University of Pittsburgh

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE



# SPRING 2027

Learning programs for adults age 50 and better at the University of Pittsburgh

**COURSE REGISTRATION OPENS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2026**

# SPRING 2027 TERM

## Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
## University of Pittsburgh

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## DATES AND DEADLINES

| | |
|---|---|
| OLLI spring term financial assistance application period | NOV. 16, 2026 - MARCH 8, 2027 |
| OLLI course registration opens | DEC. 2, 2026 |
| OLLI Open House (in person) | DEC. 10, 2026 |
| OLLI Open House (online) | JAN. 6, 2027 |
| University spring classes begin (for audit courses) | JAN. 11, 2027 |
| No OLLI membership refunds issued after | JAN. 15, 2027 |
| University add/drop period ends (for audit courses) | JAN. 22, 2027 |
| OLLI session 1 begins | JAN. 25, 2027 |
| OLLI session 1 ends | FEB. 26, 2027 |
| OLLI session 2 begins | MARCH 15, 2027 |
| OLLI session 2 ends | APRIL 16, 2027 |

## ABOUT OLLI

Established in 2005 at the University of Pittsburgh, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is one of over 120 OLLI programs located on college campuses throughout the United States. OLLI at Pitt seeks to create a dedicated intellectual environment for learners aged 50 and better by offering non-credit and engaging college-level courses, providing opportunities for social interaction, and maintaining connections to the vibrant University community. OLLI at Pitt's instructors include current and retired faculty from the University of Pittsburgh and others from the diverse and talent-filled Pittsburgh area and beyond. The OLLI at Pitt program nurtures a passion for learning and contributes to the health and engagement of the older adult community.

## CONTACT US


Phone: **412-624-7308** | Email: **osher@pitt.edu** | Office Hours: **Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

4227 Fifth Avenue, 710 Alumni Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15260

# OLLI AT PITT MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE AND FEES

Fees have a two-part structure that includes **both a membership fee and a tuition fee**. There are multiple tuition tiers based on course registration. Financial assistance is available; see **olli.pitt.edu** for more information.

## MEMBERSHIP

All members will pay the **$50 annual membership fee**, no matter when in the academic year they join (Aug. 2026 – Aug. 2027). This fee includes these membership benefits:

- OLLI at Pitt ID card
- CheapSeats (Pittsburgh Cultural Trust discounted tickets)
- Pitt library, shuttle, and on-campus Wi-Fi privileges
- Eligibility to create and join OLLI Special Interest Groups
- Ability to participate in OLLI local tours, day trips, and travel opportunities (additional fees may apply)
- Attendance at OLLI social events (coffee hours, lunches, etc.)
- Receipt of weekly OLLI email newsletters
- Ability to audit undergraduate University classes

## TUITION

Members can then choose a **tuition level option**.

| TUITION LEVEL CHOICE | WHAT'S INCLUDED | COST |
|---|---|---|
| Annual Standard Tuition | Up to eight (8) OLLI courses per term, all OLLI lectures, one audit per term | **$250** if purchased in Fall Term<br>**$170** if purchased in Spring Term |
| Annual Expanded Tuition | Unlimited OLLI courses, all OLLI lectures, two audits per term | **$300** if purchased in Fall Term<br>**$200** if purchased in Spring Term |
| Term Tuition | Unlimited OLLI courses per term, all OLLI lectures, one audit per term | **$150** |
| Additional **audit** courses | — | **$50** |

## SPECIAL OFFER FOR NEW MEMBERS

Brand new members can purchase a **$50 ONE-TIME Introductory Membership**. This option is only for those who have never been an OLLI at Pitt member and is only good once, for one term. No additional tuition payment is required. This membership includes:

- Enrollment in up to 2 OLLI courses and all lectures in the term
- Enrollment in 1 audit class in the University semester
- All membership benefits

# COURSE INFORMATION

## Learn more about audit and OLLI courses.

### AUDIT INFORMATION

A membership benefit of the OLLI at Pitt program is the ability to audit University courses. Auditing does not involve grades, credits, exams, or homework—just like OLLI classes. Auditors sit in on a class for the purpose of self-enrichment and exploration, and their presence should involve no extra work for the faculty.

Auditing differs from OLLI courses in significant ways:

1. University courses run for 15 weeks
2. Members are responsible for securing permission to attend courses as auditors
3. Audit courses follow the University calendar; add/drop dates, breaks, and other course details will differ from OLLI courses

Auditing is a privilege that the University affords OLLI students who want to extend their love of learning. Auditors follow the University Student Code of Conduct as well as conduct expectations for OLLI auditors.

**For more information on membership, course registration, auditing classes, and financial assistance, visit the website:**

**olli.pitt.edu**



### OLLI COURSE TYPE

What can you expect from your OLLI at Pitt course? Our course type categories will help you understand the structure of the class and instructor expectations of participation:

**LECTURE**—These courses are primarily oral presentations where information, history, theories, or ideas are presented by instructors with occasional contributions from participants through questions and answers.

**DISCUSSION**—These courses can be on academic, cultural, or enrichment topics where participants are welcome to talk and contribute to class dialogue through open class discussions.

**ACTIVE LEARNING**—These courses require a high degree of participants' active involvement and practice (language, painting, exercise, etc.).








# SPRING 2027: SESSION 1

## Jan. 25 - Feb. 26, 2027

# SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

The courses below are current as of **November 20, 2026**. For the most up-to-date course information, always consult the OLLI at Pitt website at **olli.pitt.edu**. Clicking on each course title will take you to its course description in the catalog.

Online course  In-person course

Hybrid course (classes that meet in person and are also streamed online)

## MONDAY

**AL**: Active Learning  **D**: Discussion  **L**: Lecture

| CLASS NAME | INSTRUCTOR | TIME | TYPE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gentle Yoga A | Jill Donnette Clary | 9 – 10 a.m. | AL |
| You've Learned the Signs: Now Use Them! ASL Practice For Beginners | Ashia James | 9 – 10:30 a.m. | AL |
| Beginning Guitar, Level 1 | Daniel Rectenwald | 10 – 11:50 a.m. | AL |
| One Hundred Years of Jewish Community in Shanghai | William Greenspan | 10 – 11:50 a.m. | L |
| Chair Yoga | Susan Gillis Kruman | 11 a.m. – noon | AL |
| Redeeming Adam and Eve: Genesis 1 – 4 for the Modern Mind | Sandra Collins | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | D |
| From Chagall to Matisse: An Art Journey to Provence | Katherine Zoraster | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | L |
| A History of Disability Rights and Advocacy | Katherine Hirsh | 1 – 2:50 p.m. | L |
| Book Design: A Cultural History | Jon Klancher | 1 – 2:50 p.m. | L |
| Print Making: Intro to Linocutting | Yoka Slagle | 1 – 2:50 p.m. | AL |
| The Art of Color: One Image, Five Palettes | Elaine Bergstrom | 3 – 4:30 p.m. | AL |
| *The Epic of Gilgamesh*: Humanity's First Great Story | Andrew Peterson | 6 – 7:30 p.m. | L |
| Great Military Blunders | Ken Koncerak | 6 – 7:30 p.m. | L |

## TUESDAY

| CLASS NAME | INSTRUCTOR | TIME | TYPE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ovid's *Metamorphoses* in Art from Botticelli to Picasso | Nora Hamerman | 9 – 10:30 a.m. | L |
| Zentangle™ with Watercolor | Sue Schneider | 9 – 10:30 a.m. | AL |
| Spanish: Beginning Level B | Álvaro Bernal | 9 – 11 a.m. | AL |
| Creation of the Modern World | Alan Irvine | 10 – 11:50 a.m. | L |
| Learn Mandarin | Linda Lieu | 10 – 11:50 a.m. | AL |
| *Wuthering Heights* and the Bronte Sisters | Clifford Johnson | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | L |
| English Country Dance | Gaye Fifer | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | AL |
| The Politics of Humor and the Humor of Politics | Pete Robinson | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | L |
| Understanding Today's Economic Trends and Issues | Daniel Gaske | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | D |
| The Creative Process in Architecture | Matthew Schlueb | 1 – 2:50 p.m. | L |
| Portraits of Mon Valley Industrial Communities | Kane McKernan | 1 – 2:50 p.m. | L |
| Beginner Level French for Travelers | Cathleen Sendek-Sapp | 3 – 4:30 p.m. | AL |
| Practical Mindfulness: Tools for Stress and Everyday Calm | Laura Kustaborder | 6 – 7:30 p.m. | AL |
| What "They" Think of Us, and Why It Matters | Ralph Begleiter | 6 – 7:30 p.m. | L |

# SPRING 2027: SESSION 1

## Jan. 25 - Feb. 26, 2027

# SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Online course  In-person course

Hybrid course (classes that meet in person and are also streamed online)

## WEDNESDAY

| CLASS NAME | INSTRUCTOR | TIME | TYPE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gentle Yoga B | Jill Donnette Clary | 9 – 10 a.m. | AL |
| Dietrich Bonhoeffer: History, Costly Grace, and the Poetry | David Fetterman | 9 – 10:30 a.m. | L |
| Art, Architecture, Kidney Stones...and Mathematics | Richard Wertheimer | 10 – 11:50 a.m. | L |
| From Card Games to Supercomputers: A History of Video Games | Andrew Skelly | 10 – 11:50 a.m. | L |
| A World of Fairy Tales: The Magic of Cultures | Matthew Hodge | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | L |
| Tudor England | Jared Day | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | L |
| Bogie's Best: Films of Humphrey Bogart | David Shifren | 12:45 – 3:30 p.m. | L |
| *The Best American Short Stories 2026* | David Walton | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | D |
| Satan: The History and Politics of the Devil | Shivaun Corry | 1 – 2:50 p.m. | L |
| Off the Beaten Path: Kyushu, Japan | Blaine Connor | 6 – 7:30 p.m. | L |
| Wines from Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay | Ricardo Llovet | 6 – 7:30 p.m. | D |

## THURSDAY

| CLASS NAME | INSTRUCTOR | TIME | TYPE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Better Balance: Steady and Strong™ | Diane Markovitz | 9 – 10 a.m. | AL |
| Italian: Beginning Level B | Cinzia Delfini | 9 – 10:30 a.m. | AL |
| The Golden Age of Arabic Science | Ralph Bangs and Patrick Cooper | 10 – 11:50 a.m. | L |
| Advanced Bridge: Better Bidding, Opening Leads, and Play | Richard Finberg | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | AL |
| The Life and Times of Literary Favorites: American Voices | Lauren Radick | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | L |
| Back to Basics: Color and Composition | Ann Rosenthal | 11 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. | AL |
| Cultural History of NYC, Part 1: From Mannahatta to the Gilded Age | George Scheper | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | L |
| Spanish: Advanced Conversational | María Franco de Gómez | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | AL |
| Let There Be Light: An Exploration of the Physics of Light | John Kinne | 6 – 7:30 p.m. | D |
| World War II and the Cold War: Global Impact | Michael Rizzi | 6 – 7:30 p.m. | L |

## FRIDAY

| CLASS NAME | INSTRUCTOR | TIME | TYPE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chakra Yoga | Jill Donnette Clary | 9 – 10 a.m. | AL |
| French: Intermediate Level | Cathleen Sendek-Sapp | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | AL |
| American Musicals Travel The World | Sam and Candy Caponegro | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | L |
| Edible Beauty: Transforming Landscapes with Foodscaping | Remington Ham | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | L |
| Inside a Cyberattack: How Attacks Really Work | Jaclyn Joyce | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | L |
| Spanish: Intermediate Level B | Silvina Orsatti | 2 – 3:30 p.m. | AL |

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# SPRING 2027: SESSION 2

# SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

## March 15 - April 16, 2027

The courses below are current as of **November 20, 2026**. For the most up-to-date course information, always consult the OLLI at Pitt website at **olli.pitt.edu**. Clicking on each course title will take you to its course description in the catalog.

