

# OLLI

## COURSE CATALOG

Winter 2025



**December 9**  
Registration Begins

**March 6**  
Understanding Changing Oceans

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**UC DAVIS**

**COURSE LISTING ON BACK COVER  
EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS ONLINE**

# OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE (OLLI) COURSES AND EVENTS FOR SENIORS

## OLLI MEMBERSHIP FEES

### SEMI-ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Jan. 21, 2025 – June 30, 2025 \$50

### QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP

Jan. 21, 2025 – March 28, 2025 \$25

## CLASS LOCATIONS

Courses may be offered in-person, via Zoom or hybrid to allow simultaneous participation in both formats.

In-person courses are held at Watermelon Music, 1970 Lake Blvd., Suite 1 in Davis. See our website for map and directions.

Please visit the OLLI Blog at [cpe.ucdavis.edu/olli/blog](http://cpe.ucdavis.edu/olli/blog) for the most up-to-date information.

You may also contact our staff at (530) 752-1659 for specific information.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to our generous donors, OLLI scholarships are available for those in need of financial assistance. Contact Leslie Anastassatos at (530) 752-1659 for details.

## LOOKING FOR MORE?

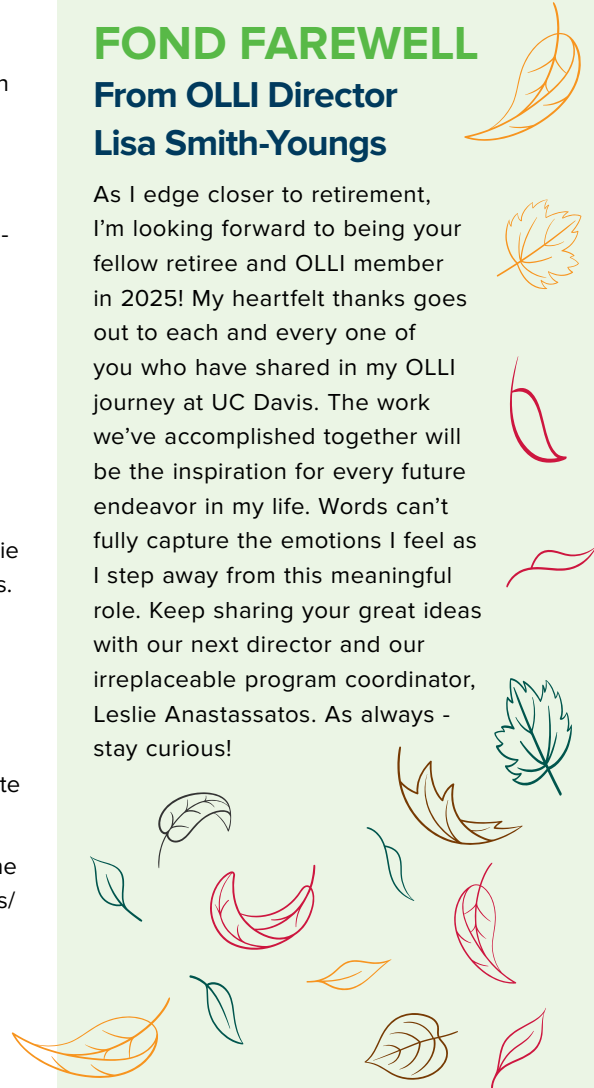
Expanded course descriptions, including film titles for Film Study courses, and instructor bios are available on our website at [cpe.ucdavis.edu/olli](http://cpe.ucdavis.edu/olli).

A quick reference guide is available on the back cover with a listing of winter courses/events and start dates.

**Registration begins December 9.**

## FOND FAREWELL From OLLI Director Lisa Smith-Youngs

As I edge closer to retirement, I'm looking forward to being your fellow retiree and OLLI member in 2025! My heartfelt thanks goes out to each and every one of you who have shared in my OLLI journey at UC Davis. The work we've accomplished together will be the inspiration for every future endeavor in my life. Words can't fully capture the emotions I feel as I step away from this meaningful role. Keep sharing your great ideas with our next director and our irreplaceable program coordinator, Leslie Anastassatos. As always - stay curious!



## TO ENROLL

**By Phone:** (530) 757-8777

**Online:** [cpe.ucdavis.edu/olli](http://cpe.ucdavis.edu/olli)

Enrolling online requires a student account. Contact Student Services with questions or further details.

