



at CSU Channel Islands
OLLI is the Joy of Learning

Spring II 2026

Registration Opens:
March 16th

Session Dates:
March 30th - May 8th



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University**

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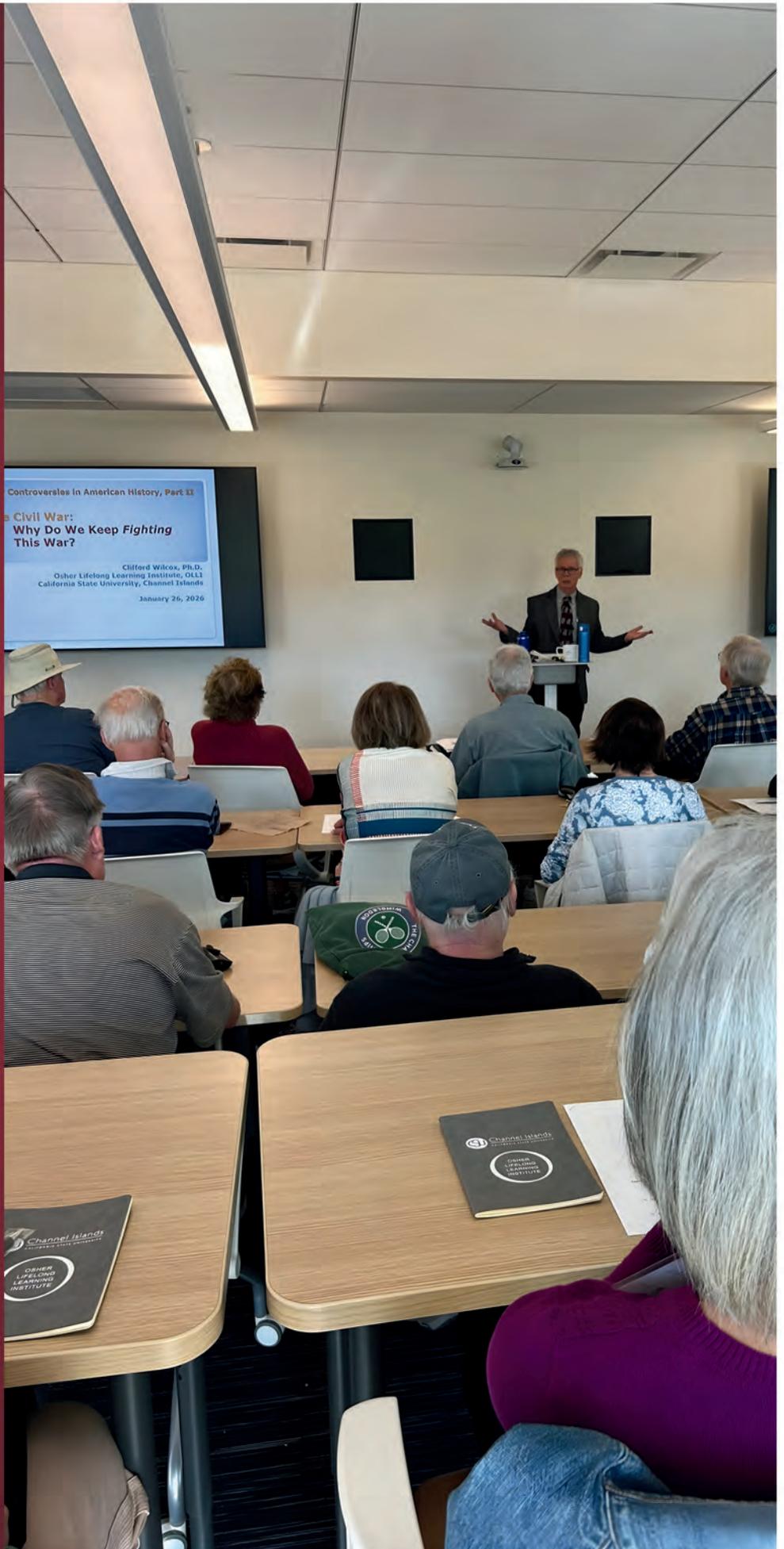
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Donna Touros | 916-284-4438

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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 II at OLLI!

