Winter 2024 Course Descriptions

A Short History of Street Railways & Public Transportation (1886-Present)
Glen Bottoms, Instructor
Thursdays | 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm | APL Conference Room
This course will examine the history of public transportation in the United States across seven distinct sessions. We will cover the emergence of street railways, the ‘Golden Era’ from 1886 to 1929, the challenges during the Great Depression, the impact of World War II, the rise of the automobile in the 1950s, the ongoing struggles in the 1960s, and the revival and modernization efforts from the 1970s to the present, including the specific challenges brought about by the pandemic. Join us in exploring the evolution of public transportation in the United States.

Glen Bottoms has 30+ years of experience in public transportation, including work with the Federal Transit Administration and as the American Conservative Center for Public Transportation Executive Director. He is recognized for his contributions to the field, particularly in rail transit in the United States and Europe, with papers presented and published by the Transportation Research Board. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Auburn University (1966) and a master’s degree in International Affairs (1972) and Public Administration (1977) from George Washington University, Washington, DC.

Alabama Rivers
Bill Deutsch, Instructor
Mondays | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm | Sunny Slope Annex
Participants will examine the origins of the river map on the Alabama Great Seal, river geography, geology, hydrology, aquatic biodiversity, the societal and economic role of rivers, river-related policies, and personalizing one’s approach to rivers. This interactive learning environment encourages sharing personal river stories.

Bill Deutsch, a Research Fellow and emeritus in the Auburn University School of Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Aquatic Sciences, holds a PhD and brings extensive expertise as an aquatic ecologist and river educator. He is the author of numerous publications in the field.

Art of Storytelling
Jack Day, Instructor
Thursdays | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm | Sunny Slope Classroom
Through interactive exercises and practical examples, participants will develop a deep understanding of storytelling's essential elements and how to effectively apply them in their creative endeavors. With the skills and knowledge gained from this course, individuals will have the capacity to craft captivating narratives that engage their audience.
Jack Day has a wealth of experience as an educator, having taught the Art of Storytelling for OLLI at Auburn between 2008 and 2012 and subsequently at the University of Alabama from 2014 to 2017. His expertise extends beyond the classroom, as he is a practiced performing storyteller and the author of several books on the subject, underscoring his proficiency in storytelling.

The Atomic Bomb and the End of WWII
Frank Broz, Instructor
Tuesdays | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm | Pebble Hill and Zoom - OLLI Shares AU
This course will examine Japan’s response to the bombing and destruction of their cities and industries by the US military, as well as the USSR’s entry into the war in its final days. We will discuss the creation of Japan’s political system, the development of the atomic bomb and other weapons, and their role in Japan’s surrender. We will also review the film Oppenheimer and its place in the historical narrative.

Frank Broz holds a BA in history from Loyola University Chicago and has taught several courses for OLLI.

Biography, Archives, and Junk: Material Culture as Artistic Medium
Randi Evans, Instructor
Thursdays | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm | Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art
Drawing inspiration from the exhibitions and collections at The Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, this course will examine how artists utilize found objects, ranging from archival documents to discarded materials, in their artistic expressions, responding to personal, political, and geographic histories. Taking place at the museum, students will have the unique opportunity to directly engage with the exhibitions and access the study room to view works from the museum’s collection. Throughout the course, participants will examine the artists’ creative processes and the significance of employing diverse mediums facilitated by weekly readings, discussions, and brief writing assignments. Additionally, students will have the chance to interact with visiting artists and museum staff, gaining insights into the care and preservation of these often-delicate artworks.

Randi Evans holds an MA in Cultural Studies and a PhD in Performance Studies from UC Berkeley. She has worked as an educator in various community, higher education, and cultural settings.

The Carter Presidency in Retrospect
Larry Gerber, Instructor
Thursdays | 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm | Sunny Slope Annex
This course examines the complex legacy of Jimmy Carter, who is frequently acknowledged for having the most successful post-presidential career in US history. Despite his one-term presidency, commonly considered less successful, marked by a substantial defeat in his re-election bid, the course provides an in-depth analysis of the Carter presidency. This analysis covers both his domestic and foreign policies and includes a review of recently published works that seek to present a more favorable assessment of his presidential tenure.

Larry Gerber is a retired Auburn University professor of history.

Chinese Brush Painting
Dong Shang, Instructor
Tuesdays | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm (6 sessions) Starts January 23 | Sunny Slope Annex
This course is a hands-on introduction to Chinese brush painting and calligraphy. It focuses on capturing the essence of nature through suggestion and simplicity. The traditional subjects of flowers, animals, and landscapes express the sense of harmony inherent in Chinese culture. Students will learn fundamental brush strokes, composition, and spontaneous-style painting techniques.
**Class Fee:** The class fee is $110, payable to the instructor. **Required Materials:** Required materials should be purchased from Dong. Please get in touch with her by email at dongshang@hotmail.com for inquiries and purchases. Payment options include making checks payable to Dong Shang or utilizing Zelle payment at 229-347-6293. Dong will have the necessary supplies available at the first class meeting.

Dong Shang, a native of China with a degree in Art, is an art designer. She immigrated to the United States and has since built a successful career as a freelance artist and art teacher.

**Common and Colorful: Four Southern Governors (OLLI Shares)**  
Dr. Richard Rhone, Instructor  
**Tuesdays | Jan. 16, 23, 30; Feb. 6 | 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm**  
This course examines the vibrant political landscape of the 20th-century American South, renowned for its charismatic and captivating politicians. It centers on four particularly intriguing populist governors: Miriam “Ma” Ferguson of Texas, Huey “Kingfish” Long, “Uncle Earl” Long of Louisiana, and “Big Jim” Folsom of Alabama.

