

20<sup>th</sup>  
OSHER  
LIFELONG  
LEARNING  
INSTITUTE

2001 - 2021

SONOMA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# Spring 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](http://olli.sonoma.edu) | 707-664-2691

Follow OLLI@SSU on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/OLLIatSSU](http://www.facebook.com/OLLIatSSU)

**Dear OLLI members and friends,**

As OLLI at SSU celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we have so much to be proud of. As the second university in the nation to become an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, we have continued to deliver thought-provoking and inspiring courses and events to our "50 and better" community. OLLI at SSU students keep coming back for more, even during these challenging times. We are certainly a resilient bunch. Although our courses are being delivered virtually right now, they still feature talented instructors who bring the love of learning into our lives via your computer. This spring, you will find a course or two that I am certain will entice you to continue on your learning adventure.

We are offering courses that might make you look at the world differently, enjoy different musical styles, step back in time to 1815-1850, be drawn into Hollywood stories, and stir your soul about racial justice in this country. During OLLI Off-Season, learn about the business of America's favorite pastime: baseball.

If you are new to Zoom, give it a try. OLLI now has a "How to Zoom" video, so I invite you to find out how fun OLLI Zoom classes are. Stimulate your mind, your heart, and your friendships, virtually with OLLI this spring. And as Henry Ford said, "Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young".

Join us and "stay young" this spring!

Warm Regards,

**Leslie Brutocao**  
Director

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## CONTACT

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Stay up to date with OLLI at SSU: [olli.sonoma.edu](http://olli.sonoma.edu)

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## HOW TO TAKE AN OLLI CLASS

To register online: <http://olli.sonoma.edu/>

- Scroll down to the course listings (or go to Browse Classes link)
- Click on course title to go to Registration page
  - If you are a new or returning student for online registration, instructions are available at <http://olli.sonoma.edu/register>
  - New to Zoom? Go to <http://olli.sonoma.edu/register> and click on **How to Zoom Video and Instructions**
- On Course Registration page, select class by clicking on Add to Cart (for each class)

To register by phone: Call 707-664-2691

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## OTHER INFORMATION

- Advanced registration at least the day before class is encouraged to ensure enrollment and Zoom instructions.
  - OLLI students receive the class Zoom link **the day before** class begins. The same Zoom link will be used each week for a several week course.
  - If you have registration questions, call 707-664-2691 or email [olli@sonoma.edu](mailto:olli@sonoma.edu).
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## OLLI COURSE FEES

- Six Week - \$85
- Three Week - \$60
- OLLI à La Carte - \$25

Planning to register for 5 or more classes?

- Get the **\$340 discount price for 5+ classes**. Call 707-664-2691 to register.

Scholarships are available.

- Contact Grace Burroughs | [olli@sonoma.edu](mailto:olli@sonoma.edu) | 707-664-2691

**REGISTRATION FOR SPRING OLLI CLASSES  
OPENS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17!**

# OLLI SPRING 2021 VIRTUAL COURSE PREVIEW

**MONDAY, MARCH 22 | 10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**

Come meet the instructors and learn all about what courses OLLI is offering this spring at the Virtual Course Preview. Zoom link available at <http://olli.sonoma.edu/> starting March 15.

## OLLI SPRING 2021 VIRTUAL COURSES – SIX WEEK COURSES

**Mondays, April 17 – May 24 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

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### **#4374: Turn, Turn, Turn, Part Two: A Road Trip Through the Golden Age of Rock and Roll, 1965–1975 (Pete Elman)**

The course will be taught chronologically and geographically where key American musical movements sprung up, from Los Angeles, the Bay Area, to New York City. Classes will also include the great singer-songwriters who lived and worked in Laurel Canyon (LA), a tribute to the brilliant late rock and roll icon Leon Russell, a deep dive into the classic song American Pie, and a fun look at the one-hit wonder bands of the 1960's, complete with many first-person stories.

**Mondays, April 12 – May 17 | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

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### **#4375: Volcanic Cataclysms that Changed the World (Nicole Myers)**

The Earth began as a ball of molten magma, and for more than 4.5 billion years the planet has slowly cooled through a series of volcanic eruptions. A look at the great volcanic events that have changed the appearance of earth's surface and the course of biological evolution, and large scale volcanic eruptions unveil how volcanos change topography, end & begin ice ages, linked to all the great mass extinctions. Massive volcanism has changed the course of human history, just as it has changed the course of biological evolution throughout deep time.

