

# 2018 FEBRUARY SHORTS

## 940 Our Catastrophic Care: and How We Can Fix American Healthcare

**NORMAN MARKS**

**February 5-8 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM**

We will use an *Atlantic Monthly* cover story (supplemented by his 2013 book) by a successful small businessman, David Goldhill — not a ‘health policy’ guru or politician — as a framework to explore and discuss the flaws, weaknesses, and dangers of our US healthcare ‘non-system’ in 2018. The writer’s healthy father entered a well-respected hospital for treatment of a simple pneumonia and died there three weeks later after mistakes, miscues, poor quality of care, and a \$650,000 Medicare bill. David Goldhill’s insights offer us a smart, cogent view of what is badly wrong with our insurance-based system and then suggest a smart and sensible plan to improve the catastrophic care so many of us recognize in the healthcare we receive. Let’s discuss. This short course is not a repeat.

**Class Type:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** Reading prior to first session (See Description.)

*Norman Marks, MD, a urological surgeon, after 21 years of private practice, moved to work for the FDA from 1998 until retirement in 2015. He led FDA’s Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program, creating outreach/educational programs for physicians and patients on the safety of medications used by the nation’s patients.*

## 941 Computer Security

**LISA FRIEDMAN**

**VICTOR REZMOVIC**

**GARY CAHN**

**February 5-7 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM**

How’s this for a great New Year’s resolution? “I’m going to make my electronic life a lot less scary in 2018 by learning how to protect my computer (and myself!) from computer malware, hackers, and technology scams.” In this three-session study group, we’ll discuss common cybersecurity threats and how you can use security software (such as virus protection software and firewalls) and good security practices (like using strong passwords and two-factor authentication, accurately identifying fraudulent e-mail messages and web sites, and routinely updating software) to help you stay safe.

This short course is not a repeat.

**Class Type:** Lecture

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

*Lisa Friedman is a retired EPA lawyer who has taught computer skills to seniors for over a dozen years.*

*Victor Rezmovic spent 30 years as an IT consultant and trainer. He currently teaches cybersecurity at Montgomery College.*

*Gary Cahn has taught classes on computer security and dozens of other computer topics for over 15 years.*

## 942 Volcanoes, Earthquakes, and a Lava Lake

**THOMAS WRIGHT**

**February 6-8 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM**

This three-session, multi-disciplinary study group will introduce students to volcanoes, earthquakes, and lava lakes. It will describe the relationship of earthquakes to volcanic eruptions. The study group will cover the regions where earthquakes and volcanoes occur, the difficulties of predicting eruptions and large damaging earthquakes, and the challenge of mitigating damage and loss of life. Case studies will be presented of the 2011 earthquake that did considerable damage to buildings — including the Washington Monument and the National Cathedral — in DC. The third lecture will discuss an open air experiment on the cooling and crystallization of basalt magma erupted into a pit crater in Hawaii. This short course is not a repeat.

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No reading

*Tom Wright is a volcanologist with a long career at the US Geological Survey. He currently coaches a graduate student journal club at Johns Hopkins University. He has been the scientist in charge of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, a visiting professor at the University of Tokyo, and is the author of numerous scientific articles.*

## 945 The Battle for Our Environment: Stories from the Trenches

**WALTER FISHEROW**

**February 6-8 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM**

This study group will introduce participants to three of the nation’s most significant environmental laws — the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, and the Superfund — highlighting flashpoints in each statute that have led to significant controversies. Public information revealed in recent major enforcement cases, such as *Volkswagen* and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, will help illustrate the contentious and challenging nature of environmental enforcement in this country. The leader, recently retired, will speak from his 30 years’ experience at the US Department of Justice managing litigation on behalf of EPA in federal courts across the nation.

This short course is not a repeat.

**Class Type:** Lecture

**Reading:** No reading

**Walter Benjamin Fisherow**, former Chief of the Environmental Enforcement Section, US Department of Justice; Counsel to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, US House of Representatives; and Attorney, US Federal Trade Commission.

## 946 Genetically Engineered Foods and Related Products

**KENNETH HINGA**

**February 5-7 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM**

We will examine how genetically engineered foods (GE) are made and examine the properties of different traits engineered into food and other crops. We will also look at some of the other ways in which crop breeders have brought novel properties into crops. This Short is a three-session expansion of the section on GE (also called GMO) in Study Group "Making Choices: Understanding Environmental Issues."

