

OSHER
LIFELONG
LEARNING
INSTITUTE

at CSU Channel Islands

OLLI is the Joy of Learning

Spring I 2025

Registration Opens:

January 6th

Session Dates:

January 21st - March 7th



**California State
University**

**C H A N N E L
I S L A N D S**



(805) 437-2748



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code to find out
more!



Dear OLLI Lifelong Learners,

Happy New Year! As we welcome 2025, we are excited to begin our Spring Session.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to share plans for our future, including a new Learning Lab in Gateway Hall. This innovative space will enhance your learning experience with cutting-edge technology and a flexible learning environment, paving the way for OLLI's next chapter.

Starting in Spring II, we will also be offering additional Zoom courses through Osher Online, a program run by the Osher National Resource Center. Osher Online partners with OLLI programs around the country to provide an exciting selection of online courses that supplement and complement each OLLI's in-house offerings. We are excited to expand our curriculum through this partnership, which will provide you with even more opportunities to engage in enriching courses and connect with members from other OLLIs.

Thank you to our donors and volunteers, whose generous support and dedication have made OLLI's success possible. As we continue to grow, we invite you to consider supporting our program by donating or volunteering. Together, let's make 2025 a year of discovery, celebration, and inspiration!

Warm regards,
Daniel Banyai
Director, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute



Calendar Overview

	Time	Location	Title	Weeks	Class #	Start Date
Mon	10am-12pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	Unpacking the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict: Context and History (Instructor: Wilcox)	6	1001	1/27
	1-3pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	Music Education: De-Mystifying Music Theory (Instructor: Moyer)	6	1002	1/27
Tues	10am-12pm	CSUCI (In-Person Only)	The Language of Rocks (Instructor: French)	6	1003	1/21
	10am-12pm	Zoom	Introduction to the Humanities of the Middle East (Instructor: Purath)	6	1004	1/21
	1-3pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	Natural Products in Human Health (Instructor: Awad)	3	1005	1/21
	1-3pm	COLV/Zoom & In-Person	Protect Yourself from Marketing by Understanding How Marketing Works (Instructor: Norris)	3	1006	2/11
Wed	10am-12pm	SCIART/Zoom & In-Person	Polymers, Plastics, Petroleum, oh my! (Instructor: Ferguson)	6	1007	1/29
	1-3pm	COLV/Zoom & In-Person	Turkey at the Crossroads of Civilization (Instructor: Hagel)	6	1008	1/29
Thurs	10am-12pm	Zoom	Architecture and Design in the Reign of 16th-19th Century Rulers (Instructor: Schrader)	6	1009	1/23
	1-3pm	Zoom	The Spread of Western Genocidal Colonialism (Instructor: Hensley)	6	1010	1/23
Fri	10am-12pm	SCIART/Zoom & In-Person	Qigong for Self-Healing (Instructor: Fan)	6	1011	1/31
	1-3pm	GACC (In-Person Only)	Escape From Berlin! (The Nazis' Gift to Hollywood) (Instructor: Weisman)	6	1012	1/24

CSUCI - California State University Channel Islands

COLV - The Colleges of Law, Ventura

SCIART - Studio Channel Islands Art Center

GACC - Goebel Adult Community Center

Location addresses can be found on page 11.

Please see course descriptions for specific course dates.

Monday

Unpacking the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict: Context and History

Class 1001 (CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person)

*Mondays, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, 6 Weeks, (1/27-3/3, *Class begins one week later)*

Following the October 7th attack on Israel by Hamas, Israel has been locked in war against Hamas and its allies. Yet, the conflict between Israel and Palestine did not begin simply with the October 7th terrorist attack against Israel. Indeed, the conflict is longstanding, predating the establishment of Israel as a state in 1948. Over the course of six sessions, we will explore the origins, development, and implications of the bitter and ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Arabs. We will explore the basic contours of the Israeli-Palestinian relationship and focus on the root cause of the extended conflict. Our aim is not to try to find solutions to controversies, but rather to try to understand the different sides of the conflict and perspectives of the participants. By thinking critically about the current conflict in Israel and its historical roots, we aim to understand better the challenges and potential options Israel currently faces.



