

RIT | Osher Lifelong
Learning Institute

Spring 2026

Course Catalog



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

Registration Opens 3/31
RIT OLLI Courses Begin 4/13

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) student perks and privileges.

RIT Student ID Card

- Discounts wherever student discounts are offered worldwide
- Free Henrietta BJ's Wholesale Club membership
- Student admission rates for campus events
- Borrowing privileges at the RIT library, including online collections, journals, etc.
- And more!

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. See pages 18-19 for more information.

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 two exciting events planned at the Memorial Art Gallery (April) and at ArtisanWorks (October).

Membership	Fee						RIT		
		Unlimited Courses & Recordings	Pfudler Lecture Series	Social Events & SIGs	Arts & Lectures Events	Summer Trips	Student 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 a student 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 one 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 university class auditing and student 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 university class auditing and student 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.
Wizarding	Chris Thrasher & Nita Genova	Share tips and tricks to enhance the classroom A/V experience.



Members of the Walking SIG on an outing in May 2025

Join us at our Spring Course Preview and Fair Monday, March 30, 2026

10 am: Course Preview Presentation
11 am: Course Fair & Reception

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

[Member Registration](#)
[Guest Registration](#)

Monday	9:30 – 11:00 am ET	11:15 am – 12:45 pm ET	1:30 – 3 or 3:30 pm ET
	<p>Current Events Sp1M Adonis, Scott, & Moore (4/13–6/8)</p> <p>Rochester International Jazz Festival 2026: A Preview Sp2M Luce & Lathrop (5/4–6/8)</p>	<p>Athenaeum Book Club Sp3M Murphy & Tucker (4/13 & 6/8)</p> <p>Thomas Paine's Pamphlet: Common Sense Sp4M Tom Jones (5/11–6/8)</p> <p>Myths and Legends of World War II . . . Sp5M Dick Scott (4/27)</p> <p>Alberto Giacometti: More Than Stick Figures Sp6M Michelle Turner (5/11)</p> <p>The Basques: Their History, Culture, and Land . . . Sp7M Jane Eggleston (5/18)</p> <p>Why Do Good People Do Bad Things?: Two Experiments . . Sp8M Roger Gans (6/1)</p> <p>Epistemology Sp9M Moshe Cahill (6/8)</p>	<p>Express Yourself Through Writing Fiction Sp10M Gary Mitchell (4/13–6/8)</p> <p>Genesis: A Look at the First Book of the Bible Sp11M Mike Schnittman (4/13–6/8)</p> <p>The Capsizing of the Golden Ray . . Sp12M Jim Scott (4/13)</p> <p>The Summer of 1959 in Ireland: History, Culture, and a Personal Journey Sp13M Jack McIntyre (4/20)</p> <p>Strategies to Bridge the Divide: Engaging Progressives, Conservatives, and Libertarians . . Sp14M Lauren Hall (5/11)</p> <p>The Webster Arboretum Poetry Trail Sp15M Ron Friedman (5/18)</p>

Tuesday	9:30 – 11:00 am ET	11:15 am – 12:45 pm ET	1:30 – 3:00 or 3:30 pm ET
	<p>Discussing Finance, Economics, and Business in the News Sp16T Kwiek & White (4/14–6/2)</p> <p>Jane Eyre and the World of Charlotte Bronte Sp17T Lisa Jadwin (4/14–6/2)</p>	<p>The Amendments: Trying to Make a More Perfect Union Sp18T Tim McDonnell (4/14–6/2)</p> <p>Memoirs Sp19T Carol Samuel (4/14–6/2)</p> <p>A Survey of Classical Music Sp20T Al Mathias (4/14–6/2)</p>	<p>Conversational French: Intermediate . . Sp21T Joy Goodman (4/14–6/2)</p> <p>Flickstory Sp22T Schlosky et al (4/14–6/2)</p> <p>Great Sports Highlights of All Time . . . Sp23T Scott Mate (4/14–5/5)</p> <p>Sherlock Holmes: From Holmes to Sherlock - Part 2 Sp24T Bill Brown (5/12–6/2)</p>

Wednesday	9:30 – 11:00 am ET	11:15 am – 12:45 pm ET	1:30 – 3:00 pm ET
	<p>Discussing The New Yorker Magazine . . Sp25W Dupont & Levinson (4/15–6/3)</p> <p>English Keeps Changing Sp26W David Hill (4/15–5/20)</p> <p>Just Thinking Sp27W Ed Kwiek (4/15–6/3)</p>	<p>Contemporary Events Sp28W Terri Hurley (4/15–6/3)</p> <p>Introduction to Writing Sp29W Jeanne Strining (4/15–5/6)</p> <p>A Layman's Discussion of the History of Optics Sp30W Wolf Seka (4/15–5/6)</p> <p>Nietzsche's Beyond Good and Evil: From the Death of God to the Overcoming of Nihilism Sp31W Walt Soffer (4/15–6/3)</p> <p>What Do the Mona Lisa and The Scream Have in Common? Sp32W Chris Ryan (5/13–6/3)</p>	<p>Tocqueville on Democracy Sp33W Tom Low (4/15–6/3)</p> <p>What's New in Neuroscience: Part 3 . . . Sp34W Alex Marcus (4/15–6/3)</p> <p>Writing Workshop Sp35W Strining et al (4/15–6/3)</p>

Thursday	9:30 – 11:30 am ET	12:15 – 1:30 pm ET	1:45 – 3:45 pm ET
	<p>Franz Joseph "Papa" Haydn: His Life and His Music Sp36Th Victor Poleshuck (4/16–6/4)</p> <p>You Be the Critic Sp37Th Sandra Vallot (4/16–6/4)</p>	<p>Pfaudler Lecture Series Sp38–Sp45 Various topics and presenters. See pages 18–19</p>	<p>19th Century Pop Culture American Poems Plus Sp46Th Donna Richardson (4/16–6/4)</p> <p>Conversational Spanish: Intermediate . . Sp47Th Lewis & McCue (4/16–6/4)</p> <p>Films about Creative, Controversial Artists Sp48Th Lisa Jadwin (4/16–6/4)</p>

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Course Exchange



Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

OLL I Course Exchange

Weekly Creations..... Sp49E
Cris Guenter
1:00 – 2:30 pm ET, 4/21 – 5/26

The Wars of the Roses..... Sp50E
Leanne Ulvang
4:00 – 5:30 pm ET, 4/21 – 6/23

Let's Keep Knitting!..... Sp51E
Gale Ulvang
6:00 – 7:30 pm ET, 4/21 – 6/23

**Taking and Editing Photos
on Your iPhone**..... Sp52E
Cris Guenter
1:00 – 2:30 pm ET, 6/2 & 6/9

**Myths, Legends,
and Tales of the Celts**..... Sp53E
Lynn H. Elliott
1:00 – 2:30 pm ET, 4/22 – 6/24

Chico State Faculty Lecture Series Sp54E
Ann Nikolai
4:00 – 5:30 pm ET, 4/22 – 5/13

Learn How to Draw Sp55E
Susan Levine
1:00 – 2:30 pm ET, 4/23 – 6/25

See pages 21-22 for Chico State courses.



Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

OLL I Course Exchange

**Bigger, Stronger, Faster: Dinosaurs
and the Evolutionary Arms Race** Sp56E
Mark Cocker
2:00 – 3:30 pm ET, 5/12 – 6/2

**Modern Irish Authors:
A Remarkable Abundance** Sp57E
Stephen Berardo
2:00 – 3:30 pm ET, 5/26 – 6/16

Are We Alone in the Universe?..... Sp58E
Carl DeVito
12:00 – 1:30 pm ET, 5/13 – 5/27

The Last Days of Socrates..... Sp59E
Robert Yanal
2:00 – 3:30 pm ET, 5/13 – 6/10

**Introduction to Hinduism:
Religion, Philosophy, History, Culture...**Sp60E
Pravin Soni
4:00 – 5:30 pm ET, 5/14 – 6/18

Friday

So, You Want to be a Writer?..... Sp61E
Ed Linz
2:00 – 3:30 pm ET, 5/15

See pages 23-24 for University of Arizona courses.



OLL I Course Exchange

COMING SOON!

Monday

OLLI at RIT Spring 2026 Course Schedule

Current EventsSp1M

[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: 9:30 – 11:00 am
EIGHT Weeks: April 13 – June 8
(No class May 25)



Rochester International Jazz Festival 2026: A PreviewSp2M

The 23rd edition of the Rochester International Jazz Festival (RIJF) will run from June 19 through June 27, 2026. In a nutshell, there will be nine days of concerts (nearly 300) performed by 1,750 artists on 18 stages in downtown Rochester. This course and guide will help you find your way around the festival, but mostly it will offer day-by-day highlights of artists and groups worth checking out. *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture*

Peter Luce has led jazz history and appreciation courses at OLLI at RIT and the Chautauqua Institution. He enjoys seeing established jazz stars but also looks forward to hearing musicians and groups new to him. **Tom Lathrop** has led several history courses at OLLI at RIT. He enjoys attending because it offers him a unique opportunity to discover emerging talented instrumentalists and singers, enriching his knowledge and passion for jazz. Both Peter and Tom have attended the festival every year since its inception.

Mondays: 9:30 – 11:00 am
FIVE Weeks: May 4 – June 8
(No class May 25)

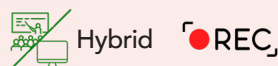


Athenaeum Book ClubSp3M

[NEW CONTENT] In this peer-led class, we read and discuss six books (four fiction and two non-fiction) over the fall, winter and spring terms. The group selected the following two books for the spring term: 1. *Memorial Days: A Memoir* by Geraldine Brooks, ISBN 9780593653982 for April 13 (non-fiction). 2. *Table for Two* by Amor Towles ISBN 9780593296370 for June 8 (novel). **Enrollment Limit: 35** *Discussion*

Maureen Murphy, a retired social worker and lifelong reader, particularly enjoys historical and social subjects in novels. She also enjoys travel, nature, knitting, and spending summers at her Lake Ontario cottage. **Lois Tucker** is a retired therapist, an avid reader, and a founding member (over 20 years ago) of the ABC Book Club.

Mondays: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm
TWO Weeks: April 13 & June 8



Thomas Paine's Pamphlet: *Common Sense*.....Sp4M

[NEW COURSE] *Common Sense*, Thomas Paine's polemic written 250 years ago had a powerful impact on the thinking of American colonists. Its 150,000 copies drove many readers to the side of separation from England and from King George III, the III. After a brief study of Paine's life, we will closely read his pamphlet, analyze it, and determine how, after all these years, it might speak to us anew in these days of growing turmoil. Some time may be spent on his other great work: *The Rights of Man*.

Required Text: *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine, ISBN 9781441344137 (or any copy) **Enrollment Limit: 30**


Audio/Visual, Discussion, Reading

Tom Jones, who retired from the University of Rochester, has been presenting courses at OLLI at RIT for 10 years. In response to the current situation in Washington, DC, he has facilitated discussion courses on Prof. Timothy Snyder's little book, *On Tyranny*. Recognizing a possible similar impact of Snyder's book to Paine's little pamphlet, he will conduct a class that analyzes Paine's 250-year-old masterpiece, *Common Sense*, and then search for useful lessons to be learned.

Monday: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm

FOUR Weeks: May 11 – June 8
(No class May 25)



Hybrid 

Myths and Legends of World War II.....Sp5M

[NEW CLASS] WWII was the first modern mass media war. Radio, news reels, and movies were heavily censored, or actually produced, by governments. This mass media was generally accepted as news rather than the propaganda that it actually was. Many misconceptions have persisted and been reinforced by movies, documentaries, and "skewed" official "histories." For example, to this day, we don't often admit that we missed Nagasaki. Stop by and get the details.


Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture

Dick Scott, whose father and three uncles were combat veterans in the Pacific Theater, graduated from Oswego State University of NY with a BS in Science Education. While in the Air Force, his schedule allowed for frequent substitute teaching, and, over a five-year period, he "taught" everything from high school Latin to kindergarten PE. He also completed several additional pre-med courses at Wichita State University. Next came podiatry school, a surgical residency, and 35 years in private practice with a subspecialty in limb salvage. He enjoys the unencumbered teaching experience at OLLI at RIT.

Monday: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm

ONE Week: April 27



Hybrid 

Alberto Giacometti: More Than Stick Figures.....Sp6M

[NEW CLASS] Alberto Giacometti is one of the most important and famous sculptors of the 20th century, but most people only know his later "stick figures." Giacometti was a member of the Paris Surrealist group in the 30s. He was friends/frenemies with Pablo Picasso, Max Ernst, Andre Breton, John Paul Sartre, Joan Miro, Hans Arp, Salvador Dali, and others. We'll explore his art in its many forms, his turbulent personal life, and his relationships with other famous artists.


Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture

Michelle Turner was an educator (teacher, building administrator, and district administrator) for 35 years. She's been an OLLI at RIT member since she retired in 2010. She frequently leads OLLI courses on topics ranging from international travel to the arts and photography. Her photographs often are exhibited in the OLLI building as well as other galleries in the region.

Monday: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm

ONE Week: May 11



Hybrid 

The Basques: Their History, Culture, and Land.....Sp7M


[NEW CLASS] The Basque people have lived in northern Spain for thousands of years. Who are they and where did they come from? Why did they settle there? What makes them unique? We will discuss these questions, and more, as well as the unique culture and attitudes of these people today. The presentation will include photos from a recent visit to Spain.

Jane Eggleston, a retired geologist, has been a member of OLLI at RIT since 2013. She has led numerous courses on a variety of topics such as evolution, plastics, New Zealand, Monet, sea turtles, the Azores, and volcanoes. She enjoys travel, and several of her courses have been inspired by those experiences.

Monday: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm

ONE Week: May 18



Hybrid 

Why Do Good People Do Bad Things?: Two Experiments.....Sp8M

[NEW CLASS] Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his son. Hundreds of Americans frequently gathered to watch Black people lynched. Tens of thousands of Germans helped to implement Hitler's Final Solution. Police and prison guards are known to abuse their authority. Why? Two experiments deal with two possible answers: the late Stanley Milgram at Yale addressed "following orders" in 1961, and the late Phillip Zimbardo at Stanford addressed "going along with the crowd" in 1971. We'll look at both experiments (which could be a wee bit scary) in an attempt to answer the Why question.

