

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE



In celebration of
Revolutionary Ideas

Fall 2025

COURSE CATALOG

WELCOME TO OSHER AT W&M

Policies & Procedures – Fall 2025

Important! When you sign or consent online to the Participation Agreement (p. 54), you are also agreeing to the policies stated here and the Zoom policies on p. 52.

Membership & Attendance

You must be an Osher Institute at W&M member to register for and attend courses and events. Choose classes intending to attend every session. Absences result in loss of a seat for a member on a wait list or a less beneficial experience when a minimum number of members is essential to discussion or an activity.

Fees & Course Load

The Fall membership fee is \$200 and is due when you register for classes. Members may enroll in a maximum of 16 courses total, with no more than 8 being multi-session classes.

Lessons & Luminations (L&L) fundraisers (p. 17) do not count against your semester course load; payment for these special events is due when you reserve a seat(s).

Early Registration

Early registration opens on Aug. 1 and closes Aug. 13 at 5pm. Early registrants are included in the lottery for oversubscribed courses and are automatically put on the wait list for classes that they requested but in which they were not assigned a seat. Class schedules are sent to early registrants via email by Aug. 25.

Open Enrollment

Registration reopens on Tuesday, Aug. 26 at 8am. Members who missed early registration may now enroll immediately in classes with available seats. Early registrants may add classes. Course load limits (16 total; max 8 multi-session) still apply.

We've Moved to Campus

If you mail or drop off your registration form and payment, they must be in our hands in Boswell Hall, Room 028 (basement) by 5pm on Aug. 13 to qualify for the lottery. There are no exceptions for registrations lost/delayed in the mail, dropped at our former office location, or otherwise received after Aug. 13.

Payment

Osher at W&M is self-funded; 100% of membership fees support our program. Membership fees apply each term. Payment is due when you register. We accept major credit cards and checks payable to William & Mary. Additional fees (if applicable) are due and immediately payable at the time your seat in the class is confirmed.

Refunds

You may request a refund of your membership fee through 9am Sep. 8 by email to osher@wm.edu with a reason for the refund. There are no "per class" fees; thus, no "per class" refunds. A \$20 service fee applies to all refunds.

Parking permits, gift certificates, and fees for materials, events, Lessons & Luminations fundraisers, etc. are nonrefundable. Osher does not reissue lost or expired gift certificates, coupon codes, or credit certificates.

Dropping a Class

To drop a class, notify us ASAP at osher@wm.edu. This allows us to offer the seat to a member on the wait list.

Wait List

When a seat opens in an oversubscribed class, we contact the first person on the wait list. Depending on the class date, we will hold the seat as long as we can (usually 2-3 days) before offering it to the next wait-listed member. Thank you for replying promptly with a "accept" or "decline." Please be respectful of our program, your peers, and instructors. Do not attend a course for which you are wait-listed or not enrolled in anticipation that there will be an open seat.

Name Badges

Wear your current semester name tag to all Osher classes/events. Attendance may be taken. Name tags are emailed a week prior to the semester start for you to print/cut to size. Plastic badge holders are available upon request.

Class Locations & Parking Options

See p. 57 or [visit our website](#) for classroom locations, addresses, campus map, and parking options.

2025-26 Academic Year Parking Permits

New academic year parking permits are needed for Fall. The 2025-26 permit is valid August to August. Cost is \$17. During early registration only, you may apply for a permit online at learnatosher.wm.edu or via paper form (p. 55) for pick-up at School of Ed on Sep 4-5, 10a-2p. Starting Sep 8, contact us to arrange a time/day for pick up.

To buy a permit after Aug. 13, go in person to Parking Services, 104 Jamestown Rd. (Campus Center). See p. 55 or visit our website to print the form.

Member Parking on Campus

A parking permit is required for classes at the School of Ed (student lots only). If you have business at our office in Boswell Hall, your Osher permit allows 30-minute parking in the Boswell lot at 656 Jamestown Rd., which offers sidewalk access to the building's entrance. If you have ADA credentials, an Osher hang tag is required to park anywhere on campus.

Instructor Parking on Campus

The Osher Institute at W&M will pay for an instructor's 2025-26 parking permit upon request. However, the instructor must present the application in person to Parking Services. Contact the office for more information.

Inclement Weather

Closures mirror W&M and are announced on our website and voicemail at (757) 221-1506. You are not notified personally.

Guest Requests

Guests are encouraged; pre-approval is required. Guests are allowed once a term, for a single class on a single date, if the course is not fully subscribed. You must accompany your guest. Call (757) 221-1506 to request a guest.

Fall 2025 information is accurate
as of July 9, 2025.

Members are emailed if the date,
time, location, or status of a course
they are enrolled in changes.
Always check your email!

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You.

You are the reason for our success.
You are the why, the how – and especially – the who
that make the Osher Institute at William & Mary
the remarkable living and learning adventure that it is.

To our instructor-volunteers, curriculum committee volunteers,
member-volunteers, members and donors,
we are grateful for the time, treasure, talent, energy, ideas, and enthusiasm
you each contribute to the Osher at W&M experience.

Thank You.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE 2025-26

John Delano, *chair*
Science, Technology,
Engineering & Math
(STEM)

Barnet Feingold
Social Sciences

Marjie Harris
World History

Janice Hathaway
Arts

Mark Howell
Revolutionary Ideas

Karen McPherson
American History

Rick Morrison
Religion & Philosophy,
Revolutionary Ideas

Larry Perlow
Humanities

Issa Puttre
Public Affairs

Karen Thomas
Health & Wellness,
Special Interests

...and Special Thanks to

Barney Feingold, who transitioned out of his role as Curriculum Committee chair but remains as our Social Sciences subject area coordinator;

Kathleen Anderson, who is taking a sabbatical as Health & Wellness subject area coordinator;

Mark Howell, for leading the charge on Revolutionary Ideas;

Rick Morrison and Issa Puttre, who join the Curriculum Committee as our newly appointed subject area coordinators for Religion & Philosophy and Public Affairs, respectively

Dennis Pillsbury, who served as Religion & Philosophy subject area coordinator for the last two years;

Kelly Shaw, who served as Public Affairs subject area coordinator for many years and remains as a volunteer instructor in the areas of STEM, Public Affairs, and Special Interests; and

Karen Thomas, for taking on responsibility for coordinating the Health & Wellness curriculum in addition to Special Interests

Volunteers are the heart, soul, and engine of Osher.

As our program grows bigger and better each semester – we need your help!

Consider expanding your Osher experience as a classroom assistant or office admin, instructor (see “Be an Osher Instructor,” p. 48), or as a member of our Curriculum Committee or our newly forming Finance/Fundraising Committee. Just email us or give us a call.

Whatever your interest, experience, skill, or schedule, your gift of time and talent is always welcome here.

MEMBER-VOLUNTEERS

2024-2025

Beth Anderson	Joyce DuPriest	Lois Montague
Tony Annoni	Sharon Falconer	Del Moore
Dot Barat	Anne Farkas	Karen Parrott
Susan Bivins	Diane Federer	Sally Roden
Anne Brennan	Geoffrey Gay	Karen Schiffrin
Barbara Burnside	Ben Gregg	Ed Thomas
Steve Caffery	Tom Hesser	Karen Thomas
Jim Carey	Owen Hewitt	Joy Unger
Lisa Craft	Laura McShane	Alicia Wilson

Please accept our apology if we inadvertently omitted your name. Please contact us so we may properly recognize You.

INSTRUCTOR-VOLUNTEERS

2024-2025

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		Wendy LeBolt	Jim Perry		

DONORS TO THE OSHER IMPACT FUND (3914)

2024-2025

In our first-ever year of active gift solicitations, more than 200 members donated nearly \$39,000 in cash gifts to the Osher Impact Fund. We are grateful for your generosity, friendship, and support.

Anonymous (2)	Lewis Avery	Gerald Belcher	David Brummell	Jim Carey	Susan Cherney
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	Kathleen & Dennis Hickey		Jeannette McIntosh	Jay Pruden	Dorothy & Duane Tibbetts

Why Your Gift Matters

Members are often surprised to learn that the Osher Institute at W&M is 100% financially self-supporting.

We receive no funding from The College of William & Mary. The university, as a state-funded public institution, does not/can not cover operating or capital costs for auxiliary organizations like ours.

We rely exclusively on semester membership fees, ad sponsors, grants, member gifts, and annual distributions from the Osher and Kernodle endowments to fund our program.

As we look to the new academic year, our Instructor corps and curriculum are strong. Membership is growing.

Our financial sustainability has improved, too, through focused cost-cutting and the generosity of our members who stepped up magnificently and magnanimously in our first-ever year of fundraising!

Yet we continue to operate at a deficit. Revenue currently offsets about 81% of our operating costs. As a result, it became necessary to increase membership fees.

We are now working to establish a Finance & Fundraising advisory committee to lend added expertise and perspective to help us live our mission of quality programming and social engagement of adults 55+ while expanding understanding and support for our work.

Interested? Email osher@wm.edu

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Cleta Puckett
Anita Recchia
William Reed
Susan Rein
Martha & David Rex
Howard Richardson
Michael Richardson
Gerd & Duncan Ritchie
Sally Roden
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Karen Marsh-Williams
Phoebe Williams
Constance Willoughby
Jane Wills
Alicia Wilson
Carl Wirth
Elizabeth Fones-Wolf
Frank Wood
Karen S. Young
Marilyn & Gene Younger

Osher 2026: In Celebration of Revolutionary Ideas

As we count down the days to our nation's semiquincentennial, we'll be exploring concepts that have made an indelible mark on the world – across the ages. Here's how Osher's 2026 "Revolutionary Ideas" came to be.

In the nascent days of 2024, Osher Instructor **Mark Howell** was already thinking ahead a full year – or two.

The newly (one-month) retired education director for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and former Colonial Williamsburg Foundation staffer was channeling the year 2026.

Mark was contemplating how Osher at W&M might align with local educational happenings – inspired by VA250 (read more at right) – to commemorate the 250th anniversary of our country's July 1776 founding, as well as the centennial of John D. Rockefeller's March 1926 visit to Williamsburg that inspired the restoration of Virginia's colonial capital.

When **Mark** shared his vision with Osher Instructor and Curriculum Committee History Coordinator **Karen McPherson**, she was on board. The **Osher Team** needed only a chat over coffee to know the idea would resonate. Osher Member **Rick Morrison** and Instructor **Michael Lorence** joined the conversation to flesh out the concept. **Rick** then recruited veteran Instructor **Bill Rhodes** to lend additional perspective. Insights from 2024-25 Curriculum Committee Chair **Barney Feingold** and Co-Chair **John Delano** further nurtured the concept of

"revolution" beyond just the American independence movement to a universal notion of how "revolutions" across the ages and disciplines have changed the world.

Within weeks, the workgroup was ready to share the concept with the full complement of Osher Instructors. Forty-six Instructors attended a half-

"Revolutionary ideas are born of a desire for change. Revolutionary ideas can engender profound, enduring transformation of beliefs, practices, and systems, creating a new status quo."

– Osher Curriculum Committee
2026 "Revolutionary Ideas"
Workgroup

day March 2025 workshop. A subsequent hour-long Zoom call introduced the initiative to 13 more.

Our Instructors embraced the concept, bringing new energy, new ideas, and more than 60 new or adapted existing courses to the Fall semester. Each highlights a "Revolutionary Idea" in the celebratory environment of

this commemorative year.

And so, in the name of lifelong learning, community spirit, civic pride, and general wonderment, we hope you'll enjoy exploring a variety of ground-breaking theories, events, inventions, noble causes and exceptional people that advanced human progress through the brilliance of a Revolutionary Idea.



Look for the lantern for courses featuring a "Revolutionary Idea" – or make like a Minuteman and check out the list on p. 6.



VA250 – Sharing Virginia's Role in Making America

While the Osher Institute at William & Mary is celebrating all styles of Revolutionary Ideas in this semiquincentennial year, the Commonwealth of Virginia, too, is sharing the Spirit of '76.

Better known as VA250, the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission was established by Virginia's General Assembly in 2020.

The Commission describes its work: "With your help, we can *educate* Americans about our history; *engage* with every community to tell a complete story; and *inspire* people to recommit to the values inherent in citizenship. Ultimately helping us form the 'more perfect union' envisioned by the Revolutionary generation."

With more than 2,000 events scheduled across the state over the next 365 days, VA250 aims to showcase the pivotal role of Virginia's people and places in forging America's legacy as the land of the free and home of the brave. Learn more at [VA250.org](https://va250.org).



Revolutionary Ideas

Fall 2025

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American Women and WWII (p. 11)

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Constitutional Convention of 1787 (p. 7)

Defending the Old Dominion: Virginia During the War of 1812 (p. 15)

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The Erie Canal (p. 9)

From Leeches to Lasers – 18th-century Medicine vs Today (p. 7)

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Impact of the Enlightenment in Williamsburg (p. 14)

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Revolution in Roads: Jamestown to Williamsburg and Beyond (p. 15)

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Virginia State Navy of 1776 (p. 8)

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What, Then, Was the American Revolution? (p. 15)

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American History



The Path to Williamsburg's Restoration

Will Molineux

Monday, 9:30-10:45am
6 sessions: Sep 8, 15, 22, 29, Oct 6, 13
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

This course, based on extensive recent research, is a new look at the partnership between the Rev. W.A.R. Goodwin and John D. Rockefeller Jr. that evolved to create Williamsburg's colonial restoration. How and why did so many townspeople sign on to an ill-defined proposal that would change everything where they lived? Was Rockefeller's participation really a secret? Were city officials kept in the dark? What role did Mrs. Rockefeller play? This course, supplemented with a PowerPoint of period photographs, attempts to expand the oft-repeated corporate history based on Goodwin's recollection and writings.

Will Molineux has been intrigued with Williamsburg's past ever since he was graduated from William & Mary – initially as a Daily Press newsman and in retirement as an amateur historian.



The Constitutional Convention of 1787

Michael Kerley

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm
6 sessions: Sep 10, 17, 24,
Oct 1, 8, 15
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

We will study the Constitutional Convention of 1787 in detail. We will begin by examining the reasons why the Convention was called. We will then take a day-by-day look at the discussions and debates that occurred during that long, hot summer in Philadelphia. We will see the ebbs and flows of the conversations concerning the structure and powers of Congress, the design of the Presidency, the idea of

federalism and many other critical issues underlying the Constitution.

Using their own words, we will explore the Framers' thoughts and perspectives as they struggled to create our novel form of government. We will also become familiar with the key participants at the Convention. We will discover who these men were and what motivated them. Course attendees should expect to obtain a better understanding of how and why our Constitution was created.

Michael Kerley has a B.A. in government from Notre Dame and a J.D. from George Washington University. He practiced securities and insurance law for 35 years and now teaches classes on the origin and structure of the Constitution at various lifelong learning programs.



NEW! From Leeches to Lasers: 18th Century Medicine vs. Today

Robert Jaffee

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Sep 16
School of Education, Room 1056
35 seats

This course will outline the approach 18th century doctors used to treat various diseases and compare that to how doctors treat the same illness today.

Robert Jaffee, M.D., is a retired ophthalmologist. After retiring in New York, he moved to Williamsburg. He has volunteered in the apothecary shop at Colonial Williamsburg for nine years. Dr. Jaffee has given prior courses at Osher on the Civil War and cataract surgery.



NEW! The Unknown Story of the First American Female Codebreaker

Peg Becker

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Oct 2
School of Education, Room 2016
30 seats

Elizebeth Smith Friedman was known as the first American female cryptanalyst. Her pioneering work in the field of codebreaking was pivotal for the U.S. during WWI, Prohibition, and WWII. However, her accomplishments are relatively unknown. Join us to find out about this accomplished woman and her extraordinary contributions.


Peg Becker recently retired from Altria Client Services as manager of clinical data management. Peg graduated from the College of St. Rose with a B.A. in biology. She loves learning about little-known historical events.




Signing of the Constitution of the United States, painting by Howard Chandler Christy (1873-1952)

The Civil War Battle of Williamsburg

Paul Severance

 Tuesday, 2 sessions:
Oct 7, 9:30-11:30am
Oct 14, 7:45am-1:00pm
School of Education, Room 1056
26 seats

 Cost \$42 (transportation)

 **Week 2 bus tour is 5-hour field trip** hopping on/off mini tour bus with one rest stop; light snack included

In March-June 1862, General George McClellan embarked upon a massive overland operation the Peninsula Campaign. It originated at Fort Monroe in Hampton intending to capture Richmond and end the rebellion.

A major engagement of the campaign was the Battle of Williamsburg on May 5, 1862. Although delayed action by the Confederates in their withdrawal up the peninsula to the defenses of Richmond, the battle also marked the emergence of Union General Winfield Scott Hancock (Hancock the Superb) as a gifted combat commander.

We will deconstruct the battle in terms of strategy, operations, and tactics to understand of the dynamics of the battle and its effects and outcomes as well as the battle's place within the larger campaigns that unfolded in our own backyard during the Civil War. Week 1 is a classroom work-up of the battle followed by a bus tour in week 2 of well-preserved campaign sites in the Williamsburg area.

Paul Severance holds a Ph.D. from Virginia Tech and served as a professor of strategy, professor of military strategy and warfare, and professor of military science at the National Defense University for 25 years before retiring in 2018. Paul also serves the Director of the Gettysburg Studies program and has conducted professional-level staff rides to Civil War battlefields. He is a 30-year veteran of the U.S. Army where he was an infantry officer and later an Army aviator; he commanded at the company and battalion levels.



The D&H Canal and Gravity Railroad: A Bustling Thoroughfare of Trade and Traffic

Peg Becker

Monday, 9:30-11:30am
2 sessions: Oct 20, 27
School of Education, Room 2000
30 seats

During the 70 years that the D&H transportation system was in operation between Carbondale, Pa. and the Hudson River, many villages, towns, and cities were founded and/or developed along the line of the D&H canal and railroad.

These communities were shaped not only by their position on the canal, but also by the diverse populations that settled and grew these towns. Although this transportation system was built to transport anthracite coal, a wide range of other products were also shipped to market.


This course will focus on the story of the D&H Canal and Gravity Railroad, the entrepreneurs and engineers responsible for its development, as well as the technological advances that occurred during the life of the canal and railroad.

Read Peg's bio on page 7.



NEW! The Virginia State Navy of 1776

Michael Steen

Monday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Oct 20, 27, Nov 3
 Watermen's Museum, Lobby
309 Water Street, Yorktown
30 seats

Participants will learn about the founding and history of the Virginia State Navy December 1775-October 1781, hands-on

construction of a period gunboat, and the ongoing search for Cornwallis's Sunken Fleet from 1781.

Michael Steen was born in Annapolis MD and moved to Virginia in 1981. He has received a BA in History from Virginia Military Institute, a Masters in Tourism from Virginia Commonwealth University, and has completed his Ph.D. coursework in public policy at VCU as well. Michael has worked for the National Park Service, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Virginia State Parks, Museum of the Confederacy, Museum of the Civil War at Pamplin Park, and Chesterfield County. He also held the role of adjunct faculty at VCU and Rappahannock Community College. For the last 16 years, he has served as the director of education for the Watermen's Museum and is the Chair of the York County 250 Committee.



NEW! The American Civil War: The First Modern War

Paul Severance

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Oct 28
School of Education, Room 1056
30 seats

The experience of the American Civil War provided an extensive and impressive array of both evolutionary and revolutionary concepts, technological changes, political philosophies, and military doctrine



A Revolutionary War painting depicting the Virginia Navy cruiser Capt. Barron taking the British navy brig HMS Oxford (artist unknown)

that emerged before and during the American Civil War and forever transformed the nature of war and the character of warfare, as well as the social and political outcomes for which the war was waged.

The course will examine catalytic changes in technology (weapons, naval engineering, aeronautics, transportation, and communications); advances in medicine and medical care; organizational change; innovations in training and military doctrine; and enduring political and social outcomes that marked the initial transition from Napoleonic warfare to modern warfare that reached its apogee in the First World War.

See Paul's bio on p. 9.



NEW! The Erie Canal **Buck Beasom**

🕒 Wednesday, 10:00am-12:00pm
4 sessions: Oct 29, Nov 5, 12, 19
🖥️ Zoom, 125 seats

The lay of the land combined with the power of water and gravity carved a notch in the world, between the Atlantic coast of the American Continent and the greatest inland water complex on Earth. This notch was a pathway for trade and travel before Europeans arrived. It would become a gateway for the 19th Century version of a "superhighway."

When the notion of connecting the Atlantic to the Great Lakes was first raised and, indeed, when the first surveys for a canal route were conducted, there was not a single professional civil engineer in the entire United States. Western NY State was considered "The Frontier" and Ohio was "The West."

The Erie Canal follows the story of the canal from conception to completion. Like the canal itself, this story does not proceed in a straight line, did not happen all at once, and did not end in anything like the manner its origins suggested. But much of what happened in the years after its completion in 1825, from Abolitionism to Women's Suffrage to the 19th Century religious revival that took

place in its wake traces directly back to the 4mph "Superhighway" the canal represented to the people of the time. And the America that emerged after it opened was defined by its impact.

Buck Beasom teaches for Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes across the country. He has a two-track career: four decades in data management and applications development while also teaching business courses. He also taught history at the middle- and high school levels. He holds an M.B.A. in accounting, and a B.S. in management science with additional majors in history and economics.

Keeping the Home Fires Burning: From the Wizard of Oz to I Love Lucy

Marilyn Younger

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Nov 10, 17, Dec 1
🕒 **No class on Nov 24**
School of Education, Room 2066
34 seats

What was life like for those living in the U.S. from just before World War II through the Korean Conflict (1939-1952)? Gone were the chaos and desperation of the prior two decades. Wars were raging across oceans and people were unsure when the war might directly impact their lives or actually reach U.S. shores.

While quietly keeping the home fires burning, Americans were adapting to new lifestyles and evolving technology. We were exposed to more art and entertainment opportunities than ever before. This is part of a series of social history classes focusing on better understanding the daily lives of our parents and sometimes even ourselves.

Marilyn Younger retired from the Social Security Administration where she was data exchange program director. She holds a B.A. and M.A. in history and is a certified instructor for various leadership classes. She worked as a costumed interpreter (full-time, then part-time) for Colonial Williamsburg for 14 years and is a Certified Interpretive Guide of the National Association for Interpreters.



NEW! Waging War Between Capitalism and Slavery in the U.S. (1607-1865)

James Belcher

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Nov 12, 19, Dec 3
🕒 **No class on Nov 26**
School of Education, Room 2030
20 seats

The earliest settlers and founding fathers of colonial America have long been subjects of intense debate and scrutiny. On one hand, they are revered for their quest for freedom and religious liberties, laying the foundations for what would become the United States of America.

On the other hand, their involvement in practices such as slavery and the subjugation of indigenous peoples invites criticism and raises questions about their moral integrity. Were these individuals hypocritical, or were they simply adhering to the norms and practices of their era? What part did Capitalism and the relentless pursuit of profit play?

This course aims to explore this timely subject, encouraging thoughtful consideration of historical context, motivations, and the lingering consequences of their actions.

James H. Belcher has a B.A. in economics from Southern Methodist University, an undergraduate certification in higher education (philosophy) from Oxford University, and an ALM (history) from Harvard University. He is a Certified Public Accountant (Virginia & Texas) as well as a Global Chartered Accountant.

NEW! Chancellorsville: Lee's Greatest Victory?

Philip Burstein

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Nov 12, 19, Dec 3
🕒 **No class on Nov 26**
Campus Center, Room 159, 60 seats

In late April, 1863 the Union army commanded by Joseph Hooker crossed the Rappahannock River with the objective of defeating Robert E.



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Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and clearing the road to the Confederate capital of Richmond.

Yet despite a two to one advantage in numbers and a brilliant opening maneuver, the Union campaign was a complete failure. After only five days, the mighty Union host was back on its own side of the river, less 17,000 casualties.

Ever since 1863, this outcome has been viewed as the result of the donkey-like Union commander and his blockish army being completely outclassed by the nimble Confederate forces, led by the god-like Robert E. Lee at the height of his powers of command. This belief was cemented into historical concrete almost a century ago by the works of the Virginian Douglas Southall Freeman.

