

Fall 2022 Course Descriptions and Biographies

African American Education in Alabama

Elijah Gaddis and Keith Hebert, Instructors

Wednesday, September 14 – November 2 (eight weeks)

9:00am – 10:30am | Boykin Community Center Auditorium (400 Boykin St., Auburn), in-person

Enrollment limited to fifty students

This eight-week course will introduce students to the historic struggle for equal education in Alabama. From early attempts at self-education by enslaved people, to the establishment of institutes of higher education or elementary education, we'll hear from a host of expert teachers each week. The class will culminate with a field trip to tour regional Rosenwald schools and hear about efforts to preserve them.

Dr. Keith Hébert is the Draughon Associate Professor of Southern History at Auburn University.

Dr. Elijah Gaddis is an Assistant Professor of History at Auburn University.

American Citizenship and Its Decline

Jim Barber and Herb Shivers, Instructors

Monday, September 12 – October 3 (four weeks)

9:00am – 10:30am | Sunny Slope Annex, in-person and Zoom

Enrollment limited to thirty students

For most of American history, the people, understood as citizens, have ruled through elected representatives under the terms of the Constitution. Today, the constitutional rule of citizens is threatened by a new form of government, unaccountable to the people, in which power is held by a ruling class that seeks to transform our society. This course, based on Victor Davis Hanson's book *The Dying Citizen*, examines the origins and history of citizenship in the West and the grave challenges to American citizenship today.

*Jim Barber holds a BCE degree from Auburn University with additional studies at Villanova University, University of Houston, and Sacramento State. He has 57 years of experience in construction, engineering design, project management, and international shipping/transportation and trade. He first joined OLLI in 2009 and has since conducted 66 different courses at OLLI at Auburn and OLLI at AUM. He is currently in slow pursuit of advanced studies in Serial Napping and Creative Curmudgeon Relaxation. Science and History are at the ends of his happiness rainbow!

*Herb Shivers is a long-time OLLI member who taught at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, the University of Alabama in Huntsville, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He has also taught for OLLI at Auburn several times in the past. Herb is fully retired after a 36-year civil service career including jobs with the Army, TVA, and NASA along with his professor positions.

America's Longest Conflict: The Apache Wars

Richard Rhone, Instructor

Tuesday, October 11 - November 1 (four weeks)

1:30pm – 2:45pm | Zoom only | OLLI Shares UA

For over 25 years, the American military was involved in a supreme struggle with the Apaches for control of the American Southwest. At one point in time, over one-fourth of the entire American Army was over this campaign that perhaps began with the kidnapping of a 12-year-old boy and ended the imprisonment in Florida, Alabama, and Oklahoma of the Apache leadership and their families. We'll discuss the politics and battles as well as the personalities including Geronimo, the Apache Kid, Mickey Free, and Cochise, as well as Generals Crook and Miles.

*Richard Rhone has taught American history classes for OLLI for over a decade after retiring from careers in public education administration as well as child abuse and neglect prevention. His topics generally range

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from the American Colonial/Revolutionary War through the Civil War and the Wild West, with an emphasis on the personalities and social aspects of history. His doctorate is from The University of Alabama.

Ancient Life in Alabama

Bill Deutsch, Instructor

Tuesday, October 11 - November 1 (four weeks)

9:00am – 10:30am | Pebble Hill, in-person and Zoom | OLLI Shares AU

In-person enrollment limited to fifty students

This course will cover the history of paleontology in the world and Alabama, highlighting the key people and fossils that advanced understanding of Deep Time and life on Earth. Alabama fossils will be displayed in class along with images in PowerPoint presentations. Optional field trips to the Auburn University Paleontological Collections, Alabama Museum of Natural History, and the McWane Science Center will be offered.

*Bill Deutsch is a Research Fellow, Emeritus in the AU School of Fisheries, with degrees in Zoology, Biology, Anthropology, and Aquatic Ecology. He is a member of the Alabama Paleontological Society, and regularly searches for fossils statewide and beyond. He has had a life-long interest in paleontology, and is currently writing a book titled, *Ancient Life in Alabama: The Fossils, the Finders, and Why It Matters*.

The Asia-Pacific War

Frank Broz, Instructor

Wednesday, September 14 – November 2 (eight weeks)

9:00am – 10:30am | Pebble Hill, in-person and Zoom | OLLI Shares AU

In-person enrollment limited to fifty students

This course is designed to view WWII in the Pacific as not just a U.S. vs Japan event but as a major part of a world war with many other nations involved. A key focus early in the war will be the role of China. We will look at battles, tactics, and the weapons used by each participant and how these changed as the war went on. In this course, we will show how the Japanese attempt to rule Asia eventually led to the end of colonial rule and created the Asia we know today.

*Frank Broz has a BA in history from Loyola University of Chicago. He has studied military history his entire life and has taught numerous classes on the subject for OLLI including *War in the Pacific*, *The Atomic Bomb and the End of WWII*, *How the Industrial Revolution Changed the Nature of Warfare*, and several others.

Book Group SIG

Maureen Donnan and Leslie Beard, Facilitators

Wednesdays, September 14 – November 2 (eight weeks)

2:30pm – 4:00pm | Sunny Slope Conference Room, in-person | Register and attend all eight class sessions

Enrollment limited to twelve students

If you love a good book and discussing it, this is the group for you. This new Book Group will decide its theme and structure during the first meeting. This is a special interest group (SIG). Any OLLI member, general or academic, may register for this SIG. You are encouraged to attend all eight sessions.

