



FALL 2026 COURSE CATALOG

LEARNING FOR ADULTS AGE 50+

**REGISTRATION OPENS:
MONDAY, AUG. 10, 9 A.M.**

**NEW MEMBER WELCOME:
FRIDAY, SEPT. 4, 10 A.M.**

**SEMESTER:
SEPTEMBER 8 –
NOVEMBER 13, 2026**

**FEATURING 48
NEW COURSES**

**ONLINE AND
IN-PERSON**

UConn
WATERBURY



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MEMBER BENEFITS

Fall 2026 Semester Dates:

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We are grateful to UConn Waterbury, the Osher Foundation, and all our generous donors for their continued support of OLLI at UConn.

IT'S MORE THAN GREAT CLASSES!

- ✓ **FREE ACCESS TO OLLI CAFÉ LECTURES (IN-PERSON ONLY)**
- ✓ **FREE ACCESS TO SPECIAL EVENTS (IN-PERSON AND ONLINE)**
- ✓ **OPPORTUNITY TO REGISTER FOR OSHER ONLINE COURSES**
- ✓ **ACCESS TO RECORDED CLASS LECTURES**
- ✓ **DISCOUNTED PARKING FOR UCONN WATERBURY GARAGE**
- ✓ **OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN OLLI TRIPS AND CLUBS (IN-PERSON AND ONLINE)**
- ✓ **DISCOUNTS TO OLLI PARTNERSHIP EVENTS (IN-PERSON AND ONLINE)**
- ✓ **YEAR-ROUND NOTICES ABOUT ADDITIONAL OLLI PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

The OLLI Garden Project



FREE! We meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at our garden in Fulton Park, Waterbury. Sign up under “Projects” in the online registration system.

Join our exciting project for a unique social and learning experience!

By participating in *The OLLI Garden Project*, you can expect a deeply rewarding experience in urban gardening. Enjoy time outdoors at the OLLI garden in Waterbury's Fulton Park, while learning about soil preparation techniques, planting, growing seedlings, and raised-bed gardening techniques.

All produce is donated to local food banks and pantries. This year, do good and feel good!

***This project is partially funded by the Connecticut Community Foundation.
We are grateful for their support.***

SPECIAL EVENTS

Fall Open House

Friday, August 7, 2026
9:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Who: Everyone!

Cost: FREE

Schedule

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 9:30 – 10:00 | Check-in and meet members over coffee or tea. |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Gather for an overview of who we are and what we offer. |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Presentation and sample of fall semester classes. |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | Q&A |

Registration is required.

For more details and to register, go to olli.uconn.edu or email osher@uconn.edu

NEW-MEMBER WELCOME



Remember that feeling of going to a new school and trying to figure out where to go and what to do? Are you concerned that joining OLLI will make you feel like that again? Don't worry - we've got you covered!

Our New-Member Welcome event is for anyone who is new to OLLI at UConn. This is an opportunity to come to the UConn Waterbury campus before in-person classes start. Spend the morning with us and find where your Friday classes are located, where to attend OLLI Café, how to get a parking permit, and more. Meet the OLLI staff and volunteers and get all your questions answered before your first day of classes.

Our New-Member Welcome is a great way to meet other members so you know a few faces on your first day. At OLLI, you don't have to feel like the new kid!

Join us on Friday, September 4, 2026

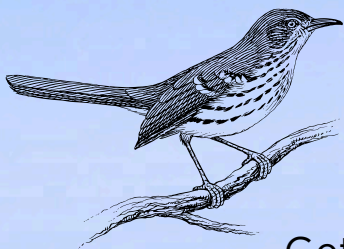
10 A.M. – Welcome, coffee, OLLI overview, and your questions answered

11 A.M. – Campus tour

Register in the “Special Events” section of the registration system.

SPECIAL EVENTS (CONT.)

OLLI ART DAY AT AUDUBON BENT OF THE RIVER, SOUTHBURY



Get creative at the Audubon Center!

Tuesday, September 22, 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

Get inspired in beautiful surroundings—paint, draw, take photographs, or write—and then enjoy lunch.

Showcase your work in an OLLI student art exhibit at UConn Waterbury on Friday, November 13.

Free and open to all OLLI members—no experience needed!

Register in the “Special Events” section of the registration system.



GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY 2026 BUILDING COMMUNITY ACROSS GENERATIONS

Thursday, September 24, 2026 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.
UConn Campus MPR (113-119)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr. Kathy Taylor, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Connecticut Community Foundation

Celebrate the power of connection at Good Neighbor Day 2026! This engaging, community-centered event brings together OLLI members, local partners, and neighbors of all ages for a day of conversation, collaboration, and meaningful action. Enjoy a keynote presentation, lively panel discussions, and opportunities to explore hands-on volunteer projects that support our community, especially older adults. Come and be inspired, make new connections, and discover how small acts of service can make a big impact.

This event is a collaboration between OLLI at UConn and For All Ages, a CT non-profit that empowers people to create real connections that transform health and life outcomes.



SPECIAL EVENTS (CONT.)

End-Of-Semester Celebration

Friday, November 13, 2026, 12 P.M. – 2 P.M.

UConn Campus MPR (113-119)

Gomez & Sadlon present *Jazz Goes to the Movies*



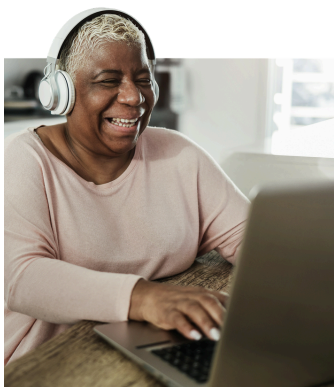
Some of America's greatest jazz standards began as songs from classic films and remain a memorable part of our culture. Guitarist Thom Gomez and saxophonist/flutist Rick Sadlon ("Gomez & Sadlon") will perform while presenting a historical, visual, and nostalgic look at well-known American Songbook jazz pieces composed for or featured in iconic movie scenes.

Join us for this unique, entertaining, and educational program. Register in the "Special Events" section of the registration system.

THIS EVENT IS MADE POSSIBLE BY GENEROUS DONATIONS TO OLLI

OSHER ONLINE

**Access even more of
your favorite classes,
with just a
few clicks.**



We are delighted to announce that you have access to Osher Online courses, which are carefully curated by the Osher National Resource Center for OLLIs around the country.

Every semester, in addition to our own courses, we offer several options from Osher Online to expand and enhance your learning experiences.

Learn alongside members from other OLLIs across the country and enjoy a wealth of new ideas!

**You already
love your local
Osher institute.**

Now, explore Osher Online, which offers world-class courses from the comfort of your own home.



UConn
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Osher Online

in collaboration with Northwestern University
School of Professional Studies



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Opportunities and Benefits

- Assist with event planning and coordination
- Support classroom and technology needs
- Join committees and help shape OLLI programs
- Meet new people and build lasting friendships
- Gain new skills and experiences
- Make a difference in the lives of lifelong learners



Ready to make a difference?

Contact the OLLI at UConn office to learn more. Call us at (203)-236-9924 or email osher@uconn.edu. Join us and be a part of something meaningful!

FALL 2026 COURSE LISTINGS

ART & ART HISTORY

- *NEW* AH-408** *Indigenous Art of North America Part 2*
Mary Claire Morin, Page 22
- AH-417** *The Top 25 Film Scores of All Time*
Emanuel Abramovits, Page 11
- AH-456** *Riverside Cemetery: A Museum of Art, History and Nature*
Martin Begnal, Page 8

COMPUTERS

- CO-426** *Improve Your Understanding of How to Use Your Laptop*
Timothy Padgett, Page 19

CULTURE & LANGUAGE

- *NEW* CL-400** *Irish for Beginners*
Martin Crofts, Page 18
- *NEW* CL-417** *Gods, Heroes, and Monsters: An Exploration of Homer's "Odyssey"*
Fiona de Merell, Page 21
- CL-449** *Parliamo Italiano III*
Nunzio DeFilippis, Page 16

CURRENT EVENTS

- CE-022** *Social and Political Trends*
Larry Rifkin, Page 18
- *NEW* CE-039** *Frontlines of A New World Order: The Russo-Ukraine War and the Revolutions It Is Causing*
Jared Day, Page 12
- *NEW* CE-040** *Ranked Choice Voting*
Michael Trusiewicz, Page 16
- CE-042** *Economic History as It Applies Today*
Laurence O'Connell, Page 10

