



Rethink
 Learning
 Discovery
 Vitality
 Camaraderie
 Enrichment
 Creativity



Northwestern
 SCHOOL OF
 PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

2025 OLLI SPRING SEMESTER

MONDAY, MARCH 3—MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025



CONTENTS

- 3 From the Director
- 4 Spring 2025 Membership Options
- 5 Study Groups At-A-Glance
- 9 How to Register for a 7-Week Study Group;
7-Week Study Groups At-A-Glance
- 10 Study Group Descriptions
- 43 Olli Immersive Theater Experience in Partnership
with Wirtz Theater of Performing Arts
- 44 Sneek Peak of Spring 2025 Member Events
- 45 How to Purchase a Membership and Register
- 47 2024-2025 Academic Calendar
- 48 OLLI 2023 Honor Roll of Donors
- 50 Policies and Information
- 55 OLLI Office Information
Logistics, Services, and Resources

KEY DATES:

Spring memberships are available for [purchase now](#).

Monday, February 3 at 9 a.m.: [Spring registration opens](#).

Monday, February 17 at 5 p.m.: [Spring registration closes](#).

Monday, March 3: Spring session begins.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is to enable the continuation of learning and intellectual pursuit for a community of mature adults. As a special program of Northwestern University's School of Professional Studies, OLLI offers a comprehensive curriculum of peer-led discussion groups covering topics in areas such as literature, history, politics, science, philosophy, current affairs, and the arts. OLLI welcomes diversity in its membership, and has no academic prerequisites or age restrictions.



FROM THE OLLI DIRECTOR, **EMILY FERRIN**

Dear OLLI Members and Friends,

As the days grow longer and the first signs of spring begin to appear, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Spring Term at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Northwestern University. After a season of quiet reflection and cozy retreat, we now come together to renew our shared sense of belonging and purpose.

Spring is a time of renewal, and this term’s catalog reflects that spirit—offering a vibrant array of study groups designed to spark curiosity, stimulate new thinking, and deepen connections. Whether exploring the latest trends in art and culture, engaging in stimulating intellectual debates, or learning new skills, there is something for everyone in our community.

As we step out of winter’s embrace, I am reminded of the importance of the community we’ve built. Even though our learning often begins with individual curiosity, it is through our collective conversations, reflections, and shared experiences that we truly grow. Coming together after a season of quiet, we find strength not just in our learning, but in the relationships we nurture, the conversations we have, and the new perspectives we gain.

This spring, we embrace the opportunity to connect again—in person and virtually—supporting one another as we pursue lifelong learning. The bonds we share are a reminder of the power of belonging, of being part of something larger than ourselves. In this ever-changing world, the OLLI community remains a steady source of intellectual inspiration, and we are excited to offer you another season of thought-provoking study groups, all designed to enrich your mind and soul.

I invite you to explore the offerings in this catalog, select the study groups that resonate with you, and join us as we celebrate the joy of learning, the strength of community, and the beauty of coming back together.

Warm regards,

Emily Hood Ferrin, PhD

Director, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
School of Professional Studies
Northwestern University

Action Items

RIGHT NOW:

1. Log into the OLLI Online Registration System (northwesternolli.augusoft.net).
 - This will ensure you know your username and password before registration day. By preparing early, our team will have the time to help you if you have any difficulty.
2. [Purchase](#) your OLLI membership (if you do not have a current membership.)
 - Buy your membership early. Then, when registration opens, all you will need to do is select your study groups and quickly check out.
3. Review the study group offerings and **begin thinking about your list of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices**. Many groups fill quickly, so be open to other options that expand your interests and your exposure to new friendships.

REGISTRATION DAY (Monday, February 3):

[Online registration](#) opens at 9 a.m.
Registration closes Monday, February 17 at 5 p.m.

If you need assistance, email olli@northwestern.edu. The first available staff member or OLLI Volli volunteer will call or email you to assist. This day is extremely busy, so we ask for your patience.

See page 45 and 46 for membership purchase and registration instructions.



SPRING 2025 MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

If you are not a current OLLI member, you may purchase one of the following membership types [here](#). See pages 45 and 46 for instructions.

Spring Memberships – Levels, Prices, and Benefits

Level	Price and Terms Included	Number of Study Groups per Term	Benefits Included with Membership:
HALF-YEAR Prime	\$380 Half Academic Year (includes spring & summer)	3 per term for a total of 6	Half-year members enjoy access to Northwestern Library.
HALF-YEAR Standard	\$335 Half Academic Year (includes spring & summer)	2 per term for a total of 4	
HALF-YEAR Basic	\$275 Half Academic Year (includes spring & summer)	1 per term for a total of 2	

Spring Trial Membership – Rate and Benefits

Trial	\$225 (includes spring semester & summer session) <i>Available only to new members and may be purchased only one time.</i>	1 per term for a total of 2	Trial members enjoy access to Northwestern Library.
--------------	--	------------------------------------	--

Beyond the Study Groups ... All OLLI Members Enjoy

- A community of engaged and engaging peers
- Special lectures and noontime events
- Workshops to enhance the OLLI experience
- Special events and cultural opportunities
- Weekly eNotices about campus activities throughout the year
- The opportunity to participate in OLLI committee work

The academic year is divided into 4 terms:

Fall and Spring Semester = 14 weeks each **Winter (all virtual) and Summer Session** = 4 weeks each

A new OLLI academic calendar begins each fall semester. Therefore, full year memberships are only available in the fall. Memberships are valid for the terms purchased and are not transferable to another term or member.

Scholarships: OLLI offers partial scholarships during the fall and spring terms. A limited number of full scholarships may be available. Awards are strictly confidential. [Apply online](#). Scholarships are supported by donations to the OLLI Member Fund.

OLLI SPRING 2025 SEMESTER • BEGINS MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2025

STUDY GROUPS AT-A-GLANCE

KEY

CI: Contemporary and Social Issues

CA: Creative Arts (Performing, Visual, and Literary Arts)

HIS: History & Government

LIT: Literature

STMH: Science, Technology, Medicine & Health

SS: Social Sciences (Philosophy, Sociology, Anthropology, Economics)

CHICAGO IN-PERSON STUDY GROUPS

Monday

- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **LIT** Great Short Stories
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **LIT** Rereading the Poems of Emily Dickinson and Robert Frost
(7 weeks, meets the first half of the term)
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CI** 1968: The Year That Changed America
(7 weeks, meets the second half of the term)
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CI** New Yorker
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** Writing Life Stories, Group A
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **HIS** Book & Dagger: How Bookworms Beat the Nazis
(7 weeks, meets the second half of the term)
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **LIT** “We band of brothers...”

Tuesday

- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** Rolling Stone’s Top Rock and Roll Songs
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **HIS** The Guns of August
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **HIS** The Settling of North America
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **STMH** The Secret Life of Plants and Trees
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **SS** Adventures To “The Tipping Point”
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CI** The Creative Spark
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** He Wore Them All Out: The 33,000 Days of Quincy Jones, Jr.
- 1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m. **CA** Movies and Survival II: Adventurers
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **HIS** Central Asia in the Shadow of Russia and China
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **STMH** The Information Web: How Networks Shaped Human History

Continued on next page

CHICAGO IN-PERSON STUDY GROUPS, CONT.

Wednesday

NEW	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	HIS	Haiti and the Dominican Republic
NEW	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	HIS	Julius Rosenwald—Sears Founder and Philanthropist
NEW	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	HIS	The Constitution and Founders' Second Thoughts
NEW	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	LIT	Hemingway's Short Stories, Best-Loved Paintings, and Writing with AI
	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	CI	Economist A
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	CA	Introduction to Landscape Architecture
	1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m.	CA	Off the Beaten Path: Films of the NEW Millenium—Part 5
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	HIS	Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	STMH	Why Our Minds Conjure the Paranormal
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	SS	Rethinking Things

Thursday

	9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	CA	Capturing Chicago Through Photography
	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	CA	Bob Dylan—The Power of his Lyrics <i>(7 weeks, meets the first half of the term)</i>
	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	HIS	The Age of Reconstruction and Democracy
	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	LIT	Beyond the Golden Age: Contemporary British Mysteries <i>(7 weeks, meets the second half of the term)</i>
	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	LIT	Espionage <i>(7 weeks, meets the first half of the term)</i>
	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	LIT	Readings in Western Culture – Great Conversations 2, Great Books Foundation
	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	CI	Washington Week
	1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m.	CA	Box Office Bombs That Became Classics
	1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m.	CA	Movies and Sports
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	CA	Twyla Tharp <i>(7 weeks, meets the first half of the term)</i>
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	STMH	An Anatomy of Pain - Causes, Cures and Cultural Influences

EVANSTON IN-PERSON STUDY GROUPS

Monday

	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	CI	The New Yorker
	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	CA	Four Masters of the Short Story: Carver, Cheever, de Maupassant, Welty
	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	LIT	Best American Short Stories
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	CI	Power and Progress
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	CI	The Times, They Are A-changin'
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	LIT	Umberto Eco Times Two
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	SS	Poverty, By America <i>(7 weeks, meets the second half of the term)</i>

Continued on next page

EVANSTON IN-PERSON STUDY GROUPS, CONT.**Tuesday**

- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CI** Ezra Klein Podcasts - Join the Discussion
(7 weeks, meets the first half of the term)
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **HIS** The Monkey Trial
- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **STMH** Science in the News
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **SS** Last Call at The Hotel Imperial
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** Listening to Joni Mitchell
(7 weeks, meets the second half of the term)
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **LIT** A Virginia Woolf Trio
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **LIT** Byron - A Life in Ten Letters *(7 weeks, meets the first half of the term)*
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **SS** Our Inner Ape *(7 weeks, meets the first half of the term)*
- 1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m. **CA** From Print to Pictures, the Art of Film Adaptation: Here Come the Brits!
(7 weeks, meets the second half of the term)

Wednesday

- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** Creative Writing Workshop
- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** Documentary Films
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **HIS** Building the Brooklyn Bridge
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CI** The Atlantic
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** Just for Laughs, A Sample of American Humor Through the Years
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** Theater in Chicago
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **LIT** Poetry for Pleasure

Thursday

- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** Life, Love, and Laughter: A Nora Ephron Sojourn
(7 weeks, meets the first half of the term)
- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **HIS** What Hath God Wrought: US History 1815-1848
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **STMH** Who Knew? The Best Way To Enhance Your Well Being
(7 weeks, meets the second half of the term)
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **SS** The Story of Human History in Maps

VIRTUAL STUDY GROUPS**Monday**

- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CI** Bill Clinton: Citizen
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **HIS** The Strategists: Churchill, Stalin, FDR, Hitler and Mussolini
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** Writing Life Stories Group B
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **LIT** Literary Masters Goes to the Movies
- 4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m. **CA** BONUS GROUP: Let's Talk About the Movies (Monday)

Continued on next page

VIRTUAL STUDY GROUPS, CONT.

Tuesday

- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** Exploring the Visual Arts
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **STMH** Religion Explained: The Evolutionary Origins of Religious Thought
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** Exploring Foreign Films: A Global Cinematic Journey
(7 weeks, meets the first half of the term)
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** T. S. Eliot: His Life and Works
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** Tuesday at the Movies
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **HIS** War at the End of the World: MacArthur’s Forgotten Fight for New Guinea

Wednesday

- 8:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** Capturing Chicagoland through Photography
- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CI** Foreign Affairs
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **LIT** A Journey Through Classical Mythology
- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **LIT** Literature of Baseball: Once More Around the Park
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** All About Hollywood
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** Documentary Films
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **HIS** A New World Begins: The French Revolution
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **HIS** The People Versus the Politicians
(7 weeks, meets the first half of the term)

Thursday

- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CI** The Atlantic & The Economist
- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** Poetry in a **NEW** New Age
- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **SS** Shades of Gray
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CI** The Economist
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** New Fiction Writers Workshop
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **STMH** Exploring NASA’s Universe Through The NASA App
(7 weeks, meets the second half of the term)
- 4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m. **CA** BONUS GROUP: Let’s Talk About the Movies(Thursday)

Friday

- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **HIS** International Relations

7-WEEK STUDY GROUPS AT-A-GLANCE

How to Register for a 7-week Study Group

If you register for a 7-week study group, you may register for a second 7-week study group based on availability. Because the registration system does not recognize 1/2 credits, the office will have to assist with registering you for an optional second study group per the instructions below:

- Register yourself for one 7-week study group.
- If you wish to take a second 7-week study group, email the OLLI office with your choice: olli@northwestern.edu. (Please provide two or three options.)
- OLLI staff will register you for your second 7-week study group as quickly as possible and in the order received.
- If your 1st choice is filled you will be added to the wait list. OLLI staff will then attempt to register you for your 2nd choice. If it is also full, you will be added to that wait list as well.
- You will receive an automated email notifying you of the status (registered or waitlisted).

MEETS THE FIRST HALF OF THE SEMESTER (March 3–April 18)

Chicago

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	LIT	NEW Rereading the Poems of Emily Dickinson and Robert Frost
Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	CA	Bob Dylan—The Power of His Lyrics
Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	LIT	Espionage
Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	CA	NEW Twyla Tharp

Evanston

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	CA	NEW Life, Love, and Laughter: A Nora Ephron Sojourn
Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	CI	Ezra Klein Podcasts - Join the Discussion
Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	LIT	NEW Byron—A Life in Ten Letters
Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	SS	NEW Our Inner Ape

Virtual

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	CA	Exploring Foreign Films: A Global Cinematic Journey
Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	HIS	The People Versus the Politicians

MEETS THE SECOND HALF OF THE SEMESTER (April 21–June 9)

Chicago

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	CI	NEW 1968: The Year That Changed America
Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	HIS	NEW Book & Dagger: How Bookworms Beat the Nazis
Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	LIT	Beyond the Golden Age: Contemporary British Mysteries

Evanston

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	SS	NEW Poverty, By America
Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	STMH	NEW Who Knew? The Best Way To Enhance Your Well Being
Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	CA	NEW Listening to Joni Mitchell
Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m.	CA	From Print to Pictures, the Art of Film Adaptation: Here Come the Brits!

Virtual

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	STMH	NEW Exploring NASA's Universe Through The NASA App
-------------------------------	------	--



Northwestern
SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

OLLI SPRING 2025 SEMESTER • BEGINS MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2025

STUDY GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

ICON KEY

- | | |
|---|---|
| High level of discussion | Preparation: Roughly 1–2 hours per week |
| Medium level of discussion | Preparation: Less than 1 hour per week |
| Low level of discussion | Movies/documentaries shown |
| Participation Required | Access to streaming service required |
| Participation Strongly Encouraged | Kindle edition available |
| Participation Encouraged | Digital SLR camera required |
| Preparation: More than 2 hours per week | Digital camera or Smartphone required |

Chicago Campus Study Groups p. 11–23

Evanston Campus Study Groups p. 24–32

Virtual OLLI Anywhere Study Groups p. 33–42

CHICAGO STUDY GROUPS: MONDAY

BEGINS MARCH 3, 2025

Great Short Stories

LITERATURE

Julia Katz, Alan Goldberg

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

As Pulitzer Prize-winning author Stacy Schiff wrote in *The New York Times*, “A short story is by definition an odder, more eccentric creature than a novel; a trailer, a fling, a warm-up act, a bouillon cube, a championship game in one inning. Irresolution and ambiguity become it; it’s a first date rather than a marriage. When is it mightier than the novel? When its elisions speak as loudly as its lines.” If you enjoy reading fiction and want to explore the succinctness of the short story, join our study group. The very brevity of the form invites lively discussion and differing interpretations of the material. This study group gives a brief but fascinating introduction to a variety of authors. Each study group member acts as discussion leader for one or two stories of their choice, and also shares a brief biography of the story’s author. Two anthologies serve as texts. *The Best Short Stories 2024*, edited by Amor Towles with Jenny Minton Quigley (Vintage Books, 2024), contains short stories published in 2024. *The Oxford Book of American Short Stories*, edited by Joyce Carol Oates (Oxford University Press, 2012), has stories from the early 19th century to present.

**NEW Rereading the Poems of Emily Dickinson and Robert Frost** LITERATURE*Eli Libenson, Kevin McCann*

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. (7 weeks, meets the first half of the term)

Many of us were first introduced to the poems of Emily Dickinson and Robert Frost in high school. The poems captivated and delighted us. Many years have passed since then and we are older and much wiser. We will take another look at the poems of these two great American masters and see if they still resonate within us. Robert Frost once wrote that poetry is the renewal of words and Emily Dickinson referred to her poems as her letter to the world. Looking into these thought provoking, moving, and bold poems will provide us with a rich literary and personal experience. Our texts will be: *Dickinson: Selected Poems and Commentaries* by Helen Vendler (Harvard University Press, 2012) and any edition of *The Complete Poems of Robert Frost*. We look forward to your presence in class.

