



# Osher @ SDSU

## Spring 2026



Welcome to the Spring 2026 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 **50+ courses** from six academic categories for you to choose from and **6 community events**.

To learn more about our membership options please visit [gc.sdsu.edu/oshermember](https://gc.sdsu.edu/oshermember).

### How to Register

1. Browse the courses on our website at [gc.sdsu.edu/osher-courses](https://gc.sdsu.edu/osher-courses).
2. Visit [gc.sdsu.edu/osher-login](https://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.

### Osher Membership options

**Annual Membership** (valid for three consecutive terms from the term of purchase) \$99

**Semester Membership** (valid for term of purchase only) \$50

See our registration form on the last page of this catalog for ALL membership options. Please note: discounted memberships require pre-approval from the Osher Office.

### Course Modalities


**In-Person:** instructors and students attend the course in person in a classroom (typically either Extended Studies Center 308 or Gateway Center 1504).

**HyFlex:** instructors may be present in the classroom OR on Zoom, students may also be present in the classroom OR on Zoom

**Osher Online:** 6-week courses offered nationally 100% online, all courses are supported by Osher Online staff (not Osher @ SDSU staff)

### Getting to Campus

There are many options to getting to campus. We encourage you to use the method that works best for you.

-  Paid parking in P6, P7, or P12 through SDSU Parking and Transportation. Daily and monthly rates available.
- Travel on public transit by bus or trolley through MTS. San Diego State University has a trolley stop on campus from the green line which is just two blocks from the Extended Studies Center.
- If you live close enough and are able to you may also choose to walk or ride your bike.

### Contact

**Registrar Email:** [enrollment.global@sdsu.edu](mailto:enrollment.global@sdsu.edu)

**Phone:** (619) 594-5152

**IT Email:** [itsupport.global@sdsu.edu](mailto:itsupport.global@sdsu.edu)

**Osher Email:** [osher@sdsu.edu](mailto:osher@sdsu.edu)

# Spring 2026 Osher Course and Offering Descriptions

## Aging, Personal Finance, and Retirement

### The Science of Aging Gracefully

**Instructor:** Jacqueline Penhos | **Date:** Wednesday, 2/25/2026, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | **Format:** 1-Day/Hyflex (Extended Studies/Online)

**Member Fee:** \$25 | **Schedule No.** 99802

**Please note:** The instructor will be teaching in person, students have the option to attend in person or online via Zoom.

Students will be reminded how to keep a healthy lifestyle and increase their social and mental engagement, all while adapting and embracing change.

### Creating Livable Communities for All Ages

**Instructor:** Michelle Matter | **Date:** Wednesday, 4/8/2026, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | **Format:** 1-Day/Hyflex (Extended Studies/Online)

**Member Fee:** \$25 | **Schedule No.** 99803

**Please note:** The instructor will be teaching in person, students have the option to attend in person or online via Zoom.

This course explores the principles of Age-Friendly Communities, focusing on how cities and organizations can foster environments that support older adults in aging with dignity, independence, and purpose. Participants will learn about the Domains of Livability—including housing, transportation, social participation, and community support—and how these elements contribute to inclusive, accessible communities for all ages. Through discussion and real-world examples, attendees will gain insights into best practices and strategies for developing age-friendly action plans.



### Qi Gong for Longevity and Graceful Aging: Level 1

**Instructor:** Yamin Chehin | **Dates:** Thursday, 2/12/2026, 2/19/2026, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | **Format:** 2-Week/In-Person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

**Member Fee:** \$49 | **Schedule No.** 99804

Do you feel stressed, stuck, or anxious? Do you tend to run out of energy before noon? Are you interested in keeping your body and mind supple, strong, and healthy? Join us for this 2-week immersion into the world of Chinese Medicine through the study and practice of Qi Gong—an ancient form of energy cultivation. You will unlock pockets of vital energy trapped behind doors of tension and stagnation. You will learn about the acupuncture meridians in your own body and discover the possibility of making your Chi practice your morning cup of coffee!

## Arts & Humanities



### Art History: Artistic Transformation in the Nineteenth Century

**Instructor:** Damon Hitchcock | **Dates:** Fridays, 3/6/2026, 3/13/2026, 3/20/2026, 3/27/2026, 4/3/2026, 4/10/2026, 9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-Weeks/In-person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

**Member Fee:** \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99805

This rewarding course will explore the many varied expressions of the visual arts that are most relevant to our understanding of Western civilization. Learn how industrialization in the 19th century brought great change to the social and economic structure of the art world. You will analyze a range of mediums from painted images, to the influence of photography, to the evolution of utilitarian structures becoming architectural works of art. Included will be regional contributions found in San Diego. Join us, and we will unravel the mysteries of the era. You will formulate a personal understanding of the visual arts by identifying works of Art and Architecture.

### Studio Art, Drawing: Developing Visual Awareness

**Instructor:** Damon Hitchcock | **Dates:** Monday, 3/2/2026, 3/9/2026, 3/16/2026, 3/23/2026, 3/30/2026, 4/6/2026, 9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-Week/In-person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

**Member Fee:** \$119 | **Schedule No.** 99806

Learning and recording the principles of drawing to perceive what surrounds us can be very satisfying. This unique classroom opportunity is accompanied with individual attentive guidance, and has previously shown very encouraging results. Using a variety of media, each undertaking is designed to sharpen the sense of perception and drawing proficiency. No previous experience is necessary as every level of experience is welcome. Accompany other enthusiastic participants in the creative course offering. **Please note:** Additional course materials are required for this course and will be shared out one week prior to the start of the course.





## America's National Parks - Part 2: The Historic and Cultural Parks

**Instructor:** Constantine Dillon | **Dates:** Wednesdays, 3/11/2026, 3/18/2026, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | **Format:** 2-Weeks/Hyflex (Extended Studies/Online)

**Member Fee:** \$49 | **Schedule No.** 99807

**Please note:** The instructor will be teaching in person, students have the option to attend in person or online via Zoom.

Of the 433 parks in the National Park System, more than two-thirds are historic and cultural parks. This class will be a tour of some of these historical places where you can visit where history happened.

**Class 1:** An overview of historic and cultural parks. We'll look at famous historic sites and icons like the St. Louis Arch and Mesa Verde, and at lesser-known places like the home of John Adams and Pu'uuhonua O Honaunau.

**Class 2:** Forts, battlefields, and other war-related parks. Military parks and forts constitute many places in the National Park System. We'll take a tour of these places.

## Inherited Stories: Writing Fiction Rooted in Family History

**Instructor:** Lindsay Marie Morris | **Date:** Wednesday, 4/22/2026, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | **Format:** 1-Day/Hyflex (Extended Studies/Online)

**Member Fee:** \$25 | **Schedule No.** 99808

**Please note:** The instructor will be teaching remotely via Zoom, students have the option to attend in person or online via Zoom.

In this engaging and interactive session, I guide participants through the process of turning personal and family history into rich, compelling historical fiction. Drawing from my own experience writing about Italians during World War II in both the United States and Sicily, I demonstrate how family anecdotes, cultural traditions, and global events intersect to inspire powerful storytelling.

This course is ideal for aspiring writers, family historians, genealogists, and lovers of historical fiction. Participants will learn research techniques, including conducting interviews, exploring archives, and analyzing public records. We'll discuss how to build connections between individual stories and historical events, as well as how to balance historical accuracy with creative freedom.

As part of the interactive experience, attendees will begin drafting outlines for their own fiction or memoir projects. They'll leave with practical tools and inspiration to turn their personal history into a story that resonates with a wider audience.

## Venice: History of the Floating City

**Instructor:** Joanne Ferraro | **Date:** Tuesday, 4/28/2026, 1 p.m.–3 p.m. | **Format:** 1-Day/In-Person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

**Member Fee:** \$25 | **Schedule No.** 99809

Have you ever imagined what it was like to live in the floating city of Venice, Italy? How was it built? How was it organized socially and politically? How did it become a multicultural power in the Mediterranean, and a center of Renaissance culture? Join Joanne Ferraro, the author of several books on Venice, in exploring a city who is a center of mass tourism.

## Osher Book Club: One Book, One San Diego

**Instructor:** Jonnie Wilson & Melanie Dunn | **Date:** Wednesday, 5/6/2026, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | **Format:** 1-Day/In-Person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

**Member Fee:** \$25 | **Schedule No.** 99810

How can a novel whose main character is an alcoholic church deacon who shoots a drug dealer be described as "comedic?" To find out, join in on the "One Book, One San Diego" discussion this spring as we dissect James McBride's 2020 novel *Deacon King Kong*, a book set in 1969 Brooklyn.

## Dust Bowl Refugees

**Instructor:** Blaine Davies | **Date:** Monday, 4/13/2026, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | **Format:** 1-Day/In-Person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

**Member Fee:** \$25 | **Schedule No.** 99840

In the 1930s, almost a half million Americans—victims of the great depression, drought and great dust storms—migrated to California in hopes of a better life. Instead, they discovered they were considered an unwanted burden by many Californians. In desperation, they worked for very low wages picking cotton, grapes, peas, or whatever needed harvesting. Exploited by growers that kept them mired in poverty, many farmworkers tried to form unions and strike. The growers responded with violence and strikers were injured or even killed. John Steinbeck in *The Grapes of Wrath* and more recently Kristin Hannah in her novel *The Four Winds* brought to life the hardship endured by the Dust Bowl refugees. We explore the true story of the Dust Bowl refugees that changed California.

