

HISTORY



Spring 2024

April 1 - May 24

Registration opens February 12

Online + In-person

Downtown Berkeley

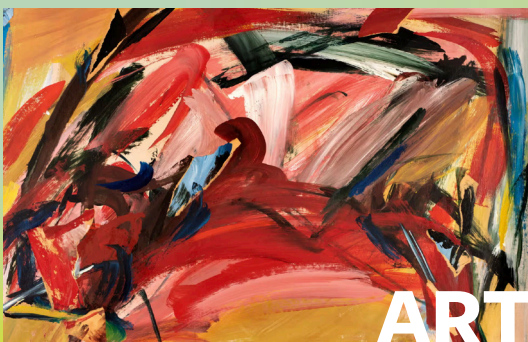
Courses

Events

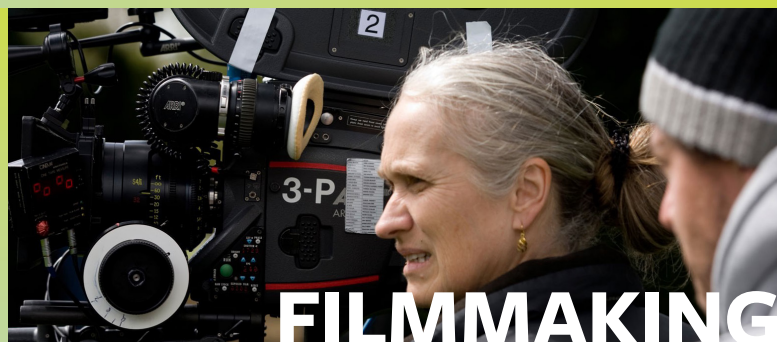
Field Trips

Research

Socials



ART



FILMMAKING



Discover for yourself olli.berkeley.edu



PROTEST



Registration Opens February 12

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.

Special Offer

New members can receive \$25 off a Single Term membership! Contact berkeley_olli@berkeley.edu or (510) 642-9934 for code.




Fee Assistance

Enjoy waived membership dues (\$100 value) and 70% off individual course fees.

Gift Memberships

Give the gift of an OLLI @ Berkeley membership.

Key

-  In-person
-  Livestreamed
-  Recorded

BEGINS 4/1

Scene Study

Jennifer King

9:30–11 a.m. • 6 sessions

\$235 (Premium member: \$80)

Scene Study unlocks an authentic, dynamic, and spontaneous acting process. Whether you're a seasoned actor or a beginner eager to explore a creative process, Scene Study provides a supportive environment to enhance your skills and ignite your passion for acting.

Jennifer King is an acclaimed international theater director and award-winning acting teacher. Her practice focuses on cultivating a dynamic connection between artists and audiences through a rigorous, collaborative, and playful approach to text and storytelling.

Pictures at the Revolution: Six Films From and About the Sixties

Art Eckstein

10–11:30 a.m. • 6 sessions

\$155 (Premium member: \$0)

The late 1960s saw both a social revolution and a revolution in filmmaking. From the Sixties revolution we'll first see *A Hard Day's Night*, *Bonnie and Clyde*, *Monterey Pop*, and *Easy Rider*. Two retrospectives, *Coming Home*, and the documentary, *Berkeley at War* will follow.

Arthur M. Eckstein is Professor of History and Distinguished University Professor Emeritus, The University of Maryland at College Park.

Inventing and Constructing a Self: Three 19th Century British Novels

Stephanie Wells

10 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions • GBC 365

\$155 (Premium member: \$0)

In this course we will read Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, and Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* to explore the ways that the changing ideals of Victorian culture inform the creation of a self—whether that be one's own self or the metaphorical or literal creation of another!

Stephanie Wells has a BA from Berkeley, MA from University of Virginia, and PhD from UC Davis, with a focus on modernism and postmodernism in American and British novels and poetry. She currently teaches at College of Marin.