This short course is a repeat.

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No reading

**Kenneth Hinga**, PhD, is recently retired after ten years at USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, and US FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. He was a science advisor for both agencies. Prior to federal service, he was a research scientist and assistant dean of the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography.

## 950 American Art and Film 1900–1950

**LISA LEINBERGER**

**February 5-7 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM**

This Short will try to show the link and cross pollination of American art and film. It is not necessarily a one-to-one capture of moving image to art nor from art to moving image. It is more of a spirit of the age or zeitgeist as reflected in both urban and rural contexts. The trends of where we choose to live informs our values as well. Movie clips and examples of visual art will be presented in context.

This short course is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No reading

**Lisa Leinberger** has an MA in Art History and has led other OLLI study groups. She has been a television movie reviewer. She recently worked at the Phillips Collection and has co-written articles on the influence of movies and television on urbanism.

## 954 Neurological Reactions to Visual Arts: The Brain's Motor Systems

**MARY MICHEL**

**February 6-8 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM**

We have all had the experience of attending a concert and responding with movement to the music: tapping a foot, swaying, singing along. At a scary movie, we may close our eyes or jump when the action becomes intense. When we go to an art museum and examine the paintings, what are the motor activities that indicate our reactions? Consciously, we walk to the next painting, take a photo, or tilt our heads; unconsciously we are "moved." There are several motor systems in the brain that underlie the physical and emotional reactions to art. In this study group, we will discuss the frontal and prefrontal cortex, the basal ganglia, and the cerebellum, all of which react to visual stimuli that focus when we view works of art.

This short course is not a repeat.

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

**Mary Ellen Michel**, PhD, received her doctorate in Neuroscience from the University of MD Medical School and did post-doctoral work at the NIH. She worked as an extramural program director at NIH for more than 30 years, managing clinical and basic science grant portfolios in the neuroscience of stroke and traumatic brain injury.

## 956 "It Was a Good Show, But Don't Do It Again": American Art, Modernism, and the 1913 Armory Exhibition

**CHRIS WITH**

**February 5-8 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM**

On the evening of February 17, 1913, four thousand guests crowded the rooms of the 69th Street Armory in New York City to view the International Exhibition of Modern Art, more commonly referred to as the Armory show. On exhibit were approximately 1,300 works by contemporary artists from Europe and America. To comprehend the show's place in American history and art, this Short will revisit the exhibition and its tumultuous aftermath. It will examine the state of American art prior to 1913, reconstruct the show's organization, discuss contemporary opinions, and review the show's significance from the vantage point of our own day.

This short course is not a repeat.

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No reading

**Christopher With** has worked in the education department of the National Gallery of Art and has a degree in German history from UCLA.

## 958: The Architecture of the Wild West

**JOHN VORHES**

**February 5-7 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM**

200 years ago, the American “frontier” expanded into the “Great American Desert.” Explorers and settlers found vast tillable prairies, mountains full of minerals, a network of rivers, and often confrontational indigenous populations. Settlers built new towns, farmers settled into sod houses, and railroads served cattle and mining interests. “Manifest Destiny” was how we justified this continental infill. The era helped define the American character for good and bad. We will study the myth and the reality and see great cities rise. This short course is not a repeat.

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No reading

*John Vorhes is a retired industrial designer and former project director for USIA Exhibition Services for worldwide cultural exchange programs. He has 40 years of experience in art direction, architectural design, landscape design, graphics, and television production design.*

## 960 *Waiting for Godot*

**DAVID PALMETER**

**February 5-8 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM**

Samuel Beckett’s *Waiting for Godot* is widely held to be the most important play of the 20th century. This very funny and very sad tragicomedy is the story of two apparently homeless men waiting on a country road for someone who never arrives. Two other men happen by and stop for a while before leaving. A glib, early reviewer described it as a two-act drama “in which nothing happens — twice.” But whether something “happens” depends on how we define “happen.” We will read, discuss, and watch excerpts from recorded performances of the play, which paved the way for much of post-World War II theatre, such as Tom Stoppard’s *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. (*Waiting for Godot* will be performed at the Shakespeare Theatre in spring 2018.) This short course is a repeat.

