

Road Scholar Institute Network  
Curriculum Ideas  
February 2015

**Rose Institute for Life Long Learning (Menoah Park Center for Senior Living)**

*Food Safety Myth Busters*

As you enjoy fresh fruits and vegetable at home, learn the safe handling tips to help protect yourself and your family from food poisoning. We will also look at common food-drug interactions.

**NC State University - OLLI**

*Shariah for Newbies – Nuts, Bolts and Controversies*

This two-session course will be a brief introduction to Islamic law (Shariah) and is designed for those who are unfamiliar with this topic. We will focus both on the underpinnings and sources of this ancient legal tradition and the history of its development. We will also explore current controversies and how it can be relevant for modern Muslims and non-Muslims in predominantly Muslim societies. We will also examine the role of Shariah in societies where Muslims are a minority and how Islamic law can interact with secular law.

*International Non-Government Organizations: Changing Lives*

Over 250,000 women die each year from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth, and nearly 6.6 million children die before they reach their fifth birthdays because of preventable and treatable illnesses such as pneumonia and dysentery. International Non-Government Organizations (INGO) like Curamericas Global work to prevent these deaths and change lives. Learn how iNGOs go into countries, build partnerships, send US volunteers/staff, and accomplish the behind-the-scenes work that meets the need of vulnerable populations in high-risk countries.

*Understanding Emerging Infectious Diseases*

Emerging infectious diseases are defined as new, or newly recognized, diseases and are typically caused by microorganisms. This presentation will focus on emerging diseases that affect humans and are caused by virus infections. Possible reasons for the emergence of new diseases will be described, and each will be illustrated with an historical example. Comparisons will be drawn to contemporary examples, such as Chikungunya, the Middle Eastern respiratory syndrome (MERS), and Ebola. And, finally, consideration will be given to what the future may hold, both for ongoing epidemics and for emerging infectious diseases more generally.

*North Carolina's Contribution to the Bluegrass Story*

When the fiddle tunes of the British Isles' settlers of North Carolina combined with the African banjo, the new recording industry of the 1920s called it "hillbilly" music. What became "bluegrass" music had its origins in the split of the brothers Charlie and Bill Monroe in Raleigh in 1938; the first broadcast of the bluegrass sound in 1945 featured the banjo playing of a North Carolina native. North Carolina natives also helped spread and changed the way the

guitar was played in bluegrass. Come explore North Carolina's contribution to today's bluegrass music.

#### *Presidential Elections on the Cusp of War*

Shortly before the Civil War, World War I, and World War II, American presidential elections were held to select a leader for a time of crisis. How well did our democracy do? We will look at the elections of 1860, 1916, and 1940 to better understand what happened and to see how these critical elections differed from modern contests. We will find many surprises: unexpected candidates, strange electoral twists, tragic heroes, and disturbing scoundrels. We will also look at the Electoral College, a unique American institution that profoundly distorts the popular vote.

#### *What They Wore! How Hollywood Costumes Rocked the World of Fashion*

Hollywood classic films influenced what the world wore – great and not-so-great fashions! We'll cover movies from the golden age of the Hollywood star system to some recent contributions. We'll discuss who created it, who wore it, and if we should or shouldn't have bothered with the trends from the silver screen.

#### *From the Mud to the Sun – Military Weather Support*

We will discuss how the US Air Force and US Navy perform weather support functions for Department of Defense (DOD) missions across the United States and around the world. We will focus on meteorology support for aviation missions, but we will also cover support for ground and sea operations, and highlight historical impacts of weather on military operations. Course material will include information on current DOD actions in support of US national climate change initiatives, and how the DOD is preparing for impacts of space weather and solar events. The course will also briefly touch on internet “disinformation” sites and topics, such as “chemtrails” and “cloud seeding”.

#### *My Search for the World's Rarest Butterflies*

The rarest butterflies in the world are found in surprising places: at bomb ranges on a North Carolina army base, on tiny and remote islands off the Florida Keys, in the city of San Francisco, at the beach dunes of the North Carolina barrier islands, and in rarely-visited tropical forests. Although their individual stories can be fascinating, the rarest butterflies live in peril. The populations of each are so small, and restricted to such miniscule areas, that they are threatened with the ultimate and catastrophic state of extinction. By looking across this group of very rare butterflies, we can learn what about their biology makes them so rare and how people can restore the environments in which they live. The rarest butterflies exhibit both the fragility of rare animals to change in their environments and surprising resilience in the face of this change.

