

July 2021 Course descriptions and instructor biographies (06.30.2021, 11:57 am)

### **BookendsSIG**

**Cathy Buckhalt, Instructor**

**Wednesday, July 14, 21, 28**

### **Chinese Brush Painting**

**Dong Shang, Instructor**

**Monday, July 12, 19, 26 | 12:30 – 2:00 pm**

**Enrollment limited to twelve students.**

Chinese Brush Painting supplies may be ordered from Dong by emailing her at [dongshang@hotmail.com](mailto:dongshang@hotmail.com). Dong will deliver/mail the package to you. Please mail a check to Dong at 1700 Olivia Way; Auburn, AL 36830 or transfer the payment to her Zelle account at 2293476293.

Chinese painting Supplies: 3 bamboo brushes, Chinese Ink, Chinese watercolor Paint, Rice paper (54x27")  
5 sheets

This hands-on course is an introduction to Chinese brush painting and calligraphy. Chinese painting attempts to capture the essence of nature. It is the art of using suggestion and simplicity to imply reality. The sense of harmony that pervades Chinese culture is expressed in the traditional subjects of flowers, animals, and landscapes. Learn the basic brush strokes, composition, and spontaneous-style painting techniques.

\*Dong Shang is a native of China and has a degree in art. An art designer, she immigrated to the United States, where she has worked as a freelance artist and an art teacher.

### **Desegregating Schools in Alabama: Lesson Learned from the Field**

**Jason Bryant, Instructor**

**Thursday, July 15, 22, 29 | 10:15 – 11:45 am**

May 17, 1954 would be a historic day and would influence education in the US with the verdict of Brown v. Board of Education. School leaders grappled with implementation of integration, and in many portions of the country, integration would be a slow and often tumultuous process for African Americans fighting for their rights to attend integrated schools. This course will discuss Freedom of Choice initiatives along with implications that continue to impact our schools.

\*Dr. Bryant's dissertation on school integration serves as the backdrop for his work to share the lived experiences of those in Alabama that integrated schools along through Freedom of Choice.

### **The Great Convergence: Connecting World Cultures and Heritages**

**Adeola Fayemi, Susie Webster, and Mariela Delgado, Instructors**

**Wednesday, July 14, 21, 28 | 2:00 – 3:30 pm**

This class focuses on different countries from each of the world's continents and discusses elements of its culture including customs, traditions, arts, symbols, food, music, religions, and beliefs. This is a virtual class delivered through zoom and will include discussions with indigenes of the featured country (Auburn International Cultural Center (ICC) staff, students, faculty, and other members of the Auburn Community.)

The class explores the commonalities and differences of a wide range of unique ideas, strengths and perspectives that each (country-based) cultural grouping and includes a real time virtual connection with an on-the-ground correspondent in the featured country when possible. In each session, we will get a

snapshot of a specific country and every week, we will learn and engage with several cultural forms belonging to the explored country.

The class underscores how an appreciation of cultural diversity promotes understanding, builds relationships, and enriches community life.

\*Adeola Fayemi, the Manager of the Diversity and Inclusion and International Cultural Center at the Auburn University Office of International Programs. She has over 30 years of professional experience in Diversity and Inclusion Management and International Education.

\*Susie serves in a program operations and logistics role with the International Cultural Center and works closely with international students, staff, faculty and Auburn community. She received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Auburn University.

\*Mariela Delgado helps develop and coordinate educational programs and facilitates conversational Spanish language classes for the International Cultural Center. She is a native Spanish speaker who holds a bachelor and graduate degree in Translation (English and French) and Legal Translation. Mariela is originally from Venezuela.

## **H<sub>2</sub>O: The Molecule that Made Us**

**David Newton, Instructor**

**Monday, July 12, 19, 26 | 12:45 – 2:15 pm**

"Earth is alive because of liquid water, and the success of our human story is intimately connected to our relationship with this simple molecule. But the growth of our civilizations has created a dangerous dependence on a precious resource that may be about to run out. This three-part series explores just how critical water is to our survival and the challenges that are facing us."

\*David Newton is a retired member of the faculty of Auburn University. His interest in conservation and the environment began during the countless hours spent along the bayous and in the woods near the home of his youth in northwest Mississippi. In retirement, he and his late wife Raye traveled extensively, visiting all seven continents, concentrating on natural history. He has organized numerous classes concerning environmental and natural history topics for OLLI at AU.

