



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.

- 17 courses, including 4 offered at or 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
Jan. 16 - Mar. 15**

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.**

Spring 2026

Mar. 30 - May 26, 2026

A Beautiful Brain

A History of Street Art

AI for Regular People

California Uncovered: A Journey Through Time, Place, and Identity

Comic Book Literature

Frank Lloyd Wright and Modern Architecture

From Leo XIII to Leo XIV: History of 20th and 21st Century Popes

Ghosts in the White House: The People Behind Presidential Speeches

Great Science Stories

JFK's Quest for Peace: Lessons for Turbulent Times

Music: Controversies and Curiosities

Place, Memory, and Environmental Psychology

Siberia: Russia's Frozen Wasteland or Economic Heartland?

The Lost Generation

The Scopes Monkey Trial: Then and Now

Violinists: Performers and Composers

Writing the Personal Essay: Finding Your Story

A Beautiful Brain

Most conversations about aging focus on lifespan, but brainspan (how long our mind stays sharp) matters more. In this course, we will explore how the brain ages and what science reveals about protecting memory, balance, and clarity. Topics include normal changes versus early dementia, neuroplasticity, nutrition, sleep, stress, social ties, and purpose. Each session blends accessible science with self-tests and take-home practices. We will also build a personalized Cognitive Health Scorecard to track habits and strengthen resilience.



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

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Scott Fulton



Scott Fulton is recognized internationally as a “Redefiner” in the positive aging space. Accustomed to big systems engineering challenges, Fulton focuses his research on improving adult aging outcomes. He teaches Lifestyle Medicine and Aging, is an American College of Lifestyle Medicine member, sits on the prestigious True Health Initiative Council, and is past president of the National Aging in Place Council. His critically acclaimed book, *WHEALTHSPAN, More Years, More Moments, More Money*, hit #1 on Amazon, and he is known for creating the MEDAC system for optimal aging. Fulton is a multiple Ironman triathlete and lives in a demonstration home he recently designed and built for the future of optimal aging across a lifespan.

THURSDAYS, APRIL 9 THROUGH MAY 14

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

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Thursday, April 9
- Thursday, April 16
- Thursday, April 23
- Thursday, April 30
- Thursday, May 7
- Thursday, May 14

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

A History of Street Art

Art in the streets (including graffiti, murals, stickers, and paste-ups) gives voice to marginalized communities, shapes urban environments, and challenges institutional norms. This course explores graffiti and street art in the U.S. and around the world, examining their histories, motivations, and social impact. Participants will consider the rise of global mural movements, efforts to preserve and present street art, and its evolving role in activism, community identity, and social change.



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

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Heather Shirey, PhD



Heather Shirey, PhD, is a Professor of Art History at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. Her research explores race and identity, migration and diasporas, and the role of monuments, memorials, and street art in shaping public space. As part of the Urban Art Mapping team, she co-created the George Floyd and Anti-Racist Street Art Database. Her work examines how street art documents collective experience and functions as activism, healing, and critical engagement.

WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 1 THROUGH MAY 6

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

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, April 1
- Wednesday, April 8
- Wednesday, April 15
- Wednesday, April 22
- Wednesday, April 29
- Wednesday, May 6

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

AI for Regular People

Back by popular demand, this updated course offers a clear, engaging introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how it's rapidly transforming our world. From self-driving cars to chatbots and precision medicine, we will explore how AI works, where it's headed, and what it means for society. No tech experience needed—just curiosity! With fresh examples and timely updates, participants will gain a solid understanding of the opportunities and challenges AI presents today.



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YOUR INSTRUCTORS: Hod Lipson, PhD & Melba Kurman



Dr. Hod Lipson

This course is co-taught by Hod Lipson, PhD, Professor of Engineering and Data Science at Columbia University, and author and technology analyst Melba Kurman. Dr. Lipson directs Columbia's Creative Machines Lab, where his team builds artificially intelligent robots that can design, create, and express emotion. One of the world's most-cited academic roboticists, his work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *NPR*, *TED*, and *Quanta*. Melba Kurman has held roles at Microsoft, Cornell University, and several tech startups. She writes about emerging technologies and their societal impact. Together, they co-authored *Driverless* and *Fabricated: The Promise and Peril of 3D Printing*, and are frequent speakers on AI and innovation. They divide their time between New York City and the Berkshires.



