

# OLLI

## COURSE CATALOG

Spring 2025



**March 10**

Registration Begins

**April 24**

Twenty Thousand Tulips in Bloom

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**UCDAVIS**

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

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

## OLLI MEMBERSHIP FEES

### QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP

March 31, 2025 – June 27, 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 OLLI news and the latest updates.

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 spring courses/ events and start dates.

**Registration begins March 10.**

## OLLI WELCOMES

### New Director Kristen Gates



Kristen Gates, Ed.D., is the new director of OLLI at UC Davis. A California native, she has extensive experience in higher education, having served as director of faculty engagement at UC Berkeley's School of Information and executive director of education at the Science and Technology Center, TRUST. Kristen holds a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Southern California and a master's degree in industrial arts from San Francisco State University. She is passionate about fostering lifelong learning and community engagement.

## 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, 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).

*See spring tulips in bloom at Ananda Village, near Grass Valley  
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(GettyImages)*

## ART, MUSIC AND THEATER

### Blues and Racial Justice

The blues are usually seen as communicating despair and heartbreak or sometimes celebration, but if you look beneath the surface, many lyrics tackle issues of discrimination, exploitation and inequality. This course explores blues' lyrics with unusual themes that promote the call for racial justice.

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

2 Thursdays    May 1 & 8                      2-3:30 p.m.  
 244SNR300       \$40    Hybrid

### California Early-20th-Century Block Prints: Works of William S. Rice

William S. Rice was an American woodblock artist, educator and author, associated with the Arts and Crafts movement. His block prints were widely exhibited in his lifetime and celebrated at the Palace of the Legion of Honor, the Crocker Museum and the Pasadena Museum of California Art. Enjoy a look at William S. Rice, including examples of his work.

**Instructor:** Carl Rice Treseder, a graduate of Stanford University, is the grandson of William S. Rice. Carl frequented Rice's Oakland home and studio, where he absorbed lessons in nature study.

2 Wednesdays    June 4 & 11                      10:30 a.m.-noon  
 244SNR305       \$40    Watermelon Music

### Cars and Rock & Roll

This class will consider the role and representation of cars in rock and roll music. Mostly, we will listen to a lot of great songs from the 1950s to the 2000s as we explore cars as possessions, cars as freedom, cars as escape, cars as status symbols and the like.

**Instructor:** Vicky Davis is a retired attorney and active musician. She plays in local groups, including the Folk Music Folks and the Elk Grove Community Concert Band. She also cruises around town in her 1968 Olds Cutlass convertible.

2 Tuesdays        June 3 & 10                      2-3:30 p.m.  
 244SNR307       \$40    Zoom

### Egyptian Art: The New Kingdom

From the riches of King Tut's tomb to the egomania of Rameses II, the art of the New Kingdom in Egypt, ca. 1550-1180 BCE, includes a range of impressive architecture and fine objects. This course will cover both the monuments of Egyptian kings and the art of the ordinary person.

**Suggested Reading:** *Egyptian Art* by Bill Manley, Thames & Hudson

**Instructor:** Lynn Roller, professor emerita of art history at UC Davis, has interests in the art of Egypt, Greece and Rome.

4 Wednesdays    April 9-30                      2-3:30 p.m.  
 244SNR309       \$60    Hybrid

### Flamenco Dance and Music

Gain a new appreciation for Flamenco culture from someone who lived in Sevilla and Barcelona for nearly a decade! Explore the poetry of Garcia Lorca, Flamenco dance and Cante (singing). Students will also be invited to participate in a brief in-class demonstration of the Soniquete (palma percussion style) underlying these forms, during one of our class sessions.

**Instructor:** Dale Evje was privileged to tour with famed flamenco dancer Carmen Amaya's grandniece, Remedios Amaya, as a palmas percussion performer. She continues to dance and teach the Andalucian style of Sevillanas, Rumba and Alegrias.

4 Wednesdays    May 7-28                      2-3:30 p.m.  
 244SNR306       \$60    Watermelon Music

### Love and Death in Four Operas

Opera reaches the deepest parts of our emotions. Its most iconic music reminds us that our time on earth is limited and through love we find transcendence. This course explores two lesser-known French masterpieces, *The Trojans* and *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, then dives deeply into the forever-popular *La Traviata* and *La Bohème*.

