



**Stay Curious.
Stay Connected.**
Learning is more
fun with friends
at OLLI NU!

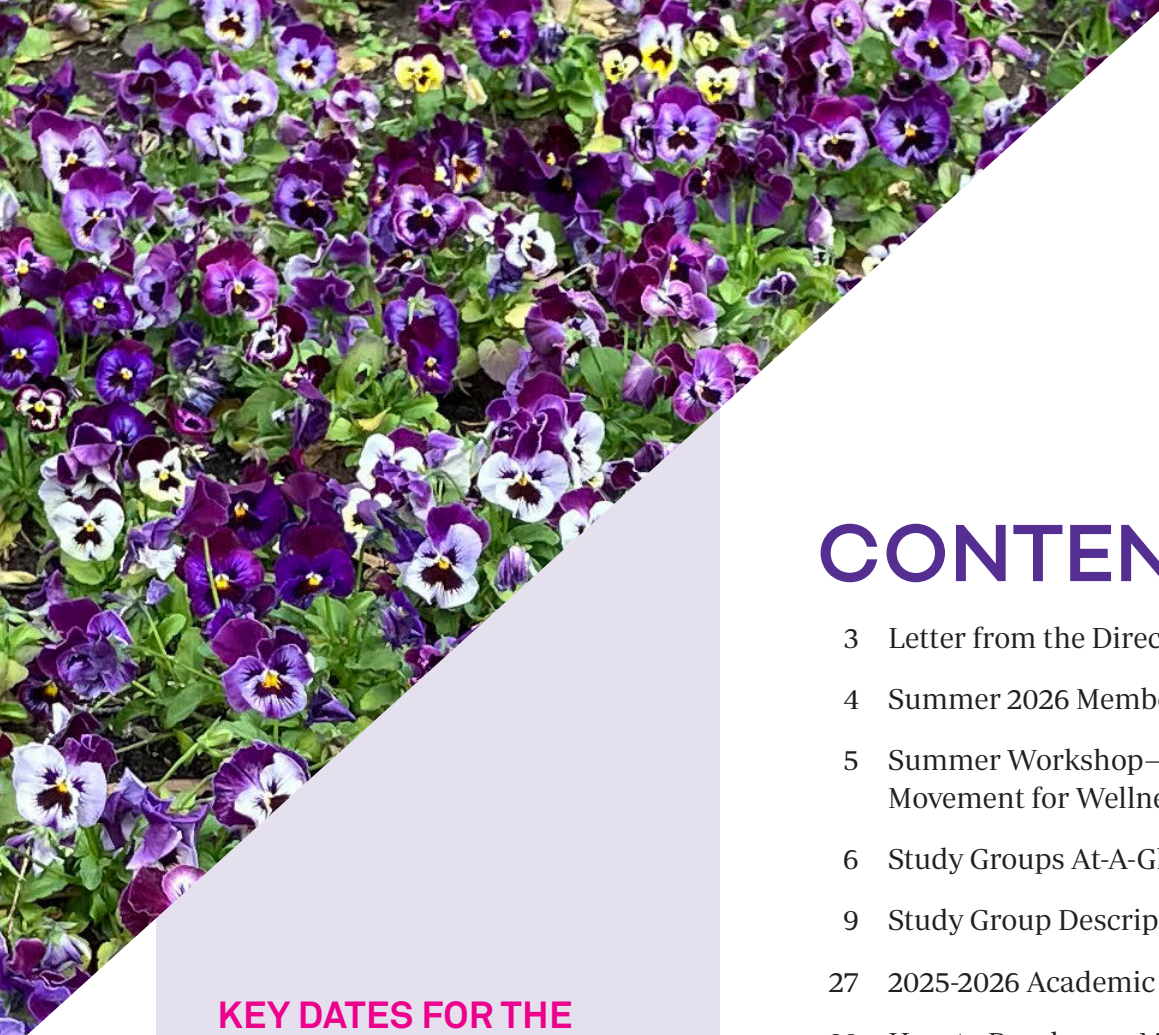


Northwestern
SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES



2026 OLLI SUMMER TERM

MONDAY, JULY 6–FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2026



KEY DATES FOR THE SUMMER TERM:

Membership purchase:

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

(See page 4 for membership options.)

Registration Opens:

Monday, June 8 at 9 a.m.

Registration Closes:

Monday, June 22 at 5 p.m.

Summer Term Dates:

Monday, July 6–
Friday, July 31, 2026

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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,

Summer brings a different rhythm: longer days, lighter schedules, and new opportunities to explore ideas and connect with others. It's a wonderful season to reengage with learning, conversation, and community, and I'm delighted to share our Summer Catalog at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Northwestern University.

This summer's offerings reflect the spirit of curiosity that defines OLLI. You'll find study groups that encourage thoughtful discussion, fresh perspectives, and creative exploration. Whether you're continuing a long-held interest or trying something entirely new, summer is a perfect time to learn simply for the joy of it.

Our newer Social Interest Groups, or SIGs, continue to grow this term as another way for members to connect beyond the classroom experience. These member-led groups are centered on shared interests, activities, and community building. You can find a list of current SIGs on MyOLLINU under General Info.

As always, community remains at the heart of OLLI. I hope you'll browse the catalog, discover something that sparks your interest, and join us for a summer of learning and connection.

Warmly,

Emily

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) today.
 - 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, June 8):

[Online registration](#) opens at 9 a.m.
Registration closes Monday, June 22, 2026 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 pages 28 & 29 for membership purchase and registration instructions.



SUMMER 2026 MEMBERSHIP

If you are not a current OLLI member, you may purchase a 4-week summer membership [here](#).

Summer Membership:

Summer Membership: \$165

- Includes two study groups in the 4-week summer session

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 (two 14-week terms and two 4-week terms):

1) Fall Term
(14 weeks)

2) Winter Term
(4 weeks, all virtual)

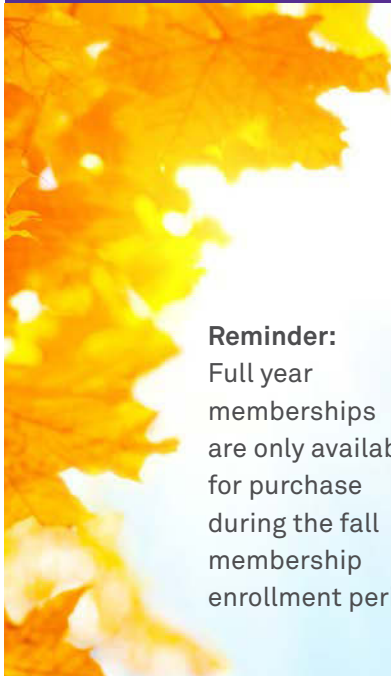
3) Spring Term
(14 weeks)

4) Summer Term
(4 weeks)

A new OLLI academic calendar year 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.

UPCOMING FALL 2026 DATES



Reminder:
Full year memberships are only available for purchase during the fall membership enrollment period.

OLLI Fall 2026 14-week session:

Tuesday, September 8 through
Monday, December 14, 2026

Catalog available:

Sunday, July 26, 2026

Emailed through the OLLI newsletter
(available on the website Monday, July 27)

Membership purchase:

Tuesday, July 7–Monday, August 24, 2026

Registration:

Monday, August 10–Monday, August 24, 2026

OLLI NU Summer Workshop

Movement for Wellness: Stories in Motion

in partnership with
Hubbard Street Dance Chicago



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HUBBARD STREET
DANCE CHICAGO



Monday–Thursday, July 6–9 9:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Wieboldt Hall, Chicago

How does the Choreographer express meaning through dance? How does the audience member draw understanding from the experience of viewing movement?

In this four-day summer workshop “Stories in Motion,” OLLI partners with teaching artists from renowned Hubbard Street Dance Chicago (HSDC) to learn how to express ideas, story, and character through healthy movement. Explore the choreographic process and activate the mind-body connection with guided, accessible movement activities rooted in the universal dance vocabulary of Body, Energy, Space, and Time (B.E.S.T.). Movers of all levels and abilities are welcome, including those who choose to move in a chair.

- Learn how certain movements connect to brain processes and do the “Brain Dance” to strengthen connections.
- View video from HSDC to observe how the body is moving, then interpret what your “eyes see” into what your “mind sees” as story.
- Work with other OLLI members to create original choreography.
- Hear what goes on “behind the scenes” in a choreographic production.

