A one-of-a-kind learning community for one-of-a-kind learners 50+

Winter 2024
January 16-March 8
Registration opens October 16
Online + In Person: Downtown Berkeley + Lafayette!

Courses
Events
Field Trips
Research
Socials

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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 Membership**

Give the gift of an OLLI @ Berkeley membership. Fits everyone perfectly!

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**BEGIN 1/22 (No classes 2/19)**

**American Civics 101**

Alan Perper

9:30–11 a.m. • 6 sessions

$155 (Premium member: $0)

American Civics 101 is a timely discussion using real-time events and issues to tackle what every person applying for U.S. citizenship needs to know about how our U.S. government actually works!

**Alan Perper** has trained with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services to develop an adult U.S. citizenship curriculum and has taught civics and citizenship classes across the country.

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**American Civics 101**

Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan,
and the Twilight of American Liberalism

Mick Chantler

9:30–11 a.m. • 6 sessions

$155 (Premium member: $0)

The 1980 presidential election signaled a dramatic shift in America’s political outlook. The old New Deal/Great Society consensus was badly battered at the polls. Ronald Reagan and “The New Right” ushered in a new era of populist conservatism. Our course will examine this unexpected turnabout.

**Mick Chantler** has been a student of American history for over fifty years, with an emphasis on the early years of the Republic. Lately, he has focused on more recent figures: the Kennedys, Teddy Roosevelt, and now Carter and Reagan.

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**Contemporary Black Women’s Narratives**

Stephanie Wells

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

$155 (Premium member: $0)

This course will examine novels and short fiction written by Black American and British women from the early twentieth century to the present day, with a focus on thematic threads that run through these texts. Authors may include Larsen, Hurston, Morrison, Ward, Evans, Senna, Gay, Leilani, Jones, and Watkins.

**Stephanie Wells** has a B.A. from UC Berkeley, an M.A. from University of Virginia, and a Ph.D. from UC Davis, with a focus on modernism and postmodernism in American and British novels and poetry. She currently teaches at College of Marin.

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**Building a Great Memoir**

Louise Nayer

10 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions • GBC 300

$235 (Premium member: $80)

For both new and more seasoned writers, learn the basic elements of memoir: sensory detail, scene and summary, dialogue, time-shifts, voice and arc. Do in-class exercises and work with peers. Get feedback from the instructor. Leave class with a body of work and new writing friends.

**Louise Nayer** is the author of six books, most recently the award-winning memoir Narrow Escapes. Her memoir Burned: A Memoir was an Oprah Great read. She is a member of The Writer’s Grotto.

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**Diving into the Movies**

Harry Chotiner

1–2:30 p.m. • 5 sessions (ends 2/26)

$155 (Premium member: $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 class, students will watch five films selected for their 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 Insterscope Communications.

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**How Broadway Became Broadway**

Peter A. Davis

1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions • GBC 202

$155 (Premium member: $0)

This course offers an exploration of professional theater in New York City from its inception to the turn of the 20th century. Participants will examine key events, figures, and productions that shaped the evolution of American theater and established Broadway as a global theatrical hub.

**Peter A. Davis** retired in 2017 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he served as Chair of the Theatre Studies and MA/PhD Programs, as well as Director of Graduate Studies. He is also a professional actor, director, and author.
BEGINS 1/16
The American Revolution and the British Empire
Richard Bell
9:30–11 a.m. • 8 sessions
$155 (Premium member: $0)

Seen through American eyes, July 4, 1776 marks a triumphant moment: the birth of a bold new nation committed to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Through British eyes, however, the American Revolution looked quite different.

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.

Hapsburg Capitals: Vienna, Prague, Budapest
Harlow Robinson
1–2:30 p.m. • 6 sessions
$155 (Premium member: $0)

Explore the intertwining stories of three Central European capital cities in the decades preceding World War I. Residents of Vienna, Prague and Budapest spoke different languages, observed different traditions, and developed unique cultural and political personalities.

