

2021 FEBRUARY SHORTS

910: Tough Cases: Judges Tell the Stories of Some of the Hardest Decisions They've Ever Made

RUSSELL CANAN
GREGORY MIZE
FREDERICK WEISBERG
REGGIE WALTON

February 1, 2, 4, 5, from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM

This study group will have a behind-the-scenes look at how judges grapple with and decide some of the hardest cases of their careers. Some cases gained international attention—Terri Schiavo, Elian Gonzalez, Scooter Libby. Other cases are less well-known but equally fascinating as the class will explore the personal, political, and emotional factors that go into making the hard decisions. Class members should plan to read two chapters of *Tough Cases* before the start of each class. (Approximately 20 pages per chapter.) ***This study group has a high class size capacity.***

February 1

Chapter 2, "Rough Justice" (Judge Canan)

Chapter 1, "Terri's Judge" (Terri Schiavo case) (Judge Greer)

February 2

Chapter 5, "Brave Jenny" (Judge Mize)

Chapter 13, "Elian" (Elian Gonzalez case) (Judge Bailey)

February 4

Chapter 7, "The United States v I. Lewis 'Scooter' Libby" (Judge Walton)

Chapter 9, "Can an Elected Judge Overrule Nearly a Million Voters and Survive?" (Judge Alsdorf)

February 5

Chapter 11, "Crazy or Cruel: The Trial of an Unexplained Filicide" (Judge Weisberg)

Chapter 10, "Walking with My Ancestors: Tribal Justice for Salmon Running" (Judge Maldonado)

This short course is a repeat with revisions.

Class Type: Reading and Discussion

Reading: 1-2 hours/session

Judge **Russell F. Canan**, co-editor, DC Superior Court; Judge **Gregory E. Mize**, co-editor, DC Superior Court; Judge **Frederick H. Weisberg**, co-editor, DC Superior Court; Judge **Reggie Walton**, contributing author, US District Court; Judge **George W. Greer**, contributing author, Circuit Court, Pasco and Pinellas counties, ret., Judge **Jennifer D. Bailey**, contributing author, Circuit Court, Miami-Dade, Judge **Robert H. Alsdorf**, contributing author, Washington State Superior Court, ret.; Chief Judge **Allie Greenleaf Maldonado**, contributing author, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians

911: Early Childhood Politics and Policies

HELEN BLANK

February 8, 9, 10, 11 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM

This class will explore the approach that the United States has taken to support the education and care of the young and children. It will examine the history and politics of federal, state, and local early learning, child care, and after school programs, the relationship between the needs of young children and their working mothers, and the challenges facing the early childhood workforce.

This short course is not a repeat.

Class Type: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

Helen Blank led the child care and early education work at the Children's Defense Fund for 24 years and for 16 years at the National Women's Law Center. She was on the forefront of federal and state developments in the field.

912: Civil Rights and Government Institutions

MARK NADEL

February 8, 9, 10, from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM

In thinking about Federal government policies that have discriminated against Blacks, as well as policies to end discrimination, we should be mindful that "the government" is not one thing. It is composed of three separate branches, each of which has had a unique role affecting minority rights. This study group will examine some of the most important policy outcomes affecting Blacks, positive and negative, that emanated from the Executive Branch, Congress, and the Supreme Court since Reconstruction. We will discuss: 1) what these actions illustrate about the role and politics of those institutions, 2) what has been the impact of those actions, and 3) what lessons we can learn from these episodes.

This short course is not a repeat.

Class Type: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1-2 hours/session

Mark Nadel has taught political science at Cornell University, participated in the policy process at the Government Accountability Office and the Social Security Administration, and after retiring from the government, taught at Georgetown's School of Public Policy and its Government Affairs Institute.

913: The National Security/Military Challenges Facing the Biden Administration

PETER WILSON

February 8, 9, 10, from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM

The new Biden Administration will face major national security/military challenges. Several initiatives may be relatively easy such as extending the New START nuclear arm control agreement with Russia. On the other hand, there are major challenges that will be

far more daunting. They include the development of a near- and medium-term defense posture to deal with an assertive and revisionist China and Russia. Further, the Biden administration will have to design a disentanglement strategy for the Greater Middle East (GME) that acknowledges the rising military capacities of the major regional powers that include Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Israel. Protracted nuclear challenges loom in Northeast and South Asia.