Richard Rhone, Ph.D., has been a valuable member of the OLLI community for over a decade. Following retirement from careers in public education administration and child abuse and neglect prevention, he has shared his expertise by teaching American history classes.

**Communication and Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions for Dementia Care**  
Leisa Askew, Instructor  
**Tuesdays | 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm | Sunny Slope Annex**  
This course equips caregivers, healthcare professionals, and family members with essential skills for effective dementia care. Participants learn adaptive communication techniques and explore non-pharmaceutical interventions to enhance the quality of life for dementia patients.

Leisa Askew is a licensed social worker with 27 years of experience working with the aging population. She is also a certified Dementia Care Specialist and Aging Resource Specialist.

**Culinary Creations: Cooking with Ursula Higgins**  
503 Sanders Street, Auburn  
Enrollment limit: 7  
**Course fee:** $15 per class to be paid to OLLI at the time of registration.  
Ursula Higgins presents a series of hands-on cooking classes. Students prepare, cook, and eat their culinary creations. If a participant has dietary restrictions, please get in touch with Ursula. **The class fee is non-refundable.**

Register for individual Culinary Creations: Cooking with Ursula Higgins classes by using the day’s course code:

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**Ursula Higgins** is a retired restaurateur and professional caterer who pioneered good food and fine dining in the Auburn/Opelika area. She is chair of the OLLI at Auburn Social Committee.

**Discovering Lee County’s Past: A Journey Through History (REVISED)**  
*Jason Bryant, Instructor*  
**Thursdays | (6 sessions 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22) | 9:00 am - 10:30 am | Sunny Slope Annex**  
Lee County, Alabama, is a diverse and dynamic region with a rich history and vibrant present; this county offers a glimpse into the heart of the Deep South. Its county seat, Opelika, is known for its charming downtown area, while the nearby city of Auburn is renowned for Auburn University and its passionate college football culture. Lee County is not only a hub for education and sports but also a place where the natural beauty of the southern landscape shines through, with rolling hills, forests, and the scenic Chattahoochee River. The area’s heritage is deeply rooted in traditions, particularly cotton and peanuts, which have significantly shaped its economy and traditions. Join us for a three-week course as we look back at the history of Lee County.

**Dr. Jason Bryant** is an Associate Clinical Professor and Director of the Truman Pierce Institute. He also serves as a board member for the Lee County Remembrance Project.

**Downsize and Declutter with Movers and Shakers (OLLI Shares - Zoom only)**  
*Alice Maxwell, Instructor*  
**Tuesdays | 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm | Feb. 13, 20, 27; March 5**  
Downsizing can be overwhelming. Join us for expert tips on moving and decluttering, from decorators to movers, estate sales, and more.

**Alice Maxwell** has 29 years of experience helping people downsize and declutter properly.

**Engineering an Empire, Part II**  
*Herb Shivers and Jim Barber, Instructors*  
**Mondays | 9:00 am - 10:30 am | Sunny Slope Annex and Zoom**  
**Enrollment Limit (In-Person): 40**  
Engineering an Empire is a documentary series that explores various civilizations’ architectural and engineering accomplishments throughout history. Peter Weller hosts the show and pays tribute to the achievements of empires such as the Romans, Maya, Aztecs, and Ancient Egyptians. Although these empires eventually declined, their legacy lives on through their impressive architecture and the pages of history books.

**Dr. Charles H. "Herb" Shivers** has been an AU OLLI member since 2012. He is a retired UAB Professor who worked with NASA and the Senior Executive Service. In addition, he has worked with the Tennessee Valley Authority, the US Army, and the National Guard. Herb is a retired Licensed Professional Engineer in Alabama and holds degrees from Auburn University, Texas A&M University, and The University of Alabama in Huntsville.

**Jim Barber** holds a BCE degree from Auburn University with additional studies at Villanova University, University of Houston, and Sacramento State. He has 54 years of experience in construction, engineering design, project management, and international shipping/transportation and trade. Science and history are at both ends of his happiness rainbow.
Environmental Ethics
Edward Loewenstein, Instructor
Wednesdays | 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm | Sunny Slope Main Classroom
The course starts with a short, interactive discussion on the distinction between ethics and morality. It then explores philosophical argumentation and logical fallacies, followed by an overview of classical ethical theories and their differences. The rest of the course is dedicated to reading, discussing, and critiquing essays on topics related to environmental ethics. The topics may include animal rights, overpopulation, natural resource use/exploitation, valuing nature, wilderness, and environmental activism.

Edward Loewenstein holds a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri and retired as a professor with expertise in uneven-aged forest management, silvics, and environmental ethics from Auburn University’s College of Forestry, Wildlife, and Environment (CFWE). He received accolades, including the CFWE Forestry Club Teacher of the Year Award, the Harold E. Christen Award for Service to Teaching, and the Harry Murphy Award for Excellence in Advising. In 2013, he was elected an SAF Fellow and inducted into the Alabama Forester’s Hall of Fame.

Exploring Artistic Expressions: Open Studio
John Willer, Instructor
Thursdays | 11:00 am - 1:30 pm | Sunny Slope Annex
Experience the art world in a course catering to artists of all levels. This open studio concept allows for diverse media, including acrylic paint, oil paint, pencils, pastels, and more – the choice is yours. With the freedom to experiment and explore your unique artistic voice, you’ll be able to connect with other art enthusiasts in an inspiring and engaging environment. Our class coordinator and fellow students are available to provide assistance, if necessary, but the final product and the approach taken to create it is entirely up to you. Please note that you must bring your own supplies.

John Willer, a Memphis Academy of Art graduate with an MFA degree, has established a successful career in painting and drawing. His exceptional artwork is showcased in prestigious galleries and private collections, such as the Alice Walton Collection.