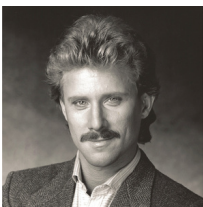
Clifford Wilcox, Ph.D., is a historian who focuses on American intellectual and cultural history and Jewish Studies. His courses concentrate on the intersection of culture, ideas, politics, and religion in American history. He is Director of Education and Operations at Temple Beth Torah in Ventura, CA and has taught in the CSUCI OLLI program since 2011. He holds a Ph.D. in American intellectual history from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Music Education: De-Mystifying Music Theory

Class 1002 (CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person)

*Mondays, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, 6 Weeks, (1/27-3/3, *Class begins one week later)*

Music Theory is thought to be complex, but it is really very logical and organized. In this music course, we will build the essential elements of music up from scratch and learn how all the integral pieces of the vast music puzzle work together to form the music that you are hearing. We will build scales, chords, chord progressions, rhythms, harmonies and melodies by increasing your levels of perception through studies of the Circle of 5ths, intervals, the Seven Modes, and the Diatonic Major, minor, Harmonic minor and Melodic minor Keys, which are used in all of the music you hear. Simple musical formulas will open up doors to the world of music never before imagined. No instruments are required for this course.



Francis Scott Moyer began his teaching career with the Department of the Interior in 1974, and is now in his 50th year of instructing students of all ages in music theory and various instruments. A 1971 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he has served as a music director, film composer, songwriter, professional musician, and touring artist. He is a member of both ASCAP and the Songwriters Guild of America (SGA), and has extensive experience as a session musician, producing, playing and composing commercials and original music. Many of his students have gone on to study at elite music schools in the US, including The Juilliard School, Berklee College of Music, USC Thornton School of Music, Musicians Institute, and Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

The Language of Rocks

Class 1003 (CSUCI, In-Person Only)

Tuesdays, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, 6 Weeks, (1/21-2/25)

This experiential course will focus on the fundamental materials of the Earth – minerals and rocks! You will learn how to identify common minerals and rocks in both a lecture and pseudo-lab setting (there will be samples for hands-on identification), bringing in local context where possible, and what these materials tell us about Earth and Earth history. You will also learn about the theory of plate tectonics and what aspects of Earth's surface and interior it explains, as well as our local plate tectonic setting (it's quite unique!). The course will end with an on-campus field trip! This course is in-person only to facilitate the best learning experience for students.



Renee French, Ph.D., found her passion for Earth Science at UC Santa Cruz, where she earned her B.S. in Earth and Planetary Science. Her Masters and PhD research at Northwestern University focused on geophysical and tectonic aspects of Mars and the Moon. Renee has also worked with NASA scientists at MSFC and Ames and has contributed to a lunar landing site study through the Lunar and Planetary Institute. However, her calling is sharing her passion for Earth Science with others through teaching and public outreach for people of all ages and backgrounds. While in Chicago, Renee developed activities and exhibit content for the Adler Planetarium and taught at local community colleges. Since moving back to Ventura, she has taught at CLU and CSUCI, emphasizing the importance of the language of rocks in understanding the history of our planet.

Introduction to the Humanities of the Middle East

Class 1004 (Zoom)

Tuesdays, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, 6 Weeks (1/21-2/25)

The ancient Middle East was the inventor of civilization itself, and the great Islamic empires have added to the list of its cultural firsts and accomplishments. This course will not focus on the detailed history nor politics but will introduce the humanities—the philosophy, religion, art, and music—of a region that too often is only considered in terms of conflict. It will highlight the cultural and technological firsts of the Sumerian, Babylonian, Assyrian, and Persian empires, introduce Islam, and then focus on the achievements of the Umayyads, Abbasids, Moors, Moguls, Seljuk Turks, and Ottoman Turks.



Sally Purath earned a B.A. in Social Sciences and a M.Ed. at Colorado State University. She taught a range of subjects including history, religions, English, and humanities for 26 years to 12th graders in Colorado, specializing in the humanities of Europe, USA, India, China, Japan, Africa, Middle East, and Latin America. She also taught English, U.S., Russian and world history and philosophy in the International Baccalaureate program. Sally has been teaching courses yearly for OLLI since 2009 at Colorado State and at Duke University.