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

## 962 *Death of a Salesman: The Wake*

**EDWARD STARR**

**February 6-8 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM**

Arthur Miller’s *Death of a Salesman* is one of America’s great plays. Why? Since its premier in 1949, *Salesman* has become part of our language, arts, politics, and cultural landscape. It has also been

performed around the world. What do others see in it? We will read aloud key scenes and examine their place in the “architecture” of the play. Students will be given a copy of the play script to borrow and read; a performance of *Salesman* will be shown to enrich the participant’s experience. Guided discussions will be the major form of conversation. By the end of this Short, each participant will be able to see and hear the “architecture” of this and other theater productions.

This short course is not a repeat.

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

*Edward Starr has been participating in live theater as an actor, director, producer, administrator, audience, and teacher for four decades. In 1998, he created the Montgomery County Seniors’ Theatre which has brought live theatrical productions to venues where seniors live or gather for educational/recreational activities.*

## 965 Italian Language Conversation

(A preview of the course to be given in Spring term)

**ARRIGO MONGINI**

**February 5-9 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM**

Our conversations in Italian will be structured around a combination of the following subject matters: personal experiences of individual participants; comments on assigned readings; and comments on current or local events, where possible with themes involving Italian language or culture. We recommend a background with at least one year of a course in beginning Italian but all levels beyond that are welcome.

The format of this Short will be similar to that of the Italian Conversation study group in the Spring 2018 semester, but with variations depending on the participants’ experience with the language.

This short course is not a repeat.

**Class Type:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

*Arrigo Pietro Mongini (aka Rigo) is a native of Boston, spoke Italian as a child, kept in contact with relatives in Italy, and made many trips across Italy since 1959. He has engineering degrees from MIT. He is a past president of the Italian Cultural Society of Washington DC and has led Italian conversation groups.*

## 967 Dramatic Readings: Dickens and Others

**LESLIE FRANTZ**

**RICHARD PALMER**

**February 5-9 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM**

Charles Dickens loved to participate in amateur theatricals and made a fortune doing dramatic readings of his novels. We also

think his works, and the works of other 19th century authors, lend themselves to readings aloud by the Victorian father for the evening entertainment and moral education of his wife and children. In this February Short, the co-leaders and willing members will recreate the experience of dramatic reading of scenes from Dickens (and others) and analyze the “drama” and “moral” rendered, when the audience encounters the story afresh. Prospective members should plan to choose a favorite mid-19th century, 10–30 minute reading to rehearse for their own reading exercise during the week (or we can supply). Participatory dramatic readings.

This short course is not a repeat.

**Class Type:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 1–2 hours/session

**Leslie Frantz** is an experienced teacher of English. She taught at Georgetown University's Continuing Education program for 25 years and has been leading OLLI study groups since 2007.

**Richard R. Palmer** is a retired psychiatrist with an interest in theater and culture; he has led several OLLI study groups.

## 968 *Lady Chatterley's Lover: Then and Now*

**ELSA NEWMYER**

**VIRGINIA NEWMYER**

**February 5-8 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM**

Spend a cold week in February with Lady Chatterley and her hot lover, Mellors, the gardener. Do you remember reading *Lady Chatterley's Lover* under the covers, with a flashlight? D. H. Lawrence's novel, published privately in Italy in 1928 but banned in Britain and the United States, produced a storm of controversy when Penguin Books brought it out in an accessible paperback edition in 1960.

When the publisher was charged with selling pornography, a watershed obscenity trial ensued. In this study group, we will read the book, examine the furor it roused in Britain, and discuss it as a historical artifact and a modern work of literature.

This short course is not a repeat.

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1–2 hours/session

**Elsa Newmyer** taught English and related subjects to middle and high school students for close to 30 years. A lifelong reader, she loves nothing more than teaching literature. She spent 20 years at Georgetown Day School, in addition to other independent schools.

**Virginia Newmyer** has taught many courses at OLLI, chiefly about British history, illustrated with PowerPoint presentations. She also teaches classes with Susan Willens on the links between literature and history at *Politics & Prose* and at the *Smithsonian*.

## 969 French Conversation

**EVELYNE BONHOMME**

**February 5-7, & 9 from 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM**

Parlez français et apprenez à surmonter les défis de la langue.

Une bonne connaissance du français vous permettra de suivre les actualités quotidiennes et d'en discuter librement. Vous pourrez aussi participer à des conversations animées sur d'autres sujets de votre choix, y compris vos activités sportives et vos films préférés. This short course is not a repeat.

