



University of
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Stay curious!

Summer 2024

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

Registration opens Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Summer 2024 Term

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
University of Pittsburgh



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DATES AND DEADLINES

OLLI course registration opens	April 10
OLLI Session 1 begins/ University Summer courses begin	May 13
Memorial Day, University closed	May 27
OLLI Session 1 ends	June 17
Juneteenth, University closed	June 19
OLLI Session 2 begins	June 27
Independence Day, University closed	July 4
No OLLI classes	July 5
OLLI Session 2 ends	Aug. 2

*The University has 12-week, 6-week and 4-week courses in the summer. For OLLI members who wish to audit University courses, see the University Calendar and Registrar's website for dates (registrar.pitt.edu) or use the OLLI list of preapproved courses. For audits, the add/drop date is two days after the class starts.

ABOUT OLLI

Established in 2005 at the University of Pittsburgh, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is one of 125 OLLI programs located on college campuses throughout the United States. OLLI at Pitt seeks to create a dedicated intellectual environment for learners aged 50 and better by offering non-credit and engaging college-level courses, providing opportunities for social interaction, and maintaining connections to the vibrant University community. OLLI at Pitt's instructors include current and retired faculty from the University of Pittsburgh and others from the diverse and talent-filled Pittsburgh area and beyond. The OLLI at Pitt program nurtures a passion for learning and contributes to the health and engagement of the older adult community.

Membership and registration

An active OLLI membership is required to register for courses.

WHAT DOES MEMBERSHIP INCLUDE?

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

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

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

Scholarships based on financial need are available per term.

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

olli.pitt.edu



COURSE TYPE

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

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

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

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



SUMMER 2024: SESSION 1



SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE








Monday, May 13 – Monday, June 17, 2024

No classes on Monday, May 27


The courses below are current as of **April 1, 2024**. For the most up-to-date course information, always consult the OLLI at Pitt website at oli.pitt.edu. Clicking on each course title will take you to its course description in the catalog.

Monday

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

CLASS NAME	INSTRUCTOR	TIME	TYPE
 Gentle Yoga A	Jill Donnette Clary	9 – 10 a.m.	AL
 Exploring T.S. Eliot's "The Waste Land"	Bridget Keown	9 – 10:30 a.m.	L
 Chair Yoga	Susan Gillis Kruman	11 a.m. – Noon	AL
 Can We Stop Climate Change?	Anthony Lee	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	D
 Historical Foundations of Religion in America	Beth Hill-Skinner	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	L
 Explore the Allegheny Observatory	Kerry Handron	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 Geology of America's National Parks, Part 2	Steve Lindberg	6 – 7:30 p.m.	L

Tuesday

CLASS NAME	INSTRUCTOR	TIME	TYPE
 American Southwest, Crossroads of Cultures	George Scheper	9 – 10:30 a.m.	L
 Inanimate Reason: Mechanizing Thought, Automata to AI	Jeffrey Aziz	10 – 11:50 a.m.	L
 Irish Culture and Traditions	Marie Young	10 – 11:50 a.m.	L
 What is Our Human Evolution Story?	Thalia Gray	10 – 11:50 a.m.	D
 Fresco Painters of Florence	Nora Hamerman	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	L
 Let's Talk About Food in Italian	Cinzia Delfini	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	AL
 Zentangle™: Go Big!	Sue Schneider	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	AL
 Getting Started in Watercolors	Elaine Bergstrom	1 – 2:30 p.m.	AL
 Gandhi's Economics: Lessons for the 21st Century	Gautam Mukerjee	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 Introduction to Augustine	Irene Wolf	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 Taylor Swift: The Sum and Substance	Jessica Lynch	3:15 – 5 p.m.	D
 Five Big Global and Regional Trends in World Geography	Paul Adams	3:30 – 5 p.m.	L
 Beginning Level French	Cathleen Sendek-Sapp	6 – 7:30 p.m.	AL
 How to Think Like a Computer: Coding for Total Beginners	Philip DiCicco	6 – 7:30 p.m.	L

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SUMMER 2024: SESSION 1

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday











AL: Active Learning

D: Discussion



L: Lecture

 Online course




 In-person course

CLASS NAME	INSTRUCTOR	TIME	TYPE
 Gentle Yoga B	Jill Donnette Clary	9 – 10 a.m.	AL
 Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Prison Poems	David Fetterman	10 – 11:50 a.m.	D
 The Myth of the Given	Greg Strom	10 – 11:50 a.m.	L
 Chakra Yoga	Jill Donnette Clary	10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	AL
 Revolutions at the Ballot: Transformational Elections	Jared Day	10:30 a.m. – Noon	L
 Jane Austen: Two Novels	James O'Rourke	1 – 2:30 p.m.	D
 Opera: A Five-Course Meal	Marilyn Egan	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 Interpreting Statutes: From Tomatoes to Healthcare	Ben Bratman	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 Senior Living Simplicity	Wendy Zinkone and Jennifer Thayer	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 Politics of Police Portrayal	Andrew Lotz	3:15 – 5 p.m.	L
 Music: Controversies and Curiosities	Emanuel Abramovits	3:30 – 5 p.m.	L
 Western Pennsylvania Historic Places: A Virtual Tour	Kenneth Koncerak	6 – 7:30 p.m.	L

Thursday

CLASS NAME	INSTRUCTOR	TIME	TYPE
 Foundations in Sustainability	Savannah Denlinger	9 – 10:30 a.m.	L
 Intermediate Spanish	Álvaro Antonio Bernal	9 – 10:30 a.m.	AL
 Intercultural Learning	Kati Von Lehman	10 – 11:50 a.m.	D
 Loss and Grief in Western Society	Lindsey Smith	10 – 11:50 a.m.	L
 Reading the Data and Understanding the Election	Alan Irvine	10 – 11:50 a.m.	L
 Approaching Cultural Awareness	Kjerstin Pugh	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	L
 Dante's <i>Divine Comedy</i>	David Brumble	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	L
 Advanced Conversational Spanish	Álvaro Antonio Bernal	1 – 2:30 p.m.	AL
 Architecture of Columbus, Indiana	Jeffrey Swoger	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 Introduction to ChatGPT and Prompt Engineering	Lindsay Onufer	1 – 2:30 p.m.	D
 English Country Dance	Gaye Fifer	1 – 2:50 p.m.	AL
 Introduction to Hemingway	Michael Young	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 What Makes a Great President?	Louise Mayo	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 Beginning Spanish	Álvaro Antonio Bernal	3:30 – 5 p.m.	AL
 World War II and the Cold War: Global Impact	Michael Rizzi	6 – 7:30 p.m.	L

Friday

CLASS NAME	INSTRUCTOR	TIME	TYPE
 Intermediate Level French: Grammar	Cathleen Sendek-Sapp	10 – 11:30 a.m.	AL
 Around the World with American Movie Musicals	Sam and Candy Caponegro	10 – 11:30 a.m.	L
 Embracing Plant-Based Eating	Laura Zervos	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 Right Brain Photography	Eli Vega	1 – 2:30 p.m.	D

Saturday

CLASS NAME	INSTRUCTOR	TIME	TYPE
 Photo Explorations	Germaine Watkins	10 – 11:50 a.m.	AL

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SUMMER 2024: SESSION 2

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Thursday, June 27 – Friday, August 2, 2024

No classes on Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5


The courses below are current as of **April 1, 2024**. For the most up-to-date course information, always consult the OLLI at Pitt website at olli.pitt.edu. Clicking on each course title will take you to its course description in the catalog.

Monday

AL: Active Learning

D: Discussion













L: Lecture

 Online course

 In-person course

CLASS NAME	INSTRUCTOR	TIME	TYPE
 Gentle Yoga A (continued)	Jill Donnette Clary	9 – 10 a.m.	AL
 Important Episodes in American Economic History	William Van Lear	9 – 10:30 a.m.	L
 Sketch Noting: What It Is and How to Do It	Elaine Bergstrom	9 – 10:30 a.m.	AL
 Becoming a Family and Community Historian	Eladio Bobadilla	10 – 11:50 a.m.	L
 Introduction to International Folk Dance	Rob McCollum	10 – 11:50 a.m.	AL
 Legacy of Brown v. Board of Education	Lynn O'Connor	10 – 11:50 a.m.	L
 Summer Gardening and Preparing for Fall	Doug Oster	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	L
 Broadcast Television: The Big Five	Megan Kappel	6 – 7:30 p.m.	L

Tuesday

CLASS NAME	INSTRUCTOR	TIME	TYPE
 Collage Marathon!	Ann Rosenthal	9 – 10:50 a.m.	AL
 Pittsburgh Rivers and Waterways	Werner Loehlein	10 – 11:50 a.m.	L
 What “Loosely Based On” Means	Zachary Wiberg	10 – 11:50 a.m.	D
 History and Collection of the Louvre	Katherine Zoraster	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	L
 Zentangle™: Go Big! (continued)	Sue Schneider	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	AL
 Artificial Intelligence: A Beginner's Introduction	Shayok Chakraborty	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 Big Bang and Expansion of the Universe	Don Ellison	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 Getting Started in Watercolors (continued)	Elaine Bergstrom	1 – 2:30 p.m.	AL
 Album Cover Design: A Brief History	Jane Dudley	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 Baseball Movies	Joseph Harris	1 – 4 p.m.	L
 Introduction to Performance	Courtney Wilkes	3:15 – 5 p.m.	AL
 Beginning Level French (continued)	Cathleen Sendek-Sapp	6 – 7:30 p.m.	AL
 Soldier and the State	Charles Metcalf	6 – 7:30 p.m.	L

