

Fall 2025 Courses

History • Music • Health & Wellness • Theater
Literature & Writing • Law • Social Sciences • Fine Arts
Politics & Public Affairs • Science & Technology

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Encore Learning Fall 2025 Catalog

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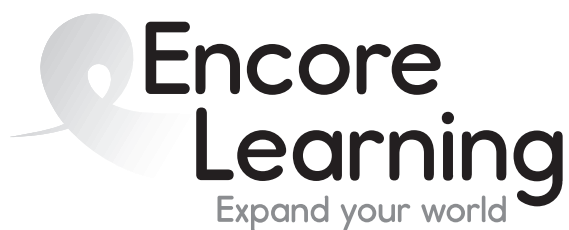
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Courses by Calendar View..... Inside Back Cover



Encore Learning Fall 2025 Course Offerings

CATEGORY	COURSE # AND NAME	INSTRUCTOR	DAY	DATE	TIME	SITE
Fine Arts, Theater & Music	1055 – Never Too Old To Play	Pilloff	F	10/24 – 11/21	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	GMU
	1056 – Mozart/Da Ponte Operas	Gorsky	W	11/5 – 12/10	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	GMU
	1057 – Japanese Art: Words and Images	Morland	M	10/20 – 11/17	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Hybrid
	1058 – Brill Building Era	Agron	T	11/11 – 12/16	3:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Virtual
	1059 – Song Hunters	MacCleave	W	11/5 – 12/3	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Virtual
	1060 – Grandma Moses	Kaplan	W	10/22 – 11/12	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	GMU/SAAM
Health & Wellness	2003 – Estate Planning Basics	Parks	M	11/10 – 12/8	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	FCC
	2026 – Embrace Life's Changes & Choices	Wiley	W	10/1 – 11/5	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	GMU
History	3070 – Walks With 'The Rambler'	Suydam	T	9/30 – 10/28	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Offsite
	3085 – Genealogy: More Than Names and Dates	De Lauder	T	10/14 – 11/18	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Hybrid
	3086 – Introduction to Islam	Zafarullah	W	10/29 – 11/19	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	GMU
	3087 – Air Racing: A History	Norton	T	11/18 – 12/9	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	GMU
	3088 – Britain Under Roman Occupation	Wukitsch	M	9/29 – 12/8	12:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Virtual
	3089 – Classical Greece	Manteuffel	W	11/12 – 12/10	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Virtual
	3090 – Twentieth Century Arlington History	Fogarty	T	10/7 – 10/28	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Hybrid
	3091 – Great Sports Stories	Day/Ruth	T	10/7 – 10/28	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	GMU
	3092 – Reconstruction	Anbinder	W	10/1 – 11/5	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Hybrid
	3093 – History of Iran	Gartman	M	10/20 – 11/24	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	GMU
	3094 – Legal History of Women in America	Brooks	F	10/10 – 10/31	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Virtual
Law, Politics & Public Affairs	4029 – Lobbying: An Insider's View	Rehr	M	10/20 – 11/10	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Virtual
	4052 – Impact Investing: Align with Values	Richardson	M	11/3 – 11/24	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Virtual
	4060 – Chinese Challenges and US Response	Sutter	TH	10/9 – 10/30	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	GMU
	4061 – Tax Reforms Around the Globe	Michielse	T	9/30 – 10/28	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	GMU
	4062 – Election 2025	Multiple	M	10/6 – 10/27	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	GMU
	4063 – Transactional Diplomacy	Taylor/Kauzlarich	T	10/7 – 10/28	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	GMU
Literature & Writing	5068 – Indigenous Literature (in Spanish)	Heyck	TH	10/9 – 11/13	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	GMU
	5069 – Jim Talks Back: Everett and Twain	Jann	TH	10/23 – 11/20	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	GMU
	5070 – Southern Short Stories	Sullivan	T	10/21 – 12/9	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	GMU
	5072 – Writing from Prompts	McBride	TH	10/16 – 11/6	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	GMU
	5073 – Shakespeare's Hamlet	Collins	T	11/18 – 12/9	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Virtual
	5074 – Three Salesman Plays	Alter	F	10/31 – 12/12	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	GMU
	5075 – International Women Writers	Auten	F	10/17 – 11/21	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Virtual
Science & Technology	6023 – Search for Life on Other Worlds	Summers	TH	10/30 – 12/11	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	GMU
	6031 – Intro to Fall Birding	Multiple	T	9/30 – 10/21	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Offsite
	6031 – Intro to Fall Birding	Multiple	TH	9/25 – 10/23	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Offsite
	6034 – Hearing Science and Audiology	Reinhart	F	11/7 – 12/5	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Virtual
	6035 – Tech Hot Spots	Multiple	TH	10/9 – 11/13	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Virtual
	6039 – Organizing What You Know	Fillip	M	10/20 – 11/24	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Hybrid
	6040 – Aging and the Brain	Stutts	W	10/29 – 12/10	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	GMU
Social Sciences	7030 – Freedom and Democracy in America	Grefer	W	10/1 – 10/22	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Hybrid
	7039 – Indigenous Latin America	Albro	F	10/3 – 11/7	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Hybrid
	7040 – Hot Topics in Psychology	McLean	TH	10/16 – 11/20	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	GMU



2025 FALL SEMESTER

September 29 – December 12

Wide variety of courses offered:

- Monday through Friday
- 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM or 2:00 PM

Registration Begins

10:00 AM on Monday, September 8

Check the online catalog for the most recent course updates:

<https://encorelearning.net/courses>

JOIN ENCORE LEARNING

41 COURSES

31 NEW COURSES

- 24 In-Person
- 11 Virtual
- 7 Hybrid
- 15 Recorded

A \$65 annual membership fee is required to register for courses. Each course registration costs \$55. Contact us at info@encorelearning.net or 703-228-2144 for help registering.



www.encorelearning.net



VIRTUAL COURSE PREVIEW

Thursday, September 4 at 9:30 AM

Join us as Encore Learning instructors talk about their upcoming classes. Whether you are a current member or thinking about joining, Encore Learning invites you to find out more about what is coming in the fall!

We look forward to seeing you there!

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89282144585>

Zoom Webinar ID: 892 8214 4585



General Information

For more information, go to our website at www.encorelearning.net



What Is Encore Learning?

Encore Learning, a nonprofit educational organization founded in 2002, offers a wide variety of daytime noncredit courses, clubs, special events and activities to help meet the continuing educational and social interests of anyone over age 50. Encore Learning is governed, supported and financed by its members. Our volunteer instructors create a stimulating learning environment through an exciting array of academic subjects. There are no tests or prerequisites, but often some suggested reading. Encore Learning receives valuable assistance through alliances with George Mason University, the Arlington Public Schools Adult Education Program, Arlington Public Library and Arlington County's Office of Senior Adult Programs.

Encore Learning Membership

Membership in Encore Learning costs \$65 per year and begins on the day on which the *nonrefundable* membership fee is paid. Membership renewal adds 12 months to the membership expiration date, which can always be found by logging in to your account online.

Your membership fee is a charitable contribution deductible from income taxes to the full extent permitted by law. All memberships are individual, non-transferable and processed online. To join, select JOIN at our website www.encorelearning.net.

Semester-Long Courses

Encore Learning will hold virtual (via Zoom), hybrid and in-person courses at George Mason's Arlington Campus and other locations for Fall 2025.

Encore Learning will record a select number of courses during the fall term. The decision on which courses will be recorded is based on course format, instructor preference and the resources available. Each course description indicates if the course will be recorded.

Classes are typically scheduled weekdays between 10:00 AM and 3:30 PM. Classes meet once a week for

1.5 to 2 hours and each course lasts from four to 10 weeks. Class sizes generally range from 15 to 95 in cases of some very popular zoom courses.

For virtual courses, you will need a computer, tablet or phone. Courses will vary in format depending on class size and content, with some having ongoing discussion and others reserving questions for the end of class.

Instructions for connecting to each Zoom course will be provided prior to the start of the course.

Course Previews

Encore Learning's fall and spring course previews offer an opportunity for members to hear the instructors describe their courses before course registration begins. Prospective members are also welcome.

Course Registration

Course registration is open only to current Encore Learning members. The fee for each course is \$55 and is *not* transferable. All course registrations are processed online via our website. Course registration for the Fall 2025 semester begins at 10:00 AM Monday, September 8, 2025.

All registrations are *first-come, first-served*; waitlists for filled courses are available online. Members get immediate feedback on their registration status upon payment and receive an emailed receipt, including any waitlist status. To register, go to our website and select REGISTER FOR COURSES/EVENTS.

The registration for a course is not meant to be shared. If any other individual is going to participate in the course with you, they must also register for the course.

Refund of course registration fees is available under certain circumstances. Please visit [encorelearning.net/about/policies](http://www.encorelearning.net/about/policies) for more detailed information.

Members may also transfer their course registration to another course with available space.

General Information *continued*

Class Media

All course materials provided by instructors will be uploaded to a password-protected webpage on our website (www.encorelearning.net). The course webpage link and password will be shared in the course reminder email sent two to three days before the first class session. We recommend saving this email for easy access. You will also receive notifications with the link and password anytime new materials are added.

Links to all course pages are available through “access class media” in the Courses menu on the main Encore Learning website. However, you will need the password provided in your course reminder email to access them.

Clubs

Encore Learning’s clubs are open to all current members. There are 12 clubs: Breakfast, Bridge, Chamber Music, Cinema, Current Issues Discussion, Electric Vehicle, Global Lunch, Kayak, Mindfulness, Nonfiction Book, Tech Hobbyist and Travel. For information about club activities, please visit our website and click on CLUBS.

Special Events

Special Events include the Encore Learning Presents Series that are free and open to the public. These one-time lectures, panel presentations or films are presented online or in a hybrid format (in-person and online). Many of our Encore Learning Presents events are recorded and available to view on our YouTube channel. Virtual and in-person member tours are also planned. For information about Special Events, please visit our website and click on EVENTS.

Membership Meeting

Encore Learning holds an annual membership meeting to elect a board of directors from a slate of candidates recruited by a nominating committee and to discuss the state of the organization. All current members will be notified of candidates for election to the board and receive a ballot to complete online. Membership meetings are generally held in May.

Volunteer at Encore Learning

Volunteers are the backbone of Encore Learning and work in conjunction with the organization’s part-time staff. There are a number of ways to get involved, whether by joining a committee, becoming an instructor

or class aide, or organizing special events. For more information on volunteering, please visit our website and click on VOLUNTEER.

Support Encore Learning

Encore Learning is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Any donation is a charitable contribution deductible from income taxes to the full extent permitted by law. Members, friends and organizations wishing to support Encore Learning may direct their contributions to our General Fund or to one of the many scholarship funds sponsored by Encore Learning. For more details on Encore Learning scholarships, please visit our website and search for “scholarships.”

Encore Learning Policies

Encore Learning is a nonprofit, equal opportunity organization open to individuals without regard to sex, race, color, religion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. For more information, visit encorelearning.net/about/policies.

Contact Encore Learning

Communicating with Encore Learning is easy, email: info@encorelearning.net

Leave a voice message: 703-228-2144




Review/Update


your account information online before registration begins on September 8.



- Note your password for easy access to your account on registration day.
- Choose your desired courses before logging in to register on September 8.
- Register online at 10:00 AM Monday, September 8 for your best chance at a seat in a popular course.
- Opt for a course waitlist if the course is filled.
- Complete your online registration and payment within 20 minutes.
- Sit back and wait for classes to begin.

Fall 2025 Course Descriptions


This semester's offering includes virtual courses taught on Zoom, in-person courses at George Mason University's Mason Square campus, offsite courses at various locations around Arlington, and hybrid courses, which will be simultaneously taught virtually and in-person.

 Virtual classes are noted with the camera icon.

 In-person classes are noted with the people icon.

  Hybrid classes are noted with both icons. All hybrid courses are held at George Mason University and virtually on Zoom.

A select number of virtual courses will be recorded based on the course format and instructor preference. The recordings will be available to registered students within two business days at the end of each class session. Recordings will remain available until February 28, 2026. While the recordings are provided for convenience and to accommodate any scheduling conflicts, they are not intended to replace the benefits of attending in real time, where you can ask questions and participate in discussions.

 Recorded courses are noted with the microphone icon.

Check the online catalog for the most recent course updates and easy access to recommended websites: <https://encorelearning.asapconnected.com/#CourseIndex>

Fall registration begins at 10:00 AM Monday, September 8, 2025.



