

FOR ADULTS & SENIORS

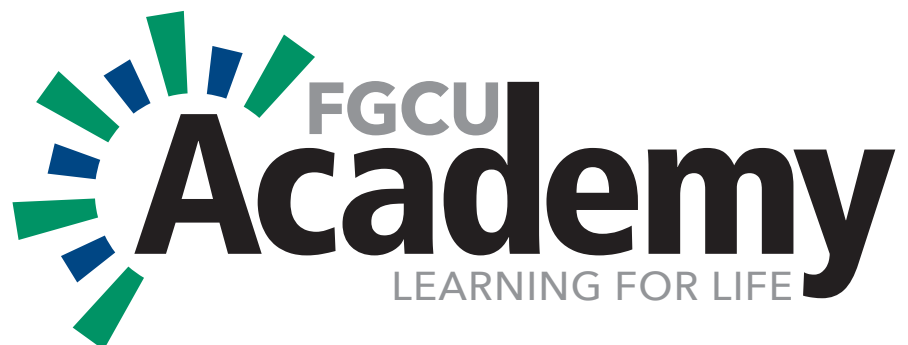
MAY 2026



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# TRAVEL THE WORLD WITH FGCU ACADEMY IN 2026 & 2027

Through unique and interesting itineraries, FGCU Academy travel guests have the opportunity to experience life outside the classroom, visit historic sites with local guides, experience another culture - its customs, cuisine, language and history - and delight in conversation and laughter with fellow explorers who share a love of travel and a sense of adventure. These high-end concierge-style excursions are sure to impress and delight you.



*Travel brochures and a recording of our travel presentation are available online at [fgcu.edu/academy/travel](http://fgcu.edu/academy/travel)*



## **NORWEGIAN SPLENDOR**

**Departure: September 5, 2026**

As the Midnight Sun turns night into day, Scandinavia shines. It's the perfect time to visit, with the majestic countryside at its loveliest and the cities at their liveliest. From the cosmopolitan capitals of Copenhagen and Oslo to Norway's magnificent fjord country, our small group encounters Scandinavia at its best, both on and off the beaten path.



## **JOURNEY THROUGH BRITAIN**

**Departure: September 28, 2026**

On this wide-ranging tour, we travel from city to country and back again: from Edinburgh to England's legendary Lake District, from spectacular Snowdonia to the rural Cotswolds and Roman Bath, ending in cosmopolitan London. As history and legend come to life on our journey, we also enjoy the region's timeless hospitality.



## **SICILY IN DEPTH**

**Departure: October 1, 2026**

Crossroads of the Mediterranean...the "toe" in Italy's boot... "God's Kitchen"... Sicily is all this and much more, as we see on our stellar small group journey around this Italian island. It's lively cities and ancient ruins, temples of man and of nature, hospitable people and delectable cuisine...a feast for all the senses.



## **ALPINE SPLENDOR: SWITZERLAND & AUSTRIA**

**Departure: August 19, 2027**

The towering peaks of the Alps serve as the stunning backdrop for our Swiss and Austrian exploration. As our small group discovers mountain villages and European cities, rides the famed Glacier Express, cruises on glassine lakes, and ascends snow-capped summits, borders disappear and the region's history - and beauty - enchant one and all.



## **AFRICA'S WILDLIFE: BOTSWANA, ZAMBIA AND VICTORIA FALLS**

**Departure: August 25, 2027**

A glimpse of a world primeval awaits on this singular safari to Botswana's Chobe National Park, where elephants preside over a bounty of wildlife; Zimbabwe's dazzling and powerful Victoria Falls; and Zambia's exceptional South Luangwa National Park, a remote jewel of an unspoiled and historic preserve.



## **INSIDER'S JAPAN**

**Departure: September 2, 2027**

It's a land of delicate art and bustling commerce, of rich traditions and dizzying modernity; a jumble of sights, sounds, and tastes that for many visitors are truly foreign - and truly fascinating. This well-crafted tour features the highlights of Tokyo and Kyoto, engages us in local life, and takes us off the beaten path to the lovely historic cities of Takayama and Kanazawa.



## **PORTRAIT OF ITALY**

**Departure: September 5, 2027**

From the breathtaking Amalfi Coast to eternal Rome, through the gentle Umbrian and Tuscan countryside to timeless Venice, this wide-ranging tour showcases ancient sites, contemporary life, priceless art, and beautiful natural scenery.

## YACHT, RIVER CRUISE & RAIL EXCURSIONS IN 2027

FGCU Academy has partnered with Mayflower Cruises & Tours, a division of the Scenic Group, to offer voyages that sail some of the most iconic rivers and waterways of the world. Our itineraries include the most memorable attractions, touring opportunities, and highlights of each destination. We believe that planning travel is more than just a simple journey to exceptional destinations, it is about creating life-enriching experiences and memories that will last a lifetime.