Harlow Robinson is Professor of History, Emeritus, at Northeastern University, and the author of five books of biography and cultural history. He earned his B.A. from Yale University, and M.A. and Ph.D. from UC Berkeley.

Personal Essay: Finding Transcendence in the Ordinary
Jane Ganahl
1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions • GBC 300
$235 (Premium member: $80)

Each day presents moments that could inspire a personal essay. In this introductory class, you’ll learn how to identify these pivotal moments and write about them. Participants will focus on one personal essay, creating a finished product by the end of the six weeks.

Jane Ganahl is a writer, teacher, and the co-founder of Litquake. She wrote the “Single Minded” column, which led to her memoir, Naked on the Page: The Misadventures of My Unmarried Midlife.

Behind the Scenes for History Lovers
Adam Hochschild
1–3 p.m. • 4 sessions • GBC 202/204 (1/16, 1/30, 2/13, 2/27)
$155 (Premium member: $0)

This class is for those who are curious about how history is written. Each session will focus on one of Adam Hochschild’s books. He will describe how he investigated the subject, constructed the narrative, and chose particular characters, scenes, and events through which to tell the story.

Adam Hochschild is an acclaimed historian and a long-time writing teacher at UC Berkeley’s Graduate School of Journalism. He has been a finalist for the National Book Award and a three-time winner of the Gold Medal for Nonfiction of the California Book Awards.

BEGINS 1/30
How We Decide
Barry Schwartz
10 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions • GBC 202
$155 (Premium member: $0)

We are all faced with many difficult decisions. We also may have noticed how much difficulty our children and grandchildren are having making the decisions that they face. In this course we will explore the gap between how people should make decisions and how they do make them.

Barry Schwartz taught psychology at Swarthmore College and at Haas School of Business for 50 years. He works on the interaction between economics, psychology, and morality. His books include The Paradox of Choice.

BEGINS 1/17
Stockholm: Urban Center of the Nordic Countries
Pierluigi Serraino
9:30–11:00 a.m. • 4 sessions
$120 (Premium member: $0)

Stockholm’s dominance as a financial and cultural center among the countries facing the Baltic Sea is long established. Its civic tradition has been the source of a remarkable design tradition ranging from architecture and planning, to product design and landscape architecture. This course delves into the ideas and protagonists of a city with worldwide influence.

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

American Folk Music: The Golden Age: 1950–75
Pete Elman
10 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions • F&S
$155 (Premium member: $0)

This class examines how folk music became integrated into popular music. Musicians discussed will include Leadbelly, Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, the Kingston Trio, Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Phil Ochs, Peter Paul and Mary, John Prine, Ian and Sylvia, Gordon Lightfoot, Joni Mitchell, and Leonard Cohen.

Pete Elman has been a musician since 1963. He is 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.

Latinx Literatures of Los Angeles
Karina Palau
10 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions • GBC 365
$155 (Premium member: $0)

No U.S. city has been a hotspot of Latinx creativity quite like Los Angeles. This course will explore poetry, fiction, and plays by Latinx writers invested in using the written word to negotiate forms of urban place-making in the city of L.A.

Karina Palau received her Ph.D. from UC Berkeley’s Department of Comparative Literature in 2014 and has been teaching undergraduate and graduate courses at Cal ever since. She’s excited to return to OLLI.

The Concerto, Part 1
Alexandra Amati
1–2:30 p.m. • 6 sessions
$155 (Premium member: $0)

This course explores the concerto, a genre we know especially from the classical and romantic periods, from its baroque origins in vocal music to its “codified” classical structure. It also investigates the genre’s cultural and social aspects and functions.
### Mondays
1/22–3/4

