

Osher Online™

in collaboration with Northwestern University
School of Professional Studies

Learn with fellow OLLI members from around the country in courses taught by study area experts and hosted by Osher NRC staff.

- 22 courses, including 7 offered after 5:00 p.m. EST.
- Each course includes six 90-minute sessions.
- Offered live on Zoom only.
- Each course is \$50.00.
- Current OLLI membership is required.

Registration open Nov. 3 - Jan. 1

Seats are limited so enroll early to reserve yours.

Register online at

<https://wvusph-olli.augusoft.net/>

or by calling the OLLI at WVU office
at 304-293-1793.

DISCOVER. CONNECT. THRIVE.

Winter 2026

Jan. 14 - Mar. 6, 2026

*The Magic Behind Film Scores:
Exploring the Role of Music in Great Movies*

Milestones in Medicine

*Heroes of the Holocaust:
Lights in the Darkness*

The Virtues

*Invisible Intelligence: The Unseen Algorithms
Reshaping Your Daily Life*

How the US Immigration System (Usually) Works

The American Revolution Beyond the British Empire

More than Parks: A History of American Conservation

Japanese History through the Lens of Shōgun

The Noir Novel: Three American Classics

Dealing in Futures: The Shape of Science Fiction

Using Google Workspace Tools with Confidence

Pharmaceuticals and Poisons: Chemistry at the Edge

John James Audubon and the Birds of America

Landscape & Adventure Photography: An Introduction

History of Sicily

Brain and Behavior in the Era of Digital Technology

The History of American Television

Post Impressionism and the Birth of Abstraction

*Einstein without Tears: His Theories Explained
without Math and in Everyday Language*

*Judaism, Christianity, and Islam:
A Comparative Exploration*

*Osher Integrative Health: Navigating Chronic
Illness in a Complex Healthcare System*

More than Parks: A History of American Conservation

Explore the evolution of American conservation from the 19th century to today. This course goes beyond national parks to examine how urban reformers, scientists, women activists, and Native communities shaped the movement. Through diverse stories and landscapes, we will gain a deeper understanding of how Americans have fought to preserve—and define—the natural world.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Fraser Livingston, PhD



Fraser Livingston is an environmental historian with a PhD in American history from Mississippi State University. His research focuses on the history of science, technology, and agriculture. He received the 2023 Gilbert C. Fite Award for Best Dissertation on Agricultural History and currently works on a book about conservationist George Bird Grinnell. He also serves as book review editor for Environmental History.

TUESDAYS, JANUARY 20 THROUGH FEBRUARY 24

9am AK | 10am PT | 11am MT | Noon CT | 1pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, January 20
- Tuesday, January 27
- Tuesday, February 3
- Tuesday, February 10
- Tuesday, February 17
- Tuesday, February 24

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

The History of American Television

This engaging, video-rich course tells the story of American television—from its 1920s origins to today's streaming era. We will explore decades of iconic shows, genres, and cultural moments that shaped the medium and its audiences. From sitcoms and dramas to news and sports, we will rediscover how TV evolved, adapted, and transformed American culture—one broadcast, cable channel, and streaming service at a time.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Jim McKairnes



Jim McKairnes is a former CBS Television executive who writes and teaches about television history. He has taught at DePaul, Temple, and Middle Tennessee State universities, and is the author of *All in the Decade*, a book on 1970s television. Since 2020, he has taught regularly for OLLI programs across the country and currently lives in Knoxville, Tennessee.

MONDAYS, JANUARY 26 THROUGH MARCH 2

11am AK | Noon PT | 1pm MT | 2pm CT | 3pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Monday, January 26
- Monday, February 2
- Monday, February 9
- Monday, February 16
- Monday, February 23
- Monday, March 2

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

The American Revolution Beyond the British Empire

This course reframes the American Revolution as a global event shaped by imperial rivalries and geopolitical forces. Each session focuses on a different group—Germans, French, Spaniards, South Asians, and others—revealing how their experiences intersected with the collapse of British rule in North America. By viewing the Revolution through a global lens, participants will uncover new perspectives on its causes, course, and consequences.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Rick Bell, PhD



Richard Bell, PhD, is Professor of History at the University of Maryland and author of *Stolen*, a finalist for the George Washington and Harriet Tubman Prizes. A National Endowment for the Humanities Public Scholar and Carnegie Fellow, he has held fellowships at Yale and Cambridge. His latest book, *The American Revolution and the Fate of the World*, was published in 2025.