## Lessons NOT Learned from the Vietnam War

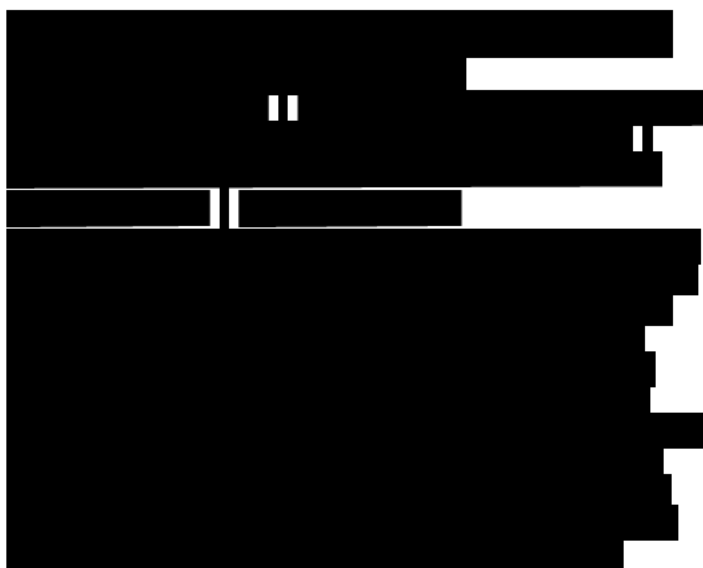
**Instructor:** Ed Linz | **Dates:** Wednesdays, 2/11/2026, 2/18/2026, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | **Format:** 2-Week/HyFlex (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

**Member Fee:** \$49 | **Schedule No.** 99859

**Please note:** The instructor will be teaching remotely via Zoom, students have the option to attend in person or online via Zoom.

The course focuses on events leading to U.S. involvement in Vietnam culminating in an avoidable war with casualties over two million, including 58,000 Americans. There will be a discussion of the French colonial era, the rise of Ho Chi Minh, the Viet Minh, South Vietnamese politics, and questionable U.S. policy decisions. There will also be a detailed examination of the conduct of the war, with an emphasis on U.S. tactical decisions leading to heavy casualties among Americans and their communist opponents. This will be an interactive session soliciting questions and comments.

## Politics & Current Events



### Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm: Lessons on the 35th Anniversary of the First Gulf War

**Instructor:** David Bame | **Dates:** Wednesdays, 3/4/2025, 3/11/2025, 1 p.m.–3 p.m. | **Format:** 2-weeks/Hyflex (Extended Studies/Online)

**Member Fee:** \$49 | **Schedule No.** 99812

**Please note:** The instructor will be teaching in person, students have the option to attend in person or online via Zoom.

War may provide lessons about inspiring victories and tragic losses—but what about the diplomacy before, during, and after a war? Join a retired U.S. career diplomat, who served in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait throughout the 1990-1991 First Gulf War, for a unique look back at a pivotal moment in U.S. diplomatic and military history. Through personal stories and photos involving both famous leaders and unknown heroes, we'll talk about how these events affected the U.S., the region, and the world.

### Media Today: Misinformation, Disinformation & Facts on a Global Scale

**Instructor:** Martin Kruming | **Date:** Wednesday, 4/15/2026, 1 p.m.–3 p.m. | **Format:** 1-Day/Hyflex (Extended Studies/Online)

**Member Fee:** \$25 | **Schedule No.** 99813

**Please note:** The instructor will be teaching in person, students have the option to attend in person or online via Zoom.

Who are today's media? What's fake news and what is real? Where does news come from? Why are journalists important? When does the media show up? The impact of the media is greater today perhaps than at any other time in the history of America and the world. News comes from many sources who have many agendas. We'll discover how everyone can become an engaged citizen whether they watch CNN or Fox, read The New York Times or Wall Street Journal, or listen to NPR or talk radio. Please join us for a candid, honest, and thoughtful conversation.

## Science and Technology

### The Anatomy of a Highway: From Conception to Completion

**Instructor:** Bruce Urquhart | **Date:** Thursday, 4/16/2026, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | **Format:** 1-Day/In-Person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

**Member Fee:** \$25 | **Schedule No.** 99814

As a car-centric city, San Diego is a network of roadways that span many of our neighborhoods. While you go about your day driving, do you sometimes wonder why a highway was created and how its final alignment was selected?

With that in mind, we'll be learning about one specific highway in the northern part of the city: State Route 52. This roadway is a secondary highway that travels West to East and connects I-5 near La Jolla to SR – 67 in Santee. The road was built in segments beginning in the mid-sixties, from I-5 to its completion in 2015 at SR – 67. Through the eyes of the project surveyor assigned to the segment from Santo Road to Mission Gorge Road, this class will do a deep dive into what was involved in the property acquisition, environmental constraints, design challenges, public input, and construction of this segment.

Please join us as we explore the complexities of planning and construction of one of the roads that we take for granted in our everyday lives.

### Meet Your Brain: Practical Neuroscience for Everyday Life



**Instructor:** Maria Keckler | **Date:** Saturday, 4/18/2026, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | **Format:** 1-Day/In-Person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

**Member Fee:** \$25 | **Schedule No.** 99815

What if you could call a huddle with your brain before making decisions, handling conflict, or navigating daily life? Modern neuroscience shows that at any given moment, our brain primarily engages in thinking thoughts, experiencing emotions, and generating physiological responses to those thoughts and emotions, influencing how we experience the world. Takeaways:

- Understand how different parts of your brain influence your thoughts, emotions, and decisions, and how to engage them intentionally for better balance and well-being.
- Apply neuroscience to daily life by using practical tools to improve relationships, manage stress, and navigate life's challenges with greater clarity and confidence

### Evolutionary Psychology

**Instructor:** Dave Nunez | **Date:** Saturday, 2/21/2026,



2/28/2026, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

**Format:** 2-Weeks/In-Person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

**Member Fee:** \$49 | **Schedule No.** 99841

### Part 1: The Evolutionary Psychology of Numbers

We will investigate how the human need to understand and use numbers may have developed as a survival mechanism. Using research from brain imaging studies, behavior studies, and animal cognition, we will explore questions such as:

Why did humans evolve numerical reasoning abilities?

How does number sense support survival and adaptation?

What do animal studies reveal about shared cognitive mechanisms?

### Part 2: The Evolutionary Psychology of Substances in Modern Civilization

We will examine why humans are drawn to drug use and inducement as part of survival and adaptation in contemporary society. Through neuroscience findings, behavioral studies, and cross-species comparisons, we will explore:

How psychoactive substances affect the brain and behavior.

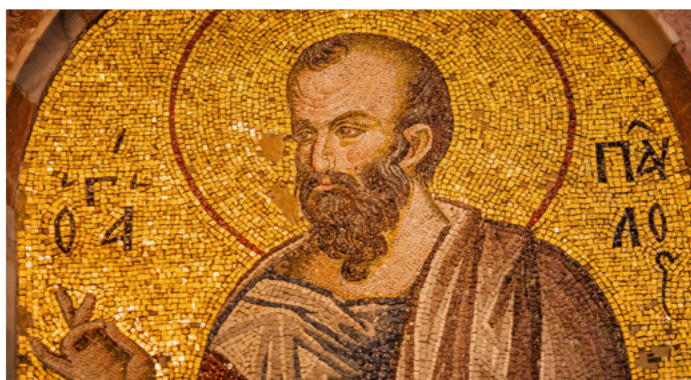
The role of drug inducement in social bonding, coping, and cultural practices.

Whether this tendency can be understood as an evolved strategy for survival in modern environments.

## Religious Studies

### Paul: The First Christian Theologian

**Instructor:** John Spencer | **Date:** Tuesday, 2/17/2026,



2/24/2026, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | **Format:** 2-Weeks/In-Person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

**Member Fee:** \$49 | **Schedule No.** 99816

These two classes will examine Paul's Jewish and Greek heritage, consider which writings in the New Testament are his, and look at his influence on the development of early Christianity. Among the theological ideas to be explored are Paul's understandings of love, the human person, sin, women, marriage, justification, reconciliation, and eschatology. We will see that Paul's works, and those of his followers, have played a major role in the later theological concepts in Christianity.

Participants will gain a better understanding of Paul's writings and the basis for his early theology of Christianity.

## Personal Development and Special

## Interest

### Good Grief! Tools for Easing the Pain of Loss

**Instructor:** Virginia Berger | **Date:** Thursdays, 3/26/2026, 4/2/2026, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

**Format:** 2-Weeks/In-Person (Extended Studies/Gateway Ctr)

**Member Fee:** \$49 | **Schedule No.** 99817

Have you noticed that as we grow older, the deaths of those we love and other losses are even more constant? Grief and loss touch us all. In our culture we tend to keep grief in the shadows, seeing it as an illness to recover from as quickly as possible. In this presentation we will look at a different model of grief that normalizes and validates the experience. We'll learn to lean into our own sorrow with more compassion and less suffering. Lastly, we'll discover things we can do and say to help friends through loss. After sharing resources, tips, and stories—and doing reflective exercises—participants will view grief not as a period of mourning, but as an ongoing conversation that accompanies us throughout life and shapes who we are.

## Osher Online Courses

### The Magic Behind Film Scores: Exploring the Role of Music in Great Movies

**Instructor:** Mike Agron | **Dates:** Wednesdays, 1/14/2026, 1/21/2026, 1/28/2026, 2/4/2026, 2/11/2026, 2/18/2026, 2–3:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

**Member Fee:** \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99818

Discover how film music enhances storytelling, sets mood and place, defines character, and blends styles—jazz, classical, pop—into powerful cinematic impressions. Beginning with *The Jazz Singer* (1927), we will trace the evolution of the film score and examine how composers shape emotion across genres, from drama and romance to science fiction and westerns—including the James Bond franchise. We will learn about influential composers such as Max Steiner, Bernard Herrmann, Elmer Bernstein, Henry Mancini, Ennio Morricone, Quincy Jones, John Williams, and others who helped define the sound of modern film. Celebrate the artistry of film music and its lasting emotional impact.

### The American Revolution Beyond the British Empire

**Instructor:** Rick Bell | **Dates:** Saturdays, 01/17/2026, 01/24/2026, 01/31/2026, 02/07/2026, 02/14/2026, 02/21/2026, 10–11:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

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

Explore the American Revolution within a global context. We will investigate the geopolitical forces that shaped its origins and the far-reaching consequences of the US break with Britain. Rather than viewing the Revolution as a purely domestic uprising, we will examine it as part of a larger imperial struggle among European powers for global dominance. Each session spotlights a different group—Germans, French, Spaniards, South Asians, Prussians, and others—placing their experiences at the center of dramatic narratives about the unraveling of the British Empire and the birth of a new nation. Together, we will

consider how reframing the American Revolution on a global stage changes our understanding of its causes, course, and legacy.

