



OSHER  
LIFELONG  
LEARNING  
INSTITUTE

at CSU Channel Islands

*Curiosity Never Retires*

**SPRING I 2023**

Registration Opens Jan. 6th

Session Dates:

January 23rd - March 3rd



**California State  
University**

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

 805-437-2748

 [go.csuci.edu/olli](http://go.csuci.edu/olli)

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Welcome to OLLI's Spring I 2023 Class Offerings!

I'm honored to have the opportunity as an OLLI student and volunteer to introduce myself and the Spring Catalog. My name is Kathy Asolas and I have been an OLLI student since Summer Taste of 2017. One of the first things I did upon retirement in June 2017 was to look up OLLI's class offerings. We have good friends who had been active in OLLI for several years and I was very excited to learn more about the program. Imagine my surprise to discover that in one session offering I could take a class on science, another one on memory, another one on history and a different one on comedy. Wow! I have enjoyed so many topics since those first classes that summer.

As the program was forced to change so quickly due to the pandemic, I was amazed with the energy that the curriculum team applied to moving classes to a virtual platform. At around that same time I was invited to put my name in the hat to see how I could help. What did we want the program to look like during and after the pandemic? I joined the OLLI Advisory Council and currently lead the Finance/Fundraising Team. Our role is to provide oversight to the great team in Extended University that record the income and outflow to maintain the OLLI Program.

The OLLI program is guided by the vital recommendations and feedback from students just like you. We as students benefit so richly by keeping our brains active and making friendships with our fellow students who love learning. I encourage you to actively take ownership in the future of OLLI by volunteering on a team and bringing your ideas to current and future programs. We need you and I promise you a rewarding and fun adventure as an OLLI volunteer.

Thank you for your membership in the Channel Islands OLLI family!

Kathy Asolas  
OLLI Finance Team Chair

# Calendar Overview

|              | Time           | Location               | Title   | Weeks | Class # |
|--------------|----------------|------------------------|---|-------|---------|
| <b>Mon</b>   | 10 AM to 12 PM | CSUCI/Zoom<br>Hy-Flex  | Lies, Damn Lies and Statistics<br>(Instructor: Daniel Sandoval)               | 6     | 1001    |
|              | 1 PM to 3 PM   | Zoom                   | Chaplin: The True King of Comedy<br>(Instructor: Nicholas Santa Maria)        | 6     | 1002    |
| <b>Tues</b>  | 10 AM to 12 PM | SCIART/Zoom<br>Hy-Flex | The Blockchain Revolution and<br>Your Future (Instructor: BiJian<br>Fan)      | 6     | 1003    |
|              | 1 PM to 3 PM   | CSUCI/Zoom<br>Hy-Flex  | Before the Rise of Humans<br>(Instructor: Matthew Curtis)                     | 6     | 1004    |
| <b>Wed</b>   | 10 AM to 12 PM | SCIART/Zoom<br>Hy-Flex | Exhibitions That Make Art History<br>(Instructor: Katherine Zoraster)         | 6     | 1005    |
|              | 1 PM to 3 PM   | Zoom                   | Lessons Learned From the Bench<br>(Instructor: Hon. Gary L. Bindman )         | 6     | 1006    |
| <b>Thurs</b> | 10 AM to 12 PM | Zoom                   | Building Sin City: The History of<br>Las Vegas (Instructor: David<br>Parsons) | 6     | 1007    |
|              | 1 PM to 3 PM   | Zoom                   | Misuse of the American Military<br>Since 1945 (Instructor: Michael<br>Baker ) | 6     | 1008    |
| <b>Fri</b>   | 10 AM to 12 PM | Zoom                   | Tough Dames: Women Writing<br>Noir (Instructor: Robert Weibezahl)             | 6     | 1009    |
|              | 1 PM to 3 PM   | Zoom                   | Our Amazing Universe<br>(Instructor: Stephenie Slahor)                        | 6     | 1010    |

Catalog Cover Credits - Benjamin Hytrek - CSUCI Staff

## Lies, Damn Lies and Statistics

### Class 1001 (CSUCI Library/ Hy-Flex) Vaccine with Booster Required

Monday, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, 6-weeks (1/23-2/27)