Exploring Mixed Media
Margee Bright-Raglan, Instructor
Mondays | 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm | Sunny Slope Annex
This course delves into mixed media, exploring various creative techniques. Participants will investigate the realms of drawing, painting, and collage, allowing for a comprehensive and hands-on experience in combining these diverse art forms.

Margee Bright-Ragland is an artist and educator with a B.F.A. from Auburn University (1970) and an MA in Visual Arts from Georgia State University (1974). As a professor at Georgia Perimeter College, she taught art appreciation, drawing, and watercolor. Her art has been exhibited in the United States, Europe, and Latin America, including her piece Birds in Landscape in Georgia’s State Art Collection.

Eye: The Aging Eye
Jason Chang, Instructor
Wednesdays | (3 sessions, 1/17, 1/24, 1/31) | 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm | Sunny Slope Annex
This course will explore the structure of the eye and its function as part of the nervous system. Topics will include eye diseases associated with aging and tips for preventative health.

Jason Chang is a retired faculty from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.
Gardening in East Alabama
Charles Mitchell, Instructor
Tuesdays | 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm | Sunny Slope Classroom
In East Alabama, the combination of heat, humidity, and an extended growing season presents challenges and opportunities for organic growers. With mindful planning around the seasons, a wide variety of vegetables can thrive, and there are low-maintenance fruits that flourish in your backyard. Additionally, native trees and shrubs can find a home in your eco-friendly landscape. This class will provide tailored lectures catering to the class’s specific interests and hands-on activities to kickstart the early spring garden.

Charles Mitchell retired from Auburn University in 2016 after 36 years of service as Extension Agronomist-Soils. He has degrees from Birmingham-Southern College (B.S.), Auburn University (M.S.), and the University of Florida (Ph.D.) and taught for four years at Clemson University in South Carolina before coming back to his home state of Alabama. He has taught Master Gardener classes since the program began in Alabama. He and his wife, Peggy, live in a garden near Loachapoka.

Gentle Chair Yoga
Sara Anderson, Instructor
Thursdays | 4:15 pm - 5:30 pm | Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
This course offers a unique opportunity to embrace the gentle art of yoga while comfortably seated in a chair. With expert instruction, you’ll learn a series of yoga postures and fundamental principles, enhancing your flexibility, balance, and overall well-being. The class also includes a simple self-massage technique for relaxation. No prior yoga experience is necessary, making it accessible to all.

Course Requirements:
- Comfortable clothing suitable for gentle movement.
- Participants should bring a small blanket for added comfort during the practice.

Sara Anderson is a dedicated and certified RYS 200-hour Yoga Alliance instructor, trained at the renowned Shiva Dancing School of Yoga in Asheville, North Carolina.

The High Middle Ages: Europe from the 9th to the 12th centuries
Joseph Kicklighter, Instructor
Tuesdays | 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm | Pebble Hill and Zoom - OLLI Shares AU
Explore Europe during the High Middle Ages, from the 9th to the 12th centuries. Our focus is to investigate the historical roots of Western civilization during this period.

Dr. Joseph Kicklighter, a retired professor of Medieval History from Auburn University, has been teaching at the university since 1975 and still teaches there part-time. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of the South and obtained his Ph.D. from Emory University. Since 2015, he has also been teaching for OLLI.

Hinges and Twinges: Active Adult Exercises
Deborah Manasco, Instructor
Wednesdays | 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm | Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Join us for standing and chair exercises that enhance flexibility, strength, and balance, promoting functional fitness. Focus on building muscle memory, increasing mobility, and fall prevention through movements inspired by daily activities. A light cardio component adds motivation, encouraging safe motion awareness and confidence. Participants can proceed at their own pace.

Deborah Manasco is a retired law practitioner with the State of Alabama. She holds undergraduate studies in Health, PE, and recreation and is a certified therapeutic horsemanship instructor through PATH, Intl. Deborah has taught Active Older Adult exercise classes at various institutions and is an avid equestrian.
The History of the US Navy, Part I
John Parr, Instructor
Tuesdays | 9:00 am - 10:30 am (6 sessions) - 1/16-2/20 | Sunny Slope Annex
Enrollment limit: 40
Explore the history of the United States Navy, spanning two and a half centuries. Learn how the Navy has shaped American history, from its early days combating piracy to its role in major conflicts and global security today. Discover the human story of dedication, innovation, and sacrifice that underpins this vital institution.

John Parr served in the US Navy for 22 years, starting as a Seaman Recruit and retiring as a Lieutenant Commander. He now lives in Auburn with his wife and has been a member of OLLI since 2013. John holds a BS, MS, and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering.

Humor in the Opera House (OLLI Shares - Zoom only)
Elizabeth Aversa, Instructor
Mondays | 9:00 am - 10:15 a.m.; Jan 22, 29; Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26; March 4 | OLLI Shares-ZOOM only
This course explores operas that are just fun and have kept audiences laughing through the years. Mozart's "Cosi fan Tutte" (1789), Verdi’s "Falstaff" (1893), and Shostakovich's "The Nose" (1928) are among the works we will enjoy while learning about comic opera's history and characteristics.

Elizabeth Aversa is a retired University of Alabama faculty member. Although her professional career was in library & information science education, she was "raised on opera" and has enjoyed it all her life. This is thanks to her parents, who introduced her to opera at an early age, and to her husband, with whom she enjoys operas at venues from the Met to The University of Alabama Opera Theatre.

Hunger: Causes, Consequences, and Solutions
Douglas C. Coutts, Instructor
Wednesdays | 9:00 am – 10:30 am | Sunny Slope Annex
This course will examine hunger as a complex issue of sustainable human development that affects everyone worldwide. Topics to be covered include root causes and consequences of domestic and global hunger, as well as current responses and potential solutions. This course is based on the introductory course of the Auburn University Hunger Studies Minor. Course discussion will also focus on helping participants develop a skill set for global citizenship that includes opportunities for advocacy, leadership, and critical thinking.

