



at CSU Channel Islands
OLLI is the Joy of Learning

Spring I 2026

Registration Opens:
January 12th

Session Dates:
January 26th - March 6th



**California State
University**

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



(805) 437-2748



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out more!**



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We offer a variety of ways that you can participate in OLLI programming.

KEY

IP

In-Person: Face-to-Face Only at Location Listed

Z

Zoom: Online Only Via Zoom

H

Hybrid: Choose In-Person or Zoom

WELCOME!

Welcome to Spring I at OLLI!

Dear OLLI Community,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Spring I 2026 term of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at CSU Channel Islands. As Dean, I am delighted to share that this season marks an exciting new chapter for OLLI — one that reflects our ongoing commitment to creating exceptional spaces for lifelong learning and engagement.

This spring, OLLI classes will be hosted in the new Extended University (EU) Space in Shasta Hall, prominently located at the front of campus. This newly designed environment features modern furniture, advanced classroom technology, and a comfortable, collaborative setting that enhances both teaching and learning. With convenient access from bus routes and nearby parking lots, we are confident that this new home will provide an even more welcoming and inspiring experience for our members.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our instructors, volunteers, and supporters whose efforts sustain this remarkable program. Together, you help create opportunities that demonstrate the enduring power of education at every stage of life.

As we begin this new term, I encourage you to explore all that our new space in Shasta Hall has to offer. I look forward to seeing you in the halls of Shasta and witnessing the continued impact of OLLI on our campus and community.

With warm regards,

Jill Leafstedt, Ph.D.
Dean, Extended University and
Digital Learning



CALENDAR OVERVIEW – CSUCI OLLI

Day	Start Date	Time	Location	Title	Weeks	Class #
Mon	1/26	10am-12pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	Key Controversies in American History: Interpretations, Politics, and Revisionism Part II (Instructor: Wilcox)	3	1001
	2/16	10am-12pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	Clash of the Titans: Greeks, Persians, and Turks (Instructor: Jones & Poyraz)	3	1002
	1/26	1-3pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	The Building of a Movement: Narratives of Resistance & Memory in Chicana/o History (Instructor: Luna)	6	1003
Tues	1/27	10am-12pm	Zoom	Russian Composers II: Rachmaninoff, Stravinsky, and Prokofiev (Instructor: Kendall Bailey)	6	1004
	1/27	1-3pm	COLV/Zoom & In-Person	Quilts: The American Woman's Voice (Instructor: O'Rourke)	4	1005
Wed	1/28	10am-12pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	Crime as a Teaching Tool (Instructor: Redding)	2	1006
	2/11	10am-12pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	The Monarch's Future: What You Need to Know and Do (Instructor: Amendt)	3	1007
	1/28	1-3pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	Pictures On Stone: Rock Art in the Paleolithic and Ancient World (Instructor: Curtis)	6	1008
Thurs	2/5	10am-12pm	SCIART/Zoom & In-Person	The Decorative Arts of Asia: China, Japan, Korea, India, and Indonesia (Instructor: Schrader)	6	1009
	1/29	1-3pm	Zoom	Proud as a Peacock: NBC at 100 (1926-2026) (Instructor: McKairnes)	6	1010
Fri	1/30	10am-12pm	DVC (In-person only)	The Religious Origins of American Identity 1750-1850 (Instructor: Cipkowski)	3	1011
	2/20	10am-12pm	DVC (In-person only)	Berthe Weill: The "Mother Dealer" of the Avant-Garde (Instructor: Maasdam)	2	1012
	1/30	1-3pm	GACC (In-Person Only)	Where Babies Come From: Ethical and Legal Considerations with Advances in Reproductive Technology (Instructor: Mack)	4	1013
	2/27	1-3pm	GACC (In-Person Only)	The Making of Teddy Roosevelt (Instructor: Gooch)	2	1014
	1/30	1-3pm	PVCC (In-Person Only)	Dance Fit (Instructor: Lavin Hugues)	6	1015

CSUCI – California State University Channel Islands

COLV – The Colleges of Law, Ventura

SCIART – Studio Channel Islands Art Center

GACC – Goebel Adult Community Center

DVC – Dos Vientos Community Center

PVCC – Pleasant Valley Community Center

Please see course descriptions for specific course dates.

JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE

Free OLLI Open House at Dos Vientos Community Center December 12th, 2025



OLLI is expanding to Newbury Park! Invite a friend, family member or neighbor to join us for a morning of learning and socializing at our new classroom location in Dos Vientos Community Center! Enjoy an information session about the OLLI program and a one-hour lecture with Scott Jones, *The Ancient Clash of Titans That Still Shapes Today's World!* This is a free event and parking is free. Breakfast pastries will be provided.

[Register on our Events Page!](#)

Free OLLI Open House at CSUCI January 13th, 2026



Join us on Tuesday, January 13th for a grand opening of our new Extended University classroom in Shasta Hall! Stacey Hart Rivera, Manager of Operations for the National Resource Center for Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes, will be giving a guest talk on Osher National, Osher Online, and where OLLI at CSUCI fits into the bigger OLLI picture. You'll also have the opportunity to tour the new classroom and purchase a CSUCI Student ID card! There will be free parking available. Registration information will be provided as the date approaches.

INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT



Get to Know Chris Amendt

Chris Amendt is the founder of Native Monarchs, a Ventura County nonprofit dedicated to monarch butterfly and pollinator conservation, and Monarch Botanika, the only skincare line made with Milkweed Seed Oil that directly funds habitat restoration. A former board-certified Specialist in Cytotechnology for 25 years, Chris shifted her focus from studying human cells to saving ecosystems. For over two decades, she has designed and landscaped for life, not just looks—creating year-round sanctuaries that attract monarchs, bees, birds, and wildlife. Her courses combine science, ecology, and landscape design to inspire sustainable, fire-resistant, and pollinator-friendly living. Native Monarchs partners with CSUCI to create and enhance pollinator habitats on campus and earned the 2025 CSUCI Connections 2025 Non-Profit Partner of the Year award. Join Chris for her Spring I class to learn more about monarch conservation and tour the on-campus pollinator garden!



OLLI GIFTS AND LEGACIES



Why Donate to OLLI?

While member fees cover a portion of the expenses incurred by OLLI, it is the generosity of members and donors that allow our program to thrive. Financial gifts to OLLI will be used to ensure that OLLI at CSUCI is responsive to unique member needs and sustainable well into the future.

Help make OLLI at CSUCI an OLLI for everyone by giving the gift of lifelong learning!

How Do I Give?

Online: www.givecampus.com/campaigns/50324/donations/new

QR Code: Scan the QR code on this page

Phone: Call (805) 437-8420 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 (805) 437-3615.

