

Spring 2024

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

Registration opens **Tuesday, Dec. 5**

No college experience
needed—everyone welcome.
It's Time for YOU!



University of
Pittsburgh®

OSHER
LIFELONG
LEARNING
INSTITUTE

Spring 2024 Term

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
University of Pittsburgh



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DATES AND DEADLINES

University spring semester begins (Not OLLI Classes)	Jan. 8
Dr. Martin Luther King Day, University closed	Jan. 15
University add/drop deadline for audit classes	Jan. 19
OLLI Session 1 begins	Jan. 29
OLLI Session 1 ends	March 1
OLLI Session 2 begins (except Friday classes)	March 11
Spring Holiday, University closed	March 15
OLLI Session 2 Friday classes begin	March 22
OLLI Session 2 ends	April 11
OLLI Session 2 Friday classes end	April 19

ABOUT OLLI

Established in 2005 at the University of Pittsburgh, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is one of 125 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.

Membership and registration

An active OLLI membership is required to register for courses.

WHAT DOES MEMBERSHIP INCLUDE?

- Unlimited access to in-person and online OLLI at Pitt courses
- Admission to in-person and online one-time lectures and special events
- Ability to join local tours, day trips, and travel opportunities
- University of Pittsburgh privileges (Wi-Fi, campus shuttles, library)
- Discount tickets to Pittsburgh cultural events through the PittArts Cheap Seats program
- Ability to audit up to two undergraduate Pitt courses each term without additional costs

Annual memberships (\$250) cover three consecutive terms (terms are Spring, Summer, and Fall)

Term memberships (\$150) cover just one term.

Scholarships based on financial need are available per term.

For more information on membership, course registration, auditing classes, and scholarships, visit the website:

olli.pitt.edu



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 oral presentations where information, history, theories, or ideas are presented by instructors with minimal contributions from participants.

Discussion—These courses can be on academic, cultural, or enrichment topics where participants are welcome to contribute to class dialogue.

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



Monday, January 29 – Friday, March 1, 2024
















The courses below are current as of **November 28, 2023**. For the most up-to-date course information, always consult the OLLI at Pitt website at oli.pitt.edu.

Monday



AL: Active Learning **D:** Discussion **L:** Lecture  Online course  In-person course















CLASS NAME	INSTRUCTOR	TIME	TYPE
 Gentle Yoga Session A	Jill Donnette Clary	9 – 10 a.m.	AL
 From <i>Titanic</i> to <i>Dune</i> : Film Music from the 90s to Today	Emanuel Abramovits	9 – 10:30 a.m.	L
 Criminal Prosecutions of Donald Trump	Tom Allen	10 – 11:50 a.m.	L
 Vaccine for Racism: Racial Equity Consciousness	Gabriel Quinteros	10 – 11:50 a.m.	D
 Chair Yoga	Susan Gillis Kruman	11 a.m. – Noon	AL
 Austria and the Habsburgs	Orin James	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	L
 Creating in the Style of the Masters: Series 3	Elaine Bergstrom	1 – 2:30 p.m.	AL
 Stop Procrastinating and Get Your Decluttering Done	Jamie Novak	1 – 2:30 p.m.	AL
 Trans Studies: Beyond the Headlines	Bridget Keown	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 Architecture and Landscape: A Sense of Place in Pittsburgh	Robert Jucha	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 Exploring Buddhism: A Socioeconomic Study	Gautam Mukerjee	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 Dandy Andy: Warhol's Queer History	Grace Marston	3 – 4:30 p.m.	L
 Ireland and Northern Ireland: Conflict and Peace	Paul S. Adams	3 – 4:30 p.m.	L
 Fossils and Prehistoric Life	Stephen Lindberg	6 – 7:30 p.m.	L

Tuesday
















CLASS NAME	INSTRUCTOR	TIME	TYPE
 Imprisoned Without Trial: Japanese Internment in WWII	Denny Kato	9 – 10:30 a.m.	L
 Just Enough Italian to be Easily Understood	Cinzia Delfini	9 – 10:30 a.m.	AL
 How to Read a Vermeer and Other Masterpieces	Elizabeth Barker	10 – 11:50 a.m.	D
 Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic World	Taylor Coughlan	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	L
 Getting the Most From Your iPad	Richard Fitzgibbon	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	L
 Zentangle™ in Color	Sue Schneider	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	AL
 Chips in Today's World 2.0	William Stanchina	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 Nationality Rooms: Connections Across Time and Communities	Michael Walter	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 Understanding World Cultures	John Hooker	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 Debating Migration	Roger Rouse	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 Your Phonographic Salmagundi	Mike Plaskett	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 August Wilson, Pittsburgher and Playwright: Part 2	Christopher Rawson	3 – 4:30 p.m.	L
 Shakespeare's World	Alan Irvine	3:15 – 5 p.m.	L
 Beginning Level French	Cathleen Sendek-Sapp	6 – 7:30 p.m.	AL
 Stay Current in Nutrition and Food	Judith Dodd	6 – 7:30 p.m.	L

Wednesday


AL: Active Learning D: Discussion L: Lecture  Online course  In-person course

CLASS NAME	INSTRUCTOR	TIME	TYPE
 Gentle Yoga Session B	Jill Donnette Clary	9 – 10 a.m.	AL
 Color Deep Dive	Ann Rosenthal	9 – 10:50 a.m.	AL
 Appalachia: An Overview	Rebecca Carpenter	10 – 11:50 a.m.	L
 Conservation and Preservation in Western PA	Danielle Forchette	10 – 11:50 a.m.	L
 Chakra Yoga	Jill Donnette Clary	10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	AL
 Hollywood in Transition: Tinseltown in the 1960s	Jared Day	10:30 a.m. – Noon	L
 <i>La Traviata</i> , in Depth	Marilyn Egan	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 TED Talks	Kathy Callahan	1 – 2:30 p.m.	D
 Zionism in Historical Perspective	Barbara Burstin	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 Influence and Legacy of Alfred Hitchcock's <i>Psycho</i>	Daniel Singleton	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 Understanding and Managing your Personal Finances	Marcia Semper	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 Myths of the Modern West: Adventures in the Last Best Place	James Pagliasotti	3 – 4:30 p.m.	L
 Racist Criminal Justice in White Settler Nations and the UK	Ralph Bangs	3 – 4:30 p.m.	L
 The Jewish View Of ...	Rabbi Alex Greenbaum	6 – 7:30 p.m.	D

Thursday

CLASS NAME	INSTRUCTOR	TIME	TYPE
 Better Balance! Steady and Strong™	Diane Markovitz	9 – 10 a.m.	AL
 U.S. Relations with Tsarist Russia, 1789–1917	John Burt	9 – 10:30 a.m.	L
 Ethiopian Culture and Indigenous Knowledge	Meshesha M. Jobo	10 – 11:50 a.m.	L
 Film Noir in the 1940s	Steven Cherry	10 – 11:50 a.m.	L
 Great Spanish Painters: Part 1	Nora Hamerman	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	L
 Intermediate Spanish	Álvaro Antonio Bernal	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	AL
 Opening to Nature—Our Inheritance as Humans	Thalia Gray	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	D
 Advanced Conversational Spanish	Mariá Franco de Gómez	1 – 2:30 p.m.	AL
 Understanding Your Health: Part 1	Jennifer Roccisana	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 Music in Science Fiction Films	Jim Cassaro	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 What is Health Equity? A Global Overview	Martha Ndung'u	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 Beginning Spanish	Álvaro Antonio Bernal	3:15 – 4:45 p.m.	AL
 Fundamentals of Neuroscience	Adam Davis	3:15 – 4:45 p.m.	L
 Essential Instrumental Jazz Albums	Raymond Uy	6 – 7:30 p.m.	L
 Understanding the World through Maps	Michael T. Rizzi	6 – 7:30 p.m.	L

Friday

CLASS NAME	INSTRUCTOR	TIME	TYPE
 American Composers of Stage and Screen: Part 3	Sam and Candy Caponegro	10 – 11:30 a.m.	L
 Intermediate Level French: Grammar	Cathleen Sendek-Sapp	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	AL
 Contemporary Asian Architects 3	Jeffrey Swoger	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 Five Essential Poets: Part 2	David Walton	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 World Religions as Influenced by Music	Ian Evans Guthrie	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L



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Monday, March 11 – Friday, April 12

Friday courses begin March 22 and end April 19

The courses below are current as of **November 28, 2023**. For the most up-to-date course information, always consult the OLLI at Pitt website at olli.pitt.edu.



Monday

AL: Active Learning **D:** Discussion **L:** Lecture  Online course  In-person course

CLASS NAME	INSTRUCTOR	TIME	TYPE
 Gentle Yoga Session A (continued)	Jill Donnette Clary	9 – 10 a.m.	AL
 Immunology: How the Immune System Keeps Us Disease-Free	Ellen Scott	9 – 10:30 a.m.	L
 Which Christianity? Denominationalism and the Church	Sandra Collins	9 – 10:30 a.m.	L
 Construction of Evil in Western Religious Traditions	Rebecca Denova	10 – 11:50 a.m.	L
 Life Inside the Museum	Deirdre M. Smith	10 – 11:50 a.m.	D
 Vaccine for Racism: Racial Equity Consciousness (continued)	Gabriel Quinteros	10 – 11:50 a.m.	D
 Chair Yoga (continued)	Susan Gillis Kruman	11 a.m. – Noon	AL
 Beginning Digital Photography	Eli Vega	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	L
 Criminal Prosecutions of Donald Trump	Tom Allen	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	L
 American Artists Abroad	Katherine Zoraster	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 Creating in the Style of the Masters: Series 3 (continued)	Elaine Bergstrom	1 – 2:30 p.m.	AL
 From Score to Sound: Musicians' Creativity	Flavio Chamis	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 Historical Overview of Veterans Benefits in the U.S.	Ben Stahl	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 Virtual Hands-On Indian Cooking	Jayashree Iyengar	5 – 6:30 p.m.	AL

Tuesday

CLASS NAME	INSTRUCTOR	TIME	TYPE
 Elder Law	Carol Sikov Gross	9 – 10:30 a.m.	L
 Just Enough Italian to be Easily Understood (continued)	Cinzia Delfini	9 – 10:30 a.m.	AL
 Pittsburgh History to World War II	Virginia Montanez	10 – 11:50 a.m.	L
 Willa Cather: Prairie Chronicler	Clifford R. Johnson	10 – 11:50 a.m.	L
 An Affair of Honor: Pittsburgh's Last Recorded Duel	L. Jon Grogan	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	L
 Medieval and Renaissance Art in the Region	David Brumble	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	L
 Sadness and Joy: Understanding Grief and Loss	David Fetterman	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	L
 Cortázar and Borges: The Art of the Story	Álvaro Antonio Bernal	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 Harnessing the Power of Your iPhone	Richard Fitzgibbon	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 Heirs to the Reformation	Peter Gilmore	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 English Country Dance	Gaye Fifer	1 – 2:50 p.m.	AL
 Murder Games: How Serial Killers Toy with Language—And Us	J.D. Wright	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 Songs with a Message	Nick Coles	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 Beginning Level French (continued)	Cathleen Sendek-Sapp	6 – 7:30 p.m.	AL







Wednesday
AL: Active Learning **D:** Discussion **L:** Lecture  Online course  In-person course

