



West Virginia University®

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE



# Osher Online

in collaboration with Northwestern University  
School of Professional Studies

**Learn with fellow OLLI members from around the country in courses taught by study area experts and hosted by Osher NRC staff.**

- 18 courses, including 8 offered at 5:00 p.m. or later.
- Each course includes six 90-minute sessions.
- Offered live on Zoom only.
- Each course is \$50.00.
- Current OLLI membership is required.

Registration open  
October 14 - December 20, 2024  
Seats are limited  
so enroll early to reserve yours.

Register online at  
<https://wvusph-olli.augusoft.net/>

or by calling the OLLI at WVU office  
at 304-293-1793.

# Stay Curious!

## Winter 2025

January 14 - March 14

*100 Years of Magic: The Disney Legacy and Influence*

*A Tourists Tour of the Wider Universe*

*Buddhist Philosophy, Meditation, and Ritual: In India and Beyond*

*Color and Symbolism in Art History*

*First Class: A History of the Post Office in the United States*

*Huck Finn's America*

*Immigrants in America: Stories of Jazz, Blues, Rock, and Popular Culture*

*Modern War: What Is It Good For?*

*My Native Land in Memory: Stories of a Cuban Childhood*

*Reclaiming Native Ground: Native America Since 1900*

*Science Everyone Needs to Know*

*Storytelling and Self*

*The Next Generation's Legacy of the Holocaust*

*The Secret Lives of Familiar Birds*

*The World of Musical Satire*

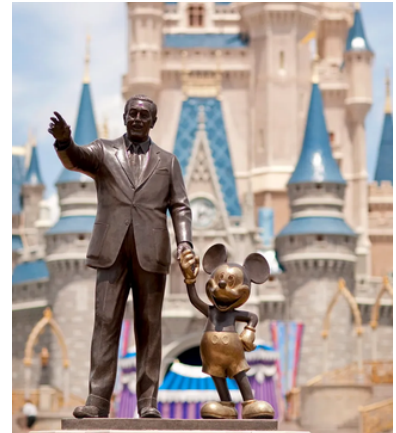
*Transparent Eyeballs: The Transcendentalists and Their Worlds, 1803-Present*

*Whole-Person Health and Well-being: Innovative Care from the Osher Collaborative for Integrative Health*

*Wisdom*

# 100 YEARS OF MAGIC: THE DISNEY LEGACY AND INFLUENCE

In this course, we will explore the 100-year history of one of the largest and most globally recognized brands, Walt Disney. We will start by understanding Walt himself, and then dive into the organization's different business units, exploring the film and media side of the business as well as the parks and resorts. We will peek under the hood at what it is like to work at Disney. We will close the course by learning about Disney's leadership over the years and how they have wielded their influence in politics. Throughout this course, we will seek out varying perspectives, giving us a view from those who revere the Magic Kingdom, those who critique it, and everywhere in between.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

## YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Emma Miller, MBA



Emma Miller started her career working for the Mouse, which was the travel agency sales arm of Walt Disney World Parks and Resorts. Since then, she has worked in media and marketing, including time at McDonald's and consulting across a range of clients at Deloitte. Miller's perspectives from working at Disney have shaped how she views marketing, brands, and fandom. Outside of work, she volunteers on a board for Unbound, an international development nonprofit. Miller holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and an MBA from the University of Chicago.

**WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 15 THROUGH FEBRUARY 19**

**11am AK | Noon PT | 1pm MT | 2pm CT | 3pm ET**

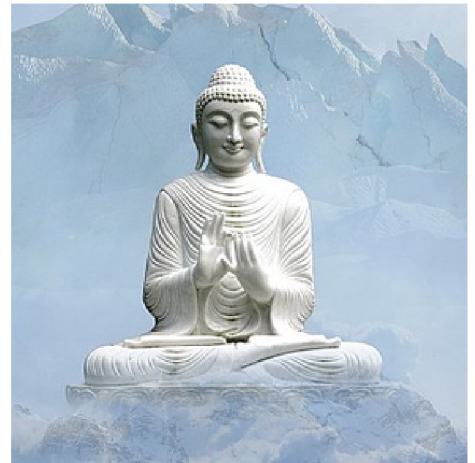
Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, January 15
- Wednesday, January 22
- Wednesday, January 29
- Wednesday, February 5
- Wednesday, February 12
- Wednesday, February 19