IRA Rollover: Consider making an IRA rollover gift to OLLI by using your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your retirement account. For assistance call Grace Durst with CSUCI Advancement at (805) 437-3615.

CURRENT REGISTRATION



Registration for Spring I opens January 12th at 8:30am!

The Osher Lifelong Learning Foundation requires participants to become members of their local affiliate. For OLLI at CSUCI, this fee is \$20 and is paid once per academic year. The OLLI Annual Membership Fee is due upon enrollment in the student's first session of the academic year and remains active from Fall 2025 through Summer 2026.

Enrollment and Membership Fees

What are the benefits of being a member of OLLI at CSUCI?

- Eligibility to attend our class sessions
- Eligibility to participate in Osher Online
- Access to recorded classes
- Eligibility to attend local day trips
- Invitations to numerous social events
- Eligibility to purchase a student ID that gives access to free bus usage through the Ventura County Transportation Commission, access to resources at the CSUCI library, and student discounts
- Membership fees are used to continue and enhance the OLLI program

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MONDAY – CSUCI OLLI

Key Controversies in American History: Interpretations, Politics, and Revisionism Part II

H Class 1001 | CSUCI & Zoom

Monday, 10:00am – 12:00pm, 3 Weeks (1/26–2/9)

From the beginning of written history with the Greek historians Herodotus and Thucydides, the key assumption underpinning the practice of history is that every account is provisional, based upon evidence available at time of writing and subject to the interpretative lenses of individual historians and the period of composition. Subsequent interpretations emerge not to manipulate truth but to reckon with newly-found evidence or changing perspectives. This course examines a handful of key historical events from the 19th and 20th centuries that have lent themselves to multiple reinterpretations and controversy, including the Civil War, the United States and the Holocaust, and the Vietnam War. By looking at controversial events from multiple lenses, we hope to show the dynamic nature of history, the inevitable practice of “revisionism,” and the questionable aspect of legislating historical “truth.”



Cliff Wilcox has a Ph.D. in intellectual history from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and an M.A. in Jewish Education from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He is the Director of Education and Operations at Temple Beth Torah, Ventura, CA and adjunct instructor at CSUCI and CLU. He focuses his teaching on the history of ideas and Jewish Studies.

Clash of the Titans: Greeks, Persians, and Turks

H Class 1002 | CSUCI & Zoom

Monday, 10:00am – 12:00pm, 3 Weeks (2/16–3/2)

The course begins by establishing the major geopolitical landscape with the Achaemenid Persian Empire and its initial expansion into the Aegean. We'll examine the early confrontations which culminated in the pivotal Greco-Persian Wars. We'll trace the decline of the Achaemenid Empire and the eastward shift of power with Alexander the Great's conquests. We then transition to the inheritors of these imperial lands, discussing the Hellenistic period and the empires that followed Alexander. Finally, we'll journey through a high-level overview of the rise of the Seljuk and Ottoman Turkish Empires, highlighting how these new powers interacted with and inherited the remnants of Greek and Byzantine culture and territory. We'll focus on key points of contact and conflict, such as the Fall of Constantinople, demonstrating the continuity of the civilizational dynamic across millennia.



Scott Jones & Emre Poyraz
Scott Jones is a docent at the J. Paul Getty Museum (Getty Villa) where he leads interactive tours in Roman architecture, Roman gardens, and museum objects in the galleries. He is a retired US Navy Captain with more than 30 years' service. Scott is joined by Emre Poyraz, a classical philologist and ancient historian based in Istanbul where he is completing his PhD in Ancient History at Istanbul University.

MONDAY – CSUCI OLLI

The Building of a Movement: Narratives of Resistance & Memory in Chicana/o History

H Class 1003 | CSUCI & Zoom

Monday, 1:00 – 3:00pm, 6 Weeks (1/26–3/2)

This course examines the struggles, stories, and cultural expressions that shaped Chicana/o activism in the United States. Through historical accounts, oral histories, literature, art, and film, students will explore how communities resisted oppression and built movements for justice, dignity, and self-determination. The course highlights key moments—from labor organizing and student walkouts to cultural production and community activism—while emphasizing intersections of race, class, gender, and identity. By engaging with narratives of resistance and collective memory, students will learn how Chicana/o history has been constructed, contested, and mobilized to sustain social change.



Jennie Luna, PhD, received her EdM in Philosophy of Education from Columbia University and PhD from the University of California, Davis in Native American Studies. Dr. Luna's research focuses on the contemporary history of Danza Mexica/Azteca tradition and its impact on Xicana Indígena identity politics.

TUESDAY – CSUCI OLLI

Russian Composers II: Rachmaninoff, Stravinsky, and Prokofiev

z Class 1004 | Zoom

Tuesday, 10:00am – 12:00pm, 6 Weeks (1/27–3/3)

This course provides an in-depth look at three famous composers of the early 20th century: Sergei Rachmaninoff, Igor Stravinsky, and Sergei Prokofiev. Rachmaninoff continues to be one of the most popular composers, who wrote beautiful piano music as well as three symphonies, the famous choral Vespers, and the Symphonic Dances. Stravinsky charted a new path in early 20th century music with his ballet scores and especially the infamous Rite of Spring – but there is so much more music that many are unfamiliar with, including delightful works from his neoclassical period. Prokofiev was one of many composers influenced by Stravinsky's sound, but found a style that bridged Stravinsky's modernism with Rachmaninoff's romanticism in his ballet scores, film scores, seven symphonies, concertos, and many operas.



John Kendall Bailey is a conductor, lecturer, and singer. He is currently the Music Director of the Mozart to Mendelssohn Orchestra, the Mesopotamia Symphony Orchestra, and the San Francisco Composers Chamber Orchestra, and has been Guest Conductor for numerous other orchestras, choruses, and opera companies.

TUESDAY – CSUCI OLLI

Quilts: The American Woman's Voice

H Class 1005 | COLV & Zoom

Tuesday, 1:00 – 3:00pm, 4 Weeks (1/27-2/17)

Since America began as a colony 400 years ago, women have been making bed coverings. In the 1700s, a bed covering called a quilt, made with 3 layers joined by overall stitching, became common. The stitching soon became elaborately decorative and an art form was born, one that was unique to America for a couple centuries. Early on it included patches of a variety of fabrics in a multitude of patterns. It has been a woman's voice, her way of expressing herself artistically and politically. This course will cover the history of quilting up to today.



Charlene O'Rourke has an MA in English and built her career as a mainframe computer programmer. Charlene comes from a long line of quilters. She has done needlework of some kind for 70 years, beginning with embroidery and needlepoint, continuing with quilting. She has been teaching history courses and art courses for various OLLI programs since 2011.

