The courses
• give you access to instructors from other locations in the country
• are six weeks long and focus on diverse topics of interest
• are flexible to fit into your morning or afternoon schedule
• are offered fully online through Zoom
• are affordable:
  • $60 per lecture
  • $90 per discussion

Click on the course image to watch the introductory videos and get to know your instructors.

Courses begin in early April and end in late May.

This program is a complement to the OLLI@UTEP programming and is done in direct partnership with the Osher National Resource Center. OLLI@UTEP will continue with its own Spring 2023 curriculum, membership and registration fees.

You must be an OLLI member to participate in OSHER ONLINE. There is no additional registration fee on top of the individual course fees.
Dickens in Serial (Discussion)
Jeffrey Walker

Dickens pioneered the method of publishing novels in serial. By writing and publishing a novel in 19 monthly or 36 weekly installments, Dickens could change his story, shared and shaped by the audience who read it, at any time, depending on what his readers liked or disliked. And he did. By reading *Great Expectations* (1861), his greatest weekly novel, part-by-part, readers can weave Dickens' fictional world into their own real world. As the story and characters develop and change over 36 weeks, so too does the reader's own life. Readers see the changes in their lives through the lens of the fictional characters' lives and realize how literature can mirror life.

April 3 – May 8 | Noon | $90  ➤ Click here to register

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Female Stars of Hollywood's Golden Age (Lecture)
Michael Troyan

Join us for Female Stars of Hollywood's Golden Age, a celebration of the greatest female stars. This course will feature an in-depth look at the individual studios in which these stars, while under contract, rose to prominence. We will feature stars like Bette Davis, Lauren Bacall and Doris Day at Warner Bros.; Greta Garbo, Joan Crawford and Judy Garland at MGM; Gloria Swanson, Claudette Colbert and Audrey Hepburn at Paramount; Jean Arthur, Rita Hayworth and Kim Novak at Columbia; Katharine Hepburn, Irene Dunne and Ginger Rogers at RKO; Vivien Leigh, Ingrid Bergman and Jennifer Jones at Selznick International; Betty Grable, Gene Tierney and Marilyn Monroe at 20th Century Fox; and Teresa Wright, Merle Oberon, Virginia Mayo at Goldwyn Studios. Michael Troyan will bring his unique expertise working for all of these studios and share their archives over the years to reveal new, behind-the-scenes anecdotes and insights.

April 3-May 8 | Noon | $60  ➤ Click here to register

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History of Photography (Lecture)
Craig McMonigal

This course will cover the history of photography from its inception to contemporary work. Examples of major genres and movements in photography will be discussed with PowerPoint presentations, augmented by examples from the instructor's personal collection of historical and contemporary images. Most aspects of photography and its applications and techniques will be presented, with an emphasis on art photography.

April 3-May 8 | 3 p.m. | $60  ➤ Click here to register
Aliens in Outer Space: The Science and the Fiction (Lecture)
Andrew Fraknoi

Few areas of astronomy provoke our imaginations as much as the search for alien life among the stars. It is a staple of science fiction stories and films, but recently it has also become a legitimate branch of scientific inquiry. In this non-technical class (designed for people without much science background), we first take a look at our modern view of the universe. We then discuss why astronomers are more optimistic than ever that there must be life beyond the Earth, what experiments we are undertaking to find or communicate with such life, and what we propose to do if we find “them.” We’ll also look at some of the most imaginative science fiction ideas about what aliens will be like, and what the positive and negative results of getting in touch with aliens might be.

April 4-May 9 | 4 p.m. | $60  ➤ Click here to register

History of Dissent in the U.S. Supreme Court (Lecture)
Lauren Andersen

Trace the history of dissent in the U.S. Supreme Court from its inception through current day. Learn why dissents were discouraged by Chief Justice John Marshall and why that upset some of our founding fathers. Understand how early Supreme Court dissents laid the foundation for rights later established by Supreme Court majority opinions, and why many of these dissents have been used in arguments before the current U.S. Supreme Court. This course will discuss cases that have made national headlines in recent years and addressed issues like privacy, the Second Amendment, equal protection and voting rights.