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SUMMER 2024: SESSION 2

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday














AL: Active Learning

D: Discussion











L: Lecture

 Online course



 In-person course

CLASS NAME	INSTRUCTOR	TIME	TYPE
 Gentle Yoga B (continued)	Jill Donnette Clary	9 – 10 a.m.	AL
 Ethics in Modern Life	Sarah Rosenson	9 – 10:30 a.m.	D
 Chakra Yoga (continued)	Jill Donnette Clary	10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	AL
 Covering the Basics: Make a Book from Scratch	Shannon Fink	10 – 11:50 a.m.	AL
 Film Noir 1950–1981	Steven Cherry	10 – 11:50 a.m.	L
 On <i>The Ethics of Diet</i> : Examining a Seminal Text	Walter Orange	10 – 11:50 a.m.	L
 America's Immigration Dilemma	Jared Day	10:30 a.m. – Noon	L
 Digital Literacy for Today's World	Mustafa Kilic	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 Your End of Life Matters	Fredric Price	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 History of American Independent Cinema	Daniel Singleton	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 Memoir Writing: Your Story	Steve Hecht	1 – 2:50 p.m.	AL
 Extremist White Supremacy	Ralph Bangs	3:30 – 5 p.m.	L
 Understanding Generational Differences to Bridge the Gap	Esther Jackson	6 – 7:30 p.m.	L

Thursday

CLASS NAME	INSTRUCTOR	TIME	TYPE
 Disease, Society, and Science	Julia Hudson-Richards	9 – 10:30 a.m.	L
 Intermediate Spanish	Mariá Franco de Gómez	9 – 10:30 a.m.	AL
 Before Dracula: Vampire Folklore, Stories, and Legends	Eleni Anastasiou	10 – 11:50 a.m.	L
 Saving Taxes in Retirement	Bud Kahn	10 – 11:50 a.m.	L
 Advanced Conversational Spanish	Mariá Franco de Gómez	1 – 2:30 p.m.	AL
 America and Spain's Civil War, 1936–1939	John Burt	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 Early Italian Renaissance	Katherine Zoraster	1 – 2:30 p.m.	L
 Ten Unforgettable Stories of W. Somerset Maugham	David Walton	1 – 2:30 p.m.	D
 New Perspectives on the Brain	Betsy Peitz	1 – 2:50 p.m.	L
 Coming of Age on the Silver Screen	David Shifren	1 – 4 p.m.	L
 Beginning Spanish (continued)	Álvaro Antonio Bernal	3:30 – 5 p.m.	AL
 Famous Classical Music Themes	Raymond Uy	6 – 7:30 p.m.	L

Friday

CLASS NAME	INSTRUCTOR	TIME	TYPE
 Female Composers	Sam and Candy Caponegro	10 – 11:30 a.m.	L
 Intermediate Level French: Grammar (continued)	Cathleen Sendek-Sapp	10 – 11:30 a.m.	AL

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Visual and Performing Arts

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Advanced**Conversational Spanish***Álvaro Antonio Bernal (session 1)**Mariá Franco de Gómez (session 2)***Thursdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.****Session:** 1 (5 classes)**Session:** 2 (5 classes)**Modality:** Online 

These two 5-week courses are appropriate for participants who are comfortable and successful at communicating in Spanish and want to further develop their reading and conversational skills. Participants are expected to be able to use present, past, and future tenses, and have significant vocabulary and understanding of syntax (or have successfully completed Intermediate Spanish). The courses are taught in Spanish and focus on analyzing and discussing reading material. Weekly class material is provided. **Note: These courses are often taken several times. Members should register for BOTH sessions if they want to be in the course for 10 weeks.**

Album Cover Design:**A Brief History***Jane Dudley***Tuesdays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.****Session:** 2 (5 classes)**Modality:** In-person 

Album covers are much more than just packaging. An album cover design can be as much a part of the identity of a record as its sound. This course will explore the history of album cover design from its beginning in the 1930s through the cool jazz of the 50s; rock and roll and psychedelia in the 60s; the golden age of the album cover in the 70s; the rise of Punk, New Wave, and Hip Hop in the 80s; to the demise of vinyl records in the 90s and the rise of digital art today. We'll listen to some of the music while we examine some of the great album cover artists and photographers.

**America and Spain's
Civil War, 1936–1939***John Burt***Thursdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.****Session:** 2 (5 classes)**Modality:** Online 

Spain's civil war meant different things to different Americans — a diplomatic crisis, a call to arms, a business opportunity, a religious war, a political problem, a journalism story, and a foreshadowing of worse to come. For about 3,000 Americans it meant answering the call of their convictions to lend a hand while FDR wanted no part in the matter. For years afterward, for the survivors of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, it meant "Viva La Quince Brigada!"

**America's
Immigration Dilemma***Jared Day***Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. – Noon****Session:** 2 (5 classes)**Modality:** Online 

This course will examine one of the most fraught topics in American politics today: immigration. Despite the U.S.'s long history of acceptance and openness to foreign immigration, since 2000, concerns have spiked about the number and ethnicity of those being admitted. Throughout American history, immigration policy has evolved and reacted to often dramatic shifts in American society. Particular attention will be given to immigration laws in the 1920s, Lyndon Johnson's landmark Immigration Act of 1965, and recent developments in problems and policies along U.S. borders.

**American Southwest,
Crossroads of Cultures***George Scheper***Tuesdays, 9 – 10:30 a.m.****Session:** 1 (5 classes)**Modality:** Online 

This course explores the art, history, and cultures of the American Southwest, from ancient Native American homeland to the contemporary cultural mosaic. We begin some 2,000 years ago, with the homeland of the ancestral Pueblo people, visiting such archaeological sites as Chaco Canyon, Mesa Verde, and Canyon de Chelly. We then turn to the historical communities of the Hopi, Zuni, and other Pueblo peoples and their Navajo and Apache neighbors. We trace the impact of the coming of the Spanish in the 16th and 17th centuries, followed by the arrival of Anglo traders and settlers, and the genesis of the Southwest as a multicultural mecca from the 1920s to the present day.

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Approaching Cultural Awareness

Kjerstin Pugh

Thursdays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Do you ever want more information when presented with new cultural practices, beliefs, and behaviors? To help you develop your agility and competency to better understand our evolving culture, this course will investigate our social worlds and how to sensitively engage with them. We'll use frameworks to explore "similarity" and "otherness," particularly around ideas of gender, race, age, diversity, equity, and inclusion. We'll explore ways to navigate uncomfortable or difficult conversations while expanding cultural awareness.

Architecture of Columbus, Indiana

Jeffrey Swoger

Thursdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Thanks to the leadership of local businessman, J. Irwin Miller, Columbus, Indiana boasts a unique collection of major buildings by such architects as Eero Saarinen, I. M. Pei, Robert A. M. Stern, and Robert Venturi. Few, if any, cities can match the extraordinary architecture of this small Midwestern town. Students will be encouraged to discuss the buildings.

Around the World with American Movie Musicals

Sam and Candy Caponegro

Fridays, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Participants can travel around the world with American movie musicals. Numerous countries and cultures have been the featured setting of some of the most beloved musical films: France, England, and Latin America, just to name a few. Idolized visions or stereotypes aside, these films inspire travelers to explore the world.

Artificial Intelligence: A Beginner's Introduction

Shayok Chakraborty

Tuesdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


This course is tailored for audiences who are curious about artificial intelligence (AI). The topics that will be covered include a brief history of AI and how it affects modern life, the fundamental concepts of AI (supervised/unsupervised/semi-supervised learning, deep learning, generative models like ChatGPT), a few applications of AI (healthcare, autonomous driving, security, and surveillance), together with the downsides and some of the ethical concerns surrounding AI. The concepts will be taught at a high level without delving too much into the mathematical details, and participants do not need to have a strong technical background to grasp the concepts.

Baseball Movies

Joseph Harris

Tuesdays, 1 – 4 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 

What better time than midsummer to watch and discuss some movies about baseball? For decades, American filmmakers have made movies that have both celebrated the game and used it to comment on the workings of race, gender, region, and money in our culture. We will screen and talk about one baseball movie each week, along with some clips from related films. Our viewing list will likely include *Eight Men Out*, *A League of Their Own*, *Bang the Drum Slowly*, *Sugar*, and *Moneyball*. These films offer insights into sports, society, and the art of film.

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Becoming a Family and Community Historian

Eladio Bobadilla

Mondays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 


Specifically designed for older adults wishing to uncover, interpret, and share family and community histories, this class will introduce students to the basic principles of historical inquiry and will teach them valuable research, interpretive, and writing skills of both theoretical and practical value. Students will learn how to think historically, access and navigate historical/genealogical databases and archives, conduct oral histories, write meaningful interpretive histories, and publish and share their work.

Before Dracula: Vampire Folklore, Stories, and Legends

Eleni Anastasiou

Thursdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 


Dracula is the vampire who has dominated our imaginations since his creation in 1897. When asked to picture a vampire, most think of a tall, dark haired aristocratic man wearing evening dress and a long black cape. But what of the vampires that came before him? Bram Stoker, the author of *Dracula*, openly noted the influence of a vampire novella written by his fellow Irishman, Sheridan Le Fanu, called *Carmilla*. This course will explore various genres to examine vampires' origins in Eastern European Orthodox folklore to its Western Gothic transformations. Along the way, we'll meet a couple of historical vampires: Vlad the Impaler and Elizabeth Bathory.

Beginning Level French

Cathleen Sendek-Sapp

Tuesdays, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Session: 1 & 2 (10 classes)

Modality: Online 


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

Beginning Spanish

Álvaro Antonio Bernal

Thursdays, 3:30 – 5 p.m.

