

Osher @ SDSU

Spring 2025



Welcome to the Spring 2025 Osher term at San Diego State University! We are so excited for you to explore our offerings and continue your passion for learning. This term, we are offering more than 30 courses from six academic categories for you to choose from. To learn more about our membership options please visit gc.sdsu.edu/oshermember.

How to Register

1. Browse the courses on our website at gc.sdsu.edu/osher-courses.
2. Visit gc.sdsu.edu/osher-login. Please create your account if you haven't created one yet.
3. If you do not have an existing Osher membership, please add the Annual Membership option to your cart. Note: You will need to purchase this before you can register for any courses as membership is required to attend Osher courses.
4. Pick your courses from our online catalog and add them to your cart.
5. Once you've added all your courses, click on the Checkout button.
6. Complete the checkout process and pay.
7. Once registered, you'll receive a confirmation by email. Additional information like Zoom links and locations for in-person classes/Special Events will be sent in a separate email closer to the date of the event or the start of the course.

Contact

Registrar Email: enrollment.global@sdsu.edu | **Phone:** (619) 594-5152

IT Email: itsupport.global@sdsu.edu

Osher Email: osher@sdsu.edu | **Phone:** (619) 594-2360

Spring 25 Course and Offering Descriptions

Aging, Personal Finance, & Retirement

Sharing Stories Through Legacy Letters

Instructor: Virginia Berger | **Date:** Monday, 2/10/2025, 1–3 p.m. | **Format:** 1-Day/In-person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

Member Fee: \$20 | **Schedule No.** 99802

What values, wisdom, and life lessons do I want to pass on to the next generation? How can I best share my legacy? Harvesting and sharing our legacies fulfill several of our universal needs: to be known and remembered, to make a positive difference, and to put our lives in order. In this workshop, participants will explore their intangible legacies by writing legacy letters to family, friends, or colleagues. These may include stories, lessons learned, and blessings. Templates and examples will be provided.

Building Community Across Generations: Intergenerational Programs and Strategies

Instructor: Michelle Matter | **Date:** Monday, 4/7/2025, 1–3 p.m. **Format:** 1-Day/In-person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

Member Fee: \$20 | **Schedule No.** 99803

Discover how intergenerational programs foster community and understanding. Learn about the benefits of intergenerational initiatives in fostering empathy, mutual respect, and social cohesion. Explore ways to get involved and contribute to intergenerational programs at SDSU such as the Center for Excellence in Aging & Longevity (CEAL) Intergenerational Call Hub, where participants engage in meaningful conversations across generations, sharing wisdom, experiences, and forging lasting connections. Students will connect with like-minded individuals passionate about bridging generational gaps and promoting inclusivity. Students will understand the role of communication and empathy in fostering meaningful connections across generations.

Arts & Humanities

Mother India and the Art of Buddhism

Instructor: Douglas Barker | **Dates:** Tuesdays/Thursdays, 4/15/2025, 4/17/2025, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | **Format:** 2-Weeks/In-person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

Member Fee: \$49 | **Schedule No.** 99845

India is the motherland of many religions and Buddhism would prove to be a fertile source of art and architecture and enlightened spirituality. Our journey starts with the Indus Valley civilization and the influx of Indo-European nomadic herders, followed by the impact of Buddhism, the story of the Buddha, his teachings and the wonderful art monuments of Buddhist India. We'll explore the rock-cut temples of Bhaja and Bharhut, the Great Stupa at Sanchi, the classical Gupta period and the painted caves of Ajanta. Come join art historian Douglas Barker for an exotic art and spiritual journey!

The Magnificent Temples and Sculptures of Hindu India

Instructor: Douglas Barker | **Dates:** Tuesdays/Thursdays, 4/22/2025, 4/24/2025, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | **Format:** 2-Weeks/In-person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

Member Fee: \$49 | **Schedule No.** 99846

Hinduism is the major religion of India and it has left a wealth of amazing temples and sculptures of divine figures. This journey begins with a deep look at Hinduism—its deities, myths and practices—and goes on to explore the incredible world of Hindu art and architecture. We'll visit the rock-cut temples of Ellora and Elephanta, the sculptured frieze of the Descent of the Ganges at Mamallapuram and the Tantric temples of Khajuraho and Konarak (with a deep look and explanation of their erotic sculptures.) Please join Douglas Barker for an exciting and consciousness-changing journey!

What Did Our History Books Get Wrong?

