



Spring 2025 Course Descriptions

Abigail and John Adams: Their Letters

Instructors: Joyce Rothschild & Mary Ann Rygiel

Wednesdays | 9:00 am - 10:30 am | Pebble Hill

The correspondence between Abigail and John Adams provides an intimate look into their personal and political partnership during one of the most defining periods in American history. Spanning decades, their letters offer insights into the Revolutionary War, the formation of the U.S. government, and evolving social issues. This course explores their courtship and marriage, the challenges of separation during the Revolution, their perspectives on governance, Abigail's advocacy for women's rights, and their opposition to slavery. Participants will engage in discussions on how these letters shaped and reflected the values of early America.

Required Course Materials: *My Dearest Friend: Letters of Abigail and John Adams* (2007), edited with an introduction by Joseph Ellis. ISBN: 978-0-674-05705-0.

Joyce Rothschild has a doctorate in English Literature. She taught for 28 years in the English Department at Auburn University.

Mary Ann Rygiel, also holding a doctorate in English Literature, has over 31 years of teaching experience.

Advanced Gel Pad Printing

Instructor: Kim Murdock

Wednesdays | 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm | Sunny Slope Annex

Required Fee: \$25 (to be paid at the time of registration)

Expand your gel pad printing skills in this Advanced Gel Pad Printing course, designed for students who have completed *Gel Pad Printing for the Absolute Beginner* or a similar introductory class. This hands-on, weekly workshop will introduce advanced techniques to create dynamic, multi-layered prints and finished products using gel printing methods. Students will explore image transfers, custom stencils, masks, and complex layered compositions to create four completed pieces. The course will also include short instructional videos for additional techniques and inspiration.

Required Course Materials (Provided by the Student)

- 8" x 10" Gel Pad
- 4" Rubber Brayer
- Golden Fluid Acrylic Paint Set
- Yasutomo Japanese Sketch Paper (9" x 12")

Additional Materials (Provided by the Instructor)

- Additional paints, papers, and supplies
- Stencils
- Baby wipes

Kim Murdock previously taught *Gel Pad Printing for the Absolute Beginner* in Fall 2024 and brings her expertise to this advanced-level course.

The Art of Mending

Instructor: Sheri Schumacher

Wednesdays | 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM | Sunny Slope Annex

This course explores the practical and creative aspects of mending clothing, drawing inspiration from the Japanese philosophy of Wabi-Sabi and the Boro tradition. Participants will engage in hands-on exercises, learn ancient techniques, and gain insights from readings and visual presentations. Emphasizing the value of imperfections and the celebration of aging, the course encourages a thoughtful approach to clothing. By extending the life of garments through mindful repair, participants contribute to a more intentional relationship with their clothes and the world around them.

Required Book: *The Art of Repair* by Molly Martin (ISBN: 978-1-78072-442-3)

Materials to Bring:

- A natural fiber dress shirt (cotton or linen), preferably discarded, damaged, or thrifted
- Sashiko needle
- Sashiko thread (thin)
- Straight pins
- Scissors

Sheri Schumacher is a designer with experience teaching sustainable design and adaptive reuse in architecture. She creates hand-stitched, pieced, and mended wall textiles using repurposed clothing.

Birding Basics

Instructor: Bill Deutsch

Mondays | 8:30 am - 10:00 am | Meets at Sunny Slope Annex Porch

Discover the joy of birdwatching in this beginner-friendly, field-oriented course! Designed for those new to birding, this class will introduce you to the natural history of birds, essential identification techniques (by sight and sound), useful birding aids, and ways to attract birds to your home. While some time will be spent at Sunny Slope for discussion, most sessions will involve hands-on birding at local parks in the Auburn area. Optional weekend field trips will be available for those eager to deepen their experience. By the end of this course, participants will confidently identify at least 20 bird species by both sight and sound. Please enroll in only one offering of this course, as they will be nearly identical.

Required materials:

Binoculars (loaners available) and comfortable walking shoes. A smartphone with the Merlin App from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology is recommended.

Bill Deutsch is retired from the AU School of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences. Avocational birder. Previous instructor for OLLI Birding Basics courses.

Birding Basics

Instructor: Hal Smith

Tuesdays | 9:00 am - 10:30 am | Meets at Sunny Slope Annex Porch

Join this engaging, beginner-friendly course to explore the fascinating world of birdwatching! Designed for those new to birding, this field-oriented class will cover bird identification by sight and sound, essential birding tools, and ways to attract birds to your home. While some time will be spent at Sunny Slope discussing birding techniques and local birding hotspots, most sessions will involve hands-on birding at Auburn's parks and natural areas. Optional weekend field trips will be available for those interested in expanding their experience.

Required materials:

Binoculars (loaners available) and comfortable walking shoes. A smartphone with the Merlin App from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology is recommended.

Hal Smith owns Wild Birds Unlimited in Auburn and actively contributes to eBird.org and the Alabama Ornithological Society.

Careful Pencil Drawing

Instructor: Scott Melville

Tuesdays | 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm | Sunny Slope Annex

Unlock the art of creating stunning pencil drawings in this detailed and methodical class. Students will explore what makes for compelling compositions and learn how to size, outline, and develop drawings with precision. Each session focuses on achieving strong contrasts, sharp and soft edges, and the subtleties of "lost edges." Assignments will be given for each class, with optional opportunities to share completed work during the next session.

