

# OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE



  
**WILLIAM  
& MARY**  
CHARTERED 1693



A Final HUZAH!  
to a Revolutionary Year

Fall 2026

## COURSE CATALOG

[www.LearnAtOsher.wm.edu](http://www.LearnAtOsher.wm.edu)



# A Final HUZDAH! to a Revolutionary Year



Over the last four semesters, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at William & Mary has been commemorating the 250th anniversary of our country's July 1776 founding – and the centennial of John D. Rockefeller's March 1926 visit to Williamsburg that inspired the restoration of Virginia's colonial capital – by highlighting “Revolutionary Ideas” that have changed the world.

The idea for a Revolutionary Ideas theme began in the nascent days of 2024, when Osher Instructor **Mark Howell** was already thinking ahead by a full year – or two.

The then-just-one-month-retired education director for the Jamestown Yorktown Foundation and former

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation staffer was channeling the year 2026 and contemplating how Osher at W&M might align with local educational happenings – inspired by VA250 (read more below). When **Mark** shared his vision with the 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.

“**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



Look for the lantern  
throughout the catalog  
for courses that feature a  
“Revolutionary Idea”

## VA250 – Sharing Virginia's Role in Making America

While the Osher Institute at W&M 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 2,000 events scheduled across the state in 2026, VA250 showcases 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).

Osher Member and Curriculum Committee 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 Curriculum Committee Chairs **Barney Feingold** and **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.

Osher Instructors enthusiastically embraced this “Revolutionary Idea.”

Beginning in the Fall semester a year ago, our instructors kicked off the semiquincentennial celebration by offering 60+ new or adapted existing courses. By the conclusion of the Fall 2026 semester this coming December, our 1,000+ members and 180+ volunteer instructors will have studied, discussed, and reflected on the impact of more than 200 “Revolutionary Ideas” – extraordinary accomplishments ignited in precipitous moments of human brilliance.

And to that – with a tip of the tricorn – we say, HUZDAH!

AMERICA  
MADE IN  
VIRGINIA

VA250

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### OUR OFFICE HAS MOVED!

Campus Center  
104 Jamestown Road, Suite 203  
Hours: M-F, 10am-3pm

If you have business at the Osher office, you may park temporarily in a marked 1-hour space in the Hunt Circle Lot located off of S. Boundary Street (at the rear entrance to Campus Center). The Osher staff will provide you with a stamped and dated validation to present to W&M Parking Services should you be ticketed while visiting the Osher office and parked in a marked 1-hour space. See pg. 54 for details.

### CONTACT

[osher@wm.edu](mailto:osher@wm.edu) (757) 221-1506  
[LearnAtOsher.wm.edu](https://LearnAtOsher.wm.edu)

Our office hours are 10am-3pm. The Osher team is often out of the office setting up or moderating classes and may not be immediately available by phone or in person. For a faster response, email [osher@wm.edu](mailto:osher@wm.edu)

## KEY TO COURSE ICONS

- Class starts at other than the standard 9:30am or 1:30pm; and/or is other than the standard 2-hour class duration
- Course requirement
- Important information
- Online class via Zoom
- Additional cost
- Dress for the weather
- Walking tour or field trip
- Drive on your own or carpool
- Revolutionary Idea (see inside front cover)

Fall 2026 course information is accurate as of July 16, 2026.

Please refer to the website at [LearnAtOsher.wm.edu](https://LearnAtOsher.wm.edu) for changes to this catalog, including dates, times, locations, and errata.

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# Every Great Story has Unforgettable Characters...

The **Instructor** who inspires a new interest. The **Volunteer** who makes every detail count. The **Member** whose curiosity sparks thoughtful dialogue. The **Donor** whose generosity keeps the story going. Exceptional people. Different gifts. Shared purpose. **Together**, a vibrant community.

You give Osher at W&M its character and its continuity – a remarkable learning adventure and an ever-evolving story worth living.

Thank **You**.

ADVISORY COUNCIL July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

|                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| CURRICULUM COMMITTEE      |                       |
| John Delano, <i>Chair</i> | Rick Morrison         |
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| Social Sciences           | Humanities            |
| Marjie Harris             | Issa Puttre           |
| World History             | Arts                  |
| Mark Howell               | Public Affairs        |
| Revolutionary Ideas       | Paul Swetland         |
| Experiential Learning     | Special Interests     |
| Karen McPherson           | Karen Thomas          |
| American History          | Health & Wellness     |

|                                 |                 |
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| Geoffrey Gay       | Keith Parkansky   | Marilyn Younger     |
| Carolyn Glendening |                   |                     |

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

INSTRUCTORS July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

|                      |                       |                      |                   |                    |                          |
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| Michael Butler       | Liz Fones-Wolf        | Joe Johnson          | Jim Morford       | Paul Severance     | Naama Zahavi-Ely         |
| Stuart Butler        | Feather Foster        | Tomoko Kato          | Kelly Shaw        | Frank Shaia        |                          |
| Michael              | Carmen Fragapane      | Rebecca Ritter Kelly | Daniel Shaye      | Kelly Shaw         |                          |

DONORS TO THE OSHER IMPACT FUND (Fund #3914) July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

In our second year of active fundraising, 200 members honored our mission with \$27,748 in cash gifts to the Osher Impact Fund. We are immensely grateful for your generosity to keep our story going.

|                   |                 |                 |                    |                        |                     |
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### 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 Foundation and Kernodle endowments to fund our program.

As we look to the new academic year, our Instructor corps and curriculum are strong. Word about the quality of our program is spreading as members and instructors share their Osher

experience with family, friends, and neighbors. We are working hard to convert this awareness and interest into an ever-growing membership, which is essential to the purpose of our mission and the vitality of our program.

Our financial sustainability has improved, too. Revenue offset about 86% of operating costs in FY25-26 versus 81% the prior year.

We have also established a Finance & Fundraising committee to lend added expertise and perspective as we look to the future.

Your gift of time, talent, interest, enthusiasm, ideas, and financial support underpins everything we do today – and in the future.

Ask us about the many ways to contribute to OLLI at W&M at: [osher@wm.edu](mailto:osher@wm.edu) or 757-221-1506.

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American History

NEW! The Gay 90s: From Fig Newtons to Coca-Cola

Marilyn Younger  
Monday, 1:30-3:30pm  
3 sessions: Sep 14, 21, 28  
School of Education, Room 2066  
34 seats

The prelude to the 20th century was one of the most dynamic in American history. The country was undergoing huge transformations from agrarian to industrial, from wars on the plains with Native Americans to wars on water with Spain in Cuba and the Philippines. Technology was entering cities and businesses with lighting, typewriters, and telephones. Bicycles were used for transportation and entertainment while automobiles were entering the marketplace.

It was a period when enough was not sufficient for many who sought to get rich however they could, from skirting laws to venturing to the Alaska gold rush. While it was a decade of development and adventure, it was also a time of depression and despair. This class will consider what life was like for those who lived through the last decade of the 19th century.

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.

NEW! Unexpected Challenges the Founders Failed to Predict

Rebecca Staton-Reinstein  
Friday, 9:30-11:30am  
5 sessions: Sep 18, 25, Oct 2, 9, 16  
Zoom, 125 seats

OLLI at Drake University (Des Moines, IA) and OLLI at University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) will join us for this course



In the spirit of compromise, the Constitutional Framers left some areas of our nation's foundational document vague. Assuming that foreign relations would remain steadfast, our early leaders were left scrambling with unanticipated change.

In this course, we'll examine France – our friend and foe; the Louisiana Purchase's legality; the cause and long-term consequences of the War of 1812; why Revolutionary War hero Benedict Arnold became a traitor; and what, how and why Marbury vs. Madison challenged basic tenets of the Constitution. Participants will be encouraged to offer informed opinions on these decisions and motivations as we consider how the Framers and Founders justified their own actions while condemning others.

Ultimately, we'll gain insight on how these challenges have often divided us throughout our history and continue to impact us today.

Rebecca Staton-Reinstein, Ph.D, is a native Virginian raised by history buff parents. As a W&M undergrad, she worked as a costumed guide in the historic area and fell in love with the 18th century. Extensive research on the Enlightenment, the Founders, and the Civil War inspired her book Conventional Wisdom, which integrates

stories from her consulting work with CEOs with leaders of the Constitutional Convention.

NEW! The Life and Times of the Delaware and Hudson Canal

Peg Becker  
Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Sep 23  
School of Education, Room 2066  
34 seats

During the 70 years that the D&H Canal was in operation between Honesdale, PA, and the Hudson River, many villages, towns, and cities were founded and/or developed along the line of the canal. The canal was a monumental engineering feat for its time. The construction of the D&H Canal, which commenced in 1825, was nothing short of an epic undertaking, a testament to human labor and expanding engineering know-how. This course is an expanded look at the canal and its engineering. How did the canal work? What was the role of the lockkeeper? What technological advances improved the canal? How were accidents handled? Please join us as we take a deeper dive into the workings of the D&H Canal.

Peg Becker retired from Altria Client Services as manager of clinical data management, working on clinical studies. She graduated from the College of St. Rose with a B.A. in Biology and is a certified Medical Technologist. Her interest in learning about little known historical events leads to the classes she teaches at the Osher Institute at W&M.

From Leeches to Lasers – 18th Century Medicine Compared to Today

Robert Jaffee  
Friday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Sep 25  
School of Education, Room 1056  
40 seats

This course will present the theory and practice of medicine in the 18th century



and compare the treatment of several diseases in the 18th century to how doctors treat that 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! Written in the Bricks: The Story of Fort Pulaski

Shannon Rowe

🕒 Friday, 1:00-2:30pm  
1 session: Sep 25  
🖥️ Zoom, 50 seats

📍 This hybrid class is hosted by OLLI at University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) and will include USCB members in person and online

Park Ranger Shannon Rowe explores how the story of Fort Pulaski (a coastal fortification that was built between 1829 and 1847 to protect the Port of Savannah) is written in the bricks.

Huge craters and embedded artillery projectiles demonstrate the power of rifled cannons; fingerprints preserved in the bricks speak to the institution of slavery, and the fight for freedom; soldier graffiti and paintings on the walls connect us to historic figures who were just as creative as we are today.

*Shannon Rowe is a park ranger who has worked at five different parks for over 10 years. She is passionate about helping visitors forge intellectual, emotional, and relevant connections with our natural and cultural resources. She is a former 8th-grade and high school U.S. history teacher and a Civil War historian.*



## NEW! Make Ready, Take Aim, Fire: The Continental Army, 1775-1783

Holly Mayer

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm  
3 sessions: Oct 5, 12, 19  
School of Education, Room 2066  
34 seats

A congress of delegates representing American colonies established the Continental Army on 14 June 1775. On 2 November 1783, General George Washington said farewell to the troops, noting that, "The unparalleled perseverance of the Armies of the United States, through almost every possible suffering and discouragement, for the space of eight long years, was little short of a standing Miracle."

But was it a miracle? How did the American Continental Army – the forces of the United Colonies and then Army of the United States – come to be? How did it become a regular army?

This class reviews the creation and deployment of what has been called the first national institution. A few battles will be mentioned, but the focus is on organization and reorganization, strategic challenges, mission and motivation.

*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.*

## Three Nifty Presidential-ish Stories

Feather Foster

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am  
3 sessions: Oct 8, 15, 22  
Campus Center, Little Theatre  
110 seats

Relationships are always complicated. Each session – a very interesting story!

- Session 1: Mary and Robert Lincoln – A complicated mother-and-son relationship.
- Session 2: Warren and Florence Harding – a very complicated marriage.
- Session 3: The James Garfield Election, Presidency, Assassination and Lingering Demise – Deadlly complicated.

*Feather Foster spent more than 35 years in advertising before starting a retirement career centering on American First Ladies, specifically the old gals. Her newest book, The Colonial First Ladies, was just published.*



## NEW! Saratoga and the Wars in the North

Buck Beasom

🕒 Thursday, 10:00am-12:00pm  
4 sessions: Oct 8, 15, 22, 29  
🖥️ Zoom, 50 seats

📍 OLLI at Drake will join us for this course

The Battle of Saratoga was actually 10 battles, culminating two decades of conflict among British, French, Colonists and indigenous Native tribes.

The gateways formed by the St. Lawrence River and Champlain Valley in the north and the Hudson in the south were the scene of vicious wilderness combat, fresh-water naval engagements and countless acts of bravery and endurance that remain incredible centuries later.

The final engagements in Fall 1777 changed the war, and the world. In America, one of Britain's two armies surrendered. In Europe, the victory brought France into the war as a full American ally making its improbable victory possible and bankrupting France in the process.

This course tracks two decades of conflict that led to Saratoga, the marches and battles, the political and military discord behind them and the heroism and folly that are part of every war. And we will learn how America's first generation of soldiers defeated the most professional army in the world.

*Buck Beasom teaches for Osher 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.*

## NEW! The JFK Assassination – Part I: The People in the Plaza

Mike Kerley

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm  
2 sessions: Oct 8, 15  
W&M Alumni House, Hunter Hall  
100 seats

On November 22nd, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was brutally murdered in public while riding in a limousine in downtown Dallas. Hundreds of people witnessed this horrific event. Many of them took photographs and home movies.

Despite this abundance of evidence, there was a confusing lack of consensus about exactly what happened that day. Several government investigations failed to clarify the specific details of this assassination. And, for the past 63 years, the American public has been questioning and debating official accounts of this event.

We will first examine the conclusions announced by the various "official" investigations into this matter. We will then focus on observations, statements, and testimony of many of the bystanders who witnessed this murder. We will also examine what these eyewitnesses reported seeing and hearing. What did they say about critical facts like the number of shots fired and the location of the shooter(s)? What did they notice about the crime scene before and after the shots were fired? Who were these people? Were they credible witnesses?

Our overview of these first-hand accounts of what happened that day in Dealey Plaza will hopefully clarify some aspects of this riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma. Spoiler alert: The course will not provide the answer to who shot JFK.

*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.*



A vintage 1964 souvenir postcard detailing the Dallas motorcade route, labeled trajectories of the gunfire, and key landmarks surrounding the plaza. Image courtesy of [The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza](#).

## NEW! Suddenly, the Vice President Is President

Bill Fetsko

Monday, 9:30-11:30am  
2 sessions: Oct 12, 19  
Campus Center, Little Theatre  
110 seats

Since George Washington assumed the position of President of the United States, the office has been held by 45 men. Of those 45, eight died before completing their elected term: four of natural causes (Harrison, Taylor, Harding and Roosevelt) and four were assassinated (Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley and Kennedy).

The events surrounding their deaths were varied and the impact on the Nation – in each case – instantaneous and far reaching. Nothing was more significant than the immediate elevation of their Vice President to Leader of the Free World. A question (and concern) was, "How would these individuals respond to their new duties and responsibilities?"

This class will focus first on the policies and programs of the identified Presidents while in office and the circumstances surrounding their deaths. We will next identify the Vice

Presidents who were suddenly required to complete their predecessor's unexpectedly vacant term and seek to determine how successful they were in meeting their new responsibilities and expectations.

Finally, we will consider how the actions and reputations of these past U.S. leaders have been the basis of intense historical scrutiny and debate.

*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.*



## NEW! Benedict Arnold: America's First Turncoat

Rebecca Staton-Reinstein

Friday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Oct 23  
🖥️ Zoom, 125 seats

📍 OLLI at Drake will join us for this course

Why did this Revolutionary hero turn traitor? After distinguishing himself as



one of Washington's most dependable generals, who uncovered his betrayal? What is his background? What were his accomplishments as an outstanding general? What was his fate?

See Rebecca's bio on p. 7.

## NEW! The Trial of the Century: The Scopes Monkey Trial of 1925

**Bennett Smith**

🕒 Thursday, Friday, 1:00-2:30pm  
3 sessions: Thurs: Oct 29, Nov 5;  
Fri: Nov 13

📺 Zoom, 50 seats

📍 We will join OLLI at Drake for this class

The Scopes Monkey Trial of 1925 was an epic clash between William Jennings Bryan and Clarence Darrow over the apparent conflict between religion and science.

It began when a high school teacher named John Scopes of Dayton, Tennessee, was recruited to willingly violate the Butler Act which the state of Tennessee had passed prohibiting the teaching of human evolution in Tennessee classrooms.

The clash proved to be of long-lasting significance because it dealt with key Constitutional issues that were

foundational to the American republic: academic freedom, free speech, majoritarianism and the role of religion in American life.

*Bennett Smith was a full-time instructor in history and political science at North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC) beginning in 2014 and retired in 2026. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in speech communication and a Master of Arts degree in history from Iowa State University. He is from Clear Lake, IA, and currently serves on the Clear Lake City Council.*

## The Rise and Fall of Domestic Servants in Early 20th Century Northeast America

**David Hopkinson**

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm  
3 sessions: Oct 29, Nov 5, 12  
School of Education, Room 2021  
20 seats

An overview of the rise and fall of the profession of domestic servants as the Gilded Age moved on to the Progressive Era: cultural and historical context; structure, roles, and duties of staff; relationships of servant to master and servant to servant; technological impacts; customs, rules, and manners

in wealthy homes attended by servants. We will look at psychological, social class, and sociological factors at work in this unique arrangement of household operations.

*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 familiar with meeting clients facing terrifying and/or disorganizing assaults on their life and helping them restore what normality they can 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.*



## NEW! Revolutionary Ideas at Menokin

**Alice French, Connie Rosemont**

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm  
1 session: Oct 29  
School of Education, Room 2010  
32 seats

Menokin is an active architectural preservation site where visitors see firsthand the groundbreaking efforts to restore the 1769 plantation home of Francis Lightfoot Lee, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Menokin continues to research and reveal stories about the founding of our country and the revolutionary ideals founded from 1776 forward. Learn how these ideals permeate the preservation of this historic architectural gem that showcases the building of America in the form of The Menokin Glass House.

*Menokin's Director of Education & Programs, Alice French, leads comprehensive, interactive public programs converging historic preservation with environmental conservation. She has been cultivating community partnerships to foster sustainable and memorable experiences since she came to the Northern Neck in 2002, and with Menokin since 2012.*

*Prior to Connie Rosemont's appointment to Menokin's Executive Director, she served as a senior consultant with Museum Search*

*& Reference, a firm specializing in executive search and museum leadership transitions across the U.S. She also was co-founder and executive director of a three-screen nonprofit movie theater in Concord, NH. She has a B.A. and an M.A. from Johns Hopkins.*



## NEW! The Colonial Apothecary in Williamsburg: Relevance of 18th-century Medicinals in the 21st Century

**Henry Kozek**

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Nov 10  
Campus Center, Little Theatre  
110 seats

Eighteenth-century colonial apothecaries practiced the skills of doctoring, surgery, and pharmacy. The apothecary, as well as the physician or medical doctor, were both considered doctors and could diagnose illness.

While physicians usually attended university, apothecaries were tradesmen who learned their craft over a seven-year period – as an indentured person – from another apothecary. Treatments were compounded from plant, chemical/mineral, and animal components, usually in liquid formulations.

Many of today's prescription and over-the-counter products have their origins in these 18th-century remedies, as we'll discuss by comparing current pharmaceutical products with their historical counterparts.

*Henry Kozek is a registered pharmacist in Virginia and New Jersey. He received his undergraduate degree from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and his Master of Public Administration from Rutgers University. His background includes the inspection of and writing pharmacy-related regulations for health care facilities, criminal background investigations and conducting regulatory-related seminars. He currently works at William & Mary in the Student Health Center and as a volunteer costumed interpreter for Colonial Williamsburg.*



## NEW! George Washington's Generals

**John Rogers**

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am  
3 sessions: Nov 17, Dec 1, 8  
(no class on Nov 24)  
Campus Center, Little Theatre  
110 seats

This course will study seven of George Washington's generals, all of whom made major contributions to victory over the British. We will examine the lives, exploits, and contributions of:

- Nathaniel Greene, 1742-1786, Revolutionary War Strategist
- Henry Knox, 1750-1806, American Artillerist
- Friedrich Von Steuben, 1730-1794, The German Drillmaster
- Marquis de Lafayette, 1757-1834, Eager Warrior
- Anthony Wayne, 1745-1796, Mad Anthony
- Daniel Morgan, 1736-1802, Guerilla Fighter
- Benedict Arnold, 1741-1801, Traitorous Patriot

*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.*



*William Jennings Bryan (seated at left) being interrogated by Clarence Seward Darrow, during the trial of the State of Tennessee v. John Thomas Scopes, July 20, 1925. That Monday afternoon, because of the extreme heat, Judge Raulston moved court proceedings outdoors.*



## SERIES FINALE! Virginia's Road to Revolution: Episode V: Absolved from all Allegiance

**Mark Howell**

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am  
2 sessions: Dec 1, 8  
W&M Alumni House, Leadership Hall  
40 seats

In January 1776, Thomas Paine published *Common Sense*, a bold declaration supporting American Independence from Great Britain. At this time, Virginia was being governed by a Committee of Safety in between the meetings of a series of colony-wide conventions made up primarily of ex-burgesses.