Instructor: Dan Pittman | **Dates:** Thursdays, 4/10/2025, 4/17/2025, 1–3 p.m. | **Format:** 2-Weeks/In-person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

Member Fee: \$49 | **Schedule No.** 99847

What did your American History books get wrong? In this course, we will cover subjects such as 1493: The true importance of Christopher Columbus, the truth about the First Thanksgiving, what textbooks do and don't teach about the Federal Government and much, much more! We will be referencing two books in this course, "*Lies My Teacher Told Me*" and *That's Not in My American History Book*. Both books are a compilation of little known events and forgotten heroes.

Operation Amethyst: How the Ancient Egyptian Pharaohs Got Their Bling

Instructor: Kate Liszka | **Date:** Wednesday, 4/2/2025, 1–3 p.m. | **Format:** 1-Day, Hybrid (Extended Studies/ONLINE)

Member Fee: \$20 | **Schedule No.** 99818

Join Kate Liszka, CSUSB associate professor of history and director of the Wadi el-Hudi Expedition in Egypt, will discuss the jewelry making skill of Ancient Egyptians.

Ancient Egypt: The New Kingdom

Instructor: Jessica Angell | **Date:** Wednesday, 3/26/2025, 1–3 p.m. | **Format:** 1-Day, Hybrid (Extended Studies/ONLINE)

Member Fee: \$20 | **Schedule No.** 99804

Sometimes referred to as the "Egyptian Empire," this course will explore the New Kingdom of Ancient Egypt. We will review political and religious transitions during this period with leaders such as Hateshepsut, Akhenaten, his wife, Nefertiti, and their son, Tutankamun. Join us to learn more about the Eighteenth through Twentieth Dynasties of Ancient Egypt during approximately 1550-1070 B.C.E. This course will begin with a brief introduction to the culture, art, architecture, and religion of Ancient Egypt.

Shakespearean Stagecraft: A Survey of Theatrical History Covering Fires, Riots, & More

Instructor: Kim Keeline | **Date:** Tuesday, 2/18/2025, 9–11 a.m.
Format: 1-Day/Hybrid (Extended Studies/ONLINE)

Member Fee: \$20 | **Schedule No.** 99805

Learn how Shakespeare's plays were staged during his lifetime, including during the Essex Rebellion, the burning of the theater from a stray cannon firing, and more. Hear about some interesting moments in Shakespearean theater, including major actors of the 17th-20th century, notorious performances, riots, and assassinations. The plays weren't the only thing with high drama.

Why is Cinco de Mayo Famous in the U.S.?

Instructor: Alex Castaneda | **Date:** Friday, 5/2/2025, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | **Format:** 1-Day/In-person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

Member Fee: \$20 | **Schedule No.** 99806

For many Mexican citizens and Americans with Mexican roots, "Cinco de Mayo" is met with a mix of suspicion and incredulity, even as they celebrate. On May 5, 1862, the Battle of Puebla took place, a significantly outnumbered Mexican army led by General Zaragoza defeated the better-armed French forces of Emperor Napoleon III. This unexpected victory symbolized Mexican resistance against foreign intervention. While it didn't end the French invasion, it boosted Mexican morale and is celebrated as "Cinco de Mayo." However, they know this date is not a major event in Mexico. The real Mexican Independence Day is September 16.

Harry Truman - "The Buck Stops Here"

Instructor: Blaine Davies | **Date:** Wednesday, 4/2/2025, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | **Format:** 1-Day/Hybrid (Extended Studies/ONLINE)

Member Fee: \$20 | **Schedule No.** 99807

Harry Truman departed the Presidency with the lowest approval rating in history, yet today most historians regard Truman as one of our best Presidents. Truman ended World War II, integrated the armed forces, established the Truman Doctrine, supported the Marshall Plan, recognized Israel, and ordered the Berlin Airlift. However, his decision to fire Douglas McArthur and not ending the Korean War cost Truman American support. We examine the life of the "Accidental President" who, following the death of Franklin Roosevelt, lamented that he "felt as though the moon, the stars, and all the planets had fallen on me."

Art History: Understanding the Visual Arts Through Interpretation and Analysis

Instructor: Damn Hitchcock | **Date:** Fridays, 2/14–3/21/2025, 9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-Weeks/In-Person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

Member Fee: \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99808

This rewarding experience will broaden our understanding of the periods and practices of significant moments in the Visual Arts. Addressing historical and cultural achievements, the changing roles of women in the arts, architectural practices, and design methodologies will enrich our investigations. This course experience is for those who enjoy history, travel, and cultural enrichment.

Osher Book Club: One Book, One San Diego

Instructor: Jonnie Wilson & Melanie Dunn | **Date:** Wednesday, 4/23/2025, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | **Format:** 1-Day/Hybrid (Extended Studies/ONLINE)

Member Fee: \$20 | **Schedule No.** 99809

Join us as we discuss this year's selection: *Know My Name: A Memoir*, a universally acclaimed New York Times Best Seller. In her memoir, author Chanel Miller—previously known to the world as Emily Doe—has reclaimed her identity to relate her experience as a sexual assault victim, in a case that inspired changes in California law and the recall of the presiding judge.