Dear OLLI Members,

My name is Bev Taylor, and I'm honored to serve as the Vice Chair of the Advisory Council of Volunteers for OLLI at CSUCI. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Spring II 2026 session.

When I first joined OLLI, I thought I was signing up for classes. What I found was something much richer—a community of curious, engaged people who believe that learning is a lifelong joy and that connection matters at every stage of life.

OLLI is a place to explore new ideas, rediscover old interests, and share perspectives in a welcoming, respectful environment. It's where friendships form and conversations continue long after class ends.

As a longtime member and volunteer, I've seen how OLLI thrives because of the people who bring their curiosity, experience, and generosity to this community. Whether you're here to learn something new, meet interesting people, or stay engaged with the world around you, OLLI at CSUCI has a place for you.

I hope you'll join us for the Spring II session and become part of a community that continues to inspire me every day.

Bev Taylor

***Vice Chair of Advisory Council
of Volunteers***



CALENDAR OVERVIEW – CSUCI OLLI

Day	Start Date	Time	Location	Title	Weeks	Class #
Mon	3/30	10am-12pm	Zoom	Social Connections: Longevity, Happiness, and Quality of Life (Instructor: Uyeda)	6	1001
	3/30	1-3pm	Zoom	Golden Notes: Musicals in Oscar History (Instructor: Caponegro)	3	1002
	4/20	1-3pm	Zoom	The German Touch: How Jeans, Teddy Bears, and Porcelain Conquered the World (Instructor: Isaacs)	3	1003
Tues	4/7	10am-12pm	SCIART/Zoom & In-Person	Music to Your Ears (Instructor: Clifford)	6	1004
	4/7	1-3pm	Zoom	Russia in the Early 20 th Century: Belle Epoque or Revolutionary Crossroads? (Instructor: Pereltsvaig)	6	1005
Wed	4/1	10am-12pm	Zoom	American Power and the Legacy of the Greatest Generation: How We Bent Others to Our Will with Less Than All Out Military Force (Instructor: Baker)	6	1006
	4/1	1-3pm	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	Understanding Provider-Side and Patient-Side Communication: Bridging the Gap (Instructor: Henchy)	3	1007
	4/22	1-3pm	CSUCI (In-Person Only)	Wild Food and Medicine of Early California (Instructor: Kaufer)	2	1008
Thurs	4/2	10am-12pm	SCIART/Zoom & In-Person	Twelve Modern Philosophers (Instructor: Garlington)	6	1009
	4/2	1-3pm	Zoom	Art in London (Instructor: Zoraster)	6	1010
Fri	4/3	10am-12pm	CSUCI (In-Person only)	Unleash Your Creativity with Watercolor Painting (Instructor: King)	6	1011
	4/3	10am-12pm	DVC (In-Person only)	Guided Autobiography: Uncovering Your Stories for Growth and Connection (Instructor: Clayton)	6	1012
	4/3	1-3pm	GACC (In-Person Only)	Hidden Influences: Lost Gems of the Twentieth Century (Instructor: Klin)	6	1013

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

Please see course descriptions for specific course dates.

CURRENT REGISTRATION

Registration for Spring II opens March 16th 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.

Please note that registration for Spring Osher Online courses closes on March 17th.

Benefits of Membership

- Eligibility to attend CSUCI OLLI class sessions and participate in Osher Online
- Access to recorded classes
- Eligibility to attend local day trips
- Eligibility to participate in Shared Interest Groups (SIGs)
- Invitations to OLLI social & campus events
- Eligibility to purchase a student ID that gives access to free bus usage through the Ventura County Transportation Commission and student discounts
- Membership fees are used to continue and enhance the OLLI program

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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 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.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Get to Know Your New OLLI Advisory Council Volunteer Leaders!



Bev Taylor – Vice Chair

Bev has lived in Camarillo with her family since 1970. She joined OLLI as a volunteer five years ago as a member of the Membership Committee. She has participated on the Advisory Board for the past two years as Membership Team Chair and has recently stepped into the role of Vice Chair, in addition to enjoying many of the OLLI classes and events. Before retiring, Bev had been teaching and a volunteer coordinator since 1963 for the Arthritis Foundation and the American Diabetes Association. She grew up in San Diego but has lived in New York, Washington DC, Maryland and Oregon before returning to southern California with her family. When you meet her, ask about her and her husband's trip around the world.