**Instructor:** Judith Frankel has held leadership positions at Bay Area performing arts organizations, including San Francisco Opera.

2 Thursdays        May 15 & 22                      2-3:30 p.m.  
 244SNR302       \$40    Hybrid

### Mindful Art

Mindful Art covers the basic principles of mindfulness, the neuroscience that supports the practice, meditation techniques and exploratory art practices. The first half of each session begins with mindfulness instruction and meditation practice followed by the second half: art studio—during which we employ simple art materials to give expression to the mindfulness lesson. Open to beginner to advanced art-makers. No formal art instruction, but many examples/suggestions on use of materials based on individual skill and comfort levels.

**Note:** A materials list will be provided prior to the start of class.

**Instructor:** Sue Banducci is an artist, educator and Davis resident who has been practicing mindfulness for 19 years. She is credentialed by the Greater Good Science Center at the University of California, Berkeley.

4 Thursdays        May 1-22                      10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
 244SNR303       \$60    Zoom



## FILM STUDY

### Double Take Part Three: Coming of Age

Starting with François Truffaut's *The 400 Blows*, we explore contemporary cinematic portrayals of coming-of-age across diverse cultures. A short film and a thought-provoking discussion accompany each feature. Join our multicultural celebration of growth, milestones and transformative challenges, fostering a deeper understanding of ourselves and the world around us. For a list of films to be shown, view the online course description at [cpe.ucdavis.edu/subject-areas/all-olli-courses](http://cpe.ucdavis.edu/subject-areas/all-olli-courses).

**Instructors:** René Viargues taught cinema, English, government and history classes at California Maritime Academy. He holds M.A.s from UC Berkeley and the University of Pennsylvania.

Kevin Elstob, professor of French and Italian and president of the Sacramento French Film Festival, appreciates movies as blends of pedagogy and social interaction.

4 Thursdays	April 3-24	1-4 p.m.
244SNR310	\$60	Watermelon Music

### Robin Williams: Manic Genius

We all know Robin Williams from his performances in film and television. Here, we will explore the versatility of this Julliard graduate shown in some of his most famous, ground-breaking films. For a list of films to be shown, view the online course description at [cpe.ucdavis.edu/subject-areas/all-olli-courses](http://cpe.ucdavis.edu/subject-areas/all-olli-courses).

**Instructors:** Roy Engoron holds a B.A. and M.A. from UC Davis. He taught theatre and film studies for the better part of his teaching career and is a 19-year veteran of teaching OLLI classes.

René Viargues (see bio above)

4 Mondays	April 7-28	1-4 p.m.
244SNR315	\$60	Watermelon Music

## HISTORY

### 19th-Century British Politics, Politicians and Their Impact on the World

Britain was the world's pre-eminent military, political, colonial, economic and industrial state for most of the 19th century. Explore the people and events which caused that reality, if indeed it was so, and what impact there might have been on the wider world.

**Instructor:** Chuck Cooper holds an M.A. in history with an emphasis on the British Empire. Over the past 50 years he has continued to read and meet extensively on the subject through contact with experts and others interested in the field. As a graduate student he taught multiple courses on British history.

4 Tuesdays	June 3-24	10:30 a.m.-noon
244SNR320	\$60	Watermelon Music

### The American Presidency

Late historian Arthur M. Schlesinger said, "The president is the central player in the American political order." This course examines the presidency, starting with the creation of the office at the Constitutional Convention. What did the founders intend with the office? How did it work in reality and how has the office evolved over time? Which presidents were considered to be the best, who ranked the worst and what made them different?

**Instructor:** 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.

2 Wednesdays	May 21 & 28	10:30 a.m.-noon
244SNR327	\$40	Zoom

### The Other Slavery: The Undercovered Story of Indian Enslavement in America

Since the time of Columbus, Indian slavery was illegal in the American continent. Yet, it was practiced for centuries as an open secret. This presentation will sketch out a vast system of bondage that affected Native Americans but that is still far less known than African slavery.

