Fall 2020
Sept. 21 – Nov. 13
Discover for Yourself
Adventures of the mind for explorers 50+
olli.berkeley.edu
510.642.9934

Photos: (above, right) Keegan Houser; (below) Christina Hernandez

Now with Encore Courses!
See page 8.
Letter from the Director

Greetings, everyone! As you browse this fall 2020 brochure and visit the website, you will see many new things, including a refreshed design and a schedule that addresses the pacing of remote learning. We have expanded opportunities so that you can take more courses and curate our curriculum with your needs in mind as you continue to stay safe at home.

This year, we have gained a better understanding of what works in a remote learning environment. Like you, we wish we could be together in our public spaces in Berkeley and Lafayette, but we are excited to create a flexible and accessible program using interactive online learning tools to continue to engage and sustain our community.

This fall, three of our courses will consider domestic policies on the national level: health care delivery, the strategic use of the military and defense spending, and economic recovery. The experts who teach these courses are great educators as well as leaders in their respective fields. They will activate your own thoughts about national leadership and perhaps inform your actions as citizens.

We’re also pleased to offer lessons from history: a reexamination of the leadership of Abraham Lincoln, an exploration of the cultural achievements during the era of the Soviet Union, and consideration of the political economy of modern-day China.

You’ll also discover an exciting new course on American photography as well as a panoply of other creative adventures, including documentary film, Shakespeare, music, and children’s books.

Seeing you back in the classroom, even remotely, will be a joy to all of us — staff, faculty, and your fellow members.

Sincerely,

Susan Hoffman
Director

Participation
OLLI requires membership, per agreement with the Bernard Osher Foundation. Membership includes access to:
- Registration for OLLI courses
- Free admission to lecture series
- Access to discussion groups and member events

Membership Types
- Premium $930 — offers unlimited A and D courses and discounts for B and C courses
- Annual $100

Fee Assistance Program
Fee assistance is available on a sliding scale if costs present a barrier to your participation. To be considered, download an application from olli.berkeley.edu/fee-assistance.

Affiliate Discount
Members of the following groups receive a $10 discount on Annual or Premium OLLI memberships:
- Cal Alumni Association (CAA)
- Current faculty/staff at UC Berkeley, LBNL, and UCOP

Course Changes
- Course schedules, locations, and faculty are subject to change. Please refer to our website for the most current listings.
- Courses can be dropped up to seven days prior to the start of the term for a refund. Contact the office for assistance.

Zoom
Zoom is a video conferencing tool that you will use to participate in livestream OLLI courses. You do not need a Zoom account to access your course. A secure “Video Zoom” link will be made available in your course materials, but will not be emailed. Members will use this link for every class session and must be signed in through the link to access the course.

YouTube
YouTube is an online video repository. Livestream and previously recorded classes will be made available in your course materials and labeled as “Course Videos.” Course videos will first be available the second Friday of the term, and will upload each Friday afterward. This allows OLLI staff the time needed for production and delivery.
Words Over Time: An Intergenerational Dialog Event about Mental Health and Emotional Well-being

Facilitated by Darren Zook
Friday, October 16, 2020: 10:30 a.m.–Noon
Limited to 60 OLLI members
RSVP by sending an email to berkeley_olli@berkeley.edu

Words Over Time offers a unique opportunity for OLLI @Berkeley members to engage in an intergenerational dialogue about mental health and emotional well-being with UC Berkeley undergraduates. The purpose of the dialogue is to bring together persons from different generations to understand and learn from the perspectives of one another.

Mental health has always been an exceptionally important issue for people of all ages, one that is highlighted during the uncertain times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Does the health care system in America deal adequately with issues of mental health and emotional well-being? When do we reach out for help, to whom can we turn for assistance? How do different societies and cultures deal with these issues? This conversation is intended to address these and other related questions in a way that is engaging and empowering for all.