WEDNESDAY – CSUCI OLLI

Crime as a Teaching Tool

H Class 1006 | CSUCI & Zoom

Wednesday, 10:00am – 12:00pm, 2 Weeks (1/28-2/4)

Émile Durkheim, considered the father of sociology, argued that crime is a normal and necessary component of all societies. Why? This course examines what crime, with an emphasis on murder, can teach us. It makes the case that crime can be used as a teaching tool for virtually any type of area of study or interest. Class attendees will examine this topic from an in-depth exploration of three high-profile murder cases: Jack the Ripper, Ed Gein, and Charles Manson. Murder has a lot to teach. For those who are willing to look. Content Warning: The material covered will include depictions and descriptions of violence.



Anne Redding has an M.S. in Public Administration and a B.S. in Criminal Justice from California State University, Los Angeles. She has been a professor of Justice Studies at Santa Barbara City College since 2004 and prior to that was a professor at Antelope Valley College in Lancaster, CA and Unity College in Unity ME.

WEDNESDAY – CSUCI OLLI

The Monarch's Future: What You Need to Know and Do

H Class 1007 | CSUCI & Zoom (Final Class In-Person Only)

Wednesday, 10:00am – 12:00pm, 3 Weeks (2/11–2/25)

This course offers an inspiring, science-based look at the state of one of nature's most iconic species—the monarch butterfly. Students will explore the latest research on monarch population declines, the incredible migration of western and eastern monarchs, and why protecting Ventura County's coastal overwintering sites is critical to their survival. The class goes beyond basic butterfly gardening to examine native versus tropical milkweed, the plant's ecological role, and where (and where not) to plant it. Participants will gain practical knowledge, native plant lists, and design ideas to transform their own backyards into thriving monarch and pollinator sanctuaries. **The final class will be an in-person only field trip to CSUCI's on-campus pollinator garden, which is a Certified Wildlife Habitat. The field trip is limited to 30 participants.**



Chris Amendt is the founder of Native Monarchs, a Ventura County nonprofit dedicated to monarch butterfly and pollinator conservation, and Monarch Botanika, the only skincare line made with Milkweed Seed Oil that directly funds habitat restoration. For over two decades, she has designed and landscaped year-round sanctuaries that help monarchs, bees, birds, and other wildlife thrive and survive.

Pictures On Stone: Rock Art in the Paleolithic and Ancient World

H Class 1008 | CSUCI & Zoom

Wednesday, 1:00 – 3:00pm, 6 Weeks (1/28–3/4)

Fascinating past worlds are depicted in rock art. In this course, we will survey rock art traditions around the world, from the earliest Paleolithic traditions (including the cave art of Ice Age Europe, and the earliest art of Australia, Africa, and Asia) to later traditions in places like the Sahara Desert, Arabian Peninsula, Amazon Basin, California, the American Southwest, and beyond. In exploring how rock art is studied by archeologists, anthropologists, and art historians, we will learn how interdisciplinary scientific perspectives are providing new insights into the dating and composition of ancient rock art. We will investigate how rock art relates to the larger archeological record and ponder the meanings and functions of these enduring masterpieces of human expression.



Matthew (Matt) Curtis, Ph.D., is a broadly trained anthropological archaeologist specializing in the Holocene archaeology of Eastern Africa. Matt has conducted archaeological research in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, and the United States. He is a lecturer in the Anthropology program and faculty archaeologist for the Cultural Resource Management Team at CSUCI.

THURSDAY – CSUCI OLLI

The Decorative Arts of Asia: China, Japan, Korea, India, and Indonesia

H Class 1009 | SCIART & Zoom

Thursday, 10:00am – 12:00pm, 6 Weeks (2/5–3/12) *Class begins one week later

The rich history of design emanating from Asian countries reveals centuries-long cultural and socio-political narratives in which objects of beauty were created. The decorative arts of China, Japan, Korea, India, and Indonesia will be discussed, including painting, ceramics, jade, metals, and furniture, as well as materials and methods used in their creation. The influence of trade, especially along the Silk Road, will play an important role in cross-cultural influences in decorative styles and objects. How the beauty and refinement of these artistic traditions served as inspiration for European and American decorative arts will also be examined.



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.

Proud as a Peacock: NBC at 100 (1926–2026)

z Class 1010 | Zoom

Thursday, 1:00 – 3:00pm, 6 Weeks (1/29–3/5)

The oldest broadcasting network in the United States, the National Broadcasting Company (NBC), was founded in 1926 by the Radio Corporation of America (RCA). As a prelude to its centennial next year, this course presents a video-heavy overview of a century's worth of its programming. From the network's radio roots to its present-day streaming-centric portfolio, NBC has been at the forefront of many of the medium's innovations, among them color programming, the establishment of viewing beachheads outside of prime-time, the recalibrations of both the crime drama and the sitcom, and the introduction of the made-for-TV-movie genre. This memory-stirring course also puts a spotlight on key moments and key figures from the network's storied history—both as a business and a creative force, and how it all came together to help change the country as it changed television.



Jim McKairnes is a former longtime LA-based CBS Television executive who now writes and teaches about TV history. He has served on the faculties of DePaul University, Temple University, and Middle Tennessee State University and was a featured commentator on CNN's 2021 multi-part History of the Sitcom documentary. He teaches with several OLLI programs and lives in Knoxville, TN.

FRIDAY – CSUCI OLLI

The Religious Origins of American Identity 1750–1850

IP Class 1011 | DVC

Friday, 10:00am – 12:00pm, 3 Weeks (1/30–2/13)

In this course, we explore the significant religious influences that shaped American identity from the British colonial period to the American Civil War. We examine key religious movements and ideas, their socio-political impacts, and the role of religion in shaping early American attitudes and policies, including religious tolerance, separation of church and state, and slavery. Participants will gain an understanding of how religious diversity and revivalism influenced the development of American society and contributed to the ideological foundations of the American Revolution and the Civil War.



Peter Cipkowski, EdD, is an interdisciplinary scholar whose work explores how literature illuminates the political and moral identity of nations in times of change. He earned his doctorate from the University of Southern California. His teaching and writing bridge literary history, civil discourse, and the cultural and political evolution of emerging democracies.

Berthe Weill: The "Mother Dealer" of the Avant-Garde

IP Class 1012 | DVC

Friday, 10:00am – 12:00pm, 2 Weeks (2/20–2/27)

Tiny in stature yet mighty in presence, Berthe Weill proved to be the guiding force behind many of the great artists we revere today. In an arena of academy and salon sanctioned art, she championed the new, the modern, the extreme: the Avant-Garde. The Paris of the Third Republic was not a genteel society. The Prussian War and the Dreyfus Affair had deep impacts on the artists, the art and its marketplace. Through it all Weill embraced the change and welcomed Matisse, Modigliani, Rivera and Picasso. This two lecture series will examine the numerous artist relationships that Weill nurtured and supported, and the long term impact that this woman had on the art world under disastrous conditions of a world at war.



