

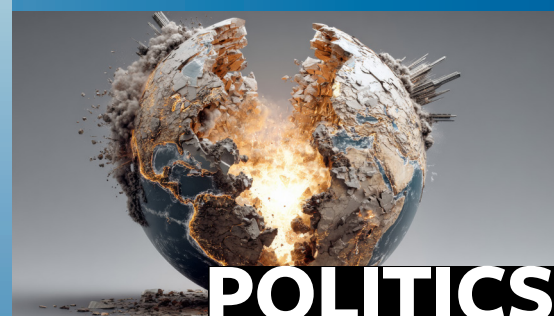
# UC Berkeley OLLI

Osher  
Lifelong  
Learning  
Institute

Designed for learners ages 50+ and open to all



**Winter 2026**  
Jan. 20–March 29  
Registration opens  
October 13, 2025



**Courses**  
**Events**  
**Field Trips**  
**Travel**  
**Community**



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University of California, Berkeley  
1995 University Avenue, Suite 365  
Berkeley, CA 94704-1070

# Registration Opens Oct. 13

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UC Berkeley is a vibrant community designed for learners ages 50+ — and open to all. We offer courses, speaker events, field trips, socials, travel opportunities, and more. No Cal affiliation needed. Just a love of learning (with no exams or grades.) Join us!

## Memberships

- Single Term (\$75)
- Annual (\$100)
- Premium (\$995)
- Best of OLLI-only (\$25)

Course fees are separate and are based on membership type. “Premium” members pay **no** fees for lecture courses (50+ offered per year) and 50% off workshops and seminars. For only \$10, Annual and Premium members can upgrade to “Plus” memberships to gain access to our Best of OLLI archive of popular pre-recorded courses. See course listings on back cover.

## New Member Offer

Get \$25 off a Single Term membership! Contact [berkeley\\_olli@berkeley.edu](mailto:berkeley_olli@berkeley.edu) for the special code.

## Fee Assistance

Enjoy waived Annual Plus membership (a \$110 value) and 70% off all course fees.



Visit our website  
[olli.berkeley.edu](https://olli.berkeley.edu)  
for more  
information

## MONDAY, JAN. 26–MAR. 9

(No Class 1/19, 2/16)

### Declaration of Independence 📶 🎤

Richard Bell

10–11:30 a.m. • 6 sessions

**\$165 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$0)**

The Declaration of Independence is a peculiar thing. It's a literary masterpiece written jointly by a committee of 50 people. It's short and punchy — just 1,310 words long — but still somehow daunting and difficult to get to grips with. What did people at the time make of it? What did it change? Why does it matter? In this course, we explore the fascinating origins, misunderstood purpose, and extraordinary global legacy of the Declaration of Independence.

**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*.

### Tracking the Progress of AI 🧑 📶 🎤

Robert Todd

10 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions • GBC 202/204

**\$165 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$0)**

The best way to understand the pace of progress in artificial intelligence is to look at how far we've come in the past 12–18 months. In this course we will look at the latest developments in AI models, tools and research to understand the shape and pace of AI progress. This class will combine hands-on demonstration and DIY experiments with a peek at the latest academic research to help you build an experiential grounding in humanity's most consequential invention.

**Robert Todd** is an innovator who writes and teaches about and builds products and companies using technology that learns.

### Female Sexuality in 🧑 📶 21st-century Fiction

Stephanie Wells

10 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions • GBC 365

**\$165 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$0)**

In this course, we will explore novels that examine women's relationships to their bodies and sexuality in the changing landscape of the 21st century. Authors may include Ottessa Moshfegh, Miranda July, Raven Leilani, Carmen Maria Machado, Lisa Taddeo, Elena Ferrante, Sheila Heti, Mieko Kawakami, Bernardine Evaristo, Elif Batuman, Patricia Lockwood, Kate Folk, Jen Beagin, or Meg Wolitzer.

