



at UMass Boston

# Osher Online

in collaboration with Northwestern University  
School of Professional Studies

**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 \$35 fee assessed for each course you register to help cover the cost of providing this program for our members. This \$35 event fee is applicable to all OLLI membership levels. Payment will be due a week prior to the program starting. 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 Friday, February 27 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 March 16, 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. **Note:** OLLI at UMass Boston will not have access to Zoom details for these programs. Access to program information, including Zoom links, is only accessible through the NRC online course website/portal. The NRC will provide help and assistance if an OLLI member has trouble accessing this information.

# Ghosts in the White House: The People Behind Presidential Speeches

Have you ever wondered who writes presidential speeches? This course traces the evolution of speechwriting from George Washington's administration to today. Yes, Hamilton helped draft Washington's Farewell Address, but no, Lincoln did not scribble the Gettysburg Address on an envelope. We will study the writing process presidents used and examine drafts from FDR, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Carter, and George H.W. Bush. We will view clips from speeches and from former White House speechwriters describing the process.



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## YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Diana Carlin, PhD



Diana Carlin, PhD is Professor Emerita of communication at Saint Louis University. For 30 years, she has taught courses on and written about First Ladies. She is the co-author of *U.S. First Ladies: Making History and Leaving Legacies* and *Remember the First Ladies: America's History-Making Women*. Carlin has published articles and book chapters on a variety of First Ladies and researches and writes on the topics of women in politics, presidential communication, and political debate.

## MONDAYS, MARCH 30 THROUGH MAY 4

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

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Monday, March 30
- Monday, April 6
- Monday, April 13
- Monday, April 20
- Monday, April 27
- Monday, May 4

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

# Frank Lloyd Wright and Modern Architecture

Frank Lloyd Wright designed nearly 1,000 buildings and helped define modern architecture. This course explores highlights of his practice, from Prairie houses to *Fallingwater* and the Guggenheim Museum, alongside lesser-known projects like affordable housing and city planning. We'll examine how Wright's work reflected cultural shifts in technology, science, and politics, offering a deeper understanding of his lasting influence on architecture and modern design.



Credit: Courtesy of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.  
Credit: Andrew Pielage

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## YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Jennifer Gray, PhD



Jennifer Gray, PhD, is vice president of the Taliesin Institute at the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation. Her research explores how modern architects used design to advance social change at the turn of the 20th century. She has curated major exhibitions, including *Frank Lloyd Wright at 150* at MoMA and *The Imperial Hotel at 100*, which toured Japan. Gray has taught at Columbia, Cornell, and MoMA, and formerly served as Curator of Drawings and Archives at Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library.

**TUESDAYS, APRIL 21 THROUGH MAY 26**

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

**Each live session is 90 minutes**

- Tuesday, April 21
- Tuesday, April 28
- Tuesday, May 5
- Tuesday, May 12
- Tuesday, May 19
- Tuesday, May 26

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

# From Leo XIII to Leo XIV: History of 20th and 21st Century Popes

The death of Pope Francis and the election of the first US born Pope have been in the news repeatedly in the last few months, capturing the imagination of many people, including non-Catholics. Who are these men? What are their life stories? How were they similar to and different from each other? In this course, we will discuss the lives and dominant perspectives of the last ten Popes, exploring their most significant positions and their influence on world affairs.



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## YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Oliva Espín, PhD



Oliva Espín, PhD, is Professor Emerita of Women's Studies at San Diego State University and the California School of Professional Psychology. She completed her postdoctoral work at Harvard and is a pioneer in feminist therapy with women from diverse cultural backgrounds. Her recent books include *Women, Sainthood, and Power: A Feminist Psychology of Cultural Constructions* and *My Native Land is Memory: Stories of a Cuban Childhood* (2021 San Diego Book Award). She received APA's Outstanding Lifetime Contributions to Psychology Award.

