



OSHER
LIFELONG
LEARNING
INSTITUTE

Winter 2021

Course Catalog

No Grades. No Tests. Learning...for the Joy of It!

SONOMA
STATE UNIVERSITY

School of
Extended and
International Education

1801 E. Cotati Ave., Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609 | olli.sonoma.edu | 707-664-2691

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Dear OLLI Community,

2020 has been a year of challenge and resilience where we have recreated our lives in a way that is meaningful. OLLI@SSU has worked to meet these challenges by providing OLLI members with enriching class experiences that open your mind and soul. We welcome you, friends of OLLI, to join us as we enter our 20th year of Osher Lifelong Learning at Sonoma State University.

Over the past year....

- OLLI has continued to offer quality programs and instructors
- Class fees were lowered to accommodate all of our OLLI students
- OLLI Art Club, Cinema Club, and Science Club provided you with engaging activities
- \$30,000 in donations provided OLLI scholarship and program enrichment funding

Your generous financial support will help ensure that OLLI@SSU continues to provide the excellent programming that you have come to expect, along with keeping our programs accessible and affordable. Through annual giving, planned giving, or charitable IRA rollovers, your gift will help us to continue to reach out to seniors in our communities. **Please use the enclosed envelope for your donation today. You can also make a secure donation online at olli.sonoma.edu/donors.**

We wish you and your family all the best this holiday season and look forward to celebrating our 20th Anniversary with you in 2021.

Warm Regards,

Leslie Brutocao
Director

Mick Chantler
Advisory Board Chair

CONTACT

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WINTER 2021 OLLI VIRTUAL COURSES (JANUARY 25 – MARCH 4, 2021)

Online Registration closes at 5:00 p.m. two days before the start of the course. For full course descriptions and online registration, visit olli.sonoma.edu/register. You can register by phone by contacting Grace Burroughs, OLLI Program Assistant, at 707-664-2691 or burrougg@sonoma.edu. If you have any questions about registration, call 707-664-2691.

SIX WEEK COURSES: JANUARY 25 - MARCH 4 (\$85 PER COURSE)

Mondays, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

4136: *Van Morrison: The Music of the Belfast Cowboy*

Van Morrison's career has spanned 55 years, and, in that time, he has produced 40 albums. His eclectic career has seen him range from the early blues-influenced days of his band Them, to his acclaimed masterpieces, *Astral Weeks* and *Moondance*, into the 1970s where he parlayed R&B-based rock into superstardom. For the past 40 years, Morrison has eloquently displayed the ability to go from one genre to another, always staying true to the twin themes of jazzy rhythm and blues and the Celtic folk of his ancestors. In this class we will break down that extraordinary volume of work into six periods, chronicling the artist's evolving development as a man and a musician.



Pete Elman has been a musician since 1963, working as a performer, composer, studio musician, recording artist and producer. Pete published an acclaimed children's picture book, covered sports for the *CC Times* as a freelancer. He has taught school at levels K-12 from 2002-2015, and is currently teaching popular classes on contemporary American music all over the Bay Area.

Mondays, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

4137: *Statesmen and Rogues: The Founding Fathers, From Washington to Aaron Burr*

For nearly 250 years, Americans have stood in awe before the giants who strode the earth during our country's formative epoch. Bold military commanders, incisive political philosophers, brilliant economic thinkers, and spellbinding orators, the Founders provided the creative genius and practical wisdom necessary to forge a new Republic, "dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." But we must be careful not to think of these nation-builders as demi-gods; they were real flesh and blood men, confronted with difficult, real-world decisions. Many of their choices were masterful, and some were disastrous, saddling the American people with thorny problems that would resurface repeatedly in later years. In this class we will analyze the lives of vanguard members of the revolutionary generation and assess their influence on the tumultuous events of the years 1763–1815.

Mick Chantler (M.A. History) has been a student and instructor of early American studies for over forty years. He currently teaches at several Bay Area Lifelong Learning Programs, including Sonoma State University, Dominican University, U.C. Berkeley, and University of Santa Clara. His primary interests include the Revolutionary and Civil War eras, but he has also lectured on Richard Nixon and John F. Kennedy.



Tuesdays, 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.

4138: *Exploring Opera: The Divas*

"Diva!" The term strikes excitement in some, fear in others. Though actually meaning "goddess," it has come to mean "a self-important, temperamental, difficult to please woman". Some singers are one, the other, or both. Regardless, an opera diva usually has an exceptional voice. Several divas became legendary, others also had extraordinary talents, but are almost forgotten today. Join James Sokol to discover some of these great ladies – Callas, Moffo, Scotto, Norman, Fleming, and many more! Learn about their backgrounds and experience their brilliance through performance videos. Hear the variations among the female vocal ranges – soprano, mezzo, contralto – and differences within those ranges. Bask in the glory of gorgeous voices and repertoire. Don't miss this series, terrific for opera newcomers and long-time fans!

