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**POLITICS**

**Winter 2025**  
January 21–March 14

Registration opens  
October 14, 2024



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See course listings on back cover

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### Fee Assistance

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

## MONDAY, JAN. 27 – FEB. 10

### The Life and Times of Carey McWilliams

Peter Richardson  
10 a.m.–noon • 3 sessions • GBC 365

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

This class will consider the life of radical author Carey McWilliams, who has been described as “the finest nonfiction writer on California—ever” and “the state’s most astute political observer.” We will survey his body of work, which probed the history of California farm labor, the scourge of racial and ethnic prejudice, and the ravages of McCarthyism, and consider those whose work he influenced.

**Peter Richardson** has written critically acclaimed books about Hunter S. Thompson, the *Grateful Dead*, *Ramparts* magazine, and Carey McWilliams.

## MONDAY, JAN. 27 – MARCH 3

### Diving Into the Movies

Harry Chotiner  
10:30 a.m.–noon • 5 sessions  
(No class 2/17)

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

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. **Note:** The film list will be provided before the start of the course.

**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.

## MONDAY, JAN. 27 – MARCH 10

### Neuro-ethnomusicology for Aging Brain Health

Aaron Colverson  
1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions • GBC 365  
(No class 2/17)

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

The goal of this course is to define, contextualize, and apply the concept of musicking—composing, performing, or listening to music—in relation to aging brain health. Participants of this course will engage with the intersections of musicking and aging brain health through the lenses of neuropsychology and ethnomusicology.

**Aaron Colverson** earned his BM from Berklee College of Music and his MM and Ph.D. from the University of Florida. He is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the UCSF Memory and Aging Center and is affiliate faculty at the UF Center for Arts in Medicine.

### Anti-Semitism: The Dynamics and History of the “Longest Hatred”

Bruce Bramlett  
1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions • GBC 202/204  
(No class 2/17)

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

This course tracks the historical development of the “longest hatred,” anti-Semitism in Western civilization from the Greco-Roman period to its present resurgence throughout the West. We will discuss the nature of anti-Semitic prejudice, constructions, and concepts of race, the relationship between anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism, the ongoing reality of Jew-hatred, and struggle to understand the sources of anti-Semitism’s post-Holocaust resurgence.

**Bruce Bramlett** received a degree from Union Seminary’s Episcopal Divinity School and a graduate degree in Jewish-Christian history at the Graduate Theological Union. He is a Yad Vashem scholar and fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute.

## TUESDAY, JAN. 21 – FEB. 11

### Great Literature in Miniature

Hilary Roberts  
1–3 p.m. • 4 sessions • GBC 365

**\$205 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$40)**

Miniature tales—“flash” or “micro” fiction—include everything we desire from a short story: provocative themes, complex characters, bold imagery, and plot upshots that in the best cases take our breath away. Together we’ll discuss how some of the best short-form prose writers (George Saunders, Joyce Carol Oates, Lydia Davis, Ernest Hemingway, and more) artfully and concisely unveil startling insights about the human condition.

**Hilary Roberts** has taught at UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz, OLLI Berkeley, OLLI Santa Clara, and Contra Costa College. She holds an M.A. from the University of Michigan and Ph.D. from UC Berkeley.

## TUESDAY, JAN. 21 – FEB. 25

### Hands-On AI

Robert Todd

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

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

The capabilities of generative AI models like OpenAI's ChatGPT, Anthropic's Claude, and Google's Gemini are profound and profoundly weird. To harness their creative and analytical powers, it helps to understand how machine intelligence works, and the best way to learn is by doing. In this theory+practice course, we'll look at the latest AI tools and learn some principles, practices, and tips for getting the most out of them.

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

### Building a Great Memoir

Louise Nayer

10 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions • GBC 365

**\$245 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$80)**

Uncover potent moments from your past—swinging through trees at twilight as a child or gazing out the rain-splattered window after the death of a loved one. Learn about the basic elements of memoir such as sensory detail, scene versus summary, dialogue, time-shifts, and narrative arc. Read great memoirists to help you get started. Do in-class exercises and work with peers. Hand in work for instructor feedback.