Session: 1 & 2 (10 classes)

Modality: Online 

This course is appropriate for beginners who have no or very little experience with Spanish language. The course will focus on basic vocabulary and themes (greeting others, numbers, days of the week, etc.), useful expressions for travel (making reservations, asking for directions, expressing likes and dislikes, etc.) and some grammar, primarily present tense verbs. Communication strategies will be emphasized. Students can expect to study words, phrases, simple sentences, and practice listening/reading. Weekly class material is provided. **Note: This course is often taken several times. Participants are invited to repeat this course for additional practice and to reinforce grammar and vocabulary.**

Big Bang and Expansion of the Universe

Don Ellison

Tuesdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

This course covers the general ideas behind the Big Bang and the expansion of the universe. The course is for non-experts, and accurate descriptions will keep jargon and mathematics to a minimum. Some historical background for the discovery that the universe began about 13.8 billion years ago will be presented, followed by the evolution of the universe to the present time. Discoveries made in cosmology in the last half century rank with the greatest intellectual achievements in all of history. Despite the profound, underlying complexity, students should be able to gain a reasonable grasp of these majestic ideas.

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Broadcast Television:

The Big Five

Megan Kappel

Mondays, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Once, long before Netflix, Hulu, and Amazon Prime, there was a magical world called broadcast television in which five networks reigned supreme: ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox, and PBS. In this course, we will survey how these “basic cable” stations became TV titans through savvy marketing and carefully curated programming. Were you a loyal viewer of *Masterpiece Theatre*? Did you save your Thursday nights for “Must See TV”? Then tune in each week as we explore how these five distinct brand personas helped shape late 20th century entertainment and culture in powerful and surprising ways.

Can We Stop Climate Change?

Anthony Lee

Mondays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

This course is designed for people already concerned about climate change, who want to learn more, and will consider mitigating the impact of climate change on our planet and ourselves. The course covers problems, basic science, and equity issues. Participants will review a powerful simulation tool and a wide range of climate change solutions. Participants will learn how to communicate with others and join in taking action.

Chair Yoga

Susan Gillis Kruman

Mondays, 11 a.m. – Noon

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

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

Chakra Yoga

Jill Donnette Clary

Wednesdays, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Session: 1 & 2 (10 classes)

Modality: Online 

This course moves through traditional yoga poses (or asanas) that align each individual chakra, moving up the spine from the root chakra to the crown chakra. Chakras are energy centers located across different points on our spinal column. When energy becomes blocked in a chakra, it triggers physical, mental, or emotional imbalances that manifest symptoms such as anxiety, lethargy, or poor digestion. This class is for members who like fluid, mindful practice that links alignment, movement, and breath. Participants should wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing and have a yoga mat.

Collage Marathon!

Ann Rosenthal

Tuesdays, 9 – 10:50 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

How many ways can you make a collage? How many methods? How many materials, shapes, and forms? Let's find out! In this class we will try out as many approaches to making collages as we can squeeze in, using handmade, scavenged, and purchased (cheap) materials. Come along for this fun, lively, and inventive marathon. Start collecting your bits and bobs, scraps, and trash.

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Coming of Age on the Silver Screen

David Shifren

Thursdays, 1 – 4 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 


Coming-of-age stories often show the journey from adolescence to adulthood, but they needn't always focus on teenage years. Film characters who advance in self-awareness and consciousness of others deserve discussion no matter what their age. What sparks the change and keeps the character marching forward despite obstacles is what will fuel our talks about films that perch protagonists on the doorstep to some new world—then show them taking that fateful step forward. Films include: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *American Graffiti*, *Saturday Night Fever*, *Desperately Seeking Susan*, and *About Schmidt*.

Covering the Basics: Make a Book from Scratch

Shannon Fink

Wednesdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 

Learn to make a book from scratch! In this course that will meet in Hillman Library's Text & conText Lab, we will design and make our own blank journals. We'll make our own paper, learn the art of paper marbling, and bind our own hardcover journals. At the end of the course, each student will have their very own case-bound journal.

Dante's *Divine Comedy*

David Brumble

Thursdays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


Each class session will read and explain key sections of *The Divine Comedy*. These key sections and some plot summary will allow us to work our way through the whole of Dante's magnificent poem. All along the way, we will be looking at and talking about works of medieval art that will allow us to better understand Dante's meanings. Outside reading of *The Divine Comedy* will not be required, although it would, of course, add to the experience.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Prison Poems

David Fetterman

Wednesdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 

"Who am I?" is a question Dietrich Bonhoeffer asked in a poem written from a Nazi prison in Berlin. Born in 1906, Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran pastor and theologian. A fierce opponent of the Nazis, he was imprisoned in 1943 for participation in attempts to assassinate and overthrow Hitler. He was executed by hanging in 1945, just weeks before the Allies liberated his prison. A prolific writer, he wrote only 10 poems — all composed during his imprisonment. This course will explore Bonhoeffer's poetry as a window into Nazi Germany, and the courage and hope portrayed by Bonhoeffer and other Nazi resisters.

Digital Literacy for Today's World

Mustafa Kilic

Wednesdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

This course aims to empower adults aged 50 and better with the knowledge and skills to navigate the digital world safely and confidently. Covering topics from internet basics to online security, participants will learn through lectures, discussions, and hands-on activities how to responsibly utilize the internet for education, communication, and entertainment.

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Disease, Society, and Science

Julia Hudson-Richards

Thursdays, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

This course looks at a variety of pandemic events and endemic diseases (bubonic plague, New World epidemics, Spanish flu, modern plagues, and endemic illnesses like tuberculosis), the ways that they have shaped the societies they've affected, and how science developed to cure and prevent illness.

Early Italian Renaissance

Katherine Zoraster

Thursdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

The true flowering of the Renaissance makes its appearance in the city-state of Florence at the onset of the 15th century. Marked by humanism and competitive patronage, artists in Florence strove to decorate their city with images, giving a window onto the world. In this course, we discuss the rediscovery of linear perspective by Filippo Brunelleschi, how artists such as Masaccio and Paolo Uccello were able to paint more realistic and convincing images, and how the art of Sandro Botticelli embodied the ideals and concepts of Neoplatonism. We also look at sculptors such as Donatello who began to master human anatomy, setting the stage for the High Renaissance.

Embracing Plant-Based Eating

Laura Zervos

Fridays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


Embark on a journey into plant-based eating in this dynamic course. Uncover the nutritional advantages and sustainable principles provided in a plant-based eating pattern. From preparing nutrient-rich meals to mastering effective meal planning, this class will guide participants to incorporate more diverse plant-based recipes into their menus. Whether you are a seasoned plant-based enthusiast or curious about adding more plant-based meals to your menu, join us in exploring a healthier and more sustainable eating pattern.

English Country Dance

Gaye Fifer

Thursdays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 

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

Ethics in Modern Life

Sarah Rosenson

Wednesdays, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

In this interactive online discussion class, we will explore a different real-world ethical issue each week. Questions discussed will include: Should the Audubon Society, streets, schools, and other institutions, change their names because they are named after people who owned slaves? What are some of the ethical issues that come up around donation of organs, and how are they resolved differently in different countries? Should there be a mandatory retirement age for senators, congresspeople, and the president? Would this be unethical age discrimination, or not? Come join the conversation and share your views!

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Explore the Allegheny Observatory

Kerry Handron

Mondays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 


This course will be held at the Allegheny Observatory in Riverview Park. Each class will include both a presentation and discussion about a person or a discovery at the observatory and a short tour of a portion of the building. At the end of the five classes, we will have explored the entire building and looked at how John and Phoebe Brashear, Samuel Langley, and James Keeler impacted both the field of astronomy and the city of Pittsburgh. We will use the 13" telescope to view sunspots and the moon (weather permitting). This historic building is only partially handicapped accessible. Some of the tours will require steps. **Parking is free!**

Exploring T.S. Eliot's "The Waste Land"

Bridget Keown

Mondays, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

First published in 1922, T.S. Eliot's poem "The Waste Land" is widely regarded as one of the most important English language poems of the 20th century. Lines of the poem have developed lives of their own and regularly appear in books, media, and conversation. But the whole poem can seem quite daunting. This class will guide readers through "The Waste Land," with the goal of understanding its historical significance and parsing its multiple meanings. Each week, we will examine a section of the poem, considering the multiple references and biographical details Eliot wove into each stanza, and discussing the impact of the poem on readers who stand on the other side of the 20th century.

Extremist White Supremacy

Ralph Bangs

Wednesdays, 3:30 – 5 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Since 2008, white supremacist movements have become part of mainstream American politics and society. The result is growing racial hatred, violence, domestic terrorism, discrimination, and attacks on democracy. The instructor will lecture on the problem and solutions. The primary source is the new book, *Out of Hiding: Extremist White Supremacy and How It Can Be Stopped*, written by three of America's experts on the topic. Class members are not required to purchase or read the book. We will have at least one guest speaker.

Famous Classical Music Themes

Raymond Uy

Thursdays, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


Many of the most famous classical music themes have been presented in memorable ways, including through film and television. These presentations often create associations that add another layer of mood and character to the music. In this course, we will listen to many famous examples and discuss how we may remember them. You may recall much more classical music than you think!

Female Composers

Sam and Candy Caponegro

Fridays, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Explore the songs and times of the great female songwriters of stage and screen. Using clips from Broadway, film, and television, we will share composers' life stories, hits and misses, some gossip (all in good fun), and appreciate their genius. We will concentrate on female composers such as Mary Rodgers, Betty Comden, Dorothy Fields, and Carolyn Leigh. If music is the food of life, let us gorge ourselves.

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Film Noir 1950–1981

Steven Cherry

Wednesdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 

Many people love film noir but may not be able to define it. Despite millions of words written about it (or perhaps because of them!), there is widespread disagreement about the genre. The term was invented in France by the so-called new wave directors and critics who had studied American thriller or detective films made in the 1940s and 1950s, though it is not clear how many are really noir. This course will focus on films made between 1950–1981.

