Fall 2023
September 18 - November 9
Registration opens JULY 17
Join us in person + online
Berkeley + Lafayette

Courses
Events
Field Trips
Research
Socials

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Politics

writing

History

Music

Politics

What is your story?
Registration Opens July 17

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UC Berkeley is a learning community of more than 2,500 inquisitive adults 50+ with a passion for exploration, engagement, and connection. All are welcome!

Membership
We offer three types of membership — Single Term ($75), Annual ($100), and Premium ($950). Course fees are separate and are based on your choice of membership.

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BEGINS 9/18
Immigrant Voices in Modern Short Stories
Caroline Smadja
9:30–11:30 a.m. • 6 sessions
$155 (Premium member: $0)

In this course, we will read six foreign-born authors writing in English as a second language. All six are living and widely published. Each week centers on a specific author and short story and revolves around class discussion rather than traditional lecture. Study questions are provided.

Caroline Smadja has an M.A. in English from Paris and an MFA in Creative Writing from Pacific University. A French native, she is a published author of fiction, poetry and nonfiction.

BEGINS 9/19
Understanding the Balkans: Politics, Culture, and Society
Darren Zook
10 a.m.–noon • 4 sessions • F&S
$155 (Premium member: $0)

The Balkans exist simultaneously on the eastern edge of Europe and the western edges of Eurasia and the Middle East. This course will explore and explain the endlessly fascinating region known as the Balkans on its own terms, covering Greece, Albania, and the states of the former Yugoslavia.

Darren C. Zook teaches in Global Studies and Political Science at UC Berkeley. His interests include comparative politics, cybersecurity, human rights, and international law.

iPhoneography (a.m.)
Yoni Mayeri
10 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions (No class 10/10; final class 10/31)
$235 (Premium member: $80)

Learn how to expertly capture images, edit, and create photographs using best practices with your iPhone. Note: iPhone 7+ or newer is recommended. Software should be iOS 16.5 or newer.

Yoni Mayeri is an award-winning photographer specializing in iPhone photography. She began her photographic career at Polaroid and Nikon.

The Art of Memoir
Caroline Goodwin
10 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions • GBC
$235 (Premium member: $80)

In this creative writing workshop, students will have the opportunity to write from their own life experiences and to share their work. Assignments will be designed to help students shape their stories and get inspired for future writing endeavors.

Caroline Goodwin is a former Wallace Stegner fellow and the author of five poetry collections. Raised in Alaska, she holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia.
Country Rock, Part 1: The Beginnings
Pete Elman
1–3 p.m. • 4 sessions • F&S
$155 (Premium member: $0)

This course describes the origins, evolution, and impact of country-rock, rising out of the heartland in the 1950’s and taking hold in the middle and late 1960’s in Los Angeles. Part 1 features the Everly Brothers, The Byrds, Buffalo Springfield, Gram Parsons, and more.

Pete Elman is a musician, an author, a journalist, a historian—and a teacher. He has performed, recorded, and produced popular music since 1962, and has taught 14 OLLI classes on American music.

The Bay Area Figurative Movement
Drucie Belman
1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions • GBC
$155 (Premium member: $0)

The Bay Area Figurative Movement represents an important moment in the development of abstract painting after World War II, when select artists reincorporated subject-matter into their work in defiance of the pure abstraction favored by the New York School.

Drucie Saal Belman has given talks on a range of contemporary artists. She attended Wellesley College, then studied at the School of Visual Arts in New York.

iPhoneography (p.m.)
Yoni Mayeri
1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions
(No class 10/10; final class 10/31)
$235 (Premium member: $80)

See course description and Yoni Mayeri bio (on previous page).

BEGINs 9/20
Venezia in Architecture and Art
Pierluigi Serraino
9:30–11 a.m. • 4 sessions
$120 (Premium member: $0)

A fixed point in humanity’s imagination, Venezia continues to cast its spell across generations. This course will dive into the mythology of this extraordinary city through its arts and architecture, in its past, present, and future manifestations.