This short course is not a repeat.

Class Type: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1-2 hours/session

Peter A. Wilson is an adjunct senior national security analyst at the RAND Corporation. He had a decade-long teaching experience at the Security Studies Program at Georgetown University and at the Eisenhower School, the National Defense University.

914: Reconstruction and Its Legacies: The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments

DAVID POMERANTZ

February 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM

We will examine the era of Reconstruction, from the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 to the withdrawal of Federal troops after the election of Rutherford Hayes in 1877. In this period, America tried to abolish slavery, renovate the citizenship and voting rights of freed African Americans, and reintegrate the 11 secessionist states and former Confederate soldiers and people. Reconstruction was largely overthrown in the 70 years of Black codes, Jim Crow laws, and segregation that followed; however, the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the Constitution rank among the enduring legacies of the era. We will focus on how these amendments were understood when they were adopted and how they came to be interpreted today. This short course is not a repeat.

Class Type: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: No reading

David Pomerantz taught political philosophy at SUNY Stony Brook in the early 1980s. He then worked for the House of Representatives for over 30 years, for the House Rules Committee, and then House Appropriations.

915: Populism and the Presidency

PENNY HANSEN

February 1, 2, 3, 4 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM

Populism, a word used evermore frequently, has acquired a number of meanings for scholars and political analysts. While many definitions present various attributes of the issue, there is growing agreement that populism, no matter how defined, is a serious modern-day problem that poses escalating challenges to our basic concepts of democracy as never before. Based on the recently published book, *Presidents, Populism, and the Crisis of Democracy*, by William Howell and Terry Moe, one school of thought points toward the surprising tactic of utilizing the executive branch over the Constitutionally preferred legislative branch to address the problem.

We will read the book and discuss the merits of the argument.

This short course is not a repeat.

Class Type: Discussion

Reading: 1-2 hours/session

Penelope Hansen directed numerous programs at the Environmental Protection Agency during its first 30 years and subsequently consulted on environmental issues around the world. She has focused her retirement on the study of the judicial system and conducts an ever-evolving OLLI course each semester on "Today's Supreme Court."

916: School and Community: A Challenging Partnership

MARTIN BLANK

February 1, 2, 3, 4 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM

Historically, schools have served as vital centers of American communities. As our society became more specialized, schools grew more isolated from the communities and the assets that communities can offer to support the education of our young people. This class will chronicle the ups and downs of the relationship of schools and their communities. It will focus in particular on the vision of the community school that emerged at the turn of the 20th century and is now key part of the effort to create schools that can help students learn and thrive. A thumbnail sketch of the governance structure of American public education will set the stage for the discussion of school and community relationships.

This short course is not a repeat.

Class Type: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

Martin Blank was the Founding Director of the Coalition for Community Schools and president of the Institute for Educational Leadership. A graduate of Columbia University and the Georgetown Law Center, Marty was a VISTA Volunteer in the Missouri Bootheel and senior staff at the nation's first African-American consulting firm.

920: Clear Thinking in the Age of Data Overload

RAY SQUITIERI

February 1, 2, 3, 4 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM

More than at any time in history, we are awash in data and information. Every day we are bombarded with assertions and recommendations claiming to be based on data—in news reports, commercial advertising, even at the doctor's office. How do we make sense of it all? Given the innate limitations on human processing ability, how do we avoid feeling overwhelmed? Given the distortions built into our perceptions and judgments, how do we steer clear of cognitive errors? This course will discuss how to spot irrelevant information and misleading claims, ultimately improving our ability to make rational choices in a challenging environment.

This short course is not a repeat.

Class Type: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1-2 hours/session

Ray Squitieri, a retired economist, is in his tenth year leading courses at OLLI; topics have included instrumental music, opera and art song, European history, Chinese history, economic history, linguistics, philanthropy, and acoustics.

921: The Future of . . . Five Select Topics to Be Examined by the Experienced and Wise

LOIS NEUMAN

February 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM

In this session, topics of education, health/health care, transportation, election processes, and work will be examined from the perspectives of the session participants. Using the model of a topic per session, the Study Group Leader will provide session objectives; a basic foundation on which to build ideas, thoughts, opinions, and reactions; and the opportunity to share the outcome of 60+ years of life. The purpose is to sound out viewpoints and beliefs. The goal is to answer the question of how do participants with an amazing mix of life experiences analyze and evaluate life as it is and what do they see ahead. No right or wrong or in-depth analysis—the intent is to have a robust discussion from multiple perspectives. This short course is not a repeat.