*Travel brochures and a recording of our travel presentation are available online at [fgcu.edu/academy/travel](http://fgcu.edu/academy/travel)*



### **GREEK ISLANDS & TURKISH COASTLINE YACHT CRUISE**

**Departure: July 6, 2027**

Your Greek and Turkish cruise commences and concludes in Athens, a city harmonizing in ancient history and contemporary lifestyle. Along the way, discover the mythological allure of Delos and Mykonos. See the Cave of the Apocalypse in Patmos and ancient ruins in Kos. Enjoy stunning beaches and vibrant markets in colorful Santorini and wander the quaint cobblestone streets of Paros.



### **NOVA SCOTIA & CANADA'S MARATIMES**

**Departure: August 13, 2027**

Canada's Maritimes is a region filled with charm, history, and natural beauty. Home to the world's highest tides, breathtaking beaches, lush forests, and picturesque harbors, these delightful provinces offer warm hospitality, vibrant coastal culture, and the freshest seafood imaginable, creating unforgettable experiences and memories that will truly last a lifetime.



### **SWITZERLAND RAILS AND SAILS**

**Departure: September 2, 2027**

This 11-day adventure allows you explore the best of Switzerland by rails and sails. Visit the stunning Rhine Falls, the charming village of Stein am Rhein, and enjoy a chocolate factory experience. Explore St. Gallen and visit Liechtenstein - one of Europe's tiniest countries. Travel by train to Lucerne and Interlaken, with highlights such as a visit to Jungfrauoch. Cruise on Lake Brienz, ride on the Golden Pass train to Montreux, and visit Château du Chillon. Your journey concludes with a city tour of Lausanne and a cruise on Lake Geneva.



### **SENSATIONS OF LYON & PROVENCE RIVER CRUISE**

**Departure: September 10, 2027**

It's no wonder the South of France, birthplace of photography, enchants with Roman ruins, 15th century architecture, and sunlit vineyards beneath majestic mountains. Sail along the Rhône and Saône Rivers, exploring the historic ports of Mâcon, Lyon, Tournon, Viviers, Avignon, and Arles—each showcasing the rich heritage and scenic charm of Southern France. Then spend three nights in Nice on the dazzling French Riviera, with an excursion

# HOW TO REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS

We only accept credit cards or checks. No cash.



## ONLINE:

**fgcu.edu/academy**

Use your credit card on our safe and secure site, 24/7.



## BY PHONE:

**(239) 434-4737**

Use your credit card.



## MAIL:

Use our registration form at the end of this program guide or go to our web-site, print it out and mail to us.

## BECOME A FRIEND OF FGCU ACADEMY WITH A \$100 DONATION. FEEL GOOD ABOUT SUPPORTING LIFELONG LEARNING!

A "Friend of FGCU Academy" is part of a **vital** group of supporters who continue to believe in the success and vibrancy of our organization; assist with our ability to help attract distinguished guest speakers and help cover our operating expenses. If you would like to learn more about supporting our work, please **contact John Guerra at [jguerra@fgcu.edu](mailto:jguerra@fgcu.edu)**. Thank you for your generosity. Donate online at [fgcu.edu/academy/givenow](http://fgcu.edu/academy/givenow)

## OUR STAFF

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**John J. Guerra**  
Director, FGCU Academy

**Todd Phillips**  
Program Coordinator

**Noha Ahmed**  
Administrative Specialist

# LOCATIONS

Look for the two letter codes below before each course number.

Our locations are open to everyone. You do not need to be a resident to enjoy programs there.

**(AG) - Aston Gardens at Pelican Marsh**  
4800 Aston Gardens Way, Naples

**(NC) - Naples Center**  
704 Goodlette-Frank Rd N., Suite 330, Naples

**(BV) - Bentley Village**  
850 Retreat Drive, Naples

**(OL) - Online via Zoom**

**(SL) - Siena Lakes**  
2521 Orange Blossom Dr., Naples

**(CL) - The Carlisle Naples**  
6945 Carlisle Court, Naples

**(TR) - The Terraces**  
26455 S Tamiami Trl., Bonita Springs

**(CC) - Cypress Cove**  
10200 Cypress Cove Drive, Fort Myers

**(GL) - Moorings Park Grande Lake**  
7410 Little Lane, Naples

**(GO) - Moorings Park Grey Oaks**  
2355 Estuary Drive, Naples

**(MP) - Moorings Park Original Campus; Center for Healthy Living**  
132 Moorings Park Dr, Naples

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

# Support Lifelong Learning. Inspire Generations.

FGCU Academy invites you to become part of something enduring, essential and transformative: The Luminaries Society, a distinguished circle of philanthropists who believe the pursuit of knowledge should never end. With your donation of \$5,000 or more, you join an elite group that sustains FGCU Academy's mission of intellectual engagement and lifelong enrichment.

### By becoming an annual member you help:

- Sustain high-quality programming that engages minds, enhances cultural exploration and cultivates community connections
- Expand affordable access for all, including underserved learners and communities
- Support a community where lifelong curiosity is celebrated

Each year, FGCU Academy delivers more than 1,000 programs to nearly 12,000 adult learners across Southwest Florida. Yet, with no dedicated state funding and program fees covering only a fraction of our costs, FGCU Academy operates at a deficit. We rely on philanthropy and your gift will have twice the impact this year! To help inaugurate The Luminaries Society, the FGCU Foundation has pledged to match every gift of \$5,000 or more up to \$100,000.