Pierluigi Serraino is a practicing architect and educator. He is the author of many books on architecture, including TASCHEN’s Modernism Rediscovered.

Cooking by the Book: Recent Gems
Linda Carucci
9:30–11:30 a.m. • 4 sessions
$120 (Premium member: $0)

Each week we will examine different, recently released cookbooks and watch Linda prepare a couple of recipes from the featured book, allotting time for Q&A. Recipes will be provided in advance.

Linda Carucci is the author of Cooking School Secrets for Real World Cooks. A professionally trained chef, Linda was dean of the California Culinary Academy and Julia Child Curator of Food Arts at COPIA.

Intro to Fixed-Form Poetry Explication and Scansion
Stephanie Wells
10 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions • GBC
$195 (Premium member: $40)

Poetry uses more than language to evoke emotion; the meter, rhyme, structure, and sound of a well-crafted poem reinforce its meaning. This course provides an intro to metrical scansion and the explication of fixed-form poems, and examines how writers use poetic form to enhance their content.

Stephanie Wells holds a Ph.D. from UC Davis. She currently teaches at College of Marin.

六 American Films, 1950-1964
Art Eckstein
Noon–1:30 p.m. • 6 sessions
$155 (Premium member: $0)

This course examines the powerful impact of the early Cold War on Hollywood by offering discussions of important Cold War films, from My Son John, through On the Beach, to Dr. Strangelove.

Arthur M. Eckstein is Professor of History and a Distinguished University Professor Emeritus at the University of Maryland.

Meditation, Volunteering, and Positive Neuroplasticity
Amelia Barili
2:30–4 p.m. • 8 sessions
$235 (Premium member: $80)

Meditation and volunteering help us thrive. Meet the authors of groundbreaking research on the “Neuroscience of Human Connection” and experience contemplative practices, as we volunteer at English in Action or UC Berkeley’s Casa Magdalena Mora Theme Program.

Amelia Barili teaches a systematic embodied approach for personal transformation. Her innovative pedagogy integrates neuroscience, meditation, and service learning. She received the Chancellor’s Award for Public Service.

BEGINs 9/21
The American Project in Afghanistan: What Went Wrong?
Tamim Ansary
10 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions • GBC
$155 (Premium member: $0)

This course looks at the failed American attempt to transform Afghanistan. Beginning with a social portrait of Afghans before the war, we trace the history of the Americans driving
**Mondays 9/18–10/23**