#### **From OLLI at Berkeley**

##### *The Myth of American Innocence*

While historical, scientific, political, psychological, and religious thinkers often offer insufficient responses to profound crises facing our nation, mythology can give us a broader perspective.

Beginning with Greek myths, we will explore what led to a vision of a nation divinely ordained to bring opportunity and freedom to the world while simultaneously denying those goals to large segments of its own population. White Americans live with these massive contradictions by subscribing, consciously or not, to a complex mythology that allows them to define themselves as both exceptional and innocent.

### **From The Evergreen Forum at Princeton Senior Resource Center**

#### *Fatal Attractions in Literature*

Fortunately, life doesn't too often imitate art. Great fiction's happy endings are far outnumbered by their opposite. In literature, for example, powerful attractions- whether to sex, money, fame, impossible dreams or grand illusions -almost inevitably end in tragedy. Such tragedy is the fate of each of the main protagonists in the three classics we will read in this course: Gustave Flaubert's *Madame Bovary*, Thomas Hardy's *Jude the Obscure* and Thomas Mann's *Death in Venice*.

### **From Bucknell Institute for Lifelong Learning Bucknell University**

#### *Six Plays That Helped Shape 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Drama*

In this course we will discuss six plays that have been celebrated as distinguished works of dramatic literature as well as having had an immeasurable influence (each in its own way) on the course of modern drama. Two were written by Europeans (Chekhov and Pirandello), two by English playwrights (Delaney and Churchill) and two by Americans (Miller and Williams). We will examine the themes and structure of these plays as literary texts to be read, but always mindful that they were meant to be acted by live actors on a stage. Our aim will be to address the different kinds of questions that are raised by literary critics, directors, actors and audiences through a combination of lecture and discussion. It is axiomatic that no list of readings for a course will satisfy very many potential students of, indeed, even those who have decided what is to be included. This is especially the case when there are literally scores, if not hundreds, of worthy choices and room for only a handful. Still, choose we must. I have settled on the following half-dozen:

Anton Chekhov, "The Cherry Orchard"

Luigi Pirandello, "Six Characters in Search of an Author"

Arthur Miller, "Death of a Salesman"

Tennessee Williams, "The Glass Menagerie"

Shelagh Delaney, "A Taste of Honey"

Caryl Churchill, "Top Girls"

### **OLLI at Aquinas College**

#### *Slavery in Latin America*

Familiarity with slavery in America often skews our understanding of slavery around the world. This lecturer will take us on a different trek as he tells of the experiences of Africans who lived elsewhere in the Americas. This two-week class will compare and contrast the lived experience of enslaved populations across Latin America. As we shall see, the history of slavery is multifaceted and more complex than you might have imagined.

## University of Connecticut ALP - Horn Adult Learning Program

### *Good Ol' Days*

Part history lesson, part nostalgia, part interactive sharing and part sing-a-long, this six hour PowerPoint-supported presentation is a look back at the entertainment, fashions, newsmakers, and home life we enjoyed during the 40s and 50s when life – as we remember it – was slower and simpler with a different set of values. If you're over 70, this will be “a program to remember”.

### *A Survey of Technical Theater*

The presenter will describe the preparation of a play from the perspective of a technical manager from introduction of text through opening night.

### *The Origin of Evil and the Social Brain Network*

By the “origin of evil” in the title the presenter is referring to people who are psychopaths. He describes the social brain network and the defects that produce abnormal behavior, and discusses why it is beneficial to learn that “evil” people have a brain lesion rather than believe in a world populated by demons and evil spirits.

### *Megachurch America: Do not Believe What You See on Television*

The Megachurch phenomenon has dominated American religious landscape over the past two decades. Yet very few New Englanders have actually attended None of these massive churches; rather our perceptions of them are formed by an accidental encounter on cable TV or an occasional New Yorker article. Very few of them resemble what you see portrayed on television. This interactive lecture will take you inside the phenomenon with slides, video and a talk informed by 25 years of study and brand-new 2015 national survey results. Come to this discussion and put your preconceptions to the test.

## Osher Lifelong Learning Institute of Southern Florida

### *The Ways and Spirits of the Samurai*

From the 10<sup>th</sup> to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> centuries, Japan's samurai class dominated not only in warfare, but also in political and artistic arenas. Their ethics and code of conduct controlled the lives of everyone from peers to peons. This course will cover the history, philosophy, and impact of these fabled warriors.