Class Type: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: No reading

Lois Neuman: Education: *Higher Education Policy and Planning; Mental Health Nursing and Teaching. Worked: mental health, Nursing Professor and Department Chair, Research Assistant Baltimore (MD) Longitudinal Study on Aging. Speaker, author, review abstracts and grants. Was Chair of city Board of Supervisors of Elections, staff of county Board of Elections.*

922: Teaching About Communities

KATHARINE KRAVETZ

February 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM

This course concerns what we should teach PreK-12 students about the basics of community life and how to engage in strengthening our communities.

Day 1. The building blocks of healthy communities: housing, infrastructure, food and health care, work, education

Day 2. Individualism and community. How are they in tension? How do they work together?

Day 3. The big players in our communities: local government, the private sector, the nonprofit sector, citizens

Day 4. What is a “good” citizen and how should citizens interact with their communities in a democracy?

Day 5. Pick your topic and present a community exercise in which a K-12 student can engage. Discuss as a group.

This study group has a high class size capacity.

This short course is not a repeat.

Class Type: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: No reading

Katharine Kravetz is an emerita faculty member at American University. She worked from 1991 until 2017 in AU’s Washington

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Semester Program, where she developed the Transforming Communities and Public Policy seminar. She also served as Director of American University’s study abroad program for four years. She has taught and written on the subjects of community and teaching about community. Before coming to the Washington Semester Program, Professor Kravetz taught in the Department of Justice, Law and Society in AU’s School of Public Affairs, where she was awarded the Adjunct Faculty Teaching Award. She is by training a lawyer who practiced privately and as a staff attorney with the District of Columbia Public Defender Service. Professor Kravetz has a BA from Harvard University and a JD from Georgetown University.

940: Climate Change and Human Health

JEROME PAULSON

February 1, 2, 3, 4 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM

This course will describe some of the causes of climate change and explain its current and foreseeable effects on human health. Lifestyle changes for individuals that may mitigate some effects of climate change will be discussed, as well as the importance of policy changes to deal with the problem of climate change. Although climate change is usually discussed in environmental terms—polar bears, sea ice change, rising sea levels—this course will explore how this problem directly affects you, your family, and people around the world. Potential solutions will be discussed.

This short course is not a repeat.

Class Type: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1-2 hours/session

Jerome A. Paulson, MD, FAAP is Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics and Emeritus Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health at the George Washington University Schools of Medicine and of Public Health. He created the American Academy of Pediatrics Program on Climate Change and Health.

941: Social Implications of Technology Innovations: An Overview and Examples

GUILLERMO WARLEY

February 8, 9, 11, 12 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM

We will explain and discuss the concepts of Technology and Innovation and frame some of the ethical dilemmas they present. The concepts of Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning, and their presence in our lives, will be introduced in plain language, as well as their challenges, limitations, and the ethical concerns they bring about. The basic technology behind Autonomous Vehicles (self-driving cars) and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (drones) will be explored. The potential future developments will be discussed. Emphasis will be on the unintended consequences of technology and its social implications, rather than detailed technical presentations. Aspects of the technology role in the COVID-19 pandemic will be presented. ***This study group has a high class size capacity.***

This short course is not a repeat.

Class Type: Lecture

Reading: No reading

Guillermo Warley is an Electrical Engineer with graduate degrees in electronics. He has 35 years of experience designing technology products and is a Senior Member of the IEEE, and the Society for the Social Implications of Technology. He has previously taught at other OLLIs as well as graduate and undergraduate classes at several US universities.

942: Mathematics Elsewhere

GRAHAM ATKINSON

February 1, 2, 3, 4 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM

We will discuss aspects of mathematics that were developed in four different cultures that were not influenced by Western mathematics. The lectures will cover: 1) Maya calendars and number system, 2) Wari and Inca khipus used for accounting and possibly other purposes, 3) Japanese temple geometry, and 4) Marshall Island stick charts for navigation. No mathematical knowledge is assumed or necessary. **This study group has a high class size capacity.**

This short course is a repeat with revisions.

Class Type: Lecture

Reading: No reading

Graham Atkinson has a doctorate in mathematics from Oxford University and worked most of his career on applications of mathematics and statistics in health care. He has led OLLI study groups on the Maya language and culture.

