

PHOTO BY TED DAVIS



**Stay Curious.  
Stay Connected.**  
Learning is more  
fun with friends  
at OLLI NU!



**Northwestern**  
SCHOOL OF  
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

# 2025 OLLI FALL SEMESTER

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2—MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025



PHOTO BY TED DAVIS

A photograph of several marble busts of classical figures, likely in a museum or gallery. The busts are arranged in a row, with the most prominent one in the foreground on the right, looking towards the left. The background is slightly blurred, showing other busts and architectural elements.

# CONTENTS

- 3 From the Director
- 4 Fall 2025 Membership Options
- 5 Study Groups At-A-Glance
- 10 How to Register for a 7-Week Study Group;  
7-Week Study Groups At-A-Glance
- 12 Study Group Descriptions
- 54 OLLI Immersive Theater Experience in Partnership  
with Wirtz Theater of Performing Arts
- 55 Fall 2025 Kick-Off Celebration
- 56 How to Purchase a Membership and Register
- 58 2025-2026 Academic Calendar
- 59 OLLI Honor Roll of Donors
- 61 Policies and Information
- 66 OLLI Office Information  
Logistics, Services, and Resources

## KEY DATES:

**Fall memberships are available for [purchase now](#).**

**Monday, August 4 at 9 a.m.: Fall [registration opens](#).**

**Monday, August 18 at 5 p.m.: Fall [registration closes](#).**

**Tuesday, September 2: Fall session begins.**

## Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is to enable the continuation of learning and intellectual pursuit for a community of mature adults. As a special program of Northwestern University's School of Professional Studies, OLLI offers a comprehensive curriculum of peer-led discussion groups covering topics in areas such as literature, history, politics, science, philosophy, current affairs, and the arts. OLLI welcomes diversity in its membership, and has no academic prerequisites or age restrictions.



## FROM THE OLLI DIRECTOR, **EMILY FERRIN**

Dear OLLI Members and Friends,

As fall approaches and the pace of life shifts again, many of us feel that familiar “back to school” energy—a renewed focus, a fresh start, and a return to routines that ground us. At OLLI, fall is one of our most vibrant seasons, and I’m excited to share our Fall Catalog with you.

This session, we’re offering a wide range of courses—from literature and politics to science, music, and more—all designed to challenge and inspire. But just as important as what we’re learning is how we’re learning: together.

Community is at the heart of OLLI. Whether you’re joining a study group that meets in person or participating online, each course offers the chance to connect—through conversation, collaboration, and shared curiosity. This fall, we’re placing special emphasis on creating meaningful experiences that strengthen our community of learners.

If you’ve been away for a while, now is a great time to rejoin. And if you’ve been with us all year, we’re glad to have you back for another season of engaging learning and connection.

Take a look through the catalog and see what sparks your interest. We’re looking forward to another great season—together.

Warmly,

*Emily*

Emily Hood Ferrin, PhD  
Director, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
School of Professional Studies  
Northwestern University

## Action Items

### RIGHT NOW:

1. Log into the OLLI Online Registration System ([northwesternolli.augusoft.net](http://northwesternolli.augusoft.net)) today.
  - This will ensure you know your username and password before registration day. By preparing early, our team will have the time to help you if you have any difficulty.

2. [Purchase](#) your OLLI membership (if you do not have a current membership.)
  - Buy your membership early. Then, when registration opens, all you will need to do is select your study groups and quickly check out.

3. Review the study group offerings and **begin thinking about your list of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices**. Many groups fill quickly, so be open to other options that expand your interests and your exposure to new friendships.

### REGISTRATION DAY (Monday, August 4):

[Online registration](#) opens at 9 a.m.  
Registration closes Monday, August 18 at 5 p.m.

If you need assistance, email [olli@northwestern.edu](mailto:olli@northwestern.edu). The first available staff member or OLLI Volli volunteer will call or email you to assist. This day is extremely busy, so we ask for your patience.

**See page 56 and 57 for membership purchase and registration instructions.**

# FULL & HALF YEAR FALL MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS 2025–2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

FULL YEAR MEMBERSHIPS WITH WILDCARD BENEFITS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE IN THE FALL

Fall is the start of the academic year; all who wish to take Fall study groups must purchase a membership.

## Memberships — Levels, Prices, and Benefits

Level	Price	Terms Included	Number of Study Groups per Term	Additional Benefits Included with Membership:
<b>Prime (3/term)</b>	<b>Full Academic Year = \$699</b> • A Great Value: Approximately \$3/classroom hour	Includes: • fall • winter • spring • summer	<b>3 per term</b> for a total of 12	<b>Full-year members enjoy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northwestern Wildcard ID with student discounts</li> <li>• Access to Northwestern Library with borrowing privileges</li> <li>• Affiliate rates for campus athletic facilities</li> <li>• Reduced rates to Audit SPS classes after one full year of active membership</li> </ul> <b>Half-year members enjoy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to Northwestern Library (no borrowing privileges)</li> </ul>
	<b>Half Academic Year = \$380</b>	Includes: fall & winter	<b>3 per term</b> for a total of 6	
<b>Standard (2/term)</b>	<b>Full Academic Year = \$615</b> • A Great Value: Approximately \$4/classroom hour	Includes: • fall • winter • spring • summer	<b>2 per term</b> for a total of 8	
	<b>Half Academic Year = \$335</b>	Includes: fall & winter	<b>2 per term</b> for a total of 4	
<b>Basic (1/term)</b>	<b>Full Academic Year = \$485</b> • A Great Value: Approximately \$6/classroom hour	Includes: • fall • winter • spring • summer	<b>1 per term</b> for a total of 4	
	<b>Half Academic Year = \$275</b>	Includes: fall & winter	<b>1 per term</b> for a total of 2	

## Trial Membership (Half Year) — Price and Benefits

<b>Trial (1/term)</b>	<b>\$225</b> • Available only to new members and may be purchased only one time.	Includes: fall & winter	<b>1 per term</b> for a total of 2	<b>Trial members enjoy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to Northwestern Library (no borrowing privileges)</li> </ul>
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## Beyond the Study Groups ... All OLLI Members Enjoy

- A community of engaged and engaging peers
- Special events and cultural opportunities
- Special lectures and noontime events
- Weekly eNotices about campus activities throughout the year
- Workshops to enhance the OLLI experience
- The opportunity to participate in OLLI committee work

The academic year is divided into 4 terms:

**Fall and Spring Semester** = 14 weeks each    **Winter (all virtual) and Summer Session** = 4 weeks each

A new OLLI academic calendar year begins each fall semester. Therefore, full year memberships are only available in the fall. Memberships are valid for the terms purchased and are not transferable to another term or member.

**Scholarships:** OLLI offers partial scholarships during the fall and spring terms. A limited number of full scholarships may be available. Awards are strictly confidential. [Apply online](#). Scholarships are supported by donations to the OLLI Member Fund.

OLLI FALL 2025 SEMESTER • BEGINS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

# STUDY GROUPS AT-A-GLANCE

## KEY

**CI:** Contemporary and Social Issues

**CA:** Creative Arts (Performing, Visual, and Literary Arts)

**HIS:** History & Government

**LIT:** Literature

**STMH:** Science, Technology, Medicine & Health

**SS:** Social Sciences

(Philosophy, Sociology, Anthropology, Economics)

## CHICAGO IN-PERSON STUDY GROUPS

### Monday

- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** How Bruce Springsteen Became “The Boss”  
*(7 weeks, meets 2nd half of the semester)*
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** Opening Nights and Kumbayas *(7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)*
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **HIS** *The American Political Tradition*
- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **LIT** Great Short Stories
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CI** Justice in Our Precarious Times
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CI** *The New Yorker*
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** Writing Life Stories, Group A
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** Writing Life Stories, Group C
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **LIT** West Meets East: Selected Short Stories of Nikolai Gogol and Lu Hsun *(7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)*
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **STMH** The Science of Mental Health *(7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)*
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **STMH** The WEIRDest People in the World

### Tuesday

- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CI** 2020 Covid Pandemic: How It Changed Our World
- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** *Rolling Stone’s Top Rock and Roll Songs*
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **HIS** From Colonies to Nations
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **HIS** Rachel Maddow’s Prequel: America’s Triumph Over Fascism—Lessons for Today
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **HIS** *The Power Broker*
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CI** *The Atlantic Magazine*
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m. **CA** Hollywood vs. the Censors—Classic Films of the Pre-Code Era
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** Roaring ‘20s: Gatsby, Art Deco and All That Jazz  
*(7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)*

*Continued on next page*

**CHICAGO IN-PERSON STUDY GROUPS, CONT.**

<b>NEW</b>	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	<b>HIS</b>	Guilty or Wrongly Convicted? The State of Justice in America
	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	<b>HIS</b>	World History Series: Behind the Iron Curtain
<b>NEW</b>	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	<b>SS</b>	Justice, Power, and Human Nature in the Athenian Century
<b>NEW</b>	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	<b>SS</b>	To Have and to Hold: Collectors and Collecting
<b>Wednesday</b>			
<b>NEW</b>	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	<b>CI</b>	Living well, leaving well: Conversations about choices at the end of life <i>(7 weeks, meets 2nd half of the semester)</i>
<b>NEW</b>	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	<b>CA</b>	How The “Laurel Canyon Sound” Changed American Music
<b>NEW</b>	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	<b>HIS</b>	Niall Ferguson on Empires
<b>NEW</b>	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	<b>HIS</b>	Operation Dragoon: Was Churchill Right? <i>(7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)</i>
<b>NEW</b>	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	<b>HIS</b>	Women Leading Change: Social Reform in America, 1890-1920
<b>NEW</b>	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	<b>CI</b>	A Look at Generational Differences
	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	<b>CI</b>	<i>The Economist Magazine</i>
<b>NEW</b>	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	<b>CA</b>	Dynamic Duo of American Architecture: HH Richardson and FL Olmsted
	1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m.	<b>CA</b>	Off the Beaten Path: Films of the New Millenium - Part 6
<b>NEW</b>	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	<b>HIS</b>	A Millennium in North America: Dispelling the Myths of Native Americans
<b>NEW</b>	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	<b>HIS</b>	Scandinavia in the Viking Age
<b>Thursday</b>			
	9:30 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	<b>CA</b>	Capturing Chicago Through Photography
<b>NEW</b>	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	<b>CI</b>	Only Good News
	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	<b>HIS</b>	Mirrors of Greatness
	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	<b>LIT</b>	Echoes of Empire: British Mysteries Explores the Commonwealth <i>(7 weeks, meets 2nd half of the semester)</i>
	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	<b>LIT</b>	Espionage <i>(7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)</i>
	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	<b>LIT</b>	Readings in Western Culture— <i>Great Conversations 1</i> (Great Books)
<b>NEW</b>	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	<b>SS</b>	History, Politics and Power of What We Wear: Stories from the Podcast Articles of Interest <i>(7 weeks, meets 2nd half of the semester)</i>
<b>NEW</b>	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	<b>CI</b>	Feminism: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow <i>(7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)</i>
	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	<b>CI</b>	Washington Week
<b>NEW</b>	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	<b>CA</b>	<i>Paris in Ruins: Love, War, and the Birth of Impressionism</i>
	1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m.	<b>CA</b>	Top Academy Award Winners and Nominees
<b>NEW</b>	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	<b>HIS</b>	<i>Astor, The Rise and Fall of an American Fortune</i>
<b>NEW</b>	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	<b>HIS</b>	The American Revolution As Seen Through the Eyes of Rick Atkinson

*Continued on next page*

**EVANSTON IN-PERSON STUDY GROUPS****Monday**

- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CI** *The New Yorker*
- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** Four Masters of the Short Story: Cheever, Lahiri, Murakami, Poe
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **HIS** *The Ku Klux Klan's Plot To Take Over America*  
(7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)
- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **LIT** Best American Short Stories
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CI** Understanding the Nobel Peace Prize: History, Impact, and Controversy  
(7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **HIS** The Heritage Foundation and Project 2025
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **LIT** Kafka's World: Your World? (7 weeks, meets 2nd half of the semester)
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **LIT** Nordic Noir

**Tuesday**

- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CI** Ezra Klein Podcasts—Conversations That Matter
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **HIS** Building the Panama Canal
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **LIT** Exploring Jane Austen's *Emma*
- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **STMH** Science in the News
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CI** *Monsters: A Fan's Dilemma* (7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)
- 1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m. **CA** From Print to Pictures, the Art of Film Adaptation: Hitchcock Thrillers  
(7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** Savor the Story: Food and Film as Windows to the Soul  
(7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **LIT** Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park* and *Persuasion*

**Wednesday**

- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** Art & Ideas: Romanticism to Modernism and Beyond
- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** Creative Writing Workshop
- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** Documentary Films
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **HIS** America: Liberal or Illiberal?
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CI** *The Atlantic*
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** Theater in Chicago
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **HIS** Ron Chernow's *Mark Twain*—Fall and Spring
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **LIT** Poetry for Pleasure

**Thursday**

- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **HIS** Cabrini-Green and the Fate of American Public Housing

Continued on next page

**EVANSTON IN-PERSON STUDY GROUPS, CONT.**

- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **HIS** In the Wake of Captain Cook: the Consequences of the Age of Exploration
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **STMH** Last Days of Dinosaurs and Beginnings of Our World
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **SS** The Border—A Journey Around Russia
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CI** *The Deadline*: Essays by Jill Lepore
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** The Marx Brothers Films—Comedy, Culture & History  
(7 weeks, meets 2nd half of the semester)
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **STMH** Injustice has a Cure: The Inspiring Story of Partners in Health  
(7 weeks, meets 2nd half of the semester)

**VIRTUAL ONLINE STUDY GROUPS****Monday**

- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CI** Evil Geniuses: The Unmaking of America—A Recent History
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** Writing Life Stories, Group B
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **LIT** Literary Masters Lost in Translation
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **SS** *Free to Choose ... Still?*
- NEW** 3:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m. **SS** What is a Mind, and Where Might We Find One/Them?
- 4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m. **CA** BONUS GROUP: Let's Talk About the Movies (Monday)

**Tuesday**

- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** Exploring the Visual Arts
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **HIS** Nimitz at War: Command Leadership from Pearl Harbor to Tokyo Bay
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **STMH** AI Decoded—Why Machines Learn
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** Tuesday at the Movies
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **LIT** Modern Fantasy (7 weeks, meets 2nd half of the semester)

**Wednesday**

- 8:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** Capturing Chicagoland through Photography
- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CI** Foreign Affairs
- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **LIT** Literature of Baseball: As They See 'Em: The Land of Umpires
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CI** Articles from the Sunday *New York Times*
- 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** Documentary Films
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **HIS** Remembrance of a Revolution Past: The Afterlives of Mao's Cultural Revolution in China (7 weeks, meets 2nd half of the semester)

**Thursday**

- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CI** *The Atlantic & The Economist*
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** English—Much Ado About Words

Continued on next page

**VIRTUAL ONLINE STUDY GROUPS, CONT.**

	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	CA	Poetry in a New Age
	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	SS	Shades of Gray
	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	CI	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>NEW</b>	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	CA	John Sayles Independent Creativity—Cinema for the Mind
	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	CA	New Fiction Writers Workshop
<b>NEW</b>	3:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.	CA	<i>Music of The Mind</i> , Yoko Ono’s Visionary Spirit & Artistry (7 weeks, meets 2nd half of the semester)
	4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.	CA	BONUS GROUP: Let’s Talk About the Movies (Thursday)
<b>Friday</b>			
	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	CI	International Relations

*“Wisdom is not a product of schooling  
but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it.”*  
~ *Albert Einstein*

**A Note About Make-up Days**

**Thanksgiving** is a skip day; there is no make up for this holiday because Northwestern University is closed.

**Jewish Holidays:** It is the coordinators’ decision whether to hold study groups on the Jewish holidays. If coordinators cancel study groups on these days, this will be outlined in the welcome letter you will receive from the coordinators after registration. With notification to the OLLI office, a make up session can be offered on Tuesday, December 9.

# 7-WEEK STUDY GROUPS AT-A-GLANCE

## How to Register for a 7-week Study Group

If you register for a 7-week study group, you may register for a second 7-week study group based on availability. Because the registration system does not recognize 1/2 credits, the office will have to assist with registering you for an optional second study group per the instructions below:

- Register yourself for one 7-week study group.
- If you wish to take a second 7-week study group, email the OLLI office with your choice: [olli@northwestern.edu](mailto:olli@northwestern.edu). (Please provide two or three options.)
- OLLI staff will register you for your second 7-week study group as quickly as possible and in the order received.
- If your 1st choice is filled you will be added to the wait list. OLLI staff will then attempt to register you for your 2nd choice. If it is also full, you will be added to that wait list as well.
- You will receive an automated email notifying you of the status (registered or waitlisted).

### CHICAGO—MEETS FIRST HALF OF THE SEMESTER (September 2–October 20)

#### Monday

- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** Opening Nights and Kumbayas
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **LIT** West Meets East: Selected Short Stories of Nikolai Gogol and Lu Hsun
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **STMH** The Science of Mental Health

#### Tuesday

- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** Roaring '20s: Gatsby, Art Deco and All That Jazz

#### Wednesday

- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **HIS** Operation Dragoon: Was Churchill Right?

#### Thursday

- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **LIT** Espionage
- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CI** Feminism: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

### CHICAGO—MEETS SECOND HALF OF THE SEMESTER (October 21–December 8)

#### Monday

- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CA** How Bruce Springsteen Became “The Boss”

#### Wednesday

- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **CI** Living well, leaving well: Conversations about choices at the end of life

#### Thursday

- 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **LIT** Echoes of Empire: British Mysteries Explores the Commonwealth
- NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **SS** History, Politics and Power of What We Wear: Stories from the Podcast *Articles of Interest*

Continued on next page

**EVANSTON—MEETS FIRST HALF OF THE SEMESTER (September 2–October 20)**

**Monday**

- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CI** Understanding the Nobel Peace Prize: History, Impact, and Controversy  
**NEW** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. **HIS** The Ku Klux Klan’s Plot To Take Over America

**Tuesday**

- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CI** *Monsters: A Fan’s Dilemma*  
**NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** Savor the Story: Food and Film as Windows to the Soul  
 1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m. **CA** From Print to Pictures, the Art of Film Adaptation: Hitchcock Thrillers

**EVANSTON—MEETS SECOND HALF OF THE SEMESTER (September 2–October 20)**

**Monday**

- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **LIT** Kafka’s World: Your World?

