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

REGISTRATION OPENS MONDAY, JULY 19, 2021 • PHONE REGISTRATION OPENS MONDAY, JULY 23, 2021

Fall 2021 In-person + Online Course Catalog

It’s Time for You!
Fall 2021 Term
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
University of Pittsburgh

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DATES AND DEADLINES

August 27 University audit courses begin
August 30 OLLI Session 1 begins
September 6 Labor Day, no classes
September 7 Rosh Hashanah, no classes
September 10 Last day to add/drop audit courses
September 16 Yom Kippur, no classes
October 7 OLLI Session 1 ends
October 18 OLLI Session 2 begins
November 20 OLLI Session 2 ends
November 25, 26 Thanksgiving holiday, University closed
December 23 – January 1 University closes for winter break

About OLLI
The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is a program in the College of General Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. Established in 2005, it is supported by the Bernard Osher Foundation and is one of 123 OLLIs located on college campuses throughout the United States. The National Resource Center for Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes, located at the Northwestern University, provides technical assistance to the OLLI programs across the country.

Mission/Purpose
The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute aspires to create a dedicated intellectual environment for older adult students, nurturing a lifelong passion for learning. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute fosters lifelong learning through courses and programs that engage the learner, provide social interaction, and enrich lives. OLLI’s faculty, which includes University of Pittsburgh professors and retired faculty, challenge participants to understand the cultural forces of today, to interact socially and intellectually with one another, and to live empowered lives.
WELCOME

to OLLI at Pitt!

If you are age 50 or better and have a curious mind, join us!

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Pittsburgh offers learning opportunities designed specifically for older adult learners. Reasonable membership fees and generous financial assistance make OLLI membership possible for anyone who would like to join us. Upon becoming a member, you have immediate access to courses, special classes, lectures, and events.

In the Fall 2021 term we will be carefully adjusting back to having some in-person courses and events, as well as continuing to have online courses. Our excellent teachers are from the University and also from the diverse and talent-filled Pittsburgh area and beyond.

OLLI at Pitt members want you to know that they are a welcoming and friendly group. No previous affiliation with the University of Pittsburgh and no college experience is needed to become a member. We look forward to seeing you soon!

It’s Time for YOU!
Membership and Registration
An active OLLI membership is required to register for courses

Choose your membership

Annual Membership – $225
(Covers Fall 2021, Spring 2022 and Summer 2022 Terms)

Term Membership – $125
(Covers Fall 2021 Term)

2nd Installment Membership – $100
(for those who purchased a term membership in Summer 2021, this option adds two additional terms to your membership—Fall 2021 and Spring 2022.)

Once courses begin on August 30, 2021, there will be no refunds issued for membership payments unless OLLI cancels the term.

Membership includes access to unlimited in-person and online OLLI courses, lectures, special events and groups. Waiting lists for courses may apply depending on popularity, subject matter, or, if the course is in person, the physical size of the classroom assigned. Additionally, membership includes two preapproved undergraduate courses for auditing. The University’s Fall 2021 term undergraduate courses are planned to be in person.

In the Fall 2021 term we will be carefully adjusting back to having some in-person courses and events, as well as continuing to have online courses.

How to Register

Due to current circumstances, members and interested individuals should register online at: https://www.campusce.net/ollipitt/

1. SIGN IN to the OLLI Registration website using your username and password—OR—create an account if you do not already have one. Click on the Sign In link in the upper right-hand side of the page. (After putting in your username and password, you will know you are signed in if “Welcome, <your first name> “ appears after logging in at the upper left corner of the page under the OLLI logo.)

2. If you have been a member, go to “My Account” and then “My Membership”. Review your memberships to see if there is a membership that will not expire until during or after the Fall 2021 term. An expiration date after Sept. 1, 2021 means you do not need to renew yet.

3. Proceed to Home Page and the Renew/Become A Member area. ADD a membership to your cart if you need to purchase a membership.

4. Next, proceed to review courses of interest (From Homepage click on OLLI Session #1, Session #2 or OLLI Courses by Topic. Locate a desired course and click on “ADD TO CART.” (Note: you can review courses by day of week and/or topic on the registration website.) If you do NOT see the blue ADD TO CART button, you are either not signed into your account, or need to add a membership type to your cart prior to selecting courses or registration has not yet begun.

5. If more courses are desired after you add a course to your shopping cart, click: “CONTINUE SHOPPING” to locate additional courses and add to your shopping cart.

6. After all courses have been selected, go to your shopping cart to complete the check-out process and pay for your membership, if necessary. Be sure to click through ALL Screens until completion of the process and the payment page, if necessary.

NOTE: If you do not see an “Add to Cart” button under a course, there are three possible reasons. 1) Registration has not begun yet. 2) You are a paid, current member and have not signed in. (Check for “Welcome YourFirstName” in the top left-hand corner of the screen) 3) You are not a current member or your membership is expired and you have not added a membership selection to your cart FIRST, before adding a course.

Difficulties?
If there are any difficulties with registrations, please leave a message on our main phone line: 412-624-7308 or email us at osher@pitt.edu. Please know that our office is working remotely and will have to return your phone call.

REGISTER AT: WWW.CAMPUSCE.NET/OLLIPITT/
Choose your favorite courses based on the topics, days, and times that interest you!

Courses are offered for your exploration, enjoyment, or academic interests.

**Academic** – these courses are like undergraduate college courses with the instructor lecturing most of the time.

**Exploration** – more “hands on” oriented courses: OR may be an academic topic primarily taught through interactive group discussion and practice.

**Enjoyment** – most of class is spent with the students discussing the topic, practicing a skill, or the primary purpose is for group sharing and discussion.

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Scholarships

Everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy and participate in stimulating lifelong learning. Scholarships for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) are based on financial need and are awarded to people age 50 and older who are interested in attending our program. The scholarships partially offset the cost of OLLI membership. All OLLI members pay something toward a membership, but our awards can make OLLI possible for those who might not otherwise be able to join.

Financial assistance is for one term and must be applied for each term. A simple application form is used and must be entirely completed to receive consideration. All scholarship applications for Fall term 2021 must be received by Wednesday August 25, 2021.

**Awards:** Scholarship awards range from $50 - $100 per term. Notification of your award and the amount of the award will be sent within two weeks of receipt of your application. Please contact the office to receive a scholarship application and for more information by emailing osher@pitt.edu.

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NEW: The Baldwin Project

A generous donor has provided funds specifically to provide scholarships to reduce membership fees for black men that may need assistance and who are underrepresented in OLLI’s membership. The donor requested the fund be named “The Baldwin Project”. To join OLLI using this fund, please contact us at osher@pitt.edu or call us at 412-624-7308.
## Schedule at-a-Glance Fall 2021

### Morning

#### Monday

- **9–10 a.m.**
  - Better Balance! Steady and Strong
  - Diane Markovitz

- **10–11:30 a.m.**
  - American Sign Language 2
  - Sharon Serbin
  - Exploring the Hebrew Bible
  - Jason von Ehrenkrook
  - Fun Fall Gardening
  - Doug Oster
  - Introductory Creative Writing: Prose
  - Ann Hultberg

- **10–11:50 a.m.**
  - *Paul and the First Christians* •
  - Rebecca Denova
  - *Plato and the Sophists* •
  - Gregory Strom

#### Tuesday

- **9–10 a.m.**
  - Dance and Be Fit •
  - Roland Ford

- **10–11 a.m.**
  - Art Critique
  - Melissa Tai
  - Beginning Level French: Communication Strategies
  - Cathleen Sendek-Sapp
  - Japanese Culture and Civilization: Part 1
  - Yuko Eguchi Wright
  - Racism in Britain and Western Europe
  - Ralph Bangs
  - They Died with Their Boots On: Hollywood
  - L. Jon Grogan

- **10–11:50 a.m.**
  - Hiking for Wild Edibles •
  - Melissa Sokulski

#### Wednesday

- **9–10 a.m.**
  - Gentle Yoga
  - Jill Clary

- **9:30–11:30 a.m.**
  - The Art of the Print: History and Practice
  - Ann Rosenthal

- **10–11:30 a.m.**
  - Influential First Ladies
  - John Burt
  - Order and Chaos
  - Orin James

- **10–11:50 a.m.**
  - The Development of Young Orphanage Children: Issues in Practice & Policy •
  - Christina Groark and Robert McCall
  - Unmasking Our Emotions •
  - Sam Lonich

- **10:15–11:15 a.m.**
  - Chakra Yoga All Levels
  - Jill Clary

#### Thursday

- **9–10 a.m.**
  - Drawing: The First Step
  - Melissa Tai

- **10–11 a.m.**
  - Drawing: The First Step
  - Melissa Tai

- **10–11:30 a.m.**
  - Earthquakes, Volcanoes and Plate Tectonics
  - Stephen Lindberg
  - The History of Food 2
  - Julia Hudson-Richards
  - The Twilight of Empires: Europe Before World War 1
  - Jared Day
  - The World Changes: Science Out of Darkness
  - Abby Mendelson

#### Friday

- **10–11:50 a.m.**
  - Intermediate French Exploration: Speaking in the Present Tense •
  - Cathleen Sendek-Sapp

### Afternoon

#### Monday

- **1–2:30 p.m.**
  - Beginner Spanish
  - Karen Goldman
  - Julius Caesar: The Play for Power
  - Alan Stanford
  - Muslims in the Neighborhood
  - Saima Sitwat
  - Watercolors with Six Tubes: Series 1
  - Elaine Bergstrom

- **1–2:50 p.m.**
  - The Final Years and Collapse of the Soviet Union •
  - Chuck Hier
  - American Poverty Policies, Portrayals and Protest •
  - James Kelly

- **3–4:30 p.m.**
  - How Drugs and Vaccines are Developed
  - Daniel Normolle
  - The Right to Freedom of Movement
  - Rachel Travis

#### Tuesday

- **1–2:30 p.m.**
  - Advanced Intermediate French Exploration: Miscellaneous Topics
  - Cathleen Sendek-Sapp
  - Understanding Scottish History
  - Peter Gilmore
  - Women Writers of the First World War
  - Bridget Keown

- **3–4:30 p.m.**
  - How Drugs and Vaccines are Developed
  - Daniel Normolle
  - The Right to Freedom of Movement
  - Rachel Travis

#### Wednesday

- **1–2:30 p.m.**
  - Advanced Beginner Spanish
  - Maria Franco de Gomez
  - The Network Society
  - Javier Vázquez-D’Elía

- **1–2:50 p.m.**
  - Brief Tour of Asian Thought •
  - Joseph Givvin

- **1:30–3:20 p.m.**
  - How Drugs and Vaccines are Developed
  - Daniel Normolle
  - The Right to Freedom of Movement
  - Rachel Travis

#### Thursday

- **1–2:30 p.m.**
  - Advanced Conversational Spanish
  - Maria Franco de Gomez
  - Demystifying Common Medical Conditions: A Layperson’s Guide
  - Dolores Gonthier
  - Why Tutankhamen?
  - Tim Ziaukas

