

FALL 2025

# OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

**IN PERSON  
& ONLINE  
COURSES**

**Stay Curious.**





# Fall 2025

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olliru@docs.rutgers.edu

### OLLI-RU Staff

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*Program Coordinator/  
Site Coordinator – Freehold*

#### **Kelly Jaques**

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Keki Dadachanji (*Secretary*)

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Susan Tanner

Judy Wahrenberger



# OLLI-RU Experience

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Rutgers University (OLLI-RU) is proud to be part of The Bernard Osher Foundation's nationwide network of outstanding centers providing continuing education to individuals over 50, who are looking for an opportunity to expand their horizons, learn in an engaging environment, and meet new friends. OLLI-RU offers noncredit education that is stimulating, friendly, and informal. There are no tests and no grades! You will be part of a learning community that is full of diversity, insight, wisdom, intellectual and cultural stimulation, and friendship.

## MEMBERSHIP

To ensure we can continue to serve our community, like many sister OLLI's across the nation we have a separate annual membership cost of \$50. Once a year (starting before our spring session) our community will renew their membership so they may take courses at the member rate and enjoy other benefits. Should an individual opt-out of membership, we welcome your participation and we have an alternate course fee structure to accommodate non-members.

- **2025 membership** starts with the spring registration on January 16, 2025. You can purchase that membership now. When doing so, **please make sure to only purchase the membership before buying courses.** Staff needs to manually update your account in order for you to receive the member discount so please allow an hour or so if purchased during business hours (Mon-Fri 8:30 am to 4:30 pm) and longer if purchased outside of business hours. You will receive an email from [olliregistrations@docs.rutgers.edu](mailto:olliregistrations@docs.rutgers.edu) when you can register for courses and get the member rate.

## ONLINE CLASS EXPERIENCE

**Zoom links** are emailed to registered students approximately 3 to 5 days before the first class. Please make sure to check for the link at least 24 hours before your class. If it's not in your inbox, make sure to check your junk or spam file. If not there, email [olliregistrations@docs.rutgers.edu](mailto:olliregistrations@docs.rutgers.edu).

Things still happen: At times technology can fail one or all of us. We do our best to help when we can, but some things are beyond our control. The ability to connect to the class and the quality of the connection depends on many factors and we will not be able to troubleshoot or solve every issue. OLLI-RU has no control over issues with a student's technology that may prevent them from logging in to a class.

## IN-PERSON CLASS EXPERIENCE

We are pleased to continue holding in-person courses in New Brunswick and Freehold. Parking in both locations is free for students.

# MEMBERSHIP

**When:** OLLI-RU membership runs from Spring session to Winter session.

Pay it once a year to enjoy the benefits all year.



**2025 membership began with spring session registration in January.**

- Memberships can be purchased at any point of the year but it will not be pro-rated.

**What:** The once-a-year \$50 membership fee provides the following:

**Register for courses at the member rate.** Non-members can still take courses but it's at an increased rate.

**Longer withdrawal periods to receive a full refund.** Members can get a full refund if they notify OLLI-RU before the start of the fourth class meeting. Non-members only have until before the start of the second class.

**Members can get refunds for one-day programs** if notifying OLLI-RU staff in writing before the program takes place. Non-members are not provided refunds for one-day programs.

**Priority registration and pricing for our highly subscribed day trips as well as for certain events and programming.**

**Special events and programming for members only.**

**How:** Go to our website [olliru.rutgers.edu](http://olliru.rutgers.edu)

- On our website, ([olliru.rutgers.edu](http://olliru.rutgers.edu)) click on "Register"
- You will see "OLLI-RU 2025 Membership" as a course listing. Proceed to register for your membership just as you would sign up for a course.

**Secure membership before registering for courses to receive membership rate.**

## REGISTRATION



### How to Register Online

1. Go to **OLLI-RU website-** [olliru.rutgers.edu](http://olliru.rutgers.edu) and click the **“Register”** tab. Scroll down to see course listings.
2. Click **“Register”** next to the chosen class
3. Scroll to the bottom right of that page and click **“Register/Sign-in Now”**
4. Follow directions through the rest of the process
5. **Receive two confirmation emails** - one for registration and one for payment.
  - a. **If you do not receive both emails, check your spam or junk folder.** If they are not there, please contact us at [olliregistrations@docs.rutgers.edu](mailto:olliregistrations@docs.rutgers.edu) or call 848-932-6554.



**If you are unsure about  
online registration,  
call or email us and we will get you  
signed up.**

**Call 848-932-6554 or email [olliregistrations@docs.rutgers.edu](mailto:olliregistrations@docs.rutgers.edu).**

# POLICIES



## REFUND POLICY

### Members

**Multi-week courses (5 weeks and above):** A full refund for multi-week courses will be provided if we receive the request in writing before the start of the fourth class. **Courses that are 2-4 weeks**, refunds are available if OLLI-RU is notified before the start of the second class. Refunds will be issued in the original form of payment and only to the individual who paid for the class.

**One-day programs:** Refunds will be issued for one-day programs if OLLI-RU is notified in writing before the program takes place.

### Non-Members

**Multi-week courses:** A full refund for multi-week courses will be provided if we receive the request in writing before the start of the second class. Refunds will be issued in the original form of payment and only to the individual who paid for the class.

**One-day programs:** no refunds for one-day programs.

**To request a refund or transfer** (*transfers permitted for any student at any time upon confirmation from OLLI-RU*) email [ollirurefunds@docs.rutgers.edu](mailto:ollirurefunds@docs.rutgers.edu).

## HOLIDAYS

OLLI-RU is a secular organization that is part of a public university. As such, we follow the University schedule and do not close for any religious holiday. If you plan to miss a class due to observing a religious holiday, please contact our office well in advance and we will gladly work with you and the instructor to ensure you stay abreast of important content. Email [olliregistrations@docs.rutgers.edu](mailto:olliregistrations@docs.rutgers.edu) with your request.

## RECORDINGS

OLLI-RU does not record online classes on a regular basis, but students may ask their instructor if they need a specific class recorded for any reason. Please be aware, instructors may decline to record. The course material presented is an instructor's intellectual property that they have developed over many hours. Some may want to protect that material by not allowing a recording of their course to be disseminated. Please respect an instructor's decision.

## MISSED CLASSES

Individual classes that are canceled for any reason by OLLI-RU or the instructor will be made up either by adding additional time to each remaining class or by extending the class by an additional meeting.

## CANCELED COURSES

Students registered for a course that gets canceled will be notified approximately one week before the class is scheduled to start. You can transfer to an alternate open class or receive a refund.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Rutgers University endeavors to create a positive and affirming environment that fosters learning and social connection. As members of the broader Rutgers community, individuals are subject to [Rutgers University's Student Code of Conduct](#) and other policies that prohibit discrimination, sexual harassment, disruptive behavior, and other disrespectful or inappropriate conduct. Additionally, OLLI-RU is a department of the Division of Continuing Studies, and we embrace the [core values adopted by the Division: Integrity, People, Excellence, DEIA, Consideration, Service, and Lifelong Learning](#). Individuals are expected to demonstrate mutual respect, personal and academic integrity, kindness, and a commitment to civil discourse. Ensuring OLLI-RU is a welcoming, inclusive and affirming learning community is a responsibility we all share.

These principles apply to all OLLI courses, in-person and via Zoom.

We welcome the lively and passionate exchange of ideas and perspectives. Opposing viewpoints are welcomed and appreciated. Instructors are responsible for leading and moderating classroom discussion to allow for diverse perspectives while maintaining an inclusive atmosphere.

Members, instructors, and staff of OLLI-RU are encouraged to contact the director with concerns regarding violations of our code of conduct ([olliru@docs.rutgers.edu](mailto:olliru@docs.rutgers.edu)). Violations may result in suspension/termination of membership, volunteer, or teaching privileges as well as other conditions as determined by the director and Code of Conduct committee.

### Code of Conduct Procedure

Upon receiving a concern in writing regarding violation of our code of conduct, the director will convene a meeting of the Code of Conduct committee and the complainant to further discuss the matter. The committee may ask for additional information (witnesses, clarifying statements, history, etc.) to help make an informed decision. Information will be collected and shared with the committee and director. A final decision regarding outcomes will be sent to the complainant and any related parties.



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## IN PERSON in NEW BRUNSWICK LOCATION

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>The Haphazard Development of America's Social Safety Net</b> <i>Ed Malberg</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/8 – 11/10 (10 weeks) HYBRID	<b>Acting for Everyone</b> <i>Susan Speidel</i> 10:30 am to 12:30 pm 9/2 – 11/11 (10 weeks) <i>*no class on 9/23</i>	<b>How Congress Works</b> <i>Ross Baker</i> 10:30 am to 11:30 am 10/8 – 10/22 (3 weeks)	<b>American Western Film- Part 2</b> <i>Jerry Wichinsky</i> 10:00 am to 12:30 pm 9/4 – 11/13 (10 weeks) <i>*no class on 10/2</i>	<b>The Golden Age of Science-Fiction Film</b> <i>Nick Basile</i> 1 pm – 3 pm 9/5 – 11/7 (10 weeks)
<b>Macramé</b> <i>Komal Mehra</i> 10:30 am to 12:30 pm 9/8 – 9/22 (3 weeks)	<b>Dying, Grieving, Memorializing</b> <i>Brooks Smith</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/9 – 10/28 (7 weeks) <i>*no class on 10/14</i>	<b>The Fire Next Time?</b> <i>Charlie Smith</i> 10:30 am to 11:30 am 9/3 – 9/17 (3 weeks)	<b>Sailing-How Does It Work?</b> <i>Rob Herber</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm <b>1</b> Sept. 18 Location: Sandy Hook Bay Catamaran Club, Atlantic Highlands	
<b>Buddha Mind-Buddha Heart</b> <i>Robin Shapiro</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/8 – 10/27 (8 weeks)	<b>Easy Traditional Dances from Southeastern Europe</b> <i>Bill Selden</i> 10:30 am to 11:30 am <b>1</b> Sept. 16	<b>New Jersey's Explosive History</b> <i>Andrea Dragon</i> 10:30 am to 11:30 am 10/8 – 11/5 (5 weeks)	<b>Watercolor Art</b> <i>Komal Mehra</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/4 – 11/13 (10 weeks) <i>*no class on 10/2</i>	
<b>Charles Dickens' David Copperfield</b> <i>Nicholas Birns</i> 1 to 2:30 pm 9/8 – 10/6 (5 weeks)	<b>The Moral Decision: Right, Wrong and Social Justice in the Light of the Five Books of Moses</b> <i>Jeffrey Ullman</i> 10:30 am to 11:30 am 9/2-11/11 (10 weeks) <i>*no class on 9/23</i>	<b>Oil Pastel Art</b> <i>Komal Mehra</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/3 – 11/5 (10 weeks)		<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>This symbol means it's a one-day class</p> </div>
<b>Hitchcock's Method for Creating Suspense</b> <i>Jane Lasky-MacPherson</i> 1 pm to 3 pm 9/8 – 11/3 (8 weeks) <i>*no class on 10/13</i>	<b>5 Short Stories: Edgar Allen Poe</b> <i>Maureen McVeigh-Berzok</i> 1 pm to 2:30 pm 10/7 – 11/4 (5 weeks)	<b>Benjamin &amp; William, The Franklins of the Jerseys</b> <i>Paul Soltis</i> 1 pm to 2:30 pm 9/3 – 10/1 (4 weeks) HYBRID <i>*no class on 9/24</i>		
<b>You Decide: Stars and Musicals</b> <i>Sam &amp; Candy Caponegro</i> <b>1</b> 1 pm to 2:30 pm 9/15	<b>Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life: Operetta &amp; the Birth of the American Musical</b> <i>Susan Speidel</i> 1 pm to 2:30 pm 9/2 – 11/11 (10 weeks) <i>*no class on 9/23</i> HYBRID	<b>Exploring Rod Serling's Night Gallery</b> <i>Larry Stanley</i> 1 pm to 2:30 pm 9/24 – 10/22 (5 weeks)		
<b>Deeper Dive into Ancestry.com</b> <i>Carla Zimowsk</i> 1 pm to 2:30 pm 10/6 – 10/20 (3 weeks)	<b>Masterworks of World Cinema</b> <i>Keki Dadachanji</i> 1 pm to 3:30 pm 9/2-11/4 (10 weeks)			