**Need help enrolling?** The Student Services team is available by phone to help! Call the number above to receive personalized assistance, or leave your name and phone number and email for a call back. Student Services office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## OLLI OFFICE HOURS

OLLI staff are in office at the UC Davis International Center on Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and work remotely on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Voicemail is checked daily. The most expedient way to reach our team is via email at [olli@ucdavis.edu](mailto:olli@ucdavis.edu).



*Rediscover our changing oceans –  
see page 6  
(GettyImages)*

## ART, MUSIC AND THEATER

### Anatomy of a Musical Part 3: Bigwigs of Broadway

The Broadway musical is one of the few indigenous American art forms. Explore a diverse collection of productions, watching actual stage performance recordings in class. The class will discuss the performances after each viewing. We'll examine the works of Bob Fosse, Jerry Herman, Stephen Sondheim and one other major musical.

**Instructor:** Roy Engoron earned a B.A. and M.A. from UC Davis. He taught theatre arts for the majority of his career and has been in over 100 productions and directed works from the ancient Greeks to modern Broadway fare.

4 Tuesdays	Jan. 28-Feb. 18	10 a.m.-1 p.m.
243SNR300	\$60	Watermelon Music

### Great Singer-Songwriters: Part 2

Inspired by the Songwriters Hall of Fame, we will focus on some of the best musical wordsmiths. Sharing memories evoked by the music, we'll explore the personal impact of music and lyrics, discuss what makes a song relevant for ages and why others are revived every decade. Join us!

**Instructors:** Larry Lobre, M.P.A., has had a lifelong interest in music, which includes singing and playing in various bands for many years. Lifelong learning is his passion.

Dennis Pendleton has focused much of his career on community engagement and outreach at UC Davis for the past 40+ years. He is an avid fan of all types of music.

2 Thursdays	March 6 & 13	10:30 a.m.-noon
243SNR305	\$40	Zoom

### The Greek Way of Storytelling

How does a single picture tell a complex story? Using the large body of Greek myth, you will view a selection of visual scenes depicting traditional Greek tales. We'll consider the different techniques that historic artists used to identify the subject matter and communicate time and action with visual language.

**Instructor:** Lynn Roller is a professor emerita of art history at UC Davis.

2 Tuesdays	Feb. 18 & 25	2-3:30 p.m.
243SNR307	\$40	Hybrid

### Mindful Art

Through mindful art, learn basic mindfulness principles and the neuroscience supporting the practice, meditation techniques and exploratory art practices. Sessions begin with mindfulness instruction and meditation followed by art studio. Participants will use their own art materials to give expression to the lesson's mindfulness experience. No formal art instruction. Beginner and advanced participation welcome. **No class February 17.**

**Instructor:** Sue Banducci is a mindfulness instructor credentialed by the Awareness Training Institute.

4 Mondays	Jan. 27-Feb. 24	2-3:30 p.m.
243SNR303	\$60	Zoom

### Motown Sound

Berry Gordy Jr. founded Motown Records in Detroit in 1959. His formula for success catapulted numerous artists, including Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, The Four Tops, The Temptations, The Supremes, Marvin Gaye and The Jackson 5 to the top of the charts. Discover how Gordy created the Motown sound.

**Instructor:** Julia Simon is a musician, cultural historian and professor at UC Davis.

2 Thursdays	Feb. 20 & 27	2-3:30 p.m.
243SNR310	\$40	Hybrid

### The Sound of Music in Film: An Introduction

Music has infused films with emotion since the 1920s—even before spoken dialogue! Explore its effect on a variety of film categories from the *Sound of Music* and *Cabaret* to *Titanic* and *Ben Hur*, as well as the blockbusters *Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones* and *Harry Potter*. We'll discuss the cultural and social messages of films and scores and their musical features.

**Instructors:** Tony Tanke, an OLLI veteran instructor, is a lifelong devotee of symphonic music and movies.

Harriet March Page, is an actor/director, opera singer and founder of Goat Hall Productions, producing musical and dramatic works reflecting world cultures and diversity.