The Brain Train

Jay Jones, Instructor

Wednesday, September 14 – November 2 (eight weeks)

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2:30pm – 4:00pm | Auburn Public Library Conference Room, in-person

Enrollment limited to twenty students

This course is one in a series of courses designed to provide a greater understanding of maintaining a healthier and stronger brain. *Household Chores and Brain Health, Wives Tales and Brain Health, Laughter for a Healthier Brain, Sleep and Its Importance for Brain Health, Brain Health and Medical Tourism and The Brain-Gut Connection - It All Starts There.*

*With almost 40 years of healthcare experience including 20 years of inpatient and outpatient acute and post-acute care including physical rehabilitation, Jay Jones has been active in administration and new business development for numerous national organizations including HealthSouth, Hospital Corporation of America, Tenet Health and others.

Brazil: The Southern Giant

Sonny Dawsey, Instructor

Tuesday, September 13 – November 1 (eight weeks)

11:00am – 12:30pm | Pebble Hill, in-person

Enrollment limited to fifty students

Brazil is the largest and most populous nation south of the equator, but it seldom receives the attention devoted to other areas. The country features the World's 12th largest economy, and approximately half of the people in South America speak Portuguese instead of Spanish. This course will explore elements of the geography, history, and everyday life in Brazil using a variety of maps, images, and videos.

*Dr. Sonny Dawsey grew up in Brazil and has traveled widely in Latin America. For over three decades he was Professor of Geography and Director of the Institute for Latin American Studies at Auburn University. Since retiring, he has taught a wide variety of courses at OLLI.

Chinese Brush Painting

Dong Shang, Instructor

Wednesday, September 14 – November 2 (eight weeks)

2:30pm – 4:00pm | Sunny Slope Annex, in-person

Chinese Brush Painting supplies may be ordered from Dong by emailing her at

dongshang@hotmail.com. Dong will deliver/mail the package to you. Please mail a check to Dong at 1700 Olivia Way; Auburn, AL 36830 or transfer the payment to her Zelle account at 2293476293.

Chinese painting supplies: 3 bamboo brushes, Chinese Ink, Chinese watercolor paint, rice paper (54x27") 5 sheets

Enrollment limited to twelve students

This hands-on course is an introduction to Chinese brush painting and calligraphy. Chinese painting attempts to capture the essence of nature. It is the art of using suggestion and simplicity to imply reality. The sense of harmony that pervades Chinese culture is expressed in the traditional subjects of flowers, animals, and landscapes. Learn the basic brush strokes, composition, and spontaneous-style painting techniques.

*Dong Shang is a native of China and has a degree in Art. An art designer, she immigrated to the United States, where she has worked as a freelance artist and an art teacher.

The Columbian Exchange

Rod Rodriguez-Kabana, Instructor

Thursday, September 15 – November 3 (eight weeks)

11:00am – 12:30pm | Auburn Public Library Conference Room, in-person

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This course will examine the repercussions of the “discovery” and settlement of the American continent by Europeans on indigenous populations, on Europeans, and indeed the world as a whole. Emphasis will be given to the effects resulting from deliberate, and fortuitous, interchanges of plants and crops, animals, livestock, and of pathogens and diseases. The course will begin with considerations of the differences between the Spanish world in 1492 and the New World. This will be followed by descriptions of the effects and significance of Eurasian plants and animals in the New World and conversely of New World plants and animals in the Old World. The terrible consequences of the inadvertent interchange of human pathogens between the Europeans and New World indigenous populations will be discussed in depth.

*Rod Rodriguez-Kabana is Emeritus Distinguished University Professor who taught and performed research for 50 years at Auburn University in the Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology, and Microbiology. He taught courses on cropping systems, plant nematology, plant pathology and presented numerous lectures on the impact of European and American cultures on Agriculture, Science and Engineering, as well as shaping the thinking and ideology of peoples on both sides of the Atlantic and the world in general.

Communism in Power from Stalin to Mao

John Parr, Instructor

Tuesday, September 13 – October 18 (six weeks)

9:00am – 10:30am | Sunny Slope Annex, in-person

Enrollment limited to forty students

The course videos will be on Canvas. You will receive an invitation to create a Canvas account the weekend prior to classes starting. You must be registered by September 8 to receive the Canvas invitation.

The struggle to determine a successor to Lenin saw the rise of an unscrupulous party official named Joseph Stalin. By the time of Stalin’s death in 1953, communist governments controlled a third of the world’s population and were mounting a serious challenge to Western democracies. Trace the growth of this influential ideology from Stalin’s consolidation of power to the establishment of communist regimes in Eastern Europe, China, Korea, Vietnam, and elsewhere.

*John Parr served in US Navy for 22 years, enlisted as Seaman Recruit in 1960, retired as Lieutenant Commander in 1982. Later, John was a professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Evansville in Indiana. John has a BS in Electrical Engineering from Auburn University; a MS in Electrical Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School; and earned a PhD in Electrical Engineering from Auburn University. He and his wife are Auburn residents and have been OLLI members since 2013. John was the instructor for several OLLI courses, most recently, *The Rise of Communism from Marx to Lenin*, in Spring 2022.

C.S. Lewis on Christianity

Herb Shivers and Jim Barber, Instructor

Monday, October 10 – 31 (four weeks)

9:00am – 10:30am | Sunny Slope Annex, in-person and Zoom

Enrollment limited to thirty students

C.S. Lewis is the best modern writer at explaining the truth and goodness of the Christian faith. Through his imaginative and invigorating style, Lewis answers the eternal questions of theology in a manner that attracts those outside Christianity and strengthens those within the faith. This course examines Lewis’s writings about morality, conversion, prayer, the Bible, suffering, and the afterlife.