James Sokol, M.B.A., M.A. worked in opera under Beverly Sills at NYCOpera, Lotfi Mansouri at SFOpera, and Donald Pippin at Pocket Opera. A founding member of The Singers Development Foundation, James also worked on projects with Cincinnati Opera and Opera Company of Philadelphia. He has lectured for SFOpera and at organizations throughout the Bay Area. He is the Director of Adult/Senior Programs at the Marin JCC and leads Cultural Arts Trips around the world.



SIX WEEK COURSES: JANUARY 25 – MARCH 4 (\$85 PER COURSE)

Tuesdays, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

4139: *Journeys of Desire: Foreign Female Hollywood Actors*

Trace the paths of women who came from Europe to make films in Hollywood: their history, transition, evolution, and effect on the studio system and beyond. We'll examine the reasons for their journeys, what made Hollywood so appealing to them, and how they made their mark in a system controlled entirely by men. The careers considered will be those of Greta Garbo and Ingrid Bergman (Sweden), Marlene Dietrich (Germany), Deborah Kerr and Audrey Hepburn (England) and Leslie Caron (France). Did their power reside only in their beauty, or did it depend more on their talent and strength of character? Also, to be considered are what their choices tell us about the position of women in society then and now.

Barbara Spear, who holds a master's degree in Cinema Studies from San Francisco State University has watched and loved movies all her life. She has taught courses for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute that concentrate on the classic Hollywood cinema, as well as general film courses at Sonoma State University and Napa Valley College.



Wednesdays, 10:00 - 12:00 p.m.

4140: *The Family in Global Perspective: A Gendered Journey*

The course will focus on the study of the family in its various manifestations, both in the U.S. and other parts of the globe, including Africa, Asia, and Latin America. With a focus on how the family is malleable and elastic, we will look at how economy, history, and religion influence the way the family functions in various parts of the globe. Dr. Leeder brings a wealth of knowledge from traveling to 65 countries examining family life in each of those countries.

Elaine Leeder has been teaching sociology for 43 years both at Ithaca College and Sonoma State University. She was Dean of the School of Social Sciences at SSU and has sailed on Semester at Sea three times teaching on a global journey. Her prison work has been honored by the Red Cross. She is listed in *Who's Who of American Women*, *Who's Who of American Teachers*, and *Who's Who in America*. As a visiting scholar at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, she has researched and taught about the Holocaust and other genocides.



Wednesdays, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

4141: *Reading Art: Your GPS for Visual Literacy*

How many times have you said, I love looking at art but, what does it mean? How do I move past looking into really seeing? Reading art is like learning a foreign language only easier and to practice it, one needs only to visit a local gallery or museum. This interactive course will be team taught by two of OLLI's popular professors



Heidi Chretien and Charlie Goldberg. Together they will guide you as you learn the basic tools and insights into learning how to make sense of what you are seeing; as you learn and think about line, color, light, space and ultimately, composition and design. Each class focuses on one aspect of the visual dialogue as they develop over the centuries. Together you will see and understand what links the old masters with contemporary artists. The elements remain the same but each artist recreates and reassembles according to their own vision. You the viewer become an active participant in this visual dialogue and as Marcel Duchamp once said, "there is no Art without an audience".

Heidi Chretien Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of Art History and Graduate Humanities at Dominican University and St. Mary's University as well as Adjunct Associate Prof. of Art History at SSU. She has taught for the OLLI program for 18 years. *Charlie Goldberg, MD*, is a retired medical doctor with a lifelong interest in Art History. He is a current docent at SFMOMA and the Museum of African Diaspora as well as a lecturer in various venues. He has taught two popular classes for SSU OLLI program.

Thursdays, 10:00 - 12:00 p.m.

4142: *The Story of Human Communication*

This course will examine the story of human communication, reviewing together as a class the quantum leaps in human communication from pre-human capabilities in communication to the special attributes of human beings as the species that communicates. Some of the questions we will seek to answer will be: How has the quest for human communication propelled the evolution of human beings and culture? What were the major milestones in human prehistory and history that lead to the development of the depth, complexity, and diversity of human speech, and communication? How does human communication reorient the contributions of both sexes in the story of human development?



Carlos D. Torres Ph.D. is a media anthropologist who has spent years researching the ways Mayan people have adapted media technologies to tell their own stories derived from their own cultural legacy. Dr. Torres has recently opened new research arenas in Europe, looking at paleo art, the story of human communication, research in citizen's media, and the culture of food derived from 30 years working in the food and beverage industry. Dr. Torres is also a Native Son of the North Bay.

SIX WEEK COURSES: JANUARY 25 - MARCH 4 (\$85 PER COURSE)

Thursdays, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

4143: *The Evolution of Global Feminism*

This class will explore women's global struggle for equal rights from the precolonial era to present times and the Me-Too movement. Following a brief review of patriarchy and gender roles in early societies, you will learn about regional examples, seeking to contrast the cultural, religious and historical experiences in women's pursuit of gender equality and justice.



