Spring 2019

Course Catalog

No Grades. No Tests. Learning...for the Joy of It!

1801 East Cotati Avenue, Rohnert Park, CA 94928 | www.sonoma.edu/exed/olli
Dear OLLI Community,

As we anticipate the spring season, one thing is evident: the only thing that stays the same is change. In that spirit, I want to share with you some news about our OLLI program. SSU will soon renovate Stevenson Hall, one of the oldest and largest classroom buildings on campus. The university will need Cooperage (our usual campus home) to house classes for students displaced from the 29 classrooms out of commission in Stevenson Hall. As a result, the entire School of Extended and International Education (along with other campus units) are being relocated, effective Fall 2019, to Sonoma Mountain Village (SOMO). This is a temporary relocation while the university renovates Stevenson Hall and may be extended as the university reconfigures classroom spaces.

Our program remains unchanged. It’s simply moving 1.5 miles down the road to an exciting new location with FREE parking and a built-in restaurant and bar. SOMO Village is unique. It is a work/live community infused with nature, culture, comfort, innovation and technology to promote health, happiness and a high-quality of life. SOMO is located in Rohnert Park and is guided by the philosophy of One Planet Living – creating a social, economic and environmentally strong and distinctive community.

We will still have a footprint on campus with our summer classes, course previews, offerings at the Wine Spectator Learning Center and many other OLLI events. SSU student benefits will still be valid for all OLLI students, so fear not! We will distribute a separate FAQ sheet about the move in every class and happily answer any questions.

We look forward to seeing you this Spring here on campus and at the Glaser Center in downtown Santa Rosa as OLLI continues its story as the original lifelong learning program in Sonoma County.

Warmly,

Carin Jacobs
Director

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE
Thank you to all the volunteers who contribute their time and energy to the OLLI@SSU program. We are most grateful.

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The Western Epics: Finding Ourselves Lost  
Morning 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Gilgamesh stands as the original epic of a Hero’s Journey through youthful arrogance, wild sex, homosexual love, spurned women, environmental destruction and arrival at maturity. The Iliad sweeps us along with the operatic struggles of god-like men and childish gods, incredible brutality and absurd tenderness. The Odyssey tells of absent fatherhood, of single motherhood, of a man taught maturity by female archetypes, of a married couple on their separate journeys coming together again in midlife. Finally, the Æneid shows how a poet might shape the national epic, the national myth. In this class we will explore how these epics became the foundation stories of our culture.

Douglas Kenning, Ph.D. has taught at universities in Tunisia, Japan and Italy. In addition to being a university professor, he has been a biologist, actor, army officer, Manhattan taxi driver, academic administrator and writer. He divides each year between the Bay Area, lecturing on Mediterranean histories and cultures, and Sicily, where he runs Sicily Tour, a small tour guide business.

Motown, 1960 – 1972:  
The Sound of Young America  
Afternoon 1 – 3 p.m.*

Motown is one of America’s greatest musical treasures. A full fifty years after its heyday, the “Sound of Young America” still excites and thrills listeners of all ages. Baby boomers who grew up with the music of Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, the Marvelettes, Temptations, Supremes, Four Tops, Martha and the Vandellas, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder and many others continue to put those songs in their favorite playlists while younger listeners discover Motown. It was a cultural watershed moment in our history, an era where racial barriers began to break down because of the music. This course covers the golden age of Motown 1960–1972, concentrating on the people – most notably, Berry Gordy – who established the label as the driving force behind American popular music of that period.

Pete Elman, B.A. is a musician, producer, teacher and writer. Elman covered sports for the Contra Costa Times and also taught public school. He is the author of a children’s book, “Seasons Rhymes in Time” and has taught many classes for OLLI programs around the Bay Area, including: A Rock and Roll Road Trip, The Fab Four and the Stones, Country Music, Country-Rock, Folk Music, Motown and Bruce Springsteen.

*Please note – No class on Monday, May 20. The makeup class will be on Friday, May 17.
Tuesdays, April 16 – May 21

Venice and the Imagination
Morning 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Like few other places on earth, Venice has stimulated the imagination of generations of visitors. Venice is all about reflections, contrasts, colors and contradictions. The so-called myth of Venice was that this was a place of ultimate serenity, peace and stability, enjoying divine protection for its pious people. We will consider this myth and how it was made real in both the visual and literary arts. We will begin by examining the actual elements of the city, its customs and its governance. Finally, we will discuss how the aesthetics of water, color, reflections and mist offer a perfect palette for the imagination that supplies many metaphors for foreign and Italian writers and film makers.

Heidi Chretien, Ph.D. received her degree from SUNY at Buffalo and has been a university professor for several decades including twelve years in Italy. She is currently an Adjunct Associate Professor at Dominican University and has taught for OLLI at SSU for 15 years. She spends summers teaching in Tel Aviv and relaxing in her home in the South of France.