Love, Drugs, and War: The Obsessions of History's Greatest Composers

Stephen Schultz

1–2:30 p.m. • 6 sessions

\$155 (Premium member: \$0)

As human beings, all of our lives are affected by love, both found and unrequited. And the use of drugs has affected some of the greatest musical geniuses throughout history. War, too, has always been a part of human life, but never on a scale as monumental as the 20th century. Each composer to be studied has a unique manner of expressing, in sound, their reactions to the human experience.

Stephen Schultz plays solo and Principal flute with the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Musica Angelica, and performs with other leading Early music groups such as Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, Apollo's Fire, Portland Baroque Orchestra, Wiener Akademie, and Chatham Baroque.

Turning the Page: Four American Women Poets

Susan Van Dyne

1–3 p.m. • 4 sessions • GBC 365

(Final Session 4/22)

\$195 (Premium member: \$40)

This course features four award-winning poets: Ada Limon, Cathy Song, Patrica Smith, and Natasha Tretheway. These poets create a conversation between personal experience and national history, between family and racial legacies. Their poems open intimate worlds for us to know loss, courage, compassion, and desire. Each week will focus on one poet.

Susan Van Dyne earned her PhD from Harvard and taught for four decades at Smith College. An enduring interest has been teaching American women poets from Emily Dickinson to Rita Dove. Her book, *Revising Life*, examines the drafts of Sylvia Plath's most famous poems.

Two Brothers in a Wood: Colonial Swedes and Native Americans in North America

Linda Rugg

1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions • GBC 202/204

\$155 (Premium member: \$0)

This course explores a little-known arena of American colonial history: the Swedish settlers of New Sweden in the Delaware River Valley and their interaction with the Lenape people and British colonists. Based on archival research in Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Sweden.

Learn more at olli.berkeley.edu

Linda Haverty Rugg is a professor in the Scandinavian Department at UC Berkeley. She has taught OLLI courses about crime fiction, saga literature, the films of Ingmar Bergman, ecocriticism, and Mark Twain.

BEGINS 4/2

The Fate of the World: The American Revolution Beyond the British Empire

Richard Bell

9:30–11 a.m. • 8 sessions (Final Session 5/21)

\$155 (Premium member: \$0)

These lectures investigate the geopolitical forces that shaped the American Revolution and the international consequences of the U.S. break with Britain. Each lecture tackles a different group of actors—Germans, Frenchmen, Spaniards, South Asians, Prussians, etc.—and situates their experiences at the center of dramatic narratives about the loss of the British Empire’s 13 golden geese and the birth of the United States.

Richard Bell is Professor of History at the University of Maryland and author of *Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped into Slavery and Their Astonishing Odyssey Home*, a finalist for the George Washington Prize and the Harriet Tubman Prize.

Van Morrison: The Music of the Belfast Cowboy

Pete Elman

10–11:30 a.m. • 8 sessions

(Session 7, Thursday, 5/9; Final Session 5/14)

\$155 (Premium member: \$0)

Van Morrison’s career has spanned 60 years, ranging from the early ’60s, the ’70s, when he achieved superstardom, and since. The versatile Van has always stayed true to the themes of jazzy rhythm and blues and Celtic folk of his ancestors. We will chronicle his evolution as a man and a musician.

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.

Close to Life: Writing Short Essays

Christine Schoefer

10 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions • GBC 365

\$235 (Premium member: \$80)

What do short essay writers do? We pay attention to what we see and feel. We reflect. In writing, we describe and weave what we know. We forge new connections in our thinking and find ourselves falling through trap doors into deeper levels of understanding. In our word compositions, we arrive at fresh insights and offer these to the reader. As we write our own short essays in this class, we will get to know our voice and learn how to craft our style.

Christine Schoefer received her PhD from UC Berkeley. When her third daughter was born, she became a freelancer. Her work has been featured on *NPR*, *The Nation*, *Salon*, *LA Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Berkeley Monthly*, and also in Germany.

iPhoneography

Yoni Mayeri

10 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions

(No Class 4/30, Final Session 5/14)

\$235 (Premium member: \$80)

Learn how to expertly capture images, edit, and create extraordinary photographs using solely your iPhone. Discover the best practices for photographing by understanding the tools and features built into the camera and digital darkroom that is always with you.