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

# BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY, MEDITATION, AND RITUAL: IN INDIA AND BEYOND

This course introduces the key philosophical concepts (meditation practices, and rituals) that have defined Buddhist traditions in India and beyond. We will analyze central Buddhist teachings and their relationship to these three important domains, which interweave theory and practice. First, we will explore the historical figure of the Buddha. We will then examine the three phases of Indian Buddhist traditions: (1) Theravāda, which emphasizes ascetic ideals and monasticism; (2) Mahāyāna, which prioritizes compassion, wisdom, and the ideal of the bodhisattva; and (3) Vajrayāna, the tantric tradition that claims the human body as central to enlightenment and explores the relationship between each living being and the cosmos. We will explore the contrasts among the meditative and ritual practices across these three traditions and analyze how these practices reflect varying philosophies. We will discuss Buddhist iconography, ritual objects, and art.



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## Your Instructor: Eileen Goddard



Eileen Goddard is a lecturer and PhD student at the University of California Santa Barbara. Eileen's dissertation research focuses on the 16th century Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava tradition and comparatively analyzes Indian religious constructions of "perfected" minds and bodies. Eileen's broader research interests include comparative Indian philosophy, Sanskrit literature and poetics, devotion (bhakti), perception, and gender and sexuality. Eileen completed her MA in Religion at Rutgers University and BA in Philosophy at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**TUESDAYS, JANUARY 21 THROUGH FEBRUARY 25**

**11am AK | Noon PT | 1pm MT | 2pm CT | 3pm ET**

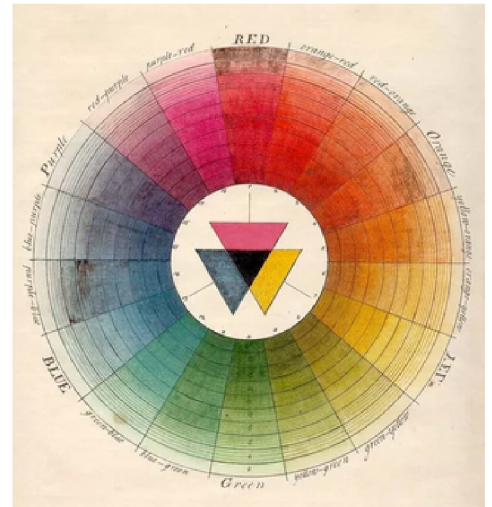
Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, January 21
- Tuesday, January 28
- Tuesday, February 4
- Tuesday, February 11
- Tuesday, February 18
- Tuesday, February 25

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

# COLOR AND SYMBOLISM IN ART HISTORY

Artists use color to create an array of symbolism, emotions, and sociopolitical meanings within the context of the time period in which they created their works of art. Additionally, within these works, artists utilized their knowledge of color to portray mood, light, depth, and point of view. Progressing through the colors of the rainbow each week, we will discuss a variety of paintings throughout art history to understand the artists' intention and the stories behind the paintings within their respective color spheres. We will also discuss the histories of color, their meanings in various societies and cultural contexts, and the materials and processes used to make colors.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

## YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Eleanor Schrader



Eleanor Schrader is an award-winning educator, lecturer, and author. She lectures and leads tours worldwide on art and architectural history. She has been named a distinguished instructor at UCLA Extension, where she teaches history of architecture, interior design, furniture, and decorative arts. She is a Professor Emeritus of Art and Architectural History at Santa Monica College. She has completed graduate work in fine and decorative arts at Sotheby's Institute in London and New York. She has served as a design review commissioner for the City of Beverly Hills.