## RELATED AMERICAN HISTORY COURSES

When Our Music Ruled the World: Road to Woodstock (p. 17)

Sight Unseen: Art, Design, and Modern-Era Camouflage (p. 17)

Role of Political Parties in American Politics (p. 20)

Critical Thinking for a Better Civic Life (p. 20)

The Fourth Founding: Revolution of 1776 Continued (p. 25)

Critical Thinking and the Declaration of Independence (p. 25)

Constitutional War Power: Who Has It and Why (p. 25)

Finding My Revolutionary War Patriots (p. 36)

Killer in the Code: Did the Zodiac Killer Also Commit the Black Dahlia Murder? (p. 37)

Breaking Barriers: Growth of Women's Sports in the U.S. (p. 39)

The Little Ice Age and the Founding of the American Republic (p. 41)

The Story of the USS Houston CA-30/POW Experience (p. 44)

"Peace With Honor": Nixon's Vietnam War 1968-1973 (p. 46)

The Battle of Okinawa – Typhoon of Steel (p. 46)

The China, Burma, India Theater in World War II (p. 47)



This class explores the months leading up to – and including – the final convention, the fifth, that will propose that Congress declare independence. Using primary documents of the period, we will examine not only the events of the period but also the new state government the convention devised that was put into place to replace their colonial relationship with Great Britain.

*Mark Howell is an alumnus of W&M and retired from a 40+ year career in the museum field. During that time, he worked at Colonial Williamsburg, the American Civil War Center, the Library of Virginia, and the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation.*



### Man or Superman? The Life of Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859)

**Thomas Thompson**

Monday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Dec 7  
Campus Center, Little Theatre  
110 seats

Who is the greatest explorer of the 19th century and one of the greatest of all time?

His name is Alexander Von Humboldt. Arguably the father of the modern ecology movement, his contemporaries held him in high regard. Said:

- Simon Bolívar: "The real discoverer of South America was Humboldt, since his work was more useful for our people than the work of all conquerors."
- Charles Darwin: "...the greatest scientific traveler who ever lived."
- Wilhelm von Humboldt (brother): "Alexander is destined to combine ideas and follow chains of thoughts which would otherwise have remained unknown for ages."
- Claude Louis Berthollet (French chemist): "This man is as knowledgeable as a whole academy."
- Thomas Jefferson: "...the most important scientist whom I have met."
- Robert G. Ingersoll (American writer): "He was to science what Shakespeare was to the drama."

Humboldt traveled throughout South America and Mexico, examining, drawing, and writing. He climbed Mt. Chimborazo in Ecuador to 19,286 feet, with no oxygen and no modern clothing. European-born, he visited the U.S. for just six weeks in 1804. But the timing of that visit and the people he met helped shape American art and culture during the 19th century. More places in America are named for Humboldt than any other person.

**Suggested reading:** *The Invention of Nature: Alexander Von Humboldt's New World* by Andrea Wulf; *Humboldt and Jefferson: A Transatlantic Friendship of the Enlightenment* by Sandra Rebok

*Tom 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 served as 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.*

## 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.



### NEW! A Year in the Life of an American Indian, Field Study: Fall & Winter

**Michael Lorence, Russell Reed**

🕒 Wednesday, 9:00am-12:00noon  
20 seats; 4 sessions:

📍 Sep 16: Campus Center, Room 159

🚗 Sep 30, Oct 21, Nov 11: Locations TBA; info emailed day prior to each session

The American Wisdom Tradition rests on an unalienable foundation of Native American Wisdom. That Native wisdom is irreducible to books and concepts, but rests on embodied experience lived in harmony with the natural environment in place and time. In this autumn season of field experiences, we will visit local environments of woods and waters, led by Russell Reed, experimental archaeologist and past supervisor of American Indian field programs at the Jamestown-Yorktown and Colonial Williamsburg museums.

🚶🕒 For safety and the best experience, participants must be able to walk unassisted for 2-3 miles on unpaved, uneven terrain and be comfortable standing for extended periods. Plan to dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes and a sun hat, and bring water for hydration. You may also want to bring a lightweight folding stool.



### NEW! The Year the Universe Changed

**Michael Lorence, Diana Lorence**

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm  
1 session: Sep 18, 40 seats  
Tucker Hall, Room 127A

Henry David Thoreau famously settled at Walden Pond – to live deliberately – in 1845 and departed in 1847, making 1846 the one full year he passed at the pond. By focusing on 1846 and – the

year the universe changed – we will endeavor to bring an epochal moment in human history into focus, from which to view all that came before and everything that has come after in a new and illuminating light.



### NEW! Visions of Paradise: A Philosopher's Walk through Williamsburg's Town & Gardens

**Michael Lorence, Diana Lorence**

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Oct 6, 25 seats  
Colonial Williamsburg, Palace Green

🚶🕒 Course combines a lecture and outdoor walking activity. Dress in layers and wear comfortable walking shoes

In this contemplative walking tour, we trace the development of the Ideal City from the West's first and most poetical work of philosophy to its last and most philosophical work of poetry, with Williamsburg's Baroque City poised between. On Palace Green, we shall seek an axis mundi, a point at the center of the world where history stands upright for a moment between heaven and earth, striving toward a vision of earthly paradise. What abiding aspiration of the human spirit is expressed in the streets and gardens and structures of 18th c. Williamsburg?



### NEW! A Woodland Saunter

**Diana Lorence**

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Oct 13  
Colonial Williamsburg, Bassett Trace Nature Trail, 20 seats

🚶🕒 Course is an outdoor walking activity. Dress in layers and wear comfortable shoes

Henry Thoreau's essay, *Walking*, describes the art of sauntering as Holy-Landing, a crusade undertaken to reclaim the paradise of our beginnings. Please join us and discover the contemplative peace of a true autumn saunter through one of our most beautiful local woodland landscapes.

"So we saunter toward the Holy Land, till one day the sun shall shine more brightly than ever he has done, shall perchance shine into our minds and hearts, and light up our whole lives with a great awakening light, as warm and serene and golden as on a bankside in autumn."

### ABOUT THE 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 forebearers 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, director of the American Wisdom Project and the Virginia House Project in Williamsburg, and a past director of the Thoreau Society in Concord, Mass.*

**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.

## A CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS IS IN PROGRESS



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We are fighting for **voting rights.***

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OF WILLIAMSBURG AREA  
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## Art, Music, Film & Photography



### NEW! Winnetou: A German Take on American Westerns

Frauke Carlucci

Monday, 9:30am-12:00noon  
3 sessions: Sep 14, 21, 28  
Campus Center, Little Theatre  
110 seats

The glorious promises of the American Revolution for a better life with liberty, justice and equality reverberated across the Atlantic where servitude and indenture were a lifelong condition for most people living under the aristocracy.

There, a fervent admirer of the new nation who lived in what was then the Kingdom of Saxony (later a part of the newly formed German Empire) set out to write a series of books glorifying the Wild West and its inhabitants. These publications became forerunners to our own Wild West films.

The author, Karl May, had never stepped foot at that time in the New World. He used as his inspiration numerous travelogues he could get his hands on. Karl May's books became a 'must read' series that captivated the imagination of every German youngster for generations. In the 1960s, the books were gradually made into movies filmed in the rugged terrains of the Balkans. In addition even now there are annual outdoor Karl May festivals.

You are, thus offered the viewing of these movies in conjunction with the Osher at W&M's "Revolutionary Ideas" curriculum celebrating the 250th anniversary of our nation and its impact on other countries and cultures.

This series of three movies we will view are of different lengths – and presented in English dialogue (not subtitles) – center around the adventures and deep

friendship between an Apache Indian named Winnetou and two European men named Old Surehand and Old Shatterhand living in the Wild West.



*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 Germany, 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.*

### NEW! Zorro The Opera

Glenn Winters

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Sep 15  
Campus Center, Little Theatre  
110 seats

This class will prepare students for the local premiere of Héctor Armienta's opera Zorro by Opera in Williamsburg. Topics covered will include the historical background of the characters and plot line; information about the composer and librettist; a discussion of how opera music functions to tell

stories; a survey of musical highlights in Zorro as well how Zorro has been depicted in popular culture.

*Glenn Winters was Community Outreach Director for Virginia Opera from 2004 – 2020. He has composed operas for children and adults that have been performed across the U.S. He earned a Doctor of Music degree from Northwestern University, and also holds a B.M. and M.M. in piano performance from Indiana University. He has performed publicly as a pianist and operatic baritone.*

### The Joy of Photography

Michael Richardson, Wilson Hurst

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am  
6 sessions: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 21  
Campus Center, Colonial Echo  
20 seats

⚠ Participants will need to access and establish an account with "flickr.com" and master uploading digital images their account. You will also need working knowledge of your camera of choice.

🚗 Course combines lectures and photo walks. Three local walks are planned: Colonial Williamsburg, W&M campus and The Antique Mall. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water for hydration.

This course is designed for any new or newly inspired photographers who want to improve their photography skills. Although every camera has different operating and mechanical functions, there are basic tenets of light and composition that will capture a viewer's attention and appreciation. Experience in getting the picture is the primary goal of this course.

The course will address personal artistic vision and individual satisfaction in the capture of appealing photographic images. Each participant will present their images from a previous photo walk and discuss both the intent and the challenge that resulted in the image.

Post-processing of images will be discussed but not covered in detail. However, specific questions of editing technique or workflow can be addressed on a one-on-one basis. A special presentation, 'Photography as

Art,' will be conducted by co-instructor Wilson Hurst at the final class session.

*Following graduation from West Point, Michael Richardson served first in the Army and later as an engineering professional for the Department of State and Homeland Security. He traveled extensively on five continents and nearly every federal airport in the U.S. Retiring to Williamsburg in 2016, he rekindled his enjoyment of photography using the newer digital cameras. He most enjoys capturing the sights and spirits of the smaller communities within a comfortable driving distance from home. As president of a local photography club, he is active in photo walks along local nature trails and for local events.*

*Approaching fine art philosophically, Wilson Hurst's personal work is devoted to visual image creation employing 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.*



### Time in a Bottle: Musicals That Capture a Moment in History, Part 5

Issa Puttre

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm  
6 sessions:  
Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 21  
Campus Center, Little Theatre  
110 seats

An in-depth look at musicals explores 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. Part 5 of this continuing series looks at a new selection of musicals focusing on historical events and figures from the 20th century as we work our way forward through history. Classes will feature 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, and the 50th Anniversary Concert of Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat.*



### NEW! The Revolution Men Couldn't Erase: Women of Abstract Expressionism

Harry Chancey

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Sep 17  
Campus Center, Little Theatre  
110 seats

Art critics chose sides. Clement Greenberg's hero was Jackson Pollock. Harold Rosenberg's was Willem de Kooning. If you were a man splattering paint on canvas, you were a genius. Audiences, markets, and museums took notice. What about the women? Critics thought maybe they could draw.

The women of Abstract Expressionism ignored slights like these. They weren't competing with men. They were setting the pace, rewriting the rules, and have long since come roaring back to center stage. Their stories are overdue, their work is breathtaking, and this course gives both the attention they deserve.



Helen Frankenthaler (1928-2011), *Mountains and Sea*, 1952

This is art history as it should be told: with honesty, passion, and lavish illustrations of some of the most electrifying paintings of the 20th century.

*Harry Chancey is an Emmy Award winning television producer and former PBS Program Executive. He is an active League of Women Voters member, Muscarelle Museum of Art docent, and writes "Musing," a weekly Substack.*



### NEW! Watch a Working Rehearsal of Opera in Williamsburg's Zorro

Naama Zahavi-Ely

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm  
1 session: Sep 18  
Colonial Williamsburg, Kimball Theatre  
250 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 the new American opera Zorro (2022), a thrilling new work filled with romance, humor,

and suspense. Set in the early 1800s in el pueblo de Los Angeles, this opera follows the adventures of the New World Hispanic nobleman who hides his true identity behind a black mask to become Zorro, the dashing defender of the oppressed natives. The opera is filled with sword fights and passionate romance. Armienta's score has been described





as Puccini meets Mexico, with Latin musical influences, creating a melodic, vibrant, textured soundscape with sweeping arias, duets, and high-stakes drama. The opera is bilingual, English and Spanish; it will be presented with English supertitles. This is the East Coast premiere of the work, which is a part of Opera in Williamsburg's celebration of the 250th anniversary of the United States.

*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.*



## Hamilton: The Man and the Musical

Dan Sherman

Monday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Sep 28  
Williamsburg Regional Library, Theatre, 250 seats

Alexander Hamilton has always been known as a central player in America's early history, but the smash Broadway musical Hamilton has focused renewed

attention on this fascinating individual. The instructor will offer a multimedia presentation combining Hamilton's biography with excerpts from the show to demonstrate its richness and its place among Broadway musicals. And yes, you may want to sing along.

*Dan Sherman is a retired economist who earned his doctorate from Cornell. Dan has given talks and classes to many groups in Washington, DC and here at William & Mary on musical theatre, opera, film, and film music, and even mathematics. His Hamilton talk is among his most popular, and he last presented it for Osher at W&M in 2020.*

## NEW! Americana at its Best: Bluegrass Music

Alan Tompkins

🕒 Wednesday, 3:00-4:30pm  
1 session: Sep 30  
🖥️ Zoom, 50 seats

③ This hybrid class is hosted by OLLI at USCB and will include members in person and online

Grab your banjo, guitar, and fiddle and join this returning program celebrating bluegrass as Americana at its finest. Explore its roots in European and Appalachian traditions, the legends who shaped its sound, and its rise in popular culture – now with an added section highlighting the influential Carter Family.

*Alan Tompkins is the founder of the Bluegrass Heritage Foundation, a non-profit organization devoted to preserving and promoting bluegrass music. The Foundation has created a variety of bluegrass festivals and received the Distinguished Achievement Award from the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) in 2024. Alan is a banjo player, singer, and upright bass player who released a solo album entitled 'No Part of Nothin.'*

## The Huguenots and Their Craft

Caroline Nicholson

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

Beginning in the 16th century, the French monarchy and the Catholic Church intensely persecuted the Huguenots. Driven from their homes and their livelihoods in France, these religious refugees sought safety in many different nations, including England, the Netherlands, and the United States. Many Huguenots were highly skilled goldsmiths and silversmiths, who brought their trade with them to their new homes.

This course will celebrate the accomplishments of some of the most successful Huguenot craftsmen, who created masterful works of art in gold and silver.

*Caroline Nicholson earned a master's degree 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.*



## Time in a Bottle: Musicals That Capture a Moment in History, Part 6

Issa Puttre

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm  
6 sessions: Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, 18, Dec 2, 9 (no class on Nov 25)  
Campus Center, Little Theatre  
110 seats

An in-depth look at musicals explores 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. Part 6 of this continuing series looks at musicals focusing on historical events and figures from 20th century as we work our way forward through history. Classes will feature both footage and music from shows to see how these musicals capture a moment in history.

*Read Issa's bio on p. 15.*

## NEW! Bad Men, Worse Choices: A Film Noir / Neo-Noir Journey

Thomas Thompson

Friday, 9:30-11:30am  
6 sessions: Oct 30, Nov 6, 13, 20, Dec 4, 11 (no class on Nov 27)  
Williamsburg Regional Library, Theatre, 250 seats

The films we'll see, *High Sierra*; *T-Men*; *Harper*; *Hickey & Boggs*; *Night Moves*; and *Chinatown*, all belong – either directly or spiritually – to the tradition of American film noir and its later evolution into neo-noir, sharing a bleak view of human nature and a world governed by moral ambiguity.

*High Sierra* and *T-Men* exemplify classic noir with their shadowy cinematography, crime-centered plots, and characters trapped by fate, while *Harper* and *Hickey & Boggs* begin to update the private-eye narrative for a more cynical, modern audience.

This progression deepens in *Night Moves* and *Chinatown*, which fully embrace neo-noir's disillusionment, featuring flawed detectives, convoluted mysteries, and endings that resist justice or closure.

Across all six films, the common thread is a focus on crime and investigation as a lens through which corruption, betrayal, and the limits of individual agency are explored, often leaving protagonists morally compromised or defeated.

*Tom 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 be a trainer, running workshops across the country.*

## NEW! When Our Music Ruled the World: Road to Woodstock

Cale Shipman

🕒 Monday, 1:00-2:30pm  
1 session: Nov 2  
🖥️ Zoom, 50 seats

③ This hybrid class is hosted by OLLI at University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) and will include USCB members in person and online

Our rock music journey moves to San Francisco for the 1967 Summer of Love: flower power, hippies, Jefferson Airplane, bell-bottoms, and tie-dye.

This era led to Woodstock's three days of peace, love, and music in August 1969. If you were a hippie or wished you were, join us and feel free to come dressed for the occasion.

*Cale Shipman spent his professional career in chemistry and pharmacology. He has also worked as a seasonal ranger for the National Park Service. Cale enjoys using his "campfire talk skills" from his ranger days to teach about passions, including music and astronomy. Cale has taught programs to adult education groups through the College of Charleston and OLLI at the University of Vermont.*

## NEW! Italian Mannerist Painting

Nick Vrettos

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Nov 5  
School of Education, Room 2066  
34 seats

The course will lightly navigate through previous art movements as a comparison, and then cover the influences that resulted in Mannerist painting. Included will be a selection of prominent and recognizable Mannerist paintings and painters. During the lecture, we are likely to discuss some historical background.

*Nick Vrettos began his career as a CPA at Price Waterhouse Cooper before being drafted into the military. He served as a fighter pilot in the U.S. Air Force and later as a commercial airline pilot 30+ years. A trained calligrapher, he has taught calligraphy and ornamental penmanship. He currently serves as a docent at the Muscarelle Museum of Art and on the Williamsburg Area Art Commission. A long-time resident of Williamsburg/James City County, he Nick also enjoys cycling and volunteering at the Arc of Greater Williamsburg.*

## NEW! Sight Unseen: Art, Design, and Modern-Era Camouflage

Roy Behrens

🕒 Thursday, 11:00-12:30pm  
3 sessions: Nov 5, 12, 19  
🖥️ Zoom, 50 seats

③ We will join OLLI at Drake for this class

This is a three-part series of richly illustrated slide talks about the role of artists, designers, architects and others in the development of modern-era camouflage, beginning with WWI.

Among the topics emphasized are:

- How animal coloration was adapted for military purposes
- Why civilian professional artists (such as visual artists, architects, and theatre designers) were actively recruited to serve as camouflage experts

## RELATED ARTS COURSES

- Shaping Truth: Turning Life Into Story (p. 33)
- Ireland and the Literature of Place (p. 33)
- Nature Mandalas (p. 36)
- Backyard Birding: Discovering the Joy of Nature at Home (p. 36)
- W&M Garden Tour & Convoy (p. 37)
- Wreath Making for Winter Decoration (p. 38)
- The (Photo) Safari Experience (p. 38)
- History of Mapmaking (p. 42)
- iPhone/iPad: Basics & Beyond (p. 43)
- Mapping Early London (p. 47)



- Why “dazzling” cubist-style designs were used as ship camouflage in both World Wars
- The role of American women in camouflage

Also featured is an exhibition at the International Spy Museum in Washington, DC, titled ‘Camouflage: Designed to Deceive.’ Roy was chosen to write the catalog intro for that exhibition, and Kathryn Keane, the museum’s vice-president, will appear in one of the sessions.

*Roy R. Behrens is an emeritus professor and distinguished scholar at the University of Northern Iowa. Before his retirement, he taught graphic design and design history for 45 years at various American art schools and universities. He is the author of 10 books (including four on camouflage), the most recent of which are Frank Lloyd Wright and Mason City: Architectural Heart of the Prairie and Dreams of Fields: Memory Traces of Iowa’s Past.*

### NEW! Post-WWI Architecture in Germany and Russia

Gerald Larson

🕒 Friday, 1:00-3:00pm  
1 session: Nov 6  
📺 Zoom, 50 seats

📍 This class is hosted by OLLI USCB and includes members in person and online

This lecture will survey the important architects and designs in post-World War I Germany and Russia that played significant roles in the evolution of “Bauhaus design.” Much of this information was “discovered” after the collapse of the Soviet Union, which allowed Western researchers to examine files kept secret since the Russian Revolution.