Every gift is tax-deductible\* (our tax id number is 65-0403969) and makes an immediate difference. It ensures the vitality of our educational mission today and tomorrow.

[fgcu.edu/academy/luminaries-society](http://fgcu.edu/academy/luminaries-society)



### We will honor your generosity in the following ways:

- Recognition in the FGCU Academy program guide (3 times annually), the FGCU Academy website and the FGCU Foundation Annual Report
- Annual FGCU Academy membership\*
- Twelve complimentary classes annually\*
- Annual social gathering with the academy director
- Early access to registration and catalogs
- Concierge registration service
- Subscription to FGCU360 digital newsletter

\*Fair-market value is \$409 and is deducted from your donation.

With sincere gratitude,

**John J. Guerra**

### CANCELLATION POLICY:

Membership fees are non-refundable. If a program is canceled, you will be notified and issued a full refund within 10 business days. If you wish to withdraw from a program, please notify the Academy at 239-434-4737 no later than 5 pm, 3 business days prior to the first session of the program in order to receive a refund. Individuals who cancel after the start of a program will not receive a refund. Unless otherwise stated, a 10-business day notice is required for refunds on all special programs (SP).



**Florida Gulf Coast University** is a regional comprehensive university committed to providing high quality, affordable educational opportunities to people of all ages.

The first fee listed for each program is the Member price; the second is the Non-Member price. Advance registration is required for all programs. Membership is highly recommended but not required. The views, analyses, findings and opinions expressed by FGCU Academy speakers are theirs alone and do not necessarily reflect those of the Academy or FGCU.

If a lecture lists multiple options, the same lecture is being offered at different locations on different dates and times for your convenience.

## FGCU ACADEMY ANNUAL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

# \$85

### BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- ▶ Save approximately 20% on most programs.
- ▶ Bring a first-time Academy student with you to a program and receive a \$10 credit toward future programs.
- ▶ Enjoy year-round online programming from anywhere in the world.
- ▶ Gain access to special member-only events and free access to other events when available.
- ▶ A free subscription to the FGCU360 digital magazine and e-newsletter.

## ART & MUSIC

### Echoes of Genius: Art and Music from the Middle Ages to Michelangelo \$27 / \$32

May 28 at 10am – 11:30am, Thursday  
BV8681 – Bentley Village (North Naples)

Speaker: Steven Valdestino

Travel through the rich cultural tapestry of Europe from the Middle Ages to the height of the Renaissance. This audio/visual presentation explores a remarkable convergence of artistic and musical achievement that helped shape Western civilization. Experience the haunting beauty of Gregorian chant and the works of Hildegard von Bingen, Palestrina, and Josquin des Prez, alongside the visual brilliance of Botticelli, Bosch, Michelangelo, and Leonardo da Vinci. With historical context woven throughout, this presentation reveals how faith, innovation, and human creativity inspired masterpieces that continue to resonate today. A feast for the senses, the program blends sublime music with extraordinary art to create an experience that is both enlightening and deeply moving.

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

### The Rise of AI: From Concept to ChatGPT

\$42 / \$48

May 19 at 10am – 11:30am, Tuesday  
NC8650 – Naples Center (Naples)  
OL8651 – Online via Zoom

Speaker: John Guerra

Join us for an engaging exploration of artificial intelligence from its early theoretical roots to its remarkable presence in our daily lives. We trace the history of AI, demystify how it works, and examine key milestones that led to today's advanced systems. The session culminates in a live demonstration of ChatGPT, an AI language model developed by OpenAI, showcasing its ability to write, reason, create, and assist with a variety of tasks. Whether you're curious, skeptical, or excited about AI, this lecture offers a clear, accessible look at one of the most transformative technologies of our time. No technical background required!

### Inside ChatGPT Plus: Features, Tips and Live Demonstrations \$42 / \$48

May 26 at 10am – 11:30am, Tuesday  
NC8652 – Naples Center (Naples)  
OL8653 – Online via Zoom

Speaker: John Guerra

This class introduces participants to the full suite of tools included in the ChatGPT Plus plan and shows how each one enhances everyday tasks. Participants learn how Plus provides access to advanced models, higher limits with GPT-5.1, multimodal input, and continued access to GPT-4o. The session explains how Plus delivers faster responses, priority access during peak times, and expanded message and upload limits. Demonstrations show how to use voice conversations, image generation, and enhanced file uploads for PDFs, spreadsheets and documents. Attendees see how Deep Research, Projects and Tasks support multi-step reasoning and long-running work. The class also highlights how users create custom GPTs for specialized needs. Learn how the expanded memory and context window improve accuracy and continuity, and how Plus offers introductory access to Sora video generation.