GAMES

- *NEW* GA-001** *Mahjong Is Back and Popular! I Want To Learn How To Play!*
Diane Gaborc, Page 20

HEALTH & WELLNESS

- HW-403** *Tai Chi (Slow Flow) Chair/Standing and Similar Forms of Tai Ji Quan*
Roxann Riskin, Page 15

HW-413 *Chair Yoga Stretch, Balance and Fall Prevention Practices for Health and Well-being*
Roxann Riskin, Page 14

***NEW* HW-414** *Memory, Meaning and Connection: A Guide Through Alzheimer's and Dementia*
Martin Herman, Page 17

***NEW* HW-415** *Meditation Vs. Breathwork*
Linda Bronn, Page 17

HW-522 *Good Vibrations for Health and Happiness*
Julie Cook, Page 16

HISTORY

- HS-410** *U.S. Immigration History, Perspectives and Challenges*
Richard D. McCann, Page 10
- *NEW* HS-415** *Marie-Madeleine Fourcade: The Young Woman Who Led France's Largest Spy Network Against Hitler*
Maureen Edwards, Page 20
- *NEW* HS-416** *Western Gunslingers: The Truth Behind the Westerns*
Daniel Seligman, Page 9
- *NEW* HS-417** *The Life and Times of Lafayette Before, During and After the American Revolutionary War*
Leon Di Martino, Page 17
- *NEW* HS-418** *The Life and Times of Benedict Arnold Before, During and After the American Revolutionary War*
Leon Di Martino, Page 18
- *NEW* HS-419** *The Life and Times of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt*
Leon Di Martino, Page 18
- *NEW* HS-420** *Ft. Laramie Treaty of 1868 and Theft of Native American Land*
Fred Greenberg, Page 20
- *NEW* HS-421** *The Five Horsewomen of the American Revolution*
Raymond Sullivan, M.D., Page 19
- HS-516** *Exploring Europe's Great "Ages" to Enrich Your Travel Experience*
Diane Stone, Page 22
- HS-525** *The Magic Behind the Footlights - Backstage Secrets of Waterbury's Storied Palace Theater*
Donna Cameron, Page 12

HS-557 *Ellis Island and the Search for Living Relatives*
Eric Lanzieri, Page 15

HORTICULTURE

***NEW* HC-406** *Cultivating Community: Intergenerational Service-Learning to Support Sustainable Food Systems in Waterbury, CT*
Hannah Peterson, Page 19

LITERATURE & WRITING

- LW-515** *Hidden Influences: Lost Literary Gems of the Twentieth Century*
Richard Klin, Page 11
- LW-516** *Fall into YOUR OWN Writing Style... Your Voice on the Page*
Nancy T Whitney, Page 12
- *NEW* LW-519** *To Be Or Not To Be: How To Enjoy Shakespeare*
Gerald Hecht, Page 9
- *NEW* LW-522** *Comedy Tonight! Shakespeare's Comedy of Errors*
Gerald Hecht, Page 14
- *NEW* LW-523** *Writing the Decades of Your Life: A Memoir Class*
Gabriella Brand, Page 8
- LW-524** *Write A Life: Turning Real People into Riveting Stories*
Martin Herman, Page 22
- LW-525** *How to Write A Mystery Novel Readers Can't Put Down*
Martin Herman, Page 16
- Math & Science**
- *NEW* MS-407** *Viruses Uncovered: Tiny Germs, Big Stories*
Lauren Poulos, Page 21

MUSIC

- MU-408** *Latin American Instruments and Afro-Cuban Music*
Juan Santiago, Page 21
- MU-409** *More Singing for the Joy of It*
Julie Cook, Page 17
- MU-465** *Hey, What's the Score? (Classical Music Used In Movie Scores)*
Donna Obarowski, Page 19
- MU-496** *Classical Music Virtuosos*
Emanuel Abramovits, Page 15

FALL 2026 COURSE LISTINGS (CONT.)

OSHER ONLINE

- *NEW* OO-050** *A Cosmic Grand Tour: The Realms of the Universe* (Osher Online)
Andrew Fraknoi, Page 11
- *NEW* OO-051** *Art Detectives: Forgery, Provenance, and the Science of Authentication* (Osher Online)
Christine Maasdam, Page 9
- *NEW* OO-052** *August Wilson and His American Cycle-The First Five: 1904-1957* (Osher Online)
Ladrica Menson-Furr, Page 13
- *NEW* OO-053** *Biology & Society* (Osher Online)
Eric Simon, Page 14
- *NEW* OO-054** *Cults and New Religious Movements in America* (Osher Online)
Kathryn Davis, Page 11
- *NEW* OO-055** *Early 20-Century Avant-Garde: From Rebellion to Abstraction* (Osher Online)
Lauren Weingarden, Page 15
- *NEW* OO-056** *Great Artists in American Roots Music* (Osher Online)
Taylor Ackley, Page 8
- *NEW* OO-057** *Living off The Laughter: History of Comedy in America* (Osher Online)
Eddy Friedfeld, Page 13
- *NEW* OO-058** *Mexico City: Empires, Revolutions, and Everyday Life* (Osher Online)
William Beezley, Page 11
- *NEW* OO-059** *Post-War Architecture: The Innovative Architects of the Midcentury Modern Period* (Osher Online)
Eleanor Schrader, Page 13
- *NEW* OO-060** *Power and the People: The Evolution of the U.S. Federal Judiciary* (Osher Online)
Lauren Andersen, Page 14
- *NEW* OO-061** *Sacred Mountains of the World* (Osher Online)
Jonathan Duncan, Page 9
- *NEW* OO-063** *The Birth of the Beat Generation* (Osher Online)
Kurt Hemmer, JD, Page 12

- *NEW* OO-064** *The British Family in Film: Heavy is the Head That Wears the Crown* (Osher Online)
Butch Epps, Page 9
- *NEW* OO-065** *The History and Experience of Route 66* (Osher Online)
Peter Dedek, Page 10
- *NEW* OO-066** *The Invisible Thread: 3,500 Years of Global Supply Chain* (Osher Online)
Scott Jones, Page 8
- *NEW* OO-067** *The Magic Behind Film Scores: The Role of Music in Great Movies-Part II* (Osher Online)
Mike Agron, Page 13
- OO-068** *The Search for an American Sound* (Osher Online)
Emanuel Abramovits, Page 10
- *NEW* OO-069** *Tracing Our Roots: DNA, Family History, and the Politics of Identity* (Osher Online)
Angel Cervantes, Page 13
- *NEW* OO-070** *Winning the White House: The Evolution of the Presidency* (Osher Online)
John White, Page 10

PERFORMING ARTS

- PA-412** *Historical Voyage Into the Opera World*
Nunzio DeFilippis, Page 20
- *NEW* PA-413** *Community Theater*
John Kearney, Page 22

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- *NEW* PD-405** *Purposeful Retirement: Your Next Chapter*
Lorna Lisbonne, Page 15
- *NEW* PD-406** *More Oops! Your Body Language is Showing - Improving Your Health, Performance and Success*
Carolyn Finch-Hulme, Page 18
- *NEW* PD-407** *Finding Peace in a Changing World*
Stacey Altomari, Page 12

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

- PR-403** *My God Can Beat Up Your God: Competing Religions of the Ancient Near East*
Michael Carroll, Page 12

- *NEW* PR-404** *Myth and Ritual: Matters of Life and Death*
Christopher Sweeney, Page 21
- *NEW* PR-405** *Buddha and Jesus Walk into a Bar*
Reggie Marra, Page 18

SOCIAL SCIENCES

- *NEW* SS-013** *Why Do We Do What We Do? Understanding Behavior in Everyday Life*
Lorill Bean, Page 14

SPECIAL EVENTS

- SE-024** *New-Member Welcome*, Page 2
- SE-031** *Art Day at Audubon*, Page 3
- SE-032** *Good Neighbor Day*, Page 3
- SE-033** *End-of-Semester Celebration*, Page 4
- OH-049/050** *Open House (Members/Non-Members)*, Page 2

SPORTS

- *NEW* SP-403** *Let's Play Ball: Aspects of Baseball*
Alan Cohen, Page 20

VISUAL ARTS

- VA-402** *Paint Your World in Acrylics*
Joan Rubbo, Page 16
- VA-432** *Mandalas and More as Art and Personal Relaxation*
Rose-Ann Chrzanowski, Page 17
- VA-449** *Photography for Everyone*
Tim Padgett, Page 16
- VA-456** *Fundamentals of Drawing*
Thelma Appel, Page 19
- VA-461** *The Art in Painting: Learning to See - A Workshop*
Thelma Appel, Page 22
- VA-486** *Editing Photos Using Lightroom and Photoshop*
Timothy Padgett, Page 21
- *NEW* VA-487** *Film Appreciation: Embarking on a Cinematic Ride Part II*
Christopher Orrell, Page 22

***Please Note: An asterisk (*) in front of a course title means that course has recommended and/or required course supplies. Course supplies can be found on page 23, titled "Required/Recommended Books & Supplies."**

***Please Note: Osher Online courses are marked with a green asterisk (*) next to the end date because they follow a different schedule than OLLI at UConn courses. Their end dates may extend beyond the semester end date listed in the course catalog.**

MONDAY COURSES

NEW LW-523 | **Writing the Decades of Your Life: A Memoir Class** with Gabriella Brand

10 sessions | 9/14 – 11/16 | 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM | \$112 | [Online](#)

Using the medium of Memoir and Creative Non-Fiction, we will examine moments and episodes from our childhoods, our adolescence, our early twenties, our mature forties, and more. Using weekly prompts, participants will practice various writing techniques to create an effective memoir. This course is an opportunity to perfect one's craft or simply travel the nostalgia route.

