

# Spring 2025 Program Catalog In-Person + Online

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UMass Boston

**PROVIDING LIFE-ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OLDER ADULTS**



**GERONTOLOGY INSTITUTE  
DONNA M AND ROBERT J MANNING COLLEGE  
OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES**



## OLLI at UMass Boston Membership Categories, Fees, and Benefits – Effective July 1, 2024

✓ = Benefit/Program is included in a specific membership category.

N/A – Benefit/Program is NOT included in a specific membership category.

\* = Support available for folks who may need help covering the membership fee.

Membership Fees, Programs, and Benefits	Membership Category		
	Full/Unlimited	OLLI Carte	General
Annual Membership Fee (Individual)*	\$245	\$120	\$65
Household Membership Discount	✓	✓	✓
Unlimited Courses (no additional fees)	✓	N/A	N/A
Fee per Course Option	N/A	\$40	N/A
Unlimited OLLI Talks/Walking Tours	✓	✓	N/A
Fee per OLLI Talk/Walking Tour Option	N/A	N/A	\$15
Shared Interest Groups	✓	✓	✓
Social Events	✓	✓	✓
Theater (group rate)	✓	✓	✓
Day Trips (group rate)	✓	✓	✓
Domestic Travel (group rates)	✓	✓	✓
International Travel (group rates)	✓	✓	✓
Winter & Summer Programs	✓	✓	✓
Mango Languages	✓	✓	N/A
UMass Student ID	✓	N/A	N/A
UMass Email Address	✓	N/A	N/A
UMass Parking Plan (per term)	\$45	N/A	N/A

**Household Membership.** Each membership category is eligible for a household discount. A household membership is designed for two individuals living at the same address and registering for the same membership category.

**Mango Languages:** Brush up your language skills before going on a trip. A free subscription to Mango Language is an OLLI membership perk for the Full and OLLI Carte membership levels.

**UMass Student ID:** Use your UMass Student ID to get discounts at selected cultural institutions (including the JFK Library & Museum) and retail establishments.

**UMass Email Address:** Use your UMass email address to get student discounts at online merchants. Some retail establishments also require a college or university email address to obtain a student discount. UMass email would allow you to also access the secure WiFi on campus.

**UMass Parking Plan:** OLLI offers a discounted parking rate of \$9/day for on-campus garages. Regular price is \$15. The semester parking plan allows Full members to pay \$45 each term for unlimited parking passes.

Cover photography by OLLI member Eileen Condon. Location: Keukenhof Gardens, Lisse, Netherlands

## Keep Learning. Keep Growing. Keep Having Fun!

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UMass Boston invites you to explore the more than 80 courses and other programs being offered during the spring 2025 semester. OLLI at UMass Boston is a member-based community of older adults (50 and better!) who truly enjoy learning simply for the love of it. With no homework or tests, OLLI students' curiosities are satisfied by engaging in our non-credit courses, special lectures, social events, theatre outings, and field trips in the United States and abroad. *We hope to see you this spring at one of our courses, or enjoying a theatre performance, or even heading out on a learning excursion with your fellow OLLI members.*

## What's Included in the OLLI Spring 2025 Catalog

At the time of printing, the information included in the spring catalog was current and accurate. Any updates to the listed information (changes, additions, cancellations, etc.) will be announced in OLLI's weekly newsletter, *Connections*, and online entries of courses and programs will be corrected to reflect the new information.

**OLLI courses** are typically 5-6 weeks long and meet once a week for 90 minutes. Courses explore a wide range of topics and are offered both in-person and online via Zoom. Class sessions are offered Monday-Saturday with varying times throughout the day, including some evening courses.

**OLLI Talks** are one-time lectures, presentations, or workshops typically held over the noon hour.

**Walking Tours** consist of a well-researched stroll of a specific neighborhood or location. Tour groups typically consist of no more than 15 members.

**Theatre Outings.** OLLI members enjoy discounted tickets to select theatre performances in the Boston area. The Theatre Committee works with various production companies to select shows and dates for OLLI to attend as a group.

**Travel.** Members enjoy fun and educational day trips as well as overnight travel (both domestic and international). Volunteers put together trip itineraries and promote them to OLLI members at discounted prices.

## Important Spring 2025 Dates to Keep in Mind

**Monday, January 6** – Course Request Process Begins

**Friday, February 14** – Priority Registration Deadline (course requests due!)

**February 17-21** – Course Lottery Allocation Period (course requests/registration paused)

**Monday, February 24** – Final Spring 2025 Course Schedules Released

**Monday, February 24** – Course registration re-opens on a first-come, first-served basis

**Monday, March 10** – OLLI Spring Semester Begins

**Reminder:** OLLI at UMass Boston uses a priority/lottery system to determine final course registrations. Full and OLLI Carte members must submit their course requests before the Priority Registration Deadline of February 14 to be included in the lottery allocation process. Please list your course choices in order of priority (highest priority = 1, and so on) on the Course Request Form or when using OLLI's online registration system with:

[www.campusce.net/umb/category/category.aspx](https://www.campusce.net/umb/category/category.aspx)

## Questions?

**Call:** 617.287.7312 or email [ollireg@gmail.com](mailto:ollireg@gmail.com)

**Mail to:** OLLI Office, UMass Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, MA 02125-3393

**Visit our website:** <https://www.umb.edu/olli>

**Request courses online:** <https://www.campusce.net/umb/category/category.aspx>

# Learning at OLLI

OLLI at UMass Boston continues to provide in-person and online programming for its members. We are ever so grateful for the time and effort our facilitators, presenters, and tour guides dedicate to researching, creating, and offering their knowledge, passions, and expertise to OLLI students.

## Learning Etiquette and Conduct

OLLI encourages rich dialogue and the exchange of ideas, opinions, and information in its courses and programs. This is at the heart of lifelong learning as older adults bring with them individual personal and professional experiences. OLLI and its facilitators/presenters wish to build a learning atmosphere (whether that is in-person or online) that is welcoming and accepting of differences. Members grow by actively listening to one another with respect and dignity. It is the expectation that members help one another in this endeavor, allowing various voices to be heard. We appreciate your cooperation in helping create this inclusive community.

## Zoom

OLLI at UMass Boston uses Zoom as the main platform to deliver course and program content online. A personal Zoom account is not required in order to participate in OLLI courses and programs. Zoom is a free video-conference platform that allows users to meet online and participate via video and audio. It is an application that can be easily installed or downloaded for free on your mobile device or home computer/laptop. The OLLI Zoom account is hosted through the university and is well secured. OLLI does not publicly promote Zoom details for meetings or courses; they are intended strictly for OLLI members. Members can learn more about Zoom by visiting its website: [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us).

## In-Person Locations and Directions

Approximately 45% of OLLI spring courses will be offered in-person at the UMass Boston Campus, Hingham Public Library, Thayer Public Library in Braintree, or Mt. Ida Campus in Newton. **Covid vaccinations and masking are no longer required by the University.** *Masks are welcomed at all in-person courses and events.* OLLI will inform its members if mandatory health policies change.

### UMass Boston Campus

McCormack Hall, 3rd Floor, Room 003  
100 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125-3393

### Hingham Public Library

Whiton Room  
66 Leavitt Street, Hingham, MA 02043

### Thayer Public Library

Logan Auditorium  
798 Washington Street, Braintree, MA 02184

### Mount Ida Campus

Campus Center Theatre  
100 Carlson Avenue, Newton, MA 02459




















Detailed information on directions and parking can be found on OLLI's contact/locations webpage: [www.umb.edu/olli/contact](http://www.umb.edu/olli/contact). For those attending programs at the UMass Boston campus, OLLI has arranged for discounted parking of \$9/day. Members planning to be on campus for more than five days during the fall semester can purchase a \$45 semester parking plan available through the OLLI Office. This plan allows for unlimited single use parking passes to be used for OLLI courses and programs being held on campus during the fall semester.

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 = In-Person (see course description for exact location)       = Online









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## Off-Site Courses

The below in-person courses are offered at Braintree, Hingham or Mt. Ida. For in-person course on the UMass Boston Campus, please go to the Monday (pg 6) and Thursday (pg 18) course listings.

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Major Romantic Period Classical Composers (Hingham)	13
Perspectives on the Holocaust (Braintree)	10
TED Talks (& Other Videos) Discussion Group (Braintree)	14
The Art of American Roots Music (Mt. Ida)	23
Three Is a Crowd: Love Triangles in Opera (Braintree)	18
Treasure Box of Memories: Writing Your Family Stories (Hingham)	8

# Spring 2025 Courses by Day of the Week

All course information is correct at the time of printing. Any changes to course details will be announced in the OLLI newsletter and reflected in the online information about the course. On the following pages, course descriptions and facilitator bios are listed by day of the week. **OLLI is offering both in-person and online courses this semester. Please note the location as you consider and submit your course requests.**

*Please note that the views and opinions expressed are strictly those of the facilitators, presenters, and their guest speakers and may not reflect the philosophical perspective of UMass Boston or OLLI leadership.*

## Monday

### Introducing You to You: The Peace Education Program

“Know your nature. Know your strength. Know who you are — and be that.” (Prem Rawat)

The Peace Education Program (PEP) supports this discovery, of gaining access to one’s own inner strengths and resources, so this knowledge of self may be recognized. In this six-week course, featuring a media-based peace education program created by The Prem Rawat Foundation, you can discover your inner resources such as peace, inner strength, self-awareness, and contentment, among others. Using provided digital workbooks, the facilitators involve participants with insightful talks, activities, and meaningful interactions that explore the theme of personal peace through a process of self-discovery.

**Facilitators:** Carol Post is the owner and director of an interpreting/translation business. She is a trained facilitator of The Prem Rawat Foundation’s Peace Education Program, which she has been presenting since 2017. Monica Casco is a retired lecturer from Queens College, City University of New York. She has helped The Prem Rawat Foundation develop Peace Education Program courses for schools and universities.

**Dates:** 6 Mondays, 3/10–4/14

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion/Hands-on-Activity

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

### Shaolin Qi Gong

Shaolin Qi Gong is a good exercise that focuses on strengthening your Dan Tian (energy field) and connecting the energy inside your whole body through the meridians. With simple movements, you will be able to feel the energy moving. You will also be able to exercise each part of your body. *Course Note: Since this course seeks to accommodate all participants, it is essential that students make it possible for the instructor to provide feedback. It is useful for participants to leave their Zoom camera on so*

*the instructor can most effectively guide and encourage participants.*

**Facilitator:** Huan Zhang has 40 plus years of martial arts experiences. He has studied variety of martial arts from top masters from China including his father Grandmaster Zhang Lu Ping, Grandmaster Li Tai Liang, and Great Grandmaster Cai Hong Xiang. He has been interviewed by WCVB & NECN. Published many martial arts articles on major magazines from both China and America, he is also the Chief Exercise designer for a NIH granted Joint Pain Study for elderly at UMass Boston. He was the co-president of the 2023 and 2024 WOMAC (World Open Martial Arts Championship) hosted at Reggie Lewis Center at downtown Boston. As the vice president of the The World Fighting Martial Arts Federation (WFMAF), he helps to promote Martial Arts Worldwide.

**Dates:** 6 Mondays, 3/10–4/14

**Time:** 10:00–11:00 a.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Exercise

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

### History and Consequences of the Vietnam War

This course is a repeat of the Fall 2023 course of the same name. The content will be similar but the discussion resulting from questions is always different. This course will expose the origins of the "American" Vietnam War. We will start with the presence of the French in the 1850s and travel through the years, up to and including our involvement in the fighting. Many commonly held concepts and beliefs will be shattered by the information presented. The role that our leaders, both military and political, played will be examined and critiqued. After taking this course, you will likely learn many previously untold truths about the events that happened so many years ago.

**Facilitator:** Michael Cunningham is a combat Vietnam veteran who has studied the history of Vietnam for many years. He has visited Vietnam on numerous occasions and has conducted countless interviews. Mike’s interest is to find the answers to WHY, to prevent any further fiascoes.

**Dates:** 6 Mondays, 3/10–4/14

**Time:** 1:30–3:00 p.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at Thayer Public Library, Braintree

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members



## CMA Up Close: Materials and Processes

This Cleveland Museum of Art course will offer insights into the materials and processes that artists use in making art, the stories that artworks tell, as well as the perspectives they ask us to consider. Artists' explorations of different materials express their collective and personal identities and allow us to explore diverse narratives across history and geography. Individual session topics include: the special exhibition *Picasso and Paper*, which highlights Picasso's appreciation of and experimentation with paper revealed in works ranging from collages, sculptures, drawings, and prints in an array of techniques; Black American printmakers' expression of collective and personal identity in *Karamu Artists Inc.: Printmaking, Race, and Community*; the importance of calligraphy and ceramics in Japanese culture; and discussion of other parts of the museum's permanent collection and rotating exhibitions.

**Facilitator:** Arielle Levine of the Cleveland Museum of Art teaches students all around the world during video conferences in the museum's Distance Learning Program. She has a degree in art history from Case Western Reserve University and has been with the museum's education department for over 15 years.

