Mission Statement

OLLI, a member-volunteer organization, offers non-credit academic classes and stimulating programs, along with social opportunities for retired and semi-retired men and women. Members use their talents, experiences, and skills creatively in shared intellectual and cultural pursuits. We strive to respect diversity of thought in a relaxed, supportive academic environment, exploring new interests, discovering and developing latent abilities, and contributing to the immediate and broader communities.

About the Osher Foundation

Thanks to the generosity of the Bernard Osher Foundation, the network of Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes across the United States is meeting the needs of older learners who want to participate simply for the joy of learning and personal fulfillment. To date there are more than 120 OLLI programs in the United States from Maine to Hawaii and Alaska.

Welcome to OLLI East at DU...

*Where curiosity never retires.*
Hello and welcome to OLLI Boulder,

Following is the Winter 2019 curriculum information for the OLLI Boulder site. The eight-week winter term begins Monday, Jan. 14 and ends Monday, March 11. Please note the Martin Luther King Holiday on Jan 21st. We will have no classes at that time. All OLLI Boulder classes are held at Mountain View United Methodist Church, 355 Ponca Pl, Boulder, CO 80303 (across from Frazier Meadows). We hope you find several classes interesting and plan to join us for learning, discussion and fun!

OLLI Boulder members can access the course catalog and register online by going to the OLLI Boulder website at https://portfolio.du.edu/olliboulder. Visiting this website gives you the advantage of viewing classes at the other five OLLI sites – East, Central, West, South, and OLLI-on-Campus by clicking on their links. Your membership dues allow you to take as many courses as you like, subject to availability, at any of the OLLI at DU sites.

The launch of this new site would not have been possible without the leadership of Molly Gardner and all of the efforts of what came to be known as the Boulder Development Team. I want to express my sincere gratitude to Molly and the team for their amazing efforts. Molly not only lead the team, she has also become the Curriculum Chairperson for OLLI Boulder!

Joining the OLLI Boulder team in early December will be the new Site Manager, Susan Marie Mears. Susan is an avid learner, and knows about OLLI from her parents and in-laws for whom OLLI has played an important part in their ‘retirement years’. I look forward to having Susan join the Boulder Development Team and to its success this Winter term and into the future.

OLLI Boulder is a membership organization. As you become a member, please look for ways to bring your talents and skills to this dynamic organization. Without those who have already done so, we would not be launching our Boulder site today.

Thank you,

Barbe J Ratcliffe
Executive Director, OLLI at DU
Membership Fee Information

**Fees: $130 per term for unlimited classes**

**MEMBERSHIP FEE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:**

- Participation in classes at Boulder, Central, West, South, East & OLLI-on-Campus. Enrollment in classes is limited based on classroom size and facilitator preferences.
- Special member price for The Summer Seminars of OLLI.
- Notice of un-advertised DU events. Many are at no cost.
- Invitations to annual social events.
- Discounts from Tattered Cover on books for courses.

**LAMONT SCHOOL OF MUSIC:** All OLLI members get the senior/group rate for Ode to Nature or the Spring Opera.

**UNIVERSITY OF DENVER LIBRARY:** (Anderson Academic Commons) borrowing privileges. See www.portfolio.edu.ed/olli for details.

**ENRICHMENT PROGRAM:** Our sister organization offers classes at the University of Denver. The classes are led by professors and staff and are held during the evening hours. OLLI at DU members enjoy a 20% discount on most enrichment courses when they register with the code OLLIW19. To review the course offerings, please go to http://universitycollege.du.edu/enrichment or visit the 2211 South Josephine Street office and pick up a catalog in the front reception area. Some exclusions do apply.

**DU ATHLETICS:** Purchase one full-price ticket and get one free ticket to any men’s or women’s basketball game, based on availability.

**COORS FITNESS CENTER:** $25 per month membership for 12 months. Sign up only for fall term. Ruth Brown, Associate Director of Recreation, 2201 E. Asbury Avenue, Room 4515, Denver, CO 80208, 303-871-4694, rbrown8@du.edu. Check with OLLI before heading to the Coors Center.