Christine Maasdam holds a Master in Humanities and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Cultural Geography. Her art studies include The Courtauld Institute of Art in London, The Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center in Washington, D.C. and Antiquities Trafficking and Art Crime at the University of Glasgow. She is a member of the International Foundation for Cultural Property Protection.

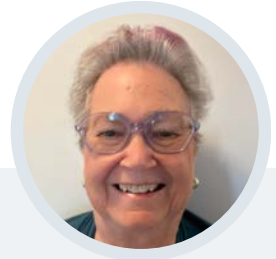
FRIDAY – CSUCI OLLI

Where Babies Come From: Ethical & Legal Considerations with Advances in Reproductive Technology

IP Class 1013 | GACC

Friday, 1:00 – 3:00pm, 4 Weeks (1/30–2/20)

Where do babies come from these days? There are some remarkable methods of human reproduction currently available and in development. As assisted reproductive technologies continue to advance, legal and ethical issues arise surrounding them. This course will examine various new and developing technologies that allow infertile couples to conceive and bear children. We will examine the methods and discuss the specific issues with each. For example, each cycle of in vitro fertilization (IVF) produces excess embryos. What should be done with these embryos? Is it ethical to destroy them or use them for research? These and similar questions inevitably arise as reproductive technologies advance. We will discuss the methods and implications of the following: IVF, surrogacy, three-parent babies, uterus transplantation, single-sex reproduction, cloning, and genetic engineering.



Carol Mack, PhD, JD, RN practiced as an oncology nurse for many years before turning to teaching. She has recently retired from her position as an Associate Professor at CSUCI, where she taught Health Science and Nursing. Before that, she was a senior manager in Regulatory Affairs at Amgen. Dr. Mack is also a retired attorney who has worked in the areas of elder law and health care law.

The Making of Teddy Roosevelt

IP Class 1014 | GACC

Friday, 1:00 – 3:00pm, 2 Weeks (2/27–3/6)

“My father always wanted to be the corpse at every funeral, the bride at every wedding and the baby at every christening.” Such did Alice, Teddy Roosevelt’s eldest daughter, sum up her father as a man. Yet this man, becoming President at 43 after McKinley’s assassination, went on to enact a progressive agenda still shaping politics today, both win and lose the presidency, and earn (uniquely) both the Congressional Medal of Honor and Nobel Peace Prize. He led a “strenuous life” brimming with exaggerated triumphs and bitter failures. He was loved and hated, revered and distained. What explains the contrary views of who he was? How did he become the vigorous, charismatic, aggressive president whom enemies called “that damn cowboy” and friends deemed the quintessential American? In two sessions, we will explore Teddy Roosevelt, the making of the man and his deeds.



Herbert Gooch, Ph.D., is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at California Lutheran University. He served as Director of the Masters in Public Policy and Administration program and Assistant Provost for Graduate Studies at CLU. A graduate of UC Berkeley in History, he holds an MBA in Management and both Masters and Doctoral degrees in Political Science from UCLA.

FRIDAY – CSUCI OLLI

Dance Fit

IP Class 1015 | PVCC

Friday, 1:00 – 3:00pm, 6 Weeks (1/30–3/6)

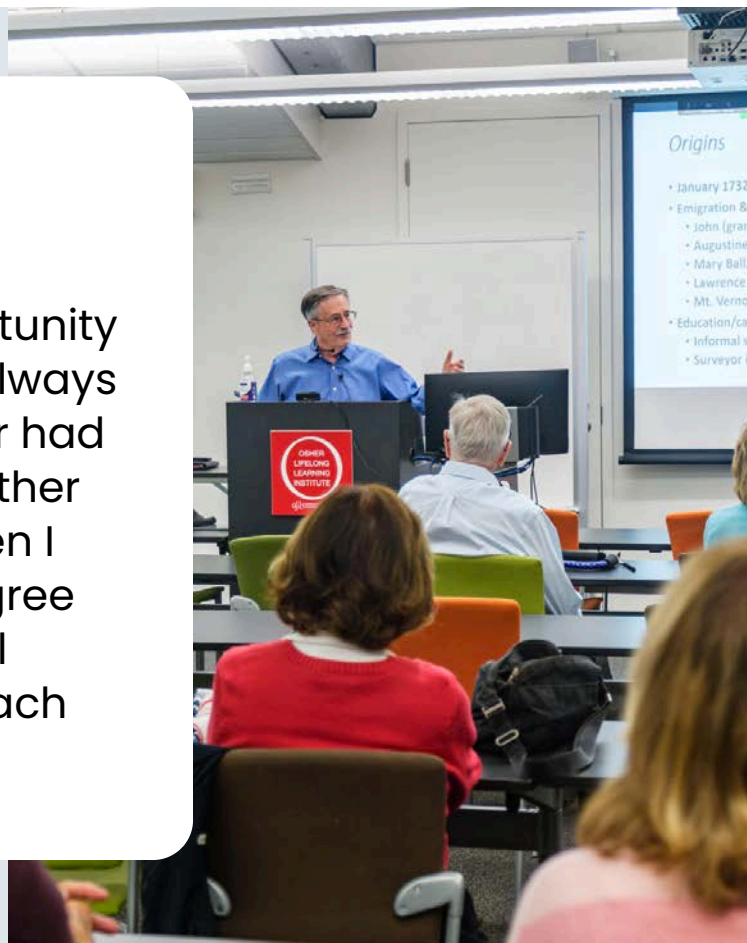
This course will explore somatically designed, expressive, and engaging ways to burn some calories. In class, we will move to the beat of various styles of music, as we learn and practice a variety of steps derived from cultures around the globe. You will learn how to safely and effectively warm-up your brain and body for the physical challenges of the class, breathe to support your muscles heating up and raise your heart rate, and cool down your body at the end of each session. Dance Fit will increase your flexibility, increase your muscle memory and coordination and add to your mobility, strength, and peace of mind. **This class is limited to 20 participants and students will need to provide their own yoga or exercise mat.**



Bonnie Lavin Hughes holds a BFA in dance from Ohio University and a Master's in dance from UCLA. Bonnie is a lecturer in Dance Studies at CSUCI, where she collaborates with cross-disciplinary programs, teaching courses within the liberal studies Education Department and the Health Science Department. She has been an active member of the National Dance Educators Organization (NDEO) since 2006.