Tickle your creative imagination while enjoying some healthy movement!

Instructor **Michelle Modrzejewski** is a Chicago-based choreographer, performer, and dance educator. As an educator, Michelle’s work spans ages, abilities, and disciplines, including dance integration, dance for adults with Parkinson’s disease, dementia, and dance for children on the autism spectrum, most notably as a Learning Specialist with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Her interest in connection, collaboration, and accessibility inspired collaborative partnerships across the city with the Art Institute of Chicago, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, and the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. Michelle holds a B.A. in Dance Performance from Ball State University, a Post-Baccalaureate degree in Dance Education with K-12 Licensure from the University of North Carolina (UNGC) and an M.A. in Dance Education through UNGC.

Meets in person: Wieboldt Hall, 339 E Chicago Ave. Chicago IL 60611

Cost: \$40 for four sessions.

Open to current OLLI NU members. Register and pay through your OLLI Augusoft Registration account.

OLLI SUMMER 2026 TERM • BEGINS MONDAY, JULY 6, 2026

STUDY GROUPS AT-A-GLANCE

KEY

C/S: 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 SUMMER 2026 STUDY GROUPS—page 10

Monday

9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **HIS** Exploring Graceland Cemetery (*meets off campus*)

1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **C/S** *The New Yorker* Magazine from the 1970s to Today

NEW 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** Time Travel in Movies and Television

1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m. **CA** Movies and Irish Uprisings: The “Cause” and The “Troubles”

Tuesday

NEW 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **C/S** Humboldt Park On Foot (*meets off campus*)

9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **HIS** More Historic Chicago Hotels along Michigan Avenue

9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **STMH** Hands-on Introduction to AI

NEW 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** For the Love of (Even More) Art: Matisse and the “Wild Beasts” Art Movement

NEW 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **LIT** The Short Stories of Paul Bowles

1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **STMH** AI Level 2: Creative Projects and Practical Applications

Wednesday

NEW 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **C/S** Walking Chicago (*meets off campus*)

NEW 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** Poetry and Song

1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **HIS** Hot Off The Presses: The Big Decisions by The US Supreme Court for 2026 (Chicago)

Thursday

- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **LIT** Ghost Stories from Around the World
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m. **C/S** Reforming Medicare
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **C/S** *The Economist*
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **HIS** *The Jewel of the Gold Coast: Mrs. Potter Palmer's Chicago*
- 1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m. **CA** Classic Films of the Fifties: Sidney Poitier, Rising Black Star

EVANSTON IN-PERSON SUMMER 2026 STUDY GROUPS—page 16**Monday**

- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **C/S** *The New Yorker*
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** Summer Shorts
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** Writing Life Stories, Group A
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **C/S** Freakonomics Revisited
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **LIT** Antigones
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **LIT** *Raven Black—A Mystery*

Tuesday

- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** Beethoven: The Eternal Original
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** Mike Nichols: A Life in Four Films
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **LIT** Sophocles: The Theban Plays
- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **STMH** Science in the News
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** Listening To Paul Simon
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **LIT** Enormous Changes at the Last Minute: The Short Stories of Grace Paley

Wednesday

- 9:30 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** Creative Writing Workshop
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** Art Nouveau—The Other Art
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** Pete Seeger: The Power of Song
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **C/S** The Hundred Years' Trial: Law and Evolution since Scopes v. Tennessee
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **LIT** Circe

Thursday

9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **C/S** Hot Off The Presses: The Big Decisions
by The US Supreme Court for 2026 (Evanston)

NEW 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **HIS** Confronting the Legacy of Slavery in America

NEW 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **STMH** Everything is Tuberculosis

VIRTUAL IN-PERSON SUMMER 2026 STUDY GROUPS—page 23**Monday**

NEW 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **HIS** War and Power: Who Wins Wars—And Why

Tuesday

NEW 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **SS** What Happened to the Utopian Promise of the Early Internet?

1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** Tuesday at the Movies

NEW 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **STMH** Yoga For Healthy Aging

Wednesday

9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **C/S** *Foreign Affairs*

9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **LIT** The Art of the One-Act: Short Plays of the Modern Theater

1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **C/S** Articles from the Sunday *New York Times*

1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** Renee Fleming—from Opera Singer to Superstar

Thursday

1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **C/S** *The Economist* (Virtual)

NEW 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **HIS** Summer Book Club: *The Map Thief*

***“There is only one good, knowledge,
and one evil, ignorance.”***

— Socrates



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OLLI SUMMER 2026 TERM • BEGINS MONDAY, JULY 6, 2026

STUDY GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

ICON KEY

High level of discussion	Preparation: Less than 1 hour per week
Medium level of discussion	No preparation needed
Low level of discussion	Movies/documentaries shown
Participation strongly encouraged	Access to streaming service required
Participation encouraged	Kindle edition available
Participation according to comfort level	Off Campus; self transportation required
Preparation: More than 2 hours per week	Walking required
Preparation: Roughly 1–2 hours per week	

These icons are located after each study group description and indicate levels of discussion, participation, preparation, and other factors to consider when choosing a study group.

STUDY GROUP CATEGORIES

Study groups are organized into the categories listed here. You can find each group's category to the right of the study group name on the page.

- CREATIVE ARTS (PERFORMING, VISUAL, AND LITERARY ARTS)
- CONTEMPORARY AND SOCIAL ISSUES
- LITERATURE
- HISTORY & GOVERNMENT
- SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE & HEALTH (STMH)
- SOCIAL SCIENCES (PHILOSOPHY, SOCIOLOGY, ANTHROPOLOGY, ECONOMICS)

CHICAGO STUDY GROUPS: MONDAY

BEGINS JULY 6, 2026

Exploring Graceland Cemetery

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Judith Myers, Robert Myers

This study group will explore the history of Chicago through four walks in Graceland Cemetery. The Cemetery is one of Chicago's crown jewels designed by visionary landscape architects, many of whom are also buried there. Among its Victorian gardens we will find some of Chicago's most noted and influential citizens such as Marshall Field, Louis Sullivan, Ernie Banks, and many others. Each week, we will explore a section of the 120-acre cemetery grounds and learn about the people buried there. Participants will be expected to lead a five-minute discussion of one gravesite each week. The weekly tours will require one to two miles of walking. Participants should bring water bottles and provide for sun protection. Additionally, participants must provide their own transportation. Several CTA routes are available, and there is ample street parking near the cemetery. Course resources including cemetery maps will be posted on MyOLLI.

**The New Yorker Magazine from the 1970s to Today** CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Dale Melin Walters, Ann Ferroni

Inside its famous covers and beyond the cartoons, *The New Yorker* is dedicated to quality, topical writings and ideas. Our study group for the summer will focus on articles for the last 50 years, from the 1970s to today. You will find your current view of the world expanded. A current subscription to *The New Yorker* is recommended. Every week we will have two discussion leaders. Be prepared to have fun and lively discussions. Although listed as in-person, study group participants may attend in-person or virtually via Zoom.

**NEW Time Travel in Movies and Television**

CREATIVE ARTS

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Tim Atkins, Barbara Leff

Time travel has long been a popular theme in movies and television. We will start our exploration with a couple of classic episodes from the *Twilight Zone* television series, which often found characters transported to another era. These episodes will be shown in class. We then will move on to three movies, starting with *The Final Countdown* (1980), in which Kirk Douglas commands a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier that travels through an electrically-charged vortex to the day before the attack on Pearl Harbor. Next will be *Back to the Future* (1985), a comedy featuring Michael J. Fox as a teenager accidentally sent back 30 years in a time-traveling DeLorean automobile who inadvertently prevents his future parents from falling in love, thereby threatening his own existence. Lastly, we will view *Groundhog Day* (1993), a romantic comedy starring Bill Murray as a cynical television weatherman covering the annual Groundhog Day event in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, who becomes trapped in a time loop, forcing him to relive February 2 repeatedly. Members will view the movies, available on streaming services, in advance of each session. Lively discussion will take place in the classroom. Join us for a fun, thought-provoking discussion of this genre.



Movies and Irish Uprisings: The “Cause” and The “Troubles”

CREATIVE ARTS

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m.

