

SPRING 2018 STUDY GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

100 POLITICS, LAW & GOVERNMENT

113 Liberalism and Conservatism

STEPHEN ELKIN

Eight Tuesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 06

Liberalism and conservatism are the two principal ideologies at work in the United States and the West generally. They are both rooted in a political theory about the purposes of politics and how political life should be organized. We will read various works in the two traditions including those by Isaiah Berlin, Fredrick Hayek, and Roger Scruton (an important English thinker). The aim will be to consider a wide variety of strands in both traditions and to see what the two traditions have in common.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Reading and Discussion

Reading: 2-3 hrs/week.

Stephen Elkin has a PhD from Harvard and has taught at Smith College, University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Maryland.

120 Mark Twain in the Age of Trump

DONALD BLISS

Eight Mondays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 05

Mark Twain was an astute observer of American politics. Politics has not changed as much as we would like to think since The Gilded Age, when Twain arrived in Washington DC in 1867 to work for a US Senator. Twain satirized and condemned the polarization of political parties, the apathy of voters, the anti-establishment, the anti-bureaucracy streak in American politics, the vacuity of political campaigns, and the false patriotism that fueled American imperialism and unjust wars abroad. This study group will focus on the contemporary relevance of Twain's views on the influence of money in the legislative process and election campaigns and the growing gap between the very wealthy and the middle class. How does Twain's political commentary explain the election and presidency of Donald Trump? The study group also will explore Twain's fascinating life story and trace his evolving views on the major issues of his time: race, women's rights, church and state, American imperialism, and representative democracy — issues that remain relevant today.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1 hr/week.

*Ambassador **Donald T. Bliss** (retired) has spent 13 years in the federal government and 30 years practicing law in Washington DC. He is the great grandson and grandson of Mark Twain's publishers and the author of articles, a book, and a play about Mark Twain.*

156 AU School of International Service — Foreign Policy Challenges for 2018

AU SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

VIRGINIA DEROZE, OLLI COORDINATOR

Nine Thursdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 08

This nine-week study group is designed to explore some of the salient foreign policy challenges facing the Trump Administration. Professors from American University will explore topics ranging from the future of the transatlantic alliance, the reset with Russia, containing China's influence in Asia, the North Korean nuclear threat, the future of global climate change agreements, tactics for confronting ISIS and transnational terrorism, the future of diplomacy, resolving the Syrian crisis, and dealing with a post-Castro Cuba.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Lecture

Reading: No required reading.

*The **American University School of International Studies (SIS)**, produces cutting-edge research and prepares the next generation of leaders to address global challenges. SIS enrolls a diverse student body of approximately 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students from throughout the US and more than 150 countries, taught by nearly 120 full-time faculty members.*

171 Current Events and Public Policy I

JOAN BERMAN

LOUIS NEVINS

Eight Wednesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 07

Lou Nevins and Joan Berman will lead lively discussions and debates on current events and public policy issues, focusing largely, but not exclusively, on politics, law, economics, and foreign affairs. Discussion topics, outlines, and questions will be furnished in advance, and participants will be expected to follow the news

carefully. It is emphasized that this is a discussion group, not a lecture; all members are expected to take part in the discussions. This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Discussion

Reading: Less than 1 hr/week.

Joan Berman holds an MBA in Finance from American University. She spent almost 30 years in the field of commercial real estate, holding senior management roles in some of the largest firms in the Metropolitan DC area, and has served on numerous real estate boards. **Lou Nevins** was a financial institutions and housing finance attorney and lobbyist for more than 35 years. He ran Washington operations for two financial trade associations and was a partner in one, a CEO in another, and a partner in a Wall Street law firm for ten years.

172 Current Events and Public Policy II

ARTHUR LEVINE

LOUIS NEVINS

Eight Tuesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 06

Lou Nevins and Art Levine will lead lively discussions and debates on current events and public policy issues, focusing largely, but not exclusively, on politics, law, economics, and foreign affairs. Discussion topics, outlines, and questions will be furnished in advance, and participants will be expected to follow the news carefully. It is emphasized that this is a discussion group, not a lecture; all members are expected to take part in the discussions. This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Discussion

Reading: Less than 1 hr/week.

Art Levine is a retired attorney who practiced copyright law in DC. He also was Executive Director of a Presidential Commission on copyright and was an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown Law School. He currently is on the board of directors and a volunteer at the Friends Club, an Alzheimer's support group.

Lou Nevins was a financial institutions and housing finance attorney and lobbyist for more than 35 years. He ran Washington operations for two financial trade associations and was a partner in one, a CEO in another, and was a partner in a Wall Street law firm for 10 years.

180 Today's Supreme Court: A Course for Citizens

PENNY HANSEN

Eight Wednesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 07

This study group will explore the important cases and decisions that continue to be made by the Supreme Court under Chief

Justice John Roberts. Presentation material and discussion will focus on the major Constitutional issues being decided by a clearly activist and divided court on: elections, health care, gun control, diversity, equality, climate change, the environment, religion, and presidential power. We will focus on the historical and political background of these issues and the legal philosophies of the justices, along with the procedural mysteries of this, the least well known of our three branches of government. We will read *The Supreme Court: A Very Short Introduction* by Linda Greenhouse and *The Oath: The Obama White House and the Supreme Court* by Jeffrey Toobin, along with articles on more recent cases and other supplementary material.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1-2 hrs/week.

Penelope Hansen directed numerous programs at the Environmental Protection Agency during its first 30 years, implementing the country's first recycling, hazardous waste, Superfund, acid rain, and technology verification programs. She was educated at Skidmore College, Johns Hopkins University, and the Kennedy School at Harvard.

184 American Social Policy: Safety Net or Hammock?

MARK NADEL

Eight Mondays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 05

Paul Ryan has warned that the US is transforming "our social safety net into a hammock, which lulls able-bodied people into lives of complacency and dependency." There has long been a tension between the desire to help those who cannot support themselves and the fear that too much help lulls people into learned helplessness. This study group will explore two broad areas of social policy: income support for the working-age poor and for retirees (e.g., Social Security) and health insurance, including Medicare and Medicaid. Drawing from a variety of sources, we will discuss issues of fairness, program solvency, and questions of adequacy and impact.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1 hr/week.

Mark Nadel taught social policy at Georgetown's School of Public Policy and at the University of Maryland. He spent 20 years at the Government Accountability Office with responsibility for GAO's work on health policy and welfare programs. He also has been an associate commissioner at the Social Security Administration.

200 PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY, & CULTURE

Human Evolution as Seen Through Prehistoric Art

AHMED ACHRATI

Eight Thursdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 08

For study group description and Study Group Leader bio, see 547.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 2 hrs/week.

Nonviolence: Theory and History

LEONARD KING

Ten Fridays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 09

For study group description and Study Group Leader bio, see 812.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Discussion

Reading: 1 hr/week.

232 Finding Your Family History in the Digital World

SUSAN GOODMAN

Eight Wednesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 07

The Internet can be a gateway to researching your family history, using both primary and secondary sources from the web as well as genealogies posted by other researchers. Members will be asked to sign up for Ancestry.com (the first 2 weeks are free; for those who wish to continue, a monthly membership is around \$20). Study group members should be comfortable using the Internet and email. No paper handouts; all material will be sent as email attachments.

This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: No required reading.

Susan Goodman has been doing genealogy research for the past 20 years. She has a working knowledge of digital resources as well as experience with research at national and regional archives. Before retirement, Goodman worked as a reporter/newscaster/editor for WAMU 88.5 FM, the NPR-affiliate for local news in Washington, DC.

237 India: Culture, Traditions and Gandhi

KARUNA SRIMATI

Ten Fridays (10:15 AM - 11:45 AM)

March 09

Gandhi Memorial Center

The Gandhi Memorial Center welcomes OLLI members to an overview of Indian culture through a variety of lecture/demonstrations by invited guest speakers. Each year some topics are repeated but new topics are also introduced. They may include but are not limited to: language and literature, music, dance, film, the lives of Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore, philosophical and spiritual heritage, and food traditions. Join us in an exploration of the rich cultural diversity of India.

**Classes will take place at the Gandhi Memorial Center,
4748 Western Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20016**

This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: No required reading.

Srimati Karuna is the Director of the Gandhi Memorial Center. She studied at American University, in Washington where she received her BA in International Studies, MA in International Peace and Conflict Resolution, and MA in Teaching.

250 TED Talks

CAROLINE MINDEL

LYNN LEWIS

Eight Tuesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 06

TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design) Talks feature a range of speakers who present "Ideas Worth Spreading." TED Talks, established in 1984, have been available on the Internet since 2007. This study group will focus on twenty-four of the most viewed TED Talks. Highly interactive, the class will view and discuss excerpts from three TED Talks each week. Participants are encouraged to preview the talks in advance. Class members will prepare brief background and discussion points for their presentation.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Discussion

Reading: No required reading.

Caroline Mindel has a BA and an MSW in community organization from the University of Pennsylvania. She founded Mindel Management, Inc., a property management business in DC.

Lynn Lewis received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and has an MA in journalism from Ohio State University. She has been a writer and an editor for more than four decades.

251 TED Talks: Focus on Society

DIANE SWAN

Nine Tuesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 06

TED conferences feature a range of speakers who present “Ideas Worth Spreading.” Since 2007, an ever-expanding body of thought-provoking TED Talk videos has been available on the internet. The Focus on Society study group features, but is not limited to, topics such as ethics, social issues, the environment, science, technology, health, and medicine. Emphasis will be on discussion that takes advantage of the wealth of knowledge and perspectives that OLLI members bring to a range of topics. Each class member will assume responsibility for preparing background and discussion points for one speaker. We will view and discuss excerpts from several TED talks each week.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Discussion

Reading: No required reading.

