



Spring 2026

at Carnegie Mellon University | cmu.edu/osher

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LEARNING
INSTITUTE

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ON THE COVER

Front Cover Photo: Mao Yisheng statue by artist Sun Lu, photo by CMU

In 1919, Mao Yisheng was the recipient of the first Ph.D. ever given by the Carnegie Institute of Technology, now known as Carnegie Mellon University. After graduating, he went on to design two of China's most famous modern bridges, the Qiantang River Bridge and the Wuhan Yangtze River Bridge, and is regarded as the father of modern bridge engineering. Just 97 years later, Yisheng's great granddaughter would graduate from CMU with degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science.

Additional catalog images courtesy of Brandon McCracken for Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, Mark Miller for Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, Bryan Conley for Carnegie Museum of Art Pittsburgh, David Bachman for Pittsburgh Opera, David Bangle, Wikimedia Commons, Pexels, Unsplash, and Carnegie Mellon University.

AT A GLANCE

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SESSION DATES

Session One: *January 12 – March 6*

Session Two: *March 9 – May 1*

SKIP DATES

Courses are not held on the following dates:

Mon., Jan. 19 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Look for the 68 **NEW! courses
being offered this term!**

Joint courses with American University

Osher at CMU has partnered with OLLI at American University to share Zoom courses! These courses are available at no additional fee to those who have paid the \$60 Osher at CMU registration fee.

New courses will be offered each term and will be advertised in the Weekly Essentials email. To view current offerings or for more information, visit our website at cmu.edu/osher/courses-and-sigs/.

OSHER AT CARNEGIE MELLON | Spring 2026

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The course descriptions and biographies have been edited with an eye to preserving the voice and spirit of our study leaders.

OSHER AT CARNEGIE MELLON | Values and Expectations

The mission of Osher at CMU is to provide its members with learning and social enrichment opportunities that increase their knowledge, enhance skills and interactions with peers, and increase cultural and social awareness, complementing CMU's leading role in educational, intellectual, and cultural life in the Pittsburgh region.

Osher at CMU's vision is to be a premier quality source of lifelong learning for its members through cost effective, short-term, non-credit courses, lectures, field trips, special interest groups, and other events supporting its mission.

Diversity, equity and inclusion guide our values and are critical to academic excellence and innovation.

Values: Osher at CMU provides a dynamic, intellectually stimulating, and participative environment of continuous learning and social interaction. To ensure the effectiveness of that environment, we highly value:

- mutual respect,
- personal and academic integrity, and
- civil discourses.

Expectations and Actions: Osher at CMU expects its participants (members, study leaders, staff, volunteers and prospects) to observe our values. Participants agree:

1. To treat all others with respect and dignity.
2. To embrace diverse perspectives in an accepting environment, thereby ensuring vitality, relevance, and further learning.
3. To ensure that discourse and interactions are focused on the course and not the individual.
4. To respect all study leaders and members through consistent attendance, only at courses for which registered.

Osher at CMU holds a high behavioral standard including, but not limited to, not tolerating personal attacks or other behavior that fails to meet these expectations. Examples are denigrating other's views or opinions, threatening behaviors, use of offensive or abusive language, disruptive classroom conduct, and sexual harassment or discrimination.

Anyone who disregards the values and expectations of Osher at CMU may be subject to corrective actions, up to and including denial of course and/or activity participation, and/or discontinued membership.

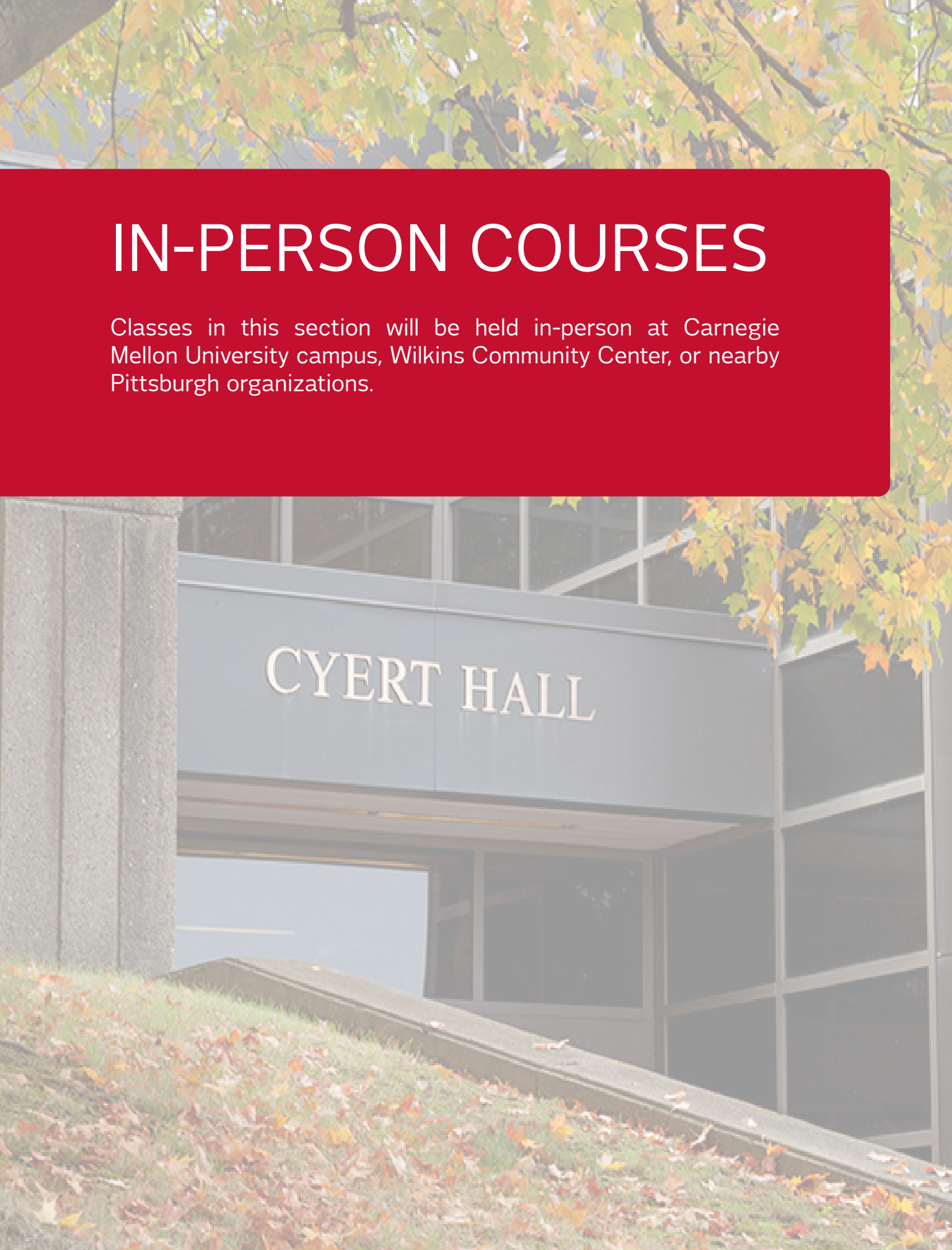
We encourage participants in the Osher at CMU community to notify the Executive Director or the Board President if they experience or observe behavior that is inconsistent with our Values and Expectations.

We are committed to fostering a community environment of lifelong learning.

Revised: December 14, 2023

IN-PERSON COURSES

Classes in this section will be held in-person at Carnegie Mellon University campus, Wilkins Community Center, or nearby Pittsburgh organizations.



CYERT HALL

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Art | Cinema/Film | Drama/Theatre | Literature | Music

ART

Computer And AI Generated Art Introduction

Study Leader: Bill Greenspan

- 1 Class: Feb. 25 *Class ID:* 5783
- Wednesday, 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

NEW! ONE DAY

This course will introduce students to visual artwork generated (or enhanced) through the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and computer-generated programs. We will view AI generated art exhibited in art galleries and museums around the world. A brief discussion on philosophical concerns related to the human mind, artificial beings, and also what can be considered art in human-AI collaboration will follow.

Bill Greenspan immigrated to the USA in 1979 from the former USSR. With an electrical engineering degree from Kiev Polytechnic Institute, he spent over 30 years working in the nuclear industry, the first 25 years at the Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant in Arizona and the following eight years building nuclear power plants in China. He has taught several courses for the Osher Institute including "Jewish Communities Far Away and Close to Home," "100 years of Jewish Life in Shanghai," "Antarctica: the Last Frontier," "Russian Avant-Garde Art of The 20th Century."



German Art In The 20th Century

Study Leader: Bill Greenspan

- 6 Classes: Jan. 15 – Feb. 26* *Class ID:* 5796
- Thursday, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room A

*Note: Class will not meet on Jan. 22

NEW!

This course will cover development of German Art from Weimar period to the end of the 20th century. The first stop will be to discover German Expressionism and Dada movements with leading practitioners like Otto Dix, Max Beckmann, Kurt Schwitters and Hannah Hoch. Then we will view art of Paul Klee and Max Ernst, the leading figure of German Surrealism. Art and artists in the Third Reich and its "Degenerate Art" exhibitions is next. The course will conclude with Post-World War II with Neo-Expressionism, performance, happenings and video art being represented by Georg Baselitz, Gerhard Richter, Joseph Beuys, and Anselm Kiefer.

Bill Greenspan immigrated to the USA in 1979 from the former USSR. With an electrical engineering degree from Kiev Polytechnic Institute, he spent over 30 years working in the nuclear industry, the first 25 years at the Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant in Arizona and the following eight years building nuclear power plants in China. He has taught several courses for the Osher Institute including "Jewish Communities Far Away and Close to Home," "100 years of Jewish Life in Shanghai," "Antarctica: the Last Frontier," "Russian Avant-Garde Art of The 20th Century."



Design Galleries, Carnegie Museum Of Art

Study Leader: Rachel Delphia

Materials Fee: \$10*

- 1 Class: Jan. 12 Class ID: 5816
- Monday, 10:15 AM - 11:45 AM
- Carnegie Museum of Art, **NEW!** ONE DAY
4400 Forbes Ave, Oakland

Join us for a special, curator-led tour of "Extraordinary Ordinary Things," in Ailsa Mellon Bruce Galleries of Design and Decorative Arts at Carnegie Museum of Art. Rachel Delphia, the Alan G. and Jane A. Lehman Curator, will guide visitors through this engaging exhibition of more than three hundred objects from the museum's collection, ranging from historic tea tables and clocks to iconic modern furniture and contemporary craft. Drawing on her extensive knowledge of the history of design, Delphia will spark conversation around the displayed objects and share behind-the-scenes insights about 21 century museum work.

Please Note: Parking is available in the museum lot off Forbes Avenue / S. Craig Street. To extend the experience, plan a coffee of lunch in the Cafe Carnegie. For more information, go to carnegieart.org/exhibition/extraordinary-ordinary-things/

Rachel Delphia is the Alan G. and Jane A. Lehman Curator of Decorative Arts and Design at Carnegie Museum of Art and a specialist in modern and contemporary design and craft. With twenty years of museum experience, she has worked extensively with the collection as well as on exhibitions and publications. Her recent projects include Beate Kuhn: Turn (2024), Extraordinary Ordinary Things (2021), a reimagining of the design collection galleries; and the solo exhibition Sharif Bey: Excavations (2021). Delphia holds a BFA in Industrial Design and MA in English from Carnegie Mellon University and MA in American Material Culture from the Winterthur Program at the University of Delaware. She lives in Pittsburgh's East End with her husband and two daughters.

*Materials fee information located on page 83.

CINEMA/FILM

Iconic Alfred Hitchcock Scenes

Study Leader: Ron Backer

- 2 Classes: Feb. 25 and Mar. 4 Class ID: 5701
- Wednesday, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM **NEW!** TWO DAY
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room A

More than 45 years after his death, Alfred Hitchcock remains the most famous movie director of all time. Some of the scenes in his films are so iconic that they are etched in moviegoers' minds, years after they first saw the film. In this course, we will review in detail the creation of 14 of Hitchcock's most memorable scenes, including famous ones such as the crop-dusting plane attack in *North by Northwest* and the shower scene from *Psycho*, and lesser-known moments such as the fall from the Statue of Liberty in *Saboteur* and the airplane crash in *Foreign Correspondent*. After viewing clips of each scene, we will look at Hitchcock's directorial style, back-stories of how each scene was conceived and produced, and where available, clips from documentaries, all with the purpose of providing a unique take on the films of Alfred Hitchcock.

Ron Backer, an attorney in Pittsburgh for over 45 years, has written five books on film, including two on the Hollywood mystery movie series of the 1930s and 1940s. Mr. Backer has contributed articles about baseball and the movies to publications of SABR (the Society for American Baseball Research). He has previously taught courses for Osher at CMU about movies, television, and sports.

Life After The U.S. Dropped The Bomb

Study Leader: Robert Hoover

- 5 Classes: Mar. 10 – Apr. 7
- Tuesday, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room A

Class ID: 5804

NEW!

In the years after the United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japan, the nuclear arms race grew more and more deadly as our nation and the Soviet Union developed more powerful weapons of mass destruction. How did popular culture confront this threat? We'll screen and discuss three films that grappled with that question. The movies are *On The Beach*, *Dr. Strangelove* and *Seven Days in May*.

Robert Hoover is the retired book and drama editor of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* who has done graduate work in film studies. He has presented a CMU Osher film study course titled "How Two Films Challenged the 1950s" and classes on the films of Orson Welles.

DRAMA/THEATRE

School Of Drama Talk Backs

Study Leader: CMU School of Drama

- 2 Classes: Feb. 26 and Apr. 2
- Thursday, 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
- Purnell Center, Chosky Theatre

Class ID: 5779

TWO DAY

Meet with the creative team behind two productions, *The Inseparables* and *Titanic*, for an hour-long talkback where you can ask questions about the process, the production, or any curiosities you might have about the show.

Please note: talks are on February 26 and April 2

TJ Young is a Texas-born playwright and dramaturg based in Pittsburgh. His plays include *WE FLY*, *The Inseparables* (Pittsburgh Public Theatre Commission), *Isle of Noises* (James Madison University Commission), *No. 6* (2017 Harold and Mimi Steinberg Award Winner – KCACTF, Indiana Rep), *Lyon's Den* (2018 Harold and Mimi Steinberg Distinguished Achievement awardee), *Hell is Empty* (2017 John Cauble Short Play Award Regional Finalist - KCACTF), and *Sperm Donor Wanted* (2023 L. Arnold Weissberger New Play Award Finalist). He received his MFA in Dramatic Writing from Texas State University. He is also the NPP Chair for Region 2 of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, He is currently an Associate Professor of Dramaturgy at Carnegie Mellon University.

Help Secure Our Future: Donate to the Osher Endowment Fund!

We invite you to make a meaningful difference by supporting the Osher at CMU Endowment Fund. With a goal of raising \$1 million, your contribution will have a lasting impact, ensuring the sustainability of the organization while helping to lower future operational costs. It is the generosity of others that has made Osher possible, and now you can continue that tradition.

As you register for your Spring courses, please consider donating to the endowment to secure Osher at CMU's future success and growth for generations to come. Together, we can build a legacy of support and opportunity.

LITERATURE

Toni Morrison's *Song Of Solomon*

Study Leader: Nancy Quick Langer

- 6 Classes: Mar. 11 – Apr. 22* Class ID: 5811
- Wednesday, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Olmsted Activity Room

*Note: Class will not meet on Apr. 1

NEW!

Song of Solomon (1977) is Toni Morrison's third novel. A sprawling story about several generations of the Dead family, it was Morrison's most ambitious novel to date. A National Book Critics Circle Award winner and breakthrough success both critically and commercially, *Song of Solomon* was selected for the Book of the Month Club, making Morrison the first Black woman author to ever have a novel chosen for the Club. According to Charles Larson's review, Morrison's narrative is "so marvelously orchestrated" that "it not only excels on all of its respective levels, not only works for all of its interlocking components, but also—in the end—says something about life (and death) for all of us." Join us as we read and discuss Morrison's novel in context with the historical and literary texts that inform it.

Nancy Quick Langer is a writer, a teacher, an avid gardener, and an embroidery artist. She has taught English literature and writing for over 25 years at Boston College, Carlow University, CCAC, and Duquesne University's School of Leadership and Professional Advancement. Her creative nonfiction has appeared in *Watershed Review*, *Santa Ana River Review*, and most recently, *Meditating on What Matters*. In addition to writing essays, Nancy records the progress of her botanically inspired hand embroidery projects on her Instagram (@nancy_ql). Her embroidery pieces have been part of several local juried art exhibitions, including the Three Rivers Arts Festival.

The Odyssey By Homer

Study Leader: Joan Cucinotta

- 5 Classes: Jan. 20 – Feb. 17 Class ID: 5735
- Tuesday, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room A

The original epic journey, *The Odyssey* is one of the foundational works of Western literature. It considers timeless themes about heroism, family responsibilities, fate vs free will, the consequences of ambition, and the trauma following a transition from a wartime ethos of violence into the ethos of peace required for civilization. All of this plays out in a world of meddling gods, man-eating giants, terrifying monsters, seductive nymphs and goddesses, and a perilous visit to the Underworld. Skipping some chapters, we will read to the end while examining specific passages for textual analysis. I use the Lattimore translation (it's on Amazon). However, any translation is fine. As we follow the course of this epic tale, we will look at many cultural aspects including notions of heroism, the role of women, the role of the gods, the effects of PTSD, and the elements necessary to a thriving civilization.

Joan Cucinotta earned a Ph.D. in English from Duquesne University and taught at Sewickley Academy for almost forty years. As the chair of the English department there, she developed coursework related to required courses in American and World Literature. She also ran the Chinese exchange there and taught English at a high school in Wuhan, China. Since she retired, she has been writing book reviews for the League of Women Voters' Book Club in addition to volunteering at EngIn, a nonprofit that pairs Ukrainians with English speakers for online language instruction.

Plato's *Republic*: The Most Controversial Book

Study Leader: Joseph Givvin

- 5 Classes: Mar. 12 – Apr. 16* Class ID: 5790
- Thursday, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room A

*Note: Class will not meet on Apr. 9

NEW!

Decried as madness. Admired for the power of its imagery. Called the forerunner of Communism. Called the first argument for equality of the sexes. Centuries after Plato's *Republic* was written its questions still challenge us to think about: how should we educate our young, what is knowledge, what the best moral code, is there a reason for the universe, what should government do and not do. Lectures will examine various interpretations of Plato's *Republic* and briefly compare it to other utopian visions like Thomas More's *Utopia* and B.F. Skinner's *Walden II* and briefly examine the Republic's impact on subsequent generations of thinkers. Members will be asked to read Plato's *Republic* either in print or on-line.

Joseph Givvin, Ph.D. has returned to live in the Pittsburgh area after 33 years of teaching at Mount Mercy University, Iowa, where he is Professor Emeritus. He has been a member of the American Association of Philosophy Teacher's (AAPT) since 1984 and has presented 12 workshops on teaching philosophy at AAPT conferences. He has also chaired two conferences sponsored by the AAPT. As a result of his work for the AAPT, he was presented an "Award of Merit for Outstanding Leadership and Achievements in the Teaching of Philosophy." He greatly enjoys the opportunity to teach Osher classes at Carnegie Mellon and to engage with the curious minds of the members in thoughtful conversation, especially about philosophy and happiness.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Study Leader: Rebecca Carpenter

- 4 Classes: Mar. 11 – Apr. 1 Class ID: 5719
- Wednesday, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room A

This course will focus on William Shakespeare's romantic comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. We will explore its beauty, fantasy, and mythology, and the themes of imagination, creativity, love, and the elevation of self. While many think of this play as little more than a childish romp in a forest full of moonlight and fairies, there is much more to discover in this exquisite midsummer adventure. The last class will be devoted to a film version of the play. Come and be transported, as only some quality time with Shakespeare can provide! Students may use their own copies of the play.