**Stephanie Wells** has a B.A. from UC Berkeley, M.A. from the University of Virginia, and Ph.D. from UC Davis. She currently teaches at the College of Marin.

### California Noir 🧑

Kathleen Moran

1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions • GBC 202/204

**\$205 (Premium/Premium Plus members: 50% off)**

California has long been associated with fantasies of instant wealth, boundless opportunity, and self-reinvention. Fed by the Hollywood glamour machine, the idea of the “California Dream” solidified in the 1920s and peaked after WWII. But by the late '30s, a shadow version of the California Dream was taking shape, pointing to a nightmare reality. Expressed in the margins of legitimate cultural discourse, noir named a critique, an attitude, a mood, a language, and an aesthetic of alienation. In this course, we will discuss some foundational California noir movies and texts.

**Kathleen Moran** is a founder of UC Berkeley's American Studies Program and a recipient of UC Berkeley's Distinguished Teaching Award.

### Rock 'n' Roll's First 🧑 📶 🎤 Decade: From Elvis to the Beatles

Richie Unterberger

1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions • GBC 365

**\$165 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$0)**

This course covers the first 10 years of rock and roll, which shook the world from the mid-1950s to the early 1960s. It spans the ascendance of pioneers like Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry, and Little Richard to the harmonizing vocal groups, surf, soul, and girl groups of the early '60s. It features greats like the Everly Brothers, Buddy Holly, Ray Charles, and the Beach Boys, with plenty of rare film clips of the heroes in action. It also celebrates the record labels, the producers, disk jockeys, songwriters, and teenage audience that helped make it happen.

**Richie Unterberger** is an author of rock history. His next book, *Do What You Fear Most: The History of the Velvet Underground*, will be published in Spring 2026.

Learn more at [olli.berkeley.edu](https://olli.berkeley.edu)

## TUESDAY, JAN. 20–FEB. 10

### The Beauty of the Real: Contemporary French Actresses, Part 1

Mick LaSalle

10:30 a.m.–noon • 4 sessions

**\$130 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$0)**

In France, an actress can work steadily from her teens through old age. She can start out in stories of youthful rebellion and end up, 50 years later, a screen matriarch. And in the process, her career will end up telling the story of a life — her own life, in a sense, with the films serving as a diary of one woman's emotions and growth. No wonder so many French actresses are beautiful. They're radiant from living in a cinematic culture that values them, and values women. In part one of this course, we will meet Sandrine Bonnaire, Nathalie Baye, Valeria Bruni Tedeschi, and Sandrine Kiberlain.

**Mick LaSalle** is the film critic emeritus of the *San Francisco Chronicle*. He is the author of several books on film, including *The Beauty of the Real*.

## TUESDAY, JAN. 20–FEB. 24

### The Paradox of Choice

Barry Schwartz

10 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions • GBC 365

**\$165 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$0)**

We take it for granted that the more options we have, the better off we are. Though there is no doubt that choice is good, this course will show that there can be too much of this good thing. And when there is, we feel paralyzed rather than liberated and are dissatisfied with even good decisions. This is especially true if our aim in making decisions is to get the “best.” This class will discuss the various psychological processes that make unlimited choice a very mixed blessing.

**Barry Schwartz** taught at Swarthmore College and UC Berkeley Haas School of Business. His books include *The Paradox of Choice* and *Practical Wisdom*.

### Building a Great Memoir

Louise Nayer

10 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions • GBC 300

**\$245 (Premium/Premium Plus members: 50% off)**

So many potent moments are waiting to be uncovered: dipping your body into a shimmering lake as a child, gazing out the window after the death of a loved one,

remembering a best friend, wanting to say some words you've never said. Learn about the basic elements of memoir: sensory detail, scene vs. summary, dialogue, time shifts and narrative arc. Read great memoirists and do in-class exercises and work with peers. Hand in pages for instructor feedback. Leave the class with new writing friends and a body of writing.