Discussion, Lecture

Roger Gans is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Rochester. He has been leading courses at OLLI at RIT for a decade or so. Subject areas include various aspects of science, both the actual science and its history, scientific aspects of philosophical topics, and theater from the perspective of actor and director. He's always wondered why people do what they are told: here's a first attempt at answering this conundrum.

Monday: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm

ONE Week: June 1



Hybrid **REC**

EpistemologySp9M

[NEW CLASS] Everybody knows something, but what is knowledge exactly? What is the difference between belief and knowledge? What is evidence? What is innate knowledge and is it possible to have? We will examine some of the puzzles and paradoxes concerning human knowledge. *Discussion, Lecture*

Moshe Cahill is an analytic philosopher who specializes in metaphysics, logic, history of philosophy, Kant, and Wittgenstein. He has enjoyed learning and sharing philosophy with his fellow Osherites.

Monday: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm

ONE Week: June 8



In-Person Only

Express Yourself Through Writing Fiction.....Sp10M

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

EIGHT Weeks: April 13 – June 8

(No class May 25)



Hybrid

Genesis: A Look at the First Book of the BibleSp11M

[NEW COURSE] In this course we will look at the stories of Genesis, traveling through time from the Creation story to Noah, to Abraham and Isaac, and the eventual settling of the Israelites in Egypt. Lessons from these stories have relevance for living in our modern world, and we will explore how they might be applied. **Optional Text:** Any version of the Bible. The more versions we use, the more interesting the course can be. *Discussion, Lecture, Reading*

Mike Schnittman is a retired lawyer who has been studying the Bible from various perspectives for most of his life. He enjoys the give and take of discussions especially with members from different backgrounds.

Mondays: 1:30 – 3:00 pm

EIGHT Weeks: April 13 – June 8

(No class May 25)



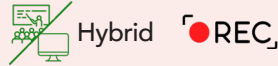
Hybrid **REC**

The Capsizing of the Golden RaySp12M

[NEW CLASS] While departing Brunswick, GA on September 8, 2019, the Golden Ray, a 600-foot RoRo (rollon/rolloff) vehicle carrier, capsized off Jekyll Island, GA. We will follow the voyage of the Golden Ray from South Korea to Brunswick. We will then review a detailed recording of the incident, and the lengthy Coast Guard/National Traffic Safety Board hearing. This will be followed by an analysis of the cause of the incident, and what, or who, was responsible. Finally we will review the lengthy salvage operation, and the environmental consequences. *Audio/Visual, Discussion*

Jim Scott was educated as an engineer (BS and MS Aero/Mech). He has had a long career in engineering management and marketing, a lifetime interest in all aspects of boating, and hobbies including boat design and carpentry. At OLLI at RIT he has led such diverse courses as boat design, left-handedness, and the 1956 Suez Crisis.

Monday: 1:30 – 3:00 pm
ONE Week: April 13

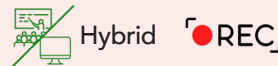


The Summer of 1959 in Ireland: History, Culture, and a Personal JourneySp13M

[NEW CLASS] As a 17-year-old from the Bronx, the presenter spent the summer of 1959 in Ireland. This was a time of major change especially in the west of country. His experience had a major impact on his development and interest in Irish history, culture, and literature. The class will include a presentation of what life was like in the west of Ireland in 1959 (including the unique weather that summer) and the major changes occurring: the arrival of electricity, the use of automobiles, changes in farming, and the increased political and financial interaction with the rest of Europe. It was also the summer of political change in Ireland's having a new President (Eamon DeValera) and a new Prime Minister/Taoiseach. Some aspects of DeValera's life will be shared: his revolutionary activities, and his family history (his mother lived and is buried in Rochester). *Audio/Visual, Lecture*

[NEW COURSE LEADER] **Jack McIntyre** is a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Rochester (U of R) and Medical Director of Home Health Care. He was born in NYC and attended college at Notre Dame and medical school at the U of R. Both of his parents emigrated from Ireland, and most of their siblings remained in Ireland.

Monday: 1:30 – 3:00 pm
ONE Week: April 20

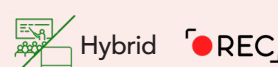


Strategies to Bridge the Divide: Engaging Progressives, Conservatives, and LibertariansSp14M

[NEW CLASS] Are you politically isolated? Join RIT Professor Lauren Hall as she expands on her Winter 2026 Pfaudler Lecture, "Can Civil Society Save America?". The class will focus on actionable strategies to bridge gaps among progressives, conservatives, and libertarians. She will discuss helpful techniques (communication, framing methods, and community-based approaches to engage loved ones and neighbors) to reduce polarization without sacrificing core values. The class is ideal for anyone seeking respectful, effective ways to rebuild civic trust and strengthen local ties. *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture*

Lauren Hall, Ph.D. is Professor of Political Science and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, College of Liberal Arts at Rochester Institute of Technology. She is an academic leader, author, podcast host, professor, radical moderate, mother, and indifferent gardener. Lauren works to help people break out of false binaries and black-and-white thinking which encourages a deeper, multidimensional understanding of our social and political world.

Monday: 1:30 – 3:30 pm
ONE Week: May 11



The Webster Arboretum Poetry TrailSp15M

[NEW CLASS] The Webster (NY) Arboretum Poetry Trail Project was inspired by the shapes, colors, and textures of the landscape at the park. Poetry seemed a natural fit to include among the trails. Poets of all ages from the Finger Lakes region were invited to submit poems for the project. This class will explore the complete process of creating the Poetry Trail and encourage class members to explore it on their own. **Course Website:** <https://poetrytrailny.wordpress.com/>
Audio/Visual, Discussion

[NEW COURSE LEADER] **Ron Friedman** grew up on a family farm in rural central NJ. An avid reader from an early age, he went on to major in literature and anthropology in college. After he, his wife, and son moved to the Rochester (Webster/ Penfield) area 17 years ago, he quickly became enamored with the Webster Arboretum and spent endless hours walking the grounds and proposed the Poetry Trail Project.

Monday: 1:30 – 3:00 pm
ONE Week: May 18

 Hybrid 

Tuesday

OLLI at RIT Spring 2026 Course Schedule

Discussing Finance, Economics, and Business in the News..... Sp16T

[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 to prepare. *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: 9:30 – 11:00 am
EIGHT Weeks: April 14 – June 2

 Hybrid 

Jane Eyre and the World of Charlotte BronteSp17T

[NEW COURSE] We'll closely and slowly read the classic novel *Jane Eyre* so that participants can really dig into this fascinating and readable book. We'll also talk about the life and world of Charlotte Bronte, one of the greatest novelists in English literature. **Required Text:** Any edition (including electronic) of Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* is acceptable.

Enrollment Limit: 35 *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture, Reading*

Lisa Jadwin, Ph.D. is a retired English professor with expertise in literature and film. She teaches through discussion and designs her courses so that participants can absorb the content. She enjoys teaching, horses, reading, food, singing, raising chickens, travel, animals, and Chinese medicine.