Rebecca Carpenter has been an educator for almost 40 years. She taught English literature and writing in both public and private high schools, college, and graduate school. In addition, she taught English in Duquesne University's School of Leadership and Professional Advancement's Saturday program for 25 years. After 19 years, she recently retired from Literacy Pittsburgh where she taught adult literacy classes, trained volunteers, and developed and managed special projects, including Health Literacy.

Jane Austen's *Sense And Sensibility*

Study Leader: Allison Thompson

- 4 Classes: Mar. 10 – Mar. 31
 - Tuesday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
 - Cyert Hall, Osher Room A
- Class ID: 5726

NEW!

Common sense. Insensitive. Sensibility. Nonsense. (Non-cents?) Jane Austen's explores these issues in her first published novel (1811). But, as usual, this is not just a comic romance—it is a scathing condemnation of the ways in which women and girls were dispossessed and marginalized not only by concepts of entail and primogeniture, but by greedy relatives and uncaring and shallow society. It also features the only Austen hero who lies. *Sense and Sensibility* is sometimes called Austen's bleakest and harshest novel—but it's still funny! We'll enjoy both reading the text (any good, annotated version) as well as discussing the various film versions.

Allison Thompson is a dance historian, writer, and folk musician. She has written extensively on the topic of Jane Austen and the Janeite fandom, and has taught many courses on the author and her works. Allison's most recent article was *Jane Austen, DragonRider* on the topic of fantasy *Pride & Prejudice* fanfiction, and her most recent book is *Dances from Jane Austen's Assembly Rooms*.



MUSIC

The Six Brandenburg Concertos Of J. S. Bach

Study Leader: James Gorton

- 3 Classes: Jan. 14 – Jan. 28
 - Wednesday, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM
 - Cyert Hall, Osher Room B
- Class ID: 5799

NEW!

J. S. Bach was a master orchestrator and his Six Brandenburg Concertos are a great example, each of them using a different set of instruments. This course will feature the instruments Bach chose to use with guests from the Pittsburgh Symphony and CMU demonstrating.

James Gorton, formerly Co-Principal Oboist of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, currently teaches at Carnegie Mellon and Duquesne Universities.

Music And The Idea Of America

Study Leader: Owen Cantor

- 3 Classes: Apr. 1 – Apr. 15 Class ID: 5808
- Wednesday, 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

After first becoming an independent country, there was no "America." The United States needed an identity, a national myth. Starting with a "borrowed" national anthem, we adopted our first national song. Home-grown songs and dance helped paved the way to create an idea we call "America". Enslavement and immigration provided us with non-European music, which we call our own. Unique, evocative, descriptive and often nationalistic, music has been used to unify the rough un-homogenized United States into an idealistic identity. It's a captivating story — but not always obvious. Curious?

Dr Owen Cantor has had the good fortune to pursue his dual loves: classical music and clinical dentistry. Dr Cantor was founder and music director of the Summerfest Chamber Music Festival which presented fourteen summers of chamber music in Fox Chapel. Before and during his early years as a practicing dentist, Dr Cantor studied and played the French horn in countless local venues, serving as an Artist/Lecturer in the CMU School of Music. Teaching music and cultural history at Osher CMU has allowed him to give back his experiences to the city he loves.

Weekly Essentials

The weekly email for all things Osher at CMU!

Every Friday, our electronic newsletter the *Weekly Essentials*, or “The WE” is sent to you.

This email is your one-stop-shop for all the happenings at Osher at CMU. The WE often includes:

- Catalog and registration announcements
- Events and lectures by Osher and CMU
- Participation in CMU research projects
- Course changes
- Volunteer opportunities
- Member benefits and discounts
- Technology tips and tricks
- Osher class photos
- Articles by Osher members

Members are automatically signed up for these emails, and we ask you do not “unsubscribe” as they will be your gateway to the most important updates from the Osher office. In addition to the email, all of the information is posted on the homepage of our website under the “Weekly Essentials” section.

If you have not received these emails, contact the Osher office.

LEARN BY DOING

Art | Crafts/Hobbies | Culinary | Dance/Exercise | Games | Language | Technology | Tours | Wellness | Writing

ART

Experimental Drawing Techniques

Study Leader: Yoka Slagle

Materials Fee: \$10*

- 6 Classes: Jan. 14 – Feb. 18 Class ID: 5813
- Wednesday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
- Cyert Hall, Olmsted Activity Room **NEW!**

This class welcomes all skill levels. We will use traditional and non-traditional materials to create works ranging from sketches to more realized works. Experimenting, playing, and expressing personal style with lesser concern for likeness will be our primary focus. One session will include a field trip to the Carnegie Museum of Art. Materials include charcoal, graphite, pigment sticks, wire, water media, natural materials, monotype printing, ink and collage. Some materials' properties may lead to unpredictable results that could open to new and exciting possibilities for you.

Yoka Slagle, MA, is a long time Art Educator at the Carnegie Museum of Art where she engages audiences of all ages. There, she specifically teaches adults of the Mindful Museum program, Professional Development workshops and programs for teachers in the Pittsburgh area, as well as Art School for Life. She has worked alongside several visiting contemporary artists at the museum. Additionally, she serves as Adjunct Faculty at Penn State New Kensington teaching Drawing and International Art.

**Materials fee information located on page 83.*

The Art And Joy Of Observational Drawing

Study Leader: Yoka Slagle

Materials Fee: \$10*

- 6 Classes: Mar. 11 – Apr. 15 Class ID: 5815
- Wednesday, 10:15 AM - 12:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Olmsted Activity Room **NEW!**

This class welcomes all skill levels. We will learn fundamentals of drawing from observation in a supportive space. Our primary focus will be drawing from objects and figures. Through guided exercises, we will develop a trained eye and learn how to translate what we see onto paper with accuracy and expression.

Yoka Slagle, MA, is a long time Art Educator at the Carnegie Museum of Art where she engages audiences of all ages. There, she specifically teaches adults of the Mindful Museum program, Professional Development workshops and programs for teachers in the Pittsburgh area, as well as Art School for Life. She has worked alongside several visiting contemporary artists at the museum. Additionally, she serves as Adjunct Faculty at Penn State New Kensington teaching Drawing and International Art.

**Materials fee information located on page 83.*



Drawing In The Museum

Study Leader: Betsy Bangley

Materials Fee: \$10*

- 5 Classes: Jan. 16 – Feb. 20* Class ID: 5812
- Friday, 10:15 AM - 12:45 PM
- Carnegie Museum of Art,
4400 Forbes Ave, Oakland

*Note: Class will not meet on Feb. 6

Develop your drawing skills, and explore the world of the Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History through simple pencil sketches. We will begin with an introduction to sketching techniques as we explore artifacts and statuary in The Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History in Oakland. Each week we will explore a different area of the museums. Beginners are welcome!

Please note: Participants will purchase their own admission to the museum.

Betsy Bangley has had a lifelong love of drawing. She has kept a nature journal of sketches and observations for over 20 years, and currently teaches drawing, watercolor painting, art journaling, and other courses in the arts and humanities at the Community College of Beaver County through the Continuing Education and Workforce Development Department. David Bangley is a former television producer/director. David has worked with film, analog television, digital television, and digital photography.

*Materials fee information located on page 83.

Figure Drawing

Study Leader: Betsy Bangley

Materials Fee: \$40*

- 5 Classes: Mar. 13 – Apr. 17* Class ID: 5792
- Friday, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
- College of Fine Arts, TBA

*Note: Class will not meet on Apr. 10

Discover a new world of artistic exploration and connect with humanity by learning to draw another human being. Beginning artists will learn the basics of observational drawing in a supportive environment, while experienced artists will enjoy honing their skills through the open studio format of the class. Our nude model will hold a variety of poses for us to observe and sketch. Each week we will start with quick gesture sketches and move on to longer drawings. You'll be surprised at the progress you make as you develop your new creative skills! Bring a pad of newsprint, drawing paper, a soft pencil, and charcoal.

Please note: Supplies needed for the course: newsprint pad, charcoal, soft pencils, eraser

Betsy Bangley has had a lifelong love of drawing. She has kept a nature journal of sketches and observations for over 20 years, and currently teaches drawing, watercolor painting, art journaling, and other courses in the arts and humanities at the Community College of Beaver County through the Continuing Education and Workforce Development Department. David Bangley is a former television producer/director. David has worked with film, analog television, digital television, and digital photography.

*Materials fee information located on page 83.

The "ART" Of Healing Series

Study Leader: Gerry Florida

Materials Fee: \$20*

- 2 Classes: Mar. 10 and Mar. 17 Class ID: 5766
- Tuesday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
- Cyert Hall, Olmsted Activity Room

NEW! **TWO DAY**

This is a 2-session easy watercolor class where students set aside the challenges and uncertainty of everyday living and journey into creative development. Students will work through basic watercolor composition techniques as they divert daily anxieties-stressors and learn ways to cope, re-focus, and relax through the creative process. As an artist who has experienced unpredictable outcomes, Gerry believes that diversion, creative self-reflection, and instant gratification through imaginative practice develops a resilient character through newly acquired skills. Discussions will center around coping skills, acceptance, and empowerment in dealing with the challenges of daily life and the uncertain outcomes that follow. Gerry has chosen to share her recovery insights to those suffering from life-changing circumstances who experience the mental/physical challenges, social stigma, and uncertainty that an unpredictable life journey can otherwise bring. The class is open to those wanting to adopt healthier attitudes to live in more resilient, creative, and effective ways.

Gerry Florida is an award-winning-artist, who spent much of life in recovery. It was the isolation between diagnosis to recovery that Gerry mastered ways to distract herself through art, enabling her to re-design a future under new terms and regain control of her life. Her successful work with Highlands Detention-Adelphi gives insight to the therapeutic effects of art. She uses her recovery experience to help others find ways to creatively live through the healing process with more dignity, acceptance, and hope. She has devoted her life working on behalf of at-risk populations to include special needs, seniors, and at-risk youth, and helps students discover their creative potential and ease transitions from life events to well-being or simply for those wanting ways to refocus and relax.

*Materials fee information located on page 83.

CRAFTS/HOBBIES

Jewelry Class – Necklace And Earrings

Study Leader: Alisa DeStefano

Materials Fee: \$25*

- 1 Class: Mar. 26 Class ID: 5787
- Thursday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
- Cyert Hall, Olmsted Activity Room

ONE DAY

Where did you get that beautiful necklace? Soon, your answer to this complimentary question will be "I made it!" Join us as we explore your creativity in fashion jewelry that will make others think you purchased them from a chic boutique. In this two-hour session you will learn how to create a "suspension" necklace (the beads suspend along the chain instead of gathering at the bottom) and matching earrings. A variety of glass, acrylic, wooden, or semi-precious beads will be provided to fit your style, along with gold or silver color chain, hooks, and clasps. By the end of the class, you will have used a variety of tools and be proficient in jewelry-making techniques and terminology. No previous skill is required.

Alisa DeStefano enjoys embracing new experiences, from zip-lining and white-water rafting to jewelry-making and cookie decorating. In addition to her career as Associate Director of Financial Aid at IUP, she founded a jewelry-making business and teaches jewelry-making in classroom situations, and for friends and family. She has been a session and keynote speaker at workshops and conferences, including the President's Commission on the Status of Women. Alisa started taking piano lessons (after a 40-year hiatus) and played in her first recital at the age of 63. After retirement she took a cookie decorating class, just for fun, and was hooked. She began to decorate cookies for every reason and season and teaches family, friends, and neighbors in the art. She loves the joy of creating.

*Materials fee information located on page 83.



Researching Your Family History

Study Leader: Mark Banister

- 4 Classes: Mar. 10 – Mar. 31 *Class ID:* 5757
- Tuesday, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room A

This course is designed for both those just starting to investigate their family history research, as well as for more experienced people who may have hit a snag and are looking for a hint or a reason to re-start. We will talk about on-line resources as well as church, library, and governmental records. Also, DNA testing help. Many of us run into conflicting information, and we will consider how to view that data. Please bring any questions you have from your own research to the class.

Mark Banister has been researching his family history for nearly 50 years and has a wide range of experiences and resources to bring to this course. His family tree software has over 7500 names! Prior to his retirement in 2017, he was in the Environmental Safety and Health office of Carnegie Mellon.

CULINARY

Easter And Spring Flower Cookie Decorating Class

Study Leader: Alisa DeStefano

Materials Fee: \$25*

- 1 Class: Mar. 5 *Class ID:* 5773
- Thursday, 12:45 PM - 2:45 PM
- Cyert Hall, Olmsted Activity Room

**ONE
DAY**

Learn how to decorate beautiful sugar cookies in Easter and spring flower shapes and colors that will be so beautiful your family and friends will say are too pretty to eat! This course will offer two decorating techniques: 1) the royal icing outline and flood method, and 2) the wet-on-wet icing method. Detailed instruction will include how to outline and flood each cookie with royal icing, and use the wet-on-wet technique to create beautiful designs. Baked cookies, like blank canvases, will be provided for you to decorate, along with prepared royal icing in pastry bags, tips on how to create unique designs on each cookie, and examples of decorating ideas. Tips on how to roll out a perfectly even dough, make royal icing in different consistencies, and recipes for the royal icing and delicious sugar cookies will be provided.

Alisa DeStefano enjoys embracing new experiences, from zip-lining and white-water rafting to jewelry-making and cookie decorating. In addition to her career as Associate Director of Financial Aid at IUP, she founded a jewelry-making business and teaches jewelry-making in classroom situations, and for friends and family. She has been a session and keynote speaker at workshops and conferences, including the President's Commission on the Status of Women. Alisa started taking piano lessons (after a 40-year hiatus) and played in her first recital at the age of 63. After retirement she took a cookie decorating class, just for fun, and was hooked. She began to decorate cookies for every reason and season and teaches family, friends, and neighbors in the art. She loves the joy of creating.

**Materials fee information located on page 83.*



Cooking For One

Study Leader: Jessica Rea

Materials Fee: \$20*

- 1 Class: Feb. 24 Class ID: 5818
- Tuesday, 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

NEW! **ONE DAY**

Discover the joy and practicality of cooking for yourself in this engaging one-hour session. Led by a professional chef and a registered dietitian, this live cooking demonstration offers hands-on guidance and expert tips for solo meal preparation. Participants will learn how to shop smartly for groceries, reduce food waste, and create simple, nutritious meals tailored for one. Whether you're new to cooking or looking to refresh your skills, this class empowers you to make mealtime enjoyable, healthy, and stress-free.

Jessica Rea, MS, RDN, LD is a nationally recognized and award winning Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. She serves the CMU community as the University's Program Director of Nutrition.

*Materials fee information located on page 83.

DANCE/EXERCISE

Hatha Yoga

Study Leader: Loretta Barone

Materials Fee: \$10*

- 10 Classes: Jan. 15 – Mar. 19 Class ID: 5707
- Thursday, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Dance Alloy Studio,
5530 Penn Ave, East Liberty

This class will involve gentle, sensible, challenging exercises. Each week participants will be performing classical postures of stretching and strengthening in accordance with the course objectives, which are to increase flexibility, to gain strength, to learn correct breathing techniques, to promote better body alignment, to learn deep relaxation techniques, and to manage stress and tension better. Exercises can be adapted for those with a variety of abilities. Participants will need a mat or pad to sit/lie on (a carpet strip, foam pad, or blanket is fine) and will need to wear loose, non-binding clothing. Fall new students **MUST** attend 1st class 30 minutes early.

Please note: *For physical activity courses we encourage everyone to consult with a physician who can help assess fitness for participation. Please be aware that we do not have trained medical personnel on the premise during any courses with physical activity. New students welcome; Must attend the yoga orientation, 30 minutes before the first class.*

Loretta Barone took her first yoga class in 1966. She's been practicing and teaching yoga ever since. Her class is a melding of all the best things she has learned from a variety of yoga teachers, disciplines, and practices. She began teaching in her son's kindergarten class when she realized that five-year-olds could not bend down and touch their toes. In 1978, she began teaching in the adult program of the Dade County Public Schools, Florida. After 10 years, she moved on to teaching privately. All in all, she taught for 20 years in Miami and has taught here since 1998.

*Materials fee information located on page 83.

Get Fit: A Fun Latin Cardio Workout

Study Leader: Connie Pollack

Materials Fee: \$10*

- 8 Classes: Jan. 14 – Mar. 4 Class ID: 5785
- Wednesday, 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM
- Beth Shalom, Hyman Ballroom,
2nd Fl, 5915 Beacon St, Sq. Hill

- 6 Classes: Mar. 11 – Apr. 29* Class ID: 5786
- Wednesday, 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM
- Beth Shalom, Hyman Ballroom,
2nd Fl, 5915 Beacon St, Sq. Hill

*Note: Class will not meet on Apr. 1, Apr. 8

Are you looking for a new way to jazz up your exercise routine? Come groove to an energetic mix of hip-hop, international, and Latin-inspired music, and dance movements like the cha-cha, salsa, samba, and more. This class embraces all levels of ability by providing step-by-step instruction, demonstration, and modified moves. No prior experience is necessary! This class is like no other because it gives you a full-body workout that incorporates aerobic dance movements, muscle toning, stretching, and relaxation exercises. It's a great way to build your cardio fitness while having fun, and is perfect for both men and women who enjoy being active. Each session consists of warm-up exercises, Latin cardio dance segments, weights, stretching, and cool down. Please wear comfortable shoes and bring a water bottle and light hand weights. Try it - you'll like it!

Please note: For physical activity courses we encourage everyone to consult with a physician who can help assess fitness for participation. Please be aware that we do not have trained medical personnel on the premise during any courses with physical activity.

Connie Pollack has been teaching aerobic dance classes to adults for the past 21 years at Congregation Beth Shalom. She loves singing and dancing to music and enjoys choreographing energetic and fun routines. With a degree in health and physical education, she taught physical education to students of all ages for 15 years before obtaining her master's degree in school counseling and transitioning to the field of college consulting. Currently, she works as a private college counselor in Squirrel Hill and helps students with their college or graduate school selection and application process, and tutors students in English, writing, reading, and test prep. She has always been passionate about teaching, encouraging fitness and exercise, and volunteering in her community.

*Materials fee information located on page 83.

Cajun Dance

Study Leader: Charles Ettensohn, Patty Doody

Materials Fee: \$10*

- 3 Classes: Jan. 16 – Jan. 30 Class ID: 5752
- Friday, 2:45 PM - 4:15 PM
- Wilkins Community Center, Regent Square,
Room 102, 7604 Charleston Ave, Swissvale

Cajun music and dance are lively, fun, and distinctive parts of a vibrant culture centered in southern Louisiana. This three-session class will teach the basics of Cajun dance, with goal of getting students out on the dance floor and enjoying themselves as quickly as possible. You will learn the two basic, couples-based, Cajun dance styles (Lafayette two-step and Cajun waltz), and some of the many variations on these basic steps (Mamou two-step, Mamou waltz and, if time permits Cajun swing). These dance steps are simple to learn, even for students with no experience in couples' dancing, so don't be shy! Recorded music will be used for the first two sessions, and a Cajun ensemble will provide live music for the last class session. No experience or partner is required, but experienced dancers and couples are welcome. Comfortable shoes that slide easily on a wooden dance floor are recommended.

Please note: For physical activity courses we encourage everyone to consult with a physician who can help assess fitness for participation. Please be aware that we do not have trained medical personnel on the premise during any courses with physical activity.

Chuck Ettensohn and **Patty Doody**, have taught Cajun dance in the Pittsburgh area for more than 25 years. Chuck has been the accordionist in several Pittsburgh-based Cajun bands, including more than 20 years with Grand Bon Rien, and currently plays with Mon Krewe.

*Materials fee information located on page 83.

