



OLLI
AT YAVAPAI COLLEGE

Osher Online™

in collaboration with Northwestern University
School of Professional Studies

Fall 2026

Sept 28—Dec 5



Stay Curious, Stay Engaged—Join OLLI!

www.yc.edu/olli Registration deadline Sep. 14



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**Click here to view the
Osher Online Fall catalog**



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gaged—Join OLLI!*

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Registration deadline Sep. 14

National Osher Online offerings, in collaboration with Northwestern University School of Professional Studies, is an exclusive offer with OLLI at Yavapai College and other OLLIs across the country. Enrollment is limited to current OLLI members, and requires **additional fees of \$60** for ALL Membership levels.

The enrollment cut off date is **September 14, 2026**

Member orientation will be on: **September 22 at 11:00 am**

Zoom links, and handouts, are all accessed through a website provided by Osher Online, with a unique user name and password for each Member. You will receive an email with information on orientation, the website and your credentials some time after January .

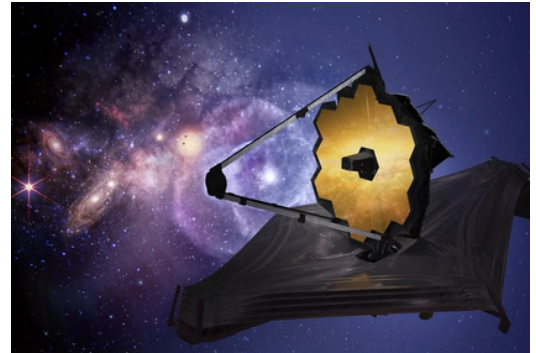
Fall 2026

September 28—December 5

Classes by Day, Time, Class & Facilitator						
Monday		Time		Class		Facilitator
28-Sep-	2-Nov	8:00 -	9:30	Great Artists in American Roots Music		T. Ackley
28-Sep-	2-Nov	10:00 -	11:30	The British Family in Film		B. Epps
28-Sep-	2-Nov	10:00 -	11:30	Art Detectives		C. Maasdam
5-Oct-	9-Nov	12:00 -	1:30	Sacred Mountains of the World		J. Duncan
5-Oct-	9-Nov	4:00 -	5:30	The History and Experience of Route 66		P. Dedek
12-Oct-	16-Nov	2:00 -	3:30	The Search for an American Sound		E. Abramovits
19-Oct-	23-Nov	8:00 -	9:30	The Invisible Thread		S. Jones
Tuesday						
29-Sep-	3-Nov	8:00 -	9:30	Winning the White House		J. White
29-Sep-	3-Nov	10:00 -	11:30	Mexico City: Empires, Revolutions		W. Beezley
29-Sep-	3-Nov	2:00 -	3:30	A Cosmic Grand Tour		A. Fraknoi
29-Sep-	3-Nov	4:00 -	5:30	Apple at 50		L. Kahney
29-Sep-	3-Nov	6:00 -	7:30	The Birth of the Beat Generation		K. Hemmer
6-Oct-	10-Nov	12:00 -	1:30	Cults and New Religious Movements		K. Davis
Wednesday						
30-Sep-	4-Nov	8:00 -	9:30	Some Assembly Required		N. Tate
30-Sep-	4-Nov	4:00 -	5:30	Tracing Our Roots		A. Cervantes
30-Sep-	11-Nov	2:00 -	3:30	The Magic Behind Film Scores		M. Agron
7-Oct-	11-Nov	10:00 -	11:30	Post-War Architecture		E. Schrader
7-Oct-	11-Nov	2:00 -	3:30	August Wilson and His American Cycle		L. Menson-Furr
14-Oct-	18-Nov	12:00 -	1:30	Living off The Laughter: History of Comedy		E. Friedfeld
Thursday						
1-Oct-	5-Nov	8:00 -	9:30	Biology & Society		E. Simon
1-Oct-	5-Nov	12:00 -	1:30	"Studies Show..." (Or Do They?)		J. Hendrickson
8-Oct-	12-Nov	2:00 -	3:30	Early 20th Century Avant-Garde		L. Weingarden
15-Oct-	19-Nov	10:00 -	11:30	Power and the People		L. Andersen
Friday						
9-Oct-	13-Nov	8:00 -	9:30	The 60s Through the Great Speeches		A. Benedict

