

OLLI at Fresno State Monthly

Keynote | Once A Month | Courses

September 2024

Summer's Still Sizzling, But Welcome to the Fall 2024 Semester!

Welcome to Fall Everyone! Yes, I know if you're looking at the thermostat it's hard to believe but all the signs are there. Classes at Fresno State and across the valley have resumed and our courses begin on Tuesday, September 3rd.

The Advisory Council, Rikki, and I worked hard this summer to put together a fantastic lineup of thought-provoking keynotes, fun adventures, and a wide variety of courses. You'll find longtime favorites like Book Club and Current Events. There are many popular instructors both in person and on Zoom and offerings covering important national topics, science, technology, local, US, and world history, and the arts. Don't miss out on our new(er) instructors either. They have so much to offer. Thank you for supporting your Fresno State OLLI. I look forward to seeing you around campus and on Zoom.

Check out the rest of this newsletter for important information about our schedule.


Pamela Ryer
Acting Executive Director

Navigating Political Shifts: DEIB's Role in Modern Education by Dr. Rashanda Booker

Join us on Thursday, September 12th at 3 p.m. for our very first hybrid keynote!

You have the option to join us at the Satellite Student Union or online via Zoom.



In an ever-evolving political landscape, understanding and implementing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) practices in education is more crucial than ever. Fresno State Diversity Officer, Dr. Rashanda Booker, leads this interactive exploration of the impact of recent political changes on DEIB initiatives in educational institutions and provides practical strategies for creating inclusive learning environments. OLLI students will learn relevant terminology, engage in thought-provoking discussions, and gain an understanding of recognizing barriers to inclusion and collaborating across differences to increase productivity.

Once A Month

Let's Talk Sports



Wed. | Sept. 4, Oct. 4,
Nov. 6, Dec. 4 | 1 - 2:30 p.m.
ED 140

Presenter: Ken Robison

If you like watching, participating in, and talking about sports, join retired Fresno Bee sports writer Ken Robison at a monthly forum and chime in on the latest hot topics. Ken has plenty of stories to share from his lifelong love of athletics and of the people he's gotten to know over the decades. This is an opportunity for OLLI members to share their athletics passions past, present, and future. Be sure to ask Ken about coaching 9-year-old boys' basketball.

Book Club

Fri. | Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1,
Dec. 6 | 9:30 - 11 a.m.
ED 140 and Zoom



Presenter: Kay Davies

OLLI members have been reading a book a month since 2012 and discussing each title in a lively, informative session led by avid reader and educator Kay Davies. This time the list – which is selected by OLLI Book Club participants from fiction and nonfiction books they nominate – offers insights into the Palestinian-Israeli conflict; a little-heralded mid20th-century woman who had major influence over American policies; pre-Civil War America; and

the Vietnam War's impact on American life.

September 6: The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder by David Grann is about an 18th-century shipwreck and two sets of crewmembers who told very different stories about what happened after they washed up on widely distant South American shores.

Current Events

Thur. | Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Dec. 12
10 - 11:30 a.m. | ED 140 and Zoom

Presenter: Lanny Larson

This monthly discussion about what's happening comes as we are in the midst of a divisive, history-making presidential campaign; Supreme Court integrity is in question; Congress is paralyzed by partisan politics; and border security, inflation, media credibility, law and order, climate change, and more are in the news. OLLI participants discuss what's happening locally and around the world and learn as they listen respectfully to classmates sharing views that may be different. Retired journalist Lanny Larson moderates the sessions.

Games You'll Love to Play



Fri. | Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8,
Dec. 13 | 1 - 3:00 p.m. | ED 140

Presenter: Cathy Self

OLLI members requested a fall replay of our summer session class on card games to play and share with family

and friends. OLLI aims to please, so the second Friday each month, player and coach Cathy Self returns to teach us about Phase 10; Five Crowns; Left, Right, Center; Thirty-One; 7-Up; and Ninety-Nine. Deal yourself in and take a break from devices and chores for a couple of hours of fun social interaction. You'll also get a copy of each game's rules to take home.