943: Relativity

JACQUES READ

February 1, 2, 3, 4 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM

Isaac Newton's view of the universe was of a fixed space obeying all of Euclid's ancient propositions, in which clocks could be synchronized at any point desired by conveying a standard clock anywhere needed. When 19th-century experiments yielded results not explainable by Newton's laws, great efforts were taken by the best physicists of the time to save Newton's construction. This course will describe those efforts and the response by Albert Einstein in his Special Theory (1905) and General Theory of Relativity (1916), and discuss the consequences of those theories in the 21st century. **This study group has a high class size capacity.**

This short course is a repeat.

Class Type: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: No reading

Jacques Read has taught at Fairleigh Dickinson University and the University of California, performed research at Oak Ridge and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories, and been employed by the Atomic Energy Commission, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Department of Energy. He has been a study group leader since 2013. *This study group has a high class size capacity.*

944: The Basic Science of the Novel Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2

ALBERT CHEH

February 8, 9, 10, 11 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM

This course will cover aspects of the molecular science of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus: basic biochemistry and structural biology; viral components and replication; viral transmission and inactivation; testing for virus and antibodies; vaccine and drug development, and viral sequence surveillance. No background in science is necessary. This short course is a repeat with revisions.

Class Type: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

Albert Cheh has a BA in Chemistry from Columbia and a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of California at Berkeley. He joined AU Chemistry in 1980 and Environmental Science in 2009, retiring as Professor Emeritus in both departments in 2017. He has taught basic biochemistry to non-science students at AU.

945: Physics of Spacetime

ERIC KEARSLEY

February 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM

This Short will focus on Albert Einstein's revolutionary views about space and time. The first class will describe what was known about light at the end of the 19th century. That will be followed by two classes on special relativity and two classes on general relativity. These sessions will be as interactive as possible; questions and comments are encouraged. There is no math prerequisite; the goal is to provide a conceptual understanding of these exciting ideas and the consequences that follow. **This study group has a high class size capacity.**

This short course is not a repeat.

Class Type: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: No reading

Eric Kearsley has a PhD in Radiation Physics from the University of Wisconsin. He is a retired US Navy Radiation Health Officer and a retired physics teacher from the Montgomery County Public Schools.

946: Issues in Food Safety

KENNETH HINGA

February 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM

We will look at food-borne pathogens such as salmonella, campylobacter, listeria, and toxigenic eColi and the sometimes controversial practices used to reduce risks. Other topics will include genetically engineered foods, hormones, and antibiotics used in food production. We will cover pesticide residues in foods, how residue standards are set, and organic foods. **This study group has a high class size capacity.**

This short course is not a repeat.

Class Type: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: No reading

Kenneth Hinga is a retired oceanographer and environmental scientist. After a career in marine research, he was a science advisor for the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, dealing with agricultural-environmental issues and food safety.

950: Ancient Egyptian Art and Culture

MARGERY GORDON

February 1, 2, 3, from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM

This Short will utilize slides and short videos to show how artists, craftsmen, and architects in ancient Egypt created art to give one a better understanding of Egyptian culture, religion, and values. Art of the dynasties will be shown and highlight major moments with each talk focusing on several themes: introduction of Egyptian dynasties, writing, pyramids, and pharaohs; overview of Egyptian gods and goddesses, mummification, every day life, and poetry; and discovery of tombs in Valley of the Kings from Tutankhamen to queens, female pharaohs, Rameses 2nd, and Black African rulers. ***This study group has a high class size capacity.***

This short course is a repeat with revisions.

Class Type: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: No reading

Margery Gordon served as educator at Smithsonian's American Art Museum and National Museum of Natural History. She worked with Egyptian collections and exhibits and ran workshops and talks throughout the US, Dominican Republic, and Yugoslavia. She taught at the Corcoran, Howard University, OLLI at AU, and other professional groups.