**Dates:** 6 Mondays, 3/10–4/14

**Time:** 1:30–2:45 p.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Healthy Lifestyle Habits in Older Adulthood

This class is designed to support older adults in living well and maintaining vitality, diving into topics such as physical activity, sleep, nutrition/hydration, mental health and social/emotional health. Through a combination of lectures and discussions, the facilitator aims to provide information and tools to improve lifestyle habits and encourage participants to stay active and improve overall well-being.

**Facilitator:** OLLI Scholar Madeleine Pollard is an ex student-athlete, and a passionate advocate for living a healthy, active life. She has a bachelor of science degree in Kinesiology and is working towards her Masters in Health and Exercise Science. She loves to help others learn about the benefits of leading an active lifestyle.

**Dates:** 5 Mondays, 3/10–4/14 (no class on 3/17)

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Understanding Privilege and Power in Our Society

Dive into the dynamics of identity, power, and privilege through the lens of intersectionality in this thought-provoking course. Over five weeks, we'll uncover how race, gender, sexuality, disability, and other aspects of identity shape our lives and social hierarchies. Through discussions and reflective activities, students will learn to see the hidden structures that sustain inequality and explore the compounded impact of multiple marginalizations. Together, we'll map the intersecting forces that construct power and imagine pathways toward a more inclusive, equitable society. Join us to understand who we privilege, why it matters, and how change begins with awareness.

**Facilitator:** Josh Chou is a doctoral student at UMass Boston, under the mentorship of Dr. Abbey Eisenhower. He received his Bachelor of Science in Psychobiology from UCLA in 2022, minoring in Disability Studies and Global Health. Following graduation, Josh served as a clinic coordinator at the UCLA Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills (PEERS) Clinic.

**Dates:** 5 Mondays, 3/10–4/14 (no class on 3/17)

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion/Hands-on-Activity

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## White Rage, White Fragility

In this course, we discuss Carol Anderson's *White Rage*, which describes the history of backlash against civil rights gains of African Americans, and Robin DiAngelo's *White Fragility*, which describes the emotional responses and defensive moves that white Americans engage in to simultaneously deny their own racism and to hold racism in place. We trace linkages between white rage and white fragility, looking at cycles of progress and backlash in the United States, exploring relevant theories of psychological functioning. Participants develop an understanding of interlocking historical and psychological factors that impede movement towards an equitable society.

**Facilitator:** Joshua Frank is President of Equity Intersection where he provides Adult Education in Racial Equity and American History. He worked as an educator for twenty-eight years in Massachusetts public schools. He completed his undergraduate education at UMass/Amherst and Master's degrees from UMass/Boston and the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

**Dates:** 5 Mondays, 3/10–4/7

**Time:** 1:00–2:30 p.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

**Format:** Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## A Little Line Dancing

Line dancing is a fun, approachable style of dancing - no partners, no fancy footwork (at least not to start), and no need for speedy twirling! In this course, we will learn 3-4 dances - some new and perhaps a few familiar ones as well. Each 50-minute class will include a warm up, step-by-step instructions, building towards performing the steps with music, and a cool-down. While line dancing is associated with country music, we will not be sticking with country music only (think "Electric Slide"). This course is based on an OLLI Talk offered last Fall and will be accessible to new dancers. *Course Note: Participation will require a base level of mobility, balance, and stamina. Being able to walk comfortably up varying terrain and elevations for thirty minutes continuously is a good benchmark for judging if this course is appropriate for you.*

**Facilitator:** Genny Peterson loves dancing. Admittedly, Genny has no formal training in line dancing - only what she was taught in 8th grade gym class (yes, we had a line dancing unit) and on many wedding dance floors. She is, however, a confident line dancer herself and has enjoyed workout programs that require learning dance-type moves for years. She is also program coordinator at OLLI at UMass Boston. When an OLLI member suggested line dancing on an OLLI course evaluation last spring, she couldn't resist.

**Dates:** 4 Mondays, 3/10–3/31

**Time:** 10:00–11:00 a.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at Thayer Public Library, Braintree

**Format:** Exercise

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Hats, Mitts, and Scarves

The purpose of this class is to use different knitting stitches and colorwork to create artful hats, mitts, and scarves.

**Facilitator:** Samia Awad was born in Bolivia. Her formal training was in Biology, and she worked as a biochemist for her entire working life. Samia has been knitting since she was 7 years old and is passionate about it. She enjoys sharing her enthusiasm by teaching others and has spent seven years teaching OLLI students and starting the Knitting Shared Interest Group (SIG).

**Dates:** 8 Mondays, 3/17–5/12 (no class on 4/21)

**Time:** 10:00–12:00 noon

**Location:** IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

**Format:** Lecture/Hands-on-Activity

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Treasure Box of Memories: Writing Your Family Stories

We all have family stories, right? Some funny, some sad, but all worth telling. Together, we will engage in writing exercises on brainstorming, outlining, then writing complete stories to either share or keep close to your heart. The fun is finding your storytelling voice. No writing experience necessary.

**Facilitator:** Elaine Hays is a retired College Writing Instructor who spent her career teaching college students how to write for college and careers. She has English degrees from UMass Boston and University of Rhode Island.

**Dates:** 5 Mondays, 3/17–4/14

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at Hingham Public Library

**Format:** Discussion/Hands-on Activity

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Fast-Talking Dames

Borrowing from Maria DiBattista's book w/ the same title, we will view the roles of Hollywood's screen elite - a breed of women characters with wit and energy. They are known to have a "comedy of type and behavior."

**Facilitator:** Caroline Chiccarelli's family stories about cinema have inspired her to share her love of film images with students' memories and perspectives. She enjoys discussing film-appreciation and interpretation with movie-goers of all ages.

**Dates:** 5 Mondays, 3/17–4/14

**Time:** 1:30–3:00 p.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at Hingham Public Library

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## The Rape of Europa: Nazi Art Plunder during World War II

During World War II, The Monuments Men and Women served in the Monuments, Fine Art, and Archives (MFAA) section of the U.S. Army, protecting and safeguarding civilization's most important artistic and cultural treasures from armed conflict. This course explores the work they did finding and repatriating the art stolen by the Nazis as they invaded and conquered European countries.

**Facilitator:** David Pogue is a veteran educator with over thirty years of experience. His main areas of interest are music, art, literature, history, and evolutionary psychology.

**Dates:** 8 Mondays, 3/24–5/19 (no class on 4/21)

**Time:** 1:30–3:00 p.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Women: The Forgotten "Men" in History

Many individuals contribute to history but never get their due. Women and other marginalized groups traditionally received less ink in history books than the "great men" of history who were mainly white males. This course looks at nine women whose achievements are not commonly known. Among the nine women are a scientist, a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, a pioneering pilot, a suffragist, a candidate for the US presidency, an activist for women's and African-American's rights, a British anthropologist, and a pioneering politician from the Western U.S.

**Facilitator:** 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.

**Dates:** 6 Mondays, 3/31–5/5

**Time:** 3:00–4:30 p.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## The Essential Jane Austen

In honor of Jane Austen's 250th birthday in 2025, we will explore her life, works, and legacy from a fresh perspective. Both seasoned readers and those new to Austen will appreciate experiencing the story of her authorship through images of original documents and artifacts. Austen began writing fiction in her teenage years, warmly supported by her family, especially her clergyman father. Yet she had to wait until she was in her thirties to see her first book in print. In this course, we will discover what happened in between, as well as how a household of creative women made it possible for her to focus on her writing and achieve publication. We will consider how and why her literary reputation grew after her death, and we will take a tour of the contemporary adaptations and retellings that continue to broaden her readership.

**Facilitator:** Juliette Wells is a Professor of Literary Studies at Goucher College, known for her groundbreaking research on Jane Austen. She has authored *A New Jane Austen: How Americans Brought Us the World's Greatest Novelist*, *Reading Austen in America*, and *Everybody's Jane: Austen in the Popular Imagination*. In 2025, Dr. Wells will co-curate *A Lively Mind: Jane Austen at 250* at The Morgan Library & Museum. She has also edited anniversary editions of *Persuasion* and *Emma*, with *Mansfield Park* forthcoming in 2025.

**Dates:** 6 Mondays, 3/31–5/5

**Time:** 5:00–6:30 p.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## The Brothers Karamazov: Dostoevsky Wrestles with His Demons

*The Brothers Karamazov* is Fyodor Dostoevsky's last great novel. Filled with intrigue, lust, murder, guilt, and the quest for salvation, the book examines the great themes Dostoevsky pursued in his writing after his release from prison and political exile: mankind's will to power, desire and its consequences, and the kind of God at work in the present world. How does Dostoevsky ground these

questions in the reality of late 19th century Russia? What makes his characters and his ideas so memorable? How does his novel resonate with us today?

**Facilitator:** Patricia Suhrcke received her PhD in Russian Literature from the University of Chicago. She previously taught Russian literature in translation in Chicago and Atlanta. She has been facilitating course for OLLI since 2016 and enjoys using her experience leading public dialogues to discuss the great Russian novels with interested readers.

**Dates:** 6 Mondays, 4/14–6/2 (no class on 4/21 & 5/26)

**Time:** 1:30–3:00 p.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Star Trek and Society: Boldly Going Beyond Entertainment

*Star Trek* is so much more than a popular sci-fi series - it's a great way to examine real-world social, political, and ethical issues! From Cold War tensions and civil rights in *Star Trek: The Original Series* to feminist narratives in *Voyager* to post-9/11 reflections in *Enterprise*, we'll analyze how *Star Trek* has mirrored and critiqued the changing sociopolitical landscape over the decades. This course is ideal for fans as well as those generally interested in cultural history and interested in thoughtful discussions on the intersection of popular media and society.

**Facilitator:** With a Master's degree in Global and Colonial History, OLLI Scholar Meredith Walker specializes in exploring sociopolitical themes in science fiction, particularly *Star Trek*. Her research focuses on how popular media reflects and shapes societal changes, examining topics like gender, race, and post-Cold War politics through a cultural history lens.

**Dates:** 5 Mondays, 4/14–5/19 (no class on 4/21)

**Time:** 1:30–3:00 p.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Redefining the Fight for Women's Equality: What Feminism Looks Like on the Margins

Has “feminism” ever felt like a taboo or irrelevant word because it doesn't seem to address your struggles? When mainstream feminism emerged it often lacked engagement with issues of class and race. It even excluded challenges to gender norms that were otherwise accepted by mainstream feminists, thus sidelining, for example, trans issues. This course will offer a fresh perspective on feminism as we look through Black feminist thought, socialist feminism, and transnational lenses, considering what a more inclusive feminism looks like. No prior

knowledge is needed—just a willingness to engage in meaningful discussions and explore new ideas.

**Facilitator:** As a PhD candidate in sociology, Brittany Riffle has a keen understanding of how mainstream feminist movements have often been narrow in scope, excluding marginalized communities at best and causing harm at worst. With years of teaching experience, she is dedicated to making complex ideas accessible and fostering thought-provoking discussions. Brittany is excited to create a collaborative learning environment where OLLI students will learn from her, but she will also learning from the perspectives and experiences of OLLI students.

**Dates:** 5 Mondays, 4/28–6/2 (no class on 5/26)

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Perspectives on the Holocaust

The Holocaust, carried out by Nazi Germany before and during World War II, was the most heinous organized crime of the 20th century. This course will mix lecture and discussion and will cover topics including: how the years leading up to the Holocaust and centuries of prejudice and discrimination against Jews set the stage for the Nazis' deeds; why America and the rest of the world were slow to act on evidence of atrocities; how the Nazis organized and carried out the Holocaust; personal experiences of survivors and rescuers; and how the Holocaust is viewed, discussed, and taught today.

**Facilitator:** Thomas Burke is a writer and history enthusiast, and author of "Evil Must Not Have the Last Word," the life story of Holocaust survivor Mary Wygodski. In this course, he shares his findings and his ongoing research with those who are interested in knowing more about the Holocaust and anti-Semitism.

**Dates:** 6 Mondays, 4/28–6/9 (no class on 5/26)

**Time:** 10:30–12:00 noon

**Location:** IN-PERSON at Thayer Public Library, Braintree

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## AI in Daily Life: Practical Tools for Everyday Use

This course introduces participants to the world of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by focusing on tools and technologies they can use in their daily lives. From voice assistants like Alexa and Siri to AI-powered applications, participants will learn how to leverage AI to simplify tasks, enhance communication, and improve safety. This course makes AI accessible and practical for everyone.

**Facilitator:** OLLI Scholar Shivendra Tripathi is an aspiring data scientist with an interest in AI. With a passion for making tech accessible, he enjoys helping others explore practical tools that enhance daily life. He will be bringing a friendly, hands-on approach to learning, making AI approachable for everyone.

**Dates:** 5 Mondays, 4/28–6/2 (no class on 5/26)

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

**Format:** Lecture

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Can Language Mark Social Identity?

