WILLIAM & MARY

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE



Spring 2027

SNEAK **PREVIEW**

www.LearnAtOsher.wm.edu

Join us on a journey of discovery this Spring

With 130+ courses* starting in February, you'll feed your curiosity, explore new ideas, and meet interesting people. At the Osher Institute, we get together simply for the joy of learning – there are no papers, tests, or grades

American History

- 100 D-Days: The Air War Against the Rising Sun *Buck Beasom*
- 1862 Battle of Hampton Roads: USS Monitor vs. CSS Virginia *Mike Collier*
- Alternatives to the Standard American Story *Rebecca Staton-Reinstein*
- America's Diverse Heritage *Rebecca Staton-Reinstein*
- Be Your Own Williamsburg Tour Guide *Rebecca Ritter Kelly*
- Constitutional Crises: The Presidential Elections of 1800 and 1876 *Mike Kerley*
- Delaware and Hudson Canal Company: Gravity Railroad *Peg Becker*
- From Jamestown Parish to Bruton Parish, a Brief Church History *Joe Cross*
- Gouverneur Morris: The Forgotten Founding Father *Heather Dudley*
- History and Legacies of the Williamsburg Bray School (1760–1774) *Elizabeth Drembus*
- History of U.S. Border Security and Immigration Control *Mike Collier*
- John Hancock: More Than a Signature *Heather Dudley*
- Lessons from the Great Depression *Ed Linz*
- Mark Twain and His World *Marilyn Younger*
- Political Cartoons: The Art of Controversy *Bill Fetsko*
- TechnoTapestry: A Boomer's Journey Through Tech & Culture *Scott Langhorst*
- The Adventures of Young Jimmy Doolittle *Buck Beasom*
- The Assassins! *Feather Foster*
- The Determination and Good Fortune of W.A.R. Goodwin *Will Molineux*
- The Gay 90s: From Fig Newtons to Coca-Cola *Marilyn Younger*
- The Robber Barons *Jim Avery*
- The World of Thomas Jefferson *Tom Thompson*
- Washington's Farewells *Holly Mayer*

Art, Music, Film & Photography

- An In-Depth Visit to Five English Medieval Cathedrals *Jan Smith*
- An Introduction to Byzantine Art *Nick Vrettos*
- Art, Architecture and Places of Pleasure in Shakespeare's London *Paula Henderson*
- Debussy, Impressionism and Parallels between Art and Music *Carol Huber*
- Landscape as Art *Paula Henderson*
- Michelangelo: Reluctant Painter, Defiant Genius *Harry Chancey*
- Opera for People Who Don't Like Opera: Bizet's "Carmen" *Glenn Winters*
- Puccini: His Life and Music *Louis Andrews*
- Sex, Lies & Murder: The World of Neo-Noir *Tom Thompson*
- Singers/Songwriters of the 70s *Cale Shipman*
- The "Western" and Its Influence on American Culture and Politics *Don Matthewson*
- The Blues: American Music *Ron Beales*
- The Great American Songbook: Inside the World of Cabaret *Susan James*
- The Italian High Renaissance: Blame Florence for Everything *Patricia Rublein*
- The Samurai Sword: Art, History, and Culture in Feudal Japan *Jack McKeown*
- Time in a Bottle: The 20th Century *Issa Puttre*
- When Literature Meets the Visual Arts *Roy Behrens*

American Wisdom Tradition

- "The American Scholar": America's Second Declaration of Independence *Michael Lorence*
- A Year in the Life of an American Indian: Field Study – Winter & Spring *Russell Reed, Michael Lorence*
- Bassett Woods: A Woodland Saunter *Diana Lorence*
- The Year the Universe Changed (Take 2) *Michael Lorence, Diana Lorence*
- Visions of Paradise: A Philosopher's Walk through Williamsburg *Michael Lorence, Diana Lorence*

Current Affairs & Media

- Fact or Fiction: Hollywood's Portrayal of Journalism *Mark Silverman, Sue Langston-Ames*
- Generative AI: From ChatGPT to Everyday Life *Candice Benjes-Small*
- The Animal Welfare System: Who Decides, Who Pays, and What Works? *Bob Tubbs*
- Where in the World is the U.S.? A Top 10 Summary *Doug Stowell*