It was only in recent decades that some authors began to protest against this hagiography-as-history attitude. A close look at the actual events of the battle seems to confirm this approach.

A case can be made that generalship at Chancellorsville was a race to the bottom, with generals on both sides committing one blunder after another. The inconclusive bloodbath of Chancellorsville was the expected outcome of a Civil War battle when the military leadership on both sides failed.

Philip Burstein received his doctorate in economics from Yale University in 1976. A career in the health care industry followed, which involved writing regulation for the hospital industry in Massachusetts, studies on Medicare reimbursement policy, and quality analysis for a Medicaid public/private partnership. His intellectual hobby, however, has always been Civil War history, fortified by visits to almost every battlefield east of the Mississippi during his working days. His first post-retirement project was to obtain a master's degree in military history from American Military University. This was concluded with a thesis on the Chancellorsville campaign.

NEW! Presidential Sites: A Travelogue

Feather Foster

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Oct 22, 29, Nov 5
Williamsburg Regional Library, Theatre
250 seats

Session 1: The First Seven. From George to Jax, our first seven Presidents lived (for the most part) extremely well. Their homes (and other dwellings) were beautifully furnished to be occupied by a never-ending array of notable visitors.

Session 2: The Victorians: Van Buren through Benjamin Harrison. Some lived better than others. Some were born dirt-poor. Most never made it past middle-class. But in a democracy, humble beginnings do not matter, and in some cases were almost a plus!

Session 3: Nice Houses: McKinley through Ike with the exception of only one POTUS, the 20th Century Presidents (through Eisenhower) lived in nice enough houses. Middle class and presentable! Later POTUSes also lived comfortably, but most of those sites are still privately occupied.

Feather Foster spent more than 35 years in advertising before starting a retirement career that has centered on First Ladies of the United States, specifically the old gals. She has written four books on the subject. Feather's newest book, The Colonial First Ladies, is currently being published and right in time for the country's 250th celebration.



American Women and World War II

Elizabeth Fones-Wolf

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Nov 13, 20, Dec 4
① No class on Nov 27
School of Education, Room 2030
30 seats

This course recounts the experience of American women in the military and workplace during WWII, when 5 million new female workers stepped into defense industry, factory and

office jobs formerly held by men.

We will also examine women's contributions to the war effort through volunteerism with USO and Red Cross, as well as how they coped with rationing and moving to war production centers.

Active discussion is encouraged as we review primary sources such as cartoons and other contemporary documents, read oral histories, view the classic documentary, The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter.

Elizabeth Fones-Wolf has a Ph.D. in American history from the University of Massachusetts (1990) and taught at West Virginia University for 30 years, retiring as an emeritus professor. She has published three books, focusing on the U.S. in the 1940s and 1950s with the University of Illinois Press and many peer reviewed articles in academic journals. She has taught a variety of modern U.S. history classes. She has also presented at academic conferences and given lectures to public school teachers and general audiences.

NEW! Lessons from the Great Depression

Ed Linz

🕒 Thursday, 3:00-4:30pm
2 sessions: Nov 13, 20
🖥️ Zoom, 125 seats

Two sessions will cover events in the 1920s leading up to the start of The Great Depression, including ominous parallels between the 1920s and the 2020s.

We'll begin with the suggestion that the Depression did not start with the infamous stock market crashes of late 1929, but that the seeds were sown following the end of WWI and subsequent events throughout the 1920s. We will discuss political and economic conditions during the 1930s and the early years of WW II with detailed examination of the lives of a diverse group of Americans who provided first-hand accounts of their lives during this tumultuous period of American life. There will be a

discussion of lessons learned with questions and comments solicited.

Ed Linz, a 1965 graduate of the Naval Academy, is the author of six books, including recent works on the Great Depression and the Vietnam War. He holds advanced degrees from Oxford University and George Mason University and lives in Maine and Virginia. He was the recipient of a heart transplant in 1994. He is a native of Northern Kentucky.

Turbulent Times & Powerful Voices: FDR vs. Lindbergh Competing for the Soul of America

Sandy Menaquale

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm

3 sessions: Nov 21, **Dec 5**, 12

③ **No class on Nov 28**

Campus Center, Little Theatre, 110 seats

Between 1939 and 1941, Americans were gripped in one of the most rancorous internal debates in our history. Lindbergh, the face and voice of the Isolationists as well as an initial founder of America First, used his hero status to counter FDR's vision of Internationalism. FDR called Lindbergh's opposition "a dirty fight" and used legal and illegal tactics including wiretapping to promote his vision for America.

This course explores the chicanery, intrigue, and tactics each man used to gain advantage in public opinion.

Much of the material for this course comes from Lynne Olson's *Those Angry Days*, Rachel Maddow's *Ultra* podcast, Erik Larson's *The Splendid and the Vile*, and Anne and Charles' respective wartime diaries.

Suggested listening: Rachel Maddow's podcast, *Ultra*, free on Spotify

Sandy Menaquale has English and American studies degrees from Mount Holyoke College and taught high school before receiving her M.B.A. She spent 28+ years in pharmaceutical management for Eli Lilly. In retirement, she taught GED courses to inmates and high school-level language arts. She also worked for the Thomas

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Eastern Woodland Wisdom: Life of an American Indian (p. 18)

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History & Psychology of the Great Pandemics (p. 51)

Unprovoked and Dastardly Attack...Pearl Harbor (p. 51)

Nelson Community College in Workforce Development program.



NEW! Seven Revolutions that Changed America

Donald Matthewson

Monday, 9:30-11:30am

6 sessions: Sep 8, 15, 22, 29, Oct 6, 13

School of Education, Room 2010

30 seats

2026 marks the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. Since 1776, America has gone through six subsequent social and political revolutions which have all attempted to complete and further the ideals of the Founding.

This course examines what our Founders envisioned what it meant to be an American, and how subsequent social and political revolutions applied and expanded these ideals to include all American citizens. We will rely on an analysis of American literature and popular culture, such as film, to explain six major social movements. In the end, we ask ourselves whether or not we are currently experiencing a counter-revolution.

Donald Matthewson, Ph.D., is lecturer emeritus in politics, administration and justice, emeritus, at California State University, Fullerton. His research on questions in political philosophy has been widely published in academic journals. Don also served as faculty member in residence for Cal State's Washington, D.C., internship program. He lives in Williamsburg.



NEW! After the Revolution Part I: Revolutions in Thought, Action & Reaction

Rebecca Staton-Reinstein

Friday, 9:30-11:30am

3 sessions: Sep 12, 19, 26

Zoom, 125 seats

After the American Revolution, leaders tried to convert revolutionary ideals into reality. We must understand this history to understand today. Adherents of defeated ideas continued objecting.

Unending War: States Rights vs the Federal Government, examines a fundamental division, built into the constitution which plagued our early presidents and contributed to the Civil War. Today it drives issue after issue. The Constitution was vague about deciding disputed Constitutional questions. President John Adams made midnight judicial appointments, some of which were canceled in the following administration.

Marbury vs. Madison: The Case that Changed the Supreme Court, or did it?

Robert Carter III: Emancipation Before Emancipation, is the extraordinary story of a major slave owner who freed all his enslaved people. He hoped to set an example for his neighbors like George Washington. Examine those results. Learn more about how these three stories help us understand contemporary politics.

Rebecca Staton-Reinstein has always loved history. At William and Mary and working for the Williamsburg Restoration, she fell in love with the 18th century. She shares this love with six OLLIs. A leadership consultant based in Florida, her book, Conventional Wisdom: How Today's Leaders Plan, Perform, and Progress Like the Founding Fathers, integrates stories from public, private and non-profit sector CEOs with leaders of the Constitutional Convention.

NEW! The 60s Cultural Revolution: From Mary Poppins to Mrs. Robinson

Marilyn Younger

Friday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Sep 12, 19, 26
School of Education, Room 2010
32 seats

Beginning with LBJ's inauguration speech through the resignation of Nixon (1963-1974), we experienced one of the greatest periods of cultural change in American history. From the Beach Boys to Motown to the Beatles to folk to Acid Rock, music will never be the same. No one style of clothing

dominated but varied from Twiggy's Mod to psychedelic, to Victorian velvet with ribbons and ruffles.

Civil rights issues were on our TVs and in our schools. The pill, Roe v. Wade, and the passage of the ERA in Congress in 1972 brought changes to the lives of many women. Young people were active in politics, free love, drugs, and Vietnam War issues. RFK and King were assassinated. Coverage of Watergate on TV mesmerized the American viewing public. Not just Bob Dylan felt "The times they are a-changin'."

Read Marilyn's bio on p. 9.



NEW! From the Founding Fathers to Prohibition

Bill Fetsko

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Sep 25
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

"The use of alcohol, in one form or another, has been an integral part of our Nation's history since its founding.

There was a period of approximately 150 years, from the time of the Founding Fathers to Prohibition, where its usage was both accepted and vilified. Citizens used alcoholic drinks as a part of their daily diet and

dependence on a variety of alcoholic beverages as their drink of choice.

This, along with a society that already demonstrated a fondness for alcohol, led to the establishment and growth of a temperance movement throughout the land. It was perceived that behaviors that were detrimental to the country were becoming more widespread. These initial actions led to a more robust effort to enact a constitutional amendment to prohibit the sale of alcohol. The enactment of the 18th amendment to the U S Constitution brought about significant changes to American life, especially for the decade of the 1920s.

An examination of this period of United States history will demonstrate how a division in the society was created by an individuals acceptance or rejection of the use of alcohol. How events and beliefs moved the Nation from a rather liberal view of the consumption of alcohol to a decade of prohibition with all of its consequences.

Bill Fetsko, Ph.D., is a former public school teacher and administrator who currently serves as a volunteer at Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. After 35 years in public education, primarily in Upstate New York, Bill relocated to Williamsburg and assists with CWF's educational programs including the summer Teacher Institute.



to celebrate notable events. As people from distant shores arrived in the country they brought with them their



NEW! Beyond the Myth: Rethinking the Lewis & Clark Expedition

Thomas Thompson

Friday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Sep 26
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

The journey of Lewis and Clark is often told as a straightforward tale of heroic exploration, but the reality is far more complex and far more interesting. Many misunderstandings persist, from the belief that they were the first to chart the West to the notion that their success was inevitable.

Few recognize the profound influence of earlier explorers like Captain Cook,

whose voyages shaped Jefferson's vision of the Pacific, or Alexander MacKenzie, whose overland journey to the Arctic and Pacific set a precedent for American expansion. And at the heart of it all was Meriwether Lewis, a man of both remarkable brilliance and tragic flaws a keen observer of nature and culture yet plagued by personal struggles and lapses in leadership. By looking beyond the myths, we can uncover the true nature of this extraordinary expedition and the forces that shaped it.

Thomas Thompson has a B.A. and M.A. in religious knowledge. He worked for a medical testing laboratory serving clients in the New York area and became the employee ombudsman for the company's managers nationwide. Once retired, the American Association of Retired Persons invited him to become a trainer, running workshops across the country.



NEW! Revolutionaries in the Family

Karen McPherson

Monday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Sep 29, Oct 6, 13
Williamsburg Regional Library, Theatre
250 seats

Come hear local residents share stories of their ancestors who participated in the American Revolution and in other revolutions around the world!

Members of the Williamsburg Area Genealogical Network, along with friends and community members, invite you to discover the real men and women who took part in struggles for independence, justice, and self-determination.

You'll hear about officers, soldiers, drummer boys, cooks, and spies as well as those who supported revolutionary efforts by providing supplies, shelter, and transport. Some lived to see the outcomes of their struggles and claimed land or recognition; others died in battle or from hardship and disease. Whether their fight was on American soil or

across the globe, their stories live on. Come listen. Be inspired. Remember.

Karen McPherson graduated from William & Mary and has an M.A. and Ph.D. in government from Catholic University and an M.A. in history from George Mason University. She also taught government and history in the public school system.



NEW! The Impact of the Enlightenment in Williamsburg

Karen McPherson

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Oct 1, 8, 15
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

Week 3 class is a walking lecture in Colonial Williamsburg. Wear proper footwear for a 1-2 mile walk and dress for the weather

The 18th-century Enlightenment, often referred to as an extension of the Age of Reason, was revolutionary in multiple ways, spanning intellectual, social, political, and cultural dimensions. Its deepest philosophical meaning can be found in the writings of its best-known adherents – Locke, Hobbes, Rousseau, Montesquieu, Voltaire, Kant, Hume, and Diderot.

Williamsburg residents can find evidence of this philosophical movement throughout our historic town. The first two class sessions will be in the classroom; the third will encompass a walking tour of Colonial Williamsburg, where class members will be challenged to identify the “enlightenment” aspects of our community.

Read Karen's bio above.



NEW! After the Revolution Part II: Revolutions in Thought, Action & Reaction

Rebecca Staton-Reinstein

Friday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Oct 3, 10, 17
 Zoom, 125 seats

Many people played key roles during the Revolution and afterwards as our country evolved. Some women played active roles fighting in the Revolution.

Revolutionary Women: Forgotten Freedom Fighters, tells their stories of bravery, wiliness, and struggle for recognition. They used the stereotypical views of the day against their foes, sometimes disguising themselves as men and sometimes pretending to be simple housewives.

Two leaders who represent the diverse leaders of this period are James Madison and Aaron Burr. Both *James Madison: The Evolution of Thought and Practice on Creating a Constitutional Republic* and *Aaron Burr: Brilliant Master Political Strategist and Murdering Traitor* tell the stories of how men with brilliant, serious thinking and political skills succeeded in the post-Revolutionary world. Along their successful political paths, both changed their views and actions 180 degrees. Both presented sometimes puzzling changes with criticism from their former allies and rejection by their foes.

Read Rebecca's bio on p. 13.



Women Amidst the American Revolution

Holly Mayer

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Oct 20, 27, Nov 3
Campus Center, Room 159
50 seats

The course outlines women's actions in and influences on events as American colonies rebelled against Great Britain, military forces marched through their communities, and the Revolution adjusted roles and beliefs in the new republic.

The first week covers the 1760s to early 1770s. The second week focuses on the war years; the third reflects on social and legal readjustments in the 1780s-90s. Short article or chapter excerpts will be provided from various sources, including *Women Waging War in the American Revolution* (UVA Press, 2022).

Holly Mayer earned a Ph.D. in history at William & Mary and retired as professor emerita at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. She was also a visiting professor at the U.S. Army War College and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. She served in the U.S. Army Reserve and has authored books and articles on 18th-century American social and military history.



NEW! Revolution in Roads: Jamestown to Williamsburg and Beyond (1607-1957)

Richard Watkins

Monday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Oct 20, 27, Nov 3
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

Using old maps, other historical documents and the instructor's personal explorations of the Williamsburg area, class participants will discover the earliest by-ways from Jamestown to Williamsburg and beyond during the period 1607 to 1957.

Topics include finding remnants of the first roads from Jamestown to Green Springs and later Middle Plantation. Using the 1699 survey of Williamsburg and its two ports, the class will experience Rich's joy in finding original boundary markers around College Landing. Using a 1753 map, we will trace the ways delegates from every Virginia county could travel to the first revolutionary meetings in Williamsburg. Through French, Union, and Confederate maps the class will better understand the local roads existing during the revolution and civil wars.

Finally, the class will experience another revolution in roads that occurs in the area to facilitate historic celebrations and the coming age of the automobile. This 3-session course will expand on materials presented in two previous, one-session courses, on the "History of College Landing" and the "Old Roads of Williamsburg." A course objective is to encourage and facilitate

participants' own exploration of these old roads with family and friends.

After retiring from the U.S. Foreign Service and an operating an education business, Rich Watkins moved to Williamsburg in 2004 and was soon enchanted by the area's history. He shared his expanding knowledge as a tour guide with Jamestown Settlement, the American Revolutionary Museum at Yorktown, and Colonial Williamsburg. During the pandemic, he explored the area for remnants of old colonial roads and discovered the rich history surrounding College Landing Park. He continues the search for these old roads today.



Defending the Old Dominion: Virginia During the War of 1812

Stuart Butler

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Oct 22, 29, Nov 5
Campus Center, Room 159
60 seats

This course will examine the military and political events occurring in Virginia during the War of 1812. A special emphasis will be placed on the Virginia militia and how it performed during the war. A brief overview of the causes of the war will be discussed, including British naval presence in the Chesapeake Bay.

Stuart Butler attended Florida State and Florida Atlantic Universities. He holds a B.A. and M.A. in history with a secondary area of interest in British history. Retired from the National Archives and Records Administration as assistant branch chief of military archives, Stuart has a lifelong interest in British history.



NEW! What, Then, Was the American Revolution?

Karen McPherson

Friday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Oct 24, 31, Nov 7
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

We shouldn't have to ask what the American Revolution was. It was a war that lasted from 1775-1783, right?

Well, not so fast. John Adams said, "The Revolution was effected before the war commenced...this radical change in the principles, opinions, sentiments, and affections of the people, was the real American Revolution."

But Thomas Jefferson came along and said, The Revolution of 1800 was as real a revolution in the principles of our government as that of 1776 was in its form. So what was the American Revolution? This class will focus on answering that question.

Read Karen's bio on p. 14.



NEW! Supporting Victory: American Women in World War I

Joseph Johnson

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Nov 5
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

World War I is often considered the first total war for the United States. An army of nearly two million soldiers was sent to and had to be sustained over three thousand miles away in France. Such a massive effort required the mobilization of all elements of society, especially women, on a scale never before experienced.

This presentation will explore how American women eagerly and successfully responded to this challenge. Stateside, they worked in factories, expanded production of food, collected surplus materials for war production, and enlisted in the Navy and Marine Corps. Overseas they served as nurses, provided General Pershing with the world class telephone operator service, and furnished desperately needed morale support services for our doughboys.

The scale and scope of their contributions marked a revolution in American women's role in war and led

to a dramatic change in their political status – the right to vote.

Joe Johnson recently retired as chief of staff at the Defense Acquisition University and continues to volunteer there as well as at the National Museum of the United States Army as a docent. He also serves as president of the Fort Belvoir military history club. He majored in European History at Washington and Lee University prior to a career in contracting and logistics in the U.S. Army, which included instructor assignments at the Quartermaster School and the Command and General Staff College.

NEW! The Birth of the Atomic Age

Galina Vromen

🕒 Thursday, 11:00am-12:30pm
1 session: Nov 20
📺 Zoom, 125 seats

What was it like to live in WWII Los Alamos, New Mexico, where the world's first atomic bomb was built? What were the considerations that went into using the bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, exactly 80 years ago?

Based on research for her historical novel, author Galina Vromen will bring alive that monumental period and discuss its impact on the state of nuclear proliferation today.

Galina Vromen spent over a decade as a journalist, mostly for Reuters, in Europe, Mexico and Israel. After retiring, she focused on writing Hill of Secrets, a novel based in WWII Los Alamos. Her interest in the dawn of the atomic age led her to explore issues of nuclear arms today.



NEW! Virginia's Road to Revolution: Episode III: A State of Rebellion

Mark Howell

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Dec 4
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

- ① Though not required, participants will benefit from having attended Episode I & II
- ① Prior Episode participants who register early for Fall will be automatically seated in this episode IF they rank this course as their No. 1 or No. 2 lottery preference

This course (and the following) are the 3rd and 4th of a five-session arc exploring how Virginia's leadership used a series of extra-legal meetings to negotiate the increasingly volatile last couple of years of being a British colony.

In the summer of 1775, relations between Great Britain and her American colonies had been exacerbated by the battles at Lexington and Concord and the convening of the Second Continental Congress. Virginia had held two extra-legal meetings, styled conventions, and were now obliged to call a third to

help put the colony on a war footing, should the need arise. This course will use primary documents not commonly known to the general public to explore the options and decisions that Virginia's colonial leaders faced.

Subsequent classes will be timed to coincide with the 250th anniversaries of the last two conventions, culminating in May 2026 with an examination of the pivotal Fifth Convention.

Mark Howell spent his career working in museums and translating scholarship into engaging and meaningful experiences for the public. He has worked at Colonial Williamsburg, the Library of Virginia, and Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, among others.



NEW! Virginia's Road to Revolution: Episode IV: Independence Deferred

Mark Howell

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Dec 11
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

- ① Though not required, participants will benefit from having attended Episode I, II, III
- ① Prior Episode participants who register early for Fall will be automatically seated in this episode IF they rank this course as their No. 1 or No. 2 lottery preference

In August, 1775, King George III declared the American colonies to be in rebellion. In the past year Virginia's leadership had held three so-called conventions to respond to the worsening situation and provide leadership in the absence of the dissolved House of Burgesses. The 4th Convention began its deliberations in December. Using primary documents of the period, this course examines Virginia's leadership's continuing attempts to maintain order in the colony while dealing with Governor Lord Dunmore's attempt to recruit loyalists and the enslaved persons of rebel patriots to support his declaration of martial law.

The last class will be timed to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the pivotal Fifth Convention in May 2026.

See Mark's bio above.



Los Alamos, New Mexico, home of Manhattan Project scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer, who lived in the house from 1943-45 with his wife Kitty, daughter Toni, and son Peter.



Lessons & Luminations

curated conversations about life & leadership
— with America's nation builders —

Step into a deep conversation about the course of a nation at the moment of its inception...with the extraordinary men and women who dreamed, debated, and delivered the grandest experiment in liberty and leadership ever known...by special invitation to historical venues where the story is best shared.



FROM QUILL TO KEEPSAKES:

**Relics of Revolution with
Martha Washington &
Patrick Henry**

*Fundraiser – Open to the Public**

Friday, October 10

9am (reception); 9:30-11:30am (event)
Swem Library, Special Collections Room
\$75 per person

Experience history as it comes to life in an exclusive visit to the Earl Gregg Swem Library's Special Collections.

In this captivating program, journey into the past as Patrick Henry and Martha Washington personally present rare documents and artifacts tied to their lives and legacies.

Hosted by the director of Special Collections and held in the library's rare book and document viewing room, this program offers an intimate glimpse into the minds of two of America's most influential personages.

Program participants will not only hear their firsthand accounts but will also have the opportunity to view these extraordinary historic pieces up close.



THE ART OF DIPLOMACY:

**Lessons from John
Quincy Adams**

*Fundraiser – Open to the Public**

Saturday, November 1

7-8:30 pm
Colonial Williamsburg, Kimball Theatre
\$35 per person

Step into the world of early American diplomacy in this compelling evening that brings history to life through the insights of one of America's most principled statesmen.

Featuring John Quincy Adams, this program explores the enduring relevance of his diplomatic legacy, from his early service as a teenage envoy in Europe to his authorship of the Monroe Doctrine and his tenure as Secretary of State and President.

Through vivid storytelling and thoughtful reflection, Adams will share lessons on integrity, negotiation, and the delicate balance of national interest and moral conviction.



IN THE COMPANY OF PATRIOTS:

**Women's Enduring Legacy
in Colonial Virginia**

*Fundraiser – Open to the Public**

Wednesday, November 19

7-8:30pm
Colonial Williamsburg, Kimball Theatre
\$40 per person

Join us for an illuminating evening as Martha Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison reflect on the often-overlooked contributions of women in Colonial Virginia.

Through engaging dialogue, these iconic figures will explore how wives, mothers, and female community leaders shaped not only their personal lives, but also the political, social, and cultural foundations of a new nation.

This program brings to life the powerful stories of women whose influence extended far beyond the hearth. From managing homes, businesses, and preserving family fortunes during war, to advising their husbands and sustaining civic ideals, these women forged a legacy of resilience and purpose.

Audience members will gain a deeper appreciation for the enduring impact of women's roles in the American founding - insights as relevant today as they were more than two-and-a-half centuries ago.

About Lessons & Luminations

Join us in a journey rooted in our past, relevant to our present, and endowed with wisdom for our future. These one-of-a-kind fundraisers are presented by [The Williamsburg Institute](#) in collaboration with [Osher at W&M](#). Proceeds benefit The Williamsburg Institute and the Osher Institute at William & Mary's Impact Fund. All events are open to the public. Seating is limited; reservations are required. There are no paper tickets; simply sign-in at the door with the name of the person who made the reservation.