Natural Products in Human Health

Class 1005 (CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person)

Tuesdays, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, 3 Weeks (1/21-2/4)

Natural products include a wide range of substances derived from plants and animals. They play a significant role in human health and well-being. Some key areas includes Medicinal Herbs, Food as Medicine, Pharmaceuticals, Dietary Supplements, Essential Oils, and Natural Skincare Products. While natural products can offer many health benefits, they should be part of a balanced approach that includes proper nutrition, exercise, and medical care. For instance, the therapeutic effect of a natural product can depend on its dosage and formulation. In addition, some natural products can interact with prescription medications, potentially affecting their efficacy. In this course, we will discuss various types of natural products, their benefits to human health, and provide a deeper understanding of how to prioritize informed choices for optimal health outcomes.



Ahmed Awad, Ph.D., is a professor of chemistry at CSUCI. He received his Ph.D. in medicinal chemistry from the University of Ulm, Germany, and was a postdoctoral fellow at Iowa State University and UC Santa Barbara. Dr. Awad's research interest is in design, development and chemical synthesis of novel molecules that can be proposed as therapeutic for cancer treatment and bacterial infections. Dr. Awad is a co-principal investigator on a National Science Foundation project with the goal of developing, implementing and testing a model for creating a more diverse faculty in STEM.

Protect Yourself from Marketing by Understanding How Marketing Works

Class 1006 (COLV/Zoom & In-Person)

Tuesdays, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, 3 Weeks (2/11-2/25)

In today's digital age, marketing is everywhere, and so are the tricks designed to manipulate consumers. This 3-week course takes you behind the scenes to uncover how marketers and scammers use technology to shape your buying decisions. You'll start by learning about the most common marketing scams and tricks that thrive in the 21st century. Then, we'll dive into the ways marketers exploit digital tools—such as the internet and smartphones—to create traps that can be hard to spot. Finally, we'll explore the rise of online rating and review platforms, teaching you how to question what you read and see, and how to separate fact from fiction. By the end of this course, you'll have the skills to spot marketing scams and make smarter, more informed decisions in an increasingly complex digital world.



Nick Norris is a Business Professor at Ventura College and owns ID Marketing & Design. He holds an MBA from Pepperdine University and a BA from CSUN. Nick brings his professional work experiences into the classroom and provides a practical, hands-on teaching style.

Wednesday

Polymers, Plastics, Petroleum, oh my!

Class 1007 (SCIART/Zoom & In-Person)

*Wednesdays, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, 6 Weeks (1/29-3/5, *Class begins one week later)*

We may feel that plastics have always been a part of our lives. But if you look back just a few decades, plastics have emerged from a novelty to an existential threat. Are plastics the future? Are they killing us? Could we make plastics more sustainable? This course will provide the historical context to understand our existential, political, economic, and social concern over what has been described as a technological marvel and an invisible part of our daily lives. You will learn why we talk about paper vs. plastic, recycling as greenwashing, alternative visions of the polymer revolution, and how to judge what is sustainability at personal and political scales.



Sean Ferguson, Ph.D., began his educational journey as a biologist at the Univ. of Chicago before graduate studies in the interdisciplinary field of Science and Technology Studies at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He has published on a diversity of topics from state energy politics to green technology innovation to critical pedagogy. At the Univ. of Virginia, he spent 7 years teaching and conducting research in the Engineering and Society Department, working with nonprofit organizations, engineering faculty, and local government offices to find pathways to sustainability. He is now the Operations Director at a grant writing firm specializing in empowering organizations to build thriving communities.

Turkey at the Crossroads of Civilization

Class 1008 (COLV/Zoom & In-Person)

*Wednesdays, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, 6 Weeks (1/29-3/5, *Class begins one week later)*

Turkey is a country that is a unique blend of influences and cultures. Situated at the boundary between the Mediterranean and the cultures of Europe to the west, the peoples of India and Asia to the east, and the Middle East to the south, Turkey has been a crossroads of trade and communication for many centuries. Its history and culture were shaped by the interface between the various peoples that surrounded it and coveted it. In this class, we will be taking an art historical approach, studying the rich artistic legacy of Turkey starting in Pre-history and moving through to the early modern period and the Ottoman Empire.



