OLLI Winter 2015 Course Descriptions

The Search for the Holy Coming out of Existence Itself…(Part II)
This continuing course will delve deeper into the four basic questions of existence: 1) who am I; 2) what is the really real; 3) how do I act in the face of the world; and 4) what is the source of all this? We will examine if there is anything holy coming out of existence. Simply put, is there meaning in and to being human?
Vincent Coppola
Monday 10am-12pm, 1/12-3/9/15
CSU Channel Islands Broome Library 2325
Course# 3969

What is it About Seville?
The beautiful capital of Andalucia provides the exotic and romantic backdrop for a number of Opera classics. Come experience Mozart’s Don Giovanni and the Marriage of Figaro (one of his best), Beethoven’s only opera Fidelio, and Rossini’s Barber of Seville.
Steve Kohn
Monday 1pm-3pm, 1/12-3/9/15
CSU Channel Islands Broome Library 2325
Course# 3945

Sense and Sensibility: Donatello and Sculpture in the Early Renaissance
Donatello was the foremost sculptor of the early Renaissance. In this four-week course, we will examine Donatello’s creative intentions in the context of the 15th century Italian world in which he lived. We will compare his body of work to that of his contemporaries including Nanni di Banco, Brunelleschi, and Ghiberti, among others. From the sensuous rendering of his bronze David to the haunting spirituality of his wood Mary Magdalene, Donatello’s work is sure to inspire and delight students of all sensibilities.
Peggy Tranovich
Tuesday 10am-12pm, 1/13-2/3/15
CSU Channel Islands Broome Library 2325
Course# 3946

Science and Art Integration
The relationship between science and art is continually evolving. This four-week course will address the integration of these two disciplines, both globally and locally, presenting arts that used sciences as a primary source for artistic information, inspiration, and conceptualization. We will review the history of art advanced by science, and be introduced to sciences that are established based on art, revealing their impact on our lives.
BiJian (BJ) Fan
Tuesday 10am-12pm, 2/10-3/3/15
CSU Channel Islands Broome Library 2325
Course# 3947

The Films of Henry Koster – A Memoir
Henry Koster was a film director in pre-World War II Germany to the mid-1960’s in Hollywood. Among his acclaimed films were “Harvey,” “The Bishop’s Wife,” “Flower Drum Song,” and the original Deanna Durbin films of the 1930s. Join his son Bob in recounting Henry Koster’s film career, via taped memoirs in his own voice, viewing some of the films he directed, and learning the behind-the-scenes challenges of movie production.
Bob Koster
Tuesday 1pm-3pm, 1/13-3/3/15
CSU Channel Islands Broome Library 2325
Course# 3948

**Storytelling in the Contemporary Novel**

How do we tell stories? This class will examine this question through the study of four contemporary titles. We will begin with Anna Quindlen’s exquisite traditional novel *Still Life with Bread Crumbs*, discussing the first half of our first class meeting. From there we will move on to Ann Leary’s endearing but unreliable narrator in *The Good House*. Our third book will be the Pulitzer Prize-winning *A Visit from the Good Squad*, by Jennifer Egan, which has been described as “UNCATEGORIZABLE”. Our final tome will be Kate Atkinson’s *Life After Life*, the bestseller that, as the *New York Times* writes, “violates[s] one of the most basic contracts a writer makes with the reader: the promise that what happens to the characters actually does… happen to the characters.”

**Shannon Diffner**

**Wednesday 10am-12pm, 1/14-3/4/15**

**CSU Channel Islands Broome Library 2325**

Course# 3949

**American Environmental History**

An exploration of American ideas, attitudes, and values concerning the natural and human environment and how these patterns of thought have been expressed in the decisions and actions that have shaped our physical world and influenced our class. The course will analyze early sources of environmental thinking in religion, culture, practical experience, and political-economic considerations and conduct. The main focus of our study will be an examination of the emergence of ecological awareness and the development of conservation and preservation movements, scientific environmental planning, new directions in public policy, and transformations of individual behavior and lifestyles. The ideas and work of George Perkins Marsh, Frederick Law Olmsted, Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, Theodore Roosevelt, Stephen T. Mather, Aldo Leopold, Rexford Tugwell, Rachel Carson, and David Brower will receive special attention.