## IN PERSON in FREEHOLD LOCATION

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		<b>Laughter, Leaks &amp; Left Ventracles: The Curious Case of the Human Heart</b> <i>Barbara Bogner</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/3 – 10/8 (5 weeks) <i>*no class on 10/1</i>		

# Online Courses- Fall Session

## ONLINE – First half fall session

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Chair Yoga and Relaxation</b> <i>Pratibha Jani</i> 11 am to 12 pm 9/8 – 9/22 (3 weeks)	<b>Agatha Christie's Hallowe'en Party</b> <i>Hugo Walter</i> 10:30 am to 11:30 am 9/2 – 9/30 (5 weeks)	<b>American Sign Language Primer: How to Talk when the Band is Too Loud</b> <i>Naomi Miller</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/3 – 11/5 (10 weeks)	<b>Rodin, Rilke &amp; Finding Creative Kinship: A Writing Workshop</b> <i>Shelley Benaroya</i> 10 am to 12 pm 9/4 – 11/6 (8 weeks) <i>*no class on 10/2 &amp; 10/30</i>	<b>Acrylic Art</b> <i>Komal Mehra</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/5 – 11/7 (10 weeks)
<b>The Haphazard Development of America's Social Safety Net</b> <i>Ed Malberg</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/8 – 11/10 (10 weeks) HYBRID	<b>The Courts, The Law and The Administration</b> <i>Lou Ruprecht</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/2 – 11/11 (10 weeks) <i>*no class on 9/23</i>	<b>Contemporary Moral Issues I</b> <i>Alison Brown</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/3 – 11/5 (10 weeks)	<b>Stars and the History of the Movie Musical</b> <i>Sam &amp; Candy Caponegro</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/4 – 11/13 (10 weeks) <i>*no class on 10/2</i>	<b>Hot Topics: A Moderated Discussion</b> <i>Jeffrey Davis</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/5 – 10/31 (8 weeks) <i>*no class on 10/17</i>
<b>Learn to Collage</b> <i>Jeff Cohen</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/8 – 11/10 (10 weeks)	<b>Drawing Workshop</b> <i>Jeff Cohen</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/2 – 11/4 (10 weeks)	<b>One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez</b> <i>Vandana Wallia</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/3 – 11/5 (10 weeks)	<b>Street Corner Symphonies: Doo Wop and Beyond</b> <i>Paul Howe</i> 10:30 am to 12:30 pm 9/4 – 10/2 (5 weeks)	<b>Memorable Movie Mothers</b> <i>Sally Bauer Cohen</i> 10 am to 12 pm 9/5 – 10/24 (7 weeks) <i>*no class on 10/3</i>
<b>A Reading of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar</b> <i>Allen Ascher</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/8 – 11/10 (10 weeks)	<b>Fall Poetry</b> <i>Maxine Susman</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/9 – 11/4 (8 weeks) <i>*no class on 9/23</i>	<b>Benjamin &amp; William, The Franklins of the Jerseys</b> <i>Paul Soltis</i> 1 pm to 2:30 pm 9/3 – 10/1 (4 weeks) HYBRID <i>*no class on 9/24</i>	<b>Goldilocks, Little Red Riding Hood &amp; The Hungry Caterpillar speak Yiddish</b> <i>Naomi Miller</i> 1 pm to 2:30 pm 9/4 – 11/13 (10 weeks) <i>*no class 10/2</i>	<b>What is Jazz? Sounds of History, Culture and Influence</b> <i>Kevin Witt</i> 10:30 am to 11:30 am 9/5 – 10/3 (5 weeks)
<b>Painting Studio</b> <i>Jeff Cohen</i> 1 pm to 2:30 pm 9/8 – 11/10 (10 weeks)	<b>Time Travel Films</b> <i>Bruce Tucker</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/2-9/30 (4 weeks) <i>*no class on 9/23</i>	<b>Manifest Destiny 1803-1850: From Sea to Shining Sea</b> <i>Bruce Tucker</i> 1 pm to 2:30 pm 9/3 – 10/1 (4 weeks) <i>*no class on 9/24</i>	<b>On Civics -- Public Knowledge and Political Education</b> <i>John Wallach</i> 3 pm to 4:30 pm 9/4 – 11/13 (10 weeks) <i>*no class 10/2</i>	
<b>Getting the Most from Your DNA Results</b> <i>Patricia Brady</i> 1 pm to 2:30 pm 9/8 – 9/15 (2 weeks)	<b>A Film Sampler</b> <i>Roz and Steve Shaw</i> 1 pm to 2:30 pm 9/2 – 11/11 (10 weeks) <i>*no class on 9/23</i>	<b>Navigating the Healthcare System as a Senior</b> <i>Judy Wahrenberger</i> 3 pm to 4:30 pm 9/3 – 11/5 (10 weeks)	<b>The Razor's Edge by W. Somerset Maugham</b> <i>Keki Dadachanji</i> 3 pm to 4:30 pm 9/4 – 11/6 (10 weeks)	
<b>The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupery</b> <i>Charlie Pearlman</i> 3 pm to 4:30 pm 9/8 – 11/10 (9 weeks) <i>*no class on 10/27</i>	<b>Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life: Operetta &amp; the Birth of the American Musical</b> <i>Susan Speidel</i> 1 pm to 2:30 pm 9/2 – 11/11 (10 weeks) <i>*no class on 9/23</i> HYBRID	<b>Who am I?- Bhagavad Gita and Vedanta View</b> <i>Kaushal Trivedi</i> 4 pm to 5 pm 9/3 – 10/1 (5 weeks)		
	<b>Learn to Sculpt</b> <i>Jeff Cohen</i> 1 pm to 2:30 pm 9/2 – 11/4 (10 weeks)			

# ONLINE – Second half fall session

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>The Haphazard Development of America's Social Safety Net</b> <i>Ed Malberg</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/8 – 11/10 (10 weeks) HYBRID	<b>The Courts, The Law and The Administration</b> <i>Lou Ruprecht</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/2 – 11/11 (10 weeks) <i>*no class on 9/23</i>	<b>American Sign Language Primer: How to Talk when the Band is Too Loud</b> <i>Naomi Miller</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/3 – 11/5 (10 weeks)	<div>NEW</div> <b>Jazz Giants and Rising Stars</b> <i>Sanford Josephson</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 10/9 – 11/6 (5 weeks)	<b>Acrylic Art</b> <i>Komal Mehra</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/5 – 11/7 (10 weeks)
<b>Learn to Collage</b> <i>Jeff Cohen</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 10/8 – 11/10 (10 weeks)	<b>Drawing Workshop</b> <i>Jeff Cohen</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/2 – 11/4 (10 weeks)	<b>Contemporary Moral Issues I</b> <i>Alison Brown</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/3 – 11/5 (10 weeks)	<div>NEW</div> <b>Rodin, Rilke &amp; Finding Creative Kinship: A Writing Workshop</b> <i>Shelley Benaroya</i> 10 am to 12 pm 9/4 – 11/6 (8 weeks) <i>*no class on 10/2 &amp; 10/30</i>	<b>Are You Health Literate?</b> <i>Donna Lisi</i> 10:30 am to 12:30 pm 10/10 – 10/31 (4 weeks)
<b>A Reading of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar</b> <i>Allen Ascher</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/8 – 11/10 (10 weeks)	<b>Fall Poetry</b> <i>Maxine Susman</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/9 – 11/4 (8 weeks) <i>*no class on 9/23</i>	<div>NEW</div> <b>The Fall of Rome</b> <i>Barbara Griffin</i> 10:30 am to 11:30 am 10/8 – 11/5 (5 weeks)	<b>Stars and the History of the Movie Musical</b> <i>Sam &amp; Candy Caponegro</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/4 – 11/13 (10 weeks) <i>*no class on 10/2</i>	<b>Hot Topics: A Moderated Discussion</b> <i>Jeffrey Davis</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/5 – 10/31 (8 weeks) <i>*no class on 10/17</i>
<div>NEW</div> <b>Charles Dickens' Great Expectations</b> <i>Nicholas Birns</i> 1 pm to 2:30 pm 10/13 – 11/10 (5 weeks)	<div>NEW</div> <b>Films of Alfred Hitchcock</b> <i>Bruce Tucker</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 10/7 – 10/28 (4 weeks)	<b>One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez</b> <i>Vandana Walia</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm 9/3 – 11/5 (10 weeks)	<b>Goldilocks, Little Red Riding Hood &amp; The Hungry Caterpillar speak Yiddish</b> <i>Naomi Miller</i> 1 pm to 2:30 pm 9/4 – 11/13 (10 weeks) <i>*no class 10/2</i>	<b>Memorable Movie Mothers</b> <i>Sally Bauer Cohen</i> 10 am to 12 pm 9/5 – 10/24 (7 weeks) <i>*no class on 10/3</i>
<b>Painting Studio</b> <i>Jeff Cohen</i> 1 pm to 2:30 pm 9/8 – 11/10 (10 weeks)	<b>A Film Sampler</b> <i>Roz and Steve Shaw</i> 1 pm to 2:30 pm 9/2 – 11/11 (10 weeks) <i>*no class on 9/23</i>	<b>Benjamin &amp; William, The Franklins of the Jerseys</b> <i>Paul Soltis</i> 1 pm to 2:30 pm 9/3 – 10/1 (4 weeks) <i>*no class on 9/24</i> HYBRID	<div>NEW</div> <b>The Secluded Self: Isolation in Literary Short Fiction</b> <i>Mary Ann McGuigan</i> 1 pm to 2 pm 10/9 – 11/6 (5 weeks)	<div>NEW</div> This symbol by a course title highlights courses that start in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of our 10-week session.
<b>The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupery</b> <i>Charlie Pearlman</i> 3 pm to 4:30 pm 9/8 – 11/10 (9 weeks) <i>*no class on 10/27</i>	<div>NEW</div> <b>Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life: Operetta and the Birth of the American Musical</b> <i>Susan Speidel</i> 1 pm to 2:30 pm 9/2 – 11/11 (10 weeks) <i>*no class on 9/23</i> HYBRID	<b>The History of Subways 1843-2023</b> <i>Bruce Tucker</i> 1 pm to 2:30 pm 10/8 – 10/29 (4 weeks)	<b>On Civics -- Public Knowledge and Political Education</b> <i>John Wallach</i> 3 pm to 4:30 pm 9/4 – 11/13 (10 weeks) <i>*no class 10/2</i>	
	<b>Learn to Sculpt</b> <i>Jeff Cohen</i> 1 pm to 2:30 pm 9/2 – 11/4 (10 weeks)	<b>Navigating the Healthcare System as a Senior</b> <i>Judy Wahrenberger</i> 3 pm to 4:30 pm 9/3 – 11/5 (10 weeks)	<b>The Razor's Edge by W. Somerset Maugham</b> <i>Keki Dadachanji</i> 3 pm to 4:30 pm 9/4 – 11/6 (10 weeks)	
			<b>Madison Avenue and Your Medicine</b> <i>Rob Herber</i> 10:30 am to 12 pm Nov. 13 <div>1</div>	