SATURDAYS, JANUARY 17 THROUGH FEBRUARY 21

9am AK | 10am PT | 11am MT | Noon CT | 1pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Saturday, January 17
- Saturday, January 24
- Saturday, January 31
- Saturday, February 7
- Saturday, February 14
- Saturday, February 21

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

John James Audubon and the Birds of America

In the 1820s, John James Audubon set out to document every bird species in the US, resulting in *The Birds of America*, a landmark collection of 435 hand-painted prints. This course explores Audubon's life, artistic methods, and legacy, highlighting how his work bridges art and science. We will examine selected prints and consider his lasting impact on American natural history.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Eric Simon, PhD



Eric Simon, PhD, is a professor of Biology at New England College and holds a PhD in biochemistry from Harvard University. An avid traveler and award-winning nature photographer, he leads educational trips to destinations such as Belize, the Galapagos, Tanzania, Cuba, the Amazon River, and Patagonia. Simon is also the author of a best-selling series of college biology textbooks—used in over 40 countries—with more than 2 million copies in print.

THURSDAYS, JANUARY 22 THROUGH FEBRUARY 26

7am AK | 8am PT | 9am MT | 10am CT | 11am ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Thursday, January 22
- Thursday, January 29
- Thursday, February 5
- Thursday, February 12
- Thursday, February 19
- Thursday, February 26

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam: A Comparative Exploration

Explore the rituals, beliefs, and writings of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam through a comparative lens. This course examines where these Abrahamic religions overlap and diverge, offering insights into their shared monotheistic roots and unique traditions. We will read key texts from each faith and gain a deeper understanding of how these religions shape meaning, practice, and identity.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Jeremy Fackenthal, PhD



Jeremy Fackenthal, PhD, is an independent filmmaker and nonprofit director. He led the Common Good International Film Festival from 2019 to 2023 and holds a PhD in Philosophy of Religion and Theology from Claremont Graduate University. His work uses film to explore philosophical questions, including a short documentary on spoken word poetry and an upcoming feature-length film. He sees film as art, expression, and entertainment.

THURSDAYS, JANUARY 29 THROUGH MARCH 5

9am AK | 10am PT | 11am MT | Noon CT | 1pm ET

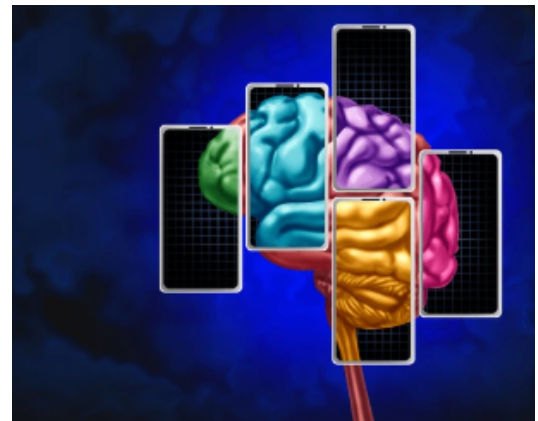
Each live session is 90 minutes

- Thursday, January 29
- Thursday, February 19
- Thursday, February 5
- Thursday, February 26
- Thursday, February 12
- Thursday, March 5

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

Brain and Behavior in the Era of Digital Technology

Explore how digital technologies and artificial intelligence affect the brain, behavior, and mental health. This course examines the impact of modern devices on attention, memory, emotions, and decision-making, while addressing ethical concerns like privacy and tech-based addictions. We will learn how neuroscience and psychology offer tools to support well-being in a rapidly evolving digital world.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Elena Labkovsky, PhD



Elena Labkovsky, PhD, is a neuroscientist and clinical neuropsychologist with over 30 years of experience in cognitive psychology and psychophysiology. She specializes in neurobehavioral modulation, integrating psychological, neuropsychological, and physiological approaches to support emotional and cognitive well-being. Her work focuses on how brain function shapes behavior and on developing innovative, research-based treatments for mental health challenges.

