

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE



WILLIAM
& MARY

CHARTERED 1693



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

Spring 2026

SNEAK PREVIEW

It's a Revolutionary Year at the Osher Institute!

Join us* as we continue our celebration of **ideas for the ages** — commemorating the 250th anniversary of America's founding and the 100th anniversary of Colonial Williamsburg's rebirth

Local Life & Lore

Be Your Own Williamsburg Tour Guide *Rebecca Ritter Kelly*

Colonial Parkway: Road to History

Frances Clark

Discovering Nature and Wildlife in the Williamsburg Area *Jim Easton*

Foundations of Excellence: A Walking Tour of Hampton University *Alisha Beverley*

Historic Geography – Geospatial Technology at the CWF Archaeology Department *Stephen Beck*

It Happened Here: Four Episodes in Williamsburg's History *Will Molineux*

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

The Revolutionary Story of WILLIAMSBURG – The Story of a Patriot *Richard McCluney*

The Williamsburg Bray School in 2026 *Maureen Elgersman Lee, Elizabeth Drembus*

American History

Andrew Dexter, Jr. and America's First Bank Scandal *Phil Holleran*

City of Washington: The Origin and History of the Federal City *Christopher Collins*

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

History of U.S. Border Security and Immigration Control *Michael Collier*

How American Lacemakers Supported the Revolution *Carolyn Cerini*

■ **Learning U.S. History through the Lives of the Presidents** *Dino Scaros*

"Peace With Honor": Nixon's Vietnam War 1968-1973 *Alan Stark*

Presidential Sites: A Travelogue *Feather Foster*

Reconstruction to Byrd: Virginia Politics, 1865-1925 *Steven Berke*

■ **Revolutionary Ideas in Thought, Action, Reaction** *Rebecca Staton-Reinstein*

■ **Revolutionary Ideas or Reactionary Interpretation?** *Rebecca Staton-Reinstein*

TechnoTapestry: A Boomer's Journey through Tech & Culture *Scott Langhorst*

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

The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln and its Aftermath *Paul Severance*

The Birth of the Boomer Generation: 1946-1964 *William Fetsko*

The Lincoln Murder Conspiracies *Paul Severance*

The Revolution Grows Up: From Revolutionary Zeal to a Working Republic *Karen McPherson*

The Unknown Story of the First American Female Codebreaker *Peg Becker*

Thomas Paine's Common Sense *Holly Mayer*

Unknown Extraordinary Women and Their Contributions *Peg Becker*

Virginia's Road to Revolution: Episodes IV & V *Mark Howell*

Washington Irving, the Author and His World *Marilyn Younger*

■ **Watergate: The Political Scandal that Brought Down a President** *Deborah Smith*

What, Then, Was the American Revolution? *Karen McPherson*

Art, Music & Film

40 Years Ago, the Musical Chess Was Revolutionary *Tim Kloth*

■ **A Different Kind of Revolution: The British Invasion (1963-1973)** *Ronald Beales*

A Gentle Introduction to Richard Wagner *Dan Sherman*

A Revolution in Art: The Prehistoric Art of Early Man at Lascoux *Jim Griffin*

A Revolutionary Landscape: The 18th-century English Landscape Garden *Paula Henderson*

Art That Transformed Our World *Georgianna Avioli, Patricia Rublein, Sandra Stephan*

■ **Behind the Seams: Intro to Costuming for Theatre & Fun** *Lisa Bobotas*

Exploring the Life and Art of Chaim Soutine *Jan Smith*

■ **Fanny Mendelssohn: A Trailblazing Composer in the Shadow of Society** *Anette Isaacs*

Frederic Chopin for the Casual Music Lover *Carol Huber*

Hollywood & WWII *Elizabeth Fones-Wolf*

■ **Once Upon a Mattress: Broadway's Fractured Fairy Tale** *Ken Krantz*

Rebels with Applause: Musicals That Revolutionized Broadway *Issa Puttre*

Revolutionary Composers of the 20th Century *Tim Kloth*

Romeo & Juliet and Music *Louis Andrews*

Secrets of the Score *Michael Butterman*

Subversive Visions: America on Film, 1949-1957 *Thomas Thompson*

■ **The Bauhaus and Beyond: Its Origins & Legacy** *Roy Behrens*

The English Country House and Gardens Part II *Paula Henderson*

■ **The Man I Love: The Women Jazz Singers Who Loved Gershwin's Music** *Paul Boren*

The Story of Art Nouveau *Caroline Nicholson*

Time in a Bottle: Musicals That Capture a Moment in History, Part 4 *Issa Puttre*