**Immigrant Voices**
Caroline Smadja
9:30–11:30 A.M.

David Bowie
Richie Unterberger
10 A.M.–Noon • GBC

**Vernacular Architecture**
Linda Day
1–3 P.M. • GBC

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**Tuesdays 9/19–10/10**

**Understanding the Balkans**
Darren Zook
10 A.M.–Noon • F&S

**Country Rock: The Beginnings**
Pete Elman • F&S
1–3 P.M. • F&S

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**Wednesdays 9/20–10/11**

**Venezia**
Pierluigi Serraino
9:30–11 A.M.

**Cooking by the Book: Recent Gems**
Linda Carucci
9:30–11:30 A.M.

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**Thursdays 9/21–10/26**

**Afghanistan: What Went Wrong?**
Tamim Ansary
10 A.M.–Noon • GBC

**Legacy Letters**
Sara Orem
10 A.M.–Noon • GBC

**The Manhattan Project**
Richard Bell
9:30–11 A.M.

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**9/19–10/24**

**Art of Memoir**
Caroline Goodwin
10 A.M.–Noon • GBC

**Phoneography A.M.**
Yoni Mayeri • GBC
(NO CLASS 10/10, FINAL CLASS 10/31)
10 A.M.–Noon

**Bay Area Figurative Movement**
Drucie Belman
1–3 P.M. • GBC

**Phoneography P.M.**
Yoni Mayeri • GBC
(NO CLASS 10/10, FINAL CLASS 10/31)
1–3 P.M.

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**10/17–11/7**

**Postcards From Africa**
Darren Zook
10 A.M.–Noon

**Country Rock: Toward Americana**
Pete Elman
1–3 P.M. • GBC

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**10/20–10/25**

**Poetry Explication and Scansion**
Stephanie Wells
10 A.M.–Noon • GBC

**The Jazz Age**
Dave Radlauer
Noon–1:30 P.M.

**Films of the Cold War**
Art Eckstein
Noon–1:30 P.M.

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**10/28–10/5**

**Thomas Paine and Benedict Arnold**
Richard Bell
(Two Sessions)
9:30–11 A.M.

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**10/19–11/9**

**Films of Jim Jarmusch**
Karen Davis
9:30–11 A.M.

**The Golden State?**
Henry Brady
10 A.M.–Noon • LLLC

**Joy of Singing**
Lauren Carley
10 A.M.–Noon • LLLC

**Getting Americans Talking**
Michael Baker
1–3 P.M. • LLLC

**Film Noir and Philosophy**
Bill Smoot
1–3 P.M. • LLLC

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**In-Person Venues**

F&S: Freight & Salvage
2020 Addison St., Berkeley, CA

GBC: Golden Bear Center
1995 University Ave., Berkeley, CA

LLL: Lafayette Library and Learning Center
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, CA
the Taliban from power and conclude with the American withdrawal and return of the Taliban.

Tamim Ansary is an Afghan-American author who grew up in Afghanistan and grew old in America. His books include the memoir West of Kabul, East of New York, and Games Without Rules, a history of Afghanistan from the inside looking out.

Legacy Letters
Sara Orem
10 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions • GBC
$235 (Premium member: $80)

This course focuses on crafting a document about your life and memories to share with your loved ones. It may be a collection of writings, photographs, or artwork that you give or send toward the end of your life, or center on an important milestone.

Sara Orem is an expert in positive psychology. She is a coach, instructor, and volunteer for OLLI. She also facilitates the Vital Aging group that meets monthly about topics related to aging research.

The Manhattan Project: Personalities and Problems
Bebo White
1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions • GBC
$155 (Premium member: $0)

The Manhattan Project was one of the greatest assemblages of scientific talent and resources in history. Working under extreme secrecy and time pressure, its goal was to bring an end to WWII through the development of an ultimate weapon. This course will examine this amazing effort.

Bebo White is retired from the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory at Stanford University, where he worked as a computational physicist.

BEGINs 9/28
Forgotten Founders: Tom Paine and Benedict Arnold
Richard Bell
9:30–11 a.m. • 2 sessions (9/28, 10/5)
$90 (Premium member: $0)

In this two-part course, we tackle the lives of two lesser-known figures of the American Revolution: Tom Paine, the author of Common Sense; and Benedict Arnold, the most famous turncoat in American history.

Richard Bell is Professor of History at the University of Maryland and author of the book Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped into Slavery and their Astonishing Odyssey Home.

BEGINs 10/17
Postcards From Africa: Four Amazing Stories From a Vast Political Landscape
Darren Zook
10 a.m.–noon • 4 sessions
$155 (Premium member: $0)

This course will offer an in-depth exploration of four very different countries, namely Morocco, Senegal, Nigeria, and Rwanda. We will discuss the politics, culture, and society of each of these countries within their immediate regional context.

See Darren Zook bio (on previous page).

Country Rock, Part 2: Toward Americana
Pete Elman
1–3 p.m. • 4 sessions
$155 (Premium: $0)

This course examines country-rock from the late 1960’s to the present. Part 2 features Neil Young, Poco, Rick Nelson, a tribute to Linda Ronstadt and Emmylou Harris, and finishes with a close look at the quintessential country rock band, the Eagles.