**John Pendleton**

**Wednesday 1pm-3pm, 1/14-3/4/15**

**CSU Channel Islands Broome Library 2325**

Course# 3950

**Language and Culture: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology**

This course takes a distinctly anthropological approach to the study of human language, examining the ways in which language shapes social life and investigating the relations between human biology, cognition, and language. We will investigate how language use forms patterns of communication, conveys categories of social identity and group membership, and influences cultural beliefs and ideologies. Topics explored are wide ranging and include bilingualism, creole languages, dialects and accents, digital communication, endangered languages, ethnolinguistics, gender and language, historical linguistics, human evolution and language, language acquisition in children and adults, language and ethnicity, language and political power, lingua francas, metonymies and metaphors, morphology and syntax, non-verbal communication, performativity, phonetics and phonology, semantics and pragmatics, signed languages, speech communities, and more.

**Matthew Curtis**

**Thursday 9:30am-11:30am, 1/15-3/5/15**

**CSU Channel Islands Broome Library 2325**

Course# 3951

**America’s Sound - A History of Country Music**

This course will examine the roots and development of country music from the 1920s through the 1960s. It will show where the music came from, who its chief performers were, and show the impact of popular culture on its development. The course will be structured in generic segments dealing with the following individual themes:
Early Pioneers, Western Swing, the Cowboy & Western Influence, Honky-Tonk, Nashville, Rockabilly, the Nashville Sound, and the West Coast Sound.

Cary Ginell
Thursday 1pm-3pm, 1/15-3/5/15
CSU Channel Islands Broome Library 2325
Course# 3952

 Presidential Problems – Fact vs. Fantasy
The President of the United States faces many problems unique to the office. As Commander & Chief (s)he worries about waging war and countering terrorism. As Chief Executive, (s)he must ensure energy security and abundant, safe food and water. (S)he wants to protect the population from epidemics and to leave the planet better for future generations. (S)he has to assess how new technologies may require federal regulations. In this course, we will examine some science that a President must understand to make knowledgeable decisions in an ever-changing technical world – particularly for the unique problems (s)he faces. To quote President Lyndon B. Johnson, “A President’s hardest task is not to do what is right, but to know what is right.”
Jerry Clifford
Friday 10am-12pm, 1/16-3/6/15
CSU Channel Islands Broome Library 2325
Course# 3953

 Thomas Piketty and Escalating Inequality,
Thomas Piketty’s book, “Capital and the 21st Century” has been hailed as a transformational work by economist Paul Krugman, debunking myths economists have held about economics, capitalism and inequality for 50 years. This four-week course will acquaint the participants with what has been called the least read best seller and Piketty’s key concepts about growing wealth, income inequality and its impact on today’s society, the quality of our lives and our democracy. The course will bring the concepts of this ground breaking work to life through discussion, films (including the work of Robert Reich) and its application to current challenges.
Michael Teasdale
Friday 1pm-3pm, 1/16-2/6/15
CSU Channel Islands Broome Library 2325
Course# 3971

 Tapestries: A Life’s Journey
Poetry, from the ancient Greek for “I create,” is an art form that predates literacy. Our four-week course will cover the oral basis of poetry, some of the great poetic works, and the “New Criticism” theory of poetry reading and its impacts. Join in word play, in-class activities, and hear from guests on what has influenced their poetry.
Mary Kay Rummel
Friday 1pm-3pm, 2/13-3/6/15
CSU Channel Islands Broome Library 2325
Course# 3954

 Psychology Hash
“Hash: to chop into small pieces; to talk about.”
Rather than present information specific to one field of psychology, this course draws from a mix of psychological topics, with each topic introduced with a video presentation and followed by class discussion. Psychological topics may include, but not be limited to: inattentional blindness, brain-behavior connections, domestic abuse, empathy, happiness, illusions, memory, mirror neurons, obedience, prejudice, sexual selection, and time perception. The number of topics per class session will be determined in part by the length of the
introductory video presentations and by the length of our topic-associated discussions. Come and join in as we hash the psychological hash!