# Catalog information



## Order of Course Listings

Multi-week courses: listed Mon-Fri and separated into

- Morning
- Early Afternoon
- Late Afternoon



## Locations

- Course locations are listed under each course title.
- Parking is free and large lots are available at each building.
- Addresses for our Freehold and New Brunswick locations:

### Freehold In-Person Course

Western Monmouth Higher Education Ctr  
3680 Route 9 South, Freehold, NJ

### New Brunswick In-Person Course

Rutgers Lifelong Learning Center  
3 Rutgers Plaza, New Brunswick, NJ  
*(off Route 1 and off Ryder's Lane)*

# ONE-DAY CLASSES

## You Decide: Stars and Musicals

in New Brunswick

Monday, Sept. 15  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$10 / Non-Member: \$15

Who did it better? Using clips from Broadway and film musicals, we'll compare and contrast performances of stars like Carol Burnett, and Dorothy Loudon, Patti Lupone and Madonna, Mary Martin and Cher, and many more! Are you a fan of Fred Astaire or Gene Kelly? Let's dive into their work and style and take a vote. *(course code NBD1)*

**Instructors:** Sam and Candy Caponegro

## Easy Traditional Dances from Southeastern Europe

in New Brunswick

Tuesday, Sept. 16  
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$10 / Non-Member: \$15

Join us for a fun-filled dance class where everyone is welcome—no partners required. Just wear comfortable clothes and supportive shoes and get ready to move! The level of physical activity can be easily adjusted to suit your personal pace and ability. Rooted in the rich cultural traditions of Southeastern Europe, these community-based dances have long served as a joyful way to connect and celebrate. In this class, you'll learn the following dances: Lesnoto (Macedonian); Devetorka (Bulgarian); Setnja (Serbian); Sa (Roma). Come connect through dance! *(course code NBD2)*

**Instructor:** Robert (Bill) Selden



### Meet new instructor **Robert (Bill) Selden**

Bill has danced the dances of southeastern Europe for 50 years. He was a musician and dancer in the George Tomov Yugoslav Folk Dance Ensemble for 6 years and toured with that Group in Yugoslavia in 1981 and 1985. He was the collections manager of the Rutgers University Geology Museum for 33 years.

## Sailing: How Does It Work?

in Atlantic Highlands

Thursday, Sept. 18  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Sandy Hook Bay Catamaran Club, Atlantic Highlands  
Member: \$10 / Non-Member: \$15

Sailing has substantially formed the world we live in. But how does it work? Let's get together on the bay beach in Atlantic Highlands to discuss the essential principles of sailing all while seeing, touching, and even doing some "hoisting" on an actual sailboat. We'll be working with a Hobie Cat (once called perhaps the purest form of sailing). While we won't be sailing, we will gather on the beach to work all the parts of the boat so that we can experience first-hand how it all comes together. This class will bring the basics to life for anyone interested in the essence of sailing by: explaining how sailboats do what they do, providing essential sailing terms, and discussing how many of these terms are part of everyday language. A handout with notes will be supplied. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. You'll walk away from this class with some new views on the meaning of "wind and wave."

*(course code NBD3)*



**Instructor:** Robert Herber

## Madison Avenue and Your Medicine

Thursday, Nov. 13  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$10 / Non-Member: \$15

Ever wonder why pharmaceutical ads are the way they are? This class is a dynamic overview of the world of pharmaceutical communications. Through a discussion of pharma marketing principles and a multitude of examples, we'll discuss: How do pharmaceutical ads come to look the way they do? Where do product efficacy claims come from? What is fair balance and why is it important? What is all that information in the Rx "package insert"? What are the ways this is communicated to doctors? This class is sure to: Help you become a more knowledgeable consumer and educated patient all while making you fluent among your peers on the mysteries of pharmaceutical advertising. *(course code RD4)*

Please note, this course is the same one, with slight updates, that was offered in Winter 2025.

**Instructor:** Robert Herber



# MULTI-WEEK CLASSES

## MONDAY Morning

### Buddha Mind – Buddha Heart

in New Brunswick

Mondays, Sept. 8 – Oct. 27 (8 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$64 / Non-Member: \$96

Exploring ancient Buddhist concepts in a contemporary age helps us cultivate patience, compassion, curiosity and non-judgmental attitudes. Taught using a combination of lecture and discussion, this course offers an opportunity to enhance our well-being and our sense of belonging to a community. The book is not required but recommended. Dr. Shapiro's book, *The Buddha Lives in New Jersey*, available on Amazon, is the text for this class. The instructor will provide handouts for students of any highlighted materials. (course code NBM5)

**Instructor:** Robin Shapiro

### Meet instructor Robin Shapiro

Dr. Shapiro has been studying and teaching Buddhist thought for 35 years. As a Holistic Physician, this approach helps to illuminate healing in many forms.

### Chair Yoga and Relaxation

Mondays, Sept. 8 – Sept. 22 (3 weeks)  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$30 / Non-Member: \$45

This beginner course includes traditional chair yoga exercises synchronized with breathing techniques (pranayam) to target and strengthen various muscle groups and joints in the body and increase flexibility and mobility. Nearly all our practice will be done seated on the chair with just a few standing next to the chair. The breathing techniques help to relax, release stress and anxiety, which can also help to lower blood pressure, cholesterol and minimize joint pains. Participants should wear loose and comfortable clothing. While practicing, all students should listen to their body. (course code RM6)

**Instructor:** Pratibha Jani

## The Haphazard Development of America's Social Safety Net

Hybrid

Mondays, Sept. 8 – Nov. 10 (10 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Hybrid can be taken in-person (NB) or online  
Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120

By the early 21st Century, America had developed a wide net of services that its citizens could look to help them confront the social and economic strains arising from the challenges of economic and technological change, the consequences of urban development and population growth, the realities of the revolutions in communications and medical treatments. Most significantly, the development was haphazard. There was no one blueprint and it took more than a century to build the net. Many grandiose plans only produced small programs. Some major federal ideas took decades to realize. Many state or city programs covered only a relatively small number of people, at least at first. Many programs based on union membership waxed and waned depending upon the industry or company involved. And, importantly, most of the aspects of this safety net faced fierce resistance, either to specific programs or to these programs' extension.

In this course we will look at the roots of this safety net in the beginnings of the Progressive Period, trace the major developments within the New Deal, delve into the controversies of the Fair Deal, examine business and union based elements of safety net building during post-World War II affluence, consider the impact of the Great Society, watch the safety net during the politically conservative turn of the 1970s, 80s and 90s, and then review the restructuring of health-care undertaken in 2010. (course code HYT7)

**Instructor:** Ed Malberg

This is a **hybrid** course. It can be taken either in-person or online. **The instructor will be in-person.**

## Learn to Collage

Mondays, Sept. 8 – Nov. 10 (10 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120

Collage is an art form that dates back hundreds of years, reappearing in the works of Picasso and Braque. Now you can express yourself by pasting magazine and newspaper clippings, ribbons, colored paper, photographs, found objects and more, into works of art that can be a thing of beauty, a reflection of your viewpoint, or even a humorous or satirical take on a particular subject. (course code RT8)

**Supplies needed to begin:** 9" x 12" pad of drawing paper, bottle of Elmer's white glue, pair of scissors, 3 assorted magazines.

**Instructor:** Jeff Cohen

## Macramé

in New Brunswick

Mondays, Sept. 8 – Sept. 22 (3 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$35 / Non-Member: \$50

Some ties and some knots, that's what Macramé is all about! Students will work with cords (this involves cutting the cords to a specific size), learning and applying the macramé knots and ties to create a lovely, finished wall hanging during the three-week course. Step-by-step guidance and personalized attention will be provided to each participant during the sessions.



**Supplies provided** include wooden dowels and beads. **The rest of the necessary supplies students will secure on their own are:** Cord (beige Macramé cord rope 5mm x 109 yards); Macramé fringe comb (Stainless Steel Metal); Scissors; roll of Scotch tape; and a 12-inch ruler. The suggested purchase links for the cord and comb will be emailed to registered participants. (course code NBM9)

**Instructor:** Komal Mehra

## A Reading of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*

Mondays, Sept. 8 – Nov. 10 (10 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120

"Friends, Romans, countrymen . . ." In past years a staple of the high school curriculum, *Julius Caesar* is a profound description of political intrigue, deceptive manipulation, self-knowledge, loyalty, ruthlessness, and even regret presented in some of Shakespeare's most theatrically dramatic scenes. If you did read it in high school you will find that there is much more to it than appeared on a first reading. If you are reading it for the first time, you will find that it will seize hold of your attention and imagination. Over ten weeks we will read through the play line-by-line, adding to it our own observations, experiences, and responses along the way. Please have a copy of the play with you at our first meeting. Any edition – Folger, Signet, Arden, etc.– will do, as long as it is Shakespeare's original text (not a "friendly, modern translation," although such a modernization can be very helpful as a side-by-side guide to Shakespeare's language) and with the lines numbered for easy reference. I recommend a paperback edition as I will ask you to highlight/underline certain passages in the text. No previous experience with Shakespeare is necessary. (course code RT10)

**Instructor:** Allen Ascher



# MONDAY Early Afternoon

## Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield*

in New Brunswick

Mondays, Sept. 8 – Oct. 6 (5 weeks)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$40 / Non-Member: \$60

Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield* is the quintessential autobiographical novel. Chronicling David's traumatic childhood with the oppressive Murdstones and the improvident Micawbers, Dickens shows how the young boy nonetheless develops enduring friendships with such colorful figures as Little Em'ly, Peggotty, and Steerforth. After David is rescued by his Aunt Betsy, we see him grow up and become involved with two very different women and vie with men of very different values. Influenced by Romantic ideas of the self, this funny and moving work can be called the first modern psychological novel. (course code NBV11)

**Instructor:** Nicholas Birns

## Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*

Mondays, Oct. 13 – Nov. 10 (5 weeks)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$40 / Non-Member: \$60

*Great Expectations* was the second-to-last novel Dickens completed in his lifetime. In this tale of a young man who knows he has a benefactor but is not quite sure who that is, Dickens reevaluates many of the assumptions of his earlier novels. The novel gives a vigorous and charming portrait of the theatrical and official world of Victorian London, as it shows the twists and turns of ambition, career, and personal maturation. The bittersweet nature of the narrator's relationship with the elusive Estella reflects the overall sense of mystery in the book, making it Dickens's most haunting and lyrical novel. (course code RV12)

**Instructor:** Nicholas Birns

## Deeper Dive into Ancestry.com: Mastering Your Family History Research

in New Brunswick

Mondays, Oct. 6 – Oct. 20 (3 weeks)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$30 / Non-Member: \$45