A Cosmic Grand Tour: The Realms of the Universe

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



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Andrew Fraknoi, MS



Andrew Fraknoi, retired chair of the astronomy department at Foothill College, continues to teach noncredit astronomy courses at San Francisco State University and the University of San Francisco. He is lead author of *OpenStax Astronomy*, the most frequently-used, introductory astronomy textbook in North America. He appears regularly on radio, explaining astronomical developments in everyday language, and was named California Professor of the Year. He writes science fiction, has published eight stories, and has an asteroid named in his honor, recognizing his contributions to the public understanding of science.

TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 29 THROUGH NOVEMBER 3

2:00pm to 3:30pm (PDT)

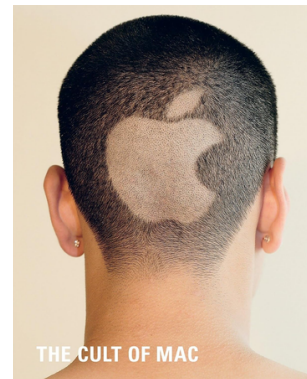
Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, September 29
- Tuesday, October 6
- Tuesday, October 13
- Tuesday, October 20
- Tuesday, October 27
- Tuesday, November 3

To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634

Apple at 50: How it Revolutionized Computing and Transformed Daily Life

This course traces Apple's fifty-year history and its massive impact on personal computing, design, product culture, platforms and ecosystems, and daily life. Each session focuses on a different decade in Apple's history, from the birth of the PC in the late 1970s to the latest Apple silicon, VR headsets, and future iPhones. We will learn how Apple reshaped not just technology, but how people live, work, and communicate.



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Leander Kahney



Leander Kahney is a veteran technology reporter who has covered Apple for more than 30 years. He has written six books about the company, including two *New York Times* bestsellers. He is the editor and publisher of *Cult of Mac*, a long-running Apple blog, and was previously news editor at *Wired.com*.

TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 29 THROUGH NOVEMBER 3

4:00pm to 5:30pm (PDT)

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, September 29
- Tuesday, October 6
- Tuesday, October 13
- Tuesday, October 20
- Tuesday, October 27
- Tuesday, November 3

To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634

Art Detectives

Forgery, Provenance, and the Science of Authentication

The public often sees the art world as the domain of wealth, trendsetters, and high rollers, yet deception lurks behind the façade. After weapons and drugs, art is the third most lucrative illicit trade, with reports suggesting that more than half of artworks are fake or misattributed. In this course, we will ask: When is a copy simply a copy, and when is it a forgery? What techniques do master forgers use? Does a collector hold true title, and how important is provenance? What can science tell us about art authenticity? We will uncover riveting stories of criminal art activity, gallery closings, and master forgeries.



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Christine Maasdam



Christine Maasdam holds a master's in humanities and a bachelor's in cultural geography. Maasdam studied art at The Courtauld Institute, the Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center, and the University of Glasgow. She trained in art crime investigation and is a member of the International Foundation for Cultural Property Protection. She holds Sotheby's certifications in art law and appraisal, serves as a museum education docent, and has volunteered on archaeological projects in Israel.

MONDAYS, SEPTEMBER 28 THROUGH NOVEMBER 2

10:00am to 11:30am (PDT)

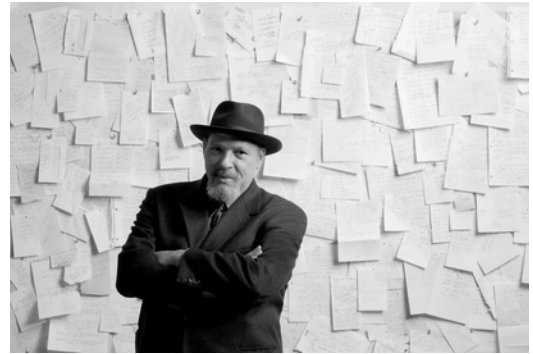
Each live session is 90 minutes

- Monday, September 28
- Monday, October 5
- Monday, October 12
- Monday, October 19
- Monday, October 26
- Monday, November 2

To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634

August Wilson and His American Cycle - The First Five: 1904-1957

August Wilson was the first African American playwright to have a Broadway theater bear his name, a fitting tribute to a dramatist who brought African American culture and lived experience to the stage. In this course, we will read, watch, and examine the first five plays in Wilson's American Cycle, a ten-play series representing each decade of the African American culture's 20th century. We will explore Wilson's life and the influences behind his work while focusing on *Gem of the Ocean*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, and *Seven Guitars*, tracing his powerful interpretation, celebration, and perseverance of African American culture.