**American Civics 101**
- Alan Perper
  9:30–11 A.M.

**Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan**
- Mick Chantler
  9:30–11 A.M.

**Contemporary Black Women’s Narratives**
- Stephanie Wells
  10 A.M.–Noon • GBC 202/204

**Building a Perfect Memoir**
- Louise Nayer
  10 A.M.–Noon • GBC 300

**Diving Into the Movies**
- Harry Chotiner
  1–2:30 P.M.

**How Broadway Became Broadway**
- Peter Davis
  1–3 P.M. • GBC 202

### Tuesdays
1/16–2/20

**Vienna, Prague, Budapest**
- Harlow Robinson
  1–2:30 P.M.

**Memoir Writing**
- Jane Ganahl
  1–3 P.M. • GBC 300

**1/16–2/27**

**Behind the Scenes for History Lovers**
- Adam Hochschild
  1–3 P.M. • GBC 202/204

**Stockholm**
- Pier Luigi Serraino
  9:30–11 A.M.

**Saving the Ark**
- Pamela Blotner
  1–3 P.M. • GBC 300

**1/16–3/5**

**The American Revolution and the British Empire**
- Richard Bell
  9:30–11 A.M.

**American Folk Music**
- Pete Elman
  10 A.M.–Noon • F&S

**Latinx Literatures of LA**
- Karina Palau
  10 A.M.–Noon • GBC 365

**The Concerto**
- Alexandra Amati
  1–2:30 P.M.

**Being Human in the Age of AI**
- Robert Todd
  1–3 P.M. • F&S

### Wednesdays
1/17–2/7

**1/25–3/7**

**Understanding the New Cold War**
- Darren Zook
  9:30–11 A.M.

**How We Decide**
- Barry Schwartz
  10 A.M.–Noon • GBC 202

**Turning Points**
- Susan Van Dyne
  1–3 P.M. • GBC 365

### Thursdays
1/18–2/22

**iPhoneography**
- Yoni Mayeri
  9:30–11:30 A.M.

**African Literature**
- Dorothy Payne
  10 A.M.–Noon • GBC 365

**Opera for Laughs**
- Kip Cranna
  1–3 P.M. • LLLC

**Reading as a Writer**
- Deborah Lichtman
  1–3 P.M. • GBC 300

**Etta James and Ray Charles**
- Pamela Rose
  10 A.M.–Noon • LLLC

### In-Person Venues

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

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

- **LLLC: Lafayette Library and Learning Center**
  3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, CA
Alexandra Amati holds a Ph.D. 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.

**Being Human in the Age of AI**
Robert Todd
1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions • F&S
$155 (Premium member: $0)

This is a primer for living in the Age of AI. You will learn what AI is (and isn’t), where it came from, how it works, and where it’s going. You’ll get non-technical explanations, jaw-dropping examples, helpful historical contexts, and lots of colorful charts and diagrams.

Robert Todd is a consultant and educator who has built innovative teams and products at places like McKinsey & Co, LinkedIn and San Francisco State University.

**Saving the Ark: Artists, Biologists and Architects Collaborate**
Pamela Blotner
1–3 p.m. • 4 sessions • GBC 300
$195 (Premium member: $40)

Throughout the world, intrepid artists have worked with architects and biologists to create artworks to save threatened and endangered animals. This class will examine the work of several of these artists. It will also consider how art can teach us how to use our own creativity to protect endangered wildlife.

Pamela Blotner has worked for the Houston Zoo and Leatherback Trust and taught at the University of San Francisco, University of Chicago, and Pixar Animation Studios. She is the Vice President of Gallery Route One and a former US Arts Envoy to Burma.

**Helsinki: An Extraordinary Design Capital**
Pierluigi Serraino
9:30–11:00 a.m. • 4 sessions
$120 (Premium member: $0)

Finland has a long tradition of political and cultural independence. Wedged between Russia and Scandinavia, Helsinki embodies a unique position: that of a relative newcomer to the contemporary European scene. This class covers the exciting trajectory of a city and its proud heritage of extraordinary modern architecture.

See Pierluigi Serraino bio on page 3.