4 Wednesdays	Jan. 22-Feb. 12	2-3:30 p.m.
243SNR308	\$60	Watermelon Music

## FILM STUDY

### The Lubitsch Touch

One of the more important directors in Hollywood and world cinema history is Ernest Lubitsch (1892-1947). Born in Berlin, he was an extraordinary German filmmaker. Moving to Hollywood in 1922, he became the most respected European director for his individual high-comedy style, the essence of sophistication, wit and elegance. We will view four of his later classics. For a list of films to be shown, visit [cpe.ucdavis.edu/olli](http://cpe.ucdavis.edu/olli).

**Instructor:** Rene Viargues taught a variety of classes, including Art of the Cinema at the California Maritime Academy for 30 years.

4 Mondays	Feb. 24-March 17	1-4 p.m.
243SNR325	\$60	Classroom

### Global Cultures in Cinema

Examine the cultural dimensions and spirituality of movies from around the world. We will analyze films by interpreting the cinematic elements of character, dialogue, gender, image, mise en scène, lighting and music, while identifying cultural perceptions and the significance of each represented way of life. Group discussion will follow each film. For a list of films to be shown, visit [cpe.ucdavis.edu/olli](http://cpe.ucdavis.edu/olli).

**Instructor:** Maria Jaoudi is a professor of humanities and religious studies at CSU Sacramento. She has lectured on film at the Crocker Museum and is the author of books on world religions, ecology and the humanities.

4 Thursdays	Jan. 23-Feb. 13	1-4 p.m.
243SNR321	\$60	Classroom

### Mickey, Minnie and their “Savage” Kinfolk

Examine historic images the Disney company now dreads being seen. Burgeoning Hollywood studios of the 30s used caricature to destroy the identities of marginalized, underserved communities. We'll study Disney's "Julius," an incredibly similar figure to the lucrative "Felix the Cat" as we consider motives to popularize such anthropomorphic creatures. We'll discuss the tremendous fortunes made by expropriating the vast ancestral homelands, the generations of forced laborers, and the natural and mineral resources of "enemies" deemed to be "savages."

**Instructor:** Marilú Carter is a portrait artist, editor, writer, and former District Aide to a California State Senator. She holds a M.S. in Community Development, with the Society's 2007 Presidential Award. She was a TA for Professors Isao Fujimoto and Dean MacCannell in Community Development and RA for Jacob Olupona in African Studies. Since 2000, she led San Francisco's Secret Stair-Step and Point Reyes National Seashore hikes; since 2007, the Brissck Morning Walks of Davis.

4 Thursdays	Feb. 6-27	10:30 a.m.-noon
243SNR327	\$60	Classroom

## HISTORY

### Franklin and Eleanor: The Moral and Political Dimensions of the Presidency

Franklin Roosevelt once said the presidency was "pre-eminently a place of moral leadership." Yet he was also a practical politician who sometimes put aside morality for political advantage. Eleanor Roosevelt was often his conscience, reminding him to do what was right. We'll explore their relationship, learning how moral vision and practical politics may clash but also combine to create needed change.

**Instructors:** Don Fraser is a historian and author of books on early American history, with degrees in political science and public policy from UCLA and CSU Long Beach.

Joan Griffin is a published writer and historian. She earned a B.A. in psychobiology from UCLA and a master's degree in contemplative education from Naropa University.

2 Thursdays	Jan. 23 & 30	10:30 a.m.-noon
243SNR333	\$40	Zoom

### Namibia: How the World's Oldest Desert Found Political Freedom

Located in southwest Africa, Namibia is distinguished by the Namib Desert along the Atlantic coast. Bordering Angola, Zambia and Botswana, Namibia gained independence from South Africa in 1990. Enjoy an overview of the geography of Namibia, including the history of the country as it made its way to becoming an independent nation.

**Instructor:** Brian Higgins, Ph.D., is an emeritus professor of chemical engineering at UC Davis. He lived much of his early life in South Africa and returns frequently as part of his travels.

2 Wednesdays	Feb. 19 & 26	2-3:30 p.m.
243SNR335	\$40	Classroom

## LITERATURE

### Flying Monkeys, Kingly Warriors: Applying Classic Yoga Texts to Daily Life: Part 1

Through storytelling, the *Bhagavad Gita* and *Ramayana* epics raise fundamental questions about what it means to be human and what causes suffering. Their common themes and the suggestions offered are useful today in managing relationships, making decisions with confidence, and in facing pain and discomfort with grace. Other classic yoga texts will provide philosophical structure.

**Instructor:** Grazia Jaroff received a master's degree at UC Riverside. A yoga student for 35 years, she is a certified teacher of yoga philosophy, meditation and postures in the Krishnamacharya tradition.