Unlock the full potential of Ancestry.com in this hands-on, three-week course designed for both beginners and intermediate genealogists. Through guided instruction and practical exercises, you'll develop essential skills to navigate its vast collection of historical records efficiently. Explore crucial records including census data, military documents, and immigration files while learning techniques for downloading and managing your findings. Discover the differences between Ancestry.com and AncestryLibrary, plus gain valuable insights into complementary resources like FamilySearch Wiki. By the end of this course, you'll have a solid foundation in: navigating Ancestry.com's extensive database collections; developing effective research and searching strategies; understanding various record types and their significance; managing and organizing your genealogical findings; and utilizing both basic and advanced search techniques. This course is perfect for anyone ready to take their family history research to the next level. Bring your laptop and prepare to dive deep into your family's past! (course code NBM13)

**Instructor:** Carla Zimowsk

## Getting the Most from Your DNA Results

Mondays, Sept. 8 – Sept. 15 (2 weeks)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$20 / Non-Member: \$30

Experienced genealogical researchers often add the results of DNA testing to their resources. Getting the most from your autosomal DNA matches is the focus of this course. Experience finding and incorporating records' searches as you build your family tree adds power to your DNA analysis. Take this course and add to your research repertoire. (course code RM14)

**Instructor:** Patricia Brady



## Hitchcock's Method for Creating Suspense

in New Brunswick

Mondays,\* Sept. 8 – Nov.3 (8 weeks)

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

\*no class 10/13

Location: in-person in New Brunswick

Member: \$64 / Non-Member: \$96

No one knew how to create suspense better than *"The Master of Suspense"* Alfred Hitchcock, or as *New York Times* film critic Peter Flint described him, *"the master manipulator of menace and the macabre."* So, what was his method for instilling the madness? How was he able to keep viewers engaged, anxious and on the edge of their seats? In a legendary 1963 interview with director/film historian Peter Bogdanovich, Hitchcock described his method as Pure Cinema: *"...complementary pieces of film put together, like notes of music make a melody"* without the need for words, purely through the choice and arrangement of images and sound. According to Hitchcock, *"The assembly of pieces of film to create fright is the essential part of my job."*

This course will examine Hitchcock's distinctive methods for creating suspense, techniques used worldwide by filmmakers for over 90 years since he started making movies in the 1930's. Together, we'll watch and analyze a selection of his most famous films as well as a sampling of films by directors who have taken inspiration from him. (course code NBM15)

**Instructor:** Jane Lasky-MacPherson

## Painting Studio

Mondays, Sept. 8 – Nov. 10 (10 weeks)

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Online

Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120

This course will focus on how to paint. You decide the medium you would like to paint in-- watercolor, acrylics, or oils. Come to the first class with a subject you are interested in tackling -- a copy of an artist's work, a photo, or something from life, and be ready to get started. There will be homework and direct, pointed feedback designed to help you improve your skills. (course code RT16)

**Supplies needed for watercolor:** #1, #4, #8 round watercolor brushes (camel, sable hair, or synthetic), Yarka watercolor set (12 color, pan, not tube), Strathmore 9"x12" cold press watercolor pad or Bienfang 9"x12" watercolor pad of ph neutral paper, 2B pencil with eraser.

**Supplies needed for acrylics:** Liquitex six pack basics (feel free to bring any additional colors you may own), acrylic synthetic round brushes (#2, #5, #8), 9"x12" pad of canvas paper, plastic or china plate to use as palette, small cup for water, 2B pencil and eraser.

**Supplies needed for oils:** Starter oil set (containing primary colors and black and white – feel free to bring any additional colors you may own), synthetic round brushes (#2, #5, #8), 9"x12" pad of canvas paper, palette or plastic plate to use as palette, small amount of turpentine in small jar (odorless, if possible), 2B pencil and eraser.

**Instructor:** Jeff Cohen



# MONDAY Late Afternoon

## ***The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry**

Mondays, \* Sept. 8 – Nov. 10 (9 weeks)

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

*\*no class on 10/27*

Location: Online

Member: \$72 / Non-Member: \$108

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince* is an imaginative journey through love and innocence, the spiritual and material, and explores what is really important to us (versus what we are taught) and why. "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye". It is not a children's story. In fact, it takes a certain amount of a certain type of wisdom that only comes with age to understand its messages. It helps us to look at our own lives from a different perspective, re-examine our outlook, and perhaps realize things that we knew, but didn't. We'll read the book during class hours and discuss it and its relevance in depth. Hopefully, you can teach some of those messages to me. (course code RM17)

**Instructor:** Charlie Pearlman



# TUESDAY Morning

## Acting for Everyone

in New Brunswick

Tuesdays\*, Sept. 2 – Nov. 11 (10 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120

*\*no class on 9/23*

Whether you have previous acting experience or are just eager to try something new, everyone is welcome in this relaxed class that explores the craft of acting! We'll use theatre games, acting exercises, monologues, and scenes—but don't worry! There are no lines or scripts to memorize, and no previous experience is needed. The only requirement is a willingness to learn and a desire to have fun! Remember—it's never too late to be in the spotlight! (course code NBT18)

**Instructor:** Susan Speidel

## Agatha Christie's *Hallowe'en Party*

Tuesdays, Sept. 2 – Sept. 30 (5 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$40 / Non-Member: \$60

In this course we will read and discuss Agatha Christie's *Hallowe'en Party* (published in 1969) which features Hercule Poirot, one of the greatest detectives in the history of world literature. In this novel Hercule Poirot collaborates effectively with Ariadne Oliver and others to successfully solve multiple serious crimes and ensure that the criminals are apprehended. Text for the course: any edition of Christie's *Hallowe'en Party*. (course code RV19)

**Instructor:** Hugo Walter

## The Courts, The Law and The Administration

Tuesdays\*, Sept. 2 – Nov. 11 (10 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120

*\*no class on 9/23*

At the time this course is being prepared, there is an extraordinary amount of recently instituted litigation contesting actions taken by the administration. When we begin this course in the fall there will be even more cases before the courts. At this time, unprecedented actions have been taken by the president to alter established procedures, traditions and restraints on power. This course will discuss the status of legal proceedings brought against, and brought by, the administration. Ultimately, it is the courts that we rely upon to serve as the protector of our constitutional democracy. We will be discussing in depth, the issues, the consequences and the likely outcome of this critical litigation. (course code RT20)

**Instructor:** Lou Ruprecht

## Drawing Workshop

Tuesdays, Sept. 2 – Nov. 4 (10 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120

Remember, the more you draw, the better you will get at it. Now you can experiment with different drawing materials as well as various subject matter. You will try your hand at graphite pencils, charcoal, pen and ink, tea staining. We will draw the human figure, portraits, landscapes, still life studies and more. Come draw with me.

(course code RT21)

**Supplies needed:** F Faber/Castell graphite pencil, 3B Faber/Castell graphite pencil, 7B Faber/Castell graphite pencil, General charcoal pencil (soft), a ball point pen (black ink), pink beveled eraser, 11"x14" 50 lb. stock Bienfang or Strathmore sketch pad.

**Instructor:** Jeff Cohen

## Dying, Grieving, Memorializing

in New Brunswick

Tuesdays\*, Sept. 9 – Oct. 28 (7 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$56 / Non-Member: \$84

\*no class on 10/14

As we reflect on the traditions and emotions surrounding death and dying our topics will include: ready or not, here I come; let's plan our funeral; 'I know how you feel' and other nonsense. We will explore death's illumination of life, end of life ethical issues and what's next. Resources will include selections from the writings of doctors, poets, novelists, and religious thinkers from various traditions. We will read Elaine Pagels' compelling, painful and hopeful memoir titled *Why Religion?* (course code NBM22)

**Instructor:** Brooks Smith

## Fall Poetry

Tuesdays\*, Sept. 9 – Nov. 4 (8 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$64 / Non-Member: \$96

\*no class on 9/23

In this workshop-style class, we will write poems about what's in the news, in our hearts, and on our minds. We will read published poems by a variety of poets present and past, with lively discussions about meaning, craft, voice, the poem's look on the page, and other artistic choices. Each week's discussion will lead to a prompt for writing a new poem. Class members have a weekly chance to read their work and to participate in critique in a non-competitive, supportive atmosphere. (course code RM23)

**Instructor:** Maxine Susman

## Films of Alfred Hitchcock

Tuesdays, Oct. 7 – Oct. 28 (4 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$32 / Non-Member: \$48

Known as the master of mystery and suspense, Alfred Hitchcock was a film director whose work spanned 50 years. His first work produced in England in 1925 was a silent film titled *The Pleasure Garden*. For the next five decades he directed and produced many classics of this genre on both large movie screens as well as the smaller screens of television. We will watch four of his classics before each class and then discuss them. The films are: *Lifeboat* (1944), *Rear Window* (1954), *North by Northwest* (1959) and finally *The Birds* (1963). All these films should be available on DVD at your local library or via streaming channels like Amazon Prime, Netflix, Apple TV or YouTube. (course code RM24)

**Instructor:** Bruce Tucker

## The Moral Decision: Right, Wrong and Social Justice in the Light of the Five Books of Moses in New Brunswick

Tuesdays\*, Sept. 2 – Nov. 11 (10 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120

\*no class on 9/23

This course will examine as literature selected biblical stories and events, from the Books of Genesis, Exodus and Leviticus in terms of the ethical values they illuminate and explain. The goal is to encourage critical thinking on subjects of ethical discourse: What is justice? What is the extent of our moral obligation to others? How do we evaluate and answer the question, "What should I do?"

**The required text for the course is:** *The Torah in English complete: The Five Books of Moses* | English Torah Translation (JPS) reworked paperback: including: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy by Noah Schwarz. It's available on Amazon (\$12.49 at time of catalog printing) or \$0.99 for Kindle version. (course code RT25)

**Instructor:** Jeffrey Ullman



### Meet new instructor Jeffrey Ullman

Jeffrey has been a practicing attorney for 50 years. He taught a course in social justice in the Rutgers Philosophy Department and is on the adjunct faculty at Seton Hall Law School. He has taught multiple programs in Continuing Legal Education, principally in the area of legal ethics.



