



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Emory Continuing Education

SEPTEMBER

Monday

VIVO ONLINE STRENGTH AND BALANCE CLASSES

Instructor: Impactive Inc. **DOW:** Monday

Dates: 9/28/2026-11/16/2026 **Wks:** 8

Times: 9:00 AM-11:00 AM **Method:** Online

Maintaining muscle strength and balance is essential for preserving health and independence as we age. Without strength training, older adults often experience a decline in muscle tone, which can affect mobility and balance. Vivo is an interactive, live online strength-building course tailored to your individual fitness level, designed to help you improve physical fitness through a focus on strength, balance, and cognitive exercises. Classes are small, ensuring personalized attention, and are led by certified personal trainers with expertise in working with older adults. These trainers provide modified exercises to accommodate each participant's specific fitness needs. Vivo offers two 45-minute sessions per week and includes one-on-one assessments before the course starts to establish a baseline of your abilities. At the end of the program, a final assessment will track your progress and results. Whether you're new to exercise or already have an established routine, Vivo is designed to help you achieve your fitness goals and enhance your overall well-being. Vivo is an online program, where you will pick the class day and time that works best for your schedule. Before the first days of class, Team Vivo will reach out and schedule your baseline assessment.

Chair Yoga Monday

Instructor: Nutan Ahuja **DOW:** Monday

Dates: 9/7/2026-9/28/2026 **Wks:** 4

Times: 10:00 AM-11:00 AM **Method:** Online

Chair Yoga is a way to Sit Your Way to Better Health. Chair yoga therapeutic adaptive exercises work your body from head to toe. The simple and easy movements are great for people in any condition, to do anytime and anywhere. Chair Yoga promotes well-being through breathing correctly and stretching in ways that will open up your body on the path to peace.

We Are All Creative

Instructor: Deborah Butler **DOW:** Tuesday

Dates: 9/1/2026-9/22/2026 **Wks:** 4

Times: 10:00 AM-11:00 AM **Method:** Classroom

We are all creative. We begin with this fundamental truth. We will call on neuroscience and psychological studies relating to creativity to help us better understand what creativity can mean to you personally. We will examine how being more intentionally creative will support your core health across your life and especially in your senior years. This class is designed to inform, entertain, and inspire.

Ancient Rome's Sexual Politics and Today's Misogyny

Instructor: Victoria Alvear **DOW:** Tuesday

Dates: 9/8/2026-9/29/2026 **Wks:** 4

Times: 10:00 AM-11:00 AM **Method:** Hyflex

The tenets of today's sexual politics and purity cultures were set in motion in ancient Rome, hundreds of years before Christianity. A four-week exploration of how attitudes toward women, sex, power, and purity shaped the Roman worldview. We will cover Rome's unique understanding of and attempt to control women's autonomy by analyzing its foundational myths, including the story of the original virgin mother—the Vestal Virgin, Rhea—who gave birth to Romulus and Remus after being

impregnated by the god of war, Mars. From the importance of Vestal Virgins' purity to the nation-states' sense of safety, to Rome's reactions to powerful women rulers such as Boudicca, Cleopatra, and Zenobia, this course takes a fascinating deep dive into the ways the tenets of our modern misogyny are an outgrowth of the ideas, stories, and myths of ancient Rome.

[Broadway Beyond Sondheim: Breaking New Ground in Musicals of the 2020s](#)

Instructor: Bill Nigut **DOW:** Tuesday

Dates: 9/8/2026-9/22/2026 **Wks:** 3

Times: 11:30 AM-1:00 PM **Method:** Hyflex

Bill Nigut explores new musicals that have appeared on Broadway in the mid-2020s. Some break new ground in subject matter (The Lost Boys, a musical about teenage vampires), some completely transform a hit from the past (Cats: The Jellicle Ball), and some are a return to the feel good musicals of past eras (Schmigadoon).