**OLLI POLICY STATEMENT**

In the spirit of fostering understanding all OLLI members are encouraged to share opinions and ideas. OLLI class participants do not attempt to “convert” others because there is a mutual respect for each member’s experiences, ideas, value systems and beliefs. The true focus of an OLLI class is the critical examination of issues and opinions. All participants’ points of view carry equal weight. Consensus is not the goal. We encourage participants with all points of view to attend and become engaged through discussion and civil debate.

**REFUND POLICY**

Per term: Full refund of $130 if requested no later than 10 days into the term. Please contact Barbe Ratcliffe at Barbara.Ratcliffe@du.edu to request a refund. There will be no refunds for materials fees unless a class is canceled.
WorldView 2018-2019: China

Each academic year OLLI at DU seeks to provide internationally-focused classes with specific emphasis on one country for that year. This year, OLLI at DU’s focus is China.

Throughout the year each site may have classes that will highlight this intriguing country.

If you have Chinese connections or would like to facilitate a course or presentation on China, please share such with your site manager or curriculum committee. The site administrative staff and curriculum committee members can be found at the back of this publication.
### Arts & Literature
- Beethoven 101
  - Julian Meyer
- Classical Mythology, Part I
  - Carol Anthony
- The Organ, King of Instruments
  - Juan Roederer
- Shakespeare’s English History
  - Plays: His Greatest Achievements
    - James Symons
- Your Life - Your Story: Write It
  - P. Walters/K. Grider

### Philosophy, Religion, Psychology
- Homo Deus: A Discussion of Harari’s *Brief History of Tomorrow*
  - Molly Gardner
- Kabbalah: A Short Introduction to Jewish Mysticism
  - Doug Sparks

### Science
- Science, Technology and Medicine in the News
  - A. Gerson Greenburg
- Seven Greatest: The Greatest Scientific Discoveries in History
  - Wilson Wiedenheft

### History, Economics, World Affairs
- Current Economic Issues: Facts and Fallacies
  - M. Arak/L. Sahling
- Drama in the Courtroom: From Civil to Supreme
  - Paul Katz
- Exploring Our World through Documentaries
  - C. Erdrich/R. Greenburg
- Great Decisions 2019
  - Wayne Grider
- The Three Roosevelts: Governance in 20th Century America
  - Robert Haws

### Health & Wellness
- The Joy of Improv
  - Rebecca Bradford
- Meditation and Sensory Awareness
  - Terry Ray
Monday 9:30 - 11:30

Classical Mythology, Part I

Facilitator: Carol Anthony, Diamond Facilitator

Note: No class Jan 21

Ever wonder why that stuff we eat for breakfast is called cereal? Why is the science of vulcanology called that? Want to understand what you’re looking at in the great museums of the world (not to mention the Acropolis)? Why is it called a museum anyway? Do you like literature, particularly poetry? Much of the literature you read will have more meaning when you understand the mythological references and allusions.

Part I is a survey of the most important deities and tales about them from Greek and Roman mythology. Emphasis in this first course in on familiarization with the most prominent gods and their stories. Attention will be paid to the intrinsic meanings of the gods and to areas where their references are prominent. This course is great for upping your cultural literacy IQ!

Note: Classical Mythology II (Spring Session) will survey the great heroes and their stories, and the epics of classical mythology.

Required Book: Mythology – Edith Hamilton (please purchase paperback edition in advance of class)

Class type: Lecture, discussion, visuals, handouts

Class Size: 25 participants

Materials Fee: None

Carol Anthony, Diamond Facilitator, received her BS in English Education and MA in English Literature from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Ill. She migrated to Denver and taught English at Westminster High School for 32 years. She has pursued post-graduate studies in Old and Medieval English at CU, and, being a big believer in the adage that “one can never know too much” has developed an extensive background in Indo-European, Classical, and Norse-Germanic mythology, Ancient Middle Eastern civilization and culture, the history of language, linguistics, and evolutionary biology. For fun, she also sings and dances with a performing show choir, The Northland Chorale (no kidding!).
Monday 9:30 - 11:30

The Three Roosevelts:
Governance in 20th Century America

Facilitator: Robert Haws    7 weeks, Jan 14, 28, Feb 4, 11, 18, 25, Mar 11

dis a course examining the course of American politics and government through the careers of three of the most prominent public figures in twentieth century America. Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt shaped national and international affairs throughout the twentieth. Much of their legacy remains with us today.