## Time Travel Films

Tuesdays\*, Sept. 2 – Sept. 30 (4 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

\*no class on 9/23

Location: Online

Member: \$32 / Non-Member: \$48

Time travel has always captured our imagination. The idea of visiting the past to witness historical events or simply to observe life in earlier times. Without a time machine, we are trapped in our own time and so we sometimes seek in books or films an escape to another time that we think might be better. Of course, thus far, except for our imagination, it appears beyond our ability. Science fiction writers like H.G. Wells and Hollywood directors like Robert Zemeckis and Wood Allen have produced some fine films on this subject. We will watch and discuss 4 of them: First the classic 1960s *Time Machine*, then *Time & Again* (1980), *Back to the Future* (1985) and we'll wrap up with Woody Allen's *Midnight in Paris*. All these films should be available on DVD at your local library or via streaming channels like Amazon Prime, Netflix, Apple TV or YouTube. (course code RM26)

**Instructor:** Bruce Tucker

## TUESDAY Early Afternoon

### 5 Short Stories: Edgar Allen Poe

in New Brunswick

Tuesdays, Oct. 7 – Nov. 4 (5 weeks)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$40 / Non-Member: \$60

As days get shorter and nights get chillier, let's read some new and classic scary stories together. We will talk, write, and create some art about what's really behind the fear in these "ripping yarns" and gain a little insight into ourselves. On the list this time are Edgar Allen Poe's "The Masque of the Red Death"; "The Tell-Tale Heart"; "The Pit and the Pendulum"; "The Cask of Amontillado"; and "William Wilson." Let's get a little nervous paying attention to the words of America's dark hero. (course code NBV27)

**Instructor:** Maureen McVeigh-Berzok

## Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life: Operetta and the Birth of the American Musical

Hybrid

Tuesdays\*, Sept. 2 – Nov. 11 (10 weeks)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

\*no class on 9/23

Location: Hybrid can be taken in-person (NB) or online  
Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120

This course will examine how early American and European-based operettas influenced modern musical theatre. Composers such as Sigmund Romberg, Victor Herbert, Ivor Novello, John Gay, Noel Coward, Franz Lehar, and Gilbert and Sullivan will be featured, as well as classic shows like *Naughty Marietta*, *The Desert Song*, *The Beggar's Opera*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Mikado*, and *The Merry Widow*. (course code HYT28)

**Instructor:** Susan Speidel

This is a **hybrid** course. It can be taken either in-person or online. **The instructor will be in-person.**

## A Film Sampler

Tuesdays\*, Sept. 2 – Nov. 11 (10 weeks)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

\*no class on 9/23

Location: Online  
Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120

The ten films curated for this course come from different countries and represent a variety of genres and themes - justice, illegal law practices, realizing one's dream, friendship, family relationships, a prized possession, urban cowboys, serious illness, a childhood home, government agents, identity, physical disabilities, impersonation, deceit, impersonation, money laundering, and making choices. **The films are available on Netflix and must be viewed at home prior to the week's class discussion. They will be discussed in the order listed below.**

The films are: *Meiyazhagen* (India, 2024, 177 min.); *The Occupant* (Spain, 2020, 103 min.); *The Piano Lesson* (USA, 2024, 127 min.); *The Walk* (USA, 2020, 123 min.); *The Room Next Door* (USA, 2024, 100 min.); *100 Meters* (Spain, 2016, 108 min.); *The American* (Italy, 2020, 105 min.); *Concrete Cowboy* (USA, 2020, 101 min.); *Court: State Vs. A Nobody* (India, 2025, 133 min.); *The Infiltrator* (USA, 2016, 127 min.). (course code RT29)

**Instructors:** Roz and Steve Shaw

## Learn to Sculpt

Tuesdays, Sept. 2 – Nov. 4 (10 weeks)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120

This class is designed for you to have fun while exploring your own creativity. Previous experience is not needed. Learn how to sculpt in various materials that for the most part, you have around your home, as you create three dimensional sculptures, both abstract and realistic. You will be surprised at how much talent you have as you plan and develop pieces of art with your own hands. You bring an interest, and I'll do the rest.

(course code RT30)

**Supplies needed:** 6 sheets of white typing paper, scissors, container of Elmer's white glue, 5-pound box of Marblex air dry clay.

**Instructor:** Jeff Cohen

## Masterworks of World Cinema

in New Brunswick

Tuesdays, Sept. 2 – Nov. 4 (10 weeks)  
1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120

This course presents ten international films from seven different countries. Each film is seen and discussed in terms of its director, style, form, and unique technical language. The films selected provisionally are: *Elevator to the Gallos* (Malle/France), *Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (Demy/France), *Mr and Mrs Iyer* (Aparna Sen/India), *A Man for All Seasons* (Zinnemann/USA), *Mulholland Drive* (Lynch/USA), *You Can Count on Me* (Lonergan/USA), *Paris, Texas* (Wenders/Germany), *Fallen Leaves* (Kaurismaki/Finland), *Journey to Italy* (Rossellini/Italy), *Ordet* (Dreyer/Denmark). Two of the films are 2.5 hours long. The final list will be distributed in the first class. (course code NBT31)

**Instructor:** Keki Dadachanji

# WEDNESDAY Morning

## American Sign Language Primer: How to Talk When the Band Is Too Loud

Wednesdays, Sept. 3 – Nov. 5 (10 weeks) Location: Online  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120

Students will learn to fingerspell, short phrases, vocabulary in various themes such as going to the doctor, ordering in a restaurant. They will also learn to sing songs and have short conversations. (course code RT32)

**Instructor:** Naomi Miller



Members of the OLLI-RU Advisory Council awarded Naomi Miller the Spring 2025 Marlene M. Pomper Distinguished Teacher Award.

## Contemporary Moral Issues I

Wednesdays, Sept. 3 – Nov. 5 (10 weeks) Location: Online  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120

This is a course in applied or practical ethics: bringing ethical principles to bear on real-world moral problems. We'll examine and discuss contemporary moral issues that revolve around the morality of the taking of human life: war, terrorism, torture, suicide, self-defense, capital punishment, and euthanasia. We'll consider the morality of abortion and whether it constitutes the taking of human life since it raises thorny and difficult scientific and philosophical questions about when human life begins and what it means to be a person. Readings will be provided. Unfamiliar language and terminology will be clearly defined, questions are always welcomed, and students are encouraged to engage in discussion. *Note that this is a repeat of the course held in Spring 2023.* (course code RT33)

**Instructor:** Alison Brown

## The Fall of Rome: Blame It on the Barbarians!

Wednesdays, Oct. 8 – Nov. 5 (5 weeks) Location: Online  
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Member: \$40 / Non-Member: \$60

The Roman Empire lasted for over a thousand years. Since its collapse, historians have speculated on what caused it. Edward Gibbon, in his masterpiece *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, blamed the barbarian invasions and the rise of Christianity. Modern scholars claim that the first major pandemics and climate change were equally significant. In the class we will consider all these causes and try to answer the question: "*Was it just inevitable anyway?*" There are no prerequisites for the class and no single text will be used. Reference will be made primarily to the work of Gibbon and Kyle Harper's *The Fate of Rome*.

(course code RV34)

**Instructor:** Barbara Griffin

## The Fire Next Time?

in New Brunswick

Wednesdays, Sept. 3 – Sept. 17 (3 weeks) Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Member: \$30 / Non-Member: \$45

This course takes a deep dive into the two bizarre incidents where America actually bombed itself: the Black Wall Street incident of 1921 and the 1985 MOVE incident in Philadelphia. Pre-existing circumstances, the parties involved, the details of what actually occurred, and the aftermath will all be examined and discussed.

(course code NBM35)

**Instructor:** Charlie Smith

## How Congress Works

in New Brunswick

Wednesdays, Oct. 8 – Oct. 22 (3 weeks) Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Member: \$30 / Non-Member: \$45

“Congress” is a word with two meanings. It is the definition for both houses of the legislative branch of government but can also apply only to the House of Representatives. There are important and fascinating differences between the two houses which we will explore in the three sessions of this course. (course code

NBM36)

**Instructor:** Ross Baker

## Laughter, Leaks & Left Ventricles: The Curious Case of the Human Heart

in Freehold

Wednesdays\*, Sept. 3 – Oct. 8 (5 weeks) Location: in-person in Freehold  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Member: \$40 / Non-Member: \$60

*\*no class on 10/1*

Join me to learn, question, share information and some laughs as we explore the Cardiovascular System. Learn about the heart's size, shape, location, why the heart cannot repair itself and if laughter is good medicine. Understand how heart valves work, about valve replacement surgery, heart murmurs, and how blood flows through the heart. Come to understand those two blood pressure numbers, effects of high blood pressure, and drugs such as diuretics to treat it and what an EKG measures. Find out about coronary arteries, coronary heart disease, plaque in the arteries and heart attacks. Learn about our natural and a replacement pacemaker, if the heart can beat outside the body, and abnormal heart rhythms such as AFib ablation and much more.

(course code FHV37)

**Instructor:** Barbara Bogner



## New Jersey's Explosive History

in New Brunswick

Wednesdays, Oct. 8 – Nov. 5 (5 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$40 / Non-Member: \$60

The explosives industry in New Jersey began in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when a handful of entrepreneurs built an industry and a “powder town” near the Raritan River with the help of a few eccentrics including a crook or two, and former New Jersey resident sharp-shooter Annie Oakley. Decades later during WWI, the New Jersey explosive industry had expanded to other sites in the state and had grown so large it was able to supply half of the explosives used by all the Allies. Although their story is largely forgotten, thousands of brave New Jersey men, women and teenage girls made millions of tons of explosives and loaded them into shells destined for the battlefields of Europe and over a hundred of them lost their lives in terrible explosions. (course code NBV38)

**Instructor:** Andrea Dragon

## Oil Pastel Art

in New Brunswick

Wednesdays, Sept. 3 – Nov. 5 (10 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120

Get ready to unveil your artistic skills and learn the art of oil pastels! Learn the techniques of oil pastel art and create vibrant art pieces, using the unique depth and richness of oil pastel colors. The participants will be provided with a pre-sketched paper to focus on learning and applying the oil pastel techniques and tools to create their lovely artwork. Step-by-step guidance and personalized attention will be provided to each participant during the sessions. The participants can add their own touch and creativity to the art pieces! (course code NBT39)

**Required Supplies:** white mixed media paper (preferred size 7"x10"); oil pastel color set (preferably “Pentel of America” oil pastels); Q-tips; art/masking tape; paper towel; pencil, eraser, sharpener, ruler. Full list of supplies and the suggested purchase links will be emailed to the registered participants.

**Instructor:** Komal Mehra

## One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Wednesdays, Sept. 3 – Nov. 5 (10 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120

The course will begin with an introduction to Magic Realism. This genre of fiction presents a realistic world with magical elements as a natural part of it. Gabriel Garcia Marquez who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1982, wrote *One Hundred Years of Solitude* in 1967. The novel is a supreme example of Magic Realism and has made a significant contribution to the annals of world literature. In 2024 the book was adapted into a television series with eight episodes and released on Netflix. Eight more episodes are under production. The novel is set in the author's native Columbia and is the multi-generational story of the Buendia family.

(course code RT40)

**Instructor:** Vandana Walia

# WEDNESDAY Early Afternoon

## Benjamin & William, The Franklins of the Jerseys

Hybrid

Wednesdays\*, Sept. 3 – Oct. 1 (4 weeks)

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

\*no class on Sept. 24

Location: Hybrid can be taken in-person (NB) or online

Member: \$32 / Non-Member: \$48

The American Revolution was a family affair for father and son Benjamin and William Franklin. Benjamin Franklin, New Jersey's colonial agent, represented the General Assembly in protest against Parliament while William, New Jersey's Royal Governor, remained an ardent Loyalist in defense of the Crown. This place-based biography follows the intertwined lives of Benjamin and William Franklin with special attention to their connections and contributions to New Jersey, from William's role in the founding of Rutgers to Ben's place in the lore of the Jersey Devil. The falling out of father and son emerges as emblem of the civil war of the American Revolution fought 250 years ago across "the Jersies." (course code HYM41)

**Instructor:** Paul Soltis



This is a **hybrid** course. It can be taken either in-person or online. **The instructor will be in-person.**

## Exploring Rod Serling's *Night Gallery*

in New Brunswick

Wednesdays, Sept. 24 – Oct. 22 (5 weeks)

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick

Member: \$40 / Non-Member: \$60

Rod Serling's anthology series *Night Gallery* marked a return to form for the creator of *Twilight Zone*. Each episode is introduced by Mr. Serling and includes actors we've grown up with like Burgess Meredith, Agnes Moorehead, and Diane Keaton. All these episodes have been recently restored, and we will screen season one which ran from 1970-71. We can decide if *Night Gallery* stands the test of time like so many other classic TV shows from the past. (course code NBV42)

**Instructor:** Larry Stanley

## The History of Subways 1843-2023

Wednesdays, Oct. 8 – Oct. 29 (4 weeks)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$32 / Non-Member: \$48

This 4-week course traces the history of the subway. The urban inner city above and below ground railroads that go by many names like the NYC Subway, London Underground, Paris Metro, Berlin U-bahn, etc. These urban railroads were created as specialized modes of transport that provided millions of commuters a fast and economical way to get from home to work and afterwards or on weekends to places of recreation (sporting venues, world fairs, shopping centers). The technology of subways took these railroads underground and spanned the era of elevated steam locomotives to electrical driven underground passenger trains. It started in London in the early 1860s and came to the major cities of the US like Boston, New York and Philadelphia by 1907. Step lively please and watch the closing doors! *(course code RM43)*

**Instructor:** Bruce Tucker

## Manifest Destiny 1803-1850: From Sea to Shining Sea

Wednesdays\*, Sept. 3 – Oct. 1 (4 weeks)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$32 / Non-Member: \$48

*\*no class on 9/24*

The United States of America by 1800 was a small coastal nation of just 16 states that included the original 13 colonies and 3 additional states: Vermont, Kentucky and Tennessee. To the west of the Mississippi River was Spanish Louisiana and the Northwest territories of what would eventually become Ohio and Indiana. To the South was Spanish Florida. The Napoleonic wars would create opportunities for the young nation's growth and the independence of Mexico from the Spanish Empire in the west would create yet another. In this class we will explore the events and the presidents that made America's expansion to the Pacific Ocean possible.