Diane Swan taught English, worked as a Defense Department analyst, and developed training courses for various Federal agencies.

252 The 60s — A Decade that Forever Changed America

CARL WEICHEL

KIM WEICHEL

Nine Tuesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 06

The tectonic social, global, political, and environmental changes in the 60s affected all of us and our country, ushering in a promising new era of long term change. This study group will cover many of the dramatic cultural, political, and social changes brought to life from a selection of ‘real-time’ essays from staff writers from *The New Yorker* that explored the lives of JFK, RFK, LBJ, MLK; political events; SDS, ERA, NAACP, Earth Day, Love Canal; cultural shifts created with LSD, pot, The Maharishi, the Pill and more. We’ll view CNN’s “The Sixties” series covering many events: Cold War, Cuba, Vietnam, IRA, Six-Day War, Moon landing, Woodstock, Beatles, Dylan, Joan Baez, and more. This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Reading and Discussion

Reading: 1-2 hrs/week.

Carl Weichel has degrees in marketing and communications. He has held various positions in marketing, design, and advertising in Sydney, Cape Town, Toronto, and San Francisco.

Kimberly Weichel is a social entrepreneur and nonprofit leader in the fields of women’s leadership, cross cultural dialogue, citizen diplomacy, and peacebuilding.

253 Introduction to the Cloud

LISA FRIEDMAN

VICTOR REZMOVIC

Eight Fridays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 09

We use it every day, but we’re not really sure what it means. The Cloud has slowly become part of our lives and touches much of the technology we use today. During this eight-session study group we will use lectures and demonstrations to examine the terminology that explains the mechanics of how the Cloud functions. We will review the major players in the Cloud such as Google, Apple, and Microsoft. We will review the primary applications that are being used such as storage, music, video streaming, and how to remain safe while using the Cloud.

This study group is designed for advanced beginner and intermediate computer users. It includes some discussions of technical issues that may be difficult for beginners.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: Less than 1 hr/week.

Lisa Friedman has taught computer skills to older adults for over a dozen years. Now retired, she was an Associate General Counsel at EPA.

Victor Rezmovic, PhD, is a technology educator who has spent the last 30 years in academic, corporate, and governmental settings.

He currently teaches Cyber Security at Montgomery College.

258 Writing and Sharing Your Life Story

ROBERTA BENOR

Eight Mondays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 05

What are the stories of your family history? You can add substance to the limbs of your family tree by recording and preserving your unique history. This study group will cover the five Ws of recording your life story and then will show you how to create a lasting document. You can share vignettes of your histories in class, and you will learn ways to bond with your grandchildren, and plan a family reunion. During part of each class, you will have the opportunity to write parts of your life story by answering questions that deal with your chronology and philosophy.

This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: No required reading.

Roberta Benor records life stories through “Let Us Remember.” She lectures widely on parenting, senior housing, and intergenerational activities.

300 ECONOMICS

345 The Rise of the Robots — Can We Adjust?

LEWIS COHEN

Eight Tuesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 06

The gap between increasing productivity and stagnant real incomes has been widening for a generation, bringing America's Goldilocks era (1950–1980) to an end. Where does the US economy go from here, as information-driven technological change accelerates? Can we adapt economically, socially, and politically in an era of innovation that is rapidly pushing us toward a less labor-intensive economy? Those are among the key questions we will address using the arguments and insights in Martin Ford's *The Rise of the Robots* and Andrew McAfee and Erik Brynjolfsson's *Machine Platform and Crowd*.

This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 2 hrs/week.

Lewis Cohen earned degrees from Columbia College, Johns Hopkins University (SAIS), and Harvard University (Kennedy School). He was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Tunisia, a Foreign Service Officer and Trade Negotiator with the Office of the US Trade Representative, and a consultant on international trade for a major DC law firm.

348 Development Economics and Practice for Non-Economists

ANDERS ZEIJLON

Eight Thursdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 08

This study group will provide participants with an overview of the history, trends, and issues in the practice and economics of international development. Following an introductory overview, each session will focus on a particular issue, include a brief lecture, and video clip or handout, and be followed by a discussion. Likely topics include the policies and practices of multi- and bilateral agencies, the use of conditionality in country relations, the usefulness of economic rate of return in selecting projects, the role of human rights, and the significance of income distribution in development. No reading required.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: No required reading.

Anders Zeijlon, economist, graduate of Uppsala University, Sweden, has been a teacher and researcher in the Department of Economics

at Uppsala University, an economist and project manager at the UN, and the Swedish Government bilateral assistance agency. In addition, he was an economist and program manager at the World Bank between 1987 and 2016.

350 Protecting and Maximizing Your Retirement Income

DAVID HURWITZ

Eight Thursdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 08

During this study group, members will learn how to set up a retirement income stream consistent with their retirement goals, understand tax treatments with their investment objectives, and plan for inflation, economic challenges, and a potentially long retirement. Sessions will include insights on estate planning, tax planning, and long-term care, social security planning, and how to utilize various investment vehicles. **OLLI does not endorse particular products or financial advice from Study Group Leaders.**

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: No required reading.

David Hurwitz is a Certified Financial Planner practitioner™ as well as a Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor®, Chartered Retirement Plan Specialist®, Retirement Income Certified Professional®, and Accredited Portfolio Management Advisor®. David has been named "Best Financial Advisor" by the readers of Bethesda Magazine.

355 Anatomy of the 2008 Recession

JOHN F. PETERSON

Ten Thursdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 08

The deep and costly recession of 2007–2008 stemmed from a perfect storm of events that had been brewing for over 40 years. This study group, by reviewing that history, will evaluate the intertwined roles played by housing policy, financial regulation, monetary policy, macro-economic developments, changes in social norms, and the influence of free-market principles on policy making in setting the stage for the recession. An important goal of the group is to investigate how difficult it is to regulate financial markets and institutions, and review the current regulatory framework. Although no knowledge of economics or banking is required for this discussion group, some of the material is a little wonkish.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: More than 3 hrs/week.

John F. Peterson was an economist with the Congressional Budget Office for 24 years and with Wharton Econometrics for seven years before retiring in 2010. He has a PhD in economics from American University.

370 Climate Change: The Way Forward

RONALD RIDKER

Ten Mondays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 05

This study group will provide a survey of the science, economics, and political issues involved in global warming. Examples of topics to be covered include the extent to which pledges made at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris in 2015 are being fulfilled; what is happening, and likely to happen in the future, now that the US is no longer playing a leadership role and likely to withdraw from conference membership; what other countries and states and businesses in the US are doing; and the pros and cons of alternative policies including burden-sharing arrangements within and between countries. Current political events involving the EPA will also be covered. About half the sessions will involve presentations by visiting experts. Most reading materials will be provided by email.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Reading and Discussion

Reading: 1-2 hrs/week.

Ronald Ridker, a PhD economist, wrote two of the earliest books on related topics, directed a program on population, resources, and the environment at Resources for the Future (an economic think-tank in DC), and worked in the Operation Evaluation Department of the World Bank for many years. He will serve as facilitator and coordinator of the presentations by experts and practitioners.

372 How the World Became Modern: 1500–1920

RAY SQUITIERI

Nine Fridays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 09

Over just a few hundred years, a series of interrelated changes fundamentally transformed life in the West. Trade expanded, and soon linked together most of the world. The pace of innovation sped up, and news of discoveries and innovations traveled further and faster than ever before. The First Industrial Revolution brought about the greatest productivity increase in human history. The Second Industrial Revolution produced a series of inventions (telephone, electricity, automobile, chemicals) that had an even greater effect on daily life. This study group will trace these changes, focusing on Europe and European outposts like the US.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1-2 hrs/week.

Ray Squitieri is an economist, recently retired. He earned a BA in history from Harvard, an MS in Operations Research, and a PhD in economics, both from Stanford. In the last six years, he has led eight different OLLI courses on music, the arts, European and Chinese history.

400 STEM: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH

TED Talks

CAROLINE MINDEL

LYNN LEWIS

Eight Tuesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 06

For study group description and Study Group Leader bio, see 250.

Class Format: Reading and Discussion.

Reading: No required reading.

TED Talks: Focus on Society

DIANE SWAN

Nine Tuesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 06

For study group description and Study Group Leader bio, see 251.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Discussion

Reading: No required reading.

415 The Sixth Extinction: Are We There Yet?

ELIZABETH SEASTRUM

Eight Thursdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 08

It has become fashionable to say that humans are so extensively modifying the earth and reducing global biodiversity that we are creating the "sixth mass extinction." Could this be true? If so, we are on track to match the fifth mass extinction, which ended the reign of the dinosaurs and most other marine and terrestrial creatures some 66 million years ago. In her Pulitzer prize-winning book, *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*, science writer Elizabeth Kolbert takes us on a globe-trotting journey, investigating examples of this trend and talking to the scientists working on it. We will read and discuss the book, as well as some opposing sources, and make our own evaluation.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1-2 hrs/week.

Betsy Seastrum is a retired lawyer who has worked as a volunteer at the Smithsonian's National Natural History Museum, Department of Paleobiology, Graphics and FossilLabs, since 2005. She has led several study groups in the field of evolution and paleontology.

420 AU Departments of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics — Adventures in Science

SUZANNE ROSENTHAL, OLLI COORDINATOR

Eight Wednesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 07

The Science Cluster of American University presents a selection of lectures spanning some of the most stimulating and transformational topics in the sciences: from the groundbreaking LIGO project, to advances in material science and biotechnology, to the latest vision research. Lectures will be presented by research scholars with years of experience in academia, government laboratories, and the technology industries.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture

Reading: No required reading.