- **3–4:30 p.m.**
  - Louis Armstrong: The King of Jazz
  - Robert Joyce
**OLLI Session 2 • Monday, October 18–Friday, November 19**

**SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE FALL 2021** (+ INDICATES IN-PERSON COURSE)

### Morning

**MONDAY**
- **10–11:30 a.m.**
  - American Sign Language 2 (continued)
  - Beyond Church: Sects and Cults in America
  - Race, Class, and Education in Pittsburgh
  - Sandra Collins
  - Richard Wertheimer
- **10–11:50 a.m.**
  - Classical Myth in Art •
  - David Brumble
  - Understanding the Immune System and How It Relates to Your Health •
  - Bruce Rabin
- **10–11:50 a.m.**
  - CANCELED

**TUESDAY**
- **10–11 a.m.**
  - Dance and Be Fit (continued)
- **10–11:30 a.m.**
  - Art Critique (continued)
  - Beginning Level French: Communication Strategies (continued)
  - A History of Modern France
  - Louise Mayo
  - Japanese Culture and Civilization: Part 2
  - Yuko Eguchi Wright
  - Study Group on a Community History of African Americans
  - Ralph Bangs
- **10–11:50 a.m.**
  - Fall Birding •
  - Chris Kubiak
  - Hiking and Observing the Fall Season •
  - Melissa Sokulski

**WEDNESDAY**
- **9–10 a.m.**
  - Gentle Yoga (continued)
- **9:30–10:30 a.m.**
  - The Art of the Print History and Practice (continued)
- **10–11:30 a.m.**
  - Demystifying Digital Marketing: Protecting Yourself as an Online Consumer
  - Melinda Burdette
  - From Cause to Effect: The Philosophy of Causation
  - Annika Froese
  - World War I and the Shaping of the 20th Century
  - Jared Day
- **10–11:50 a.m.**
  - Best American Short Stories 2021 •
  - Adam Reger
  - Pittsburgh’s East End: An Architectural History •
  - Robert Jucha
  - Chakra Yoga All Levels (continued)

**THURSDAY**
- **10–11:30 a.m.**
  - Drawing: The First Step (continued)
  - Cuba: From 1492 to Today
  - José Juves
  - James Baldwin: Living in Fire
  - Ken Boas
  - Surviving an Infodemic: Finding and Evaluating Health Information Online
  - Rebekah Miller and Rachel Suppok
- **10–11:50 a.m.**
  - Intermediate French Exploration: Speaking in the Present Tense •
  - (continued)

**SATURDAY**
- **9–10 a.m.**
  - Zumba Gold (continued)

### Afternoon

**MONDAY**
- **1–2:30 p.m.**
  - Beginner Spanish (continued)
  - An Exploration of Local Government and Political Subdivisions in Pennsylvania
  - Jason Davidek
  - Geology of the Solar System: The Planets and Moons
  - Stephen Lindberg
  - Leibniz’s Metaphysics
  - Gregory Strom
- **1–2:50 p.m.**
  - The Continuing Story of Pittsburgh’s Forests •
  - Mike “Carya” Cornell
  - Railroads and the 19th Century Transformation of American Law •
  - Lawrence Frolik
  - “World of Our Mothers”: Yiddish Women Writers Tell Their Stories •
  - Lois Rubin
- **3–4:30 p.m.**
  - All About Electric Transmission Systems
  - Thomas Burgess

**TUESDAY**
- **1–2:30 p.m.**
  - Advanced Intermediate French Exploration: Miscellaneous Topics (continued)
  - Hear All About It
  - Len Barcousky
  - The Evolution of Green Buildings
  - Leslie Montgomery
  - Zentangle in Three Dimensions
  - Sue Schneider
- **1–2:50 p.m.**
  - TED Talks •
  - Kathy Callahan
- **1:30–3:20 p.m.**
  - Getting There is All the Fun: The Musical Journey •
  - Michael Hammer
  - Red Wines from Around the World •
  - Deb Mortillaro

**WEDNESDAY**
- **1–2:30 p.m.**
  - Advanced Beginner Spanish (continued)
  - Three Novellas by Katherine Anne Porter
  - David Walton
  - Left and Right of the Contemporary Western World •
  - Javier Vázquez-D’Elía
  - Five Consecutive Alfred Hitchcock Thrillers •
  - Ed Blank
  - Female Composers through History
  - Ian Evans Guthrie
  - Singer-Songwriters of Rock
  - Robert Joyce

**THURSDAY**
- **1–2:30 p.m.**
  - Advanced Conversational Spanish (continued)
  - The Nun and the Poet: Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and Octavio Paz on Colonial Mexico
  - Camila Pulgar Machado
  - Women as Patrons of Art and Architecture, 1400–1750
  - Saskia Beranek
  - Human Origins and Evolution
  - Adam Davis
  - Nicholas Coles

**FRIDAY**
- **10–11:30 a.m.**
  - Influential Secretaries of State
  - John Burt
  - Junkie: Literature of Addiction
  - Abby Mendelson
  - Poetry Book Club – Bending the Genre
  - Jen Ashburn
- **10–11:50 a.m.**
  - Intermediate French Exploration: Speaking in the Present Tense •
  - (continued)
Courses by Topic • Fall 2021

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

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Literature & Creative Writing

“World of Our Mothers”: Yiddish Women Writers Tell Their Stories 19
Best American Short Stories 2021 22
Frederick Douglass: Bondage and Freedom 15
Introductory Creative Writing: Prose 10
James Baldwin: Living in Fire 23
“Julius Caesar”: The Play for Power 11
Junkie: Literature of Addiction 24
The Life and Works of J.R.R. Tolkien 16
Memoir with a Twist 16
The Nun and the Poet: Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and Octavio Paz on Colonial Mexico 23
Poetry Book Club: Bending the Genre 24
Three Novellas by Katherine Anne Porter 22
Women Writers of the First World War 18
The World Changes: Science Out of Darkness 17

Religious Studies

Beyond Church: Sects and Cults in America 18
Exploring the Hebrew Bible 10
Paul and the First Christians 10

Science, Technology & Medicine

All About Electric Transmission Systems 19
Boosting Your Immune System: What’s the Research Say? 15
Demystifying Common Medical Conditions: A Layperson’s Guide 16
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Understanding the Immune System and How It Relates to Your Health 18
Unmasking Our Emotions 14

Political, Social Sciences & Society

American Poverty Policies, Portrayals and Protest 11
An Exploration of Local Government and Political Subdivisions in Pennsylvania 18
The Development of Young Orphanage Children: Issues in Practice & Policy 14
Japanese Culture and Civilization: Part 1 12
Japanese Culture and Civilization: Part 2 20
The Law and Social Change 16
Left and Right of the Contemporary Western World 22
Muslims in the Neighborhood 11
The Network Society 15
Order and Chaos 14
Race, Class, and Education in Pittsburgh 18
Racism in Britain and Western Europe 12
The Right to Freedom of Movement 13
Study Group on a Community History of African Americans 20

Visual & Performing Arts

Art Critique 12
The Art of the Print: History and Practice 14
Drawing: The First Step 15
Watercolors with Six Tubes: Series 1 11
Zentangle in Three Dimensions 21
Better Balance! Steady and Strong

Are you looking for an exercise program designed to improve your 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 needed, and most of the exercises are completed standing. No part of the program involves getting 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.

Exploring the Hebrew Bible

The Hebrew Bible (a.k.a. the Christian Old Testament) stands as one of the most important and influential literary productions in human history. Indeed, even a cursory glance at the modern American landscape underscores its importance—presidential candidates cite it to shore up votes; children memorize it in Sabbath/Sunday schools; Hollywood producers weave its varied themes into their plotlines; etc. This course introduces corpus of writings, with particular attention to select readings from each of the major divisions of the text: Torah, the Prophets, and the Writings. In the process, we will pay particular attention to the way in which the themes of creation, covenant, and kingdom are interwoven in this material.

Fun Fall Gardening

Next to spring, fall is, by far, the most important gardening season. It’s the best time to plant shrubs, trees, bulbs, garlic, perennials and more. This course will include how to plant bulbs, proper tree and shrub planting, as well as choosing and planting perennials which come back every season. Also discussed will be fall vegetable planting, extending the season and the correct way to grow garlic.
**Plato and the Sophists**

Philosophy became personal for Plato in a unique way when the city of Athens condemned his hero Socrates to death. From then on, Plato took it as one of his basic missions to articulate what philosophy is to explain why it is worth living and—if necessary—dying for. Whatever one thinks of his more controversial philosophical views, Plato made no contribution more important or compelling than the works in which he accomplished this mission by showing how philosophers differ from their ancient rivals—the sophists. In this course we will study the confrontation between philosophy and sophistry put on display in some of Plato’s greatest dialogues to appreciate the nature of philosophy and its mortal enemy, sophistry.

*Academic • Gregory Strom*

1–2:30 p.m.

**Beginner Spanish*  

*Members may take only one level of Spanish per term.*

This 10-week course is for beginners and focuses on Spanish pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and useful expressions for travel. Participants can expect classroom practice to include speaking, reading, and listening comprehension.

*Exploration • Karen Goldman*

"**Julius Caesar**: The Play for Power  

"Julius Caesar" is one of the most remarkable plays in the Shakespearean canon. Written shortly after "Hamlet," it is not simply an interpretation of the historic fact of Caesar’s assassination, but also an examination of the process of conspiracy and its results. It is an extremely political play, the theme of which would be easily recognized by Shakespeare’s audience, living as they did in the late Tudor period, where political and judicial assassination was a regular event. We will examine the text to discover the process of conspiracy which will lead, not only to the death of the victim but also of the perpetrators.

*Academic • Alan Stanford*

**Muslims in the Neighborhood**

All good neighbors take the opportunity to learn about those new to the community; neighbors that may look or act differently, practice different faiths, etc. In this course we will learn about our Muslim neighbors. There will be a review of Islamic principles and how they impact societies and the lives of their practitioners. We will investigate questions by reading passages from The Quran; exploring Muslims around the world; and meeting and learning from some Pittsburgh-area Muslims. Our goal will be increased understanding and appreciation of this aspect of diversity in our neighborhoods and communities.

*Academic • Alan Stanford*

**Watercolors with Six Tubes: Series 1**

In this 10-week course, learn a variety of watercolor techniques by using only six colors that will give you any color you choose. Explore glazing vs. mixing the colors and develop your wet on wet style or realistic application with different brush strokes. All levels welcomed. Begin where you are or refresh what you may have forgotten.

*Enjoyment • Elaine Bergstrom*

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**The Final Years and Collapse of the Soviet Union**

In this course we will discuss: the devastation of WWII and the difficulties of recovery; the competition after Stalin’s death for the leadership of the Soviet Communist Party; the origins of the Cold War and its consequences for the Soviet Union; the tenures of Khrushchev, Brezhnev, Andropov, Chernenko and Gorbachev; and finally the economic, political, and nationalistic problems which Gorbachev couldn’t solve that led to the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991.