Brett Kirkpatrick – Membership Team Chair

Brett started his career in the citrus industry at Fillmore-Piru Citrus immediately upon graduation. He had several different jobs within the industry including Vice-President in Charge of Orange Packing at Limoneira Company. Eventually he went full circle and returned to Fillmore-Piru Citrus, where he served as President and General Manager for seven years before retiring in 2022. He enjoys traveling, golfing and snow skiing among other activities. He feels fortunate to have this great OLLI program right in town. He enjoys everything about the program and is looking forward to increasing his volunteer efforts.



Marti Walsh – Curriculum Team Chair

After living several places – Iowa, New Jersey, Florida and Ohio, Marti moved to Camarillo in 2023. The OLLI program has been an important part of her life since then. She enjoys the classes, volunteering on the Curriculum Committee and participating in several of the special interest groups. She received her BA and MPA from Florida International University and spent her professional career managing not-for-profit social service organizations in Miami and Cincinnati. She believes that OLLI offers a unique opportunity for life long learners to enjoy classes and meet new people. She looks forward to continuing to help make OLLI possible!

Many thanks to our continuing Volunteer Leaders and to all of our incredible Volunteers—your support sustains our program's success. As our program grows, so does our need for volunteers to ensure its long-term sustainability. We invite all members to consider getting involved. If you're interested in joining a team, please reach out to us. Learn more about volunteering on page 23.

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MONDAY – CSUCI OLLI

Social Connections: Longevity, Happiness, and Quality of Life

 Class 1001 | Zoom

Monday, 10:00am - 12:00pm, 6 Weeks (3/30-5/4)

This course explores the science of social connection, beginning with the Roseto Effect of the 1950s, which revealed the powerful role community plays in longevity, happiness, and quality of life. Building on decades of research, the course examines how and why the human brain craves social connection. After an introductory week on the neuroscience of social bonds, each subsequent week analyzes a pop culture resource—emerging during and after the COVID-19 pandemic—that fosters connection and supports cognitive, mental, emotional, and social health. Moving from conventional to unconventional examples, the course reveals how these deceptively challenging activities strengthen social ties and enhance overall well-being.



Kelsey Uyeda is a gerontologist and the founder of *You've Been Pop Culture'd*, which is a small business dedicated to empowering all ages through pop culture. Kelsey received her Master of Science degree in Gerontology in August 2020 from CSULB and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Music and Single Subject Teaching Credential K-12: Music in June 2014 from UCLA.

Golden Notes: Musicals in Oscar History

 Class 1002 | Zoom

Monday, 1:00 - 3:00pm, 3 Weeks (3/30-4/13)

Oscar season brings music, magic, and movie memories! This course explores how musical films have made their mark on the Academy Awards. We'll revisit Oscar-winning classics such as *An American in Paris*, *The Great Ziegfeld*, and *West Side Story*, discovering how these films captured the hearts of audiences and critics alike. We'll also highlight unforgettable songs that earned their own Oscars, showcasing the power of music to define a cinematic era. Additionally, we'll highlight beloved nominees that didn't claim the gold—*The Wizard of Oz*, *The King and I*, *La La Land*, and more. Through film clips, lively discussion, and behind-the-scenes stories, we'll celebrate the timeless magic where Hollywood and music meet.



Sam and Candy Caponegro are passionate about American musicals. They met in a musical and have acted, co-directed, and taught theater courses for over 40 years. Their base is Rutgers University OLLI, but they have lectured on *Princess Cruise Lines*, at libraries, senior centers, and universities throughout the United States. Their motto: *If music be the food of life, let's gorge ourselves!*

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MONDAY – CSUCI OLLI

The German Touch: How Jeans, Teddy Bears, and Porcelain Conquered the World

Z Class 1003 | Zoom

Monday, 1:00 – 3:00pm, 3 Weeks (4/20-5/4)

Discover the surprising German roots behind three beloved icons: blue jeans, teddy bears, and fine porcelain. This engaging course explores how German creativity, craftsmanship, and innovation shaped everyday life and global culture. You will meet Levi Strauss, whose durable denim transformed fashion and labor; Margarete Steiff, whose handmade teddy bears redefined childhood comfort and play; and the alchemists of Meissen, creators of Europe's first hard-paste porcelain, once known as "white gold." Enjoy a playful and enriching dive into history, creativity, and pure German ingenuity!



