



Rethink  
Learning  
Discovery  
Vitality  
Camaraderie  
Enrichment  
Creativity



Northwestern  
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

# OLLI ANYWHERE: SPRING SEMESTER 2021

MONDAY, MARCH 8–FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2021





# CONTENTS

- 3 From the Director
- 4 OLLI Anywhere
- 5 Technology Overview
- 7 Study Groups At-A-Glance
- 10 Study Group Descriptions
- 42 Spring Membership Options
- 43 Registration Policies, Refund Policies, Standards of Conduct
- 46 Calendar
- 47 Resources

## KEY DATES:

### **Wednesday, January 27: Spring memberships available for purchase**

We advise you to take advantage of this extra time to buy your membership early. Then, when registration opens, all you will need to do is select your study groups and quickly check out.

### **Tuesday, February 9 at 9 a.m.: Spring study group registration opens**

### **Friday, February 26: Spring study group registration closes**

## 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, **KARI FAGIN**



Nearly every day I hear from at least one OLLI member who expresses their appreciation for the OLLI program — especially during the pandemic. Those battling loneliness, isolation, and sometimes the virus itself have said that they wouldn't know what they would do without OLLI. OLLI friends and colleagues have provided connection and support. The OLLI schedule has provided a sense of normalcy and something to look forward to each week. OLLI study groups and events have provided mental engagement and growth.

I am proud of our Northwestern OLLI program — even more so now, as our high-quality program is a meaningful source of mental and emotional health in today's world. Thanks to all of the members, coordinator, volunteers, and staff who bring your best selves to this program and who make up this wonderful, vibrant community!

We look forward to your participation in an exciting spring semester which includes new and creative study groups, new and stimulating OLLI events and lectures, and new opportunities for connection.

Joy in Learning and Community,  
Kari

Kari Fagin, Director of Northwestern OLLI

---

### **RIGHT NOW:**

Log into the OLLI Online Registration System ([northwesternolli.augusoft.net](http://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.

- If you are having difficulty, email [olli@northwestern.edu](mailto:olli@northwestern.edu)
- Note: If you are an existing member and cannot remember your username and password, do NOT create a new profile.
- Remember, this login information is different than what is used to log into Canvas.

### **BEFORE REGISTRATION DAY:**

(JANUARY 27–FEBRUARY 8)

1. Pay for your membership before registration day.
2. 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.

### **FEBRUARY 9:**

Registration opens at 9:00 a.m.

Registration closes Friday, February 26, 2021.

Your early preparation should prevent registration day issues, but if you need help on registration day, contact us (see contact information below). OLLI staff or a volunteer will be in touch as quickly as possible. This day is extremely busy, so we ask for your patience.

*The only way to register is online. We cannot accept registration by email, mail, phone, fax or drop off.*

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Note: OLLI offices are closed due to the pandemic. As a result, we do not have access to phone systems. For assistance, please complete an OLLI Help Desk ticket or email OLLI for assistance (not both).

OLLI EMAIL: [olli@northwestern.edu](mailto:olli@northwestern.edu)

OLLI HELP DESK: [spsolli.sps.northwestern.edu](https://spsolli.sps.northwestern.edu)

*Do NOT contact Northwestern IT department as they are not able to assist with the OLLI requests.*

\*OLLI accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, or Discover through the OLLI Online Registration System only.

# OLLI Anywhere



**OLLI is all virtual this spring semester.** Join our study groups from anywhere you have an Internet connection! The only equipment needed is a computer or tablet with a camera (either built into the device or added separately), and an Internet connection. Our virtual classrooms will be held via Zoom and all study groups will follow our regular peer-led, highly interactive, social, and fun approach to learning. Technology training will be provided to new OLLI members as well as current members who want a bit more help — all with the goal of making you feel comfortable with this virtual environment.

## **Benefits of OLLI Anywhere**

While we prefer to be on campus and we will return to in-person experiences when it's safe to do so, members have noted many unexpected benefits of our virtual learning experience:

- the ability to hear and see one another better via Zoom,
- thoughtful articulation and organized dialogue through the use of Zoom features like chat and hand raising,
- convenience and time savings as a result of not having to commute to a physical classroom,
- more personal connections by seeing into one another's homes and meeting one another's pets or spouses,
- greater accessibility for those with physical limitations or those caring for a loved one in their home,
- greater access to those who are temporarily or permanently located outside of Chicago,
- larger social circles, richer conversations, greater collaboration, and new friendships as a result of bringing together members from both NU OLLI campuses, and
- the very best speakers from all over the country who are able to present to us virtually.

# Technology Overview

We are fortunate to have technology as means for continuing our stimulating learning and staying connected at a time when connection is more important than ever.

## EQUIPMENT YOU NEED:

**1. Internet access**  
stable, high-speed  
(preferred)

**2. Computer  
or tablet**

**3. Web camera**  
built into most devices or  
can be added separately

## SYSTEMS NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY PROVIDES:

**1. AUGUSOFT**  
OLLI Online Registration  
System

**2. CANVAS**  
Northwestern's Learning  
Management System

**3. ZOOM**  
Videoconferencing application  
used by Northwestern

Each system's purpose and access instructions are outlined below.

Note: OLLI members have a separate **username** and **password** for **Augusoft** and **Canvas**.

Use the space below to keep your login and password information easily accessible.

### AUGUSOFT

Username

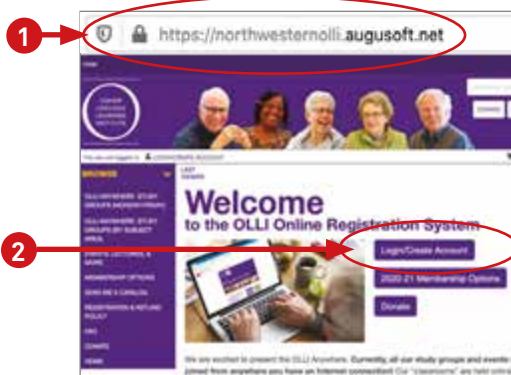
Password

#### What you can do here:

- Purchase **Membership**
- **Register** for Study Groups and Events

#### To Access Augusoft:

- (1) Go to:  
[northwesternolli.augusoft.net](https://northwesternolli.augusoft.net)
- (2) Click the purple **LOGIN/CREATE ACCOUNT** button.
- (3) In the **Sign In** box, select **Student** from the dropdown menu. Type your **Username** and **Password**.



### CANVAS & ZOOM

NetID

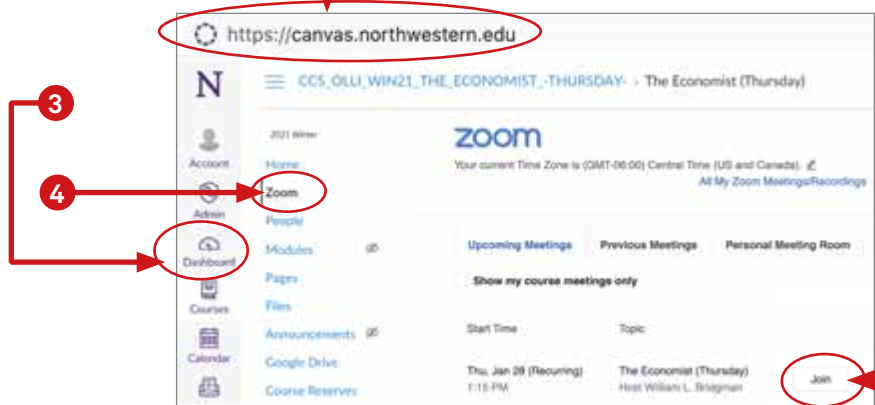
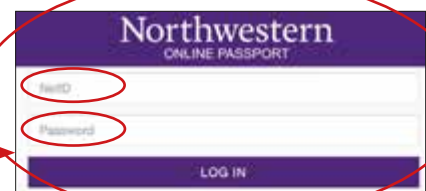
Password

#### To Access Canvas and Zoom:

- (1) Go to: [canvas.northwestern.edu](https://canvas.northwestern.edu)
- (2) The **Northwestern Online Passport** screen appears. Enter your **NetID** and **Password**.
- (3) This will bring up the **Canvas Dashboard**. Click the study group you wish access to the virtual Zoom classroom and study group materials.
- (4) Click **Zoom**.
- (5) Click **Join**.

#### What you can do here:

- Access your **Zoom classroom** for all study groups for which you are registered.
- Access **additional content** (discussion questions, syllabus, etc.) for all study groups for which are registered.
- Access the **OLLI Student site** which contains tips, tools, and resources for being a successful Northwestern OLLI student.



Continued on next page

# Technology Overview continued

## TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

We realize the technology used may be new to some which is why staff and member volunteers provide training and on-going support, ensuring that the technology is not a barrier to OLLI participation. We celebrate the way members, staff, and volunteers work collaboratively and diligently together to ensure every member's success.

[Click here](#) for a video recording of our Zoom training.

Additional Resources are also available on OLLI Student site within Canvas. There you will find:

- Zoom resources and quick guides
- Canvas resources and quick guides
- General technology guides
- Study group participation tips
- Northwestern Library information
- Recordings of past events and lectures

[Click here](#) to access the Canvas Student site

To Access Canvas, remember:

- New members will be issued a NetID with instructions on how to activate.
- Current members have a NetID and password. Email [olli@northwestern.edu](mailto:olli@northwestern.edu) if you do not remember your NetID and password.

### IN SUMMARY

All OLLI winter study groups will be conducted virtually via Canvas. Every member will use their Northwestern NetID and password to access Canvas. Within Canvas, members will use the provided Zoom links to enter their virtual classroom. Some study groups will also use Canvas to post additional resources.

## Zoom Etiquette, Tips, and Tricks

- **Use the video option when possible.**  
We want to see your smiling face!
- **Stage your video area.**  
Keep in mind that people see you as well as whatever is behind you! Find a quiet area that has minimal background noise and movement. Zoom's virtual background feature is an easy way to eliminate background distractions.
- **More light is better.**  
Video quality is dramatically improved with more lighting. Make sure the light is in front of you, not behind you, so that you don't become a silhouette. Avoid backlight from bright windows as well.
- **Position your device so you look into the camera.**  
Looking into the camera (rather than at yourself) gives the appearance of eye contact. Position your camera to be at eye level or above. Place books or a box under your device to make it higher.
- **Speak clearly into the microphone.**  
Speak clearly into the microphone or consider using a headset so you can hear and be heard better.
- **Stay on mute if you're not talking.**  
Background noise can be distracting. To help keep it to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
- **Don't eat during the meeting.**  
Others can be distracted by watching you eat or listening to you chew. Hold off if you can, or if not, temporarily turn off your video and audio.
- **Focus on the meeting.**  
Remember that you are on camera — avoid doing other tasks, checking emails, looking at your phone, etc.
- **Use the Chat.**  
If you have a quick or simple comment, placing it in the Chat is an easy way to contribute without interrupting the flow of the discussion.



**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute**  
Northwestern University School of Professional Studies

OLLI ANYWHERE: SPRING SEMESTER • BEGINS MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021

# STUDY GROUPS AT-A-GLANCE

## Monday

	9:45 a.m.	CI	<i>The New Yorker</i> (Monday a.m.)
NEW	9:45 a.m.	CA	CSO Music Directors: The Making of a World Class Orchestra
NEW	9:45 a.m.	HIS	<i>Twilight of the Gods: War in the Western Pacific, 1944–45</i>
	9:45 a.m.	LIT	Best American Short Stories
	9:45 a.m.	LIT	Great Short Stories
NEW	9:45 a.m.	LIT	Novels in the Age of Anxiety
	9:45 a.m.	LIT	Four Masters of the Short Story
	Noon		Bonus Group: OLLI in Action (3 sessions)
	1:15 p.m.	CI	<i>The New Yorker</i> (Monday p.m.)
NEW	1:15 p.m.	CA	MacGuffins and More: The Films of Alfred Hitchcock (Monday)
NEW	1:15 p.m.	CA	Tea with the Dames
NEW	1:15 p.m.	HIS	The Great Chicago Fire
NEW	1:15 p.m.	HIS	George Washington: Capitalist to the Capitol
	1:15 p.m.	LIT	Literary Masters
	1:15 p.m.	LIT	American Essays
	1:15 p.m.	WR	Writing Life Stories A
	1:15 p.m.	WR	Writing Life Stories B
	1:15 p.m.	WR	Writing Life Stories C

## Tuesday

	9:45 a.m.	CA	Exploring the Visual Arts
NEW	9:45 a.m.	CA	Film Music — Its Creation and Effect
NEW	9:45 a.m.	HIS	The Man Who Ran Washington
NEW	9:45 a.m.	HIS	American Colossus
NEW	9:45 a.m.	HIS	<i>JFK: Coming of Age in the American Century, 1917–1956</i>
NEW	9:45 a.m.	HIS	<i>An Army at Dawn: The War in North Africa, 1942–1943</i>
NEW	9:45 a.m.	HIS	<i>Freedom National: The Destruction of Slavery in the United States (12 sessions)</i>
	9:45 a.m.	LIT	Chekhov, Please!
NEW	9:45 a.m.	STMH	Attenborough, Hamilton, and Us in the Anthropocene

### KEY

<b>CA:</b> Creative Arts
<b>CE:</b> Civic Engagement
<b>CI:</b> Contemporary Issues
<b>HIS:</b> History & Government
<b>LIT:</b> Literature
<b>OTH:</b> Other
<b>STMH:</b> Science, Technology, Medicine & Health
<b>SS:</b> Social Sciences
<b>WR:</b> Writing