Yoni Mayeri is an award-winning professional photographer and an early adopter of the iPhone. Yoni teaches at UC Berkeley, Stanford, Stanford Research Park, Rancho La Puerta, the Garden Club of America, and more.

The Concerto, Part II

Alexandra Amati

1–2:30 p.m. • 6 sessions

\$155 (Premium member: \$0)

This course explores the genre of the concerto during the Romantic and post-Romantic period, with a brief excursion into hybrid forms at the turn of the 20th century. The presentations will focus on the evolution of the concerto, its expansion in terms both of time and performing forces, and its changed role in society, including its use as a political tool. Composers include Beethoven, Chopin, Schumann, Brahms, Shostakovich, and others. **Note:** It is not necessary to have taken The Concerto, Part I to take this class.

Alexandra Amati holds a BA/MA in Slavic Studies from the University of Pisa, and a PhD in musicology from Harvard. She is

Professor Emerita at the University of San Francisco and has just finished a book on women and misogyny in opera.

America in the Sixties: Movements for Change

Bill Smoot

1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions • GBC 365

\$195 (Premium member: \$40)

This lecture course will reflect upon the watershed decade of the 1960s with an emphasis on the social movements for change and how they shaped—and continue to shape—the course of American history. We will ponder issues of historiography, the complex web of questions about how we think about a historical period with truth and wisdom.

Bill Smoot received his PhD from Northwestern University. He currently teaches at Mount Tamalpais inside San Quentin Prison. This will be his ninth course for OLLI.

BEGINS 4/3

Oslo: Between Edvard Munch and Sverre Fehn

Pierluigi Serraino

9:30–11:00 a.m. • 4 sessions

(Final Session 4/24)

\$120 (Premium member: \$0)

As part of the Scandinavian block, Norway has continually interfaced with Sweden during its political history. However, its artistic and architectural traditions remain separate. Oslo’s Genius Loci—the spirit of the place—is expressed in the paintings of Munch as well as the architectural achievements of Pritzker prize winner Sverre Fehn, among others. This class will explore its fascinating design history.

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

War, Peace, Refuge, and Return

Darren Zook

10 a.m.–noon • 4 sessions

(Final Session 4/24)

\$155 (Premium member: \$0)

MONDAYS

4/1–5/6

SCENE STUDY (6)

JENNIFER KING
9:30–11 A.M.

PICTURES AT THE REVOLUTION: SIX FILMS ABOUT THE SIXTIES (6)

ART ECKSTEIN
10–11:30 A.M.

INVENTING AND CONSTRUCTING A SELF: THREE 19TH CENTURY BRITISH NOVELS (6)

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

LOVE, DRUGS, AND WAR: THE OBSESSIONS OF HISTORY'S GREATEST COMPOSERS (6)

STEPHEN SCHULTZ
1–2:30 P.M.

TURNING A PAGE: FOUR AMERICAN WOMEN POETS (4)

SUSAN VAN DYNE
1–3 P.M. • GBC 365
(FINAL SESSION 4/22)

TWO BROTHERS IN A WOOD: COLONIAL SWEDES AND NATIVE AMERICANS (6)

LINDA RUGG
1–3 P.M. • GBC 202/204

TUESDAYS

4/2–5/7

THE FATE OF THE WORLD: THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BEYOND THE BRITISH EMPIRE (8)

RICHARD BELL
9:30–11 A.M.
(FINAL SESSION 5/21)

VAN MORRISON: THE MUSIC OF THE BELFAST COWBOY (8)

PETE ELMAN
10–11:30 A.M.
(SESSION 7, TH, 5/9; FINAL SESSION 5/14)

CLOSE TO LIFE: WRITING SHORT ESSAYS (6)

CHRISTINE SCHOEFER
10 A.M.–NOON • GBC 365

IPHONEOGRAPHY (6)

YONI MAYERI
10 A.M.–NOON
(NO CLASS 4/30, FINAL SESSION 5/14)

THE CONCERTO, PART II (6)

ALEXANDRA AMATI
1–2:30 P.M.

