

OLLI Insider

Volume 17 (January 2024)



Welcome to 2024 everyone! Did you know that OLLI at CSUCI’s first classes started in Spring 2004? This means that we are celebrating our 20th Anniversary this Spring! We hope you are enjoying the interesting and educational Spring I session. For Spring II session, we have assembled equally exciting course offerings with both in person and zoom classes. The registration for Spring II session begins on March 4, 2024, and classes will start on March 25, 2024. The calendar overview for the Spring II session along with some class highlights are shown below.

Spring II Session

- Heather Dudley will trace the arc of friendship between political rivals Thomas Jefferson and John Adams.
- Charlene O’Rourke will take us to 17th century England during the transition of dynasties from Tudor to Stuart.
- Scott Corbett will explore the implications of Chinese foreign policies and its growing global influence for the U. S. and the future of humanity.
- John Buonamassa will explore the growth of popular American music and its various genres.
- Lanny Kaufer will take you through the twists and turns in the fascinating history of American herbal medicine from its Native American roots.
- Jared Day will take us from the Stock Market crash in 1929, through the Great Depression, Dust Bowl, and World War II, with key figures on the way.
- Nicholas Santa Maria will give us Broadway's best: Ethel Merman, Mary Martin, Al Jolson, Maurice Chevalier, Jimmy Durante, Jack Benny, George Burns, Eddie Cantor, and more.

Calendar Overview

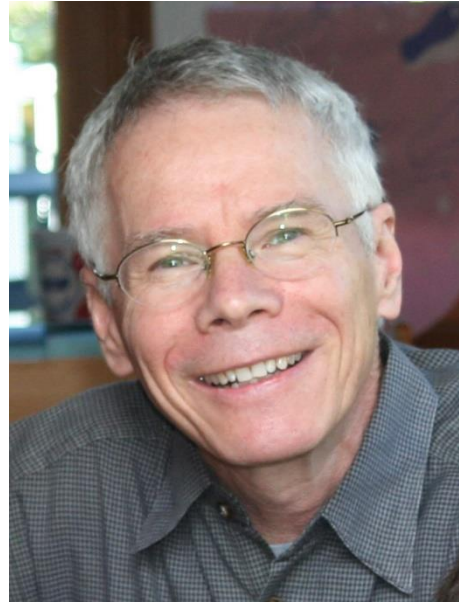
	Time	Location	Title	Weeks	Class #
Mon	10 AM to 12 PM	Zoom	Founding Friendship: John Adams & Thomas Jefferson (Instructor: Dudley)	6	1001
	1 PM to 3 PM	COLV/Zoom & In-Person	The Stuart Dynasty's Cultural Jewels (Instructor: O'Rourke)	6	1002
Tues	10 AM to 12 PM	SCIART/Zoom & In-Person	Eyeball to Eyeball: The Eagle and the Dragon Stare Each Other Down (Instructor: Corbett)	6	1003
	1 PM to 3 PM	Zoom	Exploring American Popular Music (Instructor: Buonamassa)	6	1004
Wed	10 AM to 12 PM	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	The Twisted History of Herbal Medicine in America (Instructor: Kaufer)	6	1005
	1 PM to 3 PM	Zoom	America's Worst Hard Times: The Great Depression (Instructor: Day)	6	1006
Thurs	10 AM to 12 PM	Zoom	The Show Stoppers: The Great Entertainers (Instructor: Santa Maria)	6	1007
	1 PM to 3 PM	Zoom	Architects Who Defined the California Landscape (Instructor: Schrader)	6	1008
Fri	10 AM to 12 PM	CSUCI/Zoom & In-Person	Living Without a Backbone: The Diversity of Invertebrates (Instructor: Norris)	6	1009
	1 PM to 3 PM	Zoom	Grasping Israeli Politics (Instructor: Hensley)	6	1010

- Eleanor Schrader will explore the works of distinguished California architects who brought an individuality of style to the California landscape.
- Steven Norris will survey invertebrates and introduce the rare, odd, and obscure as we explore evolution, ecology, and biodiversity conservation.
- Jason Hensley will examine the different political eras in Israel's history to understand what is happening there today.