Continued on next page

## Tuesday (continued)

- NEW** 9:45 a.m. STMH Can Data Science Predict Human Behavior?
- NEW** 9:45 a.m. STMH *Sapiens: A Brief History of Mankind*
- Noon Bonus Group: Previews and Reviews (4 sessions)
- Noon Bonus Group: Science and Nature Videos (4 sessions)
- Noon Bonus Group: OLLI on the Road from Home (2 sessions)
- 1:15 p.m. CA Curtain UP!
- NEW** 1:15 p.m. CA MacGuffins and More: The Films of Alfred Hitchcock (Tuesday)
- 1:15 p.m. CA Exploring Genius: The MacArthur Fellows — Part II (7 sessions)
- 1:15 p.m. CA Tuesday at the Movies
- NEW** 1:15 p.m. HIS Another Imperfect Union
- NEW** 1:15 p.m. HIS Jerusalem: An Epic History
- NEW** 1:15 p.m. HIS *Promised Land: How the Rise of the Middle Class Transformed America, 1929–1968* (7 sessions)
- NEW** 1:15 p.m. HIS The People Versus the Politicians: A Deep Dive into Electoral Reform (7 sessions)
- NEW** 1:15 p.m. LIT A Victorian Man: Lewis Carroll's Photographic and Literary Works (7 sessions)
- NEW** 1:15 p.m. LIT Money, Marriage and Motivation: George Eliot's *Middlemarch*
- NEW** 1:15 p.m. LIT *Science Fiction and Philosophy*
- NEW** 1:15 p.m. STMH Bedlam: How America's Exploding Mental Health Crisis Affects You
- NEW** 1:15 p.m. SS Victorian Society: Exploring Our Roots (7 sessions)
- 1:15 p.m. WR New Writing Group

## Wednesday

- 8:45 a.m. CA Capturing Chicagoland Through Photography
- NEW** 9:45 a.m. CI *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* (Wednesday) (12 sessions)
- 9:45 a.m. CI *The New Yorker* (Wednesday)
- 9:45 a.m. CI Foreign Affairs
- NEW** 9:45 a.m. CA Culture and Context: The Renaissance in Europe, 1400–1600
- 9:45 a.m. CA Documentary Films (Wednesday a.m.)
- NEW** 9:45 a.m. HIS Obama's Promised Land
- NEW** 9:45 a.m. HIS Understanding America's Right Turn
- NEW** 9:45 a.m. HIS City: 6,000-Year-Old Success Story
- 9:45 a.m. LIT Literature of Baseball: The Big Fella, Babe Ruth
- 9:45 a.m. STMH Theoretical Foundations of Classical Mechanics
- NEW** 9:45 a.m. STMH *Blueprint: The Evolutionary Origins of a Good Society*
- NEW** 9:45 a.m. STMH The Secret of our Success
- 9:45 a.m. WR Creative Writing Workshop (Wednesday)
- Noon CA Bonus Group: A Day at the Opera (4 sessions)
- 1:15 p.m. CI *The Economist A*

Continued on next page



## Wednesday (continued)

- 1:15 p.m. CI *The Economist B*  
1:15 p.m. CI Front Page Articles from the Sunday *New York Times*  
1:15 p.m. CA Documentary Films (Wednesday p.m.)  
1:15 p.m. CA Off the Beaten Path: The Overlooked Films of the Nineties  
1:15 p.m. HIS *These Truths: A History of the United States*  
NEW 1:15 p.m. HIS Clementine Churchill  
NEW 1:15 p.m. HIS The 1950s  
1:15 p.m. LIT Poetry for Pleasure  
NEW 1:15 p.m. LIT Celebrating Contemporary Children's Illustrated Books (7 sessions)  
NEW 1:15 p.m. STMH The Science of Listening (7 sessions)  
1:15 p.m. STMH Current Topics in Science

## Thursday

- NEW 9:45 a.m. CI *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* (Thursday)  
9:45 a.m. CA Capturing Chicago through Photography  
NEW 9:45 a.m. HIS *Congress at War*, The Republican Reformer Congress of the Civil War  
9:45 a.m. LIT Readings in Western Culture  
NEW 9:45 a.m. LIT In Search of the Trojan War  
NEW 9:45 a.m. LIT British Mystery Writers Revisited (7 sessions)  
NEW 9:45 a.m. LIT The States of Mystery (7 sessions)  
9:45 a.m. LIT Poetry in a New Age  
NEW 9:45 a.m. SS Language and Linguistics  
9:45 a.m. WR Creative Writing Workshop (Thursday)  
1:15 p.m. CI Washington Week  
NEW 1:15 p.m. CI Our Climate Emergency  
1:15 p.m. CI *The Economist*  
NEW 1:15 p.m. CI The Pursuit of Racial Equality in Education  
NEW 1:15 p.m. CA The Evolution of Film Noir  
NEW 1:15 p.m. CA Stephen Sondheim (7 sessions)  
NEW 1:15 p.m. HIS The Emergence of International Laws on Genocide  
NEW 1:15 p.m. HIS The Story of the WPA: How FDR Put the Nation to Work  
1:15 p.m. STMH *Science Times*  
1:15 p.m. WR Fiction Writing Workshop

Thank you to the amazing OLLI coordinators. What an incredible group of passionate and committed people.

## Friday

- 9:45 a.m. CI International Relations  
9:45 a.m. HIS World War II Day By Day with *The New York Times*



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
Northwestern University School of Professional Studies

OLLI ANYWHERE: WINTER SESSION • BEGINS MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021

# STUDY GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

---

## MONDAY

BEGINS MARCH 8, 2021

---

### *The New Yorker* (Monday a.m.)

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Coordinators: Hillis Howie, Susan Gaud, Dick Whitaker  
Monday, 9:45–11:45 a.m. (No class on 5/31)

This study group is for long time fans of *The New Yorker* as well as newcomers. At each session we will examine the contents of the current issue and then explore a previously assigned article in depth. A volunteer discussion leader who has chosen the article will lead the discussion. Conversations will be lively. Everyone will be expected to lead a discussion once a semester. Participants will be encouraged to become “watchers” who briefly discuss the current issue from the cover to the cartoons and everything in between. A current print or digital subscription of *The New Yorker* magazine is required.

### NEW CSO Music Directors:

CREATIVE ARTS

### *The Making of a World Class Orchestra*

Coordinators: Denise Stauder, Kathy Moyer  
Monday, 9:45–11:45 a.m. (No class on 5/31)

The public rarely sees how the personalities and the musical skills of music directors shape the organizations they lead. The world-class Chicago Symphony Orchestra has always been guided by the strong influence of its music directors who have brought their unique ideas, styles, and personalities to shape the CSO. This study group will trace these men from Theodore Thomas to Riccardo Muti — with emphasis on the “Solti to Muti” years. We will use Andrew Patner’s recently published book, *A Portrait in Four Movements* (University of Chicago Press, 2019) which covers earlier music directors. We will also use interviews with Barenboim, Boulez, Haitink, and Muti; social media; and other publications such as *Memoirs* by Sir Georg Solti. Individual research and presentations will be encouraged by study group members. We will have special guests and the participation of CSO docent Matt Corey.

---

“ I had some initial misgivings about signing up for an online class, but to my amazement it has generated as much or more enthusiasm and camaraderie than did our in-person format. ”

— Anita Gewurz, OLLI Member

---

## **NEW *Twilight of the Gods: War in the Western Pacific, 1944–1945* HISTORY**

Coordinators: James Smith, Susan Longo

Monday, 9:45–11:45 a.m. (No class on 5/31)

The last stage of the Pacific War was its bloodiest and most controversial. In *Twilight of the Gods: War in the Western Pacific, 1944–1945* (W. W. Norton, 2020), Ian Toll concludes his Pacific War trilogy with the epic story of how it was brought to a conclusion. In these pages, Toll portrays the largest naval battle in history, pitting Japanese super-battleships against TF38 carriers for control of Leyte Gulf. He reveals the reduction of Manila, “Pearl of the Orient,” to a heap of smoldering rubble strewn with 100,000 corpses murdered by barbaric Japanese defenders. Then came Iwo Jima, an Island the Americans landed on, but the Japanese defended from within. After that, Okinawa, a tough, grinding ground campaign, but a nightmare at sea, as waves of Japanese kamikazes threw themselves against “the fleet that came to stay.” Toll covers the fire-bombing of Japan’s cities and concludes with the atomic bombing, still controversial subjects. Written with the same eloquence and judicious use of sources that characterized his earlier Pacific War texts, this book is a gripping account of the Greatest Generation’s greatest achievement — persuading a nation whose population had been taught to prefer death to surrender, to finally surrender.

## **Best American Short Stories**

LITERATURE

Coordinators: Sandy Robbins, Pat O’Conor, Don DeRoche

Monday, 9:45–11:45 a.m. (No class on 5/31)

If you enjoy reading fiction and are interested in exploring the power of the short story, this study group is for you. The beauty of this group is that at every session, each member will have the opportunity to be an active participant. Short stories are carefully written gems of literature. They combine compelling characters, drama, and descriptive language, which lead to lively and thought-provoking discussions. Led by a different member of our class each week, we will look closely at characterizations, plot, and themes. We may not always agree, but we will always learn from each other each time we are together. Our weekly discussions will explore works by up-and-coming authors, as well as established authors. You will have the opportunity to lead a discussion for a story of your choice. Our text is *The Best American Short Stories 2020* (Mariner Books, 2020). Study group members may also share stories which are not included in the text.

## **Great Short Stories**

LITERATURE

Coordinators: Julia Katz, Alan Goldberg

Monday, 9:45–11:45 a.m. (No class on 5/31)

As Pulitzer Prize-winning author Stacy Schiff wrote in *The New York Times*, “A short story is by definition an odder, more eccentric creature than a novel; a trailer, a fling, a warm-up act, a bouillon cube, a championship game in one inning. Irresolution and ambiguity become it; it’s a first date rather than a marriage. When is it mightier than the novel? When its elisions speak as loudly as its lines.” If you enjoy reading fiction and want to explore the succinctness of the short story, join our study group. The very brevity of the form invites lively discussion and differing interpretations of the material. This study group offers a brief but fascinating introduction to authors from the U.S. and around the world. Each study group participant will act as discussion leader for one or two stories of their choice and prepare a brief biography of the story’s author. Two anthologies serve as texts: *The Best American Short Stories 2020* edited by Curtis Sittenfeld with Heidi Pitlor (Mariner Books, 2020) contains the best short stories from last year, and *The Art of the Story* edited by Daniel Halpern (Penguin Books, 2000) features contemporary authors and is the companion book to *The Art of the Tale*.

## NEW Novels in the Age of Anxiety

LITERATURE

Coordinators: Julian Breslow, Rhoda Stamell

Monday, 9:45–11:45 a.m. (No class on 5/31)

Tumultuous times lead to radical changes. No, we are not referring to our current chaos, although we could be. The dawn of the 20th century had its own form of major disruptions — social, political, philosophical, scientific, and psychological — all of which were reflected in the transformations of every art form. This study group will focus on six writers whose works embodied the totally redefined phenomenon of the 20<sup>th</sup> century — the search for the self. Literary critic Arnold Weinstein states, while emphasizing the revolution of the last hundred years, “Great art discovers for us who we are.” Marcel Proust’s *In Search of Lost Time* inaugurates this new relationship between a fallible narrator and his readers. After reading a few of the opening pages of his first volume *Swann’s Way* by Marcel Proust (Simon & Brown, 2008), we will explore the role that five writers have played in this process of self-discovery: *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce (Dover Publications, 1994), *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf (Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1989), *The Sound and the Fury* by William Faulkner (Vintage, 1990), *Beloved* by Toni Morrison (Vintage, 2004), and *Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson (Picador, 2004).

## Four Masters of the Short Story

LITERATURE

Coordinators: Glen Phillips, Judy Kamin

Monday, 9:45–11:45 a.m. (No class on 5/31)

Short stories have the power to entertain, inform, and even heal. Interpreting those stories and uncovering the author’s message is a noble, challenging task. That task is the goal of this study group. Each week a complex story will be vigorously dissected for its ideas. During a lively exchange of interpretations, participants will learn from one another and refine their own positions. At discussion’s end, all will have a clearer sense of the author’s intent and, week by week, all will become more adept at literary interpretation. No prerequisites or specialized knowledge required. Our texts will be: *The Short Stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald* (Scribner, 1989), *The Whore’s Child* by Richard Russo (Vintage, 2003), *The Portable Virgin* by Anne Enright (Vintage, 1998), and *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers* by Yiyun Li (Random House, 2005).

## Bonus Group — OLLI in Action

Coordinators: Janet Lang, Mark Rosenberg, Dick Sullivan, Donna Kapche

Monday, Noon to 1 p.m. (3 sessions: 3/29, 4/26, 5/24)

Are you already mentoring, volunteering in a community organization, or working on non-partisan electoral issues? Maybe you are interested in learning how to become more involved? In the words of Margaret Mead, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.” This Bonus Group brings together thoughtful, committed citizens from both campuses to share interests and experiences in civic engagement. We will meet three times for discussion. We will use our Canvas website as an online tool to share curated resources and opportunities for involvement. Invited community leaders and organizations will occasionally join our conversation. If you register for OLLI’s spring semester, you are eligible to register for OLLI in Action at no extra charge.

## The New Yorker (Monday p.m.)

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Coordinators: Barbara Glatt, Marylyn Miller, Karen Duffy

Monday, 1:15–3:15 p.m. (No class on 5/31)

Inside its famous covers and beyond the cartoons, *The New Yorker* magazine is dedicated to quality, topical writings, and ideas. Our study group discussions will be as varied as the contents of this distinguished magazine. Join us as we explore art, technology, politics, personalities, medicine, movies, fiction, fashion, culture, and commentary. You will find your view of our current world expanded. Access to a current print or digital subscription of *The New Yorker magazine* is required. Everyone is required to make at least one presentation.