GAMES

Trivia *Jeopardy!* Style

Study Leader: Howard Seltman

- 2 Classes: Feb. 24 and Mar. 3
- Tuesday, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room A

Class ID: 5731

**TWO
DAY**

Do you remember who were the stars of African Queen? Do you know the capital of Canada? Would you recognize the theme song to the Andy Griffith Show? If so, then you will have fun playing Osher *Jeopardy!*. Similar to the popular TV show, three contestants at a time are in a friendly competition to press the buzzer and give the correct response. Unlike the TV show, there are no time limits and categories like rap songs are off the table. We have lots of fun with new categories each time, whether you want to play or just cheer on your friends.

Howard Seltman is a retired Clinical Pathologist and Statistician, who loves learning new things from any field of human knowledge.

LANGUAGE

Intermediate French Conversation

Study Leader: Veronique Schreurs

- 6 Classes: Jan. 16 – Feb. 20
- Friday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
- Veronique Schreurs' Home

Class ID: 5722

It is a cooperative class, to keep up and improve your conversational skills in French. Every student has the opportunity to tell a little 5-minute piece in French, a personal story or a piece about a subject of interest to them. Students may also ask each other questions after each presentation. We have had some lively, interesting, and fun discussions!

Veronique Schreurs has a B.S. degree from the University of Leuven, Belgium. She has experience teaching French both one-on-one and in-group settings. She is a retired software developer. She is active in the blind community as a sighted guide/participant.

Respond to the Monkey in your email!

We are sometimes asked why we keep offering that boring, mediocre course. The answer is, we didn't know it was. The students of Osher at CMU decide which courses continue and which don't! To get everyone's feedback, we use a system called Survey Monkey. We are now asking for feedback on all new courses, problem courses, and random, frequently offered courses. Your opinion really counts. If you didn't get a Survey Monkey or want to comment on a course, send an email to the office. Thank you for your input!

TECHNOLOGY

Foreign Language Learning
Tips And Tools*Study Leader:* Anne Semmler

- 1 Class: Feb. 24
- Tuesday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room A

Class ID: 5716ONE
DAY

For the beginner to advanced foreign language lover, come discover a gold mine of tools, apps, websites, inspiration and strategies to enjoy self-study for years to come. This class will offer plenty of ideas and support to spark confidence and help you determine your passion for learning and advancing a new language. You don't necessarily need an expensive or long-term course commitment to leap ahead in language study, but this class will also address ideas for success in a structured setting. We will also have suggestions to prepare for Osher at CMU's upcoming trip to Portugal with Collette Tours!

Anne Semmler studied French and Russian while completing a B.A. in Comparative Literature at Duke University. She continued language study with four years of residence in Germany, courses at the Goethe Institute and Berlitz, and most recently group summer short programs in Munich and Hamburg, as well as dabbling in Old Norse and Italian. Now retired from a career as a paralegal in immigration law, she attended the 2017 Polyglot International Conferences in Reykjavik, Iceland as well as online, and loves to share enthusiasm for self-determined foreign language study.



TOURS

Osher Goes Birding
At Beechwood Farms*Study Leader:* Anne Semmler

- 1 Class: Apr. 24
- Friday, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
- Beechwood Farms,
Audubon Society of Western PA,
614 Dorseyville Rd, Fox Chapel

Class ID: 5715ONE
DAY

Join us for a morning of birding and gentle hiking at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve, the headquarters of Audubon Society of Western PA (aswp.org, 614 Dorseyville Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15238). All levels of birding expertise are welcome! Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve has 134 acres of scenic field, forest, pond and stream habitats with 3.5 miles of trails. Depending on staff availability, expertise will be on site to discuss amateur bird photography and fall migrations in the area. Bring your binoculars (there will be a limited number of binoculars to borrow for the morning).

Study Leaders **Anne Semmler** and **Julia Meredith** are participants in the 2023 and 2025 Master Birder program at Audubon Society of Western PA.

WELLNESS

Zen And Coral: Reflections On Tech And Time

Study Leader: Srivatsa Srinivasan

- 3 Classes: Mar. 12 – Mar. 26 *Class ID:* 5705
- Thursday, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room A

NEW!

In a world shaped by rapid technological change and constant distraction, how do we stay grounded and live with intention? This course invites you to explore the intersection of ancient wisdom and modern innovation through the lens of "Zen and Coral"—a metaphor for resilience, clarity, and connection. Drawing from personal stories, Eastern philosophy, and emerging technologies like AI and robotics, we'll reflect on what it means to grow older with purpose, to stay curious in a digital age, and to align our inner values with the outer world. Through rich conversations and guided reflections, participants will uncover their own sense of meaning and discover how tools of the future can support a more mindful present.

Srivatsa Srinivasan is a technology executive, educator, and life-long seeker who blends decades of experience in AI, sales leadership, and engineering with a deep personal journey rooted in Eastern philosophy. He has led global teams at companies like Cisco and Fannie Mae, built AI-powered speech tools for children, and volunteered extensively in community and nonprofit settings. A passionate storyteller and reflective thinker, Srivatsa brings a unique voice to topics at the crossroads of innovation and inner clarity. His teaching style is conversational, engaging, and grounded in real-world insight.

Eating For Energy

Study Leader: Jessica Rea

- 1 Class: Feb. 25 *Class ID:* 5819
- Wednesday, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room A

NEW! **ONE DAY**

Discover how to fuel your body with purpose in this engaging, lecture-based session. Eating for Energy explores the essential building blocks of nutrition—macronutrients—and how they work together to create a balanced, energizing plate. Participants will learn how proteins, carbohydrates, and fats contribute to vitality, support healthy aging, and promote sustained energy throughout the day. Whether you're cooking for yourself or making choices at mealtime, this course empowers you to make informed decisions that nourish both body and mind.

Jessica Rea, MS, RDN, LD is a nationally recognized and award winning Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. She serves the CMU community as the University's Program Director of Nutrition.



Preparing For Your End: Funeral Planning

Study Leader: Stephen Christian-Michaels

- 1 Class: Mar. 3 Class ID: 5727
- Tuesday, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

ONE
DAY

Most people tend to avoid thinking about their death. They tend to put off making plans for their funeral. This ends up leaving their surviving family members to deal with planning the funeral arrangement while they are grieving, traveling, and dealing with other details. This session will talk about the different funeral arrangement options including burial, cremation, green burials, composting, etc. We will also include how the use of a Death Doula can assist you and your family in the final days and after. We will talk about the services provided by the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western PA, a non-profit, who advocates and help members select a funeral home (we have 25 participating funeral homes) to select which option works best and will assist when funeral homes close and a new selection is needed. Come learn about how a planning for your death will help your family.

Stephen Christian-Michaels is a social worker and worked in community mental health center and was the CEO of Family Services of Western PA. When he retired he joined the board of trustees as the Vice President of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western PA. Stephen also teaches at the Center for Public Service Psychiatry at Western Psychiatric. He also maintains a consulting business. Lynne Ireland-Knight is a death doula committed to making death education part of our community conversation. As the owner of Promise Me Momma LLC her focus is on end-of-life planning and support services, grief support, and green burial education. With advanced planning, if and when we know the end is near, can lay the groundwork for an easier, more meaningful transition.

WRITING

Poetry 101: Rhyme, Rhythm, Structure

Study Leader: Laura McGinnis

- 6 Classes: Mar. 12 – Apr. 23* Class ID: 5795
- Thursday, 12:45 AM - 2:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Hawkins Conference Room

**Note: Class will not meet on Apr. 9*

This class will look at basic elements and forms of formal poetry. While contemporary poetry is generally written in blank or free verse, there is value in knowing the basic components of structured poetry. The theme of this class, then, is "Learn the rules like a pro so you can break them like an artist" (Pablo Picasso). Writing is encouraged, but sharing what you write is always optional. There is no required reading, and no homework, but I will provide a few prompts for each class so you can continue writing between classes. If you've ever wanted to try your hand at poetry, this is where you can start.

Laura McGinnis is a retired project manager who found a love of writing buried beneath a previous life of technology. Over the 10 years of retirement writing, her poems have been published in over a dozen small-press anthologies. She has published two chapbooks: *How to Grieve: A Cancer Journal*, and *Inside Out and All About*.

Writers' Workshop

Study Leader: Thalia Snyder

- 6 Classes: Mar. 11 – Apr. 15 *Class ID:* 5754
- Wednesday, 10:15 AM - 12:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Hawkins Conference Room

Would you like to connect to fellow classmates through your writing? This workshop will get your creative juices flowing. We will begin each session with an in-class writing exercise. In addition, you will be asked to submit a writing assignment in the form of essay, poetry, memoir, fiction, or creative nonfiction each week, which will be discussed the following week. You will discover what your classmates appreciated about your piece, what they didn't understand, and how you might improve your writing. We support and encourage each other in the process of putting words on paper.

Please note: This course requires that a piece of writing, limited to 1200 words, be submitted to the study leader each week. Please register only if you can attend 5 of the 6 sessions and can limit your weekly writing submission to 1200 words. The study leader will email you prior to the start of the course. You must reply to this email to confirm your participation and receive the first assignment.

Thalia Snyder is a writer, actor, retired dentist and language enthusiast. She studied theater at Northwestern University where she graduated with a B.A. in Russian language and literature. From the University of Pittsburgh, she earned an MA in Slavic Languages and literature as well as a DMD and MS in prosthodontics. She taught at the University of Texas School of Dentistry in Houston and worked in private practice. She narrates books as a voiceover artist at Library of Accessible Media for Pennsylvanians (LAMP). She writes poetry and memoir. Her work was published in *Signatures* (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Carnegie Mellon University, 2016). Thalia has been a joyful member of Writers' Workshop for many years.

How To Tell Your Own Story

Study Leader: James Hagerty

- 3 Classes: Jan. 14 – Jan. 28 *Class ID:* 5706
- Wednesday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Olmsted Activity Room

Having written more than 1,000 obituaries for the *Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Times*, Hagerty can tell you why and how to write your own story, in long or short form. Don't leave that project to family members or friends. They lack the details and insights that only you can provide. Generalities and platitudes won't do. You probably have told them many stories, but they weren't taking notes and won't get everything right. So, let's figure out how to write at least a brief summary of what mattered most to you. Then we can consider going on to a longer story about what you are trying to do with your life, why and how it's working out. We will discuss what to include, what to leave out, and how to make your story fun and readable. That's right, fun. Hagerty's motto: If obituaries can't be fun, what's the point of dying?

James R. Hagerty, known to friends as Bob, has been a reporter and editor for the *Wall Street Journal* for more than 40 years. During that period, he has lived in London, Brussels, Hong Kong, New York, Atlanta and (saving the best for last) Pittsburgh. For the past eight years, he has specialized in obituaries. He also has contributed articles to the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*, among other publications. He grew up in North Dakota and studied economics at the University of North Dakota. In recent years he has served as a senior softball coach and English-language tutor for immigrants. He is the author of *Yours Truly*, a guide to writing life stories, which won praise from the *Washington Post* and *New York Times*.

ARCHITECTURE

John McSorley: Bricklayer To Master Builder

Study Leader: David Schwing

- 4 Classes: Mar. 12 – Apr. 2 *Class ID:* 5776
 - Thursday, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
 - Cyert Hall, Osher Room A
- NEW!**

In the first quarter of the 20th century, John McSorley transformed areas of Pittsburgh's East End and introduced thousands to stylish, modern apartment living. This course will track McSorley's career path and professional development from teen-aged bricklaying apprentice in Toronto, to General Contractor in Chicago, to seasoned Master Builder-Developer in Pittsburgh. Over four weeks we will see photos of dozens of his buildings in various neighborhoods of Pittsburgh, analyze their character-defining attributes, and discuss what makes them out of the ordinary. In turn, we will learn about the accomplishments of the architects he collaborated with over the years and examine examples of their work.

Retired architect **David "Chip" Schwing** is enjoying a renewed sense of discovery in the classroom. After a career of looking down at a drafting board, he now focuses his attention on the architectural treasures (and oddities) around us and digs into historical research to shine a light on the contributions and creations of others.



Jože Plečnik: Architectural Magician

Study Leader: David Schwing

- 1 Class: Feb. 25 *Class ID:* 5777
 - Wednesday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
 - Cyert Hall, Osher Room A
- NEW!** **ONE DAY**

Jože Plečnik (1872-1957) was a Slovenian architect whose work defies categorization. He was educated under Vienna Successionist Otto Wagner and adopted his beautifully composed architectural style but went on to flex his own stylist muscles in his hometown of Ljubljana. We will see many examples of his talent in buildings and public spaces that single-handedly and completely transformed Ljubljana into one of the most visually-compelling cities in Europe.

Retired architect **David "Chip" Schwing** is enjoying a renewed sense of discovery in the classroom. After a career of looking down at a drafting board, he now focuses his attention on the architectural treasures (and oddities) around us and digs into historical research to shine a light on the contributions and creations of others.

Five 20th Century Houses

Study Leader: Matthew Schlueb

• 6 Classes: Jan. 15 – Feb. 26* *Class ID:* 5772

• Thursday, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM

• Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

**Note: Class will not meet on Jan. 22*

NEW!

This course will begin a series on architectural masterworks of the twentieth century, by examining five houses built at the turn of the century, preludes to the Modern movement that would follow. Each lecture will focus on one house and the architect behind it, examining their schematic strategies, theoretic postulates, and material executions, pioneering the future of architecture. The houses to be dissected will be the Palau Güell by Antoni Gaudí (1888), Behrens house by Peter Behrens (1901), the Gamble house by Charles and Henry Greene (1909), the Robie house by Frank Lloyd Wright (1910), and the Steiner house by Adolf Loos (1910).

Matthew Schlueb is a registered architect, with a private practice specializing in residential architecture. This is his fifth year teaching within Osher at CMU. He received a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the Ohio State University and a Master of Architecture from Pratt Institute in New York. Last year he hosted a round table forum with a panel of practicing design professionals, academic professors, and homeowners, to discuss and debate the future of architecture and the American home, in the context of developments in artificial intelligence and automated fabrication. Additionally, he led the University of Pittsburgh Osher program on a tour of Barcelona, Spain, through the works of Antoni Gaudí - a tour he hopes to repeat with the members of Osher at CMU.

What's New In Architecture 2

Study Leader: Jeffrey Swoger

• 5 Classes: Mar. 12 – Apr. 16* *Class ID:* 5711

• Thursday, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM

• Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

**Note: Class will not meet on Apr. 9*

NEW!

In Part 2 of the What's New in Architecture course, we continue to explore the developing trends being employed around the globe by architectural firms large and small on a wide range of projects. Familiar faces, and new ones. New technologies and old ones revisited. Buildings that excite, and amuse, and nurture interpersonal connections. Environmental issues continue to be front and center. Lively discussions of the architecture will add to the overall experience.

Jeffrey Swoger, a graphic designer, has had a lifelong fascination with all aspects of design - architecture, furniture, household items and fabrics. The modernism movement that began in Europe after WWI (especially at the Bauhaus), gained recognition in the United States during the 1950s and 1960's, and formed the basis for his approach to design.

ENVIRONMENT

Learn Practical Things You Can Do To Help Solve PA's Environmental Challenges

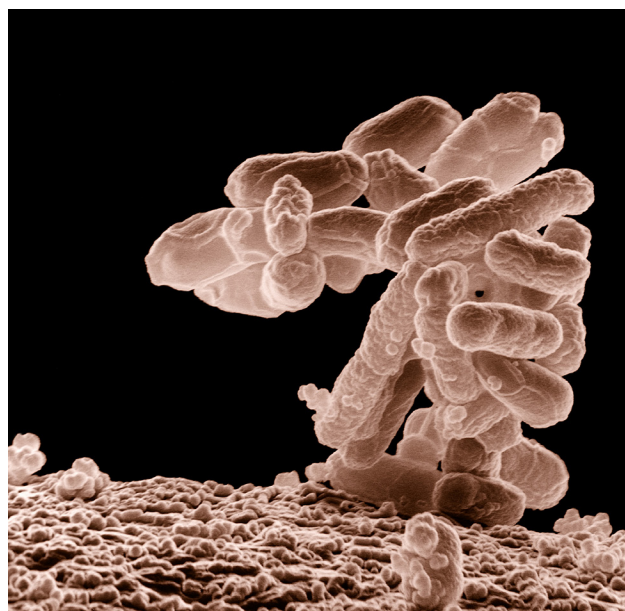
Study Leader: Byron Black

- 1 Class: Feb. 24 Class ID: 5730
- Tuesday, 12:45 PM - 2:45 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

NEW! **ONE DAY**

This class will present an overview of some of the greatest environmental challenges facing western Pennsylvania: Climate Change, Invasive Species/Biodiversity Loss, Insect decline and Deer, as well as what each means to us. Some people hear about environmental challenges and throw their arms in the air because there is "nothing that I can do." This is simply not the case! The course will cover a wide range of very practical things that everyone can do to help reduce the extent and impact of each of these challenges regardless of whether you are a large landowner, or live in a house with a small yard, or a city apartment. Not all ideas apply to everyone, but everyone will be able to implement many of them. We all have an important role to play in protecting the future for our children & grandchildren. Come learn some ideas to do your part!

Byron Black retired in 2018 and since then, he and his wife Jean have actively worked to enhance their certified tree farm's varied habitats. They are passionate environmental advocates, educators and citizen scientists who routinely host events to help others learn about environmental challenges and opportunities, promote science, and learn to be better stewards. Byron and Jean are active PA Forest Stewards, PA Master Naturalists, and Audubon Master Birders. Byron is also an Associate Director of the Washington County Conservation District, a member of the Penn State Center for Private Forests advisory Council, and was recently selected to serve on the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania Board of Directors. Byron's 35+ year Coast Guard career focused on marine safety, environmental protection and disaster response, and included multiple commands.



Look Closer At Life

Study Leader: Howard Seltman

- 3 Classes: Mar. 11 – Mar. 25 Class ID: 5733
- Wednesday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

NEW!

Our usual view of biology is the plants and animals we see around us. Using a hand lens, a microscope or an electron microscope, we can go deeper and see new organisms, learn more about the structure of the organisms we know, and discover hidden beauty. This class will present many interesting magnified views of living organisms, with the goal of increasing your understanding and appreciation of life on Earth. The course will include live demonstrations.

Howard Seltman graduated from Oberlin College with highest honors in Biology, where his senior research project involved the use of electron microscopy. After graduating from the Medical College of Pennsylvania, he did a residency in Clinical Pathology at the University of Pittsburgh, and then practiced Clinical Pathology for 10 years. He then switched fields, earning a PhD in Statistics from CMU and teaching undergraduate and graduate statistics there until his retirement in 2019.

MEDICAL

Learning And Forgetting: The Neuroscience Of Memory

Study Leader: Alison Barth

- 6 Classes: Jan. 13 – Feb. 17
 - Tuesday, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
 - Cyert Hall, Osher Room A
- NEW!**

Class ID: 5736

Why do we remember some things easily but forget what we're looking for when we walk into a room? Do some people have special memory skills, or can they be learned? Is having a better memory always a good thing? This course will introduce you to the cells and synapses that underlie our ability to remember and forget, and will provide case studies of people with unusual memory abilities as they occur across the lifespan. Finally, we will talk about emerging strategies to enhance normal memory and treat memory disorders like dementia and Alzheimer's.

Alison Barth is the Maxwell H. and Gloria C. Conan Professor of the Life Sciences and the Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition. Research in her laboratory focuses on how learning drives cellular and synaptic plasticity in the mammalian cerebral cortex. Barth is an elected fellow of the AAAS and a Humboldt Foundation fellow, and she tries to implement her knowledge about brain plasticity to learn the violin. Ajit Ray completed his Ph.D. at the National Brain Research Centre and Indian Institute of Science, studying mechanisms of synaptic and cellular dysfunction in neurodegenerative diseases. He was awarded the Brain-Hub-IISc fellowship for a postdoc at Carnegie Mellon University, where he has developed new methods for quantitative synapse analysis during learning and Alzheimer's disease.