NEW OO-056 | **Great Artists in American Roots Music (Osher Online)** with Taylor Ackley

6 sessions | 9/28 – 11/2* | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM | \$68 | [Online](#)

From its emergence in the early 20th century, country music has resonated with those navigating a rapidly changing world. A key genre of American roots music, it expresses hardship while evoking emotion. This course explores the history of country and American roots music through the stories and artistic developments of key figures including the Carter Family, Bill Monroe, Hank Williams, and Dolly Parton.

NEW OO-066 | **The Invisible Thread: 3,500 Years of Global Supply Chain (Osher Online)** with Scott Jones

6 sessions | 10/19 – 11/23* | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM | \$68 | [Online](#)

We often only notice the global supply chain when it breaks. Yet, for millennia, the movement of goods has been the silent engine of civilization. In this course, we will track the evolution of trade from an executive's perspective. From the sunken treasures of Bronze Age merchant ships to the high-tech intermodal systems of today, we will explore the vessels that carried the world's wealth and the complex networks that keep our modern shelves stocked.

AH-456 | **Riverside Cemetery: A Museum of Art, History and Nature** with Martin Begnal

5 sessions | 9/14 – 10/12 | 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | \$56 | [In-Person, Off-Site](#)

This class will be taught on-site at Riverside Cemetery, a 36-acre National Historic Site and Arboretum dedicated in 1853 and built as part of the Rural Cemetery Movement of the mid-19th century.

Please Note: This course will take place at Riverside Cemetery, 496 Riverside Street, Waterbury, CT 06708.

NEW HS-416 | **Western Gunslingers: The Truth Behind the Westerns** with Daniel Seligman
10 sessions | 9/14 – 11/16 | 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | \$112 | [Online](#)

This course will consist of ten lectures on the life and times of gunslingers who lived in the American West in the late 19th century and who are well known in American popular culture.

NEW OO-051 | **Art Detectives: Forgery, Provenance, and the Science of Authentication (Osher Online)** with Christine Maasdam
6 sessions | 9/28 – 11/2* | 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM | \$68 | [Online](#)

The art world may appear glamorous, but deception often lies beneath the surface. After weapons and drugs, art is the third most lucrative illicit trade, with reports suggesting that more than half of artworks are fake or misattributed. In this course, we will ask: When is a copy simply a copy, and when is it a forgery? What techniques do master forgers use? What can science tell us about art authenticity? We will uncover riveting stories of criminal art activity and master forgeries.

NEW OO-064 | **The British Family in Film: Heavy is the Head That Wears the Crown (Osher Online)** with Butch Epps
6 sessions | 9/28 – 11/2* | 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM | \$68 | [Online](#)

This course examines royal succession through acclaimed British films that explore power as a moral and political crisis. We will trace the monarchy's evolution from personal rule to institutional authority. We will cover the Plantagenet struggles in *Becket* and *The Lion in Winter*; the moral costs of kingship and the performance of national leadership through *Chimes at Midnight* and *Henry V*; the Tudor rupture through *A Man for All Seasons*; and the consolidation of legitimacy in *Elizabeth*.

NEW OO-061 | **Sacred Mountains of the World (Osher Online)** with Jonathan Duncan
6 sessions | 10/5 – 11/9* | 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM | \$68 | [Online](#)

Across cultures and throughout history, mountains have held powerful symbolic meaning. In this course, we will explore how the Buddhists of the Himalayas, the Inca of the Andes, the Inuit of the far north, and European Romantics understood and approached these landscapes. Through an interdisciplinary lens, we will examine the beliefs, traditions, and mythologies inspired by the world's mountains, using illustrated lectures, short readings, and discussion to deepen our connection to these high and wild places.

NEW LW-519 | ***To Be Or Not To Be: How To Enjoy Shakespeare** with Gerald Hecht
10 sessions | 9/14 – 11/16 | 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM | \$112 | [Online](#); **Recorded**

This course will offer a fun look at the Bard's plays, poems and sonnets through the lens of the modern reader and audience. No Shakespeare experience required! We will learn how to read the plays, their significance today, and the fun of the Bard.

NEW OO-065 | **The History and Experience of Route 66 (Osher Online)** with Peter Dedek

6 sessions | 10/5 – 11/9* | 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM | \$68 | [Online](#)

Route 66 is as much an idea as it is a place. Since 1926, it has evolved from a busy highway into a symbol of nostalgia, travel, and the American road. Today, it serves as a kind of pilgrimage route, marked by neon signs and preserved roadside landmarks. In this course, we will explore its history, cultural meaning, rise and decline, revival, and preservation, while considering the future of this iconic American highway.

OO-068 | **The Search for an American Sound (Osher Online)** with Emanuel Abramovits

6 sessions | 10/12 – 11/16* | 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM | \$68 | [Online](#)

Since the 1890s, when Americans were beginning to develop their own traditions in classical music, composers have recognized the dilemma of creating the American sound. We will explore how classical musicians, and Broadway and Hollywood composers, most of them Jewish, followed parallel paths in creating sounds that reflect these lands and its people. Aaron Copland, George Gershwin, William Grant Still, Florence Price, Alex North, Elmer Bernstein and others will be the protagonists of this lecture.

TUESDAY COURSES

CE-042 | **Economic History as It Applies Today** with Laurence O'Connell

5 sessions | 9/8 – 10/6 | 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM | \$56 | [Online](#); **Recorded**

Come see how current economic policies regarding trade, tariffs, and the definition of wealth were conversed in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries and how they equally apply today.

NEW OO-070 | **Winning the White House: The Evolution of the Presidency (Osher Online)** with John White

6 sessions | 9/29 – 11/3* | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM | \$68 | [Online](#)

Harry S. Truman called the presidency “the most peculiar office in the world.” In this course, we will explore how the framers left the office open to interpretation, allowing presidential power to expand over time. We will examine how the presidency has come to dominate the three branches, how presidents gain and use power, and how the rise of the administrative state has altered the balance the framers intended.

HS-410 | **U.S. Immigration History, Perspectives and Challenges** with Richard McCann

3 sessions | 9/22 – 10/6 | 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | \$34 | [Online](#)

This course will provide an overview of the patterns of U.S. immigration from the arrival of the earliest North American migrants to the present. We will trace the origins of American Nativism and xenophobia as well as discuss contemporary challenges at the Southern border.

NEW OO-058 | **Mexico City: Empires, Revolutions, and Everyday Life (Osher Online)** with William Beezley

6 sessions | 9/29 – 11/3* | 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM | \$68 | **Online**

Mexicans celebrate a remarkable diversity of peoples, music, food, festivals, and historical traditions, expressed through fiestas that bring communities together throughout the year. In this course, we will explore Mexico City as a cultural and historical crossroads shaped by centuries of continuity and change. We will trace the legacies of Indigenous civilizations, the transformations of Spanish colonial rule, the struggles for independence and revolution, and the rise of modern democratic politics, culminating in the election of Mexico's first woman president.

AH-417 | **The Top 25 Film Scores of All Time** with Emanuel Abramovits

5 sessions | 9/8 – 10/6 | 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM | \$56 | **Online; Recorded**

The American Film Institute released a list of the best film scores that includes many well-known classics like *Gone with the Wind*, *Casablanca*, *Laura*, *Out of Africa*, and *On Golden Pond*. With the help of audiovisuals, stories, and anecdotes, let's enjoy the process of creating those historical pieces that convey what the movie is trying to say without words and evoke an emotional response.