Five Big Global and Regional Trends in World Geography

Paul Adams

Tuesdays, 3:30 – 5 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

This course explores five big trends in the human and physical geographies of our planet. It begins with investigation from a global perspective and continues by exploring how it similarly or differently impacts various regions around the world. The five big issues are climate change, human migration, endangered languages, population growth, and urbanization.

Foundations in Sustainability

Savannah Denlinger

Thursdays, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Sustainability has become an increasingly important consideration in global, regional, and local arenas. This course will offer participants foundational knowledge about sustainability related to economic, environmental, and equity issues. Using the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as our framework, we will discuss how the three domains of sustainability relate to challenges of climate change, food security, and racial justice, among others. Concepts of climate anxiety will be interwoven in the course as we discuss tangible solutions to these issues and historical context that has led us here. Pitt's Oakland campus will serve as a hyper-local case study.

Fresco Painters of Florence

Nora Hamerman

Tuesdays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


From Giotto to Masaccio to Botticelli, the greatest artists of the Italian Renaissance covered the walls of Florentine churches and palaces with beautiful scenes that combine sacred narratives from the Bible with scenes and portraits out of the daily life of the prosperous city. Besides showing the paintings and explaining their content, the course will give a detailed account of how frescoes are made by combining pigments with wet plaster to form a long-lasting image that is part of the actual wall and the techniques that have been used to remove them from the walls (much more often than most people imagine) and attach them to new surfaces.

Gandhi's Economics: Lessons for the 21st Century

Gautam Mukerjee

Tuesdays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 

This course looks at Gandhi's economics and its relevance in the 21st century. We begin in South Africa with Gandhi's take on the harshness and exploitative thrust of imperialism and colonialism. This led to the birth of a resistance movement, which he subsequently transplanted to India. Combining the ideas of Ruskin with the age-old principles of nonviolence and self-reliance, Gandhi forged a unique brand of economics. These are powerful lessons as modern capitalism tries to straddle relentless wealth creation with rising social dysfunction and environmental degradation.

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Gentle Yoga A

Jill Donnette Clary

Mondays, 9 – 10 a.m.

Session: 1 & 2 (10 classes)

Modality: Online 

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

Gentle Yoga B

Jill Donnette Clary

See Gentle Yoga A description.

Wednesdays, 9 – 10 a.m.

Session: 1 & 2 (10 classes)

Modality: Online 

Geology of America's National Parks, Part 2

Steve Lindberg

This course is a follow-up to the Geology of America's National Parks course that was offered in 2023. This course will review the history and geology of an additional 25 national parks that were not covered in the previous course. Members will enjoy this summer virtual geologic excursion across our national parks! Attendance at the first course is not a prerequisite.

Mondays, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Getting Started in Watercolors

Elaine Bergstrom

Do you love the softness of watercolors but do not know where to begin or need a refresher? Start with color mixing and palette arranging. Determine which materials to use and how. Learn about graded washes, creating texture, wet on wet, brush strokes, and brush techniques. Have fun creating and learning about your watercolor journey.

Tuesdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 1 & 2 (10 classes)

Modality: Online 

Historical Foundations of Religion in America

Beth Hill-Skinner

Maintaining a narrow focus within the historical foundations which shaped the experience of religion in the United States, students will have the opportunity to explore both the antecedents and precedents for the 13 colonies as well as the rationale for the phrase "separation of church and state." The course will examine key religious movements in the U.S. such as the Puritan influence, the Great Awakenings, and the paradox of forced slave religion. Participants will also synthesize historic periods within the intersection of today's tensions between religion and politics and society.

Mondays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

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History and Collection of the Louvre

Katherine Zoraster

Tuesdays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


As what became one of the first public art collections following the French Revolution and the most visited art museums in the world, the Louvre has both a storied history and an incredible art collection. This course provides an overview of the history of the museum and how it came to be and focuses on some of its most renowned works of art. Some highlights include the history of the French Academy, the *Nike of Samothrace* and *Venus de Milo*, the *Oath of the Horatii* and the *Raft of the Medusa*, and, of course, the *Mona Lisa*.

History of American Independent Cinema

Daniel Singleton

Wednesdays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 

Independent films have been around since the birth of cinema. But what "independent" means has changed dramatically over time. Some independent film movements, such as "Poverty Row" films of the 1940s and drive-in movies of the 1950s are economically independent of Hollywood studios and are often made with less money and fewer resources than mainstream films. Other independent film movements, such as the "indiewood" blockbusters of the 1990s and early 2000s, are aesthetically independent and tell different kinds of stories in different ways than mainstream films. This course will survey a range of different approaches to independent filmmaking through lectures, screenings, and discussion.

How to Think Like a Computer: Coding for Total Beginners

Philip DiCicco

Tuesdays, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Do you feel overwhelmed by technology? Do you wish you understood how it works and why it can be confusing? Join us in this friendly and supportive environment as we explore the fascinating world of computer programming. We'll break down complex concepts into easy-to-understand lessons, starting from the ground up and using jargon-free language. By learning the basics of programming, you'll gain valuable insights into how modern technology works. This newfound understanding will reduce anxiety, boost confidence, and empower you to navigate the ever-changing digital landscape with ease.

Important Episodes in American Economic History

William Van Lear

Mondays, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


The course will be a history of important economic eras and the thinking that dominated those eras. The course covers the period from the American founding to the 21st century. The course will address some critical time periods, events, issues, and ideology contextualized by the underlying evolutionary capitalist system and public policy efforts. Why these eras are significant will be identified. The course will be lectures with time for questions and discussion.

Inanimate Reason: Mechanizing Thought, Automata to AI

Jeffrey Aziz

Tuesdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 

This course will explore the strange human project to reproduce ourselves as machines even to the point of mechanizing our mental capacities and experience. The course will bring together the philosophy and history of computing, including the current moment of large language model artificial intelligence. The course will explore how we have understood these minds of our making in literature and film and examine the current moment in which artificial intelligence seems to have arrived. We will work with several important texts including Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* and William Gibson's *Neuromancer*.

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Intercultural Learning

Kati Von Lehman

Thursdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 

In this course, we will discuss what defines a culture, different cultural theories, and cross-cultural communication. Working and living in a diverse community allows the chance to gain knowledge and understanding of cultural differences, values, communication styles, and behaviors. We will discuss ways that communication varies across cultures, help participants to recognize those differences, and provide strategies to bridge communication styles. There will be many fun activities for people to share their own cultural experiences and discuss cultural scenarios.

Intermediate Level

French: Grammar

Cathleen Sendek-Sapp

Fridays, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Session: 1 & 2 (10 classes)

Modality: Online 

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

Intermediate Spanish

Álvaro Antonio Bernal (session 1)

Mariá Franco de Gómez (session 2)

Thursdays, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

These two 5-week courses are appropriate for participants who are comfortable with basic Spanish conversation using the present tense (or students who have successfully completed several cycles of the Beginning Spanish course). The courses focus on the use of the past and future tense, more extensive vocabulary, and structures and syntax. At the end of the courses, students are expected to feel comfortable with standard Spanish conversation. **Note: These courses are often taken several times. Members should register for BOTH sections if they want to be in the course for 10 weeks.**


Interpreting Statutes:

From Tomatoes to Healthcare

Ben Bratman

Wednesdays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 


Most media coverage of the Supreme Court concerns its decisions interpreting the Constitution on high-profile matters like the right to abortion, the right to bear arms, or the constitutionality of race-based affirmative action. Far less attention goes to cases accounting for about half of the Court's docket: those requiring the interpretation of federal statutes passed by Congress. Through consideration of several cases, ranging from the amusing and seemingly trivial (is a tomato a fruit or a vegetable?) to the very consequential (will Obamacare survive?), this course will explore the ways in which the Court dissects Congress's enacted words and tries to discern its ever-elusive intent.

Introduction to Augustine

Irene Wolf

Tuesdays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 

Does evil exist? What is evil? What causes evil? Three major areas of study include the problem of evil, free choice of the will, and God's existence. These areas and foundational questions will be answered by analyzing Augustine of Hippo's text *De libero arbitrio voluntatis* (*On Free Choice of the Will*). No previous study of philosophy is necessary, and all are welcome.

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Introduction to ChatGPT and Prompt Engineering

Lindsay Onufer

Thursdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


Since the release of ChatGPT in 2022, industry and education publications have heralded it as a tool that will, for better or worse, transform the way people work and learn. In this course, which is designed for ChatGPT novices, members will learn about how this text-based generative artificial intelligence tool functions and how to use it effectively. We will discuss the ethical implications of using generative AI. Participants will have opportunities to practice using prompt engineering strategies and engage ChatGPT in creative tasks like writing poems or playing games.

Introduction to Hemingway

Michael Young

Thursdays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 


This course is an introduction to the Nobel Prize winner's writing style and major themes through a sampling of his short stories and two of his most fabled novels: *The Sun Also Rises* and *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. Many of his other works will certainly come up in the discussions and some of the then-contemporary film adaptations could be added, time permitting.

Introduction to International Folk Dance

Rob McCollum

Mondays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 


An activity-based course focusing on the folk dance traditions of countries around the world with a particular emphasis on the Balkan and Mediterranean regions. National dances of several countries will be introduced, and the dance figures associated with them. All dances will be taught and reviewed several times and repeated over the course. Initially, most dances will be easy to follow but we will progress to more challenging ones. The aim of the course is to allow participants to feel comfortable with many of the dances commonly played at international folk dance events.

Introduction to Performance

Courtney Wilkes

Tuesdays, 3:15 – 5 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 


This course is designed to develop the participants' awareness of the actor's process and a general sense of theatre as an area of human endeavor. Participants will be introduced to basic theater terminology and communication skills, including physical and vocal presence in front of an audience. The course will also develop an introductory level of acting skill through regular warm-ups, theatre games, improvisation, and simple scene study.