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Heiress and Aristocrats: Fortunes, Titles, and Unexpected Marriages** \$27 / \$32

May 4 at 2pm – 3:30pm, Monday  
AG8654 – Aston Gardens (Naples)

Speaker: Nancy Maxwell

During the Gilded Age, wealthy American heiresses sought more than money could buy: entry into the highest ranks of society. Many crossed the Atlantic in search of titled European husbands whose fortunes had faded but whose names carried centuries of prestige. In return for desperately needed wealth, dukes and lords offered titles, castles, and an air of nobility. Families such as the Astors, Vanderbilts, and others fueled this dazzling exchange of riches for rank. Some marriages blossomed into enduring partnerships, while others collapsed under scandal, disappointment, or cultural divide. This class explores the glittering social stage of New York and London, the motivations behind these celebrated unions, and the personal stories that reveal whether fortune and fame truly made for happiness.

## **CIVICS & ELECTIONS**

### **Florida's August Primaries: What Collier County Voters Need to Know** \$27 / \$32

**Option #1:** May 8 at 2:30pm – 4pm, Friday  
GL8659 – Moorings Park Grande Lake (So. Naples)

**Option #2:** May 12 at 2:30pm – 3:30pm, Tuesday  
GO8660 – Moorings Park Grey Oaks (So. Naples)

**Option #3:** May 21 at 10am – 11:30pm, Thursday  
BV8661 – Bentley Village (North Naples)

Speaker: Sandy Parker

Primary elections often determine who will ultimately lead our communities long before November arrives. This timely lecture prepares you for Florida's August 18 Primary Elections by reviewing the offices and candidates appearing on the Collier County ballot. Explore key federal, state, and local races and learn about proposed referenda that may shape the county's future. We will also clarify how primary elections work in Florida, including party affiliations, closed primaries, and voter registration deadlines. Whether you are a seasoned voter or new to the area, this session provides the insight you need to approach the ballot box with confidence and understanding.

## **COMPUTER & TECHNOLOGY**

### **Mastering iOS 26: Tips, Tricks, and Hidden Features for iPhone and iPad Users** \$37 / \$44

May 4 at 10:30am – 12pm, Monday  
CL8662 – The Carlisle (North Naples)

Speaker: John Guerra

Explore what is new in iOS 26 for iPhone and iPad. This class shows practical tips, hidden gestures, and settings that make daily tasks faster. Learn smarter Lock Screen options, Control Center shortcuts, interactive widgets, and Focus that filters alerts. Master Messages upgrades, Mail time savers, Safari profiles and Tab Groups, and powerful search. See Photos editing, Live Text, Visual Look Up, and sharing tools. Use Siri and voice dictation effectively, create automation with Shortcuts, and manage storage and battery health. Review privacy and safety, including passkeys, two factor authentication, location permissions, Health sharing, and Find My. We also cover iCloud backup and device setup so everything stays in sync. All skill levels benefit. Please install iOS 26 before attending: Settings > General > Software Update.

### **Mastering E-mail on Your iPhone and iPad: iOS 26 Email Essentials** \$37 / \$44

May 14 at 1:30pm – 3pm, Thursday  
CC8663 – Cypress Cove (Ft. Myers)  
OL8664 – Online via Zoom

Speaker: John Guerra

Email is one of the most essential tools on your iPhone or iPad, yet many users are unaware of the full capabilities of Apple's Mail app. This presentation walks you through everything you need to know to use it efficiently and with confidence. Learn how to add and manage accounts from Gmail, Yahoo, Microsoft Exchange, and more. Discover how to organize emails into folders, eliminate junk mail, attach and markup documents, insert photos or videos, scan paperwork, and manage contacts. Whether for personal use or staying in touch with family and friends, this lecture helps you master every corner of the Mail app in iOS 26.

**Outsmart Scammers and Stay Safe Online: Security for Windows, Mac, Android, and iPhone** \$37 / \$44

May 18 at 10am – 11:30am, Monday  
MP8665 – Moorings Park Original Campus (Naples)  
OL8666 – Online via Zoom

Speaker: John Guerra

Protect your devices and identity with simple, proven steps. This class explains today's threats such as viruses, spyware, malware, keyloggers, ransomware, phishing, and account takeovers, and shows how to prevent them on Windows, macOS, Android, and iPhone/iPad. Learn strong password and passkey habits, two-factor authentication, password managers, software updates, and safe browsing and email practices. See how to spot scam calls, fake tech-support popups, and dangerous links. Configure Wi-Fi safely at home, use public networks wisely, and decide when a VPN helps. Understand backups, device encryption, privacy settings, and how to shop and bank online securely. This lecture also covers credit freezes, breach alerts, and exactly what to do if something goes wrong.

**Beyond Time: Apple Watch Essentials for Everyday with watchOS 26** \$37 / \$44

May 22 at 1:30pm – 3pm, Friday  
GL8667 – Moorings Park Grandle Lakes (So. Naples)  
OL8668 – Online via Zoom

Speaker: John Guerra

More than just a timepiece, the Apple Watch is a powerful companion device with features that can simplify your life. This lecture explores the latest tools and hidden capabilities in watchOS 26, including making phone calls, checking email and messages, using maps, listening to music, viewing photos, and managing your calendar. You will also learn how to track your health, monitor activity, set reminders, use Apple Pay, detect falls, and more. Discover how this small device can have a substantial impact on your day-to-day life.