Laura Hagel is an accomplished art history educator. She received an MA in the History of Art and Architecture specializing in the ancient world from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 2003. Since then she has been teaching art history and art appreciation classes at Ventura College, California State University Channel Islands and California Lutheran University. Her special interests include the art and architecture of the ancient Greeks, Egyptians and Romans. She has additionally taught courses that revolve around understanding how love and lovemaking are represented in the artistic record in the ancient world, Middle Ages, Renaissance and Baroque periods.

Thursday

Architecture and Design in the Reign of 16th-19th Century Rulers Class 1009 (Zoom)

Thursdays, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, 6 Weeks (1/23-2/27)

The architectural legacy of the great rulers of Europe, fueled by trade and new-found sources of wealth, gave rise to sumptuous commissions to artists and architects, emphasizing the importance of patronage in the arts. This class will explore the splendid art, magnificent architecture, and luxurious decorative arts that graced the lives of the inhabitants of these eras. The lives of these wealthy patrons of the arts are discussed within the social and political surroundings of the period.



Eleanor Schrader is an award-winning educator, lecturer, and author. She lectures worldwide on the history of architecture, interiors, decorative arts, and leads art and architecture tours worldwide. She has been named a Distinguished Instructor of Design History at UCLA Extension. She is also a Professor Emeritus of Art and Architectural History at Santa Monica College. She has done graduate work in fine and decorative arts at Sotheby's Institute in London and New York and has served as Design Review Commissioner for the City of Beverly Hills. She is co-author of "Wallace Neff (Master Architects of Southern California, 1920-1940)."

The Spread of Western Genocidal Colonialism Class 1010 (Zoom)

Thursdays, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, 6 Weeks (1/23-2/27)

For decades, the spread of western culture throughout the world was hailed as enlightenment. It was perceived as refinement being brought to those who lived in ignorance. As the decades passed, however, this narrative began to be questioned. In more modern research, scholars noted that while western culture and technology spread, this spread was also accompanied by the destruction of other cultures, and ultimately, sometimes with genocide. This course will examine the connection between the spread of western culture and genocide. Tragically, there are more genocides connected to this theme than can be explored in one course, and therefore this course is somewhat of a brief survey. Nevertheless, we will explore the following questions: why did colonialism link to genocide? How does that way of thinking still affect thought patterns today? And what can be done to stop it?



Jason Hensley, Ph.D., DMin, earned his Doctorate in Holocaust and Genocide Studies and DMin in Biblical Studies. He teaches religious studies at a private school in Los Angeles. He is a fellow of the Michael LaPrade Holocaust Education Institute of the Anti-Defamation League, a higher-education ambassador for the Council on Foreign Relations, and the award-winning author of 12 books. His work has been featured in *The Huffington Post* as well as the BBC, and he has served as the historical advisor for a Holocaust documentary. Connect with him at jasonhensley.net.

Qigong for Self-Healing

Class 1011 (SCIART/Zoom & In-Person)

*Fridays, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, 6 Weeks (1/31-3/7 *Class begins one week later)*

Discover the transformative power of Qigong! This ancient Chinese practice combines breathing, meditation, and movement to cultivate the life energy called Qi for well-being. Through mind-body exercise, Qigong promotes harmony between thoughts and physical state. Research has shown many of Qigong's health benefits in reducing pain, hypertension, and inflammation, while boosting cognitive, immune, and respiratory function. It empowers us to take charge of our own health and to reduce medical expense. In this class, we'll explore how to harness Qigong to unlock our potential for self-healing.



***BiJian Fan, Ph.D.**, received his B.S. and M.S. in Mathematics, and his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering at Texas A&M University. He spent most of his professional career in pharmaceutical research and development at Merck and Amgen. He has moved on to visual art, and has exhibited internationally and earned numerous recognitions. BiJian integrates art and science in his creative practice and exhibits and lectures on scientific art internationally.*

Escape From Berlin! (The Nazis' Gift to Hollywood)

Class 1012 (GACC, In-Person Only)

Fridays, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, 6 Weeks (1/24-2/28)

During the Nazi rise to power, many talented European filmmakers, including actors, directors, writers, and technicians saw the writing on the wall and escaped – often at the risk of their lives. Germany's loss eventually became Hollywood's gain. German silent cinema was arguably the most creative in the world. Among its artists were Jews, homosexuals, communists, and all the liberal thinkers who were major targets of the new regime. This course will take a deep dive into the impact this mass emigration had on world culture and especially on the legacy of classic Hollywood.