**NEW 1968: The Year That Changed America** CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES*Daryl Horn, Adrienne Weiss*

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets the second half of the term)

The polarization that plagues the nation today was likely born in 1968, a year that above all divided America. Hardly a week went by without reports of bombing and arson attacks from both the left and right. When a white supremacist murdered Martin Luther King, it set off riots and protests all around the country. The resulting political activism paved the way for the passage of the landmark Civil Rights Act. The Vietnam War was a big factor. By 1968, antiwar activism had merged with a broader countercultural movement. For the youth of America, the culture war was about rebelling against the conformity of the fifties, including puritanical attitudes about sex. Music was a major component of the culture. Marijuana and psychedelics, though illegal, became widely available. The relationship between the two was undeniable. To quote Bob Dylan, “Everybody must get stoned.” The antiwar movement had a major impact on politics. Lyndon Johnson was forced to abandon his re-election campaign and instead Hubert Humphrey ran, subsequently losing to Richard Nixon. In our study group we will tackle all of these trends, the cultural as well as the political. It should give us a lot to talk about.



New Yorker

CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

Barbara Glatt, Marylyn Miller, Dale Walters

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Inside its famous covers and beyond the cartoons, *The New Yorker* is dedicated to quality, topical writings, and ideas. Our study group discussions will be as varied as the contents of this distinguished magazine. Join us as we explore art, technology, politics, culture, medicine, fashion, and commentary. You will find your current view of our world expanded. A current online or print subscription of *The New Yorker Magazine* is required. All study group participants are encouraged to be a discussion leader at least once during the 14 week term. Although listed as in-person, this class is considered hybrid with the ability to attend in-person or virtually via Zoom.



Writing Life Stories, Group A

CREATIVE ARTS

Steven Meiss, Janet Voss

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Why write your story? Writing helps us document and reflect on experiences, revisit old memories, and remember people who have made a difference. It allows us to reflect on and examine past times from our present perspective. You might include photographs. Memoirs can also be a collection of personal essays or poems. We write up to 700 words weekly and bring copies of our work for each class participant to take home, review, and write comments. In the subsequent week, we read our pieces aloud to receive constructive feedback from the class. From time to time, we will read aloud excerpts from popular memoirs. We post each weekly memoir on our My OLLI webpage. This page also contains reference materials about how to approach memoir writing. Whether you are an experienced writer or just starting, our class is here to help. We work together to tackle the challenges of organizing and clarifying our writing, deciding what to include, what to leave out, and what style to follow. This is an excellent opportunity to write a story about one or more events and chapters of your life.



NEW

Book & Dagger: How Bookworms Beat the Nazis

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

William Barker

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets the second half of the term)

At the start of WWII, the US found itself in dire need of an intelligence agency. The Office of Strategic Services (OSS), predecessor to today's CIA, was quickly formed—and, in an effort to fill its ranks with experts, the OSS turned to academia. Suddenly, literature professors, librarians, and historians were training to perform undercover operations and investigative work—and these surprising spies would go on to profoundly shape both the course of the war and the nature of future intelligence efforts. In *Book and Dagger*, (Ecco, 2020), Elyse Graham draws on interviews and declassified records to tell the story of several of these scholar-agents. She argues that this was not solely a war of soldiers and scientists. This was also the historian's war, the book collector's war, the artist's war. It was the professors' war. She tells this story in a jaunty style, including accounts of spycraft and deception. The genius of allied intelligence was its employment of a vast range of gifted amateurs. Come join us in learning about this unusual chapter in the history of the war.



NEW “We band of brothers…”

LITERATURE

Robert Elliott, Alex Lippitt

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Shakespeare’s first historical tetralogy, the Henriad, consists of four history plays: Richard II, Henry IV, Part 1, Henry IV, Part 2 and Henry V, and includes some of the Bard’s most memorable speeches (“We few, we happy few, we band of brothers…”) and most memorable characters (Prince Hal, Hotspur and the incomparable Falstaff). Over fourteen weeks we’ll read and discuss all four plays and, after each, watch and discuss the relevant episode of *The Hollow Crown*, a 2013 British TV miniseries based on the Henriad, starring such luminaries as Ben Whishaw, Tom Hiddleston, Jeremy Irons and Simon Russell Beale (as Falstaff.) Prepare thee for a bumpy ride!

**CHICAGO STUDY GROUPS: TUESDAY**

BEGINS MARCH 4, 2025

Rolling Stone’s Top Rock and Roll Songs

CREATIVE ARTS

Howard Tanzman, Tim Atkins, Laurie Toth

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

In 2004, *Rolling Stone* published their list of the top 500 songs of all time. In this study group, we will continue our exploration of this list by reviewing song numbers 210–294. We will listen to each song together and discuss the lyrics, melody, riffs, and other aspects of the song. We will share when and where we first heard the song and evaluate aspects of the band and their works. As a group we will decide whether we agree with *Rolling Stone* on their rankings. At the end of the 14 weeks, we will do our own poll for the top songs of all time. Join us as we have fun learning and reminiscing.

**NEW *The Guns of August***

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Dan Burns, Dave Anderson

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Barbara Tuchman’s *The Guns of August* was first published in the spring of 1962. The following autumn of that year, our nation was confronted by the Cuban Missile Crisis, probably the most perilous moment of the Cold War. Confronting the crisis, President John F. Kennedy made the book compulsory reading for his advisors. There was a great deal of quite practical interest in how wars begin. History books date as scholarship moves on. A minority continue to be read. *The Guns of August* (Ballantine Books, 1962) is just such a book. Tuchman believed the First World War spawned the Second, and the Second had spawned the Cold War. It was the fount of all the evil that defined the twentieth century, and the catastrophes visited on those who lived through those times. With keen attention to the personalities of leaders in London, Berlin, Paris, and St. Petersburg, Tuchman organizes the elements of a complex, multifaceted reality into a compelling drama of national ambitions and individual egos. Winston Churchill characterized the first thirty days of World War I as “a drama never surpassed.” *The Guns of August* tells us why. Join us as we revisit this classic account of human folly.



NEW *The Settling of North America*

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Richard Krantz, Margaret Schilt

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Humans arrived in North America around 13,000 BC., but permanent settlements of Europeans in North America did not begin until the late 1400s. Unlike the earlier human settlers who found a virgin land they made their home, the Europeans who arrived in the 1500's to the 1700's encountered multiple existing civilizations, radically different from themselves, and from each other, resulting in cultural clashes, violence, death, and eventually new ways of life. We will explore the settling of North America, using Alan Taylor's book *American Colonies: The Settling of North America* (Penguin Books, 2001) (Book 1 of The Penguin History of America). Taylor begins with Columbus in 1492, covering the European colonies on the east coast and Canada to the movements of settlers across the continent to the west coast. His focus includes not just the relationships between the colonizers and the indigenous peoples but also the impact of events and decisions of the European empires on the settlers. Join us for illuminating discussions about the early colonization of North America.



NEW *The Secret Life of Plants and Trees*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE & HEALTH

Robert Rifkin, Robert Rich

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Have you ever thought about plants and trees beyond an appreciation of their beauty and essence to how essential they are to life? Newer research has yielded a more complete understanding about the secret lives of plants and trees. Our study group will delve into such questions as how they are sustained, how they interact, do plants or trees recognize each other, do they have memory, what are their interactions with each other, with animals, birds, and insects? What role do plants and trees play in climate control? Readings in *The Light Eaters: The New Science of Plant Intelligence* (Harper Collins, 2024) by Zoe Schlanger and *The Hidden Life of Trees: What they Feel, How They Communicate* (Greystone Books, 2016, originally published 2015) by Peter Wohlleben will give us a glimpse into the struggles and strategies of plants and trees to evolve and sustain themselves and their importance on a global level. We will supplement the books with articles, videos, guest speakers and nature encounters.



NEW *Adventures to The Tipping Point*

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Ed Klinenberg, Lee Eisenstaedt

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

This study group is based on the *New York Times* best-selling book by Malcom Gladwell, *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make A Big Difference* (Back Bay Books, 2002). Gladwell has written six other NY Times bestsellers, and he has won many awards from a long list of organizations and publications. He has been named one of TIME Magazine's 100 most influential people, and Foreign Policy's Top Global Thinkers. *The Tipping Point* will enable participants in this study group to explore fascinating ideas from a variety of fields, including psychology, epidemiology, sociology, group dynamics, anthropology, business, and others. We will examine segments of the book in detail, and we will strive to create intellectual excitement in each weekly session. We will see how seemingly small ideas can actually change the world. If you are interested in learning more about how society really works, and ways we can improve it, this study group is for you. If you would like to strengthen your ability to convince a person or a group to adopt a specific idea, join this study group. If you would enjoy learning about how some specific ideas, concepts, and products have started small and then boomed into huge successes, enroll in this study group.



NEW The Creative Spark

CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

Janet Lang, Amy Pobst, Margaret Gilman

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Do you ever wonder what drives the choreographer, the composer, the novelist, or the entrepreneur to create something new? Do you sometimes doubt that you are creative at all? Creativity is not just a gift for the chosen few, it is a process that can be learned. Join us as we explore the creative process across a wide range of disciplines to draw insights we can apply to our everyday lives. We will read *The Creative Habit: Learn It and Use It for Life* (Simon and Schuster Paperbacks 2003) by Twyla Tharp, one of America's greatest choreographers. She describes universal principles applicable to everyone and provides some engaging and provocative creative exercises we will discuss in class. We will supplement our reading with selected videos, podcasts and TED lectures on creativity. Guest speakers from diverse disciplines will join us in class to share their craft. We also expect to have field trips to The Garage, Northwestern's incubator lab for entrepreneurship, and to the Hubbard Street Dance studio to talk to creatives at work. You may find that you are more creative than you think.

**NEW He Wore Them All Out:
The 33,000 Days of Quincy Jones, Jr.**

CREATIVE ARTS

Kevin McCann, Tim Atkins

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

“You only live 26,000 days, and so I’m telling you, I’m gonna wear all of them out. And if I get to 80, that’ll be 29,000. They’re gonna know we came through here.” With the recent passing of Quincy Jones, his words are notable. Quincy Jones certainly lived each and every day of his historic life. From the 1950s until his recent death, Quincy Jones broke down racial barriers in entertainment (music, film, TV and Broadway), becoming not only “the first ever,” but one of the greatest ever. And, he helped shape popular culture and technology, well-beyond creating “Thriller” and “We Are The World.” By reviewing Quincy Jones’ life and work, we will attempt to better understand an under-discussed part of America’s post-war evolution, as well as uncover lessons he left us for improving our future. We will review seminal compositions for film, TV, Broadway, as well as jazz and pop music. We will view video excerpts of films, TV shows, music performances, and interview clips. We will read some of Quincy’s own thoughts on his life, philosophy, creativity, and America itself. Lively discussion of this remarkable man will take place each week.

**Movies and Survival II: Adventurers**

CREATIVE ARTS

Bill McGuffage, Bob Rifkin, Paul Hurder

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m.

“Adventure” is defined as “an unusual, exciting, typically hazardous experience or activity.” In the Fall 2024 study group: Movies And Survival, we watched and discussed films about real or fictional protagonists who accidentally or inadvertently find themselves in dangerous places or situations from which they must escape to survive. For this session, the films will also deal with the fight for survival. But here most of the protagonists intentionally put themselves at high risk. Some of these are true accounts; others are fictional, but all are suspenseful, exciting, and will prompt lively post-film discussions. So join us for such acclaimed adventure movies including: *The African Queen*, *Moby Dick*, *Lawrence Of Arabia*, *The Man Who Would Be King*, *Shackleton*, *Master And Commander*, and more.



Central Asia in the Shadow of Russia and China

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Ann Rusnak, Dennis Carlin

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Central Asia—sandwiched between Russia and China—is a vast region that today comprises five nations, collectively known as the “Stans” and the Xinjiang region of China. *Central Asia: A New History from the Imperial Conquests to the Present* (Princeton University Press, 2021) by Adeb Khalid, a professor at Carleton College in Minnesota, provides us with an erudite and fascinating analysis of the history of this area, filled with interesting thoughts and perspectives. Praised as “a stunning achievement,” “a masterful work” and “a superb work of scholarship” by academic reviewers, the book draws together the legacies of the Russian and Chinese imperial conquests of Central Asia to provide a comprehensive and compelling understanding of the region’s political, cultural, and social transformations. Sophisticated but accessible, Khalid gives us an unrivalled modern history of the region as an integrated whole that links Central Asia to the wider global history of colonialism and its afterlives. Join us to learn about this fascinating part of the world.



NEW The Information Web: How Networks Shaped Human History

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE & HEALTH

Bob Myers, Steve Barrigar

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Over the last 100,000 years, we have accumulated enormous power. But power isn’t wisdom. Why are we so good at accumulating more information and power, but far less successful at acquiring wisdom? The main argument is that humankind gains enormous power by building large networks of cooperation, but the way these networks are built predisposes us to use that power unwisely. Our problem is a network problem, or even more specifically, it is an information problem. Our source to tackle this topic is the book *Nexus: A Brief History of Information Networks from the Stone Age to AI* by Yuval Noah Harari (Random House, 2024). *Nexus* looks through the long lens of human history to consider how the flow of information has shaped us, and our world. Information is not the raw material of truth; neither is it a mere weapon. *Nexus* explores the hopeful middle ground between these extremes.



CHICAGO STUDY GROUPS: WEDNESDAY

BEGINS MARCH 5, 2025

NEW Haiti and the Dominican Republic

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

David Burian, Matt Corey

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Relying on Laurent Dubois’s book *Haiti: The Aftershocks of History* (Picador, 2013), a New York Times Notable Book of the Year, our first eight weeks will focus on Haiti’s history: the birth of a Black nation, Voodoo religion, and occupation by the U.S. Marines. The next three weeks will cover the current violence in Haiti, including gang leader “Barbecue.” We will supplement the book with magazine articles and videos such as “The Battle for Haiti” by PBS’ *Frontline*. The last three sessions will focus on the Dominican Republic and its contrasts with Haiti despite their sharing a border on the same island. We will supplement readings with published articles that will be provided by the coordinators. We encourage participants to incorporate additional material.



NEW Julius Rosenwald— Sears Founder and Philanthropist

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Rosemary O'Shea, Martha Bills

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Please join us as we examine and discuss the remarkable life of Julius Rosenwald, who made major contributions to the economic growth of Chicago as well as its cultural and educational institutions. He is best known as the leader of Sears, but also for establishing the Rosenwald Fund which donated millions in matching funds to promote vocational and technical education. His collaboration with Booker T. Washington resulted in the construction and funding of over 5000 Southern rural schools for African American children. He was also the principal founder and backer of the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, to which he gave more than \$5 million and served as president from 1927 to 1932 although he declined to have his name on the building. Rosenwald was concerned about the living conditions for working people in Chicago and was responsible for building the first YMCA for Black men in Chicago and the Michigan Boulevard Gardens Apartment complex which is still standing. We will read *Julius Rosenwald, The Man Who Built Sears, Roebuck and Advanced the Cause of Black Education in the American South* by Peter Ascoli (Indiana University Press, 2006).



NEW The Constitution and Founders' Second Thoughts

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Richard Krantz, Margaret Schilt, Joseph Hinkel

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

The drafters of the Constitution were none too sure that their experiment in government would be successful. Several among them had doubts as they aged that the Republic they had carefully created would long endure. Join us as we read and discuss two books. In *Miracle at Philadelphia: The Story of the Constitutional Convention May to September 1787* (Little, Brown 1986) Catherine Drinker Bowen takes us back to the summer of 1787 as the new Constitution is crafted. In *Fears of a Setting Sun* (Princeton University Press, 2021) Dennis C. Rasmussen shows us the later disillusionments of Washington, Hamilton, Adams, and Jefferson and why they thought the Republic would not last long beyond their generation. Washington's chair at the Convention had a carving of a sun on its back. Madison quoted Franklin in his notes: "I have...looked at that [sun] behind the President without being able to tell whether it was rising or setting: But now at length I have the happiness to know that it is a rising and not a setting sun." Franklin was right, then. But why did other founders come to fear that the Republic would not last? Do those fears resonate today?



*Lifelong learning...
can help keep your brain healthy.*

NEW Hemingway's Short Stories, Best-Loved Paintings, and Writing with AI

LITERATURE

Diane Dunne, Timothy Atkins

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Ernest Hemingway is a cultural icon: a literary force, haunted war veteran, expatriate intellectual, art collector, and archetype of adventurous masculinity. The author's understated, much-admired writing style is best demonstrated in his many short stories. We will explore the man's complexities and passions through the paintings he admired and 17 unforgettable stories of love, war, the sporting life, and a lost generation. Some of his seven novels, six short-story collections and two non-fiction works are classics of American literature and earned him the 1954 Nobel Prize in Literature. He has been the subject of films, biographies, blogs, and Ken Burns' recent Hemingway PBS documentary. To delve deeper into our understanding, we may use AI chatbots to create our own Hemingway-like memoirs or short stories. Videos and resources on short story reading, art appreciation and AI chatbots will be provided. We will read *The Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway: The Hemingway Library Edition* (Scribner, 2018) which presents some of his classics alongside rare and unpublished material including early drafts and correspondence and his essay on the art of the short story.



