecosystem by Incorporating Native Plants Into Your Garden

**JANET ENTWISTLE**

**February 9-10 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM**

**In-Person**

Why is it important to incorporate more native plants into your garden? How can you do this in a practical and affordable way? In this short course, we will discuss those topics, as well as why it is important to help protect biodiversity in our own backyards; how incorporating more native plants into our gardens protects local ecosystems; and native plants that provide the most ecological impact, color throughout the growing season, attract pollinators and birds, and are best suited to the environmental conditions in your garden and to your interests. Join us to learn about native plants and the local resources available to help you integrate them into your garden!

This short course is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No reading

**Recorded:** Yes

*Janet Entwistle* is a retiree from the World Bank where she led country programs in Latin America and Africa. She is a lifelong gardener and also a master gardener. She is converting her own garden to incorporate more native plants and is also helping others in the community do the same.

## 9410: A User's Guide to Brain and Heart Health

**WILLIAM LEAHY**

**FRED LOUGH**

**February 9-12 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM**

**In-Person**

This course is a series of focused sessions on current research and therapy and recommendations for heart and brain health. Lectures will cover basic anatomy and physiology of the heart and brain and current treatments and recommendations.

This short course is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No reading

**Recorded:** Yes

*Fred Lough* is cardiac surgeon who worked in private practice and the military for over 30 years.

*William Leahy* is a neurologist with over 40 years of clinical training. He completed his residency at Johns Hopkins and worked at NIH and for the US Army.

## 9420: Screening for Cancer: More Harm Than Good? It Ain't So Simple!

**MARK ZWEIG**

**February 9-11 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM**

**In-Person**

Cancer screening searches for hidden disease, to "catch it early." Is this always beneficial? Screening is not that simple. Detecting cancer early can also lead to overdiagnosis and overtreatment, resulting in significant physical and emotional harm. We will discuss the fundamentals of cancer screening and explore the perils inherent in this trade-off. We will also consider the impacts of new screening tests that detect cancer DNA in blood samples ("liquid biopsy").

**This short course is new.**

**Class Type:** Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

**Recorded:** No

*Mark Zweig, MD*, is a physician/scientist, board certified in Clinical Pathology, and spent his career at the National Institutes of Health, with a focus on medical testing, particularly test accuracy, efficacy, and clinical usefulness. He was Deputy Chief of the Clinical Chemistry Service of the Department of Laboratory Medicine in the NIH hospital for 19 years. He has been especially interested in cancer screening since 2000, and a Study Group Leader at OLLI since 2008.

## 9430: The Chatbot Revolution: Embracing the Era of Intelligent Assistants

**VICTOR REZMOVIC**

**February 2-6 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM**

**In-Person**

Generative AI is rapidly transforming our digital landscape. Following the path of essential tools like Google Search, the technology behind popular chatbots such as ChatGPT and Gemini is quickly becoming fundamental to how we work and live. In this class, you will gain an understanding of the powerful technologies driving Generative AI. We will review its creative applications across text, images, audio, and video, giving you a clear picture of what AI can do today. We will also critically discuss the tremendous potential benefits of AI, as well as the significant social and economic disruptions it is expected to bring. This course is an introduction and is accessible to everyone, with no prior technical knowledge.

This short course is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

**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, and staying safe online. He has been teaching at OLLI since 2017.

## 9520: The Enduring Appeal of Antique Engravings—Botanicals, George Washington, and Mt. Vernon

**CHRISTIANA DIAMOND MICKEY**

**February 5-6 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM**

**In-Person**

Through a hands-on lecture, the class explores antique copperplate engravings from the 16th to 19th centuries, featuring works by Volkamer, Besler, Redoute, and Bloemaert/Ferrari, as well as images of George Washington and Mt. Vernon. Information is shared on the historical significance and development of botanical art, as well as how it met medicinal needs before becoming a highly sought-after collectible. Class members learn how to authenticate a period piece from a reproduction and what the metal plate engraving process entails. They will also receive materials on the various terms of the art form, as well as information on different types of related art. Members will be invited to bring their pieces from home for review.

**This short course is new.**

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No reading

**Recorded:** Yes

For over 35 years, *Christiana Diamond Mickey* has collected and



curated antique engraving for the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. Her historic period design work incorporates these magical and rare pieces of art. She procures antique engravings from all over the world. When she is not doing her artwork, she has served as a fundraiser for metro DC nonprofits and independent schools. She has lectured to numerous groups interested in botany, art, and history. Her gallery can be seen at [www.taylorcarlislegalleries.com](http://www.taylorcarlislegalleries.com).