[The Geography Behind the Headlines](#)

Instructor: June Converse **DOW:** Tuesday

Dates: 9/8/2026-9/29/2026 **Wks:** 4

Times: 11:30 AM-1:00 PM **Method:** Classroom

Why do nations act the way they do? Why are some regions locked in conflict while others thrive? The answers often lie not in politics alone-but in geography. In this engaging and eye-opening class inspired by Prisoners of Geography by Tim Marshall, we'll explore how mountains, rivers, deserts, and coastlines quietly-but powerfully-shape global events, national strategies, and the balance of power. Together, we'll take a guided journey across key regions of the world-including Russia, China, the Middle East, Europe, Africa, and the United States-to uncover how geography influences everything from war and peace to trade, culture, and economic development.

[Let's Discuss Topics We Disagree On: Week Course](#)

Instructor: Alice Huang **DOW:** Tuesday

Dates: 9/8/2026-9/29/2026 **Wks:** 4

Times: 1:30 PM-3:00 PM **Method:** Classroom

This course is for those who have already participated in any of the previous courses Alice Huang has led for OLLI and are familiar with the approach introduced in "How Can We Discuss Topics We Disagree On?". These discussion workshops used to be packaged in series of four, but are now being offered as separate one-day courses, to make it more convenient for you to register for however many you wish to participate in, on whichever dates work for you. Each week, we will try to engage constructively on a different topic, to gain insights from those we disagree with, and to build our understanding and skills for having these conversations. Topics we've tackled in the past include questions related to current events, immigration, social services, and AI.

[Of Castles and Chimeras: The Gothic in Transatlantic Literature in English](#)

Instructor: Gautam Kundo **DOW:** Wednesday

Dates: 9/9/2026-9/30/2026 **Wks:** 4

Times: 10:00 AM-11:00 AM **Method:** Hyflex

From crumbling monasteries and crafty priests, to bleeding nuns and fake hauntings, gothic novels exploded in popularity in late eighteenth century British print culture, featuring wilderness settings, ruined castles, monasteries and mansions, replete with supernatural occurrences and entities, mental illness, young women in distress, heavy with a sense of the uncanny, mystery, fear and terror. But what happens when the strange tropes, figures, and rhetorical techniques of the gothic travel across the Atlantic to adapt to the dark pathologies and monstrous histories of the Americas (from the Indian American Wars to the spectre of slavery)? This course will expand notions of the gothic to frameworks that understand late eighteenth to early nineteenth century gothic literature, and to

its more recent and contemporary manifestations as a transatlantic phenomenon. Books: Frankenstein by Mary Shelley and Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte

Chair Yoga and Resistance Bands WED

Instructor: Nutan Ahuja **DOW:** Wednesday

Dates: 9/9/2026-9/30/2026 **Wks:** 4

Times: 10:00 AM-11:00 AM **Method:** Online

Chair Yoga is a way to Sit Your Way to Better Health. Chair yoga's therapeutic adaptive exercises work your body from head to toe. The simple and easy movements are great for people in any condition, to do anytime and anywhere. Chair Yoga promotes wellbeing through breathing correctly and stretching in ways that will open up your body on the path to peace. Resistance bands, help to do any type of strength training without the need for heavy weights. These bands engage multiple muscles simultaneously, so your entire body gets a workout in a short period of time. These classes are a great entry point for students of all ages and all levels. Course fee. (You can also sign-up for the Monday class and participate twice per week).

Frankenstein Part 1: Mary Shelley's Original 1818 Novel

Instructor: Colin Mackey **DOW:** Wednesday

Dates: 9/2/2026-9/23/2026 **Wks:** 4

Times: 11:30 AM-1:00 PM **Method:** Classroom

Take a deep dive into the novel Frankenstein as it was originally published in 1818. In this four-week course, we will delve into the original text together in a discussion class exploring the ideas of man playing God, the tension between science and art, and the reasons why Mary Shelley felt she needed to publish her original work anonymously before changing it and republishing the version, which has become a school staple, under her own name in 1836.