Economist A

CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

Jerry Levine, Joseph Lane, Larry Winer

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

The Economist magazine is known for its informative and thought-provoking reporting on political, social and economic developments around the world. Join us as we review several articles selected from the current week's issue as catalysts for informed and lively discussion on the critical topics of our time. Subscribing or having access to current editions of *The Economist* (print or digital) is required for being able to participate in the healthy discussions about world affairs. Information on subscriptions, student rates and special rates are available at 1-800-456-6086 or www.economistsubscriptions.com.



NEW Introduction to Landscape Architecture

CREATIVE ARTS

Bill Lipsman, Sandy Bredine

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Landscape architecture makes cities better places to live and connects structures to their location. During this study group, we will look at concepts of landscape architecture and how it is used in our cities, using YouTube videos, in class lectures by experts and class discussion by participants. And then, as the weather improves, we will visit parks and buildings in the Chicago area. You will have an opportunity to do research on one week's topics, perhaps in collaboration with another study group member, prior to discussion in class. There may be admission fees to some of the sites we visit; each participant will be responsible for their transportation to these locations.



Off the Beaten Path: Films of the New Millennium—Part 5

CREATIVE ARTS

Paul Hurder, Nadine Caputo

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m.

Close to 900 feature films are released just in the United States each year, with many more worldwide. Even the most determined cinephile can only see a small fraction of each year's new offerings. We may see many of the blockbusters, the Oscar winners and the indie films that briefly catch fire. However, since the turn of the new millennium, there have been scores of fine films that failed to find a wide audience. This study group looks to present a further selection of films of this type from the 21st century. This session's films come primarily from the United States, but also selections from other parts of the world. These films share a deep investigation of human emotion and motivation, reveal fully developed characters and present engaging plots that capture the viewers' attention and engagement. We will watch the films as a group followed by a discussion led by that week's presenter. The discussions will revolve around each film's place in film history, the genre, the arcs of the major characters, the symbolism, the plot structure, cinematography, lighting and music as well as additional aspects unique to each film. Join us to enjoy some overlooked gems.



NEW *Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty*

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Laurie Toth, Tim Atkins, Trudy Hobfoll

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

We will be delving into the lives of the Vanderbilt family as told through the eyes of Anderson Cooper's *Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty* (Harper Collins, 2021). He will take us on a journey back to his great-great-great-grandfather, the great Cornelius Vanderbilt, who built the empire in shipping and railroads in the 1800's, followed by the descendants whose lives were shaped for better or worse by the great gilded age fortune.



NEW *Why Our Minds Conjure the Paranormal*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE & HEALTH

Carol Dietz, Dorothy Balabanos, Pamela Radke

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Ghostly encounters, alien abduction, reincarnation, talking to the dead, UFO sightings, out-of-body and near death experiences and inexplicable coincidences. Are these legitimate phenomena? If not, how should we go about understanding them? In his new book, *The Science of Weird Shit: Why Our Minds Conjure the Paranormal* (MIT Press, Cambridge, MA 2024), Dr. Chris French, Professor Emeritus at the University of London and founder of the Anomalistic Psychology Unit and former editor of the *Skeptical Inquirer*, investigates paranormal claims to discover what lurks behind them. He provides scientific, authoritative, evidence-based explanations for a wide range of mysterious phenomena, and then goes further to draw out lessons with wider applications to other aspects of modern society where critical thinking is urgently needed. French maintains that our belief in such phenomena is neither ridiculous nor trivial and insists that such claims can tell us a great deal about the human mind. Critics and readers call the book, "enlightening, entertaining, measured and mind-expanding." Supplemental articles, videos, speakers that both support and refute French's findings will enrich our discussions. Join us for a provocative, enlightening and lively learning experience into the unknown, unbelievable and unexplained.



NEW Rethinking Things

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Joseph Hinkel, Dixie Johnson

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

In a world of aggressive certitude, perhaps it is the perfect time to rethink what we already know. In this course we will question if, when, and how to rethink our decisions. Adam Grant, an organizational psychologist and Wharton's top rated professor for 7 consecutive years, has written a book *Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know* (Penguin Books, 2021) which will serve as our guide for this class. In addition to reading and discussing the book we will refer to podcasts, Youtubes and other readings. We will also test Grant's techniques by performing experiments utilizing his concepts. Our goal in this course will be to understand whether there are benefits to questioning our beliefs and what techniques might be available to assure we come to a better answer. Our hero, Daniel Kahneman, called the book "Brilliant... guaranteed to make you rethink your opinions and your most important decisions." Join us.



CHICAGO STUDY GROUPS: THURSDAY

BEGINS MARCH 6, 2025

Capturing Chicago Through Photography

CREATIVE ARTS

Eric Cooper, Barbara Schatzman, Jeffery Semel

Thursday, 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Practice and grow your photography skills! This study group has both an outside field shoot and in-classroom component. Every other week the group visits notable Chicago area locations to practice a variety of camera techniques while capturing images. Following the shoot, group members upload their images to our shared online account. The following week members meet in class to review and critique images, share composition tips, discuss best practices, and view member presentations on inspiring photographers and photography techniques. This study group is for photographers with a working knowledge of aperture, shutter speed, and ISO, as well as dedicated beginners who want learn how to use these camera features from more experienced study group members. While a DSLR or mirrorless camera with interchangeable lenses and manual control is preferred for assignments, we welcome members who are experienced in capturing photos with a smart phone. While knowledge of editing photographs with post-processing software is not a study group requirement, we will discuss and demonstrate how post-processing features can enhance a photograph. Join us to meet and learn from others who share a similar passion for photography.



Bob Dylan—The Power of His Lyrics

CREATIVE ARTS

Tim Atkins, Joe Hayes

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. (7 weeks, meets the first half of the term)

You've heard the music, but have you absorbed the lyrics to the songs that established Bob Dylan as the poet of a generation? Joyce Carol Oates describes Dylan's albums as transformative: "the genuine power, originality and heartrending pathos...were like nothing we'd encountered before." Dylan's Nobel Prize Special Citation described his "profound impact on popular music and American Culture, marked by lyrical composition of extraordinary poetic power." We will discuss the lyrics and music of Dylan songs including their historical context, analysis of lyrics, impact on our culture, and their relevance today. In addition to discussing several songs per session, we will show videos of Dylan songs we will be discussing. Join us for provocative and thoughtful discussions on Dylan lyrical masterpieces.



The Age of Reconstruction and Democracy

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Rich Dubberke, Dea Brennan, Barry Kaplan

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

At home and abroad Reconstruction was, as W.E.B. Dubois wrote, “...the greatest and most important step toward world democracy of all men and all races ever taken in the modern world.” We will be reading two relatively short books: first, *Lincoln’s Last Speech* by Louis B. Masur (Oxford University Press, 2015, *Pivotal Moments in American History*). This book gives the evolution of Lincoln’s thinking and the national debate around reconstruction, and compares Lincoln’s reconciliatory framework to the harsher ideas of the radicals in Congress and those ideas of President Andrew Johnson. The second book, *The Age of Reconstruction: How Lincoln’s New Birth of Freedom Remade the World* by Don Doyle (Princeton University Press, 2024) looks beyond post Civil War America to tell the story of how the Union victory, emancipation, and Lincoln’s assassination triggered an international reaction that drove European empires out of America, hastened the end of slavery in Latin America, and ignited a number of democratic reforms in Europe. This class will give us a better understanding of Reconstruction, not only for the the United States but also the lesser known story of its influence throughout Europe and the Americas.



Beyond the Golden Age: Contemporary British Mysteries

LITERATURE

Marybeth Schroeder, Martha Bills

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. (7 weeks, meets the second half of the term)

While our favorite writers and detectives of the Golden Age are timeless, the rich tradition of British mysteries continues in the present. A vast number of mysteries from cozies to epistolary novels to psychological thrillers and police procedurals are published every year. For this session of British mysteries, we have selected a sample of books written over the last several years. We look forward to reading and discussing these modern takes on classic detection in this study group. Our titles include *The Cuckoo’s Calling* by Robert Galbraith (Mulholland Books, 2014); *The Twyford Code* (Atria Books, 2023), Janice Hallett; *Marple: Twelve New Mysteries* (Harper Collins, 2022), edited by Naomi Anderson and others; *The Long Call: An Inspector Matthew Venn Novel* (Minotaur, 2023), Ann Cleeves; *The Last Word* (Mariner Books, 2024), Elly Griffiths; and *The Word is Murder: A Hawthorne and Horowitz Mystery* (Harper Perennial, 2019), Anthony Horowitz.



Espionage

LITERATURE

Michael Goodkind, Dory Rand

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. (7 weeks, meets the first half of the term)

For this Spring study group, we are going to continue our exploration of Espionage. We will read one book per week and have lively discussion about the settings, characters, plots, writing styles, and differences among the books, which were written over a period of about 80 years. The books we will read are: *Assignment in Brittany* by Helen MacInnes (Titan Books 2013), Original 1939; *The Manchurian Candidate* by Richard Condon (Orion 2013), Original 1959; *The Odessa File* by Frederick Forsythe (G.P.Putnam’s Sons 2012), Original 1972; *Paris Spring* by James Naughtie (Head of Zeus 2016); *Breaking Cover* by Dame Stella Rimington (Bloomsbury Publishing Plc 2017); and *Slow Horses* by Mick Heron (Soho Press 2020). All books are available in hardcover, paperback, and Kindle versions.



Readings in Western Culture— Great Conversations 2, Great Books Foundation

LITERATURE

Marcie Marcovitz, Nancy Kelly-Martin

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Reading selections curated by the Great Books Foundation provides an opportunity to challenge one's understanding in dialogue with others equally interested in exploring the Western canon. Discussions encourage participants to exchange ideas generated by some of our culture's best writings, from the Bible to the Middle Ages to the Enlightenment to contemporary America. Selections include prose, philosophy, poetry and essays. For the Spring 2025 semester will use *The Great Conversations 2* (Great Books Foundation c. 2006) available in paperback through the Great Books Foundation (College & Book Groups Section) and Amazon (New and Used). We will also read the still controversial *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil* (Penguin Classics, 2006) by Hannah Arendt. Other authors include Carver, Descartes, Donne, Dostoevsky, Melville, Poe, Synge among others. Please join us for lively and thought-provoking discussions in one of OLLI's long standing study groups.



Washington Week

CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

Leonard Grossman, Justin Joseph, Marion Derringer, Laurie Richter

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

We have a new president for the next four years. What will the new administration's priorities be? How will President Trump address the many pressing issues facing our country including health care, global warming, immigration, reproductive rights, taxes, Artificial Intelligence, the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East and more? Will we see a difference in how he treats blue states and cities? The world remains an unstable place with the rise of autocracies and the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East. We try to make sense of it all by providing a forum for discussion of news focusing on Washington and beyond, empowering OLLI members to understand different perspectives on the federal government and other areas of national concern. We will focus on current news stories selected by the participants. This is a fast-paced study group. Study group members are expected to be (or become) keen observers of national news through many different sources. Reading assignments and topics will be distributed by email. Differing points of view are respectfully welcomed.



Box Office Bombs that Became Classics

CREATIVE ARTS

Tom Swanstrom, Dennis Carlin, Arni Miller

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m.

In this study group we will view American movies that, when released, were often trashed by the critics and bombed at the box office. Many of these movies now are on the lists of top films of all time. An example would be *It's a Wonderful Life* which was hated by the critics and snubbed by moviegoers. RKO thought so little of the film that it let its copyright expire in 1974, releasing the movie to the public domain where it could be broadcast without fees. Now it is considered one of the best American films ever made. Films being considered are: *Bringing Up Baby* (Hawks, 1938), *The Magnificent Ambersons* (Welles, 1942), *Ace in the Hole* (Wilder, 1951), *The Night of the Hunter* (Laughton, 1955), *Sweet Smell of Success* (Mackendrick, 1957), *A Face in the Crowd* (Kazan, 1957), *Lonely Are the Brave* (Miller, 1962), *Willie Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* (Stuart, 1971), *Harold and Maude* (Ashby, 1971), *Blade Runner* (Scott, 1982), *The Thing* (Carpenter, 1982), *The Shawshank Redemption* (Darabont, 1994), *The Big Lebowski* (Coen Brothers, 1998) and *Children of Men* (Cuaron, 2006). Please join us as we discuss why these films transitioned from flops to classics.



Movies and Sports

CREATIVE ARTS

Bill McGuffage, Steve Greska

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m.

Movie and sports events are two of the most popular forms of entertainment. This study group will examine how sports-themed films shape the perception of athletes, teams, coaches, owners, and the sports culture itself. Each week we will watch and discuss such films as: *The Natural*, *Hoosiers*, *Remember the Titans*, *42: The Jackie Robinson Story*, *Jerry Maguire*, *Moneyball*, and more. Some of these films are based on true stories; some are fictional. A few films deal with the downside of sports—the good guys and bad guys on and off the field. Others are inspirational, but without the clichés and contrivances of “back in the day” sports films. So join us to view these highly acclaimed films about the wide world of amateur and professional sports and for the lively discussions that follow.



NEW Twyla Tharp

CREATIVE ARTS

Carole Kagan, Kay Burnett

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets the first half of the term)

Twyla Tharp has been making dances for over 60 years, and at age 82 shows no sign of stopping. The Twyla Tharp dance company will be performing at the Harris Theatre on April 10 and 12 as part of its 60th anniversary tour, which provides a perfect opportunity to look back at her life and work. We will view a PBS American Masters program entitled *Twyla Moves*, clips of performances of some of her seminal works, a video of the tribute performance at the Kennedy Center Honors in 2008, and a live performance at the Harris Theatre in mid-April. Tharp has also written on the subject of healthy aging. We will explore that during the course.



NEW An Anatomy of Pain— Causes, Cures and Cultural Influences

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE & HEALTH

Susan Salpeter, Misty Bauman, Bill King

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

We have all experienced pain. But pain is a much more complex subject than just its physical manifestation. In this study group we will not only discuss the biology of pain and its treatment, but other factors such as psychology, social influences and economics that influence how we experience and treat pain. We will also review how pain has been viewed throughout history by physicians, philosophers and religions. The study group will also review current scientific thinking about pain and how best to treat it, including both traditional western medicine and alternative/complementary treatments. Our primary source will be *An Anatomy of Pain: How the Body and the Mind Experience and Endure Physical Suffering* (Simon and Schuster, 2021) by Abdul-Ghaaliq Lalkhen, a member of the Faculty of Pain Medicine affiliated to the Royal College of Anesthetists, supplemented by articles and videos.



EVANSTON STUDY GROUPS: MONDAY

BEGINS MARCH 3, 2025

The New Yorker

CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

Susan Gaud, Mary Watt, Jeffrey Less

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

The *New Yorker* magazine has won multiple awards for its creative coverage of art, technology, politics, personalities, medicine, movies, fiction, fashion, and culture. In each session of this study group, we will examine the varied contents of this distinguished magazine. We will review the current issue from the cover to the cartoons and everything in between. Then we will explore a previously assigned article in depth. A volunteer who has chosen the article will lead the discussion. A print or digital subscription to the magazine is necessary. Conversations will be lively and lead to expanded knowledge.


**Four Masters of the Short Story:
Carver, Cheever, de Maupassant, Welty**

CREATIVE ARTS

Margot Wallace, Peter Morris

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Stories portray the details of everyday life and people—the human comedy. The four master storytellers in this group, and their stories come from the American Northwest, New England, France and Mississippi – different cultures, different eras, and different characters we'll come to know as well as we know ourselves. Raymond Carver, John Cheever, Guy de Maupassant, and Eudora Welty introduce readers to personalities, settings and situations that challenge our understanding of the world and then make us believers in its humanity. With two stories from different authors each week chosen by study group members, we will explore, contrast, and discover universal themes among idiosyncratic situations and characters. The texts we will use are as follows: Raymond Carver, *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love: Stories* (Vintage, 1989); John Cheever, *The Stories of John Cheever*, (Vintage, 2000); Guy de Maupassant, *The Best Short Stories*, (Wordsworth Classics, 1997, 1999); Eudora Welty, *The Collected Stories of Eudora Welty*, (Mariner, 1980).

**Best American Short Stories**

LITERATURE

Sandy Robbins, Randee Phillips

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Short stories are carefully written gems of literature. They combine compelling characters, drama, and descriptive language, which lead to lively and thought-provoking discussions. Led by a different member of our class each week, we look closely at characterizations, plot, and themes. We may not always agree, but we always learn from each other each time we are together. Our weekly discussions explore works by up and coming, as well as established authors. You will have the opportunity to lead a discussion for a story of your choice. Our texts are *The Scribner Anthology of Contemporary Short Fiction*, Lex Williford and Michael Martone, Editors, (Scribner, 2007) and *The Best American Short Stories 2024*, Heidi Pitlor and Lauren Groff, Editors, (HarperCollins, 2024). From time to time, we read the works of guest authors who then join us to add their insights. If you enjoy reading fiction and are interested in exploring the power of the short story, our study group is for you.