Bill McGuffage, Steve Greska

Ireland’s fight for freedom from oppressive British rule began in the 18th Century and its legacy endures to this day. The 1916 Easter Rising against the British army in Dublin led to a state of war that ended with the 1922 establishment of the Irish Free State. But political and religious conflicts have continued in Northern Ireland. The 4 films we will watch and discuss in class truthfully depict the “Cause” (1916-1922) and the “Troubles” (1969-1998) of this conflict. The films are: *Shake Hands With The Devil* (1959), *Michael Collins* (1996), *The Wind That Shakes The Barley* (2006), and *Bloody Sunday* (2002). Critical movie reviews and articles on the historical aspects of the struggle will be e-mailed a few days before class. Join us!



CHICAGO STUDY GROUPS: TUESDAY

BEGINS JULY 7, 2026

NEW Humboldt Park On Foot

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Samijeon Nordmark, Susan Salpeter

Join us as we explore an iconic westside Chicago neighborhood: Humboldt Park. This area is rich in history and proud of its Puerto Rican identity and heritage. The neighborhood gets its name from the 200-acre Humboldt Park, home to two lagoons, an historic field house, a boat house, a rose garden, miles of trails, and an occasional alligator. Each week we will visit a different aspect of the neighborhood: the murals of Paseo Borica, Jens Jenson’s landscape architecture, the Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, and the nearby 606 elevated trail. We will see evidence of waves of immigration and current gentrification. We will see abundant wildlife in the park and will visit the only museum, outside of Puerto Rico, celebrating the art and culture of its people. We will rise above the streets to walk the linear Bloomingdale’s park system. Be prepared to walk a least two miles each day. The area has ample street parking and is easily accessible by public transportation.



More Historic Chicago Hotels along Michigan Avenue

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Laurie Toth, Tim Atkins, Trudy Hobfoll

Join us for an engaging exploration of the rich history, architecture, and cultural impact of iconic Chicago hotels along North Michigan Avenue. Each session highlights a landmark property: the InterContinental Chicago Magnificent Mile, the Allerton Hotel, and the Millennium Knickerbocker Hotel. In our discussions we will examine the origins, notable guests, architectural styles, roles in shaping Chicago’s social history, and their connections to themes from the city’s Gilded Age and Jazz Age. Week 4 culminates in a guided walking tour that visits all three hotels, concluding with a stop at the historic Drake Hotel for a contextual discussion and optional refreshments. This course is ideal for history enthusiasts, architecture lovers, and anyone interested in Chicago’s vibrant past.



Hands-on Introduction to AI

STMH

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Pat Stankard, Andi France

Join us in this introductory exploration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and become empowered with the skills to use AI as a tool in your personal pursuits. This study group offers a welcoming space to explore AI's potential firsthand, whether you are approaching AI with caution, intrigued, or already experimenting. You will gain an understanding of AI's potential and learn practical skills for using tools like ChatGPT, Perplexity, Claude and Gemini. Each week we will engage in projects designed to help you learn how to talk to AI - how to craft effective prompts, refine AI responses, and apply AI to simple real-world tasks such as organizing information, generating ideas, assisting with writing, planning activities, or making everyday decisions. We will use the free versions of each AI program so there will be no cost to participate. This will be an active, hands-on experience, so everyone will be asked to bring a laptop or tablet to class to actively participate. By the end of this engaging study group, you will be navigating the world of artificial intelligence with confidence.



NEW For the Love of (Even More) Art: Matisse and the “Wild Beasts” Art Movement

CREATIVE ARTS

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Dorothy Balabanos, Tim Atkins

Are you curious about how artists moved away from traditional representational art into cubism, expressionism and abstraction? Are you interested in learning how a short-lived art movement, Fauvism, influenced at least five generations of artists? Do you want to learn about how the artists of this movement created works that uplift our moods? Then join us this summer as we explore the “Wild Beasts” or Fauvists, the name given to the artists who ushered in the individualistic nature of the modernist era. We will delve into understanding Fauvism as an art form and study the works of its founders, Henri Matisse and Andre Derain, as well as those of Emilie Charmy, Suzanne Valadon and others. We'll learn how the Fauvists used color and dramatic brushstrokes to project a mood and establish a structure within the work of art without having to be true to the natural world or the limitations of the canvas. We'll also investigate how the Fauvists directly influenced modern art and artists such as Picasso, Kandinsky and Kirchner. A field trip to the Art Institute of Chicago to view great works of art is also planned. All are welcome for an enlightening and joyous learning experience.



NEW The Short Stories of Paul Bowles

LITERATURE

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Matthew Corey, Charles Kiefer

Paul Bowles, the American expatriate writer who lived most of his life in Tangier, is best remembered as a novelist, especially for his novel *The Sheltering Sky* (1949). But short stories were a significant part of his literary output. In this study group, we will read a number of those short stories, paying close attention to themes, style, plot, and structure. We will discuss his impact on other writers, especially the Beats, and we will consider his lasting legacy. Our text will be *The Stories of Paul Bowles* (Ecco, 2001). This text will be supplemented with interviews and documentaries on his life available on YouTube. Join us as we discover why, in 1991, the jury of the Rea Award for the Short Story said “Among living masters of the American short story, Paul Bowles is sui generis.”



AI Level 2: Creative Projects and Practical Applications

STMH

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Pat Stankard, Andi France

This is a second-level study group of using AI, designed for learners who already understand the basics and want to explore its practical, creative potential in their personal life. We will not discuss the basics of getting onto the AI sites, formulating prompts, or basic uses, but rather will focus on more advanced applications. We will work on projects of the group's choosing, including, for example, creating a personalized book for a grandchild, building a "legacy interview" project to help you write your life story, restoring and enhancing old family or vacation pictures, or creating systems to stay organized or to gather and analyze information. This will not be a book-based theoretical discussion of AI, but rather an active, participatory experience. Every participant will be expected to engage in the projects, which will be carried out at home after guided instruction and discussion in class, and then present their project the next week for discussion and shared learning. We will use free versions of the AI programs well as other apps, so there will be no cost to participate. Please bring a laptop or tablet to class to actively participate. By the end of our sessions, you'll have a better understanding of AI's potential and a portfolio of digital creations to show for it.



CHICAGO STUDY GROUPS: WEDNESDAY

BEGINS JULY 8, 2026

NEW Walking Chicago

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Joe Hinkel, Gail Bartlett

Walking in Chicago in the summertime is a great activity. In this study group we will tour unique areas north, south and city center to see interesting old neighborhoods, new buildings and spots that are repurposed. We will meet at a different city location each week and walk between two and three miles. Information will be provided giving directions to the specific sites each week. This is a great way to stay in touch with your OLLI friends and see various areas of the city



NEW Poetry and Song

CREATIVE ARTS

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Judith Myers, Judith McCue

What's in a poem? What's in a song? What happens when the two combine? This study group will examine the work of poets whose written creations have been set to music, from Benjamin Britten to Bob Dylan. We will make multiple stops along the way to listen to the songs of Emily Dickinson, Carl Sandburg, Leonard Cohen, and maybe Taylor Swift. Through group discussion, we will search for answers to the question about songwriters' being poets. The coordinators will provide resources and internet links to the sights and sounds of poets and musicians we encounter on this journey. Resources will be available on the MyOLLI study group site. Please join us to explore this magical combination of poetry and song.



Hot Off The Presses: The Big Decisions by The US Supreme Court for 2026 (Chicago)

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Michael Sehr, Carole Kagan, Tim Atkins

In June 2026, the United States Supreme Court will release the last of its decisions of its 2025-26 term on a host of important issues. Those decisions, along with any released earlier in the term, may impact issues such as: President Trump's attempt to limit birthright citizenship, the power of the President to impose tariffs, whether some Federal Agencies can operate independently, the intersection of gay, transgender rights with healthcare, free speech and sports participation, and the impact of a person's immigration status on various individual liberties guaranteed under the Constitution, among others. Our study group will examine some of these significant decisions as well as current controversies arising out of the Court's operations. We will review the Court's opinions and related materials, discuss how they may affect current law, and analyze any resulting changes in our individual rights and how our state and federal governments function. The Court's decisions are available from free public websites, and abridged versions and supplementary articles analyzing the cases will be provided. This study group is being offered in both Chicago and Evanston.