### Invisible Intelligence: The Unseen Algorithms Reshaping Your Daily Life

**Instructor:** Eliot Bethke | **Dates:** Thursdays, 01/15/2026, 01/22/2026, 01/29/2026, 02/05/2026, 02/12/2026, 02/19/2026, 2–3:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

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

Artificial Intelligence (AI) quietly influences much of our daily lives, from modern conveniences to life-shaping decisions—often without our awareness. This accessible, non-technical course explores the ideas behind today's AI systems and the possibilities of what may come next. Through six case studies, we will examine how computational decision-making works, discuss the ethics of delegating choices to machines, and consider the real-world impacts of these technologies. We will engage in thoughtful discussions about the benefits and concerns of AI, gaining a deeper understanding of how it operates and how it affects everything from personal experiences to social systems.

### Landscape & Adventure Photography: An Introduction

**Instructor:** Jonathan Duncan | **Dates:** Mondays, 01/26/2026, 02/02/2026, 02/09/2026, 02/16/2026, 02/23/2026, 03/02/2026, 12–1:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

**Member Fee:** \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99821

This workshop will introduce participants to the skills and techniques used to create professional quality images of their adventures in the natural world. Topics will include controlling exposure, using depth of field, motion effects, the principles of visual communication, and the qualities of natural light. The course will incorporate slide-illustrated lectures, group discussions, and ample time for student feedback.

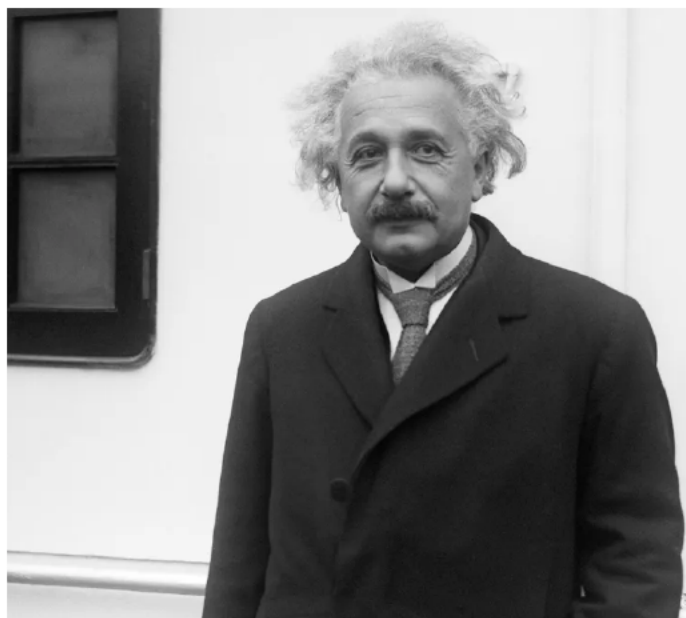
### Judaism, Christianity, and Islam: A Comparative Exploration

**Instructor:** Jeremy Fackenthal | **Dates:** Thursdays, 01/29/2026, 02/05/2026, 02/12/2026, 02/19/2026, 02/26/2026, 03/05/2026, 10–11:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

**Member Fee:** \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99822

This course is a comparative exploration of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, focusing on rituals, beliefs, and foundational writings. We will learn what it means to study religion comparatively while examining both the shared elements and distinct differences.

Each religion traces its roots to Abraham and embraces monotheism, offering a common foundation for discussion. We will explore key practices and beliefs, such as prayer, sacred texts, and understandings of the divine, and consider how they align or diverge across traditions. We will also engage with selected readings from each religion to better understand the theological and cultural dimensions of these Abrahamic faiths.



### Einstein without Tears: His Theories Explained without Math and in Everyday Language

**Instructor:** Andrew Fraknoi | **Dates:** Tuesdays, 1/27/2026, 2/3/2026, 2/10/2026, 2/17/2026, 2/24/2026, 3/3/2026, 2–3:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

**Member Fee:** \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99823

This non-technical, non-mathematical course introduces some of the most mind-expanding ideas from Albert Einstein's work. It is designed especially for those with little or no science background. The course offers a concise overview of Einstein's major theories and how modern science—particularly astronomy—continues to confirm his remarkable predictions.

We will explore concepts such as the relativity of time, warped space, realistic time travel, the formation of black holes, and the detection of gravitational waves. We will discuss why Einstein's ideas remain central to both scientific discovery and science fiction. Leave with a deeper appreciation of the universe and how it behaves under the most extreme conditions.

### Pharmaceuticals and Poisons: Chemistry at the Edge

**Instructor:** Johnnie Hendrickson | **Dates:** Thursdays, 1/22/2026, 1/29/2026, 2/5/2026, 2/12/2026, 2/19/2026, 2/26/2026, 12–1:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

**Member Fee:** \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99824

Some substances heal, others harm—and sometimes, the same molecule can do both. This chemistry-rich (but non-technical) course explores the surprisingly thin line between pharmaceuticals and poisons. We will learn how animal venoms inspire lifesaving treatments, how aspirin traces its roots to the dye industry, and why the term “toxin” is so often misused. We will also examine the dramatic history of FDA regulation—marked by scandal, tragedy, and reform—and how it continues to shape what ends up in our medicine cabinets. From scorpion stings to Gila monster hormones, this course offers a fascinating and sometimes unsettling look at the chemistry behind what we choose to swallow.

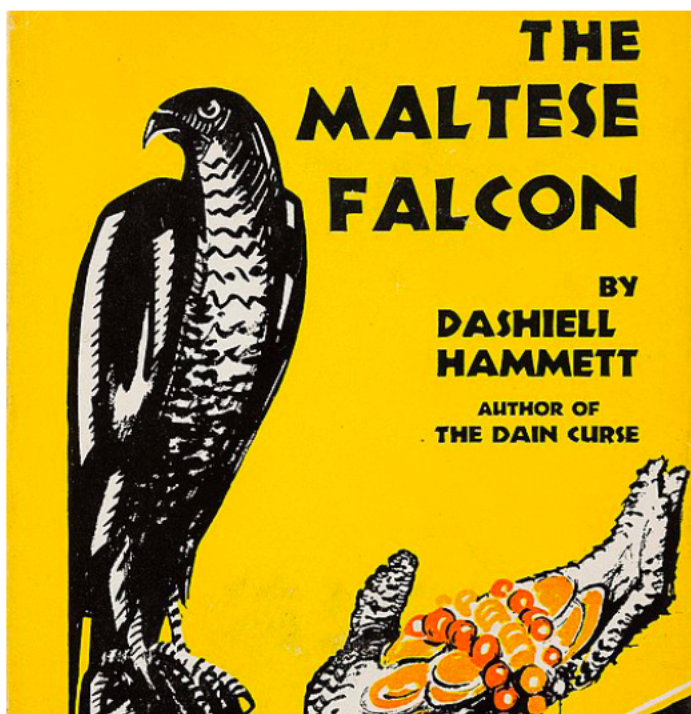


## Milestones in Medicine

**Instructor:** Gordon Josephson | **Dates:** Wednesday, 01/14/2026, 1/21/2026, 1/28/2026, 2/4/2026, 2/11/2026, 2/18/2026, 8–9:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

**Member Fee:** \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99825

Trace key milestones in medicine from the late 18th century to today, beginning with Edward Jenner's pioneering use of the smallpox vaccine. We will explore over two centuries of transformative developments and the remarkable figures behind them—advances that have shaped both clinical care and public health. Special focus will be given to scientific breakthroughs and systemic reforms that dramatically improved lifespans and health outcomes over the past 150 years, particularly in advanced economies. Through this lens, we will gain a deeper appreciation for the interplay between medical innovation and societal well-being, and how that partnership continues to evolve.



## The Noir Novel: Three American Classics

**Instructor:** Peter Kaye | **Dates:** Tuesdays, 1/20/2026, 1/27/2026, 2/3/2026, 2/10/2026, 2/17/2026, 2/24/2026, 8–9:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

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

Explore the noir novel through three influential works: We begin with (1929) by Dashiell Hammett and *The Big Sleep* (1939) by Raymond Chandler—both foundational texts of the genre. Their hardboiled detectives, Sam Spade and Philip Marlowe, navigate the shadowy world of American crime, filled with gangsters, grifters, and femme fatales. Film clips from classic adaptations will illustrate how this literary form helped shape film noir. We will conclude with Sara Paretsky's *Indemnity Only* (1982), a bold feminist reimagining of the genre. Paretsky redefines noir by upending traditional gender roles and giving voice to a new kind of detective hero.

## History of Sicily

**Instructor:** Douglas Kenning | **Dates:** Mondays, 1/26/2026, 2/2/2026, 2/9/2026, 2/16/2026, 2/23/2026, 3/2/2026, 10–11:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

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

Sicily has long been one of the most mythic, magical, and misunderstood places in the Mediterranean. We will explore its central role in Western civilization—from Homeric epics and classical antiquity through the Arabo-Norman Golden Age that helped ignite the Renaissance. We will examine how Sicily's cultural richness gave way to exploitation and poverty under Spanish rule, and how it later reemerged in modern imagination through figures like Garibaldi, Patton, and Coppola. Beginning and ending in mythology, this journey uncovers the island's complex legacy of heroism, hardship, and renewal. As Goethe famously said, "To have seen Italy without having seen Sicily is not to have seen Italy at all."

## Heroes of the Holocaust: Lights in the Darkness

**Instructor:** Howard Kerner | **Dates:** Wednesdays, 1/14/2026, 1/21/2026, 1/28/2026, 2/4/2026, 2/11/2026, 2/18/2026, 12–1:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

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

When we think of the Holocaust, we recall the horrors perpetrated by evildoers. Even in humanity's darkest hours, courageous individuals risked everything to save lives. This course sheds light on these little-known rescuers—ordinary people who defied laws, resisted hate, and acted with moral clarity and compassion. Through their uplifting stories, we will explore why these heroes remain largely unknown and what their actions reveal about human goodness. This course offers powerful reminders of resilience, morality, and hope.