Frankenstein Part 2: The Frankenstein Variations

Instructor: Colin Mackey **DOW:** Wednesday

Dates: 9/30/2026-10/21/2026 **Wks:** 4

Times: 11:30 AM-1:00 PM **Method:** Classroom

The Frankenstein story has been told time and again in different guises. In this course, we will be looking at films that share their origins and/or themes with the novel. Week 1: Direct film interpretations from the 1931 Universal film to Guillermo del Toro's Oscar-winning film from last year. Week 2: Man shaping and controlling other people including My Fair Lady and Pygmalion. Week 3: The fire of the gods as man harnesses atomic and nuclear power including the films Oppenheimer and Dr. Strangelove. Week 4: The monster is out of control - the problem of generative A.I. including Steven Spielberg's A.I. and War Games. There will be films of focus each week, but we will be referencing others along the way, building a viewing list as we go. This course can be taken as a part 2 to the exploration of the novel or as a standalone course.

Ikebana: Japanese Art of Flower Arrangement

Instructor: Nutan Ahuja **DOW:** Wednesday

Dates: 9/16/2026-9/23/2026 **Wks:** 2

Times: 1:00 PM-3:00 PM **Method:** Classroom

Ikebana, is an ancient Japanese art of flower arranging, guided by the desire to create harmony between flowers and their surroundings. More than merely decoration, the Ikebana way of flower arranging encourages to fully express by infusing each arrangement with a sense of space, motion, season, rhythm and emotion. Students need to bring a tall vase (approx. 8-12 inch tall), Shears and any fresh leaves with 2-3 stems. Fresh Flowers will be provided.

Italian For Fun!

Instructor: Antonella Giannasca **DOW:** Thursday

Dates: 9/3/2026-9/24/2026 **Wks:** 4

Times: 10:00 AM-11:30 AM **Method:** Online

Have you been thinking about learning Italian? Have you taken some classes already but you want to practice more? I would like you to be part of this class. If you are an absolute beginner or a beginner, you can have 4 weeks of fun, learning new words, new expressions, new games and also learn how to start speaking Italian. ci vediamo!

From Mao to Now - New Topics

Instructor: Revzin Mike **DOW:** Thursday

Dates: 9/3/2026-9/24/2026 **Wks:** 4

Times: 10:00 AM-11:00 AM **Method:** Classroom

A look at the dramatic changes in China since Chairman Mao's death 50 years ago. Includes many new topics not covered in the previous class. Topics include: A Communist country that allows free enterprise, a major polluter that is a leader in clean energy, a nation that plans to send astronauts to the moon, but where much labor is still done by hand. Other topics: U.S.-China relations, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the military, women's rights, the auto industry and the rapid development of high-speed railways. We'll also explore how China has evolved from a mostly rural society to a largely urban one. Other topics include education, higher living standards and greater freedom (with major restrictions). We'll look at what travel was like for foreign tourists when China first opened up, and get some travel tips. And there will be a few "pop quizzes" to test your knowledge of some surprising facts.

Hitchcock Part 2: A Turn Inward

Instructor: Colin Mackey **DOW:** Thursday

Dates: 9/3/2026-10/15/2026 **Wks:** 0

Times: 11:30 AM-1:00 PM **Method:** Classroom

"In Part II we will explore many of the early American films of Alfred Hitchcock. During this time as he wrestled for more control of his own productions, his subject matter took an introspective turn, where the conflicts are equal parts man vs. man and man vs. self reflecting the tumultuous era of a world at war. We will focus on placing each Hitchcock film both in its relevance in his own career, its influence in the history of cinema, and as a reflection of the time in which it was made. The films covered this session will be Saboteur, Shadow of a Doubt, Lifeboat, Spellbound, Notorious, The Paradine Case, and Rope. This class is part two of a planned four-part series. You do not have to have taken Part I to join this course, although there might be the occasional reference to the films we studied in Part I."

