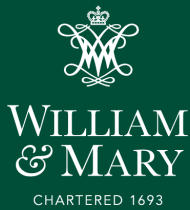


OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE



In continuing celebration
of Revolutionary Ideas (see p. 4)

Spring 2026

COURSE CATALOG

WELCOME TO OSHER AT W&M

Policies & Procedures – Spring 2026

Important! When you sign or consent online to the Participation Agreement (p. 50), you are also agreeing to the policies stated here and the Zoom policies on p. 47.

Membership & Attendance

You must be an Osher Institute at W&M member to register for and attend courses and events. (Exception: Featured Alumni Lectures; p. 16, 26.) 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 Spring membership fee is \$200 and is due when you register for classes. Members may enroll in a maximum of 16 courses total, with no more than 8 being multi-session classes.

Two classes require an additional fee for art supplies. Payment for the added fee(s) is due when you are confirmed with a seat in the class (i.e., after the early registration lottery is completed.)

Early Registration

Early registration opens on Jan. 6 and closes Jan. 14 at 5pm. Early registrants are included in the lottery for oversubscribed courses and are automatically put on the wait list for classes that they requested but in which they were not assigned a seat. Class schedules are sent to early registrants via email by Jan. 23.

Open Enrollment

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

We've Moved to Campus

If you mail or drop off your registration form and payment, they must be in our hands in Boswell Hall, Room 28 by 5pm on Jan. 12 to qualify for the lottery. This allows time for order entry. There are no exceptions for registrations lost/delayed in the mail or otherwise received after Jan. 12.

Payment

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

Refunds

You may request a refund of your membership fee through 9am on Feb. 2 by email to osher@wm.edu with a reason for the refund. There are no "per class" fees; thus, no "per class" refunds. A \$20 service fee applies to all refunds.

Parking permits, gift certificates, and fees for materials, events, Featured Alumni Lectures, etc. are nonrefundable. We do not reissue gift certificates, coupon codes, or credit certificates.

Dropping a Class

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

Wait List

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

[Visit our website](#) for class locations, campus map, and parking options.

2025-26 Parking Permits

A W&M 2025-26 permit is needed to park for classes at School of Education and other select locations. The permit is valid August 2025 through August 2026. Cost is \$17. If you purchased a permit for Fall 2025, it is still valid.

During Spring early registration, you may apply online for a permit at learnatosher.wm.edu to pickup **at our office in Boswell Hall** starting the week of Jan. 26. Permits purchased during early registration **MUST** be picked up at our office.

If you opt to wait to buy an Osher parking permit, your first opportunity to do so is when open enrollment starts on Jan 26. Take your completed form in person to Parking Services, 104 Jamestown Rd. (Campus Center). Visit our website to print the parking form.

Member Parking on Campus

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

Instructor Parking on Campus

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

Inclement Weather

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

Guest Requests

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

Spring 2026 course information is accurate as of December 2025.

Please refer to the website at LearnAtOsher.wm.edu for changes to the printed catalog.

CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

OFFICE LOCATION

Boswell Hall
100 Ukrop Way, Room 028
Hours: M-F, 10am-4pm









If you have business at the Osher office, limited, 30-minute and ADA parking is available in the Boswell lot (656 Jamestown Rd. across from Burns Ln.) when you display a 2025-26 Osher parking permit; time limits are strictly enforced.

CONTACT

osher@wm.edu (757) 221-1506
LearnAtOsher.wm.edu

Our office hours are 10am-4pm. However, the 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

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

IFC	Policies & Procedures – Spring 2026
7	Local Life & Lore
9	American History
16	American Wisdom Tradition
17	Art, Music & Film
23	Current Affairs & Media
24	Finance & Economics
26	Government & Law
29	Health & Wellness
32	Languages
34	Literature & Writing
35	Religion & Philosophy
37	Science, Technology, Engineering & Math
41	Special Interests
44	World History
46	Free & Amicable Discussion in the Classroom
47	Zoom Courses, Zoom Policy & Procedures
49	Membership Registration Form
50	Participation Agreement
51	How to Register, \$5k Matching Gift Campaign
BC	Osher People; About the Osher Institute



VA250 – Sharing Virginia’s Role in Making America

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

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

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

With more than 2,000 events scheduled across the state in 2026, VA250 aims to showcase the pivotal role of Virginia’s people and places in forging America’s legacy as the land of the free and home of the brave. Learn more at [VA250.org](https://va250.org).



Osher 2026: In Celebration of Revolutionary Ideas

Now that the nation’s semiquincentennial is upon us, we will continue our study of concepts that have made an indelible mark on the world – across the ages.

Here’s how Osher’s 2026 “Revolutionary Ideas” came to be.

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

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

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

When **Mark** shared his vision with Osher Instructor and Curriculum Committee History Coordinator **Karen McPherson**, she was on board. The Osher Team needed only a chat over coffee to know the idea would resonate. Osher Member (and now Curriculum Committee member and subject area coordinator for philosophy and religion) **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.

Within weeks, the workgroup was ready to share the concept with the full complement of Osher Instructors. More than 60 of our Instructors have since embraced the concept, bringing new energy, new ideas, and more than 120 new or

adapted existing courses to our Fall and Spring curricula. Each highlights a “Revolutionary Idea” in the celebratory environment of this commemorative year.

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

“**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 for courses featuring a “Revolutionary Idea” – or make like a Minuteman and check out the list on p. 5.

Revolutionary Ideas – Spring 2026

Local Life & Lore (p. 7-9)

Be Your Own Williamsburg Tour Guide
Colonial Parkway: Road to History
Foundations of Excellence: Hampton University
Historic Geography: Geospatial Technology at the CWF Archaeology Dept.
It Happened Here: Four Episodes in Williamsburg's History
The Bray School in 2026
The Revolutionary Story of "WILLIAMSBURG – The Story of a Patriot"

American History (p. 9-15)

City of Washington: The Origin and History of the Federal City
Forging a New Nation: Pivotal Moments in American History (1783-1803)
How American Lacemakers Supported the Revolution
Peace With Honor Nixon's Vietnam War 1968-1973
Revolutionary Ideas in Thought, Action and Reaction
Revolutionary Ideas or Reactionary Interpretation?
TechnoTapestry: A Boomer's Journey Through Technology & Culture
The 60s Cultural Revolution: From Mary Poppins to Mrs. Robinson
The Birth of the Boomer Generation: 1946-1964
The Revolution Grows Up: From Revolutionary Zeal to a Working Republic
The Unknown Story of the First American Female Codebreaker
Thomas Paine's Common Sense
To Bend the Arc of History Toward Justice
Unknown Extraordinary Women and Their Contributions
Virginia's Road to Revolution: Episodes IV & V: Independence Deferred & Absolved from all Allegiance
What, Then, Was the American Revolutions?

American Wisdom Tradition (p. 16-17)

A Year in the Life of an American Indian

Radical Visions: Ansel Adams and the American Wisdom Tradition
Revolutions of Inwardness: An Introduction to the American Wisdom Tradition
"The Arch Radical of the World": The Revolutionary Emerson

Art, Music & Film (p. 17-22)

40 Years Ago, Musical Chess Was Revolutionary
A Different Take on Revolution – The British Invasion (1963-1973)
A Gentle Introduction to Richard Wagner
A Revolution in Art: The Prehistoric Art of Early Man at Lascaux, France
A Revolutionary Landscape: The 18th-century English Landscape Garden
Art That Transformed Our World
Fanny Mendelssohn: A Trailblazing Composer in the Shadow of Society
Rebels with Applause: Musicals That Revolutionized Broadway
Revolutionary Composers of the 20th Century
Subversive Visions: America on Film, 1949-1957
The Bauhaus and Beyond: Origins & Legacy
Time in a Bottle: Musicals That Capture a Moment in History Part 4

Current Affairs & Media (p. 23-24)

From Printing Press to TikTok: A Media Revolution
Revolutionary Intelligence: How Gen AI is Reshaping Our World

Finance & Economics (p. 24-25)

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

Government & Law (p. 26-27)

Animal Welfare Policy and Public Leadership in Virginia
The U.S. Constitution: Revolutionary or Reactionary?

Health & Wellness (p. 27-32)

Balance, Stumbles & Falls: What You Don't Know Can Kill You

Hearing Loss with Aging: Whys, Wherefores & Options
Loving Kindness: The Ultimate Integral Matrix
Resilience in Despair: The Uses of Humor in the Holocaust
Tai Chi: A Path to Physical and Mental Well-Being
The Transgender Experience: Personal, Societal, Political, Scientific

Literature & Writing (p. 33-35)

Four Revolutionary American Novels of the 20th Century

Religion & Philosophy (p. 35-36)

Informing Cultural and Spiritual Evolution: Emerson's Revolutionary Divinity School Address

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) (p. 37-40)

Solar Cells on Earth and in Space
The Evolution of Military Medicine – Arrows to Nukes
The History of Mapmaking (Cartography)
Top 10 Revolutions in Medicine
Tracing Humanity's Footsteps: From Virginia to the Vézère Valley
Who Were the Solutreans: Our First People?
Window Glass: The Rodney Dangerfield of Archaeological Artifacts

Special Interests (p. 41-43)

Sea Turtles: Nesting Season on Hilton Head Island
The Revolution in U.S. Women's Sports: The Intercollegiate Experience

World History (p. 44-46)

How Britain Came to Lose Its American Colonies
The Intriguing Story Behind Norway's Constitution Day
Powerful Knights: The Catholic Military Orders In & After the Crusades
The Amphibious Navy in the Pacific War – Research and Recollections
The War in the Skies: Europe 1939-1945

WindsorMeade

PINNACLE LIVING

At WindsorMeade, living vibrantly means embracing each day with purpose and connection. Nestled in historic Williamsburg, our senior living community supports your active lifestyle today while offering a full continuum of supportive services for tomorrow.



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WindsorMeade is proud to be credentialed by SAGECare

Local Life & Lore

NEW! Discovering Nature and Wildlife in the Williamsburg Area

Jim Easton

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Feb 3
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

Join local nature photographer and Certified Master Naturalist Jim Easton for a visual journey of wildlife and natural beauty of the Williamsburg area. Drawing on more than two decades of exploring and photographing the region, Jim's will present his collection of striking images captured along trails, parks, and gardens that many participants will recognize and want to visit.

After retiring from a career in business, including a decade at Colonial Williamsburg, Jim chose to dedicate his time to his long-standing passion for photography. In addition, he pursued and earned the title of Certified Master Naturalist. Merging these two interests, Jim spends countless hours capturing the beauty of the natural world through his photography, often exploring the parks, trails, and gardens in the region. A native of the Boston area, Jim has been a lifelong fan of the Red Sox, Patriots, and Celtics. He also volunteers with several local non-profits and enjoys spending time feeding, observing and photographing the birds in his backyard.

The Revolutionary Story of "WILLIAMSBURG – The Story of a Patriot"

Richard McCluney

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions:
Feb 3, 17 Campus Center, Little Theatre
Feb 10 Colonial Williamsburg, Visitors Center Lobby
110 seats

The longest running film in motion picture history, "WILLIAMSBURG – The Story of a Patriot," has introduced tens of millions to Williamsburg's Revolutionary Call for American Independence. Less well known is that "The Patriot" was a technical and aesthetic revolution of and by itself. The product of widescreen and multichannel surround technologies first applied to this 1957 film and the Patriot theaters used these revolutionary engineering and acoustic advancements to transport the audience to another time.

Join us to learn more about the making of the film and its groundbreaking



technical innovations. The class features a viewing of the film at the Visitors' Center. But before and after that session, you will also learn the backstory of the film, its theaters, and take in two other films that told the story of the revolutionary transformation of Colonial Williamsburg itself from restoration to the living history museum that John D. Rockefeller envisioned.

Richard McCluney is the retired Colonial Williamsburg vice president for productions, publications, and learning ventures. Prior career includes producing television news and documentaries as VP, Louisville Productions (syndicated science, medicine, technology news), former director public affairs for WAVY-TV and reporter/producer for WXEX (WRIC) and WAVY. He served an apprenticeship with Colonial Williamsburg's 18th Century Fox film

unit and an internship with CW Press Bureau-Radio/TV during high school and college. He is a 1967 alum of William & Mary and attended grad school at Boston University.

Be Your Own Williamsburg Tour Guide

Rebecca Ritter Kelly

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm
6 sessions: Feb 4, 11, 18, 25, Mar 4, 18
School of Education, Room 1056
40 seats

Learn the information that local guides must know before being licensed in Williamsburg. Starting with the road to the Revolution and Williamsburg's unique place in it, this class will also address a broad spectrum of everyday aspects of society. After completing the class, impress your out-of-town guests when you weave together politics, fashion, militia laws, crime and punishment, religion, and more to create a picture of what life was like in colonial Virginia. Pre-course reading of *The Birth of the Republic*

by Edmund Morgan is required to level-set your knowledge and maximize your classroom experience.

Suggested reading: *Birth of the Republic* by Edmund Morgan

Rebecca Kelly has been a licensed guide in Williamsburg since 1999 and worked before that in museums and archaeology sites throughout the region. She is a graduate of W&M and has master's degrees from Old Dominion and Hampton universities.

NEW! It Happened Here: Four Episodes in Williamsburg's History

Will Molineux

🕒 Thursday, 1:30-2:45 pm
ⓘ Class is 75 min in duration
4 sessions: Feb 5, 12, 19, 26
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

Local resident and historian Will Molineux returns to share four stories from the annals of Williamsburg history: Trains on Duke of Gloucester Street, Letitia Tyler Semple and her obelisks, the yeggmen who robbed the Peninsula Bank in 1900, and the Penniman Boom and WWI.

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



NEW! The Williamsburg Bray School in 2026

Maureen Elgersman Lee, Elizabeth Drembus

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am
2 sessions: Feb 17, 24
Campus Center, Room 159
50 seats

After years of anticipation, 2026 is finally upon us! What role does the story of the Williamsburg Bray School play as we mark 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence? What does it mean as we celebrate 100 years since Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week? How do the stories and meanings of the Williamsburg Bray School (1760-1774) for enslaved and free Black children continue to evolve?

Williamsburg Bray School Lab staff members Maureen Elgersman Lee and Elizabeth Drembus will explore these questions, while sharing updates of the past year.

Maureen Elgersman Lee has served as director of the W&M Bray School Lab since its launch in 2021. An award-winning professor and author of numerous books and articles on the history of African-descended people in the Americas, her most recent publication is The Williamsburg Bray School: A History Through Records, Reflections, and Rediscovery (Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 2024), which she edited with Nicole Brown.

Elizabeth Drembus is the genealogist for the W&M Bray School Lab and the host of the monthly Zoom series, Bray School Stories. Before joining the team

at the Bray School Lab, she was a genealogist with the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and a member of the research team for the Virginia Theological Seminary's Reparations Research Project.



NEW! Historic Geography: Geospatial Technology at the CWF Archaeology Dept.

Stephen Beck, Aaron Lovejoy

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Feb 19
Campus Center, Room 159
50 seats

History meets geography at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Archaeological Department through the use of revolutionary geospatial technologies such as geographic information systems (GIS) and other technologies.

The application of these technologies in support traditional practices of archaeological discovery, analysis, artifact restoration and documentation facilitates enhanced efficiencies, completeness, and accuracy in the work undertaken by the department.

This series of classes will inform participants of the tools and techniques of geospatial technologies and insights to how they are applied to create collections of archaeological artifacts reflecting the history and geography of Historic Colonial Williamsburg.

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. He resides with his wife in the Williamsburg area.

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

The Battle of Hampton Roads: USS Monitor vs. CSS Virginia

Michael Collier

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am
2 sessions:
Mar 26 – School of Ed, Room 1056
🚗 Apr 2 – Mariners' Museum, Newport News
40 seats

During the U.S. Civil War, the *USS Monitor* fought the Battle of Hampton Roads against the *CSS Virginia*. This was the first battle between ironclads in world military history. This course reviews the period before the battle, the battle itself, the aftermath of the battle and future of *Monitor* and *Virginia*.

Week 1 is a 2-hour lecture on the path to war, construction of the two ships, the battle, and its aftermath. Week 2 is a 2-hour guided tour of the USS Monitor Center at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News (members drive on their own; Museum admission is \$1 at the door).

Suggested reading: *Our Little Monitor: The Greatest Invention of the Civil War* by Anna Gibson Holloway and Jonathan W. White; *The Monitor Boys, The Crew of the Union's First Ironclad* by John V. Quarstein

Michael Collier spent over 20 years in the U.S. Coast Guard working in the areas of border security and immigration control. He then taught these topics as part of his second 20-year career as a college professor. He holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from Florida International University where he majored in Foreign Policy and Security Studies.



NEW! Foundations of Excellence: A Walking Tour of Hampton University

Alisha Beverley, Director, OLLI at Hampton University

Tuesday, 10:00am-2:00pm

1 session: Apr 21

Hampton University, 20 seats

Parking at HU is limited; please plan to carpool (details to follow)

This one-hour walking tour, followed by lunch courtesy of our OLLI Hampton colleagues, introduces participants to the rich history and enduring legacy of Hampton University, one of the nation's most distinguished Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).



Emancipation Oak on the campus of Hampton University.

Photo by Erik Soderstrom

Established in 1868 following the Civil War, Hampton University began as the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, created to educate newly freed African Americans and later Native American students.

Participants will explore the university's founding under General Samuel Chapman Armstrong, its growth and transformation into Hampton Institute, and its evolution into the modern research university known today as Hampton University. The session highlight milestones, influential leaders, notable alumni, and Hampton's lasting contributions to education, cultural preservation, and civil rights.

By the end of the session, attendees will gain a deeper appreciation of the university's mission, historical significance, and ongoing commitment to "The Standard of Excellence."



Colonial Parkway: Road to History

Frances Clark

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Apr 28

Campus Center, Little Theatre, 110 seats

The Colonial Parkway is a living timeline of the nation's beginnings. It was built to allow visitors to move from one historic site to the next without disrupting the modern world, connecting Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown.

The vision came from the National Park Service (NPS), various branches of government, and community members. It was seen as not just as a new road, but also as a new type of park. Unlike

the parks NPS established out West, this would be called a Colonial national monument.