Faculty from the AU Biology, Chemistry, and Physics departments will lead a new and exciting science lecture series from their respective fields of study.

435 Great Moments in Physics, Part I

ERIC KEARSLEY

Ten Tuesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 06

This study group is a survey of the great moments in physics prior to the beginning of the 20th century. It begins with the first measurements of the scale of the solar system and culminates with the discovery of the electron. The focus of the study group will be a conceptual understanding of these great ideas without relying on mathematics.

This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: Less than 1 hr/week.

Eric Kearsley has a PhD in Radiation Physics from the University of Wisconsin. He is a retired US Navy officer and a retired physics teacher in the Montgomery County Public Schools. He is currently working on the history of x-ray tube technology at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

437 Energy, Entropy, and Time's Arrow

SOLOMON GLASS

Ten Mondays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 05

There are certain laws of nature that tell us what is possible and what isn't. A dropped egg will splatter. We'd be surprised if the pieces were to rise up and reassemble themselves into an egg. The laws of Thermodynamics tell us what is possible in all areas of science. We will discuss the concepts of temperature, energy, and the strange idea of entropy, and apply them to various phenomena.

This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture

Reading: No required reading.

Solomon Glass, professor emeritus, Howard University, was a physics professor at the University of London for two years and a physicist at the National Bureau of Standards for five years.

444 Milestones in Cancer: Targeted Chemotherapy and the Immuno-oncology Revolution

STEPHEN LITWIN

Eight Mondays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 05

There has been remarkable progress in understanding and treating cancer, among the most enigmatic of human diseases. This malady is just beginning to be understood, as part of the complexity of living, growing, and dividing cells. The book, *The Emperor of All Maladies* by Satterjee Mukherjee, will be used along with lectures, class discussions, and recent media reports to update past achievements, and to introduce the extraordinary, counterpoised, balance between our genes and our immune defenses. While the initial group meetings will introduce the history and progress in cancer treatment, a major part of the study group will emphasize targeted therapy and immuno-oncology modulation of tumors with drugs guided by genome analysis.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 2 hrs/week.

Stephen Litwin, MD, is a retired doctor (Internal Medicine), medical school researcher and faculty member, and former cancer drug reviewer for the USFDA. He has a strong interest in the history of science and a background of professional involvement in human immunology, as it relates to human cancer and autoimmune diseases.

479 Making Choices: Understanding Environmental Issues

KENNETH HINGA

Eleven Wednesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 07

We are faced with the need to make choices on environmental issues. These may include which positions on environmental and health policies to support, what personal actions to take or to avoid, and even what to buy in the supermarket. This study group will provide an introduction to the basic physical processes central to understanding issues of the human environment. No scientific background is required. Topics to be covered may include: climate change, GMO foods, nuclear radiation and wastes, marine dead zones, biofuels, oil spills, pesticides, food additives, residues of veterinary drugs, and “what is safe?” No readings are required, but resources will be provided for further study of environmental issues. This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: No required 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.

480 The Ups and Downs of Weather

PAUL BROWN

Ten Fridays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 09

In the first half of the study group, discussion will focus on the principal elements that underlie weather — heat, wind, and water — and in the second half, will show how these elements interact to produce the major types of ‘bad’ weather: frontal storms, thunderstorms, tornadoes, derechos, and hurricanes. The study group will conclude with single sessions devoted to pollution and the changing climate, and to atmospheric optics, including rainbows, halos, mirages, and auroras. As an optional outside-class activity, forecasting instruction and practice exercises will be available for any interested class members, including competition with the pros in 24-hour, real-time forecasts for the DC area. A profusely illustrated 150-page, spiral-bound booklet custom-designed for this course can be purchased from OLLI at or before the first session at the printing cost of \$30 (also optional but highly recommended both as a guide to the lectures and as a useful work of reference).

This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Appreciation

Reading: 1-2 hrs/week.

Paul Brown is a Harvard College and Johns Hopkins-trained MD with an NIH research career focused on transmissible dementia, and a mini-career as meteorology instructor to both college students (Montgomery College and Berea) and adults (including OLLI) since his retirement in 2004.

492 Photosynthesis: Plants Shape Our Planet

ALBERT TARAN

Ten Fridays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 09

Green pigment and enzymes turn sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide into the world we see around us. The power of photosynthesis has had a profound impact on the evolution of life, and the ecology of our planet. In his book, *Eating the Sun: How Plants Power the Planet*, award-winning science writer, Oliver Morton, explains what scientists know about the process of photosynthesis, how it works, and what it produces. From there, he explores the consequences for life and our planet of the end products of photosynthesis, and builds a strong case for countering climate change. In this study group, we will closely read and discuss this book.

This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Reading and Discussion

Reading: 2-3 hrs/week.

Although Al Taran never trained or worked in the sciences, he has had a lifelong interest in them. He studied Philosophy in college, started on a PhD with a focus on the Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic, and earned a living in Information Technology.

497 The Biology and Evolution of Human Behavior

ALBERT TARAN

Ten Wednesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 07

Our behavior is shaped by myriad processes, biochemicals, neural structures, childhood influences, and social and cultural norms. Sorting out what drives a particular behavior is a complicated task, subject to misinterpretation. To get a better understanding of human behavior, we will read and discuss a new book, *Behave: The Biology of Humans at Our Best and Worst* by Robert M. Sapolsky, a professor of biology and neuroscience at Stanford. He traces the influences on human behavior from the neural pathways active at the instant of a behavior, back through

hormonal and genetic influences, and concluding with social and cultural evolutionary influences. This is an important book that deserves close attention.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: More than 3 hrs/week.

*Although **Al Taran** never trained or worked in the sciences, he has had a lifelong interest in them. He studied Philosophy in college, worked on a PhD with a focus on mathematics and logic, but earned a living in information technology.*

498 Algorithms: How Machines Think

JACQUES READ

Ten Mondays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 05

This study group is a brief discussion of analog and digital computers and how they work, followed by nine discussions of landmark algorithms that are important in everyday business on the internet. These include the cryptography allowing us to use the internet to buy things safely with our credit cards, data compression that allows us to transmit images in condensed form and expand them on receipt, pattern recognition, blockchains (cyber currencies), and digital signatures. No math or computer experience will be assumed, and all number theory concepts will be introduced as extensions of everyday arithmetic.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1-2 hrs/week.

***Jacques Read** has doctorates in both chemistry and physics, and has performed research at Oak Ridge and Livermore National Laboratories, taught at Fairleigh Dickinson and the University of California, and was employed by the Atomic Energy Commission, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Department of Energy.*

500 VISUAL ARTS & MUSIC

508 Watercolor Painting

SARAH WHITENER

Ten Tuesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 06

This study group will focus on the basics of watercolor — how to use light, color and composition to express our ideas. We will look at slides of the masters and discuss how to strengthen our own paintings. We will paint from still life and from photos, in the classroom. This is a good environment for people who have never

painted, are returning to painting after a long gap, or simply need the structure of a class to keep painting. All skill levels are welcome. Materials for the first class will be provided, and in that class we will discuss what materials should be bought or brought from home.

This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Appreciation

Reading: No required reading.

***Sarah Whitener** is a lifelong artist who enjoys drawing, painting, block printing, and needlework. She has a BA in Art History and an MA in Archaeology. She has illustrated a book on Native American stone pipes and a cooking manual, designed knitting and needlepoint projects, and painted house portraits.*

509 Watercolor Painting

SARAH WHITENER

Nine Tuesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 06

For study group description and Study Group Leader bio, see 508.

This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Appreciation

Reading: No required reading.

510 Seeing More, Enjoying More at the Ballet

ILSA BUSH

Ten Thursdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 08

This study group will enrich your experience of watching a ballet.

We will view clips from ballets spanning the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries, considering historical context and examining how different approaches to storytelling, choreography, dance technique, music, and stagecraft contribute to a ballet's impact.

What creates the WOW factor? What transports us to a different time, place, or way of thinking? What puts us on edge? What do classical-story ballets have in common with abstract, non-narrative ballets or modern works fusing different dance styles?

The class will involve short background presentations, video viewing, and open discussion. Bring your views on history or other art forms to enhance the discussion.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Appreciation

Reading: No required reading.

***Ilsa Bush** has studied ballet all her life, performed with New England Civic Ballet (predecessor to Boston Ballet), taught ballet technique and dance history at DC area universities and studios for 20 years, received teaching credentials from American Ballet Theatre's teacher training program, and worked for dance record preservation.*

511 Looking at Architecture

JOHN VORHES

Ten Wednesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 07

A building is part of history and, by really looking, we can see details that illuminate the culture and technology of its time.

When describing a house or an office building, we often use terms like “Colonial,” “Victorian,” or “Modern,” yet these don’t accurately define the style or suggest the reasons for it. This study group will give you a vocabulary — a quick understanding of basic structure from load-bearing walls to steel skeleton skyscrapers. The study group also invites you to explore our city and its many examples of great (and sometimes not so great) architecture. The last class includes a “Fun Final” exam to test your design recall and a talk by Roger Lewis, Professor Emeritus at the School of Architecture, University of Maryland and *Washington Post* columnist. The National Trust for Historic Preservation handbook, *What Style Is It?*, is a good reference. A digital camera, so you can share your images with classmates, will be helpful but not essential.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: No required 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.

523 Creating Art Through Collage: Beginners and Advanced

ROSE MOSNER

Ten Wednesdays (11:40 AM - 1:20 PM)

March 07

Collage is the perfect medium for getting your creative juices flowing. Using a variety of materials, we will immerse ourselves in creativity: color, composition, imagery, and texture. This class is designed for beginners and seasoned artists. Bring scissors, glue, pencils, background cardboard, old photos, fabric scraps, ribbons, textured papers, string, pieces of plastic, colored pencils, paints, markers, pens, or whatever comes to mind. This class runs slightly longer to allow for more work time.