Irish Culture and Traditions

Marie Young

Tuesdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 

This course is a study of Irish culture in Ireland as well as in the Irish diaspora overseas over the past ten years. Members will explore aspects of Irish culture and traditions still vibrant and thriving today. Discussions and lectures will be organized around themes such as Gaelic games, music, Irish language, and will include current cultural changes and advances in Ireland and among its people.

Jane Austen: Two Novels

James O'Rourke

Wednesdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

We will discuss two of Jane Austen's most popular novels, *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice*. Through close attention to Austen's impeccable style, we will learn to appreciate the breadth of her literary skills. Austen engages her readers' sympathies with a panorama of charming, multidimensional characters as she chronicles their struggles with the customs and traditions of English life. At the same time, Austen's wicked wit enables her to dissect those characters and the world they inhabit, as she skewers everything that her social world held sacred.

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Legacy of Brown v. Board of Education

Lynn O'Connor

Mondays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 

2024 is the 70th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision. The class will first look at the decision and the Supreme Court that produced it, then move on to the law arising from the decision and examine the factors affecting the realization of the goals of the decision. The course will conclude with a discussion about where we are as a nation and where we need to go in terms of successful public education.

Let's Talk About Food in Italian

Cinzia Delfini

Tuesdays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


This course is an introduction to the basic vocabulary and structure to talk about food in Italian. We will start from learning basic vocabulary and move on to learning verbs and expressions to talk about food in general. Members will learn some recipes and will be able to have a conversation in an Italian coffee shop and in a restaurant. **Note: This is a repetition of the same course offered in-person in Fall 2023.**

Loss and Grief in Western Society

Lindsey Smith

Thursdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 


This course will explore loss people experience throughout life. We will discuss loss from academic and theorized viewpoints and cultural aspects. Students will learn about the foundations of grief in the western world, and identify differences in grieving across different ages, circumstances, psychologies, cultures, and spiritualities.

Memoir Writing: Your Story

Steve Hecht

Wednesdays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 


All of us have our own interesting stories. In this participatory class, we want to hear them. The instructor will go over some of the basics of memoir writing. Then participants will be encouraged to write and share their stories in a relaxed and positive classroom setting. The course also will explore how to preserve your stories as a keepsake for yourself and future generations.

Music: Controversies and Curiosities

Emanuel Abramovits

Wednesdays, 3:30 – 5 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Music has often been a source of controversy. In their goal for originality, musicians sometimes push the envelope too far and pay the price. This course will analyze some of these controversial pieces of music. Some of them were revolutionary ones that challenged established norms and created great discord. Some even created moral panic that led to cries for censorship when they were released or decades later. These controversies happened in classical, pop music, and music for the stage and screen.

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The Myth of the Given

Greg Strom

Wednesdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 


In this course we will study the history of an important idea — that philosophy begins (and perhaps ends) with what is given in experience — whose rejection as a myth by Pitt philosophers has played a pivotal role in the development of a movement known as "Pittsburgh Hegelianism." We will begin with the ancient roots of the idea of the given in Sextus Empiricus's defense of Pyrrhonian Skepticism, then examine one of the most sophisticated achievements of philosophy within the framework of givenness in the form of Hume's challenge to induction. We will conclude by studying Sellars's powerful final refutation of the given, together with certain consequences of that refutation elicited by McDowell.

New Perspectives on the Brain

Betsy Peitz

Thursdays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 


Since the brain plays such a central role in controlling the body, it has been a longstanding subject of research. With advances in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and DNA technology, much new information on the brain is becoming available. After a brief explanation of terminology, this course will look at some of the new ideas on brain structure and function. Topics will include brain evolution, functional mapping and neural networks, the role of neuroglia cells, neural stem cells, and some ideas on facial recognition and spatial orientation. Although there has been a lot of research on neurological disorders, we will not have time in this class to discuss diseases.

On The Ethics of Diet: Examining a Seminal Text

Walter Orange

Wednesdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 

In 1883, Howard Williams published *The Ethics of Diet*. A Cambridge-educated historian, Williams wanted to prove to critics of the emerging vegetarian movement in England that vegetarianism was not a fad, as they claimed, but a tradition supported throughout millennia by some of the greatest of thinkers. Included in its 330 pages are the arguments of Pythagoras, Plato, Seneca, Plutarch, Montaigne, Pope, Voltaire, Rousseau, Shelley, Byron, and many others. Tolstoy so loved this book that he translated it into Russian and wrote a 23-page essay as a forward to the Russian edition. The arguments in this book, which have been largely forgotten, are as relevant today as ever.

Opera: A Five-Course Meal

Marilyn Egan

Wednesdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


Opera composers need to eat like everybody else. Some of the most famous opera creators are gourmands, while others are clearly not foodies. Rossini was famously known for his love of food, but little is known about Mozart's eating habits. Which opera composers mention food in their operas? How important was food to Puccini? How could you plan an elegant dinner party based on a specific opera? Discover facts about opera composers' personal lives and tastes while listening to great operatic creations. This course will include a delicious collection of recipes inspired by opera, while enjoying music that tastes "good to the ear."

Photo Explorations

Germaine Watkins

Saturdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 

Get that camera out and start exploring the wonders around you! This course will benefit beginners and advanced photographers. Weekly photo walking explorations and critiques will take place while learning the ins and outs of participants' cameras. The first week of class, participants will select the locations of our photo explorations. Join the "foto phun!"

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Courses listed alphabetically

Pittsburgh Rivers and Waterways

Werner Loehlein

Tuesdays 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 


This class will take participants on a journey of the history of the major watersheds (the Allegheny, Monongahela, Beaver, and main-stem Ohio River) that comprise the Upper Ohio River Basin surrounding Pittsburgh. This journey will begin with how glaciers defined our major river system, followed by discussions of the major historical floods and droughts, the development of the regional navigation system, the multi-purpose reservoir system, and local channel improvement projects network.

Politics of Police Portrayal

Andrew Lotz

Wednesdays, 3:15 – 5 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 


This course explores the political ramifications of how police, policing, law enforcement, and prisons are portrayed in the media. We'll consider things like the "CSI Effect", *COPS*, *C.O.P.S.* (yes, those are different), *CHiPS*, *Batman*, *The Wire*, *The Shield*, *Blue Bloods*, *Bad Boys*, *Hawaii Five-O*, *Law and Order*, *The Andy Griffith Show*, and even *Paw Patrol*. The course will examine how policing in the American context is constructed, narrativized, and shared via media sources. We'll then talk about the politics of this portrayal, and how lived experience (especially that of marginalized groups) clashes with the mass public's held notions, creating real concern for policy change.

Reading the Data and Understanding the Election

Alan Irvine

Thursdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 

The media tells us that candidates are up in the polls, then they are down in the polls. Unemployment is up. A recession is looming (or not). Every candidate who does X goes on to win (or lose). What does it all mean? How accurate is all this? Sure, the candidates and media will claim to explain it, but do any of them know what the numbers really mean? In this class, we will consider how to read opinion polls, graphs, and charts, and make sense of all the technical data that candidates and media like to cite, so that you can interpret it all for yourself.

Revolutions at the Ballot: Transformational Elections

Jared Day

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. – Noon

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

This course will examine specific U.S. presidential elections which marked a critical turning point in U.S. political history. For example, the election of 1800 saw one of bitterest, most partisan campaigns in U.S. history. Some elections sparked wars; other elections marked the transition of ideologies. Each tells us a lot about what this country looks like when it goes through radical change and transformation.

Right Brain Photography

Eli Vega

Fridays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

This highly interactive course piggybacks on the author's award-winning book of the same title. Participants will learn creative in-camera concepts, principles, and techniques, without having to spend hours in front of the computer, manipulating images. Members will learn two photography paradigms/models. Included in those models are concepts and techniques like intuition, extracting, impressionism, surrealism through photography, and eastern philosophy applications to photography.

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Saving Taxes in Retirement

Bud Kahn

Thursdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 


Diligent savers enter the second half of retirement with little insight into the complex tax and distribution planning dangers that can wipe away the sacrifice made during their working years. This course is designed to educate participants about how to keep more of their retirement savings by effective use of planning opportunities available under current tax laws. This course is updated annually to reflect new legislative developments and tax planning opportunities.

Senior Living Simplicity

Wendy Zinkone and Jennifer Thayer

Wednesdays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 

Explore the complexities of senior living decision-making in this comprehensive course. Delve into the myriad options available, from staying in your home, to independent living or assisted care, and master the art of financial planning tailored to senior living. Understand the crucial intersection of wellness and healthcare within these communities. Uncover the emotional and social dynamics that play a pivotal role in the well-being of seniors. Equip yourself with the knowledge and skills needed to make informed decisions that prioritize the holistic needs of older individuals.

Sketch Noting: What It Is and How to Do It

Elaine Bergstrom

Mondays, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Sketch noting is a visual way to take notes. It can be used in nature and vacation journals, meetings, lectures, book groups, podcasts, and even sermons. Sketch noting captures ideas with quick techniques such as using words, simple drawings, lettering, connectors, containers, lines, and star people. It can help organize any page. The class will begin with learning the basics. Anyone who takes notes can benefit from this visual way to take notes; it can really be fun.

Soldier and the State

Charles Metcalf

Tuesdays, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Three pillars support the U.S. government as well as its society: civil affairs, military affairs, and the American people. They are separate and independent entities but also unified and interdependent entities. The result is a delicate, shared balance of power, with the American people serving as its fulcrum. Finding and maintaining that proper balance between military capabilities and civilian control of our armed forces, therefore, is an essential and necessary task that underscores the importance and relevance of good governance. The course will focus primarily on foundations and theories of civil-military relations, basics of national security, and an overview of the military establishment.

Summer Gardening and Preparing for Fall

Doug Oster

Mondays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

In this course we will discuss how to punch up that summer garden you are hoping for! Specifically, we will discuss watering, mulching, compost and more. Additional topics include weeds, deadheading, and fertilizing; bargains and containers; harvesting and replanting; and getting our gardens ready for fall.