Ancient and Sometimes Mysterious Rock Art of the Kumeyaay

Instructor: Richard Carrico | **Dates:** Tuesdays, 3/18/2025, 3/25/2025, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | **Format:** 2-Weeks/In-person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

Member Fee: \$49 | **Schedule No.** 99810

Creating art is a basic and expressive human activity. Did you ever wonder what art the ancient cultures of San Diego created? Join anthropologist Richard Carrico as we explore the awe inspiring and sometimes mysterious rock carvings and paintings of our area. We will discover how the art was created, when it was made, and probe explanations for a variety of art forms and techniques. Students will learn how Indigenous people expressed themselves through rock art stretching back hundreds of years. Attendees will leave the classes with a better understanding of the cosmological world of the Kumeyaay.

Storylines and Pivots: Uncovering the Patterns of Your Life

Instructor: Maria Keckler | **Dates:** Thursdays, 4/3/2025, 4/10/2025, 4 p.m.–6 p.m. | **Format:** 2-Weeks/In-person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

Member Fee: \$49 | **Schedule No.** 99811

Your storyline is rich with data that can reveal patterns and opportunities to live a more meaningful life. No matter your age or stage in life, it's never too late to understand your journey through the structure and meaning of a story. We'll explore story structures and pivotal moments that shape our lives. Whether you'd like to write your story or gain a deeper understanding of life, this class will provide you with tools to uncover the narrative of your life, key patterns, and opportunities for growth and a more fulfilling and purposeful story.

Transportation in San Diego 1956 - Present: A Community Perspective

Instructor: Bruce Urquhart | **Date:** Thursday, 3/27/2025, 4–6 p.m. | **Format:** 1-Day/In-person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

Member Fee: \$20 | **Schedule No.** 99812

Have you ever wondered how and why highway alignments were selected in San Diego? We'll discover how routes have evolved from the 1950s, when engineers drew a "line" on a map, to the complex processes of today. We will discuss past routes where community concerns were not a high priority, including ones where neighborhood activists stopped projects that would have bisected their communities. Today community

feedback and environmental aspects play critical roles in project development. Please join us on this journey exploring how our communities were built and often through the network of routes that we use today.

Lessons from the Vietnam War

Instructor: Ed Linz | **Date:** Tuesday, 3/4/2025, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Format: 1-Day/Hybrid (Extended Studies/ONLINE)

Member Fee: \$20 | **Schedule No.** 99813

Investigate the history of Vietnam and events leading up to U.S. involvement in a disastrous war. Learn why two 1950-era novels should have sounded alarms about forthcoming U.S. participation in this war. Do you know the role of "The Long Telegram?" in U.S. post WWII policies? You will learn about each of the missed opportunities to avoid this war and how American strategy was fatally flawed. We will present many personal anecdotes from American forces on the ground, in the air, and in the rivers and canals.

Learn How America Got Her Sweet Tooth

Instructor: Sandra Bonura | **Date:** Wednesday, 4/30/2025, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | **Format:** 1-Day/In-person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

Member Fee: \$20 | **Schedule No.** 99814

Dr. Bonura tells the rags-to-riches story of Claus Spreckels who immigrated with only 75 cents and became one of the richest Americans in history. Spreckels was a colorful character who wielded a clenched fist over Hawaii's economy after occupying a position of unrivaled power with the Hawaiian monarchy, while also advancing major technology developments. The Spreckels family branched out and developed large portions of San Diego buildings and broke many monopolies. But there's always a cost for single-minded determination and his story is one of both triumph and tragedy, a portrait of a family torn apart by money, jealousy, and ego.

Cuba: History, Food, Music and Memory

Instructor: Olivia Espin | **Dates:** Friday/Saturday, 4/4/2025, 4/5/2025, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. (Friday), 1–3 p.m. (Saturday)
Format: 2-Day/In-person (Extended Studies/Edventure)

Member Fee: \$49 | **Schedule No.** 99815

Would you like to learn more about Cuban history, culture, music, and food? We will explore those topics as well as Cuba's fraught history and political instability. In our Edventure portion, we will continue discussions while enjoying a delicious Cuban lunch. Examples of topics: A Cuban woman wrote an anti-slavery novel a decade before "Uncle Tom's Cabin." U.S. Southerners advocated the annexation of Cuba as another slave state. The Cuban Constitution of 1940 guaranteed women the rights that the ERA could have given U.S. women. Cuban music includes popular and little known concerts and operettas. Enjoy music, food, and stories in this course that will delight your senses!