The Surprising Gifts of Later Life
Afternoon 1– 3 p.m.

This course presents a balanced and heartening view of aging reflected in the world’s folktales, confirmed by elders’ experience and validated by recent research in gerontology, neuroscience and other fields. We’ll explore the qualities that tend to ripen in later life, such as audacious authenticity, creative ingenuity, necessary fierceness, self-transcending generosity, and a growing capacity to savor life and to ride its ups and downs with humor and equanimity. We’ll briefly examine the pervasive yet mistaken belief that aging equals devastating decline, the evidence that refutes it, as well as the toll that such attitudes can take on physical, cognitive and emotional health in later life.

Susan Stewart, Ph.D. is an emerita Professor of Psychology at SSU, a retired therapist, and a grateful grandmother. She enjoys sharing the gifts of age in a culture that mistakenly equates old with debilitating decline. She is the author of Winter’s Graces: The Surprising Gifts of Later Life, a workshop facilitator, and singer and cellist who loves to dance.
**Wednesdays, April 17 – May 22**

**My Brain Hurts: Critical Thinking, Decision-Making and Ethics in the 21st Century**  
**Morning 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

This course challenges students to examine the processes by which they consider situations and experiences to formulate decisions. It will involve learning about the types of biases we all bring to any situation and how to neutralize those biases in the critical thinking and decision-making process. We will also discuss how we think and the thinking errors inherent in many critical decisions. Participants will learn about the three types of arguments used in approaching situations: emotional or moral based, policy based, and research based in order to better understand the need for Evidence Based Practices (EBP) and using data in our thinking processes. We conclude with an understanding of the ethical challenges inherent in the modern world.

*Eric Williams, Ph.D.* is the Chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies at Sonoma State University where he teaches courses about constitutional law, the Supreme Court and punishment and corrections. His writings on prisons and rural communities have appeared in academic journals and newspapers nation-wide and his next book centers on Critical and Ethical Thinking and Decision Making for Criminal Justice Professionals.

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**The American Revolution: An English Perspective**  
**Afternoon 1 – 3 p.m.**

As Americans, we normally view the upheaval of 1776 through the eyes of our national heroes – Washington, Jefferson, John Adams, etc. But we must never forget that the Revolution was a critical milestone in British history as well. What did our countrymen across the Atlantic make of the wild and tumultuous events transpiring in the colonies? Our guiding theme throughout the course will be that the Revolutionary movement was nothing less than a tragic civil war, pitting Americans against their own countrymen and, in some cases, against their own families.

*Mick Chantler, M.A.* has been a student and instructor of early American studies for over 40 years. He currently teaches at several Bay Area OLLI Programs, including SSU, Dominican University and U.C. Berkeley. His primary interests include the Revolutionary and Civil War eras. Mick is a member of several scholarly organizations, including the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, the Lincoln Forum and the Society for American Baseball Research.
Thursdays, April 18 – May 23

The Vietnam War
Morning 9:30 –11:30 a.m.

The war in Vietnam tore America apart, destroyed LBJ's dream of a “Great Society,” permanently altered the political trajectory of the nation, divided families and generations and scarred the country as no event had since the Civil War. Coming to terms with this defining moment in the Nation’s history, and in many of our lives, has been a difficult process. Memories and meaning have been left silently buried and often deeply misunderstood. Using Ken Burns’ remarkable PBS 10-part documentary series on the Vietnam War as visual text, along with recently discovered documentary material, this course will explore the war’s context and evolving meaning from its earliest origins to its long-term national and international consequences, including today's fractured political environment.

Les Adler, Ph.D. is Emeritus Professor of history and former Dean at SSU. With a background in both European and American history, his research, writing and teaching has focused on issues related to the origins of the Cold War, American culture and foreign policy, the Atomic Bomb, interdisciplinary liberal education and water policy studies.

An Exploration of Water in the West: Past, Present and Future
Afternoon 1 – 3 p.m.

Water is a sacred and powerful element that has served as the basis for the evolution of life and human culture. Freshwater ecosystems are dynamic habitats that support incredible amounts of biodiversity, especially in California. Extensive water infrastructure fueled the European development of the west, but the true costs of our water management are now being felt and are exacerbated by a changing climate. Fortunately, an increased understanding of water management and its importance to human culture and spirit is sparking new practices that can benefit humans, fish and wildlife. This course will explore diverse aspects of water with a focus on the local environment. Participants can expect to develop both their scientific knowledge and their more poetic appreciation of this incredible resource.