## TUESDAYS, APRIL 7 THROUGH MAY 12

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

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, April 7
- Tuesday, April 14
- Tuesday, April 21
- Tuesday, April 28
- Tuesday, May 5
- Tuesday, May 12

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

# Comic Book Literature

Comics (blending words and pictures to tell stories) stretch from cave paintings and the Bayeux Tapestry to today's Batman and Spider-Man. Far more than superhero tales, comics are a versatile literary artform, capturing intimate and epic stories, social issues, and cultural moments through panels and word balloons. In this course, we will trace their history, explore their power, and read and discuss works including *Understanding Comics*, *Watchmen*, *Maus*, *Fun Home*, and *Persepolis*.



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## YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Arnold Blumberg, PhD



Arnold Blumberg, PhD, is a publisher, author, artist, and pop culture historian. He has taught courses in media literacy and other cultural topics at University of Baltimore and other Baltimore colleges. Blumberg spent fifteen years in the comic book industry, curated a pop culture museum, and currently runs his own publishing company, ATB Publishing.

**TUESDAYS, MARCH 31 THROUGH MAY 5**

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

**Each live session is 90 minutes**

- Tuesday, March 31
- Tuesday, April 7
- Tuesday, April 14
- Tuesday, April 21
- Tuesday, April 28
- Tuesday, May 5

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

# Music: Controversies and Curiosities

Music has long provoked debate, from Beethoven and Stravinsky's bold innovations to Broadway works like *Annie Get Your Gun* and *South Pacific*, now revisited through modern concerns about race, consent, and gender. Is political correctness enriching art or erasing cultural heritage? We will also examine plagiarism and borrowing in pop and film music, with cases involving The Beatles, Pink Floyd, and Peter Frampton. This course blends audiovisuals, anecdotes, and humor to explore music's most controversial moments.



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## YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Emanuel Abramovits, MBA



Emanuel Abramovits, MBA, is a mechanical engineer and has also been a concert promoter for over two decades. He is directly involved in events by international artists like Itzhak Perlman, Gustavo Dudamel, Sarah Brightman, Roger Hodgson, ASIA, Journey, Kenny G., and many more. Abramovits has designed and staged many original orchestral events, including an Event of the Year winner and several world premieres. He served as the cultural director at Union Israelita De Caracas from 2008 to 2019, releasing books and organizing film cycles, concerts, and art exhibits. He consistently teaches online and in-person across the US.

## WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 15 THROUGH MAY 20

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

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, April 15
- Wednesday, April 22
- Wednesday, April 29
- Wednesday, May 6
- Wednesday, May 13
- Wednesday, May 20

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

# The Lost Generation

This course will examine the cultural transformations in thinking and living that reshaped America and Western Europe between World War I and the Great Depression. Known as the Roaring Twenties, the Jazz Age, and the Lost Generation, this period redefined values and norms. We will explore the vibrant world of 1920s Paris through F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Babylon Revisited* and *Bernice Bobs Her Hair*, Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*, and Gertrude Stein's *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*, considering the lasting legacy of the era.



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## YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Ferdâ Asya, PhD



Ferdâ Asya, PhD, Professor of English, has taught at universities worldwide and lived in Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and the Middle East. Specializing in 19th–20th century American literature with a focus on Edith Wharton, her interests include international literature and American expatriate writing in Europe. She has published widely on authors from Achebe to Stein and edited *American Writers in Paris: Then and Now* (2025), *Teaching Edith Wharton's Major Novels and Short Fiction* (2021), and *American Writers in Europe* (2013).

**WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 15 THROUGH MAY 20**

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**Each live session is 90 minutes**

- Wednesday, April 15
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- Wednesday, May 20

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# Great Science Stories

Science is full of surprises. Dyes, accidentally discovered, launched the modern pharmaceutical industry. A failed experiment opened the door to new physics. Discoveries are never just facts. They are moments of creativity, struggle, and chance with far-reaching consequences. In this course, we will explore the human side of science, tracing breakthroughs in biology, chemistry, physics, and more. We will ask not only what was found, but how and why it matters.



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## YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Johnnie Hendrickson, PhD



Dr. Johnnie Hendrickson is a Teaching Professor in the School of Molecular Sciences at Arizona State University; he holds a PhD in chemistry, and is the author of the textbook “Chemistry in the World.” His academic work focuses on science communication, the reciprocal relationship between science and society.