Tuesdays: 9:30 – 11:00 am
EIGHT Weeks: April 14 – June 2

 Hybrid 

The Amendments: Trying to Make a More Perfect UnionSp18T

[NEW COURSE] The Constitution of the United States, established in 1787, created the government that we have today. There were many flaws in this document, and over 200 years there have been many attempts to amend the Constitution, beginning with the Bill of Rights. Currently there are 27 amendments, and they all deserve investigation from an historic perspective.
Discussion, Lecture

Timothy McDonnell has been an OLLI at RIT member since 2005 and has led many courses over the years. He was an adjunct professor at Monroe Community College and the Coordinator of the NY Geographic Alliance for 15 years. Recently Tim led a one-session course on the 14th Amendment. He now wants to expand this topic to cover the other amendments to the Constitution. In these challenging times, understanding our rights as citizens is more important than ever.

Tuesdays: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm
EIGHT Weeks: April 14 – June 2



MemoirsSp19T

In the Memoirs class we write stories weekly and read them in class. Participants write in their own style and often are inspired by hearing others' stories. New members are given some guidelines to get started. Anything shared in the classroom is personal and confidential, and friendships often develop. *Reading, Writing*

Carol Samuel had an obstetrical nursing career for 48 years and wishes she could remember her parents' stories. As a wife (widowed), mother, grandmother, and friend, she wants her life stories preserved and wants to encourage others to do the same. She has been leading this course for 22 years.

Tuesdays: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm
EIGHT Weeks: April 14 – June 2



A Survey of Classical Music.....Sp20T

[NEW COURSE] Experience a unique (non-linear) approach to learning about our Western music heritage. Become a more critical listener who can identify features of the most commonly performed classical music. This is a nontechnical course; no musical background is required. **Course Website:** <https://youtu.be/ds-0rhS6qmg> *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture*

Al Mathias has been a musician for over 50 years performing on classical guitar, jazz guitar, violin, viola, vibraphone, piano, and drums. He has performed with local big bands, jazz ensembles, orchestras, and chamber ensembles.

Tuesdays: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm
EIGHT Weeks: April 14 – June 2



Conversational French: IntermediateSp21T

[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: 1:30 – 3:00 pm
EIGHT Weeks: April 14 – June 2





Flickstory.....Sp22T

[NEW CONTENT] American musicians profoundly reshaped 20th-century music by pioneering new genres—most notably jazz, blues, rock and roll, and hip-hop—that transcended national borders to influence global culture, fashion, and social movements. These innovations often emerged from a “melting pot” of diverse traditions, including African rhythms, European harmonic structures, and Scots-Irish ballads. We will look at two of these genres (Blues and Rock and Roll) in four movies this term: *A Complete Unknown*, the story of Bob Dylan’s arrival and transformation in NYC; *Love and Mercy*, the story of the making of Brian Wilson’s (The Beach Boys) Pet Sounds album which drove him to a mental breakdown; *Ray*, the biography of Ray Charles; and *Deliver Me from Nowhere* which tells the story of the making of Bruce Springsteen’s Nebraska album and his struggle with depression. *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture*

Bob Schlosky, Mike Maxwell, Gene Clifford, and Michael Tanenhaus have presented numerous OLLI at RIT courses over the past 10 years. All are experienced course leaders who are also fans of movies and music.

Tuesdays: 1:30 – 3:30 pm
EIGHT Weeks: April 14 – June 2

 Hybrid 

Great Sports Highlights of All Time.....Sp23T

[NEW COURSE] This is a video montage course of the greatest and most impossible sports scenes. Watch great moments from the NBA, NFL, NHL, MLB, golf, bowling, tennis, soccer, and boxing. See and hear the most unbelievable March Madness Buzzer Beaters, great sports calls made by the original announcers, the best walk-off wins, and original network TV sports themes from the ‘60s, ‘70s, and ‘80s. Let’s see if some of the course leader’s memories match yours. This is a class for your enjoyment, so just sit back and watch. *Audio/Visual*

Scott Mate retired in May of 2024 from being a Director of District Managers in the retail world. A lifelong sports aficionado, he is living out his dream of being a sports highlights course leader. As an OLLI at RIT member for two years, he is the Chair of the Pfaudler Lecture Series, Coordinator of the Pickleball Special Interest Group, member the Intersession Committee, and is involved in multiple projects at OLLI.

Tuesdays: 1:30 – 3:00 pm
FOUR Weeks: April 14 – May 5

 Zoom Only 

Sherlock Holmes: From Holmes to Sherlock - Part 2.....Sp24T

[NEW COURSE] [MULTI-PART SERIES] Based on his book *From Holmes to Sherlock*, Mattias Bostrom traces the history of the Holmes character from inception to modern times together with the personal history of the Conan Doyle family. We will examine the story of Doyle and Sherlock at the end of WWI, the last decade of Doyle’s life, and the adaptation of the Sherlockian Canon into new media such as motion pictures, radio, and television. We will also cover the organization of the formal fan base of the Holmes Canon. **Optional Text:** *From Holmes to Sherlock: The Story of the Men and Women Who Created an Icon* by Mattias Bostrom, ISBN 9780802126603 *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture, Reading*
Participation in previous parts of this course is not a prerequisite.

Bill Brown, an OLLI at RIT member and course leader for many years, has led courses on Sherlock Holmes, Frank Loesser, and various technology-related topics. He is a leader of the local Sherlockian Scion Society – Rochester Row.

Tuesdays: 1:30 – 3:30 pm
FOUR Weeks: May 12 – June 2

 Zoom Only 

Wednesday

OLLI at RIT Spring 2026 Course Schedule

Discussing The New Yorker MagazineSp25W

[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, ranging 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 begin with the April 9, 2026 issue **Required Text:** *The New Yorker* magazine (paper copy or e-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

EIGHT Weeks: April 15 – June 3



Hybrid

English Keeps ChangingSp26W

[NEW COURSE] Would you rather I gave you a present or gifted you one? Is there a difference? Should I call, write, text or message you? Languages change, sometimes rapidly, sometimes slowly, in pronunciation, vocabulary, meaning, and grammatical structures. We will explore changes in English and how people seem to have made these shifts and reacted to them. There are some surprisingly odd things we have done with the English language, some of which turn out to make sense emotionally and socially. While word changes are something we encounter (often to our annoyance), there have been striking changes in structures that we would expect to be universal. *Discussion, Lecture*

A retired professor of American literature whose graduate training included Linguistics, **David Hill** has led courses in both areas at State University of NY and at OLLI at RIT. His most recent courses involved the interesting history of the Oxford English Dictionary where we explored some odd changes in what words have meant.