Required Course Materials (Provided by the Student)

- Basic set of drawing pencils (optional; No. 2 Ticonderoga pencils recommended)
- Paper (minimum 80# weight; 140# preferred)
- Ruler
- Good soft eraser

Scott Melville has been painting and drawing for over 40 years. For the past 10 years, he has spent two to three hours nearly every day working on a painting or pencil drawing.

Chinese Brush Painting

Instructor: Dong Shang

Mondays | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm | Sunny Slope Kitchen

Experience a hands-on introduction to Chinese brush painting and calligraphy, focusing on capturing nature's essence through suggestion and simplicity. Traditional subjects like flowers, animals, and landscapes will be explored, reflecting the harmony of Chinese culture. Participants will learn fundamental brush strokes, composition, and spontaneous painting techniques.

Materials Fee: \$120, payable at registration - unless you have previously purchased class supplies

Materials: Course materials will be provided by the instructor during the first meeting.

Dong Shang, a native of China with a degree in Art, is an art designer. She immigrated to the United States and has since built a successful career as a freelance artist and art teacher.

Conversations with Auburn University Undergraduates in an Adult Development & Aging Course

Instructor: Kyle Kostelecky

Thursdays | March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24 | 1:45 pm - 3:15 pm | AU Campus - Mell Classroom Building (OLLI Van departs Sunny Slope at 1:15 PM)

Requirement: Must be approved to audit the course to participate.

Join Auburn University undergraduates studying Human Development & Family Science to explore adult development and aging. Engage in open discussions, share insights, and explore the interests of the students. Topics covered include the environmental context of older adults, changes in personality over the lifespan, lifelong relationships, work, retirement, leisure, and the concept of successful aging.

Kyle Kostelecky is a tenured Associate Professor at Auburn University in Human Development & Family Science, with a focus on Lifespan Development and Gerontology, and 30+ years in academia.

Culinary Series: German Comfort Food - Schnitzel and Traditional Side Dishes

Instructor: Julia Knappenberger

Sunday | April 27 | 4:00 pm | Location TBA

Join us for a hands-on culinary experience exploring the rich flavors of German comfort food! In this interactive class, participants will prepare and enjoy a classic German meal, featuring Schnitzel and traditional side dishes. Cooking demonstrations and guided instruction will provide insight into authentic techniques and ingredients. This event will take place in a home setting, creating a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided, and participants are welcome to bring their beverage of choice. For comfort during cooking, an apron is recommended.

Julia Knappenberger has taught German beginner classes at Auburn University since 2018 and is currently completing her master's studies at a German university.

Culinary Series: Italian

Instructor: Anne Delvillano

Fridays | 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm | Home of Anne Delvillano

Option 1: April 4 | \$15

Option 2: May 9 | \$15

This hands-on class explores Italian cuisine through instruction, practical cooking techniques, and a guided tasting experience. Participants will prepare a four-course meal from scratch, starting with meal prep at 3:00 PM, followed by a cocktail hour with appetizers, and dinner at 6:00 PM. Non-alcoholic beverages provided; participants may bring their own beverage.

Anne Delvillano has previously taught this course, as well as a German cuisine course, sharing her passion for traditional European cooking.

Culinary Series: Tasting the Wines of France

Instructor: Steve Harrison

Tuesdays | 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM | March 25, April 1, April 8 | Home of Steve Harrison

Fee: \$60 (payable to the instructor at the first meeting)

This three-week course explores French wines, featuring 18 selections (half white, half red) from regions such as Bordeaux, Alsace, and the Loire Valley. Participants will learn about each wine's characteristics, how to assess wines through label reading, and compare tasting impressions in a relaxed, guided setting.

Culinary Series: Tasting the Wines of Italy

Instructor: Steve Harrison

Tuesdays | 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM | April 15, April 22, April 29 | Home of Steve Harrison

Materials Fee: \$60 (payable to the instructor at the first meeting)

This three-week course explores Italian wines, featuring 18 selections (half white, half red) from regions such as Piedmont, Tuscany, Veneto, Abruzzo, and Sardinia. Participants will learn about each wine's characteristics and discuss tasting impressions in an interactive setting.

Steve Harrison holds degrees in mathematics and literature and has taught numerous OLLI courses. His passion for lifelong learning extends to wine education, offering participants an enriching and enjoyable tasting experience.

Dementia Capable Care

Instructor: Leisa Askew

Tuesdays | 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm | Sunny Slope Annex

Gain an essential understanding of dementia care, including an overview of the seven main types of dementia, the four types of memory, attention span variations, and the seven stages of dementia retrogenesis. This course will also cover common communication challenges and behavior issues, providing participants with the knowledge to offer compassionate and effective care to individuals living with dementia.

Leisa Askew is a licensed social worker with 27 years of experience working with the aging population. She is also a certified Dementia Care Specialist and Aging Resource Specialist.

Discovering Lee County's Past: A Journey Through History

Instructors: Jason Bryant & Ashley Brown

Mondays | 9:00 am - 10:30 am | Pebble Hill

Lee County, Alabama, has a rich and complex history, shaped by agriculture, education, and industry. This course explores the county's historical evolution, from its early roots in cotton and peanut farming to its development as a center for education, sports, and culture. Discussions will highlight key locations such as Opelika's historic downtown, Auburn University, and the Chattahoochee River, examining their roles in shaping the region's identity.