NEW OO-054 | **Cults and New Religious Movements in America (Osher Online)** with Kathryn Davis

6 sessions | 10/6 – 11/10* | 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM | \$68 | **Online**

America has long been fertile ground for new and alternative religions. In this course, we will examine New Religious Movements, often labeled “cults”, within the US context. We will explore why some became accepted, others faded, and some led to controversy or tragedy. We will consider both insider perspectives and outsider views while analyzing their history, beliefs, and practices. Focusing on the 18th and 19th centuries, we will work to better understand these movements and challenge common misconceptions.

LW-515 | ***Hidden Influences: Lost Literary Gems of the Twentieth Century** with Richard Klin

5 sessions | 10/13 – 11/10 | 1:45 PM – 3:15 PM | \$56 | **Online; Recorded**

This class will survey five works of fiction from the 20th century that are pivotal and enduring in the literary lexicon and the culture at large - but that are largely unread by modern audiences. We will discuss these books in the context of their time as well as consider their relevance to our current era.

NEW OO-050 | **A Cosmic Grand Tour: The Realms of the Universe (Osher Online)** with Andrew Fraknoi

6 sessions | 9/29 – 11/3* | 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM | \$68 | **Online**

In this course, we will explore the three fascinating realms of the cosmos: nearby planets and moons; the stars; and the galaxies (the great island of stars that turn out to be the building blocks of the universe.) Our discussion will be in everyday language, without any math, and will be accompanied by remarkable color images from the latest space probes and the world's largest telescopes, including the latest breathtaking images from the James Webb Space Telescope.

NEW OO-063 | **The Birth of the Beat Generation (Osher Online)** with Kurt Hemmer

6 sessions | 9/29 – 11/3* | 9:00 PM – 10:30 PM | \$68 | [Online](#)

In this course, we will examine the dramatic circumstances that gave rise to the Beat Generation in the 1940s. Together, we will examine three famous Beat works: *Howl and Other Poems* by Allen Ginsberg, *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac, and *Naked Lunch* by William S. Burroughs. We will focus on historical events involving Beat writers, important passages of Beat literature, and the literary movement that spawned the 1960s counterculture.

WEDNESDAY COURSES

NEW CE-039 | **Frontlines of A New World Order: The Russo-Ukraine War and the Revolutions It Is Causing** with Jared Day

5 sessions | 9/9 – 10/7 | 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM | \$56 | [Online](#)

Explore the Russo-Ukraine War and its sweeping impact on military tech, strategy, geopolitics, alliances, and global power. We'll focus on Ukraine's advances, Russia's challenges, and shifting U.S. leadership. The war is reshaping the world - come see how.

HS-525 | **The Magic Behind the Footlights - Backstage Secrets of Waterbury's Storied Palace Theater** with Donna Cameron

4 sessions | 9/16 – 10/7 | 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM | \$45 | [In-Person, Off-Site](#)

This course will include a slideshow of restoration and old theater photos, a detailed tour of the theater, including backstage, dressing rooms, and fly loft over the stage, and a look into the life of Sylvester Z. Poli, the theater's original builder and operator.

Please Note: This course will take place at the Palace Theater, 100 East Main Street, Waterbury, CT 06702.

NEW PD-407 | **Finding Peace in a Changing World** with Stacey Altomari

10 sessions | 9/9 – 11/11 | 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM | \$112 | [Online](#)

What if you could be calm, relaxed, and peaceful when all around you is chaos? What if you could feel calm, relaxed, and peaceful when the world around you is upside down? You can. I am here to guide you to that place.

PR-403 | **My God Can Beat Up Your God: Competing Religions of the Ancient Near East** with Michael Carroll

5 sessions | 9/9 – 10/14* (*No class on 9/16) | 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | \$56 | [Online](#); [Recorded](#)

Israelites, Babylonians, Persians, and Iranians were all peoples of an "almighty" God. This course will examine their clashes, interconnections, and how, in turn, each coped with catastrophe. History, Archeology and Biblical Studies students are strongly encouraged to enroll.

LW-516 | **Fall into YOUR OWN Writing Style... Your Voice on the Page** with Nancy Whitney

10 sessions | 9/9 – 11/11 | 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | \$112 | [Online](#)

Let yourself write in your own style and in your own voice. We will explore writing, voice, imagination, creativity, poetry, and style, but most importantly, the student's own voice on the page.

NEW OO-059 | **Post-War Architecture: The Innovative Architects of the Midcentury Modern Period (Osher Online)** with Eleanor Schrader

6 sessions | 10/7 – 11/11* | 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM | \$68 | [Online](#)

From new industrial materials to innovations in housing, mid-20th-century designers worked to shape an aesthetic that reflected post-World War II ideals. In this course, we will explore the optimism linking design and lifestyle, especially through open living spaces. We will examine the Case Study Program and the work of designers such as Charles and Ray Eames, John Lautner, Eero Saarinen, E. Fay Jones, and Donald Wexler, within the context of rapid social change.

NEW OO-057 | **Living off The Laughter: History of Comedy in America (Osher Online)** with Eddy Friedfeld

6 sessions | 10/14 – 11/18* | 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM | \$68 | [Online](#)

This course is a history class with a laugh track. We will analyze the 20th and 21st centuries against their historic context, using humor as the platform. We will discuss how comedy was shaped by and responsive to American society, and how comedians influenced and shaped American life. We will cover Silent Films, Vaudeville, Radio, Screwball and Romantic Comedies, and the Golden Age of Television. We will study how each generation's identity influenced what (and whom) they laughed at.

NEW OO-067 | **The Magic Behind Film Scores: The Role of Music in Great Movies-Part II (Osher Online)** with Mike Agron

6 sessions | 9/30 – 11/11** (*No class on 10/28) | 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM | \$68 | [Online](#)

This course continues our journey into how music drives the emotional power of film. We will explore how scores and songs shape story, character, and memorable moments. We will focus on films where songs take center stage, from iconic themes to pop- and rock-driven storytelling. Spanning genres and eras, we will see how composers, songwriters, and performers expanded the language of film music – from Westerns and global cinema to the pop-cultural impact of James Bond and the Beatles.

NEW OO-069 | **Tracing Our Roots: DNA, Family History, and the Politics of Identity (Osher Online)** with Angel Cervantes

6 sessions | 9/30 – 11/4* | 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM | \$68 | [Online](#)

How does DNA reshape our understanding of ancestry and identity in the Americas? In this course, we will explore genetic genealogy through early contact between European and Indigenous peoples, using the New Mexico DNA Project as a case study. We will examine Y-DNA, mitochondrial DNA, Indigenous haplogroups, and the Spanish castas system. We will consider the ethical and political implications of DNA testing and the limits of what genetic evidence can, and cannot, tell us about race and belonging.

NEW OO-052 | **August Wilson and His American Cycle-The First Five: 1904-1957 (Osher Online)** with Ladrice Menson-Furr

6 sessions | 10/7 – 11/11* | 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM | \$68 | [Online](#)

August Wilson was the first African American playwright to have a Broadway theater bear his name, honoring his powerful portrayal of African American culture. In this course, we will read, watch, and examine plays from Wilson's American Cycle, which represents each decade of the 20th century. We will explore his life and influences while focusing on *Gem of the Ocean*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, and *Seven Guitars*, tracing his interpretation and celebration of African American culture.

NEW SS-013 | **Why Do We Do What We Do? Understanding Behavior in Everyday Life** with Lorill Bean

6 sessions | 10/7 – 11/11 | 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM | \$68 | [Online](#)

Why do people think, feel, and act as they do? This course explores major ideas about what motivates behavior - from historic thinkers like Sigmund Freud, to contemporary views of adulthood and aging, life, and the body-brain connection. Together, we examine how we are alike, how we are unique, and what it means to live well in a complex society.

THURSDAY COURSES

HW-413 | **Chair Yoga Stretch, Balance and Fall Prevention Practices for Health and Well-being** with Roxann Riskin

10 sessions | 9/10 – 11/12 | 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM | \$112 | [Online](#)

Welcome to fun, engaging yoga movement sessions enhancing physical and mental well-being. Sessions will focus on standing, chair-assisted, and seated exercises. Yoga flow focuses attention to breath awareness, incorporating balance, strength, flexibility, stretching, endurance poses, and related exercises. Postures are demonstrated, guided, and verbally cued. This course is accessible for everyone!