Is our speech a window into our identity? What does it mean to speak with an Irish, Boston, New York or Southern accent? How often do we tailor our speech to fit societal norms of how a man or woman should talk? Is it language that shapes our worldview or vice versa? What societal factors influence language expectations? Join our discussion class to explore language ideologies, voice, stylistic choices, and the intricate link between language, identity and society. Our readings will be based on short news articles/video clips reflecting everyday public discussions of language and identity in society. We will discuss and analyse these to unpack some of the assumptions underlying language and identity in society.

**Facilitator:** OLLI Scholar Chisom Nlebedum is a PhD student of Applied Linguistics at UMass Boston whose research interests focus on critical language pedagogy and sociolinguistics. A 2021 African Excellence Scholar at the University of Glasgow where he obtained a Masters in Applied Linguistics, Chisom enjoys critical discussions on the role of language in identity formation.

**Dates:** 5 Mondays, 4/28–6/2 (no class on 5/26)

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Where Did Your Rights Go? The Supreme Court, Politics and the Constitution

You probably remember where you were on June 24, 2022, the day *Roe v. Wade* was overturned by the Supreme Court. The Court has remained in the news ever since. Which other rights are in danger of being lost to an unelected branch of government? We will analyze the evolution of the Court through historical, political, and equity lenses, using *White Rage* by Carol Anderson, *Dark Money* by Jane Mayer and *The Scheme* by Sheldon Whitehouse to guide us.

**Facilitator:** Joshua Frank, see bio on page 7.

**Dates:** 5 Mondays, 4/28–6/2 (no class on 5/26)

**Time:** 1:00–2:30 p.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

**Format:** Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Writing a "Legacy Letter"

A legacy letter (also called an "ethical will") is a written document that allows you to share your life lessons, express your values and transmit your blessings to future generations. A legacy letter is shorter than a memoir, typically just a few pages. Writing one is a rewarding experience that creates an enduring gift for family and friends. This four-session online course includes discussion and brief writing exercises to help you examine your life history, explore your values and capture important insights. It offers advice, encouragement and a model structure to help you draft and complete your own legacy letter.

**Facilitator:** Jay Sherwin has practiced law, given away money for five different charitable foundations and served as a hospital chaplain. In 2019, he created the Life Reflections Project to educate people about legacy letters, ethical wills and other legacy documents. Jay has taught this course for adult learning programs nationwide.

**Dates:** 4 Mondays, 4/28–5/19

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

*Tuesday*

## Watercolor Painting

This class is for anyone interested in learning the wonderful medium of watercolor painting! At the beginning of each class, the instructor will present a specific technique or concept that students will practice during class. The instructor will provide reference photos for inspiration or students may choose to work with their own images. Some prior experience is helpful but not mandatory. This course is taught entirely online through the Zoom platform. *Course Note: This course will be recorded and recordings sent to students actively taking the courses in order to continuing practicing their skills and techniques.*

**Facilitator:** Kate Nordstrom is an artist and art educator in Barrington, Rhode Island. Her passion for art started in childhood and has remained an important part of her life. Her most recent work details the ruggedness of the New England coastline, the majestic beauty of NE lighthouses, and the California landscape/architecture. Since 2020, Kate is thrilled to be an instructor with OLLI.

**Dates:** 6 Tuesdays, 3/11–4/22 (no class on 3/25)

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Hands-On Activity

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Exploring AI Technology's Role in Personal and Community Well-being

This course unpacks the intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and holistic health, exploring how technology can support or challenge wellness in today's data-driven world. Over five weeks, students will examine AI applications across physical, mental, and emotional health domains, gaining hands-on experience with digital tools that promote personal and community well-being. From fitness trackers and mindfulness apps to ethical considerations in data privacy, the course emphasizes mindful tech use and responsible AI development. Learners will explore and critique apps/sources for personalized wellness needs, critically analyzing AI's role in shaping sustainable, balanced approaches to health.

**Facilitator:** OLLI Scholar Ayesha Khurshid came to UMass Boston as an international doctoral student from Pakistan and enrolled in School of Global Inclusion and Social Development at UMass Boston. As a dedicated researcher and advocate, Ayesha, specializes in disability-inclusive development, inclusive education, human rights, and technology. With a keen focus on marginalized populations, particularly children and adults with disabilities, she strives to ensure their access to fundamental freedoms and rights.

**Dates:** 5 Tuesdays, 3/11–4/15 (no class on 3/25)

**Time:** 9:30–11:00 a.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Hands-on-Activity

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Exploring Identity: An Analysis of Internal and External Influences that Impact Identities

How do we describe our identities? For some, it is merely based on biology and ethnicity. Yet, identity covers many other facets of one's life and how we relate to our environments. It is impacted by varying perspectives of religion, ideology, economics, and sociological constructs that mold us into who we are what we believe in or follow. Identity has been formed via generational ideologies, stereotypes, and individual and collective perspectives. The following subtopics will be analyzed and discussed in relation to identity: race, ethnicity, self-identity versus socially constructed identity, stereotypes, colonialism, assimilation, the U.S. Census, Christianity and slavery. The objective is to obtain a thorough understanding of the complexity of identity, its myriad facets, and how one's own identity is formulated as a result, leading to better understanding of the surrounding world and societies. Articles, video clips, and discussion will be the format.

**Facilitator:** As an immigrant who arrived in the U.S.A. at the age of 5, and a product of colonization, the topic of identity has always been a most important one very dear to M. Teresa Mascarenhas's heart. In all phases of her life, Teresa has analyzed her identity in relation to her realities: born under a colonized regime, adjustment as an immigrant, learning the nuances of a different culture, and development as a woman and mother of a special needs child. These experiences, among others, have helped mold who Teresa is. To further strengthen her interest in the topic, she conducted research as a Ph.D. student on the importance of identity in education.

**Dates:** 6 Tuesdays, 3/11–4/15

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at Thayer Public Library, Braintree

**Format:** Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## **United States: A Stew? A Melting Pot? Or Both?**

Multiculturalism is essential in today's interconnected world. We need to promote mutual understanding and reduce prejudice for making progress on human development. Considering United States as a case study, lets see how successful the country is in fostering empathy and encourages people to see beyond biases. Are different ethnic groups in the US instrumental in building more cohesive communities or still living in silos? To what extent Americans are embracing global citizenship for peaceful coexistence? This five-week course will walk us through what are few of the political, educational, and cultural initiatives that United States introduced to promote multiculturalism.

**Facilitator:** While working on advocacy campaigns in the context of international development, OLLI Scholar Leena Maqsood realized demonstrating sensitivity to cultural nuances in communication and adapting messaging to diverse audiences is crucial to accelerate socio-economic development. Multiculturalism is, thus, central to human development that helps us learn collectivism without sacrificing our individual identities.

**Dates:** 5 Tuesdays, 3/11–4/8

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## **Can We Stop Climate Change?**

Can we stop climate change? Not 100% of it, because some has already happened. But we can do a lot! This series of five 90-minute meetings is designed for people interested in learning more about climate change and climate justice, becoming more effective in communicating with others about it, and taking action to mitigate its impact on our planet and ourselves. We will start with the problems, basic science, and equity issues involved, but we spend most of our time understanding

the wide range of available climate change solutions and how you can get involved, both individually and working with others. *Course Note: This course has similar content to the course of the same name offered in previous semesters, but is continually updated with new material. If you attended previously you're welcome to repeat if you wish.*

**Facilitator:** Tom Rawson is a retired middle school science teacher and UMass Boston graduate. He works with a team to lead "Can We Stop Climate Change" courses, and works on climate change education and advocacy with Third Act, Mass Audubon, and others. Tom spends his free time doing carpentry, bicycle riding, and hiking.

**Dates:** 5 Tuesdays, 3/11–4/8

**Time:** 1:00–2:30 p.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at Thayer Public Library, Braintree

**Format:** Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## **A Beatles Musical History Tour: From Liverpool to Abbey Road (Part 2 of 3)**

In Part 2 of this 3-part course, the Beatles open their third U.S. tour before a world record crowd at NYC's Shea Stadium in August 1965. That Fall they release Rubber Soul. 1966's Revolver, released just before their final tour, showed even greater studio experimentation, sophisticated songwriting, and an expanded repertoire of musical styles: "Love You Too" (all Indian instruments), "Eleanor Rigby" (strings), and "Tomorrow Never Knows" (tape loops). Part 2 concludes with "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" and "Magical Mystery Tour." *Course Note: There is no prerequisite for this course. Members who did not take "Part 1" are welcome to take "Part 2."*

**Facilitator:** Gene Shwalb graduated from Oberlin Conservatory where he studied piano and cello. He received his M.Ed. from UMass Boston and recently retired after 17 years as a Learning Designer at UMass Boston. Gene edits the Music Museum of New England website: [MMONE.org](http://MMONE.org). He is also proficient on synthesizer, bass, and guitar.

**Dates:** 5 Tuesdays, 3/11–4/8

**Time:** 6:30–8:00 p.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## **Bathed In Light: A Film Appreciation Course**

Movies radiate light many ways. Some literally shine with sunlight. Some are so airily light they float off the screen. Some illuminate hidden or shaded corners of existence. Participants will view, analyze, report on, and discuss a variety of films that reward close viewing by shedding new light on our views of life, of the world, of cinema itself. Bring your sunglasses—and your spyglass!

Requirements: (1) Commit to 2 weekly online movie-viewings at home: on TV, pc, or tablet/laptop. (2) Access to YouTube, Amazon Prime and Kanopy (video streaming service via Boston Public Library card); Access to Criterion.

**Facilitator:** A Boston-area native, Bernie Swain, PhD began studying film at the Cinémathèque française in Paris at age 20, and spent the next 50 years (in Cambridge, Washington, DC, Chicago, back to Boston, and to Paris again) pursuing his passion to really see the beauty only cinema offers.

**Dates:** 8 Tuesdays, 3/18–5/6

**Time:** 1:30–3:30 p.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Major Romantic Period Classical Composers

This course will examine the life and works of major classical music composers mainly of the 19th century, the “Romantic” period. We’ll examine their life and the context in which they composed. We’ll define what the subjective term “major” means, peruse the kinds of music they created, and listen to samples of their more important works. We’ll talk about what makes their style recognizable, and how they influenced the work of other composers. No prior classical music exposure is assumed, but if you have some favorites, come prepared to share. We’ll start with Beethoven and work our way forward in time towards Rachmaninoff. *Course Note: This course is a repeat of the same from the Spring 2019 semester.*

**Facilitator:** Steve Vorenberg earned a minor in music from University of New Mexico (BS/MA in Math), sang in a classical music chorus, plays piano for events at Linden Ponds and plays bassoon in the Wompatuck Senior Orchestra. He has a lifetime of attending concerts and recitals. He frequently listens to selections from his extensive classical music collection. His special passion is the minor and little-known composers, which require an understanding of the majors to evaluate and appreciate

**Dates:** 8 Tuesdays, 3/18-5/6

**Time:** 1:30–3:00 p.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at Hingham Public Library

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Cognitive Upgrade

In this class you will find the latest research & practical applications for a more resilient brain. Many people think that the aging process is only about decline and deterioration which can lead to a fearful and depressing outlook about growing older. The newest research offers a much more positive outlook about the amazing potential of the brain to grow, change, rewire and upgrade. Katherine will be combining the latest research about

the brain along with stimulating exercises to activate the brain, including meditation which has been shown to remodel the brain to strengthen the qualities that psychologists say are crucial components of happiness, resilience, equanimity, calm and a sense of compassionate connection to others. The brain is a learning machine. (If you have already taken Katherine's Brain & Memory Activation course, this will be a review along with updated information, studies and practices.)

**Facilitator:** Katherine Robinson majored in psychology and anthropology at the University of Vermont. She also did graduate training in mental-health counseling and is certified by the McLean Meditation Institute (AZ) and Yoga Body. She recently became a certified Brain Longevity Therapist through the Alzheimer's Research & Prevention Foundation. Katherine's passions are teaching meditation, breathwork, and energy techniques to calm the body and grow new neurons in the brain. She loves to explore the healing vibrations of sound and motivate and inspire others to be the best that they can be.

**Dates:** 5 Tuesdays, 3/18–4/15

**Time:** 1:30–3:00 p.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion/Exercises

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Contemporary Economic Policy

Economics plays a central role in the functioning of every aspect of society. This course will address a set of prominent policy issues where economics is at their core. We will explore their origins as policy matters, the underlying data and evidence, and what policy levers are available to deal with them. Each lecture will be taught by a different subject matter expert.

**Facilitator:** Geoffrey Woglom is Professor of Economics, emeritus, at Amherst College. He has held visiting positions at Cambridge, and was a consultant for the IMF and the Fed. He received his PhD from Yale University.

**Dates:** 5 Tuesdays, 3/18–4/15

**Time:** 1:30–3:00 p.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Exploring Viking History and Heritage: Runes, Raids, and More!