NEW *Power and Progress*

CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

Gary Benz, Bob Ingersoll, Mounif El-Youssef

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Please join us in reading the latest book by two recent economics Nobel Prize winning authors who cover one thousand years of technological achievements and their effects on world prosperity. *Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity* by Daron Acemoglu and Simon Johnson (Hachett Books 2024), tells the story of how choices people make regarding technology can affect the material progress of societies. The book is said to be “a convincing attack on today’s dysfunctional economy plus admirable suggestions for correcting matters”. Combining social and political history with economics makes for a fun and enlightening read. The second half of *Power and Progress* zeros in on today’s digital and biological technologies and how we can control our decisions regarding them should affect our future. This is a timely topic in view of the global populist movement. Imagine the fun our class discussions will be.



NEW *The Times, They Are A-changin’*

CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

Deb Filipiak

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

In January 2024, the Washington Post published an article that claimed a major economic and social crisis seems to be on the horizon. The article quoted predictions from several different perspectives, all of them pointing to the 2030s as the time this change will occur. In this study group we will read about and discuss some of the economic and demographic factors contributing to this change. We will look at historian Neil Howe’s *The Fourth Turning is Here* (Simon & Schuster, 2023). Using demographic data, Howe posits that human history follows predictable cycles. He argues that the next turning will be similar to changes experienced in the 1760s, 1850s and 1920s. We’ll also look at Martin Wolf’s *The Crisis of Democratic Capitalism* (Penguin Books, 2023). Wolf argues that the change will come about because of an inability to generate strong economic growth, which leads to greater economic inequality. He offers a number of policy reforms that he believes can stave off the movement we see in the world today, where authoritarianism is on the rise. Join us as we review the causes and possible solutions to these predicted political and economic changes.



NEW *Umberto Eco Times Two*

LITERATURE

Beverly Snell, Roberta Rakove, Angela Pisano

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Why read Umberto Eco? Umberto Eco’s internationally best-selling novels reflect his interest in medievalism, philosophy, semiotics (the study of signs and symbols), cultural criticism, and political and social commentary. In this study group, we will examine how two of his best known and most popular works incorporate these themes. We will begin with his 1980 novel *The Name of the Rose* (HarperVia, 2023), an historical murder mystery set in a 14th century Italian monastery, and also watch the 1986 film version, directed by Jean-Jacques Annaud and starring Sean Connery. We will follow up with Eco’s 1988 novel *Foucault’s Pendulum* (HarperVia, 2023), about a group of occult researchers who create a conspiracy theory involving the Templars and the Foucault pendulum. Any edition of the books may be used, and both books are available in hard copy, ebook, and audiobook from the library and online. The film is also available from the library and for rent from multiple streaming platforms. Come join us as we examine and enjoy Umberto Eco times two!



NEW *Poverty, By America*

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Carmen Garcia Ruiz, Kate McKeon

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets the second half of the term)

How is it that the richest country in the world has the highest level of poverty among developed nations? In *Poverty, By America* (Crown 2023), sociologist Matthew Desmond passionately argues that tens of millions of Americans do not end up poor simply because of bad luck or personal failure. He also finds systemic forces insufficient as an explanation. Alongside those two narratives, Desmond identifies a third culprit: the role of everyday choices and actions taken by middle-class and wealthy Americans. The Pulitzer Prize winner for *Evicted* outlines solutions that require individual agency as well as corporate accountability and government intervention. Desmond is Professor of Sociology at Princeton University and a recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship. Join us as we explore the dynamics that perpetuate widespread precarity in the midst of astonishing affluence.



EVANSTON STUDY GROUPS: TUESDAY

BEGINS MARCH 4, 2025

Ezra Klein Podcasts—Join the Discussion

CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

Dan Coha, Sara Stewart

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. (7 weeks, meets the first half of the term)

Care to engage in a conversation on something that matters? Join us as we delve into contemporary political, social, and economic issues through a nuanced, critical lens. This study group is centered on Ezra Klein's 60–90-minute podcasts, listened to in advance. Klein is an author, political analyst and New York Times journalist. Each session focuses on a different podcast episode, analyzing Klein's interviews and commentary on a vast array of topics, such as polarization in politics, climate change, the impact of technology on society, and the future of democracy. Study group members should be prepared to discuss and reflect on Klein's insights and the perspectives of his guests. Through peer-led discussion we will develop a deeper understanding of current events, the complex dynamics shaping our world, and the perspectives of our group mates. Join Ezra Klein, his guests, and your peers for a thoughtful conversation each week.



NEW *The Monkey Trial*

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Jerry Bernstein, Harold Primack

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

William Jennings Bryan, three-time Presidential candidate, defending the “word of God in the Bible”, and Clarence Darrow, famous defense attorney, defending Darwin's theory of evolution faced off in the small town of Dayton Tennessee. What could be better? Exactly one hundred years ago, the Scopes “Monkey” trial was the news sensation. It was brought back to public attention in the 1960 movie *Inherent the Wind*. In her book, *Keeping the Faith: God, Democracy, and the Trial That Riveted a Nation* (Random House, 2024), Brenda Wineapple brings Bryan and Darrow to life, takes us back to the 1920's, and has us consider the conflicts of science and religion that are still issues today: educational freedom, censorship, evangelical influence on government, separation of church and state, and the legacy of both Bryan and Darrow. In retelling the trial's story, Wineapple will show us why it captured the imagination of our country. We also plan to view *Inherent the Wind*.



Science in the News

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE & HEALTH

Brenda Russell, Jeffery Semel, Phillip Steptoe

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

We live in an ever-changing world with scientific breakthroughs and daunting advancements in technology. To stay up-to-date, we will rely on articles from *Scientific American*, a magazine committed to sharing knowledge, enhancing our understanding of the world, and advancing social justice. Each week, study group members will have in-depth discussions on two articles that cover the most important and exciting research, ideas, and knowledge in science, health, technology, the environment, and society. Coordinators will suggest recent articles and members will be able to choose additional topics. Members may enrich the discussion with additional video or materials. Access to a digital or print subscription to *Scientific American* is required. No scientific background is needed. Simply bring your curiosity and interest in all things science. Join us for great discussions as we learn and laugh together.



NEW Last Call at The Hotel Imperial

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Gordon Mallett, Andrew Griffin

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

In the period between the two great wars, tectonic political plates clashed and transformed the world into its now precarious configuration. *Last Call at the Hotel Imperial: The Reporters Who Took On a World at War* by Deborah Cohen (Random House 2022) takes us back to this post Freudian, war ravaged and exuberant Europe and Asia. These regions grapple with growth and depression and the rise of the militant Fascist states as seen through the eyes of a dozen young American reporters. Their reports read like the script of *Casablanca* or an F. Scott Fitzgerald novel with their personal lives, affected by the urgency of their work and their intertwined relationships. Deborah Cohen integrates this cataclysmic history in a way that touches on a thicket of possible paths. Managing this as an observer, psychologist and historian he allows readers to develop their own understanding. The reporters simultaneously find and report on their personal entanglements and personal demons. This study group offers an opportunity to explore that history and consider the lessons of the twentieth century for our own century going forward as we reach back to a not so distant time and place.



NEW Listening to Joni Mitchell

CREATIVE ARTS

Rick O'Konis, Maureen Shayman, Michael Jablon

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets the second half of the term)

Joni Mitchell is often cited as one of the greatest songwriters of her generation. From the early days of her musical career, her songs stood out because of the personal nature of her lyrics and the unique sound of her music. Emerging from the Canadian prairie in the early 1960s, she followed in Bob Dylan's footsteps, from the Greenwich Village folk scene to the Newport Folk Festival. But it quickly became apparent that she was no mere folk singer. Over the years she has incorporated folk, rock, jazz, and pop elements into her sound. In this study group, we will listen to and discuss her music and her life. We will read selected chapters from the recent biography of Joni, *Reckless Daughter: A Portrait of Joni Mitchell* by David Yaffe (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2017). We will also view documentaries and YouTube videos. Study group members will choose songs from a posted selection to present for discussion.



NEW A Virginia Woolf Trio

LITERATURE

Julie W. Johnson, Michael Singer

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

2025 marks the 100th anniversary of the publication of Virginia Woolf's lovely novel *Mrs. Dalloway*. Two years later, in 1927, Woolf brought out *To the Lighthouse*, regarded by many as her finest achievement. In 1929, Woolf furthered this streak of stellar productivity by publishing *A Room of One's Own*, a thought-provoking essay based on two lectures she gave at Cambridge University. In this slim volume, Woolf argues that women need financial independence and the same privileges as men in order to pull off creative success. A century later, we will study these ground-breaking works in the Literary Modernism movement. In addition to their stylistic originality, we will probe what these works have to say about both British society and human life in general. After five weeks on *Mrs. Dalloway* (Penguin Classics, 2021), we will cleanse our palates for two weeks with *A Room of One's Own* (Penguin Classics, 2023), finishing up with seven weeks on the brilliant *To the Lighthouse* (Virginia Woolf Library, 2005).



NEW Byron—A Life in Ten Letters

LITERATURE

Joan Less, Jeffrey Less, Janet Jablon

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets the first half of the term)

Step into the dramatic life of Lord Byron, one of literature's most fascinating figures, in this study group inspired by *Byron, A Life In Ten Letters*, by Andrew Stauffer (Cambridge University Press, 2024). Through Byron's letters and poetry, we will uncover his passionate relationships, self-imposed exile, and restless quest for freedom, fame, and purpose. Alongside the lives of Percy and Mary Shelley, we will explore the ideals and excesses of the Romantic movement that shaped them. Our journey will delve into Byron's world of privilege, scandal, and adventure, culminating in his sacrifice for Greek independence. Supplemented by readings on Romanticism, the Grand Tour, and Byron's era, this study group offers a rich glimpse into the life of a poet as complex and captivating as his works.



NEW Our Inner Ape

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Carmen Garcia Ruiz, Naomi Fisher

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets the first half of the term)

How can we reconcile the duality of human nature: our capacity for great empathy on the one hand, and our capacity for ruthless violence on the other? Although we usually seek out the fields of philosophy and religion to probe this question, primatology, the study of nonhuman primates, can also provide insights into human behavior. In his book *Our Inner Ape: A Leading Primatologist Explains Why We Are Who We Are*, (Penguin, 2006), Frans de Waal, renowned expert on primate social behavior, describes characteristics of bonobos and chimpanzees, our two closest genetic cousins, that parallel human behavior. Often, chimpanzees exhibit aggressive behavior and cruelty, pointing to our darker selves, while bonobos exhibit generosity, kindness, and altruism, pointing to our better selves. De Waal raises provocative questions about the relevance of ape behavior to human societies. We will supplement the book with recent science articles, short documentaries, and illustrations. Please join us.



From Print to Pictures, the Art of Film Adaptation: Here Come the Brits!

CREATIVE ARTS

Julie Gordon, *Art Bloom*

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets the second half of the term)

Please join us as we explore four award-winning films -- and the texts from which they are adapted -- of sixties Britain. We meet brilliant new directors and actors who burst on the scene in gritty, witty dramas, reflecting the changing economic and social conditions in the UK. Jack Clayton adapts John Braine's novel *Room at the Top*, where ambitious, working-class Laurence Harvey rises at his factory job, complicated by his affair with older, married Simone Signoret, in an Oscar-winning performance. Michael Caine stars as cockney secret agent Harry Palmer in *The Ipcress File*, an exciting adaptation of Len Deighton's spy thriller. Tom Courtenay and Julie Christie excel in John Schlesinger's comedy-drama, *Billy Liar*, about a young man who escapes from his dull routine into a fantasy world, based on the hit novel (and play) by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall. Tony Richardson's ground-breaking social drama, *A Taste of Honey*, debuts Rita Tushingham as an unhappy teenager who struggles to find her way in this stellar adaptation of Shelagh Delaney's London and Broadway hit play. This study group meets three hours the first week for film viewing, then two hours for discussion the following week.



EVANSTON STUDY GROUPS: WEDNESDAY

BEGINS MARCH 5, 2025

Creative Writing Workshop

CREATIVE ARTS

Ron Denham, Bob Jenkins, Arthur Altman

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

This study group is for members who love words and who wish to improve and practice their creative writing skills across the various genres: poetry, creative nonfiction, essay, memoir, and fiction. Members will present their work to the group who will respond with encouragement, critique, and suggestions. Revisions and resubmissions are encouraged. Longer works may be submitted in segments. This study group will give members a creative outlet and an opportunity to produce a finished piece of writing of which they can be proud. New and experienced writers are welcome. Members will be encouraged to bring their words, knowledge, humor, tears, fears, desires, perspectives, and wisdom.



Documentary Films

CREATIVE ARTS

Gloria Gleave, Deb Clamage

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Do you love learning about fascinating people, places, and ideas through the medium of film? If so, this documentary film study group is for you. Each week, members will view a documentary film at home and then come together to discuss the film. Members will volunteer to select films and lead discussions. The films reflect the members' interests and passions and can include such wide ranging topics as social justice, biography, environment, music, and personal adventure challenges. The weekly discussions include an analysis of the film's content, aesthetic, and technical aspects. Selected films must be widely available to study group members. The selections may be rented through an online streaming service for a minimal fee, available via the internet at no cost, or borrowed from a library. We will limit any required subscriptions to Netflix. Join us as we explore and discuss a variety of documentary films.



NEW Building the Brooklyn Bridge

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Steve Fisher, Naomi Fisher

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

The Brooklyn Bridge, the iconic symbol of New York City, was the longest suspension bridge in the world when it was completed in May, 1883. The bridge was an immediate sensation. It has been photographed, painted, engraved, embroidered, and analyzed as a work of art and as a cultural symbol. It has been the focus of a famous epic poem; it has been talked about and praised, it would seem, more than any other engineering feat in the United States. In *The Great Bridge* (Simon and Schuster, 1972), author David McCullough gives a comprehensive account of the bridge's construction. The fascinating story includes John Roebling, the designer of the bridge, and his family's contributions to overseeing the bridge's construction, the enormous engineering challenges presented by the East River, the politics of a huge project, and, of course, the heroism of its builders. The bridge would impact the lives of millions of ordinary people by ultimately uniting the separate cities of Brooklyn and New York into the boroughs of Brooklyn and Manhattan. It was a monumental project with equally monumental consequences. Please join us as we explore this urban history.



NEW *The Atlantic*

CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

Sara Stewart, Murray Manus, Abe Brustein

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

The Atlantic, the magazine for curious minds, features in-depth long form articles on politics, foreign affairs, business, economy, culture, arts, technology, and science. From its founding in 1857, it has served as a platform for publishing essays and critical commentaries on contemporary issues by some of America's best-known thinkers and writers. It also publishes new fiction and poetry by established and emerging authors. *The Atlantic* is a monthly magazine that regularly posts new topical material written by its staff and contributing writers on its website. Each week discussion leaders will select articles or literary works from current or archived issues. A current print and/or digital subscription is required. theatlantic.com/subscribe/academic



NEW Just for Laughs, A Sample of American Humor Through the Years

CREATIVE ARTS

Jeffrey Rochman, Sandra Rochman

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

This study group will take us on a journey through American humor by examining one or two types of humor (observational, satirical, political, and others) each week by watching short videos of performances (or parts of performances) of various comedians who we believe reflect that type of humor. The study group will range in time from the Marx Brothers through John Mulaney with many stops in between. After viewing each "performance" we will then discuss each video in terms of viability of the humor across time, originality, impact on future comedians, types of audience for this type of humor, the timelessness of the humor and most importantly, is it really funny? We will also refer to magazine articles, videos blogs and other sources for ancillary information about the comedians we will be discussing. It is hoped that this will be a fun group, creating many laughs and allowing us to forget about today's depressing issues for at least a couple of hours each week.



Theater in Chicago

CREATIVE ARTS

Bob Myers, Sue Bowker, Stephanie Lerner

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Join us at some of Chicago's best theaters as we attend seven plays performed in various venues, including Steppenwolf, Goodman, and Timeline theaters. For each play, study group members will be responsible for reading the script before seeing the play as a group or independently. In the study group session after each performance, we will compare the written play with the staged version. Participants will volunteer to lead each discussion, with topics including themes, characters, acting style, and production. The coordinators will purchase tickets for members who wish to attend the play as a group, and members may invite a guest to accompany them. Participants are responsible for the ticket cost and for obtaining the scripts. The total cost of tickets for the 14-week session should range between \$200-\$300. Participants must arrange their own transportation, although carpools are an option. We often gather for an optional dinner before the performance.



Poetry for Pleasure

LITERATURE

David Hart, Doreen Feitelberg

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Join us as we explore the fascinating world of poetry. Each week one study group member selects a poet of his or her choice and provides copies of 12 to 15 poems by that author to the group one week in advance. In the study group we read the poems aloud and discuss them. Our discussions are always lively and interesting.



EVANSTON STUDY GROUPS: THURSDAY

BEGINS MARCH 6, 2025

NEW Life, Love, and Laughter: A Nora Ephron Sojourn

CREATIVE ARTS

George Sullivan, Mary Watt

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. (7 weeks, meets the first half of the term)

Join us for seven weeks this spring as we explore the work of Nora Ephron. While Ephron is probably best known for writing and directing romantic comedy films (*When Harry Met Sally*, *Sleepless in Seattle*, *You've Got Mail*), during her lifetime she was also a reporter, an essayist, a novelist, a playwright and, even briefly, a blogger. Her work spanned many decades and genres. By reading selected Ephron essays and viewing key scenes from her most iconic movies, we will have the chance to reflect on Ephron's timeless ideas about romance, resilience, and personal reinvention. The selected essays and excerpts from Ephron's writing will be provided by the coordinators and the movies are widely available in libraries and streaming services. This study group will provide a unique opportunity to appreciate the wit and wisdom that have made Ephron one of America's most cherished literary voices.