Required Book: *The Three Roosevelts: Patrician Leaders Who Transformed America (2001)*, James MacGregor Burns & Susan Dunn (please purchase prior to class)

Class type: Lecture, discussion

Class Size: 25 participants

Materials Fee: None

Robert Haws taught American Constitutional History and Comparative Constitutionalism at the University of Mississippi from 1969 to 2011. He received a degree in history at the University of Nebraska and a law degree from Yale Law School.
Monday 1:00 - 3:00

Exploring Our World through Documentaries

Facilitator: Charles Erdrich & Reva Greenburg  
Note: No class Jan 21

Documentary films expand our knowledge of a given subject and, at times, alter our understanding of the material profoundly. The best documentaries engage and inspire audiences. They can tell a complex or heartwarming story or propel social change. Documentaries entertain, enlighten and provoke discussion.

Over the eight-week term, we will view and discuss eight critically-acclaimed documentary films. These will include such subjects as the environment, public policy, socioeconomic issues, music and science. Each film will be approximately 90 minutes long (plus or minus 10 minutes), and will be followed by a discussion. The film list and schedule will be available in the syllabus.

Come join us for some great films and lively discussion!

Books/Materials: Readings will be recommended, but not required, in advance of each film.
Class type: Films, discussion
Class Size: 25 participants
Materials Fee: None

Since 2015, Charlie Erdrich and Reva Greenburg have been facilitating a documentary film series in Boulder, Colorado. Over the past three years, they have shown and led discussion of more than 20 films covering a wide range of timely and interesting topics in the arts, culture, history, science, music, and public policy. Both Charlie and Reva have a keen interest in the documentary film genre, and together have previewed and evaluated more than 100 films.
Monday 1:00 - 3:00

Shakespeare’s English History Plays: His Greatest Achievements

Facilitator: James (Jim) Symons, PhD

Note: No class Jan 21

We have no record of anything said by William Shakespeare in his 52 years of life. But, the characters in his plays said a lot, e.g., “Oh brave new world, / That has such people in ‘t!” (The Tempest); “The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars / But in ourselves, that we are underlings.” (Julius Caesar); “Oh, call back yesterday, let time return.” (Richard II). Who said these things and to whom? Why? In this course we'll explore these lines and the plays from which they come, plus a couple of others plays. And, we'll seek to answer the question: Why, to this day, is Shakespeare still relevant and so popular?

Participants are encouraged to read the assigned play prior to each class. Any edition will do.

Books/Materials: If possible, please either purchase, borrow, check out from the library or watch on Netflix these four plays: Julius Caesar, Measure for Measure, The Tempest, and Richard the Second.

Class type: Lecture, Discussion

Class Size: 25 participants

Materials Fee: None

Jim Symons is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He joined the UCB faculty in 1985 and served for the following 15 years as Chair of the Theatre and Dance Department. Until his retirement in 2010, Professor Symons taught graduate as well as undergraduate classes while also directing theatre productions in the department’s major season. His association with the Colorado Shakespeare Festival began in 1986 when he appeared as Antony in the Festival’s production of Shakespeare’s Antony and Cleopatra. Since that time he had directed ten Shakespeare productions for the Festival, including five of Shakespeare’s English history plays. He holds a PhD from Cornell University and in 2000 was selected as a CU President’s Teaching Scholar.
Insight Meditation and Sensory Awareness are mindfulness practices that bring us to inner stillness and help us open to our own authenticity. Through lecture, discussions, meditations, visualizations and hands-on experiments we begin to understand how mind and body jointly express deeply held, often unconscious beliefs. This leads us to more self-confidence and we each begin to connect with our own inner wisdom and find the love that is accessible to each one of us.