Embark on a thrilling 5-week journey to explore Viking history and heritage. This course offers a brief overview of Viking themes: Exploration, Power, Commerce, and Religion. We'll cover everything from longships and weapons to runes, raids, and Norse mythology. If your ancestors were Northern Europeans, chances are you have Viking DNA, and we'll be able to explore some of that family history through our interactive class map. Whether you like history, genealogy, or are simply

curious about Viking lore and ancestral Viking wisdom, this course offers something for everyone.

**Facilitator:** OLLI Scholar Liilu Hansen is a historian of Scandinavian studies who return to grad school after 20 years. Her family is from Denmark where she has lived and worked, she speaks Danish and is proficient in Nordic languages. Liilu founded the Norse Community of SLC and leads Ancestor Tours to Northern Europe to help people discover and connect with their ancestors. She lives in Utah with her four children where she regularly organizes Nordic pagan celebrations, much to the surprise of her conservative neighbors.

**Dates:** 5 Tuesdays, 3/18–4/15

**Time:** 1:30–3:00 p.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## **Lessons in Our Stories: African American Children's Literature**

The purpose of this course is to explore African American children's literature to learn about African Americans' lived experiences during pre and post-slavery, and how they thrived, found joy, and instilled hope and freedom. Students will learn how to identify coded language and to connect coded content to United States history. By the end of this course, students will have learned more about African American culture and how their practices uplifted theirs and other marginalized communities' humanity.

**Facilitator:** OLLI Scholar Deandra Williams is an African American woman dedicated to developing equitable and sustainable practices to increase access to uplift underserved individuals and communities. Deandra has served as an education and community leader for over a decade in urban and suburban neighborhoods throughout the Northeast region. She is the Adult Programs Supervisor at Boston Public Library and Ph.D. candidate at UMass Boston.

**Dates:** 5 Tuesdays, 4/1–4/29

**Time:** 6:00–7:30 p.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## **Independent Films: A Sampler**

Independent and international films seem to come and go so quickly in theaters. Join us to see some of the best that you may have missed or may want to see again. In this six week class we will view and discuss a wide variety of films including, *Lady Bird*, director Greta Gerwig's story of a daughter coming of age, *Company Men*, a Boston film that personalizes the 2007 financial crisis, and *The Maid*, a black comedy from Chile.

**Facilitator:** Julie Kinchla enjoyed taking film classes while a student at UMass Boston in the 70s, leading to a lifelong love of movies. Julie is a retired librarian with many years of experience developing and presenting programs for the public.

Previous classes for OLLI include American Film Noir and Boston in the Movies.

**Dates:** 6 Tuesdays, 4/22–5/27

**Time:** 1:00–3:30 p.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at Thayer Public Library, Braintree

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## **Forensic Linguistics: Crime and Language**

How to use the five key elements of language to solve our favorite crime show before the detective does! In this course we will discuss the five elements of language, morphology, phonology, semantic, syntax and pragmatics and how forensic linguists use these tools to discover the culprit, key characterize about them and their background, and who dunnit!? Learn how to solve cases like the Unabomber, the Yorkshire Ripper and more.

**Facilitator:** OLLI Scholar Desiree Zaleski is a third year graduate student graduating with a MA in Applied Linguistics. She loves languages, accents and culture! She is a mom to two boys and hopes to work as a forensic linguist for the government. Desiree cannot wait to share with you about the fascinating world of forensic linguistics!

**Dates:** 5 Tuesdays, 4/22–5/20

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## **TED Talks (& Other Videos) Discussion Group**

TED Talks consist of videos from expert and engaging speakers whose talks expose new ideas and concepts to help us think about and live our lives differently. The topics are far ranging from education, business, and science to emerging technologies, international concerns, and creativity. Informative videos from other sources that augment, support, or refute TED Talks will also be viewed to provide additional perspectives where appropriate. Each week we will watch 2-4 curated videos together in class. Background information about the speakers and questions derived from the talk will be presented for you to discuss in groups. This will enable you to delve more deeply into the topic, examine the merits of the talk and topic and how it relates to and affects you. The goal is to awaken your curiosity, solidify your own thinking and feelings and learn something new.

**Facilitator:** Myrna Finn, Professor Emerita Salem State University, has taught courses in all aspects of oral communication. Her motto, "you're never too old to learn something new," underscores her passion for life-long learning in a community of like-minded people. Her goal is to provide opportunities for others to explore differing perspectives for their continued growth and development.



**Dates:** 5 Tuesdays, 4/22–5/20  
**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.  
**Location:** IN-PERSON at Thayer Public Library, Braintree  
**Format:** Discussion  
**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Finding the Light

In this class series, we will be learning how to build our inner world and learning about the concept of embodying 'the light' in order to remember who we are at our core so that we can navigate darker times on the planet. This course will also investigate spiritual ideas and concepts that will help us to go inwards to remember the true self within us. This part of us is actually hardwired to handle and navigate these times with grace and ease. We will be doing breathing, meditation and energy techniques to shift us more into the wisdom of our bodies and our spirits.

**Facilitator:** Katherine Robinson, see bio on page 13.  
**Dates:** 4 Tuesdays, 4/22–5/13  
**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.  
**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom  
**Format:** Lecture/Discussion/Exercises  
**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Exploring the Boston Harbor Islands: On Land, Sea, and the Islands

The Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park is a stone's throw from UMass Boston. The beauty of the islands surrounds the campus and beckons discovery. Each of the Park's 34 islands is an integral part of New England's pre-history, history, present, and future. They offer a rich heritage and combination of natural, cultural, and historic resources. Archaeologists have established that they were used or inhabited by humans at least 8,000 years ago. They have been designated an Archaeological District on the National Register of Historic Places. This five-week course will include a classroom orientation session at UMass Boston, an introductory boat tour of the Islands, a boat trip and walking tour of Cathleen Stone Island (formerly known as Thompson Island), a field trip to the MWRA Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant, and a second field trip (specific island TBA). We will travel on the UMass Boston vessel M/V Columbia Point, rain or shine. *To defray the charter costs, OLLI students are required to pay \$100 total for the field trips. This course is not appropriate for OLLI members using wheelchairs or other mobility aids. Participants should be able to board a boat and walk unassisted on uneven ground – rugged paths and trails. Plan to bring a picnic lunch and water.*

**Facilitator:** Suzanne Gall Marsh has been leading OLLI programs to the Harbor Islands and local National Parks and maritime sites since 2009. She received a BA from UMass Boston College of Public and Community Service and participated in the university's Women in Politics and Public Policy program. She is the founder and board member of Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands who celebrated its 45th anniversary in 2024. She has developed a variety of public history programs – landside and public boat trips. She has worked for the Boston Harbor Islands National Park as an interpreter/ranger and for Boston Harbor Cruises as a narrator.  
**Dates:** 5 Tuesdays, 4/29–5/27  
**Time:** Due to the nature of this course, times and length of each session will vary. The general time frame is 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.  
**Location:** IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus  
**Format:** Lecture/Hands-on-Activity  
**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Wednesday

### Three Is a Crowd: Love Triangles in Opera

Composers through the ages have been inspired by love triangles. From Verdi's *Aida*, set in ancient Egypt, to later stories, such as Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*, set in 19th century Sicily, these ill fated romances have held our interest. In this course, we will view and discuss excerpts from six different operas and see how beautiful music can emerge from not so beautiful situations.

**Facilitator:** Mary Doller is a graduate of Boston College and a retired educator. She first became aware of opera when, as a child, she saw artists from the Metropolitan Opera perform on the Ed Sullivan Show and enjoyed the Metropolitan Opera's Saturday afternoon performances as narrated by Milton Cross. As an adult, she has continued to enjoy opera both in live performance and in both audio and video recordings. She takes particular pleasure in sharing her enthusiasm with fellow OLLI members.  
**Dates:** 6 Wednesdays, 3/12–4/23 (no class on 3/26)  
**Time:** 1:30–3:00 p.m.  
**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom  
**Format:** Lecture/Discussion  
**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

### Shakespeare: *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Richard II*

Rediscover Shakespeare as we take a deep dive into pairs of his plays. This semester we will examine a comedy and a history play. For each play, outside of class, participants will be expected to read the play and view a film version. The texts we will use are the *Folger Shakespeare Library* editions (under \$10 apiece at Amazon and available for free download). However, any editions with line numbers

are acceptable. Both film versions are available for rent, but they may be viewed for free on Zoom (courtesy of the OLLI Office). In class we will discuss the plays in the context of Shakespeare's life and times, with reference to major critical research, in the hope of coming to a rich appreciation of his works.

**Facilitator:** Evelyn Ryan is an experienced teacher who facilitated OLLI's "The Best of English Poetry" for eight years. Evelyn has been a Shakespeare enthusiast since she first saw *Macbeth* in junior high school. Since then, she has read and viewed Shakespeare's plays in London, New York, the Berkshires, Cambridge, and Boston, as well as in films.

**Dates:** 6 Wednesdays, 3/12–4/16 (films at 4:00 p.m. on 3/19 & 4/9)

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Housing in the Powerhouses: Barriers to the Housing Market in the U.S. and India

Today in the US, many cities are struggling with homelessness. In India, you may have heard of extreme examples of inadequate housing, like slums. What kind of housing did you grow up in? Did your parents own a house? Did you grow up in an apartment? A townhouse? Government housing? Where do you live now? Growing up in south India and now living in the US, I have my own unique housing experiences. Today, I do research to try to answer questions like – how do marginalized groups access housing? What are the rules and policies that shape access to the housing market? Does race, gender, and citizenship lead to housing discrimination? Why? This course provides a reflection platform on what has been done through policy to support the marginalized in accessing housing with recommendations for more immediate policy actions.

**Facilitator:** OLLI Scholar Mahesh Admankar is a PhD Candidate in public policy at UMass Boston. He earned his bachelor's degree in social science and master's in economics from India. He graduated with a master's in public policy from UMass Boston. Earlier, Mahesh worked as an assistant professor of economics for four years. His research interests are discrimination in the labor market, education, climate justice, and social exclusion.

**Dates:** 5 Wednesdays, 3/19–4/16

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Crossword Puzzle Creation

Have you wondered how crossword puzzles are created? This course will appeal to those who want to construct their own crosswords, those who are simply curious about the process, and those who want to be better solvers. We will explore all steps of the crossword puzzle creation process including tools, formats, themes, grid block arrangement, challenging clues, and more. We will even discuss how to submit a puzzle for publication. After a brief intro to free-form style puzzles, we will focus on US newspaper-style, symmetric, themed 15 x 15 puzzles like the NYT crossword, and an OLLI-themed puzzle. Throughout the course, we will construct several crossword puzzles together.

**Facilitator:** Steve Weyer has been a cruciverbalist (crossword aficionado) since the 1990s. He is the creator of CrozzWord, a mobile app for crossword solving. Weyer has been teaching crossword topics since 2010. He constructs crosswords for libraries and other organizations and publications. His first *New York Times* crossword debuted in November 2023. Weyer's crosswords appear weekly in Ashland.news and on his website.

**Dates:** 6 Wednesdays, 4/2–5/7

**Time:** 3:00–4:30 p.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion/Hands-on-Activity

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Drawing with Colored Pencil

This class is for anyone interested in learning how to draw using pencils and colored pencil. Students will learn some color theory in order to understand how to use color to create depth and atmospheric perspective in their drawings. This course will focus on observation to capture form and space using simple still life objects and photographs for inspiration. Additionally, students may choose to draw from their own reference photos, particularly if they have had prior drawing experience. All levels are welcome. This course is taught entirely online through the Zoom platform. *Course Note: This course will be recorded and recordings sent to students actively taking the courses in order to continuing practicing their skills and techniques.*

**Facilitator:** Kate Nordstrom, see bio on page 11.

**Dates:** 8 Wednesdays, 4/2–5/21

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Hands-on-Activity

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Car Crazy: 1950s Onward

In this course, we will explore key eras of automotive history, as a way of understanding the profound impact cars have on society and culture. We will discuss the role of influential designers, the creation of iconic vehicles like

the Ford Mustang and Chevrolet Corvette, and the appeal of visionary concept cars like the Ford Nucleon – all of which highlight the creativity and innovation of each era. We will discuss how global car cultures, from America’s muscle cars to Japan’s futuristic designs, reflect the unique identities and values of their societies. These vehicles have become symbols of creativity, status, and technological progress. Whether it's Germany’s precision-engineered sports cars or Italy’s exquisitely crafted performance masterpieces, each region brings its own distinct flavor to the world of automotive design. Learn how the worldwide car scene showcases the diversity of human innovation and cultural expression, cementing automobiles as both a tool of progress and a reflection of societal evolution.

**Facilitator:** Pandora Paúl, former curator at America’s Automotive Trust and LeMay America’s Car Museum in Tacoma, Washington, enjoyed driving her father’s red ’59 Convertible Corvette, her mom’s ’70 Opel GT, and cruising in her own ’77 Malibu Classic station wagon. Her career has included both work and play in museum education, training, and curation. Paúl was part of the team at the San Diego Automotive Museum who created award-winning exhibits. She has served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Automobile Museums. She loves to showcase vehicles that have not been seen before. She believes that automobiles are snapshots of our culture, and she enjoys interpreting cars in unique ways that inspire conversation and create wonder and awe.