Correspondence during the parkway's development shows Williamsburg's restoration was intertwined with decisions made for the parkway. In the early stages,

the man behind restoring Colonial Williamsburg, Rev.

Dr. William Archer Rutherford Goodwin, called it the Pathfinders Road. Have you ever wondered what stories are behind the interpretive markers at each pull off?

Frances Watson Clark, a graduate of the University of North Carolina Greensboro, had a 45-year career in the technology industry before retiring in 2023. During that time, she used her love of history to write articles and four books in the Arcadia Images of America series. While living in Williamsburg, she explored the significance of the Colonial Parkway and its place as the connector to the Historic Triangle. In 2010, she published The Colonial Parkway, her third book. It tells the story of the people, places, and events that formed this road to history.

AMERICAN HISTORY

The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln and its Aftermath

Paul Severance

Monday, 9:30-11:30am

3 sessions: Feb 2, 9, 16

School of Education, Room 1056
40 seats

The assassination of Abraham Lincoln on April 14, 1865, marked the first time a U.S. president had been murdered in office and sent shock waves coursing through the nation both North and South.

While most Americans are generally familiar with the immediate events surrounding the assassination, few students of History have a comprehensive understanding of the kidnapping plot that preceded the assassination, Booth's attempt to escape to Mexico, the manhunt for Booth and his accomplices, and the conduct of the military tribunal that tried the conspirators and the executions and interments that followed.

Paul Severance will meticulously guide students through all the phases of the horrid event and address little known facts, narratives, and myths that make up the much larger and richer tapestry of the Lincoln assassination for the past 160 years.

Suggested reading: *Blood on the Moon: The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln* by Edward Steers, Jr.; *Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson

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

Army aviator; he commanded at the company and battalion levels.



The Unknown Story of the First American Female Codebreaker

Peg Becker

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm
2 sessions: Feb 2, 9
Campus Center, Little Theatre
50 seats

Elisabeth Smith Friedman was known as the first American female Cryptanalyst. Her pioneering work in the field of codebreaking was pivotal for the U.S. during WWI, Prohibition, and WWII; however, her accomplishments are relatively unknown. Join us to find out who this woman was and her contributions.

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. Her interest in learning about little known historical events leads to the classes she teaches at Osher.



NEW! Thomas Paine's Common Sense

Holly Mayer

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am
2 sessions: Feb 3, 10
W&M Alumni House, Leadership Hall
32 seats

January 2026 is the 250th anniversary of the publication of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*. The booklet was a tipping point advancing the American rebellion into a revolution.

For over a decade, words had triggered actions and actions had incited words, but in January 1776 Paine's words were transformative. How was it that this recent English immigrant convinced so many Americans that they should and could win independence against the British Empire rather than carrying on the fight for their rights within it? How did Paine continue to fire their resolve during "the times that [tried] men's souls"? He published his first American

Crisis essay in December 1776 and the last on 19 April 1783. This course reviews some of his writings to explore how they affected and reflected the American Revolution.



Elisabeth Smith Friedman, America's first woman cryptanalyst

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.



TechnoTapestry: A Boomer's Journey through Technology and Culture

Scott Langhorst

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Feb 3, 10, 17
School of Education, Room 1056
40 seats

Atomic bombs, ATMs, Berlin Wall, civil rights, computers, GPS, the Internet, Rock 'n Roll, television --- just a few of the things that we've experienced as boomers. Our "TechnoTapestry as boomers is a rich history of technology invention, innovation, and cultural incidents. The course will

present a timeline of selected boomer experiences and help explain their origins and impact on current times. The course will review our boomer history and provide current and future generations with some answers about where did that come from?

Suggested reading: *TechnoTapestry: A Boomer's Journey Through Technology and Culture*, a free, online e-book at: <https://sites.google.com/view/salanhurst/technotapestry>

Scott Langhorst retired from a 30+ year career with the Virginia Community College System, as well as 5 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 (class of 1968). He is a true Baby Boomer born in 1946, with a layman's interest in the technological and cultural developments of the era.



NEW! The Birth of the Boomer Generation: 1946-1964

William Fetsko

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Feb 19
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

The years 1946-1964, commonly referred to as the Boomer Generation, were characterized by the return of over 8 million soldiers to the United States. These men and women aspired to get on with their lives and put the horrors of war behind them. Re-establishing family relationships, continuing with their education or entering the workforce were major goals. However, they were confronted with a changing world with a Cold War and the threat of nuclear conflict a reality. The fact that there were nearly 76 million babies born during this period created its own pressures on society.

Using editorial cartoons, we will focus on the societal changes, individuals

and political events that were important to this period's history. In addition, we will strive to gain an understanding of the impact they had on the country at that time and in future decades.

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.

The Lincoln Murder Conspiracies

Paul Severance

Monday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Feb 23
School of Education, Room 1056
40 seats

Although the "formal historical record" of Lincoln's assassination clearly established that John Wilkes Booth and a small cohort of followers murdered Abraham Lincoln and attempted to kill other high government officials, a number of discrete (and captivating) conspiracies theories have emerged, gained traction, and achieved varying levels of prominence and support over the past 160 years.

Several "conspiracy" theories emerged almost immediately. These theories grew and morphed over the years and eventually extended to the government of the Confederate States of America, the U.S War Department and Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, the Roman Catholic Church and Pope Pius IX, and various "disgruntled" elements of Northern society that allegedly harbored a tangible distrust – and even vitriolic hatred – of Abraham Lincoln and his wartime politics, policies, and decisions as Chief Executive and Commander-in-Chief of Union military forces.

Not surprisingly, these conspiracy theories continue to attract interest up to the present day and are – at the least – extremely intriguing. This presentation will endeavor to "unpack these major conspiracy theories and

probe their geneses as well as the "evidence supporting each of the seven major conspiracy theories associated with the assassination of Lincoln.

Suggested reading: *The Lincoln Murder Conspiracies* by William Hanchett

Read Paul's bio on p. 9.



What, Then, Was the American Revolution?

Karen McPherson

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Feb 23, Mar 2, 16
(no class Mar 9)
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

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

John Adams said, "The Revolution was effected before the war commenced... this radical change in the principles, opinions, sentiments, and affections of the people, was the real American Revolution." But Thomas Jefferson came along and said, The Revolution of 1800 was as real a revolution in the principles of our government as that of 1776 was in its form. So what was the American Revolution? This class will focus on answering that question.

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.



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

Marilyn Younger

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Feb 25, Mar 4, 18
(no class Mar 11)
School of Education, Room 1056
40 seats

Beginning with LBJ's inauguration speech through the resignation of Nixon (1963-1974), we experienced

one of the greatest periods of cultural change in American history.

From the Beach Boys to Motown to the Beatles to folk and Acid Rock, music will never be the same. No one style of clothing dominated but varied from Twiggy's Mod to psychedelic, to Victorian velvet with ribbons and ruffles. Civil rights issues were on our TVs and in our schools. The pill, Roe v. Wade, and the passage of the ERA in Congress in 1972 brought changes to the lives of many women. Young people were active in politics, free love, drugs, and Vietnam War issues. RFK and King were assassinated. Coverage of Watergate on TV mesmerized the American viewing public. Not just Bob Dylan felt "The times they are a-changin'."

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! To Bend the Arc of History Toward Justice

Terrance Franklin

🕒 Wednesday, 1-2:30pm (Eastern)
1 session: Feb 25
🖥️ Zoom, 125 seats

③ We will join OLLI at Drake University for this class

Terry Franklin – an attorney, writer, and storyteller – shares the story of how finding the will of his fourth great-grandfather, John Sutton, revealed the emancipation story of his fourth great-grandmother, Lucy Sutton, and their children and grandchildren. The will was the subject of an intense legal battle over John's intentions – as a white man – in freeing his family.

Terry describes the deeply personal journey of discovering his family's history and how he is using creative pursuits to amplify his ancestors' story, demonstrating that we all have a role to play in shaping the arc of history.

Terrence Franklin is a Los Angeles-based trust and estate litigator. A native of Chicago who earned a J.D. from Harvard, Terry discovered a contested will from the 1840s that emancipated his fourth great-grandmother and her children and grandchildren from slavery – nearly two decades before the Civil War. The discovery transformed him as a litigator, and his ancestral story of emancipation also helped him come to terms with his own journey as an African American gay man.



City of Washington: The Origin and History of the Federal City

Christopher Collins

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Feb 26, Mar 5, 19
(no class Mar 12)
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

During and after the American Revolution, leading up to the adoption of the U.S. Constitution, eight different cities and towns served as the seat of our new national government. Under the Constitution, Congress granted President George Washington the authority to choose a new location for the Permanent Seat of Government, to acquire whatever amount of land in that location that he deemed necessary for use by the federal government, to lay out a plan for the city, and to approve the design of all federal buildings. This revolutionary idea resulted in the transformation of rural Maryland farmland into the "City of Washington."

Christopher Collins was a land use lawyer in Washington, DC for 40 years, representing a broad range of clients in zoning, real estate development, and historic preservation matters. During his career, he also lectured at land use conferences and taught seminars at the high school and college levels.



NEW! Reconstruction to Byrd: Virginia Politics, 1865-1925

Steven Berke

Monday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Mar 23, 30, Apr 6
School of Education, Room 2030
30 seats

During the years between 1865 and 1925, Virginia politics developed in ways that both resembled, and differed from, political evolution in other states of the former Confederacy. This course will cover that development, including how Reconstruction never took in Virginia as it did in other Southern states, how the Readjuster movement of the 1870s and 1880s was the closest Virginia ever came to populist government, the triumph of white supremacy in the Constitution of 1902, and the creation of the Thomas Martin machine which presaged the rule of Harry Byrd.

Steven J. Berke received a master of public administration degree from George Washington University and was an analyst for the U.S. Government Accountability Office from 1980 until 2018. He has lived in Virginia since 1978, and for all that time has been an informed and interested observer, and sometimes participant, in Virginia politics.



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

Alan Stark

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am
4 sessions:
Mar 25, Apr 1, 8, 15
School of Education, Room
1056, 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 of the key questions discussed are: 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! Presidential Sites: A Travelogue

Feather Foster

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Mar 25, Apr 1, 8
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

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

Session 2: The Victorians: Van Buren through Benjamin Harrison. Some

lived better than others. Some were born dirt-poor. Most never made it past middle class. But in a democracy, humble beginnings do not matter, and in some cases were almost a plus!

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

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

NEW! Learning U.S. History Through the Lives of the Presidents

Constantinos Scaros

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Mar 26
■ Zoom, 80 seats

This course brings American history to life by focusing on its most exciting cast of characters – the presidents! By exploring the biography of each president, attendees will learn all about the main issues from the founding of the nation to the present. Also, by taking a closer look at the presidencies, attendees may rethink their own previously held notions about which presidents were “good” or “bad.”

Suggested reading: *All about the Presidents* by Constantinos E. Scaros

Constantinos E. Scaros is a presidential historian and college professor and has been a dean, attorney, and newspaper editor. He is the author of several books; most recently: All about the Presidents. He founded the Society of Presidential Historians in Academia (SOPHIA). He earned a B.A. in political science, a JD (law), and an M.A. and Ph.D. in history.



Forging a New Nation: Pivotal Moments in American History (1783-1803)

Michael Kerley

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Mar 26, Apr 2, 9
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

Our government has many features that we today take for granted: civilian control of the military, a written constitution, a Bill of Rights, a capital in Washington DC, fixed presidential terms of office, and a cohesive, continental federal system. When the Revolutionary War ended, however, none of these features were inevitable.

Our government could very easily have evolved without some – or all – of these components. Yet, it did not. It flourished and matured with all of these cornerstone features. This successful evolution was made possible because between 1783 and 1803 several far-sighted men made six critical decisions that determined our destiny. These men forged the basic structure of our government. In this course we will look at these pivotal decisions, the circumstances leading to them, and the men who made them.

Suggested reading: *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* by Joseph Ellis; *The Summer of 1787* by David O. Stewart

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



NEW! Revolutionary Ideas in Thought, Action, and Reaction

Rebecca Staton-Reinstein

Friday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Mar 27, Apr 3, 10
■ Zoom, 150 seats

Learn how these men, women, and movements made revolutionary changes to the America we know today:

- **Fredrick Douglass:** A man for our time is the story of a man who escaped from slavery and ultimately became a leader in the struggle for emancipation, wrote several autobiographies, and “spoke truth to power” as a confidant of Abraham Lincoln.

- **Dred Scott and Homer Plessy:** Supreme Court cases haunt today's court recounts how these two cases exposed the nastier side of the Supreme Court in the 19th century and still echo today in attitudes and legislation.

- **The Underground Railroad:** “Follow the drinking gourd” is a testament to the determination of people of conscience to do what was necessary to free enslaved people. Learn the stories of **Sojourner Truth**, **Harriet Tubman**, and hundreds of others who risked and sometimes lost their lives to bring people out of slavery and into a chance to live free.

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

NEW! Andrew Dexter, Jr. and America's First Bank Scandal

Phil Holleran

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Apr 2
W&M Alumni House, Leadership Hall
50 seats

Andrew Dexter, Jr. belonged, by birth and marriage, to a prominent New England family. In 1806 he built the Boston Exchange Coffee House, the country's first grand hotel. To support the failing finances of the Exchange

Coffee House, Dexter established a network of banks from Maine to Michigan, based on the Farmers' Exchange Bank of Gloucester, Rhode Island, and "practiced a system of fraud beyond which the ingenuity and dishonesty of man cannot go.


The resulting collapse of the Farmers Exchange Bank in 1809 reverberated throughout the country. This class will tell the story of Dexter's "fraud and dishonesty."


We will describe Dexter's subsequently flight to Canada and his reemergence years later as the founder of Montgomery, Alabama, where he died penniless. And along the way we will examine what money is, describe the early banking system of the US, and draw some parallels to modern financial innovations.


Phil Holleran is recently retired as Professor of Economics and Business at Mitchell Community College in North Carolina. He has won multiple teaching awards and published several scholarly articles on the economic history of child labor in the United States.

NEW! Watergate: The Political Scandal that Brought Down a President

Deborah Smith

 Thursday, 10:00am-12:00pm
1 session: Apr 2

 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.

Watergate was the defining political scandal of the 20th century. Fifty years later, we know more than we did then. A myriad of books and articles have been written about Watergate, most based on interviews with actual participants, and more White House tapes have been released.

The course will focus on different perspectives of the event, including the judicial, congressional, and executive branches, the media, and the public.

We will also explore why the Watergate scandal continues to fascinate us, and what lessons are still relevant in today's political environment.

Deborah Smith enjoyed a state and federal government relations career spanning 35 years, including legislative advocacy for the American Nurses Association, Illinois Nurses Association, and Pfizer Inc. Active in campaigns at all government levels, she served on the Daufuskie Island (SC) Council for six years, including two years as chairperson. Deborah is now retired.

History of U.S. Border Security and Immigration Control

Michael Collier

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm

3 sessions: Apr 14, 21, 28

School of Education, Room 2030
30 seats

Historical review of U.S. border security and immigration control from 1607 to today. These areas have been a major concern since the first arrival of Europeans to North America in the early-1600s. U.S. government policies in these areas have varied widely over the past 250 years. Knowing the background and context of U.S. border security and immigration control helps citizens better understand current government policies and actions.

Read Michael's bio on p. 8.

NEW! Washington Irving, the Author and His World

Marilyn Younger

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am

3 sessions: Apr 15, 22, 29

Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

Born in 1783, Irving grew up with America. He used the pseudonym, Knickerbocker, to write his first book, *A History of New York*, which he wrote to entertain his countrymen. Irving traveled widely in Europe and the U.S., fully engaging in different cultures, about which he wrote both fiction and history.

He wrote histories of Astoria, Oregon; the American prairies, and the Alhambra, as well as biographies of Columbus, Washington, Mohammad. Irving's stories, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *Rip Van Winkle*, are part of American culture. He served as a diplomat in Spain and was beloved there before returning home to New York and his home, Sunnyside, on the Hudson. We will consider Irving and his world – the cauldron in which his works were created.

Read Marilyn's bio on p. 11.




NEW! Revolutionary Ideas or Reactionary Interpretation?

Rebecca Staton-Reinstein

Friday, 9:30-11:30am

3 sessions: Apr 17, 24, May 1

 Zoom, 150 seats

The ink wasn't dry before "The Antifederalists: Enlightened opposition to the Constitution" began. Their arguments, like those of its supporters, were based on Enlightenment ideas; concrete expressed individual rights and clear separation of 3 government branches.

In 1791, Congress urged by Treasury Secretary Hamilton, taxed spirits distilled in the U.S. to help pay Revolutionary war debts. "Whiskey Rebellion: The Intersection of Taxation, Insurrection, and Reality" tells the story of armed insurrection and inflamed passions, which still exist today.

Fear generated by French immigrants, Napoleon's wars, attacks on U.S. shipping, and Jefferson's support for the French increased. Adams signed "The Alien and Sedition Acts: A Gift that Keeps on Giving." Journalists were arrested, indicted, tried, and convicted. One of those Acts is still in effect.

Learn about the legacy of serious dissent against the Constitution.

Read Rebecca's bio on p. 13.



NEW! The Revolution Grows Up: From Revolutionary Zeal to a Working Republic

Karen McPherson

Friday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Apr 17, 24, May 1
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

When John Adams left the presidency in 1801, the United States was a narrow band of states hugging the Atlantic coast, governed by men who had fought, argued, and legislated the Revolution into being.

By the time his son, John Quincy Adams, took the oath of office in 1825, the nation had doubled in size, stretching westward past the Mississippi River into lands opened by the Louisiana Purchase and southward to East and West Florida.

Yet the same expansion that stirred dreams of a continental republic also exposed deep rifts, as the Missouri Compromise revealed a fault line between free and slave states.

These 25 years bridged two Americas: one still in the hands of the Revolutionary generation, and another led by those who inherited independence but would be tested by the vast, divided nation it had become.

Read Karen's bio on p. 11.



NEW! How American Lacemakers Supported the Revolution

Carolyn Cerini

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Apr 29
Virginia Greens, Theatre
40 seats

Prior to the American Revolution, colonists imported a great many everyday items including tea and lace. Embargos began in the 1760s and continued with the American Revolution in 1773. This class will look at how the town of Ipswich, MA responded to the embargo on English lace, and the impact of its lace industry post-Revolution.