Mark Rafter
Tuesday 10am-11:50am, 1/13-3/3/15
Thousand Oaks Campus
Course# 3955

From Rembrandt to Betty White: Visual Media and Aging
Did Rembrandt invent the Selfie? This interactive six-week course will begin with an introduction to the study of how aging is portrayed in visual media. Basic questions include: How is biological, psychological, and spiritual aging portrayed through visual means? How is the aging of visual artists reflected in their work? How do these images impact us and the public’s attitudes towards aging and older people? Discussions of aging issues can promote intergenerational understanding, reduce ageism, motivate collective action, inspire individuals and interest groups, and contribute to the national discourse and parlance. Topics covered include aging in fine art, aged figures in the public discourse, aging on television, aging in digital and print media and advertising, and aging on film.
Caroline Cicero
Tuesday 12pm-2pm, 1/13-2/17/15
Thousand Oaks Campus
Course# 4037

The Police: What Life on the Street is Really Like
Law enforcement officers are responsible for protecting the public, preventing and investigating crime, and apprehending criminals. Sounds great on paper, but what does it really entail? This four-week course will present a true picture of police work including police culture, the “real” job, its dangers, and the psychological toll it can take. We will discuss special populations the police come in contact with (including the homeless and mentally ill), specialty units and how they function, and use of the force issues (including the public versus police perceptions, shootings, and whether an armed citizenry is a good idea).
John Snibbe
Thursday 10am-12pm, 1/15-2/5/15
Thousand Oaks Campus
Course# 3972

Life is a Dream: an Introduction to Spanish Literature
This course will study two short plays and a novel that take us into a world of dreams, symbols, metaphor and ritual where the Spanish imagination confronts the reality of human experience. Life is a Dream (1636) by Pedro Calderón de la Barca, written in the Golden Age of Spanish literature, addresses illusion, predestination and free will; Blood Wedding (1933), by Federico García Lorca, is based on a newspaper fragment telling of a family vendetta and a bride who runs off with the son of the enemy family on the day of her wedding; and the novel Soldiers of Salamis (2001) by Javier Cercas, a “true tale,” addresses the “reality” of fiction and the historical truth of the Spanish Civil War.
Marilyn Vail
Thursday 1pm-3pm, 1/15-3/5/15
Thousand Oaks Campus
Course# 3957

Key Controversies in American History
This six-week course will examine key controversial events in American history and explore the leading arguments and interpretations that continue to surround them. Events to be examined include Columbus's voyages to the Americas, the construction and celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday, the founding fathers and
The role of religion in American society, the causes and continuing legacies of the Civil War, the causes of and responses to the Great Depression, and the United States and the Holocaust. The course will be taught using a collection of brief readings, lectures, and group discussion.

Clifford Wilcox
Saturday 10am-12pm, 1/17-2/21/15
Thousand Oaks Campus
Course# 3958

The Romanesque Revolution: The Revival of Monumental Building Traditions in the West
After the fall of the Roman Empire in the West, monumental building practices essentially ground to a halt for nearly 500 years. This period of time, often referred to as the “Dark Ages,” is really better described as the Migration Period, as Europe was given over to a largely nomadic population whose lifestyle did not require permanent forms of architecture. It was not until Charlemagne and the Carolingian Renaissance that large scale building projects would begin to take place once more. These building endeavors would continue on into the Romanesque era, reaching a fever pitch during the construction of the Romanesque Pilgrimage churches, and then hit their zenith in the soaring cathedrals of the Gothic Era.

Christine Bolli
Wednesday 1pm-3pm, 1/14-3/4/15
V.A.C.E.
Course# 3960

Once Upon a Time…How Fables and Fairy Tales Enrich Our Lives
Our very earliest exposure to fantasy and storytelling was probably listening to a fable or fairy tale. These stories have become a vital part not only of our childhood, but also of our culture, family traditions, and rites of passage. Why do we use them daily as “shorthand” when we talk about “waiting for Prince Charming,” or “crying wolf?” This course will explore how these stories have been loved, reviled, retold, and retooled for centuries around the world and how their universal themes have been used as moral lessons, bedtime stories, movies, plays, songs, political cartoons, psychological studies and internet headlines. So “Wake up Sleeping Beauty!” It’s time to take a new look at the “Emperor’s New Clothes” before Chicken Little warns us that “the sky is falling!”

Kathleen Booth
Friday 1pm-3pm, 1/16-3/6/15
V.A.C.E.
Course# 3961

The Rise and Fall of Presidential Power
This course will explore how Presidential power has been developed and used to accomplish the political goals of various Presidents within the framework of United States governmental institutions and political values. The impact of Constitutional prerogatives, precedents, democratic values, public opinion, reform movements, interest groups, money, the media and global events on Presidential successes and failures will be analyzed. Historical as well as contemporary examples of Presidential initiatives in public policy will be used to show how Presidents set their priorities and pursue their goals. Personality and leadership styles will be contrasted. The role of Congress and the Supreme Court in limiting or expanding the power of the President will be discussed. The influence of external circumstances such as war, economic depression, social conditions and the current war on terrorism on Presidential power will be evaluated. Student recommendations for improving the quality and success of Presidential leadership will be invited.