*Lessons & Luminations event fees are due when registering (see the inside front cover). Osher members may buy one or more tickets during registration or by visiting [learnatosher.wm.edu](#). Fundraising events do not count against the Osher Fall 2025 semester maximum course load

American Wisdom Tradition

The American Wisdom Tradition is a component of The American Wisdom Project, a pilot research and teaching curriculum of the Innermost House Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization. The Project focuses on an American Wisdom Tradition while illuminating the larger world's wisdom traditions.

From origins in early Virginia as a crossroads of Old and New, North and South, East and West, the Tradition develops from 18th century Williamsburg to 19th century Concord to 20th century California, while seeking its roots in the cultures of Native America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

It comprehends nature, art, thought, and spirituality as humanistic disciplines of the individual, drawing upon local and national resources for class instruction, team-teaching, and offsite learning. Like its ancient forebear at Oxford University, *Literae Humaniores*, the American Wisdom Project is a laboratory to cultivate a "more humane learning."

NEW! 24 Hours in the Life of Innermost House

Diana Lorence

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm

1 session: Sep 12

Tucker Hall, Room 127A, 124 seats

What would it be like to wake in the morning and know that you had no light or heat, but fire, no television or radio, no computer or phone, no car, no neighbors, no news, no appointments, no stores, no errands, no chores? Of all the questions that have been asked about Diana's years in the woods at Innermost House, the most frequent is simply, "What did you do all day?" The answer may surprise you. And after seven years of deepest satisfaction, Diana could truly say she never worked, she never played, and she was never bored. You are cordially invited to spend 24 hours in words and pictures with Diana of Innermost House.

Bassett Woods: A Philosophical Woodland Walk

Michael Lorence, Diana Lorence

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Sep 16

Colonial Williamsburg, Bassett Trace Nature Trail, 20 seats

Henry Thoreau's beautiful essay, *Walking*, describes the art of walking as Holy-Landing, a crusade undertaken to reclaim the paradise of our beginnings. We should go forth on the shortest walk, he says, in the spirit of undying adventure, never to return. America once stood for a paradise regained of boundless forest and stream: a mythic landscape preserved


from the beginnings of time. In this narrated woodland walk through the majestic Bassett Woods at Colonial Williamsburg, we seek the sources of American wisdom in the forests that shaped the early nation.

NEW! An Eastern Woodland Wisdom: One Year in the Life of an American Indian

Michael Lorence, Russell Reed

Wednesday, 4 sessions:

Sep 17 - 9:30-11:30am, Campus Center, Room 31

 **Oct 1, Nov 5, Dec 10** - 9a-12p, Class location TBA by email
10 seats

The American Wisdom Tradition rests on an unalienable foundation of Native American Wisdom. That Native wisdom is irreducible to books and concepts alone, but rests on embodied experience lived in harmony with the natural environment in place and time. In this series of seasonal experiences, we will visit four local environments of woods and waters, led by Russell Reed (Atakapa of Louisiana), experimental archaeologist and past supervisor of American Indian field programs at the Jamestown-Yorktown and Colonial Williamsburg museums. This is a rare opportunity to look out on the woodland world through the eyes of the American Indian.

NEW! Conserving the Wisdom Tradition: The Park Cabins of the CCC

Michael Lorence, Ed Pease

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm

1 session: Sep 19

Tucker Hall, Room 127A, 124 seats

In this class of words and images, you will meet the architects who recently restored all the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) cabins in Virginia. In 1890, the American frontier was declared officially closed, and the nation was left, for the first time in its history, without a wilderness frontier. A consumer revolution exploded out of that vacuum only to collapse into the depths of the Great Depression. In response, the Civilian Conservation Corps was formed to bring hundreds of thousands of white, black, and Native American men and women back into healing contact with the land, restoring a suffering nation with a vision of a simpler past and wiser future.

The City of God: A Philosophical Walk Through Palace Green

Michael Lorence, Diana Lorence

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Sep 25

Colonial Williamsburg, Lumber House
20 seats

 Visit colonialwilliamsburg.org to learn about the required Good Neighbor Pass.

This walking tour of the town and gardens along Palace Street in Colonial Williamsburg is not a horticultural or botanical tour. Rather, it examines the city through the philosopher's eyes. Do gardens have meaning? Is architecture more than shelter and decoration? Is there a difference in Williamsburg? What difference does it make? What role can a city play in pursuit of wisdom?



NEW! Words in Revolt: Philosophical Reflections on Revolutionary Language

Michael Lorence, Diana Lorence

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm

1 session: Sep 26

Tucker Hall, Room 127A, 124 seats

When words lose their meaning, people lose their freedom." So observed Confucius 2500 years ago, though he might have been speaking to us today of our most urgent issues. Over the course of the past two revolutionary centuries, certain words of fundamental importance have so far lost their meaning as to reverse their import, at the cost of the very freedoms they purport to protect. What is freedom? What are words? What is meaning? We will examine the meaning of six familiar words and endeavor to reclaim our inner freedom.

NEW! The Woods as a Way of Seeing

Diana Lorence

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Oct 2

Colonial Williamsburg, Bassett Trace Nature Trail, 20 seats

Have you ever longed for Life in the Woods? The woods are more than trees and earth and sky, they are a way of being, of seeing and feeling the light. Set in the shadowy light of the autumn woods, Diana Lorence invites us to use our cameras to look and learn to see. She draws on seven years of solitude in the woods at Land's End in California to let the shadows teach us what light is, and the deepening year teach us what life is. What meanings await us to be read in the woods of our imaginations, illuminated by a Woodland Way of Seeing?



The Idea of a University: A Philosophical Walking Tour of Old Campus

Michael Lorence, Diana Lorence

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Oct 9

Wren Building, Wren Yard, 20 seats

Of all conceptions born of medieval Europe, the most powerfully charged and widely adopted is the mind-altering idea of the University. Arising in the 11th and 12th centuries in Bologna, Paris, Oxford, and Cambridge, this one revolutionary idea has spread to nearly every nation in the world and all seven continents. The university and the modern world were born together.

The ancient campus of William & Mary centers upon the oldest academic buildings in the U.S. Founded by Royal Charter in 1693, it preserves in brick and mortar the ancient human aspiration to universal knowledge, the ultimate object of which is the spiritual unity of the soul. We examine the local origins of a universal idea. This is at once an architectural, a historical, and a philosophical tour of a universal human ideal.

The Wisdom of Hands: A Philosophical Walk Through the Historic Trades

Michael Lorence, Diana Lorence

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am; 6 sessions:

Oct 23, 30, Nov 6, 13, 20, Dec 4

Various Colonial Williamsburg locations, TBA by email, 20 seats

⚠️ Visit colonialwilliamsburg.org to learn about the required Good Neighbor Pass.

The hands are the cutting edge of the mind, cultural historian Jacob Bronowski once observed. In this series of reflective walks through Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Trades we seek to regain the wisdom of skilled hand work to a world where it has almost wholly disappeared. Why did the tools of his trade once qualify an artisan for the vote? How does the human mind suffer when the

hands have no voice? Moving from labor to craft to trade and from apprentice to journeyman to master, we inquire of the past for guidance in piecing together a sense of how our hands make us human.

About the Wisdom Tradition Instructors

Diana and Michael Lorence founded The American Wisdom Project, calling upon the resources of the Innermost House Foundation and their personal passion for the wisdom of our diverse forebears and the many cultural influences woven into the complex tapestry of American life.

The couple lived in solitude for seven years in the California woods, in a 12x12 foot redwood cabin they built themselves, in a world lit only by fire. Since then, Diana and her "Innermost House" have become symbols of the inner life known around the world. Michael is president of The Innermost House Foundation in California, director of the American Wisdom Project and the Virginia House Project in Williamsburg, and a past director of the Thoreau Society in Concord, Massachusetts.

Edwin Pease, AIA, is co-founder of Stemann Pease Architecture, and lecturer emeritus in the Department of Art at W&M. Ed's award-winning work ranges from civic buildings and museums to educational and residential structures. He and David Stemann recently completed the restoration of every CCC cabin in Virginia.

Russell Reed (Atakapa of Louisiana) is an experimental archaeologist and past manager of American Indian sites at Colonial Williamsburg and the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation. He has served as field technician at the Longwood Institute of Archaeology and presently serves as an infantry soldier in the Army National Reserve.



NOTE to Class Participants

Many American Wisdom Tradition classes are walking lectures on campus, around Colonial Williamsburg, and at nearby parks and locales. Some of these lectures require periods of standing. For your safety and comfort, participants must be comfortable walking 1-2 miles on unpaved trails, uneven terrain, and brick pathways. Be sure to wear proper footwear; dress for the weather; stay hydrated; and (optionally) bring a lightweight collapsible stool. Insect repellent is recommended for woodland walks.

Check your email at least one day prior to class to confirm the meeting place for outdoor lectures. For the best experience, please be familiar with class locations in advance, and allow yourself extra time for parking.

Art, Music, Film & Photography



Time in a Bottle: Musicals That Capture a Moment in History, Part 3

Issa Puttre

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm
6 sessions: Sep 8, 15, 22, 29, Oct 6, 13
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

An in-depth look at musicals that explore either one specific historical event such as *1776* or *Titanic*, a specific decade such as *Hair* or *Ragtime*, or a historical figure like *Hamilton* or *Evita*. Following on from Parts 1 and 2 offered this past Summer, Part 3 will start with the 1930s and work its way forward. Classes will utilize both footage and music from shows to see how these musicals capture a moment in history.

Issa Puttre is a graduate of The National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts and has worked as an actress and director throughout the East Coast including performances at both The Kennedy Center and Lincoln Center. Past shows include Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Kiss Me Kate, Children of Eden, Agnes of God, A View From A Bridge, The Scarlet Pimpernel, Steel Magnolias and the 50th Anniversary concert of Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat.



Shadows & Smoke: A Deep Dive into Film Noir

Thomas Thompson

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am
6 sessions: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 14
Williamsburg Regional Library, Theatre
250 seats

This semester's film noirs, despite spanning different decades and styles, share key thematic and stylistic elements characteristic of the genre.

Each film explores fatalism, crime, and doomed protagonists who are often trapped by their past or led to ruin by

obsession, betrayal, or fate.

Leave Her to Heaven stands out for its lush Technicolor visuals but retains the noir core of psychological manipulation and destructive passion, while *The Killers* (both the 1946 and 1964 versions) and *Criss Cross* revolve around heists, double-crosses, and the inescapability of doom. *Blast of Silence* modernizes noir with a gritty, existentialist take on the hit-man trope, similar to *Point Blank*, which infuses noir with a cold, detached brutality and existential alienation.

Despite their differences, all these films depict morally compromised characters navigating a world of deception, violence, and inevitable downfall, embodying the bleak worldview that defines film noir.

Read Tom's bio on p. 14.

NEW! Exploring the New Muscarelle Museum

Sandra Stephan

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Sep 16
Muscarelle Museum, Event Hall
60 seats

Here's your chance to see the new Muscarelle Museum of Art – up close and personal. Enjoy an exclusive in-depth tour of the latest exhibitions in this beautiful facility. In many new galleries with vastly increased exhibition space, you'll view a broad array of recent additions to the collection, works that are making their debut appearance in the Museum.

And you'll visit some of the old favorites that have been part of the Museum collection for a very long time, now appearing at their best in their new location. Step behind the scenes and learn the intriguing backstory of Muscarelle. Did it really begin with a theft? Experienced docents will guide you through the galleries, revealing the stories, techniques, and perhaps some secrets behind the pictures in our exhibition.

Sandra Stephan holds a Ph.D. in English literature and has taught at the university level and in a variety

of community educational programs. She currently serves as chair of the Muscarelle Museum of Art docent programs.



NEW! Ludwig van Beethoven: A Musical Revolutionary

Dan Sherman

Monday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Sep 22
Williamsburg Regional Library, Theatre
250 seats

Ludwig van Beethoven was a revolutionary composer, both in changing musical forms and also in changing the role of the artist and society of his time. This class will discuss Beethoven's development as a composer, focusing on how his monumental Ninth Symphony evolved over time to provide a hopeful message of a united humanity.

The class will cover Beethoven's life, the tumultuous history of his time, and the development of his music. The class will include many examples of his music, though no knowledge of music is required for the class.

Dan Sherman is a retired economist (Ph.D., Cornell) who has taught many courses to adult learning groups on a broad range of topics, including film, theatre, music, and mathematics. He divides his time between Alexandria and Williamsburg.

EXPANDED! "And What Do You Think You're Listening To?" A Composer's Toolbox

Tim Kloth

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm
2 sessions: Sep 29, Oct 6
School of Education, Room 2000
30 seats

The Composer's Toolbox has been expanded to two classes to include more musical examples. Session 1 will cover Universals in Music. Two musical parameters that all cultures share are heartbeat and voice. However, other features, which are unique to a culture's music,

may or may not make their musical expressions understandable to all ears.

Class 2 will focus on five specific tools that composers use to write their music; rhythm, melody, harmony, timbre, and texture. Each of the tools will be illustrated with several musical examples. With excerpts taken from the Baroque to Contemporary music, you will see how these tools have been used for centuries.

Timothy Kloth first studied composition with David Cope at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Continuing to major in composition, he earned a B.M. at Capital University's Conservatory of Music, an M.M. at the Eastman School of Music, and his D.M.A. from the University of North Texas. Major professors included Larry Austin, Warren Benson, Merrill Ellis, Martin Mailman, and Joseph Schwanthner.

The Kingston Trio & the Folk Era of the 1950s and 60s

Jim Morford, Greg Davy

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Sep 29, Oct 6, 13
School of Education, Room 2010
30 seats

American folk music rose to popularity in the late 1950s and became a happening in the 1960s. The course examines the foundation of folk music in America, much of which was inspired by social and economic conditions with some politics thrown in. Many once-famous groups and their music will be recalled. Special emphasis will be on The Kingston Trio, that at the time was the most envied, the most imitated, and the most successful singing group – folk or otherwise – in all of show business.

Jim Morford is a former social studies teacher, part-time lecturer at Rutgers University, long-time Kingston Trio fan, and veteran CW/Osher instructor.

Greg Davy was first bitten by the folk bug at about the age of 6, when he heard the records his parents were playing of the popular folk acts of the day. Before retiring earlier this year,

Greg enjoyed 40+ years as a journalist and government agency public relations specialist. But playing in his Kingston Trio tribute group, the Three Jolly Coachmen, is what he truly loves.

NEW! The Life, Impact, and Art of Josiah Wedgwood

Caroline Nicholson

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Sep 30
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

Today, the name Wedgwood immediately brings to mind elegance and the very specific aesthetic for which it has become known.

Its founder, Josiah Wedgwood, was a true pioneer of his craft. A man of humble origins, Josiah Wedgwood revolutionized the British pottery industry at the end of the eighteenth century, creating works of basalt and jasper ware that the British public could hardly conceive were crafted by human hands.

This course will explore the life and achievements of Josiah Wedgwood, investigating how the works of pottery he created both elevated British pottery and had a wider impact on society at large. During and after Josiah Wedgwood's lifetime, Wedgwood pieces have been created to commemorate important milestones



Teapot, 1775-1780, Wedgwood Pottery, Burslem, solid blue jasper on white relief (Art Institute of Chicago)

Caroline Nicholson earned a master's degree with distinction in decorative arts and historic interiors from The University of Buckingham in partnership with The Wallace Collection, where she completed her dissertation on the Nancy School of Art Nouveau. She also holds an honours degree, first class, in art history from The University of St. Andrews. She is currently a writer for the online publication TheCollector, and has also been published in Worthwhile Magazine, The Pre-Raphaelite Society Review, and Calliope Arts Journal.

The World of Oriental Rugs

Frank Shaia, Bryan Siewert

Tuesday, 5:30-7:30pm
3 sessions: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14
Shaia Oriental Rugs Showroom
35 seats

Join us to learn how rugs are made and the history of rugs through the ages including modern-day creations.

Frank Shaia is a second-generation rug dealer. His father sold rugs throughout the East Coast. In 1973 Frank's older brother Joseph opened an oriental rug store in Williamsburg. Frank joined him shortly after. Although the shop specializes in fine new rugs,

RELATED ART, MUSIC, FILM & PHOTOGRAPHY COURSES

Wisdom of Hands: Walk through CW's Historic Trades (p. 19)

Crafting with Cricut (p. 44)

Intermediate Cricut Crafting (p. 47)

Essence of Japanese Cuisine (p. 47)

Let's Make a Basket (p. 47)

Wreath Making for Winter (p. 48)

Frank spends most of his time with antique rugs. He exhibits at very fine antique shows each year and gives talks to groups along the East Coast.

Bryan Siewert is general manager of Shaia Oriental Rugs and has been working for Frank Shaia for over 10 years. He grew up in Richmond and attended Virginia Tech.



NEW! Art That Transformed Our World

Barbara Piatt, Harry Chancey, David Herald

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am

3 sessions: Oct 2, 9, 16

**Muscarelle Museum, Event Hall
60 seats**

Throughout history, art has played an active role in changing the world. Over three different sessions, you will discover how photography changed the representation of reality, how art plays a significant role in the promotion of social justice, and how Art Nouveau modernized design.

Barbara Piatt has been a docent for the Muscarelle Museum of Art as well as for the Chicago School of Architecture Foundation. She is currently studying art history through Oxford University with a focus on learning how to look at the visual arts.

Harry Chancey is a Muscarelle docent and a former program director for WNET/13 Public Television in New York.

David Herald has an M.F.A. from Virginia Commonwealth University with a specialty in photography with additional course hours in art history. He is currently a docent at the Muscarelle Museum of Art and has served in that position for 25 years. In his past career he was a commissioned Army officer (retired).

Through the Hollywood Lens: The Vietnam War

Scott Langhorst

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm

3 sessions: Oct 3, 10, 17 **Campus Center, Little Theatre, 110 seats**

Hollywood has made many movies about the Vietnam War, including such

films as *The Deer Hunter*, *Apocalypse Now*, *Platoon*, *Full Metal Jacket*, *Hamburger Hill*, *Forrest Gump*, and *We Were Soldiers Once*.

The instructor, a Vietnam vet, reviews Hollywood's portrayal of the Vietnam War, American soldiers, and the Zeitgeist of the Vietnam era through an examination of (and commentary on) key film clips from movies. Which movie do you think is the most authentic Vietnam movie and best captures the experience of being a "grunt" in Vietnam?

Scott Langhorst is retired from the Virginia Community College System and federal service (Army civilian). He is a faculty development specialist and trainer with experience in both the classroom online. Scott earned a Ph.D. in public administration from Virginia Commonwealth University and was an undergraduate psychology major at William & Mary. Scott served as an infantry platoon leader and battalion staff officer with the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam in 1969-70.

NEW! The French Interior in the 18th Century

Caroline Nicholson

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am

2 sessions: Oct 7, 14

Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

Defined by their unique beauty, elegance, and extravagance, French interiors of the 18th century are heavily admired around the world to this day.

Furniture, ceramics, and even wall paneling from France's greatest palaces and mansions have been highly sought after by collectors in the intervening centuries. While these works are undoubtedly masterpieces in their own right, their appeal is heightened by the fascinating individuals who both created and commissioned them, ranging from kings and queens to legendary heroes.

This two-part course will examine the beauty and craftsmanship of some of the most majestic of France's 18th-century palaces and mansions. Join us on a journey through time to explore some of the most influential interior

spaces ever created!

Read Caroline's bio on p. 21.



NEW! The Revolutionary Story of WILLIAMSBURG –The Story of a Patriot

Richard McCluney

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm

3 sessions:

Oct 7, 21 at Campus Center, Little Theatre

Oct 14 at Colonial Williamsburg Visitors' Center, Lobby

110 seats

The longest running film in motion picture history, *WILLIAMSBURG – The Story of a Patriot*, has introduced tens of millions to Williamsburg's "Revolutionary Call" for American Independence.

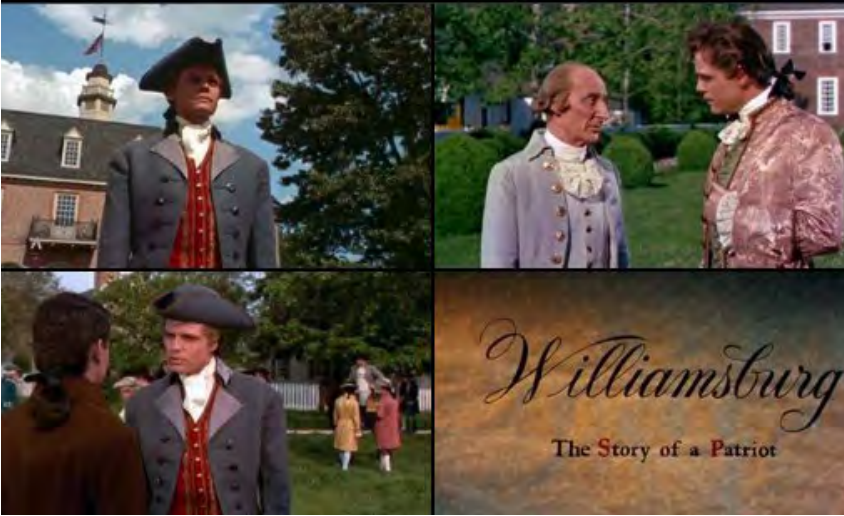
Less well known is that "The Patriot" was a technical and aesthetic revolution of and by itself. The product of widescreen and multi-channel surround technologies first applied to this 1957 film and the Patriot theaters used these revolutionary engineering and acoustic advancements to transport the audience to another time.

Join us to learn more about the making of the film and its groundbreaking technical innovations. The class features a viewing of the film at the Visitors' Center.

But before and after that session, you will also learn the backstory of the film, its theaters, and take in two other films that told the story of the revolutionary transformation of Colonial Williamsburg itself from restoration to the living history museum that John D. Rockefeller envisioned.

Richard McCluney is the retired Colonial Williamsburg vice president for productions, publications, and learning ventures. His career encompasses producing television news and documentaries including as VP, Louisville Productions (syndicated science, medicine, technology news), former director public affairs for WAVY-TV and reporter/producer for WXEX (WRIC) and WAVY. He apprenticed with Colonial Williamsburg, 18th Century Fox and CW Press Bureau-Radio/TV during high school and college. Richard is an alumnus of W&M, '67, earning a B.A.

Scenes from
WILLIAMSBURG
– *The Story of
a Patriot* (1957),
starring a
young Jack
Lord (of Hawaii
Five-O fame).
Join us to learn
about the
making and
preservation
of this truly
revolutionary
film and local
classic.



in government. He also completed graduate work at the Boston University School of Public Communications.

The Joy of Photography

Michael Richardson, Wilson Hurst

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm

6 sessions: Oct 20, 27, Nov 3, 10, 17, Dec 1 ③ **Note: No class on Nov 24**
Campus Center, Colonial Echo
18 seats

⚠ **Participants must have working knowledge of their camera, from Smartphone to professional medium-format as well as Internet access to review training videos and post their own images for review. Bring your camera to class!**

This course is designed for the new or newly inspired photographer, including the hobby photographer who wants to improve the quality of their images. The course will address personal inspiration, readily available technology, skill acquisition and individual satisfaction in capturing an appealing photographic image.

Regardless of the source, there is a basic photographer's inspiration to take pictures and to share them. Mastering the camera controls is the first step toward a better image, followed closely by available post editing technologies.

Michael Richardson is a retired professional engineer with a career spanning service as an Army officer, an industrial engineer, a U.S. Embassy designer/builder and an operational test director for Homeland Security. He restarted an interest in photography

following retirement and now concentrates on the unique features of the Virginia Tidewater area.

Approaching fine art philosophically, Wilson Hurst's personal work is devoted to visual image creation using diverse photographic processes. Images explore the boundaries of physical and transcendent existence by leveraging the intrinsic, unique characteristics of energy, matter, space, and time. Images are exhibited in juried shows and select art galleries.