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Ladrica Menson-Furr, PhD



Ladrica Menson-Furr, PhD, is assistant dean of undergraduate programs and associate professor of African American literature. Menson-Furr is the author of *August Wilson's Fences* and *August Wilson's Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, and has published on Zora Neale Hurston and Pearl Cleage. She has led academic programs in African American studies and served as a Provost's Fellow and a Tennessee Board of Regents' Maxine Smith Fellow.

WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 7 THROUGH NOVEMBER 11

2:00pm to 3:30pm (PDT)

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, October 7
- Wednesday, October 14
- Wednesday, October 21
- Wednesday, October 28
- Wednesday, November 4
- Wednesday, November 11

To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634

Biology & Society

This course introduces the scientific study of life, with an emphasis on real-world applications and the societal, social, ethical, and legal consequences of biological advances. We will place key biological principles within the context of issues that affect individuals and society, highlighting the connection between biology and everyday life. Designed for non-scientists with little or no recent college-level science experience, the course encourages discussion and reflection. Many topics are at the leading edge of scientific discovery, and we will examine the ongoing ethical and legal debates surrounding how and whether these advances should be applied.



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Eric Simon, PhD



Eric Simon, PhD, is a professor of biology at New England College and holds a PhD in biochemistry from Harvard University. An avid traveler and award-winning nature photographer, he leads educational trips to destinations such as Belize, the Galapagos, Tanzania, Cuba, the Amazon River, and Patagonia. Simon is also the author of a best-selling series of college biology textbooks—used in over 40 countries—with more than 2 million copies in print.

THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 1 THROUGH NOVEMBER 5

8:00am to 9:30am (PDT)

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Thursday, October 1
- Thursday, October 8
- Thursday, October 15
- Thursday, October 22
- Thursday, October 29
- Thursday, November 5

To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634

Cults and New Religious Movements in America

America has provided fertile ground for new and alternative religions to sprout and grow. Some prosper and eventually become accepted as part of the normal religious landscape, some wither away and are forgotten, and some detonate, creating public scandal and in the worst cases, national tragedy. This course will examine New Religious Movements, popularly known as "cults", within the US context. We will examine these religious movements both from insider perspectives and outsider perceptions. We will analyze the history, practices, and beliefs of these organizations to better understand them and deconstruct misconceptions. This course covers the 18th and 19th centuries.



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Kate Davis, PhD



Kate Davis, PhD, is an intersectional scholar and oral historian. Her work crosses between the fields of Religious Studies, Digital Humanities, and Gender Studies with a focus on North American religions. She holds a PhD in Religious Studies from Claremont Graduate University and is currently a visiting professor in Humanities and Theology at Alvernia University in Pennsylvania. Her first book, an ethnographic study of Mormon and Evangelical influencers, will be published next year.

TUESDAYS, OCTOBER 6 THROUGH NOVEMBER 10

12:00pm to 1:30pm (PDT)

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, October 6
- Tuesday, October 13
- Tuesday, October 20
- Tuesday, October 27
- Tuesday, November 3
- Tuesday, November 10

To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634

Early 20th Century Avant-Garde: From Rebellion to Abstraction

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



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Lauren Weingarden



Lauren Weingarden is professor emerita of art history at Florida State University. Her research explores the intersections of literature and visual art in 19th-century culture, with a focus on the American architect Louis Sullivan and French figures such as Charles Baudelaire and Édouard Manet. She has published extensively on these subjects and developed an interdisciplinary, embodied aesthetic model that invites viewers to re-experience artists' responses to modernity's fragmentation and the fleeting qualities of nature, a perspective that shapes her teaching on Impressionism.

THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 8 THROUGH NOVEMBER 12

2:00pm to 3:30pm (PDT)

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Thursday, October 8
- Thursday, October 15
- Thursday, October 22
- Thursday, October 29
- Thursday, November 5
- Thursday, November 12

To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634

Great Artists in American Roots Music

From its emergence amid rapid cultural change in the early 20th century, country music has resonated with people who feel left behind by a shifting world. A key genre of American roots music, it captures hardships of modern life while intentionally evoking emotional response. Whether facing troubled relationships, unemployment, homelessness, loneliness, or spiritual bereft, there is a country song for you. This course traces the history of country and American roots music through the stories and artistic developments of influential performers. Each session highlights key figures including the Carter Family, Bill Monroe, Hank Williams, and Dolly Parton.



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Taylor Ackley, PhD



Taylor Ackley, PhD, is a scholar, composer, and performer of American Roots music. He holds a PhD and a master's degree in composition, and a master's in ethnomusicology from Stony Brook University. Ackley is an independent scholar and professional musician based in northwestern Montana and is writing his first book, *Hearing Class*. A singer and multi-instrumentalist, he has performed nationwide, released four albums, and presented at major conferences in music, sociology, and ethnomusicology.

MONDAYS, SEPTEMBER 28 THROUGH NOVEMBER 2

8:00am to 9:30am (PDT)

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Monday, September 28
- Monday, October 5
- Monday, October 12
- Monday, October 19
- Monday, October 26
- Monday, November 2

To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634

Living off The Laughter: History of Comedy in America

This course is a history class with a laugh track. We will analyze the significant periods and players of the 20th and 21st Centuries against their historic context and legacy, using humor as the platform. We will discuss how comedy was shaped by and responsive to American society, and how comedians influenced and shaped American life. We will cover Silent Films, Vaudeville, Radio, Screwball and Romantic Comedies, Comedy Teams, and the Golden Age of Television. We will study how America laughed in each generation, and how the change in American character and persona shaped how they laughed and what (and whom) they laughed at.



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Eddy Friedfeld



Eddy Friedfeld is a film and entertainment journalist and historian. Friedfeld co-authored *Caesar's Hours* with Sid Caesar, *Directed by James Burrows* with James Burrows, and worked with Mel Brooks on *All About Me*. He was senior consultant for the Emmy-nominated *Make 'Em Laugh* and a consulting producer on *Funny You Never Knew*. He has produced tributes to major entertainers including George Carlin, Paul Newman, Dick Van Dyke, among others. He teaches at Yale, NYU, and the Tisch School of the Arts.

WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 14 THROUGH NOVEMBER 18

12:00pm to 1:30pm (PDT)

Each live session is 90 minutes

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Wednesday, October 14 | • Wednesday, November 4 |
| • Wednesday, October 21 | • Wednesday, November 11 |
| • Wednesday, October 28 | • Wednesday, November 18 |

To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634

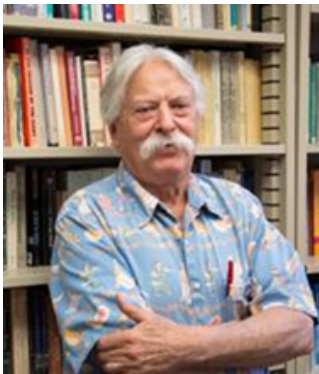
Mexico City: Empires, Revolutions, and Everyday Life

Mexicans celebrate a remarkable diversity of peoples, music, food, festivals, and historical traditions, expressed through fiestas that bring communities together across the calendar year. In this course, we will explore Mexico City as a cultural and historical crossroads shaped by centuries of continuity and change. We will trace the legacies of Indigenous civilizations, the transformations of Spanish colonial rule, the struggles for independence and revolution, and the emergence of modern democratic politics, culminating in the 2024 election of Mexico's first woman president. We will see how culture, power, and celebration remain deeply intertwined in the life of this extraordinary city.



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: William Beezley



William Beezley is professor emeritus of history at the University of Arizona and a leading scholar of Mexican history and culture. Beezley received Mexico's Ohtli Medal for promoting Mexican culture abroad. He has taught at several universities, held endowed chairs, served as a Fulbright Specialist, and been a visiting professor in Mexico. He directed the Oaxaca Graduate Institute and has appeared on PBS. His current research explores embroidery as a voice of Mexican women.

TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 29 THROUGH NOVEMBER 3

10:00am to 11:30am (PDT)

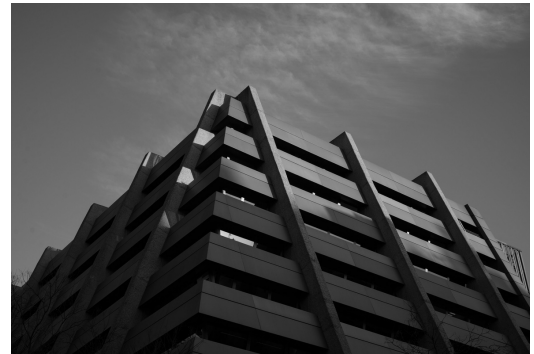
Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, September 29
- Tuesday, October 6
- Tuesday, October 13
- Tuesday, October 20
- Tuesday, October 27
- Tuesday, November 3

To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634

Post War Architecture: The Innovative Architects of the Midcentury Modern Period

From sleek new industrial materials to innovations in housing, mid-20th-century designers faced the challenge of shaping an aesthetic that reflected the ideals of post-World War II America. In this course, we will explore the optimism that defined the relationship between design and lifestyle during this period, particularly through the emergence of open living spaces in architecture. We will examine the influence of the Case Study Program and the work of leading designers, including Charles and Ray Eames, John Lautner, Eero Saarinen, E. Fay Jones, and Donald Wexler, while considering these developments within the broader context of rapid social and cultural change.



[Click here to view course
promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Eleanor Schrader



Eleanor Schrader is an award-winning educator, lecturer, and author. She lectures and leads tours worldwide on art and architectural history. She was named a distinguished instructor at UCLA Extension, where she teaches history of architecture, interior design, furniture, and decorative arts. She completed graduate work in fine and decorative arts at Sotheby's Institute in London and New York. She served as a design review commissioner for the City of Beverly Hills and serves on the John Lautner Foundation board of directors.

WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 7 THROUGH NOVEMBER 11

10:00am to 11:30am (PDT)

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, October 7
- Wednesday, October 14
- Wednesday, October 21
- Wednesday, October 28
- Wednesday, November 4
- Wednesday, November 11

To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634

Power and the People: The Evolution of the U.S. Federal Judiciary

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



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Lauren Andersen, JD



Lauren Andersen is the director of the Utah Judicial Institute. Andersen practiced appellate law in the state of California and presented arguments to the California Supreme Court and the US Supreme Court. During this time, Andersen closely studied the Roberts Court. She has lectured about the Supreme Court and the death penalty. Her opinions were quoted by *The New York Times* and the *ABA Journal*. She was previously the director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Utah.

THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 15 THROUGH NOVEMBER 19

10:00am to 11:30am (PDT)

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Thursday, October 15
- Thursday, October 22
- Thursday, October 29
- Thursday, November 5
- Thursday, November 12
- Thursday, November 19

To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634

Sacred Mountains of the World

People throughout time and across cultures have looked to the mountains as powerful symbols. The Buddhists of the Himalayas, the Inca of the Andes, the Inuit of the far north, and the Romantics of Europe all created unique stories of what mountains mean and how they are to be approached. This course will provide an interdisciplinary exploration of the beliefs, traditions, and mythologies that have been inspired by the world's mountains. Through richly illustrated lectures, short readings, and open discussion, this course will open a window into the world's sacred mountains and encourage exploration of our relationship with the Earth's high and wild places.



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Jonathan Duncan



Jonathan Duncan is a photojournalist, writer, teacher, and public speaker with more than 25 years of experience. His work has been published in *National Geographic*, *The Himalayan Journal*, *Sailing*, *Rock and Ice*, and by the *University of Utah Press*. He has taught at the Art Institute of Portland, Western Washington University, and Westminster University. His work explores humanity's complex relationship with the natural world, often in remote landscapes and cultures.