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Taylor Swift: The Sum and Substance

Jessica Lynch

Tuesdays, 3:15 – 5 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 

"Someday, I'll be livin' in a big, ole city / And all you're ever gonna be is mean / Someday, I'll be big enough so you can't hit me" —Taylor Swift, 2010, *Speak Now*. Taylor Swift is a current cultural phenomenon. How did she get to be where she is? Is there nothing she can't do, whether boost NFL ratings or influence U.S. presidential elections? Dive into a study of her background, lyrics, marketing, business dealings, and recordings to see how she became worth \$1.1 billion with worldwide social and economic dominance.

Ten Unforgettable Stories of W. Somerset Maugham

David Walton

Thursdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

A century ago, Somerset Maugham was one of the world's most highly esteemed and commercially successful authors. More recently his reputation has fallen, and Maugham has become of greater interest to biographers, novelists like Tan Twan Eng, and, for our purposes, a class of experienced readers re-examining his work after many years. We will read and discuss ten of Maugham's best-known short stories, including *The Letter* and *Rain*.

Understanding Generational Differences to Bridge the Gap

Esther Jackson

Wednesdays, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Why do you need to know about other generations when you represent only one? Gain a better understanding of communication preferences, work habits, behaviors, and interactions that can distinguish one generation from another. Many conflicts arise from the differences we fail to appreciate and respect between generations. This course takes participants on a journey to learn about those differences and how they impact lifestyles along with ways of engagement with others. Discover tips and best practices in this course to promote ways to connect and identify with different generations for better relationships.

Western Pennsylvania Historic Places: A Virtual Tour

Kenneth Koncerak

Wednesdays, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 


This course takes members on a virtual and chronological tour of historic places in Western Pennsylvania, from Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village in Washington County to the Quecreek Mine rescue site in Somerset County. The course is designed to encourage participants to explore these places on their own and with their families.

What is Our Human Evolution Story?

Thalia Gray

Tuesdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 

This course describes the fascinating current picture of our human origins. The fossil picture has been emerging for the past 200 years and every year brings new discoveries. New research techniques allow for precise information to be decoded from fossils, caves, and other archaeological sites. The identity of our direct ancestors and the path to how we got here is hotly debated by paleoanthropologists and is a rich source of speculation and new understandings. Who were the first hominids to walk upright? Who first made specialized tools and art? At what point did people look and behave just like us? And what happened to the others?

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What “Loosely Based On” Means

Zachary Wiberg

Tuesdays, 10 – 11:50 a.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 


Can a work of art reach an entirely new audience with just a couple of quick alterations while still preserving the core of what made it originally so impactful? Does it need to do that if the updated version is at least fun? This discussion-based course will examine prominent examples of literature and film that have been loosely adapted into other media. Such adaptations most often take the plots, themes, and/or characters from a previous work but may update elements such as the setting, time, or overall tone to tell that same story in a brand-new way.

What Makes a Great President?

Louise Mayo

Thursdays, 1 – 2:50 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: In-person 

This course will be a discussion of the characteristics that make a great president. We will examine those presidents that history has judged to be exceptional. We will also look at those who have failed or have not quite succeeded and why they did not make the grade. We will consider interesting facts that explore why the status of some presidents like Woodrow Wilson and Andrew Jackson has fallen recently.

World War II and the Cold War: Global Impact

Michael Rizzi

Thursdays, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Session: 1 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

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

Your End of Life Matters

Frederic Price

Wednesdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Session: 2 (5 classes)

Modality: Online 

Death may be the last thing we want to think about — our own, or that of a loved one — but no one gets out of here alive. Taking the time to learn about the practical, medical, and legal aspects of dying helps us develop an approach to mortality. If we can integrate beliefs and traditions, determine personal preferences, and convey those feelings to our loved ones, we can take some control of this unavoidable event. Readings, films, guest speakers, and class discussions will help students develop a personal approach to their own mortality.

Zentangle™: Go Big!

Sue Schneider

Tuesdays, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: 1 & 2 (10 classes)

Modality: Online 

Zentangle™ is an easy, relaxing, and fun art form based on creatively drawing repetitive patterns. It is traditionally done in black and white on small 3.5" squares of paper, but in this course we will explore larger formats using a variety of media including watercolor, colored pencils and pens, and background variations. In addition to abstract pattern imagery, we will apply Zentangle™ techniques to animals, geometric drawing, origami designs, and more. No previous experience is needed, just a willingness to play and experiment.

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Monday master classes (one-time lectures)

Carnegie's Gift to Pittsburgh: A History of the Carnegie Institute

Paul Tellers

Monday, May 13, 2024

Time: 1:30 – 3:15 p.m.

Modality: Online 

Andrew Carnegie, an immigrant from Scotland, was determined to make a major gift for the benefit of the people of Pittsburgh, his adopted hometown. The Carnegie Institute (Museums of Art and Natural History, Central Library, and Music Hall) opened in 1895.

This richly illustrated lecture will explore Carnegie's intentions, Mary Schenley's land grant, the design, construction, expansion, and the 1970s Scaife Galleries addition. Adjacent developments will also be discussed.

***Paul Tellers** is an architect and planner. He was the university architect at Carnegie Mellon University, the director of planning at WTW Architects, facilities planning director for CUNY, and a project manager for the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. Paul currently serves as a guide for historical Pittsburgh tours for the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and for Rivers of Steel.*

The Inductive Origins of Darwin's Origin

James G. Lennox

Monday, May 20, 2024

Time: 1:30 – 3 p.m.

Modality: Online 

Charles Darwin was far from the first person to defend the idea that new species originate by a natural evolutionary process. Why did Charles Darwin succeed in convincing his fellow naturalists when many before him had failed? Based on a decades-long study of his private notebooks and correspondence, this lecture will describe the methods of inquiry that lie behind Darwin's brilliant presentation of the theory of evolution by natural selection presented in *On the Origin of Species*.

***James G. Lennox, PhD**, is a professor emeritus of history and philosophy of science at the University of Pittsburgh. He has published widely on Aristotle, Charles Darwin, and evolutionary biology.*

The Electoral College and American "Democracy"

Susan B. Hansen

Monday, June 3, 2024

Time: 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Modality: Online 

Why do we have the Electoral College and how does it work? This talk will explore its history and the elections (including 2016) when the popular vote and the Electoral College results diverged. We will also consider various proposals for reform.

***Susan B. Hansen, PhD**, is professor emerita of political science at the University of Pittsburgh. She is the author of four books and numerous articles on American politics and public policy. She has taught graduate and undergraduate classes on American politics and women and politics at Pitt, and since retiring has taught OLLI courses at both Pitt and Carnegie Mellon University.*

Understanding the Israeli Political System: A Robust Democracy

Rabbi Danny Schiff

Monday, June 10, 2024

Time: 1:30 – 3 p.m.

Modality: Online 

Currently there is an intense focus on Israel's political leadership. But how does the Israeli political system really work? How are elections triggered and how does the Prime Minister get replaced? This lecture will describe how the Knesset functions, how elections are handled, how the courts, the laws and the demographics make Israel so politically unusual, and why Israel is politically the opposite of an apartheid state.

***Rabbi Danny Schiff, DHL**, is the Foundation Scholar at the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh and the founder and president of MOJI, the Museum of Jewish Ideas. He is the author of several books and articles, particularly in the field of Jewish law and ethics. He splits his teaching year between Jerusalem and Pittsburgh.*

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The Kaufmanns: Tastemakers of Modernism

Amy Humbert

Monday, June 17, 2024

Time: 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Modality: Online 

Pittsburgh's Kaufmann family was known locally, nationally, and internationally for being tastemakers and trendsetters. The home and collection of fine and decorative art at Fallingwater are examples of the Kaufmanns' avant-garde tastes and willingness to take a risk supporting Frank Lloyd Wright's visionary idea. During this lecture, learn more about each member of the Kaufmann family and their legacies as tastemakers of Modernism.

Amy L. Humbert manages the school and outreach programs at Fallingwater and has been employed in their education department since 1986. She is a second-generation employee of the Western PA Conservancy.

Can Data Predict the Future of the American Catholic Church?

Paula Kane

Monday, July 1, 2024

Time: 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Modality: Online 

To many Americans, the Catholic Church appears to be in a state of urgent crisis, stemming from revelations of clergy sexual abuse. In addition, a right-wing faction of bishops have emerged to oppose the approach and policies being put forward by Pope Francis. Using data from a variety of non-partisan sources, this lecture will examine the potential future of the American church, including declining numbers of priests and nuns, growing defections of lay Catholics to the religiously unaffiliated, shifting racial and ethnic patterns, and ideological divisions.

Paula Kane, PhD, received her degree from Yale University and is the John and Lucine O'Brien Marous Chair of Contemporary Catholic Studies and Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. Among her publications are the books *Separatism and Subculture: Boston Catholicism 1900–1920*, and *Sister Thorn and Catholic Mysticism in Modern America*.

A Continent Erupts: Decolonization, Civil War, and Massacre in Postwar Asia, 1949–1955

Ronald H. Spector

Monday, July 8, 2024

Time: 1:30 – 3 p.m.

Modality: Online 

By early 1947, full-scale wars were raging in China, Indonesia, and Vietnam, with growing guerrilla conflicts in Korea and Malaya. Within a decade, almost all of the countries of South, East, and Southeast Asia that had been Japanese conquests or European colonies experienced wars. These resulted in the deaths of 2.5 million combatants and millions of civilians. This lecture will provide a comprehensive military history and analysis of these shockingly violent conflicts that forever changed the shape of Asia and the world as we know it today.

Ronald H. Spector, PhD, is an emeritus professor of history and international relations at George Washington University. He is an award-winning scholar of modern military history and has taught at the National War College and the U.S. Army War College. He has taught as a visiting professor at universities around the world.