Carolyn Dorrance
Monday 1-3pm, 1/12-3/16/15
Demystifying DNA
Have you wondered what all the talk and interest in DNA is about? This course is intended to enable the non-scientist to understand this fascinating topic with a minimum of technical jargon and details. The goal is to address and answer three broad questions: (1) What is DNA? (2) What does it do? and (3) Why is it important? To put this information in proper context, we will begin by considering some of the underlying principles of biology and chemistry in order to create a framework into which concepts of DNA can be integrated.

Robert Stellwagen
Tuesday 1pm-3pm, 1/13-3/3/15

Movie Musical Memories
This informative and entertaining multi-media four-week course combines lecture by writer-performer Saul H. Jacobs, live music by master pianist of The American Songbook Bob Lipson, videos, vivid photographs, and lively sing-alongs from the glory days of movie musicals. You’ll see, hear, and learn about dancing masters Astaire and Rogers, singing sweethearts Eddy and MacDonald, the brilliant Judy Garland, and other silver screen stars, great movie themes and their composers, the songwriters who first made movies sing in the first decade after sound was invented, and the songs that we all remember from Walt Disney’s movies, TV shows, and theme parks.

Saul H. Jacobs and Bob Lipson
Wednesday 1pm-3pm, 1/14-2/4/15

Language and Culture: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology
This course takes a distinctly anthropological approach to the study of human language, examining the ways in which language shapes social life and investigating the relations between human biology, cognition, and language. We will investigate how language use forms patterns of communication, conveys categories of social identity and group membership, and influences cultural beliefs and ideologies. Topics explored are wide ranging and include bilingualism, creole languages, dialects and accents, digital communication, endangered languages, ethnolinguistics, gender and language, historical linguistics, human evolution and language, language acquisition in children and adults, language and ethnicity, language and political power, lingua
francas, metonymies and metaphors, morphology and syntax, non-verbal communication, performativity, phonetics and phonology, semantics and pragmatics, signed languages, speech communities, and more.

Matthew Curtis
Thursday 3:30pm-5:30pm, 1/15-3/5/15
Ventura College – Guthrie Hall
Course# 3965

Atheism: Examination of an Idea
How have human cultures across time and space expressed their views about the nature of reality in other than theistic ways? How have these ideas been formulated, and what have been some of their social as well as political implications and consequences? This course will consider these questions in relationship to the ideas of some of the world’s most famous “atheists.”

Bill Garlington
Friday 10am-12pm, 1/16-3/6/15
Little House in Ojai
Course# 3966

Shakespeare: King Lear and The Winter’s Tale, Jinny Webber
Two brilliant plays from Shakespeare’s later career relate to hard lessons learned late in life. In King Lear, Lear’s blind egotism makes him misjudge his daughters with tragic consequences, echoed in the similar misjudgment made by Lear’s friend the Earl of Gloucester about his sons. In The Winter’s Tale, Leontes’ unfounded jealousy has terrible consequences. Although Winter’s Tale depicts loss, it ends with redemption: it is one of Shakespeare’s ‘late romances.’ This is a discussion-based course; please bring copies of the plays to class and read the assignment at home before each class. Any Shakespeare text or anthology is fine. If you are buying paperbacks, the Folger / Washington Square editions are good.

Jinny Webber
Friday 1pm-3pm, 1/16-3/6/15
Little House in Ojai
Course# 3967

An Art Education
Get inside an artist’s brain and learn about the process of creating, visualizing and appreciating art. Eight Studio Channel Islands Art Center artists will share their knowledge about Sculpture, Creative Photography, Paper Art and Science, Encaustic Painting & Mixed Media, Weaving, the Palette in Oil Painting, Intuitive Interaction with Art, and Art Appreciation. Through a combination of lecture, demonstration and interactive dialog, participants will learn about a variety of art mediums, techniques and styles. Instructors will include Delesprie, BiJian Fan, David Gallup, Deborah Jarchow, Susan Lasch Krevitt, Arlene Mead, Barbara Pickles, and Peggy Pownal.

Various Instructors
Friday 10am-12pm, 1/16-3/6/15
Channel Islands Art Center, Camarillo
Course# 3968