**Louise Nayer** is the author of six books including two memoirs: *Burned: A Memoir* and *Narrow Escapes*. An educator for over 40 years, she is a member of the San Francisco Writers Grotto.

### Fighting Slavery in the United States

Richard Bell

10:30 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions

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

This six-week course offers you the opportunity to meet a large and often unfamiliar cast of characters—both Black and white, enslaved and free—who developed a range of tools and tactics,

means and methods to escape enslavement or try to resist it in the period between the drafting of the United States Constitution in 1787 and 1865, the year that marked the end of the Civil War.

**Richard Bell** is a 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*.

### Personal Essay: Finding Transcendence in the Ordinary

Jane Ganahl

1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions • GBC 300

**\$245 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$80)**

Each day presents moments that could inspire a personal essay: the kindness you see shown by a store clerk to a senior, the anger you feel at someone tailgating you on the road, the moment when your grandchild asks when you're going to die. In this introductory essay class, you'll learn how to identify these pivotal moments, find their epiphanies, and write about them in a way that resonates with readers. You will focus on one personal essay, creating a finished product by the end.

**Jane Ganahl** is a writer, teacher, and co-founder of Litquake. She is the author of *Naked on the Page: The Misadventures of My Unmarried Midlife*.

## TUESDAY, JAN. 28 – MARCH 4

### The Symphonies of Gustav Mahler: A Spiritual and Emotional Journey

Stephen Schultz

1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions • GBC 202/204

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

This class will be an in-depth analytical survey of the 11 symphonic works of Gustav Mahler. It will trace the composer's stylistic evolution during the four stages of his creative life and will clarify the main characteristics of these periods. The focus of our analysis will be on the form, harmonic and melodic characteristics, and programmatic and emotional content of the symphonies.

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

## TUESDAY, FEB. 18 – MARCH 11

### Recovering Pasts, Imagining Futures: Four Women Poets

Susan Van Dyne

1–3 p.m. • 4 sessions • GBC 365

**\$205 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$40)**

The 1970s and '80s are remembered for the political activism of the women's liberation movement. We'll read four women poets—Adrienne Rich, Audre Lorde, Elizabeth Bishop, and Sharon Olds—who imagined new identities that were not defined by traditional gender norms. Each poet ponders the forces that have shaped women's lives—family, love, sexuality, and cultural inheritance. Their poems are deeply personal guides to our pasts and our futures.

**Susan Van Dyne** earned her Ph.D. from Harvard and taught at Smith College for four decades. She's written about Sylvia Plath's poetry and Alison Bechdel's queer graphic memoir *Fun Home*.

## WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22 – FEB. 5

### Textual Politics: Three Authors, Three Novels, Three Countries

Darren Zook

10 a.m.–noon • 3 sessions • F&S

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

In this course, we will use three classic but perhaps lesser-known novels as a gateway to discuss the politics of three very different countries and the surprisingly similar issues they grapple with. This is not a class on literary analysis, but rather a class that uses literature to explain politics and politics to explain literature. The three authors' countries we cover will be Japan (Kenzaburo Oe), India (U. R. Ananthamurthy), and Algeria (Tahar Djaout).

**Darren Zook** teaches in Global Studies and Political Science at UC Berkeley. He was recently named one of the "Top Ten Most Inspiring Professors at UC Berkeley" by *College Magazine*.

## MONDAYS 1/27-2/10

**THE LIFE AND TIMES OF CAREY MCWILLIAMS (3)**   
 PETER RICHARDSON  
 10 A.M.-NOON • GBC 365

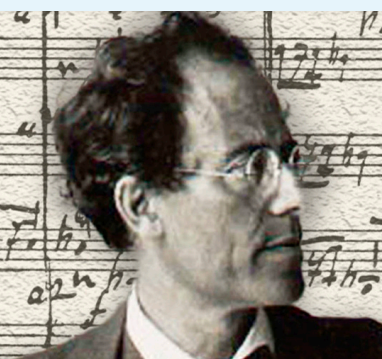
## 1/27-3/3

**DIVING INTO THE MOVIES (5)**   
 HARRY CHOTINER  
 10:30 A.M.-NOON  
 (NO CLASS 2/17)

## 1/27-3/10

**NEURO-ETHNOMUSICOLOGY FOR AGING BRAIN HEALTH (6)**   
 AARON COLVERSON  
 1-3 P.M. • GBC 365  
 10:30 A.M.-NOON  
 (NO CLASS 2/17)