Carolyn Cerini has a B.S. in chemistry and a M.A.T. from Fairleigh Dickinson University. She taught high school chemistry at Northern Virginia Community College before a 30-year career with the federal government. She has testified in court as an expert witness and presented to government agencies on many topics. Carolyn has been a lacemaker since 2001.



Virginia's Road to Revolution: Episode IV – Independence Deferred

Mark Howell

Friday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: May 1
Williamsburg Regional Library, Theatre
250 seats

This course is the fourth of a projected five-session arc exploring how Virginia's leadership used a series of extra-legal meetings to negotiate the increasingly volatile last couple of years of being a British colony.

In August 1775, King George III declared the American colonies to be in rebellion. In the past year Virginia's leadership had held three so-called "conventions" to respond to the worsening situation and provide leadership in the absence of the dissolved House of Burgesses. The 4th Convention began its deliberations in December.

Using primary documents of the period, this course examines Virginia's leadership's continuing attempts to maintain order in the colony while dealing with Governor Lord Dunmore's attempt to recruit loyalists and the enslaved persons of rebel patriots to support his declaration of martial law.

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



NEW! Virginia's Road to Revolution: Episode V – Absolved from All Allegiance

Mark Howell

Friday, 9:30-11:30am
2 sessions: May 8, 15
Williamsburg Regional Library, Theatre
250 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. 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 the new state government the convention devised that was put into place to replace their colonial relationship with Great Britain.

Read Mark's bio at left.



NEW! Unknown Extraordinary Women and Their Contributions

Peg Becker

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: May 12
W&M Alumni House, Leadership Hall
40 seats

This course will discuss women who made important "revolutionary" contributions but are relatively unknown. You will hear about these American women who pushed against the social norms of their day, breaking down societal barriers and expectations of what women "should do." Come and learn about these unknown mathematicians, astronomers, computer programmers, scientists, laborers, and other women through history whose major contributions to the world are often unappreciated or overlooked.

Read Peg's bio on p. 10.

American Wisdom Tradition

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

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

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



NEW! Revolutions of Inwardness: Introduction to the American Wisdom Tradition

Michael Lorence, Diana Lorence

Friday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Feb 6

Tucker Hall, Room 127A, 40 seats

The world looks to the example of America for many things: for the high road to opportunity, industry, progress and wealth; for ideals of freedom and equality; yet there is also the radically solitary road of personal independence, self-reliance, and wisdom.

Progress and wisdom appear to run on parallel paths through American history, each defined by its own conception of the individual, on courses that seldom intersect. In this brief introduction to a complex tradition, we offer a radical re-imagining of the single-file "road less traveled" of "Plain Living and High Thinking in American Culture."



NEW! Radical Visions: Ansel Adams and the American Wisdom Tradition

Michael Lorence, Diana Lorence

Friday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Feb 13

Tucker Hall, Room 127A, 40 seats

Now a century after Ansel Adams took his first photograph, we almost cannot see nature except through his eyes. Yet those early photographs showed the world a nature it had never seen before: a revolutionary, brilliant refocusing on

the Wilderness, the Whole Wilderness, and Nothing but the Wilderness, so help him God.

Ansel Adams' art was a radical act of the human imagination, to which we are all heirs today. In this course of striking masterworks and commentary, we seek to find our way back to the beginning, to regain that radical vision of a world made new and see afresh through the lens of our greatest photographic artist.



NEW! "The Arch Radical of the World": the Revolutionary Emerson

Michael Lorence, Diana Lorence

Friday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Feb 20

Tucker Hall, Room 127A

40 seats

Through the formative century of American letters and beyond, Ralph Waldo Emerson was "the arch radical

FEATURED ALUMNI LECTURE:

SPOTLIGHT ON W&M'S YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT



A Year in the Life of an American Indian

Russell Reed, Michael Lorence

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Feb 19

W&M Alumni House, Hunter Hall

100 seats

The American Wisdom Tradition rests on permanent foundations of Native American wisdom. That Native wisdom is radically original in nature, a way of knowing that is irreducible to books and concepts. It rests on embodied experience lived in harmony with the natural environment in place and time.

Russell Reed (Atakapa of Louisiana), experimental archaeologist and past supervisor of American Indian field programs at the Jamestown-Yorktown

and Colonial Williamsburg museums, will lead the session. Join us for a unique perspective of "the environment" as we explore and celebrate Native American traditions of interconnectedness, harmony with nature, and human well-being lived in concert with the eternal cycle of life.



The lecture is also open to W&M alumni (at a special event rate that does not require Osher membership). Alumni can purchase seats at [LearnAtOsher.wm.edu](https://www.wm.edu/learnat-osher).

The lecture builds on the university's 2025-26 "Year of the Environment" initiative. (Each Charter Day, W&M announces an annual theme highlighting a key component of its mission and vision, i.e., 2024-25 was "Year of the Arts.") Stay tuned for news of the 2026-27 initiative, which will be announced at W&M's 332nd Charter Day celebration on February 6.

of the world.” Among the wider circle of Americans we remember as Transcendentalists, such individuals as Henry David Thoreau, Walt Whitman, John Muir, William James, Robert Frost, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Ansel Adams are practically unimaginable without the revolutionary influence of Emerson.

This course will seek to recover the radical wisdom of the “Sage of Concord” as a means of bringing America’s revolutionary wisdom into focus, from the founding period to the closing of the western frontier.



Field Study: A Year in the Life of an American Indian

Russell Reed, Michael Lorence

🕒 Wednesday, 9:00am-1:00pm

3 sessions: Mar 4, Apr 1, 29

🚗 Class location will be announced the day prior to each session via email
40 seats

⚠️ To participate in this three-session course you must first attend the overview lecture on Feb 19 (p. 16). For safety, you must also meet the physical requirements below.

In this series of outdoor, hands-on experiential “field trips,” we will visit three local environments of woodlands and waters. Led by Russell Reed (Atakapa of Louisiana), experimental archaeologist and past supervisor of American Indian field programs at the Jamestown-Yorktown and Colonial Williamsburg museums, this is a rare opportunity to experience Native wisdom through the eyes of the American Indian.

⚠️ 🧎 🦿 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 of time. You must also have attended the Feb. 19 “Year in the Life” lecture (see p. 16). Because the class size is limited to 10, please make every effort to attend every class session.

Please 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.

The Secrets of Life in the Woods

Diana Lorence

Friday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Mar 6

Tucker Hall, Room 127A

40 seats

What would it mean to live even one day of your life illuminated by the Inner Light? What secrets lie inward even of innerness? What is the Innermost Life? The ways of woodland life are mysterious today, yet their mystery lies not so much in themselves as in the dark glass through which they are viewed from the remove of our modern lives. In this shared journey of shared words and images, we seek the secrets of simplicity, of innocence and the beginning of things. The Innermost Life is nearer to us than we think, if we could once see into its secrets.

ABOUT THE AMERICAN WISDOM TRADITION INSTRUCTORS

Diana and Michael Lorence founded The American Wisdom Project, calling upon the resources of the Innermost House Foundation and their personal passion for the wisdom of our 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.

ART, MUSIC & FILM

NEW! “The Man I Love”: The Women Jazz Singers Who Loved Gershwin’s Music

Paul Boren

Monday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Feb 2

🎧 Zoom, 150 seats

George and Ira Gershwin are arguably America’s greatest songwriting team. Although they wrote mostly for Broadway and Hollywood, their music became the intersection of the Great American Songbook and the Jazz Standards.

This course has two objectives: review the Gershwin Brothers’ history and how they wrote songs together; and explore through listening the most famous Gershwin works as performed by over a dozen women jazz singers from the 1930s through the 21st century. Come, listen and marvel with Ella, Billie, Sarah, Carmen, Anita, and many more as they sing about “The Man I Love.”

Paul Boren worked with the Department of Defense for over 40 years. He sat through countless meetings, but never fell asleep because he was often thinking about baseball, music or other topics. Now he is retired, takes naps often, and teaches about sports, music and topics he spent countless hours thinking about.

Hollywood and World War II

Elizabeth Fones-Wolf

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm

2 sessions: Feb 2, 9

School of Education, Room 2030
30 seats

Hollywood played a pivotal role on the American home front during World War II. Going to the movies was already a ritual for many Americans, but during the war attendance soared. It was the ideal medium for the government to reach the American public. The movies of World II had an indelible impact on

how many Americans remembered the war. The nation's studios cooperated with the government in making war related movies, news reels and military training films.

Many of the feature films painted the image of World War II as the good war. Indeed many young men who went to war in Vietnam during the 1960s were shocked when their experience did not match what they had learned from the movies of their childhood. The movie industry and the entertainment industry as a whole enthusiastically enlisted in the war effort.

This course explores how movies were used to entertain, lift spirits, motivate and inform the audience. It also examines how the government tried to mold the content of Hollywood feature films. War has had a significant impact on the movie industry.

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



NEW! A Gentle Introduction to Richard Wagner

Dan Sherman

Monday, 9:30-11:30am

2 sessions: Feb 2, 9

Williamsburg Regional Library, Theatre
250 seats

Richard Wagner was one of the most influential composers of all time, creating works of immense power, including his mighty "Ring Cycle." He revolutionized opera and music in general, with an influence that extended to many other arts. Although some find his works long, confusing, and boring, much of his music is surprisingly approachable and deeply rewarding. This class offers an engaging introduction to Wagner's fascinating life and career, accompanied by excerpts from his work. It is designed for both newcomers to this essential composer and those already familiar with his work. Hojotoho!

Suggested reading: *Wagner Without Fear* by William Berger

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



NEW! A Different Take On Revolution – The British Invasion (1963-1973)

Ronald Beales

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm

4 sessions: Feb 3, 10, 17, 24

Zoom, 150 seats

Would you like to learn more about the British success in winning over the United States – not in 1776 nor 1812 – but in 1963 with the introduction of music groups, led by The Beatles? The United States, particularly teens, surrendered to the Brits so quickly it would have made the Founding Fathers' heads swim.

Ron Beales is a retired business executive who holds a B.S. degree in business administration from Miami University in Ohio. Perhaps more importantly, he never stopped feeding his love of the music labeled "The British Invasion." Ron returned recently to Vermont from Williamsburg.



NEW! Time in a Bottle: Musicals That Capture a Moment in History, Part 4

Issa Puttre

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm

6 sessions: Feb 4, 11, 18, 25, Mar 4, 18
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

In the spirit of Osher's 2026 Revolutionary Ideas initiative, this 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 4 of this continuing series looks at 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! Once Upon a Mattress: Broadway's Fractured Fairy Tale

Ken Krantz

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm

1 session: Feb 5

Zoom, 125 seats

Sinfonicon Light Opera, William & Mary's student-run company, is performing the 1959 Broadway musical *Once Upon a Mattress* in January 2026. This lecture will explore the plot, music, and performance history of the show. The original production made Carol Burnett a star.

For the fullest class experience and ensuing discussion, consider attending the live production during its January 22-25, 2026 run (prior to Osher's Spring semester start) at Phi Beta

RELATED ART, MUSIC & FILM COURSES

How American Lacemakers Supported the Revolution (p. 15)

Ansel Adams and American Wisdom Tradition (p. 16)

Mastering iPhone/iPad Camera & Photo Apps (p. 37)

Cricut Crafting for Beginners (p. 41)

Let's Make a Basket (p. 43)

Kappa Hall on the W&M campus. Tickets are available at sinfonicron.org

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



NEW! Subversive Visions: America on Film, 1949-1957

Thomas Thompson

Friday, 9:30-11:30am

3 sessions: Feb 6, 13, 20

Williamsburg Regional Library, Theatre
250 seats

Discover three electrifying films that expose the hidden tensions of America's past and present.

Border Incident (1949) delivers a gripping noir about crime, immigration, and justice on the U.S.-Mexico border. This is the sole film noir among the three films we'll study this semester.

Johnny Guitar (1954), a feverish Western, overturns genre expectations with Joan Crawford at the center of a tale about power, loyalty, and hysteria.

Finally, *A Face in the Crowd* (1957) anticipates the dangers of media-driven celebrity and political manipulation with uncanny relevance.

Across three sessions, we'll unpack how these films challenge conventions, mirror American anxieties, and remain startlingly fresh today. Join us for a riveting journey through cinema's most subversive visions.

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



NEW! Secrets of the Score

Michael Buttermann

Monday, 9:30-11:30am

🕒 3 sessions: Feb 9, Mar 2, May 4

Note: There is no class in April
Campus Center, Little Theatre
50 seats

What does a conductor really do and how do notes on a page become a powerful, moving performance?

Join Michael Buttermann, music director of the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra, for a behind-the-scenes look at the art of conducting and the magic of turning ink into sound. This course examines the comprehensive process of interpreting a musical score, from initial study and rehearsal planning to the expressive techniques employed to shape an ensemble's performance.

Through engaging discussions and score samples ranging from Bach chorales to lush Romantic and 20th-century works, including pieces with chorus, percussion, and soloists you'll discover what's written in the music, what's implied, and how conductors bring it all to life.

Whether you're a musician, student, or curious concertgoer, this is a unique opportunity to gain deeper insight into the music you love – and the role of the person standing on the podium.

Music Director of four American orchestras and a sought-after guest conductor, Michael Buttermann is acclaimed for his creative artistry and innovative programming. Foundational to his dynamic career is a

deep commitment to audience development and community engagement. In addition to his leadership of the WSO, he serves as music director of the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra, the Shreveport Symphony, and the Lancaster Symphony Orchestra. His work has been featured in more than two dozen nationwide broadcasts on public radio's Performance Today.

NEW! The Story of Art Nouveau

Caroline Nicholson

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Feb 11

Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

From the multicolored glass of Louis Comfort Tiffany to the iconic entrances of Paris's metro stations, Art Nouveau remains as intriguing today as it did 130 years ago when it first came into being.

Easily recognizable and all-encompassing in its beauty, its impact reached across different mediums, from fine art to architecture, from jewelry to home furnishings.

But just what was it that made something "Art Nouveau?" How did this style come into existence, and why was its popularity so brief? Join us on an international journey to explore some of the most breathtaking Art Nouveau works of art and interiors.

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



NEW! The Bauhaus and Beyond: Origins & Legacy

Roy Behrens

🕒 Thursday, 3:00-4:30pm
3 sessions: Feb 12, 19, 26; Mar 5*
Zoom, 40 seats

📍 We will join OLLI at Drake for this online class. *Time for tentative 4th session (live from The Bauhaus in Germany) TBD

The Bauhaus was a now-famous German school for aspiring young designers, artists and architects that began in Weimar in 1919, moved to Dessau in 1925, and was closed by the Nazis in Berlin in 1933.

It was arguably the most influential school of art and design in history. Among its faculty and students (both men and women) were Walter Gropius, Paul Klee (*Laternenfest Bauhaus, 1922, above*), Josef Albers, Wassily Kandinsky, Gunta Stolz, Herbert Bayer, Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, Oskar Schlemmer, Marcel Breuer, Anni Albers, Marguerite Wildenhain, Joost Schmidt, Marianne Brandt, and others. Its curriculum areas included Woodworking, Cabinetmaking, Metal, Ceramics, Weaving, Printing and Typography, Theatre, Drawing, Painting, Photography, and Architecture.

This series of talks is an overview of how and why the school began at the end of WW I, its philosophy, the challenges it faced, and the enduring effect that it had (and still has) on art, design and craft-based training.

The course presenter, at age 17, studied in California with Master Potter Marguerite Wildenhain, who had been one of the first students at the Weimar Bauhaus. A virtual, live tour of the Bauhaus is **tentatively** set for March 5 at 7:30am Eastern. Time and date will be confirmed closer to the class date.

Roy R. Behrens is an Iowa-based writer, graphic designer, and design

historian who taught at various American art schools and universities for 45 years. His most recent book is *Dreams of Fields: Memory Traces of Iowa's Past* (Ice Cube Press, August 2025).

NEW! The English Country House and Gardens Part II

Paula Henderson

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am
4 sessions: Feb 18, 25, Mar 4, 18
(no class Mar 11)
Campus Center, Little Theatre, 110 seats



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

to the policy of primogeniture, which means that the firstborn (male) child inherits the entire estate, resulting in an essential concentration of wealth. This course will consider the evolution of the elite country house from the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660 to the great difficulties in maintaining these enormous houses following the First World War. All aspects of these houses will be considered: their architecture and interiors; the social history (high and low); and how the houses related to their man-made and natural settings.

Paula Henderson lived in London for 43 years and has a Ph.D. in architectural history from the Courtauld Institute of Art. She lectures in Britain and the United States and has published over 70 articles on British architecture and gardens. She has taught for the Courtauld Institute of Art, the V&A and Osher Institute. Her book, *The Tudor House and Garden*, won the Berger Prize for outstanding contribution to the British art history. She is now writing a book on 16th and 17th century London gardens and a second on gardens of Nantucket Island. She is a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

NEW! Exploring the Life and Art of Chaim Soutine

Jan Smith

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Feb 26
W&M Alumni House, Leadership Hall
50 seats

This two-hour lecture will review the life of Chaim Soutine and present images of his paintings, exploring how his life experiences affected his art. The child of a Russian Empire shtetl, Chaim Soutine traveled to Paris, the center of the art world, in 1913 to pursue his destiny as an artist. Speaking little French and having even less money, Soutine first lived in La Ruche with other immigrant artists including Marc Chagall, Diego Rivera, Brancusi, and Modigliani. Known as the painter's painter and a member of the School of Paris, Soutine was "an expert in hunger until Philadelphian and art collector Albert C. Barnes discovered this talented and unique painter in 1923.

Jan Smith has an M.B.A. and spent most of her career in higher education teaching business courses. Upon retirement, she became a docent at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. After docent training, she studied art history at the Glassell School of Art and the Women's Institute of Houston.