Welcome to the Flickers

Instructor: Rebecca Romani | **Dates:** Tuesdays, 4/1–4/22/2025, 1–4 p.m. | **Format:** 4-Weeks/In-person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

Member Fee: \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99816

How the movies began- we know sound comes in with "The Jazz Singer" in 1927. But what about the years before that? And what came after? This course is a brief look at film history, from the early shorts and nickelodeons to shifts in storytelling and technique such as the computer-generated imaging (CGI) in "The Life of Pi." Students will be able to reflect on some of their favorite films and see how society and eras shape what we see in and how we see the movies.

Ripples in Time. The Spirit of the Early Chinese American Pioneers: One Family's Story

Instructor: Russel Low | **Date:** Wednesday, 4/9/2025, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | **Format:** 1-Day/In-person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

Member Fee: \$20 | **Schedule No.** 99817

"Three Coins" by Russell N. Low recreates life in San Francisco's Chinatown before the turn of the century, where old traditions clash with the harsh realities of the American West. The story follows Ah Ying, a child slave, whose determination to survive is driven by her longing for love and hope for a better future. Told by the great-grandson of Lai Wah, a railroad worker, and Ah Ying, "Three Coins" vividly illustrates early Chinese American history through the lives of those who shaped it. After discovering a 100-year-old family photograph, Low embarked on a decades-long search to uncover its story. The novel weaves together family narratives with historical and political events of 19th-century America, meticulously documented with over 100 sources. "Three Coins" brings to life the drama, romance, and intrigue of Chinese American history through a rich family saga. It explores the themes of human trafficking, immigration, discrimination, and romance, which are as relevant today as they were 140 years ago.

Politics & Current Events

The New U.S. President's Foreign Policy: Hints and Clues

Instructor: David Bame | **Dates:** Wednesdays, 2/12–3/19/2025, 2–4 p.m. | **Format:** 6-Weeks/Hybrid (Extended Studies/ONLINE)

Member Fee: \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99819

Is it possible to guess the shape and details of a newly-elected president's foreign policy soon after inauguration? We're going to try! Thanks to the Internet, there are more hints and clues than ever about the president's plans for the world stage. And thanks to history, there are lessons to be learned on how the best-laid plans do not always succeed. Join a retired U.S. career diplomat who will draw on his experience, analysis, and political gossip to discuss what makes the world go 'round in 2025 and what the U.S. president can do about it.

Equality under the Constitution: The Ongoing Search

Instructor: Glenn Smith | **Date:** Thursdays, 2/13–3/20/2025, 1–3 p.m. | **Format:** 6-Weeks/In-person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

Member Fee: \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99820

Class sessions explore these dimensions of the ongoing search

for "Equal Justice under Law" (the words inscribed at the top of Supreme Court chamber in Washington): (1 & 2) The History and Context of Post-Civil War 14th Amendment Equality Guarantees: fits and starts on the road to dismantling racial discrimination. (3) The Default Requirement that Government Line Drawing be "Rational": possibilities and limits. (4) Expanding (and Elevating) Equal-Protection Scrutiny to Redress Gender and Sexual-Orientation Discrimination. (5) Equal Protection as an Implied Basis for other Fundamental Rights (such as voting). (6) The Future of Equal Protection, including detailed discussion of any relevant cases heading to the Supreme Court.

Human Rights Law

Instructor: Mytili Bala | **Dates:** Fridays, 4/18/2025, 4/25/2025, 1–3 p.m. | **Format:** 2-Weeks/In-person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

Member Fee: \$49 | **Schedule No.** 99821

Are you interested in learning more about human rights? What are core rights that human beings have simply by virtue of being born in this world? What mechanisms protect those rights, and what happens when rights conflict? What are some challenges and opportunities for human rights advocates in today's challenging world? By the end of this class, you will walk away with a broader understanding of the international human rights landscape and develop tools to think about domestic issues at home.

Science and Technology

The Forgotten Naval Tower Beacons at Torrey Pines

Instructor: Alex Bevil | **Dates:** Wednesday/Saturday, 2/19/2025, 2/22/2025, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | **Format:** 2-Day/In-person (Extended Studies/Adventure)

Member Fee: \$49 | **Schedule No.** 99822

Have you ever been to the Torrey Pines Glider Port, or shot a putt at the 12th hole at the adjacent golf course and noticed a solitary tall steel tower standing nearby? Did you wonder, "Is that an abandoned oil rig?" "Was it once topped by a wind sock?" Local historian Alexander D. Bevil will explain the significant, yet unrecognized role it (and an identical tower one mile to the north) played toward the United States Navy's development of San Diego into a major naval base prior to World War II. After his classroom lecture, he will meet students at the Gliderport's parking lot to view the south tower, and the area's remarkable scenic beauty as the occasional hang glider soars overhead beyond the cliff dropoff.