Anette Isaacs was born and raised in Germany. She is a Historian and Public Educator who has presented hundreds of programs on German history, politics, and culture nationwide. She holds Master's Degrees in American Studies, Political Science, and History and serves as the Director of OLLI at FIU (Florida International University) in Miami, FL.

TUESDAY – CSUCI OLLI

Music to Our Ears

H Class 1004 | SCIART & Zoom

Tuesday, 10:00am – 12:00pm, 6 Weeks (4/7-5/12) *Class begins one week later

Do you enjoy beautiful music? What makes it beautiful to you? While most people enjoy music, few understand the basics of musical sounds or how we hear those sounds. Why does a piano have ~230 strings while a violin has only four? Why do you pluck a guitar but bow a cello? Why are trumpets metal while oboes are hardwood? In this course, we will examine a variety of instruments to determine how their material, shape, size and method of playing impact their sounds. Then we will look at our ability to hear those sounds. How do the many parts of our ears work together to give us the sounds that we enjoy as beautiful music? Please join us as we explore Music to our Ears.



Jerry Clifford, PhD, earned his degree in Nuclear Physics at Iowa State University. As an Air Force officer, he taught physics at the Air Force Academy, worked on nuclear weapons programs, studied particle beams for Reagan's Star Wars, and worked in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Jerry taught physics and astronomy at several universities, including CSUCI. He has taught for OLLI since 2004.

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TUESDAY – CSUCI OLLI

Russia in the Early 20th Century: Belle Epoque or Revolutionary Crossroads?

 Class 1005 | Zoom

Tuesday, 1:00 – 3:00pm, 6 Weeks (4/7-5/12) *Class begins one week later

The turn of the twentieth century is a momentous period in Russian history that is often underappreciated: nineteenth century is considered the Golden Age in Russian civilization and the transformative events of the Soviet period attract the attention of many. But in this course, we'll focus our lens on the two decades that are known as the Silver Age of Russian literature and culture, and when three (!) revolutions occurred in Russia in quick succession. We'll examine political, philosophical, economic, and cultural developments of that period—and will inquire how Russia got from Tolstoy and Dostoyevsky to the Holodomor and the Gulag camps.



Asya Pereltsvaig, PhD, received a degree in English and History from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a PhD in Linguistics from McGill University. She taught at Yale and Stanford, and has been teaching in lifelong education programs since 2010. Her expertise is in language and history, and the relationship between them.

WEDNESDAY – CSUCI OLLI

American Power and the Legacy of the Greatest Generation: How We Bent Others to Our Will with Less Than All Out Military Force

 Class 1006 | Zoom

Wednesday, 10:00am – 12:00pm, 6 Weeks (4/1-5/6)

U.S. global influence is advanced by foreign policy decisions and interventions to promote alliances and partnerships and stymie U.S. adversaries. Constructive foreign policy utilizes diplomacy, trade, cultural exchange, foreign aid, and global environmental cooperation. The US military has been used (and at times misused) throughout the last 80 years along with our covert paramilitary forces to bend other nations to our will. The course will review some material involving the use of the military, assess where foreign policy and military action intersect or overlap, and evaluate return on investment from some of these interventions – both successful and unsuccessful. Finally, we will examine the most dangerous friction zones on the planet that could start a global conflagration and discuss how future wars might be conducted.



Dr. Michael Baker practiced general surgery and trauma care for more than 40 years. He also served his country in uniform for 30 years and retired as a Rear Admiral. He teaches Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) at military bases around the world and taught 5 tours in Ukraine during the Russian invasion. He lectures on politics, the military, and history for Commonwealth Club and OLLI programs.

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WEDNESDAY – CSUCI OLLI

Understanding Provider-Side and Patient-Side Communication: Bridging the Gap

H Class 1007 | CSUCI & Zoom
 Wednesday, 1:00 – 3:00pm, 3 Weeks (4/1-4/15)

This practical course examines the complex dynamics of the Health Care Provider-Patient relationship. Focused squarely on the communication process, we will take each side separately, Provider and Patient, and explore considerations about and barriers to effective dialogue. Then, we will look at steps that you can take to help bridge the gap between these two sides. This course seeks to offer solutions and tips for how to avoid common, but avoidable communication pitfalls in our healthcare interactions. This course is not a panacea to solving the many issues with our modern U.S. healthcare system today, but it does hope to provide tangible tools to help improve your chances at a more satisfying Provider-Patient communication.