CLASS NAME	INSTRUCTOR	TIME	TYPE
 Gentle Yoga Session B (continued)	Jill Donnette Clary	9 – 10 a.m.	AL
 Biblical Art of Marc Chagall	Sarah Rosenson	9 – 10:30 a.m.	L
 Antietam Campaign	David Albert	10 – 11:50 a.m.	L
 Engineering Beauty	Richard Wertheimer	10 – 11:50 a.m.	L
 You're Not Dead Yet: What Are You Going to Do About That?	Frank Lehner	10 – 11:50 a.m.	AL
 Chakra Yoga (continued)	Jill Donnette Clary	10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	AL
 Abusing Presidential Power: Lessons from Watergate	Jared Day	10:30 – Noon	L
 Balzac's <i>Old Man Goriot</i> , or the Genesis of The Human Comedy	Hollie Harder	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	D
 Shakespeare's <i>Twelfth Night</i> : "Was Not This Love Indeed?"	Norma Greco	1 – 2:30 p.m.	D
 You and the Law	Bradley Holuta	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 <i>La Bohème/Rent</i> : Art and Poverty in the Bohemian Life	Ken Gargaro	1 – 2:50 p.m.	D
 Military Miscellany	Jack Reid	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 Art and Science of Wine Tasting and Terroir	Ricardo Llovet	6 – 7:30 p.m.	AL

Thursday

CLASS NAME	INSTRUCTOR	TIME	TYPE
 Better Balance! Steady and Strong™ (continued)	Diane Markovitz	9 – 10 a.m.	AL
 Five Unique Italian Places to Visit	Cinzia Delfini	9 – 10:30 a.m.	L
 Early Spring Hiking	Melissa Sokulski	10 – 11:50 a.m.	AL
 Introduction to Duplicate Bridge for Bridge Players	Kathleen Mulligan	10 – 11:50 a.m.	AL
 Great Spanish Painters: Part 2	Nora Hamerman	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	L
 Intermediate Spanish (continued)	Mariá Franco de Gómez	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	AL
 War in the Skies: Europe 1939–1944	Buck Beasom	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	L
 Advanced Conversational Spanish (continued)	Mariá Franco de Gómez	1 – 2:30 p.m.	AL
 Is There an Answer to Cancer?	Christine Milcarek	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 Reimagining Yourself Through Creative Writing	Laurie McMillan	1 – 2:30 p.m.	AL
 Understanding Your Health: Part 2	Jennifer Roccisana	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 History You Never Learned	Louise Mayo	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 American Jewish Children's Literature	Dainy Bernstein	3:15 – 4:45 p.m.	L
 Beginning Spanish (continued)	Álvaro Antonio Bernal	3:15 – 4:45 p.m.	AL
 Reincarnation in Religion, Philosophy, and Culture	Lilan Laishley	3:15 – 4:45 p.m.	L
 Art Under Siege in WWII	Roberta Shayo	6 – 7:30 p.m.	L

Friday

CLASS NAME	INSTRUCTOR	TIME	TYPE
 Directors of Broadway and Movie Musicals	Sam and Candy Caponegro	10 – 11:30 a.m.	L
 History of Money	J. Dwight Hines	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	L
 Intermediate Level French: Grammar (continued)	Cathleen Sendek-Sapp	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	AL
 Folk Singers, the Bureau, and the Second Red Scare	Aaron Leonard	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 History of Food: Part 1	Julia Hudson-Richards	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 Foreign Films	David Shifren	1 – 4 p.m.	L

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Abusing Presidential Power: Lessons from Watergate

Jared Day

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. – Noon

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

This course examines the political and constitutional challenges that emerged with the Watergate scandal of the early 1970s. We will explore the basic reasons President Richard Nixon pursued surveillance, “dirty tricks,” and break-ins, what his political and policy goals were, and how the resulting scandal consumed his presidency. We will also look at the scandal’s deep short and long-term impacts on American society and attitudes towards government and the health and safety of our democracy. This set of lectures is part of the “History in the Making” lecture series, a series designed to inform people on issues in the news today.

Advanced Conversational Spanish

Mariá Franco de Gómez

Thursdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 1 & 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 Intermediate Spanish). The course is taught in Spanish and focuses on analyzing and discussing reading material. Weekly class material is provided. Please note that this course is often taken several times and is a versatile course that includes different class material under the same goals and objectives every term. **Note: Members may take only one level of Spanish per term.**

Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic World

Taylor Coughlan

Tuesdays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Alexander the Great died young but left the world forever changed. This course follows Alexander from the courts of Macedonia to the steppes of Afghanistan and explores the profound cultural changes and developments that followed. Together we will explore questions and issues related to ethnic identity, cultural exchange, empire building, and artistic canons, among others.

American Artists Abroad

Katherine Zoraster

Mondays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Before the 20th century, Europe was the center of the art world. Steeped in artistic tradition and with no structured training available at that time in the U.S., most American artists journeyed to Paris or other parts of Europe to study. Seeking more opportunity, freedom, and expertise, many of those artists remained abroad. By the late 19th century several of the world’s most influential painters were American expatriates. We will explore Samuel Morse and other 19th century artists who moved abroad to establish their career. Among those discussed will be James McNeil Whistler, Henry Ossawa Turner, John Singer Sargent, and Mary Cassatt.

American Composers of Stage and Screen: Part 3

Sam and Candy Caponegro

Fridays, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Explore the songs and times of the great songwriters of stage and screen. Using clips from Broadway, film, and television, we will share their life stories, hits and misses, some gossip (all in good fun) and appreciate their genius. If music is the food of love, let’s gorge ourselves on the music of Frank Loesser, Stephen Schwartz, Jule Styne, Johnny Mercer, and Harry Warren.

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American Jewish Children's Literature

Dainy Bernstein

Thursdays, 3:15 – 4:45 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

From its beginnings in the late 19th century, literature for American Jewish children had a unique character while intersecting and interacting with broader American culture. Recently, there has been significant growth in children's books with Jewish content from mainstream American publishers. While the books pick up on conversations and concerns of the mainstream American children's publishing world, they also reflect specifically Jewish concerns and modes of storytelling. This course will study the development of American Jewish children's literature from its earliest imports of British Jewish texts and translations of European Yiddish texts to the latest developments in American Jewish children's literature.

An Affair of Honor: Pittsburgh's Last Recorded Duel

L. Jon Grogan

Tuesdays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


In early 1806, Tarleton Bates was killed in Pittsburgh's last recorded duel. This course will describe how Bates arrived in Pittsburgh, his involvement with local and state politics, and the circumstances that led to his tragic and untimely death. It will also analyze the reasons that newly minted republican men like Bates, Alexander Hamilton, and others opted to settle their differences with other men on the field of honor.

Antietam Campaign

David Albert

Wednesdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 


Some historians consider the Antietam Campaign to be the pivotal campaign of the Civil War. They believe that with its defeat, the South lost any hope of gaining its independence. Regardless, Antietam was the bloodiest single day in American military history, a day which produced 23,000 combined casualties. This course examines this critical campaign and its aftermath.

Appalachia: An Overview

Rebecca Carpenter

Wednesdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 


One of the most beautiful, diverse, and unique parts of our country is Appalachia. This class is an overview of the Appalachian region, its people, beliefs and practices, resources, music and crafts, challenges, successes, and undeniable beauty. The overall theme of the course is connection—how those in Appalachia connect to one another and how they connect with those in other parts of the country today. And yes, we live in Appalachia! We will also look more closely at places near us that reflect our area's rich Appalachian history and culture.

Architecture and Landscape: A Sense of Place in Pittsburgh

Robert Jucha

Mondays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

The study of architecture is more enriching when we focus our attention on the context of buildings to other buildings and to the landscape, rather than just studying single structures. The study of places, their historic evolution and present-day form, is the subject of the course. This course will explore five specific kinds of places in Pittsburgh and southwestern Pennsylvania. The places include public squares, a major downtown street, courthouses, historic suburbs, and a quintessential working-class neighborhood.

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Art and Science of Wine Tasting and Terroir

Ricardo Llovet

Wednesdays, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

This course will provide participants with the knowledge necessary to obtain an enhanced experience from their usual wine drinking. We will review the key elements of terroir such as climate, geography and soil, discuss their influence on the wine and look at several wine regions. We will continue with descriptions of the visual, olfactive, tasting and aftertaste phases covering the art and some elemental science for each of the phases. Finally, we will practice what we learned with two virtual wine tastings. The instructor will identify four affordable wines available at the store in advance.

Art Under Siege in WWII

Roberta Shayo

Thursdays, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Nazi art plunder is a devastating story of hate, brutality, and greed. We will explore the trajectory of events culminating in the vast confiscation of art by the Nazis. Poignant themes of memory and loss resonate in ongoing debates over the provenance and restitution of Nazi-looted art. Course highlights will include the efforts of WWII's Monuments Fine Arts and Archives branch of the Allied Forces (aka Monuments Men) to safeguard art. There is heightened awareness of the legacy of the Monuments Men given contemporary threats to cultural heritage in Ukraine and other regions enduring conflict and disruption.

August Wilson, Pittsburgher and Playwright: Part 2

Christopher Rawson

Tuesdays, 3 – 4:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

August Wilson's American Century Cycle of 10 plays dramatizes African American life in comedy and tragedy, aspiration, and despair. All but one are set in Pittsburgh's Hill District, where Wilson (1945–2005) spent more than half his life, creating an imaginative microcosm of American life that speaks with passionate eloquence across the racial divide. In this course, we will study his life and read the four Aunt Ester plays: *Gem of the Ocean*, *Two Trains Running*, *King Hedley II*, and *Radio Golf*.

Austria and the Habsburgs

Orin James

Mondays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

This course introduces participants to the rich extensive history of Austria, once the center of the Holy Roman Empire. Our adventure will begin from the Celtic Kingdom Noricum and conclude with modern day Austria. Our journey will include a look at the Habsburg family dynasty along with Austria's role in the Thirty Years War, Napoleonic Wars, and both World Wars.

Balzac's *Old Man Goriot*, or the Genesis of The Human Comedy

Hollie Harder

Wednesdays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Juxtaposing the trials of a dedicated father abandoned by his socialite daughters and the struggles of an ambitious young man hoping to succeed in Paris, this quintessentially Balzacian novel vividly paints the social, economic, and moral evolutions of a post-revolutionary France in 1819. The elements of Balzac's mature writing come together to form the groundwork for his vast literary monument, *La Comédie humaine*. Recurring characters populate his work for the first time. Dialogue moves the plot forward and everyone has a secret to protect, which transforms this tale of love and loss of illusions into a classic page-turner.

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Beginning Digital Photography

Eli Vega

Mondays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


In this highly interactive course, members will learn the basics about digital photography and digital cameras. Topics include camera dials and menu items; composition; f/stops, shutter speeds, exposure meter and how they all work together; ISO and white balance; different types of lenses; and the number one solution to the number one problem in photography.

Beginning Level French

Cathleen Sendek-Sapp

Tuesdays, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Session: 1 & 2 (10 classes)

Modality: Online 

In this course, designed for students with minimal prior knowledge of French, our focus will be on mastering phrases and set structures that may be useful for communicating across a variety of situations. Students will be encouraged to develop strategies to try to make themselves understood where language proficiency may be lacking. The material presented in the Beginning Level French course will vary each term according to the needs of the participants.

Beginning Spanish

Álvaro Antonio Bernal

Thursdays, 3:15 – 4:45 p.m.

Session: 1 & 2 (10 classes)

Modality: Online 

This beginning course will introduce members to Spanish greetings, introductions, questions, answers, and basic vocabulary. Each class will also include a cultural element where holidays, festivals, food, sports, and dialects in different Spanish-speaking regions and countries are discussed. The course will include listening and speaking practice as well as some basic reading and writing. **Note: Members may take only one level of Spanish per term.**

Better Balance! Steady and Strong™

Diane Markovitz

Thursdays, 9 – 10 a.m.

Session: 1 & 2 (10 classes)

Modality: Online 

Are you looking for an exercise program designed to improve everyday life? This course, led by a physical therapist, will focus on balance and core strengthening exercises. Come join the fun and learn a program designed to improve your posture and daily function, while also decreasing your risk of falls and injury. No special equipment is needed, and most of the exercises are completed standing. Participants will not need to get up and down from the floor. This program is suitable for beginners yet appropriate for those with more exercise experience as it can be adapted to fit individual needs.