Fine Arts, Theater & Music

1055 *Never Too Old To Play: Learning Improv Is For Everyone*

 Instructor: Steve Pilloff

Friday 10:00 – 11:30 AM

10/24 – 11/21

Sessions: 5; Location: GMU

Do you like to laugh? Do you enjoy connecting with supportive people? Do you cherish moments of joy? If you answered “yes” to these questions, then *Never Too Old To Play* is the course for you!

In this course, we will gather in a safe, encouraging and supportive environment to play and explore. Using our imaginations, we will create fun worlds, collaborative stories and an overall sense of connected joy. Students will learn improv by participating in various games, activities and exercises that involve working together, listening to each other, making choices, using imaginations, discovering that mistakes can be gifts and, most importantly, having fun. Students will develop trust not just in themselves but also in each other.

Everyone is welcome — no prior improv or theater experience is needed, and you do not need to be funny. Just bring yourself; you are enough!

Steve Pilloff is a dedicated improv teacher, producer and performer. At George Mason University, where he is a professor in the Costello College of Business, Steve has conducted improv workshops for various student groups. He also serves as the faculty advisor to the Mason Improv Association. Steve has taught improv classes for Highwire Improv and Improv for PD (Parkinson's Disease). He frequently performs with Washington Improv Theater and at various indie shows throughout the DC-Baltimore area. He regularly organizes and produces improv shows in Northern Virginia.

Fall 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

1056 Mozart/Da Ponte Operas

 Instructor: Jeffrey Gorsky

Wednesday 12:00 – 1:30 PM
11/5 – 12/10 (No class 11/26)
Sessions: 5; Location: GMU

Mozart wrote three operas with Lorenzo Da Ponte. The first two, *Marriage of Figaro* and *Don Giovanni*, are masterpieces and two of the greatest works in the Western canon. The third, *Così fan Tutti*, is just a great opera. The course will set these works in the context of the classical music style and the tradition of opera writing at the time with an emphasis on how innovative these works were. We will look at the lives of Mozart and Da Ponte, who was born in a Jewish ghetto outside of Venice, left the priesthood to become the court librettist in Vienna, and ended his career teaching Italian at Columbia University in New York City. We will watch substantial excerpts from the operas, accompanied by light musical analysis.

Jeffrey Gorsky is a lifelong classical music buff with a classical music collection consisting of more than 1,000 CDs. He is a retired State Department lawyer and immigration law expert.

1057 Japanese Art: Words and Images

  Instructor: Carol Morland



Monday 12:00 – 1:30 PM
10/20 – 11/17
Sessions: 5; Location: Hybrid

East Asian paintings and prints often carry inscriptions that can take up almost as much space as the image itself. What is with all these words? After a brief introduction to different scripts and styles of calligraphy, we will look at the relationship between what is written and what is portrayed as a way to better understand the work of art. How does the inscription function visually? How does the identity of the inscriber and the content of the inscription guide the viewer's reaction to the image? We begin with works that tell a story (narrative handscrolls, Edo and Meiji period prints, and contemporary manga), then move on to consider Buddhist paintings, secular and religious portraiture, literati ink landscapes, and works in various

formats produced by the Rinpa school. While the major focus will be on Japanese artwork, we will also look at relevant Chinese examples.

Carol Morland, PhD, has lived, worked and traveled extensively in Asia. She has taught Japanese art at several universities, including the University of Hawaii and Temple University-Japan. She also served as editor at *Orientations* magazine in Hong Kong and curator of Japanese prints at the Honolulu Museum of Art. At present, she is editing a Japanese-English dictionary of visual culture terms.

1058 Brill Building Era: Soundtrack of Rock and Pop in the '50s and '60s

  Instructor: Michael Agron

Tuesday 3:00 – 4:30 PM
11/11 – 12/16
Sessions: 6; Location: Virtual and Recorded

New York City's storied Brill Building at 1619 Broadway was home to music industry offices and recording studios in the 1950s and 1960s. The building is a legendary location in Manhattan, where the echoes of historic Tin Pan Alley's Great American Songbook still resound. However, we will acknowledge a new generation of talented songwriters, singers and groups who filled the airwaves, shaping the soundtrack of our lives.

Enjoy the music of legendary songwriters such as Carole King and Gerry Goffin, Neil Sedaka and Howard Greenfield, Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil, Phil Spector, Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, Doc Pomus and Mort Shuman, Ellie Greenwich and Jeff Barry, Burt Bacharach and Hal David.

Rediscover the tunes from Elvis Presley, the Coasters, Dion and the Belmonts, the Drifters, Dionne Warwick, the Ronettes, the Shirelles, the Animals, the Monkees, Manfred Mann, Andy Williams, the unforgettable Righteous Brothers, and many others who left us with a treasure trove of great music.


Join me on this journey to delve into the melodies, stories and vibrant personalities behind the Brill Building era.

Michael Agron grew up in Los Angeles, the heart of the recording and entertainment industry. He loved music

Fall 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

so much he wanted to become a recording engineer, but fate had different plans. He has fulfilled his musical and entertainment passions by offering popular seminars to older adults at The Renaissance Society at California State University, Sacramento, and numerous Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes across the country.

1059 Song Hunters: A.P. Carter, Alan Lomax, and the Mid-Century Folk Revival

 **Instructor: Linda MacCleave**

Wednesday 2:00 – 3:30 PM

11/5 – 12/3 (No class 11/26)

Sessions: 4; Location: Virtual and Recorded

The dedication of song hunters and collectors in the early 20th century helped to preserve the rich cultural heritage of American music, including folk, gospel and blues. We will explore the songs found by A.P. Carter and Alan Lomax that contributed to the folk revival of the mid-20th century. These songs had a profound impact on many music genres, including country, folk, bluegrass, pop, rock and Americana. Artists featured will include the Carter Family, Lead Belly, Muddy Waters, Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Bob Dylan, the Kingston Trio, Odetta, Emmylou Harris and many more.

Linda MacCleave earned an MA in English education from Virginia Commonwealth University. She has retired from teaching English. Her appreciation for the inspirational poetry of folk and country music has led her to pursue sharing the history and interpretation of songs with her peers. She also presents classes at the University of Richmond and Virginia Tech.

1060 Grandma Moses and Other Self-Taught American Artists

 **Instructor: Deborah Kaplan**

Wednesday 2:00 – 3:30 PM

10/22 – 11/12

Sessions: 4; Location: GMU and SAAM

An exhibit of Grandma Moses's work, opening at the Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM) in Fall 2025, provides an opportunity to explore her art and

key questions that her career has raised. Anna Mary Robertson Moses is known as a "self-taught artist." As we ponder that term, we will look closely at her paintings and reflect on her life circumstances. We will also compare her works to those of other 20th century self-taught artists, included in SAAM's outstanding collection of artworks. We will examine the reception of Grandma Moses's art: Why have so many people loved her work and so many others hated it? And, finally, as "Grandma," the name by which she was called, indicates, Moses was elderly, nearly 80 years old, when her career took off. Many other self-taught artists have also been at their most creative and productive late in life, an inspiring fact worth our consideration as well.

This course will meet four times: Sessions one and three (October 22 and November 5) will be held at the GMU Arlington campus. Sessions two and four (October 29 and November 12) will be at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C., where we will view the exhibit "Grandma Moses: A Good Day's Work" and art by Ralph Fasanella, Purvis Young, Horace Pippin, and others.

Recommended Sources: *Souls Grown Deep Foundation* (website); *Almanac: Grandma Moses* (YouTube by CBS Sunday Morning).

Note: The instructor will provide links to these sources on the course webpage when class begins.

Deborah Kaplan, associate professor emerita, taught literature and writing at George Mason University for many years and chaired its English Department for six years. She published a book on Jane Austen and several articles on British novelists, Restoration drama, and Holocaust literature. She has been a docent at the Smithsonian American Art Museum for the last eight years and loves talking with people of all ages about the visual arts and literature.

REMEMBER

check www.encorelearning.net for the most up-to-date information!

Fall 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*



Health & Wellness

2003 Estate Planning Basics

Instructor: Sarah Parks

Monday 10:00 – 11:30 AM

11/10 – 12/8 (No class 11/24)

Sessions: 4; Location: Fairlington

This course is designed to educate students about ways to become proactive in planning their estates and avoiding the pitfalls of not having a plan in place. The basics of estate planning will be explained in plain English, along with options so that students can decide which approach is best for their individual situations. The course will cover:

1. Overview: Discussion of various estate planning documents and how they operate.
2. Trusts: What they are and how they work.
3. Funding A Living Trust: How to transfer assets into a living trust.
4. Advance Health Care Directives: How to best protect yourself if you are unable to make your own medical decisions.

Sarah Parks is an attorney who limits her practice to estate planning. She has operated her firm, Custom Estate Planning, since 1995. She earned a JD degree from the Antonin Scalia Law School of George Mason University and an LLM from the Georgetown University Law Center.

2026 Embrace Life's Changes & Choices

Instructor: Sallie Wiley

Wednesday 10:00 – 11:30 AM

10/1 – 11/5

Sessions: 6; Location: GMU

Take your life off hold and coast no longer! Through facilitated discussions, sharing of insights from small group activities, and use of prepared course materials, you will explore new opportunities and interests, learn how to form new relationships, and stay engaged even in cases of loss or distance from friends or loved ones. In doing so, you will draw upon your skills and talents to maintain a sense of purpose and relevance and apply your life experiences and lessons learned from trials or setbacks.

Tools such as self-assessment questionnaires and pairing exercises will help you recognize that self-empowerment lies in how you *choose* to respond to situations and circumstances; get past regret and unforgiveness; and change habits or focus. You will gain the skills and tools to age gracefully and enjoy greater fulfillment.

Recommended Reading: Attitude Is Everything: 10 Life-Changing Steps to Turning Attitude into Action, Keith Herrell; The Resiliency Advantage: Master Change, Thrive Under Pressure, Bounce Back From Setbacks, Al Siebert; The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully, Joan Chittister.

Sallie Wiley spent almost 40 years with the federal government as a trainer, facilitator, manager, and certified federal coach. She conducted seminars for staff of agencies and the House of Representatives. She also counseled military officers in transition. Her interactive classes draw from experience in managing change, administering estates, serving as a caregiver, and providing support as a hospice volunteer for grieving families.

In addition to our courses in the spring and fall semesters, our
Special Events & Clubs run year round.

See page 29 for more details.

Fall 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*



History

3070 Walks With 'The Rambler'

 Instructor: Marty Suydam

Tuesday 10:00 – 11:30 AM

9/30 – 10/28

Sessions: 5; Location: Various Locations

When writing *Walks with Charley, 3rd ed.*, a book that is part memoir and part 2020s hindsight on the history of South Arlington, the author/instructor found the work of photographer and newspaper columnist J. Harry Shannon (1869–1928). He became a fan of this man who died nearly 100 years ago and weaved some of Shannon's stories into his own book on South Arlington. The instructor discovered and curated most of Shannon's published articles (over 650), and many others suspected to have been written by him before Shannon had his own column, "The Rambler," which appeared Sundays in *The Washington Star*.

This course takes "The Rambler's" 1900s perspective on the same geographic area covered with the author's dog Charley. This time, however, the class will "walk" with "The Rambler." We will explore the following areas: (1) Arlington Ridge, North; (2) Arlington Ridge, South; (3) Lower Four Mile Run; (4) Along the Potomac (Crystal City); and (5) Green Valley (a pre-Civil War 1,000-acre plantation, mostly today's Army-Navy Country Club). Most of the material is new, offering a different perspective, thanks to The Rambler. Students must be comfortable walking two miles during each class session.

Supplemental Material: Participants may find it useful to refer to the instructor's book written for this course, although it is not required: *Walks With The Rambler: A Scrapbook of Arlington, Alexandria, & Fairfax, Virginia From the Lens & Pen of The Rambler 1907–1927*.

Marty Suydam is a retired Army Corps of Engineer officer, federal Senior Executive Service member, corporate executive, and professor. He has written and published several other books on which he has based Encore Learning courses: *Writing A Memoir*, 2nd ed.; *Walks with Charley: Sniffing Arlington Ridge History and Mystery*, 3rd ed.; *Walk Four Mile Run: A Chain of Parks*, 2nd ed.

3085 Genealogy: More Than Names and Dates

   Instructor: Roy De Lauder

Tuesday 12:00 – 1:30 PM

10/14 – 11/18 (No class 11/4 and 11/11)

Sessions: 4; Location: Hybrid and Recorded

Start exploring your roots! Discover where your family name came from, why your family lives where it does and what your parents and grandparents did for work and for fun. Tracing your ancestors back through history has sometimes been described as "family history" but also "your family in history."

Doing genealogical research is like being a private investigator. Start with what you know, then follow the clues. To help you get started, the instructor will address how to find information beyond your immediate family; what is available online and what is not; how to record, organize and publish the information that you have gathered; and what to do when you hit a "brick wall." He will also cover DNA testing.