Melba Kurman

THURSDAYS, APRIL 2 THROUGH MAY 7

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

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Thursday, April 2
- Thursday, April 9
- Thursday, April 16
- Thursday, April 23
- Thursday, April 30
- Thursday, May 7

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

California Uncovered: A Journey Through Time, Place, and Identity

California is more than a state—it is an idea, a dream, and a contradiction. In this course, we will journey from its earliest Indigenous cultures through Spanish, Mexican, and American rule, exploring missions, the Gold Rush, the railroad, Hollywood, and Silicon Valley. We will challenge myths, highlight overlooked voices, and examine how migration, innovation, and cultural change shaped the Golden State. We will discover what it has meant, and still means, to be Californian.



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YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Anthony Antonucci, PhD



Anthony Antonucci, PhD, is a historian whose teaching and scholarship explore the intersections of foreign relations, nationalism, race, and immigration policy in U.S. history since 1750. A Fulbright fellow, Antonucci has also held research appointments at the Massachusetts Historical Society, the American Antiquarian Society, and the University of Connecticut Humanities Institute. He teaches courses in U.S., world, and California history, as well as African American, Latinx, and women's studies at colleges across Southern California, including Cal Poly Pomona, the University of La Verne, and Citrus College.

FRIDAYS, APRIL 10 THROUGH MAY 15

Noon PT | 1pm MT | 2pm CT | 3pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Friday, April 10
- Friday, April 17
- Friday, April 24
- Friday, May 1
- Friday, May 8
- Friday, May 15

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

Comic Book Literature

Comics (blending words and pictures to tell stories) stretch from cave paintings and the Bayeux Tapestry to today's Batman and Spider-Man. Far more than superhero tales, comics are a versatile literary artform, capturing intimate and epic stories, social issues, and cultural moments through panels and word balloons. In this course, we will trace their history, explore their power, and read and discuss works including *Understanding Comics*, *Watchmen*, *Maus*, *Fun Home*, and *Persepolis*.



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

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Arnold Blumberg, PhD



Arnold Blumberg, PhD, is a publisher, author, artist, and pop culture historian. He has taught courses in media literacy and other cultural topics at University of Baltimore and other Baltimore colleges. Blumberg spent fifteen years in the comic book industry, curated a pop culture museum, and currently runs his own publishing company, ATB Publishing.

TUESDAYS, MARCH 31 THROUGH MAY 5

Noon PT | 1pm MT | 2pm CT | 3pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, March 31
- Tuesday, April 7
- Tuesday, April 14
- Tuesday, April 21
- Tuesday, April 28
- Tuesday, May 5

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

Frank Lloyd Wright and Modern Architecture

Frank Lloyd Wright designed nearly 1,000 buildings and helped define modern architecture. This course explores highlights of his practice, from Prairie houses to *Fallingwater* and the Guggenheim Museum, alongside lesser-known projects like affordable housing and city planning. We'll examine how Wright's work reflected cultural shifts in technology, science, and politics, offering a deeper understanding of his lasting influence on architecture and modern design.



Credit: Courtesy of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.
Credit: Andrew Pielage

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YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Jennifer Gray, PhD



Jennifer Gray, PhD, is vice president of the Taliesin Institute at the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation. Her research explores how modern architects used design to advance social change at the turn of the 20th century. She has curated major exhibitions, including *Frank Lloyd Wright at 150* at MoMA and *The Imperial Hotel at 100*, which toured Japan. Gray has taught at Columbia, Cornell, and MoMA, and formerly served as Curator of Drawings and Archives at Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library.

TUESDAYS, APRIL 21 THROUGH MAY 26

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

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, April 21
- Tuesday, April 28
- Tuesday, May 5
- Tuesday, May 12
- Tuesday, May 19
- Tuesday, May 26

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

From Leo XIII to Leo XIV: History of 20th and 21st Century Popes

The death of Pope Francis and the election of the first US born Pope have been in the news repeatedly in the last few months, capturing the imagination of many people, including non-Catholics. Who are these men? What are their life stories? How were they similar to and different from each other? In this course, we will discuss the lives and dominant perspectives of the last ten Popes, exploring their most significant positions and their influence on world affairs.