**Dates:** 6 Wednesdays, 4/9–5/14

**Time:** 7:00–8:30 p.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Chair Yoga for Everyone

Chair yoga is so popular now....for many reasons. One is because people can get the benefits without getting on the floor and most everyone can do it. It increases circulation, keeps the joints lubricated, promotes relaxation, helps with better breathing, works on balance and increases strength. Come reap the benefits of this practice. You can do it!

**Facilitator:** Elaine Kerrigan became a yoga teacher at 50 years old and has been teaching it ever since in yoga studios, health clubs, and senior centers. Elaine has taught yoga on the mat and now in a chair...which is great for people who prefer not to get on the floor. Elaine hopes that you will join her and reap the benefits.

**Dates:** 5 Wednesdays, 4/16–5/14

**Time:** 1:30–2:30 p.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at Hingham Public Library

**Format:** Exercise

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Why Should Exercise Be Boring? LET'S DANCE!

Join the ultimate dance-fitness party that beats a boring old exercise workout any day! Zumba® Gold is part of the popular Zumba® dance-based fitness program, and is designed for active older adults. It includes the same wide variety of Latin and Other International Rhythms, but without the high impact moves. It's not a dance class, though, so there are no right or wrong moves - just let the music move you! You can even dance along in your chair! Wear workout clothes and sneakers and have water handy. *Course Note:* Since this course seeks to accommodate all participants, it is essential that students make it possible for the instructor to provide feedback. It is useful for participants to leave their Zoom camera on so the instructor can most effectively guide and encourage participants.

**Facilitator:** Mary Ellen Reardon is a certified Group Exercise Instructor and has taught Zumba®Gold classes in the Boston area for almost 14 years. Her dance background includes tap dancing and Irish Step, which allows her to include "Fake Irish Step Dancing" as one of her Other International Rhythms!

**Dates:** 6 Wednesdays, 4/23–5/28

**Time:** 1:30–2:30 p.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Exercise

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## American Civil War Lecture Series

Over five weeks, OLLI students will explore different topics relating to the American Civil War. Each night will be a different topic with time for discussion. Join us as we explore New England’s role in the Civil War, an overview of the Western Theater, Causes of the Civil War, Robert E. Lee and Ulysses Grant and one more! The last week of this series will be a topic based on your suggestions! Your instructor will send you a survey prior to the start of the series and the topic that the majority of you suggest will be our final week’s subject!

**Facilitator:** OLLI Scholar Kristie Poehler has studied, taught, and written about American history for over three decades. Specializing in the Civil War, Kristie has published two books, edited the *Battlefield Journal*, and created an award-winning Civil War documentary for a local PBS station. Kristie recently taught the OLLI courses: The Gettysburg Campaign and Assassination and the Hunt for John Wilkes Booth. Kristie lives in Western Mass with her son.

**Dates:** 5 Wednesdays, 4/23–5/21

**Time:** 6:00–7:30 p.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Thursday

### Classics of German Cinema

In this course, OLLI students will watch four classic German films from different eras. The first half of the class will be watching the films while the second half will be devoted to discussing what was viewed.

**Facilitator:** David Pogue, see bio on page 8.

**Dates:** 6 Thursdays, 3/6–4/10

**Time:** 1:30–3:00 p.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

### How Was That a Hit? Pop Music 1950s–1980s

Relive and rediscover your 45 collections with this fun class that explores how pop songs from the 1950s through the 1980s became the hits we know and love. Hundreds of songs were released by many independent record labels and while some were natural hits, others found success by accident, luck, or a combination. The charts were determined by airplay and sales calculated by methods over which only a few people had control. *Cash Box Magazine* was one of the prominent music publications that Dick Clark, Solid Gold, and Rick Dees' Weekly Top 40 used to count down the hits. Class content is different each semester.

**Facilitator:** Gregory Leschishin was born in the city where Rock and Roll was discovered: Cleveland! Besides being a chart fanatic, Gregory was a disc jockey before he became determined to work in Hollywood. For close to five years, he was one of the musicologists who determined the biggest hits that the United States listened to and purchased!

**Dates:** 7 Thursdays, 3/13–4/24

**Time:** 6:30–8:00 p.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

### Three Is a Crowd: Love Triangles in Opera

Composers through the ages have been inspired by love triangles. From Verdi's *Aida*, set in ancient Egypt, to later stories, such as Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*, set in 19th century Sicily, these ill fated romances have held our interest. In this course, we will view and discuss excerpts from six different operas and see how beautiful music can emerge from not so beautiful situations.

**Facilitator:** Mary Doller. See bio on page 15.

**Dates:** 6 Thursdays, 3/13–4/24 (no class on 3/27)

**Time:** 1:30–3:00 p.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at Thayer Public Library, Braintree

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

### A Citizen's Guide to the Supreme Court

This course will examine the Supreme Court as an institution. Topics will include the history and constitutional framework of the Court; jurisdictional issues; the role of the Court in the federal court system; the Court's procedures for selecting and deciding cases; the process of nominating and confirming justices; the influence of ideology and politics on the Court's decisions; the implications of the recent ideological shift of the Court; the increasing use of the so-called "shadow docket"; ethical issues facing the Court; the Court's role in election controversies; and proposals for reforming the Court. *Course Note:* This is the same course that was offered in-person at UMass Boston in Fall 2024.

**Facilitator:** John S. Ross, III (Jack) earned an A.B. (history) degree from Yale University, a J.D. degree from the University of Virginia School of Law, and an LL.M. (taxation) degree from New York University School of Law. He practiced law for 20 years in Washington, D.C, and served as Adjunct Professor of Law at Washington and Lee University School of Law. Jack has taught numerous courses on constitutional law and other topics in the Worcester Institute for Senior Education (WISE) at Assumption University.

**Dates:** 5 Thursdays, 3/13–4/10

**Time:** 10:30–12:00 noon

**Location:** IN-PERSON at Thayer Public Library, Braintree

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members



### Global Feminism: Wins and Challenges in South Asia, Latin America, and Beyond

Have you ever wondered why gender discrimination persists across cultures, or where these inequalities truly begin? How are different societies fighting for change, and what progress has been made? In this course, we'll explore the roots and evolution of feminist movements worldwide, uncovering the cultural, social, and political forces that shape them. Through real-world case studies and course materials, we'll examine the victories and challenges of gender equity efforts from South Asia to Latin America. Join us to reflect on the impact of global feminism and ask how far we have come, and what's next.

**Facilitator:** OLLI Scholar Afsana Alam is a PhD student in Public Policy at UMass Boston with expertise in international development, gender equity, and social justice. She has conducted research and published work on gender issues across South Asia, focusing on empowering marginalized communities. Afsana brings a global perspective and a deep commitment to fostering engaging discussions on feminism's impact around the world.

**Dates:** 5 Thursdays, 3/13–4/10

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## **The Power of Music: Understanding Music as a Tool for Social Change**

This five-week course explores the intersection of music and social movements, highlighting how music has historically played a pivotal role in advocating for change. Through examining key moments in global history, the course delves into the use of music as protest, a tool for empowerment, and a means of unifying marginalized communities. Each week covers different aspects of music's influence, from the analysis of protest songs and cultural identity to the creation of original music that addresses contemporary social issues. Students will engage in discussions, song analyses, and collaborative workshops, culminating in the creation of songs that advocate for social justice. By the end of the course, participants will have gained a comprehensive understanding of music's power in promoting activism and social transformation across cultures and movements.

**Facilitator:** OLLI Scholar Patricia Zarate is a graduate student in the Global Inclusion and Social Development PhD program at UMass Boston. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Therapy from Berklee College of Music and a Master's in Jazz Studies from New York University. She is working on her dissertation about how "the music experiences of children of extreme poverty in Panama can inform social development policy" and is part of the faculty of the Berklee Global Jazz Institute.

**Dates:** 5 Thursdays, 3/13–4/10

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## **Disability History is American History**

How does disability history fit in with American history? This five-week course will explore disability history through stories from everyday Americans and brief lectures. By examining these stories, we can achieve a more complex, comprehensive, and inclusive understanding of our past. Sessions will follow a chronological approach, and topics will include stories

from Harriet Tubman, Helen Keller, FDR, and Paul Longmore. This course will guide you through the history of America's largest, yet largely ignored, minority group and explores a different, more human side of history. Learn and discuss with me and your fellow students as we cultivate a renewed perspective of disability.

**Facilitator:** OLLI Scholar Kelly Imm is a graduate history student at UMass Boston, aspiring to teach disability history at a collegiate level. Her family has been impacted by disability, and through that, she strongly believes in promoting inclusivity and recognizing diverse paths to success. Integrating disability history into American history offers a more comprehensive understanding of our past.

**Dates:** 5 Thursdays, 3/13–4/10

**Time:** 1:30–3:00 p.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## **Foundations of Civilization: Exploring the Ancient World's Greatest Societies**

This topic likely stems from my deep curiosity and analytical mindset, which drive me to explore the origins of human society and understand how ancient civilizations shaped the world. My keen interest in history, social justice, and scientific discoveries motivates me to delve into the foundational cultures of humanity, drawing connections between the past and modern societal structures. By studying ancient societies, I gain insights into the roots of human progress and the evolution of governance, culture, and innovation. This exploration not only satisfies my intellectual curiosity but also fuels my passion for understanding how history informs our present and future.

**Facilitator:** OLLI Scholar Dimple Gurajala's interest in this particular topic likely stems from her deep curiosity and analytical mindset, which drives her to understand the origins of human society and how ancient civilizations shaped the world. With her keen interest in history, social justice, and scientific discoveries, exploring the foundational cultures of humanity allows Dimple to connect the past with modern societal structures and values. Dimple is from Chennai, India, and is currently pursuing an MS in Information Technology at UMass Boston. In addition to her passion for history, she loves dancing and is an advocate for animal welfare.

**Dates:** 5 Thursdays, 3/13–4/10

**Time:** 1:30–3:00 p.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## **Living Mindfully: Taking Time for Yourself is Okay**

Mindfulness is linked to improving mood and sleep and reducing stress. Some of the activities include journaling, guided meditation, and sensory activities that help you learn to pay attention and calm your thoughts. Join Andrea in five sessions to learn and practice these skills so that you can live your life in the present moment.

**Facilitator:** OLLI Scholar Andrea Molina Palacios is a fourth year doctoral candidate at the school psychology program at UMass Boston. She is passionate about emotional wellbeing and mindfulness.

**Dates:** 5 Thursdays, 3/13–4/10

**Time:** 1:30–3:00 p.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion/Hands-on Activities

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## ***I Feel Bad About My Neck:* A Nora Ephron Book Discussion**

Are you ready for some time with charming and talented Nora Ephron? Is it time to laugh? Join this book discussion where we will read Nora Ephron's marvelous book: *I Feel Bad About My Neck*. Ephron writes with courage, humor, and truthfulness about the challenges of life and aging in this culture. Ephron's writing lends itself to drama, and we will read aloud sections and bring them to life. We will read and discuss a few chapters each week. You can find the book at the library or you can purchase it from a bookstore. Please do not read ahead!

**Facilitator:** Margarita Bonifaz began her lifelong relationship with books as a child when she discovered the treasures that could be found in a library. From that moment, she always had books nearby... in piles. After a teaching fellowship at Smith College, Margarita taught for 33 years. She believes in the power of books to transport, motivate, and comfort us. She also believes if librarians ran the world, there would be peace. Margarita has led classes at OLLI in writing and drama, and is delighted to lead her first book discussion at OLLI.

**Dates:** 4 Thursdays, 3/20–4/10

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## **All Welcome to Poetry: Come, Write a Poem**

This poetry writing workshop is designed to welcome those who might never have written a poem, or those who “learned” that only dead, white men wrote poems, or those who believe they have no poetic voice. This workshop will provide the opportunity to join OLLI

members who do write poetry, who are working to refine their poetic voices because they believe that poetry is a living art. Together, we will work to expand our poetic skills and create a safe space for each person to grow as a contemporary poet.

**Facilitator:** Bill Valentine has facilitated and participated in writing workshops at OLLI as well as Manhattanville College, the West Side Y, the 92nd St. Y, Bread Loaf, and the Frost Place. Bill has published poems in *Poetry Porch* and *Watermark*, the UMass Boston literary journal.

**Dates:** 8 Thursdays, 3/20–5/8

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

**Format:** Discussion/Hands-on-Activity

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## **Media Literacy**

In a world increasingly influenced by biased reporting and the spread of “fake news,” media literacy has become an essential skill to counter misinformation, disinformation, and media bias. This course empowers students with practical tools and critical thinking techniques to navigate the modern media landscape. Through hands-on exercises, students will learn to identify fake news, analyze media sources for hidden biases, and evaluate information for accuracy and credibility in this course.

**Facilitator:** OLLI Scholar Kohinur Khyum Tithila is a journalist and Ph.D. student from Bangladesh at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, researching forced marriage in South Asian Culture. She is a Fulbright scholar. She has been teaching OLLI courses for one year. Her research interest is in feminism, social justice, media, and gender equality.