**ANTI-SEMITISM: THE DYNAMICS AND HISTORY OF THE "LONGEST HATRED" (6)**   
 BRUCE BRAMLETT  
 1-3 P.M. • GBC 202/204  
 (NO CLASS 2/17)



## TUESDAYS 1/21-2/11

**GREAT LITERATURE IN MINIATURE (4)**   
 HILARY ROBERTS  
 1-3 P.M. • GBC 365

## 1/21-2/25

**HANDS-ON AI (6)**   
 ROBERT TODD  
 10 A.M.-NOON • GBC 202/204

**BUILDING A GREAT MEMOIR (6)**   
 LOUISE NAYER  
 10 A.M.-NOON • GBC 365

**FIGHTING SLAVERY IN THE UNITED STATES (6)**   
 RICHARD BELL  
 10:30 A.M.-NOON

**PERSONAL ESSAY: FINDING TRANSCENDENCE IN THE ORDINARY (6)**   
 JANE GANAHL  
 1-3 P.M. • GBC 300

## 1/28-3/4

**THE SYMPHONIES OF GUSTAV MAHLER (6)**   
 STEPHEN SCHULTZ  
 1-3 P.M. • GBC 202/204

## 2/18-3/11

**RECOVERING PASTS, IMAGINING FUTURES: FOUR WOMEN POETS (4)**   
 SUSAN VAN DYNE  
 1-3 P.M. • GBC 365

## WEDNESDAYS 1/22-2/5

**TEXTUAL POLITICS (3)**   
 DARREN ZOOK  
 10 A.M.-NOON • F&S

## 1/22-2/12

**BERLIN: CAPITAL OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE (4)**   
 PIERLUIGI SERRAINO  
 10:30 A.M.-NOON

## 1/22-2/26

**COMMUNISM IN POWER (6)**   
 GEORGE BRESLAUER  
 10 A.M.-NOON • GBC 365

**TURN, TURN, TURN: A ROCK 'N' ROLL ROAD TRIP (6)**   
 PETE ELMAN  
 1-3 P.M. • F&S  
 (NO CLASS 2/12; FINAL CLASS 3/5)

**AGING AND THE CHANGING SELF IN LITERATURE (6)**   
 STEPHANIE WELLS  
 1-3 P.M. • GBC 365

**ANCIENT WISDOM AND NEUROSCIENCE (6)**   
 AMELIA BARILI  
 1:30-3 P.M.

## 2/19-3/5

**THE POLITICS OF ICE: BEYOND CLIMATE CHANGE (3)**   
 DARREN ZOOK  
 10 A.M.-NOON • F&S

## 2/19-3/12

**AMSTERDAM: A DESIGN CAPITAL OVER THE CANALS (4)**   
 PIERLUIGI SERRAINO  
 10:30 A.M.-NOON

## THURSDAYS 1/23-2/13

**THE FILMS OF JOHN SAYLES (4)**   
 KAREN DAVIS  
 10:30 A.M.-NOON

## 1/23-2/27

**WE ARE THE ONES: EARLY SAN FRANCISCO PUNK AND NEW WAVE (6)**   
 RICHIE UNTERBERGER  
 10 A.M.-NOON • GBC 365

**IPHONEOGRAPHY (6)**   
 YONI MAYERI  
 10 A.M.-NOON  
 (NO CLASS 2/20, 2/27; FINAL CLASS 3/13)

**FIVE ARTISTS WHO CHANGED CALIFORNIA ART (6)**   
 DRUCIE SAAL BELMAN  
 1-3 P.M. • GBC 202/204

**PARTICLE PURSUITS: EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE WITH CERN (6)**   
 BEBO WHITE  
 1-3 P.M. • GBC 365

**THE WISDOM OF GRIEF: EXPLORATION, TRANSFORMATION, AND RECONCILIATION (6)**   
 LAUREN VANETT  
 1-3 P.M. • (FIRST CLASS GBC 300; OTHER CLASSES REMOTE)



### In-person venues

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

**GBC: Golden Bear Center**  
 1995 University Avenue  
 Berkeley, CA

**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 30.**

- 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

## WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22 – FEB. 12

### Berlin: Capital of Modern Architecture

Pierluigi Serraino

10:30 a.m.–noon • 4 sessions

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

The density of modern and contemporary landmarks in Berlin is almost unparalleled. This class will provide a comprehensive overview of the landmarks and their makers operating in a unique cultural and historical context.