### *France: From Feudal State to Nation*

Explore France during the High-to-late Middle Ages in its transformation from a disjointed feudal confederation to a centralized monarchy. From St. Louis IX to Louis XI (who could never be mistaken for a saint), we examine the policies of the Capet and Valois monarchs. We will then expand to look at neighbors of France and how the interplay among them affected the development of each. The saints and sinners in the royal families give a soap-opera atmosphere to the diplomatic and military maneuvering.

### *World War I on Film, Take 1: Impact and Discussion*

This is the first of three courses in which we'll commemorate the anniversary of the start of World War I using the medium of film. Take one or take them all! In this course, we'll watch the classic film "All Quiet on the Western Front", then the more contemporary Stanley Kubrick movie "Paths of Glory". We'll consider and discuss how these influence our view of the Great War.

#### *World War I on Film, Take 2: Fighter Pilots as Heroes*

This is the second of three courses in which we'll commemorate the anniversary of the start of World War I using the medium of film. Take one or take them all! In this course, we'll watch the first Academy Award Outstanding Picture "Wings" (1927) and "The Great Waldo Pepper" (1975). We'll discuss how these may have affected our changing views of pilots as heroes.

#### *World War I on Film, Take 3: The Musicals*

This is the final of three courses in which we'll commemorate the anniversary of the start of World War I using the medium of film. In this course, we'll consider the music of World War I, which has endured as have the legends of entertainers who performed it. "Me and My Gal", the 1942 Gene Kelly- Judy Garland musical, captures much of the mythology about these entertainers. In sharp contrast is the 60s British stage and screen musical, "Oh What A Lovely War", which dramatizes the disparity between the realities of the war and the romance and sentimentality of the music that popularized it. We will watch both these films and discuss their implications.

### **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Saginaw Valley State University**

#### *Weird Films That I Like*

If you like films that are "not quite the norm" you'll want to join OLLI member Steve Parkhurst for this class. We'll begin each session by watching the film and then lively discussion will follow. The films include *Chronos* by Guillermo del Toro, a highly unorthodox tale about the seductiveness of the idea of immortality; *Das Boot* by Wolfgang Peterson, which is set on a WWII submarine and told from the German point of view; and *Prospero's Books* by Peter Greenaway, an interesting take on Shakespeare's *Tempest*.

#### *Saginaw's Early Transportation Systems & Hotels*

In the 1800s the Saginaw River was the main highway into the Saginaw Valley for transportation, commercialism, and culture. Then, the railroads, streetcars, roads and bridges brought more people into the valley. The horse and carriage era was replaced with the automobile in the early 1900s. Over the years, several leading hotels were built to accommodate the large number of people coming to Saginaw. This class led by local historian Rose Ederer, is based on her new Book Two, *Where Once The Tall Pines Stood*.

### **From Lifetime Learning Institute at Northern Virginia Community College at Annandale campus**

#### *Communications Policy: The Road Ahead*

Today's economy depends on communications systems facing crucial changes and decisions in the next several years. Topics to be discussed include transitioning from the traditional telephone network to its successors (copper to fiber and "plain old telephone service" to IP technology); open Internet access, or network neutrality; competition; "over-the-top" Internet video vs. the traditional cable business model; privacy and security.

*The Introduction of Non-Native Bird Species into North America ... the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*

This presentation begins with a brief discussion of birds introduced into the North American avifauna and examines the reasons for their release. We will note the birds that adapted successfully and those that perished. We will investigate, whether successful non-natives have had a detrimental, neutral – or in some cases – a positive impact on native birds and other wildlife, and conclude with a focus on the effects in Northern Virginia.

*The U.S. Economy – has it Really Recovered?*

Dr. John Min will assess the progress that the United States economy has made following the 2007-2009 downturn. Why has it taken so long for the economy to recover? What are the signs of recovery (e.g., household incomes, household spending, employment/unemployment, civilian labor force participation, industrial production, housing, trade balance), and are they long lasting? Are there danger signs ahead?

*Mapping the Course to Afghanistan's Future: A Look at the Past Decade of Intervention and the Future*

This course will examine the international – mainly the U.S. – intervention in Afghanistan over the past decade to understand the key lessons that have emerged from the intervention and efforts by Afghanistan to develop peace in the country. The first session will provide an overview of the Afghan conflict as well as a reflection on what has been achieved over the past decade. The second session will examine the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead following the 2014 troop drawdown.