**Dates:** 5 Thursdays, 3/20–4/17

**Time:** 6:00–7:30 p.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion/Hands-on-Activities

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## **Books Borrowed in Boston 1827-1850: Tales from the Boston Athenaeum**

The Boston Athenaeum is one of America's oldest and largest private libraries. This course provides a detailed view of the books borrowed from the library by Boston's railroad and canal builders, scientists, doctors, inventors, architects, engineers, teachers, and children's book authors between 1827 and 1850. Through stories of the Athenaeum readers, the books they borrowed, and the work they accomplished, you will gain a new perspective on industry, innovation, and life in Boston in the first half of the 19th century.

**Facilitator:** Scott Guthery, Ph.D. is a Proprietor at the Boston Athenaeum, owner of Docent Press, and Boston Authors Club Board Member. His research for *Practical Purposes: Readers in Experimental Philosophy* at the Boston Athenaeum involved a deep dive into the lives and work of Athenaeum members, and inspired this course.

**Dates:** 4 Thursdays, 3/20–4/10

**Time:** 1:30–3:30 p.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Looking Back/Looking Forward: Sharing Wisdom from One Generation to Another

One way to get institutions and policymakers more responsive to the changing needs of older adults is by communicating with those committed to helping the older population. In the spirit of intergenerational wisdom-sharing, this course is designed to pair UMass Boston Gerontology students with OLLI participants to explore various life themes such as defining moments, changing values, and dealing with paradoxes. OLLI participants and gerontology students will learn about and from each other in a 3-class lunch series. No matter our age, exploring our lives in this way can lead to greater appreciation of our life choices and how we want to move forward, hopefully with grace and equanimity.

**Facilitators:** Alexa Fleet is a Gerontology PhD student who works closely with Myrna Finn. They gave a smashing OLLI talk on Loneliness in Fall 2024 and are back for a 3-part series this spring! She researches purpose and loneliness across the lifespan and is passionate about the power of intergenerational relationships. Myrna Finn, Professor Emerita Salem State University, has taught courses in all aspects of oral communication. Her motto, “you’re never too old to learn something new,” underscores her passion for life-long learning in a community of like-minded people. Her goal is to provide opportunities for others to explore differing perspectives for their continued growth and development.

**Dates:** 3 Thursdays, 4/10– 4/24

**Time:** 12:00–1:00 p.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Survival French for Travelers (or for Fun)

Are you going to France or to a French-speaking country? If so, you need to be able to communicate at least at a minimum to show that you are making an effort toward the culture of the host country. The people there will greatly appreciate (even if they answer in English) and may even be friendlier. In this class you will learn French basic vocabulary and phrases in a conversational setting. The course will integrate the Mango Languages

computer program to practice and reinforce your new skills at home.

**Facilitator:** H el ene Olken is a native of France. She graduated in French and psychology from UMass and holds a master’s degree in ESL. H el ene taught in Milton in the Grade 2 French Immersion Program for 25 years.

**Dates:** 6 Thursdays, 4/17–5/22

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

**Format:** Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Rock Revolution: 1966-1970

The late 1960's saw the beginnings of a new recognition of rock as a serious artistic movement. We will delve into the works of the Beatles, their rivals, and their emulators.

**Facilitator:** David Pogue, see bio on page 8.

**Dates:** 6 Thursdays, 4/17–5/22

**Time:** 1:30–3:00 p.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members



## Elements of Fiction: Nuts and Bolts of Fiction

This course introduces the key elements that comprise fiction, helping students understand how to analyze, interpret, and craft stories. We will explore character, plot, setting, point of view, style, and theme, through classic and contemporary examples. Each lecture will involve a creative exercise associated with each aspect of fiction (If you get stuck you can just analyze an example you know). By the end of the course, students will have a well-rounded understanding of what makes fiction compelling and how they might apply these aspects in their own writing.

**Facilitator:** Scott Aumont is in the MFA Creative Writing program at University of Massachusetts Boston. He has been a lifelong lover of fiction, and has much fiction editing experience at various journals and has also taught fiction, philosophy, and English as a foreign language.

**Dates:** 5 Thursdays, 4/24–5/22

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

**Format:** Lecture/Hands-on-Activity

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## **Struggles and Triumphs: The Career and Legacy of P.T. Barnum**

The name “Barnum” is closely associated with the American circus, but that is only one chapter in a career that spanned industries and continents. He was an innovator and a professional liar; a politician and a sometimes-bankrupt businessman. And, of course, a trustee of Tufts University. In this course, we will follow the arc of Barnum’s life and career across the nineteenth century (1810-1891), and touch on his legacy in the present day, discussing America’s cultural climate and the ways that Barnum influenced and reacted to its shifts. This will include looks at the state of theater, museums, print media, circus, politics, and more.

**Facilitator:** OLLI Scholar Emma Lovejoy is an author, historian, and graduate student at UMass Boston, where they are writing their M.A. thesis on sideshow history and the practice of “human oddity” exhibition. Previously, they received their B.A. in Social Justice Studies from Miami University of Ohio. Their current research touches on numerous areas of history, ranging from history of American theater to the history of race in the United States – and, of course, circus history.

**Dates:** 5 Thursdays, 4/24–5/22

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

**Format:** Lecture

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## **The Reel Custer: The Battle of the Little Bighorn and Hollywood**

Hollywood’s interpretation of the Little Bighorn battle has evolved over the years, reflecting changes in attitudes toward Native Americans, westward expansion, and the legends of its participants. This course will examine how Hollywood has presented the battle over time and how these presentations mirrored changes in the public’s perception and the writing of American history. Particular attention will be paid to Hollywood’s treatment of the battle’s most famous combatant, George Armstrong Custer.

**Facilitator:** Jon Grogan has a BA in Political Science from Tufts University, an MA in Public History from the University of San Diego, and a PhD in American History (with a minor concentration in African colonial history) from Loyola University, Chicago. He is also a retired U.S. Marine Corps officer who has served in various command and staff assignments in the United States and overseas. His Osher portfolio includes classes on various American, African, and military history topics.

**Dates:** 5 Thursdays, 4/24–5/22

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## **Genetically Modified Organisms: A Biologist’s Approach**

From mutagens to transgenes to Crispr, this course will provide an overview of how to modify a genome, and why that is useful. Students will learn how GMO foods are a staple of our modern diet and an oft-misunderstood element of our food system. Students will breed fruit flies to show how dramatic a single-gene change can be and will add a gene to bacteria to make it glow. Along the way, we will learn about and discuss the ethics of genetic modification writ large.

**Facilitator:** OLLI Scholar Michael Allara is a current PhD student at UMass Boston and a former Boston Public School science teacher who currently studies immunology in his favorite model organism: the fruit fly. The first successful experiment of his PhD project (after 9 months of failures) was the result of a single day’s work by one of his former high school students.

**Dates:** 5 Thursdays, 4/24–5/22

**Time:** 1:30–3:00 p.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

**Format:** Lecture/Hands-on Activities

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## **Houses and House Problems**

If you have a house, then you have house problems. Doors that creak, won’t close all the way, and have jiggly doorknobs. Windows that are stuck, won’t lock, and are drafty. Sheetrock that is cracked, floorboards that are loose, trim that is unfastened. Pictures won’t stay hung, floors won’t be quiet, and are we supposed to use nails or screws? The reality is that the amount of knowledge that is required to even diagnose, let alone rectify these issues, is significant. This course will work its way from the general to the specific: from the architectural form of a house to the functional construction of a house. Students should expect to walk away with an understanding of the basic underlying structure of their home, the ability to assess various issues they are experiencing, and a checklist of handtools necessary to tackle these issues.

**Facilitator:** OLLI Scholar Christopher Sutton is a second year Master of Science student of Applied Physics at UMass Boston, working in the field of superconducting quantum electronics. In a previous life he was a residential interior trim contractor. His work has been featured in publications such as *Cape Cod Home* and *Modern Luxury Interiors*, and he won the prestigious Carpenters Games in 2024.

**Dates:** 5 Thursdays, 4/24–5/22

**Time:** 1:30–3:00 p.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members



## Meditation 101: An Introduction to Meditation & Mindfulness

Take a meditative journey to connect to yourself on a deeper level, stimulate your brain and learn how to tame the monkey mind through a variety of meditative, stress relief and breathing techniques. Explore the benefits of meditation and create a practice that fits your lifestyle. We will delve into specific practices to neutralize the negative effects of stress, learn how to be more mindful and amplify gratitude, self-love and acceptance. Includes experiential, lecture and discussion.

**Facilitator:** Katherine Robinson, see bio on page 13.

**Dates:** 5 Thursdays, 4/24–5/22

**Time:** 1:30–3:00 p.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion/Exercises

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Urban Sonnets: The Impact of Hip-Hop on Mental Health in Urban Communities

Students in this course will highlight the impact of Hip-Hop music and how it impacts the mental health in urban communities. Birthed on August 11, 1973 in the Bronx, NY, Hip-Hop music has created a culture impacting the world in many positive ways. Students will learn about the history of Hip-Hop music and will highlight the work of key artists and movements and how it has impacted mental health in urban communities. The class will examine the stories told by the Hip-Hop musicians.

**Facilitator:** OLLI Scholar Alec Hall is a fifth year PhD School Psychology student who has research interests in implementing mental health practices, restorative justice and youth participatory action research to dismantle the school to prison pipeline.

**Dates:** 5 Thursdays, 4/24–5/22

**Time:** 6:00–7:30 p.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## The Art of American Roots Music

In this course, we will work to understand folk, country, and bluegrass as art which represents the struggles, triumphs, concerns, and creativity of poor and working-class folks in the United States. Building upon his previous courses for OLLI, Taylor Ackley will present his original research, crafting parallel histories of American folk and popular music through family and community history, scholarship on popular music, and musical analysis. Each week will cover a different topic, most of which are drawn from Ackley's upcoming book *Hearing Class*. Weekly topics will include "Hillbillies and Cowpokes: Representing the Rural Working Class," "The Music of Montana: Songs of a Changing Place," "Where Can Grass Grow?: American Roots Music in Boston" and "Flying Above the Page: Roots Music in Classical Spaces." A central goal of this course is to present original scholarly research to broader audiences. Through readings, assigned listening, lectures, discussions, and performances, we will learn about this music together in ways that are inviting without shying away from the nuance the music deserves. Participants from Ackley's previous courses will find this course an appropriate culmination of their studies in American roots music, but there is no prerequisite for registration.

**Facilitator:** Taylor Ackley is first and foremost a folk musician. Born into a working-class family with a remarkable musical heritage, his work was influenced by generations of pickers, singers, songwriters and fiddlers across his family. He holds a Master's Degree and PhD in Composition and a Master's Degree in Ethnomusicology from Stony Brook University. Taylor is a professor at Brandeis University. His work examines American folk and popular music through analysis, composition, historical research, performance and ethnography.

**Dates:** 8 Fridays, 3/7–5/9 (no class on 3/21 & 4/18)

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.–12:00 noon

**Location:** IN-PERSON at Mt. Ida Campus, Newton

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Great Conversations About the Seven Deadly Sins

Pride, envy, anger, sloth, greed, gluttony, lust. They were codified in the sixth century, but our exploration of the seven deadly sins will be based on contemporary short stories from *The Seven Deadly Sins Sampler*, an anthology available from Amazon. Fourteen selections

from William Faulkner, Margaret Atwood, D.H. Lawrence and others provide us with a springboard for our discussions about human foibles and fragility and the challenges and choices inherent in being human.

**Facilitator:** Linda Seale loves exploring new ideas with friends and colleagues and feels that Great Conversations is a perfect vehicle for doing so. She loves the wide-ranging discussions prompted by the readings and the mutual respect that develops among the participants, who continue to enjoy this course, which has been an OLLI tradition for more than 20 years.

**Dates:** 7 Fridays, 3/14–4/25

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Discovering Documentaries

This is a viewing and discussion program. First, we watch, then we talk. We grow as we discover the value and/or purpose of what we watch. We can critique the quality of the documentary; our enjoyment or displeasure; did we learn anything new; were we surprised at anything. A full list of the documentaries will be provided at the first class.

**Facilitators:** Lee Colello is an offsite OLLI facilitator who has been facilitating "Discovering Documentaries" and other classes in Hingham. She graduated from UMass Boston and has had various instructor/facilitator roles. Howard Muise has been a member of OLLI since the winter of 2018. He is a member of the OLLI Board of Directors and served on the Technology Committee working on the implementation of the new OLLI website. He has served as an on-site assistant for classes held in Braintree and this past fall he co-facilitated the "Discovering Documentaries" course and presented an OLLI Talk on the Great Halifax Explosion.