This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Appreciation

Reading: No required reading.

Rose Mosner taught art in NYC schools for 22 years. With budgets for supplies very low, she canvassed neighborhood stores for fabric

scraps, left-over wool skeins, wallpaper sample books, and the local lumberyard for wood scraps. Thus began her love of found-object collage. Rose’s work has been in many juried shows, and she recently had a solo show at the Iona Gallery. She is also one of only ten artists involved with a special program for artists over 62 sponsored by Columbia University.

527 Contemporary Ballet: Themes in Dance

JOAN WEBER

Ten Fridays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 09

This study group will explore odd-angle views of themes in contemporary ballet. Each class will have a unique focus and will view and discuss work that will include among other topics: writhing bodies, death as a character in ballet, fabulous duets, older dancers dancing, playing with body types in dance, changing gender roles, extraordinary ensembles, and ballet as performance art. Most of the work shown will be of European choreographers rarely seen in the US, and covers the 1980s through today.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Appreciation

Reading: No required reading.

Joan Weber is a business professional in commercial real estate development and printing sales. A ballet “amateur,” Joan trained with old-school Russian ballet instructors and attended as much ballet as NYC and DC offered. And then, she discovered what’s been happening in ballet that we don’t get to see here in the US.

542 The Piano + 2, 3, 4, ...: Trios. Quartets. Quintets. ...

JOHN BOWEN

Nine Mondays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 05

Invention of the piano in 1700 and its development into today’s powerful yet sensitive instrument unleashed a flood of classical compositions merging the piano with small groups of other orchestral instruments. This study group provides a survey of the evolution of this instrumental configuration over three centuries, including works selected from those of Haydn, Mozart, Weber, Hummel, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Farrenc, Brahms, Chopin, Felix and Fanny Mendelssohn, Franck, Beach, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Smetana, Ravel, Fauré, Dvorák, Arensky, Saint-Saëns, Mahler, and Shostakovich.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Appreciation

Reading: Less than 1 hr/week.

With degrees in economics from Yale and Vanderbilt, **John Bowen** taught courses in that field at Princeton and Ripon College. Recently, he has served as a docent at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, did research there on the Steinway Diary Project, and has offered classical music appreciation courses for OLLI at UMD and AU.

547 Human Evolution as Seen Through Prehistoric Art

AHMED ACHRATI

Eight Thursdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 08

Modern human cognitive development is deeply rooted in hominin evolution and its genetic and behavioral determinants. Behaviorally, human cognitive capacity is manifested in linguistic ability, artistic expressiveness, and social organization. Of all these behavioral characteristics, only prehistoric art has been archaeologically preserved. Going back thousands of years, diverse, and found widespread worldwide, prehistoric art offers a unique window into our human emotional and cognitive evolution. This study group traces the evolution of human cognition through an interdisciplinary examination of prehistoric art.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 2 hrs/week.

Ahmed Achrati, PhD, is currently an adjunct faculty in the Anthropology Department at Howard Community College in Columbia, MD. He has extensive teaching experience and his writing on rock art in leading journals spans a wide range of topics.

550 Art in France: From 1929 to 1968

ERICH KEEL

Ten Tuesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 06

Since the creation of the Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture in 1648, France has been a major force in the arts. Much of the history of modern art was “written” in France. With the 1929 Crash, the situation began to change. First came the economic crisis of the Thirties. Then, in 1940, the Germans occupied the country. After Liberation, France engaged in disastrous colonial wars. And finally, the 1968 student revolt pushed the country to the brink of chaos. The aim of this study group is to look at paintings and sculptures made in those difficult times. Specifically, we want to ask how those economic, political, and social challenges affected artists and if they did, how they influenced the content and style of their art.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1 hr/week.

Born and raised in Zurich, Switzerland, Erich Keel earned a PhD in Critical Theory from Emory University. He served as the Kreeger Museum’s Head of Education until his retirement in the summer of 2013. His major research interests are the arts of 20th-century France and Germany.

552 You Can Play MORE Appalachian Dulcimer!

KAREN BUGLASS

Ten Wednesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 07

Build your repertoire and polish your skills! This study group will introduce players to additional musical selections from multiple genres. Options include fiddle tunes, waltzes, classical pieces, and music from around the world. We’ll start with a quick review of dulcimer basics — including reading tablature — and play a couple of standards to warm up. Then it’s on to new repertoire to learn and enjoy. This study group is open to anyone who has taken at least one class in beginning dulcimer or has experience playing a fretted instrument. Instructor has loaner instruments for use by participants. This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Appreciation

Reading: No required reading.

Karen Buglass was a city planner and utility manager before finding her passion for elementary education. Since retiring, she’s pursued a long-standing interest in Appalachian dulcimer, offering lessons at www.sweetstrings.biz. Most recently, she was a workshop leader at the Nonsuch Dulcimer Festival in Great Malvern, England.

577 Geniuses of the American Musical

DAN SHERMAN

Eight Thursdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 08

This study group will focus on the careers of some of the leading composers and lyricists who have given us some of our greatest stage and film musicals. A biographical approach will be used to both describe history of musicals and to highlight contributions of composers such as Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, and George Gershwin, along with lyricists such as Lorenz Hart and Yip Harburg. This multimedia course will draw on many sources to present great performances, including those by the composers themselves. The course will draw on rare interview footage and include suggestions for

students' further reading, listening, and viewing.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Appreciation

Reading: No required reading.

Dan Sherman has taught more than 20 music courses for OLLI at George Mason University. He made his debut at American University in 2017 with a lecture on the musical Hamilton and was co-leader on the course "What Makes Musicals Great?" He earned his doctorate in economics at Cornell University and is a managing director at AIR.

580 Favorite Operas, Part 2

BRUCE EISEN

Nine Wednesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 07

We will have a second season of opera favorites seen on DVDs and subsequently discussed by the study group. There will be guest speakers addressing various topics relevant to the world of opera. The operas will include Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, and Verdi's *Otello*.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Appreciation

Reading: No required reading.

Bruce Eisen has been a study group leader for a number of OLLI semesters. He is a retired lawyer who has served as general counsel to the Washington National Opera.

581 Great Films/Great Directors

TRISH FOXWELL

Eight Fridays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 09

This study group will concentrate on great films and directors, ranging from Robert Mulligan and *To Kill a Mockingbird* to William Wilder and *Ben Hur*, David Lean and *Lawrence of Arabia*, and other Academy award winning directors. Film clips, discussions, possible movie field trip, and lectures by visiting film authorities are in the works for the study group. The primary focus will be on great films and the creative minds behind them.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: No required reading.

Trish Foxwell is a journalist and author, specializing in literary sites, writers, and films. She contributed features on films and directors to various publications including: The Washington Times, The Boston Globe, The Palm Beach Post, and The Los Angeles Times, and was a travel writer for a variety of newspapers and magazines.

588 An Historical Survey of Textiles and Rugs

WENDEL SWAN

Nine Tuesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 06

This historical, cultural and artistic survey of textiles and rugs begins 12,000 years ago with the domestication of sheep in the Near East and follows the evolution of textiles made of sheep's wool as culturally important artifacts and how they remained technologically important until well into the Industrial Age. Independent weaving traditions arose, using camelid fibers in the Western hemisphere and silk in the far East. We will focus on weavings used other than as floor coverings, the major geographic areas and ethnographic groups producing textiles, and the materials used to weave and color them. Throughout, textiles will be shown in class and in PowerPoint presentations as wonderful art forms.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Lecture

Reading: No required reading.

Wendel Swan is a retired lawyer and businessman with an enduring avocational passion for rugs and textiles. He has very actively collected and studied textiles since 1968, is a frequent lecturer as well as an organizer of conferences and symposia in the United States and Europe, and is a Trustee of The Textile Museum at GWU.

600 LITERATURE & LANGUAGE

The Exodus from Egypt

IRWIN LEBOW

Ten Wednesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 07

For study group description and Study Group Leader bio, see 702.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1 hr/week.

604 Poetry: Habits of Paradise:

Poems of Robert Haas

JENNY PIERSON

Ten Wednesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 07

This study group is a craft shop for poets familiar with form and technique who wish to enrich their work by reading and modeling the poems of Robert Haas in *The Apples Trees at Olema: New and Selected Poems*. Primarily prose poems and painterly sequences, Haas's work, including translations, will be used for weekly reading

and writing assignments. Class requires commitment to your own poems through analysis and interpretation, as well as commentary on the poems of fellow class members.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Reading and Discussion

Reading: 2-3 hrs/week.

Jenny Pierson, poet and professor of writing at George Washington University, worked as a human rights advocate, dairy farmer, editor, and caterer. She holds an MFA in creative writing from American University. Jenny has been leading poetry craftshops at OLLI since Fall 1996.

607 Fools of Fortune

MARY POOLE

Ten Tuesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 06

"The life of every man is a diary in which he means to write one story, and writes another . . ." (J. M. Barrie) This study group will read and discuss four novels (each under 300 pages) and two short stories, all of which involve quixotic choices and their consequences. The works will be varied: a western that turns a skeptical eye on our American myths, a tale of Moscow in 1913 told with wry British humor, a probing and insightful Irish novel, and an idiosyncratic novel that combines satire and a comic Middle Eastern travelogue with a search for meaning. We will finish with haunting stories by two prose masters. As usual, we will pay attention to the lives of the authors and the way their works are written.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Reading and Discussion

Reading: 2-3 hrs/week.

Mary Poole has a master's degree from Georgetown University and taught English Literature in the International Baccalaureate program at Washington International School for 23 years.