4 Tuesdays	Jan. 21-Feb. 11	10:30 a.m.-noon
243SNR340	\$60	Zoom



## The Roman “Homer” and His Friends

Virgil and his *Aeneid* are familiar to many, but Latin poets are a diverse group, with subjects as varied as passion, the good life, and atomic theory. Besides Virgil, meet some lesser-known figures whose works set Rome abuzz such as Catullus, Horace, Lucretius and Ovid.

**Instructor:** Barbara Drushell has degrees in classics (Greek and Latin language and literature) from Douglass College and Harvard. She was a teaching fellow at Harvard and an instructor at Ohio State University and CSU Bakersfield.

2 Tuesdays	Jan. 21 & 28	2-3:30 p.m.
243SNR344	\$40	Classroom

## POLITICS AND CURRENT EVENTS

### In Other News

The firehose of news and information is overwhelming—how are we to make sense of it? Proposed weekly readings help understand a specific topic, event or trend. Subjects will be drawn from the headlines. Through moderated discussion, we'll share thoughts, impressions, knowledge and conclusions. The goal is to keep everyone better informed.

**Instructors:** Richard Zeiger spent the first half of his life as a journalist. Most of the second half he worked for the state legislature and served four years as chief deputy of the California Department of Education.

A.G. Block spent 25 years writing about California politics and government as editor of *California Journal* magazine.

8 Mondays	Jan. 27-March 17	10-11:30 a.m.
243SNR369	\$80	Zoom

### Reading *The New Yorker*

This course is an ongoing participation-discussion seminar based on weekly selections from *The New Yorker* magazine and news headlines. **Limited enrollment.**

**Instructor:** Michael Pach is a retired information system security specialist with many interests, including international geopolitics.

8 Fridays	Feb. 14-April 4	10 a.m.-noon
243SNR365	\$80	Zoom

### Recent Supreme Court Developments

Discuss current developments in the U.S. Supreme Court, including petitions, writs filed and granted, briefs, arguments, opinions and dissents. For context, historic background and constitutional doctrines underlying the issues will be presented. Readings and current articles will be provided by the instructor.

**Instructor:** Margaret Johns received numerous awards while teaching at the UC Davis School of Law and founded the school's Civil Rights Clinic.

4 Tuesdays	Feb. 25-March 18	10:30 a.m.-noon
243SNR360	\$60	Hybrid

## Today's Energy Landscape

The global energy landscape is a confusing mix of progress and setbacks. We will try to make sense of this chaos by examining how different countries are dealing with greenhouse gases and how these responses are changing, especially as a result of recent elections in the United States and elsewhere.

**Instructor:** Ken Verosub is a distinguished professor emeritus in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at UC Davis. He also studies the interface between geologic processes and human activity.

2 Wednesdays	March 5 & 12	10:30 a.m.-noon
243SNR367	\$40	Hybrid

## U.S. Foreign Policy in an Age of Transition

The 2025 presidential transition will face high stakes in foreign policy. Yet continuity between the Trump and Biden administrations might be more the rule than the exception, as they face a world in transition, with the return of great power rivalries and global instability. Join in a discussion of these global trends.

**Instructor:** Antonio de Loera Brust served as special assistant to Secretary of State Antony Blinken during the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. He also worked on staff in the U.S. House of Representatives.

2 Tuesdays	Feb. 4 & 11	2-3:30 p.m.
243SNR362	\$40	Hybrid

## SCIENCE

### Amazing Ecuador: Land of Contrasts

Ecuador is small but remarkably diverse. This class will describe and explain Ecuador's natural landscapes (coastal, Andean and Amazon rain forest), cultural and historical diversity, and opportunities for sustainable modernization and travel, based on the instructor's 45 years of research, teaching and local involvement.

**Instructor:** Greg Knapp is a retired professor emeritus from the University of Texas where he specialized in Latin American environmental and cultural history and sustainability.

2 Wednesdays	March 12 & 19	2-3:30 p.m.
243SNR380	\$40	Hybrid

## Bridge to Apollo: NASAs Gemini Program

Between NASA's Mercury and Apollo programs, the two-man Gemini spacecraft launched ten times from 1964 to 1966 to test and perfect the performance essential to reaching the moon. Historic, ground-breaking tests of human and machine were vital to fulfill JFK's challenge to "land on the moon and return safely to the earth." Gain insights on a little-known Davis connection to Gemini's success and this extraordinary era of discovery.

