We’re more than a class, we’re a community.
Dear OLLI Members and Friends,

As we publish our Winter catalog, I wish to extend my thanks to the OLLI Curriculum Committee for their hard work reviewing course proposals and selecting the cream of the crop you see before you. Please let us know if there is something you’d like to see in future catalogs and we’ll do our best to fill these pages with the best of lifelong learning, uniquely positioning OLLI as a university within a university.

In addition to the intellectual rigor of our courses, I want to remind you of the social fabric of OLLI. We realize there are many opportunities for continued learning, but we think we’re pretty special. Not only are we a part of a national network of 120 Osher Institutes on college campuses, but our program has produced and witnessed global travel, several marriages, and true friendships that stand the test of time. The October fires highlighted the close ties between members of our community, as we came together to heal, to rebuild, and to embrace life. Our collective sense of pride and sense of place connected us, and we will move forward together.

At OLLI, we’re more than just a class, we’re a community.

Carin Jacobs
Director
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Sonoma State University

P.S. Back by popular demand, Glaser Center courses in Santa Rosa will return in the Spring.
Architecture Now: Trends, Triumphs and a Few Terrible Ideas

9:30 – 11:30 a.m. | Cooperage

Two highly published architectural projects (Rafael Moneo’s Our Lady of Angels Cathedral in Los Angeles and Diller Scofidio + Renfro’s Blur Building, Lake Neuchatel in Switzerland) were completed in 2002. One designed to last 500 years, another built to be as fleeting as the fog it represented. This course surveys contemporary architecture and asks you to consider whether architecture still matters and why. We will discuss architecture’s many meanings, from its role as shelter to its ability to formalize power, from community place-making to creative exercise, from technological response to cultural artifact. We will consider what architects themselves have to say about their own work, where architecture is heading and why architecture sometimes fails.

M. Victoria Liptak (Vic), MA taught architecture for 20 years in southern California, mostly at Woodbury University. While associate dean at the School of Architecture there and later as dean of the college at Kendall College of Art and Design, she guided the launch of professional graduate programs in architecture. She earned her MA at SCI-Arc in Los Angeles.

Twice Told Tales: Classical Mythology and Modern Life

1–3 p.m. | Cooperage

We all love a good story. Some prefer telling stories, others like listening and imagining plots and mythological creatures. The ancient Greeks were no exception. They told tales of the creation of the world, the births of the gods and goddesses and the exploits of heroes. Today we call these tales mythology and use it as an historical guide to the development of Greek civilization. More importantly, mythology can also provide a powerful key to unlock the ancient Greek psyche as well as a guide to contemporary psychology and gender relations. In this class, we will listen to these stories and connect them to actual historical and archaeological fact. Using both visual and textural examples we will explore and connect these tales to modern cultural constructs.

Heidi Chretien, Ph.D., received her degree from SUNY at Buffalo. She has been a university professor for several decades, is currently an associate professor at Dominican University and has taught for OLLI at Sonoma State for 14 years. She spends her summers teaching in Tel Aviv and relaxing at her home in the south of France.
Korea: Nuclear Nightmare or Peaceful Re-Unification
9:30 – 11:30 a.m. | Cooperage

This course will focus on modern Korea (North and South) and their struggle to re-unify the Korean peninsula through war and peace. The nuclear threat posed by the Kim regime in the North complicates this unification effort, bringing America and its other Asian allies into potential conflict with Pyongyang. North Korea looks to its own ally, China, to support its ambitions to control the entire Korean peninsula. Whether the two Koreas can resolve their differences and peacefully unify North and South, or whether another Korean War (with much greater consequences for all of Asia, including China, and America) will ultimately unify the two Koreas will be the primary focus of the course.

Perry Ritenour, Ph.D. is a retired bank executive and adjunct college instructor in Asian Studies. He has traveled extensively throughout Asia and has taught classes in Asian Studies at the college and secondary school levels. Dr. Ritenour had part of his Ph.D. dissertation on “Chinese Banking in the Maoist Era” published by the Cornell University Press.

This course was generously underwritten by Jean McNeill.

History and Political Economy of China (1949–2014)
1 – 3 p.m. | Cooperage

This course examines the many determinants at work shaping the place and role of the PRC (People’s Republic of China) in our contemporary world. The course begins with a brief historical survey of the origins (1921–1949) and early evolution (1949–1997) of the Communist regime in China, with equal attention to domestic reconstruction and foreign relations. Then the course will shift to a political focus, with a broad review of China’s contemporary political economy. This part of the course will center on the pivotal leadership and policies of Deng Xiaoping, who ushered in contemporary China’s spectacular era of reform and modernization; the new constructs of politics, government, law and national security/foreign relations; and economic reform and modernization during the last two decades (1997–2017).