How to Take More Creative Photographs

Carlo La Fiandra

Friday, 9:30-11:30am

3 sessions: Oct 24, 31, Nov 7
School of Education, Room 1056
40 seats

This course will demonstrate how to improve your photography and create images that have a wow factor. It will focus on various camera as well as computer image manipulation techniques.

Carlo La Fiandra has been using and teaching photography for many years including 26 courses with the Christopher Wren Association (Osher at W&M's legacy organization since 2002. He is currently a volunteer staff photographer with Colonial Williamsburg photographing antiques, working them in Photoshop and adding them to CW's database. He has won numerous prizes including a grand prize trip for two to Switzerland!

NEW! Drawing in the Dark: A Salmagundi of Art & Design

Roy Behrens

🕒 Tuesday, 11:00am-12:30pm

4 sessions: Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, 18

🖥 Zoom, 125 seats

ⓘ **W&M is closed on Nov 4 (Election Day), but this Zoom class will still meet**

A salmagundi is an assortment of this and that, a medley, or a potpourri. However mixed, this series of four engaging talks have certain things in common: They all pertain to vision, inventiveness and the arts – to quick-witted ways of looking at life whether by frolicsome uses of words (metaphors, wit, and feigned mistakes), or by beguiling contrivances like metamorphosis, visual puns, and bewildering juxtapositions.

Each session is a fast-paced, richly illustrated overview of surprising and often amusing effects, both historic and current, as presented by an artist, designer, writer and teacher. Creative minds are certain to enjoy this entertaining exploration of art in its many forms.

The four sessions are:

1. Teaching Drawing in the Dark;
2. I Never Metamorphosis I Didn't Like;
3. The Purposeful Use of Confusion; and
4. How I Once Made a Magazine.

Roy R. Behrens is an Iowa-based writer, graphic designer, and design historian who taught at various American art schools and universities for 45 years. His most recent book is Dreams of Fields: Memory Traces of Iowa's Past.

NEW! Watch a Working Rehearsal of Opera in Williamsburg – Orfeo ed Euridice

Naama Zahavi-Ely

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm

1 session: Oct 31

Colonial Williamsburg, Kimball Theatre
200 seats

Opera in Williamsburg, the innovative opera company that performs two fully staged operas in Williamsburg each

year, will open its doors so Osher members can observe a working rehearsal. The singers will already have rehearsed the music and the staging before welcoming participants to the Kimball Theatre on DOG Street.

This is a rare opportunity to experience a working rehearsal – piano accompaniment only, no costumes, minimal props, some repetition, and stagehands visible and moving about. The opera being presented is *Orfeo ed Euridice* by Christoph Willibald Gluck, sung in Italian with English supertitles. The finished production is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov 4, Friday, Nov 7, and Sunday, Nov 9, at the Kimball – will feature lavish costumes and full orchestra with conductor Jorge Parodi.

Naama Zahavi-Ely founded Opera In Williamsburg in 2012 and serves as artistic and general director. She taught Biblical Hebrew at W&M for over a decade before retiring to her native Israel. She believes that Williamsburg is uniquely positioned for intimate performances of opera classics.



UPDATED! The Art and Science of Capturing History – A Photographic Journey

John Hudson

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Nov 13, 20, Dec 4
③ **Note: No class on Nov 27**
School of Education, Room 2010
25 seats

The art and science of capturing history is an ever-evolving look at the symbiosis of art and science following the invention of photography.

Photography is writing with light, some may say painting with light, but as the authors and artists we choose the images that resonate with us, connect us to the world and become indelibly printed into our personal history.

In this course we will take a journey through time looking at the science that made this possible and the artists and everyday people that used it record history. We will stop along the

way to look at the people, places and events that changed our lives.

Fall 2025 will see an expanded and updated version of this course with newly added content on Fine Art Photography and Aerial Photography, along with a more in-depth look at the work of some notable photographers.

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution a new segment in this course will explore the impact that the invention of photography had on painting in the late 19th and early 20th century and the influence that the modern era of painting has had on photography!

For over 50 years, John Hudson has been evolving his skills as an amateur photographer and practicing the art and science of photography. Supplemented by a good working knowledge of videography and cinematography, and a passion for the arts in general, his latest version of this course promises to build on the story of the acceptance of photography as fine art. As a patron of the George Eastman Museum in Rochester NY, John has long been open to professional critical analysis of his work and welcomes it from everyone.

NEW! An In-Depth Visit to Five Medieval Cathedrals

Jan Smith

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Nov 14, 21, Dec 5
③ **Note: No class on Nov 28**
School of Education, Room 2030
30 seats

Canterbury Cathedral was the first cathedral in England and home to its first Archbishop. Winchester Cathedral was a center of power in Anglo-Saxon and Norman times. York Minster housed a second Archbishop, and its Norman bishops ruled North England. Henry VIII shut down Peterborough monastery, then promoted it to cathedral status. The Normans established Norwich Cathedral without the support of the local population.

After a brief review/introduction of English medieval cathedral

architecture, this interdisciplinary course will examine the history, art, and architecture of these five cathedrals. No previous knowledge or experience is required.

Jan Smith was a Docent at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. She studied art history at the Glassell School of Art and the Women's Institute of Houston, and medieval church architecture through the University of Oxford's continuing education program. She has traveled extensively in England studying cathedrals and parish churches.

NEW! The English Country House and Garden – Part I: 1200-1700

Paula Henderson

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am
2 sessions: Dec 2, 9
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

More historic houses, their interiors, furnishings and gardens have survived in Britain than in any other country and many are still owned and maintained by the families who built them.

This can largely be attributed to the policy of primogeniture, which means that the firstborn (male) child inherits the entire estate, resulting in an essential concentration of wealth. This course will consider the evolution of the elite country house from the fortified dwellings of the medieval period, the flamboyant Prodigy houses of the Tudor and early Stuart periods, and, finally, the magnificent Baroque houses of the late 17th century.

All aspects of these houses will be considered: their architecture and interiors; the social history (high and low); and how the houses related to their man-made and natural settings.

Paula Henderson has degrees in art history (The University of Chicago) and a Ph.D. in architectural history from the Courtauld Institute of Art (University of London). She lectures widely in Britain and the United States and has published award-winning books and over 70 articles on

English architecture and gardens. She has taught courses for the Courtauld Institute of Art and the Victoria and Albert Museum, as well as many other institutions. She is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and continues to consult on historic gardens in the UK.



NEW! A Revolutionary Landscape: The 18th-century English Landscape Garden

Paula Henderson

Monday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Dec 8
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

While the rest of Europe was creating gardens in the fashion of Versailles, the English began to reject nature in a straitjacket in favor of a more natural garden.

Encouraged by the writings of early 18th-century poets (Alexander Pope) and philosophers (the Earl of Shaftesbury), patrons sought to find the genius of the place in their landscapes and put an end to interminable alleys, tightly clipped topiary and the rigid formality of the French style.

The result – the English Landscape Garden – was truly a revolutionary (and perhaps even a political) movement that includes some of the most magnificent and still extant gardens in England. The style also spread rapidly across Europe, resulting in the destruction of many celebrated historic gardens.

Considered by many to be the most significant British contribution to the history of art, the Landscape Garden has had a lasting influence. Many public parks (from Hyde Park to Olmsted's Central Park) and cemeteries (from Père-Lachaise in Paris to endless examples in America) were designed as Landscape Gardens and its influence remains an inspiration even today.

Read Paula's bio at left.

Current Affairs & Media

NEW! Persuasion & Deception: Rhetorical Tricks of Advertisers & Scammers

Candice Benjes-Small

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Sep 17
School of Education, Room 2010
32 seats

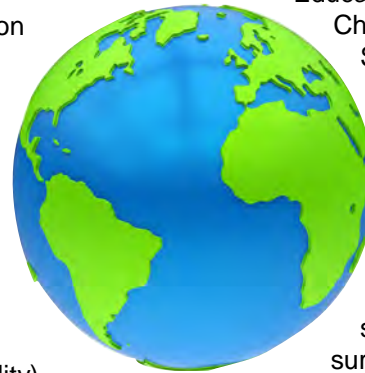
Persuasion and deception are two sides of the same coin. In this session, we will unmask the rhetorical tricks of advertisers, conspiracy theorists, and scammers.

The rhetorical triangle consists of three key elements: ethos (credibility), pathos (emotional appeal), and logos (logical argument). These elements work together to create persuasive messages – but they can also be used to deceive.

Learn how advertisers craft compelling messages, how fake news creators manipulate information, and how scammers exploit trust. We will break down the elements of the rhetorical triangle and its appeals, providing you with the tools to critically analyze and recognize persuasive tactics in various contexts.

Whether you're looking to protect yourself from scams or simply want to understand the art of persuasion better, this workshop offers valuable insights for everyone. Stay informed and empowered in today's digital age!

Candice Benjes-Small, M.L.I.S., is head of research at William & Mary Libraries and a frequent Osher instructor. Her areas of expertise include media literacy and fake news and is fascinated about the impact of AI on both.



NEW! Where on Earth is the U.S? A Top 10 Review

Doug Stowell

🕒 Thursday, 3:00-5:00pm
1 session: Sep 11
🖥️ Zoom, 125 seats

How does the U.S. compare in meeting the challenges that exist in 2025?

We will examine some 24 topics including: GDP, Wages, Taxes, Trade Balance, Tariffs, Environment, Energy, Education, Healthcare, Climate Change, Immigration, Safety, Prosperity, Happiness, "Best" Nations, and more.

We will use "Top 10" format which provides quick "snapshot" of the U.S. rank relative to other nations. Our sources are international surveys by highly credible and impartial worldwide organizations. This is the 4th bi-annual edition of the program and includes three discussion breaks.

Doug Stowell is a consumer and political polling veteran. His career includes market research positions for Xerox Corp., NOP, Ltd. in London and Wirthlin Worldwide in Washington, D.C. He launched Market Resource Associates in 2008 and conducts opinion research on global issues. He is a member of the Furman University Osher Institute in South Carolina and conducts Zoom programs for more than 80 organizations worldwide.

RELATED CURRENT AFFAIRS & MEDIA COURSES

Executive Order Economy (p. 27)

Understanding Today's Economic Issues & Trends (p. 27)

The Unitary Theory of Executive Power (p. 28)

Imposed Borders: Legacy of WWI for Today's Middle East (p. 50)



NEW! The Advocate's Mind: The Power of Your Voice

Muhammed Al Saffar

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Oct 3, 10, 17
Campus Center, Room 31
16 seats

This course is an interactive three-part workshop that blends psychology, public speaking, and civic advocacy. Participants will explore how people form beliefs, what makes messages persuasive, and how identity and emotion shape how we communicate.

Through case studies, group exercises, and real time coaching, learners will analyze powerful speeches and craft their own advocacy messages.

This course is ideal for anyone interested in public service, social change, or personal growth in communication. No prior speaking experience is required; just a willingness and passion to engage, reflect, and speak up.

By the end of the course, learners will understand the psychological science behind effective messaging and gain tools to speak with greater confidence, clarity, and impact.

Muhammed (Mo) Al Saffar is a current William & Mary neuroscience student, civic educator, and youth leadership advisor. He brings experience in government advocacy,

public speaking, and policy research. Muhammed has led workshops and events on youth empowerment and advocacy work, providing practical civic tools to help others find and use their voice for impact.



NEW! America's Healthcare System: Past, Present, and Future

Jim Roskelly

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Oct 22, 29, Nov 5
School of Education, Room 2030
30 seats

The main objective of this course is to give the participants a fuller understanding of how we have come to the present state of America's healthcare system, the complexities surrounding any meaningful change to our system, and how we can best achieve a sustainable future model.

Jim Roskelly is a longtime healthcare executive. He has served as a consultant and principal for TriBrook Group, Inc., offering strategic planning for hospitals, health systems, and ambulatory care providers, as well as a vice president of corporate planning and development for Cone Health. His expertise lies in establishing managing business plans, evaluating and forming multi-hospital alliances and identifying new business opportunities in the healthcare arena.

Introduction to Logical Fallacies

Kelly Shaw

Friday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Nov 14, 21, Dec 5
ⓘ No class on Nov 28
School of Education, Room 1056
20 seats

Fallacies (logical flaws) pop up often in advertisements, news stories, and political commentary, yet they are often hard to detect.

Participants in this class will learn how to spot commonly used fallacies, learn why arguments containing fallacious reasoning should be discounted, and hopefully eliminate these fallacies in their own discourse.

Kelly Shaw has been living part-time in London for several years. Before the pandemic, she wrote apps describing sights along common London Bus routes, helping visitors experience London as Londoners rather than as tourists. Kelly holds a Ph.D. in computer sciences.



"Before the Shot" by Norman Rockwell on the cover of The Saturday Evening Post, March 15, 1958.

RELATED FINANCE & ECONOMICS COURSES

Waging War Between Capitalism & Slavery in the U.S. (p. 9)

Lessons from the Great Depression (p. 11)

Introduction to End-of-Life Planning (p. 30)

America's Healthcare System: Past, Present, Future (p. 26)

Navigating the Healthcare Continuum (p. 31)

Medicare 2026: Know Your ABCDs (p. 32)

Finance & Economics



NEW! Executive Order Economy

Keith Reagan

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am

3 sessions: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14

School of Education, Room 1056

40 seats

Executive orders outnumber laws passed in record numbers since the last presidential election. We are in a new world where judicial and legislative power appear limited. Tariffs and the trade war have changed the global economy. What happens next? Golden Age or Great Depression? Who should control interest rates? America First vs. American Exceptionalism. We measure the pros and cons of this new government – revolutionary for Americans, but nothing new to humanity.

Keith C. Reagan, Sr., is a graduate of William & Mary. His postgraduate work includes executive education at The Wharton School of Business. He has been recognized in the Wall Street Journal as a Five Star Wealth Manager for the last 10 years. His firm, Reagan Holloway, is a fiduciary portfolio manager on the Fidelity platform.

Taxes in Retirement & Social Security

Jacob Bales

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am

3 sessions: Oct 2, 9, 16

School of Education, Room 2010

32 seats

This course reviews the basics of taxes in retirement and how they may not be what you expect.

We'll also explore how the changes from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and SECURE Act may affect you, along with key strategies to consider. We will also have a discussion on Social Security-claiming strategies in addition to management tips. The tax portion will highlight basic concepts and

policies that work together to create the system we know today. You will learn methods to help manage your tax bill, including proper distribution structure and asset structuring strategies.

Jacob Bales is a fully licensed Registered Representative with Series 7 and Series 66 certifications, as well as being a Certified Financial Planner. He is a co-advisor at James Bales Financial, focusing on planning, research, and advising, including Social Security.

Lifetime Income Strategies

Jacob Bales, James Bales

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am

3 sessions: Oct 22, 29, Nov 5

School of Education, Room 1056

40 seats

We will discuss financial education for retirees and planning your income for life. Post-retirement planning is often more difficult than planning for retirement. You are managing your entire nest egg not collecting paychecks any more with less time to recover your potential mistakes. In this course, you learn time-tested strategies for planning your retirement income that are designed to make your money last.

Read Jacob's bio above.

James Bales has been in the financial services industry since 1994. He is a registered principal and branch manager for Centaurus Financial, Inc. His designations include Registered Financial Consultant (RFC) and a Life Underwriters Training Council Fellow (LUTCF). Jim is a past President of the Virginia Peninsula Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors and is a member of the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT), the premier association for financial professionals.

Understanding Today's Economic Trends & Issues

Dan Gaske

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm

3 sessions: Nov 10, 17, Dec 1

Zoom, 125 seats

This discussion-based course examines a selection of present-day economic trends, issues, institutions, and markets in the U.S. and globally.

Specific topics to be included in the course to be driven by key trends and issues at the time – selected from such topics as U.S. government debt, impacts of immigration into the U.S., impacts of the increased import tariffs on U.S. economy, Social Security finances, the Federal Reserve Bank, connections between global warming and economics, U.S. income inequality, etc.

Daniel Gaske has a B.A. from Ouachita Baptist University and a Ph.D. in economics from Rice University. He has taught and led economics training for multiple audiences in both in-person and online formats.



NEW! Direct Indexing: What is It and How Can It Help Me?

Jacob Bales

Monday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Dec 1

School of Education, Room 2010

32 seats

Direct indexing can be a new way to hold your favorite index funds, with a twist.

Directly holding the individual stocks within a market index like the S&P 500 instead of an index-tracking mutual fund or ETF can allow for some advantageous tax strategies, ethical tilts, and a number of other potential benefits.

This one-session course will give an overview of how a strategy like this might be used along with specific cases where the benefits would be significant.

Harvesting significant tax losses, avoiding specific industries or other ethical objectives, and just being able to know what specific pieces you're invested in are all pieces we will discuss!

Read Jacob's bio at left.

Government & Law



NEW! Critical Thinking for a Better Civic Life

Michael Collier

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am

3 sessions: Oct 1, 8, 15

School of Education, Room 2010

32 seats

Do you want to learn about critical thinking and making better decisions? This course covers the unique skills needed to be a critical thinker. The content and examples in the course focus on civic life, including voting, but the skills covered are also useful in any personal or professional decision-making process.

Michael Collier is a graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and has a master's degree in strategic intelligence and Ph.D. in international relations. He has been teaching, researching, and writing about critical thinking for over 15 years.



NEW! The Unitary Theory of Executive Power: Important but Unknown

Robert Spitzer

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Oct 8

Williamsburg Regional Library, Theatre
250 seats

Following the theme of Revolutionary Ideas, this course will examine the origins and consequences of the profoundly important even revolutionary yet little-known constitutional theory that underlies the aggressively muscular exercise of executive power unfolding in the current Trump administration.

Architects of the Unitary theory argue that it arises from an Originalist reading of presidential powers meaning based on what the Constitution's Founders intended. But the theory is relatively new, emerging in the 1980s. There is certainly nothing new about presidential activism, as it has unfolded throughout the 20th century.

The Unitary theory, however, dials up Executive activism to a startling degree. Is the Unitary theory, in fact, what the Founders had in mind for the American presidency? What impact does it have on the relationship between the three branches of government, and therefore on our system of governance? Is it a return to the past or a modern invention? Whether new or old, excavated or invented, the Unitary theory is revolutionary.

Robert J. Spitzer (Ph.D., Cornell) is Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus, Political Science, at SUNY Cortland, adjunct professor at the William & Mary Law School, and affiliated scholar in its Government Dept. He is author of 16 books, including four on the presidency, and over 700 articles on many American politics subjects. He was a visiting professor at Cornell University for 30 years and a former president of the organization of political scientists who study the presidency of the American Political Science Association.



NEW! Criminal Justice & Constitutional Rights in 2025

Nate Green

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm

6 sessions: Oct 20, 27, Nov 3, 10, 17, Dec 1 ⓘ No class on Nov 24

School of Education, Room 2000
30 seats

This course will examine how the Constitutional Rights established by the 4th, 5th, and 6th Amendments impact policing and prosecution within Virginia's criminal justice system.

Nate Green is the elected Commonwealth's Attorney for the City of Williamsburg and James City County.

Graduating from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at William & Mary in 1998, Nate has been a prosecutor for more than 25 years and has led the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office since 2007.



NEW! Critical Thinking and U.S. Founding Documents

Bruce Cogossi

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am

3 sessions: Nov 11, 18, Dec 2

ⓘ No class on Nov 25

School of Education, Room 2010
32 seats

Critical thinking is the art of analyzing and evaluating thought processes. What were the founders thinking when they wrote the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution? This course will examine different founders' points of view for the historical documents using the Paul-Elder Critical Thinking Framework. Our study will culminate in a discussion of how the Declaration's revolutionary ideas influenced the creation of an equally revolutionary document: The U.S. Constitution.

Bruce Cogossi graduated from the U.S. Military Academy. He holds an M.P.A. from Troy State University, an M.S. in education from Old Dominion University, and an M.S. in national resource strategy from the National Defense University. He retired from the U.S. Army after a 27-year career, followed by 11 years as a Federal civilian in contracting.



Government of the People: The Right to Know What Government Is Doing

Megan Rhyne

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am

3 sessions: Nov 11, 18, Dec 2

ⓘ No class on Nov 25

School of Education, Room 1056
40 seats

As James Madison said, "Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own

Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.”

You elected them; now it's time to hold them accountable. Monitor your representatives in the Virginia Assembly. Track the legislation they propose. Verify how they vote. Then use your knowledge to stay on top of what's happening around the state, county and city – to effect change to the issues important to your life.

Megan Rhyne is the executive director of the nonpartisan, nonprofit Virginia Coalition for Open Government. She has a B.A. in media studies from the University of North Carolina and a law degree from the University of Colorado. She grew up in Williamsburg and lives there now with her husband and teenage son.

When Is Justice Served? Insights from the Military Experience

Thomas Shubert, Ken Krantz

Monday, 9:30-11:30am
2 sessions: Dec 1, 8
Campus Center, Room 159
50 seats

An issue consistently discussed in our society is how to ensure “the ends of justice” are fulfilled in sentencing for criminal offenses. The objective is to strike the right balance between protecting the safety and welfare of the community and protecting the statutory rights of the convicted individual. For example, a sentence of 10 years may fall short of 3,650 days in prison. And a “life” sentence may be commuted to something far less.

How and why does this happen? Who is looking out for the community? The victim(s)? What can be done to ensure that the intended “justice” is served as prescribed during sentencing?

Tom and Ken will draw on their military career experience – Tom as chair of the U.S. Air Force's parole board, and Ken as a JAG officer – to lead discussions that explore actual case studies. Learners will face the same real-world decision points as military parole boards to gain insight into what happens after the gavel falls in U.S.

military courts – and by extension, gain an appreciation of similar sentencing and parole practices in civilian criminal courts.

During 47 years of military and civilian service, Tom Shubert served as an Air Force pilot; political-military affairs officer; air attach legislative liaison for Secretaries of Defense and Air Force; policy director for European and Southeast Asia countries; and at the Air Force Review Boards Agency as chair of the Air Force Clemency and Parole Board.

Ken Krantz sang with Sinfonicron as a William & Mary law student and has performed more than 20 roles in Gilbert and Sullivan operas. A retired Navy JAG officer and federal administrative law judge, he performs with the Virginia Opera, Williamsburg Players, and other regional companies.

RELATED GOVERNMENT & LAW COURSES

The Constitutional Convention of 1787 (p. 7)

Turbulent Times & Powerful Voices: FDR vs. Lindbergh (p. 12)

After the Revolution Parts I and II (pp. 12, 14)

From Founding Fathers to Prohibition (p. 13)

The Impact of the Enlightenment in Williamsburg (p. 14)

What, Then, Was the American Revolution? (p. 15)

Virginia's Road to Revolution: Ep. III and Ep. IV (p. 16)

The Art of Diplomacy with John Quincy Adams (p. 17)

Intro to Logical Fallacies (p. 26)

Executive Order Economy (p. 27)

Intro to End-of-Life Planning (p. 30)

Medicare 2026 (p. 32)

Political & Ethical Philosophy of the Scottish Enlightenment (p. 38)

Legacy of WWI for Today's Middle East (p. 50)

Health & Wellness

A Conversation about Life's Journey

Fran Bado

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm
5 sessions: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, Oct 7
School of Education, Room 1056
14 seats

The class will take us through life from the joyful moments to the challenges along the way from those that are fun, happy and enduring to the ones that stop in our tracks as we ponder: What happened? Why? Why me/us? What now? What next? Will things ever be right again?

Expect a small and highly interactive class where you may be surprised that your situation is not as rare as you think and the answer(s) to your self-doubt, worry, and/or despair may lie within the learned wisdom of others.

We will examine a number of common life challenges in a sharing and empathetic environment. Roundtable discussion will consider the first steps toward a better tomorrow through the exchange of information, insights, and collective experiences. Join us!

Fran Bado is an executive project manager who is certified by the IBM Project Management Institute. He retired from IBM after 54 years and continues to teach across the curriculum of project management. His passion for teaching coupled with his experience ensures a valuable learning opportunity.

We've Got to Move it

Jim McDonald

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Sep 9, 16, 23
Campus Center, Room 159
30 seats

This class combines lecture and movement. In the first session, we'll discuss aging, theories on the process and what is happening physiologically. Sessions two and three will focus on functional fitness exercises you can do at home to improve endurance,

strength and balance along with discussion of other options available in the greater Williamsburg area to keep you mobile and active through the years.