Biblical Art of Marc Chagall

Sarah Rosenson

Wednesdays, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

There is a museum in Nice, France, devoted exclusively to paintings of Biblical scenes by the Jewish painter, Marc Chagall. In this interactive, online class we will discuss Chagall's biography, read and discuss text of the Bible stories he depicted, closely examine his wonderful paintings, and sometimes compare them to works by other artists.

Chair Yoga

Susan Gillis Kruman

Mondays, 11 a.m. – Noon

Session: 1 & 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.

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Chakra Yoga

Jill Donnette Clary

Wednesdays, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Session: 1 & 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 physical, mental, or emotional imbalances that manifest in symptoms such as anxiety, lethargy, or poor digestion. This class is for members who like fluid, mindful practice that links alignment, movement, and breath. Participants should wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing and have a yoga mat.

Chips in Today's World 2.0

William Stanchina

Tuesdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


Lately we have heard a lot about “chips” including those that enable artificial intelligence. What are chips? We will explore today's world of semiconductor chips (i.e., integrated circuits) by examining what they are, how they work, how they are made, who makes them, and how they differ. This course is for a broad audience who is curious and wants to explore the importance of chips and their impact on our world, lives, politics, and finances. This 2.0 course includes timely updates from last year's version of this course.

Color Deep Dive

Ann Rosenthal

Wednesdays, 9 – 10:50 a.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


This hands-on art course will go beyond the standard color wheel to look more deeply at the relationship between hue, value, and saturation/ chroma. Members will be guided through a series of color exercises and learn how they apply to both modern and contemporary artworks. Members will also have the opportunity to make some color studies using their own compositions.

Conservation and Preservation in Western PA

Danielle Forchette

Wednesdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 


Despite its industrial past, western Pennsylvania's forests, streams, and wetlands are beautiful and biologically diverse. In this course, members will explore conservation issues addressed through the work of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Each week will unfold a new aspect: protecting some of western Pennsylvania's most exceptional natural land, restoring rivers and streams, studying wildlife and their habitats, planting trees and gardens in cities and towns, as well as caring for Fallingwater. Throughout the course, members can foster their connections to the natural world and identify conservation actions they can take in their communities.

Construction of Evil in Western Religious Traditions

Rebecca Denova

Mondays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

This course undertakes an historical analysis of the evolution of the concept of evil in the western traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and the character of “the Devil,” and his role as an instrument of power over the social order. “Good” and “evil” do not exist beyond the social context in which they are constructed, and we will discover the relationship between these two polarities and evolving concepts of social justice, both here and beyond (Heaven and Hell).

Contemporary Asian Architects 3

Jeffrey Swoger

Fridays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Parts one and two of this survey of contemporary architectural trends in Asia explored the two largest markets in Asia for architects—China and Japan. Part three will venture to South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Once again, the tensions between tradition and modernity will enlighten the works of the architects that we will study. As was the case with architects in China and Japan, there will be the constant need to define the relationship between the man-made to its natural surroundings.

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Cortázar and Borges: The Art of the Story

Álvaro Antonio Bernal

Tuesdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

This course takes an academic approach to Latin American literature, focusing on two great masters of the short story: Jorge Luis Borges and Julio Cortázar. We will read and discuss some of the most iconic stories by each author. In turn, the course will provide a panoramic view of some of the most remarkable aspects of Latin American literature during the 20th century.

Creating in the Style of the Masters: Series 3

Elaine Bergstrom

Mondays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 1 & 2 (10 classes)

Modality: Online 


This is an art class and art history class rolled into one. Members will study several artists such as Sargent, Homer, Potter, Duncanson, and Curran through videos, art presentations, and discussions, and then create a biweekly piece of art inspired by the artists in this series. You may use any medium to make your masterpieces that can be viewed in a slide deck (PowerPoint®) presentation and shared in class.

Criminal Prosecutions of Donald Trump

Tom Allen

Mondays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

Mondays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

In 2023, state and federal prosecutors filed four separate criminal cases against former President (and current presidential candidate) Donald Trump. In this class we will examine the specific criminal charges alleged against former President Trump in each of these cases. We will also assess ongoing developments in these cases as they proceed through the legal system. We will also discuss some of the unique legal issues raised by these unprecedented criminal cases brought against a former President amid a presidential campaign. **Note: This course is being offered in-person in session 1 and online in session 2. It is the same course.**

Dandy Andy: Warhol's Queer History

Grace Marston

Mondays, 3 – 4:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (4 classes)

Modality: Online 

This course examines Andy Warhol's romantic relationships and gay identity against the backdrop of the historical LGBTQ+ rights movement in the United States. While his sexual orientation is frequently suppressed or debated, Warhol's homosexuality impacted his art in a variety of ways. Warhol's boyfriends, including Edward Wallowitch, John Giorno, and Jed Johnson, were also his colleagues and collaborators. Through his paintings, drawings, films, and other media projects, Warhol often addressed queer themes and showcased other icons of the LGBTQ+ community. Classes will feature artworks and artifacts from the Andy Warhol Museum permanent collection, including pieces rarely on public display.

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Debating Migration

Roger Rouse

Tuesdays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

Migration is a focus of considerable controversy in the U.S. and around the world. We will examine and discuss the struggles and debates about refugees and asylum seekers, unauthorized migrants, and people who move within a single country, including those displaced by rural changes and by gentrification in big cities. Relating developments affecting the U.S., in general, to ones that are relevant both globally and in Pittsburgh, we will explore contending ideas about current trends and patterns, the experiences of the people immediately involved, what shapes these patterns and experiences, and where we should go from here.

Directors of Broadway and Movie Musicals

Sam and Candy Caponegro

Fridays, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


The musical is a world of beautiful singing voices and glorious dancing, a world of vivid color and vitality, and a world of total embracing fantasy. Who created this world? An important part of the creative team behind a musical is the director, and directing is a complex job. Using clips from various shows, we will discuss and explore the world of such famous directors as Vincent Minnelli, Stanley Donen, Harold Prince, George Abbott, and others.

Early Spring Hiking

Melissa Sokulski

Thursdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

This active hiking course will meet in two Pittsburgh parks (Schenley and Frick) where participants will walk the trails and experience the arrival of spring. For the first class, the trees will be bare, and we will have to hunt to find the earliest spring greens. During our remaining weeks together, we will experience more plants emerging, trees will be covered with blossoms, the color palette will change, bees will buzz, chipmunks and squirrels will emerge from their winter dens, and birds like red-winged blackbirds will make their triumphant return to Pittsburgh. We will identify and discuss native plants, wild edible plants and mushrooms, insect, bird, and animal life.

Elder Law

Carol Sikov Gross

Tuesdays, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


Individuals can face a variety of legal issues as they grow older, and it is important for them to be prepared for life's eventualities. This course will cover estate planning, which includes a discussion of wills, various types of trusts, durable financial powers of attorney, healthcare powers of attorney and living wills, as well as an explanation of the process of probate and estate administration. We will also discuss long-term care planning and asset protection planning to help individuals and their families if long-term care is needed. There will also be discussion of health insurance coverage for long-term care.

Engineering Beauty

Richard Wertheimer

Wednesdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

From the mid-19th through the mid-20th century, five brilliant men—some self-taught, others college educated—had lives that overlapped and collaborated to create some of the most aesthetically beautiful, well-engineered bridges and buildings in the northeast, many in New York City and Pittsburgh. Roebling, Lindenthal, Hornbostel, Guastavino, and Ammann all had the same philosophy of engineering: “a great building or bridge in a great city, although primarily utilitarian in its purpose, should nevertheless be a work of art to which Science lends its aid...” This course will study the lives, achievements, and collaborations of these men through their built legacies.

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English Country Dance

Gaye Fifer

Tuesdays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

This class, 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 focus will be on dancing and enjoying moving with the music.

Essential Instrumental Jazz Albums

Raymond Uy

Thursdays, 6 – 7 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


Because great jazz musicians are masters of spontaneous musical improvisation, each of their performances becomes instantly unique. Many of the greatest jazz albums, therefore, serve as a historical record of a distinctive, expressive performance that would never again be repeated in the same way. In this course, we will examine several essential instrumental jazz albums, including those by Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Dave Brubeck, Chick Corea, Milt Jackson, Ray Brown, Modern Jazz Quartet, Bill Watrous, Keith Jarrett, and more. We will discuss the musicians, influences, stylistic/technical approaches, and characteristics of the performances that make them so noteworthy.

Ethiopian Culture and Indigenous Knowledge

Meshesha M. Jobo

Thursdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 


This course will introduce members to Ethiopian culture and indigenous knowledge (IK). Members will understand, interpret, and appreciate the immense and complex culture of Ethiopian people. Topics will include culture and its preservation, music and performance arts, festivals and celebrations, food culture and eating habits, marriage customs and arrangements, and how all this shapes and is shaped by the contemporary socio-political and economic realities of the people. The course will also focus on Ethiopian IK: traditional governance and its structure, native methods of conservation, indigenous herbal medicine, and more.

Exploring Buddhism: A Socioeconomic Study

Gautam Mukerjee

Mondays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 


This course will explore the socioeconomic conditions surrounding the Buddha's advent in India more than two millennia ago. We will study the socioeconomic life of individuals, once rigidly defined by the ancient institutions of caste and Brahmanism, that underwent significant transformation under the influence of Buddhism. There will be parallel exploration into creative art forms and imagery along with architectural styles that reflected the spread of Buddhist ideas all over Southeast Asia and the Far East. The study will conclude with a look at Buddhism in America, from the 1880s on, as a unique perspective on life and liberty.

Film Noir in the 1940s

Steven Cherry

Thursdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

Many of us love film noir, but can we define it? Despite millions of words written about it (or perhaps because of them!), there is widespread disagreement about the genre. The term was invented in France by the so-called new wave directors and critics who had studied American thriller or detective films made in the 1940s and 1950s, though it is not clear how many are really noir. We will look at a mix of famous and not-so-famous films, focusing on the 1940s.

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Five Essential Poets: Part 2

David Walton

Fridays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

We will look at a representative selection of poems by each of five significant poets, one per week. The poems will be read and discussed individually, without any intended theme or sequence. This second in an ongoing series of classes will include John Donne, William Butler Yeats, James Wright, Naomi Shihab Nye, and Wisława Szymborska. Participants need not have taken part one to enjoy this course.

Five Unique Italian Places to Visit

Cinzia Delfini

Thursdays, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

This course aims to introduce members to five of the most underrated cities, regions, and areas of Italy that are worth visiting. We will visit Parma, appealing for its art, history, and love for food; Sardegna, one of the biggest islands of Italy and home to pristine white-sand beaches; Perugia and its surrounding villages that offer unique historical, artistic, and naturalistic landscapes; Ischia and Procida, great alternatives to the island of Capri; and Lake Garda and its hidden gems.

Folk Singers, the Bureau, and the Second Red Scare

Aaron Leonard

Fridays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


Some of the most prominent folk singers of the 20th century, Woody Guthrie, Agnes "Sis" Cunningham, Pete Seeger, Lee Hays, Burl Ives, and others, were also political activists with various associations with the American Communist Party. Consequently, the FBI, along with other governmental and right-wing organizations, were monitoring them and carrying out plans to purge them from the cultural realm. Using music, video selections, news clippings, and records from extensive Freedom of Information Act filings—including never-before released material—the course will bring to life these artists and the systematic way they were subject to government surveillance and suppression.

Foreign Films

David Shifren

Fridays, 1 – 4 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

Despite one Hollywood director's tongue-in-cheek dismissal of foreign cinema ("I make movies. Leave filmmaking to the French!"), we will discuss films that indeed include foreign locations and often subtitles and boast as being some of the best movies ever made. We will consider how foreign films differ from their American counterparts in style, tone, sensibility, and more. Films will include: *The Bicycle Thief*, *Two for the Road*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *Seven Beauties*, and *Diabolique*.

