

RIT | Osher Lifelong
Learning Institute

Fall 2026

Course Catalog



**A Vibrant Learning
Community for Adults**
rit.edu/olli

Registration Opens 8/25
RIT OLLI Courses Begin 9/14

OLLI at RIT's 2026 terms:

Winter (January 12– March 23)

Spring (April 13 – June 8)

Summer (July 6 – August 19)

Fall (September 14 – December 11)

There are multi-week breaks between each term.



University Benefits:

A Full-Year membership at OLLI includes these Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) perks and privileges.

RIT Affiliate ID Card

- Free Henrietta BJ's Wholesale Club membership
- Discounted admission rates for campus events
- Borrowing privileges at the RIT library, including online collections, journals, etc.

Audit RIT Undergrad Courses:

- Email osher@rit.edu for details.

Audiology Services:

- State-of-the-art hearing evaluation, hearing-aid service, and purchase are available through RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID).

Questions? Reach us at (585) 292-8989 or osher@rit.edu

Membership Benefits

Unlimited Courses

A wide variety of excellent courses form the core of our program, and there are no tests or grades! We encourage interaction and discussion in every class whether it be in-person, hybrid, or online via Zoom. You will also gain access to our large library of course recordings stored on our members-only content hub.

Pfudler Lecture Series

(Thursdays at 12:15, Winter, Spring, & Fall Terms)

Listen to a thought-provoking lecture by a guest speaker. These lectures will be in the hybrid format which means that you can attend in person or via Zoom. Most lectures are recorded and available on our members-only content hub.

Social Events

An important part of the OLLI experience is socializing with fellow members in a relaxed atmosphere at gatherings such as our annual picnic, holiday luncheons, and local events.

SIGs (Special Interest Groups)

A SIG is an informal community of OLLI members who gather in order to pursue and enjoy a shared interest. All members are encouraged to join an existing SIG or to initiate the formation of a new SIG. See page 4 for more information.

Arts & Lectures Event Series

This enrichment series, made possible by our endowment from The Bernard Osher Foundation, brings us entertaining artists and expert speakers at no additional charge to members. We have an exciting event planned at ArtisanWorks on October 23rd.

Membership	Fee						RIT		
		Unlimited Courses & Recordings	Pfudler Lecture Series	Social Events & SIGs	Arts & Lectures Events	Summer Trips	Affiliate ID Card	RIT Classes	Audiology Services
Full-Year	\$365	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Single-Term	\$165	■	■	■	■				
Supporting (full year)	\$175		■	■	■	■			

Questions? Reach us at (585) 292-8989 or osher@rit.edu

Which membership suits your needs?

We have varying levels of membership to fit your individual needs.

You can begin your membership during any of our terms.

Visit <https://www.rit.edu/osher/register> to create an account, purchase a membership, or register.

Full-Year Membership

A Full-Year individual membership begins in whichever term you join and entitles you to four terms of **all** our available OLLI benefits in the chart on the previous page, including unlimited classes and events, and access to our library of course/lecture recordings **plus** RIT University benefits such as an affiliate ID card and access to auditing RIT classes. The annual fee is **\$365**. Renewable.

Single-Term Membership

Individuals may participate in an unlimited number of OLLI courses and events for the fall term. You also have access to our library of course/lecture recordings. Renewable.

The fee is **\$165**. You may convert your Single-Term membership into a Full-Year membership by paying the additional balance at the end of the term, thereby adding the next three terms.

Not included: RIT undergrad class auditing and affiliate ID card

Supporting Membership

A Supporting individual membership entitles you to partial OLLI programming: social events, the Pfaudler Lecture Series, the Summer Seminar trips, Arts & Lectures events, and Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

The annual fee is **\$175**. Renewable.

Not included: OLLI classes and library of course recordings; RIT undergrad class auditing and affiliate ID card

Community Group Membership

A Community Group membership is designed for senior living facilities, town recreation groups, and other associations who would like to provide quality programming to their residents/members. The membership can be customized to include our live, interactive Zoom classes at your facility, in-person classes at our OLLI facility, access to our large library of course recordings, plus access to our Special Interest Groups (SIGs). *Live Zoom classes and/or recordings of classes must be broadcast in a common room; they are not for individuals' private use. Courses offered through our partner OLLIs across the country are excluded from this membership.* The fee varies depending on the options chosen. Contact us at **osher@rit.edu** for more information and pricing.

Join a SIG!

A SIG (Special Interest Group) is an informal community of OLLI members who gather in order to pursue and enjoy a shared interest. Don't see what you want? You can start a new SIG. Contact staff at osher@rit.edu to join any of the SIGs.

The following SIGs are currently meeting:

SIG	COORDINATOR	DESCRIPTION
Mac Computers (OS X) iPhone/iPad (iOS)	Tom Lathrop	Discussions, problem solving, members helping members, sharing tips and tricks, and demonstrations
Mystery Novels	Chris Ryan & Cindy Proano	The group meets on the third Friday of each month at 1 pm. We welcome new members and suggestions for titles to read
Photography	Loretta Petralis	The group focuses on reviewing members' photos and sharing camera setting and photo editing techniques.
Pickleball	Scott Mate	All playing levels including beginner are welcome.
Purls of Wisdom (knitting & needle craft)	Terri Hurley	For all experience levels, come learn and share techniques.
Travel	Jane Eggleston	Share your favorite photos, memories, and experiences of your previous travel adventures.
Walking Group	Helen Moore	This is an outdoor walking group for interested members.
Wizardsing	Chris Thrasher & Nita Genova	Share tips and tricks to enhance the classroom A/V experience.



Members of the Knitting SIG on an outing in Spring 2026

Join us at our
Fall Course Preview and Open House
Monday, August 24, 2026
10 am

Member Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/3ttusjdb>
Guest Registration: <https://forms.gle/tDx53kHFkzPyf1jR6>

Join us for the course preview presentations in person or via Zoom!

Monday

9:30 – 11:00 am ET

Current Events F1M
Adonis, Scott, & Moore (9/14 – 12/7)
The First Century of Recorded Jazz:
A Historical Survey F2M
Peter Luce (9/14 – 12/7)
The Birth of the American Empire... F3M
Richard Mallory (9/14 – 11/16)

11:15 am – 12:45 pm ET

Athenaeum Book Club F4M
Brown & Vallot (9/14, 10/26, & 12/7)
Romantic Period Composers:
Under the Influence F5M
Al Mathias (9/14 – 12/7)
Orbital:
Where Science and Literature Meet...F6M
Strining & Jones (10/5 – 10/26)
Mystical West Africa:
Traditions and Voodoo F7M
Victor Poleshuck (11/9 & 11/16)
I Have Alzheimer's Disease;
Yep, I DO Have It! F8M
Dick Scott (9/21)
Hedy Lamarr: Beauty and Brains.... F9M
Hooper, Mallory, & Mitchell (9/28)
17 X 6 = 112:
Analysis of a Trump Conversation... F10M
Michael Tanenhaus (10/5)
Retirement Planning: Navigating
Taxes, Income, and Charitable Giving...F11M
Skonski & Burrall (10/12)
Design and User Experience:
An Insight into the Creative Process...F12M
Dan Harel (10/19)
American Impressionist:
Mary Cassatt F13M
Chris Ryan (11/2)
Katherine Routledge
and Easter Island F14M
Michelle Turner (11/30)

1:30 – 3 or 3:30 pm ET

Intermediate Spanish F15M
Lewis & McCue (9/14–12/7)
Express Yourself
Through Writing Fiction F16M
Gary Mitchell (9/14–12/7)
The American Experiment: The
Escalation of the Executive Branch...F17M
Sarah Liebschutz (10/19, 10/26, & 11/30)
Discover Nearpeer: OLLI at RIT's
Member Community App F18M
Ella Antolini (9/14)
Immigration F19M
Mou & Coniff (10/5)
Pundits, Polls & Politics:
The 2026 Mid-Term Election F20M
Doug Stowell (10/12)
How to Choose a Medicare Plan... F21M
David Benedict (11/2)
Online Safety F22M
Dan Lyon (11/9)
Abbott and Costello:
Legends of Comedy F23M
Joel Weirick (11/16)

Tuesday

9:30 – 11:00 am ET

Brush Up Your Shakespeare: The Bard,
Bardolatry, and Big Ideas (Part 2) F24T
Rob Shapiro (9/15 – 12/8)
Discussing Finance, Economics,
and Business in the News F25T
Kwiek & White (9/15 – 12/8)
Stonehenge: History of a Mystery F26T
Kimberly Reiter (9/15 – 11/10)

11:15 am – 12:45 pm ET

Every Picture Tells a Story F27T
Lisa Jadwin (9/15 – 12/8)
Memoirs F28T
Carol Samuel (9/15 – 12/8)
Nobody Circles the Wagons
Like the Buffalo Bills F29T
Scott Mate (9/15 – 10/13)
Insect Societies F30T
John Jaenike (10/27 – 11/10)

1:30 – 3:00 or 3:30 pm ET

Climate Change 101:
The Likely, the Uncertain,
the Unknown...and Why It Matters F31T
Michael Reiter (9/15–11/10)
Conversational French F32T
Joy Goodman (9/22–12/1)
Igor Stravinsky:
His Life and His Music F33T
Victor Poleshuck (9/15–12/8)

Wednesday

9:30 – 11:00 am ET

Bob Dylan: The Last 30 Years..... F34W
Michael Tanenhaus (9/16 – 11/18)
Discussing The New Yorker Magazine...F35W
Levinson & Dupont (9/16 – 11/18)
Turning Points in
the History of Science F36W
Tim McDonnell (9/16–12/9)

11:15 am – 12:45 pm ET

Contemporary Events..... F37W
Teri Hurley (9/16 – 12/9)
The Making of the Modern Mind:
Descartes's Meditations (Part 1 of 2)...F38W
Walt Soffer (9/16 – 12/9)
Obedience/Disobedience F39W
Gans & Cahill (9/16 – 12/2)

1:30 – 3:00 pm ET

Capitalism and Freedom F40W
Tom Low (9/16 – 11/4)
What's New in Neuroscience: Part 5...F41W
Alex Marcus (9/16 – 12/9)
Writing Workshop F42W
Strining et al (9/16 – 11/18)
Oligarchy in America: The Lessons of
Civil War Reconstruction F43W
John Harmon (9/23 – 10/14)
History Through Song
and (a Bit of) Story F44W
Peter Zavon (10/28 – 12/9)

Thursday

9:30 – 11:30 am ET

Introduction to Mandarin Chinese
for Conversation F45Th
Helen McCabe (9/17 – 12/10)
Journey into History:
A Midwife's Tale F46Th
Lisa Jadwin (9/17 – 11/19)
Law in the News F47Th
Schnittman & Stewart (9/17 – 12/10)
You Be the Critic F48Th
Sandra Vallot (9/17 – 12/10)

12:15 – 1:30 pm ET

Pfaudler Lecture Series F49–F58
Various topics and presenters.
See pages 21–22

1:45 – 3:45 pm ET

800 Words: Writing a Column F59Th
Jim Memmott (9/17–10/15)
Figure Skating on Film:
Stories that Shaped the Sport F60Th
Jamie Orlandi (9/17 – 10/15)
Bloodsuckers:
Vampires in Film and Story F61Th
Gary Mitchell (10/1 – 11/19)
Shakespeare's Julius Caesar F62Th
Donna Richardson (10/1 – 11/19)
NotebookLM and Gemini:
AI Tools for Research and Learning ... F63Th
Bill Brown (10/22 – 12/3)

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Course Exchange



OLLI Course Exchange

Tuesday

**Aviation History:
Post-World War II Aviation Vignettes..F64E**
Gary Hendrickson
1:00 – 2:30 pm ET, 9/15 – 11/17

**The Gentle Art Studio:
An Eight-Week Sketchbook Journey..F65E**
Cris Guenter
1:00 – 2:30 pm ET, 9/15 – 11/3

Let's Keep Knitting!.....F66E
Gale Ulvang
6:00 – 7:30 pm ET, 9/15 – 11/17

Wednesday

**Will: An English Playwright
in Times of Radical Change.....F67E**
Lynn H. Elliott
1:00 – 2:30 pm ET, 9/16 – 11/18

Mapping the Emergence of France..F68E
Leanne Ulvang
4:00 – 5:30 pm ET, 9/16 – 11/18

**Treasures of Persia
Over Five Millennia.....F69E**
Katherine Harper
4:00 – 5:30 pm ET, 9/16 – 10/14

See pages 25-26 for Chico State courses.



