**Great Cities of Latin America**

Stephen Clark  
Monday 10am-12pm  
9/14/15-10/19/15

This six-week course will journey to six great cities of Latin America, focusing on one city per class. Cities to be covered include Havana (Cuba), San Juan (Puerto Rico), Cartagena de Indias (Columbia), Panama City (Panama), Quito (Ecuador), and Antigua (Guatemala). Each class will highlight the people, history, architecture, art, food, culture, and unique attractions that make each of these cities unique and fascinating places to visit.

*Stephen Clark* received his Ph.D. from the University of Colorado with a dissertation on autobiographical writings of Cuban exiles. He has lived in Spain where he completed his master's degree. His publications include criticism, literary translations, interviews of major Cuban writers, and book reviews. He has taught at Northern Arizona University and Indiana State University. He enjoys teaching Latin American literature, literary translation, and Latin American culture and civilization.

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**“Sexy” Art of the Mannerist, Baroque, and Rococo Periods**

Laura Hagel  
Monday 1pm-3pm  
9/14/15-11/2/15

In exploring the themes of sexuality, gender and lovemaking in the Mannerist, Baroque and Rococo periods of European art history, this course will look at how males and females were typically depicted in art, what this says about their assumed roles in society and how images of sexuality and lovemaking functioned in each era. Erotic art is and has been one of the most popular subjects for artists; many modern websites and books feature sexually charged images. But many of them gloss over the true intent and purposes of these great works of art. In this class we will interpret the signs and symbols of erotic art, with discussions including the traditional gender roles for males and females.

*Laura Hagel*, MA in Art History from UCSB, is the Rights and Reproductions Officer at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. She was Program Manager for the “Art of Ancient Glass” exhibit showcasing the Gunter collection of vessels dating to the 6th century BCE. Her deep and abiding love of the arts of the ancient Mediterranean has motivated her to teach at Ventura College.

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**Not Wasted on the Young: Contemporary Novels with Juvenile Protagonists**

Shannon Diffner  
Tuesday 10am-12pm  
9/8/15-10/27/15

George Bernard Shaw famously wrote that “youth is wasted on the young.” We will put his theory to the test as we read and discuss four contemporary novels featuring young protagonists. On the first day of class, we’ll talk about the first half of *Charms for the Easy Life*, by Kaye Gibbons. Other books we’ll study include *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, by Mark Haddon; *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*, by Alan Bradley; and *Swamplandia!*, by Karen Russell. The characters’ angst, innocence, wisdom and humor are sure to stimulate passionate discussions with young-at-heart classmates.

*Shannon Diffner* holds a B.A. and an M.A. in Literature from San Francisco State University. She has worked in the entertainment industry for more than 20 years, has taught college-level English composition and literature, and has been an instructor for the OLLI program since 2005. She is co-owner of Scarlet Letters Copywriting, a small business specializing in writing for various marketing arenas.
Hamlet and the Invention of the Human  
Michael Teasdale  
Tuesday 1pm-3pm  
9/8/15-10/13/15

This six-week course will focus on Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*, taking two perspectives to explore the marvelous playwright’s work. First, we will examine the choices directors and actors make when approaching the play and developing the character. Second, using Harold Bloom’s book, *Shakespeare and the Invention of the Human*, as a basis, we will discuss how Shakespeare dug deeply into human character to discover the specificity of what it means to be human. In essence, we will look at Shakespeare not as literature or poetry but rather how Shakespeare, going beyond stereotypes, used the theatre to depict how humans react and struggle through tragic situations.

Michael Teasdale received a BA in Philosophy from University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a Certificate of Advanced Studies in International Economics from the Sorbonne, Paris. He directed theatre for 10 years in Europe, winning the prize for the best foreign language play at the Edinburgh Theatre Festival in 1984 for the *Voix Humaine* by Jean Cocteau. Michael has run his own consulting firm and speaks frequently about change and operational strategy at global conferences for the biopharmaceutical industry.