Roy De Lauder has a BA in history from Clemson University and an MS in systems management from the University of Southern California. He is a retired U.S. Navy surface warfare officer and a retired equipment manager for a government contractor. He has been doing genealogy as a hobby for more than 40 years.

3086 Introduction to Islam

 Instructor: Mohammed Zafarullah

Wednesday 12:00 – 1:30 PM

10/29 – 11/19

Sessions: 4; Location: GMU

This course will examine the full sweep of Islam, the second-largest and fastest-growing religion in the world. We will begin with an introduction to its basic tenets, followed by its sources (Quran, Sunnah and Hadith), the life of Muhammad, and a brief history of the faith. Next, we will analyze the main Islamic sects and their origins, the concept of jihad, and Islam in the "later days." Participants will learn about the Islamic understanding of Jesus, Mary and the

Fall 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

"People of the Book." Finally, we will discuss Islam in the contemporary world. Ideal for beginners, this course will answer questions of particular interest to those who want to explore the West's relationship with Islam and interreligious dialogue.

Mohammed Zafarullah is an imam who focuses on the training and education of young people in the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. He has been conveying the teachings and message of Islam for over 40 years, seeking to dispel distrust, fears and misconceptions among the general public.

3087 Air Racing: A History

 **Instructor: Douglas Norton**

Tuesday 2:00 – 3:30 PM

11/18 – 12/9

Sessions: 4; Location: GMU

This course traces the worldwide history of "air racing" in which piloted aircraft race on closed courses, point-to-point courses, and against the clock. Using charts, videos and stories, we will follow the development of the sport from the first organized event in 1908 to 2023, the date of the most recent one.

Four sessions will cover the early years (1908–1920), the interwar years (1921–1939), the post-war restart (1946–1949), and the renewal in Reno, NV (1964–2023). We will consider a broad range of aircraft from early biplanes to "warbirds" (ex-military, often vintage, aircraft), jets and even airliners. Famous air racing personalities will also be discussed, such as pilots who flew with a lion cub, had Snoopy as a co-pilot, pitched a grape drink, and flew alongside R2D2.

Like NASCAR, air racing comes with risks, so a major concern is safety and how to balance risk and competition. In addition to the business promise of air racing events, there is national pride, competition among manufacturers, thrill-seeking, and emotional attachment to "inlines" (engine cylinders arranged in a straight line) versus "radials" (cylinders arranged in a circle).

Finally, we will look briefly at what the future holds for the world's fastest motor sport whose motto is "fly low, turn left, go fast."

Douglas Norton retired from federal service in 1999 after 14 years in the Air Force and 18 years at NASA. After that he spent 10 years working for private sector companies in technology, with customers both inside and outside the federal government. He is an instrument-rated private pilot and a docent at the National Air and Space Museum.

3088 Britain Under Roman Occupation

 **Instructor: Tom Wukitsch**

Monday 12:00 – 2:00 PM

9/29 – 12/8 (No class 10/13)

Sessions: 10; Location: Virtual and Recorded

This class will explore the era of Roman occupation of Britain, an era that is undergoing significant reassessment. Until recently, the people of the United Kingdom were taught that Rome's military occupation (AD 43–410) was a mostly benevolent and uplifting experience. Before occupation, the supposedly culturally deficient Celtic Britons needed and then willingly accepted a boost into the higher-level civilization of the Roman Empire. According to this interpretation, once Rome gave up its occupation to respond to crises at home and in mainland Europe, Britain slipped into a darker age, from which it emerged only with the arrival of later occupiers.

There surely was money to be made and better living conditions to be had for Roman occupation bureaucrats, foreign contractors, ranking Roman army officers, retirees and Briton collaborators. But the empire seldom broke even in Britain: logistics costs for the necessary multi-legionary garrison were just too high. Historical revisionists, particularly in the UK, are gradually recognizing that only a small number of the Briton tribal elite benefited from Rome's military occupation, which was designed to exploit Britain's natural resources (metals) and men (as slaves and mercenaries). Most Britons paid high taxes, suffered humiliation, and accrued minimal, if any, benefits. By AD 407–410, the Roman legions were needed elsewhere, the mines were petering out and the natives were restless. The Romans never returned, leaving Britain to eventually grow to be the world's biggest occupying, colonizing, imperialist "successor of Rome."

The instructor will provide a link to historical sources on his own website when class begins.

Fall 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

Tom Wukitsch's fascination with ancient things began while reading his grandparents' collection of *National Geographic* magazines. Early on, he studied Latin, ancient Greek, ancient Semitic languages and Egyptian hieroglyphs. He earned degrees in Semitic languages, ancient history and archeology/archaeometry. After retiring from a long career in the Foreign Service, he studied and taught at the Gruppo Archeologic Romano in Rome and has led Encore Learning study trips to Egypt, Italy, Turkey, Greece and the Aegean islands.

3089 Classical Greece

 **Instructor:** Tom Manteuffel

Wednesday 10:00 – 11:30 AM
11/12 – 12/10 (No class 11/26)
Sessions: 4; Location: Virtual

No matter what fields you discuss, the ancient Greeks seem always to have been there first. To us in the Western world, the story of our civilization is that of Athens in the fifth century BCE, later spread by Hellenism and copied and adapted by the Romans, and later filtered through the Renaissance. What made the Greeks universal and central to our art, architecture, science, philosophy, theater, literature, history and political science? Why then and why there? We will look into the Greeks bearing cultural gifts and examine how and how much they really shaped our Western civilization. There is much in the story that may be surprising.

Tom Manteuffel has presented courses at Encore Learning on various topics in art history, technology and literature. He is a retired cybersecurity engineer with graduate degrees in philosophy and computer science.

3090 Twentieth Century Arlington: History By The Decades (1900–1930)

  **Instructor:** Bill Fogarty

Tuesday 10:00 – 11:30 AM
10/7 – 10/28
Sessions: 4; Location: Hybrid and Recorded

This course will provide a survey of Arlington County history from 1900 through 1930 in the context of what

was also happening in Virginia, the United States and the world. The county's population grew from 6,430 to 26,615 over the three decades. It was a time of technological growth (cars and airplanes), world war, a worldwide pandemic, racial tensions and more. This is the first in a projected series of courses covering Arlington history throughout the 20th century. There will be plenty of time for questions, answers and discussion.

Bill Fogarty is a retired attorney who has lived and worked in Arlington for more than 40 years. He has taken up a new avocation of writing and teaching about Arlington history. He has written for *The Arlington Historical Magazine*, presented at the Arlington Historical Society and already taught two Arlington history classes for Encore Learning.

3091 Home Runs, Goals, Touchdowns: Great Sports Stories

 **Instructor:** Fred Day and Stephen Ruth

Tuesday 2:00 – 3:30 PM
10/7 – 10/28
Sessions: 4; Location: GMU

Long-time Encore Learning instructor Stephen Ruth will team up with Fred Day, a sports attorney, to share stories about famous and not-so-famous moments in sports. This course is not just for people who like sports but for anyone who enjoys stories, video and sound clips that bring excitement, thrills, frustration, failure, and, of course, triumphant and unexpected success. We will largely cover the better-known sports such as football, basketball, baseball, soccer, hockey, track and field, and tennis. However, pickleball, field hockey, cricket, swimming, ultimate frisbee and even mashed potato wrestling, popular in several states, will also be discussed. This course is guaranteed to be fun, interesting and loaded with home runs.

Fred Day is a lawyer engaged in private practice in Falls Church, Virginia. He is the author of six books, including *Clubhouse Lawyer: Law in the World of Sports*; *Sports and Courts: An Introduction to Principles of Law and Legal Theory Using Cases From Professional Sports*; and *Dream Team: Saints and Gentle Souls From the World of Sports*.

Fall 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

Stephen Ruth, emeritus professor of public policy at the Schar School of Policy and Development at George Mason University, is secretly a fanatical sports fan. He has collected a wide array of sports material going back to the time when he played catcher on his high school baseball team.

3092 Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution?

 **Instructor: Tyler Anbinder**

Wednesday 10:00 – 11:30 AM
10/1 – 11/5

Sessions: 6; Location: Hybrid and Recorded


The period immediately after the American Civil War is known as Reconstruction because it was the era when Americans reconstructed their shattered nation. The victory of the North in the war did not solve all the problems raised by secession and emancipation. Instead, it marked a new phase in the conflict, in which competing visions for creating “a more perfect Union” would be decided in legislative chambers and courtrooms rather than on the battlefield.

This course will begin by looking at how Congress and presidents Lincoln and Johnson dealt with the issues raised by Reconstruction; then move to the South to consider what Reconstruction was like for the freedmen and their former enslavers; and finally return its focus to Washington as an unprecedented depression and massive Southern White resistance to the rights of formerly enslaved persons led Congress and the courts to curtail those rights and inaugurate the Jim Crow Era.

Recommended Reading: Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, Eric Foner.

Tyler Anbinder is an emeritus professor of history at George Washington University, where he taught courses on the history of American immigration and the American Civil War era. He is the author of *Nativism and Slavery: The Northern Know Nothings and the Politics of the 1850s*; *Five Points: The 19th New York Neighborhood that Invented Tap Dance, Stole Elections, and Became the World's Most Notorious Slum*; *City of Dreams: The 400-Year Epic History of Immigrant New York*; and *Plentiful Country: The Great Potato Famine and the Making of Irish New York*.

3093 History of Iran: From Ancient Persia Until Today

 **Instructor: Eric Gartman**

Monday 12:00 – 1:30 PM
10/20 – 11/24

Sessions: 6; Location: GMU

Iran is one of the largest and most important countries in the Middle East, with abundant oil and natural gas supplies and a border along the vital Persian Gulf. Yet most Americans know fairly little about it. In this class, we will explore Iran's long history and magnificent cultural heritage, dating back from the first great Persian Empire of Cyrus the Great, through the many empires that replaced it, and its decline in the modern age. We will learn about Iran's peoples, literature and poetry, all of which have combined to form its distinct sense of nationhood. We will examine how Iran turned from America's staunch ally under the last Shah to the bitter enemy of the West under the Ayatollahs, which it remains to this day. We will also discuss possible future scenarios for Iran and its people as the Islamic Revolution continues.

Eric Gartman is a former intelligence analyst for the Department of Defense who studied history and political science as an undergraduate at the University of Arizona. He earned an MA in international relations at the University of Virginia and an MS in strategic intelligence at the National Defense University.

3094 Legal History of Women in America

 **Instructor: Lillian Brooks**

Friday 12:00 – 1:30 PM
10/10 – 10/31

Sessions: 4; Location: Virtual and Recorded

This course will explore the long and difficult history of women's rights in America. The forces to keep women in the kitchen and have babies come from laws crafted by White males throughout history. We will discuss landmark events and the laws that have affected women's rights – the good, bad, and the ugly from the colonial period to the present day, including the 2022 U.S. Supreme Court *Dobbs* decision. The course will include the work of women who have been influential in reforming America's

Fall 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

social and legal climate. We will also discuss where women stand today and what the future holds.

The course will be a mix of lecture and interactive class discussion.

Lillian Brooks, JD, practiced criminal and family law in Atlanta, before moving to Northern Virginia in 1984. She then became director of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court service in Alexandria before retiring in 2012. She is a former president of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and serves as an adjunct professor at George Mason University.



Law, Politics & Public Affairs

4029 How Lobbying Really Works in Washington: An Insider's View

 **Instructor:** David Rehr

Monday 2:00 – 3:30 PM

10/20 – 11/10

Sessions: 4; Location: Virtual

This course is designed to provide an understanding of interest groups, their historical and legal background, lobbying history and tools and the political process at all levels. Students will learn about practical skills and insights necessary to fully understand government advocacy. We will examine how citizens exercise their First Amendment right to petition their government and redress grievances; form interest groups; and lobby effectively on behalf of a cause. The instructor will describe laws and regulations affecting lobbying and discuss the competitive landscape of public policy through politics. Guest speakers may share their perspectives on special influence lobbying and how lobbying impacts the creation of laws and regulations.

David Rehr is a professor and director of the Center for Business Civic Engagement in the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. He teaches advocacy, nonprofit leadership and understanding of special interest groups. He has more than 25 years of

experience in advocacy, governance, and public policy, and he is an authority on communicating with Congress. His career in advocacy included stints as chief executive officer of two national nonprofit associations. Prior to joining the Schar School, he was senior associate dean and professor at the Antonin Scalia Law School at GMU. He earned his MA and PhD in economics from GMU.