NEW OO-053 | **Biology & Society (Osher Online)** with Eric Simon

6 sessions | 10/1 – 11/5* | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM | \$68 | [Online](#)

This course introduces the scientific study of life, emphasizing real-world applications and the societal, ethical, and legal consequences of biological advances. We will place key principles within the context of issues that affect society. Designed for non-scientists with little or no recent science experience, the course encourages discussion and reflection. Many topics are at the leading edge of discovery, and we will consider the ongoing ethical and legal debates surrounding their application.

NEW LW-522 | ***Comedy Tonight! Shakespeare's Comedy of Errors** with Gerald Hecht

5 sessions | 9/10 – 10/8 | 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | \$56 | [Online](#); [Recorded](#)

This course will cover Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors* - its history, language, and just plain fun. Each session will cover one act of the play.

NEW OO-060 | **Power and the People: The Evolution of the U.S. Federal Judiciary (Osher Online)** with Lauren Andersen

6 sessions | 10/15 – 11/19* | 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM | \$68 | [Online](#)

The American Experiment began with the Declaration of Independence and led to the creation of the federal judiciary, one of the country's greatest experiments. In this course, we will trace the evolution of the courts from their English roots to their formal establishment in the Constitution. We will explore how the Supreme Court, lacking the power of the purse or military, derives its authority from its ability to connect with the people of the US and protect democracy. We will examine creation of the federal judiciary and the power of the Marshall Court, the Court's evolution through the New Deal, the Vinson Court, the Warren Court's "Rights Revolution," and the role of today's US Supreme Court.

NEW PD-405 | **Purposeful Retirement: Your Next Chapter** with Lorna Lisbonne

2 sessions | 11/5 – 11/12 | 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | \$23 | **Online**; **Abbreviated**

Retirement can open space for greater meaning in health, relationships, learning, spirituality, work, or community, yet the path forward may feel uncertain. This practical workshop series uses behavioral science, guided reflection, peer discussion, and an interactive workbook to help you clarify purpose, build resilience, define achievable goals, and intentionally shape your next chapter.

HW-403 | ***Tai Chi (Slow Flow) Chair/Standing and Similar Forms of Tai Ji Quan** with Roxann Riskin

10 sessions | 9/10 – 11/12 | 1:45 PM – 2:45 PM | \$75 | **Online**

This course offers an intro to Tai Chi, slow-flow, chair/standing, and guided Tai Chi Yang forms, enhancing mental and physical well-being. Sessions will focus on 8-24 Yang intentional slow-flow and similar style form/practices of Tai Ji Quan for posture, balance, joint awareness, and fall prevention. Join us for a fun practice in Tai Chi and balance forms of guided movement sessions to enhance your mental and physical well-being!

MU-496 | **Classical Music Virtuosos** with Emanuel Abramovits

5 sessions | 9/10 – 10/8 | 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM | \$56 | **Online**; **Recorded**

We'll use anecdotes, stories, humor and audiovisuals to explore the works and the legacy of charismatic performers who gave technical brilliance and showmanship another meaning on piano, violin, and cello. We'll contrast performers who balance intensity, passion, and elegance like Arthur Rubinstein, Jascha Heifetz, Vladimir Horowitz, Yuya Wang, Itzhak Perlman, Ara Malikian, Lang Lang and more!

NEW OO-055 | **Early 20-Century Avant-Garde: From Rebellion to Abstraction (Osher Online)** with Lauren Weingarden

6 sessions | 10/8 – 11/12* | 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM | \$68 | **Online**

Journey into the vibrant world of early 20th century art and witness the birth of abstraction. This transformative period reshaped the cultural landscape, from the bold colors of Fauvism, the fractured forms of Cubism, to the dreamlike realms of Surrealism. Each session focuses on the movements' leading artists including Matisse, Kandinsky, Picasso, Mondrian, Duchamp, and Dali. We will explore their aesthetic goals and the social and cultural currents that influenced them.

FRIDAY COURSES (EARLY MORNING)

HS-557 | **Ellis Island and the Search for Living Relatives** with Eric Lanzieri

4 sessions | 9/11 – 10/2 | 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM | \$45 | **In-Person**

We will interpret Ellis Island arrival records, show how they can be used to get info about ancestors, and suggest methods for using them to help discover living relatives in the ancestor's country of origin. Students are encouraged to submit their own ancestors as examples for use in class.

HW-522 | **Good Vibrations for Health and Happiness** with Julie Cook

5 sessions | 9/11 – 10/9 | 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM | \$38 | **In-Person**

In this class, we will experience the vitalizing effects of humming, toning, and chanting together, including a kirtan kriya chant shown to improve brain longevity and function. Creating a powerful circle of group sound has been shown to raise physical and emotional well-being. Join me for a refreshing sound immersion and autumn sonic pick-me-up!

VA-449 | **Photography for Everyone** with Timothy Padgett

10 sessions | 9/11 – 11/13 | 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM | \$112 | **In-Person**

This course is designed to teach anyone who has a camera or a cellphone how to get the most out of their equipment. Don't feel intimidated; come and have fun while learning in this course!

LW-525 | **How to Write A Mystery Novel Readers Can't Put Down** with Martin Herman

10 sessions | 9/11 – 11/13 | 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM | \$112 | **In-Person**

This course offers a lively, supportive workshop for anyone who wants to write a mystery or thriller novel. Learn how to build suspense, plant clues, shape twists, and create unforgettable characters. This course will be taught in clear, accessible terms by an author with eight published mystery thrillers and two more releasing this year.

VA-402 | ***Paint Your World in Acrylics** with Joan Rubbo

10 sessions | 9/11 – 11/13 | 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM | \$150 | **In-Person**

Delve into the world of acrylics creating works of art of the subject of your choice. Use a photo of an item or location that is of significance to you. This class is for everyone from beginners to more experienced artists. Class is hands-on and each student moves at their own pace.

CL-449 | **Parliamo Italiano III** with Nunzio DeFilippis

10 sessions | 9/11 – 11/13 | 9:45 AM – 11:45 AM | \$150 | **In-Person**

This course will be a continuation of Parliamo Italiano II. All who can speak little-to-moderate Italian are welcome. Students will prepare a short story at home (around 5 minutes of conversation) and will tell the story in class. The rest of the class will ask questions about the story, and the student will respond - all in Italian! We will learn some elementary grammar, some Italian culture, and some history.

NEW CE-040 | **Ranked Choice Voting** with Michael Trusiewicz

1 session | 10/9 | 8:45 AM – 10:00 AM | \$15 | **In-Person; Abbreviated**

Ranked Choice Voting is a new, improved method of voting that assures that candidates must be elected by a majority. Learn how it works, where it is currently being used, its strong points, its criticisms, and recent proposals for its use in our Connecticut legislature.

MU-409 | **More Singing for the Joy of It** with Julie Cook

5 sessions | 10/16 – 11/13 | 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM | \$38 | **In-Person**

Group singing helps us feel great in mind, body, and spirit. Let's make a joyful sound with harmonies that emerge easily by singing rounds and simple songs in parts. This class is for those who participated in the spring, and for newcomers, with new and familiar songs. As a bonus, we'll sing in-the-moment songs such as Bobby McFerrin's circle songs, which are easy and fun! Everyone is welcome.

FRIDAY COURSES (LATE MORNING)

NEW HS-417 | **The Life and Times of Lafayette Before, During and After the American Revolutionary War** with Leon Di Martino

2 sessions | 9/11 – 9/18 | 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM | \$23 | **In-Person; Abbreviated**

Come learn the story of how Lafayette not only had an influence on American history, but also on French history. The material in this course will cover his early years as well as the years after the American Revolution. These are topics not usually covered in traditional American History classes.

NEW HW-415 | **Meditation Vs. Breathwork** with Linda Bronn

5 sessions | 9/11 – 10/9 | 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM | \$56 | **In-Person**

This course explores the principles and practices of meditation and breathwork as tools for mental, emotional, and physiological well-being. Students will explore historical and scientific foundations, with an emphasis on evidence-based applications, for stress reduction, attention regulation, emotional resilience, and self awareness while cultivating a sustainable personal practice.

NEW HW-414 | **Memory, Meaning and Connection: A Guide Through Alzheimer's and Dementia** with Martin Herman

10 sessions | 9/11 – 11/13 | 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM | \$112 | **In-Person**

This will be a compassionate, practical workshop based on *The Alzheimer's Survival Kit*. In clear, highly researched layman's terms, learn early signs, what to expect, and how to stay connected through Alzheimer's or dementia. This course offers supportive, pressure-free space for anyone facing memory loss personally, through family history, or as a caregiver.