Jason Bryant is an Associate Clinical Professor and Director of the Truman Pierce Institute. He also serves as a board member for the Lee County Remembrance Project.

Ashley Brown, Ph.D., is a counselor and a founding member of the Lee County Remembrance Project, contributing to local historical and social initiatives.

Ekphrastic Poetry

Instructors: Wendy Cleveland & Curtis Shannon

Tuesdays | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm | Sunny Slope Main Classroom

Ekphrastic poetry is the art of responding to visual works through writing. In this class participants will explore portraiture, street photography, landscapes, and photographs documenting the South. Each week students will write poems that reflect, describe, or narrate their reactions.

Wendy Cleveland is the author of the poetry collection *Blue Ford* and has previously taught Ekphrastic Poetry and Writing Our Lives courses for OLLI.

Curtis Shannon is a photographer and lens-based visual artist who explores landscapes through photography, collage, and assemblage, engaging with themes of materiality, memory, and ambiguity.

England in the Late Middle Ages

Instructor: Joseph Kicklighter

Tuesdays | 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm | Pebble Hill & Zoom

This course examines the political, social, and cultural changes in England from 1300 to 1500. Topics include the Hundred Years' War, the Black Death, the Wars of the Roses, and the monarchy's evolution. Discussions will cover key figures, events, and their lasting impact on English history.

Joseph Kicklighter, a retired professor of Medieval History from Auburn University, has been teaching at the university since 1975 and still teaches there part-time. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of the South and obtained his Ph.D. from Emory University. Since 2015, he has also been teaching for OLLI.

Exploring Mixed Media Art 'In This House'

Instructor: Margee Bright-Ragland

Tuesdays | April 8, 15, 22, 29 | 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm | Sunny Slope Annex

This mixed media course focuses on the concept of home as both a physical space and a personal narrative. Participants will experiment with various artistic techniques and materials to create layered, expressive works that reflect their interpretation of home. No prior experience is required.

Margee Bright-Ragland is an artist and educator with a B.F.A. from Auburn University (1970) and an MA in Visual Arts from Georgia State University (1974). As a professor at Georgia Perimeter College, she taught art appreciation, drawing, and watercolor. Her art has been exhibited in the United States, Europe, and Latin America, including her piece *Birds in Landscape* in Georgia's State Art Collection.

Gay in the USA: 20th Century Queer American History

Instructor: Patrick Ward

Thursdays | 9:00 am - 10:30 am | Sunny Slope Main Classroom

This course examines Queer emergence and movements in the United States throughout the 20th century, covering community building, protest actions, medical activism, and the evolving legal landscape. Beginning with the classification of gay and lesbian identities, discussions will trace activism through the 2015 Supreme Court rulings, with a special focus on the Southern Queer experience. Lectures, discussions, and hands-on activities will provide insight into the deliberate and active role of Queer Americans in shaping history.

Suggested Course Materials:

Allan Bérubé - *Coming Out Under Fire: The History of Gay Men and Women in World War Two* (ISBN: 978-0452265981)

Margot Canaday - *The Straight State: Sexuality and Citizenship in 20th-Century America* (ISBN: 978-0691149936)

David France - *How to Survive a Plague: The Inside Story of How Citizens and Science Tamed AIDS* (ISBN: 978-0307745439)

Patrick Ward, recipient of the OLLI Graduate Teaching Award for Spring 2025, has spent the past five years studying, interviewing, and curating projects on the Deep Queer South. His work continues to investigate the evolving field as interest in Queer Southern history grows in academic settings.

Hinges and Twinges: Active Adult Exercises

Instructor: Deborah Manasco

Wednesdays | 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm | AUUF

Enhance your flexibility, strength, and balance through standing and chair exercises aimed at promoting functional fitness. Focus on building muscle memory, improving mobility, and preventing falls with movements inspired by everyday activities. A light cardio component is included to encourage safe motion and boost confidence. Participants can work at their own pace in a comfortable and supportive setting.

Deborah Manasco is a retired law practitioner with the State of Alabama. She holds undergraduate studies in Health, PE, and recreation and is a certified therapeutic horsemanship instructor through PATH, Intl. Deborah has taught Active Older Adult exercise classes at various institutions and is an avid equestrian.

The History of Freedom

Instructors: Herb Shivers & Jim Barber, Instructors

Mondays | 9:00 am - 10:30 am | Sunny Slope Annex & Zoom

This course delves into the profound concept of freedom—a driving force of Western civilization and possibly the most influential idea in human history. But what exactly is freedom? Historian and classical scholar J. Rufus Fears will guide us through its dramatic story, from ancient Greece to the present day. We will explore what freedom meant to figures like Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and Martin Luther King, and reflect on what it means to us today. Join us as we embark on this thought-provoking journey into the meaning of human freedom.

We are proud and honored to continue this series on behalf of and in memory of "The Colonel - Tom McCormick." While we won't attempt to fill Tom's boots or emulate his unique teaching style, charm, and wit, his spirit will be with us throughout.

To complete the Spring 2025 semester, several sessions from James Burke's acclaimed "**Connections**" series will also be presented, offering fascinating insights into the interconnectedness of historical events and ideas.