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

## WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22 – FEB. 26

### Communism in Power: From Lenin to Xi Jinping

George Breslauer

10 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions • GBC 365

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

Lectures in this course will each explore a key question about communist states: why did communism win out in Russia? Why did communist rule result in political tyranny? What caused the Sino-Soviet split? Why did European communism fall but Asian and Caribbean communism survive? What are the similarities and differences among the surviving communist states? What are the prospects for war with North Korea and/or China? What are the prospects for the survivability of communism in North Korea, Vietnam, China, and Cuba? What are we to make of the alliance between China and Russia today?

**George Breslauer** has been a professor of political science at UC Berkeley since 1971. An award-winning teacher, he is the author of *The Rise and Demise of World Communism*.

### Turn, Turn, Turn: A Rock 'n' Roll Road Trip

Pete Elman

1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions • F&S

(No class 2/12; final class 3/5)

**\$175 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$0)**

This course will cover the golden age of American rock 'n' roll, 1955–70. It will be taught chronologically and geographically (“a road trip”)

across several regions—plus a one-class exploration of a legend's 1965 rock 'n' roll masterworks—where key American musical movements sprung up. The classes will be presented as a cultural and musical journey through those periods and places where that region was at the forefront of American popular music.

**Pete Elman** has been a musician since 1963; a performer, composer, studio musician, and producer of 30 albums. He has published four acclaimed books and has created 14 different classes on popular music for OLLI.

### Aging and the Changing Self in Literature

Stephanie Wells

1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions • GBC 365

**\$205 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$40)**

How does the self we've spent decades crafting and defining evolve once we realize we have more years behind us than ahead of us? What does the transition from the flexibly defined “middle-aged” to the uneasy label of “senior” or “elder” mean for the self in society, and more importantly, the self internally? This course will examine poetry and fiction from the voices of aging protagonists whose reframing of their selves in the face of passing time provides questions, insight, and revelations.

**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.

### Ancient Wisdom and Neuroscience: Befriending Your Nervous System

Amelia Barili

1:30–3 p.m. • 6 sessions

**\$205 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$40)**

Our nervous system shapes the quality of our daily life. It affects our health, relationships, and well-being by influencing our body, mind, and spirit. In this course, you will learn embodied practices for sustaining good health and healing, and thriving as a human being. They help us shift from states of anxiety, fear, and feeling overwhelmed into states of safety, ease, and connection.

**Amelia Barili** teaches an innovative pedagogy that integrates neuroscience, meditation, and service learning. She received the Chancellor's Award for Public Service.

## WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19 – MARCH 5

### The Politics of Ice: Beyond Climate Change

Darren Zook

10 a.m.–noon • 3 sessions • F&S

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

This course examines a different sort of cold war, one that focuses on the political, economic, and legal conflicts that have emerged from the transformations of Earth's ice. While the connection between climate change and global ice may be well established, much less is known about how the changes in ice distribution have impacted international relations. In this three-week course we will take an in-depth look at the Arctic, the Antarctic, and everywhere else that ice politics may flow. [See Darren Zook bio on page 3.](#)

## WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19 – MARCH 12

### Amsterdam: A Design Capital Over the Canals

Pierluigi Serraino

10:30 a.m.–noon • 4 sessions

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

The contribution of the Netherlands and its capital, Amsterdam, to the development of Modern architecture is profound and ongoing. From the rise of the *De Stijl* movement to the contemporary scene, this sustainable metropolis continues to command global attention. This course will uncover the origins of this sustained design excellence over the centuries. [See Pierluigi Serraino bio above.](#)

## THURSDAY, JAN. 23 – FEB. 13

### The Films of John Sayles

Karen Davis

10:30 a.m.–noon • 4 sessions

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

The films of John Sayles have etched a unique and indelible place in the history of American independent cinema. Encompassing multiple genres, from science fiction to Westerns to political drama, what unifies Sayles' eclectic body of work is his lifelong commitment to equity, justice, and human rights. Sayles' uncompromising cinematic vision has influenced two generations of "indie" directors who succeeded him.