SUMMER LECTURES AND SPECIAL EVENT

Sleep
Tuesday, August 4, 3:30 p.m.
Allison Harvey
Professor of Psychology, UC Berkeley

Street Art
Tuesday, August 18, 3:30 p.m.
Annice Jacoby
Artist and Activist

Intergenerational Dialogue
Friday, October 16, 1 p.m. (see description on next page)

Upcoming Special Events

Check our website and digital communications for updates to the Special Events lineup.

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Summer Bridge Program
Wednesdays, 1–2 p.m., beginning 7/15, ending 9/2
The Summer Bridge Program invites members to come together over the summer for OLLI Engages — an ongoing discussion centering on current events and politics, and OLLI Reads — a shared reading experience and conversation. Registration is not required. Details will be made available on our website and in our digital communications.

We will also offer two special lectures in August (see calendar listing on page 2) one on sleep and another on street art.
The Business and Policy of Health Care
Chris Ohman
9:30 – 11 a.m.
(Livestream + Recorded)
Price A

In the United States, we pay twice what other industrialized countries pay for health care, yet we live shorter lives afflicted with more disease. While nearly one-fifth of the U.S. economy is devoted to health care, many people are not getting the services they need. The political debate about health care has focused primarily on finance. Figuring out who pays the bill, while critically important, is not enough. The bill is too big in the first place. This course will focus on policy proposals that control costs and aim to change the business of health care.

Chris Ohman has spent the bulk of his career seeking to advance population-based health care. He was an executive with Kaiser Permanente, CEO of the California Association of Health Plans, an executive with Blue Shield of California, and CFO for a medical group. He holds an economics degree from Lewis and Clark College and an M.P.A. from Princeton.

COVID-19 and Economic Policy Issues
Jon Haveman
Noon – 1:30 p.m.
(Livestream + Recorded)
Price A

Economics plays a central role in every aspect of society, primarily through the actions of governments at the federal, state, and local levels. This course will address a set of policy issues that revolve around economics, exploring their origins and associated underlying data. Rather than prescribing specific policy solutions, the course will focus on what the economics profession collectively understands to be true about each issue. There will be a special emphasis on the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jon Haveman has spent 19 years studying the Bay Area economy and a lifetime of studying economic policy issues. He is the founder of the National Economic Education Delegation and holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan. His lectures and work are dedicated to making economics accessible.

Photographs and American Land Use, 1845–2020
Sandra Phillips
2:30 – 4 p.m.
(Livestream + Recorded)
Price A

This course offers a chronological examination of photography related to American land use, from daguerreotypes to digital images. While photography was used around the world to document the control of nature for agriculture and other purposes, in the United States, land has also been used for pleasure. Sites such as Niagara and Yosemite are as characteristic of land use in this country as are the construction of the transcontinental railroad and mining operations. We will examine the history of American land use, how the ideas of conservation evolved, and photography’s role in this aspect of our culture.

Sandra S. Phillips was the senior curator of photography at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art until her retirement three years ago. She is currently pursuing projects including serving as adjunct curator of photography at the Berkeley Art Museum and Paciﬁc Film Archive.

How to Write Children’s Picture Books
Dashka Slater
2:30 – 4 p.m.
(Livestream)
Price C

Children’s picture books are an enduring and unique form — but how do you go about writing one, especially if you can barely draw a stick figure? This workshop-style class will take you through the process of developing an illustrated children’s book from the idea to the finished manuscript (no illustrating required — this is a writing class). There will be weekly writing assignments, and we will workshop student work in-class. This class is designed for both experienced and beginning writers wishing to delve into the process of writing for children.

Dashka Slater has written many children’s picture books, including the popular “Escargot” series, Dangerously Ever After, and The Amberled Ship. Learn more at dashk Slater.com.