**Class Type:** Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

**Evelyne Bonhomme**, a native French speaker, has taught French and French for Business at Bowie State University. She has more than 20 years of experience teaching French. She is a retired lawyer with a JD from the University of Pennsylvania and an MTS from Wesley Theological Seminary.

## 970 Lincoln's Depression

**ROBERT COE**

**February 5-9 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM**

The first twenty years of Lincoln's adult personal life (1830–50) included two brief periods of severe depression when his friends thought that he might commit suicide. We will consider his techniques for coping with his condition. He also struggled to find a wife before his marriage to Mary Todd. In addition, we will examine Lincoln's religious views, his fatalism, and his fascination with death and tragedy, as reflected in his favorite plays and poems, and his own poetry. Finally, we will attempt to assess Lincoln during these formative years. Book: Joshua Wolf Shenk, *Lincoln's Melancholy: How Depression Challenged a President and Fueled His Greatness*. Read the Introduction and Chapter 1 for the first session.

This short course is a repeat.

**Class Type:** Discussion

**Reading:** 1–2 hours/session

**Bob Coe** has an MA in History from Columbia and an MAT in Teaching from Wesleyan. A former Foreign Service Officer, he has been teaching mostly history courses at OLLI since 2005.

## 971 Woodley and Its Residents

**ALLERTON KILBORNE**

**February 5-8 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM**

This is a study group that looks at American history from 1776 to 1946 through the lens of a house that still stands atop a ridge overlooking the Federal Capital. Evan Thomas calls Woodley, “the greatest manor in Washington.” Walter Isaacson describes it as a “house of great historic resonance ... home to more prominent

Americans than any other private house in the country ... brought to life by the people — presidents and statesmen, philosophers and financiers, generals and slaves — who lived there.” During this February Short, micro and macro history will be joined within the walls of this Federal-style mansion.

This short course is not a repeat.

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

*Al Kilborne taught history for 40 years in NYC and DC. Beyond the classroom, he has lectured at Georgetown, the National Archives, local historical societies, and Politics & Prose, where he introduced his book, Woodley and Its Residents. His education (Pomona, NYU, and Oxford) was interrupted by stints in Vietnam and the rodeo.*

## 972 DC’s Segregated Schools: Past and Present

**RALPH BUGLASS**

**February 5-9 from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM**

Some of us remember — but others may be surprised to learn—that public schools in our nation’s capital were racially segregated until the landmark 1954 Supreme Court *Brown v. Board of Education* decision outlawing “separate but equal” schools for white and black children. This study group looks at the history of school segregation right here in Washington, DC — including a home-grown legal challenge that became an important part of the 1954 *Brown* case. We then examine desegregation and its consequences; we conclude by looking at the extent to which re-segregation exists today in DC schools. Excerpts of a remarkable documentary on the *Brown* decision’s history will also be screened. This short course is a repeat.

**Class Type:** Lecture

**Reading:** Less than 1 hour/session

*Ralph Buglass has given variations of this course at OLLI and elsewhere. As a docent at a one-room schoolhouse in Montgomery County and lifelong history buff, he has studied the history of early public education. He has a BA in history from Cornell and an MA in journalism from AU, and is a frequent speaker on local history topics.*

## 980 Mindfulness Meditation Intensive

**JEFFREY DROBIS**

**February 5-9 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM**

This study group is intended for persons who have taken other OLLI groups with me. We will spend most of our time together in guided meditations followed by discussion. Working together daily is an opportunity to deepen our practices. If you have not worked with me but have significant experience with meditation and are interested in

this offering, please contact me at [jeffdrobis@gmail.com](mailto:jeffdrobis@gmail.com).

This short course is a repeat with revisions.

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No reading

*Jeffrey Drobis, a retired MD, has practiced meditation for 25 years. He has trained as a facilitator with his teacher Shinzen Young and leads regular group meditations on the telephone. The Mindfulness techniques that he teaches draw on traditional Asian practices but are consciously secular and contemporary.*

## 985 The Presocratics

**DONALD ROSS**

**February 5-7, & 9 from 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM**

This study group will cover the origin of Greek philosophy in Ionia, then move to the great critic of Ionian philosophy, Parmenides, and then cover the pluralists, who reacted to Parmenides. We will conclude with an overview of the Sophists and Socrates.

This short course is not a repeat.