4052 Impact Investing: Advancing Social & Environmental Solutions

 **Instructor:** Michael Richardson

Monday 10:00 – 11:30 AM

11/3 – 11/24

Sessions: 4; Location: Virtual and Recorded

This course will explore the core principles of “impact investing” as a strategy to generate positive, measurable, social and environmental impacts. Participants will learn about the opportunities and challenges of impact investing and practical tools to evaluate them.

The instructor will compare how impact investing differs from Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investing and Socially Responsible Investing (SRI). While ESG is often a component of impact investing, it does not necessarily have the explicit goal of generating a measurable, positive impact. SRI focuses on screening investments based on ethical or values-based criteria, often excluding companies involved in harmful activities. In contrast, impact investing goes further by actively seeking investments that create positive social or environmental change. This includes investments in renewable energy projects, affordable housing, sustainable agriculture and micro-finance institutions that loan to entrepreneurs in under-financed communities.

There will be three guest presenters: Harry Moran, Brennen Ramos and Andrea Longton. The class will be interactive, with plenty of opportunities for discussion.

Recommended Reading: *Guide to Socially Responsible Investing and Better Banking*, Green America; *The Social Justice Investor*, Andrea Longton.

Recommended Website: *Introduction to Impact Investing*, Impact Investing Institute.

Fall 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

Note: The instructor will provide links to these sources on the course webpage when class begins.

Michael Richardson presents workshops nationwide on the divestment of fossil fuels from personal finances for Third Act, Green America and GreenFaith. From a varied cache of experiences, including organic farmer, solar heating contractor, labor economist, county legislator and municipal consultant, he is committed to bringing attention to the moral imperative to stop funding climate chaos.

Harry Moran, Sustainable Wealth Advisors, worked with Advantage Capital Corp., Cornerstone Financial Advisors and Cadaret, Grant and Co., Inc. before founding Sustainable Wealth Advisors in 2011. He began working with sustainable investments in 1988.

Brennen Ramos, Longwave Financial, will discuss values-based portfolios made up of mutual funds and exchange-traded funds that are active shareholders in the companies they own to create positive change. He was previously a financial advisor at Merrill Lynch and Lazard, where he specialized in capital markets and investment strategies. His passion for helping individuals and families achieve their goals drew him back to financial planning and completion of his certified financial planner (CFP) designation. He earned his ESG certification from the Columbia Business School of Executive Education.

Andrea Longton is an author and social justice investor. She has raised more than \$1 billion for such investments in the U.S. and has advised on another \$1.5 billion worldwide. Her professional experience includes positions at Opportunity Finance Network, Freddie Mac, Capital Impact Partners (now Momentus Capital) and Delphos International.

4060 Chinese Challenges to the US and US Response

 **Instructor: Robert Sutter**

Thursday 2:00 – 3:30 PM

10/9 – 10/30

Sessions: 4; Location: GMU

This four-week course will examine the United States' evolving policy vis-a-vis China over the past seven years in response to a host of often serious challenges posed

by Chinese government actions. U.S.-Chinese relations have reversed over 40 years of generally cooperative engagement. The recent hardening of the U.S. against Chinese practices is fueling an acute rivalry, with limited room for cooperation. The issue of Taiwan is among the leading determinants, with forecasts of possible China-U.S. military conflict. President Donald Trump is pushing sweeping changes in domestic and foreign policies with as-yet-uncertain implications for future U.S. relations with China. The course will cover:

1. The origins and evolution of Chinese challenges and U.S. responses, intensified in recent years. What is driving Chinese challenges to the U.S.? Why was the government slow to respond and now often views the challenges as dire threats?
2. The ongoing competition between the U.S. and China for leadership in Asia, and the impact of Trump administration policies in 2025 on the rivalry.
3. The massive party-state power behind Chinese companies seeking market dominance, the impact of these factors on the U.S. economy and governance priorities, and U.S. responses to Chinese actions.
4. The importance of Taiwan to both China and the U.S. and why tension there has led to predictions of war. This last class will also address the uncertainty over the Trump Administration policies.

Recommended Reading: Breaking the Engagement: How China Won & Lost America, David Shambaugh.

Robert Sutter earned his PhD at Harvard University. He has been a professor of practice of international affairs at the George Washington University since 2011. Before that, he taught at Georgetown University for 10 years. His publications include 23 books dealing with U.S. relations with China and Asia, Chinese foreign policy, Congress and China policy, and Taiwan. In his government career from 1968 to 2001, he held various positions in the Congressional Research Service, National Intelligence Council, Department of State, and Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Fall 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

4061 Tax Reforms Around the Globe: The How and Why

 Instructor: Geerten Michielse

Tuesday 12:00 – 1:30 PM

9/30 – 10/28

Sessions: 5; Location: GMU

Governments deal with a lot of tough financial issues like financial crises, natural disasters, wars and big economic changes. One of the biggest challenges is that solutions often cost a lot of money. Governments mostly make money by collecting taxes and borrowing money from other countries. All over the world, governments have made different choices about their tax systems, and many have been forced by major events to reform them — sometimes with good results, sometimes not.

A good tax system should be fair, easy to understand, effective, clear and follow international standards. This course will examine how governments set up their tax systems in the best way possible and include a look at real-life examples. Over five weeks, we will cover:

- 1. Principles of Tax Policy:** A look at various tax instruments (consumption taxes, income taxes, property taxes, excise taxes and tariffs), their contributions to revenue mobilization, optimal tax composition, and performance indicators such as tax buoyancy and tax-to-GDP ratios. We will also cover C-efficiency (the percentage of how much of a country's tax potential is effectively collected), horizontal versus vertical equity, and the roles of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.
- 2. Tax Reforms in Central-Planned Economies:** After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, countries in eastern Europe and central Asia moved from centrally planned to market economies. We will examine the challenges, successes and failures these nations experienced while trying to boost economic growth and privatize state-owned businesses.
- 3. Tax Reforms in Fragile and Conflict States:** Tax reforms can help countries ravaged by war rebuild institutional infrastructure and promote sustainable economic growth.

- 4. Tax Reforms During the 2010 Financial Crisis:** Tax policy drove recovery efforts in several countries in the aftermath of the 2010 financial crisis. Case studies will include Iceland's banking crisis, Greece's sovereign debt crisis and Cyprus's financial (banking) crisis. The role of the Troika (European Commission, European Central Bank and IMF) will also be covered.

Geerten Michielse is a native of the Netherlands and lives in Arlington. He received his PhD from the Katholieke Universiteit Brabant in Tilburg and taught tax law as a tenured professor in the Netherlands. He was a visiting professor in Paris and at Georgetown University. Since 2000 he has worked at the IMF, first as a lawyer drafting tax laws and later as a senior economist designing tax policies. He has advised governments in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

4062 Election 2025: Potential Impact of Virginia Elections on the Nation

 Instructor: Multiple

Monday 10:00 – 11:30 AM

10/6 – 10/27

Sessions: 4; Location: GMU

In their 2023 book, *The New Dominion*, Mark Rozell and John Milliken chronicled the evolution of Virginia from a one-party Democratic-dominated state to a Republican-dominated state to a two-party competitive state leaning slightly blue. The state's color on the presidential election maps was red from 1952 through 2004 (except for the 1964 LBJ landslide). Virginia's electoral college voters have supported Democratic presidential candidates in every election since 2008. The return of Donald Trump to the White House in 2024 has triggered an upheaval in national public policies unlike any seen in our lifetimes.

On November 4, 2025, Virginians will go to the polls to elect a governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and 100 members to the House of Delegates. Virginia's off-year elections will be a litmus test for the mood of the nation in the wake of Trump's dizzying changes. In this course, Rozell and three distinguished Virginia political leaders will offer their analyses of the potential impact of Virginia's 2025 elections on our national political landscape.

Fall 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

The Context: Demographic Change and the Transformation of Virginia Politics (Mark Rozell 10/6)
Virginia's political evolution is often attributed to 21st century demographic changes, but elections in the 20th century foretold Virginia's modern two-party competition. The instructor will discuss this history to put the 2025 elections in context.

Virginia 2024: A Mirror of the Nation
(David Ramadan 10/13)

This lecture will examine where Virginia stands politically today: who votes, what drives them and why the Commonwealth remains a critical barometer of national sentiment. As a diverse, dynamic, and closely watched state, Virginia offers insight into the broader American electorate and serves as a referendum on the direction of federal policy in this pivotal election year.

The Secret Recipe to Successful State Government
(Terry McAuliffe 10/20)

State government arguably touches people's lives more times in a day than the federal government. The instructor will provide a 10,000-foot view of Virginia's executive branch and the day-to-day life of a governor.

Virginia's Unique Political History: From Blue to Red and Back Again (Bill Bolling 10/27)

The instructor will discuss how the Commonwealth evolved from a Democratic stronghold to a Republican stronghold, and now back again to a state that is regarded as leaning Democratic in statewide campaigns, yet very competitive when it comes to control of the state Legislature.

Suggested Reading: The New Dominion, The Twentieth Century Elections that Shaped Modern Virginia, John G. Milliken and Mark J. Rozell.

Mark Rozell is founding dean of George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government. He also holds the Ruth D. and John T. Hazel Faculty Chair in Public Policy at GMU. In addition to being co-author of *The New Dominion*, he is the author or coauthor of 13 books and editor of 20 additional books on various topics on U.S. government and politics, including the presidency, religion and politics, media and politics, Southern politics and interest groups in elections.

David Ramadan is an executive and international consultant with more than 25 years of advocacy, business and government relations experience. He served two terms in the Virginia House of Delegates (2012–2016), representing the 87th district in Loudoun and Prince William counties. He earned undergraduate and graduate degrees at George Mason University and did further graduate studies at Oxford University, the American Graduate School of Business in Geneva, Johns Hopkins University and Georgetown University. He earned a PhD in education at Vanderbilt University. He is a professor at GMU's Schar School of Policy and Government.

Terry McAuliffe was governor of Virginia from 2014 to 2018. During his term, he made a record 35 trade missions around the world, creating thousands of jobs and bringing more than \$20 billion in capital investment to Virginia. He also focused on assuring that economic opportunity in the diversified economy was a right, not a privilege. He supported women's access to health care, public education, environmental protection, voting rights, gun control and secure consumer cyber transactions. He entered national politics at age 23 as national finance director for President Jimmy Carter. He co-chaired President Bill Clinton's 1996 campaign for re-election and chaired Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign. He chaired the Democratic National Committee from 2000 to 2005. He is a distinguished visiting professor at GMU's Schar School of Policy and Government.

Bill Bolling spent most of his career in the insurance industry and also had a distinguished career in public service. He was a member and chairman of the Board of Supervisors in Hanover County, Virginia, and then spent 10 years in the Virginia State Senate. In 2005 Bolling was elected to serve as the 39th lieutenant governor of Virginia and reelected in 2009, serving both Democratic and Republican governors. In 2020, he joined the faculty at GMU and Virginia Commonwealth University, where he teaches courses in U.S. government, U.S. parties and elections, state and local government, Virginia government and politics, and politics of the administrative process.

Fall 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

4063 Transactional Diplomacy and Geopolitical Shifts: Russia, Ukraine, and the New 'Near Abroad'

 **Instructor:** Richard Kauzlarich and William Taylor

Tuesday 10:00 – 11:30 AM

10/7 – 10/28

Sessions: 4; Location: GMU

Join William Taylor and Richard Kauzlarich for an in-depth exploration of how the U.S. foreign policy paradigm has shifted from the cooperative, rules-based international order – rooted in Wilsonian ideals and reinforced by postwar American leadership – to the transactional, deal-focused approach that has shaped recent U.S. engagement with Russia, Ukraine and their neighbors.

This four-session course will analyze the consequences of this policy transformation for the Russia-Ukraine war and the broader security architecture of Eastern Europe, the Balkans, the Caucasus and adjacent regions – the new “near abroad.” Participants will assess how a transactional foreign policy approach – where U.S. support and commitments are increasingly contingent on immediate national or economic benefits – has affected military aid, alliance cohesion and diplomatic negotiations. We will compare the legacy of President Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points and George Kennan’s “containment” strategy with the realities of contemporary realpolitik, examining how shifting priorities influence conflict resolution, energy politics and the stability of the “near abroad.” Through class discussions, participants will gain insight into the new dynamics shaping the region and the potential long-term impacts of America’s evolving global role.

Richard Kauzlarich is a distinguished visiting professor in the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. He is the co-director of the Center for Energy Science & Policy. He was the officer for Europe in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (2003–2011). He served as U.S. ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina (1997–1999) and Azerbaijan (1994–1997). He was senior deputy to the secretary of state and the president’s special representative to the Newly Independent States (1993–1994).