Douglas Lee, Ph.D. is originally from Washington, D.C. and a specialist in East Asian history (China, Japan and Korea), with a primary interest in Modern China (late Qing and Republican periods). Additional specialties include political economy of contemporary China, with a focus on Chinese law, politics and government.
WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 10 – FEBRUARY 14

Your Amazing Mind: Rewiring Your Brain for Success
9:30 – 11:30 a.m. | Cooperage

This course provides an introduction to cognitive psychology, Gestalt psychology, brain physiology, neuroplasticity and how our brains conform to the messages we give them. The course explores the discoveries of such pioneers as Dr. Albert Ellis, a founder of cognitive psychology, Dr. V.S. Ramachandran, author of “Phantoms in the Brain,” Leslie A. Hart, author of “Human Brain and Human Learning” and Dr. Martin Seligman, author of “Learning Optimism.” Students will gain practical knowledge of cutting-edge brain research on how we think and how to change the destructive messages we give ourselves about ourselves, all day long. It's not magic... it's science!

Steven Campbell, M.S.I.S. is the author of “Making Your Mind Magnificent – Flourishing at Any Age.” He holds a Bachelor of Science in Zoology and a Master of Science in Information Systems from the University of San Francisco. Campbell is also the radio host of “Your Amazing Mind” on KOWS.FM in Sonoma County.

The Adams Family: America’s First Dynasty
1 – 3 p.m. | Cooperage

The Adamses are our longest and arguably our most influential dynasty, exercising powerful influence over American affairs for almost two centuries. In some sense, they were the closest thing to royalty our country has known – at least until the Kennedys. Brilliant, learned and witty, yet often abrasive, arrogant and grandiose, the Adamses never failed to arouse controversy during their long stay on the stage of history. In this course, we will trace the tumultuous and controversial careers of this remarkable clan, from John and Abigail – America's first ‘power couple’— to John Quincy, the child prodigy who followed in his father’s footsteps, to diplomat Charles Francis and concluding with Henry, the brilliant historian and journalist.

Mick Chantler, M.A., a resident of Sonoma for over 50 years, is a student and instructor of early American studies. He currently teaches at several Bay Area Lifelong Learning Programs, including Sonoma State University, Dominican University, U.C. Berkeley, and U.C. Davis. Additionally, he has taught in the Road Scholars Program, and at many senior citizen centers throughout the North Bay. His primary interests include the Revolutionary and Civil War eras, but he has also lectured on John Kennedy and the history of baseball. 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.
Great Republics: Historical Lessons for Warding off Autocracy

9:30 – 11:30 a.m. | Cooperage

Historically, political power has inevitably tended towards Autocracy – domination by a single powerful ruler, either in a dictatorship or absolute monarchy. At a point when democracy has come under threat around the globe, this course will examine and evaluate strategies employed by history’s leading republics for maintaining broadly distributed power.

Our survey commences in Italy with Venice, history’s longest lasting republic, then the more democratic Florentine Republic. Shifting northward, we’ll view the Dutch Republic presiding over Amsterdam’s golden age and Britain’s parliamentary Commonwealth establishing separation of powers. We proceed by examining three French Republics, each birthed by revolution. We’ll conclude with the Founders’ crafting of the American Constitution and by considering what additional measures may now be required to safeguard democracy.

Bruce Elliott, Ph.D. has taught numerous courses in European history and culture at Stanford Continuing Studies and for several Bay Area OLLIs over the past decade. Provoked by recent domestic and international developments, Dr. Elliott has increasingly oriented his historical research in a political direction, using history as a tool for understanding and effectively confronting contemporary challenges.

The Biology of Aging

1 – 3 p.m. | Cooperage

While everyone is familiar with aging, many basic questions about aging are mysterious. What changes happen at the molecular levels to cause the changes that we associate with old age? In this course, we will explore the scientific discoveries made from studies of model organisms, which have led to revelations about the biology of aging.

Throughout the course, we will discuss calorie restriction and several phenomena which aging take place in cells, such as DNA damage, free radical damage, telomere shortening and epigenetic changes. We will also discuss the first tests of drugs such as resveratrol (found in red wine) and rapamycin, which may target aging pathways in humans.

Dr. Chong He is a postdoctoral fellow at the Buck Institute in Brian Kennedy lab. Before landing in California, she completed her B.S. in chemistry and biology, Ph.D. in chemistry at Peking University in Beijing, China. Her Ph.D. study focused on multi-target drug design on inflammatory disease. During her Ph.D. study, she successfully designed dual-target anti-inflammatory drugs with less toxicity.
Adventures in English

3–5 p.m. | Berger Center

Over the past 1,600 years, the English language has undergone a remarkable transformation, from the Germanic tongue of a backward population on the fringe of Europe to the world’s most famous language. Today English is the most widely spoken language in the history of our planet, used in some way by at least one out of every seven persons in the world. The story of its evolution is a fascinating one that is full of surprising turns, and it’s not over yet. This course will trace the long, strange trip – through a series of historical, cultural, and international adventures – that has brought us to the modern English we speak today.