Fossils and Prehistoric Life

Stephen Lindberg

Mondays, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

From the first simple cells that inhabited the oceans almost four billion years ago to the age of mammals during the last ice age, the Earth has been the host for millions of different species of both plants and animals. In this course, we will explore the progression of life on Earth throughout geologic history and the rich deposits of fossils that preserve the record of past life.

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From Score to Sound: Musicians' Creativity

Flavio Chamis

Mondays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

This course will compare different interpretations of the same musical score to illustrate how musicians insert their unique personal insights into the strict guidelines provided by the composer. This course will also concentrate on specific aspects of musical composition, exploring how composers establish formal structures to build their masterworks. Carefully chosen examples of solo, chamber, orchestral, and vocal works will be heard, including comparisons between performances.

From *Titanic* to *Dune*: Film Music from the 90s to Today

Emanuel Abramovits

Mondays, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

More than ever, music is a fundamental component of a film's emotional force, and this course will explore what is behind the best film scores in today's evolving world. Anecdotes and superb audiovisuals will introduce members into the artistic and the business aspects of the music of Thomas Newman (*American Beauty*), Hans Zimmer (*Interstellar*), Rachel Portman (*Emma*), Justin Hurwitz (*La La Land*), and more composers of a fantastic new generation, who are allowing us "to see the films with new eyes and hear the films with new ears."

Fundamentals of Neuroscience

Adam Davis

Thursdays, 3:15 – 4:45 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

The human brain remains the most mysterious part of our bodies. This course explores what we know of the functions of the nervous system, the command center of our bodies. Topics include the organization of the nervous system, the anatomy and functions of the brain, how human senses work, information processing, cognition, memory, sleep, dreams, and select nervous system pathologies and disorders, such as depression, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's disease.

Gentle Yoga Session A

Jill Donnette Clary

Mondays, 9 – 10 a.m.

Session: 1 & 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 just register for both or just one.**

Gentle Yoga Session B

Jill Donnette Clary

Wednesdays, 9 – 10 a.m.

Session: 1 & 2 (10 classes)

Modality: Online 

See Gentle Yoga Session A description.

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Getting the Most From Your iPad

Richard Fitzgibbon

Tuesdays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

If you have been “playing around” with your iPad but have always wondered how to harness its full power, this course is for you. You will learn how to make the most of the iPad’s many features and understand exactly what makes this an incredibly useful piece of technology. This course will focus on various tips and tricks, and you will get smart in your use of the iPad—from arranging apps to diving into the control center, to helping the battery stay powered, to splitting the screen! You will learn about widgets, managing storage, navigating between app features, and so much more. For this course, you will need an iPad running the current version of iPad OS 16.

Great Spanish Painters: Part 1

Nora Hamerman

Thursdays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

The Golden Age of Spanish art begins in the late 1500s with an immigrant to Spain from Crete and Italy known as “El Greco.” Part 1 of this course will introduce El Greco (1541–1614), Ribera (who left Spain and worked from Naples his whole life), Zurbaran, and the sculptor, Montanes. These masters, who dealt mostly but not exclusively in religious themes, acted against the backdrop of Spanish literature and theater.

Great Spanish Painters: Part 2

Nora Hamerman

Thursdays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

The Golden Age of Spanish art continues with Part 2, focusing on Velazquez (considered by some as the greatest master of oil paint), Murillo, and Francisco de Goya. The works of these artists spanned an ever-widening range of subject matter including portraits, ordinary life, satire, and mythology. Goya (1746–1828), the “old master” whose work opened the way to modern art, closed the circle of migrant artists by fleeing from autocratic Spain to France in 1820.

Harnessing the Power of Your iPhone

Richard Fitzgibbon

Tuesdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

The iPhone is a communication device, and it is a portable computer in your pocket. Are you using your expensive device to make your life easier, or is the frustration level rising? The aim of this course is to develop your confidence in using your iPhone to assist you in your daily life. This course will explore the apps that Apple provides, such as Mail, iMessage, Contacts, Photos and Camera, Notes, Weather, Maps, and others. For this course, you will need an iPhone running the most recent version of the operating system (iOS 17).

Heirs to the Reformation

Peter Gilmore

Tuesdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


The division of western Christianity by the Reformation starting in 1517 led to a series of fissures that further fragmented the Christian Church. This course will examine the major trends that birthed traditions and denominations still present. While not an exhaustive study of all Protestant denominations, this course will offer a valuable overview of the major trends emanating from the 16th century disruption.

Historical Overview of Veterans Benefits in the U.S.

Ben Stahl

Mondays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

This course is a chronological overview of benefits and compensation provided to veterans of the United States. Each class will focus on a different era of veterans and the legislation enacted to establish the systems and institutions from which those benefits were delivered.

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History of Food: Part 1

Julia Hudson-Richards

Fridays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

This course will examine the history of food and the ways it contributes to our understanding of other areas of study, such as environmental, social, political, and economic history. We will look at the history of food in the United States within a larger global context, to examine the ways in which our global trading networks are anchored by food and how food helps to define our societies, cultures, and identities.

History of Money

J. Dwight Hines

Fridays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


This course traces the history of human modes/logics of exchange with special attention to the character and use of money (in one form or another) over the last 5,000 years. In the process we will discuss people's changing relationship to money as a lens onto shifting ideas of what constitutes personhood throughout history.

History You Never Learned

Louise Mayo

Thursdays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

This class will examine American history to explain and understand the history that was omitted from our (older people's) history classes. As one author put it in 1995: *Lies My Teacher Told Me*. In view of recent efforts to return to the era of avoiding anything that might cast a less than flattering light on America's story and make anyone uncomfortable, we will try to uncover the true unvarnished story of America. We will examine the positive as well as the negative side of these events such as the efforts of the abolitionists in the era of slavery.

Hollywood in Transition: Tinseltown in the 1960s

Jared Day

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. – Noon

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


The first three lectures of this course will focus on the generation of actors and actresses who challenged "the establishment" with ground-breaking roles in the 1960s. These include Paul Newman, Steve McQueen, Julie Christie, Anne Bancroft, Gregory Peck, Jane Fonda, and many others. The last two lectures (which occur in February, Black History Month) will explore the roles of African Americans in Hollywood from the silent era through the 1970s. The course will include consideration of the struggle and triumphs of stars like Hattie McDaniel, Louise Beavers, Dorothy Dandridge, Harry Belafonte, and especially Sidney Poitier.

How to Read a Vermeer and Other Masterpieces

Elizabeth Barker

Tuesdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 1 (4 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

Through guided exercises led by the museum's executive director (a former Met curator and Amherst College lecturer), participants will learn to "read" paintings. Three classes will focus on works to be featured in "Vermeer, Monet, Rembrandt: Forging the Frick Collections in Pittsburgh and New York" (April 7– July 14, 2024)—an unprecedented and never-to-be-repeated exhibition uniting masterpieces from the collections of The Frick Collection (NYC) and The Frick Art Museum (Pittsburgh). The fourth class will take place during the exhibition on April 15. ***Note: This discussion-intensive course, limited to 22 participants, will be held In-Person at The Frick Pittsburgh Museum in Point Breeze. Please do not sign up unless you can attend all four sessions.***

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Immunology: How the Immune System Keeps Us Disease-Free

Ellen Scott

Mondays, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


This course will impart broad knowledge of how the human immune system functions to protect people from debilitating diseases and infections. This lecture-based course will start by giving an overview of the “players” found within the immune system. We will then explore more complex immunological topics regarding infection and disease types that are of current research and clinical interest. The instructor will provide additional reading materials in a scientific review format for those interested, but reading this material will not be mandatory to participate in the course.

Imprisoned Without Trial: Japanese Internment in WWII

Denny Kato

Tuesdays, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


Is anti-Asian violence a modern-day occurrence? Not at all. Fear, hatred, and racism toward the Chinese and Japanese began in the mid-1800s, culminating with the incarceration of over 120,000 Japanese at the beginning of WWII, two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens. From the perspective of a third generation Japanese American (Sansei), we will discuss the how, when, and why racism put Americans in what is more accurately described as prison camps, and what we can do to countermand the effect of anti-Asian violence and racism in America today.

Influence and Legacy of Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho*

Daniel Singleton

Wednesdays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

This course explores the rich artistry, powerful social impact, and enduring legacy of Alfred Hitchcock's film *Psycho*. We will explore the film's unconventional narrative structure, innovative use of film style, and complex psychological themes. We will also place the film in relation to a host of sources, including Robert Bloch's original novel and Hitchcock's own work in film and television. We will also trace the film's afterlives (including many surprisingly good sequels, remakes, and reboots for film and television) and its enduring impact on young filmmakers, particularly in the horror and thriller genres.

Intermediate Level French: Grammar

Cathleen Sendek-Sapp

Fridays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 1 & 2 (10 classes)

Modality: Online 

In this course, we will be looking at various verb conjugations and use of the present tense in French and applying them in classroom activities. This course is geared to students who have difficulty in comfortably delivering simple sentences in French. Some prior knowledge of French is expected. Advanced speaking skills are not required.

Intermediate Spanish

Álvaro Antonio Bernal (session 1)

Mariá Franco de Gómez (session 2)

Thursdays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 1 & 2 (10 classes)

Modality: Online 

This course is appropriate for participants who are comfortable with basic Spanish conversation using the present tense (or students who had successfully completed several cycles of the Beginning Spanish course). The course focuses on the use of the past and future tense, more extensive vocabulary, and structures and syntax. At the end of the course, students are expected to feel comfortable with standard Spanish conversation. Please note that this course is often taken several times and is a versatile course that includes different class material under the same goals and objectives every term. **Note: Members may take only one level of Spanish during a term.**

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Introduction to Duplicate Bridge for Bridge Players

Kathleen Mulligan

Thursdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

Many of us have been playing bridge for years but have been reluctant to venture into the exciting world of duplicate bridge. This course will demystify duplicate bridge and introduce bridge players to the differences (and similarities) between duplicate and rubber or party bridge. Members will learn the mechanics and etiquette of duplicate play as well as some of the basic conventions used by duplicate players. The first half of the class will be lecture while the second half will be devoted to play. The course will conclude with a full session sample duplicate game. **Note: This In-Person course will meet at Rodef Shalom.**

Ireland and Northern Ireland: Conflict and Peace

Paul S. Adams

Mondays, 3 – 4:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

This course will explore the development of conflict and peace in Northern Ireland and Ireland focusing on the Irish Rebellion (1870s–1920s), the Troubles (1960s–1990s), the Good Friday Agreement of 1998, and from 1998 to the present, especially Brexit. The course will begin with an exploration of Ireland under British rule through the 19th century, the early conflicts of the 20th century, and the emergence of the Irish Free State in 1921. More focus will be on impact of the status of Northern Ireland after 1921 and into the 21st century.

Is There an Answer to Cancer?

Christine Milcarek

Thursdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Cancer has been the scourge of human health since antiquity. This course will explore the mechanisms by which cancer arises. Some cancers arise spontaneously, some are directly induced by the environment, and some are hereditary. Cancer cures have ranged from extensive surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and more recently immunological manipulations. A cancer vaccine is on the horizon.

Just Enough Italian to be Easily Understood

Cinzia Delfini

Tuesdays, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Session: 1 & 2 (10 classes)

Modality: Online 


This course is an introduction to basic Italian language elements through the context of travelling to Italy. It will concentrate on the simplest but most effective way that individuals can express their needs in an unfamiliar language.

La Bohème/Rent: Art and Poverty in the Bohemian Life

Ken Gargaro

Wednesdays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

The musical *Rent* used the structure of Puccini's opera *La Bohème* as a template for a meditation on the philosophy, life, and work of young artists devoting themselves to their craft while thumbing their noses at society. By comparing selected scenes from both works, members will contemplate the irony of how freedom, humor, and love can abide within an unorthodox life of poverty, creativity, and rebelliousness. Members will also explore the artistic choices made by the directors, writers, and actors in exploring the theme of bohemianism within two cultures separated by approximately 100 years.