951: Voices of the Stars: Singers Who Dubbed for Movie Actors Who Couldn't

DANIEL MOSKOWITZ

February 8, 9, 10, 11 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM

Rita Hayworth, Vera-Ellen, Cyd Charisse, Debbie Reynolds, Leslie Caron, Rosalind Russell, Lucille Ball, Jeanne Crain, Rita Moreno, even Harry Belafonte—when they broke into song on the screen, often the voices on the sound track were not theirs. We will see lot of clips with examples of dubbing in the movies and spotlight the talents and careers of those you were hearing, why their contributions were kept secret, and how. When the identity of the dubbers was not a secret, it gave a boost to the careers of performers from Al Jolson to Marilyn Horne. ***This study group has a high class size capacity.***

This short course is a repeat with revisions.

Class Type: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: No reading

Daniel B. Moskowitz has for many years been leading OLLI courses in various aspects of the American Songbook and popular music.

952: A History of Porcelain: From Ming to Meissen to Minton

KEITH LINDGREN

February 1, 3, 5 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM

Power Point presentation with examples from the presenter's personal collection. Starting with the invention of porcelain by the Chinese, the Middle East contribution of Cobalt pigment to Ming porcelain and the great Japanese porcelains catering to aristocratic collections in the 17th century followed Europeans opening trade routes bringing large quantities to Europe. Then, Meissen's discovery of the secret of hard paste porcelain led to a variety of European competitors making soft paste porcelain with decorative patterns copying Japanese as well as Ching and Meissen. Then the English get into the act at Chelsea and Worcester, and finally, bone china at Wedgwood and Minton set a standard that continues to this day. This short course is not a repeat.

Class Type: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: No reading

Keith M. Lindgren is a retired cardiologist who has been collecting porcelain for 45 years.

953: Humor in Classical Music

DAN SHERMAN

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

Although some would say classical music is very serious, there is a great deal of humor in many works, including those written by the great composers. This course will explore the question of what makes something funny and show the many ways in which music can be funny, both in content and in performance. The instructor will offer many examples of humor from the classical repertoire, including presentations by Anna Russell and Professor Peter Schickele, along with excerpts from the country-western version of the Ring Cycle (no kidding!) ***This study group has a high class size capacity.*** This short course is not a repeat.

Class Type: Lecture

Reading: No reading

Dan Sherman has taught several courses on musical theater and film musicals at OLLI, along with many other venues in the area. He holds his PhD in economics from Cornell and recently retired as Managing Director at the American Institutes for Research.

961: Dylan Thomas: Listening, Reading, Contemplating

RICHARD PALMER

February 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM

This short will exploit the Caedmon recordings of Thomas's fabulously mellifluous voice reading his poetry, and "A Child's Christmas in Wales" among other presentations. Members will be expected to trot out their favorite Dylan Thomas poems—and will be invited to recite them. Anyone who can and wishes to apply analytic exertions to the texts or Thomas's readings will be allowed to do so. We may discuss his life. This

is definitely a highly participatory—and hopefully relaxed—midwinter COVID-era course. **This study group has a high class size capacity.**

This short course is a repeat with revisions.

Class Type: Reading and Discussion

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

Richard R. Palmer is a retired Washington psychiatrist with an interest in language, literature, and drama; he has led several OLLI study groups in the past.

962: Dickinson's Daughters

ELEANOR HEGINBOTHAM

February 1, 2, 3, 4 5 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM

Emily Dickinson famously said that “Poets light but Lamps—.” In the widening circumference of America’s most notable American poets are four who wrote about Dickinson and whose own work reflects different aspects of the genius Dickinson. On each of the four days of this class, we will look at the work of Marianne Moore, Elizabeth Bishop, Adrienne Rich, and Sylvia Plath (with a coda given to recent laureate Tracy K. Smith) in the context of the poems and the life of Emily Dickinson as they—and we—try to understand her.

This short course is a repeat with revisions.

Class Type: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

Having “retired” from a lifetime of teaching in many countries, including a Fulbright in Hong Kong and ten years as Professor at Concordia, and publishing extensively about Emily Dickinson and other American writers, **Eleanor Heginbotham** has enjoyed the company of OLLI compatriots by SGLing many semesters for the past 15 years.

963: Reviewing New York Times Book Review

CARL WEICHEL

BARBARA MOLDAUER

February 1, 2, 3, 4 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM

Since 1896, the weekly *New York Times Book Review* (NYTBR) has helped America’s curious, general-interest readers stay informed about new books and numerous interesting topics. Over time, the book industry has evolved with self-publishing, audio books, digital formats, and now, radio podcasts. A beauty of NYTBR is how it selects 20–30 books from emerging and seasoned authors that are reviewed by freelance literary critics, novelists, and academics. A lure of the “Book Review Podcast” is host Pamela Paul’s interviewing style that probes nuanced views from authors. During each class, we’ll hear 2 podcasts, have volunteers summarize featured print reviews, then enjoy class conversations, and become knowledgeable with the current must-reads.