## **NEW MacGuffins and More: The Films of Alfred Hitchcock (Monday)**

CREATIVE ARTS

Coordinators: Jim Gecker , Jim Burns  
Monday, 1:15–3:15 p.m. (No class on 5/31)

Join us as we analyze and discuss 14 films of the internationally renowned director Alfred Hitchcock. A master technician, Hitchcock gained prominence in Great Britain before moving to Hollywood in 1940. Though his films thrilled audiences, American film critics (unlike their European counterparts) were slow to appreciate his genius. The issue is now well settled — Hitchcock is recognized in the pantheon of film directors whose visual style, plot devices, and psychological depth are unparalleled in cinema. Each week we will discuss one of Hitchcock's films, which study group members will view in advance via DVD or streaming. In class, we will discuss cinematic elements including the script, themes, direction, acting, music, etc. To help us analyze the films, we will use as a text *The Art of Alfred Hitchcock* by Donald Spoto (Anchor Books, 1992). Before each class, we will post discussion questions on Canvas. The films will be: *The Lodger* (1927), *The 39 Steps* (1935), *The Lady Vanishes* (1938), *Rebecca* (1940), *Shadow of a Doubt* (1943), *Spellbound* (1945), *Notorious* (1946), *Strangers on a Train* (1951), *Rear Window* (1954), *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (1956), *Vertigo* (1958), *North by Northwest* (1959), *Psycho* (1960), and *The Birds* (1963).

## **NEW Tea with the Dames**

CREATIVE ARTS

Coordinators: Bob Moss, Trish Ronan, Craig Long  
Monday, 1:15–3:15 p.m. (No class on 5/31)

Of all the women awarded the title of Dame Commander of the British Empire (DBE) by Queen Elizabeth II, only a limited number are film actresses. In this study group, we will research the careers of these outstanding actresses. In advance of each session, study group members will watch a film starring one of our selected Dames. We will then get together virtually for a spot of tea and examine their life and career using discussion, videos, and film clips. We will also conduct an in-depth analysis of their films. Our awardees are Dame Julie Andrews, Dame Olivia de Havilland, Dame Judi Dench, Dame Angela Lansbury, Dame Helen Mirren, Dame Joan Plowright, Dame Kristin Scott Thomas, Dame Maggie Smith, Dame Elizabeth Taylor, Dame Emma Thompson, and Dame Julie Walters. Proposed films (subject to change) include: *Tea with the Dames*, *The Snake Pit*, *Manchurian Candidate*, *The Sound of Music*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, *Howard's End*, *Enchanted April*, *Her Majesty Mrs. Brown*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brody*, *Billy Elliott*, *The Last Station*, and *The Party*. Ability to stream films and conduct internet research is required. Canvas will be used extensively.

## **NEW The Great Chicago Fire**

HISTORY

Coordinators: Judy Myers, Debra Watkins  
Monday, 1:15–3:15 p.m. (No class on 5/31)

Like a phoenix rising from the ashes of its predecessor, Chicago rose to new greatness in the aftermath of the great fire of 1871. As the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event nears, this study group will explore the causes of, responses to, and recovery from the fire. We will participate in peer-led discussions about the people and events associated with the fire and Chicago's rebuilding to become an iconic American city. We will learn about the myths and facts concerning the O'Leary family and the origins of the fire. We will focus on the individuals, such as Civil War General Philip Sheridan, who was involved in fighting the fire, restoring order, and providing relief to the survivors. The primary resource for this study group is a new book by Northwestern University professor Carl Smith titled *Chicago's Great Fire: The Destruction and Resurrection of an Iconic American City* (Atlantic Monthly Press, 2020). We will use supplemental materials and video clips as needed to enhance our understanding of this significant event which shaped the Chicago of today. Study group members can expect to read 20–25 pages each week.



## NEW George Washington: Capitalist to the Capitol

HISTORY

Coordinators: Margot Wallace, Bob Rifkin

Monday, 1:15–3:15 p.m. (No class on 5/31)

Real estate expert, plantation owner, businessman, innovator, President. George Washington was ambitious, rich in his twenties, and successful at everything he undertook. We know him as a leader; he was also a capitalist. This study group is based on *George Washington, Entrepreneur* (All Points Books, 2020) by John Berlau, a senior fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute. We will examine Washington's innovations, risk-taking, data analysis, and management skills. Historians mourn the dearth of letters by Washington's wife, Martha; fortunately, letters to farm managers and export agents survived. Washington knew business. We will discuss how that made him the indispensable president.

## Literary Masters

LITERATURE

Coordinators: Lynne Carpenter, Jessica Schneider, Bob Relihan

Monday, 1:15–3:15 p.m. (No class on 5/31)

Novels help us understand the emotions, challenges, dilemmas, and loves and friendships of peoples from different eras and parts of the world. This spring, our seven novels include: *Candide* by Voltaire, a classic 18<sup>th</sup> Century French social satire; *Crossing to Safety* by Wallace Stegner, a deeply moving novel tracing the lives and aspirations of two couples over forty years of friendship; *The 42<sup>nd</sup> Parallel* by John Dos Passos, a kaleidoscopic view of the U.S. in the early 1900s; *Sula* by Toni Morrison, a searing tale of Black life in small town Ohio; *Franny & Zoey* by J.D. Salinger, the story of a complicated but loving family in New York City; *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin, an exploration of a traditional housewife's journey toward individual fulfillment; and *Don't Call it Night* by Amos Oz, a portrait of daily life in an Israeli village. We spend two weeks on each book and class members are expected to lead or help lead our discussions. Our first book is *The 42<sup>nd</sup> Parallel* (326 pages). After that, the average length of our selections is 205 pages. Please join us as we read these celebrated works.

## American Essays

LITERATURE

Coordinators: Glen Phillips, Gil Klapper

Monday, 1:15–3:15 p.m. (No class on 5/31)

There is more to literature than novels, plays, and poetry — there are essays. Essays, when well executed, intrigue the reader with a thoughtful perspective about the human condition. The goal of this study group is the interpretation, analysis, and appreciation of that perspective. Participants will develop an awareness of the essay as an art form and will refine their literary analytic skills. And, best of all, absolutely anyone, whatever their educational or professional background, will be comfortable reading and discussing essays. Our text will be *The Best American Essays* (Mariner Books, 2019) edited by Rebecca Solnit.

## Writing Life Stories A

WRITING

Coordinators: Steve Meiss, Janet Piper-Voss

Monday, 1:15–3:15 p.m. (No class on 5/31)

Why write our own stories? Memoir writing may help us document our experiences, revisit old memories, remember the people who have made a difference in our lives, or reflect on past times from our present perspective. Memoir writing can even be a collection of personal essays that are conversational, loosely structured, or that strive toward candor and self-disclosure. Every week we will have an opportunity to present our creative nonfiction to like-minded writers and to give and receive constructive feedback. A list of helpful textbooks, memoirs, and writing resources will be provided. Whether beginners or experienced writers, we can help each other tackle the questions of how to organize our writing, what to include and what to leave out, and what style to follow. We will also polish our writing skills by drawing from a wide variety of resources dealing with the genre. If you ever wanted to try your hand at writing compelling, real-life stories or reflective personal essays, this is your chance.

## Writing Life Stories B

WRITING

Coordinators: Joe McDonald, Martin Mozes

Monday, 1:15–3:15 p.m. (No class on 5/31)

Why write our own stories? Memoir writing may help us capture enduring portraits of the people in our lives, recreate with words the landscapes we once walked, or take the time to reflect on our ever-changing personal, familial, or social circumstances. Yet, writing about one's own life can be daunting. Where does one start? What should be included or left out? How should one organize one's thoughts — chronologically, or by themes? What about style? Poetry or prose? Brief anecdotes or chapter-long memoirs? Whether beginners or experienced writers, we can help each other tackle some of these questions in our OLLI memoir writing group. Every week we will have an opportunity to present our work to a sounding board of like-minded “memoirists” and to give and receive helpful feedback. We will also hone our writing skills by drawing from a wide variety of resources dealing with the genre. If you ever wished to try your hand at writing compelling, real-life stories, this is your chance.

## Writing Life Stories C

WRITING

Coordinators: Susan Gillis, Kathy Felice, Susan McMillen

Monday, 1:15–3:15 p.m. (No class on 5/31)

Why write our own stories? Memoir writing may help us capture enduring portraits of the people in our lives, recreate with words the landscapes we once walked, or take the time to reflect on our ever-changing personal, familial, or social circumstances. Yet, writing about one's own life can be daunting. Where does one start? What should be included or left out? How should one organize one's thoughts — chronologically, or by themes? What about style? Poetry or prose? Brief anecdotes or chapter-long memoirs? Whether beginners or experienced writers, we can help each other tackle some of these questions in our OLLI memoir writing group. Every week we will have an opportunity to present our work to a sounding board of like-minded “memoirists” and to give and receive helpful feedback. We will also hone our writing skills by drawing from a wide variety of resources dealing with the genre. If you ever wished to try your hand at writing compelling, real-life stories, this is your chance.

**Exploring the Visual Arts**

CREATIVE ARTS

Coordinators: Mary Jon Girard, Bridget Stump, Roger Heuberger  
Tuesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

This active, welcoming study group is for both novice and experienced art lovers. The focus is on increasing awareness of and appreciation for painting, sculpture, photography, architecture, art movements, and technique. There is no shortage of debate and no single answer when discussing our topics: What does visual art say about our world past and present? Is it a form of visual history or fiction? When is it a message delivery mechanism? What may have been the artist's intent, or the historical context compared to what meaning we may place on the work today? Most importantly, art is fun! The coordinators will present the first few subjects. Study group members will help choose the remaining session subjects. Discussion leaders will develop talking points on their subjects and choose a mix of video, still images, etc. As needed, the coordinators will assist in content preparation. There are no prerequisites or assigned reading other than what a presenter may suggest. Recent or upcoming topics include: Indigenous art, Hokusai, Monet, landscape architecture, and art in the time of COVID-19. We will visit many places and the world of art via Zoom.

**NEW Film Music — Its Creation and Effect**

CREATIVE ARTS

Coordinators: Glenn Derringer, Bob Moss  
Tuesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

How often do you find yourself associating a song or instrumental with a film or character? Award winning filmmaker James Cameron envisions the film score as the “heartbeat of the film.” Noted Film Studies Professor Larry Timm describes film music as the “soul of cinema.” Oscar winning composer Randy Newman says that music is the “key to emotion in a film.” Music can help tell the story in both cerebral and visceral ways and provides the pace and mood of the film. So, what is the framework that filmmakers use for scoring and choosing music for their films? With the help of live demonstrations, feature films, film clips, and readings, we will learn the roles of music and how music accomplishes its goals. Join us to gain a deeper appreciation of how music enhances the art of film. We will use *Creative Strategies in Film Scoring: Audio and Video Access* by Ben Newhouse (Berklee Press, 2020). Canvas will be used extensively. Use of internet and film streaming is required.

**NEW The Man Who Ran Washington**

HISTORY

Coordinators: Bill Lipsman, Rosemary O'Shea  
Tuesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

Join us as we read and discuss the recently published definitive biography of the legendary White House Chief of Staff and Secretary of State, James A. Baker III. *The Man Who Ran Washington: The Life and Times of James A. Baker III* (Doubleday, 2020) is written by the married reporting team, Peter Baker and Susan Glasser. Baker's story is a case study in the acquisition, exercise, and preservation of power in late twentieth-century America. The book is also the story of Washington and the world in the modern era — how it once worked and how it has transformed into an era of gridlock and polarization.



## NEW American Colossus

HISTORY

Coordinators: Richard Krantz, Joe Hinkel

Tuesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

In just a few decades, from the end of the Civil War to the turn of the century, the United States was transformed from a primarily agrarian economy to a modern industrialized nation and became a world power. Driven by unbridled capitalism this transformation did not come without cost, as the underlying tension between democracy and capitalism — present at the country's creation — rose to the fore and America struggled to find the way forward. The story of how this transformation occurred, and the effects it had on the country and its peoples, is told in H.W. Brands' *American Colossus, The Triumph of Capitalism, 1865–1900* (Anchor, 2010). Join us as we take a look back in our nation's past and discover once again that it is indeed prologue.

## NEW JFK: Coming of Age in the American Century, 1917–1956

HISTORY

Coordinators: Stuart Applebaum, Jerry Bernstein, John Drowow

Tuesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

The biographies of JFK, written by his most devoted followers in the days immediately after his assassination, constructed the myth of a young hero who, in “a thousand days,” transformed the White House into Camelot. This narrative built the foundation of the extraordinary place which the Kennedy family long held in the American political imagination. Fredrik Logevall, a Pulitzer Prize-winning Harvard history professor, has embarked on a projected two-volume biography, which seeks to place Kennedy in his times. Logevall's story in *JFK: Volume One* describes a boy growing up in a large, wealthy, Catholic family headed by a domineering father who shaped a brood both deeply competitive and fiercely united against the outside world. Coming of age in the turbulence of the mid-twentieth century, Logevall's JFK is a complex, surprisingly vulnerable, uncommonly curious, sometimes frivolous, and perhaps occasionally irresponsible, young man. Logevall writes of JFK as a young man who is tempered by chronic illness and injuries, and increasingly committed to a deepening interest in world politics and an ambition to lead America in a dangerous world. Our text will be Fredrik Logevall's *JFK: Coming of Age in the American Century, 1917–1956* (Random House, 2020). Join us to investigate the early origins of the JFK myth.

## NEW An Army at Dawn: The War in North Africa, 1942–1943

HISTORY

Coordinators: Fred Gleave, Michael Plumpton

Tuesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

*An Army at Dawn: The War in North Africa, 1942–1943* by Rick Atkinson (Holt and Company, 2002) is the story of courage and calamity, of miscalculation and triumph, spanning the years 1942–1943 during World War II. Opening with the daring amphibious invasion of North Africa in November 1942, *An Army at Dawn* follows the American and British armies as they fight the French in Morocco and Algiers and the Germans and Italians in Tunisia. As Winston Churchill famously said in 1942, just after the British routed Rommel's forces at El Alamein: “This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.” Join us as we read and discuss this well-researched book which includes new material and insights, and which tells a deeply human story.