Short Courses

Spring Flowers: Plant in the Fall to Enjoy in the Spring

Tues. | Sept. 3, 10
1 - 2:30 p.m. | ED 140



Presenter: Karen Baker

If you want to enjoy flowers in your yard and bouquets next spring, this fall's the season to start thinking about your garden in the central San Joaquin Valley. Karen Baker, who retired in 2020 and indulges her passion for cut flowers, will provide information and answer your questions about how to have a spring garden filled with sweet peas, snapdragons, daffodils, pansies, violas, and more by taking advantage of the seasons.

America's Rivers in Art, Songs, and Literature

Wed. | Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25
10 - 11:30 a.m. | Zoom

Presenter: Jannie Dresser

From Henry Thoreau's first writings about New England waterways to T.S. Eliot's poetic imagery and Merle



Haggard's songs of Kern County, rivers have a rich and symbolic role in American culture of the natural wild, expansion and economic growth, and environmental challenge. Our guide is Fresno State alumna Jannie M. Dresser, who also connects us with river-themed works of painters and of Mark Twain, Ernest Hemingway, Woody Guthrie, Bruce Springsteen and many more.

Art for a Nation: The WPA Federal Art Project

Thurs. | September 5, 12, 19, 26
1 - 2:30 p.m. | ED 140

Presenter: Susana Sosa

Roosevelt's New Deal gave birth to the Works Progress Administration (WPA), which funded a wide range of arts projects that helped artists survive economic hardship and nurtured their creativity through the Great Depression. Fresno State and Fresno City College art history instructor Susana Sosa, will demonstrate how the WPA's support for mural paintings, sculpture and graphic art also created a legacy of art patronage within the public sphere.

Cynology 101

Mon. | Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30
1 - 2:30 p.m. | Zoom



Presenter: Dr. Stephenie Slahor

"Fetch" a copy of the OLLI Catalog, "sit" and peruse the offerings, and when you "come" to Cynology 101, un-"leash" your curiosity for a "treat" you'll love to "speak" about. Yes,

popular OLLI presenter Dr. Stephenie Slahor's next topic is dogs. There won't be much time to "paws" as she helps us understand canine origination, domestication, anatomy, extraordinary senses, history, breeds, registries, dog shows, activities, and famous dogs in history and entertainment.

Holocaust Destination: Ecuador

Tues. | Sept. 10
10 - 11:30 p.m. | Zoom



Presenter: Doris Rubenstein

When Hitler and the Nazis rose to power in the 1930s, it became evident to Jews across Europe that their civil and religious rights would soon be in serious jeopardy. Historian and author Doris Rubenstein presents her own story about the 5,000 Jews who chose Ecuador as their haven in the storm and stayed on once World War II ended. Her presentation extends well beyond that, to trace the history of Jews in Ecuador from colonial times to today.

Adapting Your Life Story: A Screenwriting Workshop, Part 1

Wed. | Sept. 11, 25, Oct. 9,
23, Nov. 6, 20 | 3 - 4:30 p.m.
ED 140

**Presenters: Pam Wallace and
Candace Egan**

Turn your lived experiences into a screenplay through the craft of screenwriting. Oscar-winning screenwriter Pam Wallace ("Witness")

and Fresno State film professor Candace Egan will teach OLLI participants screenplay formatting; how to recognize compelling stories, characters and their dialogue; writing visually; story structure; and marketing your original screenplay.

All About Podcasts!

Mon. | Sept. 23, 30
10 - 11:30 a.m. | ED 140



Presenter: Prof. Betsy Hays

You hear podcasts promoted all the time, but you may wonder what they are, why they're so popular, and how to listen to or watch them. Former Fresno State Media, Communication and Journalism Department Chair Betsy Hays has answers to the questions. And she'll show you how to make your own podcast, if you'd like. No experience required!

Rightsize: Match Your Home and Belongings with Your Lifestyle

Tue. | Sept. 24 | 10 - 11:30 p.m. | ED 140

Presenter: Brenda McElroy

With each new phase of life we adjust our interests, values and activities. Sometimes what we've accumulated in larger homes isn't compatible with these life changes. If you're feeling overwhelmed with the prospect of going through 40+ years of possessions, thinking about rightsizing your home to something more manageable, or downsizing, Brenda McElroy, owner of Organized By Choice, offers practical tips and tools to ease the process.