This short course is not a repeat.

Class Type: Reading and Discussion

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

Carl Weichel has held various positions over his career in marketing, design, and advertising in Australia, South Africa, Canada, and San

Francisco, and continues to consult. Carl has led OLLI study groups on *Political Polarization*, *The 1960s*, *Eastern Thought*, and *David Brooks’ Writings*.

Barbara Moldauer has worked as a speechwriter and scribe for energy, education, and labor organizations for audiences ranging from Congress to coal miners on issues running the gamut from aspirin to vouchers. Her specialty is conveying complex issues simply and memorably by marrying words and images for maximum effect. This is her first OLLI course.

964: Simone Weil On Tragedy: Lessons From a Poem and a Play

RONALD COLLINS

February 9, 10, 11, 12 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM

Towards the end of her life, the French philosopher and political activist Simone Weil (1909–43) was working on a tragedy, *Venice Saved*. The largely completed play was recently published in English for the first time. It explores the depths of Weil’s thoughts on tragedy. *Venice Saved* is the story of a horrific evil abated, even though evil later demanded its murderous due. A city—its beauty, heritage, and citizens—survives thanks to the merciful actions of the lead character, Jaffier, who was part of a group of Spanish mercenaries who plotted to sack the city in 1618. Nonetheless, Jaffier’s actions, noble as they are, trigger deadly consequences for his friends, the co-conspirators—consequences of the kind doled out by the Nazis, whose brutality was being exercised when Weil penned her play. Written with engaging style and imagination, the play cuts a wide dramatic and philosophic swath akin to something Albert Camus might have envisioned. The play was written in the light of Weil’s 1940–1941 essay titled “The Iliad, or poem of Force.” Central to an understanding of *Venice Saved* is Weil’s notion of force, the idea that was the philosophical and psychological centerpiece of her powerful essay on the *Iliad*.

This short course is not a repeat.

Class Type: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1–2 hours/session

Ronald Collins is the former Harold S. Shefelman Scholar at the University of Washington School of Law. His areas of specialty are jurisprudence and constitutional law. He has authored some eleven books including *The Death of Discourse* (1996), *The Judge: 26 Machiavellian Lessons* (2017) *Robotica: Speech Rights and Artificial Intelligence* (2018), and *People v. Ferlinghetti: The Fight to Publish Allen Ginsberg’s HOWL* (2019). He is also the co-director of the *History Book Festival*. Last year he taught three classes at the *Lewes Public Library on Simone Weil*. His writings on Weil have appeared in the journal *Cahiers Simone Weil* and in the book *Simone Weil’s Philosophy of Culture* (Cambridge University Press, 1993), and most recently in the *Los Angeles Review of Books* (“On Simone and André Weil: An Exchange with Karen Olsson”).

965: Sherlock Holmes: Books and Beyond

DAN SHERMAN

February 1, 3 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM

The game is afoot! Since being introduced to the world in 1887, Sherlock Holmes has populated countless short stories and novels and is the most portrayed character in film and television. An industry of Sherlockian scholarship exists that treats him as a real person. This course will first describe the writings of Arthur Conan Doyle and some of the adventures of Holmes and Watson written by others. It will then detail the long history of the pair on stage, film, and television. The multimedia class will present many great portrayals of Holmes and Watson, including the recent Sherlock series set in modern London. **This study group has a high class size capacity.**

This short course is not a repeat.

Class Type: Lecture

Reading: No reading

Dan Sherman has taught several courses on musical theater and film musicals at OLLI, along with many other venues in the area. He holds his PhD in economics from Cornell and recently retired as Managing Director at the American Institutes for Research.

966: PDQ Joyce

ROBERT KOLODNEY

February 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM

We will discuss and read aloud an abridged version of *Ulysses* consisting of the script of highlights previously used in 2016 for an OLLI Bloomsday reading (attached to home page of website at <https://sites.google.com/site/bloomsdaybyolli/home/bloomsday---2017>). Bloomsday is on June 16, the day that *Ulysses* took place that is celebrated as a holiday by James Joyce enthusiasts. The script represents about 12% of the book. We will coordinate the course with a celebration of Joyce's birthday on Tuesday, Feb. 2. This study group should provide a good introduction to *Ulysses* for those who have not read the book, and a varied selection of rich Joycean prose and an opportunity for discussion for partisans. **This study group has a high class size capacity.**

This short course is not a repeat.