Vivian Henchy, M.A., RYT-200, has taught Health Communication and other health-oriented topics at CSUCI in the Communication Department since 2009. Vivian spent over fifteen years in the corporate sector as a Training and Organizational Consultant for a large HMO and as an Account Manager for a health plan. She completed her M.A. in Communication at San Diego State University.

Wild Food and Medicine of Early California

IP Class 1008 | CSUCI
 Wednesday, 1:00 – 3:00pm, 2 Weeks (4/22-4/29)

What was it like for Indigenous Californians and early settlers to find and prepare plant foods and medicinal home remedies? This immersive, hands-on course invites you to find out by stepping into a “village-for-a-day” experience. Over two interactive sessions, participants work together to process flavorful black walnuts and to prepare a pain-relieving sagebrush liniment. Along the way, you will learn about regional plants, seasonal rhythms, and the cultural knowledge that sustained communities for generations. **Class size is limited to 30 participants. There will be an additional fee for course materials.**



Lanny Kaufer has been leading herb walks, nature hikes, and workshops in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties since 1976, educating thousands of locals and visitors on the edible and medicinal flora of the area. He holds a biology degree from UC Santa Cruz. He is the author of Medicinal Herbs of California: A Field Guide to Common Healing Plants and the founder and director of the Ojai Herbal Symposium.

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THURSDAY – CSUCI OLLI

Twelve Modern Philosophers

H Class 1009 | SCIART & Zoom

Thursday, 10:00am - 12:00pm, 6 Weeks (4/2-5/7)

This class will examine the life and works of twelve major Western philosophers from John Locke (1632-1677) to Jacques Derrida (1930-2004). Included among others will be Emmanuel Kant, Friedrich Nietzsche, Martin Heidegger, Hannah Arendt, Jen Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir. Major philosophical questions to be discussed will include: Epistemology, the Existence of God, the Nature of Man and Being, the Problem of Free Will, and the Question of Evil. If you are looking for some mental stimulation, this class is for you.



Bill Garlington, Ph.D., has a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in History from UCLA and a Doctorate in Asian Studies and Sociology from the Australian National University. He has taught at all academic levels on three continents and carried out sociological / anthropological fieldwork in India. His main academic interests are the sociology of religion and the history of ideas.

Art in London

Z Class 1010 | Zoom

Thursday, 1:00 - 3:00pm, 6 Weeks (4/2-5/7)

Hosting a variety of world class collections, London is an art lover's mecca. As of 2016, there were more than 250 registered art institutions in Greater London. Boasting an interesting history of art patronage, importation of art in addition to its own artistic production, there is a definite European flair to the art in London. In this course, we travel virtually through London, visiting different art museums and collections to examine some of the highlights and how they got there. While some of these were produced in London by British artists, we explore how others made their way into these collections by various means. Some of these collections include the works of Anthony van Dyck and Artemisia Gentileschi collected by King Charles I and The Swing by Fragonard in The Wallace Collection. Also included is the interesting array of art, including notable works by William Hogarth, in Sir John Soane's Museum.



Katherine E. Zoraster is a contextual Art Historian and a Professor of Art History specializing in Western art from the Renaissance to the 20th century. In addition to OLLI, she teaches at a variety of other schools and programs, including as the instructor for the full-time program at the Los Angeles Academy of Figurative Arts. Katherine is also a member of the Art Muse team and a commissioner for the Burbank Cultural Arts Commission.