*Gerald Larson (master of architecture, University of Michigan) is a professor emeritus of architecture at the University of Cincinnati, where he taught architecture and architectural history for over 40 years. He recently completed a book on the history of Chicago architecture: The Skyscraper and the White City.*



### NEW! Medieval Embroidery – The Bayeux Tapestry

Anna-Marie Cox

Friday, 1:30-4:00pm  
3 sessions:  
Nov 20, Dec 4, 11  
(no class Nov 27)  
Campus Center, Colonial Echo  
12 seats

💰 Cost \$15 (materials)

⚠️ Bring your own scissors to cut the thread. We will supply the embroidery hoop, fabric, embroidery thread, and needles

The Bayeux Tapestry is one of the great works of art from the Middle Ages. We will be looking at the tapestry in order to learn and recreate a scene from this famous embroidery.

You will learn the six stitches used for the tapestry, which include the laid and couched, back, stem, chain, satin, and split stitches.

In addition, we also will examine the historical context of the Tapestry and how a massive embroidery created in England found its way to France.

*Anna-Marie Cox is active in living history and enjoys making things with her hands. She teaches basketry and assists teaching medieval history classes with her husband, Martin through Osher. Currently she has developed a new interest in medieval painting techniques. In addition to the above, her other interests are stained glass and teaching English through Literacy for Life.*

*Above: Participants in Anna-Marie’s medieval embroidery class will recreate one of four motifs from the Bayeux Tapestry. The stylized bird shown is from the tapestry’s decorative border, and was stitched using the same techniques you will learn in class.*

*At right: The Medici Family coat of arms at the Villa Medici in Rome. The six balls (palle) are the family’s enduring heraldic symbol.*

### NEW! An Introduction to Jewish Music

Wendy Shermet

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Dec 2  
Campus Center, Room 159  
20 seats

This course will focus on the range of both traditional and modern Jewish prayer melodies. We will listen to the chant of Jewish sacred scrolls, like the Torah, and also hear the wide range of musical interpretations of prayer melodies. Some history will accompany the discussion. The class will be able to make individual decisions concerning how various musical interpretations reflect the prayer text.

*Wendy Shermet was ordained as Cantor and earned a Master of Sacred Music from Hebrew Union College in 2001. In 2026 she will receive an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from HUC. She is Cantor Emerita of Temple Israel in Omaha, NE, after serving there for 18 years. She additionally holds a Master of Music from New England Conservatory and is a member of the AGMA, Equity, and*

*SAG-AFTRA unions. Cantor Shermet created Cantors Classroom, a site for chanting the six sung scrolls plus parts of Prophets and basic sung blessings.*



### NEW! Palaces, Villas and Gardens of the Medici

Paula  
Henderson

Thursday,  
9:30-11:30am  
1 session:  
Dec 3  
W&M Alumni  
House,  
Leadership  
Hall, 60 seats

The Medici  
Family’s fortune  
and power  
were based on  
banking and  
commerce in  
the city of  
Florence; by



the early 15th century, they were the richest family in what would become Italy, and likely, in all of Europe.

As the supreme patrons of art in a city that was bursting with creative talent, the Medici built imposing houses in town and delightful retreats in the country-side, all of which were complemented by spectacular and innovative gardens.

As the Medici’s power expanded – four men in the family became popes and two of the women became queens of France – they established themselves as the most architecturally influential family in all of Europe. Their influence remains relevant even today.

#### Suggested reading:

*The Houses of Medici: Its Rise and Fall* by Christopher Hibbert;  
*The Medici* by Paul Strathern

Read Paula’s bio on p.47.



### NEW! Michelangelo: Reluctant Painter, Defiant Genius

Harry Chancey

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

“Terribilità” defined not only Michelangelo’s awesome power of creation, but his terrifying temperament. Contemporaries called him “Il Divino.” When Pope Julius II ordered him to paint the Sistine Chapel ceiling, he replied tersely: “This is not my art.” He was a man of marble and stone. Yet he relented and proceeded to sculpt with paint, conjuring divine anatomies from a flat surface 68’ overhead. The results changed Western art forever.

But Michelangelo was also a man who held a grudge and the murals remember. Hidden in his Sistine works are a humiliation or two, preserved for eternity. This course traces the full arc of his genius, from early sculptures to his ultimate triumph and settles a few scores along the way.

Read Harry’s bio on p. 15

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**SEPTEMBER 22, 2026** 🕒 7:30 pm 📍 Williamsburg Community Chapel  
 Guest Artist: Evren Ozel, piano

**MASTERWORKS 2: SONIC PORTRAITS**  
**OCTOBER 13, 2026** 🕒 7:30 pm 📍 Williamsburg Community Chapel  
 Guest Artist: Rachel Barton-Pine, violin

**MASTERWORKS 3: SERENADE TO MUSIC**  
**NOVEMBER 10, 2026** 🕒 7:30 pm 📍 Williamsburg Community Chapel  
 Guest Artist: Johannes Moser, cello

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**DECEMBER 5 & 6, 2026** 🕒 1:30 & 3:00 pm daily 📍 Kimball Theatre

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## Current Affairs



### It's Party Time! The Role of Political Parties in American Politics

**Karen McPherson**

Friday, 9:30-11:30am  
3 sessions: Sep 18, 25, Oct 2  
Campus Center, Little Theatre  
110 seats

Political Parties – Americans don't love them, but, historically, political systems don't work without them.

Let's examine the role that political parties play in political systems in general – and specifically in the U.S. We will also look at the evolution of the American political party system during the 230 years of governance under the Constitution. Why do political parties exist? How do political parties change over time? Why does the United States have a two-party system? Is it better to have weak or strong parties? What can we do to make political parties the servants rather than the masters of democracy?

*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.*

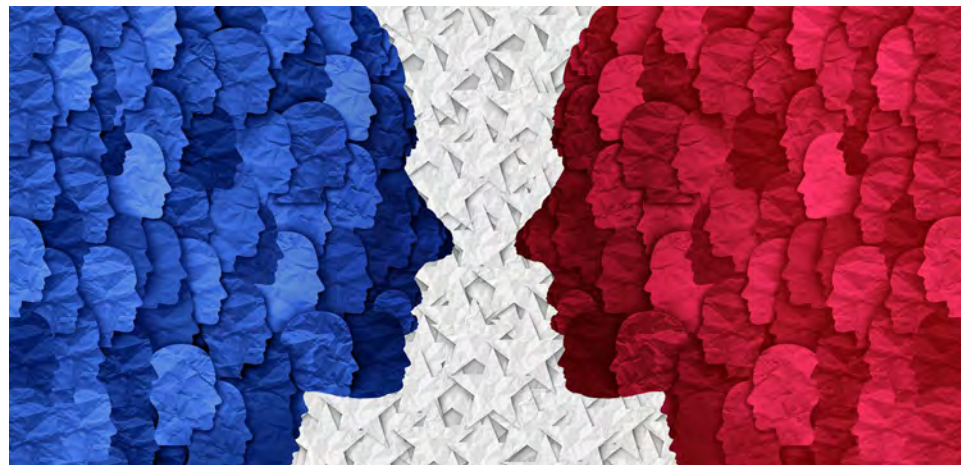


### NEW! The Generative AI Revolution: From ChatGPT to Everyday Life

**Candice Benjes-Small**

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

What does it mean to live in a world where AI can write, summarize, and even create images? This workshop introduces generative AI tools like ChatGPT while also exploring the broader shift toward AI embedded in everyday technologies. We'll examine how these systems work, where they succeed and fail, and what questions we should ask when using them. Intended for those who are new to the topic, this



session will help you make sense of AI's growing role in how we create, use, and evaluate information.

*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 she is fascinated by the impact of AI on both.*



### NEW! American Healthcare Reform 2050

**Jim Roskelly**

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am  
3 sessions: Oct 6, 13, 20  
School of Education, Room 2066  
34 seats

This course offers a brief history of our healthcare system from the 1800s through present day. We will explore major cultural and political milestones, discuss how America's current healthcare system compares with other approaches to healthcare in selected democracies, and consider reform options that could yield a more sustainable and equitable system by 2050.

*Jim Roskelly's career spans four decades in health care management. As a consultant for TriBrook Group, Jim consulted on strategy for healthcare providers in multiple markets and states. He also served as a senior executive for Cone Health, focused on strategic planning encompassing physician engagement and integration, enhancements to value-based care, and building scale. Jim earned a B.A. in American history from Bucknell University and a master's degree in health administration from Duke.*



### Critical Thinking for a Better Civic Life

**Michael Collier**

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm  
3 sessions: Oct 6, 13, 20  
W&M Alumni House, Leadership Hall  
60 seats

Do you vote based on facts and reasoning, or mainly on emotion (as most people do)? This course provides an overview of U.S. civic life based on a democratic model, per the U.S. Constitution. Citizen voting is a key part of civic life. The course develops a critical thinking framework citizens may use for making informed voting decisions, as well as for their personal and professional decision-making.

*Michael Collier, Ph.D., is a retired U.S. Coast Guard officer with a second career in academia. He retired as an associate professor of homeland security from Eastern Kentucky University. He has written extensively on critical thinking.*

### NEW! Pundits, Polls & Politics! The 2026 Mid-Term Elections

**Doug Stowell**

🕒 Friday, 2:30-4:00pm  
1 session: Oct 30  
🖥️ Zoom, 125 seats

📍 OLLI at Drake will join us for this course

On November 3, all 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and 35 in the Senate are up for re-election. Hundreds of local and state offices and issues will be settled. Turnout in POTUS elections is about 60%.

Mid-terms? Barely 40%. This mid-term may be more consequential than any recent election. So let's dig into all the national issues, looking at how they rank – by party affiliation, generation, and region. We'll look at some of the better forecasts of results, and we'll conduct our own online, in-class polls of issues/results. YES, we will forecast the House & Senate results by party!

*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 OLLI at Furman University in South Carolina and conducts Zoom programs for more than 80 organizations worldwide.*



### NEW! The Fourth Founding: The Revolution of 1776 Continued

**Don Matthewson**

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm  
4 sessions: Nov 10, 17, Dec 1, 8 (no class on Nov 24)  
Campus Center, Room 159, 40 seats

The United States has experienced three Foundings: 1776, 1865, and 1965-71. The second two furthered the ideals of the Declaration of Independence. Despite our current counter-revolutionary politics, the foundations of a Fourth Founding are in place. This course will examine economics, politics, and social trends and culture to understand the positive current trajectory of American Society.

**Suggested reading:** *The Upswing: How America Came Together a Century Ago and How We Can Do It Again* by Robert Putnam.

*Don Matthewson is lecturer emeritus in politics, administration and justice at California State University, Fullerton. He was former faculty-in-residence for California State University's Washington, DC internship program. He is the author of many conference papers and peer-reviewed articles on subjects in political philosophy, public policy, culture, politics, and political economy.*



### UPDATED! Critical Thinking & the Declaration of Independence

**Bruce Cogossi**

Monday, 9:30-11:30am  
3 sessions: Nov 16, 30, Dec 7 (no class on Nov 23)  
School of Education, Room 2030  
30 seats

Critical thinking is the art of analyzing and evaluating thought processes with a view to improvement. Using the Critical Thinking Framework (CTF) developed by Richard Paul and Linda Elder, we will examine the Declaration of Independence.

What did the founders know and what were they thinking when they wrote the Declaration of Independence? How did the Declaration's revolutionary ideas influence the creation of an equally revolutionary document: The Constitution of the United States?

In Week 1, we will study the CTF's core concepts and principles to provide insight into how distortions and biases affect our thinking.

In Week 2, we will employ the CTF to explore the three parts of the Declaration of Independence.

Week 3 will continue our analysis to discuss how the Declaration influenced the Constitution.

**Suggested reading:** *The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking: Concepts and Tools* (8th ed) by Richard Paul & Linda Elder.

*Bruce Cogossi graduated from the U.S. Military Academy and has a M.P.A. from Troy State, an M.S. in education from Old Dominion, 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 in leadership positions as a Federal civilian in contracting.*



### NEW! What's New in AI? Fall 2026 Edition

**Candice Benjes-Small**

Monday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Nov 30  
School of Education, Room 2010  
32 seats

⚠️ Participants should have either attended a prior AI course led by Candice, or have some experience using GenAI tools like ChatGPT

Artificial intelligence is evolving rapidly – and it can be hard to keep up. In this workshop, we'll explore what's new in AI through a set of key trends, real-world examples, and recent developments in the news.

Rather than focusing on any one tool, we'll look at how AI is increasingly embedded in everyday technologies, from email and search to meeting tools and creative applications.

We'll examine how these systems are becoming more capable, where they are already shaping how we work and access information, and the growing challenges around trust, accuracy, and transparency. Along the way, we'll discuss what these changes mean for how we create, evaluate, and rely on information in our daily lives.

Although designed for those familiar with tools like ChatGPT, this session emphasizes understanding over technical detail. Participants will leave with a clearer sense of what's changing in AI, why it matters, and how to approach new tools and developments with curiosity and confidence.

*Read Candice's bio on p. 20.*





Finance & Economics

NEW! Managing Investment Portfolios After Losing a Spouse

Graham Spiers

Monday, 9:30-11:30am  
2 sessions: Sep 14, 21  
Campus Center, Room 31  
16 seats

Losing a spouse is one of life's most difficult experiences. During this time of grief, handling financial matters can feel overwhelming. This course will explain – in layman's terms – how and where to start in organizing and consolidating investment accounts, and look at considerations in determining individual tolerance for risk and setting expectations for your portfolio's returns.

Building on this foundational knowledge, we will examine how to build an optimal retirement investment portfolio by investing different asset classes, primarily stocks and bonds. You will learn how to determine how much of your portfolio should be invested in each asset class – e.g., mutual funds and electronically traded funds (ETFs), and why a given asset allocation plan is right for you.

This course is designed to provide a baseline understanding of portfolio construction, asset mix, risk tolerance, and return on investment – so as not to overwhelm the investor with the nuances and details that may be best left to a financial advisor.

*Graham Spiers, CFA, holds a B.B.A. from Nichols College and has been a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) since 1993. His 50-year career includes roles with Wall Street corporate finance firms and investment management organizations for large pension funds, state 529 plans, mutual funds, ETFs, and large, separately managed accounts for private global clients. Over the last 20 years, he has been the chief investment officer for several Virginia-based registered investment advisory firms managing portfolios for high net worth clients.*

Taxes in Retirement & Social Security

Jacob Bales

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm  
3 sessions: Sep 14, 21, 28  
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 a Certified Financial Planner. He is a co-advisor at James Bales Financial, focusing on planning, research, and advising, including Social Security.*

Modern Wealth Management

Sean Allburn

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am  
3 sessions: Oct 29, Nov 5, 12  
Campus Center, Room 159  
40 seats

This course acquaints the student with tools essential for sound financial planning and investment management, which begins by considering your goals with respect to risk exposure, tax environment, liquidity needs, and appreciation vs. income potentials.

Sean will encourage your participation as he shares proven strategies to help you achieve your financial goals.

You will learn about models for portfolio selection to help reduce risk through diversification, and understand factors affecting financial success, such as:

- Do you need a plan to triple your income during retirement?
- Is your financial planner telling you what you need to know?
- Is there a way to minimize investment risk without sacrificing returns?

*Sean Allburn was recognized in 2007 by On Wall Street magazine as one of the nation's Top 40 Advisors based on client assets under management, providing client service excellence, fee-based accounts, comprehensive planning, and wealth management services. Today, with over 30 years in the wealth management industry, he is an authority on retirement planning strategies. His Wealth Management classes have been widely attended throughout the Peninsula area. Sean earned a bachelor's degree from Duke University and an M.B.A. from William & Mary.*

NEW! Understanding Today's Economic Trends and Issues

Daniel Gaske

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm  
3 sessions: Sep 17, 24, Oct 1  
Zoom, 125 seats

The course examines current economic trends and issues in the United States and globally. Final topics vary by semester, and are chosen close to start of course based on issues most prominent at time.

Previous topics have included U.S. Tariff Increases, U.S. Government debt, economics of climate change, economics of immigration, Social Security finances, the Federal Reserve and monetary policy, world currency markets, rise and fall of U.S. inflation, and U.S. income inequality.

Each topic is examined from perspectives of trends, causes, impacts, and potential remedies and their impacts.

The course is structured around content of presentation files on the topics, but only as a start, with the course overall intended to be discussion oriented with high class member participation.

*Dan Gaske is a long-time Osher at William & Mary Osher instructor and also has taught for the OLLI at University of Pittsburgh. He has instructed academic economic courses at W&M's Mason School of Business, George Mason, Georgetown, George Washington University, and Johns Hopkins School of International Studies. He holds a B.A. in economics and mathematics from Ouachita Baptist University and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in economics from Rice University.*

Do You Really Need a Trust? The Answer Might Surprise You

John Burton

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm  
2 sessions: Sep 24, Oct 1  
School of Education, Room 2016  
25 seats

When most people hear the word trust, they assume it's something only the wealthy need. The truth is, trusts can benefit anyone who wants their estate handled more smoothly and securely than a will alone can provide. In this course, you'll discover:

- The real differences between revocable and irrevocable trusts and when each might apply to you.
- How trusts can help reduce capital gains or even avoid the costs of probate, estate taxes, creditor claims, and lawsuits.
- Whether trusts can protect your finances if you ever need long-term or nursing home care.
- How trusts work together with wills, powers of attorney, retirement accounts, real estate, and investments
- Why elder law has become such an important piece of modern trust planning.

By the end, you'll understand not only the basics of how trusts work, but also the new planning opportunities they can unlock for your own estate plan regardless of the size of your estate.

*John S. Burton, Esq., C.E.P., T.E.P. is the founder of J.S. Burton, PLC, where he focuses on estate planning, asset protection, elder law, and business law.*

*With decades of experience advising families and business owners, John has guided clients through complex matters involving trusts, estates, Medicaid planning, tax strategies, and cross-border estate planning.*

Portfolio Construction: Build Your Own Optimal Retirement Portfolio

Graham Spiers

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am  
4 sessions: Oct 1, 8, 15, 22  
Campus Center, Room 159  
16 seats

⚠️ Class participants should have at least one year of investment experience and have a sound understanding of high school level mathematics.

When you need your savings to last 30 years or more, being too conservative too soon can put your portfolio's longevity at risk. This course offers the average investor the intellectual muscle to both understand and challenge their professional advisor's recommendations and actions.

Our portfolio construction approach is based on Modern Portfolio Theory (MPT), the process utilized by most Wall Street and mutual fund/ETF investment teams. While investment risk can never be completely eliminated, we focus on identifying and preparing portfolios for the key risks faced by retirement investors including: longevity risk, inflation risk, sequence-of-returns risk (the risk of high market losses early in retirement), market volatility, and interest rate risk. Focus on managing risk in portfolio construction can offer peace-of-mind for retirees as they age and face changing market environments.

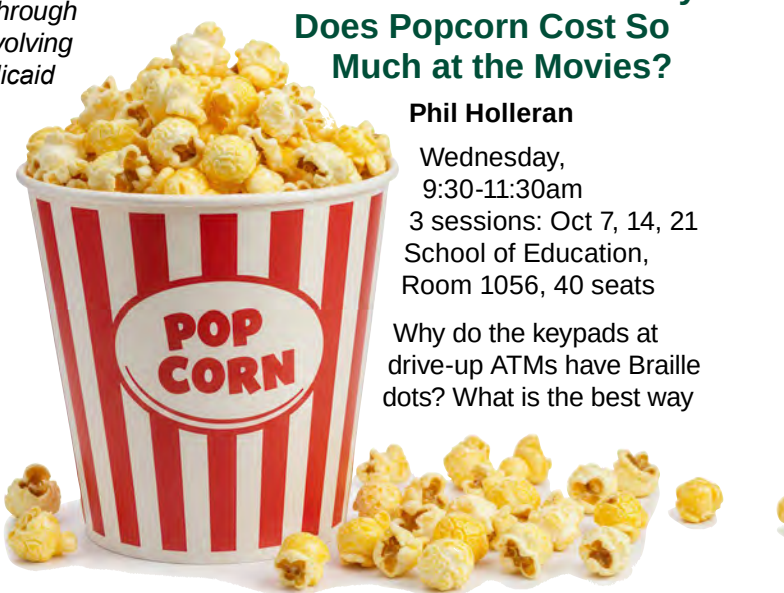
*Graham is also teaching a course about managing investments after loss of a spouse. Read his bio on p. 22.*

NEW! Adventures in Microeconomics – Or Why Does Popcorn Cost So Much at the Movies?