Contributions from global authors such as Simone de Beauvoir, Nawal El Saadawi, Asmaa Lamrabet, Bethina Aptheker, and Gerda Lerner will be discussed. United Nations women resources for case studies and data will help to assess the current status of the gender equality agenda. Finally, the course will review the complex role of social media and information technologies as mega platforms that may have the unprecedented potential to unify and strengthen the power of a global feminist movement.

Nour Maxwell is an American native of Morocco. Early in her professional career, Nour served as a diplomat for the Moroccan government, representing Morocco at the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague and the Netherlands. She was secretary of foreign affairs at the United Nations Directorate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Morocco. She was recently the Deputy Director for Sustainability and the Public Affairs Manager at OCP GROUP, the world's largest phosphate producer. Nour, a Fulbright scholar, has an MA in International Policy Studies from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies with certification in Gender and Development, and also completed an executive certificate in business management with the MIT Sloan School of Management.

Join our OLLI community on Facebook!

Visit www.facebook.com/OLLlatSSU and 'Like' our page to get OLLI updates, see what's happening with our clubs and connect with your fellow OLLI students.



THREE WEEK COURSE: JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 12 (\$60 PER COURSE)

Fridays, 10:00 - 12:00 p.m.

4144: *Comedians that Changed Society: Moms Mabley, Lenny Bruce, George Carlin*

Bring your funny bone and your thinking caps! The *Comedians that Changed Society* explores the history, social influence, and yes, the comedy, of three great comedians: Moms Mabley, Lenny Bruce, and George Carlin. Not only will it discuss the social change brought up by these comedians within the context of their times, but the comedic techniques as well.

Martin J. Marshall has had a love affair with comedy since the early 1950s, when kids in his L.A. neighborhood were given vouchers for free Saturday morning matinees by the local merchants. He grew up on cartoons, Charlie Chaplin, Stan Laurel and the Marx Brothers, then graduated to *Mad* magazine, Lenny Bruce, the Smothers Brothers, and the Firesign Theater in the 1960s. In adulthood, he began performing on stage in SF and at UC Berkeley, then went to Silicon Valley to create films as a director and producer. He hasn't stopped yet – he performs with the comedy group the Paper Hat Boys.



Time to Learn Something New... Zoom in 2021!

Zoom classes with OLLI are a fun and easy way to enjoy engaging classes, renew old friendships or make new friends, and join an OLLI Zoom social gathering! Watch the "How to Zoom with OLLI" video at: olli.sonoma.edu

SINGLE CLASSES: OLLI À LA CARTE (SINGLE CLASS FEE: \$25)

February 19, 10:00 - 12:00 p.m.

4145: *Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas*

Gertrude Stein, novelist, poet and avid art collector, 'modestly' commented that without her, some of the artists and writers that she promoted might not have emerged as they did to take over the art world, e.g., Matisse and Picasso. Gertrude coined the phrase "lost generation" to describe Hemingway and his circle. It was a time of assault on all the arts. With her brothers and life partner Alice B. Toklas, she lived in Paris during the early movement of progressive art, stubbornly acquiring works that the general population found wildly odd. This is an in depth look at the author who wrote: *a rose is a rose is a rose*, the enigmatic Gertrude.



Linda Loveland Reid is graduate (*cum laude*) from SSU with B.A.s in History and Art History. She currently teaches for SSU and Dominican Universities through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes. Linda serves on SSU OLLI's Advisory Board and Curriculum Committee and is Chair of the Outreach Committee. She is the author of two novels, is a figurative and abstract painter and directs community theater.

February 26, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

4146: *Food, As Musical Parody and Social Commentary*

Food is necessary for life, but has found a niche as musical parody and contemporary social commentary in the music of Alfred Matthew Yankovic, also known as Weird Al. Through his decades of hits and Grammy awards, he has used food to parody, satirize, and comment on contemporary culture and people with great success and acclaim. Discover how food can be used in song to comment on our American society.



David Sandri (CSW, WLS, WSET Certified-Advanced, Certified Sherry Wine Specialist, Certified Cider Professional-Level 1) has been in various parts of the alcohol industry for over 28 years. He currently teaches about wine through College of Marin, as well as regularly lectures at the Wine Business Institute at Sonoma State University. David has been published in the U.S. and Canada on various topics in the wine industry. He has been an active judge for 15 years, judging at competitions including the California State Fair, Amador County Fair, International Eastern Wine Competition, the West Coast Wine Competition, and is the current Chair for the Lone Star International Wine Competition.

You are invited to attend the FREE
WINTER 2021 OLLI VIRTUAL COURSE PREVIEW

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021
from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m. on Zoom

Instructors will provide a 5-minute preview of their
6 week, 3 week, and single class offerings.

Zoom link to Virtual Course Preview on OLLI website:
olli.sonoma.edu



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The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Course Catalog
is published quarterly by Sonoma State University,
1801 East Cotati Avenue, Rohnert Park, CA 94928.

Issue #14 Winter 2020