



West Virginia University®

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE



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.

- 11 courses, including four offered after 5:00 p.m. or on Saturdays.
- Each course includes six 90-minute sessions.
- Offered live on Zoom only.

- Each course is \$50.00.
- Current OLLI membership is required.

Registration open
December 13 - January 2
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.

Stay Curious!

Winter 2024

January 9 - March 30

The Jewish Holidays: A Primer

Golden Mysteries: An Exploration of Mystery Novels from the 1920s - 1940s

Made in America: The History, Mission, and Vision of the Public Library

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Dream Jobs: My Career in Sports

Coming to Terms with the Holocaust

Nero Wolfe: The Best of America's Armchair Detectives

Native Ground: Indigenous Communities and Colonization Before 1900

Chemistry in the Real World

Today's Technology: How Does It Work?

Fake News: Keys to Ethical and Impactful Journalism

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.

The Jewish Holidays: A Primer *(Lecture)*

Tuesdays, January 09 - February 20, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Explore the yearly cycle of Jewish holidays. Unlock the mysteries of the Jewish calendar, learning about major and minor holidays, historical practices, and modern observances. Whether you have grown up with these holidays, or are learning for the first time, enrich your understanding of and connection to these sacred moments in time.

Your instructor: Rabbi Alexis Pinsky

Rabbi Alexis Pinsky was ordained from the New York campus of the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion. She is a member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis - the rabbinic organization for the Reform Movement.

Rabbi Pinsky is grateful to serve the greater New York Jewish community. She has held Associate Rabbinic positions at Temple Israel of the City of New York and B'ShERT (Beth Shalom v'Emeth Reform Temple) in Brooklyn, NY and has served/taught in numerous NYC congregations and institutions.

Rabbi Pinsky is passionate about connecting others to the richness and beauty of the Jewish tradition, cultivating sacred ritual moments, music, Jewish education, both formal and informal, and working toward a more just world.



Golden Mysteries: An Exploration of Mystery Novels From the 1920s - 1940s *(Discussion)*

Wednesdays, January 10 - February 14, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Perhaps you like to relax by curling up with a cup of tea and reading a story about crime. Why exactly is murder and mayhem so popular and even relaxing to read about?

The mystery genre is one of the most popular genres today, but it is relatively new. The first modern detective novels were published by Edgar Allan Poe in the nineteenth century, which ushered in a boom of mystery novels in America and the UK in subsequent years. In this class, we'll study mystery novels of the 1920s through 1940s—including books by Arthur Conan Doyle and Agatha Christie; hardboiled crime novels; and Nancy Drew—and we'll learn what made them so popular. The mystery genre is uniquely positioned to reflect and address fears of the populace, so studying these novels gives us unique insight into what people cared about most when they were published. We will also examine why it's so fun to read about horrible crimes and try to understand what we get out of it.

Your instructor: Brittney Rakowsky, PhD

Dr. Brittney Rakowski is a Lecturer in the University College at the University of Oklahoma. Her research and teaching interests include twentieth-century American literature and film, gender studies, and rhetoric.



[For course overview video, click here.](#)

Made in America: The History, Mission, and Vision of the Public Library (Lecture)

Wednesdays, January 10 - February 14, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

This course will explore the history of the modern public library from the early nineteenth century through the present. Students will gain an enhanced appreciation for the role of the public library in a democratic society, as well as the ways in which the public library is a uniquely American invention.

Your instructor: Caroline Nappo, PhD

Dr. Caroline Nappo is an independent scholar with interests in the history of libraries and information institutions, information as a public good, and the political economy of information. She has her MS and PhD in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois.



[For course overview video, click here.](#)

Ruth Bader Ginsburg (Lecture)

Thursdays, January 11 - February 15, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Join Lauren Andersen for an examination of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Lauren will discuss the many contributions Justice Ginsburg made to the legal landscape, from her work as an advocate for gender equality, her role as the co-founder of the ACLU's Women's Rights Project, and her opinions on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. Her early influences will also be discussed. Clips from the documentary RBG will be shared and discussed - you may have seen the film, but this talk will cover much more!

Your Instructor: Lauren Andersen, JD

Lauren Andersen is the director of the Utah Judicial Institute. For two and a half years, Lauren practiced appellate law in the state of California and presented arguments to the California Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court. During this time, Lauren closely studied the Roberts Court. She has lectured about the Supreme Court and the death penalty. Her opinions were quoted by *The New York Times* as well as the ABA Journal. She was previously the director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Utah for four years.



Dream Jobs: My Career in Sports (Lecture)

Thursdays, January 11 - February 15, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Sports are a multi-faceted industry and while many jobs such as radio broadcasters and journalists have been around for decades, there are also emerging opportunities today as data scientists, social media coordinators, and strength and conditioning coaches. This course will showcase positions new and old by bringing in speakers from baseball, football, basketball, hockey, and golf to offer students a court-side seat to what it's like to work in sports.