Agatha Christie: Essential Stories

Instructor: Michael Moon **DOW:** Thursday

Dates: 9/3/2026-9/24/2026 **Wks:** 4

Times: 11:30 AM-12:30 PM **Method:** Hyflex

In this course we will consider a range of Agatha Christie's works (mostly short) from early and late in her career, both in their initial written forms as well as in their adapted forms for film and television. In each case we will focus on such questions as how do we understand the pleasures we derive from a wide variety of Christie's works: as puzzles-in-prose, as dramatic entertainments, as heightened depictions of aspects of the past, as innovative works in the rich tradition of mystery fiction, as incremental life-studies of the two detective characters who elicited from Christie her most enduring and engaging work? Course Materials: Course materials are widely available for purchase (and in some cases for free) on Kindle, Audible, and YouTube and on loan from public

libraries. Students are welcome to choose whether to read a given text or view an adaptation of it for television. Readings/Selections Include: The following Agatha Christie short stories: 'The Affair at the Victory Ball,' 'Three Blind Mice,' 'Witness for the Prosecution,' 'The Chocolate Box,' 'The Tuesday Night Club,' 'Harlequin's Lane,' 'The Harlequin Tea Set,' 'The Perfect Maid,' and the Miss Marple novel NEMESIS

[Painting for Fun: A Relaxing Creative Experience](#)

Instructor: Sarah Gearhart **DOW:** Thursday

Dates: 9/24/2026-9/24/2026 **Wks:** 0

Times: 11:00 AM-1:00 PM **Method:** Classroom

This class is all about enjoying the process and having fun. No experience is necessary, just bring your enthusiasm and a desire to create something beautiful. We'll provide all the materials you need, including canvases, paints, brushes, and more. It's a perfect opportunity to unwind, tap into your artistic side, and share laughs and stories with others as you paint your way through the season! By the end of the class, you'll leave with a finished painting and new friends who share your love of creativity. Don't miss out on this warm and inviting class—it's sure to spark joy and inspire your inner artist!

One Day Courses

[Discussing Topics We Disagree On](#)

[One- Day Workshop](#)

Instructor: Alice Huang **DOW:** Tuesday

Dates: 9/1/2026-9/1/2026 **Wks:** 1

Times: 1:30 PM-3:00 PM **Method:** Classroom

Are you bothered that it feels like your relationships may be at risk whenever the conversation turns to topics you are passionate about, and especially if you're talking with someone who passionately disagrees with you? This one-day workshop is an introductory exploration of some ideas that might help. We will consider (1) the value of learning about the

perspectives of people who disagree with us, (2) the need to explore the nuances of what we agree and disagree on, (3) the effects of the common tendency to push people into mutually exclusive us-vs-them categories, and (4) the challenge of trying to learn from those we think are wrong. Then, we'll identify a topic we disagree about and try out some of these ideas. This course prepares you to participate in deeper discussions of topics we disagree on, offered as separate 4-week courses, "Let's Discuss Topics We Disagree On".

[Writing The Book is the Easy Part](#)

Instructor: Denise Raynor **DOW:** Tuesday

Dates: 9/8/2026-9/8/2026 **Wks:** 1

Times: 10:00 AM-11:00 AM **Method:** Hyflex

As a fiction writer, I never cease to be amazed at the many obstacles erected between the writing, the thing that I love to do, and getting my book on the shelf. The first part of the process is entirely in your hands but everything after the completed first draft is up to forces beyond your control. I'll share some of my experience in the hope that anyone who wants to begin the journey will be at least forewarned and hopefully assisted in their own journey to publication.

[Celebrating 60 years of Star Trek!](#)

Instructor: Peter Edward Campos **DOW:** Tuesday

Dates: 9/8/2026-9/8/2026 **Wks:** 1

Times: 1:30 PM-3:00 PM **Method:** Classroom

On 8 September 2026 the Star Trek franchise will celebrate its 60th anniversary! Join your fellow OLLI Trekkies/Trekkers for a fun-filled social and educational get-together. OLLI instructor and lifelong Star Trek nerd Peter Campos will host the event. This will include a presentation about the vast Star Trek Franchise. We will overview all TV shows, movies, streaming series, merchandise, and literature, focusing on the original series that started it all. Join OLLI member fans on a journey of discovery and remembrances about their favorite

show while enjoying snacks and light refreshments. Whether you're new to Star Trek or a longtime devotee, there will be something for everyone on this enterprise. So join us for some fun, and be sure to bring your collectibles, costumes, and Klingon dictionary. Live Long and Prosper!

