

Our class meets on Thursdays from 10-noon on April 3, 10, 17, and 24.

Topic

How do you narrate the story of women's old age? So many events that shape fiction—courtship, marriage, coming of age—happen to young people. How do you write a novel—or a short story—about the later part of life? We encounter failures of mind and body, grief and loss, death. Yet these novels also reveal resilience, humor and gestures of reparation. In this course, we will study works by four prize-winning contemporary women writers that portray women in old age.

Format

Discussion questions for each class will be posted at least a week in advance on our OLLI website under “course materials.”

Schedule

April 3 : Elizabeth Taylor, Mrs. Palfrey at the Claremont

April 10: Elizabeth Strout, these 4 stories from Olive Kitteridge “A Little Burst,” “Tulips,” “Security,” “River”

April 17: Margaret Atwood, 4 stories from Old Babes in the Wood “First Aid,” “Widows,” “Wooden Box,” “Old Babes in the Woods”

April 24: Joanna Cannon, Three Things about Elsie