Phil Holleran

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am  
3 sessions: Oct 7, 14, 21  
School of Education, Room 1056, 40 seats

Why do the keypads at drive-up ATMs have Braille dots? What is the best way



to bring down the prices of prescription drugs? Is it a good idea to suspend the gas tax when gas prices rise too high? Do safety improvements in cars actually save lives?

This course will answer these and similar questions using basic principles of microeconomics:

- Session 1 will introduce and apply the Economic Way of Thinking: incentives, opportunity cost, sunk cost, and marginal analysis.
- Session 2 will introduce and apply the concepts of demand and supply.
- Session 3 will introduce and apply the concepts of competition and monopoly.

This is a course in principles of microeconomics unlike any other economics course you may have taken or heard about: no graphs, no equations, just straightforward explanations, current real-world applications, and appreciation of economics. Prior knowledge of economics is not required, and indeed, may be a detriment.

*Phil Holleran is a retired professor of economics. He has previously taught Osher classes on the history of child labor and on America's first bank failure. He currently volunteers as a fort site interpreter at Historic Jamestowne/Jamestown Rediscovery.*





## Direct Indexing – What is It & How Can It Help Me?

**Jacob Bales**

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Oct 27

W&M Alumni House, Leadership Hall  
40 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 assets you're invested in are all pieces we will discuss.

*Jacob Bales is a fully licensed Registered Representative with Series 7 and Series 66 certifications, as well as being a Certified Financial Planner 174. He is a co-advisor at James Bales Financial, focusing on planning, research, and advising, including Social Security.*

## NEW! Politics, Religion, War, and (Your) Money

**Keith Reagan**

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am

3 sessions: Nov 17, Dec 1, 8  
(no class on Nov 24)

School of Education, Room 1056  
40 seats

Once upon a time, we could discuss investments without it feeling like an awkward conversation with your in-laws at Thanksgiving.

Not anymore.

Uncomfortable topics like politics and religion impact our portfolios like never before. And with the impending mid-term elections, we will face new concerns.

This class will examine the current issues facing investors, but not just corporate earnings, P/E ratios, and technical charts. We will dig in to the deeper geopolitical disturbances that have become mainstream concerns for portfolio managers.

*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.*



## NEW! Economics 101 at Jamestown (May 1607)

**James Belcher**

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm

1 session: Nov 20

School of Education, Room 2010  
20 seats

Is Thomas Hobbes' *Leviathan* (1651), when considered alongside economic

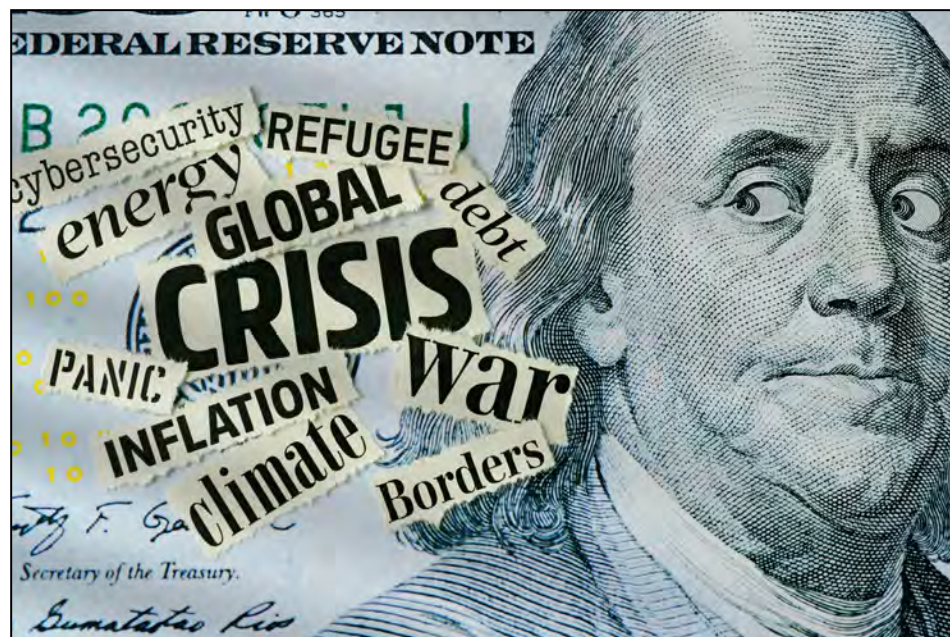
theory at Jamestown, a foundational document supporting modern U.S. capitalism, or does it instead outline a scenario of the war of all against all?

This course explores the current U.S. economy through analysis of Bacon's Rebellion and Hobbes' work, highlighting his view that profit-driven competition diminishes traditional justice and social norms.

Jamestown's 17th-century events reveal how the competing interests of colonists, Native peoples, indentured servants, and slaves led to significant outcomes, such as the 1676 burning.

Such events were driven by diverse motivations, and its unexpected consequences continue to influence and drive the U.S. economic policies of today. This course is intended for active participation and open discussion and there is no need for formal economic training.

*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 and Texas) as well as a Global Chartered Accountant.*



## Government & Law

### NEW! Your Tax Dollars at Work: How the Federal Government Spends Your Money

**Nils van den Beemt**

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm

4 sessions:

Oct 1, 8, 15, 22

Campus Center, Room 159  
40 seats

This course will provide you with understanding of how your tax dollars find their way to government contractors, and the community of people who work for them.

Backed by history and incorporated with the realities of today's economy, participants will leave this course with an understanding of what a \$20 million dollar federal contract really means to the people who are paid by it and the process by which contracts like it are awarded.

We will examine a brief history of Federal procurement, the competitive bidding process, how Federal contracts are awarded, managed, and funded, and the two events of the past 25 years that have altered the Federal contracting landscape.

The course is intended to be interactive; participants are encouraged to submit questions that can be woven into the next class discussion. By the course's conclusion, attendees will be better prepared to interpret popular news and social media commentary related to how the Federal Government spends our money, including a foundation on which to judge the effectiveness and efficiency of Federally funded projects and perhaps even whether there's a better way to provide some of the

Federal Governments' services and achieve its mission.

*Nils van den Beemt has worked for a variety of Federal government contractors over 43 years. The companies range from a handful of employees to more than 100,000. While his roles initially focused on technical program management, in the latter years his specialty was business development: how companies prepare for and win government contracts funded by tax dollars.*

### Government Of, By and For the People

**Megan Rhyne**

Thursday,

9:30-11:30am

3 sessions:

Oct 8, 15, 22

School of Ed, Room 2021

20 seats

America's government is of, for, and by the people, which

means you have the right to know what officials are doing in your name.

Holding government accountable can feel daunting, but this class aims to demystify the process in three primary ways. First, we'll break down the legislative process: the written and unwritten rules, what to expect when visiting the Capitol and how a bill becomes law. Next, we'll take a deep dive into the Legislative Information System to find bills of interest, track them through the legislative session and research past proposals.

Third, we'll get to know the tools at hand for tracking money in politics, for obtaining records, and for attending public meetings. The first two days will emphasize state government, while the third day will cover both local and state government.

*Megan Rhyne is the executive director of the Virginia Coalition for Open Government, where she regularly educates the public about their rights*

to access government records and attend public meetings at the state and local level. She has more than 18 years of experience as a lobbyist for open-government causes at the Virginia General Assembly.



## NEW! Constitutional War Power: Who Has It and Why

**Robert Spitzer**

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Oct 14

Williamsburg Regional Library, Theatre, 250 seats

Following the theme of Osher's 2026 Revolutionary Ideas curriculum, this session will examine the radical nature of constitutional change through the example of the war power.

No governmental power is more consequential than the power over war. The U.S. Constitution vests the war power in Congress. Yet it is equally clear that modern presidents seem to exercise this power almost entirely on their own, with the rare exception of a full scale or so-called perfect war, last declared for World War II.

What, exactly, does the Constitution say about the war power, and why? Does the scale of the conflict matter – that is, if the conflict is small or limited? How did the nation's Founders think about this awesome power? How and why has the balance of power between Congress and the president changed from the Founding era to the present? Has the Framers' vision of the war power simply become obsolete as America evolved from a small, agrarian fledgling nation beset by foreign powers to an economic, industrial, and military giant?

*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 the Government and Public Policy departments. He is author of 16 books including four on the presidency and over 700 articles on many American politics subjects. He was visiting professor at Cornell University for 30 years.*



Health & Wellness

 **NEW! Tai Chi for Beginners**  
John Paugh

 Choose 1 section only: attendance is not interchangeable between Mon/Thurs

 **Section A: Monday, 9:30-11:00am**  
6 sessions: Sep 14, 21, 28, Oct 5, 12, 19  
Williamsburg Landing, Charter Room  
20 seats

– OR –

 **Section B: Thursday, 9:30-11:00a**  
6 sessions: Sep 17, 24, Oct 1, 8, 15, 22  
Williamsburg Landing, Charter Room  
20 seats

In this course for true beginners, you will begin learning elements of the Yang style thirty-seven posture form and explore the benefits of Tai Chi.

Often referred to as “meditation in motion,” Tai Chi is a centuries-old art that combines graceful, deliberate movements with deep breathing and mindfulness. Though traditionally rooted in martial arts, Tai Chi has evolved into a holistic discipline celebrated for its ability to promote physical and mental health. Its accessibility and adaptability make it

ideal for people of all ages and fitness levels, offering a gentle yet profoundly effective way to enhance overall well-being.

In today’s fast-paced world, Tai Chi serves as a valuable antidote to stress and physical inactivity. Its ability to blend movement, mindfulness, and meditation makes it a unique and transformative practice. Tai Chi is more than just a series of movements; it is a comprehensive approach to physical and mental well-being. Perfect for individuals of all ages and backgrounds, this ancient practice invites everyone to experience tranquility, vitality, and balance in their daily lives.

*John Paugh has devoted more than 30 years to the study, practice and teaching of Chinese martial arts, a journey that has deeply enriched his life. His expertise lies in Hsing-I, a martial art known for its direct and powerful movements, and Tai Chi, a discipline that blends martial application with meditative and health-enhancing practices.*

 **NEW! Intermediate Tai Chi: On the Path to Physical and Mental Well-Being**

John Paugh

 **Monday, 12:30-1:30pm**  
6 sessions: Sep 14, 28, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26 (no class on Sep 21)  
Williamsburg Landing, Charter Room  
20 seats

 This course requires completion of John's Spring 2026 Tai Chi introductory course. **Note: future intermediate level class participation will require completion of John's Tai Chi for Beginners course.**

In the intermediate session participants will build upon and refine the elements of the Yang style thirty-seven posture form initiated in the beginners course and continue exploring the benefits of Meditation in Motion.

Beyond its physical and mental benefits, Tai Chi offers spiritual enrichment and a deeper connection to oneself and the world. Its movements are designed to harmonize the body,

mind, and spirit, emphasizing the interconnectedness of all aspects of life. Practitioners often find that Tai Chi fosters a sense of gratitude, mindfulness, and holistic health that transcends the boundaries of physical exercise.

Read John's bio at left.

**Basics of Fitness Walking**

Ray Funkhouser

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Sep 22  
Campus Center, Room 31  
20 seats

  Course combines a lecture and outdoor walking activity. **Dress in layers and wear comfortable walking clothes and shoes**

What gives the same aerobic workout for the lungs and heart as jogging and aerobic dance; does not stress the leg joints and feet; and 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, you'll learn efficient walking as well as 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.

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

**NEW! Getting Older Ain't for Sissies Part II: The Disease of Aging**

Jim McDonald

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm  
3 sessions: Sep 15, 22, 29  
School of Education, Room 1056  
40 seats



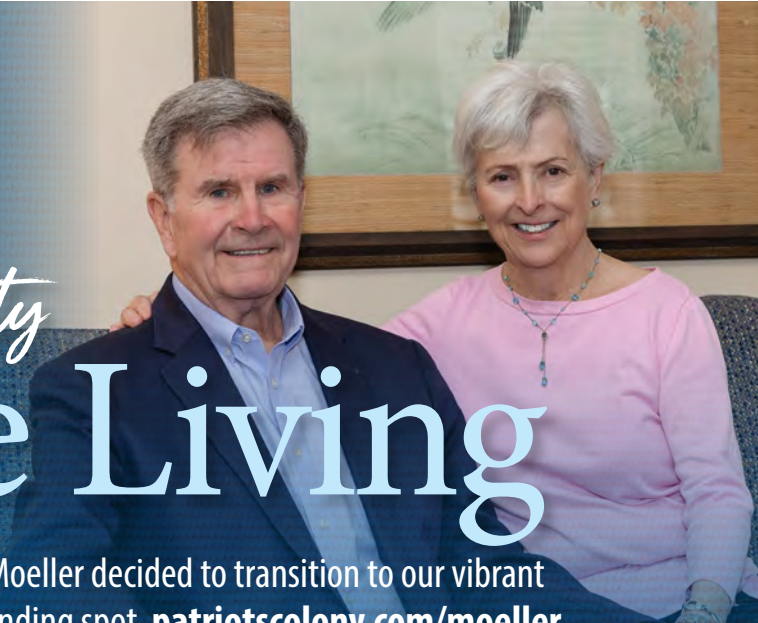


# The Best Time to Plan is Now

**93% of adults 55+ want to remain in their homes as they age.** ChooseHome’s innovative aging-in-place program is flexible to keep you independent with the support you need — now and in the future.

Visit **choosehome.com/events** for upcoming in-person or virtual sessions.

**Call 757-585-2654 or email [choosehome@rivhs.com](mailto:choosehome@rivhs.com) learn more.**





## Welcoming Community Carefree Living

Former Ford’s Colony residents Bob and Betty Moeller decided to transition to our vibrant community and how it became their perfect landing spot. **patriotscolony.com/moeller**

Patriots Colony is a Riverside Health System active retirement community whose Independent Living is exclusive to former military officers, federal civil employees and their spouses or widow(ers). Enjoy gourmet dining options, an enriching social and activities calendar while being close to all the culture of this historic area.

*Schedule* Your Personal Tour Today! | 757-585-7006 | [patriotscolony@rivhs.com](mailto:patriotscolony@rivhs.com) | [patriotscolony.com](http://patriotscolony.com)

- RELATED HEALTH & WELLNESS COURSES**
- American Healthcare Reform 2050 (p. 20)
  - Human Rights & Happiness (p. 35)
  - Nature Mandalas (p. 36)
  - Children: How They Understand Nature (p. 37)
  - Intergenerational Storytelling with AI: Learn, Create & Connect Across Generations (p. 39)
  - Taste as Experience: Why We Like What We Like (p. 40)
  - Overview of Clinical Research: Pathway to Discovery (p. 41)
  - The Amazing Human Body Takes a Walk (p. 42)
  - The Dilemma of Ordinary People in Nazi Germany (p. 44)



The course focuses on the Big 3 diseases associated with aging: neurodegenerative disease (Alzheimer's, dementia, and Parkinson's); cardiovascular decay (stiffening arteries and other vascular changes); and metabolic dysfunction (insulin insensitivity and mitochondrial damage).

We will look at current standard-of-care treatments, clinical trials in progress or recruiting patients, and lifestyle interventions, like diet and exercise, to help modulate these disease processes. Current research will also be discussed.

*Jim McDonald holds a Ph.D. in kinesiology specifically focused on exercise physiology. He received his doctorate from Auburn University after a career in the USAF as a fighter pilot and military diplomat. He retired from Auburn in 2021 where his research as an associate clinical professor focused on exercise, health and wellness in middle-aged and older populations.*

 **EXPANDED! (3 sessions)**  
**The Transgender Experience: Personal, Societal, Political, Scientific**  
**Leslie Fabian, Debra Fabian**

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am  
3 sessions: Sep 16, 23, 30  
School of Education, Room 1056  
40 seats

Leslie and Deb will share their personal experience as a transgender couple, touching on the societal, historical, scientific, and political aspects of gender dysphoria. Evidence of the presumed causes will be explained. There will be exploration and discussion of the current anti-trans rhetoric. Excerpts from Leslie's book, *My Husband's a Woman Now: A Shared Journey of Transition and Love*, will be read and explored. There will be ample time for questions and discussion.

**Suggested reading:** *My Husband's a Woman Now: A Shared Journey of Transition and Love* by Leslie Fabian; *Love Always: Partners of Trans People on Intimacy, Challenge, & Resilience*, ed. Johnson & Garrison; essay by Leslie Fabian

*The Fabians retired to Williamsburg in 2021. Married 34 years, they're a social worker and a surgeon. After 20 years of marriage, in 2011, age 62, Deborah, nee David, transitioned to live as female. Leslie published her book, My Husband's a Woman Now in 2014. The Fabians will share about the personal, psychological, social, and political aspects of transgenderism, including the art of remaining married throughout this challenging experience. Deb is a W&M grad.*

**NEW! Planning Ahead: Understanding Advance Directives**

**Cryst'I Scheer**  
Thursday, 9:30-11:30am  
3 sessions: Sep 17, 24, Oct 1  
School of Education, Room 2016  
20 seats

Advance care planning is the process of considering, discussing, and documenting a person's preferences for future medical care when they are unable to speak for themselves.

This course provides a clear, practical introduction to advance care planning and the role of advance directives in communicating values, priorities, and healthcare wishes. Participants will explore the purpose and components of commonly used documents, including state-specific advance directives for healthcare, DNR orders, and POLST orders.

The course clarifies how these documents differ, when each is typically used, and how they work within the healthcare system.

Participants will also learn strategies for having meaningful conversations with loved ones and healthcare providers. Guided reflection and discussion support thoughtful decision-making and peer

learning. Dedicated time is included for participants to complete an advance directive with structured guidance. Participants will leave with increased confidence in documenting wishes and sharing completed documents appropriately with family members and healthcare providers.

*Cryst'I Scheer is a professionally trained end-of-life doula, certified thanatologist, and educator focused on advance care planning, legacy work, and death literacy across the lifespan, with a background in hospice care. She earned her B.S. in Sociology from Oregon State University and teaches community classes and workshops that support informed medical decision-making, end-of-life planning, and meaningful conversations about aging and mortality.*

 **NEW! Decoding the Data: A Guide to Research-backed Health Information**

**Jim McDonald**  
Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm  
2 sessions: Sep 17, 24  
Campus Center, Room 159  
40 seats

The truth is out there about your or your loved ones' health issues. This course is designed to show you how to find and verify the best, most current information about various health conditions.



The course will look at various websites from medical associations and government sources, show how to evaluate the website for bias,

recency and red flags. You will also learn how to find, read and evaluate peer-reviewed scientific journal articles that give more in-depth information on disease treatments and conditions, along with the basics of navigating the government's clinical trials website. We will close with a discussion of how to prepare for your doctor's visit and how to discuss what you have learned about your condition.

*Read Jim's bio on p. 28.*

**Advanced Fitness Walking**  
**Ray Funkhouser**

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Oct 6  
Campus Center, Room 31, 20 seats  
 **Suitable for current fitness walkers** looking to enhance skill/performance  
 **Course combines a lecture and outdoor walking activity. Dress in layers and wear comfortable walking 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.

*Read Ray's bio on p. 26.*

**How to Listen (So Others Will Talk)**

**David Hopkinson**  
Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm  
3 sessions: Oct 6, 13, 20  
School of Education, Room 2010  
12 seats

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

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.

*Read David's bio on p. 10.*

**Problem-solving Skills for Lifelong Learners – Thinking Outside the “bLox”**

**Scott Langhorst**  
Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm  
3 sessions: Oct 8, 15, 22  
School of Education, Room 2010  
32 seats

It's never too late to (re-)discover innovative ways of thinking and problem solving! This course is designed to help enable Osher members with a more creative approach to idea generation and problem-solving.

Students will experience a hands-on, interactive seminar using games, puzzles, and brainteasers to actively engage their minds (and others) in a creative group process.

Course topics include: problems with problem definition; learning how to look at things in different ways; lateral versus vertical thinking styles; and identifying and overcoming conceptual blocks to problem-solving. Join us to find out what it means to...think outside the bLox.