MONDAYS, OCTOBER 5 THROUGH NOVEMBER 9

12:00pm to 1:30pm (PDT)

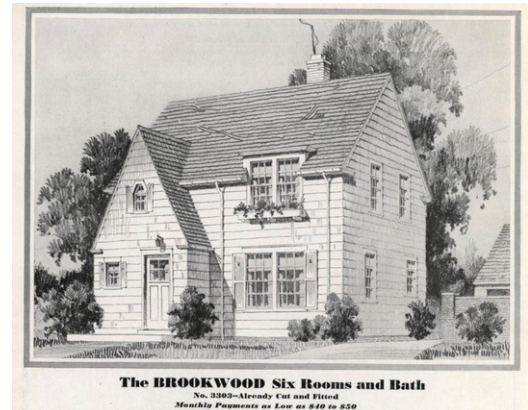
Each live session is 90 minutes

- Monday, October 5
- Monday, October 12
- Monday, October 19
- Monday, October 26
- Monday, November 2
- Monday, November 9

To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634

Some Assembly Required: The Story of the North American Kit Home

In this course, we will step inside the fascinating world of kit homes and explore their history and cultural impact across North America, especially during their peak from 1905 to 1945. We will learn how to identify these mail-order houses and understand their cultural impact. We will dig into the industry's rise and decline, industrial developments of kit homes, and their connections to race and gender in the early 20th century. By examining both the kit home industry and the people who lived in them, we will uncover why they remain an important part of the architectural and cultural landscape.



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Nigel Tate



Nigel Tate is an urban planning student at Michigan State University and an architectural preservationist and historian. Tate has studied kit homes for more than a decade, delivered talks across mid-Michigan, and created a guide to kit homes in Grand Blanc, MI. His interest began with a childhood discovery and has grown into ongoing research and advocacy focused on identifying and documenting these distinctive homes.

WEDNESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 30 THROUGH NOVEMBER 4

8:00am to 9:30am (PDT)

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, September 30
- Wednesday, October 7
- Wednesday, October 14
- Wednesday, October 21
- Wednesday, October 28
- Wednesday, November 4

To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634

"Studies Show..." (Or Do They?): Under the Hood of a Scientific Study

What really changes when we read beyond the abstract? In this interactive course, we will open real research papers (many in health and nutrition) and explore what scientists actually look for. We will explore how small design choices can dramatically shape a study's meaning, and why headlines rarely tell the full story. No technical background is required – just curiosity. By the end of the course, we will never read “studies show...” the same way again.



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: John Hendrickson, PhD



John Hendrickson, PhD, is a teaching professor in the School of Molecular Sciences at Arizona State University. He holds a PhD in chemistry and is the author of the textbook *Chemistry in the World*. His academic work centers on science communication and the reciprocal relationship between science and society.

THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 1 THROUGH NOVEMBER 5

12:00pm to 1:30pm (PDT)

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Thursday, October 1
- Thursday, October 8
- Thursday, October 15
- Thursday, October 22
- Thursday, October 29
- Thursday, November 5

To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634

The 60s Through the Great Speeches

The 1960s is a decade wrapped in myth and misunderstanding. In this course, we will cut through that haze by turning to something powerful and concrete: the speeches of the era. The times and the conditions demanded these significant speeches. Together, we will listen to the voices that moved a nation and shaped history. With recordings preserved through television, video, and YouTube, we will discover what these speeches still have to teach us today.



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Arthur Benedict



Buck Benedict is a former lecturer at Wharton and the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania, where he taught public speaking for 16 years. He also created and taught speechwriting classes. He was awarded the first Excellence in Teaching Award at the Fels Institute and was nominated for the university-wide Provost Award for non-standing faculty.

FRIDAYS, OCTOBER 9 THROUGH NOVEMBER 13

8:00am to 9:30am (PDT)

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Friday, October 9
- Friday, October 16
- Friday, October 23
- Friday, October 30
- Friday, November 6
- Friday, November 13

To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634

The Birth of the Beat Generation

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



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Kurt Hemmer



Kurt Hemmer is the editor of the *Encyclopedia of Beat Literature* and a professor at Harper College. Hemmer has produced award-winning documentaries on Beat poets with filmmaker Tom Knoff and published extensively on Beat writers. He organized the Jack Kerouac Centenary Conference and serves as president of the Beat Studies Association. He is currently working on a biography of Beat poet Gregory Corso.

TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 29 THROUGH NOVEMBER 3

6:00pm to 7:30pm (PDT)

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, September 29
- Tuesday, October 6
- Tuesday, October 13
- Tuesday, October 20
- Tuesday, October 27
- Tuesday, November 3

To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634

The British Family in Film: Heavy is the Head That Wears the Crown

This course examines royal succession through acclaimed British films that explore power not as ceremony, but as moral and political crisis. We will trace the monarchy's evolution from personal rule to institutional authority, beginning with the Plantagenet struggles in *Becket* (1964) and *The Lion in Winter* (1968). We will then examine the moral costs of kingship and the performance of national leadership through two Shakespeare adaptations: *Chimes at Midnight* (1965) and *Henry V* (1989). The course will conclude with the *Tudor* *rupture: A Man for All Seasons* (1966) and the consolidation of legitimacy *Elizabeth* (1998).



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Bernard (Butch) Epps



Bernard (Butch) Epps earned his undergraduate degree from Loyola Marymount University, graduating cum laude as an award-winning film production major. He received his MFA from the UCLA School of Film and Television's graduate Producers Program, where he specialized in story development and working with screenwriters. At UCLA, he served as academic liaison to the MFA Producers Program faculty, including studio heads, development executives, and industry professionals. Epps has taught film appreciation courses with a strong emphasis on story analysis.

MONDAYS, SEPTEMBER 28 THROUGH NOVEMBER 2

10:00am to 11:30am (PDT)

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Monday, September 28
- Monday, October 5
- Monday, October 12
- Monday, October 19
- Monday, October 26
- Monday, November 2

To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634

The History and Experience of Route 66

Route 66 is as much an idea as it is a place. Since its creation in 1926, America's most famous highway has evolved from a 2,400-mile transportation corridor into a powerful symbol of nostalgia, travel, and the American road. Today, it functions as a kind of pilgrimage route, marked by neon signs, roadside attractions, and preserved motels, cafés, and gas stations. In this course, we will explore the history, cultural meaning, and enduring appeal of Route 66. Together, we will examine its origins, rise and decline, late-20th century revival, the role of nostalgia and car culture, preservation efforts, and the possible futures of this iconic highway.



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Peter Dedek, PhD



Peter B. Dedek, PhD, is a professor of American history at Texas State University whose work explores the cultural history of the built environment and the stories embedded in historic places. Dedek brings together cultural, design, and social history to illuminate how people shape, and are shaped by the spaces they inhabit. He is the author of *Hip to the Trip: Route 66 Centennial Edition* and *The Cemeteries of New Orleans: A Cultural History*, and wrote *Historic Preservation for Designers*, a guide integrating preservation with design.

MONDAYS, OCTOBER 5 THROUGH NOVEMBER 9

4:00pm to 5:30pm (PDT)

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Monday, October 5
- Monday, October 12
- Monday, October 19
- Monday, October 26
- Monday, November 2
- Monday, November 9

To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634

The Invisible Thread: 3,500 Years of Global Supply Chain

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



[Click here to view course
promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Scott Jones



Scott Jones brings a unique perspective to his lectures, combining 30 years of naval command, diplomatic service, and executive leadership in defense and maritime industries. Jones is a docent at the J. Paul Getty Museum, leading architecture and gallery tours. A retired Navy captain, he commanded three warships and a squadron, with assignments at the Pentagon and State Department. He later served as a senior executive for a defense corporation, a maritime shipping company, and ran his own consulting business.

MONDAYS, OCTOBER 19 THROUGH NOVEMBER 23

8:00am to 9:30am (PDT)

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Monday, October 19
- Monday, October 26
- Monday, November 2
- Monday, November 9
- Monday, November 16
- Monday, November 23

To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634

The Magic Behind Film Scores: The Role of Music in Great Movies, Part II

This course continues our journey into how music becomes the emotional engine of film. This is not film school—it is a celebration for film lovers who want to experience how music shapes story, character, and unforgettable moments. We will explore how instrumental scores and songs with lyrics work together to drive narrative, define identity, and capture cultural shifts. We will focus on films where songs take center stage, from iconic franchise themes to pop- and rock-driven storytelling. Spanning genres and eras, we will see how composers, songwriters, and performers expanded the language of film music.