Natalie Stauffer-Olsen, Ph.D. is an Aquatic Ecologist and a native of Petaluma who works with freshwater systems in California. She studied benthic invertebrate genetics and distributions for her dissertation research done at UC Berkeley.
Jack London
April 19
This lecture focuses on the life of Jack London with a primary emphasis on his authorial career. We will address the most controversial aspects of his life: his birth, his drug and alcohol use, the burning of Wolf House and his death. All will be considered within the context of his principal occupation – an author. To that end, we will track not only his trajectory from Bay Area author to international artist, but also explore how in his work socialism intertwined with aesthetics. As a sidelong, we will consider how London fit within the world of California bohemianism. Does the combination of art and politics in London’s life teach us anything about our own time?

Jay Williams, Ph.D. is a retired Senior Managing Editor of Critical Inquiry, and currently completing a three-volume biography of Jack London entitled Author Under Sail: The Imagination of Jack London for the University of Nebraska Press. He is also the editor of The Oxford Handbook of Jack London, a collection of 35 new essays.

Reality and Reality TV
April 26
This lecture will provide an analysis of the now-omnipresent genre of reality television, which, in countless ways, is very far from actual reality as we know it. We will contextualize reality TV in the history of television and documentary film, examining key precursors like “Candid Camera” and the 1973 PBS program “An American Family.” We will trace its rise to prominence beginning in the 1990s, explain the reasons why it has become so widespread, consider the uses and abuses of the “mockumentary” television style and introduce methods for analyzing reality TV's meanings, messages and representations. Particular attention will be paid to the ways in which such seemingly trivial media content can play a part in shaping our (mis)understandings of race, gender, sexuality, class, work and power.

Marco Calavita, Ph.D. is a Professor of Communication Studies at SSU. He has taught Methods of Media Criticism, 21st Century TV as Art, and many other courses. He received his Doctorate in Culture and Communication from NYU. He is the author of Apprehending Politics: News Media and Individual Political Development (2005), and his work has appeared in many publications and outlets.
From Sweatshop to Starbucks: The past, present and future of the American family in a global context
May 3
This lecture will cover four eras in the history of the American family: the family-based economy, the family wage economy, the family consumer economy and the currently developing family technology society. We will look at how the family has changed from what was once considered the “traditional family” into an evolving form of family life. Families are both embedded in communities and yet insular in their internal lives. We will consider how family relationships evolve over time, while looking at types of marriages, types of divorces and parenting styles, sibling relationships, birth order and grand parenting.

Elaine Leeder, Ph.D. is a Professor Emerita of Sociology and the Dean Emerita of the School of Social Sciences at SSU. Previously she was a Professor at Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY. She has 41 years of distinguished accomplishments and experience in academia and public service. Leeder is listed in Who’s Who of American Women, Who’s Who in America and Who’s Who of American Teachers.

Romeo and Juliet
May 10
Romeo and Juliet is the greatest love story ever told. It’s saturated with forbidden, adolescent passion, but what really elevates it is the rapturous poetry. We will enjoy how Shakespeare reveals the intense exuberance of love with words so sublime they take your breath away. For Shakespeare, love is the most powerful force in the universe and in Romeo and Juliet he displays this power with imagery and gorgeous, unforgettable sounds: from the carnal to the divine. From Romeo’s line when he first sees Juliet… “oh, she doth teach the torches to burn bright!” to the end of the play when Juliet stabs herself saying, “O happy dagger, here is thy sheath,” we will revel in the ecstatic language of Romeo and Juliet.

Corisa Aaronson, M.A. is a psychotherapist and a Shakespeare scholar with a life-long interest in uncovering the psychological depth and beauty in the Bard’s works. She was the dramaturge and voice coach for Santa Rosa’s Shakespeare in the Cannery from 2014 – 2018 and has performed in major Shakespeare roles such as Olivia (Twelfth Night), Nurse (Romeo and Juliet), Titania (Midsummer Night’s Dream), Lady Macbeth, Cleopatra and Shylock in an all-female version of The Merchant of Venice.
Jacob Lawrence and the Harlem Renaissance

May 17

Jacob Lawrence arrived in New York during the Harlem Renaissance, a period of explosion for black art, music and literature, and eventually meets and marries fellow artist Gwendoline Knight. Lawrence focused on American history, from Columbus to what he saw in the streets, painting with intelligence and a deep background in his subjects. Lawrence's *Migration Series* depicts the relocation of more than 6 million African Americans, who, seeking a better life, moved from the rural South to the cities of the North in the years 1916 to 1970. This lecture will also include many important black colleagues of Lawrence who emerged during this time.

*Linda Loveland Reid, B.A.* graduated cum laude from SSU in 1999. Linda has been an OLLI instructor since 2012 and also serves on OLLI’s Advisory, Curriculum and Outreach Committees. She is an author of two published novels and is Past President of Redwood Writers, the largest of the 21 branches of the prestigious California Writers Club. Her other interests include figurative oil painting and directing community-theater.