**Suggested reading:** *Conceptual Blockbusting: A Guide to Better Ideas* by James L. Adams; *A Whack on the Side of the Head: How to Unlock Your Mind for Innovation* by Roger von Oech

*Scott Langhorst retired from a 30+ year career with the Virginia Community College System, as well as five years of federal service (Army civilian). He is a faculty development and instructional technology specialist with experience in both classroom and online learning. Scott earned a Ph.D. in public administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. He was an undergraduate psychology major at William & Mary.*

**NEW! Medicare 2027: Know Your ABCDs**

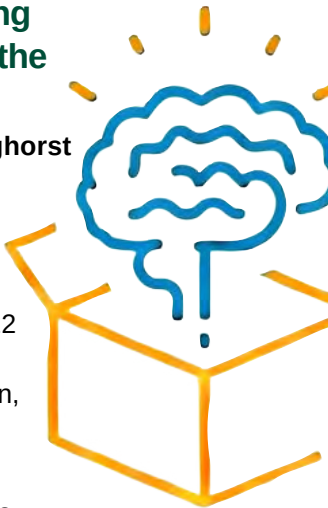
**Daphne Bernstein**  
 Thursday, 3:00-5:00pm  
1 session: Oct 8  
 Zoom, 125 seats  
 OLLIs at University of Denver & Colorado State University will join us for this class

Enrollment for 2027 Medicare plans begins on October 15, so mark your calendar for this timely seminar. Then join Daphne for answers about all things Medicare.

We'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 and phone calls, 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.*





Dance for Fun!

Bess Williams

🕒 Thursday, 4:30-5:30pm  
6 sessions: Oct 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov 5, 12  
Campus Center, Little Theatre  
30 seats

Wear comfortable gym shoes and be ready to have fun in this exercise class. We will sample dance steps 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 retiring, she was an IB Librarian at Fairport High School in Rochester, New York. She is currently a paraeducator in the York County schools.*

NEW! The Role of End-of-Life Doulas in the Community

Cryst'I Scheer

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Oct 14  
📺 Zoom, 20 seats

End-of-life doulas (sometimes called death doulas) provide non-medical, holistic support to individuals and families as they prepare for the final stage of life.

This session offers a clear, practical overview of what doulas do, what they do not do, and how doula support can complement other professional services. We will review common doula services, common misconceptions, professional boundaries, and what doula training typically emphasizes.

Participants will learn what to expect from doula support, when it may be helpful, and practical questions to ask

when seeking services or considering doula training in the future. This course is appropriate for adults who are curious about end-of-life doulas, those planning ahead for themselves or a loved one, and those considering training as a doula.

*Cryst'I Scheer is a professionally trained end-of-life doula, certified thanatologist, and educator focused on advance care planning, legacy work, and death literacy across the lifespan, with a background in hospice care. She earned her B.S. in sociology from Oregon State University and teaches community classes and workshops that support informed medical decision-making, end-of-life planning, and meaningful conversations about aging and mortality.*

NEW! Common Health Myths: Separating Fact from Fiction

Kerry Prewitt

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Oct 28  
Campus Center, Room 159  
40 seats



We are surrounded by health advice – from social media, news headlines, family traditions, and quick online searches. But how do we know what's true?

This engaging presentation explores common health myths and compares them with what current medical evidence actually shows. Participants

will examine widely believed health claims from areas such as nutrition, exercise, vaccines, heart disease, brain health, and supplements.

Among the topics we may discuss are: Is wine good for you? Do you need eight glasses of water a day? Does an apple a day really keep the doctor away? Is there any truth to the 5-second rule? How beneficial is 10,000 steps per day?

Do flu shots cause the flu? Should you take an aspirin a day? Does an EKG predict heart disease? Do crossword puzzles prevent dementia? Are multivitamins necessary? Plus a few other common questions – with perhaps, some surprising answers.

We'll also discuss how certain myths started, why they persist, how misinformation spreads, and how to evaluate health information with confidence. As we journey through truths and tall tales, participants should be better equipped to separate myth from fact and navigate health information with clarity and confidence.

*Kerry Prewitt is a board-certified cardiologist, with over 30 years in practice, currently with Colonial Heart in Williamsburg. 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. Several groups have recognized his commitment to teaching and service with several awards. He has taught several health related Osher talks. He looks forward to sharing his passion and knowledge of heart disease.*

UPDATED! Exploring Japanese Cuisine: Healthful Eating and Artful Presentation

Tomoko Kato

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm  
6 sessions: Oct 29, Nov 5, 12, 19, Dec 3, 10 (no class on Nov 26)  
Campus Center, Colonial Echo  
18 seats

This updated course offers an engaging and approachable exploration of Japanese culinary traditions, centered around two key ideas: healthful eating and the art of food presentation.

Through a mix of discussion, hands-on cooking activities, and food sampling, participants will build practical skills while gaining a deeper appreciation for the cultural and philosophical values behind Japanese cuisine. In the first half of the course, we will explore holistic perspectives rooted in Japanese practices.

These traditional approaches will be viewed alongside Western nutritional science, offering a balanced perspective on how Japanese dietary patterns connect with modern ideas about health and longevity. In the second half, we turn to the aesthetic side of Japanese cuisine, focusing on the concept of ma – the thoughtful use of space.

Together, we will look at how presentation expresses deeper values, and how elements like seasonality, color balance, and simplicity help create a harmonious dining experience.

Throughout the course, we will explore how seasonal awareness, visual harmony, and traditional health principles come together in Japanese cooking.

By the end, you will come away with fresh inspiration and a new way of looking at your everyday meals—not just as food, but as a meaningful and enjoyable part of daily life..

*Tomoko Kato is senior lecturer emerita of Japanese studies at W&M, specializing in Japanese language, culture, and cuisine since 2000. As*

*an avid cook and certified Japanese medicinal cooking instructor, she promotes holistic health through culinary traditions. She recently earned a certificate in nutrition strategies for lifelong health and wellness from Duke University School of Medicine. She has extensively studied food presentation and plating aesthetics, incorporating these principles into her teaching.*

NEW! Wearable Health Devices: How Technology Is Changing Cardiac Care

Kerry Prewitt

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Nov 10  
W&M Alumni House, Leadership Hall  
40 seats

Smart watches, fitness trackers, and mobile heart monitors are rapidly transforming how we monitor and manage heart health. The general population now has the ability to track multiple health metrics. This presentation explores how wearable health devices are being used in cardiovascular medicine – and what that means for you.

Participants will learn general concepts of how devices such as smartwatches, portable ECG monitors, blood pressure wearables, rings, and rhythm-tracking patches can detect irregular heart rhythms and high blood pressure, monitor heart rate trends, track activity levels, assess stress, evaluate sleep quality, and even alert users to possible heart conditions.

We will discuss how these tools support early detection of problems like atrial fibrillation, and high blood pressure, improve chronic disease management, and encourage healthier lifestyle habits.

We will also explore some important questions such as how accurate are wearable devices, when should data from a device prompt a call to a healthcare professional, what are the limitations and potential downsides, and what is the future of wearable health devices?

*Read Kerry's bio on p. 30.*



Keys to Preventing Dementia: Help and Hope as We Age

Patricia Quinlisk

🕒 Friday, 1:30-3:00pm  
3 sessions: Nov 20, Dec 4, 11 (no class on Nov 27)  
📺 Zoom, 125 seats

The risk of developing dementia can be reduced; in fact, it's estimated that about 40-45% of all cases of dementia/ Alzheimer's disease can be prevented. In these three 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 your brain will be healthier, so will your heart, lungs, and body! Join us for a life changing class and the latest information about this disease.

*Patricia Quinlisk was the medical director and state epidemiologist at the Iowa Department of Public Health for 24 years. She is now semi-retired; continuing to teach at various universities and working on projects such as how to change behaviors to prevent dementia. Her background includes a hospital clinical microbiologist, a Peace Corps Volunteer in Nepal, and training as a field epidemiologist in the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service.*



## Languages

### German Conversation Table

**Frauke Carlucci**

🕒 Monday, 12:00-1:00pm  
12 sessions: Sep 14, 21, 28, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26, Nov 2, 9, 16, 30, Dec 7  
(no class on Nov 23)  
Campus Center, Colonial Echo  
20 seats

⚠️ Requires a degree of fluency to facilitate communication with all participants

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.

See Frauke's bio on p. 14.

### NEW! Spanish for Beginners

**Christopher Scheiderer**

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am  
6 sessions: Sep 15, 22, 29, Oct 6, 13, 20  
School of Education, Room 2021  
20 seats

This introductory beginner's Spanish course equips absolute beginners with foundational vocabulary and grammar. Students develop core skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing for everyday use.

*Christopher Scheiderer is a retired college-level teacher with 40+years of experience. He taught at the Ohio State University, Waynesburg College, the University of Maryland and Christopher Newport University and has traveled to several Spanish-speaking countries, principally, Mexico, Argentina, Paraguay, and Spain. He has a keen interest in all things Spanish: the language, the culture, the history, and the people.*

### Parliamo Italiano

**Nick Costa**

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am  
6 sessions: Sep 15, 22, 29, Oct 6, 13, 20  
Campus Center, Colonial Echo  
16 seats

In ogni classe leggeremo articoli Italiani e discuteremo il contenuto, in modo che ognuno potra' praticare e rinforzare la lingua Italiana.

*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.*

### Spanish Conversation Table

**Frauke Carlucci**

🕒 Tuesday, 12:00-1:00pm  
12 sessions: Sep 15, 22, 29, Oct 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov 3, 10, 17, Dec 1, 8  
(no class on Nov 24)  
Campus Center, Colonial Echo  
20 seats

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.

See Frauke's bio on p. 14.

### French Conversation Table

**Kathleen Hickey, Barbara St. Louis**

🕒 Wednesday, 12:00-1:00pm  
12 sessions: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 18, Dec 2, 9  
(no class on Nov 25)  
Campus Center, Colonial Echo  
24 seats

⚠️ Intermediate/Advanced participants are able to easily read a French newspaper and to carry on an extemporaneous conversation in French.

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 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 Saint Louis.*

*Barbara St. Louis holds an undergraduate degree in French from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and a master's degree in French language and literature from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Over the years, she has been fortunate to study in multiple locations in France and in Quebec and has spent over 30 years teaching French at the secondary level.*

### Spanish Conversation and Grammar Review – Intermediate/Advanced

**Christopher Scheiderer**

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am  
6 sessions:  
Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, 18, Dec 2, 9  
(no class on Nov 25)  
School of Education, Room 2010  
25 seats

⚠️ Esta clase requiere al menos dos años de español en un entorno de aula o su equivalente.

Esta clase se ha organizado con el fin de darles a los estudiantes avanzados la oportunidad de repasar un poco la gramática española y luego, claro, la de conversar en español en cada clase. ¡Bienvenidos todos!

Read Christopher's bio above.

## Literature & Writing

### NEW! Book Lovers' Discussion Group

**Cathi Davis**

🕒 Monday, 12:00noon-1:00pm  
4 sessions:  
Sep 14, Oct 12, Nov 2, Dec 7  
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 14** – *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* by Dee Brown; ISBN13 97805066092, 509 pages
- **Oct 12** – *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich; ISBN13 9780062671189, 464 pages
- **Nov 2** – *Blue Highways* by William Least Heart Moon, ISBN13 9780316353298, 452 pages
- **Dec 7** – *There There* by Tommy Orange, ISBN13 9780525436140, 294 pages

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

### NEW! Shaping Truth: Turning Life into Story

**Carla Malden**

🕒 Thursday, 3:00-4:30pm  
2 sessions: Nov 12, 19  
🖥️ Zoom, 50 seats

③ We will join OLLI at Drake for this course

Author Carla Malden shares her personal writing journey from nonfiction to fiction, exploring the process of shaping real life into narrative. Carla will offer a behind-the-scenes look at the art of storytelling across genres while providing a deep dive into her work.



*Raised in Los Angeles, Carla Malden worked in motion picture production before becoming a screenwriter. Along with her father, Academy Award winning actor Karl Malden, she co-authored his critically acclaimed memoir. She also published Afterimage: A Brokenhearted Memoir of a Charmed Life, a fiercely personal account of the before and after of losing her husband to cancer. Afterimage alerts an entire generation: This is not your mother's widowhood. Her feature writing has appeared in the Los Angeles Times, and she currently sits on the Geffen Playhouse board.*

### NEW! Ireland and the Literature of Place

③ We will join OLLI at Drake for this course

**Craig Owens**

🕒 Friday, 3:00-4:30pm  
2 sessions: Nov 13, 20  
🖥️ Zoom, 50 seats

③ We will join OLLI at Drake for this course

Irish Literature of the 20th century often evokes a rich sense of place and tradition.

In this class, we will read and discuss short stories, poems, and a novel from the 20th-century Irish tradition whose themes, characters, and/or plots are deeply ingrained in the landscape and history of the island.

In addition to the literary texts included in the reading list, we will also examine visual representations of Ireland, in the form of photography, video, and painting to come to a richer appreciation of how land and tradition influence the works we read together.

*Craig Owens is executive director of the Harkin Institute of Public Policy at Drake University. Craig started at Drake in 2003 as an English professor and served in numerous leadership roles at Drake and beyond, including inaugural dean of the John Dee Bright College, director of Drake's Center for the Humanities, chair of the English department, and president of the Midwest Modern Language Association. He currently serves on the boards of the Zenith Chamber Music Festival, Urban Dreams, and The By Degrees Foundation. He earned a Ph.D. in English from Indiana University and bachelor's degrees in English and Latin from DePauw University.*





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## RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

### Religion & Philosophy

#### NEW! Superstition: Spiritual Technologies in an Uncertain World

**Edward Ingebreetsen**

Monday, 9:30-11:30am  
4 sessions: Sep 14, 21, 28, Oct 5  
Zoom, 40 seats

This course explores what might be called “spiritual technologies”: ordinary, often unremarked practices through which people orient themselves in time, protect what matters, and make sense of forces larger than themselves. Knocked wood, blessings and curses, forged iron, black salts, oils of different kinds, thresholds crossed carefully, days marked as potent or dangerous – these are not relics of the past. They are part of the everyday spiritual grammar of human life. We take them seriously, still, even if we don’t know why. Rather than treating these practices as superstition or nostalgia, we will explore them as functional tools – ways humans manage risk, mark meaning, and live attentively within a world felt to be alive and relational.

*Ed Ingebreetsen holds a Ph.D. in American studies/theology (Duke) and advanced degrees in theology and ethics. His publications include At Stake: Monsters and a Rhetoric of Fear in Public Culture and Maps of Heaven, Maps of Hell: Religious Terror as Memory from the Puritans through Stephen King. His courses explore the intersection of gender, race, theology, and pop cultures.*



#### Human Rights & Happiness

**Bill Rhodes**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday,  
9:30-11:30am  
6 sessions: Nov 2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13  
Campus Center, Room 159, 40 seats

Some current debates over human rights and associated matters of public policy seem to overlook the questions of just what a human right is and why we claim to have them. This course investigates the Western philosophic foundations of human rights and

associated theories for ethical decision-making and public policy. All of these enlightenment-era notions constitute roots for modern thinking about human rights, personal decision-making, justice, and governance.

**Suggested reading:** *Utilitarianism* by John S. Mill; *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* by Immanuel Kant (any edition is fine; free online)

*Bill Rhodes earned his doctorate from 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 and currently teaches online courses for Air University.*

#### NEW! What Happened to the 12 Apostles of Jesus?

**Jack Dalby**

Tuesday, 2:30-4:30pm  
3 sessions: Dec 1, 8, 15  
Zoom, 75 seats

We will join OLLI at Drake for this course. While no reading is required for this course, a passing knowledge of the New Testament would be helpful

Church tradition holds that after Jesus’ ascension to heaven, his Apostles, working initially out of Jerusalem, quickly moved to establish Christian churches throughout the Roman empire and beyond. However, with but a few exceptions, the New Testament is virtually silent on the actions and fates of these 12 men. In this 3-part lecture, we will discuss what we can know historically about these important figures in early Christianity.

Topics for discussion: What does the New Testament say about these the 12 Apostles? Was Peter the first bishop of Rome? Who were the 70 Apostles mentioned in the Gospel of Luke? Were there women Apostles? What are the Apocryphal Gospels? Were the Apostles martyred? How did Christian missionary work affect the pagan world? Who was James, the brother of the Lord? Was St. Paul an Apostle?

*Jack Dalby is a retired NoVa business owner. For the past 14 years, he has lectured on topics of Christian origins and the historical Jesus with Osher programs at W&M, Drake, George Mason and American University.*

## SPECIAL INTERESTS

### Special Interests



#### UPDATED! UFOs – Is It Time for Disclosure?

**John Hickok**

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm  
6 sessions: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 21  
Zoom, 50 seats

OLLI at USCB will join us for this class

Ever wonder if we are the only intelligent entities in the universe? Do you think the government might be covering up the existence of UFOs in our atmosphere and oceans?

U.S. Navy videos indicate that may just be the case. The 1947 Roswell, NM event and many later sightings brought forth by notable whistleblowers have piqued world interest in UFOs and Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAPs). What they reveal could change the trajectory of Earth’s future.

The course kicks off a discussion about the universe as we know it. We’ll then recount UFO/UAP events since 1947; view U.S. Navy videos of crew encounters and subsequent Congressional inquiries; learn about investigative groups and whistleblowers who have studied UFOs/UAPs; hear about efforts by Congress, the Pentagon, NASA, and academia to expand UAP data capture capabilities; contemplate an ultra-top secret DoD program to reverse engineer a captured spacecraft’s technology; and attempt to describe the unique technologies that might be unearthed as a result.

*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.*



## Grandparent Magic – Easy Magic to Amaze Grandkids and Friends

Steven Mains

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am  
3 sessions: Sep 17, 24, Oct 1  
Campus Center, Room 31  
12 seats

Magic has captivated and amazed children and adults of all ages by making the ordinary extraordinary. This course will provide tricks and skills required to entertain grandchildren and friends. Drawing from classic texts of magic, this course will teach impromptu card, coin and rope magic that you confidently perform immediately. Participants will also gain performance techniques that turn simple, self-working tricks into classic entertainment.

The tricks are accessible to the beginner and do not require years of “knuckle-busting” practice. No gimmicks to buy. No difficult sleight of hand. Just simple, powerful magic geared to be performed while the dishes are being cleared or to break the ice after a long absence. You will also gain insights to the classic books and resources available to continue self-study after the course ends.

*Steven Mains is president of the Society of American Magicians’ Williamsburg Chapter (Assembly 226). He is a semi-professional magician who performs with Magic ala Carte, a local dinner/magic troupe and in various charity benefits. He is an experienced teacher and coach.*



## Finding My Revolutionary War Patriots

Debbie Misiag

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am  
2 sessions: Sep 23, 30  
Campus Center, Room 159  
40 seats

⚠ Participants may want to bring a laptop or tablet to the second session, which will be interactive

This two-part course will assist participants learn

about how to locate a patriot, and the resources available. Participants will review a variety of materials – printed and online primary and secondary sources – to discover the role their ancestors played in the Revolution.

*Debbie Misiag has been conducting genealogical research since 2014. She is the president of the Williamsburg Area Genealogical Society and a member of multiple lineage societies. Debbie is a retired educator obtaining her B.A in history from Cal State University Fullerton and her masters in education from Johns Hopkins University. Since retirement, she enjoys genealogical research, travel, and time with her children and grandchildren.*

## NEW! Nature Mandalas

Kristi Apperson

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm  
1 session: Sep 23  
Campus Center, Colonial Echo  
20 seats

🚶👤 Plan on a brief outdoor foraging walk on campus to gather a few natural findings; dress on the weather

⚠ Bring your own pruners/clippers and any other suitable found natural objects

We will explore the mandala from a historical perspective, discussing early styles and significance. We will spend time exploring outdoors, gathering leaves, flowers, twigs, rocks, feathers, etc. and then go indoors to assemble our individual mandalas, with participants taking them home.

*A native of Chesterfield, VA, Kristi Apperson earned a landscape design*



*degree in 1987 and has enjoyed a successful career as professional horticulturist, landscape designer, floral designer, estate gardener and greenhouse manager. She has worked*

*regions, extending from Midlothian and the Eastern Shore to Louisiana and Fredericksburg. She restored a Gillette Garden for a private estate in Richmond, presenting it for Historic Garden Week. Kristi now calls Williamsburg home and is William & Mary’s nursery supervisor.*



## NEW! Backyard Birding: Discovering the Joy of Nature at Home

Jim Easton

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Sep 24  
Campus Center, Little Theatre  
40 seats

This course is for bird enthusiasts of all levels. With stunning photos, practical tips, and insightful quotes, the session explores creating a bird-friendly habitat throughout the seasons. Jim will cover the importance of native plants, tools for bird identification, and solutions to common challenges like predators, pests and window strikes.

With a focus on conservation and community, the presentation includes ways to contribute to citizen science projects and connect with fellow bird lovers. Participants will leave excited and equipped to turn their backyards into birding sanctuaries.