TECHNOLOGY

Artificial Intelligence: Understand It; Use It

Study Leader: Randal Bryant

- 3 Classes: Jan. 13 – Jan. 27
 - Tuesday, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM
 - Cyert Hall, Osher Room B
- NEW!**

Class ID: 5747

In the past decade, artificial intelligence (AI) has become an integral part of our daily lives. From responding to voice commands and guiding drivers around traffic delays to composing our music playlists, AI technology powers tools we use routinely. It also continues to spark debate, with experts and nonexperts expressing both enthusiasm and caution about its future. This course provides a comprehensive overview of AI—its capabilities, limitations, and implications. Participants will engage in lectures and hands-on exploration of AI tools. No prior technical background is required. The course aims to equip participants with a practical understanding of how AI works, how it can be applied in everyday contexts, and the ability to engage in meaningful discussions about the impact of AI on society.

Randal E. Bryant is a Founders University Professor of Computer Science Emeritus at Carnegie Mellon University. He has served on the CMU faculty for over 40 years, including five as department head and 10 as Dean of the School of Computer Science. In that role, he oversaw CMU's world-leading efforts in artificial intelligence, robotics, computer science, and human-computer interaction.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Archeology | Architecture | Contemporary Topics/Sociology | History | Pittsburgh | Politics/Government | Psychology

ARCHEOLOGY

Archaeological Perspectives On Pittsburgh's Past

Study Leader: Sarah Neusius

- 5 Classes: Jan. 15 – Feb. 19* *Class ID:* 5770
- Thursday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

**Note: Class will not meet on Jan. 22*

Most Pittsburgh history has very little to say about the people who lived in our area prior to the eighteenth century. Archaeological science has helped us learn many things about these earlier times and can deepen our understanding of those who were here before us. Native Americans also have traditions concerning their ancestors and ancestral lands that provide important perspectives on our area's past. Yet archaeologists and Native Americans don't always agree and sometimes have had contentious relationships. How have archaeological practice and US law and policy concerning Native Americans contributed to a disconnect that limits full understanding of the past? What changes in archaeological practice, and US law and policy can lead us to a better and more complete understanding of people's lives in our area before Pittsburgh was Pittsburgh?

Sarah Neusius is Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where she taught archaeology and anthropology for over 30 years, and a Research Associate in Anthropology at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. She is the current President of the Allegheny Chapter of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Book Review Editor for the journal *The Pennsylvania Archaeologist*, and Past President of both the Pennsylvania Archaeological Council and the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology (statewide). Her training is in North American archaeology and zooarchaeology. In Pennsylvania, her research has focused on the period between ca. AD 1000-1650 before Europeans arrived. Both the archaeological story about the past and the practice of archaeology as it intersects with ethical and human rights issues fascinate her.

ARCHITECTURE

House Of The Year: An American Dream

Study Leader: Christian Daehler

- 1 Class: Mar. 3 *Class ID:* 5807
- Tuesday, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

ONE
DAY

In 1958 *House and Home* featured an article titled "A house that delivers on the American Dream." Sixty years later, looking to downsize after the children had grown, we stumbled upon the exact house mentioned in the article. It had been on the market for a couple of years but for whatever reason did not sell. Out of curiosity we were to "just have a look" and upon entering were taken on a journey back in time. Everything we saw looked just like in the pictures in *House and Home*. We came away both intrigued but also certain that the house was just too far gone. So, the next day we decided to buy it. This course chronicles the subsequent rejuvenation of our Scholz Mark 58 "House of the Year 1958" and illustrates how the American dream lives on after all this time.

Christian Daehler built his first "house" with his friends in a wooded patch in his parent's back yard while in grade school and today considers working on houses one of his many passions. Now that his own home renovation is nearing completion, he has found a new project, bringing his youngest daughter's fixer upper in Pittsburgh back to life. Christian came to the US in 1997 as part of a job rotation program and has been calling western Pennsylvania home ever since.



CONTEMPORARY TOPICS/ SOCIOLOGY

Letters And Photos From Pittsburgh's Attic

Study Leader: David Schwing

- 1 Class: Mar. 2 Class ID: 5797
- Monday, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Heinz History Center,
1212 Smallman St, Strip District

NEW! ONE DAY

Everyone has interest or curiosity about a topic: family history, a favorite landmark, a place of worship, a team, a town, a significant event, or movement. How do you even get started to find details, stories, photos, records . . . and answers? The staff and resources at the Dietre Library and Archives are one of the best places to start. We will visit their facility in the Heinz History Center in the Strip District and members of their staff will lead us through an organized process to find clues and piece together the puzzle into a clearer picture of the past. They will introduce us to the tools and collections available to us to begin a fascinating exploration. You may find more than you thought you would.

Please note: *Paid parking is found nearby the Museum. Admission to the building is free for visitors to the Dietre Library and Archives.*

Retired architect **David "Chip" Schwing** is enjoying a renewed sense of discovery in the classroom. After a career of looking down at a drafting board, he now focuses his attention on the architectural treasures (and oddities) around us and digs into historical research to shine a light on the contributions and creations of others.

Gracefully Modern: Etiquette For Today

Study Leader: Victoria Smith

- 6 Classes: Mar. 10 – Apr. 14 Class ID: 5750
- Tuesday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Hawkins Conference Room

NEW!

What does it mean to be polite in the 21st century? In this approachable course, we'll explore how etiquette has evolved—and what hasn't changed—through the lens of Emily Post's *Etiquette, The Centennial Edition*. Designed for those who remember the rules they were raised with, this class serves as both a refresher and a reimagining of gracious living. Together, we'll revisit foundational etiquette practices and discover how they've adapted to modern life—from texting and emails to being a thoughtful host, navigating social invitations, public behavior, family dynamics, and more. This course is not about rigid rules, but about using timeless values—kindness, consideration, and respect—as a compass.

Victoria Smith is a writer and creative whose work explores the intersection of beauty, purpose, and reinvention. With a background spanning organizing, floral design, hospitality, and storytelling, she brings a thoughtful sensibility to the way we shape our spaces, our routines, and our lives. Her interests—garden-ing, gathering, studying, creating—are woven into a life that values intention over perfection, and the quiet charm of everyday rituals.

Journaling, Art Books, And Alchemy

Study Leader: Anne Semmler

- 1 Class: Mar. 3 Class ID: 5717
- Tuesday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Olmsted Activity Room

NEW! **ONE DAY**

A hands-on class to enjoy journaling and creating artist's books of all types! We will look at ideas for personal journals, including inspiration and prompts from multiple contributors to Suleika Jaouad's best-selling book, *The Book of Alchemy*. We will also look at ideas for visual journals, including artist's books, collage, travel and "junk" journals, and more. Bring your journal or sketchbook to enjoy hands-on participation as well. Additional materials for visual entries in your book will be provided.

Anne Semmler is a bullet journal fanatic with a hefty collection of notebooks for art projects, reading lists, language learning, class notes, personal organization, and more.

Green Burial: The Way To Go

Study Leader: Laura Faessel, Deanna Mance

Materials Fee: \$5*

- 3 Classes: Mar. 10 – Mar. 24 Class ID: 5809
- Tuesday, 10:15 AM - 12:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Olmsted Activity Room

Are you curious about green burial? Join us for a fun and enlightening course exploring the world of green burial and how eco-friendly approaches to end-of-life choices benefit our planet and those who inhabit it. In week one, we'll delve into the history of burial traditions and funeral customs, uncovering how practices have evolved over time. In week two, we'll focus on end-of-life planning, offering tools to help you envision your last wishes and create a meaningful ceremony. In week three, we'll visit Pennsylvania's first and only exclusively green cemetery, Penn Forest Natural Burial Park located in Verona. Enjoy a guided walking tour, meet members of the Penn Forest community, and see how green burial harmonizes with nature's cycles of life and renewal. This thought-provoking course provides the opportunity to reflect on our finite lives and break the taboo of discussing death and dying in a supportive, open environment.

Please note: *The last class will be held at the cemetery and the \$5 material fee is due at this time (cash preferred).*

Laura Faessel, manager of Penn Forest Natural Burial Park, holds a bachelor's in environmental studies from Slippery Rock University, where she studied burial practices across five cultures, igniting her passion for green burial. She has embraced all that running a green cemetery has to offer and has spoken at prestigious conferences such as Phipps Native Plant and Sustainability Conference and Green Burial Council Conferences.

Deanna Mance, an abstract artist, began integrating her passion for art with end-of-life care in 2012 as a life enrichment coordinator. A certified death doula since 2018 and co-founder of Pittsburgh Community Deathcare, she now serves as Assistant Manager at Penn Forest Natural Burial Park. Deanna is passionate about destigmatizing death and dying as a radical form of celebrating life.

*Materials fee information located on page 83.

What's Philosophy Good For?

Study Leader: Joseph Givvin

- 5 Classes: Jan. 15 – Feb. 19* *Class ID:* 5765
- Thursday, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room A

**Note: Class will not meet on Jan. 22*

There's an old saying, philosophy bakes no bread. Yes, philosophy doesn't help you start your car on a cold Pittsburgh morning or make you better looking. Why then spend time on philosophizing? We philosophize because we all wonder about: What is the meaning of life? What can I be certain of? Can we prove that there is a God? What is the proper role of government? The instructor will lecture to provoke your wonder and thought on these questions. This course is a brief introduction or re-introduction to philosophy. The instructor will provide online optional reading materials.

Joseph Givvin, Ph.D. has returned to live in the Pittsburgh area after 33 years of teaching at Mount Mercy University, Iowa, where he is Professor Emeritus. He has been a member of the American Association of Philosophy Teacher's (AAPT) since 1984 and has presented 12 workshops on teaching philosophy at AAPT conferences. He has also chaired two conferences sponsored by the AAPT. As a result of his work for the AAPT, he was presented an "Award of Merit for Outstanding Leadership and Achievements in the Teaching of Philosophy." He greatly enjoys the opportunity to teach Osher classes at Carnegie Mellon and to engage with the curious minds of the members in thoughtful conversation, especially about philosophy and happiness.

What Happened To Truth?

Study Leader: John Hooker

- 3 Classes: Apr. 8 – Apr. 22 *Class ID:* 5802
- Wednesday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

NEW!

"Truth decay" in public discourse is part of a general decline of Enlightenment values since the founding of our republic 250 years ago. The course briefly traces this intellectual history, in an attempt to understand how we got here and what we can do about it. It begins with Enlightenment thinkers Jefferson, Locke, and Kant, and briefly recounts later developments that eventually led to the normalization of lies and misinformation. These include romanticism and the French Revolution; positivism and the Vienna Circle; religious fundamentalism; the reaction of Frankfurt School philosophers to the Holocaust; critical theory and its influence on critical race theory and identity politics; postmodernists Foucault, Lyotard, Derrida, and Rorty; and the role of electronic media and science denialism in our day. It concludes by asking whether the American experiment in democracy, predicated on enlightenment values, can survive their decline.

John Hooker is University Professor of Operations Research and T. Jerome Holleran Professor of Business Ethics and Social Responsibility, Emeritus, at CMU. He holds PhD degrees in philosophy and operations research and has published 11 books and 200+ articles in mathematical optimization, ethics, philosophy, music theory, and cross-cultural management. He has lived and worked in ten countries and taught university-level courses in several of them. He has also taught two courses at Chautauqua Institution and a number of Osher courses at CMU and Pitt. He is recipient of several teaching and research awards. Further details can be found on his website johnhooker.tepper.cmu.edu.

Taking Stock Of Generative AI

Study Leader: Ashique KhudaBukhsh

- 5 Classes: Mar. 10 – Apr. 7 *Class ID:* 5805
- Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

NEW!

When ChatGPT burst onto the scene, the world quickly took notice. Machines that could talk opened the door to a fascinating future—soon they weren't just conversing, but also generating audio, video, art, and even code. Early on, we learned about major challenges such as hallucinations, but three years later we now see both remarkable progress and subtler concerns. From sycophancy to other uniquely human-like failure modes, generative AI continues to surprise us in ways that differ from traditional technology. Meanwhile, a global race—from DeepSeek to other emerging players—reshapes the landscape at break-neck speed. This course takes stock of where we are now, what has changed since those early days, and where this transformative technology might be heading.

Ashique KhudaBukhsh is an assistant professor at the Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). His current research lies at the intersection of natural language processing and AI for Social Impact as applied to: (i) polarization in the context of the US politics; (ii) globally important events arising in linguistically diverse regions requiring methods to tackle practical challenges involving multilingual, noisy, social media texts; and (iii) auditing AI systems and platforms for unintended harm. In addition to having his research been accepted at top artificial intelligence conferences and journals, his work has also received widespread international media attention that includes coverage from CNN, ABC News, The New York Times, BBC, Wired, The Daily Mail, VentureBeat, and Digital Trends.

HISTORY

Liberty And No Excise!

Study Leader: Denise Cummins

Materials Fee: \$25*

- 1 Class: Apr. 24 *Class ID:* 5768
- Friday, 10:15 AM - 12:15 PM
- Bradford Meeting House,
182 S Main St, Washington

**ONE
DAY**

This was the rallying cry for the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794, the first test of the power of the federal government under the new U.S. Constitution, when the unpopular excise tax levied against frontier farmers incited them to violent protest. The morning session is a lecture providing an overview of this insurrection and to establish historical context. The afternoon session is a site visit to the Bradford House Museum, where participants will tour the beautifully restored and appointed National Historic Landmark home of Whiskey Rebellion leader David Bradford, and the Whiskey Rebellion Education & Visitor Center, where visitors will walk through an illustrated timeline of events and period displays. Knowledgeable docents, in period attire, will provide additional insight as well as answer questions. All sites are located on South Main Street, Washington PA.

Please note: *Lunch is included in tour. Material fee of \$25 will be collected at the door.*

Denise Cummins was born and raised in Washington, Pennsylvania, a few blocks from the Old Stone House that is now the Bradford House Museum. She began volunteering at the Bradford House following her retirement from teaching. A lifelong learner, she enjoys finding the story behind the history and sharing that story with others.

**Materials fee information located on page 83.*



Inventing A Smart Camera

Study Leader: David Bangley

- 2 Classes: Feb. 25 and Mar. 4 *Class ID:* 5810
- Wednesday, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Olmsted Activity Room

NEW! **TWO DAY**

George Eastman advertised his 1888 Kodak camera with the slogan, "You press the button. We do the rest." That promise left a long way to go before taking pictures was easy under all circumstances. Yet the first Kodak brought spectacular commercial success, creating a market for easy-to-use cameras. Clever inventors solved a multitude of difficulties. We'll study once controversial inventions that make modern photography possible like automatic exposure and automatic focus. Historic cameras will be demonstrated in class. Learn how the human skills of photography and darkroom print making have been built into our smartphones. Today we have finally realized George Eastman's dream: you press the button, the phone does the rest.

David Bangley is a former television producer/director. David has worked with film, analog television, digital television, and digital photography.

LSD And The Psychedelic Experience

Study Leader: Donald Carter

- 1 Class: Mar. 5
- Thursday, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room A

Class ID: 5801

ONE DAY

"Turn on, tune in, drop out." Those words, spoken by Timothy Leary in 1967, symbolized the Psychedelic Era of the 1960s. Leary of course was referring to "turning on" with lysergic acid diethylamide - LSD 25. The Psychedelic Era greatly impacted American music, art, fashion, politics, and lifestyle. This single session course will cover the discovery of LSD in 1938, its early use by university researchers and the US government, and how LSD made its way into the broader society by the actions and influence of three men: Aldous Huxley, Timothy Leary, and Ken Kesey. It has been said that "if you remember the 1960s, you really weren't there."

Don Carter is retired architect, urban designer, and educator. His last position was as a Senior Research Fellow at the Remaking Cities Institute at Carnegie Mellon University where he was Director from 2009 to 2019. He also taught in the School of Architecture until 2019. Prior to joining CMU in 2009, Don was President of Urban Design Associates in Pittsburgh where for over thirty-six years he led many of the firm's most complex projects in the US and abroad. Don served on the boards of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh Zoo, Pittsburgh Public Theater, and Leadership Pittsburgh. Don earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree from CMU and did post-graduate study in urban design at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

The Vera C. Rubin Telescope

Study Leader: Peter Oleinick

- 1 Class: Mar. 5 Class ID: 5699
- Thursday, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room A

NEW! **ONE DAY**

In the early 1990s scientists started to plan a new telescope that could help us better understand the nature of "dark matter" and "dark energy". Fast-forward more than two decades and the Vera C. Rubin Observatory just released its first imagery in June 2025. The primary mission is to conduct the Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST) in which the observatory will ceaselessly scan the sky nightly for 10 years to precisely capture every visible change using its 8.4 meter telescope and its 3200 megapixel camera. The result will be an ultrawide, ultra-high-definition time-lapse record of the Universe. The amount of data gathered by the Rubin Observatory in its first year alone will be greater than that collected by all other optical observatories combined.

Peter Oleinick earned a Ph.D. in electrical and computer engineering from CMU in 1978. After a 40-year career at various high-tech companies, Peter retired in 2017. Peter now volunteers his time at Osher at CMU and a number of non-profits including: The Pittsburgh Zoo, the Hebrew Free Loan Association, the Moonshot Museum, and the MS Society. Peter has created and taught more than a dozen classes at OLLI — Carnegie-Mellon, including a course on the James Webb Space Telescope.

The "Reel" Custer

Study Leader: L Jon Grogan

- 5 Classes: Mar. 10 – Apr. 7 Class ID: 5775
- Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room A

NEW!

Military history is replete with heroic last stands that conjure up images of extreme courage, honor, and valor. Some have been immortalized on film. Arguably, the most famous last stand in American history occurred in June 1876 near the Little Bighorn River. The battle, Custer's Last Stand, has been dramatized in no fewer than two dozen films. Hollywood's interpretation of the battle has evolved, reflecting changes in attitudes toward Native Americans, westward expansion, and the legends of its participants. This course will examine how Hollywood 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.

L. Jon Grogan has a BA in Political Science from Tufts, an MA in Public History from the University of San Diego, and a PhD in American History from Loyola University, Chicago. He is also a retired Marine Corps officer. His Osher portfolio includes classes in American, African, and military history.

Causes Of The American Civil War

Study Leader: Christian Andros

• 5 Classes: Jan. 13 – Feb. 17* *Class ID:* 5728

• Tuesday, 10:45 AM - 12:45 PM

• Cyert Hall, Osher Room A

**Note: Class will not meet on Jan. 27*

NEW!

This course explores the causes of the American Civil War, from 1800 to 1861. The primary goal of the course is to understand the ultimate failure of the political system to prevent perhaps the most impactful, transforming event in American history. The themes we will explore may be defined in many ways: national, sectional, racial, constitutional, individual, social, intellectual, or moral. Four broad themes are closely examined: the roots of slavery and the crisis of its spread across the expanding republic, how previous attempts to compromise and pivot failed and finally, how the American political system in the North realigned and why the South found that development unacceptable.

Christian Andros is 58 years old and retired from the Department of the Navy in 2023 after 32 years of service. He holds an undergraduate degree from Penn State, a graduate degree from Mary Washington College and is also a graduate of the Marine Corps Command and Staff College. He teaches two military courses on strategic planning for the Joint Staff and the US Army. He has also published an essay for the Essential Civil War Curriculum.

Women Scientists Who Should Be Famous

Study Leader: Randy Weinberg

• 1 Class: Feb. 25 *Class ID:* 5788

• Wednesday, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM

• Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

NEW! **ONE DAY**

This course surveys the lives, times, and accomplishments of six remarkable women scientists from the past. Each of these trailblazers made significant discoveries and breakthroughs in their respective fields, defying the odds and overcoming numerous challenges. Living and working across different parts of the world from the 1600s to the mid-20th century, they often encountered formidable obstacles, including limited access to education, uncertain job prospects, limited support, hostility, and discrimination. Their work was often overshadowed by their male colleagues and collaborators. Despite these hurdles, they demonstrated a steadfast passion for discovery, extraordinary courage and perseverance. Their contributions should be widely recognized and celebrated. These women of science should be famous!