OLLI Course Exchange

Tuesday

**E Pluribus Unum:
Religious Pluralism in America.....F70E**
Dr. Vicki Cabot
3:00 – 4:30 pm ET, 12/8

Wednesday

**Nutrition & Brain Health:
What You Eat May Change
How You ThinkF71E**
Tina Shepard
4:00 – 5:30 pm ET, 9/23

**Are All Calories the Same?
Macronutrient Strategies
for Weight ManagementF72E**
Christy Alexon
4:00 – 5:30 pm ET, 12/9

Thursday

**Smartcracker:
Dorothy Parker's Enduring Wit.....F73E**
Dr. Heather Ackerman
12:30 – 2:00 pm ET, 11/5 & 11/12

See page 27 for ASU courses.



OLLI Course Exchange

Monday

Orbiting Jupiter.....F74E
Janet Wood
12:00 – 1:30 pm* ET, 10/26 – 11/2

**Sapiens II:
The Agricultural Revolution.....F75E**
Jesse Frey
2:00 – 3:30 pm* ET, 10/26 – 12/7

Tuesday

**The Crusades:
History, Causes and Lasting Effects...F76E**
Samih Baalbaki
2:00 – 3:30 pm* ET, 9/15 – 11/3

**The Right to Protest:
Speech, Press, and
Civic Engagement.....F77E**
Zipps & Phillips
6:00 – 7:30 pm ET, 9/22 – 10/6

Wednesday

Chen Village Tai ChiF78E
Randall Krause
12:30 – 1:30 pm ET, 9/16 – 10/28

Art Talks with Martin RandallF79E
Martin Randall
6:00 – 7:30 pm ET, 10/7 – 10/28

Thursday

**From Gregorian Chant to
Bohemian Rhapsody:
Evolution of Vocal Groups.....F80E**
Michael Agron
4:00 – 5:30 pm ET, 9/17 – 10/22

**Geological Stories of Disaster,
Uncertainty, and the Resilience of Life..F81E**
Nicola Richmond
6:00 – 7:30 pm ET, 9/17 – 10/8

Friday

**Intellectual and Cultural History
of the West: Part I, The GreeksF82E**
Robert Macarthur
12:00 – 1:30 pm* ET, 9/18 – 12/11

**Gentle Energizing Movement
and RelaxationF83E**
Randall Krause
1:00 – 2:00 pm ET, 11/6 – 12/11

See pages 28-31 for University of Arizona courses.

* - Daylight Savings Time ends on 11/1; after this date, these classes will begin and end 1 hour earlier.

Monday

OLLI at RIT Fall 2026 Course Schedule

Current EventsF1M

[NEW CONTENT] We will discuss timely topics chosen by the attendees. Class members are encouraged, but not required, to participate. All political views are welcomed and respected. Join us to "talk the talk." *Discussion*

Dick Scott has led many OLLI at RIT courses and enjoys both presenting and attending. **Helen Moore** worked in Rochester news behind the scenes as a photo journalist. **Rachel Adonis** is retired from a career in financial services and has enjoyed attending OLLI classes and participating as a course leader.

Mondays:

TWELVE Weeks:

9:30 – 11:00 am

September 14 – December 7

(No class week of Thanksgiving)



Hybrid



The First Century of Recorded Jazz: A Historical SurveyF2M

[NEW COURSE] [MULTI-PART SERIES] This course will survey the first 100 years of recorded jazz. The first jazz recording was made by the Original Dixieland Jazz Band for the Victor Talking Machine Company in 1917. From that starting point we will follow jazz's development highlighting major styles, movements, and trends. The survey will be informed by historically important recordings featuring the great instrumental soloists and bandleaders such as Louis Armstrong, Lester Young, Coleman Hawkins, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Sonny Rollins, Dave Brubeck, and John Coltrane. *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture*

Peter Luce has taught jazz history courses at OLLI at RIT and the Chautauqua Institution. Beyond jazz his interests include drawing, classical music, photography, and, lately, Bob Dylan.

Mondays:

TWELVE Weeks:

9:30 – 11:00 am

September 14 – December 7

(No class week of Thanksgiving)



In-Person Only



The Birth of the American EmpireF3M

[NEW COURSE] This course examines the growth of the American Empire. Immediately after the Revolution the United States began aggressively expanding across the continent at a pace considerably beyond a rate required by population growth. The Pacific coast was reached by annexing land purchased from France and conquered in a war with Mexico. Offshore expansion began by annexing Pacific Ocean islands like Hawaii. In a war with Spain we acquired Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines with the intent of seeking captive offshore markets for excess American manufactured and agricultural products. Soon territorial expansion was no longer necessary, and economic power and numerous overseas military bases have subsequently been used to influence other countries' behavior for our economic benefit. This course examines this expansion and investigates how this was driven, from the beginning until the present day, by individuals of great wealth seeking to further expand their wealth. *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture*

Richard Mallory has been a member of OLLI at RIT since 2012 and has led more than 30 classes on various topics.

Mondays:

TEN Weeks:

9:30 – 11:00 am

September 14 – November 16



In-Person Only



Athenaeum Book ClubF4M

The Athenaeum Book Club is a peer-led discussion group that welcomes curious minds, lifelong readers, and anyone looking to discover the joy of reading. Together we will explore thought-provoking fiction and engaging nonfiction that challenge our perspectives and spark meaningful conversations. Our first session will be devoted to getting to know each other (new, seasoned, and founding members) and book selection. Please come prepared with a book or books that you would like to nominate (this is not a requirement; you can still vote for the books we will read.) We will vote and select 6 books (4 fiction and 2 non-fiction) for the fall, winter, and spring terms. **Enrollment Limit: 35** *Discussion*

Mary Brown and **Sandra Vallot** are avid readers with a lifelong passion for learning and actively exploring diverse ideas, perspectives, and experiences through both fiction and nonfiction. Their appreciation for compelling narratives and thought-provoking works reflects a strong intellectual curiosity and a commitment to continuous personal growth. They value the ability of literature to inspire and foster meaningful connections, and to expand perspectives by reading books they may not have previously considered.

Mondays: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm

THREE Weeks: September 14, October 26, & December 7



Hybrid

Romantic Period Composers: Under the InfluenceF5M

[NEW COURSE] Nationalist composers of the Late Romantic period such as Dvořák and Mussorgsky celebrated their cultural identities by drawing on the folk songs, dances, and local legends of their home countries. This course explores the relationship between Romantic-era composers and the Nationalist composers they influenced using musical examples to trace those connections. Some composers belong to both traditions, and we'll examine how that dual identity shaped their approach to composition. As with all of this leader's courses, the sessions are driven by audience interest and follow a "non-linear" approach, in this case, by identifying and following the threads that connect ideas across both eras.

Course Website: <https://www.youtube.com/@alanmathias6393> *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture*

Al Mathias has been thinking like a teacher since the 7th grade. With more than 30 years of full-time teaching experience and a background in both pedagogy and instrumental performance (and as a soloist and member of local orchestras), he brings a deep passion for making classical music accessible and engaging. His approach to instructional design centers on finding the connecting thread that draws listeners in and gives direction to subjects whose depths reward exploration.

Mondays: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm

TWELVE Weeks: September 14 – December 7
(No class week of Thanksgiving)



Hybrid

REC

Orbital: Where Science and Literature MeetF6M

[NEW COURSE] *Orbital* by Samantha Harvey won the 2024 Booker Prize. This short novel (200 pages) is not science fiction, but rather an artful combination of accurate science and good fiction that presents a realistic look at daily life on the International Space Station. We'll look at the writer's craft that deservedly earned Harvey this prestigious award. We'll talk about the International Space Station (now 27 years old), its past, its future, and its role in space exploration. We'll also examine some of the issues the book raises, not only about humankind's exploration of space, but of our relationship to our own fragile planet. There are no aliens knocking on the door, just a novel blend of interesting science and powerful writing.

Required Text: *Orbital: A Novel* by Samantha Harvey, ISBN 9780802161543 *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture, Reading*

Jeanne Strining is a retired teacher and school administrator. She teaches writing courses for OLLI at RIT. **Tom Jones**, now retired from university teaching and research, conducts science and technology courses at OLLI at RIT.

Mondays: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm

FOUR Weeks: October 5 – 26



Hybrid

REC

Mystical West Africa: Traditions and VoodooF7M

[NEW COURSE] West Africa is unlike anywhere else on Earth. In Benin, Togo, and Ghana, ancient Voodoo traditions continue to shape everyday life alongside Christianity and Islam. Explore remarkable ceremonies, tribal cultures, the Ashanti kingdom, and the moving legacy of the Atlantic slave trade in a presentation with many photos and videos. Visit a fetish market, partake in funeral rites, and attend the Festival of Akwasidae at which the Ashanti chiefs gather to pay homage to the Asantehene, the Ashanti King. Try and understand what it was like in the horrific dungeons at Elmina, Ghana, where enslaved people were warehoused before being shipped to the new world. And much, much more. *Audio/Visual*

Victor Poleshuck is a retired physician with a love of adventure travel. This has taken him to all seven continents and to a number of remote areas of the world. He enjoys sharing his experiences.

Mondays:

TWO Weeks:

11:15 am – 12:45 pm

November 9 & 16



Hybrid



I Have Alzheimer's Disease; Yep, I DO Have It!F8M

[NEW CLASS] Dick Scott first spoke to his primary care physician about his suspicions in March 2026. Fortunately treatment is now available, and he had his first infusion 10 weeks later in June. Therapy and life changes are currently progressing without complications. He will give you information you can use to be your own, or another's advocate in living with this disease. Fellow member, Alex Marcus (a neurologist and psychiatrist), will join Dick in discussing this important topic.

Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture

Dick Scott has led many OLLI at RIT courses over the past decade. This one may turn out to be the most important. Hearing about Dick's first steps down this all-to-common road just might inspire others to initiate actions that could be very beneficial.

Monday:

ONE Week:

11:15 am – 12:45 pm

September 21



Hybrid



Hedy Lamarr: Beauty and BrainsF9M

[NEW CLASS] Hear the name Hedy Lamarr and the first thing that likely comes to mind is: "The Most Beautiful Woman in the World". But Hedy was much more than a beautiful actress; she was a feminist, a pioneering female film producer, a ski resort designer, and, much to our benefit today, a ground-breaking inventor. This class will touch upon all of these facets as we seek to understand this complex woman. *Audio/Visual, Lecture*

Alice Hooper previously led an OLLI at RIT course on the last wild Indian in America. Drawn to unique and surprising biographies, she feels fortunate to co-lead this course alongside colleagues who bring complementary perspectives to the subject. **Richard Mallory** has been an OLLI at RIT member since 2012 and has led more than 30 courses spanning a wide range of topics. **Karen Mitchell** has always enjoyed an evening at home with a cold drink, a warm blanket, and a hot guy while a classic movie plays in the background.

Monday:

ONE Week:

11:15 am – 12:45 pm

September 28



Hybrid



17 X 6 = 112: Analysis of a Trump ConversationF10M

[NEW CLASS] When people talk, they're rarely pursuing just one goal. Conversations operate on multiple levels simultaneously—negotiating shared meaning, building alliances, persuading, flattering, and sometimes embarrassing one another. These dynamics become even more complex in group settings where participants must track each other's intentions while managing their own. This course takes a close look at a remarkable 80-second segment from *The Howard Stern Show* in which Stern aggressively poses a math pop-quiz question, "What's 17 times 6?," setting off a seemingly chaotic exchange among show participants, including Donald Trump, as they attempt to solve the problem and shape the narrative around it. Distinguished cognitive scientist Michael Spivey, Professor of Cognitive Science at UC Merced, analyzed this clip using a multidisciplinary approach, uncovering a rich web of linguistic patterns, social dominance effects, misperceptions, and subtle gestures that reveal how group cognition actually works. Professor Spivey will join us for part of the class.

Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture

Michael Tanenhaus is the Emeritus Bishop Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at The University of Rochester. Michael received the 2018 Rumelhart Prize for work with his students that, according to the selection committee, "over the course of 40 years gradually transformed our understanding of human language and its relation to perception, action and communication." Since he joined OLLI at RIT in 2018, he has led courses on a variety of topics related to language and cognitive science as well as on Bob Dylan.

Monday: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm
ONE Week: **October 5**



Hybrid  REC

Retirement Planning: Navigating Taxes, Income, and Charitable GivingF11M

[NEW CONTENT] The course will address these questions: How much risk should I be taking in my investments? What rate of return do my investments need? How do I make sure I can stay retired? What strategies should I use when filing for Social Security? Do I need life insurance? Will I outlive my money? How can I generate additional income in retirement? How can I save on taxes, and what do the latest tax law changes mean for me? What are creative ways to support my philanthropies, and/or OLLI, through tax-wise charitable strategies, testamentary gifts, and life income opportunities? Hal and John will wrap up with a Q&A session, and John will offer confidential, no-obligation, complimentary one-on-one consultations to all interested attendees. *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture*

Hal Burrall is executive director of planned giving at RIT, and **John Skomski** is a Certified Financial Planner® and founder of Converge Wealth Partners. Hal Burrall and RIT are independent of Converge Wealth Partners LLC, Cambridge and The Ameriflex Group. Securities offered through Registered Representatives of Cambridge Investment Research, Inc., a broker-dealer, member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory services through The AmeriFlex Group®, a Registered Investment Adviser. Cambridge is a minority owner of The AmeriFlex Group®. Other entities and/or marketing names, products, or services referenced here are independent of Cambridge.

Monday: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm
ONE Week: **October 12**



Hybrid  REC

Design and User Experience: An Insight into the Creative Process.....F12M

[NEW CLASS] Have you ever wondered why everyday products—dining utensils, lamps, running shoes, office chairs, or cars—look and function the way they do? Why did they appeal to you when you bought them, and are you still satisfied using them? This course offers an inside look at the creative process behind product and environmental design, exploring how professionals balance function, aesthetics, and usability when developing the things we use every day. A primary focus will be design for accessibility and health care. The course will also feature examples of professional design work alongside collaborative student projects from RIT's programs in industrial design, engineering, and related disciplines. Course participants will gain a deeper appreciation for the thought and craft that go into the design process. *Lecture*

Dan Harel's fascination with design began as a child's simple curiosity for the way things work and with a wonder for the way they look. With both undergraduate and graduate degrees in design, he has been a professional designer for more than three decades with a passion for designing both consumer and commercial products that merge customer understanding and methodologies for creating innovative solutions. At Eastman Kodak Company his work focused on design of digital imaging goods; since 2011 he has served as an adjunct professor of industrial design at RIT where, in addition to teaching responsibilities, he leads studios that aim to provide solutions for accessibility and health care needs. In 2025 he published *NETWORK: An Inclusive Approach to Design with a Focus on Access Technologies and Health Care*.

Monday: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm
ONE Week: **October 19**



Hybrid  REC

American Impressionist: Mary CassattF13M

[NEW CLASS] Mary Cassatt was the only American artist to participate in the exhibitions held in Paris between 1874 and 1886 by a group of French painters known as the Impressionists. Cassatt received her early art education at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia. She moved to Paris at the age of 22 to receive further training and spent most of her adult life there. This class will examine her oil and pastel works as well as her printmaking. In addition we will see how Cassatt's influence extended beyond her own works through her support for the suffragette movement and the guidance she provided to wealthy Americans looking to bring European art home. *Audio/Visual, Lecture*

Chris Ryan, a retired librarian and lifelong research nerd, is interested in all aspects of the 19th century, including its art movements. She has offered classes in the past on Art in America in the Gilded Age and Impressionist artists Berthe Morisot and Gustave Caillebotte.

Monday: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm
ONE Week: November 2



Hybrid 

Katherine Routledge and Easter IslandF14M

[NEW CLASS] Who was Katherine Routledge? How did her extraordinary but tragic life impact the world's understanding of Easter Island? Why were her anthropology field notes from Easter Island "lost?" How has their rediscovery changed our understanding of Easter Island's history and culture? Join me to discover how one woman's 16 months on Easter Island in 1914 could have changed how it was known, and how this knowledge has yielded an accurate understanding of its history. *Audio/Visual, Lecture*

Michelle Turner is a retired educator. For several years she has presented at OLLI at RIT on a variety of topics, mostly involving art, photography, and/or travel. She displays her photographs in local galleries including those in the OLLI foyer and lounge.

Monday: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm
ONE Week: November 30



Hybrid 

Intermediate SpanishF15M

[NEW CONTENT] Would you like to maintain and improve your Spanish in a fun and supportive small group environment? Then this is the class for you! As a group we agree on the format and share the responsibility for moderating each session. We all read the same section of a book as homework (around 30-45 minutes) before each class and bring in supplemental materials for additional interest. We try to keep all conversation in Spanish, helping each other with unfamiliar words and grammar. This is a no-pressure environment. **Required Text:** *Relato de un Naufrago*, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, ISBN: 9780307475381 **Enrollment Limit: 12** *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Reading, Peer Group*

Kathy Lewis has been participating in OLLI at RIT's Conversational Spanish class for over a decade. She enjoys the collaborative nature of the class, and it has enabled her to keep up her Spanish. **Michael McCue** studied Spanish in high school and college. While he has used his Spanish in his work and travels, he is still learning and has not mastered the subjunctive forms.

Mondays: 1:30 – 3:30 pm
TWELVE Weeks: September 14 – December 7
(No class week of Thanksgiving)



Hybrid 

Express Yourself Through Writing FictionF16M

Each week share your stories with a community of supportive writers in an atmosphere that encourages growth and risk taking. Assignments are built around a learn-by-doing philosophy using an 800-word-flash-fiction model. All genres of fiction are welcome, and all skill levels from beginner to world-famous author are embraced. Whether you write for personal pleasure or with an eye towards eventual publication, this course has something for you. **Enrollment Limit: 13** *Discussion, Reading, Writing*

Gary Mitchell is a published author with works in both the fiction and non-fiction realms. He learned to write through the share-and-critique model of literary improvement. There are three keys to writing mastery: practice, practice, and practice.

Mondays: 1:30 – 3:30 pm
TWELVE Weeks: September 14 – December 7
(No class week of Thanksgiving)



Hybrid

The American Experiment: The Escalation of the Executive Branch.....F17M

[NEW CONTENT] The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights together define the foundation of the American Experiment, establishing two key principles: separation of powers and checks and balances among the three branches of the federal government. This course traces how those branches have evolved over 250 years, from the founders' original vision in the 18th century to the present day, with a particular focus on the growing power of the Executive Branch. *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture*

Sarah F. Liebschutz, Ph.D., is a political scientist, Distinguished Professor Emerita at Brockport State University of NY, and former Associate Fellow at the Brookings Institution. Her teaching and publications focus on American Federalism. Since 2019 she has taught several courses at OLLI at RIT.

Mondays: 1:30 – 3:00 pm

THREE Weeks: October 19, October 26, & November 30



Hybrid

Discover Nearpeer: OLLI at RIT's Member Community AppF18M

[NEW CLASS] Nearpeer is OLLI at RIT's members-only app designed to help you connect and engage with fellow members outside of class. The app serves as a member directory, a space for affinity groups (wine enthusiasts, Bills fans, and more), SIG planning discussions, photo sharing, and links to general program announcements—and it's where many course members and leaders continue their discussions after class. If you've been hesitant to try the app, need help setting it up, or have questions, join us for this informative session.

Ella Antolini is Nearpeer's client engagement and strategic partnerships lead. She and our OLLI staff members will be facilitating this session.

Monday: 1:30 – 3:00 pm

ONE Week: September 14



Hybrid

ImmigrationF19M

[NEW CLASS] This presentation, the fourth in a series of classes by Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services (RRRS), examines the ongoing changes in US immigration policy and their effects on the thousands of refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers in this country. Rather than focusing on political arguments, the program centers on the humanitarian concerns at stake. It will present case examples and offer perspectives from those who work directly with these populations, including legal experts, advocates, relief organizations, and media reports. *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture*

This course will be led by **Berka Mou**, a retired teacher from Morocco and current case manager at RRRS, founded by CEO **Mike Coniff**. Other guest speakers will join him to provide updates on the immigration crisis.

Monday: 1:30 – 3:30 pm

ONE Week: October 5



Hybrid

Pundits, Polls & Politics: The 2026 Mid-Term ElectionF20M

[NEW CLASS] On November 3rd all 435 seats in the US House of Representatives and 35 in the Senate will be up for re-election. Hundreds of local and state offices will be settled. Turnout in POTUS elections is around 60%. Midterms? Barely 40%! This midterm may be more consequential than any recent election. So let's dig into all of the national issues, looking at how they rank by party affiliation, generation, and region. We'll look at some of the better forecasts of results, and we'll conduct our own online, in-class polls of issues/results. YES, we will forecast the House - Senate results by party. *Discussion, Lecture*

Doug Stowell is a consumer and political polling veteran in both US and EU markets. His career includes being Director of Market Research for the Xerox Corporation, Director of US Clients for the UK research firm NOP, Ltd. in London, and Sr. Polling Executive for Wirthlin Worldwide in DC. He opened his own firm, Market Resource Associates, in 2008 and continues conducting opinion research on global issues. As a public service he provides Zoom lectures to more than 100 organizations nationwide. He lives with his wife, Carol, in Greenville, SC.

Monday: 1:30 – 3:00 pm

ONE Week: October 12



Hybrid

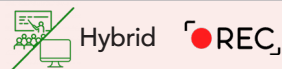
How to Choose a Medicare PlanF21M

[NEW CLASS] Learn about 2027 premiums, deductibles, and co-insurance costs; review and compare Medicare Advantage and Medigap Plans to determine which best meets your specific needs; and find out how Part D works.

Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture

David Benedict is a Medicare counselor at Lifespan who enjoys helping seniors make informed decisions about their healthcare coverage.

Monday: 1:30 – 3:30 pm
ONE Week: November 2



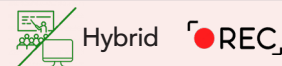
Online SafetyF22M

[NEW CLASS] Financial exploitation is one of the fastest-growing threats facing older adults as they go online. Today's criminals use the internet and artificial intelligence (AI) in ways that make scams harder to spot. The most effective way to fight back is through education like this tutorial in online safety through Lifespan, a regional nonprofit serving older adults and their caregivers. The program explains basic online terms, how AI works, common scams, and practical strategies to stay safe online.

Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture

Dan Lyon is retired from the Road Patrol of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office in Rochester NY after serving for nearly 24 years. During his employment with the department, he served eight years as a Crime Prevention Deputy which afforded him the opportunity to work with all aspects of Monroe County's east side communities. Since 2020 he has been the manager of Lifespan's Fraud/Scam and Identity Theft Program assisting victims of scams and frauds. Besides case management, he facilitates presentations to educate older adults across NYS.

Monday: 1:30 – 3:00 pm
ONE Week: November 9

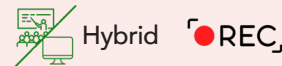


Abbott and Costello: Legends of ComedyF23M

[NEW CLASS] Bud Abbott and Lou Costello were one of the most popular comedy duos in Vaudeville, radio, television, and movies. In this class we will look at the timeline and arc of their success in entertainment by viewing slides and video clips of their most famous routines. Their impeccable timing made routines like "Who's on First" a comedy classic. Also highlighted will be the supporting players, especially on their TV show, who contributed to the mayhem in the world of Abbott and Costello. We will look at how Kate Smith and, later, Seinfeld factored into the popularity of the duo. We will also look at the dynamics of the relationship between the two which was fraught, at times, with jealousy and animosity. Through it all they provided entertainment. *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture*

Joel Weirick has been enamored with comedy since childhood, beginning with *The Three Stooges*, and is now presenting a third installment of comedy legends after W.C. Fields and Jack Benny. He has been a member of OLLI both in Phoenix and currently at RIT for several years. He is a retired Federal employee who has participated in community theater and writers' groups. His wife, Barbara, and he moved to NY in 2020 amidst the Covid pandemic to be closer to their grandkids.