William Taylor is a distinguished fellow with the Atlantic Council’s Eurasia Center. Prior to that, he was vice president, Europe and Russia, at the United States Institute of Peace. He served as U.S. ambassador to Ukraine (2006–2009) and *chargé d’affaires ad interim* (2019–2020) at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv. He served in Washington as coordinator of U.S. assistance to former Soviet Union countries and Eastern Europe (1992–2002); and in Kabul as coordinator of U.S. and international assistance to Afghanistan (2002–2003).



Literature & Writing

5068 Footprints of the Indigenous Past/ Huellas del pasado indígena in Latin American Literature

 **Instructor:** Denis Heyck

Thursday 2:00 – 3:30 PM

10/9 – 11/13

Sessions: 6; Location: GMU

Would you like to brush up your Spanish language skills? Do you love learning and sharing with others, even in imperfect Spanish? Do you delight in discovery? If so, then please join us as we embark on a fascinating journey to discern the continuing presence of footprints of the indigenous past, specifically as they reveal an integrated worldview that regards humankind as part of, not separate from, the natural world.

We will explore the concept of connectedness that underlies early Aztec and Mayan poetry, wisdom literature and legends. We will see it ennobled in Pablo Neruda’s inspiring “Amor América” and “Amazonas,” which bring to life the grandeur and beauty of the mighty Amazon and its centrality to indigenous spirituality. We will see the thread of connectedness frayed and corrupted by modern consumerism in Carlos Fuentes’ story “Chac Mool” or sundered altogether in more contemporary pursuits of economic development. Even so, the footprints stubbornly persist, pointing toward a holistic, environmentally and spiritually connected world, inspiring many to follow today.

Fall 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

Influential leaders, such as Pope Francis in his *Querida Amazonia*, reaffirm the vital link between the human and natural worlds. At the local level, Amazonian poets and indigenous women leaders — in a striking contrast to the values that underlie vast agricultural and extractive enterprises — defend traditional holistic practices that have been sustainable for centuries.

The course will be conducted in intermediate level Spanish. Our goal is communicability, not mastery.

Denis Heyck is retired professor emerita from Loyola University Chicago, where she taught courses on Latin American literature and culture and received the Vivijeanne P. Sujack Award for Teaching Excellence. Her interactive courses, conducted in Spanish, engaged students in study and discussion of universal cultural topics in the Latin American context and in students' daily lives. She has been especially interested in the values informing tradition and change in modernizing Latin American communities and in how they are expressed in literature and practice. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin and holds a master's degree and PhD from the University of London.

5069 Jim Talks Back: Percival Everett Responds to Mark Twain

 **Instructor: Rosemary Jann**

Thursday 12:00 – 1:30 PM

10/23 – 11/20

Sessions: 5; Location: GMU

Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* tells the story of a young boy on a Mississippi River odyssey, escaping abuse and danger with the assistance of a runaway slave, Jim. Twain's novel quickly became an American classic after its publication in 1884 but just as quickly went on to inspire controversy in the 20th century over its treatment of race and use of racial slurs. Percival Everett penned *James* (2024) as both a tribute and a response to Twain's classic. Everett subversively flips the script on Twain, having Jim, rather than Huck, tell the story and imagining a very different reality underlying enslavement.

The first section of this course will consider *Huck Finn* as well as the controversies it inspired; the second will analyze Everett's wildly imaginative transformation of

Jim's perceptions and his relationship with Huck. Join us for a lively discussion of the dialogue between these two masters of fiction.

Recommended Reading: Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain; *James*, Percival Everett

Rosemary Jann, emerita professor of English, George Mason University, taught a variety of courses on Victorian prose, poetry and fiction, as well as literary analysis and research methods. She also served as department chair and associate director of the GMU Honors Program. She is the author of various books and articles on Victorian fiction and historical writing, Darwinian science and Sherlock Holmes.

5070 Southern Short Stories

 **Instructor: Jenny Sullivan**

Tuesday 12:00 – 1:30 PM

10/21 – 12/9 (No class 11/4 and 11/11)

Sessions: 6; Location: GMU

Southern short stories, whether written in 1882 or in 1982, must bear the burden of the legacy of their past as they reckon with the culture of the present. Rich in traditions, the South is populated by various groups who take pride in their diverse roots but also share in their troubled history. In this course we will look at the art and ideas of Southern short stories in which characters at odds with one another because of race, class or culture are nevertheless bonded by the experience of being part of the South. The stories are Joel Chandler Harris' "The Wonderful Tar Baby," George Washington Cable's "Belles Demoiselles Plantation," William Faulkner's "Barn Burning," Peter Taylor's "Two Ladies in Retirement," Flannery O'Connor's "Everything that Rises Must Converge," and Alice Walker's "Every Day Use." All of these stories except the one by Taylor can be found online at various sites. All the stories will be posted for you. No reading for the first week."

Jenny Sullivan taught literature in the Virginia Community College system, mostly at Northern Virginia Community College, for 42 years. She is the author of three books and has taught a variety of courses at Encore Learning for the past six years.

Fall 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

5072 Writing from Prompts: A Workshop

 Instructor: Margaret McBride

Thursday 10:00 – 11:30 AM

10/16 – 11/6

Sessions: 4; Location: GMU

Writing from prompts in community supports the discovery — or recovery — of an individual's voice and can reawaken the joy of writing. It also supports any writing you are already doing or want to be doing. The instructor will offer prompts, and students, along with the instructor, will write for a limited time during class. The prompt is an invitation or jumping-off point, not an assignment. After writing, students will be invited to share their work by reading it aloud. Classmates will listen to each other's words and share thoughts on strengths and what works. Each student's writing is confidential and will not be shared outside of the classroom.

Margaret McBride has participated in or led writing groups for many years, including journal-writing groups using prompts. She has studied writing at The Writer's Center in Bethesda and in George Mason University's MFA program. She has been published in *Plants & Poetry* and online in *Adventure Cyclist*. She is a retired public affairs officer for the Army.

5073 Shakespeare's Hamlet

 Instructor: Michael Collins

Tuesday 2:00 – 3:30 PM

11/18 – 12/9

Sessions: 4; Location: Virtual and Recorded

This course will offer a close look at *Hamlet* which, together with *King Lear*, is considered to be one of Shakespeare's two greatest plays. We will not, however, move through the play serially from start to finish. Rather, we will focus on crucial scenes and not always in the order in which they occur. Three different versions of the play will be reviewed and discussed to determine how changes to the script suggest different interpretations of its meaning. We will also look at various filmed versions of the play to suggest how the interpretations of directors and actors shape our understanding of the play in the theater.

Recommended Readings: While it is not necessary, participants are encouraged to read the play in its entirety prior to the first class. Any edition can be used. The Signet Classic Shakespeare and the Folger Library editions offer readable, affordable and well-edited versions of the play. The Arden Shakespeare edition provides the most elaborate commentary and notes on the play. As we shall see, even modern, carefully edited editions of *Hamlet* differ from one another.

Recommended Film Versions: These are all very different from one another, but they might complement (or substitute for) a reading of the play. They are identified by the actor who plays Hamlet:

- Laurence Olivier (1948) — good production but looks old-fashioned
- Richard Burton (1964) — film of the stage production
- Derek Jacobi (1980) — BBC film made for television; uses the full script
- Mel Gibson (1990) — film made for movie theaters
- Kenneth Branagh (1996) — film (uncut) runs four hours; uses the full script
- David Tennent, Royal Shakespeare Company (2009) — film from the stage production
- Paapa Essiedu, RSC (2015) — play set in Africa

Michael Collins is teaching professor of English and dean emeritus at Georgetown University. He is editor of *Shakespeare's Sweet Thunder: Essays on the Early Comedies*; *Reading What's There: Essays on Shakespeare in Honor of Stephen Booth*; and (with Michael Scott) *Christian Shakespeare: Question Mark*. He has published numerous essays on Shakespeare and regularly reviews productions for *Shakespeare Bulletin*. He has taught courses for secondary school teachers at the Folger Shakespeare Library and Shakespeare's Globe in London.

When Does My Current Membership Expire?

Log in to Member Account Manager—it's on the very first screen under My Account Info

Fall 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

5074 Buying and Selling: Three Salesmen Plays

 Instructor: Iska Alter

Friday 2:00 – 3:30 PM

10/31 – 12/12 (No class 11/28)

Sessions: 6; Location: GMU

Whether the butt of jokes in poor taste (you remember the one about the traveling salesman and the farmer's daughter) or the vendor of goods for a consuming America; whether the purveyor of arguably political agendas or a comic/not-so-comic character in films or the theater, the figure of the salesman has achieved near-mythic status in the national culture, its economics and its personal demands.

Three great American playwrights, Eugene O'Neill, Arthur Miller and David Mamet, have each dramatized the work, practical and symbolic, of this iconic role in American commerce. The writers have interrogated this complex function as an embodiment of the often uncomfortable ambiguities of the American will. From O'Neill's *The Iceman Cometh* (1946) to Miller's *Death of a Salesman* (1949) to Mamet's *Glengarry Glen Ross* (1984), we will journey together to learn more about this American institution.

For six weeks we will explore (in chronological order) the ways in which these playwrights have constructed the marketplace as it has transformed the human into object, the hunger for things into consumerism and the creation of the self into an act of salesmanship.

Recommended Reading: *The Iceman Cometh*, Eugene O'Neill; *Death of a Salesman*, Arthur Miller; *Glengarry Glen Ross*, David Mamet.

Iska Alter is professor emerita of English at Hofstra University. Her specializations are American literature, Shakespeare and English Renaissance drama. Her work has appeared in *Modern Drama*, *Theater History Journal* and *Shakespeare Survey*. She is the author of *The Good Man's Dilemma*, an analysis of the fiction of Bernard Malamud. She earned her BA at City College of New York, an MA at the University of Wisconsin and a PhD at New York University.

5075 International Women Writers and the Modern Short Story

 Instructor: Janet Auten

Friday 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

10/17 – 11/21

Sessions: 6; Location: Virtual

This course will take our exploration of women writers and their short fiction around the world. With the help of an excellent anthology, *The Art of the Story*, we will set out to get a global perspective on the gifts of late 20th century women writers.

The reading list will include plenty of stories from North American writers, from Julia Alvarez, Margaret Atwood, and Ann Beattie to Bobbie Ann Mason and Lorrie Moore. But the course also will consider stories (in translation) by writers such as Hanan Al-Shaykh (Lebanon), Edwidge Danticat (Haiti), Bharati Mukherjee (India), Tatyana Tolstaya (Russia), Luisa Valenzuela (Argentina), and Can Xue (China).

Each of the six two-hour classes will focus on three stories connected thematically and will revolve around power-point lectures on Zoom. But the course is designed as a virtual "reading circle," so it relies on group discussion during class in the chat function and during breaks at the beginning, mid-class, and end of class. Course materials, including a detailed syllabus and weekly supplementary handouts, will support our reading and thinking together about the various ways these writers share their culture, ideas, and experiences.

Recommended Reading: *The Art of the Story: An International Anthology of Contemporary Short Stories*, Daniel Halpern, ed.

Janet Auten taught literature and composition courses and directed the Writing Center during her 25 years at American University, where she also developed and team taught a gender studies course, Women's Voices Through Time. Her research and publications focus on teaching and 19th-century American women writers. She earned a PhD in composition/American literature and an MA in journalism.

Fall 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*



Science & Technology

6023 Search for Life on Other Worlds

 Instructor: Michael Summers

Thursday 10:00 – 11:30 AM

10/30 – 12/11 (No class 11/27)

Sessions: 6; Location: GMU

During the past two decades, astronomers have made truly astounding discoveries about the nature and history of the universe. These have been made possible by recent extremely large and powerful telescopes, both on earth and in space, and in particular by the James Webb Space Telescope. We have found that planets, even earth-type planets, are commonplace; and the requirements for life (as we know it on earth), including water, carbon compounds, and useable energy are all commonplace in the universe. We have discovered more than 5,000 planets around other stars, several hundred of which exist in their star's "habitable zone."

Extrapolation of these discoveries suggests there are far more habitable planets and moons in our galaxy than there are stars. Even within our own solar system, there are at least six other places where simple earth-type

life could thrive. These include ice-covered oceans inside three of the moons of Jupiter, two of the moons of Saturn and even inside Pluto. Furthermore, we have discovered that the universe is more complex and filled with more unexpected objects, places, and events than we could ever have predicted, many of which also have implications for the origin of life here and the possibility of life elsewhere. Finally, we will discuss some of the possible scientific and societal consequences of the discovery of life elsewhere.