[Acting Up. One Day Reader-s Theater: Bringing Scripts to Life](#)

Instructor: Jane Shalhoub **DOW:** Wednesday

Dates: 9/10/2026-9/10/2026 **Wks:** 1

Times: 10:00 AM-11:30 AM **Method:** Classroom

One-Day Workshop: Reader's Theater is a wonderful way to shine the spotlight on the hidden actors in each of us. Through monologues, dialogues, and scenes from one-, two-, and three-act plays, participants will explore famous moments, familiar favorites, and lighthearted scripts in a fun and supportive setting. Together, we will sit, read, and bring characters to life by finding our voices, following cues, and enjoying the shared experience of storytelling through performance. No memorization or acting experience is required. Just a willingness to pretend and have fun in the magical world of play-acting. The only requirement: An interest in becoming famous in just one day—and a willingness to step into character. Characters Welcome. Max Students: 12 — Register Early

[Mary Cassatt \(1844-1926\) Her Lost Masterpiece](#)

Instructor: Jane Herzig **DOW:** Wednesday

Dates: 9/9/2026-9/9/2026 **Wks:** 1

Times: 1:30 PM-3:00 PM **Method:** Hyflex

Mary Cassatt was commissioned to paint an immense 60' by 15' mural that was displayed in the tympanum of the Woman's Building in Chicago's 1893 World's Columbian Exhibition from May through October 1893. Once the exhibition closed, the painting disappeared. This session is a presentation of the piece, based on a few black and white photos, descriptions that give a sense of the

mural's color scheme, and an 1893 color lithograph of a portion of the mural's central portion.

[National Safety Council Defensive Driving](#)

Instructor: Jim Spano **DOW:** Monday

Dates: 9/14/2026-9/14/2026 **Wks:** 1

Times: 9:30 AM-2:30 PM **Method:** Classroom

National Safety Council Defensive Driving Course: This course emphasizes the importance of personal responsibility in safe driving. Participants will learn the mental strategies and knowledge necessary to become defensive drivers. The class will cover the seven most common driving mistakes and strategies to avoid them, as well as the five key conditions that impact driving skills and reaction time. Completing the course may qualify participants for a discount on their auto insurance.

[Painting for Fun: A Relaxing Creative Experience](#)

Instructor: Sarah Gearhart **DOW:** Monday

Dates: 9/14/2026-9/14/2026 **Wks:** 1

Times: 11:00 AM-1:00 PM **Method:** Classroom

This class is all about enjoying the process and having fun. No experience is necessary, just bring your enthusiasm and a desire to create something beautiful. We'll provide all the materials you need, including canvases, paints, brushes, and more. It's a perfect opportunity to unwind, tap into your artistic side, and share laughs and stories with others as you paint your way through the season! By the end of the class, you'll leave with a finished painting and new friends who share your love of creativity. Don't miss out on this warm and inviting class—it's sure to spark joy and inspire your inner artist!

[Race & Sexuality Politics in Atlanta-s Postbellum-to-Progressive Era Prostitution Trade](#)

Instructor: Mandy Swygart-Hobaugh **DOW:** Tues

Dates: 9/15/2026-9/15/2026 **Wks:** 1

Times: 10:00 AM-11:00 AM **Method:** Hyflex

Research on the sex work industry, contemporary or historical, is fraught with challenges, as

communities are apt to actively suppress such narratives. This talk is one of several mini-projects within the presenter's larger "Historic Harlots of Old Atlanta" project, detailing the rise and fall of Atlanta's late-1800s-to-early-1900s prostitution district located within what today is the heart of Georgia State University's campus. An examination of Atlanta's prostitution trade of this period offers a compelling story regarding the contemporaneous politics of race and sexuality in the US South. Using historic Census data, city directories, maps, newspapers, arrest records, and legal code, the presenter weaves a narrative of Black and mixed-race women's experiences in Atlanta's prostitution trade at this time contextualized in the broader sociohistorical considerations of social construction of race, Jim-Crow segregation and racial violence, intersectionality and social inequalities, and racialized sexual politics.