**Books/Materials:** None  
**Class type:** Lecture, discussion, hands-on activities (including writing)  
**Class Size:** 25 participants  
**Materials Fee:** None

*Terry Ray* is a licensed psychotherapist who has been practicing Insight (Vipassana) Meditation since 1974, and teaching for more than 40 years. She completed the first Community Dharma Leader’s program at Spirit Rock, leads retreats and teaches through the Insight Meditation Community and at Naropa. Terry also studied intensively with Charlotte Selver in Sensory Awareness and is certified to lead this somatic based mindfulness practice. *Terry is the author of* Embodied Presence, A Spiritual Memoir.
Tuesday 9:30 - 11:30

The Joy of Improv

Facilitator: Rebecca Bradford  4 weeks, Feb 12 - Mar 5

In just four weeks you will discover more about your mind, your courage and your ability to have fun. Improv is a vehicle to get in touch with the unknown and to punch through our comfort zones. It’s a chance to really play and laugh with abandon.

People change after taking improv classes. Give it a shot!

Book/Materials: None
Class type: Hands-on activities (including having a great time)
Class Size: 15 participants
Materials Fee: None

Rebecca Bradford has been studying, teaching and performing improvisational theater for more than 13 years. She owned a company called Boulder Improv Collaborative where she shared the joy of improv with a myriad of people from the ages of 12 to 78, with a focus on discovery of the unknown. Comedy usually follows naturally and organically. Rebecca has found it to be a lot of fun and looks forward to sharing it with OLLI Boulder members.
Seven Greatest: The Greatest Scientific Discoveries in History

Facilitator: Wilson Wiedenheft

Grasp the grandeur and complexity of the greatest scientific discoveries of all time as well as meeting the extraordinary people who made them. This class is for anyone interested in science, history and the biographies of people who made these discoveries. We will cover the breakthroughs of Newton: Gravity and the basic laws of physics; Rutherford and Bohr: the structure of the atom; Einstein: the principle of relativity; Hubble: the big bang and the formation of the universe; Darwin: Evolution and the principle of natural selection; Flemming and Mendel: the cell and genetics; and Watson and Crick: the structure of the DNA molecule.

Required Reading: *The Science Class You Wish You Had*, authors David Brody & Arnold Brody

Class type: Lecture
Class Size: 25 participants
Materials Fee: None

In 2012, after spending most of his career directing software and hardware development programs at Motorola, **Wilson Wiedenheft** retired with plans to enter a different field – geology. In December 2014, he completed a Master’s Degree in geology at Northern Illinois University (NIU) in DeKalb, IL, and began teaching geology adult education courses in NIU’s LLI while continuing paleoclimate research. After relocating to Boulder in 2015, Wilson began teaching geology and other science courses at OLLI Central.
Tuesday 1:00 - 3:00

Great Decisions

Facilitator: Wayne Grider

This class is a national program created by the Foreign Policy Association founded in 1918. This year’s class focuses on U.S. foreign policy and related international issues.

This is a discussion class with a course book, a 20 - 30 minute video and thought provoking discussion questions. Outside reading and divergent points of view are encouraged.

Books/Materials: Great Decisions Edition 2019. You will receive the first chapter by email prior to the first class.

Course Type: Lecture, discussion

Class Size: 25 participants

Materials Fee: $30.00 for Great Decisions Edition 2019 booklet. Please pay for the booklet the first day of class – either cash or check (payable to OLLI).

Wayne Grider holds a B.S. in Psychology and Masters Degree in Public Administration. He has 43 years senior management experience in private enterprise as well as non-profit organizations. He has had a lifelong interest in public affairs with a special focus on national and international relations. Being retired, he now has more time to devote to the study and education of foreign affairs.
Tuesday 1:00 - 3:00

Your Life – Your Story: Write It

Facilitators: Pat Walters and Kathi Grider


Your Life – Your Story is an eight-session, interactive class. Guided by a different broad theme each session, you will be writing a two-page story each week and sharing it with a small group. Be prepared for the unexpected – for laughter, tears, frustration, and insights.