Monday: 1:30 – 3:00 pm
ONE Week: November 16



Brush Up Your Shakespeare: The Bard, Bardolatry, and Big Ideas (Part 2)..... F24T

[NEW CONTENT] Shakespeare is justly celebrated as a masterful poet and dramatist, perhaps the greatest writer in the English language. But do his plays have a larger purpose or intention; do they have ideas to share? What are his plays about? What do all those enchanting fairies and mythical Athenians in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, not to mention the mechanicals' farcical performance of *Pyramus & Thisbe*, have to do with that play's otherwise mundane love story? Which Macbeth is meant by the title of that eponymous play? Why did Shakespeare choose to retell Homer's *Iliad* through Troilus and Cressida, two characters all but invisible in the earlier story. What do these oddities have to do with Shakespeare's overall point, if any? By closely considering his text, this course explores how such features point to Shakespeare as more than a "mere" playwright but also as a thinker with big ideas. This is a continuation of a course begun this summer, but prior participation is not a prerequisite for this session which will cover the three plays mentioned above, together with *Measure for Measure* and perhaps an additional play. Because we will be reading carefully, everyone is encouraged to read or reread the plays as necessary. **Optional Text:** Texts of plays *Discussion, Lecture, Reading*

An RIT philosophy professor as well as a practicing trial lawyer, **Rob Shapiro** has taught political philosophy and poetry, jurisprudence, the American founding, and constitutional law in the United States and abroad for over 25 years. In his courses Rob has regularly taught Shakespearean plays, either as the primary focus or as a complement to other readings. He is also a trustee of the University of Chicago's Tony-award-winning Court Theater (the "Home of Classic Theater"), board chair of a local opera company, an award-winning journalist, and host of a weekly radio show on classical music.

Tuesdays:
TWELVE Weeks:

9:30 – 11:00 am
September 15 – December 8
(No class week of Thanksgiving)



Hybrid **REC**

Discussing Finance, Economics, and Business in the News..... F25T

[NEW CONTENT] The course leaders will moderate this class in which members will be welcome to suggest topics for the day and will provide introductions and closing remarks summarizing the points made in the discussions. Alternatively, topics can be suggested in advance of a class; the member suggesting the topic can optionally provide supporting material to be read by the class in order to prepare for the discussion. *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Reading*

Peter White has a JD from New York Law School and an MBA from NYU and served as the in-house corporate tax counsel at Kodak for 27 years. **Ed Kwiek** has his MBA from the Simon School at the University of Rochester and has held several management positions during his 33-year career at IBM.

Tuesdays:
TWELVE Weeks:

9:30 – 11:00 am
September 15 – December 8
(No class week of Thanksgiving)



Hybrid **REC**

Stonehenge: History of a Mystery.....F26T

[NEW COURSE] Half a million people visit Stonehenge every year, few of them with any solid idea about the complexity and history of the landscape surrounding the monument. This course give you an introduction to the archaeology and theories for the Stonehenge prehistoric complex. It will introduce you to some of the difficulties in understanding a site whose last recorded use lies 3,500 years in the past, whose builders spanned 5,000 years, and whose meaning has been twisted to include everything from prehistoric supercomputer to Druidic temple. It will also bring in modern controversies as well as interpretation and preservation. The course approach will combine archaeological, environmental, engineering, religious, and folkloric data with landscape studies and social anthropology to explore this dynamic British landscape.

Optional Text: *Stonehenge: The Story of a Sacred Landscape* by Francis Pryor and *Stonehenge: The Biography of a Landscape* by Timothy Darville *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture, Reading*

Kimberly D. Reiter, Associate Professor Emerita of Ancient History at Stetson University (Florida), has been teaching for almost 40 years. Besides her favorite courses in Roman, Naval and English history, she is an expert on European prehistory, past president of the Interdisciplinary Environmental Association, a recipient of the NEH Enduring Questions Grant, and she co-directed field courses in England, Rome, and Venice. Currently her greatest challenge is exploring her new home in Rochester NY (as drivers here are crazy) and wondering where to put her books.

Tuesdays:
EIGHT Weeks:

9:30 – 11:00 am
September 15 – November 10
(no class 9/29)



Hybrid **REC**

Every Picture Tells a Story.....F27T

[NEW COURSE] Each week we'll look at one visual work of art (painting, sculpture, photography) in class and closely observe what it has to say. This is not a survey of art history, but it is a course on why people make and enjoy art. I'll provide insights about the artists and their times, but the class is encouraged to engage in lots of discussion. *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture*

An OLLI at RIT course leader and student, **Lisa Jadwin**, Ph.D., taught college students for many years. While her expertise includes literature (including nonfiction) and film, she also has a background in design and in the history of art and photography. In her spare time she enjoys traveling, horses (including her own), mosaic-creating, gardening, and being lazy now that she is retired.

Tuesdays: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm
TWELVE Weeks: **September 15 – December 8**
(No class week of Thanksgiving)

 Hybrid 

MemoirsF28T

Have you thought about writing your life story but don't know where to begin? Have your children or friends asked you to write down some of the stories you have shared verbally? Each week participants will write to create the gift only they can give—their personal story. Only you can create and give such a personal gift for generations to come. The cost is time and energy, the reward—priceless! *Reading, Writing*

A member of OLLI at RIT since 2001, **Carol Samuel** is an enthusiastic Memoirs course leader. As a retired obstetrical nurse, she believes there is much convincing evidence for the value of writing memoirs.

Tuesdays: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm
TWELVE Weeks: **September 15 – December 8**
(No class week of Thanksgiving)

 Hybrid

Nobody Circles the Wagons Like the Buffalo Bills.....F29T

[NEW COURSE] From The Rockpile to Highmark. From wide right to the comeback. From Jack Kemp to Jim Kelly to Josh Allen. This is a crash course on the history of the Buffalo Bills from when they were young in 1960, to the break-your-heart four Super Bowls, and to the present Josh Allen years. We will see videos of all the great exciting moments, highlights of all the best players and games, talk about the great players, and have Bills Trivia. We will also have two guest speakers from the media joining us. Wear your Buffalo Bills gear for each class! *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture*

Scott Mate has been a lifelong sports aficionado and a huge supporter of the Buffalo Bills. He retired in 2024 as director of district operations in the retail world. He joined OLLI at RIT in 2024, and this is the third sports class he has led. He is the current chair of the Pfaudler Lecture Series and Pickleball SIG coordinator, has helped run many Intersession tours, and participates on the Council and Strategic Plan committee.

Tuesdays: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm
FIVE Weeks: **September 15 – October 13**

 Hybrid 

Insect SocietiesF30T

[NEW COURSE] The vast majority of insect species live solitary lives, with interactions among individuals largely confined to mating. Yet there are a few groups of insects—all ants and termites as well as some bees and wasps—that live in colonies with individuals specialized for different tasks. Depending on the species, these colonies can be made up of anywhere from a handful of individuals to millions of them. As a result these social insect groups make up a major fraction of the insect biomass on earth. Their ecological impact is equally important. In this course we will examine the ecology, evolution, and behavior of these insects as well as their effects—both beneficial and deleterious—on human societies. *Lecture*

John Jaenike has been interested in nature and science since he was a youngster. He studied biology in college and grad school and spent most of his career at the University of Rochester, teaching courses primarily in ecology and introductory biology and doing research on the ecology and evolutionary biology of various insects. He has previously taught OLLI at RIT courses on dogs, insects, the Galapagos, the origin of eukaryotes, and several courses on birds.

Tuesdays: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm
THREE Weeks: **October 27 – November 10**

 Hybrid 

Climate Change 101: The Likely, the Uncertain, the Unknown...and Why It Matters..... F31T

[NEW COURSE] Global climate change is a major environmental topic in the news these days, but it can be a challenge to understand the science, models, and probabilities involved in the stories and reports that come at us from many sources (often, unfortunately, promoting a hidden non-scientific agenda). It can be even more challenging to handle this topic if we consider its potential social and ethical perspectives. In this course we will discuss, in non-expert language, the basics of the scientific underpinnings of our understanding of global climate change, including what it is (and isn't) and the supporting evidence in our observations and measurements. We will move from there to a general discussion of the models involved and their basic structure and probabilities. We will then consider an overview of the expectations derived from our models, how they've changed over the years, and the apparent options we have as a result. We will then finish with the expected outcomes of various scenarios for people in NY, the country, and the world and discuss both what we can do and a few perspectives that can help inform our decisions. **Course Website:** TBA *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture, Reading*

Michael Reiter holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences from the University of Virginia and recently retired as Professor and Chair of Integrated Environmental Science at Bethune-Cookman University. A founding co-chair of the Sustainable Human and Environmental Systems Roundtable, he's been invited to speak on five continents (including a parallel workshop of the Rio+20 summit) and has received multiple awards for teaching and research. He also leads grade school classes, Road Scholar programs, and international field courses along with Dr. Kimberly Reiter. Having moved to Irondequoit last year, he's now learning about this area and his role in it.

Tuesdays:
EIGHT Weeks:

1:30 – 3:00 pm
September 15 – November 10
(No class 9/29)



Hybrid **REC**

Conversational French.....F32T

[NEW CONTENT] With written and pictorial materials, we'll converse in French on a variety of topics such as food/meals/ favorite restaurants, travel, sports/outdoor activities, work/leisure activities, favorite books/films, and anything else the class would like to discuss. There may be a little grammar review, but the primary focus will be increasing participants' vocabulary and conversational ability. Optional reference texts will be discussed in class. **Enrollment Limit: 15** *Audio/Visual, Discussion*

Joy Goodman spent most of her career practicing law in Montreal where she lived with her husband, a native Montrealer. While English is her native language, she speaks and writes French fluently.

Tuesdays:
TEN Weeks:

1:30 – 3:30 pm
September 22 – December 1
(No class week of Thanksgiving)



Hybrid **REC**

Igor Stravinsky: His Life and His Music.....F33T

[NEW COURSE] Igor Stravinsky (1882–1971) was one of the 20th century's most astonishing musical innovators. During a career spanning more than 60 years, he repeatedly surprised audiences by reinventing his musical style—from Russian fairy tales and lush ballets to elegant neoclassical works and powerful sacred music. At the core of his achievement stands *The Rite of Spring* (1913) whose Paris premiere provoked one of the most famous incidents in music history. But Stravinsky was far more than the composer of one revolutionary work. Each class will combine Robert Greenberg's engaging (and humorous) lectures with performances and video excerpts from some of the world's finest musicians and dance companies. We will also hear insights from conductors and teachers including Leonard Bernstein, Alan Gilbert, and Gerard Schwarz, who will help us listen. We will be able to experience Stravinsky's music as well as to understand it. We will follow Stravinsky's artistic journey through colorful orchestral works, groundbreaking ballets, theatrical masterpieces, and masterful collaborations with Sergei Diaghilev and the Ballets Russes. We will discover a composer of wit, drama, and boundless imagination who never stopped surprising audiences—or reinventing himself. *Lecture*

Victor Poleshuck is a retired physician with a lifelong love of classical music. He has led many courses focused on medicine and music at OLLI at RIT including a four-term course on the History of Western Music, and a number of composer-specific courses, most recently on Franz Joseph Haydn. Other courses have included Beethoven, Mozart, Clara and Robert Schumann, Tchaikovsky, Brahms, and Shostakovich.