## NEW *Freedom National: The Destruction of Slavery in the United States*

HISTORY

Coordinators: Peg Romm, Hilmon Sorey, Jr.

Tuesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m. (12 sessions: March 9–May 25)

James Oakes won the Lincoln Prize for his important book, *Freedom National: The Destruction of Slavery in the United States, 1861–1865* (W. W. Norton Company, 2012). The conventional thinking is that the South fought to preserve slavery and the North fought initially to preserve the Union and eventually for emancipation of the slaves. Oakes argues otherwise. While the entire North may not have fought to abolish slavery, the aim of the Republican Party and Lincoln was to end slavery. They just never thought the South would be foolish enough to leave the protections of the Union. Notable Civil War historian Eric Foner says, “this remarkable book offers the best account ever written of the complex historical process known as emancipation. The story is dramatic and compelling, and no one interested in the American Civil War or the fate of slavery can afford to ignore it.” Join us for a lively and informative discussion of this topic. Study group participation will be encouraged and leading a discussion will be expected.

## Chekhov, Please!

LITERATURE

Coordinators: Glen Phillips, Judy Kamin

Tuesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

Anton Chekhov’s genius left an indelible impact on every literary form in which he wrote, but none more so than short fiction. Considered by many to be the father of the short story, Chekhov focuses on the vagaries of human behavior and provides the reader with entertaining, informative, and intellectual stimulation. Nothing could be more fitting than discussing Russian literature during the cold Chicago months of early spring. Our text will be *Fifty-two Stories* by Anton Chekhov and translated by Richard Prevar and Larissa Volokhonsky (Knopf, 2020)

## NEW *Attenborough, Hamilton, and Us in the Anthropocene*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE, AND HEALTH

Coordinators: Susan Salpeter, Suzanne Sutherland, Benjamin Schwartz

Tuesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

Join us as we explore climate change and its effects on the future of humanity and our planet. We will reference two sources as a base for our discussion: documentary film and book *A Life on Our Planet* (Grand Central, 2020) by natural historian and documentarian Sir David Attenborough; and *Defiant Earth: The Future of Humans in the Anthropocene* (Polity Press, 2017) by Clive Hamilton, Professor at Charles Sturt University and leading authority on the economics and politics of climate change. Attenborough is best known for writing and producing the *Life* collection of documentaries celebrating the beauty and wonder of nature. Now he provides us with a narrative of the downhill trajectory of nature over his lifetime — his witness statement and vision for the future. He states, “The tragedy of our time has been happening all around us, barely noticeable from day to day — the loss of our planet’s wild places, and its biodiversity.” Hamilton’s book *Defiant Earth* has been described as “a deeply philosophical plea for us to reconcile ourselves with the looming planetary crisis. It’s not only beautifully written, but passionately argued — a challenging book that brings important cosmological and ethical issues to the fore.”

## NEW Can Data Science Predict Human Behavior?

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE, AND HEALTH

Coordinators: James Knapp, Peggy Knapp

Tuesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

In this study group, we will read Jill Lepore's recent book *If Then: How the Simulmatics Corporation Invented the Future* (Liveright, 2020). Beginning in the 1950s, this book describes the emergence of big data and what we now call predictive analytics, made possible by the growing availability and use of computers. The power of this new science used to understand and influence human behavior was first seen in marketing products — but soon became a tool for political campaigns, and then for the military, most notably during the Vietnam war. We will discuss the intended and unintended consequences of this new science, as well as its social and ethical impact on the present.

## *Sapiens: A Brief History of Mankind*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE, AND HEALTH

Coordinators: Larry Winer, Jim Perlow

Tuesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

In 2008, Yuval Noah Harari, a young historian at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, began to write a sweeping human chronicle that one critic called “the history of everyone — ever.” His all-encompassing account of the world was told in plain, short sentences, that belied its penetrating intellectual depth. In *Sapiens: A Brief History of Mankind* (Harper Collins, 2015), Harari traces how Homo Sapiens became the Earth's ruling species through three watershed revolutions that shaped the course of history. He begins 70,000 years ago with The Cognitive Revolution, followed 12,000 years later by The Agricultural Revolution, and culminates in The Scientific Revolution, just 500 years old. His narrative ends with a future prediction for humankind: “Our species is on the verge of a radical redesign.” Spurred by advances in science, technology, and biological engineering, Harari warns that, “We may be fast approaching a new singularity, when all of the concepts that give meaning to our world — me, you, men, women, love and hate — will become irrelevant.” Join us as we discuss this most intriguing book which has sold over 12 million copies.

## Bonus Group: Previews and Reviews

Coordinators: Len Grossman, Susan Leis

Tuesday, Noon to 1 p.m. (4 sessions: 3/9, 4/20, 5/11, 6/8)

Live theater and music! When will it return? We don't know, but the Previews and Reviews Bonus Group will be back every month this spring. During this Bonus Group, we will keep an eye on the scene, inviting your reviews and thoughts about online and streaming productions. Class members will recommend events and exhibitions that are open for in-person viewing. We will invite guest speakers from all areas of the performing arts to give us inside information about how various artists and their companies are coping, and about their plans for the future. If you register for OLLI's spring semester, you are eligible to register for Previews and Reviews at no extra charge.

## Bonus Group: Science and Nature Videos

Coordinators: Ken Schulein, Hillel Furlager, Masako Mary Osako

Tuesday, Noon to 1 p.m. (4 sessions: 3/16, 4/6, 5/4, 6/1)

Keep up with the latest in science and nature by viewing interesting PBS or Nova videos each month. Watch videos in advance and then discuss them in our virtual Zoom classroom. We will choose videos that represent exotic biodiversity and uncover the deepest mysteries of the natural world. If you register for OLLI's spring semester, you are eligible to register for the Science & Nature Films Bonus Group at no extra charge.



## Bonus Group: OLLI on the Road from Home

Coordinators: Ted Davis, Mark Rosenberg

Tuesday, Noon to 1 p.m. (2 sessions: 4/27, 5/18)

What's on your travel bucket list? Join other OLLI members for a bonus group where we will explore the world, gain ideas for new travel opportunities when it's safe to do so, and provide opportunities to share your own travel experiences. At each session, we will explore different parts of the world and the United States through photographs and short discussions of each locale. This is a commercial-free look at places OLLI members have visited and the experiences they have enjoyed over the years. By drawing on our past experiences and with the help of our photography, we hope to awaken our love of travel. If you register for OLLI's spring semester, you are eligible to register for OLLI on the Road from Home at no extra charge.

## Curtain UP!

CREATIVE ARTS

Coordinators: Bob Myers, Bob Eder, Barbara Steptoe

Tuesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

Watch, enjoy, and discuss performances from Court Theatre, the Stratford Shaw Festival (Ontario), and London's National Theatre. We will select plays from these sources that have been recorded from live performances. Study group members will watch the recorded plays in advance and discuss them during class. If recorded live versions are not available, we will select a movie version that closely follows the original script. Prior to seeing the play, we will read all or portions of the script during class, assigning parts prior to the reading. Canvas used extensively.

## NEW MacGuffins and More:

CREATIVE ARTS

### The Films of Alfred Hitchcock (Tuesday)

Coordinators: Jim Gecker, Jim Burns

Tuesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

Join us as we analyze and discuss 14 films of the internationally renowned director Alfred Hitchcock. A master technician, Hitchcock gained prominence in Great Britain before moving to Hollywood in 1940. Though his films thrilled audiences, American film critics (unlike their European counterparts) were slow to appreciate his genius. The issue is now well settled — Hitchcock is recognized in the pantheon of film directors whose visual style, plot devices, and psychological depth are unparalleled in cinema. Each week we will discuss one of Hitchcock's films, which study group members will view in advance via DVD or streaming. In class, we will discuss cinematic elements including the script, themes, direction, acting, music, etc. To help us analyze the films, we will use as a text *The Art of Alfred Hitchcock* by Donald Spoto (Anchor Books, 1992). Before each class, we will post discussion questions on Canvas. The films will be: *The Lodger* (1927), *The 39 Steps* (1935), *The Lady Vanishes* (1938), *Rebecca* (1940), *Shadow of a Doubt* (1943), *Spellbound* (1945), *Notorious* (1946), *Strangers on a Train* (1951), *Rear Window* (1954), *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (1956), *Vertigo* (1958), *North by Northwest* (1959), *Psycho* (1960), and *The Birds* (1963).

## Exploring Genius: The MacArthur Fellows — Part II

CREATIVE ARTS

Coordinators: Evelyn Shaevel, Rae Jedel, Kay Burnett  
Tuesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m. (7 sessions: March 9–April 20)

In the midst of civil unrest, a global pandemic, natural disasters, and conflagrations, greatness still abounds! Every year the MacArthur Foundation awards 20–30 fellowships and unrestricted, multi-year grants of \$625,000 each to individuals who are asking critical questions, developing innovative technologies and public policies, enriching our understanding of the human condition, and producing works of art that provoke and inspire us. On a weekly basis, study group members will participate by exploring the life and work of up to four extraordinary recipients of these Genius Grants and will be asked to make presentations to the group (using Powerpoint or KeyNote). Several sessions may be further enhanced by guest speakers. Join us for a fascinating seven-week study group delving into the work of writers, scientists, artists, humanists, entrepreneurs, teachers, and those in many other fields. Canvas will be used extensively.

## Tuesday at the Movies

CREATIVE ARTS

Coordinators: Michael Pierce, Hillel Furlager, David Buffen  
Tuesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

This study group continues our love affair with the motion picture industry: its stars, stories, and continually evolving production techniques that, when properly and artistically combined, produce movies that we remember forever. Our study group is structured in a way that allows us to watch the selected movie in advance and then discuss it in our virtual classroom from a variety of angles, including plot creation and storytelling. We will also discuss some of the unique facts concerning the making of the movie. The movies can be rented through an online streaming service for a minimal fee or borrowed from the local library. This study group will focus on selected films from the 1950s, including those that won Best Picture Awards from the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences.

## NEW Another Imperfect Union

HISTORY

Coordinators: Sandra Allen, Harla Hutchinson  
Tuesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

Steve Inskeep, everyone's favorite NPR host, introduces us to John Fremont and his wife Jessie in *Imperfect Union* (Random House, 2020). As the Republican presidential candidate in 1856, Fremont used the telegraph to spread news of his considerable exploits. The press labeled Fremont "the Columbus of our central wilderness." A 19<sup>th</sup> century magazine wrote that he was one of world history's three most pivotal figures since Jesus Christ. His wife Jessie, one half of the mid-1800s power couple, dedicated her life to serving as a one-woman PR firm and stealth political advisor. But the telegraph also made possible savage political smearing. Some of the issues Inskeep addresses sound familiar today. Fremont was accused of radical issues he did not embrace. Opponents built a culture of fear. Demographics figured in the campaign's success. Inskeep's book builds on similarities between today's headlines and the America of the Fremont duo. Join us to explore this fascinating couple and their times.



## **NEW Jerusalem: An Epic History**

HISTORY

Coordinators: Ann Rusnak, Dennis Carlin, Tom Swanstrom, Dea Brennen  
Tuesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

Jerusalem is the universal city, the capital of two peoples, the shrine of three faiths; it is the prize of empires, the site of Judgment Day, and the battlefield of today's clash of civilizations. Simon Sebag Montefiore's *Jerusalem: The Biography* (Vintage Books, 2011) narrates the epic history of 3,000 years of faith, slaughter, fanaticism, and coexistence — revealing this ever-changing city in its many incarnations by bringing every epoch and character blazingly to life. How did this small, remote town become the Holy City, the “center of the world” for Jews, Christians and Muslims? Drawing on new archives, current scholarship, his own family papers, and a lifetime's study, Montefiore tells Jerusalem's biography through the wars, love affairs, and revelations of the men and women who created, destroyed, chronicled, and believed in the city — illuminating the essence of sanctity and mysticism, identity and empire in this unique chronicle. Join us to learn why Jerusalem has been revered and coveted by so many for 3,000 years. We will read 40 pages a week and active participation in the study group is expected.

## **NEW Promised Land: How the Rise of the Middle Class Transformed America, 1929–1968**

HISTORY

Coordinators: Jane Roth, Mark Simon  
Tuesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m. (7 sessions: April 27–June 8)

Do you ever wonder if a greatly divided American population, as we are experiencing today, occurred in the past and how disagreements were or were not resolved? In this seven-week study group, we will explore this question by reading and discussing *Promised Land: How the Rise of the Middle Class Transformed America, 1929–1968* by David Stebenne (Scribner, 2020). This book is an easy read — yet full of political, social, and cultural history — covering the lifetimes of our parents and ourselves. The author asserts that the rise of the middle class, as a defining feature of American society, was one of the most unexpected and consequential developments of the twentieth century. Its demise has led to many of the social problems and inequities we are facing today. Shared anecdotes from our own families' experiences will be welcome. Perhaps in discussing the trajectory of history in America we can gain some insights and solutions into our present-day issues.

## **NEW The People Versus the Politicians: A Deep Dive into Electoral Reform**

HISTORY

Coordinators: Galen Burghardt, Jack Cooksey, Pat O'Connor  
Tuesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m. (7 sessions: March 9–April 20)

Join us for a deep dive into the world of electoral reform. Through a combination of web videos and printed material, we will explore ranked-choice voting and other voting methods, the challenge of redistricting, the role of dark money in politics, polling, and the possibility of watching the sun set on our two political parties. Hedrick Smith, the Pulitzer Prize winning journalist of *Who Stole the American Dream* will be the guest speaker at one of our sessions. Links to videos and reading assignments will be provided. Join us, plan to participate, have fun, and solve all the problems of U.S. election politics.