“Everyone has a story. Every story matters.”
— Nicole Wedemeyer Miller

Books/Materials: None
Class type: Discussion, hands-on activities (including writing), slides, videos
Class Size: 20 participants
Materials Fee: None

Pat Walters was an educator for 25 years. During her career as a high school English teacher, a high school counselor, and, after retirement, an independent college admissions counselor, she worked with hundreds of students, guiding and encouraging them as they wrote their stories. Pat has a BS in Education from Texas Christian University, and a Master of Education in Counseling and Development from George Mason University. She has participated in writing workshops (Northern Virginia Writing Project’s Summer Institute; Writing Your Life Stories and Family History at the University of Texas) and has facilitated college recommendation workshops for counselors and teachers. An active member in OLLI for more than ten years, Pat is excited that OLLI has come to Boulder

Kathi Grider has a BA in Journalism from Colorado State University. She began her writing career as a staff writer for the Gazette Telegraph newspaper in Colorado Springs, then moved on to work in both private and public arenas including educational television, the oil and gas industry and finally in government. Following retirement, she entered the “creative” writing world, concentrating on memoir writing, short story and poetry. She has taken numerous courses with the Lighthouse Writers Workshop and participates in several writers groups. She is looking forward to joining OLLI as a facilitator helping participants rediscover and write their own unique stories.
Wednesday 9:30 - 11:30

Beethoven 101

Facilitator: Julian Meyer

4 weeks, Jan 16 - Feb 6

In this music appreciation course we will listen, examine and discuss three Beethoven string quartets, one from each of his three periods.

In non-technical terms we see how the composer uses and develops the melodies to construct the piece for each movement.

Book/Materials: None

Class type: Lecture, discussion, listening

Class Size: 15 participants

Materials Fee: None

Julian Meyer has his Bachelor’s & Masters’ degrees in Music Performance and did Special Studies at the Juilliard School of Music. He taught violin in the Philadelphia area for 40 years and played in a piano trio.
Drama in the Courtroom: From Civil to Supreme

Facilitator: Paul Katz

This course will cover key issues of the law and how it is carried out in the courtroom. While we will have a syllabus with specific law-related topics, student interest will also dictate the direction of the class. What have you always wanted to learn about how justice is carried out in the courtroom? How do defenders in good conscience defend the guilty? How are jurors truly selected? Is jury selection fair profiling? What psychological tricks are used by prosecutors and defense attorneys to manipulate jurors? To what extent do bias and prejudice rule the courts?

We will explore some key civil, criminal and Supreme Court cases, including the fascinating story of the Supreme Court case that changed the trajectory of the court from judicial body to political body. Students will have the optional opportunity to participate in mock trials and debates on important issues.

Books/Materials: None
Class Type: Lecture, discussion
Class Size: Maximum of 25 participants
Material Fees: None

Paul Katz received his JD at Loyola Law School and worked as Assistant DA and Public Defender in New Orleans. Has been lead counsel in 350 jury trials criminal and civil with over 2000 cases handled as lead counsel, and has taught Continuing Legal Education lectures.
Since the Middle Ages the pipe organ has been at the forefront of mechanical-acoustical technology. Organ builders from the 12th Century were able to synthesize tones with simultaneously sounding pipes and to apply features of psychoacoustics—without knowing what psychoacoustics was! They built intricate mechanical transmission lines by means of which the player was able to open large pressurized valves 10 yards away by slightly and easily pressing down a key. They exploited a human’s capacity to use hands and feet in swift simultaneous motion, and they were masters of room acoustics, adapting their instruments to the huge reverberating spaces of the European cathedrals.

In three classes we shall address the three questions of the title, explaining the mechanics, the acoustics and psychoacoustics (i.e., the tone perception) of the pipe organ. During the third lecture we shall visit the pipe organ in the sanctuary, where several features and effects of the organ will be demonstrated “in vivo.”