Explorers of the Amazon  
Maricarmen O’Hara  
Wednesday 10am-12pm  
9/9/15-9/30/15

This is a four-week course. In 1913, after barely surviving his famous exploration of the Amazon River, Teddy Roosevelt labeled it “The River of Darkness.” The Amazon River, one of the world’s largest and arguably the most dangerous, has been the scene of the most fantastic adventures in the history of exploration since its discovery almost 500 years ago. Illustrious explorers were Pedro Cabral, Francisco de Orellana, Loope de Aguirre, Pedro de Teixeira, Charles Marie de la Condamine, Monsieur and Madame Godin, Baron von Humboldt, and Percy Fawcett (whose life inspired Brad Pitt to star in a biopic), to name a few. The magnitude of its mystery and danger has attracted the attention of such filmmakers as John Boorman and Werner Herzog, whose 1982 film *Fitzcarraldo* will reviewed and discussed in this exciting course.

Maricarmen O’Hara earned her Ph.D. at the University of Washington. She taught Spanish and Italian language, literature, culture, and cinema at Ventura College from 1980 until 2005. She was Teacher of the Year in 1996 and 1997. A published author, she is currently finishing two novels and a play. She is an avid gardener and enjoys teaching latin dance aerobics and watching films from all over the world.

Exploring American Popular Music  
John Buonamassa  
Wednesday 2pm-4pm  
9/9/15-10/28/15

In this overview of American popular music, we will focus on music of the second half of the 20th century. The influence of blues, rock n’ roll, country and rhythm and blues on the mainstream will be discussed, as well as the cultural ramifications of these and other pop genres, with various musical examples and video clips presented throughout the course.

John Buonamassa received his BA in music from Queens College, City University of New York, and his Master of Music from California State University, Los Angeles. He is a lecturer at CSUN, teaching courses in music technology and recording, as well as courses in popular and classical music. John is active in the LA music scene as a performer, arranger, and composer.
Risks, Threats & Perception: What’s Really Going to Kill us in the 21st Century?
Brian Rasnow
Wednesday 4:30pm-6:30pm
9/9/15-10/14/15
This is a six-week course. Nuclear power, genetically modified organisms, cell phones and ISIS are examples of things that pose very low likelihoods of incredibly awful consequences. How might we compare these risks with others, such as financial crises, mega-storms, earthquakes? How can science, math, and psychology help us overcome innate “perceptual illusions” that make us fear some things more than others (and why do our brains make these mistakes in the first place)? This course will seek to improve our understanding of how and why we perceive various risks the way we do, who manipulates our perceptions, and what really are our biggest threats and how we might mitigate them.

Brian Rasnow received his Ph.D. in physics at Caltech. He is a lecturer in physics at CSU Channel Islands and a mentor, inventor, and consultant. He was a Principal Scientist in Research & Automation Technologies at Amgen, earning Amgen’s “Excellence in Science and Engineering” award. He co-founded a research instrument company. He is an amateur astronomer and photographer, competent in electronics and programming, an organic farmer and mentor of students from Caltech and other universities on numerous international development projects for the poor in Central America.

The Eisenhower Presidency
John Pendleton
Thursday 10am-12pm
9/10/15-10/29/15
Ranked by most surveys of American historians as one of the ten best presidents, Dwight Eisenhower served two terms of office, leaving an impressive legacy of social and economic progress and national security. The class will present an analysis of the chief executive known affectionately as Ike, taking a chronological approach that covers the 1952 to 1961 period. Highlights will include discussions of the 1952, 1956, and 1960 presidential elections; ending the war in Korea; responses to threats from McCarthyism, Communism, and a nuclear arms race with the Soviet Union; the civil rights movement and youth rebellions; the “new look” Air Force; the Interstate Highway system; the use of covert operations to conduct foreign policy; and the scope of what Ike termed the “military-industrial complex.”

John Pendleton, Ph.D., teaches History at CSU Channel Islands, Ventura College and in the Road Scholar and OLLI programs. Author of a textbook on popular culture, he is currently working on a study of American heroism and celebrity. He is a Director of Internet Research and a writer for an interactive educational course on American innovation.