## NEW A Victorian Man: Lewis Carroll's Photographic and Literary Works

LITERATURE

Coordinators: Naomi Fisher, Suzanne Farrand

Tuesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m. (7 sessions: April 27–June 8)

The life of Lewis Carroll, author of the classic children's tales *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass* and pioneer of the then new art of photography, exemplifies both the creativity and peculiar customs of the Victorian Age. Carroll was the pseudonym of Charles Dodgson, a lifelong bachelor and Oxford don of mathematics. Carroll was drawn to children for their innocence, always treating them as equals. His friendship with the children of the Liddell family, whom he photographed extensively, inspired the Alice stories. The silly, argumentative, and gentle characters of the Alice books are unforgettable. Reading these classics as adults, we can appreciate their cleverness and charm. But what can we make of Carroll's enthusiasm for children's company and his staid Oxford life? Our texts are *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass*, any editions, and *The Alice Behind Wonderland* (Simon Winchester, Oxford University Press, 2011). This seven-week study group is paired with *Victorian Society: Exploring Our Roots*. We invite you to join us for either study group, or both!

## NEW Money, Marriage, and Motivation: George Eliot's *Middlemarch*

LITERATURE

Coordinators: Julie Johnson, Michael Singer

Tuesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

Victorian novelist Mary Anne Evans published under the male pseudonym George Eliot to ensure that her work would be taken seriously — so it is, as George Eliot, that we know her. *Middlemarch*, her seventh book, came out in 1871 to much acclaim. Set in the fictional British Midlands town of Middlemarch, this rich and wonderful novel is filled with complex and memorable characters from all walks of life, as well as prose passages known for their penetration and elegance. The role of women, the confines of class, ambition and disappointment, greed and altruism, and the relentless power of money drive this novel. Join us for stimulating discussions of what is widely regarded as Eliot's magnum opus. We will use the Penguin paperback edition (2003), edited by Rosemary Ashton.

## NEW Science Fiction and Philosophy

LITERATURE

Coordinators: Philip Zawa, Robert Jenkins

Tuesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

What better way to explore a variety of classic and contemporary philosophical issues than by using science fiction, “the literature of ideas,” to spark our discussions? Our text will be *Science Fiction and Philosophy*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Wiley-Blackwell, 2016) edited by Susan Schneider. Schneider is known for her work on the nature of the mind and self, drawing on and addressing issues from philosophy of mind, cognitive science, artificial intelligence, ethics, metaphysics, and astrobiology. Our text uses science fiction to address philosophical ideas such as many raised by recent scientific developments; e.g., questions relating to transhumanism, brain enhancement, time travel, the nature of the self, and the ethics of artificial intelligence. Schneider draws on a broad range of science fiction's more familiar novels, films, and TV series, including *I, Robot*, *The Hunger Games*, *The Matrix*, *Star Trek*, *Blade Runner*, and *Brave New World*. Our study group assumes that participants have some basic familiarity with science fiction literature and with some of the traditional questions philosophy tries to answer, such as the nature of knowledge, reality, self, art, time, free will, God, virtue, and death.

## NEW Bedlam: How America's Exploding Mental Health Crisis Affects You

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE, AND HEALTH

Coordinators: Carol Dietz, Dorothy Balabanos

Tuesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

Depression, anxiety, suicide, job loss, domestic violence, addiction, incarceration, and homelessness: COVID-19 has escalated these and other issues into a second pandemic with enormous suffering costs to our economy, healthcare, and society. In 2021, taxpayers will spend an estimated \$1 billion on serious mental illness alone. The total economic impact from mental health issues could easily exceed \$1 trillion. The virus has laid bare America's underperforming mental health system and the roles of its major players: the healthcare, pharmaceutical, and insurance industries; non-profit agencies; public institutions; and professional associations. We will investigate them and these other interwoven topics: the underlying brain science; public, medical, and insurance policies that make our jails de facto psychiatric facilities; and how Big Pharma has created a new customer market of "the worried well." Most importantly, we will consult the experts on how to build our own mental resilience and consider ways we can help in our community. Our two texts, *Insane Consequences: How the Mental Health Industry Fails the Mentally Ill* by DJ Jaffe (Prometheus Books 2017) and *Saving Normal*, by Allen Frances, M.D. (Harper Collins, 2013) will be supplemented by national and local expert speakers, articles, and videos. Join us and actively participate!

## NEW Victorian Society: Exploring Our Roots

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Coordinators: Suzanne Farrand, Naomi Fisher

Tuesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m. (7 sessions: March 9–April 20)

Is our own sense of being modern dependent on beliefs that the Victorians (c. 1820–1914) were backward (repressed, stodgy, sometimes serial killers, with bad taste in furniture)? Do we remember the Victorians accurately when we consider them as sentimental, bigoted, royalist puritans? Do we need a certain vision of them so we, as 21<sup>st</sup> century citizens, can imagine ourselves as more progressive? This study group will try to gauge how far removed we actually are from our Victorian forbearers. Remember, your own grandparents were children of the Victorian age. Among the topics we will explore are childhood innocence, celebrity, interior decoration, and eroticism. Help us construct a better understanding of ourselves and our times by examining our stereotypes of a not that long ago era. Our text will be *Inventing the Victorians* by Mathew Sweet (Faber and Faber Limited, 2001). This seven-week study group is paired with *A Victorian Man: Lewis Carroll's Photographic and Literary Works*. We invite you to join us for either study group, or both!

## New Writing Group

WRITING

Coordinators: Barbara Rocah, Marcie Marcovitz

Tuesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

Everyone tells and listens to stories. Join this study group to write your own stories in whatever form you wish: fiction, poetry, essay, or memoir. This is where you can speak your mind and be original as you learn to trust your imagination. Whether you write to re-discover something old or discover something new, you will be welcome here. You, the creator, can equip your characters to think and behave in familiar or unfamiliar ways, whether they come from your imagination or were part of an event or place that you remember. Study group members will be invited to submit long or short pieces to be read aloud and discussed. This process will enhance our pleasure and help us learn from the craft of writing. We may also read published authors to focus on particular writing challenges. Our group is founded on the premise that everyone has a spark of creativity that puts us in touch with ourselves and with ways of understanding and grasping our complex world. New and experienced writers are invited to participate. All are welcome.



**Capturing Chicagoland Through Photography**

CREATIVE ARTS

Coordinators: Richard Fisher, Howard Frank

Wednesday, 8:45–11:45 a.m.

This study group will combine Zoom classroom sessions and individual photographic exercises to allow class members to improve their photographic skills. Weekly exercises will include both indoor and outdoor experience and feature different photographic techniques. Study group members are encouraged to identify areas in which they wish to improve their photography skills. This study group is open to members of all skill levels. The only requirements are: a digital camera where the exposure can be adjusted (ideally with a manual exposure mode); a computer (PC or Mac); basic computer skills, and access to, along with basic knowledge of, photographic editing software such as Photoshop, Lightroom, or Photoshop Elements. Class time will be split among image review, discussion of photographic techniques and post processing methods, tips and tricks, and discussion of upcoming field exercises.

**NEW Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents (Wednesday)** CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Coordinators: Willie Shaw, Oliver Ruff, Stephan Romm

Wednesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m. (12 sessions: March 10–May 26)

This class will examine the enduring racial hierarchy in the U.S. through discussion of two books: *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson (Random House, 2020) and *Racecraft: The Soul of Inequality in American Life* by Karen E. Fields and Barbara J. Fields (Verso, 2014). We will read selected chapters of *Racecraft*. Both books analyze what gives racial hierarchies their phenomenal and enduring hold over U.S. society. Isabel Wilkerson is the award-winning author of *The Warmth of Other Suns*. Wilkerson weaves in personal stories with the examination of caste in India, Nazi Germany, and the U.S. to shed light on the invisible structure of racial hierarchies. Karen and Barbara Fields, African-American scholars who are respectively an independent Sociologist and a Professor of History at Columbia University, created the conceptual framework of *Racecraft* to understand the pervasiveness of what we typically call structural racism in American life and history. Examining racial hierarchies through different but compatible lenses, along with reading the authors' personal stories and experiences, should increase our understanding of one of the important issues facing Americans today.

**The New Yorker (Wednesday)**

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Coordinators: Nancy Worthington, Susan Leis, Bob Moss

Wednesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

*The New Yorker* magazine is dedicated to quality, topical writings, and ideas. Our peer-led group discussions will be as varied as the contents of this distinguished magazine. Join us as we explore culture, art, technology, politics, personalities, medicine, fiction, fashion, and of course, the cartoons! You will find your world expanded and richer. Access to a current print or digital subscription of *The New Yorker* magazine is required.

## Foreign Affairs

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Coordinators: Gary Benz, Gene Mackevich, Eileen Holderbaum, Robb Carr

Wednesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

This study group is made up of fellow students who love to read and desire to learn about the countries of the world through their interactions with one another. We encourage and attract people who have inquisitive minds and are serious about learning and exchanging ideas. We take pride in being inclusive and not intimidating by conducting classes that are welcoming and tolerate a wide range of opinions that are documented and convincingly expressed. We start with material from *Foreign Affairs*, a bimonthly magazine published by the Council on Foreign Relations, but we 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 will create our own “think tank” and try to resolve problems and world issues.

## NEW Culture and Context:

CREATIVE ARTS

### The Renaissance in Europe, 1400–1600

Coordinators: Russ Lyman, Roxane McLean

Wednesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

Renaissance. The word conjures up the majesty of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel, the genius of Leonardo's notebooks, the humanism of Erasmus, and the revolutionary ideas of Copernicus. This study group will explore aspects of the cultural, intellectual, political, and social life of the Renaissance — not strictly chronologically, but by zeroing in on specific moments, places, individuals, and themes. Approaches under consideration include: Art, Politics and Patronage; West Meets East: Europe and the Ottoman Empire; The Print Revolution in Books and Images; Reformation and Counter-Reformation; Humanist Circles and Exchanges; Inquiry and Discovery; Trade and Globalism. Due to our virtual learning format and limited enrollment, it is essential that all members prepare for and fully engage in discussions and volunteer to lead discussions which includes researching and making short or longer presentations. Readings and viewing assignments will be posted on Canvas. Great Courses Plus subscription is required. Homework will include assigned lectures from several different series. Subscription gives you access to all Great Courses material, not just the material needed for this course.

## Documentary Films (Wednesday a.m.)

CREATIVE ARTS

Coordinators: Gloria Gleave, Sue Scheffler Ellis

Wednesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

In this study group we will view and discuss a documentary film each week. Participants will select a film and lead the discussion. Particular attention will be paid not only to the content of each film, but also to the aesthetic and technical aspects. The goals of this study group are to encourage discussion, to appreciate the filmmakers' artistry and impact on our culture, and to better understand our world. Each participant will be responsible for viewing the week's selection in advance. Selected films must be widely available to members of the class. The selections may be rented through an online streaming service for a minimal fee or borrowed from a library. We will limit any required subscriptions to Netflix. Join us as we view and discuss a variety of documentary films.

## NEW Obama's Promised Land

HISTORY

Coordinators: Sandra Allen, Rosemary O'Shea, Harla Hutchinson  
Wednesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

As the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States struggled to accept the results of the 2020 election, the 44<sup>th</sup> President Barack Obama released *A Promised Land* (Crown, 2020). In this 701-page narrative, Obama frequently burrows down, offering frank assessments of his own uncertainties and doubts. Obama was widely interviewed before the book's release. In each instance he makes clear that something very old and toxic in American politics — the specter of white grievance — was unleashed when an accomplished, intelligent, scandal-free Black man inhabited the White House. Reviewers have described the narrative as deliberative, measured, and as methodical as the author himself. It's a particularly timely read now as the 46<sup>th</sup> president assumes office, after having been “in the room where it happened” with the 44<sup>th</sup> president. In this study group, we will read and discuss approximately 50 pages a week. Study group leadership is expected, and participation is required.

## NEW Understanding America's Right Turn

HISTORY

Coordinators: Bill Bridgman, Gordon Mallett, John Howard  
Wednesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

By 1980, after Vietnam, Watergate, and stagflation, America was ready for a new direction. This sharp right turn was not happenstance. Ideologues like Milton Friedman were primed with theories of free markets, free trade, deregulation, modest social safety nets, and deference to the private sector. Activists like the Koch brothers were building their formidable infrastructure of billionaire networks, university institutes, think tanks, lobbyists, and the Federalist society. President Ronald Reagan's campaign slogan proclaimed, “Morning in America.” Over the decades, the dark side of the right turn emerged: economic, political, and social inequalities worsened, cultural divides became tribal, Wall Street underwent significant changes in regulatory control, and after 36 years another new President, Donald Trump, promised to end American carnage. Our text is *Evil Geniuses: The Unmaking of America* (Random House, 2020) by Kurt Andersen. The book is more history than diatribe, concluding with speculation on better alternatives of a more broadly shared prosperity. Andersen, a former editor-in-chief of *New York Magazine*, has a well-researched grasp of his subject and a gift for lucid, entertaining writing. Join our comprehensive examination of the trends of this era and the forces behind them.

## NEW City: 6,000-Year-Old Success Story

HISTORY

Coordinators: Margot Wallace, Bob McAnulty, Barbara Sciacchitano  
Wednesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

From Babylon and Tenochtitlan to London and Lagos, cities taught humans how to adapt and prosper. The city enabled the invention of wheeled carts and led to the written word. It caused total strangers to share their ideas and compete for better ones. It created luxury goods for the luxury of trade. Cities were chaotic, and city dwellers harnessed that chaos with new tools, ingenious shortcuts, and cooperation. Export kiln-fired pots and import figs! Our study group will explore how six millennia of urban living led to innovations that transformed civilization. Our text is *Metropolis: A History of the City, Humankind's Greatest Invention* by Ben Wilson (Doubleday, 2020). Cities consistently faced threats and then relentlessly reinvented themselves. Our discussions will contribute to that trajectory.