Jim McDonald holds a Ph.D. in kinesiology focused on exercise physiology. He received his doctorate from Auburn University after a career in the USAF as a pilot and diplomat. He taught and did research, some focused on aging populations and exercise, while at Auburn as associate clinical professor for 12 years.

Introduction to End-of-Life Planning

Cryst'I Scheer

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am
4 sessions: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30
School of Education, Room 2010
25 seats

This course covers introductory conversations on a range of topics related to adequately preparing for the final stage of life. Participants will engage in meaningful discussions and practical exercises to address key components of end-of-life planning.

Topics include legal considerations such as estate planning, wills, advance directives, and power of attorney. Additionally, participants will explore legacy projects, funeral planning, home funeral planning, green burial, and grief support, empowering individuals to create a unique plan that resonates with their values. Participants emerge better prepared to face the inevitable, ensuring their preferences, instructions, and legacy are documented in a manner reflective of their unique life's journey.

Cryst'I Scheer is a professionally trained end-of-life doula with eight years of experience in hospice and end-of-life education. She is a qualified advance directive facilitator, guided autobiography instructor, legacy navigator, and notary public. She believes it is never too early to start proactively preparing for a thoughtful and intentional final stage of life.

NEW! Designing Your Own Personalized Fitness Program

Wendy LeBolt

Friday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Sep 12, 19, 26
Campus Center, Room 159
50 seats

What is the best way to stay physically fit? Experts say, "The best exercise is the one you keep doing."

If you're having trouble sticking with your fitness plan, you may not be the problem. Maybe the fitness activity you've chosen doesn't match your fitness personality.

In this class, we'll consult Suzanne Brue's book, *The 8 Colors of Fitness*, to consider fitness personality types. Then, using her assessment tool, we'll find the color of our fitness, and use this new information to find ways to match our fitness activities with our fitness personalities. Each participant will emerge with fitness activities they'll enjoy and keep on doing!

Wendy LeBolt, Ph.D., is a kinesiologist, health educator, and injury prevention expert. She enjoys helping people of all ages to stay physically active. Most recently, she taught kinesiology at the College of William & Mary and is delighted to call it her alma mater. Wendy is the author of two books, Fit2Finish: Keeping Your Soccer Players in the Game and Made to Move: Knowing and Loving God Through Your Body. Wendy and her husband Scot split their time between Sarasota, FL, and Williamsburg.

Yoga & Mindful Meditation

Indira Ghosh

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am
4 sessions: Sep 17, 24, Oct 1, 15
① No class on Oct 8 Williamsburg Landing, Charter Room (Assisted Living Building)
25 seats

Yoga is a segment of an ancient educational and remedial tradition that is valid, relevant, and supportive in

a new millennium with ever-growing health and well-being concerns. Athletes use it to tone muscles and increase flexibility. Executives rely on it to de-stress. Doctors prescribe it for everything from sore backs and respiratory problems to chronic fatigue. This course will focus on gentle yoga postures and the importance of progressive breathing as well as an introduction to the healing benefits of sound meditation

Indira Ghosh was a lecturer in physical education and yoga at Loreto College, Calcutta, India. She has conducted and participated in yoga and meditation seminars across the globe. She taught yoga in the Midwest through area universities, hospitals, and community centers. She is also an orthopedic nurse and teaches yoga and meditation in Williamsburg.



NEW! Jack Lalanne: Revolutionized Fitness for Regular Folks

Wendy LeBolt

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Sep 18
Campus Center, Room 159
60 seats

Jack Lalanne revolutionized fitness in America, bringing personal training into our living rooms and "controversial" weight training into fitness centers he launched worldwide. He popularized the importance of daily fitness and nutrition long before they became mainstream, inspiring millions to live healthier lives and some even women! – to follow in his professional footsteps. He was a man ahead of his time, yet right on time.

Read Wendy's bio earlier on this page.

Yoga and Mindfulness: Meditation for Everyday Living

Lisa Cleckley

Monday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Sep 29, Oct 6, 13
Williamsburg Landing, Charter Room (Assisted Living Building)
25 seats

Through this course, students will gain knowledge and the tools through yoga and meditation to enhance their everyday lives. Students will learn breathing techniques that will help reduce stress and anxiety and produce an inward serenity. Students will also learn a variety of postures they can use both on their mat and off.

Lisa Cleckley has been teaching yoga for more than 10 years in the Williamsburg community. She teaches both Hatha and Restorative yoga to help students increase their quality of life through both yoga and meditation.

How to Listen (So Others Will Talk)

David Hopkinson

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14
School of Education, Room 2010
12 seats

In many life relationships, there is one party with something important to express here and now, in search of another party willing and able to listen. But the needed exchange breaks down because the listener lacks the skills to receive and facilitate communication.

This class will describe, demonstrate, and coach on how to be a more effective listener using methods known by various names, e.g., deep, active, empathic, or facilitative listening.

The classroom experience will involve personal interaction with some degree of personal sharing and self-disclosure.

David Hopkinson is a Ph.D. clinical psychologist, retired from full-time private practice in various health care settings and from earlier graduate school teaching in counseling. He is very familiar with meeting clients facing terrifying and/or disorganizing assaults on their life, and with helping them restore what normality they could from the encounter. He has widely but informally read about the history of illness and disease, and the sociocultural adjustments to same, as a special interest throughout his adult life.

Navigating the Healthcare Continuum

Jaime Smiley

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Oct 1
School of Education, Room 2010
30 seats

This course will examine options for health services and senior living. Types of services available at different healthcare and senior living communities will be reviewed. This information will then be connected to insurance and payment options. By the end of the course, students will have a better understanding of the options that are available in the Williamsburg area as well as be prepared with questions to ask providers as they navigate the healthcare continuum.

Jaime Smiley, MS, OTR/L, CAPS is an occupational therapist who now serves as a healthcare consultant, educator, and Aging in Place specialist. A 2001 graduate of VCU's occupational therapy (OT) program, her 22-year career in senior care spans roles as therapist, director, clinical educator, and vice president of therapy services. Jaime is also an adjunct instructor in VCU's department of OT and South University's OT assistant program.

NEW! How to Reduce Your Risk of Heart Disease

Kerry Prewitt

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Oct 2, 9, 16
Campus Center, Room 159
60 seats

Heart disease affects nearly 50% of American adults and is the leading cause of death in the U.S. – accounting for nearly 1 in 5 deaths.

Perhaps a doctor has diagnosed you or a family member with heart disease but you aren't sure what that means. Perhaps you don't have heart disease, but want to take steps to reduce your risk of heart disease.

This course will provide an overview

of cardiac anatomy and physiology and discuss various types of heart disease. We will focus primarily on coronary artery disease or atherosclerosis, as this is the most common type of heart disease.

We will explore causes, risk factors, screening tests, potential symptoms, and evaluation. We will discuss treatment options of lifestyle changes, medications (prescription and supplements), and invasive procedures (coronary stent and cardiac artery bypass surgery) and the rationale for each choice.

Kerry Prewitt, M.D., is a board-certified cardiologist and vascular specialist, who retired after 35 years in practice, most recently with Sentara Medical Group. He completed fellowships in cardiovascular disease at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and interventional cardiology at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He was the director of interventional cardiology for two large groups. His special areas of interests include interventional cardiology (procedures), vascular medicine, and preventive cardiology. He has been recognized for his commitment to teaching and service with several awards.

NEW! Dance for Fun!

Bess Williams

🕒 Thursday, 4:30-5:30pm
5 sessions: Oct 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Campus Center, Little Theatre
25 seats

RELATED HEALTH & WELLNESS COURSES

From Leeches to Lasers: 18th-century Medicine to Today (p. 7)

America's Healthcare System: Past, Present, Future (p. 26)

Essence of Japanese Cuisine: Healthful Eating & Artful Presentation (p. 47)

All Because of a Flea: The Plague in a Historical Context (p. 49)

History & Psychology of the Great Pandemics (p. 51)

Wear comfortable gym shoes and be ready to have fun in this dance class. We will sample dances from various cultures, including salsa, merengue, Bollywood, cha cha, cumbia, hora, and others. We will work at a modified intensity that will improve balance and coordination, burn calories, strengthen muscles, and make your whole body smile. It's a dance party where everyone in the room is your partner.

Bess Williams holds a B.A. in education from Michigan State University, an M.L.S. in library science from Indiana University, AFAA Group Fitness Certification, and Zumba Certification. Before retirement, she was an IB Librarian at Fairport High School in Rochester, New York. She is currently a paraeducator in the York County schools



Keys to Preventing Dementia: Help and Hope as We Age

Patricia Quinlisk

🕒 Friday, 9:30-11am
3 sessions: Oct 3, 10, 17
📺 Zoom, 125 seats

The risk of developing dementia can be reduced; in fact, it's estimated that about 40% of all cases of dementia/Alzheimer's disease can be prevented.

In these two classes, you will learn the details about what YOU can do to lower your risk, even if you think you might be carrying the dementia gene!

It's not easy to make lifestyle changes, but now is the time to start and these changes will help you to be healthier overall. Not only will your brain be healthier, so will your heart and lungs, and body!) Join us for a life changing class and the latest information about this disease.

Patricia Quinlisk served as medical director and state epidemiologist at the Iowa Department of Public Health for 24 years. She is now semi-retired and continues to teach at various universities and working on projects such as how to change behaviors to prevent dementia. Her background includes work as a hospital clinical

microbiologist, a Peace Corps volunteer in Nepal, and training as a field epidemiologist in the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service.

Staying Safe at Home

Jaime Smiley

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Oct 8
School of Education, Room 2010
30 seats

A majority of seniors wish to age in place in their home. This short course will review a variety of strategies and modifications to help seniors stay safe and independent in their home as long as possible. From very simple, low-cost options to more extensive and expensive options, this course will have a little something for everyone!

Read Jaime's bio on p. 31.

NEW! Medicare 2026: Know Your ABCDs

Daphne Bernstein

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Oct 15
📺 Zoom, 125 seats

Enrollment for 2026 Medicare plans begins on October 15, so mark your calendar for this timely seminar. Then join Daphne for answers about all things Medicare.

She'll cover eligibility, special enrollment periods, dates, and deadlines; the various pieces and parts (A, B, D); Medicare Advantage (part C); common misconceptions; errors to avoid; and important new benefits you won't want to miss. We'll also talk about those omnipresent TV ads, letters, phone calls, emails and text messages you've been receiving to cut through the hype and get to the facts.

Best of all, you'll be talking with a gerontologist and experienced Medicare insurance professional who will provide you with objective, unbiased advice since her agency does not market in Virginia.

Daphne Bernstein holds an advanced degree in gerontology and brings more

than 30 years of executive experience in the senior healthcare and care continuum sectors. She is currently a consultant to those industries and is also a licensed insurance agent for Medicare plans in the states of Colorado and Texas.

Engaging in Life's Situations: Moving from woe to WOW!

Francis Bado

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Oct 20, 27, Nov 3
School of Education, Room 2010
28 seats

It really IS all about you! But perhaps you need to reset your perspective. How do you approach the day? Is it affecting your wellbeing? As you go about your daily routine, are you energized by the goodness that surrounds you? Can you even see it? Join us for some planned fun discussing positive and negative energy areas that motivate us and learn how to appreciate the magic of our surroundings. The class is highly interactive, and you may just start to see life as a more joyous endeavor

Read Fran's bio on p. 29.

Basics of Fitness Walking

Ray Funkhouser

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Oct 21
Campus Center, Room 31
16 seats

🚶 🕒 **The first hour is a classroom lecture; the second hour is outdoors. Dress in layers; wear comfortable clothes and shoes.**

What gives the same aerobic workout for the lungs and heart as jogging, aerobic dance, does not stress the leg joints and feet, provides more exercise for the upper body than running or jogging?

The answer is race walking, also known as fitness walking or health walking. In this moving clinic efficient walking and specific race walking techniques, walking safety, how to start your personal walking program,

choosing shoes, and how to dress for varied weather. Whether you are an exercise enthusiast or just starting a fitness program, you will enjoy exploring this increasingly popular fitness activity. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes.

Ray Funkhouser is a two-time National Race Walk Champion, set two American Records, and was a finalist in three Olympic Track & Field Trials. He has represented the United States in international competitions on four continents and coached four USA Track & Field International Teams. He is currently president of USA Track & Field Virginia Association.

Fundamental Exercise – How to Keep Moving

Karen Thomas

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm
4 sessions: Oct 23, 30, Nov 6, 13
Campus Center, Room 159
25 seats

⚠️ Bring a resistance band to class for Weeks 3 and 4

Use it or lose it. As we age it is increasingly important that we keep moving. This course delves into the significance of physical activity, providing practical exercises and guidance on adapting them to changing physical abilities.

The course emphasizes the fundamental exercises, which serve as the building blocks of most physical activities. These exercises are designed to enhance and sustain our physical capabilities.

This course is a combination of lecture and physical activity. It is designed for individuals who can safely exercise and will include standing and seated exercises. The 4th week will be an exercise only class.

Karen Thomas is a certified exercise physiologist with 40 years of experience teaching fitness and exercise techniques including how to modify them for our changing bodies. She has experience in developing exercise programs for all levels of participants including this course for Osher at W&M for the last five years.



NEW! The Delightful Daringness of the Integral Approach

Larry Durrett

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Oct 24, 31, Nov 7
School of Education, Room 1056
20 seats

The exhaustion of the Sisyphus treadmill and the positive spiral of a pilgrim's progress. The struggle is in balancing the two, with the accent on inch by inch progress, with occasional leaps. Imagineering, moving like water, song, writing prompts, and deeper dialogue will spark neurogenesis (new brain cell creation). This encourages more creativity and resilience, making us more thermostat than thermometer. Take an intelligent risk, imagine better, move better, feel better, think better and love better so that you are fully enjoying the infinite-tender life we are given.

Larry Durrett is a William & Mary alumnus with a master of divinity degree in the theological consortium in Northern Virginia. and Washington

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D.C., including Catholic University, Virginia Theological Seminary, and Wesley Seminary, where he graduated in 1977. His calling included study at the National Presbyterian Church, Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, Ky (Disciples of Christ), and serving appointments in Maryland and Virginia. He also taught yoga in Lexington, as well as enjoyed around 40 visits to Gethsemani Trappist Monastery.



Hearing Loss with Age: the Whys, Wherefores & Management Options

Ed Pelausa

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Oct 28

Campus Center, Little Theatre

110 seats

Hearing loss is a universal fact of life. It will eventually affect all of us, especially as we age. As a recently retired ear/nose/throat specialist, Ed will share insights, strategies, and

options for living well with aging ears:

1. What do we presently know about the mechanisms involved in normal hearing? 2. What causes hearing loss? 3. What can and should be done to prevent this loss? 4. What options are currently available to help, control, and improve this condition? 5. What possible future options may lie ahead for all of us?

Edilberto (Ed) O. Pelausa, M.D., F.A.C.S. is a retired, board-certified otolaryngologist. A fellow of multiple professional medical societies devoted to earn, nose & throat surgery as well as allergy, he earned his medical degree at Universite de Montreal, Quebec and completed residency at the University of Toronto. Ed served in the Canadian Armed forces as an infantry medical officer and later as a flight surgeon. He is a former head of head & neck surgery at Hampton VA Medical Center, a past president of the Virginia Society of Otolaryngology, and a past officer of the Medical Society of Virginia.

Advanced Fitness Walking

Ray Funkhouser

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm

1 session: Oct 28

Campus Center, Room 31

16 seats

⚠ Class is suitable for current fitness walkers looking to enhance skill/performance

🚶 🕒 The first hour is a classroom lecture; the second hour is outdoors. Dress in layers; wear comfortable clothes and shoes.

This session is designed for fitness walkers with some experience who want to get more from their time walking and improve their fitness level. The clinic will include a basic review of efficient walking technique, current techniques that promote optimum performance, and different types of workouts to meet specific goals.

Participants will receive individual attention to technique and programs for their individual needs. Dress in comfortable walking clothing and shoes.

Read Ray's bio on p. 32.

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Brain Related Changes as We Age

Pattie Gaudio

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Oct 29
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

Have you ever felt you are not remembering things the way you used to? This course will explore the general way the brain works, different changes that affect our cognition as we age and what we can understand and do to maintain cognitive health.

We will briefly touch on how this differs from a dementia state. We will cover the importance of neuroplasticity and cognitive reserve, engage in some fun cognitive exercises and discuss lifestyle modifications that can support cognitive health.

Pattie Gaudio, the Cognitive Services Manager at Williamsburg Landing, holds certifications as an Alzheimer Disease and Dementia Care Trainer, Certified Dementia Practitioner and Activity Director specializing in Memory Care. In 2020, she completed a Master of Science in Dementia from the University of Hull. In 2024, she was one of the National recipients of Memory Care Innovator of the year.

NEW! Understanding High Blood Pressure

Kerry Prewitt

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm
2 sessions: Nov 11, 18
Campus Center, Room 159
60 seats

High blood pressure has been called the silent killer affecting nearly 50% of US adults. Perhaps a doctor has diagnosed you or a family member with high blood pressure, but you aren't sure what that means.

This course will help you to understand several aspects of high blood pressure including definitions, causes, symptoms, evaluation, accurate measurements, and rationale for treatment. We will explore treatment options of lifestyle changes,

medications, and procedures and the rationale for each choice.

Read Kerry's bio on p. 31.

Your Subconscious Mind: Taking the Reins of Your Inner Genie

Athena Staik

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Nov 11, 18, Dec 2
① **No class on Nov 25**
School of Education, Room 2010
30 seats

New findings in neuroscience have overturned what science held on the brain for 400 years. The mind wields power over our health, physical & emotional, proven all along by placebo studies.

This class is on getting to know our subconscious, its distinct jobs & features in relation to the conscious, and the ways it supports our highest potential, as a partner, guide & teacher - potentially a loyal genie!

The class is also about the conscious mind, the discovery of its inner resources, command centers; its learning to build rapport to take reins of creating our best life. Also outlined are seven recent findings in neuroscience; the effects fear/anger have, left unregulated, on our health; and the applied work, principles & brain-based practices that boost body's capacity to heal itself.

Learn why our brain is a sophisticated communication system like none other! The aim is to inspire one another to engage in our own health, healing & happiness.

Athena Staik holds a Ph.D. in marriage and family therapy. Her interest in inspiring others to tap into inner sources of healing, happiness and breaking free of reactivity, and more recently, athletic performance, led her to integrate innovative tools of neuroscience and mindfulness in her work to accelerate change. Before retiring, she spent more than 10 years studying the effects of neuroscience in her private practice work with clients, and 15

years as an adjunct professor in psychology and sociology.



NEW! "Getting Old Ain't for Sissies": The Science of Living Better, Longer

Jim McDonald

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions:
Nov 12, 19, Dec 3
① **No class on Nov 26**
Campus Center, Room 159, 60 seats

We are all getting older. Today, there are some in science who hold that we can stop that process or possibly reverse it.

This course will look at those claims in the light of scientific research on the aging human organism.

We'll look at the changing body, both the cellular and organ level.

We'll explore what current research says about the causes of aging and then explore how we might slow the process.

We'll evaluate popular longevity claims based on current research and learn what to look for when a "cure for aging" hits the Internet.

In the end, we'll focus on those things that have been shown to improve quality of life as we age and can provide a healthier, longer life.

Read Jim's bio on p. 30.



Languages



German Conversation Table

Frauke Carlucci

Monday, 12:00pm-1:00pm
12 sessions: Sep 8-**Dec 1**
Campus Center, Colonial Echo, 18 seats

Requires a degree of fluency to communicate with all participants

Note: No class on Nov 24

Eine gute Gelegenheit um nette Und interessante Leute kennen zu lernen und um an vielseitigen Gesprächen teilzunehmen mit einer Thematik der Gegenwart und der Vergangenheit, die Kultur, Wissenschaft, Literatur und Sprache und Kunst umfasst und uns so einen Einblick in das deutschsprachige Wesen gibt. Wir werden über die deutsche Beteiligung an der Amerikanischen Revolution und ihre Nachwirkungen auf die deutsche Geschichte sprechen.

Frauke Carlucci spent her life in Germany, Argentina, Venezuela and the United States. She attended Johannes Gutenberg in Mainz, Old Dominion and Richmond universities, earning an M.A. in German. She worked as a freelance translator and for Siemens. She taught German and Spanish language, history, and literature. She was also awarded a Fulbright scholarship.

Spanish Conversation Table

Frauke Carlucci

Tuesday, 12:00pm-1:00pm
11 sessions: Sep 9-**Dec 2**
Campus Center, Colonial Echo, 24 seats

Note: No class on Nov 4 or Nov 25

La mesa española les ofrece a sus miembros la oportunidad de mantener y enriquecer su lengua española. En las reuniones, utilizamos artículos de periódicos o del internet para la lectura y facilitamos comentarios sobre el contenido. Es necesario tener un nivel de comprensión básica del español para participar en la lectura. El ambiente es amistoso – nos apoyamos y nos divertimos durante la hora.

Ruth Fraser enjoyed teaching Spanish I through Advanced Placement at Lafayette High School in Williamsburg until she retired. She has an M.A. in Spanish from the University of New Mexico. She has visited or studied in several Spanish-speaking countries, including Spain, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Peru.

NEW! Intermediate/Advanced Spanish Reading & Conversation

Chris Scheiderer

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am
6 sessions: Sep 10, 17, 24, Oct 1, 8, 15
School of Education, Room 1056
25 seats

Esta es una clase para estudiantes de nivel intermedio o avanzado. Es para los que ya han cursado al menos dos años de estudios intermedios o avanzados y que pueden hablar y entender sin gran dificultad.

Chris Scheiderer has studied and taught Spanish Hispanic literature at the university level for over 40 years. Also, he has traveled extensively in the Spanish-speaking world: Mexico, Argentina and Spain.

French Conversation Table

Kathleen Hickey

Wednesday, 12:00pm-1:00pm
12 sessions: Sep 10-Dec 3
Campus Center, Colonial Echo, 24 seats

Note: No class on Nov 26

La Table de Conversation Française sert de lieu de rencontre pour des personnes ayant un vif intérêt pour la langue et la culture française. Les séances sont organisées autour de la lecture et de la discussion d'articles de livres, de journaux ou de magazines, lus et commentés dans une ambiance décontractée. Un niveau minimum de compréhension de la langue française est quand même nécessaire pour pouvoir profiter pleinement de ces sessions.

Kathleen Hickey enjoyed more than 30 years teaching French and Spanish at the secondary level in private and public schools. She holds an undergraduate degree in second language education from Ohio State and a master's in French literature from Washington University in St. Louis



Parliamo Italiano

Nicola Costa

Monday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Oct 20, 27, Nov 3
Campus Center, Colonial Echo, 18 seats

Participants should have intermediate knowledge of Italian

We will have an informal discussion of relevant topics of Italian culture. In the spirit of Revolutionary Ideas, we will read about people and movements that changed Italy.

Nicola Costa was born and raised in Italy. He attended the Merchant Marine Academy and moved to Virginia in 1984. In 1992, Nicola was hired at Jamestown Scotland Ferry as captain and retired in 2021. Italian is his native language; he also speaks Spanish.

RELATED LITERATURE & WRITING COURSES

Seven Revolutions that Changed America (p. 12)

Revolutionaries in the Family (p. 14)

Birth of the Atomic Age (p. 16)

Words in Revolt: Reflections on Revolutionary Language (p. 19)

Introduction to Logical Fallacies (p. 26)

Drawing in the Dark: A Salmagundi of Art & Design (p. 23)

The Star that Appeared to the Magi (p. 38)

ChatGPT & Other Generative AI Tools (p. 39)

The Holocaust Through the Eyes of a Child (p. 51)

Literature & Writing

Book Lovers' Discussion Group

Athena Nazario, Cathi Davis

Monday, 12:00pm-1:00pm
4 sessions: Sep 15, Oct 13, Nov 10, Dec 8
Campus Center, Room 159
40 seats

Love to read and enjoy discussing books? Join us to explore interesting books that promote lively dialogue. This semester's selections include:

Sep 15: *This is Happiness* by Niall Williams 400 pages. ISBN: 13-978-1635576313

Oct 13: *The Plot Against America* by Philip Roth 391 pages. ISBN: 13-978-0618509287

Nov 10: *House Made of Dawn* by M. Scott Momaday 224 pages. ISBN: 13-978-0062909954

Dec 8: *Madhouse at the End of the Earth* by Julian Sancton 384 pages ISBN: 13-978-1984824349.