What Hath God Wrought: US History 1815-1848

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Mel Goldstein, Mary Hummel, Jerry Bernstein

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

The first message sent over the telegraph in 1844, “What Hath God Wrought?”, symbolizes the revolutions in communications and transportation that transformed America in the first half of the 19th century. In this era, the United States grew from the original 13 to 30 states, covering almost three million square miles. This huge expansion exposed the contradictions between the ideals of the founders, rooted in the Enlightenment, and the realities of a Southern economy based on slavery. Conflicts over these antithetical visions of society dominated political life in this era. These events are chronicled in the text for our study group, *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848*, by Daniel Walker Howe (Oxford University Press, 2007). This Pulitzer Prize-winning book is part of the multi-volume Oxford History of the United States. This volume blends all aspects of U.S. life and culture into a single compelling story. Although we will have studied the first half of the book this past fall, you need not have been present to join us in discussing the second half of the book this coming term. Join us as we learn about the strengths, flaws, and conflicts that shaped our country in this period.



NEW Who Knew? The Best Way to Enhance Your Well Being

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE & HEALTH

Karyn Esken, Cheryl Esken, Jeff Graff

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. (7 weeks, meets the second half of the term)

Have you ever considered the best ways to promote one’s own wellness? The answers may surprise you! Stephen Trzeciak MD, MPH and Anthony Mazzarelli MD, JD, MBE supply them in *Wonder Drug: Seven Scientifically Proven Ways That Serving Others Is the Best Medicine for Yourself* (St Martin Essentials, 2022). The study group will explore the profound health benefits of helping others. The authors, both medical professionals, draw on scientific research to argue that altruism—acts of kindness, compassion, and service—can significantly improve both mental and physical health. We will discuss the seven key ways in which serving others functions as a “wonder drug,” from reducing stress and boosting the immune system to enhancing longevity and overall well-being. Our discussions will emphasize the psychological and physiological effects of positive social interactions, showing how caring for others not only benefits those we help, but also the helper’s own health and happiness. Through a blend of evidence-based scientific data and research, real-life examples, and practical advice, *Wonder Drug* offers study group members a compelling argument and simple, small actionable steps that can impact their own health and wellness.



NEW The Story of Human History in Maps

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Ken Behles, Margot Wallace

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

You probably last used a map as a navigational tool to get from point A to point B. The urge to orient oneself within a larger context is a basic human instinct. We are the only species capable of graphically representing a spatial understanding of concepts, ideas, or events in the human world. Maps are the subjective expressions of the people who created them and are intimately tied to the views and agendas of specific times and places. They provide important answers to the most important questions of their eras. Maps can be precise, illuminating, and beautiful, but are often filled with myths and propaganda. Using Jerry Brotton’s book, *The History of the World in 12 Maps* (Penguin Books, 2013), as well as supplemental materials, we will explore how maps tell the story of the human drive to understand theology, politics, science, and art. Our study group will discover how different communities had distinctive ways of mapping their respective worlds, as well as examine the subjective and beautiful art of map-making. Join us as we discuss and witness the story of human history in maps.



VIRTUAL STUDY GROUPS: MONDAY

BEGINS MARCH 3, 2025

NEW Bill Clinton: Citizen

CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

Susan Longo, Amanda Fox

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Citizen is President Bill Clinton’s front-row, first-person chronicle of his post-presidential years and his analysis of the most significant events of the twenty-first century, including 9/11 and the run up to the Iraq War, the Haiti earthquake, the Great Recession, the January 6 insurrection, and the enduring culture wars of our times. With clarity and compassion, he also weighs in on the unprecedented challenges brought on by a global pandemic, ongoing income inequality, a steadily warming planet, and authoritarian forces dedicated to weakening democracy. The text for our study group is *Citizen: My Life After the White House*, Bill Clinton (Knopf 2024).



**NEW The Strategists:
Churchill, Stalin, FDR, Hitler and Mussolini**

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

James Smith, Elizabeth Lippitt

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Strategy is often thought of as a dry, disciplined exercise in which a carefully informed national leadership makes purely rational choices based entirely on the best interests of the nation. In *The Strategists: Churchill, Stalin, Roosevelt, Mussolini and Hitler – How War Made Them and How They Made War* (Penguin Books, 2024) Phillips Payson O’Brien, Professor of Strategic Studies at the University of St. Andrew, considers how the big five of WWII fashioned the strategic paths their countries took in that conflict. O’Brien demonstrates that for these leaders, strategy was as much a matter of lived experience, as of careful calculation. The book is structured as a series of parallel biographies of these leaders at different stages of their upbringings and careers, giving us great insight into how their lives developed in a manner that would influence their later thinking. For all but Stalin, WWI would strongly shape their thinking about WWII, though in very different ways; for Stalin, the Russian Civil War was his crucible. By mixing biography, psychological analysis and military history, O’Brien demonstrates that great events can only be understood by looking through the eyes of the people who shaped them. Join us for some remarkable historical insights.



Writing Life Stories Group B

CREATIVE ARTS

Bill Kudlaty, Michael Graff

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Why write your story? For your family and friends? Or simply for yourself, to reflect upon your life? Writing helps us document, reflect on and share our experiences as we revisit old memories, and remember the people in our lives. Every week one-half of the class takes a turn writing and presenting a story. By email each writer distributes the text of up to 1500 words to the group; when the group meets on Zoom, the writer reads it aloud. Members respond to it verbally and later write and send more detailed comment to the reader. Whether you are an experienced writer or just starting out, our study group is here to help. We work together to tackle the challenges of organizing and clarifying our writing. Guides to writing and to the art of memoir are presented on the class website. In this writer’s workshop, members tell stories that range from joyful to heartbreaking. This study group provides an excellent opportunity to write about events and chapters of your life. Come join us.



Literary Masters Goes to the Movies

LITERATURE

Robert Relihan, Marilyn Green Rebnord

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Great novels and great movies stand alone. It is not often that a significant novel is adapted into a truly remarkable film. We will look at five such examples and discuss how fiction is adapted into film. We will consider those elements of the novel that resist adaptation or that demand a clever conversion. We will look at what remains the same and what is converted or transformed. Conversely, we will also discuss those elements of cinema that have no real analogy in written fiction. The film adaptation of John Fowles's *The French Lieutenant's Woman* (Little, Brown 2012) is itself a fiction about the movie adaptation of the novel. We will also read Tomasi di Lampedusa's novel about the dying years of the Sicilian aristocracy, *The Leopard* (Pantheon, 2007), and compare it to Visconti's much-praised adaptation starring Burt Lancaster. We will consider Daphne du Maurier's novella *Don't Look Now* (NYRB Classics, 2008) and its haunting adaptation. Stanley Kubrick based his adaptation of Anthony Burgess's *A Clockwork Orange* (Norton, 2019) on a copy of the novel without Burgess's final ending. We will discuss whether this affects our understanding of both. Finally, we will read Kazuo Ishiguro's Booker-Award-winning novel *Remains of the Day* (Vintage, 1990) and compare it to the Merchant/Ivory adaptation.



BONUS GROUP: Let's Talk About the Movies (Monday)

CREATIVE ARTS

Trish Ronan, Tim Atkins, Suraleah Michaels, Barry Blitzen

Monday, 4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.

If you like discussing and analyzing contemporary movies, this bonus group is for you. For each of five sessions, members will view the movies at home. The discussion questions will be posted five days before we meet as a group for discussion. To prepare for study group discussion, the questions should be used as a guide when watching the movie a second time at home. Our emphasis will be on how the story is told using the techniques of film-making. The group will meet on the following Mondays: March 10, March 31, April 21, May 12, and June 2. The movies we will discuss are: *Ghostlight* (Thompson & O'Sullivan, 2024), *Lies We Tell* (Mulcahy, 2024), *Saturday Night* (Reitman, 2024), *Evil Does Not Exist* (Hamaguchi, 2024), and *Emilia Pérez* (Jacques Audiard, 2024). The films are available on many streaming services. A fee for viewing may be required.



VIRTUAL STUDY GROUPS: TUESDAY

BEGINS MARCH 4, 2025

Exploring the Visual Arts

CREATIVE ARTS

Bridget Stump, Mary Jon Girard, Roger Heuberger

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

As you wander through museums and explore the places you travel, are you curious about the stories behind the art? Exploring the Visual Arts offers those with an appetite for the arts a place to learn more. This study group delves into art from a variety of time periods and mediums. We'll touch on painting, sculpture, photography and architecture as well as contemporary art makers and methods. Discussions provide the opportunity to deepen our connections, while developing a keen eye for detail. Join us this spring as we evaluate The Isenheim Altarpiece, Leonardo da Vinci, Maurice Sendak, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Gordon Parks, Gustave Courbet, The Nabis Painters, The Architecture of Libraries, Tamara Lempicka and more.



NEW *Religion Explained: The Evolutionary Origins of Religious Thought*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE & HEALTH

Art Goldman, Robert Steiner, Richard DuFour

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Religion is a complex and pervasive human phenomenon; it surrounds us, on a personal and societal level. How did this come to be? Why is there religion at all? What is the essential nature of all religions such that it has had universal appeal to widely diverse societies and cultures over the ages? These are some of the questions we plan to address. We want to understand the underlying human motivations and needs for religion, and we want to examine how these needs have evolved into the forms of religion that exist today. The primary source book that will be used to examine these broad questions is *Religion Explained: The Evolutionary Origins of Religious Thought* (Basic Books; Reprint edition, 2002) by Pascal Boyer. Boyer's book is based on theories and research in evolutionary biology, cognitive psychology and anthropology. His book addresses the basic questions in chapters such as: What is the Origin? The Kind of Mind it Takes. Why Gods and Spirits? Why Rituals? Why Doctrines, Exclusion and Violence? This study group is intended to accommodate all members, regardless of previous knowledge of, or experience with, religion, who share a curiosity about human nature and the nature of our religious constructs.



Exploring Foreign Films: A Global Cinematic Journey

CREATIVE ARTS

Rick O'Konis, Michael Jablon

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets the first half of the term)

Come along as we dive into the rich and diverse world of award-winning international cinema. In this study group, we will watch a film from a different country every week. Study group time will be spent discussing how all aspects of the film, including direction, screenwriting, cinematography, and music, contribute to a unique expression of the country's culture. Films selected will be widely available through streaming services, rental, or the public library. Join us for a captivating journey through the lens of world cinema.



NEW T. S. Eliot: His Life and Works

CREATIVE ARTS

Sara Jones, Valerie Maragos, Judith Myers

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (12 weeks, March 4 to May 20, 2025)

Join us as we delve into the life and works of one of the 20th century's most influential literary figures, T.S. Eliot. In this study group, we will explore Eliot's profound contributions to modernist literature, his innovative use of language, and his exploration of the spiritual and existential crises of the modern world. We will trace his personal and intellectual journey, from his early years in America to his life in England, where he became a leading figure in the literary world. Our areas of focus will include in-depth discussions of *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*, *The Waste Land*, and other poems, as well as his literary criticism and plays. We will consider the cultural and historical influences that informed Eliot's literary career as well as his lasting impact on the modernist movement of 20th century poets, theater, and criticism. All materials for this study group, including Eliot's works and biographical information, will be available online or provided by the coordinators. Together, we will engage in lively discussions and share insights as we analyze the enduring legacy of T.S. Eliot. Note: This will be a 12 week study group.



Tuesday at the Movies

CREATIVE ARTS

Michael Pierce, Hillel Furlager, David Buffen

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

There are certain people who change the course of history - how we live, how we view life's events, and how we become inspired to reach greater heights. We will examine 14 such people through film biopics which capture significant achievements, challenges, and personal aspects of political leaders, musicians, athletes, and computer scientists. We will view: *Selma*, (Ava DuVernay, 2014); *The Social Network* (David Fincher, 2010); *The King's Speech*, (Tom Hooper, 2010); *Money Ball* (Bennett Miller); *Ray* (Taylor Hackford, 2004); *Amadeus* (Milos Forman, 1984); *The Imitation Game* (Morten Tyldum, 2014); *Gandhi* (Richard Attenborough, 1982); *Nixon* (William Oliver Stone, 1995); *Capote* (Benett Miller, 2005); *Tick, Tick,..Boom!* (Lin Manuel Miranda, 2021); *The Last Emperor* (Bernardo Bertolucci, 1987); *The Aviator* (Martin Scorsese, 2004); and *Walk the Line* (James Mangold, 2005). We watch each week's movie in advance of each session; participants must obtain the movies, which can usually be found through Amazon, Netflix, Apple TV +, etc. Participants volunteer to present each movie. They will lead the study group in an examination of the subject's life and achievements, as well as how the Director chose to bring the subject to life. Let's explore real historical people together.



NEW War at the End of the World: MacArthur's Forgotten Fight for New Guinea

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

John Doherty, James Smith

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

The newsreel of Douglas MacArthur walking ashore on the beaches of Leyte in October of 1944, saying “I have returned,” captured one of the most iconic images of World War II. That moment of triumph was the culmination of over three years of intense fighting in New Guinea, which one soldier accurately described as “a green hell on earth.” We will explore MacArthur's long, difficult and ultimately victorious campaign, using *War at the End of the World: Douglas MacArthur and the Forgotten Fight For New Guinea, 1942-1945* by James P. Duffy's (Dutton Caliber, 2016), which one reviewer commented “will likely stand as the definitive account of the New Guinea campaign.” When MacArthur landed in Australia in the spring of 1942 after escaping from Corregidor, he promised “I shall return.” At the time, it seemed impossible. How MacArthur built a multinational army, defeated a fanatical Japanese foe, endured relentless competition for resources with the Navy, and overcame the brutal battlefield of New Guinea, with its rampant tropical disease, violent rainstorms, and unforgiving terrain, will be the crux of our story.



*Lifelong learning...
can help you develop new ideas
and ways of thinking.*

VIRTUAL STUDY GROUPS: WEDNESDAY

BEGINS MARCH 5, 2025

Capturing Chicagoland through Photography

CREATIVE ARTS

Richard Fisher, Howard Frank

Wednesday 8:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

This study group is designed to improve members’ photographic skills and build connections among study group members. Sessions will alternate between virtual sessions and in-person group photography shoots (indoor and outdoor, chosen by the coordinators). The virtual sessions will include image reviews, discussion of photographic techniques, post-processing methods, tips and tricks, and discussion of upcoming field exercises. Our virtual sessions will also include study group member presentations of a favorite photographer, photographic technique, or place to photograph. This study group is open to any OLLI member who owns a digital camera where the exposure can be adjusted (ideally with a manual exposure mode). Members also must have a computer (PC or Mac), basic computer skills, and access to and basic knowledge of photographic editing software such as Photoshop, Lightroom, or Photoshop Elements. Mentoring is available to help study group members learn camera features, photographic techniques, and processing methods.



Foreign Affairs

CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

Gary Benz, James Perlow, Gene Mackevich

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

This study group is made up of fellow students who love to read and desire to learn about the countries of the world through their interactions with one another. We encourage and attract people who have inquisitive minds and are serious about learning and exchanging ideas. We take pride in being inclusive and not intimidating by conducting classes that are welcoming and tolerate a wide range of opinions that are documented and convincingly expressed. We start with material from *Foreign Affairs*, a bimonthly magazine published by the Council on Foreign Relations, but we do not stop there. Discussion leaders may supplement weekly readings with materials from think tanks (such as Brookings) mainstream periodicals (such as *The Economist*, *Financial Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*) and topical books. The goal of this study group is to be interactive with a healthy exchange of ideas, while still being fun and rewarding. In doing so, we create our own “think tank” and try to resolve problems and world issues.



NEW A Journey Through Classical Mythology

LITERATURE

Michael Dolesh, Janet Jablon, Judith Myers

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Titans, Cyclops, Gods hurling thunderbolts ... oh, my! This study group will offer an introduction to Greek and Roman mythology which underlies much of Western art and literature. We will introduce the principal gods (e.g., Zeus, Poseidon, Athena), discuss the creation myths about how the world was formed, and highlight some of the important heroes (Hercules, Jason, Perseus) and the significant mythical beasts (Pegasus, the Minotaur, Medusa) which permeate classical mythology. We will also read some excerpts from *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* explaining the basics of the Trojan War and the disasters which befell Odysseus and his fellow Greeks on their return. In addition, we will discuss some of the powerful women in mythology (Medea, Circe) and how they have been re-imagined by contemporary women classicists and authors (Natalie Haynes, Madeleine Miller). Finally, we will address the psychological underpinnings of the myths (think Freud’s “Oedipal complex”) and explore the role myths have played in Western art, literature, and science through the centuries. Our texts are: Edith Hamilton’s *Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*, Lombardo, *The Essential Homer* (Hackett, 2000), and Natalie Haynes, *Pandora’s Jar* (Harper, 2020).