CHICAGO STUDY GROUPS: THURSDAY

BEGINS JULY 9, 2026

NEW Ghost Stories from Around the World

LITERATURE

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Theodora Rand, Ann Stelmach

Do you enjoy exploring other cultures and traditions? Join us as we read and discuss eight fascinating stories from Korea, Yemen, Poland, Japan, Uzbekistan, Iceland, Tanzania, and Thailand. We will also discuss the authors, translators, and some background information relating to the stories. Our primary text is *Ghost Stories: I Was Alive Here Once* by Sarah Coolidge (Two Lines Press, 2026). We will read and discuss two stories (about 50 pages) each week. Through eight contemporary stories exploring a range of genres, from fantasy and horror to eco-fiction and romance, this collection breathes new life into the ghost story, foregoing familiar tropes to speak to today's unique political and ecological horrors.



NEW Reforming Medicare

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Joel Shalowitz, Steve Patt

As we all get older, we increasingly rely on Medicare to pay for our healthcare. But as we use this system, we become acutely aware of its problems. To fully understand Medicare issues, we will start by gaining an appreciation of the U.S. healthcare system's structure and how basic health insurance works. We will then address such topics as the history, organization, and sources and uses of funds for each part of Medicare. With this knowledge, participants will offer and debate suggestions about how each component can be improved. Throughout, the linkages among these parts will also be highlighted. Each week we will examine a different part of Medicare: Part A, Part B, Part D, and finally Medicare Advantage. Join us as we learn more about this important program and discuss ways to improve it.



The Economist

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Phyllis Fischel, John Walters

We invite you to read and discuss current events and more through the lens of amazing journalists. Lively conversations and intellectual exploration are the order of the day. Each week 2 members of the group will select 4-6 articles from *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 you are free to express your opinions. Whether you are a seasoned reader or new to the world of international affairs, 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. A subscription to *The Economist* is required. Join us for an enriching experience that celebrates knowledge, camaraderie, and the joy of learning together!



NEW The Jewel of the Gold Coast: Mrs. Potter Palmer's Chicago

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Laurie Toth, Tim Atkins, Trudy Hobfoll

Step into the dazzling world of Chicago's historic Gold Coast during the Gilded Age. This study group invites participants to explore the life and legacy of Bertha Palmer—philanthropist, innovator, and socialite—through Sally Kalmbach's vivid storytelling and Chicago's architectural and cultural backdrop. Participants will discover how one woman helped transform a city and shape the role of American women in art, business, and society. The study group blends lively discussion, historical context, and local exploration, making it perfect for history enthusiasts, book lovers, and Chicagoans curious about their city's glamorous past. The book we will be using, *The Jewel of the Gold Coast: Mrs. Potter Palmer of Chicago* by Sally Kalmbach, will be provided by the author before class for under \$20.00. We are also looking at arranging an optional fifth week tour of the Gold Coast with the author for an additional fee to be determined.



Classic Films of the Fifties: Sidney Poitier, Rising Black Star

CREATIVE ARTS

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m.

Bill McGuffage, Rhoda Stamell

The 1950s was a period of racial unrest. The struggles of the Civil Rights Movement had entered mainstream American life. In his early films, Sidney Poitier portrayed young Black men dealing with virulent racism. He broke the barrier for Black males in leading roles and became one of the most popular American movie stars. The four powerful films that we will watch and discuss in class are: *No Way Out* (1951), *Something Of Value* (1956), *Edge of the City* (1957), and *The Defiant Ones* (1958). Critical movie reviews and articles of historical interest will be e-mailed to you before each class. Join us!



EVANSTON STUDY GROUPS: MONDAY

BEGINS JULY 6, 2026

The New Yorker

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Susan Gaud, Jeffrey Less, Mary Watt

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. Each week study group members will select articles and lead discussions. Conversations will be lively and lead to expanded knowledge. Everyone will be encouraged to lead a discussion. A print or digital subscription to the magazine is necessary.

**NEW Summer Shorts**

CREATIVE ARTS

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Margot Wallace, Adele Gelb, Ron Gelb

This year, 15 Oscar-nominated short films competed for three awards and a few minutes of attention. This summer, we'll award them eight attentive hours, two a week, comparing their wide range of subjects and the ideas that motivated them. The eight films include *Retirement Plan*, *Forevergreen*, *Two People Exchanging Saliva*, *The Singers*, and others from the Animated, Live Action and Documentary Short Film categories. Short films revel in detail. They look at life closely, finding humor in a parlor, harmony in a pub. All our selected films are available on various streaming platforms, and free sources like YouTube, Kanopy, and BAM Film 2026. A complete list will be sent on registration. We watch films at home, discuss them in class. Please bring your own definition of "Short Film" with you to the conversation. We look forward to hearing from you this summer.

**NEW Writing Life Stories, Group A**

CREATIVE ARTS

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Steve Meiss, Bob Jenkins

Are you ready to capture your memories, reflect on cherished moments, and celebrate the people who have shaped your life? Whether you are a seasoned writer or brand new to storytelling, our memoir writing study group welcomes you! Together, we create a warm, encouraging atmosphere where everyone's voice is valued, and everyone grows as a writer. Each week, you will write up to seven hundred words about a meaningful experience, adventure, or chapter from your life. For example, you might share the story of moving to a new city and the unexpected friendships that made it feel like home, or recall a family tradition — any topic you choose. In each session, we read our pieces aloud and offer constructive feedback. During the term, each participant will guide a discussion on a published memoir of their choice. This might be an entire book or a chapter. Choose your own favorite or select one from our list.



NEW Freakonomics Revisited

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Janet Jablon, Laurie Orgel

Two decades ago, *Freakonomics* redefined the “dismal science” of economics by applying its fundamental principles and tools to everyday topics—like crime, parenting, and sports—to reveal how incentives drive human behavior. This summer we will revisit this groundbreaking work by reading *Freakonomics Twentieth Anniversary Edition: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything* (2025, William Morrow Paperbacks), updated by University of Chicago economist Steven D. Levitt and journalist Stephen J. Dubner. *Freakonomics* challenged traditional views and used analytical inquiry to propose a new way of thinking: data-driven curiosity. The authors questioned the conventional wisdom that describes how we want the world to work and applied economic principles to explain how it actually works. *Freakonomics* remains a provocative exploration of human nature, ethics, and the unintended consequences of social structures. Our study group will revisit the ideas that made *Freakonomics* a blockbuster bestseller and we’ll endeavor to apply its underlying premise to explain the current social climate and see why “thinking like a freak” remains essential in 2026.



NEW Antigones

LITERATURE

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

David Mathers, George Sullivan, Masako Osako

Antigone – the original rebel with a raised fist! When King Creon refuses to bury her brother for political reasons, Antigone (as stubborn and smart as her father Oedipus) defies him, at the cost of her own life. Sophocles’ 5th-century BC tragedy bursts with significant issues still relevant to us: politics vs. religion, human law vs. divine law, patriarchy vs. unsubmitive women, tyrannical rulers vs. defiant citizens, and more. Our “Antigones” study group will include the original play, as well as modern literary characters and real-life individuals inspired by it: Jean Anouilh’s *Antigone*, set in Nazi-occupied Paris, Athol Fugard’s portrayal of apartheid South Africa in *The Island*, and selections from Seamus Heaney’s *The Cure at Troy*. The coordinators will provide PDFs of some of these works. We will also watch at least one movie that deals with themes of the play. (Films such as *Parallel Mothers* by the Spanish director Almodovar and *Moolaadé* by the Senegalese director Sembène are being considered.) Other touchpoints will include *Civil Disobedience* by Thoreau, the Geneva Convention, protests against police violence in Ferguson, and the burial of the Boston Marathon bomber. Join us as we ponder what Antigone means in our time!



Raven Black—A Mystery

LITERATURE

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Beverly Snell, Roberta Rakove, Angela Pisano

Take a break from the long, hot days this summer with a visit to the Shetland Islands of Scotland! Our study group will be reading and viewing *Raven Black*, the first of the Shetland Island Mysteries by Ann Cleeves, for which she won the Crime Writers’ Association Duncan Lawrie Dagger (formerly the Gold Dagger) Award for the best crime novel of the year. The judges praised it for its “superb sense of place” and called it “a depiction of an enclosed community with modern and entrenched values constantly competing, and a thrilling read.” (Cleeves was later chosen as the recipient of the Cartier Diamond Dagger Award for “sustained excellence” in crime fiction, and was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to reading and libraries.) For our study group, any edition of *Raven Black* (Minotaur Books, 2008) may be used, and it is available in hard copy, ebook, and audiobook from your library and online. We will be reading *Raven Black* the first three weeks of the term and watching the BBC version the last week. Come join us as we learn more about the Shetland Islands—and murder!