Class Type: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

Bob Kolodney is an angel investor and OLLI Study Group Leader, after having been (in reverse order): a serial entrepreneur, a manager, a consultant, a lawyer, and a graduate school teaching assistant (educated at Harvard/Columbia Law School/INSEAD).

967: Understanding Families Through Movies

KAREN GAIL LEWIS

February 8, 9, 10, 11 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM

We'll be studying the movie, *Eve's Bayou*, about a three generation middle class Creole family with two young daughters and a son. We'll look at the relationship between the parents and between the

siblings; the vying of siblings for one parent; the role of grandmother. Most importantly, the role of secrets, the pressure to deny, the question who to believe. All this and more—including some second sight and voodoo. The movie is poignant, powerful, sad, and funny. Like real life, there's nothing exactly true. Class is discussion. Please view the movie before the first class.

This short course is not a repeat.

Class Type: Discussion

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

Dr. Karen Gail Lewis has been a family therapist for more than four decades. She has published numerous books and articles about family relationships. She has taught at OLLI for over a decade.

970: The Spanish Inquisition and Expulsion of the Jews from Spain

JEFFREY GORSKY

February 3, 4, 5 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM

The Spanish Jews' troubles began in 1391, when a rogue priest, Ferrand Martinez, sparked riots in major Spanish cities with the slogan, "Convert or die." Mobs forced a third to a half of the Spanish Jews to convert to Catholicism, but the sincerity of their faith would be questioned. Over the following century, these new Christians or conversos, would repeatedly find themselves targeted as scapegoats by opponents of unpopular kings with whom the conversos were aligned. "Old" Christians would engage in rioting aimed at the new ones, and the two sides would intermittently break out into open warfare. Ferdinand and Isabella, bent on reestablishing political stability to Spain, launched the Inquisition in Seville to determine if the conversos were still practicing Judaism, considered heresy punishable by being burned at the stake. Led by the Dominican friar Tomas de Torquemada, the Inquisitors used extreme methods, such as secret witnesses and torture, and spread the Inquisition to every major Spanish city. They imprisoned thousands of conversos, confiscated estates, and burned a thousand or more people at the stake. Arguing that the mere presence of a Jewish community undermined the conversos' Christian faith, Torquemada lobbied the Spanish crown to issue a decree expelling the Jews from that nation. The crown complied in 1492. By the end of that century, Jews were gone from the Iberian Peninsula, and a millennium of Jewish life in Spain had come to an end. **This study group has a high class size capacity.**

This short course is not a repeat.

Class Type: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

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 is 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.

971: Machineries of Death

EDWARD INGEBRETSEN

February 1, 2, 4, 5 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM

Kids in cages at borders, collars, brands and branding, body scarification, clothing fetishes—pink triangles, stockades, slaughterhouses: These symbols and systems seem disparate, but they intertwine for an important discussion about rights and persons. This Short explores the origins of the Western colonial slave and the social structures evolved by which stigmatized persons (Jews, Africans, Muslims, others) became commodities—social, legal, and financial. Additionally, the class looks at the technologies of colonization of animals, which became the instruments for capturing, and domesticating, persons of color in New World slave factories—and which, later, were imported by Nazi regime into their 20th genocidal stockyards of death. The final meeting questions the “late emergence” of White Nationalism in the US. Beginning as early as Virginia racial laws in the 1700s, the formation of the White Race as a social category replaced “English” as a political marker to isolate Negro bond-slaves. The final session concludes with immigration in the US and its checkered history.

This short course is not a repeat.

Class Type: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: No reading

Ed Ingebretsen is a Professor of English and Culture at Georgetown University. His PhD is from Duke. He writes on American culture, politics, sex, and gender. He is currently a District Leader for the Humane Society of the United States, and teaches Animal Studies at Georgetown University.