**Thursday**

- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **CA** The Marx Brothers Films - Comedy, Culture & History  
**NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **STMH** Injustice has a Cure: The Inspiring Story of Partners in Health

**VIRTUAL—MEETS SECOND HALF OF THE SEMESTER (September 2–October 20)**

**Tuesday**

- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **LIT** Modern Fantasy

**Wednesday**

- NEW** 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **HIS** Remembrance of a Revolution Past:  
The Afterlives of Mao’s Cultural Revolution in China

**Thursday**

- NEW** 3:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m. **CA** *Music of The Mind*, Yoko Ono’s Visionary Spirit & Artistry





**Northwestern**  
SCHOOL OF  
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

OLLI FALL 2025 SEMESTER • BEGINS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

# STUDY GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

## ICON KEY

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| High level of discussion                 | Preparation: Less than 1 hour per week |
| Medium level of discussion               | No preparation needed                  |
| Low level of discussion                  | Movies/documentaries shown             |
| Participation strongly encouraged        | Access to streaming service required   |
| Participation encouraged                 | Kindle edition available               |
| Participation according to comfort level | Digital SLR camera required            |
| Preparation: More than 2 hours per week  | Digital camera or Smartphone required  |
| Preparation: Roughly 1–2 hours per week  |  |

**Chicago Campus Study Groups . . . . . p. 13**  
**Evanston Campus Study Groups . . . . . p. 31**  
**Virtual OLLI Anywhere Study Groups . . . . . p. 42**

**NEW How Bruce Springsteen Became “The Boss”**

CREATIVE ARTS

*Kevin McCann, Michael Silverman, Tim Atkins*

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. (7 weeks, meets 2nd half of the semester)

Fifty years ago, a relatively unknown singer-songwriter from New Jersey appeared on the covers of *Time* and *Newsweek* in the same week. Today, Bruce Springsteen—known as “The Boss”—holds a singular place in American culture. Widely recognized as a voice of the American working class, his music is deeply rooted in the struggles, hopes, and dreams of everyday people. Songs like “Born to Run,” “Born in the U.S.A.,” and “The Rising” have become anthems that capture the spirit and complexity of American life. In this study group, we will explore Springsteen’s first seven albums to better understand how he earned a place in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and helped shape American cultural identity. Each session will focus on one album, featuring selected songs and performance videos. We will analyze lyrics, discuss Bruce’s own reflections on his creative process, and spotlight key members of the E Street Band—whom Springsteen calls essential to his music. Even if you have never considered yourself a Bruce fan, you will come away with new insight into his artistry—and into what it means to be American.

**NEW Opening Nights and Kumbayas**

CREATIVE ARTS

*Eli Libenson, Kevin McCann, David Prosnitz*

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. (7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)

It is opening night on Broadway. How will the new musical be received by New York’s leading theater critics? It is life or death for all who are involved in the show. In this study group we will read these reviews and, more importantly, enjoy the music from some of America’s most beloved musicals from overture to closing song. And that is just the first hour. In the second hour we will learn about and listen to some of America’s most beloved folk singers like Paul Robeson, Woodie Guthrie, and The Weavers with Pete Seeger singing live in concerts. Could there be two more divergent forms of music? And yet, they were both popular at the same time and in the same place—one winning our hearts, the other our souls. Our textbook will be *Opening Night on Broadway* (Schirmer Books, 1990) by Steven Suskin. Hope to see you in our study group!



PHOTO BY TED DAVIS

**NEW *The American Political Tradition***

HISTORY &amp; GOVERNMENT

*Richard Krantz, Jim Koch*

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Originally published in 1948, Richard Hofstadter’s *The American Political Tradition and the Men Who Made It* (Vintage Books Edition, 1989) is a series of twelve essays in which Hofstadter examines the political philosophies of such figures as Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln, Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt and others, showing how their actions and beliefs were often shaped by a shared commitment to capitalism, individualism and protection of property. Long considered a classic study of American political science, Hofstadter’s work challenged the “literature of hero-worship and national self-congratulation” that was so prevalent in the progressive interpretation of American history. He does this by pointing out the sharp contrast in how their political ideologies have been perceived and how the reality of their actions would indicate otherwise. So, for instance, we have “Jefferson: The Aristocrat as Democrat” and “Theodore Roosevelt: The Conservative as a Progressive,” to cite two of the titles. Of course, we anticipate a good deal of discussion on the relevance of Hofstadter’s themes, and whether they have stood the test of time as to what has occurred since the publication of *The American Political Tradition*. Join us.

**Great Short Stories**

LITERATURE

*Julia Katz, Alan Goldberg*

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

As Pulitzer Prize winning author Stacy Schiff wrote in *The New York Times*, “A short story is by definition an odder, more eccentric creature than a novel; a trailer, a fling, a warm-up act, a bouillon cube, a championship game in one inning. Irresolution and ambiguity become it; it’s a first date rather than a marriage. When is it mightier than the novel? When its elisions speak as loudly as its lines.” If you enjoy reading fiction and want to explore the succinctness of the short story, join our study group. The very brevity of the form invites lively discussion and differing interpretations of the material. This study group gives a brief, but fascinating, introduction to a variety of authors. Each study group member acts as discussion leader for one or two stories of their choice, and also shares a brief biography of the story’s author. Two anthologies serve as texts. *The Best American Short Stories 2024*, edited by Lauren Groff with Heidi Pitlor (Mariner Books, 2024), contains 20 short stories published in 2024. *50 Great Short Stories* edited by Milton Crane (Bantam Books, 1952), contains 50 short story classics written over the span of a century.

**NEW *Justice in Our Precarious Times***

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

*Michael Hennessy, Bob Elliott, Alex Lippitt*

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

We will read and discuss the book *Justice: What Is the Right thing to Do* by Michael Sandel (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2009). Dr. Sandel is a Harvard University professor who has taught the course “Justice” at Harvard for over 30 years. He has been dubbed “A Spellbinding Philosopher” by *Nation* magazine. This book is based on his course at Harvard and is very relevant to the uncertain times we live in. It is praised by many, from liberals to conservatives including George F. Will. We will work through ten amazing chapters covering tough questions facing our country. Topics include everything from Utilitarianism to Libertarianism, Aristotle to Immanuel Kant, John Rawls, and The Common Good to What We Owe One Another. This is a great book for discussion, and will make us think about justice in a just society.



## The New Yorker

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

*Barbara Glatt, Marylyn Miller, Dale Melin Walters*

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Inside its famous covers and beyond the cartoons, *The New Yorker* is dedicated to quality, topical writings, and ideas. Our study group discussions will be as varied as the contents of this distinguished magazine. Join us as we explore art, technology, politics, culture, medicine, fashion, and commentary. You will find your current view of our world expanded. A current online or print subscription of *The New Yorker* magazine is required. All study group participants are encouraged to be a discussion leader at least once during the 14 week term. Although listed as in-person, study group participants may attend in-person or virtually via Zoom.



## Writing Life Stories, Group A

CREATIVE ARTS

*Steven Meiss*

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Why write your story? Writing helps us document and reflect on experiences, revisit old memories, and remember people who have made a difference. It allows us to reflect on and examine past times from our present perspective. You might include photographs. Memoirs can also be a collection of personal essays or poems. We write up to 700 words weekly and bring copies of our work for each class participant to take home, review, and write comments. In the subsequent week, we read our pieces aloud to receive constructive feedback from the class. From time to time, we will read aloud excerpts from popular memoirs. We post each weekly memoir on our MyOLLINU webpage. This page also contains reference materials about how to approach memoir writing. Whether you are an experienced writer or just starting, our study group is here to help. We work together to tackle the challenges of organizing and clarifying our writing, deciding what to include, what to leave out, and what style to follow. This is an excellent opportunity to write a story about one or more events and chapters of your life.



## Writing Life Stories, Group C

CREATIVE ARTS

*Beth Chiaiese, Susan Fox Gillis*

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Have you ever considered writing about your life, preserving the stories of your family for future generations? Or have you been writing your stories and would like to share them with fellow writers? Are you interested in learning from other writers and improving your writing style? Whether your stories are about growing up, or as a result of an interesting career or through world travels, they can be a gift to future generations. Join us as we write our life stories, chapter by chapter. We will work to improve our techniques and to make our stories more readable through positive critiques. A writing piece, from 500-750 words, will be submitted by each participant every week.



## NEW West Meets East: Selected Short Stories of Nikolai Gogol and Lu Hsun

LITERATURE

Nancy Kelly-Martin, Rhoda Stamell

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)

The realists and satirists, Nikolai Gogol of Russia, and Lu Hsun of China, were masters of the short story genre. As significant social critics of their time, they employed humor and fantasy in their rich and timeless stories. Lu Hsun admired Gogol, who inspired his own version of the Russian forerunner's story, *A Madman's Diary*. This study group will engage in discussions of the literary styles of these masters of the short story: their techniques, themes, and perspectives. Cultural contexts will be provided to enhance our understanding of these tales. We will discuss individual stories and, where possible, we will read paired story combinations. Join us for many cross-cultural conversations. Texts: *The Collected Tales of Nikolai Gogol*, translated by Richard Prevear and Larissa Volokhonsky (Vintage Classics, 1998). *Selected Stories of Lu Hsun: The True Story of Ah Q and Other Tales*, translated by Yang Hsien-yi and Gladys Yang (First Warbler Classic Edition, 2021).



## NEW The Science of Mental Health

STMH

Steven Barrigar, Bill King

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)

There are many routes to mental well-being. But how does our brain construct our sense of mental health? While a mentally healthy brain deals well with life's turbulence, poor mental health results when the brain struggles with disruption. But just what is the brain trying to balance? How does our brain strive to maintain balance in response to our changing circumstances? These are a few of the questions we will try to answer in this 7-week study group. Our guide will be the book *The Balanced Brain: The Science of Mental Health*, Camilla Nord (Princeton University Press, 2024). Join us for a fascinating tour of the scientific developments that are revolutionizing the way we think about mental health, showing why and how events and treatments can affect people in such different ways.



## NEW The WEIRDest People in the World

STMH

William Barker, Dick DuFour

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

An alien observer in 1000 A.D. would have expected either the Islamic or the Chinese worlds, both advanced civilizations, to dominate the planet; Europe was a backwater. Yet, by 1500, Europe was on the way to dominance. Joseph Henrich, Chair of the Harvard Department of Human Evolutionary Biology and author of our text, draws on cutting-edge research in anthropology, psychology, economics, and evolutionary biology to argue that this change was the product of fundamental changes in Western psychology, differing from that in the rest of the world. This new psychology is what he describes as WEIRD - Westernized, Educated, Individualized, Rich, and Democratic. He offers further evidence that this change was the result of cultural evolution generated by what he describes as the Marriage and Family Program of the Roman Catholic Church. Using his book *The WEIRDest People in the World: How the West Became Psychologically Peculiar and Particularly Prosperous* (Picador Paper, 2021), we will review both his account of what happened and his evidence of the causes and mechanics of the dramatic effects he describes.



## CHICAGO STUDY GROUPS: TUESDAY

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

**NEW 2020 Covid Pandemic:  
How It Changed Our World**

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

*Ed Klinenberg, Bruce Corson*  
Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

This study group will be based on the book, *2020: One City, Seven People, and the Year Everything Changed* (Vintage, 2024), written by best-selling author, Eric Klinenberg, Professor of Sociology at New York University (and son of coordinator Ed Klinenberg). The year 2020 is one of the most consequential years in history, alongside 1914, 1929, and 1968. In this study group we will explore how the Covid-19 pandemic spread around the world and how it deeply affected most of us. Some of the topics we will examine include how some individuals made huge contributions to dealing successfully with this plague, how some governmental leaders succeeded brilliantly in protecting their people while others failed, how some medical experts led us skillfully out of the valley of the shadow death....and more. Some of the issues discussed hotly during the year 2020 are still being debated today and we will analyze them carefully. There will be future deadly epidemics, and this study group will examine how the lessons of 2020 will help us survive them.

**Rolling Stone's Top Rock and Roll Songs**

CREATIVE ARTS

*Howard Tanzman, Tim Atkins, Laurie Toth*  
Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

In 2004, *Rolling Stone* published their list of the top 500 songs of all time. In this study group, we will continue our exploration of this list by reviewing song numbers 295–385. We will listen to each song together and discuss the lyrics, melody, riffs, and other aspects of the music. We will share when and where we first heard the song and evaluate aspects of the band and their works. We will discuss whether we agree with *Rolling Stone* on their rankings. Join us as we have fun learning and reminiscing. Listen to classics from The Beatles, Rolling Stones, Pink Floyd, The Supremes, Bob Dylan, Elton John, Led Zeppelin, and many others. Prior participation in this study group is not necessary. This will be an enjoyable walk down memory lane.

**NEW From Colonies to Nations**

HISTORY &amp; GOVERNMENT

*Richard Krantz, Margaret Schilt*  
Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

The period 1783 to 1873 saw three nations on the North American continent—the United States, Mexico and Canada—gain their independence or dominion from their colonizing European powers, Great Britain, Spain, and France. Each adopted a republican style of government, but not without each experiencing the ordeals brought about by rebellion, civil war, and foreign invasion. Much of their success was due to the efforts of some extraordinary individuals, and the relating of their accomplishments forms the basis for Alan Taylor's recounting of just how these one-time colonies found their identities and became nations. The story is told in two books by Taylor, *American Republics, A Continental History of the United States, 1783-1850* (Norton Publishers 2022) and *American Civil Wars, A Continental History, 1850-1873* (Norton Publishers 2024). Our plan is to cover the first book and half of the second in the Fall semester and then complete the second book in the four- week Winter session. We hope you can join us.



## NEW Rachel Maddow's *Prequel: America's Triumph Over Fascism—Lessons for Today*

HISTORY &amp; GOVERNMENT

Robert Rifkin, Robert Rich

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

In 2022, journalist Rachel Maddow created and hosted the acclaimed podcast *Ultra*, which uncovered a startling, little-known chapter of American history. Using court transcripts, archival materials, and declassified government records, Maddow told the story of how Nazi agents, far right extremists, and even sitting members of Congress conspired in the 1930s and '40s to steer the U.S. toward fascism and away from democratic ideals. Now in her book *Prequel: An American Fight Against Fascism* (Crown, 2025), Maddow expands and deepens the story, offering new characters, broader context, and compelling insights into how extremist movements operated in plain sight—and how journalists, civil servants, prosecutors, and ordinary citizens resisted. She examines how disinformation, political violence, and institutional complacency created fertile ground for authoritarianism's gaining traction. This study group will use *Prequel* to explore political and social forces that tested American democracy during that era. We will examine how those historical dynamics connect to the present moment, and what lessons they offer about democratic resilience, civic responsibility, and the power of public awareness. Maddow's accessible, engaging style makes complex history vivid and relevant. No background in history or politics is required—just curiosity and an interest in understanding today's challenges through the lens of the past.



## NEW *The Power Broker*

HISTORY &amp; GOVERNMENT

Dan Burns, Rosemary O'Shea

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Robert Caro's acclaimed biography, *The Power Broker* (Viking, 1974), chronicles the life and influence of Robert Moses, one of the most powerful figures in urban planning and development in the 20th century. In telling the Moses story, Caro describes the way politics really happens, the way things get done in America's city halls and statehouses. Serving alongside six New York governors (from Al Smith to Nelson Rockefeller) and five New York City mayors (from Fiorello La Guardia to John Lindsey), Moses was more powerful than any of them, despite the fact he had never been elected to any public office. He built an empire and lived like an emperor. The book paints a complex portrait of Moses, whose visionary projects transformed New York City through the construction of parks, bridges, highways, and housing. It also uncovers the dark side of Moses' power, revealing how his autocratic methods led to the displacement of countless residents and contributed to urban decay. More than anything, this book is a study of power, the rise to, the use of, the love of, the lust for, and the loss of power. Join us for a two-semester review (fall and winter) of this monumental work.



*“Always walk through life as if you have something new to learn, and you will.”*

*~ Vernon Howard*

**NEW *The Atlantic Magazine***

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

*Barbara Glatt, Robert Rifkin*

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Dive into the ideas shaping our world with *The Atlantic*—one of America’s most respected magazines, known for its thought-provoking writing and timely insights. In this lively study group, we will explore the magazine’s rich and varied sections, from Features and Dispatches to Culture, Poetry, and Criticism. Our conversations will span politics, foreign affairs, science, technology, health, fiction, book reviews, and the arts—offering us fresh perspectives and deepening our understanding of today’s most pressing topics. Bring your curiosity and your voice: participants are encouraged to lead discussions twice during our 14-week journey. A current subscription to *The Atlantic* (digital or print) is required. Get ready to engage, challenge your thinking, and expand your view of the world.

**NEW Hollywood vs. the Censors—  
Classic Films of the Pre-Code Era**

CREATIVE ARTS

*Paul Hurder, Steve Greska*

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m.

The Pre-Code era, which lasted from roughly 1929 until 1934, stands out as a time when Hollywood briefly flirted with a raw and honest portrayal of American life in its films. These films addressed taboo topics, showcased powerful women, and challenged social norms with a level of frankness that, once quashed, wouldn’t return until decades later. The enforcement of the Hays Code in 1934 curtailed this artistic freedom, leading to decades of sanitized cinema—until the Code’s decline in the 1960s. This period remains crucial for understanding the evolution of American film and the societal tensions that shaped it. Its influence is still felt in the modern era, as contemporary filmmakers often draw inspiration from this Pre-Code boldness. These film scripts dealt with social conditions, gangsters and corrupt politicians, mad scientists and sometimes monsters. But they all had a common thread where artists pushed the envelope and as a result found themselves in the crosshairs of the civil and religious “morality police.” Join us for an investigation of some of the films of this imaginative and influential period in film history.

**NEW Roaring ‘20s: Gatsby, Art Deco, and All That Jazz**

CREATIVE ARTS

*Diane Dunne, Tim Atkins, Kevin McCann*

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)

The Roaring ‘20s gave us the great American novel, iconic American music, and breakthrough design that we treasure to this day. Each week we will explore the genius of F. Scott Fitzgerald, George Gershwin and Duke Ellington, among others, and various Art Deco designs in art, fashion and architecture including the Board of Trade and Rockefeller Center. We will read and discuss *The Great Gatsby* (The Reader’s Library, 2021) and related articles, view film clips and videos, and listen to amazing musicians. There will be an optional trip to the Art Institute and/or jazz club.