**MONDAYS, JANUARY 27 THROUGH MARCH 3**

**3pm AK | 4pm PT | 5pm MT | 6pm CT | 7pm ET**

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Monday, January 27
- Monday, February 3
- Monday, February 10
- Monday, February 17
- Monday, February 24
- Monday, March 3

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

# FIRST CLASS: A HISTORY OF THE POST OFFICE IN THE UNITED STATES

What comes to mind when you think of the post office? Is it the unique beauty of a stamp, the thrill of an awaited delivery, or an iconic blue collection box? Do you equate the post office with obsolescence or do you think of recent coverage of controversial austerity measures? As the country's second-largest employer, the US Post Office has a fascinating history that showcases the best and worst of American society. In this course, we will explore what precipitated the creation of the Post Office, its role in fostering and hindering democratic communication, and numerous examples of innovation over the centuries up to the present-day USPS. We will conclude by considering what the future of the post office might look like, with a renewed appreciation for the democratic ideals for which it stands.



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## YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Caroline Nappo, PhD



Caroline Nappo, PhD is an independent scholar with interests in the history of public information institutions, information as a public good, and the political economy of information. She has taught as an adjunct lecturer for graduate students and previously taught an OLLI course on the history of the public library in the United States. She holds a master's and PhD in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois and has published and presented on postal history.

**TUESDAYS, JANUARY 14 THROUGH FEBRUARY 18**

**3pm AK | 4pm PT | 5pm MT | 6pm CT | 7pm ET**

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, January 14
- Tuesday, January 21
- Tuesday, January 28
- Tuesday, February 4
- Tuesday, February 11
- Tuesday, February 18

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# HUCK FINN'S AMERICA

Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is often misunderstood as a boy's adventure book or merely a dialogue on race. Instead, this classic novel addresses youth violence and bad boys, schools and parents, and civil rights and minstrel shows. The novel, banned in New England, needs to be read and discussed anew for a better understanding of America, then and now. Join this course for a new and fresh analysis of this highly criticized and misunderstood novel.



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## YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Jeff Walker, PhD



Jeffrey Walker, Emeritus Professor of English at Oklahoma State, authored a critical study of the Revolutionary poet and traitor Benjamin Church, edited collections of essays on Fenimore Cooper, co-edited the first scholarly edition of Cooper's 1821 bestseller *The Spy*, and is completing an edition of Cooper's unpublished letters. A Fulbright lecturer in Norway and Belgium, he won the Phoenix Award for outstanding graduate teaching, the A&S Outstanding Professor Award, and the Regents Distinguished Teaching Award. His teaching interests include American literature, Dickens, the history of the book, textual editing, comedy, mystery, and film.

## MONDAYS, JANUARY 27 THROUGH MARCH 3

9am AK | 10am PT | 11am MT | Noon CT | 1pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Monday, January 27
- Monday, February 3
- Monday, February 10
- Monday, February 17
- Monday, February 24
- Monday, March 3

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

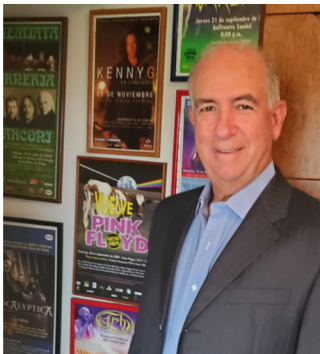
## IMMIGRANTS IN AMERICA: STORIES OF JAZZ, BLUES, ROCK, AND POPULAR CULTURE

In this course, we will document the fertile interaction between minorities that transformed not only 20th century music but the entire entertainment industry. We will examine how minorities significantly impacted American popular culture and explore their contributions to various musical genres, record labels, booking agencies, venues, innovations, and production. With strong support from audiovisuals, anecdotes, and the instructor's decades of experience as a concert promoter working with some of the biggest names in the industry, we will learn about Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Benny Goodman, Stan Getz, Norman Granz, Bob Dylan, Milt Gabler, Leonard Cohen, Lou Reed, Al Kooper, Adam Sandler, Avishai Cohen, Kiss, and many more.