*Herb Shivers is a long-time OLLI member who taught at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, the University of Alabama in Huntsville, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He has also taught for

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OLLI at Auburn several times in the past. Herb is fully retired after a 36-year civil service career including jobs with the Army, TVA and NASA along with his professor positions.

*Jim holds a BCE degree from Auburn University with additional studies at Villanova University, University of Houston, and Sacramento State. He has 57 years of experience in construction, engineering design, project management, and international shipping/transportation and trade. He first joined OLLI in 2009 and has since conducted 66 different courses at OLLI at Auburn and OLLI at AUM. He is currently in slow pursuit of advanced studies in Serial Napping and Creative Curmudgeon Relaxation. Science and History are at the ends of his happiness rainbow!

Cultural Heritages

Adeola Fayemi, Mariela Delgado, and Susie Webster, Instructors

Thursday, September 15, 22; October 13, 20, 27; November 3 (six weeks)

11:00am – 12:30pm | Sunny Slope Main Classroom, in-person

Enrollment limited to twelve students

This course focuses on different countries from each of the world's continents and discusses elements of its culture including customs, traditions, arts, symbols, food, music, religions, and beliefs. Classes will include discussions with indigenes of the featured country (Auburn International Cultural Center (ICC) staff, students, faculty, and other members of the Auburn Community.)

The class explores the commonalities and differences of a wide range of unique ideas, strengths, and perspectives of each (country-based) cultural grouping and includes a real time virtual connection with an on-the-ground correspondent in the featured country, when possible. In each session, we will get a snapshot of a specific country and we will learn and engage with several cultural forms belonging to the explored country. The class underscores how an appreciation of cultural diversity promotes understanding, builds relationships, and enriches community life.

This fall, we will be featuring the following countries: Venezuela, Haiti, Saudi Arabia, Turkistan, Nepal, and Colombia

*Dr. Adeola Fayemi, Manager of Inclusion and Diversity at Auburn's International Cultural Center Office of International Programs, is the facilitator for this class. Dr. Fayemi is a certified diversity and inclusion professional with over 25 years' experience in higher education, training, and state and municipal government administration.

*Ms. Mariela Delgado and *Susie Webster, Educational Coordinator and Administrative Specialist, respectively, are the coordinators of the class presenters from the featured countries. Ms. Delgado is a professional language acquisition specialist and Ms. Webster manages the logistics of several educational programs. Both have graduate degrees and over 30 years of professional experience in program administration, cumulatively.

Desegregating Schools in Alabama: Voices from the Field

Jason Bryant, Instructor

Thursday, September 15 – November 3 (eight weeks)

9:00am – 10:30am | Auburn Public Library Conference Room, in-person

May 17, 1954 would be a historic day and would influence education in the US with the verdict of Brown v. Board of Education. School leaders grappled with implementation of integration, and in many portions of the country, integration would be a slow and often tumultuous process for African Americans fighting for their rights to attend integrated schools. This course will share the stories of those that lived this time and were instrumental in integrating schools in Lee County.

*Jason Bryant is an associate clinical professor and the Director of the Truman Pierce Institute.

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Did You See the Movie, “CODA”?

Betty Hare, Instructor

Tuesday, September 13 – November 1, No class 9/20, 9/27, or 10/4 (five weeks)

11:00am – 12:30pm | Sunny Slope Main Classroom, in-person

Enrollment limited to ten students

We will explore the world of deaf culture in films and discover many resources on the internet.

*Betty Hare has taught sign language at OLLI before and through them, the public library in Alex City. She has taught Introduction to American Sign Language off and on for 3 years at the Alex City Library. Betty has a M.Ed. for the deaf and used sign language in teaching Special Education for 27 years in public school.

Europe and the United States after the Great War: Conflict and Diplomacy

Joseph Kicklighter, Instructor

Tuesday, September 13 – November 1 (eight weeks)

2:30pm – 4:00pm | Pebble Hill, in-person and Zoom

Recommended Book: Raymond Sontag, A Broken World 1919-1939, ISBN: 0060139544

In-person enrollment limited to fifty students

In this fall term class, we shall consider some aspects of the 1920s as defeated Germany begins to emerge from its loss. We will also discuss the rise of the Soviet Union as a major power and the often reluctant role of the United States in European affairs. Moreover, we will consider the significant but declining roles of France and Great Britain in the post war Europe of the Twenties.

*Dr. Joseph Kicklighter, Professor Emeritus of Medieval History at Auburn University, taught there from 1975 to 2015 and still teaches part time there. An undergraduate at the University of the South, he received his PhD at Emory University. He has been teaching for OLLI since 2015.

Exploring Drawing Media and Techniques

Margee Bright Ragland, Instructor

Monday, September 12 – October 31 (eight weeks)

5:00pm-6:30pm | Sunny Slope Annex, in-person

Enrollment limited to twelve students

This course explores a variety of drawing media and different techniques for using the various forms of media. Media include pencil, pen and ink, charcoal, conte crayon, colored pencils, and pastels.

Each class session will focus on one medium and the variety of techniques for application.

Students will work from a variety of subject matter including still life, landscape, photographs, and abstract images. The course will enhance your drawing skills and be lots of fun.

* Margee Bright Ragland is a painter and a teacher. As a professional painter, Margee works in many media exploring personal narratives that evolve as she makes the work. As a teacher, Margee shares with her students the discoveries she has made as a visual artist. She learns from her students' creative explorations, as they improve their skills and discover their own vision as artists.

Margee earned a BFA from Auburn University and MVA from Georgia State University. She was Professor of Art at Georgia State University/Perimeter College. She retired in September of 2017 after 30 years of teaching. During her tenure at Georgia State University, she taught in study abroad programs every summer in Italy, England, Ireland, France, Greece, Spain, Russia, and Chile. She is presently making art, dancing, and enjoying traveling with her husband. Ms. Ragland exhibits her work throughout the United States and Europe.