612 Cours de conversation en français

JALEH LABIB

Ten Mondays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 05

Ce cours est pour ceux dont le français, de niveau suffisamment avancé, leur permet de lire, comprendre et converser facilement parmi un groupe de francophiles qui cherchent à améliorer leur connaissance du français et leur prononciation. Les discussions

sont en partie basées sur une variété de sujets et thèmes, soumis chaque semaine sous forme de documents Word — version compatible — joints aux courriers électroniques. Les participants sont donc censés avoir régulièrement accès à leurs emails et une bonne connaissance de l'Internet.

Ceux postulant pour la première fois doivent être interviewés au téléphone avant d'être inclus dans le système de sélection. Ils ont donc intérêt à déposer leur demande bien avant la date limite.

This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Reading and Discussion

Reading: 2-3 hrs/week.

Jaleh Labib a parlé français depuis son enfance et tout au long de ses 35 ans d'expérience aux entreprises françaises et organisations internationales. Elle a mené un bon nombre de cours de conversation en français à OLLI.

615 Deutsch fuer Fortgeschrittene

HANNE CARAHER

Eight Thursdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 08

Können Sie sich auf deutsch unterhalten? Beherrschen Sie die Grundregeln der deutschen Grammatik? Wenn ja, dann sind Sie ein guter Kandidat fuer diese Klasse, in der wir uns unterhalten, manchmal Grammatik studieren und Kurzgeschichten auf deutsch lesen werden. Hausaufgaben jede Woche eine oder zwei Stunden. This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1-2 hrs/week.

Hanne Caraher graduated from the University of Heidelberg, Germany, with the equivalent of a master's degree in conference interpreting and translation.

618 Spanish II

MONICA GRIGERA

Eight Fridays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 16

Spanish II is for students who have an Intermediate level of Spanish. Students will increase fluency and comprehension and also learn about the language and the culture as they experience authentic writing styles of authors from different countries.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Reading and Discussion

Reading: 2 hrs/week.

Monica Mendy Grigera is a native Spanish speaker and has taught from kindergarten to college and from Patagonia to Pennsylvania.

619 French — Back to the Basics

EVELYNE BONHOMME

Ten Wednesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 07

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry wrote that: "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible." If this statement resonates with you, this study group may be for you. We will focus on basic communication skills, including pronunciation, to facilitate everyday conversation. We will review basic French structures and develop an expanding vocabulary relating to fun activities such as meeting people, traveling, entertainment, ordering food, obtaining basic services, and your own interests. Expect a lot of conversation practice in and out of class as you take your first steps toward reading and conversing about Saint-Exupéry in French.

This study group is .

Class Format: Reading and Discussion

Reading: 1 hr/week.

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.

620 French Literature

CATHERINE PROUST-SANDIFER

Ten Mondays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 05

Zola is considered to be one of the most influential French writers of the nineteenth century . The course will study *L'assomoir*, along with impressionist painters who were Zola's friends. The novel focuses on the story of a working class family living in Paris during the second empire under Napoleon III. It tells of the hardships and poverty in Pigalle. Zola believed in the discoveries by Mendel on genetics. Above all, Zola was well known for his stand in the Dreyfus case and in his unrelenting efforts to prove that Dreyfus had been wrongly accused of treason: this sent a wave of reactions through French society which became divided for many years to come.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: Less than 1 hr/week.

Catherine Sandifer studied at the Sorbonne for six years where she earned an MA in British and American literature and an "agrégation" in teaching. She also taught at the Institute of Political Sciences in Paris (Sc-Po) and at the Catholic University in Paris. She was a teacher in the private high school and college of Stanislas.

622 Beginning Spanish 101 (Spanish for Dummies Smarties)

SUSAN SCHNEIDER

Ten Thursdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 08

Learn to speak street Spanish in 30 minutes! Whether you have studied Spanish before or not, this study group will allow students to learn to speak from scratch, improve their pronunciation and fluency. We will stress oral practice — listening and speaking — over reading and writing. This is a study group that will use everyday expressions and give students experience with Spanish conversation. The study group will use the book, *Spanish for Dummies*, 2nd edition. Our goal is to help everyone order chimichangas flawlessly. There is no homework but thirty minutes of practice a day will also get you arroz con frijoles.

This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: Less than 1 hr/week.

Susan Schneider has taught conversational Spanish and English for decades. She started the ESL program for adults at the National Cathedral. She also was a Peace Corps Volunteer in El Salvador where she learned to speak Spanish in the barrio. She has a PhD in Linguistics, an MA in Education, and a BA in History.

624 Italian Language Conversation

ARRIGO MONGINI

Ten Mondays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 05

Our conversations will be structured around a combination of the following subject matters: personal experiences of individual participants, comments on assigned readings, comments on current or local events, where possible with themes involving Italian language or culture. Discussion will be in Italian as much as possible. Minimal grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation may be included. All will be encouraged to participate actively. We recommend a background with at least one year of a course in beginning Italian, but all levels beyond that are welcome. Our objectives are to improve everyone's ability to speak, and to understand Italian and to enjoy conversing in this beautiful language.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Reading and Discussion

Reading: Less than 1 hr/week.

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.

630 The Best of the Brontë Sisters

LINDA FREEMAN

Eight Tuesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 06

Yes, everyone has read *Wuthering Heights* and *Jane Eyre*, but how recently? Take a re-look using your years of wisdom and insights of current feminist critics at the two masterpieces by Emily and Charlotte Brontë and at a lesser-known, brave defense of women's rights in Anne Brontë's novel *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*. Consider how the "Brontë biography myth" grew, why Victorian readers were shocked at the coarseness and violence of the novels, and why they currently are viewed as original and masterful. Because there will be a lot of reading for this study group, members are urged, if possible, to get a start on reading the novels ahead: WH, TWF, and JE, in that order. First-time readers especially welcome. This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: More than 3 hrs/week.

Linda Freeman, PhD, a retired University of Maryland lecturer in Victorian Literature, has also taught for Smithsonian Associates and has led many OLLI study groups.

631 Understanding Families Through Plays

KAREN GAIL LEWIS

Eight Mondays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 05

The four plays we will read this time are: *Ghosts*, by Ibsen, *Raisin in the Sun*, by Hansberry; a new play called *The Profane*, by Zayd Dohrn, about two Muslim families. We end with *Broadway Bound*, the last of Neil Simon's trilogy. We discuss each play for two weeks, focusing on themes of family relationships, emotional issues, gender roles, prior family generations, and the context of the period. We see how each play might be different if written by a playwright of a different ethnicity or gender. We consider what happens to the family after the play is over. This is an entertaining, interactive class. Reading each play beforehand will enrich participation.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Discussion

Reading: 1 hr/week.

Karen Gail Lewis, EdD, has been practicing family therapy for well over 40 years. She has published numerous books/articles all dealing with family relationships. She has taught at OLLI for over a decade.

632 Writing Memoir: Getting Started

MARILYN SMITH

Eight Tuesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 06

"Writing Memoir: Getting Started" is designed for OLLI members with an interest in capturing their memories through writing. During this eight-week study group, participants will complete three separate short memoirs — the first focusing on a place, the second on a person, and the third about an experience. Through interactive in-class writing exercises and supportive small-group sharing, members will learn the basics of writing memoir such as character development, description, and setting. No previous writing experience is necessary.

This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: No required reading.

Marilyn Smith is delighted to return to teach memoir writing at OLLI. She earned a PhD in education policy/higher education, an MA in Reading Education, and has taken numerous writing classes from The Writer's Center. Marilyn has had two books published — a memoir and a women's health anthology, as well as numerous academic articles and reports. She has taught memoir and other forms of writing and editing throughout the DC area for several years.

641 The Later Virginia Woolf

ELLEN MOODY

Ten Fridays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 09

We will read and discuss the later Woolf: two playful satires, *Flush: A Biography [of a Dog]*, owned (so she thought) by the Victorian poet, Elizabeth Barrett Browning; *Orlando*, a novel, time-traveling tale through literature, history, culture, and gender change; two inter-World War books written: *Three Guineas*, an essay analyzing the origins of war and suggesting how we may prevent future wars; and *Between the Acts*, a novella in which a group of characters put on a historical pageant. The contexts will be literary (about biography, fantasy, historical novels), political, and biographical. Our aim is to understand and enjoy these delightful and original works.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 2 hrs/week.

Ellen Moody was a Lecturer in English in senior colleges for over 30 years, has a PhD in English literature, with two books, essays on early modern through 20th century literature, on film and

translation, translated poetry among her published work. As an independent scholar, she maintains three blogs and a website.

651 Writing Down the Bones

BROCK HANSEN

Eight Wednesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 07

This is a study group for people who like to write, or think they might, but who need a stimulus to practice writing. We will use Natalie Goldberg's book, *Writing Down the Bones: Freeing the Writer Within*, in which she describes a method for writing practice and overcoming writer's block. In each session we will have two or more spells of writing practice in response to a prompt. We write for 10–15 minutes, after which participants are encouraged but not required to share what they have written. Positive feedback is encouraged and more critical feedback can be requested. The writing practice tends toward memoir, though it is not limited to that. A bonus is getting to know your fellow writers through their writing. This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Discussion

Reading: No required reading.

Brock Hansen has enjoyed writing since elementary school and is intimately familiar with the challenges of writing on a regular basis. He led this study group for OLLI three times. He always finds these groups stimulating and a great way to get to know fellow OLLI members through their writing.