## NEW Guilty or Wrongly Convicted? The State of Justice in America

HISTORY &amp; GOVERNMENT

Jane Murtaugh, Michael Sehr

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

What if you or a loved one were wrongly convicted of a serious crime and sentenced to a long term in prison? It can happen! Did you know that over 400 people have had felony convictions overturned in the United States in just the past three years? Using book excerpts, TED Talks, YouTube videos, articles and guest speakers, we will explore the work of The Innocence Project and similar organizations who work to have innocent people exonerated and released from prison. We will analyze the causes of wrongful convictions, including the roles of police and prosecutors, the impact of race and class, and the controversies surrounding the use of DNA evidence. Our study will include the stories of people being wrongfully convicted and then exonerated (or not) of serious crimes and the often heroic efforts of the people working to have the wrongfully convicted released from prison. Please join us as we learn about some of the problems and successes of our justice system.



## World History Series: Behind the Iron Curtain

HISTORY &amp; GOVERNMENT

Ann Rusnak, Dennis Carlin

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

At the end of World War II, a huge swath of Eastern Europe was controlled by the Red Army, giving Stalin an unprecedented opportunity to impose his particular vision of communist society on his neighbors. Pulitzer Prize winning author Anne Applebaum, in her landmark study *Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe, 1944-1956* (Random House, 2012), weaves together archival evidence and first-hand testimony to examine the harsh measures the Soviet Union took to extinguish freedom and democracy in Poland, Hungary and East Germany. In this study group, we will delve into the totalitarian mindset of the Soviets, their priorities and thinking as we consider the ways in which human beings in three very different countries, each with its own history and character, reacted to the imposition of totalitarianism. By doing so, we will gain an understanding of totalitarianism in practice and how it shaped the lives of millions of Europeans in the 20th century while being reminded of how fragile freedom can be.



## NEW Justice, Power, and Human Nature in the Athenian Century

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Steven Goldberg, Margaret Schilt

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

The fifth century BCE, commonly known as the ancient world's Athenian century, witnessed the birth of direct democracy, Pericles' statesmanship, the flourishing of Greek culture, empire across the Mediterranean world, catastrophic war, and a fall into tyranny. Although these episodes concentrated in a brief historical moment, the questions raised by Athens' story of triumph and decline remain both timely and timeless. This study group will explore vexing questions of human nature, justice, and power through the texts of Athenian historians, philosophers, tragedians, and satirists. We will read and discuss excerpts from Thucydides' history of the Peloponnesian wars, selected tragic plays by Sophocles and Euripides, Platonic dialogues on the trial of Socrates, and Aristophanes' satire of Socrates. These classics are read for their artistic brilliance and studied for the purpose of retrieving a fascinating period in early history. We will focus as well on the enduring significance and lessons of fifth century Athens for our own historical moment. Join us for a lively and probing conversation about questions that still matter deeply to all of us.



**NEW To Have and to Hold: Collectors and Collecting**

SOCIAL SCIENCES

*Kevin McCann, Michael Burke*

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Are all collections created equal? Or, to borrow (and tweak) a phrase from George Orwell, are some collectors more equal than others? Have you ever wondered—and wanted to investigate—what sparked your journey as a collector—what unique interests and psychology inspired you? What transforms a casual hobbyist into a passionate collector? Would you like to share your treasures and discoveries, sparking curiosity in others? This study group is your opportunity. A “collection” is whatever you define it to be—whether it holds sentimental, practical, or monetary value, we want to see it and understand how and why you collected it. Each week, we will feature one longer and two shorter segments where you can introduce us to your collection and educate us as to why it is important to you. We will also offer simple tips for photographing items that may be tricky to bring in. Plus, we will explore some famous collections using internet and print resources distributed to the group and discuss what makes them so inspiring. “To Have and to Hold” is all about fun and discovery. Bring your enthusiasm, and your pride and joy to share with us this fall!

**CHICAGO STUDY GROUPS: WEDNESDAY**

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

**NEW Living Well, Leaving Well:****Conversations About Choices at the End of Life**

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

*Sara Schwarzbaum, Dale Walters*

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. (7 weeks, meets 2nd half of the semester)

The elderly and the chronically ill will eventually need to make difficult end of life decisions based on their wishes and the wishes of their loved ones. Conversations about this topic are not easy. Members will engage in respectful discussions about end of life planning, end of life conversations, advance directives, and the unique challenges of dementia. Readings and videos selected by the coordinators, and participants will be encouraged to lead discussions. Participants will not be expected to share their wishes, only to become more aware of the questions or their values as they, or their loved ones, approach this stage of life.

**NEW How The “Laurel Canyon Sound” Changed American Music**

CREATIVE ARTS

*Kevin McCann, Tim Atkins*

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

The artists of the LA neighborhood known as Laurel Canyon transformed American popular music, infusing it with greater lyrical depth, musical sophistication, and social awareness. Spanning roughly 1965 through 1973, the “Laurel Canyon sound” represented a move away from the simpler themes of folk and pop, toward more complex explorations of personal and social issues, culminating in tackling new themes like Black pride, oppositional politics, female empowerment, counterculture thinking, and anti-war. The artist roster is full of musical legends, including: Joni Mitchell, The Byrds, The Mamas & The Papas, Crosby Stills Nash & Young, Carole King, Jackson Browne, Frank Zappa, Linda Ronstadt, The Monkees, Alice Cooper, Brian Wilson, and The Eagles. Why did the music coming out of this neighborhood sound so different from what was coming out of the rest of America, and England? Weekly reviews of recordings and performances, and the artists’ own memories, will provide for lively and fun discussions. We will also have the opportunity to share how the music created in Laurel Canyon changed us. It will be an engaging study group with a light workload and tons of great music and videos. Come join our “neighborhood”!



**NEW Niall Ferguson on Empires**

HISTORY &amp; GOVERNMENT

*Richard Krantz, Joe Hinkel*

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Niall Ferguson is a highly respected historian and author who has held academic positions at Stanford, Harvard, and the London School of Economics. He has written extensively about both the British and American Empire and their decline. We will read and discuss his books on the British Empire: *Empire How Britain made the Modern World* (Penguin Books Ltd, 2018) and his book on the American Empire: *Colossus The Rise and Fall of the American Empire* (Penguin Publishing Group, 2005). Ferguson is a first rate historian and has an engaging writing style. These books, both written early in the 21st century, will allow us to evaluate how Ferguson's thoughts hold up over time. Join us for an interesting discussion of the British and American Empire

**NEW Operation Dragoon: Was Churchill Right?**

HISTORY &amp; GOVERNMENT

*Jim Koch, Martha Bills*

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. (7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)

While a victory in a wartime operation could be said to have a hundred fathers, especially if it is an Allied operation, that same event could become an orphan if won too easily or if considered contrary to original planning. So it was with Operation Dragoon during World War II, undertaken to open French ports on the Mediterranean to relieve pressure on the Normandy area which had become too over-crowded with men and material to support advancing troops. This operation was bitterly opposed by Winston Churchill, opposition that would lead to potential breaches in Allied relations. Churchill believed that supporting the struggle to push German forces out of Italy should be the priority in order to secure the Balkan area and the potential resources available. We will read and discuss Robin Cross' book *Operation Dragoon: The Allied Liberation of the South of France 1944* (Pegasus Books, 2019), discovering the evolution of Dragoon, opposition to the plan, setbacks and the subsequent approval to launch. Despite the overwhelming success of Operation Dragoon, the eventual domination of the Balkan region by the Soviet Union through securing their foothold there foretold the new world order that Churchill feared. Was he right after all?

**NEW Women Leading Change:  
Social Reform in America, 1890-1920**

HISTORY &amp; GOVERNMENT

*Pat Stankard, Judy Myers*

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Step back in time to the Progressive Era (1890-1920), a dynamic period of significant social and political change in the United States. During this period, American society was grappling with rapid industrialization, urbanization, and immigration. After the Civil War, women emerged as powerful voices to address these issues as their role in society began to change. Our primary focus will be on an amazing group of women, shaped by the work of Jane Addams and Hull House. They drove reforms on labor conditions and criminal justice, especially for women and children; urban poverty; health and safety protections; and the creation and professionalization of the fields of occupational health and social work. We will also touch on issues related to racial injustice, women's suffrage, and the temperance movement. Discover the motivations, strategies, and profound impact these women had on shaping American society, the challenges they faced, their groundbreaking achievements, and the lasting relevance of their struggles for social justice today. *Creating a Female Dominion in American Reform 1890-1935* by Robyn Muncy (Oxford University Press 1994) will be a primary resource. Join us to learn about a transformative era led by powerful women daring to demand a better future.



**NEW A Look at Generational Differences**

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

*Joe Hinkel, Dixie Johnson*

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Books have been written about the failings of each new generation. Most of these writings could be summarized by the lyrics “Kids: What’s the matter with kids today?” But now author Jean Twenge takes a more nuanced look at the subject in her book *Generations, The Real Differences Between Gen Z, Millennials, Gen X, Boomers and Silents—And What They Mean to America’s Future* (Blackstone Pub, 2023). The author takes a data-driven look at each generation and explains the differences. *The New York Times* refers to the book as groundbreaking and “lavishly informative.” Twenge, who is a recognized commentator on generational differences, provides a deeper understanding of how events and inventions have shaped individuals and our society, as well as implications for future generations. Our study group will read and discuss the book and perhaps take a few detours to look at other thoughts on generations. Hopefully, we will emerge with a new perspective on the difference in generations. Join us for a lively discussion.

**The Economist Magazine**

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

*Jerrold Levine, Larry Winer, Joe Lane*

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

*The Economist* magazine is known for its informative and thought-provoking reporting on political, social and economic developments around the world. Join us as we review several articles selected from the current week’s issue as catalysts for informed and lively discussion on the critical topics of our time. Subscribing or having access to current editions of *The Economist* (print or digital) is required to participate in the healthy discussions about world affairs. Information on subscriptions is available at 1-800-456-6086 or [www.economistsubscriptions.com](http://www.economistsubscriptions.com).

**NEW Dynamic Duo of American Architecture:****HH Richardson and FL Olmsted**

CREATIVE ARTS

*Bill Lipsman, Sandy Bredine*

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

American building and landscape architecture began to develop separately from European styles after the Civil War. These developments were led by Henry Hobson Richardson and Frederick Law Olmsted. They brought new ideas about the ornamentation and interior organization of buildings in the United States and public outdoor places in rapidly developing large cities. We will explore the intertwining lives of these two creative designers through Hugh Howard’s book *Architects of An American Landscape: Henry Hobson Richardson, Frederick Law Olmsted, and the Reimagining of America’s Public and Private Spaces* (Atlantic Monthly Press, 2022). In addition, we will view videos about their lives and designs and tour Richardson’s Glessner House in Chicago’s Prairie Avenue District and the Village of Riverside, Illinois, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted.



## Off the Beaten Path: Films of the New Millennium—Part 6

CREATIVE ARTS

*Paul Hurder, Nadine Caputo*

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m.

Almost 900 feature films are released in the United States each year, with many more worldwide. Even the most determined cinephile can only see a small fraction of each year's offerings. We may see the Oscar winners or the indie films that generate buzz. However, since the turn of the new millennium, there have been scores of fine films that failed to find a wide audience. As in prior semesters, this study group looks to present a further selection of films of this type from the 21st century. This semester's films come primarily from the United States, with some selections from other parts of the world as well. These films share a deep investigation of human emotion and motivation, reveal fully developed characters and present engaging plots that capture the viewer's attention and engagement. We will watch the films as a group followed by a discussion led by that week's presenter. The discussions will revolve around each film's place in film history, the genre, the arcs of the major characters, the symbolism, the plot structure, cinematography, lighting and music as well as additional aspects unique to each film. Join us to enjoy some overlooked gems.



## NEW A Millennium in North America: Dispelling the Myths of Native Americans

HISTORY &amp; GOVERNMENT

*Dorothy Balabanos, Tim Atkins, Diane Dunne*

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Countless myths exist surrounding Native Americans, including that they were nomadic peoples without established societies, they were passive recipients of European colonization, and that they are all the same. Nothing could be further from the truth. In her remarkable Pulitzer Prize winning book, *Native Nations: A Millennium in North America* (Random House, 2024) Dr. Kathleen DuVal, Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, offers a long-term view of how Indigenous peoples in North America flourished both before and long after the arrival of Europeans. We will explore the last 1,000 years of Native American history, examining indigenous people's resistance, adaptability, and endurance. We will discover how the colonization of North America was neither rapid nor fated and examine alternative and plausible historical outcomes in which Native Americans maintained control of large territories. We will discuss the survival and political challenges still faced by hundreds of Native Nations and millions of Native Americans today. Supplemental articles, videos and guest speakers will enrich our lively discussions. Optional field trips to Chicagoland museums with Native American exhibits are also planned. Please join us for an eye-opening experience that counters the many myths surrounding Native Americans and American history.



***“Curiosity is one of the permanent and certain characteristics of a vigorous intellect.”***

***~ Samuel Johnson***

## NEW Scandinavia in the Viking Age

HISTORY &amp; GOVERNMENT

*Margaret Schilt, Angela D'Aversa*

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

The impact of Viking raids and colonization on the history of Europe and the British Isles is well-known. Less familiar is the culture the Vikings built in Scandinavia and took with them when they sailed. We will use two texts: Eleanor Barraclough's book, *Embers of the Hands: Hidden Histories of the Viking Age* (W.W. Norton, 2024) and *Scandinavia in the Age of Vikings*, by Jon Vidar Sigurdsson (Cornell University Press, 2021), to study and discuss that culture. We will also read Hrafnkels saga, a short story from the Icelandic Saga Database, to see how the Vikings saw themselves. Informed by recent intensive archaeological discovery and by the two texts, we will enhance our understanding of how their society was organized politically and socially, and examine the roles of gender, religion, slavery, honor and posthumous reputation, peace and conflict resolution in their society. Norse ideas and ways of seeing the world still percolate in our own culture. Join us to explore their origin and development. And, if there is interest, we can cap our Scandinavian studies with a Swedish lunch or dinner in Andersonville!



## CHICAGO STUDY GROUPS: THURSDAY

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 4 2025

## Capturing Chicago Through Photography

CREATIVE ARTS

*Barbara Schatzman, Jeffery Semel, Donald Moel, Eric Cooper*

Thursday, 9:30 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Practice and grow your photography skills! This study group has both an outside field shoot and in-classroom component. Every other week the group visits notable Chicago area locations to practice a variety of camera techniques while capturing images. Following the shoot, group members upload their images to our shared online account. The following week members meet in class to review and critique images, share composition tips, discuss best practices, and view member presentations on inspiring photographers and photography techniques. This study group is for photographers with a working knowledge of aperture, shutter speed, and ISO, as well as dedicated beginners who want to learn how to use these camera features from more experienced study group members. While a DSLR or mirrorless camera with interchangeable lenses and manual control is preferred, we welcome members who are experienced in capturing photos with a smartphone. While knowledge of editing photographs with post-processing software is not a requirement, we will discuss and demonstrate how post-processing features can enhance a photograph. Join us to meet and learn from others who share a similar passion for photography



**NEW Only Good News**

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

*Stuart Gold, Jean Olsen, Paul Landman*

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Take a break from the media's obsession with bad news and negativity. In this study group we will focus solely on "good news." Noteworthy inventions, discoveries, displays of humanitarianism, AI applications, and breakthroughs in health care and science are just some of the topics this study group will focus on. Members will research and present their "good news" findings to the study group as presentations (including videos and handouts). Follow up Q & As as well as an ongoing list of Hot Discussion Topics will keep you engaged and energized. Resources for Good News, such as The Good News Network, We Inspire, Positive News and more will be distributed to the group. Join this study group, turn your frowns into smiles, and use the knowledge you gain from this study group to pivot negative conversations with your friends to positive ones.

**Mirrors of Greatness**

HISTORY &amp; GOVERNMENT

*Rich Dubberke, Dea Brennan, Barry Kaplan*

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

"If I were to be born again, I would be born in the United States." Winston Churchill was the son of an American mother and an English father, and in 1963 President Kennedy conferred honorary citizenship on the "most honored and honorable man to walk the stage of history in the time in which we live." The book we will be reading, *Mirrors of Greatness: Churchill and the Leaders Who Shaped Him* by David Reynolds (William Collins Books, 2024 paperback ed.) reflects on how Churchill's contemporaries helped shape his greatness. Reynolds uses Shakespeare's quote in *Twelfth Night* to frame the book's theme: "Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them." Reynolds believes that all three apply to Churchill at various stages of his life. The book profiles a selection of relationships Churchill had with the most influential leaders of his time, including FDR, Hitler, Stalin, Gandhi and De Gaulle, among others. Reynolds has skillfully constructed a biography of Churchill reflected in the lives of contemporaries, with this book being our mirror that reflects the best (and the worst) about Churchill.

**Echoes of Empire:****British Mysteries Explores the Commonwealth**

LITERATURE

*Marybeth Schroeder, Martha Bills, Celeste King*

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. (7 weeks, meets 2nd half of the semester)

During its height, it was said that the sun never set on the British Empire, which in 1913 held sway over 412 million people, 23% of the world population. The Empire disintegrated in the decades after World War II, but the affiliation with each other and with Britain continues through the Commonwealth of Nations, which includes 56 nations with 2.7 billion people. This session, British mysteries is going on a journey through some of those Commonwealth countries, where the legal systems were generally founded on English common law. We will travel to Africa with *Wife of the Gods* by Kwei Quartey (Random House, 2019), set in Ghana, and *Murder on Safari* by Elspeth Huxley (Penguin Group, 1966), in Kenya. *The Lost Man* by Jane Harper (Flatiron Books, 2019) will take us to Australia, and *Inspector Singh Investigates: A Most Peculiar Malaysian Murder* by Shamini Flint (Minotaur, 2009) to Malaysia. Closer to home, we will go to Canada where we will meet *Detective Aunty* by Uzma Jalaluddin (Harper Perennial, 2025). And in Europe, *Death in Valletta* by Lynne Marie Taylor (Bloodhound Books, 2024) will immerse us in Malta. Join us as we travel around the world solving murder and mayhem!



## Espionage

LITERATURE

*Michael Goodkind, Dory Rand*

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. (7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)

For the Fall 2025 Espionage Study Group we are going to read two books by authors we have read before and four books by authors who may be new to us. As usual, we will read a book a week and have heavy discussion about setting, characters, plot, writing styles, and differences between the authors' approaches to espionage. The first two books are from authors we have previously read: *Berlin Game* by Len Deighton (Alfred A. Knopf, 1983) and *The Man from St. Petersburg* by Ken Follett (Penguin Books Reissue, 2003). The last four books are from authors that we have not previously read: *Black Out* by John Lawton (Grove Press, 2002), *Need to Know* by Karen Cleveland (Ballantine Books, 2018), *American Spy* by Lauren Wilkinson (Random House, 2019), and *A Spy Alone* by Charles Beaumont (Canelo Action, 2023).