Charles H. "Herb" Shivers, PhD has been an AU OLLI member since 2012. He is a retired UAB Professor who worked with NASA and the Senior Executive Service. In addition, he has worked with the Tennessee Valley Authority, the US Army, and the National Guard. Herb is a retired Licensed Professional Engineer in Alabama and holds degrees from Auburn University, Texas A&M University, and The University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Jim Barber holds a BCE degree from Auburn University with additional studies at Villanova University, University of Houston, and Sacramento State. He has 54 years of experience in construction engineering

History of Western Art, Part 2

Instructor: Anne Leader

Mondays | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm | Sunny Slope Annex

This course introduces the historical and intellectual content of Western art, examining various media, including painting, sculpture, and architecture. Topics include history, style, meaning, and social context, with discussions guided by participant interest. Each term builds on previous sessions, but no prior experience is required, and new participants are always welcome. *Please note:* The schedule may adjust based on previous course coverage and Dr. Leader's research travel.

Anne Leader, Ph.D., has taught Introduction to Art History at the University of New Hampshire, Kean University, The City College of New York, SCAD-Atlanta, and OLLI.

The Instruments of Folk and Roots Music

Instructor: Mike Reinke

Tuesdays | 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm | Zoom Only

Discover the origins and evolution of American folk and roots music, with a focus on African-American folk traditions and its commercial separation from Anglo-American folk music. This class also highlights the folk music of Alabama, the structure and composition of traditional folk, roots, and blues music, and the impact of various musicians on contemporary culture. For more information, please email mikereinke68@gmail.com.

Mike Reinke is a retired Auburn University faculty member who taught in the School of Pharmacy for 22 years and received several teaching awards. He has been teaching in the OLLI at AU program since 2016.

design, project management, and international shipping/transportation and trade. Science and history are at both ends of his happiness rainbow.

Intermediate Hikes

Instructors: Harold Bruner & Maureen Donnan

Tuesdays | 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm | Meet at Chewacla State Park

Participants will need to pay the entrance fee of \$4.00 in person (People 62 and older are \$2.00)

Embark on a course tailored for those seeking longer distances and a faster pace than the shorter Monday hikes at Chewacla. Most hikes will span approximately 3-4 miles, offering an invigorating outdoor experience. A small day pack and water are suggested.

Required: At least one hiking pole is mandatory; two poles are preferred.

Harold Bruner has hiked extensively in the U.S. and Canada and, more recently, in northern England. He has led hikes for OLLI for the last six years. As a forestry graduate of Purdue, he worked in the forests of the Midwest for many years. Since moving to Auburn in 2014, he has enjoyed the biodiversity and many hiking opportunities in Alabama.

Introduction to Islam

Instructor: Hammad Ahmad

Wednesdays | 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm | Zoom Only

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to Islam, covering its core beliefs, historical development, and contemporary significance. Ideal for beginners, this course encourages inter-religious dialogue, with particular relevance to those interested in understanding Islam's relationship with the West and other Abrahamic faiths. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussions that promote deeper understanding.

Hammad Ahmad has served as a theologian and Imam of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community since 2011. He has worked in Canada, Pakistan, Uganda, and the United States and has been the Imam of Baitul Ata Mosque in Norcross, GA, since 2019.

iPhone Photography On-The-Go

Instructor: Mike Akins

Tuesdays (4 Sessions) | 11:00 - 12:30 pm | Pebble Hill

This hands-on course helps iPhone users improve their photography skills with guided exercises, editing techniques, and creative challenges. Participants will learn to shoot, edit, and share pro-level photos with a focus on travel and nature photography. The course covers camera settings, best practices, and new iOS features, along with tips for storage, sharing, and printing. Each session includes interactive activities and fun challenges to enhance creativity on the go. No prior experience is required, and all iPhone models are welcome. Please bring a fully charged iPhone to follow along with demonstrations.

Mike Akins is an online learning producer, videographer, and personal tech trainer who collaborates with educators and creatives. He holds a Ph.D. in International Relations and an M.S. in Educational Technology. He lives in Opelika, AL, with his wife Betsy, and both are active OLLI members.

Knitting 102: Knit Along

Instructor: Lori Moore

Thursdays | 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM | Sunny Slope

This class picks up where *Knitting for Beginners* left off. Together, we will tackle a simple pattern, building new skills in class and practicing with "homework" between sessions.

Prerequisites: You're welcome to join even if you haven't taken *Knitting 101*, as long as you feel comfortable with:

- Casting on
- Knit stitch
- Casting off

Bonus points if you know the purl stitch, but it's not required! Join us for a fun and supportive knitting experience as we continue to build confidence and creativity with our projects.

Lori Moore brings her passion for knitting to this hands-on course for beginners.

Line Dancing: Beginners

Instructors: Betsy Keown & Wanda Knight

Tuesdays | 9:00 am - 9:45 am | Jan Dempsey Dance Studio

Get ready to have fun while learning the basics of line dancing in this 45-minute class. You'll master easy-to-follow steps set to an eclectic mix of music, including tunes from Glenn Miller, Willie Nelson, Charlie Daniels, Little Big Town, and more. Line dancing is not only enjoyable but also a great workout for both body and mind. Please wear comfortable shoes without taps and bring a water bottle to stay hydrated.