California's Climate

Instructor: Alexander Tardy | **Date:** Wednesday, 3/5/2025, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | **Format:** 1-Day/In-person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

Member Fee: \$20 | **Schedule No.** 99823

Learn about the National Weather Service public weather and NOAA climate information along with climate extremes in California.

Religious Studies

Things They Borrowed: The Biblical Authors' Use of Earlier Materials

Instructor: John Spencer | **Dates:** Tuesdays, 3/4/2025, 3/11/2025, 1–3 p.m. | **Format:** 2-Weeks/In-person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

Member Fee: \$49 | **Schedule No.** 99824

This two part course will look at the various biblical materials that had an earlier existence. The writers of the Bible did not live in isolation but in a world rich with ideas and writings. They drew upon materials, such as the Gilgamesh Epic, Hittite Treaties, and Zoroastrianism, to shape their understanding of their world and of their theology. Students will gain a better appreciation of the world in which the writers of the Bible worked. They will see the writers' use of other materials and the adapting of those materials and ideas to present their world-view and concept of God.

Understanding Antisemitism

Instructor: Rabbi Raphael Andrusier | **Date:** Thursday, 3/27/2025, 1–3 p.m. | **Format:** 1-Day/In-person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

Member Fee: \$20 | **Schedule No.** 99825

"Understanding Antisemitism" was so well received 2023, we are offering it again for spring 2025. Take a deeper dive into the world's oldest hatred and discover where Israel fits into the picture.

Personal Development & Special Interest

The Art of Balance – Foundational Exercises for Stability and Vitality

Instructor: Yamin Chehin | **Dates:** Thursdays, 2/13– 3/20/2025, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | **Format:** 6-Weeks/In-person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

Member Fee: \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99826

Are you serious about staying mobile, strong, and steady on your feet? Are you interested in keeping your body and mind supple and healthy?

Physical balance is an important component of a healthy life— especially for older adults. Having good balance not only impacts many activities we do every day but it is also beneficial for fall prevention and improved mobility. In this 6-week balance workshop you will learn simple exercises to enhance stability, muscle tone, and spatial recognition.

Osher Online

A Tourist's Tour of the Wider Universe

Instructor: Andrew Fraknoi | **Dates:** Tuesdays, 1/28–3/4/2025, 2–3 p.m. | **Format:** 6-Weeks/ONLINE

Member Fee: \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99827

For more than two years, the James Webb Space Telescope, orbiting a million miles from Earth in the deep freeze of space, has sent back remarkable information and dramatic images of the faint heat rays that come from objects in the universe. The Hubble Telescope continues to observe some of the same stars and galaxies with visible light. Never before have we had images of the cosmos so rich in color and detail. In this profusely illustrated course, we will be taken on a guided tour of the wider universe as astronomers understand it today. Fraknoi will cover this information in everyday language and without any math. We will look at star birth and star death, the organization and structure of the Milky Way, cosmic mergers and collisions, and the great web of galaxies that gives us clues about the beginning and development of our cosmos.

Color and Symbolism in Art History

Instructor: Eleanor Schrader | **Dates:** Mondays, 1/27–3/3/2025, 4–5:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-Weeks/ONLINE

Member Fee: \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99828

Artists use color to create an array of symbolism, emotions, and sociopolitical meanings within the context of the time period in which they created their works of art. Additionally, within these works, artists utilized their knowledge of color to portray mood, light, depth, and point of view. Progressing through the colors of the rainbow each week, we will discuss a variety of paintings throughout art history to understand the artists' intention and the stories behind the paintings within their respective color spheres. We will also discuss the histories of color, their meanings in various societies and cultural contexts, and the materials and processes used to make colors.

Huck Finn's America

Instructor: Jeffrey Walker | **Dates:** Mondays, 1/27–3/3/2025, 10–11:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-Weeks/ONLINE

Member Fee: \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99829

Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" is often misunderstood as a boy's adventure book or merely a dialogue on race. Instead, this classic novel addresses youth violence and bad boys, schools and parents, and civil rights and minstrel shows. The novel, banned in New England, needs to be read and discussed anew for a better understanding of America, then and now. Join this course for a new and fresh analysis of this highly criticized and misunderstood novel.