*Academic • Chuck Hier*

**American Poverty: Policies, Portrayals and Protest**

This course explores how social problems caused by poverty and injustice have inspired a rich body of work in American literature, film, and music. We will examine the complex nature of social problems and how artistic/literary depictions of social justice issues both reflected public policy and helped shape it. Our exploration will cut a wide swath: from literary portrayals and antecedent approaches to poverty in England ("Oliver Twist") to the Industrial Revolution in America ("Maggie: A Girl of the Streets"), through the Progressive Era ("The Jungle") and the Great Depression ("The Grapes of Wrath"), to Post-WWII segregation ("Raisin in the Sun") and the Civil Rights Movement ("We Shall Overcome"). The inherent hope is that consideration of portrayals and policies from America’s past might inform our present and inspire our future.

*Academic • James Kelly*
Myth and Science, Part 1: Myth

Academic • L. Jon Grogan

Some of the oldest written texts reveal that humans have always told stories to explain the world around them. When those stories are ancient, we call them myths; when they are recent, we call them science. This course will examine primary source texts from ancient Assyrian and Babylonian civilizations through the Greeks and Romans to about the 1st century BC. Texts studied will include Near Eastern and Greek myths, and the writings of the Pre-Socratics, Plato, the Epicureans, and the Hippocratic school of medicine. Key questions addressed: How have concepts of the cosmos, nature, and human pathology changed through the period studied? What is the difference between myth and science? What is the place of divinity in past and present thinking? What roles do history and politics play in conceptions of the natural world?

Academic • George Borg

Art Critique

Enjoyment • Melissa Tai

This 10-week course is open to individuals practicing any visual art medium. Students will share work via an online album. A positive and encouraging environment will be maintained as work is reviewed in class. The instructor will offer ideas for improvement, constructive criticism, and suggestions for next steps. Discussion and possible demonstrations will be driven by student submissions and questions. The class will cover universal art concepts and will not be about any specific medium. Students are welcome to do art during class however the focus of the class will be discussion.

Beginning Level French: Communication Strategies*

Exploration • Cathleen Sendek-Sapp

In this 10-week course designed for students with little or no prior knowledge of French, our focus will be on mastering phrases and set structures useful for communicating across a variety of situations. Students will be encouraged to develop strategies to try to make themselves understood in instances where language proficiency may be lacking.

Academic • Ralph Bangs

They Died with Their Boots On: Custer, the Battle of Little Big Horn, and Hollywood

Academic • Yuko Eguchi Wright

Racism in Britain and Western Europe

Military history is replete with heroic last stands that conjure up images of extreme courage, honor, and sacrifice; some have been immortalized on film. Arguably, the most famous last stand in American history occurred on June 1876 near the Little Bighorn River. The battle, “Custer’s Last Stand”, has been dramatized in no fewer than two dozen films. Hollywood’s interpretation of the battle has evolved over time reflecting changes in attitudes toward Native Americans, westward expansion, and the legends of its participants. This course will examine how, over time, Hollywood has presented the battle and how these presentations mirrored changes in the public’s perception and the writing of American history. Particular attention will be paid to Hollywood’s treatment of the battle’s most famous combatant: George Armstrong Custer.

Academic • L. Jon Grogan

Japanese Culture and Civilization: Part 1

This course introduces you to fundamental characteristics of the early culture and civilization of Japan, covering historical figures, architectures, religions, wars, political and social changes, literature, and arts. No previous knowledge of Japan is required. The course will cover geography of Japan; early Japan and its religious foundations & Nara period; Heian Court culture & famous battles; Kamakura era & Kitayama culture; Zen Buddhism & the tea ceremony. The course will include lecture, suggested readings, and a virtual hands-on tea ceremony.

Academic • L. Jon Grogan

TUESDAY

10–11 a.m.

Dance and Be Fit*

Enjoyment • Roland Ford

This 10-week course engages all age groups and all ability levels with fun and easy dance and fitness routines. Learning basic dance and fitness moves will help participants take more steps toward a healthier lifestyle and get you moving. No experience or special skills are needed. Great for beginners as well as veteran dancers, the course can be adapted to anyone’s unique needs.

Art Critique

Academic • Yuko Eguchi Wright

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Academic • L. Jon Grogan
10–11:50 a.m.

**Hiking for Wild Edibles***

*IN-PERSON COURSE*

In this outdoor class, we’ll explore the abundance of wild edible plant life in Schenley Park this time of year. We’ll identify wild edible plants; discuss how to identify them; how to sustainably harvest them; and how they are used currently and historically as food and medicine. This course will meet rain or shine (except unsafe conditions such as lightening/thunderstorms) and involves walking and hiking on possibly uneven natural paths and surfaces, up to one mile or so each week. The course will meet in Schenley Park with more information to exact location shared later.

*Enjoyment • Melissa Sokulski*

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**1–2:30 p.m.**

**Advanced Intermediate French Exploration:**

**Miscellaneous Topics**

This 10-week course is designed for those who have taken several French courses and are interested in strengthening their speaking abilities and comprehension. Each week's lesson centers on a selected topic with the goal of building and recalling useful vocabulary. The class is conducted for the most part in French. No text is required.

*Exploration • Cathleen Sendek-Sapp*

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**9–10 a.m.**

**Gentle Yoga**

This 10-week course is geared for those new to yoga or those who are interested in a gentle practice. It includes a combination of meditation, breath work, and flowing movement intended for all abilities. This class offers nurturing, kindness, and compassion for the body, regardless of a student's physical abilities, age, or experience. You will experiment with balance, strength, flexibility, and stillness while practicing mindfulness and meditation techniques.

*Enjoyment • Jill Clary*

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**3–4:30 p.m.**

**How Drugs and Vaccines are Developed**

Since the late 1800s, the way drugs and vaccines are invented, produced, and marketed has evolved due to both scientific and legal changes. The success of Operation Warp Speed surprised lots of observers both inside and outside the pharmaceutical industry. How did that work? How was it different from the way development usually works? What are the implications to future development?

*Academic • Daniel Normolle*

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**The Right to Freedom of Movement**

International immigration may seem like a trending political topic, but the movement of people across borders has been a constant for centuries. Through this course, participants will explore how we conceptualize the right to freedom of movement in the context of modern immigration, and what it looks like in the practice of policy. Participants will gain an understanding of what the right to movement is, and how the movement of people impacts certain populations both around the world and in their own countries. The course encourages participants to challenge their own conception of mobility and consider how freedom of movement plays a role in their own lives.

*Academic • Rachel Travis*
9:30–11:30 a.m.

The Art of the Print: History and Practice*

In this 10-week course, we will focus on the art of printmaking. From ancient to contemporary times, printmaking is an artistic process in which images are transferred from a matrix onto another surface, such as paper or fabric. The process allows multiple images to be reproduced—a revelation in the 15th century when books could finally be made available for the masses. In parallel, artists quickly adopted the methods of printmaking, from woodcut to engraving, lithography to screen printing, as a means of expression and to produce multiples that they could sell. We will explore this rich history and try our hand at some of the processes, all of which can be explored with some basic tools and supplies at home. In addition, guest artists will share their studios and techniques with us.

Enjoyment • Ann Rosenthal

10–11:30 a.m.

Influential First Ladies

In U.S. history, to date, women who are the spouse or companion of a male elected President are given the informal title of “First Lady”. Although there are no official duties, traditionally, the First Lady oversees ceremonial events at the White House. However, over the years a number of these women have changed expectations and became very influential. This course will consider ten influential First Ladies, some well-known, some not; reviewing their lives before and after their time as First Lady.

Academic • John Burt

10:15–11:15 a.m.

Chakra Yoga All Levels

This 10-week 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 the student who likes a fluid, mindful practice that links alignment, movement and breath. Participants should wear comfortable, loose fitting clothing and have a yoga mat.

Enjoyment • Jill Clary

10–11:50 a.m.

The Development of Young Orphanage Children: Issues in Practice & Policy

This course is designed to provide factual, although sometimes alarming, details of life in orphanages around the world. It is focused on some of the youngest and most vulnerable residents, infants and young children without permanent parents. We will specifically target Russia, China, Latin America, Kazakhstan, and some examples from Africa. Typical orphanages and their young residents will be described in terms of the physical, behavioral, and emotional care provided, the surrounding environment in which they live, and the long and short-term consequences to their development. Finally, researched and documented successful interventions and practices will be provided that help establish hope for the future.

Academic • Christina Groark and Robert McCall

Order and Chaos

This course examines and samples various ways in which humans attempt to find order in the, sometimes, chaotic array of sensations that surround us: How does the world work? Why do people behave the way they do? We will study the interplay of order and chaos within three interrelated quests: the quest to understand how the world works by exploring ideas about nature; the quest to understand individual human behavior by exploring ideas about justice, spirituality, gender, free will, love, the economy and motivation; and the quest to understand human social behavior by exploring ideas about social and political organizations.

Exploration • Orin James

10–11:50 a.m.

Unmasking Our Emotions

Different types of emotions appear to rule our daily lives. We make decisions based on whether we are happy, angry, sad, bored, or frustrated. We choose hobbies based on the emotions they incite. Understanding our emotions can help us navigate life with greater ease and stability. This course takes a practical approach to understanding our emotions. It explores what causes emotions, what factors control how emotions are expressed and what purpose emotions serve.

Academic • Sam Lonich

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Enjoyment • Jill Clary
1–2:30 p.m.

**Advanced Beginner Spanish**

*Members may take only one level of Spanish per term.*

This 10-week course is for students who have advanced beyond a beginning knowledge of Spanish and wish to further refine speaking, listening, and reading comprehension skills. Classroom practice focuses on the use of complex grammar, syntax, and vocabulary.

*Exploration • Maria Franco de Gomez*

**The Network Society**

The changes experienced by contemporary societies in the last three decades are so diverse, accelerated, and deep, that making sense of the forest has become increasingly difficult. Although it is too soon to assess transformations brought by COVID, we can anticipate more and more complex problems. The concept of “network society” was elaborated in the early 1990s to synthesize and explain the economic, social, political, and cultural transformations associated with the expansion of an economy structured around information and communication technologies. This course offers an introduction to that approach, based on the application of its central ideas, to describe and explore some of the most significant changes currently affecting experiences as diverse as family life, intimacy, work, education, governance, and cultural diversity.

*Academic • Javier Vázquez-D’Elia*

1–2:50 p.m.

**Brief Tour of Asian Thought**

*IN-PERSON COURSE*

We all ask ourselves the big questions of life. What is morally right? What is our ultimate purpose in life? What is a good society? This course will introduce you to the answers given in Indian, Chinese, and Japanese thought. This course emphasizes the role of these philosophies/religions in the social-political life and on the artistic expressions (from calligraphy to film) of the peoples of Asia and how these philosophies/religions influence our world today.

*Academic • Robert Joyce*

1:30–3:20 p.m.