## Using Google Workspace Tools with Confidence

**Instructor:** Chelsea King | **Dates:** Wednesdays, 1/21/2026, 1/28/2026, 2/4/2026, 2/11/2026, 2/18/2026, 2/25/2026, 4–5:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

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

This beginner-friendly course is a practical introduction to Google Workspace, covering core applications such as Google Drive, Gmail, Calendar, Docs, Sheets, and Slides. We will explore basic navigation, essential features, and everyday use cases for each tool. Through guided instruction and real-world examples, the course builds foundational skills to help us use Google Workspace with confidence—for both personal productivity and professional collaboration. No prior experience is required.

## Brain and Behavior in the Era of Digital Technology

**Instructor:** Elena Labkovsky | **Dates:** Mondays, 1/26/2026, 2/2/2026, 2/9/2026, 2/16/2026, 2/23/2026, 3/2/2026, 8–9:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

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

Explore the impact of digital technologies on the brain, behavior, and emotional well-being through the lenses of neuroscience, psychology, and cognitive science. We will

examine how modern devices and artificial intelligence influence cognitive functions such as attention, memory, learning, and decision-making, as well as social interaction and mood.

We will also address ethical concerns, including privacy and technology-based addictions, and discuss the effects of digital media on mental health. The course highlights how advances in neuroscience and clinical practice offer new tools for improving mental well-being in a tech-driven world. Through research-based insights and practical strategies, we will gain a deeper understanding of how the brain adapts to digital life—and how to navigate it effectively.

## More than Parks: A History of American Conservation

**Instructor:** Fraser Livingston | **Date:** Tuesdays, 1/20/2026, 1/27/2026, 2/3/2026, 2/10/2026, 2/17/2026, 2/24/2026, 10–11:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

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

Explore the origins and evolution of American conservation through the lens of environmental history. We will examine key figures such as Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, and George Washington Carver, along with lesser-known voices like Genevieve Jones and Harriet Hemenway. We will consider how conservation took shape not only in iconic landscapes like Yellowstone and Yosemite, but also in cotton fields, urban centers, and Native lands. Together we will investigate how industrialization, urbanization, and scientific thought shaped the movement—and how conservation efforts impacted different communities. Through case studies and discussion, we will gain a broader understanding of how American attitudes toward nature, resources, and preservation have developed from the 19th century to the present.



## Japanese History through the Lens of Shōgun

**Instructor:** Megan McClory | **Dates:** Tuesdays, 1/20/2026, 1/27/2026, 2/3/2026, 2/10/2026, 2/17/2026, 2/24/2026, 4–5:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

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

Using the 2024 FX mini-series *Shōgun* as a springboard, this course explores Japan's transformation from civil war to peace between the 15th and 18th centuries. While tales of samurai valor captivate modern audiences, the true history behind them is equally compelling. We will examine the Warring States Period, the rise of unifiers like Nobunaga, Hideyoshi, and Ieyasu, and the cultural, political, and social changes that followed. We will also study the roles of merchants, peasants, women, and outcasts in shaping this dynamic era. Topics will include warfare, diplomacy, foreign relations, city planning, and the arts. For fans of the series or those new to Japanese history, this course offers a rich, accessible introduction.

## The History of American Television

**Instructor:** James McKairnes | **Dates:** Mondays, 1/26/2026, 2/2/2026, 2/9/2026, 2/16/2026, 2/23/2026, 3/2/2026, 12–1:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

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

This video-rich, conversational course offers a dynamic biography of American television—from its 1920s conception and 1930s debut to its digital-era reinvention. We will trace TV's evolution through its early development, postwar boom, rebellious adolescence in the 1970s, and identity crisis in the early 2000s. We will explore the sitcoms, dramas, news, sports, and specials that have defined generations. From *Matlock* to *Abbott Elementary*, from *The Last of Us* to *The Bear*, this course looks at how the medium has changed—and how it has changed us. Whether a lifelong fan or new to the history of television, this course invites us to rediscover the highs, lows, and cultural impact of America's favorite screen.

## John James Audubon and the Birds of America

**Instructor:** Eric Simon | **Dates:** Thursdays, 1/22/2026, 1/29/2026, 2/5/2026, 2/12/2026, 2/19/2026, 2/26/2026, 8–9:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

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

John James Audubon was a French American artist and naturalist who, beginning in the 1820s, set out to document every bird species in the US. The result was *The Birds of America*, a collection of 435 hand-painted bird prints widely regarded as one of the finest books ever published. This course explores Audubon's early life, artistic techniques, and the scientific and aesthetic value of his work. We will take a closer look at selected prints and examine the intersection of art and science in Audubon's process. We will have thoughtful discussion of his legacy and his role in shaping the American understanding of nature and wildlife.

## The Virtues

**Instructor:** David Smith | **Dates:** Wednesdays, 1/14/2026, 1/21/2026, 1/28/2026, 2/4/2026, 2/11/2026, 2/18/2026, 10–11:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

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

Virtue theory is an ethical approach that emphasizes character over action—focusing not just on doing good, but on being good. What are the qualities of a virtuous person? This question has deep roots across cultures, explored by thinkers such as Aristotle, Jesus, the Buddha, and Confucius, as well as by modern scholars. We will examine core virtues such as sincerity, honesty, courage, compassion, respect, and love. We will explore how these qualities have been understood across traditions and identify ways to nurture them in daily life. The full series may be taught as two separate courses.

## How the US Immigration System (Usually) Works

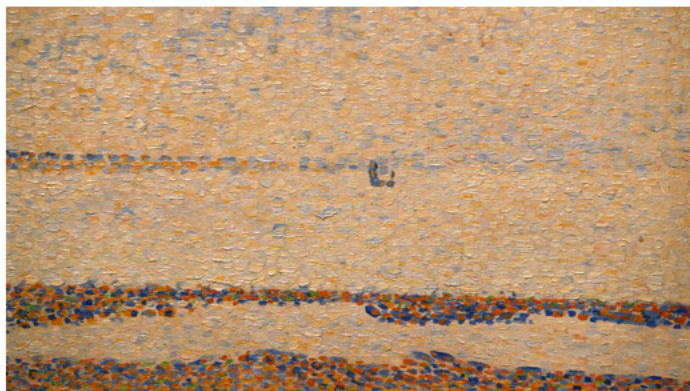
**Instructor:** Michele Waslin | **Dates:** Fridays, 1/16/2026, 1/23/2026, 1/30/2026, 2/6/2026, 2/13/2026, 2/20/2026, 8–9:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

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

Immigration has long been one of the most complex and contentious issues in US history. We will explore how



immigration policy has evolved over time and how the current system is designed to function. We will examine key historical shifts that inform today's debates and consider enduring questions: Who is allowed to live in the US? How many people can the country support? What are our international obligations? Through a mix of historical context and contemporary analysis, we will engage in thoughtful, constructive conversations about the challenges and possibilities facing US immigration policy today.



## Post Impressionism and the Birth of Abstraction

**Instructor:** Lauren Weingarden | **Dates:** Mondays, 1/26/2026, 2/2/2026, 2/9/2026, 2/16/2026, 2/23/2026, 3/2/2026, 2–3:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

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

Post-Impressionism (1880–1910) marked a decisive turn away from Impressionism's focus on natural light and color. In its place, Post-Impressionist artists emphasized bold color, geometric forms, expressive distortion, and symbolic meaning. This course explores the movement through the work of Paul Cézanne, Vincent van Gogh, Paul Gauguin, Georges Seurat, and Henri Matisse. Although these artists did not form a unified group, they collectively redefined the artist's role and the function of art in society. By challenging industrial-era values, conventional artistic practices, and religious ideologies, Post-Impressionism laid the groundwork for the radical innovations of modern art.

## Dealing in Futures: The Shape of Science Fiction

**Instructor:** Gary Wolfe | **Dates:** Tuesdays, 1/20/2026, 1/27/2026, 2/3/2026, 2/10/2026, 2/17/2026, 2/24/2026, 12–1:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

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

Once considered the domain of pulp magazines and low-budget films, science fiction is now a staple of mainstream culture—appearing in television, film, comics, games, and even theme parks. However, science fiction began as storytelling driven by visionary writers eager to break convention and explore new worlds, inventions, ideas, and societal models.

This course traces the evolution of science fiction, examining how the genre has developed, how it differs from fantasy and myth, and how key authors have shaped its direction. We will explore science fiction's literary foundations and cultural impact, gaining a deeper understanding of how it continues to challenge imagination and reflect contemporary concerns.

## Osher Integrative Health: Navigating Chronic Illness in a Complex Healthcare System

**Instructor:** Osher Collaborative for Integrative Health (multiple speakers) | **Dates:** Fridays, 1/30/2026, 2/6/2026, 2/13/2026, 2/20/2026, 2/27/2026, 3/6/2026, 12–1:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

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

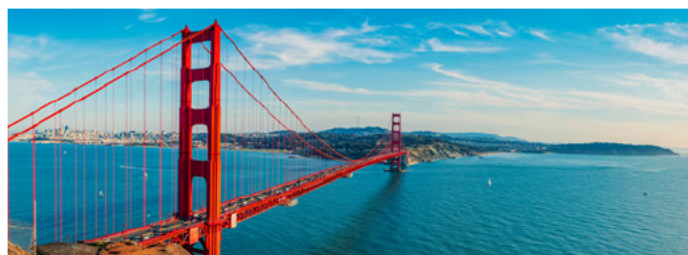
This course, presented in partnership with the Osher Collaborative for Integrative Health, features expert speakers from their upcoming national conference, Navigating Chronic Illness in a Complex Healthcare System. Through engaging presentations and discussions, participants will explore how integrative health approaches can address the challenges of living with chronic conditions and help individuals make informed choices within today's increasingly complex healthcare environment. Topics will focus on whole-person care, patient empowerment, and practical strategies for managing long-term health concerns.

