



POLITICS

Summer 2025

June 2–June 30

Registration opens
April 21, 2025

VIETNAM



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MUSIC

The Beatles at the Height of Their Experimental Genius

Stephen Schultz

1–3 p.m. • GBC 365 • Three sessions

\$130 (Premium member: \$0)

In this course, we will take a deep dive into the songs that expand the possibilities of pop music. In week one, we will explore the creative experimental explosion of side one of *Revolver* and “Tomorrow Never Knows.” Week two will feature three important singles, “Rain,” “Strawberry Fields Forever,” and “Penny Lane,” that chart a path toward the iconic album *Sgt. Pepper*. Week three will explore the transcendent medley that comprises side two of *Abbey Road* as well as the influence of classical music on the band.

Stephen Schultz plays solo and principal flute with the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Musica Angelica and performs with other leading Early music groups.

What’s New in Astrophysics 2025?

Gibor Basri

1–3 p.m. • GBC 365 • Two sessions

\$95 (Premium member: \$0)

The James Webb telescope is only one of a number of new space- and ground-based missions that are already or about to be pushing our frontiers. We will discuss some of their results or describe a little about what they hope to achieve. The primary areas of research are in cosmology, galaxy evolution, and exoplanet atmosphere. Appropriate for a lay science fan.

Gibor Basri taught in the Astronomy Department at UC Berkeley for 35 years. He enjoys making science accessible to the general public, and has taught four OLLI classes to that end.

JUNE 9–JUNE 30

Summer Shorts are one-time events open to OLLI @Berkeley members and non-members. Each Short features acclaimed speakers discussing issues impacting the state of our country, Constitution, and shared humanity. **\$20 for members and \$40 for non-members per Summer Short. GBC room assignments for these events will be provided at a later date.**

6.9 Democracy Noir: A Film Screening and Conversation with Director Connie Field 10 a.m.–noon • GBC

Three Hungarian women — a journalist, a nurse, and an opposition politician — fight in different ways to expose corruption and lies in Viktor Orbán’s Hungary. After the screening, Academy Award-nominated and Emmy-winning director Connie Field will discuss the making of the film, and what drew her to the subject of the grass-roots fight for democracy in Hungary.

Connie Field is a pioneering social documentary filmmaker.

6.23 “Every Day, Computers are Making People Easier to Use”: A conversation with *In Formation* Editor David Temkin and Contributing Editor Paulina Borsook 10 a.m.–noon • GBC

This exploration will trace the evolution of Silicon Valley companies, culture, and customers from the early days of marginal idealistic geekery to today — a world in which Silicon Valley products have redefined nearly all aspects of how we live and think, and which mediate our every action. Originally launched during the dot-com era, *In Formation* has always and solely been about serious and satirical critiques of tech culture. The magazine is being relaunched in 2025.

David Temkin is the editor-in-chief of *In Formation*, a magazine focused on what tech is doing to us.

Paulina Borsook is best known for her essay “How the Internet ruined San

Francisco” and for her book *Cyberselfish: A Critical Romp Through the Terribly Libertarian Culture of High Tech*.

6.30 Countering the Attack on the Rule of Law with Erwin Chemerinsky and Bill Sokol 10 a.m.–noon • GBC

Erwin Chemerinsky, one of the nation’s leading constitutional law scholars, and interlocutor Bill Sokol will discuss the attack on the rule of law in the Trump administration’s first 100 days, and propose how best to counter it.

Erwin Chemerinsky is the Dean of the UC Berkeley Law School and the author of more than a dozen books on the Constitution and the Supreme Court.

Bill Sokol is a Bay Area labor and employment lawyer and educator.

6.30 The Dollar and Its Discontents with Barry Eichengreen 1–3 p.m. • GBC

Economist Barry Eichengreen discusses the implications of the U.S. dollar in the age of cryptocurrency and government deregulation and the forces propelling both. A facilitated Q&A will follow.

Barry Eichengreen is the George C. Pardee and Helen N. Pardee Professor of Economics and Political Science at UC Berkeley, where he has taught since 1987.

Local Government from the Ground Up

Daren Fields

10 a.m.–noon • GBC 365

\$195 (Premium member: \$40)

Have you ever wondered what a mayor really does? Have you ever thought about where your local tax dollars actually go? This course provides an introduction to cities, counties, school districts, and special districts. We will examine how they are organized, what services they provide, and how they impact our daily lives. Come find out what local government is all about and learn how you can make a difference in your community. **Note:** This is an in-person-only class. Space is limited.

Daren Fields served in local government for 30 years including as a department head, assistant city manager, and city manager. He is passionate about teaching others about local government.

Ancient History and Hollywood Film

Art Eckstein

10:30 a.m.–noon

\$130 (Premium member: \$0)

In this course we will view four Hollywood films that illustrate not simply the film industry's conceptions of the Ancient World but also the films as a reflection of contemporary American cultural concerns and social fantasies. The four films we will see are in a chronological order of events as they occurred in the ancient Mediterranean: first *The Ten Commandments*; then *Troy*; then *Spartacus*; and finally *The Last Temptation of Christ*.

