Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

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

Winter 2016
Dear OLLI Community,

I think I'll call this a season of insights.

First, there is the article I wrote for Insights magazine, the SSU alumni publication that goes out to over 60,000 people. The piece began, “Like a fine wine, learning gets better with age” and went on to celebrate 15 years of OLLI at Sonoma State University. Also included were two very personal anecdotes – one of a courtship and marriage between two OLLI students, and the other a tale of two fraternity brothers from Boston who, after losing track of each other for 50 years, rediscovered each other right here at OLLI!

We have Musical Insights, the new pre-concert lecture series developed exclusively for OLLI by our colleagues at the Green Music Center, and faculty from the SSU Music Department. This series offers OLLI students an opportunity to expand their understanding of classical music, find a deeper level of cultural engagement, and enrich their concert-going experience. This represents an exciting new partnership between OLLI and the GMC.

I’ve also had a few insights of my own that I wanted to share as we close out 2015. After attending the National OLLI Conference in Charlotte, NC, I want to express how proud I am to be a part of the larger OLLI community. There are now 119 OLLI programs around the country, and the SSU program was the second to be established, preceded only by the University of Southern Maine in Bernard Osher’s native state. As a member of the SSU OLLI community, you belong to a national network of over 150,000 thriving older adults who benefit from lifelong learning.

I encourage you to consider a gift to OLLI in this 15th year. Imagine your world without OLLI, and the essential value of this program becomes very clear: OLLI provides university-level presentations that challenge students through shared, informed conversation and help us make sense of our rapidly changing world; OLLI fosters meaningful social interaction and general feelings of well-being that research has shown to be so important in the third trimester of life. Please help us to grow our program, and continue to deliver high quality, relevant classes at an affordable cost to the greatest number of curious minds.

Wishing you an insightful and inspirational season, and a new year full of possibility.

〜 Carin Jacobs
Director
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Sonoma State University
The world is becoming a much smaller place given electronic communications and modern travel. It simply is not possible for countries to be isolationist any longer. When a disease like Ebola breaks out in one country, the entire world potentially can be threatened. Various countries are sitting on 20,000 nuclear weapons. Coca-Cola is served one billion times daily in practically every country on earth. In this course, we will explore the delicate legal and political framework that seeks to keep danger and conflicts to a minimum and to prevent humankind from destroying itself.

INSTRUCTOR: Eric Sinrod, JD, has decades of legal practice experience at one of the nation’s largest law firms, including cases before the United States Supreme Court and cases with billions of dollars at stake. Eric also has been been teaching for years, including courses involving cutting-edge, international legal and political issues. Eric has published over 900 legal blogs and has broadcast close to 150 legal podcasts.

INSTRUCTOR: Tyra Benoit, M.A., has taught about world civilizations for over thirty years and has traveled extensively, both independently, and as a Fulbright Scholar (2 awards) and a National Endowment for the Humanities participant (2 awards). She studied environmental literacy and sustainability in Peru and Ecuador in 1999. The recipient of local and state teaching awards at the community college level, she brings her innovative pedagogy and wealth of knowledge about these areas to OLLI.
Every issue in American politics ultimately becomes a legal problem. And the Supreme Court is the forum in which those issues get settled, at least for a time. From Obamacare to same-sex marriage to the election of a President, it is the Court that ultimately has the final say on most of the important issues of the day. But those issues are rarely settled for long. We will focus on the issues that have dominated the American Political System throughout our history, and on cases that have formed the Court’s jurisprudence in five different areas, including background on the participants in the cases and the attorneys who argued them. We will go through the cases in detail and trace how the Court has shaped the American Political System through its power of judicial review.

INSTRUCTOR: Eric J. Williams, Ph.D., is the Chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies at SSU. He teaches courses in constitutional law, punishment, and corrections. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from Rutgers in 2008. His writings on prisons and rural communities have appeared in academic journals and newspapers nation-wide, including the L.A. Times and Boston Globe.
ART AND SCIENCE OF THE ENVIRONMENT
9:30-11:30am, Cooperage, #3874

The word environment and the constellation of ideas surrounding it have been around the English language for almost two hundred years, but only since the environmental movement of the 1970s and the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency have they reached a kind of critical mass. By midway through the second decade of the twenty-first century, an environment referred to almost anything and everything, from the woods of the Pacific Northwest to the Stock Exchange in New York.