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YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Oliva Espín, PhD



Oliva Espín, PhD, is Professor Emerita of Women's Studies at San Diego State University and the California School of Professional Psychology. She completed her postdoctoral work at Harvard and is a pioneer in feminist therapy with women from diverse cultural backgrounds. Her recent books include *Women, Sainthood, and Power: A Feminist Psychology of Cultural Constructions* and *My Native Land is Memory: Stories of a Cuban Childhood* (2021 San Diego Book Award). She received APA's Outstanding Lifetime Contributions to Psychology Award.

TUESDAYS, APRIL 7 THROUGH MAY 12

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

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, April 7
- Tuesday, April 14
- Tuesday, April 21
- Tuesday, April 28
- Tuesday, May 5
- Tuesday, May 12

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

Ghosts in the White House: The People Behind Presidential Speeches

Have you ever wondered who writes presidential speeches? This course traces the evolution of speechwriting from George Washington's administration to today. Yes, Hamilton helped draft Washington's Farewell Address, but no, Lincoln did not scribble the Gettysburg Address on an envelope. We will study the writing process presidents used and examine drafts from FDR, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Carter, and George H.W. Bush. We will view clips from speeches and from former White House speechwriters describing the process.



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YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Diana Carlin, PhD



Diana Carlin, PhD is Professor Emerita of communication at Saint Louis University. For 30 years, she has taught courses on and written about First Ladies. She is the co-author of *U.S. First Ladies: Making History and Leaving Legacies* and *Remember the First Ladies: America's History-Making Women*. Carlin has published articles and book chapters on a variety of First Ladies and researches and writes on the topics of women in politics, presidential communication, and political debate.

MONDAYS, MARCH 30 THROUGH MAY 4

Noon PT | 1pm MT | 2pm CT | 3pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Monday, March 30
- Monday, April 6
- Monday, April 13
- Monday, April 20
- Monday, April 27
- Monday, May 4

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

Great Science Stories

Science is full of surprises. Dyes, accidentally discovered, launched the modern pharmaceutical industry. A failed experiment opened the door to new physics. Discoveries are never just facts. They are moments of creativity, struggle, and chance with far-reaching consequences. In this course, we will explore the human side of science, tracing breakthroughs in biology, chemistry, physics, and more. We will ask not only what was found, but how and why it matters.



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

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Johnnie Hendrickson, PhD



Dr. Johnnie Hendrickson 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 focuses on science communication, the reciprocal relationship between science and society.

THURSDAYS, APRIL 9 THROUGH MAY 14

Noon PT | 1pm MT | 2pm CT | 3pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Thursday, April 9
- Thursday, April 16
- Thursday, April 23
- Thursday, April 30
- Thursday, May 7
- Thursday, May 14

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

JFK's Quest for Peace: Lessons for Turbulent Times

Throughout his 1000-day presidency, John Kennedy pursued peace through a broad spectrum of initiatives. He saw a connection between learning and leadership and sought to use military deterrence, diplomacy, and soft power in novel ways. In this course, we will explore how his character and life experiences were the origins of those efforts. We will evaluate his powers of persuasion by listening to key speeches, and we will assess his successes and failures and their relevance to today's world.



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YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Charles Blum



Charles Blum served as a US diplomat and trade policy official for 17 years before launching a consulting firm that operated in Washington DC and Central Europe. He has developed more than four dozen courses focusing on global politics, war and peace, and international cooperation. He earned degrees in history from Eastern University and in international relations from the University of Pennsylvania.

THURSDAYS, APRIL 2 THROUGH MAY 7

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

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Thursday, April 2
- Thursday, April 9
- Thursday, April 16
- Thursday, April 23
- Thursday, April 30
- Thursday, May 7

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

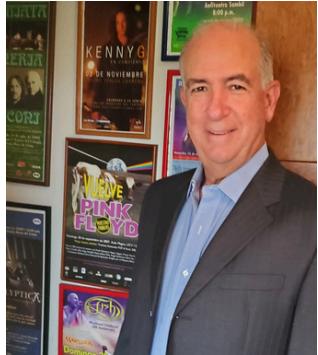
Music: Controversies and Curiosities

Music has long provoked debate, from Beethoven and Stravinsky's bold innovations to Broadway works like *Annie Get Your Gun* and *South Pacific*, now revisited through modern concerns about race, consent, and gender. Is political correctness enriching art or erasing cultural heritage? We will also examine plagiarism and borrowing in pop and film music, with cases involving The Beatles, Pink Floyd, and Peter Frampton. This course blends audiovisuals, anecdotes, and humor to explore music's most controversial moments.