The Extraordinary World of Fishes
Steven Norris
Thursday 1pm-3pm
9/10/15-10/29/15
There are an estimated 25,000 species of fishes known to science, with probably twice that number yet to be discovered. Fishes are highly varied in form and habitat. This course will survey the diversity of fishes (fossil and living), highlighting key and odd aspects of their biology, and notable (sometimes eccentric) humans who have studied them. The course does not require any special science background and will begin with a quick survey of some basic ecological and evolutionary thought.

Steven M. Norris, Ph.D., Arizona State University, has conducted ichthyological research (fish studies) in the USA, Africa and Europe. A Research Associate of the Fish Division of The University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology, he is an internationally recognized ichthyologist. Dr. Norris is currently an active faculty member at CSU Channel Islands.
Songs for Political Action: The American Folk Music Revival of the 1930’s through the 1950’s
Cary Ginell
Thursday 4:30pm-6:30pm
9/10/15-10/29/15

The American folk music movement began to flourish in the 1930’s, with its focus on social issues, fighting corporate greed and fascism, political causes, and promoting labor unions. Singers such as Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, The Weavers, and Paul Robeson were its most visible figures, recording a myriad of songs - many of which were based on easily remembered folk melodies - mostly for small, independent labels in New York and Los Angeles. Many of these performers were caught in the anti-communist furor of the late 1940’s and early 1950’s. This course will examine the roots of the folk music movement and play and discuss rare recordings that were used in their idealistic causes.

Cary Ginell holds a master’s degree in Folklore from UCLA. He is an award-winning writer and the author of six books on music history. He is a jazz historian and discographer, a Grammy nominee, and five-time winner of an Association for Recorded Sounds Collection (ARSC) Award for Excellence. He is also a recipient of the prestigious ASCAP Deems Taylor Award.

And the Oscar Goes to…. Academy Award Winners
Bob Koster
Friday 10am-12pm
9/11/15-10/30/15

Ever since 1928, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has handed out yearly awards, known affectionately as “Oscars.” These have been nominally awarded for the “Best” film, director, actor, etc. We will see a selection of “Best” films and discuss what makes them better than any other film made in that particular year. Is it the artistic value, the emotional value, the propaganda value or “best” directing? Discussion will consider what constitutes the “Best” of any particular craft plus the comparing and contrasting of films across all decades of production.

Bob Koster has over 40 years of experience in film and TV production. He has taught production at UCLA, USC, Art Center College, the American Film Institute (AFI), and lectured here and abroad, concentrating on early history of film and television. He authored three books on film production, and worked in the archive department of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.
**China’s Socialist Market Economy**
Priscilla Liang  
Friday 1pm-3pm  
9/11/15-10/16/15

This is a six-week course. Since Deng Xiaoping launched the Socialist Market Economy in 1978, China has implemented waves of market-driven reforms and today stands as the world’s second largest economy. This course will introduce Chinese economic development and focus on challenges China is facing today, including Hukou reform, income inequality, the housing bubble, an aging population, pollution, urbanization, and U.S.-China relations.

*Priscilla Liang* has an MBA in Finance and received her Ph.D. in Financial Economics from Claremont Graduate University. She is an Associate Professor in the Martin V. Smith School of Business and Economics at CSU Channel Islands. Dr. Liang's research focuses on behavioral finance and international finance, in particular the development of emerging financial markets and global portfolio management.

**Recent American History, 1945-1974**
Clifford Wilcox  
Saturday 10am-12pm  
9/12/15-11/17/15

This course will examine recent American history from 1945-1974, focusing particularly on political, cultural and economic developments. During these years, the dominant outlook in American society shifted from confident New Deal liberalism to a distinctly skeptical conservatism. Accompanying this shift was a movement from a shared sense of high expectations and optimism to one of decidedly diminished expectations bordering on cynicism. This period also saw high creativity in art, science, literature, and music. This course will examine the factors that drove such profound change during the three decades following World War II. The course will meet eight times during the dates listed above.

*Clifford Wilcox, Ph.D.*, received his Ph.D. in American Intellectual History from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He focuses on the history of ideas and education in American society. An OLLI instructor since 2011, Cliff teaches courses on American culture and the history of American colleges and universities.

