
Summer 2023 Course Descriptions

African American Genealogy

Elijah Gaddis, Instructor

June 7, 14, 21 | 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm | Boykin Community Center Computer Lab

Enrollment limit: 10

This course will train participants to find their family roots. We'll focus on some specific resources and sources related to African American family history, but this class is open and will be useful for anyone interested in family history. Participants can also choose to research the family histories of people enslaved at Sunny Slope, the current home of OLLI.

**Elijah Gaddis is a professor of History and African American studies with expertise in the practice of local and community history by Black communities.*

Beyond the Frame: American History through Artworks at Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM)

SAAM Group Leaders, Instructors

July 13, 20, 27, August 3 | 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm | Zoom

Enrollment limit: 35

Artists give us a diverse window into American life, reflecting the cultural, social, and political climate of the time in which they work. This course will explore the question, "What does art reveal about America?" Participants will explore lesser-known aspects of American history to reframe their perspective. Join study group leaders as they facilitate an examination of America through the eyes of diverse artists in four discussion-based sessions, each focused on a separate era.

**Smithsonian American Art Museum study group leaders are a corps of seasoned volunteer presenters deeply familiar with the Museum's collections and how to facilitate conversations about artworks.*

Beyond the Messy Truth

Janet Deutsch, Instructor

June 8, 15, 22 | 9:00 am - 10:30 am | Sunny Slope Annex

Enrollment limit: 20

Join us as we discuss Van Jones's recent book on how we as a country came apart and how we can come together. Topics include: America Betrayed by Both Parties; An Open Letter to Liberals; An Open Letter to Conservatives.

Required Materials: *Beyond the Messy Truth*; Van Jones; ISBN Hardback-978-0-399-18002-6

eBook - 978-0-399-18003-3

**Janet Deutsch is a retired registered nurse interested in engaging others on sometimes difficult subjects in an effort to understand and appreciate "the dignity of difference" (Rabbi Johnathan Sacks) and, perhaps, bring positive change.*

Culinary Creations: Cooking with Ursula Higgins

503 Sanders Street, Auburn

Enrollment limit: 7

Course fee: \$15 per class, paid to the instructor.

Ursula Higgins presents a series of hands-on cooking classes. Students prepare, cook, and eat their culinary creations. If you have dietary restrictions, please contact Ursula. **If a student registers for a class but is unable to attend, he or she is responsible for finding an OLLI academic member to fill the opening or pay the \$15 fee for the missed class.**



Register for individual Culinary Creations: Cooking with Ursula Higgins classes by using the day's course code:

Date	Time	Class	Course Code
06/14/23	2:30p – 5:30p	Knife Skills	A23303
06/15/23	2:00p – 5:00p	Summer Salads	A23304
07/19/23	2:30p – 5:30p	Knife Skills	A23305
07/20/23	2:00p – 5:00p	Summer Vegetables	A23306

**Ursula Higgins is a retired restaurateur and professional caterer who pioneered good food and fine dining in the Auburn/Opelika area. She is chair of the OLLI at Auburn Social Committee.*

Desperado Brothers

Dr. Richard Rhone, Instructor - OLLI Shares UA

July 11, 18, 25, Aug 1 | 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm | Zoom

The American West had its share of famous families of colorful characters and lawless individuals. This class will study four sets of notorious brothers who chose to live their daring lives outside the law in the economically and politically desperate times after the War Between the States. These fraternal desperados are the infamous Burrow, Dalton, James, and Young brothers.

**Richard Rhone has taught American history classes for OLLI for over a decade after retiring from careers in public education administration as well as child abuse and neglect prevention. His topics generally range from the American Colonial/Revolutionary War through the Civil War and the Wild West, with an emphasis on the personalities and social aspects of history. His doctorate is from The University of Alabama.*

Fourteenth Colony: The Forgotten Story of the Gulf South During America's Revolutionary Era

Mike Bunn, Instructor - OLLI Shares UAH

June 14 | 1:15 pm - 2:45 pm | Zoom

The British colony of West Florida — which once stretched from the mighty Mississippi to the Apalachicola River, comprising portions of what are now the states of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana — is the forgotten fourteenth colony of America's Revolutionary era. The course offers the first comprehensive history of the colony, introducing readers to the Gulf Coast's remarkable British period, the major military campaigns waged there during the Revolutionary War, and putting West Florida back in its rightful place on the map of Colonial America.