Collecting Evolution: The Galapagos Expedition that Vindicated Darwin

May 24

In 1905, eight sailor-scientists from the California Academy of Sciences set out on an 89-foot schooner from San Francisco for a scientific collecting expedition in the Galapagos Islands. By the time they finished in late 1906, they had completed one of the most important expeditions in the history of evolutionary science. They brought back over 78,000 specimens, but caused no species to become extinct. These museum specimens helped validate the ideas of Charles Darwin. Almost nothing was written on this voyage, lost amongst broader discussions of Darwin’s trip on HMS Beagle. This talk will reveal the stories that occurred before, during and after their groundbreaking success.

*Matthew James, Ph.D.* is a Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences, Professor of Geology at SSU (since 1985), and a Governing Member of the Charles Darwin Foundation. He has a doctorate in Paleontology from the University of California at Berkeley. Originally from Hawaii, having attended school on Oahu from kindergarten through college, he has been writing about the Galapagos in historical, scientific and conservation capacities for over 35 years.
Course Previews
Come meet our instructors and learn all about OLLI at the Spring Course Previews.

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<tr>
<th>Main Campus</th>
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<tr>
<td>Person Theatre</td>
<td>Wednesday, March 27, 2019</td>
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<td>Monday, March 25, 2019</td>
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www.sonoma.edu/exed/olli  | 707.664.2691
HOW TO FIND US!

Here are directions to our campuses:

UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

Hwy. 101 to Rohnert Park Expressway exit. Turn east onto Rohnert Park Expressway and follow to its end at Petaluma Hill Road. Right on Petaluma Hill Road to the stoplight at East Cotati Avenue. Right on East Cotati Avenue to Main Entrance of the campus on your right. Information Booth is straight ahead (purchase parking passes). Classes are located in the Cooperage. Closest parking to Cooperage is Lot J ($5 daily fee).

GLASER CENTER

547 Mendocino Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Hwy. 101 to College Avenue exit. Follow College Avenue to Mendocino Avenue. Glaser Center is between 7th and 10th Streets, one block south of College Avenue.

Ample public parking is available at the Seventh Street Parking Garage (521 7th Street), adjoining the building ($0.50 per hour; first hour free).
SPRING 2019 REGISTRATION FORM
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Sonoma State University

OLLI ORIGINAL
University Campus (six weeks) April 14 – May 23, 2019 – Cooperage

- #4305 The Western Epics: Finding Ourselves Lost............................... Monday AM
- #4306 Motown, 1960 – 1972: The Sound of Young America ............... Monday PM
- #4310 Venice and the Imagination........................................................... Tuesday AM
- #4308 Surprising Gifts of Later Life.......................................................... Tuesday PM
- #4309 My Brain Hurts: Critical Thinking, Decision Making and Ethics in the 21st Century .................................................. Wednesday AM
- #4307 The American Revolution: An English Perspective ................. Wednesday PM
- #4311 The Vietnam War......................................................................... Thursday AM
- #4312 Exploration of Water in the West: Past, Present and Future........... Thursday PM

Registration Fees

- #4319 – 1 COURSE $95
- #4320 – 2 COURSES $175
- #4321 – 3 COURSES $250
- #4322 – 4 OR MORE COURSES $325

- #4323 non-refundable membership fee (required each term) $15

New students receive $20 off one six-week course. Also, 10% discount for dues paying members of the SSU Alumni Association. Discounts NOT available online – Please call 707.664.2691 to register or send form through USPS to OLLI@SSU, Stevenson Hall, 1801 E. Cotati Ave, Rohnert Park, CA 94928. To register online, go to www.sonoma.edu/exed/olli.
OLLI À LA CARTE at the Glaser Center (single session, two hours) Fridays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m

REGISTRATION FEES: $25 per course

☐ #4313 Jack London ................................................................. Friday, April 19
☐ #4314 Reality and Reality TV ............................................... Friday, April 26
☐ #4315 Past, Present and Future of the American Family .......... Friday, May 3
☐ #4316 Romeo and Juliet .......................................................... Friday, May 10
☐ #4317 Jacob Lawrence and the Harlem Renaissance .......... Friday, May 17
☐ #4318 Collecting Evolution: The Galapagos Expedition .... Friday, May 24

OLLI at SSU, University Campus
COURSE FEES + $15 MEMBERSHIP FEE = AMOUNT DUE: $___________

OLLI à la Carte, Glaser Center
$25.00 X # OF COURSES: ________ = AMOUNT DUE: $___________

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEES $___________

Donation
*I would like to make a donation to OLLI in the amount of $________________________
*Tax deductible

Personal Information
☐ RETURNING STUDENT ☐ NEW STUDENT

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Scholarships are Available!

A Scholarship Application Form must be filled out each session and accompany your registration form.

To apply for a scholarship, or if you have any questions, please contact:

Chris Alexander | alexachr@sonoma.edu | 707.664.2691

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