## Readings in Western Culture—

### Great Conversations 1 (Great Books)

LITERATURE

*Marcie Marcovitz, Nancy Kelly-Martin, Anita Fript*

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Challenge your understanding, in dialogue with others equally interested in exploring the Western canon, by reading selections curated by the Great Books Foundation. Discussions encourage participants to exchange ideas generated by some of our culture's most thought-provoking writers, from antiquity to the Middle Ages to the Enlightenment to contemporary America. Selections include prose, drama, philosophy, poetry and essays. For the Fall 2025 semester, we will use *Great Conversations 1* by Daniel Born (Great Books Foundation c. 2004). We will also read *Narrative of the Life of American Frederick Douglass* in its entirety. Other authors include Aeschylus, Conrad, Emerson, Freud, Ibsen, Jung, Munro, Poincaré, de Tocqueville, Walt Whitman, and more. Please join us for lively and thought-provoking discussions.



## NEW History, Politics and Power of What We Wear: Stories from the Podcast *Articles of Interest*

SOCIAL SCIENCES

*Andi France, Pat Stankard*

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. (7 weeks, meets 2nd half of the semester)

What if your favorite blazer carried centuries of hidden meaning? In *Articles of Interest*, award winning journalist Avery Trufelman unpacks how clothing shapes—and reveals—our social worlds. This podcast dives deep into the surprising histories and cultural forces behind what we wear, showing how garments are tied to identity, power, capitalism and class. The guest voices that Trufelman brings in — historians, designers, sociologists and everyday wearers — help reveal how fashion operates as a form of storytelling, protest, and aspirations. Each week, participants will select two *Articles of Interest* episodes and listen to them before the study group session. We will then engage in lively discussions, share our insights, and explore the themes and questions raised by the podcast. Along the way, we will ask questions like “Who decides what’s cool?” “How do trends spread?” and “What do our clothes say when we’re not speaking?” No previous knowledge of fashion is required—only a curiosity about the forces that shape what we wear. Whether you love a good hoodie, obsess over sneakers, or want to understand punk style, come ready to engage and never look at your closet in the same way again.



## NEW Feminism: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

*Joanne Scheuble, Ann Stelmach*

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)

Feminism has been defined as the belief in the social, political, and economic equality of the sexes. Such a simple and easy to understand concept, now more than one hundred years in the making, is eschewed by many despite the myriad material ways in which the world has benefited. In this study group, we will try to understand how our sons, daughters, and grandchildren think about feminism by examining current articles, essays, *Ted Talks*, social media posts, and YouTube videos. We will sample and discuss essays by recognized contemporary authors, journalists, and academics, such as Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Roxane Gay, Rebecca Solnit, and Michael Kaufman. For context, we will consider excerpts of what we read in our formative years by writers such as Betty Friedan, Simone de Beauvoir, Gloria Steinem, and others. We will investigate the GenZ social media influencers who are advancing feminism in these unprecedented times of the “manosphere,” where misogyny, toxic masculinity and far right ideology meet. Join the discussion, share your views and experiences.



## Washington Week CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

*Leonard Grossman, Justin Joseph, Marion Derringer, Laurie Richter*

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Our world is changing rapidly. Events in Washington move at lightning speed. Donald Trump is working to change America. The Democrats seem weak and almost powerless. Congress is missing in action. Will the courts rein in the excesses of the current administration and maintain the guardrails of our democratic republic? What will the challenges be? Tariffs, taxes, citizenship, immigration, the First Amendment, the economy? Things we haven't even thought of yet? Weeks rush by and it is hard to keep up. Our study group will try to make sense of it all by providing a forum for discussion of news focusing on Washington and beyond, empowering participants to understand different perspectives on the federal government and other areas of national concern. During each session we will focus on current news stories selected by the participants. This is a fast-paced study group. Participants will become keen observers of national news through many different sources. Reading assignments and topics will be distributed in advance. All points of view are respectfully welcomed.



PHOTO BY TED DAVIS

**NEW *Paris in Ruins: Love, War, and the Birth of Impressionism*** CREATIVE ARTS*Linda Listrom, Deborah Bornstein, Evelyn Shaevel*

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (Begins Thursday, September 11)

In 1870 Frederic Bazille painted a group portrait of Edouard Manet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, and Claude Monet in Manet's Paris studio. When he finished, Manet picked up a paint brush and painted Bazille into the picture. Along with Berthe Morisot, Edgar Degas, Camille Pissarro and Alfred Sisley, these artists were looking for a new way to paint. Some hoped to rebel against the conservative Paris Salon by hosting a breakaway exhibition. Just one year later, their lives were upended when, after defeating Napoleon III in battle, the German Army besieged Paris, isolating and starving its people. French writer and poet Victor Hugo famously dubbed this "The Terrible Year." Using the book *Paris in Ruins: Love, War and the Birth of Impressionism* (WW Norton, 2024) by art critic Sebastian Smee, we will explore how the tumultuous events of the Terrible Year affected the lives and the art of these painters and led in 1874 to the First Impressionist Exhibition in Paris. If you want to learn more about the Impressionists, their relationship with the French art establishment, and the history behind the Impressionists' paintings, this class is for you. Our first session will be Thursday September 11.

**Top Academy Award Winners and Nominees** CREATIVE ARTS*Thomas Swanstrom, Dennis Carlin, Arni Miller*

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m.

Academy Awards have been given out for nearly one hundred years and in this study group we will show some of the films that either garnered the award for Best Picture or nominees that perhaps should have won the award. The first awards were presented in 1929 for films made in the prior two years and by 1934 the awards shifted to an annual basis. Of course, at times the Best Picture selection may have been influenced by marketing done by the studios; thus we have limited our course selections to those films that either won or were nominated that also have high ratings among film viewers. Movies being considered are: *The Philadelphia Story* (Cukor: 1940), *The Lost Weekend* (Wilder: 1945), *On the Waterfront* (Kazan: 1954), *Marty* (Mann: 1955), *Witness for the Prosecution* (Wilder: 1957), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Brooks: 1958), *The Apartment* (Wilder: 1960), *The French Connection* (Friedkin: 1971), *The Last Picture Show* (Bogdanovich: 1971), *The Sting* (Hill: 1973), *Unforgiven* (Eastwood: 1992), *Fargo* (Coen Brothers: 1996) and *The Grand Budapest Hotel* (Anderson: 2014). Please join us as we review these all-time great Oscar nominees and winners.



PHOTO BY TED DAVIS

**NEW *Astor: The Rise and Fall of an American Fortune***

HISTORY &amp; GOVERNMENT

*Laurie Toth, Tim Atkins, Trudy Hobfoll*

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

The story of the Astors is an American story—of ambition, invention, destruction, and reinvention. From 1783, when German immigrant John Jacob Astor first arrived in the United States, until 2009, when Brooke Astor’s son, Anthony Marshall, was convicted of defrauding his elderly mother, the Astor name occupied a unique place in American society. The family fortune, first made by a beaver trapping business that grew into an empire, was then amplified by holdings in Manhattan real estate. Over the ensuing generations, Astors ruled Gilded Age New York society and inserted themselves into political and cultural life, but also suffered the most famous loss on the Titanic, one of many shocking and unexpected twists in the family’s story. Anderson Cooper and Katherine Howe chronicle the lives of the Astors and explore what the Astor name has come to mean in America—offering a window onto the making of America itself. We will read *Astor: The Rise and Fall of an American Fortune* by Anderson Cooper and Katherine Howe (Harper Paperbacks, 2024).

**NEW The American Revolution****as Seen Through the Eyes of Rick Atkinson**

HISTORY &amp; GOVERNMENT

*Martha Bills, Betsy Mahon*

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

In this study group, we will see America at the beginning and the moral and physical courage that founded our nation. Through insights gained we will be able to look at the threats to our Democracy today. The Revolution began when militiamen from the original colonies, who were eventually formed into the ragged Continental Army, faced off against the strongest forces in the world at that time, the British Army and the Royal Navy. It is an often-asked question, “what were they thinking?” In the initial volume of his Revolution Trilogy, *The British Are Coming: The War for America, Lexington to Princeton, 1775-1777* (Henry Holt and Company, 2019), historian Rick Atkinson has provided a fascinating chronology. We will read and discuss the American Revolutionary War from the first battles at Lexington and Concord through the next long year as the young nation struggles to avoid annihilation at the hands of the British. Personalities and leadership qualities of the men who forged American Democracy will emerge on the battlefields despite seemingly never-ending losses. At the same time, the author will tell the story from the British perspective, making their experiences as compelling as those of the revolutionaries.



**“Curiosity is the wick in  
the candle of learning.”**

**~ William Arthur Ward**

## EVANSTON STUDY GROUPS: MONDAY

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

**The New Yorker**

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

*Susan Gaud, Mary Watt, Jeffrey Less*

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

*The New Yorker* magazine has won multiple awards for its creative coverage of art, technology, politics, personalities, medicine, movies, fiction, fashion, and culture. In each session of this study group, we will examine the varied contents of this distinguished magazine. We will review the current issue from the cover to the cartoons and everything in between. Then we will explore in depth a previously assigned article chosen by a volunteer who will lead the discussion. Everyone will be encouraged to lead a discussion. Conversations will be lively and lead to expanded knowledge. A print or digital subscription to the magazine is necessary.

**Four Masters of the Short Story: Cheever, Lahiri, Murakami, Poe** CREATIVE ARTS*Margot Wallace, Peter Morris*

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Short stories seem slim on the bookshelf, yet in the hands of masters they loom large. Universal themes. Places we've never seen. Characters we have yet to know. John Cheever sees inside 20th-century suburban America; Jhumpa Lahiri, born in India but an American citizen, views her world with a global eye. Haruki Murakami speaks from Japan with a young man's voice. Edgar Allen Poe haunts America's Gothic South of the 1800s. Four authors spanning 12 time zones and more than 150 years. Our texts are from John Cheever, *The Stories of John Cheever* (Vintage International, 2011), Jhumpa Lahiri, *Interpreter of Maladies* (Mariner Books, 2000), Haruki Murakami, *Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman: Stories* (Vintage International, 2007), and Edgar Allan Poe, *The Best of Poe: The Tell-Tale Heart, The Raven, The Cask of Amontillado, and 30 Others* (Prestwick House, 2006). These collections are available from most book stores and libraries. Short stories, written by the masters; they grow on you.

**NEW The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America**

HISTORY &amp; GOVERNMENT

*Jeffrey Graff, Suzanne Farrand*

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. (7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)

In our study group, we will dive into the fascinating and haunting history of 1920's Indiana. It was a time of high fashion, music, and economic prosperity. But not all was how it may have appeared. In *A Fever in The Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Overtake America and The Woman Who Stopped Them* (Penguin Group, 2023), Timothy Egan tells how a more serious and nefarious cultural change was happening, as a sudden rise in the membership and influence of the Ku Klux Klan had emerged in Indiana. Led by a charismatic con artist, alcoholic, adulterer, D.C. Stephenson, the Klan in Indiana had 250,000 members, accounting for roughly 30% of the state's native-born white male population. This made Indiana's Klan the largest and most politically influential in the country at the time, with significant influence over state and local governments. We learn of the resurrection of the Klan, and its ultimate downfall led by a strong, brave woman, Marge Obelholtzer, Stephenson's victim, and ultimately his nemesis and accuser causing his regime of terror to end. Join us as we review the sad story of what happened, and concern that a similar movement could rise, a century later.



## Best American Short Stories

LITERATURE

*Sandy Robbins, Randee Phillips*

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

If you enjoy reading fiction and are interested in exploring the power of the short story, our study group is for you. Short stories are carefully written gems of literature. They combine compelling characters, drama, and descriptive language, which lead to lively and thought-provoking discussions. Led by a different member each week, our discussions explore works by up and coming, as well as established authors. Participants will have the opportunity to lead a discussion of a story of their choice. Our texts are *The Scribner Anthology of Contemporary Short Fiction*, Lex Williford and Michael Martone, Editors, (Scribner, 2007) and *The Best Short Stories 2025: The O. Henry Prize Winners*, Edward P. Jones, Editor, (Vintage Books, 2025). We may not always agree, but we always learn from each other every time we are together.



## NEW Understanding the Nobel Peace Prize: History, Impact, and Controversy

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

*Maureen Shayman, Regina Corush*

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)

Winning the Nobel Peace Prize is one of the most prestigious of honors. Have you ever wondered about the history of the prize and its role in shaping global conversations about peace and the challenges it faces in an ever-changing world? Using Geir Lundestad's book *The World's most Prestigious Prize—The Inside Story of the Nobel Peace Prize* (Oxford University Press, 2019), videos, and articles, this seven week study group will examine the establishment of the prize by Alfred Nobel and analyze award decisions from historical and contemporary perspectives. Participants will discuss the ways the prize shapes conversations about peace, conflict resolution, and justice. The group will discuss possible 2025 nominees and the winner when it is announced.



## The Heritage Foundation and Project 2025

HISTORY &amp; GOVERNMENT

*Mounif El Youssef, Gary Benz*

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

If you ever wondered about the “Heritage Foundation’s Project 2025” references in the news media, or are curious about why “Project 2025” went out of print immediately after the 2024 election, or why the second Trump administration is so different from the first, this class is for you. In 2021, the Heritage Foundation began to construct a blueprint for the next Republican president so the US federal government could be reformed and made more effective. Your co-coordinators obtained a copy of Project 2025 from the Heritage Foundation and wanted to share it with you. We can cover 14 to 15 of the 19 chapters, discussing the philosophy and rationale behind the current administration’s governing style. Let’s learn together the “whys” of our current government actions as well as what is planned for the next several years. Please join us for the fun!



## NEW Kafka's World: Your World?

LITERATURE

*Abraham Brustein, David Mathers*

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets 2nd half of the semester)

For decades people facing intractable situations describe their lives, or their social and political environment, as “Kafkaesque”. Franz Kafka was a prolific German-Czech writer in the early 20th century. Let us discover what that term really means. We will read a selection of Kafka’s works to understand how he described and understood his world. In doing so we will explore how his novels and stories speak to 21st - century Americans. Kafka’s protagonists found themselves in a world they neither understood nor controlled. They faced questions that could not be answered and problems that defied resolution. Sound familiar? Please join us as we explore the writings of this influential master. During our 7 weeks together, we will read *The Trial*, *The Metamorphosis*, and several of the shorter stories. We will also watch and discuss Orson Welles’ film version of *The Trial*. Our texts will be *Franz Kafka: The Complete Stories*, N.G. Glazer ed. (Schocken, 1995) and *The Trial*, Breon Mitchell trans., (Schocken, 1999). Orson Welles’ film is available for a modest fee from several streaming services.



## Nordic Noir

LITERATURE

*Beverly Snell, Roberta Rakove, Angela Pisano*

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Nordic noir (or Scandinavian noir) is a genre that has gained immense popularity in recent years. Its emphasis on social issues, complex characters, and dark and brooding atmosphere has made it a favorite among readers who are looking for something more than just a traditional crime novel. In this study group, we read and discuss three works set in three Scandinavian countries: *Smilla's Sense of Snow* by Peter Hoag (Picador, 2012) set in Denmark; *The Redbreast* by Jo Nesbo (Harper, 2008) set in Norway; and *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson (Vintage Crime / Black Lizard, 2009) set in Sweden. Any edition of the books may be used, and all are available in hard copy, ebook, and audiobook from the library and online. Whether you are already a fan of Nordic noir or new to it, join us as we explore this fascinating and thought-provoking genre.



## EVANSTON STUDY GROUPS: TUESDAY

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

## Ezra Klein Podcasts—Conversations That Matter

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

*Susan McMillen, Colleen Beierle, Jane Wooley*

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Join us as we delve into contemporary topics: political, social, cultural, and economic concerns which we will examine through a nuanced, critical lens. Discussion is centered on Ezra Klein’s podcasts, *The Ezra Klein Show* (also available through written articles in *The New York Times* or YouTube videos.) Each session focuses on episodes chosen by discussion leaders to reflect on Klein’s insights and in-depth analysis of the perspectives of his interviewees. We will explore issues that have profound implications for the U.S and our planet. Insight will be gained through stimulating peer-led discussion to develop a deeper understanding of current events and the complex dynamics shaping our lives, our planet, and our world. Join Ezra Klein, his guests, and your peers for a thoughtful conversation each week.



## NEW Building the Panama Canal

HISTORY &amp; GOVERNMENT

*Steve Fisher, Naomi Fisher*

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Realizing the dream of centuries, the Panama Canal shortens the sailing time between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans from 21 days to less than one. Apart from wars, its creation was the largest, most costly single effort ever before mounted on earth. The canal is one of mankind's great works of engineering design and construction. But the canal's creation was far more than a marvel of engineering—it was a story of international rivalry, political scandal, personal ambition, and profound human cost. From its inception to its completion, it held the world's attention for over forty years; great reputations were destroyed and made. While this was the adventure of a lifetime for some, many endured dangerous and difficult conditions. In his masterful book, *The Path Between the Seas: The Creation of the Panama Canal 1870-1914* (Simon & Schuster, 2001, originally 1977), David McCullough describes the disastrous failure of the French and the ultimate success of the United States, including the heroic efforts that conquered the deadly endemic diseases of yellow fever and malaria that had killed tens of thousands. The canal immediately became a critical component of the world's transportation infrastructure and made the United States a major player. It remains a focus of attention to this day. Please join us as we learn its fascinating history.



## NEW Exploring Jane Austen's *Emma*

LITERATURE

*George Sullivan, Mary Watt, Joan Naper, Dorothy Turek*

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. (Begins Tuesday, September 9.)

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of her birth, join us as we read Jane Austen's novel, *Emma* (Vintage, 2007), which many consider her masterpiece. We will begin by examining pivotal moments from Austen's life, exploring how personal experiences shaped her perspectives. In our analysis of *Emma*, we will investigate character development and the subtle critiques of gender and class dynamics; delve into the social and historical contexts that influenced Austen's unique voice and keen observations of Regency society; and consider Austen's narrative techniques, such as the innovative use of free indirect discourse, allowing one to see the world through Emma's eyes. Austen described Emma as "a heroine whom no one but myself will much like." Noted critic Harold Bloom instead described Emma as "immensely likeable because she is so extraordinarily imaginative, dangerous and misguided." These analyses and differing viewpoints will shape our weekly discussions. We invite everyone from dedicated fans to newcomers, eager to explore her work, to embrace this opportunity to uncover the literary genius of Jane Austen and her timeless lessons about human relationships. This is a 12-week study group, beginning Tuesday, September 9.