Athena Nazario is a retired Academic Librarian, Knitter, reader, recreational bicyclist, hobby farmer nerd.

Cathi Davis is a retired insurance agent with a love of books. Her other interests are traveling and entertaining.

Bring Your Own Book: The U.S. History, Pre-1878, Non-Fiction Book Club

Stephanie Goodrich

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Sep 26
School of Education, Room 1056
20 seats

Have you read a good book recently? Do you want to tell others? Is the book nonfiction? Is it about a time in United States history prior to 1878? Do you want to learn about similar books from Osher students? If you are answering yes to these questions, you belong in this class.

Bring an open mind and ears, plus a readiness to discuss your required reading book choice that is / non-fiction / about U.S. history / covers a time prior to 1878 / Participants will discuss the book they read, listen to others talk about their book, reference in-class handouts, and make notes with Stephanie facilitating discussion. Students may disagree about books – but only with respectful disagreement.

Stephanie Goodrich is a not-yet 50-and-better Osher member and instructor. Her passion is to facilitate students learning from each other in the classroom. Contributions to her profession include training peers and coaching emerging leaders. Stephanie has also served as an adjunct instructor emeritus for graduate studies. Her enthusiasm for history began in elementary school. Reading is her first love.



NEW! Imagine!

Glory Aiken

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Sep 29, Oct 6, 13
School of Education, Room 2020
10 seats

Imagine! is a writer's workshop that uses prompts to create a story. Your story may be fiction, nonfiction or memoir. One-two page original stories will be read aloud each week to the class using prompts to create the story.

Imagine! is meant to be a fun and creative exercise where each writer's work will reflect their own unique idea that the prompt inspires. We may even incorporate a Revolutionary Idea as a prompt. Come! Join the adventure. Imagine!

Glory Aiken discovered her love and enthusiasm for writing in retirement. Glory and her husband, John, moved to Williamsburg from Maryland's Eastern Shore where Glory was an instructor with Chesapeake Forum



in Easton, MD, prior to being an Osher instructor.

NEW! Dickens' Christmas Carol – Masterpiece or Sentimental Fluff?

James Avery

Friday, 9:30-11:30am
2 sessions: Dec 5, 12
School of Education, Room 2030
30 seats

The best authors open our eyes to truths that we would otherwise miss. They teach us to see the world anew and to catch the importance of things that are lost in our daily routine.

Dickens had this gift, and *A Christmas Carol* is one of his expressions of it. Join us in exploring the mysterious world of Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, Jacob Marley the Ghosts of Christmas, and Tiny Tim in this two-session course.

You'll learn profound lessons from the Ghosts of Christmas, explore the true meaning of Christmas through Scrooge's surprising encounters, and discover how to open yourself to life's many joys and blessings.

James A. Avery, M.D., is a visiting professor at UVA and, more importantly, a lover of literature. He was named One of the Most Influential Physician Executives by Modern Physician and Modern Healthcare magazines. He is the author of *Marijuana: The World Most Misunderstood Weed* and the children's book, *How's the Water, Girls?*

Religion & Philosophy



NEW! Magickal Jesus: Holy Man, Wonders, and a History of Forgetting

Ed Ingebretsen

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am

5 sessions: Sep 11, 18, 25, Oct 2, 9

Zoom, 125 seats

This series explores Yeshua through the lens of His magical and healing powers, tracing His connection to Hebrew traditions and their impact on both religious and political realms.

The five sessions are: I. Yeshua the Hasidim and Miracle Worker Holy Man and Magic in Hebrew Tradition; II. Signs, Silence, and Sorcery The Gospel's Messianic Secret; III. Divine Wonder vs. Religious Authority The Clash of Powers; IV. Apostolic Acts Peter, Paul, and the Spread of the Gospel; V. Seeing with New Eyes A Visual and Political Timeline.

Rev. Edward Ingebretsen Ph.D., holds advance degrees in theology and ethics (JSTB 1982) and a doctorate in American studies (Duke 1986). His published books and journals consider the intersection of gender, race, theology and popular culture. At present, he concentrates in animal ethics, the histories of enslavement, and the wider histories of philosophy, theology and magicks.



NEW! Political and Ethical Philosophy of the Scottish Enlightenment

Bill Rhodes

Monday, 9:30-11:30am

3 sessions: Nov 10, 17, Dec 1

③ No class on Nov 24

Virginia Greens (Auditorium), 4301 Battery Blvd, Williamsburg 23185

40 seats

Join us to explore the Scottish Enlightenment's contribution to Western moral and political thought from the late 1500s to the 19th century.

We will pay close attention to individual freedom of conscience and related theories of human nature, including the universal basis of morality. Time permitting, we will uncover moral philosophy's link to Adam Smith's economic thinking and to Liberal theories of international relations.

Bill Rhodes earned a Ph.D. at the University of Colorado, Boulder. A published author and researcher, he served as a professor and academic department head at the U.S. Air Force Academy.



The Life Most Worth Living: Virtue Theory in Ancient and Modern Perspective

Bill Rhodes

🕒 Wednesday & Friday, 9:30-11:30am

6 sessions: Nov 12, 14; 19, 21; Dec 3, 5

① No class on Nov 26 or Nov 28

School of Education, Room 2010

32 seats

We'll focus on the practical philosophical question: What is the life most worth living? and a Socratic claim underlying it: The unexamined life is not worth living. Covering the fundamentals of virtue ethics and concentrating on the thought of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, we will discuss the sort of person who lives well and what constitutes the well-lived (and examined) life. Findings from formal psychological research are included, along with how best to equip ourselves and others to live well.

Read Bill's bio above.

RELATED RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY COURSES

The Impact of the Enlightenment in Williamsburg (p. 14)

Five Medieval Cathedrals (p. 24)

Delightful Daringness of the Integral Approach (p. 33)

Science and the Shroud of Turin (p. 41)



NEW! The Star that Appeared to the Magi

Dan McConaughy

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm

2 sessions: Dec 2, 9

Campus Center, Little Theatre

110 seats

This course will cover the Biblical, historical, astronomical and patristic (early church fathers) evidence regarding the Star that Appeared to the Magi. It will be based on the Greek and Syriac texts of the Gospel of Matthew, relevant Judaeon and Roman history of the period, naked-eye-visible astronomical phenomena of the period and the discussions of the early church fathers on it.

A special focus will come from the teacher's translation of the Syriac homily by Jacob of Serug (d. AD 521) entitled, "Concerning the Star that Appeared to the Magi," the most comprehensive treatment of the subject among the patristic writers.

Dan McConaughy holds a Ph.D. in Syriac and Greek from the University of Chicago. He has been an amateur astronomer since he was in 7th grade. He discovered perhaps the earliest Syriac Gospel manuscript found in the past century and has published extensively on the Syriac text of Acts. He is currently working on a critical edition of Acts in Syriac with a scholar in Germany. He has published various studies and translations from Syriac on the subject of the Star that Appeared to the Magi.

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)



Introduction to ChatGPT & Other Generative AI Tools

Candice Benjes-Small

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Sep **10**

School of Education, Room 2010
32 seats

Curious about ChatGPT and other artificial intelligence (AI) tools that create new text and images? In this workshop, we'll see demonstrations of the tools, explore the capabilities and limitations of the technologies, and discuss the ethical considerations surrounding their use. Leave with a clear grasp of how generative AI is impacting our world and the questions we need to ask as it continues to develop.

Read Candice's bio on p. 25.

Mastering Your iPhone/iPad Camera & Photo Apps

Rick Chase

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm

3 sessions: Sep 10, 17, 24

Zoom, 50 seats

This course will help you master the camera and photo applications on your iPhone and/or iPad. You will learn the camera's functions and capabilities, still photography, plus cover the video capabilities.

The Photos application will be explored, including navigation in the app, photo editing (crop, trim, rotation, etc.), smart adjustments, enhancing less-than-perfect shots, and filters. You will learn how to organize your photo and video media; make and use albums; navigate and find media in your collection. We will also explore the creation and sharing of albums, how to create slideshows with music; and using iCloud.

Suggested reading: iPhone and/or iPad User Guides by Apple (free).

Rick Chase, a retired executive with extensive experience, last served as Vice President of Customer Service and Support at Dell Technologies. In the early stages of his career at General Electric, he oversaw the Field Engineering Development Center and conducted electrical and electronic engineering courses for engineers.

Online Account Security: Have Password Managers Become A Necessity?

Keith Parkansky

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm

1 session: Sep 19

School of Education, Room 1056
40 seats

While banks employ ironclad vaults and sophisticated alarm systems to protect the funds in our deposit accounts, many people have large investment and retirement accounts protected only by a crackable password. Weak passwords, using the same password on multiple Web sites and creating passwords that contain dictionary words are common practices that can jeopardize the security of your online data and assets.

As new authentication technologies are being developed, a password manager is still your best option for securing online accounts. They will generate complex passwords, store them securely and automatically log you into Web sites. We'll cover the pros and cons of password managers as well as installing and configuring one of the most secure cross-platform password managers available (which also happens to be free).

After an initial career in the electronics field, Keith Parkansky transitioned into computer networking. He spent 25 years in public education and local government as a network administrator managing not only Novell and Windows-based computer networks but also traditional PBX and IP-based telephony systems.



NEW! The Art and Science of Geospatial and Geophysical Technologies

Stephen Beck, Aaron Lovejoy

Monday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Sep 22

Campus Center, Room 159
50 seats

Geospatial and geophysical technologies collect and apply geographic (spatial) and subterranean data. State-of-the-art technology tools and systems help us map and analyze phenomena on and beneath the Earth's surface and improve lives worldwide. They have become ubiquitous for many applications, including Global Positioning Systems (GPS), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing, satellite imagery, Light Detection and Radar (LIDAR), ground penetrating radar (GPR), and artificial intelligence.

This course introduces these topics non-technically, emphasizing practical applications and impacts today and into the future.

Steve Beck is a retired GIS professional and adjunct college instructor with over 30 years of experience applying and teaching geospatial and geophysical technologies. He is a volunteer GIS analyst in the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Archaeological Department. In this capacity, he assists professional staff in developing and implementing geospatial databases of archaeological sites and artifacts and applications for accessing, mapping, and analyzing digital information. He resides with his wife in the Williamsburg area.

Aaron Lovejoy is an archaeologist and GIS specialist with over a decade of experience in the fields of geospatial analysis, archaeological methods, remote sensing and geophysics. He has conducted research in Hawaii, the American Southwest, Georgia, and Virginia. Aaron currently lives in Williamsburg where he oversees geospatial analysis for Colonial Williamsburg's Department of Archaeology.

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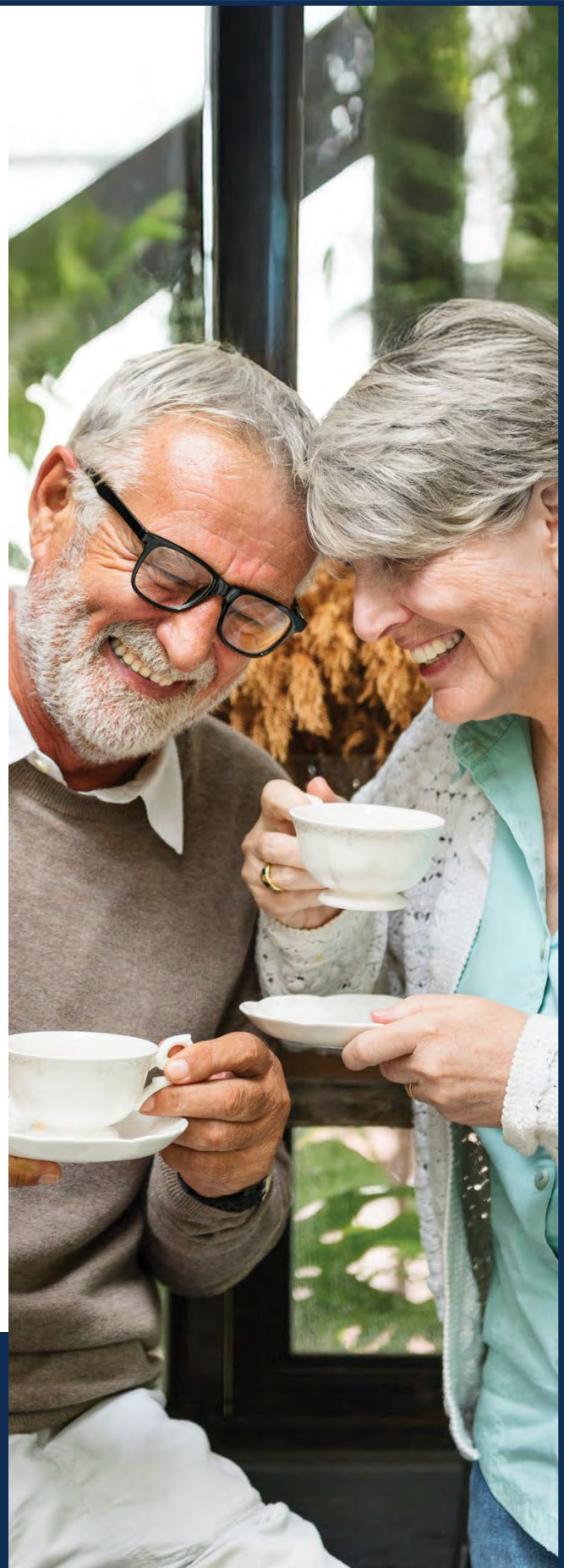
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NEW! Introduction to Excel**Karen McPherson**

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Sep 23

School of Education, Room 2031

20 seats

This hands-on class is perfect for anyone new to Microsoft Excel or looking to build confidence using spreadsheets. In just two hours, you'll learn how to navigate the Excel interface, enter and organize information, and format your data so it's clear and easy to read all without using any formulas or advanced tools.

We'll cover everyday skills like adjusting columns, adding color and borders, sorting lists, and using filters to quickly find what you need. You'll also learn how to manage rows and columns, freeze headers, and create simple, polished tables.

This class is ideal for anyone who wants to feel more comfortable using Excel for home projects, community organizing, or office tasks. No math or prior experience needed; just bring your curiosity and a willingness to click around. You'll leave with practical skills and a helpful cheat sheet to keep learning at your own pace.

Read Karen's bio on p. 14.

**Introduction to Self-Driving Cars****Mark Huff**

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm

1 session: Sep 23

Campus Center, Room 31

16 seats

Regardless of whether you see Autonomous Vehicle (AV) technology as a dangerous menace to public safety or as potentially the best life saving measure since the seatbelt, efforts to develop and deploy AV technology have intensified. This class will explore the origin and the current state of AV technology to highlight the challenges and opportunities of AVs.

Mark Huff has been a keen observer of AV technology. He has previously taught a class in EVs for Osher.

**NEW! Climates of the Distant Past****Gerald Mulvey**

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm

3 sessions: Sep 29, **Oct 6, 13**

Zoom, 125 seats

This course is an introduction to understanding the Earth's climatological history, the sources of past climatological data and limitations of those sources. It will provide an introduction to basic principles and applications of paleoclimatology, the study of climate and climate changes that occurred prior to the period of instrumental records.

Attendees will explore tree rings, ocean sediment, and ice cores as proxy data sources for determining the climate history through demos and accessing online data. This course also covers an introduction to the methods of past climate reconstruction and the current state of knowledge about the past climate history of the Earth and the forces that have shaped them.

Gerald Mulvey is president of Nighthawk Weather LLC. He earned a Ph.D. in atmospheric science at Colorado State University leading to a 30+ year aerospace career. Gerald has also taught at the University of the Incarnate Word, San Francisco State University, Colorado State University, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Osher Institute at William & Mary and SUNY-Oswego.

Science and the Shroud of Turin**Mike Finlan**

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm

3 sessions: Oct 3, 10, 17

Campus Center, Room 159

60 seats

The Shroud of Turin is a religious artifact believed by many to be the burial cloth of Jesus. There have been a number of scientific studies of the Shroud. Some conclude that it is indeed the cloth that swathed Jesus' corpse. Others conclude the Shroud is a hoax, despite some of these being disproved. So what is correct?

This class will examine several methods used to determine the cloth's authenticity. One central method examined will be radiocarbon dating a key point of contention. The class will cover how radiocarbon dating was performed, whether the results "prove" the Shroud is a hoax, and if the radiocarbon testing was so flawed that results are either ambiguous or wrong.

Michael Finlan holds a Ph.D. in chemical physics from Johns Hopkins, an M.S. in optics from the University of Rochester, and a B.S. in chemistry from Clarkson University. He was an optical engineer at Northrop Grumman and also worked at GE, GM, and Lucent in lasers, environmental science, spectroscopy, infrared imaging, and solar energy conversion on satellites.

**Introduction to Astronomy****Brad Perry, Carmen Fragapane**

Monday, 5:00-7:00pm

3 sessions: Oct 20, 27, Nov 3

Campus Center, Colonial Echo

24 seats

4th observing session (optional) at Kiskiack Golf Club; read below

This course provides an introduction and overview of astronomy. Focusing on the solar system in week 1, the course addresses stellar astronomy in week 2 and concludes with galactic astronomy and cosmology in week 3. A separate practical observing session will be scheduled at the Kiskiack Golf Club following the conclusion of the Course to view representative objects as discussed in the class, from planets to multiple star systems and galaxies.

Brad Perry is a retired NASA engineer who completed graduate work in astronomy at the UVA. He has observed at Lick Observatory and the NASA Infrared Telescope Facility and published 20+ peer-reviewed papers on topics ranging from planetary objects to novae and supernovae.

Carmen Fragapane has taught physical science in the York County School Division for 22 years. He has participated in educational projects at the National Radio Astronomy

Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia, and he supports astronomy education and public outreach efforts throughout the Hampton Roads area.

Algorithms

Peter Henderson

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Oct 21
Campus Center, Colonial Echo
18 seats

Algorithms are becoming more pervasive in our everyday lives, mostly due to computers. But they are not a new concept one classic algorithm was developed by the Greek mathematician Euclid (323-283 BC).

So, what is an algorithm? Some simple examples will be presented. There are numerous algorithms for solving the same problem, but some perform better than others. Indeed, there is an entire class of inherently hard problems for which no efficient algorithms exist. We'll also talk about the rise of social media algorithms, including a basic understanding of how they work and built-in bias.

Peter Henderson spent 34 years as an academic computer scientist and software engineer at The State University of New York at Stony Brook and Butler University. Computer science and computing education were his primary emphases near the end of his academic career. He is a contributor to two educational columns: Math Counts and Software Engineering Education.



NEW! Origin of the Moon from Analysis of Lunar Samples

John Delano

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Oct 22
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

A broad scientific consensus has emerged about the origin of the Moon based on analysis of samples returned from the lunar surface. A summary of the remarkable story revealed from the analyses, including those by John

Delano who analyzed samples from all six Apollo missions, will be described. All of the information in this course is based on peer-reviewed scientific publications. The story of the Moon's origin is startling. This class will provide a new perspective whenever anyone peers up at the Moon.

John Delano holds a Ph.D. in geology. He retired from the University at Albany (SUNY) as a professor at the Distinguished rank; was a NASA-funded researcher for more than 30 years; was an associate dean; and served as a member and/or chair of more than 20 scientific advisory panels for NASA and the National Science Foundation. He is the author of 74 articles in professional journals and a recipient of SUNY's Lifetime Achievement Award in Public Engagement.



NEW! The Environment of our Virginia Peninsula: History, Present and Future

Jim Griffin

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am
4 sessions: Oct 23, 30, Nov 6, 13
School of Education, Room 2010
32 seats

This course offers an interdisciplinary exploration of the Virginia Peninsula's environment. Building on a previous examination of local watersheds, the course delves into the sciences – geology, water chemistry, anthropology, climate science, and hydrology – that explain both our present conditions and future prospects.

Students will investigate how foundational scientific models and groundbreaking ideas have shaped our understanding of the peninsula's formation, evolution, and the human efforts that have contributed significantly to its development. By integrating theoretical insights with practical applications, the course equips students to analyze environmental processes and predict future trends.

With an M.S. in systems technology from the Naval Postgraduate School

in Monterey, CA, and a Ph.D. in Environmental Science from the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Jim Griffin has built a career as an environmental scientist, serving Florida's local and state agencies. Jim has also brought his expertise into academia, teaching GIS applications at the University of South Florida (USF) and courses on watersheds and water resources at USF and W&M's Osher Institute.

Mastering Your Apple Watch

Rick Chase

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm
2 sessions: Oct 24, 31
Zoom, 50 seats

Join us to learn how to use the Apple Watch's many features. We'll start with a tour of the watch's controls and display, then show how to customize and personalize your Apple Watch using the companion app on your iPhone. We'll deep dive into the Health & Safety apps namely SOS, Fall Detection, Vehicle Crash Detection, Heart Rhythm, ECG, Blood Oxygen so you understand how they work and how they might save your life. Finally, you'll learn how to populate your Health profile for use in an emergency.

Suggested reading: <https://support.apple.com/guide/watch/welcome/>

Read Rick's bio on p. 39.

NEW! Cutting the Cord In Williamsburg

Keith Parkansky

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Oct 28
Campus Center, Room 159
60 seats

The prospect of canceling cable service and replacing it with an antenna to receive free over-the-air television is appealing to many. While the Williamsburg area offers benefits and challenges in this pursuit, there are many technical and environmental factors that can have a significant impact on the quality of your reception. While the plethora of

available hardware can be confusing and intimidating, we'll cover options for a variety of environments including those with HOA restrictions. We'll also discuss the proposed changes to over-the-air broadcasting and how they could affect your ability to watch and record free TV.

Read Keith's bio on p. 39.

Your Digital Life

Peter Henderson

Monday, 9:30-11:30am
2 sessions: Nov 10, 17
Campus Center, Room 159
40 seats

Navigating today's world might seem overwhelming. This course will address some of the issues we all face dealing with our digital lives.

These include: online security, Tidying Your Digital Life by eliminating unnecessary clutter, Create and Manage Digital Family Documents, Digital Financial & Estate Planning and Your Digital Afterlife. The class format is both lecture and discussion, where participants share their own experiences.

Read Peter's bio on p. 42.

NEW! Personal Computers for Beginners: Microsoft Windows 11

Rick Chase

📅 Wednesday & Friday, 1:30-3:30pm
6 sessions: Nov 12, 14; 19, 21; Dec 3, 5
Ⓛ No class on Nov 26 or Nov 28
School of Education, Room 2010
32 seats

⚠️ This course is designed for those with little or no experience with PCs

⚠️ Participants are required to bring their own PCs (preferably laptops) to class

⚠️ Course is specifically for Microsoft Windows-based PCs (laptops and desktops). The course is not appropriate for tablets, smartphones, Chromebooks, nor any Mac (Apple) products

⚠️ Your PC must have Windows 11 already installed. The course content and hands-on practices are not designed for earlier versions of Windows.

Are you new to using a personal computer or unsure of your skills? This beginner course will help you become confident in using a PC.

Topics include:
Introduction to Windows 11,
Navigating the User Interface, Managing Files & Folders, Connectivity – (Ethernet, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth), Using Essential Apps, Browsing the Internet, Settings & Personalization, Staying Safe & Secure, Introduction to Email & Communications, Tips & Shortcuts, Basic Maintenance & Troubleshooting, and more.

Read Rick's bio on p. 39.



