

Osher Online is a national program that is offered to a select number of Osher Institutes and managed by the Osher National Resource Center (NRC) out of Northwestern University.

These unique programs allow OLLI members from across the country to take courses together. These offerings are separate from the regular courses OLLI at UMass Boston sponsors and as such, are treated as special events that are open to all current OLLI members.

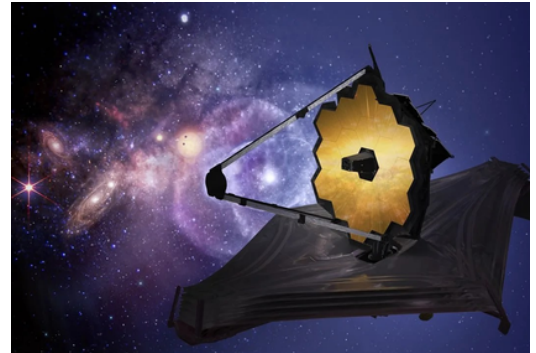
There is a \$45 fee assessed for each course you register to help cover the cost of providing this program for our members. This \$45 event fee is applicable to all OLLI membership levels. Payment will be due a week prior to the program starting. Most of these fall programs start in late September/mid-October, and OLLI members must be current members at the time of registration as well as when the program starts.

Registration overview:

1. OLLI at UMass Boston will handle the registration of these classes. **Registration will open at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 18 through OLLI's online registration system.** Unlike our usual spring or fall courses, **these programs will fill on a first-come, first-served basis.** Please do not email or call in your request.
2. Only 13 seats are given to OLLI at UMass Boston for each program. To allow as many OLLI members as possible to enjoy these unique classes, OLLI members may only register for one Osher Online program. If space remains after September 1, members may then register for additional Osher Online programs.
3. OLLI at UMass Boston will provide the class roster to the NRC. The NRC will then email the confirmation back to each student and provide a username and password so the student can access their course information, including handouts and communications with the study leaders, on the NRC's online course portal.
4. There will be an orientation via Zoom on September 22 at 2:00 p.m. on how to access and use your Osher Online course portal. Zoom information will be sent via the NRC office. This session will be recorded as well.

A Cosmic Grand Tour: The Realms of the Universe

In this course, we will explore the three fascinating realms of the cosmos: nearby planets and moons; the stars; and the galaxies (the great island of stars that turn out to be the building blocks of the universe.) Our discussion will be in everyday language, without any math, and will be accompanied by remarkable color images from the latest space probes and the world's largest telescopes, including the latest breathtaking images from the James Webb Space Telescope.



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Andrew Fraknoi, MS



Andrew Fraknoi, retired chair of the astronomy department at Foothill College, continues to teach noncredit astronomy courses at San Francisco State University and the University of San Francisco. He is lead author of *OpenStax Astronomy*, the most frequently-used, introductory astronomy textbook in North America. He appears regularly on radio, explaining astronomical developments in everyday language, and was named California Professor of the Year. He writes science fiction, has published eight stories, and has an asteroid named in his honor, recognizing his contributions to the public understanding of science.

TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 29 THROUGH NOVEMBER 3

2pm PT | 3pm MT | 4pm CT | 5pm ET

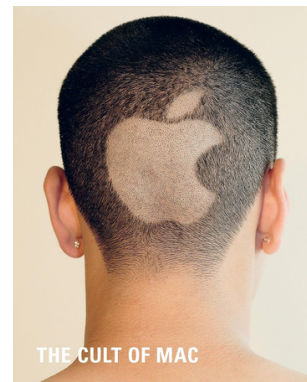
Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, September 29
- Tuesday, October 6
- Tuesday, October 13
- Tuesday, October 20
- Tuesday, October 27
- Tuesday, November 3

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

Apple at 50: How it Revolutionized Computing and Transformed Daily Life

This course traces Apple's fifty-year history and its massive impact on personal computing, design, product culture, platforms and ecosystems, and daily life. Each session focuses on a different decade in Apple's history, from the birth of the PC in the late 1970s to the latest Apple silicon, VR headsets, and future iPhones. We will learn how Apple reshaped not just technology, but how people live, work, and communicate.



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Leander Kahney



Leander Kahney is a veteran technology reporter who has covered Apple for more than 30 years. He has written six books about the company, including two *New York Times* bestsellers. He is the editor and publisher of *Cult of Mac*, a long-running Apple blog, and was previously news editor at *Wired.com*.

TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 29 THROUGH NOVEMBER 3

4pm PT | 5pm MT | 6pm CT | 7pm ET

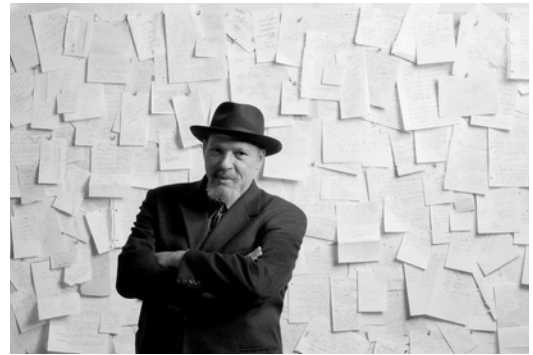
Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, September 29
- Tuesday, October 6
- Tuesday, October 13
- Tuesday, October 20
- Tuesday, October 27
- Tuesday, November 3

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

August Wilson and His American Cycle - The First Five: 1904-1957

August Wilson was the first African American playwright to have a Broadway theater bear his name, a fitting tribute to a dramatist who brought African American culture and lived experience to the stage. In this course, we will read, watch, and examine the first five plays in Wilson's American Cycle, a ten-play series representing each decade of the African American culture's 20th century. We will explore Wilson's life and the influences behind his work while focusing on *Gem of the Ocean*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, and *Seven Guitars*, tracing his powerful interpretation, celebration, and perseverance of African American culture.