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FRIDAY – CSUCI OLLI

Unleash Your Creativity with Watercolor Painting

IP Class 1011 | CSUCI

Friday, 10:00am – 12:00pm, 6 Weeks (4/3–5/8)

Discover the joy of watercolor in this six-week beginner's course, where you'll learn essential techniques, explore color and texture, and create paintings you'll be proud to share. Just come to learn, have fun and relax while learning the wonders of making art with watercolors. Emphasis is on the development of artistic skills and techniques for those with little or no previous experience with drawing or painting. We will use watercolor pencils, a watercolor set, paper and water to create art. Learn the basics of painting from still life setups and nature. Individual help and hands-on demonstrations help students feel comfortable with artistic materials and processes. **This class is limited to 24 participants and students will need to purchase their own art supplies. A materials list will be provided.**



Liz King, MFA has been a CSUCI Art Professor since 2003 and previously served as Chair. She has taught both Fine Art and Computer-based art courses. Prior to CSUCI she was on the faculty at Santa Monica College's Academy of Entertainment & Technology. She has a master's degree in art from UCLA and received the Armand Hammer Prize in the Visual Arts given by the Los Angeles Arts Council.

Guided Autobiography: Uncovering Your Stories for Growth and Connection

IP Class 1012 | DVC

Friday, 10:00am – 12:00pm, 6 Weeks (4/3–5/8)

Guided Autobiography (GAB) is a structured approach that involves delving into one's life story with the guidance of a trained facilitator. It offers individuals an opportunity to deeply reflect on and chronicle significant life experiences, enabling them to gain valuable insight and a richer understanding of their personal journey. Each session revolves around a specific life theme such as branching points in life, family, money, career paths, health, gender identity, perspectives on death, spirituality, and goals and aspirations. Within these themes, participants engage with a series of thought-provoking questions tailored to elicit memories and encourage the writing of approximately two pages of their life story each session. While sharing is not mandatory, part of GAB's benefit is the chance to read your story aloud and hear other people's stories in a safe, constructive environment. Absolutely no writing experience needed! Everyone can do this.



Victoria Clayton, MA is a writer/author whose work has appeared in *The Guardian US*, *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post*, and elsewhere. She's a senior adjunct professor of communications at California Lutheran University and a trained facilitator through USC Birren Center for Autobiographical Studies. Victoria holds an MA from University of Missouri-Columbia and has studied fiction at UCLA and NY State Writer's Institute.

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FRIDAY – CSUCI OLLI

Hidden Influences: Lost Gems of the Twentieth Century

IP Class 1013 | GACC

Friday, 1:00 – 3:00pm, 6 Weeks (4/3–5/8)

This course explores six influential works of 20th-century fiction that once shaped cultural conversations but are rarely read today. Novels such as *Peyton Place*, *The Ugly American*, *Babbitt*, *The Jungle*, and *The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit* captured the social tensions, ambitions, and anxieties of their eras. In this course, we will examine why these books mattered so deeply when they were published, how they influenced public thought and popular culture, and why they have faded from modern reading lists. Through discussion and historical context, we will consider what these stories still reveal about power, conformity, morality, and the enduring questions of American life—and why they deserve renewed attention today.



Richard Klein is the author of the novel *Petroleum Transfer Engineer (Underground Voices)*. His writing has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *the Brooklyn Rail*, *Cultural Daily*, *The Millions*, and many others.

TESTIMONIAL

“OLLI provides the opportunity to meet people, make new friends, and continue to exercise your mind and your social skills in retirement.”

– Donna S.



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Osher Online™

in collaboration with Northwestern University
School of Professional Studies

Frequently Asked Questions

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. **Registration for Spring 2026 Osher Online courses closes on March 17th.**

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, Osher Online classes are not recorded.

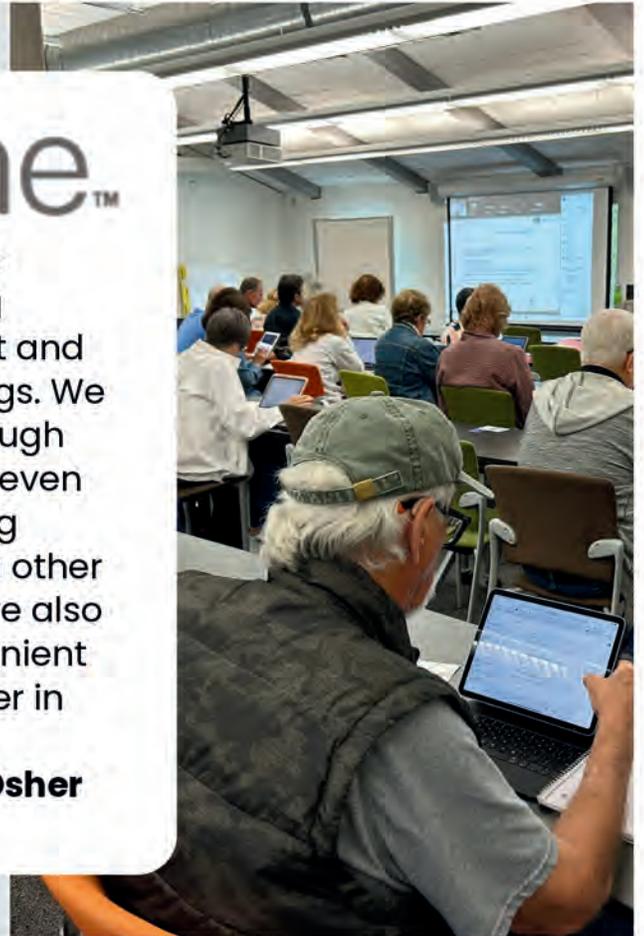
Have questions about or technical issues with Osher Online courses?