Online course  In-person course

Hybrid course (classes that meet in person and are also streamed online)

## MONDAY

**AL**: Active Learning  **D**: Discussion  **L**: Lecture

| CLASS NAME | INSTRUCTOR | TIME | TYPE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gentle Yoga A (continued) | Jill Donnette Clary | 9 – 10 a.m. | AL |
| Addressing Intimate Partner Violence | Alicia Johnson | 9 – 10:30 a.m. | D |
| Beginning Guitar, Level 1 (continued) | Daniel Rectenwald | 10 – 11:50 a.m. | AL |
| The Surveillance State: Is it Constitutional? | Lynn O'Connor | 10 – 11:50 a.m. | L |
| Chair Yoga (continued) | Susan Gillis Kruman | 11 a.m. – noon | AL |
| Big Issues in Political Economy | William Van Lear | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | L |
| Journal Club: Dissecting Peer-Reviewed Papers in Medicine | Sharon George | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | D |
| Shocking Truths of the Holocaust | Howard Kerner | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | L |
| Pittsburghese and Accent Appreciation | Edwin Everhart | 1 – 2:50 p.m. | L |
| The Fourth Genre: Creative Nonfiction | Joseph Harris | 1 – 2:50 p.m. | D |
| The Art of Color: One Image, Five Palettes (continued) | Elaine Bergstrom | 3 – 4:30 p.m. | AL |
| Secret World of 18-Wheelers: Road Safety | Jairus Moore | 6 – 7:30 p.m. | L |
| Understanding Creative Thinkers Through the Arts | Loubna El Bdaoui | 6 – 7:30 p.m. | D |

## TUESDAY

| CLASS NAME | INSTRUCTOR | TIME | TYPE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ovid's *Metamorphoses* in Art from Botticelli to Picasso (continued) | Nora Hamerman | 9 – 10:30 a.m. | L |
| Spanish: Beginning Level B (continued) | Álvaro Bernal | 9 – 11 a.m. | AL |
| Learn Mandarin (continued) | Linda Lieu | 10 – 11:50 a.m. | AL |
| Five Famous U.S. Supreme Court Justices | Tom Allen | 10 – 11:50 a.m. | L |
| Pittsburgh and the 1918 "Spanish Flu" Pandemic | Virginia Montanez | 10 – 11:50 a.m. | L |
| The Film Score: Behind the Scenes | John Cooper | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | L |
| English Country Dance (continued) | Gaye Fifer | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | AL |
| Taking Control of Your Data on Your Computer | Karen Bigrigg | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | L |
| Aging with Wisdom: Lessons from Literature | Gemma Stemley | 1 – 2:50 p.m. | L |
| Women in American Education | Joan Gundersen | 1 – 2:50 p.m. | L |
| Beginner Level French for Travelers (continued) | Cathleen Sendek-Sapp | 3 – 4:30 p.m. | AL |
| Text and Art: Five More Bible Stories | Sarah Rosenson | 3 – 4:30 p.m. | D |
| Virtual Hands-On Indian Cooking | Jayashree Iyengar | 5 – 6:30 p.m. | AL |
| History of Mathematics in the Islamic World | Nuh (Noah) Aydin | 6 – 7:30 p.m. | L |
| Observational Astronomy | Louis Coban | 8 – 9:30 p.m. | AL |

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# SPRING 2027: SESSION 2

## March 15 – April 16, 2027

# SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Online course | In-person course

★ Hybrid course (classes that meet in person and are also streamed online)

## WEDNESDAY

| | CLASS NAME | INSTRUCTOR | TIME | TYPE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Gentle Yoga B (continued) | Jill Donnette Clary | 9 – 10 a.m. | AL |
| ★ | The Saga of DNA | Christine Milcarek | 10 – 11:50 a.m. | L |
| | How Did Sex Become a "Sin"? | Rebecca Denova | 10 – 11:50 a.m. | L |
| | Queen Victoria's Britain | Jared Day | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | L |
| | Reimagining Yourself Through Creative Writing | Laurie McMillan | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | AL |
| | History of Ancient Science | Adam Davis | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | D |
| | Stories of the Missions: Churches and Adobes of the Southwest | Eleanor Schrader | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | L |
| | Selling America? The Push to Deglobalize and Dedollarize | Gautam Mukerjee | 1 – 2:50 p.m. | L |
| | The Genius of Anton Chekhov | Kathleen George | 1 – 2:50 p.m. | AL |
| | Understanding AI: A Beginner's Guide for Lifelong Learners | Rebecca King | 6 – 7:30 p.m. | L |

## THURSDAY

| | CLASS NAME | INSTRUCTOR | TIME | TYPE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Better Balance: Steady and Strong™ (continued) | Diane Markovitz | 9 – 10 a.m. | AL |
| | Italian: Beginning Level B (continued) | Cinzia Delfini | 9 – 10:30 a.m. | AL |
| | Medieval and Renaissance Art in Museums Around the World | David Brumble | 9 – 10:30 a.m. | L |
| ★ | The Rise and Fall of Viktor Orbán in Hungary | Ralph Bangs | 10 – 11:50 a.m. | L |
| | America's Antebellum Anxiety | Mark Macedonia | 10 – 11:50 a.m. | L |
| | GenAI, Information, and Critical Thinking | Joseph Reinwald | 10 – 11:50 a.m. | L |
| | America Survives: Domestic War and Rebellion 1791 – 95 | Robert Thurston | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | L |
| | Storytelling for Social Impact and Narrative Change | Meghna Bhat | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | AL |
| | Cultural History of NYC, Part 2: 1910 – 1970 | George Scheper | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | L |
| | Spanish: Advanced Conversational (continued) | María Franco de Gómez | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | AL |
| | Hidden Messages in Fairy Tales | Elizabeth Rodenz | 1 – 2:50 p.m. | L |
| | Philosophy for Our Time of Life | Joseph Givvin | 1 – 2:50 p.m. | L |
| | Opening to Nature — Our Inheritance as Humans, Part 2 | Thalia Gray | 6 – 7:30 p.m. | D |

## FRIDAY

| | CLASS NAME | INSTRUCTOR | TIME | TYPE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Chakra Yoga (continued) | Jill Donnette Clary | 9 – 10 a.m. | AL |
| | French: Intermediate Level (continued) | Cathleen Sendek-Sapp | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | AL |
| | Raising the Curtain on the Greatest Musicals | Sam and Candy Caponegro | 10 – 11:30 a.m. | L |
| | Topics in Astrophysics, Part 2 | Donald Ellison | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | L |
| | Women in the Muslim Middle East | Gamze Akbas | 1 – 2:30 p.m. | L |
| | Spanish: Intermediate Level B (continued) | Silvina Orsatti | 2 – 3:30 p.m. | AL |

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# COURSES BY TOPIC

Clicking on each course title will take you to its course description in the catalog.

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## ECONOMICS AND MATHEMATICS


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## FILM, MUSIC, AND THEATER


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## FITNESS, HEALTH, AND SELF-INTEREST


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## HISTORY, CLASSICS, AND PHILOSOPHY


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| America's Antebellum Anxiety | 12 |
| Creation of the Modern World | 14 |
| Cultural History of NYC, Part 1: From Mannahatta to the Gilded Age | 15 |
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| Five Famous U.S. Supreme Court Justices | 16 |
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| Great Military Blunders | 18 |
| History of Ancient Science | 19 |
| History of Mathematics in the Islamic World | 19 |
| One Hundred Years of Jewish Community in Shanghai | 21 |
| Philosophy for Our Time of Life | 22 |
| Pittsburgh and the 1918 "Spanish Flu" Pandemic | 22 |
| The Politics of Humor and the Humor of Politics | 23 |
| Portraits of Mon Valley Industrial Communities | 23 |
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## LANGUAGE STUDIES


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# COURSES BY TOPIC

Clicking on each course title will take you to its course description in the catalog.

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| Book Design: A Cultural History | 14 |
| *The Epic of Gilgamesh*: Humanity's First Great Story | 16 |
| The Fourth Genre: Creative Nonfiction | 16 |
| The Genius of Anton Chekhov | 17 |
| The Life and Times of Literary Favorites: American Voices | 20 |
| Reimagining Yourself Through Creative Writing | 24 |
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## POLITICAL/SOCIAL SCIENCES AND SOCIETY


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| Hidden Messages in Fairy Tales | 18 |
| A History of Disability Rights and Advocacy | 19 |
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| The Rise and Fall of Viktor Orbán in Hungary | 24 |
| Secret World of 18-Wheelers: Road Safety | 25 |
| The Surveillance State: Is it Constitutional? | 26 |
| What "They" Think of Us, and Why It Matters | 29 |


## RELIGIOUS STUDIES


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| How Did Sex Become a "Sin"? | 19 |
| Redeeming Adam and Eve: Genesis 1 – 4 for the Modern Mind | 24 |
| Satan: The History and Politics of the Devil | 25 |


## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND MEDICINE


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| GenAI, Information, and Critical Thinking | 17 |
| The Golden Age of Arabic Science | 18 |
| Inside a Cyberattack: How Attacks Really Work | 19 |
| Journal Club: Dissecting Peer-Reviewed Papers in Medicine | 20 |
| Let There Be Light: An Exploration of the Physics of Light | 20 |
| Observational Astronomy | 21 |
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| Taking Control of Your Data on Your Computer | 27 |
| Topics in Astrophysics, Part 2 | 27 |
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## VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS


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## COURSES LISTED ALPHABETICALLY

### Addressing Intimate Partner Violence

*Alicia Johnson*

**MONDAYS, 9 - 10:30 A.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a public health issue in this country and abroad. As we age, the impacts of IPV can be exacerbated by age-related frailty, cognitive decline, and isolation. Further, older survivors of IPV may rely on their abusers for care, complicating their ability to seek help and resources. TThe purpose of this course is to familiarize members with the definition, theories, dynamics, and consequences of intimate partner violence, as well as social interventions to prevent and respond to it.

### Advanced Bridge: Better Bidding, Opening Leads, and Play

*Richard Finberg*

**THURSDAYS, 11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Intermediate and advanced bridge players will improve their play by learning sound bidding practices that help partnerships find the best contract. Members will sniff out killing opening leads and play for success. Members also get to practice bidding and opening leads and can practice declarer play on a private virtual bridge table seen only by you and the instructor.

### Aging with Wisdom: Lessons from Literature

*Gemma Stemley*

**TUESDAYS, 1 - 2:50 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

How have great writers understood the experience of growing older? Through poetry, memoir, fiction, and essays, this course explores how writers from different cultures and eras illuminate time, memory, love, loss, creativity, and legacy. Rather than offering advice on aging, these works invite thoughtful conversations about living fully in life's later chapters. Each class combines close reading with lively discussion, encouraging members to connect enduring literature with their own experiences.

### America Survives: Domestic War and Rebellion 1791 - 95

*Robert Thurston*

**THURSDAYS, 11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

In 1791-1795, the young American republic faced two existential crises. Thousands of armed farmers in western Pennsylvania rebelled against a federal tax and legal authority--the Whiskey Rebellion. In Ohio, a powerful Native American confederation fought against American expansion. How did Washington's government overcome these crises and put the new Constitution's words into effect? This course explores these questions. The legacies of this period still affect American politics today.

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## American Musicals Travel The World

*Sam and Candy Caponegro*

**FRIDAYS, 10 - 11:30 A.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Many American-style musicals transport us to foreign countries, cultures, and historical backdrops outside the United States. Watching clips from various classic musicals, we will travel around the globe without leaving home. From England to France, Germany, Israel, and all the way to Africa, India, and South America, we will allow our imagination to experience immersion into a fantasy tour of musicals in distant settings.

## America's Antebellum Anxiety

*Mark Macedonia*

**THURSDAYS, 10 - 11:50 A.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

This course is focused on the antebellum period of United States history during the late 18th and 19th centuries. Members will explore the historical personalities and events that were instrumental in bringing about the American Civil War in 1861. Moving chronologically through this time period, the class will understand and identify how the seeds of division were sown to bring about war.

## Art, Architecture, Kidney Stones...and Mathematics

*Richard Wertheimer*

**WEDNESDAYS, 10 - 11:50 A.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

Great architecture, works of art, and natural phenomenon all have a mathematical foundation. Sadly, many of us are afraid of mathematics. This course makes the basic mathematics behind great achievements accessible. We will look at Fallingwater, the Guggenheim, Notre Dame, the art of M.C. Escher, the Pantheon, the famous Guastavino stairway at Carnegie Mellon University, and an elegant cure for kidney stones.

## The Art of Color: One Image, Five Palettes

*Elaine Bergstrom*

**MONDAYS, 3 - 4:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 and 2 (10 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Explore color harmony through five watercolor palettes using one image. Learn how the colors can change the mood and feelings of your art. This course focuses on a stronger foundation in color. Color is fun and exciting. All levels are welcome.

## Back to Basics: Color and Composition

*Ann Rosenthal*

**THURSDAYS, 11 A.M. - 12:50 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Learn techniques and strategies for improving your compositions and color choices. How do you draw your audience into your artwork and keep them engaged? Through a series of fun exercises in a range of media, members will discover how to create strong, effective compositions. How do color and composition relate? This course will uncover how they work together to up your art game!

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## Beginner Level French for Travelers

*Cathleen Sendek-Sapp*

**TUESDAYS, 3 - 4:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 and 2 (10 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This course is designed for students with little or no prior knowledge of French to help them acquire some basic knowledge of the language in order to travel. Emphasis is on how to pronounce the French they may visually encounter during their travels. Students also have a chance to practice mastering useful phrases and language structures (numbers, days of week, etc.) to help them communicate in travel situations.

## Beginning Guitar, Level 1

*Daniel Rectenwald*

**MONDAYS, 10 - 11:50 A.M.**

**Session:** 1 and 2 (10 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

This course will teach members how to play the guitar. Session topics will include tuning the guitar, basic chords, single-note playing, and basic note-reading. Members will learn a handful of songs from the American popular tradition, as well as scales and musical notation. ***Note: This will be a hands-on group session, and members should have their own guitar.***

## *The Best American Short Stories 2026*

*David Walton*

**WEDNESDAYS, 1 - 2:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

The Best American series, launched in 1915, is the premier annual showcase for the country's finest short fiction and nonfiction. Members will read and discuss a selection of the most interesting and engaging stories from the 2026 edition of *The Best American Short Stories*, two or three stories each week. Discussions are based on class responses to the stories, and are by tradition incisive, illuminating, and thoroughly apolitical.