**Books/Materials:** None  
**Class Type:** Lecture and class discussion  
**Class Size:** 25 participants  
**Materials Fee:** None

*Juan G. Roederer* is Professor Emeritus of the University of Alaska in Physics and Affiliate Professor of the CU Laboratory of Atmospheric and Space Physics. He is a member of the National Academies of Science of Austria and Argentina, and of The World Academy of Sciences. He is author of five textbooks and over 250 papers on space physics, psychoacoustics of music and information theory. He is also an organist.
Science, Technology and Medicine in the News

Facilitator: A. Gerson Greenburg, MD, PhD, Senior Facilitator

Daily we witness an “information explosion.” Science, technology and medicine create and contribute large volumes of new and interesting information. Maintaining a perspective is difficult. This course explores selected topics in science, technology and medicine appearing in print news-sources from the past 12 months to yesterday.

The underlying science, as it relates to the technology and scientific application, helps to define the issues. What is the science and technology behind the advances in medical diagnostics and treatment? What are some of the current advances and discoveries? Who has made the discovery and where? What is the historical background for the topic? Has there been controversy surrounding the question? Furthermore, scientific publishing itself is a multidimensional and important topic worthy of discussion. What is “peer review;” who controls the publication of the data; how do we know what and whom to believe?

It has been said that a single issue of the daily New York Times has more information than an Elizabethan would know in a lifetime! Let’s build our knowledge base together, gathering information and being critical of what we read.

Books/materials: None
Class type: Lecture, discussion
Class Size: 25 participants
Materials Fee: None

A. Gerson Greenburg MD PhD, Senior Facilitator, has facilitated many OLLI courses in the sciences, including explorations of medical history, medical/scientific feuds, “controversial” subjects and several iterations of the current events model. A retired Emeritus Professor of Surgery, Brown University, he holds an MD from the University of Chicago and a PhD in IE/MS from Northwestern University. He has served as Medical Director for two biotech companies, and an NIH and DOD consultant.
Current Economic Issues: Facts and Fallacies

Facilitators: Marcelle Arak & Leonard Sahling

Wondering whether the U.S. trade imbalance with China indicates that China is treating us unfairly? Wondering whether the U.S. government debt is going to be a burden in the future? Wondering whether a strong economy and a big tax cut for business is going to raise wages and middle class salaries? Wondering whether the U.S. is allowing too many or too few immigrants into the country and whether they'll be readily assimilated? Wondering whether the “American dream” is becoming a pipe-dream for all but the richest Americans and their children? Discuss these and other current economic issues with two economists.

Books/Materials: To be determined
Class type: Lecture, discussion, videos, podcasts
class Size: 25 participants
Materials Fee: None

Marcelle Arak earned her Ph.D. in Economics at MIT. Early in her career, she was an economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and served as the Head of the U.S. economic research group there. After that, she headed a financial derivatives group at Citibank Wall Street location. In recent decades Dr. Arak was Professor of Risk Management and Finance at the University of Colorado Denver. She is eager to have the opportunity to discuss today’s major economic issues with you in this course.

Thursday 9:30 - 11:30

Kabbalah: A Short Introduction to Jewish Mysticism

Facilitator: Doug Sparks  
6 weeks, Jan 17 - Feb 21

This course is a brief Introduction to a fascinating, complex, and imaginative body of writings. Background in Judaism or Kabbalah is not required. We will explore selected how the Kabbalah defines key concepts such as the nature of God and God’s plan for the world, the 10 key powers or attributes of God, how our own actions fulfill or hinder God’s plan, and how Kabbalah can help us in our daily lives.

Readings of short selections of primary texts and secondary sources will spark discussion and help us begin to penetrate what Kabbalists view as the true essence of the Torah (in the wider meaning of Jewish written and oral sacred traditions) and how it interprets God’s message and plan for us. The instructor will complement discussion with short lectures on the history of Kabbalah and key concepts, Kabbalistic vocabulary, and terms used in the study of religion.

We will learn how Kabbalistic mystics described their mystical experiences; capture a glimmer of the Kabbalistic view of Creation moving with our help toward the Oneness and Infinity of God. I hope the course will lead us all to further exploration of this and other great human endeavors to understand our world and why we are here.