The course will consist of six sessions focused on the following:

1. The History of Life on Earth
2. Other Worlds in our Solar System
3. Planets Around Other Stars
4. Technology and Civilizations
5. Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence and Other Life Beyond our Solar System
6. Impacts of Discovering Life Elsewhere

Michael Summers is a planetary scientist who investigates the structure and evolution of planetary atmospheres. He has participated in several NASA rocket, space shuttle, satellite and deep space robotic missions to other planets. He was a mission co-investigator on the NASA/New Horizons Spacecraft Mission to Pluto and the Kuiper Belt. He teaches astronomy and astrobiology at George Mason University.

VOLUNTEER AS A CLASS AIDE

- Get free parking while attending the class (only for in-person classes).
- Get complimentary course registration for next semester (only for virtual classes).
- Training on use of audio-visual equipment and Zoom.
- Get to know the instructor and your classmates.
- Be an integral part of Encore Learning.

Fall 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

6031 Introduction to Fall Birding

 Instructor: Multiple

Tuesday Section: 10:00 – 11:30 AM 9/30 – 10/21

Thursday Section: 10:00 – 11:30 AM 9/25 – 10/23

(No class 10/2)

Sessions: 4; Location: Various Locations

Fall is the peak time to observe many species of birds as they migrate south to their breeding grounds in Central and South America. Learn about local bird species in different sessions at two Arlington Nature Centers, then put your learning into practice with experienced birders at Long Branch Nature Center and Four Mile Run. Participants may enroll in either the Tuesday or the Thursday sessions.

Session 1: Raptors (9/25 and 9/30) Learn about our local raptors — owls, hawks, eagles, falcons and kites — and how to spot them in the wild. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road, Arlington. Parking is limited; parking on Military Road is recommended.

Session 2: Basic Birding Techniques (10/7 and 10/9) Birds come in all kinds of shapes, sizes, sounds and habitats. Find out what it takes to tell birds apart and learn what makes each one amazing through physical characteristics, adaptations and behavior. You will learn the ins, outs and how-to's of birding. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. There is limited parking at the center, but there is a nearby parking deck (\$5 fee, five-minute walk). Another option is the Glencarlyn Park lot near picnic shelter 1 (15 to 20-minute walk).

Session 3: Birds of Long Branch (10/14 and 10/16) Learn how to use binoculars and apps available to aid birders. Expert birders Colt Gregory and Rob Barnovsky will guide you around the park. Participants may bring their own binoculars or borrow some from the instructors. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center.

Session 4: Birds of Four Mile Run (10/21 and 10/23) Colt Gregory and Kurt Moser will introduce you to birds that frequent this diverse habitat. Meet at the Four Mile Run Park parking lot, 3700 Commonwealth Avenue, Alexandria. Turn left at the green pillar just after you pass the Kiss & Ride entrance for Cora Kelly Elementary School.

Recommended Resources: Cornell Lab of Ornithology: www.birds.Cornell.edu; free Merlin and Ebird apps: AllAboutBirds.org, Audubon.org/gear/binocular-guide

Gabby Hrycyshyn, a naturalist at Gulf Branch Nature Center, has a bachelor's degree in biology from Penn State University, a master's degree in interdisciplinary ecology from the University of Florida and a master's certificate in project management from George Washington University. She worked with the Raptor Conservancy of Virginia, the Linwood Springs Research Station in Wisconsin and Boise State University. Before coming to Arlington, she worked for the Fairfax County Park Authority and has extensive experience working with birds of prey, including owls and hawks, at Potomac Overlook Regional Park.

Rob Barnovsky is a naturalist at Long Branch Nature Center. He has a bachelor's degree in biology and has worked as a naturalist in the eastern United States and at a raptor rehabilitation center in Ohio. He was an interpretive ranger for the National Park Service at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the first-ever naturalist for the city of Jacksonville, FL. He has also worked as a naturalist and natural resources specialist for Fairfax and Loudon counties. He has been doing environmental education in public parks for more than 33 years.

Colt Gregory, a member of the Northern Virginia Bird Alliance and the Northern Virginia Bird Club, has been an Arlington regional master naturalist since 2017. He co-leads the Sunday bird walks for the National Park Service at Great Falls and leads a sector in our area's Christmas bird count. He restores bird habitat and balance by pulling up invasive plants in our local parks, where he would like to see more common yellowthroat warblers.

Kurt Moser is co-founder and president of the Four Mile Run Conservatory, an organization that promotes nature, culture and community at lower Four Mile Run in Alexandria and Arlington. He is also an independent researcher/ecologist and serves on the boards of the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust and NoVa Outside. He earned a master's degree in environmental science and policy from George Mason University, where his thesis and publications focused on ecosystem function in natural and mitigation wetlands.

Fall 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

6034 Hearing Science and Audiology

 Instructor: Paul Reinhart

Friday 12:00 – 1:30 PM

11/7 – 12/5 (No class 11/28)

Sessions: 4; Location: Virtual and Recorded

This course delves into the intricate world of hearing science and audiology, providing a basic understanding of the auditory system and its function. We will explore the fundamental principles of hearing, including the anatomy and physiology of the ear, auditory pathways and the mechanisms of sound perception. Everyone experiences changes to the auditory system as they age. The primary focus of the course is the range of various types and causes of hearing loss. We will examine techniques for enhancing spoken communication and the current state and practices of the hearing health care industry. In the final session, we will explore the vast array of technological advancements, from hearing aids to cochlear implants to listening devices, that are currently available for mitigating the effects of hearing loss; their applications and considerations for selection and fitting; and the future of hearing therapeutics.

Paul Reinhart is a hearing scientist with more than 10 years of experience in academia and the hearing health care industry. He has a BS in speech and hearing sciences from Indiana University and a PhD in communication sciences and disorders from Northwestern University. He has authored more than 10 journal articles and developed more than 15 patents on hearing aid and cochlear implant technologies.

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for prospective members.

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www.encorelearning.net

6035 Technology Hot Spots 2025

 Instructor: Multiple

Thursday 12:00 - 1:30 PM

10/9 – 11/13

Sessions: 6; Location: Virtual and Recorded

We live in a world dominated by complex technology. Microchips run our devices, appliances, vehicles, learning and even our light bulbs. Molecular manipulation produces our modern medications and plastics, and our power sources are moving from fossil fuels to renewable electricity. In most cases, these technologies make our lives better.

Some knowledge of the workings, advantages and faults of these technologies would make us better consumers of these sophisticated products. This second annual course aims to make these complicated technologies understandable. In six sessions, the instructors will provide the scientific background needed and explain the processes and products using graphics and videos.

Space Debris (George Pick, 10/9)

Learn about the more than 25,000 pieces of human-made junk that are larger than 10 cm and orbiting Earth at speeds 15 times faster than a bullet. They can strike working spacecraft, including the International Space Station, potentially causing catastrophic damage. They could also severely impact communication services, GPS, the Internet, Earth monitoring, etc. The most important region is up to 2,000 km in altitude, where there are more than 10,000 working satellites in orbit.

DNA Technology (Barry Ginsberg, 10/16)

Sequencing and modifying DNA has become a major part of medicine. How many of you have sent your DNA to Ancestry or another testing lab? In this lecture, the instructor will provide an overview of DNA and discuss how it is commercially analyzed, how it is sequenced, DNA-based therapies and vaccines, and gene editing.

Exploring the Digital Arts, “A More Perfect Union” (Olivier Massot, 10/23)

The instructor will provide a review of the digital arts, past and present, including AI and its impact on the artist and society.

Fall 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Medical Care: Are Health Professionals Being Replaced? (Robert Wallace, 10/30)

AI has an expanding presence in healthcare practice and administration. Will the promised benefits and “efficiencies” lead to lesser need for health professionals and other related workers? This discussion explores potential AI-generated changes in clinical practice and how health and healing may evolve.

The Technology of Social Media (David Ginsberg, 11/6)

Social media, while easy to use, is actually a complex set of algorithms (computer instruction sets), data management and AI. In this session, we will discuss how the systems work.

Breakout sessions on future technologies

(Barry Ginsberg, 11/13)

George Pick taught mechanical and nuclear engineering at Catholic University and Northern Virginia Community College. He did research in ocean sciences and high-speed aerodynamics and authored over 50 publications. He has 30 years of experience as an aerospace engineer and program manager in the U.S. Department of the Navy.

Barry Ginsberg has an MD and a PhD in molecular biology. He was a professor of medicine and biochemistry at the University of Iowa and a vice president of medical affairs at Becton Dickinson. He is a vice president of Encore Learning.

Olivier Massot has a BA in English from the University of Virginia and a master’s degree from the Interactive Telecommunications Program at New York University’s Tisch School for the Arts. He has worked in hand-painted textiles, the graphic arts, visual display, web design and the digital arts.

Robert Wallace, MD, MSc, is professor emeritus of epidemiology and internal medicine at the University of Iowa.

David Ginsberg is vice president for communications and public information at Meta (Facebook, etc.).

6039 Organizing What You Know: A Practical Guide to Personal Knowledge Management

  **Instructor: Barbara Fillip**

Monday 2:00 – 3:30 PM

10/20 – 11/24

Sessions: 6; Location: Hybrid and Recorded

A lifetime of learning, experiences and insights deserves to be well organized and accessible. This six-session course introduces practical strategies for managing personal knowledge, from organizing notes and documents to capturing life lessons and sharing wisdom with others. We will explore simple tools and techniques to structure your thoughts, preserve valuable information and create a personal knowledge system that supports lifelong learning and meaningful connections.

- **Making Sense of Information Overload** – In today’s digital age, we are constantly receiving new information. Learn how to filter, capture and organize knowledge in ways that make it easy to find and use later.
- **Building Your Personal Knowledge System** – Explore different ways to store and retrieve information, from simple notebooks and digital files to note-taking apps and mind maps.
- **Remembering and Connecting Ideas** – Discover techniques for linking insights across different areas of life, strengthening recall and improving long-term learning.
- **From Life Experience to Lasting Wisdom** – Explore ways to document and share life lessons, personal stories and expertise to benefit future generations.
- **Tech Tools for Managing Knowledge** – Learn about user-friendly digital tools like Evernote, TiddlyWiki, and concept maps that can help organize and structure your knowledge. (Future courses will go deeper in the technology elements, such as the use of artificial intelligence.)
- **Optional: Creating Your Knowledge Legacy** – Students may wish to develop individual knowledge-organizing projects and share experiences about the projects with classmates. Develop a personal knowledge plan that includes organizing, preserving and sharing what matters most, whether through writing, mentoring or storytelling.

Fall 2025 Course Descriptions continued

Each class session will include small group discussions known as “knowledge cafés,” an instructor presentation and class-wide discussion of one or more resources (book, article, website, etc.) shared ahead of time.

Barbara Fillip earned a PhD in international affairs from the University of Pittsburgh, a Project Management Professional certification and a Permaculture Teacher certificate. She spent two decades supporting individual, team, project and organization-wide learning in two industries: international development and aerospace. She has taught adults in organizational and academic settings, completing seven years as an adjunct faculty member in the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. She is currently exploring the future of aging, longevity and sustainability through creative writing and AgeTech technology solutions that support lifelong learning and well-being.

6040 Aging and the Brain

 **Instructor: Michael Stutts**

Wednesday 2:00 – 3:30 PM
10/29 – 12/10 (No class 11/26)
Sessions: 6; Location: GMU

The brain is the most complex organ of the human body. Participants will learn what part of the brain does what and develop a better understanding of the brain’s normal aging process, with particular attention to memory. We will also learn about cognitive changes that are normal with aging versus cognitive decline due to disease (e.g., mild cognitive impairment or Alzheimer’s). Finally, we will examine behavioral and lifestyle practices that are likely to help preserve or enhance brain functioning.

Material presented will draw upon neuroscience research, clinical experience from the instructor’s career as an academic clinical neuropsychologist, and the popular press and media, including suggested readings. Ideally, this course will blend didactic instruction and interactive exchange between the instructor and participants and among the participants themselves.

Independent Reading: Better with Age: The Psychology of Successful Aging, Alan Castel; Still Alice, Lisa Genova

(and/or the movie of the same title); *Keep Sharp: Build a Better Brain at Any Age*, Sanjay Gupta; *Remember: The Science of Memory and the Art of Forgetting*, Lisa Genova; *Successful Aging: A Neuroscientist Explores the Power and Potential of Our Lives*, Daniel Levitin; *The Memory Bible: An Innovative Strategy for Keeping Your Brain Young*, Gary Small; *Aging with Grace: What the Nun Study Teaches Us About Leading Longer, Healthier, and More Meaningful Lives*, David Snowdon; *The Secret Life of the Grown-Up Brain: The Surprising Talents of the Middle-Aged Mind*, Barbara Strauch.