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### Your Instructor: Emanuel Abramovits, MBA



Emanuel Abramovits, MBA, is a mechanical engineer and has also been a concert promoter for over two decades. He is directly involved in events by international artists like Itzhak Perlman, Gustavo Dudamel, Sarah Brightman, Roger Hodgson, ASIA, Journey, Kenny G., and many more. Abramovits has designed and staged many original orchestral events, including an Event of the Year winner and several world premieres. He served as the cultural director at Union Israelita De Caracas from 2008 to 2019, releasing books and organizing film cycles, concerts, and art exhibits. He consistently teaches online and in-person across the US.

**MONDAYS, JANUARY 27 THROUGH MARCH 3**

**1pm AK | 2pm PT | 3pm MT | 4pm CT | 5pm ET**

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Monday, January 27
- Monday, February 3
- Monday, February 10
- Monday, February 17
- Monday, February 24
- Monday, March 3

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

## MODERN WAR: WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR?

Vietnam, viewed by many as a turning point between old and new approaches to war, raised many questions about the role of superpowers, asymmetrical resources, and counterinsurgencies on the world stage. In this course, we will look at the wars in Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Gaza. All of these wars are asymmetrical, but what else do they have in common, and how are they informed by Vietnam? We will discuss how superpowers are central players in these conflicts by way of their supplies and support. In this course, we will examine human ways of evaluating the politics and strategies, particularly what happens when three vectors cannot agree: the public, politicians, and the military.



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### YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Jeff Rice, MSc



Jeff Rice received an undergraduate degree from Northwestern University then pursued graduate work in African Studies at the University of Edinburgh. He completed a dissertation entitled "Wealth Power and Corruption: A Study of Asante Political Culture." He returned to Northwestern to teach history and political science and became a Weinberg College academic adviser. He is currently an Emeritus Senior Lecturer in political science, specifically West African history, US history of the 60's, Marx & Weber, African politics, military strategy, the politics of famine, and student protest and free speech.

### TUESDAYS, JANUARY 28 THROUGH MARCH 4

7am AK | 8am PT | 9am MT | 10am CT | 11am ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, January 28
- Tuesday, February 4
- Tuesday, February 11
- Tuesday, February 18
- Tuesday, February 25
- Tuesday, March 4

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.



# MY NATIVE LAND IN MEMORY: STORIES OF A CUBAN CHILDHOOD

Using Dr. Espín's memoir of childhood and adolescence, which was the recipient of the San Diego Book Award in 2021, we will discuss the Cuban political landscape in the mid-20th century. This memoir recreates a world that no longer exists: pre-revolutionary Cuba in the 1940s and 50s. Cuba's fraught history and political instability are interwoven with a personal story to create a web of history, family, and cultural analysis. This is a young woman's individual struggle for identity and independence against the background of the country's national struggle. Family photographs and site photographs will illustrate the details of the story. We will also explore the process and meaning of memory and memoir for authors and readers. Reading some excerpts will illuminate the narrative. It is not necessary to have read the memoir in advance.



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## YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Oliva Espín, PhD



Oliva M. Espín, PhD is Professor Emerita in the Department of Women's Studies at San Diego State University and the California School of Professional Psychology of Alliant International University. Espín was a pioneer in the practice and theory of feminist therapy with women from different cultural backgrounds, particularly immigrants and refugees. A native of Cuba, she received her BA in psychology from the University of Costa Rica and her PhD from the University of Florida. She did post-doctoral work at Harvard University with a fellowship from NIMH. Espín held the 2010 Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Gender Studies at the University of Klagenfurt, Austria. Her most recent book is *My Native Land is Memory: Stories of a Cuban Childhood*, winner of the 2021 San Diego Book Award.

**FRIDAYS, JANUARY 24 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28**

**9am AK | 10am PT | 11am MT | Noon CT | 1pm ET**

Each live session is 90 minutes.