653 What Young Adult Literature Can Tell Us

SUSAN UROFSKY

Eight Thursdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 08

Young Adult literature spans the dynamic age groups from middle school through high school. The books written by adults tell compelling stories that cross generational lines but particularly highlight influential themes in the lives of young people. The books can be delightful, frightening or controversial. Authors employ fantasy and intense reality to explore themes such as the importance of communal memory, exacting friendships, threats to individuals and society, and personal growth and resilience. Adults reading these books will find much to discuss with the young people in their lives and may also gain insights into upcoming generations. The reading list will be distributed post lottery. This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Reading and Discussion

Reading: 2 hrs/week.

Susan Urofsky became an advocate for Young Adult Literature when reading and talking about books with her grandchildren. An avid reader, she majored in English literature. She is retired from Virginia State Government where she held leadership positions. As a consultant, she helped to develop skill-building workshops at VCU.

669 Enjoying The New Yorker Together

BOB HAUSMAN

Eight Thursdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 08

The New Yorker's audience beyond New York enjoys reportage, commentary, essays, short stories, satire, poetry, and cartoons with artistic provocative covers; book, theater, and movie reviews, articles on medicine and law, world politics, and social issues. For each class session, a member chooses an item from a *New Yorker* issue and adds something from his/her experience, knowledge or research, followed by class discussion. OLLI members have taken the course two, three and four times. Enjoy an open, friendly atmosphere where true conversation occurs.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Discussion

Reading: 1-2 hrs/week.

Bob Hausman has been an attorney in all three branches of the federal government and in private practice. He has been reading and discussing The New Yorker magazine all of his adult life. He has led this course at OLLI for a number of years.

671 The World of Spanish Drama

ANDREW WHITE

Nine Tuesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 06

Join OLLI regular Andy White as we explore the history of Spanish drama, from the auto da fes to the Golden Age of Lope de Vega, Cervantes, and Calderon, through to the Modern era with Garcia Lorca and beyond.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1-2 hrs/week.

Andrew Walker White (Andy) is a theatre artist, historian, and local performing arts critic. He has led a wide range of drama study groups with OLLI over the past ten years. His first book, Performing Orthodox Ritual in Byzantium, was published with Cambridge University Press, and he is hard at work on his next volume.

673 Spiritual Themes in Modern American Poetry

DANIEL COYLE

Nine Wednesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 07

In one of his essays, Wallace Stevens boldly states that “in an age of disbelief, it is for the poet to provide the satisfactions of belief.” Many modern American poets have seen it as their literary mission to find meaning beyond the boundary of the senses, beyond the boundary of our knowing — fundamentally a spiritual pursuit. In this study group, we’ll examine poems by T. S. Eliot, Wallace Stevens, James Wright, Galway Kinnell, Jane Kenyon, Denise Levertov, Jane Hirshfield, W. S. Merwin, and others. This group includes atheists, agnostics, Jews, Christians, and Zen Buddhists. Their belief systems are less important than their shared interest in the dimension of depth in human existence. Texts will be provided. This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1-2 hrs/week.

Dan Coyle has a doctorate in English from the University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill. Although he spent his working years with LexisNexis and ProQuest (an academic database publisher), teaching literature has always been a career goal — a goal achieved in retirement. Thank you, OLLI. This will be his fifth OLLI study group.

677 Shakespearean Tragedy in 1606

JAMES STONE

Ten Mondays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 05

Written in 1606, *Macbeth* and *Antony and Cleopatra* are historical tragedies in which a strong woman presides over the action. Cleopatra’s self-assurance leads to a death that successfully controls how she will be represented in the eyes of her audience; her suicide enables her to avoid the indignity of being staged in Caesar’s military parade in Rome by some boy actor who will mock her greatness in the “posture of a whore.” By contrast, Lady Macbeth sees her power lapse into guilt-ridden psychosis and her reputation vilified. The prospect of death is frightful for Lady Macbeth and her husband in a way that it is not for Cleopatra. We will read and discuss the plays and watch films of performances. This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Reading and Discussion

Reading: 1 hr/week.

James Stone (Yale BA, Berkeley PhD) lectures on Shakespeare and early modern literature at American University. For many years he taught at the American University in Cairo and at the National University of Singapore. He published Crossing Gender in Shakespeare: Feminist Psychoanalysis and the Difference Within (Routledge 2010).

681 Reading Classic American Short Stories

SUSAN WILLENS

Eight Mondays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 05

Using the text *American Short Story Masterpieces*, published by Dover Thrift Editions in 2013, we will read and discuss classic tales that have shaped our national imagination. From Hawthorne, through Wharton and Mark Twain, to Faulkner and Fitzgerald, we will meet — or recall — and discuss some of the central stories in our American lives.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1 hr/week.

Susan P. Willens has been an OLLI study group leader for several years, following her career as a teacher. She taught English — literature and composition — at George Washington University, the Edmund Burke School, and in several universities and schools overseas.

682 Reading Classic American Short Stories

SUSAN WILLENS

Eight Thursdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 08

For study group description and Study Group Leader bio, see 681.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1 hr/week.

684 Enjoying American Literature by Contemporary African-American Authors

ELLEN SIEGLER

Nine Thursdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 08

In this study group, we will read fiction, drama, and nonfiction by some of the best contemporary African-American authors. Authors whose works we will read will include Ta-Nehisi Coates, James Baldwin, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Edwidge Danticat, James McBride, Claudia Rankine, and Jesmyn Ward. The goal of the course is to introduce you to authors or works that may be new to you and to discuss the characters and situations they portray,

themes and issues they raise, and the effectiveness of the literary styles the authors have chosen. Most fiction will be in the form of short stories. All reading material will be different from works used in prior iterations of the course. This study group is most enjoyable when everyone participates in the discussion.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Discussion

Reading: 1-2 hrs/week.

Ellen Siegler, a retired attorney and long-ago English major, has been an OLLI member since 2010. She has led this study group several times before, using different reading material each time.

685 August Wilson's Century Cycle

RAYMOND MAXWELL

Ten Mondays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 05

This study group will read and discuss one August Wilson play each week for ten weeks, completing the Century Cycle of ten plays. Each group member will be required to read the week's assigned play at home, select a passage they find significant, then be prepared to read the passage and discuss why it is significant to them. After class, each student may post to a blog a few paragraphs about the play. The goal of the study group will not be to exhaustively discuss each play. Instead, each member (including the study group leader) will select a brief passage to present to the class, followed by a brief, collaborative close read and discussion by the group.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Reading and Discussion

Reading: 2-3 hrs/week.

Raymond Maxwell is a retired foreign service officer and, post-retirement, a librarian, and archivist. He has an undergraduate degree from Florida A&M University and graduate degrees from University of London and Catholic University. He is a published poet, but mostly writes to read for friends and to post online.

688 Philip Roth: Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

ELAINE SHOWALTER

Eight Tuesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 06

Philip Roth announced his retirement from writing in 2012, having published 27 novels and won every literary award in the United States and every literary prize in the world except, notoriously, the Nobel. In this study group we'll read the three books from the

first period of his career that introduced his voice, established his reputation as an important American writer, and began to explore his most outrageous, hilarious, and profound themes: *Goodbye, Columbus* (1959), *Portnoy's Complaint* (1969), and *The Ghost Writer* (1979). We'll also look at the controversies over anti-Semitism, misogyny, and sexuality that surrounded these books, as well as Roth's definitions of his literary credo, and defenses of his vision. This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 2 hrs/week.

Elaine Showalter is Professor Emerita of English at Princeton University, where she taught 19th and 20th century English and American literature. She has written ten books, and regularly reviews for newspapers and periodicals in the US and UK including, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, and *The New York Review of Books*.

690 Thoreau at 200: How Urgent His Message(s)?

ELEANOR HEGINBOTHAM

Eight Wednesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 07

"Born in the very nick of time," as he declared, Thoreau may well be remembered in ours with such urgency. In his bicentennial year, a new biography will anchor our discussions of the essays on *Civil Disobedience*, *John Brown*, and large portions of his magnum opus, *Walden*. What does the too-brief life of this idiosyncratic but delightful man and his powerful work, work that influenced Gandhi, Martin Luther King, and readers around the world, have to say to our problems? In addition to the political thrust of his work, we will most certainly meditate on the respect this "sojourner" has for our natural world. He taught and lived the notion of "ecology." Can/should we step to the music of that distant drummer?

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 2-3 hrs/week.

Eleanor Elson Heginbotham has led with joy a number of OLLI sessions on American Literature since her retirement from over 30 years of teaching around the world, including a Fulbright year. She has published two books on Emily Dickinson (Ohio State University Press) and numerous articles, and continues to work on literary and other projects.

700 HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

Nonviolence: Theory and History

LEONARD KING

Ten Fridays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 09

For study group description and Study Group Leader bio, see 812.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Discussion

Reading: 1 hr/week.

702 The Exodus from Egypt

IRWIN LEBOW

Ten Wednesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 07

Did the exodus really happen as described in the Book of Exodus? Many scholars, citing a lack of historical and archeological evidence have said that it probably didn't happen at all. But other scholars led by Richard Elliott Friedman maintain that it did happen, but not exactly as described in the Book of Exodus. These scholars cite textual and archeological evidence that only the Levites left Egypt and then joined the other Israelite tribes in Canaan and, most significantly, that this union led to the monotheism that we know today. It is all described in a new book, *The Exodus*, by Friedman. In this study group we will examine the evidence that Friedman presents in his book.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1 hr/week.

Irwin Lebow, a retired telecommunications engineer with a PhD from MIT, has also been a lifelong student of the Bible. He has taught many study groups for OLLI in both telecommunications and the Bible.