Art Eckstein received his Ph.D. from UC Berkeley and went on to become professor of history and Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Contemporary Mexico

Alex Saragoza

1–3 p.m. • GBC 365

\$165 (Premium member: \$0)

In Mexico's recent general election of 2024, the Morena Party won 24 governorships of the country's 32 states, as well as the presidency, electing the first woman president in the history of Mexico, Claudia Sheinbaum. Yet, the results of the elections raised important questions: Is Mexico becoming a one-party nation? Have social and economic conditions improved enough to lessen the motivation for Mexicans to cross the border into the U.S. seeking higher wages? Will remissions from the U.S. begin to dwindle? And how will President Sheinbaum navigate relations with the current administration of the U.S. in the midst of Mexico's internal challenges?

Alex Saragoza is professor emeritus of history in the comparative ethnic studies program at UC Berkeley. Alex has taught courses on Mexico, Cuba, the Latino electorate and the 2016 and 2020 U.S. elections.

Wednesday, June 4–June 25

Fifty Years After the War: Reminiscence and Perspectives on Vietnam and America

Vu-duc Vuong

10 a.m.–noon • GBC 365

\$195 (Premium member: \$40)

This course offers an overview of the events between Vietnam and the United States, (roughly during the 85 years from 1940 to today), examines the context leading to this period, and draws some assessment of the legacy in both countries since the end of the war in 1975. Aiming primarily at attendees who have participated in or were affected by these events, this course tries to understand the motivations, the limitations, and achievements of this war from the perspectives of both countries and their populations. **Note:** This is an in-person-only class. Space is limited.

Vu-duc Vuong grew up in Vietnam and later studied at Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Missouri-St. Louis, where he obtained a B.A. in political sciences, a master's in international relations, a master's of social work, and a J.D. He directed the Center for Southeast Asian Refugees Resettlement in the San Francisco Bay Area for 15 years.

The Cinema of David Lynch

Karen Davis

1–3 p.m. • GBC 365

\$165 (Premium member: \$0)

Few have influenced the shape of contemporary film and television more than David Lynch. Heralded as a latter-day Surrealist, his inimitable work has etched itself into Western culture so indelibly as to become adjectival: "Lynchian." Dreamlike imagery, haunting soundscapes, and unforgettable characters coalesce into films that dive straight into the heart and underbelly of American life. Lynch's contributions can't be understated and are well worth exploring or revisiting. The course features four films from the oeuvre of David Lynch.

Karen Davis is senior film programmer emerita for the Mill Valley Film Festival and professor emerita at California State University at Monterey Bay (CSUMB). She has taught courses in world cinema at UC Santa Cruz, Vassar College, and CSUMB.

**The Wondrous Wit & Scintillating
Songs of Tom Lehrer**  

Bonnie Weiss

1:30–3 p.m.

\$130 (Premium member: \$0)

“Be Prepared” for hours of irreverent revelry as we journey through the songs and career of one of our most acclaimed social satirists. See interviews in which he reveals what/who inspired his work — from his familiar recorded repertoire to rare gems never released to the public. And watch him performing his songs over the years in his inimitable style. Your instructor has been corresponding with Tom, age 97, for over 16 months. He’s happy about the course and is looking forward to students’ feedback.

Bonnie Weiss, M.A. (NYU) is a seasoned theatre educator, writer, and cabaret producer. She has been giving courses on musical theatre history and appreciation for OLLI programs at UC Berkeley, San Francisco State, Dominican, and other Bay Area universities since 2008.

Great Women of the Blues   

Pamela Rose

1–3 p.m. • GBC 365 • Three sessions

No class June 19

\$130 (Premium member: \$0)

Most people think of the blues as a man and his guitar. But women like Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Memphis Minnie, Etta James, Janis Joplin, Nina Simone, and Bonnie Raitt helped spread this music around the world, with songs of power, resilience, and a big side dish of attitude. Using projected photo archives, audio and film clips, and sing-a-longs, instructor and blues vocalist Pamela Rose will give much historical and cultural context to America’s most enduring art form while celebrating the lively, ribald, poignant music created by these feisty blueswomen!

Pamela Rose is a San Francisco jazz and blues vocalist who has thrilled audiences locally and internationally with her swinging, soulful style. She is on the faculty of the California Jazz Conservatory.

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learners ages 50+ with a passion for intellectual
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Fee Assistance

Enjoy waived membership and upgrade dues — plus 70% off course and “Best of OLLI” fees.

Best of OLLI, Summer 2025

Fighting Slavery in the United States

Richard Bell

Five Artists Who Changed California Art

Drucie Belman

Twelve Controversies About Communism

Past and Present

George Breslauer

Diving Into the Movies

Harry Chotiner

Turn, Turn, Turn: A Rock & Roll Road Trip, Part 1

Pete Elman

The Symphonies of Gustav Mahler

Stephen Schultz

Textual Politics

Darren Zook

The Politics of Ice

Darren Zook