Randy Weinberg is a retired professor of Information Systems at Carnegie Mellon University. He has been a regular study leader for Osher at CMU and is currently a member of the Osher Study Leader Support Group. He is originally from Minnesota and completed his undergraduate and graduate studies in Mathematics and Operations Research at the University of Minnesota.



Five Obscure Presidents And Why They Matter

Study Leader: L Jon Grogan

- 5 Classes: Jan. 13 – Feb. 10 *Class ID: 5774*
- Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

Washington, Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln, Wilson, Roosevelt (both Theodore and Franklin), and a handful of other U.S. Presidents are household names. Their images appear on money; cities, towns, and schools are named for them; and one, Andrew Jackson, is associated with an entire era of "age." Their impact on American society is unquestionable. However, there are a handful of lesser-known Chief Executives whose decisions changed the course of American history: Martin Van Buren, James K. Polk, Rutherford B. Hayes, William McKinley, and Calvin Coolidge. This course will study their Presidencies and explain "why they matter."

L. Jon Grogan has a BA in Political Science from Tufts, an MA in Public History from the University of San Diego, and a PhD in American History from Loyola University, Chicago. He is also a retired Marine Corps officer. His Osher portfolio includes classes in American, African, and military history.

Galileo: Polymath And Rebel

Study Leader: Toby Chapman

- 3 Classes: Mar. 10 – Mar. 24 *Class ID: 5793*
- Tuesday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

NEW!

Galileo Galilei (1564-1642) appeared during the ending days of the Italian Renaissance. He was so much more than someone who dropped stuff from the leaning tower of Pisa and studied celestial bodies with his new and improved telescope. He was a musician and philosopher. His work in astronomy clearly demonstrated the Copernican, heliocentric view of the universe; the studies of falling bodies contradicted the "authoritative" wisdom of Aristotle. His work, in general, showed the importance of experimentation and observation. Yet, he was known in his day as the "divine mathematician" as much as his career was spent as a professor of mathematics. He was a popularizer of science which led to his problems with the established church and eventual years of house arrest. The course will examine in detail his life and achievements.

Toby Chapman was a Pitt chemistry professor for 46 years. He is a native of Chicago whose studies took him from Champaign, Illinois to Brooklyn to Boston and finally to the 'Burgh. He has previously taught in the CMU Osher program whose offerings include recent chemistry Nobel laureates and courses on Louis Pasteur and on the Italian Renaissance. He and his wife Florence have benefited immensely from participation in the Osher program.

The Story Of Aviator Helen Richey

Study Leader: Robert Bukk

- 1 Class: Mar. 3 Class ID: 5696
- Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

ONE
DAY

This presentation will cover the life of legendary McKeesport Aviator Helen Richey from her birth until her death in 1947. Helen was a pioneer in the aviation field, holding multiple records throughout her career for midair refueling, endurance, altitude, and speed. She teamed with Amelia Earhart in a cross-country race and came in 5th. She was a member of the famed Ninety-Nines and an ATA Girl flying for the British during World War II. She was the first female airline pilot in the United States, the first woman to be licensed as an aviation instructor, and many other notable achievements.

Robert Bukk is a freelance writer and raconteur. He is a World War II historian and former Executive Director of the Southwest Pennsylvania World War II Memorial Fund. He also serves as a judge for the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair. Bob holds an associate degree in journalism from the Community College of Allegheny County - South Campus and a bachelor's degree in library and information science from the University of Pittsburgh. He resides in Squirrel Hill with his wife, Jane, and their English Cocker Spaniel, Spanky.



Heroes Of WWII

Study Leader: Robert Bukk

- 1 Class: Feb. 24 Class ID: 5695
- Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

ONE
DAY

Based on a reissue of a Special Edition of *Life Magazine* hear the stories of The Word Warrior, The Daredevil of Guadalcanal, The Purple Heart Patriots, The Buffalo Soldier, The White Lily of Stalingrad and Chips the most decorated dog during WWII - men and women who put their lives on the line to rescue freedom from the throws of the AXIS powers.

Robert Bukk is a freelance writer and raconteur. He is a World War II historian and former Executive Director of the Southwest Pennsylvania World War II Memorial Fund. He also serves as a judge for the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair. Bob holds an associate degree in journalism from the Community College of Allegheny County - South Campus and a bachelor's degree in library and information science from the University of Pittsburgh. He resides in Squirrel Hill with his wife, Jane, and their English Cocker Spaniel, Spanky.

American Feminism Before The Women's Movement

Study Leader: Joan Gundersen

- 5 Classes: Mar. 10 – Apr. 7 *Class ID:* 5767
- Tuesday, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

NEW!

Women were speaking up for women's rights long before the Women's Movement revived in the 1960s. This class will look at the women who staked out and articulated positions advocating for women from the colonial period through 1960. Using a variety of rationales, the women proposed positions for women at odds with the prevailing versions of religion, family, law, economics, sexuality, and gender. Their arguments spanned a range of ideas, from claims based on equality to those of the special nature of women.

Joan Gundersen is professor emeritus of history at California State University San Marcos. Author of seven history books and numerous scholarly articles, she taught women's history and early American history for more than 30 years at a variety of institutions, including Vanderbilt University, St. Olaf College, CSU San Marcos, and Elon University. She came to Pittsburgh in 2000 as a senior administrator for Chatham University, and later worked for the Episcopal diocese. Recipient of several awards for teaching and writing, she enjoys sharing the fascinating world of women's history with others.

PITTSBURGH

The Two Revolutions Of 1776

Study Leader: Heinz History Center *

- 2 Classes: Mar. 9 and Mar. 16 *Class ID:* 5753
- Monday, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
- Heinz History Center,
1212 Smallman St, Strip District

NEW! TWO DAY

Two events occurred in 1776 that dramatically changed the world: American independence was declared, and the Watt steam engine was commercially released. These were pivotal turning points in, respectively, the American and Industrial Revolutions. Nowhere combined the legacy of both these revolutions quite like Pittsburgh – a city known, of course, as both the "Gateway to the West" and the "Iron City." Come to learn about how these two revolutions came to shape and embody our city. Participants will be admitted free of charge to the Heinz History Center on the days of this course.

Lloyd Black is a museum educator at the Heinz History Center. Passionate about looking at history through an interdisciplinary lens, he has a BA in Anthropology, an MSc in Evolutionary Anthropology, a GCert in Cognitive Science, and an MSc in International Relations.

Osher at CMU – Members' Directory

Share your photo and information on our member directory so that other members may get to know you better! To access the directory, sign into your account on our registration website.

Frick Environmental Center "Living Building Tour"

Study Leader: Brandon McCracken, Jen Schnakenberg

- 1 Class: Apr. 29 Class ID: 5729
- Wednesday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
- Frick Environmental Center, 2005 Beechwood Blvd, Squirrel Hill, 15217

NEW!

ONE DAY

Come learn about one of the greenest buildings in the world, the Frick Environmental Center and campus. You will hear from a Frick Education team member about how this park became home to a certified LEED Platinum level Living Building. Additionally, the Ecological Restoration Manager of Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy will explain the building's beautiful landscape, plant species, wildlife interactions, site history and planting, etc. that went into creating this space.

Please note: *This is an outside tour.*

Brandon McCracken, Senior Manager of Ecological Restoration at Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, works to plan, implement, and manage projects related to improving the ecological health of Pittsburgh's parks. Through the establishment of restoration sites, Brandon and his colleagues manage invasive plants, reintroduce native species, monitor project success, and steward these sites for the wildlife and people who benefit from them. Brandon was a summer college intern with Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (PPC), removing invasive plants, tending to public gardens, and leading volunteers in caring for the parks. This formative experience helped cure his "plant blindness" and ignited a passion for understanding and restoring our local ecosystems. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in Environmental Studies. He has been employed by PPC since 2021.

Jen Schnakenberg joined the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy in 2014 and currently holds the role of Assistant Director of Education, guiding educational programming at the Frick Environmental Center and beyond. Jen represents the Parks Conservancy and the Frick Environmental Center in forums including Remake Learning, the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators, the North American Association for Environmental Education, and the Association of Nature Center Administrators. Jen holds bachelor's degrees in psychology and biology from the University of Pittsburgh and previously worked in educational psychology research at Carnegie Mellon University. She has led programs for several environmental education organizations in Pittsburgh and Syracuse, New York. In all her work, she has focused on producing developmentally appropriate curricula that increase learners' understanding of our reliance on natural systems and helps students acquire skills to continue learning about the world and sharing in its care.

Two Grand Civic Buildings

Study Leader: Patricia DiRienzo, Sandy Preuhs

- 1 Class: Mar. 5 Class ID: 5764
- Thursday, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Allegheny County Courthouse, 436 Grant St, Pittsburgh

ONE DAY

Come with us to explore Pittsburgh's two Grand Civic buildings - the Allegheny Courthouse and the City-County Building. On this tour you will learn the history of the buildings and get to see some spaces not always available to the public.

Please note: *This is a walking tour and there will be steps. Also, we must pass through security at both places, so be prepared to carry as little as possible with you.*

Patricia DiRienzo spent her working career in social services and public education. She worked in drug and alcohol prevention programs, schools, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and Allegheny Intermediate Unit. She holds a BA from Marywood University, M.Ed. from Penn State, and Ed.D. from Temple. She has been a docent for Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation since 2016, leading tours for children and adults, and developing new tours.

Sandy Preuhs earned a B.A. from Carnegie-Mellon, M.A. from Pitt, and J.D. from Duquesne. She joined the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office in 1986, retiring in 2018. Her practice was exclusively in the Pennsylvania Superior and Supreme Courts. She achieved two retirement goals: let her hair go grey and became a docent for Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.



Discovering Spring Ephemerals

Study Leader: Pgh Botanic Garden

- 1 Class: Apr. 9 *Class ID:* 5712
- Thursday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
- Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, **NEW! ONE DAY**
799 Pinkerton Run Rd, Oakdale

Have you ever wondered about the beautiful spring wildflowers that put on a great show and then seem to disappear by the middle of summer? You're talking about spring ephemerals! Join Dr. Mark Miller, Education & Exhibits Director, for an exploration of these native plants through a visually stunning PowerPoint inside, followed by a nice long walk through the gardens and woods of Pittsburgh Botanic Garden to view them 'in the wild.' The goal of this class is to provide sufficient fundamental information for neophytes to these plants and plenty of opportunities to see them in situ for those familiar with spring ephemerals.

Mark A. Miller is the Education & Exhibits Director for Pittsburgh Botanic Garden. He completed a B.S. in Horticulture, an M.S. in Agricultural Education, and a Ph.D. in Environment & Natural Resources at The Ohio State University. Mark has enjoyed a long and varied work history: landscape designer in DC, San Antonio and Ohio; educator in the US Peace Corps; vocational horticulture instructor at the Ohio Reformatory for Women; program associate for the Ohio Cooperative Extension Service; Director of Horticulture/Co-Director of Education for the American Horticultural Society (AHS); Content Director for gardening websites: learn2grow.com and growums.com and Outreach Education Manager at Franklin Park Conservatory & Botanical Gardens. His current position allows him to create and manage education programs, garden-wide interpretation, and artist exhibitions at the Garden.

Portal Into Other Worlds

Study Leader: David Schwing

- 1 Class: Feb. 24 *Class ID:* 5771
- Tuesday, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Olmsted Activity Room **NEW! ONE DAY**

The Division of Photography, City of Pittsburgh was created at the turn of the Twentieth Century to capture and record a wide range of events, activities, and scenes. Over 150,000 film negatives, glass plate negatives and photographic prints have been archived by the University of Pittsburgh and thousands of these photos are available online to peruse on the Historic Pittsburgh Site. The content ranges from quite ordinary photos of road repairs to beautifully-composed still lifes and frozen-in-time parts of the city that are long gone. Odd. Poignant. Mundane. Sublime. We will see just a small sampling of these images, but see enough to whet your appetite for more.

Retired architect **David "Chip" Schwing** is enjoying a renewed sense of discovery in the classroom. After a career of looking down at a drafting board, he now focuses his attention on the architectural treasures (and oddities) around us and digs into historical research to shine a light on the contributions and creations of others.

Who Knew? Part 5

Study Leader: Rebecca Carpenter

- 1 Class: Mar. 5
 - Thursday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
 - Cyert Hall, Osher Room B
- NEW!** **ONE DAY**

Class ID: 5761

A new installment of "Who Knew?"! In this PowerPoint presentation, you will learn about interesting and unusual places, people, and things in and around Pittsburgh and their backstories. Included in this version will be the Oakdale Nike Site, The Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum in Sheraden, Mail Pouch tobacco barns, Joe Magarac, the Stereoscopic Museum in Meadville, and the Leper Grave in Pickins, WV. While we do not leave the comfort of the classroom on our visits, you will be given a list of locations and addresses, so you may visit on your own!

Rebecca Carpenter has been an educator for almost 40 years. She taught English literature and writing in both public and private high schools, college, and graduate school. In addition, she taught English in Duquesne University's School of Leadership and Professional Advancement's Saturday program for 25 years. After 19 years, she recently retired from Literacy Pittsburgh where she taught adult literacy classes, trained volunteers, and developed and managed special projects, including Health Literacy.

Growing Up Yinzer

Study Leader: Richard Roberts

- 1 Class: Mar. 5
 - Thursday, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM
 - Cyert Hall, Osher Room B
- ONE DAY**

Class ID: 5769

The term "Yinzer" is more than just a quirky nickname for the citizens of Pittsburgh, it is a badge of honor that represents the unique culture, history, and spirit of this vibrant city. With a blend of proud steel traditions, a distinct dialect, a deep loyalty to neighborhoods, and a love for local sports teams, the Yinzer identity stands out as an integral part of Pittsburgh's heritage. While the Pittsburghese accent is a key element, Yinzer culture encompasses a broader sense of identity and shared experiences. Many Pittsburghers, regardless of whether they speak with a thick accent, use the term "Yinzer" to self-identify and express their connection to the city and its culture. Yinzer culture is captured in the best-selling book, *Growing Up Yinzer*, that chronicles how the city shaped the very character of 50 well-known native Pittsburghers including Mark Cuban, Bill Cowher, Jeff Goldblum, Joe Namath, and John Calipari.

Dick Roberts grew up hooked on TV news. Growing up in Ligonier, Pennsylvania, his favorite TV shows were newscasts, and over the years, this obsession with news media evolved into a passion for storytelling, public relations and corporate communications, and its potential to help shape how people perceive the world. Following graduation from Duquesne University with a B.A. Degree in Journalism, Roberts began his career as an entertainment promoter with Dick Clark Concerts. On the belief that a company's most important asset is its reputation, he became a trusted adviser and strategic communications professional with the J. Walter Thompson Company and his name-sake firm, Roberts Communications USA. Roberts authored his first book, *Growing Up Yinzer*, in 2023.

Favorite Pittsburgh Pirates Stories

Study Leader: Ron Backer

- 1 Class: Mar. 5
- Thursday, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

Class ID: 5700

NEW! **ONE DAY**

I have selected fourteen stories about the Pittsburgh Pirates which demonstrate the joy, heartbreak, humor, and history of our favorite baseball team. Some stories you will know, and hopefully, some are new to you. They include: Roberto Clemente's 1971 post-World Series television interview, a boxing-baseball doubleheader, the game in which Rennie Stennett had seven hits in seven at-bats, Harvey Haddix loses the greatest game ever pitched, the Pirates field the first all-Black starting lineup in major league baseball history, and, in 2013, the Pirates win their first playoff game in 20 years. By sharing these memories, both good and bad, we will be reminded of why we love the Buccos, even through the lean years.

Ron Backer, an attorney in Pittsburgh for over 45 years, has written five books on film, including two on the Hollywood mystery movie series of the 1930s and 1940s. Mr. Backer has contributed articles about baseball and the movies to publications of SABR (the Society for American Baseball Research). He has previously taught courses for Osher at CMU about movies, television, and sports.



Pittsburgh's Century Of Steel

Study Leader: Christopher Briem

- 4 Classes: Jan. 14 – Feb. 4
- Wednesday, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

Class ID: 5817

This course will trace the evolution of the steel industry in Pittsburgh covering why steel became the dominant industry in the region, the industry's impact in shaping the economy and demographics of southwestern Pennsylvania, and the impact of its decline.

Christopher Briem is a regional economist at the University of Pittsburgh's University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR). For the last 25 years his work at the UCSUR's Program in Urban and Regional Analysis focuses on economic and demographic forecasting, industry analysis and regional economic competitiveness of the Pittsburgh region. (www.briem.com)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

The American "Founding Fathers" Book Club

Study Leader: David Chambers

- 4 Classes: Mar. 19 – Apr. 30 *Class ID:* 5789
- Thursday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Olmsted Activity Room

NEW!

Americans perceive the events surrounding the founding of the Republic with reverence and awe. The men responsible are revered for their vision, wisdom, and sagacity. This course will continue an exploration of the lives, philosophies, and interpersonal dynamics of the "Founding Fathers", begun in the fall 2025 term. The goal is to gain a deeper appreciation for the founding generation and their significant contributions to the institutions and processes of the modern Republic. We will read three books by modern historians analyzing the complexities of the founding era and engage in book discussions. The books and discussions will focus on the role of women in the founding, the impact of slavery on the founding, and several other factors that are rarely considered when thinking of the behaviors of the founders. This course stands on its own. You need not have been part of the fall 2025 course to enroll.

Please note: *You'll need to purchase the books as paperback (\$50.23) or on Kindle (\$27.97)*

Dr. David D. Chambers has a Ph.D. in Political Science with a specialization in American Public Policy from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana (1990) and a Master of Arts degree in Public Administration from Idaho State University (1980). He recently retired from Indiana University of Pennsylvania after 35 years of service. While at IUP he served as chair of the Political Science department for twelve years. Dr. Chambers' teaching and research interests include: the American Presidency, the behavioral foundations of public policy, public perceptions of bureaucracy, and, more recently, the importance of civil discourse in a democratic society.

Saving Our Democracy From Creeping Authoritarianism

Study Leader: Bill Presutti Jr

- 3 Classes: Mar. 12 – Mar. 26 *Class ID:* 5800
- Thursday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room A

NEW!

U. S. Democracy is in the grip of creeping authoritarianism. There is an amalgam of sources that advise how to stop it. This course will provide a review of those sources and discuss how proactive we, as citizens, have been and are being in pursuing the ideas emanating from those sources to stop the authoritarian creep. Are any actions being pursued beyond the ad-hoc demonstrations with participants carrying cardboard signs often displaying all sorts of uncoordinated messages. What can we learn from democracies facing authoritarianism and are those lessons applicable to the US This is a citizens call to action. How we respond will determine not only our futures but the futures of our grandchildren.

Dr. William Presutti served for 29 years as a faculty member in Duquesne University's School of Business. Included in that time was a 14-year appointment as the School's MBA program director. He earned a BSBA from Duquesne, an MA in Economics from Northeastern University and a PhD in Applied History from CMU. Dr. Presutti is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force where he served as a logistics officer. Drawing on his work in Applied History, Dr. Presutti has taught several courses for Osher including "Leadership Lessons from the Battle of Gettysburg," "Will Our Democracy Survive Political Upheaval?" and "Remedies To Help Save Democracy." The latter two courses were offered before creeping authoritarianism became a fact of everyday life in America.

Great Decisions

Study Leader: Mark Winer, Jim Aiello, James McCarville

- 7 Classes: Mar. 11 – Apr. 22 Class ID: 5746
- Wednesday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room A

For over 70 years, the Foreign Policy Association, an independent, nonpartisan, and non-governmental organization has published *Great Decisions*. It gives an inspiring example of the role citizens can play in discovering, discussing, and deciding how some of the world's greatest challenges can be met. Global challenges have increasingly become domestic challenges, with events in the remotest parts of the world affecting our lives in a myriad of ways. There is more movement across national boundaries than ever before – of people, money, information, ideas, images, and much more. *Great Decisions* takes you beyond the headlines by providing a look at the most significant and far-reaching challenges facing the world today.