Betsy Keown has been line dancing twice weekly for sixteen years and teaching for the past ten. She loves the exercise and the joy of performing at nursing homes and other venues.

Wanda Knight has been line dancing for over nine years and has assisted Betsy Keown in several classes.

Line Dancing: Intermediate

Instructors: Betsy Keown & Wanda Knight

Tuesdays | 10:00 am - 10:45 am | Jan Dempsey Dance Studio

This intermediate class is perfect for those with some line dancing experience looking to build on their skills. Dance to a variety of music, including Glenn Miller, Willie Nelson, Charlie Daniels, Little Big Town, and more. Line dancing is not only enjoyable but also provides an excellent workout for both body and mind. Please wear comfortable shoes without taps and bring a water bottle.

Betsy Keown has been line dancing twice weekly for sixteen years and teaching for the past ten. She loves the exercise and the joy of performing at nursing homes and other venues.

Wanda Knight has been line dancing for over nine years and has assisted Betsy Keown in several classes.

Local Living History

Coordinator: Charles Mitchell

Wednesdays | 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm | Pioneer Park (approximately 20 minutes from Sunny Slope on Ala. Hwy. 14)

This course offers an interactive exploration of Lee County's history, featuring lectures, walking tours, and hands-on demonstrations at Pioneer Park. Led by Lee County Historical Society members, sessions cover topics such as Creek Indian history, pioneer life, agriculture, industry, wildlife, and entertainment. Participants will engage with historical artifacts, restored buildings, and gardens, gaining a deeper understanding of the region's past. Pioneer Park, maintained by the Lee County Historical Society, serves as a living history museum, preserving and sharing the county's heritage.

Course Schedule:

Date	Topic	Description & Presenters
March 26	Ancient History & Creek Indians	Visit the Barnard-Newell Home and Creek Indian diorama (<i>T. Paglione & Pete Dunaway</i>)
April 2	Pioneer Living (Early 19th Century)	Tour the Ruth Speake cabin, one-room schoolhouse, and textile exhibits (<i>Cincy Mask & Ann Whatley</i>)

April 9	Living Off the Land	Agricultural development in Alabama (<i>C. C. Mitchell</i>)
April 16	Industrializing Alabama	Explore the Taylor-Whatley Farm Tools Exhibit and Village Blacksmith's Shop (<i>Dr. Paul Mask & Dr. Jim Witte</i>)
April 23	Wildlife of Alabama & Firearms Demonstration	(<i>Doyle Keasal & C. C. Mitchell</i>)
April 30	Music & Entertainment	(<i>D. McCord & guests</i>)

Local Naturalists

Coordinator: Gary Wagoner

Mondays | 2:00 - 3:30 pm | Annex & Zoom | OLLI Shares

A team of seven local naturalists will guide this multi-disciplinary course, exploring topics such as botany, ichthyology, ornithology, geology, and ecology. Each instructor will share their unique expertise and personal observations, offering insights into the remarkable natural diversity of our region. This course provides a deep dive into the natural world through the eyes of those who have spent years studying and appreciating the environment around us.

The Lyrics I Love

Instructor: Sam Hurt

Mondays | 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm | Sunny Slope Main Classroom

If you enjoy meaningful lyrics and lively discussions, this course is for you! Each session will focus on three to four songs, with lyrics provided for group discussion. Participants are encouraged to bring their own favorite songs for future sessions. We'll begin with selections from Jimmy Buffett, John Prine, and Randy Newman, and adapt the playlist based on the group's interests. Future sessions may feature patriotic, inspirational, and faith-oriented songs. Come share engaging conversations through music!

Sam Hurt, a lifelong learner and OLLI student, is a retired Army Colonel, high school science teacher, and former US Army Aviation doctrine team leader.

Mapping in the Digital Age

Instructor: Sonny Dawsey

Tuesdays | 9:00 am - 10:30 am | Pebble Hill

Advancements in digital technology have transformed how we navigate and interpret the world. This course introduces the fundamentals of digital mapping and spatial analysis, covering interactive maps, public data sources, and GIS tools. Participants will explore mapping applications like Google Maps and Google Earth, work with publicly available GIS data, and gain hands-on experience with QGIS, a powerful free mapping software. No prior experience is required.

Sonny Dawsey, PhD is a retired Auburn University professor from the Department of Geography, where he taught cartography and quantitative methods. Over the past 15 years, he has taught more than a dozen courses for OLLI.

Opelika Community Theatre presents Creative Aging Senior Theatre

Instructor: Marty Moore

Tuesdays | 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm | Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Discover the many benefits of Senior Theatre, including improved memory, cognitive skills, and social connections. Through character study, storytelling, and performance, participants will engage in self-discovery and enjoy the camaraderie of working together. This course highlights how involvement in theatre can enhance daily living activities (ADLs), promote a positive outlook, and improve overall quality of life. Evidence from similar programs nationwide demonstrates the positive impact Senior Theatre can have on the health and well-being of older adults.

Marty Moore, the owner of Opelika Theatre Company, has a passion for sharing the art of theater with others.