**Italian Composers: Between Tradition and Innovation**
Barbara Moroncini  
Saturday 1pm-3pm  
9/12/15-10/31/15

Against the backdrop of monasteries and courts, Italy during the Renaissance gave birth to opera. Since then, the legacy of tradition has clashed with the vigor of innovation, often resulting in original musical synthesis. In this course we explore the works of major composers, starting with the experiments of the medieval Trcventisti, through the developments of the operatic medium, to the socio-historically-aware composition of Luciano Berio and his contemporaries.

*Barbara Moroncini* received a Ph.D. in Musicology from UCLA in 2008. Barbara authored liner notes for the German music label Wergo as well as program notes for the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Hollywood Bowl, for which she also gave pre-concert lectures. She taught Contemporary Music Studies at Victoria University’s New Zealand School of Music in Wellington where she designed courses for the academic curriculum and was director of the Post-Graduate Forum. Back in Los Angeles, Barbara has happily returned to composing, focusing on electronic media. Barbara also teaches music theory and music history classes for OLLI at UCLA.
Transcendence And Where It Leads…
Vincent Coppola
Monday 10am-12pm
9/14/15-11/2/15

In this course, we address metaphysics, super metaphysics, and the fourth question of philosophy, namely, what is the source of all this? Or to put it in the vernacular, what is God? What does consciousness come to in this matter, from existence and existence alone? Is it really something that has never been conceived before as was suggested by one lone presence long ago? Come and find out!

Vincent Coppola teaches philosophy, comparative religion, and cinema at CSUN. He is a member of the Writers Guild of America and Broadcast Music, Inc. He is the author of A Human Venture: To Establish a Purely Human Spirituality and a Way to the Mysterious More for Our Times. His new book, Search (A search for the christic coming out of existence itself) will be published later this year.

How the Mental Health System Works (or doesn’t)
John Snibbe
Monday 2pm-4pm
9/14/15-10/19/15

In this six-week course, we will review the history of mental health care in the United States, tracing the progression from an institutional patient care model to “deinstitutionalization” and community-based mental health care programs. We will discuss the impact on communities, civil commitment laws, and patients’ rights. We will explore modern advances including drug treatment, education, insurance mandates, the courts and services and how these treatments and services are funded, as well as how the system has been mismanaged and politicized. Expert guest speakers will be part of the conversation.

John Snibbe, Ph.D., has been a clinical psychologist for over forty years. He worked in the Psychiatric Emergency room at LAC/USC Medical Center, for Kaiser Permanente in their psychiatric facility, LAPD and the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, Psychiatric Mobile Response teams, and special sensitive projects for the Board of Supervisors. He has authored or edited three books and published many papers. He specializes in treating psychological trauma and disaster response as well as management of the seriously mentally ill. He has held past faculty positions at the USC and UCLA Schools of Medicine and is currently an instructor at the UCLA OLLI.

Introduction to Mindfulness
Holly Sacks
Wednesday 10am-12pm
9/9/15-10/14/15

This is a six-week course. It has been on the cover of Time magazine, featured by Anderson Cooper on 60 Minutes, written about in Harvard Business Review, The New Yorker, Forbes, and Scientific American. It is the basis for innovative training programs at Google, Aetna, Intel, the Department of Defense, and UMASS Medical Center. So what is it? What is mindfulness? What does it mean? Where did it come from? How has it evolved? How does it work? How is it practiced? Where is it used? This class will explore these questions and provide practical knowledge of mindful awareness practices.

Holly Sacks received her BA in anthropology from UC Berkeley in 1970. After a long career as a senior marketing and strategy executive in multinational high tech companies, she completed the Certificate in Mindfulness Facilitation (CMF) certification program at UCLA’s Mindful Awareness Research Center in 2014.
In this course, we will study William Faulkner’s novel *Light in August*, where the author explores theses of race, sex, class and religion in the American South in his own imaginary Yoknapatawpha County. In this text, we will find that Faulkner uses Plato’s parable of the cave in representing the patriarchal ideology that drives the action of the story. We will also read excerpts from *Faulkner in the University*, a record of Faulkner’s conferences while Writer-in-Residence at the University of Virginia, one of the few reliable sourcebooks available of Faulkner’s views on literature and art.