**Boosting Your Immune System: What’s the Research Say?**

*IN-PERSON COURSE*

The immune system is paramount to protecting our bodies from outside harm such as viruses and bacteria. Further, its balance is very important for combating diseases such as cancer and autoimmunity. Can we improve our immune response with diet and exercise? This course will discuss the impact of aging on our immune systems and importantly, will review the research on boosting immune system fitness, putting it all into “lay” terms, to understand what typical adults can do to strengthen their immune response.

*Academic • Joseph Givvin*

3–4:30 p.m.

**Louis Armstrong: The King of Jazz**

Louis Armstrong rose to international fame in the 1920’s and became one of America’s most beloved entertainers. Learn how the man they called “Pops” conquered New Orleans, Chicago and New York with his trumpet, voice, and genuine love of music! Along the way, we will investigate his musical friendships with Bix Beiderbecke, Duke Ellington, and others. An exciting course full of video clips, audio samples and stories about one of the greatest figures of the 20th Century. Discover how Louis Armstrong changed American popular music forever!

*Academic • Robert Joyce*
Why Tutankhamen?
On Nov. 3, 2022, the world will mark the 100th anniversary of the greatest archaeological find of all time: Howard Carter’s discovery of the nearly undisturbed tomb of Tutankhamen, the 13th pharaoh of Egypt’s celebrated 18th dynasty (1550-1295 BCE). While this four-week course contextualizes both Tutankhamen and Carter in their respective times, we will focus on how, over the past century, this once-obscure king, who died a physically disabled teenager in the shadow of a notorious father, has become the greatest celebrity of the ancient world, outpacing kings and queens, generals and courtiers who had greater influence on Egyptian or world history. In short: Why Tutankhamen?

Academic • Tim Ziaukas

The Life and Works of J.R.R. Tolkien
Once looked upon as simply a writer of fantastical adventures, J.R.R. Tolkien is increasingly acknowledged as one of the 20th century’s most important literary figures, one who used the genre of fantasy to examine important issues of religion and morality. In this course, we will examine Tolkien’s key works: “The Hobbit”, “The Lord of the Rings”, and the “Silmarillion”, as well as his other writings and his influence of fantasy and popular culture. The class is ideal for long time fans of Tolkien who want to explore his works in more depth, as well as those who have never read him and wonder what all the fuss is about.

Academic • David DeFazio

Memoir with a Twist*
We are all fascinating in our uniqueness. Memoir gives us an opportunity to write about it. This course will offer participants a range of exciting prompts and methods to enliven and jump-start the memoir writing process. We will explore examples of vibrant writing from published memoirs and discuss what these authors did successfully and apply that to our own work. We will practice fun in-class writing as well as sharing work from home in a supportive workshop. No experience necessary, just curiosity in finding untold resonate stories that you want to give voice to and write.

Exploration • Laurie McMillan

1–2:30 p.m.

Advanced Conversational Spanish*
Members may take only one level of Spanish per term.
The main goal of this 10-week course is Spanish reading and conversation. Group discussions based on short stories written by Hispanic writers will be the methodology for the class. Weekly reading assignments will provide the content of the course. Class discussions will be conducted in Spanish; so, participants are expected to have a significant knowledge of Spanish.

Exploration • Maria Franco de Gomez

Demystifying Common Medical Conditions: A Layperson’s Guide
Have you ever wanted to understand how diseases affect the body but thought you needed a medical degree to do so? Not anymore! This course will explain the science of common medical conditions in an easy-to-understand format. The discussions will include how diseases alter the normal function of the body; how the disease is diagnosed and treated; and complications of the disease. This course is geared to the person with little or no medical experience or knowledge.

Academic • Dolores Gonthier

Women in Early America
We will trace the experiences of women of all races in British American colonies before the War for Independence. The experience of women depended greatly on class and race, but all raised families, contributed to the economy, and sometimes caused trouble. Outnumbered by men throughout much of the first 200 years of American history, women were nonetheless crucial to the development of the colonies. The course will explore ways women influenced life and the economy in the colonies, exercised leadership, interacted with the law, and their spiritual, family, and intellectual lives.

Academic • Joan Gundersen
Earthquakes, Volcanoes and Plate Tectonics

We live on a geologically active and ever-changing planet. Powered by the enormous internal heat engine within Earth’s interior, the lithosphere (crust) of the Earth is subject to constant alteration. The Earth’s tectonic plates shift, separate and grind past each other at a rate which produces astonishing change over great periods of geologic time. Earthquakes and volcanic activity reflect this geologic change. This course will provide an understanding of how the modern concept of plate tectonics relates to earthquakes and volcanoes and their impact on our planet.

Academic • Stephen Lindberg

The History of Food 2

In this course we will dive into a selection of topics in food studies: food and innovation, the history of nutrition, food in the 20th century; men, women, food, and taste; and food trends: where do we go from here. Lectures, discussions, and media will focus on diverse interpretations of the role that food plays in the global economy as well as in a variety of global cultures, and the connections between food and identity in the modern world. Note: students do not have to have taken History of Food I to enroll and benefit from this course.

Academic • Julia Hudson-Richards

The Twilight of Empires: Europe Before World War 1

This set of lectures examines the faltering but still powerful empires of Europe between 1870 and 1914. Special attention will be given to Germany, Belgium Austria, Russia, and France as each engaged in a global contest for geo-political power and prestige. At the same time, each was wrestling with vexing historical demons that at any time threatened to pull all of Europe into a bloody conflagration. An era often viewed as an economic, social, and cultural “golden age”, it was still fraught with the most ominous of indicators of profound trouble to come. No previous courses are required to take this course.

Academic • Jared Day

The World Changes: Science Out of Darkness

It is amazing what human beings can do when they put their minds to it. In this course we will examine this theme in the context of the following literature: Dava Sobel, “Longitude”; Paul de Kruif, “Microbe Hunters”; Oliver Sacks, “An Anthropologist on Mars”; David George Haskell, “The Forest Unseen: A Year’s Watch in Nature”; and Rebecca Skloot, “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks”.

Exploration • Abby Mendelson

Intermediate French Exploration: Speaking in the Present Tense*

In this 10-week course, French grammar is given a spin. Participants will study groups of regular and irregular present tense verbs and then be encouraged to use them in classroom activities. Class time also includes working with passages from a selected reader. 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.

Exploration • Cathleen Sendek-Sapp

Zumba Gold

The Zumba Gold® fitness program is a 10-week course designed to meet the anatomical, physiological, and psychological needs of adults 50 and better. Like the traditional Latin inspired Zumba workout, the Zumba Gold® workout incorporates many of the dance and fitness routines set to Latin and international rhythms but is performed at a lower intensity. Participants have a good time while increasing their physical fitness.

Enjoyment • Lisa Sobek

Photo Shoot and Walk*

Learn about digital photography while exploring your world! Refresh your photographic terminology, then cut loose to explore your city. We will officially meet on Zoom for the first week. Then, we’ll decide as a group where to meet up for photographic adventures, bringing your single-lens reflex cameras, the following weeks. The final week will be a class exhibition! Bring your camera and walking shoes to every class!

Exploration • Germaine Watkins
OLLI Course Descriptions
Session 2: Monday, October 18–Friday, November 19, 2021

**MONDAY**

**10–11:30 a.m.**

**American Sign Language 2**
(continued from Session 1)

**Beyond Church: Sects and Cults in America**
Sociologists of religion provide a taxonomy for identifying religious groups beyond the normative title of ‘church’—specifically sects and cults. Sects provide an alternative religious society often derived from a larger religious entity. A cult is constellated around a seer or a new revelation specific to one or two individuals. This course will take these sociological identifiers and show how they look in the religious landscape of America. Specifically, we will consider five movements or sects and demonstrate the ways in which each fall within these sociological categories: Jehovah’s Witness, Church of Latter-Day Saints, Scientology, Westboro Baptist Church and the “Spiritual not Religious” adherents.

*Academic • Richard Wertheimer*

**10–11:50 a.m.**

**Classical Myth in Art**

*IN-PERSON COURSE*

In this course we will learn about Greco-Roman myths and apply what we learn to art works that make use of mythology. Next, we will read stories (in class), from Ovid’s “Metamorphoses”, for example, and look at such paintings as Veronese’s “Venus and Mars” and Titian’s “Diana and Actaeon”. We will also look at myths as they are depicted on Greek vases. And always we will look for meanings, and how they change from one historical context to another.

*Academic • David Brumble*

**1–2:30 p.m.**

**Beginner Spanish**
(continued from Session 1)

**An Exploration of Local Government and Political Subdivisions in Pennsylvania**
This course will introduce participants to the history and administrative structure of the various local government entities within the commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the powers, duties and authority granted to them. This course will explore Pennsylvania’s 67 counties, 500 school districts, and 2500 municipalities including cities, boroughs, and townships. Participants will learn how legislative and regulatory authority flows from the federal government to the states, but more specifically about the responsibilities reserved for local political subdivisions. Those include critical public services such as education, infrastructure, taxation, law enforcement, and other areas that impact our daily lives. While the course explores local government throughout Pennsylvania, there will a focus on the Pittsburgh region.

*Academic • Jason Davidek*
Geology of the Solar System: The Planets and Moons

Plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, erosion, mountain building, asteroid impacts and other geologic processes have shaped the surface of the Earth for billions of years. Are these processes unique to just here on Earth? Certainly not. We have a collection of planets and moons in our solar system that show an incredible variety of geologic features that have formed over time, many of which are still active! In this course we will explore the geology of other planets and moons in our solar system.

Academic • Stephen Lindberg

Leibniz’s Metaphysics

G.W. Leibniz was a brilliant and daring thinker whose contributions played a recognized role in the development not only of philosophy, but also mathematics (he invented calculus!), geology, linguistics, and many other disciplines. Notoriously, his claim that “this is the best of all possible worlds” moved Voltaire to scorn and inspired, in part, the novel “Candide”. In this course, we will study the philosophical works of this fascinating figure in order to understand how he integrated a collection of original ideas about logic, necessity and reason into a complex and startling metaphysics that accounts for the nature of individual things, the structure of the world in which they exist, and the relationship of the world to God.

Academic • Gregory Strom

1–2:50 p.m.

The Continuing Story of Pittsburgh’s Forests

Last spring, we delved into Pittsburgh’s ancient history and how it led to the parks, trees, birds, fungi, and spring flowers we see today. And there’s so much more to learn! In this course we will discuss streams, mammals, moss, and of course—more trees. It is not necessary to have taken the spring course to benefit from this one. The class will wrap up with an optional nature hike through the woods in Pittsburgh.

Academic • Mike “Carya” Cornell

Railroads and the 19th Century Transformation of American Law

This course will provide a foundation and insights of a wide range of aspects involved with the development and operation of the transmission system, from the historical to the current system. This will include both the how and the why the system is configured and operated today, as well as how it might be modified to accommodate recent policy initiatives. The course will cover the ways that economics/finance and markets affect transmission systems, as well as regulatory, legislative and government policy initiatives role influencing the bulk power systems. Finally, this course will discuss some of the recent exceptional outage events, with a view to the root causes/remedies.

Academic • Thomas Burgess

3–4:30 p.m.