## Music: Controversies and Curiosities

**Instructor:** Emmanuel Abramovits | **Dates:** Wednesdays, 4/15/2026, 4/22/2026, 4/29/2026, 5/6/2026, 5/13/2026, 5/20/2026, 2–3:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

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

Music has long provoked debate, from Beethoven and Stravinsky's bold innovations to Broadway works like *Annie Get Your Gun* and *South Pacific*, now revisited through modern concerns about race, consent, and gender. Is political correctness enriching art or erasing cultural heritage? We will also examine plagiarism and borrowing in pop and film music, with cases involving The Beatles, Pink Floyd, and Peter Dinklage. This course blends audiovisuals, anecdotes, and humor to explore music's most controversial moments.



## California Uncovered: A Journey Through Time, Place, and Identity

**Instructor:** Anthony Antonucci | **Dates:** Fridays, 4/10/2026, 4/17/2026, 4/24/2026, 5/1/2026, 5/8/2026, 5/15/2026, 12–1:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

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

California is more than a state—it is an idea, a dream, and a contradiction. In this course, we will journey from its earliest Indigenous cultures through Spanish, Mexican, and American rule, exploring missions, the Gold Rush, the railroad, Hollywood, and Silicon Valley. We will challenge myths, highlight overlooked voices, and examine how migration, innovation, and cultural change shaped the Golden State. We will discover what it has meant, and still means, to be Californian.



# THE SUN ALSO RISES



## The Lost Generation

**Instructor:** Ferdâ Aysa | **Dates:** Wednesdays, 4/15/2026, 4/22/2026, 4/29/2026, 5/6/2026, 5/13/2026, 5/20/2026, 12–1:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

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

This course will examine the cultural transformations in thinking and living that reshaped America and Western Europe between World War I and the Great Depression. Known as the Roaring Twenties, the Jazz Age, and the Lost Generation, this period redefined values and norms. We will explore the vibrant world of 1920s Paris through F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Babylon Revisited* and Bernice Bobs *Her Hair*, Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*, and Gertrude Stein's *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*, considering the lasting legacy of the era.

## Place, Memory, and Environmental Psychology

**Instructor:** Fernanda Blanco Vidal | **Dates:** Tuesdays, 4/7/2026, 4/14/2026, 4/21/2026, 4/28/2026, 5/5/2026, 5/12/2026, 10–11:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

**Member Fee:** \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99845

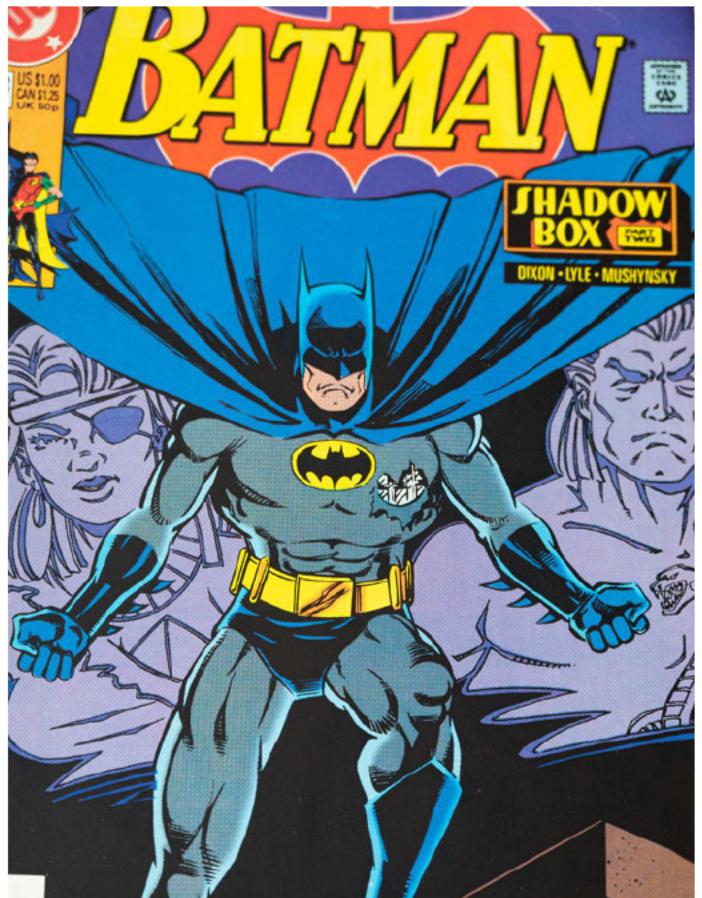
How much of who we are is shaped by the places we live and experience? This course invites reflection on the psychological and emotional relationships between people and their environments. Drawing on psychology, geography, architecture, and design, we will explore environmental psychology and how physical environments shape behavior, cognition, identity, and memory. Using place-based methods, we will discuss concepts such as place attachment, identity, and cognitive maps. We will reflect on memory, home, trauma, displacement, and nature's role in well-being.

## JFK's Quest for Peace: Lessons for Turbulent Times

**Instructor:** Charles Blum | **Dates:** Thursdays, 4/2/2026, 4/9/2026, 4/16/2026, 4/23/2026, 4/30/2026, 5/7/2026, 10–11:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

**Member Fee:** \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99846

Throughout his 1000-day presidency, John Kennedy pursued peace through a broad spectrum of initiatives. He saw a connection between learning and leadership and sought to use military deterrence, diplomacy, and soft power in novel ways. In this course, we will explore how his character and life experiences were the origins of those efforts. We will evaluate his powers of persuasion by listening to key speeches, and we will assess his successes and failures and their relevance to today's world.



## Comic Book Literature

**Instructor:** Arnold Blumberg | **Dates:** Tuesdays, 3/31/2026, 4/7/2026, 4/14/2026, 4/21/2026, 4/28/2026, 5/5/2026, 12–1:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

**Member Fee:** \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99847

Comics (blending words and pictures to tell stories) stretch from cave paintings and the Bayeux Tapestry to today's Batman and Spider-Man. Far more than superhero tales, comics are a versatile literary artform, capturing intimate and epic stories, social issues, and cultural moments through panels and word balloons. In this course, we will trace their history, explore their power, and read and discuss works including *Understanding Comics*, *Watchmen*, *Maus*, *Fun Home*, and *Persepolis*.



## Ghosts in the White House: The People Behind Presidential Speeches

**Instructor:** Diana Carlin | **Dates:** Mondays, 3/30/2026, 4/6/2026, 4/13/2026, 4/20/2026, 4/27/2026, 5/4/2026, 12–1:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

**Member Fee:** \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99848

Have you ever wondered who writes presidential speeches? This course traces the evolution of speechwriting from George Washington's administration to today. Yes, Hamilton helped draft Washington's Farewell Address, but no, Lincoln did not scribble the Gettysburg Address on an envelope. We will study the writing process presidents used and examine drafts from FDR, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Carter, and George H.W. Bush. We will view clips from speeches and from former White House speechwriters describing the process.

## From Leo XIII to Leo XIV: History of 20th and 21st Century Popes

**Instructor:** Oliva Espin | **Dates:** Tuesdays, 4/7/2026, 4/14/2026, 4/21/2026, 4/28/2026, 5/5/2026, 5/12/2026, 2–3:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

**Member Fee:** \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99849

The death of Pope Francis and the election of the first US born Pope have been in the news repeatedly in the last few months, capturing the imagination of many people, including non-Catholics. Who are these men? What are their life stories? How were they similar to and different from each other? In this course, we will discuss the lives and dominant perspectives of the last ten Popes, exploring their most significant positions and their influence on world affairs.

## A Beautiful Brain

**Instructor:** Scott Fulton | **Dates:** Thursdays, 4/9/2026, 4/16/2026, 4/23/2026, 4/30/2026, 5/7/2026, 5/14/2026, 8–9:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

**Member Fee:** \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99850

Most conversations about aging focus on lifespan, but brainspan (how long our mind stays sharp) matters more. In this course, we will explore how the brain ages and what science reveals about protecting memory, balance, and clarity. Topics include normal changes versus early dementia, neuroplasticity, nutrition, sleep, stress, social ties, and purpose. Each session blends accessible science with self-tests and take-home practices. We will also build a personalized Cognitive Health Scorecard to track habits and strengthen resilience.

## Frank Lloyd Wright and Modern Architecture

**Instructor:** Jennifer Gray | **Dates:** Tuesdays, 4/21/2026, 4/28/2026, 5/5/2026, 5/12/2026, 5/19/2026, 5/26/2026, 4–5:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

**Member Fee:** \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99851

Frank Lloyd Wright designed nearly 1,000 buildings and helped define modern architecture. This course explores highlights of his practice, from Prairie houses to Fallingwater and the Guggenheim Museum, alongside lesser-known projects like affordable housing and city planning. We'll examine how Wright's work reflected cultural shifts in technology, science,

and politics, offering a deeper understanding of his lasting influence on architecture and modern design.

## Great Science Stories

**Instructor:** Johnnie Hendrickson | **Dates:** Thursdays, 4/9/2026, 4/16/2026, 4/23/2026, 4/30/2026, 5/7/2026, 5/14/2026, 12–1:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

**Member Fee:** \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99852

Science is full of surprises. Dyes, accidentally discovered, launched the modern pharmaceutical industry. A failed experiment opened the door to new physics. Discoveries are never just facts. They are moments of creativity, struggle, and chance with far-reaching consequences. In this course, we will explore the human side of science, tracing breakthroughs in biology, chemistry, physics, and more. We will ask not only what was found, but how and why it matters.

## AI for Regular People

**Instructor:** Melba Kurman and Hod Lipson | **Dates:** Thursdays, 4/2/2026, 4/9/2026, 4/16/2026, 4/23/2026, 4/30/2026, 5/7/2026, 4–5:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

**Member Fee:** \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99853

Back by popular demand, this updated course offers a clear, engaging introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how it's rapidly transforming our world. From self-driving cars to chatbots and precision medicine, we will explore how AI works, where it's headed, and what it means for society. No tech experience needed—just curiosity! With fresh examples and timely updates, participants will gain a solid understanding of the opportunities and challenges AI presents today.