TESTIMONIAL

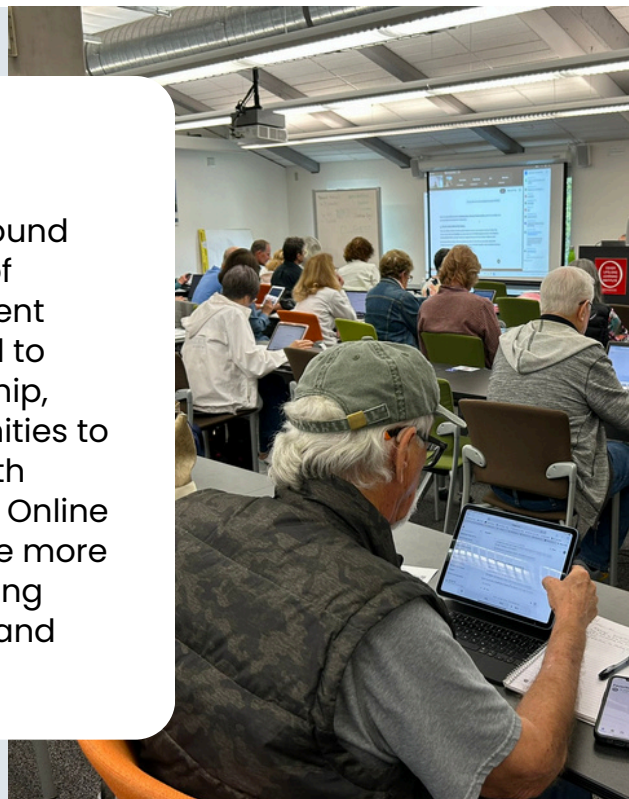
"The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute gives me the opportunity to take classes that I have always been interested in, but never had a chance to take before – either they were never offered when I was earning my college degree or, now, because of financial restraints, they are out of reach for me." –Anonymous



OSHER ONLINE

OSHER ONLINE

Osher Online partners with OLLI programs around the country to provide an exciting selection of online courses to supplement and complement each OLLI's in-house offerings. We are thrilled to expand our curriculum through this partnership, which provides you with even more opportunities to engage in enriching courses and connect with members from other OLLIs nationwide. Osher Online courses are also offered at times that may be more convenient for working OLLI members, including earlier in the morning, later in the afternoon, and Saturdays.



Ghosts in the White House: The People Behind Presidential Speeches

z Class 0001

Monday, 12:00 - 1:30pm, 6 Weeks (3/30-5/4)

Have you ever wondered who writes presidential speeches? This course traces the evolution of speechwriting from George Washington's administration to today. Yes, Hamilton helped draft Washington's Farewell Address, but no, Lincoln did not scribble the Gettysburg Address on an envelope. We will study the writing process presidents used and examine drafts from FDR, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Carter, and George H.W. Bush. We will view clips from speeches and from former White House speechwriters describing the process.

Diana Carlin, PhD is Professor Emerita of communication at Saint Louis University. For 30 years, she has taught courses on and written about First Ladies. She is the co-author of *U.S. First Ladies: Making History and Leaving Legacies* and *Remember the First Ladies: America's History-Making Women*.

Violinists: Performers and Composers

z Class 0002

Monday, 8:00 - 9:30am, 6 Weeks (4/6-5/11)

Why do so many great violinists also become composers? This course will explore the fascinating legacy of violinist-composers, including Baroque virtuosos like Heinrich Biber, Romantic legends like Niccolò Paganini, and 20th century innovators like George Enescu and Grazyna Bacewicz. Through listening and discussing, we will examine how these artists wrote music tailored to their instruments and themselves. Taught by a professional violinist, this course offers a behind-the-strings look at how performance and composition intertwine.

Ilana Zaks, professional violinist, educator, and multidisciplinary artist, is First Violin with the Seattle Symphony and Seattle Opera. She is a graduate of the New England Conservatory and Yale School of Music and was recently appointed to the Boston University Tanglewood Institute faculty.

OSHER ONLINE

The Scopes Monkey Trial: Then and Now

z Class 0003

Tuesday, 8:00 – 9:30am, 6 Weeks (3/31–5/5)

In July 1925, Clarence Darrow, William Jennings Bryan, and others converged on Dayton, Tennessee, for the Scopes Monkey Trial—an eight-day clash over religion, science, public education, free speech, and textbooks broadcast nationwide. One hundred years later, these debates continue. This course explores why the trial happened in Dayton, how Bryan and Darrow became involved, what occurred in the courtroom, whether *Inherit the Wind* reflects reality, who won and lost, and why it still matters today.

Doug Mishkin, an experienced trial lawyer, partnered with Americans United for Separation of Church and State to foster dialogue in Dayton, TN, site of the Scopes Monkey Trial. He has interviewed Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Edward J. Larson (*Summer for the Gods*), civil rights attorney Fred Gray, and George Washington Law Professor Jeffrey Rosen, president of the National Constitution Center, along with other distinguished lawyers and historians on law, history, and constitutional issues.

Comic Book Literature

z Class 0004

Tuesday, 12:00 – 1:30pm, 6 Weeks (3/31–5/5)

Comics (blending words and pictures to tell stories) stretch from cave paintings and the Bayeux Tapestry to today's Batman and Spider-Man. Far more than superhero tales, comics are a versatile literary artform, capturing intimate and epic stories, social issues, and cultural moments through panels and word balloons. In this course, we will trace their history, explore their power, and read and discuss works including *Understanding Comics*, *Watchmen*, *Maus*, *Fun Home*, and *Persepolis*.

Arnold Blumberg, PhD is a publisher, author, artist, and pop culture historian. He has taught courses in media literacy and other cultural topics at University of Baltimore and other Baltimore colleges. Blumberg spent fifteen years in the comic book industry, curated a pop culture museum, and currently runs his own publishing company, ATB Publishing.

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OSHER ONLINE

Place, Memory, and Environmental Psychology

z Class 0005

Tuesday, 10:00– 11:30am, 6 Weeks (4/7–5/12)

How much of who we are is shaped by the places we live and experience? This course invites reflection on the psychological and emotional relationships between people and their environments. Drawing on psychology, geography, architecture, and design, we will explore environmental psychology and how physical environments shape behavior, cognition, identity, and memory.