*After retiring from a business career, including a decade at Colonial Williamsburg, Jim devoted himself to photography and became a Certified Master Naturalist. He spends countless hours exploring local parks and gardens, capturing nature’s beauty. A Boston native, he’s a lifelong Red Sox, Patriots, and Celtics fan who also volunteers locally and enjoys observing and photographing backyard birds.*

## NEW! W&M Autumn Garden Tour & Convoy

Tony Orband

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm  
1 session: Oct 14  
Campus Center, Hunt Circle, 20 seats  
🚶👤 Wear shoes you don’t mind getting wet from morning dew on the grass as we walk through the gardens

Join the W&M Facilities Ops Grounds & Gardens team for a golf cart convoy tour of special campus gardens bursting in the glory of autumn. Our generous donors, staff, students, and volunteers allow us to do more than just maintenance, and with their help, we like to put on colorful garden displays and interesting arrangements. So ride along with us as we look at specialty plants, garden favorites, and native plants to foster ideas for your own garden.

*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.*

## NEW! Killer in the Code: Did the Zodiac Killer Also Commit the Black Dahlia Murder?

Frank Wood

Friday, 9:30-11:30am  
3 sessions: Oct 30, Nov 6, 13  
School of Education, Room 2060  
40 seats

This course will present an overview of the Black Dahlia and Zodiac Killer cases. It will present the “Killer in the Code” solution to these cases and critically examine the assertions made by Michael Connelly and Alex Baber in their recent multi-episode podcast.

*Frank Wood is a retired energy industry financial executive with a longstanding 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).*

## Double-Decker Yanks: Visit London as a Local

Kelly Shaw, Bill Rhodes

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm  
1 session: Nov 10  
W&M Alumni House, Leadership Hall, 40 seats

Have you ever wanted to visit London, not as a tourist, but as a local? Are you fearful of public transportation, nervous about ordering in a local’s pub, or unsure about escalator etiquette? London is saturated in history, with something interesting to be discovered on every walk and around every corner. The city offers world-class museums, excellent public transportation, quirky denizens, and easy access to most of Europe, yet staying in tourist hotels, eating at tourist restaurants, and visiting only tourist sites can make a visit to London feel one-dimensional.

*Kelly Shaw and Bill Rhodes have been living part-time in the U.K. since 2010. They stay in rented flats, shop locally, and walk extensively.*

*This approach avoids the sterility (and expense) of packaged tours while offering great insight into the city’s culture. They’ve learned a lot and will share practical insights about housing, transportation, shopping and recommended places to visit – to help transform a visit to London from a tourist haze to a feeling of coming home. Before the pandemic, Kelly wrote apps describing sights along common London Bus routes, helping visitors experience London as Londoners.*



## NEW! London History from the No. 24 Bus

Kelly Shaw

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am  
2 sessions: Nov 12, 19  
W&M Alumni House, Leadership Hall  
40 seats

Learn about London history from the top deck of the Transport for London (TFL) 24 bus from Hampstead Heath down to the Thames. Join us on a journey through space and time as we visit historic Westminster, notorious Camden, colorful Chinatown, and London’s theater district.

*Read about Kelly and Bill at left.*

## NEW! Children: How They Understand Nature

Griz Caudle

Monday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Nov 16  
School of Education, Room 2010, 32 seats

This course will provide an understanding of children’s interaction with their natural world. We will take a cursory look at child development and how children process information in their natural surroundings. As can

be expected, this developmental process takes place in various stages dependent on a child’s chronological and mental age. We embrace the need to meet the child where they can best relate to facilitate their learning.

A sequel to this course is planned for Spring of 2027 to further explore



these constructs and apply them to our exploration of nature. If a child doesn't learn the way we teach, we must teach the way they learn.

*Griz Caudle is a former professor at SUNY Geneseo. He resides in Williamsburg part of the year, and during the colder months in upstate New York. He is a member of the education staff with the Professional Ski Instructors and American Snowboard Instructors of America. He loves the outdoors and has been influential in helping others connect with their inner self through immersion in outdoor pursuits.*



### Creative Genealogy

**Karen McPherson**

Friday, 9:30-11:30am  
3 sessions: Nov 20, Dec 4, 11  
(no class on Nov 27)  
School of Ed, Room 1056, 40 seats

Whether you're just beginning your family tree or have been researching for years, what comes next? In this class, we'll explore creative approaches to genealogy that meet you where you are. The first session focuses on research: how to set goals, choose methods, and build confidence in your findings. The second session turns to organization: practical ways to track what you're searching for and what you've discovered. In the third session, we'll examine how artificial intelligence can support and extend your research. We'll close by exploring meaningful ways to tell your story – so your work can inform and endure.

*Read Karen's bio on p. 20.*

### Wreath Making for Winter Decoration

**Tony Orband, Kristi Apperson**

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Dec 2  
Anne Klare Sullivan Nursery,  
W&M Greenhouse, 15 seats

💰 Cost \$25 (materials)

⚠️ We will supply the wreath forms, wire, wire snips and fresh greens pruned from campus; bring items from home to **personalize your wreath**, 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.

*Read Kristi's and Tony's bios on pp. 36 and 37.*

### NEW! The Safari Experience

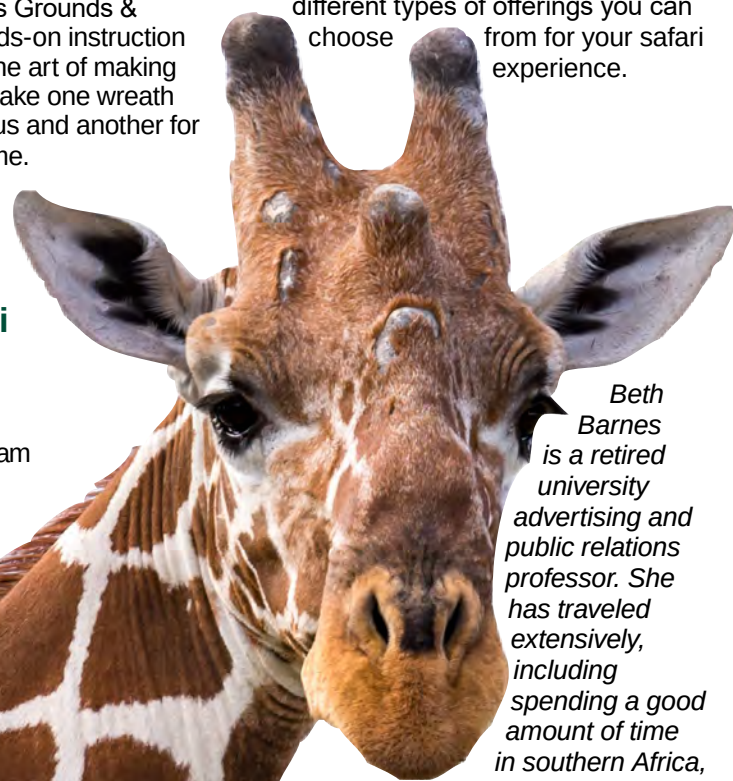
**Beth Barnes**

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Dec 2  
📺 Zoom, 30 seats  
③ We will discuss photo safaris, not hunting safaris.

useful to know what to expect before you make the commitment.

Instructor Beth Barnes has had the great privilege to go on multiple safaris in Botswana, South Africa, and Zambia, in scenarios ranging from day trips out from the capital of Botswana and from Victoria Falls to multiday stays at game lodges in South Africa (Madikwe Game Reserve) and Zambia (Lower Zambezi and South Luangwa National Parks).

Beth will talk you through what a day looks like at a safari lodge, including transportation, accommodation, meals and, of course, game drives. You'll learn how pricing works in terms of what's included and what extras you might add on. We'll also look at some of the different types of offerings you can choose from for your safari experience.



*Beth Barnes is a retired university advertising and public relations professor. She has traveled extensively, including spending a good amount of time in southern Africa, particularly in South*

*Africa and Zambia. A 1980 W&M Mary alumna, she has been on safari numerous times, in Botswana, South Africa and Zambia.*

### NEW! Navigating the National Park System

**David Kroese**

🕒 Friday, 10:00-11:30am  
1 session: Dec 4  
📺 Zoom, 50 seats

③ This hybrid course, hosted by OLLI at USCB, includes members in person and online

This program shares key learnings based on the experience of visiting all 430+ units of America's National Park System. We discuss different types of parks in the system, efficient and cost-effective planning strategies for visiting parks, the range of activities available in the parks for various age groups, and helpful resources for exploring our National Park System.

*David Kroese is one of about 50 people known to have visited all 400+ National Park Service units. He has spent thousands of hours exploring our park system, logging over 1,500 NPS site visits. He is currently working on his next book, Hidden Gems of America's National Park System.*



### EXPANDED! (3 sessions) Breaking Barriers: Growth of Women's Sports in the U.S.

**Karen Thomas, Elizabeth Fones-Wolf**

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am  
3 sessions: Oct 28, Nov 4, 11  
School of Ed, Room 1056, 40 seats

In recent years, women's intercollegiate sports have burst into the public's eye with record attendance and national coverage by sports media. Where did this revolution come from? Why now?

This lecture will briefly look at factors contributing to the evolution of women's intercollegiate sports, including the history of women's college sports from the early 20th century to today's competitions with sold-out stadiums and a national audience. We will explore how changes in legal, financial, and societal sectors facilitated this revolution and highlight college athletes who helped shape this revolution.

*Karen is a certified exercise physiologist with 40 years of experience teaching fitness and exercise techniques and how to modify them for our changing bodies. She has developed exercise programs for all levels of participants.*

*Elizabeth Fones-Wolf earned a Ph.D. in American history from the University of Massachusetts and spent 30 years teaching at West Virginia. She has written three scholarly books and many articles on U.S. social history.*

## CONTRIBUTE TO RESEARCH WHILE LEARNING AI

### NEW! Intergenerational Storytelling with AI: Learn, Create & Connect Across Generations

**Yimeng (Yvonne) Wang**

Friday mornings, 3 sessions:

🕒 Sep 18 9:30-11:30 am  
🕒 Sep 25 8:30-11:30 am  
🕒 Oct 2 8:30am - 12:30 pm  
School of Education, 32 seats

*This 3-session AI course culminates in participation in a National Science Foundation-funded research study. Attendance at all 3 sessions is required. Class start times and durations vary on each class day according to the planned activity: lecture, lab, collaborative study.*

Artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming part of everyday life, influencing how we learn, communicate, create, and share our experiences. This three-session course introduces the concept of AI and explores how these tools can foster creativity, conversation, and storytelling across generations.

In Session 1, participants will learn the basics of AI – what it is, how it works, and how it is being used in education, healthcare, business, and the arts. Session 2 is a hands-on workshop in a William & Mary computer lab, where participants will gain experience using AI tools through guided activities designed for beginners.

Session 3 launches the course's central activity: participation in a W&M research study on AI-supported intergenerational storytelling. Participants will be paired with a younger adult partner

and introduced to a storytelling platform designed to help people share memories, experiences, and perspectives across generations. During this session, participants will meet their project partners, learn how to use the platform, and together create a "practice" story. Teams are encouraged to use the tool to create additional stories once the course has concluded.

Because the course is designed to prepare participants for and launch the research study, attendance at all

three sessions is required. No prior experience with AI is necessary.

*Yimeng (Yvonne) Wang is a Ph.D. student in computer science at William & Mary specializing in human-AI interaction and generative AI systems. Her work focuses on the design of AI*

*tools and understanding their use in real-world contexts, with an emphasis on usability, accessibility, and learning. She has taught generative AI concepts to non-technical audiences and has contributed to educational programs on AI tools and applications.*



*Learn about and practice using AI tool while partnering with a W&M student to create a life story – all while contributing to an NSF-funded research study*



Scan the QR code or visit  
[go.wm.edu/8zJCWt](https://go.wm.edu/8zJCWt)  
to view a draft syllabus



## Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)



### NEW! Celebrating Sundials – Many Ways to Tell Time

**Dan Sherman**

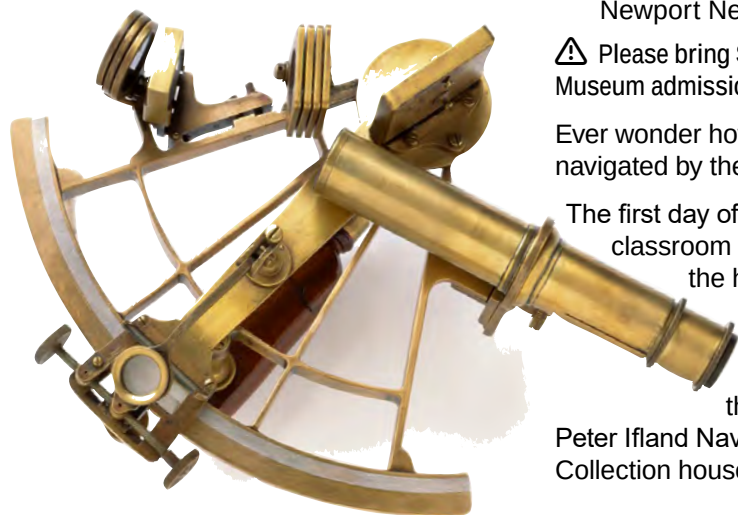
Monday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Sep 14  
Campus Center, Room 159  
40 seats

⚠️ Participants will create rudimentary sundials from materials we supply; please bring a marker (e.g., Sharpie®) from home

Long before clocks or watches, sundials have been telling time. They go back at least 3,500 years, and take many different forms, with Rome's great Pantheon being an extraordinary example.

This class will explain basic principles of how all sundials work, incorporating astronomy with some basic trigonometry to appreciate many different forms sundials take.

Dan Sherman is a retired economist who earned his doctorate from Cornell. Dan has given talks and classes to many groups in Washington, DC, and here at William & Mary on musical theatre, opera, film, and film music, and even mathematics. His Hamilton talk is among his most popular, and he last presented it for Osher at W&M in 2020.



### NEW! Taste as Experience: Why We Like What We Like

**Whitney Matthews**

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm  
4 sessions: Sep 14, 21, 28, Oct 5  
Zoom, 40 seats

Why do certain foods instantly transport us to another time or place? Why do we love some flavors and reject others? In this course, we'll explore taste as more than just what's on the plate examining how memory, culture, psychology, and environment shape the way we experience food. Through guided discussions and optional tastings, participants will gain a deeper understanding of flavor and leave with a new appreciation for the foods they enjoy every day.

Whitney Matthews is a Culinary Institute of America trained chef with a passion for flavor, storytelling, and food culture. Her experience spans professional kitchens and entrepreneurship, where she has explored the connection between taste, memory, and place. She brings a thoughtful, engaging perspective to food, emphasizing how we experience what we eat beyond the plate.



### NEW! Navigating by the Stars

**Mike Collier**

Monday, 9:30-11:30am  
2 sessions:  
Sep 21 – School of Ed, Room 2010  
Sep 28 – Mariners' Museum, Newport News, Lobby, 32 seats

⚠️ Please bring \$1 with you on Sep 28 for Museum admission

Ever wonder how ancient mariners navigated by the stars?

The first day of this course (in the classroom at W&M) surveys the history and current procedures of celestial navigation. The second day introduces the students to the Peter Ifland Navigational Instrument Collection housed in the Mariners'



Remember Mikey? Chef Whitney Matthews will help us understand why he hated everything but his cereal – and give us insight into our own taste preferences.

Museum in Newport News. The Ifland Collection has 200+ instruments dating from the 1650s to the 20th century.

Michael Collier, Ph.D. is a retired U.S. Coast Guard officer with a second career in academia. He retired as an associate professor of homeland security from Eastern Kentucky University. He has written extensively on critical thinking.

### NEW! Winds & Waves: An Introduction to Weather of the Marine Environment

③ OLLI at University of South Carolina Beaufort will join us for this class

**Gerald Mulvey**

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am  
3 sessions: Oct 6, 13, 20  
Zoom, 50 seats

The world's oceans cover about 70% of the globe's surface. These watery masses, rising from depths of over 35,000 feet, provide us with food, raw materials, recreation, transportation paths, and more. They store atmospheric gases and heat, are a source of energy, and impact the weather both over the ocean and on land – and thus our daily lives.

This course explores the weather over the seas and the waves in it. We will cover meteorological phenomena from the usual pressure: wind, temperature, clouds and fog, waves and sea ice; to the extraordinary: severe weather, rouge waves, ocean holes, icebergs, and tsunamis, both along coastal areas and over the deep ocean. We will also explore weather maps and onboard forecasting.

Gerry Mulvey received his Ph. D. (Atmospheric Science) from Colorado State University. He has worked for over 40 years in aerospace, high tech, and academia, and is a Certified Consulting Meteorologist. He is a member of the American Meteorological Society (Emeritus Member and Fellow), Texas Academy of Science (Board of Directors), and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



### NEW! Fiber Optics, Lasers & LEDs

**Mike Finlan**

Monday, 9:30-11:30am  
2 sessions: Oct 12, 19  
School of Education, Room 2030  
30 seats

Fiber optics and lasers have changed the field of communications. This class will describe optical fibers and their manufacture and why they require lasers and/or light-emitting diodes (LEDs) to operate effectively.

We will also explore the origins and requirements of lasers and investigate how they are different from LEDs. The motivation will emphasize the desire for higher data rates and the need for transmission across longer distances, and why this favors certain types of lasers over LEDs.

Michael Finlan holds a Ph.D. in chemical physics from Johns Hopkins University, 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, GE, GM, and Lucent working in lasers, fiber optics, spectroscopy, infrared imaging, and solar energy conversion on satellites. He was also an adjunct professor at

Villanova University, where he taught graduate courses in laser engineering and optics.



### NEW! The Little Ice Age and the Founding of the American Republic

**Gerald Mulvey**

Monday, 9:30-11:30am  
3 sessions: Oct 26, Nov 2, 9  
Zoom, 50 seats

The Little Ice Age was a period from early 14th century through the mid-19th century. To understand what the weather was like during this period, we rely on indirect or proxy data such as ice cores, lake sediments and tree



The March to Valley Forge – December 19, 1777 by William B.T. Trego (1858-1909). Historical records indicate temperatures during Washington's winter encampment at Valley Forge in 1777-1778 were relatively mild, alternating between freezing (6-12°F) and thawing and above (32°F+). The fluctuating conditions created a grueling cycle of deep snow, icy winds, cold rain, melted snow, and foul, sticky mud that devastated the poorly equipped Continental Army. The year before and the year after were more severe.

rings because there were very few weather observations and records during this period.

This Little Ice Age did not exhibit itself in the same manner across the globe. In fact, some areas did not show any changes, and those that did, were not seeing the same type of change at the same time. This course will focus on North America which saw a colder drier weather with droughts lasting over several years.

With this background, we will explore the impact of the weather on the colonization of North America by the

Europeans, the American Revolution (1750-1799) and the early years of the American Republic.

We will examine, in this context, the:

- Disappearance of the Roanoke settlement (1587-1590)
- "Starving Times" in Jamestown, (1607-1610)
- Battle of Trenton (1776-1777)
- Winters at Valley Forge (1777-1778)
- Surrender at Yorktown (1781)
- War of 1812 (1812-1815)
- Other historical events and storms along the eastern seaboard of North America during this period.

Read Gerry's bio on the prior page.



### NEW! Overview of Clinical Research: Pathway to Discovery

**Peg Becker**

Monday, 9:30-11:30am  
3 sessions: Oct 26, Nov 2, 9  
School of Education, Room 2010  
32 seats

There are many clinical studies going on every day. What is involved running a clinical trial? How are they set up? What is the responsibility of the Sponsor? What is the responsibility of the Investigator site? What is



Good Clinical Practice? How is the data collected? What is the role of statisticians? This course will provide answers to these questions as well as additional information about clinical trials. We will also review a few clinical trials where Peg was data manager.

Read Peg's bio on p. 7.

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

 Monday, 5:00-7:00pm  
3 sessions: Oct 29, Nov 2, 9  
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, including planets, multiple star systems, nebulae, and galaxies.

*Brad Perry is a retired NASA engineer who completed graduate work in astronomy at 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 23 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.*

**NEW! The Amazing Human Body Takes a Walk**

**Wendy LeBolt**

Friday, 9:30-11:30am  
3 sessions: Oct 30, Nov 6, 13  
School of Ed, Room 1056  
40 seats

When you go for a walk, do you ever wonder how this happens? In this class, we will! Join us as we ask: How does our brain instruct our body? How do our muscles move us? How do we keep our balance and/or why do we stroll?

