“Going Viral” implies explosive growth and spread -- like bad news on social media. Or Covid-19. Safe to say, viruses have been around way longer than people. They’re everywhere! But what ARE viruses? Are they mini-cells Are they even ‘alive’? We naturally focus on those that infect humans, but they have ramifications far beyond us. They DO indeed infect us and can cause diseases, but we humans make use of viruses as well in basic research and even clinical practice. In this class we’ll look into the many ways viruses work in the biosphere – extending even to the ‘calling cards’ of viral DNA that makes up a significant fraction of our human genome.

No previous science background required (basic background on cells and microbes will be included). This class is primarily lecture with directed discussions.

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: JOHN KLOETZEL, PHD

John Kloetzel studied biology at USC (A.B.) and Johns Hopkins University (Ph.D.). He then taught for 37 years in the areas of cell and molecular biology at UMBC, a University of Maryland campus. His research utilized techniques that varied from electron microscopy to gene sequencing. In retirement Dr. Kloetzel has taught OLLI courses through Southern Oregon University, in subjects ranging from basic cell biology through gene editing and the human microbiome. The microbiome course revealed that viruses deserve separate treatment; their importance extends far beyond their effects on human health. Viruses are everywhere, populating the land and sea in vast numbers, infecting all living organisms. How much, or how little, do we know about them?

THURSDAYS, SEPTEMBER 28TH THROUGH NOVEMBER 9TH
10AM PACIFIC | 11AM MOUNTAIN | 12PM CENTRAL | 1PM EASTERN

- Live Lecture 1, Thursday, September 28
- Live Lecture 2, Thursday, October 5
- Live Lecture 3, Thursday, October 12
- Live Lecture 4, Thursday, October 19
- Live Lecture 5, Thursday, November 2
- Live Lecture 6, Thursday, November 9

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