Your instructor: Katie Krall, MBA

Katie Krall spent 2022 as a Development Coach with the Boston Red Sox where she oversaw pitch design, advance scouting and integrating data into player plans. This was her first season in uniform and coaching 1st base wearing #43. She previously was part of the Global Strategy team at Google focusing on Google Workspace after two seasons at the Cincinnati Reds as a Baseball Operations Analyst, a position that combined



the worlds of roster construction, analytics, and scouting. After graduating from Northwestern University, Krall worked for a year and a half at Major League Baseball in the Commissioner's Office in New York City as a League Economics & Operations Coordinator. At MLB, Krall advised Clubs on 40-man roster management, MLB rules and compliance, major league administration, and salary arbitration. In 2016, Krall planned the World Series Trophy Tour for the Chicago Cubs. The previous summer, she was an Assistant General Manager in the Cape Cod Baseball League. She received her MBA from the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business.

Coming to Terms with the Holocaust (Lecture)

Saturdays, January 13 - February 17, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

This series of illustrated lectures probed the deep roots, proximate causes, methods, personalities, and principal events which created The Holocaust.

As the most extensively documented genocide in history – and the most intensively investigated, interrogated, and debated – The Holocaust in Europe 1933-1945 has much to teach us about hatred, demagoguery, impersonal violence, state-sponsored murder on an industrial scale, and ourselves. This seminar will address many complex and charged questions.

The objectives of this course are both academic and cathartic: to enable participants of any nationality, faith, or persuasion to come to terms with The Holocaust through information, analysis, public discourse, and private reflection.

Your instructor: Steve Sohmer, PhD

Steve Sohmer is a Shakespearean scholar, author of fiction and nonfiction books, television writer and producer, and former network television and motion picture studio executive. Sohmer earned a doctorate from Oxford University specializing in Shakespearean studies. Sohmer's book, *The Way It Was*, was chosen by *The New York Times* as one of the 20 best fiction books of the year. Mr. Sohmer's novels are *Favorite Son* and *Patriots*, and his short fiction has been published in *The Southern Review* and *Modern Occasions*. His screenwriting credits include *Mancuso FBI*, *Twice in a Lifetime*, *Bloodknot*, and Tom Clancy's *Op Center*, among others.



[For course overview video, click here.](#)

Nero Wolfe: The Best of America's Armchair Detectives (Discussion)

Tuesdays, January 16 - February 20, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Rex Stout's Nero Wolfe, the orchid-fancying, seventh of a ton gourmand, is America's most famous armchair detective, who solves murders along with his leg man Archie Goodwin, certainly the best narrator in American fiction since Huckleberry Finn. The "King of Crimebusters" will investigate and discuss three of Rex Stout's Nero Wolfe novels, one collection of his short stories, and a single story published in *American Magazine*, all designed to see how one detective can use his genius to identify murderers without leaving the comfort of his home.



[For course overview video, click here.](#)

Your instructor: Jeff Walker, PhD

Jeffrey Walker, Emeritus Professor of English at Oklahoma State, authored a critical study of the Revolutionary poet and traitor Benjamin Church, edited collections of essays on Fenimore Cooper, co-edited the first scholarly edition of Cooper's 1821 bestseller *The Spy* and the annual journal *Literature in the Early American Republic*, and is completing an edition of Cooper's unpublished letters. A Fulbright lecturer in Norway (1987) and Belgium (1998), he won the Phoenix Award (1998) for outstanding graduate teaching, the A&S Outstanding Professor Award (2013), and the Regents Distinguished Teaching Award (2014). His teaching interests include American

literature, Dickens, the history of the book, textual editing, comedy, mystery, and film, and he has taught in Oklahoma State, University of Utah, and Northwestern University Osher programs.

Native Ground: Indigenous Communities and Colonization Before 1900 (Lecture)

Mondays, February 19 - March 25, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

“Native Ground” will introduce students to the depth of Native American history in what is now the United States, as well as its diversity. From this foundation, the course will move to consider the implications of the invasion from Europe, the founding of European colonies, and the eventual (not inevitable) establishment of the United States and its expansion across Native North America. The course will emphasize the resilience of Indigenous communities in the face of relentless colonial pressure. Along the way, students can expect to learn about several related topics, including the historiography of Native America and the image of the “Indian” in the American mind.