**Instructor:** David Takemoto-Weerts is a JPL Solar System Ambassador, one of many volunteers who communicate the science and excitement of NASA's missions to the public. In high school his parents let him skip classes to join friends to watch televised Gemini launches.

1 Wednesday	March 5	2-3:30 p.m.
243SNR384	\$25	Zoom

## Circadian Lighting at Home: UC Davis Lighting Technology Center

Join OLLI at the Lighting Technology Center for a look at innovations in circadian lighting for home use. We'll discuss vision science (issues related to lighting spectrum and technology) and its impact on melatonin suppression. Examine dark-adaptation and home injuries related to low lighting conditions. We'll also learn about the Honda House, the first fully circadian residential home design developed by UC Davis researchers.

**Instructor:** Michael Siminovitch, PhD., is director of the California Lighting Technology Center and associate director of the Energy Efficiency Center at UC Davis.

1 Tuesday	March 4	2-4 p.m.
243SNR385	\$35	Lighting Technology Center 633 Peña Ave., Davis

## Future Shock Tech Talk

This course will provide an approachable understanding of artificial intelligence (AI) and its growing consumer impact. Explore the fundamentals of consumer AI applications—what they are, core capabilities, potential benefits and risks. Learn technological literacy to aid in safely benefiting from AI conveniences, while exploring future advancements.

**Instructor:** David Syron has more than 40 years of experience working in administration and as a liaison between employees and IT departments.

4 Wednesdays	Feb. 5-26	10:30 a.m.-noon
243SNR388	\$60	Hybrid

## Please Don't Bite Me: Part 2

Part one of this course left OLLI members asking for more! Learn more about mosquitoes, lice, fleas, bedbugs, ticks and the diseases they transmit. You will leave fully informed and perhaps a little itchy! Let this class be your entry into the captivating world of insects because according to your instructor, everyone is a curious entomologist.

**Instructor:** Nazy Pakpour is a queer Iranian-American scientist and author of the children's book *Please Don't Bite Me!* She received her B.S. in entomology from UC Davis and her doctorate in microbiology, virology and parasitology from the University of Pennsylvania.

2 Wednesdays	Jan. 22 & 29	10:30 a.m.-noon
243SNR381	\$40	Zoom

## Understanding Changing Oceans

This course will focus on how the ocean is connected to our everyday lives and how our oceans and coasts are currently being impacted by climate change and other processes. We'll talk about stories of ocean discovery, curiosity and connection between people who are working to conserve our watery planet.

**Instructor:** Tessa Hill, Ph.D., is a professor in the UC Davis Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences and Bodega Marine Laboratory. She is the coauthor of the book *At Every Depth*, detailing how communities are forming to protect the ocean environment.

1 Thursday	March 6	2-3:30 p.m.
243SNR386	\$25	Hybrid

## The World of Fungi

Fungi are among the most diverse organisms on the planet. Explore their ecological roles and importance in decomposition, parasitism and mutualisms. We'll also discuss how people have used fungi for millennia in food production, medicine and industry. The course will include hands-on observations of a variety of fungi.

**Suggested reading:** *Entangled Life* by Merlin Sheldrake, Random House (2020)

**Instructor:** Dave Rizzo is a professor of plant pathology at UC Davis. His research focuses on fungal diseases of forest trees.

2 Thursdays	March 13 & 20	2-3:30 p.m.
243SNR282	\$40	Hybrid

## SPECIAL INTERESTS

### Memoirs: Writing Workshop

The legacy of your personal stories has great value. Several writers have been published out of this class, which operates as a workshop. Write a three- to four-page memoir or personal essay weekly. Receive feedback on grammar, punctuation, story structure and literary technique. Participants read two or more stories to classmates each term for an in-depth critiquing session.

**Instructor:** Kit Kirkpatrick is a certified memoirist, with a Life Teaching Credential from UC Davis and a master's degree in communications from CSU Sacramento.

8 Tuesdays	Jan. 21-March 11	12:30-3:30 p.m.
243SNR205	\$80	Zoom

### OLLI Reads: A Book Discussion Group

We'll explore voices of underrepresented or voiceless characters. *Behind You Is the Sea* by Susan Muaddi Darraj focuses on Palestinian Americans in Baltimore. Percival Everett's *James* reimagines Huck Finn from slave Jim's perspective. In post-civil war Texas, *News of the World* (Paulette Jiles) follows the unlikely pairing of an itinerant news reader and a traumatized young girl.