[Just For Laughs: Lend Me Your Ears Comedy Production](#)

Instructor: Multiple Instructors **DOW:** Tuesday
Dates: 9/15/2026-9/15/2026 **Wks:** 1
Times: 1:30 PM-2:30 PM **Method:** Classroom
OJoin "Lend Me Your Ears" Readers' Theater Group for a delightful hour of funny stories, songs, comedy monologues and dialogues, writings by our favorite humorists, comedians, authors and playwrights, and features delightful and artfully told jokes, too. We're not kidding around....THIS is gonna be funny! (Jane Shalhoub, Jill Parks, Sue Book, Audrey Galex, Linda Robinson, Denise Raynor)

[The Amazing iPhone Secrets - Exposed](#)

Instructor: Bob Siegmann **DOW:** Wednesday
Dates: 9/23/2026-9/23/2026 **Wks:** 1
Times: 1:30 PM-2:30 PM **Method:** Classroom
You may be carrying one of the world's most amazing cameras—and never even realize it! Buried beneath the iPhone's simple interface are dozens of remarkable features that can transform

the way you take, edit, preserve, and share your photographs. In this fun, fast-paced 90-minute class created especially for senior adults, you'll discover hidden "photographic treasures" that are surprisingly easy to use yet incredibly powerful. See how to erase unwanted objects with a tap, capture breathtaking close-ups, scan documents instantly, use Apple's amazing AI-powered photo tools, and uncover many more exciting and useful capabilities that most iPhone owners never find.

[Find and Preserve Your Family Story with Family Search](#)

Instructor: Genevieve Nelson **DOW:** Monday
Dates: 9/28/2026-9/28/2026 **Wks:** 1
Times: 11:30 AM-1:00 PM **Method:** Classroom
In this engaging session, participants will learn how to search FamilySearch's vast collections of census records, vital records, historical documents, photographs, and family trees. The class will also explore ways to document and share family stories, memories, photographs, and personal histories so they can be preserved for future generations. Whether you are just beginning your genealogy journey or looking for new ways to organize and preserve your research, this presentation will introduce practical tools and resources to help you uncover your family's past and ensure its stories are not lost. Participants are encouraged to bring a laptop or iPad if they would like to follow along and explore FamilySearch during the session. Following the presentation, Genevieve will be joined by several volunteers who will be available to assist participants with beginning their searches and answering questions.

The Ten Commandments of Wealth Planning

Instructor: Joshua Weber **DOW:** Tuesday

Dates: 9/29/2026-9/29/2026 **Wks:** 1

Times: 10:00 AM-11:30 AM **Method:** Classroom

Have you ever wondered about the stories, people, and places that shaped your family history?

FamilySearch, the world's largest free genealogy organization and website, provides powerful tools and extensive historical records to help you discover your Guidelines to live by for your wealth management decisions. Topics include: Do's and Don'ts to improve the likelihood of achieving your lifetime goals, Establishing a gameplan, Risk, Your behavior as it relates to your money. These topics and more to be discussed in this 1.5 hour financial journey. This learning experience will end with the discovery of the one thing that matters most to your wealth planning. The Ten Commandments of Wealth Planning is offered exclusively to the OLLI programs in Georgia.

You Can Run, But You Can't Hide

Instructor: Jeff Glazer **DOW:** Tuesday

Dates: 9/29/2026-9/29/2026 **Wks:** 1

Times: 11:30 AM-1:00 PM **Method:** Hyflex

Learn what Big Tech knows about you, how they get it, why they want it, what they do with it, and what you can do about it. This class is based on the Netflix documentary The Social Dilemma and will include clips from it.

Madness and Justice: Women Who Fought the System and Won Reforms

Instructor: Jill Parks **DOW:** Wednesday

Dates: 9/30/2026-9/30/2026 **Wks:** 1

Times: 1:30 PM-2:45 PM **Method:** Hyflex

This class explores the stories of three remarkable women who helped expose and reform the treatment of women in mental institutions.