**Suggested Reading:** *The Other Slavery* by Andrés Reséndez, Mariner Books

**Instructor:** Andrés Reséndez is a history professor and author who grew up in Mexico City. He currently teaches at UC Davis where he specializes in early European exploration and colonization of the Americas, the U.S.-Mexico border and the early history of the Pacific Ocean.

1 Thursday	April 10	10:30 a.m.-noon
244SNR324	\$25	Zoom

### Patriots for Their People

The struggle of Native American people to preserve their cultures and very existence produced many native leaders of integrity and vision. Explore the exploits of several significant leaders, including: Hiawatha (Iroquois), Metacome (King Philip) in Massachusetts, coalition leader Pontiac, Tecumseh, Ocoela (Seminoles), Black Hawk in Mississippi, Crazy Horse (Sioux), Apache leader Geronimo and the brilliant Chief Joseph (Nez Percés).

**Instructor:** Germaine Hupe is a veteran OLLI instructor who has taught courses on a variety of topics, including classical mythology, California missions, outlaws and women of the Bible. She is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of UC Davis and holds a master's degree from Claremont University.

2 Tuesdays	May 6 & 13	2-3:30 p.m.
244SNR329	\$40	Watermelon Music

## LITERATURE

### Flying Monkeys, Kingly Warriors: Applying Classic Yoga Texts to Daily Life: Part 2

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 Wednesdays    April 2-23                      10:30 a.m.-noon  
244SNR340        \$60    Zoom

### Honoré de Balzac's *Sarrasine*

Honoré de Balzac's novella *Sarrasine* explores passion, desire, happiness and the relationship between art and life. The course will analyze this riveting framed tale in the context of 18th- and 19th-century Italian and French art and culture.

**Suggested Reading:** Balzac, *Sarrasine* (<http://faculty.las.illinois.edu/rrushing/242/ewExternalFiles/Balzac.pdf>)

**Instructor:** Julia Simon is a professor of French who researches, writes and teaches on the cultural history of the blues and 18th-century France.

1 Tuesday            May 20    2-3:30 p.m.  
244SNR335            \$25    Zoom

### Silent Resisters: Women in Short Stories by Women

This course provides a forum for reading and discussing short fiction about women resisting restrictive social norms. We'll be reading from *Great Short Stories by American Women* available from internet book sellers.

**Suggested Reading:** *Great Short Stories by American Women*, Dover Thrift Editions

**Instructor:** Cynthia Kellogg taught composition and literature, including women's literature, at Woodland Community College for 40 years.

4 Tuesdays        April 1-22                                        2-3:30 p.m.  
244SNR339        \$60    Zoom

### Wake-up! Human Identity is Planetary

World religious traditions describe an experiential awareness of mutuality with the ecological web of all life. We'll examine Chan Buddhism, the Chinese meditation practice, through art and poetry elaborating the step-by-step spiritual journey culminating in enlightenment. We'll also explore Hildegard von Bingen's *Illuminations* and writings on the fruits of contemplative experience.

**Suggested Reading:** *Mindfulness as Sustainability: Lessons from the World's Religions*, Maria Jaoudi, SUNY Press

**Instructor:** Maria Jaoudi, Ph.D., is a professor of humanities and religious studies at California State University Sacramento. Her books include *Medieval & Renaissance Spirituality* and *Mindfulness as Sustainability: Lessons from the World Religions*.

2 Mondays            April 7 & 14                                      10:30 a.m.-noon  
244SNR332            \$40    Zoom

### Who Wrote the Bible

We'll examine the history of "Biblical criticism" (the process of using historical and literary analysis to understand and explain the Bible's meaning and historical accuracy) to explore the creation of scripture. Our time together will include a deep dive into literary criticism as applied to the scriptures.

**Instructor:** Rev. John Day is a retired ordained minister with advanced degrees in religious studies. His interests lie in studying the Bible from an academic point of view.

2 Thursdays        June 5 & 12                                      10:30 a.m.-noon  
244SNR333            \$40    Watermelon Music

## POLITICS AND CURRENT EVENTS

### Recent Supreme Court Developments

This course will review and analyze decisions made by the U.S. Supreme Court during its current term. The class will discuss each decision's likely impact on federal and state government operations and individual rights.

**Instructor:** Tony Tanke, an appellate attorney and former senior judicial staff attorney to the Chief Justice of California, will lead the course while instructor Margaret Johns is on sabbatical.