## **Hands-on Gardening**

**Charles Mitchell, Instructor**

**Tuesday, July 13, 20, 27 | 5:00 – 6:30 pm**

**In-person at garden listed below**

This six-week course will focus on practical gardening issues in the heat and humidity of a summer gardening season in East Alabama. Each week we will visit a different garden in the Auburn-Opelika area and learn from each gardener techniques that they use. We will have workshops on irrigation, garden tillage, raised beds, composting, and any other topics the class would like to have. It will a discussion class rather than a lecture class with everyone sharing experiences and learn by doing.

Tentative listing of gardens:

Week 1 - Pioneer Park Gardens, Loachapoka

Week 2. Ken Rogers Garden, Auburn

Week 3. A.U. Arboretum

Week 4. AU Teaching Gardens

Week 5. TBA

Week 6. TBA

\*Charles Mitchell retired from Auburn University in 2016 after 36 years of service as Extension Agronomist-Soils. He has degrees from Birmingham-Southern College (B.S.), Auburn University (M.S.) and the University of Florida (Ph.D.) and taught for 4 years at Clemson University in South Carolina

before coming back to his home state of Alabama. In addition to working with farmers and county Extension Agents throughout Alabama on matters related to soils, plant nutrition and fertilizer use, he has taught Master Gardener classes since the program began in Alabama. He and his wife, Peggy, live and garden near Loachapoka.

### **The Inexplicable Universe: Unsolved Mysteries**

**Charlotte Ward, Instructor**

**Monday, July 12, 19, 26 | 10:15 – 11:45 am**

“We know a lot about the universe. But there’s even more that we *don’t* know,” says astrophysicist and Professor Neil deGrasse Tyson, director of the Hayden Planetarium, an award-winning lecturer, and one of the world’s foremost experts on the secrets of the universe. And his course **The Inexplicable Universe: Unsolved Mysteries** is the perfect gateway into this mind-bending and eye-opening subject. This visually stunning course, which has been honored with a 2013 Telly Award for Outstanding Educational Program, features six self-contained lectures that transport you on a marvelous journey to the frontiers of the known (and unknown) universe and introduce you to tantalizing questions being addressed by the world’s top scientists. Undeniably engaging and fascinating, this lecture series is a wonderful entrée to scientific pursuits that lie at the very heart of the history and nature of our universe.

\*Charlotte Ward has many years’ experience teaching OLLI classes, mostly in the sciences. She is an Associate Professor Emerita of the AU physics department.

### **Stretch and Balance**

**Barbara Steele, Instructor**

**Tuesday, July 6, 13, 20, 27 | 2:00 – 2:45 pm**

**In-person, Sunny Slope Annex**

**Enrollment limited to ten students.**

Stretch and Balance will move through a series of seated and standing yoga poses using a chair for support. These postures are designed to increase flexibility, balance, and range of movement. This class is suitable for nearly every fitness level.

### **Summer Mysteries**

**Tuesday, July 13, 20, 21 | 10:15 – 11:45 am**

**In-person, Sunny Slope Annex**

Welcome to curling up with a good book on a cool and hot summer evening. Choosing and directing discussions of the books listed above in order are Harold Bruner, Larry Gerber.

\*All of these instructors have been members of the Mysteries class for several terms and have led past book discussions.

### **Writing Our Lives**

**Terry Ley and Cathy Buckhalt, Instructors**

**Wednesday, July 7, and July 28 | 10:15 – 11:45 am**

**Enrollment limited to 35.**

“Our lives are like a patchwork quilt, and it is only in the evening of life that we can see the pattern of what we have woven” (Richard L. Morgan, *Saving Our Stories: A Legacy We Leave*). We all have life stories to tell! Here is an opportunity to reclaim your memories, write about them, and share them with a receptive audience of peers. We will write on three Wednesday mornings this summer, responding to stimulus prompts provided by the instructors. This course has been offered continuously for sixteen years. These summer extensions keep previous students writing and provide opportunities for others to try us out,

perhaps to join us in the fall. Register for the course whether you are likely to attend all three meetings or only one or two of them.

\*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 each OLLI term for fourteen years.

\*Cathy Buckhalt is a retired teacher from Opelika Middle School and Southern Union State Community College. She also was associate director of the Sun Belt Writing Project for many years.

## **Yoga**

**Barbara Steele, Instructor**

**Tuesday, July 6, 13, 20, 27 | 1:00 – 1:45 pm**

**In-person, Sunny Slope Annex**

**Enrollment limited to ten students.**

This course is for anyone who has practiced yoga. All levels are welcome. The focus is on stretching, movement, and balance, all interwoven with breathing techniques. Bring your mat and towel to support your knees or back, and wear comfortable clothing as we continue our yoga journey together. Bring a water bottle.