**Free to OLLI members.**

**Instructor:** Mike Elfant has enjoyed a career promoting health and good food. He has taught ESL abroad and adult education courses in homeless shelters.

3 Fridays	Jan. 24, Feb. 21, March 21	2-3:30 p.m.
243SNR200	FREE	Zoom

### Life Stories

A writing class for those who want to write, polish, keep or share their memories. Friendly encouragement and direction will be provided to motivate your writing. Opportunities to read your stories aloud and learn from others. Prompts provided! Professional publishing is not the goal, but help with punctuation, grammar and sentence structure will be available.

**Instructor:** Lorraine Visher, retired public-school teacher, participates in writing workshops, including the Other Voice Poetry Group.

8 Thursdays	Jan. 23-March 13	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
243SNR202	\$80	Zoom

## TRAVEL

**NOTE:** Please read activity guidelines and limitations on our website before enrolling. Excursion fees are non-refundable.

### Paul McCartney: Eyes of the Storm Exhibit at the deYoung Museum

Featuring over 250 photographs by McCartney, along with video clips and archival materials, this exhibit offers an intimate look at The Beatles meteoric rise to fame. Many images illustrate the sheer magnitude of cultural change the band represented and experienced personally. Other informal images highlight the personalities of bandmates John, George and Ringo. A pre-tour Zoom lecture will offer insights on the specific time the photos were taken in 1963 to 64.

**Instructor:** Timothy Youngs was a buyer for Warehouse Music before becoming a high school teacher in Winters and Elk Grove. He has degrees in composition and voice and has been an ardent fan of The Beatles since childhood.

2 Tuesdays	March 11 (Zoom Lecture)	2-3:30 p.m.
	March 18 (Bus Trip)	8 a.m.-5 p.m.
243SNR900	\$225	

### UC Davis Reserves: Stebbins Wildflower Experience

Every March, UC Davis' Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve (SCCR) bursts with wildflowers in spectacular diversity. Enjoy this landscape with experts from the SCCR Docent Program. Learn the names and characteristics of local wildflowers. Join a nature "eco" artist to sketch wildflowers in ink and color. Learn best techniques for nature photography and how your photos can contribute to the *iNaturalist Project* partnership. This is a 1/2 to 3-mile hike. Surfaces range from flat and open to uneven and somewhat rocky. Further details provided one week before class.

**Instructor:** Docents of the Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve

1 Thursday	March 20	9:30 a.m.-noon
243SNR905	\$35	Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve

## WELLNESS

### Parkinson's Disease: What We Know in 2025

Parkinson's disease is not just a "movement disorder." It affects every aspect of life for those who are diagnosed. Join OLLI and a UC Davis Health physician for a timely exploration of Parkinson's. Learn what to ask your healthcare provider if you're concerned about family history or possible symptoms. UC Davis Health's multidisciplinary approach to diagnosis and symptom management incorporates holistic, lifestyle, medication and surgical interventions to improve the health and wellbeing of Parkinson's patients.

**Instructor:** Norika Malhado-Chang, M.D., is a movement disorders neurologist specializing in diagnosing and treating Parkinson's disease, dystonia, tremor and Parkinson's Plus Syndromes.

1 Monday	Feb. 10	2-3:30 p.m.
243SNR405	FREE	Zoom



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# COURSES AND EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Flying Monkeys, Kingly Warriors: Applying Classic Yoga Texts to Daily Life: Part 1	Jan. 21	Parkinson's Disease: What We Know in 2025	Feb. 10
Memoirs: Writing Workshop	Jan. 21	The Greek Way of Storytelling	Feb. 18
The Roman 'Homer' and His Friends	Jan. 21	Namibia: How the World's Oldest Desert Found Political Freedom	Feb. 19
The Sound of Music in Film	Jan. 22	Motown Sound	Feb. 20
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Global Cultures in Cinema	Jan. 23	Recent Supreme Court Developments	Feb. 25
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Mindful Art	Jan. 27	Great Singer-Songwriters: Part 2	March 6
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Mickey, Minnie and their Savage Kinfolk	Feb. 6		