**Encore Courses**
Popular courses recorded a previous term. $90/each (Premium member: $0)

**Waking Up in the Universe**
Gibor Basri

**The History Wars: The 1619 Project and Critical Race Theory**
Richard Bell

**Hows and Whys of Good Cooking**
Linda Carucci

**Experiencing Nature Through Art: The Cultivation of Perception**
Bruce Elliott

**The Golden Age of Airship Travel**
John Geoghegan

**BEGINs 1/18**

**iPhoneography**
Yoni Mayeri
9:30–11:30 a.m. • 6 sessions (No class 1/25, ends 2/29)
$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.

**African Literature: Negritude, Fanon, and Beyond**
Dorothy Payne
10 a.m.–noon • 6 sessions • GBC 365
$195 (Premium member: $40)

This course takes its impetus from the social and theoretical underpinnings of the Negritude movement and the work of Frantz Fanon, and aims to illuminate great novels informed by these traditions. Works include Camara Laye’s *The African Child*, Chinua Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart*, and Blessing Masariri’s *Only Once Are You Immaculate*.

Dorothy Payne is a visual artist, poet and literary critic. She has taught in international schools within eight countries—most recently, Guinea, West Africa. She is the former director and curator of Art Internationale.

**Turning Points: Six American Artists and Writers**
Susan Van Dyne
1–3 p.m. • 6 sessions • GBC 365
$195 (Premium member: $40)

We explore how six outstanding American artists and writers from diverse backgrounds represent critical turning points in their individual lives. Understanding these turning points will help transform our broader sense of American history.

Susan Van Dyne taught at Smith College for 40 years. She enjoys interdisciplinary teaching and sharing lively discussions with participants.
It’s happening again. The world is splitting into two diametrically-opposed ideological camps, one still championing liberal democracy and the other claiming that illiberal authoritarianism (rather than communism) will ultimately emerge triumphant. In this course we will examine all the main actors and key claims of both sides, and also look at possible pathways to the future.

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

**BEGIN 2/15**

**Etta James and Ray Charles: Lives, Times, and Music**

Pamela Rose

10 a.m.–noon • 4 sessions • LLLC

$155 (Premium: $0)

Few singers touch our souls as deeply as Etta James and Ray Charles. But each also transcended typical music labels, straddling jazz, blues, country, R&B and gospel to create their own unique soulful sound. This course will explore the lives, times and music of these two masters.

Pamela Rose is a San Francisco jazz and blues vocalist. With seven recordings under her belt, Rose has toured nationally, celebrating remarkable women in blues and jazz. She is on the faculty of the California Jazz Conservatory.

**Opera for Laughs: Great Comic Moments in the World of Opera**

Kip Cranna

1–3 p.m. • 4 sessions • LLLC

$155 (Premium: $0)

“Make ‘em laugh!” Opera is not always about tragic dying divas. San Francisco Opera’s Dramaturg Emeritus Kip Cranna looks at what makes comic opera truly funny, using video examples (with subtitles) of operatic humor from the 17th century to the present day.

Kip Cranna is Dramaturg Emeritus (Scholar in Residence) at San Francisco Opera, where he served on the staff for 40 years. He has a Ph.D. in Musicology from Stanford.

**Reading as a Writer: Two Modernist Classics**

Deborah Lichtman

1–3 p.m. • 4 sessions • GBC 300

$235 (Premium: $80)

This course invites you to draw from the writing of Faulkner and Woolf to enhance your prose. Topics cover various literary techniques. Classes incorporate lecture, discussion, and in-class writing shared in small groups. At the last meeting, students may submit a short piece to the instructor.

Deborah Lichtman has taught for 30 years. She directed the MFA in Writing Program at the University of San Francisco and was a visiting professor of English at Mills College and UC Berkeley. She holds a doctorate in English from UC Berkeley.

**Benefits of Membership**

As an OLLI @Berkeley member, you gain access to:

- Relevant and revelatory courses in history, politics, science, literature, music, film and more taught by Cal faculty and other scholars
- Speaker Events and Town Halls featuring leading thinkers on campus and in their fields discussing some of the most pressing issues of our time
- Field trips and Socials led and organized by members
- **Vital Aging**, a monthly gathering that explores issues of special significance to older adults

View our calendar at olli.berkeley.edu for the full list of upcoming events.