**Master the Apple Notes App: Organize, Capture, Search, and Keep Your Most Important Information Secure** \$37 / \$44

June 4 at 10am – 11:30am, Thursday  
BV8669 – Bentley Village (North Naples)  
OL8670 – Online via Zoom

Speaker: John Guerra

Capture ideas, lists, and documents in one trusted place. This class demonstrates Apple Notes on

iPhone and iPad from quick captures to full projects. Learn to create folders, pin favorites, format text, build checklists, and insert photos, sketches and scanned documents that become searchable PDFs. Use tags and Smart Folders to keep topics organized. Search typed text, handwriting, and text inside images. Link related notes, attach web links, and save from Mail or Safari. Secure sensitive notes with Face ID, Touch ID, or a password. Record and transcribe audio, then highlight and share key parts. Collaborate in real time, manage versions, and restore deleted items. iCloud keeps notes in sync across devices, and sensible settings protect privacy and storage.

## ***MODERATED DISCUSSION GROUPS***

**Current Events Conversations: Insight, Ideas, and Dialogue (2-part monthly series)** \$46 / \$56

May 14, 28 at 10am – 11:30am, Thursdays  
OL8671 – Online via Zoom

Moderator: John Guerra

This interactive two-part monthly series offers an open and respectful space for exploring the major news stories shaping our community, country, and world. Participants discuss timely topics drawn from headlines, informed by a range of articles and videos provided in advance. The group encourages thoughtful conversation across the political spectrum, where conservatives, liberals, and independents can share ideas and listen with respect and curiosity. Whether the focus is international conflict, U.S. policy, local affairs, or cultural trends, the aim is to foster understanding, unity, and practical solutions. Bring your insights, your questions, and your willingness to engage with others in meaningful discussion. All viewpoints are welcome.

## ***ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT***

**Flora, Fauna, and Fragility: Florida's Natural Treasures and the Battle to Preserve It** \$27 / \$32

May 26 at 2:30pm – 3:30pm, Tuesday  
GO8672 – Moorings Park Grey Oaks (SE Naples)  
OL8673 – Online via Zoom

Speaker: Steven Valdespino

South Florida is home to one of the most unique and

brehtaking ecosystems in the world. This visually stunning presentation explores the extraordinary landscapes and wildlife of the Everglades and Big Cypress Swamp. From ghost orchids and mangroves to panthers and roseate spoonbills, discover the remarkable biodiversity that thrives in this fragile environment. Accompanied by a rich musical score and authentic wildlife sounds, the lecture also examines the growing threats—climate change, development, and invasive species—that endanger this irreplaceable natural heritage. A celebration of beauty and a call for preservation, this program inspires awe and awareness.

## **FINANCE & ECONOMICS**

### **From Cash to Crypto: Understanding the New Era of Money \$27 / \$32**

May 20 at 3:30pm – 5pm, Wednesday  
TR8674 – The Terraces (Bonita Springs)

Speaker: Thomas Consiglio

Cash is fading, and a new kind of money is taking its place. But what exactly is digital currency, and why is it becoming so important? This lecture unpacks the mystery behind cryptocurrencies, blockchain, and the next generation of payment systems. We start by exploring what truly makes money “money” and how it is created today. Then we look ahead to the rise of blockchain-based currencies, central bank digital money, and the fast-moving world of crypto assets, from Bitcoin to NFTs and beyond. No technical background is needed, just a curiosity about how technology is rewriting the rules of finance and how these changes may affect you.

## **ESPIONAGE & SPYCRAFT**

### **Espionage from Within: The Trio Who Sold Out America \$27 / \$32**

May 21 at 1:30pm – 3pm, Thursday  
CL8675 – The Carlisle (North Naples)

Speaker: Tom Eastwood

They were trusted insiders, an NSA communications specialist, a CIA officer, and an FBI agent who turned against their country in secret. This lecture investigates the actions of John Walker, Aldrich Ames, and Robert Hanssen, three of the most damaging spies in U.S. history. It examines their motives, methods, and the catastrophic consequences of their betrayals, which

compromised national security and led to the deaths of American operatives. Through detailed analysis of their espionage careers and eventual capture, this presentation provides a sobering look at the vulnerabilities within U.S. intelligence and the high cost of treason.

## **HEALTH & WELLNESS**

### **Balance University: Improve Balance, Posture and Flexibility (3-part series) \$50 / \$60**

**Option #1:** May 1, 8, 15 at 9:15am – 10:15am, Fridays

NC8655 – Naples Center (Naples)

OL8656 – Online via Zoom

**Option #2:** May 29, June 5, June 12 at 9:15am – 10:15am, Fridays

NC8657 – Naples Center (Naples)

OL8658 – Online via Zoom

Speaker: Christopher Williams

This three-part interactive class is designed to help you improve balance, posture, and flexibility through safe, low-impact movement. Beginning with foundational exercises, each session builds gradually toward more advanced routines, helping you gain strength and confidence over time. Along the way, your instructor explains the science behind balance and why it is essential for fall prevention, mobility, and overall wellness. Whether you are new to fitness or looking to enhance your daily stability, this class offers practical tools and techniques you can incorporate into your everyday routine. Suitable for all fitness levels.