Finance & Economics

- Build Your Own Optimal Retirement Portfolio *Graham Spiers*
- Cryptocurrency: Fad or the Future? *Keith Reagan*
- Do You Really Need a Trust? *John Burton*
- How Institutions Invest: A Practical Guide for Individual Investors *Andrew Parillo*
- Taxes in Retirement & Social Security *Jacob Bales*
- The Wall Street Matrix: How AI Is Rewriting the World *Keith Reagan*
- Understanding Today's Economic Trends and Issues *Dan Gaske*

Government & Law

- Deciding When Justice Is Served: Insights from the Military Experience *Tom Shubert*
- Presidential Impeachment: What it is, How it Works, Why it Matters *Robert Spitzer*
- So You Want to Copyright Your Work *Lorna Triplett*

Health & Wellness

A Conversation About Life's Journey *Fran Bado*

Advanced Fitness Walking *Ray Funkhouser*

Basics of Fitness Walking *Ray Funkhouser*

Brain-Related Changes as We Age *Pattie Gaudio*

Brain Wellness Workshop: Age Well, Think Smart *Martha McDuff Kester*

Creating and Loving Your Inspired Life! *Leslie Fabian*

Dementia: Stages and Strategies *Jaime Smiley*

From Holding On to Letting Go *David Hopkinson*

Hearing Loss as We Age: Why, How & Possible Management Options *Ed Pelausa*

Navigating the Healthcare Continuum *Jaime Smiley*

Protect Your Independence: Keys to Independent Living & Thriving *Daniel Shaye*

Reducing Your Risk of Heart Disease *Kerry Prewitt*

Self-Talk, Self-Concept, and "The Great Conversation" *Larry Durrett*

Senior Living Options – What to Expect & How to Plan Financially *Dawn Michelle, Oscar Alvarez*

Staying Safe in Your Home *Jaime Smiley*

Tai Chi for Beginners *John Paugh*

The Psychology of the Latter Years of Life *Paul Smetko*

Understanding Stress and the Vagus Nerve *Karen Thomas*

Virginia's New Medicare Birthday Rule: Healthcare Expense Savings *Beckey Huddleston*

Why Am I So Tired? Understanding Fatigue in Modern Life *Kerry Prewitt*

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

Languages

French Conversation Table *Kathleen Hickey, Barbara St. Louis*

German Conversation Table *Frauke Carlucci*

Intermediate Spanish Conversation and Grammar Review *Chris Scheiderer*

Parliamo Italiano *Nicola Costa*

Spanish Conversation Table *Frauke Carlucci*

Spanish for Beginners *Chris Scheiderer*

Literature & Writing

A Time for Every Season: Ecclesiastes *Jim Avery*

Book Lovers Discussion *Cathi Davis*

Documenting Life History in the Age of AI *Stephen Mucher*

Emerson, Thoreau's Legacy, and the Art of Living Well *Chris Ulloa-Chaves*

Geoffrey Chaucer and The Canterbury Tales *Suzanne Hagedorn*

Nathaniel Hawthorne and His Beloved Sisters *Kris Hansen*

Religion & Philosophy

Brains, Bodies, Beliefs and Behavior *William Carl*

Faith & Science: Exploring God's Word and God's World *Brad Perry*

From Renaissance Man to Digital Man *Don Matthewson*

Plato's *The Apology of Socrates* *Bill Rhodes*

Special Interests

Air Travel: Safe? Yes! Perfect? Never. *Nils van den Beemt*

Backgammon for Beginners *Bill Pow*

Becoming a Tribe Sports Fan: History, Teams & Facilities *Jon Huddleston*

Cyanotype Printing with Plants *Kristi Apperson, Savannah Allen*

Exploring Nature Through a Child's Eyes *Griz Caudle*

From Grapes to Glass – An Introduction to Wine *Pete Aiello*

Grandparent Magic *Steven Mains*

Hands-On Vegetable Gardening *Tony Orband, Kristi Apperson*

Making a Bobbin Lace Tassel for Beginners *Carolyn Cerini, Donna Ross*

Medieval Embroidery – The Bayeux Tapestry *Anna-Marie Cox*

Osher Wants You! Be an Osher Instructor *Veteran Instructors*

Route 66: The Mother Road at 100 *David Dunaway*

The Adirondacks *Peter Henderson*

The Secret Life of Swem: What Really Happens in a 21st-Century Academic Library *Candice Benjes-Small*