AMERICA IN THE SIXTIES: MOVEMENTS FOR CHANGE (6)

BILL SMOOT
1–3 P.M. • GBC 365

WEDNESDAYS

4/3–5/8

OSLO: BETWEEN EDVARD MUNCH AND SVERRE FEHN (4)

PIERLUIGI SERRAINO
9:30–11 A.M.
(FINAL SESSION 4/24)

WAR, PEACE, REFUGE, AND RETURN (4)

DARREN ZOOK
10 A.M.–NOON
(FINAL SESSION 4/24)

BREAKING BARRIERS: PIONEERING WOMEN OF ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM (6)

DRUCIE BELMAN
1–3 P.M. • GBC 365

VLADIMIR PUTIN (6)

GEORGE BRESLAUER
1–3 P.M.

5/1–5/22

COPENHAGEN: THE BRIDGE BETWEEN MAINLAND EUROPE AND THE NORDIC COUNTRIES (4)

PIERLUIGI SERRAINO
9:30–11 A.M.

POPULISM: A GLOBAL TOUR (4)

DARREN ZOOK
10 A.M.–NOON • F&S

BAY AREA DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKERS (4)

MICHAEL FOX
1–3 P.M. • F&S

THURSDAYS

4/4–5/9

THE VISION OF JANE CAMPION (4)

KAREN DAVIS
9:30–11 A.M.
(FINAL SESSION 4/25)

WHITE ELEPHANT TECHNOLOGY (4)

JOHN GEOGHEGAN
9:30–11 A.M.
(FINAL SESSION 4/25)

THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF THE WORLD WIDE WEB (6)

BEBO WHITE
1–3 P.M. • GBC 365

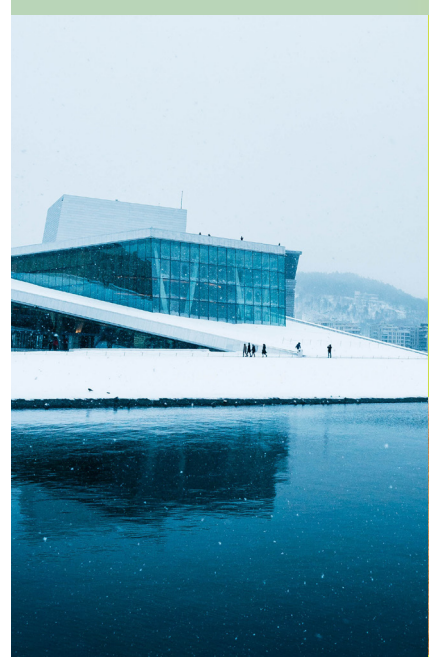
DAZZLING DAMES OF BROADWAY (6)

BONNIE WEISS
1–3 P.M.

5/2–5/23

PLATE TECTONICS AND THE GEOLOGIC EVOLUTION OF CALIFORNIA (4)

MARTIN STEINPRESS
10 A.M.–NOON



TYPES OF COURSES



In-person

courses will take place at Freight & Salvage (2020 Addison St.) and the Golden Bear Center (1995 University Ave.).

These courses will also be livestreamed and recorded when possible. Members may choose how they wish to attend each session.



Livestreamed + Recorded

courses will stream live at the scheduled time and will be

recorded for viewing later. Course videos will post each Friday and will appear on your member dashboard.



Livestream Only

courses will stream live at

the scheduled time *and will not be recorded* for viewing later. Zoom links are found on your member dashboard.

IN-PERSON VENUES

F&S: Freight & Salvage

2020 Addison St., Berkeley, CA

GBC: Golden Bear Center

1995 University Ave., Berkeley, CA



What happens when countries go to war? Why do they do so, and how do we know when war is just and when it is a crime? This is a course that will focus on understanding war and the many things related to it, including the different pathways back to peace. We will also look at what happens to people caught in between—the refugees, the stateless, and the so-called “collateral damage” of conflict and war. In addition to covering general principles we will also look at specific conflicts around the world.