## **HISTORY, LAW & GOVERNMENT**

### **Socialism \$27 / \$32**

May 4 at 1:30pm – 3:00pm, Monday  
BV8458 – Bentley Village (North Naples)

Speaker: Dr. Melissa Butler

Starting with its utopian beginnings to the revolutionary theories of Karl Marx, we see how socialist ideas emerged as a response to industrialization. We discover that not all socialists are communists and look at other varieties such as utopian socialism, social democracy, and “sewer socialism.” We examine the views of their adherents from Marx and Saint-Simon to Robert Owen, Eugene Debs, and Bernie Sanders.

## **The Julio-Claudian Emperors: From Tiberius to Nero** \$27 / \$32

May 13 at 10am – 11:30am, Wednesday  
MP8677 – Moorings Park Original Campus (Naples)  
Speaker: John Penuel

From Tiberius to Nero, Rome's first imperial family reveals how power shapes character and policy. This lecture traces Tiberius' cautious rule, the rise of Sejanus, and the Capri rumors that fueled talk of cruelty. It examines Caligula's early promise, his abrupt turn to spectacle, and the conspiracy that ended his life. Claudius, dismissed as weak, proves to be adept scholar, who survives the execution of much of the imperial family, expands the empire in Britain, only to be undone by palace intrigue. Under Nero, good governance at first gives way to artistic obsession, the death of Agrippina the Younger, the Great Fire, and rebellion. The class asks why the Senate and the Praetorian Guard enabled excess, how propaganda shaped each ruler's image, and what primary sources can and cannot tell us. Participants come away with a clear map of the Julio-Claudian house and the lessons it offers on succession, legitimacy, and restraint.

## **Paris on Fire: Napoleon III, the Siege, and the Commune** \$27 / \$32

May 14 at 10am – 11:30am, Thursday  
BV8678 – Bentley Village (North Naples)  
Speaker: Nancy Maxwell

Despite the glitter and glamor of Napoleon III's empire and his marvelous modernization of Paris, by 1870 the emperor himself was painfully ill, and France was teetering on the verge of another revolution. A disastrous war with Prussia toppled the regime, but Paris continued to resist the overpowering Prussian army as it lay siege to the city. When the government was forced to capitulate, the city rose up to form its own defiant government. It was a doomed idea. The violent era of the Paris Commune was short lived, but its effects reverberate to this day, in surprising ways, not the least of which was art! This lecture looks at the events and social forces that pushed the "City of Light" to the brink of total destruction.

## **Reclaimed from Myth: The Minoans and Mycenaeans** \$27 / \$32

May 18 at 1:30pm – 3pm, Monday  
BV8679 – Bentley Village (North Naples)  
Speaker: John Penuel

From labyrinths to lion gates, archaeology brings myth to life. This lecture traces how Sir Arthur Evans

exposed the palace at Knossos on Crete and how Heinrich Schliemann uncovered Mycenae. We compare Minoan frescoes, bull-leaping rituals, and seafaring trade with the fortresses and grave circles of the Mycenaeans that echo Homer's tales of Agamemnon and the Trojan War. The class reviews Linear A and the deciphered Linear B, the role of women in Minoan religion, and the Mycenaean warrior elite. We close with the evidence for the validity of the Trojan War.

## **The United States, China and the Challenges of an Emerging New World Order** \$27 / \$32

May 19 at 3:30pm – 5pm, Tuesday  
SL8680 – Siena Lakes (North Naples)  
Speaker: Ricard Price

As China's economic power expands, Washington's long bet on a US centric world order is unraveling, challenged by a more inclusive, global order creating new tools and norms that respond more effectively to the needs of emerging economic powers. We will begin with the post WW2 world order under American leadership. We will then highlight the rise of China through its historical narrative and explore how Chinese investments have enabled 3rd world countries to participate as major growth engines. We will also discuss how new, dynamic models of governance, trade, regulation and other challenges are evolving. Participants will leave with a clear framework, able to weigh risks, and understand how this transition from western-centric to global-centric evolution is reshaping global power.

## **JEWISH STUDIES**

### **Jewish Avengers: Resistance and Reckoning in World War II** \$27 / \$32

May 18 at 2pm – 3:30pm, Monday  
AG8682 – Aston Gardens (Naples)

Speaker: Thomas Eastwood

From ghettos and forests to courtrooms and covert missions, Jewish men and women resist Nazi terror and seek justice. This lecture examines sabotage networks, ghetto uprisings, escapes, camp revolts, and partisan warfare that challenge the myth of passive victims. It explores groups that track and target war criminals during and after the war, Israeli operations against notorious perpetrators, and the fierce debate over the Dachau liberation reprisals. The lecture reviews war crimes tribunals, asks

whether the Allies do enough to help Europe's Jews, and revisits the tragedy of the MV St. Louis. By blending survivor actions with postwar accountability, this session highlights courage, moral complexity, and the lasting quest for restitution.