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La Traviata, in Depth

Marilyn Egan

Wednesdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


This course will examine Giuseppe Verdi's *La Traviata*, its creation, the notion of a "fallen woman," and the literary source (*La Dame aux Camélias*). Why was Violetta a courtesan and what were 1800s mores? How did Venetian censors influence the opera? Meet Violetta's lover, the nobleman Alfredo Germont, and his father Giorgio. Listen closely to the experimental prelude, which paints a portrait of the heroine, and the famous music in this chamber opera. Learn about cimbasso, opening night fiasco, consumption, and camélias. Discover connections among fallen women in opera, literature, and art; consider Blanche, Fantine, Hester, and Anna Karenina.

Life Inside the Museum

Deirdre M. Smith

Mondays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

The theme of this course is "life" in the museum and will focus on natural history museums and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, in particular. Topics will include: definition and categorization of life in the life sciences and natural history; preservation of life and lifelike appearances in fossils, biological specimens, and taxidermy; ethical conflicts of storing human remains and objects of cultural and spiritual significance in collections and contemporary strategies to address them; and the imperative for museums to remain vital to their communities and futures and to confront the problematics of their histories, categories, and biases. **Note: Some of the class sessions will take place at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.**

Medieval and Renaissance Art in Our Region

David Brumble

Tuesdays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


This course will discuss Medieval and Renaissance art in the great collections in New York, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, and D.C. and in lesser-known museums in Toledo, Indianapolis, Detroit, Cincinnati, Hartford, Raleigh, Princeton, Yale, and Pittsburgh. These will include works by Jan Steen, Rembrandt, Botticelli, Titian, van der Weyden, Cranach, and many others—always in relation to Medieval and Renaissance traditions of meaning. New content has been added since the last version of this course.

Military Miscellany

Jack Reid

Wednesdays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 


Did you know that between 1770 and 1780, Pennsylvania and Connecticut were engaged in a long-standing and bloody conflict over the ownership of the Wyoming Valley? This class will cover less commonly known conflicts of military history, discussing five events from the American Revolution, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Some incidents demonstrate great valor going unrewarded and unrecognized. One battle exults in one side's success while leaving out the tragic ending. The significance of these events varies and will be discussed by the class.

Murder Games: How Serial Killers Toy with Language—And Us

J.D. Wright

Tuesdays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

Serial killers can be prolific in terms of the slaughter they unleash upon the unsuspecting, but they can also be prolific as writers. Jack the Ripper, Zodiac, Unabomber, the DC Snipers, and BTK wrote to police and public to toy with them. "Toy" because these monsters' messages were oddly playful, operating through elaborate codes, baroque visual puns, sophisticated wordplay, and sometimes even playing cards and morbidly positioned children's toys. How have the killers come to justice? Are unsolved puzzles the key to deciphering still-unsolved mysteries? Why is a thirst for blood so closely linked to the play impulse? The creepy answers await you.

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Music in Science Fiction Films

Jim Cassaro

Thursdays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

In this course, we explore the intersections between music and science fiction film from a variety of perspectives. We trace the historical evolution of the genre through the analysis of key contributions, from *The Day the Earth Stood Still* (1951), *Godzilla* (1954), *Forbidden Planet* (1956) to *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968). Participants will gain a thorough understanding of the interactions between music and science fiction films in the 20th century and a vocabulary in which to analyze how the two intersect. Course content will include in-person sessions, film viewing, and in-class discussions and analysis.

Myths of the Modern West: Adventures in the Last Best Place

James Pagliasotti

Wednesdays, 3 – 4:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Growing up in the American West is a venture steeped the gilded lore of “Cowboys and Indians,” the rugged individualist, taming the wilderness, and prying a living from the land. The modern West, though, is a study in conflict between that romantic notion and the practical outcomes of “settling” the region. This class is about dwelling in both worlds and making the best of it, the instructor’s experience living with the Blackfoot Nation, buying movie star Gary Cooper’s home, and the people met along the way. It’s the story of a city boy finding his way in the contemporary West.

Nationality Rooms: Connections Across Time and Communities

Michael Walter

Tuesdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

The University of Pittsburgh’s 31 Nationality and Heritage Rooms are unique spaces within the Cathedral of Learning that remind people of the ethnic diversity of the Pittsburgh region and serve as functioning classrooms. In this five-week course, the instructor will frame the presentation of sets of rooms each week around a theme to show the intersection of ideas and communities.

Opening to Nature—Our Inheritance as Humans

Thalia Gray

Thursdays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


This course is an introduction to some of our human abilities as part of a natural world that runs on subtle energies as well as Newtonian laws. More and more discoveries are being made about the way living beings in nature communicate and are interconnected, and humans are no exception. We will explore a variety of avenues by which we communicate with our fellow Earth inhabitants and with ourselves and examine the potential of these systems to be used to improve our own well-being, that of other people, and that of the planet.

Pittsburgh History to World War II

Virginia Montanez

Tuesdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

This course is designed to give lifelong learners a better understanding of the forces that saw Pittsburgh’s transformation from a resource-rich wilderness into an industrial powerhouse whose people and innovations helped build America. This course will present Pittsburgh’s history to the start of World War II as more than two-dimensional, grayscale ideas about rivers, coal, and steel. Rather, the city’s history is presented in a vibrant way that not only tells the stories of the names we know—Braddock, Forbes, Carnegie, Rooney—but digs deeper to pull from the margins the voices whose stories we haven’t yet heard.

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Racist Criminal Justice in White Settler Nations and the United Kingdom

Ralph Bangs

Indigenous and Black people in the United States and Canada, indigenous people in Australia, and Black people in the United Kingdom are greatly overrepresented in those nations' criminal justice systems. The instructor will lecture on the history, extent, and causes of this problem as well as solutions. The course will draw from several books and at least one guest speaker.

Wednesdays, 3 – 4:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Reimagining Yourself Through Creative Writing

Laurie McMillan

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

Thursdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Reincarnation in Religion, Philosophy, and Culture

Lilan Laishley

Reincarnation is the belief that after death in one body, the consciousness, often referred to as the soul, of that living being is reborn into another body. Reincarnation is a central tenet of the religions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, and many indigenous cultures as well as 33 percent of Americans. This course will explore the expressions of reincarnation in its various forms including the culture of ancient Egypt, the philosophy of ancient Greece, the religions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, and Native American tribes. Additionally, we will look at evidence for and arguments against reincarnation.

Thursdays, 3:15 – 4:45 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


Sadness and Joy: Understanding Grief and Loss

David Fetterman

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross wrote: "Dying is an integral part of life, as natural and predictable as being born." This course will explore the meaning of death and grief. We will examine perceptions and attitudes that individuals and society maintain about death and grief. We will consider how those perceptions and attitudes affect daily living. We will think about the intersection of spirituality, death, and grief. Finally, we will study how rituals, personal and community, help to sustain us and to integrate the experiences of death and grief into the fabric of life.

Tuesdays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*: "Was Not This Love Indeed?"

Norma Greco

Performed in 1602 and published in the 1623 First Folio edition, Shakespeare's popular comedy *Twelfth Night* entertains with a celebration of marriage at the end and other elements of Renaissance comedy. In this course, we will explore how *Twelfth Night*, called by one critic a "dark comedy," goes beyond its comic form to offer reflections on the meaning of love, deepening cultural notions of love and gender roles. The play also suggests complexities of gender and sexual identity that question conventional assumptions. We will finally consider ways in which the play prepares thematically for tragedies *Hamlet* and *King Lear*.

Wednesdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

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Shakespeare's World

Alan Irvine

Tuesdays, 3:15 – 5 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 


Although Shakespeare's plays may be "not just for an age, but for all time," they are creations of a specific time and place. The more we understand about the world Shakespeare lived in and wrote about, the deeper our appreciation of his plays. We will examine the structure of Tudor society, world events, cultural changes, and religious and scientific controversies, aspects of everyday life, and the development of the theater of Elizabethan England.

Songs with a Message

Nick Coles

Tuesdays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

This course explores songs with important things to say about the world we live in and how we act in it. These will come mostly from American roots and contemporary genres, including blues, gospel, folk, country, rock, and hip-hop. We'll hear sorrow songs, labor songs, prison songs, protest songs, freedom songs, and more. Participants will study lyrics, listen to musical adaptations, and witness live performances. We'll take note of a song's historical origins, and how it has traveled across cultures and times, taking on new meanings. Along with some classic songs with a message, the course will include new material.

Stay Current in Nutrition and Food

Judith Dodd

Tuesdays, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

The world of food and nutrition is changing with updated Dietary Guidelines for Americans, a refreshed My Plate, labels, and descriptions that are not only new but also confusing. This class will look at terms such as locally grown and processed vs. ultra-processed. The course will discuss diet advice (including some questionable ones) and will help answer your questions. Additionally, the course ends with a focus on food and the holidays. Even if you are not the "cook," we will explore the choices and options in the food and nutrition world.

Stop Procrastinating and Get Your Decluttering Done

Jamie Novak

Thursdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Do you put off those dreaded organizing tasks? Do you delay getting started? Do you procrastinate when it comes to decluttering your home? Learn simple strategies to overcome procrastination. During class you'll create a to-do template that helps you get things done. Participants will be able to jumpstart their efforts with live, guided tidy-up sessions during each class.

TED Talks

Kathy Callahan

Wednesdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Technology, Entertainment, and Design (TED), a nonprofit organization that promotes "ideas worth spreading," features talks by some of the world's most engaging speakers on a wide variety of subjects. The TED website features more than 3,900 talks on video. In this class be prepared for discussion! We will discuss, debate, and reflect on a few of these talks each week. Some talks are informational, and some are just plain fun. Group members are encouraged to select talks that inspire or intrigue them to kick off the discussion.

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The Jewish View Of ...

Rabbi Alex Greenbaum

Wednesdays, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

What's the Jewish view of...? The instructor will explore some controversial topics such as the death penalty, euthanasia, abortion, gun control, and/or same-sex marriage by presenting them through a variety of Jewish lenses: Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and his own personal views. Participants will have opportunities to question and engage in discussion.

Trans Studies: Beyond the Headlines

Bridget Keown

Mondays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

This introduction to the interdisciplinary field of transgender studies will primarily consider how trans individuals and communities have shifted and changed our understanding of sex, gender, identity, as well as biological science, culture, psychology, and activism. Together, we will examine a broad range of topics that will include: the history and emergence of trans individuals in western society, the politics of trans visibility, and trans lives in film and literature. These discussions will also consider recent laws regulating the rights of trans individuals in the hope of placing such discourse in a wider historical and theoretical context.

U.S. Relations with Tsarist Russia, 1789-1917

John Burt

Thursdays, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


From the American Revolution to the Russian Revolution, the United States and Russia maintained diplomatic relations, usually on good terms. This course will profile the American diplomats and the issues they dealt with along with several interesting Russian diplomats who came to Washington.

Understanding and Managing your Personal Finances

Marcia Semper

Wednesdays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

This course will help members develop their ability to understand personal finances and grow their confidence to make better financial decisions. Another key benefit is the potential to decrease stress in fulfilling these critical and challenging responsibilities. The wide range of topics includes income (interest, dividends, IRAs, Social Security), expenses (budgeting), investments (stocks, bonds, money markets, mutual funds, stock market, asset allocation), estate planning (gifts, financial and health powers of attorney, wills, trusts), income taxes (income and deductions), and insurance (health, long-term care, life).

Understanding the World through Maps

Michael T. Rizzi

Thursdays, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

This course introduces students to world geography, with special emphasis on issues in the news. Have you ever read about a refugee crisis in a foreign country, and been unsure where that country is? This course will help you fill in the blanks on your own mental map of the world and learn something interesting about every country on the planet. Follow along as we move from region to region and continent to continent to identify countries, discuss their history, language, culture, and contemporary political issues.