Literature of Baseball: Once More Around the Park

LITERATURE

Mark Rosenberg, Benjamin Schwartz, Bob Shaevel

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

This semester we will be reading *Once More Around the Park*, by Roger Angell (Ballantine Books, 1991). This collection of stories from previous works as well as previously unpublished stories captures the highlights of the prior 40 years of excellent writing. The premier baseball writer of his time, his work documents some of the most memorable games and strategies including the development of the split finger fastball. Mr. Angell's conversations with past and present players and managers, scouts and coaches, rookies and Hall of Famers enhance his own expertise and critical appreciation, which define him as the game's most useful and ardent fan. The study group previously read *The Summer Game* in 2019 and now we explore Angell's later collection. The study group will begin during spring training and discuss the upcoming season for both the Chicago Cubs and Chicago White Sox as well as other teams of interest in Major League Baseball.



The Sunday New York Times

CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

Mitchell Harrison, Hilmon Sorey

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

The New York Times is one of the world's greatest newspapers covering a wide range of events. Today, it has some of the greatest writers and photographers covering the news all over the world. We are living in extraordinary times and the articles of this paper shed light on everything from climate change, foreign and domestic political strife, to bold technological innovations. Together we take a deep dive into "All The News That's Fit To Print." Study group members choose four articles from the previous Sunday *New York Times* for discussion the following week. The conversations we have are enlightening, provocative, interesting, and fun. A subscription to the online or printed paper is required.



NEW All About Hollywood

CREATIVE ARTS

Jim Gecker, Jim Burns

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Hollywood often seems to love nothing more than making films about itself. Join us on a journey down Sunset Boulevard, up Mulholland Drive, and on to La La Land, as we discuss 14 highly acclaimed films about Hollywood's first century, roughly organized in order of the era they portray. Written, directed, and acted by some of Tinseltown's leading artists, often depicting actual people and events, the films reveal darker worlds beneath the fabled glitz and glamour. Our discussions, enhanced by reviews or articles each week, will focus on the cinematic elements of the films – the scripts, themes, direction, cinematography, acting, and music—and what each says about the history of Hollywood. The films, which you will watch before class on a streaming service or DVD, are: *Singin' in the Rain* (Donen and Kelly, 1952), *The Artist* (Hazanavicius, 2011), *Gods and Monsters* (Condon, 1998), *Sullivan's Travels* (Sturges, 1941), *Barton Fink* (Coen Brothers, 1991), *Sunset Boulevard* (Wilder, 1950), *Trumbo* (Roach, 2015), *In a Lonely Place* (Ray, 1950), *The Bad and the Beautiful* (Minelli, 1952), *The Player* (Altman, 1992), *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* (Tarantino, 2019), *Adaptation* (Jonze, 2002), *Mulholland Drive* (Lynch, 2001), and *La La Land* (Chazelle, 2016).



Documentary Films

CREATIVE ARTS

Colleen Leahy, Madlyn Seckler, Laurie Bederow

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

A documentary film is a non-fiction motion picture intended to document reality—primarily for the purposes of instruction, education, or maintaining a historical record. Or is it? Join us for our adventure into the fascinating world of documentary films. In each session, we will view a film of artistic, political, historical, or social merit—always of interest and sometimes controversial. A list of possible documentaries for viewing will be distributed. Study group members will choose which film they wish to present and then will lead the discussion. Members can nominate additional recent films. Films are watched in advance at home. Join us for a study group of fun and discovery. We will be using Netflix, Amazon Prime, or other streaming services to view the films. There may be a fee to watch some of the assigned movies.



NEW A New World Begins: The French Revolution

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

John Drodow, Michael Plumpton

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

For well over a century, political leaders, historians, philosophers, and ordinary citizens have debated the character and significance of the French Revolution. In 2019, Jeremy Popkin, a distinguished American historian of revolutionary France published *A New World Begins: The History of the French Revolution* (Basic Books, 2021). His goal was to produce a balanced view of this great event. He recognizes that it played a formative role in creating the modern concepts of human rights, legal equality, and democratic government. He also suggests that the revolution included acts of great cruelty and violence. He sees it as an experiment to create “a new world,” very different from the social and political world it replaced. A bonus aspect of this account is the integration of the slave rebellion in Saint Domingue—the largest and most successful slave uprising in human history which gave birth to the nation of Haiti. Popkin also pays significant attention to the role played by women in the revolution, a topic neglected in many older accounts. Please join us in the quest for a fresh understanding of this fascinating historical event which helped to make the world modern.



The People Versus the Politicians

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Galen Burghardt, Jack Cooksey, Pat O’Conor

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets the first half of the term)

Do you wish your vote mattered more? Are you tired of dark money controlling elections? Do you wonder why your electoral district looks like the letter “K”? Does there have to be no middle ground? If these questions light you up, join us for a deep dive into the world of electoral reform. Much of our material will come from Hedrick Smith, a Pulitzer prize-winning journalist and author of *Who Stole the American Dream?*. Smith may join us for our first session when we will hammer out a collective vision of what a decent voting system should accomplish. During the term, we will explore ranked-choice voting, the challenge of redistricting (and why the Supreme Court punted), the role of dark money in politics, and the possibility of watching the sun set on our two political parties. We can promise a lively conversation and can assure that you will be surprised by much of what you learn.



VIRTUAL STUDY GROUPS: THURSDAY

BEGINS MARCH 6, 2025

The Atlantic & The Economist

CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

Phyllis Fischel, Dianne McCallum

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

We invite you to read and discuss current events and more through the lens of journalists from both sides of the Atlantic. Lively conversations and intellectual exploration are the order of the day. Each week 2 members of the group will select 3-4 articles from *The Atlantic* and/or *The Economist* for all to read in advance. Topics may include global politics, economic trends, cultural insights, business, and technological advancements, all presented in an accessible format that encourages participation from everyone. This group not only promotes critical thinking and lifelong learning but also provides a supportive community where friendships can flourish. You will find a welcoming space to express your opinions, share insights, and engage with fellow members by sharing perspectives and insights. Participants will expand their knowledge, challenge their assumptions, and occasionally change their minds. Join us for an enriching experience that celebrates knowledge, camaraderie, and the joy of learning together! Subscriptions to both *The Atlantic* and *The Economist* are required. On-line subscriptions are encouraged due to possible delivery issues with print editions. Subscriptions for *The Economist* are available at 800-456-6086 or www.economistsubscriptions.com. Student rates may be available. Subscribe to *The Atlantic* using the academic rate at www.accounts.theatlantic.com.



Poetry in a New Age

CREATIVE ARTS

Judith Myers, Michael Dolesh, Judith McCue

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

If you are interested in learning about poetry, or are a long-time reader of poetry, this virtual study group is for you. We welcome people discovering poetry for the first-time, as well as more experienced poetry lovers. Each week, we read and discuss a selection of contemporary poems chosen by the study group participants. We read the poems aloud, giving careful attention in our discussion to the poet’s meaning, style, and content. We are always on the hunt for new poems and poets, but we also revisit poems and poets we have read before just because we like them. Poets we have discussed recently include Ada Limón, Dylan Thomas, James Baldwin, Lucille Clifton, Sara Rivera, Margaret Atwood, and Naomi Shihab Nye. In addition, we will have occasional sessions when study group members share a favorite poem with the group. Join us for an enjoyable and informative member-led study group focusing on what still moves people today about poetry.



Shades of Gray

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Steve VanderVoort, Sami Nordmark, Steve Barrigar

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Are you just naturally curious? Do you like to explore issues that may or may not have any right or wrong answers? Then join us in this lively discussion group where we will explore such subjects as reparations, cancel culture, sex, virtual reality, politics, love, free speech, climate change, failure, and much, much more. Helping us along on this journey of discovery will be Sean Illing, journalist, author, and philosopher, in his podcast, *The Gray Area* (available on Vox, Apple Podcasts and Google Podcasts). Each week we will listen to an episode dealing with a particular subject and then come to the study group prepared to discuss our thoughts and responses to what we heard. We expect to hear a wide variety of reactions from study group members that will lead us to new ideas and insights we can explore together. We look forward to having you join us in this unique learning experience.



The Economist

CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

Jennifer Gainer, Mark Goldberg, Elliott Hartstein, John Donovan

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

The Economist weekly magazine is widely acclaimed for its thoughtful and stimulating analyses of world news, politics, and business. It also has sections on science, technology, books, the arts, and extensive reports on particular issues of current interest. This long-running study group is always looking for new members, interested in current events, who can enrich our discussions. Each study group participant is expected to lead or co-lead a weekly discussion, although in Summer and Winter this is not as important due to only four weeks of study. This involves selecting 8-12 articles from the current weekly issue and developing the questions needed to get the lively conversations started. Given the uncertainty of the mail, a digital subscription to *The Economist* is highly encouraged. Information on subscriptions is available at subscribenow.economist.com.



New Fiction Writers Workshop

CREATIVE ARTS

April Ware, Bruce Hochstadter

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

If you are looking for a Workshop Experience, this study group is for you. Whether you write short stories, novels, or flash fiction, the workshop will help you improve your writing skills. In each of the two seven week workshops, you will present your work of up to 25 pages and get written and verbal feedback. Each week we will also read a classic or contemporary published work and discuss the theme or message and the elements of craft. Let the narratives of the published works and the creative genius of your peers inspire you to bring the characters and plots of your stories alive. Storytellers of all levels are welcome. The textbooks for the study group are *Writing Fiction: The Practical Guide from New York's Acclaimed Creative Writing School*, by the Gotham Writers Workshop, (Bloomsbury Press, 2003) and *Fifty Great American Short Stories* by Milton Crane (Bantam Classics, 1984).



NEW Exploring NASA's Universe Through The NASA App

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE & HEALTH

Joyce Salsburg, Benjamin Schwartz, Valerie Maragos

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets the second half of the term)

10, 9, 8,...3, 2, 1 – LIFT OFF with us to explore and discover current information from the free NASA app. The redesigned app unlocks access to NASA+ on demand, ad-free video streaming service, all the latest NASA images, news releases, mission information, exclusive interviews and podcasts—putting the universe at your fingertips! The app is available to be downloaded on Apple or Android phones or tablets or on streaming platforms connected to a TV (Apple TV, Google/Android TV, Amazon Fire, or Roku). In each session of this seven-week study group we will review and discuss selected materials from the app which can include weekly live Zoom events, hearing directly from the NASA Astronauts about their current research, watching coverage of launches such as resupply missions to the International Space Station (ISS) and viewing up-to-the-minute images from our world and beyond. We will also consider ISS sighting opportunities, documentaries and series. Our subject matter will be determined by NASA. Study group members will be expected to read, research and investigate current topics to prepare for weekly discussions. We welcome everyone, no science background required.



BONUS GROUP: Let's Talk About the Movies (Thursday)

CREATIVE ARTS

Trish Ronan, Barry Blitzsten, Suraleah Michaels, Tim Atkins

Thursday, 4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.

If you like discussing and analyzing contemporary movies, this bonus group is for you. For each of five sessions, members will view the movies at home. The discussion questions will be posted five days before we meet as a group for discussion. To prepare for the study group discussion, the questions should be used as a guide when watching the movie a second time at home. Our emphasis will be on how the story is told using the techniques of film-making. The group will meet on the following Thursdays: March 13, April 3, April 24, May 15, and June 5. The movies we will discuss are: *Ghostlight* (Thompson & O'Sullivan, 2024) *Lies We Tell* (Mulcahy, 2024), *Saturday Night* (Reitman, 2024), *Evil Does Not Exist* (Hamaguchi, 2024), and *The Piano Lesson* (Washington, 2024). The films are available on many streaming services. A fee for viewing may be required.



VIRTUAL STUDY GROUPS: FRIDAY

BEGINS MARCH 7, 2025

International Relations

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Allen Cohen, Philip Bashook

Friday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

We are living in a rapidly changing and perilous world. International and U.S. policy concerns are also so interlaced and changing that they need to be constantly reviewed and reevaluated. Our study group will analyze specific problems and potential threats as well as opportunities that shape U.S. and global security. Our topics will cover the far reaching ramifications of the security and well-being of the United States, including the profound implications for the world. We will focus on the trends as well as the most current political, economic and demographic concerns. We will explore and discuss many different viewpoints, using material from the best informed and most qualified sources, including pertinent foreign policy journals. We hope that you will join us as we explore many multifaceted approaches and strategies to many of these topics and concerns. Reading material comes from current articles from both online and printed sources. Participation includes reading, research, presentation, and discussion.



*Lifelong learning...
can help you meet new people
and build relationships.*

OLLI & WIRTZ THEATER IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE

Northwestern | WIRTZ CENTER

MAN OF LA MANCHA



Go behind the scenes at Northwestern University's Wirtz Center to learn from and interact with artists producing the upcoming production of MAN OF LA MANCHA.

Friday, April 4, 1:15 p.m.– 3:15 p.m.: Background and context on Wirtz's version of THE MAN OF LA MANCHA with guests from the cast and artistic teams. Q&A and discussion.

Friday, April 11, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.: Backstage tour and presentation from design and creatives.

Friday, April 25, 7:30 p.m.: Opening night performance and post-show talkback.

Cost: \$40. Includes one ticket to the opening night performance, OLLI exclusive talk-back, tour, presentations, and discussion group sessions.

- Free parking on opening night.

Location: Ethel M. Barber Theater, 30 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston

Man of La Mancha is one of the world's most popular musicals; the original 1965 production won five Tony Awards, including Best Musical. Inspired by Miguel de Cervantes' 17th-century masterwork *Don Quixote*, *Man of La Mancha* was originally set during the Spanish Inquisition when Cervantes is in prison awaiting trial. This re-imagined version, directed by theatre department chair and Goodman Theatre Resident Director Henry Godinez, is set in a detention center on the US-Mexico border, where a growing group of migrants from across the world, being held and readied for deportation, are looking for safety and opportunity. Cervantes and his fellow prisoners perform a play-within-a-play, telling the story of the elderly Alonso Quijana, who renames himself Don Quixote and goes on a quest to right all wrongs in the world. The rousing score includes the classic numbers "The Impossible Dream," "I, Don Quixote," "Dulcinea," "I Really Like Him" and "Little Bird."

During this three-session study group, members will learn about the play's themes, preview, and interact with the production's scenic, costume, and lighting designs, tour the Wirtz Center, and attend opening night (April 25th) including a post-show talkback. For returning OLLI members, you will see familiar faces and spaces, but new creations are always in process at Wirtz!

Open to all spring OLLI members. Register and pay through your OLLI online registration account (Augusoft) beginning 9 a.m. Monday, February 3, 2025.

OLLI SPRING 2025 SPEAKER EVENTS SNEAK PEEK

Look for details and registration information—as well as more spring events in the works—in upcoming OLLI Newsletters.

MONEY, LIES, AND RELIGIOUS NATIONALISM: INSIDE THE MOVEMENT TO DESTROY AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025
12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Speaker Katherine Stewart, award-winning journalist and author of several books covering religious nationalism effect on American democracy.



HOSTED BY THE OLLI ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE



COMEDY VS. THE APOCALYPSE

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025
1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Speaker David Misch, a professional comedian whose credits include “Mork and Mindy,” “The Muppets Take Manhattan” and “Saturday Night Live,” and *Funny: The Book*.

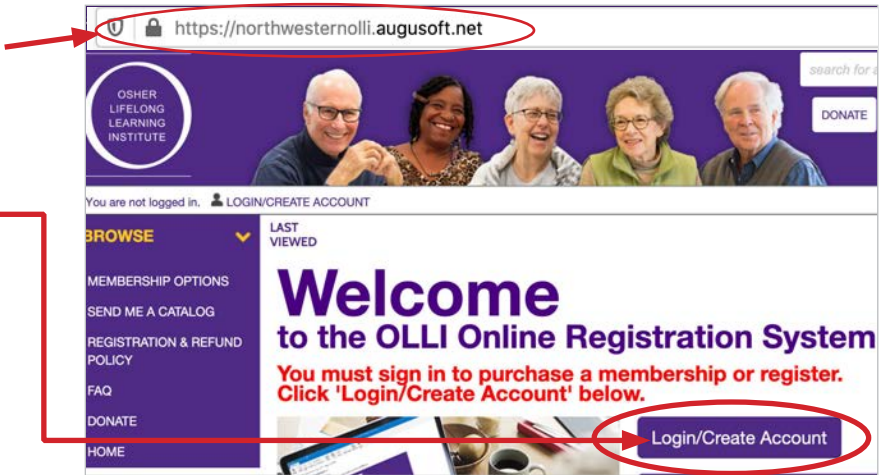
HOSTED BY THE OLLI ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE

These events are free and open to all OLLI Spring 2025 members. Registration is required through the OLLI online registration system (Augusoft).



HOW TO PURCHASE MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTER FOR STUDY GROUPS

- Go to the OLLI Online Registration System (Augusoft) which can be accessed at: <https://northwesternolli.augusoft.net>
- Click **Log In/Create Account**.
- This takes you to the **Sign In** page.