Books/Materials:  

Class type: Lecture, discussion
Class Size: 15 participants
Materials Fee: None

Doug Sparks completed his PhD research in Cultural Anthropology focusing on traditional Chinese religious practice. He has studied Judaism and Kabbalah in a variety of settings extensively over the past 15 years. Doug has taught anthropology and other courses in his career.
Thursday 9:30 - 11:30

Homo Deus: A Discussion of Harari’s Brief History of Tomorrow

Facilitator: Molly Gardner

Participants will take a deep dive into the provocative world view provided by Yuval Harari in his book Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow. Harari argues that humans have overcome the horsemen of the apocalypse (disease, famine, war, and death) and now, rather than being at the mercy of the gods, are basically the masters of their own fate. At this point, how will humanity choose to use their amazing powers over the existing threats to living? Just at the moment the power seems to be in our hands we seem to be handing it over to our computers and robots with artificial intelligence, automation, and big data. Do we still have control over our own future?

We will discuss a chapter or two each week, augmented with related material, and arrive at our own predictions.

Required Reading: Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow, by Yuval Noah Harari

Class type: Lecture, discussion (short on lecture, longer on discussion)

Class Size: 15 participants

Materials Fee: None

Molly Gardner earned her BA in history and a master’s in education from CU, where she was also a philosophy major. She taught social studies, including high school IB world history and geography for almost half of her life. She has a passion for the big picture: the why behind the what and the where.
Today’s Russia: Geopolitics and Putin’s Foreign Policies  Jan 17
Speaker:  John O’Laughlin

With all eyes on Russia and Putin today, this talk will put Putin and Russia in the context of its geography, its recent history and cultural/ethnic realities and conflicts.

**John O’Laughlin** is a political geographer, with research on ethnic-territorial conflicts in Russia and other nearby states (Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Moldova) and also on Russia’s geopolitical interests in the “Near Abroad” (former Soviet Union). The research is a combination of large public opinion surveys and detailed field work (interviews with local officials and other parties) in conflict zones. The research has been funded since the early 1990s by the US National Science Foundation and is coordinated with scientists in Russia.

48 Years of Research Meteorology with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  Jan 24
Speaker: Dan Wolfe

Overview of career as a research meteorologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Topics to include Air/Sea interaction, El Nino, Climate Change, Arctic research, and technology transfer.


Stephen Hawkin’s Universe  Jan 31
Speaker: Kim Malville

This talk reviews the life and ideas of Stephen Hawkin, the remarkable physicist who shocked the world in 1974 by revealing that black holes are not entirely black, but emit energy now known as Hawking radiation.

**Kim Malville** earned a BS in physics from Caltech, PhD in radio astronomy and solar physics from CU, Chairman of the Dept. of Astro-physics at CU. Research interests have ranged from aurora, the interstellar medium, solar physics and more recently archeoastronomy. He is presently Professor Emeritus in the Dept. of Astro-physical and Planetary Science at CU.
Artistic Avant-Garde in 19th and 20th Century Paris  
Speaker: Giulia Bernardini

Positing themselves as society’s cultural pioneers opposite the academic tradition were the artists of the Parisian avant-garde whose self-imposed task was to translate the new state of modernity into other chosen media. This lecture will investigate the notion of the avant-garde artist as cultural commentator by looking at artistic personalities and movements at work in Paris, the media they used to transmit their messages, as well as the influence of the city itself on the art being made.

Giulia Bernardini is an instructor of Art History and Humanities at CU Boulder, a regular guest lecturer on art history at the Denver Art Museum, and the founder of Wonderfeast, an art travel company through which, for one immersive week in the summer time, She takes adult participants to Rome, Venice, or Paris to steep in art, culture, and history.

How Democracies Die  
Speaker: Robert Mortimer

This presentation will be a review of recent literature concerning the breakdown of democratic political systems around the world, including the US. Democracy is a fragile construct in all parts of the world. Notable political scientists like Harvard political scientists Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt have identified the warning signs of democratic decay. What can we learn from other countries’ experiences?