Immigrants in America: Stories of Jazz, Blues, Rock, and Popular Culture

Instructor: Emanuel Abramovits | **Dates:** Mondays, 1/27–3/3/2025, 2–3:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-Weeks/ONLINE

Member Fee: \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99830

In this course, we will document the fertile interaction between minorities that transformed not only 20th century music but the entire entertainment industry. We will examine how minorities significantly impacted American popular culture and explore their contributions to various musical genres, record labels, booking agencies, venues, innovations, and production. With strong support from audiovisuals, anecdotes, and the instructor's decades of experience as a concert promoter working with some of the biggest names in the industry, we will

learn about Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Benny Goodman, Stan Getz, Norman Granz, Bob Dylan, Milt Gabler, Leonard Cohen, Lou Reed, Al Kooper, Adam Sandler, Avishai Cohen, Kiss, and many more.

Bonsai, An Ancient Art in Modern Times

Instructor: Chris Baker | **Dates:** Mondays, 3/31–5/5/2025, 4–5:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-Weeks/ONLINE

Member Fee: \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99835

Bonsai is a centuries-old practice of training trees in containers to resemble those in nature. In this course, we will explore the key components of bonsai: horticulture, design, and technical skills. By the end of the course, you will understand how to maintain a healthy tree, develop your own design style, and apply essential techniques. Whether you are new to bonsai, have experience, or are simply curious, this course will guide you through the fundamentals of this fascinating art form.

Crossword Puzzle Creation

Instructor: Steve Weyer | **Dates:** Wednesdays, 4/2–5/7/2025, 12–1:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-Weeks/ONLINE

Member Fee: \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99836

Have you wondered how crossword puzzles are created? This course will appeal to those who want to construct their own crosswords, those who are simply curious about the process, and those who want to be better solvers. We will explore all steps of the crossword puzzle creation process including tools, formats, themes, grid block arrangement, challenging clues, and more. We will even discuss how to submit a puzzle for publication. After a brief intro to free-form style puzzles, we will focus on US newspaper-style, symmetric, themed 15 x 15 puzzles like the NYT crossword, and an OLLI-themed puzzle. Throughout the course, we will construct several crossword puzzles together.

Future Proofing Your Healthspan and Longevity

Instructor: Scott Fulton | **Dates:** Wednesdays, 4/2–5/7/2025, 10–11:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-Weeks/ONLINE

Member Fee: \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99837

Longevity comes down to one simple truth: our ability to weather the inevitable challenges life unexpectedly drops in our lap. Resilience is our ticket to extended healthspan. Western society is entering a phase of significant transformation that will change how we age. This course is a condensed version of Fulton's Whealthspan Masterclass which focuses on the five foundations for extending healthspan and looks at societal changes that will impact all of us. We will distill the latest and most relevant age-related science for a general audience and explain the strategies for optimal outcomes that fit a wide range of cultures and values.

Jinas, Jivas and the Three Jewels: The Jain Tradition and Its Legacy of Nonviolence

Instructor: Eileen Goddard | **Dates:** Tuesdays, 4/1–5/6/2025, 12–1:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-Weeks/ONLINE

Member Fee: \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99838

Jainism is an ancient religion from India that teaches that the

path to enlightenment is through nonviolence and reducing harm to living things (including plants and animals). This course provides an introduction to Jain traditions and their historical roots in South Asia from the time of Mahāvīra (fifth century BCE) to the present. We will begin with a historical overview of key religious figures and ethics in Jainism, followed by an exploration of Jain philosophies to understand their views on existence and reality. This course will then examine ascetic practitioners, laypeople, sacred places, and objects, including temples and art. We will conclude with a focus on gender roles and the relationship between Jain ethics and environmental activism.

Mainstreaming the Margins: A History of LGBTQ+ America

Instructor: Adam Kocurek | **Dates:** Tuesdays, 4/1–5/6/2025, 8–9:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-Weeks/ONLINE

Member Fee: \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99839

Over half a century after the Stonewall Uprising, the vibrant and complex history of LGBTQ+ life, culture, and movements in the US remains a focal point of rich discussion and political relevance. In this course, we will immerse ourselves in the intricate history of LGBTQ+ Americans, examining their political organizations, cultural contributions, and the profound ways they have helped shape the nation. This course offers a comprehensive overview of key LGBTQ+ figures, events, and cultural shifts beginning in the early 20th century to the present, highlighting the emergence and evolution of LGBTQ+ identities and activism, and the challenges they have historically faced. We will uncover how a marginalized community has become a powerful force for social change, impacting every facet of American life—from grassroots politics and art to society at large. Together we will gain a deeper understanding of LGBTQ+ history and gain a renewed appreciation for the ongoing struggle towards justice, inclusion, and freedom in the US.