NEW! Frederic Chopin for the Casual Music Lover

Carol Huber

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Feb 27, Mar 6, 20
(no class Mar 13)
School of Education, Room 2000
30 seats

Chopin was one of the most original and prolific piano composers despite his short life. This is a look at the composer, teacher and performer amidst the political and military unrest of his time. The person behind the genius is intriguing as well as his fierce nationalism and illicit love affair with George Sand. Influences and style characteristics will be discussed as we listen to different genres of his music so participants will leave the class with a

greater understanding and appreciation of Frederic Chopin's music.

Carol Huber holds a bachelor's degree from the Hartt School of Music, a master's from UNC-Chapel Hill in applied piano and a graduate degree in IT from Boston University. She is also a graduate of the Army War College and a PMI-certified project manager. As a retired federal employee, she worked for the Defense, Transportation and Treasury departments.



NEW! Fanny Mendelssohn: A Trailblazing Composer in the Shadow of Society

Anette Isaacs

Monday, 6:00-8:00pm
1 session: Mar 16
 Zoom, 100 seats

Being hosted by OLLI at FIU and will be attended by OLLI members across the U.S.

Fanny Mendelssohn was a brilliant pianist and composer whose talents were often eclipsed by the constraints of 19th-century society. While her brother Felix achieved fame, Fanny's extraordinary work remained in the shadows. German historian Anette Isaacs brings her remarkable story to life, uncovering her struggles for recognition, her groundbreaking achievements, and the rich cultural and Jewish heritage that shaped the Mendelssohn family's musical legacy.

Anette Isaacs is a German-born historian and public educator who has presented 50+ programs across the U.S. about her native country's history, politics, and culture. Anette holds master's degrees in American studies, political science, and history, and serves as director of the Osher Institute of Lifelong Learning (OLLI) at Florida International University in Miami.



NEW! Art That Transformed Our World

Georgianna Avioli, Patricia Rublein, Sandra Stephan

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Mar 24, 31, Apr 7
Campus Center, Little Theatre, 110 seats

This semester's trio of topics includes:

The Significance of Black Art – A discussion of the artistic contributions of Black artists from Colonial times to the present. Revolutionary Impact – Black artists encouraged and affected change in both civil and societal norms.

Painting the Birth of the Modern World – J.M.W. Turner painted at the dawn of the Industrial Revolution, when steam engines, railways, and factories began to reshape England's landscape. Revolutionary Impact – His bold use of light, color, and abstraction broke with traditional art conventions, making him a pioneer of modern painting.

Women Abstractionists: A Groundbreaking Generation – The story of how these struggling artists achieved recognition and were able to pursue careers in the face of rejection by their male counterparts. Revolutionary Impact – These early pioneers were part of the movement that defined a new American style.

Georgianna Avioli was a mathematics adjunct lecturer at William & Mary for 23 years and audited art history classes while there. She has been a docent at the Muscarelle Museum of Art for more than 20 years.

Patricia Rublein has a B.A. in the history of art from William & Mary. She has worked as the executive director of the Cultural Alliance of Hampton Roads and is currently a docent at the Muscarelle Museum of Art.

Sandra Stephan holds a Ph.D. in English literature and has taught at the university level for a variety of community educational programs. She is the former chair of the Muscarelle Museum of Art docent programs.



NEW! Rebels with Applause: Musicals That Revolutionized Broadway

Issa Puttre

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm
6 sessions: Mar 25, Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

An in-depth look at musicals that changed musical theatre at their

time and long after. From *Showboat* to *Hamilton*, musicals are constantly bringing forth changes to both Broadway and the West End and are revolutionizing the musical theatre world.

This course will take a closer look at those musicals, focusing on why they were revolutionary for their time and how they changed the world of musicals going forward. Classes will utilize both footage and music from shows to see how these musicals revolutionized the musical theatre world landscape.

Read Issa's bio on p. 18.



NEW! A Revolution in Art: The Prehistoric Art of Early Man at Lascaux, France

Jim Griffin

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Apr 7
Virginia Greens, Theatre
40 seats

This course explores the examples of early art found within the prehistoric cave at Lascaux and demonstrates why these paintings are truly revolutionary.

As this Oct. 2000 quote from Laura Anne Tedesco (of The Metropolitan Museum of Art) explains, "A virtual revolution occurred in the creation of art during the period of the Upper Paleolithic in Europe. Beginning around 40,000 B.C., the archaeological record shows that anatomically modern humans effectively replaced Neanderthals and remained the sole hominid inhabitants across continental Europe. At about the same time, and directly linked to this development, the earliest art was created."

Suggested reading: *The Dawn of European Art: An Introduction to Palaeolithic Cave Painting* by André Leroi-Gourhan; *The Origin of Modern Humans* by Roger Lewin

Jim Griffin retired after a 22-year career as a naval flight officer. He earned his Ph.D. at the Florida Institute of Technology and worked as an environmental scientist for Florida local and state agencies for 23 years. He also taught courses on Florida watersheds

and water resources at the University of South Florida's Osher program. He now enjoys watching his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren grow, and writing courses for William & Mary's Osher Institute.



NEW! 40 Years Ago, Chess Was Revolutionary!

Tim Kloth

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Apr 16

School of Education, Room 1056

40 seats

Join us to explore the music of Chess, a revolutionary musical. With a libretto by Tim Rice, the music was composed by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus from the pop group ABBA.

Chess' songs are composed in a mixture of musical styles using a variety of compositional techniques. Some break the conventions of traditional song writing. *One Night in Bangkok* reached #3 on both the American and Canadian Top 100 charts while *A Model of Decorum and Tranquility* is worthy of a Mozart opera.

The lyrics are, at times, very clever and humorous and include some examples of inner rhyme schemes. Each song we study will be analyzed for text setting, form, and compositional techniques.

The production's on-stage, three-dimensional backdrop of a chess board – each square an individual TV screen, – was pioneering at the time. The software and technology required to drive the chess board was revolutionary in 1985 and subject to malfunction. Also revolutionary was the release of Chess' musical numbers before the stage production had been premiered.

Timothy Kloth first studied composition with David Cope at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Continuing to major in composition, he earned a B.M. at Capital University's Conservatory of Music, an M.M. at the Eastman School of Music, and his D.M.A. from the University of North Texas.



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

Paula Henderson

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Apr 21

Campus Center, Little Theatre,

80 seats

While the rest of Europe was creating gardens in the fashion of Versailles, the English began to reject "nature in a straight jacket" in favor of a more "natural" garden. Encouraged by the writings of early 18th-century poets (Alexander Pope) and philosophers (the Earl of Shaftesbury), patrons sought to find the "genius of the place" in their landscapes and put an end to interminable alleys, tightly clipped topiary and the rigid formality of the French style.

The result – the English Landscape Garden – was truly a revolutionary (and perhaps even a political) movement that includes some of the most magnificent and still extant gardens in England. The style also spread rapidly across Europe, resulting in the destruction of many celebrated historic gardens. Considered by many to be the most significant British contribution to the history of art, the Landscape Garden has had a lasting influence. Many public parks (from Hyde Park to Olmsted's Central Park) and cemeteries (from Père-Lachaise in Paris to endless examples in America) were designed as Landscape Gardens and its influence remains an inspiration even today.

Read Paula's bio on p. 20.

NEW! Romeo & Juliet and Music

Louis Andrews

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm

1 session: Apr 27

Virginia Greens, Theatre

40 seats

Everyone is familiar with Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, at least with the name and quotations such as "Romeo, oh Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo." Many composers have been inspired

by the play and composed music based on the story. The course will review the play by watching videos of selected scenes. After each video, we will then watch a video of a musical composer's interpretation of that scene with a discussion of the composer and the interpretation. Works viewed will include Tchaikovsky's overture, Berlioz's symphony, Gounod's opera, Prokofiev's ballet, and Bernstein's musical *West Side Story* (with a few surprises along the way).

Louis Andrews is a retired engineer who worked in microchip design in Silicon Valley for over 40 years. Though not a musician, he has spent his adult life enjoying, reading, and talking about music of all kinds, especially classical music. His love for drama and music led to a love of opera.



NEW! Revolutionary Composers of the 20th Century

Tim Kloth

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm

1 session: Apr 30

W&M Alumni House, Leadership Hall

32 seats

Four compositions from the 20th century will be analyzed in detail focusing on the compositional techniques used in their creation. While the composers and/or pieces may be unfamiliar, they are each considered to be historically significant. The French composer Edgard Varese defines music as, "Sound organized in time." We will study how each composer organized their music while identifying the techniques being used. Far too often, new music from the 20th century is rejected by audiences simply because they don't understand which musical parameters focusing their attention on.

Suggested reading: 'The Unanswered Question: Six Talks at Harvard,' Chapter 5, *the Twentieth Century Crisis* by Leonard Bernstein; *New Directions in Music* by David Cope (there are six editions, each building on the previous).

Read Tim's bio at left.

Current Affairs & Media



NEW! From Printing Press to TikTok: A Media Revolution

Mark Silverman, Sue Langston-Ames

Monday, 9:30-11:30am

3 sessions: Apr 13, 20, 27

School of Education, Room 1056

40 seats

Communications advances have changed the way people inform each other and have led to the creation of widespread communities of interest – from religious and political groups to sports fans and neighborhood residents. Access to information was once available only to a select few.

Before the printing press, a single hand-copied book could cost as much as a house. Just as the printing press democratized the availability of information in its time, so have other revolutionary advances in communications technology changed

society. Radio, television, silent and then talking motion pictures, the personal computer, networked computers and the Internet, and various forms of social media each made information available to wider groups. Consumers gained the ability to create and distribute their own content and change others' content.

We'll examine the ways in which several advances in communications technology changed society. We'll look at how trust in information providers changed with different technologies and how we've moved from an era of accepted truths to alternative facts.

Mark Silverman is a retired newspaper editor who was named the 2010 National Press Foundation Editor of the Year.

Sue Langston-Ames is a retired attorney and business owner with a career spanning law, entrepreneurship, and higher ed. As a lawyer, she advised clients on complex legal matters before founding a successful real estate and coaching business. Sue later served at William & Mary, where

she advanced the university's mission through her work in planned giving.

Persuasion & Deception: Rhetorical Tricks of Advertisers & Scammers

Candice Benjes-Small

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm

1 session: Apr 29

School of Education, Room 1056

40 seats

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

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

Learn how advertisers craft compelling messages, how fake news creators manipulate information, and how scammers exploit trust. We will break



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ROMANCE & REVOLUTION

FEBRUARY 10, 2026 7:30 p.m. Williamsburg Community Chapel Guest Artist: Amaryn Olmeda, violin

WAVES & WONDER

MARCH 3, 2026 7:30 p.m. Williamsburg Community Chapel Guest Artist: Sandbox Percussion

AMERICAN MOSAIC

MAY 7, 2026 7:30 p.m. Williamsburg Community Chapel A Musical-Visual Celebration of America's 250th Anniversary

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down the elements of the rhetorical triangle and its appeals, providing you with the tools to critically analyze and recognize persuasive tactics in various contexts.

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

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



Revolutionary Intelligence: How Generative AI is Reshaping Our World

Candice Benjes-Small

Monday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Mar 30
School of Education, Room 1056
40 seats

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

Read Candice's bio above.

RELATED CURRENT AFFAIRS & MEDIA COURSES

Watergate: The Political Scandal that Brought Down a President (p. 14)

History of U.S. Border Security and Immigration Law (p. 14)

Animal Welfare Policy & Public Leadership in Virginia (p. 26)

Unitary Theory of Executive Power (p. 26)

Finance & Economics

Current Events and Portfolio Management

Keith Reagan

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Feb 4, 11, 18
School of Education, Room 1056
40 seats

Come hear the latest about the new ABCs of investing: Artificial Intelligence, Bitcoin, China; Gold, Tariffs, etc. We'll review current events from a portfolio manager's perspective, placing emphasis on market metrics and dynamic asset allocation. Economic data and investment correlations will be examined.

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.

Portfolio Construction: Build Your Own Optimal Retirement Portfolio

John Graham Spiers

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am
4 sessions: Feb 5, 12, 19, 26
Campus Center, Room 31
16 seats

Join us for a comprehensive discussion in layman's terms of how long-term retirement investment portfolios are put together. This course gives the average investor the intellectual muscle to both understand and challenge their professional advisor's recommendations and actions.

A properly constructed portfolio can either 1) set an average annual return target (say 8% per year) and optimize to get the lowest possible volatility level (risk), or 2) set a maximum permissible risk level (volatility) and optimize to get the highest possible average annual return.

This disciplined investment process is based on Modern Portfolio Theory (MPT), the process utilized by the most sophisticated investment teams on Wall Street. While investment risk can never be completely eliminated, over the past five decades Modern Portfolio Theory has proven to be the best portfolio construction methodology for managing risk in pursuit of optimal portfolio performance since its design and inception in 1952.

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 managing large pension funds, state 529 plans, Mutual Funds, ETFs, and large separately managed accounts for private global clients. Over the last 19 years he has been the Chief Investment Officer for a number of Virginia based Registered Investment Advisory firms managing investment portfolios for high net worth clients.



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

John Burton

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm
2 sessions: Feb 5, 12
Campus Center, Room 31
16 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.

Senior Living Options and How to Plan Financially for Them

Dawn Michelle

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Apr 9

School of Education, Room 1056

40 seats

Navigating Senior Living Options can be a daunting and emotionally charged experience, especially when trying to make the best decision for yourself or a loved one. With so many choices available, understanding the differences between various types of senior communities is essential. This course is designed to demystify the process by providing a clear and informative overview of the senior living landscape in the Williamsburg area. Whether you're planning ahead or facing an immediate need, you'll gain valuable insights into the unique features, services, and levels of care offered by Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care, Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs), and Private Adult Care Homes.

In addition to exploring these options, the course will address the financial aspects of senior living. A Certified Senior Advisor will guide you through the typical cost ranges, what services

are included, and how pricing structures vary. You'll also hear from a Certified Financial Planner who will share strategies for budgeting, long-term planning, and leveraging resources such as insurance, retirement savings, and government programs. Whether you're just beginning your research or ready to take the next step, this course equips you with the knowledge and confidence to make informed, compassionate decisions about senior care.

Dawn Michelle, Certified Senior Advisor, specializes in Senior Living Communities, including Independent, Assisted and Memory Care, CCRCs & Private Adult Care Homes. With over 12 years of experience in the Williamsburg & peninsula areas, she is able to offer insight on the services each type of community provides and the price ranges associated with each. As a Registered Investment Advisor in the state of Virginia,

Understanding Today's Economic Trends and Issues

Dan Gaske

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm

3 sessions: Apr 14, 21, 28

Zoom, 150 seats

The course examines current economic trends and issues in United States and globally. Final topics are chosen close to start of course, based on issues most prominent at time. Previous topics have included such topics as: U.S. Tariff Increases, U.S. Government Debt, Economics of Climate Change, Economics of Immigration, Social Security Finances, Federal Reserve and Monetary Policy, World Currency Markets, Rise and Fall of U.S. Inflation, U.S. Income Inequality. Each topic is examined from perspectives of trends, causes, impacts, and potential remedies and their impacts. Course is structured around the content of presentation files on the topics, but only as a start, with the course overall intended to be discussion-oriented with high student participation.

Daniel Gaske is a long-time William & Mary Osher instructor and also teaches for the OLLI at University of Pittsburgh. He also has taught academic economic courses at William & Mary's Mason School of Business, George Mason University, Georgetown University, George Washington University, and Johns Hopkins School of International Studies. Academic topics taught have included macroeconomics, microeconomics, managerial economics, international trade and international finance. He holds a B.A. in economics and mathematics from Ouachita Baptist University and M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from Rice University.

Lifetime Income Strategies

Jacob Bales, James Bales

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am

3 sessions: Apr 16, 23, 30

School of Education, Room 2000

30 seats

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

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

Jim Bales was born and raised in Newport News. Jim is an independent advisor and a registered principal and branch manager for Centaurus Financial, Inc. His designations include Registered Financial Consultant (RFC) and Life Underwriters Training Council Fellow (LUTCF). He is a past President of the Virginia Peninsula Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors.

Government & Law



NEW! The U.S. Constitution: Revolutionary or Reactionary?

Donald Matthewson

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am
6 sessions: Feb 4, 11, 18, 25, Mar 4, 18 (no class Mar 11)
School of Education, Room 2030
30 seats

This course approaches our Declaration as a truly Revolutionary Document whose meaning has shifted and expanded over 250 years. On the other hand, although our Constitution must be judged by how well it fulfills the promises of the Declaration of Independence, it has remained, to a large extent, reactionary. It has been difficult to change and ill adapted to modern American democracy.

We will ask why the document facilitates “the tyranny of the minority.” We will discuss whether or not the Courts are the appropriate venue for Constitutional change. Article V provides a means to change the document, thus we ask, why hasn’t that happened in over 50 years? The course explores how the Constitution works today to undermine the revolutionary promise of the Declaration.

Donald Matthewson, Ph.D., is lecturer in Politics, Administration and Justice, emeritus, at California State University Fullerton. He lives in Williamsburg.



NEW! Animal Welfare Policy and Public Leadership in Virginia

Bob Tubbs

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Mar 24, 31, Apr 7
Campus Center, Colonial Echo
18 seats

This course explores how public policy, law, and leadership intersect to shape animal welfare and community well-being in Virginia. Participants examine real-world legislative initiatives, such as the Virginia Animal Welfare Tax

FEATURED ALUMNI LECTURE:

SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE IN LIFELONG LEARNING AT W&M

The Unitary Theory of Executive Power: Important but Unknown

Robert Spitzer

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Mar 19
W&M Alumni House, Hunter Hall
100 seats

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

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

The Unitary theory, however, dials up Executive activism to a startling degree. Is the Unitary theory, in fact, what the Founders had in mind for the American presidency? What impact does it have on the relationship

between the three branches of government, and therefore on our system of governance? Is it a return to the past or a modern invention? Whether new or old, excavated or invented, the Unitary theory is revolutionary.

The lecture is also open to W&M alumni, offering the opportunity to experience the type of quality, noncredit continuing education available each semester at W&M. Alumni can purchase seats at a special event at [LearnAtOsher.wm.edu](https://www.wm.edu/LearnAtOsher).



This is Osher’s second Spring featured alumni lecture. See p. 16 to learn about our Feb. 19 talk offered in recognition of W&M’s 2025-26 Year of the Environment.