Dorothea Dix documented the shocking conditions in asylums and advocated for more humane care, leading to the establishment of mental hospitals. Elizabeth Packard was wrongfully committed to an asylum by her husband for expressing her own opinions. After Securing her freedom, she became a powerful advocate for legal reforms and patients' rights. Nellie Bly famously went undercover in a mental institution, exposing abuse and neglect through her investigative reporting and prompting immediate reforms. Together, their efforts transformed public awareness and helped improve the treatment of individuals with mental illness.

Osher Online™

Osher Online brings together members from OLLIs across the country in engaging, live Zoom classes. Developed by the **Osher National Resource Center (NRC)** at Northwestern University, these courses are delivered by their program and supported by experienced moderators and technical staff.

Course Format & Details

Length: 6 weeks

Session Time: 1.5 hours per week

Format: Live via Zoom (*sessions are not recorded – live attendance required*)

Cost: \$75 per person, per course

Membership Requirement: You must hold an active **OLLI at Emory membership** to enroll.

Class Size: OLLI at Emory is limited to **13 seats per course**.

Refund Policy: No refunds will be issued **within 7 business days** of the course start date.

[All Osher Online courses for the fall session can be found online and also include an instructor intro video.](#)

Register early for these classes for the entire fall session, listed below.

Art Detectives Forgery, Provenance, and the Science of Authentication

Instructor: Christine Maasdam (Osher Online NRC)

DOW: Monday

Dates: 9/28/2026-11/2/2026 **Wks:** 6

Times: 10:00 AM-11:30 AM **Method:** Online

The public often sees the art world as the domain of wealth, trendsetters, and high rollers, yet deception lurks behind the façade. After weapons and drugs, art is the third most lucrative illicit trade, with reports suggesting that more than half of artworks are fake or misattributed. In this course, we will ask: When is a copy simply a copy, and when is it a forgery? What techniques do master forgers use? Does a collector hold true title, and how important is provenance? What can science tell us about art authenticity? We will uncover riveting stories of criminal art activity, gallery closings, and master forgeries.

The British Family in Film: Heavy is the Head That Wears the Crown

Instructor: Bernard (Butch) Epps (Osher Online NRC) **DOW:** Monday

Dates: 9/28/2026-11/2/2026 **Wks:** 6

Times: 10:00 AM-11:30 AM **Method:** Online

This course examines royal succession through acclaimed British films that explore power not as ceremony, but as moral and political crisis. We will trace the monarchy's evolution from personal rule to institutional authority, beginning with the Plantagenet struggles in *Becket* (1964) and *The Lion in Winter* (1968). We will then examine the moral costs of kingship and the performance of national leadership through two Shakespeare adaptations: *Chimes at Midnight* (1965) and *Henry V* (1989). The course will conclude with the Tudor rupture: *A Man for All Seasons* (1966) and the consolidation of legitimacy *Elizabeth* (1998).

Mexico City: Empires, Revolutions, and Everyday Life

Instructor: William Beezley (Osher Online NRC)

DOW: Tuesday

Dates: 9/29/2026-11/3/2026 **Wks:** 6

Times: 10:00 AM-11:30 AM **Method:** Online

Mexicans celebrate a remarkable diversity of peoples, music, food, festivals, and historical traditions, expressed through fiestas that bring communities together across the calendar year. In this course, we will explore Mexico City as a cultural and historical crossroads shaped by centuries of continuity and change. We will trace the legacies of Indigenous civilizations, the transformations of Spanish colonial rule, the struggles for independence and revolution, and the emergence of modern democratic politics, culminating in the 2024 election of Mexico's first woman president. We will see how culture, power, and celebration remain deeply intertwined in the life of this extraordinary city.