*(course code RM44)*

**Instructor:** Bruce Tucker

# WEDNESDAY Late Afternoon

## Navigating the Healthcare System as a Senior

Wednesdays, Sept. 3 – Nov. 5 (10 weeks) Location: Online

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120

Become your own healthcare advocate. Learn important, basic information about your body to enable intelligent and meaningful conversation with your healthcare providers. We will look at the major organ systems of the body, the diseases frequently associated with the various organ systems and the treatments generally available. Additionally, we will discuss important legal principles that impact our ability to make decisions for ourselves and/or our loved ones and to make those decisions known to our/their health providers. We will discuss Social Security Income, Medicare, supplemental health insurance, informed consent, right to refuse treatment, acting as one's own advocate, obtaining one's medical records, medical malpractice, HIPAA, death with dignity guardianship, elder abuse, end of life issues and likely many other topics. Remember, even basic knowledge is power. (course code RT45)

**Instructor:** Judy Wahrenberger



### Meet new instructor Judy Wahrenberger

Judy attended law school after being a registered nurse and working in that field for numerous years. As a lawyer for 35 years, she defended doctors, nurses, hospitals and other healthcare providers in medical malpractice lawsuits as well as manufacturers in medical device litigation. Additionally, she handled guardianship matters as court-appointed lawyer and/or guardian for incapacitated people as well as for hospitalized people needing special medical guardians to assist the court in the decision-making process.

## Who am I? – Bhagavad Gita and Vedanta View

Wednesdays, Sept. 3 – Oct. 1 (5 weeks)

Location: Online

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Member: \$40 / Non-Member: \$60

“Brahman is Real. The universe is Unreal (an illusion; an appearance). The individual soul is, in essence, Brahman.” - Adit Shankaracarya

If you have ever wondered...What is the nature of reality? Who am I? Why am I here? How do I live my best life?...then this course is for you. *The Bhagavad Gita* is the best known and most influential of Hindu scriptures. It is one of the three starting points for the Vedanta school of Hindu philosophy. Its origin dates to the second century BCE. There are 18 chapters in *The Bhagavad Gita* that contains philosophical understanding and describes clear-cut techniques for implementing its spiritual precepts for everyday life. The course also focuses on fundamental truth from Veda, especially the end of Veda which is called Upanishad. Vedanta concerns itself with meditation, philosophy, consciousness, and ontological knowledge—that which encapsulates such things as existence, being, becoming, and reality. (course code RV46)

**Instructor:** Kaushal Trivedi

# THURSDAY Morning

## American Western Film—Part 2

in New Brunswick

Thursdays\*, Sept. 4 – Nov. 13 (10 weeks) Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120

*\*no class on 10/2*

This highly successful course further explores the iconic American Western Film during its golden age from 1935-1960. Together we will watch and discuss a carefully curated selection of 10 films (different from the ones in the previous course) that showcase the evolution of Western Cinema, its cultural impact, and its reflection of American societal values. Beginning with *Destry Rides Again* in 1939 through *The Magnificent Seven* in 1960, it promises to be a semester filled with great thrills and adventure. Yer Dern Tootin'. (course code NBT47)

**Instructor:** Jerry Wichinsky

## Jazz Giants and Rising Stars

Thursdays, Oct. 9 – Nov. 6 (5 weeks) Location: Online  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Member: \$40 / Non-Member: \$60

Join us for four classes on Jazz Giants: Guitarist Russell Malone; Producer/Composer/Trumpeter Quincy Jones; Saxophonist/Composer Benny Golson; and Guitarist Emily Remler. Our last class will be on Rising Stars where we will look/listen to some of today's young jazz musicians who will be the Jazz Giants of tomorrow. Classes consist of lecture about the artist interspersed with select recordings. (course code RV48)

**Instructor:** Sanford Josephson

## Rodin, Rilke & Finding Creative Kinship: A Writing Workshop

Thursdays\*, Sept. 4 – Nov. 6 (8 weeks) Location: Online  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Member: \$64 / Non-Member: \$96

*\*no class on 10/2 & 10/30*

Sometimes all it takes to kindle the creative spark is seeking out other kindred spirits. That certainly proved true for two artists who crossed paths in Paris, France at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and whose odd alchemy forged a whole new way of seeing. In this 8-week online writing workshop, we will explore how trailblazing sculptor Auguste Rodin and poet Rainer Maria Rilke each grew to become the artists they were: what their lives, their work, their friendship taught them about creative drive and living the artistic life. Through curated readings, discussions, and sharing of work, we'll use their personal narratives—along with the creative synergies we lend each other—to generate poems, stories, and memoirs of our own. Kindred spirits and writers at all stages of their career welcome. (course code RM49)

**Instructor:** Shelley Benaroya



## Stars and the History of the Movie Musical

Thursdays\*, Sept. 4 – Nov. 13 (10 weeks) Location: Online  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120  
*\*no class 10/2*

Mae West, Fred Astaire, Judy Garland, Lena Horne, Marilyn Monroe, Barbra Streisand, and Hugh Jackman. These are some of the stars we will watch and discuss as we travel through the history of film musicals. Our lectures will include the history of early musicals to musicals during the Great Depression, World War 2, Golden Age musicals, Roadshow musicals and film musicals popular today. Love musicals? If music be the food of love, let's gorge ourselves! (course code RT50)

**Instructors:** Sam and Candy Caponegro

## Street Corner Symphonies: Doo Wop and Beyond

Thursdays, Sept. 4 – Oct. 2 (5 weeks) Location: Online  
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Member: \$40 / Non-Member: \$60

In the 1950s, enthusiastic young singers in cities throughout America formed vocal groups whose sounds filled the radio airwaves and captured the imagination of the country's teens. In this course, we'll examine the roots of doo wop in barbershops, gospel, and jazz. We'll hear dreamy harmony ballads and up-tempo rockers from the guys who hung out on corners and the girls who practiced in church basements. We'll also learn about the songwriters and record producers who helped shape this popular style. Artists will include The Flamingos, The Shirelles, The Coasters, The Shangri-las, and many more! No preparation for attendees will be necessary. Presentation with music, photos, lyrics, etc. will be followed by group discussion. (course code RV51)

**Instructor:** Paul Howe

## Watercolor Art

in New Brunswick

Thursdays\*, Sept. 4 – Nov. 13 (10 weeks) Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120  
*\*no class on 10/2*

For beginners and semi-beginners alike, we will create art together while learning and practicing the basic techniques of watercolor art. I will provide step-by-step guidance and personalized attention to help you create beautiful paintings during class and help you develop skills so you can feel comfortable painting on your own. Each student will receive a pre-sketched watercolor paper, so you can focus on painting and learning the watercolor techniques. Students can add their own touch and creativity to the painting! (course code NBT52)

**Required Supplies:** White watercolor paper (preferred sizes: 9" by 12" and 7" by 10"); watercolor paint set; paint brushes: 1 flat, 1 round & 1 thin brush; paper towels; cup for water; masking/art tape; pencil, eraser, sharpener & ruler. Full list of supplies and suggested purchase links will be emailed to students.

**Instructor:** Komal Mehra

# THURSDAY Early Afternoon

## ***Goldilocks, Little Red Riding Hood & The Very Hungry Caterpillar speak Yiddish***

Thursdays, \* Sept. 4 – Nov. 13 (10 weeks) Location: Online  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120  
*\*no class on 10/2*

Did you know Goldilocks spoke Yiddish? Well, in my course you will hear her and the 3 bears conversing in Yiddish! Did you know that The Very Hungry Caterpillar spoke Yiddish too? Yes, he was very “*hingerik*” (hungry) and ate through many things. We’ll learn about the foods he noshed. Learn Yiddish vocabulary, conversation and a few modern twists on these wonderful tales. (course code RT53)

**Instructor:** Naomi Miller

## **The Secluded Self: Isolation in Literary Short Fiction**

Thursdays, Oct. 9 – Nov. 6 (5 weeks) Location: Online  
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Member: \$40 / Non-Member: \$60

Life sometimes has an ungentle way of reminding us that we’re on our own. We may find ourselves feeling isolated in a new job, or alienated by society’s expectations, or facing illness on our own, or feeling alone in a new country, or even alone in a marriage. The trauma that results from such estrangement has inspired many writers, creating characters in which we may recognize ourselves and our own pain or perhaps breathe a sigh of relief that we’ve been spared. We’ll read and discuss five stories—including some by Raymond Carver, Chimamanda Ngozi, and Anthony Doerr—that feature men and women, from very different worlds, coming fact-to-face with the inescapable truth of where life has placed them and the choices they make in response. Instructor will email PDF copies of the stories to the students. (course code RV54)

**Instructor:** Mary Ann McGuigan



For help registering give us a call at  
848-932-6554 or email us at  
[olliregistrations@docs.rutgers.edu](mailto:olliregistrations@docs.rutgers.edu)

# THURSDAY Late Afternoon

## On Civics—Public Knowledge and Political Education

Thursdays\*, Sept. 4 – Nov. 13 (10 weeks) Location: Online  
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120  
*\*no class on 10/2*

Amid the decimation of public experience over the past decade, civics, particularly as manifested in civics education, has assumed new political significance. Even Chief Justice John Roberts has publicly bemoaned its decline. But what should civics education involve? How can it be useful without becoming politicized? This course discusses texts that clarify what civic education in public schools might mean without being politicized and what knowledge it can impart. (course code RT55)

**Instructor:** John Wallach

## The Razor's Edge by W. Somerset Maugham

Thursdays, Sept. 4 – Nov. 6 (10 weeks) Location: Online  
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120

Somerset Maugham's *The Razor's Edge* tells a spellbinding story. The story revolves around five fascinating characters, all Americans, who spend a good deal of their time in Paris and London. Maugham himself is the sixth character, an Englishman, who narrates the story, and sees through the characters and events with a kind of x-ray vision. He probes the characters with questions that progressively reveal their psychologies and motivations. The novel combines irony with compassion, high drama with penetrating insights into deep spiritual questions. The title of this masterpiece is taken from the Hindu scripture "Katha Upanishad." After reading and discussing the novel, we will read selected verses from this Upanishad. (course code RT56)

**Instructor:** Keki Dadachanji

# FRIDAY Morning

## Acrylic Art

Fridays, Sept. 5 – Nov. 7 (10 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120

Get ready to unveil your artistic skills! Learn and apply the basic techniques of acrylic art and create an aesthetic painting on canvas. Students will learn about blending acrylic colors, applying brush techniques and creating a lovely artwork while having a relaxing experience. Each student receives step-by-step guidance and personalized attention. Students will have a reference painting (created by the instructor) to refer to during this class; to which they can add their own creative touch as well. (course code RT57)

**Supplies needed:** White stretched and primed canvas (preferred sizes: 11" x 14" or 12" x 16"); acrylic paint set (preferably "Apple Barrel" bottled paint set); acrylic paint brushes (preferably "Artecho" set with a variety of flat, round and thin brushes); paint palette tray or disposable plate (for mixing and blending colors); masking/art tape; cup for water; paper towels; pencil, eraser, ruler and sharpener; table top easel stand (optional). Full list of supplies and the suggested purchase links will be emailed to students.