Meet Cliff Wilcox

Cliff Wilcox is the consummate educator! His passion is examining how culture has changed over time – looking at art, literature, music, and films. He compares his love of studying culture with his love of the outdoors – calling it “intellectual hiking.” OLLI has been lucky to have a person of Cliff's intellect and passion as an instructor for over a dozen years.

Recently, Cliff has found his vocation meshing with his avocation. While studying chemistry at the University of Arizona, Cliff got a job with IBM in Tucson. Fortunately, IBM provided excellent training for new staff, not only in information technology, but also in customer service, budget and operations management, business planning and people. These skills were important for any vocation and set Cliff up for a successful, varied career.



In 1991, Cliff and his wife, Michelle moved to Ann Arbor to attend graduate school together at the University of Michigan – he for a Ph.D. in intellectual history, she for an MD. Following graduation from Michigan, they moved to Jacksonville, FL, where Cliff taught US and world history at the Bolles Prep School, and Michelle joined a private internal medicine practice. After a little over a year in Florida, they decided that they would be better off settling near family in the west. With friends in Ventura, they found compelling opportunities in both technology for Cliff and medicine for Michelle. Cliff took a job with a consulting firm that worked exclusively at Kinko's national headquarters in Ventura in their large technology division. His wife worked at Ventura County Medical Center and later also joined the teaching faculty at Community Memorial Hospital.

Cliff was still interested in teaching positions in 2011, when he met Marty Kaplan, the Director of OLLI at CSUCI, who suggested that he apply. Lucky for us, Cliff has been teaching regularly at OLLI for over ten years. Meanwhile, he has left the tech world to work full time as the Director of Education and Operations at Temple Beth Torah (TBT) in Ventura. With six teachers and two program staff, Cliff is the consummate educator who helps guide teachers to improve their craft and change children's lives. Wearing his old hat, he is also installing a new IT system with cloud-based data services at TBT.

Upcoming Events

Putin's Russia: Two Years into the War – Free Zoom Seminar with Dr. Asya Pereltsvaig

Join one of your favorite OLLI instructors, Asya Pereltsvaig, for a free Zoom seminar titled 'Putin's Russia: Two Years into the War.' As Russia is nearing the elections in March 2024, almost sure to renew Putin's presidency, this seminar will examine why Putin is still in power and Russia is still at war. Using a wide range of sources in Russian, Ukrainian and English, we will investigate just how broad the popular support for Putin and his policies is in Russia and, most importantly, why – and the answers may surprise you. With rapidly changing events, the lecture will be news-oriented and will aim to cover the latest developments. Registration opens February 28th.



Applebee's 'Fun' Raiser



The OLLI Events team has planned an Applebee's 'Fun' Raiser on March 23, 2024. This breakfast event is open only to OLLI members and their guests, where OLLI volunteers will function as servers.

The event will cost \$10 per person and is planned to simultaneously attract new OLLI members and raise funds for the OLLI program. The Applebee's is located at 291 W. Ventura Blvd in Camarillo. Registration is available on the [Events page](#) of our website.

Santa Barbara Zoo

The OLLI Events Team has planned a repeat trip to Santa Barbara Zoo on May 29, 2024. The tour of the zoo will include a small group of OLLI members who will get a glimpse of the behind-the-scenes operation of the zoo.

Registration information will be forthcoming as the date gets closer. If you already have been on the tour of the zoo last year, please refrain from registering this time, so that others may have the opportunity to visit the zoo.



Calling You to be an Ambassador for Upcoming Spring II session – It's Fun! It's Easy!

Spring II session is just around the corner. Please consider being a volunteer ambassador for the session. As an ambassador, you will have the opportunity to welcome your fellow OLLI students in-person or on Zoom and get to know them better. You will also have the opportunity to introduce the instructor on the first day of class and ask OLLI students if they have any questions. OLLI staff will let you know if there are any announcements to make. That's it for being an ambassador! Please contact OLLI@csuci.edu to join the fun before the session starts.