***Matthew Weisman, MFA**, received his Master of Fine Arts in Film from Columbia University School of the Arts, where he also taught classes in cinema studies and directed the Cinematheque Film program. A professional screenwriter and producer, he taught graduate screenwriting at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts for 15 years. He is a retired member of the Writers Guild of America.*

Location of Classes



Studio Channel Islands Art Center (SCIART)
Blackboard Gallery
2222 E. Ventura Blvd, Camarillo, CA 93010



California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI)
John Spoor Broome Library Room # 2325
One University Dr, Camarillo, CA 93012



The College of Law - Ventura Campus (COLV)
4475 Market St, Ventura, CA 93003



Goebel Adult Community Center (GACC)
1385 E Janss Rd, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

Policies and Information

Key Dates

- Monday, January 6th, enrollment begins at 8:30 AM.
- Tuesday, January 21st, Spring I session begins.
- There will be no classes on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, January 20th. Please see individual course descriptions for specific course dates.

Levels of Enrollment

- Basic Enrollment: Pay \$60 for each 6-week course or \$30 for each 3-week course in which you wish to enroll.
- Session Enrollment: Take unlimited courses this session for \$150 for individuals or \$200 for couples.

Non-Refundable Annual Membership Fee

The Osher Lifelong Learning Foundation requires participants to become members of their local affiliate. For OLLI at CSUCI, this fee is \$15. The OLLI Annual Membership Fee is due upon enrollment in the student's first session of the school year and remains active from Fall 2024 through Summer 2025.

OLLI Fee Assistance Program

A portion of OLLI member donations are used to help members who need financial assistance to participate in courses. If you have a hardship in paying fees, please visit our FAQ page at go.csuci.edu/olli to learn more and submit an application for fee assistance.

Enrollment Options

- **Online:** The link to register online will be sent by email when enrollment opens. The link will also be posted on our Registration page at go.csuci.edu/olli.
- **Phone:** For the first week of enrollment, registration via telephone will take place Monday through Friday from 10AM-12PM. Please call (805) 437-2748, option 2, during those hours. Please have the 4-digit course number(s) found in the catalog for the courses you wish to take. We are not able to take credit card payments by phone.

Refund Policy

To drop a course, please call (805) 437-2748, option 2, or email OLLI@csuci.edu for further assistance. You should receive a confirmation email to show that your drop request was completed. Members may be eligible for a full refund if a course is formally dropped before the second class session. Members with unlimited enrollment may be eligible for a full refund if a formal drop request is submitted in Week 1 of the session. After that time, no refund will be issued for a dropped course.

Payment Options

- **Online Credit Card:** Pay using a credit card during online enrollment. Convenience fees will not be applied.
- **Check:** Mail a check, payable to CSUCI with "OLLI" in the memo line, to CSUCI, One University Drive, Sage Hall 2109, Camarillo, CA 93012.

Policies and Information Continued

The University encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs, events, and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact the respective area below as soon as possible, but no later than seven (7) business days prior to the event/activity.

CSUCI Students: accommodations@csuci.edu

CSUCI Employees and guests to campus: human.resources@csuci.edu

Donating to OLLI

Why donate to OLLI?

We are grateful to our students and excited to be celebrating this milestone. If you have enjoyed our classes and the friendships you have made with other lifelong learners, please consider donating to OLLI to enhance the exciting new programs we are considering for the future and to keep our program going strong for the next 20 years and beyond. Here are some of the many ways in which your donations can be used to support OLLI at CSU Channel Islands:

- Instructor honorariums
- Accessibility
- Technology
- Classroom support
- Social events
- Free seminars
- Local field trips
- OLLI student scholarship needs

How do I give?

- Online: Donate online by visiting: <https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/50324/donations/new>
- Phone: Call (510) 967-9777 to arrange a secure payment over the phone.
- Mail: Send a check (addressed to "CSUCI Foundation" with "OLLI" noted in memo line) to CSU Channel Islands Foundation, One University Drive, Camarillo, CA 93012.
- Planned Giving: To learn more about planned giving or to set up a legacy gift through your will or trust, call Grace Durst with CSUCI Advancement at (510) 967-9777.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

California State University Channel Islands

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