- Friday, January 24
- Friday, January 31
- Friday, February 7
- Friday, February 14
- Friday, February 21
- Friday, February 28

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

## ***THE NEXT GENERATION'S LEGACY OF THE HOLOCAUST***

How does one honor the legacy of parents who survived the Holocaust while at the same time recognizing the ripples of the inherited trauma they experienced? Growing up in the shadow of the Holocaust, the adult children of survivors are striving to find ways to keep their parents' stories alive. Using their unique intergenerational lens, authors of the recent award-winning anthology, *The Ones Who Remember: Second Generation Voices of the Holocaust*, will reveal the variety of ways in which their parents' history of survival seeped into their souls and affected their lives as children and adults.

The goal of this course is to explore the challenges that resulted from this trauma and the gifts that came forth – gifts of resilience, tolerance, fortitude, and compassion. Each week our instructors will explore and share reflections around themes of their lived experience.



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### **YOUR INSTRUCTORS**

**Ruth Wade** is a retired training and development executive, a speaker and docent at the Florida Holocaust Museum, and leadership committee chair of Tampa Bay Generations After. Wade assists her father, a Holocaust survivor, with his Holocaust presentations at schools and his book *Sevek and the Holocaust: The Boy Who Refused to Die*.

**Joy Wolfe Ensor, PhD** is a retired psychologist whose clinical, teaching, and leadership activities over 45 years centered on the social determinants of health and the multigenerational legacy of trauma. She is active in the Michigan Psychological Association, of which she is a Fellow and past president.

**Rita Benn, PhD** is a clinical psychologist and was University of Michigan faculty for 20+ years where she taught integrative medicine and published numerous academic papers and chapters. As a founder of Michigan Collaborative for Mindfulness in Education (MC4ME), she trains educators and professionals in mindfulness meditation practice.

All three women are Founding Committee members of the Irene Butter Fund for Holocaust and Human Rights Education.

**THURSDAYS, JANUARY 23 THROUGH FEBRUARY 27**

**1pm AK | 2pm PT | 3pm MT | 4pm CT | 5pm ET**

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Thursday, January 23
- Thursday, January 30
- Thursday, February 6
- Thursday, February 13
- Thursday, February 20
- Thursday, February 27

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

### **INNOVATIONS IN HEALTH AND WELLNESS: FROM THE OSHER COLLABORATIVE FOR INTEGRATIVE HEALTH EXPERTS**



This course provides a unique opportunity to learn from the experts in the Osher Collaborative for Integrative Health, an international group of eleven academic health centers funded by The Bernard Osher Foundation to study, teach, and practice integrative healthcare.

The eleven Osher Centers are located at highly respected medical schools and medical centers and emphasize integrative healthcare approaches to promote health and well-being. Each Osher Center focuses on whole-person health and wellness using healing strategies such as acupuncture and East Asian Medicine, Ayurvedic medicine, yoga, massage, meditation, physical activity, and nutrition.

In this course, Osher Collaborative practitioners, researchers, and educators will discuss the science behind integrative healthcare remedies and explain its impact.

#### **FRIDAYS, JANUARY 31 THROUGH MARCH 7**

**11am AK | Noon PT | 1pm MT | 2pm CT | 3pm ET**

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Friday, January 31
- Friday, February 7
- Friday, February 14
- Friday, February 21
- Friday, February 28
- Friday, March 7

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

# RECLAIMING NATIVE GROUND: NATIVE AMERICA SINCE 1900

This course will explore Native American history in the late 19th and 20th centuries, a time punctuated by the violence of American expansion and consolidation, the boarding school systems that sought to erase Native cultures, and the effects of imperialism, which conspired to keep Native people in a subordinate status compared to their white neighbors. Yet, at this time, Native Nations began to rebuild and reclaim the United States as Native ground, drawing on ancient traditions to revitalize communities and fight for their rights in the American court system, the political system, and the court of public opinion. Together, we will explore how, in this history, Native peoples have proven themselves to be resilient and powerful.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

## YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Matt Jennings, PhD



Matt Jennings, PhD is on faculty at Middle Georgia State University. His research includes Native American history, early American history, and the history of violence. He has studied Thomas Paine's interactions with Native Americans and the roots of John Brown's ideas about violence. He is currently studying the relationship between Native American peoples and the mounds at Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park, and the intertwined history of tourism and archaeology at the site. He has published several books including *New Worlds of Violence*, *The Flower Hunter and the People*, and *Ocmulgee National Monument: A Concise History with Field Notes*.

**WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 22 THROUGH FEBRUARY 26**

**1pm AK | 2pm PT | 3pm MT | 4pm CT | 5pm ET**

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, January 22
- Wednesday, January 29
- Wednesday, February 5
- Wednesday, February 12
- Wednesday, February 19
- Wednesday, February 26

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

# SCIENCE EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW

Evolution. Vaccines. Global Warming. Regardless of one's choice of news media, it is nearly impossible to navigate today's information-heavy world without coming across stories on evolution, vaccines, and global warming. Each of these topics is the subject of various conspiracy theories and misinformation campaigns. How do we make sense of what we hear on the news when so much information comes from unvetted and non-neutral sources, such as the Internet and the media? This course is a non-technical introduction to these three critical matters in modern science. We will examine what scientists know, how they know what they know, how certain they are, and why there is such a disconnect between scientific understanding and the public's perception of the science.



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## YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Kjir Hendrickson, PhD



Kjir Hendrickson, PhD is a teaching professor in the School of Molecular Sciences at Arizona State University (ASU). They hold a PhD in chemistry and authored the textbook *Chemistry in the World*. As an erstwhile quantum chemist, their academic work focuses on science communication, the reciprocal relationship between science and society, matters of workplace climate, and matters of DEI/J in STEM. Hendrickson is an associate researcher with the ADVANCEGeo Partnership and is pursuing research on functional scientific literacy in partnership with OLLI at ASU.

**THURSDAYS, JANUARY 30 THROUGH MARCH 6**

**11am AK | Noon PT | 1pm MT | 2pm CT | 3pm ET**

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Thursday, January 30
- Thursday, February 6
- Thursday, February 13
- Thursday, February 20
- Thursday, February 27
- Thursday, March 6

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

## THE SECRET LIVES OF FAMILIAR BIRDS

We share the earth with birds who live among us, yet they remain mysterious. In this course, we will examine the fascinating characteristics, habits, and lives of North American birds including how they keep warm; how they fly; when, why, and how they sing; and more. Our classes will be broken down into these categories: bird ancestry and anatomy; diet and nesting; flight and migration; threats; behavior and songs. We will cover birds of prey, songbirds, waterfowl, and the common loon. Join this interesting exploration of how birds live, move, breath, and think.



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### YOUR INSTRUCTOR: ELIZABETH BURNETTE, MS



Elizabeth Burnette attended Cornell University for a BS in engineering physics, then worked on Space Shuttle experiments at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. She then obtained a master's degree in Astrophysics from the University of Pittsburgh. Burnette has been teaching astrophysics, physics, and science for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Pitt and is a returning Osher Online instructor.

**WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 29 THROUGH MARCH 5**

**7am AK | 8am PT | 9am MT | 10am CT | 11am ET**

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, January 29
- Wednesday, February 5
- Wednesday, February 12
- Wednesday, February 19
- Wednesday, February 26
- Wednesday, March 5

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

## STORYTELLING AND SELF

In this course, we will explore the internal stories we tell ourselves and the external stories we tell others. Our internal stories define us, and our attitudes and emotions toward ourselves. Our external stories are outward-focused and lean toward a conversational resume, to some extent. We will consider our life as a series of chapters, or phases, and spend time investigating what our current story/stories are. We will also explore how we envision our future story. Our course will be interactive and discussion-based, and by the end of our six weeks together, participants will have a future story to share.



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### YOUR INSTRUCTOR: JEN BAKER, PHD



Jennifer (Jen) Baker, PhD is an expert in the interdependence of communication theory and practice. She has been teaching communication courses for over 20 years, starting at the University of Texas at Austin, then the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and now at Columbia College Chicago and Northwestern University. Baker has worked at a marketing company, an engineering firm, and a variety of educational institutions. She teaches practicum courses where she can champion both the theory of communication and the practical nature of interactions through the experiential learning model. Baker has been awarded a Distinguished Teaching Award and has been called the happiest professor that a student has ever known.