MONDAYS, JANUARY 26 THROUGH MARCH 2

7am AK | 8am PT | 9am MT | 10am CT | 11am ET

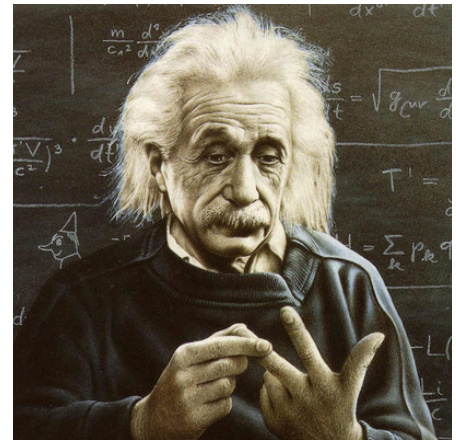
Each live session is 90 minutes

- Monday, January 26
- Monday, February 16
- Monday, February 2
- Monday, February 23
- Monday, February 9
- Monday, March 2

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

Einstein without Tears: His Theories Explained without Math and in Everyday Language

Explore the fascinating world of Albert Einstein's theories—no math or science background required. This course introduces key ideas like time travel, warped space, black holes, and gravitational waves, all in accessible terms. We will discover how modern science continues to confirm Einstein's predictions and why his work remains a source of wonder for both scientists and science fiction fans.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Andrew Fraknoi, MS



Andrew Fraknoi is the former chair of the astronomy department at Foothill College and now teaches noncredit astronomy courses at San Francisco State and the University of San Francisco. He is lead author of *OpenStax Astronomy*, the most widely used free introductory astronomy textbook in North America. Named California Professor of the Year in 2007, he frequently explains astronomy in everyday language on national radio programs. The International Astronomical Union named Asteroid 4859 Fraknoi in his honor as a recognition of his contributions to the public understanding of science. Learn more at <http://fraknoi.com>.

TUESDAYS, JANUARY 27 THROUGH MARCH 3

1pm AK | 2pm PT | 3pm MT | 4pm CT | 5pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, January 27
- Tuesday, February 3
- Tuesday, February 10
- Tuesday, February 17
- Tuesday, February 24
- Tuesday, March 3

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

The Magic Behind Film Scores: Exploring the Role of Music in Great Movies

Discover how film music enhances storytelling, sets mood and place, defines character, and blends styles—jazz, classical, pop—into powerful cinematic impressions. We will discuss how composers shape emotion across genres like drama, romance, comedy, sci-fi, and westerns. From *The Jazz Singer* to *James Bond*, we will trace the evolution of film scores, spotlighting legendary composers such as Bernard Herrmann, Ennio Morricone, and John Williams. Celebrate the artistry of film music and its lasting emotional impact.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Mike Agron



Born in LA's entertainment scene, Mike is a former high-tech exec and entrepreneur who now creates and delivers dynamic, story-driven seminars on music and entertainment. With a storyteller's eye and a DJ's ear, he's led 15 acclaimed seminar series, each spotlighting a different facet of music and entertainment, for the Sacramento Renaissance Society and national lifelong learning groups including OLLI, Osher Online, Encore Learning, and more.

WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 14 THROUGH FEBRUARY 18

1pm AK | 2pm PT | 3pm MT | 4pm CT | 5pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, January 14
- Wednesday, January 21
- Wednesday, January 28
- Wednesday, February 4
- Wednesday, February 11
- Wednesday, February 18

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

Using Google Workspace Tools with Confidence

This beginner-friendly course introduces Google Workspace tools like Drive, Gmail, Calendar, Docs, Sheets, and Slides. We will learn core features, basic navigation, and practical applications for personal and professional use. With guided instruction and real-world examples, the course builds confidence and foundational skills to boost productivity and collaboration.



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YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Chelsea King



Chelsea King is a learning and development specialist with more than a decade of experience in teaching and training. She began her career as a high school English teacher and now focuses on adult learners, especially in professional development and technology integration. Her approach emphasizes practical, collaborative learning experiences that reflect her commitment to accessible, tech-forward instruction in both educational and corporate settings.

WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 21 THROUGH FEBRUARY 25

3pm AK | 4pm PT | 5pm MT | 6pm CT | 7pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, January 21
- Wednesday, January 28
- Wednesday, February 4
- Wednesday, February 11
- Wednesday, February 18
- Wednesday, February 25

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

Heroes of the Holocaust: Lights in the Darkness

When we think of the Holocaust, we recall the horrors perpetrated by evildoers. Even in humanity's darkest hours, courageous individuals risked everything to save lives. This course sheds light on these little-known rescuers—ordinary people who defied laws, resisted hate, and acted with moral clarity and compassion. Their uplifting stories are powerful reminders of resilience, morality, and hope.



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YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Howard Kerner, BA, MA



Howard Kerner, BA, MA (SUNY Albany), is a retired English professor who spent 47 years teaching and publishing over 100 scholarly articles, primarily on the Holocaust. In retirement, he researches and shares the powerful stories of little-known Holocaust rescuers. Through his talks at lifelong learning programs, he highlights acts of extraordinary bravery and altruism—offering timely reminders of human goodness.

WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 14 THROUGH FEBRUARY 18

11am AK | Noon PT | 1pm MT | 2pm CT | 3pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, January 14
- Wednesday, January 21
- Wednesday, January 28
- Wednesday, February 4
- Wednesday, February 11
- Wednesday, February 18

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

History of Sicily

Sicily has been a mythic crossroads of heroes, conquerors, and culture for over 3,000 years. From Odysseus and the Arabo-Norman Golden Age to the Mafia and modern mythmakers like Garibaldi and Coppola, Sicily's story is rich, complex, and central to Western history. This course explores its pivotal role in shaping civilization—and why Goethe famously said, "To have seen Italy without having seen Sicily is not to have seen Italy at all."



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Douglas Kenning, PhD



Douglas Kenning, PhD (University of Edinburgh), is a writer, lecturer, and former professor of literature and history. He has taught in the U.S., Tunisia, Japan, and Italy. Now based in the San Francisco Bay Area and Sicily, he offers dynamic lectures on Mediterranean civilizations and leads small-group tours exploring history, myth, and culture.

MONDAYS, JANUARY 26 THROUGH MARCH 2

9am AK | 10am PT | 11am MT | Noon CT | 1pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Monday, January 26
- Monday, February 2
- Monday, February 9
- Monday, February 16
- Monday, February 23
- Monday, March 2

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

How the US Immigration System (Usually) Works

Immigration has always been a complex and emotional issue in US history. This course explores how the immigration system has evolved and how it works today. We will examine key questions about identity, belonging, and national responsibility while engaging in thoughtful, constructive conversations about the future of immigration policy in the United States.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Michele Waslin, PhD



Michele Waslin, PhD, is Assistant Director of the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities. She develops research initiatives, educational resources, and public programs focused on global migration, race, and ethnicity. Waslin brings extensive experience in immigration policy and public scholarship, helping connect academic research with broader conversations on migration in the United States and beyond.

FRIDAYS, JANUARY 16 THROUGH FEBRUARY 20

7am AK | 8am PT | 9am MT | 10am CT | 11am ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Friday, January 16
- Friday, January 23
- Friday, January 30
- Friday, February 6
- Friday, February 13
- Friday, February 20

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

Invisible Intelligence: The Unseen Algorithms Reshaping Your Daily Life

Artificial Intelligence (AI) shapes our daily lives in subtle yet powerful ways. In this non-technical course, we will explore six case studies that reveal how AI systems work, the ethics behind machine decision-making, and the impact of these technologies on our world. We will gain a deeper understanding of AI's current influence—and the possibilities ahead.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Eliot Bethke



Eliot Bethke is a PhD candidate in computational bioengineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He previously worked in research and development at several Midwest start-ups, focusing on product design and manufacturing. After running a summer internship program, he shifted his focus to education and now shares his expertise in hardware and software development with future engineers.

THURSDAYS, JANUARY 15 THROUGH FEBRUARY 19

1pm AK | 2pm PT | 3pm MT | 4pm CT | 5pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Thursday, January 15
- Thursday, January 22
- Thursday, January 29
- Thursday, February 5
- Thursday, February 12
- Thursday, February 19

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

Landscape & Adventure Photography: An Introduction

This workshop will introduce participants to the skills and techniques used to create professional quality images of their adventures in the natural world. Topics will include controlling exposure, using depth of field, motion effects, the principles of visual communication, and the qualities of natural light. The course will incorporate slide-illustrated lectures, group discussions, and ample time for student feedback.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Jonathan Duncan



Jonathan Duncan is a photojournalist, writer, teacher, and public speaker with more than 25 years of experience. His work has been published in *National Geographic*, *The Himalayan Journal*, *Sailing*, *Rock and Ice*, and by the University of Utah Press. He has taught at the Art Institute of Portland, Western Washington University, Westminster University, and the University of Utah's Osher Institute. His work explores humanity's complex relationship with the natural world, often in remote landscapes and cultures.