Fernanda Blanco Vidal is a PhD Candidate in Environmental Psychology at the Graduate Center, CUNY. She holds degrees in Psychology and Sociology from the Federal University of Bahia. Her dissertation explores how people's sense of place shifted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

From Leo XIII to Leo XIV: History of 20th and 21st Century Popes

z Class 0006

Tuesday, 2:00 – 3:30pm, 6 Weeks (4/7–5/12)

The death of Pope Francis and the election of the first US born Pope have been in the news repeatedly in the last few months, capturing the imagination of many people, including non-Catholics. In this course, we will discuss the lives and dominant perspectives of the last ten Popes, exploring their most significant positions and their influence on world affairs.

Olivia Espín, PhD, is Professor Emerita of Women's Studies at San Diego State University and the California School of Professional Psychology. She completed her postdoctoral work at Harvard and is a pioneer in feminist therapy with women from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Frank Lloyd Wright and Modern Architecture

z Class 0007

Tuesday, 4:00 – 5:30pm, 6 Weeks (4/21–5/26)

Frank Lloyd Wright designed nearly 1,000 buildings and helped define modern architecture. This course explores highlights of his practice, from Prairie houses to Fallingwater and the Guggenheim Museum, alongside lesser-known projects. We'll examine how Wright's work reflected cultural shifts in technology, science, and politics, offering a deeper understanding of his lasting influence on architecture and modern design.

Jennifer Gray, PhD, is vice president of the Taliesin Institute at the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation. Her research explores how modern architects used design to advance social change at the turn of the 20th century.

A History of Street Art

z Class 0008

Wednesday, 8:00 – 9:30am, 6 Weeks (4/1–5/6)

Art in the streets (including graffiti, murals, stickers, and paste-ups) gives voice to marginalized communities, shapes urban environments, and challenges institutional norms. This course explores graffiti and street art in the U.S. and around the world. Participants will consider the rise of global mural movements, efforts to preserve and present street art, and its evolving role in activism, community identity, and social change.

Heather Shirey, PhD, is a Professor of Art History at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. Her research explores race and identity, migration and diasporas, and the role of monuments, memorials, and street art in shaping public space.

OSHER ONLINE

Siberia: Russia's Frozen Wasteland or Economic Heartland?

z Class 0009

Wednesday, 10:00 – 11:30am, 6 Weeks (4/1–5/6)

Siberia covers three quarters of Russia's territory but is home to only a quarter of its population. Yet its role in shaping Russia as a vast and wealthy empire is profound. In this course, we will explore Siberia's economic significance, indigenous cultures, and history, along with its importance for environmental issues and Russian-Chinese relations. We will also consider Siberia's role in both the rise and possible fragmentation of Russia.

Asya Pereltsvaig received a degree in English and History from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a PhD in Linguistics from McGill University. She has been teaching in lifelong education programs since 2010.

The Lost Generation

z Class 0010

Wednesday, 12:00 – 1:30pm, 6 Weeks (4/15–5/20)

This course will examine the cultural transformations that reshaped America and Western Europe between World War I and the Great Depression. Known as the Roaring Twenties, the Jazz Age, and the Lost Generation, this period redefined values and norms. We will explore the vibrant world of 1920s Paris through writings from F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, and Gertrude Stein, considering the lasting legacy of the era.

Ferdâ Asya, PhD, Professor of English, has taught at universities worldwide. Specializing in 19th–20th century American literature with a focus on Edith Wharton, her interests include international literature and American expatriate writing in Europe.

Music: Controversies and Curiosities

z Class 0011

Wednesday, 2:00 – 3:30pm, 6 Weeks (4/15–5/20)

Music has long provoked debate, from Beethoven and Stravinsky's bold innovations to Broadway works like *Annie Get Your Gun* and *South Pacific*, now revisited through modern concerns about race, consent, and gender. Is political correctness enriching art or erasing cultural heritage? We will also examine plagiarism and borrowing in pop and film music, with cases involving The Beatles, Pink Floyd, and Peter Dinklage.

Emanuel Abramovits, MBA, is a mechanical engineer and has also been a concert promoter for over two decades. He is directly involved in events by international artists like Itzhak Perlman, Journey, Kenny G., and many more.

JFK's Quest for Peace: Lessons for Turbulent Times

z Class 0012

Thursday, 10:00 – 11:30am, 6 Weeks (4/2–5/7)

Throughout his 1000-day presidency, John Kennedy pursued peace through a broad spectrum of initiatives and sought to use military deterrence, diplomacy, and soft power in novel ways. In this course, we will explore how his character and life experiences were the origins of those efforts. We will evaluate his powers of persuasion as well as his successes, failures, and their relevance to today's world.

Charles Blum served as a US diplomat and trade policy official for 17 years before launching a consulting firm that operated in Washington DC and Central Europe. He earned degrees in history from Eastern University and international relations from the University of Pennsylvania.

OSHER ONLINE

AI for Regular People

z Class 0013

Thursday, 4:00 – 5:30pm, 6 Weeks (4/2–5/7)

Back by popular demand, this updated course offers a clear, engaging introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how it's rapidly transforming our world. From self-driving cars to chatbots and precision medicine, we will explore how AI works, where it's headed, and what it means for society. No tech experience needed—just curiosity! With fresh examples and timely updates, participants will gain a solid understanding of the opportunities and challenges AI presents today.

This course is co-taught by Hod Lipson, PhD, Professor of Engineering and Data Science at Columbia University, and author and technology analyst **Melba Kurman**. Dr. Lipson directs Columbia's Creative Machines Lab, where his team builds artificially intelligent robots that can design, create, and express emotion. Melba Kurman has held roles at Microsoft, Cornell University, and several tech startups. She writes about emerging technologies and their societal impact. Together, they co-authored *Driverless and Fabricated: The Promise and Peril of 3D Printing*, and are frequent speakers on AI and innovation.

A Beautiful Brain

z Class 0014

Thursday, 8:00 – 9:30am, 6 Weeks (4/9–5/14)

Most conversations about aging focus on lifespan, but brainspan (how long our mind stays sharp) matters more. In this course, we will explore how the brain ages and what science reveals about protecting memory, balance, and clarity. Topics include normal changes versus early dementia, neuroplasticity, nutrition, sleep, stress, social ties, and purpose. Each session blends accessible science with self-tests and take-home practices. We will also build a personalized Cognitive Health Scorecard to track habits and strengthen resilience.

Scott Fulton is recognized internationally as a "Redeemer" in the positive aging space. Accustomed to big systems engineering challenges, Fulton focuses his research on improving adult aging outcomes. He teaches Lifestyle Medicine and Aging, is an American College of Lifestyle Medicine member, sits on the prestigious True Health Initiative Council, and is past president of the National Aging in Place Council.