Sign In

Use your username and password to sign in here. Please note that the password is case sensitive.

Student ▼

Username

[Forgot your username?](#)

Password

[Forgot your password?](#)

Sign In

New Students

Click **Create New Profile** to create your own username, password and profile.

Create New Profile

EXISTING USERS:

If you are a current or former member and have a Profile in the system:

SIGN IN to Your Account with your **Username** and **Password**.

- Make sure the option says **Student** in the pull-down menu.
- If you have forgotten your Username or Password, click on the **Forgot Your Username?** or **Forgot Your Password?** links.

DO NOT CREATE A NEW PROFILE

NEW USERS:

If you are a new user, please create a new profile.

Click **Create New Profile** and follow the prompts.

- On the Profile Creation page, select Student Profile (single user) button, click Submit.
- Fill in the necessary information for Step 1, Step 2, and Step 3 tabs.
- Click **Submit** to register your account.

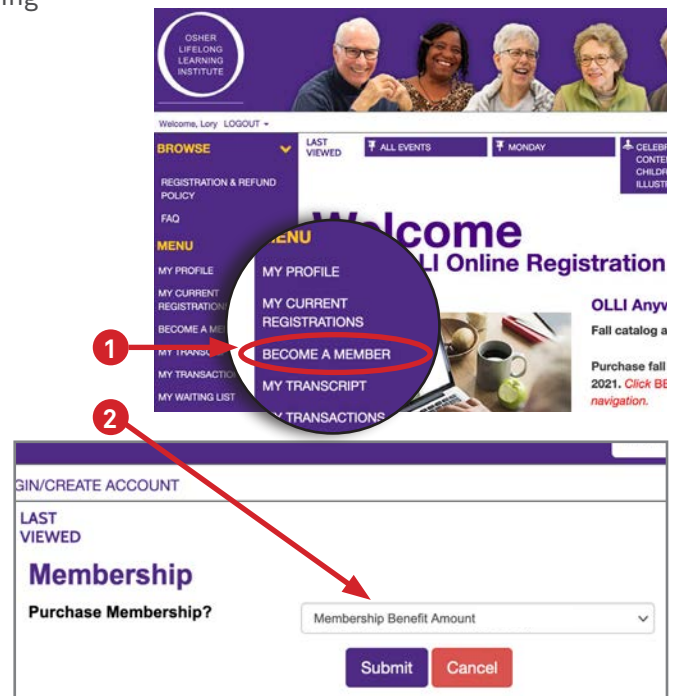
If you need assistance, email olli@northwestern.edu.

New Members who have created a profile and Existing Members who have signed in can now continue to **Purchase Membership**—instructions on next page.

PURCHASE MEMBERSHIP:

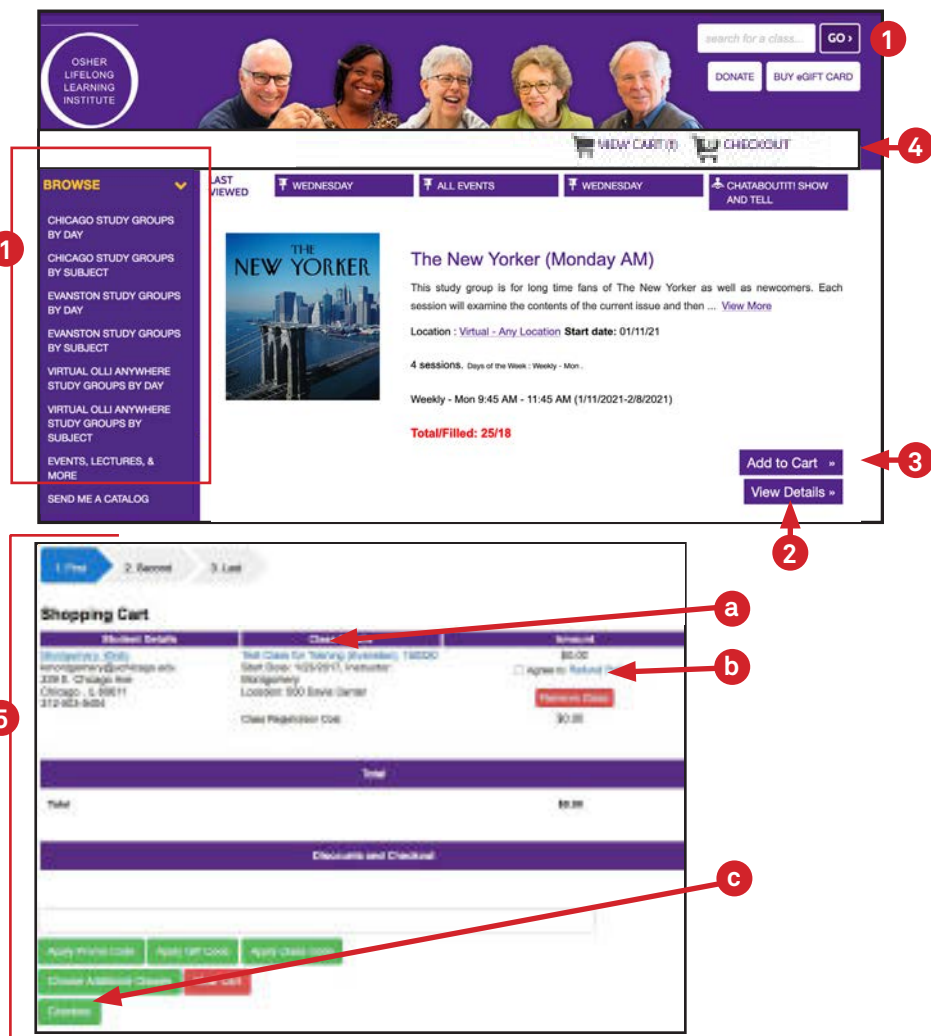
Full Year or Winter Trial members do not need to purchase a spring membership. The spring term is included in your membership.

1. On the **Welcome** home page, click **BECOME A MEMBER** in the purple column on the left.
2. On the **Membership** page, select the membership option you wish to purchase from the drop-down menu.
3. You will then be led to your cart page. Continue with the prompts to check out.
 - OLLI accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, or Discover.



REGISTRATION (Beginning February 3):

1. **BROWSE** Study Groups by location, by day, or by subject area. Or, type a portion of the title in the SEARCH bar at the top right of the page.
2. For more information about a Study Group click **View Details**.
3. Once registration is open, to register for a Study Group click **Add to Cart**.
 - To register for additional Study Groups, repeat Step 1 through 3.
4. **Important:** To complete your registration click **CHECKOUT** at the top right of the screen.
5. Finish your checkout by:
 - a. Reviewing your selections
 - b. Clicking the **Agree to Refund Policy** box
 - c. Clicking the green **CHECKOUT** box at the bottom of the screen.



Wait for the screen that says “Your transaction has been processed successfully.”

You will receive a confirmation email of your registration. **If you do not receive the confirmation email, your registration is not complete.**



2024–2025 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

OCTOBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JANUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29

APRIL 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MAY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JULY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

OLLI session dates and registration periods:

- **Fall Session:**
 14 Weeks, September 3–December 9, 2024
Registration August 5–August 19, 2024
- **Winter Session (all virtual):**
 4 Weeks, January 21–February 17, 2025
Registration December 16, 2024–January 3, 2025
- **Spring Session:**
 14 weeks, March 3–June 9, 2025
Registration February 3–February 17, 2025
- **Summer Session:**
 4 Weeks, July 7–August 1, 2025
Registration June 9–June 23, 2025
- **Break between sessions**

OLLI and Northwestern University will be closed on the following days:

- Monday, September 2, 2024

- Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29, 2024

- Tuesday, December 24, 2024 through Wednesday, January 1, 2025

- Monday, January 20, 2025

- Monday, May 26, 2025

- Thursday, June 19, 2025

- Friday, July 4, 2025



2023 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Thank you to the following donors who generously made gifts to OLLI during the calendar year 2023.

2023 OLLI Members

ANONYMOUS	Mary Anne Cappelleri	Jennifer Gainer*	David Jones	Madeleine Raymond and
ANONYMOUS (2)**	Nadine Caputo	Susan Gaud**	Sara Jones	Joe McDonald
Barbara Alexander	Dennis Carlin**	Herbert George**	Justin Joseph**	Mike McGee*
Sandra Allen and Jim Perlow**	Orit Carpenter**	Anita and Henry Gewurz*	Dorothea Juul	William McGuffage
Ferial Alsikafi	Darden and Rob Carr	Barb Ghoshal	Judy Kamin	Summers McGurn
Arthur Altman	Joan Chandler	Nancy Gidwitz*	Susan Kamp	Lynn McIntyre
Joy and David Anderson*	Beth Chiaiese	Alice Ginsburgh	Barry Kaplan	Mabel McKinney- Browning
Margherita Andreotti	Deb and Art Clamage*	Mary Jon and Roger Girard	Jack Kaplan	Roxane McLean
Stuart Applebaum**	Jeri Cohen	Jessica Schneider and Joe Glaser*	Connie Karduck	Susan McMillen
Howard I. Aronson**	Roberta Cohen	Gloria and Fred Gleave**	Jan Karzen	Susan and Bob Mednick
Mark Arvin	Stanley Cohen	Alan Goldberg	Julia Katz**	Steve Meiss**
Claude Aschinberg	Margaret Colarelli	Mark L. Goldberg	Diana Kaufmann	Mary Merrill
Lucy and Peter Ascoli**	Julia Conaghan	Larry Goldstein	Susan Kay*	Stacey Meyer
Susan Ataman	Jerry Conlon	Melvin Goldstein	Dorothy C. Keating	Bobbi Meyers
Robert Avery	Eric Cooper*	Phil Goldstick*	Nancy Kelly-Martin	Jan Meyers
Dorothy Balabanos	David Corona*	Neal Goodfriend	Michelle Kern	Sylvia and Chuck Meyers
Sue and Marty Barancik*	Bruce Corson	Mary and Michael Goodkind**	Kathleen Kilbane	Don Mided*
Bill Barker	Regina Corush	Rozita Gorel	William King	Arni Miller
Bev Barkon	Sandra Cowen	Margarett Gorodess	Edward Klinenberg*	Gail Miller
Tom Barnard	John Cox	Jeff Graff**	Jim Koch	Mary Miller*
Karen Barnes	Michael Csar	Michael Graff**	Barbara Kositchek	Harriet Minkin
Candace and Steven Barrigar*	Angela J. D'Aversa**	Paula Gray	Anita and Harold Kosova	Mary Minow**
CJ Bass*	Nancy DeDakis	Freddi L. Greenberg and Dan Pinkert**	Irwin Kra	Sid Mitchell*
Susan Bauer	Walter Deitch*	Delta Greene	Richard Krantz	Laura Mongello
Michele Becker	Ron Denham*	Mariana Grigoras	Sharon Kristjanson	Glenn Morgan**
Kenneth Behles*	Marion Derringer	Leonard Grossman**	Bill Kronenberg**	Lloyd Morgan**
Andy Benn	Loleta and Charles Didrickson*	Bob Grover**	Chuck Kurland	Mary Morony
Margaret Benson	Carol Dietz*	Michael Harper	Hank Lambert*	Roberta Motanky
Gary Benz*	John Doherty	Elaine Harris*	Paul Landman	David Murdoch
Joan Berger	Michael Dolesh**	Racquel Harris*	Joseph Lane**	Judy and Bob Myers**
Susan Berkowitz and Marc Beem*	Kevin Donnellon	Beth and David Hart**	Janet A. Lang**	Reema Nayar and Daniel Nuxoll*
Joan M. and Michael Berman	Therese Donoghue**	Joe Hayes**	Evelyn Laurenzi	Jean Neff Herbert
Jerry Bernstein*	Rich Dubberke*	Maryann Hayes and Edmond Confino*	Virginia Lazarus	Barbara and Donald Nelson
Constance Bernt	Dick DuFour*	Candace Heaphy	Barbara Leff	Sandra Nesvig
Julie Berry	Diane Dunne	Hilde Heitner	Larry Leive**	Colly Nichols
Martha Bills	Charmane Eastman	Margaret Herbert*	Jane Leland and Rich Fisher	Gail Nichols
Joan Bludeau Lavelle	Jay Edelston	Marlene and Sonny Hersh*	Joan and Jeffrey Less*	Heidi Niggli
Howard A. Blum**	Bob Eder*	Joe Hinkel**	Patricia Levenberg	Sami Nordmark
Marty Bohn	Byron Eisenstein	Jana Hletko	Steven Levin	Andrew Norton*
James Borland	Ellen Elpern	Trudy Hobfoll	Jerry Levine**	Barbara Nudelman
Adrienne Bornstein	Esther and Ronald Emmerman	Elaine and Bernie Hoffman*	Nora Ligurotis	Lisa Oberman
Sue and Bob Bowker*	Susanna and Helmut Epp*	Eileen Holderbaum	Jackie Lim*	Bonnie Oh*
Sandy Bredine	Stuart Fagan	Susan Holliday	Alexander Lippitt**	Kevin O'Keefe**
Dea Brennan**	Doreen Feitelberg	Steven John Hopkins**	Jane Lippow	Richard O'Konis
Sheila Bressler*	Reed Fellars*	Gary Hopmayer*	Bill Lipsman*	Masako Mary Osako
Bill Bridgman**	Mary Ferazza	Hillis Howie	Linda Listrom	Rosemary O'Shea*
Mark Broutman	Phyllis Fischel	Mary Jo Huck	Jane Llewellyn	Gilda Parrella
Rona Brown	Jean Fishbeck**	Gail Hulse*	Mary Clare Loftus**	Vasu Patel
Stuart Brown*	Naomi and Steve Fisher*	Mary Hummel and Dan LeMahieu	Russ Lyman**	Stephen Patt *
Eileen and Barry Brusso	Ellen Fitzpatrick	Harry Hunderman*	Ann Lyons	David L. Paul**
Abe Brustein	Joan Flashner*	David Hunt	Barbara and Gene Mackevich**	John Paulett
Larry Burd	Missy Fleming	Bob Ingersoll	Margaret and Gordon Mallett*	Carolyn and Peter Pereira
Birch and Galen Burghardt**	Robert Foote **	Janet and Michael Jablon**	Ira Marcus**	Kathleen Perry
Kay Burnett	Elizabeth Forbrich	Marshall Jacobson	Andrea Maremont	Glen Phillips
Dan Burns**	Amanda Fox	Annika Jaspers	Marcia Matavulj	Maureen Ann Phillips
Lori and Jim Burns*	Leslie Fox*	Bob Jenkins**	Niko and Steven Mayer	Gayle and Michael Pierce*
Jean Bystedt	Katherine France	David Johnson	Judith Paine and Vince McBrien	Joan and Bruce Pikas
Mary Campbell	Louis Freeman		Mary Sue McChesney	Janet Piper-Voss and Peter Voss**
Alice Cannon**	Joseph Frenzel*			Harold Primack*
	Hillel Furlager			Richard Prinz*
	Frida K. Furman			

Continued on next page

2023 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS, CONT.

2023 OLLI Members

Barry Pritchard**
 Sidney Projansky*
 Lori and David Prosnitz
 Sally Pryor**
 Scott Rahn
 Roberta Rakove and
 Michael Plumpton
 Dory Rand
 Les Reiter
 Linda Resser
 Robert Rich
 Laurie Richter*
 Bob Rifkin*
 Gerald Rizzer
 Sandy Robbins
 David Robert
 Sandra and Jeffrey
 Rochman
 Joey Rodger
 Margie Rogasner and
 Bill Irons
 Howard Rose*
 Laurie Rose**
 James Roselle**
 Debra Rosenberg
 Mark Rosenberg
 Thomas Ross
 Lisa Ruder
 Kathleen Ruhl
 Ann and Ray Rusnak**
 Brenda Russell and
 Jack Cooksey**

Tom Ryan
 Nick Sack*
 Kathy Sackheim
 Patricia Sack
 Nancy Sacks
 Joyce Salsburg**
 Sheena Sanny
 Barry Schaye
 Margaret Schilt
 Joanne Schochat
 Nanette Schonberg
 Heidi Schultz*
 Joy Schwabach
 Benjamin Schwartz**
 Jean Schwartz*
 Barbara Sciacchitano
 Jesse Scott
 Madelyn Seckler
 Susan Seiden**
 Linda and Jeffery Semel
 Mary Sferruzza
 Bob Shaevel
 Evelyn Shaevel*
 Arlene Shafon*
 Lois Siegel
 Vicki Siegelman
 Michael Silverman
 Lynne and George Simon**
 Michael Singer**
 Sue Singh
 Jim Smith
 Beverly Snell

Joan Solbeck*
 Ed Sommer*
 Marshall Sparberg**
 Donna Spicuzza
 Joy Springer
 Judith and Dick Spurgin*
 Denise Stauder
 Sara Stewart
 Frances and Charles
 Steinberg*
 Bob Steiner
 Ann Stelmach
 Philip Steptoe
 Sara Stewart
 Debby Strauss
 Richard Stuckey
 Ed Sturuss*
 Richard Sullivan**
 Stephen Sullivan
 Nancy and Tom
 Swanstrom**
 Joseph Swartz
 Jeff Swinson
 Lois Taft
 Howard Tanzman
 Robert Taubenheim
 Elaine Ruth Taylor
 Hank Trenkle
 Judy Trombley and
 Marc Ungar*
 Dorothy Turek and
 George Sullivan**
 Kelly Turula

Stephen VanderVoort
 Sarah Vanderwicken
 Sue Walker*
 Margot Wallace**
 Susan Walsh and
 Alan Cohen**
 Frieda Walter
 Dale and John Walters*
 Ron Wanke
 Katie Ward
 April Ware*
 Mary Watt*
 Barry Weber**
 David Weinberger**
 Joel Weiss
 Eric Weitz
 Fred Wellisch
 Julie West Johnson
 David Whitney**
 Thomas Williamson
 Bernie Wilson**
 Rex Wilson
 Doris Wineman
 Larry Winer**
 Laura Wunderink*
 Barbara Yates Slivnick
 Ken Yoshitani**
 Veronica Zalewski
 Marylyn Zax Miller
 Hrisey Zegger
 Mary Zirul

In Memory of:

Newton Minow
 Kenneth Goldstein

In Honor of:

Dennis Carlin
 Greg Carlin**
Cecilia Trudeau
 Emilie Johnson
 Amanda Williams

Other Donors

The Berghorst
 Foundation, Inc.**
 Mark Dalgaard
 Edward Davis*
 Ramu Kaladi
 Arthur Marcelo
 Kirsty Montgomery
 Sarah O'Brien
 Erin Po
 Joseph Roque
 Dream Shaw
 Sherri Sugarman
 Patricia Thrash*

Donations February 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024

*indicates lead donor of \$250 or more, ** indicates advanced donor of \$500 or more

OLLI AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY MEMBER FUND



Creating a Culture of Giving

Donate Today!