***“Think before you speak.***

***Read before you think.”***

***~ Fran Lebowitz***

## Science in the News

STMH

*Brenda Russell, Jeffery Semel, Phillip Steptoe*

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

We live in an ever-changing world with scientific breakthroughs and daunting advancements in technology. To stay up-to-date, we will rely on articles from *Scientific American*, a magazine committed to sharing knowledge, enhancing our understanding of the world, and advancing social justice. Each week, study group members will have in-depth discussions on two articles that cover the most important and exciting research, ideas, and knowledge in science, health, technology, the environment, and society. Coordinators will suggest recent articles and members will be able to choose topics from *Scientific American* or other science sources. Members may enrich the discussion with additional video or materials. Access to a digital or print subscription to *Scientific American* is required. No scientific background is needed. Simply bring your curiosity and interest in all things science. Join us for great discussions as we learn and laugh together.



## NEW Monsters: A Fan's Dilemma

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

*Dan Coxa, Roberta Rakove*

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)

Do you love the work of Woody Allen, Ernest Hemmingway, or Michael Jackson? Do you find their behavior reprehensible? Consider Miles Davis, Roman Polanski, J.K. Rowling and others? How do we balance our undeniable moral outrage with our equally undeniable love of their work? Or, should we? Using the book *Monsters: A Fan's Dilemma* (Knopf, 2023) by Claire Dederer as our source material we will discuss her essays on this dilemma. Dederer offers insights into love, ambition, and what it means to be a fan, an artist, a citizen, and a human being. This allows readers space to filter those insights through their own experiences. In an age of monstrous human behavior, how do we retain our connection to the films, books, and music that have made us feel most alive created by flawed artists?



## From Print to Pictures, the Art of Film Adaptation: Hitchcock Thrillers

CREATIVE ARTS

*Julie Gordon, Art Bloom*

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)

Did you know that many Hitchcock films were adaptations? Join us as we examine four iconic films and the literary texts that inspired them. *Shadow of a Doubt*, Hitch's personal favorite, (short story by Gordon McDonnell) slowly reveals a 'beloved' Uncle Charlie (Joseph Cotton) as he visits his small-town family and favorite niece (Teresa Wright) –he's hiding a sinister secret; Cornell Woolrich's story "*It Had to be Murder*" becomes the inspiration for *Rear Window*, starring Grace Kelly and Jimmy Stewart, whose romance is stalled as they bear witness to a murder and, while investigating the crime, are stalked by the killer. Based on John Buchan's novel, *The 39 Steps*, Hitch's espionage thriller features what became his classic theme: the innocent man-on-the-run (Robert Donat) encounters a beautiful woman (Madeleine Carroll) who doubts him but becomes his accomplice in solving a dangerous plot. *Dial M for Murder*, based on the play by Frederick Knott, features a terrifying ordeal for Grace Kelly, when her husband (Ray Milland) plots her death. This is a seven-week study group, meeting three hours for introduction and film viewing, then two hours for adaptation discussion the following week.



**NEW Savor the Story: Food and Film as Windows to the Soul** CREATIVE ARTS*Michael Jablon, Rick O’Konis*

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets 1st half of the semester)

Join us for a deliciously rich seven-week journey through cinema where food becomes more than sustenance—it becomes storytelling, memory, healing, and transformation. We’ll explore acclaimed international films that use food to open conversations about culture, identity, love, aging, and the ties that bind us. From a lavish French feast in a quiet Danish village to a food truck rolling through modern America, these stories will nourish the mind and the heart. Films may include: *Babette’s Feast* (1987), *Julie & Julia* (2009), *Chef* (2014), *Ramen Shop* (2018), *The Hundred-Foot Journey* (2014), *Eat Drink Man Woman* (1994), *The Taste of Things* (2023), *The Menu* (2022), and *Like Water for Chocolate* (1992). All are available through streaming services or library DVDs. We will explore the films’ themes, characters, and cultural context. No background in film is required—just a love for good stories, good food, and good company. Expect laughter, reflection, and maybe even a few cravings.

**NEW Jane Austen’s Mansfield Park and Persuasion** LITERATURE*Julie Johnson, Michael Singer, Lisa Oberman*

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

In recent decades in Britain, Jane Austen has been the focus of what amounts to a cottage industry: books, paraphernalia, TV shows, films. Who has not seen one—or ten—BBC adaptations of her novels? For this reason, until now Austen has perhaps seemed too well-known, or even too commonplace, for an OLLI study group. But 2025 is the 250th anniversary of her birth, an excellent time to feature this superb writer, arguably the first commercially successful female writer in the English language. We will study two of her less widely read books, *Mansfield Park* (1814, Penguin Classics, ISBN-13: 978-0141439808), and *Persuasion* (1817, Penguin Classics, ISBN-13: 979-8531157868), the latter Austen’s final novel. Both works offer a more mature voice than what we see in the earlier novels, and they acknowledge such real-world problems as poverty, loneliness, parent-child tension, disappointed expectations, the irony of living comfortably on income derived from slavery, pernicious social class barriers, and premature death. Both are fascinating and beautifully wrought, full of memorable characters. We hope you will join us for discussion.

**EVANSTON STUDY GROUPS: WEDNESDAY**

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

**NEW Art & Ideas: Romanticism to Modernism and Beyond** CREATIVE ARTS*Bridget Stump*

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Ever wonder about the whys and hows of art? Using Booker Prize-winning author Julian Barnes’ collection of essays, *Keeping an Eye Open* (Vintage, 2020), our study group will explore artistic movements ranging from romanticism to realism and into modernism. We will expand upon the text with visuals, supplemental reading materials; sometimes we will bring other movements into the mix. We will look intently at specific works of art by artists such as Eugène Delacroix, Gustave Courbet, Édouard Manet, and René Magritte, discovering more to enjoy, turning art viewing into something more charismatic and alive. Together let’s discover new ways to keep our eyes open!



## Creative Writing Workshop

CREATIVE ARTS

*Ron Denham, Bob Jenkins, Arthur Altman*

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

This study group is for members who love words and who wish to improve and practice their creative writing skills across the various genres: poetry, creative nonfiction, essay, memoir, and fiction. Members will present their work to the group who will respond with encouragement, critique, and suggestions. Revisions and resubmissions are encouraged. Longer works may be submitted in segments. This study group will give members a creative outlet and an opportunity to produce a finished piece of writing of which they can be proud. New and experienced writers are welcome. Members will be encouraged to bring their words, knowledge, humor, tears, fears, desires, perspectives, and wisdom.



## Documentary Films

CREATIVE ARTS

*Gloria Gleave, Deb Clamage*

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Do you love learning about fascinating people, places, and ideas through the medium of film? If so, this documentary film study group is for you. Each week, members will view a documentary film at home and then come together to discuss the film. Members will volunteer to select films and lead discussions. The films reflect the members' interests and passions and can include such wide ranging topics as social justice, biography, environment, music, and personal adventure challenges. The weekly discussions include an analysis of the film's content, aesthetic, and technical aspects. Selected films must be widely available to study group members. The selections may be rented through an online streaming service for a minimal fee, available via the internet at no cost, or borrowed from a library. We will limit any required subscriptions to Netflix. Join us as we explore and discuss a variety of documentary films.



## NEW America: Liberal or Illiberal?

HISTORY &amp; GOVERNMENT

*Stephan Romm, Laura Ann Wilber*

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Many Americans reacted to the antidemocratic violence of Jan 6, 2021, recent executive orders, deportations and acts of "retribution" with the thought, "this is not us, this is not what America is and stands for." In his book, *Illiberal America: A History* (W.W. Norton & Company, 2025) Pulitzer prize-winning historian and NYU Professor Steven Hahn has some shocking news. Hahn shows that illiberalism has deep roots in our past. Despite the values enshrined in the Declaration of Independence, American history reveals equally deep competing values. The illiberal will of the community has often overridden individual rights and excluded groups perceived as threats. Hahn shows that illiberalism was just as much a part of our core history as was the liberalism of the Declaration. Hahn takes us through American history from its founding through Trump's presidencies and asks us to rethink our assumption that the liberal tradition is the centerpiece of American history. Rather, the book demonstrates that our cherished ideals have often rested on shaky foundations and faced strong obstacles, as the recent eruption of illiberalism makes clear. This study group will challenge many assumptions about America's history as we read and discuss *Illiberal America*. This is a 12-week study group.



## The Atlantic

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

*Sara Stewart, Sarah Vanderwicken*

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

*The Atlantic*, the monthly magazine for curious minds, features in-depth articles on politics, foreign affairs, business, economy, culture, arts, technology, and science. From its founding in 1857, it has served as a platform for publishing essays and critical commentaries on contemporary issues by some of America's best-known thinkers and writers. It also publishes new fiction and poetry by established and emerging authors. *The Atlantic's* digital companion regularly posts new topical and generally shorter pieces by its staff and contributing writers. Each week discussion leaders will select one or two articles or literary works from the monthly published issues and/or website and develop questions for them. A current print and/or digital subscription is required. Subscription information available at: [www.theatlantic.com/subscribe/academic](http://www.theatlantic.com/subscribe/academic)



## Theater in Chicago

CREATIVE ARTS

*Bob Myers, Sue Bowker, Stephanie Lerner*

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Join us at some of Chicago's best theaters as we attend seven plays performed in various venues, including Steppenwolf, Goodman, and Timeline theaters. For each play, study group members will be responsible for reading the script before seeing the play as a group or independently. In the study group session after each performance, we will compare the written play with the staged version. Participants will volunteer to lead each discussion, with topics including themes, characters, acting style, and production. The coordinators will purchase tickets for members who wish to attend the play as a group, and members may invite a guest to accompany them. Participants are responsible for the ticket cost and for obtaining the scripts. The total cost of tickets for the 14-week session should range between \$200-\$300. Participants must arrange their own transportation, although carpools can be organized as needed. We often gather for an optional dinner before the performance.



## NEW Ron Chernow's *Mark Twain*—Fall and Spring

HISTORY &amp; GOVERNMENT

*Jim Burns, Peg Romm, Janet Jablon*Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. *Note: This study group will span Fall and Spring semesters.*

"There was never yet an uninteresting life." So wrote Mark Twain. The proof lies in the new biography *Mark Twain* (Penguin Press, 2025) by Ron Chernow, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award for his earlier studies of Alexander Hamilton, George Washington, and Ulysses S. Grant. This definitive, warts-and-all portrait shows how Samuel Clemens went from a small-town boy who left school at age 11 to become, as Chernow puts it, "a printer, pilot, miner, journalist, novelist, platform artist, toastmaster, publisher, art patron, pundit, polemicist, inventor, crusader, investor, and maverick." The book engagingly describes how Twain, author of more than 30 books and thousands of articles, became one of the first internationally known celebrities, made and lost a fortune in the Gilded Age (a term he invented), courted controversy with attacks on slavery, colonialism, and religion, and spent his final years in despair and anger after the tragic deaths of three children and his beloved wife. Join us for what the Los Angeles Times calls "a masterful exploration of the magnificent highs and unutterable lows of an American literary genius." We will supplement with selected short stories and articles by Twain.



## Poetry for Pleasure

LITERATURE

*Doreen Feitelberg, David Hart*

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Join us for Poetry for Pleasure, where you will have an exciting experience as we discover a wide variety of poets and poetry, some known, some less familiar. Choices may include poetry from different cultures and eras as well as English translations. Each week a volunteer presents a poet of their choice and provides copies of the poems for each participant. The presenter leads with a brief biography and then we take turns reading and discussing the poems. Participation is always lively and provides fresh and rewarding insights to the work. New and experienced poetry lovers will find that our classes offer stimulation coupled with enjoyment.



### EVANSTON STUDY GROUPS: THURSDAY

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

## NEW Cabrini-Green and the Fate of American Public Housing

HISTORY &amp; GOVERNMENT

*Fred Gleave, Sergio de los Reyes*

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Cabrini-Green was once portrayed as a symbol of urban failure—but behind the headlines were real families, resilient communities, and a deeper story about race, policy, and inequality in America. In this study group, we'll explore the rise and fall of Chicago's Cabrini-Green through *High-Risers: Cabrini-Green and the Fate of American Public Housing* by Ben Austen (HarperCollins, 2018). Far from a detached history, Austen's book centers the voices and experiences of residents whose lives were shaped by—and in turn shaped—their community. Through these personal narratives, we'll examine the broader forces that have defined public housing in the U.S., from systemic disinvestment to urban renewal and gentrification. Supplemental videos and materials will help us trace how housing policy has reflected and reinforced patterns of inequality, and how residents resisted, survived, and redefined what home could mean. Join us for a thought-provoking journey into the heart of an American housing story.



## NEW In the Wake of Captain Cook: The Consequences of the Age of Exploration

HISTORY &amp; GOVERNMENT

*Kenneth Behles, Margot Wallace*

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

In July 1776, 180 men in two wooden ships embarked on a journey of science and discovery. Their leader, the swashbuckling adventurer Captain James Cook, was Britain's greatest explorer. Cook, a scientist, mapmaker, and proto-anthropologist, was not a conqueror or colonizer; yet he left a world forever changed. In many corners, Cook's name has been vilified, less for what he did than for the trouble that followed: occupiers, guns, pathogens, alcohol, hunters, extractors, and of course, missionaries. Using Hampton Sides' book *The Wide Wide Sea*, (Doubleday, 2024) supplemented by text and visual media, we will explore the titanic hardship and danger that characterized exploration in the 1700s. We will sail with Cook as he searches for the fabled Northwest Passage and stand at his side as he makes first the European contact with Pacific communities. "As the ships edged closer to the shore, the watching crowds...were full of fear and dread, but also a kind of rapture. They sensed something ominous was happening, that their island world was about to change forever." Prepare for adventure on the high seas, filled with splendor, violence, and madness as we examine the Age of Exploration and its consequences.



**NEW Last Days of Dinosaurs and Beginnings of Our World**

STMH

*Brenda Russell, John Doherty*

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

In this study group, we will explore what happened in the days, the years, the centuries, and the first few million years after the asteroid wiped out the large meat- and plant-eating dinosaurs. We will track the disruptions that overtook the site of the impact and imagine what might have been happening elsewhere on the globe. Biodiversity losses were sharp and deeply felt. We will discuss how life carried on through the gradual evolution of the survivors, which set the stage for the world as we know it now. Our text is *The Last Days of the Dinosaurs: An Asteroid, Extinction, and the Beginning our New World* by Riley Black (St. Martin's Griffin, 2022). Our book was the winner of the AAAS/Subaru Prize for Excellence in Science Books and one of Smithsonian's Best Science Books in 2022. We will complement our text with selective supplementary materials and an optional visit to the Field Museum's new exhibit "After the Dinosaurs," opening on August 29th, 2025. John Doherty, who is a docent for dinosaur tours at the Field, will lead our excursion. Come learn what got us where we are today.

**NEW The Border—A Journey Around Russia**

SOCIAL SCIENCES

*Gordon Mallett, Andrew Griffin*

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Our book is *The Border: A Journey Around Russia Through North Korea, China, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, Poland, Latvia, ... Finland, Norway, and the Northwest Passage* by Erika Fatland (Pegasus Books, Feb 2021). Fatland, who studied anthropology at the University of Oslo, has written an astute and brilliant combination of lyric travel writing and modern history, *The Border* is a book about Russia without its author ever entering Russia itself. Fatland gets to the heart of what it has meant to be the neighbor of that mighty, expanding empire throughout history. As we follow Fatland on her journey, we experience the colorful, exciting, tragic and often unbelievable histories of these bordering nations. Join our discussions of the author's insights on the peoples and the mixing of their cultures and languages. We look forward to members volunteering to lead discussions and presenting their own perspectives on the author's observations.

**NEW The Deadline: Essays by Jill Lepore**

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

*Jerry Bernstein, Michael Plumpton, John Drodow*

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Harvard history professor Jill Lepore, one of the most noted historians of our time, has spent the past two decades contributing essays to *The New Yorker*. Forty-four of these essays, plus two previously unpublished pieces, covering everything from Herman Melville to AI, have been collected in *The Deadline* (W.W. Norton, 2023). By studying these essays, members of the study group will come to appreciate that Lepore is much more than a scholar of the past. As Sloan Crosley in *The New York Times* said of her, "there is no one better at excavating the underlying ideologies at the root of our contemporary problems and holding them up to the light." We therefore will not only evaluate an essay for focus, development, organization, and style, but also for the issues that Lepore raises. Join us as we delve into the work of this writer who brings insight, wisdom, and empathy to public discourse.



**NEW The Marx Brothers Films—Comedy, Culture & History**

CREATIVE ARTS

*Jeffrey Less, Joan Less*

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets 2nd half of the semester)

In this 7-week study group, we will talk about the background of the Marx Brothers, and how they developed their unique brand of comedy and then incorporated it into their films. After watching some of their films available on streaming services on our own, including *The Cocoanuts*, *A Night at the Opera*, and others, we will meet to consider their humor and the historical context and cultural issues of the time. We will discuss how they satirized gambling, gender relations, sex, Prohibition, race, social status, immigration, and war. To help us understand who the Marx Brothers were, and how their movies reflect and provide insight into 20th century American society at the time, we will read certain chapters from Robert E. Weir's *The Marx Brothers and America: Where Film, Comedy and History Collide* (McFarland & Co., 2022). Get out the popcorn, and be prepared to laugh and learn with the Marx Brothers!

**NEW Injustice has a Cure: The Inspiring Story of Partners in Health**

STMH

*Kate McKeon, Cecilia Trudeau, Deb Filipiak*

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets 2nd half of the semester)

In 1980, two medical students and a college activist went to Haiti. The suffering they saw launched their lives' work: confronting global inequities in health care and ensuring the right to health for the most impoverished people in the world. In the following years, the organization that Paul Farmer, Ophelia Dahl, and Jim Kim founded, Partners in Health (PIH), has grown from one small rural clinic in Haiti to a worldwide network of health care delivery. PIH is now present in 11 countries. It has confronted epidemics of drug resistant TB, HIV, and Ebola. It has built clinics and teaching hospitals and trained local doctors, nurses, technicians, and community health workers. It has brought modern science—not only medical care but sanitation, housing, transportation, and nutrition—to poor countries and provided an antidote to their despair. How did these three accomplish so much? We will read *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder (Random House, 2009) and watch *Bending the Arc*, Peter Kos and Kief Davidson directors (PIH.org, 2017). We invite you to explore this remarkable story with us.