**THURSDAYS, JANUARY 23 THROUGH FEBRUARY 27**

**3pm AK | 4pm PT | 5pm MT | 6pm CT | 7pm ET**

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Thursday, January 23
- Thursday, January 30
- Thursday, February 6
- Thursday, February 13
- Thursday, February 20
- Thursday, February 27

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

## A TOURISTS TOUR OF THE WIDER UNIVERSE

For more than two years, the James Webb Space Telescope, orbiting a million miles from Earth in the deep freeze of space, has sent back remarkable information and dramatic images of the faint heat rays that come from objects in the universe. The Hubble Telescope continues to observe some of the same stars and galaxies with visible light. Never before have we had images of the cosmos so rich in color and detail. In this profusely illustrated course, we will be taken on a guided tour of the wider universe as astronomers understand it today. Fraknoi will cover this information in everyday language and without any math. We will look at star birth and star death, the organization and structure of the Milky Way, cosmic mergers and collisions, and the great web of galaxies that gives us clues about the beginning and development of our cosmos.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

### YOUR INSTRUCTOR: ANDREW FRAKNOI, MS



Andrew Fraknoi was the Chair of the Astronomy Department at Foothill College. He was chosen the 2007 California Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Endowment and has won several national prizes for his teaching. He is the lead author of *OpenStax Astronomy*, a free, electronic textbook, which is the country's most-used introductory text in the field. He has also written books for teachers, children, and the public. He appears regularly on local and national radio, explaining astronomical ideas in easy to understand terms. The International Astronomical Union has named Asteroid 4859 Asteroid Fraknoi to recognize his contributions to the public's appreciation of science.

**TUESDAYS, JANUARY 28 THROUGH MARCH 4**

**1pm AK | 2pm PT | 3pm MT | 4pm CT | 5pm ET**

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, January 28
- Tuesday, February 4
- Tuesday, February 11
- Tuesday, February 18
- Tuesday, February 25
- Tuesday, March 4

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.



# TRANSPARENT EYEBALLS: THE TRANSCENDENTALISTS AND THEIR WORLDS, 1803 - PRESENT

Transcendentalism is an umbrella term that refers to a complex and profoundly influential philosophical, spiritual, and literary movement that emerged in the 1820s and 1830s. The intellectual, social, and political ideas generated by Transcendentalist thinkers, writers, and activists transformed Americans' understandings of nature, God, and the rights and responsibilities of the individual to themselves and to society in ways that continue to reverberate across US politics and culture in our own times.

This course will examine the ideas, writings, political activism, and legacies of contributors to the Transcendentalist movement including Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Henry David Thoreau, Walt Whitman, Herman Melville, and beyond. Our investigations will aim to help each of us actualize Emerson's definition of freedom as "an open-ended process of self-realization by which individuals [can] remake themselves and their own lives."



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

## Your Instructor: Anthony Antonucci, PhD



A New England native (and self-described "New England Transcendentalist"), Dr. Anthony Antonucci teaches history and American studies at Cal State Pomona. His passion for Transcendentalism is rooted in his experience as an avid hiker, mountain climber, vagabond traveler, and lover of wild nature and poetry. He earned multiple graduate degrees in US history and culture including a PhD in US History from the University of Connecticut under the direction of Bancroft Award-winning-historian, Dr. Robert Gross. Antonucci's work as a scholar of US social and transnational history has earned numerous awards, including a Fulbright Research Fellowship (Italy), and fellowships through the Massachusetts Historical Society, the American Antiquarian Society, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**TUESDAYS, JANUARY 14 THROUGH FEBRUARY 18**

**9am AK | 10am PT | 11am MT | Noon CT | 1pm ET**

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, January 14
- Tuesday, January 21
- Tuesday, January 28
- Tuesday, February 4
- Tuesday, February 11
- Tuesday, February 18