## Better Balance: Steady and Strong™

*Diane Markovitz*

**THURSDAYS, 9 - 10 A.M.**

**Session:** 1 and 2 (10 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Are you looking for an exercise program designed to improve your everyday life? Work with a physical therapist to learn balance and strengthening exercises. Come join the fun and learn a program designed to improve your daily function while also decreasing your risk of falls and injury. No special equipment is necessary, and all exercises are completed sitting or standing. This program is suitable for beginners yet appropriate for those with more exercise experience, as it can be adapted to fit individual needs. Wear comfortable clothes and supportive shoes.

## Big Issues in Political Economy

*William Van Lear*

**MONDAYS, 11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This course looks at the history and details of important public issues of contemporary American political economy. The themes covered will include central bank history and independence, Social Security finances, causes of income inequality, causes of financial crises, and evolution in the role of government. No outside readings are required, but members are encouraged to take notes so that course content can be considered for end-of-course and between-class discussions.

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## Bogie's Best: Films of Humphrey Bogart

*David Shifren*

**WEDNESDAYS, 12:45 - 3:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

You must remember this... Humphrey Bogart's lack of classic Hollywood leading-man looks may explain why, in his first 30 films, he was cast in secondary, supporting-actor roles as a gangster. It was not until winning starring parts in *High Sierra* and *The Maltese Falcon* that Bogie, aged 40, found his leading-man mojo. We will screen and discuss films that showcase this screen icon's talent and range: *High Sierra, The Maltese Falcon, In A Lonely Place, To Have and Have Not,* and *The African Queen*.

## Book Design: A Cultural History

*Jon Klancher*

**MONDAYS, 1 - 2:50 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

This course introduces members to the history of books and reading by focusing on issues of design, from physical form of codex books to the creative array of typographies and visual page design. A mid-course visit to the rare book collection at Hillman Library will encourage members to put this knowledge to use with a guided hands-on experience with rare books. The course also explores "spaces of reading" in various kinds of libraries: academic, private, and public.

## Chair Yoga

*Susan Gillis Kruman*

**MONDAYS, 11 A.M. - NOON**

**Session:** 1 and 2 (10 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This gentle form of yoga is practiced using a chair as a prop/stabilizer for support during standing poses or adapted for sitting on a chair. It is especially beneficial for people concerned with balance or coordination issues or those who have felt they are unable to participate in other yoga experiences. The class includes poses for strength training, mobility in the joints, and more relaxing poses to help steady the mind. Modifications will be offered throughout the course so that participants learn to adapt to their personal situations and comfort as well as challenge themselves. The course is appropriate for all levels.

## Chakra Yoga

*Jill Donnette Clary*

**FRIDAYS, 9 - 10 A.M.**

**Session:** 1 and 2 (10 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This course moves through traditional yoga poses (or asanas) that align each individual chakra, moving up the spine from the root chakra to the crown chakra. Chakras are energy centers located across different points on our spinal column. When energy becomes blocked in a chakra, it triggers imbalances that manifest in symptoms such as anxiety, lethargy, or poor digestion. Participants should wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing and have a yoga mat. While still accessible to a beginning student, this class is more challenging than the Gentle Yoga classes.

## Creation of the Modern World

*Alan Irvine*

**TUESDAYS, 10 - 11:50 A.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

In 1400, Europe was the poorest, most backward region of the world, yet just a couple of centuries later, Europeans conquered the globe, crushing older, richer, more sophisticated societies. How did this happen? The course explores some answers, including the role of the Industrial Revolution and colonialism, which laid the foundation for the upheavals of the 20th century and our modern global economy.

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## The Creative Process in Architecture

*Matthew Schlueb*

**TUESDAYS, 1 - 2:50 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Hybrid ★

This course is an exploration into the creative process of residential architecture. Each lecture will focus on one house, articulating a key element in the creative process. Beginning with thematic transformations of a Sewickley house from a gypsy wagon into a tugboat, followed by narrative in a Squirrel Hill pirate house, circular addition to Highland Park Victorian house renovated by Arthur Lubetz, organic space of a bedroom addition to a Church Hill house, and concluding with experiments in assembly for a deck replacement at Villa Vuoto.

## Cultural History of NYC, Part 1: From Mannahatta to the Gilded Age

*George Scheper*

**THURSDAYS, 1 - 2:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online 💻

Starting out as Mannahatta, a bountiful Native American hunting and fishing ground, the island at the mouth of the Hudson has gone from the small commercial venture of Dutch New Amsterdam to the rough and tumble of British colonial New York, to a brief stint as federal capital of the United States, to its more enduring role as cultural and economic engine of "the capital of capitalism." This course will explore the great public and private projects that define its character.

## Cultural History of NYC, Part 2: 1910 - 1970

*George Scheper*

**THURSDAYS, 1 - 2:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online 💻

This course will explore New York City's history from the 1910s to the 1970s through the perspective of art, literature, and architecture. The course begins with a look at art in the Progressive era of the teens and 20s, then the Harlem Renaissance as viewed through selected writing and art. During this time, the New York City skyline turned distinctly modernist and vertical as the first skyscrapers were built, but the stock market crash of 1929 and the lean years of the 1930s soon resulted in art and design turning towards social realism.

## Dietrich Bonhoeffer: History, Costly Grace, and the Poetry

*David Fetterman*

**WEDNESDAYS, 9 - 10:30 A.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online 💻

This course will examine the life and thought of Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906 – 1945), Lutheran pastor, theologian, and conspirator against Adolf Hitler, through the lenses of his theology, the historical world that shaped him, and the poems he wrote during his imprisonment (1943 – 1945). We will explore how Bonhoeffer's worldview and theology were shaped in Nazi Germany and expressed in verse at the edge of death.

## Edible Beauty: Transforming Landscapes with Foodscaping

*Remington Ham*

**FRIDAYS, 10 - 11:30 A.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online 💻

Growing food should not be limited to raised beds or traditional garden plots. Foodscaping integrates edible plants into ornamental landscapes, creating spaces that are both visually striking and productive. In this course, members will learn the principles of foodscaping and explore creative ways to incorporate fruits, vegetables, and herbs into gardens, containers, and traditional planting beds. Whether designing a new garden or enhancing an existing space, members will learn strategies to create an attractive, harvest-worthy landscape throughout the growing season.

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## English Country Dance

*Gaye Fifer*

**TUESDAYS, 1 - 2:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 and 2 (10 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

This course, appropriate for members of any level, begins by teaching the basic figures used in English country dancing and practices them in the context of beautiful historic and modern dance compositions. Members will explore the grace, elegance, and playfulness of this dance form (think of *Pride and Prejudice*). No partner or experience necessary. Participants will regularly switch partners in our dance sessions. Be prepared for physical, mental, and social stimulation!

## *The Epic of Gilgamesh*: Humanity's First Great Story

*Andrew Peterson*

**MONDAYS, 6 - 7:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This course explores the world's oldest surviving epic and its enduring relevance. Written more than 4,000 years ago, this remarkable work examines friendship, power, grief, mortality, and humanity's search for meaning. Through engaging lectures and discussion, members will discover the ancient Mesopotamian world that produced the epic, follow Gilgamesh's transformative journey, and explore the poem's influence on later literature, mythology, and religion.

## The Film Score: Behind the Scenes

*John Cooper*

**TUESDAYS, 11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

The theater lights go down and music plays to prepare you for a cinematic experience. The film score has evolved from humble beginnings to become an integral part of the stories told in films. We will take the time to examine and enjoy the wide range of musical influences, unique composers, and generic conventions of the film score. A solid grounding in aesthetics, history, and musical movements will guide our study of music genres and composer–director collaborations.

## Five Famous U.S. Supreme Court Justices

*Tom Allen*

**TUESDAYS, 10 - 11:50 A.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Hybrid

In this course, we will explore the history of the U.S. Supreme Court and some of the Court's landmark decisions, with a focus on the tenures of five Justices, each of whom had a huge impact on the Court and our country: John Marshall (1803 – 1835); Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. (1902 – 1932); Earl Warren (1953 – 1969); Sandra Day O'Connor (1981 – 2006); and Antonin Scalia (1986 – 2016).

## The Fourth Genre: Creative Nonfiction

*Joseph Harris*

**MONDAYS, 1 - 2:50 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

Poetry, fiction, and drama. Those are the commonly-named genres of literature. But what about authors who use the techniques of literature while writing about actual events and people? In this course we will look at the emerging and exciting "fourth genre" of creative nonfiction. Drawing on brief examples from both print and the internet, we will examine a different form of creative nonfiction each week: flash nonfiction, personal narratives, fractured narratives, personal critical writing, and hermit crab essays. You should end the course with some new favorite pieces and authors to follow!

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## French: Intermediate Level

*Cathleen Sendek-Sapp*

**FRIDAYS, 10 - 11:30 A.M.**

**Session:** 1 and 2 (10 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Each term, the focus of this course will be on studying the formation and uses of various French verb tenses. In addition to grammar-oriented textbook exercises, we will also explore material found online to deepen our understanding of many grammatical concepts. Participants will be encouraged to actively engage in both structured and free-form communicative activities. This course is geared to members who may still have difficulty in comfortably delivering simple sentences in French. Some prior knowledge of French is expected. Advanced speaking skills are not required.

## From Card Games to Supercomputers: A History of Video Games

*Andrew Skelly*

**WEDNESDAYS, 10 - 11:50 A.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

This course will survey the history of video games and the culture that surrounds them. We will start in the late 1800s with the founding of Nintendo and their playing cards, and move to the present day. In the course, we will discuss the prominent figures, technology, rivalries, and cultural context that define each generation of video game consoles and eras. Along the way, we will discuss why it is that video games have remained a fixture of our society and the emotional and social benefits that can be derived from video games.

## From Chagall to Matisse: An Art Journey to Provence

*Katherine Zoraster*

**MONDAYS, 1 - 2:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Although Paris was widely considered to be the center of the art world of the 20th century, many artists sought the light and scenery of the South of France. In particular, Nice and neighboring Saint-Paul-de-Vence became centers of art of the French Riviera. Dominantly represented in both places are the artists Marc Chagall and Henri Matisse. Both incredibly prolific and unique, they both lived and produced much of their art in this region, and many of their works are housed there in several different museums, including individual museums dedicated to each artist.

## GenAI, Information, and Critical Thinking

*Joseph Reinwald*

**THURSDAYS, 10 - 11:50 A.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

Generative AI tools such as ChatGPT, Claude, and Gemini can produce convincing answers, images, summaries, and explanations. However, convincing does not necessarily mean correct. This course provides members with practical skills for evaluating information produced or amplified by GenAI. Members will learn how to think critically when using GenAI and how to recognize questionable content. Through demos, discussions, hands-on activities, and real-world examples, members will explore the many ways AI-generated content can influence what users see and believe.

## The Genius of Anton Chekhov

*Kathleen George*

**WEDNESDAYS, 1 - 2:50 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

Chekhov's plays are subtle explorations of heartbreak and family dynamics. It is what is happening in the hearts and minds of his protagonists that matters most. Many scholars have studied his life and many writers have written plays about him. As a consummate writer Chekhov understood the power of invention. This course will examine his four best known plays.

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## Gentle Yoga A

*Jill Donnette Clary*

**MONDAYS, 9 - 10 A.M.**

**Session:** 1 and 2 (10 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This course is geared for those new to yoga, those interested in a slower and more gentle practice, or those recovering from illness or injury. It includes a combination of meditation, breath work, and flowing movement intended for all abilities. Participants will move from seated on the floor (or a chair) to standing and then will return to mats. Participants will experiment with balance, strength, flexibility, and stillness while practicing mindfulness and meditation techniques. ***Note: The Gentle Yoga A and B classes are companion courses. Members can register for both or just one.***

## Gentle Yoga B

*Jill Donnette Clary*

**WEDNESDAYS, 9 - 10 A.M.**

**Session:** 1 and 2 (10 classes)
**Modality:** Online

See Gentle Yoga A

## The Golden Age of Arabic Science

*Ralph Bangs and Patrick Cooper*

**THURSDAYS, 10 - 11:50 A.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Hybrid

Modern science, physics, and math owe a great debt to medieval Arab, Persian, and Muslim scholars. For more than 700 years, the international language of those subjects was Arabic. The textbook for this course (Jim Al-Khalili, *Pathfinders: The Golden Age of Arabic Science*, 2012) covers the history and brilliant minds of this era. The people profiled include the Iraqi physicist Ibn al-Haytham, who practiced the modern scientific method over half a century before Roger Bacon; al-Khwarizmi, the greatest mathematician of the medieval world; and Abu Rayhan al-Biruni, a Persian polymath to rival Leonardo da Vinci.