*Wendy LeBolt, Ph.D., is a kinesiologist and health educator who has spent most of her professional career working with young athletes. Most recently, she taught kinesiology at William & Mary, her alma mater. Wendy is author of Fit 2 Finish: Keeping Your Soccer Players in the Game and Made to Move: Knowing and Loving God Through Our Bodies. She is currently working on her third book. She and her husband Scot split their time between Williamsburg and Sarasota, FL.*

 **EXPANDED! (4 sessions)**  
**The History of Mapmaking (Cartography)**

**Steve Beck, Aaron Lovejoy**

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm  
4 sessions: Oct 30, Nov 6, 13, 20  
School of Education, Room 2060  
40 seats

Updated and expanded to four sessions, this class explores the history of mapmaking, which spans from ancient carvings on mammoth tusks (c. 25,000 BCE) to sophisticated satellite-based navigation, with early examples including the Babylonian clay tablets (c. 600 BCE) and Greek scientific advancements like Ptolemy's latitude and longitude systems.

Throughout human history, maps evolved from symbolic representations to accurate geographical depictions, influenced by exploration, trade, surveying tools like the compass and triangulation, and the later introduction of aerial and satellite imagery, culminating in today's accessible digital mapping.

Through this course, the various elements of mapmaking from prehistoric times to the 21st century and beyond will be discussed.

The course will cover the people, places, events, and critical timelines that are parts of the storytelling of maps and cartography.

*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 the digital information.*

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

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

Monday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Nov 9  
 Zoom, 60 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! Improving Your Security in an Online World**

**Keith Parkansky**

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm  
1 session: Nov 12  
School of Education, Room 2060  
30 seats

Our increasing reliance on computers and the Internet necessitates that we educate ourselves on current and emerging online threats. Risks are no longer limited to our financial resources but also threaten our privacy and identity. Unsecured WiFi networks, phishing emails, server breaches, hijacked Web pages, and software bugs are just some of the exploits hackers use to steal our information. As AI progresses, so, too, will the sophistication of cyberattacks – requiring increased vigilance on our part.

We will review current recommendations and best practices to help mitigate risks, whether you're using a Windows, Mac or Linux computer; an iPhone or Android smartphone; and while at home or when traveling.

*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 both Novell and Windows-based networks as well as conventional PBX and IP-based telephony systems.*

**NEW! How to Protect Yourself from Your Computer**

**Marc-Anthony Arena**

Monday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Nov 16  
 Zoom, 100 seats

Frustrated with your computer? Notice how it slows down over time? Wondering why we have to keep buying new devices? It turns out the vast majority of headaches, security issues, tech expenditures, and e-waste are preventable. In this course, Marc-Anthony will demystify and explain the IT industry in plain English – especially the Windows 11 cash grab last October.

- Course topics include:
- Why antivirus software is obsolete
  - Why software becomes more complicated every day
  - The four new threats
  - Avoiding fake WiFi networks
  - How smart TVs watch YOU
  - Why complicated passwords are ineffective
  - How to save money on printing
  - Bulletproofing a PC, and more!

This is the only self-defense class where you won't break a sweat!

**Suggested reading:** *Why Software Sucks* by David Platt

*Marc-Anthony Arena is an honors graduate of both McQuaid Jesuit and Rochester Institute of Technology, and has worked in the computer industry since 2000. His books and podcast*

*explain and expose the industry's scams and scandals, while teaching people – all in plain English – how to protect themselves against the completely preventable heartaches, headaches, frustration and unnecessary expenses caused by this industry.*

**iPhone/iPad: The Basics & Beyond**

**Rick Chase**

Monday, Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm  
6 sessions: Nov 16, 18, 30, Dec 2, 7, 9  
 Zoom, 50 seats

Master the essentials of your iPhone and/or iPad through this engaging, hands-on course. Dive into key topics like iPhone & iPad features, mail, iCloud, Safari web browsing, keyboard functions, iMessage, FaceTime, camera use, photo management, contacts, calendars, notes, apps and the app store, music, entertainment, iBooks, setting up Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, accessories, and troubleshooting. Get ready for an interactive learning experience!

**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.*

**RELATED STEM COURSES**

- The Generative AI Revolution (p. 20)
- What's New in AI? Fall '26 (p. 21)
- Decoding the Data: A Guide to Research-Backed Health Info (p. 28)
- Wearable Health Devices: How Tech is Changing Cardiac Care (p. 31)
- UFOs: Time for Disclosure? (p. 35)
- Participate in a Hands-On AI Course & Research Study: Intergenerational Storytelling (p. 39)
- Prisoners of Geography: How Geography Shapes the Fate of Nations (p. 44)



## World History

### The Story of the USS Houston CA-30/POW Experience

**John Schwarz**

 Tuesday, 9:30-11:00am  
1 session: Sep 15  
School of Education, Room 1056  
40 seats

The USS Houston CA-30, was a U.S. Navy heavy cruiser warship that fought gallantly during the early part of WWII. This presentation will focus on the fate of the warship, including its fierce battle in 1942 leading the ship and 700 servicemen to their heroic end, as well as its POWs' suffering for years following the battle as slave laborers.

It will include a story about our country's "Greatest Generation" and touch on the real experience of 1957's epic war film *The Bridge on the River Kwai*.

Integral to the story is also the aftermath including the formation of a survivor's association that is alive and well to this day.

**Suggested reading:** *Ship of Ghosts* by James D. Hornfischer; *In the Highest Degree Tragic* by Donald M. Kehn Jr.

*John K. Schwarz is the youngest son of USS Houston CA-30 shipmate/survivor Otto C. Schwarz, and of the parents, Otto and Trudy who founded the USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association and Next Generations shortly after the conclusion of WWII. He has been around this ship's story for his lifetime and had many occasions throughout his life to be around many of Otto's fellow surviving shipmates. He is a retired U.S. Postal Service manager and is a certified elementary school Teacher. He has the held the position of Executive Director of the USS Houston (CA-30) Survivors' Association and Next Generations; since 2010. John is thankful for the opportunity to tell this story of Naval bravery.*

### NEW! First Supreme Allied Commander: Marshal Ferdinand Foch

**Joe Johnson**

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

He was born in a small village in a remote part of the country, attended prestigious military schools, and rose through the ranks to become the Supreme Allied Commander of a coalition of millions of soldiers that defeated Germany. No, not General Eisenhower, but his forerunner, Marshal of France, Ferdinand Foch in World War I. This presentation will explore his principles of war; his leadership traits; how he successfully guided the efforts of the commanders-in chief of the armies under his strategic direction; and the international acclaim he achieved following the war.

*Joe Johnson is the former Chief of Staff at the Defense Acquisition University and volunteers as president of the Belvoir Military History Cub and as a docent at the National Museum of the U.S. Army and George Washington's Mount Vernon. 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 Dilemma of Ordinary People in Nazi Germany

**David Wessel**

Friday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Oct 2  
 Zoom, 50 seats  
 OLLI at Drake will join us for this class

This presentation will review how historians characterized the role of

ordinary German citizens as their country slipped into a militaristic dictatorship in the 1920s and 30s. Were they willing collaborators – or victims of a megalomaniac?

David will share the story of his own father, who grew up on both sides of the Atlantic in the 20s and 30s, and how members of his own family chose to deal with the demise of democracy within their homeland. Some chose to leave while others decided to stay, despite their misgivings, and still others endorsed the Nazi Party.

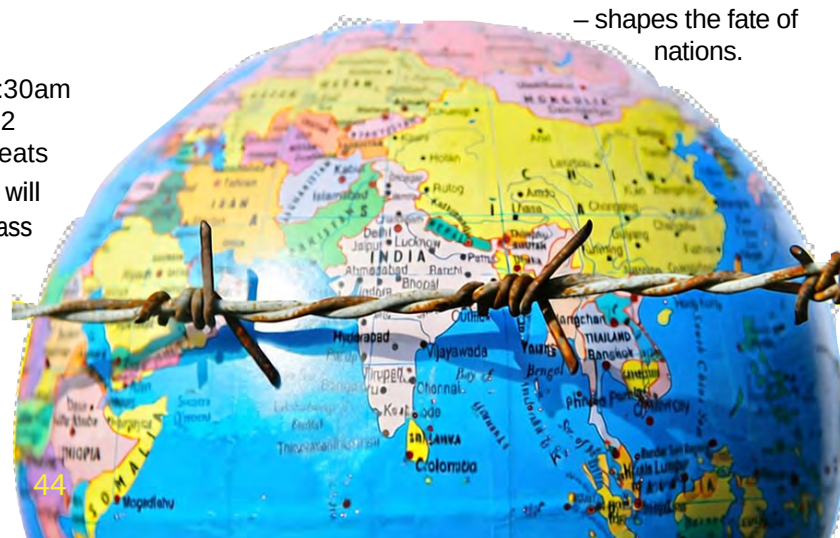
*David K. Wessel is a retired U.S. diplomat and lifelong amateur historian who has studied 20th century Germany for the last 50 years. His first novel, Choosing Sides, about an ordinary family torn apart by Hitler's Germany, was published in 2024; he is currently working on the sequel, Changing Sides, about post-War intelligence operations in Germany and Austria. David is a member of the American Historical Association and National Council for Social Studies as well as the Historical Novel Society and Northern Virginia Writers Club and serves on the Board of Governors for the Virginia Writers Club.*

### NEW! Prisoners of Geography: How Geography Shapes the Fate of Nations

**Steve Beck**

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm  
4 sessions: Oct 5, 12, 19, 26  
Campus Center, Room 159, 40 seats

This course draws from the text *Prisoners of Geography* by Tim Marshall (2015; updated 2025) that describes how geography – mountains, plains, rivers, coastlines, climate, and natural resources – shapes the fate of nations.



Various countries and regions will serve as our case studies:

- Russia, where the North European Plain has contributed to the Russians' desire for a buffer zone of countries
- China and its natural formations that delineate its borders
- The United States, with its splendid isolation between two oceans, excellent river system, and productive agriculture
- Western Europe, where main rivers don't connect and mountain ranges divide regions, resulting in separate nation-states, different languages and a propensity for war
- As well as the Sahara Desert, the Middle East, Pakistan and Indian, North and South Korea, Japan, Latin America, and The Arctic.

Join us for a trip around the globe that will give added dimension to world history and cultures.

*Read Steve's bio on p. 42.*



### NEW! Commanders Who Revolutionized the Warfare of Their Day

**John Rogers**

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am  
3 sessions: Oct 6, 13, 20  
Campus Center, Little Theatre  
110 seats

We will examine the lives and careers of the six of the world's great commanders:

- Philip II (383-336BC) – King of Macedon. Philip created the revolutionary and all powerful Macedonian army
- Diocletian (AD 248-311) – Emperor of Rome. Diocletian dramatically reorganized the Empire, it's government and the Army
- Temujin (c1167-1227) – Genghis Khan of the Mongols. Temujin made the Mongols an effective fighting force
- Gustavus Adolphus (1594-1632) – King of Sweden. An enthusiastic innovator, Gustavus made the Swedish Army the envy of Europe.

He is considered the Father of Modern Warfare

- Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821) – Emperor of France. The giant of military history. Truly the foremost master of the art of war
- Heinz Guderian (1888-1954) – General of the German Army. Guderian is considered the Father of Germany's Panzer (tank) forces and of Blitzkrieg (lightning war).

*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! Beowulf's World: 600 Years of Anglo-Saxon History

**Martin Cox, Anna-Marie Cox**

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am  
6 sessions:  
Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov 4, 11  
Campus Center, Little Theatre, 110 seats

This course will provide an in-depth overview of the Anglo-Saxon world, from its murky origins in the 5th century to its end on a hill near Hastings in 1066.

Not only will we recount the history of the period, we will also explore multiple aspects of the material culture, such as clothing, foods, village structure, laws, the role of women, and the conversion of the pagan Anglo-Saxon kingdoms to Christianity. We also will study the art and literature of the period, including well-known cultural treasures like *Beowulf*, the *Book of Kells*, and the Bayeux Tapestry.

Participants also will have the opportunity to handle period-authentic replicas of objects from early medieval daily life.

*Martin Cox is a former intelligence analyst with the Defense Department who retired in 2022 and returned "home" to Williamsburg, where he grew up and went to college. He is an experienced reenactor and living historian specializing in early medieval history, particularly of the Viking and Anglo-Saxon worlds, together with his wife, Anna-Marie.*



Beowulf

*Anna-Marie is active in living history and enjoys making things with her hands. She teaches basketry and assists teaching medieval history classes with her husband, Martin through the Osher Institute, which has sparked her new interest in medieval painting and art – in fact, she is teaching an embroidery class this Fall (see p. 18) on the stitches used in the Bayeux Tapestry. Her other interests include stained glass and teaching English through Literacy for Life.*

### NEW! The World War II Siege of Budapest – With a Personal Twist

**John Corson**

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am  
2 sessions: Oct 13, 20  
Campus Center, Room 159, 40 seats

This course provides a picture of the history of Hungary and the circumstances that led to a significant military siege near the end of World War II. It covers the significant battles of the siege and its tragic aftermath in this Eastern European country.

**Suggested reading:** *Budapest: Portrait of a City Between East and West* by Victor Sebestyen; *The Siege of Budapest 100 Days in World War II* by Kristian Ungvary



John R. Corson was born in Camden, NJ, and is a retired U.S. Army infantry officer with 28 years of military service. As a civilian, he was vice president of MANDEX, a small professional services defense contractor, as well as a consultant. For 16 years, he also owned JRC Research and Analysis, Inc. a technical professional services company that supported the operational test and evaluation process for military weapons systems. He is a past commander and senior director of the 31st U.S. Infantry Regiment Association and past commander of the Virginia Peninsula Chapter of the U.S. Army Military Officers Association of America.

### Scourge of the Seas: Pirates in History and Today

**Michael Knapp**

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am  
3 sessions: Oct 29, Nov 5, 12  
Campus Center, Little Theatre,  
110 seats

We will explore pirates in early history, then focus on the Golden Age of Piracy (1650-1730 AD), and finally talk about how pirates have changed over the centuries and the threats they still pose to today's maritime commerce. We will also cover women in piracy, government-sponsored pirates and conclude with a discussion of the most successful pirate of all time – it's not who you think!

**Suggested reading:** *Pirates: Terror on the High Seas From the Caribbean to the South China Sea* edited by David Cordingly; *Pirates: Scourge of the Seas* by John Reeve Carpenter

Michael G. Knapp is a retired intelligence analyst who worked as both a civilian and U.S. Army officer for the U.S. government for four decades. He has developed and taught several popular history courses for the Osher programs at UVA since 2012, and at W&M, and University of



Richmond more recently. Michael holds a bachelor's degree in history from Central Michigan University and has pursued graduate studies at UVA and the National Intelligence University.

### "Peace With Honor": Nixon's Vietnam War 1968-1973

**Alan Stark**

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am  
4 sessions: Nov 10, 17, Dec 1, 8  
(no class on Nov 24)  
Campus Center, Room 159, 40 seats

In 1968, presidential candidate Richard Nixon allegedly had developed a secret plan to end U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Upon winning the election, Nixon also promised to "Bring Us Together" as a nation. However, there was no definitive plan to extricate the U.S. from Vietnam and instead of coming together, the American people splintered further apart.

This lecture will cover the waning years of direct American involvement in Vietnam from 1968-1973 as the Nixon administration tried to achieve its stated goal of "Peace With Honor." Major military engagements, the effectiveness of the largest anti-war movement in American history, and

policy decisions such as Vietnamization will be covered.

Some key discussion points: Did candidate Nixon interfere with the peace process during the 1968 election? Did the anti-war movement have an impact on U.S. Vietnam policy? Was Vietnamization a flawed policy? How did the North Vietnamese and U.S. reaction to the blood letting of the

Tet year 1968 affect their respective strategies during the ensuing years? Did the Nixon administration realize its goal of Peace With Honor?

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.

### NEW! The Rise of the Nazis, 1919-1933

**Don Schilling**

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm  
3 sessions: Nov 12, 19, Dec 3  
(no class Nov 26)  
W&M Alumni House, Leadership Hall  
40 seats

This course examines the origins and development of the National Socialist movement in Germany from 1919-1933 to better understand how a racist, authoritarian movement could gain power in one of the most advanced and culturally rich nations in Europe, which was seeking to implement its new democratic order following World War I.

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 forty-one years and has continued to teach in the Osher program since 2013 with a particular focus on the Holocaust and Fascism.

### NEW! The Battle of Okinawa – Typhoon of Steel

**Dennis Litalien**

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Nov 18  
Campus Center, Room 159, 40 seats

As a deadly prelude to an imminent invasion of the Japanese mainland, a combined amphibious force of U.S. Army, Navy and Marine Corps units invaded the island of Okinawa. This is the story of the vicious struggle between the American invaders, Japanese defenders, and the Okinawan civilian populace caught between two enemies seeking to annihilate each other in a bloody conflict lasting 82 days.

Dennis Litalien retired from the U.S. Marines as a chief warrant officer. He lives in Williamsburg with his wife, Renee Hawthorne, and their golden retriever, Olive.

### The China, Burma, India Theater in World War II

**Bill Riffer**

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm  
3 sessions: Nov 18, Dec 2, 9  
Williamsburg Regional  
Library, Theatre, 250 seats

The China, Burma, India Theater (CBI) was widely known as The Forgotten Front. Most folks have some understanding of the Atlantic and European theaters, but few have much understanding of the CBI.



This course will place the CBI in context with the wider Second World War, explaining how the area became a major theater, how it became known as the Forgotten Front, and finally, the importance of the CBI to both the Second World War and post-war world history. We will cover two major wars: the Second Sino-Chinese War and the War for Burma and India.

Bill Riffer has taught military history at Osher for many years. He was a former nuclear submarine commander, and his last Navy assignment was as chief-of-staff for tactics, doctrine, and training for the Atlantic submarine force. He holds degrees in nuclear engineering, national security policy, and international relations.

Above: The CBI shoulder sleeve insignia features the White Sun emblem of the Republic of China and the Star of India on a red, white, and blue shield symbolizing the United States. Designed in 1942 by Colonel Frank Dorn, the patch identified U.S. Army personnel serving in the grueling – and often forgotten – China-Burma-India Theater of World War II. Curiously, Burma is absent from the design. Dorn later joked that the country's emblem was a peacock and following Burma's early capture by Japanese forces, "We lost the lousy place anyway."

### NEW! Mapping Early Modern London

**Paula Henderson**

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am  
1 session: Dec 10  
Campus Center, Little Theatre  
110 seats

One of the earliest maps that shows London is Matthew Paris' map of 1252, charting the pilgrims' route from London to the Holy Land. London is represented by views of the Tower, the Thames, St Paul's and other key features.

Maps remained largely pictographic until the middle of the 17th century and provided detailed records of London life in the early modern period. They are useful to architectural, garden and social historians because they include buildings, gardens and sometimes even people engaged in daily activities. As cartographers became more sophisticated, especially following the Great Fire of 1666, they adopted the ichnographic (linear) form of map, which is the type of map that we are familiar with today. While far more accurate, these later maps are actually much less useful to historians.

This lecture will consider the development of London mapmaking from Matthew Paris to the late 17th century and focus on the careers of the most impressive and innovative cartographers of the period, particularly Ralph Agas, John Norden and Wenceslaus Hollar, whose maps were not only skilfully executed but also beautiful works of art.

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 U.K.

## 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, veteran Osher at W&M Instructor and former Curriculum Committee Chair & Subject Area Coordinator



## Zoom Class Policy & Procedures

### 1. Full ID Required

Osher at W&M Zoom participants must identify themselves (their device) with a first and last name. This is the digital equivalent of wearing your Osher name badge 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 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.