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.

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. **Registration for Spring 2026 Osher Online courses closes on March 17th.**



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.

Oliva 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.

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OSHER ONLINE

Siberia: Russia's Frozen Wasteland or Economic Heartland?

 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

 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

 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 Frampton.

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

 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.

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OSHER ONLINE

AI for Regular People

 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.

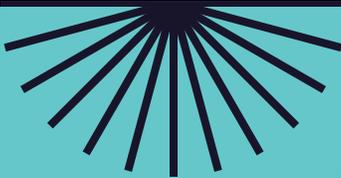
A Beautiful Brain

 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 "Redefiner" 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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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*.



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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



Stay in the Know! Visit The OLLI at CSUCI Events Page for Updates!

Event Name	Event Date	Registration Date
Homeowner's Insurance Policy Seminar (Free)	March 13, 2026	February 13, 2026
Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Tour	March 23, 2026	February 18, 2026
Falstaff at the LA Opera	April 26, 2026	March 4, 2026
Berry Farm Tour Zoom Seminar (Free)	May 11, 2026	April 8, 2026
Oxnard Berry Farm Tour	May 14, 2026	April 9, 2026
Santa Barbara Zoo Tour	May 21, 2026	April 29, 2026

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

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



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

SHARED INTEREST GROUPS



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



*Channel Islands Interest Group members visiting the
Chrisman California Islands Center!*

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 advanced degrees in their areas of expertise and may be current or former university professors.