All About Electric Transmission Systems

Academic • Lois Rubin
A History of Modern France
This course will be a brief survey of the history of the country that Americans love to hate. Throughout the weeks, we will go from the Age of Enlightenment to present time, hitting the high and low points of French history.
Academic • Louise Mayo

Japanese Culture and Civilization: Part 2
This course introduces you to fundamental characteristics of the culture and civilization of Japan from the late 16th century to the present, covering historical figures, architectures, religions, wars, political and social changes, literature, and arts. No previous knowledge of Japan or participation in Part 1 is required. After a brief summary of key historic figures, battles, architecture, and cultural products, the course will cover: the three “unifiers”; Edo Mass culture; Meiji modernization; imperialism and wars; and contemporary Japan. The course will include lecture, suggested readings, and virtual geisha music and dance.
Academic • Yuko Eguchi Wright

Study Group on a Community History of African Americans
The book “Four Hundred Souls”, edited by Pitt Professor Keisha Blain and BU Professor Ibram Kendi, explores African American history through a unique approach. Ninety authors (i.e., a community) contributed short chapters to the book. Each chapter covers a different five-year period within America’s 400-year history. The writers explore their periods by means of historical essays, short stories, personal vignettes, and fiery polemics. This provides a wide range of experiences and ideas, illuminates the past, and offers new ways of thinking about the future. Using the chapters of the book, this course will examine oppression, resistance and struggle, and achievements. Participants will be asked to read at least two five-page chapters before class each week. Class time will be spent discussing each week’s themes and topics.

Fall Birding*
IN-PERSON COURSE
Birds have been important to humans throughout our history. They capture our imagination with their songs, their annual migrations, their playfulness at our feeders, and for the joy they give us by their simple beauty. The Fall Birding course will combine lectures on the intricacies of birds, their life history, as well as different species. We will also hit the Beechwood Farms reserve and do some in-person birding as we observe and discuss what species can be found at Beechwood. There will be walking through the meadows and woods so plan accordingly. If you own binoculars, please bring them, although some will be available to borrow. This course meets at Beechwood Farms, 614 Dorsevyle Rd., Pittsburgh, 15238.
Exploration • Chris Kubiak

Hiking and Observing the Fall Season*
IN-PERSON COURSE
In Eastern theory, fall is the transition from yang to yin, between the expansive growth phases of spring and summer to the inward, cooler, fall and winter seasons. In this course, we will take five easy hikes around Schenley Park to observe the fall season. We’ll notice plants such as lambs-quarter and mullein dropping their seeds. We’ll see hawthorn, crabapple, and dogwood trees releasing their fruit, and find other trees such as oak, ginkgo, and black walnut dropping nuts. We’ll explore the abundance of fall mushrooms; observe birds—both the migrants and year rounders; watch wildlife; and soak in the colors of the changing leaves. This course will meet rain or shine (except unsafe conditions such as lightening/thunderstorms) and involve walking and hiking on possibly uneven natural paths and surfaces, up to one mile or so each week. The course will meet in Schenley Park with more information to exact location shared later.

Advanced Intermediate French Exploration: Miscellaneous Topics
(continued from Session 1)
Hear All About It
For “The Pittsburgh Gazette”, George Washington’s inauguration was a breaking news story. And Abraham Lincoln’s speech at Gettysburg was covered the day it happened by a Gazette reporter. “Hear All About It” looks at how these and other historic—and sometimes forgotten—events and people were covered the next day in Pittsburgh’s newspapers.
Academic • Len Barcousky

The Evolution of Green Buildings
In this course, we will explore the history and evolution of green buildings including where the industry is headed in the future. We’ll discuss challenges related to the built environment including climate change and human health impacts, as well as proven solutions for reduction emissions and healthy and thriving spaces. The built environment has big impacts on people and the planet, but that means it also provides great opportunity for net positive impacts. We’ll explore old and new techniques; green building frameworks; and how issues of climate, health, equity, and the economy all align around the built environment.
Academic • Leslie Montgomery
from our own psychological desires as well. Ideas related to drama, musical storytelling, ideas of beauty and balance, all have a part to play in what gets us from the beginning to the end, and how we feel when we get there. This course meets at Third Presbyterian Church, 5701 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, 15232

Exploration • Michael Hammer

Red Wines from Around the World*

IN-PERSON COURSE

Exploring red wines from around the world can open-up so many possibilities. In this three-week course, the wine experts from Dreadnought Wines will explore some classics and some new concepts from Bolivia, Spain, Italy, France, Canada and more. We will examine the history and traditions and how these traditions are being challenged by young wine makers and world conditions. The three-week course will include delicious sipping and learning. Space is limited. Fee: $40.

This course meets at Dreadnought Wines, 3401 Liberty Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15201.

Enjoyment • Deb Mortillaro

10–11:30 a.m.

Demystifying Digital Marketing: Protecting Yourself as an Online Consumer

Have you ever wondered how you can mention that you are interested in a product, then see an ad for that very product online soon after? Or, would you like to know how to score an extra discount when making a purchase online? In this course, we will teach the basics and inner workings of how digital marketing and ecommerce work, and the protections in place to make sure you are a safe consumer online.

Academic • Melinda Burdette

From Cause to Effect: The Philosophy of Causation

Causation is everywhere: Turning the key in a car’s ignition causes the engine to start. Smoking causes cancer. But what is this thing called “causation”? In this course we look at philosophers’ attempts to answer this question, with a focus on the connection between causation and responsibility. If my houseplant dies while I’m on holiday, I may hold responsible my housemate who failed to water it. But did her failure to water my plant cause the plant to die? Can omissions ever be causes? Could I hold my friend responsible for the plant’s death, even if she did not cause it? More generally, must we be causally responsible for an outcome to be morally or legally responsible? Through weekly readings and discussions, we will explore the pervasive role causation plays in our lives and reflect on the assumptions that inform our thinking about causation.

Academic • Annika Froese

IN-PERSON COURSE

Zentangle in Three Dimensions*

This five-week, hands-on course will explore the many facets of creating Zentangle art as three-dimensional objects. Through a variety of media (including pen, markers, colored pencil, and optional at-home computer printing), students will learn to make three-dimensional objects that may become ornaments, toys, gifts, containers, exotic decorations, and may be adapted for jewelry as well.

Enjoyment • Sue Schneider

1–2:50 p.m.

TED Talks*

TED (technology, entertainment, and design), 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 2,300 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, some are just plain fun. Group members are encouraged to select talks that inspire or intrigue them to kick off the discussion.

Exploration • Kathy Callahan

1:30–3:20 p.m.

Getting There is All the Fun: The Musical Journey

IN-PERSON COURSE

How does a piece of music unfold from start to finish? What can we hear along the way that will help us enjoy our musical journey along with the composer? We’ll explore a variety of ideas and methods used in classical music from the last four centuries not only in ways that relate to the traditions from which they spring, but
World War I and the Shaping of the 20th Century

This course will provide an overview of one of the 20th century’s most formative events: World War I. More than any other single event in the 20th century, World War I (or the Great War as it was called) fundamentally altered the direction of world history—and the peoples of the world have been sorting out the myriad problems left from its unresolved traumas, cultural and political shocks, and new forms of thought spawned by it. The course will do this by focusing on the causes of the conflict, the experience of average soldiers, and the war’s long-term legacies. No previous courses are required to take this course.

Academic • Jared Day

10–11:50 a.m.

Best American Short Stories 2021

Using the most recent “Best American Short Stories 2021” anthology as our textbook, over four weeks of class we will read and discuss some of today’s best short fiction, written by both famous and up-and-coming writers. Each week we will discuss two stories, looking at these selections in the context of the contemporary literary world, considering specific authors’ bodies of work and learning more about the literary magazines where these stories first appeared. This class will provide a crash course on the state of the contemporary American short story.

Academic • Adam Reger

IN-PERSON COURSE

Pittsburgh’s East End: An Architectural History

The East End of Pittsburgh refers to more than just a geographic section of the city but to a crucial economic and social development in the city’s history. The course reveals the history of the East End primarily through the rich architectural heritage which remains. The course traces the East End from its rural beginnings, to its vibrant example of an early railroad and streetcar suburb, through the challenges it faced in the late twentieth century and up to and including the recent revival of its fortunes. The course covers the developmental history of various East End neighborhoods and illustrates how architectural can be a window to history.

Academic • Robert Jucha

10:15–11:15 a.m.

Chakra Yoga All Levels

(continued from Session 1)

1–2:30 p.m.

Advanced Beginner Spanish

(continued from Session 1)

Three Novellas by Katherine Anne Porter

One of the finest storytellers of the past century, Porter shines in three memorable short novels: “Old Mortality”, “Noon Wine,” and the classic tale of the 1918 influenza pandemic, “Pale Horse, Pale Rider,” the title under which all three appear. We will explore Porter’s artistry in these three distinctive and very different long stories.

Academic • David Walton

1–2:50 p.m.

Left and Right of the Contemporary Western World

For more than two centuries, the distinction between “Left” and “Right” has defined the main cleavage shaping political conflict. Originally coined during the French Revolution, this opposition remains the most used by academics, journalists, and citizens all over the world to classify ideologies, parties, policies, leaders, and voters. A big part of politicians’ time is dedicated to efforts to appropriate, reject, or attach to friends and foes one of those labels, and most citizens have an accurate intuitive understanding of their meaning. However, such continuity has coexisted with important changes regarding the concrete ideas, policies, and symbols based on which we decide who’s on who’s left/right. This course offers a historical overview aiming to make sense of this striking mix of permanence and change.

Academic • Javier Vázquez-D’Elía

1:10–3:50 p.m.

Five Consecutive Alfred Hitchcock Thrillers

Concluding the most artistically fertile period of Alfred Hitchcock’s career, in this course we’ll watch and discuss “Vertigo” (James Stewart & Kim Novak), “North by Northwest” (Cary Grant & Eva Marie Saint), “Psycho” (Anthony Perkins & Janet Leigh), “The Birds” (Tippi Hedren & Rod Taylor) and “Marnie” (Sean Connery & Tippi Hedren). All films will have English captions.

Enjoyment • Ed Blank
6–7:30 p.m.

Female Composers through History
Did you know that many of the earliest known composers were women? Or that some of the most innovative works and techniques of the past two centuries were pioneered by female composers? Or that the music by psychotic Gesualdo was influenced by his visit to a particular convent in Ferrara? This course overviews the lives, cultural norms and biases, and music of female composers from Ancient Mesopotamia to the present. By learning about several living female composers, taking part in public discourse concerning the current politics of those who are female composers, and also studying compositions by these composers, the instructor invites you to come discover the lives, cultural norms and biases, and music of these significant—yet oft-neglected—figures of music.

Academic • Ian Evans Guthrie

Singer-Songwriters of Rock
In the early 1970’s, folk music was slowly declining in popularity and rock fans were drawn to artists who wrote and performed their own material. This course will explore four of the most dynamic singer-songwriters of the decade when rock became a major industry. The careers, music, and extraordinary talents (Carole King, Elton John, James Taylor, Joni Mitchell, Bruce Springsteen and more) of these artists will be explored.