## Great Military Blunders

*Kenneth Koncerak*

**MONDAYS, 6 - 7:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This course will chronologically examine military blunders from world history. A brief general background will be explored before a deeper dive into the event itself. Episodes include the Battle of the Monongahela, Napoleon's retreat from Moscow, the burning of the White House, the Charge of the Light Brigade, Custer's Last Stand, Isandlwana, the Fall of Singapore, and Exercise Tiger among others.

## Hidden Messages in Fairy Tales

*Elizabeth Rodenz*

**THURSDAYS, 1 - 2:50 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

Fairy tales seem to be innocent stories, but they were not written for children. Instead, they contain profound lessons for adults who are willing to dive deep into the waters of their meaning. This course analyzes and explores the many nuances of fairy tales relating to archetypes and archetypal themes.

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## History of Ancient Science

*Adam Davis*

**WEDNESDAYS, 1 - 2:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This course will examine the history of science, mathematics, and medicine from its inception among preliterate peoples to the Middle Ages. Emphasis will be on the scientific achievements of classical civilizations such as Greece, Rome, and Babylon, but we will also examine the shift of scientific inquiry to the Middle East and its return to the West at the dawn of the Renaissance.

## A History of Disability Rights and Advocacy

*Katherine Hirsh*

**MONDAYS, 1 - 2:50 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Hybrid

This course is a review of the social history, legislature, and activism that transformed the lives of disabled Americans and their families throughout the 20th and 21st century. The course begins with the shift from early 20th century institutionalization, moves through the identification of autism and the disability rights movement, and ends with the development and evolution of modern day therapies and individualized education.

## History of Mathematics in the Islamic World

*Nuh (Noah) Aydin*

**TUESDAYS, 6 - 7:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Medieval Islamic civilization laid the foundation for modern science and mathematics, introducing algebra, trigonometry, algorithms, optics, and the scientific method while profoundly shaping the European Renaissance. Yet these contributions remain widely underappreciated. This course explores specific medieval Islamic achievements alongside the religious, social, and historical contexts in which they flourished. We will examine cross-cultural exchanges with Greek, Indian, and European traditions, challenge common historical misconceptions, and investigate why this legacy was forgotten. This course bridges three distinct disciplines.

## How Did Sex Become a "Sin"?

*Rebecca Denova*

**WEDNESDAYS, 10 - 11:50 A.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

In The Book of Genesis, humans were told to "be fruitful and multiply." Greco-Roman society viewed procreation as an instrument for survival, a "gift from the gods," and a religious duty of every citizen. Influenced by both traditions, Christianity nevertheless opted for a conception of sex and marriage that is inferior, and at times opposed to, the ideal of Genesis as well as their contemporary culture. We will explore the Christian innovation of a new understanding of the relationship between the body and society, and how sexual intercourse became the original sin.

## Inside a Cyberattack: How Attacks Really Work

*Jaclyn Joyce*

**FRIDAYS, 1 - 2:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

What actually happens when someone is hacked? This course takes a closer look at the methods cyberattackers use to compromise people, computers, and organizations. We will explore social engineering, malware, software vulnerabilities, and ransomware, using real-world attacks to understand how they work and what makes them successful. The course concludes with an in-depth case study that brings these techniques together and follows a cyberattack from beginning to end. No programming or hacking experience is required. The goal is not to learn how to attack, but to understand how attacks happen.

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## Italian: Beginning Level B

*Cinzia Delfini*

**THURSDAYS, 9 - 10:30 A.M.**

**Session:** 1 and 2 (10 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Do you want to continue your journey with Italian language and culture? If so, take Beginning Italian Level B! You will develop your speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills while exploring Italian culture, food, music, traditions, and everyday life. Build your confidence in Italian, expand your vocabulary, and discover more about Italy along the way.

## Journal Club: Dissecting Peer-Reviewed Papers in Medicine

*Sharon George*

**MONDAYS, 11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This course will be structured as a journal club where members will learn about the sections of a peer-reviewed science article, details to look for, and how to interpret results. The first class will go over the "how to" part of reading and understanding a science manuscript. In the next three classes, we will apply this knowledge to review recent scientific publications in health and medicine. In the last class, we will have a "student's choice" topic or article that will be discussed and dissected.

## Learn Mandarin

*Linda Lieu*

**TUESDAYS, 10 - 11:50 A.M.**

**Session:** 1 and 2 (10 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

Curious about learning Mandarin Chinese? Traveling to China? Or need a refresher course on tones and customs? Join us for a course on travel phrases commonly used if you are planning a trip or if you would like to learn the basics of a new language. This course is designed for learners with little to no experience as well as novice speakers.

## Let There Be Light: An Exploration of the Physics of Light

*John Kinne*

**THURSDAYS, 6 - 7:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Light surrounds us. Light surprises us. Light shapes how we sense the world. We will cover how people have tried to understand light from ancient to modern ideas. The course will explore particles, waves, and how light is either neither or both! And we will learn that while our understanding of light is far from complete, our understanding allows us to build modern technologies such as lasers, solar cells, and MRIs. The class will include some optional experiments that members can complete at home, during or after the class.

## The Life and Times of Literary Favorites: American Voices

*Lauren Radick*

**THURSDAYS, 11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Every great book has a story behind it, and so does every great writer. Join us as we explore the lives of the remarkable men and women whose words helped shape American literature and changed the way we see ourselves and our world. We will share unforgettable stories of creativity, courage, ambition—from Walt Whitman's revolutionary poetry to ideals of the Transcendentalists, the restless spirit of the Lost Generation, the rebellious voices of the Beat Generation, and Harper Lee's timeless *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Through lively storytelling, historical context, and literary insight, we will discover the personal experiences that inspired these masterpieces that still inspire us today.

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## Medieval and Renaissance Art in Museums Around the World

*David Brumble*

**THURSDAYS, 9 - 10:30 A.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This course will explore a wide range of Medieval and Renaissance art in the collections of museums around the world. Members will learn about medieval manuscript illuminations and discuss Rembrandt, Caravaggio, and Vermeer. Of particular note are the paintings in the New York Metropolitan Museum's recent exhibition about the dawn of the Italian Renaissance, *Siena: The Rise of Painting, 1300-1350*. Understanding art in its cultural/historical context is central to this course.

## Observational Astronomy

*Louis Coban*

**TUESDAYS, 8 - 9:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

This is a hands-on course in observational astronomy taught at the historic Allegheny Observatory. Members will learn to identify constellations in the night sky, the various types of telescopes, how to use them, and the types of computer programs and apps to aid in finding celestial objects in the night sky. Large and small telescopes will be used both visually and with electronic cameras to record the night sky. We will use the telescopes as much as possible on clear nights with cloudy nights used for classroom instruction and desktop planetarium demonstrations. ***Note: This course will be taught at the Allegheny Observatory, which is NOT on campus at the University of Pittsburgh. This historic building is only partially accessible. Some of the tours will require steps. Parking is free.***

## Off the Beaten Path: Kyushu, Japan

*Blaine Connor*

**WEDNESDAYS, 6 - 7:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Most visitors to Japan think of Tokyo and Kyoto, perhaps adding Mt. Fuji. In this course, members will be introduced to Kyushu, Japan's southernmost main island. Though off the beaten path, it is a marvelous place full of history, beauty, and great food. In each class a different area will be presented, using pictures, maps, personal stories, and scholarship. By course end, members will know about one of Japan's major regions and have the information needed to plan an enjoyable visit that will deepen an affection for Japan.

## One Hundred Years of Jewish Community in Shanghai

*William Greenspan*

**MONDAYS, 10 - 11:50 A.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

This course will cover the history of the Jewish community in Shanghai and its diverse immigration groups. First to arrive in the 1840s were Sephardic Jews from India, originally from Iraq. They engaged in different business activities, including opium trade. Next came Russian Ashkenazi Jews escaping pogroms and 1917 revolution. The last group was German and Austrian Jews escaping Nazi Germany in 1930s. Shanghai became their "Noah's Ark" of survival. The course will follow their history throughout 100 years until the community dissolution after WWII.

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## Opening to Nature — Our Inheritance as Humans, Part 2

*Thalia Gray*

**THURSDAYS, 6 - 7:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This course is a continuation of the Part 1 course that looked at how humans are connected to other species and form part of nature. We will revisit humanity's role as co-creators with nature, sound frequencies as a means of communication with non-humans, and our ancient relationships with plants, trees, animals, and birds. We will also learn about topics such as land healing, geomancy, dowsing, and the currently ongoing integration of the intelligence of nature into modern sciences.
***Part 1 is not a prerequisite for Part 2.***

## Ovid's *Metamorphoses* in Art from Botticelli to Picasso

*Nora Hamerman*

**TUESDAYS, 9 - 10:30 A.M.**

**Session:** 1 and 2 (10 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Next to the Bible, the Metamorphoses epic by Roman poet Ovid inspired the most European painting, sculpture, and theater for the last six centuries. We will study some of the masterpieces it inspired by artists Michelangelo, Rembrandt, Velazquez, and many others.

## Philosophy for Our Time of Life

*Joseph Givvin*

**THURSDAYS, 1 - 2:50 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

We are at a unique stage of life. Whether we call it old age, the golden years, or senior citizenship, we should think deeply about this stage of our lives. This course will attempt to do just that. We will begin by exploring the history of ideas about this time of life and then continue with a discussion of the book *Aging Thoughtfully* by Martha C. Nussbaum and Saul Levmore. The ultimate goal of this course is to engage members in the activity of philosophizing about this life stage.

## Pittsburgh and the 1918 "Spanish Flu" Pandemic

*Virginia Montanez*

**TUESDAYS, 10 - 11:50 A.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

During the 1918 "Spanish Flu" pandemic, which took more than 675,000 American lives, Pittsburgh suffered the highest death rate of any major U.S. city. Why? This course answers that question and explores the pandemic through the eyes of ordinary Pittsburghers as they faced an exceptionally lethal virus amid the height of U.S. involvement in World War I. We will examine how the outbreak unfolded, how the medical field, local government officials, and industrialists responded, who was most vulnerable, whose stories have been lost or forgotten, and what this chapter in Pittsburgh's history can still teach us today.

## Pittsburghese and Accent Appreciation

*Edwin Everhart*

**MONDAYS, 1 - 2:50 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Hybrid

Why do some people feel the need to get rid of a Pittsburgh accent, while others dress their children in "Lil' Yinzer" pajamas? And where does Pittsburgh dialect come from? In this lecture-based course we will explore Pittsburghese as a guide to our history and as a pattern in our language. We will discuss the different kinds of Pittsburghese and what it means to use them. Throughout the course, we will also practice hearing different accents as something fun and interesting, rather than as something frustrating.

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## The Politics of Humor and the Humor of Politics

*Peter Robinson*

**TUESDAYS, 1 - 2:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Finding humor in past elections was easy for Americans, and the presidential politics of today are just as funny. We will look at the long history of how punch lines crossed party lines to sway votes, popular opinion, and political agendas in America. We will laugh along with—and at—a host of comedians and comedians-in-chief, including Abraham Lincoln, Artemus Ward, Mark Twain, Calvin Coolidge, Franklin Roosevelt, Will Rogers, Jack Kennedy, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, Stephen Colbert, and of course, Donald Trump, who has reshaped the joke in unprecedented ways.

## Portraits of Mon Valley Industrial Communities

*Kane McKernan*

**TUESDAYS, 1 - 2:50 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

This course will cover the material and emotional impact of industrial collapse within the Monongahela Valley region and Western Pennsylvania at large. Starting with a broad scope of what nourished the growth of towns throughout Western PA, the course ultimately aims to focus on the local communities of Homestead, Braddock, and Wilkinsburg. We will take a close look at how each borough dealt with the tumultuous times, both the triumphs and the failures. The course will then look towards current events and how they attempt to resolve the trauma of industrial collapse.

## Practical Mindfulness: Tools for Stress and Everyday Calm

*Laura Kustaborder*

**TUESDAYS, 6 - 7:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Mindfulness is not about emptying the mind, but learning to navigate life's demands with ease. Whether facing transitions, supporting loved ones, or managing health changes, practical mindfulness offers evidence-based tools to build resilience, reduce stress, and improve well-being. Using accessible, portable techniques, this course shows how simple practices cultivate everyday grounding and presence without special equipment. Each class blends science with guided practices, including breathwork, body awareness, gentle movement, and practical focus, to help you transform your overall health.

## Print Making: Intro to Linocutting

*Yoka Slagle*

**MONDAYS, 1 - 2:50 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

Linocutting is a fun and accessible way to create art prints. Members will learn to carve their own designs on soft linoleum, roll on ink and press the relief carving onto paper. It is easy to learn and simple enough to practice without expensive equipment. We will produce black and white prints and venture to add more colors as members build skills. This course is open to all skill levels. A basic materials kit will be provided.

## Queen Victoria's Britain

*Jared Day*

**WEDNESDAYS, 11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This course explores one of Great Britain's most famous monarchs during one of its more famous (and infamous) ages. We will examine the industrial revolution, the growth of great urban challenges, and the specific role played by the royal family. We will also look at the expansion of the British Empire, international relations with France and Germany, and the impact of several of England's most iconic prime ministers including Benjamin Disraeli and William Gladstone.