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

Breaking Barriers: Pioneering Women of Abstract Expressionism

Drucie Belman

1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions • GBC 365

\$155 (Premium member: \$0)

In this course, we will examine the unique contributions of six powerhouse women artists and explore the challenges they faced as women in a male-dominated art world. The artists Jay DeFeo, Helen Frankenthaler, Grace Hartigan, Elaine de Kooning, Lee Krasner, and Joan Mitchell played major roles in the Abstract Expressionist movement of the 1940s and 1950s in America.

Drucie Saal Belman teaches at UC Berkeley and USF. She was a Guide at SFMOMA and has lectured on The Bay Area Figurative Movement and Abstract Expressionism to contemporary artists Yayoi Kusama, James Turrell, and Team Lab. She received her degree in Art History from Wellesley College.

Vladimir Putin

George Breslauer

1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions

\$155 (Premium member: \$0)

This course will trace the evolution of Vladimir Putin's personality, beliefs, and behaviors from his childhood in Leningrad and his career in the KGB to his rise within the Moscow political hierarchy and throughout his two-decades-plus as leader of Russia since the year 2000.

George W. Breslauer has been a professor of political science at UC Berkeley since 1971. An award-winning teacher, he is the author or co-author of seven books, and the editor or co-editor of six others—all on aspects of Soviet, Communist, or post-Soviet politics and foreign relations.

BEGINS 5/1

Copenhagen: The Bridge Between Mainland Europe and the Nordic Countries

Pierluigi Serraino

9:30–11 a.m. • 4 sessions (Final Session 5/22)

\$120 (Premium member: \$0)

For Europeans, Denmark is the gateway to the Northern territories. It is a small country with pronounced design literacy and architects of world renown. Arne Jacobsen and Jorn Utzon—two of the most prominent masters of the 20th century—are both based in Copenhagen. Its tradition of design excellence continues today with firms such as BIG and 3XN. This course will examine the socio-cultural conditions and the outsized personalities that made this city a required destination for architectural acculturation and enjoyment.

Pierluigi Serraino see bio, page 3.

Populism: A Global Tour

Darren Zook

10 a.m.–noon • 4 sessions • F&S

(Final Session 5/22)

\$155 (Premium member: \$0)

Populism is back in the news again, whether it is the election of populist leaders such as Javier Milei (Argentina) or Geert Wilders (Netherlands) or the looming showdown in the United States for the 2024 elections. But what exactly is populism? And why are many people so concerned about its rise in global politics? This course will offer an understanding of different types of populism around the world, exploring not only who the populists are but also who the voters are who vote for them.

Darren C. Zook see bio on left.

Bay Area Documentary Filmmakers

Michael Fox

1–3 p.m. • 4 sessions (Final Session 5/22) • F&S

\$155 (Premium member: \$0)

Bay Area documentary makers are distinguished by their commitment to exposing injustices at home and abroad, unearthing forgotten or buried history, and spotlighting iconoclastic artists of color. This class provides the opportunity to hear how four local filmmakers perceive and do their jobs. Each session features a new or recent film followed by a Q&A with the director(s). We'll focus on the practical, ethical, narrative, and aesthetic challenges of making documentaries, from conception through production and postproduction to distribution.

Michael Fox is a film journalist and critic for KQED's Arts & Culture blog. He is a member of the San Francisco Bay Area Film Critics Circle and an inductee of the S.F. Film Society's Essential SF. He has taught documentary classes at the OLLI programs for many years.