VA-432 | **Mandalas and More as Art and Personal Relaxation** with Rose-Ann Chrzanowski

10 sessions | 9/11 – 11/13 | 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM | \$112 | **In-Person**

This relaxing course is presented in an individualized style. Come and express yourself artistically, exploring with a variety of art materials. No artistic experience is needed, only the desire to experiment, create, and relax!

NEW PD-406 | **More Oops! Your Body Language is Showing - Improving Your Health, Performance and Success** with Carolyn Finch-Hulme

10 sessions | 9/11 – 11/13 | 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM | \$112 | **In-Person**

Your body communicates health, energy, and well-being. In this interactive course, we'll explore the four key areas of the body - Mental, Emotional, Physical, and Spiritual (MEPS) - through simple movements, body awareness, and practical techniques. Enjoy a lively, supportive environment filled with laughter, connection, and tools you can use immediately to enhance balance, communication, and energy.

NEW CL-400 | **Irish for Beginners** with Martin Crofts

10 sessions | 9/11 – 11/13 | 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM | \$112 | **In-Person**

This is an ideal class for those curious to explore an ancient and unique language. It will incorporate mythology, history, folklore, and geography with an emphasis on conversation. This course requires only paper, a pen, and enthusiasm.

NEW PR-405 | **Buddha and Jesus Walk into a Bar** with Reggie Marra

9 sessions | 9/18 – 11/13 | 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM | \$101 | **In-Person**

Over drinks they discuss aging as undocumented Middle Eastern and Asian immigrants in the U.S. They worry about how some 21st-century Americans interpret their teachings, and they cautiously invite us into the conversation as they reflect on love, the Four Noble Truths, the Beatitudes, the Eightfold Path, and other New Testament and Dhammapada verses. It's not clear who will pick up the tab.

NEW HS-418 | **The Life and Times of Benedict Arnold Before, During and After the American Revolutionary War** with Leon Di Martino

2 sessions | 9/25 – 10/2 | 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM | \$23 | **In-Person; Abbreviated**

Come learn the story of how Benedict Arnold went from becoming an American hero to a betrayer of The American Cause of Independence and what happened to him after the American Revolutionary War ends. We will discuss Benedict Arnold's life in detail including how he spent the years after the war and his final days in London. This will be a wonderful two-week class for those interested in American history!

CE-022 | **Social and Political Trends** with Larry Rifkin

3 sessions | 10/16 – 10/30 | 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM | \$34 | **In-Person**

Based on his *America Trends* podcast, Larry Rifkin invites active class participation on a wide range of subjects in our current-day politics and our society. Actual podcast audio is used to stimulate the discussion and live guests are brought into the discussion as well.

NEW HS-419 | **The Life and Times of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt** with Leon Di Martino

5 sessions | 10/16 – 11/13 | 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM | \$56 | **In-Person**

Come learn the story of how Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt became one of the most talked about and controversial presidential couples of the last century - from the earliest days up until the White House years and afterwards. This will be a class that will cover their lives in more detail than any traditional history class.

MU-465 | **Hey, What's the Score? (Classical Music Used In Movie Scores)** with Donna Obarowski

5 sessions | 10/16 – 11/13 | 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM | \$56 | **In-Person**

You are already familiar with many works of classical music because they've been incorporated into the musical scores of some popular movies. We'll learn about the composers who originally wrote these masterworks, how and why they were first composed, and how they've been reimagined as music for the cinema. You'll find that you know more than you realized but that you don't know the whole story!

NEW HS-421 | **The Five Horsewomen of the American Revolution** with Raymond Sullivan, M.D.

5 sessions | 10/16 – 11/13 | 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM | \$56 | **In-Person**

In this course, during America 250, we will explore the lives, contributions to our freedom, and failures of five interesting women, including Martha Washington, Abigail Adams, Mercy Otis Warren, Eliza Hamilton, and Peggy Shippen Arnold.

FRIDAY COURSES (MIDDAY)

NEW HC-406 | **Cultivating Community: Intergenerational Service-Learning to Support Sustainable Food Systems in Waterbury, CT** with Hannah Peterson

13 sessions | 9/4 – 12/11* (*No class on 11/13 & 11/27) | 12:05 PM – 12:55 PM | **FREE** | **In-Person with occasional Off-Site sessions**

This course brings OLLI and UConn students together to care for the OLLI garden while building connection and intergenerational solidarity. Through hands-on gardening and collaboration with local partners, participants will learn about community engagement and sustainability. Guest speakers and workshops will explore how gardens strengthen community ties and support well-being. The course will be taught on campus, with a couple of classes held at the OLLI garden in Fulton Park, Waterbury.

Please Note: This free course is funded by the Environmental and Social Sustainability Grant funded through the UConn Office of Sustainability. While free, space is limited. Also, students in this course may attend all sessions, but are free to attend any number of session they'd like.

VA-456 | ***Fundamentals of Drawing** with Thelma Appel

10 sessions | 9/11 – 11/13 | 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | \$112 | **In-Person**

This course will teach you about basic perspective, the relationships of objects to each other, how to energize a drawing by use of light and dark dynamics, how to explore different drawing instruments to achieve various effects, how to best express volume, and how to work with outlines alone.

CO-426 | ***Improve Your Understanding of How to Use Your Laptop** with Timothy Padgett

10 sessions | 9/11 – 11/13 | 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | \$112 | **In-Person**

This course is designed to help students understand and get the most out of their Windows or Mac-based laptops. It'll cover the basics of setting up both Mac and Windows machines to your preferences - from creating and changing passwords to changing the appearance of the screen. We'll also work on understanding the apps that come with it.

NEW SP-403 | **Let's Play Ball: Aspects of Baseball** with Alan Cohen

10 sessions | 9/11 – 11/13 | 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | \$112 | **In-Person**

From its origins to the current day, baseball is a constant source of inquiry. In a series of presentations, we will delve into baseball's 19th century beginnings and early organization. We'll also explore the early bans on Sunday baseball that continued into the fourth decade of the 20th century, the bans on black players and the evolution of the Negro Leagues, and the expansion and migration of the 1950s.

PA-412 | **Historical Voyage into the Opera World** with Nunzio DeFilippis

10 sessions | 9/11 – 11/13 | 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM | \$150 | **In-Person**

This course offers a historical voyage into the opera world. We'll start with the reformation of opera with Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* and Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*. Then, we'll go to the age of bel canto with Bellini's *I Puritani* and to the age of romanticism with Verdi's *Il trovatore*. We'll end in the Verismo age with *Adriana Lecouvreur*. The last two weeks will be dedicated to the class' favorites arias.

NEW HS-415 | ***Marie-Madeleine Fourcade: The Young Woman Who Led France's Largest Spy Network Against Hitler** with Maureen Edwards

5 sessions | 10/16 – 11/13 | 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | \$56 | **In-Person**

This course will be based on the biography *Madame Fourcade's Secret War*. We will read the book over a five-week period, discuss the book, and look at the background events that influence Maire-Madeleine Fourcade and her resistance group.

NEW HS-420 | **Ft. Laramie Treaty of 1868 and Theft of Native American Land** with Fred Greenberg

1 session | 10/23 | 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | \$15 | **In-Person; Abbreviated**

The Sioux Nation signed an 1868 treaty with the United States to establish their Reservation in what is now South Dakota. By 1875, the U.S. was desperate to get parts back, one way or another. They did so in an underhanded manner, leading to Custer's Last Stand and a Supreme Court case 100 years later.

NEW GA-001 | **Mahjong Is Back and Popular! I Want To Learn How To Play!** with Diane Gaborc

5 sessions | 10/16 – 11/13 | 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | \$56 | **In-Person**

The ancient game of Mahjong, very popular in the USA in the 1950s and '60s, has made a big comeback in recent years. Interested in its history? Want to learn how to play, but you've heard it is difficult and/or confusing to learn? This course will get you going!

MU-408 | **Latin American Instruments and Afro-Cuban Music** with Juan Santiago
5 sessions | 10/16 – 11/13 | 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | \$56 | **In-Person**

This course will teach you how to play the typical Latin American instruments such as bongos, guiro, claves, and maracas. You will also learn very basic rhythms and how they are used in different styles of Latin American Music such as Mambo, Son, Rumba, Guaguanco, and Bembe. From there, you'll learn the origin of Latin American music, especially from the Caribbean.