Robert J. Spitzer (Ph.D. Cornell) is Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus, Political Science, at SUNY

Cortland, adjunct professor at the William & Mary School of Law, and affiliated scholar in William & Mary’s Government and Public Policy Depts. He is author of 16 books, including 6 on gun policy, and over 700 articles on many American politics subjects. He was visiting professor at Cornell University for 30 years.

Incentive Act, Shelter Standards Act, and Judicial Wellness Reform, to understand how ethics, economics, and governance converge in policy making.

Through lectures, guest speakers, and applied projects, students will analyze the policy making process from concept to enactment, assess the roles of state agencies and advocacy organizations, and explore how innovation, data, and civic engagement drive social change. The course culminates in a policy proposal or legislative brief developed by each

student or team, offering hands-on experience in transforming research into action.

Bob Tubbs is founder and advocate of the Virginia Animal Protection Group, leading statewide initiatives that link animal welfare, public policy, and community development. His work integrates legislation, education, and innovation to strengthen Virginia’s animal care systems. He partners with state agencies, universities, and civic leaders to advance humane, data-driven, and economically sound solutions.

When Is Justice Served? Insights from the Military Experience

Tom Shubert, Ken Krantz

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am
2 sessions: Apr 16, 23
Campus Center, Colonial Echo
18 seats

An issue consistently discussed in our society is how to ensure “the ends of justice” are fulfilled in sentencing for criminal offenses. The objective is to strike the right balance between protecting the safety and welfare of the community and protecting the statutory rights of the convicted individual.

For example, a sentence of 10 years may fall short of 3,650 days in prison. And a “life” sentence may be commuted to something far less. How and why does this happen? Who is looking out for the community? The victim(s)? What can be done to ensure that the intended “justice” is served as prescribed during sentencing?

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

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

Ken is retired Navy JAG officer and federal administrative law judge. Read more about him on p. 19).

Health & Wellness

Yoga & Mindful Meditation

Indira Ghosh

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am
4 sessions: Feb 4, 11, 18, 25
Williamsburg Landing, Charter Room
(Assisted Living Bldg) 15 seats

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

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

Demystifying Dementia- Basics, Resources, and Brain Health

George Worthington, Heather Kidd

🕒 Wednesday, 9:30-10:30am
4 sessions: Feb 4, 11, 18, 25
🖥️ Zoom, 125 seats

Are you comfortable interacting with people experiencing changes in their thinking and memory? Are you aware of services and programs to support a good quality of life? Did you know there are changes you can make that can help reduce your risks of developing dementia? In this course taught by Virginia’s Dementia Services Director, you will become a Dementia Friend and learn about dementia and Alzheimer’s disease, learn about the major types of dementia, discover

resources and services available in the community and how to access them, and hear the latest research around brain health and dementia risk reduction.

As Dementia Services Director for Virginia’s Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), George supports the Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders Commission, drives the implementation of the Dementia State Plan, reviews existing programs and works to more effectively deliver services to Virginians living with dementia. George has a Master of Science in Clinical Psychology from Latrobe University in Melbourne, Australia.

Heather Kidd serves as dementia services specialist for Virginia’s Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, sharing education, resources, and support on dementia and brain health. She has a background in dementia care leadership and holds a master’s degree in leadership and organizational studies from University of Southern Maine. She is currently completing a graduate degree in gerontology at Virginia Commonwealth University.



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

Edilberto Pelausa

Monday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Feb 16
Virginia Greens, Theatre
40 seats

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

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

Finding Their Perfect Place

George (Ret. Air Force) and Kate Richmond selected Patriots Colony for its welcoming atmosphere, amenities, and picturesque surroundings while being near the history and culture of the Williamsburg area.

Read their story online: patriotscolony.com/richmond



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



NEW! Balance, Stumbles & Falls: What You Don't Know Can Kill You

Daniel Shaye

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Feb 25
Virginia Greens, Theatre
40 seats

One in five falls results in a serious injury. Emergency rooms will see 3 million visits this year from falls. And if you fail a basic one-leg balance test, your risk of death in the next 10 years **doubles**. Join us for this important talk about your health and safety.

Dr. Daniel Shaye is licensed in Virginia as a doctor of chiropractic (D.C.) and is a fellow of the International Academy of Medical Acupuncture (F.I.A.M.A.). A William & Mary alum, he graduated magna cum laude in 1990 from Logan College of Chiropractic (now Logan University) in St. Louis. He celebrates his 30 years of service to greater Williamsburg through Performance Chiropractic, which is undergoing certification as a ProBalance center of excellence.

Downsize Your Stuff to Upsize Your Life

Lisa Bates

Monday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Mar 23
Williamsburg Landing, Community Center, 100 seats

Does the challenge of how to downsize your stuff prevent you or delay you from starting the next chapter of your life? If so, this is the course for you! You will learn how reduce household clutter, downsize your wardrobe, get organized, turn heirlooms into cash, and more! Then take a look at options to up-size your life. Senior living is changing. It's time to look ahead and up-size your life!

Lisa is the Chief Marketing Officer of Williamsburg Landing. With over 14 years experience in senior living options, Lisa brings wealth of information to those interested in learning more about Life Plan Communities (aka Continuing Care Retirement Communities), Contract types and important considerations in selecting your future home!



NEW! Resilience in Despair: The Uses of Humor in the Holocaust

Betty Wajnberg Ronnen

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Mar 5
Campus Center, Room 31
12 seats

This course explores wit and humor as means for survival during and in the Holocaust. Nothing about the Holocaust is funny, despite that appreciating the presence and role of humor as a means for survival is enlightening. During this session, we'll review elements and examples of laughter or comedy during the Holocaust.

Born in Poland, Betty Wajnberg Ronnen grew up in Israel surrounded by Holocaust survivors. Betty studied at the School of Occupational Therapy in Jerusalem, and after moving to the United States, earned a Ph.D. at New York University. She has worked as a staff therapist as well as adjunct faculty teaching medical sociology focused on aging. Betty has taught modern Hebrew classes for Osher and at Temple Beth El in Williamsburg.

How to Help People Live Well with Dementia

Patricia Gaudio

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Mar 23
School of Education, Room 1056
40 seats

This course will shift focus from looking at dementia through the lens of a medical model to that of a psychosocial model. This allows us to explore the importance of environment and emotional and social adaptations that can make a huge difference in enhancing quality of life and well-being throughout the dementia journey. We will cover basic information about dementia – of which Alzheimer's is just one type – and explore how to encourage and engage a loved one to live their fullest life focused on remaining abilities.

Pattie Gaudio, the cognitive services manager at Williamsburg Landing, holds certifications as an Alzheimer Disease and Dementia Care Trainer, Certified Dementia Practitioner and Activity Director specializing in Memory Care. In 2020, she completed a Master of Science in Dementia from the University of Hull. In 2024, she received national recognition as a Memory Care Innovator.

“Getting Old Ain't for Sissies”: The Science of Living Better, Longer

Jim McDonald

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Mar 24, 31, Apr 7
Campus Center, Room 159, 50 seats

We are all getting older. Today, there are 62 million people in the U.S. past the age of 65 and that's expected to grow to over 82 million in the next 25 years. The science of aging – gerontology – is growing rapidly in response to the increase the older population. Some in aging research hold that we can stop the aging process or even reverse it. Many of those same researchers have founded companies to market the modern “fountain of youth.”

This class will look at aging, the effects on the human body, the reasons why we age and what science says about the underlying causes. We'll explore what current research says about the causes of aging and then explore how we might slow the process. We'll evaluate popular longevity claims based on current research and learn what to look for when a "cure for aging" hits the Internet. In the end, we'll focus on those things that have been shown to improve quality of life as we age and can provide a healthier, and possibly longer life.

Suggested reading: *On Borrowed Time: The Science of How and Why We Age* by Sue Armstrong; *Why We Die: The New Science of Aging and the Quest for Immortality* by Venki Ramakrishnan.

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 pilot and diplomat. He taught and did research, some focused on aging populations and exercise, during his 12 years at Auburn as associate clinical professor.

Your Subconscious Mind: Taking the Reins of Your Inner Genie

Athena Staik

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Mar 24, 31, Apr 7
Campus Center, Room 31
20 seats

New findings in neuroscience have overturned what science held on the brain for 400 years. The mind wields power over our health, physical & emotional, proven all along by placebo studies. This class is about getting to know our subconscious, its distinct jobs & features in relation to the conscious, and the ways it supports our highest potential, as a partner, guide & teacher – potentially a loyal genie!

The class is also about the conscious mind, the discovery of its inner resources, command centers; its learning to build rapport to take reins of

creating our best life. Also outlined are seven recent findings in neuroscience; the effects fear/anger have, left unregulated, on our health; and the applied work, principles & brain-based practices that boost body's capacity to heal itself. Learn why our brain is a sophisticated communication system like none other! The aim is to inspire one another to engage in our own health, healing & happiness.

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



NEW! Tai Chi: A Path to Physical and Mental Well-Being

John Paugh

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am
6 sessions: Mar 25, Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Williamsburg Landing, Charter Room
(Assisted Living Bldg), 15 seats

Tai Chi, often referred to as "meditation in motion," 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.

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. Participants will learn elements of the Cheng style thirty-seven posture form. 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 spent over three decades studying and teaching Chinese martial arts, with a particular focus on Hsing-I and Tai Chi, disciplines that have shaped his philosophy of life and well-being. John's approach to teaching Tai Chi emphasizes its value as a form of exercise that improves flexibility, strength, and coordination. Equally important, he presents Tai Chi as a moving meditation, guiding practitioners to inner calm and mental clarity through deliberate and graceful movements that result in physical balance and equilibrium of mind and body.



A Conversation about Life's Journey

Fran Bado

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm
5 sessions: Mar 25, Apr 1, 8, 15, 22
School of Education, Room 2015
14 seats

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

Expect a small and highly interactive class where you may be surprised that your situation is not as rare as you think – and the answer(s) to your self-doubt, worry, and/or despair may lie within the learned wisdom of others. We will examine a number of common life challenges in a sharing and empathetic environment. Roundtable discussion will consider the first steps toward a better tomorrow through the exchange of information, insights, and collective experiences. Join us!

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

Why Does Stress Have Such an Effect on Us

Karen Thomas

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Mar 26, Apr 2, 9
Campus Center, Room 159
40 seats

Stress is something we all experience, yet many people don't fully understand how it affects the body and mind. This course offers a practical and science-based exploration of the stress response, beginning in the brain and extending throughout the body. Participants will learn how stress pathways influence physical

and emotional health, and how both short-term and long-term stress can have positive and negative effects. This course introduces a variety of stress management techniques and coping strategies that are easy to apply in daily life. Each session concludes with a brief guided exercise designed to promote relaxation and focus.

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 including this class at Osher W&M for five years.



NEW! Loving Kindness: The Ultimate Integral Matrix

Larry Durrett

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Mar 26, Apr 2, 9
Campus Center, Room 31
12 seats

With a playful, multimodal method, we will taste, see, feel, hear, voice, and think in a more creative, mindful, satisfying way. The Way, is really the most inclusive, healing, liberating view of the world, subverting all exclusive, over-scrupulous, reductionist views and ideas. We will refine and build on good ideas, let go of bad ideas and follow the truth wherever it leads using music, easy yoga, writing, poetry, and Socratic dialogue. In so doing, we will increasingly know and show the courage and good judgement that animates the following pearl of thought: A true trust or faith is least in peril when willingly subjected to every peril.

Larry Durrett earned a B.A. in government from William & Mary; a M.Div. from Wesley Theological Seminary; and a M.S.L.S. from The University of Kentucky. He has served as a United Methodist minister, a librarian, and a yoga teacher and provided music in churches and nursing homes. He enjoyed post graduate work at the National Presbyterian Church, Virginia Theological Seminary and the Catholic University of America.


Basics of Fitness Walking

Ray Funkhouser

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Apr 1
Campus Center, Room 31
16 seats

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

The answer is race walking, also known as fitness walking or health walking.


 In this moving clinic, you'll learn about – and practice – efficient walking and specific techniques, safety, how to start your personal program, choosing shoes, and how to dress for varied weather. Whether you are an exercise enthusiast or just starting a fitness program, you will enjoy exploring this increasingly popular fitness activity. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes and dress for the weather.

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

Advanced Fitness Walking

Ray Funkhouser

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Apr 15
Campus Center, Room 31, 16 seats

 **Suitable for current fitness walkers** looking to enhance skill/performance. Wear comfortable walking clothes and shoes.

This session combines a lecture and outdoor walking activity. It is designed for fitness walkers who have some experience and are looking to get more from their 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. 31.



NEW! The Transgender Experience: Personal, Societal, Political, Scientific

Leslie Fabian, Debra Fabian

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am
2 sessions: Apr 16, 23
Campus Center, Room 159, 30 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

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, at age 62, Deborah, née David, transitioned to live as female. The Fabians will share 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.

RELATED HEALTH & WELLNESS COURSES

Senior Living Options and How to Plan for Them Financially (p. 25)

Understanding How Nature Impacts Your Connection with Self (p. 36)

Languages

Parliamo Italiano

Nicola Costa

Monday, 9:30-11:30am
6 sessions: Feb 2, 9, 16, 23, Mar 2, 16
(no class Mar 9)
Campus Center, Colonial Echo
18 seats

In ogni classe leggeremo articoli Italiani e discuteremo il contenuto, in modo che ognuno potrà 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.

German Conversation Table

Frauke Carlucci

Monday, 12:00-1:00pm
12 sessions: Feb 2 – Apr 27
(no class Mar 9)
Campus Center, Colonial Echo
18 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 Gespräche teilzunehmen mit einer Thematik der Gegenwart und der Vergangenheit, die Kultur, Wissenschaft, Literatur und Sprache und Kunst umfasst und uns so einen Einblick in das deutschsprachige Wesen gibt. Wir werden über die deutsche Beteiligung an der Amerikanischen Revolution und ihre Nachwirkungen auf die deutsche Geschichte sprechen.

Frauke Carlucci spent her life in Germany, Argentina, Venezuela and the United States. She attended Johannes Gutenberg in Mainz, Old Dominion and Richmond Universities, earning an M.A. In 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.

Spanish Conversation Table

Frauke Carlucci

Tuesday, 12:00-1:00pm
12 sessions: Feb 3 – Apr 28
(no class on Mar 10)
Campus Center, Colonial Echo
18 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.

Read Frauke's bio at left.

French Conversation Table

Kathleen Hickey

Wednesday, 12:00-1:00pm
12 sessions: Feb 4 – Apr 29
(no class Mar 11)
Campus Center, Colonial Echo
24 seats

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

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

Intermediate/Advanced Spanish for Reading, Grammar & Conversation

Chris Scheiderer

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am

6 sessions: Feb 4, 11, 18, 25, Mar 4, 18
(no class Mar 11)

School of Education, Room 2021
15 seats

Esta clase es para estudiantes avanzados que ya han tomado al menos dos años de español al nivel universitario. Vamos a leer y conversar sobre cada lectura y, a la vez, repasar elementos básicos de la gramática. Nuestro fin siempre es que todos se mejoren en su habilidad de leer, comprender y conversar a un nivel avanzado.

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

Literature & Writing

Publishing Options and Pointers

Dawn Brotherton

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am

3 sessions: Feb 5, 12, 19

School of Education, Room 2000
30 seats

So many people want to write a book but have no idea where to start when it's time to publish. In today's digital age, there are many options to be published, from self-publishing to hybrid to traditional. We will discuss the pros and cons of each and help you come up with the answer that is right for you as an author. Setting realistic goals is important for any venture. How much will it cost to produce a quality book? What should you expect whether you are self-publishing or going traditional?

This is NOT a writing class. We will discuss the business of publishing so

you know what to do when you finish your manuscript. You'll find this class helpful even if you haven't finished your manuscript or if you are interested in creating a family project/keepsake for generations to come. The instructor cautions, however, that her knowledge does not extend to poetry.

Suggested reading: *The Road to Publishing* by Dawn Brotherton.

Owner of Blue Dragon Publishing, Dawn Brotherton is an award-winning author and featured speaker at writing and publishing seminars. A retired Air Force colonel, Dawn is focused on sharing the various options for publishing, from self- to traditional publishing. She has helped over 117 writers become published authors.



NEW! Four Revolutionary American Novels of the 20th Century

Donald Matthewson

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm

4 sessions: Feb 5, Feb 26, Mar 26, Apr 9
Campus Center, Room 159, 50 seats



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Each of the four class sessions will re-examine and discuss a noteworthy novel from among the most revolutionary works of the 20th century. The selected novels are shown below as suggested reading in advance of the once-a-month class featuring that book.

Suggested reading: *The Sound and the Fury* by William Faulkner; *The Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison; *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller; and *Beloved* by Toni Morrison

See Don's bio on p. 26.

Book Lovers' Discussion Group

Cathi Davis

Monday, 12:00-1:00pm
4 sessions: Feb 16, Mar 16, Apr 6, May 11
Campus Center, Room 159
40 seats

Do you love to read and enjoy discussing books? Join us to explore interesting books that promote lively discussions. This semester's selections include:

Feb 16: *Life After Life* by Kate Atkinson, 560 pages. ISBN-13 97603161764861

Mar 16: *Winter Soldier* by Daniel Mason, 336 pages. ISBN-13 9780316477604

Apr 6: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain, 333 pages. ISBN-13 9781954839434

May 11: *James* by Percival Everett, 303 pages. ISBN-13 9781035031269

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

NEW! Sherlock Holmes: Chasing the Hound of the Baskervilles

Raymond Betzner

Friday, 9:30-11:30am
4 sessions: Feb 27, Mar 6, 20, 27 (no class Mar 13)
School of Education, Room 2010
30 seats

In late 1893, Arthur Conan Doyle created Prof. James Moriarty to kill off his great detective creation, Sherlock Holmes. Conan Doyle had tired of the Baker Street sleuth. Even as his fans mourned, Conan Doyle set his mind on other projects.

Eight years later, Conan Doyle heard the story of a spectral dog that roamed the moors of Dartmoor. He picked up his pen and Sherlock Holmes was brought back to chase the Hound of the Baskervilles. For more than a century, Holmes and the Hound have held a special place in late Victorian fiction.