Please note: Course members are asked to purchase the briefing book *Great Decisions* from the Foreign Policy Assn online, for \$35.00.

Mark Winer is a Ph.D. in Political Economy who worked in academia, government and business. His professional focus was on using quantitative analytics to make business and policy decisions. He has applied his analytic skills in a wide range of areas including environmental regulation and financial risk management. He has worked at the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of Treasury, PNC Financial Services and Fannie Mae. He is currently retired.

Jim Aiello is the former Executive Vice President of Treatment Programs for Gateway Rehabilitation Center. He was with Gateway for over 25 years in various supervisory and direct service capacities. After leaving Gateway he joined the staff of the Institute for Research, Education and Training in Addictions (IRETA) as the Director of the Northeast Addiction Technology Transfer Center. He is currently retired and serves on the board of directors for Devereaux TCV Community Services and is a docent for the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation.

Jim McCarville has been teaching Osher courses for ten years on a variety of subjects. In his professional career he worked with ports, waterways, and local governments in the US and Latin America. He has M.S. in Foreign Service from Georgetown.



Dirty Tricks: The Follies Of Watergate

Study Leader: Don Goughler

- 3 Classes: Mar. 11 – Mar. 25 Class ID: 5759
- Wednesday, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

NEW!

This course examines the personal manipulation of power that led to the resignation of President Nixon. An awkward and whimsical burlesque of high ranking officials conducted a strategy of dirty tricks, endorsed by the president; who, subsequently, engaged in a cover up to save his office. In particular, we will learn where and how these, seemingly zany, activities originated and trace how they evolved among individuals who held and misused the most powerful positions in government leading to a series of criminal acts...And, finally, we explore...why the cover-up?

Don Goughler has enjoyed a fifty-year career of management in the field of social services, dealing with both government and nonprofit sectors. This included President/CEO roles over 26 years with Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services and Family Services of Western Pennsylvania. Goughler earned degrees from both Westminster College and the University of Pittsburgh, where he later served as an Adjunct Professor of Social Work for twenty-five years and taught graduate courses in social services management. Most recently, Goughler was Executive in Residence for the Forbes Funds, a supporting organization of the Pittsburgh Foundation, where he co-developed and operated an executive coaching program that served local nonprofit executives and board leaders. Goughler served in the U.S. Army from 1968-71.



John Roberts' Leadership Of The U.S. Supreme Court

Study Leader: Sara Grove

- 1 Class: Feb. 25 Class ID: 5814
- Wednesday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

NEW! **ONE DAY**

John Roberts began his tenure as Chief Justice of the United States in 2005. Over the course of two decades, he has presided over a court characterized by contentious appointments and highly politicized cases. This session will assess Chief Justice Roberts' leadership of the Court and his relationships with colleagues. The session will examine Roberts' views on precedent and conclude with case studies of his opinions in high-profile cases on freedom of religion, free speech, voting rights, and health care. There will be an opportunity for question and answer at the conclusion of the program.

Sara Grove is a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the Thomas R. Kline School of Law at Duquesne University and Associate Director for the Pre-Law Program. Sara earned her Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her J.D. from the Dickinson School of Law of The Pennsylvania State University. Sara taught at Shippensburg University from January 1992 through August 2023, primarily in the Department of Political Science. During sabbatical and educational leaves, Sara worked in the Governor's Office of General Counsel and for the Pennsylvania Superior and Supreme Courts. She also served as the Elsie Hillard Hillman Chair in Politics at Chatham University. Sara has taught courses for Elderhostel and at the Institute for Retired Persons in Chambersburg.

PSYCHOLOGY

The *Rashomon* Effect

Study Leader: Edward Zuckerman

- 2 Classes: Feb. 25 and Mar. 4 Class ID: 5784
- Wednesday, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room A

TWO DAY

The film *Rashomon*, Akira Kurosawa's highly original masterpiece from 1950, recounts a rape and murder through four contradictory accounts by its four witnesses. We will examine these stories from several perspectives. 1. Psychologically, recalling is not a simple replaying but a recreation in each retelling, making eyewitness accounts unreliable. Are all our recollections full of errors? Is misremembering fatally distorted by self-serving lying? 2. Forensically, courts hear multiple truths and must adjudicate the facts to mete out consequences. How do they weigh testifiers' subjective interpretations and self-interested advocacy? 3. Artistically, this film pioneered techniques we now take for granted, and its "unreliable narrators" have often been reused. Culturally, medieval Japan had similarities to post-war Japan (when the movie was made). 4. Philosophically, can we ever know what really happened? Because of its richness, you might want to watch it before class.

Edward Zuckerman found his life's passion while working as a psychiatric aide at New York's Bellevue Hospital in the 1960s and, by error, came to study, work, and live in Pittsburgh. His doctorate from Pitt is in clinical psychology, and he's a psychologist licensed in Pennsylvania. Ed taught undergraduate human sexuality and psychology courses at Pitt and CMU. Over his career he has presented dozens of workshops to mental health professionals on topics like electronic medical records, pathographies, and placebos. As you can see, he loves to show off, um, share what he knows. He has recently moved from a lonely rural life back to Pittsburgh for the last phase of his life and is hopeful rebuilding his social life.

Step #1 In Creative Problem-Solving

Study Leader: John McCarthy

- 1 Class: Mar. 3 Class ID: 5720
- Tuesday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room A

NEW! **ONE DAY**

Some people may think that creative thinking (CT) and problem-solving (CPS) are all about divergent thinking and coming up with ideas. While tempting to believe this, it's not quite right. This course gets to the heart of the CPS process: thought-provoking questions (TPQ) and problem clarification. This activity-filled, humor-induced presentation focuses on such things as whether "silly" questions are truly worthless and the beauty of seeing the world through a question mark. Participants will leave with at least three TPQ techniques and experience a question-storming process. Things to bring to this course: your sense of humor and your creative spirit!

John McCarthy, Ph.D., earned his PhD in Counseling Psychology from the University of Missouri–Kansas City (USA) and had the joy of teaching for 30+ years both in the US and internationally. Dr. McCarthy has 30 journal publications and over 60 professional presentations across 14 countries. His professional writings have been featured in *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *Huffpost.com*, *The Buffalo News*, *Cleveland.com*, *Counseling Today*, and *The Psychotherapy Networker*. He is the author of two books, *The Innovator Next Door* and *Driving Forward in Reverse*, that address creative thinking and problem-solving. Dr. McCarthy blogs for *Psychology Today* and also shares his work at creativestrengths.com.

Where Wisdom Meets Humor: Murphy's And Other's Laws

Study Leader: Edward Zuckerman

- 3 Classes: Mar. 12 – Mar. 26 Class ID: 5782
- Thursday, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

NEW!

You know that "If something can't possibly go wrong, it will," Parkinson's Law that "The amount of work expands to fill the time available," and the Peter Principle: "In a hierarchy, every employee tends to rise to their level of incompetence." Of course, there are hundreds more that condense the wisdom learned the hard way by engineers, authors, and humorists about relationships, politics and economics, careers and work, and just life. These aphorisms, often pessimistic, bring a wry smile of recognition of their condensed wisdom. We will enjoy dozens for their philosophical humor and then explore how the wisdom in each can be applied to our relationships, work, and culture. Expect some laughs and a lot of smiles of recognition. You are encouraged to share the "Laws" that you use to guide your life and make sense of what you observe going on around you.

Edward Zuckerman found his life's passion while working as a psychiatric aide at New York's Bellevue Hospital in the 1960s and, by error, came to study, work, and live in Pittsburgh. His doctorate from Pitt is in clinical psychology, and he's a psychologist licensed in Pennsylvania. Ed taught undergraduate human sexuality and psychology courses at Pitt and CMU. Over his career he has presented dozens of workshops to mental health professionals on topics like electronic medical records, pathographies, and placebos. As you can see, he loves to show off, um, share what he knows. He has recently moved from a lonely rural life back to Pittsburgh for the last phase of his life and is hopefully rebuilding his social life.



The Divided Brain I

Study Leader: Charles Hier

- 6 Classes: Jan. 15 – Feb. 26* *Class ID:* 5778
- Thursday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room A

NEW!

*Note: Class will not meet on Jan. 22

Each hemisphere of our brains supports a ‘take’ on our world that is quite different from the take of the other. Our left hemisphere (LH) grasps the world, immobilizes it, and subjects it to rigid categorization. It is good at analysis and logic but can’t handle change and the contradictions of life. Our RH, by contrast, is comfortable with change and movement—it doesn’t seek to stop the flow which nature seems to present to us. The RH isn’t troubled with contradictions. It has the ability to reconcile them. The RH is also skilled in interpersonal relations—it can ‘read’ people and empathically understand other human beings. We will discuss how scientists and psychologists came to understand these hemispheric differences. We will also discuss how history has been impacted when the LH has won undue dominance within a relationship between the hemispheres which works best if it is balanced.

Chuck Hier earned his PhD in Soviet history from Pitt. Previously he attended the University of Houston (MA history) and Boston College. Before this he attended Rice University (BA philosophy) and New York University (MA philosophy). He very nearly didn’t escape from graduate school. He has taught history at Pitt, CMU, Slippery Rock, the University of Akron and Indiana University of PA. He has taught history courses and one philosophy course in the CMU Osher program since Jan 2020.

The Divided Brain II

Study Leader: Charles Hier

- 6 Classes: Mar. 12 – Apr. 23* *Class ID:* 5791
- Thursday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
- Cyert Hall, Osher Room B

NEW!

*Note: Class will not meet on Apr. 9

We have discussed the significant differences between the two hemispheres. Both have their strengths. The left hemisphere (LH) is good at analysis but it is prone to entrapment within its own conceptual system. It is not good at negotiating situations that can’t be subsumed under its conceptual system. It is paralyzed if the world doesn’t fit neatly into its categories. The RH, however, is adept at reconciling contradictory aspects of reality. It can incorporate the products of the LH into its understanding, while the LH can’t incorporate the products of the RH—their products are too sophisticated for the LH. So the RH is the more powerful of the two. Our goal is to examine our world from the more powerful standpoint of the RH. We examine aspects of our world that the LH can’t fathom, such as time, space, flow, matter, consciousness, values and purpose.

Chuck Hier earned his PhD in Soviet history from Pitt. Previously he attended the University of Houston (MA history) and Boston College. Before this he attended Rice University (BA philosophy) and New York University (MA philosophy). He very nearly didn’t escape from graduate school. He has taught history at Pitt, CMU, Slippery Rock, the University of Akron and Indiana University of PA. He has taught history courses and one philosophy course in the CMU Osher program since Jan 2020.

CMU CAMPUS

Parking & Transportation

MINI PARKING LEASES

Osher at CMU members are now able to purchase mini parking leases for the open-air Morewood Parking Lot, located directly across from Cyert Hall next to the Tepper School on Forbes Ave, or the Collaborative Innovation Center (CIC) covered parking garage located off S. Neville Street. (check Google Maps or the CMU transportation website)

Each lease provides 10 passes per Osher term. Each pass grants all-day parking access (without in-and-out privileges). If more passes are needed, a second 10-pass lease can be purchased. Each use-or-lose lease expires at the end of the Osher terms (April, August, and December). If a garage is noted closed, you can still access parking as a Mini-Lease holder.

CIC Garage (\$110 / 10 passes)
Morewood Lot (\$60 / 10 passes)

For more information or to apply for the parking pass, please visit our website here: <https://www.cmu.edu/osher/about/parking.html>

ADDITIONAL PARKING OPTIONS ON CAMPUS

Up-to-date parking rates and garage hours can be found on the CMU Transportation Website here: [cmu.edu/environment/transportation/](https://www.cmu.edu/environment/transportation/)

East Campus Garage: 5040 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

The CMU East Campus Garage is usually not a good option. It fills up early, and it may close on days when the University hosts special events. It is also closed to "Non-leaseholders" until 9AM. The garage is no longer free after 5pm and weekends.

Gates Garage: 409 S. Neville St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213.
Continue right on access road past the CIC Garage.

DROP OFF AREA

A drop off location is available on Forbes Ave. in front of Cyert Hall. From there, the building is accessible by stairs or ramp. You will enter on Floor A. To get to the Osher Cyert Learning Center, take the stairs or elevator down one floor to Floor B.

Access to the parking lot behind Cyert Hall is no longer accessible for parking or drop off.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

If you are 65 or older, you can use all Pittsburgh Regional Transit busses and the "T" at no cost. A transit card is required to do so. It can be obtained from the Transit Authority, downtown, or from any state representative's and offices. Several bus routes serve the campus.

ZOOM COURSES

Classes in this section will be held online via Zoom.

Zoom access codes will be sent in the 7-day course reminder email. The same code will be used for the duration of the course. Please retain this information for use each week.

For Zoom directions, visit support.zoom.com



ARTS & HUMANITIES

Cinema/Film | Drama/Theatre | Literature | Music

CINEMA/FILM

A Night At The Movies: Celebrating Black History Month

Study Leader: Jeffrey Swoger

- 6 Classes: Jan. 13 – Feb. 17
- Tuesday, 3:15 PM - 4:45 PM
- Online Course, Zoom

Class ID: 5709

NEW!

Black Americans have significantly shaped U.S. history and culture across various fields, including the arts, sciences, sports, and politics, despite facing systemic challenges and discrimination. The roles they have played as actors, directors, writers, and producers have significantly shaped the film industry. As we have done in the past, we will use films by Black directors to increase awareness of, and appreciation of, life from the perspective of the Black experience. Students will view the films on their own prior to each class, and be prepared to discuss them during class. Every student is encouraged to participate in the discussions.

Jeffrey Swoger has taught a wide range of arts and humanities courses in music, architecture, film and design.

A Night At The Movies: The Films Of Robert Altman

Study Leader: Jeffrey Swoger

- 6 Classes: Mar. 10 – Apr. 14
- Tuesday, 3:15 PM - 4:45 PM
- Online Course, Zoom

Class ID: 5710

NEW!

Robert Altman was an acclaimed film director, screenwriter, and producer known for films featuring ensemble casts that talked over each other. His films were sometimes described as offbeat, subversive or satirical. He was nominated for five Academy Awards, but won none. However, he was one of only four directors to win the Golden Bear in Berlin, the Golden Lion in Venice, and the Palme d'Or in Cannes. In 2006, Altman was awarded an Honorary Oscar for his body of work. His most popular movie, *Mash*, became a long-running TV show. Students will view the films on their own prior to each class, and be prepared to discuss them during class. Every student is encouraged to participate on the discussions.

Jeffrey Swoger has taught a wide range of arts and humanities courses in music, architecture, film and design.

Osher at CMU – Members' Directory

Share your photo and information on our member directory so that other members may get to know you better! To access the directory, sign into your account on our registration website.

What Movies Can Teach Us About Finance

Study Leader: Steven Cherry

- 5 Classes: Jan. 13 – Feb. 10
 - Tuesday, 9:15 AM - 10:45 AM
 - Online Course, Zoom
- Class ID: 5725

NEW!

For forty years, America built a safety net for retirement, healthcare, clean water and air, automotive safety, and more. In the late 1970s, we began to unravel it. Nothing captured the spirit of the day better than the movie *Wall Street* (1987), which originated the saying, “Greed is good” and depicted the other axiom of the 1980s, “The market is always right.” Hollywood has been getting it right ever since, especially with the financial/housing meltdown of 2008/2009. We’ll watch two movies that set the stage. After that, in five others we’ll see how deregulation and poor oversight led to the meltdown. Finally, we’ll consider ways in which today’s investment bankers and other money managers are still exploiting weaknesses in our financial system, to their benefit and our detriment.

Please note: You’ll watch the movies on your own (each streams for \$4 or less) and we’ll discuss them together via Zoom.

Steven Cherry is a writer, editor, and podcaster who splits his time between Pittsburgh and New York’s Hudson Valley. He was a full-time staff editor for *IEEE Spectrum* from 2001 to 2013 and his work has also appeared in *New Scientist*, *Interactive Week*, and *National Public Radio*. He has taught writing, journalism, and film at the University of Pittsburgh and previously at NYU. From 2014 to 2020, he was the director of TTI/Vanguard, a small think tank based in Santa Monica. In his spare time, he fiddles with screenplay adaptations of obscure novels and is an avid rock climber. He is an AMGA-certified Single Pitch Instructor.

DRAMA/THEATRE

The Current War - The Musical

Study Leader: David Bear

- 1 Class: Mar. 5
 - Thursday, 10:15 AM - 12:15 PM
 - Online Course, Zoom
- Class ID: 5762

NEW!

**ONE
DAY**

This two hour-Zoom course will present *The Current War*, the video of a musical produced by Quantum Theatre in May/June 2021 under a big tent erected in Westinghouse Park. With an engaging script and score, *The Current War* dramatizes the epic struggle surrounding development of the first electric chair between Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse. Quantum’s cast and crew perform brilliantly. The story and libretto for *The Current War* were written by Pittsburgher Michael Mitnick, who also wrote the screen play for the movie of the same name.

David Bear, founding President of The Westinghouse Legacy (TheWestinghouseLegacy.org), has spent his professional career as a writer. As the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* travel editor for a decade, he was also the creative force behind *The Traveler’s Journal* (travelersjournal.com), the series of “audio postcards” heard daily on public radio stations across the country. He also produced and hosted other public radio series, including *A Century of Heroes* for the Carnegie Hero Fund, and *Dinosaurs and More* for the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. During a fellowship at CMU’s Studio for Creative Inquiry, Bear conceptualized and organized the High Point Pittsburgh Investigation. His eclectic resume also includes stints as a travel agent, tour guide, sales executive for a European travel company, and a researcher for the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau.

Respond to the Monkey in your email!

We are sometimes asked why we keep offering that boring, mediocre course. The answer is, we didn’t know it was. The students of Osher at CMU decide which courses continue and which don’t! To get everyone’s feedback, we use a system called Survey Monkey. We are now asking for feedback on all new courses, problem courses, and random, frequently offered courses. Your opinion really counts. If you didn’t get a Survey Monkey or want to comment on a course, send an email to the office. Thank you for your input!

A Behind-The-Scenes Look At City Theatre

Study Leader: City Theatre Company

- 1 Class: Mar. 2 Class ID: 5780
- Monday, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
- Online Course, Zoom

ONE
DAY

This course is a behind-the-scenes look at City Theatre Company. City Theatre Company is a mid-size regional theatre in Pittsburgh that is committed to producing five bold, contemporary plays every year. The course will focus on a particular aspect of theater production and provide an in-depth look into our creative process. Students will meet a member of the creative team and participate in a Q&A.

Melva Graham is the Artistic Assistant & Community Coordinator at City Theatre. She has a background in acting, writing, and teaching. She has performed at City Theatre in their production of *Paradise Blue*, and her book *Your Black Friend Has Something to Say* was published in 2020. Her writing has also appeared on *Medium* and in *Poets & Writers*. She received her BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. She is a Pittsburgh native.

LITERATURE

"Such Friends": Virginia Woolf And The Bloomsbury Group

Study Leader: Kathleen Dixon Donnelly

- 2 Classes: Feb. 24 and Mar. 3 Class ID: 5794
- Tuesday, 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
- Online Course, Zoom

NEW!

TWO
DAY

Before and after the Great War, a group of writers and artists gathered in salons in the Bloomsbury area of London. They talked about their projects, they debated the issues of the day, and they gossiped about their friends. We will look at the lives of the two women in the center of the group, Virginia Woolf and her sister, the painter Vanessa Bell, as well as the creative men they socialized with—Lytton Strachey, Duncan Grant, John Maynard Keynes and others. In week one we will talk about their Victorian upbringing and how they came together as a group, up until World War I. In week two we will follow their progress in their careers and their personal lives through the 1920 up until World War II. A suggested reading and viewing list will be supplied, but no preparation is required.