Wednesdays: 9:30 – 11:00 am

SIX Weeks: April 15 – May 20



Hybrid



Just Thinking...Sp27W

This introductory course is not about justice, politics, or religion; it is JUST about THINKING. The course focuses on sharpening the critical thinking skills necessary to navigate our modern environment. The goal is twofold: to improve the logic we use to express our own arguments and to develop a sharper "filter" for evaluating the external arguments we encounter daily. The course is intended to inspire curiosity about the reasoning process, share practical logical concepts, and encourage the habit of questioning how we reach conclusions. We will explore thinking logically through identifying the structure of arguments, the common logical fallacies, and the "skewed thinking" that can weaken an argument or cloud judgment. We will also explore thinking using practical analytical concepts, understanding basic probability, and the critical difference between correlation and causation to better interpret data and claims. We will further explore thinking with other people, examining how interpersonal dynamics and tribalism can influence—and sometimes distort—independent reasoning. We'll also briefly discuss the implications of thinking alongside AI. Whether you are looking to be introduced to these concepts for the first time or wish to refresh existing knowledge, join us for a deep dive into the most important skill we use every day—the art of clear, independent thought. *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture, Reading*

Ed Kwiek earned a BA in Psychology from Syracuse University and an MBA from the Simon Business School at the University of Rochester. Over a 33-year career at IBM, Ed held numerous leadership roles including positions in teaching, course development, and several successive management roles, each having increasing levels of responsibility. Driven by a lifelong interest in psychology and the mechanics of a strong logical argument, Ed strives to create engaging, interactive learning experiences for all his students.

Wednesdays: 9:30 – 11:00 am

EIGHT Weeks: April 15 – June 3



Hybrid



Contemporary EventsSp28W

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 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

EIGHT Weeks: April 15 – June 3



Hybrid



Introduction to WritingSp29W

[NEW COURSE] This is a small introductory class for people who would like to write and would appreciate some help getting started. We cover the basic qualities of good writing: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, and sentence fluency. These qualities can be applied to your choice of writing—memoir, fiction, or essay. Participants will have time in class to write in a friendly, supportive setting. **Enrollment Limit: 10** *Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture, Writing, Workshop*

Jeanne String is a Writing Workshop teacher and trainer who has worked in the Brighton and Webster NY schools. She is also a course leader for OLLI at RIT's Writing Workshop.

Wednesdays: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm

FOUR Weeks: April 15 – May 6



In-Person Only

A Layman's Discussion of the History of OpticsSp30W

[NEW COURSE] Optics is a branch of physics that studies light—how it behaves, how it moves, and how it interacts with matter. We will explore its more than 3,000-year-old history—first studied by Indian scholars, followed by the Greeks, the Islamic Golden Age, the European Renaissance and to the present. Optics' effects are visible in our everyday life, from space telescopes to eye surgery to fiber optics and lasers. We will also touch on the powerful influence that optics has on fine arts via the interplay of light and objects. *Audio/Visual, Lecture*

Wolf Seka, Ph.D., an OLLI at RIT member since 2017, left his native Austria on a Fulbright scholarship to attend graduate school in Austin, Texas where he earned his doctorate in physics in 1965. After working 11 years in four different countries (Vancouver, Canada; Paris, France; Rome, Italy; Bern, Switzerland), he joined the Laboratory for Laser Energetics in Rochester, NY in 1976 and retired after 41 years of building lasers and studying high-temperature plasmas. Presently he enjoys attending and leading OLLI classes and reading mostly non-fiction books. He is a lifelong outdoor enthusiast and enjoys traveling the world.

Wednesdays: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm

FOUR Weeks: April 15 – May 6



Hybrid



Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil: From the Death of God to the Overcoming of Nihilism*.....Sp31W

[NEW COURSE] Nietzsche wrote in response to the crisis in values in the 19th century that was leading to nihilism, the sense that there are no fixed standards for ethics. While he embraced the nihilistic negation of all traditional values, he hoped to overcome the negativity of nihilism by the creation of new values by the "philosophers of the future." We will evaluate Nietzsche's attempt to account for and overcome nihilism by critically examining his major doctrines, most notably the death of God, the will to power, and the eternal return. **Required Text:** *Beyond Good and Evil* by Friedrich Nietzsche, translated by Walter Kaufmann, ISBN 9780307432957 *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

EIGHT Weeks: April 15 – June 3



Hybrid



What Do the Mona Lisa and The Scream Have in Common?Sp32W

[NEW COURSE] Movies like *The Thomas Crown Affair* portray art theft as ingenious and sophisticated. Reality is usually quite different. We will examine thefts that have occurred over the last 100 years and attempt to answer a number of questions: How common is art theft? Is it profitable for the thief? If not for profit, why do people steal art? Do thieves act alone or are more thefts accomplished by teams? Are most stolen artworks found? And, of course, what do the Mona Lisa and The Scream have in common? *Audio/Visual, Lecture*

Chris Ryan, a retired librarian and lifelong research nerd, is fascinated by history and art. She has offered OLLI at RIT classes on Nazi art thefts in WWII, Impressionist artists Berthe Morisot and Gustave Caillebotte, and a history of libraries.

Wednesdays: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm
FOUR Weeks: May 13 – June 3



 Hybrid 

Tocqueville on DemocracySp33W

[NEW COURSE] Can liberty be reconciled with democracy? Tocqueville came to the US in the 1830s, seeking an answer to this question that he could apply in France. He looked beyond our institutions to our religions, politics, and society. We will read and discuss portions of his *Democracy in America*. **Optional Text:** *Democracy in America* by Alexis de Tocqueville, ISBN 0226805328 *Discussion, Lecture, Reading*

Tom Low has led many OLLI at RIT courses on thinkers ancient (Plato, Aristotle, Marcus Aurelius, etc.) and modern (James, Berlin, Orwell, etc.).

Wednesdays: 1:30 – 3:00 pm
EIGHT Weeks: April 15 – June 3

 Hybrid 

What's New in Neuroscience: Part 3Sp34W

[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
EIGHT Weeks: April 15 – June 3

 Zoom Only 

Writing WorkshopSp35W

[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 which leads this course includes: **Jeanne String**, 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; and **Kim Perry**, a recently retired marketing manager, content creator, and editor who is now immersed in writing what she enjoys.

Wednesdays: 1:30 – 3:00 pm
EIGHT Weeks: April 15 – June 3

 In-Person Only 

Thursday

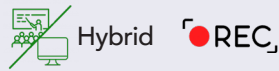
OLLI at RIT Spring 2026 Course Schedule

Franz Joseph "Papa" Haydn: His Life and His MusicSp36Th

[NEW COURSE] No composer did as much as Franz Joseph Haydn to create and develop the Classical symphony and quartet. "Papa" Haydn had a wonderful nature and a great sense of humor which shows in his music. Using a series of lectures by Robert Greenberg as core material, we will explore the life and the music of this foundational composer whose 104 symphonies, 68 string quartets, and 62 piano sonatas are widely played today. (His 123 baryton trios are not popular, but we will sample one). We will have a live music presentation with performers from the Eastman School of Music. Join us for this broad introduction to the life and the creations of this giant of Western music. *Audio/Visual, Lecture*

Victor Poleshuck is a retired physician with a lifelong love of classical music. He has led many courses at OLLI at RIT including a four-term course in the history of Western music and many composer-specific courses.