Tuesdays:
TEN Weeks:

1:30 – 3:30 pm
September 15 – December 8
(No class 9/29, 10/6, or week of Thanksgiving)



Hybrid **REC**

Wednesday

OLLI at RIT Fall 2026 Course Schedule

Bob Dylan: The Last 30 Years.....F34W

[NEW COURSE] Learning about the late Bob Dylan is a waste of your time, right? He's a 60s relic; you hate his voice, etc.... Please reconsider. Read Dylan's answers in *The New York Times* about being 80 years old. Listen to *Murder Most Foul*, released during the pandemic, about which *The New Yorker* critic, Kevin Dettmar, wrote: "What a weird new song for Bob Dylan to drop 'Weird' with its full Shakespearean force, as in the 'weird sisters' of *Macbeth*, possessing 'the supernatural power of dealing with fate or destiny,'" and his version of *Once Upon a Time* for Tony Bennett's 90th birthday tribute. After coming back from the abyss with the Grammy-winning, *Time Out of Mind* in 1997, Dylan began building on themes that he explored in his earlier work expanding intertextuality in songs to include literature and film, warping time and place to create complex, multi-textured songs, and compelling music. We begin with Dylan's most recent work, then follow his journey from the 1990s listening to, analyzing, deconstructing, and contextualizing his songs. We will also use excerpts from his radio show, books, and tributes to musicians to gain some insight into one of the most original, enigmatic, and creative minds in music, and the humanities writ large. *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture*

Michael Tanenhaus is the Emeritus Bishop Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at The University of Rochester. Michael received the 2018 Rumelhart Prize for work with his students that, according to the selection committee, "over the course of 40 years gradually transformed our understanding of human language and its relation to perception, action and communication." Since he joined OLLI at RIT in 2018, he has led courses on a variety of topics related to language and cognitive science, but the ones on Bob Dylan are his favorites.

Wednesdays: 9:30 – 11:00 am
TEN Weeks: September 16 – November 18



Hybrid 

Discussing *The New Yorker Magazine*F35W

[NEW CONTENT] Using the current issue of *The New Yorker* as a jumping off point, we conduct lively discussions of a very broad range of topics, from today's culture, current events, fiction, history, and, of course, the famous cartoons. When appropriate very short videos are shown that provide background to articles being discussed. We stay one week behind the current issue so you have time to read it. We will start with the September 7 issue. **Required Text:** Subscription to *The New Yorker Magazine*, either hard copy or online version **Enrollment Limit: 20** *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Reading*

Steve Levinson, a retired chemist from Eastman Kodak, is currently the president of Image City Photography Gallery where he exhibits new work every month. He still has a lingering Brooklyn accent even though he left after high school to attend Rensselaer. **Joan Dupont** is a lapsed civil engineer who worked for the NYS Department of Transportation. She joined OLLI at RIT after retirement in 2010 and immediately felt she had found her "tribe." She enjoys puzzles of all kinds, gardening, visits to her son (and the beach) in San Diego, and she goes nowhere without a knitting project. They've been leading this class since Fall 2010.

Wednesdays : 9:30 – 11:00 am
TEN Weeks: September 16 – November 18



Hybrid

Turning Points in the History of ScienceF36W

[NEW COURSE] Throughout history scientific progress has often advanced in dramatic bursts following long periods of dormancy. This course examines the revolutionary discoveries that transformed our understanding across the major branches of science—mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, astronomy, and geology. Topics include the rise of the Copernican universe, atomic theory, plate tectonics, Darwin's theory of evolution, and Newton's Laws of Motion and Gravity. The emphasis is on historical perspective: why did these breakthroughs happen when and where they did? This course is for scientists and non-scientists alike. *Discussion, Lecture*

Timothy McDonnell has been a proud member of OLLI at RIT since 2005 and has led many courses on a variety of topics from geology to the Constitutional Amendments. Tim was a science teacher for over 30 years and an adjunct professor at Monroe Community College for over 10 years. He was also the coordinator of the NY Geographic Alliance. Tim believes strongly that science should be accessible to everyone.

Wednesdays: 9:30 – 11:00 am
TWELVE Weeks: September 16 – December 9
(No class week of Thanksgiving)



Hybrid 

Contemporary EventsF37W

We will engage in a lively, orderly discussion involving contemporary events submitted by members of the class. Because the subjects are sometimes depressing, we welcome sarcasm and humor. *Discussion*

Terri Hurley has been an OLLI at RIT member since 2011 having moved to Rochester NY from California. She often shares her different viewpoints with the class and believes that smiling is a large part of enjoying life.

Wednesdays: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm
TWELVE Weeks: **September 16 – December 9**
(No class week of Thanksgiving)



Hybrid 

The Making of the Modern Mind: Descartes's Meditations (Part 1 of 2) F38W

[NEW COURSE] [MULTI-PART SERIES] In the *Meditations* (1641), the founding work of modern philosophy, Descartes states two intentions. The Dedication Letter to the Religious Faculty of the Sorbonne states the intention of persuading the rational infidels with rational arguments that God exists and that the soul is immortal. The opening sentence of Meditation One states the intention of providing a philosophic foundation for the new science of mathematical physics. In the process of executing these two intentions, Descartes establishes the modern conception of the soul as exclusively mind or consciousness, thereby inaugurating subjectivity as a philosophic foundation. To interpret the *Meditations* is to determine the relations between the theology, the theory of science, and the account of subjectivity. **Required Text:** *Discourse on Method and Meditations on First Philosophy*, Fourth edition by Rene Descartes, ISBN 9780872204201 *Discussion, Lecture*

Walt Soffer, Ph.D., is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Geneseo State University of NY and recipient of the Career Service Award and Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. His teaching and publications have been principally in the areas of ancient philosophy, modern philosophy, phenomenology and existentialism, history of political philosophy, ethics, philosophy of religion, and interdisciplinary humanities.

Wednesdays: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm
TWELVE Weeks: **September 16 – December 9**
(No class week of Thanksgiving)



Hybrid 

Obedience/DisobedienceF39W

[NEW COURSE] Why (when) do people do what they are asked? We'll call that obedience. Society would be impossible without general obedience. Specific obedience depends on the individual, the asker, and the task. How powerful is the authority (the asker)? How onerous is the task? What is the nature of the individual asked? "Please, pass the salt" is easy; "Will no one rid me of this troublesome priest?" not so much. Philosophers have thought, psychologists have experimented, and politicians have asked. We'll rummage through as much of this as we can to bring as much order as we can to it all. *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture*

Moshe Cahill is an academic philosopher, and **Roger Gans** is an Emeritus Professor at the University of Rochester. Each has led many courses at OLLI at RIT.

Wednesdays: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm
ELEVEN Weeks: **September 16 – December 2**
(No class week of Thanksgiving)



In-Person Only 

Capitalism and Freedom.....F40W

[NEW COURSE] Sick of tariffs, corporate welfare, and Big Beautiful Bills? We will read and discuss Milton Friedman's *Capitalism and Freedom* in which he offers free market alternatives on trade, education, income distribution, and other topics. It is as fresh and relevant now as it was when written in 1962. Not an economics class! **Optional Text:** *Capitalism and Freedom*, 40th Anniversary edition by Milton Friedman *Discussion, Lecture, Reading*

Tom Low usually leads courses in philosophy (e.g., Nietzsche, Thoreau, Marcus Aurelius) and politics (e.g., Aristotle, Machiavelli, Veblen, Wiesenthal) but sometimes turns to history where he has led courses on Antarctic exploration, the Spanish Civil War, the Sudan, and World War I. He has presented over 35 classes at OLLI at RIT.

Wednesdays: 1:30 – 3:00 pm
EIGHT Weeks: **September 16 – November 4**



Hybrid 

What's New in Neuroscience: Part 5F41W

[NEW COURSE] [MULTI-PART SERIES] We will explore what research in neuroscience (role of AI, brain imaging, immunology, and genetics) is teaching us about how the brain and mind work and discover how using that knowledge provides better care for patients. Selected topics on health, medicine, and biotechnology may also be discussed. Participation in previous parts of this course is not a prerequisite. *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture*

Alex Marcus is a retired physician with training and experience in internal medicine, neurology, and psychiatry. He has been leading OLLI at RIT courses on the human brain since 2005.

Wednesdays: 1:30 – 3:00 pm
TWELVE Weeks: **September 16 – December 9**
(No class week of Thanksgiving)



Writing WorkshopF42W

[NEW COURSE] Following the Writing Workshop format, each class starts with a short lesson about some aspect of the writing craft. Participants then have time to write on a topic of their choice and conference in small groups with class members. We cover a variety of genres and styles in a friendly environment, and participants get to make new OLLI friends.

Enrollment Limit: 20 *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture, Writing, Workshop*

Our team of writers who leads this course includes: **Jeanne Stringer**, a Writing Workshop course designer who worked in the Brighton and Webster NY schools; **Jim Hooper**, a teacher and manager of human service providers; **Diana Lockhart**, a lover of words, sucker for superior sentence structure, and adorer of alliteration; **Kim Perry**, a recently retired marketing manager, content creator, and editor who is now immersed in writing what she enjoys; and **Kim Sowers**, a retired technology director who's happily writing fiction instead of technical papers.

Wednesdays: 1:30 – 3:00 pm
TEN Weeks: **September 16 – November 18**



Oligarchy in America: The Lessons of Civil War Reconstruction F43W

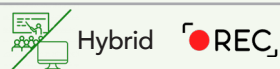
[NEW COURSE] This course will introduce the slave South prior to the Civil War as an example of the structure and effects of an oligarchy: how it came to assume that status; what the Union government did through the Civil War Reconstruction to bring fairness and equity to the government of the South; and how and why that effort failed. We will also use the example of that failure to discuss the ways the current government is approaching an oligarchy and what we might do about that.

Optional Text: *Reconstruction* by Eric Foner, *The Second Founding* by Eric Foner, *How the South Won the Civil War* by Heather Cox Richardson, and *The Fall of the House of Dixie* by Bruce Levine *Lecture, Reading*

Note: While this course is offered in a hybrid format, the course leader will participate via Zoom only and will not be present in the classroom.

John Harmon has a Ph.D. in history from the University of Rochester. Though trained as a Tudor-Stuart historian, he has used this experience in approaching any historical period. He has read extensively in American history, especially the period of the Civil War and post-war Reconstruction.

Wednesdays: 1:30 – 3:00 pm
FOUR Weeks: **September 23 – October 14**



History Through Song and (a Bit of) StoryF44W

[NEW COURSE] Folk songs, broadsides, newspaper poetry, even commercial songs often describe historical events, and, sometimes, do so correctly. In this course we will view the lyrics and listen to 20th century recordings of selected songs from the 17th through the 20th centuries (and perhaps into the 21st) and consider what they reveal about events or sensibilities of past times. The melodies are often pleasing and some are quite memorable. They can help us remember the history being described, or fictionalized, and reading the lyrics at the same time can help with understanding. The focus will be on American history but not exclusively so. *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture*

Peter Zavon retired from Xerox and has been a member of OLLI at RIT since 2017. Although a technical person by training, he has been interested in folk music and related forms since junior high school and has been fascinated to see how they have helped him remember historical events and even improve his second language. With the advent of the internet, he has discovered much more about the songs he already knew as well as others he did not previously know, and he is pleased to share.

Wednesdays: 1:30 – 3:00 pm
SIX Weeks: **October 28 – December 9**
(No class week of Thanksgiving)



Thursday

OLLI at RIT Fall 2026 Course Schedule

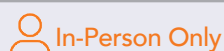
Introduction to Mandarin Chinese for ConversationF45Th

[NEW COURSE] Whether you're planning a trip to China or simply want to connect with Mandarin-speaking friends, this beginner course will help you build practical conversation skills from the very first class. Designed for learners with little or no previous experience, the course emphasizes everyday communication. You'll learn useful words and phrases for introducing yourself, making small talk, ordering food, shopping, asking for directions, and handling common travel situations with confidence. Through interactive practice and cultural insights, you'll develop the skills and confidence to engage in real conversations in Mandarin Chinese. **Enrollment Limit: 16** Discussion

Helen McCabe has a Ph.D. in international education and an MA in East Asian Studies. Her work focus for three decades has been working with children with autism and their families in China. She now works supporting a program for Chinese families of children with autism in NY. She studied Chinese in college and in China in the 1990s and has travelled to China 30 times, often living there a few months to a year at a time. Helen uses Chinese daily for work and volunteering. She has also taught Chinese to university students and is excited to share her love of the language.