# ZOOM IN TO LEARNING

## Online Courses for Fall 2026

| Course                                                                             | # | Day    | Time        | Dates                             | Instructor       | Pg |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------|-------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|----|
| <b>NEW!</b> Unexpected Challenges the Founders Failed to Predict                   | 5 | F      | 9:30-11:30a | Sep 18, 25, Oct 2, 9, 16          | Staton-Reinstein | 7  |
| <b>NEW!</b> Written in the Bricks: The Story of Fort Pulaski                       | 1 | F      | 1-2:30p     | Sep 25                            | Rowe             | 8  |
| <b>NEW!</b> Saratoga and the Wars in the North                                     | 4 | Th     | 10a-12p     | Oct 8, 15, 22, 29                 | Beasom           | 8  |
| <b>NEW!</b> Benedict Arnold: America's First Turncoat                              | 1 | F      | 9:30-11:30a | Oct 23                            | Staton-Reinstein | 9  |
| <b>NEW!</b> The Trial of the Century: The Scopes Monkey Trial of 1925              | 3 | Th & F | 1-2:30p     | Th - Oct 29 & Nov 5<br>F - Nov 13 | Smith B          | 10 |
| <b>NEW!</b> Americana at its Best: Bluegrass Music                                 | 1 | W      | 3-4:30p     | Sep 30                            | Tompkins         | 16 |
| <b>NEW!</b> When Our Music Ruled the World: Road to Woodstock                      | 1 | M      | 1-2:30p     | Nov 2                             | Shipman          | 17 |
| <b>NEW!</b> Sight Unseen: Art, Design, and Modern-Era Camouflage                   | 3 | Th     | 11a-12:30p  | Nov 5, 12, 19                     | Behrens          | 17 |
| <b>NEW!</b> Post-WWI Architecture in Germany & Russia                              | 1 | F      | 1-3p        | Nov 6                             | Larson           | 18 |
| <b>NEW!</b> Pundits, Polls & Politics! The 2026 Mid-Term Elections                 | 1 | F      | 2:30-4p     | Oct 30                            | Stowell          | 20 |
| Understanding Today's Economic Trends & Issues                                     | 3 | Th     | 1:30-3:30p  | Sep 17, 24, Oct 1                 | Gaske            | 22 |
| <b>NEW!</b> Medicare 2027: Know Your ABCDs Before Open Enrollment Begins on Oct 15 | 1 | Th     | 3-5p        | Oct 8                             | Bernstein        | 29 |
| <b>NEW!</b> Role of End-of-Life Doulas in the Community                            | 1 | W      | 9:30-11:30a | Oct 14                            | Scheer           | 30 |
| Keys to Preventing Dementia: Help and Hope as We Age                               | 3 | F      | 1:30-3p     | Nov 20, Dec 4, Dec 11             | Quinlisk         | 31 |
| <b>NEW!</b> Shaping Truth: Turning Life into Story                                 | 2 | Th     | 3-4:30p     | Nov 12, 19                        | Malden           | 33 |
| <b>NEW!</b> Ireland and the Literature of Place                                    | 2 | F      | 3-4:30p     | Nov 13, 20                        | Owens            | 33 |
| <b>NEW!</b> Superstition: Spiritual Technologies in an Uncertain World             | 4 | M      | 9:30-11:30a | Sep 14, 21, 28, Oct 5             | Inge-bretsen     | 35 |
| <b>NEW!</b> What Happened to the 12 Apostles of Jesus?                             | 3 | Tu     | 2:30-4:30p  | Dec 1, 8, 15                      | Dalby            | 35 |
| <b>UPDATED!</b> UFOs/UAPs: Is It Time for Disclosure?                              | 6 | W      | 1:30-3:30p  | Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 21     | Hickok           | 35 |

## Zoom Courses for Fall 2026

– continued from prior page

| Course                                                                          | # | Day  | Time        | Dates                       | Instructor | Pg |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|------|-------------|-----------------------------|------------|----|
| <b>NEW!</b> The Safari Experience                                               | 1 | W    | 9:30-11:30a | Dec 2                       | Barnes     | 38 |
| <b>NEW!</b> Navigating the National Park System                                 | 1 | F    | 10-11:30a   | Dec 4                       | Kroese     | 38 |
| <b>NEW!</b> Taste as Experience: Why We Like What We Like                       | 4 | M    | 1:30-3:30p  | Sep 14, 21, 28, Oct 5       | Matthews   | 40 |
| <b>NEW!</b> Winds & Waves: An Introduction to Weather of the Marine Environment | 3 | Tu   | 9:30-11:30a | Oct 6, 13, 20               | Mulvey     | 40 |
| <b>NEW!</b> The Little Ice Age and the Founding of the American Republic        | 3 | M    | 9:30-11:30a | Oct 26, Nov 2, 9            | Mulvey     | 41 |
| Introduction to Self-Driving Cars                                               | 1 | M    | 9:30-11:30a | Nov 9                       | Huff       | 43 |
| <b>NEW!</b> How to Protect Yourself from Your Computer                          | 1 | M    | 9:30-11:30a | Nov 16                      | Arena      | 43 |
| <b>NEW!</b> iPhone/iPad: The Basics & Beyond                                    | 6 | M, W | 1:30-3:30p  | Nov 16, 18, 30, Dec 2, 7, 9 | Chase      | 43 |
| <b>NEW!</b> The Dilemma of Ordinary People in Nazi Germany                      | 1 | F    | 9:30-11:30a | Oct 2                       | Wessel     | 45 |

# SCHOLARSHIPS

## Available for Spring 2027

Interested in the program but can't manage the membership fee? We may be able to help.

A limited number of scholarships are available for the Spring 2027 semester. To qualify, you must be age 50 or older and have an annual household adjusted gross income of \$50,000 or less.

Scholarships are funded by a grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation, and cover the \$175 of the \$200 registration fee.

The member is responsible for the remaining \$25, plus – if needed – the cost of an Osher parking permit (\$17, valid August 2026 through August 2027), and any additional course fees (where applicable) for art supplies, transportation, or event charges.

The scholarship allows you to enroll in up to 16 courses; with no more than 8 being multi-session.

Spring 2027 scholarship applications are accepted October 1-November 30, 2026. Successful recipients will be notified by email by December 15.

[Apply](#) online at [learnatosher.wm.edu](#) starting in October. The Spring 2027 semester runs from February 1 to mid-May.



## HOW TO REGISTER ONLINE

**Early registration: Aug 14-25**  
**Open enrollment begins Sep 4**

- 1 Go to [LearnAtOsher.wm.edu](#).
- 2 Sign In or Create a Account.
- 3 Click Register (Home page, 'Fall 2026').
- 4 Add a Membership to your cart **FIRST** (but don't check out yet).
- 5 Click Return to Home.
- 6 Search for a class you want to request a seat in (under 'Fall 2026'), and add it to your cart.
- 7 Continue to Search and Add to Cart. Choose up to 16 classes with a max of 8 multi-session courses.
- 8 When finished choosing courses, proceed to checkout and pay.  
  
You will have a chance to review your class requests before paying by credit card.
- 9 Check your email for confirmation of your order and a separate receipt for credit card payment.

- 10 **IMPORTANT:** The **early registration lottery** requires that you rank your course selections.  
For oversubscribed classes, the "lottery," i.e., an algorithm, assigns seats according to all members' priority rankings  
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; etc. Click Save.  
When ranking choices, do not differentiate between multi-session and single-session classes  
You'll automatically be placed on a wait list for overenrolled classes that you requested. Early registration ends at 5 pm (ET) on Aug. 25

Open Enrollment starts on Sep. 4, when remaining available seats are offered first come, first served; i.e., priority ranking not applicable



# Goodbye home maintenance, hello pickleball.



In our vibrant Life Plan Community, we happily handle the everyday tasks so you can spend your days knocking items off your bucket list — instead of your to-do list. With more choices and fewer chores, you can focus on becoming a pickleball pro, getting hands-on in your very own vegetable garden, or painting your next masterpiece — all with a lifetime guarantee of care.

After all, fun is never far from home when you live at Williamsburg Landing!



800-554-5517  
WilliamsburgLanding.org

Independent Living | Assisted Living & Memory Support  
Short & Long-Term Care | Adult Day\*



Among 15% of accredited  
Life Plan Communities in the U.S.A.

\*Service available to the Greater Williamsburg area.



## Membership Registration Fall 2026 | September 14 – December 15

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 live in: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of neighborhood/community: e.g., Ford's Colony, New Town, etc.) (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 Request(s)

- Request a **max of SIXTEEN (16) courses total**, with no more than **EIGHT (8) being multi-session**.
- 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 session and multi-session; rank all of your choices as a whole.
- Forms & payment due by **5pm on Aug 25 (Aug 21 if mailing)**. If you miss early registration, open enrollment starts on Sep 4.

| 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)
- ☐ 2026-27 Parking Permit Form \*applications are processed through the Osher office ONLY if you apply and pay during early registration. After early reg ends – but NOT before Friday, Sep 11 – take the parking permit form and \$17 to W&M Parking Services, located in Campus Center, 104 Jamestown Road. NOTE: Parking Services will NOT issue Osher permits prior to Sep 11.

- ☐ Check payable to **William & Mary** to include:
- ☐ \$200 Fall Membership Fee (or \$25 if Fall 2026 Scholarship Recipient)
- ☐ \$17 Osher FY26-27 Parking Permit, if needed (early registrants only\*)
- Note: Additional course fees for materials, transportation etc. will be billed later.
- ☐ 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 Lifelong Learning Institute at William & Mary  
Participation Agreement  
Academic Year 2026-2027

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 2026-2027 academic year (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027). By signing below, I agree to abide by the policies, procedures, and protocols of Osher at W&M as provided in: (1) this document and (2) the current semester Course Catalog, including the refund policy stated therein related to membership fees, supplemental course fees, and/or event fee(s), 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  
2026-2027 PARKING REGISTRATION

Parking & Transportation Services Office W&M Campus Center, 104 Jamestown Road 757-221-4764



A new academic year (2026-27) parking permit is in effect!

You will need an Osher parking permit  
if you have classes at the School of Education

OR if you intend to use ADA (handicapped) credentials to park on campus

Visit [LearnAtOsher.wm.edu](http://LearnAtOsher.wm.edu) for locations, addresses & parking options.

Buy an Osher Parking Permit

☐ \$17 – Osher Parking Hang Tag  
Valid for the full 2026-27 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\*
- Kaplan Arena (unless restricted for an event – obey all signage)

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  
(Customer #)

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)

Vehicle 2 (ALL INFO BELOW IS REQUIRED)

License Plate # ST

License Plate # ST

Make

Make

Model

Model

Color Year

Color Year

☐ Sedan ☐ Coupe ☐ SUV ☐ Truck ☐ Van ☐ Other

☐ 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](http://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



# CLASS LOCATIONS & PARKING

FALL 2026

| ON CAMPUS – CLASS LOCATIONS                                                                                                        |                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Location                                                                                                                           | Parking Options                                                                             | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <a href="#">Alumni House</a><br>500 Richmond Rd<br><br>Applies to all Osher classes at Alumni House class dates this semester      | <b>1. Complimentary</b><br><br><b>2. Handicapped</b><br><br><b>3. Park On Your Own</b>      | Complimentary one-day parking tag for any Faculty/Staff space. This special permit will be handed to class participants ONLY on class day as you arrive for class (no advance requests) and is ONLY available to class participants who enter the campus at the Richmond Road & Scotland Street entrance<br><br>State-issued ADA placard/plate PLUS 26-27 Osher parking hang tag allows parking in any handicapped or Faculty/Staff space on campus<br><br>Paid City/CW parking using <a href="#">Passport</a> app OR off-campus street parking where allowed                                                               |
| <a href="#">Anne Klare Sullivan Nursery &amp; Greenhouse</a><br><br>807 S Henry St.                                                | <b>1. 26-27 Osher Permit</b><br><br><b>2. Handicapped</b>                                   | The Nursery/Greenhouse Complex is accessible via the driveway to the McCormack-Nagelsen Tennis Center at 807 S Henry Street (just south of the W&M Law School). Parking is available near the Greenhouse; follow the main Tennis Center drive beyond and behind (south) of the large green Tennis Center building<br><br>Park in the same location as described above for the for the 26-27 Osher permit (#1), which is the close to the greenhouse. Wear sturdy shoes; the path from the parking lot to the greenhouse is unpaved gravel                                                                                   |
| <a href="#">Campus Center</a><br>104 Jamestown Rd (formerly Trinkle Hall)<br><br><a href="#">Tucker Hall</a><br>350 James Blair Dr | <b>1. 26-27 Osher Permit</b><br><br><b>2. Handicapped</b><br><br><b>3. Park On Your Own</b> | N/A; there is no Osher class parking in Hunt Circle or the Facility/Maintenance Lot EXCEPT for Handicapped parking (see #2 next) or when visiting the Osher Office (see 'On Campus Office' at the bottom of this page)<br><br>State-issued ADA placard/plate PLUS 26-27 Osher parking hang tag allows parking in any handicapped or Faculty/Staff space on campus<br><br>Paid parking in Colonial Williamsburg P2, P4, P5, P6 lots & Prince George Garage using the <a href="#">Passport</a> app. Free parking may be available on City streets where allowed, along Richmond Road, or at the Williamsburg Regional Library |
| <a href="#">School of Education</a><br>301 Monticello Ave                                                                          | <b>1. 26-27 Osher Permit</b><br><b>2. Handicapped</b>                                       | Convenient parking at the School of Education in Student Lots 1, 2, 4, 5<br><br>State-issued ADA placard/plate PLUS 26-27 Osher parking hang tag allows parking in any handicapped or Faculty/Staff space on campus                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <a href="#">Swem Library</a><br>400 Landrum Dr                                                                                     | <b>1. 26-27 Osher Permit</b><br><b>2. Handicapped</b><br><br><b>3. Park On Your Own</b>     | N/A. No Osher class parking at Swem; no free parking in Ukrop Parking Deck<br><br>State-issued ADA placard/plate PLUS 26-27 Osher parking hang tag allows parking in any handicapped or Faculty/Staff space on campus<br><br>Paid parking in <a href="#">Swem Passport spaces</a> and at the Ukrop <a href="#">Parking Deck</a> (also <a href="#">Passport</a> )                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

| OFF CAMPUS – CLASS LOCATIONS                                              |                                                            |                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Location                                                                  | Address                                                    | Parking Availability                                                                                                        |
| <a href="#">Colonial Williamsburg</a> and/or local parks and nature areas | Instructor will announce meet-up site and address by email | Availability/cost depends on location; some local parks may have free parking; CW lots use the <a href="#">Passport</a> app |
| <a href="#">Mariners Museum</a>                                           | 100 Museum Drive (Newport News)                            | Museum admission is \$1. Parking is free and conveniently located across from the Museum entrance.                          |
| <a href="#">Williamsburg Landing</a>                                      | 5700 Williamsburg Landing Dr (Williamsburg)                | Free surface lot parking                                                                                                    |
| <a href="#">Williamsburg Regional Library</a>                             | 515 Scotland St (Downtown Williamsburg)                    | Free surface lot & street parking; may be full at peak times; paid public parking nearby in City garage                     |

| ON CAMPUS OFFICE: OSHER INSTITUTE AT WILLIAM & MARY                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Location                                                                                                       | Parking Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <a href="#">Osher Office</a><br><a href="#">Campus Center</a><br>104 Jamestown Rd<br><br>Suite 203 (2nd Floor) | <b>Visitors to the:</b> We've moved to Campus Center, Ste 203. When visiting us, you may park in one of the Hunt spaces marked "1-Hour." The small Hunt Circle lot is located off of S Boundary Street at the rear entrance to Campus Center. Obey all signage; this lot is routinely checked for compliance.<br><b>Osher Office:</b> Be sure to ask the Osher staff for a printed and dated validation stamp to present to Parking Services should you be ticketed while visiting the office and parked in a Hunt Lot 1-hour space.<br><br>Office hours are 10am-3pm. However, the team is often out of the office setting up classes & may not be immediately available by phone or in person. <b>Email to <a href="mailto:osher@wm.edu">osher@wm.edu</a> will usually elicit quicker response</b> , as we are unable to listen to voicemail messages until we return to the office |

# GOOD TO KNOW (aka The Rules)

## Policies & Procedures – Fall 2026

Important! When you sign or consent online to the Participation Agreement (p. 52), you are also agreeing to the policies stated here and for Zoom on p. 48.

### Membership & Attendance

You must be an Osher Institute at W&M member to register for and attend courses, events, and special interest groups. 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. You may enroll in 16 courses total, with no more than 8 being multi-session. For classes with an added cost for materials or supplies, payment is due when you are confirmed with a seat in the class (i.e., after the early registration lottery) to hold your seat.

### Early Registration

Early registration runs Aug. 14 at 8am through Aug. 25 at 5pm. Early registrants are included in the lottery for the most popular courses and are automatically wait-listed for classes they requested but were not assigned a seat. Class schedules are emailed to early registrants by Sep. 1.

### Open Enrollment

If you missed early registration, don't worry! Enrollment reopens on Sep. 4 at 8am, and you can enroll immediately in classes with available seats. Early registrants may also add classes to fill out their schedule. The 16-course load limit (maximum of 8 multi-session courses) still applies.

### We've Moved to Campus

If you mail or drop off your registration form(s) and payment, they must be in our hands in **Campus Center, Suite 203, by 5pm on Aug. 21 to qualify for the lottery**. This allows time for manual order entry by the lottery deadline on Aug. 25. There are no exceptions for registrations lost/delayed in the mail or otherwise received late.

### 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 are due and payable at the time your seat in the class is confirmed.

### Refunds

You may request a refund of your membership through 9am on Sep. 14 to [osher@wm.edu](mailto: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, special interest groups, featured lectures, etc. are nonrefundable.

### Dropping a Class

To drop a class, notify us ASAP at [osher@wm.edu](mailto:osher@wm.edu) so we may offer the seat to the next 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 person. Thank you for replying promptly with "accept" or "decline." Please be respectful of our program, your peers, and instructors. Do not attend a course for which you are waitlisted or not enrolled in anticipation that you can take 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

See p. 54; [visit our website](#) for a campus map.

### 2026-27 Parking Permits

A W&M 2026-27 permit is needed to park for classes at School of Education and other select locations. The permit is valid August 2026 through August 2027. Cost is \$17. If you purchased a permit for any semester last year, it is no longer valid.

During early registration, you may apply online for a permit at [learnatosher.wm.edu](http://learnatosher.wm.edu) to pickup **at our office** starting on September 11. Permits purchased during early registration **MUST** be picked up at our office. DO NOT go to Parking Services.

If you wait to buy a permit, your first chance to do so is Sep. 11. Take the completed form (p. 53) to Parking Services, 104 Jamestown Rd. (Campus Center). Parking Services will not issue Osher parking permits before Sep.11.

### Member Parking on Campus

See p. 54 for information about class locations and campus parking options. If you have ADA credentials, an Osher hang tag plus a handicapped tag is required to park anywhere on campus.

If you are visiting the Osher office in Campus Center, you may park in a marked 1-hour space in the small Hunt Circle lot (at the rear entrance to Campus Center). Ask stff for a dated validation stamp to present to Parking Services should you be ticketed.

### Instructor Parking on Campus

The Osher Institute at W&M will pay for a Fall 2026 Instructor's parking permit upon request. Email us for instructions.

### 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 may attend once a term, for a single class on a single date, if the course is not fully subscribed. You must accompany the guest. Call (757) 221-1506 or email [osher@wm.edu](mailto:osher@wm.edu) to request a guest.





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## Fall 2026 at OLLI at W&M

|              |                                          |
|--------------|------------------------------------------|
| Aug 1        | Catalog available                        |
| Aug 14-25    | Early registration                       |
| Sep 1        | Class schedules emailed                  |
| Sep 4        | Open enrollment begins                   |
| Sep 7        | Labor Day                                |
| Sep 14       | First day of Fall classes                |
| Oct 1-Nov 30 | Scholarship applications accepted online |
| Nov 3        | Election Day (no classes)                |
| Nov 23-27    | Thanksgiving Break (no classes)          |
| Dec 15       | Last day of classes                      |

## Fees & Registration

Membership in the Osher Institute at W&M is fee based per semester. Fall membership is \$200, allowing you to enroll in up to 16 courses with a maximum of eight courses being multi-session.

Early registration opens August 14 at 8am and closes August 25 at 5pm. Early registrants participate in a lottery for the most popular courses; if a course they request is fully subscribed, they are automatically waitlisted. If a seat opens once the semester is underway, the next member on the wait list is offered the seat. See p. 55 for more information.

Open enrollment starts September 4, when classes with remaining seats are available first come, first served, observing our 16 course load policy.



Photo by Sophy Feng, W&M

Still waters and glorious colors – join us for a vibrant Fall at the Osher Institute at W&M

## About the Osher Lifelong Learning 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.

Our program's hallmarks are a quality curriculum, extraordinary instructors, and a vibrant membership. Courses are offered through semester-based membership, with three semesters each year.

A department of William & Mary's School of Education, the program was founded in 1991 as the Christopher Wren Association and designated an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in 2018. Today, we are one of 124 Osher Institutes located at select universities across the United States.

Visit [LearnAtOsher.wm.edu](https://LearnAtOsher.wm.edu) to view or request a course catalog, register for courses, learn about becoming an instructor, support our mission with a gift, volunteer your time and talent, and so much more.



Scan to register online at [LearnAtOsher.wm.edu](https://LearnAtOsher.wm.edu)

**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at William & Mary**

P.O. Box 8795 Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795

**We've Moved!** Campus Center 104 Jamestown Road Suite 203

[LearnAtOsher.wm.edu](https://LearnAtOsher.wm.edu)

(757) 221-1506

[osher@wm.edu](mailto:osher@wm.edu)