**Louise Nayer** is the author of six books including two memoirs: *Burned: A Memoir* and *Narrow Escapes*.

### Art that Wows

Drucie Belman

1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions • GBC 365

**\$165 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$0)**

In 1990, the art critic Rosalind Krauss wrote that some artworks forgo history in the name of intensity of experience. But since that time, experiencing art has evolved into a relationship with it — one that immerses the viewer in a sensory experience of light, sound, and color — sometimes alone, sometimes with others, always in a state of wonder. It's the excitement of walking into a space so riveting you say, “Wow.” In this class, we will examine the origins of art as a spectacle. By the end of the session, you may want to make your own pilgrimage to experience some of the many artworks we discuss.

**Drucie Belman** has worked at Pace Gallery in both New York and Palo Alto, Catharine Clark Gallery in San Francisco, and as a guide at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

### Alexander von Humboldt's Hero's Journey to South America

Eric Simon

1:30–3 p.m. • 6 sessions

**\$165 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$0)**

Alexander von Humboldt was the most famous scientist of the 19th century. His writing influenced generations of scientists and artists including Charles Darwin, John James Audubon, and Ralph Waldo Emerson. As part of our ongoing investigation of nature as the consilience of art and science, we will follow von Humboldt's five-year journey to South America and his resulting groundbreaking scientific studies and published books.

**Eric J. Simon, Ph.D.** is a professor of biology. He is the author of a series of college biology textbooks used by students in over 40 countries.

### iPhoneography

Yoni Mayeri

1:30–3:30 p.m. • 6 sessions

**\$245 (Premium/Premium Plus members: 50% off)**

Learn how to capture stunning images, edit like a pro, and make the most of your iPhone's powerful camera and editing tools. By the end, you'll know how to create extraordinary photos — all from your pocket. **Note:** An iPhone 10s or newer is recommended.

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

## TUESDAY, FEB. 17–MAR. 10

### The Beauty of the Real: Contemporary French Actresses, Part 2

Mick LaSalle

10:30 a.m.–noon • 4 sessions

**\$130 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$0)**

In part two of this course, we will continue our exploration of contemporary French actresses, including Catherine Corsini, Isabelle Huppert, Isabelle Carre, and Virginie Efira.

**Note:** Registrants need not have taken part one to fully experience part two. **See LaSalle bio on left.**

## WED., JAN. 21–FEB. 11

### Naples: A Mediterranean Capital of the Fine and Performing Arts

Pierluigi Serraino

10:30 a.m.–noon • 4 sessions

**\$130 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$0)**

Few are truly aware of the paramount artistic and architectural legacy of this southern metropolis, the third-largest city in Italy. Yet, since its Greek foundation to the present day, Naples has taken on various political roles in different eras, each carrying a distinct cultural heritage. This course will survey the unparalleled contribution and appeal of an environment with no equals in Italy and the whole Mediterranean.

**Pierluigi Serraino Ph.D., FAIA**, is the author of *Modernism Rediscovered*. His latest book is *The Modern Garden: The Outdoor Architecture of Mid-century America*.



# Calendar

 IN-PERSON  LIVESTREAMED  RECORDED (3,4,6) INDICATES # OF SESSIONS

## MONDAYS

1/26–3/9

(No Class 1/19, 2/16)

### DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (6)

RICHARD BELL  
10–11:30 A.M.

### TRACKING THE PROGRESS OF AI (6)

ROBERT TODD  
10 A.M.–NOON  
GBC 202/204

### FEMALE SEXUALITY IN 21ST-CENTURY FICTION (6)

STEPHANIE WELLS  
10 A.M.–NOON • GBC 365

### CALIFORNIA NOIR (6)

KATHLEEN MORAN  
1–3 P.M. • GBC 202/204

### ROCK 'N' ROLL'S FIRST DECADE: FROM ELVIS TO THE BEATLES (6)

RICHIE UNTERBERGER  
1–3 P.M. • GBC 365

## TUESDAYS

1/20–2/10

### CONTEMPORARY FRENCH ACTRESSES, PART 1 (4)

MICK LASALLE  
10:30 A.M.–NOON

1/20–2/24

### THE PARADOX OF CHOICE (6)

BARRY SCHWARTZ  
10 A.M.–NOON • GBC 365

### BUILDING A GREAT MEMOIR (6)

LOUISE NAYER  
10 A.M.–NOON • GBC 300

### ART THAT WOWS (6)

DRUCIE BELMAN  
1–3 P.M. • GBC 365

### ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT'S HERO'S JOURNEY TO SOUTH AMERICA (6)

ERIC SIMON  
1:30–3 P.M.