**Mike Bunn currently serves as Director of Historic Blakeley State Park in Spanish Fort, Alabama. Bunn is the author or co-author of several books on Gulf South history focusing on the colonial, early statehood, antebellum, and Civil War periods.*

I'm Retired - Now What? Being Prepared as You Age

Leisa Askew, Instructor – OLLI Shares AU

July 12, 19, 26 | 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm | Sunny Slope Annex and Zoom

Enrollment Limit (In-Person): 40

Each session will take a dive into the multiple ways to prepare for retirement. Topics include: Documents needed/updated as you age (POA, Living Will); the difference between Medicare and Medicaid, benefits and open enrollments; differences in residential care (senior independent housing, assisted living, specialty care assisted living, long-term care placement); the difference between home health, in-home services, and private pay assistance in the home; getting home/business affairs in order; VA benefits; Long-Term Care policies; community services available as you age; nutrition programs (Home Delivered meals); and staying active both mentally and physically as you age.

**Leisa Askew is a licensed Social Worker with 27 years of working with the aging population. She is also a certified Dementia Care Specialist and Aging Resource Specialist.*



Intro to South Korea: Language and Culture

Eunsun Kim, Instructor

Option 1: June 6, 7, 8 | 09:00 am – 11:00 am | Sunny Slope classroom

Option 2: June 20, 21, 22 | 09:00 am – 11:00 am | Sunny Slope classroom

Enrollment limit: 10

Please note Option 1 & Option 2 are the same course offered on different dates.

The course will introduce students to the basics of the alphabet, Hangul, and share some of the most fundamental holidays and cultural joys unique to Korea, simple greetings, and Korean food.

**Eunsun Kim is a visiting scholar from South Korea. She has been teaching at Auburn University for two years. She holds an M.A. in Korean Linguistics and a B.A. in Korean Language Education.*

Intro to Taiwan: Language and Culture

Min-Yuan Tsai, Instructor

Option 1: July 11, 12, 13 | 09:00 am – 11:00 am | Sunny Slope classroom

Option 2: July 25, 26, 27 | 09:00 am – 11:00 am | Sunny Slope classroom

Please note Option 1 & Option 2 are the same course offered on different dates.

Enrollment limit: 10

The course will introduce students to basic Chinese greetings, characters, and words related to the lessons. The students will also explore some fundamental holidays and cultural joys unique to Taiwan. Topics will include greetings and calligraphy; simple phrases, Tea Ceremony; games, and holidays. During the final class session, we will sample a few traditional Taiwanese foods.

**Min-Yuan Tsai is a teacher from Taiwan. She holds an M.A. in Teaching Chinese as a Second Language.*

Quilting Workshop: Loretta Pettway Bennet

July 11, 12 | 9:00 am - 11:00 am | Sunny Slope Annex

\$75 Registration Fee for the 2-Day Workshop & Materials

Enrollment limit: 15

Workshop participants will learn to cut, fold, place, and sew colorful “burrs” to make their own personalized pine burr quilt blocks. A kit will be provided. Participants are welcome to bring their own needles, thimble, stickpins, thread, and scissors.

**Loretta Pettway Bennett is a fifth-generation quilter from Gee’s Bend, Alabama, and one of about 50 Gee’s Bend quilters to continue hand quilting in the renowned Gee’s Bend style. She is the second of eight children and oldest daughter of Tom O. and Qunnie Elizabeth Pettway Jr. Her ancestry traces back to Dinah Miller, a great-great-great grandmother, who according to folklore and family history, was one of the first slaves to have arrived in the Bend.*

Sketchbook Series: Summer Edition

Register for individual courses within the sketchbook series by using the corresponding course code:

Date	Time	Class	Course Code
June 13, 15	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Sketchbooks: Pen & Pencil Leslie Beard, Instructor	A23318
June 20, 21, 22	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Careful Pencil Drawing Scott Melville	A23317A
July 18, 20	9:00 am – 11:00 am	Wildflower Sketching Kelly Homan, Instructor	A23320
July 25, 27	9:00 am – 10:30 am	Sketching Our Lives William Squires	A23319

Sketchbooks: Pen & Pencil

Leslie Beard, Instructor

June 13, 15 | 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm | Sunny Slope Annex

Enrollment limit: 12

We'll explore various uses of a sketchbook – expression, information, experimentation, storytelling – and improve our drawing skills with fun exercises.