EVANSTON STUDY GROUPS: TUESDAY

BEGINS JULY 7, 2026

NEW Beethoven: The Eternal Original

CREATIVE ARTS

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Margot Wallace, Stephen Hoepfner

In honor of the 200th anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven's death in 2027, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is hosting a season-long celebration of the legendary composer called "Beethoven: The Eternal Original". In this 4-week course, we hope to join the celebration by exploring what makes Beethoven so intriguing, even today. Every week, we will discuss select musical pieces that the CSO plans to perform during the upcoming season. We'll also read and discuss *Beethoven: Variations on a Life* (Oxford University Press, 2020) by music historian Mark Evan Bonds, a very readable and concise book that looks at his life and work from a fresh, non-biographical perspective. Our discussions will bring the great composer's music alive and will complement what we typically only read in the concert program notes or hear from a musicologist's talk prior to a concert. Love of music is required. Musical expertise or knowledge is not! We welcome all to our discussions.

**NEW Mike Nichols: A Life in Four Films**

CREATIVE ARTS

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Chuck Meyers, David Strouse

Immigrant, comedian, writer, producer and director, Mike Nichols was the consummate man for all seasons. One of 28 people to win all of the major entertainment awards: Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony, Nichols began his career improvising comedy with his partner, Elaine May. Nichols left Chicago for New York where he directed Neil Simon's *Barefoot in the Park*. A successful Broadway producer/director, Nichols moved to Hollywood where he produced and directed the four films that we will view together—*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *The Graduate*, *Catch-22*, and *The Birdcage*. Join us for a month of laughter and sadness, joy and wonder!

**NEW Sophocles: The Theban Plays**

LITERATURE

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Amy Pobst, Suzanne Farrand

Sophocles (497–405 BCE) wrote over 100 plays, only seven of which have survived in complete form. *Oedipus Rex*, *Oedipus at Colonus*, and *Antigone*, while not written as a trilogy, are all concerned with the family of Oedipus, King of Thebes. Their themes have resonance today: What is justice? What is the relationship between the individual and the state? How do we live under forces we cannot control? We will explore how these themes have evolved over the last 2500 years. In addition to our reading and discussion, we will read selections of these plays aloud together to experience the plays in a different way. Recommended translation: *The Theban Plays of Sophocles*, translated by David R. Slavitt (Yale University Press, 2007).



Science in the News

STMH

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Brenda Russell, Tom Cotter, Doug Essex

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 suggest recent articles and members are able to choose topics from *Scientific American* or other science sources. Members may enrich the discussion with additional video or materials. Access to a digital or print subscription 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 Listening To Paul Simon

CREATIVE ARTS

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Rick Okonis, Michael Jablon

“The Sound of Silence,” “The Boxer,” “Bridge Over Troubled Water,” “Graceland.” If you were anywhere near a radio in the late twentieth century, you’d have heard these songs. They all sprang from the mind of one man, Paul Simon. In this study group, we will explore the music, lyrics, and cultural impact of Paul Simon, including his work with Simon & Garfunkel and his solo career. In class, we will watch documentaries and music videos. Participants will have the opportunity to research and analyze key songs to share with the class. Together we’ll appreciate the genius of one of the twentieth century’s greatest poets and songwriters.



NEW Enormous Changes at the Last Minute: The Short Stories of Grace Paley

LITERATURE

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Lisa Oberman, Marybeth Schroeder

Grace Paley is one of the greatest short story writers of the 20th century, achieving recognition through just three slim volumes of her work published in 1959, 1974, and 1985. Her brilliant, funny, and poignant stories reflect the richness of her own life. A 2017 *New Yorker* profile stated, “There’s a case to be made that Grace Paley was first and foremost an antinuclear, antiwar, antiracist feminist activist who managed, in her spare time, to become one of the truly original voices of American fiction in the later twentieth century.” Omitted from that description are her roles as a mother, a wife, a daughter of radical Russian Jewish immigrants, and a *New Yorker*, all of which helped her create what *New York Review of Books* contributing critic Michael Wood called “a whole small country of damaged, fragile, haunted citizens.” Our text will be *The Collected Stories of Grace Paley* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007). During this four-week journey together, we will read and reflect on a selection of her stories. We anticipate lively discussions as we explore Grace Paley’s world.



EVANSTON STUDY GROUPS: WEDNESDAY

BEGINS JULY 8, 2026

Creative Writing Workshop

CREATIVE ARTS

Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Bob Jenkins, Ron Denham, Arthur Altman

This study group is for members who love words and who wish to practice and improve their creative writing skills across the various genres: poetry, creative nonfiction, essay, memoir, and fiction. Participants will present their work to the group, whose members will respond with encouragement and suggestions. Revisions and resubmissions are welcome. Longer works will be submitted in segments of less than 1,000 words each. 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 bring their words, knowledge, humor, tears, fears, desires, perspectives, and wisdom.

**NEW Art Nouveau—The Other Art**

CREATIVE ARTS

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Bridget Stump, Roberta Motanky

Ever admired the lavish details on the exterior of the Carson, Pirie, Scott building at the intersection of State and Madison? Or wondered about the Van Buren Street Metra station's ornate entrance? Obsessed with HBO's *The Gilded Age*? Then turn of the century Art Nouveau is for you! Join us this summer as we explore this exciting art movement that ranges from architecture, painting and sculpture to the decorative and graphic arts. The artists of this time reflected and permeated the thinking and advancements of this extraordinary period in history. Each week we will use visual materials, artwork images and video clips to stimulate discussion. Participants will receive reading and visual materials each week in preparation for dynamic discussion. We look forward to sharing thoughts on the external intrigue of this time and the inner world that nurtured it.

**NEW Pete Seeger: The Power of Song**

CREATIVE ARTS

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Maureen Shayman, Gayle Kantro

Pete Seeger (1919 - 2014) was an American singer, songwriter, musician and social activist whose political views resulted in his being blacklisted from 1953 until the late 1960's. This study group will explore his life and legacy and the use of music to protest against injustice. We will focus on his role in the 20th century folk music revival and his lifelong commitment to peace, civil rights, and environmental justice by viewing videos, listening to his music, reading articles, and discussing music as a tool for political advocacy. Seeger sang with Woody Guthrie and The Weavers and some of his best known songs include "Where Have All the Flowers Gone," "If I Had a Hammer," and "Turn! Turn! Turn!" Seeger was known for his simple, direct musical style. He played banjo and encouraged audience participation. He influenced generations of musicians, including Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, and Bruce Springsteen. Join us as we explore the legacy of Pete Seeger.



NEW *The Hundred Years' Trial: Law and Evolution Since Scopes v. Tennessee*

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Fred Wellisch, Jeff Semel

It has been 100 years since the Scopes v. Tennessee “Monkey” trial but the conflict between religious belief and scientific knowledge in education continues. It affects law, politics and education at every level. Just last year, the US Supreme Court held that school districts must allow parents to opt their children out of curricula that conflicts with their religious beliefs. This schism is the subject of our text, *The Hundred Years' Trial: Law, Evolution, and the Long Shadow of Scopes v. Tennessee* (Johns Hopkins, 2025), co-authored by evolutionary biologist Harold Gouzoules and his son, legal-scholar Alexander Gouzoules. As the book narrates the various religious and philosophical objections to teaching evolution, we'll follow the lengthy struggle for its acceptance by the scientific community. And what about attempts, post-Scopes, to insert religious doctrine into science curricula under names like creationism and intelligent design? We will discuss and analyze the impact of this contentious history on current and future confrontations between religious belief and scientific knowledge in education. Relevant legal opinions and other commentaries will supplement the text.