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Understanding World Cultures

John Hooker

Tuesdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Culture is more than food, language, and the arts. It is a set of thought patterns, basic assumptions, and solutions to life's problems. This course begins by presenting an intellectual framework for understanding world cultures, based on concepts from cultural anthropology. The bulk of the course features in-depth studies of a dozen specific countries on six continents, in nearly all of which the instructor has lived and worked. Conceptual analysis of each culture's distinctive logic is accompanied by examples and anecdotes, to provide a feel for everyday life as well as enable insight into world events and enrich travel experiences.

Understanding Your Health: Part 1

Jennifer Roccisana

Thursdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

This two-part course presents an overview of the five most common diseases in Americans. Participants will have the opportunity to learn the causes, risk factors, prevention, diagnosis, and common treatments for hypertension, high cholesterol, stroke, heart disease, and peripheral vascular disease. They will also learn to recognize common medical terminology. Sessions will take the form of lecture and group discussion. No prior anatomy, physiology, or medical knowledge is required. No medical advice will be given, and members will be asked not to share any personal or medical information.

Understanding Your Health: Part 2

Jennifer Roccisana

Thursdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

See Understanding Your Health: Part 1 description.

Vaccine for Racism: Racial Equity Consciousness

Gabriel Quinteros

Mondays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 1 & 2 (10 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

The structural cognitive behavioral framework for racial equity consciousness development is a methodological process that focuses on the embodiment of six interconnected spheres. These spheres are designed to empower individuals and communities to contemplate and cultivate racial equity through research, education, and praxis. The concentric process recognizes that people and communities will continually refine their understanding, skills, and actions as they engage with each sphere. The course will guide learners through the framework for racial equity consciousness development.

Virtual Hands-On Indian Cooking

Jayashree Iyengar

Mondays, 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Five Indian cooking classes will be offered: 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. Topics to be covered include but are not limited to: Indian food history (briefly covered), Indian spices and how they are used, regional Indian dishes, typical equipment used in Indian cooking, and adapting to Indian cooking in North America.

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War in the Skies: Europe 1939–1944

Buck Beasom

Thursdays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


This course traces the development of military aviation, the designers and fliers who participated in that development, and how that process led to the greatest clash of machines in the history of warfare. We follow the Luftwaffe, the RAF, and the USAAF through their early years, learn how each enjoyed its “finest hour” and explore how innovation, bravery, folly and—ultimately—American industrial might decide the war. This course has extensive images, animated graphics, and embedded video from historical sources, TV miniseries, and Hollywood films.

What is Health Equity? A Global Overview

Martha Ndung'u

Thursdays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

Health equity is a fundamental concept in global health that explores the disparities in health outcomes and access to healthcare services among different populations. This course delves into the multifaceted nature of health equity, examining the historical, social, and systemic factors that contribute to health disparities. Through an exploration of topics such as medical racism, healthcare access, and cultural competence, participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and potential solutions in achieving health equity on a global scale.

Which Christianity? Denominationalism and the Church

Sandra Collins

Mondays, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


Christianity is not one thing, but a variety of separate—and sometimes antagonistic—denominations. Furthermore, beyond the standard three-fold categories (Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant) are a slew of autonomous, non-denominational institutions or churches. And standard denominational categories are further problematized by labels such as fundamentalist, radical traditionalist, and sectarian, identities that find purchase outside the boundaries of creed and canon. This course will seek to unpack these distinctions historically as well as doctrinally as we challenge and deepen our understanding of what “church” means in the American context.

Willa Cather: Prairie Chronicler

Clifford R. Johnson

Tuesdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

Willa Cather immortalized immigrant America in early 20th-century Nebraska. Her girlhood on the prairie enabled her to invoke the harsh beauty of the land and the struggles of bohemians and Swedes to make their way in a new world. Opportunity beckoned, but their lives were complicated by nostalgia and alienation. Cather spent 10 crucial years in Pittsburgh teaching at Central High, and because of our ethnic heritage, some students may have had advantages in understanding her. She is now recognized as a trailblazer in same-sex relationships. Our class time will be divided between instructor presentations on her life and reading *O Pioneers!* (1913), one of the best of her early works.

World Religions as Influenced by Music

Ian Evans Guthrie

Fridays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

This course addresses the impact of music used in religious services, extending partially into the implications for secular environments. Topics covered include Jewish chant, Christian musical genres, Islamic chant, raga, and musical references from Confucianism, addressing questions such as whether style and lyrics matter, and if increased participation from audiences mean a greater sense of affirmation of whatever is being sung and taught. This culminates in the question of how music perhaps creates a religious experience for these claiming to be secular. Religion, morals, and music are closely related, yet we forget how the third relates to the other two.

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You and the Law

Bradley Holuta

Wednesdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


This course will provide an engaging and relevant overview of the legal system on topics that relate to ordinary people. Attendees will develop an understanding of how to "think like a lawyer" through interactive debates, play the role of a mock juror, discover pitfalls in estate planning and family law, and various other pertinent topics. The instructor is a practicing attorney and adjunct professor who enjoys working with students of all ages.

Your Phonographic Salmagundi

Mike Plaskett

Tuesdays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 


Join radio host Mike Plaskett for a phonographic salmagundi of songs and jazzy music. Expect cute and smart songs of the 1920s through the 1950s, swinging bands, interesting background information, and lively discussion. Although he celebrates Pittsburgh as his hometown, Plaskett was born and raised in New Orleans—so you will be treated to some of the best Dixieland on his shelves. It's all joyous, all good.

You're Not Dead Yet: What Are You Going to Do About That?

Frank Lehner

Wednesdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-Person 

You have a story worth telling. When that story goes untold, we leave life and wonder on the table. This course combines upbeat lectures with practical reflection, guiding you to create an aspirational 60-second story, perfect for identifying and embracing new goals and opportunities. You'll also develop a series of "I Will" statements to keep you motivated as you activate your future. Course participants find the class practical, affirming, and often transformative. Join us in a refreshing and safe space peppered with a bit of philosophy, psychology, and spirit. What do you have to lose besides what you're missing?

Zentangle™ in Color

Sue Schneider

Tuesdays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Zentangle™, a meditative style of drawing, is traditionally done in black and white—but in this course, we will explore several colorful media, including watercolor, colored pencils and pens, and background variations. No previous experience is needed, just a willingness to play and experiment. In addition to abstract pattern imagery, we will apply Zentangle™ techniques to animals, people, and floral designs.

Zionism in Historical Perspective

Barbara Burstin

Wednesdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (4 classes)

Modality: Online 

The term Zionism and Zionist is often heard today, but what is Zionism? What are its historical roots? How was it first conceived and how did it develop, both ideologically and practically, leading to the modern state of Israel? Come join us as we explore this movement and consider those who passionately supported and those who passionately opposed the creation of the state of Israel.

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OLLI events

Using Your Apple Watch

Richard Fitzgibbon

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Time: 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Modality: Online 

Did you get an Apple Watch over the holidays? Your Apple Watch is more than just a timepiece. This lecture will review different Apple Watch features such as Watch Faces, Notifications, Settings, Exercise, Sleep, Health, Emergency SOS, Find My, Maps, Weather, Timers, and other apps. We will also look at resources available to you that will enable you to continue your exploration after the class is over. Participants will need an Apple Watch and an iPhone running iOS 17 that is already paired with that watch.

Richard Fitzgibbon is a former teacher with 35 years of experience in the Riverview School District and was technical coordinator for 10 years before he retired. Since retirement, he has been a frequent volunteer at Computer Reach where he assists in refurbishing and recycling computers.

Why Do You Think They Call It the Oldest Hatred? Anti-Semitism: Past and Present

William I. Brustein

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Time: 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Modality: Online 

Drawing on more than 40 years of empirical research on anti-Semitism in Europe and the U.S., Professor William I. Brustein offers key insights into the ubiquity of anti-Semitism. Among the questions to be addressed in his presentation are: Why were so many people indifferent to the fate of the Jews on the eve of the Holocaust? Why did anti-Semitism reach such heights before the Holocaust? How do we explain societal and temporal variation in anti-Semitism? How does anti-Semitism differ from other forms of ethnic, racial, and religious prejudice? Is leftist anti-Semitism new? How does present-day anti-Semitism differ from past anti-Semitism?

William I. Brustein, PhD, stepped down as Vice President for Global Strategies and International Affairs at West Virginia University to assume the position of Eberly Family Distinguished Professor of History (currently emeritus). Professor Brustein has published widely in the areas of political extremism and ethnic/religious/racial prejudice. Among Brustein's awarding-winning books are *The Logic of Evil: The Social Origins of the Nazi Party, 1925–1933* (Yale University Press) and *Roots of Hate: Anti-Semitism in Europe Before the Holocaust* (Cambridge University Press).

OLLI mini courses

What Do 1923, Fitzgerald, and Hemingway Have in Common?

Kathleen Dixon Donnelly and David Walton

**This series will meet four Wednesdays:
January 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2024**

Time: 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Modality: Online 

This series has two parts. The first two weeks with Kathleen Dixon Donnelly explore the summer of 1923 and two important writers: F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway. Although Fitzgerald and Hemingway had not yet met in the summer of 1923, their common literary friendships would affect their future careers and personal lives. The many writers and artists who were “such friends” in America and Europe during the 1920s influenced each other.

Weeks three and four with David Walton track the emergence of Ernest Hemingway’s distinctive prose and narrative style in half a dozen stories from his first collection, published in 1923 and 1925. The framework will be Hemingway’s formative experiences and friendships, and our focus will be on how these influences shaped his literary character.

Kathleen Dixon Donnelly, PhD, conducted research on the relationships among artists and writers in early 20th century salons in Dublin City University. She recently retired from teaching at Birmingham (UK) City University Business School and School of Media to move home to Pittsburgh.

David Walton, MFA, is retired from the University of Pittsburgh Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, Department of English, where he taught a variety of literature and writing courses over the last 20 years. He is a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship in literature, and the author of two collections of short stories and a novel.

When Governments Stop: Shutdowns, Strikes, and the Social Contract

Andrew Lotz

**This series will meet four Fridays:
January 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2024**

Time: 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Modality: Online 

This lecture series considers a set of moments for theorists of democracy to address: what do we make of timings when the government stops its function, in part or in full? We’ll look at a variety of cases of shutdowns and strikes, including United States government shutdowns (there have been ten). We’ll also examine cases of cessation of services, from police strikes and transit strikes to the most fascinating cases of all: garbage strikes. We’ll conclude with a discussion of what we might think about these moments given the larger narratives of democracy and the social contract that underlies our system.

Andrew Lotz, PhD, serves as an assistant dean in Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, as well as a lecturer and advisor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh.

Instructor biographies

Emanuel Abramovits has been a concert promoter since 2000 and directly involved in many events by international artists, including Itzhak Perlman, Gustavo Dudamel, Sarah Brightman, Roger Hodgson, Asia, Journey, and Kenny G. He designed and staged many original orchestral events and several world premieres. He was cultural director at Union Israelita De Caracas from 2008 to 2019, releasing books and organizing film cycles, concerts, and art exhibits. He has been consistently teaching online and in person across the United States since 2020.

Paul S. Adams, PhD, is associate professor of political science at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. His research and courses focus on comparative politics and international relations, especially in Europe with specializations in Irish, Northern Irish, German, and Swiss politics as well as the European Union. He earned a doctorate in political science from the University of Massachusetts in 2008.

David Albert has been a student of the Civil War for 50 years. He co-taught the Civil War elective at the U.S. Air Force Air Command and Staff College and was a Civil War docent for 12 years at the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Tom Allen, JD, is a lawyer who practiced with a large global law firm (Reed Smith LLP) 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. Allen has appeared in courts throughout the United States. He obtained a BA

from the University of Michigan and a JD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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.

Elizabeth E. Barker, PhD, a graduate of Yale and NYU, spent the first decade of her career as an award-winning curator of British and American art at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art before moving into museum leadership, directing Colgate University's Picker Art Gallery, Amherst College's Mead Art Museum, the Boston Atheneum, and now, The Frick Pittsburgh Museums and Gardens.