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Fall Book Talk Series

4:00pm – 5:00pm | Pebble Hill, in-person

August 30: Marlin Barton presents *Children of Dust*

September 14: Edith Powell presents *More Than Peanuts: The Unlikely Partnership of Tom Huston and George Washington Carver*

October 13: Chris Reid presents *Mobilizing the South: The Thirty-First Infantry Division Race and World War II*

November 3: Jacqueline Trimble presents *How to survive the Apocalypse*

Fall Gardening in East Alabama

Charles Mitchell and Patricia McNeal, Instructors

Wednesday, September 14 – November 2 (eight weeks)

2:30pm – 4:00pm | Sunny Slope Conference Room, in-person

The heat, humidity, and long growing season in East Alabama can be a challenge to organic growers but offer an opportunity for year-round gardening. We can grow just about any vegetable with a little care as to the season of the year we plant it, and there are some care-free fruits that thrive in your backyard. A host of native trees and shrubs can thrive in your eco-friendly landscape. The class will offer lectures oriented toward the class's interests and some hands-on activities for the fall garden in East Alabama.

*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 4 years at Clemson University in South Carolina before coming back to his home state of Alabama. In addition to working with farmers and county Extension Agents throughout Alabama on matters related to soils, plant nutrition and fertilizer use, he has taught Master Gardener classes since the program began in Alabama. He and his wife, Peggy, live and garden near Loachapoka.

*Patricia McNeal is retired from Auburn University and has been an active Lee County Master Gardener volunteer for more than 15 years. She has volunteered for the UAB Harvest for Health Program and is Senior & Youth Volunteer for the Family Enrichment Center of Loachapoka.

Fall Mysteries

Harold Bruner, Instructor

Tuesday, September 13 – November 1 (eight weeks)

2:30pm – 4:00pm | Sunny Slope Annex, in-person

Enrollment limited to twenty-five students

Books, in order that they will be discussed:

A Taste for Death by P.D. James; ISBN: 978-1400096473 (discussion led by Rebecca Kelly)

A Great Reckoning by Louise Penny; ISBN: 978-1250130747 (discussion led by Joan Sampson)

Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger; ISBN: 978-1451645859 (discussion led by Ann Beale)

Holy Island by L J Ross; ISBN: 978-1514642825 (discussion led by Janet Deutsch)

Enrollment limited to twenty students

In this course, we will read several mystery novels and discuss them. Each discussion will be led by a different member of the group. Harold facilitates the organization of this group.

*Harold Bruner is an active OLLI member who enjoys reading good mysteries. He has been leading book discussions for OLLI for a few years now.

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History of Architecture and Art

Philip Fretwell, Instructor

Thursday, September 15 – November 3 (eight weeks)

2:30pm – 4:00pm | Auburn Public Library, in-person

A serialized history of architecture and art with interspersed references to the history and evolution of the cosmos followed by the appearance and evolution of humankind and its creations.

*Philip Fretwell is a local architect who formerly taught at Auburn University. He was also the State Building Commissioner of Alabama.

Introduction to Architecture Drawing

Laura Murray, Instructor

Thursday, September 15, 22, 29, Oct. 6 (four weeks)

2:30pm – 4:00pm | Sunny Slope Annex, in-person

Supplies: pencil, white plastic eraser, ruler, paper (preferably on the thicker side - we will paint it during the last class), waterproof pen (I like sharpie pens). For the October 6 class, you will need EITHER watercolors or markers, paint brushes, a cup of water, and a plate (for a palette).

All art begins with simple shapes. During this class, Laura will teach you how to draw any piece of architecture (a barn, your favorite boutique, your home, etc.) using simple shapes like squares, rectangles, triangles, and circles. You will learn about simple measurements, you will figure out what supplies work best, and you will finish your masterpiece by adding some simple watercolor. But most of all - you will learn how to relax and enjoy the process... because creativity is the best form of self-care!

*Laura Murray is a graphic designer, illustrator, author, maker of things, coloring book lover, and student of all things beautiful.

Introduction to Jamaican Cooking

Tanisha Stephens, Instructor

Friday, September 16 – October 21 (six weeks)

11:00am – 1:00pm | Sunny Slope Annex, in-person

Enrollment limited to ten students, register and attend all eight class sessions

Fee of \$80 due at the first class session. Pay directly to Tanisha Stephens.

In this six-week course, we will make six delicious Jamaican inspired entrees and popular side dishes, while touching on the history and culture of the beautiful island of Jamaica. Tentative listing of weekly entrees - one per week: Oxtails, Jerk Chicken, Curry Goat, Escovitch Fish, Stew Chicken, Pepper Shrimp.

*Tanisha Stephens is owner and lead photographer at Intown Imagery, a boutique photography studio based in Opelika, Alabama. She is a world traveler who loves to eat and cook a variety of tasty international dishes.

The Land Looks After Us: An Introduction to the Study of Native American Religious History

Joel Martin, Instructor

Tuesday, September 13 – November 1 (eight weeks)

11:00am – 12:30pm | Sunny Slope Annex, in-person and Zoom

In-person enrollment limited to forty students

Native Americans practice some of the most spiritually profound, historically resilient, and ethically demanding religions. This course provides an overview of some of these traditions by organizing the presentation historically and drawing on select folk stories, rituals, and landscapes to trace the development of Native American religions across time and geography.

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*Joel Martin is a former Costo Professor of American Indian Affairs at the University of California Riverside and author of several publications focused on Native American history and religion, including the award-winning book *Sacred Revolt* and *The Land Looks After Us*.