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Ladrica Menson-Furr, PhD



Ladrica Menson-Furr, PhD, is assistant dean of undergraduate programs and associate professor of African American literature. Menson-Furr is the author of *August Wilson's Fences* and *August Wilson's Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, and has published on Zora Neale Hurston and Pearl Cleage. She has led academic programs in African American studies and served as a Provost's Fellow and a Tennessee Board of Regents' Maxine Smith Fellow.

WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 7 THROUGH NOVEMBER 11

2pm PT | 3pm MT | 4pm CT | 5pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, October 7
- Wednesday, October 14
- Wednesday, October 21
- Wednesday, October 28
- Wednesday, November 4
- Wednesday, November 11

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

Living off The Laughter: History of Comedy in America

This course is a history class with a laugh track. We will analyze the significant periods and players of the 20th and 21st Centuries against their historic context and legacy, using humor as the platform. We will discuss how comedy was shaped by and responsive to American society, and how comedians influenced and shaped American life. We will cover Silent Films, Vaudeville, Radio, Screwball and Romantic Comedies, Comedy Teams, and the Golden Age of Television. We will study how America laughed in each generation, and how the change in American character and persona shaped how they laughed and what (and whom) they laughed at.



[Click here to view course
promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Eddy Friedfeld



Eddy Friedfeld is a film and entertainment journalist and historian. Friedfeld co-authored *Caesar's Hours* with Sid Caesar, *Directed by James Burrows* with James Burrows, and worked with Mel Brooks on *All About Me*. He was senior consultant for the Emmy-nominated *Make 'Em Laugh* and a consulting producer on *Funny You Never Knew*. He has produced tributes to major entertainers including George Carlin, Paul Newman, Dick Van Dyke, among others. He teaches at Yale, NYU, and the Tisch School of the Arts.

WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 14 THROUGH NOVEMBER 18

Noon PT | 1pm MT | 2pm CT | 3pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

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|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Wednesday, October 14 | • Wednesday, November 4 |
| • Wednesday, October 21 | • Wednesday, November 11 |
| • Wednesday, October 28 | • Wednesday, November 18 |

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

The History and Experience of Route 66

Route 66 is as much an idea as it is a place. Since its creation in 1926, America's most famous highway has evolved from a 2,400-mile transportation corridor into a powerful symbol of nostalgia, travel, and the American road. Today, it functions as a kind of pilgrimage route, marked by neon signs, roadside attractions, and preserved motels, cafés, and gas stations. In this course, we will explore the history, cultural meaning, and enduring appeal of Route 66. Together, we will examine its origins, rise and decline, late-20th century revival, the role of nostalgia and car culture, preservation efforts, and the possible futures of this iconic highway.



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Peter Dedek, PhD



Peter B. Dedek, PhD, is a professor of American history at Texas State University whose work explores the cultural history of the built environment and the stories embedded in historic places. Dedek brings together cultural, design, and social history to illuminate how people shape, and are shaped by the spaces they inhabit. He is the author of *Hip to the Trip: Route 66 Centennial Edition* and *The Cemeteries of New Orleans: A Cultural History*, and wrote *Historic Preservation for Designers*, a guide integrating preservation with design.

MONDAYS, OCTOBER 5 THROUGH NOVEMBER 9

4pm PT | 5pm MT | 6pm CT | 7pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Monday, October 5
- Monday, October 12
- Monday, October 19
- Monday, October 26
- Monday, November 2
- Monday, November 9

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

The Magic Behind Film Scores: The Role of Music in Great Movies, Part II

This course continues our journey into how music becomes the emotional engine of film. This is not film school—it is a celebration for film lovers who want to experience how music shapes story, character, and unforgettable moments. We will explore how instrumental scores and songs with lyrics work together to drive narrative, define identity, and capture cultural shifts. We will focus on films where songs take center stage, from iconic franchise themes to pop- and rock-driven storytelling. Spanning genres and eras, we will see how composers, songwriters, and performers expanded the language of film music.



[Click here to view course promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Mike Agron



Born in Los Angeles's entertainment scene, Mike Agron is a former high-tech executive and entrepreneur who now creates and delivers dynamic, story-driven seminars on music and entertainment. With a storyteller's eye and a DJ's ear, he has led 15 acclaimed seminar series, each spotlighting a different facet of music and entertainment.

WEDNESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 30 THROUGH NOVEMBER 11

NOTE: NO CLASS ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

2pm PT | 3pm MT | 4pm CT | 5pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Wednesday, September 30 | • Wednesday, October 21 |
| • Wednesday, October 7 | • Wednesday, November 4 |
| • Wednesday, October 14 | • Wednesday, November 11 |

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.