We will explore Conan Doyle's writing process, his sources, and his conflicting attitudes towards Holmes. We will also examine the public reaction to the Gothic detective tale and its continuing popularity. Finally, we will watch the most popular film adaptation of the tale, starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce and compare its fidelity to the original text.

Ray Betzner is a retired marketing and public relations professional. While living in Williamsburg during the 1980s and 90s, he worked as a reporter for the Daily Press before joining the communications team at William & Mary. He continued his higher education work at Franklin & Marshall College and Temple University in Pennsylvania. He and his wife, Joan, returned to Williamsburg to retire five years ago.

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

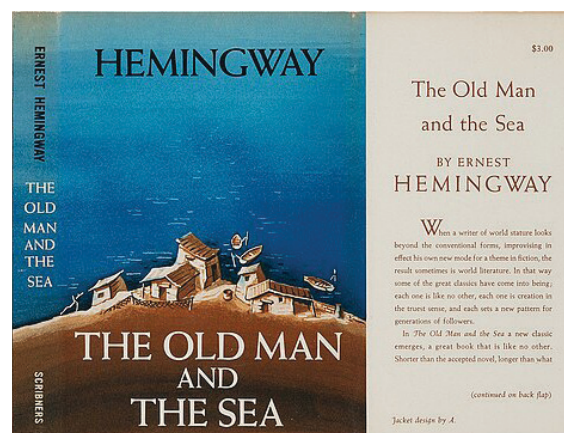
Stephanie Goodrich

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Apr 13
Campus Center, Room 31
16 seats

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

class. Each student brings an open mind and ears, plus a readiness to discuss their required reading book choice that is / non-fiction / about U.S. history / covers a time prior to 1878. Classroom experience: Students discuss the book they read, listen to others talk about their book, reference in-class handouts, and make notes. The instructor facilitates the discussion. Students may disagree about books. However, they do so with respectful disagreement, rather than disagreeableness.

Stephanie Goodrich is an under-age-50 Osher student and instructor. Her teaching passion is to facilitate students learning from each other. Contributions to her profession include training peers and coaching emerging leaders. She is an adjunct instructor emeritus of a master of science graduate program. Stephanie's enthusiasm for history began in elementary school. Reading is her first love.



NEW! The Marlin & the Myth: Wrestling with Hemingway's *Old Man and the Sea*

James Avery

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Apr 14
W&M Alumni House, Leadership Hall
32 seats

The best authors open our eyes to truths that we can sometimes miss. They teach us to see the world anew, and sometimes they stir our souls and ignite a sense of wonder. Hemingway

does this in *Old Man and the Sea*. Join us as we uncover the profound lessons woven into Santiago's epic struggle with the marlin. The narrative invites thoughtful interpretation and spirited debate: Is Santiago ultimately triumphant or deeply defeated? What profound symbolism lies within the marlin? How do we truly define success? Through Santiago's remarkable journey, we may find inspiration and strategies to navigate our own life challenges and triumphs, as Santiago's journey transcends a mere fishing expedition; it is a poignant meditation on endurance, solitude, and the essence of life itself.

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

Religion & Philosophy



NEW! Informing Cultural & Spiritual Evolution: Emerson's Revolutionary Divinity School Address

Christopher Ulloa Chaves

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Mar 3

W&M Alumni House, Leadership Hall
32 seats

In 1838, Ralph Waldo Emerson, a descendant of an American Revolutionary War chaplain, delivered a revolutionary speech at Harvard's Divinity School graduation commencement against what he believed were historical Christianity's two main errors against humanity.

What were these two main errors? Why were these errors not corrected by Christian authorities and why did

Emerson believe the spirit of the poet could begin to repair the damage to contemporary human value and agency in mainly the Western world?

This seminar attempts to answer these and other questions. A fair, open and critical mindset is encouraged during this seminar.

Christopher Ulloa Chaves ED.D. has teaching experience in nonprofit organizations like the Episcopal Church in New England, Southern Illinois University (SIUC), the University of New Mexico (UNM), and through OLLI seminars at the Universities of Vermont, Illinois, and William & Mary; he has previously taught The History of Higher Education at the College of William & Mary. He completed graduate-level work in the humanities involving literature and ethics from which he facilitates literature discussion seminars. He holds a doctoral degree from the University of Southern California (USC) and is author of Liberal Arts and Sciences: Thinking Critically, Creatively, and Ethically.

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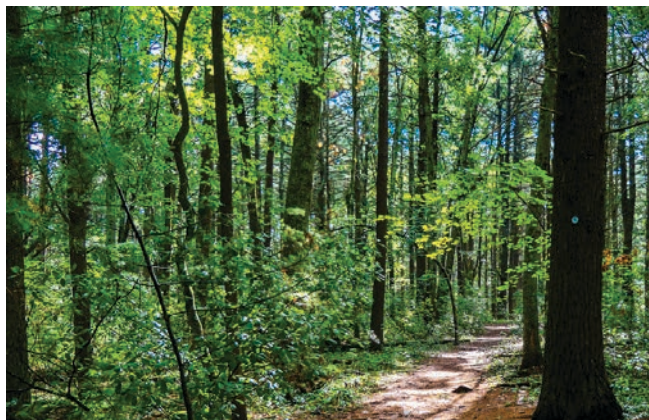
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NEW! Understanding How Nature Will Impact Your Connection with Self


Griz Caudle

Monday, 9:30-11:30am

3 sessions:

Mar 23, 30, Apr 6

Campus Center, Room 31, 16 seats

 Week 2 is a forest walk; for safety, must be able to walk unassisted on uneven terrain for an extended time

“In Wildness is the preservation of the world...” — HENRY DAVID THOREAU

In this course, we will study how Thoreau changed the course of our understanding of how nature and our natural surroundings can have a significant impact on our daily lives. Over the course of three sessions, we will explore how Thoreau became such a leader in the study of nature and the concept of being present in the moment through our understanding of natural things:

- **Session 1** will study the origins of Thoreau thought and the understanding of the man himself;
- **Session 2** takes us on a journey through the forest as we take the art of being present in nature to a personal level. (Walking on forest trails for 1-2 hours at Waller Mill Park);
- **Session 3** will be a study and review of how being present in nature indeed may impact our daily lives.

Suggested reading: *Nature and Walking* by Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson. *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau

Griz Caudle is a former professor at SUNY Geneseo. He resides in Williamsburg during colder months and in upstate New York the rest of the year. Griz 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.

NEW! The Battle for Christ: Christianity's First 500 Years

Jack Dalby

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am

5 sessions: Mar 26, Apr 2, 9, 16, 23

 Zoom, 75 seats

 *OLLI at Drake will join us for this course*

Christianity's astounding success in the ancient Roman world was not preordained. Far from it. In this historically based, five-part lecture series, we will examine the many reasons how, in its first 500 years of existence, Christianity grew from a tiny group of apocalyptic Jews in the year 30CE, to being proclaimed the official religion of the Roman Empire in 380CE. Discussion topics include the historical Jesus, the ministry of Paul of Tarsus, how the inclusion of gentiles changed the trajectory of Christian growth, why Christianity separated from Judaism, the Roman view of Christianity, early Christian worship, Roman persecution of Christians, the Pagan world, the importance of martyrdom, the astounding variety of Christianities, the cult of Mary, the importance of Christian missionary outreach, Constantine's conversion, the Council of Nicaea, Julian the Apostate, the great schisms and the fall of Rome.

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

Cicero's *De Senectute* (On Aging)

Bill Rhodes

Monday, Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am

3 sessions: April 13, 15, 20

School of Ed, Room 2030, 30 seats

This course allows members to become familiar with *De Senectute* and elements of Stoic philosophy. The session opens with a popular-level introduction to the discipline of practical philosophy, particularly Stoicism. With that foundation, we will move through each of Cicero's "considerations" regarding the beneficial aspects of aging. Although Cicero grants that we change in many ways as we age, he suggests, contrary to popular opinion, that most of these changes promote our well-being. The course is offered in a lecture format, but there will be plenty of opportunity for interaction – especially for those with no prior exposure to or experience with philosophy.

Suggested reading: *De Senectute* by Cicero

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.

Justice & War

Bill Rhodes

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Apr 21

W&M Alumni House, Leadership Hall
32 seats

Explore the relationship of war and justice, primarily through an examination of the just war tradition. Topics include realism, pacifism, the question of resorting to war, just conduct in war, and post war justice. The lecture will offer an account of the just war tradition's evolution and the challenges just war thinking faces today.

Suggested reading: *An Introduction to Military Ethics* by Bill Rhodes; *Just and Unjust Wars* by Michael Walzer.

Read Bill's bio above.

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)

NEW! The Desert and Its Weather

Gerald Mulvey

Monday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Feb 2, 9, 16
Zoom, 40 seats

This is an introductory course on meteorological phenomena that occur in desert regions of the Earth. We will study types of deserts, formation mechanisms, geographic locations, and common phenomena such as sand dunes and snow drifts, including how they form and move. Weather events will also be covered, including large daily temperature fluctuations, dust devils, and dust storms/Haboobs. The course will also touch on desert fauna and flora as well as the impact of the shifting climate.

Gerald Mulvey holds a Ph.D. in atmospheric science from Colorado State University. He spent 40+ years in high technology, and teaching at the university level. He is an American Meteorological Society Certified Consulting Meteorologist, emeritus member, and fellow-elect, and a director of the Texas Academy of Science, owns a small business with 50+ publications and presentations.

Mastering Your iPhone/iPad Camera & Photo Apps

Rick Chase

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Feb 2, 9, 16
Zoom, 50 seats

OLLI at Drake will join us for this course

This course will help you master the camera and photo applications on your iPhone and/or iPad. You will learn the camera's functions and capabilities, still photography, plus cover the video capabilities. The Photos application will be explored, including navigation in the

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

Suggested reading: *Apple iPhone User Guide* (free, online) <https://support.apple.com/guide/iphone/welcome/ios>; *Apple iPad User Guide* (free, online) <https://support.apple.com/guide/ipad/welcome/ipados>

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.

Common Bryophytes of Coastal Virginia

Jim Perry

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Feb 3, 10, 17
Keck Lab, Room 108
20 seats

Bryophytes are a primitive plant and include mosses, liverworts, and hornworts. While often unnoticed and/or ignored, they are an important component of our ecosystems contributing to soil stabilization, habitat biodiversity, and rainwater retention. This class will be presented in three parts: In the first class we will meet in the classroom and discuss the live history of bryophytes, how they are identified, and the common ones found in Coastal Virginia. The second meeting will be a field trip where we will ID common mosses and liverworts. Finally, the third class will be an advanced class for those who would like to learn how to identify and key out coastal bryophytes using book keys, dissecting scopes, and microscopes.

Required reading: *Common Mosses of the Northeast and Appalachians* by

K.B. McKnight et al., 2023. ISBN 978-0-691-15696-5; *Guide to the Liverworts of North Carolina* by M.L. Hicks.

Jim Perry is professor emeritus of marine science at W&M's Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). His research involved long-term ecological changes in vascular plant communities of tidal and non-tidal wetlands, and the resulting environmental impacts within watersheds. He has taught undergrad, graduate, and continuing education classes for over 35 years.



NEW! Top 10 Revolutions in Medicine

Kerry Prewitt

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am
2 sessions: Feb 5, 12
Campus Center, Room 159
50 seats

Medicine has had amazing revolutions and advances in the way we provide care. From ancient remedies to cutting-edge gene editing, medicine has undergone radical transformations that have reshaped the way we understand and treat disease.

This course explores the 10 most significant advances in medical history – breakthroughs that not only saved millions of lives but also altered the course of human civilization. Journey through pivotal moments such as the development of vaccines, the discovery of antibiotics, anesthesia, germ theory, medical imaging, and more recent innovations like the discovery of DNA and the genetic revolution. The course will examine the scientific principles, historical context, key figures, and societal impact surrounding these advances.

Kerry Prewitt, M.D., is a board certified cardiologist and vascular specialist with over 35 years in practice, including 10 years in the Williamsburg area. He completed fellowships in cardiovascular disease at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and interventional cardiology at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He was director of interventional cardiology for two large cardiology groups. His special areas of interest include interventional cardiology (procedures),

vascular medicine, and preventive cardiology. He has been recognized for his commitment to teaching and service with several awards.



NEW! Who Were the Solutreans – Our First People?

Jim Griffin

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm

1 session: Feb 19

School of Education, Room 1056

30 seats

The Solutrean culture introduced new techniques in stone tool production, including bifacial points crafted with percussion and pressure flaking using antler and hardwood tools, resulting in lightweight implements such as barbed arrowheads. The culture extended into early Iberia and was later succeeded by the Magdalenian culture (17,000-12,000 years ago).

Some theories suggest a possible spread to the Chesapeake Bay region of Virginia and Maryland. One related idea, known as the “Solutrean

hypothesis,” proposes that individuals from this culture may have migrated to North America from Europe, potentially traveling by boat along the pack ice edges across the North Atlantic Ocean.

This hypothesis does not contradict the widely accepted view that the Americas were initially populated from Asia – the Bering Straits – but suggests an additional route. According to this theory, the Solutreans could have transferred their stone tool methods, influencing the subsequent Clovis technology found throughout North America.

The hypothesis is based on comparisons between Solutrean and Clovis lithic technologies discovered in Virginia and other locations along the eastern seaboard. The course is based on the instructor’s recent visit to the Museum of Prehistory in Les Eyzies, France, and recent research.

Suggested reading: ‘The North Atlantic ice-edge corridor: A possible Palaeolithic route to the New World’ by Bruce Bradley and Dennis Stanford, *World Archaeology Journal*. 36 (4): 459-478.

Read Jim’s bio on p. 21.

Coastal Studies

Carl Hobbs

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm

3 sessions: Feb 23, Mar 2, 16

(no class on Mar 9)

School of Education, Room 2030

30 seats

Shoreline Studies considers the character of beaches, dunes, barrier islands, and tidal marshes along with the forces and processes that create and change them. Some of the important factors are wind, waves, tides, storms and storm surge, the characteristics of sediments, and sea-level rise including climate change. While the course concentrates on physical aspects, it includes a brief discussion of marsh plants. The students should gain an understanding of the physical aspects of the coastal zone, e.g., the beach cycle, erosion, waves, tides, wind, and the consequence of sea-level rise, etc. By the conclusion of the course, students

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should have a better appreciation of the major processes modifying the shore and their interactions.

Carl Hobbs, emeritus professor Marine Science at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science at William & Mary, has B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in geology. He specialized in coastal geology and the geology of the Chesapeake Bay region. He led projects studying tidal shorelines of Virginia, shoreline erosion, and environmental consequences of mining offshore sand. He is author of The Beach Book.

NEW! Solar Cells on Earth and in Space **Michael Finlan**

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am
2 sessions: Feb 26, Mar 5
School of Education, Room 2000
30 seats

Solar farms and rooftop solar panels are widespread. These are almost exclusively based on silicon (Si) solar cells. The first class will describe the physics of why these cells produce electricity and how their orientation and the atmosphere affect their efficiency.

The class will also address the disposal and recycling issues inherent in the use of Si solar panels. The second class will cover why Si solar cells are not used on satellites and why different materials are used. The class will include specific examples of solar panels used on missions to Mars and Jupiter, and it will also include details of a planned future system that will orbit Earth, convert solar energy to electricity, and then radiate that energy down to Earth stations to provide electricity to remote (or unserved) locations.

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, environmental science, 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 History of Mapmaking (Cartography)

**Stephen Beck,
Aaron Lovejoy**

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Feb 26, Mar 5, 19
(no class Mar 12)
School of Ed,
Room 1056
40 seats

The history of map-making 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 map-making 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. He resides with his wife in the Williamsburg area.


Aaron Lovejoy is an archaeologist and GIS specialist with over a decade of experience in the fields of geospatial analysis, archaeological methods,



remote sensing and geophysics; conducting research in Hawaii, the American Southwest, Georgia, and Virginia. Aaron currently lives in Williamsburg, Virginia where he oversees geospatial analysis for Colonial Williamsburg's Department of Archaeology.

NEW! The Atmosphere's Powerhouse – Hurricanes

Gerald Mulvey

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Mar 24, 30, Apr 7
 Zoom, 40 seats

The course explores the description of physical formation processes, including hurricane stages, structure, and life cycles, as well as the. The hurricane "cookbook" (what it takes for hurricane formation. Also addressed is the question, how a hurricane dies (or does it?). We will focus primarily on Atlantic hurricanes but will also discuss Pacific and Indian Ocean typhoons.

The course will start with the building blocks of hurricanes: thunderstorms. We will then move on to formation mechanisms such as Easterly Waves, West African Disturbance Line (WADL), Tropical Upper Tropospheric Trough (TUTT), and the Old Frontal

Boundary. National Hurricane Center forecast products and “spaghetti plots” will be explored, as well as hurricane preparedness and safety.

Read Gerald's bio on p. 37.

NEW! Personal Computers for Beginners: The Apple Macintosh (“Mac”)

Rick Chase

Wednesday & Friday, 1:30-3:30pm
6 sessions: Mar 25, 27, Apr 1, 3, 8, 10
School of Ed, Room 1056, 40 seats

⚠️ **This course is specific to MacBook and MacBook Pro laptops using the latest version of OSX.**

Are you new to using an Apple laptop or unsure of your skills? This beginner's course will help you build confidence in using an Apple Mac-based personal computer.

Topics include:

- Intro to the Apple Mac
- Intro to the Mac OSX operating system
- Navigating the user Interface
- Managing files and folders
- Connectivity (Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Ethernet)
- Using Essential Apps (Pages, Numbers, Keynote, Photos, Mail, iCloud, Music, FaceTime, etc.)
- Settings & personalization
- Connecting peripheral devices (printers, scanners, external speakers/headsets/earbuds)
- Staying safe and secure
- Maintenance & troubleshooting.

Suggested reading: *Apple Mac User Guide* (free, online) at <https://support.apple.com/guide/mac-help/welcome/15.0/mac/15.0>; and

Apple MacBook Pro User Guide (free, online) <https://support.apple.com/guide/macbook-pro/welcome/2024/mac>

Read Rick's bio on p. 37.