NEW! Isaac Newton: Scientific Revolutionary

Dan Sherman

Monday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Dec 1
Williamsburg Regional Library, Theatre
250 seats

Born the year Galileo died, Isaac Newton began to revolutionize science while in his 20s by stating simple laws that could both explain the fall of an apple and the motions of planets. Newton's work was hugely influential in that it combined empirical observation with mathematical reasoning to state and test scientific theories. The class will cover Newton's long life and quirky personality, show his place in the history of science, and discuss some of his discoveries in a (mostly) non-technical fashion, including work in optics and mathematics.

Read Dan's bio on p. 20.



Did you miss out on the revolution that moved the world from typewriters to word processors to personal computers? Well here's your chance to learn step-by-step from an industry pro. Join Rick Chase for his PCs for Beginners course starting in November. You bring your laptop preloaded with Microsoft Windows 11, and Rick will bring you up to speed on using this omnipresent (and rather indispensable) technology.

Enhance Your Online Security: Options for Two Factor Authentication (2FA)

Keith Parkansky

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Dec 5
School of Education, Room 1056
40 seats

The Social Security Administration recently announced that users of its Web site must transition to using the federal governments login.gov service.

When setting up an account with login.gov you are required to choose from a variety of two-factor authentication (2FA) methods. Used in conjunction with your login ID and password, this second factor of authentication can utilize SMS, smart phone apps or hardware keys.

We will cover pros and cons of various 2FA methods and compare levels of security so you can be an educated security consumer. And to prepare you for the evolving future of Web authentication, we'll look at the basic functionality behind an emerging technology called "passkeys" that will eliminate the use of passwords in accessing online accounts.

Read Keith's bio on p. 39.

Special Interests

NEW! America's Jack the Ripper: The Baffling Case of the Zodiac Killer

Frank Wood

Monday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Sep 8, 15, 22
School of Education, Room 2000
30 seats

One author refers to the case of the Zodiac Killer as "America's Jack the Ripper." Between 1968 and 1974, an unidentified perpetrator committed several murders, taunted law enforcement and the news media and generally terrorized the residents of the San Francisco Bay area. This course will explore this unsolved cold case focusing on the characteristics of the perpetrator and discussing several suspects.

Frank Wood is a retired energy industry financial executive with a long standing interest in law enforcement and unsolved or controversial cases. He has previously offered courses on the deaths of Marilyn Monroe, George Reeves, Dorothy Kilgallen and Elizabeth Short (aka as The Black Dahlia)

NEW! Virginia Peninsula Native Trees & Shrubs – and Live Plant Exchange

Tony Orband, Patsy Wells

🕒 Friday, 9am-12pm, 2 sessions: Sep 12; exchange date TBA

Sadler Center, James Room. Meet at School of Ed Parking Lot 1 at 9am for class shuttle to Sadler
20 seats

⚠️ Bring pruning shears; gloves and safety glasses optional

🧥 Outdoor session may be chilly; dress for the weather in layers you don't mind getting dirty and wear closed-toe shoes

Discover the beauty and benefits of native plants tailored to the unique environment of the Virginia Peninsula. This engaging course combines lecture and hands-on demonstration to introduce participants to the

identification, care, and ecological value of native perennials, grasses, and groundcovers. Learn how to divide and transplant your garden favorites for healthier growth and landscape expansion. Two weeks after the lecture (date tbd), we'll reconvene for a Native Plant Exchange – a friendly gathering where class participants will bring – and trade – the gems they divided from their own gardens to help diversify their classmates' yards and support local biodiversity. Perfect for gardeners of all levels who want to cultivate a more sustainable and resilient landscape.

Tony Orband is associate director for grounds and gardens at William & Mary. A Yorktown native, he earned a B.S. degree in horticulture focused on landscape design at Virginia Tech. Tony worked for a landscape design/build firm as a landscape designer, salesman, project manager, and sales manager before returning to the Historic Triangle and joining W&M.

Patsy Wells, a lifelong science enthusiast, moved to Williamsburg in 2005 and traveled weekly to Richmond to pull weeds at The Virginia House Gardens. After a year, she realized she didn't have to travel that far and took up weeding her own yard as a newly trained York County master gardener. Since 2010, she has worked seasonally at a local plant market, helping customers choose plants and solve problems like deer and clay soils. In her spare time, she works at a community garden in Lackey.

Basic Wine Appreciation

Phil Pryor, Lynn Pryor

🕒 Monday, 4:00-6:00pm
3 sessions: Sep 8, 15, 22
Campus Center, Colonial Echo
24 seats

💰 Cost \$40

We will discuss how wine is made, regional differences, hints on ordering at restaurants, wine store buying, tasting techniques, and how to find wine values. We will also look at the marriage of wine and food, talk about how to read wine labels, pricing, and wine storage at home. Wine myths will

be uncovered.

Phil Pryor has taught basic wine appreciation for over 19 years. He studied wine at the Académie du Vin in Paris and is a former member of Les Amis du Vin and other wine clubs. He established and manages the Wine Society for Fodor's Colony. Phil is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and has an M.B.A. in operations research/systems analysis from Tulane University.

Lynn Pryor has 30 years of experience attending wine tasting groups, seminars and organizations, and 19 years organizing wine tastings. She also has 35 years of technical experience with computers and presentation software.

(Beginner's) Creative Crafting with a Cricut Cutting Machine

Rita Lysher

🕒 Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:00am-12:00pm
3 sessions: Sep 22, 24, 26
Campus Center, Room 31
8 seats

💰 Cost \$15 (materials)

⚠️ Bring your own laptop; tablets and smartphones are not appropriate

In this three-session series, you'll learn the ins and outs of a Cricut® machine and create three make-and-take projects. This class is ideal for beginners as well as experienced crafters who want to expand their skills. Bring your best ideas and basic computer knowledge for hands-on lessons in designing and creating paper, vinyl, and heat transfer projects.

Each participant will leave with a personalized journal, a custom note/greeting card, and a monogrammed makeup or pencil bag. Cricut machine and all crafting supplies are provided.

Rita Lysher is a lifelong crafter who retired to Williamsburg in 2020. A former biology and chemistry teacher from Fredericksburg, she finally has time for adventures with grandchildren well as crafting and sewing. She has created hundreds of personalized gifts

and cards using Cricut Explore and has taught Cricut crafting to friends and at Piedmont Community College.

Backgammon for Beginners

Bill Pow

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am

3 sessions: Oct 2, 9, 16
Campus Center,
Room 31, 16 seats

③ No knowledge of the game is needed. If you own a backgammon set, please bring it.

Updated and improved with feedback from Bill's inaugural classes, this 3-week course gives you hands-on experience with this ancient game of skill and luck. Each two-hour class comprises a 1-hour lecture followed by actual play. Session 1 explores the game's origins, terminology, rules and objectives. Class 2 will cover dice strategy, i.e., how different die combinations create advantage. The final session will reinforce strategy, introduce the doubling cube, and discuss concepts of tournament play.

William Pow started playing backgammon in 1976 while in college. He started a local club in 1980 has managed backgammon tournaments for over 40 years. Although not an expert, he is certainly a backgammon enthusiast, competing in American Backgammon Tournaments (ABT) a few times per year.

William & Mary Campus Tour: The Old Campus

Marjorie Biddle, Martha DeBord, Cyndy & Jon Huddleston, MK & Bill Sizemore

🕒 Thursday, 1:20-3:30pm

1 session: Oct 2 or Oct 9 or Oct 16
Hearth Memorial, Hearth Lawn
20 seats each date

🚶 2-mile walk; see requirements below

③ The class is being offered on 3 dates. Please select one date only

Are you new to the area? Lived here for a while but never explored the campus? As an Osher member, you are part of the academic community of William & Mary. Here's your chance to stroll shaded pathways, through gardens and woods, and past the



Colonial-era buildings of the Old Campus while learning about the university's history, architecture, and lore. Tours will be led by W&M alumni and/or longtime residents.

The tour requires walking 2 miles outdoors and negotiating uneven terrain, unpaved areas, and the occasional staircase. Wear proper footwear and dress for the weather.

Marjorie Biddle '67, was president of Tri Delta sorority, a volunteer tutor, and a CW costumed guide during her college years. She holds a Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the University of Minnesota. Married in the Wren Building a few years ago, she loves sharing her love and gratitude for her W&M experience.

Williamsburg native and alumna Martha DeBord, '78, '84 M.B.A., says she couldn't wait to leave her small town, but now proudly acknowledges and appreciates having Colonial Williamsburg and the W&M campus as playgrounds of her youth. Her diverse career includes teaching, auditing, medical administration, and physical therapy. She's also been a high school diving coach, winery employee, and a member of several boards, including the local W&M alumni chapter.

Cyndy Huddleston '83, '86 M.Ed., spent nearly 40 years in higher education, including Bucknell, Georgetown, George Washington University, and UVA's McIntire School of Commerce. She is active in the W&M Society of 1918 and volunteers in several campus offices when not planning her family's next international adventure.

Jon Huddleston '82, '86 J.D., practiced law for 36 years in Leesburg, VA. He is a past president of the Virginia State Bar and the Virginia Law Foundation. A longtime youth basketball and soccer coach, Jon has turned his passion for sports, kids, and his alma mater into an avid fan of the Tribe.

Bill Sizemore, '71, spent 43 years as a journalist, mostly at The Virginian-Pilot, where he was a Pulitzer Prize finalist. He is author of Uncle George and Me: Two Southern Families Confront a Shared Legacy of Slavery, the story of his slave-owning ancestors, their slaves, and their descendants.

MK Sizemore, '72, met Bill when they worked together on Flat Hat, W&M's newspaper. The couple later married in the Wren Chapel. She is mostly retired from careers in newspapers and as co-owner of Two Rivers, a multimedia production company. She volunteers as vice chair of media/communications with the Historic Triangle Democrats. MK and Bill have two daughters-alumnae, a son who chose UVA, and six grandkids.



UFOs / UAPs: Are We Alone?

John Hickok

🕒 Friday, 2:00-4:00pm

4 sessions: Oct 3, 10, 17, 24

🖥 Zoom, 125 seats

In July 1947, reports of an alien craft crashing near Roswell, NM were quickly covered up by the government. There continues to be great interest in the event and many other sightings since 1947.

This course kicks off with background about the universe for context of events of the last 77 years that shape

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the UFO/UAP story. We will view U.S. Navy videos of first-hand encounters with UAPs and talk about investigative groups and whistle blowers who seek to unravel the mystery. And talk about new efforts by Congress, the Pentagon, NASA and academia to capture UAP data, as well as the possibility that the DoD is covering up an ultra-top secret program related to captured alien spacecraft and attempts to reverse engineer its technology. The course includes a comprehensive list of resources to continue to study on your own.

John Hickok holds an M.S. in aero engineering and M.B.A. from Naval Postgraduate School, and a B.S. in engineering and nuclear physics from the U.S. Naval Academy. He retired after a 48-year career in the Navy and Office of the Secretary of Defense. His service includes flight operations as an A-6 Intruder naval flight officer and British RAF Buccaneer weapon systems officer. His acquisition assignments included top-secret stealth programs and as the Navy's project manager for avionics systems.

Intermediate Cricut Crafting – Winter Holiday Project

Rita Lysher

🕒 Wednesday, 9:00am-12:00pm
1 session: Oct 15
Campus Center, Room 31
8 seats
💰 Cost \$20

⚠️ **Must have attended one of Rita's beginner's Cricut classes or have experience with Cricut crafting and Cricut Design Space**

⚠️ **Bring your own laptop; tablets and smartphones are not suitable**

This is a follow-on class for prior participants of the beginner's Cricut class from this semester. We will create three make and take projects: a wooden sign (choice of seasonal or year round, holiday themed gift tags and ornaments.)

Read Rita's bio on p. 44.

Essence of Japanese Cuisine: Healthful Eating and Artful Presentation

Tomoko Kato

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm
6 sessions: Oct 23, 30, Nov 6, 13, 20, Dec 4
① **No class on Nov 27**
Campus Center, Colonial Echo
18 seats

This course offers a rich and engaging exploration of Japanese culinary traditions, centered around healthful eating and the art of food presentation.

Through a blend of thoughtful discussion, hands-on activities, and food sampling, participants will gain practical skills and deepen their understanding of the cultural and philosophical values that shape Japanese cuisine.

The course introduces holistic perspectives rooted in Japanese practices such as Yakuzen, an adaptation of traditional Chinese medicine that views food as a source of healing and balance, and the aesthetic principle of Ma, which emphasizes the meaningful use of space and pause.

Participants will explore how seasonal awareness, visual harmony, and traditional health principles come together in Japanese cooking. Ultimately, this course invites learners to view food not simply as nourishment or decoration, but as a mindful, meaningful part of daily life. By the end, they'll leave with fresh inspiration and a new lens through which to approach their own meals.

Tomoko Kato is a senior lecturer emerita of Japanese Studies at W&M, specializing in Japanese language, culture, and cuisine since 2000. An avid cook and certified Japanese medicinal cooking instructor, she promotes holistic health through culinary traditions. She is currently deepening her expertise in traditional Chinese medicine at the Institute of Chinese Medicine in Kobe. In addition, she has extensively studied food presentation and plating aesthetics, incorporating these principles into her teaching.

Let's Make a Basket

Anna-Marie Cox

🕒 Wednesday, 1:30-4:00pm
3 sessions: Nov 12, 19, Dec 3
① **No class on Nov 26**
Campus Center, Colonial Echo, 12 seats
💰 Cost \$20

⚠️ **Bring your own cloth measuring tape, sharp scissors, two bath-sized towels, and a dish basin or bucket. All other supplies are provided.**

Learn how to weave your own basket using 1/2" and 1/4" reed. We will explore options in decorating your basket making it a unique style just for you and your home.

Anna-Marie Cox has been teaching basket weaving for 30 years. She loves working with her hands and learning how things were made in the past. She also teaches the fiber arts

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The D&H Canal (p. 8)
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portions of the Viking classes taught at Osher with her husband Martin. Her other hobbies include stained glass and Medieval embroidery.

NEW! Smokin' Joe, the Butterfly, and the Fights of the Century

Dennis Litalien

Friday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Nov 14

Campus Center, Room 159

40 seats

This is the story of Smokin' Joe Frazier, who was simply one of the finest and most courageous heavyweights to ever lace on a pair of gloves. Frazier played second fiddle to no one. His story of rising from sharecropper's son to the pinnacle of his chosen profession is one

Dennis Litalien is a retired Marine and supply chain professional. His love for boxing spans 55 years. He has previously taught classes in military science and logistics and is currently the director of the Great Decisions foreign policy program in Williamsburg where he lives with his wife Renee Hawthorne and golden retriever Olive.



NEW! Finding My Revolutionary War Patriots

Debbie Misiag

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm

2 sessions: Nov 14, 21

School of Education, Room 1056

40 seats

This session will assist participants to learn about resources that can be used to locate ancestor that fought for the independence of the colonies during the Revolutionary War. Participants will review a variety of materials, printed and on-line to discover the role their ancestors played in the war. Learners will review primary and secondary resources and available sources on websites.

Debbie has been conducting genealogical research since 2014. She is the president of the Williamsburg Area

Genealogical Society and a member of multiple lineage societies. She is a retired educator obtaining her B.A. in History from California State University, Fullerton and a master's degree in education from Johns Hopkins University. Since retirement, she has lived in Williamsburg. She enjoys genealogical research, travel, and time with her children and grandchildren.

Be an Osher Instructor

Veteran Osher Instructors

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm

1 session: Nov 18

Campus Center, Colonial Echo

18 seats

⚠️ Open and free to both members and non-members; registration is required. Osher members should register online. Non-members should email osher@wm.edu for info or to register.

Thought about teaching for Osher? A panel of veteran Osher instructors will answer questions and explain how to get started. They will walk you through the process of becoming an instructor and proposing a course. You'll gain insight about the kinds of courses members like and the best teaching methods for adults. You'll hear how to organize, deliver, and present your course – and the help available as you propose a course and prepare to teach. Everyone has an interest, hobby, and experience. Consider sharing yours. You'll wonder why you waited so long!

NEW! How Not to Kill Orchids

Kathryn Bresnan

Monday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Dec 1

Campus Center, Colonial Echo

18 seats

Dispel beliefs that orchids are difficult, that the grower has no success with orchids, and to share tips and techniques to grow and rebloom orchids. No green thumb necessary!

Kathryn Bresnan has been a successful orchids grower for over 15 years. She is a member of the American Orchid Society and our local Peninsula Orchid



Society. Her collection has 75 orchids of various species.

NEW! Wreath Making for Winter Decoration

Tony Orband, Kristi Dodson

🕒 Friday, 1:00pm-4:00pm

1 session: Dec 5

Anne Klare Sullivan Nursery, Greenhouse

15 seats

💰 Cost \$20

⚠️ We will supply fresh vegetation from campus and floral foam/forms; but please bring items to personalize the wreath you take home, e.g., berries, fruit, pinecones, cinnamon sticks, ornaments, ribbon, etc.

🧥 Greenhouse is chilly; dress in layers you don't mind getting dirty and wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes

Join the staff of W&M's Grounds & Gardens team for hands-on instruction to learn and practice the art of making wreath decorations. Make one wreath to be set out on campus and another for decoration at your home. Fresh vegetation pruned from campus will be supplied as the source of wreath materials; bring items from home to personalize the wreath you'll take home.

Kristi Dodson is a Virginia native, having lived most of her life in Chesterfield County. She earned a landscape design degree in 1986 and has since enjoyed a successful career as horticulturist, landscape designer, floral designer, estate gardener, and retail greenhouse manager. Kristi currently serves as W&M's nursery supervisor. Outside of work, Kristi enjoys holistic wellness, yoga, vegetarian cooking, knitting, various crafty endeavors...and chocolate.

Read Tony's bio on pg. 44.

World History

NEW! Battles That Shaped the Course of History

John Rogers

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm

3 sessions: Sep 9, 16, 23

Campus Center, Little Theatre, 110 seats

We will examine six battles over the centuries that shaped the course of history and profoundly affected the world around them. These are:

1. Salamis 480 BC and Platea 481 BC – The Greeks defeat and repel the great Persian invasion;
2. Tours AD 732 – The Franks defeat the Muslim invaders of what is today France;
3. Vienna 1529 – At the peak of their power the Turks are defeated and begin their long decline;
4. Trafalgar 1805 – The Royal Navy's defeat of the combined French and Spanish fleets ended Napoleon's dream of invading and conquering Britain;

5. Leipzig 1813 – The defeat from which Napoleon could not recover Stalingrad; and

6. 1942-43 – The end of Germany's last great offensives and the beginning of a long succession of battles that led the Soviets to Berlin.

John Rogers is a retired vice president of a Fortune 500 company. He has extensive experience in corporate and military instruction. He is a lifelong student of history.

NEW! All Because of a Flea: The Plague in a Historical Context

Martin Cox

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am

3 sessions: Sep 10, 17, 24

Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

ⓘ **Warning: This course includes subject matter that may be distressing for some participants**

Although the impact of disease on the development of human civilization

has often been downplayed or even ignored by historians, research and new understanding over the past fifty years is challenging this viewpoint. One such disease is plague.

This course will provide an overview of how plague has impacted humanity through three separate pandemics, with an emphasis upon the demographic, societal, and economic changes brought about by the late medieval Black Death.

Although this course will focus primarily upon plague in a European context, it also will explore impacts beyond Europe, particularly in Asia during what is known as the Third Plague Pandemic.

After retiring from a career with the federal government, Martin Cox has embarked on a journey as an amateur historian, focusing primarily on early medieval Europe. In addition, he is a living historian, portraying characters and the material culture of the early Middle Ages. Martin is a Virginia native and a 1985 graduate of the College of William & Mary.

A CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS IS IN PROGRESS



*We are fighting for a strong, multi-racial democracy.
We are fighting for voting rights.*

Join the fight.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF WILLIAMSBURG AREA
LWVWilliamsburg.org

NEW! Imposed Borders: The Legacy of World War I for Today's Middle East

Michael Knapp

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Sep 11, 18, 25
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

This course will cover the road to war, including the European system of interlocking alliances, the effects of previous 19th Century conflicts, competition among the great powers of the day, and the decline of empires.

We will study the conduct of the Great War in multiple theaters, with emphasis on political events and military operations in the Middle East. We will also examine the great power agreements, treaties, and territorial changes that ended the conflict. Finally, we will explore the legacy of WWI that is still causing instability and violence in the Middle East today.

Michael Knapp is a retired researcher and intelligence analyst who worked as a civilian and US Army officer for the US Government for four decades. He has developed and taught several popular history courses for the Osher programs at the University of Virginia (UVA); William & Mary; and the University of Richmond. He also teaches these courses for the Institute for Lifelong Learning (RILL) at Rappahannock Community College.

RELATED WORLD HISTORY COURSES

**The Impact of the Enlightenment
in Williamsburg (p. 14)**

**The Birth of the Atomic Age
(p. 16)**

World of Oriental Rugs (p. 21)

**In-depth Visit to Five Medieval
Cathedrals (p. 24)**

**Where on Earth is the U.S.? A
Top 10 Review (p. 25)**

**Political and Ethical Philosophy
of the Scottish Enlightenment
(p. 38)**

Mr. Knapp holds a bachelor's degree in history from Central Michigan University and has pursued graduate studies at UVA and the National Intelligence University.



NEW! Vietnam War - Lessons NOT Learned?

Ed Linz

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Oct 1
Zoom, 125 seats

We will focus on events leading to U.S. involvement in Vietnam culminating in an avoidable war with casualties over two million, including 58,000 Americans.

There will be a discussion of the French colonial era, the rise of Ho Chi Minh, the Viet Minh, South Vietnamese politics, and U.S. policy decisions. There will also be a detailed examination of the conduct of the war, with an emphasis on the tactical decisions leading to heavy casualties among Americans and their communist opponents. We will conclude with a discussion of what we should have learned. This will be an interactive session soliciting questions and comments.

Ed Linz, a 1965 graduate of the Naval Academy, is the author of six books, including recent works on the Great Depression and the Vietnam War. He holds advanced degrees from Oxford University and George Mason University and lives in Maine and Virginia. He was the recipient of a heart transplant in 1994. He is a native of Northern Kentucky.

Disraeli and Gladstone: the Great Rivalry

Linda Smith

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Oct 23, 30, Nov 6
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

Queen Victoria had 10 prime ministers during her long reign, but only two are widely remembered today: Benjamin Disraeli and William Gladstone.

They were bitter rivals and lively personalities. Find out why they are remembered, and their legacies for our own day.

Linda Smith had a 40-year career as a corporate research librarian after undergraduate and graduate work in the history of Victorian Britain. She and her husband retired to Williamsburg in 2017.

Tet 1968: The Crossover Point

Alan Stark

Thursday, 1:30-4:00pm
3 sessions: Oct 23, 30, Nov 6
School of Education, Room 2010
32 seats

On January 30-31, 1968, the People's Army of Vietnam and the National Liberation Front attacked South Vietnam. The Tet Offensive shocked the United States and South Vietnamese allies. Hue, the ancient capital of Vietnam fell, and the U.S. Embassy in Saigon was attacked, but Allied troops eventually delivered defeat to the Communist forces.

Ironically, this defeat translated into a major political victory for Hanoi as American public opinion turned against the war as portrayed by the Johnson administration, consequently resulting in the resignation of a sitting president.

This class will cover the key events of the Vietnam War leading up to Tet, and the planning that preceded the offensive from both Communist and Allied standpoints. We will examine Hanoi's real goals for launching the attacks, the reasons why U.S. decision makers and military leaders were caught off guard, and missteps made by Communist forces that all but eliminated success. We will also consider the media's role before, during, and after Tet to determine the validity of revisionist historians claims that the press turned victory into defeat.

Finally, we will discuss the mini-Tets that followed the January offensive and their impact on future U.S. and Vietnamese strategies.

Alan Stark has a B.A. in history from the University of Southern California and an M.A. in contemporary East Asian history and an M.B.A. from UCLA. He has been a teaching assistant in Japanese history and guest lecturer in modern Chinese history. He also worked for 18 years at Wells Fargo primarily in online technologies and security.