Learning Spanish: How to Understand and Speak a New Language, Level I, Part IV

Sylvia Cooke, Instructor

Monday, September 12 – October 31 (eight weeks)

9:00am – 10:30am | Sunny Slope Classroom, in-person

Book: *Learning Spanish* workbook available during the first class session for \$20, check only, payable to Auburn University.

Enrollment limited to twelve students

The Fall 2022 term is part 4 of 4. This Great Courses DVD course is designed to cover the curriculum of a first semester college course in Spanish. Throughout the lessons, you'll explore *how* to learn a language and start communicating. Your teacher, world-class language instructor Professor Bill Worden of the University of Alabama, has refined this approach over more than 20 years, distilling the step-by-step system that works the best for adult learners. As an integral part of the language lessons themselves, he teaches a set of learning strategies that will enable you to be a successful language learner and will help you actively use and remember the material.

*Sylvia Cooke is retired after 32 years as a Spanish teacher, twenty of which were at Auburn High School. She taught all levels of Spanish from beginning speakers through preparation for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate examinations.

Line Dancing: Beginners

Betsy Keown and Wanda Knight, Instructors

Tuesday, September 13 – November 1 (eight weeks)

9:00am – 9:45am | Boykin Community Gym (400 Boykin St., Auburn), in-person

Enrollment limited to twelve students

This 45-minute class will introduce students to line dancing. Basic steps and dances will be taught. We will dance to a variety of music - everything from Glenn Miller to Willie Nelson, Charlie Daniels, Little Big Town and many more. Not only is it fun, but great exercise for the body and the mind. Wear comfortable shoes, no taps, and bring a water bottle.

*Betsy Keown has been line dancing twice weekly for twelve years and teaching for the past seven. She loves the exercise and the joy of performing at nursing homes and other venues.

*Wanda Knight has been line dancing a little over nine years and has assisted Betsy Keown for several classes.

Line Dancing: Intermediate

Betsy Keown and Wanda Knight, Instructors

Tuesday | September 13 – November 1 (eight weeks)

10:00am – 10:45am | Boykin Community Gym (400 Boykin St., Auburn), in-person

Enrollment limited to twelve students

This line dancing class is designed for those with some line dancing experience. We will listen and dance to a variety of music - everything from Glenn Miller to Willie Nelson, Charlie Daniels, Little Big Town and many more. Not only is it fun, but great exercise for the body and the mind. Wear comfortable shoes, no taps, and bring a water bottle.

*Betsy Keown has been line dancing twice weekly for twelve years and teaching for the past seven. She loves the exercise and the joy of performing at nursing homes and other venues.

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*Wanda Knight has been line dancing a little over nine years and has assisted Betsy Keown for several classes.

Mahjong SIG

Ann Beale, Judy Jones, and Mary Ann Hanson, Facilitators

Mondays, September 12 – November 3 (eight weeks)

3:00pm – 5:00pm | Sunny Slope kitchen, in-person | Register and attend all eight class sessions

Mahjong is a tile-based game that was developed in the 19th century in China and has spread throughout the world since the early 20th century. It is commonly played by four players. Similar to the Western card game rummy, Mahjong is a game of skill, strategy, and luck.

This is a special interest group (SIG). Any OLLI member, general or academic, may register for this SIG. You are encouraged to attend all eight sessions.

Meditation SIG

Scott Bishop, Facilitator

Thursday, September 15 – November 3 (eight weeks)

5:00pm – 6:30 pm | Sunny Slope Annex, in-person | Register and attend all eight class sessions

Meditation is a practice in which an individual uses a technique – such as mindfulness, or focusing the mind on a particular object, thought, or activity – to train attention and awareness, and achieve a mentally clear and emotionally calm and stable state. Meditation may significantly reduce stress, anxiety, depression, and pain, and enhance peace, perception, self-concept, and well-being. Research is ongoing to better understand the effects of meditation on health (psychological, neurological, and cardiovascular) and other areas.

This is a special interest group (SIG). Any OLLI member, general or academic, may register for this SIG. You are encouraged to register and attend all eight class sessions.

Military Blunders, Season 3

John Mason, Instructor

Wednesday, September 21 – October 26 (six weeks)

1:15pm – 2:45pm | Zoom | OLLI Shares UAH

Winston Churchill once said that "War is mostly a catalog of blunders." Throughout the course of military history, an argument could be made that more battles are lost through a series of incompetent command decision, failure of planning, underestimating of opponents, or simply arrogance on the part of one of the combatants than are won. In this course, we'll look at six instances where one side - who should have won - lost due to one of these blunders. It seems to be a lesson that some just never learn.

*John Mason served as a contracting specialist with the U.S. Government. Now happily retired, he spends his time in Huntsville, Alabama, studying a variety of topics from military history to science. When not researching and writing, he likes to spend time reading, computer gaming, walking, and playing a really bad game of golf. John has lived in Huntsville since 1987 with his two sons, Derek and Jared.

Needlework SIG

Joan Sampson, Facilitator

Thursday, September 15 – November 3 (eight weeks)

11:30am – 12:30 pm | Sunny Slope Annex, in-person

Knitters, crocheters, needlepointers, cross-stitchers, come join a group of like-minded people to encourage and work on pieces while enjoying each other's company.

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This is a special interest group (SIG). Any OLLI member, general or academic, may register for this SIG. You are encouraged to attend all eight sessions.

Opera's Greatest Composers: Verdi & Wagner

Elizabeth Aversa, Instructor

Monday, September 12 - October 31 (eight weeks)

9:00am – 10:15am | Zoom | OLLI Shares UA

This course explores the music of two composers, born in the same year (1813), who changed how the world listens to opera.