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Update on the Criminal Prosecutions of Donald Trump

Tom Allen

Monday, July 15, 2024

Time: 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Modality: In-person 

As a follow-up to OLLI courses offered in spring 2024, this lecture will take a mid-summer look at the four criminal cases brought against former President Trump. We will review the status of the cases, ongoing developments, and the possible future course of these cases as the 2024 presidential campaign heats up. One topic of our discussion likely will be how the U.S. Supreme Court chooses to resolve the presidential immunity defense raised by former President Trump (the Supreme Court should have announced their decision on this issue by the time of our discussion).

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

Mini course

Reimagining Yourself Through Creative Writing

Laurie McMillan

Tuesdays, August 6, 13, and 20

Time: 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Modality: Online 

This creative writing workshop helps participants refocus, re-imagine, and reinvigorate their lives through writing from prompts and discussion designed to employ imagination and insight. Participants can write in any genre they wish, and no writing experience is necessary. Writing tools and ideas to continue work in class and inspire further discovery will be offered.

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.

Ten Amazing Art Deco Skyscrapers

Mark Houser

Monday, July 22, 2024

Time: 1:30 – 3 p.m.

Modality: Online 

Experience a virtual coast-to-coast tour of 10 of America's best Jazz Age towers, not only in New York and Chicago, but in other places that might surprise you. See these buildings from a bird's-eye view with dazzling drone photography, peek inside at their grand lobbies, and discover how each building came to be through the stories of the people who built them.

Mark Houser is an author, professional speaker, and award-winning journalist who shares stories of the men and women behind America's great antique skyscrapers. His new project, the *Highrises Collection*, features nearly 200 landmark buildings across America, combining Mark's writing with drone scan compositions by digital artist Chris Hytha.

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Instructor biographies

Emanuel Abramovits, MBA, is a mechanical engineer and has been a concert promoter since 2000, directly involved in many events by international artists. He designed and staged many original orchestral events, including several world premieres. He has been teaching online for many institutions across the country since 2020.

Paul Adams, PhD, is an associate professor of political science at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. He earned a PhD in political science from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and an MA in international affairs with an emphasis in geography from Florida State University.

Eleni Anastasiou has been teaching for the University of Pittsburgh Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences in the Department of English for more than 20 years. She has taught a variety of literature courses for OLLI, including ones on WWI poetry, Thomas Hardy, John Donne, and science fiction.

Jeff Aziz, PhD, is a faculty member in the English literature program at the University of Pittsburgh whose interests extend from Renaissance drama to Christian iconography to the history of medicine. He is a faculty fellow of the David C. Frederick Honors College at the University of Pittsburgh, and an affiliated member of the Jewish studies and medical humanities faculties.

Ralph Bangs, PhD, MPA, is the retired associate director of the Center on Race and Social Problems at the University of Pittsburgh. His most recent book is *Race and Social Problems: Restructuring Inequality*. He has received racial

justice and leadership awards and has taught courses on race for several decades.

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

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

Eladio Bobadilla, PhD, earned a BIS in history from Weber State University and a PhD in history from Duke University. He taught history at the University of Kentucky before coming to the University of Pittsburgh.

Ben Bratman, JD, is a professor of legal writing at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He teaches a course for first-year law students on the fundamental roles that statutes and administrative regulations play in the American legal system. Bratman received his JD from Vanderbilt University Law School.

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

John Burt, JD, is a retired history teacher and lawyer. He served as a featured speaker in *Safe Harbor*, a documentary on the Underground Railroad in western Pennsylvania. Since 1986, he has lectured on the history of American reform movements, especially the abolitionist movement, and he has conducted tours connected with underground railroad activities.

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

Shayok Chakraborty, PhD, earned his PhD in computer science from Arizona State University in 2013 and is currently an associate professor at Florida State University. He has taught courses on AI at OLLI FSU, and to middle school students in Tallahassee.

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

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

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

Cinzia Delfini, MA, received her master's degree in Italian from the University of Pittsburgh in December of 2017. She previously received her degree in Russian and English languages and literature at the University of Verona, Italy. She is working on a translation project of a young adult adaptation of Dante's *Inferno*, which started from her graduate research.

Savannah Denlinger, MS, earned her undergraduate degrees in environmental science and geology while attending Allegheny College, then moved to the University of Pittsburgh for her Master's in sustainable engineering. She currently is the community engagement coordinator for the Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation at Pitt.

Philip DiCicco, BS, earned his degree from the University of Pittsburgh in information science. DiCicco has gone on to build a career by straddling the border between technical and non-technical minds. Having done work in both programming and training, he has a passion for translating complex technical concepts into simple language.

Jane Dudley, BFA, earned her degree in graphic design from Carnegie Mellon University. She is an accomplished, award-winning professional with more than 40 years' experience as an assistant creative director, art director, and communication manager.

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

Don Ellison, PhD, earned a PhD in 1982 from The Catholic University of America. He is emeritus faculty at North Carolina State University. His research focuses on the theory of cosmic rays and particle acceleration in high-energy astrophysics. Since 2019, he has taught OLLI courses at NCSU, Duke University, and the University of Pittsburgh.

David Fetterman, MDiv, MEd, is a retired pastor, chaplain, and spiritual care specialist. While serving as director of education and community outreach in the Center for Healthy Aging at Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health, he was a member of the Healthy Aging Research Network, focusing on brain health and spirituality issues. He has been a student of the American Civil War for many years.

Gaye Fifer, MA, is the current president of the Country Dance and Song Society. After receiving an undergraduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis and a master's in counseling from the University of Missouri, she spent 30 years teaching elementary school in Missouri and Virginia public schools. Gaye has been leading English country dance for 12 years locally and at many dance weekends and weeklong camps across the country.

Shannon Fink is the manager of operations at the Center for Creativity. With a degree in visual arts and technical theater, they have spent time as a stage manager, scenic artist, and carpenter. By way of project

management and residential remodeling, they found their way to the University of Pittsburgh, where they help members of the Pitt community learn new creative processes.

Mariá Ángeles Franco de Gómez, MA, earned a Master of Arts degree from the University of Pittsburgh and a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Normal Superior Nueva Galicia. She is a professional with 24 years' experience teaching Spanish, Latin American culture, and mathematics.

Susan Gillis Kruman is emerita faculty at the University of Pittsburgh, has taught yoga at the University of Pittsburgh for over 20 years, and was the first to introduce yoga as a credit class at Pitt. She has Yoga Alliance certifications. She retired from Pitt after 43 years as a dance and yoga instructor.

Thalia Gray, LAc, Diplom, PhD, is a Chinese medicine practitioner at Pittsburgh Healing Arts. She has a doctorate in anthropology, has taught human evolution and prehistory at New York University, and spent over 20 years as a medical and science writer. She has always pursued interests related to understanding human behavior and the infinite types of ways there are to live in the world.

Nora Hamerman holds her art history degree from New York University Institute of Fine Arts. She studied in Italy three years as a Fulbright Scholar and Chester Dale Fellow of the National Gallery of Art. She has taught at the University of Virginia and Shenandoah University, and she has lectured for Osher at Johns Hopkins University since 2011.

Kerry Handron studied physics at Dartmouth College and space physics and astronomy at Rice University, focusing on the Helix Nebula. Handron's career has always focused on interpreting science topics for different public audiences, including creating content and presenting.

Joseph Harris has been teaching courses on film and popular culture since the 1980s. He has been a baseball fan much longer. This course will be the first time he has brought those two interests together.

Steve Hecht worked on newspapers and magazines for 40 years as a writer, copy editor, and graphic designer. He spent 30 of those years at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Hecht became interested in memoir writing in the 1990s when he helped Holocaust survivor, Ernie Light, compile his memoirs. Hecht's own memoir stories have appeared in *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, and several Pittsburgh publications.

Beth Hill-Skinner is a seasoned educator and public presenter with subject matter expertise in religion, international affairs, democracy, global relations, and security imperatives. Holding degrees in religious studies, theology, and international diplomacy with specialization in transnational terrorism, Hill-Skinner is able to provide both depth and scope during her presentations.

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

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

Esther Jackson, EdD, is a national speaker who holds a bachelor's degree and master's degree in education from Wayne State University and a doctorate in higher education and adult learning from Walden University. She has published a book and numerous articles on adaptability and has expertise in change management and leading engaging teams toward innovative solutions.

Bud Kahn, MBA, is a Pittsburgh-based wealth manager and the founder and Managing Principal of WMS Wealth Planners. Kahn is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Financial Planner, Certified Investment Management Analyst, Certified Private Wealth Advisor, and Accredited Estate Planner. Kahn is a visiting executive lecturer at the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business.

Megan Kappel, MFA, is director of the University of Pittsburgh's Public and Professional Writing Program, a branch of the Department of English. She earned her master's degree in screenwriting from Hollins University and bachelor's degree in creative writing from Allegheny College. She has worked as a script consultant in Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, and Qatar.

Bridget Keown, PhD, is an assistant teaching professor in the Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh and leads the Gender and Science Initiative. A historian by training, her research focuses

on the gendered experience and expression of war trauma during the First World War and interwar period.

Mustafa Kilic has a rich background in computer engineering and computer and instructional technologies education. He brings over two decades of experience in both technical support and adult education. His expertise spans from developing to delivering comprehensive digital literacy programs, emphasizing the safe and effective use of technology.

Kenneth Koncerak, MA, earned his bachelor's degree in secondary education/social studies with a history minor from Penn State and his master's degree in history from the California University of Pennsylvania. In addition to teaching at the high school level, he also taught U.S. history at the Community College of Allegheny County. He also served as an award-winning high school librarian for 13 years.