Enjoyment • Robert Joyce

10–11:30 a.m.

Drawing: The First Step
(continued from Session 1)

Cuba: From 1492 to Today
Why has a rather small piece of land played so large a role in United States and indeed world history? In this four-week course we will cover the history of Cuba from the time of discovery, its emergence as a sugar producer, its interactions with U.S. policies, the establishment of the republic, the victory of the communist revolution, its present conditions and perhaps even a glimpse at what might lay ahead. As U.S.-Cuba policies continue to change, you need to be informed.

Academic • José Juves

James Baldwin: Living in Fire
This course will read fictional and non-fictional works by Baldwin, and the newest biography of Baldwin. The readings and discussions will celebrate the personal and political life of the great African-American writer who changed the face of Western politics and culture. Baldwin was a lifelong anti-imperialist, black queer advocate, chronicler of the Civil Rights Movement. The course will explore how Baldwin’s life and work channel the long history of African American freedom struggles and how Baldwin has become a symbol of the global Black Lives Matter movement.

Academic • Ken Boas

Surviving an Infodemic: Finding and Evaluating Health Information Online
As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, many of us realized that we are also living in an “infodemic,” where great quantities of health information are available but not necessarily reliable. How do you navigate all the information, and how can you tell what can be trusted and what should be discarded? This course will look at our current information ecosystem, from how medical knowledge is created to how it’s reported and disseminated. Through hands-on activities and discussions, students will become more comfortable locating and evaluating health information, with an emphasis on online resources.

Explorations • Rebekah Miller and Rachel Suppok

1–2:30 p.m.

Advanced Conversational Spanish
(continued from Session 1)

The Nun and the Poet: Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and Octavio Paz on Colonial Mexico
Juana Inés de la Cruz (1648-1695) was the most important writer of Colonial Mexico, at a time when Mexico was the cultural center of Hispanic America. In this context, a woman raised in a middle-class house, with access to her grandfather’s library, and later to the palace of the Viceroyalty, became the court’s most admired poet. Sor Juana’s conversion as a nun allowed her to continue her work as a poet, playwright, and philosopher, while also imposing arduous constraints. Her remarkable life and work are the subject of Sor Juana or, “The Traps of Faith” by Mexican poet Octavio Paz. In this “masterpiece,” according to Peruvian writer Vargas Llosa, Paz draws “an absolutely extraordinary mural of what life was like in the Colony, not only in Mexico but in all of Latin America.” We will read chapters from Paz and selections of Juana’s writings.

Academic • Camila Pulgar Machado
Women as Patrons of Art and Architecture, 1400–1750

This course, conceived as a sequel to last January’s Women Artists course, examines the art and architecture commissioned by women during the Renaissance and Early Modern period. Until recently, women were not taken seriously as patrons of art because of the limitations placed on women’s access to money. However, scholarship of the last few decades has revealed a vibrant culture of women commissioning art for both secular and sacred uses. We will examine female patrons such as Elizabeth I of England, Marie de Medici in France, Queen Christina of Sweden, and Isabella d’Este in Italy, looking at painting, sculpture, decorative arts, and household goods, and both domestic and sacred architecture.

Academic • Saskia Beranek

3–4:30 p.m.

Human Origins and Evolution

Where did we begin? This course will examine the history of human evolution from our earliest primate forbears to the emergence of our species and our most recent evolutionary cousins. Drawing upon evidence from archaeology, the fossil record, and even our own DNA, we will tell the story of how upright-walking apes evolved, the emergence of higher intelligence and the development of tools and material culture, the first appearance of genus Homo, the spread of humans across the world, and the origins of Homo sapiens itself. Along the way, we will confront such question as why our ancestors came down from the trees, how we interacted with our close relatives such as the Neanderthals, and why there is only one human species alive today—and what this tells us about our own future.

Academic • Adam Davis

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We will read one important novel, attending to its author’s art and vision, historical context, and contemporary significance. Set in Stockholm and the far north of Sweden, Larsson’s international bestseller (originally titled “Men Who Hate Women”) explores themes of global corporate corruption, the rise of neo-nazism, and violence against women. At its core is a classic murder mystery, worked on by an unlikely pair of “detectives,” a respected investigative journalist and a twenty-something anarchist computer genius, the girl with the dragon tattoo. (Trigger warning: the novel narrates episodes of sexual violence, and while these are neither sensational nor gratuitous, they are graphic.) The class will include lectures and discussion, enhanced by interviews and video clips. We will read one part per week of this four-part novel.

Academic • Nicholas Coles

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Junkie: Literature of Addiction

Advisory: the writing doesn’t get more brilliant or visionary—and the horror any deeper or more harrowing. In this course we will look at excerpts from: William Burroughs, “Junky/Naked Lunch”; Hunter Thompson, “Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas”; Hubert Selby, Jr., “Requiem for a Dream”; Denis Johnson, “Jesus’ Son”; Olivia Laing, “The Trip to Echo Spring”; Caroline Knapp, “Drinking: A Love Story”; and Marya Hornbecker, “Wasted”.

Academic • Abby Mendelson

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Poetry Book Club: Bending the Genre

Where is the line between poetry and prose? Or drama and prose? Or drama and poetry? Does it matter? In this course, we’ll read and discuss works that blur the boundary: 1) a selection of prose poems provided by the instructor, 2) “Deaf Republic” by Ilya Kaminsky (a poetry collection framed as a play), and 3) “At the Bottom of the River” by Jamaica Kincaid (a highly lyrical short story collection). Participants should plan on reading approximately 35 pages of text a week.

Academic • Jen Ashburn

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Intermediate French Exploration: Speaking in the Present Tense*

(continued from Session 1)

Academic • John Burt

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Zumba Gold

(continued from Session 1)
Lectures and Special Events

Registration is required for all events. Events open to guests will be marked as such. All guests must be registered. Some events require a fee paid at the time of registration.

Lectures

Domestic Terrorism and Extremism
Speaker: J.J. Hensley
Monday, August 23, 2021 • 1–2:30 p.m.
Online with the Zoom platform.

The threat of homegrown terrorism and the rise of extremism has increased over the years. From the horrors of the Oklahoma City bombing to the recent events at the U.S. Capitol, the ideologies adopted by those who carry out violent acts have unusual roots often based in racism and xenophobia. Novelist and former Secret Service Agent J.J. Hensley will explore the threat of domestic terrorism in the U.S. and the causes behind the threat.

J.J. Hensley is the author of seven novels, including “Resolve”, “Bolt Action Remedy”, and “The Better of the Bad”. He is a former police officer and a former Special Agent with the U.S. Secret Service. After residing in Pittsburgh for several years, he relocated to the Savannah, Georgia area.

Remembering 9/11
Speakers: David Shribman and Tom McMillan
Friday, September 17, 2021 • 1–2:50 p.m.
Online with the Zoom platform.

Join us as we look back on this day that changed the world. First, we will hear from Tom McMillan who will discuss his book, “Flight 93: The Story, The Aftermath and The League of American Courage on 9/11”. The book recounts the tragic events of that world-changing day while highlighting the heroic efforts of the 40 passengers and crew, who bravely fought back against the hijackers in the skies over western Pennsylvania. Then, we will look at the Washington, DC vantage point on September 11. David Shribman was the Washington bureau chief of “The Boston Globe” when the Twin Towers fell. As he did during the more recent massacre at Tree of Life in Squirrel Hill, he directed the paper’s coverage of the extraordinary disaster. In this session, Shribman will recall that terrible day, his reaction, and how he deployed his journalistic forces, and then offer some reflections on how that day changed our lives.

Tom McMillan has spent a lifetime in sports media and communications, including 10 years as a reporter for the “Pittsburgh Post-Gazette”, but his true passion is history. He has written two books on the Battle of Gettysburg in addition to “Flight 93” (and has at least one more in the works). McMillan has served on the board of trustees of the Heinz History Center, the board of directors of the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial and the marketing committee of the Gettysburg Foundation. He recently retired after 25 years as VP of Communications for the Pittsburgh Penguins.

David Shribman is a contributing writer for “The Globe and Mail”. He served as Executive editor of “Pittsburgh Post-Gazette” from 2003-19 and as Scholar in Residence at McGill University (2019-20) and Carnegie Mellon University (2019-). Previously, he was the “Boston Globe” Washington bureau chief. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in journalism in 1995 for his analytical reporting on Washington developments and the American political scene.

Events

Tour of Burgh Bees
Thursday, August 26 • 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
Fee: $5; Nonrefundable/non-transferable (Members only; limited enrollment for up to 35 members) Transportation is on your own.

Have you ever wanted to get an up close and personal introduction to honeybees? Join us for a tour of the certified pollinator gardens at the Burgh Bees Community Apiary and peek inside a beehive. You will get a bit of honeybee biology, see the inside of an actual beehive, including the honey stores, pollen stores, developing brood, the queen, and wax honeycombs. Ask questions and understand eusocial colony structure. The tour will also include their gardens, with a certified master gardener guide, who will describe native plants and best practices for your own back yard habitat’s. Protective headgear will be provided.

**Please wear long pants, closed toed shoes and wear, or bring a long-sleeved shirt. Protective headgear will be provided.

Meet at The Homewood Apiary, 6933 Susquehanna St. Pittsburgh, 15208 (Behind Humane Rescue Society). The tour will be conducted by Jeffrey Shaw, President of Burgh Bees Community Apiary. Jeffrey is a third-generation beekeeper who manages 150 colonies in Western PA and Northern Michigan.

(continued on next page)
LIVE TOUR

Behind the Scenes: the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium

Choose your preferred date:
Wednesday, October 13, 2021
10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 14, 2021
10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Fee: $14; non-refundable (Members Only; limited enrollment for up to 20 members on each day. Friday, September 17 is the last day to register.) Transportation is on your own.

Experience the Zoo and learn more about the amazing animals and the Zoo’s conservation efforts. You will watch the gorilla troop receive a snack, meet the giraffes in the African Savanna and see a special feeding of the Open Ocean tank in the PPG Aquarium. Put on your walking shoes and get ready to explore. Locations may change at the last minute. You will visit three areas. Then you can stay the rest of the afternoon and visit the zoo on your own. (Fee is non-refundable, but if you don’t attend the tour you will receive a wrist band, enabling admission through next April.)

Tour of Carrie Blast Furnace
Friday, October 8, 2021 • 1–3 p.m.

Fee: $15 (Members only; up to maximum enrollment of 50. Friday, September 24 is the last day to withdraw and receive a refund.) Transportation is on your own.

Declared a National Historic Landmark in 2006, “Carrie”, as it’s affectionately known, entices visitors to marvel at the scale and legacy of its industrial might. A remnant of the legendary U.S. Steel Homestead Steel Works, the Carrie Blast Furnaces are a vestige of Pittsburgh’s 20th-century domination of the steel industry. During this two-hour guided tour, you’ll hear stories about the site’s technology (including why it is nationally significant) as well as get to know the culture of its workers. You’ll also learn a bit about the iron-making process, from the movement of the raw materials to the tapping of the furnaces that produced fiery molten iron.