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## Raising the Curtain on the Greatest Musicals

*Sam and Candy Caponegro*

**FRIDAYS, 10 - 11:30 A.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Take an in-depth look into the world's greatest musicals. Using a multitude of clips, we will explore the history, structure, and execution of such esteemed musicals as *Les Miserables, Company, Oklahoma, Gypsy, West Side Story*, and *The Sound of Music* to name a few. Jump into musical theater land with us as we watch and discuss the actors, directors and production, and the problems and successes associated with the great classic shows.

## Redeeming Adam and Eve: Genesis 1 - 4 for the Modern Mind

*Sandra Collins*

**MONDAYS, 11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Genesis 1 – 4, or the stories of creation, often serve as metaphors for sin, hubris, and conclusions regarding all that is wrong with rigid, puritanical approaches to the Bible. This course hopes to redeem these narratives from their stilted, often narrow interpretations through a slow and careful process of close readings. This approach leads to a deeper understanding regarding the biblical notions of many themes including creation, fratricide, and the nature of sin and mercy. Consideration of Jewish and Islamic beliefs alongside ancient Near Eastern analogs furthers appreciation for the narrative elegance of this ancient cosmological vision of the divine and humanity's role within that created order.

## Reimagining Yourself Through Creative Writing

*Laurie McMillan*

**WEDNESDAYS, 11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This creative writing course will help members refocus, reimagine, and reinvigorate their lives through writing from prompts and discussion designed to employ imagination and insight. Members can write in any genre they wish, and no writing experience is necessary. The course will give members the space and encouragement they need to enhance creativity. Writing tools and ideas to continue work in class and inspire further discovery will be offered.

## The Rise and Fall of Viktor Orbán in Hungary

*Ralph Bangs*

**THURSDAYS, 10 - 11:50 A.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Hybrid ★

Between 2010 and 2026, Viktor Orbán converted a fragile parliamentary supermajority into what scholars call a “mafia state” or “hybrid regime” that dismantled checks on executive power almost entirely through legal means. In April 2026, this system, which had survived four consecutive election victories, collapsed in a landslide defeat to a former Fidesz party insider. This course asks four questions: How did Orbán get elected? How did he convert electoral victory into permanent, near-unaccountable rule? Who benefited, and how? And why, despite controlling courts, media, and electoral rules, did the system lose power?

## The Saga of DNA

*Christine Milcarek*

**WEDNESDAYS, 10 - 11:50 A.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Hybrid ★

The structure of DNA was uncovered 74 years ago. This course will highlight and summarize those discoveries and trace how the study of DNA, RNA, genetics, and molecular biology has transformed the world around us. We will discuss mutations and cancer, the use of CRISPR-Cas9 for corrections of somatic mutations, and cloning organisms with a discussion of Tom Brady's dog. DNA has resolved questions of disease, history and archaeology, crime, ancestry and even for some, identity.

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## Satan: The History and Politics of the Devil

*Shivaun Corry*

**WEDNESDAYS, 1 - 2:50 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Hybrid ★

From the Garden of Eden to the Salem Witch Trials and the 1980s "Satanic Panic," humans have long blamed misdeeds on the Devil. But where did our idea of The Devil come from? This course traces the Devil's evolution from Zoroastrian and Jewish roots to Christianity and Islam, taking shape through writers like Faust, Dante, and Milton. We will discuss who gets called "Satanic" today, and touch on topics like antisemitism and moral panics around rock music, feminism, and new technologies like AI as a "Devil's bargain."

## Secret World of 18-Wheelers: Road Safety

*Jairus Moore*

**MONDAYS, 6 - 7:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Ever wondered what keeps America's giant 18-wheelers, motorcoaches, and delivery fleets running safely alongside everyday commuters? Designed for curious minds, this course offers an engaging look behind the curtain of federal commercial transport safety. Rather than legal jargon, this course extracts real-world mechanics, strategic management concepts, and modern regulatory frameworks. Through interactive lectures, case studies, and lively group activities, members will discover how big data, fatigue science, roadside inspections, and public policy balance highway safety with national commerce.

## Selling America? The Push to Deglobalize and Dedollarize

*Gautam Mukerjee*

**WEDNESDAYS, 1 - 2:50 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

This course examines how the formula for economic success made up of globalization and dollarization began to unravel over time. The promise of prosperity and improved living standards for all produced instead stark inequalities in income and wealth, significant job losses, population displacements, and environmental challenges. This fueled a desperate call for equity, fairness, and justice. A push to deglobalize and dedollarize quickly followed, emphasizing the importance of democratic dialogue and informed political exchange.

## Shocking Truths of the Holocaust

*Howard Kerner*

**MONDAYS, 1 - 2:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This course fills in some unknown gaps in most people's knowledge of the Holocaust. Astonishingly, most people actually know very little of the real details of Anne Frank's tragic life and death. Even fewer know that some 60 diaries written by young people were found after the war. Practically no one knows of the secret squad of soldiers who enabled the Allies to win the war. Most people also falsely assume that Nazi soldiers just marched and killed like zombies. This course will prove otherwise. Finally, the course honors goodness of unknown people who, after the war, set about to find and prosecute Nazi mass killers.

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## HOW OLLI SPANISH COURSES WORK TOGETHER

Because OLLI Spanish courses only meet once a week, moving from one level to the next may not always be automatic. Each course has a different focus, but all courses practice similar core skills such as speaking, listening, and vocabulary development. Repeating a course at a certain level is a normal and helpful part of learning a language as an adult. Instructor guidance may also help participants choose the course that best fits their current level and learning goals. Members may only take ONE level of Spanish at a time.

### Spanish: Beginning Level B

*Álvaro Bernal*

**TUESDAYS, 9 - 11 A.M.**

**Session:** 1 and 2 (10 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This course is an introduction to very basic Spanish communication for beginning adult learners. The course will emphasize pronunciation, essential vocabulary, and simple interactions in a supportive and slower-paced environment. Greetings, introductions, subject pronouns, numbers, dates, time, articles and adjective agreement, and simple questions and answers will be covered.

### Spanish: Intermediate Level B

*Silvina Orsatti*

**FRIDAYS, 2 - 3:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 and 2 (10 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This 10-week course is appropriate for participants who are comfortable with basic Spanish conversation using the present tense. The course reviews the present tense but focuses primarily on the use of commands and past tenses. The context and vocabulary include family gatherings (birthdays, anniversaries, holidays) and food recipes for those events. We also explore famous artists and music (ballads, Christmas songs, etc.).

### Spanish: Advanced Conversational

*María Franco de Gómez*

**THURSDAYS, 1 - 2:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 and 2 (10 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This course is appropriate for participants who are comfortable and successful at communicating in Spanish and want to further develop their reading and conversational skills. Participants are expected to be able to use present, past, and future tenses, and have significant vocabulary and understanding of syntax (or have successfully completed Spanish: Intermediate Level). The course is taught in Spanish and focuses on analyzing and discussing reading material. Weekly class material is provided.

### The Surveillance State: Is it Constitutional?

*Lynn O'Connor*

**MONDAYS, 10 - 11:50 A.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

Do Americans have a right to privacy, and what does that mean in today's digital world? With so much in the news about Flock cameras and other surveillance devices, it is timely to explore whether and what kind of surveillance is constitutional, and more importantly, what kind of future the present tools of information gathering are creating. This course will also compare the U.S. to other countries with respect to the expectations and protections of privacy.

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## Stories of the Missions: Churches and Adobes of the Southwest

*Eleanor Schrader*

**WEDNESDAYS, 1 - 2:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

The Spanish Missions represent a unique convergence of the cultures of Spain, Mexico, and Native America, especially in the Southwest and California. Originally conceived as an expression of Spain's desire to establish a religious foothold in the New World, each mission left indelible imprints upon the cultural, historical, and geographical development of America. The architecture and history of various missions and adobes will be discussed, and the stories of the lives of the Spanish missionaries and the local Mexican and Native American people will be explored.

## Storytelling for Social Impact and Narrative Change

*Meghna Bhat*

**THURSDAYS, 11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Rooted in trauma-informed respectful practice, this course offers an engaging, hands-on space where narrative becomes a catalyst for justice, community empowerment, and collective healing. Through mini-immersive workshops, real-world case studies, and guided creative exercises, members learn to craft true, personal stories that shift mindsets, challenge dominant narratives, and inspire action. Designed for advocates, organizers, and creatives, the course emphasizes purpose-driven communication.

## Taking Control of Your Data on Your Computer

*Karen Bigrigg*

**TUESDAYS, 1 - 2:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This introductory course is designed to help empower members to take control of the data on their personal computers. Members will be introduced to what a file is, different storage devices, file types, searching for data, the importance of backing up information, and safe file-management practices. No previous file management experience is required, and members will learn how to confidently locate, organize, name, create, copy, cut, paste, and delete files and folders on their personal computers.

## Text and Art: Five More Bible Stories

*Sarah Rosenson*

**TUESDAYS, 3 - 4:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

In this interactive online discussion course, we will study new Bible stories and paintings that were not presented in earlier courses. Each week we will study and discuss the text of a biblical passage and then look at two to four works by different artists depicting the scene. Stories will include the golden calf, Abigail, Bathsheba, Esther, and the Last Supper. This is not a religion class; we will read the Bible as literature. No prior knowledge of the Bible is necessary, and people of all religions or no religion are welcome.

## Topics in Astrophysics, Part 2

*Donald Ellison*

**FRIDAYS, 1 - 2:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Of the many possible topics in astrophysics, we will discuss, with as little math and jargon as possible, the following: the story of Nicolaus Copernicus, whose famous book published in 1543, *On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres*, placed the Sun in the center of our solar system; Einstein's fabulous year 1905, when he published his theory of relativity; Einstein's biggest blunder, the story of the cosmological constant; cosmic rays and how they can be accelerated to extremely high energies; and black holes, which bend space and time and are the most extreme objects in the universe.

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## Tudor England

*Jared Day*

**WEDNESDAYS, 11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This course examines British history during the time of the Tudor dynasty. It examines prominent figures such as Henry VIII, Lady Jane Grey, Queen Elizabeth I, and William Shakespeare. We will examine key topics such as the Battle of Bosworth, the dissolution of the monasteries, the Spanish Armada, and the trial of Mary Queen of Scots.

## Understanding AI: A Beginner's Guide for Lifelong Learners

*Rebecca King*

**WEDNESDAYS, 6 - 7:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Artificial Intelligence is rapidly changing how we learn, communicate, and access information. This beginner-friendly course is designed for adults with little or no technical experience who want to better understand AI and tools such as ChatGPT. Members will learn what AI is, how it works, and how it can be used for everyday tasks including learning new topics, planning activities, writing emails, and finding information. The course will also discuss privacy, misinformation, and common AI mistakes, helping participants use AI confidently, safely, and effectively in their daily lives.

## Understanding Creative Thinkers Through the Arts

*Loubna El Bdaoui*

**MONDAYS, 6 - 7:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This course explores how the arts support creativity, communication, emotional well-being, and lifelong learning. Through music, movement, storytelling, visual arts, and dramatic activities, members will examine how creative experiences influence human development from childhood through adulthood. The course combines current research on creativity and brain development with reflective discussions and experiences. Members will explore practical applications of the arts in daily life.

## Understanding Today's Economic Trends and Issues

*Daniel Gaske*

**TUESDAYS, 1 - 2:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This course examines today's economic trends and issues in the United States and globally. Final topics are chosen based on economic issues most prominent at the start of the course. Prior topics have included: U.S. government debt, Brexit, U.S. trade and trade policy, world currency markets, and the rise and fall of U.S. inflation. Each topic is examined from perspectives of trends, causes, impacts, and potential remediations. The course is structured around presentation, but is intended to be discussion-oriented with high student participation.

## Virtual Hands-On Indian Cooking

*Jayashree Iyengar*

**TUESDAYS, 5 - 6:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This active, hands-on course will cover Indian cooking basics, introduction to Indian breads, South Indian dishes, North Indian dishes, and Indian festival dishes. Upon successful completion of the course, members will become familiar with ingredients used in Indian cooking, comfortably shop at Indian grocery stores, prepare dishes taught in class on their own, and understand differences in Indian regional cooking and dishes.

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## What "They" Think of Us, and Why It Matters

*Ralph Begleiter*

**TUESDAYS, 6 - 7:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Every year since the September 2001 terror attacks against the United States, pollsters have systematically interviewed thousands of people around the world asking questions about America's global reputation. The opinions of others about the U.S. affect virtually every aspect of the U.S. relationship with the world. This course will explore the data from those "global attitudes" surveys. Themes will include the image of the U.S. as a "beacon" of democracy, relations among superpowers, and the effects of public opinion on regional politics.

## Wines from Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay

*Ricardo Llovet*

**WEDNESDAYS, 6 - 7:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

The wineries from America's Southern Cone reached international relevance through large volume wines with unbeatable quality-to-price ratio. However, with the passage of time, these countries began to produce very high quality bottlings that could stand up to good California or French wines. For instance, many associate Malbec to Argentina instead of Cahors, Carmenere to Chile instead of Bordeaux, and Tannat to Uruguay instead of Madiran. Throughout this course we will review the terroir and some facts about these countries while we taste and evaluate their wines.