BEGINS 4/4

The Vision of Jane Campion

Karen Davis

9:30–11 a.m. • 4 sessions (Final Session 4/25)

\$120 (Premium member: \$0)

Jane Campion's oeuvre is sine qua non for cinéphiles: dreamscapes inhabited by iconoclasts whose struggles are refracted by their environment. In films that are simple and spare, or layered and exquisitely orchestrated, Campion crafts unforgettable tales of strangers in strangely familiar lands. The films discussed will include *The Power of the Dog*, *The Piano*, *An Angel at My Table*, and *Sweetie*.

Karen Davis is Senior Film Programmer Emerita for the Mill Valley Film Festival and Professor Emerita at CSUMB. She has taught courses in world cinema at UC Santa Cruz, Vassar College, and California State University at Monterey Bay.

White Elephant Technology

John Geoghegan

9:30–11 a.m. • 4 sessions (Final Session 4/25)

\$120 (Premium member: \$0)

From Jeeps that flew to tanks that shouldn't; from a jet-powered train that nearly shook itself apart to a wave-powered boat that took forever to reach its destination—this course is an entertaining look at crazy inventions that should never have been built and what we can learn from them. Intended to inform, amuse, and delight, this historical survey will leave you shaking your head in wonder while asking the question, "What in the world were they thinking?" The course will be illustrated with photographs, film clips, and first-person accounts.

John Geoghegan is a journalist, author, and teacher with four non-fiction books to his name. A former Special Correspondent for the New York Times, he is also in demand as an on-camera expert on unusual inventions that fail in the marketplace despite being innovative.

The Past, Present, and Future of the World Wide Web

Bebo White

1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions • GBC 365

\$155 (Premium member: \$0)

The Web has changed the way society accesses information, revolutionized the way it shops, redefined social interaction, provided a new medium for entertainment, and enabled new opportunities for education. Studying its origins provides a clue how it achieved such a prominent role in our lives.

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

Dazzling Dames of Broadway

Bonnie Weiss

1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions

\$155 (Premium member: \$0)

In this course we will look at the lives and work of some of our most celebrated leading ladies of the stage musical. We will explore the range and depth of their acting, singing, and, when it fits—dancing talents—as well as the special magic that has launched each of them into stardom. We'll also delve into their personal lives—their triumphs, tragedies, regrets, and joys. This updated series not only covers the legends of yesteryear, but more recent stars, too.

Bonnie Weiss, MA, has been teaching for OLLI programs throughout Northern California for over 15 years. She has written feature stories for *The Sondheim Review & Stage Directions Magazine* and has hosted radio programs on Broadway and Hollywood musicals.

BEGINS 5/2

Plate Tectonics and the Geologic Evolution of California

Martin Steinpress

9:30–11:30 a.m. • 4 sessions • GBC 365
(Final Session 5/23)

\$155 (Premium member: \$0)

This course provides an introduction to basic geology and the historical development of the revolutionary unifying theory of plate tectonics, to be followed by presentations on divergent, convergent, and transform plate boundaries, the major geologic provinces of California, and the state's geologic hazards.

Martin Steinpress, MS, PG, CHg, (retired) had a 40-year consulting career across the U.S. He made numerous presentations to professional associations, regulatory agencies, and the public and was a CSUEB geology lecturer. He regularly leads geology field trips and lectures for non-geologists.

Encore Courses

Popular courses recorded a previous term. \$90 each (Premium member: \$0)

The American Project in Afghanistan

Tamim Ansary

The Golden State: California's Future

Henry Brady, Lindsay Maple

Postcards from Africa

Darren Zook

Featured Special Events

Special Events take place on Fridays, from 10:30–11:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted. Zoom links to public events will appear on the events calendar on our website, and in our digital communications. Information about Vital Aging and our Inter-generational Dialogues can be found on the events page of our website.

March 1

Trumpism and Authoritarian Rule

Larry Rosenthal

March 8

Governance in the Arab World

Raed Charafeddine,
Dariush Zahedi

Wednesday, March 17 Beatles Sing-A-Long: An OLLI Fundraiser

Pete Elman, In-person,
F&S 1-3 p.m.

April 19

Town Hall: Strategies and Civic Engagement in the 2024 Elections

Facilitated by Darren Zook