4 Tuesdays        May 6-27                                        10:30 a.m.-noon  
244SNR360            \$60    Hybrid

### In Other News

The firehose of news and information is overwhelming—how are we to make sense of it? Proposed weekly readings help us 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 is a former journalist who also served on staff to leadership in both the California Assembly and Senate.

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

8 Mondays            March 31-May 19                                10-11:30 a.m.  
244SNR369            \$80    Zoom

## Overtourism

Have you ever traveled to a long-anticipated destination only to find it overrun with tourists? That's overtourism. We will discuss the causes and manifestations of overtourism, how it affects local communities, what it does to tourists and potential solutions.

**Instructor:** Ken Verosub is a distinguished professor emeritus in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at UC Davis. He has visited over 50 countries and has experienced overtourism.

1 Wednesday	April 30	10:30 a.m.-noon
244SNR909	\$25	Hybrid

## Peace Prospects in the Middle East

Enjoy a continuation of prior OLLI courses addressing Israel, the Palestinians and Gaza. In each session, there will be a presentation of new developments in war and peace in the Middle East, accompanied by class discussion of current prospects for, and challenges to, a just and lasting peace.

**Instructors:** Tony Tanke (see page 5)

J.J. Surbeck served as an attorney and representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross in connection with the 1977 Protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions on international human law.

4 Wednesdays	June 4-25	2-3:30 p.m.
244SNR361	\$60	Watermelon Music

## 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. No class meeting on July 4.**

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

### SESSION 1

8 Fridays	April 11-May 30	10 a.m.-noon
244SNR365	\$80	Zoom

### SESSION 2

8 Fridays	June 6-Aug. 1	10 a.m.-noon
244SNR366	\$80	Zoom

## Trump's America? Trump's World?

Donald Trump's withdrawal from international commitments may not make America "great again" but rather isolated, voiceless, polarized, poorer and passed over by history. We will look at global threats that may depress Trump's America if he undermines the prudent U.S. geopolitical principles of deterrence, leadership, reciprocity and openness. We'll also speculate on what motivates those who lobby for nationally self-destructive policies.

**Instructor:** Stephen Hoadley is a veteran academic, author, media commentator and public speaker. He is an honorary captain in the Royal New Zealand Navy.

1 Monday	June 2	2-3:30 p.m.
244SNR363	\$25	Zoom

## SCIENCE

### CRISPR 2.0: More Than Just a Research Tool

CRISPR, which stands for "clustered, regularly interspaced, short palindromic repeats," is an exciting technology that is catalyzing new advances in human and animal health. Adapted from nature, CRISPR is capable of altering DNA and RNA in living cells to understand gene biology and treat disease. Learn the latest developments from a UC Davis research professor.

**Suggested Reading:** *Past, present, and future of CRISPR genome editing technologies* by Martin Pacesa, Oana Pelea and Martin Jinek [www.cell.com/cell/pdf/S0092-8674\(24\)00111-9.pdf](http://www.cell.com/cell/pdf/S0092-8674(24)00111-9.pdf)

**Instructor:** Kent Lloyd is a veterinary clinician and professor in the Department of Surgery at the UC Davis School of Medicine. His research focuses on understanding the genetic basis for both rare and common diseases.

1 Wednesday	May 14	10:30 a.m.-noon
244SNR352	\$25	Hybrid

### Human Origins and Evolution from a Genetic Perspective

Explore the origins and diversity of modern humans through a genetic perspective. We will cover what distinguishes us from our closest living relatives, tracing population histories within and out of Africa. We'll also look at why a small percentage of Neanderthal DNA is found in many populations today and discuss the signatures of natural selection that we can uncover from contemporary DNA.

**Instructors:** Gillian Meeks, a Ph.D. candidate in genetics at UC Davis, is fascinated by studying evolution from a genetic perspective and enjoys sharing her interest in uncovering history through DNA.

Alaina Brenner is a Ph.D. candidate in anthropology at UC Davis, studying hybridization events between humans and Neanderthals. She enjoys using her improv comedy background in lectures to make science more engaging.