FRIDAY COURSES (LATE AFTERNOON)

NEW CL-417 | ***Gods, Heroes, and Monsters: An Exploration of Homer's *Odyssey*.**
with Fiona de Merell

5 sessions | 9/11 – 10/9 | 1:45 PM – 3:15 PM | \$56 | **In-Person**

Embark on an unforgettable journey through Homer's *Odyssey*, one of the most captivating stories ever told. Together, we'll explore epic adventures, unforgettable characters, and timeless questions about home, identity, and resilience. This course offers a welcoming space to connect literature with life's own journeys – whether you're revisiting a classic or encountering it for the first time.

NEW MS-407 | **Viruses Uncovered: Tiny Germs, Big Stories** with Lauren Poulos

5 sessions | 9/11 – 10/9 | 1:45 PM – 3:15 PM | \$56 | **In-Person**

In this introductory course, we will examine the differences between bacteria and viruses and how viruses take over host cells. We will also explore a few DNA and RNA viruses in some detail. In addition, we will look at how the body responds to infection, how vaccines work, and touch upon epidemics and pandemics.

NEW PR-404 | **Myth and Ritual: Matters of Life and Death** with Christopher Sweeney

8 sessions | 9/11 – 10/30 | 1:45 PM – 3:15 PM | \$90 | **In-Person**

In this course, we will explore the power and meaning of myths reenacted in rituals of rebirth and renewal in four civilizations: the ancient Babylonian spring Akitu Festival; the mysteries of Eleusis in classical Greece; Eka Dasa Rudra, a once-a-century Balinese cosmic maintenance ritual last performed in 1979; and the Sunrise Dance, an Apache coming-of-age ritual for girls.

VA-486 | ***Editing Photos Using Lightroom and Photoshop** with Timothy Padgett

10 sessions | 9/11 – 11/13 | 1:45 PM – 3:15 PM | \$112 | **In-Person**

This course uses both Lightroom Classic and Adobe Photoshop, as well as an introduction into AI, to create digital works of art and explores what to do with them upon completion. If you've taken photos on either your cellphone or a digital camera, and want to know what to do next, well, this course is for you.

NEW AH-408 | **Indigenous Art of North America Part 2** with Mary Claire Morin

10 sessions | 9/11 – 11/13 | 1:45 PM – 3:15 PM | \$112 | **In-Person**

This is the second part of a class given during the Spring 2026 semester. We started our journey in the Pacific Northwest, and now we will be finishing up on the Northeast Coast. In between, we will examine the Southwest, the Southeast, and anything we missed in the spring! We may look at modern Indigenous artists as well.

LW-524 | **Write A Life: Turning Real People into Riveting Stories** with Martin Herman

10 sessions | 9/11 – 11/13 | 1:45 PM – 3:15 PM | \$112 | **In-Person**

This course will be a supportive, engaging workshop for anyone who wants to write a biography or life story. Learn how to research, interview, structure, and bring real people to life on the page. This course will be taught in clear, accessible terms by an author with two published biographies and a third currently in progress.

VA-461 | ***The Art in Painting: Learning to See - A Workshop** with Thelma Appel

10 sessions | 9/11 – 11/13 | 1:45 PM – 3:30 PM | \$131 | **In-Person**

We'll review the basics of organizing pictorial space to help us master painting in acrylics or oils by mixing primary colors and diluting them with white to contrast loud and muted values. We'll use still-life models/photos and study Old Master paintings for reference to create a dynamic work of art.

NEW VA-487 | **Film Appreciation: Embarking on a Cinematic Ride Part II** with Christopher Orrell

4 sessions | 9/18 – 10/9 | 1:45 PM – 3:45 PM | \$60 | **In-Person**

Explore film appreciation through global gems including *An Education* (U.K.), *The Guide* (Ukraine), *Persepolis* (Iran), and *The Story of the Weeping Camel* (Mongolia). Each session includes an intro, full screening, and thoughtful post-film discussion to unpack artistic choices and deepen your cinematic insight.

NEW PA-413 | **Community Theater** with John Kearney

5 sessions | 10/16 – 11/13 | 1:45 PM – 3:00 PM | \$47 | **In-Person**

This course will provide an overview of community theater (or "theatre" if you are a snoot) from an old theater hack whose first show was in 1972. (I was single, and it was a great way to meet girls. It worked altogether too well because that's how I met my wife!) Two rules: don't take yourself seriously, and have fun. The rest is the magic you create.

HS-516 | **Exploring Europe's Great "Ages" to Enrich Your Travel Experience** with Diane Stone

5 sessions | 10/16 – 11/13 | 1:45 PM – 3:15 PM | \$56 | **In-Person**

The countries and cities of Europe that draw us to explore them emerged from the great "ages" in European history. Starting with the Greek and Roman Empires, and ending with the modernism of the present day, we'll include The Middle Ages, Renaissance, The Ages of Exploration, Absolute Monarchy, Enlightenment, and Revolution – all while learning the backstories that bring travel to life.

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED BOOKS & SUPPLIES

COMPUTERS

CO-426 | **Improve Your Understanding of How to Use Your Laptop** with Timothy Padgett

The following supplies are required:

- A laptop running either Windows or Mac OS.

CULTURE & LANGUAGE

CL-417 | **Gods, Heroes, and Monsters: An Exploration of Homer's Odyssey** with Fiona de Merell

The following supplies are recommended:

- *The Odyssey*, translated by Emily Wilson; ISBN: 978-0393356250 (preferred) **OR** by Robert Fagles; ISBN: 978-0140268867

HEALTH & WELLNESS

HW-403 | **Tai Chi (Slow Flow) Chair/Standing and Similar Forms of Tai Ji Quan** with Roxann Riskin

The following supplies are recommended:

- Tai Chi balls (Instructor will provide these at the UCONN Waterbury campus)

HISTORY

HS-415 | **Marie-Madeleine Fourcade: The Young Woman Who Led France's Largest Spy Network Against Hitler** with Maureen Edwards

The following supplies are required:

- *Madame Fourcade's Secret War* by Lynne Olson; ISBN: 0812985036

LITERATURE & WRITING

LW-515 | **Hidden Influences: Lost Literary Gems of the Twentieth Century** with Richard Klin

The following supplies are recommended:

- *The Ugly American* by Eugene Burdick and William Lederer; W.W. Norton version; ISBN: 978-0393356724
- *Peyton Place* by Grace Metalious; Northeastern University Press; ISBN: 978-1555537593
- *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair; Bantam Classics; ISBN: 978-0553212457
- *The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit* by Sloan Wilson; ISBN: 978-1568582467
- *Babbitt* by Sinclair Lewis; Bantam Classics; ISBN: 978-0553214864

LW-519 | **To Be Or Not To Be: How To Enjoy Shakespeare** with Gerald Hecht

The following supplies are required:

- *Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare
- *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare

LW-522 | **Comedy Tonight! Shakespeare's Comedy of Errors** with Gerald Hecht

The following supplies are required:

- *The Comedy of Errors* by William Shakespeare (any edition)

VISUAL ARTS

VA-402 | **Paint Your World in Acrylics** with Joan Rubbo

The following supplies are required:

- Tubes of the following acrylic paint (heavy body is best): titanium white, cadmium yellow, yellow ochre or oxide, naples yellow, cadmium red, alizarin crimson, cerulean blue, ultramarine blue, chromoxide green, hookers green (deep), burnt sienna, burnt umber and paynes gray
- Brushes (synthetic taklon preferred): 1" bright, 1/2" bright, and #4 round for details
- Palette knife with bent blade, 9 x 12 Masterson's covered palette with palette sheets and sponge
- Acrylic medium - semigloss (or mix of gloss and matte)
- Tabletop easel, stretched canvas or canvas board
- Photograph to use as a reference

VA-456 | **Fundamentals of Drawing** with Thelma Appel

The following supplies are required:

- 4b and 6b pencils, single-blade pencil sharpener, soft dark charcoal and vine charcoal, several soft erasers, charcoal blenders or Q-tips, and a fine-tip Sharpie pen.
- Sandpaper for cleaning erasers, soft rag, medium filbert brush (soft, pointy tip), black ink, and watercolor brushes (thick and fine).
- A large drawing pad with thick enough paper to accommodate ink wash without crumpling.