April 4-May 9 | 1 p.m. | $60  ➤ Click here to register

Ethics: The Good Life (Lecture)
Peter Bolland

Ethics is the branch of philosophy that focuses on values, morality and concepts of justice. In this six-week course we will study the major ethical theories of the world’s philosophical traditions, immersing ourselves in an inquiry into the nature of justice, virtue and the good life. We will examine egoism, relativism, utilitarianism, deontology and a number of other prominent ethical perspectives by applying them to real-life situations in our own lives as well as to the ethical dilemmas in the world around us.

April 12-May 24 | Noon | $60  ➤ Click here to register

Beginning Genealogy: Climbing your Family Tree (Lecture)
Gail Reynolds

Are you a genealogy newbie or looking for help in developing and organizing your family history research? This introductory course is designed to get you started in searching for your roots and help you develop an organized process for tracing your family history. This course will discuss the role of various types of records in researching your family history, including but not limited to census records, vital records, military records and basic websites.

April 19-May 24 | 3 p.m. | $60  ➤ Click here to register
Charles Darwin’s Theory of Evolution: Its Impact on Our Society (Lecture)
Douglas Burks

In this course, you will explore the history of Charles Darwin and his theory of evolution by natural selection. You will do this from a biological and moral perspective. The basic evidence supporting the theory will be presented. The theory of evolution is the central unifying theory of biology and is the cornerstone of all biological and medical disciplines in the 21st century. We will explore how the fossil record, comparative anatomy, biogeography and molecular biology all provide support for evolution. Many called Darwin’s theory a most dangerous idea. It was considered a wedge between religion and secular society. Both the positive and negative impacts of modern evolutionary science will be explored. The course is for both novices and those experienced in science. Those with no background in science whatsoever will find the course both interesting and approachable.

April 6-May 11 | 11 a.m. | $60  ➤ Click here to register

Film Noir (Lecture)
Brittney Brown Rakowski

Film noir, a crime genre with a distinctive black and white style, appeared mostly in America for only about 20 years in the mid-20th century, but it has had lasting impact on American film and television ever since. From Double Indemnity (1944) to Strangers on a Train (1951), it engaged with some of the most important questions of modernity right after the Great Depression and into the postwar years. We will study film style, literary adaptations, influences on modern films and more to explore why film noir still resonates with audiences today.

April 6-May 11 | 2 p.m. | $60  ➤ Click here to register

Shakespeare for Beginners and Experts, Part 1 (Discussion)
Steve Sohmer

William Shakespeare is widely regarded as the greatest author of plays and poems in the English language. What is not widely recognized is that he wrote for two audiences: playgoers eager for diversion and entertainment, and the thoughtful “wiser sort” concerned with political, cultural, religious and social questions of the day. This course sifts through five of his plays for provocative ideas— seditious, ungodly and rebellious—that fired the imagination of the “wiser sort” in Shakespeare’s time and now. The five plays to be read and discussed are: As You Like It, Julius Caesar, Twelfth Night, Antony and Cleopatra, and Hamlet.

April 6-May 11 | 5 p.m. | $90  ➤ Click here to register
Elections of 1796 and 1800 (Lecture)
Heather Dudley

The campaign of 1796 established the template for the “the politics of personal destruction.” The campaign of 1800 sank even deeper into the abyss with each side making frightening predictions about what would happen if the other candidate was elected. These two elections were the early tests of the efficacy of the electoral college system. We will look at the question of why the framers designed such an odd system, what they thought it would accomplish, and why it failed.

April 7-May 12 | Noon | $60

Click here to register

Both Sides Now: Reflections on Women in Mid-Life (Discussion)
Colette Tracy

“Both Sides Now” is about reflecting on our lives and culture to understand how and why we are who we are, and just as importantly, looking at where we are now in life, and what we want for the rest of our lives. How do we stay vibrant and alive throughout the joy and pain that is life?

April 8-May 13 | Noon | $90

Click here to register

Course fees
Lecture course costs: $60
Discussion course costs: $90

All courses will be offered via Zoom.

For more information, contact your local OLLI Captains.

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To register visit us at utep.edu/olli
or call us at 915.747.6280.