NEW! Window Glass: The Rodney Dangerfield of Archaeological Artifacts

John Delano

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Mar 27
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

Window glass is a common artifact found by archaeologists in Colonial Williamsburg. Except for the failed attempt to make glass in Jamestown (1608-1609), glass was all imported to the colonies, principally from England. The recipe for making glass changed over time as glass makers learned empirically how to improve the clarity and durability of window glass. The compositional changes of glass are being used for the first time in the current work to infer the ages of archaeological sites and the possible manufacturing sites of the window glass in England and possibly Scotland. Information gained in this class will result in one's looking carefully at window glass in all old buildings and detecting important evidence about its history.

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



NEW! Tracing Humanity's Footsteps: From Virginia to the Vézère Valley

Jim Griffin

Monday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Apr 6
School of Education, Room 1056
40 seats



This course is based on Jim's interest in the early people groups that may have inhabited our region of Virginia and Maryland before the arrival of the Clovis Peoples. It is also a product of a his and wife Nella's trip to the Vézère Valley in the Dordogne area of France, a treasure trove of prehistoric wonders. The course will trace early man from new findings at Cactus Hill, Virginia, and other recent finds in Maryland back along a possible route, and then to early evidence of prehistoric man both in the Vézère Valley and in Germany. The course requires no previous knowledge and will hopefully open new understandings for all of us.

Suggested reading: *The Caves of Périgord* by Martin Walker

Read Jim's bio on p. 21.



NEW! The Evolution of Military Medicine – From Arrows to Nukes

Alan Abrams

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Apr 30
School of Education, Room 1056
40 seats

A comprehensive overview of the treatment of combatants over the centuries with the focus on American military medicine

Suggested reading: *Between Flesh and Steel – A History of Military Medicine from the Middle Ages to the War in Afghanistan* by Richard Gabriel

Alan Abrams is a board-certified physician associate (PA) with an M.S. in health systems management. Alan served 28 years as a U.S. Army PA in the Reserves and 34 years as a civilian PA primarily in orthopedics and general surgery.

Special Interests

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

Rita Lysher

Tuesday, 9:00am-12:00pm

3 sessions: Feb 3, 10, 17

Campus Center, Room 31, 8 seats

💰 Cost \$15 (materials)

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

In this three-session series, you'll learn the ins and outs of a Cricut® machine and create three make-and-take projects. This class is ideal for beginners as well as experienced crafters who want to expand their skills. Bring your best ideas and basic computer knowledge for hands-on lessons in designing and creating paper, vinyl, and heat transfer projects. Each participant will leave with a personalized journal, a custom note/greeting card, and a monogrammed makeup or pencil bag. Cricut machine and all crafting supplies are provided.

Rita Lysher is a lifelong crafter who retired to Williamsburg in 2020. A former biology and chemistry teacher from Fredericksburg, she finally has time to dedicate to adventures with grandchildren; as well as crafting and sewing. She has created hundreds of personalized gifts and cards using Cricut Explore and has taught Cricut crafting to friends and at Piedmont Community College.

NEW! Spooky Remains: How Medieval Pilgrims and Monasteries Met Their End

George Greenia

Monday, 9:30-11:30am

1 session: Feb 9

Campus Center, Room 159, 50 seats

Two lectures, first on how research on the remains of perished medieval pilgrims reveals much about their life history, physical condition especially prior nutrition, and likely causes of their demise. Second lecture explores the haunting shells of abandoned medieval

monasteries that modern travelers come across, how those communities dwindled and died leaving behind monuments of culture and faith.

George Greenia is professor emeritus of modern languages and an expert on the Camino de Santiago in Spain and global religious tourism and pilgrimage. He has led study groups on pilgrimage in Europe for William & Mary and the Smithsonian, published widely, and lectured in over a dozen countries on travel for transformation in every time, territory and tradition.

NEW! Grandparent Magic – Easy Magic to Amaze Grandkids and Friends

Steven Mains

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm

3 sessions: Feb 24, Mar 3, 17

(no class on Mar 10)

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.



NEW! Understanding Your Dog: What Science Says

Karen McClure

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am

3 sessions: Feb 24, Mar 3, 17

(no class on Mar 10)

Campus Center, Room 31, 10 seats

Ever wonder why dogs do what they do? This engaging course dives into the science behind canine behavior, helping you understand how dogs learn, why training methods matter, and how we can support them to thrive in our human-centered world.

Kathleen McClure is a graduate of The Academy for Dog Trainers and a certified Fear Free, Pain Free trainer and consultant. Her work is grounded in the science of animal learning and behavior, using evidence-based methods to help dogs and their people build trust, confidence, and lasting change. Kathleen specializes in humane, relationship-centered behavior modification, with a focus on realistic expectations and clear communication. Drawing on her background in animal rescue and client education, she brings warmth, clarity, and empathy to every class. Her courses invite participants to explore how science – not myths – can help bring clarity in understanding why dogs do what they do.

NEW! Amazing! The 1969 New York Mets

Paul Boren

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm

1 session: Feb 24

Virginia Greens, Theatre, 40 seats

The New York Mets were established in 1962, and they immediately set a Major League Baseball record by losing 120 games in a season. They were hapless. They couldn't hit, pitch, run, or play defense. Their manager, Casey Stengel, asked, "Can't anyone play this game?"

In their first seven years, the Mets won 394 games and lost a staggering 737 games for an embarrassingly bad .394 winning percentage. They were awful.

Yet they were beloved by their fans who filled the stadium with hand-made banners and chanted "Let's Go Mets." No one expected them to improve. Then, in 1969, a miracle happened: The Mets won the World Series. The baseball world was shocked; the Mets' fans went wild. Come and relive your baseball youth and be amazed again.

Paul Boren worked with the Department of Defense for over 40 years. He sat through countless meetings, but never fell asleep because he was often thinking about baseball, music or other topics. Now he is retired, takes naps often, and teaches about sports, music and topics he spent countless hours thinking about.



NEW! The Revolution in U.S. Women's Sports: The Intercollegiate Experience

Elizabeth Fones-Wolf, Karen Thomas

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Feb 27
Campus Center, Room 159
50 seats

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

This lecture will briefly look at factors contributed to the evolution of women's intercollegiate sports including the history of women's college sports from the early beginnings in the 20th century to today's sports with sold-out stadiums and national audience. It explores

how changes in legal, financial, and societal sectors facilitated this revolution and highlights college athletes who have helped drive and shape this revolution.

Read Elizabeth's bio on p. 18 and Karen's bio on p. 31.

NEW! Sea Turtles: Nesting Season on Hilton Head Island

Amber Kuehn

Wednesday, 10:00-11:30am
1 session: Mar 11
Zoom, 50 seats

ⓘ **W&M is closed on Mar 11 for Spring break, but this Zoom class will still meet.** This hybrid class is hosted by OLLI at University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) and will include USCB members in person and online.

Join marine biologist Amber Kuehn to discuss the challenges and triumphs of the conservation efforts for South Carolina's endangered sea turtles: their nesting habits and the results collected in the current nesting season by Sea Turtle Patrol Hilton Head Island.

Amber Kuehn is a local marine biologist who holds a South Carolina Department of Natural Resources permit to monitor sea turtles nesting on Hilton Head Island

NEW! Presenting... the World Famous Hollywood Magic Castle

John Streiff

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Mar 24, 30, Apr 7
Campus Center, Room 159, 50 seats

Anyone with even a passing interest in the performance of Magic has likely heard of the Magic Castle in Hollywood, California. A private club, it is one of the hottest tickets in Los Angeles. We will trace the history from the time it was a famous Hollywood residence to its renovation for magic performance. Then we'll go through the mysterious entrance lobby to tour the Castle and finally we'll view many performances by famous and up-and-



coming magicians in the showrooms. If you have wondered how it came into, what goes on there or even how you might be able to visit, you will want to attend this class.

John Streiff has many eclectic and differing interests, from technology to performance art. He has taught in the Osher program at William & Mary for over eight years. From a young age he was intrigued by mystery and magic. Years later he was performing magic in San Diego and yet later became collector and historian of mystery performance arts. Among his many affiliations, he is a Magician member of the Academy of Magical Arts; the World Famous Hollywood Magic Castle is their club.

Thinking Bridge

Mike Jenks

Friday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Mar 27, Apr 3, 10
Campus Center, Room 159, 18 seats

⚠ Participants should have some experience playing bridge

"Thinking" is something we all know we must do when playing bridge. But failure to think is the No. 1 reason that separates the better players from the also rans.

Failing to think may be caused by playing too quickly; e.g., as declarer, you must think at trick #1 in which hand to take the trick, or, if you should take the trick at all. Even in bidding, e.g., opening one club holding the 2-4 in spades, the Q-3 in hearts, the A-Q-6-5 in diamonds and the A-J-6-

5-4 in clubs, you can not open 1C but must open 1D. Because if your partner responds one of a major, you have no bid without misleading your partner. So you must think one bid ahead to account for your partner's response.

On defense, do you know how to signal and when to give a false signal? On defense every card you play should be a message to your partner. Often we get lazy and toss a low card without "thinking!" These are the types of situations we will cover before you play several prepared hands to see how well you learned to THINK!

Mike Jenks holds master status with the American Contract Bridge League. He has taught bridge locally since 2010. A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, he holds a master's degree in engineering from Stanford. Mike served 28 years in the U.S Army Corps of Engineers. He has lived in Williamsburg since 2006.



Creations from the Fall 2025 "Make a Basket" course

Let's Make a Basket

Anna-Marie Cox

Friday, 1:30-4:00pm
3 sessions: Mar 27, Apr 3, 10
Campus Center, Colonial Echo
12 seats

Cost \$20 (materials)

Bring sharp scissors, a bucket or basin, two bath towels, and a measuring tape.

Learn to make a basket using reed. We will be exploring continuous weave as well as single weave. Wear clothes that you don't mind getting dirty.

Anna-Marie has been teaching basket weaving on and off for 30 years. She loves working with her hands and learning how things were made in the

past. She also teaches the fiber arts portions of the Viking classes taught at Osher with husband Martin. Her other hobbies include stained glass and medieval embroidery.

NEW! Double-Decker Yanks: Visit London as a Local

Kelly Shaw, Bill Rhodes

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am
1 session: Apr 14
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 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 and Bill have been living part-time in the UK since 2010, often

with short hops or cruises over to the Continent. They stay in rented flats, shop locally, and walk extensively. This approach avoids the sterility (and expense) of packaged tours while offering much 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.

Kelly Shaw and Bill Rhodes have been living part-time in London for several years. Before the pandemic, Kelly wrote apps describing sights along common London Bus routes, helping visitors experience London as Londoners rather than as tourists. Read more about Bill on p. 36.

Backgammon for Beginners

William Pow

Friday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Apr 17, 24, May 1
Campus Center, Room 31, 16 seats

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

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

Osher Wants YOU: Be an Instructor for Osher at W&M

Veteran Osher Instructors

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: April 23
Campus Center, Colonial Echo, 18 seats

Free and open to members and non-members alike. Email osher@wm.edu to reserve your seat.

If you've thought about teaching an Osher class but wonder what is involved or how to proceed, then this class is for you. In this two-hour session, a panel of veteran Osher instructors will answer your questions and explain how to get started. They will guide you through the process of becoming an instructor and proposing a course, offering insight into the kinds of courses members like and the best teaching methods for adult learners.

Everyone has a special area of interest, hobbies, and experience. Consider sharing yours with Osher at W&M members. You'll wonder why you waited so long!

World History

The Holocaust Through a Child's Eyes

Donald Schilling

Monday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Feb 2, 9, 16
School of Education, Room 2030
30 seats

This course examines the challenges faced by Jewish children in the Holocaust with attention to their similarities and differences with adult victims. It focuses in particular on the experiences of Nechama Tec as recorded in her book *Dry Tears* and how she was eventually able to confront her painful past.

Required reading: *Dry Tears: Story of a Lost Childhood* by Nechama Tec

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 Amphibious Navy in the Pacific War – Research and Recollections

Susan Woodward

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Feb 3, 10, 17
School of Education, Room 2030
30 seats

In the Southwest Pacific during World War II, the Seventh Amphibious Force, largely made up of reserve officers and inexperienced sailors, manned newly created landing craft – many of which were not designed or equipped to cross large bodies of water – to spearhead General Douglas MacArthur's surprising advance along the New Guinea Coast and up the Philippine archipelago.

Aboard their awkward landing vessels, the men of the "Seventh Phib Force" bypassed Japanese strongholds to

pour enormous numbers of troops, guns, ammunition, and supplies onto beaches where the enemy least expected them. A few of those beat-up landing crafts were later converted into one of the most powerful weapons in the U.S. arsenal.

This course will examine and celebrate the innovative abilities and sheer tenacity of some of the forgotten heroes of the Pacific War.

Susan Woodward is a writer and editor who resides in Williamsburg, Virginia. She is co-author of The Youngest Officer, a memoir of her father's service as a 90-day wonder naval officer in the Pacific War. To create the book, she transcribed, fact checked and edited 18 audiotapes created by her father and researched the contributions of amphibious landing forces in the New Guinea and Philippines campaigns. Susan holds a B.A. in English from the University of California at Berkeley and an M.A. in English from San Diego State University. She has taught numerous college writing courses and worked as an editor for Academic Press and the aerospace industry.

NEW! How Britain Came to Lose Its American Colonies

John Rogers

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions:
Feb 24, Mar 3, 17
(no class Mar 10)
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

A study of the events leading up to the Revolution, the Revolution itself and an exam of the events in London that profoundly affect the course of the Revolution, and finally, the events that brought about the end of the Revolution.

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.



Lessons from Iwo Jima

David Hopkinson

Friday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Feb 27, Mar 6, 20
(no class on Mar 13)
School of Education, Room 2000
30 seats

We'll recall the history of one of WWII's most brutal encounters in the Pacific Theater, as the Japanese deployed an unexpected and skilled suicidal defense against overwhelming numbers of battle hardened U.S. Marines. From this human slaughter we will draw military lessons such as: "Generals are always fighting the last war" ...or "A battle plan does not survive the first encounter with the enemy." From there we will consider broader life lessons from this encounter, such as the advice of Heraclitus in 500BC to "expect the unexpected."

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

Victory at Guadalcanal (August 1942-February 1943)

John Delano

Friday, 9:30-11:30am
3 sessions: Feb 27, Mar 6, 20
(no class on Mar 13)
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

Guadalcanal is a 90-mile-long island in the Solomons and the site of the first land offensive by the U.S. Marines

in the South Pacific in World War II. Beginning eight months after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor (Dec. 7, 1941) and two months after the U.S. Navy's victory at the Battle of Midway (Jun. 4-7, 1942), the battle for Guadalcanal was a desperate, seven-month struggle by land, sea, and air forces between the United States and Japan. It was Japan's first major defeat on land. Casualties were high on both sides.

This class provides an overview of the major events that occurred. Instructor Delano has a personal interest in this historic World War II battle because his uncle – a Marine PFC in the 1st Marine Division – was killed in action here on Aug. 13, 1942, during the infamous Goettge Patrol.

Read John's bio on p. 40.



The War in the Skies: Europe 1939-1945

Buck Beasom

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am

4 sessions: Mar 17, 24, 31, Apr 7

Zoom, 150 seats

This course traces the development of military aviation, the designers and fliers who participated in that development, and how that process led to the greatest clash of machines in the history of warfare. We follow the Luftwaffe, the RAF, and the USAAF through their early years, learn how each enjoyed its "Finest Hour," and explore how innovation, bravery, folly and – ultimately – American industrial might decide the war.

This course has extensive images, animated graphics, and embedded video from historical sources, TV miniseries, and Hollywood films. Buck provides participants with a downloadable syllabus, 50-page aircraft encyclopedia, cast of characters, aircraft chart, bibliography, and a grid with a section for each slide for those who wish to take notes.

Buck Beasom teaches for Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes across the country. He has a two-track career: four decades in data management and applications development while also teaching business courses. He

also taught history at the middle- and high school levels. He holds an M.B.A. in accounting, and a B.S. in management science with additional majors in history and economics.



NEW! Powerful Knights: The Catholic Military Orders In & After the Crusades

Michael Knapp

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm

3 sessions: Mar 23, 30, Apr 6
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

This course focuses on the three main Catholic military orders established during the Crusades to serve and protect European pilgrims traveling in the Holy Land: the Knights Templar; the Knights Hospitaller; and the Teutonic Knights. We will discuss the roles each played in and after the Crusades and the tragic end of the Templars. We will discuss what being a medieval knight was really like (in and outside of the orders), and their dangerous, difficult, and often short lifespan – versus the persistent, popular and romantic stereotypes promoted by the Arthurian legends.

We will also explore the life of the greatest knight who ever lived and the monarchs he served – England's King Henry II and his queen Eleanor of Aquitaine.

Suggested reading: *The Life and Times of The Medieval Knight*, by Charles Phillips; *The Oxford Illustrated History of the Crusades*, ed. by Jonathan Riley-Smith

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 the UVA since 2012, and at William & Mary and University of Richmond over the last few years. Michael holds a bachelor's degree in history from Central Michigan University and has pursued graduate studies at UVA and the National Intelligence University.

NEW! The Baltic States: A Look at Their History and Culture

Felicia Purdey

Friday, 1:30-3:30pm

6 sessions:

Mar 27, Apr 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1

School of Ed, Room 2000, 30 seats

The Baltic States have a fascinating history, but even hardcore history buffs don't know much about them. This course is a broad sweep: an overview of history and culture, the arts, music and religion.

We will touch briefly on World War II and the current situation, but this is not the emphasis of this course. We will also look at the "diaspora," the Baltic Americans and how they maintain a strong ethnic identity.

Felicia Giedrys Purdey, whose family is Lithuanian, worked at the Library of Congress. She went to Lithuania as a volunteer English teacher just before its renewed independence and became deeply interested in the history of the Baltic States – Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. She has been to all three and helped to set up exchange programs for library workers as part of her assignment at the Library of Congress.



History and the Diplomat

Michael Butler

Tuesday, 2:00-5:00pm

3 sessions: Apr 14, 21, 28

Swem Library, Ford Classroom
35 seats

How does History inform foreign-policy decisions? How do policymakers use "History as an analytical tool?" History and the Diplomat" will focus on the first half of the 20th century to address these questions.