**THURSDAYS, APRIL 9 THROUGH MAY 14**

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

**Each live session is 90 minutes**

- Thursday, April 9
- Thursday, April 16
- Thursday, April 23
- Thursday, April 30
- Thursday, May 7
- Thursday, May 14

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

# AI for Regular People

Back by popular demand, this updated course offers a clear, engaging introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how it's rapidly transforming our world. From self-driving cars to chatbots and precision medicine, we will explore how AI works, where it's headed, and what it means for society. No tech experience needed—just curiosity! With fresh examples and timely updates, participants will gain a solid understanding of the opportunities and challenges AI presents today.



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## YOUR INSTRUCTORS: Hod Lipson, PhD & Melba Kurman



Dr. Hod Lipson

This course is co-taught by Hod Lipson, PhD, Professor of Engineering and Data Science at Columbia University, and author and technology analyst Melba Kurman. Dr. Lipson directs Columbia's Creative Machines Lab, where his team builds artificially intelligent robots that can design, create, and express emotion. One of the world's most-cited academic roboticists, his work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *NPR*, *TED*, and *Quanta*. Melba Kurman has held roles at Microsoft, Cornell University, and several tech startups. She writes about emerging technologies and their societal impact. Together, they co-authored *Driverless* and *Fabricated: The Promise and Peril of 3D Printing*, and are frequent speakers on AI and innovation. They divide their time between New York City and the Berkshires.



Melba Kurman

## THURSDAYS, APRIL 2 THROUGH MAY 7

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

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Thursday, April 2
- Thursday, April 9
- Thursday, April 16
- Thursday, April 23
- Thursday, April 30
- Thursday, May 7

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

# California Uncovered: A Journey Through Time, Place, and Identity

California is more than a state—it is an idea, a dream, and a contradiction. In this course, we will journey from its earliest Indigenous cultures through Spanish, Mexican, and American rule, exploring missions, the Gold Rush, the railroad, Hollywood, and Silicon Valley. We will challenge myths, highlight overlooked voices, and examine how migration, innovation, and cultural change shaped the Golden State. We will discover what it has meant, and still means, to be Californian.



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## YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Anthony Antonucci, PhD



Anthony Antonucci, PhD, is a historian whose teaching and scholarship explore the intersections of foreign relations, nationalism, race, and immigration policy in U.S. history since 1750. A Fulbright fellow, Antonucci has also held research appointments at the Massachusetts Historical Society, the American Antiquarian Society, and the University of Connecticut Humanities Institute. He teaches courses in U.S., world, and California history, as well as African American, Latinx, and women's studies at colleges across Southern California, including Cal Poly Pomona, the University of La Verne, and Citrus College.

**FRIDAYS, APRIL 10 THROUGH MAY 15**

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

**Each live session is 90 minutes**

- Friday, April 10
- Friday, April 17
- Friday, April 24
- Friday, May 1
- Friday, May 8
- Friday, May 15

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.

# Writing the Personal Essay: Finding Your Story

The personal essay, one of the oldest forms of creative nonfiction, blends storytelling, reflection, and analysis to give voice to lived experience. In this course, we will explore the personal essay as both art and self-expression. Through readings, discussion, and writing exercises, we will study elements such as narrative arc, scene-setting, and reflection. We will draft our own essays, discovering how this enduring form helps us find our voices and tell our stories with clarity.



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## YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Lisa Stolley, PhD



Lisa Stolley, professor of English at the University of Illinois Chicago and Northwestern University, is a published fiction author. Her short stories have appeared in numerous literary journals, earning an Illinois Arts Council Award, a Pushcart Prize nomination, and first prizes from the Washington Review and Georgia State Review. Her nonfiction has been published in *Today's Chicago Woman* and the *Chicago Reader*. Stolley teaches scientific writing at UIC's School of Public Health and is a legal writer for immigration attorneys.

**SATURDAYS, APRIL 18 THROUGH MAY 23**

**11am PT | Noon MT | 1pm CT | 2pm ET**

**Each live session is 90 minutes**

- Saturday, April 18
- Saturday, April 25
- Saturday, May 2
- Saturday, May 9
- Saturday, May 16
- Saturday, May 23

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.