Russia-Ukraine: Forward to the Past

Instructor: Jay West

Tuesdays | 9:00 am - 10:30 am | Zoom Only

This course examines the historical and geopolitical roots of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, exploring how past events shape the present and influence the future. Through an analysis of political dynamics, historical narratives, and global responses, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the ongoing crisis. Discussions will address key moments in Russian and Ukrainian history, the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the complex relationship between these two nations. By drawing connections between past and present, the course provides insight into the broader implications of the conflict on global affairs.

Jay West holds a Ph.D. in Russian History from Princeton University and has over 39 years of teaching experience at Trinity College and Middlebury College. He is a frequent instructor for OLLI programs, offering in-depth courses on Russian and European history.

Scrabble: Casual vs. Competitive

Instructor: Eric Harshbarger

Thursdays | April 3, 10, 17 | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm | Sunny Slope Kitchen

This three-session course will highlight the differences between casual play and the competitive games played at Scrabble tournaments across the country. Learn about the equipment used (boards, tiles, clocks, etc.) and what it takes to excel as a Scrabble player. The course will also cover the history of the tournament scene and offer basic tips to improve your game.

Eric Harshbarger, a Lecturer of Mathematics at Auburn University, has been playing Scrabble competitively since 2001. He is currently ranked among the top 50 players in the nation.

Shorter Hikes at Chewacla State Park

Instructors: Harold Bruner & Maureen Donnan

Mondays | 8:30 am - 10:30 am | Meet at Chewacla State Park

Participants will need to pay the entrance fee of \$4.00 in person (People 62 and older are \$2.00)

Enjoy a thorough introduction to nearby Chewacla State Park with shorter weekly hikes of 2-3 miles. We will visit Town Creek, Moore's Mill Creek, Chewacla Creek, and Hidden Falls and cover most of the trails in the park. A small day pack is suggested.

Required: At least one hiking pole is mandatory; two poles are preferred. A small day pack is suggested.

Harold Bruner is a retired forester who now hikes for fitness and pleasure. He has hiked extensively in many U.S. and several Canadian provinces. Having spent more than 60 years in Indiana and Florida, he now enjoys the biodiverse landscape of Alabama.

Silver Sneakers

Instructor: David Tillman

Mondays & Fridays | 11:30 am - 12:30 pm | Max Fitness Auburn*

All registration for this class is managed through Max Fitness.

Max will be offering Silver Sneakers classes to OLLI members twice a week. This workout includes fall prevention drills and exercises to improve strength and endurance. A chair and handheld weights or tubing are provided and recommended. You must either sign in as a gym or Silver Sneakers member to take advantage of those classes.

OLLI members will be offered Max Fitness membership at a special discounted price. Check your insurance to determine if Silver Sneakers is covered at no cost. If not, you can join Max for \$25 monthly, provided you sign a 6-month contract. This OLLI-exclusive package gives full access to the gym, waives the \$49 enrollment fee, reduces the 18-month commitment to 6 months, and reduces the monthly fee by 17%.

David Tillman is a certified Silver Sneakers instructor.

*Max Fitness Auburn is transitioning to FITLIFE Health Centers, 189 E University Dr, Auburn.

Spanish for Beginners, Part 2

Instructor: David Yohn

Tuesdays | 9:00 am - 10:30 am | Sunny Slope Main Classroom

This beginner-level Spanish course offers a structured introduction to the fundamentals of the language, modeled after a first-semester college Spanish course. Utilizing the Great Courses DVD and Professor Worden's approach tailored for adult learners, participants will focus on language acquisition and communication skills. The course emphasizes systematic learning and provides practical strategies to enhance engagement and retention, fostering proficiency in a supportive and encouraging environment.

Required Book: The *Learning Spanish Workbook* is available during the first session for \$20 via credit card or check.

Spring Mysteries

Coordinator: Harold Bruner

Tuesdays | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm | Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Throughout this course, participants will explore several mystery novels and engage in group discussions. Each discussion will be led by a different member of the class, providing diverse perspectives and insights into the mysteries being studied.

Start Speaking German: A Relaxed and Fun Beginner Class, Part 2

Instructor: Julia Knappenberger

Thursdays | 9:00 am - 10:30 am | Sunny Slope Annex

Ready to learn German at an easy, relaxed pace? This beginner's course introduces the basics (A1.1 level) through interactive lessons focused on speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Whether you're a complete beginner or looking for a refresher, this class offers plenty of practice to build confidence in a supportive environment. Participants will use the *Momente A1.1* textbook and workbook to cover practical language skills, with the option to continue next semester for full completion of the A1.1 curriculum. Perfect for travel or connecting with German-speaking friends!

Required workbook: *Momente A1.1*, Publisher: Hueber

Kursbuch: [Link to Textbook](#)

Arbeitsbuch: [Link to Workbook](#)

Julia Knappenberger has taught German beginner classes at Auburn University since August 2018. She is also a master's student at a German university, where she is completing her studies and gaining internship experience

Staying Active - Day Hiking

Instructor: Harold Bruner

Thursdays | 8:30 am - 4:00 pm | Meet at Sunny Slope by 8:45 am unless otherwise directed.