NEW *Circe*

LITERATURE

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Beverly Snell, Roberta Rakove, Angela Pisano

Goddess, sorceress, villainess, heroine—or all of these? You decide, as we explore Madeline Miller’s *Circe*, (Little, Brown, 2020). Set during the Greek Heroic Age, it is an adaptation of various Greek myths, most notably the Odyssey, as told from Circe’s perspective. The novel explores Circe’s origin story and narrates her encounters with mythological figures such as Hermes, the Minotaur, Jason, and Medea, and ultimately, her romance with Odysseus and his son Telemachus. *Circe* received glowing reviews from *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *NPR*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and others. With its vivid characters, mesmerizing language, and page-turning suspense, *Circe* is an epic of family rivalry, palace intrigue, love and loss, as well as female strength in a predominately male world. For our study group, any edition of the book may be used, and it is available in hard copy, ebook, and audiobook from the library and online. Join us as we explore Circe’s story and gain insights into ancient Greek myths and culture!



***“In conversation, we discover not only new ideas,
but new meanings in our own experiences.”***

— John Dewey

EVANSTON STUDY GROUPS: THURSDAY

BEGINS JULY 9, 2026

**Hot Off The Presses: The Big Decisions
by The US Supreme Court for 2026 (Evanston)**

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Michael Sehr, Carole Kagan, James Roselle

In June 2026, the United States Supreme Court will release the last of its decisions of its 2025-26 term on a host of important issues. Those rulings, along with any released earlier in the term, may impact issues such as: President Trump's attempt to limit birthright citizenship, the power of the President to impose tariffs, whether some Federal Agencies can operate independently, the intersection of gay, transgender rights with healthcare, free speech and sports participation, and the impact of a person's immigration status on various individual liberties guaranteed under the Constitution. Our study group will examine some of these significant decisions as well as current controversies arising out of the Court's operations. We will review the Court's opinions and related materials, discuss how they may affect current law, and analyze any resulting changes in our individual rights and how our state and federal governments function. The Court's decisions are available from free public websites, and abridged versions and supplementary articles analyzing the cases will be provided. This study group is being offered in both Chicago and Evanston.

**NEW Confronting the Legacy of Slavery in America**

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Jonathan Yenkin, Suki Fisher, Roberta Rakove

In contrast to current political efforts to downplay America's history of systemic racism, the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI)—led by Bryan Stevenson—works to confront it. This study group explores the legacy of slavery and the narrative of white supremacy through the lens of EJI's groundbreaking work in Montgomery, Alabama. We will focus on one of EJI's most impactful projects: its research into post-Reconstruction lynching and the establishment of a national memorial to victims of racial terror. Using interactive media, participants will (1) experience the memorial by exploring its acclaimed design and the stories of racial violence; (2) analyze history through a review of EJI's extensive research and discussion of the courageous anti-lynching campaign of Ida B. Wells; and (3) seek healing by engaging in dialogue to gain perspective and move toward national reconciliation. Whether you have visited EJI's sites, hope to go, or simply wish to understand the enduring impact of this history, we invite you to join us.

**NEW Everything is Tuberculosis**

STMH

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Philip Steptoe, Mary Hummel

Tuberculosis is mankind's oldest and still today our most deadly communicable disease. In this study group, we will read and discuss *Everything is Tuberculosis, The History and Persistence of our Deadliest Infection*, by John Green (Crash Course Books, 2025). The author skillfully weaves together the story of Henry Reider, a young TB patient in Sierra Leone, with scientific and social histories of how TB has shaped our world. By one estimate TB has killed one in seven of all the people who ever lived. John Keats, all three Bronte sisters, Kafka, Chekhov, Robert Louis Stevenson, Simon Bolivar, James Monroe, Doc Holliday, George Orwell, and Eleanor Roosevelt all died from the disease. This story is about why it took us until the 1950s to find the cure, and why in the decades since we have allowed more than 150 million people around the world to die of the disease. We will supplement this very readable book with clips from a short, engaging PBS American Experience documentary, *The Forgotten Plague, Tuberculosis in America*.



VIRTUAL STUDY GROUPS: MONDAY

BEGINS JULY 6, 2026

NEW War and Power: Who Wins Wars—And Why

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

James Smith, Ted Gault

“War,” as Winston Churchill said, “is the argument of history.” It is now clear that the end of the Cold War did not mean the end of history, and that the argument is resuming. Major wars have broken out in the Ukraine and in the Middle East, and another, bigger war between China and the US could soon be in the offing over Taiwan. It is high time that we take a fresh look at what goes into military power and how states win - or lose - wars. This is precisely what Phillips Payson O’Brien, Professor of Strategic Studies at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, does in his latest book, *War and Power* (PublicAffairs, 2025). Using the results of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine as the latest example, O’Brien shreds the myth that great powers and big armies always win wars. Rather, who wins wars turns on many factors; the state of a society, its leadership, its economy, its technology and its allies. Thus, Vietnam defeated France and America, and Ukraine is holding back Russia. This is an exceptionally timely book, with powerful insights and important historical examples. Join us to equip yourself intellectually for what is coming.



VIRTUAL STUDY GROUPS: TUESDAY

BEGINS JULY 7, 2026

NEW What Happened to the Utopian Promise of the Early Internet?

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Philip Zawa, Bob Jenkins

Based on Tim Wu’s urgent and eye-opening book, *The Age of Extraction* (Knopf, 2025), we will examine how dominant tech giants have transformed tools of potential democratization into inescapable tollbooths that extract our money, data, and attention. Moving beyond the daily headlines, our sessions will dissect the mechanics of “platform capitalism” and evaluate its profound impacts on wealth inequality, the rise of artificial intelligence, and the health of our democratic institutions. We will trace this historical shift in economic power and critically evaluate Wu’s practical roadmap for breaking monopolies and returning control to the public. Whether you are fascinated by the intersection of economics and technology, or simply want to understand the hidden forces shaping our modern world, our group will offer a space to untangle these complex issues with fellow curious minds. No prior background in economics or tech policy is required—just bring your curiosity, a willingness to share your perspective, and a copy of the book!



***“You are never too old to set another goal
or to learn something new.”***

— C.S. Lewis

Tuesday at the Movies

CREATIVE ARTS

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Michael Pierce, Hillel Furlager, David Buffen

It is not presumptuous to suggest that the most enjoyable movies owe that distinction to the directors. Their complicated role includes setting the creative vision and tone of the movie, casting key roles, planning and executing the shooting of the movie, and shaping the final film with editors, screenwriters, cinematographers, and choreographers. This study group will focus on one director who had great impact and vision, but whose creative life was ended prematurely: Rob Reiner. We will view movies not shown previously in this study group: *This is Spinal Tap* (1984); *Stand By Me* (1986); *The Princess Bride* (1987); and *The American President* (1995). These movies are examples of the breadth of his talent and ability to create an atmosphere where actors behave, not “perform;” where he expands his directorial scope to include mockumentary, romantic comedy, and the absurd. We will watch each week’s movie in advance of the class. Participants must obtain the movies on their own, which can usually be found through streaming services or from the public library. Each movie is presented by one class member who has volunteered to lead the discussion in a way that encourages fulsome engagement by all class attendees.



NEW Yoga For Healthy Aging

STMH

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Daryl Horn

The popular misconception is that yoga is an exercise system that involves contorting your body into difficult, pretzel-like poses. In reality, yoga can help us age gracefully, with simple, easy poses, combined with purposeful breathing (or what we call pranayama). First, yoga helps us maintain and develop spinal flexibility. It lubricates the joints and increases blood flow to the brain. It develops balance and stability, which is really important for older adults. And, it allows us to regulate our autonomic nervous system and reduce stress. Each week we will do an easy practice followed by a discussion, so that we can understand the “why”, not just the “how”, of what we are doing. There will be reading from two texts, *Yoga for Healthy Aging* by Baxter Bell and Nina Zolotow; and *Yoga for Wellness* by Gary Kraftsow, or other sources. These excerpts will be distributed by the coordinator so no need to purchase the books. The four sessions are progressive and build on each other, so it is hoped that participants will commit to attending them all. This study group is not appropriate for people with artificial joint replacements.



**“Learning is a lifelong companion
—it walks with us at every age.”**

— Anonymous

VIRTUAL STUDY GROUPS: WEDNESDAY

BEGINS JULY 8, 2026

Foreign Affairs

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Gary Benz, Gene Mackevich, Jim Perlow, David Hunt

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 study groups 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 don't 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.