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“President X has a 40% approval rating!” “Medical Treatment X is 95% effective!” “Hurricane X has a 60% chance of hitting the coast!”. Headlines often blurt out statistics as if they are the absolute truth, but do we know these numbers are true? What do they really tell us? And why does the opposite happen sometimes? It feels like we are awash in numbers, but how do we really know what they mean? Learn how to become a savvy consumer of statistics and learn to separate the truth from the hype. We’ll come to understand how randomness can often rule our lives, but with a little knowledge and some luck, we can tilt the odds in our favor. We’ll explore the importance of sampling, gain a true understanding of what statistics can – and cannot - tell us, and learn how they can deceive us from reality.

*Daniel Sandoval, Ph.D., is a native of Ventura County and went to the California Institute of Technology, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in Engineering. After volunteering and then running a homeless shelter in Hartford, CT, he received his Ph.D. in Development Sociology at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. He established a career in data science and analysis at which he still practices. Daniel teaches at California State Channel Islands and California Lutheran in their Sociology departments. He is currently a trustee of the Santa Paula Unified School District and leads the Ventura County District Attorney’s Family Justice Center (VCFJC) Research Committee.*

## Chaplin: The True King of Comedy

### Class 1002 (Zoom)

Monday, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, 6-weeks (1/23-2/27)

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Sir Charles Spencer Chaplin was born in the most dire of circumstances. While he was still a child, his father had abandoned the family, and his mother was placed in a mental institution. His Dickensian story is one of the great sagas in show business history. You’ll see his work and hear about his politics and the troubles he incurred. His love life was also controversial. See his work, and hear the story of his amazing and controversial life. He rose from less than nothing to being the most recognized and worshiped figure in film. (I have recently returned from a trip to his home in Vevey, Switzerland, and I am so ready for this course.)

*Nicholas Santa Maria is a 40-year show business veteran. On Broadway, he was in “Grease!” and Mel Brooks’ “The Producers” for 5 years playing almost every male role. He’s been a standup comedian and a comedy improv performer. He has written material for two off-Broadway shows – “Secrets Every Smart Traveler Should Know” and “Real Men: The Musical” (writer/composer/lyrics). He has appeared in every form of show business except ballet and circus. He is the author of several articles and the books “Comedy Crazy” and “The Annotated Abbott and Costello” (soon to be released by McFarland Books).*

## **The Blockchain Revolution and Your Future**

### **Class 1003 (SCIART/Hy-Flex) Vaccine with Booster Required**

*Tuesday, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, 6-weeks (1/24-2/28)*

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Blockchain is the underlying technology for Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies. But its unique way of securing data has gone beyond monetary transactions and found wide application. Blockchain has transformed food supply, healthcare, and civil service. It has also improved business efficiency significantly. What makes blockchain so secure and efficient? What problems can it solve? If you are curious, please join us for a discussion about blockchain fundamentals and innovation. We will explore its impact on the Web, digital cash, and our future lifestyle.

*BiJian Fan, Ph.D., received his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Mathematics in China, and his Doctorate in Mechanical Engineering at Texas A&M University. He spent most of his professional career in pharmaceutical research and development at Merck and Amgen. Today his focus is on visual art. He has exhibited internationally and has earned numerous recognitions. BiJian integrates art and science in his creative practice and lectures on scientific art worldwide.*

## **Before the Rise of Humans**

### **Class 1004 (CSUCI Library/ Hy-Flex) Vaccine with Booster Required**

*Tuesday, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, 6-weeks (1/24-2/28)*

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This is Part 1 of a course series "The Lost World of Hominins", exploring the evolution of hominins (the lineage of bipedal apes that humans are part of) from the earliest members to the rise of Homo sapiens. Part 1 considers the fossil evidence for hominins dating from about 7 to 3 million years ago that existed prior to the appearance of the first members of the genus Homo. Fossil evidence for pre-human species in Africa such as Sahelanthropus tchadensis, Orrorin tugenensis, Ardipithecus ramidus, and the various Australopithecus and Paranthropus species are examined. Special attention is paid to iconic fossil specimens such as the famous "Lucy" and "Ardi" specimens and their importance in the history of paleoanthropology. Throughout the course, fossil evidence is considered in relation to the paleoenvironmental record and various selective pressures that were vital in early hominin evolution.