**Dates:** 6 Fridays, 3/14–4/18

**Time:** 10:00–12:00 noon

**Location:** IN-PERSON at Thayer Public Library, Braintree

**Format:** Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Creative Movement Classes for Seniors

Our course employs adaptive ballet and modern techniques. It is designed to promote social, emotional and physical fitness and artistic expression regardless of previous dance experience. These classes provide a welcoming and supportive environment where older adults can explore the joy of dance. This course can be taken standing or seated. This course includes 1) Adaptive techniques: We adapt ballet and modern dance principles to make it accessible to everyone. 2) A gentle warm-up: Classes start with a gentle warm-up to prepare the body for movement and reduce the risk of injury. 3) Technique and expression: Participants will learn the

foundations of ballet and modern dance techniques, allowing for creative expression. 4) Balance and strength: Exercises will improve balance and strength, supporting overall health and fall prevention. 5) Community and fun: Our classes foster a sense of community and provide an enjoyable space to connect and through dance.

**Course Note:** *Since this course seeks to accommodate all participants, it is essential that students make it possible for the instructor to provide feedback. It is useful for participants to leave their Zoom camera on so the instructor can most effectively guide and encourage participants.*

**Facilitator:** Madeline O'Brien is an experienced dance teacher with training from NC School of the Arts and Boston Arts Academy. She provides resources like exercise sheets and videos to help students maintain movement practices beyond the weekly OLLI class session. Abilities Dance Boston centers disability culture through community engagement classes and performances, addressing systemic barriers through art.

**Dates:** 8 Fridays, 3/21–5/9

**Time:** 10:00–11:00 a.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Exercise

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Writing Your Heart. Stories, Poems, or Fragments - A Writing Workshop

Do you love words? Conversations? Books? Plays? Ever wonder about the stories or poems or fragments caught in your heart and mind? Give yourself the gift of time to write. Through writing prompts, silly and serious, and writing sessions, (short and medium, up to 20 minutes) your imagination will be invited to the page. Participants will be encouraged to share their work and offer positive comments to others. Prior creative writing experience is not necessary. Please come ready to write, please keep camera on during sharing and prompts to encourage our special community. Please note: this workshop was offered Fall 2024, it is the same format except all new writing prompts and exercises.

**Facilitator:** Margarita Bonifaz has been writing since childhood. She was first published at age 7 in *The Phoenix*, with her poem "Fairy Toast." She started her 33-year teaching career with a teaching fellowship at Smith College. For many years, Margarita took writing workshops with Pat Schneider, the magical creator of Amherst Writers and Artists. Margarita has a novel in the drawer and many stories on her desktop. She believes everyone has stories in them: in our Post-it notes, in old letters, in our conversations; we just need to listen and write. She is delighted to be teaching at OLLI.

**Dates:** 4 Fridays, 3/21–4/11

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Hands-on-Activity

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## U.S. Foreign Policy and Global Power Dynamics: Navigating the Nexus of Politics, Conflicts, and Solutions

This course explores the intricate web of U.S. foreign policy and its profound impact on global power dynamics. The five-week course unpacks critical geopolitical challenges, from military interventions and diplomatic breakthroughs to economic strategies and emerging power rivalries in the realm of International Relations and Politics. With a focus on historical contexts and contemporary issues, participants will engage in thought-provoking discussions on the nexus of politics, conflicts, and solutions shaping our world. Whether you are a history enthusiast or a curious observer of current affairs, this course provides the analytical tools to better understand the complexities of international relations and America's role in crafting the global order. Through a blend of theoretical frameworks and case studies, students will critically assess the roles of energy security, strategic alliances, military interventions, and economic interests in shaping U.S. foreign policy decisions.

**Facilitator:** Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Uddin Arif is a distinguished academic with interdisciplinary expertise in Political Science, International Relations, Developmental Studies, and Governance and Public Policy. Holding a PhD in Environmental Politics and Public Policy with a specialization in Climate Change Governance, he brings a unique perspective to analyzing global challenges. Dr. Iqbal's interdisciplinary approach and deep academic expertise make him an ideal guide for exploring the intricate interplay between U.S. foreign policy, global power, and sustainable governance.

**Dates:** 5 Fridays, 4/25–5/23

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Vision in Aging: Understanding the Advances in Diagnosis and Management

Vision is a critical sense for people as they interact with the world and many people have a strong fear of blindness. This course will talk about normal vision including an exploration of our ability to see optical illusions. We will also discuss vision changes in aging as well as the advances in medical treatments that are available. Finally, we will discuss the many ways to help improve a person's quality of life if they experience vision loss in older age.

**Facilitator:** Dr. Lexi Malkin is an Associate Professor of Optometry at the New England College of Optometry and a clinical researcher focused on access to care and improved quality of life in vision impairment. Dr. Malkin lectures nationally and internationally on topics relating to assistive technology and treatment advances in vision loss. She currently is currently pursuing her masters in Management of Aging Services through UMass Boston's Gerontology program.

**Dates:** 5 Fridays, 5/2–5/30

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Exploring Longevity: Series 8

Though we may not control the direction of the wind, we can adjust our sails to stay on course. Likewise, while we cannot stop the passage of time, we can make conscious choices that enhance our quality of life as we age. In this 8th series of our "Exploring Longevity" course, we will revisit the fundamentals explored from the first seven series, bringing new perspectives on the complex and fascinating journey of aging. This course has been shaped and enriched by the shared wisdom and insights of our participants from their lived real-life experiences.

**Facilitator:** OLLI Scholar Hua Chen is a third-year PhD student at the Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences. He is currently studying geriatric nursing. His goal is to become a geriatric nurse educator and researcher. Hua feels humbled to explore, share with, and learn from OLLI members the science and art of longevity.

**Dates:** 3 Fridays, 5/2–5/16

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** IN-PERSON at Thayer Public Library, Braintree

**Format:** Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

*Saturday*

## AP Lit: The Books the Kids Aren't Reading

College professors claim that their students aren't reading, that they didn't actually read a whole book in high school. But you did, and I did, so let's see what the fuss is about. Are these books readable? Do they have themes that we should still be teaching and talking about? Why might students not want to read these books (or books at all)? A discussion-based, reading-heavy course that will take us back to high school to find out if we were prepared for the lives we've lived.

**Facilitator:** Andréa Kossyrev has loved working with OLLI since she was in her MFA program at UMass Boston. Her background is in English Education, and she tutors English online, mostly creative writing and college application essays. She's currently reading mostly baby books with her young son.

**Dates:** 6 Saturdays, 3/8–4/26 (no class on 4/5 and 4/19)

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Meet Me Tonight in Dreamland: An Introduction to Flash Fiction and Prose Poetry

This class will explore short stories and prose poems that convey a novel's worth of detail in a handful of sentences. We will take a look at many writers in this course, including Lydia Davis, Ron Carlson, Tobias Wolff, Anne Carson, Robert Bly, John Ashbery, Robert Hass, Charles Simic, and several others. We'll also be exploring the boundaries between poetry and prose, what distinguishes the two, and how these forms toe the line of both genres. Prior to our first class, please pick up a copy of *Great American Prose Poems: From Poe to the Present*, an anthology edited by David Lehman.

**Facilitator:** Michele Harris received a BA in English from Allegheny College and an MFA in poetry from UMass Boston. She is the author of the poetry collection *Blackdamp* (David Robert Books, 2019), a recipient of the 2011 David A. Kennedy prize, and a finalist for the 2018 New Millennium Award. Her writing has appeared in *Cicada*, *New Millennium Writings*, *The Tishman Review*, *Anderbo*, *The Prose-Poem Project*, *Dirtflask*, *Escarp*, *The Columbia College Literary Review*, *Stirring*, and elsewhere. She has been a facilitator with OLLI since 2009.

**Dates:** 6 Saturdays, 4/5–5/10

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Is There Such a Thing as Haitian Exceptionalism?

In the face of ongoing and mounting political and economic woes, gang rampage headlines, and international interventions, Haiti continues to remain an enigma to many. Labeled a failed state by modern standards, it remains a fascinating reference for historians, international relations experts, and the psyche of Global South audiences discussing freedom. But how do Haitians view themselves? How do we reconcile Haiti's central place in human rights development, its past assistance to various Latin American countries, to European and Middle Eastern refugees, and its present tragic state? This class will challenge students to explore these dichotomies openly and candidly.

**Facilitator:** Charlot Lucien is a public health professional and a history instructor interested in the connections between the U.S. and Haiti. He holds degrees from the University of Haiti (Management) and the University of Massachusetts (International Relations). He is a member of the National Council on Public History, the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, and the Toussaint Louverture Cultural Center. He is also a storyteller, visual artist, and the founder of the Haitian Artists Assembly of Massachusetts. He often uses art to raise awareness and help view Haiti through different lenses. He is an art collector, an avid reader, and a traveler.

**Dates:** 5 Saturdays, 4/26–5/31 (no class on 5/24)

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Lecture/Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Exploring Longevity: Series 8

Though we may not control the direction of the wind, we can adjust our sails to stay on course. Likewise, while we cannot stop the passage of time, we can make conscious choices that enhance our quality of life as we age. In this 8th series of our 'Exploring Longevity' course, we will revisit the fundamentals explored from the first seven series, bringing new perspectives on the complex and fascinating journey of aging. This course has been shaped and enriched by the shared wisdom and insights of our participants from their lived real-life experiences.

**Facilitator:** OLLI Scholar Hua Chen, see bio on page 25.

**Dates:** 3 Saturdays, 5/3–5/17

**Time:** 10:00–11:30 a.m.

**Location:** ONLINE via Zoom

**Format:** Discussion

**Price:** \$40 for OLLI Carte Members

## Spring 2025 OLLI Talk Presentations

Below are a few selections from the spring line-up of OLLI Talk presentations usually held in-between the morning and afternoon classes mostly starting at noon. Specific dates and locations (whether ONLINE or IN-PERSON) will be announced approximately three weeks prior to each event. The detailed descriptions of the content and the presenters will also be available at that time. Members will be notified, and they can sign up at that time. ***Please do not put any of these OLLI Talk presentations on your Course Request Form.*** Additional presentations will be announced later.

### **A History of the Indian Head River**

*by Kezia Bacon*

### **A History of the North River**

*by Kezia Bacon*

### **Shifting Gears: Safety and Mobility for Older Drivers**

*by Michele Ellicks*

### **Quabbin Reservoir - The Meeting of Many Waters**

*by Justin Gonsor*

### **Stalwart Sentinels: The Lighthouses of Narragansett Bay**

*by Marguerite Magri*

### **My Immigrant Story**

*by Javier Marquez*

### **Buster Keaton: Existential Slapstick**

*by David Misch*

### **Purchasing Power: Preparing for a New Tech Purchase**

*by Alison Murray*

### **What It Was: Growing Up When the Music Mattered**

*by James Pagliasotti*

### **Gotland: Sweden's Paradise Island and Medieval Wonder**

*by Barry Pell*

### **Panama Canal: The Connection Between the Oceans That Changed the World**

*by Barry Pell*

### **Let's Watch Cartoons!**

*by Genny Peterson*

### **Ranking the U.S. 2025! - "Top 10 Lists"**

*by Douglas Stowell*

### **The Legacy of Hubble:**

### **The Telescope that Revolutionized Astronomy**

*by Tim Wheelock*

## Spring 2025 Walking Tours

At the time of printing, walking tours for Spring 2025 were still being planned and confirmed. Walking Tours will be announced when available through OLLI's weekly newsletter, *Connections*.

## Spring 2025 Excursions and Day Trips

Sign-ups for Spring Excursions and Day Trips will occur at a later date once details, times, and prices are finalized. Updates, including registration details, will be announced in OLLI's weekly newsletter, *Connections*.

### Excursion to Massachusetts State House & the Boston Athenaeum

Tuesday, March 4

We will be visiting our beautiful state house for a docent led walking tour of both the building and some of the extensive collections housed there. With its instantly recognizable golden dome, the Charles Bullfinch-designed building sits atop Beacon Hill at the corner of Park and Beacon Streets. After we complete our state house tour we'll be headed across the street to see the Boston Athenaeum. It is a unique combination of library, museum and cultural center and one of the country's oldest and most distinguished libraries, founded in 1807.

### Excursion to Museum of African American History

Wednesday, April 2

The museum is New England's largest museum dedicated to preserving, conserving and interpreting the contributions of African Americans. Exhibits, programs, and education activities at the Museum showcase the powerful stories of black families who worshipped, educated their children, debated the issues of the day, organized politically and advanced the cause of freedom. This excursion will also include a walk over to the Boston Commons to view *The Embrace* and the 1965 Freedom Plaza.

### Day Trip to Glass Town (Sandwich)

Tuesday, May 27

Enjoy a day trip to Sandwich with your fellow OLLI members! "Just over the bridge" onto Cape Cod, Sandwich is home to unique opportunities to learn more about the area. OLLI members will enjoy a lunch together and with the luck of Mother Nature, see some of the rhododendrons in bloom! Exact itinerary and locations were being finalized at the time of the catalog printing.

## Upcoming Overnight Travel Opportunities

All participants in OLLI's overnight travel programs must be an OLLI member at the time of travel. Future overnight trips not published in the catalog will be announced in OLLI's newsletter, *Connections*.