*Elizabeth Aversa is a retired The 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 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.

Philip Henry Gosse: Naturalist-artist in Alabama, 1838

Gary Mullen, Instructor

Tuesday, September 13 – October 5 (four weeks)

9:00am – 10:30am | in-person and Zoom | OLLI Shares AU

This course will focus on the life of Philip Henry Gosse (1810-1888), a young naturalist who came to Alabama in 1838 as a school master in Dallas County. He later published an account of his experiences in this frontier setting titled *Letters from Alabama: Chiefly Relating to Natural History* (1858), providing what is regarded as the finest account of the natural history of the Black Belt region during Alabama's early plantation period. He also produced a collection of exquisite watercolors of Alabama insects and plants that he titled *Entomologia Alabamensis*. This course will tell his life story and extraordinary accomplishments, including his recognition as the "Father of Jamaican Ornithology" and Fellow of the Royal Society of London.

*Gary Mullen is Professor emeritus of entomology in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Auburn University, and an authority on the English naturalist Philip Henry Gosse.

Psychological Reality and Unwarranted Beliefs

Bill Confer, Instructor

Wednesday, September 14 – October 19 (six weeks)

8:30am – 10:00am | Zoom | OLLI Shares UAH

Why do so many people believe in things that are untrue? Because psychological reality is not a duplication of physical reality and because we live in a world of uncertainty and complexity. The same imaginative qualities that can lead to creativity and innovation render us susceptible to mistaken beliefs, exploitation by various influencers, and unwarranted belief in conspiracy theories. Please join us as we review the psychological science underlying building blocks of psychological reality, then relate those results to what we know about social influence and cultural contributions to mixing fantasy and reality into fantastic belief.

*Dr. Bill Confer retired from clinical psychology after 38 years of practice. He is a Diplomat of the American Board of Professional Psychology and the American Board of Sleep Medicine. His first degree was in English Literature, and he continues to pursue etymology as a hobby. He is happily married with two children.

The Reagan Legacy: How Does It Compare with Republican Conservatism Today

Fall 2022 Course Descriptions and Biographies

Larry Gerber, Instructor

Monday, September 12 – October 31 (eight weeks)

11:00am – 12:30pm | Sunny Slope Annex | in-person and Zoom

In-person enrollment limited to forty students

This course will examine the Reagan Presidency, both its domestic and foreign policies, and consider how they compare with contemporary Republican conservatism and the policies and appeal of Donald Trump.

*Larry Gerber is a retired AU history professor. He has taught numerous courses for OLLI.

The Road to Pearl Harbor

Tennent Lee, Instructor

Monday, September 12 – October 17 (six weeks)

10:30am – 12:00pm | Zoom | OLLI Shares UAH

This course looks at that fateful day in December 1941 when the Japanese attacked the naval base at Pearl Harbor. Learn about the economic/political events which led to the attack. The course will also examine the various conspiracy theories which still continue to circulate today. For instance, why did the attack come as a surprise to the U.S. Military? Did our leaders know about the attack and let it happen? What did they know and when did they know it?

*Tennent Lee practiced law in Huntsville for 43 years. He holds B.S. and J.D. from The University of Alabama. Since retiring, he has become a "history junkie," especially military and political history. He has taught several OLLI courses on World War II.

Russia-Ukraine: Forward to the Past

Jay West, Instructor

Thursday, September 15 – November 3 (eight weeks)

8:30am – 10:30am | Zoom

Commentators on Russia's war on Ukraine have speculated that Putin may be attempting to restore the USSR, or even the old Russian Empire. This course will suggest that the origins of Putin's aggression may lie in a much more distant past - in the depths of Inner Asia more than a thousand years ago. This course will study the history of the fraught relations between these two cultures over ten centuries.

*James West earned his PhD in Russian History from Princeton. He taught at Trinity College (Hartford) for 24 years, and Middlebury College for 15 years. Retired now, he worked in OLLI NWU Chicago for the last two years. James has recently returned from two years in Petersburg, Russia, where he taught at the European University. His permanent residence is Middlebury, Vermont.

Seasonal Crafts

Sarah McMillian, Instructor

Thursday, September 15 – November 3 (eight weeks)

9:00am – 11:00am | Sunny Slope Annex | in-person only | register for individual workshops

Supply kits are \$15 per workshop payable to the instructor:

Venmo: @Sarah-McMillian-9 | Paypal: Sarahmarie Mcmillian | CashApp: \$MGM2quiltsandcrafts

Enrollment limited to twelve students

9/15 – Memo boards

9/22 – Table centerpieces

9/29 – Welcome signs

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10/6 – Blue jean aprons

10/13 – Door wreaths

10/20 – Halloween crafts

10/27 – Upcycle old clothing

11/3 – Christmas Crafts

*Sarah McMillian is a self-taught seamstress crafter and events decorator. She worked as the JF Drake middle school drama club costume designer from 2013 to 2017. Sarah has created decorations for 2 weddings 2 baby showers multiple elementary school parties over 12 years. She also owns her own home business MGM2. Quilts and crafts. Sarah has created more than 500 quilts, over 300 costumes, and volunteers at the Boykin Community Center doing crafts for the seniors. Sarah would like to teach more seniors how to make crafts using basic items they have at home and old clothing.

The Secret Life of Trees

Anne Randle, Instructor

Monday | September 12 – October 31 (eight weeks)

2:30pm – 4:00pm | Pebble Hill, in-person

Enrollment limited to twenty students

This course will unlock the secrets of the trees and forests that make Auburn the loveliest village. Students will learn about native and urban forest ecosystems, the mechanics and growth of trees, and how to properly care for trees. In addition, students will learn to identify ten new trees each week. At the conclusion of the course, students should have a basic understanding of arboriculture and be able to confidently identify 50 trees.