Michael Stutts earned a PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Louisville, followed by an internship at the University of Virginia School of Medicine and fellowship training in clinical neuropsychology at Virginia Commonwealth University/Medical College of Virginia. His patient care, research and teaching at Eastern Virginia Medical School focused on clinical/geriatric neuropsychology and rehabilitation psychology. He retired from EVMS as professor emeritus in 2018 after a 33-year career. He has been a licensed clinical psychologist in Virginia since 1986.

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Fall 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*



Social Sciences

7030 Freedom and Democracy in America

 Instructor: James Grefer

Wednesday 12:00 – 1:30 PM

10/1 – 10/22

Sessions: 4; Location: Hybrid and Recorded

This course is the next in a series exploring freedom and democracy in the United States from economic, historical and philosophical perspectives. The instructor will cover the following topics in four sessions.

Part 1: We will discuss the meaning of freedom and democracy. During the Civil War President Abraham Lincoln said, “We all declare for liberty; but in using the same word, we do not all mean the same thing.” Freedom and democracy are commonly accepted terms but turn out to be more complicated than we think. Among the questions to be explored are: What is the difference between political and personal freedom? What are positive and negative freedoms? Can the government increase, or only limit, freedom? What about capitalism? Is America a democracy or a republic?

Part 2: We will time-travel through history from the Declaration of Independence to the Civil War, from women’s rights to civil rights. The United States has consistently progressed along the road, however bumpy and zigzagging, to freedom and democracy.

Part 3: We will then travel around the world and compare freedom and democracy elsewhere with our own. We will discuss what makes a country free, which countries are free, and which ones are not. If freedom exists on a continuum, where does the United States rank?

Part 4: Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we will examine American institutions and their effect on freedom and democracy. For decades we have witnessed low and declining trust in U.S. institutions. Is this because they are failing or because of something else? What role do institutions play in American

freedom? Is such freedom in danger? Are we doomed to exist in a Hobbesian world in which suspicion and fear push us into a state of nature? Can we fix this? What are our options?

James Grefer is a retired economist who spent 25 years conducting economic research for defense contractor CNA. Along the way, he developed a keen interest in American history and the use of economic methods to get to the core of historical events.

7039 Indigenous Latin America: Contributions, Challenges and Change

 Instructor: Robert Albro

Friday 12:00 – 1:30 PM

10/3 – 11/7

Sessions: 6; Location: Hybrid and Recorded

Latin America has more than 40 million indigenous people, more than any other global region. For more than 500 years, indigenous peoples throughout the hemisphere have had to adapt to, at times accommodate and at times resist colonial and post-colonial occupation in a contentious coexistence with the region’s nation-states. It would be a mistake, however, to view their story only through the lens of history and survival.

This course will examine the rich legacies of Latin America’s indigenous peoples and the contemporary diversity of their communities throughout the region, including a growing urban indigenous presence. We will give particular attention to the many ways they have helped shape the region’s history and identity. We will also consider challenges they continue to face and their varied social, cultural, economic, political and ecological contributions to present-day Latin America.

We will touch ground in Mexico, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala and other Latin American countries to look at forms of state repression of indigenous communities. Our survey will address the goals and impacts of indigenous-led social movements, their critiques of and periodic resistance to resource extraction-driven development, relationships to ecosystems and impacts on environmental

Fall 2025 Course Descriptions *continued*

conservation, and legal and political activism. Finally, we will look at the changing identities, forms of self-representation and pursuit of autonomy of indigenous populations as they embrace new media technologies.

Our overarching goal is to introduce the many dimensions of contemporary indigenous life across the region and the ways they are intimately woven into its social fabric.

Robert Albro received a PhD in sociocultural anthropology from the University of Chicago. He is associate director of the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies at American University, where his long-term focus has been urban and indigenous politics in Bolivia, as in his book *Roosters at Midnight: Indigenous Signs and Stigma in Local Bolivian Politics*. More recently, he has researched and published on the intersections of cultural policy with climate change, science and technology, human rights and public diplomacy. He is the recipient of grants and fellowships from the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress and the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs.

7040 Hot Topics in Psychology

 Instructor: Janice McLean

Thursday 2:00 – 4:00 PM

10/16 – 11/20

Sessions: 6; Location: GMU

Do you remember a great college course you took that explored hot button topics, encouraged lively discussion and made you wish the class lasted longer? This will be just such a course.

We will explore subjects as diverse as body-based correlates of mood and behavior, changing attitudes about roles and family, staying positive in difficult times, and generational differences in viewing life, the future, and more. Through research-based presentations and expert speakers weighing in, we will process multiple aspects of this complicated, stimulating, and challenging time.

Are there innate differences between males and females and in sexuality? Is it sexist to even explore the question? Why are terms like “toxic masculinity” and “trad wife” becoming mainstream? How is our

penal system providing second chances and reducing recidivism? What public school programs teach kindness and empathy to counter the new “empathy is weakness” movement? Did Dr. Spock plant the seeds for helicopter parenting, entitlement, and frustrated grandparents whose parenting tips seem unwelcome? Why is there a growing desire for nostalgia in television and movies? Whew! ... there’s a lot to learn, discuss, and ponder, including a current event that might pop up during the course. Our two-hour class will allow flexibility, a needed break, and time to make new friends.

Please join the ride and fasten your seatbelt!

Janice McLean, PhD, is a retired clinical psychologist who taught at Denison and Ohio State universities for 20 years and practiced in hospital and group practice settings for 35 years. She is the co-author of *Phobics and Other Panic Victims: A Guide for Those Who Help Them* and a chapter contributor to *The Successful Medical Student* and *The Counseling Sourcebook*. She has served as co-chair of the Alexandria Sheriff’s Office Community Advisory Board, taught life skills at the jail, and was a board member and volunteer teacher at a local halfway house.



DON'T Forget!

Join the Fall 2025 Course
Preview on Thursday, September 4
at 9:30 AM on Zoom.

Invite your friends and
neighbors to join!

See page 2 for details

Encore Learning Special Events & Clubs

Encore Learning's special events and clubs provide a variety of activities to complement our academic course offerings. Our special events and clubs run year-round, so no need to wait to become a member! All special events are announced by email and are posted on our website. Email our office at info@encorelearning.net to subscribe to our special event email announcements or to join a club.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Encore Learning Presents — Co-sponsored with the Arlington Public Library

Encore Learning Presents events are open to the public and include lectures, panels and film screenings. Recent public events have included talks with Rep. Don Beyer, Mount Vernon mansion restoration, mental health and many more. Upcoming presentations include Dan Sherman on composer Richard Wagner, Ken Avis on the History of Popular Music in No VA and Q&A with Chuck Rosenberg. These virtual events are free and are usually scheduled from 3:00 to 4:30 PM on Monday afternoons. Visit Encore Learning's YouTube channel for a list of previous events and to view recordings. Note: not all Encore Learning Presents events are recorded.

For Members: Tours of Museums, Historical Sights and More

We also offer group tours as a benefit of membership. Recent tours have included the American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore, The Torpedo Factory Art Center, George Washington Masonic National Memorial and the Historic Washington Navy Yard.

Many member events are free, although some may require tickets, entrance or other fees. Check event listings for details and to register for these member events. Events requiring registration are for members only.

CLUBS

Another benefit of membership is the opportunity to expand your social network with other members who have similar interests. We currently have 12 clubs that promote lifelong learning, personal growth, physical activity and social engagement. Club membership is open to all current Encore Learning members. Club membership is free, but some club activities might involve visiting a location (e.g., restaurant, museum, kayak rental, movie theater) that charges a fee. Please

visit our Clubs page on our website for more club details. Contact the office at info@encorelearning.net with questions or to join a club.

Breakfast Club — Meets weekly for breakfast and lively conversation at La Madeleine in Falls Church.

Bridge Club — Meets monthly for a light lunch and to play social bridge.

Chamber Music Club — Attends Friday Morning Music Club's free noon concerts the first and second Friday of the months of October through May, at St. George's Church in Arlington.

Cinema Club — Meets monthly at the movies and discusses the film afterwards at lunch.

Current Issues Discussion Group — Meets twice a month virtually to discuss a topic that has been chosen by club members. Discussions are always polite and insightful, and participation is encouraged.

Electric Vehicle Club — Meets virtually monthly to discuss electric vehicle topics.

Global Lunch Club — Meets monthly to enjoy the area's great global cuisine. Twenty to 30 members come together at a local restaurant for a social and culinary adventure.

Kayak Club — Meets twice a month May – October at Fletcher's Boathouse. Novice and experienced kayakers are welcome to join for fun adventures on the Potomac. No equipment needed.

Mindfulness Club — Meets virtually weekly for meditation, discussion and exploration of the mindfulness tradition.

Nonfiction Book Club — Meets bimonthly at Arlington Central Library for lively discussions about nonfiction works chosen by club members.

Tech Hobbyist Club — Enjoy tinkering with new technology? The Tech Hobbyist club meets virtually weekly.

Travel Club — Meets virtually monthly to hear presentations about members' fascinating travels and discusses travel related topics. Recent discussions included health issues while traveling, and recommended tour operators.

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Thank you to the Encore Learning

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for all of the hard work and dedication in preparing for the Fall 2025 semester.



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Noreen Quill



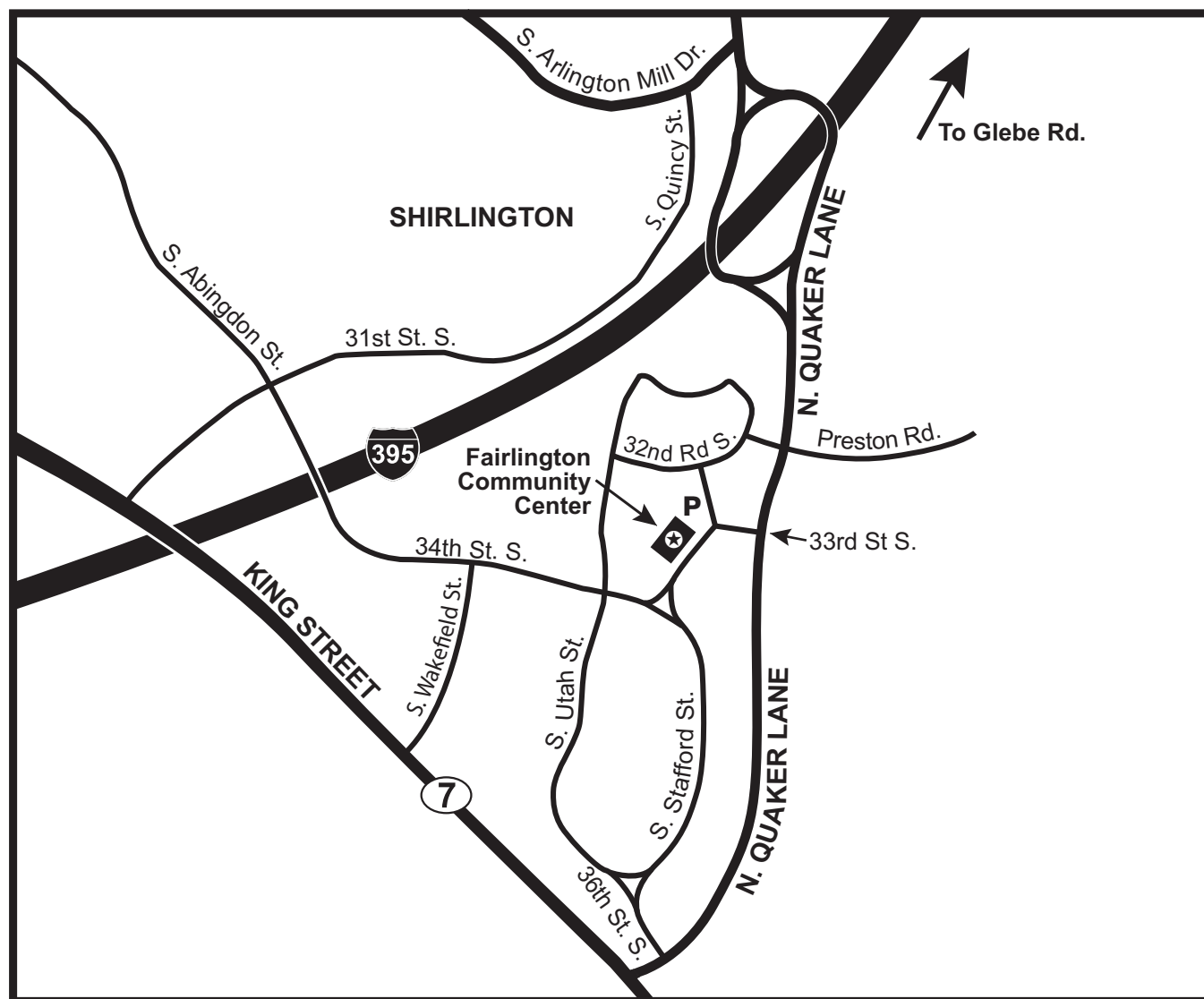
Thank You

Encore Learning extends
our **deepest gratitude** to the **Royer
Fund** for the generous donation, which
has made this printed catalog possible.