## 9530: Visual Fitness 4 All® Workouts: Seeing More in Life Through Art

**RENEE SANDELL**

**February 5-6 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM**

**In-Person**

See much more in life through unique art experiences designed to build your visual fitness skills and knowledge. Enjoy eye-opening, hands-on, and interactive art "workouts" that will engage both your creativity and insight. Through group discussions and imaginative studio activity, discover inspiration in works of art while strengthening your artistic muscles by decoding (reading) and encoding (expressing) visual meaning. Open to all levels—novice to professional; No previous art experience necessary. Learn with others. Surprise yourself! **This course has a \$10 materials fee, to be paid to the SGL. Please bring to the first class session either cash or a check, made out to Renee Sandell.**

This short course is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Type:** Appreciation

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

**Recorded:** No

*Renee Sandell is a retired professor and active educator, author of three books, exhibiting artist, and founder/director of SummerVision DC—a museum bootcamp. She has received numerous awards for her leadership and scholarship on her Form+Theme+Context (FTC) methodology as a Balanced Way of Seeing. Renee teaches Visual Fitness 4 All: Engaging Creativity and Insight hands on workshops and courses in various venues.*

## 9540: Three-Dimensional Collage: A Book Arts Workshop

**LEAH RUBIN**

**February 2, 4, and 6 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM**

**In-Person**

Dive into the world of sculptural collage by transforming your two-dimensional artwork into tactile, three-dimensional book forms. This hands-on workshop is designed for those eager to move beyond the flat page and explore the structural possibilities of paper and simple bookbinding techniques. You will learn how to select and prepare your collage materials to thrive in a book format, focusing on movement, texture, and unexpected presentation. Projects include a miniature accordion book, the "Flag book" created by NYC book artist and editor of Purgatory Pie Press Esther K. Smith, the "Starburst book," and if time permits, the "Turkish Map Fold book." By the end

of this course, you will have a portfolio of unique, hand-bound books and the skills necessary to continue integrating book arts into your creative practice. **This course has a \$20 materials fee, to be paid to the SGL. Please bring a check to the first class session, made out to Leah Lauffer-Rubin.**

This short course is new.

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No 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.*

## 9600: Was Gibt's Mit Nico?

**MARTHA CUTTS**

**February 2-6 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM**

**In-Person**

In this Short, we will focus on viewing the ongoing story of Nico in the Deutsche Welle's online "Learn German" course. We will do the exercises and learn the new vocabulary for each episode. We will also read the short story Ein Sommer in Heidelberg.

This short course is new.

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

**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.*

## 9610: Learning American Sign Language by Signing Songs!

**MARSHA STEIN**

**February 5-6 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM**

**In-Person**

Sign Language is not only fun, it also can improve memory, boost brain plasticity, improve visual special ability and overall expressiveness. It even improves multi-sensory processing since it requires processing information visually, kinesthetically, and emotionally (through facial cues), which helps the brain handle multiple inputs at once. Our goal, however, is simply to enjoy!

**This short course is new.**

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No reading



**Recorded:** Yes

**Marsha Stein** is a licensed psychotherapist and certified trainer with over 35 years of experience engaging audiences from law enforcement to Fortune 500 companies. Specializing in leadership development and communication, she has worked with organizations including the FDA, State Department, and CNN. A former adjunct professor at Catholic University, she creates practical, low-risk learning environments that foster real-world skill building. Certified in critical incident response, she provides psychological first aid in workplace crises. Outside her practice, she is passionate about American Sign Language.

## 9620: Experience Poems and Pictures

**ANNA ROSEBORO**

**February 9-13 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM**

**Online**

Participants in the class will view paintings by African American artists or those that evoke experiences reflecting Black history, and then write poems in various genres to share their viewing experiences. The conversations and feedback in small-group and full-class settings enhance the experience for students and their instructor as students share their self-selected pictures and drafts of poems written during class and for homework. The two-fold goal of experiencing poems and paintings will help inspire writing that can be self-published as an electronic booklet of poems generated during the five-day course that participants can share with family and friends.

This short course is a repeat.