*Matthew 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, is a former National Science Foundation grantee, and is the founder and director of Eastern African Archaeology Online, a website devoted to cultural heritage advocacy, news, and information concerning archaeology in Africa. He is a lecturer in the Anthropology program and faculty archaeologist for the Cultural Resource Management Team at CSUCI.*



## Exhibitions That Make Art History

### Class 1005 (SCIART/Hy-Flex) Vaccine with Booster Required

Wednesday, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, 6-weeks (1/25-3/1)

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Many of the developments in the history of art can be seen through exhibitions and how artists and the public react to what is shown. Breaking from the conservatism of the French Royal Academy, the Salon des Refusés of 1863 was the public's first opportunity to see works of art outside the standards of the Academy jury. Just over a decade later, a group of rebels broke from convention and sponsored their own exhibition, becoming the Impressionists. Following in their tradition, a series of independent exhibition societies formed a few decades later to encourage avant-garde art and introduced the public to new artistic styles and techniques. In this course, we look at some of those momentous exhibitions to see how they were conceived of and how they were received, including the introduction of Fauvism at the Salon d'Automne in 1905, Manet and the Impressionists and the 1913 Armory Show.

*Katherine Zoraster is a contextual art historian with a Bachelor of Arts from UCLA and a Master of Arts from CSUN. In her teaching career, she has been an adjunct Professor of Art History at several local community and 4-year colleges. Currently, she is the Art History instructor at the Los Angeles Academy of Figurative Art and is finding joy and fulfillment in teaching through several Lifelong Learning programs. Zoraster's approach to the history of art is to give a full picture of how and why a work of art is a reflection of its specific time period.*

## Lessons Learned From the Bench

### Class 1006 (Zoom)

Wednesday, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, 6-weeks (1/25-3/1)

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Experience the unique opportunity to view the criminal justice system from the judge's chair. Learn the necessary skills and values it takes to be a judge and too judge. The combination of storytelling and the Socratic Method as used in law schools will engage students to form a different way of thinking about justice. We will explore what it takes to make judgments without judgment. We will ask the question whether or not criminal court procedure and process is designed to respect and discover the truth, or is it just a system where choice dictates outcome? For 17 years I sat on the bench in various courtrooms, had many judicial meetings, lunched every Wednesday with fellow judges, and became adept at being a decision maker, all of which resulted in justice for some in a system whose goal is justice for all.

*Hon. Gary L. Bindman, JD (Ret.) began his legal career as a criminal defense attorney for the Los Angeles Public Defender's office. In 2005 he retired from the bench of the Los Angeles Superior Court. His entire time as a Court Commissioner was spent in high volume criminal courts. In 2012 he received a career and technical teaching credential and in 2021 he became a substitute teacher for the Desert Sands School District.*

## **Building Sin City: The History of Las Vegas**

### **Class 1007 (Zoom)**

Thursday, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, 6-weeks (1/26-3/2)

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How did an advanced industrialized city of hotels, casinos, and golf courses rise out of the Nevada desert? This course will explore the history of Las Vegas, from its origins as a Spanish trading outpost to its development into one of the world's premier entertainment destinations. Along the way, we'll meet land developers, corrupt politicians, railroad magnates, mafia bosses and, of course, the millions of people who have made Las Vegas their home. The city's incredible evolution raises important issues: indigenous displacement, the military-industrial complex, suburbanization, pop culture, water access, climate change, and much more. As we reflect on these issues, we'll seek to understand how the history of Las Vegas offers a critical view of American politics, culture and society since World War II.