Douglas Casson Coutts, a retired United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) veteran, introduced and taught Auburn’s inaugural undergraduate course on "World Hunger: Causes, Consequences, and Responses" during his sabbatical from 2008 to 2012. With 30 years of experience in the United Nations system, he now serves as a Distinguished Visiting Professor Emeritus in the AU Office of International Programs, where he occasionally shares his expertise as a guest lecturer and speaker.

Intermediate Hikes at Chewacla State Park
Harold Bruner & Maureen Donnan, Instructors
Tuesdays | 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm | Meet at Chewacla State Park
Enrollment Limit: 20
Participants will need to pay the entrance fee of $4.00 in person (People 62 and older are $2.00)
Embark on a new course tailored for those seeking longer distances and a faster pace than the shorter Monday hikes at Chewacla. Most hikes will span approximately 3-4 miles, offering an invigorating outdoor experience. A small day pack and water are suggested. At least one hiking pole is mandatory; two poles are preferred.
**Harold Bruner** has hiked extensively in the U.S. and Canada and, more recently, in northern England. He has led hikes for OLLI for the last six years. As a forestry graduate of Purdue, he worked in the forests of the Midwest for many years. Since moving to Auburn in 2014, he has enjoyed the biodiversity and many hiking opportunities in Alabama.

**Maureen Donnan** was a member of the first OLLI hiking group several years ago. She has served as the sweep (last hiker) for every hiking group. Maureen has extensive knowledge of the Chewacla trails.

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**Introduction to the Works of Carl Jung: Complex, Archetypes, Introvert, and Extravert**

**Steve Harrison, Instructor**

**Thursdays | 9:00 am – 10:30 am | Sunny Slope Classroom**

This course explores Carl Gustave Jung’s psychological theories, some of which have permeated popular culture. Topics encompass the personal unconscious, collective unconscious, complexes, and archetypes like persona, shadow, anima, animus, fool, scapegoat, and more. The course culminates with examining Jung's theory of psychological types through lectures and discussions.

**Steve Harrison**, an instructor with a background in mathematics and English literature, spent time in the software industry before retiring and teaching literature at Southern Union Community College. He has conducted OLLI classes on various poets and began exploring the works of Carl Jung in the 1970s, finding them intellectually stimulating.

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**The Instruments of Folk and Roots Music**

**Mike Reinke, Instructor**

**Tuesdays | 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm | Zoom Only - OLLI Shares - AU**

This class explores the origins and evolution of American folk and roots music. African-American folk music is incorporated, and its commercial separation from Anglo-American folk music is discussed. Special attention is given to the folk music of Alabama. An overview of the structure and composition of traditional folk, roots, and blues music and the (mostly) stringed instruments used to play them is provided. The classification, meaning, and historical background of numerous 20th-century folk, roots, and blues songs are explored in a structured manner. The impact of various folk, roots, and blues musicians on contemporary music and culture is assessed. This is the course’s ninth term, with new material each term. Hear a wide variety of music, including old favorites and lesser-known contemporary songs that you will find equally enjoyable. If you would like more information, please email mikereinke68@gmail.com.

**Mike Reinke** is a retired Auburn University faculty member who taught in the school (now College) of Pharmacy for 22 years, during which time he received several teaching awards. He received an undergraduate degree from Jamestown College in North Dakota, a Master of Science degree, and a Pharm.D. degree from the University of Michigan. He has been teaching in the OLLI@AU program since 2016.

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**Learning Spanish, Level 1**

**Sylvia Cooke, Instructor**

**Tuesdays | 9:00 am – 10:30 am | Sunny Slope Classroom**

**Enrollment limit: 14**

This introductory course, facilitated by Instructor Sylvia Cook, utilizes the Great Courses DVD to cover the content of a first-semester college Spanish course. With the expert guidance of Professor Bill Worden from the University of Alabama, you’ll embark on a journey to learn a new language and kickstart your communication skills. Professor Worden’s system, specifically tailored for adult learners, is presented step-by-step, complemented by essential learning strategies. These strategies not only empower you to become a successful language learner but also help you actively engage with and retain the material. **Required Book: The *Learning Spanish Workbook* is available during the first session for $20 via credit card or check.**
Sylvia Cooke is retired after 32 years as a Spanish teacher; twenty were at Auburn High School. She taught all levels of Spanish, from beginning speakers through preparation for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate examinations.

Learning Spanish, Level 2
Sylvia Cooke, Instructor
Mondays | 9:00 am - 10:30 am | Sunny Slope Classroom
For those who have completed the first level of Learning Spanish or have an equivalent of a first-year Spanish course, this class provides an opportunity to practice what you've learned and venture into new territory. It's designed to prepare you for more advanced conversations and boost your ability to express yourself on a wide range of topics in Spanish. Sylvia Cook is your in-class guide as you explore the art of language acquisition. The course features Professor Bill Worden from The University of Alabama, a Great Courses instructor who has developed a cutting-edge language-learning system that has been highly effective for adult learners for over two decades.
Required Book: The Learning Spanish II Workbook is available for $20 via credit card or check during the first session.

(CANCELED) Lee County Remembrance Project: Stories of our Past, Part II
Jason Bryant & Ashley Brown, Instructors
Thursdays | (4 sessions 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 2/29) | 9:00 am – 10:30 am | Sunny Slope Annex
This course examines the history of Lee County lynching victims in Lee County and explores the efforts of The Legacy Museum and Memorial to keep their stories alive.

Jason Bryant earned his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Auburn University in 2015. He currently serves as the Director of the Truman Pierce Institute and as a board member for the Lee County Remembrance Project. 
Ashley Brown holds a Ph.D. in Counseling and has played a pivotal role as a rounding member of the Lee County Remembrance Project.