*Marilyn I. Vail, Ph.D.*, earned her doctorate from Cornell University in French Literature, M.A. from Middlebury Graduate School of French in Paris, and B.A. in French and Spanish literature from the University of North Carolina. She has taught at Cornell University, Cazenovia College in upstate New York, Moorpark College, and Mount St. Mary’s College in Los Angeles.

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The Black Sea has recently emerged from relative obscurity to become one of the flashpoints of world politics. This is no surprise to students of ancient history. This course will examine the history, culture and archaeology of the Black Sea region from the Bronze Age until the Crimean War, exploring such civilizations as the Scythians, Ionian Greek and medieval Italian colonies, as well as the flowering and ultimate decline of the Byzantine, Ottoman and Russian empires. This overview will be presented from the perspective of one of America’s leading field archaeologists in the region.

**Owen Doonan** received his Ph.D. at Brown University’s Center for Old World Archaeology and Art. He is an archaeologist and art historian specializing in the ancient cultures of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. He is an associate professor at CSUN. He is active in the Archaeological Institute of America, serving from 2007-2010 as the President of the Los Angeles County Society. He is involved in contemporary art of the Middle East, especially North Africa and Turkey. He is Curator of Exhibitions and co-founder of the New Sahara Gallery in Northridge. His research has been supported by the National Geographic Society and other Foundations.

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Trace the changing compositional styles of the passionate Beethoven and how he led the way into the Romantic Period. His instrumental works such as piano, violin and cello sonatas, piano trios, string quartets, overtures, and several symphonies including the *Symphony No. 9*, will be studied in part and in whole. Included also will be his opera *Fidelio* and the mighty *Missa Solemnis*. Attendance at two concerts with the Los Angeles Philharmonic will be offered and arranged for students interested.

**James Stemen**, MM in Music Education and MSM in Sacred Music from Southern Methodist University, is Professor Emeritus of Music at Moorpark College. For 38 years he taught music history, voice, music appreciation and conducting. For 30 years he was the conductor of Los Robles Master Chorale.
Ventura Adult and Continuing Education (VACE)

**Native American History and Culture**
Jeanne Miller
Wednesday 1pm-3pm
9/9/15-10/28/15

This course will survey Native American Indian culture and history from its origins to the present, with an emphasis on the period of 1607-1890. The seven Native American Indian cultures will be introduced, with special emphasis on California and Chumash history and culture. The wide range of topics to be covered will include Native American myths and art, Native American efforts to oppose the colonizing forces they faced, and current issues such as gaming.

Jeanne Miller received her BA and MA from UCSB. She has taught Native American history, history of American women, and US history at Ventura Community College. She won the Ventura County Women's History Project Award for outstanding contribution in the field of education in 1991.

**The Amazing Alfred Hitchcock**
Matthew Weisman
Friday 1pm-3pm
9/11/15-10/30/15

Decades after his death, Alfred Hitchcock remains the most famous movie director of all time. Simultaneously dismissed as a glib entertainer and hailed as a great artist even during his lifetime, Hitchcock is steeped in controversy. His career can be divided into four eras: his British years (1922-1939); Hollywood in the 1940's; his Golden Age (the 1950's); and Late Hitchcock (1960-1975). This course will cover the director's impressive run of films in the 1940's, during which Hitchcock was mostly under contract to David O. Selznick. The history of these men reveals many of the complex and contentious practices of Hollywood's last great studio era and is the story of how Hitchcock, fiercely dedicated to personal success, managed to continually innovate, experiment and push the envelope of commercial movie making.

Matthew Weisman received his MFA in Film from Columbia University School of the Arts. He is a professional screenwriter and producer and a retired member of The Writers Guild of America. He is a devotee of world cinema as well as movies in popular culture. He taught classes in Cinema Studies and directed the Cinematheque film program. A professional screenwriter and producer, he taught graduate screenwriting at the USC School of Cinema for fifteen years. He looks forward to sharing these lifelong passions at OLLI.