**Tuesdays, April 13 – May 18 | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

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### **#4376: Genre Films: How Hollywood Tells Stories (Barbara Spear)**

Genre films are types of films, such as film noir, musicals, and comedies. The film industry has embraced genres as a means of categorizing movies to satisfy audience expectations and increase box office receipts. As audiences respond to particular aspects of genre films, filmmakers try to reduplicate success by producing more of the same. But genres are living bodies of work with viewers affecting modifications in genres because of changes in society. Six different genres will be covered along with a look at the elements of each genre and how each one continues to be modified by us, the viewers.

## Wednesdays, April 14 - May 19 | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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### #4378: Economics of Contemporary Policy Issues (Jon Haveman)

Economics plays a central role in the functioning of every aspect of society. It plays this role primarily through the actions of governments at the federal, state, and local levels. Given the centrality of the role of economics, this course will address a set of prominent policy issues for which economics is at the core. We will explore what the economics profession collectively understands to be true about the issue, while not prescribing a specific policy solution.

## Wednesdays, April 14 - May 19 | 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

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### #4379: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties During the Pandemic (Caitlin Kelly Henry)

This course will examine select legal principles as it relates to local, state, and federal COVID-19 regulation. Students will examine government power to promulgate and enforce administrative, constitutional, criminal, and regulatory law and policy in the context of a public health crisis. Students will examine particular case studies to illustrate the promises and limits of civil rights and liberties in a time of pandemic.

## Thursdays, April 15 - May 20 | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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### #4380: Before the Storm: America from 1815-1850 (Mick Chantler)

America experienced more changes in these 30 years than in the last 2-3 centuries. Great cities grew in the east, vast farmlands in the west were opened to provide opportunities for enterprising pioneers, and ordinary folk who came to see "the good life" as theirs for the taking. It came at a price: Native Americans were pushed out of their lands, forests east of the Mississippi were destroyed, and a brutal slave empire grew up in the South. It was an exciting—and tragic—era. Key players in this dizzying drama: Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun, Daniel Webster, John Q. Adams, and slave-rebels Nat Turner and Cinque.

## OLLI SPRING 2021 VIRTUAL COURSES - THREE WEEK COURSE

## FRIDAYS, APRIL 16 - APRIL 30 | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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### #4381: BLM, Racial Justice, and the Black Vernacular (Kim Hester-Williams)

Black. Lives. Matter. It was 2013 when three young Black women, Patrisse Cullors, Alicia Garza, and Opal Tometi, created the hashtag and movement, #BlackLivesMatter. They decided, in honor of Trayvon Martin and in the parlance of the movement, that "enough is enough." Thus, the call to action. The call to re-awakening. The call to get into "good trouble" to echo the late civil rights activist, John Lewis. This class is about the vernacular tradition at the foundation of this simple but extraordinary communal call to action and the history of its 'Jeremiah' Black discourse against racial violence.

## OLLI À LA CARTE – SINGLE COURSE OFFERINGS

**Friday, May 7 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

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### #4382: Exploring Jazz (Len Lyons)

Exploring Jazz traces the lives and artistic development of the music's innovative players and emphasizes active listening to their recordings. This course explores jazz through the music of its foundational artists—Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, Charlie Parker, Thelonious Monk, John Coltrane, and others. The major contributions of each will be listened to through curated audio and video examples. The class will have opportunities to comment on and discuss the music we will listen to carefully.

**Friday, May 14 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

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### #4383: The Real and Non-Ionizing Radiation – 5G, Cell Phone, and More (Warren Wiscombe)

Stories have fueled fears about the growing microwave and radio radiation, and the dangers, not least being cancer, of the new 5G and the cell phones that use it. This lecture will examine the facts, including a survey of what scientists know about radiation and its effect on humans. The goal will be to better take precautions yourself and to enable you to better advise your neighbors and children who are alarmed by the scaremongering. We will learn enough about the real nature of science to protect us from further scaremongering. We will conclude with common-sense philosophies for living in a world of techno-addiction.

## OLLI OFF-SEASON

**Fridays, May 21, 28 & June 4 | 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon**

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### #4384: Play Ball! Is Our National Pastime Past Its Time? (Pete Elman)

America's game has gone through dramatic changes. Are those changes for the worse or for the better? The class will look at challenges that are changing—and possibly strangling—the sport, along with analytics, rule changes, & the prohibitive costs to fans. We will take look at the sordid yet fascinating history of cheating in baseball, and whether baseball should change the rules, change the punishments for betting, PEDs, or cheating during games. What does the future of baseball look like with the Collective Bargaining Agreement, low attention span and low attendance, and is the “robot” strike zone the future? Pete will lead you through a fun and stimulating conversation about the state of baseball.

**For Complete OLLI course descriptions and Instructor bios, go to <http://olli.sonoma.edu/>.**



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