A WORD ABOUT FREE & AMICABLE DISCUSSION IN THE CLASSROOM

A vibrant member community can bring equally vibrant viewpoints to the classroom.

Explicating, defending, or criticizing a given claim does not translate to personal endorsement or rejection of that claim.

Advocating a given position does not necessarily translate to personal agreement with it. Likewise, offering criticisms of an argument in the spirit of intellectual inquiry does not necessarily translate to disagreement with it.

The academic value lies in the examination and understanding of various viewpoints that thoughtful people offer.

In matters where reasonable people may disagree, it is unlikely that we'll settle on "right answers"; controversial issues are controversial for a reason.

Examining them responsibly requires a mature, respectful approach. Disagreement over controversial matters of political, ethical, legal, or social policy is healthy; disagreeableness is not.

– Offered by Bill Rhodes, Osher at W&M Veteran Instructor and former Curriculum Committee Chair and Subject Area Coordinator

Prof. Butler will draw from his 30-year diplomatic career to propose answers. Here's how the course works: W&M undergraduates choose a current foreign policy issue and then work backwards to illuminate its historical context. Course requirements for the W&M student include active participation in seminar sessions, a short bibliographic essay, a multimedia presentation to an outside audience (i.e., Osher members), and a 20-page research essay based on primary and secondary sources.

Michael Butler received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Virginia and then embarked on a 30-year Foreign Service career. He has taught at UVA, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and, since 2012, in the History department at William & Mary.

NEW! England 1066: Year of Four Kings

John Rogers

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm
3 sessions: Apr 14, 21, 28
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

A study of the final years of England's Saxon Monarchy, the disputed succession that arose on the death of Saxon King Edward the Confessor in Jan 1066, the Norman invasion of Oct. 1066 under Duke William of Normandy, and the Norman's subsequent conquest of England.

Read John's bio on p. 44.

NEW! The "Road" to Timbuktu

Preston Burns

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: Apr 23
Campus Center, Little Theatre
110 seats

Preston Burns offers stories of his travels to the city of Timbuktu, known since the early 1800s as the "world's most inaccessible place."

In Islamic circles, Timbuktu is famous for its Islamic scholarship and locally is known as a major hub for trans-Saharan trade. This lecture will present

a brief history of Timbuktu and offer a narrated photographic tour of Preston's travels from Bamako, the capital of Mali, through the Sahel and into the Sahara Desert in search of Timbuktu. The presentation includes reasons for its worldwide attraction and the inherent dangers of the Sahara Desert, such as dying of thirst – all forming a barrier to getting there.

Preston Burns grew up in Fredericksburg. He graduated from UVA with an economics degree in 1969 and from the Medical College of Virginia's School of Dentistry in 1973. He is the author of Never Turn Down a Ride, his story of hitchhiking 10,000 miles alone, across the U.S. in 56 days with \$20 and no credit card or cell phone; and Leadership Under Fire, a reranking of U.S. presidents' performances according to Adam Smith's principles in Wealth of Nations. He has traveled to all 50 states and over 100 foreign countries and still resides in Fredericksburg.



NEW! The Intriguing Story Behind Norway's Constitution Day

Marta Seger

Monday, 1:30-3:30pm
1 session: May 11
School of Ed, Room 2030, 30 seats

Norwegians celebrate Syttendai Mai AKA Constitution Day every year on May 17th with parades, flags and traditional Bunad dress. Norway's most important national holiday commemorates the signing of their constitution on May 17, 1814. It was revolutionary at the time and now, over 200 years later, it is the world's second oldest working constitution after the U.S. Constitution.

Marta Seger is a fourth generation Norwegian American and member of the local Norge Norsemen Sons of Norway Lodge. She has master's degrees in psychology and national security strategy policy. Since retiring as a strategic planner for the U.S. Army, she has had time to dig into her Norwegian ancestry, travel to Norway, and discover and share with others some of Norway's fascinating history.

ZOOM IN TO LEARNING

Online Courses for Spring 2026

Course	#	Day	Time	Dates	Instructor	Pg
NEW! To Bend the Arc of History Toward Justice	1	W	1-2:30p	Feb 25	Franklin	11
NEW! Learning U.S. History through the Lives of the Presidents	1	Th	1:30-3:30p	Mar 26	Scaros	13
NEW! Revolutionary Ideas in Thought, Action, Reaction	3	F	9:30-11:30a	Mar 27, Apr 3, 10	Staton-Reinstein	13
NEW! Watergate: The Scandal that Brought Down a President	1	Th	10a-12p	Apr 2	Smith D	14
NEW! Revolutionary Ideas or Reactionary Interpretation?	3	F	9:30-11:30a	Apr 17, 24, May 1	Staton-Reinstein	14
NEW! "The Man I Love": Women Jazz Singers Who Loved Gershwin	1	M	9:30-11:30a	Feb 2	Boren	17
UPDATED! A Different Take on Revolution: The British Invasion (1963-73)	4	Tu	1:30-3:30p	Feb 3, 10, 17, 24	Beales	18
NEW! <i>Once Upon a Mattress</i> : Broadway's Fractured Fairy Tale	1	Th	1:30-3:30p	Feb 5	Krantz	18
NEW! The Bauhaus and Beyond: Its Origins & Legacy	3/4	F	3-4:30p	Feb 12, 19, 26; Mar 5 is tentative – early a.m.	Behrens	20
NEW! Fanny Mendelssohn: A Trailblazing Composer in the Shadow of Society	1	M	6-8p	Mar 16	Isaacs	21
Understanding Today's Economic Trends & Issues	3	T	1:30-3:30p	Apr 14, 21, 28	Gaske	25
Demystifying Dementia: Basics, Resources, Brain Health	4	W	9:30-10:30a	Feb 4, 11, 18, 25	Worthington, Kidd	27
NEW! Battle for Christ: Christianity's First 500 Years	5	Th	9:30-11:30a	Mar 26, Apr 2, 9, 16, 23	Dalby	36
NEW! The Desert and Its Weather	3	M	9:30-11:30a	Feb 2, 9, 16	Mulvey	37
Mastering Your iPhone/iPad Camera & Photo Apps	3	M	1:30-3:30p	Feb 2, 9, 16	Chase	37
NEW! Hurricanes: The Atmosphere's Powerhouse	3	Tu	1:30-3:30p	Mar 24, 31, Apr 7	Mulvey	39
NEW! Sea Turtles: Nesting Season on Hilton Head Island	1	W	10-11:30a	Mar 11	Kuehn	42
The War in the Skies – Europe: 1939-1945	4	Tu	9:30-11:30a	Mar 17, 24, 31, Apr 7	Beasom	45

Zoom Class Policy & Procedures

1. Full ID Required

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 Enrolled Member

Sign-ins by a single member on multiple devices are not permitted.

3. Link is Emailed Day Prior to Class (first session only)

Links are emailed at 6am the day before class (Friday noon for Monday classes). Check your junk folder, too.

4. Link Remains the Same for Multi-Session Courses

For courses with 2 or more sessions, save the link! It remains the same for the entire course.

5. Lost the Link? Find it in Your Osher Account

Misplaced the email with the link? No worries. The link is posted in your Osher account. Sign in to your Account at LearnAtOsher.wm.edu. Click on Class List. Voilà!

6. Zoom Waiting Room

When you click the link for your Zoom class, you are placed into a "Waiting Room." The waiting room is an intentional Zoom feature and does **not** indicate a technical issue on your end or ours.

What's happening is that the Osher staff and instructor are working to set up the presentation, test settings, etc., (just like the setup for in-person courses).

Please be patient. We see your name and know you are waiting. Our goal is always to start on time.

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Membership Registration

Spring 2026 | February 2 – May 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 prefer the Catalog by: ☐ U.S. Mail ☐ Email Occupation _____
(current or prior to retirement)

Contact me about volunteering: ☐ Yes ☐ No Military Service ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ War-time Veteran

Membership Type ☐ Regular – \$200 OR ☐ Honorary: ☐ Scholarship: ☐ Gift Certificate:

Discount code provided _____

Course Selection(s)

1. Request a **max of SIXTEEN (16) courses total, with no more than EIGHT (8) being multi-session.** Featured Alumni Lectures (FAL) do NOT count against the 16 course max.
2. **Prioritize your choices** below by ranking them in order of preference (i.e., #1 = most-desired class; #2 = second most-desired class, and so on). Do not differentiate between single/multi-session; rank all of your choices as a whole. Feat. Alumni Lectures are not ranked; list them last. Forms and payment are due by **5pm on Jan. 12**. If you miss early registration, open enrollment starts on Jan. 26

PRIORITY #	CLASS NAME	MULTI-SESSION?	PRIORITY #	CLASS NAME	MULTI-SESSION?
1	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	9	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	11	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	12	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	13	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	14	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	15	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	16	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Emergency Contact :

Name _____ Phone _____

Is Your Paper Registration Complete?

- ☐ This Registration Form
- ☐ Participation Agreement – **reverse side of this form** (signed and dated)
- ☐ 2025-26 Parking Permit Form* applications are processed through the Osher office ONLY if you apply and pay during early registration. After Jan 26, take the parking permit form and \$17 to W&M Parking Services, located in Campus Center, 104 Jamestown Road.

☐ Check payable to William & Mary to include:

- ☐ \$200 Spring Membership Fee (or \$25 if Sp 2026 Scholarship Recipient)
- ☐ \$17 Osher FY25-26 Parking Permit, if needed (early registrants only*)

Note: additional course fees for materials, transportation etc. will be billed later. Payment is due upon notification to secure your seat.

- ☐ **Here's an additional \$_____ to help support the program**
Your tax-deductible gift of any amount (by separate check to **Osher Impact Fund #3914**) is greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged by William & Mary.

Osher Institute at William & Mary
Participation Agreement
2025-26 Academic Year

I acknowledge that I am at least 18 years of age and intend to participate in courses, lectures, workshops, tours, events, and/or activities (“the Program”) offered by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at William & Mary (“Osher at W&M”) for the 2025-2026 academic year (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026). By signing below, I agree to abide by the policies, procedures, and protocols of Osher at W&M as provided here, and in the semester course catalog, during my participation in the Program, whether as a member, instructor, co-instructor, community volunteer, guest, or other associate.

Participation Parameters

Osher at W&M seeks to create a vibrant learning environment where participants engage in free, open, and amicable discourse in a safe and supportive environment. Our community of learners, instructors, volunteers, and staff embodies a wide range of experiences, cultures, abilities, and perspectives. Intellectual honesty, mutual respect, courtesy, and civility are the foundation of the Program. I understand that engaging in disruptive conduct, including aggressive behavior, use of obscenities or profanity, failure to follow the direction of an Osher at W&M official, or harassment or discrimination of any kind may result in the termination of this agreement and my ability to participate in the Osher at W&M Program. Information about current membership fees, registration, refund policy and applicable administrative fees is provided in the current course catalog. I acknowledge and agree that Osher at W&M reserves the right in its sole discretion to cancel any element of the Program at any time.

Assumption of Risk – Program Participation

Participation in the Program and selection of specific coursework is voluntary, and individuals should assess their own readiness and ability to engage in the activities described before registering for a course. Courses may include travel to off-site locations and engagement in events and facilities managed by third parties for which Osher at W&M has no oversight or responsibility. Activity-based coursework may involve low-impact exercise, and outdoor coursework may involve uneven terrain and exposure to the elements, all of which include the risk of falling, strain, or overexertion. Cooking or food-based courses may involve use of products that constitute allergens for some people. I agree to stop any activity and request assistance if I experience symptoms such as dizziness, fatigue, shortness of breath, pain, or any other condition(s) that would make it difficult or unsafe to continue. I acknowledge that none of Osher at W&M’s courses constitute physical therapy or the provision of medical treatment or advice. With regard to tours, field trips, events, or travel programs, I agree to follow all instructions given to me by Osher at W&M staff or instructors.

I further understand and agree that the College of William & Mary, Osher at W&M, and the Commonwealth of Virginia do not provide any indemnification or insurance coverage, such as life, accident, automobile, or health insurance coverage for the Osher at W&M Program courses, lectures, tours, events, activities, performances, travel programs, special interest groups, and/or clubs.

Consent for Use of Image and Information

As a member of Osher at W&M (or as a non-member attending a member event), I give my permission to: 1) take and use without payment, any photographs, slides, or films of myself, as may be needed for public relations purposes, marketing/advertising, press releases, website development, or training purposes; 2) I further understand that my name and contact information will be distributed to Osher at W&M staff and Osher at W&M instructors in order to conduct classes, programs, and activities; and 3) I give my permission to receive emails from Osher at W&M unless I provide written notification to opt out.

Release of Liability

By signing below (or if registering online, by checking the acknowledgment box when prompted), I acknowledge that my participation in the Osher at W&M Program is strictly voluntary and I knowingly assume all risks thereof, including any financial or other obligations I incur as a result of any medical care I receive during or in connection with the Program, and release Osher at W&M and the College of William & Mary in Virginia, and their officers, directors, employees, and agents, from responsibility for any and all injuries or damages caused by the inherent risks of the activity and/or the negligence, recklessness, or intentional acts of myself and/or any third parties.

I knowingly bind myself my heirs, executors, and representatives and agree that if any of the provisions of this agreement become invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect under any law, such provision shall be changed and interpreted to best accomplish the objectives of such provision within the limits of applicable law.

Participant’s Signature

Printed Name

Today’s Date

HOW TO REGISTER SPRING 2026

Early registration: Jan 6-14
Open enrollment begins Jan 26

- 1 Go to LearnAtOsher.wm.edu.
- 2 Sign In or Create a Account.
- 3 Click Register (Home page, under 'Spring 2026').
- 4 Add a Membership to your cart **FIRST** (but don't check out yet).
- 5 Click Return to Home.
- 6 Search for classes (under 'Spring 2026') and add to your cart.
Choose up to 16 classes with no more than 8 multi-session courses.
- 7 When finished choosing courses, proceed to checkout and pay.
You will have a chance to review your registration before paying by credit card.
- 8 Check your email for confirmation of your order and a separate receipt for credit card payment.
- 9 **IMPORTANT:** The early registration lottery requires that you rank your course selections.
For oversubscribed classes, the "lottery," i.e., an algorithm, randomly assigns seats based on all members' priority selections
Initially, courses are prioritized in the order you place them in your cart. You can reprioritize your choices once you check out and pay. Just log back into your Account, click My Priorities, and re-rank your selections.
Rank your choices in order of preference. Label your first choice as 1; second as 2; etc. Click Save.
When ranking choices, do not differentiate between multi-session and single-session classes
You'll automatically be placed on the wait list for overenrolled classes that you requested
- 10 **DROPPING OFF OR MAILING YOUR REGISTRATION?**
Our office is at Boswell Hall, Rm 28. 30-minute and ADA parking in Boswell Lot requires an Osher parking permit. See the inside front cover for info.

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT \$5K MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE

Every gift counts.

And for a limited time, your generosity goes twice as far!



**During the month of January 2026,
every dollar you donate
will be matched to a max of \$5,000
thanks to the generosity of
an anonymous Osher member**

Did you know?

Osher at W&M is 100% self-funded
(as was our legacy program, the Christopher Wren Association)

As a state-funded university, W&M cannot provide
financial support to auxiliary organizations like ours

Among 124 Osher Institutes nationally last year, annual gifts averaged \$47,000.
In 2024-25 – our inaugural year of fundraising – we raised \$38,846. Thank you!

We are asking for your continued generosity as we strive to
overcome a significant operating deficit and grow our membership.

100% of your gift

Solely benefits the Osher Institute at W&M

Supports Osher at W&M's ongoing operations and program excellence

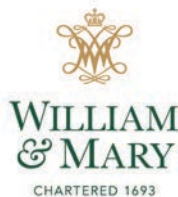
Is tax-deductible & acknowledged by W&M Foundation (a 501(c)3 nonprofit)

Hurry! The matching gift challenge ends Jan. 31

Donate today by credit card at Impact.wm.edu/Osher
or add a gift during online checkout when you register for Spring classes

Contact us at osher@wm.edu or (757) 221-1506 for more ways to contribute

Let's rise to the challenge!



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Williamsburg, Virginia
Permit No. 26

Spring 2026 at Osher

Jan 6	Early registration opens
Jan 14	Early reg closes at 5 pm
Jan 19	MLK Day (University closed)
Jan 23	Class schedules emailed
Jan 26	Open enrollment begins
Feb 2	First day of classes
Feb 6	Charter Day (no pm classes)
Mar 9-13	Spring break (no classes except 3/11 Sea Turtles Zoom course)
Apr 1-30	Summer scholarship applications accepted
Apr 29	One Tribe, One Day
May 15	Last day of classes

Osher Institute Staff

Laurie Hesser
Director

Ann Covington
Administrative Coordinator

Phoebe Williams
Administrative Coordinator

Member-Advisors

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

John Delano, *Chair*; STEM

Barnet Feingold, Social Sciences

Marjie Harris, World History

Janice Hathaway, Arts (interim)

Mark Howell, Revolutionary Ideas

Karen McPherson, American History

Rick Morrison, Religion & Philosophy

Larry Perlow, Language, Lit & Writing

Issa Puttre, Public Affairs

Karen Thomas, Health, Special Interests

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Thomas Shubert

Frank Wood



Spring is on the way, but not before a late February storm covers Lord Bot with a blanket of snow.
Photo by Stephen Salpukas, W&M

About the Osher Institute at W&M

We are a community of adults — mostly ages 50 and better — seeking knowledge, enrichment, and connection with the larger world through intellectually stimulating and socially engaging educational experiences.

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.

The program was founded in 1991 as the Christopher Wren Association and is self-funded through membership fees, member gifts, fundraising efforts, and annual distributions from the Bernard Osher Foundation and Kernodle endowments. Designated as an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in 2018, we are one of 124 Osher Institutes located at select universities across the United States.

Osher Institute at William & Mary P.O. Box 8795 Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795
[LearnAtOsher.wm.edu](https://www.wm.edu/learnatoshers) (757) 221-1506 osher@wm.edu