### IPHONEOGRAPHY (6)

YONI MAYERI  
1:30–3:30 P.M.

2/17–3/10

### CONTEMPORARY FRENCH ACTRESSES, PART 2 (4)

MICK LASALLE  
10:30 A.M.–NOON

## WEDNESDAYS

1/21–2/11

### NAPLES: A MEDITERRANEAN CAPITAL OF THE FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS (4)

PIERLUIGI SERRAINO  
10:30 A.M.–NOON

### THE U.S. SUPREME COURT, PART 1: THE LAST BASTION OF DEMOCRACY (4)

RICHARD ROSENTHAL  
1:30–3 P.M.

1/21–2/25

### DIVING INTO THE MOVIES (6)

HARRY CHOTINER  
10 A.M.–NOON • F&S

### CRAFTING "I" IN MEMOIR (6)

MINA WITTEMAN  
10 A.M.–NOON • GBC 300

### BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN: AMERICA'S ROCK AND ROLL POET LAUREATE (6)

PETE ELMAN  
1–3 P.M. • F&S

2/18–3/11

### PALERMO: A MULTICULTURAL CENTER OF ARCHITECTURAL EXCELLENCE (4)

PIERLUIGI SERRAINO  
10:30 A.M.–NOON

### THE U.S. SUPREME COURT, PART 2: A FAILED INSTITUTION? (4)

RICHARD ROSENTHAL  
1:30–3 P.M.

## THURSDAYS

1/22–2/5

### A BRAVE NEW WORLD? THE INTERNATIONAL EDITION (3)

DARREN ZOOK  
10 A.M.–NOON • GBC 202/204

1/22–2/12

### GUIDED AUTOBIOGRAPHY (4)

SARA OREM  
10 A.M.–NOON • GBC 365

1/22–2/26

### CONTEMPORARY MULTIRACIAL IDENTITIES (6)

SARITA CANNON  
1–3 P.M. • GBC 365

### VIETNAM BEFORE LBJ: A STUDY IN PRESIDENTIAL DECISION-MAKING (6)

MICK CHANTLER  
1:30–3 P.M.

2/12–2/26

### A BRAVE NEW WORLD? THE U.S. EDITION (3)

DARREN ZOOK  
10 A.M.–NOON • GBC 202/204

## In-person Venues

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

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



**In-person** courses are held in downtown Berkeley



**Livestreamed** courses stream live on the scheduled day and time



**Recorded** courses are video recorded to view later at your convenience



**WED., JAN. 21–FEB. 11** (CONT)

## **The U.S. Supreme Court,** **Part 1: The Last Bastion of Democracy**

Richard Rosenthal

1:30–3 p.m. • 4 sessions

**\$130 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$0)**

Nearly every aspect of modern American life ultimately winds up at the Supreme Court's marble steps. In part one of this course, we will examine how this came to be and discuss whether it is how things should be. Should Americans' most cherished rights be decided by nine unelected judges? Is this consistent with our basic notions of representative democracy? Get ready for lively, interactive discussions, filled with historical background, juicy insider tidbits, and present-day controversies!

**Richard B. Rosenthal** is an appellate lawyer and teacher. He testified to the Senate supporting the nomination of his lifelong friend, Ketanji Brown Jackson, to the Supreme Court.