Thursdays: 9:30 – 11:30 am
EIGHT Weeks: April 16 – June 4



You Be the CriticSp37Th

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
EIGHT Weeks: April 16 – June 4



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: April 16

New York State Travel with...The Getaway Guy!Sp38Th



Mike O'Brian, The Getaway Guy

Come meet The Getaway Guy, seen on Spectrum TV and R News, as he shares his favorite New York State spring and summer getaways, near and far, including many of his latest travels. Additionally, watch a few exciting Getaway Guy TV episodes from the past. Join us for a fun and informative hour of travel adventures with Mike O'Brian.

Week Two: April 23

Angels of Mercy: Anti-Human Trafficking AwarenessSp39Th

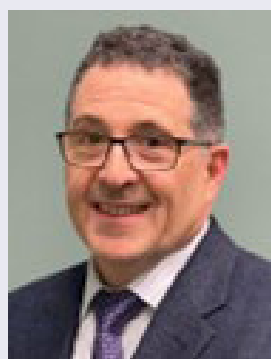


Lauren VanCott, Vice President of Operations and Secretary, Angels of Mercy

Angels of Mercy's Lauren VanCott will provide anti-human trafficking education focusing especially on what sex trafficking really looks like in this country. You will learn who is most vulnerable, the tactics that traffickers use to recruit and groom victims, and what you can do to help prevent and stop human trafficking.

Week Three: April 30

What's New in Treating the Aches and Pains of Senior CitizensSp40Th

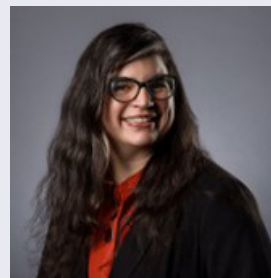


Edward Schwarz, Ph.D., Burton Professor of Orthopaedics and Director of the Center for Musculoskeletal Research at the University of Rochester Medical Center

Dr. Schwarz's laboratory focuses on inflammatory bone loss (such as that seen in rheumatoid arthritis), infections, tumor metastasis, and wear debris-induced osteolysis around loose prosthetic implants. His lab is also interested in developing translational in vivo imaging outcome measures that include near infrared imaging of lymphatic flow to detect arthritic flare and cone beam CT to assess bone healing in patients with orthopaedic implants, and intravital microscopy of bone infections.

Week Four: May 7

David Hochstein and His LegacySp41Th



Mona Seghatoleslami, Classical Music Director and Live from Hochstein Host, WXXI

You may know The Hochstein School in Rochester, NY, but what do you know about its history and namesake, David Hochstein? Did you know it was founded even before the Eastman School of Music? Hochstein's story is woven through 100 years of American history and Rochester's development. Through stories, history, a treasure trove of photos, and old recordings by David Hochstein himself, Mona Seghatoleslami takes you on this journey through history to the present.

Week Five: May 14

Raising Puppies to Become Guide DogsSp42Th



Maraci Frutkoff and Avor Szostak, Puppy Raisers for Guiding Eyes for the Blind
Guiding Eyes for the Blind (GEB) is an organization that provides guide dogs to people with vision loss. GEB and its puppy raisers are passionate about connecting exceptional dogs with individuals so they can enjoy greater independence. We will be sharing what it takes for an 8-week-old pup to begin its journey as a future guide dog: daily routines, specific introductory skills, evaluations with GEB staff, and all the fun they have along the way.



Week Six: May 21

Nifty Stories Renew the Spirit...That's What Makes Them Nifty!Sp43Th



Jay Stetzer, Musician, Dancer, Mime, Visual Artist, and Professional Storyteller

There is an awesome power in a story which is transferred from the teller to the listener with two simple tools: the spoken word and a willing imagination that engages the listener as if he or she were actually living it. Nifty stories embrace these two vital elements. Nifty stories create remarkable worlds. The world is filled with billions of stories, all played out every moment, every hour, everywhere, all of them woven into a timeless tapestry. Jay Stetzer observes that tapestry and tells what he sees. Listeners are held in the story... and then released back into their daily lives, somehow renewed and transformed.

Week Seven: May 28

Did that Just Happen!?: The Story Behind Mickey 17Sp44Th



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 Eight: June 4

What If Israel Takes Over Gaza?Sp45Th



Robert Gerace, Naval Intelligence Officer, Retired and Adjunct Professor, RIT

Bob Gerace hopes that his presentation, ahead of the midterm elections, will show the complicated and convoluted reality against one of the biggest military threats in modern history. He hopes to shed light on many questions regarding this threat: What has happened so far? What has been the cost to Palestinians? What is the impact and viability of Trump's 20-point Gaza peace plan? How long will this take? Who are the winners and losers? Who has been selected to be on the "Board of Peace" to run Palestine's day-to-day affairs and what are their political backgrounds? And with most of Gaza lying in rubble, how long would it realistically take for phase 2 of the peace plan when phase 1 hasn't yet brought about disarmament? How long will Trump be in power to accomplish this?

19th Century Pop Culture American Poems PlusSp46Th

[NEW COURSE] Everyone knows a lot of these poems, right? Well, there may be a bit more to the text and background of these old chestnuts. We'll take a look at a batch of northern-perspective lyrics about the Civil War including the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, *Barbara Frietchie*, *Dunbar's The Colored Soldiers*, the introduction to *Song of Hiawatha*, *The New Colossus* (the poem on the Statue of Liberty), *The Shooting of Dan McGrew*, and possibly poem(s) by Whitman. These are easy reading on the literal surface with interesting twists of language and culture in more detail. No texts to purchase; poems will be sent via email before class. **Course Website:** sites.google.com/view/poppoetryosher **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 just about everything literary for 30 years. Her main interest is all classic British and American poetry, especially Romantics, as well as Tolstoy and Greek classics.

Thursdays: 1:45 – 3:45 pm
EIGHT Weeks: April 16 – June 4

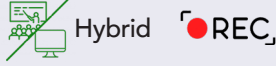


Conversational Spanish: IntermediateSp47Th

[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:** *El Camino* by Miguel Delibes, ISBN 9780030566059
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.

Thursdays: 1:45 – 3:45 pm
EIGHT Weeks: April 16 – June 4

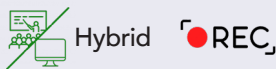


Films about Creative, Controversial ArtistsSp48Th

[NEW COURSE] We will choose from at least four films about controversial and creative artists working in diverse media in the 20th century including *Bill Cunningham: New York*, *Andy Goldsworthy: Rivers and Tides*, *Finding Vivian Meyer*, *The Woodmans*, *Fur: An Imaginary Portrait of Diane Arbus*, *Loving Picasso*, a short film about Diane Arbus, a film about Sally Mann, and possibly more from which to choose. Class members' opinions will be one way that we choose our films.
Audio/Visual, Discussion, Lecture

Lisa Jadwin, Ph.D., has special training in both film and art history. She teaches through discussion rather than lecture and encourages participants to view films critically. She likes horses, animals, history, reading, travel, singing and music, studying art history, and many other things, including raising backyard chickens.

Thursdays: 1:45 – 3:45 pm
EIGHT Weeks: April 16 – June 4



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.



Weekly CreationsSp49E

Grab your sketchbook and assorted art materials! The goal of this class is to complete a piece of art during each weekly session. To do this, we will observe or listen to something inspiring, briefly discuss it, and then create our own original piece of art. Prior to each session, the instructor will share the specific art materials she will be using. Participants are welcome to follow along with the instructor or take off in a direction of their own. **Materials:** a sketchbook or drawing paper and any other assorted art media that you have and like to use.