Through the Seasons: A Year in Local Wildlife *Jim Easton*

UFOs/UAPs: The Era of Disclosure *John Hickok*

W&M Campus Tour: The Old Campus *Marjorie Biddle, Janet Meredith*

You, Too, Can Play Better Bridge *Michael Jenks*

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)

Before the Explosion: The Earth's First Four Billion Years *Martin Cox*

From Drones to Space Vehicles: An Introduction to Weather in Aerospace *Gerald Mulvey*

From Puffy Clouds to Hurricanes: The Science of Severe Storms *Gerald Mulvey*

Forest Ecology and Management: How Does a Forest Grow? *Jim Perry*

Improving Your Security in an Online World *Keith Parkansky*

Introduction to Astronomy *Brad Perry, Carmen Fragapane*

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

NASA's Artemis Program: America's Ambitious Return to the Moon *John Delano*

Range Anxiety: A Beginner's Guide to Electric Vehicles *Sue Langston-Ames, Mark Silverman*

Rare Earths *Mike Finlan*

Rethinking the Paleolithic Peopling of the Americas *Jim Griffin*

The Gregorian Calendar *Mike Finlan*

Time Travel *Marc Sher*

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

World History

A Journey Through Viking Scandinavia *Martin Cox*

History and the Diplomat *Mike Butler*

King Richard III of England *John Rogers*

Only Hope: My Mother and the Holocaust Brought to Light *Irv Lubliner*

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

The Dilemma of Ordinary People in Hitler's Germany *David Wessel*

The Glorious Revolution and (King) William & (Queen) Mary *John Rogers*

The Rise of the Nazis, 1919-1933 *Don Schilling*

The WWII Siege of Budapest with a Personal Twist *Ron Corson*

Spring 2027 Calendar

Oct 1-Nov 30, 2026	Scholarship applications accepted online
Dec 20	Catalog available online
Dec 30	Catalogs arrive at homes
Jan 6, 2027	Semester Kick-off Event (yes, you're invited!)
Jan 8-14	Early registration
Jan 18	Martin Luther King Day (university closed)
Jan 22	Schedules emailed
Jan 25	Open enrollment
Feb 1	First day of classes
Feb 12	Charter Day (Happy 334th birthday, W&M!)
Mar 15-19	Spring Break (limited classes)
May 15	Last day of classes

Fees & Registration

A $200 Spring membership allows enrollment in up to 8 multi-session courses and any number of one-time classes, with a maximum of 16 courses for the semester.

Early registration runs January 8-14. Early registrants participate in a lottery for the most popular courses and are automatically waitlisted for courses that are at capacity.

Open enrollment starts January 25. Classes with remaining seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to our maximum course-load policy.

Did You Know?

The Osher Institute at William & Mary is 100% self-supporting. As a public research university, W&M cannot use state funds or tuition revenues to cover operating or capital costs for non-credit programs like ours.

Instead, we rely solely on membership fees, sponsorships, grants, member gifts, and annual payouts from the Osher and Kernodle endowments.

Gifts to the Osher Impact Fund (No. 3914) are tax-deductible, acknowledged by the William & Mary Foundation, and go 100% to our program. We welcome you as a member, volunteer, or donor.

Join us for the pure joy of learning – without a single exam, term paper, or all-nighter!

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Curiosity makes life interesting.

At Osher, it takes flight.

About the Osher Institute at W&M

We are a community of adults – generally ages 50 and better (but as young as 42 and as "seasoned" as 96) – pursuing lifelong learning and connection through intellectually and socially engaging courses.

The Osher Institute at William & Mary operates on a semester-based membership model with three semesters each year. Our program is built on a quality curriculum, extraordinary instructors, and a vibrant membership.

A department of William & Mary's School of Education, we were founded in 1991 as the Christopher Wren Association and designated an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in 2018 – joining a network of 120+ Osher Institutes at universities nationwide. Visit our website for more information.

New to Osher? For a printed Spring catalog, email osher@wm.edu with your name and mailing address **by December 5**. Catalogs ship in a single bulk mailing from the print house, and we cannot mail individual copies after that date.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at William & Mary

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