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

Elaine Bergstrom, BA, earned her degree in design from University of Illinois, 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 Antonio 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.

Dainy Bernstein (ey/em/eir), PhD, is a visiting lecturer in literature at the University of Pittsburgh. Bernstein studies American Jewish children's literature with a specialization in Haredi children's literature, and ey received eir PhD from the City University of New York in 2021 for eir dissertation titled "Reading the World: American Haredi Children's Literature, 1980-2000." Bernstein reviews children's titles for the Association of Jewish Libraries and is working on a book about the development of American Haredi children's literature, to be released through Cambridge University Press in 2024.

David Brumble, PhD, is professor emeritus of English at the University of Pittsburgh and 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.

Barbara Burstin, PhD, is on the history faculty of both the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University and is the author of several books including *Steel City Jews, Volumes I and II* and a biography of Sophie Masloff. With degrees from Vassar College, Columbia University, and the University of Pittsburgh, she has been teaching for over 25 years.

John Burt, JD, is a retired history teacher and lawyer. He served as a featured speaker in *Safe Harbor*, a public television award-winning documentary on the

Underground Railroad in western Pennsylvania. Since 1986, he has lectured on the history of American reform movements, especially the abolitionist movement, and he has conducted tours connected with Underground Railroad activities.

Kathy Callahan retired from management consulting for Fortune 200 companies, specializing in executive and leadership development and performance improvement. An experienced facilitator and trainer, she is inspired to share the TED Talks discussion group experience with OLLI members.

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.

Rebecca Carpenter, PhD, earned her degree at Duquesne University and is a retired educator. Carpenter has a particular interest in art, and she enjoys the opportunity now to pursue study in this field and to present courses on some of her favorite artists.

Jim Cassaro, MA, has just retired as the head of the Theodore M. Finney Music Library at the University of Pittsburgh (1999-2023) and has a secondary appointment as professor in the Music Department. He holds a BA in music (1978) and a Master of Library Science (1980) from the University at Buffalo, and an MA in musicology (1993) from Cornell University.

Flavio Chamis is a native of Sao Paulo, Brazil and is an acclaimed music conductor and composer throughout the world, winning many awards and honors. In the 1980s, Chamis was conducting assistant to Leonard Bernstein for several tours. A frequent guest

lecturer, he has given presentations on Brazilian and classical music at universities and other cultural and educational organizations across the country.

Steven Cherry, MFA, is an adjunct instructor in the University of Pittsburgh's English Department and previously was an adjunct professor at New York University (NYU). He has also taught at the College of New Rochelle, the University of Iowa, and William Patterson University. He holds a BA from Geneseo College and an MFA in creative writing from The New School and has studied screenwriting at Gotham Writer's Workshop and Robert McKee's Story Seminar.

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.

Nick Coles, PhD, is an associate professor emeritus of English at the University of Pittsburgh, where, for 40 years, he taught working-class culture, environmental literature, composition, and detective fiction. Editor of four books on American working-class writing, Coles is an activist, a gardener, and a member of the Pittsburgh-based acoustic band Smokestack Lightning.

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, CA.

Taylor Coughlan, PhD, is a visiting assistant professor of Classics at the University of Pittsburgh. An expert in the literature and culture of the Hellenistic world, he has taught a wide variety of courses on the ancient Mediterranean world at the university level.

Adam Davis, MA, is an associate professor of biology at CCAC and teaches the History of Science at Duquesne University. He received his BS in archaeology, biological anthropology, and forensic anthropology from Mercyhurst University, and his MA 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, received her master's degree in Italian from the University of Pittsburgh in December of 2017. She previously received her degree in Russian and English languages and literature at the University of Verona, Italy. She is working on a translation project of a young adult adaptation of Dante's *Inferno*, which started from her graduate research. At present she is a part-time instructor at the University of Pittsburgh and teaches Italian language.

Rebecca Denova, PhD, is 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.

Judith Dodd, MS, RDN, LDN, is a registered dietitian and retired assistant professor in dietetics and nutrition at the University of Pittsburgh. Along with teaching for OLLI at Pitt, she has a nutrition education and communication background in speaking, writing, and television, not only as the former Giant Eagle nutrition spokesperson, but also in community outreach.

Marilyn Egan, PhD, is the Director of Education at the Pittsburgh Opera. She enjoys opening new doors to opera for students of all ages. Staff members and opera artists who will share their specific areas of expertise about opera will join her.

David Fetterman, MDiv, MEd, is a retired pastor, chaplain, and spiritual care specialist, having served in several long-term care facilities and hospices in the Pittsburgh area. While serving as director of education and community outreach in the Center for Healthy Aging at Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health, he was a member of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Healthy Aging Research Network, focusing primarily on brain health and spirituality issues. He has been a student of the American Civil War for many years.

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 in Missouri and Virginia public schools. Gaye has been leading English country dance for

12 years both locally and at many dance weekends and weeklong camps across the country.

Richard Fitzgibbon is a former teacher with 35 years of experience in the Riverview School District and was technical coordinator for the district for 10 years before he retired. Since retirement, he frequently volunteers at Computer Reach where he assists in refurbishing and recycling computers.

Danielle Forchette, MEd, is the education coordinator with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Before joining the Conservancy, Danielle was with the Center for Experiential Learning at Loyola University Chicago and the McCormick Foundation's Civic Education program. She has a BS in human ecology from Rutgers University and a MEd in instructional leadership from the University of Illinois-Chicago. Each week, experts from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy will join Forchette to share the ways we can all play a role in conserving nature in our region.

María Ángeles Franco de Gómez, MA, is a retired instructor of Spanish at Penn State 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.

Ken Gargaro, PhD, has a career in the performing arts that spans nearly 50 years. His dedication to the arts, education and entrepreneurship has transformed the training of performing artists, the employment of these artists, and the access for all to professional musical theatre in the Pittsburgh area. He is the founder of Pittsburgh Musical Theater

and professor emeritus at Robert Morris University.

Susan Gillis Kruman is emeritus faculty at the University of Pittsburgh and has taught yoga at the University of Pittsburgh for over 20 years and was the first to introduce yoga as a credit class at Pitt. 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. She recently retired from Pitt after 43 years as a dance and yoga instructor in the School of Education.

Peter Gilmore, PhD, received his doctorate in history from Carnegie Mellon University and is an adjunct lecturer in history at several Pittsburgh universities. He is the author of *Irish Presbyterians and the Shaping of Western Pennsylvania, 1770-1830*, published in 2018 by the University of Pittsburgh Press.

Thalia Gray, LAc, DiplOM, PhD is a licensed practitioner of Oriental Medicine. She obtained her doctorate in anthropology from NYU 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.

Norma Greco, PhD, has taught literature and writing at the University of Pittsburgh and at The Ellis School, where she also served as academic dean and dean of faculty. In addition, she has published academic articles on topics in literature and writing. She earned her PhD in English literature from the University of Pittsburgh.

Rabbi Alex Greenbaum has been the religious leader of Beth El Congregation of the South Hills for over 20 years. He is a

warm, spiritual, people-oriented, progressive rabbi with extensive congregational, teaching, and camping experience who builds community through education and motivation.

L. Jon Grogan, PhD, earned an MA in history from the University of San Diego and PhD in history from Loyola University. He served 21 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, retiring at the rank of major. He has taught at Robert Morris University in addition to working for several museums and historical associations.

Ian Evans Guthrie has received the Mile High Freedom Band 2021 Commission and many other accolades. Many of his works have been performed by various soloists, ensembles, and orchestras worldwide.

Nora Hamerman, MA, received her degree from the New York University Institute of Fine Arts. She studied in Italy three years as a Fulbright Scholar and Fellow of the National Gallery of Art. She has taught at University of Virginia and Shenandoah University. Since 2011, she has taught in the Osher program of Johns Hopkins University. She has authored numerous articles on religious art, particularly reviews of exhibitions.

Hollie Harder, PhD, is a professor of French and Francophone studies at Brandeis University and teaches courses at all levels in language, culture, and literature. She has published articles on the works of Marcel Proust, Emile Zola, Honoré de Balzac, and Michel Houellebecq.

J. Dwight Hines, PhD, has taught at Point Park University since 2008. His research/scholarship addresses aspects of rural social change, specifically the causes and effects of the gentrification of rural/small-

town communities in the Rocky Mountains.

Bradley Holuta, JD, has been an adjunct professor at University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown for nearly 10 years. He is a practicing attorney with real world experience handling all types of cases. He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. In his spare time, he "moonlights" as a cellist with the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra.

John Hooker, PhD, is a professor of operations research and T. Jerome Holleran Professor of Business Ethics and Social Responsibility at Carnegie Mellon University, where his highly popular courses in cross-cultural management were recognized with two teaching awards. His 200+ publications include the book *Working Across Cultures* and related articles. He has lived and worked in ten countries on six continents.

Julia Hudson-Richards, PhD earned her doctorate in modern European history from the University of Arizona in 2008, where she researched the emergence of the Spanish citrus industry. Her expertise is in the history of food, the environment, and gender.

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 (Jay) Iyengar specializes in teaching Indian vegetarian cuisine. Her passion for cooking and teaching led her to transition from an engineering career to the culinary world. She completed her master's degree in food studies at Chatham University in 2019.

Orin James, MS, is an assistant professor of biology in the Division of Health and Biological Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, where he has taught for the past seven years. In addition to biology, he teaches hybrid courses that include discussions of social philosophy, determinism, colonialism, race, sex, and gender to individuals of all ages.

Meshesha M. Jobo, PhD, is an instructor and researcher at Wolaita Sodo University, Ethiopia. He is now serving as a visiting scholar at The Center for African Studies (CAS) at the University of Pittsburgh. He received his PhD in English from University of South Africa, his MEd in English from Harmaya University, and his BA in English from Addis Ababa University. He authored 16 research articles in internationally reputable journals, one book online and another one, *Wolaita Grammar*, in his native language. He was the winner of the First Best Researcher Award of Wolaita Sodo University in 2019.

Clifford R. 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.

Robert Jucha, PhD, has a doctorate in American studies from George Washington University where he completed a dissertation on the history of Shadyside. He has led and developed various walking tours for Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation where he has been a docent for more than 12 years.

Denny Kato, BA, obtained his degree in political science from the University of Cincinnati. He was a first lieutenant in military intelligence in the U.S. Army. He has visited all ten incarceration camps and has conducted research on the camps for over nine years. Fifteen members of his immediate family were imprisoned in the camps during WWII.

Bridget Keown, PhD, is a lecturer in the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh, where she leads the Gender and Science initiative. She teaches courses on LGBTQIA History at Pitt and has published work on kinship networks among public health activists during the outbreak of HIV/AIDS. She received her PhD in history from Northeastern University.

Lilan Laishley, PhD, received her degree in religious studies from the University of Pittsburgh and has expertise in symbols and rituals in diverse belief systems. A researcher of labyrinths and astrology, she is the author of *Religious Diversity on the Labyrinth: Rituals that Engage a Sacred Cosmos* and has taught religion courses at Pitt and Carnegie Mellon University.

Frank Lehner, MA, is an executive coach, facilitator, educator, and designer with a long-standing interest in organizational effectiveness and individual engagement in life and work. His passion focuses on practical applications of storytelling, narrative, and creativity in business, educational, and non-profit settings. In addition, he teaches a course at the University of Pittsburgh, which guides students to learn and tell their stories so they can create the careers and lives they imagine. Lehner holds a master's degree in psychology from Duquesne University.

Aaron J. Leonard, BA, is a writer and historian with a particular focus on the history of radicalism and state suppression. He is the author of *Heavy Radicals: The FBI's Secret War on America's Maoists* and *A Threat of the First Magnitude—FBI Counterintelligence and Infiltration*. His current book, *The Folk Singers & the Bureau*, was published in September 2020. He has BA in social sciences and history, magna cum laude, from New York University. He lives in Los Angeles.