It’s All About the Song
Peter Elman
9:30 – 11 a.m.
(Livestream)
Price A

Whether the genre, the song is the essence of popular music. We will study the contributions of Chuck Berry, Buddy Holly, Brian Wilson, Paul Simon, Jackson Browne and Joni Mitchell, as well as the teams of Carole King and Gerry Goffin, and Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil. With audio, video, and live-in-class performance, we will explore the musical and lyrical components of songs by these composers, gaining new understanding of the artistry and social context they brought to popular music.

Peter Elman is a musician, producer, teacher and writer. He has taught many classes for OLLI, including “A Rock n’ Roll Road Trip Parts I and II,” “The Fab Four and the Stones,” “Memphis Soul,” “Great Voices,” and courses on country, folk, Motown, Bruce Springsteen, and Van Morrison.

Dreamwork
Barry Friedman
9:30 – 11 a.m.
(Livestream)
Price C

Dreams are vehicles to help us realize who we are, who we can become, and help us understand our relationship to the world and the divine. Learn how to work deeply with your dreams through personal sharing and response. We will discuss major archetypal motifs that appear in our dreams and connect us to mythology and meaning. This creative process is at once enlightening, transformative, and healing.

Barry Friedman Ph.D., M.F.T. is a psychotherapist in private practice in Oakland and an historian of religion. He has been exploring the relationship between spirituality and psychology for over 40 years, and taught archetypal mythology and dream work at Holy Names University for 15 years.

The Global Lens
Michael Fox
Noon – 1:30 p.m.
(Livestream + Recorded)
Price A

Foreign filmmakers speaking primarily to viewers in their own countries offer us a refreshing and occasionally jarring view of the world. In this course, we will explore a range of documentary approaches used by films from abroad — most of which haven’t screened in the United States — and discuss strategies, aesthetics, and ethics. We will examine central aspects of nonfiction filmmaking, including the representation of reality, the properties of storytelling, and the interplay between advocacy and art.

Michael Fox is a film journalist and critic whose outlets include KQED Arts, The East Bay Monthly, Oakland Magazine, and J. He has taught through the OLLI programs at Berkeley and S.F. State for over a decade. Fox is an inductee of Essential SF, the S.F. Film Society’s compendium of the Bay Area film community’s vital figures and institutions.
Wednesday

Starts 9/23 (No class on 11/11; final class 11/18)

The Political Economy of China (1978–2020)
Doug Lee
Noon – 1:30 p.m. (Livestream + Recorded)

Price A

This course is divided into two parts. Part one provides an historical overview of the rise and triumph of communism in China from 1949 to 1978. Part two centers on a wide-ranging discussion of the contemporary Chinese political economy, with special attention on how the Chinese communist party manages China’s economic development. We will discuss domestic politics, leadership, ideology, government, law, public policy, national security and defense, foreign policy and international relations, and economic reform and modernization, and the resultant impact on contemporary Chinese society and culture.

The Classical String Quartet Part 1
Alexandra Amati
2:30 – 4 p.m. (Livestream)

Price A

The string quartet was a novel genre in the later 18th century, a kind of musical conversation mirroring polite social interaction in Viennese society. Initially a sort of wordless song with accompaniment, it gradually evolved into an egalitarian discourse, with all four instruments sharing in the melodic and harmonic roles. This course will focus on the birth and structure of the genre and explore the quartets Haydn and Mozart composed, played together, and gifted each other, including the ones Haydn composed well after Mozart had died, which toy with romanticism and individuality.

The Many Faces of Abraham Lincoln
Mick Chantler
2:30 – 4:30 p.m. (Livestream + Recorded)

Price A

This course will examine the different visions of Lincoln that Americans have held from his own time to the present. While most Americans have granted him a place in the pantheon of our nation’s greatest heroes, others have ridiculed him as a country bumpkin or decried him as a dictator. Most contemporary historians see the “Great Emancipator” as the foremost advocate for African American freedom and equality, but others view him as a racist and hypocrst. We will sift through the kaleidoscopic images of Lincoln as they evolved over the years, and assess which views are valid and which are unfair.