American Wisdom Tradition

A Year in the Life of an American Indian *Russell Reed, Michael Lorence*

Field Study – The Life of an American Indian *Russell Reed, Michael Lorence*

Radical Visions: Ansel Adams and the American Wisdom Tradition *Diana Lorence, Michael Lorence*

Revolutions of Inwardness: An Introduction to American Wisdom *Diana Lorence, Michael Lorence*

"The Arch Radical of the World": Ralph Waldo Emerson and America *Diana Lorence, Michael Lorence*

The Secrets of Life in the Woods *Diana Lorence*

Current Events & Media

From Printing Press to TikTok: A Media Revolution *Mark Silverman, Sue Langston-Ames*

Persuasion & Deception: Rhetorical Tricks of Advertisers & Scammers *Candice Benjes-Small*

Finance & Economics

Current Events and Portfolio Management *Keith Reagan*

Do You Really Need a Trust? *John Burton*

Lifetime Income Strategies *Jacob Bales, James Bales*

Portfolio Construction: Build Your Own Optimal Retirement Portfolio *John Graham Spiers*

Senior Living Options and How to Plan Financially for Them *Dawn Michelle*

■ **Understanding Today's Economic Trends and Issues** *Daniel Gaske*

Government & Law

Animal Welfare Policy and Public Leadership in Virginia *Bob Tubbs*

The U.S. Constitution: Revolutionary or Reactionary? *Donald Matthewson*

The Unitary Theory of Executive Power: Important but Unknown *Robert Spitzer*

When Is Justice Served? Insights from the Military Experience *Thomas Shubert, Ken Krantz*

Health & Wellness

A Conversation about Life's Journey *Francis Bado*

Fitness Walking: Basic & Advanced *Ray Funkhouser*

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

■ **Demystifying Dementia – The Basics, Resources, and Brain Health** *George Worthington, Heather Kidd*

Downsize Your Stuff to Upsize Your Life *Lisa Bates*

Getting Old Ain't for Sissies: The Science of Living Better Longer *James McDonald*

Hearing Loss with Age: Whys, Wherefores & Options *Edilberto Pelausa*

How to Help People Live Well with Dementia *Patricia Gaudio*

Loving Kindness: The Ultimate Integral Matrix *Lawrence Durrett*

Resilience in Despair: The Uses of Humor in the Holocaust *Betty Wajnberg Ronnen*

Tai Chi: A Path to Physical and Mental Well-Being *John Paugh*

The Transgender Experience: Personal, Societal, Political, Scientific *Deborah Fabian, Leslie Fabian*

Why Does Stress Have Such an Effect on Us? *Karen Thomas*

Yoga & Mindful Meditation *Indira Ghosh*

Your Subconscious Mind: Taking the Reins of Your Inner Genie *Athena Staik*

Languages

French Conversation Table *Kathleen Hickey*

German Conversation Table *Frauke Carlucci*

Intermediate/Advanced Spanish *Christopher Scheiderer*

Parliamo Italiano *Nicola Costa*

Spanish Conversation Table *Frauke Carlucci*

Literature & Writing

Book Lovers' Discussion Group *Cathi Davis*

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

Four Revolutionary American Novels of the 20th Century *Donald Matthewson*

Publishing Options and Pointers *Dawn Brotherton*

Sherlock Holmes: Chasing the Hound of the Baskervilles *Raymond Betzner*

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

Religion & Philosophy

Cicero's De Senectute *Bill Rhodes*

Emerson's Divinity School Address for Cultural and Spiritual Evolution *Christopher Chaves*

Justice & War *Bill Rhodes*

■ **The Battle for Christ: Christianity's First 500 Years** *Jack Dalby*

Understanding How Nature Will Impact Your Connection with Self *Griz Caudle*

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)

Coastal Studies *Carl Hobbs*

Common Bryophytes of Coastal Virginia *Jim Perry*

■ **Hurricanes: The Atmosphere's Powerhouse** *Gerald Mulvey*

■ **Mastering Your iPhone/iPad Camera & Photo Apps** *Rick Chase*

Personal Computers for Beginners: Apple (Mac) Version *Rick Chase*

Revolutionary Intelligence: How GenAI is Reshaping Our World *Candice Benjes-Small*