**Karen Davis** is senior film programmer emerita for the Mill Valley Film Festival and Professor Emerita at California State University at Monterey Bay (CSUMB).

## THURSDAY, JAN. 23 – FEB. 27

### We Are the Ones: Early San Francisco Punk and New Wave

Richie Unterberger

10 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions • GBC 365

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

From the mid-1970s to the early 1980s, the San Francisco Bay Area was one of the first regions to embrace punk and new wave. Acts like the Avengers, Crime, the Mutants, and the Dead Kennedys made some of the earliest and most exciting independent records in the style, with local venues and radio stations championing the movement. This course covers the birth and maturation of the region's punk and new wave through film and audio clips, pictures, and expert commentary, as well as guest speakers who were crucial to its growth.

**Richie Unterberger** is the author of numerous rock music history books. His latest book is *San Francisco: Portrait of a City*. He's taught rock history courses at OLLI Berkeley since 2019.

### iPhoneography

Yoni Mayeri

10 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions

(No class 2/20, 2/27; final class 3/13)

**\$245 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$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.

### Five Artists Who Changed California Art

Drucie Saal Belman

1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions • GBC 202/204

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

In this course, we will study five artists who came together in the early 1960s and changed the perception of art in California. We will encounter Wayne Thiebaud, the painter of sumptuous cakes and pies, Robert Arneson, the humorous ceramicist, William T. Wiley, the idiosyncratic draftsman, Roy De Forest, creator of richly colorful paintings, and Manuel Neri, a sculptor of rough, expressive sculpture. Adverse to pretension, these artists generated newfound energy and enthusiasm in California art.

**Drucie Saal 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.

### Particle Pursuits: Exploring the Universe with CERN

Bebo White

1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions • GBC 365

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

Europe was the unchallenged home of atomic and nuclear physics research until WWII, after which many pioneering and leading physicists either emigrated or abandoned their research. CERN arose from this environment, and has since been the home of some of the most important discoveries, and its discoveries have altered the view of how the universe began and operates. This course examines the history of one of the most important scientific laboratories in the world.

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

## The Wisdom of Grief: Exploration, Transformation, and Reconciliation

Lauren Vanett

1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions

(First class GBC 300; other classes remote)

**\$245 (Premium/Premium Plus members: \$80)**

Transformative potential is inherent in the grieving process. In this experiential class, we examine current research, unpack myths and models of grief, share personal stories, and explore obstacles to grief. Learn how to use your strengths to assist you in this process and to support others going through loss. Experiment with one of your own grief experiences—big or small—to create deeper integration and reconciliation.

**Note:** This class is not grief therapy and is not advised for those in the throes of a new or recent loss. Unsure if this class is for you? Contact instructor.

**Lauren Vanett** teaches courses in positive psychology, creativity, and the wisdom of grief. An educator for 40-plus years, she also teaches about grief at Hospice Maui.

## Special Events

Please check our events page for up-to-the-minute information about our speaker series and other special events: <https://olli.berkeley.edu/programs/events>.

### Best of OLLI, Winter 2025

See page 2 for more info

**The Concerto, Part I**  
**Alexandra Amati**  
**Pioneering Women of Abstract Expressionism**  
**Drucie Saal Belman**  
**Diving into Movies**  
**Harry Chotiner**  
**Shakespeare in Today's World**  
**Michael Moran**  
**Music and the Brain**  
**Peter Ralston**  
**Helsinki, an Extraordinary Design Capital**  
**Pierluigi Serraino**  
**San Francisco in Photographs, 1850–2020**  
**Richie Unterberger**  
**The Past, Present, and Future of the Worldwide Web**  
**Bebo White**  
**China and India: A Tale of Two Superpowers**  
**Darren Zook**  
**Populism: A Global Tour**  
**Darren Zook**