[For course overview video, click here.](#)

Your instructor: Matt Jennings, PhD

Matt Jennings joined the Macon State College (now Middle Georgia State University) faculty in 2007, after receiving his PhD from the University of Illinois. His research interests include Native American history, early American history, and the history of violence. He is currently studying the relationship between Native American peoples and the mounds at Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park, and the intertwined history of tourism and archaeology at the site, as well as homeland-oriented displays in tribal museums in Oklahoma. Matt has also studied Thomas Paine’s interactions with Native Americans and the roots of John Brown’s ideas about violence. His current research includes work with the Acme Brewing Historical Society in Georgia and a study of the Ocmulgee River region during the War of 1812, as well as side trips into pop culture history. He has presented numerous papers, and published several books, including *New Worlds of Violence*, *The Flower Hunter and the People*, and *Ocmulgee National Monument: A Concise History with Field Notes*.

Chemistry in the Real World (Lecture)

Tuesdays, February 20 - March 26, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Far from being “stuff that happens in a lab” or a science rooted in balancing equations and watching solutions bubble and change color, chemistry happens inside us and all around us all the time: the real world is absolutely filled with chemistry, and it’s relevant and fascinating. In this course, we’ll look at the real world chemistry of pharmaceuticals and poisons (and the fine line that divides them), the science of dietary supplements and how they’re regulated, and how alchemy gave way to modern chemistry, and then the dawn of the nuclear age changed everything.



Your instructor: Kjir Hendrickson, PhD

Kjir Hendrickson is a Teaching Professor in the School of Molecular Sciences at Arizona State University; they hold a PhD in chemistry and are the author of the textbook “Chemistry in the World.” Their academic work focuses on science communication, the reciprocal relationship between science and society, and matters of workplace climate and DEI in STEM.

Today's Technology: How Does It Work? (Lecture)

Wednesdays, February 21 - March 27, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Technology's pace continues to accelerate, sometimes leaving us in the dust. The purpose of this course is to put you in a position of general understanding of several important aspects of advanced technology: The Internet and The Cloud; Cell Phones and Social Media; Robotics and 3-D Printing; Self Driving Cars and Trucks; Blockchain and CryptoCurrency; AI and ChatGPT. This is an introductory course on broad and complex subjects. We won't have time to get too deep nor to debate ethics. No prior technical knowledge is required, however, come with a curious, open mind. Together we will jump on the raging tech train, and see what we can learn.



Your instructor: Elizabeth Burnette, MS

Elizabeth Burnette attended Cornell University for a BS in Engineering Physics, then worked at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory with Space Shuttle experiments. She taught at a community college, raised three children, and taught science at a Montessori school. In December 2019, she was awarded a Master's Degree in Astrophysics from the University of Pittsburgh. Since 2020, Elizabeth has been teaching science related courses online for OLLI @ Pitt.

Fake News: Keys to Ethical and Impactful Journalism (Lecture)

Saturdays, February 24 - March 30, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

While the polarization of politics in recent years has put fuel on the "fake news" fire, the concept of conflicting truths is not new. Dating back to the Renaissance and philosopher Francis Bacon understanding the psychological phenomenon later to be coined as "confirmation bias" our consumption of news continues to evolve. Therefore, so must our lens of reporting transparency. Step into the world of a broadcast journalist to understand what it takes to convey facts and spot shortcomings on TV. Understand first-hand the joys and challenges of standing and reporting in front of major sporting events like an NFL playoff game or MLB spring training to capture the scene for viewers.



Or, expand your writing vocabulary in politics discussing first-hand interviews with governors and Congressional senators. Feel more comfortable walking in the health news realm as we all make the post-pandemic world more informed when doctors and nurses share their insights. Understand social media in a new light as storytellers grow their own voices and those they have the responsibility to spotlight as powerful pieces attempt to not die in an echo chamber.

Your instructor: Annie Krall, MA

Annie Krall is an adjunct faculty member at Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications. She is also a former radio news anchor for WLS-Radio (890AM) in Chicago. Additionally, Annie has taken her storytelling abilities on-air as a TV news and sports reporter to NBC in St. Louis, MO (KSDK-TV) and ABC in Green Bay, WI (WBAY-TV). After earning her bachelor's and master's degrees from Northwestern, Annie covered breaking news in Green Bay, the Ryder Cup international golf tournament, as well as the Green Bay Packers. Host of her own weekly medical investigative series "Your Health Matters" Annie was accepted to medical school before pursuing journalism. Prior to WBAY-TV, Annie wrote and produced for ABC NEWS in New York City on the medical and business units for shows like *Good Morning America*, *World News Tonight with David Muir*, and *20/20*. Sharpening her golf skills as a competitive golfer starting at the age of six, Annie was the first entertainment golf correspondent for the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA). She has helped spotlight celebrity women who either play or have had their lives changed by the sport.



West Virginia University®
OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE



Osher Online

in collaboration with Northwestern University
School of Professional Studies

Winter 2024

January 9 - March 30, 2024

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
December 13 - January 2

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

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

The OLLI office will be closed December 21 - January 1
but registration will be available online.