OLLI's Culture of Giving means that every member is encouraged to give of their time, talents, and dollars. Our goal is 100% participation.

Contributing to the OLLI Member Fund has a direct impact on your personal experience. All gifts are used exclusively for OLLI NU strategic priorities such as:

- Enhanced academic enrichment opportunities: special programs and guest speakers
- Acoustic improvements, hearing assistance devices, and sound transmission systems to provide better accessibility for all members.
- Increased diversity and outreach activities
- Need-based scholarships



[Scan the QR code](#)
 or [click here to give to the OLLI NU Member Fund](#)

Your contribution—at any level—demonstrates your commitment to and appreciation for OLLI.

2024–2025 POLICIES AND INFORMATION

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Choice and Flexibility

Remember, every study group will have a limited number of seats in order to maintain the high quality, discussion-based learning model that Northwestern OLLI is known for. As a result, not everyone may get into their first choice. However, members are often pleasantly surprised and pleased by their second, third, or even fourth choice study group which expands their interests and their friendships. In the spirit of lifelong learning, we encourage members to keep an open mind when registering. There are many outstanding study groups from which to choose!

Membership Purchase and Registration

Participation in the OLLI program is based on membership. Membership allows you to join a given number of study groups in each term (varies by membership level). Membership also gives you access to lectures, workshops, enrichment opportunities, and other benefits through Northwestern.

REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE

Membership Purchases and Registration are through the OLLI Online Registration System (Augusoft).

If you need assistance, email olli@northwestern.edu. The first available staff member or OLLI Volli volunteer will call or email you to assist.

ADDITIONAL STUDY GROUP PURCHASES

Additional study groups, beyond those included in your membership, can be purchased for an additional charge. To purchase additional study groups, email olli@northwestern.edu.

- **14-week term (Fall or Spring)** = Prime +\$65 / +\$33 for a 7-week; Standard +\$105 / +\$53 for a 7-week; Basic +\$150 / +\$75 for a 7-week
- **4-week term (Winter or Summer)** = Prime +\$50; Standard +\$80; Basic +\$100

Changes to your membership type are only allowed in specific circumstances which must be approved by the Director. If approved, changes are subject to an administrative fee.

REGISTRATION

You **MUST** be officially registered through the OLLI office for all study groups and bonus groups you attend.

Registration for study groups is on a first come, first served basis. If a study group is full, members will be placed on a waiting list and will be notified only if a space becomes available. Should space become available, members will be added to a study group in the order in which they have been wait listed. We encourage you to register for an open study group in case the waitlisted group does not become available.

OLLI accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, or Discover.

Unless otherwise noted, you must be a current member of OLLI to register for OLLI events.

Trial memberships are available only to new members and may be purchased only one time.

REGISTRATION ADD/DROP

Please make your selections carefully. Changes to study group selections may ONLY be made by the OLLI office. Changes are subject to study group availability.

Changes may only be made up to the end of the second week of the fall or spring term or the first week of winter or summer term.

If your plans have changed and you can no longer participate in a study group or bonus group you must notify the OLLI office.

Refund Policies

UNUSED MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS: Refunds are **NOT issued** for unused membership benefits. If you are unsure of your plans for the year, we recommend that you purchase a half-year membership.

EVENTS: Refunds are **NOT issued** for academic enrichment or social events, including but not limited to prepaid meals, theater tickets, and prepaid tours.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES: Issuance of refunds for extraordinary circumstances are at the discretion of the OLLI Director.

METHOD: Qualifying refunds must be issued in the exact form as payment was made (i.e. to the same credit card that was used to pay for the transaction). Allow 6 weeks for processing.

NEW MEMBERS ONLY: If you participate in OLLI at Northwestern University for the first time and find that this program is not a good match for you, you may be eligible for a full or partial refund under the following circumstances:

If you started in the fall or spring term and you notify the OLLI Director in writing **within two weeks** of the start of the term.

If you started in the winter or summer term and you notify the OLLI Director in writing **within one week** of the start of the term.

Attendance Policies & Expectations

While occasional absences may be unavoidable, OLLI Membership is based on the expectation that you will register for, attend, and actively participate in study groups.

Members who are unable to attend the **first two weeks** of the fall or spring term are required to notify the study group coordinator of their absence, and (if possible) provide an expected date of return to the study group. Members who fail to notify their study group coordinator of their absence may be dropped from the study group at the end of week two.

Members who are unable to attend the **first week** of the winter or summer term are required to notify the study group coordinator of their absence, and (if possible) provide an expected date of return to the study group. Members who fail to notify their study group coordinator of their absence may be dropped from the study group at the end of week one.

Members who sign up for a study group and fail to attend at least half the scheduled sessions without communicating with the coordinator and the office may be refused registration/membership in the future. If you require special accommodations, please contact the OLLI office **prior** to registration.

RSVP carefully to events and workshops, understanding that while there may be no cost to you, there is a cost to the program.

OLLI prohibits video recording of any study group by members or coordinators.

HEALTH & SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION

Safeguarding the health and safety of our members and staff remains top priority. Northwestern OLLI continues to listen to the science and follow CDC guidelines, state mandates, and Northwestern policies related to all COVID-19 safety protocols. If these guidelines, mandates, or policies change, Northwestern OLLI will adjust accordingly.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY MULTIMEDIA RELEASE AGREEMENT

For good and valuable consideration, as a current or former member of Northwestern Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, you grant Northwestern University (the “University”) and its agents and assigns the right to record your appearance and participation on digital recordings, videotape, audiotape, film, photograph or any other medium and to use, publish, reproduce, modify, distribute, and publicly exhibit without limitation for promotional and marketing materials to be used by the University, television networks, and on websites, including but not limited to the University’s website, iTunes, iTunesU, and the University’s page on YouTube, such recordings, in whole or in part, without restrictions or limitation for any purpose that the University in its sole discretion deems appropriate. You further consent to the University’s use of your name, likeness, voice, and identifying information in connection with such recordings. You release the University, its successors and assigns, its agents, and all persons for whom it is acting from any liability by virtue of any blurring, distortion, alteration, optical illusion, or use in composite form, whether intentional or otherwise, that may occur or be produced in the recording process, or any misspellings or inaccuracies, and you waive any right that you may have to inspect, approve, own, or control the finished recordings. You agree that neither you nor your heirs shall be entitled to any compensation for the use of your name, photograph, likeness, or other image of yourself.

NORTHWESTERN’S POLICY ON DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

Northwestern University does not discriminate or permit discrimination by any member of its community against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, parental status, marital status, age, disability, citizenship status, veteran status, genetic information, reproductive health decision making, or any other classification protected by law in matters of admissions, employment, housing, or services or in the educational programs or activities it operates. Harassment, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is based on any of these characteristics is a form of discrimination. Further prohibited by law is discrimination against any employee and/or job applicant who chooses to inquire about, discuss, or disclose their own compensation or the compensation of another employee or applicant.

Northwestern University complies with federal and state laws that prohibit discrimination based on the protected categories listed above, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX requires educational institutions, such as Northwestern, to prohibit discrimination based on sex (including sexual harassment) in the University’s educational programs and activities, including in matters of employment and admissions. In addition, Northwestern provides reasonable accommodations to qualified applicants, students, and employees with disabilities and to individuals who are pregnant.

Any alleged violations of this policy or questions with respect to nondiscrimination or reasonable accommodations should be directed to Northwestern’s Office of Equity, 1800 Sherman Avenue, Suite 4-500, Evanston, Illinois 60208, 847-467-6165, equity@northwestern.edu.

Questions specific to sex discrimination (including sexual misconduct and sexual harassment) should be directed to Northwestern’s Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equity, 1800 Sherman Avenue, Suite 4-500, Evanston, Illinois 60208, 847-467-6165, TitleIXCoordinator@northwestern.edu.

A person may also file a complaint with the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights regarding an alleged violation of Title IX by visiting www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html or calling 800-421-3481. Inquiries about the application of Title IX to Northwestern may be referred to Northwestern’s Title IX Coordinator, the United States Department of Education’s Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, or both.

AVOIDING MICROAGGRESSIONS

To reduce the possibility of unintended harm to fellow OLLI members and to help OLLI be fully inclusive, we encourage all members to educate themselves on microaggressions and be mindful of this information as they engage in OLLI classrooms. Microaggression education can be found under Tips and Tools within the MyOLLINU website.

OLLI MEMBER/STUDENT CONDUCT RULES AND PROCESSES

Adapted from SPS Rules and Regulations of Student Conduct. All students are subject to applicable Northwestern University-enacted policies and standards.

Students admitted into the Northwestern University Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Program (OLLI), offered through the School of Professional Studies (SPS), are SPS students taking non-credit courses in peer-led, discussion format.

OLLI students are subject to the following student conduct policies, rules and processes from the time of a student's registration for OLLI courses throughout participation in the OLLI community. These policies extend to student interaction with each other and with Northwestern staff and faculty, in and outside of the classroom.

Community Expectations: All OLLI students, as members of the Northwestern and SPS community, are expected to conduct themselves maturely and exemplify behavior consistent with Northwestern community standards. Northwestern students are expected to not only excel in the classroom but to engage in socially responsible behavior and to model exceptional conduct, character, and citizenship in class and beyond. All members of the Northwestern community are expected to engage with each other with respect and consideration. All students are expected to be respectful of OLLI and SPS staff time and resources.

Classroom Expectations: All course participants are expected to behave in a manner conducive to a successful and enjoyable learning experience. Sometimes, relatively harmless things can affect the classroom dynamic; for example, some students are so eager to participate that they unintentionally dominate class. Students must think about their role in class as an individual student but also as an integral part of a group experience. Some disruptions are of a more serious nature and cannot be tolerated.

Prohibited Conduct: All OLLI students are subject to applicable University-enacted policies and standards including but not limited to those in the Northwestern University Student Handbook. Any violation of these policies or assisting or encouraging others in the violation of these policies, may lead to student conduct action, including sanctions.

Prohibited and restricted conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Endangering self or others, including but not limited to the physical, psychological/emotional well-being of any person
- Interfering with the learning of others, including but not limited to in-person behavior, online behavior or use of University resources or systems to interfere with the work of another student, a faculty member, or a University staff member, or that otherwise interferes with normal operation of University systems or processes
- Acts of fraud, misrepresentation, or dishonesty including misuse of University documents or knowingly furnishing false information to the University
- Acts of sexual misconduct, discrimination and/or harassment
- Failure to comply to the reasonable request or instruction of a university staff member or emergency personnel acting in an official capacity

Scope of Conduct: OLLI students are subject to SPS Conduct Policies and applicable University-enacted policies found in The Northwestern Student Handbook. Conduct processes are adapted to the parameters dictated by offering peer-led non-credit programming. Northwestern and SPS reserve the right to review and resolve reports of alleged misconduct occurring from the time of a student's OLLI course registration throughout their time being a member of the OLLI community.

OLLI MEMBER/STUDENT CONDUCT RULES AND PROCESSES, CONT.

Student Conduct Process: All alleged violations of conduct by OLLI students will be reviewed by the program director to determine next steps. Options include, but are not limited to:

- close the case due to insufficient information
- resolution of case by OLLI director
- refer case to Northwestern University's Office of Community Standards, Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance, and/or other appropriate University office or unit. *Per Northwestern's reporting obligations, all allegations of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and sexual harassment), discrimination based on a protected category, and harassment based on a protected category are referred to the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance.*

The director will consider whether interim action is appropriate when notice of an alleged violation is received.

Notification: When a conduct violation allegation is determined to move forward, the OLLI student involved (respondent) is notified via correspondence by OLLI leadership. Notification will typically include a brief description of the alleged misconduct, including the time, date and place the incident allegedly occurred, and a list of any University policies allegedly violated. The notification letter will include a request for a written response to the allegations within a reasonable amount of time, not to exceed two weeks of receipt.

Standard of Evidence: Northwestern University Office of Student Conduct and SPS use the preponderance of the evidence standard in reviews. This means that the conduct administrator(s), determine *more likely than not* what occurred.

Participation: The University expects students to participate promptly and fully in all aspects of the student conduct process. If a student elects not to participate in any part of the process, the case may proceed without the respondent's participation. Respondents may be held accountable for any outcomes issued, even if they fail to participate.

Determination of Responsibility, Notification and Sanctions: Outcomes determined by SPS will be communicated in writing in a reasonable timeframe following student written response receipt, or following the deadline provided for response. The Outcome Notification letter will be added to the student academic record. Using preponderance of the evidence standard, OLLI leadership will determine whether the respondent is responsible for the alleged policy violation and, if so, will issue appropriate sanctions, from warning to program dismissal at sole discretion of program director.

SPS reserves the right to take appropriate action for violations of this policy or other applicable University policies, up to and including dismissal of an OLLI student from the program.

Reports of alleged bias or hate-related incidents can be reported to the Bias Incident Response Team.

Information on filing reports can be found on the web page:

<https://www.northwestern.edu/inclusion/respectnu/incident-report.html>.

The Northwestern University Student Handbook can be viewed at:

sps.northwestern.edu/student-handbook

As of January 19, 2025

LOGISTICS, SERVICES, AND RESOURCES

OLLI Office Location and Hours:

Chicago (Wieboldt Hall):
339 E Chicago Avenue, Room 412
Chicago, IL 60611

Evanston:
500 Davis Street, Suite 700
Evanston, IL 60201

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (less a flexible hour for lunch)
OLLI staff work remotely on Fridays.

OLLI Contact Information

EMAIL: olli@northwestern.edu

OLLI HELP DESK:

<https://spsolli.sps.northwestern.edu/>

Intercampus Shuttle

Fully operational and available to OLLI students with a current Wildcard that contains your photo. [Click Here](#) for shuttle information.

NU Libraries

Northwestern Library holds over 8 million items making it the 11th largest private university library.

Wildcards

Wildcards are only issued before the fall semester and only to OLLI members who purchased a **full academic year membership**. 2024-2025 Academic Year Wildcards are valid through September, 2025.

OLLI members have access to the NU libraries and databases, however only full-time members with Wildcards have borrowing privileges.

Evanston Main Library:

[Click Here](#) for more information.

Wildcard ID Discounts

wildcardadv.northwestern.edu

PHONE: 847-491-7658

EMAIL: library@northwestern.edu

GUIDES: libguides.northwestern.edu/OLLI_libguide

University Police

EVANSTON: 847-491-3254

CHICAGO: 312-503-8314

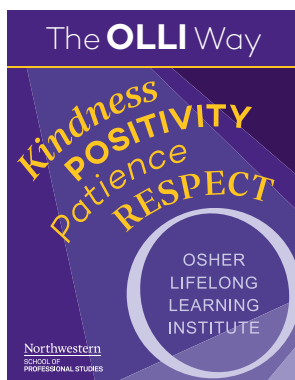
EMERGENCY: 911

northwestern.edu/up

LIBRARIAN: Tracy Coyne

tracy-coyne@northwestern.edu

WEBSITE: library.northwestern.edu



The OLLI Way

As a lean staff, we do the very best we can to provide an outstanding experience for each and every OLLI member. Our community values kindness, patience, positivity, and respect—something we call The OLLI Way. These values are critical as members, staff, and volunteers interact with one another. They are especially important as we manage the logistics, fun, and excitement associated with each new OLLI term. Thanks to all of you for embracing the OLLI Way.