*Anne Randle is the Urban Forester for the City of Auburn. Anne is a Horticulture and Forestry graduate from Auburn University and joined the city from the University of Georgia Extension

Significant Events that Shaped the Wild West

Richard Rhone, Instructor

Tuesday, September 13 - October 4 (four weeks)

1:30pm – 2:45pm | Zoom | OLLI Shares UA

The American Wild West is full of historical events that continue to be remembered today. Unfortunately, the modern movie and television industry takes the event and perhaps distorts it for entertainment and ticket sales. We'll try to give an accurate account of four significant events that shaped the Wild West in reality as well as fiction.

*Richard Rhone has taught American history classes for OLLI for over a decade after retiring from careers in public education administration as well as child abuse and neglect prevention. His topics generally range from the American Colonial/Revolutionary War through the War Between the States and the Wild West, with an emphasis on the personalities and social aspects of history. His doctorate is from The University of Alabama.

Shorter Hikes at Chewacla State Park

Harold Bruner, Instructor

Monday, September 12 – October 31 (eight weeks)

9:00am – 11:30am | Meet at Chewacla State Park, in-person

No class fee, but you will need to pay the entrance fee of \$4.00 (People 62 and older are \$2.00)

Enrollment limited to forty students

Enjoy a thorough introduction to nearby Chewacla State Park with shorter hikes of 2-3 miles each. We will visit Town Creek, Moore's Mill Creek, Chewacla Creek, Hidden Falls and cover most of the trails in the

Fall 2022 Course Descriptions and Biographies

park. A small day pack is suggested. At least one hiking pole is strongly recommended.

*Harold is a retired forester who now hikes for fitness and pleasure. He has hiked extensively in much of the U.S. including north Georgia and Colorado, and more recently in 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

Monday and Friday | September 12 – November 4 plus whatever is required to fulfill your contract with Max Fitness (eight weeks, two sessions per week)

11:30am – 12:30pm | Max Fitness Center (189 E. University Dr. Auburn) in-person

All registration for this class is handled through Max Fitness.

This workout includes fall prevention drills and exercises to improve strength and endurance. A chair and handheld weights or tubing are recommended.

Max will be offering Silver Sneakers classes to OLLI members twice a week beginning Monday, September 12 through Friday, November 4. To take advantage of those classes you must either sign in as a member of the gym or as a Silver Sneakers member. OLLI members will be offered a Max Fitness membership at a special discounted price. If you have Silver Sneakers on your insurance or Medicare plan, you can use Max Fitness for free; you just need your Silver Sneakers number and your signature. If you don't have Silver Sneakers, you can join Max for \$25 a month, provided you sign a 6-month contract. This OLLI-exclusive package 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.

Sounds of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra

Christopher Confessore and Maria Wilson, Conductors

Thursday, September 15, 29; October 13; Nov. 3

10:30am – 11:45am | Zoom | OLLI Shares UA

Join ASO POPS Conductor Christopher Confessore as he takes you on a 4-week journey through the sounds, sights, music and people of our state's flagship orchestra! Chris will inspire you through conversations about the pieces, musicians and experiences that have shaped our orchestra through the past 100 years.

*Christopher Confessore currently serves as Music Director of the Brevard Symphony Orchestra and Principal POPS Conductor of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra. His schedule as a guest conductor has included appearances with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Houston Symphony, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, and many others. He made his international debut in June 2004, conducting the Sibiu Philharmonic Orchestra in Romania.

*Maria Wilson serves as the Education & Youth Orchestra Manager for the Alabama Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Staying Active - Day Hiking

Harold Bruner, Instructor

Thursday, September 15 – November 3 (eight weeks)

8:00am – 4:00pm | Meet at Sunny Slope by 7:45am unless otherwise directed.

Class sessions: We will hike every week, weather permitting.

There will be a \$35 fee to reimburse volunteer drivers for their expenses. Payment is due the first week that you hike.

Enrollment limited to twenty-five students

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We will continue our tradition of moderate hikes of 5-10 miles within 50 miles or so of Auburn. This is a more advanced class with somewhat challenging terrain. You should be moderately fit and have experience in hiking these distances. If you have not hiked with this group before you may be asked to demonstrate your hiking proficiency prior to the first class. A small day pack is suggested. Hiking pole(s) are mandatory. The primary locations are different trails on or near Lake Martin, and FDR State Park near Pine Mountain, GA.

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

A Study of This Chair Rocks: A Manifesto Against Ageism

Mical Traynor, Instructor

Monday, Sept 12 – Oct 31 (eight weeks)

2:30pm – 4:00pm, Sunny Slope Main Classroom, in-person

Enrollment limited to twelve students

This Chair Rocks: A Manifesto Against Ageism by Ashton Applewhite; ISBN: 0996934707

In our youth obsessed culture, we're bombarded by media images and messages about the despairs and declines of our later years. Explaining the roots of ageism in history and how it divides and debases, we will examine how ageist stereotypes cripple the way our brains and bodies function, look at ageism in the workplace and beyond, critique the portrayal of elders as burdens to society, and describe what an all-age-friendly world would look like. This study will cheer you up, make you mad, and change the way you see the rest of your life.

*Mical Traynor is a 1980 Auburn graduate in Marketing Education. Traynor later studied Interior Design, with a focus on Universal Design/Aging in Place. Currently, Traynor serves as Board Chair for Village Friends, a non-profit in the Auburn/Opelika community that serves as a support system for older citizens. These experiences, as well as her own experience of aging, have made Traynor increasingly aware of the impact of ageism in our society.