4 Tuesdays	April 8-29	10:30 a.m.-noon
244SNR358	\$60	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	April 1-May 20	12:30-3:30 p.m.
244SNR205	\$80	Zoom

## OLLI Reads

We'll explore: *The Thursday Murder Club* (Richard Osman) a British mystery with four unorthodox senior sleuths; *The Descendants* (Kauai Hart Hemmings) a story of love, loss, family and infidelity set in Hawaii and *The Cemetery of Untold Stories* (Julia Alvarez) in which a Dominican author haunted by her characters weaves together folklore and magical realism.

**Free to OLLI members.**

**Instructor:** Mike Elfant enjoyed a public health career promoting health and good food. He taught ESL in the U.S. and Thailand, led adult education and reading programs at a homeless shelter, and loves to compose and perform spoof songs.

3 Fridays	April 18, May 16 & June 20	2-3:30 p.m.
244SNR200	FREE	Zoom

## TRAVEL

**NOTE:** Please read activity details and limitations in the **online course description** before enrolling. Excursion fees are nonrefundable once enrolled.

### Twenty Thousand Tulips in Bloom

Celebrate spring with OLLI at Ananda Crystal Hermitage during its annual celebration of the season featuring 100+ varieties of colorful tulips and other bulbs. We'll travel by luxury motor coach to enjoy free time exploring the beautiful grounds and stop for a no-host lunch before returning to Davis. Contact [olli@ucdavis.edu](mailto:olli@ucdavis.edu) with accessibility concerns before registering. Further details will be emailed to registrants prior to the excursion.

1 Thursday	April 24	8 a.m.-5 p.m.
244SNR905	\$125	Bus Trip

### Cahill Reserve Hike

The Cahill Riparian Reserve, approximately seven miles beyond Winters, forms the eastern tip of the Devil's Gate Wildlands recreation area. This ecologically "intact" wildland protects river floodplains, oak woodlands and unique mineral seeps. Gain a scientific perspective on this important link to California's river system on this one-mile hike with a UC Reserve manager.

**Instructor:** Paul Havemann, manager of the UC Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve, has a graduate degree in environmental development from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

1 Thursday	May 29	9 a.m.-noon
244SNR907	\$35	UC Davis Cahill Reserve

## WELLNESS

### Cancer Survival, Pain Management and Quality of Life

The most common types of cancer among survivors are breast, prostate and colorectal cancer. While there has been incredible advancement in life expectancy, many cancer therapies provoke pain and detract from quality of life, so there is much work to be done to align and enhance the quality of that life. Embark on an in-depth understanding of this quality chasm as it relates to cancer pain care with chemotherapy induced neuropathy as an example.

**Instructor:** David Copenhaver, M.D., M.P.H., is a professor and the Pain Division Chief at UC Davis Health. He is an anesthesiologist with unique expertise in diagnosing and managing varying complex pain management types, including cancer pain management, craniofacial pain and complex regional pain syndrome.

1 Monday	June 2	2-3:30 p.m.
244SNR405	FREE	Zoom

### Carbohydrates, Fiber and Your Microbiome

Carbohydrates are typically the most abundant component of food and the most misunderstood. While most often equated with starch, there are many different types depending on their compositions and molecular lengths. Short chains are often simple sugars, while long chains can be starch or fiber. We will discuss the structural variations of carbohydrates and how these variations lead to different biological functions. We will also discuss the differences between starch and fiber and how one gives us nutrition while the other feeds our microbiome.

**Instructor:** Carlo Lebrilla is a distinguished professor of chemistry in the Department of Biochemistry at UC Davis.

1 Tuesday	April 29	2-3:30 p.m.
244SNR402	\$25	Zoom

### Smart Strategies for Staying Safe: Emergency Preparedness Essentials

In this 90-minute session, learn practical strategies for creating an emergency plan, assembling a kit and staying informed. Gain essential tips to prepare for various emergencies, enhance your safety and ensure peace of mind for you and your loved ones.

**Instructor:** Kristin Weivoda, chief of Emergency Services for Yolo County, is a seasoned emergency services leader recognized for her innovative contributions in California.

1 Thursday	May 29	2-3:30 p.m.
244SNR409	\$25	Zoom



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## COURSES AND EVENTS AT A GLANCE

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