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Mike Agron



Born in Los Angeles's entertainment scene, Mike Agron is a former high-tech executive and entrepreneur who now creates and delivers dynamic, story-driven seminars on music and entertainment. With a storyteller's eye and a DJ's ear, he has led 15 acclaimed seminar series, each spotlighting a different facet of music and entertainment.

WEDNESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 30 THROUGH NOVEMBER 11

NOTE: NO CLASS ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

2:00pm to 3:30pm (PDT)

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, September 30
- Wednesday, October 7
- Wednesday, October 14
- Wednesday, October 21
- Wednesday, November 4
- Wednesday, November 11

To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634

The Search for an American Sound

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



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Emanuel Abramovits



Emanuel Abramovits is a mechanical engineer and has been a concert promoter for over two decades. He is involved in events by international artists like Itzhak Perlman, Gustavo Dudamel, Sarah Brightman, Roger Hodgson, ASIA, Journey, and Kenny G. Abramovits has designed and staged original orchestral events, including an Event of the Year winner and several world premieres. He served as the cultural director at Union Israelita De Caracas, releasing books and organizing film cycles, concerts, and art exhibits.

MONDAYS, OCTOBER 12 THROUGH NOVEMBER 16

2:00pm to 3:30pm (PDT)

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Monday, October 12
- Monday, October 19
- Monday, October 26
- Monday, November 2
- Monday, November 9
- Monday, November 16

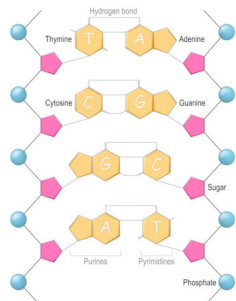
To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634

Tracing Our Roots: DNA, Family History, and the Politics of Identity

How does DNA reshape our understanding of ancestry, colonial society, and identity in the Americas? In this course, we will explore the science and methodology of genetic genealogy through the lens of first contact between European and Indigenous peoples. Using the New Mexico DNA Project as a central case study, we will examine how Y-DNA and mitochondrial DNA can confirm, complicate, and challenge traditional research. Topics include Y-DNA Adam, Indigenous maternal haplogroups, the Spanish castas system, and colonial identity. We will consider the ethical and political implications of DNA testing and the limits of what genetic evidence can, and cannot, reveal about race and belonging.



YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Angelo Cervantes



Angelo Cervantes is an anthropological genetic genealogist and history researcher who has conducted archival work in Mexico and Spain. Cervantes teaches at the University of New Mexico and founded the Iberian Peninsula DNA Institute, offering DNA consulting and courses in anthropological genetics. He pioneered anthropological genetic genealogy through the creation of the New Mexico DNA Project, now a major Hispanic DNA database. He has appeared on PBS and frequently lectures on genetic genealogy in the US and Mexico.

WEDNESDAYS, September 30 through November 4

4:00pm to 5:30pm (PDT)

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, Sep. 30
- Wednesday, Oct. 07
- Wednesday, Oct. 14
- Wednesday, Oct. 21
- Wednesday, Oct. 28
- Wednesday, Nov. 4

To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634

Winning the White House: The Evolution of the Presidency

Harry S. Truman once described the presidency as “the most peculiar office in the world.” In this course, we will explore how the Founding Fathers left the office for future presidents to define, creating conditions for a dramatic expansion of executive power. We will examine how the presidency has come to dominate the three co-equal branches, with Congress and the Supreme Court at times ceding authority. We will consider how and why this shift occurred, how this peculiar office is won or lost, how they have exercised power, and how the rise of the administrative state has reshaped the balance envisioned by the framers.



[Click here to view course
promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: John White



John Kenneth White is a political scientist specializing in American political parties and the US presidency. White is the author of several books, including *The New Politics of Old Values*, *Still Seeing Red*, *Barack Obama's America*, *Grand Old Unraveling*, and *Democracy on the Edge*, co-authored with Matthew R. Kerbel. He taught at The Catholic University of America and writes a biweekly column for *The Hill*, a Washington, D.C. based publication covering the White House and Capitol Hill.

TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 29 THROUGH NOVEMBER 3

8:00am to 9:30am (PDT)

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, September 29
- Tuesday, October 6
- Tuesday, October 13
- Tuesday, October 20
- Tuesday, October 27
- Tuesday, November 3

To register: www.yc.edu/olli or 928-717-7634