PHOTO BY TED DAVIS

## VIRTUAL STUDY GROUPS: MONDAY

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

## NEW Evil Geniuses: The Unmaking of America— A Recent History

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

*James Smith, Ted Gault*

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

In 2025, in the United States, many feel that the far right dominates the halls of power, the middle class is disappearing, the working class is now the working poor, and inequality of wealth has never been greater. This is not where we were at the end of World War II, nor even at the end of the 1960s. That it happened, however, was not an accident. In *Evil Geniuses: The Unmaking of America* (Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2021) Kurt Andersen lays out how the New Deal became the Raw Deal. In his view, beginning in the early 1970s, by means of a long program executed by a confederacy of CEOs, the superrich, and right-wing zealots, the rules and norms that made the American middle class possible were undermined. The clock was reversed on a century of economic progress, making greed good, workers powerless, and trickle-down economics the norm, while weaponizing nostalgia, empowering billionaires concerned only with their own interests, and leaving the huge majority of Americans with dwindling economic prospects and hope. Andersen identifies many culprits: the radical right in economics and law, the high priests of finance, a complacent, complicit Establishment, and liberal “useful idiots.” Join us to read and discuss Andersen’s book.



## Writing Life Stories, Group B

CREATIVE ARTS

*Bill Kudlaty, Michael Graff, Steven Brown*

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Why write your story? For your family and friends? Or simply for yourself, to reflect upon your life? As we revisit old memories, and remember the people in our lives, writing helps us think about, document, and share our experiences. Each week one-half of the group takes a turn writing and presenting a story. By email each writer then distributes the text of up to 1500 words to the group; when the group meets on Zoom, the writer reads it aloud. Members respond verbally and later write and send more detailed comment to the reader. Whether you are an experienced writer or just starting out, our study group is here to help. Together we work to tackle the challenges of organizing and clarifying our writing. Guides to writing and to the art of memoir are presented on the class website. In this study group, members tell stories that range from joyful to heartbreaking. This workshop for writers provides an excellent opportunity to write about events and chapters of your life. Come join us.



*“I have no special talents. I am only  
passionately curious.”*

*~ Albert Einstein*

## Literary Masters Lost in Translation

LITERATURE

*Robert Relihan, Marilyn Green Rebnord*

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

The Man Booker International Prize was created originally to recognize excellence in English literature written outside England. Now known as the International Booker Prize, it has morphed into an award for what the jury regards as the year's best work translated into English. It shines a spotlight on a breadth of international literature and superior English language translation. We will read seven award-winning novels and novellas from the past twenty years and discover what makes them among the best of international literature. They exemplify several styles—realism, fantasy, dystopian fiction, and even a prose/graphic/music hybrid—and range of cultures—Dutch, Albanian, Israeli, Omani, Korean, Senegalese. The works are: *At Night All Blood is Black*, David Diop (Senegalese written in French) (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2020); *The Discomfort of the Evening*, Lucas Rijnevald (Dutch) (Graywolf Press, 2020); *A Horse Walks into a Bar*, David Grossman (Hebrew) (Vintage, 2017); *Celestial Bodies*, Jokha Alharthi (Arabic) (Catapult, 2019), *The Vegetarian*, Han Kang (Korean) (Hogarth, 016); *Chasing Homer*, László Krasznahorkai (Hungarian) (New Directions, 2021); and *The Palace of Dreams*, Ismail Kadare (Albanian) (Arcade 2014).



## NEW Free to Choose ... Still?

SOCIAL SCIENCES

*Bob Eder, Amanda Fox, Jim Kahan*

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

In this classic discussion, first for TV, then in book form, renowned economists Milton and Rose Friedman explain how our freedom had been eroded and our affluence undermined through the explosion of laws, regulations, agencies, and spending in Washington. This important analysis reveals what had gone wrong in America in the past and what was necessary for our economic health to flourish. We will employ both their book *Free to Choose* (Harcourt, 1980) and the video series from PBS (available on YouTube), which correlate 1-to-1 with the book's chapters. In the remaining four weeks of the term we will undertake analyses of the Friedmans' work, and explore and discuss other modern era free-market economists. We will also address the relevance of *Free to Choose* through the first quarter of the 21st century. You do not need to be a believer in free-market economics or libertarianism—though the Friedmans believed in both—to enjoy what we expect will be robust discussions of the Friedmans' philosophy and beliefs.



**NEW What is a Mind, and Where Might We Find One/Them?** SOCIAL SCIENCES

*Philip Zawa, Bob Jenkins*

Monday, 3:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.

What is a mind—and how many kinds might exist beyond our own? In *The Book of Minds: How to Understand Ourselves and Other Beings, from Animals to AI to Aliens* (Picador, 2023), science writer Philip Ball takes us on a bold and broad exploration of consciousness, intelligence, and mental experience across animals, machines, and possible alien life. Together, we will inquire into the central question: What might it mean to have a “mind?” With Ball’s book, supplemented with articles and videos, we will investigate ideas from neuroscience, philosophy, and artificial intelligence. We will turn our attention to a wide variety of questions such as: Can a machine think? Are octopuses conscious? Could minds exist that we can’t even imagine? Ball challenges human-centered assumptions and tests the boundaries of what counts as mental life. Our group will combine close reading with discussion and debate. No specialized knowledge is required—just a willingness to engage with deep questions about thought, awareness, and the limits of understanding. Join us to rethink what a mind is—and to discover the astonishing variety of minds that may already surround us or emerge in the future.



**BONUS GROUP: Let’s Talk About the Movies (Monday)**

CREATIVE ARTS

*Trish Ronan, Tim Atkins, Suraleah Michaels, Barry Blitzsten*

Monday, 4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.

If you like discussing and analyzing contemporary movies, this bonus group is for you. For all five sessions, members will view the movies at home. The discussion questions will be posted five days before we meet. To prepare for class, the discussion questions should be used as a guide when watching the movie a second time at home. Our emphasis will be on how the story is told using the techniques of film-making. The group will meet on the following Mondays: 9/8; 9/29; 10/20; 11/10; and 12/1. The movies we will discuss are: *Conclave* (Berger, 2024); *When Fall Is Coming* (Ozon, 2025); *A Complete Unknown* (Mangold, 2024); *I’m Still Here* (Salles, 2025); and either *Wicked* (Chu, 2024) or *Sinners* (Coogler, 2025).



PHOTO BY TED DAVIS

## VIRTUAL STUDY GROUPS: TUESDAY

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

**Exploring the Visual Arts**

CREATIVE ARTS

*Mary Jon Girard, Roger Heuberger*

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Visual Arts as a subject is populated by historic and modern figures of astounding imagination, creativity, and sometimes mystery! Painting, sculpture, photography, architecture, art movements and creative technique touch the lives of everyone. Art very much depends on the appreciation of the observer and it is always possible to bring something new and personal to the study of art. Volunteer presenters develop talking points on their chosen subject, preparing a mix of still images and video, etc. As needed the coordinators assist in content preparation. Even if this is your first art-related class, thoughtful discussion of art asks, how is it part of the history of its time, does it represent fact or fiction? When is it a message delivery mechanism? What may have been the artist's intent—compared to what meaning we may place on the work when viewed today? The coordinators present the first few subjects of the planned curriculum while also welcoming suggestions based on participants' interest. There are no prerequisites other than what a presenter may suggest. Recent topics included: Painter Gustave Courbet, architect Santiago Calatrava, sculptor and art patron Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, Restoration of Notre Dame and Mythical Themes in Art.

**NEW Nimitz at War: Command Leadership  
from Pearl Harbor to Tokyo Bay**

HISTORY &amp; GOVERNMENT

*James Smith, Larry Zachary*

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

On December 31, 1941, Chester W. Nimitz formally became commander of the United States Pacific Fleet in a ceremony on the aft deck of the submarine *Greyling*. Across the harbor, the smoldering wrecks of several battleships sunk in the Japanese attack on December 7th were clearly visible. By the time Nimitz assumed command, the Japanese had taken Wake Island and Guam and were overrunning the Philippines, Malaya and the Dutch East Indies. No one standing on the *Greyling* that morning could have imagined that on September 2, 1945, Nimitz would be accepting the surrender of Japan on the deck of an American battleship in Tokyo Bay. No one had more to do with producing that outcome than Nimitz himself. An unflappable leader, a master strategist, a shrewd evaluator of intelligence, an inspiring manager of his unruly subordinates and a savvy negotiator with his superiors, Nimitz made himself “the indispensable man,” the greatest admiral in U.S. history. In *Nimitz at War* (Oxford University Press, 2022), award-winning naval historian Craig Symonds tells the story of the Pacific War through Nimitz' eyes, covering all of its major campaigns. Join us to learn about the Pacific War from a unique commander's perspective.



## NEW AI Decoded—Why Machines Learn

STMH

*Art Goldman, Dick DuFour, David Whitney*

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

In recent years we have been bombarded with speculation about a developing technology that promises to change the world—Artificial Intelligence (AI). While there have been study groups on different aspects of the future of Artificial Intelligence, this study group is meant to go still deeper as we look under the hood to learn how AI and machine learning really work. Our main source will be the 2024 book *Why Machines Learn: The Elegant Math Behind Modern AI* by Anil Ananthaswamy, an award-winning science writer (Dutton, 2024). He will take us on a journey through the history, mathematics and societal impact of artificial intelligence. The book delves into core mathematical concepts - such as linear algebra, calculus, probability, and statistics - that form the backbone of machine learning algorithms. Readers may find certain sections demanding, but the author provides clear explanations and helpful analogies to guide one through the material. He explains the math and situates it within a broader historical/social context, connecting foundational theory to real-world applications in fields like healthcare, finance, and science. So, join us if you are curious about how machines learn to recognize patterns and make decisions and would like to deepen your understanding of this technology.



## Tuesday at the Movies

CREATIVE ARTS

*Michael Pierce, Hillel Furlager, David Buffen*

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

What's Funny? Today's streaming services provide us with a seemingly unending list of choices as to what will entertain us. Today, movies try to make us laugh with more sophisticated story lines, more complex characters, and are often bound by changing cultural norms. Our study group is making an attempt to remind us what used to make us laugh in a less complicated world. We will watch 14 films that were released 50 years ago or longer and discuss what made them funny enough to be on the American Film Institute's 100 funniest films. The movies we will watch are: *Duck Soup* (Leo McCarey, 1933); *It Happened one Night* (Frank Capra, 1934); *The Thin Man* (W.S. Van Dyke II, 1934); *Modern Times* (Charlie Chaplin, 1938); *Bringing up Baby* (Howard Hawks, 1938); *The Philadelphia Story* (George Cukor, 1940); *His Girl Friday* (Howard Hawks, 1940); *Sullivan's Travels* (Preston Surges, 1941); *The Lady Eve* (Preston Sturges, 1941); *Some Like it Hot* (Billy Wilder, 1959); *Playtime* (Jacque Titi, 1967); *The Graduate* (Mike Nichols, 1967); *The Producers* (Mel Brooks, 1967); *M\*A\*S\*H* (Robert Altman, 1970). Movies can usually be found through Amazon, Netflix, Apple TV +, etc. Class participants volunteer to present each movie.



*“Wonder is the beginning of wisdom.”*

*~ Socrates*

## NEW Modern Fantasy

LITERATURE

*Rick O’Konis, Michael Jablon*

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets 2nd half of the semester)

If the day-to-day grind of the “real” world and the 24-hour news cycle are getting you down, it’s time for a little escapism! In this study group, we will read about fantastic realms, magical beings, ordinary people caught up in strange worlds, and extraordinary people triumphing (or not) over evil. We will explore the rich landscape of modern fantasy through short stories selected from *The Big Book of Modern Fantasy*, edited by Ann and Jeff VanderMeer (Vintage Books, 2020). Spanning global voices and diverse subgenres from 1945 to 2010, we will examine how fantasy reflects cultural shifts, reimagines myth, and challenges genre boundaries. Group members will read and discuss key works that range from surreal and experimental to allegorical and folkloric, gaining insight into the evolving role of fantasy in literature. Authors covered by the anthology include Ursula K. Le Guin, Stephen King, Haruki Murakami, and Terry Pratchett. Wouldn’t it be nice to take a vacation from the cares of this world and dig into somebody else’s problems? Come live in a fantasy world with us every week. Caution: There may be dragons!



## VIRTUAL STUDY GROUPS: WEDNESDAY

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

## Capturing Chicagoland through Photography

CREATIVE ARTS

*Richard Fisher, Howard Frank*

Wednesday, 8:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

This study group is designed to improve members’ photographic skills and build connections among study group members. Sessions will alternate between virtual sessions and in-person group photography shoots (indoor and outdoor, chosen by the coordinators). The virtual sessions will include image reviews, discussion of photographic techniques, post-processing methods, tips and tricks, and discussion of upcoming field exercises. Our virtual sessions will also include study group member presentations of a favorite photographer, photographic technique, or place to photograph. This study group is open to any OLLI member who owns a digital camera where the exposure can be adjusted (ideally with a manual exposure mode). Members also must have a computer (PC or Mac), basic computer skills, and access to and basic knowledge of photographic editing software such as Photoshop, Lightroom, or Photoshop Elements. Mentoring is available to help study group members learn camera features, photographic techniques, and processing methods.



*“The correct analogy for the mind  
is not a vessel that needs filling, but  
wood that needs igniting.”*

*~ Plutarch*

## Foreign Affairs

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

*Gary Benz, Gene Mackevich, Jim Perlow, David Hunt*

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

This study group is made up of fellow participants who love to read and desire to learn about the world through their interactions with one another. We encourage and attract people who have inquisitive minds and are serious about learning and exchanging ideas. We take pride in being inclusive and not intimidating by conducting classes that are welcoming and tolerate a wide range of opinions that are documented and convincingly expressed. We start with material from *Foreign Affairs*, a bimonthly magazine published by the Council on Foreign Relations, but we do not stop there. Discussion leaders may supplement weekly readings with materials from think tanks (such as Brookings), mainstream periodicals (such as *The Economist*, *Financial Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*), and topical books. The goal of this study group is to be interactive with a healthy exchange of ideas, while still being fun and rewarding. In doing so, we will create our own “think tank” and try to resolve problems and world issues. If you are intrigued, please join us!



## Literature of Baseball: As They See ‘Em: The Land of Umpires

LITERATURE

*Mark Rosenberg, Bob Shaevel, Benjamin Schwartz*

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Any true baseball fan will tell you that umpires are overpaid and too often mistaken in their calls - and they would be wrong. The Literature of Baseball has read and discussed many aspects of the sport, from players to fans to statisticians, but this fall we will be discussing the often denigrated umpire. *As They See ‘Em: A Fan’s Travels in the Land of Umpires* (Scribner, 2010) is Bruce Weber’s entertaining account of this experience as well as a lively exploration of what amounts to an eccentric secret society, with its own customs, rituals, and colorful vocabulary. Writing with deep knowledge of and affection for baseball, he delves into such questions as: Why isn’t every strike created equal? Is the ump part of the game or outside of it? Why doesn’t a tie go to the runner? And what do umps and managers say to each other during an argument, really? Packed with fascinating reportage that reveals the game as never before and answers the kinds of questions that fans, exasperated by the clichés of conventional sports commentary, pose to themselves around the television set, Bruce Weber’s *As They See ‘Em* is a towering grand slam.



## Articles from the Sunday New York Times

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

*Mitchell Harrison, Hilmon Sorey, Carole Bass*

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

*The New York Times*, as one of the great world newspapers, covers a wide range of events, the extraordinary and everyday, of the world we live in. Its pages are powered by the most respected writers and photographers covering news worldwide today. Their stories elucidate everything from foreign and domestic political strife, to climate change and bold technological innovations. Together we will probe incisively into “All The News That’s Fit To Print”—on paper or online. Study group members choose four to six articles from the previous Sunday’s *New York Times* for discussion the following week. The conversations we have are enlightening, provocative, and fun. A subscription to the online or printed paper is required. We debate informatively. Join the conversation.



## Documentary Films

CREATIVE ARTS

*Colleen Leahy, Madelyn Seckler, Laurie Bederow, Belinda Silber*  
Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

In this study group we will explore the art, craft, and cultural significance of documentary filmmaking. Participants will engage with a wide range of documentary styles while examining how documentaries shape public discourse, represent truth, and navigate ethical complexities. A list of possible documentaries for viewing will be distributed, and members can nominate additional recent films. These films can be sometimes interesting and sometimes controversial. Study group members will choose which film they wish to present and then will lead the discussion. Films are watched in advance at home. We will be using Netflix, Amazon Prime, or other streaming services to view the films. There may be a fee to watch some of the assigned movies. Join us for a study group of fun and discovery.



## NEW Remembrance of a Revolution Past:

### The Afterlives of Mao's Cultural Revolution in China

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

*Abe Brustein, John Drodow*

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. (7 weeks, meets 2nd half of the semester)

China's Cultural Revolution, initiated by Mao in 1966 shook the foundations of China's society and politics. The wounds it inflicted left a deep impression—or perhaps we should say scar—on the psyches of millions of survivors. The extraordinary chaos and violence unleashed, make it the most cataclysmic episode of post Revolution Chinese history. Yet, given the opaqueness of China during this period, the outside world knew little of what was occurring. In her prize-winning book *Red Memory: The Afterlives of China's Cultural Revolution* (Norton, 2024), journalist Tania Brannigan recounts her recent interviews with survivors, most of whom remain haunted by their memories. More than helping us to understand the impact of the Cultural Revolution through the eyes of participants, the book is a remarkable example of a relatively new sub-genre of historical writing—studies of historical memory. Such studies explore the formation of historical memories and the way they influence current events. *Red Memory* was composed with the assumption that what societies choose to remember, how they choose to remember it, what they decide to forget can play a significant role in shaping their future. No background in modern Chinese history is required.



PHOTO BY TED DAVIS

## *The Atlantic & The Economist*

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

Phyllis Fischel, Jane Roth

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

We invite you to read and discuss current events and more through the lens of journalists from both sides of the Atlantic. Lively conversations and intellectual exploration are the order of the day. Each week two members of the group will select 3–4 articles from *The Atlantic* and/or *The Economist* for all to read in advance. Topics may include global politics, economic trends, cultural insights, business, and technological advancements, all presented in a format that encourages participation. This group promotes critical thinking and lifelong learning and also provides a supportive community where friendships can flourish. You will find a welcoming space to express your opinions, share insights, and engage with fellow members. By sharing perspectives and insights, participants will expand their knowledge, challenge their assumptions, and occasionally change their minds. Join us for an enriching experience that celebrates knowledge, camaraderie, and the joy of learning together! Subscriptions to both *The Atlantic* and *The Economist* are required. On-line subscriptions are encouraged due to possible delivery issues with print editions. Subscriptions for *The Economist* are available at 800-456-6086 or [www.economistsubscriptions.com](http://www.economistsubscriptions.com). Student rates may be available. Subscribe to *The Atlantic* using the academic rate at [www.accounts.theatlantic.com](http://www.accounts.theatlantic.com).