710 The Progressive Movement: Why It Still Matters

ELLY GREENE

Ten Thursdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 08

Historians have long argued about the Progressive movement but most accept it as critical in US history. Although Progressives are traditionally identified as male, white, and Midwestern, this study group will consider a wider range of Americans who worked to improve life in the US between 1870 and 1920. Readings will provide historical context for each session; then we will grapple with a variety of primary sources to assess what the Progressives

accomplished. Topics will include the Temperance movement, the Settlement House movement, Teddy Roosevelt and the muckrakers, the Women's Trade Union League, working for racial justice in the Jim Crow South, winning women's suffrage, and the 1912 presidential election.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1-2 hrs/week.

Elly Greene has taught history, trained teachers, directed projects, and designed curricula in history education and conflict management in Massachusetts and the Washington DC area. She led two OLLI workshops on Eleanor Roosevelt, one on the Laurel Grove School, and two on "Seven Photographers Documenting 20th Century America."

721 TR, Twain, and American Imperialism

ROBERT COE

Ten Mondays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 05

We will deal with an important development in American history: the bitter conflict between the expansionists and the anti-imperialists at the turn of the 20th century over the country's future role in the world. The expansionists were led by Presidents William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt, Henry Cabot Lodge, and William Randolph Hearst. The Anti-Imperialist League included such important figures as Mark Twain, Andrew Carnegie, and William Jennings Bryan. The expansionists narrowly won in both the Senate and the Supreme Court. We will assess why this occurred and the implications for America's subsequent foreign policy. Book: Stephen Kinzer, *The True Flag*.

This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Reading and Discussion

Reading: 1 hr/week.

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.

724 Anatomy of Revolution

MARKLEY ROBERTS

Eight Mondays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 05

We will look at and compare revolutions — 17th century English, 18th century American and French, 20th century Russian and Chinese. Crane Brinton's book, *The Anatomy of Revolution*, offers us a framework for analysis — the old regime, early stages, moderates' rule, extremists' rule, terror, reaction, conservative rule,

and consolidation. Through discussion, we will look for similarities and differences in revolutions.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Discussion

Reading: 2-3 hrs/week.

Markley Roberts, a PhD economist, has given various OLLI courses including *the French Revolution, Making the US Constitution, and Renaissance Italy*.

740 Slavery in America, 1619–1820

KAREN STEWART

Ten Thursdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 08

This study group will examine the first 200 years in the development of slavery in America. Study group participants will be expected to read the assigned text in Ira Berlin's *Many Thousands Gone* in preparation for each session. We will examine the evolution of slavery across geographic areas and across time. There is an important national conversation about race going on in America right now. This study group will be a chance to engage with each other in that conversation.

This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1 hr/week.

Karen Stewart recently retired from Westat where she was a Senior Study Director. She worked on a variety of health and social science studies under contract to CDC, NIH, and other federal and private agencies. Her interest in slavery began during her service in the Peace Corps. She has studied the topic intensely since her retirement.

750 Brief Lives

ARNOLD LEIBOWITZ

Ten Fridays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 09

This study group was initiated by following the request by Oxford University Press for Richard Holmes, the English biographer, to produce a course utilizing brief lives. He did it, producing along the way a book, *The Age of Wonder*. This course follows that book a little bit, developing a series of brief lives, generally from the 19th century, of men and women in the science and literature professions. We would expect to cover the following people: (1) The Explorers: Joseph Banks and Capt. John Cook; (2) Poets and Creators: Mary Wollstonecraft (Mary Shelley's mother), Mary Shelley (the creator of Frankenstein), and Percy Shelley, her husband; (3) Poets and Creators: Leigh Hunt, the editor of

the leading reform magazine in England, and Lord Byron; (4) Civil Rights Fighters: Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee and Harriet Beecher Stowe; (5) The Scientists/Explorers: William Herschel and his sister, Caroline, the discoverer of the planet Uranus and the various comets; (6) The Five of Hearts: Clarence King, the founder of the Geological Society, and Michael Faraday, the analyst of electromagnetic force; (7) Pioneering Women: George Eliot, the novelist who lived an open adulterous life for 25 years, and Martha Gellhorn, a journalist and the wife of Ernest Hemingway, who wrote extensively on foreign wars; (8) The Existentialists: Simone DeBeauvoir, Jean Paul Sartre, and Heidegger; (9) The Bloomsbury Group: Vanessa Bell and her sister, Virginia Woolf, Lytton Strachey, and John Maynard Keynes; and (10) Partners: Thomas and Jane Carlyle, Harriet Taylor and John Stuart Mill. There may be a few, modest, changes in this list.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture

Reading: 1-2 hrs/week.

Arnold Leibowitz is an attorney in Washington, DC, in practice for over 40 years. His special interests are major social and political trends.

764 The Eastern Question: Dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire, 1800–Present

ELIZABETH SHELTON

Ten Thursdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 08

World War I brought the breakup of the Ottoman Empire into 40 separate nations, creating the modern Middle East and the Balkan nations. What are the consequences today, 100 years after the peace treaties were signed ending the War? This study group examines the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire, World War I, the European plays for territorial expansion, and how the treaties ending the Great War set the stage for hot spots in the Middle East today.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: No required reading.

Elizabeth W. Shelton retired from the State Department after a career of nearly 30 years as a Foreign Service Officer. She served in Thailand, Malaysia, Nigeria, Turkey (both in Istanbul and Adana in the southeast), Azerbaijan, the UN, and Albania. She earned a Doctor of Liberal Studies degree at Georgetown University.

768 From Rifled Muskets to Killer Robots

PETER WILSON

Ten Thursdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 08

This study group will consider, from the perspective of the two centuries that followed the Industrial Revolution, the effects of scientific and technological change on the global national security environment. Specifically, this study group will examine the hypothesis that there have been several “revolutions in military affairs” in both the 19th and 20th centuries that emerged as competitive ways of war that profoundly altered the global security environment. Particular emphasis will be given as to how the United States has or has not successfully adapted to the periods of rapid military technological change that emerged during the 20th century and how these lessons might be applied to our current 21st century security challenges.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1-2 hrs/week.

Peter A. Wilson is currently an adjunct senior researcher at the Rand Corporation and an adjunct professor at the Security Studies program at Georgetown University. He also gives classes and runs strategic planning exercises at the Eisenhower School at the National Defense University.

770 A Brief History of Washington, DC

ROBERT SOMERS

Ten Fridays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 09

Born out of compromise, Washington, DC was envisioned as a grand capital city and commercial center for the New American republic. Burned by the British in 1814, bitterly divided by the Civil War, and overshadowed by larger cities, Washington gradually began to come into its own by the turn of the 20th century. The city remains a work in progress as it deals with its unique political status and serves as the center stage for American history. This study group will highlight the history of the city, from its visionary origins to its current dual status as the capital of the free world, and a place that more than half a million people call home.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Lecture

Reading: No required reading.

Robert Somers is a retired Federal government attorney and has been a licensed Washington, DC tour guide since 1989. He is a history buff and has been a docent with the Historical Society of Washington, DC;

the National Building Museum; and the National Park Service. He has taught two previous DC history study groups at OLLI.

786 “The Fifties” — Memory and Analysis

RICHARD PALMER

Eleven Tuesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 06

Most OLLI members lived through the 1950s, either as a child or youngish adult. The study group will try to sort out the jumble of personal reminiscences; parse half-remembered, half-understood crises; analyze the big “historical events and trends.” Some participants will read nothing, relying on memory only, and others will read extensively in the timeline of major events or culture (high or pop). Wikipedia and YouTube links will be emphasized, from Bill Haley to Tom Lehrer, Nikita Khrushchev to Joseph Welch, Chosin Reservoir to Van Cliburn, Sputnik to Peyton Place, Jonas Salk to Best Picture of 1955. All participants will be expected to be active collaborators. Some participants may even want to cite their age in 1958 to clarify their perspective.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Reading and Discussion

Reading: No required reading.

Richard R. Palmer, a retired psychiatrist and lifetime DC resident, was 16 years old in 1958; he has led several OLLI study groups.

790 Off the Beaten Path in the DC Area

RALPH BUGLASS

Ten Wednesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 07

As the nation’s capital, our area is replete with well-known historical attractions that tourists swarm to. But there are many other lesser known yet equally interesting landmarks that warrant visiting — or at least knowing about. Come hear about — and experience through lavishly illustrated slides — some of these little known gems and the fascinating stories behind them. Examples include presidential monuments and commemoratives in unexpected places; reminders of World War II and the area’s rich African-American history; Gilded Age mansions around Dupont Circle; buildings by Frank Lloyd Wright and other noted architects; early mills that still work; cemeteries that come to life with stories of those interred; and more.

This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture

Reading: No required reading.

Ralph Buglass, a Washington area native and lifelong history buff, has also led OLLI study groups on the history of public school

segregation. A retired communications professional with a BA in history from Cornell and an MA in journalism from AU, he speaks frequently on local history topics at a variety of programs and events.

791 History of Immigration Policy and Immigration

PETER WOLFE

Ten Mondays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 05

This study group will cover the history of immigration policy from colonial time to the present, including the circumstances and debates that led to the various laws and regulations that were developed over the years. It will also cover the experiences of immigrants throughout the period, including why they came and how they lived in the United States.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 2 hrs/week.

Peter Wolfe, a retired attorney, graduated with a major in American History from Columbia University. He has been a Study Group Leader for a number of history study groups at OLLI.

792 FDR Leadership and Five Envoys WWII

FT CLARK

Ten Tuesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 06

We will discover how FDR chose five men as envoys to Europe to learn of European nations' readiness for WWII. FDR's statecraft will be examined as he chose these men: Welles, Donovan, Hopkins, Willkie, and Harriman, to be his eyes and ears to prepare for America's involvement in WWII.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 2 hrs/week.