## Women in American Education

*Joan Gundersen*

**TUESDAYS, 1 - 2:50 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** In-person

Women's literacy played an important part in the development of the United States, but access to education at all levels came with a great struggle. Both as students and teachers, women's experience was quite different from that of men. This course will trace the development of women's education from the colonial period to the present. Topics will include the development of public and private schools, colleges, professional education, student life, the inequities of race, and the changing status of the profession of education.

## Women in the Muslim Middle East

*Gamze Akbas*

**FRIDAYS, 1 - 2:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 2 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This course opens with the images of Middle Eastern women that circulate in Western culture and asks where they came from. We examine Edward Said's concept of Orientalism, 19th-century Orientalist painting, and colonial photography of the harem and the veil, and discuss how these images supported colonial arguments about the region. We then trace their modern descendants in news coverage, film, and post-9/11 political rhetoric. Members are invited to bring in assumptions about Middle Eastern women they have encountered and consider where those assumptions originate.

## A World of Fairy Tales: The Magic of Cultures

*Matthew Hodge*

**WEDNESDAYS, 11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Fairy tales are more than simple magical stories — they give us powerful connections to our ancestors and worldly communities throughout history. This course will examine global versions of popular fairy tales and how societies evolve similar stories over centuries to reflect their unique cultures, fears, and beliefs. Together, we will discover that we do not just have a world of fairy tales to tell, we have fairy tales to tell us about our world.

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## World War II and the Cold War: Global Impact

*Michael Rizzi*

**THURSDAYS, 6 - 7:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

This course offers a concise history of World War II and its aftermath. It introduces the social, economic, and political causes and consequences of the war around the world, including the United States, Africa, Latin America, and the South Pacific. Members will learn how World War II fits into a broader historical context and generated the political circumstances that still shape our world today.

## *Wuthering Heights* and the Bronte Sisters

*Clifford Johnson*

**TUESDAYS, 11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

In 1847, when "Ellis Bell" published *Wuthering Heights*, Victorian folk were disturbed by its portrayal of unbridled violence and sexual passion. Some suspected that the author could actually be a woman. Eventually it became clear that the author, Emily, and her sisters Charlotte and Anne Bronte were daughters of a country parson on the moors of Yorkshire. In their fiction they transformed the English novel by locating its main action within a central character's emotional life. We will devote the first half of each class to exploring the myths surrounding these amazing women, and the second half to reading the story of Catherine and Heathcliff.

## You've Learned the Signs: Now Use Them! ASL Practice For Beginners

*Ashia James*

**MONDAYS, 9 - 10:30 A.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Have you learned some American Sign Language but feel nervous about using it in conversation? This course provides a supportive environment for beginning signers to practice, make mistakes, and build confidence using the signs they already know. Through guided activities and interactive practice, participants will strengthen their communication skills in everyday situations. The focus is on participation and practice rather than perfection. Whether you learned ASL recently or years ago, this course will help you move from memorizing signs to using them with greater confidence and comfort.

## Zentangle™ with Watercolor

*Sue Schneider*

**TUESDAYS, 9 - 10:30 A.M.**

**Session:** 1 (5 classes)
**Modality:** Online

Using Zentangle™ meditative drawing skills and a variety of watercolor techniques, we will create small, intriguing works of art. Beginners and experienced members alike will enjoy exploring line and color in a friendly, supportive context, while learning color theory, composition, and playful serendipity.







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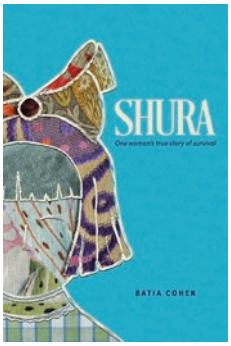
# LECTURES

## Remembered and Retold: Preserving a Survivor's Testimony

*Batia Cohen*

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2026

**Time:** 10 – 11:30 a.m.
**Modality:** Online




Join Dr. Batia Cohen for a conversation about *Shura*, a historical novel that chronicles the life of her husband's grandmother, Holocaust survivor Shura Pupko, and other WWII survivors. A secret discovered in adolescence sets the story in motion and shapes the course of Shura's life. During World War II, she leaps from a train bound for an extermination camp and finds refuge with the Bielski partisans. After the war, she rebuilds her life in Mexico, carrying the memories and relationships that define a life survived.

Dr. Cohen will discuss her research and interviews with survivors, and the ethical challenges of rendering testimony into narrative.

***Dr. Batia Cohen, PhD,*** *earned her doctorate in Mesoamerican studies from the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico and a bachelor's degree in graphic design from the Universidad Metropolitana in Mexico City. She has over three decades of experience teaching art history and currently lectures in different venues, including the University of Miami and Nova Southeastern University. She is the author of the historical novel* Shura.

## Adopting a Fail-Forward Mindset in the New Year

*John McCarthy*

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2027

**Time:** 10 – 11:00 a.m.
**Modality:** Online



Edison ran over 9,000 experiments before inventing the alkaline storage battery in 1901. A 5-foot-10 high school sophomore named Michael Jordan did not make the varsity basketball team in 1978. An unknown author named J.K. Rowling could not convince many publishers to accept her manuscript on a boy named Harry Potter. How many failed attempts go into success? Failure is an inevitable part of life, yet perseverance is not a trait often taught in formal schooling. This lecture includes the concepts of productive failure, a fail-forward approach, and luck.

***John McCarthy, PhD,*** *earned his doctorate in counseling psychology and has taught for over 25 years both in the United States and internationally. His professional writings have been featured in* The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, HuffPost.com, The Buffalo News, Cleveland.com, Counseling Today, *and* The Psychotherapy Networker. *He is the author of two books,* The Innovator Next Door *and* Driving Forward in Reverse, *that address creative thinking and problem-solving.*

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## Cuba: What Is Going on and Does Anybody Care?

*José Juves*

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2027

**Time:** 10 – 11:00 a.m.
**Modality:** Online

Since the late 1950s and for 65 years, Cuba played an oversized role in the United States and world politics. For years, everybody knew about Castro, the Bay of Pigs, the embargo, the October Missile Crisis, the Mariel boat lift, Elian Gonzalez, "wet foot/dry foot policy," Obama's visit, and the mysterious illness in the U.S. Embassy in Cuba. And then, pretty much nothing. What happened? This lecture is an opportunity to catch up with what has and is happening on the island since Fidel's death in 2016.

***José Juves** is back at OLLI, albeit remotely. His interests remain in the disciplines of history and science. After moving to Ft. Myers, FL, José has continued his teaching experiences as a lecturer at the FGCU Renaissance Academy and throughout the Lee County Library system.*



## Memory Hygiene: A World Champion's Framework for a Sharper Mind

*Victoria Groce*

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2027

**Time:** 1 – 2 p.m.
**Modality:** Hybrid ★

Do you think of memory as a fixed trait, something we are either lucky or unlucky to possess? In this practical, evidence-based talk, Victoria Groce, a "Jeopardy! Masters" champion, reframes memory the way we think about physical health: a capability shaped by habits within our control. Drawing on peer-reviewed research in cognitive psychology and learning science, as well as the daily protocols that carried her to the top of international quizzing, she shows how memory can be protected and strengthened through everyday habits, with stories from the buzzer and the championship stage along the way.

***Victoria Groce** is the 2024 "Jeopardy! Masters" champion and winner of the 2024 and 2026 World Quizzing Championships. Beginning in 2022, she appeared as The Queen on ABC's "The Chase" U.S. A fifteen-time medalist at the International Quizzing Championships, she captained the United States' national quiz team to consecutive international titles in 2023 and 2024. She lives in Pittsburgh with her husband, daughter, two cats, and a frankly alarming number of cookbooks.*

## INTRODUCTION TO OLLI CANVAS

Starting in Spring 2027, OLLI members will find a new and improved way to access their OLLI courses—**OLLI Canvas**! This is a learning management system where members can view all course materials (slides, documents, Zoom links) and communicate with others, all in one convenient location. The login for OLLI Canvas is the same as the login for OLLI's registration site: **email and password**.

More information can be found on our website at **olli.pitt.edu**. OLLI members are invited to upcoming live assistance sessions:

- **Online:** Wednesday, January 13, noon – 1 p.m., and Thursday, January 21, 3 – 4 p.m.
- **In-person:** Wednesday, January 20, 11 a.m. - noon

# LOCAL TOURS



## Holiday Tours of the Nationality Rooms

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2026

**Time:** 2:30 – 4 p.m.
**Cost:** $10
**Location:**
Nationality Rooms at the Cathedral of Learning
4200 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Travel is on your own.

**Registration Deadline:** Wednesday, December 9

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2026

**Time:** 1 – 2:30 p.m.
**Cost:** $10
**Location:**
Nationality Rooms at the Cathedral of Learning
4200 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Travel is on your own.

**Registration Deadline:** Monday, December 14

Join us for a festive guided tour of the University of Pittsburgh's Nationality Rooms. Each of these unique classrooms reflects the design and architecture of one of the many ethnic groups that settled in Allegheny County. A tour of the Nationality Rooms is a highlight of any campus visit but is especially magical when the rooms are adorned with seasonal decorations.

Both tour dates are open to OLLI at Pitt members and their guests.



## WHAT'S NEXT?

Membership purchases can be made on or after **December 2, 2026**. Membership, once purchased, is valid for the rest of the academic year (Spring and Summer 2027 OLLI terms).

Tuition purchases also open on December 2, 2026. Refer to page 3 of this catalog for more information on tuition level options.

Course registration opens **Wednesday, December 2, 2026**. After that date, paid members can register for classes and events. After registration, members will immediately receive email confirmation of classes and whether they are registered or waitlisted.

All OLLI at Pitt courses will now use OLLI Canvas, a learning management system. Members will be able to access their courses on OLLI Canvas no later than a week before classes begin. OLLI Canvas will be where members view syllabi, Zoom links, room information, and other course materials.

Waitlists are monitored and if we can create openings, members will be notified. We do our best to eliminate waitlists.

Members will receive our weekly updates via email. Newsletters include membership information, new event details, information about OLLI at Pitt benefits, and opportunities for activities at Pitt and beyond.

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# TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

## Visit OLLI's website for more details on the travel opportunities below: olli.pitt.edu/events/travel-trips



### Explore Budapest and Vienna

**APRIL 21 - 28, 2028**

The grand boulevards of Budapest and the gilded concert halls of Vienna tell one story — but beneath the surface, Central Europe carries the weight of a far more complex century. On this tour, you'll trace the long shadow of the Nazi and Communist eras across two of the continent's most storied capitals, accompanied by OLLI instructor **Ralph Bangs**. Also available is an optional extension to Prague, City of a Hundred Spires.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS TRIP**

Join us for the upcoming online information session:

**Wednesday, January 13, 2027**
**3 – 4 p.m.**

Visit **olli.pitt.edu/events/travel-trips** or scan the QR code for details and to register. Once registered, you will receive a Zoom link to access the session.



### Croatia & Its Islands

**MAY 13 - 24, 2028**

Join OLLI on a private premium small ship cruise that starts in Dubrovnik and includes a 7-night Adriatic Cruise that explores Mljet National Park, Korcula, Vis, Bisevo Blue Cave, Stari Grad, Hvar, Brac, Split, Cathedral of St. James, Krka National Park, and Zagreb.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS TRIP**

Join us for the upcoming online information session:

**Wednesday, January 20, 2027**
**3 – 4 p.m.**

Visit **olli.pitt.edu/events/travel-trips** or scan the QR code for details and to register. Once registered, you will receive a Zoom link to access the session.

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## Iconic South Africa

**MARCH 10 - 23, 2028**

Explore South Africa, where incredible landscapes lead the way to cultural diversity, abundant wildlife, and remarkable history. From dynamic urban centers to wildlife safaris, South Africa has a way of taking you by surprise. This tour discovers many iconic experiences — from Johannesburg and historic Soweto to Kruger safaris, Cape Winelands, and Cape Town's spectacular coastline.

### LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS TRIP

Join us for the upcoming online information session:

**Friday, January 29, 2027**
**Noon – 1 p.m.**

Visit **olli.pitt.edu/events/travel-trips** or scan the QR code for details and to register. Once registered, you will receive a Zoom link to access the session.

# INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES

**Gamze Akbas, PhD**, teaches at The Ohio State University, where she earned her PhD in Near Eastern and South Asian languages and cultures. Her research examines how women's intelligence was portrayed in medieval and early modern Islamic sources, drawing on Arabic, Persian, and Ottoman Turkish texts from the 9th through the 17th centuries.

**Tom Allen, JD**, is a lawyer who practiced with a large global law firm for over 40 years before his retirement from the firm at the end of 2021. Early in his career, Allen was a trial attorney with the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Justice Department. He has appeared in courts throughout the United States. Allen obtained a BA from the University of Michigan and a JD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Nuh (Noah) Aydin, PhD**, is an algebraic coding theorist who teaches a wide range of math and computer science courses at Kenyon College. His teaching and research interests expanded to include history and philosophy of mathematics and science, particularly in the Islamic World. He earned master's degrees in mathematics, mathematics education, and computer and information sciences, as well as his PhD from The Ohio State University.