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OSHER ONLINE

Great Science Stories

z Class 0015

Thursday, 12:00 – 1:30pm, 6 Weeks (4/9–5/14)

Science is full of surprises. Dyes, accidentally discovered, launched the modern pharmaceutical industry. A failed experiment opened the door to new physics. Discoveries are never just facts. They are moments of creativity, struggle, and chance with far-reaching consequences. In this course, we will explore breakthroughs in biology, chemistry, physics, and more, discovering what was found, and how and why it matters.

Dr. Johnnie Hendrickson is a Teaching Professor in the School of Molecular Sciences at Arizona State University and holds a PhD in chemistry. His academic work focuses on science communication, the reciprocal relationship between science and society.

California Uncovered: A Journey Through Time, Place, and Identity

z Class 0016

Friday, 12:00 – 1:30pm, 6 Weeks (4/10–5/15)

California is more than a state—it is an idea, a dream, and a contradiction. In this course, we will journey from its earliest Indigenous cultures through Spanish, Mexican, and American rule, exploring missions, the Gold Rush, the railroad, Hollywood, and Silicon Valley. We will challenge myths, highlight overlooked voices, and examine how migration, innovation, and cultural change shaped the Golden State.

Anthony Antonucci, PhD, is a historian whose teaching and scholarship explore the intersections of foreign relations, nationalism, race, and immigration policy in U.S. history since 1750. He teaches at colleges and universities across Southern California, including Cal Poly Pomona.

Writing the Personal Essay: Finding Your Story

z Class 0017

Saturday, 11:00am – 12:30pm, 6 Weeks (4/18–5/23)

The personal essay blends storytelling, reflection, and analysis to give voice to lived experience. In this course, we will explore the personal essay as both art and self-expression. Through readings, discussion, and writing exercises, we will study elements such as narrative arc, scene-setting, and reflection. We will draft our own essays, discovering how this enduring form helps us find our voices and tell our stories with clarity.

Lisa Stolley, professor of English at the University of Illinois Chicago and Northwestern University, is a published fiction author. Her short stories have appeared in numerous literary journals and her nonfiction has been published in *Today's Chicago Woman* and the *Chicago Reader*.



VOLUNTEERING FOR OLLI



We invite all members to consider becoming an OLLI volunteer.

Volunteering for OLLI is a meaningful source of connection and fun, while making a tangible impact on our program and community! If you'd like to learn more about volunteering, you can check out our [Volunteer Page](#) and fill out the [Volunteer Interest form](#). We'd love to help you find a role that aligns with your interests!



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UPCOMING EVENTS



**View The OLLI at CSUCI Events
Page to Stay in the Know!**



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.

Check out our events calendar on our [Events Page](#)!

**If you missed our
previous free seminars,
you can watch them on
our [YouTube channel](#).**



SHARED INTEREST GROUPS



**Have a Passion You Want to Share?
Join or Start a Shared Interest Group!**



Shared Interest Groups (SIGs) are member organized and led groups formed around a common interest or hobby. These groups are informal, social, and fun. They're a great way to meet people who share your passions and create new connections in our OLLI community, and they are free to join with OLLI membership.

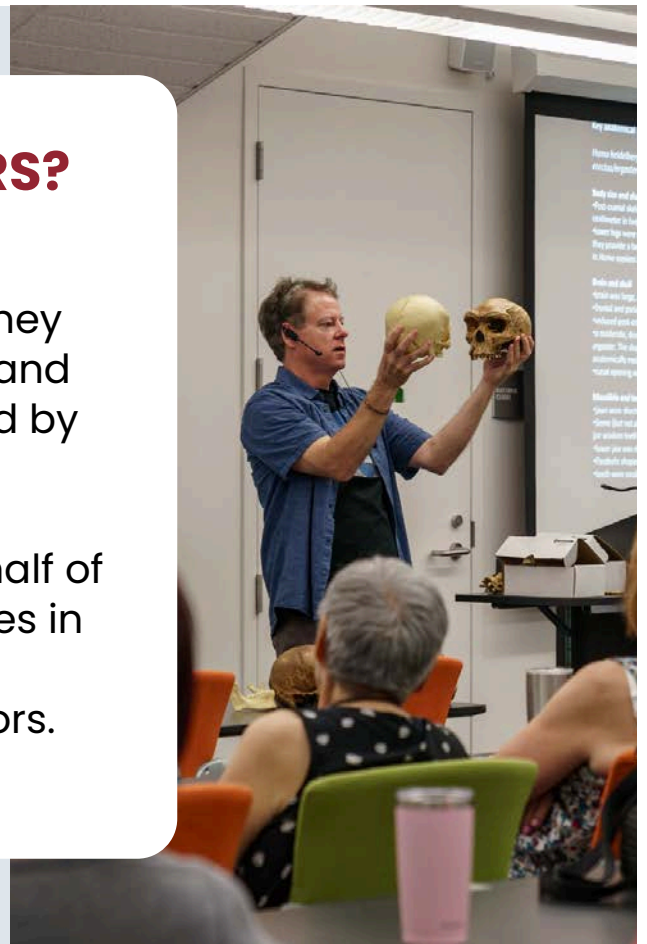
Learn more on our [Shared Interest Group Page!](#)

Current SIGs

- Channel Islands Interest Group
- Silver Lotus Yoga
- Beer Research Group
- International Traditions Collaborative
- Community Singing
- Mah Jong Group
- Laughter Wellness/Laughter Yoga
- Qigong Breathwork
- Women's Group
- Explorations in Wine

WHO ARE OLLI INSTRUCTORS?

Instructors have special knowledge, background, and skill in the topics they teach. They are carefully screened, and their course proposals are examined by the OLLI Program Director and the volunteer members of the OLLI Curriculum Committee. More than half of our instructors have terminal degrees in their areas of expertise and may be current or former university professors.