**Instructor:** Komal Mehra

## Are You Health Literate?

Fridays, Oct. 10 – Oct. 31 (4 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$32 / Non-Member: \$48

This practical, engaging course is designed to empower seniors with the skills and confidence needed to better understand and manage their health. Through interactive discussions, hands-on activities, and guided exploration of trusted resources, participants will build a stronger foundation in medical terminology, improve their ability to evaluate online health information, and learn how to accurately interpret medication labels and instructions. Each session introduces relevant health topics and encourages personal reflection, goal setting, and open dialogue, helping older adults become more informed, proactive, and effective partners in their own healthcare. (course code RM58)

**Instructor:** Donna Lisi



### Meet new instructor Donna Lisi

Donna Lisi, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP, BCACP, BCPP, BCMTMS, is a Clinical Pharmacist and a trained Literacy Volunteer. She has been in the field of Geriatric Pharmacy since 1985 and has over 40 years of clinical experience teaching both patients and fellow health care professionals.

## Hot Topics: A Moderated Discussion

Fridays\*, Sept. 5 – Oct. 31 (8 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

*\*no class on 10/17*

Location: Online

Member: \$64 / Non-Member: \$96

Previously called “Let’s Continue to Discuss”, the purpose of this course is to discuss policy issues, explore root causes and logical approaches, attempting to explore an issue from both sides of the political aisle. The focus will be more on issues, although some politics will be included. Our discussions will strive to go deeper into the issues/policies than what mainstream media and emotion-rousing news outlets cover. Class participants will have minimal prep work – just bring their opinions/perspectives on the issues of the day (topics/agenda to be discussed will be emailed a day before class)! Occasionally, we will use a segment from a policy discussion program for class material (e.g., CNN’s Fareed Zakaria, Michael Smerconish), or an article from a media outlet. Topics will include: how the new administration’s doing, women’s healthcare; the economy, inflation and national debt; climate change, changing energy needs, education, the NJ Governor’s race, immigration; foreign affairs, term limits for House and Senate and more! (course code RM59)

**Instructor:** Jeffrey Davis

## Memorable Movie Mothers

Fridays\*, Sept. 5 – Oct. 24 (7 weeks)  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

*\*no class on 10/3*

Location: Online

Member: \$56 / Non-Member: \$84

Parenting is the most difficult and consequential job we choose to do. Can we look to films for positive role models? These talented directors and actresses present a variety of memorable mothers as they interact with sons and daughters in demanding situations. From the desperation of Depression-era dustbowl farmers to the impossible pain of a brother’s death for a family, we see mothers we admire and some we strongly dislike. Five of the selected titles are available on Archive.org (IA). Check the site JustWatch.com for *My Left Foot* and *The Grapes of Wrath*. You will watch the films before each week’s discussion and do the companion readings/assignments on the technical aspects of film in your online curriculum. These are the tentatively selected films with the location for viewing. 9/5: *My Left Foot*; 9/12: *Blonde Venus* (IA); 9/19: *Ordinary People* (IA); 9/26: *I Remember Mama* (IA); 10/10: *Make Way for Tomorrow* (IA); 10/17: *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* (IA); 10/24: *The Grapes of Wrath*. My goal is to help you improve your “cinema literacy.” (course code RM60)

**Instructor:** Sally Bauer Cohen



## What is Jazz? Sounds of History, Culture and Influence

Fridays, Sept. 5 – Oct. 3 (5 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$40 / Non-Member: \$60

This course explores jazz not just as a genre, but as a powerful expression of American history, cultural identity, protest, and spirituality. Tracing its roots from New Orleans to its modern forms, students will examine how jazz has evolved in response to migration, social change, and personal transformation. Through listening, storytelling, and discussion, weekly themes will highlight key elements like improvisation, cultural context, religion, and the present-day state of jazz. Students will engage with iconic and contemporary artists—such as Louis Armstrong, John Coltrane, Esperanza Spalding, and Robert Glasper—and reflect on what jazz means to them personally, recognizing it as a dynamic, living art form. (course code RV61)

**Instructor:** Kevin Witt



### Meet new instructor Kevin Witt

Kevin is a jazz drummer, editor, and education advocate who blends deep musicianship with a passion for storytelling and jazz history. He studied at U. of Colorado Boulder before moving to NYC where he honed his craft under Peter Retzlaff (Drummers Collective/ Manhattan School of Music) and studied privately with legendary drummers Jimmy Cobb (Miles Davis) and Cindy Blackman (Lenny Kravitz, Santana). Since relocating to Austin in 2009, he has performed with respected artists, cofounded the trio 3jazz and now leads the B-side Quartet, a group dedicated to exploring jazz's lesser-known works.

## FRIDAY Afternoon

### The Golden Age of Science-Fiction Film

in New Brunswick

Fridays, Sept. 5 – Nov. 7 (10 weeks)  
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120

The decade of the 1950's became known as the "golden age" of science-fiction film. After the horrors of WWII and witnessing the potential apocalyptic vision of the nuclear age, science fiction evolved from what was once a genre comprised of kiddy Saturday matinee serials and adventurous space operas, to a darker, more ominous forewarning of things to come. The constant xenophobic fears of the "other" or "alien" cultures infiltrating American life and values during the Red Scare created a cornucopia of extra-terrestrial invaders, mutated creatures resulting from atomic warfare, and the darkest beast lurking within the human mind conjured up from the deepest recesses of the "id". This film studies course will include screening classic sci-fi movies of the 1950s along with analytical discussions on the pioneers and themes of a decade in cinema that inspired and warned us to keep watching the skies. (course code NBT62)

**Instructor:** Nick Basile



### Meet new instructor Nick Basile

Nick is a film historian as well as the Producer, Director and Screenwriter of the independent feature films *Dark* and *American Carny: True Tales from the Circus Sideshow* among many other short films, documentaries and Off-Broadway theatre productions. Basile has a BFA in Film from the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan. He is currently the Producer and Host of the genre cinema podcast *Unkle Orlok's Vault*.

# INSTRUCTOR BIOS

**Allen Ascher** (pg. 16) has a doctorate in English from the CUNY Graduate Center. He taught English in middle school and high school and was an adjunct professor of English at Brookdale Community College. In 2023 he received OLLI-RU's Marlene M. Pomper Distinguished Teacher Award. "The major thing I've learned from my experience at OLLI-RU, and with its extraordinary participants, is that teaching is a collaborative and reciprocal effort -- no one teaches to an empty room."

**Ross K. Baker** (pg. 28) is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Political Science. He received his doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Baker was an Associate at the Brookings Institution and served on the staffs of 5 U.S. senators and as a staff member of the House Rules Committee. He is a member of the Board of Contributors of *USA Today*.

**Nick Basile** (pg. 39) is a film historian as well as the Producer, Director and Screenwriter of the independent feature films *Dark* and *American Carny: True Tales from the Circus Sideshow* among many other short films, documentaries and Off-Broadway theatre productions. Basile has a BFA in Film from the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan. He is currently the Producer and Host of the genre cinema podcast *Unkle Orlok's Vault*.

**Sally Bauer Cohen** (pg. 38) holds a M.Ed. degree in Media Ecology (NYU) and a Master of Library Science degree (Rutgers). A successful career teaching English and Film Studies in NYC high schools culminated in her 2009 retirement. She has enjoyed creating exciting film courses and developing the cinema literacy of her dedicated students at OLLI-RU since 2011.

**Shelley Benaroya** (pg. 33) is a published poet and teaching artist who has helped students of all ages discover the poet and storyteller within. In addition to her role as founding director of the Writing Center for Creative Aging, she has been a poet-in-the-schools for the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Writers Theatre, and NJPAC. In 2023, she joined the roster of teaching artists at Lifetime Arts, national leaders in creative aging programming. That same year, she received OLLI-RU's Marlene M. Pomper Teaching Award and is a past recipient of poetry and teaching fellowships from the NJSCA and Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

**Nicholas Birns** (pg. 17) teaches at NYU and is the author of many books and articles of literary and cultural criticism. He is the Fall 2024 recipient of the Marlene M. Pomper Distinguished Teacher Award.

**Barbara Bogner** (pg. 28) has degrees from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and Villanova University. She taught Human Anatomy & Physiology courses full time for 30 years at the college level. She has been teaching classes for the Rutgers OLLI-RU program for 9 years and still loves doing it!

**Patricia Brady** (pg. 18) is a retired psychologist who has been a genealogy enthusiast for over 50 years. She enjoys helping people add to their family histories and stories through genealogical research.

**Alison Brown** (pg. 27) taught philosophy at Union County College for 25 years. She loves both teaching and philosophy and is interested in making philosophy's value, methods, and areas of focus accessible and translatable to our everyday lives. She is honored to be the recipient of the Marlene M. Pomper Teaching Award.

**Sam and Candy Caponegro** (pgs. 12, 34) are passionate about American musicals. They met in a musical and have acted, co-directed, and taught theater courses for over 40 years. Their base is OLLI-RU, but they have lectured on Princess Cruise Lines, at libraries, senior centers, and universities throughout the United States. Their motto: If music be the food of life, let's gorge ourselves.

**Jeff Cohen** (pgs. 15, 19, 22, 26) is an award-winning painter and sculptor. He earned a BA in art at Upsala College and completed graduate work at New York University. Jeff currently serves as a commissioner at the Barron Arts Center in Woodbridge, NJ. He is a recipient of the Marlene M. Pomper Award for teaching excellence.

**Keki Dadachanji** (pgs. 26, 36) has a Doctorate in Operations research from Case Western Reserve University. He was a senior manager in American corporations for 30 years. Subsequently he was a part-time lecturer at Rutgers University and a teacher of mathematics and computer science at Parsippany High School. Dr. Dadachanji is a certified Yoga teacher. His interests span religion, philosophy, yoga, literature, mathematics, and international cinema. Dr. Dadachanji has taught various courses on these subjects at Rutgers University and OLLI-RU and is a recipient of the Marlene M. Pomper Award for excellence in teaching.

**Jeffrey Davis** (pg. 38) has worked in the information technology arena, but he has had a long-held interest in public policy issues. He enjoys leading a variety of policy discussion groups, including at OLLI-RU. Jeffrey has attended lectures/watched programs sponsored by the PBS Newshour, Michael Smerconish and Fareed Zakaria's GPS on CNN, the Eagleton Institute of Politics, the Brennan Center for Justice, NoLabels and others.