The History and Psychology of the Great Pandemics

David Hopkinson

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Nov 11, 18, Dec 2

③ **No class on Nov 25**

School of Education, Room 1056
40 seats

This course examines the psychological and sociocultural responses to the menace and destructiveness of the nine great infectious disease pandemics afflicting humans throughout world history. There were commonalities – as well as evolving and competing responses – in the approach, surge, and the recovery from these high-impact upheavals in lifestyle and conventional thinking of the times.

Read David's bio on p. 31.

The Holocaust Through a Child's Eyes

Don Schilling

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Nov 12, 19, Dec 3
School of Education, Room 1056
40 seats

This course examines the challenges faced by Jewish children in the Holocaust with attention to their similarities and differences with adult victims. It focuses in particular on the experiences of Nechama Tec as recorded in her book *Dry Tears and how she was eventually able to confront her painful past.*

Suggested reading: *Dry Tears: The Story of a Lost Childhood* by Nechama Tec. ISBN-13: 978-0195035001

Don Schilling has a Ph.D. in modern European history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He taught courses in this subject area at Denison University for 41 years and has continued to teach in the Osher program since 2013 with a particular focus on the Holocaust and Fascism.

NEW! England 1066: Year of Four Kings

John Rogers

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Nov 13, 20, Dec 4
③ **No class on Nov 28**
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

A study of the final years of England's Saxon Monarchy, the disputed succession that arose on the death of Saxon King Edward the Confessor in Jan 1066, the Norman invasion of Oct 1066 under Duke William of Normandy, and the Norman's subsequent conquest of England.

Read John's bio on p. 49.

NEW! An Unprovoked and Dastardly Attack...Pearl Harbor

Alan Stark

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Nov 14, 21, Dec 5
School of Education, Room 2060
40 seats

Japan's attack on the Pearl Harbor Naval Base on December 7, 1941, was considered, at the time, a major defeat for United States. In the final analysis, however, the attack raised more questions than answers as to what really happened that day and why.

Alan Stark has a B.A. in history from the University of Southern California, and an M.A. in contemporary East Asian history and an M.B.A. from UCLA. He has been a teaching assistant in Japanese history and guest lecturer in modern Chinese history. He also worked 18 years at Wells Fargo primarily in online technologies and security.

A WORD ABOUT FREE & AMICABLE DISCUSSION IN THE CLASSROOM

A vibrant member community can bring equally vibrant viewpoints to the classroom.

Explicating, defending, or criticizing a given claim does not translate to personal endorsement or rejection of that claim.

Advocating a given position does not necessarily translate to personal agreement with it. Likewise, offering criticisms of an argument in the spirit of intellectual inquiry does not necessarily translate to disagreement with it.

The academic value lies in the examination and understanding of various viewpoints that thoughtful people offer.

In matters where reasonable people may disagree, it is unlikely that we'll settle on "right answers"; controversial issues are controversial for a reason.

Examining them responsibly requires a mature, respectful approach. Disagreement over controversial matters of political, ethical, legal, or social policy is healthy; disagreeableness is not.

– Offered by Bill Rhodes, Osher at W&M Veteran Instructor and former Curriculum Committee Chair and Subject Area Coordinator

ZOOM IN TO LEARNING

Online Courses for Fall 2025

Zoom links are emailed one business day prior to class. Links are also available by signing into your Osher account and selecting "My Class List." You must identify your device with **your first and last name to participate in class (read more about Zoom classes at right).**

Course	#	Day	Time	Dates	Instructor	Pg
NEW! The Erie Canal	4	W	10a-12p	Oct 29, Nov 5, 12, 19	Beasom	9
NEW! Lessons from the Great Depression	2	Th	3-4:30p	Nov 13, 20	Linz	11
NEW! After the Revolution Part I: Revolutions in Thought, Action & Reaction	3	F	9:30-11:30a	Sep 12, 19, 26	Staton-Reinstein	12
NEW! After the Revolution Part II: Revolutions in Thought, Action & Reaction	3	F	9:30-11:30a	Oct 3, 10, 17	Staton-Reinstein	14
NEW! Birth of the Atomic Age	1	Th	11a-12:30p	Nov 20	Vromen	16
NEW! Drawing in the Dark: A Salmagundi of Art & Design	4	Tu	11a-12:30p	Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, 18	Behrens	23
NEW! Where on Earth is the U.S.? A Top 10 Review	1	Th	3-5p	Sep 11	Stowell	25
Understanding Today's Economic Trends & Issues	3	W	1:30-3:30p	Nov 10, 17, Dec 1	Gaske	27
Keys to Preventing Dementia: Hope & Help as We Age	3	F	9:30-11a	Oct 3, 10, 17	Quinlisk	32
NEW! Medicare 2026: Know Your ABCDs	1	W	1:30-3:30p	Oct 15	Bernstein	32
NEW! Magickal Jesus: Holy Man, Wonders, History of Forgetting	5	Th	9:30-11:30a	Sep 11, 18, 25, Oct 2, 9	Ingebretsen	38
Mastering Your iPhone/iPad Camera & Photo Apps	3	W	1:30-3:30p	Sep 10, 17, 24	Chase	39
Climates of the Distant Past	3	M	1:30-3:30p	Sep 29, Oct 6, 13	Mulvey	41
Mastering Your Apple Watch	2	F	1:30-3:30p	Oct 24, 31	Chase	42
UFOs/UAPs: Are We Alone?	4	F	2-4p	Oct 3, 10, 17, 24	Hickok	45
NEW! Vietnam War – Lessons NOT Learned?	1	W	1:30-3:30p	Oct 1	Linz	50

Zoom Class Policy & Procedures

1. First & Last Name Required

Zoom participants must identify themselves (their device) with first and last name. This is the digital equivalent of wearing your Osher name tag to an in-person class.

Members who use a generic name (e.g., *Joe's ipad*, or just a phone number) will be placed in the waiting room for the duration of the class. Click here to learn how to [rename your device](#).

2. One Seat Per Enrolled Member

Sign-ins by a single member on multiple devices are not permitted.

3. Link is Emailed Day Prior to Class (first session only)

Links are emailed at 6am the day before class (Friday noon for Monday classes). Check your junk folder, too.

4. Link Remains the Same for Multi-Session Courses

For courses with 2 or more sessions, save the link! It remains the same for the entire course.

5. Lost the Link? Find it in Your Osher Account

Misplaced the email with the link? No worries. The link is posted in your Osher account. Sign in to your Account at LearnAtOsher.wm.edu. Click on Class List. Voilà!

6. Zoom Waiting Room

When you click the link for your Zoom class, you are placed into a "Waiting Room." The waiting room is an intentional Zoom feature and does **not** indicate a technical issue on your end or ours.

What's happening is that the Osher staff and instructor are working to set up the presentation, test settings, etc., (just like the setup for in-person courses).

Please be patient. We see your name and know you are waiting. Our goal is always to start on time.



Membership Registration

Fall 2025 | September 8 – December 12

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City, ST & Zip _____ ☐ Landline or ☐ Cell: If cell, opt-in to texts? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Preferred First Name _____ Date of Birth _____
(for Your Name Tag) (MM/DD/YYYY)

I am a: ☐ New Member ☐ Returning Member Highest Education _____ W&M Alum? ☐ Yes ☐ No

I prefer the Catalog by: ☐ U.S. Mail ☐ Email Occupation _____
(current or prior to retirement)

Contact me about volunteering: ☐ Yes ☐ No Military Service ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ War-time Veteran

Membership Type ☐ Regular – \$200 OR ☐ Honorary: ☐ Scholarship: ☐ Gift Certificate:

Discount code provided _____

Course Selection(s)

1. Request a **max of SIXTEEN (16) courses total, with no more than EIGHT (8) being multi-session**. Lessons & Luminations (L&L) events do NOT count against the 16 course max. **L&L fees are immediately due and payable (even during early reg)**
2. **Prioritize your choices** below by ranking them in order of preference (i.e., #1 = most-desired class; #2 = second most-desired class, and so on). Do not differentiate between single/multi-session; rank all of your choices as a whole. L&L events are not ranked; list them last
3. Forms and payment are due by **5pm on August 13**. If you miss early registration, open enrollment starts on August 26

PRIORITY #	CLASS NAME	MULTI-SESSION?	PRIORITY #	CLASS NAME	MULTI-SESSION?
1	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	9	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	11	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	12	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	13	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	14	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	15	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	16	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Emergency

Contact : Name _____ Phone _____

Is Your Paper Registration Complete?

- ☐ This Registration Form
- ☐ Participation Agreement – **reverse side of this form** (signed and dated)
- ☐ 2025-26 Parking Permit Form* applications are processed through the Osher office ONLY if you apply and pay during early registration. After August 13, take the parking permit form and \$17 to W&M Parking Services, located in Campus Center, 104 Jamestown Road.

☐ Check payable to William & Mary to include:

- ☐ \$200 Fall Membership Fee (or \$25 if Fall 2025 Scholarship Recipient)
- ☐ \$17 Osher FY25-26 Parking Permit, if needed (early registrants only*)
- ☐ Event fee(s) if you selected a Lessons & Luminations event
Note: additional course fees for materials, transportation etc. will be billed later.
Payment is due upon notification to secure your seat

☐ **Here's an additional \$_____ to help support the program**
Your tax-deductible gift of any amount (by separate check to **Osher Impact Fund #3914**) is greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged by William & Mary.

Osher Institute at William & Mary
Participation Agreement
2025-26 Academic Year

I acknowledge that I am at least 18 years of age and intend to participate in courses, lectures, workshops, tours, events, and/or activities ("the Program") offered by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at William & Mary ("Osher at W&M") for the 2025-2026 academic year (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026). By signing below, I agree to abide by the policies, procedures, and protocols of Osher at W&M as provided here, and in the semester course catalog, during my participation in the Program, whether as a member, instructor, co-instructor, community volunteer, guest, or other associate.

Participation Parameters

Osher at W&M seeks to create a vibrant learning environment where participants engage in free, open, and amicable discourse in a safe and supportive environment. Our community of learners, instructors, volunteers, and staff embodies a wide range of experiences, cultures, abilities, and perspectives. Intellectual honesty, mutual respect, courtesy, and civility are the foundation of the Program. I understand that engaging in disruptive conduct, including aggressive behavior, use of obscenities or profanity, failure to follow the direction of an Osher at W&M official, or harassment or discrimination of any kind may result in the termination of this agreement and my ability to participate in the Osher at W&M Program. Information about current membership fees, registration, refund policy and applicable administrative fees is provided in the current course catalog. I acknowledge and agree that Osher at W&M reserves the right in its sole discretion to cancel any element of the Program at any time.

Assumption of Risk – Program Participation

Participation in the Program and selection of specific coursework is voluntary, and individuals should assess their own readiness and ability to engage in the activities described before registering for a course. Courses may include travel to off-site locations and engagement in events and facilities managed by third parties for which Osher at W&M has no oversight or responsibility. Activity-based coursework may involve low-impact exercise, and outdoor coursework may involve uneven terrain and exposure to the elements, all of which include the risk of falling, strain, or overexertion. Cooking or food-based courses may involve use of products that constitute allergens for some people. I agree to stop any activity and request assistance if I experience symptoms such as dizziness, fatigue, shortness of breath, pain, or any other condition(s) that would make it difficult or unsafe to continue. I acknowledge that none of Osher at W&M's courses constitute physical therapy or the provision of medical treatment or advice. With regard to tours, field trips, events, or travel programs, I agree to follow all instructions given to me by Osher at W&M staff or instructors.

I further understand and agree that the College of William & Mary, Osher at W&M, and the Commonwealth of Virginia do not provide any indemnification or insurance coverage, such as life, accident, automobile, or health insurance coverage for the Osher at W&M Program courses, lectures, tours, events, activities, performances, travel programs, special interest groups, and/or clubs.

Consent for Use of Image and Information

As a member of Osher at W&M (or as a non-member attending a member event), I give my permission to: 1) take and use without payment, any photographs, slides, or films of myself, as may be needed for public relations purposes, marketing/advertising, press releases, website development, or training purposes; 2) I further understand that my name and contact information will be distributed to Osher at W&M staff and Osher at W&M instructors in order to conduct classes, programs, and activities; and 3) I give my permission to receive emails from Osher at W&M unless I provide written notification to opt out.

Release of Liability

By signing below (or if registering online, by checking the acknowledgment box when prompted), I acknowledge that my participation in the Osher at W&M Program is strictly voluntary and I knowingly assume all risks thereof, including any financial or other obligations I incur as a result of any medical care I receive during or in connection with the Program, and release Osher at W&M and the College of William & Mary in Virginia, and their officers, directors, employees, and agents, from responsibility for any and all injuries or damages caused by the inherent risks of the activity and/or the negligence, recklessness, or intentional acts of myself and/or any third parties.

I knowingly bind myself my heirs, executors, and representatives and agree that if any of the provisions of this agreement become invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect under any law, such provision shall be changed and interpreted to best accomplish the objectives of such provision within the limits of applicable law.

Participant's Signature

Printed Name

Today's Date

Osher Institute at William & Mary

2025-2026 PARKING REGISTRATION

Parking & Transportation Services Office W&M Campus Center, 104 Jamestown Road 757-221-4764



A new academic year (2025-26) parking permit is in effect!
Do you need an Osher parking permit?

YES, if you have classes at the School of Education or may have business at the Osher Office (we've moved to Boswell Hall on campus)

OR you intend to use ADA credentials to park on campus

Visit LearnAtOsher.wm.edu for locations, addresses & parking options.

Buy an Osher Parking Permit

☐ \$17 – Osher Parking Hang Tag

Valid for the full 2025-26 academic year (through August 31, 2026); must be displayed from rearview mirror when parking on campus

Valid for parking at:

- School of Education – Student Lots 1, 2, 4 & 5
- ADA-appropriate parking*
- 30-minute parking at Boswell Hall if you have business at the Osher office

NOT VALID for free parking at:

- Faculty/staff spaces in any lot*
- Campus Center / Facilities lot
- W&M Parking Deck (201 Ukrop)
- Spaces marked for visitors or the Passport app

*ADA: An Osher hang tag **PLUS** your state-issued handicapped placard or license plate allows you to park in any available campus space EXCEPT those marked *Reserved*, *Service Vehicle*, *Reserved for a Special Event*, or designated for the [Passport app](#)

Member Information

Name _____ Driver's License # _____ ST _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

ADA Placard/Plate? ☐ No ☐ Yes: _____
Expiration Date _____ Handicapped Placard/Plate # _____

Vehicle Information

Vehicles displaying a hang tag must register with Parking Services. You may register up to two family vehicles on a single permit:

Vehicle 1 (ALL INFO BELOW IS REQUIRED)

License Plate # _____ ST _____

Make _____

Model _____

Color _____ Year _____

☐ Sedan ☐ Coupe ☐ SUV ☐ Truck ☐ Van ☐ Other

Vehicle 2 (ALL INFO BELOW IS REQUIRED)

License Plate # _____ ST _____

Make _____

Model _____

Color _____ Year _____

☐ Sedan ☐ Coupe ☐ SUV ☐ Truck ☐ Van ☐ Other

Acknowledgment

My signature certifies that the information I have provided is true and accurate. I agree to notify Parking Services if any information changes. I have read and agree to abide by the Campus Parking Rules & Regulations published at wm.edu. I also acknowledge that all Virginia-licensed drivers must carry minimum insurance coverage on their vehicle as set forth by Virginia DMV. I affirm that I possess the minimum required coverage.

Signature _____

Phone _____










Date _____

Email _____

Fall 2025 at Osher

Aug 1-13	Early registration
Aug 25	Class schedules emailed
Aug 26	Open enrollment begins (for those who missed early registration or early registrants who want to add courses)
Sep 4-5	Parking hang tag pickup (for members who purchased a permit during early registration)
Sep 8	First day of Fall classes
Oct 1-31	Scholarship applications accepted for Spring 2026
Nov 4	Election Day (no classes except Behrens' Zoom <i>Drawing in the Dark</i>)
Nov 24-28	Thanksgiving break (University closed; no classes)
Dec 12	Last day of Fall classes

Catalog Course Icons

-  Class starts at other than the standard 9:30am or 1:30pm; or meets more than 1x / week; or is longer / shorter than the standard 2-hour class duration
-  Course requirement
-  Important information
-  Online class via Zoom
-  Additional cost
-  Walking tour or field trip
-  Dress for the weather
-  Special location; drive on your own or carpool
-  Explore a "Revolutionary Idea"
(read more on p. 5)

GOOD TO KNOW

Register & More at LearnAtOsher.wm.edu

HOW TO REGISTER–Fall 2025

Early registration: Aug 1-13 | Open enrollment begins Aug 26

- 1 Go to LearnAtOsher.wm.edu.
- 2 Sign In or Create a Account.
- 3 Click Register (Home page, under 'Fall 2025').
- 4 Add a Membership to your cart **FIRST** (but don't check out yet).
- 5 Click Return to Home.
- 6 Search for classes (under 'Fall 2025') and add to your cart. Choose up to 16 classes with no more than 8 multi-session courses.
- 7 When finished choosing courses, proceed to check out and pay. You will have a chance to review your registration before paying by credit card.
- 8 Check your email for confirmation of your order and a separate receipt for credit card payment.
- 9 **IMPORTANT:** The early registration lottery requires that you rank your course selections. For over-subscribed classes, the "lottery," i.e., an algorithm, randomly assigns seats based on all members' priority selections

Initially, courses are prioritized in the order you place them in your cart. You can reprioritize your choices once you check out and pay. Just log back into your Account, click My Priorities, and re-rank your selections.

Rank your choices in order of preference. Label your first choice as 1; second as 2; and so on. When ranking choices, do not differentiate between multi-session and single-session classes.

You'll automatically be waitlisted for oversubscribed classes you requested

10 NEED A '25-26 OSHER PARKING PERMIT? During early registration only, order it online for pickup at our office Sep 4-5. Place a separate order from your registration. Click Buy Parking Permit under Resources. Follow the prompts & pay. After Aug 13, visit Parking Services in person to buy the pass.

11 DROPPING OFF OR MAILING YOUR REGISTRATION? We've moved to Boswell Hall, Rm 028. 30-minute and ADA parking in Boswell Lot is permitted for brief visit to our office.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Apply for a Spring '26 Scholarship Oct. 1-31

Are you a lifelong learner who is Interested in the program but can't manage the membership fee?

A limited number of partial scholarships are available for Spring. To qualify, you must be age 50 or older with an annual adjusted gross income of ≤\$50,000.

Scholarships are funded by a grant from the Osher Foundation and cover \$175 of the cost of a one-semester membership for Fall.

The member is responsible for the

balance of the membership fee (\$25), plus the cost of a 2025-26 Osher parking permit (\$17, if needed) and any additional fees (where applicable) for materials or special events.

Spring 2026 scholarship applications are accepted only Oct. 1-31, 2025. Successful applicants will be notified by email in late December.

Spring registration opens the first week of Jan.; the semester runs Feb.-May. To apply, visit LearnAtOsher.wm.edu during the October application window.



TIP: Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to visit LearnAtOsher.wm.edu

CLASS LOCATIONS & PARKING

ON CAMPUS			
Venue & Address	25-26 Hang Tag	On Your Own	Details – also visit the W&M parking website
Anne Klare Sullivan Nursery 807 S Henry St. (Greenhouse – on the south grounds of the McCormack-Nagelsen Tennis Center)	■	NOT AVAIL	2025-26 Hang Tag: Parking is available near the Greenhouse; follow the drive beyond and behind (south) of the large green Tennis Center building
Boswell Hall 100 Ukrop Way (Building entry is off of Jamestown Rd.) (Room 028 – Osher office)	■ 30 min only	NOT AVAIL	2025-26 Hang Tag: Parking in the Boswell lot (Jamestown Rd. at Burns Ln.) is available for limited, 30-minute parking for visits to the Osher office ADA: ADA credentials PLUS '25-26 Osher parking hang tag allows parking in any campus handicapped or Faculty/Staff space
Campus Center 104 Jamestown Rd. (Colonial Echo, Little Theatre, Room 31, Room 159)	ADA ONLY	■	ADA Only: ADA credentials PLUS '25-26 Osher parking hang tag allows parking: in any handicapped or Faculty/Staff space on campus Park on your own: Colonial Williamsburg P4, P5, P6 lots; use the Passport app to pay. Free parking may be available on nearby side streets, along Richmond Road, or at the Williamsburg Regional Library
Muscarelle Museum 603 Jamestown Rd. (Event Hall)	■ Sep 16, 9a-12p only	■	2025-26 Hang Tag: Parking in the Boswell lot (Jamestown Rd. at Burns Ln.) is allowed only from 9a-12p for Sandra Stephan's Sep 16 class participants ADA only Hang Tag: ADA credentials PLUS '25-26 Osher parking hang tag allows parking in any handicapped or Faculty/Staff space on campus Park on your own: Limited, paid public parking the Muscarelle lot using the Passport app
School of Ed 301 Monticello Ave. (Rooms 1056-2056)	■	NOT AVAIL	2025-26 Hang Tag: Convenient parking at the School of Ed in Student lots 1, 2, 4, 5 ADA: ADA credentials PLUS '25-26 Osher parking hang tag allows parking in any campus handicapped or Faculty/Staff space
Swem Library 400 Landrum Dr. (Special Collections Room)	ADA ONLY	■	ADA Only: ADA credentials PLUS '25-26 Osher parking hang tag allows in handicapped or Faculty/Staff spaces at Swem Park on your own: Paid parking in Swem Passport spaces or pay a fee in Parking your Garage The Osher permit is NOT valid for Faculty/Staff spaces or Passport parking at Swem (except ADA)
Hearth Memorial to the Enslaved 115 Jamestown Rd. Tucker Hall 350 James Blair Dr. (Room 127A - Auditorium)	ADA ONLY	■	ADA Only: ADA credentials PLUS '25-26 Osher parking hang tag allows parking: in any handicapped or Faculty/Staff space on campus Park on your own: Colonial Williamsburg P4, P5, P6 lots; use the Passport app to pay. Free parking may be available on nearby side streets, along Richmond Road, or at the Williamsburg Regional Library
OFF CAMPUS			
Venue	Address	Parking Availability	
Colonial Williamsburg and nearby parks/ locales	Check your email one business day prior to the class for the specific meet-up location and address	Paid public parking in CW parking lots using the Passport app	
Shaia Oriental Rugs	5560 Foundation St. (New Town)	Free street parking	
Watermen's Museum	309 Water St. (Yorktown)	Free parking at the museum and at the Riverwalk Landing Parking Terrace	
Williamsburg Landing	5700 Williamsburg Landing Dr. (Williamsburg)	Free surface lot parking	
Williamsburg Regional Library	515 Scotland St. (Downtown Williamsburg)	Free surface lot & street parking; may be full at peak times; paid public parking nearby	



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It's a Revolutionary Year at the Osher Institute!

(Learn more on p. 5)

CONTACT US

OFFICE LOCATION

Boswell Hall
(next to Muscarelle Museum)
Room 028 (basement level)
Hours: M-F, 10am-4pm

If you have business at the Osher office, limited, 30-minute and ADA parking is available in the Boswell lot (656 James-town Rd. across from Burns Ln.). After Sep 1, this parking lot requires a 2025-26 Osher parking permit; time limits are strictly enforced.

MAILING ADDRESS

Osher Institute at W&M
P.O. Box 8795
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795

CONTACT

osher@wm.edu (757) 221-1506
LearnAtOsher.wm.edu

Our office hours are 10am-4pm. However, the team is often setting up or moderating classes and may not be immediately available by phone or in person. For a faster response, email osher@wm.edu

OSHER INSTITUTE STAFF

Laurie Hesser
Director

Ann Covington
Administrative Coordinator

Phoebe Williams
Administrative Coordinator



Photo by Samantha Fien-Helfman, W&M

About the Osher Institute at W&M

We are a community of adults — mostly ages 50 and better — seeking knowledge, enrichment, and connection with the larger world through intellectually stimulating and socially engaging educational experiences.

The program was founded in 1991 as the Christopher Wren Association and is self-funded through membership fees, member gifts, fundraising efforts, grants, and annual distributions from the Bernard Osher Foundation and Kernodle endowments.

Designated as an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in 2018, we are one of 124 Osher Institutes located at select universities across the United States.