Thursdays: 9:30 – 11:30 am

TWELVE Weeks: **September 17 – December 10**
(No class week of Thanksgiving)



Journey into History: A Midwife's Tale.....F46Th

[NEW COURSE] *A Midwife's Tale* won the Pulitzer Prize for History (1991). Historian Laurel Thatcher Ulrich found an ignored diary in a research library and from it created the story of Martha Ballard, a midwife in Hallowell, Maine, whose wide range of experience, family life, professional and personal work, and life events still resonate with modern readers. In this course we'll read the book in small chunks and emphasize discussion. **Required Text:** *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812* by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, ISBN 9780679733768 **Enrollment Limit: 25** Discussion, Lecture, Reading

Lisa Jadwin, Ph.D., taught college-level courses for nearly 40 years until her dream-teaching experience began at OLLI. Her special fields are literature (including non-fiction), design and art history, and film. She has a passionate interest in social history (the history of ordinary people) and, in her spare time, enjoys gardening, mosaic-making, horses (including her own), traveling, and being lazy now that she is retired.

Thursdays: 9:30 – 11:00 am

TEN Weeks: **September 17 – November 19**



Law in the NewsF47Th

[NEW CONTENT] Every day the news is full of stories that involve the law or lawsuits. Currently the US Supreme Court is hearing several important cases challenging actions of the Trump Administration as well as various state actions such as limiting transgender athletes' participation in sports. In this course we will explain the cases and answer your questions. We often have guest speakers—retired judges and other lawyers—with knowledge of the issues involved. Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture

Mike Schnittman and **Sue Stewart** are retired lawyers who have been OLLI members and course leaders for many years.

Thursdays: 9:30 – 11:00 am

TWELVE Weeks: **September 17 – December 10**
(No class week of Thanksgiving)



Hybrid



You Be the CriticF48Th

Class members select three movies weekly and are expected to independently view, prior to class, at least one of the three (two at local movie theaters and one streaming on Netflix or Amazon Prime). Doing so offers class participants the opportunity to engage in discussion of the films by commenting on exploration of themes and plot twists, cinematography, acting, directing, characters, and hidden meanings. A fun-filled movie discussion class, we dive into the films then rate them on a scale of 1-10 with no pressure but plenty of laughs and learning. Discussion

Sandra Vallot, an OLLI at RIT member since 2018, is a lifelong movie fan who enjoys viewing films across genres either in the theater or through streaming platforms and then discussing them with members from a wide variety of backgrounds and expertise.

Thursdays: 9:30 – 11:30 am

TWELVE Weeks: **September 17 – December 10**
(No class week of Thanksgiving)



Hybrid

Pfudler Lecture Series: Thursdays 12:15 – 1:30 pm ET

Members can register for Pfudler lectures when they register for classes. Non-members may register via the links found in each lecture event [on our calendar](#).



Week One: September 17

Food for Thought: Building a Healthier Rochester F49Th



Mitch Gruber, Senior Vice President/Chief Impact Officer at Foodlink

While teaching at Head Start, Mitch Gruber connected with Foodlink founder Tom Ferraro to reduce food waste and improve food quality for his students, a partnership that led him to Foodlink, where he rose to Senior Vice President/Chief Impact Officer. There he helped develop effective public health and anti-poverty programs, including the Curbside Market, the Lexington Avenue Urban Farm, and a culinary Career Fellowship. Mitch will speak on food equity, the historical roots of urban food insecurity, and the intersections of public health, nonprofit innovation, and local government.

Week Two: September 24

Rochester's Own Unsolved Brink's Heist: A Cop, a Priest, and a Soldier F50Th



Gary Craig, Author and Retired Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle* Journalist

On a freezing night in January 1993, masked gunmen walked through laughably lax security at the Rochester Brink's depot, tied up the guards, and unhurriedly made off with \$7.4 million. Gary Craig, Rochester's award-winning former investigative reporter, will discuss the highs and lows of creating his book, *Seven Million*, sharing insights into the reporting and writing that brought the story to life, and detailing what it takes to bring a book from the page to the screen.

Week Three: October 1

True Crime and the Making of a Book F51Th



Susan Ashline, Nationally Acclaimed Author of True Crime Books

Susan Ashline departs from the traditional lecture format for this session. Rather than prepared remarks, the discussion unfolds as a Q&A, with the audience setting the agenda. Bring your questions about true crime: the cases, the psychology, the ethical gray areas, the realities behind the headlines. Bring your questions about traditional publishing: finding an agent, submitting to publishers, navigating contracts, and what happens behind the scenes as a book enters the world. Expect candor, storytelling, and insight into the parts of the process most people never see. Come curious; leave informed.

Week Four: October 8

Lifespan: Ultimate Partner in Rochester's Elder Service Network F52Th

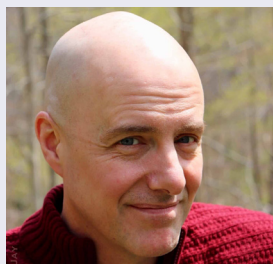


Mary Rose McBride, Lifespan's VP of Marketing & Communications

Lifespan of Greater Rochester is growing and now partners with 85 primary care physician practices and 30 specialized services. Lifespan promotes independence and helps older adults age with confidence by enhancing caregiving support, advocating on clients' behalf, and assisting with in-home services. It offers education and scam prevention, protective services, Medicare plan guidance, and supportive care, along with unbiased advice on future planning and help organizing legal, financial, and health documents.

Week Five: October 15

Did That Just Happen? The Story Behind *Mickey 17* F53Th



Edward Ashton, Ph.D., Author

If you saw the film *Mickey 17* last year, you might have stopped to wonder how an obscure mid-list author managed to have one of his books brought to the screen by four-time Oscar-winning director Bong Joon Ho. Well, Edward Ashton is just as confused about that as you are. Join him on a journey from the literary world to quantum land and through the mysteries of the multiverse in search of an answer more convincing than "You're probably actually in an ICU right now, hooked up to a particularly heavy morphine drip."

Week Six: October 22

Roots of Resilience: The Mangione Family and Rochester's Music Scene F54Th



Gap Mangione, Professional Jazz Pianist, Composer, Arranger, and Bandleader

Gap Mangione, a 2015 Rochester Music Hall of Fame inductee, has spent nearly seven decades at the center of Upstate NY's jazz royalty. In this engaging presentation, Gap will explore jazz history, percussion techniques, and the rich legacy of Rochester's iconic music scene. He'll captivate audiences with first-hand stories of growing up in Rochester alongside his brother and fellow Rochester music icon, Chuck Mangione. Gap will also reflect on the enduring magic of his Friday night residency at the Woodcliff Hotel, and, with any luck, he'll treat us to a song or two.

Week Seven: October 29

Libraries of the Future: Beyond Books.....F55Th



Emily Clasper, Director, Rochester Public Library

Led by groups like Friends & Foundation of Rochester Public Library, the library of the future is evolving from a quiet book warehouse into a dynamic, high-tech community hub, social anchor, and center for digital equity. Far from obsolete in the age of search engines, libraries are filling critical gaps in today's digital and social landscape. Modern libraries maximize space with collaborative worktables and shared workspaces, and now lend tools, instruments, fishing poles, sewing machines, and artwork. They're also becoming proving grounds for AI literacy, helping patrons identify AI-generated content, use AI tools ethically, and understand algorithmic decision-making.

Week Eight: November 5

Examining Equity and Diversity in the LawF56Th



Justice Stephen Lindley, NYS Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Fourth Department

Drawing on 24 years of judicial experience, Justice Stephen Lindley will discuss controversial rulings, compare his early career as a prosecutor with his time on the bench as a neutral arbiter, and offer an inside look at the appellate court. A Rochester native and graduate of Emory University and the University at Buffalo School of Law, Justice Lindley was designated by Governor Paterson in 2010 to serve on the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, which hears appeals from 22 counties across Central and Western NY.

Week Nine: November 12

Medication Safety and the Impact of Addictions on Older Adults F57Th



Jennifer Faringer, MS Ed, CPP-G

Jennifer Faringer is the Director of DePaul's National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-Rochester Area (NCADD-RA). In this presentation, she will discuss the risks specific to older adults around the potential misuse of alcohol and other drugs, as well as problem gambling. Topics will include signs and symptoms, medication interactions, and the critical importance of medication safety. Attendees will leave with a wide variety of free takeaways, including medication lock boxes, lock bags, medication safe-disposal pouches, fact sheets, referral directories, and much more!

Week Ten: November 19

Imparting the Church's Voice as Institutions Lose Trust..... F58Th



Rt. Rev. Kara Wagner Sherer, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

In a time when political divisions run through families, communities, schools, and religious institutions alike, how can faith leaders and communities of faith offer a relevant voice that rises above the noise, anger, and fear? With congregations already divided along racial lines, will they now retreat into ideological bubbles as well? And as church membership continues to decline, does the institution still have the authority to speak to a world that has grown suspicious of institutions altogether?

800 Words: Writing a Column.....F59Th

[NEW COURSE] We've all got things to say, and, if you are a newspaper columnist, you usually have about 800 words to get your point across. We'll study and practice the art and strategy of putting those 800 words together, working on plot (yes, columns have plots), voice, and closure. We'll read lots of columns and write them, too, addressing various points of view—political, social, and personal—all in 800 words. **Enrollment Limit: 12** *Writing, Peer Group*

Jim Memmott, a retired reporter and senior editor at the *Democrat and Chronicle* and a journalism instructor at the University of Rochester, writes the weekly column *Remarkable Rochester* for the D&C, focusing on the connections between Rochester's past and present and on the people who have made significant contributions to the area.

Thursdays:
FIVE Weeks:

1:45 – 3:15 pm
September 17 – October 15



Figure Skating on Film: Stories that Shaped the Sport..... F60Th

[NEW COURSE] Figure skating has inspired generations of filmmakers, historians, and fans. Through selected documentary films and archival footage, this course explores some of the people, events, and turning points that have shaped the sport's history. Topics may include legendary champions, Olympic triumphs and tragedies, the evolution of competition, and the personalities whose influence extend far beyond the ice. Each session will feature guided viewing, historical context, and discussion, by using film as a window into the sport's rich history and culture. Along the way we'll examine how these stories continue to influence modern figure skating and, when appropriate, highlight connections to Rochester and the surrounding region. No prior knowledge of figure skating is required—just curiosity and an interest in the stories behind one of the world's most captivating sports. *Audio/Visual, Discussion*

Jamie Orlandi, like many, grew up a casual figure skating fan but became an avid one after the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics. Since then she has spent countless hours watching, reading, and attending live events from US Nationals to the World Championships. Jamie enjoys sharing not only the athletic performances, but also the rich history, memorable personalities, and behind-the-scenes stories that have shaped the sport—from legendary champions and pivotal moments to the coaches, choreographers, federations, and controversies that continue to influence figure skating. Her other interests include classical music, baseball, classic television, and local history.

Thursdays:
FIVE Weeks:

1:45 – 3:15 pm
September 17 – October 15



Hybrid REC

Bloodsuckers: Vampires in Film and Story.....F61Th

[NEW COURSE] Vampires didn't begin with Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. In this course we will examine the first vampire stories in the English language (to include *The Vampyre*, *The Black Vampyre*, and *Carmilla*) as well as watch essential films in the corpus of over 700 titles available (such as *Nosferatu*, *A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night*, *Let the Right One In*). We will discuss the evolution of the Vampire character, what its portrayal says about society, and discuss why its presentation in literature frequently introduces themes that were frowned upon in polite society. What does the very first vampire story have to do with *Frankenstein*? Is the *Black Vampire* one of the earliest stories that contains an anti-slavery theme? Is *Carmilla* one of the earliest lesbian stories? It's said that every generation gets the vampire it deserves. Which one do you deserve? *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture, Reading*

Gary Mitchell has had a fascination with vampires since he first read *Dracula* at the age of 12. He found the book so terrifying that he kept it on the front porch with a brick on it to avoid a visit from the Count. In this course he will introduce you to vampire lore, and monsters that still haunt our books and movies today.