MONDAYS, JANUARY 26 THROUGH MARCH 2

11am AK | Noon PT | 1pm MT | 2pm CT | 3pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Monday, January 26
- Monday, February 2
- Monday, February 9
- Monday, February 16
- Monday, February 23
- Monday, March 2

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

Milestones in Medicine

This course highlights transformative milestones in medicine from the 18th century to today, beginning with Jenner's smallpox vaccine. We will explore key medical and public health advances, the innovators behind them, and the profound effects these breakthroughs have had on longevity and quality of life. The course offers a compelling look at how science and clinical care have worked together to reshape health outcomes over the past two centuries.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Gordon Josephson, MD, MPH



Gordon Josephson, MD, MPH, is a retired emergency physician and former Chief Operating Officer of Baystate Medical Practices in Springfield, Massachusetts. He holds a Master of Public Health from Harvard University and a medical degree from the State University of New York. Dr. Josephson remains active in the lifelong learning community and currently serves as president of the OLLI Board of Directors.

WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 14 THROUGH FEBRUARY 18

7am AK | 8am PT | 9am MT | 10am CT | 11am ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, January 14
- Wednesday, January 21
- Wednesday, January 28
- Wednesday, February 4
- Wednesday, February 11
- Wednesday, February 18

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

The Noir Novel: Three American Classics

Explore the noir novel through Dashiell Hammett's *The Maltese Falcon*, Raymond Chandler's *The Big Sleep*, and Sara Paretsky's *Indemnity Only*. From hardboiled detectives navigating gritty cityscapes to Paretsky's feminist reimagining of the genre, this course traces the evolution of noir fiction. Film clips from classic adaptations will highlight the genre's impact on both literature and cinema.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Peter Kaye, PhD



Peter Kaye, PhD, is a retired faculty member from Northwestern University, where he combined administrative and teaching roles. He earned his doctorate in English literature and humanities from Stanford University, and his research led to the publication of *Dostoevsky and English Modernism* by Cambridge University Press. Over nearly 40 years in higher education, he taught a wide range of literature and interdisciplinary courses, with a focus on 19th- and 20th-century fiction. Now teaching online, he remains committed to lively, engaging instruction.

TUESDAYS, JANUARY 20 THROUGH FEBRUARY 24

7am AK | 8am PT | 9am MT | 10am CT | 11am ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, January 20
- Tuesday, January 27
- Tuesday, February 3
- Tuesday, February 10
- Tuesday, February 17
- Tuesday, February 24

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

Osher Integrative Health: Navigating Chronic Illness in a Complex Healthcare System

This course, presented in partnership with the Osher Collaborative for Integrative Health, features expert speakers from their upcoming national conference, *Navigating Chronic Illness in a Complex Healthcare System*. Through engaging presentations and discussions, participants will explore how integrative health approaches can address the challenges of living with chronic conditions and help individuals make informed choices within today's increasingly complex healthcare environment. Topics will focus on whole-person care, patient empowerment, and practical strategies for managing long-term health concerns.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

The Osher Collaborative for Integrative Health is a national network of academic health centers dedicated to advancing whole-person care. Through clinical innovation, research, and education, the Collaborative promotes evidence-based approaches that combine conventional and complementary therapies to support physical, emotional, and social well-being.

FRIDAYS, JANUARY 30 THROUGH MARCH 6

11am AK | Noon PT | 1pm MT | 2pm CT | 3pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Friday, January 30
- Friday, February 20
- Friday, February 6
- Friday, February 27
- Friday, February 13
- Friday, March 6

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

Pharmaceuticals and Poisons: Chemistry at the Edge

Some substances heal, others harm—and some do both. This chemistry-rich (but non-technical) course explores the fine line between pharmaceuticals and poisons. We will examine drug development, venom-inspired medicine, and the history of FDA regulation shaped by scandal and reform. From aspirin's industrial roots to Gila monster hormones, participants will uncover the fascinating, sometimes unsettling chemistry behind what we choose to swallow.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Johnnie Hendrickson, PhD



Johnnie Hendrickson, PhD, is a Teaching Professor in the School of Molecular Sciences at Arizona State University. He holds a PhD in chemistry and is the author of the textbook *Chemistry in the World*. His academic work centers on science communication and the reciprocal relationship between science and society.

THURSDAYS, JANUARY 22 THROUGH FEBRUARY 26

11am AK | Noon PT | 1pm MT | 2pm CT | 3pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Thursday, January 22
- Thursday, January 29
- Thursday, February 5
- Thursday, February 12
- Thursday, February 19
- Thursday, February 26

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

Post Impressionism and the Birth of Abstraction

This course explores Post-Impressionism's bold departure from naturalistic light and color, focusing on the expressive use of form, symbolism, and vivid, often unnatural color. Through the work of Cézanne, van Gogh, Gauguin, Seurat, and Matisse, we will trace the movement's challenge to artistic norms and social values—laying the foundation for modern art and redefining the artist's role in society.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Lauren Weingarden



Lauren Weingarden is Professor Emerita of Art History at Florida State University. Her work explores the intersections of literature and visual art in 19th-century culture, focusing on figures like architect Louis Sullivan, Charles Baudelaire, and Édouard Manet. She has published widely and developed an embodied aesthetic model that helps viewers re-experience artists' encounters with modernity and nature's transience—an approach that informs her teaching on Impressionism.