## NEW English—Much Ado About Words

CREATIVE ARTS

Bob Jenkins, Richard Kern, Jill Zifkin

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

We constantly sling about English words and phrases as we speak and listen to each other. Mostly, we understand what’s being said even though our language keeps changing over time and varying from one speaker to the next. Linguist and language historian Anne Curzan’s *Says Who?: A Kinder, Funner Usage Guide for Everyone Who Cares About Words* (Crown, 2024) explores who gets to decide what’s “correct” in English. She examines the origins, myths, historic accidents and rules around grammar, spelling, and usage. With an open heart, she repeatedly challenges the idea that there’s only one “right” way to speak or write. “Language is deeply personal and fundamentally social. We use it to express ourselves and connect with others - and to push them away.” Curzan encourages readers to become caretakers of English, embracing its dynamic nature and understanding that usage is context-dependent. We will supplement Curzan’s book with articles and videos. Led by volunteer discussion leaders, we will enrich each other with lively conversation debating and demonstrating to each other in The King’s, The President’s, and Each Other’s English. Join us: “the more, the merrier.”



## Poetry in a New Age

CREATIVE ARTS

*Judith Myers, Michael Dolesh, Judith McCue*

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

If you are interested in learning about poetry, or are a long-time reader of poetry, this virtual study group is for you. We welcome people discovering poetry for the first-time, as well as more experienced poetry lovers. Each week, we read and discuss a selection of contemporary poems chosen by the study group participants. We read aloud the poems giving careful attention in our discussion to the poet's meaning, style, and content. We are always on the hunt for new poems and poets, but we also revisit poems and poets we have read before just because we like them. Poets we have discussed recently include Tracy K. Smith, Nikki Grimes, Gwendolyn Brooks, Nikki Giovanni, Carl Sandburg, and Ted Kooser. In addition, we will have occasional sessions when study group members share a favorite poem with the group. Join us for an enjoyable and informative member-led study group focusing on what still moves people today about poetry.



## Shades of Gray

SOCIAL SCIENCES

*Steve VanderVoort, Sami Nordmark, Steve Barrigar*

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Are you just naturally curious? Do you like to explore issues that may or may not have any right or wrong answers? Then join us in this lively discussion group where we will explore such subjects as reparations, cancel culture, sex, virtual reality, politics, love, free speech, climate change, failure, wokeness, and much, much more. Helping us along on this journey of discovery will be Sean Illing, journalist, author, and philosopher, in his podcast, *The Gray Area* (available on Vox, Apple Podcasts and Google Podcasts). Each week we will listen to an episode dealing with a particular subject and then come to the study group prepared to discuss our thoughts and responses to what we heard. We expect to hear a wide variety of reactions from study group members that will lead us to new ideas and insights we can explore together. We look forward to having you join us in this unique learning experience.



## The Economist

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

*Jennifer Gainer, Mark Goldberg, Elliott Hartstein, John Donovan*

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

The Economist weekly magazine is widely acclaimed for its thoughtful and stimulating analyses of world news, politics, and business. It also has sections on science, technology, books, the arts, and extensive reports on particular issues of current interest. This long-running study group is always looking for new members, interested in current events, who can enrich our discussions. Each study group participant is required to lead or co-lead a weekly discussion. This involves selecting 8-12 articles from the current weekly issue and developing the questions needed to get the lively conversations started. Given the uncertainty of the mail, a digital subscription to The Economist is highly encouraged. Information on subscriptions is available at [subscribenow.economist.com](http://subscribenow.economist.com).



## NEW John Sayles Independent Creativity— Cinema for the Mind

CREATIVE ARTS

*Bob Moss, Joe Hayes, Laura Perkins*  
Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

John Sayles is an author, screenwriter, film director, actor and stage director. A pioneer in American independent cinema, he is known for humanistic storytelling and complex socially conscious and political themes. When speaking about his approach, Sayles emphasizes his commitment to telling stories that might not otherwise be made. “I want to direct films that no one else is going to make. I know that if I don’t make them, I’m never going to see them.” His ability to craft compelling narratives with limited budgets has inspired many directors who seek to balance artistic integrity with financial constraints. John Sayles’ career is a testament to the power of independent cinema in shaping cultural conversations. Our study group will consist of lively open discussions about chapters from our course book, *John Sayles, An Unauthorized Biography* (Renaissance, 2000) by Gerry Molyneaux, videos of Sayles’ interviews and viewing several of his films, including: *Lone Star* (1996), *City of Hope* (1991), *Eight Men Out* (1988), *Passion Fish* (1992); *The Secret of Roan Irish* (1994); *Baby It’s You* (1983), *Lianna* (1983), *Limbo* (1999) and *Honeydripper* (2007).



## New Fiction Writers Workshop

CREATIVE ARTS

*April Ware, Bruce Hochstadter*  
Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

If you are looking for a Workshop Experience, this group is for you. Whether you write short stories, novels or flash fiction, the workshop will help you improve your writing skills. In each of the two seven week workshops, you will present your work of up to 25 pages and get written and verbal feedback. Each week we will read a classic or contemporary published work and discuss the theme or message and the elements of craft. Let the narratives of the published work and the creative genius of your peers inspire you to bring the characters and plots of your stories alive. Storytellers of all levels are welcome. The textbooks for the study group are: *The Making of a Story: A Norton Guide to Creative Writing* by Alice LaPlante (W.W. Norton & Co, 2010); *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions of Writing and Life* by Anne Lamont (Anchor, 2007), and *Fifty Great American Short Stories* by Milton Crane (Bantam Classics, 1984).



***“The path of spiritual growth is  
a path of lifelong learning.”***

***~ M. Scott Peck***

## NEW *Music of The Mind*, Yoko Ono's Visionary Spirit & Artistry

CREATIVE ARTS

Joyce Salsburg, Benjamin Schwartz, Jackie Lim

Thursday, 3:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m. (7 weeks, meets 2nd half of the semester)

“Walking on Thin Ice” was the last song John Lennon recorded with Yoko Ono before his death. However, Ono never stopped working to get out the messages that she and John had set forward regarding peace, love, compassion and challenging societal norms. She is 92 years old and still working, with a sold-out exhibition at the Tate Modern which will debut at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago on October 18, 2025. Join us as we listen to that music, visit the exhibition and read and discuss the accompanying book, *Music of the Mind* by Juliet Bingham (Yale University Press, 2024). We will also watch a new documentary about Yoko Ono and John Lennon. Taken together, these elements will trace Ono's radical approach to art, language and participation, highlighting her innovative and influential work. This study group includes 5 virtual sessions on Zoom and one in-person session November 13, 3:30pm at the Museum Of Contemporary Art Chicago where we will be given a private tour of the exhibition followed by a Q & A with an exhibition curator in a reserved room. This special experience will enhance our study group experience and will be offered for an additional fee of \$30-\$35, depending on the number of participants.



## BONUS GROUP: Let's Talk About the Movies (Thursday)

CREATIVE ARTS

Trish Ronan, Tim Atkins, Suraleah Michaels, Barry Blitzsten

Thursday, 4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.

If you like discussing and analyzing contemporary movies, this bonus group is for you. For all five sessions, members will view the movies at home. The discussion questions will be posted five days before we meet. To prepare for class, the discussion questions should be used as a guide when watching the movie a second time at home. Our emphasis will be on how the story is told using the techniques of film-making. The group will meet on the following Thursdays: 9/11; 10/2; 10/23; 11/13; and 12/5. The movies we will discuss are: *Conclave* (Berger, 2024); *When Fall Is Coming* (Ozon, 2025); *A Complete Unknown* (Mangold, 2024); *I'm Still Here* (Salles, 2025); and either *Wicked* (Chu, 2024) or *Sinners* (Coogler, 2025).



## VIRTUAL STUDY GROUPS: FRIDAY

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

### International Relations

CONTEMPORARY/SOCIAL ISSUES

Allen Cohen, Phil Bashook

Friday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

We are living in a rapidly changing and perilous world. International and U.S. policy concerns are so interlaced and changing that they need to be constantly reviewed and reevaluated. Our study group will analyze specific problems and potential threats as well as opportunities that shape U.S. and global security. Our topics will cover the far-reaching ramifications of the security and well-being of the United States, including the profound implications for the world. We focus on the trends as well as the most current political, economic and demographic concerns. We will explore and discuss many different viewpoints, using material from the best informed and most qualified sources, including pertinent foreign policy journals. We hope that you will join us as we explore many multifaceted approaches and strategies to many of these topics and concerns. Reading material will come from current articles from both online and printed sources. Participation will include reading, study/research, presentation, and discussion.



# OLLI & WIRTZ CENTER IMMERSIVE THEATER EXPERIENCE

## HANG TIME

written and directed by Zora Howard



### OLLI Exclusive Performance and Private Talk-Back

Thursday, October 16, 6:30 p.m.

Wirtz Center for Performing and Media Arts,  
710 N. Lakeshore Drive, Chicago

Cost: \$25.00

#### OLLI IMMERSIVE THEATER EXPERIENCES

In Partnership with Northwestern's Wirtz Center for Performing Arts

OLLI members now have an inside track to the Wirtz graduate designers, directors, and dramaturgs, undergraduate actors, managers, and playwrights, who all collaborate on classic and contemporary works in theater, music theater, and dance. OLLI members are eligible to register for these new and unique learning experiences (at an additional charge; space limited). Additional partnership programming to be offered and communicated throughout the year.

#### Fall 2025 OLLI & Wirtz Immersive Theater Experience: *Hang Time*

Written and directed by Pulitzer Prize Finalist Zora Howard

**Date:** Thursday, October 16

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Abbott Hall; Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for Performing and Media Arts; 710 N. Lake Shore Drive, Room 203, Chicago

**Cost:** \$25. Includes one ticket to the OLLI exclusive opening night performance, parking, and private talk-back session with the creative team of *Hang Time*.

Three men chew the fat under an old, wide tree. In *Hang Time*, we peek into the interiority – the great loves and bitter blues – of Black men in America. Setting the romantic and the macabre in sharp relief, the work invites the viewer to envisage the living Black body triumphant over the legacy of violence that it holds. Written and directed by Pulitzer Prize Finalist Zora Howard in her directorial debut, *Hang Time* is a deeply moving and subversive work not to be missed. Please be advised: *Hang Time* features intense adult themes, strong language, and some disturbing images.

#### REGISTER AND PAY HERE

Register and pay through the OLLI online registration system (Augusoft). Open to all current OLLI members; participation is in addition to your OLLI membership level and does NOT count towards your study group allowance.

Coming to Evanston this winter! OLLI Immersive Theater Experience: *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*



**Northwestern**  
SCHOOL OF  
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

FALL 2025

# KICK-OFF CELEBRATIONS

**EVANSTON: Thursday, September 11**  
**CHICAGO: Thursday, September 18**

Enjoy light refreshments and lively conversation with fellow OLLI members as we celebrate the start of the 2025-2026 Academic Year.

## **EVANSTON**

Thursday, September 11  
3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.  
500 Davis Street  
Suite 700 Lounge

## **CHICAGO**

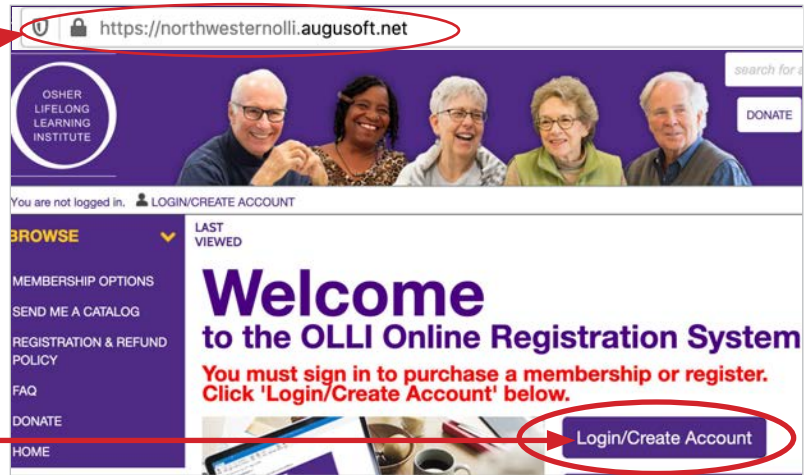
Thursday, September 18  
3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.  
Room 702 Wieboldt Hall  
339 E Chicago Avenue

*\*This event is free and open to all 2025-26 OLLI members. Registration is not required, just stop in!*



# HOW TO PURCHASE MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTER FOR STUDY GROUPS

- Go to the OLLI Online Registration System (Augusoft) which can be accessed at: <https://northwesternolli.augusoft.net>
- Click **Log In/Create Account**.
- This takes you to the **Sign In** page.



### Sign In

Use your username and password to sign in here. Please note that the password is case sensitive.

**Student** ▼

Username

[Forgot your username?](#)

Password

[Forgot your password?](#)

**Sign In**

### New Students

Click Create New Profile to create your own username, password and profile.

**Create New Profile**

#### EXISTING USERS:

If you are a current or former member and have a Profile in the system:

**SIGN IN to Your Account** with your **Username** and **Password**.

- Make sure the option says **Student** in the pull-down menu.
- If you have forgotten your Username or Password, click on the **Forgot Your Username?** or **Forgot Your Password?** links.

**DO NOT CREATE A NEW PROFILE**

#### NEW USERS:

If you are a new user, please create a new profile.

Click **Create New Profile** and follow the prompts.

- On the Profile Creation page, select Student Profile (single user) button, click Submit.
- Fill in the necessary information for Step 1, Step 2, and Step 3 tabs.
- Click **Submit** to register your account.

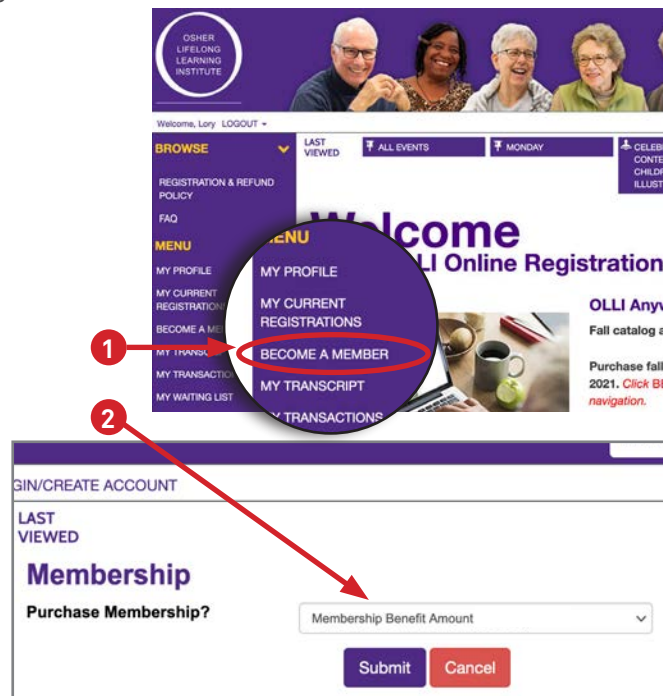
If you need assistance, email [olli@northwestern.edu](mailto:olli@northwestern.edu).

New Members who have created a profile and Existing Members who have signed in can now continue to **Purchase Membership**—instructions on next page.

**PURCHASE MEMBERSHIP:**

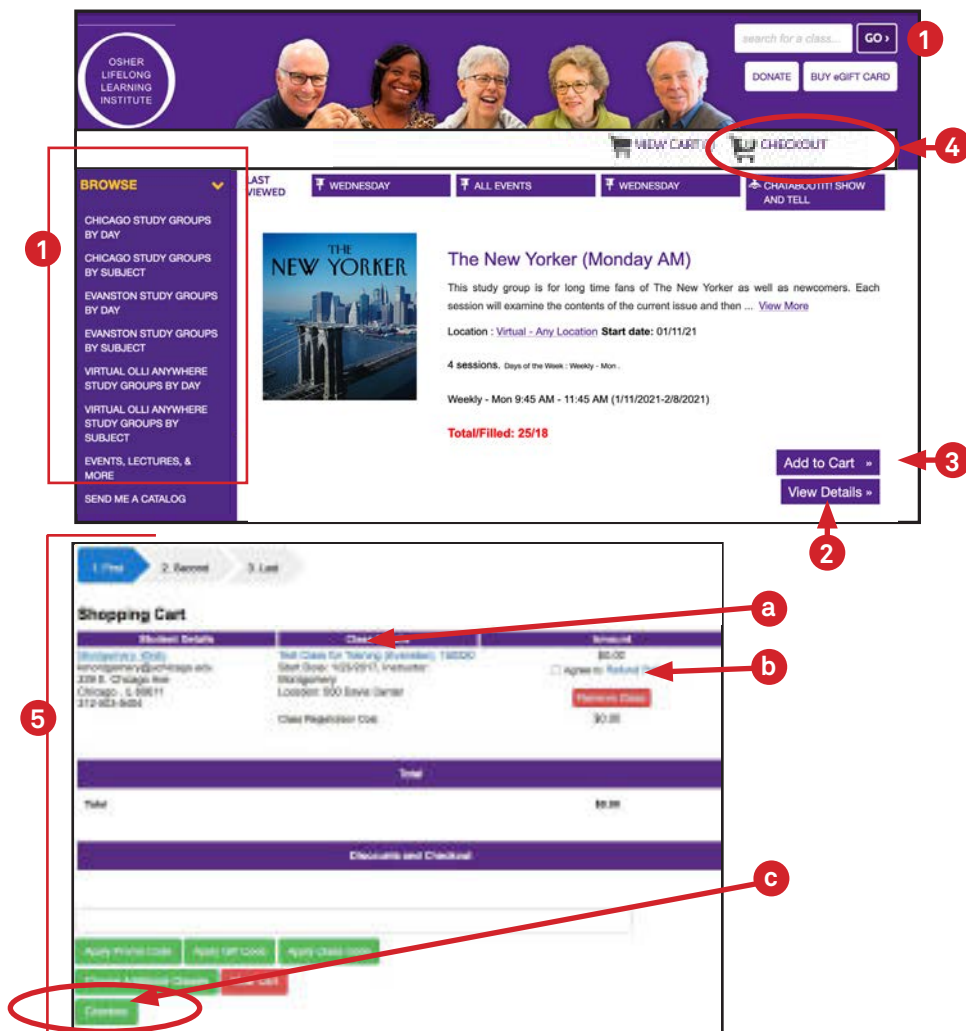
Fall is the start to a new academic year; everyone who wishes to participate in OLLI must purchase a membership.