**WED., JAN. 21–FEB. 25**

## **Diving into the Movies**

Harry Chotiner

10 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions • F&S

**\$185 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$0)**

In these times when every form of creative artistic expression is under seige, it might be salutary to immerse ourselves in some exquisite filmmaking. This class will foster the fun, vitality, and warmth of friends sharing a conversation about a great film they've just seen. Prior to each class, students will watch a film selected for its engaging themes, issues, storytelling, and acting. Class is comprised of lecture and discussion. Now is a good time to gather, celebrate, and dive deeply into what humane sensibilities can create through film. Live at the Freight for the first time!

**Harry Chotiner** served as an editor at *Socialist Review* magazine, a reader at Zoetrope Studios, and a story editor at CBS. He was a vice-president at 20th Century Fox and Interscope Communications.

## **Crafting “I” in Memoir**

Mina Witteman

10 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions • GBC 300

**\$245 (Premium/Premium Plus members: 50% off)**

This course explores one of the most essential elements of memoir writing: the transformation of the author into a compelling literary character. While memoir relies on lived experience, the craft lies in how the self is shaped on the page. Through close readings of memoirs, exercises, and discussion, you will learn to navigate the narrative distance between who you were *then* and who you are *now*, and to use that distance as a source of emotional depth, structure, and voice. Celebrated memoirists Dorothy Lazard and Adam Hochschild will join us.

**Mina Witteman** writes in English and Dutch. Witteman is a longtime teacher of creative writing, trained and certified by the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences.

## **Bruce Springsteen:** **America's Rock and Roll Poet Laureate**

Pete Elman

1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions • F&S

**\$185 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$0)**

Springsteen didn't reinvent rock and roll; he made his own stamp and developed his own signature. Just as you can listen to any Berry song and say, “that's the Chuck Berry sound,” you can listen to a Bruce song and say “that's the Springsteen sound.” We will break the course up chronologically into six distinct periods in the life and career of Bruce Springsteen, now 76, from his birth in 1949 to the present, celebrating 52 years — and counting — in what may be the most remarkable career in rock and roll.

**Pete Elman** is a musician, performer, composer, studio musician, and producer of 30 albums. He has created 14 different classes on popular music for OLLI.

**WED., FEB. 18–MAR. 11**

## **Palermo: A Multicultural** **Center of Architectural Excellence**

Pierluigi Serraino

10:30 a.m.–noon • 4 sessions

**\$130 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$0)**

There are two sides of Sicily: the Greek side with Siracusa as its center, and the Muslim side with Palermo as its capital. But the Muslim heritage is only one of its many architectural chapters. From the medieval to the Renaissance to the Baroque, to its grandiose Neoclassical period, Palermo has been at the forefront of architectural experimentation all the way to the 20th century and beyond. Its Teatro Massimo was the third-biggest opera theater in Europe. This class will cover the singular trajectory of a city full of remarkable surprises.

[See Serraino bio on page 4.](#)

## **The U.S. Supreme Court,** **Part 2: A Failed Institution?**

Richard Rosenthal

1:30–3 p.m. • 4 sessions

**\$130 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$0)**

Part two of this course will consider cases currently before the court and continue our lively, interactive discussion! **Note:** Registrants need not to have taken part one to fully experience part two. [See Rosenthal bio on left.](#)

**THURS., JAN. 22–FEB. 5**

## **A Brave New World?** **The International Edition**

Darren Zook

10 a.m.–noon • 3 sessions • GBC 202/204

**\$140 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$0)**

During the Cold War, when the world was locked in a fierce ideological battle, there was at least a sense that the ideological battle would take place according to the same rules and within the same global institutions. Now, however, we are faced with an entirely different type of global divide, one in which the rules themselves are being ignored and the institutions that maintain them are being abandoned. This course will examine the potential unraveling of the global order and also map possible pathways into the future.

**Darren Zook** teaches in Global Studies and Political Science at UC Berkeley. His areas of interest include comparative politics, human rights, international law, cybersecurity, and the politics of art.