Anthony Lee, MBA, has a bachelor's degree from Yale University, an MBA from Rutgers, and is now retired. He has worked as an educator on climate change, giving talks and leading courses for 30 years. He helped develop the "Can We Stop Climate Change?" course, and, with a small team, has led it 30 times in the last three years to over 300 people.

Steve Lindberg, MA, has been teaching since 1978 and has been an adjunct professor in geology in the Department of Energy and Earth Resources at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown since 1997. He teaches courses on the principles of astronomy, prehistoric life, earthquakes and volcanoes, meteorology, and geologic field methods.

Werner Loehlein, PE, PLS, DWRE, worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for 44 years. He has been involved in a wide range of water resources engineering work, including flood investigations, reservoir operations, and hydrometeorological and water quality data collection and modeling. He currently lectures at the University of Pittsburgh.

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

Jessica Lynch, JD, is a certified mediator and arbitrator, as well as an attorney who previously served as chief counsel-human resources at Arconic Inc. (formerly Alcoa Inc.). She is a graduate of Franklin & Marshall College and William & Mary School of Law. Jessica is an adjunct instructor of mediation skills for the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

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.

Rob McCollum was a biochemist for 30 years working primarily in anti-viral research in Montreal, Quebec. He has been dancing for 50 years and loves the different styles of international folk-dance.

Charles Metcalf, MA, is a retired U.S. Army field grade officer and U.S. government analyst with leadership and managerial experience. He earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Idaho State University, a BIS in national

security communication from George Mason University, and an MA in student personnel work in higher education from Idaho State University.

Gautam Mukerjee retired in 2017 and settled in Pittsburgh after teaching economics courses at University of Pittsburgh at Bradford for more than three decades. His research interests are focused on understanding the socioeconomic processes that underlie the capitalist dynamic in the 21st century.

Lynn O'Connor has been an attorney for 32 years, practicing in both Ohio and Pennsylvania. O'Connor began as a Pittsburgh litigator, became an Appellate Division Asst. District Attorney in Ohio, and was appointed to the bench as a Magistrate Judge. More recently, O'Connor has taught CLE courses for CAPE Institute, written for law firms, and now teaches for OLLI.

James O'Rourke, PhD, is professor emeritus of English at Florida State University. He has written three books and numerous articles on British literature. His essays on Austen have appeared in *Studies in English Literature* (2014) and *Persuasions* (2022).

Lindsay Onufer, EdD, has over a decade of experience in faculty development and higher education teaching, specializing in teaching assessment and improvement and using innovative teaching technologies and strategies. She teaches part-time at the University of Pittsburgh School of Education and at Point Park University. She earned an EdD in administration and policy studies from Pitt.

Walter Orange, PhD, earned his degree in teaching and learning. His teaching experience includes eight years as a high school math teacher and 30 years as a math professor, principally at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. He is an active volunteer at Humane Action Pittsburgh.

Doug Oster is the host of the popular radio show *The Organic Gardener* on KDKA radio every Sunday morning. He writes a gardening column for *The Green Voice*, the newsletter for Pittsburgh Earth Day. Oster also appears on KDKA-TV's *Pittsburgh Today Live* as a contributor. He is the author of *The Steel City Garden: Creating a One-of-a-Kind Garden in Black and Gold*.

Betsy Peitz, PhD, earned her degree in biology from Case Western University. She is an emerita professor of biology at California State University Los Angeles. She has taught human anatomy, physiology, biology, biology of aging, histology and micro-techniques.

Frederic Price, MD, is a board-certified ob-gyn. He earned an undergraduate degree in history and German from Yale University, Doctor of Medicine from University of Louisville, and Master of Medical Management from Carnegie Mellon University. Price is a journal peer reviewer for multiple obstetrics and gynecology journals and is a member of many medical organizations.

Kjerstin Pugh, MS, earned a master's degree in negotiation and conflict resolution from Columbia University. Pugh is Associate Director of Curriculum Development and Administration at Columbia University, where she developed and launched the MS program curriculum for negotiation and conflict resolution.

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

Sarah Rosenson, JD, has an undergraduate degree from Georgetown University, a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and a master's degree in Jewish studies from the Spertus Institute. She practiced law for a decade, and taught classes on ethics, philosophy, and world religions for ten years.

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

George Scheper, PhD, earned his degree in English from Princeton University. He has taught for 50 years and is professor emeritus at the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) and teaches as a senior lecturer for Johns Hopkins University, Odyssey, and Osher programs. He also regularly lectures for Smithsonian Associates.

Sue Schneider, CZT (Certified Zentangle™ Teacher), has been teaching for more than ten years. Her popular classes offer students, even those without prior artistic experience, the opportunity to successfully play with drawing and design — often to their own amazement.

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

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

Daniel Singleton, PhD, is an educator and communicator with a passion for cinema. He has a PhD in English from the University of Rochester and has been a professor at the film department at the University of Iowa. He currently works as the communication coordinator of Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh, a nonprofit dedicated to making our region a better place to live for people of all ages.

Lindsey Smith, MS, is a licensed clinical social worker and holds a Master of Social Work from Rutgers University. She has experience in mental health counseling and working with survivors of trauma. Smith currently works at the University of Pittsburgh in the Office of Residence Life, encouraging the use of trauma-informed care for residential students.

Gregory Strom, PhD, studied philosophy at the University of Chicago and the University of Pittsburgh, and he has taught philosophy for many years at the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University, with a brief stint 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.

Jeffrey Swoger is a retired graphic designer with a lifelong interest in the arts, specifically design, music, architecture, and film. Much of his life was spent in Chicago where he was involved with the Chicago Architecture Foundation, designing their logo and printed materials.

Jennifer Thayer, RN, CSA, CDC, is passionate about enriching the lives of seniors. She brings a multifaceted skill set as a registered nurse, certified senior advisor®, and certified dementia care® professional. With a focus on senior living options, she conducts thorough assessments, ensuring tailored and optimal living arrangements for individuals.

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

William Van Lear, PhD, is professor emeritus in economics, Belmont Abbey College. He earned a PhD in economics from the University of Pittsburgh and a BA in economics from Gettysburg College. His specializations include macroeconomics, political economy, corporate governance, behavior and finance, and international financial economics.

Eli Vega is a highly-published and award-winning photographer and author. He has written/published two photography books. He teaches for OLLI programs in many states. Vega is a certified workshop facilitator and makes his classes highly interactive, engaging, and fun.

Kati Von Lehman currently serves as the assistant director of outreach and assessment in the Office of International Services at the University of Pittsburgh. She teaches a global leadership course to undergraduate students and does a variety of cross-cultural trainings for Pitt faculty, staff, and students.

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

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.

Zachary Wiberg, MS, earned his BA in multidisciplinary studies from Millersville University and his Master of Science in strategic communication from Radford University. He has used his love of multi-media storytelling to lead numerous seminars, classes, and training sessions focused on the ways in which narrative art can shape our understanding of our place in the world.

Courtney Wilkes, MA, earned a master's degree in theatre history and dramatic criticism from Kent State University and a bachelor's degree in drama from The Catholic University of America. Wilkes has experience teaching drama in both the university setting as well as in social outreach opportunities.

Irene Wolf, PhD, was an associate professor of philosophy at Penn State University until her retirement. She earned her MA and PhD in philosophy from Duquesne University. In addition to teaching philosophy courses at Penn State, Irene also taught at Slippery Rock University, Duquesne University, and Jinan International University, Guangzhou, China.

Marie Young hails from Dublin's fair city in Ireland. Young has been teaching at the University of Pittsburgh since 2006. She currently instructs seven levels of Irish along with an Irish culture class.

Michael Young, PhD, earned his doctorate from the University of Cincinnati and is an experienced teacher of both film and history. Currently he is a faculty member in the University of Pittsburgh's undergraduate film program. He has authored many articles and conference papers in film studies, including some in the interpretation of historical wars in movies and television.

Laura Zervos is a registered dietitian and licensed nutritionist. She brings a blend of expertise in both nutrition and culinary arts fueled by a passion for empowering individuals to achieve optimal health. She offers personalized nutrition counseling and lifestyle coaching in her practice, guiding clients toward holistic well-being.

Wendy Zinkone, RN, MPH, received her master's degree in public health policy and management from SUNY Downstate Medical Center and her nursing degree from Lehman College. Zinkone translated her experience in home care and passion for helping others into her business providing services to help people age in place at home.

Katherine Zoraster, MA, is an art historian and a professor of art history at several greater Los Angeles colleges. She specializes in Western art from the Renaissance to the 20th century. She graduated with a double major in English literature and art history from the University of California, Los Angeles and received her MA with distinction in art history from the California State University at Northridge.

General OLLI information/policies

How to Drop a Course or Event

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

Postponed, Canceled or Full Courses

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

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

Double-booking Courses in a Time Period

During registration, **be sure to select only one course** during a given time frame. If you double-book your courses by accident, we will contact you by email and ask you to select the one you want to keep, and we will remove you from the other. If you do not reply in the time frame given in the email, we will remove you from both courses.

Refunds

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

Email Notifications

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

Course Evaluations

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

Code of Conduct

In all courses, lectures, and events and in all formats, OLLI members are expected to follow the OLLI Code of Conduct. This Code of Conduct is signed (either electronically or on paper) every time a member makes a purchase. While our rules of conduct may seem common sense to most members, with a growing program it is important that everyone understands the expectations. OLLI members are expected to respect the learning environment, instructors, staff, and other members and embrace the concept of a civil community as well as follow all OLLI and University rules. Please visit Member Resources on the OLLI website to read the OLLI Code of Conduct.

Auditing Classes

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

Important Dates

Last day to purchase Summer 2024 membership: **July 12, 2024**

(Purchasing an annual membership prior to that date covers three consecutive terms: Summer 2024, Fall 2024, and Spring 2025)

No refunds issued for membership payments after May 5, 2024.

Questions?

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