The Art of the One-Act: Short Plays of the Modern Theater

LITERATURE

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Lee Nemchek, Eileen Sharkey Rosenfeld

Calling all theater lovers! This study group will read and discuss seven contemporary selections from *Plays In One Act* edited by Daniel Halpern (HarperCollins, 1991-2005), which is readily available from online booksellers. This anthology covers one-act plays published between 1965-1990, including playwrights whose works are still regularly performed today, such as Sam Shepard, August Wilson, Terrence McNally, Wendy Wasserstein, Tom Stoppard, and David Mamet. Although never widely popular on Broadway, the one-act play has long been a staple of experimental, regional, and non-professional theater. One-act plays offer a unique opportunity for deep engagement within a shorter format, making them ideal for lively group discussion. In this study group, we'll explore the unique power of the one-act form—its intensity, brevity, and focus—and how it challenges writers, readers, and audiences. Participants will discover how a short play can leave a lasting impact through discussion of various topics such as the playwrights' techniques, the social and/or philosophical issues reflected in each piece, themes, dramatic structure, character development, and historical context.



Articles from the Sunday New York Times

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Mitchell Harrison, Hilmon Sorey, Carole Bass

For well over 100 years *The New York Times* has been the newspaper of record. With its 132 Pulitzer Prizes since 1918 (the most by any news organization) some consider the Times to be the greatest newspaper in the country. The paper continues to cover New York, national, and international stories and is quoted world wide. Its photographers and their work are also renowned. We will focus on articles from the front section of the paper in the previous Sunday's edition. Because the Sunday paper covers an incredibly broad scope of topics and areas of interest, articles from other sections of the paper can also be selected. Join us to learn, discuss, and even smile during these wonderful and lively discussions. Access to current print or digital *The New York Times* editions is required.



Renee Fleming—from Opera Singer to Superstar

CREATIVE ARTS

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Roger Parfitt, Bob Jenkins

Using Renee Fleming’s musical autobiography *The Inner Voice* (Viking, 2004), we will read about Fleming’s career and then watch performances that were important turning points in her road to stardom. Her book provides interesting insight into the nuts and bolts of an opera career: What makes for a successful audition? How did her voice change after pregnancy? How did she manage a worldwide opera career while raising two children as a divorced mom? How did she pick her repertoire, her conductors, opera house? In short, how did she become the world’s most recognized soprano? Each week, we will cover approximately 55 pages of Fleming’s easy-to-read book. During class we will discuss the reading and listen to performances that she describes in her text. The arias that we will listen to are all available on the Met on Demand app. (Subscription required for advance listening). We will listen to arias that range from the familiar (*Don Giovanni, Der Rosenkavalier, Onegin, Otello, Figaro*), to some more obscure titles (*Streetcar Named Desire, Armida, Arabella, Thais*). Come join us to listen to some of the great opera performances of the last 30 years.



VIRTUAL STUDY GROUPS: THURSDAY

BEGINS JULY 9, 2026

The Economist (Virtual)

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Jennifer Gainer, Elliott Hartstein, John Donovan

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 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 required to lead or co-lead a weekly discussion. This involves selecting 8-12 articles from the current weekly issue and developing the questions needed to get the lively conversations started. However, with Summer being just a 4-week term, it is anticipated that coordinators will lead most of the sessions and need just 1 or 2 members to lead. Given the uncertainty of the mail, a digital subscription to *The Economist* is highly encouraged. Information on subscriptions is available at [subscribenow.economist.com](https://www.economist.com/subscribenow).



NEW Summer Book Club: *The Map Thief*

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Joyce Salsburg, David Borosh, Benjamin Schwartz

Looking for a good summer non-fiction read or a more academic, complex multi-layered tale? This book delivers in both categories; *The Map Thief* by Michael Blanding (Gotham publishing, 2015). Discussions will be led by the coordinators in a book club format for this little-known story with Chicago connections. Told by investigative reporter Michael Blanding, who interviews the protagonist about the often complex and arcane world of antique map collecting, the book is transformed into a memoir that reads like good fiction! The story starts with a highly regarded rare-map dealer who made millions stealing priceless maps and became, unfortunately, an infamous cultural heritage thief. Thirteen chapters of riveting crime tales that tested our library and legal systems, woven with geography and a cartographic history lesson—it truly would make a good movie! Weekly speakers, as well as perhaps someone who gave the key testimony during the trial that jailed this Map Thief! Note that we have a confirmed, in person field trip at Newberry Library on week four.





2025–2026 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2025							OCTOBER 2025							NOVEMBER 2025							DECEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1		1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	6	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			

JANUARY 2026							FEBRUARY 2026							MARCH 2026							APRIL 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3								1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		

MAY 2026							JUNE 2026							JULY 2026							AUGUST 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

OLLI session dates and registration periods:

- **Fall Session:**
14 Weeks, September 2–December 8, 2025
Registration August 4–August 18, 2025
- **Winter Session (all virtual):**
4 Weeks, January 20–February 16, 2026
Registration December 15, 2025–January 5, 2026
- **Spring Session:**
14 weeks, March 2–June 8, 2026
Registration February 2–February 16, 2026
- **Summer Session:**
4 Weeks, July 6–July 31, 2026
Registration June 8–June 22, 2026
- **Break between sessions**

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

- Monday, September 1, 2025

- Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28, 2025

- Wednesday, December 24, 2025 through Thursday, January 1, 2026

- Monday, January 19, 2026

- Monday, May 25, 2026

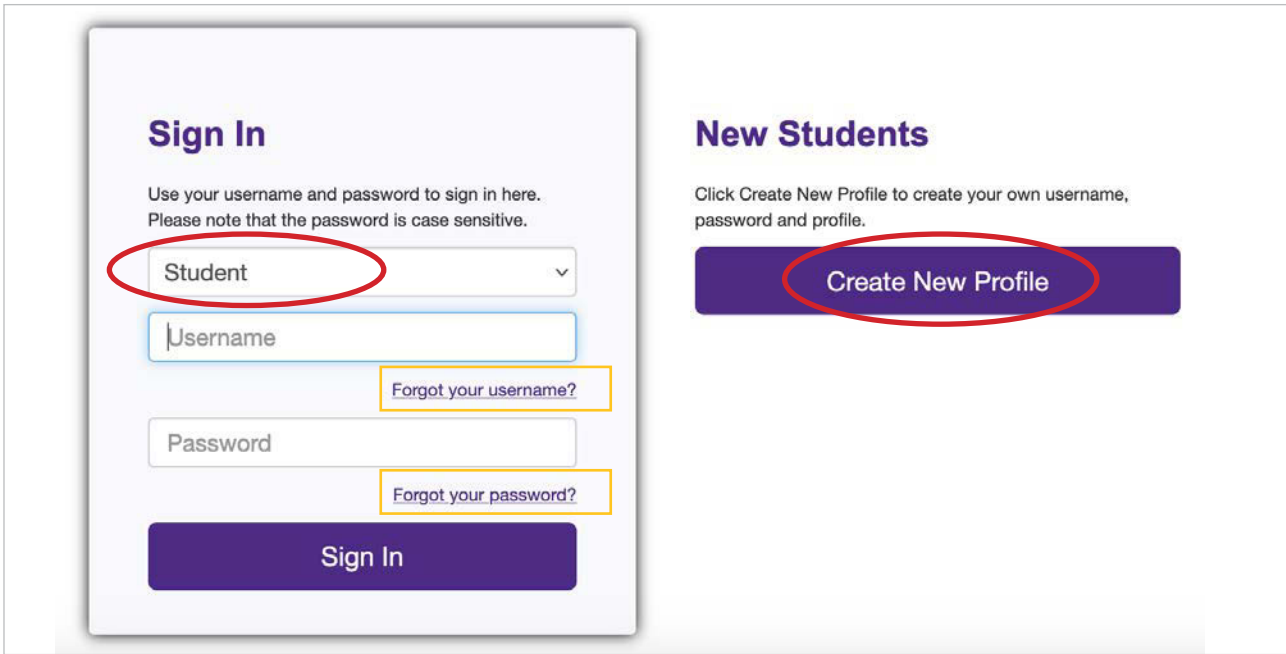
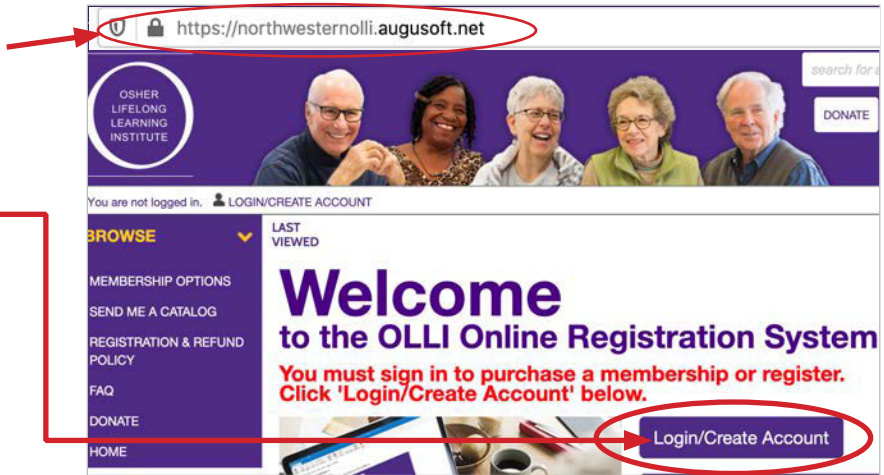
- Friday, June 19, 2026