### London 2025: The City, The Theatre, and More

London was once considered the capital of the world—and it shows. It has a history that stretches back 2,000 years, and a culture rooted in the local pub as it is in world class museums. Enjoy a backstage tour of the Royal Opera House and the Globe Theatre and take a walking tour of the West End, London's theater district. This unique tour has been especially customized for OLLI at UMass Boston, with a focus on the theatre district. Most evenings are left free so travelers can attend various plays and musicals of their choosing. The trip will end with a signature farewell dinner on the London Eye! **Questions?** Contact trip organizer and leader Deborah Baron at 508.728.8024.

**Date:** September 6–14, 2025

**Cost:** \$5,067 (including international airfare; double occupancy)



# Let's Go to the Theatre

OLLI at UMass Boston is excited to offer the following theatre performances for winter and spring at very low discounted prices. All tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Limit two per member. OLLI members are encouraged to use the ticket order form found on OLLI's website when order tickets.

## *SpeakEasy Stage presents*

### **A Man of No Importance**



1960s Dublin is the setting for this charming musical about the redemptive power of theatre, love, and friendship. Bus conductor Alfie Byrne has two joys in life: the poetry of Oscar Wilde and staging amateur productions

with his local theatre troupe, the St. Imelda Players. But when church officials try to shut down his plans for a production of Wilde's *Salome*, Alfie must confront the forces of bigotry – and his own shame – over “the love that dare not speak its name.” This production will mark the New England Premiere of the recently reimagined version of this beloved classic, which includes the use of on-stage musicians. Runtime: 1 hour and 45 minutes with no intermission.

**Date:** Saturday, February 22

**Time:** 2:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$32

## *Huntington Theatre presents*

### **The Triumph of Love**



Love takes center stage in this uproarious classic French comedy by 18th century playwright Pierre Carlet de Marivaux. A clever princess is smitten at first sight – but to win her prince, she must woo him in disguise. Mistaken identities,

hilarious complications and deeply felt desire collide

head on with Rationalist Philosophy – and surprising romantic entanglements ensue! Artistic Director Loretta Greco stages Stephen Wadsworth's magnificent adaptation which inspired a passion for Marivaux in America anew. Runtime: 2 hours and 30 minutes with two intermissions.

**Date:** Saturday, March 15

**Time:** 2:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$27

## *Boston Lyric Opera presents*

### **Rodgers & Hammerstein's Carousel**



Nearly a century after premiering at the Colonial Theatre, *Carousel* has become one of the most beloved American musicals of all time. In this landmark 80th anniversary production, creative visionary and BLO Artistic Associate Anne

Bogart stages a stunning and evocative tribute to this Rodgers & Hammerstein gem. Featuring unforgettable songs like “If I Loved You” and “You’ll Never Walk Alone,” this timeless paean to the power of love and redemption is sure to sweep you off your feet.

**Date:** Sunday, April 6

**Time:** 3:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$35

# Let's Go to the Theatre

Huntington Theatre presents

## Don't Eat the Mangos



Playwright Ricardo Pérez González's wickedly funny tragedy *Don't Eat the Mangos* portrays life on his home island of Puerto Rico with compassion and humor through the saga of three sisters living just outside San Juan. As a hurricane

approaches the beautiful island, secrets and ugly truths are revealed that cause the sisters to wrestle with how to stay true to their familia and homeland – and seek a satisfying revenge. Obie Award winner David Mendizábal returns from the acclaimed world premiere production to direct. Runtime: 90 minutes with no intermission.

**Date:** Saturday, April 12

**Time:** 2:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$27

SpeakEasy Stage presents

## Jaja's African Hair Braiding



2024 Tony Nominee – Best Play! It's a hot summer day in 2019, and in Harlem, Jaja's African Hair Braiding salon is open for business, even though its eponymous owner is hours away from getting married. Presiding over the shop's team of talented, high-spirited,

West African designers is Jaja's daughter Marie, a DREAMer who has set her sights on college. When shocking news disrupts the day's festivities, the women must grapple with what it means to be outsiders in the place they call home. Runtime: 90 minutes with no intermission.

**Date:** Saturday, May 3

**Time:** 2:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$32

Huntington Theatre presents

## Light in the Piazza



Winner! 6 Tony Awards including Best Original Score. A lush and soaring romance unfolds as Huntington Artistic Director Loretta Greco (*Prayer for the French Republic*) creates a brand-new production of Adam Guettel's sweeping

Tony Award-winning score and Craig Lucas' profound book in this must-see story of a mother, a daughter, and the many meanings of love. Florence, summer 1953. Protective American mother Margaret Johnson brings her daughter Clara abroad for a glimpse of Italy's romantic history. But when a real-life attraction sparks between Clara and a local boy, Margaret must ask: can she reconcile her own hopes with her daughter's future? Runtime: 2 hours and 30 minutes with one intermission.

**Date:** Saturday, May 17

**Time:** 2:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$27

### HARRY GLOSS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The purpose of the Harry Gloss Scholarship Fund is to provide scholarships (full or partial) to individuals who cannot afford to pay the annual OLLI membership fee due to financial hardship. It was named in memory of the late Harry Gloss, who was a founding member, course facilitator, and member of the OLLI Board of Directors.

Individuals who need financial assistance with the OLLI membership fee should email the OLLI office ([ollireg@gmail.com](mailto:ollireg@gmail.com)) to inquire about the scholarship forms and process.

Contributions to this scholarship fund can be accepted at any time and are tax deductible. Please send a separate check made out to "Friends of OLLI" with your registration and/or course request forms if you care to make a donation at this time.

Thank you for your generosity!



**OLLI AT UMASS BOSTON  
COURSE REQUEST FORM — SPRING 2025**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred First Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Note any changes to the below contact information if there have been changes since Spring 2024.*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Important Information**

A priority system is used to determine who will be admitted to classes that are oversubscribed. We believe it to be the most equitable method of deciding who gets into those classes. In order for you to participate in this system, you must return your request form to us by **February 14**, indicating your order of priority for each course (1<sup>st</sup> choice = most desired). After the deadline, class assignments will be made on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please indicate which courses you are requesting, including location. For locations, use the following abbreviations: **UMB** = UMass Boston Campus, **HPL** = Hingham Public Library, **BR** = Thayer Public Library, Braintree, or **Z** = Zoom. Please print the full course title.

**(DO NOT** include OLLI Talk, Walking Tours, or SIG registrations on this form!)

1<sup>st</sup> Course Choice \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Course Choice \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Course Choice \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

4<sup>th</sup> Course Choice \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

5<sup>th</sup> Course Choice \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

It is **IMPERATIVE** that all request forms are received in our office by **Friday, February 14** in order to be included in the lottery process. Registrations are accepted thereafter, but are subject to course availability.

**For OLLI Carte members only.** Your membership category allows you to add courses for an additional fee of \$40 per course. **Course Registration Fees:** \_\_\_\_\_ courses x \$40 = \_\_\_\_\_. Do **not** include this amount with your membership payment. Course fees are due a week after course confirmations are sent.

**Course Confirmation**

You are not registered for courses until you receive a confirmation letter by email in late February.

**Questions about registration?**

**Call 617.287.7312 or email [ollireg@gmail.com](mailto:ollireg@gmail.com)**

**Mail to: OLLI, UMass Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, MA 02125-3393**

## OLLI AT UMASS BOSTON MEMBERSHIP FORM SPRING 2025

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please note any changes to any of the contact information since you last renewed your membership. If no changes, you can leave blank.*  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Primary Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBER PROFILE

We **require** your responses to the following questions, which will be used for statistical purposes only. This information will help us to better serve our members.

<p>How did you hear about OLLI? _____</p> <p>Gender    <input type="checkbox"/> Male    <input type="checkbox"/> Female    <input type="checkbox"/> No response</p> <p>Year of Birth _____ <i>(required)</i></p> <p>College Degree <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>UMass Boston Alumnus/a <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Do you consider yourself to be retired? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Current/Former Occupation _____</p>	<p>Would you be interested in facilitating a course?  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>What topic(s)? _____</p> <p>Are you a new member?    <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Ethnicity    <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African/Caribbean  <input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian    <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese  <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic    <input type="checkbox"/> Korean  <input type="checkbox"/> Native American    <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese  <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p>
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### ORDER INFORMATION

Membership Pricing Options Select <b>ONE</b> option below	AMOUNT
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Membership \$245 (\$460 for two at same household)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> OLLI Carte Membership \$120 (\$225 for two at same household)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> General Membership \$65 (\$125 for two at same household)	_____

**Membership is valid for one year and expires December 31, 2025.**

#### For Office Use Only

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Payment Information: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Membership Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Membership ID#: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### CREDIT CARD PAYMENT INFORMATION

AmExpress     VISA     MasterCard     Discover

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount to be Charged \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to  
 "OLLI/UMass Boston" and return this form to  
**OLLI, McCormack Hall, 3rd Floor, UMass Boston,  
 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, MA 02125-3393.**

*Annual membership dues must be paid in full at the time of course registration and are non-refundable after **March 21, 2025***

# OLLI Course and Registration Information

## Facilitators

OLLI course facilitators and OLLI Talk presenters share their areas of expertise with OLLI students on a volunteer basis. A course evaluation form is provided at the end of each course, and your constructive suggestions are welcomed by our facilitators. If you would like to complete an evaluation before the end of the course, please request a form from the OLLI office.

## OLLI Scholars

This symbol indicates courses that are taught by UMass Boston graduate students under the OLLI Scholar program. The OLLI Curriculum Committee reviews proposals, interviews candidates, and mentors students from various graduate programs on campus. If accepted into the program, OLLI Scholars receive a stipend after successful completion of their courses. This intergenerational experience benefits both UMass graduate students and OLLI members.

## Course Fees

- \$40 per course for OLLI Carte members, or
- Free for Full/Unlimited members.

Additional fees are sometimes required for courses that involve off-campus activities, special events, or a high amount of handout copying or instructional supplies.

***Course fees are due a week after final course confirmations are released.***

## Course Cancellation

OLLI reserves the right to cancel a scheduled course because of low registration, non-availability of a facilitator, or any other unavoidable circumstance. Students will be notified as soon as possible.

## Course Capacities

The maximum number of students registered for each course depends on the course topic (some may work best with a smaller class size) and the preference of the facilitator. If requests for a course exceed capacity, the registration priority system is used to determine who will be enrolled, based on the priorities set by each registrant.

## Course Registration Process

OLLI at UMass Boston uses a priority/lottery system to determine final course registrations. Full and OLLI Carte members must submit their course requests before the **Priority Registration Deadline of February 14** to be included in the lottery allocation process.

Please list your course choices in order of priority (highest priority = 1, and so on) on the Course Request Form or when using OLLI's online registration system. How does the lottery work? If demand exceeds the number of seats for a course, the computer assigns those seats by lottery based on your priority rankings.

Course requests received after the **February 14** deadline will be assigned based on availability on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Paper Registration:** Please complete the Course Request Form on page 31 and mail or fax to the OLLI office.

**Online Registration:** All current OLLI members have an account they can use for online course requests and registrations. Visit OLLI's online registration site where instructions are posted on how to use the system. Site address: <https://www.campusce.net/umb/category/category.aspx>

**Course Confirmation:** Students are not registered for courses until they receive a final confirmation. Confirmations will be emailed in late February. Please pay close attention to the details of the confirmation correspondence: "registered" means a student has been confirmed to attend the class; "not registered" means the course was oversubscribed, and the course request could not be accommodated.

**Dropping or Adding Courses:** Requests to drop a course or other OLLI program are handled by the OLLI office. Please email [ollireg@gmail.com](mailto:ollireg@gmail.com) or call 617.287.7312 as soon as you determine that you will not be able to attending a program for which you are confirmed. If you would like to be placed on a waitlist for a course or program that is full, please contact the OLLI office, and you will be notified if a space becomes available.



OLLI

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

100 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125-3393



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## FREE Online Winter Programs

During the months of January and February, OLLI will be offering free programs for OLLI members, their guests, and nonmembers. Don't let the bleakness of the winter months get you down. Sign up and engage in one (or more) of OLLI's winter events! These programs will be mostly held online via Zoom and are available to nonmembers as well.

From films and art workshops, to WWII African American soldiers, to cartoonist Charles M. Schulz, OLLI knows there is an event during our winter term that will pique your curiosity! Delight your senses with a wine and cheese (and chocolate) tasting or listen (and learn) to the Broadway shows of the 1980s! OLLI will also have its annual winter film series showing on Tuesday mornings (online and in-person viewing options available). To see a full listing of our current winter offerings, please visit our website: <https://www.umb.edu/olli>. We hope to see you at one of our winter programs!

Registration is now open for all OLLI winter programs!  
*All events are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.*

### To register:

- OLLI members can register for these winter programs by logging into their OLLI account. The events and descriptions can be found under **Winter Programs 2025** located in the **Courses & Programs** section of the registration website.
- Nonmembers can simply email the OLLI office ([ollireg@gmail.com](mailto:ollireg@gmail.com)) and request to be registered for the programs in which they are interested.

### Questions?

Please contact the OLLI office at 617.287.7312

