GREAT DECISIONS 2019
“By: Foreign Policy Association”
OLLI Boulder: Syllabus

Fall Term 2019 – (September 17 - November 5)
Tuesdays; 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Mountain View United Methodist Church
355 Ponca Place, Boulder CO

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The Great Decisions 2019 text for this class will be provided to you at the first class. The cost for the text is $30 and will be collected at that time (check payable to OLLI Boulder.) Class registrants will receive chapter 1 reading via e-mail prior to the first class. This is a discussion type class with professionally prepared videos, extracurricular reading and broad class participation views encouraged.

Week 1    September 17    Refugees and Global Migration
Every state has its own laws and policies about who is permitted to cross its borders and how they will do so. Who determines whether someone is a refugee or a migrant? How effective are the laws, policies and organizations that have evolved to protect refugees and immigrants?

Week 2    September 24    The Middle East: Regional Disorder
The Middle East is in turmoil. The U.S. has aligned itself with strongmen in Saudi Arabia, UAE and Egypt. Along with Israel, these countries have a goal of frustrating Iranian expansion. What does the path forward look like?

Week 3    October 1       Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?
Nuclear weapons have not gone away. The Trump administration has brought a new urgency to dealing with them. To what degree should past nuclear talks guide future arms control negotiations?
Week 4   October 8   The Rise of Populism in Europe
Mass migration has directly abetted the rise in populist parties in Europe. These parties are illiberal, anti-American, anti-NATO, and pro-Kremlin making their rise a matter of serious concern for the security interests of the United States.

Week 5   October 15   Decoding U.S. – China Trade
Although the most advanced economy in the world, the U.S. uses centuries-old numbers to measure trade. These antique numbers mangle understanding of trade relationships and give rise to bad policies. What tools can the United States employ to counter China’s unfair trade practices?

Week 6   October 22   Cyber Conflict and Geopolitics
Cyber conflict is new and continually developing, which can include interference in foreign elections, industrial sabotage and attacks on infrastructure. Is the U.S. prepared to respond to such threats?

Week 7   October 29   United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested
The U.S. and Mexico have a long inter-twined history. The war on drugs, immigration and trade issues have taxed that relationship. What impact will the new leadership in both countries have on that partnership?

Week 8   November 5   State of the State Department and Diplomacy
During the Trump administration, the usual ways of conducting diplomacy have been upended. Many State Department positions have not been filled. What effect are these changes having now and how will they effect ongoing relationships between the United States and other nations?