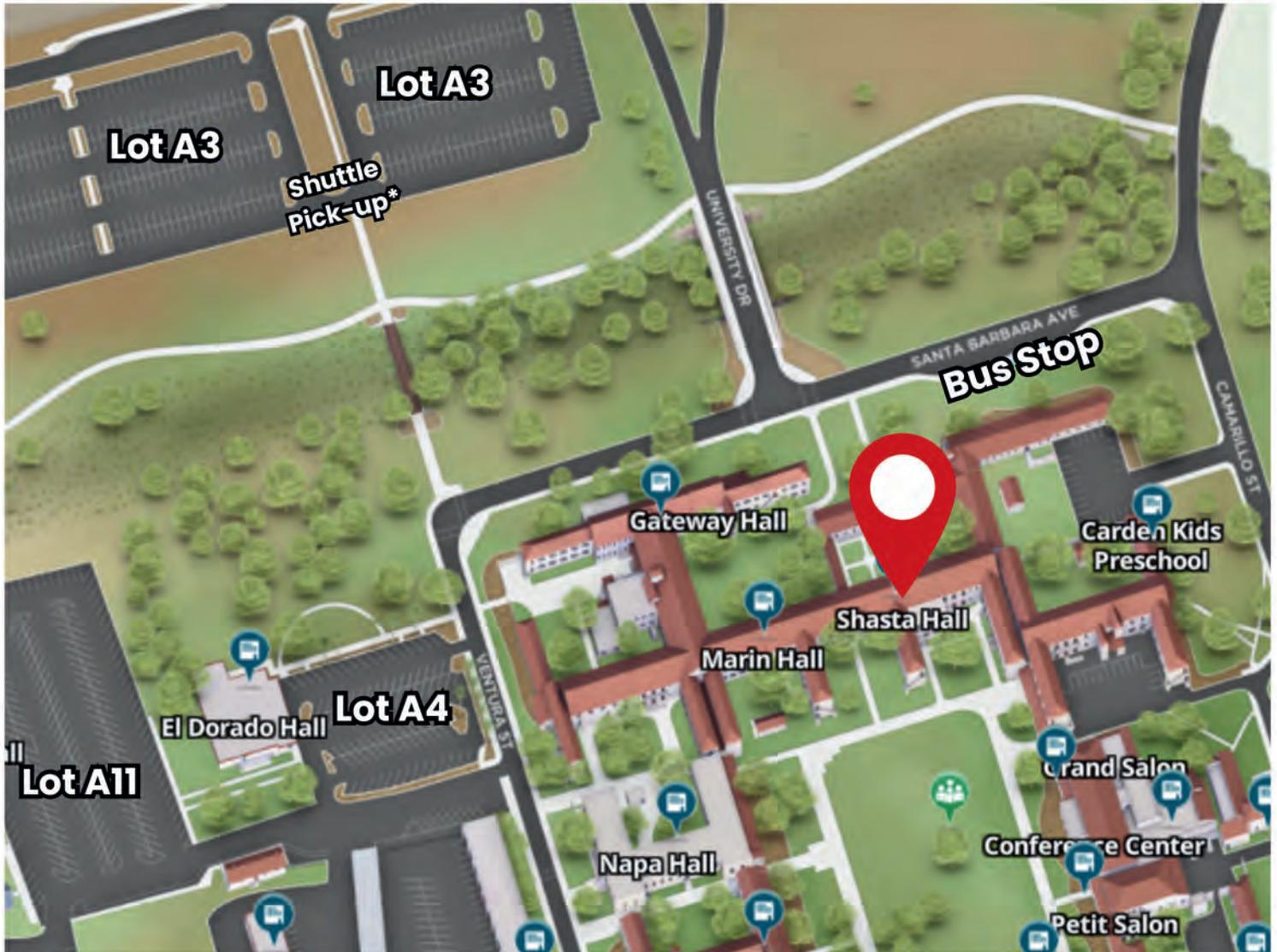
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CAMPUS MAP



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.

*Shuttle Service is available upon request from parking lot A3 to the classroom.

We encourage members to check the VCTC bus schedule and utilize bus service from the Camarillo Metrolink Station to campus, which is free with a validated CSUCI student ID.

The Shasta Hall classroom 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

CLASS LOCATIONS



Goebel Adult Community Center (GACC)

1385 E Janss Rd,
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362



Dos Vientos Community Center (DVC)

4801 Borchard Rd,
Newbury Park, CA 91320

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POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Key Dates

- Monday, March 16th, registration begins at 8:30 AM.
- Monday, March 30th, Spring II session begins.
 - No class on Tuesday, March 31st for Cesar Chavez Day holiday
- **Tuesday, March 17th, Osher Online registration closes**

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: Please call (805) 437-2748, option 2 to register by phone. We are not able to take credit card payments by phone.

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

Refund Policy

To drop a CSUCI OLLI or Osher Online 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.

Course Cancellation Policy

OLLI at CSUCI reserves the right to cancel courses due to low enrollment, changes in venue availability, or other extenuating circumstances. Students will be notified in the event of a course cancellation. Members who enrolled in a cancelled course a la carte will receive a refund for the course fee. Members with Unlimited Enrollment will only receive a refund if a formal drop request is submitted in Week 1 of the session in accordance with our refund policy. Prorated refunds for Unlimited Enrollments are not available when a course is cancelled.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute California State University Channel Islands

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Email: olli@csuci.edu

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

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

YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/@olliatcsuci1561

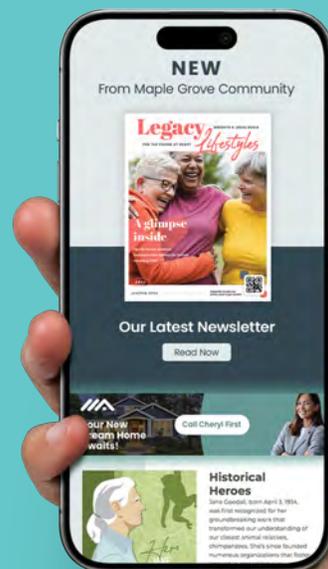
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