Required materials to be purchased by the member:

Sketchbook suitable for dry media, 7"x10" to 9"x 12"

Pencils: HB and 6B

Pens: fine point and Flair felt tip

Pencil sharpener

White eraser

**After retiring from a sketchy career as a designer, Leslie Beard has spent her time writing, painting, and, yes, sketching.*

Careful Pencil Drawing

Scott Melville, Instructor

June 20, 21, 22 | 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm | Sunny Slope Annex

Enrollment Limit: 12

This three-day workshop will provide an opportunity to work from provided photos and consider composition, blending, and values. Participants will also examine the need for lost and found edges and attend to detail all while completing a variety of careful pencil drawings.

Required materials for students to purchase:

(4) #2 pencils

(4) sheets of drawing paper (11in X 14in — at least 80# weight)

Ruler

Eraser

**Scott Melville has regularly painted for nearly 40 years and has enjoyed pencil drawing for the last 7 years.*

Wildflower Sketching

Kelly Homan, Instructor

July 18, 20 | 9:00 am - 11:00 am | Sunny Slope Annex

Enrollment Limit: 12

This workshop will focus on drawing as a tool for seeing intricacies within natural objects. Day one will investigate beginner drawing techniques including capturing form accurately, exploring value scales, and stacking lines and shades to build a drawing. Day two will create a drawing of a complex object found in nature through a process of layering graphite marks to build drawing complexity.

Required materials for students to purchase:

Graphite Pencils, at least 4, (6B, 2B, H, 2H, 4H)

Woodless Pencil

**Kelly Homan is an assistant professor at Auburn University in the College of Architecture, Design, and Construction. Her research interests focus on the study of Alabama grassland communities, ecologically focused urbanism, and landscape-scale biodiversity design.*

Sketching Our Lives

William "Bill" Squires, Instructor

July 25, 27 | 9:00 am – 10:30 am | Sunny Slope Annex

Enrollment Limit: 12

If you are new to sketching, bring open eyes, hands, and expectations – everything else is provided. If you have drawn or painted before, **bring sketching tools and materials** you like to work with.

**William Squires is an emeritus professor of art with earned degrees from three universities. After fifty years of artwork, and thirty years of teaching, exhibiting, and publishing, your workshop host is still having fun.*

Staying Active - Day Hiking

Cathy Love & Phyllis Stanaland

June 8, 15, 22; July 13, 20, 27 (weather permitting) | 7:30 am to 1:00 pm | Meet at Sunny Slope by 7:15 am, unless otherwise directed.

Enrollment limit: 25

This is an advanced class on trails classified as Moderate, 5-8 miles in duration and made more difficult by the heat and humidity of summer, as well as challenging terrain and elevation. It is intended for persons who hike regularly and partake in frequent types of exercise. Hikes can require a faster pace and the ability to handle longer inclines without feeling exhausted. Primary locations will be Chewacla State Park and Columbus River Walk/Dragonfly. Bring a small day pack with at least 2 liters of water, electrolytes, energy snacks, and trail lunch.

Required: 2 hiking poles

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.

**Cathy Love has hiked and backpacked extensively since retiring from AU in 2014. It's her exercise, recreation, and Zen.*

**Phyllis Stanaland began hiking with OLLI Hikers in 2018. Having been an avid walker for several years, this presented a welcomed challenge. She has experienced progress physically and the camaraderie with other hikers has been a special plus.*

Summer Mysteries

Harold Bruner, Instructor

June 6, 13, 20; July 11, 18, 25 | 11:30 am – 1:00 pm | Sunny Slope Annex

Enrollment limit: 25

In this course, we will read and discuss several mystery novels. Each discussion will be led by a different member of the class.

**Harold Bruner is an active OLLI member who enjoys reading a variety of books. He has been facilitating book discussions for OLLI for a few years. Harold also serves on the Executive Committee for OLLI.*

Summer Writing Camp

Terry Ley, Instructor

June 7, 28, July 26 | 09:30 am – 11:00 am | Sunny Slope Annex

Enrollment limit: 25

"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.