972: Woodley and Its Residents

ALLERTON KILBORNE

February 8, 9, 10, 11

This is a study group that looks at American history from 1776 to 1946 through the lens of a house that still stands atop a ridge overlooking the Federal Capital. Evan Thomas calls Woodley, “the greatest manor in Washington.” Walter Isaacson describes it as a “house of great historic resonance ... home to more prominent Americans than any other private house in the country ... brought to life by the people—presidents and statesmen, philosophers and financiers, generals and slaves—who lived there.” During this February Short, micro and macro history will be joined within the walls of this Federal-style mansion.

This short course is a repeat.

Class Type: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

Al Kilborne taught history for 40 years in NYC and DC. Beyond the classroom, he has lectured at Georgetown, the National Archives, local historical societies, and Politics & Prose, where he introduced his book, Woodley and Its Residents. His education (Pomona, New York University, and Oxford) was interrupted by stints in Vietnam and the rodeo.

ASSIGNED BOOKS

Only assigned books are listed below. Other reading material will be available on the OLLI website or the SGL will email it to class members. Estimated hours of reading for each Short are listed with each Short.

Books should be purchased AFTER the member receives the final class assignment letter. Books will be available at Politics and Prose Bookstore. Order online at www.politics-prose.com or visit the store at 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC. 202-364-1919.

910: Tough Cases: Judges Tell the Stories of Some of the Hardest Decisions They’ve Ever Made

Reading: 1-2 hours/session

Canan, Mize, Weisberg, Walton, *Tough Cases: Judges Tell the Stories of Some of the Hardest Decisions They’ve Ever Made*. Date Unknown, ISBN: Unknown.

915: Populism and the Presidency

Reading: 1-2 hours/session

William G. Howell and Terry M. Moe, *Presidents, Populism, & the Crisis of Democracy*. University of Chicago Press, 2020, ISBN: 13:978-0-226-76317-0.

962: Dickinson’s Daughters

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

Ralph Franklin, editor, *The Poems of Emily Dickinson*. Reading Edition. Belknap Press, Date Unknown, ISBN: 0-674-67624-6.

964: Simone Weil On Tragedy: Lessons From a Poem and a Play

Reading: 1-2 hours/session

Simone Weil, “The Iliad, or Poem of Force.” Available for free via Chicago Review: <http://biblio3.url.edu.gt/SinParedes/08/Weil-Poem-LM.pdf>

Simone Weil, *Venice Saved*. Bloomsbury Academic, 2019, ISBN: 978-1350043909.

966: PDQ Joyce

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

James Joyce, *Ulysses*: Abridgment to be furnished by Study Group Leader. Shakespeare and Company, 1922, ISBN: Unknown.

970: The Spanish Inquisition and Expulsion of the Jews from Spain

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

Jeffrey Gorsky, *Exiles in Sepharad: The Jewish Millennium in Spain*. The Jewish Publication Society, ISBN: 978-0827612518.

972: Woodley and Its Residents

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

Al Kilborne with a foreword by Walter Isaacson, *Woodley and its Residents*. Arcadia Publishing, 2008, ISBN: 978-0-7385-5315-3.

OLLI AT AU REGISTRATION FORM

2021 FEBRUARY SHORTS: MONDAY, FEB. 1 – FRIDAY, FEB. 12

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REGISTER FOR SHORTS

1. SELECT whether you want to register for 1, 2, or 3 shorts.

Check only one box: 1 2 3

2. List up to 6 shorts in priority order.

SHORT NUMBER	SHORT NAME
1. _____	_____
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4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____

PAYMENTS

Please make checks payable to OLLI. Payment must accompany registration or register with a credit card online at: www.OLLI-DC.org. Financial assistance is available. Contact the OLLI office for information.

\$ _____ **\$75: February 2021 Shorts Membership Fee**
The \$75 registration fee entitles you to take up to three Shorts.

\$ _____ **\$67: February 2021 Shorts Membership Fee with AU 10% discount**
(Alum or alum spouse/current staff or spouse/current or emeriti faculty or spouse. The names of members using the AU discount is shared with the AU Alumni Office for data-tracking purposes only.)

See reverse side for name and image releases.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are registering for both the Spring semester and the February Shorts, **you do not have to check the boxes below on both registration forms.** Just be sure to check them on one of the forms.

DIRECTORY LISTING

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

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BECOME A SHORTS LEADER

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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_a_study_group_leader.

VOLUNTEER

See the "Get Involved" page on the OLLI website, <https://www.oli-dc.org/volunteer>.

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