**Class Type:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

**Recorded:** Yes

**Anna J. Small Roseboro**, NBCT, is a published author with four decades of teaching experience in public, parochial, and private schools and colleges. She has mentored early-career educators, chaired an English department, led leadership institutes, and participated in a Rotary educator exchange in East Africa. Her work includes fiction, poetry, and textbooks for teachers, as well as tutoring adult English learners. She has received major service and teaching awards from state and national English teacher associations and served as Director Emeritus of the Early Career Educators of Color Leadership Award Program and as a mentor with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

## 9630: Race, Trauma, and Home in the Novels of Toni Morrison

**EVELYN SCHREIBER**

**February 9-13 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM**

**In-Person**

This course analyzes two novels by Toni Morrison to discuss the major themes in her works. Specifically, we will examine how her texts reenact and resist racism and patriarchal/postcolonial structures; how they explore the ways in which memory and the past construct

identity; and how they present generationally transmitted trauma in the Black community. We will consider socially constructed identity and issues of race, class, and gender. In addition, the class utilizes critical race studies, cultural studies, trauma studies, and psychoanalytic critical approaches to two of Morrison's novels: *The Bluest Eye* and *Song of Solomon*.

**This short course is new.**

**Class Type:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** Reading prior to first session (See Description.)

**Recorded:** No

**Evelyn Jaffe Schreiber**, PhD, is Professor Emerita of English at The George Washington University. She is the author of *Subversive Voices and Race, Trauma, and Home in the Novels of Toni Morrison*, both recipients of the Toni Morrison Society Book Prize and recognized by the MLA. Her edited volume *Healing Trauma: The Power of Listening* was nominated for the Gradiva Award. Schreiber's research applies psychoanalytic theory, trauma studies, and cultural analysis to literature, with published work on Morrison, Faulkner, and contemporary theater. She has developed courses on race, identity, trauma, and new plays, and serves as a trained educator at the Holocaust Memorial Museum, working with federal, state, and international groups.

## 9700: Lessons from The Great Depression

**ED LINZ**

**February 9 and 11 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM**

**Online**

This course will cover events in the 1920s leading up to the start of The Great Depression, including ominous parallels between the 1920s and the 2020s. I will suggest that the Depression did not start with the infamous stock market crashes of late 1929, but that the seeds were sown following the end of World War I and subsequent events throughout the 1920s. We will discuss political and economic conditions during the 1930's and the early years of World War II with detailed examination of the lives of a diverse group of Americans who provided first-hand accounts of their lives during this tumultuous period of American life. There will be a discussion of lessons learned, with questions and comments solicited. **This study group has a high class size capacity.**

**This short course is new.**

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No reading

**Recorded:** Yes

**Ed Linz**, a 1965 graduate of the Naval Academy, is the author of six books, including recent works on the Great Depression and the Vietnam War. He holds advanced degrees from Oxford University and George Mason University and lives in Maine and Virginia.

## 9710: A Wicked War? The US-Mexico Conflict of 1846-48

JOE BELDEN

February 9-12 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM

In-Person

Our mostly forgotten war led to Mexico losing over half its territory and the United States expanding to the Pacific Ocean. This study group will examine the political and economic background of the conflict, what led to it, and the roles of such factors as Texas annexation in 1845, slavery, the Democratic and Whig parties, and Manifest Destiny. Also studied will be key figures such as Presidents Jackson, Tyler, and especially James K. Polk, as well as Congressman Abraham Lincoln, and lesser known figures such as Nicholas Trist. Was it a wicked war? A very young officer in the war, Ulysses S. Grant, thought so. **This study group has a high class size capacity.**

This short course is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

**Recorded:** Yes

*Joe Belden has taught OLLI study groups since 2017. He and his wife live in Mexico part time and he has a Mexican family background. He has served on a number of nonprofit boards and writes regularly for The Daily Yonder and other publications. From 1989 to 2015 he was Deputy Executive Director of the Housing Assistance Council. He also worked at USDA, on Capitol Hill, and for other nonprofits; is the lead author of books on affordable housing and food issues; and is a graduate of the University of Texas-Austin and the Baylor University Law School.*

## 9730: Commemorating the Nation's Founding: A Closer Look at the Years 1826, 1876, 1926, and 1976

ELLEN STANTON

February 9-12 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM

In-Person

As we celebrate the nation's Semiquincentennial in 2026, this course will provide an opportunity to learn more about past commemorative events and the years in which they occurred. We will explore the political, historical, and cultural context of the celebrations. Who were the nation's leaders? What were key national and sectional issues being debated? How did Americans live and work, and what did they aspire to in each of the celebratory years? In looking at America in 50-year intervals, we will consider and discuss common themes and differences and how each generation celebrated.