**Class Type:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hours/session

*Don Ross holds a PhD from the University of Chicago, where he specialized in ancient philosophy. He has taught courses covering all periods of the history of philosophy, from classical China, India, and Greece/Rome, to medieval Christian, Islamic, and Jewish philosophy, to modern European philosophy.*

## BOOKLIST AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

### 940 Our Catastrophic Care: and How We Can Fix American Healthcare

Reading: Reading prior to first session (See Description.)

David Goldhill, *Catastrophic Care: How American Health Care Killed My Father — And How We Can Fix It*. Knopf, 2013, ISBN: 0307961540.

Find the 2009 *Atlantic Monthly* article here:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2009/09/how-american-health-care-killed-my-father/307617/>

### 941 Computer Security

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

### 942 Volcanoes, Earthquakes, and a Lava Lake

Reading: No reading

### 945 The Battle for Our Environment: Stories from the Trenches

Reading: No reading

### 946 Genetically Engineered Foods and Related Products

Reading: No reading

## 950 American Art and Film 1900–1950

Reading: No reading

## 954 Neurological Reactions to Visual Arts: The Brain's Motor Systems

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

## 956 "It Was a Good Show, But Don't Do it Again": American Art, Modernism, and the 1913 Armory Exhibition

Reading: No reading

## 958 The Architecture of the Wild West

Reading: No reading

## 960: *Waiting for Godot*

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*. Grove Press, 1954,  
ISBN: 9780802144423.

## 962 *Death of a Salesman: The Wake*

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

## 965 Italian Language Conversation (A preview of the course to be given in Spring term)

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

## 967 Dramatic Readings: Dickens and Others

Reading: 1-2 hours/session

## 968 *Lady Chatterley's Lover: Then and Now*

Reading: 1-2 hours/session

D. H. Lawrence, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. Bantam Classic (reissue),  
2007, ISBN: 0553212624.

## 969 French Conversation

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

## 970 Lincoln's Depression

Reading: 1-2 hours/session

Joshua Wolf Shenk, *Lincoln's Melancholy*. Mariner Books, 2005,  
ISBN: 9780618773442.

## 971 *Woodley and Its Residents*

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

Al Kilborne with a foreword by Walter Isaacson, *Woodley and Its  
Residents*. Arcadia Publishing, 2008, ISBN: 978-0-7385-5315-3.

## 972 DC's Segregated Schools: Past and Present

Reading: Less than 1 hour/session

## 980 Mindfulness Meditation Intensive

Reading: No reading

## 985 The Presocratics

Reading: 1-2 hours/session

Johnathan Barnes (ed.), *Early Greek Philosophy*. Penguin, 2002,  
ISBN: 9780140448153.

John M. Cooper (ed.), *Plato: Complete Works*. Hackett, 1997,  
ISBN: 9780872203495.

*This is the same as the book for the Plato course. If one is not going  
to go on to participate in that offering, I would recommend a less  
expensive edition of the Protagoras alone.*

# 2018 FEBRUARY SHORTS INFORMATION

## REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 25, 2017

Register online at [www.OLLI-DC.org](http://www.OLLI-DC.org)

or forms and check should be mailed to:

### OLLI

4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW

Washington DC 20016

**Registration forms and payment must be mailed or  
delivered in time to be received in the OLLI office BEFORE  
close of business Thursday, Jan. 25, 2017.**

## SCHEDULE

**Classes: February 5–9, 2018**

All classes held at 4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC

## BOOKS

**Books should be purchased after the member receives the  
final class assignment letter.** Books will be available at Politics  
and Prose Bookstore. Order online at [www.politics-prose.com](http://www.politics-prose.com)  
or visit the store at 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC.  
202-364-1919. Politics and Prose is offering OLLI members a 10%  
discount on books for study groups.

## LOTTERY

**The Shorts Lottery will be held on January 26.**

**Assignment letters will be emailed the same day.**

If the OLLI Shorts are over-subscribed, OLLI will conduct a random  
lottery. **If you are not selected in the lottery and do not  
register for another course prior to February 2, your  
payment will be returned. If you are selected, the payment  
is non-refundable.**

## SHORTS REPRESENTATIVES

Shorts Representatives coordinate between the Shorts Leaders  
and the OLLI office. They take attendance, make necessary  
announcements, and provide assistance to the Shorts Leaders.