See Pete Elman bio (see above).
Barcelona: A European Capital of the Arts
Pierluigi Serraino
9:30–11 a.m. • 4 sessions
$120 (Premium member: $0)

Barcelona has been home to extraordinary talents in the arts and architecture. This class dives into the extraordinary tradition, where heritage and pioneering thinking have kept Barcelona at the forefront of the modern and contemporary avant-garde.

See Pierluigi Serraino bio (on page 3).

The Golden State? California’s Future
Henry Brady
10 a.m.–noon • 4 sessions • LLLC
$155 (Premium member: $0)

The California 100 project spent the last two years producing nearly 50 reports on California’s future. This course focuses on California’s future in four crucial areas: fostering economic growth, saving water and transforming agriculture, sustaining housing and reducing homelessness, and reforming California’s governance and media while ensuring democratic accountability. Each session will describe the challenges California faces and discuss alternative futures for the state.

Henry E. Brady is the Monroe Deutsch Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Public Policy at UC Berkeley, the Research Director for California 100, and former Dean of the Goldman School of Public Policy.

Joy of Singing
Lauren Carley
10 a.m.–noon • 4 sessions • LLLC
$195 (Premium member: $40)

Prepare your body, brain, and voice to sing with ease, expressiveness, and projection. Learn traditional rounds and five part-songs by ear, choral skills such as legato, staccato, fermata, ritard, timbre, and head and chest voice. Open to all levels.

Lauren Carley, mezzo, tours and records with her vocal ensembles In Other Words and Polyhymnia. She specializes in singing as a healing pathway for those with neurological trauma and diseases.

Film Noir and Philosophy
Bill Smoot
1–3 p.m. • 4 sessions • LLLC
$195 (Premium member: $40)

In this course we will explore, lurking in the shadows of noir and neo-noir films, the underlying elements of existentialist, Freudian, Marxist, feminist, and post-modern philosophies. Films will be The Third Man, Chinatown, Blade Runner, and The Girl Who Walks Home Alone at Night.

Bill Smoot received his Ph.D. in philosophy at Northwestern. He is a writer who currently teaches courses at OLLI and in the college program at San Quentin Prison.

Talking to Each Other
Michael Baker
1–3 p.m. • 4 sessions • LLLC
$155 (Premium member: $0)

The people of the United States are badly divided — between Republican and Democrat, red and blue, North and South, coast and heartland. We have become two Americas that do not communicate. Moderated by Michael Baker, this course will offer a series of lectures with speakers from both sides of the political divide followed by debate.

Michael Baker is a retired general surgeon and trauma surgeon and who served 30 years in the uniform of his country, retiring from the U.S. Navy with the rank of Rear Admiral.

Friday Special Events
Friday Special Events take place from 10:30–11:30 a.m., unless otherwise noted. More information on our website.

September 29
TOWN HALL: ADDRESSING BERKELEY’S HISTORY
Invited guest speakers: Seth Davis, Berkeley Law; Nazune Menka, Berkeley Law; Tony Platt, author, Linda Rugg, Scandinavian Studies

October 13
THE RISE OF EVANGELICALISM
David Hollinger, Professor Emeritus, Religion

October 20
AMERICA’S UNFINISHED WORK: WHAT SHAPES OUR LIVES?
A conversation between author Riane Eisler and activist Belvie Rooks

October 27
AMERICA’S UNFINISHED WORK: CALIFORNIA’S REPARATIONS INITIATIVE
Invited guest speakers: Charles Henry, Professor Emeritus African American Studies; John Tateishi, former director of Japanese American Citizens League; Michael Omi, Ethnic Studies

October 6
WORDS OVER TIME: AN INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE ABOUT “THE POLITICS OF IDENTITY”
Facilitated by Darren Zook
Limited to 60 OLLI members

We live in a moment of extreme contention and discord when it comes to certain aspects of our identity, with discussions over things such as systemic racism or preferred pronouns or transgender participation in sports breaking down quickly into bitter, accusatory rancor. This intergenerational dialogue is intended to find a path forward in a way that is engaging, innovative, transformative, and empowering.