Life with iPhone: A Conversational Workshop series
Mike Akins, Instructor
Wednesdays | (4 sessions, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 2/28) | 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm | Sunny Slope Annex
This series is designed for individuals who rely on their iPhone (any model) for communication, entertainment, finances, healthcare, shopping, or various aspects of daily life. Join fellow OLLI members for concise presentations, discussions, and guided open conversations. Discover the latest methods to maximize your iPhone's potential while managing the tsunami of marketing that often accompanies staying connected.

Mike Akins is the chair of the OLLI technology committee and has a background as an online learning producer, videographer, and personal tech trainer. He holds a Ph.D. and an M.S. in Educational Technology, which enables him to collaborate effectively with educators and creatives to enhance learning experiences.

Line Dancing: Beginners
Betsy Keown and Wanda Knight, Instructors
Tuesdays | 9:00 am - 9:45 am | Boykin Community Center Gym
400 Boykin St., Auburn
Enrollment limit: 25
Join us for a 45-minute line dancing class where you'll learn basic steps and dances. We'll be moving to an eclectic mix of music ranging from Glenn Miller to Willie Nelson, Charlie Daniels, Little Big Town, and more.
Line dancing is enjoyable and a fantastic way to get a workout for your body and mind. For comfort, please wear shoes without taps and bring a water bottle.

**Betsy Keown** has been line dancing twice weekly for sixteen years and teaching for the past ten. She loves the exercise and the joy of performing at nursing homes and other venues.  
**Wanda Knight** has been line dancing for over nine years and has assisted Betsy Keown in several classes.

**Line Dancing: Intermediate**  
**Betsy Keown and Wanda Knight, Instructors**  
**Tuesdays | 10:00 am - 10:45 am | Boykin Community Center Gym**

**Enrollment limit: 25**  
This class is intended for individuals with some line dancing experience. We will dance to various music genres, ranging from Glenn Miller to Willie Nelson, Charlie Daniels, Little Big Town, and more. In addition to being enjoyable, this class is also an excellent workout for both the body and mind. Please wear comfortable shoes without taps and bring a water bottle.

**Betsy Keown** has been line dancing twice weekly for sixteen years and teaching for the past ten. She loves the exercise and the joy of performing at nursing homes and other venues.  
**Wanda Knight** has been line dancing for over nine years and has assisted Betsy Keown in several classes.

**Local Naturalists on Nature**  
**Gary Wagoner, Coordinator**  
**Mondays | 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm | Sunny Slope Annex & Zoom**  
This course is taught by a team of seven local naturalists who take a multi-disciplinary approach to exploring various subjects such as botany, ichthyology, ornithology, geology, and ecology. Their areas of expertise will be shared as they discuss the incredible natural diversity of our region that they have deeply studied and observed.

**January 22**  
**Scot Duncan, Ph.D.: Alabama Audubon and Bird Stewardship**  
Scot Duncan is Executive Director of Alabama Audubon and Professor of Biology at Birmingham-Southern College

**January 29**  
**Patrick Thompson: Plant Conservation in Alabama**  
Patrick Thompson is Curator of special collections, Arborist, and Conservation Gardener at AU’s Davis Arboretum, and earned an MS in Horticultural Science from Auburn University.

**February 5**  
**Wendy Hood, Ph.D. and Kailey Paul, Department of Biological Sciences: Lactation - the quintessential and arguably, most fascinating of mammalian traits**  
Wendy Hood is Professor of Biological Sciences and Curator of Mammals at the Auburn University Museum of Natural History. She will be joined by graduate student Kailey Paul, who is studying mitochondrial responses to heat stress during lactation.

**February 12**  
**Olivia Sciandra: All About Armadillos**  
Olivia Sciandra is a park naturalist for Chewacla State Park and a graduate student at the Auburn University School of Forestry, Wildlife Science, and Environment.
February 19
Sarah Wolak: Gardening for the Birds, Bees, and Butterflies: The Case for Planting Natives
Sarah Wolak spent many years as a field biologist, primarily working with songbirds and plants, before settling in Auburn and opening a native plant nursery.

February 26
Joseph Jenkins: Imperiled Reptiles and Amphibians of Alabama
Joseph Jenkins is a biologist with the Alabama Natural Heritage Program at Auburn University. His research focuses on the conservation biology of imperiled reptiles and amphibian species across the state of Alabama. Joe received his M.S. in Biological Sciences from Auburn University in 2019.

March 4
Bill Finch: The Paint Rock Forest Research Center and Forest Conservation
Bill Finch is the Founding and Executive Director of the Paint Rock Forest Research Center in Paint Rock, Alabama.

Maps: From Greeks to Google, Part II
Sonny Dawsey, Instructor
Mondays | 9:00 am – 10:30 am | Pebble Hill
This is a continuation of the course with the same title offered last Fall. During this term, we will explore using maps as tools for data analysis, the growth of digital applications, remote sensing, Google Earth, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Though many of us no longer use paper maps, new technologies have created innovative means for us to observe and interpret the features on the surface of the Earth.

Sonny Dawsey, Ph.D., is a retired AU Professor in the Department of Geography, where he taught multiple courses in cartography and quantitative methods. He has taught over a dozen different courses for OLLI during the past decade.

Marry Me A Little (with apologies to Stephen Sondheim)
Dan LaRocque & Daydrie Hague, Instructors
Tuesdays | 9:00 am - 10:30 am | Pebble Hill
Enrollment limit: 25
The course will explore plays that revolve around dramatic literature and theatrical production from ancient Greeks to the present. The course will focus on how marriage is presented and analyzed in modern plays. Students will be expected to read plays and watch performances of selected scenes.
Required Materials:
The Clean House by Sarah Ruhl,
The Rabbit Hole by David Lindsay-Abaire and
Company by George Furth and Stephen Sondheim.