**Ralph Bangs, PhD, MPA**, is the retired associate director of the Center on Race and Social Problems at the University of Pittsburgh. His most recent book is *Race and Social Problems: Restructuring Inequality*. He has received racial justice and leadership awards and has taught courses on race for several decades.

**Ralph Begleiter, MA**, was CNN's most widely traveled reporter during his two decades as the network's world affairs correspondent, covering five U.S. Secretaries of State and three Presidents. He founded the Center for Political Communication at the University of Delaware. He earned his bachelor's degree in political science at Brown University and his master's degree in journalism at Columbia University.

**Elaine Bergstrom, BA**, earned her degree from the University of Illinois in design, a certification in art education from Carlow University, and a botanical illustration certification from The Morton Arboretum in Illinois. She specializes in oriental, watercolor, acrylic, pen/ink, drawing, colored pencils, and pastels.

**Álvaro Bernal, PhD**, is a professor of Spanish and Latin American literature at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. He received his PhD from the University of Iowa.

**Meghna Bhat, PhD**, is an award-winning storyteller, culture-change consultant, and feminist educator with over 20 years of experience using narrative to foster culture change, prevention, and intergenerational healing. She specializes in facilitation, strategic planning, and curriculum design, applying a trauma-informed, community-centered approach to her course.

**Karen Bigrigg, MS**, earned a master's degree in education from Drexel University and a bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Pittsburgh. She teaches courses from basic computer skills to advanced data analysis, using hands-on methods to simplify complex concepts. Her approach with adult learners boosts confidence and technology skills.

**David Brumble, PhD**, is a professor emeritus of English at the University of Pittsburgh and a recipient of both of Pitt's most prestigious teaching prizes. Two of his five books are on medieval and renaissance art and literature, and he has published articles on the Bible.

**Sam and Candy Caponegro** have worked in all aspects of theater for over 30 years. Their goal is to keep the classic movie musicals and the golden age of Broadway alive through their lectures.

**Jill Donnette Clary** has been practicing yoga since 2003, has completed a 200-hour yoga teacher training program, and is registered with Yoga Alliance. Her classes are a blend of different yoga styles, but all focus on a slow flow with longer holds.

**Louis Coban** has a life long love of astronomy, which he turned into a lengthy career at the University of Pittsburgh's Allegheny Observatory. He has been assisting with the university's credited astronomy lab classes for 26 years and would like to share this accumulated knowledge with members.

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**Sandra Collins, PhD**, focuses on women in the Old Testament in her courses at the University of Pittsburgh. She has also taught for Carnegie Mellon University, Duquesne University, and, currently, the Byzantine Catholic Seminary as well as online for the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California.

**Blaine Connor, PhD**, is a cultural anthropologist specializing in Japan, where he lived for six years. A lifelong educator with expertise in adult learning, he has taught at the University of Pittsburgh, in Nagasaki public schools, and for the CDC. He earned his PhD in anthropology from Pitt.

**John Cooper, PhD**, is retired from a 30 year teaching career at Eastern Michigan University. His areas of interest and teaching experience include a variety of media studies and film studies topics including media law, history of technology, and film music. He earned his PhD from Bowling Green State University.

**Patrick Cooper, PhD**, is a theoretical physicist and social entrepreneur. He earned a PhD in mathematical physics from New York University and has taught over 50 courses at NYU, Cooper Union, the University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, and the Community College of Allegheny County. He conducts public science engagements around the city and teaches youth in after-school STEM programming through the non-profit Community Forge that he co-founded in Wilkinsburg.

**Shivaun Corry, PhD**, is a scholar and educator whose research interests include medical communication and religious rhetoric. She earned her PhD in communications and rhetorical studies from Duquesne University. Her recent projects have focused on how patients and physicians use language to build trust and navigate power, as well as how religious rhetoric influences public conversations.

**Adam Davis, MA**, is an associate professor of biology at Community College of Allegheny County and teaches the history of science at Duquesne University. He received his bachelor's degree in archaeology, biological anthropology, and forensic anthropology from Mercyhurst University, and his master's degree in paleoanthropology from the University of Pittsburgh. He has been teaching since 2005.

**Jared Day, PhD**, taught American history at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh for 16 years. His areas of specialization are U.S. political, urban, and cultural history as well as world history from the late 18th century to the present. He is the author of several books along with numerous other popular and peer-reviewed articles.

**Cinzia Delfini, MA**, graduated from the masters program of Italian at the University of Pittsburgh in December of 2017. She previously earned her degree in Russian and English languages and literature at the University of Verona, Italy. She moved to Pittsburgh in 2013 and, at present, she is a part-time instructor at the University of Pittsburgh and teaches Italian language at different levels.

**Rebecca Denova, PhD**, is a senior lecturer emerita in religious studies at the University of Pittsburgh. She regularly teaches courses on the history of early Christianity (her specialty), ancient religions in the Mediterranean world, and several topics related to ancient popular religion and society.

**Loubna El Bdaoui, EdD**, is an educator with more than 24 years of experience. She holds a doctorate in early childhood education from Walden University and master's degrees in education from California University of Pennsylvania and Chatham University, with expertise in arts integration, creativity, multilingual learning, and child development.

**Donald Ellison, PhD**, taught physics at North Carolina State University until retiring in 2013. After earning a PhD from The Catholic University of America, he held post-doctoral positions at the Service dAstrophysique, The French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission(CEA France), the University of Maryland, and NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center.

**Edwin Everhart, PhD**, is a linguistic anthropologist who studies regional dialect and language standardization. He has taught at the University of California Los Angeles, the University of Pittsburgh, and the University of Massachusetts.

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**David Fetterman, MDiv, MEd**, is a retired pastor, chaplain, and spiritual care specialist who has served in several long-term care facilities, hospices, and communities of faith. He has also served as director of religious education in several congregations. He is a lifelong follower of Charles Schulz's Peanuts comic strip and its observation of what it means to be human.

**Gaye Fifer, MA**, is the current president of the Country Dance and Song Society. After receiving an undergraduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis and a master's in counseling from the University of Missouri, she spent 30 years teaching elementary school. She has been leading English country dance for 12 years both locally and nationwide.

**Richard Finberg**, a retired lawyer, is one of Pittsburgh's top bridge players. He is a national champion, has written bridge articles featured in the ACBL Bulletin, is certified as an ACBL online teacher, and has given hundreds of individual and group bridge lessons over the last five years.

**María Franco de Gómez, MA**, is a retired instructor of Spanish at Pennsylvania State University New Kensington, where she served as Spanish coordinator. Her career as a faculty member includes a substantial record of academic service, solid scholarly activity, and very strong evidence of outstanding teaching.

**Daniel Gaske, PhD**, has extensive experience teaching economics and economic issues in a wide variety of settings, such as universities, corporations, and lifelong learning programs. He holds a PhD in economics from Rice University.

**Sharon Ann George, PhD**, is a researcher at the University of Pittsburgh studying the link between heart disease and cancer. She obtained her bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering from Anna University, India, her PhD in bioengineering from VirginiaTech, and did her postdoctoral training at George Washington University.

**Kathleen George, PhD, MFA**, has directed Shakespeare for the Three Rivers Arts Festival. She teaches playwriting and story structure. She is also a fiction writer with 10 published novels. She earned her bachelor's, master's degree, and PhD from the University of Pittsburgh.

**Susan Gillis Kruman** is an emeritus faculty at the University of Pittsburgh and was the first to introduce yoga as a credit class at Pitt, where she taught for over 20 years. She has her 200- and 300-hour Yoga Alliance certifications and a Kudalini pre-natal yoga certification with over 1,000 hours of in-class instruction.

**Joseph Givvin, PhD**, earned his doctorate in philosophy from St. John's University, New York. Teaching for over 45 years, Joe has taught with OLLI at Pitt since 2018. He is a professor emeritus at Mount Mercy University, Iowa, where he taught for 33 years.

**Thalia Gray, LAc, DiplOM, PhD**, is a licensed practitioner of oriental medicine. She obtained her doctorate in anthropology from New York University and was a freelance biomedical writer for 20 years. She completed her studies in traditional Chinese medicine at Eight Branches Academy of Eastern Medicine in Toronto and returned to Pittsburgh, where she runs a private practice.

**William Greenspan, BS**, was born in Kyiv, Ukraine and immigrated to the United States in 1979. He earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering/control systems and telemetry from Polytechnic Institute in Kyiv. His professional career was primarily in the nuclear industry, working at the nuclear power plant in Arizona as well as building nuclear power plants in China.

**Joan Gundersen, PhD**, is a professor emerita of history at California State University San Marcos. Author of seven history books and numerous scholarly articles, she taught women's history at a variety of institutions. She enjoys sharing the fascinating world of American women's history with others.

**Remington Ham, MLA**, is an urban agriculture and horticulture educator with the Pennsylvania State University Extension, where she develops research-based programs, hands-on training, and practical resources for urban scale growers. She earned her bachelor's degree in urban and environmental planning from the University of Virginia and her master's degree in landscape architecture from Florida A&M University.

**Nora Hamerman, MA**, has a bachelor's degree in art history from Michigan State University and a master's degree in art history from New York University. She lived in Rome for three years, starting as a Fulbright scholar studying the urban design of Pope Sixtus. She has taught at Shenandoah University and the University of Virginia, and she has many published articles, especially on sacred art.

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**Joseph Harris, PhD**, taught courses in creative nonfiction, composition, popular culture, and literature for almost 40 years before retiring from the University of Delaware. He has written several books about teaching writing, including *The Work of Teaching Writing: Learning from Fiction, Film, and Drama*.

**Katherine Hirsh, MS**, is a board certified behavior analyst and former special education teacher with over 10 years of experience working with children with disabilities and their families. She has worked for multiple programs in the Pittsburgh area. She earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Duquesne University and a master's degree in special education from Carlow University.

**Matthew Hodge, MFA**, is an award-winning musician and music professor with over 15 years of experience as a pianist, composer, scholar, and entrepreneur. He has worked with Oscar, Grammy, Emmy, Tony, and Golden Globe award winners. His music credits include films, television, video games, commercials, theatre, and podcasts. He has serviced over 1,000 music clients spanning over 30 countries.

**Alan Irvine, PhD**, is a professional storyteller with a life-long fascination with Arthurian tales. His CD, *The Red Dragon: Tales of King Arthur*, won a Storytelling World Honors award. He has a doctorate degree in sociology and teaches many courses at area universities.

**Jayashree Iyengar** is the owner of Popping Mustard Seeds, Indian Cooking Classes, and More. She specializes in teaching Indian vegetarian cuisine. She grew up in Chennai, India before she moved to the United States more than four decades ago. She is an experienced chef and has taught several cooking classes in the Pittsburgh area, including classes at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, Chatham University, private lessons, and OLLI at Pitt.

**Ashia James, PhD**, earned a PhD in education from Capella University and has more than 15 years of experience teaching and developing American Sign Language courses for adult learners in classroom and online settings. An experienced ASL instructor, she is passionate about helping learners build confidence, strengthen communication skills, and enjoy using ASL in supportive, interactive learning environments.

**Clifford Johnson, PhD**, received his doctorate in English and American literature from the University of Virginia. His major publication deals with the 18th century English novel, and he taught at the University of Pittsburgh; the University of Kassel, Germany; and Concord University in West Virginia. He retired after over 25 years as a certified financial planner.

**Alicia Johnson, PhD**, is the academic coordinator and assistant professor of the Child Welfare Education for Leadership Program in the School of Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh. She earned a PhD in instructional management and leadership from Robert Morris University, a master's degree in social work from the University of Pittsburgh, and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Jackson State University.

**Jaclyn Joyce, MS**, holds a master's degree in information science from the University of Pittsburgh and has 10 years of experience teaching and working in cybersecurity. Her approach to cybersecurity education emphasizes making complex technical topics understandable, relevant, and useful to people without a technical background.

**Howard Kerner, MA**, is a retired English professor who has researched, spoken, taught, and written a great deal about the Holocaust. In 2018, he started teaching courses for OLLIs and elsewhere.

**Rebecca King, MS**, is a research application support specialist at the University of Pittsburgh, where she supports research technology systems and provides training to researchers and staff. She holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Eastern Kentucky University and a master's degree in management information systems from Morehead State University.

**John Kinne, MS**, is an experienced science communicator, educator, and project manager. He earned a master's degree in physics and a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Miami University, Ohio. He has led online workshops for international students.

**Jon Klancher, PhD**, has taught the history of books and reading over a 42-year career, the last 25 at Carnegie Mellon University. He has taught adult education as well as university courses on the relation between books' forms (the physical and visual makeup of books) and how they are read in cultural history and today. He has also published widely on print history and 19th century literature.