This class is designed for more advanced hikers and may involve challenging terrain. To join, you should have a moderate fitness level and prior hiking experience at these distances. Hike locations will alternate between Chewacla State Park and the other sites we typically visit. The Chewacla hikes will begin at 8:30. For the out-of-town hikes, we will carpool and leave Sunny Slope at 8:30. The Chewacla hikes will be up to 10 miles with options to exit after 3-4 miles. The out-of-town hikes are often in the 5-10-mile range. Participants typically carpool from Sunny Slope to our out-of-town destinations. At the end of the term, you will be assessed \$5 for each time you ride with the carpool. The money will be distributed among the drivers to offset their expenses.

Required: **Demonstration of your hiking proficiency before the first class.**

Two hiking poles. A small day pack is suggested.

Harold Bruner has hiked extensively in the U.S. and Canada and, more recently, in northern England. He has led hikes for OLLI for the last six years. As a forestry graduate of Purdue, he worked in the forests of the Midwest for many years. Since moving to Auburn in 2014, he has enjoyed the biodiversity and many hiking opportunities in Alabama.

The Past is a Foreign Country: History in Objects

Instructors: Elijah Gaddis & Student Lecturers

Thursdays | 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm | Sunny Slope Annex

This course is the second iteration of a graduate-student-taught history class. Each week, a different instructor will lead a lecture focused on a single object selected from the collection of the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Arts. These objects will serve as a gateway to exploring the social, political, and cultural

history of the period in which they were created. Participants can expect fresh perspectives and exciting insights drawn from original research. By examining historical artifacts, this course will provide a unique approach to understanding the past through tangible connections to history.

Walk This Way

Instructor: Bob Banks

Thursdays | 8:30 am - 9:30 am | Meet at Auburn Public Library

Join this engaging weekly program designed to help participants develop a consistent walking exercise routine. Each Thursday, attendees will meet at the Auburn Public Library to learn about the numerous benefits of walking and enjoy local walks together. This course welcomes both novice and veteran walkers, providing a supportive and informative environment for all.

Bob Banks is an avid runner. He is a retired ALFA insurance professional.

Wheel-Thrown Pottery

Instructor: Gary Wagoner

Mondays | 9:00 am - 11:00 am | Jan Dempsey Arts Center

Course fee: \$110 payable to OLLI (covers the costs of clay, glazes, firing, use of tools, and venue rental)

Open to beginners and experienced potters, this class will cover the basics of throwing on the potter's wheel. Students will learn essential skills such as centering, opening, pulling walls, and forming. As the course progresses, participants will create various shapes, including cups, bowls, vases, and pitchers. Additionally, there will be opportunities to work with glazes and other forms of surface decoration. Class participants can elect to use the studio on another day for practice—more details will be provided.

Gary Wagoner holds an MFA in Ceramic Art from SUNY College of Ceramics at Alfred University. He developed the Ceramics curriculum at Auburn University and taught all levels of pottery and clay sculpture there for 35 years.

Writing Our Lives

Instructor: Terry Ley

Mondays | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm | Pebble Hill

Our lives are like patchwork quilts, writes Richard L. Morgan in *Saving Our Stories: A Legacy We Leave*, and as we age, we detect the patterns we have woven and seek to understand them. Explore your life's patterns and the stories they prompt. Revisit memories, reflect on them, write about them, and share your stories with an empathetic audience of peers.

Terry Ley taught high school English in Iowa before coming to Auburn University, where he was a professor of English education. He has taught Writing Our Lives for OLLI for seventeen years.

Your Legacy: The Who, What, When, Where, and Why of Your Life's Journey

Instructor: Leisa Askew

Tuesdays | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm | Sunny Slope Annex

Everyone has a story to tell, and this course provides guidance on both sharing and documenting personal life experiences. Participants will explore the significance of preserving family history, identifying key details that should be recorded for future generations. While certain moments may seem unimportant now, they can become invaluable as families grow and change. Through discussions and practical exercises, this course will help ensure that personal legacies are not lost or forgotten. Participants will learn what information to document, why it matters, and how to create a lasting record of their family's history.

Leisa Askew is a licensed social worker with over 25 years of experience in aging services. She spent more than two decades at the Lee-Russell Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging, working with Assisted Living, Long-Term Care, and Independent Living communities.



Special Interest Groups (SIG)

Any OLLI member, general or academic, may register for a SIG.

Exploring Artistic Expressions: An Open Studio (SIG)

Facilitator: John Willer

Thursdays | 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Sunny Slope Annex

Discover and experiment with different artistic mediums, including acrylic paint, oil paint, pencils, and pastels. Engage in hands-on activities and guided discussions to gain insight into various techniques. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned artist, you'll have the chance to find your unique artistic style while being part of a supportive community. Participants are welcome to use any medium they prefer but must bring their own supplies. John Willer will be available to provide assistance and guidance as needed.

Healing the Heart of Democracy - Let's Talk (SIG)

Facilitator: Janet Deutsch

Tuesdays | 12:45 pm - 2:15 pm | Sunny Slope Main Classroom

This non-sectarian Special Interest Group invites participants to explore some of Parker Palmer's *Healing the Heart of Democracy* (not necessary to purchase) and other thoughtful people to engage in meaningful discussions about bridging divides in our country. Through guided conversations, we hope to foster true dialogue, shared understanding, and a sense of community.

Looking At Photography with a Critical Eye (SIG)

Facilitator: Curtis Shannon

Thursdays | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm | Sunny Slope Conference Room

If you have ever wondered why contemporary photography is interesting and how to engage with it, this Special Interest Group (SIG) is for you. Join us as we explore the power of observation, the nature of photographs, developing a critical eye, mapping photographs, and picturing the South.