This six-week class looks at contemporary perspectives and narratives on this vast and growing field of study. Dr. Jonah Raskin will deliver the opening and the closing lectures. SSU faculty from the humanities and the sciences will fill in the four interim weeks, presenting their work on diverse topics ranging from earth- and eco-art to black holes; from environmental journalism to land management at Point Reyes, and from conservation physiology in marine mammals to theatrical productions on fracking. Together they will offer insights, compare notes and search for common ground.

INSTRUCTOR:  Jonah Raskin, Ph.D., attended Columbia College and received his doctorate at the University of Manchester, England. After teaching for many years in the English department at Sonoma State University he became chair of Communication Studies in 1988, teaching media law, reporting, and media marketing until 2012. A book critic for The Santa Rosa Press Democrat and the San Francisco Chronicle, Raskin is author of 14 books, including “A Terrible Beauty: The Wilderness of American Literature.”

ANTI-INTELLECTUALISM IN AMERICA
1:00-3:00pm, Cooperage, #3875

America is a political experiment founded by intellectuals. While this fact is regularly acknowledged, in the lived history of the nation it has proved challenging to accommodate intellectuals in our midst. The discomforts asserted themselves early – before there was a “United States.”

Once again we are challenged by a wave of anti-intellectualism. Are we a different culture now than, say, two generations ago? The decline in critical thinking skills, the rise of the “low-information citizen,” and the hotly debated “war” between religion and science; taken together these have facilitated America’s polarization into mutually hostile camps, camps that disdain to dialogue with each other. The emphasis of the class will not be on morose diagnosis, but on hopeful strategies of remedy.

INSTRUCTOR: William Garrett, Ph.D., received his degree in religion and philosophy from the California Institute of Integral Studies. For 40 years he has taught courses in the history of ideas, including courses in religion, culture, philosophy, and literature. He has taught at John F. Kennedy University, San Francisco State University, UC Berkeley, and the Fromm Institute in San Francisco.
GENERATIONS SIDE BY SIDE:
SONOMA COUNTY AGRICULTURE – 19TH, 20TH AND 21ST CENTURIES
9:30-11:30am, Cooperage, #3876
This class is generously sponsored by an anonymous donor.

As small family farms continue to disappear throughout America, Sonoma County is enjoying a renaissance, as inspired young farmers and ranchers bring new vitality to our rich land. This course explores the history of all things agricultural in one of the world's most fertile and favorable environments, as a range of speakers, so-called old-timers and newly inspired youngsters, discuss their endeavors side by side. What has changed? What has stayed the same? How can one generation help another to achieve our long-term goal of preserving our agricultural and culinary heritage?

INSTRUCTOR: Michele Anna Jordan, an SSU Distinguished Alumna (1994), has been writing about Sonoma County's agricultural bounty since 1984. She is the author of more than twenty books to date, including two about Sonoma County and one about the culinary heritage of California. She currently writes four columns a week for the Santa Rosa Press Democrat.

STATESMEN AND ROGUES:
THE FOUNDING FATHERS FROM WASHINGTON TO BURR
1:00-3:00pm, Cooperage, #3877

For nearly 250 years, Americans have stood in awe before the giants who strode the earth during our country's formative epoch. Bold military commanders, incisive political philosophers, brilliant economic thinkers, and spellbinding orators, the Founders provided the creative genius and practical wisdom necessary to forge a new Republic, "dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." But we must be careful not to think of these nation-builders as demi-gods; they were men of flesh and blood, confronted with difficult, real-world decisions. Many of their choices were masterful, and some were disastrous, saddling the American people with thorny problems that would resurface repeatedly in later years. In this class we will analyze the lives of five vanguard members of the revolutionary generation, and assess their influence on the tumultuous events of the years 1763-1815.

INSTRUCTOR: Mick Chantler, M.A., has been an educator and student of Early American and Civil War history for over 40 years. Mick has taught at four Bay Area Osher Lifelong Learning Programs: Sonoma State, Dominican, UC Berkeley, and UC Davis. He also teaches at the Bay Area Roads Scholar Program, and at Varenna. Mick spends time every November studying at the Lincoln Forum in Gettysburg, PA., and is also a member of the Society of Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR).
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OLLI AT SSU, UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

WINTER CLASS PREVIEW:
Monday, December 14th, 2015

EVERT B. PERSON THEATRE, SSU • 9:30am
Daily Parking Pass $5.00 (required in SSU general parking lots)

Winter Classes: January 11 - February 22, 2016
(Note: No classes on January 18, rescheduled for Friday, February 22)

For more information about the program or to register online, go to:

www.sonoma.edu/exed/olli

thon: 15

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Three years ago we pulled up stakes on the East Coast where I had lived for 78 years and moved to Petaluma in Sonoma County. Did we know anyone there? No. Did we know the area? No. Did we know how we would keep busy there? No. But for some reason we felt that it was the right thing to do and OLLI was an important part of the decision. Our OLLI decision set in motion our new and exciting life.