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

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Emanuel Abramovits, MBA



Emanuel Abramovits, MBA, is a mechanical engineer and has also been a concert promoter for over two decades. He is directly involved in events by international artists like Itzhak Perlman, Gustavo Dudamel, Sarah Brightman, Roger Hodgson, ASIA, Journey, Kenny G., and many more. Abramovits has designed and staged many original orchestral events, including an Event of the Year winner and several world premieres. He served as the cultural director at Union Israelita De Caracas from 2008 to 2019, releasing books and organizing film cycles, concerts, and art exhibits. He consistently teaches online and in-person across the US.

WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 15 THROUGH MAY 20

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

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, April 15
- Wednesday, April 22
- Wednesday, April 29
- Wednesday, May 6
- Wednesday, May 13
- Wednesday, May 20

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

Place, Memory, and Environmental Psychology

How much of who we are is shaped by the places we live and experience? This course invites reflection on the psychological and emotional relationships between people and their environments. Drawing on psychology, geography, architecture, and design, we will explore environmental psychology and how physical environments shape behavior, cognition, identity, and memory. Using place-based methods, we will discuss concepts such as place attachment, identity, and cognitive maps. We will reflect on memory, home, trauma, displacement, and nature's role in well-being.



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YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Fernanda Blanco Vidal



Fernanda Blanco Vidal is a PhD Candidate in Environmental Psychology at the Graduate Center, CUNY. She holds degrees in Psychology and Sociology from the Federal University of Bahia, where she published *Nostalgia, but not Sadness – Psychology, Memory and Forced Displacement*. Her dissertation explores how people's sense of place shifted during the COVID-19 pandemic. With over a decade of higher education experience in Brazil and the US, she develops place-based methodologies linking psychology, memory, and displacement.

TUESDAYS, APRIL 7 THROUGH MAY 12

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

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, April 7
- Tuesday, April 14
- Tuesday, April 21
- Tuesday, April 28
- Tuesday, May 5
- Tuesday, May 12

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

Siberia: Russia's Frozen Wasteland or Economic Heartland?

Siberia covers three quarters of Russia's territory but is home to only a quarter of its population. Yet its role in shaping Russia as a vast and wealthy empire is profound. In this course, we will explore Siberia's economic significance, indigenous cultures, and history as a penal colony, along with its importance for climate change, environmental issues, and Russian-Chinese relations. We will also consider Siberia's role in both the rise and possible fragmentation of Russia.



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YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Asya Pereltsvaig, PhD



Asya Pereltsvaig received a degree in English and History from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a PhD in Linguistics from McGill University. She taught at Yale and Stanford, and has been teaching in lifelong education programs since 2010. Her expertise is in language and history, and the relationship between them. Her most recent book, *Languages of the World: An Introduction, 4th edition* (2023) was published by Cambridge University Press. Asya is a popular instructor for several OLLI programs around the country and was the faculty host for the OLLI trip to the Baltic countries and St. Petersburg in July 2017.

WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 1 THROUGH MAY 5

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

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, April 1
- Wednesday, April 8
- Wednesday, April 15
- Wednesday, April 22
- Wednesday, April 29
- Wednesday, May 5

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

The Lost Generation

This course will examine the cultural transformations in thinking and living that reshaped America and Western Europe between World War I and the Great Depression. Known as the Roaring Twenties, the Jazz Age, and the Lost Generation, this period redefined values and norms. We will explore the vibrant world of 1920s Paris through F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Babylon Revisited* and *Bernice Bobs Her Hair*, Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*, and Gertrude Stein's *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*, considering the lasting legacy of the era.



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

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Ferdâ Asya, PhD



Ferdâ Asya, PhD, Professor of English, has taught at universities worldwide and lived in Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and the Middle East. Specializing in 19th–20th century American literature with a focus on Edith Wharton, her interests include international literature and American expatriate writing in Europe. She has published widely on authors from Achebe to Stein and edited *American Writers in Paris: Then and Now* (2025), *Teaching Edith Wharton's Major Novels and Short Fiction* (2021), and *American Writers in Europe* (2013).

WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 15 THROUGH MAY 20

Noon PT | 1pm MT | 2pm CT | 3pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, April 15
- Wednesday, April 22
- Wednesday, April 29
- Wednesday, May 6
- Wednesday, May 13
- Wednesday, May 20

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

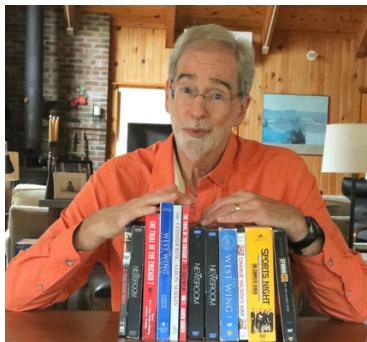
The Scopes Monkey Trial: Then and Now

In July 1925, Clarence Darrow, William Jennings Bryan, and others converged on Dayton, Tennessee, for the Scopes Monkey Trial—an eight-day clash over religion, science, public education, free speech, and textbooks broadcast nationwide. One hundred years later, these debates continue. This course explores why the trial happened in Dayton, how Bryan and Darrow became involved, what occurred in the courtroom, whether *Inherit the Wind* reflects reality, who won and lost, and why it still matters today.



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

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Douglas Mishkin, JD



Doug Mishkin, an experienced trial lawyer, partnered with Americans United for Separation of Church and State to foster dialogue in Dayton, TN, site of the Scopes Monkey Trial. He has interviewed Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Edward J. Larson (*Summer for the Gods*), civil rights attorney Fred Gray, and George Washington Law Professor Jeffrey Rosen, president of the National Constitution Center, along with other distinguished lawyers and historians on law, history, and constitutional issues.

TUESDAYS, MARCH 31 THROUGH MAY 5

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

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, March 31
- Tuesday, April 7
- Tuesday, April 14
- Tuesday, April 21
- Tuesday, April 28
- Tuesday, May 5

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

Violinists: Performers and Composers

Why do so many great violinists also become composers? This course will explore the fascinating legacy of violinist-composers, including Baroque virtuosos like Heinrich Biber, Romantic legends like Niccolò Paganini, and 20th century innovators like George Enescu and Grazyna Bacewicz. Through listening and discussing, we will examine how these artists wrote music tailored to their instruments and themselves. Taught by a professional violinist, this course offers a behind-the-strings look at how performance and composition intertwine.



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

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Ilana Zaks



Ilana Zaks, professional violinist, educator, and multidisciplinary artist, is First Violin with the Seattle Symphony and Seattle Opera. A graduate of the New England Conservatory and Yale School of Music, she studied under renowned violinists Donald Weilerstein and Ani Kavafian and spent nearly a decade working with Itzhak Perlman through the Perlman Music Program. Recently appointed to the Boston University Tanglewood Institute faculty, Zaks is passionate about connecting audiences to music through storytelling, performance, and dialogue.

MONDAYS, APRIL 6 THROUGH MAY 11

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

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Monday, April 6
- Monday, April 13
- Monday, April 20
- Monday, April 27
- Monday, May 4
- Monday, May 11

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

Writing the Personal Essay: Finding Your Story

The personal essay, one of the oldest forms of creative nonfiction, blends storytelling, reflection, and analysis to give voice to lived experience. In this course, we will explore the personal essay as both art and self-expression. Through readings, discussion, and writing exercises, we will study elements such as narrative arc, scene-setting, and reflection. We will draft our own essays, discovering how this enduring form helps us find our voices and tell our stories with clarity.



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

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Lisa Stolley, PhD



Lisa Stolley, professor of English at the University of Illinois Chicago and Northwestern University, is a published fiction author. Her short stories have appeared in numerous literary journals, earning an Illinois Arts Council Award, a Pushcart Prize nomination, and first prizes from the Washington Review and Georgia State Review. Her nonfiction has been published in *Today's Chicago Woman* and the *Chicago Reader*. Stolley teaches scientific writing at UIC's School of Public Health and is a legal writer for immigration attorneys.

SATURDAYS, APRIL 18 THROUGH MAY 23

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

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Saturday, April 18
- Saturday, April 25
- Saturday, May 2
- Saturday, May 9
- Saturday, May 16
- Saturday, May 23

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.



West Virginia University®



Osher Online™

in collaboration with Northwestern University
School of Professional Studies

Spring 2026
March 30 - May 26, 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
January 16 - March 16

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.