**Ventura College ELC1**

**Using Diplomacy in a Turbulent World**
Carolyn Dorrance
Tuesday 1pm-3pm
9/29/15-11/3/15

In this six-week course, the theory and practice of diplomacy will be examined using historical and contemporary examples. The challenges of using diplomacy to resolve conflicts, prevent or end wars, establish civil peace and improve economic and environmental conditions will be analyzed. Topics include the problems of the nation-state system, arms control agreements, responses to conflicts in the Middle East including Israeli-
Palestinian negotiations, human rights protections, free trade agreements, environmental protocols, mediation of civil wars and United Nations’ treaties and interventions. The impact of technology and the stresses of modernization will be considered as challenges to effective diplomacy. Discussion will focus on the evaluation of diplomacy in a turbulent world where interdependence is experienced through instant media reports. Please note this course begins a few weeks later than most.

Carolyn Dorrance, Ph.D., teaches courses in history, political science and philosophy at Oxnard College. The challenge of applying political ideas in practical politics and fulfilling the ideals of effective citizenship has long been a focus in her teaching. She engages in the public dialogue at the Institute of World Culture (Santa Barbara) as President and Program Coordinator.

Four First Ladies
John Pendleton
Tuesday 3:30pm-5:30pm
9/8/15-10/27/15

Four women raised in Republican families married registered Democrats who became Presidents of the United States. Each of the four proved to be capable, influential, and powerful assets to their husbands. Eleanor Roosevelt, Jacqueline Kennedy, Nancy Reagan, and Hillary Clinton demonstrated strengths in many of the varied roles of the unofficial position of First Lady: representative of the president; researcher and writer; goodwill ambassador; confidante and protector of the president; spokesperson for causes; campaigner; political liaison and adviser; White House curator; taste and fashion setter; role model; and hostess. This course analyzes the individual skills and achievements of four remarkable women who helped shape the course of American presidencies.

John Pendleton, Ph.D., teaches History at CSU Channel Islands, Ventura College and in the Road Scholar and OLLI programs. Author of a textbook on popular culture, he is currently working on a study of American heroism and celebrity. He is a Director of Internet Research and a writer for an interactive educational course on American innovation.

From The Great Train Robbery to Django Unchained – A Cultural History of the Hollywood Western
Bruce Collins
Wednesday 1pm-3pm
9/9/15-10/28/15

The first movie with a story was The Great Train Robbery, a western. Ever since, the genre has undergone startling changes reflecting the society it entertains. Using clips from a panorama of westerns, we will examine the genre itself and what it reflects about America, tracing directors like John Ford and Sam Peckinpah and actors, including John Wayne, Randolph Scott, among others, who created the West that continues in our imaginations.

Bruce Collins received his MA in English from CSU Fullerton. He taught English for 26 years at Ventura College as well as over 250 courses for Road Scholar. He began teaching for OLLI in 2007, teaching courses in American pop music, the musical, and film. He draws material from his library of more than 2500 CDs & DVDs. He is also a poet.
Tennessee Williams: The Man, The Stories and the Times
Kathleen Booth
Thursday 1pm-3pm
9/10/15-10/29/15
Called America’s most unique playwright, Tennessee Williams gave the world two Pulitzer Prize-winning plays: *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, plus the touching and tragic *The Glass Menagerie*. We’ll read these three plays and see the movie versions as we explore his most searing characters - vulnerable Blanche Dubois and brutish Stanley, domineering Big Daddy, confused Brick, passionate Maggie the Cat, child-like Laura, conflicted brother Tom, and desperate mother Amanda. We’ll examine what helped and hindered the playwright’s creativity using Williams’ memoirs, video interviews and comments from family, friends and critics.

Kathleen Booth has a BS in English, Speech and Theater from Kent State University augmented by an MBA education in Organizational Development and Marketing from Case Western Reserve University. She currently manages IMAGINE Consulting. Previously, Kathleen was the Director of Organizational Effectiveness at Warner Bros., National Managing Principal Consultant at Oracle, Continuous Measurable Improvement Consultant at Hughes Electronics, and Corporate Vice President at Security Pacific Bank. Soroptimist International of Oxnard recently honored her with their “Women Making a Difference” Award.