Stephen Lindberg, MA, has been teaching since 1978 and has been an adjunct professor in geology in the Department of Energy and Earth Resources at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown since 1997. He teaches the courses Principles of Astronomy, Prehistoric Life, Earthquakes and Volcanoes, Meteorology, and Geologic Field Methods.

Ricardo Llovet is a biochemist and has built his knowledge through extensive reading, tasting, and traveling. He has harvested grapes, made wines, and visited winemakers in Spain, France, Italy, Bulgaria, Portugal, and the U.S. He has conducted wine tastings for 40 years and taught nine wine courses at another OLLI program. He founded the American Wine Society City of Pittsburgh chapter.

Diane Markovitz is a licensed physical therapist with a degree from Marquette University's School of Physical Therapy. She loves developing and teaching group exercise classes, as it provides her with a way to use her physical therapy experience to reach more people.

Grace Marston is an arts educator at the Andy Warhol Museum. She has worked at the museum for over 10 years and aspires to become the preeminent Warhol

scholar of her generation. She has conducted gallery talks, tours, and workshops for audiences of all ages and backgrounds. She specializes in LGBTQ+ education, senior education, and research projects.

Louise Mayo, PhD, is a professor emerita at the County College of Morris, New Jersey, with over 30 years of college teaching experience in American history and American government. She is the author of *James K. Polk: The Dark Horse President*, among other books.

Laurie McMillan has been writing and teaching all genres for years and is finishing an MFA in fiction. She was the co-founder of the Pittsburgh Writers Studio and Pittsburgh Memoir Project. She leads therapeutic writing circles.

Christine Milcarek, PhD, is faculty emerita at the University of Pittsburgh. She taught immunology and microbiology to medical and graduate students at the University of Pittsburgh for 35 years. She earned a PhD in microbiology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She did postdoctoral research at MIT and taught at Columbia University for several years before moving to Pittsburgh. She has published around 50 articles and book chapters on immunology. She is retired.

Virginia Montanez, novelist and historian, is a longtime Pittsburgh area writer and essayist. She currently writes a Pittsburgh history column for *Pittsburgh Magazine* and is the creator of the artifact mapping project Pittsburgh Remains to be Seen. She is a graduate student in history at the University of Massachusetts-Boston (remote) where her research focuses on Pittsburgh history to WWII.

Gautam Mukerjee taught economics full-time at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford from 1983 until his retirement in 2017. Other than teaching economic theory, statistics, institutional economics, economics of poverty, and the economics of globalization for 10 years, he has also taught about Buddhism. He continues to teach economics part-time for Pitt-Bradford.

Kathleen (Kathy) Mulligan is an Osher member and a Ruby Life Master of the American Contract Bridge League. She has taught bridge courses in the community and in local schools. Experts from the Pittsburgh Bridge Association will be working with Mulligan to present each week's session and to direct the practice games. She has taught numerous legal and judicial education programs and has served on the Education Committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges.

Martha Ndung'u, PhD, obtained her Doctorate in pharmacy at the University of Pittsburgh with a concentration in global health, completed a residency focused on underserved primary care in Oakland, California and is an Albert Schweitzer Fellow for Life. She has a passion for promoting health equity through her work locally, nationally, and internationally.

Jamie Novak is an expert organizer who has been on morning television and has written the bestseller, *Keep This, Toss That: The Practical Guide to Tidying Up*. Novak spends most days presenting virtual programs on how to de-clutter, with a humorous twist. When not on the computer she searches for a cure to her addiction of clipping out recipes that she never prepares.

James Pagliasotti became the first rock music critic and columnist for *The Denver Post* at age 23, where his twice-weekly columns and numerous articles appeared from 1968–74, and in various other publications. He is a graduate of the U.S. Air War College (Hon.) and holds the honorary rank of Colonel and Aide de Camp and has had the pleasure of presenting to many OLLI chapters around the country about the evolution of music and community during the tumultuous years of the 60s and 70s.

Mike Plaskett is a lifelong record collector, broadcaster, and performer. He produced radio's *Rhythm Sweet & Hot* show for 40 years and has led Osher classes for twenty years. He loves all sorts of music; he loves music lovers of all sorts.

Gabriel F. Quinteros is a second-year master's student at Pitt in the schools of Public Health and Social Work. He works for the Center on Race and Social Problems in research and development as well as a certified facilitator of RECI. He also works in the Pittsburgh community with Venture Outdoors as an outdoor educator. Gabriel hopes to one day be a licensed clinician in addition to macro-level administrator.

Christopher Rawson, PhD, is an emeritus member of the University of Pittsburgh's English Department. Additionally, he is the longtime senior theater critic at the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and KDKA-TV. Rawson has written extensively about August Wilson, taught undergraduate courses about him, and serves on the board of August Wilson House.

Jack Reid, BS, earned his degree from CMU and is a lifelong student of military history. His principal interest is in incidents, accidents,

and overlooked aspects of conflict. He enjoys taking a look back at the origins of these conflicts and looking forward to learning what we can about how to avoid repeating them.

Michael T. Rizzi, PhD, is a former assistant dean at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, where he has taught Pitt courses on World War II and the Cold War for over 15 years. He is the author of one book and over 20 articles and is currently director of Student Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Jennifer Roccisana, PhD, is on faculty at the University of Pittsburgh, teaching anatomy and anatomy and physiology labs to undergraduate students since 2019. Previously, she taught in the undergraduate School of Life Sciences and Medical School at the University of Glasgow in Glasgow, Scotland for 12 years.

Sarah Rosenson, JD, has a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree in Jewish studies from the Spertus Institute. She practiced law for a decade; taught ethics, philosophy, and religious courses at a private high school; and currently teaches adult education courses for OLLIs, retirement communities, as well as various online venues.

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.

Roger Rouse, PhD, retired in 2019 after decades teaching cultural anthropology and global studies at several universities, including the University of Pittsburgh. During

the 1980s and 90s, he conducted intensive research with people migrating between Mexico and the U.S. Many of his courses over the years have addressed various kinds of migration around the world and ways of thinking about them.

Sue Schneider is a certified Zentangle™ Teacher (CZT) and an award-winning artist in watercolor, fiber arts, and bookmaking. She brings her broad knowledge and playful teaching style to her Zentangle™ classes. She has been teaching for OLLI at Pitt for several years.

Ellen Scott is a PhD candidate in the Program of Microbiology and Immunology (PMI) at Pitt with over six years of research experience in the immunology field. Scott has a passion for mentoring and teaching the next generation of scientists and plans to pursue a teaching career after graduation, in hopes of teaching undergraduate biology courses.

Marcia Semper, MBA, earned a degree in math from Carnegie Mellon University and an MBA from Case Western Reserve University. She retired from IBM where she was a systems engineering and marketing manager. She currently provides personal finance and administrative consulting, including handling bill paying, managing filing, use of Quicken® to track income and expenses, income tax preparation, and downsizing.

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.

Roberta Shayo, MPA, includes Northern Renaissance art, especially the Ghent Altarpiece and the work of artist Jan van

Eyck among her passions. She loves sharing the story of these masterpieces in academic and community settings, including several OLLI programs in various states. Shayo earned her degree from Seton Hall University and was an adjunct instructor at Westchester Community College in New York.

David Shifren, MFA, has his master's degree in fiction writing and taught most recently in the graduate writing program at Seton Hill University. He is a former film reviewer for *The Film Journal*, screener for CBS/Fox Video, and a recipient of a Pennsylvania State Council on the Arts grant in screenwriting.

Carol Sikov Gross, JD, is a partner in the Pittsburgh law firm of Sikov and Love, P.A., is a certified elder law attorney, and was the founding chair of the Elder Law Committee of the Allegheny County Bar Association. She is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), the Pennsylvania Association of Elder Law Attorneys (PAELA) and the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC). She writes for the *Pittsburgh Legal Journal* and speaks for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute.

Daniel Singleton, PhD, obtained his degree in English with a focus on film and media studies from the University of Rochester. He has taught film studies courses at University of Iowa, University of Rochester, and SUNY Brockport. He currently works as the Communication Coordinator of Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh, a local organization dedicated to making our region more inclusive for people of all ages.

Deirdre M. Smith, PhD, holds a joint appointment as a teaching assistant professor of Museum Studies in Pitt's History of Art and Architecture Department and as an assistant curator at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. She is a specialist in contemporary art, museum practice, and animal studies.

Melissa Sokulski, MAC, is a licensed acupuncturist with a master's degree from the New England School of Acupuncture, an herbalist, and wild food educator. She writes personal essays and has won grants and residencies for memoir writing. She has taught many popular classes at OLLI, including Wild Edibles Walks, Ancient Wisdom Modern Health, and Fantastic and Ferocious Fungi.

Ben Stahl, DSc, is the chief executive officer of Veterans Leadership Program and a Navy Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Stahl holds a Bachelor of Arts magna cum laude in social science, with a dual concentration in history and government; a Master of Science in organizational leadership; and a Doctor of Science in information systems and communications, all from Robert Morris University.

William E. Stanchina, PhD, is a professor emeritus of electrical and computer engineering at Pitt. His technical expertise is in semiconductors. He has over 19 years of university teaching and research (Pitt and Notre Dame) and over 21 years in industrial research and development (HRL Laboratories, Malibu, CA). He has a PhD in electrical engineering (solid state) from the University of Southern California.

Jeffrey Swoger is a retired graphic designer with a lifelong interest in the arts, specifically design, music, architecture, and film. Much of his

life was spent in Chicago where he was involved with the Chicago Architecture Foundation, designing their logo and printed materials.

Raymond Uy, DMA, is an author, performer, conductor, and award-winning music educator. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Boston University, a Master of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music, and a Bachelor of Music degree from Westminster Choir College.

Eli Vega is a highly published and award-winning photographer and author. He has offered classes and workshops for several OLLI groups throughout the country in addition to his three-day field workshops in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Michael Walter, MFA, has 16 years of experience with the educational outreach of the Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Program. He has trained guides, spoken publicly about the Nationality Rooms, and has created all the online content of Online Nationality Rooms tours during COVID. His background is as an artist, with an MFA from the Pennsylvania Academy of Art, and he has experience in exhibitions, curating, auctions, and historical interpretation.

David Walton, MFA, is retired from the University of Pittsburgh Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, Department of English, 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.

J.D. Wright, PhD, received his doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh in 2015 and has taught a wide range of courses for the Osher program, including a course on Stephen King short stories. A longtime fan of both King and Kubrick, Wright has published a well-received article on the relationship between the two artists' work in their respective versions of *The Shining*.

Katherine Zoraster, MA, is an art historian and a professor of art history at several greater Los Angeles colleges. She specializes in Western art from the Renaissance to the 20th century. She graduated with a double major in English literature and art history from the University of California, Los Angeles and received her MA with distinction in art history from the California State University at Northridge. In addition to her teaching, Zoraster also serves as a commissioner for the Burbank Cultural Arts Commission and is a member of Art Muse, giving private tours at Los Angeles museums.

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 double-book your courses by accident, we will contact you by email and ask you to select the one you want to keep, and we will remove you from the other. If you do not reply in the time frame given in the email, we will remove you from both courses.

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 Zoom invites and 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. This Code of Conduct is signed (either electronically or on paper) every time a member makes a purchase. While our rules of conduct may seem common sense to most members, with a growing program it is important that everyone understands the expectations. 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 rules. Please visit Member Resources on the OLLI website to read the OLLI Code of Conduct.

Auditing Classes

OLLI at Pitt members may audit preapproved 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

Last day to purchase Spring 2024 membership: **March 22, 2024**

(Purchasing an annual membership prior to that date covers three consecutive terms: Spring 2024, Summer 2024, and Fall 2024)

No refunds issued for membership payments after January 22, 2024.

Questions?

Contact the OLLI at Pitt office by calling **412-624-7308** or by emailing osher@pitt.edu.