Franklin "FT" Clark has led two other study groups with OLLI — on Lincoln and on Jefferson.

793 Woodrow Wilson: Scholar, Statesman, Racist

ALAN KOGAN

Nine Tuesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 06

This study group will follow Wilson's life from childhood in the post Civil War South, education, personal relationships, academic achievement, and college presidency through his emergence as a political leader, wartime president, and world statesman. Wilson's

intellectual and character development along with his health will be used as the basis to examine his lasting influence on both domestic policy and international relations as well as areas of controversy including race relations, free speech, and women's suffrage.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Reading and Discussion

Reading: 1 hr/week.

Alan Kogan retired after a career as a psychiatrist during which he worked as a practicing clinician, teacher, and program administrator. He is a history buff who enjoys studying the American Presidency, especially the psychological aspects.

794 Jewish History and Life: Diaspora to Israel

JOSH BERMAN

Ten Tuesdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 06

Judaism has been present for 4000 years. In June 2017, we covered "Patriarchs to the Diaspora." For Spring 2018, we will follow Judaism from its apparent end with the diaspora in 135 CE to the State of Israel, with the aim of understanding how Judaism was able to survive another 19 centuries and to be a part of our present world. Equal emphasis will be placed on historic events and Jewish life during those periods of history. The two texts, *A Short History of the Jewish People from Legendary Times to Modern Statehood*, Scheindlin, which is short and clear; and *A History of the Jews*, Johnson, which is longer and more provocative; will be supplemented by original sources and videos.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 2-3 hrs/week.

Jonathan (Josh) Berman, MD, PhD is a Jewish-American with a lifelong interest in his heritage.

797 The United States in World War I and Its Aftermath

FRANCES GRIGSBY

Ten Wednesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 07

World War I propelled the United States from neutrality to world leadership. It generated a sea change in our ideas of heroism, race, gender and class, and profoundly affected our government and economy. Rather than study battles and military tactics, we will use the war as a window into the US in the early 20th century, and onward to today. We will focus on the period from 1914 to the early 1920s — from neutrality, to the decision to enter the war,

to the disillusionment and prosperity that followed. We will have lively discussions on the war's impact on civil rights, propaganda, international relations, and leadership. What are the lasting effects of the war today? What have we learned?

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1-2 hrs/week.

Fran Grigsby specializes in the history and art of WWI and the Interwar period. She has a BA in French and Modern History and a Master's in Business, both from Vanderbilt, and has studied at INSEAD. She recently retired from the computing and networking industry. She has led workshops for industry groups and at Babson College.

798 Terrorism in US History: Heroes and Anti-Heroes

STUART SIMON

Eight Fridays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 09

The 9/11 terrorist attack was not as unique in American history as has been commonly portrayed. Every generation of Americans has experienced terrorism. Terrorists have been considered irrational, implacable foes yet eventually a resolution has always been reached. How we as a people have dealt with terrorism has shaped our policies and our culture. Through the lens of Americans who have stood up to or supported terrorism, we will explore the choices people faced and reflect on who should truly be remembered as our heroes and anti-heroes.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1 hr/week.

Stuart Simon has been a guest lecturer at American University, National Defense University, and at numerous conferences. On many occasions, he has been recognized for his expertise in business and management analysis. He has a degree in International Affairs from Columbia University and an MBA from New York University.

800 PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

812 Nonviolence: Theory and History

LEONARD KING

Ten Fridays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 09

While many have tried to resolve conflicts with violence, throughout history there have been powerful examples of social and political change brought about through the power of nonviolence. The purpose of this study group is to explore the power of nonviolence to create peace through our study of historical examples, philosophy, literature, present community activism, and personal experience. We will try to discover alternatives for a world in which an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth leaves everyone blind and toothless. The book for this class is Michael Nagler's *The Search for a Nonviolent Future*. Members will read a chapter a week for discussion. We will also do exercises and see short documentaries.

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Discussion

Reading: 1 hr/week.

Leonard King taught Humanities at Maret School for 43 years. He started teaching courses on Nonviolence after 9/11 to explore alternative ways to solve conflicts without war. In the fall, he led an OLLI study group on the History and Aesthetics of Film.

815 The Qur'an and Modern Society

AHMED ACHRATI

Nine Thursdays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 08

Consisting of eight sessions, this introductory study group provides the participants with basic cultural background of the Qur'an, its structure, foundational narratives, interpretations, and importance in shaping the worldviews of Muslims.

This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 2 hrs/week.

Ahmed Achrati is currently an adjunct faculty at Howard Community College, Columbia, MD, where he teaches languages and anthropology. He has extensive teaching experience, and his writing on rock art in leading journals spans a wide range of topics.

830 Roots of the New Atheism: Philosophy, Science, and the Cultural Impact of World War I

CHARLES O'CONNOR

Ten Thursdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 08

Today's New Atheists claim science is the only reliable source of genuine truth, reality is just valueless matter obeying physical and natural laws without meaning or purpose, and belief in God or the transcendent is an intellectually indefensible delusion. We trace the philosophical and scientific development of this theory of knowledge and materialist worldview from the Enlightenment through World War I, a cultural turning point. We then consider the role of postwar theology, philosophy, literature, art, and music in the rise of this modern secular cosmology. Throughout, we assess evolutionary materialism critically, using the process thought of philosopher Alfred North Whitehead and theologian John F. Haught.

This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1-2 hrs/week.

After more than 40 years of environmental law practice, Charles O'Connor earned a Doctor of Liberal Studies degree from Georgetown, focusing on the cultural impact of World War I. He currently teaches in the Georgetown Graduate Liberal Studies Program and has taught at OLLI since 2014.

831 Mastering the Skills of Mindful Meditation

JEFFREY DROBIS

Nine Mondays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 05

Mindful awareness can be described as a process of opening ourselves to experience in the moment — physical sensations, emotional feelings and thinking as well as the external world of sound and sight. We will practice techniques to use in formal meditation as well as in ordinary life. Sessions will include instruction, guided meditations, and group discussion. Jeffrey will teach a comprehensive approach to mindfulness that he learned from his teacher Shinzen Young. Although there is no required reading, participants should plan to practice meditation on their own for at least 10 minutes on most days. This study group is appropriate for both beginners and those with some meditation experience.

This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: No required 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.

834 Mindfulness Meditation — Intermediate Level

JEFFREY DROBIS

Nine Mondays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 05

This study group is similar to another offering, Mastering the Skills of Mindful Awareness Practice. It is intended for persons who have previously taken OLLI study groups with me. 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. Classes will include instruction, extensive guided meditations, and discussions. In addition, we will devote about 10 minutes each week to discuss a mindfulness classic entitled *Wherever You Go There You Are* by Jon Kabat-Zinn.

This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: Less than 1 hr/week.

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.

835 Exploration of Eastern Thought

CARL WEICHEL

Nine Wednesdays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 07

Eastern religions and philosophies embody many virtues that we in the West find alluring: introspection, gentleness, sensitivity, fortitude, and connection with mind and body. Buddhism in China, Tibet, and SE Asia; Confucianism in China; Daoism in China; Jainism in India, Sikhism in India; and Zoroastrianism in Iran hold these virtues, but each is quite different in its ideas, practices, and histories. We will explore their unique ethics, cosmologies, and theologies along with backgrounds to their texts, symbols, images, and practices/rituals. Also reviewed will be their cultures

and politics, from the early eras of their founding philosophers to current communities and practices that have spread to the West. This study group is a repeat with revisions.

Class Format: Reading and Discussion

Reading: 1-2 hrs/week.

Carl Weichel has degrees in marketing and in communications. He has held various positions over his career in marketing, design, and advertising in Australia, South Africa, Canada, and San Francisco, and continues to consult. Carl has led OLLI study groups on "Political Polarization in America" and "The 60s — Exploring the 'Consciousness Culture' that Changed America Forever."

865 John Rawls: *Justice as Fairness*

DAVID PALMETER

Ten Wednesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

March 07

John Rawls was the most important political philosopher in the English-speaking world in the 20th century. His 1971 book, *A Theory of Justice*, changed the course of political philosophy. It was, however, a long and difficult book. Over the years, Rawls adjusted his theory in response to the arguments of critics and to his own further reflection. Shortly before his death in 2002, he completed a final version of his argument in a shorter and more accessible work, *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement*. We will read and discuss this fundamental work, whose roots go back to Hobbes, Locke, Kant, and Rousseau, and examine some of the criticisms of Rawls from both the left and the right.

This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 1-2 hrs/week.

David Palmetter, a retired lawyer, has led study groups in history, literature, and philosophy since 2008.

867 Aristotle II (Physics, Ethics, and Politics)

DONALD ROSS

Ten Fridays (9:45 AM - 11:15 AM)

March 09

The purpose of this study group is to explore the philosophy of Aristotle. The practical aspects of Aristotelianism will be presented and organized within a seven-layer structure.

This study group is a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 2 hrs/week.

Donald Ross received his bachelor's degree in philosophy from Wake Forest University in 1970, his master's from the University of Iowa in 1972, and his doctorate from the University of Chicago in 1979. His concentration in graduate school was in ancient philosophy, and he has published research on Aristotle and Plato.

869: Plato

DONALD ROSS

Ten Fridays (11:45 AM - 1:15 PM)

March 09

The purpose of this study group is to explore the philosophy of Plato. The focus will be on the dialogues exemplifying "classical Platonism."

This study group is not a repeat.

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion

Reading: 2 hrs/week.

Donald Ross received his bachelor's degree in philosophy from Wake Forest University in 1970, his master's from the University of Iowa in 1972, and his doctorate from the University of Chicago in 1979. His concentration in graduate school was in ancient philosophy, and he has published research on Plato.