**This short course is new.**

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No reading

**Recorded:** Yes

*Following a 20-year career as a psychiatric social worker, Ellen Stanton became lead historic interpreter at George Washington's Mount Vernon and educator at the US Capitol Visitor Center. Ellen*

*served for several years as chair of the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission. She has facilitated classes at the OLLIs at the University of Denver and American University. Ellen is a graduate of Manhattanville College and received an MSW at SUNY/Albany.*

## 9740: The Fall of the Berlin Wall and German Unification

EDUARD BRAU

February 2-6 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM

In-Person

This course will explore the well-known and the lesser-known influences and events, both inside and outside of East Germany, that contributed to the peaceful implosion of East Germany in 1989. It will trace the process and historic decisions leading to the re-unification of Germany in October 1990, and assess the results more than 35 years later.

This short course is a repeat.

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No reading

**Recorded:** Yes

*Eduard Brau, PhD, is a German citizen and economist who retired from the International Monetary Fund. He studied in West-Berlin in the early 1960s, made friends in the East, and has followed developments in the eastern parts of Germany since.*

## 9760: World War II—The Battle In The East

PETER OLEINICK

February 9-12 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM

Online

Any study of World War II should include the Eastern Front because most of the largest land battles of the entire war were fought there between Germany and the Soviet Union. This course will explore the epic fighting that started with the German invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941. Four years of unimaginably bloody fighting left 26 million Soviets and between four and five million Germans killed. The Wehrmacht made it to within 20 miles of Moscow, but was pushed to Germany. **This study group has a high class size capacity.**

**This short course is new.**

**Class Type:** Lecture

**Reading:** No reading

**Recorded:** Yes

*Peter Oleinick earned a PhD in electrical and computer engineering from Carnegie Mellon University in 1978. After a 40-year career at various high-tech companies, he retired in 2017. Peter now volunteers his time at a number of nonprofits: the OLLI at CMU, The Pittsburgh Zoo, the Hebrew Free Loan Association, and the Moonshot Museum. Peter is an amateur military historian and has taught a number of World War II courses for OLLI, as well as classes on astronomy, canasta, and fantasy football.*

## 9770: Theodore Roosevelt in the Badlands: 1883-1887

ALAN KOGAN

February 2-5 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM

In-Person

In the early 1880s, Theodore Roosevelt fled West to the Badlands of the Dakota Territory. He had just faced, as a 26-year old expectant father and novice politician, devastating twin personal losses and badly needed to heal mind and body. Once out West, TR was to undergo a series of physical, emotional, and spiritual encounters that tested him as never before. He would come out of his Badlands experience renewed, more mature, and ready to move forward with his life and multiple careers. This short course will examine his remarkable journey to renewal, the presidency, and his place on Mt. Rushmore.

This short course is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

**Recorded:** Yes

*Alan O. Kogan is a retired psychiatric clinician, administrator, and teacher who has become a history buff since retiring. He has taught seven different courses at OLLI on the life of Theodore Roosevelt, the Progressive Era, the Gilded Age, and progressive era presidents.*

## 9780: Russia and China's Contentious Cooperation

HOWARD SPENDELOW

February 9-13 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM

In-Person

This course covers Sino-Russian relations in a historical perspective. Between the 17th–20th centuries, relations between China and Russia have been on a roller-coaster, from the first tentative efforts to maintain a fragile border between two expanding empires, through Russia's efforts to dominate China in the 19th century, and China's emergence as a competitive revolutionary power in the 20th century. Along the way, each side drew both positive and negative lessons from the other's experience.

**This short course is new.**

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No reading

**Recorded:** Yes

*Howard Spindelwlow earned a BA in government (1966) from Oberlin College, an MA in Chinese regional studies (1970), and a PhD in history and East Asian languages (1982) 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.*

## 9790: Thailand Deciphered: Temples, History and Place in the Globalized Age

JOHN BURGESS

February 9-12 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM

In-Person

In this course, we'll explore the rich history and culture of Thailand: spirits that inhabit trees and rice fields, a king who offered elephants to President Buchanan, a present-day border war driven by six centuries of rivalry. Founded as a small inland kingdom, it became a vast regional power and center of faith and learning. In more recent times, it staved off colonial rule but got locked into rule by its own military. It gave vital help to the United States in the Vietnam War. We'll examine how in today's Thailand, those many spirits co-exist with Buddhism and lingering Hinduism, the economy is going global, and the riverside capital Bangkok ranks among the world's great cities—12 million people and counting.