Thursdays:
EIGHT Weeks:

1:45 – 3:45 pm
October 1 – November 19



Hybrid

Shakespeare’s Julius CaesarF62Th

[NEW COURSE] *Julius Caesar*, along with *Henry V*, is a prelude to *Hamlet* as Shakespeare finds increasing nuance in what constitutes legitimate political power, how politicians use language to manipulate the common people, the qualities good and bad of the mob itself, and the tragedy of men’s mixed motives trying to preserve justice in a complex political landscape. Who is the hero? Who is the villain? Should honorable men use violence when they see a demagogue rising to power? Do their actions produce a better society—and does violence corrupt the doers? Contemporary relevance? You bet.

Required Text: *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare, Signet Classic edition, ISBN 9781440628443

Course Website: sites.google.com/view/caesarosher **Enrollment Limit: 25** Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture, Reading

Donna Richardson is Professor Emerita of English from St. Mary’s College of Maryland where she taught for 33 years. Her main area of interest is British Romanticism, but also any British and American poetry from the dawn of time until the 1960s, plus Tolstoy, other Russian literature, Greek mythology and drama, and random other stuff including James Fenimore Cooper.

Thursdays: 1:45 – 3:45 pm
EIGHT Weeks: **October 1 – November 19**  Hybrid  REC

NotebookLM and Gemini: AI Tools for Research and Learning F63Th

[NEW CONTENT] NotebookLM is a researching tool powered by Google’s Gemini AI model. It allows you to research topics, query and organize that information and then present in various formats to aid in personal or group learning.

Course Website: TBA Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture

Bill Brown has been an OLLI member and course leader for many years. He has led courses on Sherlock Holmes, Frank Loesser, and various technology-related topics. He is a coleader of the local Sherlockian Scion Society—Rochester Row and formerly cochair of the OLLI Tech Committee. In his work life he held leadership roles in HR and IT.

Thursdays: 1:45 – 3:15 pm
SIX Weeks: **October 22 – December 3**  Hybrid  REC
(No class week of Thanksgiving)

OLLI Course Exchange

We are pleased to be partnering with other Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLIs) to provide our members more course offerings at no additional charge. Thanks to time zone differences we are now able to offer you late afternoon and evening classes!

Sign up for these courses through **our** registration system, **not** through the partner OLLI sites.



Aviation History: Post-World War II Aviation Vignettes F64E

This continuation of personal experiences from the instructor's participation in military, agricultural, and aerial firefighting aviation will include aviation stories from after World War II. This term's vignettes will emphasize the local history of agricultural flying and aerial firefighting.

Gary Hendrickson's father was a pilot in World War II and operated an agricultural aviation business. Gary soloed a 1946 Aeronca at age 15. He attended Sacramento City College and Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, majoring in aeronautical engineering and minoring in history. He flew jet fighters off and on aircraft carriers, then returned to civilian flying as a certificated flight and ground school instructor. He was a pilot in command of fire bombing aircraft for 35 years and operated an agricultural aviation business for 46 years. Hobbies include restoring antique airplanes, hunting, fishing, and a passion for history.

Tuesdays: 1:00 – 2:30 pm ET
TEN Weeks: September 15 – November 17 **zoom Only** **REC**

The Gentle Art Studio: An Eight-Week Sketchbook Journey F65E

Join us for a relaxed, welcoming eight-week art series designed for beginners and anyone returning to creativity. Using a single sketchbook throughout the class, you'll build a simple, enjoyable creative habit – one page at a time. Each week explores a new approach: gentle drawing, marker basics, watercolor, watercolor pencils, colored pencils, smartphone photography for inspiration, and maintaining your sketchbook practice. No experience or perfection needed – just curiosity. By the end, you'll have a sketchbook filled with your artwork. Please bring the same sketchbook each week. **Gentle Art Studio Materials List (pdf):** <https://csuchico.box.com/s/e4nev9cgefh1q64k2ktja7ciz5owoqun>

Cris Guenter is an award-winning artist and educator whose work has appeared in regional, national, and international exhibitions since 1972. A professor emerita at Chico State, she was the 2008 National Art Educator of the Year and recently completed eight years as chair and trustee of the National Art Education Foundation.

Tuesdays: 1:00 – 2:30 pm ET
EIGHT Weeks: September 15 – November 3 **zoom Only** **REC**

Let's Keep Knitting! F66E

Knitting with others is a wonderful learning environment. This class is designed to give knitters who have mastered the basic stitches of knit and purl a chance to work on a project of their choosing while we chat and share ideas online with other knitters. All levels of ability are welcome! Gale contributes to the class by offering tips and suggestions for patterns, yarn, and tools based on her years of knitting experience.

Gale Ulvang, a lifelong knitter, has made a hobby out of collecting odd bits of information and techniques she can use to improve her knitting projects. She promotes using internet resources to find patterns and expand skills and loves sharing that knowledge with others. She learned the Fibonacci sequence as a scheme for striping in hats and scarves and was inspired to learn more about how it can improve artistic composition.

Tuesdays: 6:00 – 7:30 pm ET
TEN Weeks: September 15 – November 17 **zoom Only** **REC**



Will: An English Playwright in Times of Radical Change F67E

It was a time of radical change, a time of violence. England was under siege internally and externally. Being on the wrong side, politically or religiously, could result in torture and death. Into this confusing and disordered world strode a young married man who had left his home of Stratford-upon-Avon to attempt his hand at playwriting for the London stage. His name was William Shakespeare. Join us for a discussion of the TV show Will, described as "Shakespeare on sex, drugs, and rock and roll." **Note:** Class members will watch episodes on their own outside of class. The TV show is available to stream with a subscription or purchase on TNT, YouTube, Apple TV+, Amazon, and other streaming services.

Lynn H. Elliott is professor emeritus and former chair of English at Chico State. In addition to his prose and award-winning plays, he is a multiple award-winning national and international screenplay writer.

Wednesdays: 1:00 – 2:30 pm ET

NINE Weeks: September 16 – November 18

Mapping the Emergence of France F68E

When did France become France? Using maps, this class will examine the changing boundaries and structures within the territory now known as France from the fall of the western Roman Empire circa 450 CE to the French Revolution in 1789. Key events and personalities will punctuate the story of the origins of the France we know today.

Leanne Ulvang earned a BA in medieval and English history from Pomona College and a JD from the University of Santa Clara. In over a dozen years as volunteer instructor, she has acquired teaching skills, improved her French, and learned that OLLI is a great place to indulge her passions for language, history, and gardens.

Wednesdays: 4:00 – 5:30 pm ET

NINE Weeks: September 16 – November 18

Treasures of Persia Over Five Millennia F69E

Persia, now called Iran, has an ancient and rich history of producing fascinating architecture and artifacts whether they be paintings, ceramics, decorated tile works, metal works, or carpets. The beauty of Persian culture from earliest times has significantly influenced a large part of the world's creative endeavors. This class will introduce select works from early Persian history through the early twentieth century.

Katherine Harper has a PhD in the art history of India from UCLA. She retired from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles after 37 years. She has lived and traveled extensively throughout Asia.

Wednesdays: 4:00 – 5:30 pm ET

FIVE Weeks: September 16 – October 14



E Pluribus Unum: Religious Pluralism in America F70E

How did America's founders devise a system that limited state religion while extending religious freedom to all and how has that balance been tested ever since? Drawing on landmark legal challenges to religious freedom, this class explores the revolutionary First Amendment framework the founders created, the ongoing tensions between religious liberty and competing social interests, and what it truly means to live in a pluralistic society. A timely and thought-provoking look at one of America's most enduring constitutional debates.

Presented by **Dr. Vicki Cabot.**

Tuesday: 3:00 – 4:30 pm ET
ONE Week: December 8

Nutrition & Brain Health: What You Eat May Change How You Think F71E

Can certain foods improve memory? Can what you eat actually lower your risk of Alzheimer's disease? In this class, ASU Clinical Nutrition Professor and Registered Dietitian Tina Shepard shares what the latest research says about how food and lifestyle choices affect the brain and how specific nutrients impact cognitive function and overall brain health. You'll leave with practical, evidence-based dietary recommendations you can start using right away.

Presented by **Tina Shepard.**

Wednesday: 4:00 – 5:30 pm ET
ONE Week: September 23

Are All Calories the Same? Macronutrient Strategies for Weight Management F72E

Is a calorie from a cookie really the same as a calorie from a piece of chicken? This class digs into the science behind macronutrients, carbohydrates, fats, and proteins, and how they affect weight management and fat loss differently. We'll explore what calories actually are, how the body expends energy, what energy balance means in practice, and how to determine your own macronutrient needs. You'll come away with a clearer, more practical understanding of how food choices, not just calorie counts, shape your body composition and long-term health.

Presented by **Christy Alexon.**

Wednesday: 4:00 – 5:30 pm ET
ONE Week: December 9

Smartcracker: Dorothy Parker's Enduring Wit F73E

Few authors are as quotable, or as consistently underestimated, as Dorothy Parker. Her caustic wit and succinct wisdom have secured her status as a literary powerhouse who moved seamlessly between essays and poetry, fiction and observation, sharp social commentary and deep personal feeling. Yet Parker herself worried that audiences were too dazzled by her "calisthenics with words" to grasp the deeper truths behind her cultural observations. This class gives Parker's life and literature the thoughtful, close reading they deserve. We'll sketch her character and intentions through her own words, then discuss a selection of her most notable work. All readings provided.

Presented by **Dr. Heather Ackerman.**

Thursdays: 12:30 – 2:00 pm ET
TWO Weeks: November 5 & 12



Orbiting JupiterF74E

The giant planet Jupiter has captivated astronomers, scientists, and inquisitive minds for centuries. From Galileo's first telescopic observations of four of its moons in 1610 to exploration by today's cutting-edge spacecrafts, Jupiter has proven to be one of the most scientifically rich objects of investigation in our solar system. This two-session course takes participants on a guided journey through decades of exploration, drawing on data from NASA's Pioneer, Voyager, Galileo, and Juno missions. The course will investigate the physics, geology, and astrobiology of the Jovian system and confront one of science's most tantalizing questions: could life exist in our own cosmic backyard?

Janet Wood is a volunteer for NASA/JPL's Solar System Ambassador program coordinated by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. Ambassadors present public programs to communicate the excitement, science, and discoveries of NASA's space exploration missions. Wood became a space science enthusiast after attending The Planetary Society's "Planetfest" in 1997 in conjunction with the Mars Pathfinder Landing, and joined the Solar System Ambassador Program in 2002. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of Washington, and a Master's Degree in Geoscience Education from Mississippi State University. Her special interest is in planetary science.

Mondays: 12:00 – 1:30 pm ET **Note:** Daylight Savings Time ends on November 1, 2026. After that date this class will begin at 11 am ET.
TWO Weeks: October 26 & November 2



Sapiens II: The Agricultural Revolution.....F75E

This course is the second in a planned four-course sequence based on Yuval Noah Harari's *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*. The sequence can be taken in order or independently. This course focuses on Part Two of Harari's book, the Agricultural Revolution and its consequences - one of the most consequential and most debated transformations in human history. Beginning with the first agricultural communities in the ancient Near East around 10,000 BCE, the course traces the emergence of villages, cities, kingdoms, and empires, examining what farming made possible and what it cost the people who adopted it. Along the way we consider how hierarchies, laws, and religions emerged as tools for holding complex societies together, how writing transformed human memory and administration, and how Harari builds his case that the Agricultural Revolution was not a liberation but a trap - one that most of humanity has never fully escaped. The course closes at the end of Harari's Part Two, with the great empires of the ancient world firmly in place. Throughout the course, particular attention is given to separating well-established evidence from interpretation and informed speculation.

Jesse Frey is a retired U.S. Army officer; long-time OLLI instructor.