## The Scopes Monkey Trial: Then and Now

**Instructor:** Douglas Mishkin | **Dates:** Tuesdays, 3/31/2026, 4/7/2026, 4/14/2026, 4/21/2026, 4/28/2026, 5/5/2026, 8–9:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

**Member Fee:** \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99854

In July 1925, Clarence Darrow, William Jennings Bryan, and others converged on Dayton, Tennessee, for the Scopes Monkey Trial—an eight-day clash over religion, science, public education, free speech, and textbooks broadcast nationwide. One hundred years later, these debates continue. This course explores why the trial happened in Dayton, how Bryan and Darrow became involved, what occurred in the courtroom, whether *Inherit the Wind* reflects reality, who won and lost, and why it still matters today.

## Siberia: Russia's Frozen Wasteland or Economic Heartland?

**Instructor:** Asya Pereltsvaig | **Dates:** Wednesdays, 4/1/2026, 4/8/2026, 4/15/2026, 4/22/2026, 4/29/2026, 5/6/2026, 10–11:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

**Member Fee:** \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99855

Siberia covers three quarters of Russia's territory but is home to only a quarter of its population. Yet its role in shaping Russia as a vast and wealthy empire is profound. In this course, we will explore Siberia's economic significance, indigenous cultures, and history as a penal colony, along with its importance for

climate change, environmental issues, and Russian-Chinese relations. We will also consider Siberia's role in both the rise and possible fragmentation of Russia.

## A History of Street Art

**Instructor:** Heather Shirey | **Dates:** Wednesdays, 4/1/2026, 4/8/2026, 4/15/2026, 4/22/2026, 4/29/2026, 5/6/2026, 8–9:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

**Member Fee:** \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99856

Art in the streets (including graffiti, murals, stickers, and paste-ups) gives voice to marginalized communities, shapes urban environments, and challenges institutional norms. This course explores graffiti and street art in the U.S. and around the world, examining their histories, motivations, and social impact. Participants will consider the rise of global mural movements, efforts to preserve and present street art, and its evolving role in activism, community identity, and social change.

## Writing the Personal Essay: Finding Your Story

**Instructor:** Lisa Stolley | **Dates:** Saturdays, 4/18/2026, 4/25/2026, 5/2/2026, 5/9/2026, 5/16/2026, 5/23/2026, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

**Member Fee:** \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99857

The personal essay, one of the oldest forms of creative nonfiction, blends storytelling, reflection, and analysis to give voice to lived experience. In this course, we will explore the personal essay as both art and self-expression. Through readings, discussion, and writing exercises, we will study elements such as narrative arc, scene-setting, and reflection. We will draft our own essays, discovering how this enduring form helps us find our voices and tell our stories with clarity.



## Violinists: Performers and Composers

**Instructor:** Ilana Zaks | **Dates:** Mondays, 4/6/2026, 4/13/2026, 4/20/2026, 4/27/2026, 5/4/2026, 5/11/2026, 8–9:30 a.m. | **Format:** 6-weeks/Online

**Member Fee:** \$89 | **Schedule No.** 99858

Why do so many great violinists also become composers? This course will explore the fascinating legacy of violinist-composers, including Baroque virtuosos like Heinrich Biber, Romantic legends like Niccolò Paganini, and 20th century innovators like George Enescu and Grazyna Bacewicz. Through listening and discussing, we will examine how these artists wrote music tailored to their instruments and themselves. Taught by a professional violinist, this course offers a behind-the-strings look at how performance and composition intertwine.

## Community Events

### Osher Spring 2026 Semester Kickoff and Course Preview Event

**Date:** Friday, January 30, 2026, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. | **Format:** In-Person (Extended Studies)

**Fee:** FREE

Join Osher at SDSU for an exciting Spring 2026 Semester Kickoff and Course Preview event! Get a sneak peek into our diverse range of captivating courses. Meet passionate faculty, explore course highlights, and connect with fellow learners. Experience the joy of lifelong learning in a welcoming and enriching environment. Plan your educational journey and embark on a rewarding semester of growth. Don't miss out on this inspiring event!

## Instructor/Presenter Bios

**Emanuel Abramovits**, MBA, is a mechanical engineer and has also been a concert promoter for over two decades. He is directly involved in events by international artists like Itzhak Perlman, Gustavo Dudamel, Sarah Brightman, Roger Hodgson, ASIA, Journey, Kenny G., and many more. Abramovits has designed and staged many original orchestral events, including an Event of the Year winner and several world premieres. He served as the cultural director at Union Israelita De Caracas from 2008 to 2019, releasing books and organizing film cycles, concerts, and art exhibits. He consistently teaches online and in-person across the U.S.

**Mike Agron Born** in LA's entertainment scene, Mike Agron is a former high-tech executive and entrepreneur who now creates and delivers dynamic, story-driven seminars on music and entertainment. With a storyteller's eye and a DJ's ear, he has led 15 acclaimed seminar series, each spotlighting a different facet of music and entertainment, for the Sacramento Renaissance Society and national lifelong learning groups.

**Anthony Antonucci**, Ph.D., is a historian whose teaching and scholarship explore the intersections of foreign relations, nationalism, race, and immigration policy in U.S. history since 1750. A Fulbright fellow, Antonucci has also held research appointments at the Massachusetts Historical Society, the American Antiquarian Society, and the University of Connecticut Humanities Institute. He teaches courses in U.S., world, and California history, as well as African American, Latinx, and women's studies at colleges across Southern California, including Cal Poly Pomona, the University of La Verne, and Citrus College.

**Ferdá Asya**, Ph.D., Professor of English, has taught at universities worldwide and lived in Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and the Middle East. Specializing in 19th–20th century American literature with a focus on Edith Wharton, her interests include international literature and American expatriate writing in Europe. She has published widely on authors from Achebe to Stein and edited *American Writers in Paris: Then and Now* (2025), *Teaching Edith Wharton's Major Novels and Short Fiction* (2021), and *American Writers in Europe* (2013).



**David Bame** served as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer (diplomat) for 29 years in more than 30 countries. He focused on global political-military issues, most recently as an advisor to the Navy SEALs. He and his spouse now regularly secure cease-fires and try to facilitate negotiations among their three children.

Richard Bell, Ph.D., is professor of history at the University of Maryland and the author of *Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped into Slavery and Their Astonishing Odyssey Home*, a finalist for both the George Washington Prize and the Harriet Tubman Prize. He has held research fellowships at Yale University, the University of Cambridge, and the Library of Congress. A recipient of the National Endowment for the Humanities Public Scholar Award and the Andrew Carnegie Fellowship, Bell specializes in early American history and public scholarship. His most recent book, *The American Revolution and the Fate of the World*, was published in November 2025.

**Virginia B. Berger**, M.A. became a certified professional coach with a specialty in retirement coaching after she retired from Grossmont College in 2006. She helps clients make the psychological, emotional and social transition from work to retirement through group and individual coaching. She is also a certified facilitator of Conscious Aging workshops developed by the Institute of Noetic Sciences. Virginia has done presentations on retirement and aging at the OSHER Institute at SDSU, San Diego Oasis, senior centers, and older adult communities.

**Eliot Bethke** is a Ph.D. candidate in computational bioengineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where his research focuses on healthcare and education applications. He began his career in research and development at several Midwest start-ups, concentrating on new product design and manufacturing. After leading a summer internship program, he discovered a passion for teaching and shifted his focus to education. Bethke now shares his hands-on experience in hardware and software development with the next generation of engineers, combining practical insight with academic research to inspire innovation and learning.

**Fernanda Blanco Vidal** is a Ph.D. Candidate in Environmental Psychology at the Graduate Center, CUNY. She holds degrees in Psychology and Sociology from the Federal University of Bahia, where she published *Nostalgia, but not Sadness – Psychology, Memory and Forced Displacement*. Her dissertation explores how people's sense of place shifted during the COVID-19 pandemic. With over a decade of higher education experience in Brazil and the US, she develops place-based methodologies linking psychology, memory, and displacement.

**Charles Blum** served as a US diplomat and trade policy official for 17 years before launching a consulting firm that operated in Washington DC and Central Europe. He has developed more than four dozen courses focusing on global politics, war and peace, and international cooperation. He earned degrees in history from Eastern University and in international relations from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Dr. Arnold T. Blumberg** is a publisher, author, artist, and pop culture historian. He has taught courses in media literacy and cultural studies at University of Maryland, Baltimore College

(UMBC), the University of Baltimore, Community College Baltimore College (CCBC), and the Osher Institute at Towson University. With fifteen years of experience in the comic book industry and five years curating a pop culture museum, he now runs his own publishing company, ATB Publishing.

**Diana Carlin**, Ph.D. is Professor Emerita of communication at Saint Louis University. For 30 years, she has taught courses on and written about First Ladies. She is the co-author of *U.S. First Ladies: Making History and Leaving Legacies* and *Remember the First Ladies: America's History-Making Women*. Carlin has published articles and book chapters on a variety of First Ladies and researches and writes on the topics of women in politics, presidential communication, and political debate.

**Yamin Chehin MSTCM.**, is a Diplomate in Oriental Medicine, a licensed Acupuncturist and Herbalist and a Senior Qi Gong Instructor. For 10 years, she was a professor at Yo San University of Traditional Chinese Medicine where she taught applied meridian theory to the practice of Qi Gong. She now focuses on making Classical Chinese Medicine wisdom accessible to the wider community through lectures and workshops at venues like the Ojai Foundation, Wolf Connection Youth intervention program, Yogadaya, Melrose Gardens Memory Care and the Violence Intervention Program. For more information about her work visit her website [www.healingcycles.net](http://www.healingcycles.net)

**Blaine Davies** M.A, History, Boise State University, 2002 B.S. Business, San Francisco State University, 1980. Idaho Secondary Teaching Credential, history and US Government. Taught US history at Boise State University, 2003 to 2017. Product Marketing Manager, Hewlett-Packard, 1980 to 2001 Have traveled extensively in the United States and internationally. Especially enjoy visiting US historical sites I discuss in my lectures. Also enjoy playing tennis and pickleball, ballroom dancing, and reading and reviewing historical novels.

**Constantine (Costa) Dillon** is a retired National Park Service ranger and superintendent who worked in more than a dozen parks in his 35-year. His awards include the Department of the Interior's Meritorious Service Award and the National Parks Conservation Association's Stephen Mather Award. In addition to his time working in parks, Costa was also the Chief of Training and Employee Development for the National Park Service and managed the National Park Service's Albright Training Center at the Grand Canyon. He has a B.S. in Environmental Planning and Management (Park Option) from the University of California, Davis, and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Colorado.