The Birth of the Beat Generation

Instructor: Kurt Hemmer (Osher Online NRC)

DOW: Tuesday

Dates: 9/29/2026-11/3/2026 **Wks:** 6

Times: 6:00 PM-7:30 PM **Method:** Online

In this course, we will examine the dramatic circumstances that gave rise to the Beat Generation in the 1940s. Together, we will examine three famous Beat works: *Howl and Other Poems* by Allen Ginsberg, *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac, and *Naked Lunch* by William S. Burroughs. We will focus on historical events involving Beat writers, important passages of Beat literature, and the literary movement that spawned the 1960s counterculture.

Sacred Mountains of the World

Instructor: Jonathan Duncan (Osher Online NRC)

DOW: Monday

Dates: 10/5/2026-11/9/2026 **Wks:** 6

Times: 12:00 PM-1:30 PM **Method:** Online

People throughout time and across cultures have looked to the mountains as powerful symbols. The Buddhists of the Himalayas, the Inca of the Andes, the Inuit of the far north, and the Romantics of Europe all created unique stories of what mountains mean and how they are to be approached. This course will provide an interdisciplinary exploration of the beliefs, traditions, and mythologies that have been inspired by the world's mountains. Through richly illustrated lectures, short readings, and open discussion, this course will open a window into the world's sacred mountains and encourage exploration of our relationship with the Earth's high and wild places.

The History and Experience of Route 66

Instructor: Peter Dedek, PhD (Osher Online NRC)

DOW: Monday

Dates: 10/5/2026-11/9/2026 **Wks:** 6

Times: 4:00 PM-5:30 PM **Method:** Online

Route 66 is as much an idea as it is a place. Since its creation in 1926, America's most famous highway has evolved from a 2,400-mile transportation corridor into a powerful symbol of nostalgia, travel, and the American road. Today, it functions as a kind of pilgrimage route, marked by neon signs, roadside attractions, and preserved motels, cafés, and gas stations. In this course, we will explore the history, cultural meaning, and enduring appeal of Route 66. Together, we will examine its origins, rise and decline, late-20th century revival, the role of nostalgia and car culture, preservation efforts, and the possible futures of this iconic highway.

Cults and New Religious Movements in America

Instructor: Kate Davis, PhD (Osher Online NRC)

DOW: Tuesday

Dates: 10/6/2026-11/10/2026 **Wks:** 6

Times: 12:00 PM-1:30 PM **Method:** Online

America has provided fertile ground for new and alternative religions to sprout and grow. Some prosper and eventually become accepted as part of the normal religious landscape, some wither away and are forgotten, and some detonate, creating public scandal and in the worst cases, national tragedy. This course will examine New Religious Movements, popularly known as "cults", within the US context. We will examine these religious movements both from insider perspectives and outsider perceptions. We will analyze the history, practices, and beliefs of these organizations to better understand them and deconstruct misconceptions. This course covers the 18th and 19th centuries. to better understand them and deconstruct misconceptions. This course covers the 18th and 19th centuries.

The 60s Through the Great Speeches

Instructor: Arthur Benedict (Osher Online NRC)

DOW: Friday

Dates: 10/9/2026-11/13/2026 **Wks:** 6

Times: 8:00 AM-9:30 AM **Method:** Online

The 1960s is a decade wrapped in myth and misunderstanding. In this course, we will cut through that haze by turning to something powerful and concrete: the speeches of the era. The times and the conditions demanded these significant speeches. Together, we will listen to the voices that moved a nation and shaped history. With recordings preserved through television, video, and YouTube, we will discover what these speeches still have to teach us today.

Living off The Laughter: History of Comedy in America

Instructor: Eddy Friedfeld (Osher Online NRC)

DOW: Wednesday

Dates: 10/14/2026-11/18/2026 **Wks:** 6

Times: 12:00 PM-1:30 PM **Method:** Online

This course is a history class with a laugh track. We will analyze the significant periods and players of the 20th and 21st Centuries against their historic context and legacy, using humor as the platform. We will discuss how comedy was shaped by and responsive to American society, and how comedians influenced and shaped American life. We will cover Silent Films, Vaudeville, Radio, Screwball and Romantic Comedies, Comedy Teams, and the Golden Age of Television. We will study how America laughed in each generation, and how the change in American character and persona shaped how they laughed and what (and whom) they laughed at.