Dan LaRocque is an Emeritus Professor at Auburn University with expertise in theater. He has directed numerous productions and is a member of AEA and SAG/AFTRA.
Daydrie Hague, an Emeritus Professor at Auburn University, is passionate about performing arts. She has an extensive background in theater. She is a member of AEA and SAG/AFTRA.

Michelangelo: Rebel With a Cause, Sistine Secrets (OLLI Shares-UAH)
Debbie West, Instructor
Tuesdays | Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 27, March 5 (6 sessions) | 1:15 pm - 2:45 pm
Meet Michelangelo, the Italian Renaissance genius. Follow his mastery of sculpture, painting, architecture, and his triumphant coded vision few knew or know even today. Many of you have seen these masterpieces, but now you can learn this backstory to appreciate his prowess fully.
Debbie West graduated from UAH with a bachelor’s in art. Awarded two Fulbright Scholarships to study art in China and Turkey, she traveled extensively in Europe to study original works of the Masters. She taught art in the Huntsville City Schools System for 25 years.

Opelika Theatre Company presents Creative Aging Senior Theatre
Marty Moore, Instructor
Thursdays | 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm | Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Explore the remarkable benefits of Senior Theatre for older adults, such as improved memory and cognitive skills, self-discovery through character study and storytelling, the joys of camaraderie, enhanced social skills, goal attainment, and a deeper appreciation for the work of others. Discover how seniors involved in theatre improve their health, enhance Activities of Daily Living (ADLs), foster a more positive outlook on life, and enrich their overall quality of life based on evidence from similar programs nationwide.

Marty Moore, the owner of Opelika Theatre Company, brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the world of theater. With a rich background in the field, Marty has a passion for sharing the art of theater with others.

Philosophy of Physics, Astronomy and Cosmology (OLLI Shares-UAH - Zoom only)
Jim Beaufre & Ken Rex
Tuesdays | Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 20 (4 sessions) |8:30 am to 10:00 am
The advances of modern physics and astronomy lead to a reality very different from what we experience in everyday life. The philosophies of science deal with how we should deal with these realities and interact with the big questions of philosophy: What is reality? How do we know/learn things? What are the critical components of our universe, and what is our best idea of how it started and evolved? What are the scientific and philosophical uncertainties in our understanding of the universe? What aspects of its evolution are most important to life?

Jim Beaufre received a Ph.D. in theoretical physics at Iowa State University and continued his education as an Atomic Energy Commission Post-doctoral Fellow at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. He later began employment at Teledyne Brown Engineering in Huntsville, Alabama. He also taught a graduate-level course at UAH. In 2004, he received several major awards from Teledyne, including Teledyne Brown Engineering Fellow for lifetime technical achievement.

Ken Rex holds a Ph.D. in Astronomy and Physics. He taught for seven years at the college level and served 28 years in the defense industry.

Scoundrels of Betrayal in Early America (OLLI Shares – Zoom only)
Dr. Richard Rhone, Instructor
Tuesdays | Feb. 13, 20, 27; March 5 |1:30 pm - 2:45 pm
Our nation has had its share of scoundrels in public life, but some of the worst lived during our country’s early years. We will discuss the evil betrayals of four of the most treasonous scoundrels from the Revolutionary War to the War of 1812 who share an infamous legacy of profit over patriotism.

Richard Rhone, Ph.D., has been a valuable member of the OLLI community for over a decade. Following retirement from careers in public education administration and child abuse and neglect prevention, he has shared his expertise by teaching American history classes.
Shorter Hikes at Chewacla State Park
Harold Bruner & Maureen Donnan, Instructors
Mondays | 8:30 am - 10:30 am | Meet at Chewacla State Park
Participants will need to pay the entrance fee of $4.00 in person (People 62 and older are $2.00)
Enrollment limit: 30
Enjoy a thorough introduction to nearby Chewacla State Park with shorter weekly hikes of 2-3 miles. We will visit Town Creek, Moore’s Mill Creek, Chewacla Creek, and Hidden Falls and cover most of the trails in the park. A small day pack is suggested. At least one hiking pole is mandatory; two poles are preferred.

Harold Bruner is a retired forester who now hikes for fitness and pleasure. He has hiked extensively in many U.S. and several Canadian provinces. Having spent more than 60 years in Indiana and Florida, he now enjoys the biodiverse landscape of Alabama.

Silver Sneakers
David Tillman, Instructor
Mondays and Fridays | 11:30 am - 12:30 pm | Max Fitness Center (189 E. University Dr. Auburn)
All registration for this class is managed through Max Fitness.
Max will be offering Silver Sneakers classes to OLLI members twice a week. This workout includes fall prevention drills and exercises to improve strength and endurance. A chair and handheld weights or tubing are provided and recommended. You must either sign in as a gym or Silver Sneakers member to take advantage of those classes.

OLLI members will be offered a Max Fitness membership at a special discounted price. Check your insurance to determine if Silver Sneakers is covered at no cost. If not, you can join Max for $25 monthly, provided you sign a 6-month contract. This OLLI-exclusive package gives full access to the gym, waives the $49 enrollment fee, reduces the 18-month commitment to 6 months, and reduces the monthly fee by 17%.

David Tillman is a certified Silver Sneakers instructor.