**This short course is new.**

**Class Type:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** No reading

**Recorded:** Yes

*John Burgess is an American author and journalist with a long interest in Thailand. He first lived there in the 1960s as a high school student. In the 1970s and 1980s, he worked there as a reporter. Since taking an early retirement from The Washington Post in 2008, he has returned frequently. Burgess is also a specialist in Cambodia, having written five books about the country's Angkor civilization. With a Thai spirit house in the front yard, he lives in Washington, DC with his wife Karen.*

## 9791: Vietnam: Echoes and Answers

PAUL BELFORD

February 2-5 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM

In-Person

Based on *ENDURANCE: A Parallel History of the American Experience in Vietnam*, session 1 of this Short tracks the Cold War era up to the war in Vietnam. Session 2 tracks the war in Vietnam through to its conclusion in April 1975. Session 3 analyzes the objectives of the parties engaged and of interest—Democratic Republic Vietnam (North), the Republic of Vietnam (South), the People's Republic of China, USSR, and the United States, to include the morality and significance of US engagement in Vietnam: going in, being there, and getting out. Session 4 tracks the impact of Vietnam on the Cold War as it progressed and ended in 1991.

**This short course is new.**

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Reading prior to first session (See Description.)

**Recorded:** Yes

*Paul Belford earned a BA from Boston College and an MA in economics from Fordham University. He served in the CIA's Office of Economic Research and later as Financial Attache at the US Embassy in Saigon with the Treasury Department. He held positions at the Overseas*



*Private Investment Corporation and the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association before founding the Association Executive Resources Group and later leading executive searches at JDG Associates. His publications include The Swampoodle Trilogy, Saigon Passage, Association CEO Handbook, and Notes from a Passage. Guest speakers include David Passage, retired US Ambassador and career foreign service officer; Bernard Casey, former US Army JAG in Vietnam; and George Chaconas, former US Marine officer in Vietnam.*

## 9793: History and Relevance of the Berlin Airlift

**PETER KELLER**

**February 12-13 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM**

**Online**

This course covers the end of WWII in Europe in a Germany with American, British, Russian, and (later) French occupation zones along with an isolated Berlin divided the same way. When Allied cooperation agreed to at Yalta and Potsdam broke down, Stalin's Russia imposed a blockade in June 1948. To avoid abandonment of Berlin, the only alternative was supply by air. Doing so for a city of over two million required a minimum lift of 3.5k tons per day. It ultimately proved possible to deliver nearly four times that amount, forcing Stalin to end the blockade in May 1949. The course explores how this feat was accomplished, and its impact on development of US/Europe history, civil Air Traffic Control, and US military airlift capability.

This short course is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No reading

**Recorded:** Yes

*Peter R. Keller retired from the State Department after a Foreign Service career of 26 years with postings to Mexico, Germany, Chile, Switzerland (US Mission to UN, Geneva), and Belgium, plus post retirement work with the Department's Directorate of Defense Trade Controls and its Political-Military Action Team that served as the State-DoD interface during the Iraq War. He is a graduate of Brown University, and earned an MA in international relations from American University's School of International Service and an MA in economics from the University of Colorado.*

## 9800: The Shroud of Turin: History's Greatest Find or Fraud?

**JACK DALBY**

**February 12-13 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM**

**Online**

The cult of Christian relics is as old as the New Testament itself. However, the greatest relic of all is also the most controversial: The Shroud of Turin. The Shroud—a piece of cloth 4.4 meters long and 1.1 meters wide—is said to be the burial shroud of Jesus which, when viewed as a photographic negative, also reveals the face and body of the crucified Jesus. So, is the shroud one of history's

most important finds or is it a forgery? In this lecture series we will review the New Testament stories about Jesus's burial, the history of Christian relics, the Catholic Church's reaction to the shroud, what modern science has to say about the shroud's dating and other continuing controversies. ***This study group has a high class size capacity.***

**This short course is new.**

**Class Type:** Lecture

**Reading:** No reading

**Recorded:** Yes

*Jack Dalby is a retired Northern Virginia business owner who, for the past 14 years, has lectured on the topic of Early Christianity at the OLLIs at George Mason University, The College of William and Mary, and American University. His lecture series include discussions of "The Historical Jesus," "St. Paul and the First Christians," and "The Battle for Christ—Christianity's First 500 Years."*

## 9810: Fables and Talking Animals in the Hebrew Bible: Curses and Blessings

**DIANE SHARON**

**February 2 and 4 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM**

**Online**

In general, the Bible is realistic in its depiction of events, limiting supernatural phenomena to the effect of God's presence in the world. However, there are two fables in which animals are able to speak intelligibly. Though, at first glance, the snake in the Garden of Eden and Balaam's talking donkey seem to have little in common besides their language skills, when we re-read these stories together we find unexpected revelations. As we study together, let's find out what these articulate animals have to teach us about blessings and curses.