*David Parsons, Ph.D., received his Doctorate in History from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY). He is a professor and writer whose work focuses on the political, social, and cultural history of 20th century America. He has taught courses in U.S. history at CUNY and New York University, and hosts a long-running weekly podcast on history and politics called Nostalgia Trap. His book, "Dangerous Grounds: Antiwar Coffeehouses and Military Dissent in the Vietnam Era," explores links between the civilian peace movement and the American military.*

## **Misuse of the American Military Since 1945**

### **Class 1008 (Zoom)**

Thursday, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, 6-weeks (1/26-3/2)

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U.S. foreign policy is advanced through trade, diplomacy, warfare, foreign aid, and global environmental cooperation. The US military has been misused during the last 75 years as a foreign policy cudgel in an uneven and sometimes inexplicable fashion. This has made the US appear imperialistic, arrogant, hypocritical, and erratic. Case studies involving the use of American military force paint a picture of overuse, bloated expenditures, and lack of historical and cultural knowledge. These invasions have eroded the role of the US as a staunch defender of freedom, rule of law, and democracy. Using his experience in both careers, Dr. Baker will inform the students about US foreign policy and the misuse of the military, and he will try to bridge the gap between the public's knowledge of those who serve in uniform.

*Michael Baker, Ph.D., is a general surgeon and is also retired from the U.S. Navy with the rank of Rear Admiral. He has experience in contingency planning, operations, and multinational exercises. He has taught combat casualty care, triage, trauma care, and response to complex disasters and humanitarian emergencies. He has published over 80 peer reviewed articles and has lectured at numerous national and international conferences. He currently teaches for Osher LifeLong Learning programs at the University of California at Berkeley, Dominican University, and California State University East Bay, and serves on the Board of the World Affairs Council of Northern California.*

## **Tough Dames: Women Writing Noir**

### **Class 1009 (Zoom)**

*Friday, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, 6-weeks (1/27-3/3)*

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We think of hard-boiled and noir fiction as the terrain of men, but intrepid women writers have boldly walked the mean streets of this dark mystery subgenre. We will read and discuss compelling works that reveal how women have provided their own nihilistic vision through the lens of crime fiction. We'll read two short novels: Dorothy B. Hughes' "In a Lonely Place," which brilliantly portrays post-World War II pathology, and "Queenpin," in which contemporary noir trailblazer Megan Abbott reinvents well-worn tropes in unexpected ways. We'll also read select short stories by some other female writers and look at film adaptations. In lively discussions, we will submerge ourselves into these troubled but entertaining narratives, exploring elements they might share with their male-written counterparts and ways these women dare to take the genre in new directions. All reading and film watching should be done outside of class time, prior to class meetings.

*Robert Weibezahl is a writer, editor, critic, and publishing industry veteran who has worked with Nobel laureates, Pulitzer Prize winners, and countless bestselling authors. A columnist for BookPage for two decades, he is also a published novelist and award-winning, internationally-produced playwright. He teaches at Osher programs across the country.*

## **Our Amazing Universe**

### **Class 1010 (Zoom)**

*Friday, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, 6-weeks (1/27-3/3)*

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Explore the wonders of our night sky, the constellations, our solar system, some "weird, wild and wonderful" aspects of our universe, and our own Moon and its origins, phases, eclipses, its harmony with Earth's rhythms, and its role in human lore and legend.

*Stephenie Slahor, Ph.D., is a professor, writer and lecturer. She is an active OLLI instructor for various universities. Her topics include natural sciences, ancient and modern history, and travel, via Zoom, to some fascinating places on our planet.*



# Policies and Information

## Key Dates

- Monday, January 9th, enrollment begins at 8:30 AM.
- Monday, January 23rd, Spring I session begins.

## Levels of Enrollment

- **Basic Enrollment:** Pay \$60 for each 6-week class you wish to enroll in.
- **Session Enrollment:** Take unlimited courses per session for \$150 for individuals or \$200 for couples.

## Annual Membership Fee

The Osher Lifelong Learning Foundation requires participants to become members of their local affiliate. For OLLI at CSUCI, this fee is \$15, which is paid once per year at the student's first session.

## 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 contact [OLLI@csuci.edu](mailto:OLLI@csuci.edu) to explain your situation and to identify the course you are interested in taking.

## Enrollment Options

- **Online:** The link to register online will be sent out prior to the registration date.
- **Phone:** For the first week of enrollment, registration via telephone will take place on Monday, Wednesday, and 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.

To drop a course prior to the class, please call (805) 437-2748 option 2 or email [OLLI@csuci.edu](mailto:OLLI@csuci.edu) for further assistance. You should receive a confirmation email to show that your drop request was completed.

## Payment Options

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

## LOCATION OF CLASSES



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



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

## **CONTACT OLLI**

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