VA-461 | **The Art in Painting: Learning to See - A Workshop** with Thelma Appel

The following supplies are required:

- Acrylic paints: large tube of titanium white, burnt umber, lamp black, yellow ochre, burnt sienna, cadmium yellow, cadmium red light, alizarin crimson, thalo green, sap green, cobalt blue, cerulean blue, ultramarine blue, and acrylic matt or gloss medium
- Brushes: Narrow and wide chisel shaped brushes, medium round filbert brush, pointed edge filbert, medium fan shaped brush, and large soft brush for washes (such as laying out large basic shapes or a whole area).
- Canvases: 10"X16" or preferably larger; tabletop or floor easel and mixing pallets such as: plastic egg cartons, trays, etc. Also, a soft rag and plastic cup for water.
- Retailers: Michaels Arts & Crafts, Halls New Haven, Ocean State Job Lot, Amazon (www.amazon.com/artsupplies)

VA-486 | **Editing Photos Using Lightroom and Photoshop** with Timothy Padgett

The following supplies are required:

- Adobe Lightroom Classic and Adobe Photoshop

FALL 2026 OLLI CAFÉ LECTURES

- Lectures are held on Fridays in the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) on the UConn Waterbury campus. Doors to the MPR (Rooms 113 - 119) will open at 11:45 a.m.
- To learn more about these OLLI Café presentations, visit: <https://olli.uconn.edu/olli-cafe-lecture-descriptions/>

Sept 11	Paul Colburn Presents <i>Wildlife and Connecticut's Changing Landscape</i> This presentation provides a brief natural history of Connecticut, addresses the current state of wildlife in the state (including a discussion of major species, factors affecting their habitats, challenges we face in managing them), and provides suggestions for what people can do to make a difference.
Sept 18	Western Connecticut Area on Aging Presents <i>Medicare 101: Understanding Coverage, Costs, and CHOICES</i> This presentation covers Medicare basics—coverage, enrollment, and cost-saving programs—along with common challenges. It also highlights the CHOICES program's free, unbiased counseling to help individuals make informed decisions as they approach eligibility.
Sept 25	Jan Baltrush Presents <i>How to Get and Then Stay Organized</i> Passionate about recycling and reuse, Jan motivates and supports clients to get – and stay – organized. Jan will share practical tips for decluttering, sorting, and organizing the items you keep.
Oct 2	Emily Pelz and Nico Rosa Present <i>"Oh, my aching joints!" Strategies to Cope with Osteoarthritis and Keep Moving</i> This will be an informative and interactive presentation to help people with arthritis find effective strategies to complete physical activity in order to benefit and avoid negative consequences.
Oct 9	Christopher Sweeney Presents <i>Language Death</i> The vast majority of the approximately 7,000 languages spoken in the world today have this in common: they are dying. We will briefly address three questions: why are spoken languages disappearing at a rate of roughly one every two weeks; what else is lost when a language dies; and why should we care about language death?
Oct 16	Diane Stone Presents <i>Do You Know Those Stately Homes England is Famous For? Well, American "Dollar Princesses" Are Why They're Still There for Us to Visit</i> By the late 19th century, wealthy "new money" American families sought husbands for their daughters but were rejected by established "old money" American families. Join us to hear the stories—and discover how these marriages helped preserve England's stately homes.
Oct 23	Terry Iten Presents <i>Wolfgang and Anna - I Created a Story from Family Facts</i> Research on my paternal grandparents revealed many facts but left gaps I filled with imagined scenes, dialogue, and historical context. The main challenge was staying true to their character while making Wolfgang and Anna believable and engaging.
Oct 30	Raymond Sullivan Presents <i>Breakneck: The Hill That Made Waterbury Famous — or Infamous?</i> We'll discuss the history and importance of Breakneck Hill, then a part of Waterbury, to the American Revolution and the important individuals who crossed its rugged terrain. This includes George Washington, John Adams, and the encampment of the French Army of the Comte de Rochambeau from June 27th through 30th, 1781.
Nov 6	Michael Bielawa Presents <i>Haunted Waterbury and the Naugatuck Valley</i> Mysteries and hauntings surround Connecticut's historic Naugatuck River. Join award-winning journalist and historian Michael Bielawa as he shares supernatural legends from his book, <i>Haunted Waterbury & the Naugatuck Valley</i>.
Nov 13	End-of-Semester Celebration! Gomez & Sadlon present <i>Jazz Goes to the Movies</i>

WHAT IS OLLI CAFÉ ?

OLLI Café is a weekly lunch-and-learn event on campus. Every Café features a different guest speaker presentation. Complimentary coffee, tea, and snacks are provided. OLLI Café is a great place to bring your lunch, chat with other members, and enjoy a potpourri of presentations and activities. Come and take advantage of a free opportunity to engage socially and intellectually with other OLLI members!

- Free with membership (it's like a free class!)
- To learn more about OLLI Café presentations, visit: <https://olli.uconn.edu/olli-cafe-lecture-descriptions/>
- *Please register for the OLLI Café Lunchtime series if you plan on attending some or all of the presentations.* Registration for OLLI Café saves you a seat for every event, even if you cannot attend every week.

Have you seen or heard about an interesting speaker? Suggestions for future presenters are always welcome! You can suggest a speaker by emailing osher@uconn.edu.

FALL CAFÉ OPPORTUNITY

Bring a friend to OLLI Café and get a \$15 gift certificate if they join!

For the Fall 2026 semester, if you know someone who might enjoy OLLI, then you can invite them to attend one OLLI Café lecture for free! If they join OLLI, then you will receive a \$15 gift certificate to put toward your next order with OLLI at UConn.

All you need to do is email (osher@uconn.edu) or call ((475)-222-6232/6261) us in advance and tell us the following:

- Your name
- Name of the friend you're bringing
- Friend's email address and/or phone number

Gift Certificate Guidelines

- Each friend is only allowed to attend **one** free OLLI Café lecture.
- You can bring a different friend to each Café lecture.
- Your friend must purchase an annual membership within 6 months of attending the Café lecture for you to be eligible to receive the \$15 gift certificate.

PARKING INFORMATION

If you take in-person courses and want to use UConn parking, you now have two payment options:

1. Purchase a parking permit online for the semester through UConn's Parking Services department (<https://park.uconn.edu>).

To purchase a parking permit, either submit the online form and pay by check, or pay by credit card using the permit store. More information regarding this method can be found at <https://park.uconn.edu/students-2/> under the "Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) - Parking Permits" section.

2. Use the PayByPhone: Mobile Parking service. This simple, convenient method requires you to download a mobile application to use when you arrive on campus. Once on the application, all you have to do is enter the lot number (5178), your license plate and payment information, and then the amount of time that you think you will need to park.*

More detailed instructions on how to use this service are available at: <https://park.uconn.edu/pay-by-phone/>.

**If you are only taking a five-week course, then you may find it cheaper to use PayByPhone than to buy a parking permit for the full semester.*



Questions? Please contact the OLLI office at osher@uconn.edu.

Parking is available at both the UConn attached garage and the Scovill Street garage.

To learn more, visit: <https://olli.uconn.edu/parking-and-directions/>.

Please Note: The OLLI office is not responsible for choosing which parking option is best for you; we just present you with the available options. It is up to you to pick which parking method works best with your schedule.

OLLI AT UCONN FALL 2026 REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____ Email _____

Phone Number (Preferred) _____ Phone Number (Mobile) _____

Indicate your membership status by checking **ONE** of the boxes below:

☐

NEW to OLLI (\$65 due now)

☐

Current (my membership is paid)
Unsure? Call the OLLI Office

☐

Renewing (\$65 due now)

Course Registration - FALL 2026

**For hybrid courses, please indicate which section (in-person or online) that you want to be registered for.*

	Title / course # <i>Refer to catalog for course # and fee</i>	Price
Membership fee (for new and renewing members only)		
Course #1		
Course #2		
Course #3		
Course #4		
Course #5		
OLLI Café		\$0.00
TOTAL		\$

Refunds and course credits will be issued on a case-to-case basis depending on the circumstance.

*Mail this form with a check or money order to:
OLLI at UConn, 99 East Main Street, Waterbury, CT 06702*

I acknowledge that pictures and/or videos taken during OLLI Café, in the classroom setting, or on a trip may be used to promote OLLI at UConn.

MEMBER SIGNATURE (required) _____

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
University of Connecticut
99 East Main Street
Waterbury, CT 06702



UConn
WATERBURY

70+
CLASSES

Monday to Friday Options

1-10 Meetings Per Class

Classes Starting at \$15

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Courses Available**

**For more information
please visit:**

olli.uconn.edu



UConn Waterbury serves more than 1,000 students annually. In more than 60 years of operation, UConn Waterbury has opened the doors to educational access and excellence to thousands of Connecticut residents, many of whom have distinguished themselves in the fields of community service, business, education, law, and politics.