Jack Royer passed away
September 9, 2024.

Locations and Maps of Course Sites

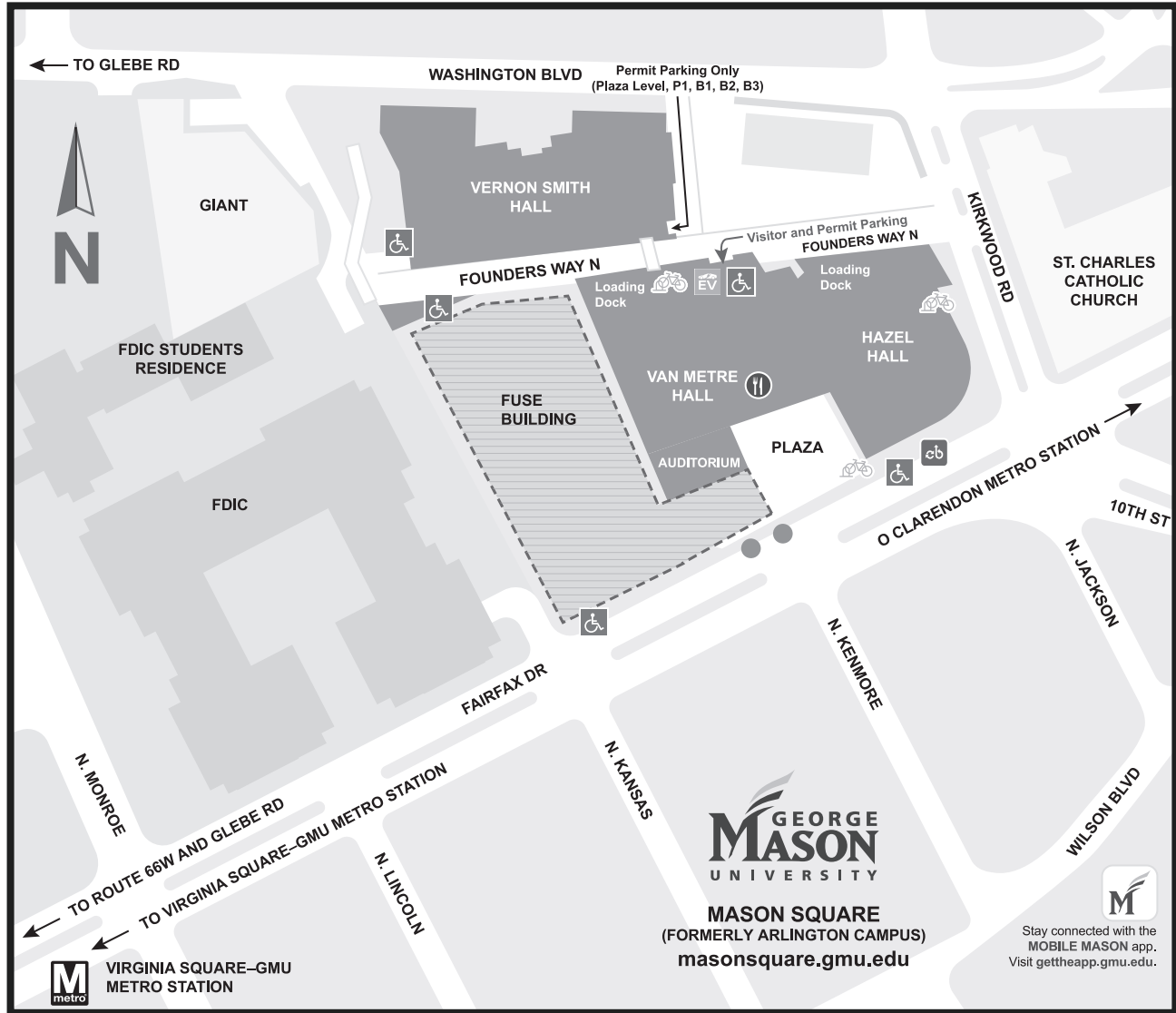
Fairlington Community Center (FCC)



FAIRLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER — 3308 South Stafford St., 22206

Free parking on adjacent lot. Limited street parking is available.

George Mason University (GMU)



GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY, ARLINGTON CAMPUS — 3351 Fairfax Dr., 22201

The Van Metre Hall garage is the only garage on campus open to visitors; the rate is \$5 per hour or \$9 for two hours and the entrance is off N. Kirkwood Rd. Four-hour metered parking is available along the median on Fairfax Dr. near St. Charles Church and on N. Lincoln St. One- and two-hour metered parking is available on other surrounding streets. For more information on parking, visit: <https://transportation.gmu.edu/arlington-campus/>

PARKING COSTS ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT

HELP SPREAD THE WORD about Encore Learning



Don't toss out this catalog!

If you're done with it, consider passing it along to a neighbor, friend, fellow club member, or anyone who might appreciate all that Encore Learning has to offer.

Keeping your copy?

Clip the section below to share the joy of Encore Learning with someone else.



Welcoming Everyone Over 50 To Classes, Clubs And Events

Power Up Your Brain! Learn Something New!

Encore Learning, a nonprofit organization founded in 2002 for those over 50, offers a wide range of more than 70 noncredit courses in the fall and spring. The courses cover fine arts, theater, music....health and wellness....politics, public affairs....literature and writing....science and technology....and the social sciences, all taught by leading experts from universities, government, nonprofits and corporations. More than 30 Special Events a year feature notable speakers, panel discussions and film screenings.




Find out more and join our growing community of active, interesting and friendly neighbors over 50! Members live in Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax, DC and wherever you Zoom. Scan the QR code or go to www.encorelearning.net.


Meet Your Neighbors! Make New Friends!
































































Encore Learning is a gateway to fun! Make new friends and meet new neighbors who share your interests. Share ideas! Engage in lively discussions during classes and Special Events. Join a Specialty Club! There are 12 clubs to choose from: breakfast, bridge, chamber music, cinema, current issues, electric vehicle, global lunch, kayak, mindfulness, nonfiction books, tech hobbyist, and travel. Volunteer! Our treasured volunteers power every aspect of our organization.



Encore Learning Fall 2025 Courses: Calendar View

 Virtual classes are noted with the camera icon.
  In-Person classes are noted with the people icon.
  Recorded classes are noted with the microphone icon.

 Hybrid classes include an option to register for either an in-person class at Mason or a virtual class on Zoom. For in-person course locations, check our online catalog.

	M	T	W	TH	F
MORNING	 10–11:30 AM 4062 – Election 2025 Multiple 10/6 – 10/27	 10–11:30 AM 3070 – Walks With 'The Rambler' Suydam 9/30 – 10/28	 10–11:30 AM 2026 – Embrace Life's Changes & Choices Wiley 10/1 – 11/5	 10–11:30 AM 6031 – Intro to Fall Birding Multiple 9/25 – 10/23 (skip 10/2)	 10:00 AM–12:00 PM 5075 – International Women Writers Auten 10/17 – 11/21
	  10–11:30 AM 4052 – Impact Investing: Align with Values Richardson 11/3 – 11/24	 10–11:30 AM 6031 – Intro to Fall Birding Multiple 9/30 – 10/21	   10–11:30 AM 3092 – Reconstruction Anbinder 10/1 – 11/5	 10–11:30 AM 5072 – Writing from Prompts McBride 10/16 – 11/6	 10–11:30 AM 1055 – Never Too Old To Play Pilloff 10/24 – 11/21
	 10–11:30 AM 2003 – Estate Planning Basics Parks 11/10 – 12/8 (skip 11/24)	   10–11:30 AM 3090 – Twentieth Century Arlington History Fogarty 10/7 – 10/28	 10–11:30 AM 3089 – Classical Greece Manteuffel 11/12 – 12/10 (skip 11/26)	 10–11:30 AM 6023 – Search for Life on Other Worlds Summers 10/30 – 12/11 (skip 11/27)	
		 10–11:30 AM 4063 – Transactional Diplomacy Kauzlarich/Taylor 10/7 – 10/28			
NOON	  12–2:00 PM 3088 – Britain Under Roman Occupation Wukitsch 9/29 – 12/8 (skip 10/13)	 12–1:30 PM 4061 – Tax Reforms Around the Globe Michielse 9/30 – 10/28	   12–1:30 PM 7030 – Freedom and Democracy in America Grefer 10/1 – 10/22	  12–1:30 PM 6035 – Technology Hot Spots Multiple 10/9 – 11/13	   12–1:30 PM 7039 – Indigenous Latin America Albrow 10/3 – 11/7
	  12–1:30 PM 1057 – Japanese Art: Words and Images Morland 10/20 – 11/17	   12–1:30 PM 3085 – Genealogy: More Than Names and Dates De Lauder 10/14 – 11/18 (skip 11/4, 11/11)	 12–1:30 PM 3086 – Introduction to Islam Zafarullah 10/29 – 11/19	 12–1:30 PM 5069 – Jim Talks Back: Everett and Twain Jann 10/23 – 11/20	  12–1:30 PM 3094 – Legal History of Women in America Brooks 10/10 – 10/31
	 12–1:30 PM 3093 – History of Iran Gartman 10/20 – 11/24	 12–1:30 PM 5070 – Southern Short Stories Sullivan 10/21 – 12/9 (skip 11/4, 11/11)	 12–1:30 PM 1056 – Mozart/Da Ponte Operas Gorsky 11/5 – 12/10 (skip 11/26)		  12–1:30 PM 6034 – Hearing Science and Audiology Reinhart 11/7 – 12/5 (skip 11/28)
AFTERNOON	 2–3:30 PM 4029 – Lobbying: An Insider's View Rehr 10/20 – 11/10	 2–3:30 PM 3091 – Great Sports Stories Day/Ruth 10/7 – 10/28	 2–3:30 PM 1060 – Grandma Moses Kaplan 10/22 – 11/12	 2–3:30 PM 4060 – Chinese Challenges and US Response Sutter 10/9 – 10/30	 2–3:30 PM 5074 – Three Salesman Plays Alter 10/31 – 12/12 (skip 11/28)
	   2–3:30 PM 6039 – Organizing What You Know Fillip 10/20 – 11/24	  3–4:30 PM 1058 – Brill Building Era Agron 11/11 – 12/16	 2–3:30 PM 6040 – Aging and the Brain Stutts 10/29 – 12/10 (skip 11/26)	 2–3:30 PM 5068 – Indigenous Literature (in Spanish) Heyck 10/9 – 11/13	
		 2–3:30 PM 3087 – Air Racing: A History Norton 11/18 – 12/9	  2–3:30 PM 1059 – Song Hunters MacCleave 11/5 – 12/3 (skip 11/26)	 2–4:00 PM 7040 – Hot Topics in Psychology McLean 10/16 – 11/20	
		  2–3:30 PM 5073 – Shakespeare's Hamlet Collins 11/18 – 12/9			



Encore Learning
2110 Washington Blvd., Room 349
Arlington, VA 22204

**Registration Begins at 10:00 AM
Monday, September 8, 2025**



This catalog is printed
on recycled paper.



Encore Learning Fall 2025

Become a Member

Membership in Encore Learning is open to all individuals over 50 years of age, regardless of residence. Membership brings you:

- **Educational Value** — Access to high-quality college level courses at rates far below those charged by most other educational institutions in the Washington, DC area.
- **New Friends** — Opportunities to socialize with other members through our specialty clubs, special events, and while taking courses.
- **Insight** — Participation in Encore Learning special events offered throughout the year, including lectures and tours.

Members may register for courses, join our clubs, and reserve space in members-only Special Events.

Annual membership dues are \$65 per person. Members may register for as many courses as desired at \$55 per course.

About Encore Learning

Encore Learning was founded in 2002 as Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute and thrives today with nearly 1,000 members and offering more than 60 courses and 50 events each year for those over 50. More than 150 volunteers plan and teach courses; procure outstanding speakers and tours; and lead our dynamic clubs. Join us to get involved. You will make new friends, gain new insights, explore local treasures, and expand your world.

Contact Information

www.encorelearning.net
info@encorelearning.net
(703) 228-2144

**SCAN
QR Code
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Encore Learning**