We are now in the third year of wonderful courses covering subjects that were (we thought) far away from any of our interests. How wrong we were! We have studied Opera, Russian Music, the Phoenicians, the Dynasties of Europe, and much more. Attending OLLI classes has brought us together with so many new and interesting friends that our appointment book is bursting at the seams.

This brings us to the most exciting part of my story – an OLLI-induced reunion with a friend and Boston University classmate who I met back in 1953. After graduation we went our separate ways and had very little contact until the day I read a list of OLLI donors in our OLLI newsletter and saw three lines above my name was another M… Robert Markowitz, my long lost classmate. I ran to the OLLI desk with the newsletter in hand practically yelling, “I know this guy, I know this guy!”

After my insistence that he was a Hollywood director and a very old friend, OLLI confirmed these claims with Robert and gave me his contact information. Since then we have communicated, gotten together more than once with our wives, and discovered that we live just a few towns away from each other in Sonoma County. Being in my eighties and having seen so many of my old friends pass, this renewal of a friendship that started over 60 years ago is a precious gift, and all due to OLLI.

— Irwin Miller
Hubby and I had been talking of leaving the Santa Rosa home we’d built in 1975 and moving to a place with less stairs and less land. Yet for five years our search had brought us nothing. Nothing! Seemed as if we didn’t really want to make the leap. Well, all that changed when we discovered Sonoma State’s OLLI classes at Oakmont.

In early 2014, we joined a friend and took a class at Oakmont: “History of Paris.” Interesting subject. The instructor wore costumes of pantaloons and brocaded jackets and feather-adorned hats. Plus, he knew his subject. Entertaining teacher.

But beyond the impressive class and professor, what really impressed us was the energy of the 150+ students. During intermissions, women and men sprung from their chairs and greeted one another: lively discussions all round. These folks were happy, energetic, embracing the day and the chance to enrich their lives. We looked around and decided whatever they had, we wanted.

We’d been to OLLI classes elsewhere, however at Oakmont, we felt a sense of close community and joyous camaraderie. I can tell you one thing: that was the day our lives changed forever. By May, we’d purchased a house in Oakmont and in October, 2014, we moved into our new-to-us home. Guess you could say, “right time, right place, right course…and right choice.”

— Charlene Bunas

Upon retiring from teaching after 40 years, I was ready to become a student again. After being a widow for nine years, I was ready once again to share my life, and thought that taking classes on a college campus might lead me to meet interesting people. I started taking OLLI classes in 2005, and began to notice one particular student in several of my classes. Gradually, we seemed to be sitting next to each other more often than not. We began to chat during class breaks, then graduated to lunches, then dinners, and eventually drives to the coast. We began to take more and more classes together, which gave us even more to share and talk about. Eventually, we decided to spend our lives together. Who said you cannot grow into love after 65?

— Linda and Hank Karow
HOW TO FIND US!
Here are directions to both of our campus locations:

OLLI at SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
Highway 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.

OLLI at OAKMONT
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.

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East Recreation Center
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**AMERICAN POLITICS: ISSUES AND CASES**

3:00-5:00pm, Berger Center, #3881  
(No Class January 18, rescheduled to February 22)

Every issue in American politics ultimately becomes a legal problem. And the Supreme Court is the forum in which those issues get settled, at least for a time. From Obamacare to same-sex marriage to the election of a President, it is the Court that ultimately has the final say on most of the important issues of the day. But those issues are rarely settled for long. We will focus on the issue areas that have dominated the American Political System throughout our history, and on cases that have formed the Court’s jurisprudence in five different issue areas, including background on the participants in the cases and the attorneys who argued them. We will go through the cases in detail and trace how the Court has shaped the American Political System through its power of judicial review.

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**HEARING JAZZ THROUGH ITS GREATEST ARTISTS**

3:00-5:00pm, Berger Center, #3883

The life and music of America’s most creative jazz musicians reveals not only great music, but a unique perspective on American social and cultural history. This course is not only about Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, and many more jazz immortals; it is also about the musical and cultural landscape in which they lived and on which they left an indelible imprint.

Through multimedia class experiences, we will trace the lives and artistic development of these great players who helped to define a uniquely American music. We will focus on listening for specific qualities in the music, such as improvisation, syncopation, and dissonance. The class time will also include demonstrations by the instructor on piano or keyboard, as well as excerpts from revealing videos.