Russia Beyond Russians

Instructor: Asya Pereltsvaig | **Dates:** Thursdays, 4/3–5/8/2025, 10–11:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-Weeks/ONLINE

Member Fee: \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99840

This course focuses on recent events in Russia and the post-Soviet space, many of which stem from enduring ethnic tensions. The Russian Federation is home to 180 nationalities, many of which have long been in conflict. We will examine how the Russian state—under the Tsars, Soviets, and President Vladimir Putin—has sought to impose uniformity, often diminishing ethnic groups. Through a historical lens, we will explore the struggles of these groups, from peaceful movements like the Circassian movement to violent resistance like Chechnya. Contemporary Russian culture, including music, cinema, cuisine, and humor, will also be discussed to illuminate current events.

Science Charcuterie

Instructor: Kjir Hendrickson | **Dates:** Thursdays, 4/3–5/8/2025, 2–3:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-Weeks/ONLINE

Member Fee: \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99841

Some topics don't fit neatly into OLLI science classes—too big, too small, too little, too much, too off-topic—and often end up on the proverbial cutting room floor. In this course, these intriguing bits and ends are gathered up and presented like a charcuterie board of tasty science snacks. This will be a six-week romp through just about anything one might imagine including a little bit of color theory, a morsel of genetic testing science, a dash of airplane physics, some lightning theory, a mouse that turns scorpion venom into a painkiller, current scientific thoughts on origins of life, and a lot of time to explore topics of interest to you. Bring your questions and we will explore some of the exciting nooks and crannies of science together.

The Essential Jane Austen

Instructor: Juliette Wells | **Dates:** Mondays, 3/31–5/5/2025, 2–3:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-Weeks/ONLINE

Member Fee: \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99842

In honor of Jane Austen's 250th birthday in 2025, we will explore her life, works, and legacy from a fresh perspective. Both seasoned readers and those new to Austen will appreciate experiencing the story of her authorship through images of original documents and artifacts. Austen began writing fiction in her teenage years, warmly supported by her family, especially her clergyman father. Yet she had to wait until she was in her thirties to see her first book in print. In this course, we will discover what happened in between, as well as how a household of creative women made it possible for her to focus on her writing and achieve publication. We will consider how and why her literary reputation grew after her death, and we will take a tour of the contemporary adaptations and retellings that continue to broaden her readership.

The Soundtrack of Rock and Pop in the 50s & 60s: The Magic of the Brill Building Era

Instructor: Michael [Mike] Agron | **Dates:** Tuesdays, 4/1–5/6/2025, 2–3:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-Weeks/ONLINE

Member Fee: \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99843

The adventure begins in New York City, where the echoes of Tin Pan Alley's Great American Songbook still resound. We witness a new generation of talented songwriters, singers, and groups, who filled the airwaves and shaped the soundtrack of our lives. This course is a journey into the melodies, stories, and vibrant personalities behind the Brill Building era of the late 1950s and 1960s. We will discuss the music of legendary songwriters such as Carole King & Gerry Goffin, Neil Sedaka & Howard Greenfield, Barry Mann & Cynthia Weil, Phil Spector, Jerry Leiber & Mike Stoller, Ellie Greenwich & Jeff Barry, Burt Bacharach & Hal David, Neil Diamond, and others. Together we will rediscover the tunes from Elvis Presley, the Coasters, Dion and the Belmonts, the Drifters, Dionne Warwick, the Ronettes, the Shirelles, the Animals, the Monkees, Manfred Mann, Andy Williams, the unforgettable Righteous Brothers, and many others.

Women: The Forgotten "Men" in History

Instructor: Diana Carlin | **Dates:** Mondays, 3/31–5/5/2025, 12–1:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-Weeks/ONLINE

Member Fee: \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99844

Many individuals contribute to history but never get their due. Women and other marginalized groups traditionally received less ink in history books than the "great men" of history who were mainly white males. This course looks at nine women whose achievements are not commonly known. Among the nine women are a scientist, a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, a pioneering pilot, a suffragist, a candidate for the US presidency, an activist for women's and African-American's rights, a British anthropologist, and a pioneering politician from the Western US.

Modern War: What Is It Good For?

Instructor: Jeff Rice | **Dates:** Tuesdays, 1/28–3/11/25, 7:45-9:15 a.m. | **Format:** 7-Weeks/ONLINE

Member Fee: \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99831

Vietnam, viewed by many as a turning point between old and new approaches to war, raised many questions about the role of superpowers, asymmetrical resources, and counterinsurgencies on the world stage. In this course, we will look at the wars in Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Gaza. All of these wars are asymmetrical, but what else do they have in common, and how are they informed by Vietnam? We will discuss how superpowers are central players in these conflicts by way of their supplies and support. In this course, we will examine human ways of evaluating the politics and strategies, particularly what happens when three vectors cannot agree: the public, the politicians, and the military.