**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 sixteen years.*



Talking about Revolution: Operas Related to Political Conflict

Dr. Elizabeth Aversa, Instructor - OLLI Shares UA

June 5, 12, 19, 26 | 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm | Zoom

Class participants will investigate and listen to operas that have to do with political unrest, intrigue, and even revolution. No previous opera exposure is required. We will take care of the basics and then listen to beautiful music!

** Elizabeth Aversa is a retired University of Alabama, faculty member. Although her professional career was in library & information science education, she was "raised on opera" and has enjoyed it all her life thanks to her parents, who introduced her to opera at an early age to her husband, with whom she enjoys operas at venues from the Met to The University of Alabama Opera Theatre.*

The Aging Eye

Jason Chang, Instructor

June 7, 14, 21 | 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm | Sunny Slope Classroom

Enrollment limit: 14

This course will explore the structure of the eye and its function as part of the nervous system. Topics will include eye diseases associated with aging and tips for preventative health.

** Jason Chang is retired faculty from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.*

The History, Science, and Art of Fountain Pens

Dr. Russ Timkovich, Instructor - OLLI Shares UA

June 6 and 13 | 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm | Zoom

This course will cover the development of the fountain pen from the reed/quill ancient days to the practical modern pen. It will look at scientific principles (metallurgy, surface tension, capillary action, and air pressure) that determine a successful pen. It will examine the ingredients of ink from ancient to modern. What makes an ink bulletproof? What types of paper are most suitable for writing with a pen and why? After the last class, participants are encouraged to bring their favorite pen(s) to share with the class.

** Russell Timkovich has been working as a professor of chemistry at The University of Alabama for over 10 years.*

Two Presidents; Two Generals

Dr. Richard Rhone, Instructor - OLLI Shares UA

June 6, 13, 20, 27 | 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm | Zoom

Other than the American Revolution, no period is more significant and controversial than the War Between the States in our American history. We shall discuss the lives, personalities, and contributions of the two national presidents (Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis) as well as the two leading generals (U.S. Grant and Robert E. Lee.).

** Richard Rhone has taught American history classes for OLLI for over a decade after retiring from careers in public education administration as well as child abuse and neglect prevention. His topics generally range from the American Colonial/Revolutionary War through the Civil War and the Wild West, with an emphasis on the personalities and social aspects of history. His doctorate is from The University of Alabama.*

Using AI to Improve Your Life

Tess Olten, Instructor - OLLI Shares UA

July 18 | 1:15 pm - 2:45 pm | Zoom

Gain an overview of the tools of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how they can be used to improve physical and mental health, provide timely information, and help build bridges between generations.

** Tess Olten is an instructional designer at UAH and a long-time community technology advocate. Being a senior citizen herself, she understands the importance of technology in the lives and well-being of all people. She enjoys improving lives by teaching people how to access and use technology to make the world a safer and happier place.*



Special Interest Groups (SIG)

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

Mahjong SIG, Novice

Jackie McDonough, Facilitator

Wednesdays | 10:30 am – 12:30 pm | Sunny Slope kitchen

Enrollment limit: 12

Mahjong is a game that is 70% luck and 30% skill. This class is for beginners and those who have forgotten how to play and need a solid refresher. You are welcome to repeat the class as often as you feel the need before going to the Intermediate group or striking out on your own. Participants are encouraged to attend all sessions.

Mahjong SIG, Intermediate

Jackie McDonough, Facilitator

Wednesdays | 1:00 pm - 3:00pm | Sunny Slope kitchen

Enrollment limit: 12

Designed for those who have learned the basics and want to continue to play this amazing social game. Emphasis will be on gameplay with discussion and strategy ideas. If you sign up and realize you need a refresher, you can transfer to the morning Novice group. You are encouraged to attend all sessions.

Meditation SIG

Roberta Jackel, Facilitator

Thursdays | 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm | Sunny Slope Annex

The OLLI Meditation SIG convenes weekly to meet, discuss, and meditate together as we aspire to build our meditation practices of concentration, mindfulness, and lovingkindness. The responsibility of choosing readings for discussion is divided among the members. Beginners and veteran meditators of all disciplines are welcome.