Studio Channel Islands Art Center

An Art Education
Friday 10am-12pm
9/11/15-10/30/15
Join us each week as we get inside a different artist's brain and learn about his or her process of creating, visualizing and appreciating art. Eight Studio Channel Island Art Center artists will share their knowledge about painting in oil and watercolor, Chinese art, collage and assemblage, ceramics, fused glass and fiber arts. Through a combination of lecture, demonstration and interactive dialog, participants will learn about a variety of art mediums, techniques and styles. Instructors are Karen Browdy, Frances Elson, Maggie Kildee, Mary-Gail King, Dan LaVigne, Christine Leong, Michael Rohde and Sylvia Torres. Bios for each instructor will be available on the first day of class.

Leisure Village – Garden Room

The Heritage of the American Songbook
Saul Jacobs/Bob Lipson
Tuesday 9:30-11am
9/8, 9/29, 10/6, 10/13, 10/27 and 11/3/15
This six-week multimedia course uses lectures, live piano artistry, videos, photos, and sing-along’s to bring alive the music that is at the root of the American songbook. Meet the pioneers of Tin Pan Alley, the birthplace of so many songs we know and love. Discover where American popular songs came from – it may have been England, Germany, Armenia, Russia, the Caribbean, or elsewhere. Hear how pieces by Chopin, Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Liszt, and other classical masterworks entered the mainstream of American popular music. Delight in the rebirth of spirituals and work songs into blues and jazz as performed by Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and other greats.
Saul H. Jacobs matches up a professional career as an informational and documentary media writer and producer with experience as a lecturer on informational research and writing at UCLA Extension and CSU Northridge, skills as a performer, an academic background in theater arts, and a lifelong interest in popular music and the musical theater to develop, produce, and present these classes. Bob Lipson, his musical colleague and friend for 62 years, is one of the area's outstanding interpreters of the great American standards. He augments Saul's lectures with his piano artistry and his own insights on musical composition and styles and popular music's contributions to our culture.

Little House of Ojai

Edible and Medicinal Plants of Ventura County
Lanny Kaufer
Friday 10am-12pm
9/11/15-10/23/15
This is a six-week class. There is a tremendous diversity of edible and medicinal plants to be found in the mountains, canyons, rivers, and valleys of Ventura County. An entertaining slideshow tour will “walk” participants through the various ecological communities from the Coastal Strand of Ventura and Oxnard, through the Chaparral of Ojai and Sespe Creek, to the Yellow Pine Forest of Pine Mountain. The characteristic plant families of those zones that have been used for centuries by traditional Chumash and modern foragers alike for food and medicine will be identified and described in this fascinating class. The course will meet six times during the dates listed above.

Lanny Kaufer graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a degree in Biology. He is a retired high school teacher who leads interpretive native plant “herb walks” and nature hikes on Ojai, Ventura, and Santa Barbara trails for groups of all ages. He acquired much of his knowledge in field study with well-known herbalists and ethno-botanists. He studied with the late William LeSassier and has co-led workshops, field classes, and expeditions with noted herbalists.

Ovid’s Metamorphoses: Myths of Change
Jinny Webber
Friday 1pm-3pm
9/11/15-10/30/15
The Roman poet Ovid collected Greek myths of transformation in his Metamorphoses. A kind of handbook of mythology, it figured large in Renaissance art, literature, and music. Reputedly Shakespeare’s favorite book, the Metamorphoses offered the writer many plot twists and references. Later, some of the stories figure in the psychology of Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung. The recent prize-winning translation of the Metamorphoses by Charles Martin brings these myths newly to life for the modern era. Ted Hughes’ Tales from Ovid is a useful supplement to class discussions of the original text, its influences and significance.

Jeannette (Jinny) Webber, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, Santa Barbara City College, spends a great deal of time in England researching her historical fiction which is set in Shakespeare's England and examines gender roles in his plays and in Elizabethan society. The first two volumes, The Secret Player and Dark Venus, have been published; Bedtrick is due out in 2015. Besides her love of British literature, Jinny is fascinated by the ancient Mediterranean world and its mythology.