Science Everyone Needs to Know

Instructor: Kjir Hendrickson | **Dates:** Thursdays, 1/30–3/6/2025, 12–1:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-Weeks/ONLINE

Member Fee: \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99832

Evolution. Vaccines. Global Warming. Regardless of one's choice of news media, it is nearly impossible to navigate today's information-heavy world without coming across stories on evolution, vaccines, and global warming. Each of these topics is the subject of various conspiracy theories and misinformation campaigns. How do we make sense of what we hear on the news when so much information comes from unvetted and non-neutral sources, such as the Internet and the media? This course is a non-technical introduction to these three critical matters in modern science. We will examine what scientists know, how they know what they know, how certain they are, and why there is such a disconnect between scientific understanding and the public's perception of science.

The Secret Lives of Familiar Birds

Instructor: Elizabeth Burnette | **Dates:** Wednesdays, 1/29–3/5/2025, 8–9:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-Weeks/ONLINE

Member Fee: \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99833

We share the earth with birds who live among us, yet they remain mysterious. In this course, we will examine the fascinating characteristics, habits, and lives of North American birds including how they keep warm, how they fly, when, why, and how they sing, and more. Our classes will be broken down into these categories: bird ancestry and anatomy; diet and

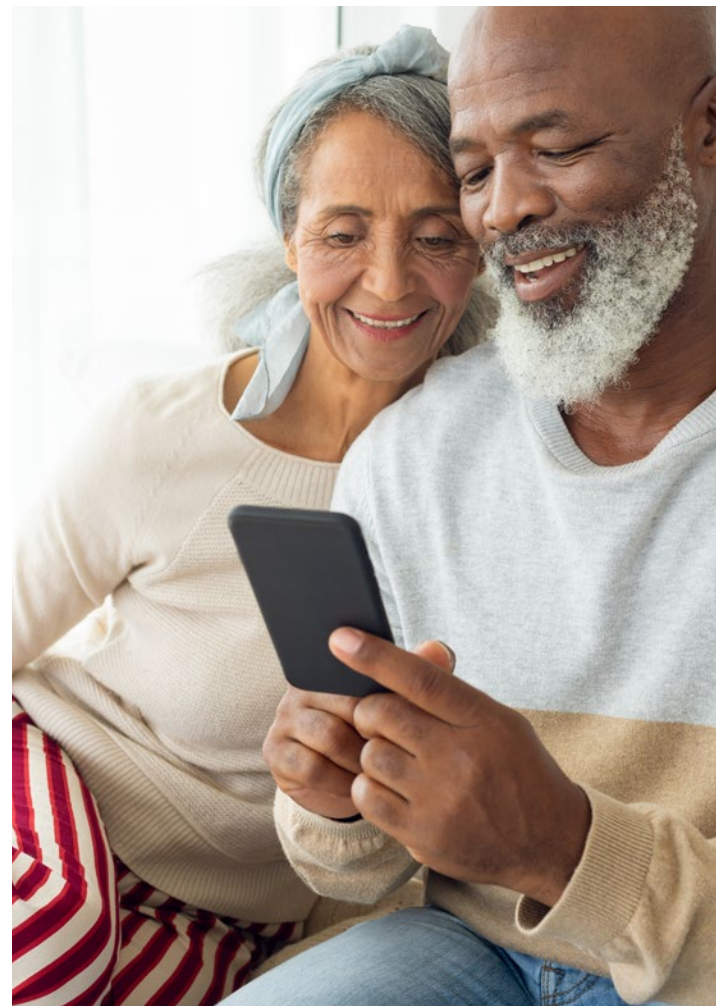
nesting; flight and migration; threats; behavior and songs. We will cover birds of prey, songbirds, waterfowl, and the common loon. Join this interesting exploration of how birds live, move, breathe, and think.

The World of Musical Satire

Instructor: David Misch | **Dates:** Wednesdays, 1/29–3/5/2025, 4–5:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-Weeks/ONLINE

Member Fee: \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99834

Satire is one of the oldest forms of humor. Adding music seems to make it even more powerful. In early Germanic and Celtic societies, people who were mocked in songs would break out in boils and even commit suicide. In this course, we will explore the art of musical satire in a variety of genres, cultures, and eras, especially America since 1950. This multimedia course covers "Yankee Doodle," Gilbert and Sullivan, the Gershwins, the Marx Brothers, Monty Python, "Saturday Night Live," "South Park," and "Key and Peele." We will also cover a bountiful bevy of B's: Leonard Bernstein, the Beatles, Bo Burnham, and Bugs Bunny. Because satire is often dependent on social and historical events, this course is as much cultural history as music appreciation. And while words are preeminent in musical satire, we will also discuss the music and its interactions with lyrics. But please—no students who are prone to boils.



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