Staying Active - Day Hiking
Harold Bruner, Instructor
Thursdays | 8:30 am - 4:00 pm | Meet at Sunny Slope by 8:45 am unless otherwise directed.
Enrollment limit: 25
The approach for the longer hikes on Thursday will change for the winter term. Hike locations will alternate between Chewacla State Park and the other sites we typically visit. For weeks 1, 3, 5, and 7, we will hike at Chewacla. For weeks 2, 4, and 6, we will hike at Lake Martin, FDR, in Pine Mountain, GA, and occasionally at other locations. The Chewacla hikes will begin at 8:30. For the out-of-town hikes, we will carpool and leave Sunny Slope at 8:30. The Chewacla hikes will be up to 10 miles with options to exit after 3-4 miles. The out-of-town hikes are often in the 5-10-mile range.
This class is designed for more advanced hikers and may involve challenging terrain. To join, you should have a moderate fitness level and prior hiking experience at these distances. If you are new to our group, we will require a demonstration of your hiking proficiency before the first class. You should bring a small day pack. Hiking poles are mandatory.

Required: 2 hiking poles
Participants typically carpool from Sunny Slope to our out-of-town destinations. At the end of the term, you will be assessed $5 for each time you ride with the carpool. The money will be distributed among the drivers to offset their expenses.

Harold Bruner has hiked extensively in the U.S. and Canada and, more recently, in northern England. He has led hikes for OLLI for the last six years. As a forestry graduate of Purdue, he worked in the forests of the Midwest for many years. Since moving to Auburn in 2014, he has enjoyed the biodiversity and many hiking opportunities in Alabama.
Tai Chi and Qigong: Ancient Arts with Modern Health Benefits  
Kitty Frey, Instructor  
Thursdays | 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm | Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
Course Fee: $10 payable to the instructor on the first day of class for a required booklet  
Tai Chi or Taijiquan originated in ancient China. With roots in martial arts, traditional medicine (which includes qigong), and an understanding of the laws of nature. Tai Chi has been recognized as one of the most effective ways to maintain or improve almost all aspects of health, specifically balance. The ultimate purpose is to cultivate the qi or life force energy inside each of us, allowing it to grow and flow smoothly. Outwardly, the movements appear soft and easy, but as an internal art, strength is being built from the inside out. A short Tai Chi sequence or set and a variety of meridian tapping techniques will be taught.

Kitty Frey is an Occupational Therapist and a Master Trainer for the Tai Chi for Health Institute. She holds multiple certifications relevant to adult health and wellness. As the owner of Moving Matters, Kitty has been teaching and educating about the importance of mindful movement for over 20 years.

Understanding America’s Healthcare System  
Jay Jones (not the Sheriff), Instructor  
Mondays | 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm | Sunny Slope Classroom  
Explore the intricacies of America’s healthcare system in this comprehensive survey course. Gain insights into the complexities and challenges that make our healthcare system convoluted and difficult to navigate.

Jay Jones is a former OLLI instructor at Auburn University and the University of Alabama. He is a retired hospital administrator, national author, and public speaker on various healthcare topics. Jay currently provides continuing education for nursing and social work in Alabama and Mississippi.

Wagner, Nietzsche, and the Origins of Post-Truth  
Jay West, Instructor  
Tuesdays | 9:00 am - 10:30 am | Zoom Only - Olli Shares - AU  
Discover the roots of our Post-Modern, Post-Truth era by delving into the ideas of Richard Wagner and Friedrich Nietzsche. This course explores how their works and philosophies set the stage for today’s world of skepticism, subjectivity, and blurred truths. We’ll examine their impact on culture, music, and philosophy, connecting the dots between the 19th century and our current information landscape. Ideal for those interested in the evolution of truth in a changing society.

James (Jay) West is a retired professor with a Ph.D. in Russian History from Princeton University. He taught for 39 years at Trinity College and Middlebury College before continuing to teach at OLLI NWU Chicago and European University. He is now a frequent instructor for OLLI at Auburn and the University of Vermont. He resides in Middlebury, Vermont.
Walk This Way
Bob Banks, Instructor
Thursdays | 8:30 am - 9:30 am | Meet at Auburn Public Library
Enrollment limit: 30
Join us for this weekly program designed to assist you in developing a walking exercise program. Students will meet at Auburn Public Library each Thursday to learn about the benefits of walking. This course is open to novice and veteran walkers.

Bob Banks is an avid runner. He is a retired ALFA insurance professional.

The War in the Skies: Europe 1939-1945
Buck Beasom, Instructor
Fridays | (4 sessions) 1/19, 26, 2/3, 9 | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm | Zoom Only
Explore the impact of airplanes on World War II, focusing on the Luftwaffe, Royal Air Force, and United States Army Air Force. Trace the evolution of air power between the World Wars, the aircraft designers, and wartime decisions that shaped this conflict. Uncover each air force's defining moments and the role of American industrial might in securing victory despite substantial human and aircraft losses.

Buck Beasom, a lifelong student of World War II, holds a BS from the State University of New York and an MBA from the Rochester Institute of Technology. He shares his knowledge as an instructor for various OLLI's nationwide.

Why Motivating Ourselves Matters as We Age (OLLI Shares-UH - Zoom only)
William Confer, Instructor
Wednesdays | Jan 31, Feb 7, 15, 21 (4 sessions) |8:30 am to 10:00 am
Discover how beliefs and behaviors influence our lifespan and well-being, exploring the dilemmas of existence and aging. Acquire fundamental attitudes and competencies for life satisfaction, including self-development planning, relationship dynamics, and pursuing a fulfilling life.

William Confer, a retired clinical psychologist with 38 years of experience, is a Diplomate of the American Board of Professional Psychology and the American Board of Sleep Medicine.

Winter Mysteries
Harold Bruner, Instructor
Tuesdays | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm | Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Throughout this course, we will explore several mystery novels and participate in group discussions. A member of the class will lead each discussion. Book titles are forthcoming.