Kathleen Dixon Donnelly has been involved in the creative process for over 40 years. Her dissertation for her Ph.D. from Dublin City University, "Such Friends," was on writers in early 20th century salons. Kathleen's blogs about what was happening 100 years ago at www.suchfriends.wordpress.com are published as paperbacks, "Such Friends": *The Literary 1920s*. Volumes I through V are on Amazon. Her Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury Group in the Literary 1920s will be published by Pen and Sword Books in January 2026. Kathleen has done presentations to groups in the UK and US, including Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes and the Southbank Center. Kathleen relocated from the UK to her hometown of Pittsburgh, where she lives with her husband and cats, Gertrude Stein and Robert Benchley.

Great And Notable Novels Read And Revisited

Study Leader: Mary Schinhofen, Ken Joseph,
Helen-Faye Rosenblum, Gloriana St. Clair

- 6 Classes: Jan. 15 – Mar. 26 *Class ID:* 5713
- Thursday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
- Online Course, Zoom

With an emphasis upon earlier works and canonical selections, the Great Novels study group will read and discuss significant novels of the 18th, 19th, 20th, and occasionally the 21st centuries. From the vantage point of age and experience, what insights can we share now that were not available during a previous reading? This course provides opportunities to read novels that we may have “saved for later” or ones that we never knew existed. Class members are encouraged to lead a book discussion session. The class meets on alternate weeks.

Please note: *Course will meet every two weeks on Jan 15 & 29, Feb 12 & 26, Mar 12 & 26*

Mary Schinhofen earned a B.A. degree in literature and philosophy and went on to raise a family and teach English literature at the University School in Shadyside. She has since retired in order to devote more time to reading, writing, and watercolor painting. An Osher member, she is deeply and passionately committed to the continuing education of everyone, especially those who have purportedly reached the age of wisdom. Teaching this class fulfills a lifelong dream of hers.

Ken Joseph is a graduate of St. John's College (Annapolis) and the Duquesne University School of Law. He spent most of his working life as an attorney and has always enjoyed reading and discussing good literature.

Helen-Faye Rosenblum, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Chatham College, also received undergraduate and graduate education at Barnard College and the University of Pittsburgh. She is the author of two novels published by Putnam with further work in progress. Her first novel, *Minerva's Turn*, won the Ohioana State Library Award for fiction. She has reviewed books and the arts for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, the *Pittsburgh Press* and numerous smaller publications and radio stations. She has taught and lectured in many venues, from universities and public schools to the US Correctional System in Ohio. She is a past president of A.L.L. (Osher at CMU).

Gloriana St. Clair served as the Dean of University Libraries at Carnegie Mellon University from 1998 to 2014. She also served as the University liaison with Academy for Lifelong Learning and subsequently Osher Lifelong Learning at Carnegie Mellon University. She holds a B.A. and Ph.D. in literature from the University of Oklahoma; a master's degree in library science from the University of California, Berkeley; and an M.B.A. from the University of Texas.

Short Stories: “Delightfully In The Dark”

Study Leader: Helen-Faye Rosenblum

- 6 Classes: Jan. 12 – Feb. 23* *Class ID:* 5734
- Monday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
- Online Course, Zoom

**Note: Class will not meet on Jan. 19*

Practitioners and students of the art and craft of short fiction often ask themselves (and each other) where stories begin and end. How do we draw the line between truth and fact, fiction and memoir, fantasy and memory? In this course, participants will use a variety of contemporary short stories to address the questions. The answers may be elusive, but the quest will be gripping. We will use fresh stories every term, so that the course description is the same, but the content is always fresh.

Please note: *Purchase one paperback, to be announced, for approximately \$15.00*

Helen-Faye Rosenblum, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Chatham College, also received undergraduate and graduate education at Barnard College and the University of Pittsburgh. She is the author of two novels published by Putnam with further work in progress. Her first novel, *Minerva's Turn*, won the Ohioana State Library Award for fiction. She has reviewed books and the arts for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, the *Pittsburgh Press* and numerous smaller publications and radio stations. She has taught and lectured in many venues, from universities and public schools to the US Correctional System in Ohio. She is a past president of A.L.L. (Osher at CMU).

MUSIC

Beethoven

Study Leader: Martin Schneit

- 1 Class: Mar. 2
- Monday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
- Online Course, Zoom

Class ID: 5745

NEW! ONE DAY

Beethoven is an immortal gift to the world. Beethoven lives today in the most wonderful music ever penned by a mortal hand. Most of his best work was done after he became deaf. Beethoven's *First Symphony* was the first of nine symphonies that changed the history of music. The composer of the *Ninth Symphony* still holds a supreme place in the hearts of the music loving world. Beethoven's music is considered a bridge between the Classical and Romantic era of music. Sit down and listen to the following great compositions: *Symphony No.1*, *Symphony No.3 (Eroica)*, *Symphony No.5*, *Symphony No.9*, *Moonlight Sonata*, *Emperor Concerto*, and *Fidelio Opera*.

Marty Schneit is a born and bred New Yorker and Historian. Marty has lectured at the New York Public Library, JCC, The 92nd Street Y, The Health Outreach Program of New York Presbyterian Hospital, Central Synagogue, Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale, The Ziegfeld Society of New York, the patients at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital in Manhattan, the Lincoln Center Campus of Fordham University. The Jewish Braille Institute has recorded Marty's lectures for their audio magazine and lecture series.



Explore Operas Behind The Scenes

Study Leader: Pittsburgh Opera

- 5 Classes: Jan. 28 – Feb. 25
- Wednesday, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
- Online Course, Zoom

Class ID: 5803

NEW!

When attending an opera performance, what production elements capture your attention? Beyond the music and story (which all operas contain) do you focus on the scenery, lighting, costumes, or makeup? How does scenery change or snow fall on stage? How does the lighting affect what you look at on stage and how you feel? How are the beautiful costumes built to help the singers? How much makeup is needed so everyone in the theater sees artists' expressions? Is everyone in an opera production wigged? Are there differences in the sound from the singers and the orchestra in different areas of the theater? This course will explore behind-the-scenes elements of opera production by watching videos of beloved operas and "pull back the curtain" for you to notice and enjoy more about the opera at a performance.

Marilyn Michalka Egan, Ph.D., Pittsburgh Opera Director of Education, enjoys opening new doors to opera for students of all ages. She will be joined by staff members and opera artists who will share their specific areas of expertise about opera.

BUSINESS & COMMERCE

Economics

ECONOMICS

Economic History And Today's Economic Policy

Study Leader: Lawrence O'Connell

- 6 Classes: Jan. 15 – Feb. 26* *Class ID:* 5704
- Thursday, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
- Online Course, Zoom

**Note: Class will not meet on Jan. 22*

NEW!

Much of today's economic policies are rooted in the 16th, 17th and 18th Century; for example, the theory of tariffs protecting national industries and a positive balance of trade is rooted in Mercantilist thinking. Our course explores today's economic and social policies from a historical perspective. No textbook is required.

Laurence O'Connell has over 35 years experience in the corporate, government and nonprofit sectors of our economy. In addition he has over 25 years experience as an educator at the college / university levels and mentor students in South Africa and elsewhere.

After 70 Good Years, Rough Times Ahead

Study Leader: Stephen Blank

- 2 Classes: Feb. 25 and Mar. 4 *Class ID:* 5724
- Wednesday, 10:15 AM - 12:15 PM
- Online Course, Zoom

**TWO
DAY**

After World War II, change across many sectors of society was linear – that is, predictable. We anticipated the future with confidence – investing in a home or, as a company, investing in new plants and long-term commitment to workers. Now we live in a world in which change in critical areas is much less predictable, in which more outcomes are possible, and we are less able to anticipate what is likely to happen next. Driven by technology, climate change and demography, many core assumptions about how the world works are coming undone, and we face rough times as we relearn how things work and make profound adjustments in how individuals and institutions try to meet the demands of this new era. Focusing on cases – automobiles, education and agriculture for example – the course examines where we have come from, and where we may be heading.

Stephen Blank's career spanned academic, business and not-for-profit communities. The consultancy he co-founded worked with global companies on international business issues and led in developing scenario based forecasting frameworks. He authored early studies on how companies assess political risk. Blank taught International Business courses at universities in the United States, Japan, Germany, Mexico and Canada and was a distinguished visiting professor at the Universities of Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and Western Washington University. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations, he was awarded L'Ordre National du Quebec by the Government of Quebec. He serves as Senior Fellow of the Institute for Science, Society and Policy at the University of Ottawa. Blank was educated at Dartmouth, Cambridge University and Harvard.

LEARN BY DOING

Art | Dance/Exercise | Self Improvement | Writing

ART

Transcending Tradition: Creating The Juvenile Justice Model

Study Leader: Gerry Florida

- 1 Class: Mar. 9 *Class ID:* 5763
- Monday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
- Online Course, Zoom

NEW! **ONE DAY**

Gerry Florida, Award-Winning-Artist, and Social-Justice-Advocate will discuss the creation of Studio Blue, a resident-run art space within the confines of a detention setting that uses art and the creative power of residents to inspire communities. Studio Blue created cutting-edge projects reaching thousands and changing delinquency stereotypes so that youth faced fewer challenges when mainstreaming back into their neighborhoods. In 2021 Shuman Juvenile Detention Center closed its doors after 45 years serving Pennsylvania. Adelphoi, a nonprofit agency that has served Allegheny County youth for over 50 years, reopened the program as Highland Detention at Shuman located in the same Lincoln Lemington area of Pittsburgh. Gerry joined Adelphoi in January 2025 to revive the “Why Art” initiative where resident artwork is exhibited on the rear of city buses. Karyn Pratt, VP Of Marketing, will join the conversation with an update on the Center and how its youth are benefiting from arts programming.

Gerry Florida is an award-winning-assemblage-artist who refers to herself as a “Master of Imperfection.” Her creations deliver underlying messages of rebirth, recovery, and reclamation through an array of salvaged, recycled, and contemporary materials that she employs in work. Her intrigue with the “beauty of imperfection” has led her to work on behalf of at-risk populations locally and nationally, fostering the belief that integrating failures, accepting imperfections, and embracing differences is the path to living in harmony with the real world and the one we can create. Adelphoi is a leading provider of services for youth and families in Southwestern Pennsylvania committed to transforming the lives of at-risk youth and their families by providing outcome-based treatment that fosters resilience, independence, and hope for the future.

DANCE/EXERCISE

Gentle Chair Yoga

Study Leader: Catherine Flint

- 6 Classes: Jan. 12 – Feb. 23* *Class ID:* 5718
- Monday, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
- Online Course, Zoom

**Note: Class will not meet on Jan. 19*

Discover the transformative power of chair yoga in this empowering online class designed for all abilities. Whether you’re a beginner or have previous experience, this gentle practice helps improve flexibility, strength, and balance while reducing stress and promoting relaxation. Guided by an experienced instructor, you’ll learn a variety of poses and techniques that can be practiced seated or with the support of a chair, making yoga accessible to everyone. This nurturing environment encourages personal growth and mindfulness, allowing you to connect with your body and breath at your own pace. Join us via Zoom to experience the joy of movement and the serenity that comes from gentle stretching and mindful breathing. Embrace your journey to wellness and unlock the benefits of yoga, no matter your physical condition. Sign up today and take the first step toward a healthier, more balanced life!

Catherine Flint is a certified Yoga Teacher trained at Yoga H’Om, specializing in Gentle Yoga, Chair Yoga, and Restorative Yoga. As a certified Trauma Process Yoga Group leader, she also facilitates programs that support individuals on their healing journeys. Catherine is passionate about teaching Chair Yoga, believing it empowers individuals of all abilities to experience yoga’s transformative benefits. She enjoys creating a welcoming space where students can enhance their flexibility, strength, and balance. Dedicated to helping others discover mindfulness and serenity, Catherine fosters a nurturing environment that encourages personal growth and makes yoga accessible to everyone.

SELF IMPROVEMENT

Closure: Discussing The Last Chapter

Study Leader: Judith Black

- 5 Classes: Jan. 14 – Feb. 11 *Class ID:* 5721
- Wednesday, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM
- Online Course, Zoom

No one wants to die, but the truth is everyone's life will someday come to an end. The final chapter of your story can be about meaning and dignity, instead of chaos and confusion. Closure will empower you with easy-to-access and simple-to-understand information and resources to make educated decisions about your end-of-life plans. We discuss narratives of other people's "last chapters" and trends in how people die, and also explore the "next-to-last chapter" of how people live late in life. Together we will destigmatize and demystify the process of talking about death and dying. The hope is that each participant can begin to see how to live the last portion of his or her life according to the values that have guided the rest of that life. Previous participants have said that this course has directly helped them grapple with situations where they would have otherwise felt lost and overwhelmed.

Judith Black is a retired geriatrician. From 1998 to 2015, she was the medical director for senior markets at Highmark, Inc., where she provided the medical expertise and leadership that helped Highmark enhance and coordinate the care of older adults. She maintained a geriatrics practice for Allegheny Health Network until 2019. She presently serves as a medical advisor for the Jewish Healthcare Foundation. Dr. Black brings 40 years of medical experience to her position and holds a master's degree in health administration. She serves as a faculty member of the Consortium Ethics Program and is a clinical associate professor of medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Lisa George is program manager for the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, focusing on end-of-life initiatives and supporting overall communications efforts. Prior to joining the Foundation, Lisa worked in medical publishing with a focus on oncology nursing. She holds a master's in public health and is a Certified Health Education Specialist.

WRITING

Writing Meaningful Personal Stories

Study Leader: Linda Schifino

- 4 Classes: Jan. 15 – Feb. 12* *Class ID:* 5781
- Thursday, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM
- Online Course, Zoom

NEW!

**Note: Class will not meet on Jan. 22*

If you are thinking about writing personal essays or memoir, whether for family or to share more widely, you may have begun by writing about events that have occurred in your life. Yet, have you written a story? A story is more than a list of events and requires a structure, scenes, setting, and character development that will leave the reader with a meaningful takeaway. This course will introduce participants to the elements of structure, how to create scenes that convey meaning and further your story, the importance of setting/place, and skills in portraying characters—including yourself—that matter to your readers. This course will be useful for any nonfiction writer interested in capturing the essence of writing personal essays or memoir.

Linda Schifino is a teacher and writer living in Pittsburgh. She holds a Ph.D. in Rhetoric from Duquesne University and an MFA in Creative Nonfiction from Carlow University, where she is Professor Emerita of Communication. Linda's writing focuses on memoir and personal essays. She is the author of *Neighborhood Girl: A Memoir of Loss, Longing, and Letting Go* (Brown Posy Press, 2023), in which she describes growing up in an Italian American enclave of Pittsburgh in the 1950s. Her work has also appeared in several literary magazines. Linda writes with Carlow University's Madwomen in the Attic, and she enjoys both teaching and practicing the art of creative nonfiction.

TECHNOLOGY

Land, Books, Ships, Energy, And Data

Study Leader: James Morris

- 1 Class: Mar. 24
- Tuesday, 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
- Online Course, Zoom

Class ID: 5694

NEW! **ONE DAY**

I'll present a view of human history in terms of the things that confer power. In each epoch a new technology gave its adopters an advantage in the competition for wealth and power. The old technologies remained important, but the new ones provided an edge.

James Morris taught at the UC Berkeley where he developed principles of programming languages. He was a co-discoverer of the Knuth-Morris-Pratt string algorithm. At Xerox PARC he contributed to the Alto System. At Carnegie Mellon he directed the Andrew project which developed a prototype university computing system. He is a founder of a consulting firm specializing in interactive product design. He founded the Human-Computer Interaction Institute and the Silicon Valley Campus.

SIGs

Special Interest Groups

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are member-formed informal groups focused on a particular interest. These groups are independent of regular Osher classes and are organized and run by the group's members. They offer a chance to socialize and share common interests. Some SIGs meet regularly, others occasionally. SIGs are a benefit of membership.

Active Osher at CMU SIGs include:

5050: *Canasta*

4566: *Bridge for Fun: Saturday Edition*

5584: *Brownbag Lunch and a Movie*

5376: *Walking Special Interest Group*

For detailed descriptions and meeting information, please visit our website cmu.edu/osher/courses-and-sigs.

If you have an idea for a SIG and are willing to get it going, please contact the Osher Office.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Contemporary Topics/Sociology | History | Pittsburgh | Politics/Government | Psychology

CONTEMPORARY TOPICS/ SOCIOLOGY

Industrial Policy: Biden, China, Trump

Study Leader: Stephen Blank

- 2 Classes: Feb. 24 and Mar. 3 *Class ID:* 5723
- Tuesday, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
- Online Course, Zoom

NEW! **TWO DAY**

President Biden launched policies that sought to alter the trajectory of how Washington relates to the economy. These marked a dramatic change from policies since the 1970s that stressed minimal government involvement, open markets and competition. Now, with goals echoing the New Deal, Washington would play a more aggressive role in building a 21st century economy. “Industrial Policy” – the role of government in the economy – has been much debated in US history since the early days of the Republic, remains deeply contentious in US politics today, and is increasingly the arena for competition in international affairs. Our course will dig into the concept of Industrial Policy, its advertised benefits and costs and will focus as well on the implementation of these policies. We will examine Biden’s efforts and limitations at industrial policy, competitors in the global economy, particularly China and what is emerging in the Trump administration.

Stephen Blank’s career spanned academic, business and not-for-profit communities. He was Professor at Pace’s Lubin School of Business and taught courses on international business at universities in the US, Japan, Germany, Mexico and Canada. The company he co-founded consulted with US and foreign companies and government agencies on many dimensions of business-government relations and was a leader in developing scenario frameworks for forecasting. He authored several of the first reports on how companies assess political risk. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations, he was awarded L’Ordre National du Quebec by the Government of Quebec. He serves as Senior Fellow of the Institute for Science, Society and Policy at the University of Ottawa. Blank was educated at Dartmouth, Cambridge University and Harvard.

Mayflower: Myles Standish To David Standish Chambers Douglass

Study Leader: Felimelia Abenes-Douglass

- 1 Class: Feb. 24 *Class ID:* 5806
- Tuesday, 2:45 PM - 4:45 PM
- Online Course, Zoom

NEW! **ONE DAY**

A descendant’s voyage of Myles Standish from England to the USA and to Baguio City, Philippines. Tracing one’s roots from the ship captain (Myles Standish) of the famous ship Mayflower and other pilgrims to the present times, using the Standish family tree and other artifacts.

Felimelia (Femme) G. Abenes Douglass’ educational background - with undergraduate degrees - is in both business administration (accounting) and law. She completed her Master’s Degree in Distance Education at the University of the Philippines (12.2023). Her work experience for the past 40 years was in various fields of accounting/finance, corporate/tax laws, both in the Philippines (PH) and USA. She taught college students in the PH, various subjects in History/Constitutional Law, Tax Law, and Accounting/Business Finance, Economics. Significant work was with San Miguel Corporation (SMC) finance section of the Ilocos Beer region, SMC being PH’s largest and most diversified multinational conglomerate. Relevant work in the US includes being a duly accredited tax professional with the IRS, as a senior tax analyst with HR Block-Pittsburgh area, and as a branch Office Manager (Squirrel Office). She is married to David Standish Douglass of Pittsburgh, PA, a retired IT professional. They have 2 children, Lisz (nurse) and Chief Justice (CJ), an IT professional just like his Dad. She and Dave have retired in Baguio City, Philippines, where they enjoy the all-year springtime weather [except during the rainy seasons of July-September]. Developing short courses for OLLI @ CMU has been keeping her busy during her retirement years, most specifically on various topics on financial literacy for seniors, historical facts in her family and on some international hot topics on earlier immigration of foreigners/expats, now living in the Philippines. They often visit their children in the USA, for special occasions and plan family trips abroad too.