- Friday, July 3, 2026



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.



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.

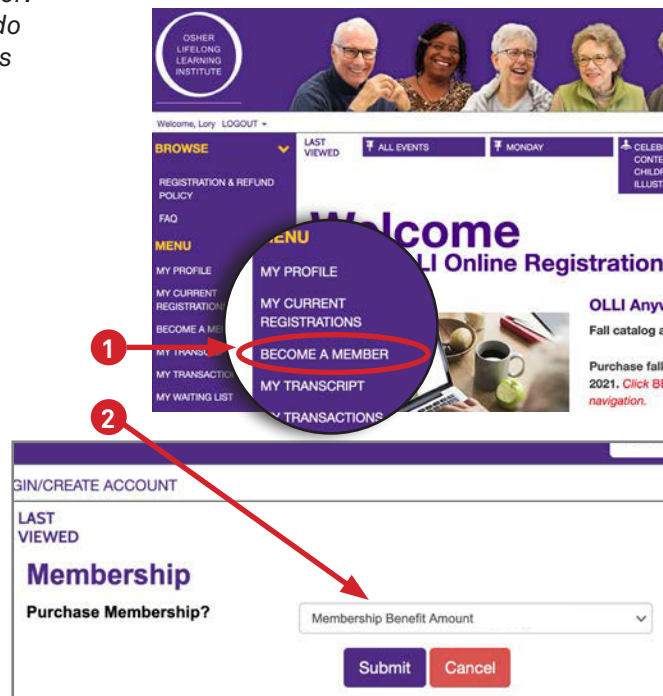
If you need assistance, email olli@northwestern.edu.

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:

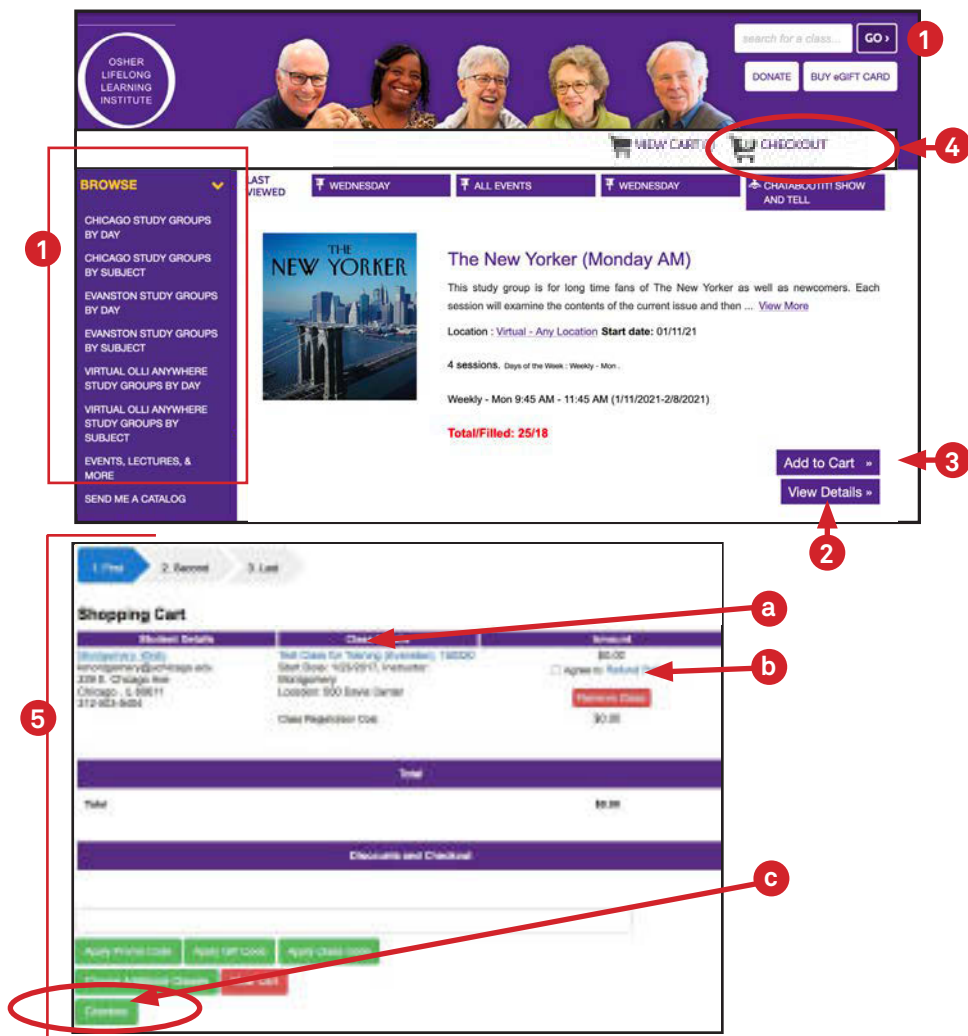
Summer only memberships are available to purchase this summer. OLLI members with a Full-Year or Half-Year Spring membership do not need to purchase a summer membership; the summer term is included in your current membership.

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:

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:**
 - a. Review your selections
 - b. Click the **Agree to Refund Policy** box
 - c. Click 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.**

2025–2026 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.

OLLI members should follow a common sense/common decency approach:

- Stay home if you are sick
- If you become ill with a bad cold, flu, or Covid-19, or other highly contagious disease, we encourage you to let your study group know so that they can monitor their own symptoms. However, we cannot require anyone to do so.
- Stay home until you are fully recovered—fever-free and/or symptom-free for at least 24 hours.

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.

As of May 24, 2026

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

LOGISTICS, SERVICES, AND RESOURCES

OLLI Office Location and Hours:

Chicago (Wieboldt Hall):

339 E Chicago Avenue, Room 412
Chicago, IL 60611
312-503-7881

Evanston:

500 Davis Street, Suite 700
Evanston, IL 60201
847-467-1523

Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. (less a flexible hour for lunch)
OLLI staff work remotely on Fridays throughout the Summer term.

OLLI Contact Information

EMAIL: olli@northwestern.edu

Intercampus Shuttle

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

Wildcards

Wildcards are only issued before the fall semester and only to OLLI members who purchased a **full academic year membership**. 2025-2026 Academic Year Wildcards are valid through September, 2026.

Wildcard ID Discounts

wildcardadv.northwestern.edu

University Police

EVANSTON: 847-491-3254
CHICAGO: 312-503-8314
EMERGENCY: 911

northwestern.edu/up

NU Libraries

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

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.

PHONE: 847-491-7658

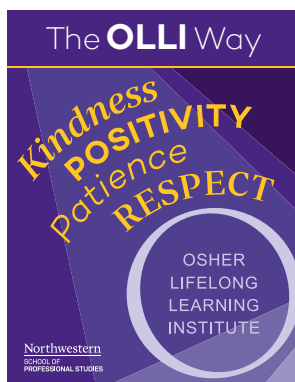
EMAIL: library@northwestern.edu

GUIDES: libguides.northwestern.edu/OLLI_libguide

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.