Beyond the musical and biographical components, we will consider the economic, and race-related conditions the musicians were responding to, and the influence of recording technology on how each artist fashions his or her creative work. Students who take this class will gain a greater appreciation of jazz and the many ways to listen to it.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Len Lyons, Ph.D., was educated at the University of Rochester and earned his Ph.D. in Philosophy at Brown University. He has studied piano with the legendary teacher, Lennie Tristano. Len Lyons leads the Woodward Street Jazz Collective which has performed in the Boston area for more than ten years.
In astrobiology we study the potential of the universe to harbor life beyond Earth. Astrobiologists draw connections between life, planets, and the cosmos, beginning with the study of life on Earth, particularly life thriving under extreme conditions. We study how life on Earth began and how the planet and life have co-evolved over roughly 4 billion years. We use this knowledge to evaluate the habitability of other planets and moons in this solar system such as Mars and Jupiter’s moon Europa, and of countless potentially habitable bodies orbiting other stars. In this course we will explore all of these connections, painting a picture of life as a cosmic phenomenon.

INSTRUCTOR: Carl Pilcher, Ph.D., served as the Director of the NASA Astrobiology Institute (NAI), headquartered at the NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California, from 2006 until his retirement in January 2013. Prior to his 7 years as NAI Director, he served for 18 years at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC in numerous capacities. He began his career at the Institute for Astronomy of the University of Hawaii, studying planets and moons in the outer solar system. He has B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in chemistry from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn and MIT, respectively, and a Master of Public Affairs degree from the Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University.
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UNDERWRITE a CLASS!

Are you passionate about the arts, science or history? Have you become a groupie of a specific OLLI instructor? Has the OLLI program made a difference in your life?

If you answered YES to any of the above and want to help support the OLLI program in our 15th year, please consider underwriting a course. For $3,500, your generosity can fund the teaching stipend and room rental for an entire OLLI course. Your gift will be recognized in class, at the Course Previews, and in our catalog. Be a part of OLLI history and help ensure we continue to offer a curriculum that feeds the mind and the spirit.

Please contact Carin Jacobs at (707) 664-3927 to learn more or begin your support.
OLLI at SSU, University Campus

- #3866 The Perils and Promise of International Law and Politics Mon. a.m.
- #3870 South America Sojourns Mon. p.m.
- #3872 French & American Experience in Indochina: 1854-1975 Tues. a.m.
- #3873 American Politics: Issues and Cases Tues. p.m.
- #3874 Art and Science of the Environment Weds. a.m.
- #3875 Anti-Intellectualism in America Weds. p.m.
- #3876 Generations Side by Side: Sonoma County Agriculture Thurs. a.m.
- #3877 Statesmen and Rogues: The Founding Fathers Thurs. p.m.

OLLI at SSU, Oakmont Campus

- #3881 American Politics: Issues and Cases Mon.
- #3883 Hearing Jazz Through Its Greatest Artists Weds.

REGISTRATION FEES:

- 1 COURSE MEMBERSHIP $95 (#3885)
- 2 COURSE MEMBERSHIP $175 (#3886)
- 3 COURSE MEMBERSHIP $250 (#3887)
- 4 OR MORE COURSES MEMBERSHIP $325 (#3888)

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE $____________________

Note: If you are a dues-paying member of the SSU Alumni Association, you may deduct 10% off the course fee.

DONATION: I would like to make a donation to OLLI in the amount of: $__________

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

- Returning Student
- New Student

Name________________________________________ Email__________________________

Address________________________________________ City/State/Zip________________________

Phone#_______________________________________ Birthdate (required)__________ Female Male

OAKMONT CLASSES ONLY: Are you a resident of Oakmont? Yes No

Note: Guests of Oakmont residents are welcome, space permitting.

To Register:

Online, go to www.sonoma.edu/exed/olli and fill out the registration form.

If you are faxing in this form: (707) 664-2613 To register by phone: (707) 664-2691

If paying by check, make check out to SSU, attach your check or money order to the form and mail to: SSU Extended Education, 1801 E. Cotati Avenue, Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609.

If paying by credit card: VISA MasterCard Discover Card American Express

Credit Card # ___________________________ Exp. Date______________

Card Holder’s Name____________________________________________________________

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Disability Services for Students provides complete access to the University for students with disabilities. Information 707-664-2677. SSU is an AA-EEO Institution.

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Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
OLLI is a unique learning community for adults age 50 or older. We offer the very best continuing education with no tests and no grades. Distinguished SSU faculty and other Bay Area educators enjoy sharing their expertise with OLLI students, whose life experience and intelligence enrich the exchange of ideas.

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