## Literature of Baseball: The Big Fella, Babe Ruth

LITERATURE

Coordinators: Mark Rosenberg, Bob Shaevel

Wednesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

This spring, with the hope of a full-season return of Major League Baseball, we will explore the life and times of baseball's greatest player, Babe Ruth. *The Big Fella* by Jane Leavy, an accomplished baseball writer, takes a new look at Babe Ruth using the barnstorming tour of Ruth and Lou Gehrig following the World Series victory of the New York Yankees in October 1927. Unlike previous biographies of the Babe, Leavy reveals the baseball career as well as Ruth's contribution to American life as arguably the first baseball celebrity. The celebrity Babe Ruth was a product of his own success as a ballplayer, enhanced by his relationship with Christy Walsh, his manager and the forerunner of agents such as Scott Boras. Our study group will explore Babe Ruth's career and forecast spring training and the new season. As our text, we will use *The Big Fella* by Jane Leavy (Harper 2018).

## Theoretical Foundations of Classical Mechanics

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE, AND HEALTH

Coordinators: Art Goldman, Dick Dufour, John Donahue

Wednesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

During the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, there was an enormous renaissance in understanding the physical science of how the familiar world around us works. We now call that classical mechanics, which refers to physics as it was understood before the advent of quantum mechanics. Classical mechanics incorporates a set of principles and rules that govern all physical phenomena for which quantum uncertainty is not important. In addition, it provides the foundational basis for developing theories of the quantum world. Unlike other popularizations of physics that shy away, this study group utilizes mathematics to develop the theories and to explain and apply the principles. Our studies are based on an online video lecture series, Classical Mechanics, originally given by world renowned physicist Leonard Susskind. A book, *The Theoretical Minimum* by Susskind and George Hrabovsky (Basic Books, 2013), based on the video lecture series, will also be utilized. This study group is intended to build a broad and comprehensive minimum theoretical knowledge of physics for non-physicists and serious science groupies. A familiarity with college-level calculus is recommended and internet access is essential. This group welcomes all members, regardless of background, who are prepared to actively participate in a unique, intellectually challenging peer learning experience.

## NEW *Blueprint: The Evolutionary Origins of a Good Society*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE, AND HEALTH

Coordinators: Alex Lippitt, Katharine Nair

Wednesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

These days it may seem as if the dark side is winning. However, *Blueprint: The Evolutionary Origins of a Good Society* by Nicholas A. Christakis (Little, Brown Spark, 2019) makes the case that natural selection has resulted in a set of beneficial social features carried within our DNA that tend toward the making of a good society. Christakis argues that the social suite is at the core of all good societies: the capacity to have and recognize individual identity; love for partners and offspring; friendship and social networks; cooperation; preference for one's own group; mild hierarchy; and social learning and teaching. An entertaining writer, an MD/PhD, and the Director of the Yale Human Nature Lab, Christakis draws from many disciplines including evolutionary biology, genetics, psychology, anthropology, ethics, and philosophy. If you like the works of Steven Pinker, don't miss this class. Additional readings and videos about society and human nature will both supplement and challenge our discussion.

## NEW The Secret of Our Success

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE, AND HEALTH

Coordinators: Tom Buckley, Calvin Mouw

Wednesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

Humans appear to be, for the time being, nature's gold standard. We may be poised to take the reins of our own further evolution. If you yearn for a compelling explanation of our rags-to-riches story and the opportunity to distill your own point of view in the company of other interested skeptics, join us as we discuss *The Secret of Our Success: How Culture Is Driving Human Evolution, Domesticating Our Species and Making Us Smarter* by Joseph Henrich (Princeton University Press, 2016). We will also use the internet as a source of supplemental reading and visual material.

## Creative Writing Workshop (Wednesday)

WRITING

Coordinators: Ron Denham, Art Altman, Hilmon Sorey, Jr., Bob Jenkins

Wednesday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

This study group is designed for members who love words and who wish to improve and practice their creative writing skills across the various genres: poetry, creative nonfiction, essay, memoir, and fiction. Participants will present their work to the group. The group will respond with encouragement, critique, and suggestions. Revisions and resubmissions are encouraged. Longer works can be submitted in segments. This workshop will give you a creative outlet and an opportunity to produce a finished piece of writing of which you can be proud.

## Bonus Group: A Day at the Opera

Coordinators: Neil Adelman, Fred Gleave

Wednesday, Noon to 1 p.m. (4 sessions: 3/10, 4/7, 4/21, 5/12)

Lyric Opera may be closed for the pandemic, but we can still enjoy four sessions on four great musical battles of the sexes: Saint-Saens' *Samson and Delila* (March 10), Donizetti's *Elixir of Love* (April 7), Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* (April 21), and Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* (May 12). Each presentation is by a former Lyric Opera community lecturer and will cover the story, origin, and history of the opera with great musical excerpts. If you register for OLLI's spring semester, you are eligible to register for A Day at the Opera at no extra charge.

## The Economist A

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Coordinators: Jerry Levine, Una Malkinson, Joe Lane

Wednesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

*The Economist* magazine is known for its informative and thought-provoking reporting on political, social, and economic developments around the world. Join us as we review several articles selected from the current week's issue as catalysts for informed and lively discussion on the critical topics of our time. In this study group, we enjoy healthy discussions about world affairs. Access to current print or digital editions of *The Economist* is required. Information on subscriptions is available at 1-800-456-6086 or [www.economistsubscriptions.com](http://www.economistsubscriptions.com).

## **The Economist B**

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Coordinators: Dianne McCallum, Bob Eder  
Wednesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

Do you enjoy reading and watching news that is not always consistent with your political views, that has scope broader than the U.S., and that offers news stories beyond what you find in mainstream U.S. journalism? Then join us to discuss *The Economist*, renowned for its information and thought-provoking reporting on political and economic developments around the world. Our group will be small, and we will review 8–9 articles selected from the current week's issue. Weekly volunteers will lead the very lively discussions which respect our varied backgrounds and opinions. You might even find you change your opinion on occasion. Access to current print or digital editions of *The Economist* is required. The digital version is recommended due to recent delivery issues. Student subscriptions at special rates are available at 1-800-456-6086 or [www.economistsubscriptions.com](http://www.economistsubscriptions.com).

## **Front Page Articles from the Sunday New York Times**

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Coordinators: Brenda Russell, Mitchell Harrison  
Wednesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

For more than 100 years *The New York Times* has been considered the newspaper of record. It covers New York, national, and international stories and is widely quoted across the globe. Its front page often includes prize-winning photographs and usually features six stories which are continued in-depth inside the paper. In this study group, we will discuss articles from the previous Sunday's edition. Join us as we learn, smile, and scratch our heads during great and lively discussions. Access to the *The New York Times* (print or digital) is required.

## **Documentary Films (Wednesday p.m.)**

CREATIVE ARTS

Coordinators: Madelyn Seckler, Laurie Bederow, Joel Goldsmith, Belinda Silber  
Wednesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

A documentary film is a nonfiction motion picture intended to portray reality — primarily for the purposes of instruction, education, or maintaining a historical record. Or is it? Join us for our continuing adventure into the fascinating world of documentary films. In each session, we will discuss a film of artistic, political, historical, or social merit — always of interest and sometimes controversial. Each participant will be responsible for viewing the week's selection in advance. The movies can be rented through an online streaming service for a minimal fee or borrowed from the local library. Members must commit to presenting one film during the course of the semester. Please join us for a semester of fun and learning.



## Off the Beaten Path: Overlooked Films of the Nineties

CREATIVE ARTS

Coordinators: Paul Hurder, Ted Jackanicz

Wednesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

Close to 900 feature films are released in the United States each year. Even the most determined cinephile will only see a fraction of each year's new offerings. We may see most of the blockbusters, the Oscar winners, and the indie films that briefly catch fire. However, over the most recent decades there have been scores of fine films that failed to find a wide audience. This study group looks to resurrect the appreciation and enjoyment of a selection of these types of films from the 1990s. We will discuss films like John Sayles' *Limbo*, David Mamet's *The Winslow Boy*, Bryan Singer's *The Usual Suspects* and Mike Newell's *Donnie Brasco* to name a few. These films share a deep investigation of human emotion and motivation, reveal fully developed characters, and present engaging plots that capture the viewer's attention. In short, these films are perfect for cinephile OLLI members who enjoy viewing and discussing complex and entertaining fare. Each participant will be responsible for viewing the week's selection in advance. The movies can be rented through an online streaming service for a minimal fee or borrowed from the local library. Class discussions will revolve around each film's place in film history, the arcs of the major characters, symbolism, plot structure, cinematography, lighting, and music, as well as additional aspects unique to each film. Join us as we enjoy some overlooked gems.

## These Truths: A History of the United States

HISTORY

Coordinators: Dan Burns, Martha Bills

Wednesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

In this study group we will review the entire sweep of American history, from 1492 through the 2016 Presidential election. We will begin with the Presidential election of 1928. Our text is *These Truths: A History of the United States* (Norton, 2018) by Jill Lepore, a professor of American History at Harvard University and a staff writer for *The New Yorker* magazine. In her ambitious undertaking, Lepore places truth itself — a devotion to facts, proof, and evidence — at the center of the nation's history. She points out that the American experiment rests on three ideas — “these truths” Jefferson called them — which are political equality, natural rights, and the sovereignty of the people. “A nation born in contradiction will fight forever over the meaning of its history,” Lepore writes, but engaging in that struggle by studying the past is the work of citizenship. Join us as we explore the promise of America, and the extent to which that promise has been delivered or denied. This is the second semester of a two-semester study group. Attendance during the first semester is not required in order to attend this semester.

## NEW Clementine Churchill

HISTORY

Coordinators: Gloria Gleave, Roberta Rakove

Wednesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

It has been said that Clementine Churchill was her husband's confidante and advisor. She was his partner. She vetted his speeches and smoothed over his faux pas. Others have compared Clementine Churchill to her contemporary, Eleanor Roosevelt. Although much has been written about Winston Churchill, little has been written about his wife of over 56 years, Clementine. She was a life peer in her own right. Clementine was by Churchill's side through two world wars and beyond. This study group will be based on Sonia Purnell's deeply researched and very readable book, *Clementine: The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill* (Penguin Books, 2016). We will supplement the book with relevant information readily available via the internet. Join us as we explore the life of Clementine Churchill.



## NEW The 1950s

HISTORY

Coordinators: Steve Fisher, Naomi Fisher  
Wednesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

Do you remember the 1950s? They weren't just the quiet Eisenhower years. The 1950s saw the emergence of subdivisions, chain motels, rock-and-roll, discount appliance stores, mass advertising in political campaigns, "the pill," the H-bomb, and the Korean War. Individuals like Milton Berle, Martin Luther King Jr., Marilyn Monroe, Emmitt Till, Richard Nixon, Lucille Ball, and Elvis Presley entered the national consciousness. These, and many more people and events, significantly shaped America then and into the future. Join us as we relive those critical years through David Halberstam's book *The Fifties* (Fawcett Columbine, N.Y., 1993). Halberstam, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting from Vietnam, brings a vividness and focus to the decade of the 1950s that makes us realize how important these seemingly gray and bland years were for the United States. We will read selected chapters, covering about 40 pages a week, in largely self-contained vignettes.

## Poetry for Pleasure

LITERATURE

Coordinators: David Hart, Doreen Feitelberg  
Wednesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

Join us for a walk through *The Oxford Book of American Poetry* by David Lehman (Oxford University Press 2006). Each week a class member will choose approximately ten poems from this comprehensive compilation for discussion. We will read each poem aloud and then discuss it. We look for meaning, context, method, and whatever else we find interesting. Our discussions are always informed and lively.

## NEW Celebrating Contemporary Children's Illustrated Books

LITERATURE

Coordinators: George Sullivan, Karen Duffy  
Wednesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m. (7 Sessions: April 28–June 9)

Unless you're a teacher, librarian, or an adult who works or lives with children, you likely come into very little contact with picture books. Then one day, grandchildren, nieces, or nephews arrive on the scene, or you befriend a family with young children. Invited to read aloud to these children, you grab frantically at the classics, only to discover that many don't work with young children. What to do now? In this study group, each week we will read four to eight contemporary illustrated children's books (available online or at a local library) and discuss the themes they evoke. Each week will focus on a different genre like fairy tales/folklore, history, biography, science/math, or realistic fiction. We will examine how the text and illustrations coalesce to develop certain themes such as kindness, respect, diversity, social justice, and nature, all as passports to global understanding. Our discussion will provide unique opportunities to share our values, insights, and experiences. Study group members will come to appreciate how contemporary children's illustrated literature provides both a mirror and a window into our world.



## NEW The Science of Listening

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE, AND HEALTH

Coordinators: Steve Greska, Susan Gillis

Wednesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m. (7 Sessions: March 10–April 21)

When was the last time you listened to someone — really listened, without thinking about what you wanted to say next, glancing down at your phone, or jumping in to offer your opinion? When was the last time someone really listened to you, was completely attentive to what you were saying, and whose response was so spot-on that you felt truly understood? These questions will be answered in our discussions of *You're Not Listening (What You're Missing and Why It Matters)* by Kate Murphy (Macmillan, 2020). We will explore the neuroscience of listening, shifting conversation back to the listener, the lost art of listening, assumptions as ear plugs, listening to opposing views, the role of nonverbal communication, and Olympic athlete caliber listeners. We plan to have guest speakers, including one from The Second City. Join us for this seven-week study group and better understand the elements of effective listening.