■ **Sea Turtles: Nesting Season on Hilton Head Island** *Amber Keuhn*

Solar Cells on Earth and in Space *Michael Finlan*

■ **The Desert and Its Weather** *Gerald Mulvey*

The Evolution of Military Medicine – Arrows to Nukes *Alan Abrams*

The History of Mapmaking (Cartography) *Stephen Beck, Aaron Lovejoy*

Top 10 Revolutions in Medicine *Kerry Prewitt*

Tracing Humanity's Footsteps: From Virginia to the Vezere Valley *Jim Griffin*

Who Were the Solutreans: Our First People? *Jim Griffin*

Window Glass: The Rodney Dangerfield of Archaeological Artifacts *John Delano*

Special Interests

Amazing! The 1969 New York Mets *Paul Boren*

Backgammon for Beginners *William Pow*

Creative Crafting with a Cricut Cutting Machine for Beginners *Rita Lysher*

Double-Decker Yanks: Visiting London as a Local *Kelly Shaw, Bill Rhodes*

Grandparent Magic – Easy Magic to Amaze Grandkids & Friends *Steven Mains*

Let's Make a Basket *Anna-Marie Cox*

Presenting the World Famous Hollywood Magic Castle *John Streiff*

Spooky Remains. How Medieval Pilgrims and Monasteries Met Their End *George Greenia*

The Revolution in U.S. Women's Sports: The Intercollegiate Experience *Karen Thomas, Elizabeth Fones-Wolf*

Thinking Bridge *Michael Jenks*

Understanding Your Dog: What Science Says *Karen McClure*

World History

England 1066: Year of Four Kings *John Rogers*

History and the Diplomat *Michael Butler*

How Britain Came to Lose Its American Colonies *John Rogers*

Lessons from Iwo Jima *David Hopkinson*

Powerful Knights: The Catholic Military Orders In & After the Crusades *Michael Knapp*

The Amphibious Navy in the Pacific War – Research and Recollections *Susan Woodward*

The Baltic States: A Look at Their History and Culture *Felicia Purdey*

The Holocaust Through a Child's Eyes *Donald Schilling*

The Intriguing Story Behind Norway's Constitution Day *Marta Seger*

The "Road" to Timbuktu *Preston Burns*

■ **The War in the Skies: Europe 1939-1945** *Buck Beasom*

Victory at Guadalcanal (August 7, 1942-February 9, 1943) *John Delano*



End-of-Year Gift Planning?

Here's Your Chance to Make an Even Bigger Impact for Osher with a Matched Gift now through December 31!

Through the generosity of an anonymous Osher member and to supercharge the possibilities of Giving Tuesday on December 2, your gift of any amount – now through year end – will be matched to a cumulative total of \$3,000! Here's how:

By credit card: [Impact.wm.edu/Osher](https://impact.wm.edu/Osher) or call us at (757) 221-1506

By check payable to:

W&M Foundation FBO Osher Fund 3914
Osher Institute, Boswell Hall, Rm 28
Williamsburg, VA 23187

**If you are making an RMD from an IRA, your financial advisor will need to know that the W&M Foundation is a 501(c)3 charity and the Federal tax ID is 54-0734117.

Be sure to note "FBO Osher Fund 3914" on the check to ensure that Osher receives 100% of your contribution. Let us know, too so we can be on the lookout for it. Questions? Call or email.

We appreciate your gift. Many members are surprised to learn that the Osher Institute at W&M is 100% self-funded. The university, as a state-funded public institution, can not cover operating or capital costs for auxiliary organizations like ours. We rely exclusively on semester membership fees, ad sponsors, grants, member gifts, and annual distributions from the Osher and Kernodle endowments to fund our program.

In this season of thankfulness, kindness, and giving, the Osher Team is grateful for each of our members and instructors – and we wish you a very happy holiday season with good health, good times, and, always, good learning!

Spring 2026: The Revolution of Ideas Continues

“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

Throughout the 2026 academic year, Osher at W&M is commemorating the 250th anniversary of our country's July 1776 founding *and* the centennial of John D. Rockefeller's March 1926 visit to Williamsburg that inspired the restoration of Virginia's colonial capital by highlighting “Revolutionary Ideas” that have changed the world.

In Fall 2025, our instructors embraced this celebration by offering more than 60 new or adapted existing courses that explored the concept of “revolutions” beyond the American independence movement to include ideas across the ages and disciplines.

Spring 2026 continues the celebration with another 60+ such courses.

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

Spring 2026 at Osher

- Jan 6-14 Early registration
- Jan 19 Martin Luther King Day (university closed)
- Jan 23 Class schedules emailed
- Jan 26 Open enrollment begins (for those who missed early registration or early registrants who want to add courses)
- Jan 28-29 Parking hang tag pickup (for members who purchased a permit during early registration)
- Feb 2 First day of Spring classes
- Feb 6 Charter Day (no p.m. classes)
- Mar 9-13 Spring break (University closed; no classes except for Sea Turtles Zoom)
- Apr 1-30 Summer 2026 scholarship applications accepted [online](#)
- May 15 Last day of Spring classes



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. Courses are offered through semester-based membership, with three semesters each academic year.

A department of William & Mary's School of Education, the Osher Institute at W&M is one of 124 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLIs) located at select universities across the United States.