Robert Mortimer is a Professor Emeritus of Political Science/International Relations at Haverford College. He has taught at several Universities in Africa, including the University of Algiers, and has researched and written on the political systems of numerous African states that have struggled to produce and maintain democratic systems. His numerous publications include co-authorship of ‘Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa.’

From Highland Maya Villages in Guatemala to Colorado’s San Luis Valley: Journeys Across Time, Space and Culture  
Speaker: Sheryl Ludwig

The following topics will be addressed in this presentation:

• Context for understanding why the migration of Maya people to North America began and is still occurring

• Effects of this migration will be shared primarily through stories told by Maya who have remained in Guatemala and those who have braved the journey to Alamosa. Effects to be addressed include impacts upon:

• Maya immigrant families learning to adapt to U.S. culture, language and personal location within U.S. social and economic structures

• Maya families and communities remaining in Guatemala
Presenter’s personal transformative insights as she learned to weave with Maya women and their families

**Sheryl Ludwig** has collected knowledge of and stories about the Maya since 1999. Fascination about the colorfully dressed Maya weavers led to learning to weave and teaching English as a third language in a Kaqchikel Maya village. The nearly two years she lived in Guatemala then led to acceptance of a position at Colorado’s Adams State University and opportunity to learn about the varied experiences of Q’anjob’al Maya immigrant families living in Colorado’s San Luis Valley.

**International Educational Reform: An Inquiry into What Works and Why?**  
**Feb 28**

**Speaker:** Richard Kraft

In addition to providing statistical international comparisons of educational achievement and practice, we will look at educational heroes who have transformed my life and the schools in their country and the world through their dedication and commitment: Nelson Mandela (Educational Equity), Oscar Mogollon (New School Movement), Malala and Aitzaz Hasan (Girl’s Education and Extreme Heroism) Maria Rosa (Service Learning) and others. Fifty years of experience as a Colorado and International policy maker, researcher, consultant and practitioner provide the background for the presentation.

**Dr. Richard** Kraft was a public school teacher, followed by a 50 year career as Professor of International Education at the University of Colorado-Boulder. He served as Vice-Chair of the Colorado State Board of Education and in more than 40 countries around the world as an educational consultant with the World Bank, United Nations, USAID and numerous other governmental and non-governmental organizations.

**The Fascinating History of Colorado’s Railroads**  
**March 7**

**Speaker:** Bob Rothe

This presentation will mostly be a chronological evolution of Colorado’s famed railroads, including wars, historic swindles and, in some cases, eventual abandonments. Related stories such as the Horace Tabor love triangle will be discussed as well, painting an image of the human factor associated with the development of Colorado’s railroads.

**Bob Rothe’s** career as an experimental nuclear physicist at Rocky Flats would appear to have nothing to do with railroads. However, his father got him started, at age eleven, in the hobby of model railroading, which precipitated a life-long interest in the way real railroads function. That, in turn, led to his development of a realistic and believable model Railroad Empire, at his home, which has been visited by over 13,000 individuals in the last half-century.
Who Are the Facilitators?

They are people… just like you!

At the heart of OLLI are our facilitators and curriculum. OLLI is successful because every term we have an intriguing curriculum and a “faculty” of dedicated people volunteering their time to make it happen.

The majority of OLLI facilitators have never taught a class in their lives. They all find many different ways to organize a class based on the topic and their style – some prepare discussion questions from the text they have chosen; some prefer using lecture tapes and building a discussion around them; others have members of the class give reports; and many invite guest lecturers.

How can you find out about becoming a facilitator?

It is quite easy. Begin by simply indicating your interest to anyone on the Curriculum Committee or contact Barbe Ratcliffe at Barbara.Ratcliffe@du.edu. They will be delighted to answer your questions and offer suggestions.
For information about classes at each OLLI site:

**OLLI at DU**
https://universitycollege.du.edu/olli

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Susan Mears
https://portfolio.du.edu/olliboulder

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