## Current Topics in Science

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE, AND HEALTH

Coordinators: Benjamin Schwartz, Jeffrey Semel, Suzanne Sutherland

Wednesday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

The goal of this study group is to provide a forum to discuss new scientific topics. New scientific discoveries illuminate our past, increase our understanding of the current world we inhabit, affect our everyday lives, and sometimes portend an uncertain, threatening future. We all read news differently and each person's perspective can be valuable in enhancing our understanding of the topic at hand. We will use *The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2020* (HMH Books, 2020) as our source, but discussion leaders are free to choose topics from other sources if they desire. Discussion leaders are to choose the weekly topic, assign required readings, prepare questions for discussion, present a broad overview of the topic when appropriate, and lead the discussion. A curiosity of science and a desire to learn are more important than a scientific background. Study group members should expect to use Canvas and be thoroughly prepared to actively participate.



**NEW *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* (Thursday)**

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Coordinators: Steve Vandervoort, Samijean Nordmark  
Thursday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

Lurking beneath our ideas of race, class, hierarchy, economic, and social stratification, lies the little-recognized but powerful notion of caste. In this study group we will shine a spotlight on this sinister and largely concealed concept. We will explore in detail its origins in India, its short-lived realization in Nazi Germany, and its ultimate fruition in the United States. We will discover why the cruel logic of caste requires a bottom rung for those above it to measure themselves against. We will see how the terrible cost of this system touches the lives of everyone within it. Finally, we will proceed beyond this artificial and destructive force that separates us, toward a renewed hope in our common humanity. Our guide on this journey of discovery is the Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson. In her recent book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* (Random House, 2020), she probes these points with a personal perspective and unflinching honesty. Please join us on this important journey.

**Capturing Chicago through Photography**

CREATIVE ARTS

Coordinators: Donald Weissman, Joe Simchak, Sue Reyman, Howard Rose  
Thursday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

Practice and grow your photography skills while capturing Chicago and assigned images. Every week the study group will receive information on a notable place or technique to capture. Study group members will complete the assignments individually and upload their images in our Dropbox account. Then in our virtual classroom, we will review and critique our images to help improve our composition and photography skills. We will discuss how some post-processing features might enhance the photo, but this is not a post-processing course and post-processing knowledge is not required for the study group. This study group is for intermediate level photographers with a working knowledge of aperture, shutter speed, and ISO. Required: DSLR or mirrorless camera with interchangeable lenses, and manual control camera (no iPhones).

**NEW *Congress at War, The Republican Reformer Congress of the Civil War***

HISTORY

Coordinators: James Smith, Michael Sehr  
Thursday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

Understandably, studies of Northern Civil War politics have tended to focus on the achievements and trials of President Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln, however, did not govern alone, nor was he in the political vanguard of his own party. In *Congress at War* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2020), Fergus M. Bordewich gives us a history of the Republican Congresses — the 37<sup>th</sup> and 38<sup>th</sup> — that mightily helped Lincoln in fighting and winning the Civil War, and that bequeathed to future generations one of the richest legislative heritages of any Congress. Bordewich focuses on four legislators from that era: Benjamin Wade and Thaddeus Stevens, both of whom proudly called themselves Radicals; William Pitt Fessenden, a moderate Republican; and Clement L. Vallandigham, a Democrat who became a notorious Copperhead. The legislators of this period gave us our first national currency and our first income tax; passed the Transcontinental Railroad Act; created the land grant colleges; opened the prairie to settlement with the Land Grant Act; insured the firm prosecution of the war; investigated fraud, corruption, and incompetence in the military; and were always ahead of Lincoln in the fight to abolish slavery. Join us to gain a new perspective on the Civil War.

## Readings in Western Culture

LITERATURE

Coordinators: Bernard Hoffman, Elaine Hoffman

Thursday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

Why does it sometimes feel good to do something bad? In a world where we are encouraged to indulge, splurge, and live a little, has the ancient religious concept of sin lost its sway over the moral imagination? Texts for this study group include *The Seven Deadly Sins* (The Great Books Foundation, 2007) and *Even Deadlier* (The Great Books Foundation, 2007). These anthologies allow readers to peer into the hidden recesses of sinful thought and behavior. Without moralizing, the authors in these books — Faulkner, Atwood, Chekhov, Fitzgerald, Gordimer, to name a few — use fiction to explore our all too human thirst for transgressive pleasure. For readers who know that good and evil are not simply a matter of black and white, these collections will provoke lively conversation and sober contemplation. These texts are available through The Great Books Foundation at 800-222-5870, ext. 3, [greatbooks.org](http://greatbooks.org), or through Amazon.

## NEW In Search of the Trojan War

LITERATURE

Coordinators: Michael Dolesh, Bob McAnulty

Thursday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

The Trojan War: Fact or simply legend? Using sources from history, archaeology, and literature, this combination history and literature study group will explore the tantalizing puzzle of whether the Trojan War ever took place and whether there is any historical basis for such legendary figures as Agamemnon, Achilles, and Odysseus. We will read an extensive but abbreviated version of Homer's *The Iliad from The Essential Iliad* (trans. Lombardo, Hackett Classics, 2000). For archaeological context, we will look at Eric Cline's *The Trojan War: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2013) to examine the attempts by archaeologists, such as Heinrich Schliemann, to locate the historical Troy. In addition, we will look at how Troy would have figured in the political power struggle of the Middle East of its day, with Mycenaean invaders on one side, Hittites on the other, the mysterious Sea Peoples, and Egypt as a key power broker at the time.

## NEW British Mystery Writers Revisited

LITERATURE

Coordinators: Martha Bills, Michael Goodkind

Thursday, 9:45–11:45 a.m. (7 Sessions: March 11–April 22)

British mysteries are dear to the hearts of fans of the Golden Age of Detective Writing. In this study group we will read some of our favorites and even throw in one modern author who has captured the style of the inimitable Agatha Christie. Join us as we examine *Mystery Mile* by Margery Allingham (Bloomsbury Reader Reprint, 2008) featuring amateur sleuth Albert Campion; *A Man Lay Dead* by Ngaio Marsh (Felony & Mayhem Books, 2011) with Inspector Roderick Allyn; “The Hammer of God” from *The Innocence of Father Brown* by G.K. Chesterton (Greatspace Independent Publishing, reprint 2012); and Lord Peter Wimsey in *Busman's Honeymoon* by Dorothy Sayers (Harper Paperbacks, reprint 2012). As the finale of the study group, we will compare Hercule Poirot in *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* by Agatha Christie (Vintage Press, reprint 2019) with his portrayal in *The Monogram Murders* by Sophie Hannah (William Morrow, 2014). All books are available on Kindle, in paperback, as audio books, and in the public library. Join us for this seven-week group and become reacquainted with familiar old friends.

## NEW The States of Mystery

LITERATURE

Coordinators: Martha Bills, Michael Goodkind

Thursday, 9:45–11:45 a.m. (7 Sessions: April 29–June 10)

Not every mysterious death in American literature takes place in either New York or Los Angeles, despite the familiar depictions from television. This study group will begin an exploration of mysteries set in all fifty states. We will find sleepy small towns, local color and customs, eccentric personalities, amateur detectives and local sheriffs, psychics, and a couple of sleuthing sisters. The books we will read include *Murder Carries a Torch* by Anne George (William Morrow, 2000) which is set in Alabama; *The Woman Who Married a Bear* by John Straley (Solo Press, 1992) which is from Alaska; *Shakespeare's Landlord* by Charlaine Harris (Penguin Group, 1997) which takes place in Arkansas; *Desert Noir* by Betty Webb (Poisoned Pen Press, 2001) which is set in Arizona; *Booked to Die* by John Dunning (Pocket Star Books, 1992) which takes place in Colorado; and *Seance Society* by Michael Nethercott (Minotaur Books, 2013) which is a Connecticut mystery. Join us for this seven-week study group as we find murder all over America.

## Poetry in a New Age

LITERATURE

Coordinators: Steve Bloomberg, Susan Ataman

Thursday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

Spring is a time of renewal and reflection. After leaving behind 2020, a year not easily forgotten, we will focus our exploration on contemporary poets, starting with poems of hope, resilience, and renewal. Poets provide us with a window into understanding the complexities of the world we live in. Poetry helps us explore human connections, fraught emotions, our relationship to nature, and the fragility and meaning of existence itself. This spring, we will be coming out of a long, hard winter. If you would like to start off the semester with a theme of hope and renewal, join this study group where we will search for vital truth as we contemplate contemporary society and the human condition. We will take turns selecting a set of poems and leading the group in thoughtful discussion. You do not need to be a past consumer of poetry; we welcome both novices and more experienced poetry readers. This study group will mostly be about the poems we select, discovering their magic and discussing our often disparate responses. Prepare to be introduced to diverse perspectives, to view the world in a novel way, and to discover beauty and truth through poetry.

## NEW Language and Linguistics

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Coordinators: Bob Jenkins, Philip Zawa

Thursday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

Language: the evolutionary innovation that made us human and helped us spread around the globe and dominate it. We will explore fascinating topics in linguistics including the origins of language and its diversity; how different sounds occur in some languages and not in others; how a universal grammar may underlie all languages; and how that enables us to speak and write an infinity of expressions. We will search for answers to questions such as these: What exactly is semantics? How does the brain process language? How do languages vary within regions and across social groups? Where did our ABCs come from? How did the English language develop? We will read *The Study of Language*, Seventh Edition (Cambridge University Press, 2020) by George Yule, which provides clear, concise explanations of each topic, reinforced by an accompanying website. We will supplement the text with the latest developments in syntactic analysis, following Noam Chomsky's ground-breaking work and sociolinguistics. We will apply our new knowledge to understanding the language we were taught in school and what we speak and write in 2020. Study group membership will be expected to lead discussions and contribute additional materials.



## Creative Writing Workshop (Thursday)

WRITING

Coordinators: Ron Denham, Art Altman

Thursday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

This study group is designed for members who love words and who wish to improve and practice their creative writing skills across the various genres: poetry, creative nonfiction, essay, memoir, and fiction. Participants will present their work to the group. The group will respond with encouragement, critique, and suggestions. Revisions and resubmissions are encouraged. Longer works can be submitted in segments. This workshop will give you a creative outlet and an opportunity to produce a finished piece of writing of which you can be proud.

## Washington Week

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Coordinators: Len Grossman, Arlene Shafton, Marion Derringer, Justin Joseph

Thursday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

There has been a Democratic victory. The transition to a Biden administration is in progress; a recalcitrant incumbent is gone; new Cabinet members and agency heads will be nominated; there is an unpredictable Congress; and there is a more conservative Supreme Court. The President's challenge will be to address the country's most pressing issues, revitalize trampled norms, and issue national and foreign policy directives. He must also prioritize an aggressive response to the Coronavirus and the distressed economy, while working to unite the country. We will try to make sense of it all, providing a forum for discussion of news focused on Washington and beyond. We will empower OLLI members to understand different perspectives on the federal government and other areas of national concern. In the first hour, we will engage in-depth discussion of a major issue, such as health care or immigration reform. The second hour will be devoted to current hot news stories selected by the study group members. This is a fast-paced study group in which members are expected to be (or become) keen observers of national news through a variety of sources. Reading assignments and topics will be made available. Differing points of view are respectfully welcomed.

## NEW Our Climate Emergency

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Coordinators: Connie Karduck, Lois Taft

Thursday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

The climate crisis is well supported by scientific consensus and confirmed by our experience with environmental disasters such as wildfires, hurricanes, heat waves, floods, and rising sea levels. Naomi Klein's new book makes a strong case for tackling the climate crisis. According to Klein, solutions require fundamental economic and social change, and a political commitment based on popular support. Our text will be *On Fire: The (Burning) Case for a Green New Deal* by Naomi Klein (Simon & Schuster, 2020). It is a collection of Klein's writings and speeches tracing the evolution of climate politics over the past decade, with the most recent entry being from April 2020. She introduces the Green New Deal, as an aspiration, to eliminate U.S. carbon emissions by 2030 and build a new renewable energy infrastructure. Join a discussion of this approach and others in response to our climate emergency.

## **The Economist**

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Coordinators: Bill Bridgman, Stuart Applebaum, Gordon Mallett, John Howard  
Thursday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

The Economist weekly magazine is widely acclaimed for its thoughtful and stimulating analyses of world news, politics, and business. *The Economist* also has sections on science, technology, books, the arts, and extensive reports on particular issues of current interest. Each week our study group will hold a lively discussion based on articles selected from that week's *The Economist*. Each study group member will be encouraged, during one of our sessions, to select articles from the current issue and lead our discussion. A digital subscription to *The Economist* is required. Information on digital subscriptions and reduced introductory rates is available at 1-800-456-6086 or [www.economistsubscriptions.com](http://www.economistsubscriptions.com).

## **NEW The Pursuit of Racial Equality in Education**

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Coordinators: Laura Winters, Scott Peters, Missy Fleming  
Thursday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

Racial and educational issues fuel debate and controversy in school districts across the nation. Emphasis is placed on educational excellence and achievement of all students. Using the documentary series, *America to Me*, available for streaming, this study group will discuss issues and challenges experienced in the communities of Oak Park, River Forest, and Evanston. The Atlantic review of *America to Me* stated, "The series takes the viewer on an insightful, engaging and maddening trip back to school, which is enabled by the extraordinary access James and his segment directors were given to classrooms, board meetings and people's homes ... The most crucial thing *America to Me* depicts is the insufficiency of good intentions when problems are this deeply rooted." Study group discussions will draw upon the experiences and perspectives of guest speakers with a range of viewpoints on Evanston's pursuit of educational excellence and racial equity. We will use the book, *Despite the Best Intentions: How Racial Inequity Thrives in Good Schools* by Amanda Lewis and John Diamond (Oxford University Press, 2015) as an additional resource. This book is the result of the authors' five-year analysis of the racial achievement gap.