**Jonathan Duncan** is a photojournalist, writer, teacher, and public speaker with more than 25 years of experience. His work has been published in *National Geographic*, *The Himalayan Journal*, *Sailing, Rock and Ice*, and by the University of Utah Press. He has taught at the Art Institute of Portland, Western Washington University, Westminster University, and the University of Utah's Osher Institute. His work explores humanity's complex relationship with the natural world, often in remote landscapes and cultures.

**Melanie Dunn** a retiree of the San Diego Unified School District's French Language Immersion Program, was recruited into Osher (2014) by her longtime friend Jonnie Wilson. She not only is passionate about her Osher classes but also works out twice weekly at the Aztec Recreation Center gym and is an absolute fanatic about SDSU basketball! In addition to volunteering for Osher, Melanie serves on the boards of University Christian Church (Hillcrest) and the Uptown Community Service Center, an agency providing services to San Diego's unsheltered population.

**Olivia M. Espín** is Professor Emerita of Women's Studies at San Diego State University and California School of Professional Psychology. She was a pioneer in the practice and theory of feminist therapy with women from different cultural backgrounds, particularly immigrants and refugees. A native of Cuba, she received her BA from the University of Costa Rica, her Ph.D. from the University of Florida, and did post-doctoral work at Harvard University. She is the recipient of many awards, most recently the award for Outstanding Lifetime Contributions to Psychology from the American Psychological Association. Dr. Espín recently published *Women, Sainthood, and Power: A Feminist Psychology of Cultural Constructions* and *My Native Land is Memory: Stories of a Cuban Childhood*, winner of 2021 San Diego Book Award.

**Jeremy Fackenthal**, Ph.D., is an independent filmmaker and nonprofit director. Fackenthal served as Director of the Common Good International Film Festival from 2019 through 2023. After completing a Ph.D. in Philosophy of Religion and Theology from Claremont Graduate University, he began using his philosophical background beyond the academy to raise questions and craft narratives. Fackenthal shot and edited a short documentary on spoken word poetry as a means of personal formation for adolescents, and he is currently working on a feature-length documentary. From making films to curating a film festival, Fackenthal enjoys films as an art form, a means of expression, and of course as entertainment.

**Joanne M. Ferraro** (Ph.D., UCLA), the Albert W. Johnson Distinguished Professor of History Emerita at SDSU, is the recipient of the Times Award for teaching excellence, the SDSU Alumni Award of Distinction, and the title Distinguished Professor for her prolific record of research and publication. Among her books are *"The Renaissance and The Wider World"* (Bloomsbury, 2024) and *"Venice: History of the Floating City"* (Cambridge, 2012). She is General Editor of Bloomsbury's 6 vol. *Cultural History of Marriage*. Ferraro's research was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Gladys Krieble Foundation, and SDSU.

**Andrew Fraknoi** was the Chair of the Astronomy Department at Foothill College. He was chosen as the 2007 California Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Endowment and has won several national prizes for his teaching. He is the lead author of "OpenStax Astronomy," a free, electronic textbook, which is the country's most-used introductory text in the field. He has also written books for teachers, children, and the public. He appears regularly on local and national radio, explaining astronomical ideas in easy to understand terms. The International Astronomical Union has named Asteroid 4859 Asteroid Fraknoi

to recognize his contributions to the public's appreciation of science.

**Scott Fulton** is recognized internationally as a "Redefiner" in the positive aging space. Accustomed to big systems engineering challenges, Fulton focuses his research on improving adult aging outcomes. He teaches Lifestyle Medicine and Aging, is an American College of Lifestyle Medicine member, sits on the prestigious True Health Initiative Council, and is past president of the National Aging in Place Council. His critically acclaimed book, *WHEALTHSPAN, More Years, More Moments, More Money*, hit #1 on Amazon, and he is known for creating the MEDAC system for optimal aging. Fulton is a multiple Ironman triathlete and lives in a demonstration home he recently designed and built for the future of optimal aging across a lifespan.

**Jennifer Gray**, Ph.D., is vice president of the Taliesin Institute at the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation. Her research explores how modern architects used design to advance social change at the turn of the 20th century. She has curated major exhibitions, including Frank Lloyd Wright at 150 at MoMA and The Imperial Hotel at 100, which toured Japan. Gray has taught at Columbia, Cornell, and MoMA, and formerly served as Curator of Drawings and Archives at Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library.

**Johnnie Hendrickson**, Ph.D., is a Teaching Professor in the School of Molecular Sciences at Arizona State University. He holds a Ph.D. in chemistry and is the author of the textbook *Chemistry in the World*. His academic work centers on science communication and the reciprocal relationship between science and society.

**Damon Hitchcock**, M.A. has been an educator for 49 years. He is currently teaching Art History and Studio Arts at Miramar College and Southwestern College and has been a continuing lecturer at Osher for 13 years. He instructed in the adult education department at the San Diego Museum of Art for 15 years. He has been a juror for exhibitions throughout San Diego County. With his lecture, Damon utilizes his visual library from extensive travel and research experiences. He earned his M.A. from SDSU and continues to produce and exhibit large-scale watercolors and drawings.

**Gordon Josephson**, MD, MPH, is a retired emergency physician and healthcare executive. He practiced emergency medicine from 1977 to 1997 before serving as Chief Operating Officer of Baystate Medical Practices—comprising 600 physicians and advanced practice clinicians—until 2015. He was a member of a multi-specialty practice within Baystate Health in Springfield, Massachusetts. Dr. Josephson holds a Master of Public Health from Harvard University and a medical degree from the State University of New York.

**Peter Kaye**, Ph.D., is a retired Northwestern University faculty member with nearly four decades of experience teaching literature and humanities at the college level. He earned his doctorate in English and Humanities from Stanford University in 1989, and his research culminated in the publication of *Dostoevsky and English Modernism* by Cambridge University Press. At Northwestern, Kaye combined administrative leadership with teaching, offering a wide range of courses focused on 19th- and 20th-century English, American, and



Continental fiction. He also led interdisciplinary seminars on foundational texts in literature and social thought. Now teaching online, Kaye remains committed to fostering lively, thought-provoking discussions.

**Maria Keckler**, Ph.D., an international, award-winning educator, researcher, and leader with 15+ years of expertise, serves SDSU as a Neuroeducation Research Fellow and Founder of the EmpathyRx Lab for Healthcare. Her book, "Bridge Builders", was named one of INC Magazine's "60 Best Business and Leadership Books Written by Women".

**Douglas Kenning**, Ph.D., earned his doctorate from the University of Edinburgh, is a scholar, writer, and seasoned educator in literature and history. He has held academic positions in Tunisia, Japan, Italy, and the United States, and brings a multidisciplinary background as a biologist, actor, army officer, taxi driver, and playwright. Kenning splits his time between the San Francisco Bay Area—where he has presented more than 120 courses on Mediterranean civilizations—and Sicily, where he teaches study-abroad students and leads small-group tours focused on history and myth. His dynamic teaching style draws from a rich, unconventional career and a deep passion for culture, making his lectures both intellectually engaging and memorable.

**Howard Kerner**, BA, MA, was a professor of English for 47 years and published more than 100 scholarly articles, primarily on the Holocaust. In retirement, he has pursued his passion project: researching and presenting on the inspiring bravery of little-known Holocaust rescuers. He speaks regularly at lifelong learning programs, sharing powerful stories of human goodness—urgently relevant in today's world.

**Chelsea King** is a continuing education instructor and learning and development specialist with more than a decade of experience in teaching and training. She began her career as a high school English teacher, where she developed a passion for helping others grow through engaging, accessible instruction. During the pandemic, she supported educators across Denver Public Schools in transitioning to remote teaching, deepening her commitment to tech-forward learning. King now focuses on adult learners, particularly in professional development and technology integration. Whether in educational or corporate settings, she designs learning experiences that are practical, empowering, and collaborative—always infused with best practices in technology and instructional design.

**Martin Kruming** is a retired attorney, journalist, and educator with over 30 years of experience. He is a former editor of the San Diego Daily Transcript, San Diego Lawyer, and the magazine of the San Diego County Bar Association. He currently teaches a course on Media Law & Ethics in the School of Journalism & Media Studies at SDSU and has written for the Mongol Messenger, the largest English language newspaper in Mongolia. Mr. Kruming is also the chair of the Global Neighborhood Project (GNP), an organization that has cultural and educational partnerships with neighborhoods in several countries, including Azerbaijan, Latvia, Mongolia, and Botswana.

**Melba Kurman** is an author and technology analyst. Melba Kurman has held roles at Microsoft, Cornell University, and several tech startups. She writes about emerging technologies and their societal impact. Together with Hod Lipson, they co-authored *Driverless* and *Fabricated: The Promise and Peril of 3D Printing*, and are frequent speakers on AI and innovation. They divide their time between New York City and the Berkshires.

**Elena Labkovsky**, Ph.D., is a neuroscientist and clinical neuropsychologist with over 30 years of experience in cognitive psychology, neuroscience, and psychophysiology. Her work focuses on understanding how brain function influences human behavior and developing innovative treatment approaches. Labkovsky specializes in neurobehavioral modulation, an advanced method that integrates psychological, neuropsychological, and psychophysiological assessments to address behavioral, cognitive, and emotional challenges. Her research and clinical work aim to improve the quality of life for individuals through evidence-based strategies that enhance brain health and emotional resilience.

**Ed Linz**, a 1965 graduate of the Naval Academy, is the author of six books, including works on the Great Depression and the Vietnam War. He holds advanced degrees from Oxford University and George Mason University and lives in Maine and Virginia. He was the recipient of a heart transplant in 1994.

**Hod Lipson**, Ph.D., Professor of Engineering and Data Science at Columbia University. Dr. Lipson directs Columbia's Creative Machines Lab, where his team builds artificially intelligent robots that can design, create, and express emotion. One of the world's most-cited academic roboticists, his work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *NPR*, *TED*, and *Quanta*. Together with Melba Kurman, they co-authored *Driverless* and *Fabricated: The Promise and Peril of 3D Printing*, and are frequent speakers on AI and innovation. They divide their time between New York City and the Berkshires.