**Andrea Dragon** (pg. 29) retired after teaching for thirty years in colleges in New Jersey and Minnesota. She enjoys researching and writing about New Jersey's industrial history.

**Barbara Griffin** (pg. 27) is a retired, highly experienced educator who taught at both the high school and college level for 40 years, where she shared her love of the history, literature and language of Ancient Rome. She holds a B.A. in Latin and an M.A. in history.

**Robert Herber** (pg. 13) is an energetic advertising person who has a B.S. in Chemistry, an M.B.A. in Pharmaceutical Management, and over 20 years of having a seat at the table with marketing teams at some of the world's largest pharma companies. He is a 25-year member of the Sandy Hook Bay Catamaran Club and earned a certificate of sailing at the Annapolis Sailing School. As a veteran of delivering workshops that make complex topics joyful, his course materials are dynamic and engaging. From May to October, you can find him sailing his Hobie Catamaran.

**Paul Howe** (pg. 34) taught college writing and English courses from 1980-88 and English and Film Appreciation for high school from 1988-2019. During that time, he has also taught continuing education classes at various locations. His classes have included poetry, music and culture, and film.

**Pratibha Jani** (pg. 14) received yoga certification from Mumbai and is an E- RYT and a certified Yoga therapist. Pratibha has taught at the County College of Morris and the Piscataway Senior Center and presently teaches online. A NJ resident for over 38 years, Pratibha has a BS in Ancient Indian history/Culture from Bombay University, India.

**Sanford Josephson** (pg. 33) is editor of *Jersey Jazz Magazine*, published by the New Jersey Jazz Society. He is the author of *Jeru's Journey: The Life and Music of Gerry Mulligan* and *Jazz Notes: Interviews Across the Generations*.

**Jane Lasky-MacPherson** (pg. 19) recently retired from a 47-year career teaching English and Cinema Studies. Currently, Jane is an Associate Professor at Middlesex College in Edison, NJ, where she has been employed full-time since 1982. Prior to that, she taught full-time at Essex County College in Newark, NJ, from 1977-1981, so she has numerous years of experience teaching in her field.

**Donna Lisi** (pg. 37) PharmD, BCPS, BCGP, BCACP, BCPP, BCMTMS, is a Clinical Pharmacist and a trained Literacy Volunteer. She has been in the field of Geriatric Pharmacy since 1985 and has over 40 years of clinical experience teaching both patients and fellow health care professionals.

**Ed Malberg** (pg. 15) is a highly regarded veteran instructor and the recipient of the Marlene M. Pomper Distinguished Teaching Award. An adjunct professor at Raritan Valley Community College, Ed is a Rutgers graduate who holds a master's degree from the University of Kentucky and completed doctoral studies in American history at Northwestern University.

**Mary Ann McGuigan** (pg. 35) Mary Ann's short fiction has appeared in *The Sun*, *Massachusetts Review*, and many other journals. Her collection *PIECES* includes stories named for the Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net. *THAT VERY PLACE*, her new collection, reaches bookstores in Sept. 2025. Mary Ann's creative nonfiction can be found in journals such as *Smokelong Quarterly*, *Brevity*, and *The Rumpus*. Her book *WHERE YOU BELONG* was a finalist for the National Book Award. After graduating St. Peter's University, she taught English for eight years and later became a financial editor, mainly for Bloomberg L.P., serving as managing editor of two Bloomberg magazines and later as publisher for Bloomberg Press.

**Maureen McVeigh-Berzok** (pg. 24) Currently a professor at Middlesex College and Editor of *TAPinto East Brunswick*, Maureen has taught English for 43 years. She wants to help readers to re-engage with short stories and poetry.

**Komal Mehra** (pgs. 16, 29, 34, 37) is an artist, a crafter and an art instructor, who is passionate about creating life on canvas. She works with a variety of art mediums like watercolors, oil pastels, acrylics, pencils (pencil sketching), colored pencils, cords (macramé), thread (embroidery), paper strips (paper quilling), and digital art (graphic designing). She continues to hone her skills, learn new art techniques and loves to share her passion for art with creative friends around the community.

**Naomi Miller** (pgs. 27, 35) spoke Yiddish at an early age and later learned sign language to communicate with her deaf son when he was diagnosed at age 2. She and her late husband are the co-founders of a NJ statewide organization called Parents For Deaf Awareness, a support group for parents and families who have a deaf child. Naomi has worked as a speech therapist teaching deaf students at Passaic County Technical Institute. She has received several awards for her unique and creative style of teaching language.

**Charlie Pearlman** (pg. 20) has been studying mythology and various eastern philosophies for many years. He's always found that he learns much more from group discussions on these subjects than just reading about them on his own. Charlie has a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, has written academic articles on creativity and motivation, and has taught OLLI-RU courses on the Tao and Joseph Campbell's *The Power of Myth*. He also plays fiddle and guitar.

**Louis Ruprecht** (pg. 21) has been a practicing lawyer for over 60 years and presently is the senior partner of a trial firm in Westfield, NJ. He was an adjunct law professor for many years and continues to lecture at continuing legal education meetings. He has tried hundreds of jury cases, civil and criminal, and has argued appeals in every level of state and federal courts. He is a recipient of the Marlene Pomper Teaching Award.

**Robert (Bill) Selden** (pg. 12). has danced the dances of southeastern Europe for 50 years. He was a musician and dancer in the George Tomov Yugoslav Folk Dance Ensemble for 6 years and toured with that Group in Yugoslavia in 1981 and 1985. He was the collections manager of the Rutgers University Geology Museum for 33 years.

**Robin Shapiro** (pg. 14) Dr. Shapiro has been studying and teaching Buddhist thought for 35 years. As a Holistic Physician, this approach helps to illuminate healing in many forms.

**Roz & Steve Shaw** (pg. 25) have been teaching film classes at OLLI-RU since 2003. They take pride in finding movies off the beaten path and have never repeated a movie in 22 years of teaching! They love engaging in interesting discussions with their students.

**Brooks Smith** (pg. 22) is a Presbyterian pastor with degrees from Wesleyan, University of Chicago, Colgate Rochester Divinity School and the New School. He has been active in the civil rights, peace and immigrant justice movements. His current interests focus on philanthropy, spiritual practices that are experientially grounded and justice struggles.

**Charlie Smith** (pg. 28) is a long-time OLLI-RU instructor, experienced presenter, published author, and history buff.

**Paul Soltis** (pg. 30) is the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's historian for Wallace House & Old Dutch Parsonage State Historic Sites in Somerville. Wallace House was George Washington's Headquarters for the Middlebrook Cantonment of the Revolutionary War. Old Dutch Parsonage is the historic home of the founder and first president of Rutgers. Paul studies and interprets New Jersey history and contributes to Revolution NJ, New Jersey's official observance of the 250th anniversaries of New Jersey's first Constitution July 2, 2026 and the American Revolution in New Jersey from 2024 - 2033.

**Susan Speidel** (pgs. 21, 25) has directed over 70 professional, community, college, and high school productions and her performing career span off-Broadway, regional theatre, cabaret, and concerts with the Key West Pops, the Portland and Seattle Symphonies, and the Orchestra of St. Peter's by the Sea. She served as the first Director of Education for Paper Mill Playhouse and currently teaches for the Theatre Conservatory at Kean University. She attended Montclair State, holds master's degrees from NYU and Kean, and earned her doctorate at Drew University.

**Larry Stanley** (pg. 30) was a TV director for 32 years and received his BA in Broadcasting at San Francisco State University. He is a member of the Directors Guild of America.

**Maxine Susman** (pg. 22) holds a Ph.D. in English from Cornell. She has written 8 books of poetry, publishes in many journals, and gives community readings and workshops. Before retiring she taught writing and literature at Rutgers as Associate Director of the Writing Program, at Seton Hall University, Duksung Women's University in Korea, and Caldwell University where she was Poet Laureate. She has taught at OLLI-RU since 2013 and won the Marlene M. Pomper Distinguished Teaching Award.

**Kaushal Trivedi** (pg. 32) is an accomplished technical trainer with experience in training, managing, and maintaining training programs for corporate and educational organization at Rutgers, the State University of NJ as Assistant Teaching Professor. Kaushal is passionate about giving back to the community on various learning topics including Science, Mathematics and Technology, Yoga and Meditation, Sanskrit Language and Bhagavad Gita Philosophy.

**Bruce Tucker** (pgs. 23, 24, 31) holds a B.A. in political science and history and an M.S. degree in information technology and project management from Stevens Institute of Technology. Bruce has been a member of the Rutgers OLLI-RU faculty since 2009 and was a recipient of the Marlene M. Pomper Distinguished Teacher Award in 2015.

**Jeffrey Ullman** (pg. 23) has been a practicing attorney for 50 years. He taught a course in social justice in the Rutgers Philosophy Department and is on the adjunct faculty at Seton Hall Law School. He has taught multiple programs in Continuing Legal Education, principally in the area of legal ethics.

**Judy Wahrenberger** (pg. 32) attended law school after being a registered nurse and working in that field for numerous years. As a lawyer for 35 years, she defended doctors, nurses, hospitals and other healthcare providers in medical malpractice lawsuits as well as manufacturers in medical device litigation. Additionally, she handled guardianship matters as court-appointed lawyer and/or guardian for incapacitated people as well as for hospitalized people needing special medical guardians to assist the court in the decision-making process.

**Vandana Walia** (pg. 29) has a master's degree in literature and thirty years teaching experience in India. She has been an instructor at OLLI-RU for more than ten years and is the recipient of the Marlene M. Pomper Distinguished Teacher Award for Fall 2022.

**John Wallach** (pg. 36) recently retired after teaching political theory for 40 years at colleges and universities in the tri-state area. He previously taught "Free Speech and Misinformation" at OLLI-RU.

**Hugo Walter** (pg. 21) has a B.A. from Princeton University, an M.A. from Old Dominion University, and a Ph.D. from Drew University. Dr. Walter has taught at Drew University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and Rutgers University. He has published several books on European literature, including *Devoted to the Truth: Four Brilliant Investigators* and *Investigating Evil: Heroic Sleuths and Their Exceptional Cases*.

**Jerry Wichinsky** (pg. 33) has over 40 years of experience in HR Management and Training. He is also a lifelong cinephile, with a specialty in American Western Film, a passion he would love to share with others. He is also a veteran cabaret performer in NYC, NJ and PA.

**Kevin Witt** (pg. 39) is a jazz drummer, editor, and education advocate who blends deep musicianship with a passion for storytelling and jazz history. Kevin studied at the University of Colorado Boulder before moving to New York City in 2000. There, he honed his craft under Peter Retzlaff (Drummers Collective/Manhattan School of Music) and studied privately with legendary drummers Jimmy Cobb (Miles Davis) and Cindy Blackman (Lenny Kravitz, Santana). Since relocating to Austin in 2009, Kevin has performed with a wide range of respected artists, cofounded the trio 3jazz and now leads the B-side Quartet, a group dedicated to exploring jazz's lesser-known works.

**Carla Zimowsk** (pg. 18) recently retired from 25 years as technology manager for the History Department at Princeton University. She has decades of experience incorporating the ever-changing technological landscape in her own genealogical pursuits. Carla holds a Master's in Information Studies, a certificate in Digital Asset Management from the Rutgers School of Communication and Information Studies, and she is working towards genealogy certification. She has been published in the *Chicago Genealogist*. Carla is the owner of AncestorTech© LLC, exploring today's technology for today's genealogy!