## **NEW The Evolution of Film Noir**

CREATIVE ARTS

Coordinators: Tom Swanstrom, Dan Burns, Dennis Carlin, Ray Rusnak  
Thursday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

This course covers the evolution of film noir, using movies to illustrate each stage. Many early pre-noir films had elements of noir. We will view a U.S. film, *M* (1931) and a French film, *Port of Shadows* (1937), followed by the first noir film, *Stranger on the Third Floor* (1940). During the early 1940s many films were detective stories, including two from 1944: *Double Indemnity* and *Laura*. The next noir stage was the postwar realism period of the late 1940s covering crime and political corruption with films like *The Killers* (1946), *Out of the Past* (1947), and *The Naked City* (1948). The final stage of the classic U.S. noir period was in the early to mid-1950s when psychotic actions and suicidal impulses were in the forefront with films like *Gun Crazy* (1950), *Strangers on a Train* (1951), and *Touch of Evil* (1958). In France many of the better classical noirs came later like *Elevator to the Gallows* (1958). Later U.S. films were classed as neo-noirs including *Chinatown* (1974) and *L.A. Confidential* (1997). All films will be viewed in advance of each study group session via streaming and then discussed in class. Join us for this exciting and informative study group.

## NEW Stephen Sondheim

CREATIVE ARTS

Coordinators: James Sheinin, Glenn Derringer

Thursday, 1:15–3:15 p.m. (7 Session: March 11–April 22)

Stephen Sondheim has been a most innovative composer, lyricist, and dramatist of musical theater. He has stretched the boundaries and subject matter of musical theater in many different directions. His oeuvre manifests craftsmanship, sophistication, subtlety, surprise, wit, complexity, ambivalence, irony, and insight. His oeuvre often deals with the course of relationships over time. Initially, we will explore Sondheim's background, his education, his influences, his style of writing lyrics and music, and the evolution of his career. Then we will explore what we feel are some of his greatest songs, written not only for musical theater, but for other media. Some of the songs are lesser known or not known, or not known to have been written by him. Finally, we will explore and view three of his masterpieces of musical theater, *Company*, *Follies*, and *A Little Night Music*, for which Sondheim won three consecutive Tony Awards for Best Musical Score.

## NEW The Emergence of International Laws on Genocide

HISTORY

Coordinators: Irwin Kra, Jerry Bernstein

Thursday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

This group will study the book *East West Street* by Phillippe Sands (Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 2016). This book examines the personal and intellectual growth of the two men who simultaneously originated the two fundamental concepts of International Law. The men did not know each other but studied with the same professors at the same university in Lviv, a city that was a major cultural center of Europe. The two intellectual giants, Raphael Lemkin and Hersh Lauterpacht, lead to the establishment of the concepts “genocide” and “crimes against humanity,” which were the centerpiece for the Nuremberg prosecution of Nazi war criminals. The *East West Street* author writes about a third man, Hans Frank, a personification of evil, Hitler's personal lawyer, and a Nazi from the earliest days. Frank was responsible for the murder of millions. The contrast between the three main protagonists make one believe that they belong to different species. The book explores the ways our civilization has tried to cope with the aftermath of mass murder. Each study group member will be expected to read about 20 pages per week and lead at least one discussion session.

## NEW The Story of the WPA: How FDR Put the Nation to Work

HISTORY

Coordinators: Christine Harmon, Alan Langus, Sally Sharp

Thursday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

In the midst of the Great Depression, FDR's Works Progress Administration accomplished some of the most ambitious projects in our nation's history. But much of the WPA's story is forgotten — simply because many of its projects have been part of our landscape for almost 100 years and, for most people, those works have always been in place. The WPA built 650,000 miles of roads, 125,000 buildings, 800 airports, and much more. The federal arts project that was part of the WPA funded 475,000 works of art from then-unknown artists. This study group will look at the breadth and diversity of the WPA projects which began during the Great Depression and were phased out at the beginning of WWII. It is a lively story of colorful characters, conflicting agendas, and sheer happenstance that led to some magnificent successes along with fervent criticism. We will meet little known champions of the programs as well as those who tried to thwart the progress. This study group will be of interest to those who want to look closely at this slice of history and what lessons we might apply today. Members will read 40 pages per session from *American Made* by Nick Taylor (Bantam; Illustrated edition, February 24, 2009).



## Science Times

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE, AND HEALTH

Coordinators: Brenda Russell, Isaac Gadsden, Karen Gatlin

Thursday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

Do you want to know about the latest developments in science? Every week, for the last forty years, *The New York Times* has had an extensive section of news on scientific subjects. Topics cover a broad range of science and technology as well as health and medicine. The articles make the reader sit up and take notice by calling attention to new, surprising, or underreported scientific developments. Members of the study group will be asked to select, research, and lead the discussion. Articles come from a recent Tuesday *Science Times* or from articles elsewhere in *The New York Times* with topical scientific interest. A digital or print subscription to *The New York Times* is required. We learn and we laugh together. Join us for some great discussions.

## Fiction Writing Workshop

WRITING

Coordinators: April Ware, NU MFA Student (to be determined)

Thursday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

If you love reading and writing novels, short stories, or flash fiction and you want to sharpen your writing skills, this workshop is for you! In the first half of this study group, we intend to have a Northwestern Master of Fine Arts student guide us through writing technique and the elements of the craft, as we peer review original written works of each study group member. Unique to this workshop, we will review longer works of up to 20 pages. In addition, each week we will discuss an assigned published short story of the best authors including both the classics and emerging writers published in magazines like *The New Yorker*. You will also receive an optional weekly prompt to write a short spontaneous work aimed at sharpening a specific skill. This is a work-oriented study group, where the more you put in, the more you get out. Let the narratives of these published works, the knowledge and enthusiasm of the guest teachers, and the talented writing of your peers inspire you to bring the characters and plots of your stories alive. We welcome new and experienced writers to join this lively, passionate exchange of those who love to write!



## International Relations

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Coordinators: Allen Cohen, Bruce Marx, Phil Bashook  
Friday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

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

## World War II Day by Day with *The New York Times*

HISTORY

Coordinators: Michael Sehr, Brent Siegel  
Friday, 9:45–11:45 a.m.

By March of 1941, World War II had been raging in Europe for over a year and a half. In Europe, Britain faced Germany and Italy virtually alone. Germany, however, was turning its attention to the Balkans and the USSR. In Asia, Japan was considering expansion into all of South Asia. The battles in the year to come would determine who dominated in Europe, Africa, the Mediterranean, and Asia. In the United States, FDR's third administration struggled with Congress over the support for Britain and China. *Citizen Kane* and *The Maltese Falcon* both lost out in the Best Films category at the Academy Awards. Join us as we read and talk about war, politics, and culture in 1941. Each week, the discussion leaders will select 10–20 *New York Times* articles from corresponding weeks eighty years ago. The articles will include military, political, science, cultural, and economic news. Canvas will be used extensively, supplemental materials will be provided, and videos will be shown. A subscription to the digital *New York Times* is required. We will use the TimesMachine feature included with the subscription.

---

“ *The study group experience was great – thought provoking, interesting and fun. I enjoyed the comments of the participants and feel like I’ve already made new friends.* ”  
*OLLI has been a lifesaver this extraordinary year.* ”

— Marcia Matavulj, OLLI Member

---

# HALF YEAR SPRING MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS 2020–21 ACADEMIC YEAR

## All OLLI Members Enjoy

- Thought-provoking study groups
- 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's governance

If you are not a current OLLI member, you may purchase a membership beginning January 27. The membership options listed in the chart below will be available at that time.

Spring Memberships – Levels, Prices, and Benefits			
Level	Price and Terms Included	Number of Study Groups per Term	Benefits Included with Membership:
<b>HALF-YEAR Prime</b>	<b>\$310 Half Academic Year</b> (includes spring & summer)	<b>3 per term</b> for a total of 6	<b>Half-year members get</b> access to Northwestern Library and Online Databases.
<b>HALF-YEAR Standard</b>	<b>\$270 Half Academic Year</b> (includes spring & summer)	<b>2 per term</b> for a total of 4	
<b>HALF-YEAR Basic</b>	<b>\$210 Half Academic Year</b> (includes spring & summer)	<b>1 per term</b> for a total of 2	
Trial Membership – Rate and Benefits			
<b>Trial</b>	<b>\$155</b> (includes spring semester & summer session) Available only to new members and may be purchased only one time.	<b>1 per term</b> for a total of 2	<b>Trial members get:</b> • Access to Northwestern Library and Online Databases

The academic year is divided into 4 terms as defined:

**Fall or Spring Semester** = 14 weeks each    **Winter or Summer Session** = 4 weeks each

**Scholarships:** OLLI offers full and partial scholarships. Awards are strictly confidential. For an application, email OLLI Director Kari Fagin at kari.fagin@northwestern.edu. Scholarships are supported by donations to the OLLI Member Fund.

OLLI membership types vary depending on the time of year you are registering. [Click here](#) to view membership types available during each registration period.

# 2020–21 POLICIES:

## REGISTRATION, REFUND, STANDARDS OF CONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION & HARASSMENT POLICIES

Session = winter/summer — 4 weeks

Semester = fall/spring — 14 weeks

### Registration Policies & Expectations

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

#### REGISTRATION

- You **MUST** be officially registered through the OLLI office for all study groups and bonus groups you attend. If you drop a study group or bonus group you must notify the OLLI office.
- 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 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. There are no exceptions.
- We **CANNOT** accept registration by mail, email, phone, fax, or drop off.
- OLLI accepts credit card payments through our online registration system only. Visa, Mastercard, American Express, or Discover are accepted.
- We **CANNOT** accept checks or cash.
- 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.
- If you are unsure of your plans for the year, we recommend that you purchase a half year membership, as refunds cannot be issued for unused membership benefits in any given session/semester.

#### REGISTRATION ADD/DROP

- **Please make your selections carefully. Changes to study group selections may ONLY be made by the OLLI office.** Changes cannot be made during the first two weeks of registration. Changes may take up to one week to process and are subject to study group availability.
- Changes may only be made up to the end of the second week of the fall or spring semester or the first week of winter or summer session.

*continued*

## 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). No exceptions. Allow 12 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 semester and you notify the OLLI Director in writing **within two weeks** of the start of the semester.
- If you started in the winter or summer session and you notify the OLLI Director in writing **within one week** of the start of the session.

## Attendance Policies & Expectations

**OLLI Membership is based on the expectation that you will register for, attend, and actively participate in the number of study groups allowed with your membership type and based on the offerings in any given session/semester.**

- Members who are unable to attend the **first two weeks** of the fall or spring semester 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 session 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 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 costs associated with non-attendance to you, that these costs also adversely impact the program.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, OLLI does not sponsor or encourage in-person activities within study group parameters or in a social context. Members should not send correspondence using OLLI messaging to arrange any in-person activities.
- OLLI prohibits video recording of any study group by members or coordinators.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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.

### STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

As members of the Northwestern community, OLLI members are expected to behave with each other with civility and respect, recognizing that disagreement and informed debate are valued in an academic community. Demeaning, intimidating, threatening, or violent behaviors will not be tolerated. Such behavior could result in dismissal from the program.

**The Northwestern University Student Handbook can be viewed at:**  
[sps.northwestern.edu/student-handbook](http://sps.northwestern.edu/student-handbook)

# 2020–21 CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2020

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

OCTOBER 2020

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

NOVEMBER 2020

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

DECEMBER 2020

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

JANUARY 2021

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

FEBRUARY 2021

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

MARCH 2021

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

APRIL 2021

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

MAY 2021

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

JUNE 2021

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

JULY 2021

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

AUGUST 2021

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

- **Fall Session**  
14 Weeks, September 8–December 14, 2020
- **Break**  
December 15, 2020–January 8, 2021
- **Winter Session**  
4 Weeks, January 11–February 8, 2021
- **Break**  
February 9–March 5, 2021
- **Spring Session**  
14 weeks, March 8–June 11, 2021
- **Break**  
June 14–July 5, 2021
- **Summer Session**  
4 Weeks, July 6–August 2, 2021

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

- Monday, September 7, 2020

---

- Thursday, November 26 through Friday, November 27, 2020

---

- Thursday, December 24, 2020 through Friday, January 1, 2021

---

- Monday, January 18, 2021

---

- Monday, May 31, 2021

---

- Monday, July 5, 2021

---

# RESOURCES

## OLLI Contacts

**EMAIL:** [olli@northwestern.edu](mailto:olli@northwestern.edu)

**OLLI HELP DESK:** [spsolli.sps.northwestern.edu](mailto:spsolli.sps.northwestern.edu)  
[sps.northwestern.edu/olli](http://sps.northwestern.edu/olli)

---

## Wildcard ID Discounts

[wildcardadv.northwestern.edu](http://wildcardadv.northwestern.edu)

---

## University Police

**EVANSTON:** 847-491-3254

**CHICAGO:** 312-503-8314

**EMERGENCY:** 911

[northwestern.edu/up](http://northwestern.edu/up)

## Libraries

Northwestern maintains an extensive library system on two campuses with combined collections of more than 4.6 million volumes. Remote access only is available at this time.

### General

**PHONE:** 847-491-7658

**EMAIL:** [library@northwestern.edu](mailto:library@northwestern.edu)

[library.northwestern.edu](http://library.northwestern.edu)

### OLLI Resources

**GUIDES:** [libguides.northwestern.edu/OLLI\\_libguide](http://libguides.northwestern.edu/OLLI_libguide)

**LIBRARIAN:** Tracy Coyne

**EMAIL:** [tracy-coyne@northwestern.edu](mailto:tracy-coyne@northwestern.edu)