1. On the **Welcome** home page, click **BECOME A MEMBER** in the purple column on the left.
2. On the **Membership** page, select the membership option you wish to purchase from the drop-down menu.
3. You will then be led to your cart page. Continue with the prompts to check out.
  - OLLI accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, or Discover.



**REGISTRATION:**

1. **BROWSE** Study Groups by location, by day, or by subject area. Or, type a portion of the title in the SEARCH bar at the top right of the page.
2. For more information about a Study Group click **View Details**.
3. Once registration is open, to register for a Study Group click **Add to Cart**.
  - To register for additional Study Groups, repeat Step 1 through 3.
4. **Important:** To complete your registration click **CHECKOUT** at the top right of the screen.
5. Finish your checkout by:
  - a. Reviewing your selections
  - b. Clicking the **Agree to Refund Policy** box
  - c. Clicking the green **CHECKOUT** box at the bottom of the screen.



Wait for the screen that says “Your transaction has been processed successfully.”

You will receive a confirmation email of your registration. **If you do not receive the confirmation email, your registration is not complete.**



# 2025–2026 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2025							OCTOBER 2025							NOVEMBER 2025							DECEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1		1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	6	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			

JANUARY 2026							FEBRUARY 2026							MARCH 2026							APRIL 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3								1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		

MAY 2026							JUNE 2026							JULY 2026							AUGUST 2026						
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24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

**OLLI session dates and registration periods:**

- **Fall Session:**  
14 Weeks, September 2–December 8, 2025  
*Registration August 4–August 18, 2025*
- **Winter Session (all virtual):**  
4 Weeks, January 20–February 16, 2026  
*Registration December 15, 2025–January 5, 2026*
- **Spring Session:**  
14 weeks, March 2–June 8, 2026  
*Registration February 2–February 16, 2026*
- **Summer Session:**  
4 Weeks, July 6–July 31, 2026  
*Registration June 8–June 22, 2026*
- **Break between sessions**

**OLLI and Northwestern University will be closed on the following days:**

- Monday, September 1, 2025

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- Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28, 2025

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- Wednesday, December 24, 2025 through Thursday, January 1, 2026

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- Monday, January 19, 2026

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- Monday, May 25, 2026

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- Friday, June 19, 2026

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- Friday, July 3, 2026



# 2024 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Thank you to the following donors who generously made gifts to OLLI during the calendar year 2024.

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Donations February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025

\*indicates lead donor of \$250 or more, \*\* indicates advanced donor of \$500 or more

05-01-25

## OLLI AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY MEMBER FUND



# Creating a Culture of Giving

Donate Today!



OLLI's Culture of Giving means that every member is encouraged to give of their time, talents, and dollars. Our goal is 100% participation.

Contributing to the OLLI Member Fund has a direct impact on your personal experience. Gifts are used for OLLI NU strategic priorities such as:

- Enhanced academic enrichment opportunities: special programs and guest speakers
- Acoustic improvements, hearing assistance devices, and sound transmission systems to provide better accessibility for all members.
- Increased diversity and outreach activities
- Need-based scholarships



Scan the QR code  
or click here to give to the  
[OLLI NU Member Fund](#)

Your contribution—at any level—demonstrates your commitment to and appreciation for OLLI.

# 2025–2026 POLICIES AND INFORMATION

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

### Choice and Flexibility

Remember, every study group will have a limited number of seats in order to maintain the high quality, discussion-based learning model that Northwestern OLLI is known for. As a result, not everyone may get into their first choice. However, members are often pleasantly surprised and pleased by their second, third, or even fourth choice study group which expands their interests and their friendships. In the spirit of lifelong learning, we encourage members to keep an open mind when registering. There are many outstanding study groups from which to choose!

### Membership Purchase and Registration

Participation in the OLLI program is based on membership. Membership allows you to join a given number of study groups in each term (varies by membership level). Membership also gives you access to lectures, workshops, enrichment opportunities, and other benefits through Northwestern.

### REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE

**Membership Purchases and Registration are through the OLLI Online Registration System (Augusoft).**

If you need assistance, email [olli@northwestern.edu](mailto:olli@northwestern.edu). The first available staff member or OLLI Volli volunteer will call or email you to assist.

### ADDITIONAL STUDY GROUP PURCHASES

Additional study groups, beyond those included in your membership, can be purchased for an additional charge. To purchase additional study groups, email [olli@northwestern.edu](mailto:olli@northwestern.edu).

- **14-week term (Fall or Spring)** = Prime +\$65 / +\$33 for a 7-week; Standard +\$105 / +\$53 for a 7-week; Basic +\$150 / +\$75 for a 7-week
- **4-week term (Winter or Summer)** = Prime +\$50; Standard +\$80; Basic +\$100

Changes to your membership type are only allowed in specific circumstances which must be approved by the Director. If approved, changes are subject to an administrative fee.

### REGISTRATION

You **MUST** be officially registered through the OLLI office for all study groups and bonus groups you attend.

Registration for study groups is on a first come, first served basis. If a study group is full, members will be placed on a waiting list and will be notified only if a space becomes available. Should space become available, members will be added to a study group in the order in which they have been wait listed. We encourage you to register for an open study group in case the waitlisted group does not become available.

OLLI accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, or Discover.

Unless otherwise noted, you must be a current member of OLLI to register for OLLI events.

Trial memberships are available only to new members and may be purchased only one time.

### REGISTRATION ADD/DROP

**Please make your selections carefully. Changes to study group selections may ONLY be made by the OLLI office.** Changes are subject to study group availability.

Changes may only be made up to the end of the second week of the fall or spring term or the first week of winter or summer term.

If your plans have changed and you can no longer participate in a study group or bonus group you must notify the OLLI office.

## Refund Policies

**UNUSED MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:** Refunds are **NOT issued** for unused membership benefits. If you are unsure of your plans for the year, we recommend that you purchase a half-year membership.

**EVENTS:** Refunds are **NOT issued** for academic enrichment or social events, including but not limited to prepaid meals, theater tickets, and prepaid tours.

**EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES:** Issuance of refunds for extraordinary circumstances are at the discretion of the OLLI Director.

**METHOD:** Qualifying refunds must be issued in the exact form as payment was made (i.e. to the same credit card that was used to pay for the transaction). Allow 6 weeks for processing.

**NEW MEMBERS ONLY:** If you participate in OLLI at Northwestern University for the first time and find that this program is not a good match for you, you may be eligible for a full or partial refund under the following circumstances:

If you started in the fall or spring term and you notify the OLLI Director in writing **within two weeks** of the start of the term.

If you started in the winter or summer term and you notify the OLLI Director in writing **within one week** of the start of the term.

## Attendance Policies & Expectations

**While occasional absences may be unavoidable, OLLI Membership is based on the expectation that you will register for, attend, and actively participate in study groups.**

Members who are unable to attend the **first two weeks** of the fall or spring term are required to notify the study group coordinator of their absence, and (if possible) provide an expected date of return to the study group. Members who fail to notify their study group coordinator of their absence may be dropped from the study group at the end of week two.

Members who are unable to attend the **first week** of the winter or summer term are required to notify the study group coordinator of their absence, and (if possible) provide an expected date of return to the study group. Members who fail to notify their study group coordinator of their absence may be dropped from the study group at the end of week one.

Members who sign up for a study group and fail to attend at least half the scheduled sessions without communicating with the coordinator and the office may be refused registration/membership in the future. If you require special accommodations, please contact the OLLI office **prior** to registration.

RSVP carefully to events and workshops, understanding that while there may be no cost to you, there is a cost to the program.

OLLI prohibits video recording of any study group by members or coordinators.

## HEALTH & SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION

Safeguarding the health and safety of our members and staff remains top priority. Northwestern OLLI continues to listen to the science and follow CDC guidelines, state mandates, and Northwestern policies related to all COVID-19 safety protocols. If these guidelines, mandates, or policies change, Northwestern OLLI will adjust accordingly.

## **NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY MULTIMEDIA RELEASE AGREEMENT**

For good and valuable consideration, as a current or former member of Northwestern Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, you grant Northwestern University (the “University”) and its agents and assigns the right to record your appearance and participation on digital recordings, videotape, audiotape, film, photograph or any other medium and to use, publish, reproduce, modify, distribute, and publicly exhibit without limitation for promotional and marketing materials to be used by the University, television networks, and on websites, including but not limited to the University’s website, iTunes, iTunesU, and the University’s page on YouTube, such recordings, in whole or in part, without restrictions or limitation for any purpose that the University in its sole discretion deems appropriate. You further consent to the University’s use of your name, likeness, voice, and identifying information in connection with such recordings. You release the University, its successors and assigns, its agents, and all persons for whom it is acting from any liability by virtue of any blurring, distortion, alteration, optical illusion, or use in composite form, whether intentional or otherwise, that may occur or be produced in the recording process, or any misspellings or inaccuracies, and you waive any right that you may have to inspect, approve, own, or control the finished recordings. You agree that neither you nor your heirs shall be entitled to any compensation for the use of your name, photograph, likeness, or other image of yourself.

## **NORTHWESTERN’S POLICY ON DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT**

Northwestern University does not discriminate or permit discrimination by any member of its community against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, parental status, marital status, age, disability, citizenship status, veteran status, genetic information, reproductive health decision making, or any other classification protected by law in matters of admissions, employment, housing, or services or in the educational programs or activities it operates. Harassment, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is based on any of these characteristics is a form of discrimination. Further prohibited by law is discrimination against any employee and/or job applicant who chooses to inquire about, discuss, or disclose their own compensation or the compensation of another employee or applicant.

Northwestern University complies with federal and state laws that prohibit discrimination based on the protected categories listed above, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX requires educational institutions, such as Northwestern, to prohibit discrimination based on sex (including sexual harassment) in the University’s educational programs and activities, including in matters of employment and admissions. In addition, Northwestern provides reasonable accommodations to qualified applicants, students, and employees with disabilities and to individuals who are pregnant.

Any alleged violations of this policy or questions with respect to nondiscrimination or reasonable accommodations should be directed to Northwestern’s Office of Equity, 1800 Sherman Avenue, Suite 4-500, Evanston, Illinois 60208, 847-467-6165, [equity@northwestern.edu](mailto:equity@northwestern.edu).

Questions specific to sex discrimination (including sexual misconduct and sexual harassment) should be directed to Northwestern’s Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equity, 1800 Sherman Avenue, Suite 4-500, Evanston, Illinois 60208, 847-467-6165, [TitleIXCoordinator@northwestern.edu](mailto:TitleIXCoordinator@northwestern.edu).

A person may also file a complaint with the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights regarding an alleged violation of Title IX by visiting [www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html) or calling 800-421-3481. Inquiries about the application of Title IX to Northwestern may be referred to Northwestern’s Title IX Coordinator, the United States Department of Education’s Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, or both.

## **AVOIDING MICROAGGRESSIONS**

To reduce the possibility of unintended harm to fellow OLLI members and to help OLLI be fully inclusive, we encourage all members to educate themselves on microaggressions and be mindful of this information as they engage in OLLI classrooms. Microaggression education can be found under Tips and Tools within the MyOLLINU website.

## OLLI MEMBER/STUDENT CONDUCT RULES AND PROCESSES

*Adapted from SPS Rules and Regulations of Student Conduct. All students are subject to applicable Northwestern University-enacted policies and standards.*

Students admitted into the Northwestern University Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Program (OLLI), offered through the School of Professional Studies (SPS), are SPS students taking non-credit courses in peer-led, discussion format.

OLLI students are subject to the following student conduct policies, rules and processes from the time of a student's registration for OLLI courses throughout participation in the OLLI community. These policies extend to student interaction with each other and with Northwestern staff and faculty, in and outside of the classroom.

**Community Expectations:** All OLLI students, as members of the Northwestern and SPS community, are expected to conduct themselves maturely and exemplify behavior consistent with Northwestern community standards. Northwestern students are expected to not only excel in the classroom but to engage in socially responsible behavior and to model exceptional conduct, character, and citizenship in class and beyond. All members of the Northwestern community are expected to engage with each other with respect and consideration. All students are expected to be respectful of OLLI and SPS staff time and resources.

**Classroom Expectations:** All course participants are expected to behave in a manner conducive to a successful and enjoyable learning experience. Sometimes, relatively harmless things can affect the classroom dynamic; for example, some students are so eager to participate that they unintentionally dominate class. Students must think about their role in class as an individual student but also as an integral part of a group experience. Some disruptions are of a more serious nature and cannot be tolerated.

**Prohibited Conduct:** All OLLI students are subject to applicable University-enacted policies and standards including but not limited to those in the Northwestern University Student Handbook. Any violation of these policies or assisting or encouraging others in the violation of these policies, may lead to student conduct action, including sanctions.

Prohibited and restricted conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Endangering self or others, including but not limited to the physical, psychological/emotional well-being of any person
- Interfering with the learning of others, including but not limited to in-person behavior, online behavior or use of University resources or systems to interfere with the work of another student, a faculty member, or a University staff member, or that otherwise interferes with normal operation of University systems or processes
- Acts of fraud, misrepresentation, or dishonesty including misuse of University documents or knowingly furnishing false information to the University
- Acts of sexual misconduct, discrimination and/or harassment
- Failure to comply to the reasonable request or instruction of a university staff member or emergency personnel acting in an official capacity

**Scope of Conduct:** OLLI students are subject to SPS Conduct Policies and applicable University-enacted policies found in The Northwestern Student Handbook. Conduct processes are adapted to the parameters dictated by offering peer-led non-credit programming. Northwestern and SPS reserve the right to review and resolve reports of alleged misconduct occurring from the time of a student's OLLI course registration throughout their time being a member of the OLLI community.

## OLLI MEMBER/STUDENT CONDUCT RULES AND PROCESSES, CONT.

**Student Conduct Process:** All alleged violations of conduct by OLLI students will be reviewed by the program director to determine next steps. Options include, but are not limited to:

- close the case due to insufficient information
- resolution of case by OLLI director
- refer case to Northwestern University's Office of Community Standards, Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance, and/or other appropriate University office or unit. *Per Northwestern's reporting obligations, all allegations of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and sexual harassment), discrimination based on a protected category, and harassment based on a protected category are referred to the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance.*

The director will consider whether interim action is appropriate when notice of an alleged violation is received.

**Notification:** When a conduct violation allegation is determined to move forward, the OLLI student involved (respondent) is notified via correspondence by OLLI leadership. Notification will typically include a brief description of the alleged misconduct, including the time, date and place the incident allegedly occurred, and a list of any University policies allegedly violated. The notification letter will include a request for a written response to the allegations within a reasonable amount of time, not to exceed two weeks of receipt.

**Standard of Evidence:** Northwestern University Office of Student Conduct and SPS use the preponderance of the evidence standard in reviews. This means that the conduct administrator(s), determine *more likely than not* what occurred.

**Participation:** The University expects students to participate promptly and fully in all aspects of the student conduct process. If a student elects not to participate in any part of the process, the case may proceed without the respondent's participation. Respondents may be held accountable for any outcomes issued, even if they fail to participate.

**Determination of Responsibility, Notification and Sanctions:** Outcomes determined by SPS will be communicated in writing in a reasonable timeframe following student written response receipt, or following the deadline provided for response. The Outcome Notification letter will be added to the student academic record. Using preponderance of the evidence standard, OLLI leadership will determine whether the respondent is responsible for the alleged policy violation and, if so, will issue appropriate sanctions, from warning to program dismissal at sole discretion of program director.

SPS reserves the right to take appropriate action for violations of this policy or other applicable University policies, up to and including dismissal of an OLLI student from the program.

**Reports of alleged bias or hate-related incidents** can be reported to the Bias Incident Response Team. Information on filing reports can be found on the web page:

<https://www.northwestern.edu/inclusion/respectnu/incident-report.html>.

The Northwestern University Student Handbook can be viewed at:  
[sps.northwestern.edu/student-handbook](https://sps.northwestern.edu/student-handbook)

# LOGISTICS, SERVICES, AND RESOURCES

## OLLI Office Location and Hours:

**Chicago (Wieboldt Hall):**  
339 E Chicago Avenue, Room 412  
Chicago, IL 60611

**Evanston:**  
500 Davis Street, Suite 700  
Evanston, IL 60201

**Hours:** Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (less a flexible hour for lunch)  
OLLI staff work remotely on Fridays.

## OLLI Contact Information

**EMAIL:** [olli@northwestern.edu](mailto:olli@northwestern.edu)

## OLLI HELP DESK:

<https://spsolli.sps.northwestern.edu/>

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## Intercampus Shuttle

Fully operational and available to OLLI students with a current Wildcard that contains your photo. [Click Here](#) for shuttle information.

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## NU Libraries

Northwestern Library holds over 8 million items making it the 11th largest private university library.

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## Wildcards

Wildcards are only issued before the fall semester and only to OLLI members who purchased a **full academic year membership**. 2024-2025 Academic Year Wildcards are valid through September, 2025.

OLLI members have access to the NU libraries and databases, however only full-time members with Wildcards have borrowing privileges.

Evanston Main Library:

[Click Here](#) for more information.

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## Wildcard ID Discounts

[wildcardadv.northwestern.edu](http://wildcardadv.northwestern.edu)

**PHONE:** 847-491-7658

**EMAIL:** [library@northwestern.edu](mailto:library@northwestern.edu)

**GUIDES:** [libguides.northwestern.edu/OLLI\\_libguide](http://libguides.northwestern.edu/OLLI_libguide)

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## University Police

**EVANSTON:** 847-491-3254

**CHICAGO:** 312-503-8314

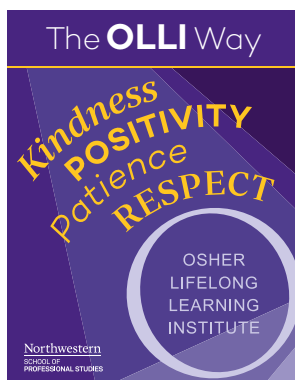
**EMERGENCY:** 911

[northwestern.edu/up](http://northwestern.edu/up)

**LIBRARIAN:** Tracy Coyne

[tracy-coyne@northwestern.edu](mailto:tracy-coyne@northwestern.edu)

**WEBSITE:** [library.northwestern.edu](http://library.northwestern.edu)



## The OLLI Way

As a lean staff, we do the very best we can to provide an outstanding experience for each and every OLLI member. Our community values kindness, patience, positivity, and respect—something we call The OLLI Way. These values are critical as members, staff, and volunteers interact with one another. They are especially important as we manage the logistics, fun, and excitement associated with each new OLLI term. Thanks to all of you for embracing the OLLI Way.