**Fraser Livingston**, Ph.D., is an environmental historian from Bainbridge, Georgia. He earned his undergraduate degree in history and classics from the University of Georgia and completed his Ph.D. in American history at Mississippi State University. His work focuses on the history of science and technology, agriculture, and the environment. His dissertation received the 2023 Gilbert C. Fite Award from the Agricultural History Society for Best Dissertation on Agricultural History. Fraser currently serves as a research assistant and writer for a book project on George Bird Grinnell, founder of the first Audubon Society and longtime editor of *Forest and Stream*. He is the book review editor for *Environmental History*, the leading journal in the field.

**Michelle Matter** is Director of Aging for the Center for Excellence in Aging & Longevity. She brings more than 25 years of experience working in state government, higher education, and the nonprofit aging sector. Michelle has a doctorate in organizational change and leadership and her dissertation is a promising practice study examining the benefits of senior nutrition programs as a cost savings to Medicare. As a lifelong learner, Michelle has an MBA with a

healthcare specialization and a master's degree in gerontology. She was also an ASA RISE Fellow focusing on diversity in aging, advocacy, social justice, and leadership development.

**Megan McClory** is a doctoral candidate in history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research focuses on early modern Japan, and her dissertation, *The Sword Hunt: The Tokugawa Peace through Weapons*, examines the political and social impact of sword restrictions imposed by Toyotomi Hideyoshi in 1588. McClory holds a BA in East Asian studies, history, and anthropology from Brandeis University. She taught high school English in Tokyo before beginning her Ph.D.. She spent two years in Japan as a Global Research Fellow at Kokugakuin University, conducting archival research and honing her language skills. She has been passionate about Japanese history since childhood.

**Jim McKairnes** is a former CBS Television executive who writes and teaches about the history of television. He has served on the faculties of DePaul University, Temple University, and Middle Tennessee State University. He published *All in the Decade: 70 Things About 70s TV That Turned Ten Years Into a Revolution*, based on a course he created at Temple. Drawing on decades of experience in the industry and the classroom, McKairnes offers engaging and insightful perspectives on how television has shaped—and reflected—American culture.

**Doug Mishkin**, an experienced trial lawyer, partnered with Americans United for Separation of Church and State to foster dialogue in Dayton, TN, site of the Scopes Monkey Trial. He has interviewed Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Edward J. Larson (*Summer for the Gods*), civil rights attorney Fred Gray, and George Washington Law Professor Jeffrey Rosen, president of the National Constitution Center, along with other distinguished lawyers and historians on law, history, and constitutional issues.

**Lindsay Marie Morris** is a novelist and journalist based in Los Angeles. A graduate of Marquette University with a B.A. in Communications, she began her career as a travel editor at *Shape* magazine and has contributed to *Forks Over Knives*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and other publications. Inspired by her Sicilian-American roots, her debut novel, *The Last Letter from Sicily* (Storm Publishing, January 2025), traces a World War II-era story of love, resilience, and family secrets. Her second novel, *Beneath the Sicilian Stars* (Storm Publishing, July 2025), delves into the lesser-known history of Italian American internment and evacuation on the West Coast during World War II.

**Dave Nunez**, a secondary mathematics educator with 8 years of experience and a nearly completed Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology. His research focuses on neuro-cognitive learning and how mathematics enhances brain function. He is passionate about teaching older adults, as some mathematical skills remain resilient with age and can promote cognitive growth. Having overcome his own struggles with math, he believes it's never too late to learn. His goal is to create an accessible program to empower older adults, boost confidence, and support mental acuity through meaningful mathematical learning.

**Jacqueline Penhos** is a Holistic Therapist, multi-modality and Well-Being educator. Her passions are Diversity and Mental

Health for all generations. She enjoys weaving ancient and modern practices into her work. She specializes in leading large-scale workshops, healing circles and creating curriculum for creating self-mastery experiences. Jacqueline believes in Holistic therapy by sharing Meditation, Mindfulness and Restorative Yoga. All classes are trauma-informed and held with the intention of safe space and practice.

**Asya Pereltsvaig**, Ph.D. received a degree in English and History from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a Ph.D. in Linguistics from McGill University. She taught at Yale and Stanford, and has been teaching in lifelong education programs since 2010. Her expertise is in language and history, and the relationship between them. Her most recent book is *Languages of the World: An Introduction*, 4th edition. Pereltsvaig is a popular instructor for several OLLI programs around the country.

**Heather Shirey**, Ph.D., is a Professor of Art History at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. Her research explores race and identity, migration and diasporas, and the role of monuments, memorials, and street art in shaping public space. As part of the Urban Art Mapping team, she co-created the George Floyd and Anti-Racist Street Art Database. Her work examines how street art documents collective experience and functions as activism, healing, and critical engagement.

**Eric Simon**, Ph.D., is a professor of Biology at New England College and holds a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Harvard University. An avid traveler and award-winning nature photographer, he leads educational trips to destinations such as Belize, the Galapagos, Tanzania, Cuba, the Amazon River, and Patagonia. Simon is also the author of a best-selling series of college biology textbooks—used in over 40 countries—with more than 2 million copies in print.

**David Smith**, Ph.D., grew up in a world of fundamentalist religion but gradually moved away from that worldview, becoming a religious progressive/skeptic. He holds an M.A. in philosophy of religion and earned a second M.A. and a Ph.D. in religious studies from Temple University. A former full-time faculty member in philosophy and religious studies at Central Washington University, he now teaches independent seminars and non-credit courses in comparative religion and philosophy. He has published widely in these fields, and his mission is to empower individuals to think critically and independently about things that matter.

**Glenn Smith**, J.D., LL.M., is a retired constitutional law professor at California Western School of Law. He also teaches a Supreme Court simulation class in which the students learn about the Court by playing roles of current justices and advocates. He is the author of *Constitutional Law for Dummies* and writes about a variety of legal issues for scholarly journals and publications aimed at non-legal audiences. He is a regular commentator in print and electronic media regarding the Court and its cases.

**John R. Spencer**, Ph.D., is the Emeritus Professor of Biblical Studies in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at John Carroll University. He earned his doctorate (Ph.D.) from the University of Chicago; an M.A. from the Pacific School of Religion; and a B.S. from the University of California, Berkeley.



**Lisa Stolley**, professor of English at the University of Illinois Chicago and Northwestern University, is a published fiction author. Her short stories have appeared in numerous literary journals, earning an Illinois Arts Council Award, a Pushcart Prize nomination, and first prizes from the Washington Review and Georgia State Review. Her nonfiction has been published in *Today's Chicago Woman* and the *Chicago Reader*. Stolley teaches scientific writing at UIC's School of Public Health and is a legal writer for immigration attorneys.

The Osher Collaborative for Integrative Health, features expert speakers from their upcoming national conference, *Navigating Chronic Illness in a Complex Healthcare System*. Through engaging presentations and discussions, participants will explore how integrative health approaches can address the challenges of living with chronic conditions and help individuals make informed choices within today's increasingly complex healthcare environment. Topics will focus on whole-person care, patient empowerment, and practical strategies for managing long-term health concerns.

**Bruce Urquhart** earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography from San Diego State University in 1978. The following year he joined Caltrans Surveys Department. In December 2015, Mr. Urquhart retired from Caltrans after a 38-year career. For the past 32 years, Mr. Urquhart has also been an adjunct professor at San Diego State University, teaching Surveying for Civil Engineers. He still maintains his connection with the surveying profession teaching at SDSU.

**Michele Waslin**, Ph.D., is the Assistant Director of the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities. In this role, she oversees research development, educational programming, and public engagement initiatives focused on global migration, race, and ethnicity in the United States and beyond. Waslin coordinates fellowships and scholarships and helps shape academic and community-facing projects that deepen understanding of immigration issues. She brings extensive experience in immigration policy, education, and public scholarship to her work, supporting the Center's mission to advance interdisciplinary research and promote informed dialogue on migration and its effects.

**Lauren Weingarden** is Professor Emerita of Art History at Florida State University. Her research explores the intersections of literature and visual art in 19th-century culture, with a focus on the American architect Louis Sullivan and on French figures such as Charles Baudelaire and Édouard Manet. She has published extensively on these subjects and developed an interdisciplinary, embodied aesthetic model that invites viewers to re-experience artists' responses to modernity's fragmentation and the fleeting qualities of nature—a perspective that shapes her teaching on Impressionism.

**Jonnie Wilson** is a San Diego author and historian, with more than 45 years of experience as a researcher, writer, and editor. Following retirement from the San Diego Unified School District, where she worked as a curriculum writer and editor, she joined the Osher program (2013) and served on the Curriculum Committee for several years prior to the pandemic. Jonnie currently serves on the boards of the Ocean Beach

Historical Society and the Congress of History of San Diego and Imperial Counties, an umbrella organization for historical societies and museums throughout the region.

**Gary Wolfe**, emeritus professor of humanities at Roosevelt University, is a critic, podcaster, and longtime reviewer for *Locus* magazine. His books include *Evaporating Genres: Essays on Fantastic Literature*, which received a Locus Award in 2012. He edited *American Science Fiction: Nine Classic Novels of the 1950s* and *American Science Fiction: Eight Classic Novels of the 1960s for the Library of America*. Wolfe has received distinguished achievement awards from the Science Fiction Research Association and the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts, a World Fantasy Award for criticism, and twelve Hugo nominations. In 2021, he won a Hugo and a Ditmar Award for *The Coode Street Podcast*, which he co-hosts with Jonathan Strahan.

**Ilana Zaks**, professional violinist, educator, and multidisciplinary artist, is First Violin with the Seattle Symphony and Seattle Opera. A graduate of the New England Conservatory and Yale School of Music, she studied under renowned violinists Donald Weilerstein and Ani Kavafian and spent nearly a decade working with Itzhak Perlman through the Perlman Music Program. Recently appointed to the Boston University Tanglewood Institute faculty, Zaks is passionate about connecting audiences to music through storytelling, performance, and dialogue.





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