Cris Guenter is both an artist and an educator. She is professor emerita in the School of Education at Chico State and was named the 2008 National Art Educator of the Year by the National Art Education Association. She has been exhibiting her artwork in regional, national, and international exhibitions since 1972. She is currently the past chair of the National Art Education Foundation.

Tuesdays: 1:00 – 2:30 pm ET
SIX Weeks: April 21 – May 26



The Wars of the RosesSp50E

The Cousins' War, as it was called contemporaneously, that ripped apart the ruling Plantagenet family in England affords some insights into competitions for leadership, control, and alliances, even in the present day. Join us as we dissect the complicated relationships that played out in 15th-century England and ended with the throne occupied by the first Tudor king, Henry VII.

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.

Tuesdays: 4:00 – 5:30 pm ET
TEN Weeks: April 21 – June 23



Let's Keep Knitting!Sp51E

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: April 21 – June 23



 **OLLI** at Chico State

Taking and Editing Photos on Your iPhone **Sp52E**

This class will introduce you to basic foundational skills in establishing a composition for a photo, using the rule of thirds, and considering the values in a photo. This content will be followed by an introduction to the many photo editing tools available on an iPhone and how to use them with the photos you have taken. If you have taken this class previously, you are welcome to take it as a refresher. *This class is for iPhone users with an iPhone 11 or higher. The iPhone should have the most current operating system and recent updates on it.*

Cris Guenter is both an artist and an educator. She is professor emerita in the School of Education at Chico State and was named the 2008 National Art Educator of the Year by the National Art Education Association. She has been exhibiting her artwork in regional, national, and international exhibitions since 1972. She is currently the past chair of the National Art Education Foundation.

Tuesdays: 1:00 – 2:30 pm ET
TWO Weeks: June 2 & June 9



Myths, Legends, and Tales of the Celts **Sp53E**

W.B. Yeats, in his essay *The Celtic Element In Literature*, spoke of visions of a world expressed by people who “believed that trees were divine, and could take a human or grotesque shape and dance among the shadows.” Once a powerful people who dominated much of Europe, the Celts were reduced to a few small groups after the Roman invasions. However, their mythology survived, thanks largely to the efforts of medieval Irish and Welsh monks who wrote down the stories.

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
TEN Weeks: April 22 – June 24



Chico State Faculty Lecture Series **Sp54E**

Chico State’s tradition of academic excellence goes back more than 130 years. With over 800 faculty members and 14,000 students, the University’s teaching and learning community is thriving. Discover the imagination, cutting-edge research, and expertise that flourishes in our own backyard!

Ann Nikolai, MPA, serves as the program director for Professional & Continuing Education at Chico State. With more than 30 years of experience, she has been dedicated to expanding educational access and creating opportunities for non-traditional learners. Ann earned her Master of Public Administration from San Francisco State University in 2003 and completed the Institute of Educational Management program at Harvard University in 2001. She holds dual bachelor’s degrees in sociology and Africana studies from the University of Pennsylvania.

Wednesdays: 4:00 – 5:30 pm ET
FOUR Weeks: April 22 – May 13



Learn How to Draw **Sp55E**

If you can’t draw, know that it’s not your fault. You weren’t taught properly. First published in 1979, Betty Edwards’ *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain* applied brain science to drawing instruction. Using her teaching techniques to bypass our internal barriers and connect us to our innate ability to draw, we learn we can do more than we believed. If you want to start exploring art classes but still draw like a child, start here. Stick-figure level drawing skill is perfect and welcome.

A graduate of Chico State, **Susan Levine** has enjoyed teaching in several aspects of her life for many years. While working as a library clerk for elementary schools in Chico, she taught hundreds of kids to play cribbage. As a longtime adult volunteer in Girl Scouts, she helped train troop leaders to take their girls camping. She has been leading OLLI classes as a volunteer instructor since 2010. She is married to retired local CPA Bernie Levine.

Thursdays: 1:00 – 2:30 pm ET
TEN Weeks: April 23 – June 25






Bigger, Stronger, Faster: Dinosaurs and the Evolutionary Arms Race..... Sp56E

The natural world can be a very dangerous place, especially living in an evolving planet 66 to 220 million years ago. Over a period of nearly 160 million years, dinosaurs evolved from relatively small omnivores to fast carnivores with bigger, sharper teeth and claws and tremendous bite strength and to herbivores with defenses of more and bigger horns and spikes, thicker armor, and incredible size. Picture the velociraptors, T-rexes, stegosaurus, triceratops, ankylosaurus, and titanosaurs. Other survivor adaptations including behavior, camouflage coloration and intelligence are inferred from recent scientific discoveries. Other creatures which evolved and competed with the dinosaurs, the pterosaurs and crocodiles, grew to incredible sizes and ornate skeletal features which are still topics of much discussion. This course will examine many of these evolutionary changes that may or may not have been beneficial.

Mark Cocker is a scientist emeritus with the US Geological Survey. One of his interests concerns dinosaurs and recent advances in their scientific study. He led an OLLI class last summer with an introduction to dinosaurs "Dinosauria".

Tuesdays: 2:00 – 3:30 pm ET  
FOUR Weeks: May 12 – June 2

Modern Irish Authors: A Remarkable Abundance..... Sp57E

Ireland is well known for its great writers, from Jonathan Swift to W.B. Yeats, James Joyce, Samuel Becket, Seamus Heaney, J.M. Synge, and George Bernard Shaw, among many others. Four Irish authors have won the Nobel Prize for Literature and six have won the Booker Prize. Today that tradition is carried on by a growing list of excellent modern Irish writers. We will read and discuss one book by each of these four authors: Niall Williams - *Time of the Child*, Caoilinn Hughes - *The Alternatives*, Paul Lynch - *Prophet Song*, and Claire Keegan - *Small Things Like These*. We will also examine the social, political, and economic environment that shaped their writing. Reading these authors will provide a useful introduction to Irish literature today and hopefully spark your interest to explore more Irish writers and their works.

Stephen Berardo lived in Ireland for six years and has returned many times since. He has been reading Irish writers for more than 50 years. He has an undergraduate degree in English Literature as well as a Master of Public Administration.

Tuesdays: 2:00 – 3:30 pm ET  
FOUR Weeks: May 26 – June 16

Are We Alone in the Universe?..... Sp58E

Recently President Obama said aliens are real, i.e., we are not alone. This is also the belief of many in the scientific community and the general public. But what is the evidence supporting this belief? In this class we will examine this evidence. We will look at the scientific evidence and the anecdotal evidence. As has been said: We will keep an open mind, but not so open that our brains fall out.

Carl DeVito's Ph.D. is in mathematics, and he has co-authored research papers in physics, astronomy and planetary sciences. His last two books have dealt with the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence and the scientific efforts currently aimed at finding this intelligence. In his classes he will present unusual, even "way out", topics, but he always stresses that belief must be based on hard evidence not just speculation.