Marie T. Huhtala, M.A. a native of California, earned her B.A. (French) from Santa Clara University; M.A. (Linguistics) at George Mason University; M.A. (Political Science) from Laval University. In 1972, she entered the U.S. Foreign Service and remained for the next three decades. Immediately after the events of 9/11, she was the U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia.

WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 10 – FEBRUARY 14

Hitchcock’s Women

2–4:45 p.m. | Berger Center

Alfred Hitchcock, the director known as the “Master of Suspense,” exerted tremendous control over the films he made and for decades, critics and feminists have argued about the ways his movies portray women. In this course, we’ll trace the development of the main female characters in six of his important films, starting with his work in England in the silent era when his fascination with the “cool blonde” began (BLACKMAIL), continuing through his early career in the U.S. (NOTORIOUS) and the later Hollywood masterpieces (REAR WINDOW, VERTIGO). We’ll take a hard look at the films themselves and at the cinematic methods Hitchcock uses both to position our responses and to dramatize issues of gender and sexuality that still resonate today.

Barbara Spear, M.A. has watched and loved movies all her life. She has taught courses for OLLI that concentrate on the classic Hollywood cinema, as well as general film courses at Sonoma State University and Napa Valley College. Her special area of interest is the narrative strategies of classic films, with an emphasis on the work of Alfred Hitchcock.
Planets Around Other Stars

3 – 5 p.m. | East Rec. Center

We live in the most extraordinary age of planet discovery in human history! The number of known planets around other stars (“exoplanets”) has grown from zero in 1990, to over 5,000 in 2017. Our galaxy likely contains over 100 billion planets, with 9 billion being Earth-sized or smaller. These discoveries have catalyzed new models of solar system formation and new insights into the stability and longevity of solar systems. This course will survey what we currently know about exoplanets, including: their types, from super-Jupiters to super-Earths and “rogue planets”; how they form; how we detect them; which ones are Earth-like and possibly habitable; and what the histories of Earth, Mars and Venus tell us about possible Earth-like exoplanets.

Warren Wiscombe, Ph.D. has done research in the climate science field since its birth in the early 1970s. He turned his focus to exoplanets in his final two years at NASA before retiring from there in 2013 after a 30-year career. He has taught climate and atmospheric science at New York University and University of Maryland.

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HOW TO FIND US!
Here are directions to our campus locations:

**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 (see above). Closest parking in Lot J.

**OAKMONT CAMPUS**

*From Santa Rosa:* Drive east on Hwy. 12 toward Sonoma. Turn right onto Oakmont Drive. Berger Center on the left at White Oak; East Recreation Center 1.9 miles further along Oakmont Drive, on the right, just past Singing Brook.

**Berger Center,** 6637 Oakmont Drive  
**East Recreation Center,** 7902 Oakmont Drive
WINTER 2018 REGISTRATION FORM
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Sonoma State University

OLLI at SSU, University Campus (six-week session)

- #3940 Architecture Now: Trends, Triumphs, and a Few Terrible Ideas .......... Mon. a.m.
- #3941 Twice Told Tales: Classical Mythology and Modern Life .................. Mon. p.m.
- #3942 Korea: Nuclear Nightmare or Peaceful Re-Unification .................... Tues. a.m.
- #3943 Historical and Political Economy of China (1949–2014) .................. Tues. p.m.
- #3944 Your Amazing Mind: Rewiring Your Brain for Success ................... Weds. a.m.
- #3945 The Adams Family: America's First Dynasty ............................... Weds. p.m.
- #3946 Great Republics: Lessons from History ....................................... Thurs. a.m.
- #3947 The Biology of Aging ................................................................. Thurs. p.m.

OLLI at SSU, Oakmont Campus (six-week session)

- #3948 Adventures in English ................................................................... Mon. p.m.
- #3949 Hitchcock’s Women ..................................................................... Weds. p.m.
- #3950 Planets Around Other Stars .......................................................... Thurs. p.m.

Registration Fees

- #3951 | One (1) course: $95
- #3952 | Two (2) courses: $175
- #3953 | Three (3) courses: $250
- #3954 | Four (4) or more courses: $325
- #3955 | non-refundable membership fee (required each term) $15

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OLLI at SSU, University or Oakmont

If you are a dues paying member of the SSU Alumni Association, you may deduct 10% of the course fees.

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ADDRESS____________________________ CITY/STATE/ZIP________________________

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OAKMONT CLASSES ONLY: Are you a resident of Oakmont? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Note: Oakmont residents and guests are always welcome, space permitting.

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