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

# WISDOM

Wisdom is the ability to apply knowledge in the real world in a constructive way—to enrich our individual lives and to make the world a better place. Wisdom is often found at the intersection of theory and experience. How does modern expertise benefit all of us, and how can we convince the general population to value it? How does life experience create wisdom? In this course, we will explore the biological, philosophical, social scientific, and experiential aspects of wisdom and analyze what ancient and contemporary sources have to say about it.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

## YOUR INSTRUCTOR: David Smith, PhD



Dr. David E. Smith grew up in the world of fundamentalist religion. As an adult he gradually moved away from that worldview and became a religious progressive/skeptic. After earning an MA in philosophy of religion, he received a second MA and a PhD in religious studies from Temple University. Formerly a philosophy and religious studies faculty member at Central Washington University, he now offers independent seminars and personal consultations in comparative religion and philosophy. He has published widely in these areas, and his mission is to empower people to think well for themselves about things that matter.

**THURSDAYS, JANUARY 23 THROUGH FEBRUARY 27**

**9am AK | 10am PT | 11am MT | Noon CT | 1pm ET**

Each live session is 90 minutes.

- Thursday, January 23
- Thursday, January 30
- Thursday, February 6
- Thursday, February 13
- Thursday, February 20
- Thursday, February 27

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

# THE WORLD OF MUSICAL SATIRE

Satire is one of the oldest forms of humor. Adding music seems to make it even more powerful. In early Germanic and Celtic societies, people who were mocked in songs would break out in boils and even commit suicide. In this course, we will explore the art of musical satire in a variety of genres, cultures, and eras, especially America since 1950. This multimedia course covers *Yankee Doodle*, Gilbert and Sullivan, the Gershwin's, the Marx Brothers, Monty Python, *Saturday Night Live*, *South Park*, and *Key and Peele*. We will also cover a bountiful bevy of B's: Leonard Bernstein, the Beatles, Bo Burnham, and Bugs Bunny. Because satire is often dependent on social and historical events, this course is as much cultural history as music appreciation. And while words are preeminent in musical satire, we will also discuss the music and its interactions with lyrics. But please—no students who are prone to boils.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

## YOUR INSTRUCTOR: David Misch



David Misch is a former stand-up comedian, screenwriter (*Mork and Mindy*, *Saturday Night Live*, and *The Muppets Take Manhattan*), author (*Funny: The Book*, and *A Beginner's Guide To Corruption*), teacher (his own courses on comedy at USC and musical satire at UCLA) and lecturer at Yale, Columbia, the Smithsonian, 92Y (NYC), Oxford University, Trinity College Dublin, University of Sydney, VIEW Cinema (Italy), and Raindance Film Festival (London), Austin Film Festival, American Film Institute, Writers Guild of America, Sony, DreamWorks, Lucasfilm, Disney, Second City, Actors Studio.

**WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 29 THROUGH MARCH 5**

**3pm AK | 4pm PT | 5pm MT | 6pm CT | 7pm ET**

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, January 29
- Wednesday, February 5
- Wednesday, February 12
- Wednesday, February 19
- Wednesday, February 26
- Wednesday, March 5

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.



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OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE



# Osher Online

in collaboration with Northwestern University  
School of Professional Studies

## Winter 2025

January 14 - March 14

**Each course is \$50.00.\***

*\* Scholarships not available for Osher Online classes.*

**Current OLLI membership is required.** *(Term enrollment not required.)*

**Offered live on Zoom only.** *(Classes will NOT be recorded.)*

**Classes will be hosted by staff of Osher NRC/Northwestern University staff.**

Registration open

October 14 - December 20, 2024

Register online at <https://wvusph-olli.augusoft.net/>

or by calling the OLLI at WVU office  
at 304-293-1793.

Osher Online was created by the Osher National Resource Center (NRC) at Northwestern University to expand member access, institute collaboration, sharing of resources, and to ensure the legacy of the Osher Institutes.