Jim Savage, the Mariposa Battalion, and the Discovery of Yosemite

Tues. | Sept. 24
1 - 2:30 p.m. | ED 140



Presenter: Prof. Dan Carrion

This course will discuss the exploits and legacy of Major James D. Savage in mid-19th century Central California. Savage served in the Mexican War and the Mariposa Indian Ward. He was the first white man to Yosemite Valley. Savage is the namesake of the local chapter of E. Clampus Vitus, which marks of historical significance throughout the region. Our OLLI guide to all this is history buff Dan Carrion, an Emeriti professor in Fresno State's Department of Theatre and Dance.

Online Safety, Security, and Privacy at Home

Tues. | Sept. 24, Oct. 1
3 - 4:30 p.m. | Zoom



Presenter: David Diskin

This engaging how-to class, led by University of the Pacific computer science professor David Diskin, presents basic info about online safety and how to avoid common internet dangers such as viruses and unwanted emails. Easy-to-follow, comprehensible tips will help you spot suspicious links and offers that could lead to phishing scams. You'll build confidence in managing your online presence by creating strong passwords, securing your computer,

keeping your personal information private and safely using social media.

Play Seminar for Fresno State's Production of "Dracula"

Thurs. | Sept. 26, Oct. 3 (Seminar)
Tues. | Oct. 1 (Performance)
Seminar: 3 - 4:30 p.m. in ED 140
Performance: 7 p.m. at the Dennis and Cheryl Woods Theatre in the Speech Arts Building

Presenter: Dr. Nicola Olsen

Fresno State theatre arts professor Nicola Olsen is our guide to the Fresno State Theatre production of "Dracula (A Feminist Revenge Fantasy)" by Kate Hamill. We begin with a pre-show discussion to learn more about the playwright, themes, and history of the play to enhance enjoyment of and engagement with the performance, which we'll attend. A post-show seminar is our opportunity to share our views about the play, its interpretation and design, and also hear what our classmates think.

Religious Architecture and Design: From the Roman Catacombs to Modern Times

Mon. | Sept. 30, Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov. 4
3 - 4:30 p.m. | Zoom

Presenter: Eleanor Schrader

The intent of religious art and architecture is to inspire and instruct the faithful in their beliefs. Popular presenter Eleanor Schrader, who lectures worldwide on a variety of art and architecture topics, helps us learn more. This course takes us from the

early Christian and Jewish period during Roman times through the influence of symbolism and pictorial representations of religious images in Europe and the Middle East and up to our sleek contemporary religious structures. We'll learn about the impacts of visual artistic influences on Islam, Christianity and Judaism.

Adventures

A Day at the St. George Greek Orthodox Church: A behind the scenes look at what goes into the preparation for the annual Greek Festival with Dr. Kara Zografos

Sat. | Sept. 14 | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. | 2219 N. Orchard St., Fresno, CA 93703



September Calendar

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 Labor Day	3 1 p.m. Spring Flowers	4 10 a.m. America's Rivers in Art 1 p.m. Let's Talk Sports	5 1 p.m. Art for a Nation	6 9:30 a.m. Book Club	7
9 1 p.m. Cynology 101	10 10 a.m. Holocaust Destination: Ecuador 1 p.m. Spring Flowers	11 10 a.m. America's Rivers in Art 3 p.m. Adapting Your Life Story	12 10 a.m. Current Events 1 p.m. Art for a Nation 3 p.m. Navigating Political Shifts: DEIB's Role in Modern Education	13 1 p.m. Games You'll Love Play	14 9 a.m. A Day at the St. George Greek Orthodox Church
16 1 p.m. Cynology 101	17	18 10 a.m. America's Rivers in Art	19 1 p.m. Art for a Nation	20	21
23 10 a.m. All About Podcasts 1 p.m. Cynology 101	24 10 a.m. Rightsize 1 p.m. Jim Savage, the Mariposa Battalion 3 p.m. Online Safety	25 10 a.m. America's Rivers in Art 3 p.m. Adapting Your Life Story	26 1 p.m. Art for a Nation 3 p.m. Play Seminar for Fresno State's Production of "Dracula"	27	28
30 10 a.m. All About Podcasts 1 p.m. Cynology 101 3 p.m. Religious Architecture and Design					