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

**This short course is new.**

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No reading

**Recorded:** Yes

*Diane M. Sharon is a scholar and teacher of the Hebrew Bible in its ancient Near Eastern context. She has lectured and published extensively in the Hebrew Bible, comparative religion, literary analysis, and women's studies. Her commentary on the Book of Judges is forthcoming from JPS.*



# SHORTS ASSIGNED BOOKS

**Books should only be purchased after members receive their final class assignment letter post-lottery.** Books will be available at Politics and Prose Bookstore. Order online at [www.politics-prose.com](http://www.politics-prose.com) or visit the store at 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC. 202-364-1919. Politics and Prose is offering OLLI members a 10% discount on books for study groups.

## **9100: Anatomy of a Murder**

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

Scott Higham, *Finding Chandra: A True Washington Murder Mystery*.

Scribner, 2011, ISBN: 978-143913869.

Kevin Flynn, *Rock Creek*.

Kilimanjaro Press, 2024, ISBN: 978-166295017.

## **9400: Creating a Local Healthy Ecosystem by Incorporating Native Plants Into Your Garden**

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

Douglas W. Tallamy, *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard*.

Timber Press, 2020, ISBN: 9781604699005.

## **9600: Was Gibt's Mit Nico?**

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

Daniela Fries, *Ein Sommer in Heidelberg: Graded Reader Intermediate German B1 (German Edition)*.

Independently published, 2021, ISBN: 979-871278467.

## **9620: Experience Poems and Pictures**

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

Anna J. Small Roseboro, *Experience Poems and Pictures: Poetry that Paints Pictures that Speak*.

Independent, 2019, ISBN: 978-1096784753.

## **9630: Race, Trauma, and Home in the Novels of Toni Morrison**

Reading: Reading prior to first session

Toni Morrison, *Song of Solomon*. ISBN: Any edition.

Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*. ISBN: Any edition.

## **9791: Vietnam: Echoes and Answers**

Reading: Reading prior to first session

Paul Belford, *ENDURANCE - A Parallel History of the American Experience in Vietnam - the Why, the How, and the What of it All: Echoes and Answers*.

Whitich Press, 2025, ISBN: B0FV98BR12.

## **9793: History and Relevance of the Berlin Airlift**

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

R.E.G. Davies and John Provan, *Berlin Airlift: The Effort and the Aircraft* Palaver, 1998, ISBN: 9781888962291.

Richard Reeves, *Daring Young Men: The Heroism and Triumph of the Berlin Airlifts*.

Simon & Schuster, 2010, ISBN: 9781416541196.

Roger G. Miller, *To Save a City: The Berlin Airlift, 1948-49*.

Air Force History and Museums Program. ISBN: 9780898758054.

# OLLI AT AU REGISTRATION FORM

**TWO WEEKS OF FEBRUARY SHORTS:  
FEBRUARY 2–6 & FEBRUARY 9–13**

**Choose your lottery selections for  
the FEBRUARY SHORTS  
by 10:00 AM on Wed., Jan. 21.**

Please complete all parts of the form. You also can pay and select study groups online at [www.lli-dc.org](http://www.lli-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" (pg. 4), **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.

Number	Format	Study Group Name
1. 953	In-Person	"Made You Look, Made You Think:"The Early Pioneers of Abstraction
2. 912	Online	Tough Cases
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____

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

### **VOLUNTEER TO BE STUDY GROUP REPRESENTATIVE**

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

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.lli-dc.org](http://www.lli-dc.org). Financial assistance is available. Contact the OLLI office for information.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **\$100: February Shorts Membership Fee**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **\$90: February Shorts Membership Fee 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)

## DIRECTORY LISTING

Please check the boxes below for any contact information you do NOT want included in our membership directory. The directory is produced during the third week of each semester and is made available to current members. It is intended for internal use only.

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

☐ My Phone Number ☐ My Street 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.lli-dc.org/become\\_an\\_instructor](https://www.lli-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.lli-dc.org/get\\_involved](https://www.lli-dc.org/get_involved)**

Contact the office by email at [lli@american.edu](mailto:lli@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