Please note, this is not a totally accessible tour. There are steps involved and uneven terrain. If you have walking difficulty, there may be places where you will not be able to go. Please keep this in mind.

Tour of Maxo Vanka Murals at St. Nicholas Church and Optional Light Lunch at Sprezzatura, Millvale.
Friday, October 15, 2021 • Noon–3:15 p.m.

Lunch and Tour: Noon–3:15 p.m.; Fee: $22; members only; last day to register: October 1. (Also, last day to withdraw and receive refund.)

Tour Only: 1:45–3:15 p.m.; Fee: $8 per person; nonrefundable; last day to register: October 1. (Also, last day to withdraw and receive refund.)

This is a great opportunity to have a light lunch, mingle with old and new OLLI friends and enjoy beautiful art. First, for those who chose, we will meet at Sprezzatura in Millvale for a light lunch (panini, salad, and biscotti) and learn about this restaurant’s efforts at sustainability. We will hear how Sprezzatura, a woman-owned community café, is operating as a Gold Level Sustainable Pittsburgh Restaurant in a reclaimed building and what that means. At 1:45 p.m. we will meet at St. Nicholas Croatian Catholic Church, Millvale where we will have a tour of the Maxo Vanka murals. Painted by a Jewish immigrant in 1937 and 1941, the murals include themes of war, industrialization, immigration, and spirituality. Transportation is on your own.
How to Audit Undergraduate Courses

**FALL 2021 TERM** – Osher members may audit up to two preapproved undergraduate courses (any additional are charged at $25 each).

One membership benefit of OLLI at Pitt is the ability to audit preapproved undergraduate courses. To “audit” a course means that the student does not receive a grade nor credits and generally does not participate in exams or homework. Each term OLLI arranges for hundreds of undergraduate Pitt courses to be preapproved for members to audit. Auditors are guests in the course for which they register, and participation can be limited or restricted by the professor or department. Members may audit two courses per term as a benefit of membership. Additional courses audited are charged $25 per course.

### Audit Course Registration Procedures

- View Upcoming Classes: View full course descriptions online at: [https://psmobile.pitt.edu/app/catalog/classSearch](https://psmobile.pitt.edu/app/catalog/classSearch)

### Register to Audit Preapproved Courses

A complete list of preapproved audit courses will be located on our website. No member may attend and/or audit a course for which they are not registered.

### Online Registration Process for Preapproved Audit Courses

1. SIGN in with your username/password at: www.campusce.net/ollipitt
   (if you do not do this, you will not be able to add courses to your shopping cart)
2. If you need to pay your membership, from home page click on “Select/Renew Membership” and add a membership to your cart.
3. From home page, click on “Audit Courses”
4. Click the department to see its list of preapproved courses
5. Select your course of interest, and if desired, click on “Add to Cart”
6. If you wish to add more audit courses continue exploring and adding to your cart.
7. When finished, go to your shopping cart, click on “Check out” button and proceed through all screens to payment processing.

### Registering to Audit Non-Preapproved Courses

Auditing is ONLY allowed when there is space available in “lecture type” undergraduate classes. “Lecture type” classes are those in which students can observe the delivered lecture of material by the professor. Auditing is NOT permitted in: computer science, film production, physical education, studio arts, laboratory courses, creative writing courses, honors college courses, or performance courses. Auditing also is NOT permitted in law or medical school classes, graduate classes or hybrid online courses.

The rule that audit requests for non-preapproved courses must be submitted in hard copy form has been suspended for the Fall 2021 term. Instead, after obtaining email permission from the course’s instructor or head of the department, forward it to osher@pitt.edu. It must include the following information so that we can register you for the correct course:

- Course title
- Course Number (5 digits)
- Catalog number (4 digits)
- Instructor name

This information can be found on Pitt’s registrar course listing search: [https://psmobile.pitt.edu/app/catalog/classSearch](https://psmobile.pitt.edu/app/catalog/classSearch)

**REQUESTS THAT DO NOT INCLUDE THE ABOVE FOUR ELEMENTS REQUIRED WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.**

**Please be aware:** Pitt is adjusting a lot of courses, events and plans due to changing conditions on campus, so there may be many changes since the original course listing was made, and in the future. The most accurate and updated information will always be found on the class listing for Pitt, so double-check that they are still being held on Pitt’s registrar course listing search: [https://psmobile.pitt.edu/app/catalog/classSearch](https://psmobile.pitt.edu/app/catalog/classSearch)

### Conduct Expectations for Course Auditors

1. Never attend a course or a class for which you are not officially registered.
2. Introduce yourself as an OLLI student to the instructor. Seek permission from them if you wish to verbally participate in the course, do written assignments, or exams. Respect their response.
3. Arrive on time to class and stay for the entire class.
4. If the instructor permits your verbal participation, do not monopolize discussion.
5. If issues arise, notify the OLLI office immediately.
6. Pay attention to dates and deadlines pertaining to undergraduate courses and the University academic calendar.
7. Formally drop the course if you find out it is no longer of interest.

**NOTE:** Auditing is a privilege, not a right. OLLI reserves the right to remove any member from an audit course for any reason. For more information on auditing a course, go to the member area of the OLLI website at: olli.pitt.edu
General OLLI Information/Policies

Drop a Course or Event
We know that many things may result in your need to drop a course. 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, Cancelled or Full Courses
Occasionally, courses are postponed or cancelled, 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 cancelled, 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 anyone who wishes to attend, including online courses. If a course or event is full, most often 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. While OLLI member benefits are quite generous, double-booking courses in a time period is not a member benefit.

Refunds
Each catalog will indicate the date by which a membership may be refunded. There are no exceptions. Events 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 we have 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 in the course. This information is very helpful to us and helps guide future programming. If you have an issue with your course evaluation, please contact us at osher@pitt.edu, and do not contact the University Office of Measurement and Evaluation of Teaching (OMET).

Code of Conduct
In all courses, lectures, events and in all formats, OLLI members are expected to follow the OLLI Code of Conduct. 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.
Jen Ashburn* is the author of the poetry book “The Light on the Wall.” She holds and MFA from Chatham University, where she taught creative writing to inmates in the Allegheny County Jail through Chatham’s Words Without Walls program.

Ralph Bangs*, PhD, MPA, taught race at Pitt and CMU and in study abroad and was 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 race leadership awards.

Len Barcousky* was a reporter at the “Pittsburgh Post-Gazette” and editor for 45 years at several newspapers. He is the author of three books on Pittsburgh history that look at how famous and not-so-famous events were covered in local newspapers the next day.

Saskia Beranek*, PhD is an assistant professor of Art History in the Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts at Illinois State University, and an alum of the University of Pittsburgh. She teaches and publishes on issues surrounding women as patrons in the 17th century with a focus on the Netherlands.

Elaine Bergstrom* is a Chicago native and recently moved from Pittsburgh, PA. to the Jacksonville Beach/Ponte Vedra area. She has a BA from University of Illinois in Design, a Certification in Art Education from Carlow University, and a Botanical Illustration Certification from the Morton Arboretum in Illinois. She specializes in oriental, watercolor, acrylic, pen/ink, drawing, colored pencils and pastels.

Ed Blank* has spent 39 years as a professional critic, columnist, and interviewer with 25 years at “The Pittsburgh Press” and 14 years at the “Pittsburgh Tribune-Review.” He is a Duquesne University graduate who served two years in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, including a year in Vietnam. He has spoken to hundreds of groups locally, countless high schools, and monthly at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center. He also has guest-hosted on local radio talk shows.

Ken Boas*, PhD, was formerly an instructor in the University of Pittsburgh Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, Department of English.

George Borg, PhD, is a historian and philosopher of science, and a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh’s History and Philosophy of Science department. He specializes in theories of scientific change. He has been teaching independently since 2016, including several iterations of an undergraduate version of this course.

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 also published articles on the Bible.

Tullia Bruno*, PhD, is an assistant professor in the Department of Immunology at the University of Pittsburgh and a faculty member in the Tumor Microenvironment Center and the Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Program at the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center. She obtained her PhD, in Immunology from Johns Hopkins in 2010 and completed her postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Colorado in 2015—both with a focus in tumor immunology.

Melinda Burdette is a strategic business consultant, marketer, and educator with experience in a variety of industries and disciplines. She has been an adjunct at The University of Pittsburgh-Greensburg since 2018, previously worked in the consumer-packaged goods and retail sectors and continues to consult in the areas of marketing and strategy.

Thomas Burgess has an over 40-year executive career within FirstEnergy and NERC focused on transmission and reliability strategic issues at the state, federal, and international level. He has an MS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Akron, a juris doctor from University of Akron Law School, and an Executive MBA Technical from Westinghouse/ Penn State University.

John Burt* is a retired history teacher and lawyer, and 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 conducted tours connected with underground railroad activities.

Kathy Callahan* retired from management consulting to 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 at Pitt’s members.

Jill 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.

Nicholas 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 the Pittsburgh-based acoustic band Smokestack Lightning.
Sandra Collins*, PhD, focuses on women in the Old Testament 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.

Mike “Carya” Cornell* has always loved the outdoors and had a desire to share that passion with others. Mike was a Naturalist Educator – Interpretive Specialist at the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, providing an entry point for others to explore their world. One of Mike’s key beliefs is we are never too young or old to gain an appreciation for, and strengthen our connection to, the earth.

Jason Davidek is Executive Director of the Allegheny League of Municipalities. As a local elected official, he served for 12 years as a supervisor in Fawn Township and was President of the Allegheny County Association of Township Officials. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from the Pennsylvania State University and a master’s degree in public policy from the University of Pittsburgh.

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 and has been teaching since 2005.

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

David J. DeFazio* is a private attorney whose practice focuses on litigation and has spanned the legal spectrum from death penalty cases to routine family law trials. DeFazio has been an adjunct instructor at the University of Pittsburgh since 1987.

Rebecca Denova*, PhD, was a senior lecturer in the early history of Christianity at the University of Pittsburgh and regularly teaches courses on the history of early Christianity, ancient religions in the Mediterranean world, and various topics related to ancient popular religion and society.

Yuko Eguchi Wright, PhD, is a native of Tokyo, Japan and received a PhD in ethnomusicology in 2016 from the University of Pittsburgh. Her speciality is Japanese geisha’s music and dance, called kouta and koutaburi, and received the master title of kouta, Kasuga Toyo Yoshiyu, in 2012. She has performed and lectured on Japanese traditional arts at multiple venues and conferences.

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.

Roland Ford* is a certified personal fitness trainer, group exercise instructor, certified dance instructor, choreographer, and marathon runner. He has developed a dance and fitness curricula for schools, churches, senior groups, community centers, corporations, and special needs populations. Award winning Ford teaches dance and fitness courses and presentations throughout the Pittsburgh region.

Maria Franco de Gomez*, 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.