Wednesdays: 12:00 – 1:30 pm ET  
THREE Weeks: May 13 – May 27



The Last Days of Socrates **Sp59E**

Socrates spent his life “examining” men in public places: the agora (marketplace) and Lyceum (a gymnasium). He became a celebrity and was, at the age of 47, rudely caricatured by the comic poet, Aristophanes, in *Clouds*. In his 60s, Socrates met a handsome young nobleman, Plato, then in his late teens, and convinced him to give up poetry in favor of philosophy. In 399 BC, Socrates was convicted of impiety and corrupting the youth and sentenced to death. After the death of Socrates, Plato wrote some 26 dialogues, four of which touch on the last days of Socrates. **Week 1. Introduction.** The life of Socrates. Plato’s dialogues. **Week 2. Euthyphro.** In this short dialogue Socratic method is on display: the “elenchus” (examination, refutation). **Week 3. Apology.** The oracle at Delphi said that no one was wiser than Socrates. Socrates tells how he tried to prove the oracle wrong. **Week 4. Crito.** Socrates speaks of his philosophy: that one is obligated to obey the laws, even unjust laws; and that one should not return wrong for wrong. We will read the final poignant pages of Phaedo in which Socrates drinks the hemlock. **Week 5. Socrates and the later Stoics.** Socrates as one of Kierkegaard’s “knights of faith”. Socrates as martyr to free speech. Socrates as gay icon. Socrates and Jesus.

Robert Yanal, B.A., M.A., Ph.D., taught Philosophy, mainly Philosophy of Art, at Wayne State University, in Detroit, Michigan, for 37 years. He published 18 articles and 4 books, including “Hitchcock as Philosopher”. He is retired, living in Tucson.

Wednesdays: 2:00 – 3:30 pm ET
FIVE Weeks: May 13 – June 10



Introduction to Hinduism: Religion, Philosophy, History, Culture..... **Sp60E**

This introductory course will provide an overview of Hinduism, the religion of India that originated over 3000 years ago. It will include a brief history about the origin of Hinduism and the contributions to it from different sources, the religion of Hinduism and its many components, the different philosophies that underpin the religious practices, including the non-dualism of Vedanta, and the interactions between Hinduism and Judaism, Christianity, Islam. Also covered in the course are the rituals, practices, customs and festivals related to Hinduism.

Pravin Soni is a native of India and immigrated to the US in 1973. He has been a student of the Hindu Philosophy of Vedanta for the past 35 years. He has a PhD in Polymer Science and Engineering and has been involved in early stage biotech companies for over 25 years.

Thursdays: 4:00 – 5:30 pm ET
SIX Weeks: May 14 – June 18



So, You Want to be a Writer? **Sp61E**

Have you ever found yourself wanting to be an author? Join our discussion as we begin with your initial idea and follow various routes to publication. We will consider many different genres and formats (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, textbook, technical, essays). By the end of our interactive session, you will have the tools to research your idea and transform it into words. We will discuss various avenues to get published, and the challenges associated with each. There will also be discussion about marketing your work. Bring your ideas, your problems, and your enthusiasm to write!

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

Friday: 2:00 – 3:30 pm ET
ONE Week: May 15



The OLLI at RIT Summer Seminar Committee is excited to announce its 2026 program consisting of three trips and their accompanying lectures.



**Registration for trips opens soon:
keep your eyes peeled for more info!**

For additional trip details and registration information [click here](#).

Trip 1: Niagara Falls

Thursday, June 18, 2026

Price TBD Due to the current volatile fuel pricing, the trip price will be determined once we hear back from the bus company.

Events/Locations:

- Take a walk to the base of the Falls at the Cave of the Winds
- Enjoy lunch at the Bella Vista Ristorante
- Visit the Niagara Aquarium and Great Lakes 360 Pavilion

Trip 2: Ithaca/Cornell

Thursday, July 16, 2026

Price TBD Due to the current volatile fuel pricing, the trip price will be determined once we hear back from the bus company.

Events/Locations:

- Tour Cornell Botanic Gardens
- Lunch buffet at the Statler Inn on the Cornell campus
- Tour the Herbert F. Johnson Art Museum
- Quick stop at the overlook at Taughannock Falls State Park

Trip 3: Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada

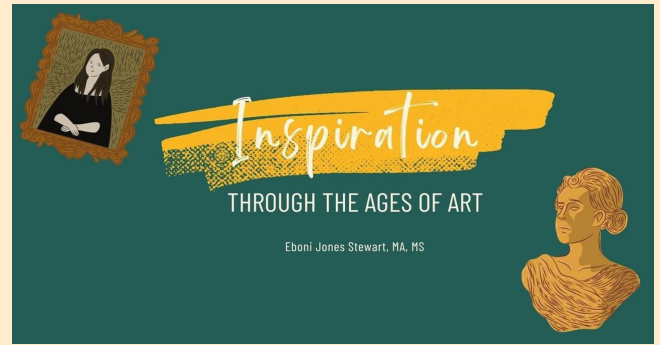
Friday, August 14, 2026

Price TBD Due to the current volatile fuel pricing, the trip price will be determined once we hear back from the bus company.

Events/Locations:

- Visit Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada
- See *Funny Girl* at the Shaw Festival
- Enjoy dinner at Table Rock Restaurant, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada

OLLI Arts and Lectures Series presents: Mix and Mingle at the MAG



We are excited to announce the return of OLLI at RIT's Arts and Lectures Series!

Join us at the Memorial Art Gallery on Thursday, April 16, 2026 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Eboni Jones Stewart will join us at 7 p.m. for a lecture on *Inspiration Through the Ages of Art*.

Light appetizers and a full cash/credit bar will be available.
Because we will have just light appetizers, please feel free to enjoy dinner at home or at one of the many restaurants in the area, either before or after the event!

Cost: Free for OLLI at RIT members, \$25 for guests of members

[Please sign up using your OLLI registration account](#)
(registration closes on Friday 4/3)



This event is made possible by our endowment from The Bernard Osher Foundation and a grant from The Edward M. Dowd Foundation.

On occasion we decide to share information with our members regarding mutually beneficial studies, clinical trials, services, etc. offered by RIT faculty, staff, or alumni. *Participation is always completely optional.*

The latest opportunity is ShadowNurse, a nurse-led care navigation service that helps seniors and families manage the details of healthcare both between visits and during visits when support is needed. They coordinate care plans, track follow-ups, and solve practical barriers so you can focus on living your life. Their goal is to make every step of your (or someone you care for) healthcare journey clearer, with less phone tag with doctors, fewer mixed messages, and more peace of mind.

ShadowNurse

Put a Registered Nurse in Your Corner

We coordinate your healthcare
so you can focus on what matters.

Founded by an RIT alumna

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100%

virtual — phone, text & video

Real

nurses, not chatbots

- Medication reminders
- Appointment scheduling and reminders
- Care plan support and follow through
- Transportation solutions
- Research and resource coordination for patients

An information session for those who are interested will be announced at a later date.

ShadowNurse is an independent service and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or partnered with RIT or the Osher Institute.

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 [here](#). If you don't know your OLLI account user name or password, please go to the Login Help webpage [here](#) 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).

Refund Policy

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.