Tai Chi for Health: A Meditative Practice to Improve Overall Health and Balance

Kitty Frey, Instructor

Wednesday, September 14-November 2 (eight weeks)

10:30am – 11:15am, Boykin Gym, in-person

Enrollment limited to twenty students

Tai Chi also known as taijiquan is a centuries old exercise and healing art rooted in the laws of nature. In this class we will explore the principles of tai chi while learning a short sequence of movements called a set. Studies have shown that regular practice can improve immunity, decrease pain and the effects of stress, and be part of an effective fall prevention strategy. It's fun, easy to learn yet has great depth for continued learning. Please wear comfortable clothing and flat shoes (no heels) and bring an open mind and willingness to slow down.

*Kitty Frey is an occupational therapist and long-time student and teacher of several mindfulness practices. She has her own business, Moving Matters, and has been teaching mindful movement classes since 2003. Because of its application to fall prevention and the ease in which the principles can be applied to improve posture and everyday functional movement, she has focused on tai chi and qigong as a form of preventative health care. A long-time certified Instructor with the international Tai Chi for Health Institute, she became a Master Trainer for the Institute in 2019.

Walk This Way

Fall 2022 Course Descriptions and Biographies

Bob Banks, Instructor

Thursday | September 15 – November 3 (eight weeks)

8:30am – 9:30am | Meet at Toomer's Corner, in-person

Enrollment limited to thirty students

Join us for this eight-week program designed to assist you in developing a walking exercise program. Students will meet at Toomer's Corner by the oaks 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.

Whatever Happened to Folk Music, Part VII

C. Mike Reinke, Instructor

Tuesday, September 20 – November 1 (seven weeks)

2:30pm – 4:00pm | Zoom | OLLI Shares AU

Maximum Zoom enrollment 90 (first come, first served, although those who have enrolled for one or more previous terms will be given priority)

OLLI Shares AU

The continuation of a sequential, multi-term course, with slide-based Zoom presentations that explore the origins and evolution of North American folk and roots music. The course features numerous audio and audiovisual examples of songs that range from centuries-old British ballads to popular songs during the so-called "folk music revival," to songs released in the last 10-20 years, best classified as "Americana." It incorporates the folk music of African Americans and discusses how this music was separated commercially from Anglo-American folk music. The subject matter is entirely new each term. During Fall Term 2022, we will complete the topic "Black and White Folk Music Intertwined: Religious Songs," and begin the topic "Folk and Roots Music: Instrument Fundamentals." **For more complete course information, please e-mail the instructor at mikereinke68@gmail.com.**

*Mike Reinke grew up in the fifties and sixties during the peak of the folk music revival. While in retirement, he has developed a pronounced avocational interest in the history of American folk and roots music and in how this music has influenced—and continues to influence—North American culture. He has been working on this OLLI course sequence for more than three years.

Writer's Workshop

Patricia Foster, Instructor

Tuesdays and Thursdays, September 20, 22, 27, 29 (four sessions)

5:00pm – 7:00pm | Sunny Slope Annex, in-person | Register for all four sessions

Enrollment limited to ten students

Patricia Foster is the author of two books of nonfiction and the editor of three anthologies of nonfiction prose. *Just beneath My Skin* (University of Georgia Press, 2004), her latest book, is a collection of essays that explores autobiography as a means of creative self-examination. *Kirkus Review* (starred) called it "perceptive, thoughtful – and thought-provoking – with abundant moments of insight," whereas the American Library Association noted that "although writers can feel alone and alienated, Foster seems to have found a place of redemption, where she is at home living beyond the ordinary, which, in turn, infuses her writing with its notable lyricism." Four essays in this collection were named Notable Essays by Robert Atwan (*Best American Essays*) while "A Second Look" won the Mary Roberts Rinehart Award for nonfiction.

Writing Our Lives

Terry Ley and Cathy Buckhalt, Instructors

Fall 2022 Course Descriptions and Biographies

Monday, September 12 – October 31 (eight weeks)

9:00am -10:30am | Pebble Hill (101 S. Debardeleben St., Auburn), in-person

Book: Kephart, B. (2013). *Handling the Truth: On the Writing of Memoir*. Gotham.

ISBN: 9781592408153.

Enrollment limited to thirty-five students

“Our lives are like a patchwork quilt, and it is only in the evening of life that we can see the pattern of what we have woven” (Richard L. Morgan, *Saving Our Stories: A Legacy We Leave*). We all have life stories to tell! Here is an opportunity to reclaim your memories, write about them, and share them with a receptive audience of peers. We will write each Monday morning, responding to stimulus prompts provided by the instructors. Recommended homework: finishing and revising what you have begun in class and reading self-selected memoirs, biographies, and autobiographies.

*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 each OLLI term for seventeen years.

*Cathy Buckhalt is a retired teacher from Opelika Middle School and Southern Union State Community College. She also was associate director of the Sun Belt Writing Project for many years.

Writing Poetry: Vision and Revision

Ken Autrey, Instructor

Monday, September 12 – October 31 (eight weeks)

11:00am – 12:30pm | Pebble Hill, in-person

Enrollment limited to forty students

In this class, we'll consider poetry as means of visualizing and understanding ourselves and the world around us. We'll work on strategies for writing and revising poems, while reading a variety of poems by contemporary poets. Occasionally, we will look at work in progress by class members. All writers are welcome; you need not be an experienced poet to benefit from the pleasures of poetry.

*For many years, Ken Autrey taught poetry workshops at Francis Marion University in South Carolina. He has published four poetry chapbooks, and his work has appeared in various magazines. He has taught poetry writing a number of times for OLLI.