Harold Bruner is a dedicated OLLI member who enjoys exploring a diverse range of books. He has led book discussions for OLLI for a few years and serves on the Executive Committee of the OLLI Advisory Council.
Writing Our Lives  
Terry Ley, Instructor  
Mondays| 11:00 am - 12:30 pm | Pebble Hill  
Enrollment limit:  35

Our lives are like patchwork quilts, writes Richard L. Morgan in *Saving Our Stories: A Legacy We Leave*, and as we age, we detect the patterns we have woven and seek to understand them. Explore your life’s patterns and the stories they prompt. Revisit memories, reflect on them, write about them, and share your stories with an empathetic audience of peers.

**Suggested Text:** *Second Cup: Collected Columns*, Mary Adams Belk  

**Terry Ley** taught high school English in Iowa before coming to Auburn University, where he was a professor of English education. He has taught Writing Our Lives for OLLI for sixteen years.
Special Interest Groups (SIG):

Any OLLI member, general or academic, may register for a SIG

Book Club (SIG)
Katherine Anderson, Facilitator
Mondays | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm | Sunny Slope Classroom
Join the Book Club SIG with no genre restrictions. Each week, participants present a book summary that has personally impacted them or brought joy. Explore related author works, historical context, and more.

Coffee & Conversation (SIG)
Wednesdays | 9:00 am - 10:00 am | Sunny Slope Kitchen
Join the Coffee & Conversation (SIG) group for lively discussions on various topics. This self-led, member-driven group offers a friendly, social environment for sharing thoughts, insights, and stories. Please note there is no facilitator.

Deaf Culture: American Sign Language (SIG)
Betty Hare, Facilitator
Wednesdays | 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm | Sunny Slope Conference Room
Explore American Sign Language (ASL) and Deaf Culture in this Special Interest Group. Join us to learn and engage with ASL and the Deaf community.

Engage in Civic Participation: Enhance Auburn Together! (SIG)
Roberta Jackel, Facilitator
Tuesdays | 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm | Sunny Slope Conference Room
Participate in meaningful projects and volunteer opportunities, working with fellow OLLI members to address local needs, from environmental concerns to supporting low-resource families. If you’re already involved with organizations like the Food Bank of East Alabama or the CARE Humane Society, let’s record and promote your volunteer hours and expand participation through OLLI programs. Embrace opportunities to make a positive impact, regardless of your skills or background.

Looking at Photography with a Critical Eye (SIG)
Curtis Shannon, Facilitator
Thursdays | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm | Sunny Slope Conference Room
Enrollment limit: 10
If you have ever wondered why contemporary photography is exciting and how to engage with it, this Special Interest Group (SIG) is for you. Join us as we explore the power of observation, the nature of photographs, developing a critical eye, mapping photographs, and picturing the South.

Lunch Buddies (SIG) (Bring Your Own Lunch)
Thursdays | 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm | Sunny Slope Kitchen
The Lunch Buddies Special Interest Group (SIG) is a casual and informal social gathering for OLLI members. You can enjoy your lunch, engage in interesting conversations, and socialize with your fellow OLLI members in a relaxed setting. This is a no-facilitator group where you can bring your own lunch, share your thoughts, and embrace the camaraderie of the OLLI community. It’s a great opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals and enjoy the company of others.
Special Interest Groups (SIG) continued:

Any OLLI member, general or academic, may register for a SIG.

(Play) Mah Jongg (SIG)
Kim Scarborough, Facilitator
Tuesdays | 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm | Sunny Slope Kitchen
Enrollment Limit: 16
You must have had some previous experience playing. Please note that there won't be any formal instructors available, as this is not a course for learning the game. It's an opportunity to meet and play with other game enthusiasts. OLLI provides 12 cards and one set, but please bring your own cards and game sets if you have them.

Meditation (SIG)
Roberta Jackel, Facilitator
Thursdays | 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm | Sunny Slope Annex
The OLLI Meditation SIG convenes weekly to meet, discuss, and meditate together as we aspire to build our meditation practices of concentration, mindfulness, and lovingkindness. The responsibility of choosing readings for discussion is divided among the members. Beginners and veteran meditators of all disciplines are welcome.
# OLLI Brown Bag Series

## BYOL (Bring your own lunch) & learn.
*Free and Open to the Public. OLLI Membership is not required.*

**Wednesdays | 11:30 am - 1:00 pm | Pebble Hill**

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Updated 1/5/2024

Classes: January 16, 2024 - March 4, 2024
**Register for OLLI at Auburn University Winter Courses**

Welcome to OLLI at Auburn University! We are thrilled to offer diverse, exciting, and enriching courses for the upcoming Winter semester. Whether you're looking to pursue a new interest or enhance your existing skills, OLLI has something for everyone.

**Important Notes:**

- **Registration Period:** Mark your calendar! Registration for the OLLI Winter Courses begins December 4, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. and concludes on December 15, 2023, at noon.
- **Holiday Closure:** OLLI's offices will be closed from the end of business on December 15th and will resume regular operations on January 2nd, 2024.
- **Membership and Fees:**
  - OLLI Membership is a prerequisite for course enrollment each term, along with a Winter Academic Fee ($80). If you haven’t joined yet, sign up at any time. OLLI Annual Membership is $50.
  - For Special Interest Groups (SIGS), only OLLI membership is required; no additional Academic Fee is necessary.
- **Membership Term:** Your OLLI Membership spans from August 1, 2023, to July 31, 2024.
- **Course Specifics:** Please review course descriptions for any specific requirements, such as additional materials or a course fee.
- **Registration Support:** If you have any registration inquiries or require assistance, contact the OLLI office at 334-844-3146 or olli@auburn.edu. Be mindful that holiday hours may impact availability.

**Convenient Registration:**
Utilize the QR code below to access the registration page directly:

![QR Code](QR_code_image)

Thank you for choosing OLLI at Auburn University. We look forward to a wonderful Winter semester filled with exciting learning opportunities and engaging experiences. Happy learning!