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**Ken Koncerak, MA**, earned his bachelor's degree in secondary education with a history minor from the Pennsylvania State University and his master's degree in history from the California University of Pennsylvania. In addition to teaching high school U.S. history and social studies, he taught U.S. history at the Community College of Allegheny County. He also served as an award-winning high school librarian.

**Laura Kustaborder, PA-C, NBC-HWC**, is a physician assistant and national board certified health and wellness coach with 26 years of clinical experience. She specializes in nervous system regulation, somatic safety, and stress management. She integrates clinical expertise with mindfulness, breathwork, and movement to help participants build resilience and sustainable health.

**Ricardo Llovet** is a chemist who built his wine knowledge through reading, tasting, traveling, and wine judge certification. He has harvested grapes, made wines, and visited winemakers around the world. He has conducted wine tastings for 41 years and taught 18 wine courses at OLLI programs. He founded the American Wine Society, Pittsburgh chapter and posts wine reviews at **wineandfriends.net**.

**Mark Macedonia, MA**, is a retired social studies teacher from the Seneca Valley School District. He holds a bachelor's degree in communication from St. Bonaventure University, and a master's degree in education from the University of Pittsburgh. He is also a published author of historical fiction.

**Diane Markovitz, PT**, is a licensed physical therapist with a degree from Marquette University. She started developing and teaching exercise classes for older adults in 2020. She is also adjunct faculty at the University of Pittsburgh and part of a research team studying the effects of the course On the Move: Group Exercise for Improved Mobility in Older Adults® in the community.

**Kane McKernan** is a tour guide in Pittsburgh. He most frequently offers historical and architectural tours of neighborhoods in the east end. He loves the history, culture, and people of western Pennsylvania. In an effort to make his tours accessible to all, he has adapted some of his material into a lecture format.

**Laurie McMillan, MFA**, has been writing and teaching all genres for years. She earned an MFA in fiction from Concordia University. She was the co-founder of the Pittsburgh Writers Studio and Pittsburgh Memoir Project. She leads therapeutic writing circles.

**Christine Milcarek, PhD**, is a faculty emeritus at the University of Pittsburgh. She has received awards for teaching and has numerous publications on B cells. She has taught several other OLLI courses. She earned her PhD in microbiology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

**Virginia Montanez** is a Pittsburgh-based author, writer, columnist, and historian. Her research focuses on Pittsburgh in the 19th and 20th centuries, particularly in regards to industrialism, public health and urban disease, child labor, immigration, and the working class.

**Jairus Moore, PhD**, earned a PhD in instructional management and leadership from Robert Morris University. As a former FMCSA safety investigator, he conducted 100+ federal compliance reviews and over 200 roadside safety inspections. He formally taught in Slippery Rock University's Safety Management program.

**Gautam Mukerjee, PhD**, is an associate professor emeritus in economics. For nearly 40 years he taught courses at the University of Pittsburgh-Bradford in the areas of macroeconomics, statistics, monetary economics, and poverty. His current research interest is in institutional economics, and he actively searches for attractive topics in that field to develop into new course offerings.

**Lynn O'Connor, JD**, is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. She has practiced in both the private and public sectors, including as a Magistrate Judge in the Court of Common Pleas of Cincinnati, Ohio. She has taught law and law-related classes for almost a decade.

**Silvina Orsatti, EdD**, teaches Spanish language and culture, and foreign language pedagogy at the University of Pittsburgh in Greensburg. Her research interests include digital storytelling, game-based learning, and sustainability projects in the foreign language classroom. She received the PSMLA Educator of the Year Award in 2014 and became a Pitt Green Ambassador in 2024.

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**Andrew Peterson, MA**, is a writer, educator, and lecturer specializing in creative writing, heroic mythology, folklore, and literary studies. He is a published scholar and fiction writer with peer-reviewed scholarship, multiple published short stories, and a forthcoming novel. He earned his master's degree in creative writing and literature from Harvard University Extension School.

**Lauren Radick, MEd**, is a literature instructor and creator of The Life and Times of Literary Favorites courses. She brings authors and their works to life through engaging storytelling. She earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and literature from Emerson College and a master's degree in education from The George Washington University.

**Daniel Rectenwald, MM**, is integrally rooted in the Pittsburgh music scene, playing guitar in various groups in the area. He earned a bachelor's degree in music from Duquesne University and a master's degree in music from the Cleveland Institute of Music. Currently, he teaches privately and is an adjunct professor at the University of Pittsburgh.

**Joseph Reinwald, BS**, earned his degree in mathematics and physics from the University of Pittsburgh. He started as a certified mathematics teacher in the Pittsburgh Public Schools, and went on to teach at several technical colleges in Philadephia and Pittsburgh. For the last 25 years he has been involved with corporate technical training at IBM and Amazon Web Services (AWS).

**Michael Rizzi, EdD**, has taught international affairs at the University of Pittsburgh for over a decade. He is the author of one book and over 20 articles on history, international affairs, and education. He holds master's and doctoral degrees from Pitt and an undergraduate degree in foreign service from Georgetown University.

**Peter Robinson, PhD**, is a professor emeritus of history at Mount St. Joseph University and the author of *The Dance of the Comedians: The People, the President, and the Performance of Political standup Comedy in America* (2010). He earned a master's degree and PhD in history from Miami University.

**Elizabeth Rodenz, PhD**, earned her PhD from the University of Pittsburgh. She is author of *Odd Ducks and Birds of a Feather*, a unique approach to teaching psychological types, based on the work of Jung and *Josephine: A Woman of Indomitable Spirit*, a saga of social injustice. She has taught a variety of courses at several OLLI programs.

**Sarah Rosenson** is the author of *Fan Fiction on the Book of Genesis: A Guide to Close Reading of and Creative Writing on the Bible*. After practicing law for a decade, she earned her master's degree in Jewish studies and became a teacher. She teaches classes on ethics and on the Bible and currently teaches adults both in-person and online for various institutions.

**Ann Rosenthal** has more than 30 years of experience as an artist, educator, and writer. Her work has been shown locally at the Andy Warhol Museum, the Mattress Factory, and SPACE, and has been featured in exhibitions across the United States and internationally.

**George Scheper, PhD**, received his PhD in English literature from Princeton University. He has been director of the Odyssey Program and is currently senior lecturer in the Master of Liberal Arts Program, both at Johns Hopkins University. He is also emeritus professor of humanities at the Community College of Baltimore County. He is recipient of many Excellence in Teaching Awards.

**Matthew Schlueb, MA**, is a registered architect of 25 years, with NCARB certification to practice architecture throughout the United States. He earned a bachelor's degree in architecture from The Ohio State University and a master's degree in architecture from Pratt Institute. He taught within Osher for 10 years, leading his first group tour of Antoni Gaudi's work and Barcelona in the Spring of 2025.

**Sue Schneider** is a Certified Zentangle™ Teacher (CZT)and an award-winning artist who has been teaching for OLLI since 2015. Her watercolor paintings, with and without Zentangle influences, have been widely exhibited in galleries and various public venues. She currently organizes and teaches for the "Zentanglers in Pittsburgh" MeetUp.com group, with more than 800 members.

**Eleanor Schrader** is an award-winning educator, lecturer, and author on the history of architecture, interiors, and decorative arts. She has been named a distinguished instructor of design history at UCLA Extension and is a professor emerita of art and architectural history at Santa Monica College. She has done graduate work at Sotheby's Institute in London and New York.

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**Cathleen Sendek-Sapp, MFA**, has her master's degree in French language and literature. She has taught French at the University of Pittsburgh as a teaching fellow and part-time instructor as well as for noncredit lifelong learning.

**David Shifren, MFA**, wrote film reviews for *The Film Journal Magazine* and CBS/Fox Video in New York City. He earned an MFA degree in fiction writing at the University of Pittsburgh, and has been teaching OLLI film classes for more than 20 years.

**Andrew Skelly, MA**, is the associate director for campus programs at the University of Pittsburgh. He received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Allegheny College and his master's degree in higher education at Boston College. He has been a gamer and fan of video game history since he was a child.

**Joke (Yoka) Slagle** is a long time art educator at the Carnegie Museum of Art and adjunct faculty at the Pennsylvania State University, New Kensington. Her mission is to develop community, creativity, and playful experimentation through art making.

**Gemma Stemley** is a Trinidadian-born writer, poet, and educator whose work explores migration, identity, memory, and the meaning of home. She has taught lifelong learning courses in literature and life writing, and brings a cross-cultural perspective to the study of Caribbean, African, and diasporic women writers. Her classes encourage thoughtful discussion, close reading, and personal reflection.

**Robert Thurston, PhD**, is an emeritus professor of history at Miami University in Ohio. He earned his bachelor's degree in history from Northwestern University and his PhD in modern Russian history from the University of Michigan. He has published material on 20th century Russian/Soviet history, witch hunts in Europe and Salem, lynching around the world, the body in the Anglosphere 1880-1920, and coffee.

**William Van Lear, PhD**, is a professor emeritus in the economics department at Belmont Abbey College. He earned his bachelor's degree in economics at Gettysburg College and his PhD in economics at the University of Pittsburgh. His specializations include macroeconomics, political economy, American economic history, and international financial economics.

**David Walton, MFA**, is retired from the English department at the University of Pittsburgh, where he taught a variety of literature and writing courses over the last 20 years. He is a regular book reviewer for several national newspapers, a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship in literature, and the author of two collections of short stories and a novel.

**Richard Wertheimer, EdD**,is a career Pittsburgh educator. He has served as a public-school mathematics teacher and supervisor, a coordinator of instructional technology, and is the cofounder, CEO and principal of a successful Pittsburgh charter high school.

**Katherine Zoraster, MA**, is a contextual art historian specializing in western art from the Renaissance to the 20th century. Having received her master's degree in art history with distinction from California State University Northridge, she began teaching at the college level at several different institutions, and now also teaches at several different lifelong learning programs across the country.

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# GENERAL OLLI INFORMATION/POLICIES

## How to Drop a Course or Event

Please notify the OLLI office if you are unable to attend a course/class so that we can maintain accurate information on our programming and course evaluation efforts. Email us at **osher@pitt.edu** prior to the beginning of a class or at any time for courses that have multiple weeks. Let us know if you would like to enroll in an alternate course. Event refunds depend on each event and they are marked if the fees are refundable or not, and if they are, by what date.

## Postponed, Canceled, or Full Courses

Occasionally, courses are postponed or canceled, typically due to reasons beyond our control, such as emergencies or illness of instructors, etc. If a class is postponed, you will be notified by email and informed of the rescheduled date, if it is known. If a course is canceled, you will receive email notice as soon as possible.

Course enrollment size varies for several reasons, including size of physical classroom space or the nature of the course material (regardless of format). For these reasons, not all courses can be open to everyone who wishes to attend, including online courses. If a course or event is full, you will be given the opportunity to be added to the waiting list in case there are cancellations. People are added to the course or event from the waiting list in the order received.

## Double-booking Courses in a Time Period

During registration, **be sure to select only one course** during a given time frame. If you attempt to double-book your courses, the system will not allow you to continue with course registration. You may only register for one course in any given time period.

## Refunds

Each catalog will indicate the date by which a membership may be refunded. There are no exceptions. Events or tours that require a fee will indicate if the fee is refundable, and if so, by what date you must request a refund.

## Email Notifications

Make sure the OLLI office has your correct email address. The OLLI office sends emails to notify members of course changes, course cancellations, upcoming events, as well as for our email newsletter. Instructors may also want to contact students regarding class information. Your information is always confidential.

## Course Evaluations

During the last week of your courses, you will receive an email with a link to your course evaluations. Please try to respond and share information about your experience of the course. This information helps guide future programming. If you have an issue with your course evaluation, please contact us at **osher@pitt.edu**. **Do not contact the University Office of Measurement and Evaluation of Teaching (OMET).**

## Code of Conduct

In all courses, lectures, and events and in all formats, OLLI members are expected to follow the OLLI Code of Conduct. By purchasing a membership, individuals agree to follow the Code of Conduct. OLLI members are expected to respect the learning environment, instructors, staff, and other members and embrace the concept of a civil community as well as follow all OLLI and University policies, procedures, and conduct guidelines. Please visit Member Resources on the OLLI website to read the OLLI Code of Conduct and Guide to Civil and Productive Classroom Conversations.

## Auditing Classes

OLLI at Pitt members may audit undergraduate courses. Members who audit do not receive credits nor grades and generally do not participate in exams or homework. Auditors learn side-by-side with undergraduate students, but they are guests in the course and participation can be limited or restricted by instructor or department. Full information about auditing and how to register is found on our website, **olli.pitt.edu**.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Financial assistance application period for Fall 2026 term:
**Nov. 16, 2026 – March 8, 2027**

**NO REFUNDS ISSUED FOR MEMBERSHIP OR TUITION PAYMENTS AFTER JAN. 18, 2027.**

Last day to add/drop Fall session 1 and 10-week classes is **Feb. 5, 2027**.

Last day to add/drop Fall session 2 classes is **March 26, 2027**.

## CONTACT US

Phone: **412-624-7308** | Email: **osher@pitt.edu**

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

4227 Fifth Avenue, 710 Alumni Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15260

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