**THURS, JAN. 22–FEB. 12**

### Guided Autobiography

Sara Orem

10 a.m.–noon • 4 sessions • GBC 365

**\$245 (Premium/Premium Plus members: 50% off)**

This is the companion course to a fall course in Guided Autobiography. There is no need to have participated in the fall course in order to participate in the winter course. Participants will be guided by four themes encompassing life topics such as relationships, legacy, health and well-being, and important places.

**Sara Orem** has taught for OLLI @Berkeley for 10 years. Her background and academic study is in positive psychology, in the many ways we can enhance positive emotions to live a more satisfying and fulfilling life.

**THURS, JAN. 22–FEB. 26**

### Contemporary Multiracial Identities

Sarita Cannon

1-3 p.m. • 6 sessions • GBC 365

**\$205 (Premium/Premium Plus members: 50% off)**

Through close readings of several texts written by mixed-race people since the turn of the 21st century, we will reflect on the following questions: What is the political and social significance of claiming a mixed-race identity? How might the term “multiracial” inadvertently reify problematic biological notions of race? How do multiracial people engage with tropes such as the “tragic mulatta” and the “exceptional multiracial?” How, as Michele Elam puts it, might an aesthetics of mixed race “productively reimagine the relationship between race, art, and social justice in the 21st century?”

**Sarita Cannon** is professor of English at San Francisco State University. She is the author of *Black-Native Auto-biographical Acts: Navigating the Minefields of Authenticity*.

**Many courses offer a fully hybrid experience. The choice of how and when to participate is up to you! Enjoy videos any time through March 29.**

### Vietnam Before LBJ: A Study in Presidential Decision-Making

Mick Chantler

1:30-3 p.m. • 6 sessions

**\$165 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$0)**

Most Americans place the lion's share of the blame for the Vietnam catastrophe on President Lyndon Johnson. But increasingly, historians are emphasizing that LBJ's predecessors set the table for his dramatic deepening of our involvement in the tragedy of Vietnam. Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, and Kennedy all upped the ante by steadily raising the stakes in Southeast Asia. This course will delve into the crucial decisions made by LBJ's predecessors which led to our nation's worst foreign policy debacle of the twentieth century.

**Mick Chantler** has taught for OLLI @ Berkeley for more than a decade. His interests include early America, the Civil War, the Cold War, and the history of baseball.

**THURS, FEB. 12–FEB. 26**

### A Brave New World? The U.S. Edition

Darren Zook

10 a.m.–noon • 3 sessions • GBC 202/204

**\$140 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$0)**

In spite of what have often been deep ideological differences, Democrats and Republicans have for most of American history accepted the fundamental rules and institutions of American democracy. Now, however, we live in a moment of hyperpartisan rancor and divide, one in which talk of civil war no longer seems far-fetched, and one in which the fundamental rules of the political game can be questioned, opposed, or even ignored. This course will examine the current political landscape of the United States and will map possible pathways into the future. *See Zook bio on page 5.*

## Best of OLLI

Winter 2026

Access some of our most popular pre-recorded courses. \$75 each

**Vladimir Putin**  
**George Breslauer**

**Fifty Years of San Francisco Jazz,**  
**1916 - 1966**  
**Dave Radlauer**

**Great Women of the Blues**  
**Pamela Rose**

**Contemporary Mexico**  
**Alex Saragoza**

**John James Audubon and**  
**The Birds of America**  
**Eric Simon**

**Left Behind: Understanding the**  
**Rightward Drift in Global Politics**  
**Darren Zook**

### Special Events

Please check our events page for up to the minute information about our speaker series and other special events: [olli.berkeley.edu/programs/events](https://olli.berkeley.edu/programs/events).



### Travel with OLLI!

Join us on unforgettable adventures to extraordinary destinations in 2026: Southeast Asia (April 9–27); Italy (May 2–13); and the Canadian Rockies and Glacier National Park (Aug. 21–27). Start exploring at [olli.berkeley.edu/travel](https://olli.berkeley.edu/travel).