The Kindness Connection (SIG)

Facilitator: Johnnie Dowdell

Wednesdays | 9:00 am - 10:30 am | Sunny Slope Conference Room

This Special Interest Group (SIG) fosters meaningful connections through acts of kindness. Participants will explore the power of compassion, gratitude, and community engagement while sharing experiences and ideas that inspire positive change. Through discussions and collaborative activities, members will cultivate a supportive environment where kindness becomes a daily practice. Open to all who believe in the impact of small gestures, this group provides a space to reflect, connect, and make a difference—one act of kindness at a time.

Meditation (SIG)

Facilitator: Leslie Beard

Mondays | 5:00 pm - 6:15 pm | Sunny Slope Annex

The OLLI Meditation SIG meets weekly to meditate and build a supportive community for meditators of all levels and disciplines.



(Play) Mahjongg (SIG)

Facilitator: Kim Scarborough

Wednesdays | 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm | Sunny Slope Kitchen & Main Classroom

You must have had some previous experience playing. Please note that there won't be any formal instructors available, as this is not a course for learning the game. It's an opportunity to meet and play with other game enthusiasts. OLLI provides 12 cards and one set, but please bring your own cards and game sets if you have them.

Secular Buddhist Study Group (SIG)

Facilitators: Leslie Beard & Gary Wagoner

Mondays | 3:45 - 4:45 pm | Sunny Slope Annex

This study group provides an opportunity, through shared readings and discussion, to explore Buddhist teachings and practices in a secular and contemporary context. It will focus on the precepts of Buddhism as a practical and ethical philosophy.

OLLI Presents

*OLLI Presents programs are **free and open to the public**—no OLLI membership is required to attend.*

Brown Bag Series

Bring your own lunch (BYOL) and join us for these engaging learning sessions.

Wednesdays | 11:30 am - 1:00 pm | Pebble Hill

Date	Presenter	Title
26-Mar	Joey Brackner	Slinging Mud: Pottery and Politics in 19th Century Alabama
2-Apr	Lawrence Grinter	Cuba: Small Country, Big Impact
9-Apr	Joseph Giambrone	Avian Influenza Could Become a Human Pandemic. How Are Countries Preparing?
16-Apr	Joe Davis	Good News Through Rapid Re-Housing and Fighting Hunger.
23-Apr	Patti Callahan Henry	Conversation with Patti Callahan Henry
30-Apr	Hollie Cost	Community-Centered Health: Auburn University's Rural Initiative

Register for OLLI at Auburn University Courses

Welcome to OLLI at Auburn University! Whether you're looking to pursue a new interest or enhance your existing skills, OLLI has something for everyone.

Important Information for New Members:

- **Weekly Courses:** Most courses meet **once per week** unless otherwise noted. Be sure to check the course descriptions for specific meeting days and any additional details.
- **Weekly OLLI Digest:** Stay informed with the **OLLI Weekly Digest**, delivered to your inbox every Sunday. It includes updates, event reminders, and important announcements.
- **Name Tags:** All members will receive an OLLI name tag, which can be used for entry into OLLI events and for riding **Tiger Transit**. Please wear your name tag when attending classes and events. Name tags for new members can be obtained in the front office.
- **Registration Period:** Registration for the upcoming term begins on **February 24, 2025**. Sign up early to secure your spot in your preferred courses!
- **Waitlist Information:** Don't be discouraged if a course is full and you're placed on a waitlist. We **actively monitor waitlists** and work diligently to move members into open spots as they become available. You'll be notified if a spot opens, so stay tuned!

Membership Term and Benefits:

- **Membership Term:** Your OLLI membership is valid from **August 1, 2024, to July 31, 2025**.
- **AU Community ID Card:** For \$25, enjoy access to Auburn University resources such as parking permits, library privileges, and Tiger Transit.
- **Discounts and Perks:** OLLI members receive exclusive discounts at the Auburn University Bookstore, Auburn Oil Co. Booksellers, Village Friends, Jule Collins Smith Museum Store, and on GPAC-presented performances at the Gogue Performing Arts Center.
- **Fitness and Wellness:** Enjoy discounted rates at Max Fitness of Auburn and the opportunity to join **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)**.

Membership & Academic Fees Category	Amount
Annual Membership	\$50
Academic Fee per term (Unlimited Courses)	\$85 (Fall, Winter, Spring)
New Academic Fee per term (Single Course)	\$40
Summer Academic Fee (Unlimited Courses)	\$40
All-Inclusive (Membership & Fall, Winter, and Spring Academic Courses)	\$290
All-Inclusive Plus (Membership & Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer Academic Courses)	\$330

- **Membership Requirement:** OLLI membership is required to enroll in courses each term.
- **Special Interest Groups (SIGs):** Membership-only events; no additional academic fee required.
- **Course Specifics:** Please review course descriptions for any special requirements, such as additional materials or supply fees.

Registering is Easy! Scan the QR code to access the registration page directly. We look forward to having you join us!



Class locations are listed at aub.ie/ollilocations.

Need Assistance?

For registration help or any questions, feel free to contact the OLLI office at **334-844-3146** or olli@auburn.edu.