## **JOURNALISM & LANGUAGE**

### **Fake News: How It Spreads and How to Fight Back** \$27 / \$32

May 5 at 3:30pm – 5pm, Tuesday  
SL8683 – Siena Lakes (North Naples)

Speaker: Nick Penniman

False stories are not new, but the speed, reach, and sophistication of today's misinformation are unprecedented. This lecture traces the long history of fake news from the American Revolution to the digital age, showing how false narratives have shaped public opinion, politics, and trust in institutions. Special attention is given to the role of social media, algorithms, and artificial intelligence in amplifying misleading or entirely fabricated content. Recent examples help illustrate how misinformation is created, why it spreads so effectively, and why people so often believe it. The class also offers practical strategies for recognizing deception, evaluating sources, and responding thoughtfully in an age of constant information overload.

## **MAH JONGG**

### **Advanced Mah Jongg Strategies (3-part series)** \$80 / \$95

May 4, 6, 8 at 1pm – 2:30pm  
NC8643 – Naples Center (Naples)

Speaker: Gayle Dorio

This program presumes you have been playing regularly for at least one year and have mastered the mechanics of play or have taken the beginner class above. Take your Mah Jongg skills to the next level with a deep dive into advanced strategies that sharpen your play and boost your winning potential. This three-part series focuses on faster decision-making, effective defensive play, and the art of reading your opponents. Learn when to call and when to wait, and discover why keen observation and attentive listening can be more powerful than simply studying your own tiles. Through expert tips, you develop the confidence to adapt your strategy mid-game, protect your hand,

and anticipate others' moves. Please bring the new 2026 card (available from the National Mah Jongg League, 212-246-3052) and your own Mah Jongg set.

### **Mah Jongg for Beginners (3-part series)** \$80 / \$95

May 11, 13, 15 at 10am – 11:30am  
NC8676 – Naples Center (Naples)

Speaker: Gayle Dorio

Discover the timeless appeal of Mah Jongg, the fascinating game of tiles, strategy, and skill that has captivated players for generations. In this beginner series, you learn the fundamentals, understanding the tiles, reading the card, and recognizing winning hands while gaining confidence in playing. Each class combines step-by-step instruction so you quickly move from learning the rules to enjoying friendly games. Along the way, you explore tips for strategy, speed, and good table etiquette. Whether you are brand new to the game or have only watched others play, this is your opportunity to master the basics, meet new friends, and join in one of today's most popular social games. No prior experience needed. Please bring the new 2026 card (available from the National Mah Jongg League, 212-246-3052) and your own Mah Jongg set.

## **MEDICINE & SCIENCE**

### **From CSI to CRISPR: How DNA Science Changes Lives** \$27 / \$32

May 4 at 10am – 11:30m, Monday  
MP8684 – Moorings Park Original Campus (Naples)

Speaker: Dr. Robert Humphries

From TV crime labs to life saving treatments, DNA is the star. This lecture shows how a few cells left at a scene can identify the right person or clear the wrong one. We explain what a genome is, what consumer tests can and cannot tell you, and how doctors use genetic clues to guide care. You see how gene editing tools such as CRISPR work, and why they hold promise for many disorders. No scientific background is needed. Bring your curiosity and real-world questions. This lecture keeps the science simple while sharing memorable stories from police work.

## **How the Brain Works: Circuits, Consciousness, and Intelligent Machines** \$27 / \$32

May 11 at 1:30pm – 3pm, Monday  
BV8685 – Bentley Village (North Naples)

Speaker: Dr. Robert Humphries

In 1848, Phineas Gage survived a tamping iron through his skull. His personality shift launched new insights into how the brain works. This lecture maps the major regions, including the frontal and temporal lobes, hippocampus, amygdala, cerebellum, and brainstem, and explains how they support decision making, memory, emotion, movement, and attention. The class then tackles the big question of consciousness, zeroing in on 3 related lines of thought that support each other. We finish by separating today's artificial intelligence from human intelligence, highlighting real possibilities and dangers.

## **MUSIC, DANCE & OPERA**

### **Judy, Joni, and Joan: The Music of a Generation** \$27 / \$32

**Option #1:** May 7 at 10am – 11:30am, Thursday  
BV8686 – Bentley Village (North Naples)

**Option #2:** May 14 at 1:30pm – 3pm, Thursday  
GL8687 – Moorings Park Grande Lakes (So. Naples)

Speaker: Carlene Thissen

This musical lecture explores the music of Judy Collins, Joni Mitchell and Joan Baez in the historical context of events that influenced their music and the impact their music had on culture and politics. These three vastly different women, who occasionally came together to sing, had varying goals for their music and different degrees of personal social involvement in the issues of the times. We review, compare, and discuss their music and lives, as well as their activities today. During the program, Carlene will sing some of their best-known songs and invite you to sing along!

