

Attention: Aspiring OLLI Teachers (continued)

by Jim Lenburg

Beginning 4½ months before the term you want to teach, you'll complete a term-specific (fall, winter, spring, summer) course proposal. CFS Program Manager Herb Gunn will receive your proposal and assign it to one of the 11 curriculum committees for their consideration. After committee members evaluate your proposal, the committee chair assigns a member to act as your committee liaison. You might look at the liaison as your advocate. That person will contact you to discuss your proposal. For new instructors, an informal interview with the committee will be scheduled. You will be asked to prepare a short teaching demonstration.

If you have an idea for new course and would like to discuss your idea with the curriculum committee before going through the proposal process, you might wish to contact a committee chair and chat with a committee liaison.

If the committee recommends your course, your proposal goes back to the CFS program manager to determine whether to offer the course in the desired term or delay it for a future term. Decisions can hinge on such factors as room availability and the need to provide varied and balanced courses.

Your liaison will work with you throughout the entire process and will observe your first class session to provide valuable feedback. Class participants will evaluate the course at the end of the term and you will receive a summary of their remarks.

For the Spring 2019 8-week term, the proposal deadline is November 1, 2018. For detailed instructions for submitting a proposal visit the OLLI website:

<https://olliasheville.com/teaching-college-seniors>

Jim Lenburg began teaching for OLLI's College for Seniors in 2009, three years after retiring from Mars Hill University. He continues to teach because he loves the challenge of developing new courses and the intellectual stimulation he enjoys from the participants in his courses. Jim says the opportunity to teach people his age and to find people who know more about his material than he does creates an excitement he never found in his 33-year career teaching undergraduate courses at Mars Hill. Jim also wrote a companion piece to this, on how he prepares his lectures. It will appear in the Observer on September 23.