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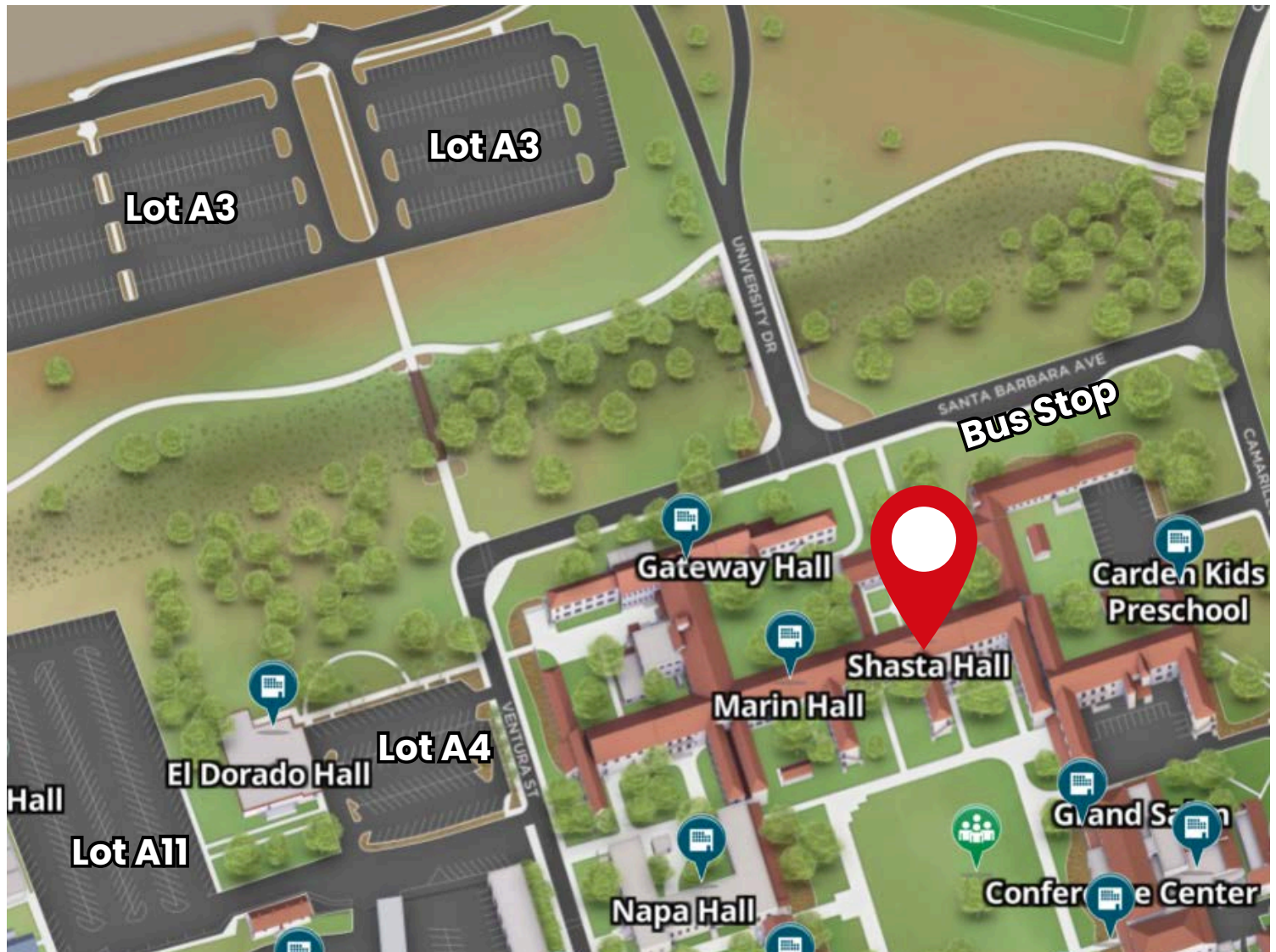
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CAMPUS MAP



Extended University has moved to Shasta Hall!

OLLI at CSUCI is thrilled to begin hosting classes in Extended University's brand new learning lab in Shasta Hall #1635.

Shasta Hall is conveniently located at the University Drive entrance to campus, close to the campus bus stop and parking lots A3, A4, and A11.

The new space provides an integrated, hybrid classroom experience for in-person and virtual learners, with comfortable, flexible seating and state-of-the-art technology.

The new space also features an outdoor patio, where members are welcome to socialize and enjoy coffee or lunch in between classes.

CLASS LOCATIONS



California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI)

Shasta Hall #1635
1 University Drive,
Camarillo, CA 93012



Studio Channel Islands Art Center (SCIART)

Blackboard Gallery
2222 E. Ventura Blvd,
Camarillo, CA 93010



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

CLASS LOCATIONS



Dos Vientos Community Center (DVC)

4801 Borchard Rd,
Newbury Park, CA 91320



Pleasant Valley Community Center (PVCC)

1605 E. Burnley St.,
Camarillo, CA 93010

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POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Key Dates

- Monday, January 12th, enrollment begins at 8:30 AM.
- Monday, January 26th, Spring I session begins.

Please see individual course descriptions for specific course dates.

Levels of Enrollment

- **A la Carte Enrollment:** Pay per course.
 - \$72 for each 6-week course
 - \$48 for each 4-week course
 - \$36 for each 3-week course
 - \$24 for each 2-week course
- **Unlimited Enrollment:** Take unlimited CSUCI OLLI courses this session.
 Osher Online courses are **not included in the Unlimited Enrollment plans.
 - \$180 for Individual Unlimited (1 member)
 - \$270 for Household Unlimited (2 members)

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 \$20. The OLLI Annual Membership Fee is due upon enrollment in the student's first session of the academic year and remains active from Fall 2025 through Summer 2026.

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](#) 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](#).
- **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. For Osher Online courses, a formal drop request must be submitted before the second class 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, Shasta Hall 1602, Camarillo, CA 93012



OSHER ONLINE FAQ

What is Osher Online?

Osher Online is a program of classes run by the Osher National Resource Center (NRC) in partnership with participating OLLI programs, like CSUCI. These classes are in addition to the OLLI classes provided by CSUCI and complement our in-house offerings. Osher Online provides a wide range of new instructors and an opportunity to connect with members from other OLLIs nationwide. Osher Online courses are managed by Osher NRC staff.

How do I register?

Please register for each Osher Online course on our online Registration Page as you would for any OLLI course. Please note that there is an enrollment limit for Osher Online courses.

How much does it cost?

Osher Online courses are \$72 per course. OLLI at CSUCI's \$20 annual membership fee is required to participate. Osher Online courses are not included in our Unlimited Enrollment Plans.

How do I receive my Zoom link and course materials?

Osher NRC staff manage all aspects of course delivery. Osher Online staff will contact you via email to provide log-in credentials for access to class Zoom links, syllabi, discussion boards, and download supplemental materials. Additionally, Osher NRC staff will invite you to attend an orientation before classes begin, where they will go over access to courses and class materials.

Are these classes recorded?

No, unfortunately Osher Online classes are not recorded.

Have questions about or technical issues with Osher Online courses?

Osher Online classes and communications are managed by the Osher NRC. Please contact Osher NRC staff with specific questions and technical issues related to those courses.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute California State University Channel Islands

One University Drive, Shasta Hall 1602, Camarillo, CA 93012

Website: go.csuci.edu/olli

Phone: 805-437-2748 (ext. 2)

Facebook: [OLLIatCSUCI](https://www.facebook.com/OLLIatCSUCI)

Instagram: [@olliatcsuci](https://www.instagram.com/olliatcsuci)

YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/@olliatcsuci1561

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