Purposeful Retirement/Intentional Design

Study Leader: Joan Anson

- 4 Classes: Mar. 11 – Apr. 8* Class ID: 5798
- Wednesday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
- Online Course, Zoom

*Note: Class will not meet on Mar. 25

This course is intended for both pre-retirees and those already retired. The study leader will review the changing definition of retirement and how Baby Boomers are transforming retirement. The non-financial factors to consider when planning a successful retirement will be introduced and be the basis for discussion. This course will aid retirees in using a strategic approach to anticipate and plan for changes related to identity, time management, socialization and purpose during their post-career years. These factors, in addition to work-re-orientation and work replacement, will be the focus of discussion with the goal of refreshing one's perspective on what retirement can mean for each individual student. Ideally, students will emerge with specific action steps to assist in developing their own personal roadmap to a satisfying retirement. Class time may also be dedicated to the unique position of those without the support of a partner or adult children (Solo Agers).

Joan Anson, MS Ed, PC, is a certified professional coach assisting millennials with career management issues and baby boomers seeking a purposeful retirement. Her extensive career in higher education administration included serving in an advisory capacity as staff to executive directors, deans and presidents at two health related education associations. Her positions included leadership roles in enrollment management, student affairs and career promotion. Later, she served as a director of admissions at the University of Baltimore and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Joan completed programs in management leadership from both the Johns Hopkins Leadership Institute and the National Association of Colleges and Employers. When she returned to the University of Pittsburgh in 2007, Joan became the founding director of career services for Pitt Public Health. After her retirement from the University of Pittsburgh, Joan happily commenced her "third act" to include serving as a coach for individuals contemplating "next steps" in their personal or professional lives.

Nuclear Power Renaissance

Study Leader: Don Beynon

- 3 Classes: Mar. 10 – Mar. 24 Class ID: 5751
- Tuesday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
- Online Course, Zoom

NEW!

Both the previous and current US administrations are bullish on the use of nuclear power to generate electricity. This course will focus on the renaissance of commercial nuclear power used for electricity generation and review what's happening both in the US and worldwide. It will cover how nuclear is used to generate electricity, current worldwide nuclear generation, why the expansion slowed, what is reviving the planning of new plants worldwide, new projects, how uranium is used in the nuclear fuel life cycle, small modular reactors, advanced reactor concepts and future challenges. Participants need not have a detailed engineering background as broad high level technology discussion will be used to explain the concepts.

Don Beynon spent 28 years at Westinghouse Nuclear in many phases of the business. His career covered engineering, business development, sales and marketing management, project management and operating nuclear plant services. Following retirement from Westinghouse he worked at Carnegie Mellon University's Software Engineering Institute as a Program Development Manager. Mr. Beynon currently covers nuclear companies as an analyst and independent contributor to Seeking Alpha, an online financial crowdsourced investor community. Mr. Beynon received a BS Mechanical Engineering at CMU and an MBA and MS Information Science at Pitt.

HISTORY

World War II — The Battle In The East

Study Leader: Peter Oleinick

- 4 Classes: Jan. 13 – Feb. 3 *Class ID:* 5748
- Tuesday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
- Online Course, Zoom

Any study of World War II should include the Eastern Front because most of the largest land battles of the entire war were fought there between Germany and the Soviet Union. This course will explore the epic fighting that started with the German invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941. Four years of unimaginably bloody fighting left 26 million Soviets and between four and five million Germans killed. The Wehrmacht made it to within 20 miles of Moscow, but ultimately was pushed all the way back to Germany.

Peter Oleinick earned a Ph.D. in electrical and computer engineering from CMU in 1978. After a 40-year career at various high-tech companies, Peter retired in 2017. Peter now volunteers his time at a number of non-profits: Osher, The Pittsburgh Zoo, the Hebrew Free Loan Association, and the Moonshot Museum.



History's Losers

Study Leader: Richard Daffner

- 6 Classes: Jan. 12 – Feb. 23* *Class ID:* 5714
- Monday, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
- Online Course, Zoom

NEW!

**Note: Class will not meet on Jan. 19*

We must study history because human nature being what it is, often results in history repeating itself. This course explores the lives and times of three groups of people from antiquity to modern times, who, while talented, ultimately became known for their failures, which tainted their legacies, and, in some cases resulted in their deaths: military leaders, kings and queens, and politicians. Some, such as Pyrrhus, John Burgoyne, George Pickett, Anne Boleyn, Mary Stuart, and Thomas Dewey are familiar. However, the 31 individuals who will be profiled include many you may not have heard of, such as Marcus Crassus, Publius Varus, Shah Muhammad II, Braxton Bragg, Lady Jane Gray, Maximillian of Mexico, and Harold Stassen. All had opportunities for greatness until circumstances, sometimes related to their actions, their hubris, or just plain bad luck led to their downfalls, and sometimes to their deaths.

Dr. Richard Daffner is a retired diagnostic radiologist, who is also an amateur historian. He is the author of nine textbooks.

Rightly Forgotten: Nazi Physicians And Scientists 2.0

Study Leader: Richard Daffner

- 2 Classes: Mar. 9 and Mar. 16 *Class ID:* 5755
- Monday, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
- Online Course, Zoom

NEW! **TWO DAY**

While doing research on Wilhelm Roentgen and his “discovery” of x-rays for my Osher course, I came across an interesting footnote to the work of Philipp Lenard, a contemporary physicist, whom history has forgotten. I found six additional Nazi physicians and/or scientists of whom I described their work for Hitler’s regime. I subsequently discovered a second group of 13, mostly physicians. This course is in two parts: Part 1 describes the work of the first group of which the common thread was that they all died as old men and mostly got away with their crimes. Part 2 describes the 13 who didn’t get away with it, most of whom paid for their crimes with their lives. So, what did these scientists and physicians contribute to medical science, and when did they turn toward “the dark side?”

Dr. Richard Daffner is a retired diagnostic radiologist, who is also an amateur historian. He is the author of nine textbooks.

Delightful Dozen

Study Leader: Howard Seltman

- 3 Classes: Jan. 12 – Feb. 2* *Class ID:* 5732
- Monday, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
- Online Course, Zoom

**Note: Class will not meet on Jan. 19*

This course presents a baker’s dozen of true, vignettes of little-known people that I hope will delight you. They range broadly over subject matter, time and place, but what they have in common is that they are about inspiring and courageous people, many of whom have overcome difficulties and/or discrimination to accomplish something wonderful. Discussion and comments are welcome.

Howard Seltman graduated from Oberlin College with highest honors in Biology, where his senior research project involved the use of electron microscopy. After graduating from the Medical College of Pennsylvania, he did a residency in Clinical Pathology at the University of Pittsburgh, and then practiced Clinical Pathology for 10 years. He then switched fields, earning a PhD in Statistics from CMU and teaching undergraduate and graduate statistics there until his retirement in 2019.

Help Secure Our Future: Donate to the Osher Endowment Fund!

We invite you to make a meaningful difference by supporting the Osher at CMU Endowment Fund. With a goal of raising \$1 million, your contribution will have a lasting impact, ensuring the sustainability of the organization while helping to lower future operational costs. It is the generosity of others that has made Osher possible, and now you can continue that tradition.

As you register for your Spring courses, please consider donating to the endowment to secure Osher at CMU’s future success and growth for generations to come. Together, we can build a legacy of support and opportunity.

Marquis de Lafayette: An Amazing Life

Study Leader: Tom Call

- 1 Class: Feb. 25 Class ID: 5760
- Wednesday, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
- Online Course, Zoom

NEW! **ONE DAY**

The Marquis de Lafayette participated in three revolutions. Sometimes he led military battles. Sometimes he led by his oratory and his writings. Once he was imprisoned and his property seized. Amidst those tumultuous events, Lafayette never wavered in his guiding principle: dedication to and a belief in the ideals of liberty and freedom. We know Lafayette as an American hero, but he was born a wealthy, titled French aristocrat. Join us as we examine the remarkable life of “The Hero of Two Worlds.”

Tom Call has had a lifelong interest in history. He was born outside of Boston, Massachusetts and raised near other historical places, such as Morristown, NJ and Philadelphia, PA. He received a BA in governmental administration from Shippensburg University and a MA in history from Notre Dame of Maryland University. After a stint in the U.S. Army, Tom spent most of his work life creating and organizing analytical studies. In retirement, Tom has taught at CMU Osher and at the Institute for Learning in Retirement at Slippery Rock, PA.



PITTSBURGH

City Steps Of Pittsburgh: A History

Study Leader: Laura Zurowski

- 1 Class: Mar. 5 Class ID: 5708
- Thursday, 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
- Online Course, Zoom

ONE DAY

Pittsburgh has the largest number of public stairways in the country, nearly 900 — more than Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle. Built during the city’s population heyday as a cost-effective measure to move 700,000 people from their homes on the hills to the mills lining the three rivers, city steps offered a free and efficient way to get around. This course will provide a historical overview of the city’s outdoor stairways and the residents who used them, illustrate the various construction styles, and provide an update on the condition of the city’s steps.

Laura Zurowski is co-author of *The City Steps of Pittsburgh: A History & Guide*. Since 2017, she has written about and studied the history of Pittsburgh’s city steps and their neighborhoods and offers vigorous yet entertaining walking tours of these unique infrastructure constructions.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Teaching American Politics
In Korea*Study Leader:* Susan Hansen• 2 Classes: Feb. 25 and Mar. 4 *Class ID:* 5749

• Wednesday, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM

• Online Course, Zoom

NEW! **TWO
DAY**

This two-day class will describe my experiences teaching American Politics at Korea University in Seoul in the summer of 2006. In order to do that, I first had to learn about Korean history and politics: how did the country develop so rapidly after WWII? How did the military dictatorship give way to democracy? What are the parallels with American politics? How does the Cuban missile crisis compare with the ongoing nuclear threats from North Korea? How is Korea dealing with problems of corruption and declining birth rates? This overview will summarize what I learned about these topics from my students and Korean colleagues.

Susan B. Hansen is professor emerita of political science at the University of Pittsburgh, where she taught courses in American politics and Women's Studies from 1980 to 2012. She received her Ph.D. in political science from Stanford University in 1972, and has also taught at the universities of Washington State, Illinois-Urbana, Michigan, Glasgow, and Stanford. She has worked in survey research at the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago and the Institute for Survey Research at the University of Michigan. She is the author of numerous articles in professional journals and four books, most recently *The Politics of Sex: Public Opinion, Parties, and Presidential Elections* (Routledge, 2014). Since retirement she has taught several Osher courses for both CMU and Pitt.

PSYCHOLOGY

Mad Genius:
Famous Artists And Disorders*Study Leader:* John Mullennix• 5 Classes: Jan. 14 – Feb. 11 *Class ID:* 5702

• Wednesday, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

• Online Course, Zoom

NEW!

The course will examine the Mad Genius hypothesis, which is the idea that producing noteworthy art is correlated with having a psychological disorder. The topic will be introduced by discussing the difference between creativity and genius and by defining theories of artistic creativity. Then, several detailed case studies of famous artists will be presented (including Michelangelo, Blake, van Gogh, Dali, Munch, Pollock, and possibly others as time allows). In these case studies, background details about the lives of the artists, their behaviors, their relationships with others, and evidence (or speculation) about whether they suffered from a particular psychological disorder will be discussed. Finally, contemporary scientific evidence in the form of empirical studies relevant to the Mad Genius hypothesis will be discussed. The combination of case studies and scientific evidence will allow students to evaluate whether they believe there is merit to this hypothesis as we understand it today.

Dr. John Mullennix is an Emeritus Professor of Psychology at the University of Pittsburgh. During his academic career, his research areas encompassed psycholinguistics and empirical aesthetics (the scientific study of art). Dr. Mullennix has published numerous scholarly books, book chapters, and scientific articles on these topics over the years. In particular, his work examined the cognitive basis of art appreciation, the effects of context on evaluation of art, and the role of expertise in judging art. In his post-academic life, he has turned to the creative arts, namely photography and creative nonfiction short stories.

MONDAY | Session ONE / January 12 – March 6

[illegible]

TUESDAY | Session ONE / January 12 – March 6

[illegible]

WEDNESDAY | Session ONE / January 12 – March 6

[illegible]

THURSDAY | Session ONE / January 12 – March 6

TIME	COURSE TITLE	CLASS ID	CAMPUS	PRIMARY SL	PG #
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	Favorite Pittsburgh Pirates Stories	5700	In-Person	Backer	43
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Hatha Yoga	5707	In-Person	Barone	18
	Two Grand Civic Buildings	5764	In-Person	DiRienzo	40
10:15 AM - 12:15 PM	The Current War - The Musical	5762	Zoom	Bear	52
10:45 AM - 12:15 PM	Archaeological Perspectives On Pittsburgh's Past	5770	In-Person	Neusius	29
	The Divided Brain I	5778	In-Person	Hier	48
	Who Knew? Part 5	5761	In-Person	Carpenter	42
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM	City Steps Of Pittsburgh: A History	5708	Zoom	Zurowski	64
12:45 PM - 2:15 PM	LSD And The Psychedelic Experience	5801	In-Person	Carter	34
	Five 20th Century Houses	5772	In-Person	Schlueb	26
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	Writing Meaningful Personal Stories	5781	Zoom	Schifino	58
	Growing Up Yinzer	5769	In-Person	Roberts	42
12:45 PM - 2:45 PM	Easter And Spring Flower Cookie Decorating Class	5773	In-Person	DeStefano	17
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Great And Notable Novels Read And Revisited	5713	Zoom	Schinhofen	54
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5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	School Of Drama Talk Backs	5779	In-Person	Young	9

FRIDAY | Session ONE / January 12 – March 6

[illegible]

MONDAY | Session TWO / March 9 – May 1

[illegible]

TUESDAY | Session TWO / March 9 – May 1

[illegible]

WEDNESDAY | Session TWO / March 9 – May 1

[illegible]

THURSDAY | Session TWO / March 9 – May 1

[illegible]

FRIDAY | Session TWO / March 9 – May 1

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GENERAL INFORMATION & POLICIES

CLASSROOM LOCATIONS

If you are not familiar with the Carnegie Mellon campus, we strongly advise you to plan a visit to locate parking and the Osher Institute in Cyert Hall before the first day of classes. You'll find the campus map for CMU at the end of its section. For specific page numbers, please see the front of the catalog.

PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

Photos and videos are taken at many Osher events/classes to be used on the website and in promotional materials. If you do not wish to have your photo taken, please advise the photographer before the picture is taken, otherwise your picture will be included. If you are taking pictures in class, please ask permission first.

For privacy and copyright laws, we do not allow our Zoom courses to be recorded by anyone.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

All of Osher's instructors are volunteering their time and talents. We are respectful of our course Study Leaders and fellow participants by:

- attending only course(s) we are registered for. Please DO NOT share Zoom codes and passwords with anyone.
- arriving to class just before class starts. Remember: 7 mins in, 7 out.
- wearing a name tag when attending in-person classes.
- raising your hand to be recognized before speaking. On Zoom, be sure to have your full name entered so you can be appropriately called on.
- staying on topic during discussions and taking turns when speaking.
- on Zoom, staying muted when not speaking so background sound from your space won't be shared with the rest of your classmates.
- muting or turning off your phone.
- dressing appropriately when in Zoom classes.

BAD WEATHER DAYS

All in-person classes will be canceled if Pittsburgh Public Schools are closed for inclement weather. No notice will be sent out. **Zoom classes will still be held. Staff assistance may be limited.**

If the Pittsburgh City Schools have a 2-hour delay, classes will operate as normal unless a study leader chooses to cancel their class. Please use common sense when venturing out.

If classes are canceled due to weather mid-day, you will receive both an email and a robocall alerting you to the cancelation from the Osher office.

CHECK YOUR SCHEDULE

The most up-to-date information about all classes is always available at cmu.edu/osher. Click on the Google calendar or go to Member Sign In and enter the course ID. It is important to note course locations on your calendar.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

Osher at CMU welcomes everyone regardless of gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, political affiliation, socio-economic status, or other identification markers. We respect all beliefs, perspectives, abilities, and experience. Actions such as bullying, hateful comments, or disrespectful behaviors are never tolerated.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Don't let finances stop you from participating in Osher classes. Full and partial scholarships are available through a simple, friendly, and confidential process. Contact the Osher office for details.

CONTROVERSIAL SPEAKERS

On occasion, the sentiments and beliefs of a speaker or study leader may be controversial or divisive. To ensure the inherent rights of free speech and freedom of expression, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Carnegie Mellon does not censor or limit any materials or opinions expressed by persons involved in our courses or lectures. However, it should be noted that those opinions may not reflect the philosophical perspective of our organization.

EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS

Study Leaders will frequently email handouts, assignments, and class notices to their students. It is important that we have your current email address:

- The *Weekly Essentials* newsletter is sent every Friday to notify you of upcoming Osher and CMU activities. Please do not opt out.
- The Osher office will send email notices for important course changes. If the change has been made less than 24 hours before the scheduled event, a robo call/text will also be sent.
- While the internet has a lot of fun and thoughtful "stuff" to share, it is important for you to know that who you are sending stuff to is a friend and that they want to receive what you want to share. Using Osher members' emails for non-Osher stuff is not appropriate. Please ask permission first; to not do so goes against the Osher Privacy Policy.

OSHER EMAIL ADDRESSES

The following email addresses are used to disseminate information to our students. Please add the following addresses to your email address book so you won't miss important information:

- osher@cmu.edu
- osher-email-to-students@andrew.cmu.edu
- osher-general@andrew.cmu.edu

READY TO REGISTER?

CHECK YOUR CALENDAR

As you are picking your courses, please be sure none of your classes conflict with your family events, holidays, trips, or other important events. Please only register for courses you will be able to attend. A list of official non-class dates is located below. Osher at CMU follows the CMU calendar. Once course dates are established, they will not be changed unless there is an emergency.

MATERIALS FEES

Materials fees are due at the time of registration unless otherwise stated. For many off campus courses, a \$10 material fee is charged to help cover the cost of the rental space.

ZOOM CODES

Zoom codes are sent out in the 7-day class reminder emails. If you can't find this email, please check your junk or spam folder. If you still cannot locate the email, please contact the Osher Office by emailing osher@cmu.edu and ask for it to be resent.

REFUND POLICY

If a student drops all of their courses at least three full business days before the first day of the first course, Osher will refund that term's registration fee and the building and/or material fees paid, minus a \$10.00 administrative fee.

If Osher cancels a course, before it has begun, and it is the only course the member is registered for in the term, Osher will refund that term's registration fee and any building and/or material fees paid.

If Osher cancels a course and the member is registered for other courses, Osher will only refund the course's building and material fees paid for that specific course.

All refunds will be given as an electronic voucher for future use, unless a check is requested.

CONFIRMATION LETTERS

A "confirmation of class registration" will be automatically emailed to you for each course you enroll in. Should a course not be listed, it means that you are on the waiting list and you will receive a separate waitlist email. You will be notified via email, or phone, if and when you are enrolled in a wait listed class. Please do not attend any classes for which you do not have a confirmation.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Your attendance in class is very important. Attendance is automatically recorded for Zoom classes. For in-person courses, please sign in for each class attended. If you find you have signed up for a course you can no longer attend, please drop the course by using the "Drop My Course" button on your registration account. By failing to drop courses you don't attend, you risk the chance to register for courses when registration opens.

OBSERVED 2026 OFFICIAL OSHER SKIP DAYS

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CMU is a nonsectarian organization. The organization follows the CMU holiday calendar. Once a course schedule is set by the study leader and the Registrar, no changes are permitted unless there is an emergency.

Osher at CMU is closed and staff are unavailable on the following days:

<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	Jan. 19
<i>Memorial Day</i>	May 25
<i>Juneteenth</i>	Jun. 19
<i>Independence Day</i>	Jul. 4
<i>Labor Day</i>	Sep. 7
<i>Thanksgiving Wednesday</i>	Nov. 25
<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	Nov. 26
<i>Thanksgiving Friday</i>	Nov. 27
<i>Winter Break</i>	Dec. 24 - Jan. 4

CMU Carnival will be held April 9th - 11th
and no on-campus classes will be held.



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