## **WORLD VOYAGE: SIGHTS, SOUNDS & CULTURES**

### **From Seoul to Singapore: Exploring Asia's Pacific Rim and Beyond** \$27 / \$32

May 27 at 10am – 11:30am, Wednesday  
MP8688 – Moorings Park Original Campus (Naples)  
OL8689 – Online via Zoom

Speaker: Jim Sernovitz

Embark on a sweeping journey across the Pacific Rim of Asia, where ancient cultures and cutting-edge cities exist side by side. This travelogue explores an extraordinary range of countries including Thailand, Taiwan, South Korea, Malaysia, Japan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Vietnam, Singapore, Australia, and New Zealand. Travel by ship, rickshaw, and tuk-tuk through bustling markets, serene temples, and dramatic landscapes. From the neon lights of Tokyo and the street food of Bangkok to the temples of Angkor and the coastal beauty of New Zealand, this is a panoramic look at some of the most dynamic and diverse regions on Earth.

## **WORLD WARS I & II**

### **Luciano's War: The Mafia's Secret World War II Mission** \$27 / \$32

**June 1** at 1:30pm – 3pm, Monday  
BV8690 – Bentley Village (North Naples)  
OL8691 – Online via Zoom

Speaker: Thomas Eastwood

In a little-known chapter of World War II, the U.S. Navy turned to an unlikely ally, the Mafia. Facing threats of espionage, sabotage, and crippling labor unrest along the East Coast docks, military intelligence struck a covert deal with notorious crime bosses including Charles "Lucky" Luciano, Meyer Lansky, and Albert Anastasia. This lecture reveals how and why the alliance was formed, what it accomplished, and how the partnership shaped postwar organized crime. Discover the secret mission known as Operation Underworld and the shadowy collaboration that helped protect America's war effort.

# SPEAKERS

**Melissa Butler, Ph.D.**, is a retired Professor of Political Science from Wabash College with specializations in political philosophy and foreign policy.

**Thomas Consiglio, M.S.**, has been an educator for the past 16 years with the NYC Department of Education with degrees and experience in Education, Information Technology as well as Communications and Business.

**Gayle Dorio** is a registered interior designer and a highly decorated orchid society member. She is an avid mah-jongg teacher and player.

**Thomas Eastwood** had careers with the ATF and DOD where he conducted and led counterintelligence and criminal investigations.

**John Guerra** is a Columbia University graduate, former merchant banker and is the Director of FGCU Academy.

**Robert Humphries, M.D., Ph.D.**, teaches molecular biology at Florida Gulf Coast University.

**Nancy Maxwell** grew up abroad and after studying at Cornell University, lived and taught for many years in Europe, where she developed a lifelong passion for history and the individual stories behind events.

**Sandy Parker**, author of the popular Sparker's Soapbox blog, is passionate about informed voting and civic engagement. She has lectured about Florida government since 2011.

**Nicholas Penniman IV** is a former publisher of the St Louis Post Dispatch, Sr. V.P. of Newspaper Operations for Pulitzer Publishing, published author and environmentalist.

**John Penuel** is an adjunct faculty member in the department of Political Science & Public Administration.

**Richard Price** has written, published and presented on a broad range of topics including political, historical and technical subjects. His decades long interest in China and the developing world, including travels to China and Asia.

**Carlene Thissen** is a singer, songwriter and author who spends much of her time working with the people of Immokalee.

**Steve Valdespino, M.A.**, has 25 years of teaching experience at the University of Central Florida, Lely High School and Edison State College.

**Chris Williams** is the founder of Emeritus Health. He works as a Certified Personal Trainer in Naples.

## NEW 2027 Travel Excursion Added

### Southeast Asia Odyssey Post-Tour Extension in Singapore

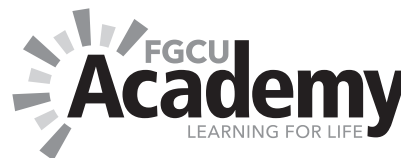
**November 18 - December 6, 2027**

On an engaging journey through four unique Southeast Asian nations, we gain an appreciation for the diversity of this most intriguing region. Exploring Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand, our small group encounters sublime natural beauty, explores spectacular ruins, and mingles with gracious local people.



# PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete SEPARATE registration forms for EACH PERSON taking a program.



Mail this form to:

FGCU Academy, 704 Goodlette-Frank Rd. North, Suite 330, Naples FL 34102

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Florida Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Florida residency (Choose one):  Full time  January - May  October - May

**I want to join as an Annual Member / \$85** (Valid one year from date of purchase) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PROGRAM FEES:** Please note that Program fees are different for members and non-members.

Enter the CORRECT FEE AMOUNT for each program based upon your membership status.

Program # \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Program # \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Program # \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL:** Membership dues (if any) plus program fees: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**I want to make a donation and support lifelong learning in the SWFL community.** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*If paying by check, please send a SEPARATE check for your donation.*

## I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON THE ITEMS CHECKED, PLEASE CONTACT ME:

- I am interested in receiving information about the Academy's travel programs (Brochures available online)
- I would like to volunteer
- I am interested in being a speaker

## PAYMENT

Check (Payable to FGCU Academy)

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MasterCard

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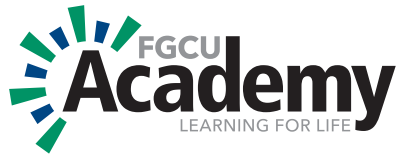
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**TRAVEL WITH FGCU ACADEMY - CRUISES & LAND TOURS - PAGES 2 & 3**