Mondays: 2:00 – 3:30 pm ET **Note:** Daylight Savings Time ends on November 1, 2026. After that date this class will begin at 1 pm ET.
SIX Weeks: October 26 – December 7



The Crusades: History, Causes and Lasting EffectsF76E

We trace the Crusades from the world that spawned them to their enduring legacies, beginning with the pressures facing Byzantium, the Islamic Golden Age, and the feudal rivalries of medieval Europe. We examine the religious, political, and economic forces behind the First Crusade and the fall of Jerusalem in 1099. We follow the Muslim resurgence under Saladin, his rivalry with Richard the Lionheart, and the decline and fall of the Crusader movement through the fall of Acre in 1291. We close with legacies of cultural exchange, military orders (e.g. The Templars) and lasting tensions.

Born in Lebanon, **Samih Baalbaki** is a lawyer by training who spent 17 years in Dubai working on projects across 22 Middle Eastern countries giving him knowledge of the region's cultures and history. He audited 12 college courses on comparative religions and the Crusades and taught at four OLLI programs for the past 14 years.

Tuesdays: 2:00 – 3:30 pm ET **Note:** Daylight Savings Time ends on November 1, 2026. After that date this class will begin at 1 pm ET.
EIGHT Weeks: September 15 – November 3





The Right to Protest: Speech, Press, and Civic Engagement..... F77E

Join the Honorable Jennifer G. Zipps, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Arizona, and her law clerk, Iesha Phillips, for a three-part series on how free speech shapes everyday life, empowers individuals to challenge unjust systems and strengthens democracy. Using real-world examples, the series will explore when speech is protected, when the government can set rules, and how the First Amendment applies to protests, schools, public meetings, journalism, social media, and controversial speech.

Chief Judge Jennifer Zipps earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors from the University of Arizona and a J.D. cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center. After clerking for the Honorable William Canby on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, she was an associate at Molloy, Jones and Donahue in Tucson, Arizona, focusing on business litigation and bankruptcy matters. Judge Zipps worked at the U.S. Attorney's Office for ten years, serving as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Civil Division, Chief of the Civil Division, and Chief Assistant. Judge Zipps was appointed as a United States Magistrate on April 4, 2005, received her commission as a U.S. District Judge on October 5, 2011, and became Chief Judge on October 21, 2024. She will be joined by her law clerk, **Iesha Phillips**, who grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Oberlin College, and earned her J.D. from Yale Law School. Iesha has enjoyed her time in Tucson and plans to practice in New York City following her two-year clerkship.

Tuesdays: 6:00 – 7:30 pm ET
THREE Weeks: September 22 – October 6



Chen Village Tai Chi..... F78E

No previous Tai Chi experience is necessary. All the movements are slow and gentle, and no martial arts applications will be taught or practiced in this study group. These methods may help lessen body pain, correct spinal misalignment, cultivate a sense of internal energy, and rest the mind. Participants can wear comfortable, roomy, or stretchy clothing and some soft tai chi shoes or socks to wear on their feet.

Randall Krause served many years as an attorney and conflict resolution facilitator. Later, he studied counseling and received an M.A. in interdisciplinary consciousness studies with an emphasis in holistic health counseling, was certified and served as a personal coach and mentor. He studied Effective Communication intensively and also studied The Gremlin Taming Method for more than 10 years. In addition, Randall is a senior mentor and teacher in the Himalayan yoga meditation tradition and is registered with Yoga Alliance (YA) as an Experienced Yoga Teacher and a Continuing Yoga Education Provider.

Wednesdays: 12:30 – 1:30 pm ET
SEVEN Weeks: September 16 – October 28



Art Talks with Martin Randall..... F79E

The popular Art Talks speaker Martin Randall returns to OLLI this Fall with another series of his entertaining and enlightening talks featuring a wide range of fascinating topics, including: Isaac Levitan: Master of Russian Landscape Painting; Giuseppe De Nittis: The Forgotten Impressionist; John Singer Sargent: Images from the Gilded Age; and Rothko.

Martin Randall has been a favorite Art Talks speaker at OLLI for the past few years as part of the TMA Docent Art Talks programs, and now presents his own independent Art Talks series under the banner of Tucson Art Talks. Martin was born in London, England. His mother, an artist herself, took him to the art galleries in London from a young age, and there he learned to love art. After a career in Silicon Valley, he and his wife retired to Tucson. When he is not giving Art Talks, Martin loves to travel.

Wednesdays: 6:00 – 7:30 pm ET
FOUR Weeks: October 7 – 28





From Gregorian Chant to Bohemian Rhapsody: Evolution of Vocal Groups F80E

Returning seminar leader Mike Agron invites you on a new two-part multimedia journey exploring how voices in harmony helped shape music, culture, and community across nearly a thousand years of history. Expanding on the spirit of his popular Celebrating Perfect Vocal Harmony Groups series, this engaging course traces the emotional power of blended voices-from sacred chant and barbershop harmony to big band vocal groups, gospel, soul, country, doo wop, rock harmonies, the folk music revival, the birth of the sonic layer, the British Harmony Invasion, and beyond. This isn't about music theory-it's about the power of voices singing together. Through guided listening, storytelling, rare footage, and unforgettable performances, we'll celebrate the timeless magic of voices blending together to move, inspire, and unite us.

Mike Agron - Music Aficionado - Raised in LA's entertainment scene, is a former high-tech exec & entrepreneur turned storyteller who crafts dynamic seminars on music and film. He's led hundreds of engaging sessions for the Sacramento Renaissance Society, numerous OLLIs nationwide, Osher Online, Encore Learning, and other live programs-and this fall he returns for his ninth seminar series with our OLLI.

Thursdays: 4:00 – 5:30 pm ET
SIX Weeks: September 17 – October 22



Geological Stories of Disaster, Uncertainty, and the Resilience of Life F81E

Earth's history is filled with moments of upheaval, uncertainty, and transformation. In this study group, we will explore four geological stories that reveal how our dynamic planet has shaped climate, civilizations, and even human origins. From sudden global darkness to the near-collapse of ancient societies, from a restless supervolcano to the deep forces that helped create us, each session blends science, history, and discovery to uncover how we know what we know and what remains uncertain. **Sessions include:** 536 CE: *The Worst Year to Be Alive?*; *The Bronze Age Collapse: When the Ancient World Almost Unraveled*; *Campi Flegrei: When a Volcano Won't Decide What It's Doing*; and *Apes Born of Plate Tectonics: When Earth Creates Instead of Destroys*. Together, these stories reveal not only how geology can disrupt the world around us, but also how life endures - and even emerges - from those same forces. Together, we will explore these stories and gain a deeper appreciation for the dynamic planet we call home.

Nicola Richmond is the Vice Chancellor of Strategy, Analytics and Research at Pima Community College. She oversees strategic planning, institutional and operational effectiveness, federal and state reporting and ad hoc reporting at the institution. She has an extensive data analysis and research background that most recently focuses on higher education, but her experience also includes the analysis of magnetometer data for the moon and Mars, and the application of cellular automata models to coastal environments. She has a Ph.D. in Geology from University College London. Her doctoral research focused on the incorporation of aluminum and iron into deep Earth magnesium silicate minerals using numerical modeling approaches from quantum mechanics and solid state physics. Nic has a strong interest in cross-disciplinary research approaches, taking techniques from the sciences and bringing them to higher education research.

Thursdays: 6:00 – 7:30 pm ET
FOUR Weeks: September 17 – October 8





Intellectual and Cultural History of the West: Part I, The Greeks..... F82E

This course concerns itself with the History of Ideas. History of Ideas is a branch of history that explores the climate of intellectual thoughts in given eras, similar to and a background to the history of political, economic, or military events during these eras. This era is focused on the ancient Greeks and extends from the Dark Ages of the Greeks to the late Hellenistic age or around 700 BC to 400 AD. We will look at the "great thinkers" like Plato and Aristotle and also other "schools" of thought like the Stoics and the Pythagoreans, et al. We will also survey art and ethics, e.g. Homer and Sophocles. There is a current and a continuum in Western thinking that still feeds our current take on cosmology (how the world works), epistemology (what is "truth" or "realism") and what we value. This fall course is the first part of a series that will be followed by later courses on Medieval thought, Early Modern, and Modern. No previous philosophical study is required but there will be short readings. Discussion and class participation are strongly encouraged.

Robert Macarthur worked for 32 years at the University of Arizona in the College of Agriculture as an IT guy. He has a PhD in Cultural and Intellectual History from the U of A.

Fridays: 12:00 – 1:30 pm ET **Note:** Daylight Savings Time ends on November 1, 2026. After that date this class will begin at 11 am ET.

TWELVE Weeks: September 18 – December 11



Gentle Energizing Movement and Relaxation..... F83E

Let go of stress and come home to yourself. Over millennia, the sages of the Himalayan Yoga Tradition developed highly effective methods of movement, relaxation, and meditation. In this study group you will learn foundational practices from the Himalayan Yoga Tradition. Each session will have three phases: gentle movement and breathing, deep relaxation, and meditation. Members can expect to leave this class refreshed. Please note that the movements taught in this study group are not acrobatics. They are suitable for people with no yoga experience. If you've attended yoga classes and found them to be too strenuous or otherwise challenging, this study group is for you.

Randall Krause served many years as an attorney and conflict resolution facilitator. Later, he studied counseling and received an M.A. in interdisciplinary consciousness studies with an emphasis in holistic health counseling, was certified and served as a personal coach and mentor. He studied Effective Communication intensively and also studied The Gremlin Taming Method for more than 10 years. In addition, Randall is a senior mentor and teacher in the Himalayan yoga meditation tradition and is registered with Yoga Alliance (YA) as an Experienced Yoga Teacher and a Continuing Yoga Education Provider.

Fridays: 1:00 – 2:00 pm ET

FIVE Weeks: November 6 – December 11



Important to Note

Copyright Information – TEACH Act

The TEACH Act allows accredited, non-profit, educational institutions, such as RIT, greater access and educational use of copyrighted works, and extends fair use to online and distance learning education when certain requirements have been met by the institution.

- A. TEACH Act.** Members of the RIT community may take advantage of the TEACH Act provisions to use copyrighted works in online and distance learning courses. The TEACH Act provisions would allow a non-profit educational institution, such as RIT, to use copyrighted works, without the express permission of the creator and without the payment of royalties and/or licensing fees, when all of the following are met:
1. Copyrighted Works must be part of an online or distance learning course and not for entertainment, recreation, or cultural value. The faculty member must be able to show how the use of the copyrighted work contributes to the overall course study and syllabus. The course does not have to be a credit course, but must be one recognized by RIT and for which members of the RIT community must register.
 2. The use of the copyrighted work is limited to members of the RIT community that are enrolled in the online or distance learning course.
 3. Access to the Copyrighted Work is limited, either by password or other protection device, to members of the RIT Community that are enrolled in the online or Distance learning course.
 4. The faculty member must provide to the members of the RIT community that are enrolled in the online or distance learning course written notice of this RIT Copyright Policy and that some of the course materials may be protected by copyright law. A statement in the syllabus for the specific online or distance learning course shall be sufficient to meet this notice requirement.

Registration Information

Please make payments and/or register online for your courses using your OLLI account in our Registration portal. If you don't know your OLLI account user name or password, please go to the [Login Help webpage](#) and enter your email address to receive instructions on resetting your user name and password. Please allow up to 20 minutes for this email message to reach your inbox. If you would prefer to have a staff member make your credit card payment and/or register you, please email us at osher@rit.edu

Some courses require the purchase of books or materials.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at RIT reserves the right to cancel courses because of low registration, last-minute unavailability of course leaders, or other unavoidable circumstances. Members will be notified immediately of such cancellations so that they may select alternative course(s).

Policies

Member benefits and fees are subject to OLLI Council-approved changes at any time. In the case of the death or incapacitation of a Full-Year member, a pro rata portion of their annual membership fee is eligible to be refunded. The membership fee is otherwise generally nonrefundable. The Program Director, in consultation with the Chair of Council, may consider a refund request for other individual circumstances. For administrative purposes, all refund requests must be made in writing.