Annika Froese* is projected to receive her PhD from the University of Pittsburgh’s Philosophy Department in 2022, where she has been teaching since 2016. Before coming to Pitt, she studied philosophy, politics, and economics at the University of Oxford (BA, 2011) and philosophy at University College London (MA, 2012).

Lawrence Frolik* is professor emeritus of law, University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He taught law students for 43 years and was twice voted the Excellence in Teaching Award by the graduating class. He is known for his ability to make law interesting for the non-lawyer.

Peter Gilmore*, PhD, received his doctorate in history from Carnegie Mellon University in 2009 and is an adjunct lecturer in history at Pittsburgh universities who has taught several courses for OLLI at the University of Pittsburgh. He is the author of “Irish Presbyterians and the Shaping of Western Pennsylvania, 1770-1830," published in 2018 by the University of Pittsburgh Press.

Joseph Givvin*, PhD, holds his doctorate in philosophy from St. John’s University, New York, and has been teaching for over 37 years. He greatly enjoys the opportunity to teach in for Osher and engage with curious minds in thoughtful conversation about the great questions of ethics and human life.

Karen Goldman*, PhD, has her doctorate in Spanish and Latin American literature from Columbia University. She has taught courses in Spanish language and Latin American literatures and cultures at numerous colleges and universities, including the University of Pittsburgh. Her recent scholarly work focuses on Spanish and Latin American cinema and representations of Latinos in U.S. popular culture.
Dolores Gonthier, MD, an internal medicine physician, contributes medical content for board certification preparation materials and has previously consulted with local and regional groups to address healthcare system challenges. Dr. Gonthier practiced medicine in solo and group practice settings and later she served as a medical director at a health insurance company.

Christina Groark, PhD, is an associate professor emerita of education at the University of Pittsburgh. She is a former Co-Director of the University’s Office of Child Development. Groark is a specialist in young children without permanent parental care and in creating and managing domestic and international programs for vulnerable children. She has published hundreds of articles and books on children’s care.

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.

Joan Gundersen* is professor emerita of history at California State University San Marcos. Author of seven history books, and numerous scholarly articles, she taught women’s history for more than 30 years at a variety of institutions. She has been a visiting scholar in Women’s Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. Gundersen recently retired as the archivist for the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Michael Hammer*, DMA, MA, is an organist at Third Presbyterian Church, and a composer, blogger, and teacher who earned his degrees from the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University and graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Music. He has won several piano competitions, appeared with orchestras and in concert halls around the world, and toured with soloists and choirs.

Chuck Hier*, PhD, studied Soviet history at the University of Houston, Boston College and the University of Pittsburgh, receiving his PhD from the latter in 2004. He has taught history courses at a number of universities in and around Pittsburgh for more than 20 years.

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 histories of food, the environment, and gender.

Ann Hultberg* taught high school English for 34 years and has been an adjunct composition instructor at the University of Pittsburgh-Bradford since 2006. Her undergraduate degree from IUP is in English education with a minor in educational psychology and her graduate degree in Education is from St. Bonaventure University.

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

Orin James*, MS is an assistant professor of biology in the division of Health and Biological Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh-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.

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 Joyce* has over 30 years of experience teaching higher education at Augustana University and University of South Dakota. He has a BA and MA from Augustana University in music and education.

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 twelve years.

José Juves* is back at OLLI, albeit remotely. His interests remain history and science. José has continued his teaching experiences as a lecturer at the Renaissance Academy in Naples, Florida. He is also a docent at the Six Miles Cypress Slough preserve in Ft. Myers.

James Kelly*, PhD, LSW, is professor emeritus at Carlow University where he taught courses on the history of social welfare, the impact of literature on social justice, human behavior in the social environment, theories of community/organizations/groups, media and social change, youth media advocacy, and seminars in social work field placement.

Bridget Keown, PhD, is a lecturer in the Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Program at Pitt, where she leads the program’s Gender and Science initiative. She received her PhD in history from Northeastern University. Her research focuses on women’s experiences of trauma during the First World War.

Chris Kubiak* is the Education Director at the Audubon Society of Western PA and has been an active birder for 25 years. At Audubon, Chris teaches programs focused on birds and nature, including Basic Birding and the Master Birder program. Before coming to Audubon, Chris was an adjunct history professor, and has an MA in American history at Slippery Rock University.
Stephen Lindberg* has been teaching since 1978 and has been an adjunct professor in the Geology-Energy and Earth Resources department at the University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown since 1997. He teaches Principles of Astronomy, Prehistoric Life, Earthquakes and Volcanoes, Meteorology and Geologic Field Methods.

Sam Lonich* is a licensed psychologist, professor emeritus of psychology at California University of Pennsylvania, and a national accredited school suicide prevention specialist.

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.

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.

Robert McCall, PhD, is professor emeritus of psychology at the University of Pittsburgh. He is a former Co-Director of the University’s Office of Child Development. McCall is experienced in infant and child development including that of children reared in institutions and was a columnist for “Parents Magazine.” McCall has published hundreds of articles and books on children’s care and development.

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.

Abby Mendelson*, PhD, has been a writer, editor, and educator for nearly 50 years. He has published both fiction and nonfiction works on a variety of topics and has taught both writing and literature at universities and colleges throughout the Pittsburgh area.

Rebekah Miller, MLIS, is a research and instruction librarian at the University of Pittsburgh’s Health Sciences Library System, where she teaches, performs advanced literature searches, and liaises to the School of Nursing and the IACUC. She received her master’s degree in library and information science from the University of Pittsburgh.

Leslie Montgomery is Vice President of Education at Green Building Alliance (GBA) where she has spent years curating and facilitating all types of education and trainings for multiple stakeholders. Leslie has a master of science in sustainable systems. Leslie designs and facilitates GBA’s Sustainability Leadership Lab and taught as an adjunct professor at Robert Morris University.

Deb Mortillaro* graduated with honors from the Culinary Institute of America. She was a private chef for 15 years before joining Dreadnought Wines and has advanced level qualification for professionals working in the wine industry from the Wine and Spirit Education Trust (WSET Level 3).

Daniel Normolle, PhD, is an associate professor in the Pitt School of Public Health and the Director of the Biostatistics Facility of the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center, a NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center. He has been involved in clinical research since 1986 and has consulted with over two dozen pharmaceutical firms.

Doug Oster* is the home and garden editor for the “Tribune-Review” and “Everybody Gardens” and co-host of The Organic Gardener’s Radio Program, a weekly show on KDKA. He received the 2009 Outstanding Documentary Emmy for “Gardens of Pennsylvania,” written and produced for WQED. His gardening books include “Tomatoes Garlic Basil” published in 2010.

Camila Pulgar Machado*, PhD, has her doctoral degree in cultural studies from the Central University of Venezuela in Caracas, where she was a Professor of Latin American literature for twenty years. She researched and taught about the ways Hispanic American literature has been integrated into the western literary tradition.

Bruce Rabin*, MD, has spent over four decades both at the University of Pittsburgh and Medical Director of the Division of Clinical Immunopathology and the Healthy Lifestyle Program for UPMC doing research and creating programs in the science of coping with stress. He and colleagues have conducted research and published numerous papers explaining how stress affects health.

Adam Reger*, MFA, in fiction writing, has taught writing at the University of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts and has published a number of short stories.

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 U.S. and internationally.

Lois Rubin*, DA, (Carnegie-Mellon University) is associate professor emerita of English at Penn State New Kensington where she taught composition and literature for more than 30 years. During her career, she published numerous articles on composition research and women’s literature.
Sue Schneider* is an experienced calligrapher and artist, exhibiting and teaching in western Pennsylvania for many years. Her life-long love of letters has led her to create handmade artist books, innovative greeting cards and expressive artworks.

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.

Sharon Serbin* earned a bachelor's degree in psychology. She grew up with a gradual hearing loss and became fully deaf at age 18. She works as a Communication Assessor, and a Communication Specialist. She teaches ASL through the city of Pittsburgh and surrounding areas.

Saima Sitwat* is a writer, educator and speaker. Her work has been published in the "Pittsburgh Post-Gazette", PublicSource and Dawn (Pakistan). She served as the first woman President of the Muslim Association of Greater Pittsburgh (MAP) and facilitated conversations on race, religion and identity politics. She is also the author of the memoir; “American Muslim: An Immigrant’s Journey.”

Lisa Sobek* has been teaching Zumba for more than 10 years and is certified in not only Zumba Gold® but also in Aqua Zumba and Zumba Basics. Not only does she teach Zumba, but in her other professional career she is a geriatric care manager and has been in the field of geriatrics for more than 30 years.

Melissa Sokulski* is a licensed acupuncturist as well as an herbalist, forager, and wild food educator. She studied acupuncture and herbal medicine at the New England School of Acupuncture, graduating in 1996 with a master’s degree. She is the founder of Food Under Foot, teaching about using wild plants and mushrooms as food and medicine.

Alan Stanford*, Artistic and Executive Director of PICT Classic Theatre, has a 50-year career as a director and actor. A leading expert in the works of Shakespeare, Wilde, Dickens, and Beckett, Mr. Stanford has adapted several works for the stage.

Gregory Strom*, PhD, studied philosophy at the University of Chicago (BA, 2002) and the University of Pittsburgh (PhD, 2011), and has been teaching philosophy at the University of Pittsburgh since 2004, with a brief stint (2011-2013) at the University of Sydney. Most of his philosophical energies are spent thinking about how to live a good life and do the right thing.

Rachel Suppok, MLIS, is a research & instruction librarian at the University of Pittsburgh’s Health Sciences Library System, where she also acts a liaison to the School of Dental Medicine. She received her master of library and information science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Melissa Tai* enjoys sharing her love of art at many venues in Pittsburgh. She strives to create a warm and supportive environment for students to learn and experiment.

Rachel Travis is a PhD candidate at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA). Rachel is currently writing her dissertation on mobility and policy. She has conducted research on the United Nations and worked as an intern at the United Nations Headquarters as well as the U.S. House of Representatives and the International Center for Transitional Justice.

Javier Vázquez-D’Elia*, PhD, has a doctorate in political science from the University of Pittsburgh. He is currently a researcher at the University Center for International Studies. Throughout the last 10 years, he has taught at Pitt, California University of Pennsylvania, Penn State, and the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Jason Von Ehrenkrook, PhD, is associate professor of religious studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston. His PhD is in ancient Judaism and early Christianity from the University of Michigan. Before his current position at UMass Boston he was the Perlow Lecturer in Classical Judaism at the University of Pittsburgh’s Dept. of Religious Studies.

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.

Germaine Watkins* has a love of photography that started as a young child. He began developing his skills at Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild during high school and continues to educate and inspire students through the art of photography.

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 the cofounder, CEO and principal of a successful Pittsburgh charter high school.

Tim Ziaukas, professor emeritus of public relations at The University of Pittsburgh-Bradford, has written dozens of articles for popular and academic journals. He has earned an MA and MFA from Pitt in English and writing.
Visit the OLLI at Pitt website and discover online learning opportunities for adult learners.