Mick Chantler holds an M.A. in history by has been a student and instructor of early American studies for over forty years. He currently teaches at several Bay Area OLLI programs, including those at Sonoma State University, Dominican University, and U.C. Berkeley. His primary interests include the Revolutionary and Civil War era.

Thursday

Starts 9/24

Cultural Treasures of the Soviet Era
Elena Sheygal-Placzek
9:30 – 11 a.m.

Price A

Throughout the seven decades of Soviet rule, the state exerted a tremendous pressure on the artist. In spite of severe censorship and repression, Russian culture produced works of extraordinary genius, such as the novels Doctor Zhivago, Master and Margarita, Quiet Flows the Don, and Stalingrad, the music of Shostakovich and Prokofiev, and many outstanding films and ballets. We will study the reflection of Soviet history in works of culture, explore the relationship between the artist and the state, and take a close look at some of the masterpieces and great personalities.

Elena Sheygal-Placzek is a retired professor of Volgograd University in Russia and holds a Ph.D. in Linguistic anthropology. She has taught courses in cross-cultural communication to Russian and American students and is the author of The English-Russian Dictionary of U.S. Life and Culture. In 2006, she was a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley.

The English-Russian Dictionary of U.S. Life and Culture
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Why Shakespeare Matters Today
Michael Moran
Noon – 1:30 p.m. (Livestream + Recorded)

Price A

This course will focus on how and why Shakespeare’s greatest works remain relevant in today’s socio-political context. We will begin with an in-depth look at Hamlet, exploring why his play has inspired and vexed artists for centuries and how its mysteries reveal the complexities of our own nature. After Hamlet, we will focus on Othello and Macbeth in the same fashion — unraveling the paradoxes of the human condition that continue to play out in our lives today. Lectures will include live performances.

Michael Socrates Moran is the founder and artistic director of the Ubuntu Theater Project. He is an award-winning director and actor, having directed over 20 classics and world premieres. He has acted professionally in Boston, New York, and Chicago, and holds an M.F.A. in directing from UCSD.

Visit olli.berkeley.edu/courses for syllabi and other information.
Beginning 9/25, Encore Courses

Encore Courses were originally recorded during a previous term. These popular courses remain timely and relevant. If you missed them the first time, now you can watch the encore presentation! Encore Courses are Price D.

Cutting Edge Issues in Law
Bill Sokol
Price D

It seems that each vital social and political issue of our times finds its way to our courts, and Berkeley School of Law’s renowned professors are engaged in all of them. OLLI has the honor to present six professors in six weeks who will discuss some of the most critical legal issues being addressed by our courts and legislatures. From religion and the Supreme Court and building a just economy through labor-law reform, to cybersecurity, the death penalty, and the use of lethal force by American police. Join us for what will be intellectually invigorating deep dives into these fraught issues.

Bill Sokol is a Bay Area labor and employment lawyer, a lecturer at SF State University, a gubernatorial appointee to the CalSavers Retirement Investment Board, and was a talk show host on Pacifica Radio for 25 years. He holds a J.D. from Berkeley School of Law.

Planets!
Gibor Basri
Price D

The Earth wasn’t always called a planet. Now Pluto is having problems. What defines a planet? How do they appear, live, and die? Planetary exploration started 50 years ago, exoplanets (around other stars) were first discovered 25 years ago (garnering the latest Nobel Prize), and it has been less than a decade since we have understood that most stars have planetary systems. Many of those turn out to be quite different from ours. Explore the progress we have made, how we have made it, and what we have learned about other planets, including whether they may sustain life.

Gibor Basri taught in the astronomy department at UC Berkeley for 35 years. His favorite classes were the introductory courses for non-majors and seminars for first-year students. He has used many big telescopes on and off the planet. He enjoys making science accessible to the general public and has been given the Sagan Award for this talent.

Visit olli.berkeley.edu/courses for syllabi and other information.
Our Fall Showcase will take place over Zoom. The link to attend will be made available via Eventbrite and included in our digital communications.