MONDAYS, JANUARY 26 THROUGH MARCH 2

1pm AK | 2pm PT | 3pm MT | 4pm CT | 5pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Monday, January 26
- Monday, February 2
- Monday, February 9
- Monday, February 16
- Monday, February 23
- Monday, March 2

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

Dealing in Futures: The Shape of Science Fiction

From pulp origins to mainstream dominance, science fiction has evolved into a powerful storytelling form that explores new worlds, ideas, and ways of thinking. This course traces the genre's growth over two centuries, distinguishing it from fantasy and myth, and highlighting key authors who shaped its direction. We will discover how science fiction reflects cultural change and reimagines the future.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Gary Wolfe



Gary Wolfe is emeritus professor of humanities at Roosevelt University and a critic for Locus magazine. He is the author of *Evaporating Genres* and editor of *American Science Fiction* volumes for the Library of America. Wolfe has received multiple awards, including a Hugo and a Ditmar for *The Coode Street Podcast*, which he co-hosts with Jonathan Strahan.

TUESDAYS, JANUARY 20 THROUGH FEBRUARY 24

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Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, January 20
- Tuesday, January 27
- Tuesday, February 3
- Tuesday, February 20
- Tuesday, February 17
- Tuesday, February 24

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

Japanese History through the Lens of *Shōgun*

Inspired by the 2024 FX mini-series *Shōgun*, this course explores Japan's transition from civil war to peace between the 15th and 18th centuries. We will examine the rise of key unifiers, the roles of diverse social groups (like merchants, peasants, women, and outcasts), and the era's political, cultural, and artistic shifts. For fans of the series or those new to Japanese history, this course offers a rich, accessible introduction.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Megan McClory



Megan McClory is a doctoral candidate in history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research explores sword restrictions in early modern Japan and their role in shaping peace and power. A Global Research Fellow at Kokugakuin University, she has spent years living and studying in Japan and holds a BA from Brandeis University.

TUESDAYS, JANUARY 20 THROUGH FEBRUARY 24

3pm AK | 4pm PT | 5pm MT | 6pm CT | 7pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, January 20
- Tuesday, January 27
- Tuesday, February 3
- Tuesday, February 10
- Tuesday, February 17
- Tuesday, February 24

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

The Virtues

Virtue theory asks not just how to do good, but how to be good. This course explores timeless questions of character through the lens of thinkers like Aristotle, Jesus, the Buddha, and Confucius. We will reflect on key virtues—such as honesty, courage, compassion, and respect—and consider practical ways to cultivate them in daily life. The full series may be taught as two separate courses.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: David Smith, PhD



David Smith, PhD, is a scholar of religion and philosophy who was raised in a fundamentalist tradition and later became a progressive skeptic. He holds graduate degrees in philosophy of religion and religious studies from Temple University. A former professor at Central Washington University, he now teaches independent seminars and has published widely. His work empowers others to think critically about life's big questions.

WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 14 THROUGH FEBRUARY 18

9am AK | 10am PT | 11am MT | Noon CT | 1pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, January 14
- Wednesday, January 21
- Wednesday, January 28
- Wednesday, February 4
- Wednesday, February 11
- Wednesday, February 18

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.



Osher Online™

in collaboration with Northwestern University
School of Professional Studies

Winter 2026
Jan. 14 - Mar. 6, 2026

Each course is \$50.00.*

** Scholarships not available for Osher Online classes.*

Current OLLI membership is required. *(Term enrollment not required.)*

Offered live on Zoom only. *(Classes will NOT be recorded.)*

Classes will be hosted by staff of Osher NRC/Northwestern University staff.

Registration open
November 3 - January 1

Register online at <https://wvusph-olli.augusoft.net/>

or by calling the OLLI at WVU office
at 304-293-1793.

Osher Online was created by the Osher National Resource Center (NRC) at Northwestern University to expand member access, institute collaboration, sharing of resources, and to ensure the legacy of the Osher Institutes.